

what is being overlooked? The only report of the Philadelphia Vireo was one at Times Beach Oct. 4 (RA). Some accents from the warbler flight were: Tennessee Warbler, one, late, banded near Alfred Oct. 24 (EB); Orange-crowned Warbler, one on the RC; N. Parula, four, totaled from three areas; Chestnut-sided Warbler, absent on the RC for the first time in 13 years; Bay-breasted Warbler, one, late, at Tifft Farm Oct. 21 (Freelands); Blackpoll Warbler, one at Niagara F. Oct. 20 (Freelands); Palm Warbler, two on the RC (L-); N. Waterthrush, three banded at Farmersville Sta. in early Sept. (DC); Connecticut Warbler, one at 4-mi. Creek SP Sept. 16 (Freelands); Yellow-breasted Chat, one in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., Sept. 5 (KP)—rarely reported these days; and Hooded Warbler, one in Friendship Sept. 17 (BC).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Establishing a regional record was the report of an estimated 40,000 *each* of Red-winged Blackbirds and Com. Grackles at E. Amherst Oct. 22 (DF). On the RC the Rusty Blackbird tally was only 160 (lowest in 21 years) and but 19 others of the species were reported. A **DICKCISSEL** was identified at a feeder in Holland Nov. 30 (EsB), and an exceptionally early Evening Grosbeak male appeared in Jamestown Sept. 20 (Gagne *fide* RS). The House Finch continues to thrive; highest counts were 30 on the RC (H+) and 30 at Eggertsville Nov. 1-30 (AM, WM). Noteworthy as "L" on the RC were: Am. Goldfinch, 1044; Rufous-sided Towhee, 30; and Savannah Sparrow, eight (lowest in 20 years). While a two-week late Grasshopper Sparrow was spotted for the RC, the seven Tree Sparrows on the census were a day early. Few Fox Sparrows were noted: seven on the RC, and singles at Beaver Meadow Oct. 30 (EsB), in Orchard Park Nov. 3 (Saville), and in Wellsville Nov. 26 and 28 (EL). Also, not many Lincoln's Sparrows were found: four on the RC, two at Tifft Farm Sept. 23 (DF+), two at Limestone irregularly Sept. 30 to Oct. 15 (JV, RV), and one, banded late, at the latter location Oct. 27 (RV). A Swamp Sparrow was spotted at Beaver Is. SP Nov. 25 (Klabundes). The first Snow Buntings for the season arrived at Bemus Pt. Oct. 27 (Beal).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION TWO — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This fall's weather was generally warmer than average with approximately average rainfall, the latter statement clearly indicating the classic fallacy of reporting only averages; as over half this rainfall occurred in one day, Sept. 14, as part of the passage of the end of hurricane Frederick. September was slightly cooler than the long-term average with few movements of weather systems except for David and Frederick which each brought far higher expectations than observations to this region. October seesawed from the first signs of winter to a return to summer—highs 76 to 82° F. (24 to 27° C.), Oct. 19-23. There were several excellent birding dates, Oct. 2, 6, 9, and 27. The final month of the season clung to Indian Summer and early Fall day after day. Birders gathered on the lakeshore on weekends hearing tales of NW storms which would bring jaegers and kittiwakes. The longed-for weather failed to appear, but many good records resulted anyway. The month reached the 28th averaging 3.2° F. (1.8° C.) above normal before a cold snap set in. Snowfall was at a 25-year low, only 1.4 in. (3.6 cm).

In spite of the abnormally warm Fall, there were relatively few lingering passerines this year. Generally birding the woodlands was dismal. Many observers turned nearly full attention to Lake Ontario and the immediately adjacent land. For the persistent or lucky this paid off in interesting records. There were good loon and waterfowl flights, including some rarities; several shorebird surprises appeared; jaegers did pass, though not in numbers approaching those of our neighbors to the east; an alcid zippered by, probably a regular seasonal occurrence if the vigil were more constant; and a few passerine rarities were noted. Given a fairly good wild food crop, particularly notable for their absence by late Fall, were lingering thrushes, Yellow-rumped (or other) warblers, and winter finches in what should be a good finch year by historical cycles. How far do we run up the red flag for the missing volume of fall passerine migrants? Most were present in numbers for only a day or two, at best, during this season of leisurely retreat. Did they pass elsewhere or were they unobserved?

Positives for the season include: a good loon flight, especially Red-throated; good numbers of scaup, Buffleheads, and scoters; a large flock of Am. Golden Plovers with assorted hangers-on; and a great rebound for both kinglets, everywhere in numbers over an extended period. Negatives include: very few Canvasbacks or Redheads; few reports of Ring-necked Pheasants; poor habitat for most shorebirds; and only isolated or low count records of many passerine species.

Rarities: Gannet, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Harlequin Duck, Hudsonian Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, alcid sp., Western Kingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Kentucky Warbler, Dickcissel.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; D—Durand-Eastman Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, N.Y.; IBO—Irondequoit Bay outlet to Lake Ontario; PB—Point Breeze; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Helen & Ralph Dakin, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, Arleen & John Foster, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Paul Gillen, Kevin Griffith, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Doug Keim¹, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Allan & Sandy Klonick, James Lenhard¹, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Robert & Margaret McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durward & Lillian Skiff, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Alison Stewart, Harriet Stride, Allen, Brian, Dan, David, & Grace Strong¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum¹, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, Peter Zachmann, and Domenick Zero. (P.O.S. = 1).

LOONS—DUCKS: This Fall's loon flight was very good both for numbers and duration. Peak counts were: Com. Loon: 300 H Oct. 28; and 232 PB Nov. 7; and Red-throated Loon: 358 H Nov. 11 (AK, BS, mob), in 3½ hours, on a bright, mild day with light SW winds, typical of the higher counts of the past (AK). Grebes appeared in average numbers with only a scattering of Red-necked Grebe: max four Webster Oct. 20. Possibly a delayed result of hurricane David was GANNET: two Kendall Sept. 9 (R & SS), also a very early date. A few Double-crested Cormorants were seen thru the season with peak counts: 20 BB Oct. 19 (NH); 14 Charlotte Oct. 20; and 14 Sodus Bay Oct. 27, probably the same group drifting eastward. The heron family was most noticeable in its scarcity of records: Great Egret tar-

ried a bit: one BB Oct. 19-23; and Green Heron: one Pittsford Nov. 3, was late. Waterfowl provided many interesting records with particularly good numbers among the diving ducks: Whistling Swan: 38 PB Nov. 10, a good Fall count; and two BB Nov. 29 thru, late; Brant: max. 5000 Manitou Oct. 27 (WLi, MAS, BC, mob); Snow Goose: three imm. H Oct. 27-30; **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK**: two IBO Nov. 30 (RS), passing birds at close range, a Regional first; Mallard: 800 H Nov. 7; and 900 H Nov. 22; Black Duck: 400 H Nov. 27, a good number for recent years; Greater Scaup: 2000 Sodus Bay Oct. 27, in one quarter hour, headed west; and 4000 H Oct. 27, about one hour after the Sodus Bay count, still headed west; Bufflehead: max 1500 H Nov. 10 (AK, ST), good numbers were present over an extended period and that day over the whole Regional lakeshore, though this count is only at one point; **HARLEQUIN DUCK**: one fem. H Oct. 14 (CP, RC, BS, MD, KG), a record early date; and two, a female and an imm. male, H Oct. 27 thru (MD, mob); White-winged Scoter: max 1000+ WL Nov. 11; Surf Scoter: five BB Sept. 22, early; Black Scoter: max 200 H Oct. 30; and Ruddy Duck: 44 Greece Oct. 30; and 32 D Nov. 11, both good counts locally.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Raptor records of note were few, typical of Fall. Turkey Vulture: one BB Nov. 6, was late. Accipiters were dominated by Sharp-shinned Hawk reports with a very few Cooper's Hawks and Goshawks. A remnant of the Fall Red-tailed Hawk movement was: 210 Manitou Sept. 2. Rough-legged Hawk: one Kendall Sept. 15 (ST); and one Carlton Sept. 16 (GOS), both dark-phased, were probably the same very early bird. Two Bald Eagles were noted: one imm Greece Sept. 15 (NH); and one imm. Kendall Nov. 24 (POS). Among the falcons, only two Merlins were reported and three Peregrine Falcons: Webster Sept. 8 (WLi); PB Sept. 23 (WLi, CP); and H Oct. 4 (RC, BS). Marsh bird records suffered, as usual, from a lack of dedicated sloggers. Am. Coot: 100 Northrup Creek Nov. 10, was a good number, from the road. In spite of the very poor shorebird habitat during the early part of the season, there were many interesting reports: Am. Golden Plover: 450 H Sept. 29-30 (CP, BS, AK); max 512 H Oct. 1 (CP); and 350 H Oct. 21; Whimbrel: three PB Sept. 2 (MD, HM); Upland Sandpiper: one Kendall Sept. 15, late; Spotted Sandpiper: one H Oct. 19, late; Red Knot: one Charlotte Oct. 16, 29 (NH), the latter a record inland late date; Purple Sandpiper: one H Oct. 31 (BS); one Charlotte Nov. 3 (MD, mob); and one Summerville Nov. 10 (R & SH, NH, RL); Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Kendall Sept. 1 (RO, R & CC); two Kendall Sept. 3 (KG, mob); one Webster Sept. 16-18 (WLi, mob), the first on the east side in many years; and two H Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (BS, mob); and **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one Charlotte Sept. 30 (CP, RC); and six H Nov. 14 (BS), a reward for lakeshore vigil. Among the gulls and terns we have: **PARASITIC JAEGER**: two Greece Sept. 22 (WLi, ST); one Manitou Sept. 27 (NH, RL); one H Oct. 7 (CP, BS); one H Oct. 8 (KG, MD); one H Oct. 14 (CP, mob); and one H Nov. 4 (BS); **POMARINE JAEGER**: three ad. H Oct. 14 (CP, mob); one BB Nov. 4 (WLi); and one H Nov. 14 (BS); Glaucous Gull: one imm. Pultneyville Nov. 4, first of the season; Iceland Gull: one ad. Pultneyville Nov. 12, only one of the season; **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one imm. IBO Nov. 17 thru (JeD, AK, mob); Little Gull: one ad. Greece Sept. 22, first of the season; eight ad., one imm. IBO Nov. 25; and 10 ad. IBO Nov. 23, high counts; **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm. Greece Nov. 2 (KG); and Com. Tern: one Charlotte area Oct. 29-31, late. One unidentified alcid buzzed past Hamlin Beach Nov. 14. The size, flight, and general dark appearance suggested a murre. It is probable that individual alcids are regular, scarce visitors along the lakeshore.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A very late Black-billed Cuckoo was: Northampton Park Nov. 5 (FD), still calling, a record inland late date; Barred Owl was noted in the usual locale, H. H. Spencer Park above Honeoye Lake; Saw-whet Owl: one Greece Oct. 29; and one BB Nov. 5, is infrequently reported in the Fall; Whip-poor-will: one Sodus Bay Oct. 13 (WLi, RC), was very late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: The aftermath of Frederick left a **WESTERN KING-BIRD**: H Sept. 15 (MD, KG); another individual two weeks later was 15 miles west: at Carlton Sept. 29 (FD, R & JK). Swallows were represented by a typical peak, Tree Swallow: 3000 Greece Oct. 21; and a late E. Wood Pewee: IC Oct. 16. A roost yielded Com. Crow:

800+ Brighton Nov. Two observers briefly counted a flight of Black-capped Chickadee: 300 BB Oct. 22; and 400+ Manitou Oct. 22, in a half-hour period. A record late date inland was House Wren: one Greece Oct. 27 (R & SS). There were only three Carolina Wrens reported for the season. Among the thrushes were: Wood Thrush one D Oct. 20, late; and one Rochester Oct. 21, later; and Eastern Bluebird: 24 Groveland Sept. 29, a high count for recent years. The lone No. Shrike for the season was: one imm. Pultneyville Nov. 25. Again a single was **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: Brockport Nov. 14 (CP).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A Red-eyed Vireo: IC Oct. 20, was very late. A typical Fall passage of Orange-crowned Warbler was: one IC Sept. 23 (RM); one Greece Sept. 23 (WLI); one IC Sept. 24 (ST); and one Manitou Oct. 7 (RO, PW). Late or unusual records of other Fall warblers included: Tennessee Warbler: one Penfield Nov. 3 (POS); Yellow Warbler: one Livonia Sept. 23; Chestnut-sided Warbler: one IC Oct. 26 (NH), an inland record late date; Pine Warbler: one Webster Sept. 6; and one Livonia Oct. 3; Ovenbird: one Penfield Nov. 1 (POS), late, found dead; and one IC Nov. 10 (NH), very late; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one imm. IC Sept. 19 (NH), late; and Am. Redstart: one Manitou Oct. 27, late.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: A good-sized flock of Eastern Meadowlark was: 20 Greece Oct. 6. A late Indigo Bunting was: BB Oct. 3. Among a large flock of sparrows roaming west Webster was **DICKCISSEL**: one imm. Webster Nov. 1 thru (A & BK, R & SS, mob). An early Evening Grosbeak was: one BB Sept. 28. House Finch continues to spread with: two Greece Nov. 15 thru, a new location. Hope of an expected winter finch invasion was misplaced in Pine Grosbeak: seven Webster Oct. 20 (RS), early; one H Oct. 21 (GOS), early; five H Nov. 5; and two D Nov. 18; and Pine Siskin: ten WL Sept. 23 (R & MM), early migrants. Sparrows provided a few records of interest: Savannah Sparrow: one H thru Oct. 27, very late; Chipping Sparrow: one Brighton Nov. (J & JD), a feeder straggler; White-crowned Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 16 (MAS), very early; and Fox Sparrow: one Webster Sept. 22 (RS); and one Webster Sept. 23 (WLI), both very early. Snow Bunting appeared along the lakeshore at typical October dates, but 500 Carlton Oct. 27 (R & SS), was a very high count for so early. 716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The Fall season started out with a very warm week and closed with the temperature well above normal, rising to 65 degrees F. Mid-month September and October and early November were below normal but the average for the season was above. Precipitation was a bit over normal but included only one-half inch of snow.

The Elmira TV tower kill during September totaled over 200 birds of twenty-three species including three species of thrushes and thirteen of warblers. Of the eighty warblers killed, thirty were Blackpolls.

Seasonal pluses: 1. an unbelievable 500 Double-crested Cormorants seen migrating over Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; 2. increased reports of Brant; 3. an estimated 100,000 ducks resting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge at the peak of migration; 4. an abundance of gulls; 5. a good movement of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; 6. an upswing in Winter Wrens after low numbers; 7. some increase in kinglets; 8. continued build-up of House Finches; 9. an enormous