

**GROSBEAKS, SPARROWS** — The entire peninsula had record numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the middle 2 weeks of October. Some sample reports were: 9, Gainesville, Oct. 11 & 17 (CHC, BDW, JEH); "up to 12 per day." Lakeland, Oct. 8-17 (JBE, PJF, et al.); 10 St. Petersburg, Oct. 12 (VM); 25, n. of Homestead, Oct. 10-11 (JB); 29 banded, Homestead Oct. 9-19 (EJF); and, 102, Dry Tortugas, Oct. 13 (FO). In contrast, Blue Grosbeaks were generally scarce, the records including one very early migrant, Alligator Pt., Aug. 15 (DD). One Slate-colored Junco (Long Pine Key, E.N.P., Nov. 24 — WBR) and 1 Field Sparrow (banded, Homestead, Nov. 13 — EJF, JCO) reached extreme s. Florida, and Lincoln's Sparrows at WCTV, Oct. 20 (WWB, RLC), and St. George I., Oct. 23 (HMS; \*F.S.U.), were local rarities. Early White-crowned Sparrows near Panacea, Oct. 8 (HMS), and at Dry Tortugas, Oct. 19 (FO; *earliest Lower Keys*), introduced an unusually large November flight that brought records from WBDO, Nov. 9 (WKT, BAH; \*F.T.U.); Homestead, banded, Nov. 9 (EJF); Flamingo, Nov. 13 (JBE); and, Key West, 5, Nov. 15 (FTH, JBE).

**EXOTICS** — Records necessitate another entry in this rather depressing chronicle. Meade Gardens, Winter Park (DF), may be added to the list of Florida localities where Ringed Turtle Doves are apparently established. Observers speculated that Budgerigars on Alligator Pt., Aug. 13 & 20 (JMS), and, 2, in a remote part of St. Marks N.W.R., Aug. 19 (HMS; photo), might be pioneers spreading from colonies in the Tampa Bay area. Among a number of s. Florida sightings of errant *Amazona* parrots, a pair on Plantation Key, Oct. 31 (CEK), and 3 in nearby Islamorada, Nov. 13 (PJF), were identified as Red-crowned Parrots, (*Amazona viridigenalis*). The Hill Myna, (*Gracula religiosa*), was the newest (and noisiest!) of the Miami area exotics, reports including 2, Fairchild Gardens, Oct. 7 (DT), and 3 or 4 throughout the period near Homestead (EJF, WBR).

**OBSERVERS** (area editors in boldface — B. H. Anderson; K. P. Anderson; W. W. Baker; R. D. Barker; O. L. Bass; J. Behr; H. Belcher; J. A. Brown; I. Cantwell; G. Carlton; W. W. Chapman; C. H. Coleman; R. L. Crawford; A. D. Cruickshank; H. G. Cruickshank; M. Davidson; R. de Meijer; E. S. Dickie; J. J. Dinsmore; D. Dodd; **J. B. Edscorn**; C. H. Ekdahl; P. J. Fellers; E. J. Fisk; M. J. Fogarty; D. Freeman; **S. A. Grimes**; F. T. Hames; H. B. Herbert; G. J. Horel; J. E. Horner; J. Johnson; D. W. Johnston; **H. W. Kale**; C. E. Knoder; H. P. Langridge; R. Leberman; E. S. Letson; R. W. Loftin; D. H. Mace; G. Mace; V. Markgraf; R. McLain; M. Micheal; H. B. Moore; V. Morrison; G. Murray; K. R. Nesbitt; S. A. Nesbitt; F. O'Brien; **J. C. Ogden**; C. P. Preston; W. B. Robertson; C. A. Saffell; **S. Sprunt**; **H. M. Stevenson**; J. M. Stevenson; **A. R. Stickley**; **P. W. Sykes**; D. Tabb; W. K. Taylor; B. D. Wallace; N. O. Wamer; C. H. Watt; J. Williams; G. E. Woolfenden. Other abbreviations — E. N. P., Everglades National Park; F.S.M., Florida State Museum; F.S.U. Florida State University; F.T.U., Florida Technological University; U.S.F., University of South Florida;\*

specimen. — **WILLIAM B. ROBERTSON, JR.**, Office of the Chief Scientist, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Fla. 33030.

## ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

**ONTARIO**—Every fall has its highlights; almost every fall yields rarities. Now and then a season occurs when such a host of unusual events coincide that the more commonplace is wholly submerged. The year 1971 was such a vintage fall: this compiler has been preparing seasonal summaries for the Province for ten years now, but this fall was unequaled in that time.



Oddly enough the events occurred against a backdrop of very orderly migration. The season was mild and open, with day after day of pleasant sunny weather. In Weston the first frost did not occur until Nov. 5, and the garden yielded its last carnation on Nov. 27! With such a mild open season one of the more noteworthy events was the late departure of many migrants. Space permits only the most outstanding records to be listed, but an example of the extent of the phenomenon is that in Ottawa alone — not normally noted for its balmy weather — 42 species were listed with late departure dates.

The main cool weather occurred early: this was a sharp cool spell in late August which sparked unseasonably early movement, with reports of good warbler flights from Kingston to southwestern Ontario. September and October were warm months, and there was little widespread rain; hence groundings of migrants were correspondingly scattered and many areas felt that passerine numbers were light. There were many isolated events of interest, but space permits only the account of these, with little speculation on their causes.

**LOONS, GREBS, CORMORANTS** — Common Loons appeared in good numbers at Sarnia Oct. 31, with 143 (DR); Ottawa with 18 on the same day (BM,

MM, SO'D); and Hawk Cliff Nov. 7 with 90 (GB, RC). Eclipsing these numbers, however, were the 1500-2000 counted movings. at Kettle Pt. Nov. 21 (AR). The flight included "several" Red-throated Loons, and the observer thought one or two Arctic Loons were also present. Southern Ontario records of this species are normally suspect, owing to possible confusion with smaller races of the Com. Loon, but the observer is familiar with the Arctic Loon from Europe, and the species does occur along the James Bay coast. Other Red-throated Loon sightings included 3, Kettle Pt., Nov. 13 (DR, RS); 2, Kingston, Nov. 6 (PEL); 2, Britannia, Oct. 24 (AJE); and 1, Manitoulin I., Nov. 6 (CB). Kingston also had 2 Red-necked Grebes Nov. 7 (MB et al.). A number of isolated Double-crested Cormorants were reported, the most interesting from L. Opeongo, Algonquin Provincial Park, Oct. 10 (PTN); the best numbers were 25, Pt. Pelee Nat'l Park (Pelee), Sept. 22 (JW), and almost 200, a remarkable number, at Fish Pt. Pelee I., Oct. 16 (WS, CAC).

**HERONS, IBIS** — An ad. Great Blue Heron was feeding 6 young, an unusually large number, at Powassan Sept. 16 (fide HP); 2 late birds of this species were seen at Kingston Nov. 28 (WT). A late Green Heron was at Dundas Oct. 31 (RC). The only Cattle Egret report was from Shallow L. Sept. 27 (DRe), but there were more Com. Egrets seen than usual: there were 45-60 in the Big Creek vicinity in September (fide AHK); 5-6 at Conestogo in late August (FB et al.); 5 at Long Pt. Sept. 1 (L.P.B.O.); and noteworthy reports of single birds were from Kirby, Aug. 22 (FS, RHW), and Oliphant to Sept. 5 (PC). One to two Glossy Ibis were seen at Hillman's Marsh, Pelee during September (mob.).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — A Mute Swan was seen at Rondeau Nov. 5 (RS). There was a good fall movement of Whistling Swans, with high counts of 200 at Parkhill Reservoir, London Nov. 1 (JC et al.) and 150 at Rondeau Nov. 5 (RS); there were many reports of smaller numbers, including one at Laurel Creek Reservoir, Waterloo, Nov. 7 (CAC). Canada Geese also staged a heavy flight in the east, with all the usual localities — Port Hope, Kingston, Ottawa, North Bay and the Madawaska Highlands — reporting good numbers. Several areas are experiencing growing numbers of birds stopping over due to feeding programs by various agencies. The major Brant migration along James Bay has gone undetected for some years due to the birds' distance offshore, but this year helicopter coverage revealed some 23,000 birds on the Ontario side of the bay (HL); there were good numbers seen in s. Ontario, with 180 at Ipperwash Oct. 23 (AJM, RH); 400 at Ottawa Oct. 16 (RAF); and two flocks of over 400 in the Kingston flight Oct. 16-21 (K.F.N.). There were many reports of smaller numbers and isolated birds. Snow and Blue Geese also appeared in scattered but good numbers, with a heavy flight at Thunder Bay, Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 (KD); more noteworthy reports in the south were 4 Blues, Laurel Creek Reservoir in November (CAC et al.), the second Waterloo Co. record; and a Blue at Ottawa, Nov. 14-20 (BM, RAF et al.). Eastern Ontario provided some high Black Duck and Mallard counts: Wolfe I., Kingston with 1500 and 5000 respectively Nov. 7 (RDW); and Shirley Bay,

Ottawa with 2500 and 2000 on Oct. 9 (fide RAF). Gadwall continue to prosper in the south, and appear to be gradually moving east: both Kingston and Ottawa had record numbers; Ottawa had its first nesting record with a ♀ and 10 young July 23, and a high of 6 on Oct. 24 (BM); whilst Kingston had 38 reports in September and October, with a high of 60 on Nov. 6 (K.F.N.) — this for a species that had only been recorded four times in the area prior to 1966 (fide HQ)! Further north 3 Gadwall were shot on Manitoulin I. Sept. 25 (LR, KM). Further good counts of dabbling duck were 250 Pintail at Ottawa Oct. 16 (fide RAF) and 575 Blue-winged Teal in s.w. Ontario Sept. 11 (JB); late records of the latter species were 2 at Isaac L., Bruce Co. Oct. 24 (JBM, FD) and 1 at Ottawa Nov. 14 (fide RAF). A pair of Eur. Widgeon were at Strathroy Oct. 31 (JWL, EL), adding to the exceptional number of reports of this species in 1971. The first recorded scaup nestings at Ottawa were two family groups seen July 26; the identity of the females could not be established, and there were drakes of both species present (BM, RP, SO'D). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye at Niagara Falls Nov. 27 was carefully described (JG et al.), and the 2 birds which spent last winter off Oakville reappeared Nov. 28; the Harlequin Duck was seen again the same day (JCu, ST). This is yet another species which is becoming increasingly regular on the lower Great Lakes; the Toronto I. bird reappeared Oct. 18 and on Nov. 10 an unprecedented 6 were seen there (PM)! Two King Eiders were off Long Pt. Oct. 26 (L.P.B.O.). The remainder of the duck records relate mainly to high counts for the areas involved: 15 Oldsquaw, Puslinch, Oct. 29 (PDP, CAC); 282 White-winged Scoter, Ipperwash, Oct. 23-24 (DR, JPK); 108 Surf Scoter, at Kettle Pt. Oct. 24 (DR, JPK), 15 at Kingston Nov. 7 (K.F.N.), and 162 at Manitoulin Oct. 23 (CB); 35 Com. Scoter at Kettle Pt. during October (DR), 14 at Kingston Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) and 37 at Ottawa Oct. 23 (RP et al.), as scoters continue to prosper; 20 Ruddy Duck, Toronto Oct. 17 (CEG), and single birds at Kingston Oct. 17 - Nov. 7 (K.F.N.); 138 Red-breasted Merganser, Ottawa, Nov. 13 (DB), and up to 60,000 at Pelee, the main area of concentration for this species, Nov. 21 (DR); and over 100 Hooded Merganser there Nov. 11 (WB).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — It is particularly pleasing to be able to report such a good migration for this much abused group; for once hardly any negative comments need be made. Turkey Vultures have been experiencing nothing but success in recent years and reporting is mainly of progressively higher counts and more frequent sightings: noteworthy were 5 at Madoc, Oct. 8 (GF), 8 or 9 at New Dundee, Sept. 22 (CAC, DLC), and 92 at Pelee Oct. 18-23 (DR, AJR) plus another 54 in one "kettle" Oct. 6 (JOLR). There were the usual scattered Goshawk reports, with 4 at Hamilton Oct. 10 (AW), and 4 on Toronto I. Sept. 29 (PM). Cooper's Hawks made a much better showing than in recent years: there were good numbers at Hawk Cliff (MF) and in s.w. Ontario there were 183 Oct. 18-23, a late movement (DR). Sharp-shinned Hawks continued this trend of high numbers: the Hawk Cliff high was 350 on Sept. 22 (JGL); Toronto I. had 250

on Sept. 29 (PM); there were 788 at Holiday Beach, Sept. 11-19 (JPK, JAG, AHK); and good numbers at Pelee with up to 200 in a day with the main movement late, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2 (JOLR). Red-tailed Hawks staged sizeable movements in November, and many were still present at the end of the period; heaviest passage was at Hawk Cliff, with over 1000 on Nov. 8 and again on Nov. 13 (MF). After the rather gloomy summer view of Red-shouldered Hawks the migration was encouraging; again Pelee provided the best counts, with 74 in all, including 12 on Nov. 7, a marked contrast to recent years (AHK). Broad-winged Hawks provide the volume in a big flight year, and in 1971 their showing was well below average but still numerically impressive: there were 14,070 at Holiday Beach Sept. 11-19 (fide AHK) and the only good Hawk Cliff movement was Sept. 12, when some 12,000 were reported (fide JGL). Rough-legged Hawks were widespread in small numbers from the end of October, with sightings at Hawk Cliff in the first week of the month (MF). Eagles continue the story of this superb migration: in s.w. Ontario there were thought to be an amazing 8 Golden Eagles between Oct. 7 and Nov. 1 (mob.), and 3 left Pelee together on the last date (WW, AJM); another sighting was a bird in Reach Twp. Nov. 6 (JMS). Bald Eagles were seen at Thunder Bay Nov. 9 (ND) and Murillo Nov. 11 (TP), and the s.w. Province again provided the numbers with at least 9 birds, including 4 immatures (fide AHK). Holiday Beach also had a good 102 Marsh Hawks Sept. 11-19 (JPK et al.). Almost everyone was enthusiastic about the Osprey flight: there were 4 in the Waterloo-Brant area (CAC et al.); 6 at Hawk Cliff Sept. 19 (JGL); 4 in the Pickering area in September (T.O.C.); 5, including a late bird Oct. 28, at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.); another late bird at Warren Nov. 12 (CWh); 14 at Kingston Sept. 10-Oct. 27 (RDW); and 32 in s.w. Ontario (fide AHK). Obviously some of these sightings across the Province could be of the same birds in migration, but they still represent an outstanding movement. The Kingston figures are particularly interesting, since they are not only the highest in seven years, but show a gradual increase over the past five. Two reports of well-described Gyrfalcons were received: one at Kettle Pt. Oct. 27 (AJR), and another at Ottawa Nov. 14 (GH et al.). Finally, to Peregrine Falcons: there were so many that on anything but this species a general note would suffice! The records were: Hawk Cliff, at least 5-6 birds, Sept. 18-25 (JGL, JS); Long Pt. 4 over the period (L.P.B.O.); Hamilton, 13 reports Aug. 19-Nov. 21 (CW, WSm, TB et al.) which may involve some duplication; Ottawa, 6, Sept. 17-Nov. 13 (fide RAF); Toronto I., 3, Sept. 29 (PM); Pelee, 11 birds with 4 on Oct. 3 and one to Nov. 7 (mob.); Big Creek, 3, Oct. 3 (JPK); and singles on Pelee I., Oct. 17 (CAC et al.); Pimisi Bay, Sept. 19 (LdeKL); Worthington, Sept. 21 (KM, LR); Oliphant, Sept. 25 (CEG); Walford, Oct. 30 (WRL); and Silver Islet, Oct. 5 (TD).

The Pt. Pelee birds provided one particularly expressive account which is worth repeating if only because most of us had given up all hope of experiencing anything of the kind. AJR wrote, "A spectacle to remember occurred today. At least 2,000 to 3,000 screaming Blue Jays were massed in the Wafer Ash thickets and Hackberry stands at the point. Whenever

the birds gained an altitude of 500 feet or more one of two Peregrine Falcons dived out of the sun. The jays, in compact formation, would dash back to the point from over the lake. As they neared the safety of the tree canopy they would scatter in all directions for cover. Finally I saw a Peregrine grab a jay right out of the air as if the jay wasn't even flying. Another jay dived into the lake when a Peregrine stooped at it! The wet bird fluttered on the water and made it to the beach."

What are we to conclude? Undoubtedly it is too early to unfurl the flags and run cheering into the streets. But it *is* cheering to see this magnificent bird appearing in such numbers, even if many of these sightings represent duplications. In Britain the Peregrines began slowly to recover surprisingly soon after pesticide use was curtailed, and it has been curtailed in Canada (and in Ontario, banned) for two or three years now. Perhaps there is still hope.

**GROUSE, CRANES, GALLINULES** — Reports of Sharp-tailed Grouse were received from Ontario Department of Lands & Forests personnel in n. and w. regions: 14 on Oct. 15 in Seaton and Lisgar Twps., Kapuskasing District (JJ) and a high of 8 on Aug. 12 at Rainy River (WF, ANB). Bobwhites continue to be released in southern areas; 10 were released — and subsequently reported — near Preston (RH); Ottawa releases provided a record of a brood Sept. 12 (BMo); and birds were seen at Bewdley Aug. 28 (KS) and 2 at Pt. Abino Oct. 2 (CAC, PDP). A Ring-necked Pheasant turned up at Sudbury Nov. 2 (WRL), n. of its usual range in the Province. Sandhill Cranes are seen every year or so, but are less regular in the south; this year there were two sightings which just conceivably were of the same bird: at Hawk Cliff Sept. 24 (MF, JGL) and Meaford Tank Range the following day (NM et al.). A **Purple Gallinule** was picked up alive by an Indian in Moosonee Oct. 18, given to Lands & Forests people, and subsequently died. The bird was a juvenile ♀ and will go to the Royal Ontario Museum: it is one of the most northerly records for this species on the continent (HL). The 4000 Am. Coot at Rondeau Nov. 5 was a high number (fide AHK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — This group provided a large number of noteworthy late reports which might well be given together; a Semipalmated Plover, Pelee, Nov. 1 (AJM); Am. Golden Plover, Strathroy, Oct. 30 (mob.) and Lambton Co., Nov. 7 (JPK); Black-bellied Plover, Strathroy, Nov. 19 (WRJ); Am. Woodcock, Pelee, 3, Nov. 21 (JW); Whimbrel, Kingsville, Nov. 4 (PJGK), and Thunder Bay, Nov. 17 (MC); Upland Plover, Ottawa, Sept. 14 (fide RAF) and Chelmsford, Sept. 11 (WRL); Lesser Yellowlegs, Pelee, Nov. 7 (DR); Least Sandpiper, Strathroy, Oct. 24 (WRJ); Wilson's Phalarope, Dundas, Oct. 5 (DH-J); and N. Phalarope, Hillman's Marsh, Nov. 4 (PB, AJM). A Piping Plover was at Burlington Beach Sept. 5 (RC, CW). Both Am. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers were in good numbers; there were several flocks of about 100 Golden reported, with particularly good numbers in the Southwest at Ottawa with a high of 250 on Sept. 6 (mob.), and at Kingston, with 153 records between Aug. 31 and Oct. 13. The highest count of Black-bellied Plover was 150 at Sarnia Oct. 26 (DR). The areas with most extensive mudflats were at Ottawa, where

the river was very low, at Strathroy sewage ponds, and in s.w. Ontario. All three areas reported outstanding migrations, with good numbers of even the less-common species such as White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers. Elsewhere the shorebird migration was rather thin. Common Snipe were unusually abundant in the southwest, with up to 60 at Rondeau and Pelee (fide AHK). North Bay had 4 White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 1 (JMG). Dunlins were abundant with some 300 at Strathroy (WRJ), 500 at Rondeau (JAG) and smaller numbers elsewhere; reports for this late migrant continued to the end of the period. **Long-billed Dowitcher** is a species with which Ontario observers are inevitably unfamiliar, and sight records must be viewed with great scepticism owing to the possibility of confusion with races of the Short-billed. This year, however, observers turned in an unusual number of Long-billed Dowitcher reports, principally from Pelee, Hamilton and Ottawa, all of the birds being described as being darker and with different call notes. Most of the sightings were in October, and some 13 birds in total were involved.

There was a Stilt Sandpiper at Shallow L., Bruce Co., Oct. 26 (JBM) and at least 50 different birds of this species in the southwest. Western Sandpipers were also widespread, with Ottawa having its first good records: 2 on Sept. 3 (MB, BM, RAF) and 3 on Sept. 14 (RP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers staged an exceptional movement: there were 2 at Hamilton Aug. 29 (DS, PMB et al.); 2 in the Kingston area Aug. 29 & 31 (PEL, AEH, MG); 5 at Ottawa, Aug. 29-Sept. 11 (RAF et al.) and singles at Chelmsford Sept. 11 (JN, WRL) and Waterdown Aug. 30 (RC et al.). All these were eclipsed by the unprecedented 53 birds on 5 dates, from the Pelee and R. Canard areas (fide AHK). Pelee also had a Marbled Godwit, Sept. 18-26 (JAG et al.), and a high of 10 Hudsonian Godwits Sept. 26. This species also appeared in exceptional numbers — it becomes difficult not to sound repetitive — with birds at Pt. Pelee Sept. 16-Nov. 21 (mob.); the first for Middlesex County at Strathroy, Sept. 6-19 (DR et al.); and an amazing 21 different birds at Ottawa Sept. 27-Oct. 24, with 17 on Oct. 17 (JH, JCW, WEG)! Thunder Bay yielded one of its more odd Sanderling records with 6 on the roof of a shopping plaza Sept. 11 (DE). A Red Phalarope was seen at Bronte Nov. 14 (AW, MJ); and there was one on Sept. 18-19 at Ottawa (mob.), which had a record year for phalaropes. There were 8 reports of Wilson's Phalaropes there from July 16 to Sept. 12 and also 9 of N. Phalaropes July 24-Sept. 13, starting with a ♀ in full breeding plumage and including 16 birds on Aug. 24 (mob.). Chelmsford had a high of 6 N. Phalaropes on Sept. 1 (JN) and there were 2 at North Bay Aug. 22 (JMG).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger** was at Pelee Oct. 23 (DR et al.) and another jaeger was seen there Sept. 18 (AJR). Western L. Ontario, the best locality for these birds, yielded high counts of 9 on Aug. 31 (CW) and 10 on Sept. 17 (RC); it was thought two of these could have been Pomarine Jaegers. A very early Glaucous Gull appeared at Kingston Aug. 23 (MJB, RDW); Iceland Gulls appeared in relatively higher numbers than Glaucous this fall: there were 9 at Ottawa, Nov. 27 (RAF et al.); 2 at

Sarnia, Nov. 28 (DR), and 1 at Whitewater L., Manitoulin Nov. 21 (JGL). Great Black-backed Gulls appeared in good numbers in s.w. Ontario, with up to 12 at Rondeau (fide AHK), and probably the first area records of this species for the upper Ottawa valley were at Mattawa Nov. 8, when 2 were seen (ARu, LdeKL). The big news in this group were the first and second **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** for Ontario, at Ottawa and Hamilton respectively. Readers will recall an earlier, imm. specimen was finally identified as an "off-beat" Herring Gull; contrary to the comment at that time, at least one earlier Canadian record exists, from Churchill (FC). The birds this year were in good plumage, although the Ottawa bird, first seen Nov. 13 (RP, RAF, et al.) and disappearing Nov. 28, had pinkish legs, and it is difficult to see how the possibility of an *argentatus fuscus* hybrid could be wholly eliminated in the field. There have been recent hybridizations in Britain following experiments on these two intriguing species there. The Hamilton bird was typical Lesser Black-backed, well described (CW), but only remained two days — Nov. 20-21. Hopefully the photographs taken at the time will prove adequate for record purposes. Small gulls continued their good numbers of recent years: there were 11 Franklin's Gulls at Point Pelee, with 7 there Oct. 16 (AJM); 7 at Dundas, Oct. 11 (AE, LAG); a high of 3 at Queenston, Oct. 17 (PMB et al.); and 1 at Willow Beach, the first ever there, Oct. 4 (ERMCD). The good flight of Bonaparte's Gulls extended to the North Bay area (HP), and Little Gulls followed their successful breeding with a high of 6 at Queenston Oct. 17 (PMB et al.), 2 at Prince Edward Pt. Nov. 20 (RDW), 3 at Toronto Sept. 11 (RHW) and birds at Pt. Pelee Oct. 23 & Nov. 7 (DR). Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared in several localities: 3 at Kettle Pt. Nov. 21 (AR) were the second record for the Canadian Section of the Detroit area survey; and there were birds at Toronto, Sept. 4 (RHW), Niagara Falls, Nov. 28 (WK et al.) and Hamilton Nov. 14 (RC) and 2 on Nov. 22 (AW, GWN). A Sabine's Gull was photographed at Chelmsford and was there from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, the first ever for that area (WRL, CB, DF, JN); and observers on a boat trip on w. L. Ontario Sept. 26 saw 4 of these birds — the second time in recent years that a boat trip of this type has yielded numbers of these rare gulls, suggesting that they may be commoner offshore (RC, RB, JBL, BJ, CW). Forster's Terns were less widespread that last year; there were 5 at F. Erie Oct. 17 (RB), and only 5 in the southwest over the period. At Pelee the Com. Tern flock built up from 1000 to 10,000 between Sept. 11 and 19 (JPK et al.)

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTHAWK, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRD** — There were a record 15 Black-billed Cuckoo at Kingston over the period (RDW), and a late bird at Dundas Nov. 1 (S.P.N.C.). Late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were 2 at Pelee, Oct. 22 (JOLR) and 1 at Huntsville, Oct. 21 (WJW). Barn Owls were seen at Pelee Nov. 4 (AJM) and Bertie Twp. Nov. 2 (HHA). Snowy Owls began to appear as early as Sept. 12 at Kingston (K.F.N.) and Sept. 26 at Hamilton (DM, WSm, RC) and by November one of the heaviest flights ever recorded was in progress. Sightings ranged

from Mattice Nov. 15 (JHE), Gogama Oct. 23 (KM), and Thunder Bay, where they were "numerous since Oct. 22" (fide KD): to Ottawa, with 30 since Oct. 14 (fide AHK); Kingston, with 64, including 34 on Wolfe I. Nov. 28 (AEB, AEH); and in the southwest to Lambton Co., where there were 11 in late November, as well as 3 at Rondeau and one at Pt. Pelee (fide AHK). All areas in between had sightings, and although statistics from earlier years are scarce, the flight was the heaviest of recent years at least. Two Great Grey Owl reports were from Rocklyn Nov. 21 (BB) and Gogama — an injured bird that was destroyed — Oct. 24 (JN). Saw-whet Owl numbers were down both at Toronto (fide PC) and Pelee, where only 17 were banded Oct. 19-30 (fide AHK). An extremely late Chimney Swift nesting at Kauffeldt L. was observed, when a pair were feeding 3 young in the nest Sept. 2 (RCL). Late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen at Ottawa Oct. 16 (RAF); Tehkumamah, Manitoulin, Oct. 26 (JWa); and at Kingston Oct. 31, when one was watched feeding at 11:30 p.m. in the headlights of a car (AC)!

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The second record of a Red-bellied Woodpecker in the Port Hope area was a bird at a Grafton feeder (Dec. 4 (AEW)). Three pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen near Pinewood Rainy River district, Aug. 12 (ANB, WF). There was a light movement of three-toed woodpeckers: 7 records of Black-backed at Kingston were the most there since 1965, the last of the short period of heavy flights (fide RDW), and there were birds at Bronte Nov. 14 (AW, MJ) and London Oct. 4 & 10 (GFB, BBT). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers — always much the rarest species — were seen at Atikokan, Aug. 25 (SP); South Baymouth, Sept. 30 (KDi); and Sheguiandah, Sept. 24 (GG). Western Kingbirds were seen at Long Pt. Oct. 2-3 (L.P.B.O.) and Gore Bay Sept. 7 (EG, EM). Peak Tree Swallow numbers were Sept. 25 at Rondeau, with 10,000 (RS), and Aug. 31 at L. Chemung, with 1800 (SAY). In contrast there was a steady, heavy flight of this species over Walpole I. Oct. 19 (AHK, NTK) and late records of 2 at Dunnville, Nov. 28 (ACI) and Kingston Nov. 7 (K.F.N.). Other late swallows were a Bank Swallow at Kingston Sept. 12 (RDW), and a Barn Swallow there Oct. 8 (PEL) with six others at Pelee Nov. 1 (DR).

**CROWS, CHICKADEES, WRENS** — It was another bumper year for Blue Jays: at Hawk Cliff 274,000 were estimated flying over, Sept. 18-Oct. 2, with a high of 70,000 Sept. 23 (JGL), and both ends of the lower lakes had heavy movements; at Kingston Sept. 18-30 (fide RDW), and in the southwest from Sept. 18 to Oct. 23, when there were 2000 at Rondeau, a late date for heavy flights (fide AHK). Single Black-billed Magpies were seen at Thunder Bay Oct. 6 & 20 (AG, TP). The Com. Raven movement in the Sudbury area was first noted Sept. 4, with 20 at Benny (JN); at Wolfe the first fall record was a bird Oct. 18 (RCL), and another was at Southampton Oct. 1, while the Bruce Peninsula itself yielded several sightings from Oct. 24 on, with 4 at Johnston Harbour Nov. 21 (JBM). The same regions also had Boreal Chickadee reports: 1, Meaford, Nov. 24 (GGr); 7, Benny, Oct. 24 (JGL);

and 1, Wolfe, Sept. 18 (RCL). Late wren reports included a House Wren, Kingston, Nov. 14 (AEH) and a Short-billed Marsh Wren, Prince Edward Pt., Oct. 10 (FC). Winter Wrens were in good numbers, particularly in the southwest, where 126 were banded at Bradley's Marsh (MJW, RE), and in the Hamilton-Bronte area, where 212 were counted on Oct. 17 (AW, MJ, DH-J). Carolina Wren numbers seen to be recovering slowly: there were four Pelee reports, 2 at Dundas throughout (mob.), 1 at Port Hope, Oct. 6 (ERMCD) and birds at widely scattered parts of Ottawa on Aug. 1, 7 and Sept. 5 (MB, SO'D et al.).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — The first Ottawa nesting records of Mockingbirds were a nest on June 28, and two broods seen July 11 (WEG, MM, BM, SO'D), and at Falconbridge 2 pairs and 2 young were seen in August (Mr. & Mrs. Maltby, fide JN). A Wood Thrush at Bronte Oct. 23 (RC, WC) and a Grey-cheeked Thrush at Hamilton Nov. 2 (AW, RF) were late; and 2 Swainson's Thrushes at Prince Edward Pt., Aug. 20 (HQ, RDW) and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet Sept. 10 (GW, AEH) were early. Kinglets were in good numbers at Port Hope Oct. 12-18 (ERMCD) and at Bradley's Marsh, where 385 were banded (MJW, RE). Water Pipits were also common in the southwest, with one flock of 250 at Pelee (AJR)

**WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS** — Small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Hamilton and on Manitoulin I., and no widespread movement of N. Shrikes occurred, although there was an early bird at Kingston Oct. 17 (RDW). Two Yellow-throated Vireos were seen at Huntsville, Oct. 2 (WJW), another at Wolfe Sept. 7 (RCL), and a late bird was in Essex Co. on Sept. 28 (JPK). Solitary Vireos were in record numbers at Kingston, with an early bird at Prince Edward Pt. Aug. 15 (RDW). A late bird of this species was killed at Pickering Oct. 24 (ARU), and other late vireos were a Warbling Vireo at Long Pt. Oct. 28, and Philadelphia Vireo, Oct. 26 (L.P.B.O.). On Nov. 7 at Bronte a Philadelphia Vireo was foraging on the ground in 1 in. of snow (AW, MJ).

**WARBLERS** — As with shorebirds, the host of late warbler records will be given together: Blue-winged Warbler, Bradley's Marsh, banded Sept. 25 (RE, MJW); Tennessee Warbler, Hamilton, Oct. 28 (RF); Orange-crowned Warbler, Hamilton, Nov. 9-12 (AW); Nashville Warbler, Hamilton, Nov. 2 (AW); Parula Warbler, Bronte and Hamilton, Oct. 28 (RF, MJ); Magnolia Warbler, Kingston, Oct. 17 (RDW) and Bradley's Marsh, Oct. 23 (fide AHK); Cape May Warbler, London, Oct. 24 (JWL); Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hamilton, Oct. 22 (GWN); Blackpoll Warbler, Hamilton, Oct. 28 (DKP); Palm Warbler, Bronte, Nov. 7 (AW); Ovenbird, Kingston, Oct. 17 (RDW); Am. Redstart, London, Oct. 24 (JWL), and Sudbury, Nov. 4 (WRL). A Prothonotary Warbler at Ottawa Oct. 1 was a very easterly sighting for this species (HM). Orange-crowned, Parula and Magnolia Warblers were reported in good numbers, and Cape May Warblers seemed exceptionally common, with 25 at Pelee Sept. 14 (JPK) and 14 at Prince Edward Pt. Aug. 20 (HQ, RDW); and a Connecticut Warbler Sept. 4 (RDW). There is no Ontario specimen of a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, although there are a number of sight records. One of

the very few fall observations ever reported was a well-described bird at London, Oct. 7-10 (JPP). A Prairie Warbler was seen at Hamilton, where they are rare in fall, 'Sept. 18-24 (RF, DH-J); and a Georgian Bay colony with 25 pairs was located this year (RW, fide JMS). Other rarer species were a Kentucky Warbler at Long Pt. Sept. 3 (L.P.B.O.); two Yellow-breasted Chats at North Bay Sept. 5 (JMG); and a Hooded Warbler at Cape Robert, Manitoulin I. Sept. 19, the third record for the area (JN). All other warbler sightings become commonplace next to the **Painted Redstart** which was found in Pickering Twp. Nov. 9. The bird was captured and at the time of writing was still alive, although it was carefully examined for frayed plumage at the time of capture and appeared to be unquestionably a wild bird, and in fact had survived quite successfully in the wild for several days prior to capture (LD, fide JMS). It is the first Canadian record, and its appearance followed some severe storms in the southwest of the continent.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES** — Two hundred Bobolinks was a good number at Pelee Sept. 11 (JAG). Ottawa had its first-ever **Yellow-headed Blackbird** Sept. 1 (SO'D), and one was seen at Rondeau Aug. 16 (RS). Two Orchard Orioles were seen at Prince Edward Pt. Aug. 20 (HQ). Brewer's Blackbirds made a good showing of their present established breeding range: birds were seen at Pelee, Nov. 4 (PB, WR, AJM); Warton, Oct. 24 (JBM); Bertie Twp., Nov. 17-18 (HHA); and Long Pt., Sept. 19 & Oct. 17 (RC, GB, CW). A late Com. Grackle was seen at Thunder Bay Nov. 30 (MV).

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Northerly Cardinal sightings were recorded at South Baymouth, Nov. 2 (JWa); Red Rock, Nov. 9-19 (JF); and Thunder Bay, Nov. 17 (RR). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Bronte, Nov. 7-21 (AW, MJ). The only Dickcissel reported this fall was at Long Pt. Sept. 21 (L.P.B.O.). To cap everything else, a good "winter finch" flight developed: there were no great numbers, but contrary to the usual pattern almost all northern finches were represented: only Hoary Redpolls failed to be reported. Purple Finches and Red Crossbills were also only thinly represented in the flight, although Purple Finches were the first to appear — in Toronto, on Sept. 12 for example (CEG). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread from Oct. 30 in most areas, although there were some earlier dates. Pine Grosbeaks were later, and still have not arrived in any numbers along the Lower Lakes at the time of writing, although there were some impressive counts further north: 337 at Benny Nov. 11 (fide JN), and 457 between Thunder Bay and Ignace Nov. 30 (KD, EK). Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins appeared in good numbers between Sept. 27 and Nov. 29 — there was no particular logic to the sequence of appearances — and the 270 siskins at Ipperwash Nov. 13 are perhaps noteworthy. The flocks were mixed with Am. Goldfinches, which were also widespread. Relative to its usual abundance, White-winged Crossbill was the most outstanding finch in the movement; the Ipperwash visit Nov. 13 included 132 birds of these species, for example (DR

et al.), and most areas were recording their first sightings at the end of October, with the flocks still present at the end of the period. Late sparrows included 15 Savannah Sparrows at Saruia Nov. 24 (JPK), 5 Vesper Sparrows in Lambton Co. Nov. 28 (DR), and a Chipping Sparrow at Pelee Nov. 6 (AHK). The first Ottawa record of a **Le Conte's Sparrow** was a bird in Mer Bleu Bog Sept. 5 (BM, MM, HW), and a Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Long Pt. Oct. 2 (RC, WC, PMO). The Tree Sparrow at Bruce's Cave Oct. 3 was early (JBM). Thunder Bay had an Oregon Junco Oct. 29 (ND), and a late Harris' Sparrow Sept. 22 (KD); another Harris' Sparrow appeared at a feeder in S. Baymouth, October 1 to 9 (KDi). Lambton Co. provided the most interesting report of longspurs, with 60 Laplands in a flock of 500 Snow Buntings Nov. 11 (DR, FH).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (Sub-regional editors in bold face) — **R. F. Andrie**; H. H. Axtell; Mr. & Mrs. J. Bartell; Mrs. G. F. Bates; A. E. Bell; C. Bell; P. M. Benham; Mrs. B. Bennett; J. Black (JBI); F. Blok; A. N. Boissonneau; T. Boleantu; P. Bono; W. Botham; M. Brigham; R. Brownstein; D. Brunton; G. Bryant; C. A. **Campbell**; D. L. Campbell; A. Carmichael; P. Catling; A. Clark (ACI); F. Cooke; J. Crawford; W. Crins; M. Cryer; J. Cumming (JCu); **R. Curry**; Mrs. L. Death; E. Deiter; **K. Denis**; N. Denis; K. Dinsmore (KDi) T. Dyke; K. Elder; J. H. Enns; A. Epp; R. Erickson; A. J. Erskine; M. J. B. Evans; G. Fairfield; D. Ferguson, M. Field; R. Finlayson; W. Fox; **R. A. Foxall**; Mrs. J. Freeman; G. Garette; J. M. Glenday; W. E. Godfrey; M. Good; Mrs. G. Grant (AGr); E. Gray; L. A. Grey; J. A. Greenhouse; J. Grzybowski; Mrs. A. Grimmer; J. Harris; R. Hilborn (RHi) F. Hirschman; G. Holland; G. **Holroyd** (L.P.B.O.); R. Hotaling; D. Howes-Jones; A. E. Hughes; **W. R. Jarmain**; M. Jennings; B. Jones; **Mrs. A. H. Kelley**; N. T. Kelley; P. J. G. Kidd; Kingston Field Naturalists; W. Klabunde; J. P. Kleiman; Mrs. E. Knowles; L. deK. Lawrence; E. Leach; J. W. Leach; J. G. Lemon; P. E. Little; **R. C. Long**; Long Point Bird Observatory; W. R. Lowe; H. Lumsden; Mr. & Mrs. H. MacKenzie; B. MacTavish; N. Maher; A. J. Maley; E. Mascal; **E. R. McDonald**; M. McKie; P. Middleton; **J. B. Miles**; Multiple observers (mob.); P. Modny (PMO); B. Morin (BMo); K. Morrison; D. Muffin; P. T. Nation; **J. Nicholson**; G. W. North; S. O'Donnell; T. Perrons; S. Peruniak; **H. Petty**; R. Pittaway; D. K. Powells; P. D. Pratt; J. P. Prevett; Mrs. H. Quilliam; D. Reid (DRe); **P. W. Richter**; R. Riddell; A. Rider; J. O. L. Roberts; L. Roy; D. Rupert; A. Russ (ARu); W. Russell; A. J. Ryff; D. Salisbury; F. Sawade; W. Schaefer; K. Schroter; R. Simpson; W. Smith (WSm); South Peel Nature Club; J. M. Speirs; J. Strickland; S. Taboni; B. B. Thompson; W. Travers; Toronto Ornithological Club; Mrs. M. Vibert; J. Ward (JWa); Mrs. W. J. Waters; **R. D. Weir**; R. H. Westmore; C. Whitelaw (CWh); H. Williamson; A. E. Wilson; J. Wilson; M. J. Wolcott; C. Wood; R. Wood Jr.; G. Woods; J. C. Woolley; A. Wormington; W. Wyatt; S. A. Yorke — C. E. **GOODWIN**, 11 Westbank Crescent, Weston, Ontario.

WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. —

Except for a few brief periods the weather up through mid-November was quite uniformly mild. September and October temperatures were above normal in most areas; precipitation varied from place to place but probably averaged close to normal for the entire Region. Most places did not experience a killing frost until Nov. 5, one of the latest dates on record; this meant late fruit crops and a late fall of leaves. Some snow and freezing occurred from Nov. 7-9 and some areas, especially on the lake plains, were covered by heavy snows on Nov. 21.

A noticeable movement of nocturnal passerines took place in conjunction with the first major cold front during the last few days of August. While many observers commented on the abundance of small birds during September there were no marked fluctuations until the night of Sept. 29-30. Large numbers of grounded nocturnal migrants were noted on a number of days in October, the best days being Oct. 2, 3, 10, 11, 17, and 25. In the later part of the period some excellent waterfowl flights and a good movement of some northern finches were noteworthy.

Unfortunately, many records from the westernmost part of the Region were not received until a week or more after very strict deadlines, and they could not be included in this report.

**Tower Casualties** — At five television towers in the westernmost part of the Region, 313 individuals of 26 species were found dead on Aug. 29 & 31 (AC); this is one of the earliest major kills ever reported in the Region. At the tower atop Hawley Hill at Elmira, N.Y., so often mentioned in past autumn season reports, the season's total between Sept. 2 and Nov. 17 was 540 casualties of 55 species, the highest ever. The night of Sept. 29-30 caused the highest number of birds ever to hit this tower in a single night — 225 individuals of 25 species. A very late kill consisting of 78 birds of 14 species occurred on Oct. 25; these were mostly Golden-crowned Kinglets, juncos, and sparrows. Although 12 families were represented in the seasonal totals, the warblers composed 65 per cent of that. The five most common species were, in descending order: Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler.

**Banding Activities** — At Presque Isle, Pa. 972 birds of 61 species were banded Sept. 11-Oct. 17. A Grasshopper Sparrow, mentioned below, was new for that area (RL, JS, et al.).

**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loons possibly summered on the Allegheny Reservoir, Cattaraugus Co., N.Y. because, in addition to those previously reported in June, 4 were noted Aug. 1 (RS et al.) and 6 were there Aug. 8 (AR); migrants were scarce in most areas except on Cayuga Lake, N.Y. where a high of 62 occurred Nov. 20 (DM). Red-throated Loons were unreported save for a flight of 50 on the south shore of L. Ontario at Manitou, Monroe Co., N.Y. Nov. 13 (WL). A single Red-necked Grebe, the only Regional report, was at Edinboro L., Erie Co., Pa. Nov.

14 (RL), where it was considered unusual. Pied-billed Grebe numbers have increased over the most recent few years, especially during late October and November.

**CORMORANT, HERONS, IBIS** — Double-crested Cormorants were more common and widespread than in most fall seasons. Common Egrets were also reported more commonly; indicative of a possible migratory movement were 4 over Erie, Pa. Aug. 31 (RB); the maximum count of 7 for the season was reached the next day, Sept. 1, at Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., N.Y. (WB). Montezuma Refuge continues to harbor the bulk of the Black-crowned Night Herons in the Region; this year's maximum was 40 Sept. 26 (RO). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** remained at the Rochester airport Aug. 17-Sept. 4 (RR, et al.). At the same locality a Glossy Ibis, rare but increasing in frequency, was studied Aug. 28 (WL).

**SWANS, GEESE** — The largest numbers of Whistling Swans moved through the Region during the first few days of November; the maximum count of 63 occurred on L. Erie at Erie, Pa. Nov. 1 (DS). Many heavy flights of Canada Geese were reported between Sept. 23 and Oct. 25 throughout the Region; the maximum count at Montezuma Refuge was 18,000, nearly double that of a year ago (MP). These pages will document an extraordinary waterfowl flight on the south shore of L. Ontario in the Rochester region. Part of this movement included 5557 Brant on Oct. 24 north of Webster, Monroe Co. (WLI); this bird was reported during late October and November much more commonly than usual in the Finger Lakes, N.Y. region (DM). Two **White-fronted Geese** at Montezuma Refuge on Nov. 28 (fide MP) constituted about the seventh Regional record since 1962. A few Snow and Blue Geese occurred in their usual localities but a flock of 30 Blue Geese on Oct. 11 inland over Letchworth State Park, N.Y. was noteworthy (fide G.O.S.). A Bar-headed Goose that frequented the Montezuma Refuge area during Oct. was undoubtedly an escape.

**Ducks** — Noteworthy maximum estimates of dabbling ducks at Montezuma Refuge were as follows (MP): Mallard, 10,000 during mid-Nov.; Black Duck, 5000 from mid-Oct. through late Nov.; Gadwall, 2500 from early Oct. through early Nov.; Am. Widgeon, 10,000 during mid-Oct.; Pintail, 2500 during the last half of Oct.; Green-winged Teal, 3000 during Sept.; Blue-winged Teal, 8000 from mid-Sept. to mid-Oct.; Shoveler, 1000 from mid-Oct. to early Nov.; and Wood Duck, 2000 from late Sept. to late Oct. Also noteworthy was a concentration of 700 Mallards, 350 Black Ducks, and 375 Am. Widgeon at Mendon, Monroe Co. Oct. 26 (GP). Among the waterfowl noted migrating on Sept. 19 on the south shore of L. Ontario at Manitou were 200 Pintail (WL). Redheads and Canvasbacks were thought to be 90 per cent less abundant than a year ago at Montezuma Refuge. (MP); however, some 1800 Redheads on Nov. 20 (WEB) apparently were not considered in the government statistics. A large concentration of 240 Redheads occurred Nov. 3 at the north end of Chautauqua Lake, N.Y. (DC). Maximum concentrations of Canvasbacks included 190 Oct. 20 and 650 Nov. 3 at the north end of Chautauqua L. (DC) and 900 Nov. 19 at Presque Isle, Pa. (DS).

On the south shore of L. Erie at Barcelona, Chautauqua Co., a summering Ring-necked Duck was noted Aug. 24 (DC) and a Lesser Scaup was there Aug. 15 & 24 (RS). Two Lesser Scaup also occurred at the north end of Chautauqua L. Aug. 1-Sept. 12 (RS, et al.). The Sept. 19 waterfowl flight at Manitou included about 200 Greater Scaup and about 400 Oldsquaws were there Oct. 24 (WL). All three species of scoters were well represented in the L. Ontario flights. About 100 White-winged Scoters passed by Manitou as early as Sept. 19 (WL), 1615 were counted there Oct. 24 (WL), and 3000 were estimated Nov. 16 as they passed by the outlet of Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co. (AK). On Oct. 24 some 3920 dark-winged scoters passed by Manitou; some of these were Surf Scoters but most were thought to be Com. Scoters (WL). In the Finger Lakes region, where it is usually the rarest of the scoters, the Com. Scoter was the most common; about 100 were on Cayuga L. in late October (fide DM); at Elmira 27 individuals on the Chemung R. Nov. 7 constituted only the second record for that area (WH). Back on L. Ontario about 8000 Red-breasted Mergansers moved past Manitou Nov. 13 (WL) and 4500 were estimated at the Irondequoit Bay outlet Nov. 16 (AK).

**HAWKS** — There were few significant reports of birds in this group. All three accipiters remained very scarce, as well as Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Pigeon Hawk. A flight of 30 Broad-winged Hawks over Ithaca, Sept. 11 (EH) was noteworthy, for there are few autumn reports of hawk movements in the Region. Most observers called the Rough-legged Hawk flight fair to good. A Golden Eagle was at Hamlin Beach State Park, Monroe Co., Nov. 27 & 28 (RO, et al.). Bald Eagle reports were surprisingly few; the last of the two that were at Montezuma Refuge all summer was noted there Oct. 5 (MP); one was at Conesus Lake, N.Y., one of the regular localities in the Region, Nov. 24 (fide G.O.S.).

**RAILS** — A dead Sora was among the birds picked up Aug. 31 at a tower in Colden, Erie Co., N.Y. (AC). A group of 12 Soras in the Rochester area Sept. 12 was a good count for that area (G.O.S.); during October at Montezuma Refuge, an unprecedented high concentration of about 1000 occurred in the storage pool area (MP). Maximum counts of Am. Coots included 2000 from mid-October to mid-November at Montezuma Refuge (MP) and 1300 Oct. 20 at the north end of Chautauqua Lake (DC).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The lack of good habitat in the usual concentration areas caused this to be a relatively poor shorebird season compared with most recent years. After last year's major flight, Am. Golden Plover were far less numerous this year; most reports were of single birds; 2 on Aug. 28 near Cuba L., Allegany Co., N.Y. (DB & LB) were unusually early for a southern tier locality where they are always rare; the maximum count was 40 on Aug. 31 in the Rochester area (RO, et al.). A high count of 60 Com. Snipe were at the Iroquois Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Genesee and Orleans Cos., N.Y. Sept. 9 (fide G.O.S.). The Whimbrel is always uncommon in autumn, hence one Sept. 15 at Presque Isle, Pa. was noteworthy (JB). Hudsonian Godwits, now regular in the c. New York area

every autumn, were at Montezuma Refuge Aug. 15-21 when one was noted (WB); 4 were at the same place Sept. 12 (RW) and 2 were at Waterloo, Seneca Co., N.Y. Oct. 6-10 (WB, et al.). Three Phalaropes were found Nov. 9 on the Lake Erie shore near Dunkirk, Chautauqua Co.; 2 were there Nov. 10-13, and one remained until Nov. 20 (DC, et al.); other singles occurred in the Rochester area Nov. 26-29 (AK, et al.) and at Presque Isle, Pa. Nov. 28 (RB, et al.) A Wilson's Phalarope was at Rochester, Aug. 23 and 2 were there Aug. 28 (JD); 3 were at Montezuma Refuge Sept. 1 (WB) and 1 was at Prendergast Pt. on Chautauqua L. Sept. 18 (RS). Northern Phalaropes were represented by 5 individuals from mid-August through early September at Rushville, Yates Co., N.Y. (ML) and one Aug. 28 at Watkins Glen, N.Y. (JBR); another was studied at close range at Presque Isle, Pa. on the extremely late date of Nov. 28, about 22 days later than any previous state record (RB, et al.).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Single Pomarine Jaegers were seen on L. Ontario at Sodus Bay, N.Y. Oct. 10 (TT, et al.) and at Manitou, Nov. 13 (WL). A Parasitic Jaeger was also noted at Manitou, Oct. 23 (WL). Both "white-winged" gulls were reported in very small numbers in November; a Glaucous Gull Oct. 24 at Hamlin Beach State Park was unusually early (G.O.S.). Great Black-backed Gull numbers gradually increased at Dunkirk, N.Y. from 2 noted there Aug. 17 to 42 counted Nov. 15 (DC). A Laughing Gull, reported with increasing frequency in recent years, was in the Rochester area Sept. 4-5 (JD, et al.). One Franklin's Gull began frequenting the Niagara R. at Buffalo Aug. 22 (PB, et al.) while another was noted at Sodus Bay, Oct. 23 (TT, et al.); one studied well at Presque Isle, Pa. Nov. 14 was thought to be about the sixth state record (RB, et al.). Little Gulls, as usual, were found in various parts of the Niagara R. area beginning in late August; several were noted on L. Ontario in the Rochester area, including the maximum of 3 Nov. 16 (AK, et al.). The Black-legged Kittiwake, like some of the other smaller species of gulls, is becoming regular each autumn season; this year one was on L. Ontario at Webster, N.Y. Oct. 24 (WL1, et al.), 2 were at Manitou Nov. 13 (WL), and another was noted Nov. 25 (GP). More Forster's Terns were reported than in the average fall season from areas on Lakes Ontario and Erie; 2 on Aug. 17 (DS) and 2 on Sept. 15 (JB) at Presque Isle, Pa. were the first records there in several years (fide RB).

**SNOWY OWL** — As predicted, most observers characterized the Snowy Owl flight as good; unusually early was one Oct. 22-23 at Irondequoit (RO, et al.); by late November most individuals were being reported from the lake plains, but a few had penetrated the hilly southern tier.

**NIGHTHAWK, SWIFT** — Migratory movements of Com. Nighthawks included 27 over Bemus Pt., Chautauqua Co. Sept. 2 (DC, et al.) and 100 over Elmira Sept. 6 (WH); some reporters thought them to be scarcer than in the past few years. Several minor Chimney Swift movements were reported; the largest was Oct. 4 at Waterloo, when 10 to 20 per minute passed over for at least a half-hour (WB).



**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Seldom do we receive reports even approaching the 100 E. Kingbirds that were estimated at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co. Sept. 5 (JD, et al.). Exceptionally late were single Barn Swallows at Braddock Bay Nov. 6 & 24 (WL). About 10,000 Purple Martins were estimated to be at Grand Island, Erie Co., N.Y. Aug. 25 (HK & WK).

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES** — Black-capped Chickadees appeared to be in normal numbers throughout the Region; however, a count of 250 on Oct. 30 in the Sodus Bay area (TT) seemed to indicate that some southward movement had taken place across L. Ontario, as has occurred on a much larger scale in some past seasons. Early in the season, indications were that Red-breasted Nuthatches would be numerous; however, many observers thought they became scarcer as the season progressed; an unprecedented 200 at Hamlin Beach State Park Oct. 25 (fide, G.O.S.) indicated a major flight, but there was no evidence of this elsewhere in the Region.

**CATBIRD, KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKE** — There were more than the usual number of November Catbirds reported from all parts of the Region. Golden-crowned Kinglets staged a major invasion during Oct.; a high percentage of the birds that were killed on the night of Oct. 24-25 at the Elmira tower were this species (WH). Larger-than-normal numbers of Cedar Waxwings occurred during October and November; the maximum count was an extremely high 700 at Rochester Nov. 28 (JD). Very few Northern Shrikes were reported.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A White-eyed Vireo that was banded at Penn Yan, Yates Co., N.Y. Oct. 9 (ML) was the second Keuka L. record, the other being in May 1947 (fide FG). A very late Red-eyed Vireo was found dead at the Elmira tower Nov. 2 (WH). Also unusually late was a Philadelphia Vireo Oct. 26 at Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe Co. (GP). Although usually fragmentary, banding data in the Region frequently clarifies the status of some of the less common warblers. The Orange-crowned Warbler is one of these: single birds were banded Oct. 3, 10, 12 and 14 in the Town of Kiantone, Chautauqua Co., (AR) and another was banded Oct. 16 at Penn Yan (ML). Some of the largest numbers of Cape May Warblers in many years were present from Aug. 29 through the first few days of September; 10 were found dead Aug. 29 at the Colden, N.Y. tower (AC). The peak of the Blackpoll Warbler flight was indicated by the 48 that were found dead Sept. 30 at the Elmira tower (WH). A Connecticut Warbler that was found dead at the Colden tower on the early date of Aug. 29 (AC), was the first of a higher-than-usual number of reports. A Yellow-breasted Chat retrapped Oct. 2 in Kiantone was the individual banded there Sept. 5 and seen Sept. 17 (AR). Unusually late were the following: a Nashville Warbler Oct. 29 in the Rochester area (G.O.S.), several late September Yellow Warblers and one banded Oct. 13 in Kiantone (AR), an Ovenbird Nov. 20-30 at Irondequoit (NM, et al.), and a Wilson's Warbler Nov. 7 at Rochester (G.O.S.).

**FRINGILLIDS** — A Dickcissel was studied at a feeder in Fluvanna, Chautauqua Co. Oct. 12 (GB). House Finches continued to frequent their usual haunts and

feeders in Elmira (WH). The winter finch flight, with Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills being the most common, was good; all of the expected species were reported. Evening Grosbeaks were spotty and uncommon; a count of 150 Nov. 20 at Braddock Bay (WL) was indicative of a major movement. There was one Pine Grosbeak report. Similarly, only one flock of 30 Com. Redpolls was noted and that on Nov. 29 at Hamlin Beach State Park (JD). Pine Siskins were abundant in some areas from Oct. 10 on, but except for two flights noted during November a good many of them moved further south; there was a major movement Oct. 10 as indicated by 1000 estimated at Sodus Bay (TT, et al.). A few Red Crossbills occurred in the Rochester area, whereas White-winged Crossbill reports came from widely scattered areas, the maximum count of the latter being 65 at Waterford, Erie Co., Pa. Nov. 28 (JS, et al.). Unusually late was a Grasshopper Sparrow banded Oct. 3 at Presque Isle, Pa. (RL). The always rare Sharp-tailed Sparrow was carefully studied Sept. 21 at Ithaca (MB). There was a very heavy movement of White-throated Sparrows Oct. 2-3 throughout the Region; 103 were banded on those two days at Penn Yan, (ML). Lapland Longspurs were scarce, but one Sept. 25 (DF) and 3-6 Oct. 1-15 (RB) at Presque Isle, Pa. were especially early. Snow Buntings were scarce.

**CONTRIBUTORS (IN BOLDFACE) AND OBSERVERS** — (JB) James Baxter, Paul Benahm, **Walter Benning**, **Richard Bollinger**, Mollie Briant, (JBr) Jack Brubaker, Gilbert Burgeson, **Doris Burton**, **Lou Burton**, **Douglas Carlson**, Arthur Clark, James Doherty, David Freeland, Genesee Ornithological Society, **Frank Guthrie**, **Wilfred Howard**, Edward Humulock, Allen Kemnitzer, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Ronald Leberman, Malcolm Lerch, (WL) Walter Listman, (WL) Warren Lloyd, **Dorothy Mellroy**, **Alice McKale**, **Willard McKale**, Neil Moon, **Richard O'Hara**, Glen Ferrigo, **Martin Phillips**, Ruth Reid, Archie Richardson, Donald Snyder, **Sally Spofford**, James Stull, **Robert Sundell**, Thomas Tetlow, **Jayson Walker**, and Ruth Williams. — **RICHARD C. ROSCHE**, P.O. Box 693, **Bernardsville**, N.J. 07924.

## **APPALACHIAN REGION** / George A. Hall

It was a mild and open fall which produced a drawn out migration of rather low intensity. The birds trickled through steadily during the succession of mild, sunny days and there were few "waves" or other large concentrations. At the Pittsburgh weather station September and October both averaged well above normal in temperature. September was much wetter, but October drier, than normal. The first frosts did not come until after Nov. 1 and in the north the only snow of the period fell about Nov. 21 and Nov. 2t.

The first passerine migration occurred Aug. 22-23. There were minor concentrations of migrants Sept. 10-11; Sept. 24-25; and Oct. 23-26. Perhaps the most spectacular event of the season occurred Nov. 1 when a combination of weather factors caused a major precipitation of waterfowl in w. Pennsylvania. The mild weather produced a long series of very late "last seen"