

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

Recent fall seasons have been characterized by drought that, at times, reached serious proportions. This trend was broken, or at least interrupted, this year, for precipitation throughout the period was above the long-term average. Temperatures were somewhat below normal.

The landbird migration started late, the first noticeable influx occurring over the night of August 20–21. The first week of September was a time of good land bird movement, with peak days the second and third.

Television tower kills in the Town of Colden, Erie County, indicate that the night of September 17–18 was conducive to a large movement of small passerines. However, the records indicate that this movement was not apparent to the average birder on the following day. Of 41 dead birds picked up on September 18 at the tower, nearly half (18) were Red-eyed Vireos; the remainder were 21 warblers of nine species, an oriole and a Song Sparrow.

September 26–29 is almost always a peak time of passerine movement in this Region. 1965 was no exception. Harold Axtell stated, "The biggest apparent migration of the month and one of the most exciting autumn birding days in recent years occurred on Sunday the 26th. The weather on this day was unsettled and rather wild, with the lowest temperature (39 degrees) since last spring, strong winds that shifted from southwest to north, and some extremely dark clouds that produced a few brief scattered showers, and even a partially-developed waterspout over Lake Erie just before noon, the second within a few weeks" (*Prothonotary*, 31: 100). Large numbers of Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins were noted on this day; the first Rusty Blackbirds, Pine Siskins and White-crowned Sparrows appeared, and a large influx of White-throated Sparrows occurred. Nineteen birds of eleven species hit the Colden television tower over the foggy night of September 26–27. Three species of thrushes accounted for half (the typical proportion for late September); one each of six species of warblers (including a Connecticut), a sapsucker, and two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also included in this kill. September 27 was also a good birding day in many other parts of the Region.

Other noteworthy days for landbird movement were October 10–12, October 16–17, and November 1–3. Some insectivorous birds tended to remain later and, in some cases, in larger numbers than usual.

Noteworthy were the large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls concentrated in two areas on the Niagara River. Other less common small gulls were frequently found with them. A major flight of waterfowl occurred October 24–25. In the hill country south of Buffalo certain species were found on small lakes and ponds in unprecedented high numbers.

Northern land birds were much in evidence, indicating that the coming winter season might be particularly interesting to field ornithologists. Except for Boreal Chickadee and Bohemian Waxwing, all the usual species were reported. Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes appeared in small numbers; several Snowy Owls were noted, making this the second occasion in recent years when a small return flight materialized after a peak year in their cycle. All the northern finches were reported in fair numbers. Of special interest was the fact that the White-winged Crossbill far outnumbered the Red Crossbill in abundance. Evidence obtained from other parts of the Northeast earlier in the season indicated that the reverse would most probably be true this winter.

Other highlights of the season included the observation of Eared Grebe, Golden Eagle, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Wheatear and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations used: Alleg—Allegany; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society October Bird Count; Chaut—Chautauqua; Gen—Genesee; ISP—Island State Park; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OOGMA—Oak Orchard Game Management Area; opp—opposite; S—South; Spgs—Springs; Wyo—Wyoming.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; CMB—Clarence M. Beal; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; JB—Joanna Burger; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; VC—Victor Carpenter; WC—Wilma Csonit; DD—Dorothy Danner; HBD—Harold and Barbara Dodge; MLE—Mary Louise Emerson; JG—Joseph Grzybowski; JK—Joseph Kikta; WHK—Walter and Harriette Klabunde; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; EO—Edwin Olmstead; KP—Katherine Palmer; EMP—Elizabeth M. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; RDR—Richard and Dorothy Rosche; RR—Robert Rybczynski; DS—Daniel Salisbury GMS—George M. Smith; WAS—William A. Smith; KOS—Kenneth and Ora Swanson; RT—Ruth True; EAU—Edward and Alice Ulrich; MMW—Marie and Margaret Wendling.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon, very poor flight, max three. Red-necked Grebe: one, Nov 14, Dunkirk Harbor (RDR et al); one, Nov 20, L Erie at Athol Spgs (TLB)—only reports. Horned Grebe: max 254, Nov 21, Chaut L (FMR et al). EARED GREBE: one, Nov 23 (TLB), Nov 25 (JG et al) and Nov 26 (RB et al), L Erie at Sturgeon Pt. Common Egret: two, Sep 5, OOGMA (RB et al); one, Sep 5, S Bflo and two, Sep 19–25, S Pk, Bflo (JK et al)—poor year. Black-crowned Night Heron: more reported than in past few autumns; max 13, Sep 26, Beaver ISP (RB et al) and 13, Sep 26, OOGMA (JB et al). Whistling Swan: max 45, Nov 11, Chaut L (MLE). Blue Goose: one, Nov 2, Chaut L (KOS)—only report. Gadwall: 17, Oct 12, Beaver ISP (JB et al)—noteworthy concentration. Redhead: one, Sep 22, S Pk, Bflo (RFA et al)—early. Ring-necked Duck: two, Sep 27, Cheektowaga (JG)—early. King Eider: two males, Nov 5, L Erie at Athol Spgs (TLB)—rare in this plumage.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: two, Nov 3, Lewiston, Nia Co (WHK)—late. Accipiters: scarce, even during migration peaks. Rough-legged Hawk: one, Oct 11, Scio, Alleg Co (LDB)—early; small numbers during Nov—rather poor flight. GOLDEN EAGLE: one, Nov 21–22, Lancaster, Erie Co (JG). Bald Eagle: no reports. Peregrine Falcon: one, Sep 5, Hamburg (TLB)—only report. Chukar: Nia Co populations continue to increase, both by natural means and by continued releasing by various organizations; 24, Oct 15 (RFA et al) and 12, Nov 21 (JG et al), Shadigee Rd, Olcott. Spotted Sandpiper: one, Sep 29, Scio, Alleg Co (EO)—exceptionally late for hill country south of Bflo. Willet: one, Sep 27, S Bflo Harbor (Times Beach) (JK et al); one, Sep 29, East Eden, Erie Co (TLB)—seen almost yearly in autumn. Purple Sandpiper: one, Nov 6, Wilson Harbor, Nia Co (MMW)—rare, few recent records for L Ont. Hudsonian Godwit: one, Sep 29 (JB et al) and Sep 30 (JK), S Bflo Harbor (Times Beach)—exceptionally good flight at eastern end of L Erie (most records from adjacent Ont). Red Phalarope: one, Nov 23 (TLB), Nov 25 (JG et al) and Nov 26 (RR et al), L Erie at Sturgeon Pt, Erie Co.

POMARINE JAEGER: one, Nov 27, L Erie at Sturgeon Pt (RB et al). Parasitic Jaeger: one, Oct 15, L Ont at Olcott (RFA et al); two, Oct 21, L Erie at Athol Spgs (TLB). Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucoides*): one, Nov 6, Nia Falls (RB et al)—only report. Bonaparte's Gull: in early fall the major concentrations were on the Nia R in the Peace Bridge area opp Bflo; later, as is usual, the largest numbers were at Nia Falls and in the lower Nia R; max 3000, Aug 28, Nia R opp Bflo (JG et al) and 9000, Oct 31, Nia Falls (RFA et al). The following species of gulls were with the Bonaparte's. BLACK-HEADED GULL: one, Sep 11 (DS et al) and Sep 23 (RFA et al) Nia R opp Bflo; one, Oct 31 and Nov 1 (JG et al), Nia Falls. Franklin's Gull: Sep 11–28 on Nia R opp Bflo—max two, Sep 24 (HDM et al); one, Oct 31 (JG et al),

Nov 4 (RFA et al) and Nov 6 (NMW et al), Nia Falls; two, Sep 23, L Erie at Hamburg TownPk (TLB). Little Gull: present nearly all Sep on Nia R opp Bflo-max five, Sep 11 (DS et al); max at Nia Falls, five, Oct 31 (JG et al); singles Sep 21 and 24 L Erie at Hamburg Town Pk (DD, TLB), Oct 7 and 13 L Erie at Athol Spgs (TLB), Nov 14 (imm) Dunkirk Harbor (RDR et al). Forster's Tern: singles Sep 23 (TLB et al) and Oct 12 (RFA), L Erie at Hamburg Town Pk, Sep 25 at Nia Falls (DS et al) and on Nia R opp Bflo (MMW et al); max four, Oct 19 Beaver ISP (JB et al). Black Tern: max counts on Nia R opp Bflo—5500 Aug 28 (RB et al), 3500 Aug 30 (HDM et al) and 2000 Sep 4 (JG et al). Barn Owl: one, Sep 14–30, Lancaster, Erie Co (JG et al). Snowy Owl: one, Nov 21, Nia Falls (JG et al); several others reported in metropolitan Bflo area but definite data lacking. Long-eared Owl: one, Aug 31, Eden, Erie Co (TLB)—only report. Short-eared Owl: seven, Nov 30, Lyndonville, Orleans Co (WAS, GMS)—max in area where large numbers occurred in winter 1964–65.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: good migratory movements—11, Aug 18 Williamsville, Erie Co (HDM); 12, Aug 26 Birdsall, Alleg Co (LDB); max 670, Sep 3 Kenmore, Erie Co (RB); 26, Sep 4 Hamburg (TLB); 50, Sep 5 Belmont, Alleg Co (EO); 18, Sep 18 Cheektowaga (RB). Chimney Swift: 180, Sep 26 over Bflo (JG et al); 10, Sep 28 Kiantone, Chaut Co (EMP et al)—larger than usual numbers late Sep. Red-bellied Woodpecker: A number of Gen R Valley records from Alleg CO indicate a marked southward dispersal from the well established valley locations farther north; one at feeder, Oct 31–Nov 30, Belmont (KP et al); one, Nov 19, Houghton (VC); one, Nov 24, Angelica (LDB et al); one, Nov 26, Caneadea (LDB et al). Purple Martin: estimates at the Jamestown Roost—15,000 Aug 30, 3000 Sep 9, 31 Sep 21 (CMB); 58, Sep 26 Beaver ISP (JG)—another insectivorous species present in larger than usual numbers so late. Tufted Titmouse: seven banded, Oct 16–31, Athol Spgs; four–eight at same place Nov 1–30 (WC); one, Nov 11, Bflo (RR). Red-breasted Nuthatch: fair to moderate flight from late Aug thru end of period; max 10, Nov 20 Alleg State Pk (EMP). Carolina Wren: one at feeder, Nov 22, Pt Stockholm, Chaut Co and one at feeder, Nov 25, 28, 29, Greenhurst, Chaut Co (KOS)—still extremely scarce.

Mockingbird: no reports before mid-Oct; Oct 10, one Batavia area and one Alleg Co (BOS); one, Nov 1–16 Belmont (LDB); one, Nov 11 Grand Island (WHK); one, Nov 26 Athol Spgs (WC). Robin: estimates at Jamestown Roost—500 Aug 30 and Sep 9, 1000 Sep 21 and 30 (CMB); estimates at Casey Rd Roost, Town of Amherst, Erie Co—1500 Oct 26, 27 and 1300 Oct 28 (RDR). Eastern Bluebird: continues to show definite signs of increase in populations; one, Nov 26, Langford, Erie Co (TLB)—late. WHEATEAR: one, Sep 25, Beaver ISP (PB, HDM, EAU, RB); first record for Region; it was studied well on the edge of a golf course, in the same type of habitat where one was found in nearby Ont on Sep 24, 1949. Northern Shrike: generally poor flight; one, Nov 14, Wellsville, Alleg Co (LDB)—first; three additional reports of single birds. Loggerhead Shrike: one, Aug 20 Lancaster (JG)—only report. Starling: estimates at Casey Rd Roost, Amherst—75,000 on Oct 26, 25,000 on Oct 27 and 7,000 on Oct 28 (RDR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Prothonotary Warbler: one, Aug 22 OOGMA (RB et al)—late. Yellow Warbler: one, Sep 22 S Pk, Bflo (RFA et al)—unusually late. Connecticut Warbler: one, Sep 19 Lancaster (JG); one, Sep 27 Colden TV Tower (RDR). Mourning Warbler: one, Oct 8, Lancaster (JG)—late.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Estimates of icterids at Casey Rd Roost: Oct 26—Redwing—500, Rusty—30, Grackle—3000, Cowbird—200; Oct 27—Redwing—200, Rusty—40, Grackle—500, Cowbird—100; Oct 28—Redwing—1, Rusty—400, Grackle—300, Cowbird—100 (RDR). DICKCISSEL: one at feeder, Oct 16–19, Hamburg (RFA et al). Evening Grosbeak: nine, Oct 17, Town of Orangeville, Wyo Co (HBD) and three, Oct 17, Bowmansville (JG)—first; present thru end of period in moderate numbers throughout Region; max 35, Nov 18 Wellsville (LDB); 25, Nov 20 Alleg State Pk

(EMP). Pine Grosbeak: one, Nov 7 Lewiston (WHK)—first; max 12, Nov 30 Lyndonville (WAS, GMS). Common Redpoll: two, Oct 28 Lancaster (JK)—first; max 200, Nov 19 Cheektowaga (JG). Pine Siskin: one, Sep 26 Beaver ISP (JG)—first; present throughout Region in moderate numbers thru end of period; max 50 (several localities). Red Crossbill: one, Sep 24, Bowmansville (JG)—very early; much less common than White-winged Crossbill but our only two definite reports indicate an earlier movement than usual—six, Nov 1, Wilson Cemetery, Nia Co (JG) and eight, Nov 6, Como Pk, Lancaster (JK et al). White-winged Crossbill: a good flight beginning earlier than usual; two, Nov 1 Springville, Erie Co (RT) and 11, Nov 1, Wilson Cemetery (JG)—first; max 15, Nov 6 Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge, Wyo Co (PB). Snow Bunting: moderate flight beginning in mid-Oct; max 100, Nov 29 Angelica, Alleg Co (EO).

Addendum: A junco collected on Jan 22, 1965 in Williamsville, Erie Co was critically determined by Dr. Lester Short of the U.S. Nat'l. Museum to be *Junco oreganus montanus*. This, the first specimen of Oregon Junco for the Region, is located in the Bflo Museum of Science.

Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, New Jersey 07924.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for the period averaged below normal except for the last month. The cool weather of September terminated the main southward flight of landbirds somewhat earlier than average. Precipitation, except for September, was above normal, especially for November when it was almost an inch above average.

The fall flight of Canada Geese seemed light, but there was a good Brant and scoter flight. The shorebird migration locally was poor. On the other hand, all the northern finches except the Hoary Redpoll were reported, with Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin probably the most common. This flight of northern finches is in direct contrast with last fall when almost none were reported. The period was outstanding for the number of rare birds: Glossy Ibis, Gannet, Avocet, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Franklin's and Little Gulls, Kittiwake, Dovekie, Black-backed and Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, Boreal Chickadee and Bohemian Waxwing.

Observers frequently cited: JB—John Brown; GD—Mrs. Gertrude Davis; JD—James Doherty; JF—John Foster; DG—David Gordon; WH—William Hartrampf; AEK, BK—Allen E. and Beatrice Kemnitzer; GL—Dr. Gerhardt Leubner; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Miss Ruth MacRae; RGM—Robert G. McKinney; JM, TM—Joseph and Thelma McNett; MM—Mrs. Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; NM, LM—Dr. Neil and Laura Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FP—Frank Phelps; NR—Nestor Ross; ES—Mrs. Esther Stiles; MS—Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlin; ST—Stephen Taylor; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand Eastman Park; EL—East Lakeshore; HBP—Hamlin Beach Park; SA—Shore Acres; SB—Sodus Bay; SBB—Sodus Bay Bluff; WP—Webster Park; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 175, SBB Oct 24 (JB, AEK, WCL, MS) and 200, SB Oct 25 (WCL). Red-necked Grebe: uncommon; seen at WP Oct 17 (AEK); two, HBP Oct 23 (GOS hike). An immature CANNETT (scarce locally) was seen at HBP Oct 27 (WCL). It was carefully studied by an observer who has had experience with the species both locally and on the coast. Double-crested Cormorant: