

Standard abbreviations: ad-adult; arr-arrival or first of season; j-juvenile; im-immature; max-maximum; mob-multiple observers; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC-report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P-Park; Pd-Pond; ph-photographed, Pt-point; Res-Reservoir; SP-State Park; spm-specimen; subad-subadult; T-Town of; Twn-township; WMA-Wildlife Management Area.

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

The summer drought, broken briefly in the last week of August, continued through September and October. Buffalo recorded the least amount (1.2 inches), of rainfall for September in 21 years, and temperatures reached the 80's on nine days. Lake Erie actually warmed again to 71 degrees on the 7th. Hurricane *Gloria* hardly affected us, leaving a few clouds and light showers in her wake. Most of the month was clear and sunny, not conducive to concentrating migrants.

October was warm and remained dry. The first killing frost at Amity Lake occurred on the night of the second and third but not until 28 October at Buffalo International Airport. Lowest readings for the month were on 29 October: 25 at Buffalo, 13 at Jamestown and 16 at Amity Lake. The streams and ponds remained very low and the soil generally very dry.

November, however, got the streams, ponds and reservoirs back to more normal levels but it took record rainfall to do it. This was the wettest November ever recorded at Buffalo (records since 1871) with 9.75 inches. Only three days in the month lacked less than a trace of precipitation. Temperatures averaged less than two degrees above normal at 42. There were two principal reasons for all this precipitation. Hurricane *Juan* dropped most of the rain during the first part of November. The constant rain in the second half was the result of a front stalled from Texas to the maritimes, bringing up moisture from the Gulf to mix with cold air brought down from the north by a depressed jet stream.

The mild September and October gave us very late departure dates, but no one record late, for many neotropical migrants. There were light kills at TV towers south of Buffalo monitored by Arthur Clark. At Farmersville Station Don Clark banded very few vireos and warblers, continuing to document very poor fall flights through the area. The lack of any great number of low pressure disturbances during September and October probably allowed migrants to overfly the area.

We know of no great numbers of hawks migrating through our Region in the fall but they do move through and they do winter. The most notable hawk to report was an unbanded female (by measurements) Peregrine Falcon which apparently struck a high line during a stoop near Swain and injured ligaments in

its elbow joint. It was still being treated for infection in late December by a veterinarian in Jamestown (*vide* Mary Forness). No bones were broken and it carried no shot. A Northern Goshawk was found, recently shot in the woods near Obi; both of its tarsi and wings had been removed. The carcass was given to DEC. An immature Red-tailed Hawk was found dead inside the city limits of Olean in October, apparently shot. We still have plenty of work to educate people, particularly in these wilder portions of the State.

November, with its rainy weather, appeared to stall duck migration. Record numbers of some species, such as Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Mergansers, were seen on lakes of the Southern Tier counties. Joe Thill of Kenmore summarized the status of gulls on the Niagara River during the period. Bonaparte's were down in numbers during September compared to last year. No Glaucous Gulls had appeared by the end of November, and only two Iceland, two Lesser Black-backed and a few Little Gulls were found. No Sabine's Gulls had been seen but a Franklin's Gull frequented South Park the entire season.

The fruit crop was practically nonexistent across most of the Southern Tier counties, almost the exact opposite of last year when there was a great abundance of almost all seed crops. Box Elder and Black-berried Elder produced well but the winter finches, chipmunks and mice cleaned them out early. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers in early October but by the end of November they appeared to have left many areas, far from feeders with sunflower seeds.

Rarities included Peregrine Falcon (above), Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Bohemian Waxwing, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Bob Sundell has written that the deadline for information to be included in his *Birds of Chautauqua County* has been set at 31 December 1985. He is including some records from western Cattaraugus County.

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Abbreviations: ASP—Allegany State Park, BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society, NP—Nature Preserve, WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr two Iroquois NWR 13 Nov, late. Com. Loon: arr two Chau L 3 Oct; max 159 Westfield, L Erie 3 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max 41 Mayville, 20 Oct. Horned Grebe: arr six Lewiston Res 14 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: arr one Niagara R 9 Nov. Double-crested Cormorant: arr ten Dunkirk H 10 Oct. Am. Bittern: only report Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. Great Egret: last three Tonawanda WMA 13 Oct. Tundra Swan: first 12 Dunkirk H 20 Oct; max 63 Chau L 17 Nov. Snow Goose: arr two Iroquois NWR 24 Sep, record early by 2 weeks; one same place 13 Oct. Canada Goose: several flocks over Amity L and Alfred 4 Oct, first real movement of migrants over Southern Tier Cos. Am. Black Duck: max 100 Allegheny Res 30 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr six Iroquois NWR 10 Sep; max 225 T Chau 9 Nov, 77 Amity L 17 Nov, about 200 Quaker L 30 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Hooded Merganser: max 400 Mayville and 670 Maple Bay, Chau. L 23 Nov, unprecedented numbers for fall. Com. Merganser: max 45 Red House L, ASP 22 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: last Amity L, Alle, 28 Oct, late. Bald Eagle: singles Iroquois NWR 2 (imm), 10 (ad), 28 (imm), 29 (imm) Sep; two ad Iroquois NWR 11, 12, 24, 27

Oct; two im Allegheny Res 20 Oct; one Fluvanna, 17 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: last Burgeson WS 3 Nov late. Merlin: imm chasing crows, Greater Yellowlegs, warblers Bird Swamp, Catt, 29 Sep. Ruffed Grouse: good reproduction Southern Tier cos. Wild Turkey: many large flocks coming out of woods to feed on corn early. Virginia Rail: last Kiantone 27 Oct. Com. Moorhen: last Iroquois NWR 13 Oct, late. Am. Coot: max 750 Mayville 29 Nov. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Bemus Pt, Chau L 11 Oct. W. Sandpiper: Bemus Pt 3 Oct, first report BOS study area for 1985 (Gagne, Sundell). Least Sandpiper: last two Bemus Pt 11 Oct. Dunlin: arr two Buffalo 1 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: arr one Niagara Falls 9 Nov; one Dunkirk H 17 Nov; max five Goat I 23 Nov. Dowitcher sp: six Allegheny Res 27 Oct, late. **LAUGHING GULL**: one Adam Beck Hydro 23 Nov (Chilton). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: arr Adam Beck Hydro 1 Nov, first for year Niagara Frontier (D'Anna *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gull: 169 Dunkirk H 29 Nov. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**: one found dead on beach, Dunkirk, 23 Nov, spm saved (Sundell, Gagne). Caspian Tern: last Dunkirk H 7 Oct, late. Forster's Tern: one Barcelona H 2 Sep. Black Tern: no reports for period.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: 425 tallied on BOS fall count in Chau, s Catt and Alle 20 Oct. Long-eared Owl: one Sunnyside, Chau, 20 Oct; one Porter Twn, Niag, 11 Nov. Short-eared Owl: arr Youngstown 17 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: five Goat I 5 Oct, late. Chimney Swift: five Jamestown 9 Oct and three 10 Oct, late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two at feeder Amity L 17 Sep, late.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: E. Wood Pewee: last Silver Creek 11 Oct. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Times Beach, Buffalo, 10 Sep. Great Crested Flycatcher: last Amity L 18 Sep. E. Kingbird: last Sardinia 22 Sep. Tree Swallow: last Tonawanda WMA 23 Nov. Bank Swallow: last Iroquois NWR 29 Sep. Com. Raven: two Andover 26 Oct. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 Ft Niagara SP 8 Sep. Carolina Wren: singles near Barcelona 2 Sep, Amherst Twn 29 Sep and 7 Oct, only reports. Marsh Wren: singles Burgeson WS 25 Nov and Black Corners 26 Nov, late. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Silver Creek 12 Sep; last Alfred 11 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Buffalo 9 Sep. N. Mockingbird: two Depew 3 Nov; one Pomfret Twn, Chau, 29 Nov. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: one Porter Twn 27 Nov (Chilton!). N. Shrike: arr Stockton Twn, Chau, 20 Oct.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: Solitary Vireo: last Youngstown 11 Nov. Yellow-throated Vireo: last Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. Warbling Vireo: last Amity L 20 Sep. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Niagara SP 8 Sep. Blue-winged Warbler: last Amity L 1 Sep. Tennessee Warbler: last Pomfret Twn 11 Oct. Nashville Warbler: last Times Beach 26 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last three Cheektowaga 20 Sep. Cape May Warbler: last two Williamsville Glen 12 Oct. Prairie Warbler: last two Amity L 8 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Pomfret Twn 12 Sep. Connecticut Warbler: one Ft. Niagara SP 8 Sep, first for year; three in tower kills during period. Mourning Warbler: last Amity Twn, Alle, 3 Sep.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Indigo Bunting: last Springville, Erie 3 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Pt Gratiot 11 Oct, max 12 Amity L 1-12 Nov. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tonawanda WMA 29 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: first migrant Angola 16 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Wheatfield Twn 23 Sep. Lapland Longspur: arr 26 Charlotte Twn, Chau, 3 Nov. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: two Westfield, Chau 27 Oct, first fall record Chau (Gagne). Pine Grosbeak: arr 15 Porter Twn, Niag, 2 Nov; three other localities 16-18 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: arr two Tiff Farm NP 11 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr seven Mayville, 27 Oct; one Forest Lawn, Buffalo, 9 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Burgeson WS 12 Oct; four other localities to 24 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr three Amherst 11 Oct; many flocks through end of period.

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