

## REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for the last half of August averaged about normal, but for the rest of the period the average was consistently above normal. The greatest deviation from normal was during September when the average mean temperature almost broke all existing records for warmth. The last two months of the period were warmer than average but not to the extent of September. The first killing frost (and freeze) occurred October 23 when the mercury dropped to 28°F in Rochester and to the low twenties inland. Precipitation for the first 2½ months was below normal, being lowest in September when less than a half inch of rain was recorded. November was somewhat above normal in precipitation and produced about 6½ inches of snow. Most of it fell during a storm November 8-9. Heavier local falls occurred at this time near the lake east of Rochester. The ground was bare at the end of the period.

The fall flight of Canada Geese and Brant was about average but the duck flight, probably due in part to the mild weather, seemed rather light, with Redheads scarce and Canvasbacks unreported. The fall hawk flight, which usually consists of only stragglers, produced an apparent movement late in August. The shorebird flight, plagued by high water in the lake and bays and the complete drying up of ponds inland, was dull and uninteresting except for one record each of the Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit. The fall migration of land birds was about two weeks late, with the peak being reached during the weekend of September 23-24. Probably the most interesting feature of the period was the heavy migration of Black-capped Chickadees which reached its peak October 8 (see field notes section). All the "winter" finches were reported, some in fairly good numbers, but none reached "tidal wave" degree. Outstanding birds seen during the period included Gannet, Hudsonian Godwit, Laughing Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Boreal Chickadee, and Western Meadowlark.

**Loon — Ducks:** Some 200 Common Loons Nov 9 at Manitou Beach (Listman) and 150 Red-breasted Loons Nov 25 along the west lakeshore (Listman, Tetlow) were peak counts for these two species. One of the latter species was seen Nov 25 on Silver Lake, where it is uncommon (Rosche). Four Red-necked Grebes were seen Oct 28 at Manitou (Miller, O'Hara), and 175 Horned Grebes were noted the same day along the west lakeshore (GOS hike). An immature Gannet was at Hamlin Beach Park Oct 29 (Lloyd). Three Double-crested Cormorants were seen Oct 26 at Manitou (Listman), and there was one at Hamlin Beach Park on Oct 28 (GOS hike). A late American Bittern was observed Nov 25 at Braddock's (Listman). Seven Whistling Swans, a very uncommon fall migrant in this area, were seen Nov 5 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer), and one was seen the same day on Lake LaGrange (Rosche). On October 22, there were about 2500 Brant at Manitou (Listman) and 2200 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Most of the birds seen at Webster Park were probably the same birds that had passed Manitou a little earlier in the day. A straggler was seen Nov 4 at Hamlin Beach Park (Starling et al). Listman saw Two Gadwall at Braddock's Bay, Oct 26 and three at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 25. A hundred Pintails were noted Sep 6 at Manitou (Listman). Some 100 Green-winged Teal seen Nov 4 at Hamlin Beach Park (Foster, Listman, Tetlow) is a good count, and two Blue-winged Teal seen Nov 5 at Perry (Rosche) is a rather late date. Some 150 American Widgeon were at Hamlin Beach Park on Nov 4 (Foster, Listman, Tetlow). Two hundred Wood Duck seen Sep 20 at Salmon Creek (Listman) is a very high count, although this probably represents the peak of the fall migration of this species. Small numbers of Redheads were seen from Aug 20 to Sep 30 near Perry (Rosche), probably recently released birds. A flock of 30 was seen Nov 25 at Hamlin Beach Park (Listman, Tetlow). Forty Ring-necked Ducks seen Nov 5 near Castile (Rosche) was the maximum count for this species. No Canvasbacks were reported. Peak count for Oldsquaw was 1500 Nov 25 at Sea Breeze (Kemnitzer) and for White-winged Scoters 600 Nov 19 at Webster Park (Kemnitzer). Four Surf Scoters Oct 26 at Manitou and six Common Scoters Oct 4 at Manitou were high counts for these two much less common species (Listman). From two to six Ruddy Ducks were seen Oct 7 to Nov 25 on Silver Lake (Rosche); otherwise this species went unreported. Twenty Hooded Mergansers near Castile Nov 5 and 18 at Silver Lake on Nov 25 (Rosche) were high fall counts for this species.

**Hawks — Owls:** A turkey Vulture was seen Oct 7 near Castile (Rosche). Goshawks were unreported. Occasional single Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported in scattered localities. The 150 Red-tailed and 13 Broad-winged Hawks seen Aug 19 at Manitou (Starling et al) is a better count than is usually made at any time during the late summer and fall hawk flights, which are always light in this area compared to the spring flights. The first Rough-legged Hawk of the season was reported Oct 14 at Lighthouse Road (Listman). Both this species and the Red-tailed Hawk were scarce along the lakeshore all fall, but both were better distributed in inland areas. A Peregrine Falcon was present in the Braddock's area from Oct 1-7 (Lloyd, Starling et al); another or possibly the same bird was noted just east of Irondequoit Bay Oct 8 (Listman). A Pigeon Hawk was seen Sep 19 at Groveland (Tetlow).

There was a Common Gallinule at Salmon Creek on Nov 20 (Listman), and another was seen Nov 25 at Sandy Creek (Listman, Tetlow).

Fifteen Killdeer were at Salmon Creek Nov 18 (Miller, Starling), a rather late date for this number. Eight Golden Plover seen Sep 4 west of Manitou (Schaefer et al) and nine Sep 9 near Perry (Rosche) were high fall counts for this species; sometimes in September it is present in hundreds. Eleven Common Snipe were seen Nov 26 at Salmon Creek (Listman). The only Whimbrel of the year was seen Sep 6 along Kuhn Road (Listman). Rather late was the Spotted Sandpiper noted at Hamlin Beach Park on Oct 14 (Foley et al). Forty Greater Yellowlegs were seen Oct 29 at Groveland, and six at Salmon Creek Nov 18 (Listman). This species appeared to be one of the few shorebirds that were present in normal numbers this fall. One to two Purple Sandpipers were present at Braddock's Bay from Nov 10 to 20 (Listman et al). There were two Baird's Sandpipers at Manitou Sep 2 to 4 (Starling et al). Single White-rumped Sandpipers were seen occasionally at Braddock's Bay with the latest date Nov 19 (GOS hike) of a somewhat oiled bird. A late Short-billed Dowitcher was seen Nov 18 (Miller, Starling) and a Long-billed Dowitcher was carefully identified Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). The latter bird was carefully studied at leisure in direct comparison with a bird of the commoner species and the call notes of both birds were heard and compared. The only Stilt Sandpiper of the year, a crippled bird, was seen Sep 4 at Manitou (Listman). A Hudsonian Godwit was seen Sep 6 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). No Phalaropes of any species were reported.

A Parasitic Jaeger was observed Oct 15 harrying gulls at Oklahoma Beach (Lloyd, Sunderlin). This was the only area record for the year. No white-winged gulls were reported. An immature Laughing Gull was observed from Oct 8-12 at the Irondequoit Bay outlet (Listman, Lloyd); this is the first record for this area since the short-lived influx brought in by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. A Little Gull was seen in company of a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls Sep 30 at Charlotte Beach (Miller, O'Hara). Single Forster's Terns occasionally appeared around Braddock's Bay, with the latest date being Oct 31 (Listman). Two Common Terns were seen Nov 9, a late date, at Manitou Beach (Listman). A very late Caspian Tern appeared at Hamlin Beach Park Nov 4 (Foster).

A fair flight of Snowy Owls appeared, the first on Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay (Listman). A maximum count of four was made Nov 25 along the lakeshore (Meade, Starling, Starling, Taylor). Two Long-eared Owls were still in the Avon area at the end of the period (Haller). A Saw-whet Owl was seen Oct 15 in the Island Cottage Woods (Lloyd, Miller). This was the second bird of this species reported in the area this year.

**Goatsuckers — Shrikes:** Listman saw a late Whip-poor-will Oct 4 west of Manitou and a late Chimney Swift Oct 15 at Manitou Beach. Rosche saw a late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Castile Nov 5 and a rather late Eastern Phoebe at Silver Lake Oct 14. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded Sep 10 in Irondequoit (Leubner). Five Cliff Swallows seen Aug 19 at Manitou (Miller, Tetlow) was the high count for the fall migration. There was a very late Barn Swallow Nov 12 at Manitou (Listman). The very heavy flight of Black-capped Chickadees reached a peak Oct 7-8 (see field notes section). A Boreal Chickadee was noted Oct 9 at Oklahoma Beach (Shermer) and another in Durand-Eastman Park Nov 26 (Weld). After an almost complete absence since the middle of last winter Tufted Titmice appeared in numbers in the chickadee flights, with a maximum of nine at Oklahoma Beach Oct 8 (McNett, Sunderlin, et al). At the end of the period upwards of 25 birds of this species were free-loading at various feeders in the area. Twenty White-breasted Nuthatches Oct 7 at Oklahoma Beach (McNett, Sunderlin) and 28 there the fol-

lowing day (Lloyd, MacRae, Shermer) show a migratory movement of this generally regarded resident species. Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally distributed and were even present in the hardwoods in Rochester; the high counts were ten at Manitou Beach Oct 2 (Listman) and ten at Oklahoma Beach Oct 7 (McNett, Sunderlin). A count of 32 Brown Creepers was made Oct 7 at Oklahoma Beach in conjunction with the chickadee flight (McNett, Sunderlin). Twelve Winter Wrens noted Oct 15 in Durand-Eastman Park (Miller) probably marks the peak of the fall migration.

A Mockingbird seen Oct 7 near Lighthouse Beach (Miller, Tetlow) was the only report for the period. A rather late Wood Thrush was seen Oct 7 at Silver Lake (Rosche). Swainson's Thrushes seemed very common this fall, with an estimated 200 heard over Rochester in a pre-dawn flight Sep 24 (Miller). Dr. Leubner banded 19 of these birds in Irondequoit between Sep 9 and 30. He also banded five Gray-cheeked Thrushes between Sep 10 and 23. Five Eastern Bluebirds were seen Oct 17 in Powder Mill Park by Zeitler, who also saw a single bird Nov 1 near Pittsford. A single Bohemian Waxwing appeared Nov 19 in Durand-Eastman Park in the large flock of the common species and was still present at the end of the period, during which time it was seen by many observers. The large flock of Cedar Waxwings present in the park during the latter part of the period was estimated at 250 birds Nov 5 (McNetts). A Northern Shrike was seen at Perry Oct 26 (Rosche), another Nov 11 in Durand (Listman), and three along the lakeshore Nov 2 (Listman, Tetlow).

**Vireos — Warblers:** A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was seen Sep 24 in Durand (Miller), and two Solitary Vireos were observed Oct 8 in Webster Park (Lloyd et al). A Philadelphia Vireo was in Durand Sep 24 (Miller) and another Oct 8 at Webster Park (Lloyd et al).

A Blue-winged Warbler was noted Sep 17 near Portageville (Rosche). Accurate departure dates for this species are very few, as most of our observers do not bird the areas where this species is found after early summer. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were seen Oct 2 and 18 at Manitou (Listman) and Oct 7 at Silver Lake (Rosche). A late Black-throated Green Warbler was at Oklahoma Beach Oct 15 (Lloyd, Sunderlin). Three Hooded Warblers were seen Sep 23 in Letchworth Park (Rosche).

**Blackbirds — Sparrows:** A singing Western Meadowlark was seen Oct 9 in Brighton (Starling), and a late Baltimore Oriole was noted Oct 8 at Oklahoma Beach (Lloyd et al). After being almost completely absent last winter, an Evening Grosbeak was seen Sep 3 near Irondequoit Bay (McNetts). Another bird was noted Sep 23 in Durand (Foster, Miller); on Sep 30 a flock of 22 was in Webster Park (Lloyd, Sunderlin), and on Oct 7 flocks totaling 507 birds were seen at Webster Park, (Lloyd). However, the birds did not generally settle down, and at the end of the period a flock of about 25 birds (imms.) in Fishers and a smaller flock at the Sunderlin feeder appeared to be about the only ones present. Purple Finches have been rather scarce, with a flock of seven in Webster Park Oct 7 (Lloyd) being the high count.

After an absence of 3½ years five Pine Grosbeaks appeared Nov 4 at Manitou (Listman et al). A maximum of 20 birds was present Nov 19. Some birds were scattered around the area at the end of the period. A Hoary Redpoll was seen Nov 19 in company with the commoner species at Braddock's (GOS hike). A Common Redpoll was observed Oct 31 at Manitou (Listman). The maximum count was a flock of 75 at Manitou Nov 25 (Listman, Tetlow). Pine Siskins have been scarce, with a high count of five at Manitou Nov 11 (Listman). Eight Red Crossbills Nov 19 at Durand (GOS hike) and one White-winged Crossbill Nov 26 east of Irondequoit Bay (Sunderlin) were the only reports of these two species. Tree Sparrows seemed late in arriving and were somewhat less common than usual. The 250 White-throated Sparrows seen Oct 2 at Manitou (Listman) was the high fall count for this bird. Four Fox Sparrows were seen Nov 11 in Durand (Listman), which is a rather late date. A Lincoln's Sparrow was spotted Oct 14 in Island Cottage Woods (Listman) and another near Avon Oct 28 (Haller). Lapland Longspurs were unreported. Forty Snow Buntings seen Oct 26 at Braddock's Bay and 50 at Manitou Nov 11 (Listman) were the largest flocks reported.

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