

## October Sightings Report

It was again a split month; the first half was flat and average, then the last 12 days mild and well above average. Temperatures averaged 53.6 °F, 3.0° above normal. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, record highs for the date were set for both the high and low temperatures. The 88° was only the 9<sup>th</sup> time that high in October and the first time since 1951. A drop to 33° on the 19<sup>th</sup> brought the first killing frost to many parts of the area and ended the growing season for the Rochester metro area. Precipitation at 4.84" was 2.12" above normal. There was no snow. Six days with 0.50" of rain or more tied the record set in 1872, and 1.09" on the 31<sup>st</sup> was a record for that date. Strong winds accompanying the storm on the 31<sup>st</sup> dropped some trees and caused some power outages.

The species total for the month was well below last year and below the 10-year average for the month. This is likely due to the combination of no NYSOA meeting here, many heavy rain days, and the very high waters across the region. Shorebird variety was down significantly, and many other families had a few species not found this year. There were no record late departures, and only 3 at dates beyond the old Monroe County checklist distributions. The eBird records downloaded this month for the region totaled 17,589, a drop of almost 50% from last year, again likely a result of both no NYSOA meeting here and the very wet October. At the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) banding station, the number of new bands was down about 1/3 from last year. This low banding number is repeated at many banding stations across the Northeast and Upper Midwest this fall. There are many theories that provide possible partial explanations, none conclusive or overwhelming.

Most of the expected waterfowl were reported, though generally at relatively low numbers, other than a few of the puddle ducks in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Diving ducks were noted only in relatively low peak counts. The only real surprise miss was Canvasback. Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose were the only relatively rarer species.

From pheasants through hummingbirds, we had most of the expected species reported in typical numbers and departures; no really late departures. Grebe maxima were unexceptional. Again there were no Eurasian Collared-Dove reports. No large Chimney Swift gatherings were noted into this month, and the gallinules and coots in the NMWMA back to more normal numbers.

Only 16 shorebird species were reported, certainly a function of high water levels in our region. Peak numbers were very low, and departure dates were typical; there were no really late dates. There were no particularly interesting finds.

Again, there was a reasonable number of about 6 Parasitic Jaegers and one other not ID'd to species. Black-legged Kittiwake put in a first appearance for the year, and the adult Franklin's Gull found last month was seen again on the 1<sup>st</sup>. There were good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at the Mill Seat Landfill in Riga and a few elsewhere. Terns

were missing, other than Caspian Tern to a typical departure date.

The loon movement seemed on the low side, but the peak numbers were typical of many other years historically. Among the herons, egrets, and allies, a nice surprise was the region's 2<sup>nd</sup> White-faced Ibis first seen by Joanna Klima on the 18<sup>th</sup> at LaSalle's Landing Park at the south end of Irondequoit Bay and then re-found the next day and seen off and on to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. To the frustration of some, it spent much of its time in the marshes to the south of Empire Blvd., where access and visibility is very limited.

The fall raptor picture was again weak. There were no reports for Black Vulture, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, or Rough-legged Hawk. Even Bald Eagle reports were down, with only 110 lines in eBird. Out of order, but hard for me to separate from the raptors, all three regular falcons were again well reported this fall.

There were no winter owl arrivals by month's end. A banding effort at the BBBO area caught 15 Northern Saw-whet Owls from October 7-18, and another was heard calling near Naples on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports, surely an effort issue rather than a sudden mass departure.

Again, nearly all the expected passerine species were reported, but there were more holes than usual in the list, where species that sometimes linger into the month or arrive for the winter were not reported this month. Numbers were again generally low, illustrated earlier by the comment on low banding numbers. Warbling Vireo, record late last fall, was not reported into October this year. Winter finches were represented only by Pine Siskins arriving after mid-month. Nelson's Sparrows were found at Burger Park and at the Geneseo Airfield. Twenty species of warblers were reported, with only 7 Orange-crowned in the scarcer species column. Looking at the banding data, it is interesting that only 2 species were banded in numbers statistically different from their averages for the prior 8 years: Common Yellowthroat and Black-throated Green Warbler, both at well above average. Blackpoll Warbler was in one of its low years here, but it serves to illustrate that the lack of statistically significant differences in numbers from their averages is mostly due to the variances across years being very high. For Blackpoll, this fall, only 80 were banded, with the average 351, but with one standard deviation is 248!

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send them by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Total species for October	194	214	205.0
New species for the year	3	3	5.8
Total for the year to date	286	282	286.2

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Tom Auer, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Mitchell Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Don Belmont, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Jeff Bolsinger, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Robert Cicotta, Linda Clark-Benedict, Kelly Close, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Peter Debes, Andrew Dreelin, Mark Druziak, George Ford, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janice George, Jessica George, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Shannon Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Gunther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Anita Gwara, Helen & Chris Haller, David Harrison, Julie Hart, Kim Hartquist, Monika Herrmann, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Dave Kennedy, Mike Kidulich, Jim Kimball, Scott & Sherry Kinzey, Kathy Kirsch, Joanna Klima, Kim LaCelle, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom

Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Bill Maier, Patrick Marr, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Adrielle Mitchell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim & Linda Mott, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, William Norton, Dave Nutter, Dave Odell, Jay Ovsiovitich, Andrea Patterson, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Sophie Rabinowitz, RBA Field Trips, Carolyn Ragan, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Jennifer Rycenga, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Rick Stevens, Joe Stevenson, Joel Strong, Aerin Tedesco, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Geoff Twardokus, Rosemary Valente, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

October 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
<u>Bar-headed Goose ph escape</u>	1	21	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	M. Wasilco, 4 oth obs
Snow Goose	2	3FF	Bovee Rd., T. Riga, Monroe Co.	Bri. Morse
Greater White-fronted Goose	1	18FF	N. Hamlin Rd.	L. Bergmeyer, C. Giles, R. Reilly
Brant	2	4FF	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Martin, S. Gracewski, D. Sherony
Brant	<u>max 500</u>	18	Brown Rd., Wolcott	W. & M. Rowley
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	1	3FF	Bovee Rd., T. Riga, Monroe Co.	Bri. Morse
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>max 8</u>	18	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	M. Wasilco
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>total ~15</u>	3-28	5 loc	5+ obs
Mute Swan	<u>max 84</u>	19	LaSalle's Landing Park	L. Bergmeyer, R. Buckert, J. Wagner
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 15</u>	21	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	P. Marr
Tundra Swan	1	4FF	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	Ji. Barry
Blue-winged Teal	<u>max 80</u>	12	Sodus Pt.	T. Lenz
American Wigeon	<u>max 5000</u>	5	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Mallard	<u>max 1500</u>	5	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Northern Pintail	<u>max 1000</u>	5	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 8000</u>	5	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Surf Scoter	<u>max 70</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Garland
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 341</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	P. Martin
Long-tailed Duck	6	14FF	Hamlin Beach SP	R. Buckert, N. Kachala
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 300</u>	30	Hamlin Beach SP	B. Carlson
Bufflehead	5	18FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Garland, P. Martin, D. Sherony
Bufflehead	1	18FF	Bear Creek Harbor, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Common Goldeneye	1	18FF	Twin Cedars Environ. Area, Avon	M. Wasilco
Common Goldeneye	2	18FF	Bear Creek Harbor, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Common Merganser	<u>max 150</u>	12	Sodus Pt.	T. Lenz
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 500</u>	18	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Sherony
<u>Northern Bobwhite release</u>	1	3	T. Mendon	P. Martin
<u>Chukar release</u>	3	7	T. Mendon	P. Martin
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 90</u>	30	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	G. Dashnau
Horned Grebe	<u>max 128</u>	29	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 21</u>	28	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Chimney Swift	3	5L	Rochester	Ji. Miles
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	1	9L	Livonia	T. Bohling
Common Gallinule	2	26L	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
American Coot	<u>max 200</u>	7	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	W. & M. Rowley
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 49</u>	21	NMWMA (Morgan Rd. Marshes)	P. Marr
Black-bellied Plover	2	7L	Braddock Bay - East Spit	S. Gracewski

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

October 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
American Golden-Plover	1	9 <u>L</u>	Braddock Bay	R. Reilly
Semipalmated Plover	1	15 <u>L</u>	Sodus Pt.	J. Wing
Sanderling	2	18 <u>L</u>	Sodus Pt.	M. Gullo
Least Sandpiper	2	1 <u>L</u>	Braddock Bay - East Spit	J. Gordinier
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	23 <u>L</u>	Sodus Pt.	M. Gullo
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	18 <u>L</u>	Brown Rd., Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
American Woodcock	1	18 <u>L</u>	Conesus Inlet WMA - West Swamp Pond	M. Wasilco
Spotted Sandpiper	1	18 <u>L</u>	West Port Bay Pt., Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Solitary Sandpiper	1	11 <u>L</u>	North Ponds Park, Webster	K. Millham
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	<u>total 6</u>	4-24	5 loc	8 obs
<u>jaeger sp</u>	1	18	Bear Creek Harbor, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	18FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
<u>Franklin's Gull ph</u>	1 ad	1	Ontario Beach	Sc. Kinzey
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	5; 7	2; 3	Bovee Rd., T. Riga, Monroe Co.	Bri. Morse
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1; 1	2; 26	Ontario Beach area	P. Wolter; M. Gullo
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1	12	Sodus Pt.	T. Lenz
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	1	27	off Edgemere Dr. Greece	M. Barry
Caspian Tern	1	17 <u>L</u>	off Edgemere Dr. Greece	M. Barry
Red-throated Loon	<u>max 34</u>	29	Hamlin Beach SP	R. & S. Spahn
Common Loon	<u>max 173</u>	29	Hamlin Beach SP	R. & S. Spahn
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 1300</u>	18	Braddock Bay - East Spit	G. Lawrence
American Bittern	1	23 <u>L</u>	Island Cottage potholes, Greece	M. Barry
Least Bittern	1	19 <u>L</u>	Beatty Pt., Greece	L. Bergmeyer
Great Egret	<u>max 19</u>	7	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	W. & M. Rowley
Green Heron	1	20 <u>L</u>	T. Nunda, Livingston Co.	J. Gordinier
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	24 <u>L</u>	Island Cottage potholes, Greece	M. Barry
<u>White-faced Ibis many ph</u>	1, 1st Reg	19F-23	Irondequoit Bay - S	J. Klima, 24+ oth obs
Osprey	1	19 <u>L</u>	Canadice Lake	J. Slein
Bald Eagle	<u>110 ll eBird</u>	all month	many loc	mob
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	<u>3</u>	Porter Rd., Naples, Ontario Co.	R. Smith
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<u>15B</u>	<u>7-18</u>	Manitou	BBBO
Red-headed Woodpecker	<u>no reports</u>			
American Kestrel	<u>total ~19</u>	all month	17+ loc	22+ obs
Merlin	<u>total ~25</u>	all month	19+ loc	mob
Peregrine Falcon	<u>total ~23</u>	all month	20+ loc	21+ obs
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	7 <u>L</u>	Conesus Inlet WMA	D. Harrison
Least Flycatcher	1	<u>1L</u>	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wood
empidonax flycatcher	1	<u>1</u>	Lucien Morin Park - N. Penfield	Ji. Miles
empidonax flycatcher	1	<u>6</u>	Durand-Eastman Park	L. Brunner
Eastern Phoebe	<u>total B 6</u>	15-20	Manitou	BBBO
Eastern Kingbird	<u>1</u>	7 <u>L</u>	T. Nunda, Livingston Co.	J. Gordinier
Northern Shrike	1	28FF	Irondequoit Bay - S	J. Wing
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1 <u>L</u>	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	J. Wood
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1 <u>L</u>	Walworth, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Blue-headed Vireo	1	20 <u>L</u>	Cranberry Pond Nature Trail	N. Reilly
Blue-headed Vireo	1	20 <u>L</u>	T. Canadice, Ontario Co.	B. Howe
Philadelphia Vireo	1	1 <u>L</u>	Lucien Morin Park - N. Penfield	Ji. Miles
Red-eyed Vireo	2	8 <u>L</u>	Hogan Pt. Rd. Greece	S. Gracewski
Red-eyed Vireo	1	8 <u>L</u>	T. Mendon	P. Martin
Blue Jay	<u>max 219</u>	1	Knapp Shores, T. Kendall, Orleans Co.	D. Tetlow

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

October 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Common Raven	<u>3</u>	28	<u>Hamlin Beach</u> - Yanty Creek trail	R. Spahn
Horned Lark	<u>max 50</u>	18	N. Hamlin Rd.	L. Bergmeyer, R. Buckert
Tree Swallow	<u>max 500</u>	5	West Port Bay Pt., Wayne Co.	T. Auer, A. Dreelin
N. Rough-winged Swallow	8	5 <u>L</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Barn Swallow	1	5 <u>L</u>	Braddock Bay	M. Barry
Barn Swallow	2	5 <u>L</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	J. McGowan, L. Santana,
Cliff Swallow	1	11 <u>L</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.)	A. Tedesco
Black-capped Chickadee	<u>total B 7, low</u>	4-28	Manitou	BBBO
Brown Creeper	<u>total B 34</u>	5-28	Manitou	BBBO
House Wren	1	11 <u>L</u>	T. Nunda, Livingston Co.	J. Gordinier
Winter Wren	<u>max 14</u>	4	Webster Park	R. & S. Spahn
Winter Wren	<u>total B 20</u>	7-31	Manitou	BBBO
Marsh Wren	1	28 <u>L</u>	Irondequoit Bay - S	P. Mabb
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>max B 30</u>	26	Manitou	BBBO
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>total B 133</u>	4-31	Manitou	BBBO
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>max 65</u>	5	Sodus Pt.	T. Lenz
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>max B 62</u>	18	Manitou	BBBO
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>total B 219</u>	1-28	Manitou	BBBO
Veery	1	6 <u>L</u>	Manitou - Owl Woods	R. Cicotta
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	13 <u>L</u>	Hamlin Beach	sev obs
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<u>total B 10, low</u>	1-10	Manitou	BBBO
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush	<u>total B 2</u>	4, 5 <u>L</u>	Manitou	BBBO
Swainson's Thrush	<u>max 15</u>	4	Webster Park	R. & S. Spahn
Swainson's Thrush	<u>max B 4, low</u>	4	Manitou	BBBO
Swainson's Thrush	<u>total B 8, low</u>	2-18	Manitou	BBBO
Swainson's Thrush	2	19 <u>L</u>	Beatty Pt., Greece	L. Bergmeyer, R. Reilly
Hermit Thrush	<u>max B 38</u>	19	Manitou	BBBO
Hermit Thrush	<u>total B 136</u>	4-31	Manitou	BBBO
Wood Thrush	1; 1B	8 <u>L</u>	Webster; Manitou	A. Gwara; BBBO
American Pipit	<u>max 12, low</u>	26	Geneseo Airfield	J. Kimball
American Pipit	3	28 <u>L</u>	Geneseo Airfield	T. Bohling
American Pipit	2	28 <u>L</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	R. Spahn
Pine Siskin	1	19 <u>FF</u>	BBBO	mob
American Goldfinch	<u>max B 250</u>	12	Scottsville	N. Kachala
American Goldfinch	<u>max B 39</u>	28	Manitou	BBBO
American Goldfinch	<u>total B 50</u>	1-29	Manitou	BBBO
Lapland Longspur	<u>1</u>	28 <u>FF</u>	Hemlock Lake - S	B. Howe
Snow Bunting	1	20 <u>FF</u>	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	R. Cicotta
Am. Tree Sparrow	2	10 <u>FF</u>	N. Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Vesper Sparrow	1	14 <u>L</u>	Jacobs & Redman Rds., Hamlin	R. Buckert, N. Kachala
<u>Nelson's Sparrow</u>	2	11 <u>FF</u>	Burger Park, Greece	J. Hart, G. Lawrence, P. Martin
<u>Nelson's Sparrow</u>	1	14	Burger Park, Greece	C. Hoh
<u>Nelson's Sparrow</u>	1	26 <u>L</u>	Geneseo Airfield	J. Kimball
Fox Sparrow	1	11 <u>FF</u>	Mendon Ponds Park	C. Goetz
Song Sparrow	<u>total B 27</u>	8-31	Manitou	BBBO
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	24 <u>L</u>	Letchworth SP	R. Valente
White-throated Sparrow	<u>max B 31</u>	19	Manitou	BBBO
White-throated Sparrow	<u>total B 251</u>	all month	Manitou	BBBO
White-throated Sparrow	<u>max 60</u>	5	Beechwood SP, Wayne Co.	T. Lenz
Dark-eyed Junco	<u>max B 53</u>	25	Manitou	BBBO

