

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The warm and dry conditions continued from summer in September 2020. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 64.4° F, 2.2° above normal, with 3.40" of precipitation, 0.50" below average. September had the greatest average wind speed in ten years including strong winds on the 7th with a cold front. October had many damp days and two strong cold fronts on the 7th and 23rd, the latter with record breaking warmth ahead of it. The mean temperature was 51.8°, 1.0° above average. Precipitation was 3.60", 0.08" above average, plus a trace of snow. November was warm and mild. The mean temperature was 46.5°, 5.8° above normal and the sixth warmest November on record. Rainfall was 2.81", 1.20" below normal and there was only 0.8" of snow, 7.1" below average.

In a fall season with many highlights, the irruptive finch flight drew the most collective excitement among the Region's birders. In terms of the species involved and overall numbers, veteran birders considered it the best irruptive finch flight in decades. A makeshift "finch watch" was established at Krull County Park, as open fields with great sightlines adjacent to a large conifer plantation near the Lake Ontario shoreline provided an excellent viewing location for flyover finches that sometimes dropped in for foraging. Birders amassed by the dozens and many newer birders picked up multiple lifers. Red Crossbills were the most notable of the species as it was the largest irruption in 50+ years, including multiple counts around 100 from Krull CP in early November. Most call recordings were identified to Type 10 ("Sitka Spruce"), while Mike Morgante recorded one or more Type 4s ("Douglas Fir") within a group of Type 10s at Krull CP, and Tim Lenz recorded Type 2s ("Ponderosa Pine") at Lake Erie SP. White-winged Crossbills appeared in lower numbers and with less frequency than the Reds, and the maximum count of 28 at Krull CP was in a mixed crossbill foraging flock. Evening Grosbeaks first appeared in mid-October and were reported from 26 locations by the end of the month; maximum counts of 45 were made at Krull CP and Lake Erie SP in early November. Lone Pine Grosbeaks were identified by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Krull CP on two dates in November, but this species did not otherwise join the finch irruption Regionally. There were some good flight days for Common Redpolls with a maximum count of 303 at Krull CP on 13 November. Three Hoary Redpolls were documented in November. Pine Siskins

were part of the irruption but in modest numbers. American Goldfinches were moving as well, with a count of 318 at Krull CP on the morning of 6 November. Other than some redpolls, it did not appear that the irruptive finches stuck around the Region.

The Region enjoyed several highlights during the fall waterfowl migration including two sightings of Ross's Goose. An individual found by Joel Strong in Somerset accommodated local birders for five days on 12-16 October, while a second individual was found by John Hayward in Amity on 16 November. This species has become near annual in the fall for the Region. There were several reports of Snow Goose throughout the Region, including an early sighting on 14 September at Iroquois NWR. A Snow x Ross's Goose hybrid was found by Celeste Morien on 23 October at INWR and documented well with photographs. There were several Cackling Goose reports, all from interior locations. Brant were reported from both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, represented by just four sightings for the season. Rounding out the goose highlights were three Greater White-fronted Geese reported at INWR from 18 October to 1 November and another in Wilson on 18 November. This is another species whose frequency appears to be increasing in the Region.

Tundra Swans arrived on 28 October, increasing to a seasonal high count of 125 by 26 November at Beaver Island SP. Both adult and juvenile Trumpeter Swans were reported from INWR throughout the fall season with a high of 12 individuals on 10 October. Handfuls of all three scoter species were reported from both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Surf Scoter reports from Dayton Gravel Ponds and Batavia WWTP represent notable inland reports. Joe Fell discovered four King Eiders along the Niagara River in Buffalo. These long-staying birds remained from 8-30 November, allowing many the opportunity to observe this Regional rarity. Wrapping up the waterfowl highlights were two male Harlequin Ducks, both from the Niagara River. The first was reported at its "usual spot" off Three Sisters Islands at Niagara Falls SP on 8 November and another from Buffalo on 21 and 27 November.

A **Purple Gallinule** was photographed next to an elementary school in Franklinville by Levi O'Brien on 23 October. This shocker of a sighting represents the Region's third record.

Shorebird numbers were not especially high within the Region, but there were several notable reports. Josh Ketry found and photographed Cattaraugus County's third record of **Western Sandpiper** at the recently drawn down Allegheny Reservoir. This location also produced the Region's only fall reports of Stilt Sandpiper. Several sightings of up to four Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from the Buffalo portion of the Niagara River in September and October. These sightings coincided with strong southwest winds and rain events, which tend to funnel this species to the extreme northeast end of Lake Erie and into the Niagara River, where savvy birders await. Celeste Morien found the season's only Regionally rare Red Phalarope on 2 October at BWWT. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found by Josh Ketry at Buffalo Harbor on 7 September. Two Red Knots were reported this season, both from Lake Erie on 5 and 16 September. Two sightings of American Avocets were reported in the fall, also from Lake Erie; a group of three at Buffalo Harbor on 29 September found by Kevin Rybczynski and two from Dunkirk Harbor on 16 October found by Gale VerHague. Tom Kerr reported the only fall Upland Sandpiper when he detected its nocturnal flight call in West Seneca on 6 September. There were three reports of Baird's Sandpiper within the Region, all from interior locations.

Up to three Parasitic Jaegers and two rare **Long-tailed Jaegers** were reported from the Niagara River at Buffalo during the same, strong southwest wind and rain events that produced Red-necked Phalaropes as described above. Knowing the funneling effect these weather patterns have on jaegers in Lake Erie, local birders gathered at the strategically

located West Side Rowing Club in anticipation of the wind-blown birds. Their efforts paid off with close looks at both species of jaeger. Lake Ontario also produced three reports of Parasitic Jaegers from various shoreline locations in Niagara County.

Gulls did not disappoint area birders during the fall season. Regional highlights included a very accommodating and close Sabine's Gull found by Bruce Hoover at the Union Ship Canal, which delighted area birders from 27-30 November. Three Laughing Gulls were sighted within the Region; two from Lake Erie/Niagara River locations and another from Batavia WWTP. A **Mew Gull** was found by Jamie Spence from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, but flew on both sides of the boundary. Based on photographs, this bird is believed to be of the Eurasian subspecies *canus* or *heinei*. Other gull highlights included the arrival of the much anticipated "white-wingers", Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, as well as a seasonal high count of five Little Gulls. A high count of 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Cuba Lake is notable, but even more so due to its inland location. On the tern front, a seasonal high count of 10 Black Terns was reported from the Niagara River at Buffalo and the only Forster's Tern report was from Iroquois NWR on 14 October.

On 17 October, Karen Lee Lewis noticed a hummingbird utilizing her *Salvia* and *Cuphea* plants in her East Amherst yard which showed rusty coloration on its flanks, consistent with a *Selasphorus* hummingbird. Thanks to photos from her and Kevin Rybczynski, it was determined this was an adult, female **Rufous Hummingbird**, ending a 15-year dry spell for this species in Erie County. This long-staying hummingbird remained until 1 November, giving several birders the opportunity to enjoy this rare visitor from the west. A second Erie County *Selasphorus* hummingbird was found by Jim and Karen Landau in their Colden yard on 23 October. This young male continued until 5 November; however, despite numerous birders and photographs, no clear open-tail shot was captured, which is necessary to differentiate Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds. Thus, this individual had to be left as **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird**.

Kyle Gage identified a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Batavia WWTP on 5 September and many birders showed up to see this rarity during its weeklong stay. An American White Pelican continued from the summer, and possibly the same bird from the spring, at Oak Orchard WMA through 10 October. A Cattle Egret was found on the Lake Erie shoreline at Dunkirk on 16 October and then was joined by another later in the day. A Cattle Egret at Iroquois NWR was more cooperative, seen often at Kumpf Marsh between 25 October and 10 November.

Black Vultures continued around Lewiston with a maximum of six reported this season. Joe Fell reported a Golden Eagle over Buffalo on 25 October. Josh Ketry documented a briefly observed **Mississippi Kite** over Beaver Island SP on 12 September, the fifth for the Region and second this year.

SUNY Fredonia students Devin Banning and Katelyn Davis found a **Barn Owl** on campus that was observed frequenting a small meadow and visible in the glow of nearby parking lot lighting, as well as on occasional flights elsewhere. Some observers felt two birds were present, raising the possibility of breeding activity since Barn Owls have been known to nest throughout the year. While likely under detected due to their nocturnal nature, this species has rarely been documented in the Region this century. A Snowy Owl arrived in Buffalo Harbor in November and they were not reported from other locations. Short-eared Owls were reported from multiple locations, including up to 12 in Conewango that marked the highest Regional numbers in some time. Indefatigable David Junkin banded 45 Northern Saw-whet Owls this fall on his Wethersfield property, while there were reports from three other locations.

There were a few more Olive-sided Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports this season than usual, and a Least Flycatcher photographed in Sheridan was on the late side on 6 October. Multiple White-eyed Vireos were found this fall, again! This species continues to occur more often in the fall season than the spring season lately; reverse migration seems the most likely reason for the fall sightings. Sightings were made 14 October at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo and 8 and 10 November at Amherst SP. There were some slightly late reports for Yellow-throated Vireo and Warbling Vireo.

The night roost of Purple Martins at Grass Island in the Niagara River at Beaver Island SP included an estimate of 15,000 martins descending at dusk on 1 September. A **Cave Swallow** was sighted by several observers and photographed by Brad Carlson at Krull CP as it flew west early in the morning of 8 November. Cedar Waxwings were counted in good numbers at the Krull CP “finch watch” in early November. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued their increased numbers from the irruption that started in August.

Fall season sparrow highlights included multiple Nelson’s Sparrow reports. Joe Mitchell found two at Conewango Swamp WMA on 4 October and Bruce Robinson and Josh Ketry had one there on 14 October, along with a late Bobolink. Sue Barth had a Nelson’s Sparrow at the recently restored East River Marsh at Beaver Island SP on 13 October. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Artpark SP where the species was present in spring and summer. An adult male Baltimore Oriole was photographed at Amherst SP over several dates in late October and mid-November.

The trend of increasing numbers of late warbler sightings continued this year. November sightings were made for Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler; see details in the records compilation. The first fall Regional record of Prothonotary Warbler was made by Melanie Streeter when she photographed an apparent adult male from the Wag Trail just south of Wellsville on 18 October. Three Connecticut Warbler sightings in September were also notable. Other late passerine sightings included Scarlet Tanager on 24 October and Indigo Bunting on 25 October.

The 85th BOS October Count was held on 10 October on a warm and windy day. Marcie Jacklin was the compiler of this count that includes both Region 1 and an adjacent area in Ontario. A total of 196 birders contributed to recording 163 species and 103,856 birds. Record high counts were tallied for Gadwall (221), Double-crested Cormorant (7,597), American White Pelican (1), Cooper’s Hawk (38), Merlin (12), Baltimore Oriole (1), and Northern Parula (4). There were no record low counts. Among the high counts, it is notable that this was the second year in a row for a high count for Cooper’s Hawk. Merlin and Gadwall both appear to be increasing in fall in recent years as well. I also suspect that the record high cormorant count included some double counting of birds on the Buffalo waterfront.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 10 Oct Count; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach Nature Pres, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr INWR 14 Sep (BC), early; Somerset NIAG 29 Sep, 10-13 Oct (JSt); Dayton CATT 14 Oct; 14 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 25 Oct (SB); BMAC 28 Oct; max 30 Caneadea ALLE 7 Nov (AB); six other Nov records 1-2 each.

Ross's Goose: Somerset NIAG 12-16 Oct (JSt ph!); Amity ALLE 16 Nov (JH); has become near annual in fall.

Snow x Ross's Goose: INWR 23 Oct (CM, KG), identified as hybrid through photo review.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 3 INWR 18 Oct - 1 Nov (CM); Wilson NIAG 18 Nov (NS).

Brant: arr Porter NIAG 25 Oct; max 18 FNSP 30 Oct; 2 DH 3, 13 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 3 N Collins ERIE 9 Oct; 4, 4, 2 INWR 16, 31 Oct, 7 Nov; 5 OOWMA 3 Nov; Dayton CATT 12 Nov; Cassadaga CHAU 27 Nov.

Mute Swan: BeSP 2, 8, 25 Sep. 18 Oct; max 16 Carlton ORLE 29 Sep; 7 Wilson NIAG 16

Oct; DH 2, 27 Nov; Cassadaga CHAU 7 Nov; 3 Mayville ChauL 8 Nov; 8 PB 21 Nov; 5 WTSP 22 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Hanover CHAU 1, 30 Sep, 11 Nov (GV, JP); max 12, 11 INWR 10 Oct, 20 Nov; 2 RWNP 30 Oct (CH).

Tundra Swan: arr 6 INWR, 5 Wilson NIAG 28 Oct; 40 Shelby ORLE 11 Nov; 72 Celeron ChauL 16 Nov; 104 BeSP 20 Nov; max 125 NF 26 Nov.

Wood Duck: 92 Tift NP 8 Sep; 79 BWWTP 14 Sep; max 804, 381 TWMA 24 Sep, 15 Oct (CM, MW), coming to roost near dusk.

Blue-winged Teal: 30 BufH 3 Sep; 30 BWWTP 5 Sep; 72 TWMA 1 Oct (MW); last 10 BWWTP 4 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 125, 143, 125 BWWTP 9 Sep, 27 Oct, 5 Nov; 3 Jamestown CHAU 22 Nov; 4 INWR 28 Nov.

Gadwall: 89, 81 Tift NP 22 Oct, 21 Nov; max 158 INWR 1 Nov; 50 DH 21 Nov; 70 TWMA 25 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 315 INWR 16 Oct; 71 OOWMA 7 Nov.

Mallard: max 542 TWMA 1 Oct (MW).

American Black Duck: 16 GHSP 28 Oct; 15 Machias CATT 8 Nov; max 26 INWR 20 Nov; 21 BWWT 27 Nov.

Northern Pintail: 84 TWMA 4 Oct; max 103 GHSP 25 Oct; 20 INWR 25 Nov; 7 BuFH 29 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 153 TWMA 1 Oct; 68 Dayton CATT 24 Oct; 130 INWR 20 Nov; 21 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov.

Canvasback: BWWT 14, 17 Sep (BC, VR); 2, 5 Dayton CATT 23, 25 Oct; max 1600 NF 27 Nov.

Redhead: 1, 11 BWWT 6, 27 Sep; 5 BuSP 25 Sep; 44, 100 Ellery ChauL 17 Oct, 27 Nov; max 150 NF 26 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: Tift NP 6 Sep; 31 BWWT 3 Oct; max 170, 100 Dayton CATT 17 Oct, 1 Nov; 97 N Collins ERIE 7 Nov; 75 NF 26 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 13 GHSP 3 Oct; max 500 BuFH 1 Nov; 200 DH 22 Nov; max 500 NF 27 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: BWWT 11 Sep; 11 LBSP 14 Sep; max 1200, 1000 Ellery ChauL 13, 27 Nov.

King Eider: 4 Buffalo NR 8-30 Nov (JF, mob).

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 8, 29 Nov (JSt, JSk), regular location; Buffalo NR 21, 27 Nov (CH, MR).

Surf Scoter: arr 1, max 22 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 24 Oct; EvSP 12 Oct; 2 Dayton CATT, 2 BWWT 14 Oct; 2, 2 DH 28 Oct, 9 Nov; 4 BuFH 8 Nov; 2 Olcott, NIAG 8 Nov; 2 FNSP 26 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: Barcelona CHAU 1 Sep (GV); 2 Buffalo NR 30 Sep; 37 GHSP 24 Oct; N Collins ERIE 7 Nov; 3 Ellery ChauL 14 Nov; 2 Cassadaga CHAU 25 Nov; max 120 FNSP 27 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 3 Buffalo NR 11 Oct; 14, 8 BuFH 22 Oct, 8 Nov; 11 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 25 Oct; max 41 GHSP 25 Oct; 22 DH 3 Nov; 6 LBSP 8 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Oct; 179 GHSP 28 Oct; max 500 BuFH 21 Nov.

Bufflehead: 1, 152, 76 BWWT 6 Sep, 30 Oct, 5 Nov; 68 GHSP 28 Oct; max 1100 Buffalo NR 15 Nov; 170 NFSP 22 Nov; 180 N Harmony ChauL 22 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: 2 WoBSP 12 Sep; 1, 125 FNSP 18 Sep, 27 Nov; 59 GHSP 28 Oct; 130 Ellery ChauL 7 Nov; max 500 NF 26 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 49, 132 INWR 30 Oct, 6 Nov; max 170 Dayton CATT 11 Nov; 150 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; 122 DH 27 Nov.

Common Merganser: 111 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Oct; max 200 Dayton CATT 4 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 17 LBSP 15 Sep; 611 GHSP 28 Oct; 450 Olcott NIAG 8 Nov; max 650 LESP 13 Nov; 300 Barcelona CHAU 16 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 32, 947, 635 BWWT 27 Sep, 30 Oct, 3 Nov (DBea, VR); 3, 100 N Harmony ChauL 29 Sep, 22 Nov; 83, 324, 100 Dayton CATT 4, 14 Oct, 1 Nov (JM, JoK).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 21 TWMA 24 Sep; 14, 17, 12 N Collins ERIE 4, 18 Oct, 7 Nov; 14 Celoron ChauL 31 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr BuSP 24 Sep; Olean CATT 28 Sep; 11 Salamanca CATT 22 Oct; 26 GHSP 28 Oct; 28 PB 9 Nov; max 34 DH 27 Nov; 21 Ellery ChauL 27 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2, 9 GHSP 3, 28 Oct; 2 Buffalo ERIE 13 Oct; 1, 2 Dayton CATT 18 Oct (JoK, BR); 2 BeSP 3 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 24 Nov; five other Nov records.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1, 2 Fredonia CHAU 11 Sep, 3 Oct; Dunkirk CHAU 25 Sep; last INWR 10 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Allegheny Res CATT 5, 9 Sep; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 10 Sep; Krull CP 11 Sep; Tift NP 14 Sep; last CSWMA 6 Oct (BR ph!).

Common Nighthawk: 3, 12, 1 Grand Island ERIE 1, 9, 16 Sep; 6, 15, 7 BeSP 1, 2, 5 Sep; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 3 Sep; 7 OOWMA 6 Sep; last 3 Ripley CHAU 5 Oct.

Chimney Swift: max 480 INWR 6 Sep (JG *et al.*), impressive count.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Grand Island ERIE 13 Oct.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: East Amherst ERIE 17 Oct – 1 Nov (KLL, mob), first year female based on ID from many photos.

RUFIOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: Colden ERIE 23 Oct – 5 Nov (J&KL), apparent male but inconclusive to species.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 4 Tift NP 3 Sep; 3 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep; BWWT, TWMA 27 Oct; 2 BeSP 4 Nov; last OOWMA 7 Nov.

Sora: max, last 3, 1 Tift NP 20 Sep, 7 Nov; 3 INWR 29 Sep; BeSP 20 Oct.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Franklinville CATT 23 Oct (LO ph!), photographed at an elementary school, third Reg record.

Common Gallinule: 45, 50 TWMA 6, 24 Sep; 35 OOWMA 6 Sep; last INWR 23 Oct.

American Coot: max 231 TWMA 21 Oct; 150 TWMA 5 Nov; 111 Celeron ChauL 13 Nov.

Sandhill Crane: 6 Shelby ORLE 1 Sep; 4 Allegheny Res CATT 16 Sep (JoK); 4 CSWMA 21 Sep; max 14, 20, 16, 20 INWR 9, 10, 31 Oct, 22 Nov (CM, LWS, LB).

American Avocet: 3 BufH 29 Sep (KR); last 2 DH 16 Oct (GV).

Black-bellied Plover: 4 BufH 19 Sep; max 8 Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep; 2 GHSP 28 Oct; 2 Somerset NIAG 31 Oct.

American Golden-Plover: INWR 6 Sep; 12 Shelby ORLE 12 Sep; 3 BufH 15 Sep; Wilson NIAG 19 Sep; 4 Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep (JoK); Sheridan CHAU 8, 9 Oct; last TWMA 27 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: 20 Allegheny Res CATT 9 Sep (JoK); 14, last 2 BufH 3, 23 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: West Seneca ERIE 6 Sep (TK), nocturnal flight calls.

Ruddy Turnstone: Barcelona CHAU 8 Sep; 2 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 10 Sep; 2 BWWT 12 Sep; 6, 5 BufH 13, 23 Sep; last 2, 1 DH 30 Sep, 5 Oct.

Red Knot: Barcelona CHAU 5 Sep (CV); last 4 BufH 16 Sep (KR).

Stilt Sandpiper: 1, 1 Allegheny Res CATT 14, 26 Sep (BR, JM), only reports.

Sanderling: 14, 28 BufH 4, 5 Sep; 13 Barcelona CHAU 5 Sep; 19 Allegheny Res CATT 13 Sep (KB), good total for inland; 3, 5 DH 5 Oct, 2 Nov; 2 Olcott NIAG 31 Oct.

Dunlin: max 58 WoBSP 26 Oct; 35, 36 INWR 28 Oct, 8 Nov; last BWWT 29 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: N Harmony CHAU 6 Sep (KV); 2 INWR 6 Sep (PY); Newfane NIAG 6 Sep (JoK); only reports.

Least Sandpiper: last Dayton CATT 19 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: BWWT 1, 3 Nov; only report.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: BufH 7 Sep (JoK, mob), only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 25 Allegheny Res CATT 21 Sep (KB); 17 BMAC 1 Oct; last Machias CATT 11 Nov (JR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1, 7 BMAC 1, 10 Oct (JRB, SC).

WESTERN SANDPIPER (R1): Allegheny Res CATT 16 Sep (JoK ph!), rare.

American Woodcock: Buffalo ERIE 31 Oct, outside downtown buildings; Amherst ERIE 3 Nov; last Yorkshire CATT 7 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: last Ripley CHAU 18 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Amherst ERIE 12 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Somerset NIAG 21 Oct (JSt), late.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 CSWMA 10 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 28 OOWMA 9 Oct; last Cuba ALLE 15 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: 3, 3, 4, 1 Buffalo NR 7, 13, 30 Sep, 7 Oct (JM, TJM, AHu), during strong wind events; BWWT 2-3 Oct.

Red Phalarope: BWWT 2 Oct (CM ph!), rare.

Parasitic Jaeger: 2, 3, 3 Buffalo NR 13, 30 Sep, 7 Oct (GL, JoK, AHu), during wind events; 2 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; Olcott NIAG 20 Oct; GHSP 24 Oct.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R1): 1, 2 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 7 Oct (JoK, AHu, mob), rare.

Jaeger sp.: 2 BufH 7 Sep (PY); 2 BOSOC.

Black-legged Kittiwake: BufH 1, 20 Nov (JM, KR); Whirlpool NR NIAG 24 Nov (BO); only reports.

Sabine's Gull: Buffalo ERIE 27-30 Nov (BH, mob), well observed by many.

Bonaparte's Gull: 450, 390 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 16 Nov; 400 FNFP 17 Oct; max 800, 325 DH 28 Oct, 9 Nov.

Little Gull: max 1, 1, 2, 5 Buffalo NR 7, 30 Sep, 7 Oct, 16 Nov; DH 9, 20 Nov; 2 BeSP 20 Nov.

Laughing Gull: BufH 2 Sep (SB); BWWT 5-14 Sep, 2-3 Oct (JC, mob); Buffalo NR 7 Sep (AHu), continued from late Aug.

MEW GULL: NF 23, 24 Nov (JSp, MJ ph!), seen from Ontario side but also in NY waters, thought to one of the Eurasian subspecies *canus* or *heinei*.

Herring Gull: 500 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov, good count for inland.

Iceland Gull: arr Wilson NIAG 3 Nov; WoBSP 20 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; NFSP 25 Nov; DH 27 Nov; 2 NPP 29 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Barcelona CHAU 7 Sep; WoBSP 16 Sep; LBSP 19 Sep; 2, 5 NFSP 30 Sep, 25 Nov; DH 4 Oct; 2 WoBSP 22 Oct; Olcott NIAG 28 Oct; max 15 Cuba ALLE 21 Nov (TiL), excellent inland count; Sardinia ERIE 30 Nov (JoK).

Glaucous Gull: arr Krull CP 1, 20, 21 Nov; NFSP 24 Nov; only reports.

Caspian Tern: max 25, last 3 BeSP 7 Sep, 9 Oct.

Black Tern: 1, max 10, 2, last 1 Buffalo NR 2, 7, 30 Sep, 7 Oct; BWWT 13 Sep (MJ).

Common Tern: max 119 Buffalo NR 13 Sep; 17 Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; DH 26 Oct; last BufH 9 Nov.

Forster's Tern: INWR 14 Oct (VR), only report.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: arr Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 9 Olcott NIAG 31 Oct; max 60 Olcott NIAG 4 Nov; 9 PB 15 Nov.

Common Loon: 5 Wilson NIAG 12 Sep; max 96 GHSP 24 Oct; 11 Krull CP 29 Nov.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: BWWTP 5-12 Sep (KG, mob), third documented Reg report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2750, 3300 BuFH 22 Sep, 6 Oct; 2800 DH 22 Oct; 400 BuFH 1 Nov.

American White Pelican: OOWMA 3, 27 Sep, 1, 10 Oct, continuing from summer.

American Bittern: Tift NP 4 Sep; INWR 19 Sep; TWMA 24 Sep; RWNP 25 Sep; Lewiston NIAG 14 Oct (JRB); BeSP 17 Oct, 5 Nov; TWMA 27 Oct; last CSWMA 7 Nov.

Least Bittern: TBNP 1 Sep; Tift NP 3, 19 Sep; TWMA 6 Sep; only reports.

Great Egret: last 76, 1 INWR 3 Sep, 8 Nov; max 137 TWMA 24 Sep.

Cattle Egret: 1-2 DH 16 Oct (GV, BR); INWR 25 Oct – 10 Nov (AHe, mob), long staying bird.

Green Heron: last New Albion ALLE 22 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last S Buffalo ERIE 17 Oct.

Black Vulture: max 6, 4 Lewiston NIAG 4 Oct, 14 Nov (WD, BP).

Turkey Vulture: 24 Lewiston NIAG 25 Nov, max beyond Oct.

Osprey: last INWR 3 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Buffalo ERIE 25 Oct (JF), rare.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: BeSP 12 Sep (JoK), brief flyover; fifth Reg record.

Red-shouldered Hawk: only three reports beyond Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last Jamestown CHAU 23 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 INWR 27 Oct; 3 CSWMA 29 Nov (JM)

BARN OWL (R1): 1-2 Fredonia, CHAU 11-21 Nov (DBa, KD, GV, mob), rare.

Snowy Owl: arr BH 21 Nov.

Barred Owl: Buffalo ERIE 19 Oct (SS), unusual location.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: arr BuSP 27 Oct (AHu); 6 Jamestown CHAU 23 Nov; max 12 Conewango CATT 28 Nov (DC); 5 INWR 29 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: total 45 banded Wethersfield WYOM 7 Oct -21 Nov (DJ); Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (BP, WD); 1, 2 Forestville CHAU 26 Oct, 6 Nov (GV); Jamestown CHAU 8 Nov (JB).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 FNSP 12 Sep; Tift NP 1 Oct; last Orchard Park ERIE 6 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: max 4 INWR 1 Sep (PH); Dayton CATT 22 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Fredonia CHAU 25 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last Keeney Swamp ALLE 20 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AmSP 3 Sep; Allegheny Res CATT 6 Sep; last Charlotte CHAU, BeSP, NFSP 12 Sep (GV, JoK, HS, BK).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last BOSOC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: eight Sep reports; last WoBSP 3 Oct (SB, ph!).

Least Flycatcher: last Sheridan CHAU 6 Oct (GV ph!), late.

Eastern Phoebe: last Sardinia ERIE 7 Nov.

Northern Shrike: arr GHSP, INWR 31 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: FLC 14 Oct (DM, SP); AmSP 8, 10 Nov (AG, SB); fall reports outnumber spring reports in recent years.

Yellow-throated Vireo: WTSP 2 Oct (WD, BP); last 2 AmSP 5 Oct (RSh, SH ph!), late.

Blue-headed Vireo: last BuFH 3 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 2, 3 AmSP 6, 14 Sep; 2 WoBSP 12 Sep; last AmSP 10 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 5 Oct (CH, RSh, SH), late.

Red-eyed Vireo: last WoBSP 15 Oct.

Fish Crow: 2, 3 Buffalo ERIE 5, 28 Nov (SD, AHu); 3 FLC 19 Nov (AHu); has become regular in Buffalo in winter and spring in recent years.

Common Raven: max 7 Yates ORLE 24 Oct.

Horned Lark: 192 Shelby ORLE 4 Sep.

Purple Martin: max 15000, 10000 BuSP 1, 3 Sep (AHu, MN, TK), coming to night roost at Grass Island; last 2 BWWTP 13 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 1000, 600 BWWTP 6 Sep, 16 Oct; 500 INWR 6 Sep; 2 last BWWTP 5 Nov.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 BWWTP 27 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max 40, last 1 BWWTP 5, 14 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 2 BWWTP 13 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: Krull CP 8 Nov (BC, MM, mob ph!), rare.
Barn Swallow: last 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 26 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: increased numbers with irruption.
House Wren: last BuSP 22 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 5 AmSP 10 Nov (SB).
Marsh Wren: BeSP 4 Nov (VR); Ellicottville CATT 7 Nov (JaK); late.
Carolina Wren: 44 BOSOC, seems on the upswing.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BeSP 4 Nov (RT ph!), late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr WoBSP 25 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LESP 6 Sep.
Veery: max 50 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep (TiL), nocturnal flight calls; last Wilson NIAG 29 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr LESP 9 Sep; max 3 LBSP 26 Sep (DBem); last BeSP 16 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: max 25 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep (TiL), nocturnal flight calls; 12 GHSP 16 Sep; last Bethany GENE 21 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 13 Oct (GV).
Gray Catbird: nine Nov reports indicative of species lingering longer.
Brown Thrasher: last BOSOC.
Cedar Waxwing: 350 LBSP 18 Oct; 423, 860 Krull CP 6, 10 Nov, big flights; 600 BWWT 24 Nov.
American Pipit: arr Allegheny Res CATT 12 Sep; max 135 Somerset NIAG 20 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 6 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 21 Shelby ORLE 24 Oct; 21 GHSP 25 Oct; reports from 26 locations in Oct; max 45 Krull CP 5 Nov; max 45 LESP 10 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: Krull CP 5, 26 Nov (WD, BP); only reports.
House Finch: max 79 Hamburg ERIE (PE), impressive count.
Purple Finch: 13 Orchard Park ERIE 3 Sep; max 14 LESP 23 Sep; max 14 INWR 28 Oct.
Common Redpoll: arr 15 GHSP, 6 BWWT 31 Oct; max 303, 275 Krull CP 13, 21 Nov; 110 Jamestown CHAU 14 Nov; 175 LESP 25 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: BWWT 5 Nov (BC); BufH 12 Nov (JoK); Sturgeon Point, ERIE 19 Nov (SB); rare, all documented with photos.
Red Crossbill: arr 4 GHSP 25 Oct; max 115, 90, 21 Krull CP 8, 9, 21 Nov; mostly Type 10s but one recording each of Types 2 and 4; *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: arr 1, 18, 28 Krull CP 3, 6, 21 Nov; 10 FNSP 26 Nov; 4 BWWT 29 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr 4 LESP, 2 Grand Island ERIE, East Amherst ERIE 23 Sep; 82, 66 Krull CP 6, 8 Nov; max 106 Newfane NIAG 22 Nov; 75 Wilson NIAG 26 Nov.
American Goldfinch: max 318 Krull CP 6 Nov (MM, mob), good flight count.
Lapland Longspur: arr Somerset NIAG BOSOC; only report.
Snow Bunting: arr 9 WTSP, Buffalo NR 25 Oct; max 98, 328 Krull CP 6, 21 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: last RWN 11 Nov.
American Tree Sparrow: arr BeSP 20 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: BufH, Hanover CHAU 11 Nov, last Nov reports.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Lewiston NIAG 4 Oct (WD, BP), present at location in summer.
Field Sparrow: Sheridan CHAU 22 Nov, last Nov report.
Vesper Sparrow: Ischua CATT, BWWT 4 Oct, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: Tift NP 9 Nov; Fredonia CHAU 21 Nov (TiL); only Nov reports.
Nelson's Sparrow: 2, 1 CSWMA 4, 14 Oct (JM, BR, JoK); BeSP 13 Oct (SB); within typical timeframe of fall reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr BuSP 7 Oct; 4 Rushford ALLE 3 Nov; max 7 Machias CATT 8 Nov; max 7 Ripley CHAU 12 Nov; 4 Ashford CATT 16 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr HBWMA 8 Sep; last BeSP 26 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 35 CSWMA 14 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 11 Sep; max 74 LESP 24 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 47 Sheridan CHAU 14 Oct.
Bobolink: max 40, 50 INWR 8, 10 Sep; last CSWMA 14 Oct (BR, JoK), late.
Eastern Meadowlark: 4 Conewango CATT 12 Nov (BR); Krull CP 26 Nov (WD, BP); only Nov reports.
Baltimore Oriole: Tift NP 14 Sep; AmSP 31 Oct, 14-15 Nov (JSa, CH), late.
Red-winged Blackbird: 800 TWMA 6 Sep; max 7000 INWR 24 Oct; 400 Pomfret CHAU 4 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr Tift NP 19 Sep; 100 Shelby ORLE 21 Oct; 38 BuSP 26 Oct; 75 INWR 27 Oct; max 150 TWMA 8 Nov (MW).

Common Grackle: 800 Shelby ORLE 1 Sep; max 2000 Royalton NIAG 18 Oct.

Ovenbird: FNSP 8 Sep; last AmSP, Tift NP 5 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: last WoBSP 25 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: last Allegheny Res CATT 28 Sep (JoK).

Black-and-white Warbler: last Bethany GENE 21 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: Willing ALLE 18 Oct (MS ph!), first fall Reg record.

Tennessee Warbler: max 11 WoBSP 12 Sep; BufH 26 Oct; RWNP 11 Nov (NJ), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr BWWT 5 Sep; six Oct reports; Genesee CP GENE 27 Nov (BC), late.

Nashville Warbler: max 9 WoBSP 12 Sep; last AmSP 31 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: AmSP 8 Sep (RSa); BeSP 11 Sep (SB); Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep (JoK); good showing.

Mourning Warbler: last Sardinia ERIE 27 Sep; five other Sep reports.

Common Yellowthroat: RWNP 31 Oct; BWWT 22 Nov (CB); Tift NP 29 Nov (JJ); good showing for late season birds.

Hooded Warbler: max 5 INWR 8 Sep; RWNP 1 Oct; last HBWMA 9 Oct.

American Redstart: last Buffalo ERIE 26 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: 12 Long Pt SP CHAU 13 Sep (KV); max 30, 10 Chautauqua CHAU 17, 23 Sep (KV); last BufH 21 Oct.

Northern Parula: BufH 27 Oct; last Sheldon WYOM 4 Nov (GJD), late.

Magnolia Warbler: last ACNC 7 Nov (RSt), late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 12 WTSP 8 Sep; last BufH 2 Nov (SS), late.

Blackburnian Warbler: NFSP 27 Nov (ToL), late.

Yellow Warbler: BusP 29 Sep (AHu); last Tift NP 9 Oct (JE), late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Bethany GENE 14 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: 12 Chautauqua CHAU 23 Sep; max 17 WTSP 26 Sep (WD, BP); last Buffalo ERIE 24 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Allegheny Res CATT 22 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr BWWT 6 Sep; last BeSP 19 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 8 Charlotte CHAU 1 Sep; 6 AISP 4 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 89 BuSP 5 Oct; 12 BuSP 3 Nov; 16 BeSP 5 Nov.

Prairie Warbler: Gerry CHAU 1 Sep; last LESP 6 Sep (TiL).

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 AmSP 25 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last Tift NP, Forestville CHAU 12 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Willing ALLE 9 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 LESP, 5 Darien Lakes SP GENE 6 Sep; last AmSP 24 Oct (CH), late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Portville ALLE 5 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: 3, 1 BeSP 28, 30 Sep; EvSP 12 Oct; last TBNP 25 Oct (JE ph), late.