

24 South Wales (AC). A group of 15 Water Pipits Sep 3 at Elma (DD) was slightly early, while the early Nov blizzard resulted in flocks of 200 Nov 7 at Fillmore and 300 Nov 8 Caneadea (Wilson). The count of 1597 Cedar Waxwings Oct 10 on the regional survey was nearly twice the previous fall maximum.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The fall warbler flight was protracted with a fine variety of species and peaks in late Aug and mid Sep. Also above average numbers of the less common forms and several late departure dates added spice to the parulids. Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Oct 28 East Eden Pond (TB) — a week late. Orange-crowned Warbler: peak 7 Oct 10–14. Parula Warbler: 1 Oct 17 tower kill at South Wales (AC) — one week late. Yellow Warbler: imm banded Oct 13 Riverside (AR) — almost a month late: Cape May Warbler: 10 tower kills Aug 20 Colden (AC); 23 Oct 10 region-wide survey — good numbers. Myrtle Warbler: 1738 Oct 10 on regional count is twice median for last 10 years. Black-throated Green Warbler: tower kill Oct 26 Colden (AC). Cerulean Warbler: singles Aug 14 Catt Indian Reservation (RA), tower kills Aug 29 Colden and South Wales (AC) — rarely recorded after July. A Bay-breasted Warbler tower casualty Oct 17 from South Wales (AC) and a Blackpoll Warbler Oct 23 at Chautauqua (Pillsbury) were each two days late. Pine Warblers were recorded Oct 5 at Hamburg (TB) and a tower kill Oct 7 at Colden (AC). Connecticut Warblers were killed in unprecedented numbers with 14 TV tower casualties at Colden and South Wales (AC) including an early individual at Colden Aug 29 (the other 13 occurred Sep 12–18); 1 was observed Sep 23 at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (TB). Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded Oct 2 at Riverside (banded by AR) and Oct 12 at West Seneca (JK) — normal departure date Sep 7! American Redstart: tower kill Oct 26 Colden (AC) — four days late.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: For reasons not immediately apparent all of the icterids and the Starling appeared in substantially reduced numbers throughout the region. This situation deserves careful attention and analysis.

The *DICKCISSEL* was well represented with the following feeder reports: singles Oct 12 at Fluvanna (Burgessons, Urbans), Nov 11 at Kenmore (PB), Nov 24 and 26 at Wellsville (Ferrand and Larson). Evening Grosbeaks appeared Oct 10 with 3 in the Alfred area (Klingensmith et al) and small flocks were scattered throughout the region by mid Nov. The *HOUSE FINCH* appears to be spreading from the east; 5 were seen at a feeder in Amherst Oct 28 (HRA et al). A moderate flight of Pine Siskin moved through the area during Oct and Nov; maximum counts were 236 Oct 10 on the regional survey and 100 Nov 14 at the Youngstown Cemetery (WAM). The only crossbills were 6 White-winged Nov 14 at the Youngstown Cemetery (WAM).

A record fall count of 228 Savannah Sparrows was recorded on the Oct 10 regional survey. Late Grasshopper Sparrows were singles Sep 25 at Eden (TB) and a tower kill Oct 11 at South Wales (AC). An early Slate-colored Junco was observed at a feeder Sep 5–22 in Eggertsville (WAM).

19 Chestnut St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

In this section of Western New York, we had one of those wonderful fall seasons so frequent in our experience that we perhaps do not fully appreciate them. Long

stretches of beautiful weather in September, October and November do not necessarily produce great birding, but it's always a joy to be afield, and there were plenty of noteworthy or surprising records, too.

It was a relatively mild season and, except for a cold snap in early November and another toward the very end of the month, the warm weather lasted to the very end of the season and into mid-December. Rainfall which had been above normal virtually all year lagged somewhat and in the end was only about an inch or so high for the year. Snowfall so far has been just about half as great as last year and at this writing, December 22, the ground is bare of snow and all sizeable bodies of water virtually free of ice.

The fall flight commenced in late summer as usual, although early species of shorebirds moved on quickly to more suitable areas. By late fall, mudflats at Braddock's Bay were extensive, but this was not true in August and early September. Certain species of shorebirds were very scarce or absent as a result.

Warblers also appeared in late August but only trickled through in September, and October produced an unusual number of late records, to no one's surprise.

Many of the more erratic fall and winter species including most finches were much better this year than last. This could hardly have been otherwise, since last year they were all practically non-existent in this region. A few, notably Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak, were present in very limited numbers, however.

Positive trends include: (1) good flight of Brant, Scoters and to a lesser degree Horned Grebes; (2) reappearance of the Goshawk in Mendon Ponds Park for at least the third consecutive year; (3) good numbers of some marsh birds, i.e., Sora, Coot and Gallinule; (4) wide representation of less common gulls; (5) good movement of Snowy Owls and improvement in numbers of Screech Owls; (6) possible increase in fall Bluebird flocks; (7) noteworthy finch flight, especially Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbills.

Negative trends include: (1) poor flight of some diving ducks, Redhead, Canvasback, and Common Merganser, perhaps only delayed due to mild weather; (2) another year of failure of the area's only nesting Bald Eagle; (3) rather poor shorebird flight, probably due mostly to lack of mud flats; (4) only fair numbers of fall warblers, again likely due to mild weather in September.

Rarities include: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White-fronted Goose, Glossy Ibis, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Wilson's Phalarope, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Kittiwake.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; BANS—Burrough's Audubon Nature Sanctuary; CB—Charlotte Beach; DEP—Durand-Eastman Park; EP—Ellison Park; HBP—Hamlin Beach Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; SA—Shore Acres; WP—Webster Park; WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: RA—Robert Ambrose; JB—Dr. Joseph Berra; RC—Roger Clark; J&JC—Jack and Jean Connor; JC—Jerry Czech; JD—James Doherty; JE—J. Esley; JF—John Foster; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; AEK—Allen E. Kemintzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; mob—many observers; J&TM—Joseph and Thelma McNett; L&NM—Laura and Neil Moon; FM—Fran Munson; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; BO—Bernard Olin; BP—Betty Perrigo; GP—Glenn Perrigo; NP—N. Prosser; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; JT—Joseph Taylor; MT—Michael Tetlow; TT—Tom Tetlow.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon, no large flights noted but present in fair numbers this fall. A fine count of 50 Red-throated Loons was made on November 3 at MB (WCL.) These birds were in flight well out over the lake that morning. Only a few Red-necked Grebes were noted, but a fine count of Horned Grebes, 150, HBP, was made on October 25 (RC) and many other smaller counts.

There were at least five reports of Double-crested Cormorants, more than usual, including one of 2 birds on October 28 at IB (J&JC.) A Common Egret was still present as late as October 11 at SA (JE), but they were again scarce this year overall. The discovery of an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at a small pond at the Monroe County Airport was one of the most outstanding finds of the season. The bird was present almost every evening from August 17 to September 4 (Ruth Reed et al.) This is only the third or fourth record of the species in this region. A single Glossy Ibis was noted at the same place on August 28 (WCL.)

An unusual fall record away from Lake Ontario of 3 Whistling Swan was made at MP, October 26 (GP.) The fall Brant flight peaked on October 24 with 5,557 birds flying past WP (WL.); smaller counts were made elsewhere on that day and on several other days in late October. Two Snow Geese were seen at HBP, October 30 (NP), and more unusual were the 30 Blue Geese reported from Letchworth Park on October 11 (W. Mulrey.) A single White-fronted Goose, a first fall record here was noted in Webster on October 2 and 3 with Canada Geese (JC.)

The fall migration of ducks seemed about average this year but featured some fine counts as listed below:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observers</i>
Mallard	Oct. 26	700	Mendon Ponds	GP
Black Duck	Oct. 26	350	Mendon Ponds	GP
American Widgeon	Oct. 26	375	Mendon Ponds	GP
Pintail	Sept. 19	200	Manitou Beach	WCL
Greater Scaup	Sept. 19	200(early)	Manitou Beach	WCL
Oldsquaw	Oct. 24	400	Manitou Beach	WCL
White-winged Scoter	Nov. 16	3000	Irondequoit Bay	AEK
Surf Scoter	Oct. 24	X	Manitou Beach	WCL
Common Scoter	Oct. 24	3920-X	Manitou Beach	WCL
Red-breasted Merganser	Nov. 13	8000	Manitou Beach	WCL

Perhaps due to the mild fall season, some species have not yet appeared in any large numbers. Noteworthy among these are the Redhead, Canvasback, and Common Merganser.

HAWKS—OWLS: While all three accipiters were noted this fall, all were scarce. Goshawk was seen on two occasions at MP, October 15 and 26 (GP.) This is the same area from which it has been regularly reported for the past two winter seasons. No especially good counts of Red-tails were made although the birds were well reported throughout this region. Two Rough-legged Hawks on September 5 were very early but well seen on Manitou Road (RA.) A Bald Eagle was noted at Conesus Lake on November 24 (B. Foos.); our resident pair of Bald Eagles produced a single egg which failed to hatch; it was later collected and found to contain very high amounts of several pesticides. An immature Golden Eagle stayed at least two days at HBP, November 27-28 (RO'H & JD.) A few Marsh Hawks and Ospreys were reported along the lakeshore as usual and odd individuals from inland locations. Peregrine Falcons were noted twice, September 26 on Curtis Road, Parma (JB) and September 27, Honeoye Falls (JF.) Pigeon Hawks were also limited to two single records, September 6, Lima (JF) and October 17, IC (J&JC.)

A count of 12 Soras at IC was unusually high, although they had been noted there frequently this summer when falling water levels exposed mud flats around the cattail marsh. Coots were present in very large numbers along the west lakeshore with a high count of 300 on October 10. (RO'H.) Common Gallinules seem to have had another good year with many young birds in evidence.

As noted above it was not the best year for shorebirds. Many days in late summer produced only 10 species or so where 16 or 18 might be present under good condi-

tions. Nevertheless, some fairly good counts were obtained, although some species never did appear.

A flock of about 40 Golden Plover stayed for several days in mid-August in a plowed field along Curtis Road in Parma (mob.) About 10 Black-bellied Plover were in the same field with them on August 10 (RO'H), and there were other records of small numbers elsewhere, but no large flocks. Semipalmated Plover were common and Killdeer seem to be increasing again after a definite dip in numbers in recent years. Turnstones on the other hand were very scarce as they were this spring also. Several other species were also rare this year, notably the Knot and Stilt Sandpiper with only one or two reports of each. Those species entirely absent included Baird's and Purple Sandpiper and Northern Phalarope.

Among the better records of shorebirds for the season are the following:

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Location</i>	
Solitary Sandpiper	Oct. 1	10	Sodus Bay	TT
Lesser Yellowlegs	Aug. 23	25	Ellison Park	JD
Dunlin	Oct. 30	175	West Lakeshore	G&BP
Wilson's Phalarope	Aug. 28	2	Ellison Park	JD
Red Phalarope	Oct. 28-29	1	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	AEK

Most of the less common gulls were reported at least once this fall. The first Glaucous Gull appeared on October 23 at HBP (GOS), while Iceland Gull was first noted on November 23 at BB (WCL.) 1 to 3 Little Gulls were seen by mob at IB after the first one appeared on November 16 (AEK); a single bird was at CB on November 14 (GOS); this species was also seen at BB in late October at least twice (GOS & WCL.) A Franklin's Gull was at SB on October 10 (TT), and a Laughing Gull at CB on two days in early October (JD & JC) Black-legged Kittiwake, either an increasing species or a better recognized one, was noted 3 times this fall, October 24 Nine Mile Point, Webster (WL & MAS), November 13 MB (WCL) and November 25 DEP (GP).

Forster's Terns were present over a rather extended period at BB this fall; first reported on September 12 (GOS), they remained at least until October 25 when at least 3 birds were still present (RO'H). It was also a good year for Jaegers. In a reversal of the normal ratio, Pomarine was seen twice, October 10 at SB (TT), and November 13 at MB (WCL) while Parasitic was reported only once, October 23 at MB (WCL).

What appears to be an extensive invasion of Snowy Owls commenced on October 22 when the first report came in from Irondequoit near IB (RO'H); a maximum of 3 was noted by Dr. Gordon Meade at BB. By the way it is a pleasure to welcome Dr. Meade back home after many years absence! Short-eared Owls seem to be absent once again from our lakeshore marshes, although several were noted at the end of November near Mendon, south of Rochester (JT). The Screech Owl is reported by several observers to be on the increase after a local drop in numbers over a period of several years. Great Horned Owls are also doing well locally and apparently bred successfully in EP among other places (JD). It is difficult to understand why such species and others like the Red-tail Hawk do not seem severely affected by pesticides while other species, i.e. Red-shouldered Hawk and Cooper's Hawk have almost disappeared as breeders here. Perhaps species which feed almost exclusively on mammals do not ingest the same amount of poisons as fish and bird-eating species. But then how to explain the apparent spread of the Goshawk?

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: No flight of Nighthawks was noted this fall as in some years. This species seems to bear watching to see if it is in trouble. Kingfishers were quite common along Lake Ontario and elsewhere—a welcome improvement! Flickers returned in good numbers, too, but not many Sapsuckers

were reported; 1 was still present on November 27 in Irondequoit, however, (LM). The slowly increasing Pileated Woodpecker was reported from Penfield on November 16 at a feeder where it has appeared before (FM).

An unusual count of over 100 Eastern Kingbirds was made at BB on September 5 (JD); these birds were in a loose flock, apparently resting en route south. A very late Barn Swallow was still present at BB on November 6 (WCL), and the same observer saw this bird or another still later one at the same place on November 24. This must be a tribute to our late, warm fall. The best count of Black-capped Chickadees was 250 at SB (TT); no other indications of large scale movement was reported this year. However, a somewhat similar record of 200 Red-breasted Nuthatches came from HBP on October 30 (RC).

A fairly late House Wren was still in Fairport on October 5 (BO), and a still more tardy Catbird remained in DEP on November 14 (RC et al). A Wood Thrush stayed in Irondequoit at least until October 25 (MAS). There were 13 Bluebirds at BB on October 23 (J&JC); another flock of 12 was at SB on the 28th of the same month (TT); these fall flocks have been very uncommon in recent years near the lakeshore. A large flock of 200 Pipit at SB in October was the best report of this somewhat erratic species (TT). There was a very large buildup of Cedar Waxwings in DEP this fall with a peak of 700 noted on November 28 (JD), but no Bohemian Waxwings. A few Northern Shrike were reported in Nov.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A fairly late Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at BANS on October 2 (JF&TT), while a Solitary Vireo was noted the same day at MP (RO'H). One Philadelphia Vireo was also at MP on the late date of October 26 (GP).

As noted above warblers were not as spectacular as last fall, in fact September produced only scattered records and small numbers as fine weather seemed to delay migration or cause the birds to move south without pausing to be counted. A few early migrants were noted in late August as usual including Black-throated Blue, Cape May, Myrtle and Bay-breasted Warblers on the 31st at BB (RO'H).

In October, as noted above, many late lingering individuals were reported. These include a Nashville on the 29th at SA (JE), a Magnolia at Lima on the 10th (JF), and a fine count of 4 Orange-crowned Warblers at MP on the 26th (GP). Still later records were made in November for Wilson's Warbler, 1 at IC on the 7th (RC), and Ovenbird which remained until the 30th at a feeder near DEP (L&NM).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: It was an unusually good fall for Rusty Blackbirds; large flocks were present for an extended period, especially around Brad-dock's Bay; 2 were noted there as early as September 11 (RO'H), and at times over 100 birds could be counted easily; there were still a few present as late as November 14 (GOS). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was still at SA on October 23 (JE).

After our dearth of finches last winter, the flight this fall looked better than average, but some species were still quite scarce. Pine Siskins appeared in numbers by early October with a peak count of 1000 at SB on the 10th (M&TT); this species remained numerous until the end of this reporting period and was certainly the most outstanding feature of the finch flight. Redpolls appeared in limited numbers, but not until almost the end of November; the best report was a flock of 30 on the 29th at HB (JD). Red Crossbills were also quite scarce, but there were a few fair-sized flocks present off and on, including 25 on October 3 at DEP (B&GP) and 25 on November 29 at HBP (JD). The White-winged Crossbill was more frequently reported, beginning with a record from Irondequoit on October 30 (L&NM) and continuing through the reporting period; these birds were almost continuously present in DEP and were also widely noted from Hamlin to Webster along the lakefront. Evening Grosbeaks also appeared in November but did not flood the area as they have in some years; the best number reported was

150 on November 20 at BB (WCL). Pine Grosbeak was noted only once, at IC a group of 6 was seen on October 25 (J&TM). Goldfinches were quite widespread but not spectacular this fall as far as numbers are concerned.

Nothing unusual was noted in the sparrow family this fall. The best flock of Snow Bunting reported was 125 on November 25 along the WL (GP); otherwise numbers were rather small for this somewhat erratic species.

265 Carling Road, Rochester, New York 14610

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. MCLROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

Temperatures were warm in August and September, warmer in October, coupled with a very dry period with below normal rainfall the same period. November saw a return to "normal" temperatures and precipitation. There was no frost until November 5, the latest date in recording history for a first freeze, and this meant late fruit crops and late fall of leaves. Curiously, this did not seem to influence migration particularly. Warblers did not remain around to glean insects from these late-clinging leaves. mid-November was quite wintry, and good snow on November 21-22 remained on the ground for some days.

With Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Rough-legged Hawks and a scattering of Snowy Owls reported early, it looked as if this might be a fine winter for the birder. However, the build-up did not occur, as might have been expected, toward the end of the period. There were no marked flights of raptors, except a small one at Elmira on Sep 24 with 13 in 15 minutes, and no marked migration of land birds, except a light flight Oct 14-15 (JT). But Canada Geese were abundant—good flight dates were Sep 21, 24, 29-30, Oct 3, 7 and 29. Of note were more Brant than usual, White-fronted Goose, Bar-headed Goose, White-eyed Vireo and Connecticut Warbler.

The TV tower at Elmira (see previous years) was checked by Wilifred Howard every few days from Aug 30 to mid-November. The first "big" kill was between Sep 13 and 16, which is when the largest kill has been in the past,—this year just 71 birds. The largest kill was on Sep 30 when 225 individuals of 25 species were picked up. A very late kill occurred on Oct 28 when 78 birds, chiefly fringillids and kinglets, were involved. A Red-eyed Vireo on Nov 2 was a late record. The total tower kill was as follows:

Green Heron 1, Virginia Rail 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 4, Empidonax sp. 5, Brown Creeper 1, Winter Wren 1, House Wren 1, Catbird 1, Brown Thrasher 1, Wood Thrush 2, Hermit Thrush 1, Swainson's Thrush 4, Gray-cheeked Thrush 3, Golden-crowned Kinglet 22, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Solitary Vireo 4, Red-eyed Vireo 18, Philadelphia Vireo 1, Black-&-white Warbler 9, Tennessee Warbler 22, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Nashville Warbler 12, Parula Warbler 6, Yellow Warbler 1, Magnolia Warbler 37, Cape May Warbler 2, Black-throated Blue Warbler 17, Myrtle Warbler 12, Black-throated Green Warbler 27, Blackburnian Warbler 19, Chestnut-sided Warbler 10, Bay-breasted Warbler 23, Blackpoll Warbler 84, Pine Warbler 1, Palm Warbler 3, Ovenbird 41, Scarlet Tanager 2, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 2, Purple Finch 1, Slate-colored Junco 10, Tree Sparrow 1, Chipping Sparrow 7, White-throated Sparrow 8, Fox Sparrow 1, Lincoln's Sparrow 2, Swamp Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 7 Unidentified 65.

Abbreviations: Cay L.—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L.—Seneca Lake; Schuy. Co.—Schuyler County; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WD—Waterloo Dump.