

sarily the main flight. The numbers observed on the coast, even after major storms, are only 10-20 individuals. Hagar has described the mass departure of the Hudsonian Godwit from Hudson Bay; the most direct route to Argentina would be mainly over-land.

The count of Redheads at Montezuma is encouraging but other areas did not note an increase of this hard-hit species.

The fall flight of winter finches was non-existent. Not only were Cross-bills and Pine Grosbeaks virtually unrecorded but Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and even Tree Sparrows were scarce. Some observers considered that there were exceptionally poor numbers even of non-flight species. A late flight is always possible but it looks like a poor winter for land-birding.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The most outstanding weather feature characterizing this report period was the dryness of September, October and November following, like last year, an unusually wet August. Water levels on the Great Lakes, Niagara River, and at many small ponds and lakes throughout the region were at all-time lows. Some small ponds dried up completely for the first time in memory. Unfortunately, most good shore-bird habitat appeared after the main seasonal movement of these birds. Pond edges and marshes did not become too dry to have an adverse effect on the nesting activities of those birds dependent on this type of habitat. Hunting seasons were postponed and the woodlands of the State were closed for a period during October.

A number of observers commented on the abundance of small landbirds this season. One stated that there occurred "... possibly the best seasonal migration of landbirds in at least eight years" during August and September (Harold H. Axtell). "Waves" of migrants seemed most obvious on August 22 and 27, September 5, 6, 12, 25, 26 and 28, and on October 11.

Other highlights of the season include the occurrence of a number of rarities — Little Blue Heron, European Widgeon, Hudsonian Godwit, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull and Bohemian Waxwing; the exceptional number and variety of small gulls on the Niagara River; the Snowy Owl incursion; the lack of any kind of a winter finch flight; and the increasingly apparent scarcity of most birds of prey and marsh birds.

This Regional Editor would like to take this opportunity to express his thanks and appreciation to all those who have contributed to these reports in the past five years. At the same time he would like to request observers in the Region, especially those away from the metropolitan Buffalo area, to contribute as regularly as possible. We need records and reports for this publication from all places in the Region at all times of the year. Records for December through March should be sent by April 10; for April and May by June 10; for June through August 15 by September 10; and for August 16 through November by December 10.

Abbreviations used below are: ad-adult; Alleg-Allegany; Be ISP-Beaver Island State Park; Bu ISP-Buckhorn Island State Park; Bflo-Buffalo; Chaut-Chautauqua; Co-County; Gen-Genesee; imm-immature; Lk-Lake; max-maximum; Nia-Niagara; N-North; OOGMA-Oak Orchard Game Management Area; opp-opposite; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; R-River; Wyo-Wyoming.

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Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: scattered reports of small numbers but somewhat better flight than a year ago. Red-throated Loon: one, Nov 6, Lk Erie at Sturgeon Pt (TLB) — only report. Red-necked Grebe: two, Oct 22, Lk Erie at Hamburg Town Pk and two, Nov 27, Sturgeon Pt (TLB) — only reports. Horned Grebe: 182, Nov 14, Chaut Lk (FMR et al) — max count. Pied-billed Grebe: migrants surprisingly scarce as has been the general trend in the most recent three-four years. Double-crested Cormorant: single birds on Lk Erie, Oct 5, 6, 8 at Athol Springs (TLB); Nov 22, Town of Sheridan, Chaut Co (FMR); Nov 27, Dunkirk Harbor (CMB et al); and Oct 18, on Nia R (RFA et al). Herons: numbers of all species low; proportion of imm. to ad. among late summer observations noticeably lower than in an average year. **Little Blue Heron:** one ad., Aug 30, near Angelica, Alleg Co. (LDB) — studied carefully at close range. Common Egret: no flight; three, Aug 23 OOGMA (RB et al) and one, Sep 17, Wellsville (LDB) — only reports. Black-crowned Night Heron: one imm., Sep 18, N Cuba Marsh, Alleg Co (LDB) — few previous reports for Alleg Co.

Whistling Swan: 12, Nov 22, over Belmont (LDB et al) and 38, Chaut Lk, Nov 28 (AC et al) — only reports. Brant: 145, Oct 31, Fort Nia (FMR et al) — only report. Blue Goose: one, Nov 11, over Orchard Pk (RFA) — only report. Dabbling ducks: noteworthy concentrations reported all fall on Grand Island at Bu ISP, Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge, Wyo Co.; Burgeson Sanctuary, Town of Kiantone, Chaut Co. and at N Cuba Marsh, Alleg Co. Green-winged Teal: the dominant dabbling duck at many places during Oct and Nov; 125, Oct 16, Belvedere, Alleg Co. (LDB); 95, Oct 25, Bu ISP (RB et al); 45, Nov 15, Bu ISP (RCR et al) — max counts. **European Widgeon:** one male, Oct 7, Eden, Erie Co. (TLB) — first fall record for Region in many years. American Widgeon: 165, Nov 15, Chaut Lk (FMR et al) — max count. Wood Duck: continues to increase; 25, Nov 24, Cuba (LDB) — a noteworthy late count; one, Nov 26, Forest Lawn, Bflo (AF) — one-three wintered here last year. Maximum counts of diving ducks on Chaut Lk (FMR et al) are as follows: Redhead: 6, Oct. 24 and 28, Nov 14; Canvasback: 47, Oct 24; Greater Scaup: 173, Oct 24 and 604, Nov 14; Bufflehead: 26, Oct 24 and 140, Nov 14; Ruddy Duck: 61, Nov 14. Ring-necked Duck: 10 and 25, Nov 24 and 25, Cuba Lk (LDB) — max counts. King Eider: one, Nov 23, Lk Erie at Bay View (TLB) — only report. Scoters: little indication of the good flights noted in other parts of the State, especially on Lk Ontario.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 28, Sep 7, OOGMA-Wolcottsville region (RB et al) — a noteworthy concentration for this time of year. Accipiters: generally scarce with few reports. Rough-legged Hawk: moderate flight, some numbers tending to appear earlier in Oct than usual but apparently moving through and not remaining; max counts on Lk Ontario Plain — 9, Oct 31 between Youngstown and Pt Breeze (FMR et al) and 8, Nov 26 between Lewiston and Wilson (WHK). Bald Eagle: no reports. Marsh Hawk: the number of reports indicates a noteworthy increase this year over the past five-six years. Osprey: the Upper Gen R Valley appears to be the most suitable habitat in the Region for this bird now; from early Aug through early Nov one-five birds could be seen on any trip between Belfast and Wellsville; often individuals were seen carrying fish from the river; one, Nov 3, Belmont (LDB) — unusually late. Pigeon Hawk: one, Sep 7, OOGMA (RB et al) — only report. Rails: generally scarce with few reports. American Coot: 1050, Oct 24, Chaut Lk (FMR et al) — max count.

Shorebirds: few reports for a fall season when so much habitat was available because of low water levels. Noteworthy last dates are as follows: Spotted Sandpiper: one, Oct 8, Hamburg Town Pk (TLB); Solitary Sandpiper: two, Oct 18, Belmont (LDB); Greater Yellowlegs: one, Nov 28, Prendergast Pt (AC et al); Dunlin: one, Nov 28, Dunkirk Harbor (AC et al); Stilt Sandpiper: one, Sep 12, Eden (TLB). American Golden Plover: no reports of large numbers on plowed fields; one, Oct 11, N. Cuba Marsh and one, Oct 25, Burgeson Sanctuary, Town of Kiantone, Chaut Co (RCR et al) — noteworthy southern tier reports. Purple Sandpiper: one, Nov 22 (FMR et al) and Nov 27 (CMB et al), Dunkirk Harbor — at least one wintered here last year. Western Sandpiper: one, Sep 5, Dunkirk Harbor (FMR et al). **Hudsonian Godwit**: one, Oct 28 (RFA et al) and Oct 30 (MMW et al), shore of Nia R opp Bflo — an exceptionally late fall record for Region. Sanderling: three, Aug 23, Prendergast Pt (FMR et al) — few reports away from shores of Great Lakes. Red Phalarope: one, Oct 10 (TLB) and Oct 25 (RFA), Lk Erie at Athol Springs — the most dependable spot in the Region for this bird. **Pomarine Jaeger**: one, Sep 20, Lk Erie at Athol Springs (TLB) — studied exceptionally well under good conditions. Parasitic Jaeger: one, Sep 20, Lk Erie at Athol Springs and Sep 27 and Nov 18 at Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Glaucous Gull: one, Nov 19, Squaw Island Dump, Bflo (RFA) and one, Nov 27, Nia Falls (RFA et al) — only reports. Iceland Gull (*L.g. kumlieni*): one, Nov 29, Nia Falls (RB et al). Small gulls: an excellent season for small gulls; as in the past several years most of the Bonaparte's concentrated on the Nia R opp Bflo in the Peace Bridge area during the early part of the season; later on the large numbers occurred between the top of Nia Falls and Lewiston. Franklin's Gull: two, Aug 22, Nia R opp Bflo (RB et al); two, Sep 11, Lk Erie at Hamburg Town Pk (TLB); one, Oct 20 and 28 (RFA et al) and Nov 1 (DS) and 5 (AF et al), Nia Falls; one, Nov 11, Nia R opp Lewiston (AD et al). Bonaparte's Gull: max early count 1800, Aug 22, Nia R opp Bflo (RB et al); a rather conservative estimate of 15,000 was made Oct 28, between Nia Falls and Lewiston (RFA et al) — however, other reliable observers estimated up to six or seven times as many in the same area at this time. Little Gull: one-two reported regularly from late Aug to early Oct, Nia R opp Bflo; from mid-Oct to end of period a regular bird in Nia Falls-Lewiston area with most observers reporting three-four individuals on most trips; a high count of ten noted here Nov 21 (AD et al) and six were reported Nov 22 (RFA et al); one, Nov 27, Dunkirk Harbor (CMB et al). **Black-legged Kittiwake**: one, Nov 21, Nia Falls (AD, FMR, DS). **Sabine's Gull**: two, Oct 17 (NWP), two, Oct 18 (RFA et al), and one, Oct 20 at Nia Falls (RFA et al) — two were imm. and one or two were ad.; one, Oct 27, Lk Erie at Athol Springs (TLB). Forster's Tern: one, Oct 25, Be ISP (RB et al) — only report. Common Tern: unusually large numbers present late in the season on Great Lakes and Nia R; two still present Nov 28 on Nia R opp Bflo (DS). Caspian Tern: two, Aug 25, Dunkirk Harbor (KOS).

Snowy Owl: the number of reports indicates a major flight year as expected; first individuals arrived during last week and a half of Oct; by the end of Nov perhaps 12-15 individuals were in the metropolitan Bflo area with an additional six-seven more scattered in areas along south shore of Lk Erie at Hamburg, Angola, Dunkirk and Jamestown; as is so often the case none were reported from the hill country south and east of Bflo. Long-eared Owl: one, Aug 26, Panama, Chaut Co (FMR et al) — only report. Short-eared Owl: 13, Nov 15, Grand Island (RCR et al) — max count; one, Nov 14, Stedman, Chaut Co (FMR et al) and two, Nov 29, Sheldon, Wyo Co (MMW) — noteworthy inland reports.

Goatsuckers — **Starling**: Whip-poor-will: one, Sep 12, Delaware Pk, Bflo (MMW et al) — only report. Common Nighthawk: good migratory movement Sep 6-10 as follows: 15 and 12, Sep 6 and 7, over Cuba (LDB); 15, Sep 7, over Jamestown (CMB); 66, Sep 8, over Rushford area, Alleg Co (LDB); eight and six, Sep 9 and 10, over Belmont (LDB); also 13, Sep 21, over Bflo (RB et al). Chimney Swift: one, Sep 27, Jamestown Roost (CMB) — late. Purple Martin: estimates at Jamestown Roost are as follows: 25,000

on Aug 4; 20,000 on Aug 31; 300 on Sep 12; Clarence Beal, who has studied this roost for years, estimates that the numbers of martins this year were about one-third to one-half that of a few years back. Barn Swallow: 500, Aug 4 Jamestown Roost (CMB). Tufted Titmouse: continues to hold its own in the Region especially at feeders; one-two, Sep 27-Nov 30, Springbrook (HS et al); two-three, Nov 1-28, Lewiston (WHK); three, Nov 14, Mayville (FMR et al) — max counts. Red-breasted Nuthatch: poor flight; few migrants with even fewer lingering in the Region. Carolina Wren: no reports. Short-billed Marsh Wren: two and one, Aug 23 and Sep 7, Wolcottsville, Gen Co (RB et al) — a regular summering locality. Mockingbird: one, Oct 27, Hamburg (CMW); one-two, Nov 1-30, Amherst, Erie Co (RCR et al); one, Nov 20, near Youngstown, Nia Co (WHK). Robin: 3,000 Sep 29, Jamestown Roost (CMB). Thrushes: exceptionally good migration this year for all species, especially Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked. Swainson's Thrush: first appeared in numbers Sep 13; unusual number still present in mid-Oct; one, Oct 31, Kenmore (GGW) — very late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: like Swainson's appeared in numbers Sep 13; probably more common throughout the Region than in most years. Eastern Bluebird: continues to show definite evidence of a comeback; one, Nov 26, Fort Nia (WHK) — last report. **Bohemian Waxwing**: three, Nov 7, Belmont — seen at close range and studied well; also two, Nov 18 and three, Nov 26 (LDB). Northern Shrike: rather poor flight in general; a few individuals reported late Oct and Nov.

Vireos — Warblers: Black-and-white Warbler: two, Oct 20, Delaware Pk Bflo (HDM) — late. Golden-winged Warbler: one, Sep 12, Eden (TLB). Blue-winged Warbler: one, Sep 21, Hamburg (TLB) — the number of late Sep reports of this bird appears to be increasing in recent years in conjunction with its increase in abundance and distributional spread in the Region during the nesting season. The reverse might be said of the Golden-winged. Parula Warbler: one, Nov 10-14, Hamburg (JAB, TLB) — exceptionally late. Pine Warbler: one, Sep 14, Hamburg (TLB); one, Nov 26, Wilson (WHK). Connecticut Warbler: one, Sep 22, Hamburg (TLB) — only report. Yellow-breasted Chat: one, Aug 14, Belmont (LDB); one, **Nov 27-29**, at feeder in N Bflo (HDM, PR, EAU et al) — the latest known record for the Region.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Western Meadowlark: no reports this year. Common Grackle: 8,500, Sep 20, over Town of Charlotte, Chaut Co (FMR) indicative of a possible nearby roosting area — definite location? Winter finches: no reports with the exception of Pine Siskin: four, Oct 31, Youngstown Cemetery (FMR et al). Purple Finch: very scarce; five, Oct 28, Bflo (AF) and eight, Nov 10, Springbrook (HS) — max counts; very few other reports. Snow Bunting: scarce with few reports of small numbers during Nov.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for the first two weeks of the period were above normal, then for the next two months subnormal temperatures prevailed. November was warmer than average. Rainfall for the first two weeks was above average, but the next three months were consistently dry. The woods and open lands were closed to hunting for five days beginning November 15. Lake Ontario receded to an almost record low. The year seems on its way to setting an all time record low for precipitation.

The fall migration seemed somewhat below average, with some species actually scarce. The Brant flight was off from previous years. Surf Scoters were relatively common. Species, if not numbers, of shorebirds were good. Most hawks and owls, except for the Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owls, seemed down in numbers. Land birds went through rather early and some species seemed down in numbers. Northern finches were almost non-existent.