

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.

Positive observations for the season include: good Common Loon counts, normal numbers of Horned Grebe, an excellent, extended Brant flight, good counts for some diving ducks, a fantastic Labor Day shorebird fallout, Purple Sandpipers again, a Little Gull convention, a good chickadee flight—though no Boreal, good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch, large flocks of thrushes—all well reported, both kinglets in excellent numbers, Northern Shrike back again, good numbers of vireos, all the winter finches except Hoary Redpoll, Dark-eyed Junco and Tree Sparrow early and numerous, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows everywhere, and large numbers of Snow Buntings early.

Among the negatives we find: very few Red-throated Loons, few Pied-billed Grebes, virtually no Canada Goose flight, poor numbers for most puddle ducks, no Red-shouldered Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasants still low, shorebird habitat generally poor due to high water levels, no large, general gull buildup, very few terns, no cuckoos reported, very few Winter Wrens, many warblers very scarce, and no reports for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows.

Once again we can hope that the positives are true and that most of the low or missing species only reflect the vagaries of the weather's impact on their passage or on observer efforts. Only by studying the broader picture as it is published next spring will we be better able to assess the reality of these local plusses and minuses. The overall species count was still very good at 249.

Rarities: Arctic Loon, Brown Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Harlequin Duck, Common Eider, King Eider, Gyrfalcon, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Red Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay Park; Ch—Ontario Beach, Charlotte; D—Durand-Eastman Park, including the adjacent waters of Lake Ontario; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; K—town of Kendall, Orleans Co.; and WL—west lakeshore, Rochester to Pt. Breeze.

Observers: Nancy Boudrie, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Shirley Cameron, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Dan & Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay Doris¹, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Kevin Griffith, Genesee Ornithological Society, Sandra & Robert Hazen, Norm Henderson, Qivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Jane & Robert Kesselring, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Al Maley, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Ann Miranian¹, Keith Murphy, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister¹, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale¹, Jean Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Paul & Jeff Spindler, Ann Stear¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, Tuesday Group=1, Bob Voss, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld¹, Paul Weld, Munro Will, Alice Wood and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon flight was excellent with good counts: 300+ WL 25 & 31 Oct; 695 WL 1 Nov; 450 east lakeshore 8 Nov; and 450+ Sodus 14 Nov. Red-throated Loon was poorly recorded with a max of only three. **ARCTIC LOON:** one Russell Station 23 Oct (MD), was well described. Red-necked Grebe was reported in small numbers. Horned Grebe numbers were good with: max 240 H 1 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe remains low. **A BROWN PELICAN:** ad BB 19 Sept (MD, mob); and Pt. Breeze 30 Sept (WLi), may well be the Detroit escape. Double-crested Cormorant continues to appear in small numbers, usually near BB. The most interesting heron records were: **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one ad Letch-

worth State Park 7 Sept (J & AF); and one ad H 7 Sept (MD, WS); and Black-crowned Night Heron: one imm Turning Pt. Park 7 Nov, late. Both bitterns were very scarce. Among the larger waterfowl, Whistling Swan and Canada Goose were very scarce, hopefully migrating either over or around us. By contrast, the Brant flight was excellent, represented by: nine Russell Station 23 Sept, early; 3000+ Sea Breeze 2 Oct, early and in only 30 min.; 1500 Greece 22 Oct; 1548 BB 29 Oct; and 6000+ Sodus 29 Oct (TT), a 3½ hour count. The only puddle duck count of note was Mallard: 650 Brighton Park 6 Nov. Among the diving ducks we observed: few Redheads; almost no Canvasbacks; some excellent scaup counts—Greater Scaup: 4000+ H 28 Oct (WS), 5 hours; and scaup (sp.); mixed but not separated: 10,000+ off Irondequoit Bay 25 Oct (RS); 5000 WL 25 Oct; and 2500-9000+ off Irondequoit Bay 22-30 Nov; HARLEQUIN DUCK: two Oklahoma Beach 7 Nov (RS); COMMON EIDER: one imm, male H 1 Nov (M & TP, photo); KING EIDER: one H 24 Oct (KG); one female D 14 Nov (MD); and one female Sodus Bay 27 Nov (MD, WLi, AM, RS, BV); and White-winged Scoter: max, 10,000 WL 14 Nov (MD, WLi). A bird with all the field marks of FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK except light underwings was thoroughly studied by many on Salmon Creek near BB 3 Sept. A report has been filed with the NYSARC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The fall raptor migration was typical of the past several years. Small numbers of Turkey Vultures were recorded in the hills to the south of Rochester into late Nov. Six Goshawk records included two which are now museum specimens: an adult male and an imm. female which hit windows in homes bordering Durand-Eastman Park only three days apart, the latter only hours after putting on a fine display for a large field trip. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks tallied 22 and 19 respectively, with the ratio changing from 4:1 to 1:2 from Sept to Nov. Red-tailed Hawk numbers were good, Rough-legged, few. Red-shouldered Hawk was not reported. Five Bald Eagles were reported in the region, three of them wing-tagged, only one an adult, one of the Hemlock Lake pair. Four of these records were in Oct, one in Sept. Marsh Hawk numbers were relatively low. A dark-phased GYRFALCON: Lima 5 Oct (JFo), was a thrilling sight. Peregrine Falcon and Merlin records were stable relative to recent years at five and six respectively. Ruffed Grouse and Turkey are reported in excellent numbers, Ring-necked Pheasant shows little change. With high lake levels, there were no mudflats bordering the cattail marshes and few rail reports. Com. Gallinule: one BB 1 Nov, was relatively late. Shorebirding was also plagued by the lack of habitat due to high water. Fortunately, the heavy rains did flood many fields to the west; Ontario Beach at Charlotte was well watched, and the south end of Hemlock Lake lay bare as a huge mudflat. These areas and a fantastic fallout of migrants on 6 and 7 Sept produced 33 species for the region. Among the best were: Killdeer: max 140 H 1 Nov; Am. Golden Plover: 200-500 H-K 6 Sept; 1000 H-K 7 Sept; 200-500 H-K 8-13 Sept; and 50 H 1 Nov, late; Black-bellied Plover: 4-100 H-K 1-6 Sept; 200+ H-K 7 Sept; Ruddy Turnstone: one Ch 4-9 Nov, late; Com. Snipe: relatively scarce; HUDSONIAN GODWIT: 4-5 H 4-5 Sept (MD, mob); 56 K 6 Sept (mob); 35 H 6 Sept (F & RDo); 103 K-Carlton 7 Sept (mob), an unprecedented number for New York State, carefully totalled to avoid possible duplications; 14, 8, 2 H-K 8, 13, 24 Sept; and 2-3 H 11-12 Oct (AK, CC, RDo, RO); MARBLED GODWIT: one K 6 Sept (JSk, JC, PR, WS), leading a flock of 22 Hudsonians in to join 34 already on the ground; Whimbrel: records scattered thru Sept, max. six K 6 Sept (MD, WS, mob); WILLET: one K 6 Sept (MD, WS, mob); Spotted Sandpiper: never increased to normal fall numbers and disappeared early; RED PHALAROPE: one Ch 27-30 Nov (MD, mob); LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: one Turning Pt. Park 18 Oct (MD, mob); Red Knot: scattered singles and pairs at Ch thru, max five Ch 24 Oct; Least Sandpiper: one Ch 29 Oct, late; Purple Sandpiper: three Ch 30 Oct (PR, mob); five BB 31 Oct (MD, mob); three H 1-4 Nov (CC, AK, DT, mob); and one BB 1-4 Nov (mob); Dunlin: numbers low, probably only because the lake levels inundated their normal resting and feeding areas here; and Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 3-6 H-K 1-13 Sept (mob); and one H 1 Nov (MD, WLi), very late, with the Am. Golden Plover noted above. Jaegers were spotted in typical numbers from lakeshore

vantage points, mostly at H and D. Totals were: Pomarine: ten; Parasitic: 11; and jaeger (sp.): 26, with records from 16 Sept to 29 Nov. Several put on spectacular displays for observers. Gulls generally never built to the expected fall numbers. White-winged gulls were very scarce with only Glaucous Gull: one 2nd yr. Russell Station 26 Nov. Bonaparte's Gull briefly reached numbers in the low thousands, not especially abundant. However, Little Gulls staged briefly in their greatest numbers yet with 78-75 adult and 3 imm.—D 29 Nov (RBA), carefully counted resting at one point in time and up to 40+ passing east to west earlier (MD) with no movement of any kind west to east to suggest duplication. Prior to and following that date, numbers did not exceed 25. Black-legged Kittiwake was recorded in what seems to be typical fall numbers: one H 21 Oct (WS); and one each D 15, 21, 29 Nov (MD, mob), all records were of imm. All expected terns were reported, but in low numbers. Departure dates for Forster's and Common, which usually linger to Nov were in the first half of Oct. There was another tantalizing glimpse of an unidentified alcid off H 12 Oct. A fall pelagic into Lake Ontario anyone? As a measure of the generally dismal land-bird migration, at this point we have covered 75-80% of the noteworthy records published for fall by the local clubs.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Doves continue to boom. Both cuckoos were absent from the season's records. Owls were poorly reported, as usual, though interesting reports included: Snowy Owl: five birds, one later seen lying dead in a field; Barred Owl: one Barre 12 Sept; and Short-eared Owl: one H 2 Nov, the first of the fall. Both goatsuckers departed by early Oct, Ruby-throated Hummingbird by 27 Oct. Com. Flicker was conspicuously abundant with 50+ Penfield 12 Sept a good locality count. The return of **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** one male H 26 Sept (S & RH, mob); two males H 26 Sept (MD); and one male H 27 Sept (MD, WLI, mob), to virtually the same spot where a female was spotted last year, 11-12 Oct, is very interesting.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Among the flycatchers, the most interesting record was a very late Great Crested Flycatcher: Henrietta 13 Nov (KM), carefully studied to eliminate Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Otherwise there were the usual low numbers for most species with only Yellow-bellied, Acadian, and Alder entirely missed—not calling. Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen this season only at Pt. Breeze on 1, 2, and 12 Sept. There was the usual massing of Tree Swallows and relatively early departure dates for most swallow species, with only Purple Martin: one BB 4 Oct, a bit late. **COMMON RAVEN** continued its regional presence with one H 26, 30 Oct (MD). The local Black-capped Chickadee flight along the lakeshore was good in Oct, but none of the Boreals reported farther east reached here. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers were numerous in H early, but moved on by the latter half of the season. Winter Wren was very scarce, once again. Where in years past in a single locale a single observer might find five birds, this year a search of many spots for many days was required to turn up one. Carolina Wren holds its own in scattered locations throughout the region. Mockingbird, likewise, particularly a few miles south of the lakeshore east of Rochester where few local observers ever bird. Gray Catbird: one H 1 Nov; and one Livonia 4 Nov, represent two of the few half-hardies lingering into Nov. Thrushes of all species were well reported in very late Sept and the first few days of Oct; however, few tarried. Not even Am. Robin remained in anything like the thousands of the past two winters. E. Bluebird: 40 Avon 6 Oct (J & AF), was an excellent count. Both kinglets appeared early in large numbers, then dropped off rapidly. Cedar Waxwings too, massed, then virtually disappeared. No. Shrikes appeared in early Oct and were subsequently recorded in the best numbers in three years. A single Loggerhead Shrike observed at BB 6-29 Nov was noteworthy due to their current scarcity at any season.

VIREOS-WARBLED: All the eastern vireos were reported, with Solitary and Philadelphia noted as "perhaps in their best numbers in several years" and a lone **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** an imm. BB 20 Sept (RS). With few exceptions, fall warblering was poor. Most species left early, by 15 Oct. The best reports were: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one

Island Cottage Woods 1 Sept (NH); Tennessee: one Webster Park 17 Nov (TG), very late, but the same date as the last record last year; Orange-crowned Warbler: at least nine records; Yellow Warbler: one Livonia 26 Sept, late; both waterthrushes, Connecticut, and Mourning missed; and Am. Redstart: one Greece 1 Nov, late.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: E. Meadowlark departed the region early; no stragglers after late Oct. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze 26 Sept (MD, WLi), conveniently burst into song one last time. Other icterids of note included: Red-winged Blackbird: 15,000+ H 19 Nov, not normally a roost site; **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one imm male H 1 Nov (MD, WLi), in the same farmyard where the region's first flock was found this spring; and **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** one male BB 19 Sept (MD, WLi, mob), at the same time the pelican was sighted, for whatever that association may be worth. The winter finches were all reported (except Hoary Redpoll), at least briefly in good numbers, beginning with Pine Siskin flocks in Sept. Some of the best counts were: Pine Grosbeak: 15 D 27 Oct. Com. Redpoll: several estimates of about 50; Red Crossbill: 25 Hilton 24 Oct; and 30-40 H 7 Nov; and White-winged Crossbill: 25 H 28 Oct; and eight D 25 Oct-2 Nov. House Finch continues to spread and increase. Dark-eyed Juncos appeared early, late Sept, in good numbers. **DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO:** one male Webster 20 Nov thru (MAS, mob, photos), was established at a feeder. The grassland sparrows dropped to virtually zero early with Grasshopper and Henslow's not reported at all. Tree Sparrows arrived by mid-Oct and were present thru in better numbers than in the past couple of years. A good find was **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Lakeshore School yard, Greece 20 Oct (KG). A measure of the abundance of both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows was White-crowned: 600+ WL 27 Sept. Counts of this magnitude for either species were possible for about two weeks about this date, but, as usual, were not done by most observers. Lincoln's Sparrows 8-12 WL 10 Oct, is typical of peak counts of this species in the fall. With no really severe cold, both Swamp and Song Sparrows entered the winter in good numbers. Lapland Longspur reports were few, but Snow Bunting numbers were good at early dates: 300+ Carlton 31 Oct; and max 3000 K 1 Nov (MD, WLi).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Fall 1981 was rainy, cloudy and cool thru October with killing frosts 10-15 Oct. Ithaca had five inches of rain in September and eight in October. November averaged about normal, but with very little snow.

The Elmira report for this period was most interesting. First, the TV tower kill there was low, totaling only 178 birds of 20 species, mostly warblers, with Magnolias, Ovenbirds and Bay-breasteds accounting for forty per cent of the total. The first week of September brought a big Common Nighthawk flight. Elmira usually has a good nighthawk migration but this one was unbelievable (see the species report below for the details). Hawks moved through 9-11 September and a good warbler flight occurred 18 September. While shorebirding was dull and unexciting in most of the region, Wilfred Howard hit the jackpot at Elmira. On 2 September she spent several hours in a pouring rain watching four hundred shorebirds of seven species coming in and landing on gravel islands in the Chemung River. For details read the shorebird section of the species report below.