

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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This season did not have typical summer weather. As an indication of its ample rainfall, I didn't have to water my lawn once! The monthly totals were all above average. June's total was 4.27 inches, a relatively high 1.49 inches above normal. July followed with a total of 3.13 inches, 0.65 inches above normal. August precipitation was only 0.09 inches higher than normal at 3.29 inches. Average temperatures also deviated consistently from the norm, but in this case it was on the down side. June's average was 3.4 degrees below normal at 63.3°, July was down 1.5 degrees at 69.8°, and August's average of 65.7° was a whopping 3.8 degrees below normal.

This reporting period covers the late spring migration, summer residents and early fall migrants. Observations correspondingly pretty much run the gamut. The roller coaster summer season seemed to have no major adverse effect on the nesting season. The above normal rains helped produce some high water in the lakeshore ponds, but most nesting species seemed to be holding their own. Once again shorebird habitat was at a premium. High lake levels eliminated critical shoreline habitat. American Bittern proved to be scarce, while Least Bittern totals were high and they were found in new localities. Green-backed Heron seemed to experience a mild decline from recent years. Black-crowned Night-Heron appeared to be on a mild upswing with good numbers reported. Waterfowl numbers were mixed. Nesting Wood Ducks were in good supply. Am. Black Duck were scarce and Blue-winged Teal were either down considerably or doing a good job of hiding. A female **AMERICAN WIGEON** with a brood along Sawyer Road in Carlton was a first confirmed breeding record for the Region. Single Ring-necked Ducks popped up in a few locations. Upland Sandpipers had a relatively successful nesting season. Populations were located along the west lakeshore and at the Monroe County Airport. The high waters may have been detrimental to a few pairs of Spotted Sandpipers. Sora may have been affected by high water levels, as records of this species from along Lake Ontario were sparse. There was some speculation that it was down in numbers, but hard data don't exist. Sora habitat should be watched more carefully in the future. At first it appeared that Black Tern also was influenced, but reporters observed that they simply may have moved a bit inland from the shore.

Accipiters were noted with great regularity. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported throughout the season, which is not usually the case along the lakeshore. A probable nesting Northern Goshawk was observed on 23 July in Bristol; this species has been recorded as a regular summer nester in the southern hills of the Region. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was found dead along Northrup Creek in July. While nesting of this species away from Bergen Swamp still has not been confirmed, it has been suspected. Once again Whip-poor-will reports were few and far between.

Ring-necked Pheasant was not reported in great numbers. As a game bird, it has declined drastically. Since its decline in the 1970's it has become a difficult

species to monitor. Some individuals have concentrated their activity at marsh edges, away from traditional hedgerow habitats. We should continue to check its populations in the Region.

The passerine nesting season had its ups and downs. On the plus side, at least two pairs of Sedge Wrens were reported in the Region. This species has gone unreported as a nesting bird in recent years. Northern Orioles appeared to have a highly successful season, and the nesting Orchard Orioles returned to Point Breeze for another breeding season. A report of Red Crossbills in Durand Eastman Park, Rochester, once again suggests the possibility that the species has nested here in recent years. Negatives were fairly prevalent this year. Some of this downturn may reflect the completion of Atlas field work, which led to less coverage of nesting species within the Region. Woodland species like Eastern Wood-Pewee and Wood Thrush were present but their numbers seemed low. Brown Thrasher, while not drastically reduced, also were in shorter supply than usual. Fewer Cerulean Warbler and Ovenbird were reported than in recent years. Other species to watch are Vesper and Henslow's Sparrow.

The late spring migration was highlighted by a singing Clay-colored Sparrow discovered by Betsy Brooks at Manitou on 4 June. Another, or possibly the same bird as these sites are close to each other, was heard singing in Greece on 10 June by Frank Nicoletti. (Chipping Sparrows also may sing like this species—Ed.)

Glaucous Gulls now seem to be reported more regularly in June and July, as they were this season. This summer an Iceland Gull also was reported from June through 6 July at Charlotte. Terns had an off season. Most notable was the lack of Forster's Tern.

Late August saw the passage of some major cold fronts. These fronts traditionally have brought good waterbird flights along the lake. For the most part, such flights never materialized this year. Migratory waterfowl appear pretty much on schedule, with Northern Shoveler the only obvious miss. "Fly-by" shorebirds were frequent along the lakeshore, for there was no place for them to land. Among shorebirds, records of Willet, Baird's Sandpiper and all three phalaropes were noteworthy. A minor puzzler was the general lack of Short-billed Dowitchers. Conditions for a late summer jaeger flight seemed favorable, but one never materialized.

The passerine migration which often accompanies these fronts also was poor. On a positive note, strong southwest to west winds emulated spring conditions and produced some reverse hawk flights of significant proportions. Riding the warm thermals of August was an immature Bald Eagle, and all three accipiters were observed in these flights. There were some early arrivals and interesting totals in the early fall migration. Swainson's Thrush, which appeared to be down this spring, were present in good numbers in late August. A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Manitou on 20 Aug was quite early, as was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Braddock Bay on 15 Aug. This, coupled with the Evening Grosbeak at Braddock Bay on 5 Aug, gave us a hint of the upcoming fall migration.

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Abbreviations: BB—Braddock's Bay; HB—Hamlin Beach; IB—Irondequoit Bay; LSP—Letchworth State Park; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: record early arr HB 10 Aug (WS). Horned Grebe: arr Carlton 24 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: max 59 HB 25 Aug. Least Bittern: max nine Greece 9 Aug. Cattle Egret: two Greece 24 Jun, continue good showing from spring. Ring-necked Duck: one Perinton 7 Jun-31 Jul. Oldsquaw: arr Manitou 27 Aug. White-winged Scoter: arr HB 19 Aug. Red-breasted Merganser: last Webster 18 Jun.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 32 Wheatland 19 Aug. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** subad BB 1 Jun (FN, NYSARC). Merlin: one Livonia 30 Jul and 8 Aug; one HB 15 Aug. Black-bellied Plover: arr WL 25 Jul. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr Perinton 25 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr six HB 1 Jul. Greater Yellowlegs: arr HB 16 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Perinton 6 Jul. Willet: one IB 23 Aug (DT). Upland Sandpiper: max 17 Monroe Co. Airport 12 Jul. Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 30 Jul. Red Knot: arr Charlotte 30 Jul. Sanderling: arr 40 IB 26 Jul. Least Sandpiper: one Manitou 20 Jun, late spring or early arr? Baird's Sandpiper: three WL 15 Aug (RH). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Perinton 13 Jul. Stilt Sandpiper: arr Perinton 8 Jul. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Perinton 8 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: two HB 12 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: up to five HB 25-29 Aug. **RED PHALAROPE:** one HB 28 Aug (HD, WS), early. Parasitic Jaeger: one Charlotte 19 Aug, one BB 21 Aug, one HB 22 Aug, poor totals. Laughing Gull: ad Charlotte 19 Aug, another Parma 21 Aug, im BB 15 Aug, all (FN). Little Gull: arr ad Manitou 24 Aug. **THAYER'S GULL:** first-year bird IB 24 Aug (FN).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Com. Nighthawk: max 20 Rochester 26 Aug, low. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max ten Burroughs-Audubon Nature Center in July.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Richmond 27 Jul. Acadian Flycatcher: one singing LSP all June. Bank Swallow: max 15,000+ WL 12 Jul. Com. Raven: one HB 4 Jun (MR), only report for year from this site. Sedge Wren: max four Pt. Breeze 1-15 Aug. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Manitou 4 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: last three Manitou 4 Jun, arr Manitou 18 Aug. Hermit Thrush: arr Manitou 20 Aug.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Greece 23 Aug. Tennessee Warbler: arr two Greece 14 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr WL 15 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Greece 14 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr HB 15 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: one out of territory Brighton 13 Jun. Pine Warbler: arr HB 13 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: last Manitou 2 Jun, arr Rochester 19 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Canadice L 14 Jun. Wilson's Warbler: last Manitou 2 Jun, arr Manitou 23 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr HB 15 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Lincoln's Sparrow: last Manitou 2 Jun. Dark-eyed Junco: arr j Manitou 20 Aug. Pine Siskin: arr Manitou 30 Aug. Evening Grosbeak: last Manitou 4 Jun.

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