

dead Long-tailed Jaeger (5), both found in the littoral litter along Lake Ontario by repeated dead bird surveys of the shoreline. As much as I dislike messing with vintage-type dead birds, it behooves all of us birders to check the beach and shore debris for such avian desiderata — who knows when or where the next Fulmar in the flotsam or a Jaeger in the jetsam will be found. Other rarities for the season include: Arctic Loon (10), Yellow-crowned Night Heron (2), White-fronted Goose (2,3), American Avocet (6,10), Little Gull (6), Black-legged Kittiwake (9), Roseate and Sandwich Terns (9), Sooty Tern (10), Western Kingbird (1,9,10 inland), Common Raven (6,9,10), White-eyed Vireo (3,4), Audubon's Warbler (10), Kentucky Warbler (8), Dickcissel (1,5,9), and Green-tailed Towhee (10).

Congratulations again to observers and editors both — ten out of ten! Build a better series, get a better ball game! Please get your field observations to the editors on time; editors, please, mail in your summaries promptly — and don't catch flu!

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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Weather conditions during August were average with temperature within one degree of normal and precipitation about one inch above normal mainly because of heavy wind and rain on August 21 and 26. Both September and October were unusually warm and dry with average temperatures several degrees above the norm and precipitation well below the long-term average. November continued the trend except for two late fall blizzards which blasted the region with up to twenty inches of snow between November 6 and 8 and an even more severe storm November 22 to 24 which dumped up to thirty inches of snow and brought temperature readings of zero.

Items of interest or trends are: (1) a poor showing of most loons, grebes and herons, (2) a modest display of ducks, geese and swans with poor numbers of most of the divers due to the unseasonably mild weather, (3) a greatly extended and widely dispersed hawk flight, (4) a superb exhibition of rare and uncommon shorebirds, (5) a good representation of larids but subpar for this region, (6) preliminary indications of a fine Snowy Owl winter upcoming, (7) early departure of nearly all of the flycatchers, (8) increase and spreading of the titmouse and Carolina Wren, (9) tragically large numbers of kinglets and a substantial scattering of other birds killed at several TV towers in the Buffalo area, (10) a fine showing of warblers, especially uncommon species (i.e. Connecticut Warbler), with late August and mid September peaks and many late departure dates, (11) a poorly documented but obvious and substantial decrease in the numbers of icterids and Starlings, (12) a poor display of nearly all of the fringillids, especially in terms of numbers, except for modest midfall movements of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins.

Rarities noted were the European Widgeon, Long-billed Dowitcher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*see comments in report*), Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Western Kingbird, Dickcissel and House Finch.

Abbreviations: Bflo—Buffalo; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; OO—Oak Orchard; Ont—Ontario.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Continuing a trend of recent years, the Common Loon was present in only very small numbers. Good counts of the Pied-billed Grebe in these respective localities were 92 Sep 16 INWR (JM et al) and 25 Sep 18 Cuba Marsh (LDB). An unusual concentration of the Double-crested Cormorant was a flock of 5 perched on duck blind moorings Oct 10 off Greenhurst, Chaut Lake (Kelly fide AR); 1 was seen Oct 10 on the Allegheny Reservoir opposite Onoville (RS). A late Green Heron was noted Oct 31 on Canadaway Creek (FR, WHK). A Common Egret Sep 24 at INWR (JM et al) was the only fall report. Black-crowned Night Herons were scarce—3 Sep 2 and 23 INWR (JM et al) and 8 Oct 10 in Bflo (JK et al). The American Bittern was very scarce while the Least Bittern was unreported.

The fall flight of Whistling Swans commenced with 3 Oct 17 on Langford Pond (WAM) and a peak of 500+ at Mayville, Chaut Lake Nov 7 (Larry Duckwall). The flight of Canada Geese featured these maximum counts: 3000 Sep 30 INWR (JM et al); 10,729 Oct 10 region-wide fall count; 2500 Nov 18 INWR (JM et al). Maximum verified reports of the Snow Goose were 3 Oct 20 INWR (Webster et al) and Blue Goose 4 Oct 17 INWR (RA et al). The following represent maximum counts unless otherwise indicated: Mallard 3300 Nov 18 INWR (JM, Smith). Black Duck: 500 Nov 18 INWR (JM, Smith). Gadwall: 25 Nov 18 INWR (JM, Smith). Pintail: 168 Oct 10 region-wide fall count. Blue-winged Teal: 537 Sep 16 INWR (JM et al). *EUROPEAN WIDGEON*: 1 Oct 16, 22 (RB; Ulrich et al); 2 Oct 28 all at INWR (HRA). American Widgeon: 1500 Sep 16 INWR (JM et al). Shoveler: 9 Sep 16 INWR (JM et al). Redhead: 240 Nov 3 Mayville (DC). Ring-necked Duck: 30 Nov 13 Dewittville (Beal); rare during summer—1 Aug 24 Barcelona (DC). Canvasback: 650 Nov 3 Mayville (DC). Greater Scaup: early migrants—2 Sep 30 INWR (JM et al). Surf Scoter: 30 Nov 10 Four Mile Creek State Park (WHK). Fall flights of the Ruddy Duck and all three mergansers were particularly poor.

HAWKS—OWLS: The hawk migration was apparently so extended and so widely dispersed that few peaks were noted. On the region-wide fall count Oct 10 (which includes adjacent counties in Ont), totals were: Sharp-shinned 11, Cooper's 4, Red-tailed 178, Red-shouldered 16, Broad-winged 6, Rough-legged 1, Marsh 37, Osprey 7, Pigeon 1, Sparrow 63. The early Rough-legged Hawk in the OO area (HM et al) was also observed Oct 12 by Beebe and a maximum of 31 was counted Nov 21–30 in the Lyndonville area (WGS). The only Bald Eagle was an adult Sep 5 on the Allegheny Reservoir (JG). Late Ospreys were found Oct 30 (photographed) on the Allegheny River at Allegany (JG) and at Belmont last seen Nov 2 (LDB).

A record buildup of Turkeys was noted in Catt County as 219 were banded in four townships between Aug 15 and Sep 30 (S.W.Eaton). The few reports of rails of interest were 61 Common Gallinules Sep 16 at INWR (JM et al) which suggests continued breeding success in the OO refuge complex and 226 American Coot Nov 16 at the same location (JM). The maximum for the latter species was 1300 Oct 20 at Mayville (DC). Shorebirds were well represented with records of

several of the less common species. Large concentrations of Common Snipe were noted at INWR with 44 Oct 22 (FR et al) and 59 Oct 30 (RB, Schaffner). A late Spotted Sandpiper was observed at Canadaway Creek Oct 31 (FR, WHK). The Knot is always rare away from Lake Erie but a bird was seen Oct 10 in the OO area (HM et al). Single Baird's Sandpipers were found Aug 21 at Bemus Point (RS et al) and Oct 1 at Hamburg Town Park (TB). The rarely observed *LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* was represented by 2 at INWR Oct 16, 17 (RB) and Oct 28 (HRA). The most spectacular showing of the scolopacids was the *BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS* frequenting a turf farm at Clarence Center northeast of Bflo; 3 were found Sep 5 (WAM et al), 12 and 10 Sep 7 and 8 (RA et al) represent among the highest counts obtained east of the Mississippi River (!) and 3 were last seen Sep 12 (RB et al). A *HUDSONIAN GODWIT* was noted at INWR between Oct 16 (RB) and Oct 22 (FR et al). An early Red Phalarope was seen at Athol Springs Oct 15 and 18 (TB) and 3 were at the mouth of Canadaway Creek on Lake Erie west of Dunkirk Nov 9 (DC, RS) with 1 last seen there Nov 20 (DC). A *WILSON'S PHALAROPE* Sep 18 at Prendergast Point (RS) was a month later than the usual departure and provided the first record for Chaut County.

The only Parasitic Jaeger was noted Nov 4 at Bay View (TB). The first white-winged gulls were single Glaucous Nov 21 and 23 in Dunkirk Harbor (DC) and Iceland Nov 12 at Hamburg Town Park (TB). The fall buildup of the Great Black-backed Gull in Dunkirk Harbor reached 42 Nov 15 (DG). The reports of the rarer small gulls were mainly from the Niagara River between Lewiston and Queenston, Ont with 3 Franklin's Oct 17 (PB) and 2 Nov 10 (WHK); also 6 Little Gulls Oct 17 (PB), 5 Nov 10 (WHK) and 3 Nov 25 (WHK). A Little Gull was also observed Oct 26 at Bay View (TB). At the extreme dates of occurrence were Forster's Terns noted Aug 20 at Barcelona (RS, Walter Booth) and Nov 7 at Hamburg Town Park (TB).

A substantial Snowy Owl flight appears in the making. The first report, Oct 27 on Squaw Island, Bflo (RB), was followed by records from 7 scattered localities during Nov. Short-eared Owls were poorly represented with a maximum of 7 at Youngstown Nov 25 (WHK). The first Saw-whet Owl was reported Oct 30 at Hamburg (TB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: The Common Nighthawk appears to be declining in this region as well as others throughout the state with lower maximum counts than in most recent years—80 Sep 5 over Kenmore (Hess) and 46 Oct 1 over Eggertsville (WAM). Late Chimney Swifts were seen over Bflo with 17 Oct 14, 12 Oct 15 and 3 Oct 16 (RB). The departure of the Eastern Kingbird seemed unusually early—Sep 4 New Hudson Township, Allegany County (LDB). The third regional record of the *WESTERN KINGBIRD* was a bird photographed Sep 30 near Howe Hill, Humphrey Township, Catt County (JG); for comparison of the localities see *Kingbird* Vol. 18(1):31. Other early departures were Crested Flycatcher Sep 16 Spring Brook (DD) and Least Flycatcher 2 Sep 20 Belmont (LDB). A significant pre-migratory concentration of Purple Martins was an estimated 10,000 Aug 25 on Grand Island (WHK).

The Tufted Titmouse is continuing to increase throughout the region. Red-breasted Nuthatches in moderate numbers were reported from most localities. Individuals were recovered with other TV tower kills Oct 7 at South Wales and Oct 26 at Colden (AC). Carolina Wrens were reported from three new localities continuing a slow but steady increase throughout the region.

A late Gray-checked Thrush was picked up among TV tower casualties at Colden Oct 26 (AC). An excellent showing of the Eastern Bluebird was climaxed by a regionwide count of 216 Oct 10. An indication of the extent of nocturnal migration of the kinglets is seen in the following TV tower kills: Golden-crowned 251, 15 Oct 24, 26 South Wales and 28, 17 Oct 24, 26 Colden; Ruby-crowned 30 Oct

24 South Wales (AC). A group of 15 Water Pipits Sep 3 at Elma (DD) was slightly early, while the early Nov blizzard resulted in flocks of 200 Nov 7 at Fillmore and 300 Nov 8 Caneadea (Wilson). The count of 1597 Cedar Waxwings Oct 10 on the regional survey was nearly twice the previous fall maximum.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The fall warbler flight was protracted with a fine variety of species and peaks in late Aug and mid Sep. Also above average numbers of the less common forms and several late departure dates added spice to the parulids. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Oct 28 East Eden Pond (TB) — a week late. Orange-crowned Warbler: peak 7 Oct 10–14. Parula Warbler: 1 Oct 17 tower kill at South Wales (AC) — one week late. Yellow Warbler: imm banded Oct 13 Riverside (AR) — almost a month late: Cape May Warbler: 10 tower kills Aug 20 Colden (AC); 23 Oct 10 region-wide survey — good numbers. Myrtle Warbler: 1738 Oct 10 on regional count is twice median for last 10 years. Black-throated Green Warbler: tower kill Oct 26 Colden (AC). Cerulean Warbler: singles Aug 14 Catt Indian Reservation (RA), tower kills Aug 29 Colden and South Wales (AC) — rarely recorded after July. A Bay-breasted Warbler tower casualty Oct 17 from South Wales (AC) and a Blackpoll Warbler Oct 23 at Chautauqua (Pillsbury) were each two days late. Pine Warblers were recorded Oct 5 at Hamburg (TB) and a tower kill Oct 7 at Colden (AC). Connecticut Warblers were killed in unprecedented numbers with 14 TV tower casualties at Colden and South Wales (AC) including an early individual at Colden Aug 29 (the other 13 occurred Sep 12–18); 1 was observed Sep 23 at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (TB). Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded Oct 2 at Riverside (banded by AR) and Oct 12 at West Seneca (JK) — normal departure date Sep 7! American Redstart: tower kill Oct 26 Colden (AC) — four days late.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: For reasons not immediately apparent all of the icterids and the Starling appeared in substantially reduced numbers throughout the region. This situation deserves careful attention and analysis.

The *DICKCISSEL* was well represented with the following feeder reports: singles Oct 12 at Fluvanna (Burgessons, Urbans), Nov 11 at Kenmore (PB), Nov 24 and 26 at Wellsville (Ferrand and Larson). Evening Grosbeaks appeared Oct 10 with 3 in the Alfred area (Klingensmith et al) and small flocks were scattered throughout the region by mid Nov. The *HOUSE FINCH* appears to be spreading from the east; 5 were seen at a feeder in Amherst Oct 28 (HRA et al). A moderate flight of Pine Siskin moved through the area during Oct and Nov; maximum counts were 236 Oct 10 on the regional survey and 100 Nov 14 at the Youngstown Cemetery (WAM). The only crossbills were 6 White-winged Nov 14 at the Youngstown Cemetery (WAM).

A record fall count of 228 Savannah Sparrows was recorded on the Oct 10 regional survey. Late Grasshopper Sparrows were singles Sep 25 at Eden (TB) and a tower kill Oct 11 at South Wales (AC). An early Slate-colored Junco was observed at a feeder Sep 5–22 in Eggertsville (WAM).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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In this section of Western New York, we had one of those wonderful fall seasons so frequent in our experience that we perhaps do not fully appreciate them. Long