

adees and with them came their drawling northern relative. With apologies to the boreal birders in the Adirondacks, the BOTS award goes to the Boreal Chickadee.

Millbrook School, Millbrook, New York 12545

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

A rugged, cold, wet Sept. was followed by a warm, dry Oct. and Nov. with very little snow, open water everywhere, resulting in a nicely averaged fall season with temperature 1.9°F (1°C) above normal and precipitation almost average. Bird watching was superb with a succession of shifting weather patterns bringing good avian numbers. In late Sept., tropical storm Eloise grounded many birds along L. Ontario as it passed by on the south (DK).

Abundant food was available from White Ash, Box Elder, Locust, Hickory, Gray-bark Dogwood (to Nov. 1), Chokeberry, Multiflora Rose, Wild Grape, Sumac, Rabbits, Mice and Squirrels. There were no acorns or beechnuts and the cone crop was spotty.

On the bright side were: 1) more Com. Loons; 2) a fair goose flight and better grebe and diving duck counts, especially the Canvasback; 3) another big larid season; 4) promise of good owl-watching for the "few there be that find" them, in conifer plantations on the lake plains (DK); 5) a few more Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants and E. Bluebirds; 6) a good shorebird flight; 7) splendid numbers of Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Winter Wrens (in Oct.) and Mockingbirds; 8) Red-breasted Nuthatches spreading like gossip; 9) an excellent vireo and warbler migration; and 10) many species lingering late.

On the dark side were: 1) poor numbers of herons; 2) scarcity of most dabbling ducks and Turkeys; 3) few Com. Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts and swallows; 4) a record tower kill, 5) lower Icterid numbers, except Com. Grackles which were nearly double; 6) lower RC count of Vesper, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

Bird-in-the-hand data from banding at Farmersville Station — netted 141 birds Sept. 2-3 and 164 in three waves Sept. 15-27, with most common: 87 Tennessee Warblers, 37 Magnolia Warblers, and 29 each of Black-throated Green Warblers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. In Oct., high species were 67 Dark-eyed Juncos, 49 White-throated Sparrows, 34 Black-capped Chickadees, 16 Hermit Thrushes and 16 Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Nov. was brightened by the influx of 231 Evening Grosbeaks, 53 Tree Sparrows and 48 more Dark-eyed Juncos (DC).

Another accurate, though grievous, migration sampling was from tower kills with totals, collected this fall by the Buffalo Museum of Science, the highest in seven years (ARC, *fide Courier Express*, Sept. 24). Below three TV towers in Wales and Colden, s. Erie Co., a record high for a one-day kill on Sept. 24 was 1142 birds of 53 species. The total kill, Sept. 18-27, was 2359 individuals of 61 species, with the highest numbers: 332 Bay-breasted Warblers, 272 Magnolia Warblers, 270 Ovenbirds, 185 Swainson's Thrushes, 175 Blackpoll Warblers, and 121 Black-throated Blue Warblers (ARC, AS, RA, MF. J. Hauser).

Seasonal rarities were: Eared Grebe, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Yellow Rail, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Red and Northern Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Western Kingbird, Boreal Chickadee, Bewick's Wren,

Worm-eating Warbler, Pine Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Dickcissel and House Finch. (Late reported summer rarities were: Cinnamon Teal, American Avocet, Barn Owl and Yellow-headed Blackbird).

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NP—Nature Preserve; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; RC—Regional Census Oct. 12 (compiled by PSc and RSc); Tower kill—Casualty at TV tower(s), s. Erie Co. (ARC+).

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LOONS—DUCKS: 5 Red-throated Loons at Olcott (DF) and one on the Niagara R. (FR) appeared Nov. 23. A Red-necked Grebe stopped near Hamburg Oct. 31 and Nov. 6 (TB) and 1 to 2 were at Cuba L. (new area) Nov. 9-13 (AnS). 400 Horned Grebe concentrated at Chautauqua L. Nov. 18 (RS). Single EARED GREBES were at Athol Springs Nov. 6 (TB) and at Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 16, 22 (RA+). Double-crested Cormorants appeared at Times Beach Oct. 21 (RA, RB), 2 at Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 2 (FR, Buck) and one at Bay View Nov. 24 (TB). Only 2 Great Egrets were seen at Iroquois NWR Sept. 4, 26 (Howard, JM), and 16 Black-crowned Night Herons were noted in 3 areas. A Least Bittern paused at Iroquois NWR Sept. 14 (AM, WM) and 2 Am. Bitterns were on the RC. Most Whistling Swans passed us by, giving a max. 143 at Chautauqua L. Nov. 28 (FE, RS). A fine Brant flight peaked at 643 at Olcott Oct. 30 (PA, RA) and 7 Snow Geese were noted in 3 locations.

It was a stingy flight of all dabbling ducks except Gadwall with max. 132 at Niagara Falls Oct. 26 (HA) and N. Shoveler with 8 on RC (same as '74). However, 2000 Canvasbacks were reported at Niagara Falls Oct. 26 (HA), the Oldsquaw flight was good, and all three scoters were well documented. A King Eider was seen at Niagara Falls Gorge Nov. 23 (FR+). Scarce elsewhere, Ruddy Ducks centered at Chautauqua L. with 220 on Nov. 11 (RS). Of the mergansers, there was only a smattering of Hooded and Common but a max. 867 Red-breasted at Olcott Oct. 30 (RA).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: A Turkey Vulture lingered at Lancaster until Nov. 25 (DF). A GOSHAWK was "calling near a nest site" at Ten-mile, Cattaraugus Co. Oct. 26 (SE), and one to two appeared at Belmont several times all season (DB, LB). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were well reported. Red-shouldered Hawks were few but one appeared at Cuba L., a new area, Nov. 18, 24 (AnS). The max. Broad-winged Hawk count was 8 at Newstead Sept. 13 (DF) and 4 Rough-legged Hawks were seen at three locations. There was a GOLDEN EAGLE at Times Beach Oct. 31 (RA, ARC, RB) and an imm. Bald Eagle at Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda GMA Sept. 17-28 (JM, Olsen). The Marsh Hawk and Osprey seem to be holding their own, but there were only 78 Am. Kestrel on the RC (down 1/4 from last year).

A Ruffed Grouse drumming at Alfred Nov. 9 (CK) must have been smoothing out his technique for spring. The rare YELLOW RAIL, a migrant in the region in '67 and '68, appeared again this year, as a tower casualty in Wales, s. Erie Co. Sept. 25 (RA, ARC, AS). Max. Am. Coot was 3868 at Chautauqua L. Nov. 28 (RS).

A noteworthy max. 25 Am. Golden Plovers appeared at Clarence Sept. 16 (PH+) and a

peak of 25 Black-bellied Plovers was at Times Beach about Oct. 25 (AS, DF+). Single Ruddy Turnstones stopped at Times Beach Oct. 12, 19 (DF, AS, ARC). Worth mentioning this season were: 3 Whimbrel at Elm and Genesee Streets, Buffalo Sept. 10 (DF); a late Lesser Yellowlegs at Times Beach Nov. 8, 9 (DF, RA+); 2 Red Knots at Iroquois NWR Sept. 29 (JM); 3 Purple Sandpipers Nov. 16, and 6 on Nov. 30, at Niagara Falls (Happ, HA); 2 Baird's Sandpipers at Times Beach Sept. 9-13 (PH, Happ); at Iroquois NWR: a LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER Nov. 4 (HM) and single Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 10, 29 (Heck, Olsen, JM). Another Stilt Sandpiper was noted at Times Beach Sept. 10 (DF). A rare WESTERN SANDPIPER was identified at Times Beach Oct. 16 (DF), and HUDSONIAN GODWITS were seen several times: 7 at Times Beach Sept. 27 (MF), two regularly there Oct. 2-25 (PH, ARC+) and at least one at Iroquois NWR Oct. 7 (Olsen, JM+). Sanderlings noted: 1, 2 at Chautauqua L. Sept. 13, 20 (RS) and 2 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 4 (HM). A very early Red Phalarope was at the Peace Bridge Sept. 22 (HA) and another spent late Oct. at Times Beach (RA+). 17 Northern Phalaropes were reported from 4 areas, including the 3 at Times Beach Oct. 16 (very late) (DF).

A Parasitic Jaeger appeared at Wilson Oct. 19, 4 were seen at Olcott Oct. 19 with 2 still there Oct. 30, and 2 were noted at Hamburg Nov. 1 (PA, RA). One to 2 each of Glaucous, Iceland (*glaucoides*) and Iceland (*kumlieni*) Gulls arrived at Niagara R. area Nov. 15 (AS, RA+). 78 Great Black-backed Gulls were on the RC. A Franklin's Gull found its way to Ashville Bay, Chautauqua L. Sept. 13 (RS). 10,000 Bonaparte's Gulls congregated at the Peace Bridge Sept. 22-29 (HA), and Little Gulls reached a max. 21 (!) at Times Beach Sept. 20 (RA+). Rare statewide, an imm. SABINE'S GULL was found at the Peace Bridge Sept. 22 (HA, RA+).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: The first of 5 Snowy Owls seen in 4 areas, arrived at Niagara Falls Nov. 17 (HK, WK). Long-eared Owls were noted: near Lyndonville, two Oct. 30 and five Nov. 21; and near Barker, Max. six Oct. 30, 31 and at least nine Nov. 21 (DK). Only reports of Short-eared Owls were: one at Hamburg Nov. 3 (TB) and 5 at Youngstown Nov. 23 (HK, WK). A Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared in Angelica, a new area, Nov. 1-30 (D. Foreman).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: A WESTERN KINGBIRD was reported from Bay View near Hamburg Sept. 7 (RA+). Between Sept. 18-27, three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 15 were tower killed. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers lingered late: at N. Evans Sept. 23 (Empric) and at Belmont Sept. 30 (LB). A rare BOREAL CHICKADEE was banded at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 20 (DC) and another appeared regularly at Keoples' feeder, Cuba, Oct. 10-Nov. 30 (RK, RhK, Marshall+). Two BEWICK'S WRENS, exceptionally rare, came to the Ayers' feeder, Cuba, Nov. 2-30 (A, J Ayers, JF, MFr, RK). The only Long-billed Marsh Wrens noted were 2 tower killed Sept. 23-24 and one at Tiffit Farm NP Nov. 9 (DF). A late Swainson's Thrush was banded at Alfred Oct. 24 (EB). A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher appeared at Times Beach Sept. 9, 10 (PH, Happ, DF). The max. flock of Water Pipits was 45 at Alfred Nov. 5 (EB). 8 N. Shrikes were noted in 7 areas, and it looks better for the Loggerhead Shrike with singles appearing at Times Beach Sept. 1 (RA, JT+), at Alfred Oct. 2 (LC) and very late: one at Hinsdale Nov. 15 (JF, MFr) and another on Ten-mile Rd., Cattaraugus Co. Nov. 16 (SE).

VIREOS-WARBLED: A good Vireo flight showed more than usual Yellow-throated, a late Red-eyed, banded at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 20 (DC), and higher counts of Philadelphia, including 55 tower killed Sept. 18-27, with 25 of these from a single night's kill Sept. 24.

Noteworthy Warblers include: a late Black-and-white Warbler at Lewiston Oct. 22 (WK); single WORM-EATING WARBLERS at the Lakeside Cem., Hamburg, Sept. 8 (TB) and at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, Sept. 28 (McMichael); 4 Orange-crowned Warblers in 4 areas; 2 N. Parulas at the Tiffit Farm NP Sept. 5, 17 (DW, Goodman, TB) and 11 tower killed Sept. 23 and 24; a late Yellow Warbler tower killed Sept. 24; a late Black-throated Blue Warbler at

Lewiston Oct. 30 (HK, WK); Regional max. 200 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Ward Oct. 19 (DB, LB); single late Bay-breasted Warblers at Buckhorn Is. State Pk. Oct. 26 (FR) and at Tift Farm NP Nov. 9 (DF); **PINE WARBLERS**, tower killed, 2 in Wales and 3 in Colden, Sept. 24; a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** tower killed in Wales Sept. 24; and Connecticut Warblers: 3 tower killed Sept. 24 plus 4 others noted in 3 areas, 2 of which were early at Clarence Ctr. Sept. 7 (DF).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Staying late were a N. Oriole at Buffalo Nov. 9 (Kikta+) and 2 different Scarlet Tanagers at Hamburg Oct. 14, 21 (MF). Three **DICKCISSELS** appeared daily at a Cuba feeder Oct. 7-17 (RK, RhK). Other accents of the season were: large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches; 18 **HOUSE FINCHES** on the RC and up to 18 noted regularly at Cheektowaga during Sept. and Oct. (RSc, PSc); Pine Grosbeaks: 12, 10 at Alfred Nov. 6, 9 (EB, LB) and 10 at Grand Island Nov. 9 (HK, WK); 2 Com. Redpoll at Orchard Park Nov. 25 (Saville); a max. 30 Pine Siskins in Almond Oct. 26 (DB, LB); crossbill (species?) flocks of at least 10 over Alfred Nov. 1-30 (CK); and Red Crossbills: 6 (early) at E. Amherst Nov. 3 (DF), 8 at Alfred Nov. 5 (EB) and 3 found dead at Friendship Nov. 16 (Compton).

A Grasshopper Sparrow was tower killed in Wales Sept. 24. In addition to the 8 Fox Sparrows on the RC, one was noted in Almond Oct. 28 (J. L. Gibson). Several Lincoln's Sparrows were noted: 4 on the RC, 2 tower killed in Colden, Sept. 24, 27, one at Times Beach Sept. 10 (Happ) and one banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 26 (DC). The first Snow Buntings were noticed in several locations Oct. 30.

Addendum: In the Spring 1975 *Kingbird*, credit for the late **PRAIRIE WARBLER** at Alfred May 14 goes to CK. Noteworthy reports from the Summer 1975 season include: a **CINNAMON TEAL** at Iroquois NWR Aug. 25 (WR, Carroll); two **AM. AVOCETS** at Times Beach Aug. 26 (DF, RA+); a wide-eyed Barn Owl staring down at a rain-soaked startled observer changing clothes in a barn near Barker Aug. 20 (DK); and a **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** at Tonawanda GMA Aug. 23 (WR, Carroll). Also, the 1975 Breeding Bird Survey (Fish and Wildlife Service) tallied 117 species, highest ever, with Virginia Rail, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird, new. Absent were Pied-billed Grebe, Am. Bittern, Turkey Vulture and Brown Creeper. Increasing were House Wren, Red-eyed Vireo, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting, while only the E. Meadowlark showed a downward trend (WK).

Please send reports for each month by the 5th of the following month.
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REGION TWO — GENESEE

RICHARD O'HARA

We have enjoyed a long, warm, dry fall season which produced good variety and quite a few really unusual records. The migration was early, especially the insect-eating species, coinciding with very early autumn foliage color and leaf dropping. On the other hand, many species lingered late as food remained plentiful and snow fall was very light.

The movement of waterfowl was somewhat better than last year, especially among divers. Geese went through early and rapidly but most ducks are still here in good numbers as all water remains open as of Dec. 1. After a slow start this summer, shorebirds made an excellent showing, largely due to the fine habitat available at Northrup Creek. Thirty-two species