

REGION 2 – GENESEE

RICHARD O'HARA

This summer season produced almost exactly normal figures for both rainfall and temperature overall but it was very unevenly distributed. Rainfall of three inches above normal in June was balanced by below average amounts in both July and August. July was slightly above average in temperature, due mostly to a hot spell near the end, but June and August were a little cooler than normal. It was a pleasant summer and appeared to be a successful breeding season here.

Many more stragglers or summering individuals of non-breeding ducks were noted than usual. This is no doubt due in part to successful breeding in such nearby areas as Montezuma and Iroquois Wildlife Preserves. It may also be in response to improving water quality in the region.

Shorebird areas improved greatly after late July and the late summer flight produced good numbers and variety. In particular the Northrup Creek Sanctuary area of Long Pond produced excellent counts all through August. This is the first year this area has appeared to be at all unusual, but hopefully not the last.

Passerine migration developed remarkably early and was above average for several species. Perhaps it was the series of cool nights which were responsible. In any case late August sometimes seemed more like mid-September.

Positive features: 1. Numbers of breeding herons still improving. 2. Good success for local duck broods. 3. Common Tern numbers a little improved. 4. Fine shorebird flight in August. 5. Unusual summer records for Acadian Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow and Winter Wren.

Negative features: 1. Cattle Egret nesting not repeated. 2. Almost no accipiters all summer. 3. Black Terns apparently declining as breeders. 4. No improvement in nighthawk situation locally. 5. Possible decline in local Bank Swallow colonies. 6. Vesper Sparrow still a disaster species.

Rarities: Willet, Long-billed Dowitcher, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Black-headed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Lawrence's Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, House Finch.

Abbreviation: BS—Bergen Swamp, BB—Braddocks Bay, MB—Manitou Beach, Mob—many observers, PB—Point Breeze, SB—Sodus Bay, WL—Lakeshore.

Observers: R&K Balland, Robert Dobson, June Feder, Genesee Ornithological Society, Ian & Kathy Johnson, Dave Linehan, James Listman, Walter C. Listman, Warren Lloyd, Neil Moon, Richard O'Hara, Chip & Betty Perrigo, RBA—Rochester Birding Association, Al Shea, Robert & Sue Spahn, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Tom Tetlow, Dave Tremmel.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe almost unreported. Herons continue to improve especially Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Heron. More Great Egrets than last year—max 6 Aug 17, WL (RD). A report of a Little Blue Heron Aug 31, is unverified to date (IJ). First local breeding record for Canada Goose, ad with 8-week-old yg July 26-29 PB (RBA). Several reports of summering ducks included:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>
Gadwall	June 16	4	Lesser Scaup	July 27	1
Pintail	June 16	2	Bufflehead	June 1, July 27	1, 1
Am. Wigeon	June 16	2, 1	Ruddy Duck	June 16, Aug 10	1, 1
Redhead	July 27	2	Com. Merganser	Aug 10	3
Greater Scaup	July 27	1	Red-breasted Merganser	July 7	3

Regular local breeders had a good year with many broods of Mallards, Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teals noted. A few Black Ducks were also noted, this bird being sadly reduced in this region.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture, max 25 July 3 BS (AS). No accipiters all summer except one Goshawk, Honeoye Lake, June 7 (RBA). Three Broad-winged Hawks at the same place on June 14 may indicate breeding (I&KJ). A very late Rough-legged Hawk was seen on June 12 at WL (IJ). The resident Bald Eagles were last noted on June 7 (RBA) but an immature was at BB from June 28 to 30. (WCL). Ospreys were noted twice in July and once in August. Shorebirds were the chief feature of the season especially during August. Among the better records were:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
WILLET	July 19	1	Kendall	C&BP
WILLET	August 20	1	Long Pond	R&SS
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	August 24	2	Irondequoit Bay	WL
Western Sandpiper	July 22	1	Braddock Bay	AS <i>et al.</i>
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	August 28	4	West Lakeshore	GP <i>et al.</i>
Wilson's Phalarope	August 24	2	West Lakeshore	Mob
Northern Phalarope	August 24	8	West Lakeshore	Mob
RED PHALAROPE	August 30	1	Braddock Bay	IJ

In addition all regular species except White-rumped Sandpiper have been noted in some numbers with Short-billed Dowitchers being especially numerous.

A **BLACK-HEADED GULL** seen July 19-21 in Kendall was very unusual (C&BP). Little Gull was noted twice in July and 15,000 Ring-billed Gulls on June 16 is a high count (WCL). Forster's Terns have been present at BB since July 19 (max 5) and Common Terns are up slightly from recent lows. Caspian Tern counts have been good—up to 15 per day (RO). Black Terns on the other hand seem to be declining as local breeders in some areas.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoos were fairly widespread but Yellow-billed Cuckoos have been quite scarce according to most reports. No owls other than Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl have been reported locally. Com. Nighthawks still very scarce. Chimney Swift numbers are also poor. Belted Kingfishers continue to improve; another result of better water quality? Woodpeckers show no change in status.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A singing **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** July 1-20 at BS (DL *et al.*) apparently was an unmated bird.

One Olive-sided Flycatcher was at BB Aug 30 (R&KB). All swallows were well reported with 1,500 Bank Swallows July 26 outstanding. At least 2 pairs of Cliff Swallows nesting at BB is noteworthy also. This is a new station for the species (Mob).

Carolina Wrens are still on the upswing. At least 3 pairs of Winter Wrens may have nested. One of these was singing at IB June 12-16, a new station (MAS). Three Short-billed Marsh Wrens were singing at SB June 28 (TT) and singles were at BB July 7-18 (W&JL *et al.*) and in Ontario (CP).

Seven Mockingbirds at Avon July 8 was the max report (GOS). Swainson's Thrush on August 16 was quite early (RD). Breeding thrushes showed no change in status but E. Bluebirds may have improved a little. Am. Robins had a great year—young birds everywhere.

Golden-crowned Kinglets again remained in the Bristol Hills region where they are now regular though rare. A new station was Churchville Pk. where 2 were present June 3 & 9 (DL). Loggerhead Shrike was represented by a single pair near PB all summer (IJ *et al.*).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Resident vireos seem to fluctuate considerably in numbers. This year some observers felt Warbling Vireos were reduced. Some warblers were still moving

northward in mid-June, *i.e.* Magnolia and Wilson's, June 15, BB, and Blackpoll, June 16. Carlton (WCL). A Prairie Warbler singing at Canidice Lake on June 22 could indicate nesting (JF). Fall arrival dates for some species were very early and some were locally common in mid-August. An outstanding record was our first **LAWRENCE'S WARBLER**, a singing male June 14-21 at Canidice Lake where Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers as well as Brewster's Warbler were also noted (JF *et al.*).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: The resident Orchard Orioles at PB were present until at least June 23 but may not have raised young. Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Purple Finch all were well reported and appear to have had good nesting success. **EVENING GROSBELLS** appeared suddenly on Aug 14 in Irondequoit—6 birds (NM). **HOUSE FINCHES** are beginning to spread locally at least three separate stations, up to 10 birds at one—MB (WCL). **PINE SISKIN**—one or two remained in Irondequoit until June 14 (DT).

Grasshopper Sparrow still low but may be up a little in a few areas. Henslow's Sparrow slightly better. Vesper Sparrow still very scarce, and now absent from most areas where it was formerly common. Why? White-throated Sparrow was found nesting in BS where it has been present before (DL). This bird and juncos were noted as returning migrants in late August (very early).

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The first part of June was cool and wet. By late June it was hot and dry and continued so thru July. August brought cooler temperatures and showers.

Among the encouraging aspects of the summer were more reports of E. Bluebird sightings and successful nestings. Another was the recovery of breeding populations at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge from the flooding disaster of 1972. Although still below pre-flood levels, they are picking up. Common Gallinules and Black Terns showed marked increases. Pied-billed Grebes, Black-crowned Night Herons, American Bitterns, the resident duck species, Virginia Rails, American Coots and Long-billed Marsh Wrens are gaining. Least Bittern and Sora continue scarce.

One of our abundant birds, the Am. Robin, is becoming even more so according to the results of six of the Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys taken in the Region. Conversely, five other abundant species, the Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and Song Sparrow, showed modest decreases. Could the severe April blizzard, which decimated the Eastern Phoebe in parts of the Region, have had an adverse effect on these species?

The meadow sparrows—Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper—continue at the relatively low levels of recent years.

Montezuma Refuge, as usual, supplied most of the shorebirding in the Region. Fall migration started on schedule in the closing days of June, built up rapidly and continued fair thru the period.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Common Raven, Fish Crow.