

An Eared Grebe was seen in Regions 1 and 2. Region 1 also contributed the only Lesser Black-backed Gull. Region 2 came through with Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Blue Grosbeak, and Harris' Sparrow. Region 3 contributed the Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco and a possible Brewer's Blackbird. Region 5, always a tough competitor, also had Bohemian Waxwings, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, and really hit the jackpot with a Long-tailed Jaeger (note also the 66 Parasitic Jaegers). Regions 6, 7, 8 and 9 had some marvelous birds with some new regional records but the bird of state wide interest was the Lark Bunting in Region 9.

As was mentioned earlier, the coast is in the best position to pick up fall stragglers and this year it outdid itself. The list of birds is mind-boggling. The details are in the report but just consider the following partial list: Brown Booby, White Ibis, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Skua (sp.?) Black Guillemot, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Wheat-ear, Varied Thrush, Bell's Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird and Boat-tailed Grackle. It almost seems unfair; we need a share-the-wealth program.

One species was left out of the above list for it has to receive the BOTS award. The Noddy Tern seen flying in from the ocean at Robert Moses State Park is the first sight record for this species and the late date is most remarkable.

By the time you read this it will have been winter for quite a long time. Have the winter finches stayed in the area? Have other northern birds come down? What have the feeders turned up? But most of all—can we survive until spring?

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

It was "water, water everywhere" for the fall season except for the nearly normal October—but even then it rained on half the days. Precipitation during a warm September was 5.7 in. (14.5 cm.) *above* normal, but November, with temperatures 3.5° F (1.9° C) warmer than usual, tied with the previous record high of 5.59 in. (14.2 cm.). The first killing frost in the Southern Tier came Oct. 11, a month late, and ponds were still mostly open at the end of the period.

Abundant foods were wild black cherries, which kept robins, flickers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks here later than usual, black birch seed, relished by smaller winter finches, and

high chipmunk and mouse populations (SE). The cone crop was good, but acorns and beechnuts were scarce.

Positives for autumn include 1) a splendid showing of loons, 2) a better than usual Ruffed Grouse population—a reflection of the favorable “June brood rearing period” (SE), fair reports of Ring-necked Pheasants, and Turkeys doing exceptionally well, 3) an interesting shorebird representation, 4) excellent tallies of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and E. Bluebird, 5) a strong N. Shrike flight, 6) a fine sampling of winter finches, and 7) slightly better numbers of Fox Sparrows.

Negatives for the season include 1) “no migration” at Farmersville Sta.—suspicion that birds overflowed us to drop in Md. where reports are “best year ever” (DC, bander), 2) fewer ducks, that were probably seduced by the mild fall into staying north longer, 3) almost no swans and NO Goshawks, 4) a worrisome status for the E. Phoebe, 5) very few reports of the Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren and Mockingbird, 6) low numbers of both kinglets, and 7) a poor warbler flight.

Autumn rarities include Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Red and Northern Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull, Barn Owl, Pine Warbler, House Finch, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. *Addenda* from the summer are Cinnamon Teal, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes, Worm-eating Warbler and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: ACBC—Allegany Co. Bird Census, Oct. 9; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; H+ = record high, H = high, or L = low—status designations for some RC and ACBC species; NP—Nature Preserve; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; *Prothon*—*The Prothonotary*, BOS publication; RC—Regional Census, Oct. 9, directed by BOS (includes ACBC); SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: It was the best loon flight in years, with a max 104 Com. Loons at Hamburg Nov. 12 (RA,PA), and appearance of more than usual Red-throated Loons, with 2 at Olcott Oct. 23 (Happ+), one at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19, 25 (DF, O'Dell), and max 4 at Niagara Falls Nov. 20, 22 (RA,PS+). A Red-necked Grebe came down at Cuba L Oct. 24, Nov. 12 (AnS), and an **EARED GREBE** was identified at Mayville Oct. 29 (RS). A max 4 Double-crested Cormorants were seen intermittently at Dunkirk Oct. 10-21 (RA,PS,RS). Of the total from 3 areas of at least 22 Black-crowned Night Herons reported, one was at Cuba L Oct. 22-31 (AnS), while an imm of the less common **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** was verified at Times Beach Sept. 10 (DF). The only Am. Bittern for the period was reported from Cheektowaga Oct. 11 (DF). Max of an exceptionally poor Whistling Swan flight was 35 at Canadea Nov. 17 (LW). However, on Oct. 3, Canada Geese passed over in flock after flock, with 2615 being counted over Belmont in the am (DB,LB), and an unusual concentration of 250 remained in Hume thru Nov. (KP); the wild pair was still at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 30 (DC)—a full year of free-loading! Early Brant numbered 105 on RC (H+) and 2 were also early at Wilson Sept. 24 (DF); peak of the fair flight was 61 in the Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 16, 23 (RA,DF+). Max of Snow Goose reports was no less than 25 over N. Harbor, Buffalo, Oct. 14 (RB *fide* JT). The following are high counts, other

than RC, unless otherwise indicated: Mallard, 200 in Hume Nov. 1-30 (KP); Black Duck, 20 in Hume Nov. 25 (KP); Gadwall, 100 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 20 (Freelands); Pintail, 75 at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS); Am. Wigeon, 450 at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS); N. Shoveler, 20 at Oak Orchard WMA Oct. 23 (Happ+); Redhead, 175 at Mayville Oct. 29 (RS); Canvasback, 8 in Oak Orchard area Oct. 23 (Happ+); Com. Goldeneye, 31 on RC (H); Oldsquaw, 40 in Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+); **KING EIDER**, one at Niagara Falls Nov. 22 (PS); White-winged Scoter, 350 in Olcott-Shadigee area Oct. 23 (Happ+); Surf Scoter, 12 at Dunkirk Oct. 15 (RS); Black Scoter, 20, early, at Olcott Sept. 24 (DF); Ruddy Duck, 109 on RC (H) and 145 at Niagara Falls Power Res. Nov. 30 (PS); Hooded Merganser, 20 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 23 (Happ+) and Nov. 20 (Freelands); and Com. Merganser, 2 at Cuba L Nov. 27 (AnS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures numbered 92 on RC (H+). Sharp-shinned Hawks found were 8 on RC and singles in 9 areas. Cooper's noted were 6 on RC and singles in 6 areas. Red-shouldered Hawks tallied 3 on RC but *none* on ACBC where there has been a steady decline since 7 in 1973. 2 Rough-legged Hawks arr early for RC. The only report of **BALD EAGLE** was one imm in Amity Sept. 20 (VP). Ospreys tallied 3 on RC and 11 were totaled from 9 areas. An imm male **PEREGRINE FALCON**, hit by a school bus near Olean Sept. 26, was treated unsuccessfully at the Forness "Hawk Hideaway" and the specimen is now in the collection at St. Bonaventure Univ. (SE, JF, MFr). High count of Am. Coot was 600 at Mayville Nov. 6 (RS, Miga+). Four Am. Golden Plovers were spotted near Allegany Sept. 10 (DS), increasing to 18 there on Sept. 15 (SE); at Clarence the species reached a max 125 for the Region Oct. 2 (AM, WM). A single Black-bellied Plover was found near Allegany Oct. 9, 23, 25 (DS, SE). Noteworthy sandpiper reports from an interesting flight are: 3 Whimbrels at Times Beach Sept. 3 (PS); a Red Knot at Buffalo Oct. 4 (SP); 3 **PURPLE SANDPIPERS** at Kuckville Nov. 12 (Perrigo); 25 Pectoral Sandpipers on RC (H+); 2 Stilt Sandpipers at Times Beach Sept. 1-4 (DF, PS); one **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** at Barcelona Sept. 5 (RS) and 3 at Clarence the same day (AM, WM); 2 **MARBLED GODWITS** at Times Beach Sept. 9 (C. Krog+); a Sanderling 4 mi. west of Allegany Sept. 19 (SE)—first in years in Chautauqua Co.; a **RED PHALAROPE** also 4 mi. w. of Allegany Sept. 8, "collected under special permit Sept. 12"—first record for Cattaraugus Co. (SE+); and a **NORTHERN PHALAROPE** at South Buffalo Harbor Sept. 10 (DF). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was seen at Olcott Sept. 24 (DF) with 2 there Oct. 2 (RA+), and singles appeared at Golden Hill SP Oct. 22 (Fessler) and at Hamburg Town Park Nov. 11 (RA). Highlights of the larid season include: Great Black-backed Gull, 146 on RC (H+); one Glaucous Gull at Niagara Gorge Nov. 30 (HA); **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, at least 2 on Niagara R. at Niagara Falls in late Oct., one remaining thru Nov. 26 (JT); **LAUGHING GULL**, 6 at Dunkirk Oct. 10 (RA) and 5 there Oct. 13, 15 (RS); Franklin's Gull, singles in Times Beach and Buffalo areas irregularly in Sept. (mob) and up to 2 at Niagara Falls in Nov. (RA, PS); Bonaparte's Gull, 50,000 at Niagara R. Nov. 19 (DF+); Little Gull, 21 totaled from 6 sites in L. Erie and Niagara R. areas; Forster's Tern, one on RC, max 2 at LaSalle Park Sept. 17, 18 (RA+) and max 2 at Niagara R., Buffalo, Sept. 17-27 (PS, MF+); and Caspian Tern, max 4 at Times Beach Sept. 4, 17 (MF, RA+) and one, late, at Barcelona Oct. 2 (RS).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Exceptional on the RC were: Rock Dove, 1,824 (H+); a **BARN OWL**; Great Horned Owl, 18 (H+); and Belted Kingfisher, 55 (L). The only report of Short-eared Owl was one at Golden Hill SP Oct. 22 (Fessler). Hairy Woodpeckers numbered only 37 on ACBC (L). Max of Com. Nighthawk flight was 100 at Tonawanda Sept. 1 (PS) and of Chimney Swifts was "1000's" at the Peace Bridge, Niagara R. Oct. 2 (DS). The latter numbered 528 on RC (H+). 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers were tallied on RC and singles appeared in only 4 areas.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A Great Crested Flycatcher on RC was verified for a record late date, Oct. 9, for w. New York. On the RC, only 32 E. Phoebees were counted (L), but E. Wood Pewees tallied 6 (H). Early Horned Larks (*Eremophila alpestris alpestris*) were

2 on RC and 20 at Clarence Sept. 25 (DF). Horned Larks (*E. a. praticola*) numbered 205 on RC (up from 74 last year). "1000's" of Tree Swallows were congregated at the Peace Bridge, Niagara R. Oct. 2 (DS) and staying late were 10 Bank Swallows on RC. Tufted Titmice numbered 30 on RC (H+) but from other reports only 7 were totaled from 5 areas. Eleven Long-billed Marsh Wrens appeared for RC. Rated "L" on RC are 8 Winter Wrens, 2,127 Am. Robins and 18 Hermit Thrushes. E. Bluebirds tallied 123 on RC and at least 61 were totaled from 10 scattered locations. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at East Amherst Sept. 10 (DF), and, a month later, at Lackawanna SP Oct. 24 (Kikta). Max of the Water Pipit flight was 112 at Clarence Sept. 25 (AM, WM). Single N. Shrikes appeared at 9 sites.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: The only Yellow-throated Vireo report was one at Spring Brook Sept. 1-6 (DD), but 10 Philadelphia Vireos were noted in 6 locations. Although warbler species were well represented, numbers dropping in to be counted were exceptionally low, and spicing up the migration were: Orange-crowned Warbler, one, early, at Clarence Sept. 11, one at Times Beach Sept. 19, and 3 on RC; single N. Parulas in three areas; max 40 Black-throated Green Warblers at Amherst Sept. 6 (DF); 22 Blackpoll Warblers counted from 7 sites; **PINE WARBLERS**, one at East Amherst Sept. 8 (DF), 3 at Oakland Rural Cem. Sept. 24 (DF) and one found dead at Tonawanda Oct. 10 (PS); a Connecticut Warbler at East Amherst Sept. 6 (DF); and single Hooded Warblers near Allensburg Bog Sept. 4 (J. Chapple) and near Barcelona Sept. 25 (RS).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Maxima of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak flight were 45 at Amherst Sept. 6 and 40 at Buckhorn Is. SP Sept. 10 (DF)—record numbers for our Region; last of season for the species were 2 at Spring Brook Oct. 3 (DD). An Indigo Bunting in Ward Oct. 23 (EB) was 11 days late. Rating "H+" on the RC were 213 Evening Grosbeaks and 241 Purple Finches. The well-established **HOUSE FINCH** was well reported with 20 on RC and with max for the season 24 at Eggertsville during Nov. (AM, WM). Winter finches began arriving in Oct. and are well represented: Pine Grosbeak, 7 near Vandalia Nov. 19 (SE) and one at Oakland Rural Cem. Nov. 30 (FR, Schwartz, AU); Com. Redpoll, one early, on RC, and 8 at Iroquois NWR Nov. 20 (Freelands); Pine Siskin, a good flight with max 40 at Golden Hill SP Oct. 29 (Fessler); Am. Goldfinch, 1,089 on RC (L)—perhaps not properly "winter" finches, but nice to have all year 'round; Red Crossbill, 8, early, at Fillmore Oct. 27 (LW) and 20 at Buffalo Oct. 31 (Ghosen); and White-winged Crossbill, 3, early, at Somerset Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+), a few in Cattaraugus Co. Oct.-Nov. (SE), and 8 at Forest Lawn Nov. 2 (Ghosen). Rufous-sided Towhees numbered 59 on RC (L), while singles in Orchard Park Nov. 14-30 (Saville) and in Allentown Nov. 15-30 (L. Simons) may winter here. A Henslow's Sparrow was found at Times Beach Sept. 1 (DF) and Sept. 3 (HK, WK). A **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** (*Ammospiza caudacuta altera*) was identified at Tonawanda WMA Oct. 2 (RA+). Fox Sparrows tallied 10 on RC. The Lincoln's Sparrow numbered 11 on RC and a total 4 were seen in 2 areas. A Lapland Longspur arr at Clarence Nov. 2, and 2 more appeared at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19 (DF). 70 Snow Buntings arr at Somerset Oct. 23 (DF, Happ+) and best seasonal count was 1,100 at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19 (DF+).

Addenda: Following are several noteworthy records not included in the summer report. MF climbed the Norway Spruce to locate an active **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** nest at Red House Lake, Allegany SP, July 2, while with her in the birding party were RA, PA and JG. RS had found one of this species at this location June 4 and 5, late. On July 24 an ad was feeding at least 4 fledglings in the same area (see: JT, 1977 *Prothonotary*, 43: 120). Apparently, this is the first authentic nesting record for this species for Region 1 and only the second for the state! Other omitted exciting summer sightings are: two **CINNAMON TEALS** at Prendergast Pt. Aug. 21 (RS, Kibler+); a Red Knot at Times Beach Aug. 19 (PS); a **MARBLED GODWIT** at Buffalo Harbor Aug. 17 (PS); six Ruddy Turnstones at Buffalo Aug. 19 (PS); single **WILSON'S PHALAROPES** at South Buffalo Aug. 19 (PS), at Times Beach Aug. 19 (RA) and at Iroquois NWR Aug. 21 (AM, WM); early **NORTHERN PHALA-**

ROPES: one at Times Beach Aug. 19 (PS) and six at Buffalo Aug. 28 (RA+); two Olive-sided Flycatchers at Oak Orchard July 16 (ASK+)-very late (nesting?); a **WORM-EATING WARBLER** in N. Harmony, Chautauqua Co. June 26 (AR *fide* JT Prothon Vol 45 p 105); and a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** at East Amherst Aug. 19 (DF).

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REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This season's weather was generally poor for birds and birders alike. After a brief dry interlude in early September, the rains settled in on the 13th and persisted through mid-October. The total rainfall for September was over 10 inches (25.4 cm.), a record, with most of this falling in the latter half of the month and drowning the peak period of the fall passerine migration. The last ten days of October brought a break, with some sun drawing forth the birders. November began raw and windy, moderated through the middle of the month, then ended on a cold snap that brought the first real accumulation of snow and the first freezing of some of the shallower bodies of water on the 27th. The month lived up to its reputation for gloom and wet.

Many of the seasonal trends might be anticipated from the weather summary. The fall migration as a flow was virtually non-existent. There were bright spots and isolated good days, and most species expected were recorded, but numbers of individuals were generally low and latest dates early. There were interesting contrasts. Brant appeared in good numbers over an extended period, but where were the Canada Geese? Puddle ducks never really showed up, but scoters were present in good numbers; shore-birding was generally poor with the shoreline flats inundated in water or weeds, yet several species were recorded in good numbers or on late dates; herons and rails and their allies were out early, and the winter gull concentrations were late; most passerine migrants were last recorded on relatively early dates; and an invasion of winter finches and other boreal species began early. The appearance of the finches and a number of rarities brought observers flocking to several of the local areas.

Notable specific trends for the season included lows for Pied-billed Grebe, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Pheasant, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Loggerhead Shrike, and highs for Black Scoter, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, several winter finches, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow. **RARITIES:** Common Eider, King Eider, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Parasitic Jaeger, Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Blue Grosbeak, and Harris' Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB—Braddock Bay area; D—Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay area; IC—Island Cottage woods area; NM—Nine Mile Point, Webster; and WL—West Lakeshore.

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