

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Traditional patterns for the Region were not the fare this year. September was characterized by warm temperatures and somewhat average precipitation. The average temperature was 63.8°, about 1.6° higher than normal. Precipitation was a scant 0.17" below normal at 2.49". The first and last thirds of the month were dominated by near normal temperatures and precipitation in the form of light rain or drizzle. At other times strong southerly breezes brought above average temperatures and below average rainfall. October echoed these contrasts. By month's end, the average temperature and total precipitation were only slightly below normal at 51° and 2.34" respectively. Yet, there were twelve days during the months with above average high temperatures. November can be described in a single word—wet. The temperature was 0.8° above normal at 41.4°, but precipitation was a whopping 4.34" above normal at 6.99". A period of twelve straight days of rain were recorded. A total of 7.6" of snow fell and we experienced only 19% sunshine.

The weather may have been dismal, but the birding fared very well. The frontal systems brought with them some very good birding conditions. As is always the case, there was a great deal of variation in the fall migration. The bulk of the waterfowl migration was later than normal. The expected species arrived on time, but numbers were not at traditional levels until late in the season. The same seemed to be true for most loons and grebes. Southwest winds produced some days when raptors moved along the lakeshore in a reverse migration of sorts. Accipiters were highly noticeable, with a smattering of buteos included. The shorebird migration was rather typical. The mudflats at Shore Acres were especially productive. The passerine migration was mixed. There were very few, if any, mass movements reported. Most expected species were found, yet numbers appeared to be low. Large numbers of finches were noted along the lakeshore during late October and November. Goldfinches, siskins and redpolls moved in large mixed flocks, and fields with abundant seed crops attracted large numbers of these birds. The possibility of a "finch winter" was heralded by the arrival of Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills and good numbers of Common Redpolls. Evening Grosbeaks also were found in good numbers.

A few species warrant special mention. The bird of the season was the third Regional record of Great Cormorant. Other rarities were: Glossy Ibis, King Eider, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Red Phalarope, Franklin's Gull and Bohemian Waxwing. There were numerous sightings of all three accipiters and of falcons, including both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. The lake watch from Hamlin Beach once again produced many jaegers. Gull concentrations were minimal with few unusual reports. A N. Saw-whet Owl banded in October suggests that there probably are more of these birds around in the fall than we regularly observe. Once again, no Sedge Wrens were reported; this has become a hard-to-find species. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported quite late this season.

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Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay, DE—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent Lake Ontario waters, HB—Hamlin Beach, IB—Irondequoit Bay, SA—Shore Acres, Hamlin, WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr HB 18 Oct. Com. Loon: max 2000 Sodus Bay 9 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr HB 13 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 9 Nov. **GREAT CORMORANT**: subad BB 24 Nov (JB, CC) observed twice. Double-crested Cormorant: max 62 HB 22 Sep. Least Bittern: last one Greece 17 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last SA 9 Oct, late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: last subad DE 9 Nov. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one BB 8 Nov (NM), very late and uncommon at any time of the year. Tundra Swan: max 45 Conesus Lake 20 Nov. Mute Swan: one Greece 16 Sep; one IB 18-20 Oct, possibly the same bird, observations becoming very consistent. Brant: max 502 HB 28 Oct, scarce. N. Pintail: max 146 HB 27 Sep. Canvasback: arr two Charlotte and four Greece 12 Oct. Redhead: arr two HB 6 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr HB 21 Sep. Lesser Scaup: arr HB 13 Sep. King Eider: ♀ IB 6 Nov; subad ♂s Sodus Bay 17 Nov (TT) and BB 19-20 Nov (MR); ♀ IB 23 Nov (CC), probably same bird as 6 Nov. Oldsquaw: arr ten HB 11 Oct. Black Scoter: max 300 HB 11 Nov. Surf Scoter: arr HB 11 Oct. Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 6 Oct. Bufflehead: max 300 DE 31 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 377 Kendall 25 Nov, good total. Com. Merganser: arr HB 13 Sep. Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 22 Sep. Ruddy Duck: max six Kendall 13 Oct, good total.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last three Palmyra 21 Nov (HS), late. Osprey: last Mendon Ponds 13 Oct. Bald Eagle: three reports during the period. Cooper's Hawk: max three Webster 1-30 Nov (JC). N. Goshawk: max three Manitou Beach 2 Nov (JB, KG). Red-shouldered Hawk: one Nations Road 21 Oct (J&AF), late. Merlin: eight reports, a good total. Peregrine Falcon: six reports; fall appears to be a good time for observation of this uncommon species. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 190 WL 8 Sep. Greater Yellowlegs: last Hamlin 23 Nov. Lesser Yellowlegs: last WL 23 Nov. Solitary Sandpiper: last WL 24 Sep. Willet: one Charlotte 6 Oct (RO,mob). Spotted Sandpiper: one HB 8 Nov, unable to fly due to injured wing. Upland Sandpiper: last Hamlin 8 Sep. Whimbrel: max 25 HB 2 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: one HB 4 Oct; subad SA 4-6 Oct, possibly the same bird. **MARBLED GODWIT**: one SA 21 Sep. Red Knot: last Charlotte 17 Oct. Least Sandpiper: last IB 26 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr WL 24 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: arr one BB 23 Nov. Stilt Sandpiper: last SA 16 Oct. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one H 5-8 Sep, scarce this fall. Long-billed Dowitcher: max three SA 16 Oct (WS), calling. Am. Woodcock: last one WL 28 Oct. Wilson's Phalarope: last SA 9 Oct. Red-necked Phalarope: max five HB 25 Sep (WS), good total. Red Phalarope: one HB 8 Nov (CC, WS), one BB 30 Nov (D, B&DS, JL). Pomarine Jaeger: max two Kendall 14 Sep. Parasitic Jaeger: max five HB 27 Sep. Franklin's Gull: subad HB 20 Oct. Little Gull: max three BB 11 Oct (DTet), first of season. Glaucous Gull: arr second year bird HB 9 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: arr HB 11 Nov (CC). Caspian Tern: last two Charlotte 6 Oct. Com. Tern: last DE 20 Nov, late. Forster's Tern: arr five HB 26 Sep. Black Tern: last HB 29 Sep.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Manitou 1 Nov, max seven Retsoff 29 Nov. N. Saw-whet Owl: one banded and released Manitou Beach 12 Oct. Com. Nighthawk: last HB 6 Oct. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last one DE 6 Oct, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: last one Manitou 13 Oct, late. E. Phoebe: last Clarkson 18 Oct. E. Kingbird: last SA 2 Oct (WS), very late. Tree Swallow: max 600 WL 12 Oct. Bank Swallow: last WL 7 Oct. Barn Swallow: last WL 13 Oct. Com. Raven: one Kendall 14 Sep (FD), continuing recent increase in sightings. Winter Wren: arr Manitou 28 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 30 Manitou 28 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr WL 14 Sep. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last Manitou Beach 25 Oct. Veery: last Manitou Beach 5 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last DE 6 Oct. Swainson's Thrush: last Webster Pk 26 Oct. Wood Thrush: last DE 12 Oct. Gray Catbird: one DE 30 Nov, late, may persist for the winter. Bohemian Waxwing: max 35 Sodus Bay 17 Nov (TT), very good year for this species. N. Shrike: arr HB 13 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: last Greece 12 Oct. Red-eyed Vireo: last DE 6 Oct. Tennessee Warbler: last three DE 6 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one DE 23, 30 Nov, late for a traditionally late species. Nashville Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. N. Parula: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow Warbler: last Palmyra 13 Oct, quite late. Chestnut-sided Warbler: last four DE 6 Oct. Magnolia Warbler: last Webster 26 Oct. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last DE 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 200 WL 12 Oct. Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB 12 Oct. Blackburnian Warbler: last Palmyra 3 Oct. Pine Warbler: Webster 7 Sep, out of normal locale. Bay-breasted Warbler: last two DE 12 Oct. Black-and-white Warbler: last two DE 6 Oct. Am. Redstart: last DE 12 Oct. Ovenbird: last HB 20 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: last killed by a cat Hamlin 3 Oct.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: last one Canandaigua 1 Oct. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ad ♂ Brighton 23 Nov (*fide* FD), very late. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr eight HB 20 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr HB 13 Oct. Lincoln's Sparrow: last Nine Mile Point 26 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr two DE 29 Sep. Lapland Longspur: max 45 Webster 14 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr ten HB 21 Oct. Pine Grosbeak: arr Manitou Beach 31 Oct. Red Crossbill: arr DE 21 Sep, early. White-winged Crossbill: two Hamlin 5 Oct, early. Com. Redpoll: arr 20 Manitou Beach 25 Oct, increasing numbers thereafter. Pine Siskin: arr four Manitou 2 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr Naples 12 Sep.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

After a rather tame summer, the first days of September were more tropical than temperate – just in time for returning to school, work, *etc.* Even though temperatures approached the nineties and the humidity was high, very little rain fell in the southern part of our Region. Ithaca had close to two inches of rain on 9 Sep but Elmira and Watkins Glen only had small amounts. The mean temperature for the remainder of September and October was close to normal