

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The trend of wetness continued into and through the fall season. This weather seemed to have no major effect on the migration, but there were ramifications of these conditions. September turned out to be relatively cool and wet. The rainfall total of 5.11 inches was more than double the average. Temperatures were cool during most of the month with a warming trend toward the end. October continued wet with a total rainfall of 3.56 inches. Although less than September's total, it was still 1.02 inches above normal. The cool temperatures continued, averaging 1.8° below normal. November was cold and dry. Temperatures were below normal by 3.7° and precipitation totaled 1.93 inches, which was below normal.

The wetness at times made birding difficult. There were days during September when the rainfall grounded migrants, but it was difficult to observe them under the conditions. The lake level also rose thus reducing shorebird habitat at the shore. On the other hand, the rainfall produced flooded fields in the Region and created some additional habitat. October experienced only a series of weak cold fronts that forced birds into the Region at a slow pace at best. A cold spell hit the Region during the middle of November and may have been responsible for the excellent movement of late fall and winter resident birds into the Region.

Waterbirds received mixed reviews during the season. Returns seemed a bit late with few birds present until after 21 Sep. Loons, particularly Common, were reported in good numbers. Some waterfowl species were noted in low to moderate numbers. Included in this list were Black Duck, scaup, Hooded Merganser and the dark-winged scoters. Canada Geese migrated in good numbers during the early part of the season. Included in these flights were good numbers of Snow Geese, a species which generally is scarce in the fall. The shorebird season was mediocre at best. The only highlights were the numbers of phalaropes and some reports of the often elusive Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Jaeger reports were down from recent years.

The raptor season was highlighted by encouraging reports of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. The latter species was reported six times in October and nearly as many times in September. Winter visitors also were reported in good numbers with many sightings of Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl and Short-eared Owl. This may tell us something about the winter to come or about conditions north of here. Short-eared Owls were noted migrating across Lake Ontario.

The landbird migration was less than exciting. Warblers and flycatchers were notably down. The only encouraging totals were for thrushes, Winter Wren and kinglets. The late season migration of these groups was good.

The rarities this season were almost exclusively passerines: Western Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, and two Sharp-tailed Sparrows. The last species quite possibly is present more often than it is recorded.

Contributors: Betty & Martin Baker, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Elizabeth W.

Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, William Colman, Rich Connolly, Jerry Czech, Gertrude Davis, William Dingerson, Bob Dobson, Frank Dobson, Jim Doherty, Kay Doris, John & Arlieen Foster, Bill Gillette, Mary & Ralph Gerner, Kevin Griffith, E. Hall, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Bob & Sandra Hazen, Nurak Irasena, Øivind Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Brian Keelan, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Nancy Kilborn, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Pat Martin, Mary Mattei, Robert McKinney, Eleanor Murtaugh, Richard O'Hara, Tom Painting, Marge Randall, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marty Robinson, Marge Schmale, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Ann Stear, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike & Joanne Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Eleanor Weld, Munro Will, and Doris Wilton.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay; DE—Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent waters; HBSP—Hamlin Beach State Park; IB—Irondequoit Bay; ICW—Island Cottage Woods; WL—West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr HBSP 5 Oct, max 1008 HBSP 28 Nov. Com. Loon: max 3000 HBSP 1 Nov. Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 Greece 14 Sep. Horned Grebe: 120 WL 14 Nov. Red-necked Grebe: one BB 16 Oct, generally more sightings. Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 WL 21 Sep, Charlotte 21 Nov. Am. Bittern: last Greece 13 Sep. Least Bittern: last Greece 11 Sep. Green-backed Heron: last HBSP 25 Oct, late. Snow Goose: max 34 Webster 29 Sep. Brant: arr 25 Charlotte 5 Oct, max 1520 HBSP 30 Oct. Canada Goose: max 20,000 Wayne 16 Nov. Gadwall: max 250 Savannah 12 Oct. Canvasback: arr six Greece 20 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr 30 WL 27 Sep. King Eider: im m Pt. Breeze 16-30 Nov (WS, MR); two f BB 19-30 Nov, im m BB 19-30 Nov (MR, CC, MR); f Charlotte 20 Nov (RO), excellent total for the season; some of reports may be of the same individual. Black Scoter: arr two HBSP 27 Sep. Surf Scoter: arr HBSP 4 Oct, late. Com. Goldeneye: arr one HBSP 15 Oct. Bufflehead: arr seven Greece 10 Oct. Hooded Merganser: max 476 Sodus 15 Nov. Red-breasted Merganser: arr ten HBSP 14 Sep, good Nov flight also.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: three reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Springwater 1-15 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: max 13 Hamlin to Webster 13 Nov. Merlin: eight reports. Peregrine Falcon: eleven reports, very encouraging. Virginia Rail: one Mendon Ponds 25 Oct, traditional wintering spot. Sora: last one Greece 19 Oct. Upland Sandpiper: last Hamlin 14 Sep, late. Whimbrel: singles BB 3 Sep, one HBSP 8 Sep, scarce. Ruddy Turnstone: last two Greece 8 Nov. Red Knot: max seven Charlotte 15-17 Sep. Purple Sandpiper: arr one IB 7-8 Nov. Dunlin: last BB 23 Nov. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 5 Sep, max four Hamlin 13-17 Sep. Am. Woodcock: last Greece 14 Nov. Red-necked Phalarope: two Manitou 11 Oct, two Greece 28 Oct. Parasitic Jaeger: max four HBSP in Nov. Little Gull: arr Charlotte 2 Sep, im Charlotte 20-25 Sep. Iceland Gull: arr 1st year bird IB 22 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr 1st year bird DE 20 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one Hamlin 1 Nov, only report, scarce. Forster's Tern: one Charlotte 8 Nov (RS, KG), late, very few reports this year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: many reports from various locations, looks like a good year. Short-eared Owl: max four Retsof 1-30 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last one IC 14 Sep. **WESTERN KINGBIRD:** one Greece 12 Sep (KG), observed at close range, fought a stiff breeze in order to stay perched on a wire, sixth Regional record. N. Rough-winged Swallow: one BB 2 Oct. Cliff Swallow: last one BB 26 Sep. Common Raven: one Webster 9 Sep (SSP), continued increase? Carolina Wren: max two Rochester 25 Oct. Winter Wren: max 11 Rochester 6 Oct, good numbers this fall. Sedge Wren: one Hogan Pt 28 Sep, continues good reports for the year. Marsh Wren: last IC 19 Oct. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Cobb's

Hill 9 Oct, good totals this fall. Water Pipit: last IB 22 Nov, late. N. Shrike: arr Carlton, over 15 reports this season.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Manitou 29 Oct (EB, WS), record late, banded, photographed and released. Philadelphia Vireo: last Cobb's Hill 9 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: last Irondequoit 4 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 90 Irondequoit 4 Oct, scarce.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two Pittsford 7 Oct. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** two of an interior race Hogan Pt 1-7 Nov (MD, mob, ph); departure is record late by five days. Fox Sparrow: last Penfield 6 Nov. Dark-eyed Junco: one "Oregon Junco" Fairport 17 Nov (NK). Lapland Longspur: arr HBSP 28 Sep. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Hamlin 7 Nov (RO); this species has had a good year in the Region. Red Crossbill: arr DE 15 Nov. Com. Redpoll: arr two Manitou 15 Oct, record early by two days. Pine Siskin: max 550 Manitou 11 Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr two HBSP 15 Oct.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

Temperatures in September were below the 30-year mean, and most of its precipitation fell during the latter half of the month. The first nine days of September were sunny, except for a cool front on 5 and 6 Sep which brought about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of rain to the Region. Much colder air, with low temperatures in the 30's, followed fronts on 12 and 15 Sep. Little rainfall was associated with these cold fronts. Another front, spawned by the same system, became stationary across the State on 19 Sep and dominated the weather with clouds and showers for the remainder of the month. This extended period of rainy weather delayed harvesting of corn and hay silage, but crop yields and quality were normal. Strong thunderstorms, associated with the stationary front, brought over one inch of rain to the Region on 30 Sep and 1 Oct. Trees were blown down and there were power outages in Ithaca. This front finally moved out to sea on 4 Oct, followed by a cold front, freezing temperatures, and strong, gusty winds through 7 Oct. There were more cold fronts on 9 and 14 Oct which brought light rainfall, followed by a very sunny period from 18 through 25 Oct.

Cold fronts with light rainfall passed through on 26 and 29 Oct, when the following peak numbers were reported at MNWR: Gadwall 410, Am. Wigeon 470, Wood Duck 540, Canvasback 160. During the final week of October, the following wintering waterfowl were first reported: Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. On 31 Oct most areas reported their lowest temperatures of the month. November was the coldest on record since 1980, and precipitation for the Region was normal. There were cold fronts with associated precipitation on 2 and 6 Nov, followed by a powerful cold front on the 9th which brought high winds of 40 to 50 mph. The first snow for the Region fell 11 Nov, with up to 5 inches reported. This was followed by an extended period of very cold temperatures through 25 Nov, including record-breaking low