

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.

After the first of October, the wild year was back to "normal," with many interesting records. A concentrated lake watch at Hamlin Beach State Park produced jaeger records on virtually all days when weather conditions seemed favorable. This effort also revealed a near absence of Canada Goose and Brant, the early appearance of large numbers of Pine Siskin and Snow Bunting, a visit by a Gannet, and, most interestingly, the continued presence of a Common Raven, first sighted in late August and seen sporadically near the western edge of the park through mid-November. The limited patience of a few, who wandered into the pine woods area of the park, led to good records of several passerine migrants and to the discovery of the first three-toed woodpecker verified in the Region in 14 years. November brought an increase in the winter finches with all species reported except Hoary Redpoll. All the other "rare-but-regular" visitors expected in late fall were also recorded. Reports of the various rarities sent birders scurrying back and forth across the lakeshore providing excellent coverage. While one may dispute the motives or utility of listing, there seems to be nothing quite like a good sighting or two to provide a given locale with intensive coverage over at least a brief time span. If this locale is fortuitously located far from the homes of most birders, the areas between receive a good portion of incidental coverage as the birders travel to and fro.

It is interesting to speculate on the causal relationships leading to the occurrence of groups of unusual sightings on the same or very close dates, particularly as in this October. Obvious relationships are often not apparent.

Among the potential indicators of long-term trends this season were: a very low loon flight, few herons, very few Canada Geese, Snow Geese, or Brant, ducks fair to good with puddle ducks mostly moving on early and divers good except for Redhead and Canvasback, White-winged Scoter very abundant again, shorebird habitat along the lakeshore again very poor due to high water levels until late September when the level dropped rapidly after most shorebirds had long since passed, gull numbers generally lower than during the past few fall seasons, the long stay of a raven, still low Winter Wren counts, Carolina Wren spreading out again, few Mockingbirds, good thrush counts, including E. Bluebird south of Rochester, both kinglets back to normal or above, low numbers reported for virtually all vireos and warblers, the presence of a Boat-tailed Grackle, winter finches on an odd year—a three year gap this time instead of the usual two years (John M. C. Peterson suggested looking up recent literature correlating these invasions with the sunspot cycle, which would make a periodic three year gap "expected"), and large numbers of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Snow Buntings.

Rarities: Eared Grebe, Gannet, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing, Kentucky Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park, D—Durand-Eastman Park, H—Hamlin Beach State Park, IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet, IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, OB—Oklahoma Beach, Webster, and WL—west lakeshore.

Observers: Shirley Bidleman, Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Frederick Davis, Gertrude Davis,

Richard DeCoster, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Harold Griffin, Kevin Griffith, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Dick Mather, Mike McKeon, Roger McKeon, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Gordon Meade, Ann Miranian, Pat & Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, Robert Pickering, P.O.S. (James Lenhard, Doug Keim, Allan, Brian, Dan, David & Grace Strong), Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Dominic Sherony, D. Silver, Sharon & Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Earl Wallace, Ann Watson, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, Alice Wood, and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS-DUCKS: Loons were generally quite low this fall. A good count was Red-throated Loon: 256 max Webster Park Nov. 29, with many other observers only about 5 miles west recording no movement. Several possible Arctic Loons were reported, all lacking completely convincing details. The regular grebes were all present in modest numbers. Interesting were: **EARED GREBE:** one Buck Pond Nov. 1 (WL, MAS, mob); and **Pied-billed Grebe:** 24 max Mendon Ponds Oct. 22, many for recent years. **GANNET:** one imm. H Oct. 6-7 (NB, CC, JB, AC, mob), was exciting; but a second, differently marked imm. BB Oct. 12 (AK) was incredible. Double-crested Cormorants were present in small numbers through the period, but 22 H Oct. 15, was an exceptional count. Among the herons, Great Blue dropped to very low numbers early; Great Egret: one Round Pond Oct. 15, was late; **SNOWY EGRET:** one BB Oct. 13 (KG), was unusual anytime; and Am. Bittern: one H Nov. 6, was late. A **GLOSSY IBIS:** Buck Pond-BB Oct. 11-21 (GOS, mob), was very late. Waterfowl were generally unexciting. All regularly occurring species were represented, mostly in normal to slightly low numbers. Most moved through relatively quickly. Whistling Swan appeared in Nov. with 21 Sodus Bay Nov. 29 the max. Canada Goose was very scarce. Brant was virtually absent: max 75 Wayne Co. Oct. 16. The most interesting records among the ducks were: No. Shoveler: one Sodus Bay Nov. 29, late; Greater Scaup: max 4,000 WL Nov. 16; Oldsquaw: max 2,000+ OB Nov. 2, 27; King Eider: one imm. Webster Park Oct. 18 (AK); one imm male H Nov. 1 (ST, mob); and one female Webster Park Nov. 16 (AK); Harlequin Duck: one female OB Nov. 27-28 (MD, mob); and one imm. male OB Nov. 29 thru; White-winged Scoter: max 5,000+ East Lakeshore Nov. 23; Black Scoter: two Sept. 28, early; and Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000+ Lake Ontario off Greece Nov. 2, a typical peak for migration.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The fall raptor flight provided a number of interesting records. Among them: Turkey Vulture: 51 Scottsville Oct. 17 (FDo), a very large number; Goshawk: one imm. Webster Oct. 17; one imm. Webster Oct. 24; and one imm. D Nov.; Sharp-shinned Hawk/Cooper's Hawk about 4/1; Broad-winged Hawk: one ad. Fairport Oct. 26 (DSH), late; Rough-legged Hawk: max 35+ (1 hr.) H Nov. 9; and 26 H Nov. 28-29, all in one field with no other buteos found in eight hrs. of birding on the former date; **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one H Oct. 14 (KD, mob); Bald Eagle: one juv. Webster Oct. 24 (JCz); and one subadult Webster Oct. 27 (JCz); Peregrine Falcon: one H Sept. 6 (TT); one imm. BB Oct. 6 (ST); one male BB-Buck Pond Oct. 11-12 (AK, ST); one female H Nov. 9 (MD, WS); and one Kendall Nov. 16 (RO); and eight Merlins scattered through the season. The marsh types received their usual lack of attention. Interesting were: Com. Gallinule: three Parma Nov. 14, late; and Am. Coot: max 600 Sodus Bay Nov. 2. Shorebird habitat was very poor until long after most species were long gone. While resulting numbers were low, variety was quite good with all expected species reported. Among the noteworthy records are: Black-bellied Plover: two BB thru Nov. 25, late; Ruddy Turnstone: one Greece Nov. 4, late; Red Knot: about seven individuals in total, Charlotte-BB Sept. 23-Oct. 9; Purple Sandpiper: one Pt. Breeze Nov. 3 (WLi); and one BB Nov. 18 (NH); Long-billed Dowitcher: one Northrup Creek Oct. 18-23 (MD, RS, mob); Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one to eight H Sept. 1-8 (mob); and one Webster Sept. 14 (RS, mob); **RUFF:** one H Oct. 22 (NH); Red Phalarope: one IBO Nov. 12 (RS,

mob); and one BB Nov. 14 (NH, RL); and No. Phalarope: nine Greece Oct. 27 (KG); and one OB Nov. 22-23 (WLi, mob). Jaeger numbers were probably typical of fall on central Lake Ontario. Any day with favorable winds produced at least a few birds. The totals recorded are: Parasitic Jaeger: 19; Pomarine Jaeger: 7; and jaeger sp.: 7, with dates ranging Sept. 26-Nov. 11 and peak locations being Hamlin Beach State Park and Sodus Bay. Pomarine records were mainly in Nov. Gull numbers never approached the peak counts of last year. Once again, variety was good. White-winged gulls were nearly absent, represented only by Glaucous Gull: one 2nd yr. Pultneyville Nov. 1. Other good records were: **LAUGHING GULL**: one imm BB Oct. 4 (ST); Franklin's Gull: one imm Greece Oct. 1-15 (mob); Little Gull: max 25 IBO-D Nov. 22; **SABINE'S GULL**: *two ad.* Sodus Bay Nov. 30 (M & TT); and **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one imm Greece Oct. 15 (KG, RP); one ad. Greece Oct. 20 (RS); one imm D Nov. 11 (MD, KG); and one imm D Nov. 15 (ST, AK). The fall terns were low. Com. Tern: max 35 BB Sept. 6, was the peak; and two very late birds were: Com. Tern: one BB Nov. 10-11 (mob); and Forster's Tern: one BB Nov. 10-15 (mob).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: As usual, this grouping provided little excitement. A Black-billed Cuckoo: Penfield Oct. 31, was late. A small Snowy Owl invasion was noted with at least four individuals seen along the West Lakeshore Nov. 15-28. A Short-eared Owl: Hogan Pt. Oct. 18, was early; two other singles appeared in Nov. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: D Nov. 15, was late, but in an area where they have wintered before. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one female H Oct. 11-12 (SH, mob), was the first local record since the major invasion after the Am. Elm die-off. Evidence of its feeding on trees scattered through a densely wooded area of the park indicated that its stay may have been much longer than these two days.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: The fall flycatcher passage provided no surprises. Expected species were observed with departure dates average to a bit early. Late were E. Phoebe: two IC Nov. 2. Swallows provided two late dates: Tree Swallow: one Northrup Creek Nov. 13; and one Buck Pond Nov. 1. A most curious event this season was the continued presence of a **COMMON RAVEN** in Hamlin Beach S.P. The bird first appeared in Aug. and was seen or heard off and on thru mid-Nov. This bird was very secretive, usually keeping to a wooded area on a lake bluff near the west edge of the park. When in the open, it was mobbed by everything, especially crows. A second Common Raven was also seen at Greece Oct. 12 (WLi). Black-capped Chickadees staged a large, late flight: peak 25/min. WL Nov. 6 (NH, WLi), continuing thru Nov. 9. Wrens were typical except that Winter Wren continued low. Carolina Wren has repopulated several locations where they were extirpated by the three hard winters thru 1978-79. Gray Catbird starts the winter with four Nov. birds scattered across the Rochester area. Less common that late was Brown Thrasher: one Gates Nov. 2-24. An early Oct. thrush movement was noted in single location counts of Hermit Thrush: 40 H Oct. 4; and Swainson's Thrush: 25 IC Oct. 5. A late Swainson's Thrush was at Greece Nov. 2. A good indication of nesting success was E. Bluebird: 25 Avon Oct. 18 (AC). Both kinglets were noted in excellent numbers. A good peak count was Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 200 WL Oct. 29 (NH). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: joined the winter arrivals with: two H Nov. 21 (WLi); and one Hilton Nov. 23 (MD, mob). The first No. Shrike was one at Northrup Creek Nov. 2, with several more scattered reports thru the area during the rest of Nov.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: This grouping showed good variety, but no exceptional counts. Most species had vanished by mid-Oct., but the first of Nov. brought a rash of late individuals. Some of the most interesting late records are: Philadelphia Vireo: one H Nov. 2 (DSH, RS); Warbling Vireo: one BB Oct. 4; Tennessee Warbler: one Conesus Lake Nov. 17 (CC, NB, EW); Orange-crowned Warbler: five reports of one to two birds, typical, in early Oct.; and one H Nov. 1; Nashville Warbler: one D Nov. 8 (R & SS); Magnolia Warbler: one IC Nov. 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler: one IC Oct. 14; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one BB Sept. 10 (CC); and one imm male BB Sept. 21 (JSk, KD); Connecticut Warbler: one Leroy Sept. 3 (CC);

Hooded Warbler: one male IC Nov. 1 (NH, mob); and Am. Redstart: one imm. Brighton Nov. 23, 26 (AWo).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: 60 BB Sept. 30 (FDo), was an impressive late count. The bird of the season was **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus major torreyi*): one male Greece Nov. 26 thru (MD, RS—photos, DSI, mob), a first Regional and upstate record. Details will be published in *The Kingbird*. The rest of the blackbird passage was not particularly noteworthy for dates or numbers except for Com. Grackle: 10,000+ Webster Oct. 11 (WLI, MAS). Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were: one female D Nov. 9; and one imm male Webster Nov. 13. The winter finches were all reported in at least small numbers. The single Hoary Redpoll report was not adequately documented. Among the more interesting records were: Pine Grosbeak: three D Nov. 8, first report; Com. Redpoll: 70 Webster Nov. 3 (CC, mob), early; Pine Siskin: 300+ WL Oct. 11, much larger counts could have been obtained with dedication; Red Crossbill: two to six D Nov. 15 thru; and White-winged Crossbill: 13 IC Nov. 29, first. Scattered late Rufous-sided Towhees were reported thru Nov. A **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO**: OB Nov. 27 (CC, NM, FDa), was well described. Sparrows were typical in both dates and numbers except for unusually large flocks of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, unfortunately not enumerated by any of the reporters. A very early Lapland Longspur was: one Webster Sept. 13 (WLI), one of very few for the season. Snow Bunting appeared in good numbers early: 200 H Oct. 19; and 500 Greece Nov. 7 (NH).

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Summer weather, warm and dry, extended well into September. October turned cold, below normal, with the first hard freeze October 10th. Rainfall was normal but most of it came late in the month. November was cool and dry with even less sunshine than the small amount which is normal. November 17th and 18th brought five to ten inches of snow.

This quarter's report is being compiled without the benefit of the usual fine report from the Elmira area.

There were very few comments on "waves" of migrants. Hilfiker did mention a good movement of vireos and warblers along the east side of Seneca Lake September 4th. The Cornell Ornithology Class found a movement of hawks on their trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on October 7th. Confer noted many White-throated Sparrows moving through the Ithaca area September 30th to October 5th.

The berry and seed crop was good, but cones were scarce.

Seasonal positives: 1) the highest number of white herons, though still very low, in a number of years, 2) a raft of 9,000 Redheads and 700 Canvasbacks on Cayuga Lake, 3) hawk numbers are inching slowly upward for most of the crash species; fair fall incursion of Rough-legs, 4) with some lowering of water levels at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge late in the migratory season, there was