

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.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 14215

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

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.

Outstanding birds recorded during the period included Eared Grebe, Gannet, Snowy Egret, European Widgeon, King Eider, Piping Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Little and Sabine's Gulls, Bohemian Waxwing, Dickcissel and Oregon Junco.

Names of observers used in the text: EC-Edward Closs; JD-James Doherty; JF-John Foster; DG-David Gordon; WH-William Hartranft; EWH-Edmond W. Holroyd; AEK-Allen E. Kemnitzer; WCL-Walter C. Listman; WL-Warren Lloyd; AM-Alfred Maley; JM-Joseph McNett; TM-(Mrs.) Thelma McNett; HSM-Howard S. Miller; LM-(Mrs.) Laura Moon; NM-(Dr.) Neil Moon; MO-Michael O'Hara; RTO-Richard T. O'Hara; AAS-Alfred A. Starling; MS-(Mrs.) Maryanne Sunderlin; ST-Stephen Taylor; TET-Thomas E. Tetlow; PW-(Dr.) Paul Weld; PZ-Peter Zachmann.

Names of places regularly used in the text: BB-Braddock's Bay; DEP-Durand-Eastman Park; EL-East Lakeshore; ES-East Spit (Braddock's Bay); OB-Oklahoma Beach; SA-Shore Acres; WP-Webster Park; WL-West Lakeshore; WS-West Spit (Braddock's Bay).

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: 72 at WP Nov 15 (AEK) was peak count for the fall flight which is much lighter locally than the spring flight. Red-necked Grebe: two at Rigney's Bluff Oct 30 (Dr. and Mrs. Morton). Horned Grebe: relatively scarce. A freshly shot **Eared Grebe** was carefully examined on the ES Nov 7 (WCL et al). Attempts to obtain the bird as a specimen were unsuccessful. An immature Gannet was seen along the lakeshore Oct 24 (WCL, WL) and the same or another bird was seen on the WL on Oct 31 (AEK), the first local reports of this species in three years. Snowy Egret: one near SA Sep 1 (AEK). The flight of Canada Geese, while apparently about average, seemed to be concentrated and went through rather early. Brant: flight rather light; a peak count of 250 at Manitou Oct 29 (WCL); flock of 40 on the upper part of Irondequoit Bay Nov 1 (AEK et al). Snow Goose: one on the Genesee River near U. of R. Nov 9 (AM). Blue Goose: one at Manitou Oct 24 (MS). Gadwall: two along WL Aug 27 (RTO) — very early. European Widgeon: one at Lighthouse Beach Oct 11 (AEK). An extremely early immature Common Goldeneye appeared at BB Aug 29 (EC, HSM, AAS) and was shortly joined by another bird of the same species. Bufflehead: common with peak count of 210 along WL Nov 7 (AEK). King Eider: female at OB Nov 24 (HSM). Peak counts of White-winged Scoters: 250 on WL Sep 26, 200 at same place Oct 11; 150 along the EL Oct 12 (all by AEK). Peak count of Surf Scoters: 82 along EL Oct 12 (AEK). Common Scoter apparently belied its name, with a high count of only 9 along the EL Oct 12 (AEK). A good late fall flight of Hooded Mergansers, peak counts of 40 on BB Nov 19 (WCL) and 24 on the Genesee River Nov 22 (PZ).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one at Palmyra Oct 10 — late (WH). Very few Accipiters reported. A fairly good flight of Red-tailed Hawks with 40 along the WL Aug 25 (TM, LM) and 30 in the same place Aug 27 (RTO). Red-shouldered Hawk: a very rare bird locally except during the early spring hawk flights; one in Webster Oct 11 (AEK). Broad-winged Hawk: another rare fall migrant; three at BB Sep 5 (ST et al). A fairly good flight of Rough-legged Hawks with up to four or five reported in a day along the lakeshore. Bald Eagle: rare in the fall; one at Canadice Lake Nov 21 (AM). Peregrine Falcon: one at Irondequoit Bay Outlet Sep 26 (AEK). Pigeon Hawk: unreported. Sparrow Hawk: seemed down in numbers.

Owing to the low level of Lake Ontario and the adjoining bays and ponds, there was much suitable shorebird habitat and the number of species present was excellent. Numbers of individuals of most species did not seem overly impressive. A **Piping Plover** was seen at BB from Oct 3-12 (WCL et al), our first local record in six years. Peak counts of American Golden Plover were 35 at Hogan Point Sep 19 (WCL) and 90 at SA Oct 18 (AEK), well below high counts of some previous years; a very late straggler was seen near Kendall Nov 11 (DG, AEK). Upland Plover: 26 at the airport Aug 19 (AM).

A late Greater Yellowlegs was seen along the Genesee River near Letchworth Park Nov 23 (Robert McKinney). Purple Sandpiper: unreported. A Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully studied in direct comparison with the commoner species at SA Sep 12 (MO, RTO). Two Hudsonian Godwits appeared at Salmon Creek Oct 11 (WCL, LM, NM) and one remained around BB until Oct 31 (HSM). Sanderlings seemed scarce. Red Phalarope: only record — one on the ES Nov 21 (WCL). Wilson's Phalarope: one on WS from Aug 20-30 (WCL et al). Northern Phalarope: unreported. Six hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Forest Lawn Nov 24 (HSM). This number is not unusual as feeding conditions seem especially favorable in this area. A Little Gull was seen at Charlotte from Aug 15-29 (RTO), another at ES Sep 19 (AAS et al), and another at the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Nov 1 (AEK); these three reports may concern one bird only. An immature Sabine's Gull was seen at the ES Sep 26 (JD, JF, HSM, RTO); the bird was carefully studied while on a sandbar and also in flight in direct comparison with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls; the flashing white patches on the back side of the wings and the forked tail were clearly seen by all the observers.

A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen at SA Oct 18 (JF, AM). The first Snowy Owl of the fall season was seen on the WS Oct 25 (EWH) and by the last of November, four or five could be seen in a day along the WL with scattered individuals reported from other points in the area. Other owls seemed to be scarce with the Screech Owl apparently notably so.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Red-headed Woodpecker: one at Palmyra Nov 9 (WH). A very late Barn Swallow was at BB Oct 24 with Tree Swallows (MS). While the Tufted Titmouse was reported from Irondequoit, Webster, and Powder Mill Park, the numbers were small and the bird has not made any gains locally. The fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was light. A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at the WS Oct 17 (WCL, AAS). Water Pipits: scarce. Bohemian Waxwing: one with a small flock of Cedar Waxwings at Powder Mill Park Nov 22 (JD, HSM). Occasional Northern Shrikes were reported but the fall flight of this species so far has been light.

Vireos — Warblers: Orange-crowned Warbler: unreported. Parula Warbler: only one. An extremely late Ovenbird was reported in DEP Nov 29 (PW); survival of this bird is very doubtful. A late Northern Warbler-thrush was seen in Webster Oct 4 (JM, TM). In general, the fall flight of Warblers went through early and seemed rather light.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: After years of steady increase, the numbers of Cardinals seem to have fallen off. Of course, this decrease may be more apparent than real. The count of this species on the coming Christmas census will be very interesting. A Dickcissel appeared at the Allentoff feeder in Greece Oct 25 and was present until Oct 31. The fall flight of northern finches so far has consisted of five Pine Siskins in DEP Nov 15 (GOS hike) and one of the same species at BB later in the month (WCL). Purple Finch: rare. American Goldfinch: very common. Vesper Sparrow: one, Palmyra Nov 9 (WH); this species is a very rare winter resident locally, although with the increase of feeders, it may become slightly more regular. An Oregon Junco appeared at the Kemnitzer feeder in Webster Nov 1 and was still present the last of the month. A very early Fox Sparrow was seen at the same place Sep 15 (AEK). Lapland Longspur: flock of five at BB Nov 19 (WCL) — only report. Snow Bunting: appeared in average numbers but had almost disappeared by the end of the period.

54 Luella Street, Rochester 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Drought conditions were even worse, over-all, than a year ago, although an occasional very light rain somewhat eased fire danger. Areas normally wet were completely dry, and places which had water (such as Montezuma