

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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By and large, we have had a cool, wet summer season, but there have also been contrasting periods of both heat and dry spells. No doubt the outstanding event was Hurricane Agnes and its related flooding, but few effects on local bird populations have been noted to date. June and early July were both rather cool, but late July brought many days of over 90° temperatures. The first half of August has again been cool.

Rainfall for the year is well above normal — about 2 to 3 inches. Without Agnes, however, there would be a deficit of an inch or two. Water levels are very high throughout the region and particularly along Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Ontario is the highest in twenty years so that good shore bird areas are almost non-existent.

Bird populations are rather good for most species, although somewhat less activity by local observers makes comparisons with recent years difficult. In fact, reports submitted for July and early August are so few that most of this report reflects June activity. There are, as always, certain exceptions to the loose generalization above on good breeding numbers which will be noted below.

The spring flight continued as usual into early June and in a few surprising cases even to mid-June. The return flight of early shorebirds seemed to get underway only slowly with few noted until late July, but most likely this is only due to poor conditions here. By mid-August Swallow numbers were very high on the lakeshore and a few Warblers were being noted in the same region.

Some of the most interesting reports of breeding species again came from little covered inland areas as a few observers again investigated these neglected regions.

Positive trends: (1) Apparent good productions of local waterfowl; (2) At least a few reports of most breeding raptors, (3) Continued increase in Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls; (4) Probable success of "southern species," i.e., Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard oriole; (5) Possible breeding of "northern species," i.e., Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red Crossbill.

Negative trends: (1) Pheasant broods scarce; (2) Nighthawks scarcer than ever, continuing downward trend locally; (3) Scarcity of some breeding warblers, i.e., Golden-winged, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Canada, in some suitable areas.

Rarities Include: Glossy Ibis, Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Orchard Oriole, Red Crossbill, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddocks Bay; BP—Buck Pond; BS—Bergen Swamp; CL—Conesus Lake; HL—Hemlock Lake; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitou Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; OB—Ontario Beach; PB—Point Breeze; RP—Round Pond; SA—Shore Acres.

Observers: JB—John Brown; MC—Michael Carlson; JC—Jerry Czeck; JE—Jean Esley; A&BK—Al & Bea Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; AM—Al Maley; DN—Don Nelson; RO—Richard O'Hara; B&GP—Betty & Glen Perrigo.

LOONS—DUCKS: A tardy Horned Grebe was noted on June 8 at MB (WCL). There was a single Glossy Ibis on June 4 at BB (WCL). Fewer reports of most Herons were received this year than last except for Great Blue Heron. No wandering Egrets have been noted since spring. Canada Geese now summer in this region as a result of induced breeding success nearby. Two Pintails were seen on July 2 at SA (A&BK). One wonders if these also may be the result of stocking at State or Federal refugees. Many broods of Mallards and Blue-wing Teal indicate good success in this region. Whether or not Black Ducks and Wood Ducks have prospered is less certain.

Occasional reports of scarce raptors this summer is hopeful. A Goshawk on June 3 in Webster is surprising since this is on the Lake Ontario plain rather than high country to the south. Cooper's Hawks were observed at both HL on June 3 and Honeoye Lake on June 11 (B&GP). Similarly a Sharp-shinned Hawk was in a wooded ravine at CL on June 17 (RO). A Red-shouldered Hawk was also at Hemlock Lake, June 3 (B&GP); this species may also have bred in Henrietta this year (DN). A late Broad-winged Hawk was one on June 22 in Webster (JC), while possible breeding may be indicated by 2 on June 3 at Canadice Lake and on June 11 at Honeoye Lake (B&GP). A very late Rough-legged Hawk was noted on June 11 at Geneseo (B&GP). The pair of Bald Eagles was still at the nest site on June 3 this year, but breeding success is not certain. A single Osprey was seen on June 18 at BP (A&BK).

As noted above, shorebirding is less than spectacular this summer, but most regular species are present in small numbers. Two Upland Plover in Webster on June 18 (GP) may represent a new breeding station; this bird seems to be absent at Monroe County Airport this year where they were common a few years ago. 2 Solitary Sandpipers were at Ling Road on August 4 (RO). A single Dowitcher was noted the same day at RP (RO) along with 8 other regular species. 20 Sanderling were at OB also on August 4 (RO).

No unusual records for Gulls or Terns have been received, but regular species are well represented. Black Terns apparently have had good breeding success, and many young birds are now present.

Mourning Doves are still prospering, while both Cuckoos seem a little more common than in recent summers.

Among the Owls only Screech and Great Horned have been noted except for one Barn Owl in Scottsville at a former nesting site (JB). Barred Owl seems absent at BS where it formerly nested (MC).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: The Whip-poor-will was noted only from BS, the only regular breeding station in this region (MC). Nighthawks are very scarce; perhaps the extensive urban renewal in the city is part of the problem; 1 or 2 only may be noted the whole length of Main Street in Rochester where formerly they were common over most parts of the city; this bird should be watched carefully in this region.

Nothing unusual to report for Woodpeckers this season. An Acadian Flycatcher at BS on June 17 was most unusual, however (AM et al); we have very few reliable records for this species even in spring migration. Swallows are very common and seem to have had an excellent season; this includes Tree, Bank, Barn and Purple Martin.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was at MP on July 12 (RO); this seems a bit early for returning birds, although they are often back in August; we still have no definite nesting record. A few Short-billed Marsh Wrens have been noted at MP this year (GP). Another rarity here was a Golden-crowned Kinglet on June 11 at HL (B&GP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: While Yellow-throated Vireos were reported as scarce this spring, they appear to be present in normal numbers in most breeding areas now. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos seemed in good supply also. Golden-winged Warblers are less common than a few years ago but Blue-winged Warblers may have increased.

A Magnolia Warbler on June 19 at IC was very late (MC); this is not a likely breeding station for the species. Ovenbirds were either unusually quiet or absent in some locations. Louisiana Waterthrush and Canada Warbler were both present but in very small numbers at CL where both were considerably more common several years ago (RO). Hooded Warblers were still singing on July 26 at Pellet Road in Webster; this is a regular breeding station for the species (RO). Yellow-breasted Chats were present in good numbers at MP where as many as 8 birds were re-

ported all during June (GP); this is a record high count for this region. A late Wilson's Warbler was noted on June 14 at SL (JE).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: The pair of Orchard Orioles which nested at PB last season returned to nest again (WL). Indigo Bunting seemed a bit more common this summer than last, although they were late in arriving on territory. Purple Finches were noted regularly during June and early July in several residential areas. An immature Red Crossbill was picked up in mid-August at MB (WCL); this may represent a second breeding record for the region. A Clay-colored Sparrow was present in Brighton from June 6 to 17, but no evidence of nesting was obtained (Julie Claffey). Regular nesting species of sparrows were generally well-reported except Henslow and Vesper Sparrows were somewhat spotty in distribution; probably habitat changes account for most of this variation.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Certain seasons — certain months — make history. June 1972 was such a month. According to the official weather bureau report it was not only the wettest June on record, but also one of the wettest months ever recorded in the Finger Lakes area at any time of the year. The amount of sunshine was a record low for a summer month; it was cloudy and unusually cool. In the Caroline hills southeast of Ithaca it was in the 20's June 9–11. From June 20–24 the worst floods in history struck the Finger Lakes — apparently the result of two storm fronts coming together, one the remains of Hurricane Agnes sweeping up the east coast, the other coming from the west. In this storm 6–10" of rain fell, the heaviest being in Steuben County, and the month's total was 8½–13", about 3 times normal. Cayuga Lake went to 2½ feet above flood stage and did not drop below flood level for four weeks. July and August had fairly normal rainfall and cloud cover, somewhat cool except for the period of July 11–25 when it was hot and humid.

For Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge it was a "terrible summer." Flood damage was extensive — the main dike was closed for over a month and Mays Point Pool dike has not yet (mid Sept) been able to be repaired. Waterfowl production was almost zero (see body of report). Early nesting had been upset by pool drainage, only to have later nestings subjected to flooding after the pool was re-filled. Also hit were other marsh-nesting species.

Throughout the Region birds suffered — except those for which delayed haying was a help, or those that got first broods off before high water. Not only did the high water cover nests, but cold and rain cut down on insect food availability; hole nesters suffered from fallen trees, where rain and flood weakened root systems. Actual losses are not documented and the toll will never be known, for certainly no one was out checking birds or nests during the catastrophe! As Mary Welles, my Elmira correspondent, put it: "The rest of the summer, everyone was too busy cleaning up, shovelling mud, or helping neighbors and friends, to go birding. We fell into bed exhausted each night."

Montezuma reports are scanty for one additional reason: Walter Benning, our usually inexhaustible source of weekly — sometimes daily — reports on shorebirds as well as waterfowl, spent the summer in Alaska. The Finger Lakes report reflects his absence!

A small migratory wave was noted at Turkey Hill east of Ithaca Aug 3, which included 5 hummingbirds, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Golden and Blue-winged