

Orchard Oriole, and Dickcissel; Region 9—Black Vulture, Long-billed Dowitcher, California Gull, and Wheatear; and Region 10—Black Vulture and Black-necked Stilt, both new to Staten Island; Brewer's Blackbird, and "Audubon's" Warbler.

The BOTS award was relatively easy to select this season, Say's Phoebe, a regional first in Region 5, found 7 Nov and lingering through the season.

The total species count this fall was 309, virtually the same as the 312 total last year.

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REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"When God sorts out the weather and sends rain,
Why rain's my choice." —James Whitcomb Riley

With little relief from the drought that began in May 1980 and persisted through this past summer, the generally wet fall was, indeed, our choice. Precipitation for September and October averaged 2.2 inches (5.6 cm.) above normal, with flooding in the Southern Tier 28 October. However, November returned to the old pattern with rainfall below normal by .7 inches (1.8 cm.). The fall was colder than usual by 1.1° F. (.6° C.) with small lakes iced in by mid-November, but Lake Erie still open at the end of the month. (Weather data: Wellsville Water and Light and WIVB-TV, Buffalo).

The disadvantage of many damp days combined with "no noticeable waves of migrants" hampered banding at Farmersville Station. Here, also, the scarcity of waterfowl and absence of the usual large red-wing and warbler flocks, along with the near desertion of feeders, made this Don Clark's "worst fall for birds ever experienced" and caused concern over pesticides and habitat destruction. The low feeder attendance, worrying many observers, may be partially due to an excellent wild food crop and the near absence of snow, which was a foot below normal by the end of the period. Abundant foods were sugar maple, birch, striped maple and hornbeam seed, and fruits of the gray-barked dogwood. Hemlock seed was in fair supply while red oak acorns and beechnuts were spotty (S. Eaton). At last, after some time, there's cause for celebration for birders, even if not for the birds in search of food so far south, as reports dribble in of a Snowy Owl or two, and good flocks of winter finches.

Positives for the fall include 1) a slightly improved loon flight, 2) excellent Great Blue Heron numbers, 3) a good Whistling Swan movement during November, 4) a fine representation of ducks with a record number of Canvasbacks,

5) good "sharpie" and Cooper's Hawk flights and great numbers of Rough-legs with fair reports of the Marsh Hawk, Osprey and American Kestrel, 6) grouse and turkey populations comfortably above average; a few more scattered pheasants and news of a fall breeding experiment for these birds by the Andover Rod and Gun Club, 7) an interesting shorebird flight and an exciting larid season, 8) good numbers of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 9) a multitude of Tufted Titmice and Red-breasted Nuthatches, 10) a better Winter Wren tally, 11) flocks of up to 150 American Robins all thru October, and Eastern Bluebirds and both kinglets still doing well, 12) a fair migration of Northern Shrikes, 13) a very slight improvement in Eastern Meadowlark numbers, 14) many Purple and House Finches, and a record-breaking goldfinch nesting, 15) a good flight of Dark-eyed Juncos, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows, and 16) an *addendum* to pique the curiosity: think of all the other rich and luscious goodies hidden in the undisclosed past!

Fall negatives include 1) no Red-necked Grebes, 2) the usual bitter bittern news: only one American and no Least, 3) very few Black Ducks, 4) almost no Red-shouldered Hawks and no Goshawks, 5) no rails, 6) only a few reports of single woodcocks and but one Upland Sandpiper, 7) no Black Terns, cuckoos, Barn or Short-eared Owls or Whip-poor-wills, and nighthawks nearly absent, 8) a poor showing for Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, 9) usual scarcity of Horned Larks and no Purple Martins, 10) but one Carolina Wren, 11) only scattered thrushes, except for robins and bluebirds, 12) no Loggerhead Shrikes, 13) a light warbler flight except for "Myrtles," and no Yellow or Golden-winged Warblers or Yellow-breasted Chats, 14) the Dickcissel absent, and 15) no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows and low numbers of Vesper and Tree Sparrows.

Rarities: Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Bald Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Northern Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, Bohemian Waxwing and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: ACC—Allegany County Bird Census, 11 Oct, compiled by D. Burton; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; OTH—*Olean Times Herald*; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; and WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The fall flight of Com. Loons was better than last year with one on the ACC, max seven at Derby 1-30 Nov and seven counted from three other locations, but the Red-throated Loon was missing. The only fall Double-crested Cormorants were two at Buffalo 10 Sept (RA+). Up to three Great Egrets were seen at Iroquois NWR 7 and 13 Sept in addition to one at Burgeson WS 1 Sept, and highest report of the Black-crowned Night

Heron was 15 at Times Beach, Buffalo, 16 Sept. The only report for the Am. Bittern was one on the ACC. Max of the good Whistling Swan flight was 208 at Derby 1-30 Nov, but with no report of Canada Geese from the Oak Orchard-Iroquois complex this season, the largest flock noted was 250 near Alfred 22 Oct. A Snow Goose appeared early over Amity L. 1 Oct (VP) and a "Blue" was spotted in Oak Orchard GMA 13 Nov (FR+), but eyepopping was the flock of 50 in Hume Twp 23 Nov (E. Smith *vide* KP) where two were also seen 2 and 4 Nov (KP). Duck tallies from the ACC (the otherwise undesignated number) and max from other reports include: Mallard, 416, and 200± at Cuba L. 11 Oct; Black Duck, three, and four in Hume Twp. 16 Sept; Gadwall, ten at Times Beach 16 Sept; Green-winged Teal, two, and five in Hume Twp. 9 Sept; Blue-winged Teal, 41, and eight at Burgeson WS 1 Sept; Am. Wigeon, six; Wood Duck, 213, and 34 Hume Twp. 30 Sept; Redhead, 300 at Mayville Bay 8 Nov; Ring-necked Duck, 30 at Bond L. 20 Oct; Canvasback, 15,000 at Niagara Falls 31 Oct (AS)—a regional record; Greater Scaup, 4000 in the Town of Porter 20 Oct (HK, WK); Lesser Scaup, 17 at Amity L. 16 Oct; scaup (species?), "rafts" at Mayville Bay 8 Nov; Com. Goldeneye, 24 in the Town of Porter 20 Oct; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**, one at Niagara Falls irregularly 8 thru 22 Nov (RK, Curry, Freeland+); Bufflehead, seven in Hume Twp. 7 Nov; Oldsquaw, five in the Town of Porter 20 Oct; **KING EIDER**, one at Buffalo Harbor 9 Nov (GO) and again at Ft. Niagara SP 22 Nov (Curry+); White-winged Scoter, 12 at Buffalo Harbor 4-25 Oct; Surf Scoter, 13 at Buffalo Harbor 4 Oct; Black Scoter, eight at Buffalo Harbor 1-30 Nov (GO); Ruddy Duck, 20 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct; Hooded Merganser, 44 at Mayville 8 Nov; Com. Merganser, six, and nine at Niagara Falls 31 Oct; and Red-breasted Merganser, 680 at Derby 15 Oct.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The best of raptor flights, all over Derby unless otherwise noted, were: 11 Turkey Vultures at Belmont 17 Oct; 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Tift Farm NP 15 Sept; 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks (over Derby) 1 Oct; 20 Red-tailed Hawks 1 Oct; 86 Broad-winged Hawks 1 Sept; 5 Marsh Hawks 1 Oct; and 31 Am. Kestrels 1 Sept. Other noteworthy raptor reports include: Sharp-shinned Hawk, three on the ACC and singles in eight areas; Cooper's Hawk, five on the ACC, with singles in 11 areas; Red-shouldered Hawk, one on the ACC, and one near Alfred 12 Oct—scarce; Rough-legged Hawk, two, a day early, on the ACC, and a dozen birds watched in ten locations; **BALD EAGLE**, one at Derby 24 Sept and again 3 Oct (DP) and single imm. at Oak Orchard GMA 13 Nov (FR+) and at Ft. Niagara SP the next day (Fessler); Marsh Hawk, 17 on the ACC and ten others, total, with four of these in the Town of Wales and the remainder from Allegany Co.; Osprey, three on the ACC and at least five counted from four locations; and Am. Kestrel, 23 on the ACC, and regularly reported elsewhere. A Com. Gallinule appeared at Iroquois NWR 23 Oct (Christensen), and "rafts" of Am. Coots were at Mayville Bay 8 Nov (FR+). To spice up the disappointing shorebird flight were: Semipalmated Plover, up to two in Hume Twp. 7 to 16 Sept (KP), an unusual area; Am. Golden Plover, max 23 at Clarence 6 to 13 Sept; Com. Snipe, max 24 at Clarence 6 Sept; Upland Sandpiper, one in Hume Twp. 7 Sept (KP); Greater Yellowlegs, max seven at Cuba L. 2 Nov; Lesser Yellowlegs, six in Hume Twp. 28 Oct and one, a week late, at Iroquois NWR 13 Nov (FR+); **PURPLE SANDPIPER**: singles at Bird Island, Buffalo, 31 Oct (Yoerg) and at Niagara Falls 14 Nov (FR+); Baird's Sandpiper, one at Clarence 6 Sept (AM, WM); Dunlin, max five at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (Curry+); and **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**, two at Niagara Falls 20 Sept (RK). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** was identified at Front Pk., Buffalo, 10 Sept (RA, MF). Other good larid reports include: Glaucous Gull, one early at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck) and one at Niagara Falls 14 and 22 Nov (RA, Curry+); Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides glaucoides*), singles at Niagara Falls 21 and 22 Nov (Curry, Freeland+) and at Derby 23 Nov (DP); Iceland Gull (*L. g. kumlieni*), one at Niagara Falls 22 Nov (Freeland+); Great Black-backed Gull, 53 at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck); **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**, one at Niagara Falls 11 Nov (Curry, Olmsted); **BLACK-HEADED GULL**, one at Niagara Falls 22 Nov (RA+); Franklin's Gull, up to two at Niagara Falls 24 Sept and irregularly 11-22 Nov (RK, Curry+); Little Gull, at least a dozen birds near Buffalo and along the Niagara R. 10 Sept to 22 Nov;

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, singles at Buffalo 28 Sept (RK, Harnish) and at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (Curry+); **SABINE'S GULL**, one at Buffalo 10 Sept (RA+); Forster's Tern, five at LaSalle Pk. 12 Sept (RA, MF); Com. Tern, max 130 at Niagara Falls 31 Oct (AS); and Caspian Tern, two at Derby 1 Sept (DP) and one at Iroquois NWR 7 Sept (RA+).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Reports of the Screech Owl continue scarce with only ones being five on the ACC and singles near Alfred 6 Sept (EB) and at Farmersville Sta. 12 Oct and 13 Nov (DC). A Snowy Owl was seen between Fillmore and Rossburg 2 Nov (G. Duman *vide* FM) and singles appeared at Tifft Farm NP 13 Nov, Times Beach 20 and 25 Nov and at Buffalo Harbor 27 Nov (GO). Two **SAW-WHET OWLS** were found for the ACC (KP). The only fall report of the Com. Nighthawk was two in Hume Twp. 8 Sept (KP). While there were single Red-bellied Woodpeckers noted in four areas, the Red-headed Woodpecker tallied three on the ACC and singles appeared in Amity Twp. 16 Sept and at Derby 8 Nov—only reports. Although 32 Hairy Woodpeckers on the ACC was a better count than last year's 22, others noted were but a dozen birds from six locations.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Three late E. Kingbirds were found for the ACC, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded near Alfred 12 Sept (EB) and as expected for fall there were no Willow Flycatchers. A flight of 666 Blue Jays and 129 Black-capped Chickadees was noted over Derby 1 Oct (DP). Two **COMMON RAVENS** were seen on the ACC, and well described; they appeared again near Friendship 15 Oct (A. J. Voorhies). This was a great fall for the Tufted Titmouse (25 birds, total, from 13 areas) and for the Red-breasted Nuthatch (38 on the ACC and 36 totaled from seven locations). Noteworthy wrens include: Winter Wren, one on the ACC and singles in six areas; Carolina Wren, one at Cheektowaga 15 Oct and 24 Nov (GO); and Long-billed Marsh Wren, one at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (Christensen+). Single Mockingbirds showed up on the ACC and in six widespread areas. The E. Bluebird tallied 81 on the ACC, regional max was 15 at Amity L. 9 Oct (VP) and other reports totaled 50 birds from 10 sites. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at Wendt Beach, Evans, 5 Sept (RA, Hausers) and, late, at Tifft Farm NP 25 and 27 Sept (FR). Both kinglets seem to be doing well: Golden-crowned, 62 on the ACC, with 40 scattered regionwide; and Ruby-crowned, 73 on the ACC, three early in Amity Twp. 7 Sept (VP) and a dozen others here and there. **BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS** were identified in Ft. Niagara SP, two on 14 Nov and one the next day (Fessler, RA+). Seven well distributed No. Shrikes made a fall appearance, some culling out slower weaker birds at feeders.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: The only Philadelphia Vireo for the season was one banded near Alfred Sta. 6 Oct (EB). Noteworthy from the warbler flight include: Orange-crowned Warbler, one on the ACC, singles at Tifft Farm NP 25 Sept (FR) and at Derby 28 Sept (DP) and three banded near Alfred 2 Oct (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler, 465 on the ACC and 58 banded near Alfred Sta. during Oct (EB); Cerulean Warbler, two at Derby 11 Sept (DP); Blackpoll Warbler, one on the ACC and six banded near Alfred Sta. in Sept (EB); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**, one on the ACC and one near Alfred 29 Sept (Deverell *vide* EB); Palm Warbler, one on the ACC, and eight others, total, from three locations; No. Waterthrush, four banded at Farmersville Sta. 8-12 Sept (DC); Connecticut Warbler, one near Friendship 27 Sept (SB); Hooded Warbler, one at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 3 Oct (GO); and Wilson's Warbler, max three at Alfred 8 Sept (CK).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: The E. Meadowlark tallied 98 on the ACC (33 last year) and max of several reports was 24 near Farmersville Sta. 30 Sept (DC). High count for Rusty Blackbirds was 12 at Farmersville Sta. 14 Oct (DC); other reports were six on the ACC and four other birds, total at three sites. Grosbeaks and finches making interesting news include: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one, female, late, at the Perry feeder in Fillmore 22 thru 28 Oct (KP); Evening Grosbeak, max 87 at Amity L. 26 Oct; Purple Finch, 126 on the ACC, with flocks of 30 at Farmersville Sta. during Oct (DC) and good flocks this month in several other areas; House Finch, 195 on the ACC and regional max 25 at Eggertsville during Nov (AM, WM); Pine Grosbeak, eight near Alfred 19 Nov (EB) and four in the Town of Porter

22 Nov (Freeland+); Com. Redpoll, up to 36 near Alfred 25 and 26 Nov (EB); Pine Siskin, four on the ACC, ten near Alfred 22 Oct (EB) and two in the Town of Wales 21-30 Nov (Rosche); Am. Goldfinch, a pair, extending the nesting season into the fall, feeding nestlings at Amity L., Allegany Co., 30 Sept (VP)—*record late* for N.Y. State nestlings by six days; Red Crossbill, three, early, on the ACC near Alfred (B. Keough); and White-winged Crossbill, up to 37 near Alfred irregularly 22 Oct-24 Nov (EB), 25 in the Town of Charlotte 1 Nov (FR) and two flocks (no numbers) on Ten Mile Rd. 7 Nov (SE). Notable sparrows include: Vesper Sparrow, 16 on the ACC; Tree Sparrow, only a few scattered reports with max 12 at Alfred Sta. and Belmont in late Nov (CK, DB, LB) and 38 banded near Alfred during Nov (EB); Chipping Sparrow, one, late, at a Wellsville feeder 24 to 26 Nov (EL); White-crowned Sparrow, 158 on the ACC (133 last year); White-throated Sparrow, 407 on the ACC (220 last year); Fox Sparrow, four on the ACC plus 18 others, total, from six reports; and Lincoln's Sparrow, one on the ACC. The only Snow Buntings were one at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Oct (FR, Buck), two in the Town of Somerset 26 Nov (Fessler), and two at St. Bonaventure Univ. 30 Nov (SE).

Addendum: To update the finding of a Golden-winged Warbler nest by V. Pitzrick at Amity Lake, Allegany Co., 22 May this year, further inquiry disclosed that while this was the first documentation for the species for this county in the files of the Nest-Record Card Program of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, N.Y., it was not the first for Allegany County. The well known ornithologist, Richard Rosche, discovered a Golden-winged Warbler's nest west of Houghton in June 1957, predating the Amity Lake nest by several years.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This Fall was a season of dreary, wet days clothed in semi-darkness. The "sunshine" recorded was only 36.5% of possible, and it seemed like much of that must have been just barely the threshold amount of radiation penetrating the overcast and triggering the detectors. September fell 3° F (1.7° C) below normal, October even further, and November just a bit less. Precipitation recorded was: 5.37 in. (13.6 cm), more than double normal in September; 3.29 in. (8.4 cm), a half-inch above normal in October; and 2.18 in. (5.5 cm), about half an inch below normal in November. Snowfall totalled 2.4 in. (6.1 cm) in November, about 1/3 normal. Despite the cool weather, most bodies of water remained ice free until nearly the season's end.

An effect of the dull, wet weather seems to have been that most of the fall migration passed over us without pausing or with only short stops and few stragglers left behind. A good number of species arrived very early in large numbers, but departed quickly, e.g., Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, both kinglets, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows. Many warblers were reported only in low numbers and most passerine departure dates were very early, prior to 15 Oct. There were excellent days in late September and early October when particular species were as abundant as anyone could recall for the past several years; however the numbers of days and the species involved were all too few.