

Grackle. Identifiable subspecies noted in the regional reports were: "Oregon" Junco in Regions 2, 3 and 4; and "Ipswich" Sparrow and "Gambel's" Sparrow in Region 10.

Leaping out from among all these records as BOTS is Region 7's Rufous Hummingbird, a state first, present from September 3 through 13.

For the scorekeepers, at least 312 species were recorded across the state during this fall season.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"To bird or not to bird?" – now that's the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to sit and watch a feeder, refuse to burn expensive gas and by opposing, end one part of runaway inflation, or to go in spite of that and search the roadside haunts. Of course, some already know the joys of birding on foot with the added bonus of better health. In view of the abundance of wild foods, perhaps the low numbers and many omissions in reports are more a reflection of limited driving than of actual status of birds. However, some flights, as noted below, were definitely poor while others were splendid.

The drought of summer continued through fall with precipitation an inch (2.5 cm.) below normal. Although September was unusually warm, 29° F. (1.6° C.) above normal, October and November were very cold with temperatures of each 2.7° F. (1.5° C.) below average. For these last two months, the jet stream was far south of its normal path, pulling arctic cold into our region. Particularly in the Southern Tier, woods and fields were so quiet, it was as though a giant hand had come through in late October, sweeping bird life before it.

Fall positives include 1) good numbers of the Great Blue Heron, 2) Turkey Vultures and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks doing O.K., 3) grouse, and Turkeys thriving, 4) widespread reports of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to October 6, 5) excellent numbers of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Hairy Woodpecker, 6) strong flights of the Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7) a few more Winter and Carolina Wrens, 8) many robins and Eastern Bluebirds, 9) a superb kinglet recovery and hordes of Cedar Waxwings, 10) a splendid Rusty Blackbird flight, 11) regular appearance of small Cardinal numbers, 12) continued large Purple Finch population in the Southern Tier to November 13, House Finches about to "inherit the Earth"

(Jones), here and there a "winter" finch, and many American Goldfinches, and 13) a fair White-crowned Sparrow flight with a fine one for the White-throats.

Negatives for the fall include 1) a dismal loon flight, 2) no Red-necked Grebes or Double-crested Cormorants, 3) fewer migrating geese over the Southern Tier, 4) a poor duck flight, 5) scarcity of Red-shouldered Hawks and lower numbers of the American Kestrels, 6) Ring-necked Pheasants still in bad shape, 7) a light but interesting shorebird flight, 8) few Screech and no Long-eared or Short-eared Owls, 9) a drop in Red-headed Woodpecker numbers and the Downy population down by half near Fredonia (Jones), 10) the continued sad plight of Horned Larks, 11) little improvement in titmouse numbers and no Long-billed or Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 12) very few thrush reports other than robins and bluebirds, and almost no shrikes, 13) a spotty warbler flight, 14) the status of Eastern Meadowlarks no better, 15) Purple Finches nearly absent on the lake plains, and 16) no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows, and few Vesper or Tree Sparrows.

Rarities include Snowy Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Yellow Rail, Red Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Prairie Warbler, and from *Addenda* Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole and Summer Tanager.

Abbreviations: ACC—Allegany County Bird Census, Oct. 12, compiled by D. Burton; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; EEC—Environmental Education Center; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res.—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; SPA—State Power Authority.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Sharon Baumgardner, Elizabeth Brooks (EB), Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville), Stephen Eaton, Helen Graves, Matthew Hotchkiss, Doris Hurlburt (DHu), Norman Ives, Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Erma Larson, Dan Nicholson, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Ann Scott (AnS), Lillian Simons; and observers: Harold Axtell, Esther Becker (EBc), Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Dorothy Danner, Marcy Foster, Dolly Hawkins (DH), Mary Jordan (MJ), Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), John Morse, Arthur Schaffner (AS), and Joseph Thill.

LOONS—DUCKS: Although the Com. Loon that spent the summer in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., stayed on through Sept. 19 (KP), the fall flight for the species was nearly missing with only reports being one near Alfred Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 (EB) and two at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 and 23 (RA+). The Red-throated Loon was even scarcer with no reports. Noteworthy news of long-legged waders includes: Great Egret, max 10 at Iroquois NWR Sept. 1 and 7 (AM, WM) and one at the Allegheny Res. Sept. 22 (SE); SNOWY EGRET, one at Buffalo Harbor through Sept. 5 (RA, MF), the same bird as seen here in August; Black-crowned Night Heron, three at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 (AS, ARC), the only report; and Am. Bittern, none. The Regional max of the Canada Goose flight was only 4,000 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30 (SB), while a single Snow Goose (white morph) was noted here Oct. 26 (RA+). On the ACC, ducks of interest include: Mallard, 364; Black Duck, four; White-winged Scoter, two; and Com. Merganser, 21. Maxima of the fall duck migration, unless otherwise indicated, and other than the ACC, were: Mallard, 37 in Hume Twp. Oct. 4; Black Duck, one in Hume Twp. Sept. 13 and two in Birdsall Twp. Sept. 28 (only reports); Pintail, one at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Green-winged Teal, singles at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 and at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Blue-winged Teal, 30 in Hume Twp. Sept. 30; Am. Wigeon,

100 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; No. Shoveler, one at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Wood Duck, 21 in Hume Twp. Sept. 1; Redhead, 35 at Mayville Oct. 26; Ring-necked Duck, one on Amity L. Oct. 22; Canvasback, 27 at Mayville Oct. 26 and nine more of this Blue Listed species at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30; Greater Scaup, 125 at Mayville Oct. 26; Com. Goldeneye, one near Alfred Nov. 6; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, one at Niagara Falls Nov. 16-29 (RA, AS, HA), possibly the same bird as was here last year; Bufflehead, 200 at Mayville Oct. 26; King Eider, one at Buffalo Harbor Nov. 15 (RA, MF); White-winged Scoter, one at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 26 (DC), the day after a bad storm and first here since 1965; Surf Scoter, one at Amity L. Oct. 15 and three at Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 3, only reports; Ruddy Duck, 130 at the SPA Res. near Lewiston Oct. 19 (HK, WK); Hooded Merganser, five, and Red-breasted Merganser, four, at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Both the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk were well reported, with singles of Sharpies from 11 locations and of Cooper's from 12. However, most observations were resident birds from Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties. Red-shouldered Hawks were scarce, with a total of but four, from Alfred and Farmersville Sta., and the prognosis for a Rough-legged year is poor so far, with singles at Stockton Nov. 1 (FR) and Lewiston Nov. 22 (RA+) the only reports. Other raptor notes include: **BALD EAGLE**, one (subadult-tagged) at Iroquois NWR Sept. 7 (AM, WM); Marsh Hawk, seven on the ACC, plus four singles from scattered locations; Osprey, three on the ACC, singles late in Amity Twp. Oct. 30 (DB, LB), and at Olean Nov. 2 (FM *vide* SE), as well as nine other birds, total, in eight areas; and Am. Kestrel, 22 on the ACC but few other reports. The only Ring-necked Pheasants called to our attention were all from Allegany Co. where they are seldom seen: two on the ACC, two in Hume Twp. and singles at Belfast and in Alma Twp. A **YELLOW RAIL** was identified at Tonawanda WMA Oct. 24 (JM), two Com. Gallinules were seen in Hume Twp. Sept. 13 (KP) and a fine concentration of 800 Am. Coots was estimated at Mayville Oct. 26 (FR). Though poor, the shorebird flight did have a few high spots: Am. Golden Plover, 35 at Clarence Sept. 28 (AM, WM); Ruddy Turnstone, 12—an excellent number—at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 15 (AS, ARC); Purple Sandpiper, four at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 (HK, WK); Pectoral Sandpiper, up to five in Hume Twp. Sept. 13-30 (KP) and two at Iroquois NWR Oct. 26 (Christensen); Dunlin, ten, total, from four Buffalo-Niagara R. areas; and **RED PHALAROPE**, one, over two weeks early, at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 30 (RA, AS+). Notable larid reports include: Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoideus kumlienii*), one of each at Niagara Falls Nov. 16 (FR, AS+) and another of the latter over the Niagara R. south of Lewiston Nov. 23 (HK, WK). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, one over the Niagara R. at the SPA lookout near Lewiston Nov. 10 and 30 (HA); Franklin's Gull, one at Buffalo Harbor Sept. 1 and 28 (RA+); Bonaparte's Gull, max 20,000 over the Niagara R. Nov. 30 (HA); Little Gull, seven birds, total, from Buffalo-Niagara R. areas; Forster's Tern, max ten at LaSalle Pk., Buffalo, Sept. 1 and 27 and Oct. 19 and 21 (RA+) and two at Bird Island Sept. 15 (AS, ARC); Com. Tern, 600 at Niagara Falls Oct. 12 (AS); Caspian Tern, one at Tifft Farm NP Sept. 14 (RA+); and Black Tern, none.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The only cuckoo report was a single Black-billed banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 18 and seen again Sept. 28 (DC). Requests for information on Screech Owls brought only two responses: one bird at Stannards Sept. 10 (HG *vide* EL) and four in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area early in the quarter (MVJ); two of these little owls were tallied on the ACC. No flight of the Com. Nighthawk was evident but four areas reported a total of six of the species. While Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce, with one on the ACC and six totaled from four locations, reports of Hairy Woodpeckers were good with 14 counted from eight spots in addition to 22 on the ACC.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Several locations reported one to two E. Phoebe's until one departed from Farmersville Sta. Nov. 5 (DC), the last day, and two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were spotted in Birdsall Twp. Sept. 28 (Clancy). An Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared at Amity L. Sept. 8 (VP) but the one banded at Fredonia Oct. 24 (MVJ) was nearly

six weeks late! 15 Horned Larks (subspecies?) were counted on the ACC and two were found in Hume Oct. 20 (KP). A **COMMON RAVEN** was watched at Petrolia, Allegany Co., Sept. 22 and 24 (DH) and another was near Allegany, Cattaraugus Co., Nov. 3 (SE); since 1976 three other sightings have occurred within a two mile radius of the latter location, about a mile north of the Pennsylvania line (SE). The only reports of the Tufted Titmouse were two on the ACC plus seven others, total, all from four locations outside Allegany Co. Five areas boasted single Winter Wrens and the Carolina Wren is doing better too, with a total of ten birds counted from seven widespread areas. Single Mockingbirds were seen at Belmont Oct. 17 and Nov. 3 (DB, LB), in Porter Nov. 16 (AS) and at Eggertsville Nov. 19 (AM, WM). Several observers mentioned nearly "missing" the thrush flight. A few highlights, however, include: Am. Robin, max 200 at Forest Lawn Oct. 5 (JT+), near Alfred Oct. 29 (EB) and in the Town of Charlotte Nov. 11 (JT+); **VARIED THRUSH**, one, well observed, scratching among leaves on the concrete slab below the Eaton's feeder, 10-Mile Rd., Carrollton Twp., Cattaraugus Co., Nov. 6 (SE); and E. Bluebird, 70 on the ACC, max 32 at Amity L. Oct. 6 (VP) and reports from 11 other areas totaling 41 birds. The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher noted was one at Belmont Sept. 2 (DB, LB). Both the Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were widely reported; a regional record 150 Golden-crowned were estimated at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, Oct. 5 (JT+), and two Ruby-crowned arrived early near Alfred Sept. 5 (CK). Although several areas noted flocks of 100 or more Cedar Waxwings, Wales beat them all with 300 on Oct. 30 (Rosche). The only shrike found was a Northern at Farmersville Sta. Nov. 26 (DC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Elma Sept. 8 (DD), a Red-eyed Vireo, last for the season, was banded at Fredonia Oct. 26 (MVJ), and the only Philadelphia Vireo for the fall was banded at Alfred Sta. Sept. 9 (EB). High notes of the warbler flight include: Tennessee Warbler, 31 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept. and Oct. (EB) plus five areas reporting one to three birds; Orange-crowned Warbler, one banded near Alfred Sta. Oct. 7 (EB) and another seen at Jamestown Oct. 21 (Beal); Nashville Warbler, good numbers with one banded at Alfred Sta. Nov. 5 (EB) over two weeks late; No. Parula, one at Bond's L. Oct. 5 (HK, WK); Cape May Warbler, 14, total, from three areas; Yellow-rumped Warbler, almost none at Farmersville Sta. (DC) or Fredonia (MVJ), but 88 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept. and Oct. (EB), exemplifying the spottiness of the migration. Cerulean Warbler, none; Bay-breasted Warbler, "dozens" routinely in Fredonia thru early Oct. (MVJ), but only one to three noted from each of four other locations; Blackpoll Warbler, one near Alfred Sept. 7 (CK) and four banded at Alfred Sta. in Sept. (EB)—only reports; **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one, late, still on nesting grounds in Amity Twp. Sept. 2 (VP); Palm Warbler, one banded at Farmersville Sta. Sept. 27 (DC), five banded at Alfred Sta. Oct. 5-7 (EB) and one near Alfred irregularly Oct. 9-15 (CK); No. Waterthrush, three banded at Farmersville Sta. in Sept. (DC), one at Lewiston Oct. 13 (HK, WK), and one nearly three weeks late at Darien Center Nov. 6 (Harper); Connecticut Warbler, one at Cuba Sept. 25 (SB); Yellow-breasted Chat, none; and Wilson's Warbler, six noted, total, from five areas.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: An estimated 3,300 Red-winged Blackbirds passed over Amity L. Oct. 29 (VP) and highest counts of the strong Rusty Blackbird flight were 100 at Beaver Meadow EEC Oct. 18 (Becker) and 125 at Iroquois NWR Oct. 30 (SB). Flocks of 500 Com. Grackles were seen at Alfred Oct. 7 (CK) and at Elma Oct. 31 (Forsberg). Two Evening Grosbeaks arrived for the ACC with flocks of up to 50 soon regular at feeders; banded during Nov. were 51 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 23 at Alfred Sta. (EB). The House Finch continues to prosper, taking advantage of feeders, but moving out of the hills with onset of harsher weather; 138 appeared on the ACC, Regional max was 30 at Eggertsville during Nov. (AM, WM) and over 100 were banded at Fredonia during this quarter (MVJ). A Pine Grosbeak was seen in the Town of Porter Nov. 16 (RA+), and four to 27 Com. Redpolls came to Orchard Park Nov. 3-18 (Saville). 22 Pine Siskins in Wellsville Oct. 9 (VP) were first for the season while of very few other reports, max was 30 in the Town of Newfane Nov. 28 (Rosche+). Am. Goldfinches were around in good numbers with bandings during the period:

35 at Farmersville Sta. (DC), 111 at Alfred Sta. (EB) and nearly 200 at Fredonia, with some 92% of the last, hatch-year birds (MVJ). Noteworthy sparrows include: Vesper Sparrow, one on the ACC, six in Angelica Sept. 18 and two at Friendship Oct. 9—only reports; an albinistic Dark-eyed Junco at Amity L. Oct. 10-16 (VP); Tree Sparrow: two, early, on the ACC; Fox Sparrow, singles at Farmersville Sta. Oct. 21 and Nov. 26-29 (DC) and at Wales Oct. 27 (Rosche); Lincoln's Sparrow: one irregularly at Amity L. Sept. 14-Oct. 17 (VP), and singles banded at Alfred Sta. Oct. 5 (EB) and at Fredonia Sept. 19 and Oct. 4 (MVJ). Two Lapland Longspurs visited the yard of the Air Preheater plant in Wellsville Nov. 11 and were well described by two observers (NI, DN). Highest Regional count of Snow Buntings was 100± near Arcade Nov. 12 (DC).

Addenda for spring 1980: On the Regional Bird Census, May 18, directed by BOS, of special interest are: 43 Com. Loons (second highest ever), an Orange-crowned Warbler, ten Cerulean Warblers, six **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** (highest ever), one **KENTUCKY WARBLER** (by SE), three Yellow-breasted Chats, 124 House Finches (highest ever), six Grasshopper Sparrows, seven Henslow's Sparrows and six Lincoln's Sparrows. A year-old male **SUMMER TANAGER** was banded and released at Fredonia May 10 (MVJ)—notably rare here.

Addendum for summer 1980: A nest of the **ORCHARD ORIOLE** was discovered in East Aurora June 17 and fledged at least one yg., and during the same month two nests of the **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** were found at the Iroquois NWR (JT).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Following a beautiful late summer, lingering through its calendar end, fall provided a continuous seesaw, warm to cool, sunny to showers, averaging below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. September temperatures averaged 1.4° F. (0.8° C) above normal with rainfall at 3.57" (9.1 cm), 1.24" (3.1 cm) above normal. October demonstrated our usual averaging problem with temperatures averaging 3.5° F. (2.0° C) below normal and rainfall at 3.73" (9.5 cm), 1.11" (2.8 cm) above normal. Looking in more detail we find that most days were sunny and dry, there were no days below freezing before the 24th and only two after, and officially 2.94" (7.4 cm) (much more unofficially in local areas) of the rain fell in one 24-hour period on Oct. 24-25. November continued cool at 1.7° F. (0.9° C) below normal with precipitation a bit below normal at 2.52" (6.4 cm). The first snowfall of any consequence occurred Nov. 18 at 4-6" (10-15 cm) depending on locale. The first general freeze of larger ponds was noted on the 23rd, culminating a ten day period with nights below freezing.

The bird finding pace slowed a little in September with a jaeger reported as the only new species for the Region for the year. There were many days, following frontal passages, when even casual observers could not fail to note the migrants flitting through the trees in the early mornings. Variety reported was good. However, few exceptional counts of passerine migrants were recorded.