

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Warm and dry pretty much sums up the weather for the season. June, July, and August were below average in precipitation, with July's total over an inch below normal. The temperature was not quite as abnormal, but there were many days with sunshine and warm temperatures. This relatively dry warm summer should have been a plus for the nesting land birds. It was hard to tell due to the scarcity of reports. Data from some local activities like the warbler census in Letchworth State Park and the marsh monitoring have not yet been tabulated. Individual observers who participated in these activities did send in their own reports. Combined with field trips to see breeding species, there did seem to be enough information to get a fair picture of the breeding season.

Common Loon was again reported during June but breeding was not confirmed. Pied-billed Grebe was not confirmed nesting in the Region again this year but may have nested on Round Pond. A real surprise was the low numbers of Double-crested Cormorant. This species has assembled in large numbers at Braddock Bay over the last few years and even attempted to nest. There were no nesting attempts this year and very few individuals were present. Mute Swan nested at four areas along the lakeshore. Canada Goose seemed to nest in every suitable location in the Region. Wood Duck and Mallard had good nesting seasons. The only other possible nesting dabblers were a pair of American Wigeon. Hooded Merganser set an all time best at Genesee Country Nature Center.

The long-legged waders seemed to have a tough year. Least and American Bitterns were hard to locate at times. Green Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron were scarce until late in the season, and then showed only modest increases. A Great Egret was near Rochester most of the season. The usual nesting shorebirds were reported and a local farmer reported good numbers of Upland Sandpiper on his farm, but his report could not be verified this season. The most noteworthy of the usual scattering of gull and tern reports was the dismal year for nesting Black Tern. The large number of juvenile Laughing Gull reports in August was exceptional. While some may have been repeat sightings, there were still more than usual.

Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel were reported to have a pretty good season. A Northern Harrier nest was discovered and there were other probable nesting locations around the Region for this locally threatened species. There were also reports of Northern Goshawk from Springwater and of Red-shouldered Hawk from Rattlesnake Hawk. The Peregrine Falcon hatched last summer were not reported this summer. While the typical owls were present, a highlight was a Long-eared Owl, which has nested only rarely in the Region.

Upland game bird reports were mixed. Ring-necked Pheasant was very scarce while Wild Turkey continued to be well reported. Adults with young were reported from area feeding stations. It was a banner year for Mourning Dove. It seemed as though most pairs fledged two or three broods. There were always young in varying plumages in evidence throughout the Region.

Tent caterpillars were abundant and It was a good year for cuckoos. Few Common Nighthawk and no Whip-poor-will were reported. Red-headed Woodpecker appeared in good numbers at Avon, where numbers have varied greatly over the years. This was one of the better years. There were a couple of reports of other individuals, but in general this species seems to have decreased rather significantly in the last 10 years.

Acadian Flycatcher was found in its well-known but local nesting sites in the Region. A couple of Great Crested Flycatcher used nest boxes at the Genesee Country Nature Center. Bank Swallow didn't form the expected large gatherings during late July. They were certainly present, but their numbers didn't approach historical totals. Some sites seem to have been abandoned or destroyed, while staging areas like the old Elmhart Hotel Dance Hall at the west spit of Braddock Bay have vanished. This location was also the site of a Cliff Swallow colony. The swallows tried to move to a new location on a newly constructed home

in the vicinity but were thwarted by the owner the house. They were reported in other areas including a new location in Hamlin. Tree and Barn Swallows looked ok for the season. The only real corvid highlight was the report of two Common Raven near Honoeye Lake. While nesting has never been confirmed in the Region, it is highly suspected. Sedge Wren returned to Beatty Point in Greece. Management for waterfowl nesting by the NYSDEC at this location also has increased nesting habitat for species like the Sedge Wren. Thrushes fared poorly. Wood Thrush continued to be noted in diminished numbers. Observers also felt that this may have been true for Veery. There were the usual scattered nestings of Hermit Thrush in the hills south of Rochester. Mockingbird and Gray Catbird were plentiful, but Brown Thrasher was scarce at most locations. Genesee Country Nature Center seemed to be one of the few places where they were found with some regularity. There were no Loggerhead Shrike reports this summer.

Vireos and warblers seemed to be about normal in their usual locations. Letchworth State Park is the site of a warbler mapping project that hopefully will yield information about the occurrence and abundance of that group. Of note were reports of Prairie Warbler on the east side of the park. Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers were present in good numbers on some of trails. The park continues to be a stronghold for Hooded Warbler. The usual Louisiana Waterthrush reports came from that location. Harriet Hollister Spencer Park was a good spot to find Black-throated Blue Warbler this year. A logging project may have contributed to the proper habitat for this species. There was only a single report of Yellow-breasted Chat. While this species has never been common, there have been fewer reports in recent years.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting seemed to be doing well off the Lake Ontario Plain. These two are not very numerous along Lake Ontario but prefer the upland areas to the south. Scarlet Tanager was again fairly scarce. showed the usual variety and abundance. Grassland sparrow reports remain poor. Savannah Sparrow was not a problem but seemed slightly down. Grasshopper Sparrow was about the same as recent years but still not very numerous. Henslow's Sparrow continued to be scarce with few reports. Nesting Purple Finch was found in scattered locations in the southern hills of the Region. House Finch with eye infection problems may be contributing to what seems to be a modest decline in the species. There were no records of note for any other finches in the Region.

The summer season also includes the tail end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall migration. Neither of those events showed any real trends. The spring migration seemed to end abruptly in early June with few reports of stragglers. A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was observed in early June, as is typical for the species in our Region. American Pipit set a record late departure. Non-nesting Osprey and our first July record of *Golden Eagle* were summer highlights, and good numbers of migrating hawks passed Braddock Bay in August. Early shorebird flights in July and August were lackluster, at least partly due to the lack of habitat at that time of the year.

Observers: Milt Adams, Lyn Braband, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Lisa Clark, Rob Clamens, Dorothy Crumb, Jerry Czech, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Brett Ewald, Jeanine & Kurt Fox, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Harriet Hamilton, Meg Lehr, Robert Marcotte, Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Bill & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Pat Seager, Dominic Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn, Kristin Spahn, Paul & Suzanne Spindler, William Symonds, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Ann Watson.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LSP - Letchworth State Park MPdP - Mendon Ponds Park; OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; PtB - Pt. Breeze

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** up to 16 HBSP 1-22 Jun, one HBSP 21 Jul. **Great Egret:** one near the I 390-590 interchange Rochester most of the summer. **Mute Swan:** nested Buck Pd, BB, Round Pd, IB, upwards of 20 y fledged from latter three sites; pair at Buck Pd apparently lost brood by end of season. **Wood Duck:** 260 y fledged Genesee Country Museum Nature Center (MA). **Am. Wigeon:** two-four Greece 27, 30 Jul. **White-winged Scoter:** arr two HBSP 20 Jul, max 12 HBSP 28 Jul. **Hooded Merganser:** 78 y fledged Genesee Country Museum Nature Center (MA). **Com. Merganser:** arr three HBSP 20 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** up to 18 HBSP 1-20 Jun.

Osprey: one BB 6 Jul, uncommon there in summer. **Bald Eagle:** one-seven BB 1-29 Aug, fall hawk watch location; one Sodus 8 Aug (JC), juv Webster 8 Aug (JC), one DEP 20 Aug (TP). **N. Harrier:** nest BP. **N. Goshawk:** one BB 11 Aug (BE), only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Lima 22 Jul. **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 75 BB 20 Aug. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 863 BB 15 Aug. **Golden Eagle:** imm Greece 18 Jul (KG), on day with warm se winds. **Merlin:** arr Greece 26 Aug (RS), one BB 30 Aug (BE), only reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** one BB 31 Aug (BE), only report. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Sommerville, BB 8 Aug. **Semipalmated**

Plover: arr OB 8 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Greece 8 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Avon 14 Jul. **Whimbrel:** one Webster 27 Jun (DS), unusual location. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr two OB 21 Jul. **Sanderling:** arr OB 13 Jul. **Samipalmated Sandpiper:** arr OB 12 Jul. **Least Sandpiper:** arr three Greece 22 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr Hamlin 12 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr two DEP 22 Jul. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr three Greece 8 Jul. **Laughing Gull:** imm OB 8 Aug (KG), Manitou 9 Aug (RO'H), IB 12 Aug (RS), OB 12 Aug (RS), three other sightings without details. **Glaucous Gull:** one HBSP 9 Jun (WS), late. **Caspian Tern:** max 210 IB to Manitou 12 Aug (RS), excellent total. **Forster's Tern:** one IB 25 Jun, one OB 8 Jul, one PtB 18 Jul, one HBSP 24 Aug, uncommon. **Black Tern:** almost complete nesting failure this season (SK); last BB 17 Aug.

Long-eared Owl: one BP 6 July (RMa). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** good numbers Roots Tavern Road area near Avon.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one BP 3, 4, 6 Aug (RMa), unusual date. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Greece 13 Aug (AC), early. **Acadian Flycatcher:** two Webster 4 Jun (D&DT), unusual location; one-two LSP during Jun. **Cliff Swallow:** colony along N Hamlin Road Hamlin, new locality. **Com. Raven:** two Naples 14 Jun. **Sedge Wren:** one Beatty Pt 29 Jun, 1-3 Jul, only report. **Am. Pipit:** record late HBSP 16-20 Jun (WSy).

Solitary Vireo: arr Manitou 8 Aug. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr BP 22 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr BP 28 Aug. **Yellow Warbler:** 65 banded Manitou 28 Jul (RMc). **Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Greece 10 Aug. **Prairie Warbler:** one LSP 10 Jun (J&KF), scarce this year. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BP 30 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr two BP 31 Aug. **N. Waterthrush:** arr BP 4 Aug. **Mourning Warbler:** arr BP 24 Aug. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Irondequoit 25 Aug. **Canada Warbler:** arr Penfield 17 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one MPdP 20-31 Jun (J&KF), only report.

Grasshopper Sparrow: six Lima 24 Jun (J&KF), good location total. **Henslow's Sparrow:** one-two LSP 10, 22 Jun, 8 Jul, scarce. **Evening Grosbeak:** arr BB 31 Aug (DT).

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