

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures, except for the first two weeks, averaged consistently above normal, with average temperatures for October reaching an almost all time high. Precipitation for the first two and a half months of the period was below average with rainfall for October being only about an arid one quarter of an inch. November however brought over four inches of precipitation compared to the normal two and a half inches. In spite of November's heavy precipitation, the area still had a year's deficit of over seven inches of precipitation at the end of the period. Only "traces" of snow were recorded in the Rochester area until the last day of the period when about five inches fell. In spite of the warm weather during the fall the migration seemed to proceed about on schedule, leaving somewhat greater numbers of late stragglers than are usually to be found.

The flight of Canada Geese seemed average but Brant and ducks except for Common Goldeneyes and Red-breasted Mergansers seemed somewhat light. With the ducks, this may have been due to the uniformly mild weather. Some Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes appeared late in the period and a very light influx of Snowy Owls appeared in November. Good flights of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills occurred with smaller numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills and a scattering of Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. Most outstanding birds recorded include Eared Grebe, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, and Bohemian Waxwing.

Names of regularly reporting observers: JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; JH — (Mrs.) Jeanne Haller; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitz; BK — (Mrs.) Beatrice Kemnitz; WCL — Walter C. Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; RM — (Miss) Ruth MacRae; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; (HSM) — Howard S. Miller; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; MS — (Mrs.) Maryanne Sunderlin; FT — Frank Templeton; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow; EW — Mr. & Mrs. Elwood White.

Initials of places regularly used in the text: B — Braddock's; D-EPk — Durand-Eastman Park; L — Lighthouse; S — Salmon; Cr — Creek; Pk — Park; A — Acres; W Lake — West Lakeshore.

Loons — Ducks: A flight of 600 Red-throated Loons along the W Lake Nov 28 (AEK) is almost unprecedented during the fall, although large flights are regular during April. Three Red-necked Grebes at Sandy Creek Oct 26 (AEK) was the fall's high count for this species. An Eared Grebe in winter plumage was seen under very favorable conditions at L Beach Oct 19. (WCL, HSM, & AAS). The first two observers have had previous experience with the species. Three Whistling Swans at Mendon Ponds Nov 19 (EW) was the only report of this species this fall. This is a very uncommon species in our area in fall although it is irregularly fairly common in the spring. The flight of Brant reached its peak on Oct 21 when an estimated 500 went past Manitou in an easterly direction on a northeast wind (WCL). This is well below the peak counts during some previous falls. Six Gadwall at Manitou Oct 30-31 (WCL) and 14 Shovelers at SCr Nov 23 by the same observer were somewhat unusual, at least during the hunting season. 80 White-winged Scoters along the W Lake Sept 28 (AEK) seems early for this large number. 12 Surf Scoters at Rigney's Bluff Nov 17 (GOS hike) and 31 Common Scoters at Webster Pk on the same day (RG, WCL) were peak counts for these species.

Hawks — Owls: There were only two reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks during the period and the Cooper's Hawk was unreported. The only noticeable migration of Red-tailed Hawks occurred Aug 23 when 25 were seen at Shore A (RTO). Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Pigeon Hawks and Bald Eagles were unreported. An early Rough-legged Hawk was at Manitou Oct 6 (GOS hike). 19 were along the W Lake Nov 16 (AEK) and scattered

birds were reported from suitable areas during the latter part of the period. Single Peregrine Falcons were at Avon Sept 8 (TET), at Manitou Sept 28 (WCL), at Webster Sept 29 (AEK, WCL) and at B Bay Nov 1 (WCL).

American Coot seemed common with 150 at Round Pond Oct 26 (JF, TET) and 102 at Hamlin the same day (AEK). 50 were still present on B Bay Nov 2 when they were being pounded hard by numerous gunners (HSM, AAS).

The fall shorebird flight was routine, although water levels receded rapidly during the period. 20 Killdeer at SCr Nov 29 (WCL) and 30 Common Snipe at B Bay Nov 25 by the same observer reflect the mildness of the late fall. Peak numbers of American Golden Plover were 80 in Parma Sept 2 (WCL), 89 along the W Lake Sept 7 (AEK), and 108 near Point Breeze Oct 12 (AEK). Three were still present at Shore A Nov 9 (TET et al). Black-bellied Plovers were generally distributed. 250 Lesser Yellowlegs at Shore A Aug 29 (AM) is a very high count locally. A White-rumped Sandpiper lingered at SCr until at least Nov 17 (GOS hike). A Long-billed Dowitcher was identified at Shore A Oct 6 by extreme bill length and call notes (HSM). A rather high count of 100 Sanderlings were at Sodus Bay Sept 14 (WCL). A Red Phalarope was at Norway Road Oct 26 (AEK) and a Wilson's Phalarope was at Shore A Aug 20 (AM).

A Parasitic Jaeger was at the W Lake Sept 7 (WCL) and four were seen at Manitou Sept 13 by the same observer. Single Little Gulls were at Manitou Oct 19 (WCL), at Charlotte Oct 26 (HSM, AAS), at Summerville Oct 27 (HSM) and at Oklahoma Beach Nov 24 (WL). This species may now be considered a rare but regular visitor at any time of year except winter and early spring.

A small, light Snowy Owl was at B Bay Nov 3 (WCL) and a larger, darker bird frequented the same area until shot and wounded. It was captured and taken to the Humane Society shelter. Another or one of the same birds was reported from Irondequoit Bay Outlet (MS). Two Saw-whet Owls were netted and banded in Penfield in late October (RM).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Two very late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds frequented a hummingbird feeder in Webster Oct 1-29 (BK). A female Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was in Avon Oct 17 (JH). This was the only report for the fall although about three birds were present during the early part of the year.

A flock of 20 late Tree Swallows were at B Bay until Oct 26 (AAS et al) and a still later Cliff Swallow was at Manitou Nov 4 & 5. This seems to be our latest date for the species. Sixty Brown Creepers at Manitou Sept 28 (AEK) was the peak of the fall migration. A Carolina Wren a species that has about vanished from the area was at Sodus Sept 29 (WCL). Four Mockingbirds at Pultneyville on the same date (AEK, WCL) probably represent a successful nesting pair.

A very late Woodthrush was in Webster Nov 3 (JM & TM). There was a good flight of both Swainson's and Gray-checked Thrushes, with high counts of 60 of the former at D-EPk Sept 29 (HSM) and 12 of the latter along the lakeshore on the same day (WL). Water Pipits were not very common but four were along the W Lake on the rather late date of Nov 16 (AEK). Three Bohemian Waxwings were in D-EPk Nov 17 (WCL, FT) but were not seen again. Northern Shrikes appeared in fair numbers.

Vireos — Warblers: An Orange-crowned Warbler was on the East Spit Oct 5 (Brownstein, WCL, Schaffner), and the same observers saw another bird of the species at Hamlin Beach Park the next day. A very late Nashville Warbler was in D-EPk Nov 10 (JM, TM & MS) and a late American Redstart was in Webster Oct 20 (HSM).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: 14 Evening Grosbeaks were in D-EPk Oct 13 (WL, RM). Peak count was 47 along the lakeshore Nov 10 (JM, TM, MS). The birds were not frequenting the feeders at the end of the period. A Pine Grosbeak was at Manitou Nov 3 (WCL) and the same or another bird was at D-EPk the same day (Betty Starr, HSM). Only one additional bird was seen subsequently. The only report of the Common Redpoll was a flock of five birds in D-EPk Nov 2 (HSM, AAS). 21 Red Crossbills were at L Beach Oct 26 (JF, TET) and nine were in Highland Park Nov 20 (AM). Aside from these two reports, the species was scarce. 30 White-winged Crossbills were in D-EPk Oct 19 (HSM, AAS) and for the next three weeks they were generally distributed. Slate-colored Juncos appeared rather early, with the first record at Manitou Aug 24 (WCL). Single Chipping and Field Sparrows were still at Cobbs Hill Nov 24 (HSM). 12 Lapland Longspurs along the W Lake Sept 28 (AEK) is rather early. Peak count was 100 in the same place Nov 2 (AEK, WCL). Peak count on Snow Buntings was 1,200 along the W Lake (AEK).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

September was cold with killing frost in many areas. October brought heat and the worst drought in many years, lasting until the first week in November. The closing of the woods, because of fire hazards, resulted in a lack of coverage of birding areas and therefore a shortage of reports. In general the heat and drought did not seem to influence migration as much as might be expected. Most migrants left more or less "on schedule" — if anything a little earlier. Fruits, nuts, and other seeds, while scarce, were more abundant than anticipated, following the strange weather of this whole year.

Two features of the season stand out: the spectacular shore-bird migration, and the variety and early arrival of winter finches. Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge, where often only a handful of shore-birds are to be found, had hundreds this year. Over one weekend 25 species were noted, including a new bird for the Region, the Ruff, and the exceedingly rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Among the finches, both Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were reported widely.

A TV tower at Elmira was responsible for the death of over 200 small birds in the period of Sep 29-Oct 4. These were picked up by Wilfred Howard and others of the CVAS and brought to Cornell. The kill included Flycatchers, Vireos, Warblers, Thrushes, Finches, and one Sapsucker.

Abbreviations used: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; CVAS — Chemung Valley Audubon Society; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; av — average; max — maximum; yg — young.

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Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: migration last week October on Cay L. Horned Grebe: one, Aug 28, early, MFWR (DP). Great Blue Heron: av. numbers at MFWR this year; pair summered at SWS, nest not found, left early (Oct); two (last date) Nov 20, MFWR (WEB); 12 imms. during fall,