

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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Temperatures for June were about average but the last six weeks of the period averaged about 3°F below normal with the greatest deviation from average occurring during the last two weeks of the period. The highest temperature was 94°F on July 2. One week later (July 9) an all time July low of 42°F was recorded at the Rochester Weather Bureau.

June was almost rainless with only .22 inches at Rochester which made it the driest June in weather bureau history. However, July was only slightly below normal in rainfall and the first half of August was somewhat above average. Some damage was done to crops that regularly mature during June but little overall damage was done to most general crops.

The outstanding bird recorded during the period was the Sooty Tern. Other noteworthy birds recorded include the Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope Franklin and Little Gulls, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Regular contributors: GD — (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; JH — (Mrs.) Jean Haller; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer; TK — Thomas Knupp; WCL — Walter C. Listman; AM — Alfred Maley; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; MO — Michael O'Hara; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; ST — Stephan Taylor; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow.

Abbreviations: BB — Braddock's Bay; HSP — Hamlin State Park; LR — Ling Road; PMP — Powder Mill Park; SA — Shore Acres; WP — Webster Park.

Loons — Ducks: The Pied-billed Grebe was unreported. A Double-crested Cormorant flew past HSP July 28 (WCL). All species of herons still seem to be below normal numbers, although the Great Blue Heron at least seemed to be less scarce than two or three years ago. A family group of four Least Bitterns was at SA in July and one was at BB at about the same time (AAS). About 500 artificially raised young Mallards were released in the area by sportsmen this summer. Well-meaning but misguided persons started feeding some of these birds, so that later they were removed to more remote area. Unless they become wilder before hunting season starts, even the writer feels that he could hit a few of these birds. A Pintail was at SA July 27 (GOS Hike). The Green-winged Teal continued its increase as a summer resident and probably a breeding bird.

Hawks — Owls: Hawks generally seemed to be present in sharply reduced numbers. A pair of Broad-winged Hawks were reported frequently in the PMP area (JM, TM, et al). While no nest was found, it seems probable that this was a nesting pair. This species is a rare summer resident in the whole area except near the "southern tier".

The dry early summer helped the introduced Bobwhite at York to have a successful breeding season. Reports of numerous calling Bobwhites near West Walworth were finally traced to escapees from a nearby shooting preserve (Floyd Jetty).

In spite of generally high water, the early part of the fall shorebird migration seemed about average. A late spring Whimbrel was at WP June 1 (AEK) and a rather early fall migrant was at LR Aug 13-14 (HSM, AAS, et al). Twenty-three Upland Plover, the area's highest count in recent years, were at the Monroe County airport Aug 7 (AM). The first southbound Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper were at LR Jul 13 (HSM & AAS). A Marbled Godwit appeared at SA Jul 25 (TK) and was present to at least Jul 28, during which time it was seen by numerous observers. This species is much rarer locally than the Hudsonian Godwit. A Wilson's Phalarope was at SA Aug 11 (WCL).

A Franklin's Gull in adult summer plumage was at BB Jul 13 (HSM & AAS) and an adult Little Gull flew past HSP Jul 28 (WCL).

A Sooty Tern in perfect condition was found freshly killed at Float Bridge on Irondequoit Bay about four miles south of Lake Ontario on Jun 5 by Richard Garnham. It was taken to Allen Kemnitzer for further verification and was later turned over to the Rochester Museum. It is believed the bird was struck by a passing car. The presence of the bird is somewhat of a mystery. At the time the bird was found, a low pressure area was off the Virginia-Carolina coast attended by strong winds. However, this was local in effect. Locally, the weather was fair with light, variable winds. Wyoming County recorded its first breeding record for the Black Tern (RCR). A pair nested on a muskrat house on a small pond on Coe Road near Perry. On Jul 21, three poorly fledged young hardly able to fly were being fed by their parents. We along Lake Ontario sometimes forget our blessings birdwise.

A pair of Barn Owls nested in a silo in Parma (TET). The nest was destroyed when the silo was filled but the birds started to nest in another nearby silo.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker apparently again nested at PMP (JM & TM). This is the nearest area to Rochester where this species may be expected to summer regularly. Five late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL). Six young Tufted Titmice were observed being fed in PMP June 30 (JM & TM). The species was regularly reported near Ellison Park (GD) and the West Webster area (JM & TM and Mrs. Maryanne Sunderlin). The first southbound Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Manitou Aug 3 (WCL) and they were frequently reported by the end of the period. It looks like a good late summer flight of this species locally. A Brown Creeper in Ellison Park Jul 10 (ST) suggests nesting. The Carolina Wren was unreported. A Mockingbird was at Manitou Jun 1 (RTO et al), one in full song was near Avon Jun 23 (GOS Hike), one was near Williamson Jul 14 (JF) and one was north of Hilton Aug 8-15 (WCL). Eastern Bluebirds raised young at Canadice (AM), near LeRoy (GOS Hike) and near PMP (RTO et al). Two pairs of Loggerhead Shrikes were in Parma Jul 13 (AAS et al).

Vireos — Warblers: A Nashville Warbler in West Webster Jul 21 (JM & TM) and a Myrtle Warbler at Manitou Aug 3 (WCL) are very early migrants. Among the less common species the following may be mentioned. Two male Blue-winged Warblers were seen and heard regularly in PMP during June and early July (JM, TM, et al). Five Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen and heard at Conesus Lake Jun 15 (MO et al). Two late migrant Connecticut Warblers were walking around in a backyard at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL), and three Yellow-breasted Chats were in full song near LeRoy Jun 23 (JH et al). These are regular nesting areas for these local summer residents.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: The Western Meadowlark in Parma was not reported after Jun 1 (RTO et al) but the bird in Webster was regularly reported until Jun 30 (JM & TM). A singing male Orchard Oriole was at Ontario on the Lake Jun 1 (AEK) and two singing males were near Lake and County Line Road from Jun 2-9 (AEK et al). This general area is the only place in our region where this species may be expected somewhat regularly. There was no indication that any of these three birds nested. A singing Clay-Colored Sparrow was carefully observed near Canadice Lake Jun 29 (JF, AM & TET). All had previous experience with this species. The bird was observed until Jul 7 (AM). This is the area's second record of this relative newcomer. A late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Manitou Jun 2 (WCL).

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