

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 *vide* JT Prothon Vol 45 p 105); and a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** at East Amherst Aug. 19 (DF).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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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.

OBSERVERS: Kris Brown, Mike Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Jerry Czech, Fritz Davis, Bob & Frank Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Michael Ehlers, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Evelyn Hamilton, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Scott Kampmeier, Allen Kemnitz, John Koopmans, Gary Leubner, Jim & Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Frank & Mary Mattei,

Bob & Margaret McKinney, Neil & Laura Moon, Leon Nawojchik, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Joe & Eleanor Pohl, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Susan Seymour, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Steve Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Anne Stear, Alison Stewart, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Joe Taylor, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Stan & Helen Thomas, David Tremmel, Alice & Earl Wallace, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS-DUCKS: The fall loon flight was fairly good with maxima recorded: Com. Loon, 300 NM Nov. 12 (AK); and Red-throated, 150 H Oct. 30 (CP,mob). Grebe records were generally low with only 2 records of Red-necked Grebe contrasting with last Spring's numbers. Also of note was Horned Grebe: 67 WL Oct. 25 (KD,mob). Double-crested Cormorant records of 1-2 birds were scattered thru the season with a late bird at BB Nov. 10 thru (NH,mob). A rare fall record here was Whistling Swan: 4 Long Pond Nov. 4 (FDo). In the fall passage of Canada Geese, no large concentrations were noted; even small-sized flocks were relatively scarce. Of interest were 350 H Nov. 29 (NH). In contrast was the good Brant flight: 850 IB Oct. 23 (AK); max 1000 H Nov. 5 (WLi) and its extension from early Oct. to 6 WL Nov. 29 (NH). Among the puddle ducks, the only record of special note was Wood Duck: max 60 WL Sept. 16 (NH). The divers produced many good observations: Greater Scaup: 2000+ NM Oct. (WLi,mob); 2500+ NM Nov. 12 (WLi,RS); White-winged Scoter: 9 Charlotte Sept. 11 (B&FD); max 250 WL Nov. 12 (NH); Surf Scoter: 60 Sodus Bay Sept. 25 (D,M&TT); max 250 H Oct. 2 (BS); and Black Scoter: 3 H Sept. 25 (B&FD); max 700 Webster Nov. 6 (WLi,MAS). In addition dark-winged scoter concentrations of 5000+ were estimated several times in late October on Lake Ontario. Both eiders also appeared, **COMMON EIDER:** 1 fem. Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (D,M&TT); **KING EIDER:** 1 imm male Webster Nov. 23 (RBA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The fall raptor migration was quite typical with highlights: a late Turkey Vulture: 1 D Nov. 15 (EH,AnS); numbers of Rough-legged Hawks max. 10 IC Nov. 1 (KD,MS,AnS); Bald Eagle: 1 imm Northrup Creek Nov. 6 (RO); 1 imm H Nov. 13 (AK); **PEREGRINE FALCON:** 1 imm. H Oct. 17 (WLi,CP); 1 Webster Oct. 2 (JCz); 1 Webster Oct. 17 (JCz); and Merlin: 1 Clarkson Nov. 12 (MM,BS). Ring-necked Pheasant records continue to decline with the policy of decreased restocking. Rails and their allies simply vanished early. In spite of the generally poor shorebirding, there were several interesting records from flooded fields and farm ponds: Am. Golden Plover: max 221 Kendall Sept. 22 (NH); 1 Greece Nov. 6 (B&FD); **WHIMBREL:** 1 Kendall Sept. 4-5 (CP,BS,mob); 1 Point Breeze Sept. 11 (BS); 1 Point Breeze Sept. 18 (WLi); 1 Charlotte Sept. 25 (B&FD); late Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Greece Oct. 20 (PR,JSK); Purple Sandpiper: 3 Point Breeze Nov. 12 (CP); 3 Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (D&TT); 1 Charlotte Nov. 25 (RC,CP,mob); Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Greece Oct. 1 (RO); 1 Perinton Oct. 8-18 (R&SS, mob); **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER:** 2-5 Kendall Sept. 4-22 (CP,BS,mob); and **RED PHALAROPE:** 1 Lake Ontario at IB Nov. 12 (RS); 1 Pultneyville Nov. 19 (STa). Only one jaeger was reported this year, a **PARASITIC JAEGER:** H Oct. 30 (C&BP). Gulls were relatively scarce thru the season. Only three white-winged gulls were recorded. Glaucous Gull: 1 NM Oct. 16 (JT); and 1 H Nov. 12 (RS); Iceland Gull: 1 Sodus Bay Oct. 10 (M&TT). Little Gull was well reported as the Bonaparte's Gull numbers increased: 1 Charlotte Sept. 18 (RBA); 1 BB Oct. 21-22 (NH, WLi); 1-4 Lake Ontario from D to IB Nov. 13-26 (R&SS,mob); 1 H Nov. 20 (B&FD); and 1 BB Nov. 26 (ME,DT). On Nov. 12 there was an unprecedented movement of **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** 3 NM (AK); 16 H to BB Nov. 12 (STa, J&WLi); 1 Point Breeze Nov. 13 (BS); 1 Sodus Bay Nov. 13 (M&TT); and 6 East Lakeshore Nov. 19 (STa). From the timing of the records the total number of individuals is believed to be 17; all immatures. The terns of late Aug. lingered into Sept. with Forster's Tern: max 15 BB Sept. 2 (NH); and Com. Tern: max 80 BB Sept. 2 (NH,mob).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: There was little activity in this category. A few interesting owl records were received: Barred Owl: 1 Bristol Hills Oct. 1 (RBA); Long-eared Owl: 1 H

Nov. 6 (RO); 1 D Nov. 27 (RS); and Short-eared Owl 1 Greece Nov. 27 (JK). Most migrants were last recorded at early dates. Two records of interest were: Chimney Swift: 26 D Oct. 9 (WLI, MAS); and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at a feeder: 1 Irondequoit Oct. (NH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Again, most of the summer residents and fall migrants left early. Notable flycatcher records were: 1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 IC Sept. 5 (RS); and 1 Manitous Sept. 18 (RO); and Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Penfield Sept. 10 (MC); and 1 H Sept. 17 (CP,WLI,PR). An irruption of Black-capped Chickadees was noted, with flocks moving along the lakeshore; one daily observer estimated a minimum of 10,000 over the period Oct. 24-31. The peak counted was 763, BB Oct. 27 (JSk) in 45 minutes. Red-breasted Nuthatch, among other species, accompanied this surge: max 300 H Oct. 22 (RBA). Among the wrens, Carolina Wren reports picked up a bit: 1 Sodus Bay Sept. 3 (WLI); 1 Brighton Oct. 6 (MW); 1 IB Oct. 28 (RS); and 1 Webster Oct. 29 (A&EW); and a migrant Short-billed Marsh Wren singing: IC Oct. 10 (STa). The "thrush" group passed early with a few interesting notes: Mockingbird is still very low for the region compared with pre-Jan.; Gray Catbird: 1 D Nov. 19 (GOS); Am. Robin: 150 D Nov. 13 (GOS), presumably to winter as usual with the abundant crab apple supply; **VARIED THRUSH:** 1 fem D Nov. 21 thru (LN,mob), a first record for Monroe County, 2nd record for the region, observed well by over 50 birders to date, photo (KG). Searchers for the Varied Thrush turned up a variety of other birds in the park: a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 D Nov. 13 thru, periodically (GOS,mob); Cedar Waxwing: max 300 D Nov. 13 (GOS); and **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** first, 12 D Nov. 12 (RBA); max 18 D Nov. 13 (GOS); and assorted observations of 1-9 D Nov. 14 thru (mob). Other records include: N. Shrike: first, 2 BB Oct. 18 (NH); Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 35 IC Sept. 4 (NH); and late Water Pipit: 20 BB Nov. 6 (RO).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: This group, too, was recorded as passing early in unspectacular numbers with but a few interesting notes: Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Rochester Oct. 1 (RO); 1 Bristol Hills Oct. 1 (RBA); Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 D Nov. 22-27 (RC,CP,BS,mob), late; Pine Warbler: 1 D Sept. 18 (RO); 1 H Sept. 22 (CP); and 1 NM Oct. 16 (WLI,MAS); Prairie Warbler: 1 male IC Sept. 14 (SSm); and Connecticut Warbler: 1 imm Scottsville Sept. 21 (JSk); and 1 dead Rochester Sept. 23 (GL).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Blackbird numbers were low except for a good movement of Rusty Blackbird. Finch records include: lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Irondequoit Nov. 6 (NH); female **BLUE GROSBEAK:** well-described Lima Sept. 5 (J&AF), a regional first; the now usual pockets of House Finch. One of the major stories of the season was the invasion of winter finches, including good numbers of Evening Grosbeak; large flocks of Purple Finch: max 200 H Sept. 22 (CP); small flocks of Pine Grosbeak: 2-13 from Sodus Bay to D to H Oct. 28 thru (mob); Com. Redpoll: 1 H Oct. 5 (MC); and 1 H Oct. 23 (J&WLI); Pine Siskin: first, 2 H Sept. 22 (CP); max 500 H Oct. 18-22 (RBA,mob); Red Crossbill: 1 Gates Oct. 1, 3 H Oct. 29, and 1 D Nov. 27 (RS); and a large flock of White-winged Crossbill: 150-200 H Oct. 30, thru (RBA,GOS,mob), with smaller flocks scattered across the region by late Nov. Not to be totally outdone, the sparrows staged a few creditable appearances: as might be expected, Dark-eyed Junco joined the invasion: max 2250 H Oct. 22 (RBA). Chipping Sparrow lingered: 1 Pittsford Nov. 1 (AIS); 1 H Nov. 24 (CP); **HARRIS' SPARROW:** 1 imm Greece Oct. 17-19 (PR,mob(37)), photo; a good flight of White-throated Sparrow: max 1000 H Sept. 22 (CP); and 900 H Oct. (RBA); Fox Sparrow was well reported about the first of Nov.; and Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 BB Sept. 5 (RS); and 1 Greece Sept. 19 (RD). Lapland Longspur appeared very early; 1 Kendall Sept. 21 (CP,BS); and built to good numbers: max 50 Kendall Oct. 23 (B&FD); mixed with large flocks of Snow Buntings: max 1000 Kendall Oct. 29 (R&SS); and moderate-sized flocks of Horned Larks.

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