

REGION 2 — GENESEE

THOMAS E. TETLOW

The fluctuation of temperature in the Rochester area during the last half of August produced both near record highs and lows and ended with above average temperature. Rainfall was below normal. September and October followed the same pattern—above average temperature and below normal rainfall. November was the only exception with almost 4 inches of rain, one inch above normal. Temperature for November remained above average. For the first time in several years, Rochester had only a trace of snow during the recording period. Rainfall for the year totaled 25.5 inches—4 inches below the average.

The receding water level of Lake Ontario has again opened up many areas to shorebirds. Braddock's Bay is reported to be the best that it has been in many years.

Rarities Include: Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Purple sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Little Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, House Finch.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; DEP—Durand Eastman Park; HAM—Hamlin; HBP—Hamlin Beach State Park; IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet; WEB—Webster; WLS—West Lakeshore; WP—Webster Park.

Observers: AK—Allen Kemnitzer; EV—Edna Vollmer; GOS—Genessee Ornithological Society; GP—Glen Perrige III; JCL—Julie Claffey; J&JC—Jack and Joyce Connor; JS—Jean Skelly; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; NP—Neil Prosser; RD—Robert Dobson; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; SO'H—Steve O'Hara; WL—Walt Listman; WLL—Warren Lloyd.

LOONS—DUCKS: No high counts of Common Loon reported; they were unreported until the second half of October; thereafter they could be seen at almost any overlook through the end of the period. Red-throated Loon: only one report, 16 Nov 18 WP (AK). *RED-NECKED GREBE*: 1 Oct 21 Hamlin (RD). Horned and Pied-billed Grebes present in average numbers. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Sept 24 DEP (JCL); 1 Sept 30 BB (JS); 1 Nov 4 IBO (AK). *CATTLE EGRET*: 2 Aug 21 BB (RO'H); this was the last report of the birds that have been with us since mid-April; how long before they'll nest? The flight of Canada Geese passed through almost unnoticed; no large numbers were reported; a few small rafts were still being reported from Lake Ontario at the end of the period. Unlike last year, we did have a Brant flight this year, max 2000 Oct 29 BB (JCL&EV); there were several reports of considerably smaller numbers. Two Snow Geese were present in Mendon Ponds Park Nov 1-15 (GP&G Davis et al); and 2 Nov 11 BB (R&SO'H). There were no high counts on any of the local ducks, and with only a few exceptions, migrants were reported in small numbers. At least 3 veteran observers have mentioned that the diving ducks seem to be staying well offshore, possibly due to the effects of the high water on the lake bottom and in turn to its effect on the marine life. Shoveler: 8 Aug 23 WEB (WLL); a very good count for this time of year. Wood Ducks reported in very low numbers. Common Goldeneye: max 700 Nov 4 HBP (NP). Bufflehead: max 250 Nov 4 HBP (NP). White-winged Scoter was present in good numbers. Surf Scoter: max 200 Oct 29 WLS (JCL&EV); Black Scoter: max 1800 Oct 29 WLS (JCL&EV); a single raft of an estimated 750 birds was seen off DEP Nov 30 (GP). Ruddy Ducks and Hooded Merganser were both reported in low numbers; only 2 reports each; all single birds.

HAWKS—OWLS: Reports of Goshawks were numerous—20 for the period, 17 in Nov alone; most reports were from the WEB area where J. Czech carries

on his banding operations, but written and oral reports indicate that they are almost common throughout the region. There were 13 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks; 5 in Nov; 4 in Oct; 3 in Sept; 1 in Aug; all but 2 of these from the lakeshore. Cooper's Hawk: 9 reports all from the lakeshore; 1 Nov; 3 Oct; 3 Sept; 2 Aug. Red-tailed Hawk: local birds seem to be doing very well; a small flight was observed over BB 26 when (WL) counted 127; this is a good count in our region for a fall flight. Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Nov 21 IBO (AK); 1 Nov 21 and 22 WEB (J Czech); these birds were apparently all migrants. *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 1 Oct 16 Pittsford (GP); 1 Oct 17 Carlton (WL); 1 Oct 22 DEP (P Dutcher). Reports from local hunters would indicate that the population of Ring-necked Pheasant has declined rapidly in our region since the end of the state stocking program. Although the quality of fall shorebirds was good, quality was poor considering the favorable habitat; among the more noteworthy records were Killdeer: 250 Aug 11 WLS (R&SO'H). American Golden Plover: 52 Nov 7 Lima (B Perrigo&EV); 1 Nov 22 BB (J&JC). Black-bellied Plovers were present in small numbers from mid-Aug thru the end of period. *PURPLE SANDPIPER*: 1 Oct 20 HBP (GOS); 3 Nov 5 BB (JCL&EV). White-rumped and Baird's Sandpiper were unreported. *RED PHALAROPE*: 1 Nov 3 & 4 WP (AK); 1 Nov 11 IBO (WLL&MAS); 1 Nov 25 88 (J&JC). Both Jaegers were reported in above normal numbers; *POMARINE JAEGER*: 1 Sept 6 Carlton (WL); 1 Oct 7 BB (WL); 2 Nov 15 HBP (GP); 1 Nov 17 IBO (AK). Parasitic Jaeger: 1 Nov 15 HBP (GP); 3 Nov 21 IBO (AK). White-winged Gulls were unreported and Great Black-backed Gulls are down in numbers as compared to last year, but not below their average. Bonaparte's Gulls were present in good numbers throughout Nov with counts of 200 common off IBO. *LITTLE GULL*: 1 Sept 16 Charlotte Beach (NP); 2 Sept 18 Charlotte Beach (K Doris et al); 1 Oct 4 WLS (WL); 1 Oct 8 WLS (JCU); 1-4 Nov 19-30 IBO (AK et al). Snowy Owl: only 1 report for the period; 1 Nov 17-18 BB (JC); unreported since.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Common Nighthawk: a group of 32 migrants was seen over Rochester Aug 28 (JS). Among the Woodpeckers and Flycatchers, reports would indicate no drastic changes in population. Oct did not produce the large concentrations of Swallows that normally occur along the lakeshore. Tree Swallows were reported in the hundreds instead of in the thousands that are present in a normal year. Tufted Titmouse, along with the Carolina Wren, have both shown good population increases in the region; Titmouse reports are too numerous to list and 8 Carolina Wrens were reported in August. Short-billed Marsh Wren: only 1 report; a single bird at BB Sept 16-17 (B Molyneaux et al). Northern Shrike was first reported on Nov 5 when a single bird was seen in WEB (AK); and there were at least 4 present on the WLS Nov 18 (G Meade).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: At least 2 flights were noted; 1 occurring in the last week of Aug on 90-plus degree days and a spectacular nocturnal flight on Sept 24. *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 Sept 12 WEB (D Spear et al); reported only twice before in fall. *PROTHONOTARY WARBLER*: 1 Sept 20 Greece (B Molyneaux & JS); rare in our region in the spring; first fall report. Yellow Warbler: 1 Nov 27 BB (M Magee & A Stear et al); previous late date was Oct 28. Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 Oct 7 DEP (RO'H).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: present in large numbers in Sept; several reports in the hundreds. *SUMMER TANAGER*: female 1 Sept 21 WEB (WLL); all field marks noted; I believe this is our first fall record. *DICKCISSEL*: 1 Aug 24 WEB (D Skiff); previously reported from same location; 1 Sept 4 Fairport (B Olin). Evening Grosbeak: 1 Aug 7 WEB (J&T McNett); only report for Aug, but reported in small numbers Sept thru end of period.

Purple Finch: reported in good numbers. *HOUSE FINCH*: 1 Oct 3 Leroy (T Adamson); 1 Nov 10 Palmyra (W Hartranft); still no population explosion. No reports of Pine Grosbeak. Common Redpoll: 12 Nov 18 (G Meade); 20 Nov 23 WLS (R&SO'H). Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill have been reported in good numbers since mid-Oct, Siskin being the more common. Only 1 report of White-winged Crossbill: 1 Nov 18 BB (JC). Lapland Longspur: 1 Oct 23 HBP (K Doris & D Wilton); 1 Nov 11 HAM (R&SO'H). Snow Buntings were reported in fair numbers from areas west of Rochester, but there have been no inland reports.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The period as a whole was warmer and drier than usual. Very hot weather in late August and continuing into early September was followed by a cold spell. At Ithaca the first freeze occurred on September 21, ten days to two weeks early, but in some parts of the Region even tender garden plants were not killed until late October. We experienced the mildest November with the least snow in several years. Stream flow was below normal and ponds and reservoirs below their normal levels at the end of the period.

Observers commented on the lack of migrating waterfowl. The absence of cold weather may have held them in the North later than usual.

Shorebird records were largely from Montezuma Refuge. The amount of suitable habitat there was much restricted and only small numbers of the more common species were present. Seldom is there a Fall season when several of the rarer species do not show up at Montezuma but such was not the case this Fall. Dunlin were a month late in arriving and very few in number.

The Carolina Wren appears to be on the upswing. Malcolm Lerch had a Connecticut Warbler among the 700 plus warblers he banded. The first authenticated nesting of the House Finch in Ithaca occurred this year.

At Elmira there were heavy migrations on the nights of September 23 and 24 but with relatively small kills at the TV tower. Much larger kills totaling 445 birds occurred on September 27 and 28.

Rarities included White-fronted Goose, Peregrine, King Rail, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo and Connecticut Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay — Cayuga; Co — County; JP — Junius Ponds in northern Seneca County; L — Lake; MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SM — Savannah mucklands; SAD — Seneca Army Depot; Sen — Seneca; Schy — Schuyler; WD — Waterloo dump.

Area compilers and observers: WEB — W. E. Benning; JB — Jack Brubaker (Watkins); COS — Cornell ornithology seminars; FG — Frank Guthrie (Keuka); RG — Robert Gustafson (MNWR); WH — Wilfred Howell; MJ — Morgan Jones (SAD); RSJ — Richard and Sally Jorgensen; DM — Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca); MRP — Montezuma Refuge personnel; JJS — James and Judy Stewart; BS — Betty Strath; JT — James Tate; JW — Jayson Walger; (Waterloo); JWs — Jack Weiss; MW — Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon; 13 Oct 30 Cay L. Horned Grebe: first Nov 12 (COS). Pied-billed Grebe: present at MNWR thruout period with 6 birds still incubating in mid-Aug; max 250 (MRP). Double-crested Cormorant: 2 Sep 1