

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The fall season, for the most part, dealt us an extension of summer. South winds brought many warm days and other days were besieged by fog. This often made viewing next to impossible, especially the lake-watch. The real absence of favorable frontal systems kept optimum observation at a minimum. While this may sound a bit negative, there were some very good sightings and generally good numbers of expected species.

September turned out to be the wettest of the three months with a total of 3.34" of precipitation. This represented a reading of .68" above average. October's precipitation was a meager .76" which was nearly two inches below normal. This in itself aided the production of shorebird habitat as it coincided with the dropping of the lake level. The unfortunate circumstance was that it was generally too late to attract the bulk of the migration. November continued the below average trend with 1.47". This was 1.18" below the norm. September was actually below normal in temperature. The average was 60.6° F. That figure was 1.6° on the down side. October and November didn't follow suit. Both reached averages above normal. October was a whopping 3.2° higher than the average at 54.9° F. November reached an average temperature of 40.7° F. which was only .1° higher than the average. On the whole though it provided us with pleasant and comfortable conditions for fall birding.

What was good and what was bad? What looked to be a positive trend and what appeared to be a negative trend? Either way you look at it, there were no outstanding trends in one direction or the other. On the plus side there were numerous reports of Bald Eagles. They were mostly immatures, but a single report of an adult also came in. Merlin sightings were up, as well as a most encouraging number of Peregrines. Of note was the early appearance of Black-legged Kittiwakes. A few songbird species were in plentiful supply. This included both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They were accompanied by good numbers of creepers. Large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows inhabited the west lakeshore. A few finch sightings and a good cone crop hinted of things to come, but this has yet to materialize. On the down side we had a poor showing of loons and grebes. Whether or not the fog had anything to do with this remains to be seen. Brant numbers were rather paltry. The lakewatch produced only meager numbers of jaegers. The most noticeable songbird on the negative side may have been the Swainson's Thrush. Grounded totals were far from traditional numbers, but window kills and reports of large numbers of night flying thrushes presented a very different picture. The answer to this discrepancy may lie in the possible lack of conditions conducive to ground- ing. The point about lack of shorebird habitat has been echoed for years, and I hate to belabor the point even though this was once again the case. There were the expected species, but totals were less than staggering. The overall lack of finches was also a traditional occurrence. I suspect that the cone crop is just as good elsewhere.

Rarities: White Pelican, King Eider, Marbled Godwit, Common Black-headed Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Localities: B-Braddock Bay, C-Charlotte, D-Durand-Eastman Park, EL-East Lakeshore, G-Greece, H-Hamlin Beach State Park, I-Island Cottage Woods, IB-Irondequoit Bay, K-Kendall, M-Manitou, R-Rochester, S-Sodus Bay, W-Webster, WL-West Lakeshore.

Contributors: Betty & Martin Baker, Peg Beckman, Nancy Boudrie, Jeff Bouton, Elizabeth Brooks, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Gertrude Davis, William Dingerson, Kathy Disney, Frank & Bob Dobson, James Doherty, Arlieen & John Foster, Kevin Griffith, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Nurak Irasena, Oivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Robert McKinney, Laura & Neil Moon, Keith Murphy, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Patty Reister, Marge Schmale, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert, Susan & Cathy Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Joe Taylor, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike & Joanne Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Eleanor Weld, Doris Wilton.

LOONS-DUCKS: The loon numbers on the lake were unimpressive. Red-throated Loon: max 72 H 14 Nov. Com. Loon: max 138 H 9 Nov. The traditional three grebe species were recorded in only fair numbers. Horned Grebe: max 100 WL 25 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: arr. one H 27 Sept. Quite likely the bird of the season was a **WHITE PELICAN**: one Hamlin 26 Sept. that stopped briefly on a farm pond along the west lakeshore (R & H Duerr, *vide* FD). A number of observers remarked on the good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants: max 60 G 30 Sept. A few herons lingered on late into the season. Least Bittern: one G 1 Sept. Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 imm. Russell Station 27 Nov. Glossy Ibis: one B 8 Oct. (TP), continuation of a few fall sightings over the last few years. Fair numbers of waterfowl inhabited the lake, waterways and wetlands of the Region. This included some noteworthy observations. Tundra Swan: max 45 S 26 Nov. Of great interest was the presence of two "Black Brant," Western subspecies of Brant. Both birds were studied at close range: one H 7 Nov., imm.; one H 14 Nov. adult. Brant: max 200 W 27 Oct. Blue-winged Teal: max 85 29 Sept. one H 18 Nov, late. Redhead: 220+ W 11 Nov. **KING EIDER**: one H 16 Nov. (CC, WS), imm. male. Harlequin Duck: good number of reports for fall season; two H 3 Nov. (KG, JB), females; one H 4 Nov. (RS, WL), female; one G 7 Nov. (KG), female. White-winged Scoter: max 2000 H 25 Nov. Ruddy Duck: max 10 Long Pond 22 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The presence of Bald Eagles in the Region was highly noticeable with at least two imm. and a single adult sighted. All the accipiters were represented. N. Goshawk: two to three throughout the period. Some buteo reports of note were: Broad-winged Hawk: one W 28 Oct. Red-tailed Hawk: 55 M 4 Sept. in one hour. Rough-legged Hawk: one W 21 Oct. Falcon reports were quite good. Merlin: six sightings. Peregrine Falcon: five sightings with one pair harassing an imm. Bald Eagle. Of interest was a late Com. Moorhen: one Northrup Creek 27 Oct. The scarcity of desirable habitat kept shorebird numbers at their traditional level of mediocrity, yet some good reports and sightings occurred during the season. Black-bellied Plover: one B 17 Nov., late. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 85 H 22 Sept., not a good total. Killdeer: max 225 H 22 Sept. Greater Yellowlegs: one IB 11 Nov., late. Lesser Yellowlegs: one B 7 Nov., last report. Whimbrel: one H 15 Sept. (ST), scarce this year. Hudsonian Godwit: one C 3 Sept. (MD, KG, JB), very poor showing. **MARBLED GODWIT**: one H 12 Sept. (CC, WS), possibly same bird reported in Aug. Sanderling: three C 29 Sept., last report. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Northrup Creek 27 Oct. (RS); one H 15 Nov. (WS). Baird's Sandpiper: one B 10 Nov. (RC), late individual, injured. Purple Sandpiper: one Summerville Pier 26 Oct. (RO); one B 22-23 Nov. (CC), traditional levels of abundance. Stilt Sandpiper: H 30 Oct., late. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one H 1-8 Sept. (mob); one G 8 Sept. (FD). Long-billed Dowitcher: one B 19 Nov. (CC). Red-necked Phalarope: four H 6 Sept., one H 21 Sept., two H 4 Oct., two H 31 Oct. Jaegers were recorded at fair levels but not at levels experienced in years past. Pomarine Jaeger: max two H 25 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: max six H 26 Sept. Gull numbers were at levels in keeping with recent trends. A few observations of special interest took

place. Franklin's Gull: one C 10 Nov. (SS). Little Gull: max seven WL 1-30 Nov. **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one H 27 Sept. (CC, NB, WS); one H 4 Oct. (CC, JB, WS), lakewatch once again proves fruitful. Iceland Gull: one H 30 Nov. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one H 2 Nov. (CC, WS), adult, continuation of recent trends. Glaucous Gull: four reports from Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one H 15 Sept. (ST), very early, imm.; two H 4 Oct. (CC, WS), imm.; one H 4 Nov. (CC); two H 16 Nov. (CC, WL); one H 19 Nov. (WS). Black Tern: one WL 1 Sept., last report.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: one M 10 Oct. (RO), late individual in an off year for cuckoos. Snowy Owl: minimum of four individuals in Region. Long-eared Owl: one W 23 Sept. (R & SS). Short-eared Owl: one H 6 Oct. (R & CS). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Penfield 1 Oct. (RM). It was a pretty good fall for owls. Chimney Swift: one G 17 Oct., last report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Brighton, may have some wintering birds.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two H 8 Sept., last report. Willow Flycatcher: one I 6 Sept., last report. Least Flycatcher: one I 16 Sept. Great-crested Flycatcher: one I 16 Sept. E. Kingbird. one Avon 29 Sept., late individual. Tree Swallow: two H 22 Oct., last report. Blue Jay: very common again this fall. Com. Raven: one Mendon Ponds 2 Oct. (EB), calling, continuation of recent trend in Region. Carolina Wren: max three W 27 Oct. House Wren: one M 27 Oct., late individual. Marsh Wren: one Long Pond 20 Oct., late individual. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: numbers down slightly. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one H 10 Oct., last report of season. Swanson's Thrush: could be heard migrating at night, but grounded totals were down, window kills well-reported. Hermit Thrush: a few lingered through the season. Wood Thrush: one W 10 Oct. (D & DT), rather late individual. N. Mockingbird: holding its own. N. Shrike: one B 25 Nov., first fall report. Loggerhead Shrike: one Honeoye Falls 16 Sept. (JT), one K 9 Nov. (FD); good sign from a dwindling species in the Region.

**VIREOS-WARBRLERS**: The absence of massive movements of warblers left us with unpectacular migration records. The tendency again seemed to indicate good night flights but a minimum of grounding. The birding was not bad; it provided some good observation days and some noteworthy reports. Included in those were some very interesting last dates of sighting in the Region. Red-eyed Vireo: one H 10 Oct. Blue-winged Warbler: one Lakeside Beach 29 Sept. Orange-crowned Warbler: one M 27 Sept., one Cobb's Hill 17 Sept., one H 10 Oct., rather typical fall pattern. Nashville Warbler: one Mendon Ponds 12 Oct. N. Parula: one W 17-18 Nov. (A & BK), very late in the season. Magnolia Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Cape May Warbler: one G 3 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 500 H 10 Oct. Pine Warbler: one H 8 Sept. Palm Warbler: one IB 10 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Blackpoll Warbler: one H 10 Oct. Am. Redstart: Ellison Park 8 Oct. Ovenbird: six Ellison Park 8 Oct. N. Waterthrush: one W 2-10 Sept. Com. Yellowthroat: one G 7-8 Nov. Canada Warbler: one I 16 Sept.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: There was evidence of good breeding years for some species in this section. The mild fall also kept a variety of species in the Region. There was also the hint of a finch winter with the arrival of a few winter finches. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Mendon Ponds 7 Oct. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Mendon Ponds 11 Nov. Am. Tree Sparrow: one WL 23 Sept. (WL), first fall sighting. White-throated Sparrow: ten I 16 Sept., first fall sighting; excellent numbers at H. White-crowned Sparrow: two H 27 Sept., first fall sighting; large numbers of imm. at H. Dark-eyed Junco: goods numbers throughout the Region. Lapland Longspur: three J 25 Oct. Snow Bunting: max 300 H 25 Nov. Bobolink: one H 22 Sept. (WD), lingering individual. Rusty Blackbird: max 200 H 4 Nov. (RD), an awfully large number for so late in the season. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2000 Perinton 14 Oct. House Finch: max 500 Orleans Co. 12 Nov., thriving. Red Crossbill: three D 25 Nov., 45 H 25 Nov., 17 H 26 Nov. White-winged Crossbill: one D 22 Nov., four H 25 Nov., two H 26 Nov., six H 30 Nov. Pine Siskin: 1-24 WL 9-30 Nov.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612