

REGION 2 — GENESEE

This region consists of the counties of Monroe, Wayne and Livingston, the eastern halves of Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming, and the western portions of Ontario County. It is an area of level to hilly farmland interspersed with large to small wooded areas, several marshes and small lakes and bays. Large sections of the area are under constant cultivation, but the southern part of the region averages higher in elevation and is more heavily wooded, less cultivated.

The only prominent stream of the area is the Genesee River which flows north across the entire region, originating a short distance south of our border in Pennsylvania and emptying into Lake Ontario at Rochester. The Barge Canal crosses the region in an east-west direction just south of Rochester. Several small inland lakes are present—Conesus, Hemlock, Honeoye, Canadice and Silver. These lakes usually freeze over in January and February. Lake Ontario, which forms the northern boundary of our region, has several interesting Bays. The largest are Sodus, Irondequoit and Braddock Bays.

Elevation varies from about 248 feet above sea level at Lake Ontario to over 2000 ft. on the Allegheny Plateau in the south. The highest point in the region is Gannett Hill (2256 ft.) in the Town of South Bristol approximately 5 miles north of Naples, N. Y.

As one ascends the plateau toward the south the sub-carolinian bird fauna of the Ontario Lake Plain takes on a more sub-canadian aspect. Here on the higher hills and in the cool glens which cut the plateau may be found nesting Juncos, Hermit Thrushes, Magnolia Warblers and an occasional Blue-headed Vireo. Most of the trees are of the northern hardwoods and oak-hickory associations with white pine and hemlock the commonest conifers. Native Red Pine, larch and pitch pine occur in isolated stations. One of the largest stands of Red Pine in western New York occurs along the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park. Here is located a small colony of Pine Warblers. The spruce-fir association is confined in our area to small bogs and swampy areas. The most interesting ornithological areas are the Lake Ontario Shore, the Genesee River Valley, Bergen Swamp and the hilly areas to the south. The Lake Ontario shore is an excellent area to observe migrating and water birds while the other areas produce a wide variety of nesting birds. Shore Acres, a few miles north of Hilton, N. Y. along the lake shore, is one of the best shore bird areas in western New York. Here such rarities as Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Willets and Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been seen on migration. In this region the spring hawk flight and the fall duck migration are outstanding in number of species and individuals.

The two member clubs located in the region are the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs-Audubon Club, both with headquarters in Rochester. The Lake Ontario shore and the area around Rochester are the regions most thoroughly explored. We seldom receive reports from observers in the Genesee Valley, the southern section or Sodus Bay. We would greatly appreciate help in recording bird data from these areas.

During the first week of April we had a large quantity of snow, but despite this April averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees above normal in the Rochester area. May was rather cold through the second and third weeks. Good flights of migrants occurred, however, during the first two days of May and during the last week. May averaged $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees below normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: The recently discovered Red-throated Loon migration (*Kingbird* Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 49, 1952) occurred in the latter part of April, the birds following the Lake Ontario shore westward. The height of this flight occurred on 4/25 with counts of several hundred. About 5 American Egrets seen in May; Least Bittern a few reports; Brant small numbers in May; one Snow Goose 4/4 and one Blue Goose 4/4 and again on 5/31; two European Teal on 4/25 and one on 5/16, all males, Rochester; King Eider — two on 4/15-25, male and female (or immature) near Rochester, one adult male on 5/16, Sodus Bay; one White Pelican 5/14 to 5/16 at Sodus Bay.

HAWKS — OWLS: The best hawk flight of the Spring was on 4/22 near Rochester with totals of 3545 Broad-winged and 634 Sharp-shinned; 5 Duck Hawks, 3 Pigeon Hawks and no Goshawks (numbers are estimates and counts) seen during May; one Golden Eagle 4/30 and one 5/2 near Rochester; Ruffed Grouse showed increasing reports; one King Rail 5/9 from Rochester. A very unusual flight of Golden Plovers (usually rare in spring) occurred from 4/21 to 5/1 with a high estimate of 210 on 5/1 at Rochester — flocks were seen moving east along the Lake Ontario shore. On the first date, 4/21 a flock of 100 (est.) was seen; the high count for Black-bellied Plovers occurred a little later on 5/16 with a count of 21; one Hudsonian Curley 5/29 at Rochester about the same time several hundred were reported near Buffalo. A few white-rumped Sandpipers in May; two unusual May Dowitcher records; a male Wilson's Phalarope (rare here) was seen 5/31 near Rochester; last date for Glaucous Gull 5/22; Black-backed Gull present to end of May; one immature Little Gull seen on 5/8 near Rochester; four Barn Owls reported near Rochester; last Snowy Owl date 5/31; we had normal flights of Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls in April along the Lake Ontario shore; seven Barred Owls 5/16 Sodus Bay.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few reports of Pileated, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers. The first and second of May produced quite a few early dates. It will be interesting to see if other areas also noted a great influx of migrants; first Crested Flycatcher 4/30; first Kingbird 5/1; first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 5/16; one Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/16; first Least Flycatcher 5/1; Acadian Flycatcher none; first Cliff Sparrow 4/6; three Carolina Wrens reported; our **first recent record for Bewick's Wren** 4/21 to 23 at Rochester; first Catbird and Wood Thrush 5/1; first Veery 4/30; first Olive-backed Thrush 5/3; Grey-cheeked Thrush a few in May; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher more than usual in late April; last Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5/30; no definite Mockingbird reports.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: First Blue-headed Vireo 4/21, last 5/28; a few reports of Philadelphia Vireo; our **first recent record** (Rochester) of **White-eyed Vireo** 5/2 (see Eaton, *Birds of N. Y.* Vol. 2, p. 376); Prothonotary Warbler two on 5/16, one on 5/23; Orange-crowned Warbler two on 5/20 near Rochester; Pine Warbler one on 4/20 near Rochester; Yellow Palm Warbler few reports in late April; ten Louisiana Waterthrushes on 5/15 Canandaigua Lake; Connecticut Warbler a few reports (this bird seems to appear about as often as Philadelphia Vireo); two Blue-winged Warbler reports from Rochester; our **first recent record for Rochester area for Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/15; one Yellow-breasted Chat 5/31 Rochester; one Kentucky Warbler 5/29 at Rochester; an estimated high of 1,000 Myrtle Warblers on 5/7 Rochester; first Parula and Chestnut-sided Warblers 5/1; first Bay-breasted Warbler 5/3.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: First Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5/1; one to three Evening Grosbeaks seen in May; one White-winged Crossbill in May; no Red Crossbills seen; last Tree Sparrow 5/31 (very late here) Rochester; last Fox Sparrow 5/22 (very late) Rochester; last Lapland Longspur 5/9.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

Region Three includes all of Chemung, Tompkins, Seneca, Schuyler, Yates and Steuben Counties, and that part of Cayuga County south of the Seneca River and of Ontario County east of Mud Creek and Routes 64 and 21 to the Yates County Line at Woodville.