

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

"The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday

.....
Out in the fields of God."

Author unknown

But, watcher in his window chair knows, too, this joy so sweet. As feeders call the birds to him, God's fields are at his feet. However, feeders were nearly deserted this season partly because of a bountiful wild food crop, but more, perhaps, because of the balmy temperatures brought by the jet stream as it flowed far north of the usual fall pattern. Every month was warmer than normal: September by 1.2° F. (.7° C.), October by .6° F. (.3° C.), and November by 2.7° F. (1.5° C.) and lakes and waterways were still open at the end of the period. Following the wretchedly cold summer, the mild weather was a welcome change and gardens flourished especially since the first killing frost for most areas held off until 18 October. Honey bees were at the peak of goldenrod honey production 24 September and still working on asters 5 October—very late for the Southern Tier (Eaton). Although lower than normal precipitation from June through October resulted in a drought scare, 2.5 inches (6.4 cm) of rain in early November raised the water table and made this month's average nearly normal. On 5 November, a foot of snow at Buffalo brought down power lines and tied up business, relieving the drought situation the hard way.

Except for the regionwide Canada Goose movement the 28th and 29th of September, the migration was spotty. For example, at Alfred Station during the period, E. Brooks reported it as the best ever, with 672 new birds banded, 57 species of which 19 were warblers. Two-thirds of these were netted in September with highest count on the 27th. On some days it was necessary to take down nets for brief periods to keep the situation under control! Up in numbers here were the Magnolia Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Gray Catbird and Black-throated Green Warbler, but down were the Yellow-rumped Warbler and Dark-eyed Junco. In September at Colden, D. Bigelow found large tower kills signifying a good warbler flight there (*fide* D. Clark). However, at Franklinville Station, netting during the fall period was "very poor" for Don Clark who banded 396 birds of 38 species including but eight species of warblers.

There are two other special highlights for our region. During the last weekend of September, Roger Tory Peterson visited Fredonia to receive an award from the State University College. Following the dinner, his companions in the parking lot were astonished to have him identify Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Wood Thrushes calling overhead. He was delighted, too, to be able to hear Golden-crowned Kinglets although he is now 74 (Sundell). Another interesting note is the undertaking of a daily census of Dunkirk Harbor by the Lake Erie Bird Club from 1 October to at least April. Sightings below already attest to the worth of this project, and if correlated with weather, there should be much more worthwhile information in addition to possible rarities (Rew).

Positives for the fall include 1) a splendid loon flight, many grebes, including the Red-necked, and good numbers of cormorants and Great Blue Herons, 2) more than usual Brant, 3) an excellent Turkey Vulture migration, 4) continued abundance of Ruffed Grouse, and a few more pheasants, probably stocked birds, 5) an interesting but hardly spectacular shorebird flight, 6) a great larid season, 7) better E. Screech-Owl reports, one to two in seven areas, and hummingbirds doing O.K., 8) fine numbers of titmice, a modest Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, and Brown Creepers unusually evident, 9) E. Bluebirds still thriving, 10) fair numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 11) lots of House Finches and goldfinches.

Negatives for the fall include 1) no Red-throated Loons, almost no bitterns and a poor duck flight, 2) no No. Goshawks, fewer Sharpies, Cooper's Hawks and kestrels, 3) turkeys less plentiful, 4) very few Killdeer, 5) no Least or Black Terns or Whip-poor-wills, 6) very few Hairy Woodpeckers, phoebes and Horned Larks, 7) no Carolina Wrens, 8) a scarcity of Hermit Thrushes, a poor Ruby-crowned Kinglet flight, and near absence of shrikes, 9) Eastern Meadowlarks at their usual low, 10) meager numbers of Rusty Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Purple Finches, 11) a very poor flight of juncos, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows, and fewer Song Sparrows.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Peregrine Falcon, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Black-headed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, No. Saw-whet Owl, and Common Raven.

Abbreviations: BC—Bird Club; C—Bird Census, 10 Oct: ACC for Allegany County BC, BOSC for Buffalo Ornithological Society, CCC for Cattaraugus County BC, and LEC for Lake Erie BC; 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 Reservoir near Lewiston; and WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Mallory Adams, Mary Adams, Kenneth Balmas, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Stephen Eaton, Mary Forness, John Forness (JFo), Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Doris Hurlburt, Jamestown Audubon Society, Ken Johnson (Weather Data, Wellsville), Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Lake Erie Bird Club, Erma Larson, Terry D. Mosher, Katherine Palmer, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Gordon Prior, Jockey Prior, Frances Rew, Lynn Rositzke, Lillian Simons, Robert A. Sundell (RS), and Jim Velente. Initialed observers: Robert Andriele, Harold Axtell, Paul Baglia, Esther Becker (EsB), Nancy Bowser, Lois Buck (LBk), Douglas Carlson, Arthur R. Clark (ARC), Dorothy Danner, Frances DeGroff, Marcya Foster (MFs), David Gagne, Joanne Goetz, Paul Hess, Norman Ives, Morgan V. Jones (MVJ), Mary Jordan, John Jordan, Robert Klips, Judy Kumler, Phil Kumler, Terry Mahoney (TMah), Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Richard Miga, John Morse, Judy Mosher (JMos), Grace O'dell, Odmund Olsen, and Arthur Schaffner.

A Clarification: In the report for Region 1, *The Kingbird* Vol. XXXII: No. 3, Summer 1982 p. 187, paragraph 2, line 4 should read, "BREWSTER'S BLACKBIRD appeared on old Kiantone Rd., Chautauqua Co., w. of junction with Rt. 60 on 14 Mar (RS, DG)." "Chautauqua Co." was omitted from the text.

LOONS—DUCKS: The Com. Loon flight was the best in years with singles at Bear L. 9 Nov (TM) and Barcelona 14 Nov (FR+) as well as max 22 at Dunkirk Harbor, 12 at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk, and seven at Chautauqua L., all on 14 Nov (FR+), but again the Red-throated Loon was missing. Grebes were well reported, including several Red-necked, six at Lakeside 24 Oct and two at Shadigee the same day (RA+) and max two at Dunkirk Harbor

8 to 11 Nov (RM, JMos+). Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen at LaSalle Pk., Buffalo, 4 Sept (RA+) and others appeared regularly at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Sept thru 28 Nov with max 15 on 15 Oct (FR, LBk). The discovery of a **CATTLE EGRET** in the Town of Newstead 24 Nov (Freeland) is exciting. Other noteworthy long-legged waders reported were: Great Egret, one to three irregularly at Iroquois NWR, 2 to 12 Oct (JM, OO) and two at Tonawanda WMA 5 Oct (DD); Black-crowned Night-Heron: ten at Times Beach, Buffalo, 26 Sept (PH); Least Bittern: none; and Am. Bittern: one at Franklinville Sta. 5 and 24 Sept (DC), the only report. Peak of the Tundra Swan flight was 95 at Chautauqua L. 7 Nov (RS, DG) and of the Canada Goose, 6,104 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM). Unusual for Chautauqua Co. were the Brant at Dunkirk Harbor with max 35 on 5 Nov (RS+) as well as 23 on the s. end of Chautauqua L. 7 Nov (RS, DG); a Brant was also at Youngstown, Niagara Co., 28 Nov (Brock). At Iroquois NWR, a Snow Goose (white morph) appeared 6 and 27 Oct (JM, Prusa) and two "blues" were seen 27 Oct (Prusa) with one of the latter still there 17 Nov (JM). Highest counts from the duck migration, other than the Oct census and with no entry if reports were missing, include: Mallard, 57 in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., 23 Nov (KP); Am. Black Duck, four in Hume Twp., 3 Nov (KP) with only four other birds reported; Gadwall, 290 at Iroquois NWR 10 Nov (JM), but 125 at Burgeson Sanct 7 Nov (RS, DG), the latter a record high tally for Chautauqua Co.; No. Pintail, 36 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); Blue-winged Teal, four in Hume Twp. 25 Sept (KP); Am. Wigeon, 476 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM); No. Shoveler, five at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); Wood Duck, 20 in Amity Twp., Allegany Co., 8 Oct (VP); Redhead, 400 at Mayville 12 Nov (FR, LBk); Ring-necked Duck: nine on Beaujean Rd. Marsh, Chautauqua Co., 13 Nov (RM+) as well as the same number at Mayville the same day (TM+); Canvasback, 200 on Chautauqua L. 30 Nov (JK); Greater Scaup, 5,500 on the SPA Res 31 Oct (Cooper); Lesser Scaup, two at Iroquois NWR 17 and 30 Nov (JM, OO); Com. Goldeneye, two in the Town of Newfane 24 Oct (RA+); Bufflehead, 200 on Beaujean Rd. Marsh 30 Nov (JK); Oldsquaw, singles on Beaujean Rd. Marsh 30 Sept (JK) and near Alfred 26 Oct (EB); Surf Scoter, one at Mayville 14 Nov (FR+); Black Scoter, singles in the Town of Portland 27 and 28 Oct (DCar) and at Dunkirk Harbor 29 Oct and Mayville 12 Nov (FR, LBk); Ruddy Duck: 24 at the SPA Res 13 Nov (RK); Hooded Merganser, 105 at Iroquois NWR 10 Nov (JM); Com. Merganser, six in Amity Twp., 14 Nov (VP, MP+); and Red-breasted Merganser, 250 at Dunkirk Harbor 1-30 Nov (LEBC).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Best numbers for the Turkey Vulture flight were 52 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM) and 34 at Alma Pond, Allegany Co., 25 Sept (EB+). Other raptors were well represented this season: Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles on ACC and LEC and nine other birds counted from seven areas; Cooper's Hawk: four on ACC plus singles in seven locations; Red-shouldered Hawk, one on ACC with four others, total, from two areas; Rough-legged Hawk, a good movement into the region already with nine birds counted from eight sites; **BALD EAGLE**, still a rarity even tho' reported fairly regularly, a single imm at Iroquois NWR 2 and 28 Oct (Chandler, OO, Prusa) and another at Dunkirk Harbor 25 Sept (TMah); No. Harrier: 11 on ACC, one on LEC and singles in five locations; Osprey: four on ACC, one on CCC, one on LEC and singles spotted in seven areas; **GYRFALCON**, a dark-phase bird, unfortunately killed in collision with a plane at the Buffalo Airport near Cheektowaga 17 Nov (ARC) now a specimen at the Buffalo Museum of Science; **PEREGRINE FALCON:** an adult, well observed in Cattaraugus Co. just over the county line w. of Bolivar 1 Sept (MF, JFo); and Am. Kestrel: 12 on ACC, five on LEC plus 11 others counted from four Allegany Co. twps. A single Sora was found in the Town of Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., 5 Sept (Kumlars). Five Com. Moorhens were tallied on LEC and 250 Am. Coot rafted on Chautauqua L. 30 Nov (JK). Making shorebird watching worthwhile were: Lesser Golden-Plover, one at Canadaway Creek NS 4 Sept (NB); Black-bellied Plover, one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (RM, MVJ+) and another, injured, at Dunkirk Harbor 5 Nov (FR, LBk); Ruddy Turnstone, max 13 at Dunkirk Harbor 21 Oct (NB)—a good number—plus one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM); Red Knot, one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM); Pectoral Sandpiper: one on ACC and max of season 24 at Iroquois NWR 6 Oct (JM); Dunlin: max for fall, 24 at Iroquois NWR 25 Oct (JM); and Sanderling, max 11 at Canadaway Creek NS 7 Sept (TM). A **PARASITIC JAEGER** cruised along the Lake Erie shore in Chautauqua

Co. 18 Oct—only the third appearance for the species in the county (RS, DCar). A real surprise was the appearance of a Glaucous Gull over *two months* early at Dunkirk Harbor irregularly 4 Sept to 1 Oct (TM, FR+); one was also seen at Niagara Falls 14 and 27 Nov (RK, KB+). The Iceland Gull at Dunkirk Harbor 1 Oct (FR, LBk+) was also early by a month. Rounding out this great larid season were: Great Black-backed Gull, max 76 at Dunkirk Harbor 24 Sept (FR, LBk); **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one identified on the Niagara R. at Buffalo, 24 Nov (RK, KB); Franklin's Gull: singles at Bird Island, Buffalo, 19 Sept (RA, MFs) and at Niagara Falls irregularly 13 to 28 Nov (RK, KB, HA+); Bonaparte's Gull: 3,750 at Niagara Falls 30 Oct (AS); Little Gull: six birds, total, in five Dunkirk-Niagara R. areas; **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one at Dunkirk Harbor 22 Oct (FR, LBk); Forster's Tern: 11 days late, at Dunkirk Harbor 19 Nov (FR); Least Tern: none; Caspian Tern: two in Dunkirk Harbor 12 Sept (NB); and Black Tern: none.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The Snowy Owl at Buffalo 30 Nov (ARC+) was first for the season. A Short-eared Owl showed up at the Dunkirk-Fredonia Airport 8 Nov (JK), two more were seen at Iroquois NWR 15 Nov (JM), and a **NO. SAW-WHET OWL** was in for repairs at a veterinarian's in Jamestown 16 Nov (RS). Regional max for Com. Nighthawk was 25 at Buffalo 13 Sept (PH). Five widespread locations reported single Red-headed Woodpeckers while only 13 Hairies were counted from nine areas.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: As usual in fall, few *E. Phoebes* were present but an Olive-sided Flycatcher lingered nearly two weeks later than common at Fredonia until 28 Sept (TM, PB). There were several sightings of the **COMMON RAVEN**, all in Allegany Co.: single birds at Amity L., near Belmont, 23 Sept (VP) and near Alfred, where they have been seen in previous years, 12 Oct (EB), and two birds at Alma Pond 25 Sept (EB+) and in Wells-ville 3 Oct (NI, Bromley). A total of eight Winter Wrens were found in six areas. A No. Mockingbird appeared on ACC and singles were found at Middleport 19 Oct (Krogs) and at Fredonia 9 Nov (JG), while two Brown Thrashers were still frequenting a Belmont feeder 13 Oct thru Nov (DB, LB). The *E. Bluebird* is doing very well with 50 on ACC, seven on CCC and max 31 at Amity L., Allegany Co., 24 Sept (VP) plus 37 others counted from seven sites. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at Amity L 3 Sept (VP) and one was found a week late at Fredonia 30 Sept (TM+). The max report of Golden-crowned Kinglets was 25 at Dunkirk 18 Oct (Kumlers). Most of the few Ruby-crowned Kinglets reported were banded: 12 at Alfred Sta. during Sept and Oct (EB), 12 at Fredonia 17 Oct (MVJ) and two at Farmersville Sta. 3 Oct (DC); only 10 other Ruby-crowns were noted. Water Pipits tallied 56 on ACC with max of other sightings 50 in Amity Twp. 18 and 22 Oct (MJ, LB). Single No. Shrikes were seen between Mayville and Westfield, Chautauqua Co., 7 Nov (RS, DG), on Grand Island 14 Nov (PH) and at Amity L 27 Nov (VP). There were no Loggerheads.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Noteworthy vireo reports include two Yellow-throated at Spring Brook 2 to 14 Sept (DD) and a Philadelphia near Fredonia 4 and 22 Sept (TM, JG). Best of the warbler migration includes: Tennessee Warbler: 52 banded at Alfred Sta. during Sept (EB); Orange-crowned Warbler: one banded at Fredonia 21 Oct (MVJ); Nashville Warbler: one, late, banded at Farmersville Sta. 25 Oct (DC); No. Parula: singles at Fredonia 20 Sept. (TM), near Alfred 23 Sept (Jacox *vide* EB) and at Chestnut Ridge Pk. 25 Sept (EsB); Yellow Warbler: one at Holland 8 Sept (EsB); Magnolia Warbler: max 91 banded at Alfred Sta. 1-27 Sept (EB); Black-throated Blue Warbler: six banded at Alfred Sta. 2-22 Sept (EB); Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 77 at Amity L 25 Sept (VP); Black-throated Green Warbler: 22 banded at Alfred Sta. 2-27 Sept (EB); Bay-breasted Warbler: max 15 at Holland 7 Sept (EsB); Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 at Holland 7 Sept (EsB); Pine Warbler: one on CC and one at Fredonia 15 to 28 Sept (TM+); Palm Warbler: one on ACC, two on LEC and five others counted from four areas; No. Waterthrush: three banded at Farmersville Sta. 8-23 Sept (DC); Hooded Warbler: one at Fredonia 1 Sept (JG), one banded at Farmersville Sta. 9 Sept (DC) and two at Chestnut Ridge Park 29 Sept (GO); and Wilson's Warbler: 15 banded at Alfred Sta. 1-27 Sept (EB) with singles at Amity L 3 Sept (VP) and near Fredonia 14 Sept (TM).

TANAGERS—HOUSE SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbirds numbered 25 on ACC and eight on CCC with the only other reports, 12 at East Aurora 16 Oct (Rosche) and six at Amity L 25 Oct thru 8 Nov (VP, MP). Only 70 Brown-headed Cowbirds were found for ACC compared with 261 last year. An imm male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, lingering over a month late at Alfred Station, was seen several times each day at the feeder 14-22 Nov (CK), and max of the few Evening Grosbeak reports was 20 at both Amity L 28 Nov (VP) and Little Genesee 29 Nov (FD). While Purple Finch numbers were down with 34 on ACC (126 last year), the House Finch is doing fairly well with max for the season 50 at Stannards during Nov (HG). The only Pine Siskins were seven on ACC and one near Alfred 17 Oct (EB), but the Am. Goldfinch is flourishing; during Nov 154 of the latter were banded at Alfred Sta. (EB) with a "big influx on the 14th," and 30 were banded at Farmersville Sta. (DC). Seven White-winged Crossbills were sighted at Colden 22-26 Nov (Henning)—first "winter finches" for the season except for the few siskins. Interesting sparrow reports include: Vesper Sparrow: 12 on ACC and 15 near Wellsville 5 Oct (C. Burdick *vide* EL); Dark-eyed Junco: 286 on ACC (695 last year) and 15 on CCC; White-crowned Sparrow: 13 on ACC (158 last year), two on CCC and four on LEC with max of other reports, up to eight in Belmont 8 Oct thru Nov (DB, LB); White-throated Sparrow: 156 on ACC (407 last year), one on CCC and 55 on LEC with max of other reports, 21 in Amity Twp. 8 Oct (VP, MP); Fox Sparrow: reported from only five locations with maxima eight at Amity L 29 Oct (VP, MP) and seven near Alfred 7 Nov (EB); Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded at Alfred Sta. 19-28 Sept (EB), the only report; Song Sparrow: 273 on ACC (427 last year) and four on CCC; and Snow Bunting: max for the season 45 in the Town of Somerset 24 Oct (RA+).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

This fall season was ushered in by a relatively normal September with no significant temperature deviations and a deviation of minimal significance in precipitation. October followed with slightly below normal temperatures, yet periodic highs were recorded of up to 79° F (26° C) and the low reached a chilly 29° F (-2° C). Precipitation for October was below average at 1.79 in. as opposed to the norm of 2.7 in. November provided some of the most interesting data, as the end of the season came to a heated close. The average temperature was 43.4° F (6° C), which was nearly three degrees above the norm; and there were days late in November that reached the sixties. Precipitation levels were above normal but only a meager 1.12 in. above the norm with a total of 3.95 in.

The overall effect of the weather patterns surfaced most consistently in the late departures of various species. The unseasonably warm temperatures postponed the migratory patterns of some individuals. These patterns are noted in the late dates for some of the vireos, warblers and icterids. The passage of frontal systems through the region brought no major passerine concentrations; but good coverage of the west lakeshore, particularly Hamlin Beach, produced excellent reports of lake flights of waterfowl, shorebirds and terns. Low water levels along the lakeshore produced good shorebird habitat, possibly too much so, for the shorebirds weren't always concentrated; and some species, such as Buff-