

(3, 4, 5), Sharp-tailed Sparrow (3), and Clay-colored Sparrow (3). I recommend a careful reading of all the Region 10 report which has enough rarities in it to make one drool and wish for tides and salt water someplace – any place – upstate.

It is regretted that summaries were unavailable from Regions 1 and 8.
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REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

We enjoyed a long and mild fall season this year until a few days before Thanksgiving when a cold front accompanied by several inches of snow changed the scene to winter almost overnight. Rainfall was consistently above normal and well-distributed through the period. For the second successive year, we seemed headed for above normal precipitation, probably by several inches. This follows a cycle of many dry years through most of the past decade.

The fall migration was not spectacular in the last part of August and early September with the exception of a few noteworthy records mentioned below. Perhaps this was chiefly because we again had to look hard to find suitable shorebird habitat and also because steady, mild weather before mid-September appeared somewhat to delay the migration of many passerine species.

Nevertheless, after mid-September, birding improved steadily and the total impression of most observers was that we had the best fall warbler migration in years. Many of these species were still present well into early October and, following a good spring flight, it was indeed encouraging.

October and November were two of the best months, as always in this climate, and many interesting records are cited below. The duck flight did not appear especially heavy, although in much of this region duck hunting prevents concentrated build-up, especially of shallow water species. Flights of divers were at least normal and in some species may have improved over recent poor years.

So far northern finches and other erratic winter visitants have been scarce. In the case of several no reports have been received to date. Usually a heavy flight can be seen building up in late October and November so the outlook for the winter season appears dim in this respect.

Most unusual records include: King Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Gallinule, all three Phalaropes, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler.

Observers cited in text: JC—Jerry Czech; GD—Gertude Davis; JF—John Foster; AEK—Allen E. Kemnitzer; BK—Bea Kemnitzer; WL—Warren Lloyd; WCL—Walter C. Listman; J and TM—Joseph and Thelma McNett; mob—many observers; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; SO—Steven Oresman; GP—Glenn Perrigo; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

Locations: BB—Braddocks Bay; DP—Durand Park; HBP—Hamlin Beach Park; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; OB—Ontario Beach; SB—Sodus Bay; WP—Webster Park.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loons reached a peak on November 21 when 34 were noted at WP (AEK). The best count of Whistling Swan was 17 on November 24 (WCL); there were some still present at the end of November. 2 Least Bitterns were noted at BB on August 19 (RO'H) and another was seen in the same place on September 19.

The fall flight of Brant was somewhat late this year with the best count being

2,500 on November 3 MB (WCL). A single Snow Goose along with one Blue Goose was noted at MP on November 27. The Canada Goose flight in the immediate Rochester area may not have been quite as heavy as most recent years. Some good concentrations of ducks did appear including a count of 290 Mallards at MP on November 1 (GP); 8 Gadwall at WP on October 18 (WL); 100 American Widgeon at the same place by the same observer; 50 Wood Duck in Fairport on September 19 (TT); and a flock of 3000+ Scaup (sp?) at DP for several days including November 1. In addition, 150 White-winged Scoter were noted at SB on October 24 (TT); 10 Surf Scoter and 3 Ruddy Ducks were at HB on October 24 (GOS). A single Common Eider was at the West Spit BB on November 23 (WCL), and the same observer noted a King Eider there only two days later. The best count of Hooded Merganser was 100 at SB on November 24 (WCL).

HAWKS—OWLS: While nothing like the spring hawk flights takes place in this region in fall, we usually do note small flights of a few species, sometimes just scattered individuals along the lakeshore. This year 15 Broad-winged Hawks and 2 Red-tails were seen in a group on August 15 near Webster (JC). In addition, a single Cooper's Hawk was noted on October 4 and another on November 1, both moving east along the lakeshore (RO'H). Bald Eagles were reported from three separate localities, although the only resident pair in the region again apparently did not breed. A single Peregrine Falcon was reported October 8 at Webster (JC).

The most noteworthy fall record and a regional first was an immature Purple Gallinule picked up alive along a country road near Scottsville in Livingston County on October 4; it was taken by John Brown and Jerry Czech to the Monroe County Zoo where at last report it was still thriving; there is no certainty whether or not the bird was reared in this area.

A high count of 1,000 Coot was made on Conesus Lake November 25 (WCL).

Shorebird habitat was generally rather poor until late in the season, but the following records are of interest:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Killdeer	Sept 15	300	Lima	JF
Golden Plover	Sept 12	125	Kendall	Dutcher, WCL
Golden Plover	Sept 15	200	Lima	JF
Black-bellied Plover	Nov 1	25	Hamlin	MAS, WL
Solitary Sandpiper	Sept 1	8	Ellison Park	Doherty
Knot	Aug 30	5	Ontario Beach	RO'H
Purple Sandpiper	Nov 21-27	1-4	Braddock's Bay	mob
White-rumped Sandpiper	Oct 24	1	Braddock's Bay	GOS
Baird's Sandpiper	Sept 6	8	Kendall	WCL
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 6	1	Lima	JF
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 6	3	Kendall	WCL
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept 13	4	Kendall	WCL
Dunlin	Oct 24	80	Braddock's Bay	GOS
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Nov 1	5	Braddock's Bay	MAS, WL
Red Phalarope	Nov 22	5	Sea Breeze	Dutchers et al.
Northern Phalarope	Aug 30	2	Irondequoit Bay	J and TM
Northern Phalarope	Nov 21	2	Sea Breeze	mob
Wilson's Phalarope	Sept 6	1	Ontario Beach	A and BK

Among the most interesting birds reported in recent years are growing numbers of jaegers. Perhaps these were overlooked in the years before 1960 or so, but they are now seen quite regularly in small numbers in the fall. This year the Pomarine was reported three times as follows: September 5, 1 at MB (WCL); October 24, 1 at HBP (GOS); and November 24, 3 at Sodus Bluff (WCL). This latter record may be the first time more than one of these birds has ever been seen here in a day. The

usually more commonly reported Parasitic Jaegar was noted only on November 3, 1 at MB (WCL).

The gulls were not as spectacular this fall as last year, but 5,000 Bonaparte Gulls were along the east lake shore on November 21 (AEK). In addition, 5 Black-legged Kittiwake were seen passing by SB on November 24 (WCL). Single Little Gulls were noted at Ontario Beach (GOS) and at IB (WL) on September 20.

Single Forster's Terns were seen at BB on September 5 and 9 (WCL) and on October 4 (RO'H); another bird of this species was at Ontario Beach September 19 (AEK). A late Common Tern was still at BB on November 8 (WCL), and a single Caspian Tern was at the same place on November 1 (WL and MAS).

Owls were almost unreported this fall with the exception of a single Short-eared Owl in Avon on November 24 (SO). No Snowy Owls were reported to the end of November. A cat-like call at Reed Road in late November (10 P.M.) may have been a Long-eared Owl.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: The last Ruby-throated Hummingbird was one on October 8 near Ellison Park (GD). About 300 Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported on September 15 near Lima (JF). A late Wood Pewee was still in Webster on October 11 (MAS). A Carolina Wren was noted in Webster on August 23 (J and TM) and again on September 27. One Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen in N. Avon on August 26 (JF).

As noted above, some species lingered rather late, especially during October. These include Swainson's and Gray-checked Thrushes last seen on October 18 and October 14 respectively. Both of these were noted in Webster by (WL). The last Wood Thrush was one still present on November 26, also in Webster (MAS); this bird was appearing in her yard regularly through the month of November.

One report was received of Water Pipit, 15 in Avon on November 25 (SO).

VIREO—WARBLERS: In an especially good flight of many of these species, the following records seem worthy of note:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>		<i>Observers</i>
Solitary Vireo	Oct 18	1	Webster	Dittrich
Golden-winged Warbler	Aug 25	1	Powder Mill Park	J and TM
Blue-winged Warbler	Aug 29	1	Avon	Dittrich
Orange-crowned Warbler	Oct 13, 14	1	Webster	WL
Nashville Warbler	Oct 11	5	Webster	WL
Parula Warbler	Oct 11	3	Webster	WL
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Oct 17	1	Ellison Pk Hgts	GD
Blackburnian Warbler	Oct 11	2	Webster	MAS
Blackpoll Warbler	Oct 11	13	Webster	MAS
Pine Warbler	Oct 24	1	Hamlin B Park	GOS
Hooded Warbler	Sept 27	1	Webster Park	WL

Many of these reports are noteworthy chiefly because of the rather late departure dates.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The best report of Rusty Blackbird this fall came from Fairport where about 200 were present through most of October (TT). As noted above, almost all the winter finches were completely missing to the end of the period. A single Pine Siskin was noted with large flocks of Goldfinches on September 19 (RO'H). On the same date, large numbers of migrants were found along the lakeshore and especially in Durand-Eastman Park. Among them were many White-crowned Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows and Juncos. For the next three or four weeks, these species and many others were evident as the bulk of small migrants went through the region at a leisurely pace.

Among the best counts of Sparrows were the following: Chipping Sparrow 200,

September 15 at Lima (JF); Field Sparrow 50, same place and date (JF); Slate-colored Junco 500, October 14-15 at MB (WCL). A single Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in Webster on October 16 (JM). One Oregon Junco appeared at Sunderlin's residence in Webster on October 11 and was still present on the 30th (MAS).

The first Snow Bunting was noted at OB on October 24 (GOS), a bit late, and the best count was 60 to 70 moving east at Round Pond on November 1 (RO'H).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Except for August, the entire period was warmer than usual and November was much wetter than normally. September 21-26 was unusually warm with temperatures more like July and August. On October 16 and 17 there was a remarkably heavy early snowfall, 4-6 inches in the Finger Lakes area, followed by the first hard freeze, October 17, about ten days to two weeks later than normal. Precipitation in November was rain instead of snow. In the Ithaca area, 3.47 inches of rain fell during the first half of November, the normal amount for the entire month being 3.04 inches. The first real cold and snow did not occur until November 24-25.

Seed and fruit crops were generally plentiful, wild apple and grape being especially heavy.

At MNWR, the Canada Goose peak equalled last year's record high. Peak numbers for Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-neck, Ruddy Duck and Hooded Merganser were way up from last year, the teal and Ruddy Duck spectacularly so; Pintail, Shoveler, Canvasback and Scaup were in slightly better numbers than last year; Common Merganser was down and Green-winged Teal back down after last fall's unusually high number.

Land bird migration was noted September 13-15, (especially thrushes and warblers) and September 24-26. Following the snow and cold front October 16-17, many Robins appeared. The cold wave of November 24 brought ducks into the Watkins Glen area, including at least 100 Oldsquaw. Good weather during migration kept tower kills at Elmira low, the only large numbers being 77 on September 15 and 60 on October 14. The year's total was 220 birds of 37 species (300 of 44 species in '69); two new species were added October 14: a Whip-poor-will and two Chipping Sparrows. The kill included six Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and 143 warblers of 21 species. More Bluebird reports this fall than for the past few years.

Large areas of trees were cut beyond both ends of the Tompkins County airport runways, near Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, changing the habitat from woods to what will probably be brushy fields.

An American Flamingo appeared at MNWR on November 18 (DM, mob), probably the same one reported in September south of Holcomb, at Iroquois Refuge and in mid-October at Verona Beach on Oneida Lake. It stayed at Montezuma until Nov 23, was seen flying west of Syracuse, found at Onondaga Lake where it finally died. On November 25 the specimen was brought to the Laboratory of Ornithology where an autopsy was performed. The whole body was covered with diesel oil; trachea and windpipe were coated with light oil and a clot of waxy material found in the digestive tract just ahead of the gizzard. Such clots are usually associated with ingestion of petroleum products. From the condition of the scales on the tarsus, James Tate suggests it was an escape, although the plumage was in excellent condition.

An immature Golden Eagle, starved and weak, was picked up near Howland's Island on Nov 12, taken to MNWR, and then to Sapsucker Woods. Walter Spofford, with the assistance of Jim Grier, succeeded in restoring it to health and strength — the eagle ate approximately two pounds of meat daily. (Under supervision of the