

TANAGERS-WEAVERS : Indigo Bunting: two Amity L 29 Sep, late. **Dickcissel**: singles Darien 27-31 Oct (TH, WD, mob) and Alden 22 Nov (CW), perhaps the same bird; first Regional record since Apr 1977. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Hamburg 11 Oct but not in ALLE, CHAU, ORLE or GENE until 7-8 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: one Belmont 1 Nov, late; 14 BOSOC was 2nd lowest total in 29 years. Savannah Sparrow: 12 TFNP 12 Oct, late. Fox Sparrow: 3-4 Pomfret Twn, CHAU, and one Amity Twn, ALLE, 3 Nov, late. Snow Bunting: arr five DH 25 Oct; max 1330 in about 15 mi Youngstown to Shadagee Rd, Wilson Twn, NIAG, 14 Nov; eight other reports BOS in Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr six INWR 24 Sep. Purple Finch: one Farmersville Station 26-27 Oct; one-five Amity L in Nov. Pine Siskin: arr Porter Twn, CHAU, 24 Sep, where perhaps resident after nesting this spring; five Regional reports BOS through Oct, 100+ Farmersville Station 7-20 Nov; 75 Vandalia Nov; max 225 Porter Twn, CHAU; 52 Amity L 30 Nov; six other reports to BOS 3-30 Nov; *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: arr Amity L 16 Oct; max 45 Nov, and 6 reports BOS throughout Region in Nov.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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This fall the low level of Lake Ontario had more of an impact on the season than did the characteristically variable temperatures and rainfall. September was gloomy and wet. Rainfall was nearly two inches above normal at 4.6 inches. The average temperature was 61.6° which was only slightly below normal. October's precipitation was considerably lower than September's, with a reading of 1.65 inches. The temperature kept things cool with an average reading of 47.1°, 4.6° below normal. Two strong cold fronts passed through the region during November and temperatures seesawed. The average was 40.6°. Precipitation totaled 2.74 inches, including a hint of the winter snows to come. The weather had little effect on birding. Major frontal systems were sporadic and some weekends, which normally are peak days for birding, were mediocre. There were a few good days when waves were evident, but some of the clear days brought only looks at birds as they flew overhead. On the whole, the season seemed about average.

The most significant feature of the season was the level of Lake Ontario. The lake level was well below recent averages and, as a result, mudflats and shallow pools were exposed along the lakeshore. Irondequoit Bay became a hotspot. The exposed mud was attractive to many species of shorebirds. Birds that normally might have passed over the Region found good habitat and, therefore, were observed in good numbers. The Region enjoyed shorebirding unlike that of any recent years. There were unusually high numbers of Stilt and Baird's Sandpipers and of Long-billed Dowitchers. Phalaropes, both Red-necked and Wilson's, were reported early in the season but their numbers dropped off in the later months. Hudsonian Godwit reports also were up. Less numerous than usual were Lesser Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Purple Sandpiper. An injured Spotted Sandpiper lingered until 23 Nov before it disappeared.

Another interesting event was the late influx of long-legged waders. The usual Great Egret were reported in September, but up to three Cattle Egrets were reported during October and, to add to that, singles were reported in November as late as the 15th. Cattle Egrets are not only very unusual in the Region, but these were exceptionally late and in unprecedented numbers. As if this weren't enough, a **Plegadis** ibis appeared at Buck Pond in Greece from 20 to 24 Oct. The same or possibly another was observed later at Irondequoit Bay on 13 Nov. Owing to the difficulty in separating Glossy and White-faced Ibises in the fall, the bird was reported as *Plegadis* species. It has been suggested, although on no known basis, that the lateness of the bird might favor latter species.

Loons were mediocre in numbers, with counts not reaching recent totals during the fall season. Waterfowl enjoyed only an average season with good variety but relatively low numbers. Brant were subpar with a single day maximum of only 520 at Sodus Bay on 31 Oct. Green-winged Teal were reported in good numbers. Numbers of wintering waterfowl began to increase by November. Unusual species included **Harlequin Duck** and **King Eider**. Jaeger flights were poor in September but picked up in October. For the most part, gulls did not do well. Little Gull seemed to be less numerous than usual. The highlights were an immature **Laughing Gull** seen at Irondequoit Bay on 2 Sep and an immature **Sabine's Gull** was seen offshore at Durand-Eastman Park on 8 Oct by Tom Griswold. Sabine's Gull had not been reported in the Region since 1984.

Reports of raptors were quite good. Outstanding observations included a dark morph **Gyr Falcon** and an uncharacteristic fall **Golden Eagle**. O'Hara found an Osprey at Braddock's Bay on 28 Nov, providing a Regional record late date for that species. Bald Eagle totals were good as were Northern Harrier totals. The latter species was found in many locations along the lakeshore where they methodically worked the fields. Many reports of accipiters also were received, with Cooper's Hawk once again the most common of the three. Falcons were well represented by numerous Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings. A color-banded Peregrine hinted of a successful program elsewhere in the nation.

The passerine migration was similarly mixed. Kinglets and thrushes were well reported while flycatchers and warbler totals suggested that this was a poor season for them. Yellow-rumped Warblers were somewhat scarce compared to traditional numbers. Beatty Point, in the town of Greece, was the site of a tremendous influx of sparrows and wrens. There were literally hundreds of White-throated, White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows and lesser numbers of Field, Chipping and Lincoln's Sparrows. Along with the sparrows at Beatty Point were 40 Winter Wrens. This easily eclipses any maximum total for recent years. Good totals were also noted elsewhere in the Region. A Sedge Wren was located also at that same locale. The most unusual sparrow reported was **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. Up to two individuals were reported from Beatty Point from 3 to 10 Oct, three were once again sighted at Hogan Point from 12 to 18 Oct and one was spotted at Irondequoit Bay on 11-13 Oct. This surpassed last year's exceptional total. New locations and higher numbers point either towards a recent change in their status here or an increased effort being made to locate them. Two **Brewer's Blackbird** reports were the Region's first for the fall, and continue the recent string of observations of this species here.

The fall season usually hints at what's to be expected for the upcoming winter season, and this year was no exception. Winter visitors such as Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl and Northern Shrike were noted. Owls were well reported with over ten reports of Snowy Owl. Wintering passerines were represented by American Tree Sparrow, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. All of the usual winter finches, except for Pine Grosbeak, were present. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were common. Only time will tell us how accurately these trends predicted the winter's highlights.

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Abbreviations: BB-Braddock Bay, BP-Beatty Point, DEP-Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent waters, HP-Hogan Point, IB-Irondequoit Bay, MB-Manitou Beach, SB-Sodus Bay, SC-Salmon Creek, WL-West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Hamlin 5 Oct. Com. Loon: max 150 Hamlin 30 Oct. Horned Grebe: six Hamlin 25 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: one Hamlin 19 Oct, only report. Am. Bittern: last HP 18 Oct. Great Egret: one or two IB to 29 Sep. **Cattle Egret**: four Charlotte 24, 31 Oct (MD,RO'H), one Churchville 25 Oct (BK,JH), two HP 31 Oct (MD), one HP 1 Nov (MR), one WAYN 2 Nov (MD,DT), quite late. Green-backed Heron: last Hamlin 21 Oct. *Plegadis* sp.: intro. Tundra Swan: two Hamlin 24 Oct. Brant: intro. Canvasback: arr two Kendall 13 Oct. Ring-necked Duck: arr one BB 3 Oct. Greater Scaup: max 50 Hamlin 25 Sep. **King Eider**: singles BB 11-12 Nov (MD, DT), Hamlin 13 Nov (RO'H). **Harlequin Duck**: female Hamlin 8-10 Nov (BK,MR,S H). Surf Scoter: eight Hamlin 10 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: two Hamlin 3 Sep, early. Bufflehead: arr WL 5 Oct. Ruddy Duck: 23 IB 4 Oct, very good total.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: one Letchworth SP 15 Nov, late. Osprey: intro. Bald Eagle: one MB 2 Sep, im Hamlin 8 Nov. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Wayne Co 2 Nov, unusual for the season. Rough-legged Hawk: max eight WL 16 Nov. **Golden Eagle**: one Mendon Ponds 4 Nov (MR,NB). Peregrine Falcon: sighting of at least five separate individuals. **Gyr Falcon**: dark morph Webster 22 Nov (DT,DS, NYSARC). Com. Moorhen: one SC 27 Nov, extremely late. Black-bellied Plover: two WL 10 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 200 Avon 13 Sep. Semipalmated Plover: last SC 16 Nov, late. Killdeer: max 106 IB 4 Nov. Greater Yellowlegs: one Greece 26 Nov, late. Solitary Sandpiper: last IB 20 Sep. Willet: one Hamlin 9 Sep, only report. Spotted Sandpiper: intro. Upland Sandpiper: last MB 11 Sep. Whimbrel: one IB 4,7 Sep; one Hamlin 13 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one Northrup Creek 4 Sep, one SC 4 Oct, both juveniles. Sanderling: last three IB 6 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: max 20 IB 21-22 Sep, high. Baird's Sandpiper: arr IB 12 Sep; last BB 28 Oct. Purple Sandpiper: one IB 21-24 Nov, scarce. Dunlin: arr one WL 16 Sep. Stilt Sandpiper: max 28 IB 14 Sep, high. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: singles IB 1-2 Sep and 18 Sep, both juveniles. Long-billed Dowitcher: max 12 Savannah 10 Oct (DT), excellent number, many other sightings, best year ever. Com. Snipe: last BB 27

Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: max five IB 1-16 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: max five Hamlin 10 Oct. **Laughing Gull**: *intro*. Little Gull: max two Hamlin 31 Oct, scarce. Glaucous Gull: ims Hamlin 31 Oct and 11 Nov, IB 22 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: ims Greece 6 Nov, Hamlin 28 Nov. **Sabine's Gull**: *intro*. Com. Tern: last two IB 1 Nov. Forester's Tern: one Rochester 10 Oct, late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last Greece 16 Sep. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one BB 28 Oct, very late. Short-eared Owl: arr two Retsoff 24 Oct, max 11 Hamlin 8 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: singles MB 11 Oct, BB 17 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: max 50 Roc hester 4 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 40 IB 18 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Brockport 11 Oct, late. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr one MB 16 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MB 28 Sep. Willow Flycatcher: last song MB 2 Sep. Barn Swallow: max 500 Hamlin 6 Sep, last two IB 18 Oct. Am. Crow: max 1450 at traditional Rochester winter roost 28 Nov. Winter Wren: max 40 BP 4 Oct (DT). Sedge Wren. one BP 10 Oct (BK,JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 500 Brockport 4 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last MB 8 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr MB 23 Sep. Water pipit: max 200 Rush 30 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Orange-crowned Warbler: one MB 16 Oct. Palm Warbler: last four BP 4 Oct. Prothonotary Warbler: female SB 19 Sep, late. Mourning Warbler: last MB 5 Sep. Com. Yellowthroat: last MP 4 Nov, preparing to overwinter?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: male Pittsford 1 Nov, late. Indigo Bunting: last on MB 5 Oct. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr BP 23 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last Penfield 11 Nov. Field Sparrow: last two WL 24 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last WL 13 Oct. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro*. "Oregon" Junco: one MB 15-16 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: one MB 19 Sep. **Brewer's Blackbird**: female BB 11 Oct (BK) and MB 21 Oct (RO'H), most likely the same individual. Red Crossbill: max ten MB 17 Oct. White-winged Crossbill: max two MB 24 Oct. Pine Siskin: max 100 WL 25 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr five MB 19 Sep.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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September and October of 1987 were colder and wetter than normal, but were followed by more typical weather in November. It was the wettest September since 1979. Ithaca reported 21 days with measurable rain, the most ever in the month of September. These frequent rains hampered crop harvesting throughout September and farm fieldwork was restricted until the second week of October. Ithaca had a record low of 25 degrees on 14 Oct, and weather in the Region remained consistently cold for the remainder of the month. November started out nice and warm, with above-average temperatures in the mid-60s to upper 70s. On 10 and 11 Nov, a low pressure system brought up to an inch of snow. Temperatures gradually warmed up following this storm and were quite pleasant by 17 Nov, when a second storm brought rain and high winds gusting to 35-45 mph to the Region. The coldest temperatures of the month followed a cold front on 20 Nov, with temperatures in the teens and wind chill equivalents well below zero. Temperatures warmed up somewhat for the remainder of the month, with rainfall again on 29 and 30 Nov.