

for this western parulid in New York State. (MJ, RS, TM). In support of the record, Morgan Jones gives the following account: "At about 3:30 pm on Saturday, October 29, 1983, I captured an *Oporornis* warbler in a mist net in my garden in the village of Fredonia, Chautauqua County. The bird was olive gray-green above with the wings darker brown and very narrow greenish edges to the remiges. There was a brownish gray cast atop the head, shading to pale gray on the throat and upper breast, with a fairly distinct line separating the upper breast from the dirty buff of the lower breast, belly, and crissum. Buffy spots on the upper and lower eyelids gave it a split eye-ring. In short, it appeared to be a hatch-year female Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), which is not visually separable in fall from MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*). Because of the late date, I suspected it might be a MacGillivray's Warbler, even before checking the measurements. The bird weighed 13.4 grams and the furculum was $\frac{2}{3}$ full of fat. It was lively and appeared in good health. The wing was 55 mm, the tail 49 mm. According to the Western Bird-Banding Association worksheet, wing minus tail equalling 8 mm or less is MacGillivray's, 9 through 11 mm is the range of overlap, and more than 11 mm is Mourning Warbler. The difference of 6 mm in this bird clearly identified it as a MacGillivray's Warbler." A report has been forwarded to NYSARC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: A late imm Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at the Burgeson Sanc. near Jamestown on 15 Oct. (DG). There was only one record of Lincoln's Sparrow in the fall migration, a single bird at Alfred on 22 Sept. (EB). There was a very heavy influx of White-throated Sparrow migrants in the last two weeks of Sept. and numerous records of this sparrow at feeders in Nov. is indicative of a large wintering population. 220 White-throats were counted at the Burgeson Sanct. on 15 Oct. 75 Song Sparrows and 39 Swamp Sparrows were also recorded on that date (DG). The White-throated Sparrow now exceeds the Song Sparrow in numbers as a visitor to feeders in Region 1. The remains of another rare passage migrant, a **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW**, were recovered at the base of a television tower in the Town of Colden in Erie Co. on 25 Oct.; the bird, apparently of the race *Ammodramus caudacutus nelsoni*, now reposes in the collection of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences (AC). Another casualty recovered on that date was a late Grasshopper Sparrow (AC). Fox Sparrows were reported in greater numbers than usual in their autumn passage. House Finch populations continue their dramatic expansion throughout Region 1. Both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks invaded the region in large numbers in Oct., a portent of a return to more seasonable winter weather. A record high count of 756 Evening Grosbeaks was reported at a feeder in the Town of Holland in Erie Co. on 23 Nov. (EsB).

36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The type of weather that existed during the summer months managed to hang on into the fall season. September was dominated by fair weather high pressure systems and an absence of prominent frontal systems. This generally provided for a rather nondescript migration. October provided more of a seasonal variety with a mixed bag of warm, humid weather early in the month and a more winter-like coldness by the end of the month. Interspersed were some warm

days and some cold days. More importantly, the passage of some good frontal systems during the period provided some excellent days for lake observation. November temperatures fluctuated throughout the month with an end result slightly below normal, highlighted by unseasonably warm days. Precipitation levels, though, were above normal and snowfall was well ahead of last year's meager total, as well as the average for that period.

While the migration itself was less than spectacular, there were a few significant trends. Loon populations during the season were quite good. Diligent observers recorded respectable numbers. Grebes too made a positive showing with Horned demonstrating an increase over recent years and Red-necked sightings were up. The waterfowl migration was good to very good at times. Some late-staying Turkey Vultures added spice to the seasonal records. Gull sightings in September were excellent in terms of diversity and rarity. Kittiwakes made an early and strong showing. Terns staged a return to recent levels. A strong easterly wind escorted a surprisingly early alcid into the region. The passerine migration in itself was lackluster, but certain aspects contained a positive note. The mild fall weather produced a few lingering passerines as well as a most interesting wanderer. The fall sparrow flight and accompanying populations were definitely on the plus side. Some winter finches trickled into the region in contrast to last year's finch drought. Siskins were right on schedule as were the Evening Grosbeaks.

The shorebird flight lacked last year's intensity. The lakehore was adequately covered, yet the reports indicated a decrease. Low water in a few select places did provide decent habitat but produced few good records. Field birding for shorebirds was usually a waste of time. The dry summer produced few good spots for concentrations. After last year's jaeger flight, one might begin to expect similar results yearly, but as is so often the case in birding, that was a fallacy. The number of jaegers sighted dropped markedly. The fact that the passerine migration was "routine" leaves little to comment on. The usual species were recorded and in generally usual numbers. While this type of general statement may signify mediocrity, it can be positively noted that there were no real negative trends. When all is said and done, one can reflect optimistically on this season's birding.

Rarities: Northern Gannet, Gyrfalcon, Common Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Dovekie, and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Localities: B—Braddock Bay; C—Charlotte/Ontario Beach, D—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent lakeshore; E—East Lakeshore; G—Greece; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; I—Irondequoit Bay; K—Kendall; P—Pt. Breeze; S—Sodus Bay area; SA—Shore Acres; W—Webster; WL—West Lakeshore.

Contributors: Peg Beckman, Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn and Roger Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Bill and Rhea Colzman, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Dale Dillavou, Frank and Bob Dobson, Kay and Jim Doris, June Feder, W. Ferris, John Foster, Kevin Griffith, Tom Hampson, Robert and Sandra Hazen, Nurak Irasena, Allen Kemnitzer, Bob and Jane Kesselring, Walt Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Bob and Margaret McKinney, Gordon Meade, Anne Miranian, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Vivian Pitzrick, Patty Reister, J. Remy, Marge Schmalke, Jeanne Skelly, Robert and Sue Spahn, Paul and Jeff Spindler, Ann Stear, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike and Joanne Tetlow, Eleanor and Paul Weld, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, Peter Zachmann.

LOONS-DUCKS: Loons put on a good show this season with good numbers sighted along the lakeshore during the period. Red-throated Loons reached a max of 150 H 27 Nov, with the first of the season reported from H 15 Oct. Com. Loons were in good supply through the season, the max was well over 100. Pied-billed Grebes were evident from many locations including well out on the lake. This was a deviation from their normal habit of frequenting ponds and inland waterways. Horned Grebes showed a substantial increase over recent years with a max of 100 H 29 Oct. Red-necked Grebes were reported regularly from Hamlin with a max of four H 18 Oct. An Eared Grebe was carefully studied at fairly close range H 6 Oct. (BS). **NO. GANNET:** an imm was observed at H 27-28 Oct. (CC, BS). The bird was cooperative enough to give a number of observers the opportunity to see it. Double-crested Cormorants continued their increase with a max of 102 S 9 Oct. One group contained over 50 individuals. Great Blue Herons lingered on through the period and an extremely late Green-backed Heron was reported WL 1 Nov. There were a smattering of Tundra Swan reports with the latest report of two Conesus Lake 24 Nov. A Mute Swan continued to be seen in the Braddock Bay area throughout the season. Snow Goose: one (blue morph) H 6 Nov., represents the only report of this uncommon fall species in the region. Brant: the major flight began near the end of Oct. and reached a max of 8,000 H 4 Nov. (BS), this was considerably higher than in recent years. Small flocks and individuals continued to be reported through the end of the period. The Canada Goose flocks were smaller than usual. Wood Duck populations continued to look good with a max of 15 G 9 Sept. Green-winged Teal numbers were good. All of the expected puddle ducks were reported with the highlight including a single No. Shoveler at Northrup Creek 20 Nov., late. The diving ducks arrived on schedule and in good numbers. The highlights included: Canvasback: max 625 Conesus L 30 Nov. Greater Scaup: excellent flocks along the WL. Harlequin Duck: four B 19-30 Nov. (MD, KG), two males and two females. Oldquaw: max 5,000 W 5 Nov. Black Scoter: many reports from H. Surf Scoter: good numbers H. White-winged Scoter: common along WL through the period. Com. Goldeneye: common on lake by end of period. Bufflehead: fairly common by end of period. Hooded Merganser: a few reports from the lake. Com. Merganser: a smattering of individuals and small groups. Red-breasted Merganser: abundant on the lake through the season.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Of interest was one Turkey Vulture H 27 Nov. This is quite late for this species. Bald Eagle reports were down, quite possibly due to the fact that there were no hacking projects near the region this year. Accipiter numbers were normal with a few scattered reports from this group. Goshawk reports were up slightly. Red-shouldered Hawk: an uncommon shorebird during this season, one SA 24 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers as usual. Rough-legged Hawk: first report of the season, one Avon 22 Oct., a few reports after that. Falcon reports were good. Merlin: four reports. Peregrine Falcon: two reports from Oct. **GYRFALCON:** a single gray-phase bird was seen consistently during a single day W 9 Nov. (JC). The Ring-necked Pheasant population made no major positive strides this season. Ruffed Grouse: numbers seem to be increasing along the lakeshore, two H 26 Nov. Com. Moorhen: last report of the season, one G 29 Oct. The shorebird flight, as stated earlier, was of less intensity this season. Regardless of that statement, there were some shorebird highlights and lowlights. Black-bellied Plover: numbers were low. Lesser Golden-Plover: poor showing. Semipalmated Plover: one I 1 Nov., late. Killdeer: max 90 I 9 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: late group, 12 G 27 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: one I 7 Nov., late. Spotted Sandpiper: stayed around longer this year. Whimbrel: one H 3 Sept. Hudsonian Godwit: two H 6 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: two B 19-20 Nov. Purple Sandpiper: four separate reports with a max of four H 7 Nov., improvement over last year's near shutout. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one report (date unknown), poor total due to unsatisfactory field condition. Long-billed Dowitcher: one-two SA 1-2 Oct, two K 5 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: three reports from Sept., four reports from Oct., with a max of six H 7 Oct. (BS). Red Phalarope: one D 6 Nov. (RS), two D 13 Nov. (MD, DD). Pomarine Jaeger: multiple reports but down from last year. Parasitic Jaeger: down also.

The Sept. gull flight was respectable, but later concentrations were poor. Franklin's Gull: one C 10-17 Sept. (mob), one imm I 12 Nov. (RS). Little Gull: a few sightings but still fewer than previous years. **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** one adult H 10 Sept. (MD, RS), one imm H 14 Sept. (BS). **SABINE'S GULL:** one imm H 11 Sept. (MD, WL, BS). Black-legged Kittiwake: super flight year, too many reports to list, max 11 H 29 Oct. (mob). Caspian Tern: six G 8 Oct., late. Com. Tern: good numbers, two H 7 Nov., late, one I 12 Nov. Forster's Tern: up from last year, one I 16 Oct, late. **DOVEKIE:** one C 22 Sept. (KG), riding a strong east wind close to shore.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one K 21 Nov., first of season, followed by additional reports. Long-eared Owl: one D 24 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max 9 G 1 Oct., one G 2-7 Oct. Whip-poor-will: one W 24, late. Chimney Swift: two G 13 Oct., late. Hairy Woodpecker: local populations stable, not easily found elsewhere. No. Flicker: good numbers remaining through the season.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher populations were good with seven species being recorded in Sept. Highlights included: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Cobbs Hill 9 Sept. E. Phoebe: one D 19 Nov., late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one G 22 Sept. Swallows gathered in their traditional large numbers along the lakeshore. Tree Swallow: max 3,000 WL 20 Sept., one D 25 Nov. late individual. No. Rough-winged Swallow: one Waterport 15 Oct., last of season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good numbers this season. Carolina Wren: there were a promising number of reports of this often fluctuating species. House Wren: one late departing individual B 1 Oct. Sedge Wren: reports of this species were nonexistent until the fall migration, one B 10 Sept. (KG). Kinglet numbers were good during the migration period. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was still in the region on 27 Nov. All seven species of thrushes expected in the region were reported. Gray-cheeked Thrush: very good numbers. Swainson's Thrush: three W 2 Oct., last report of the season. Hermit Thrush: not as plentiful as some years. Some mimids tarried on through the season. Gray Catbird: two G 14, 18 Nov., one D 25 Nov. Brown Thrasher: one H 5 Nov. Water Pipit: down from previous year, one P 25 Nov., last report of the season for the species. Bohemian Waxwing: one H 22 Nov. (WL). Cedar Waxwing: common in many areas. Loggerhead Shrike: one S 6 Nov., one of few reports of this dwindling species.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: The expected five species of vireos were tallied. Noteworthy reports include: Red-eyed Vireo: one W 2 Oct., a late tarrying individual. The warbler migration was normal. Twetny-three species were sighted in Sept. Of interest during the season were: Orange-crowned Warbler: one W 5 Sept., one Rochester 21 Sept., one S 9 Oct. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Rochester 6 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: one Rochester 6 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Rochester 10 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: one W 1 Oct. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** The location of this wanderer was quite possibly the find of the season. This brightly-plumaged individual was cooperative enough to allow observation by many individuals and also photographs, one W 13-15 Nov. (CC, MD, DD). Com. Yellowthroat: one I 27 Nov. Wilson's Warbler: one D 22 Nov., very late in the season.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: two W 2 Oct., late in the season. Am. Tree Sparrow: right on schedule and in good numbers. Vesper Sparrow: one P 29 Oct., last report for the season. Fox Sparrow: decent numbers this fall. White-throated Sparrow: very common during the migration and common throughout the period. White-crowned Sparrow: good totals during migration, 12 P 26 Nov., late staying group. Dark-eyed Junco: quite common throughout the region. Lapland Longspur: two H 22 Oct. Snow Bunting: down slightly, food group late in season, 200 Mt. Morris 25 Nov. Icterid highlights were few. No. Oriole: one Rochester 25 Nov. (MD, DD, WL). Winter finches, while not reaching spectacular heights, were much improved over last year. Pine Grosbeak: many reports of small groups. Red Crossbill: 25 D 19-20 Nov. Pine Siskin: first report, one H 7 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: on schedule, decent totals.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612