

rarity requires either a specimen, a good, recognizable photograph (not merely a dot in the distance) or a sight record by a NUMBER of competent observers. The case of the Smith's Longspur on Long Island is quite different. The bird was identified in the field by a number of good observers, one of whom had seen the species before. The bird in the fall plumage is relatively obscure, however, and a specimen or photograph of the bird in the hand was absolutely necessary. A picture of the bird in the grass would not have been sufficient. Congratulations!

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"... the fowls of the air ... shall tell thee" Today as an ecology-minded people, we heed *Job*, even using *Kingbird* records of avian norm-deviation as prediction of our own destiny.

The season was nearly average as to both temperatures and rainfall. On Sept. 23 the Southern Tier had an early killing frost, and traces of snow appeared Oct. 1. Up to 14 inches fell on Buffalo areas Nov. 15 and by the 30th, inland lakes were lightly frozen.

For the fall foodcrop, there was a fair supply of cherries and beechnuts, excellent hemlock fruit and water beech (*Carpinus*) in Catt Co (SE). Generally, Box Elder, Nannyberry and Wild Grape were abundant.

A weak migration began as 51 birds of 18 species were picked up Aug. 24 and 30 below a tower in T/Pomfret, Chaut Co with Canada Warblers the most common (FR, LBk). TV towers near Bflo killed 44 individuals of 12 species Aug. 28 and 30 with Blackburnian and Canada Warblers in highest numbers (ACK, RDS). Cold fronts set off major movements Sept. 14, 21 and 30, when 722 dead birds of 12 species, including 557 warblers of 8 species, fell below TV towers in S Erie Co (JT, ACK, AS, SW). Counts of the six most common were: 109 Bay-br. Warblers, 105 Ovenbirds, 89 Magnolia Warblers, 43 Red-eyed Vireos, 27 Nashville Warblers and 24 Black-thr. Green Warblers.

Keying in with this data and other observations as good migration periods are banding figures. At MorSom, Sept. 23-28, 258 birds of 45 species, including 70 warblers of 19 species, were banded with highest tallies: 44 Ruby-cr. Kinglets, 30 Swainson's Thrushes, 22 Magnolia Warblers, 21 White-thr. Sparrows, 17 Gray-chk. Thrushes and 10 Golden-cr. Kinglets (DK). At FrSt 569 individuals of 62 species were banded in Sept. through Nov. with highest counts in Sept., which included 29 Magnolia Warblers, 20 Gray Catbirds, 17 Red-eyed Vireos, 14 Black-cap. Chickadees, 10 Com. Yellowthroats and 10 Scarlet Tanagers. Of the 94 total warblers, 19 species were banded in Sept. and 6 in Oct., with Orange-cr. new and only Yellow-rumped increasing the latter month (DC, JC).

Seasonal rarities were: Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, King Eider, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, all three Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake, Monk Parakeet, Barn Owl, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, three Warblers: Prothonotary, Pine and Connecticut, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—Allegany Co; AL—Amity Lake; Alf—Alfred; Bflo—Buffalo; BgS—Burgeson Sanctuary; Blm—Belmont; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; RC—BOS Regional Count, Oct. 13; BOSWR—BOS Wildlife Refuge; Catt—Cattaraugus; Cb—Cuba; Chaut—Chautauqua; ErBch—Erie Beach, Ont; Frd—Fredonia; FrSt—Farmersville Station; GI—Grand Island; Hmbg—Hamburg; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; MorSom—T/Morrison, T/Sommerset, near Lyndonville; Nia—Niagara; RosHill—Rose Hill Rd, Ont; SpBr(k)—Spring Brook; T/—Township of; TiBch—Times Beach, Bflo; TNP—Tifft Nature Preserve; Wlsv—Wellsville.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: at least 2 over Dunkirk Harbor, Frd Oct. 19 (MJ, WB). Red-necked Grebe: one RC; singles Oct. 22 Wanakah, Nov. 19 Hmbg (TB). *EARED GREBE*: singles Nov. 3 Ft. Erie, Ont (Emerson, Braunberns) and near Chippawa, Ont Nov. 23, 24 (HA, RAA). Double-crested Cormorant: singles: Nov. 3 Chaut L (RS) and Nia Falls, Ont Nov. 23, 24 (Happ, RA). Gr. Blue Heron: 153 RC; 81 Sept. 6 INWR. Great Egret: at INWR: 2 Aug. 18, 7 Sept. 3 - 16, and 2 Sept. 23. Black-cr. Night Heron: max 16 Sept. 12 INWR. Am. Bittern: scarce; 4 RC.

Whistling Swan: 27 RC; 540 Nov. 22 over Chaut L. Canada Goose: 6362 RC; max 2163 Oct. 11 INWR. Brant: only one Nov. 16, 17 TiBch. Snow Goose: one RC; up to 2 seen Oct. 11 (early) through Oct. 25 INWR, Woodlawn.

Movement of Ducks began in late Aug. with major flow Sept. 19-Nov. 22. RC and highest (above 90) max counts were: Mallard: 2708 RC; 356 INWR. Black Duck: 588 RC. Gadwall: 20 RC; 95 INWR. Pintail: 252 RC. Green-wing. Teal: 364 RC. Blue-wing. Teal: 140 RC; 226 INWR. Am. Wigeon: 1777 RC; 1200 INWR. N. Shoveler: 8 RC. Wood Duck: 438 RC. Redhead: 38 RC; 225 Mayville. Ring-necked Duck: 76 RC; 150 Lakewood. Canvasback: 5 RC. Gr. Scaup: 4237 RC; 9000 E end, L Erie. Les. Scaup: 8 RC. Scaup (undiff.): 30 RC; 600 CbL. Com. Goldeneye: one RC; scarce. Bufflehead: 4 RC; 300 Mayville. Oldsquaw: 35 Chaut L. The rare *HARLEQUIN DUCK* appeared Nov. 3-24 with one seen six times, Nia Falls, Ont (AS, ACK) and a female was reported Nov. 16-23 SW of Dunkirk on L Erie (CB). A King Eider occurred at Ft Erie, Ont Nov. 11, 13, 17 (Happ. RA, RW), White-wing. Scoter: 50 RC. Surf Scoter: arr one Oct. 3 Chaut Co. Black Scoter: 3 RC. Ruddy Duck: 45 RC; very few. Hooded Merganser: 5 RC; 400 Mayville. Com. Merganser: 35 RC. Red-br. Merganser: 65 RC.

HAWKS—OWLS: *Hawk Watch*: Sept. 22 Hawk Cliff, Port Stanley, Ont; with optimum viewing, observers' count of raptors was: 5346 birds plus 3 (probably local) Red-t. Hawks. By species there were: 4125 Broad-wing., 685 Sharp-sh., 479 Am. Kestrel, 43 Marsh, 7 Turkey Vulture, 3 Cooper's, 3 Osprey and an imm. Bald Eagle (RA, J Hauser, JT, C and T Andrie).

T. Vulture: 16 RC. *GOSHAWK*: one Sept. 11 T/W Almond, AC (DB, LB). The Sharp-sh. Hawk, Red-t. Hawk and Am. Kestrel are still holding their own, but few Broad-wing. Hawks were seen and Red-sh. Hawk numbers were alarmingly low. Increased Cooper's and Marsh Hawk reports are encouraging. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 RC; 20 sightings in 14

areas. An imm. Bald Eagle was at INWR Aug. 27, Sept. 5-27 (Heck, Olsen). Osprey: 2 RC; singles reported in 7 areas; dep one Oct. 25 Blm. *MERLIN*: one in T/Pomfret, Chaut Co Sept. 23-24 (CB). Ruf. Grouse and Ring-n. Pheasant: scarce. Turkey: 54 RC; nesting success was better than last year's which was unusually poor in Southern Tier (SE). Sora: one, dead by roadside, Alf (EB) in Sept.; one tower-killed Sept. 12 Bflo (ACK). Com. Gallinule: 3 RC; 1000 Oct. 25 Mayville.

A record flock of 37 (!) *HUDSONIAN GODWITS* arrived Aug. 17 TiBch (RB) and another was seen Sept. 5 INWR (Olsen, Heck). The uncommon Willet appeared at TiBch; one Aug. 13; max 5 Sept. 2, 22 (a week late) (HA, RA). Red Knot: arr one Aug. 1 ErBch; dep one Oct. 12 TiBch. A Purple Sandpiper arr early Sept. 27, L Ont. shore near Lyndonville (DK); also one Nov. 7 Athol Springs (TB) and 2 Nov. 17 Nia Falls, Ont (RA). White-rumped Sandpiper: one Aug. 17 TiBch (RA). Baird's Sandpiper: at TiBch: arr one Aug. 7; dep 3 Sept. 27. A *LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER* appeared Sept. 16 TiBch (RA, ACK). *WESTERN SANDPIPER*: one Aug. 26-29 ErBch (HA) and one Aug. 28 TiBch (Wilcove, Goodman). Red Phalarope: one Nov. 10 on Nia R (MaW, MW, Avery) and 3 Nov. 23 Nia-on-the-L, Ont (Happ). A single late Wilson's Phalarope was seen Aug. 25-30 TiBch (Wilcove, RW, RA). Northern Phalarope: four sightings: 3, 3, 1, 1 Sept. 6, 14, 15, 19 INWR (JM, HK, WK). Shorebird RC totals were: 2 Semipalmated Plover, 749 Killdeer, 115 Am. Golden Plover, 14 Black-bel. Plover, 15 Am. Woodcock, 11 Com. Snipe, 13 Spot. Sandpiper, 1 Sol. Sandpiper, 110 Gr. Yellowlegs, 7 Les. Yellowlegs, 21 Pect. Sandpiper, 2 Least Sandpiper, 87 Dunlin, 16 Short-bil. Dowitcher, 68 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 22 Sanderling.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr one Sept. 20 Hmbg (TB); 5 Sept. 22 Vineland Sta, Ont (AS, ACK) and one T/Pomfret, Chaut Co, Oct. 6 (CB); dep 3 Nov. 15 Hmbg (RA). Glaucous Gull: 2 Nov. 29 Queenston, Ont. Iceland Gull: singles in 4 areas; arr one Nov. 3 Nia Falls, Ont. Great Black-backed Gull: 63 RC; max and dep 38 Nov. 5 Port Dalhousie, Ont. Herring Gull: 1331 RC. Ring-bil. Gull: 2823 RC; 20,000 Nia Falls-Lewiston Oct. 27. Franklin's Gull: up to 5 reported at 7 locations. Bonaparte's Gull: 2124 RC; 15,000 Oct. 21 Nia R. Little Gull: 2 RC; arr 2 Aug. 27 TiBch; dep 3 Nov. 28 Nia R. *BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE*: one Nov. 17, 24 Nia F, Ont (RW). Forster's Tern: at TiBch: one Aug. 27 (HM) and 2 Sept. 2 (AS, ACK). Caspian Tern: many sightings; max 9 Aug. 2 TiBch. *MONK PARAKEET*: one, T/Tonawanda Aug. 20 building nest (RA, HM) which it deserted, disappearing soon after beginning another nearby Aug. 30 (JT).

Barn Owl: one, apparent resident, T/Pomfret, Chaut Co, Sept. 6, 7 and late Oct (CB). Screech Owl: few. Gr. Horn. Owl 16 RC. Snowy Owl: 6 already seen in Lake Plain areas. Barred Owl: 5 RC; scarce. Short-eared Owl: singles: Oct. 9 T/Sheridan, Cahut Co, Oct. 29 INWR and Nov. 22 Hickox Rd, Eden. Saw-whet Owl: one Oct. 16 Scio.

GOATSUCKERS--STARLINGS: Com. Nighthawk: max 34 Aug. 29 over RosHil. Chimney Swift: max and dep 75 Sept. 22 Nia R. Red-bel. Woodpecker: regularly seen in Genesee Valley, AC, as far north as Blm. Red-head. Woodpecker: 12 reported in 8 areas. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one Oct. 18 N Bflo (Wilcove). *NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER*: one Oct. 27 Oakland Rural Cemetery, Youngstown (AM, WM). Yellow-bel. Flycatcher: singles appeared in 4 locations. Olive-sided Flycatcher: dep (late) 2 Oct. 2 Blm (DB, LB). Tufted Titmouse: 9 RC; one to 3 seen in 5 areas. Red-br. Nuthatch: excellent year: 59 RC; over 40 sightings in 19 locations. Winter Wren: 63 RC; arr one Sept. 21 Colden; one to 2 seen in 11 areas (an invasion?) Carolina Wren: 14 RC; still expanding: one to 4 occurred at 19 locations all season. Long-bil. Marsh Wren: only report: 1 RC. Short-bil. Marsh Wren: only one: Sept. 30 T/Hmbg. Mockingbird: 6 RC; very few: singles in 8 locations. Swainson's Thrush: 28 RC; arr one Aug. 21 RosHil. Gray-ch. Thrush: 12 RC. Eastern Bluebird: 68 RC; 44 birds reported by 10 observers; flock of 21 Oct. 8 AL. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very scarce: arr 2 Aug. 17 SpBrk; dep singles Aug. 25 TNP and INWR. Water Pipit: 475 RC (18 in 1973). Cedar Waxwing: 952 RC (469 in 1973). Northern Shrike: singles showed in 5 areas.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-thr. Vireo: one banded, Sept. FrSt; dep one Sept. 25 SpBrk. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one Aug. 30 RosHil; 8 banded FrSt Sept., Oct.; 17 Sept. 21 Colden; 17 Tower-killed, S Erie Co Sept. 21; dep one Oct. 16 Hmbg. Warblers on RC: 3 Bl.-and-wh., 10 Tennessee, 2 Orange-cr., 17 Nashville, 33 Magnolia, one Cape May, 10 Black-th. Blue, 1085 Yellow-rump., 5 Black-thr. Green, 19 Blackburnian, 2 Chestnut-sid., 5 Bay-br., 11 Blackpoll, one Pine (late), 74 Palm, 2 Ovenbird, one Mourning (late), 6 Com. Yellowthroat, 5 Wilson's and 7 Am. Redstart. Other Warbler sightings of note: one *PROTHONOTARY* Sept. 5 Alma (Deverells); one Golden-wng. Aug. 30 RosHil (HA, RaA); 2 Brewster's (hybrid) Aug. 30 AL (VP); Orange-cr.: singles at 7 locations (+ RC); Pine (late); one Oct. 4 Point Chaut (RS) (+RC); Connecticut: one Sept. 23 Hmbg (TB); and Hooded: singles Sept. 22 Chaut Co (CB) and Sept. 24 Cb (RK, RhK).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 150 Aug. 25 T/Ward. Rusty Blackbird: 2396 RC (604 in 1973). Brown-headed Cowbird: 2062 RC (818 in 1973). Rose-br. Grosbeak: 3 RC; flock of 12 Sept. 22 AL (AH, MH). Evening Grosbeak: arr one Oct. 16 Wlsv; very few. Purple Finch: 50 RC (143 in 1973). Com. Redpoll: only one, Nov. 13 Hmbg. Pine Siskin: 10 RC (268 in 1973); 3 Nov. 10 Queenston. White-wng. Crossbill: only reports: arr very early 4 Sept. 6 and one (feeder) Nov. 29 AL.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: one killed after striking window Oct. 10 SUNY Campus, Frd (Stanley, Benton). Dark-eyed Junco (sl.-c.): 3040 RC (1160 in 1973). Tree Sparrow: 28 RC; 111 banded Nov., FrSt. Chipping Sparrow: 421 RC; dep 2 Oct. 22 SpBr. Field Sparrow: 165 RC. White-cr. Sparrow: 1208 (327 in 1973). White-thr. Sparrow: 4153 RC (1436 in 1973). Fox Sparrow: 6 RC; scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: 3 RC; one Sept. 21 Colden; singles Sept. 30, Oct. 2 Chaut Co. Song Sparrow: 1687 (950 in 1973). Snow Bunting: arr one Oct. 19 Chaut Co; small numbers through Nov.; max 75 Nov. 20 INWR.

CORRIGENDUM: *The Kingbird* Vol. XXIV No. 3, July 1974 (Region 1): p. 128: add to "Observers:" "JM—John Morse."

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Winter reports due Apr. 3. Spring reports due June 3.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Except for an extremely early snowfall which left the ground white for two or three days at the very end of September, our fall weather seemed quite normal. Precipitation was close to average for the season including only a little snow in October and fairly light amounts in November. Foliage came off the trees a bit early probably due to the early cold mentioned above. Lake Ontario dropped quite rapidly after early August and shore birding improved sharply, especially at Braddocks Bay.

The late summer and fall produced excellent birding at times and the general impression that many species enjoyed an unusually successful breeding season. There were also several reports of species rare or erratic in this region. Most of the regular migrants were on time and in good numbers. All in all, while there were many quiet days of mild weather and southerly winds, birding was generally interesting and productive.

Positive Trends: (1) Quite good Loon and Grebe flights. (2) fairly high counts of Whistling Swan, Scoters and Mergansers. (3) fine variety of shorebirds and high numbers of some