

REGION 2—GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures were about normal during the last half of August. Early September brought the year's two hottest days, with readings of 95° and 92° on September 8 and 9 respectively. The rest of the month and the first three weeks of October were about normal, but the last week of October brought below normal temperatures and snow. November was mild with several readings in the sixties scattered through the month. The whole period was drier than usual, with September and November both being extremely dry. An early snowfall of one and a half inches was recorded at Rochester on October 24-25 with up to six inches being recorded in higher areas to the south. November brought less than three inches total snowfall to the Rochester area, although the extreme western part of the region received heavy snow during the last week of the period.

Outstanding birds for the period included the Harlequin Duck, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Little Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake. The Brant flight was fair in the Rochester area and apparently heavier near Sodus Bay. Canada Geese went through in good numbers but did not remain on Lake Ontario in large numbers as in some previous years. The shorebird flight was about normal except that Knots and White-rumped Sandpipers were rather scarce. The Whimbrel was unrecorded for the whole year. **Six** Red Phalaropes on November 13 was unprecedented. Forster's Terns were rather scarce. Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes, and Red Crossbills were generally distributed. Pine Siskins were common. Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and White-winged Crossbills were scarce, and Pine Grosbeaks were unreported.

Loons — Ducks: Two hundred fifty Common Loons at Webster Park Nov 19 (Lloyd et al) and 200 Red-throated Loons at Hamlin Park Nov 11 (Kemnitz et al) were the high counts for these species. Three Red-necked Grebes seen Oct 8 on Lake Ontario (G.O.S. boat trip) were the only ones recorded. A Double-crested Cormorant was noted west of Hamlin Beach on Oct 20 (Listman); this was the only period report for this species. A Green Heron near Silver Lake Oct 13 (Rosche) and one at Durand-Eastman Park on Oct 30 (Foley et al) represent late dates. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at Braddock's up to Oct 31 (Listman), and an American Bittern was seen in the same area on Nov 10 (Listman). No Whistling Swans, Snow Geese, or Blue Geese were observed.

Five hundred Brant seen along the west lakeshore on Oct 20 (Listman) was the high count for the Rochester area although hunters reported "thousands" in the Sodus Bay area in late October and early November. Numbers were shot. Twenty-five were seen off Durand-Eastman Park Nov 20 (G.O.S. hike).

Eight Gadwall were seen in Perry on Nov 5 (Rosche), and two were still present Nov 27. Some 1000 Pintail were seen along the west lakeshore Oct 20 (Listman), and three were in Perry Nov 19 (Rosche). Fifty Green-winged Teal were observed at Hamlin Beach Park Oct 29 (O'Hara, Miller), and three American Widgeon were seen near Perry Center on Nov 27 (Rosche). Two hundred Wood Ducks were at Mendon Ponds on Sep 10 (Planansky, Starling), and 29 were at Perry on Oct 29 (Rosche). The only report for the Redhead for the period was a single bird seen near Silver Lake Sep 10 (Rosche); the early date raises the question as to whether this was a released bird. Ring-necked Ducks were unreported in the Rochester area, but they were reported from the Castile area, Silver Lake, and Lake LaGrange on dates from Oct 1 to Nov 12 with a maximum of 22 near Castile Nov 5 (Rosche). The only report of Canvasbacks was of two birds at Manitou on Oct 29 (Carlson, Tetlow). One thousand Greater Scaup were seen along the east lakeshore Nov 19 (Lloyd et al), and 300 Bufflehead were seen migrating past Hamlin Beach Nov 27 (Dobson).

A Harlequin Duck was observed at Webster Park Nov 6 (Kemnitz et al). Two King Eiders were there on Nov 13 (Kemnitz et al, Lloyd), and one bird was seen frequently east of Sea Breeze during the rest of the month. Seventy White-winged Scoters were noted Oct 8 on Lake Ontario (G.O.S. boat trip), 200 were seen Oct 22 at Hamlin Beach Park (Dobson et al), and smaller numbers were seen the remainder of the period along the lake. There was a Surf Scoter at Hamlin Beach Park on Oct 22 (G.O.S. boat trip). Four others were seen near Sea Breeze Nov 20 (McNetts, Sunderlin), and two were observed along the east lakeshore

Nov 25 (Foster, Tetlow). Ten Common Scoters were noted west of Durand-Eastman Park Nov 6 (Foley et al).

The Ruddy Duck was seen at Silver Lake from Oct 13 to Nov 27 with a maximum of seven on Nov 5 (Rosche). An early Hooded Merganser was at Perry on Aug 28. This species was at Castile from Oct 13 to Nov 27 with a maximum of 70 there on Nov 19 (Rosche). Ten thousand Red-breasted Mergansers seen along the west lakeshore Nov 5 (Listman) is a high count even for this species.

Hawks — Owls: A Turkey Vulture was seen Oct 18 west of Hamlin, where it does not breed (Listman). No Goshawks were reported. Occasional single-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were noted throughout the area. Five Red-tailed Hawks were seen near Mendon Ponds on Nov 13 (Foster et al). This species was scarce along the lakeshore this fall. Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were scarce or unreported. The first fall Rough-legged Hawk was noted near Webster Oct 16 (Lloyd), and four were seen along the west lakeshore Nov 11 (Kemnitzner et al). Inland they were more common, with eleven being reported at Letchworth Park in a day (J. Brown). No Bald Eagles or Peregrine Falcons were observed. Last year the latter species was seen several times; this year there was but one report in May. A very late Pigeon Hawk seen Nov 6 in Webster harrying a large flock of Mourning Doves (Kemnitzner) was only the second report this year of this species.

There were two Ruffed Grouse at Chimney Bluffs on Nov 25 (Foster, Tetlow), and a Bobwhite was seen near the north end of Silver Lake Aug 21 (Rosche). A Common Gallinule was present at Irondequoit Bay from Nov 19-30 (Kemnitzner). An adult American Coot with three young was observed at Braddock's Bay Aug 21 (Foster et al), and 100 were seen at Conesus Lake Nov 27 (Listman).

Seven Golden Plover were seen in Penfield Sep 4-5; 17 were noted west of Manitou on Sep 17 (B. Brown et al), and 60 were at Manitou on Oct 1 (Starling et al). They decreased rapidly after this, but seven were noted at Shore Acres Oct 15 (Peters, Listman). Black-bellied Plover records included 30 west of Manitou Sep 17 (Starling et al), 40 at Manitou Oct 1 (Listman et al), 30 along the west lakeshore Oct 8 (Lloyd), and one at Sea Breeze on Nov 19 (Kemnitzner). Twelve Upland Plover were seen west of Manitou Aug 20 (Starling et al). Late single Solitary Sandpipers were at Shore Acres on Oct 2 (G.O.S. hike) and in Penfield on Oct 13 (Munson). The 30 Greater Yellowlegs noted along the west lakeshore Sep 23 (Foster et al) was the high fall count for this species. Two late birds were seen at Salmon Creek Nov 26 (Starling et al). Forty Lesser Yellowlegs at Manitou on Aug 20 (Miller et al) was the season's high count on this species. Two Knots were observed Sep 3 at Manitou (Starling et al); the few other records for this species were all single birds. A lone Purple Sandpiper was seen at Manitou on Nov 6 (Foley et al), Nov 11 (Kemnitzner et al), and Nov 15 (Listman). Single White-rumped Sandpipers were seen around Braddock's Bay from Oct 4 (Listman) to Nov 12 (O'Hara et al). Three Baird's Sandpipers observed Sep 3 at Manitou (Starling et al) was the season's high count for this species as was the 300 Dunlin noted Oct 30 at Shore Acres (Listman). The 175 Short-billed Dowitchers at Manitou Aug 20 (Starling et al) was an unprecedented count for this area. Three Long-billed Dowitchers seen the same day at Braddock's (Listman et al) were carefully identified by appearance and call notes. There were three Stilt Sandpipers at Manitou on Aug 20 (Listman et al). A few well marked Western Sandpipers as well as many more rather questionable specimens were seen around Manitou during late August and early September. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper seen in Webster Sep 4 and 5 (A. and B. Kemnitzner) was our only record for the species this year. This bird is always rare in this area. **Six** Red Phalaropes were seen Nov 13 on the east lakeshore (Kemnitzner); four were still there the following day, and one was still present at the end of the month. While there are several previous records of this species in our area, these records are all of one bird only. The Northern Phalarope was reported but once this fall, at Manitou on Aug 25 (B. Brown, O'Hara).

No white-winged gulls were reported. Three hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Sea Breeze Nov 20 (McNett and Sunderlin). Two Little Gulls were observed at Manitou on Oct 4, and another was seen there Nov 8 (Listman). An adult and an immature Black-legged Kittiwake were seen during a gull flight on Nov 5 at Hamlin Beach Park (Listman). This species was regarded as an "occasional" migrant years ago in our area, but the present record is only one

third in the last twenty years. Listman has had experience with this bird in its usual oceanic range.

Single Forster's Terns were seen around Braddock's Bay from Aug 24 (L. Moon, Sunderlin) to Sep 24 (B. Brown et al). In recent years up to six have been recorded in a day, and they usually remained at least until late October. Forty Common Terns were at Manitou on Sep 17 (Listman); this species was rather uncommon in our area this year. Eleven Caspian Terns were still at Braddock's Sep 21; this species has been more common than usual in our area this year.

Some 75 Mourning Doves were seen near Powder Mills Park Nov 13 (Foley et al). The immature Barn Owl which had been hatched in the top of a silo west of Manitou and which had fallen to the bottom when quite young was apparently successfully raised by its parents, as it disappeared when fully fledged shortly after Sep 5. There was no evidence that it had met an untimely end. It was the only bird hatched from the clutch of eggs. A single bird hatched in a cable housing on a canal bridge just south of Rochester was also apparently successfully reared. Two Snowy Owls were seen Nov 11 west of Manitou (Listman). From one to two birds were frequently seen along the lakeshore during the rest of the month. Two birds were found injured or wounded near Hamlin Beach State Park and were turned over to the Seneca Park Zoo. At least three birds were reported perched on downtown buildings, all of which evaded capture. A Short-eared Owl was seen in Greece on Oct 24, and three others were observed Nov 28 in Parma (Listman).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen in Rochester on Oct 26 feeding on late garden flowers (O. Shaefer). Seventy-five Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted in Durand-Eastman Park on Oct 1 (Foley). There was a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Perry on Oct 1 (Rosche), and another was seen in Webster on Nov 27 (Lloyd). This location is the only one along the lake in our area where this bird is found regularly and breeds, although inland it is not uncommon locally. Three Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed near Hilton Sep 3 (Kemnitzer), and one was seen during the last three weeks in November in Walworth (Spencer).

Horned Larks were scarce during the last half of the period; frequent trips into suitable areas both along the lake and inland failed to turn up any birds. One hundred Tree Swallows were seen west of Manitou Oct 2 (G.O.S. hike), and two very late individuals were at Salmon Creek on Nov 11 (Listman et al). Seven Rough-winged Swallows were at Silver Lake Aug 21 (Rosche), and one was seen at Braddock's Bay Sep 21 (Listman). A very late Barn Swallow was seen at Shore Acres Oct 15 (Listman). Cliff Swallows were scarce in the region, compared to last fall when the peak count was 75. Four were seen at Warsaw Aug 28 (Rosche), and two were at Braddock's Bay Sep 24 (Starling et al).

A pair of Tufted Titmice brought young birds to a feeder east of Sea Breeze (McNett, Sunderlin). Five Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen in Letchworth State Park Aug 21, and three were still present Nov 13 (Rosche). Three were observed in Durand-Eastman Park Nov 12 (O'Hara et al). Two Carolina Wrens were seen at the Sunderlin feeder east of Sea Breeze on Nov 19. However, this species is still relatively scarce since the heavy snows of the last two winters. A Long-billed Marsh Wren was noted at Braddock's Bay Nov 22 (Listman). A Mockingbird was seen just east of Irondequoit Bay Nov 19 (McNett, Sunderlin), and 25 Robins were seen in Durand-Eastman Park on Nov 20 (G.O.S. hike). Four Bluebirds were present Oct 21 along the Monroe-Orleans County Road (Listman); four were seen in Perry Oct 22 (Rosche), and five were noted in Powder Mill Park on Oct 25 (Starling). A pair raised two broods this past season in Webster (McNett). Six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed Aug 23 in Ellison Park (Petso). Four or five Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed in Letchworth Park Aug 21-27 (Rosche), which probably indicates successful nesting. Thirty-two Water Pipits were seen in Perry on Oct 22 (Rosche), but around Rochester only scattered birds were seen.

A Bohemian Waxwing was seen in Durand-Eastman Park in company with about 150 Cedar Waxwings Nov 25-26 (Meade, Lloyd). The first Northern Shrike of the season at Manitou was noted Nov 13 (Listman). Single birds were frequently seen after this, and an immature bird remained in Durand from Oct 29 until Nov. 26.

Vireos — Warblers: Single Philadelphia Vireos were seen Sep 10 near Portageville (Rosche), Sep 15 on the Pinnacle Hill (Lank), and Oct 2 at Island Cottage (Lloyd). Two Blue-winged Warblers were at Portageville Aug 21 (Rosche), and one was there Aug 27. The Orange-crowned Warbler was not observed in the area this year. A very late Parula Warbler was seen Nov 25 in Webster (Kemnitzner). Strangely, there are two other late November records for this species. Seven Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in Durand-Eastman Park Sep 28 (Schmanke), and a late Black-throated Green Warbler was noted Oct 16 at Island Cottage (Lloyd). Pine Warblers and Connecticut Warblers were unreported, but three Hooded Warblers were seen Sep 10 in Letchworth Park (Rosche).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Two hundred fifty Rusty Blackbirds and 400 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at Flynn Road Nov 20 (Listman). An Indigo Bunting was seen feeding with Pine Siskins and Goldfinches in a back yard in Irondequoit Nov 2 (Moon, Sunderlin). A Dickcissel was observed at a feeder in Penfield (Munson). Mrs. Munson had also had one of these birds at her feeder late last fall. Six Evening Grosbeaks seen at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 27 (Dobson) was the only report for the period; this scarcity is in marked contrast to last year. Forty Purple Finches were seen at Island Cottage Oct 31 (Schmanke), and 80 were seen at Webster Park Nov 13 (Kemnitzner, Listman). Six Common Redpolls were present in Perry Nov 12, ten were seen the following day in Letchworth Park, and 25 were seen in Perry on Nov 19 (Rosche). These constitute the only records for the period. Some 75 Pine Siskins were seen at Hamlin Beach Park Oct 22 (G.O.S. hike), and 750 were seen along the west lakeshore Nov 11 (Listman et al). Flocks of up to 100 were common throughout the area. A Red Crossbill was observed Oct 29 in Durand-Eastman Park (Foley). Thirty were seen along the west lakeshore Nov 11 (Kemnitzner et al), and small flocks were seen quite generally in the area the remainder of the month. A White-winged Crossbill was noted Oct 30 in Durand-Eastman Park (Foley, Foster, Tetlow), and two were seen there Nov 20 (Lloyd). Five Savannah Sparrows were noted Oct 13 in Perry (Rosche). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen Sep 29 on the east spit of Braddock's Bay (Listman); this was our only record for this elusive sparrow this year. Two Chipping Sparrows were seen at Silver Lake Oct 13 (Rosche). Twenty-five White-crowned and 100 White-throated Sparrows seen Oct 1 along the lakeshore (Miller, Starling) were the high counts for these two species. Five White-throats were seen in Durand-Eastman Park on Nov 26 (O'Hara et al), and five Fox Sparrows were there on Oct 30 (Foley et al). A Lincoln's Sparrow observed at Manitou Sep 26 (Listman) was the only record for the period. Three Lapland Longspurs were seen at Lake Ontario Oct 8 (G.O.S. boat trip), and a very few were seen subsequently along the lakeshore. Seventy-five Snow Buntings were noted Oct 23 at Braddock's Bay (Foster et al). Flocks of 100-300 were frequently seen along the lakeshore during November, and 300 were seen in Perry Nov 19 (Rosche).

54 Luella Street, Rochester 9

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

The fall season was excessively dry. In the Ithaca area there was no precipitation to amount to anything except for a total of three inches in mid-September, the fringe of Donna. Farther west there was less. And sadly enough, this didn't bring the expected bonus; there were no shorebirds on the exposed mudflats. As of November 30 there were only two light snows. Temperatures remained moderate during the period, with winds predominately from the south. The fruit crop seemed better than was indicated earlier, and Cedar Waxwings were everywhere. The outstanding features of the period were the Broad-winged flight at Ithaca September 18-20, the drop in waterfowl numbers, and the early arrival, in numbers, of Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Pine Siskins, and Snow Buntings. Indications also pointed to a Snowy Owl and Red Crossbill year. Other highlights included the Mockingbird at Horseheads and a Yellow-throated Warbler in November at Penn Yan.

Warbler flights were noted September 19 and 25 at Ithaca and September 19 and 20 at Elmira. Ten days of superb weather from October 5 to 15 grounded