

one Charlotte Twn CHAU 10 Jun; two Clarence Twn ERIE 19,26 Jun; three Hartland Twn NIAG 26 Jun. Sanderling: one DH 21 Jul. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last four INWR 11 Jun; arr DH 11 Jul. Least Sandpiper; arr five TWMA 26 Jun. White-rumped Sandpiper; three TWMA 11 Jun. Baird's Sandpiper: arr TWMA 8 Aug; two Bemus Creek CHAU 24, 27 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper, arr two TWMA 16 Jul. Dunlin: last TWMA 11 Jun. Stilt Sandpiper: arr TWMA 16 Jul, max six 24 Jul. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Prendergast Pt, Chautauqua L 21 Aug (BR, ph RTPf). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two TWMA 26 Jun;54 max 21 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: arr TWMA 20 Aug. Red-necked Phalarope: arr BIP 26 Aug. **Laughing Gull**: one CCWR 13 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: two INWR 26 Jun, unusual date. Caspian Tern: arr TB 13 Jul. Forster's Tern, two CCWR 12 Aug. Black Tern, max 150 BIP 6 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: nine reports Jun BOS, none Jul, Aug. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: five reports Jun BOS, none Jul, Aug. Short-eared Owl: one Porter Twn NIAG 19 Jun; one Shelby Twn ORLE 24 Jun, four 4 Jul. Com. Nighthawk, max 300 Niagara R 31 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Pomfret Twn CHAU 2 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TFNP 24 Aug. Willow Flycatcher, nest 3 eggs Amity Twn ALLE 23 Jun. 4 eggs 28 Jun, y hatched *ca* 10 Jul, fledged *ca* 22 Jul, first confirmation ALLE (VP). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: one Ellicott Twn CHAU, Horton Rd. 4 Jun (LK, mob), Regional first. Tree Swallow: *intro*. House Wren: *intro*. Sedge Wren: two INWR 19 Jun; three max 3 July, perhaps another waif of the western drought. N. Mockingbird: one Ward Twn ALLE 11, 18 Jun, 6 Jul; one Amity Twn ALLE 21 Jun. E. Bluebird: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: 14 nests Amity L area, "numbers very low" (VP).

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Pomfret Twn CHAU (2.5 mi SW of Fredonia) singing in good habitat, carrying food 1 Aug, last 9 Aug (JG, Sr, TM); one Pomfret Twn CHAU 1.5 mi distant from first along Sage Rd 26 Jun, seen carrying food 23 Jul (JG, Jr.). Blue-winged Warbler: y hatching Amity L area 1 Jul (VP). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: ad ASP 6, 12, 28 Jun (PDBA). Prothonotary Warbler: one-two INWR Sour Springs Rd. 3-26 Jun; one TWMA 18 Jun; two INWR feeder Rd. 19 Jun, population expanding?

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: number territorial males Amity L area very low for period. **Dickcissel**: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: 24 recorded on 18 Regional BBS routes. Savannah Sparrow: 304 on 18 BBS routes. Grasshopper Sparrow: three on 18 BBS routes. Henslow's Sparrow: two on 18 BBS routes. Pine Siskin: one-12 Amity L to 16 Jul; one Burns Twn ALLE 30 Jun: one-three Farmersville Station 6, 8, 10, 12 Jun, 8 Jul.

Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, NY 14706

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The most talked about and publicized aspect of the summer season was the weather. While we were not hit as hard as other parts of the nation, we certainly felt the effects of this summer's heat. June was brutally dry. Recorded precipitation was a mere 1.1 inches, nearly two inches below normal. The average temperature of 64.2° was 2.5° below normal. The heat wave began about mid month, and the

high of 95° was attained on 25 Jun. Precipitation began to improve in July. Rain towards the end of the month brought the monthly precipitation total up to 4.31 inches, 1.83 inches above normal. Hot was a key word for July. On nine days the temperature was 90° or higher; the high of 98° occurred on 16 Jul. These high temperatures helped raise the July average to 73.7°, 2.4° above normal. August turned out to be about average. It was hot and dry early in the month but later became cool and damp. The monthly precipitation total of 3.81 inches just exceeded the normal total of 3.2 inches. The temperature averaged 71.1°; the long term average is 69.5°. A high of 95° was reached on 3 Aug.

What effect did this weather have on the birds and birding? Usually June presents us with some late migrant holdovers from the spring flights. This year was no exception, yet it was a different pattern of species that were observed. Did these conditions stall some species which normally pass through by June. A case in point was the late Ruby-crowned Kinglet caught at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station on 1 Jun. This species can be difficult to locate towards the end of May let alone in June. The Rough-legged Hawk there during the first week of June was equally surprising. Swainson's Thrush was reported as late as 6 Jun, and a White-throated Sparrow put in its less unusual late appearance with a report of one in Webster Park on 4 Jun. A female Red-breasted and a female Common merganser spent the summer at Braddock Bay.

Effects of the heat on the nesting season were noted by observers in a couple of areas. One would have thought that the wild food crop would be down. Sufficient rain fell in July and August to keep the food crops at near normal levels. Fruit and berry eating species didn't seem to suffer. A shortage of insects may have existed during the driest portion of the summer. This may have caused smaller brood successes or stress due to increased food gathering efforts by the adults. Major effects were not readily noticeable. There was no indication that fewer insect eating species were present this summer. One apparent result of the heat was less bird song. The birds ceased singing earlier in the day. This made some breeding surveys a bit tougher and perhaps a bit less indicative of the real populations. Another result, which is related directly to human comfort, was the lack of reports from field observers. The heat and humidity made it difficult to conduct sustained birding efforts. Conditions were much better at home amidst the convenience of air conditioners and fans. The dry conditions did expose some mudflats earlier than normal, and periods of rain in August gave us some wet fields, so shorebird habitat was somewhat improved. This affected the August shorebird totals and unusual sightings. The dry season in other parts of the country also may have caused some birds to wander our way.

The nesting season exhibited both pluses and minuses. The herons seemed to fare quite well this season. There are no major Great Blue Heron rookeries within the Region, but the local population was high. They are wandering into our area as non breeders or are feeding along the lakeshore from more distant rookeries. Green-backed Herons were reported in good numbers throughout the period with a nesting concentration at Crusoe Lake in Wayne County. Black-crowned Night-Herons were very evident during the season with a respectable number of the individuals reported as immatures. American Bittern once again was a difficult bird to find. Their numbers continue to decline, and they merit more careful monitoring.

Waterfowl nesting was varied. Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers, both cavity nesters, appeared to have been more successful in recent years. The assistance of nest box programs seems to be helping. Wood Ducks were reported in very good concentrations; and Hooded Mergansers, while not plentiful, seem to be doing well away from the lakeshore. The new Genesee Country Museum Research and Nature Center may become a center for the latter species, as their nest box program produced merganser broods this year. Green-winged Teal numbers continued the recent upward trend with respectable totals reported from later in the season. Conversely, Blue-winged Teal populations seemed on the decline. Some of the marsh birds were somewhat scarcer this summer. Reports of Sora left the impression that totals were below normal. Common Moorhen looks as though it is being squeezed out of the lakeshore by so called progress. Snipe and woodcock populations maintained their status quo as best as could be determined. Loss of habitat has been a real problem for the latter. Our usual Upland Sandpiper haunts were once again successful, yet as limited as usual. There appears to be some minor dispersal with birds being noted near these usual spots.

Hawks showed some interesting pluses. Northern Harriers once again were relatively easy to find. This species, threatened in New York State, has shown recent population increases. Nesting success has not been well documented, but the numbers of individuals present during the nesting season is a good sign. Northern Goshawk was again noted as a nesting species. The hill regions south of Rochester seem to be quite suitable for nesting. Cooper's Hawks may be nesting more regularly along the lakeshore than recently suspected. Good numbers were reported during the summer. American Kestrel, another cavity nester, seemed to fare pretty well. A number of nests were reported from along the lakeshore, and good numbers of juveniles were seen in various lakeshore locations.

Passerine nesting was typically varied. It seemed as though the birds that inhabited wet woodlands were lower in numbers. This included Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart, Mourning Warbler and Veery. Activity suggested a reduced population compared to recent years. Continuing its downward spiral, only a single Loggerhead Shrike was reported this summer season. Interestingly though, its location was near that of a spring report but no mate or nest was located. Some grassland species hinted of smaller numbers. Savannah Sparrow, while still quite common, did not appear to assume their relative abundance of recent years. Henslow's Sparrows were absent along the lakeshore; the Nations Road population remained stable. Golden-winged Warbler once again seemed to decrease. As has been documented in other areas, the Blue-winged Warbler appears to be displacing its relative. "Brewster's" hybrids were noted in two locations. Rounding out the down side was Whip-poor-will. With only a couple of isolated reports, it continues to decline in our Region. All is not doom and gloom. Prairie Warblers once again were found at Letchworth State Park. A Pine Warbler was observed in Ellison Park, a new summer location. Also included in the pluses was Grasshopper Sparrow. Most suitable locations along the lakeshore held this grassland species. Northern Orioles also appeared to have a successful summer season, and the Orchard Orioles nested once again at Pt. Breeze.

This reporting season also encompasses the outset of the fall migration.

Noteworthy was the lack of early season lake observation. As a result, loon reports were down and diver arrivals may have been missed. Local observers also mentioned the lack of wandering herons. Waterfowl reports were relatively scarce, but included some scattered reports of Oldsquaw, Redhead and mergansers. The shorebirds seemed to be about on schedule, but totals were not outstanding. The exposed mudflats at Irondequoit Bay produced some good reports including Willet and Marbled Godwit. The passerine migration was poorly reported. Indications are that the overall total were down somewhat. August movements were mediocre. Warblers and thrushes didn't pass through in the numbers expected for early in the migration season. Sparrows moved in on schedule, but their totals weren't substantial. Next month will give us additional information about the migration.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MB - Manitou Beach; PB - Pt. Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Green-winged Teal: three Kendall 12 Jul, probably nesting. N. Shoveler: arr IB 28 Aug. Redhead: five IB 23 Aug, unusual at this time of year. Lesser Scaup: last two BB 18 Jun. Oldsquaw: female PB 12 Aug, unseasonal. Com. Goldeneye: last BB 7 Jun. Bufflehead: last two Kendall 4 Jun. Com. Merganser: female BB all summer. Red-breasted Merganser: female BB all summer. Ruddy Duck: imm Kendall 12 Jul, very unusual.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Fishers 28 Jun, new location; one BB 24 Jul, unusual time of year. Bald Eagle: one Hogan Pt 4 Jul, unusual in summer away from Regional nest sites. N. Goshawk: two Springwater all summer, nesting. Rough-legged Hawk: one BB 5 Jun, very late. Black-bellied Plover: arr one WL 1 Aug. Lesser Golden Plover: arr four WL 26 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr two WL 6 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr two BB 12 Jul. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr two Greece 12 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr two Greece 12 Jul. **Willet**: one IB 26 Aug (SC), one BB 27 Aug (RO'H), quite uncommon in the region. Whimbrel: one Hamlin 23 Jul. **Marbled Godwit**: one IB 31 Aug (RO'H, DS), first report since 1984. Ruddy Turnstone: arr 12 WL 6 Aug. Red Knot: arr one IB 22 Aug. Sanderling: max 150 PB 21 Jul, excellent total at this time of the year. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two Greece 18 Jul. Western Sandpiper: arr IB 15 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two Greece 12 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr H 15 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr one Hemlock LSP 20 Jul. Stilt Sandpiper: arr one WL 16 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 15 PB 21 Jul. Wilson's Phalarope: arr one WL 6 Aug. Black Tern: max 31 Salmon Creek 20 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: one Camp Cutler, Naples 25 Jun, new location. Whip-poor-will: one East Lakeshore 17 Jul.

FLYCATCHER-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Greece 4 Jul, very unusual in the summer. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr MB 20 Aug. **Common Raven**: one Penfield 15 Jul (RM), uncommon, new location. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush:

*intro*; arr one MB 20 Aug. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Kendall 18-19 Jun (DT, JS), only report.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: "Brewster's" Warbler: one LSP 5 Jun (AC), one Oatka Creek P 17-19 Jun (MR). Tennessee Warbler: last MB 1 Jun. Nashville Warbler: arr MB 30 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr two Greece 26 Aug. Blackburnian Warbler: arr two BB 20 Aug. Pine Warbler: *intro*. Prairie Warbler: max three LSP 23 Jun, successful nesting? Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Durand Eastman Park 7 Aug. Wilson's Warbler: arr MB 20 Aug.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: White-throated Sparrow: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: one PB 6 Jul, a traditional nesting site. Pine Siskin: two ad, one imm MB 22, 24 Jun.

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## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

The summer of 1988 was unusually hot with average to below precipitation in the Finger Lakes Region. June began with adequate soil moisture, but by the month's end this was far less than adequate. Temperatures were cool at the start of June, followed by thunderstorms and showers with pea-sized hail on 3 Jun. As this low-pressure system moved away from the N.Y. coast, a high-pressure gradient developed in the west, causing brisk northwest winds in the Region. On 5 Jun, high winds brought down power lines and tree branches. Temperatures were chilly, with lows around freezing, until 13 Jun when temperatures began to rise and some high temperature records were set on 14-15 Jun. For the rest of June, temperatures and precipitation were seasonable. During July, drought conditions intensified and temperatures were well above normal with many days in the nineties. There was little or no rainfall until 9 Jul, when severe thunderstorms brought up to two inches of rain. Power lines and trees were damaged in parts of Cayuga County following more thunderstorms on 14 Jul. Except for a third rainy period from 17-22 Jul, the weather was exceptionally hot and humid. This trend continued into the first 17 days of August, with temperatures averaging 6-10° above normal. Cold fronts and associated thunderstorms were recorded during 5-6 August, 14-18 August, and 28-30 Aug. Storms on 28 Aug were severe enough to destroy barns and uproot trees in the Region, and at Jacksonville in Tompkins County a tornado demolished trees and houses, and caused one death. However, total rainfall for August was well below normal for the Region and many days were unusually hot and humid.

Maximum numbers for waterfowl and shorebirds were reported at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A breeding population of 49 Canada Geese produced an estimated 220 young, and the maximum number of Canada Geese at the Refuge reached 500 during June. A breeding population of 60 Wood Ducks produced an estimated 544 young, and a maximum of 610 Wood Duck were present there in June. In August, following the breeding season, the following waterfowl maxima were obtained: 1400 Mallard, 150 Am. Black Duck, 80 Green-winged Teal, and 40 Blue-winged Teal. Other maxima were: 704 Great Blue Heron, 20 Green-backed Heron, and 80 Black-crowned Night Heron. During