

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures were below normal for the whole period, which did not, however, bring on an early fall migration. Precipitation for the period was well above normal and the excess was distributed evenly through the three and a half months. About four inches of snow fell in mid November. The lake level continued high, although dropping somewhat by the end of the period.

Unusual species reported included Eared Grebe, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull and Oregon Junco.

Observers cited: JJD—James J. Doherty; JF—John Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitz; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; CM—Catherine Mack; TM—Ted Mack; RM—Robert McKinney; MM—Maryanne Menuhin; HSM—Howard S. Miller; LM—Laura Moon; NM—Dr. Neil Moon; RTO—Richard T. O'Hara; FP—Frank Phelps; ES—Ester Styles; MS—Maryanne Sunderlin; TET—Thomas E. Tetlow.

Localities: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand Eastman Park; EL—East Lake Shore; HSP—Hamlin State Park; OBP—Ontario Beach Park; SB—Sodus Bluff; WL—West Lake Shore.

LOON—DUCKS: Common Loon: very good fall flight, max 500 along EL Oct 28 (AEK, WCL, TET). Red-throated Loon: scarce, only a few reports of single birds. Horned Grebe: good fall flight, max 350 at HSP Oct 29 (JJD, HSM, EP). *EARED GREBE*: one at Manitou carefully observed under favorable conditions Oct 19 (WCL). Black-crowned Night Heron: 17 at BB Sep 11 (WCL), otherwise scarce. American Bittern; a very late bird at BB Nov 26 (WCL, TM). Whistling Swan; four at HSP Oct 29 (GOS hike), four at BB Nov 12 (FP *et al.*). Brant; usually this species passes in a concentrated flight during favorable weather conditions sometime during the last two weeks of October. However, the October high count this year was only 250 at Manitou Oct 19 (WCL). The peak came on Nov 4 when an estimated 6,000 passed along the lakeshore from west to east (AEK, WCL). The next day about 350 were seen at Manitou (Robert Jones *et al.*). Gadwall; nine at Mendon Ponds Pk Oct 29 (WL, MS). Common Scoter; three at SB Sep 30 (AEK); six at Oklahoma Beach Nov 12 (WL, MS); ten at HSP Nov 13 (JJD, HSM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Red-tailed Hawk: 65 moving along the WL Aug 17 (HSM, RTO). These late summer flights are regular at about this time. The birds move west to east on a strong SW wind, a smaller duplicate of the spring flights. Broad-winged Hawk: one in Sweden Sep 12 (WCL). Rough-legged Hawk: good fall flight; max 12 along WL Nov 26 (AEK, TM). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one at SB Oct 20 (WL), second report this year. Sparrow Hawk: increasing, three or four frequently seen in a day compared to none or one average three years ago.

Killdeer: 129 in Parma Oct 18 (WCL); 100 in the same place Nov 12 (JJD *et al.*), rather late for so large a number. American Golden Plover: rather uncommon, max 30 in Parma Aug 27 (JJD, HSM)—frequently fall counts are in the hundreds. Black-bellied Plover: relatively few reports and small numbers, probably partly due to high water levels. Knot: two at OBP Sep 4 (TM). *PURPLE SANDPIPER*: one at Manitou Oct 26 (WCL). Short-billed Dowitcher: 40 flying over OBP Aug 17 (HSM, RTO)—only worthwhile number reported. *HUDSONIAN GODWIT*: two in field in Parma Sep 28 (WCL); one in rainwater pond in Parma Oct 22 (AEK), two in same place Oct 27–29 (several). *RED PHALAROPE*: one at Sodus Pt Oct 6 (MM, ES). *PARASITIC JAEGER*: one at Manitou Oct 19 (WCL). Bonaparte's Gull: 450 at Irondequoit Bay Nov 23 (MS *et al.*). *LITTLE GULL*: adult at Manitou Oct 29 (WCL); adult at OBP Nov 13 (JJD, HSM). Forster's Tern: a late bird at Manitou Beach Nov 4 (WCL). Common Tern: a very late bird at Webster's Beach Nov 19

(AEK). Snowy Owl: two at Pt Breeze Nov 26 (AEK, CM, TM). Short-eared Owl: a fairly good fall flight, max six at BB Nov 25 (WCL). Saw-whet Owl: one netted and banded in Penfield Sep 30 (RM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: 35 seen over downtown Rochester Sep 8 (JF *et al*), most of these doubtless migrating birds. Pileated Woodpecker: one in Irondequoit Oct 14 (LM, NM) was probably a roaming bird as the section is mostly a suburban area where one would not expect the species to be resident. Tree Swallow: four at Sodus Bay Oct 28 (WCL), last date. Tufted Titmouse: three in DEP Nov 19 (GOS hike); regular at feeders in Irondequoit and Webster.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Oklahoma Oct 23 (WCL). Yellow-breasted Chat: a very late bird in Webster Oct 14–21 (WL). Am. Redstart: a late bird in Webster Oct 21 (MS), also one seen in the same location Nov 12 (MS).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: a late bird in Island Cottage Woods Oct 21 (JJD, HSM). Evening Grosbeak: five in DEP Nov 10 (JJD); a very few reported at feeders. Common Redpoll: 35 along the WL Nov 13 (JJD, HSM). Pine Siskin: max 20 in DEP Nov 10 (JJD); a few other reports of smaller numbers. Red Crossbill: 14 in Powder Mill Pk Nov 7 (Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dakin); 50 in DEP Nov 19 (GOS hike). Vesper Sparrow: a rather late bird in Kendall Nov 16 (WCL). OREGON JUNCO: a well marked bird in Irondequoit Nov 19 (LM, NM), not seen subsequently. Fox Sparrow: two rather late birds in Irondequoit Nov 19 (GOS hike).

2080 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

The Region experienced every conceivable type of weather during the period and it seemed more unpredictable than usual. After a fairly chilly and wet late August and early September, it warmed up and, except for several dips into the 30's and 40's, stayed above normal until the third week in October, when came the first hard freeze. Precipitation was above normal, with several drenching rains. Fall colors were poor as a result, and the leaves fell suddenly when the freezes finally came. November threatened us at first with snow and ice, but didn't live up to the threat—the end of the month was open and mild.

The shorebird count dropped off after mid-August at Montezuma, and the daily (or weekend) species count was not impressive. No Ruff this year, no Buff-breasted Sandpiper. But a peak of 40 Hudsonian Godwits is almost inconceivable—five is the highest previous count that I know of. Furthermore the Godwits (a dozen or so at least) lingered for several weeks. Other birds of note are the Eared Grebe on Seneca Lake, an immature plumaged Little Blue Heron, a King Rail and the Lesser Black-backed Gull, back again. But by far the most remarkable record was a *Swallow-tailed Kite* (see field note) unmistakably identified by Fish and Wildlife employee Earl Baysinger, Chief of the Bird-Banding Laboratory, en route to the AOU in Toronto. This *may* be the first New York State record this century.

Montezuma was host to almost 80,000 waterfowl this fall, compared with 50,000 last year.

Wild seeds and fruit seem very abundant, but so far this has not lured many winter finches into the area. It looks like a good Rough-legged Hawk year.