

for myself using the dimensions of the flock given by Mr. Foley and the figures for flock density and flock speed given by Symonds (Bird Study, 1961, 8:192) for the Starling. The figure obtained was somewhat larger than Mr. Foley's but was of the same order of magnitude.

To end on a negative note it looks like being a poor winter for watching winter finches; only the Pine Siskin was widely reported and that only in moderate numbers.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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In contrast to the generally mild and pleasant weather conditions of the past few fall seasons, autumn 1962 was somewhat disappointing. The large number of balmy, sunny days so typical of recent fall seasons, were below average this year. Temperatures averaged slightly below normal; precipitation continued to be below normal. Many areas on the Lake Plains did not have any frost during the month of September.

Weather extremes included one of the earliest major local snowstorms on October 26-27. Most areas of Western New York had measurable snowfall with the heaviest accumulations reported up to 15 inches in Southern Tier areas. Two inches on October 26 were the greatest amount recorded in Buffalo for October since 1925. On the brighter side of the picture — November ended with a series of seven exceptionally mild 50-60 degree days caused by a static high pressure system over Eastern United States.

September, too, had its weather extreme — this extreme being of most interest to local ornithologists. The first soaking rain since mid June and the heaviest in three years (total 2.50 inches) fell on September 27-28-29. Northeasterly winds, and dense fog in some areas, accompanied this storm. During this storm the largest television tower kill of nocturnal migrant passerines on local record occurred. A total of 655 individuals of 37 species were picked up dead from the base of a tower located in the Town of Colden, Southern Erie County. Migrants were falling out of the sky so often, that the person in charge entered in the official station log, "It is raining birds"! The ridge upon which the tower is located is 1720 feet above sea level (or about 1100 feet above the level of the near-by Lake Erie Plain); the tower proper is 1159 feet in height.

Additional specimens were picked up at this tower on October 7, 10, and 13 following foggy nights. The total kill on all five dates reached 779 birds of 47 species. The ten most common kill birds in decreasing order were: Swainson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blackpoll Warbler, Catbird, Bay-breasted Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. Other comments concerning the tower kills can be found in the notes below.

Highlights of the season include: a report of a Cinnamon Teal; Golden Eagle, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: BOS COUNT — Buffalo Ornithological Society October Bird Count; Chaut. Lk. — Chautauqua Lake; ISP — Island State Park; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area.

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Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: one, Nov 3, Lake Ontario at Yates (RCR, KPA); one, Nov 20, Lake Erie at Sturgeon Point (TLB) — only reports. Red-necked Grebe: one, Nov 10, Lake Erie at Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — only report. Horned Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe: scarce throughout the period; numbers at usual migration peaks low. Green Heron: one, Nov 3, Bemus Point at Chaut. Lk. (FMR, RO) — unusually late. Common Egret: three, Aug 25 and two, Oct 5, OOGMA (RCR, KPA) — only reports; no northward movement this year. Black-crowned Night Heron: single birds Aug 25, OOGMA (KPA, RCR); Sep 1, Buffalo (AF); and Oct 14, Point Gratiot (WFS et al). After the leaves left the trees, 30-35 nests were noted on an island at Goat Island above the American Falls. If this is an active colony, it is the only known nesting locality in this region at the present time (KPA, RCR). Least Bittern: one, Sep 29, picked up alive in Lewiston and later released (WHK) — late. Mute Swan: one immature, Oct 16, Town of Boston, Erie Co (TLB). Whistling Swan: one injured bird, Oct 16, Lyndonville (HHA, WAS). November flight apparently rather poor; seven, Nov 20, Beaver ISP (RCR et al); 37, Nov 26, Chaut. Lk. (LB, NB). Canada Goose: many flocks moving through region Sep 29-30 and Oct 9-10. Brant: 932, flying east along south shore of Lake Ontario at Point Breeze on a strong northeasterly wind and 125 at Shadigee, Nov 3 (RCR, KPA) — probably a record high count for the region. Gadwall: three, Oct 14, Batavia area (rep. OP); two, Oct 21, Buckhorn ISP (WHK, EAU); three, Nov 3, Hamburg Town Park (TLB). Green-winged Teal: This species continues to increase; more numerous in Niagara River region during November than usual; 46, Nov 11, Buckhorn ISP (AS, RB) — maximum count. **Cinnamon Teal:** A small duck observed Nov 19 at Buckhorn ISP was identified as this species (ELS, BN et al). Mr. Seeber states, "... It was an almost all red color with a long, heavy bill, somewhat disproportionately large for the head size ...". "... As it swam away it turned once so that the sun reflected from his side. It shone bright red ...". The bird was observed through 20x, 30x, and 40x B. & L. Balscope, Sr. for 10-15 minutes at a distance of about 150 yards. This is the first record for this region. Shoveler: eight, Oct 5, OOGMA (RCR); two, Oct 14, Oak Orchard region (EAU et al); one, Nov 7, Dunkirk Harbor (AS). Redhead: very scarce; nine, Nov 3, Chaut. Lk. (FMR, et al) — maximum count. Ring-necked Duck: 37, Nov 3, Chaut. Lk. (FMR, FR et al) — minimum count. King Eider: one (basic plumage), Nov 18 and 23, mouth of Niagara River at Fort Niagara (RCR, KPA, CM). Rudy Duck: continues to be scarce; 40, Nov 11, Bear Lake (LB, NB) — maximum count. Hooded Merganser: more abundant than usual during November with the following concentrations of note: 113, Nov 14, Chaut. Yk. (AS); 35, Nov 18-19, Buckhorn ISP (KPA et al).

Hawks — Owls: Broad-winged Hawk: one, Oct 16, Town of Boston, Erie Co. (TLB) — late. Rough-legged Hawk: scarce throughout late Oct and Nov with scattered reports of single individuals only — even on Lake Ontario Plain; poor flight. **Golden Eagle:** A migrating immature was observed under excellent conditions as it passed over Hamburg Town Park Oct 18 (KPA); another immature was reported Nov 29 over Lakeview on the south shore of Lake Erie (TLB) — the first reports since Sep 1960. Bald Eagle: one, Oct 14, Jamestown region (JAS) — only report. Pigeon Hawk: one, Sep 11, near Hamburg (TLB) — only report. Rails and Common Gallinule: generally scarce, continuing recent trends; no Oct reports of rails. American Coot: generally less numerous and widespread than usual except at Chaut. Lk. in Nov; 1200 were counted there Nov 3 (FMR et al). 575 on Nov 7 (AS) and 500 on Nov 14 (AS). Shorebirds: generally few reports. Semipalmated Plover: one, Nov 18, Three Sisters Islands at Niagara Falls (RCR, KPA) — exceptionally late. American Golden Plover: single birds Sep 4 at Prendergast Point (FMR) and Oct 21 at Hamburg (TLB). Black-bellied Plover: 17, flying over, Sep 30, near Youngstown (WHK); three, Nov 22, Hamburg (TLB). White-rumped Sandpiper: one, Sep 11 and 13, Eden (TLB). Baird's Sandpiper: one, Aug 25, Chaut Lk. (EMP); one, Sep 7, Hamburg Town Park (TLB). Stilt Sandpiper: one, Sep 19, Langford (TLB); one, Sep 21, Eden (TLB). Red Phalarope: single birds Oct 12, Buckhorn ISP (RCR) and Oct 27, Bayview (KPA et al) — the latter locality appears to be a regular stopping place for this species under certain weather conditions. Parasitic Jaeger: two immatures flew past (east to west) Point Breeze and Shadigee, Oct 28. These are the only known observations from that part of Lake Ontario in this region (KPA, RCR). Glaucous Gull: single birds at Niagara Falls Nov 19 (ELS et al)

and Nov 29 (AF). Franklin's Gull: one immature, Sep 1, Niagara River opposite Buffalo (RCR, KPA); one, Sep 26, Evangola State Park (TLB). Bonaparte's Gull: The gull flight on the Niagara River was far better than average this year, although numbers did not reach the proportions of the great 1959 flight. The somewhat two-parted flight was concentrated primarily in the Niagara Falls - Lewiston area where peaks of about 3000 birds occurred during the last week of October and about 6000-6500 during the last week of November. As always, with great numbers of Bonaparte's, several of the rarer small gulls appeared. Little Gull: single birds occurred at Buffalo Sep 9 (KPA, RCR) and Oct 14 (AF). Two were present on the river in the Niagara Falls - Lewiston area in late Oct and early Nov and two - three occurred in late Nov. A trip to this area at these times seldom failed to produce at least one bird. A single bird, the only immature reported this fall, was noted Nov 10 at Hamburg Town Park (TLB). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** one immature, Nov 23-26, Niagara Falls (RCR, CM et al). **Sabine's Gull:** one immature, Oct 21, Niagara Falls (RCR, KPA). The last two species were observed under good conditions; they had not been reported here since the 1959 gull flight. Terns: generally more numerous than in the average year. Forster's Tern: one, Oct 12, Hamburg Town Park (TLB) — only report. Common Tern: 12, Nov 7, Dunkirk Harbor (AS); two, Nov 10, Buffalo Harbor (CM) — last dates. Snowy Owl: one, Nov 3, Grand Island (RS) — only report. Short-eared Owl: one, Sep 4, over Wanakah (KPA); eight, Nov 17, Grand Island (FMR et al) — only reports. Saw-whet Owl: single birds Oct 25 at Kenmore (HHA) and Nov 5 at Sturgeon Point (TLB).

Goatsuckers — Starling: Whip-poor-will: one, Sep 3, Town of Charlotte, Chaut. Co. (FMR) — only report. Common Nighthawk: one, Oct 14, Dunkirk-Fredonia area (WFS et al) — late. Pileated Woodpecker: continues to increase in region as evidenced by five birds, Oct 25 at Brockton (LB, NB). Red-bellied Woodpecker: four, Oct 14, Batavia area (rep. OP) — highest reported count from this area in recent years; one, Nov 19, Lockport (RCR). Red-headed Woodpecker: about four remaining at Fort Niagara from mid Oct through the end of the period (WHK). Good nesting success coupled with a good acorn crop probably is inducing these birds to remain here this winter after an absence of a year. This species was reported more often and more widely distributed this fall than in the most recent three-four years. **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers:** one male, Nov 19, Lockport (RCR) — only report. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one, Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (RCR) — unusually late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one, Aug 25, Deer Lick Sanctuary, Town of Otto (HDM) — only report. Purple Martin: 6000, Sep 9, Jamestown Roost (CMB). Tufted Titmouse: six coming to feeder throughout Aug in Orchard Park; three until mid Sep, then none (GD). Four, Oct 14, Southern Tier areas (BOS Count); one, Oct 28, Brockton (LB, NB); two-four, daily during Nov at feeder in Williams-ville (TCF); six-seven, daily during Nov at feeder in Dunkirk (JCP); two, Nov 27, Jamestown (LB, NB); one, Nov 28 at feeder in Bowmansville (AVS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: small flight Sep 16-30 with only scattered individuals remaining during Oct and Nov. Carolina Wren: adults feeding young Aug 29 at Jamestown (LP rep. EMP); one, Nov 14, Angola (AS) — only reports. Mockingbird: two birds reported throughout the period at Lewiston (WHK) — probably same birds that nested there this year; one, Nov 7, Wanakah (VA). Swainson's Thrush: 299, Sep 27-Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR) — 37% of total kill and most common species. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 34, Sep 29-Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR). Veery, two, Sep 29, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR) — unusually late. Eastern Bluebird: most observers were well pleased with the apparent good nesting success this year so evident by the reports for the month of Oct. Eighty-three were counted Oct 14 (BOS Count) — the highest total for the count in several years. Most interesting was a count of 200, Oct 26 at Brockton (LB, NB). Cedar Waxwing: 400, Nov 3, Lake Erie State Park (FMR et al) — high count. Northern Shrike: poor flight throughout the area with only scattered individuals reported. Loggerhead Shrike: one, Sep 21, Derby (WWB) — only report of this increasingly uncommon summer resident and migrant. Starling: 50,000, Oct 14, Jamestown Roost (EMP et al).

Vireos — Warblers: Red-eyed Vireo: 41, Sep 27-Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR) — third commonest kill species. Philadelphia Vireo: 10, Sep 27 and 29, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR). The most common dead warblers found at the

Colden TV Tower are as follows: Ovenbird — 47 (second most common kill bird), Blackpoll Warbler — 27, Bay-breasted Warbler — 25, Black-throated Blue Warbler — 21, Magnolia Warbler — 18, Yellowthroat — 18, Black-throated Green Warbler — 11. A total of 216 warblers were picked up dead. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Oct 27, Fort Niagara (WHK) — late. Parula Warbler: one, Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (RCR) — late. Black-throated Green Warbler: one, Oct 28, Lake Erie State Park (OS, NB) — late. Prairie Warbler: one, Sep 13, Hamburg (TLB) — always rare and especially so in autumn. Connecticut Warbler: single birds, Sep 21, Delaware Park, Buffalo (KPA); Oct 3, Eden (TLB); Oct 7 (alive), Colden TV Tower (KPA). Mourning Warbler: one, Sep 27 (KPA, RCR) and one, Oct 7 (KPA), Colden TV Tower — late. Yellowthroat: one, Nov 16-30, Hamburg (AMB); one, Nov 17, Lancaster (CM) — late. Hooded Warbler: one, Oct 7, Colden TV Tower (KPA) — late.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Western Meadowlark: one, Aug 25, Town of Marilla, Erie Co. (RCR, KPA) — probably same bird as reported in Vol. XII, p. 147. Common Grackle: 10,000, Allegany State Park (WWB). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 34, Sep 27-29, Colden TV Tower (KPA, RCR) — fourth commonest kill bird. Evening Grosbeak: no reports. Pine Grosbeak: no reports. Common Redpoll: no reports. Pine Siskin: moderately good flight; maximum counts of 170 occurred Oct 28 along the south shore of Lake Ontario between Wilson and Point Breeze and 87, Nov 18, between Youngstown and Point Breeze (KPA, RCR). Crossbills: no reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: one, Sep 27 and two, Oct 10, Colden TV Tower (RCR, KPA); one, Oct 6, Hamburg (TLB).

Addendum: Mockingbird: the nest at Eden, Erie Co., reported in the last issue (p. 146) was a second nesting. This same pair successfully reared one young earlier in the summer in another nest nearby (fide RWR).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first two weeks of the period were characterized by above normal temperatures. This was followed by much cooler than average September weather. The last two months of the period brought almost average temperatures. Precipitation for September was well above normal and, for the rest of the period somewhat below average. A "sneak" snowstorm on November 17-18 brought up to six inches to the area. Light snowfalls occurred in late October, but November brought little other snowfall. The high temperature for the period was 94°F (the year's high) on August 31 and the low 15°F on November 19.

Outstanding birds recorded during the period include Common Eider; Wilson's Phalarope; Laughing, Franklin's, Little and Sabine's Gulls; Hawk Owl; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker; Bohemian Waxwing and Oregon Junco.

Observers: WLC—William L. Carlson; DRC—Dwight R. Chamberlain; GD—(Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; MF — (Miss) Margaret Foley; JF — John Foster; TH — Thomas Hampson; EWH — E. W. Holroyd III; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer; GWL — (Dr.) Gerhard W. Leubner; WCL — Walter C. Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; RM — (Miss) Ruth MacRae; AM — Alfred Maley; JMc — Joseph McNett; TMc — Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; JM — John Mitchell; LM — (Mrs.) Laura Moon; NSM — (Dr.) Neal S. Moon; EM — (Mrs.) Edward Munson; MO — Michael O'Hara; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; AS — Alfred Starling; MS — (Mrs.) Maryanne Sunderlin; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow.

Abbreviations: BB — Braddock's Bay; OB — Oklahoma Beach; EM — East Manitou; WM — West Manitou; DEP — Durand Eastman Park; GOS — Goshike; HSP — Hamlin State Park; WP — Webster Park; R — Rochester; SA — Shore Acres.

Loons — Ducks: A remarkable flight of Common Loons occurred over DEP on Nov 18. The morning was foggy and the birds apparently had become confused after losing their way. The flight was estimated at about 700 birds, and they milled around aimlessly for some time before disappearing over Lake Ontario (GOS). At least three Red-throated Loons were identified in this flight. A single Red-necked Grebe was at HSP Oct 27 (GOS) and one was at WM on Nov 23 (WCL).