

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The second half of August and the month of September produced temperatures very close to the long-term average. Precipitation was slightly more than usual for August but nearly three and one quarter inches above average during September. Most of the rain fell during the final third of the month with a widespread heavy downpour on the 28th producing nearly 3.5 inches in Buffalo, 5 inches across much of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties and almost 6 inches at Olean. October was about two degrees warmer than average with near normal precipitation although this included 4 inches of snow in Cattaraugus County on October 19. November brought considerable temperature variation with the average slightly below normal and the colder temperatures mostly during the latter half. Total precipitation was approximately twice the usual amount and in Chautauqua County all but five days of the month produced measurable moisture.

Annual counts of the Purple Martins utilizing the Jamestown bird roost during pre-migratory flocking produced the lowest maximum numbers yet recorded there, suggesting that it is a legitimate "disaster species" in this area. An outstanding flight of Bonaparte's Gulls occurred during October and November on the Niagara River but as complete data are not yet available it is impossible to compare with the extraordinary influx of November 1959. As usual, other species occurring with the Bonaparte's added great interest. More Franklin's Gulls than ever were seen with a maximum count of 11. Fewer Little Gulls than during many recent fall flights were observed. A dead Kittiwake was found and one or two others were seen. A Sabine's Gull was collected across the river from Buffalo.

Most northern species did not make a particularly impressive showing. Four Snowy Owls were noted and for the second consecutive year few winter finches put in an early appearance, the major exception being a peak of 100 Red Crossbills along Lake Ontario in mid-November.

Several species of warblers occurred later than usual this fall.

The outstanding rarities for the period were Harlequin Duck, Yellow Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Kingbird, Wheatear and Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Cem—Cemetery; Chaut—Chautauqua; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: poor flight, max 4 Nov 11 Cuba L (LDB). Red-throated Loon: one Nov 2 Hamburg Town Pk (TLB). Red-necked Grebe: one Nov 5 Lewiston (WHK). Double-crested Cormorant: a fish eater that may be susceptible to increasing pesticide levels, numbers should be carefully monitored; one adult Oct 29 Barcelona (RAS, AR). Least Bittern: TV tower kill, one Sept 24 Colden (AC). Whistling Swan: poor showing (few stopped on flight from Long Pt, Ont to Chesapeake Bay), max 90 Nov 26 Mayville (CB *et al.*). Canada Goose: heavy flight

over hill country south of Bflo Oct 1-9 max 1175 Oct 5 Belmont (LDB). Brant: 500 Nov 7 Pt Breeze, Orleans Co (GGW, IB); one Nov 12 Cuba L (LDB)—first Allegany Co record. Blue Goose: uncommon or unrecorded in fall most years—one Oct 27 mouth of Catt Creek (RHN).

Gadwall: 10 Nov 12 Riverside (RAS, AR); throughout month—10 Nia R (mob). Ring-necked Duck: unusually large fall concentration—35 Nov 24 Mayville (RAS). Oldsquaw: 15 Nov 19 Allegheny Reservoir (SWE). *HARLEQUIN DUCK*: imm male studied at close range for 45 minutes Nov 26 Barcelona (RAS, AR, RG)—first regional record since 1958, third Chaut Co record. Scoters: White-winged, four Sep 11 Hamburg Town Pk, unusually early (RFA), 90 Nov 2 same locality (RFA); Surf, 6 Oct 29 Barcelona (RAS, AR). Ruddy Duck: 48 Nov 5 Cuba L (LDB). Mergansers: Hooded, 140 Nov 24 Mayville (RAS), Red-breasted, 1000 Nov 7 Olcott (GGW, IB).

HAWKS—OWLS: Hawks generally scarce with no marked flights. Goshawk: two small young in May but nest empty in early June at site near Olean, adult at nest site Nov 1 (SWE). Broad-winged: exceptionally poor fall showing. Rough-legged: a few scattered birds on lake plains in Nov—max 4 Nov 11 Lyndonville (WGS). Bald Eagle: imm Nov 12 Hamburg Town Pk (RFA). Marsh: 9 Nov 5 Lyndonville (WGS)—unusual concentration of an increasingly uncommon raptor. Osprey: arr—one Aug 16 Scio (LDB). Peregrine Falcon: one Sep 20 Town of Tonawanda (Inskip, Zehr).

Turkey: good numbers across Southern Tier—max 41 in two flocks Sept 30 Alma Hill (Allen Ives). *YELLOW RAIL*—imm captured alive in downtown Jamestown Nov 30, specimen donated to Bflo Museum of Science (RAS, LFK), first regional record since 1948. Common Gallinule: 13 (2 adults, 5 imm; 1 adult, 5 imm) Sep 1 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Am. Coot: 1000 Nov 26 Mayville (CB)—flight sub par. Am. Golden Plover: three Aug 16 Prendergast Pt (RAS, AR); max 76 Sep 15 Clarence (PB); one Oct 12 Fillmore (LDB). Black-bellied Plover: 12 Sep 9 Prendergast Pt (RAS). Common Snipe: 30 Nov 1 Dayton (JK). Whimbrel: one Sep 11 Strawberry Island, Nia R (AC, ELS). Upland Plover: 6 Aug 30 over Belmont (LDB). An unusual concentration of shorebirds occurred at Fillmore in Allegany Co on Oct 12 including the Golden Plover noted above, three Spotted, one Solitary, 10 Pectoral, one Western (first co record) and two Semipalmated Sandpipers and three Dunlins plus the more common species (LDB). Other interesting sandpipers; Solitary, one Oct 14 Scio (LDB); Baird's eight Sep 10 Prendergast Pt (RAS); Western, two Aug 17 Prendergast Pt (FE, ECP), singles Aug 15, 16 same location, Aug 17 Dunkirk (RAS, AR). *HUDSONIAN GODWIT*: two Sep 11 Strawberry Island, Nia R (AC *et al*). Phalaropes: Red, one Nov 22 Athol Springs (TLB); Northern, one Oct 12 Redhouse L, Allegany State Pk (OGB, Corl Belknap); unidentified, three Oct 30—Nov 16 Dewittville (Pollaro fide RAS).

Parasitic Jaeger: one Sep 22 Sturgeon Pt (TLB). Gulls: two Glaucous unusually early Oct 27 adult, Silver Creek, second year imm mouth of Catt Creek (RHH); two Glaucous and three Iceland Nov 25 Nia R (HDM *et al*); Franklin's, highest count ever on Nia R—11 Nov 1 (PH *et al*); one Nov 12 Bay View (RFA)—rare on south shore L Erie; Little, fewer than most recent years—max three upper Nia R Nov 12 (GN); Black-legged Kittiwake, one Nov 23 Bflo Harbor (RFA), one picked up dead on beach at Athol Springs Nov 30 (TLB); Sabine's, one Nov 19—29 when collected across Nia R from Bflo (mob). Forster's Tern: two Sep 4 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS), one Sep 20 mouth of Canadaway Creek (FE, ECP). Caspian Tern: one Sep 1 (JK), three Sep 12, two Sep 17 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS). Owls: Snowy, four singles, first Nov 14 Cheektowaga (McKales); Long-eared, one Nov 24 Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo (PH); Short-eared, one Nov 13 Lake View (TLB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: poor flight—max 48 Sep 5 over Kenmore (PB). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr early—one Sep 12 Batavia (George Buckland). Eastern Kingbird: good late Aug flight—30 Falconer, 40 Randolph Aug 27 (RAS, AR); early departure—six Sep 6 Wellsville (LDB). WESTERN KINGBIRD: one carefully observed for about five minutes on farm just off Route 16 five miles south of Franklinville Sep 24 (Richard O'Hara)—full details submitted; second regional record, first Sep 9, 1960 about 20 miles north of this location. Crested Flycatcher: last—one Sep 20 Jamestown (FE). Least Flycatcher: departure—two Sep 29 Belmont (LDB). Cliff Swallow: good late Aug flight—early departure, 20 Sep 2 Canadea (LDB). Purple Martin: lowest counts at Jamestown bird roost since study began (compare *Kingbird* Vol. 12 (3,4):128–130)—Aug 14, 400; Aug 22. 150; Aug 28, 35; Aug 31, 11 (CB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: very poor flight with single reports for Oct and Nov. A six inch snow on Nov 3–4 brought a good flight along L Erie of Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Robins, both Kinglets, towhees and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, most departing on Nov 8. Mockingbird: singles Aug 20 Zoar Valley (PH), throughout Nov Athol Springs (WC), sporadically from Nov 5 on Jamestown (Hall *vide* RAS), Nov 8 Hanford Bay, Silver Creek (RHH). Thrushes: very poor flight with no notable concentrations; Hermit, late—one Nov 27 Ten Mile Rd, Vandalia, Catt Co (SWE). WHEATEAR: two Sep 27 (TLB)—second Region 1 record, first Sep 25, 1965 on Beaver Island State Pk. Water Pipit: moderate flight—arr one Sep 17 Dunkirk Harbor (RAS); 65 Riverside Oct 8 (RAS, RJ); 50 Nov 5 Cuba L (LDB); last—two Nov 21 Elma (DD). Shrikes: Northern, modest flight—five with first report of two Nov 9; Loggerhead, one Aug 20 Niobe (AR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Birds dribbled through, especially in late Aug and Sep, with the usual late Sep peak occurring this year between the 24th and 27th. More than the usual number of warblers appeared as Nov stragglers this year. Warbling Vireo: average departure—Sep 25 Spring Brook (DD). Warblers: Tennessee, one Nov 12 Hamburg (TLB); Orange-crowned, fewer reports than most years; Nashville, one Nov 7 North Boston (HBD); Parula, three Sep records in Bflo suburbs; Myrtle, not noted until mid Sep at least two weeks later than usual; Black-throated Green, three Nov 7 North Boston (HBD); Blackburnian, one found freshly dead Nov 17 Jamestown (RAS); Pine, one Sep 18 Hamburg (TLB); Palm, one Nov 6, 7 James McNally feeder, Dunkirk (RHH); Louisiana Waterthrush, departed breeding locale Ten Mile Rd, Vandalia Sep 9 (SWE); Connecticut, reports concentrated in time and location—singles, specimen Sep 24 Colden TV tower (AC), Sept 25 Lakeside Cem, Hamburg (RFA, TLB), Sept 26 Eden (TLB), Sep 27 Pt Stockholm, Chaut L (OS); Wilson's, one or two Aug 20 Spring Brook (DD); Canada, one Aug 12 Spring Brook (DD); Am. Redstart, imm male Nov 21 Scio (Pitzrick).

BLACKBIRD—SPARROWS: Bobolink: departure one Sep 10 Times Beach, Bflo (RR). Rusty Blackbird: unusually large late concentration—2000 Nov 12 Riverside (RAS, Jack Gulvin). DICKCISSEL: singles Nov 5, 16 Hamburg (RFA; RFA, Avery). Evening Grosbeak: five Oct 31 Jamestown (RJ); seven Nov 1 Ten Mile Rd, Vandalia (SWE); one Nov 9 Spring Brook (DD); two Nov 16 Belmont (Burdick). Common Redpoll: one Nov 11 Hamburg (RFA); five Nov 17 Lake View (TLB); 25 Nov 30 Wellsville (LDB). Pine Siskin: several reports from scattered localities mid Oct on, max 25 Nov 8 Youngstown (PB). Red Crossbill: Nov 8 on Youngstown, max 100 Nov 12 (WHK). Slate-colored Junco: early—one Sep 8 Delaware Pk, Bflo (PH et al). Fox Sparrow: one Nov 20 Fluvanna (OGB) Lincoln's Sparrow: poor flight—one Oct 2 Cuba Marsh (LDB). Lapland Longspur: four, two Nov 28, 29 Elma (DD). Snow Bunting: arr—one Oct 22 Prendergast Pt (RAS, AR, RG); 150 Nov 11 Elma (DD).

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