

tiwake: arr Fort Erie 6 Nov. Sabine's Gull: one LaSalle P, Buffalo, 20 Sep; two Niagara River, 5 Nov. Forster's Tern: two reports DH in Sep; 5 reports Niagara R in Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Goat I 10 Sep, last of the two cuckoos (BOS). Long-eared Owl: one Porter Twn NIAG 20 Nov, only report. Com. Night-hawk: max 300 DH 2 Sep; last BIPB 21 Sep. Chimney Swift: max 480 Buffalo 20 Sep. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *intro*. Red-bellied Woodpecker: six reports on lake plain through period (BOS). Red-headed Woodpecker: singles TFNP 10 Sep, Pt Gratiot 24 Sep, only reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Lewiston 19, 23 Oct., wintering? Com. Flicker: nine BOSOC ALLE 16 Oct, two BOSOC CATT 16 Oct, seven BOSOC CHAU 16 Oct, probably some wintering on good crops of grapes (*Vitis riparia*) and other fruits.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: *Myiarchus* sp.: one INWR 11 Oct (DE). N. Rough-winged Swallow: six NiagF 6 Nov, one 12 Nov, late. Bank Swallow: one BIPB 18 Sep, late. Com. Raven: continues to appear in CATT and ALLE at regular intervals. Tufted Titmouse: singles Willing Twn, ALLE 5 Sep, Amity L 27 Sep, NiagF 30 Sep; five reports Oct, three reports Nov (BOS); continues increase from 1976-77 low. Carolina Wren: six reports Sep, four reports Oct (BOS). Marsh Wren: five Machias 24 Sep, first CATT record since 1968; one TFNP 1 Oct. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Amity L 23 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr three Pt Gratiot 15 Sep. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two arr Tonawanda Twn 11 Sep. N. Mockingbird: one Lewiston Res 19 Sep; one Alfred 3-30 Nov; five other reports lake plain (BOS). Water Pipit: max 83 Charlotte Twn CHAU 21 Oct; one Wilson Twn NIAG 25 Nov, late. N. Shrike: singles LBSP 30 Oct, Grand I 30 Oct, INWR 19 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED, Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TFNP 25 Sep; one Alfred Twn ALLE 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr four Goat I 8 Sep. Pine Warbler: arr INWR 4 Sep; one TFNP 25 Sep. Prairie Warbler: one Amity L PDBA 15 Sep, late. Palm Warbler: arr two LBSP 11 Sep. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Williamsville Glen 1 Sep. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Goat I 10 Sep. Kentucky Warbler: one Ft Niagara SP 5 Sep (!). Connecticut Warbler: one banded Alfred Twn ALLE 19 Sep (EB, ph); one PTwn 9 Oct. Mourning Warbler: one PTwn 23 Sep, late. Hooded Warbler: one PTwn 23 Sep. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Tonawanda Twn 3 Sep, late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: two CNS 24 Sep, late. Rufous-sided Towhee: one at feeder PTwn 22 Nov. Vesper Sparrow: one Amity L 12 Sep. Fox Sparrow: arr PTwn 30 Sep. White-throated Sparrow: arr four Goat I 15 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr TFNP 30 Sep. Lapland Longspur: one Wilson 25 Nov. Snow Bunting: arr 23 Lewiston Res 21 Oct; max 300 Buffalo 12 Nov. Rusty Blackbird: arr five TFNP 18 Sep. N. Oriole: one NiagF 13 Sep, late. Pine Siskin: three Porter Twn NIAG 20 Nov, only report

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REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The early season began on the cold side but ended on somewhat of a warming trend. September was cooler than usual with an average temperature of 60.1°, slightly more than 2° below normal. The temperature varied from the high of 81° at mid month to lows in the 30's. Precipitation was about an inch below normal at 1.69 inches. October was abnormally cold. Its average of 48.5° was nearly 6° below normal. A high of 82° on 1 Oct was one of the few warm days during the month. Mid month saw a reading of 76°, but the rest of the month

was cold, wet and dreary. The low of 21° was recorded on the last day of the month. The precipitation total of 2.54" was an insignificant 0.2 inches below the average. November was less variable, and a mild 42.6° average temperature brought some relief from what appeared to be a cold fall. This was 2° above normal. The total precipitation of 1.68 inches was 0.97 inches above normal. Snowfall, an insignificant 0.2 inches, was well below the average for the season.

Overall the weather had little effect on bird life in the Region. While it was generally gray and cold, there were no major fronts or storms to bring good numbers of migrants. The unusually cold October was quite possibly responsible for some hastened departures. The migration generally was poor for unknown reasons. Of course the summer's drought is possibly at least a partial cause.

The population trends of various groups describes the migration and consequently the season itself. Loon numbers seemed down during the period. Common Loons became more numerous later in the season but were still scarce. Red-throated Loons were seen less frequently than in recent years; a record arrival date for Monroe County is still waiting substantiation. This negative trend also appeared to be true for the grebes. Horned Grebe appeared in fewer numbers this season. One species that continues to do well is Double-crested Cormorant. Lakeshore totals were especially good at Braddock Bay. Herons and egrets tend to be less noticeable species in the fall, yet some positives were evident. The Black-crowned Night-Heron reports demonstrated a mild increase. This was also the case for Green-backed Heron, which also seemed to persist a bit later than usual. The waterfowl picture was, as is usual, somewhat varied. Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal were reported in relatively strong numbers, and Am. Black Duck totals, while certainly not approaching historical levels, were at least mildly encouraging. Wintering populations of diving ducks suggested, at least early in the season, that it wasn't a great breeding season. Numbers were down, and the usual large flocks of scaup and mergansers were not as prominent. Things did seem to improve late in the season. Brant reports along the lakeshore were mediocre. Waterfowl variety was enhanced by reports of King Eider and Harlequin Duck.

The hawks provided some highlights. The resident species, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel, were found in good numbers. Their nesting seasons must have been fairly good. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were well reported, and a couple of Goshawk reports were submitted. Buteos were represented by Red-shouldered Hawk in September and a fair influx of wintering Rough-legged Hawks in October.

Irondequoit Bay once again proved to be the best location in the Region for shorebirds, but there was little good habitat elsewhere. The consensus was that numbers of most regular migrants were up slightly. Plover numbers were only fair. The dryness of the fields may have been a contributing factor. Another negative was dowitchers, whose numbers were noticeably down. On the plus side were Hudsonian Godwits. Reports came from all three months, and a bird stayed at Braddock Bay up to the record late date of Nov 30. Other shorebird highlights included Willet and Marbled Godwit.

The once expected jaeger flights never materialized at Hamlin Beach. Unfavorable winds may have contributed to the poor totals. One observer feels that the pattern may be changing and that this decline may be a continuing trend. Gulls were lackluster as a group. Great Black-backed Gull continued its increase while

Little Gull again fell off from excellent totals of just a few years ago. The gull highlights consisted of a Laughing Gull at Russell Station, a Glaucous Gull at Braddock Bay, and a kittiwake at Greece. Terns were scarce, with few reports of any significant numbers.

The only widely reported owl was Short-eared, which moved into their traditional haunts by mid November and built some numbers by the end of the season. Retsoff was once again a good location, and these owls also were spotted along the lakeshore, though in reduced numbers from the last couple of years. A single Snowy Owl sighting in November was the only one for that species. One very interesting phenomenon was a single day Common Nighthawk flight in Greece on 1 Sep, when Frank Dobson counted 346 individuals during a 45 minute stretch. This is much better than recent years' fall totals. A repeat performance was hoped for on the following evening, but only a single bird was tallied. An intergrade Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station by Betsy Brooks for the second year in a row.

Flycatcher numbers were about on par with the usual totals. Least Flycatchers were probably the most numerous flycatcher migrant. Olive-sided Flycatcher was poorly reported. Swallows were recorded in about average numbers. Cliff Swallows seemed to be doing fairly well. Tree and Bank Swallows were found in their usual staging concentrations later in the season. The corvid highlight was a Common Raven that spent 12 days in South Bristol. Wrens were noteworthy only in the fact that their totals generally were nondescript. Sedge Wren continued to go unreported while Winter Wren seemed to be on the upside, even without the large concentrations at Beatty Point as last year. Kinglets apparently did well this summer, for they were well reported along the lakeshore. Of special interest were some late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Point Breeze. They were last seen on 1 Dec. The general feeling on thrushes was that they were scarcer than usual. Swainsons and Gray-cheeked were less numerous at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. Waxwings were poorly reported during the season. The first Northern Shrike was sighted on 23 Nov.

Vireos were poorly reported. Solitary and Philadelphia Vireos were scarce. It was much the same for warblers. On the negative side we had Golden-winged, Nashville, Black-throated Green and Cerulean Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Even the usually common Yellow-rumped Warbler seemed to be down. There were a few positives. Magnolia Warblers were quite numerous, and Ovenbirds seemed to be slightly more numerous than in recent falls. Common Yellowthroat was also well reported. Unusual species included Orange-crowned and Prairie Warblers.

Hogan Point once again was a spot for finding good concentrations of sparrows. There were good numbers of Savannah, Song and Swamp Sparrows. White-crowned Sparrow also seemed to be present in fairly good numbers. A feeling prevalent throughout the Region was that White-throated Sparrows were below recent years' totals. The finch story was rather gloomy. Recent years have seen good flights of siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. Neither of these were present in any numbers. Purple Finches were also quite scarce. The only notable finch reports came from Hamlin Beach where a Red Crossbill and two White-winged Crossbills were seen in November.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park; HB - Hamlin Beach; HP - Hogan Point; IB - Irondequoit Bay; MB - Manitou Beach; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Greece 28 Sep (KG), record early, awaiting additional documentation. Horned Grebe: max 81 HB 19 OCT. Red-necked Grebe: one HB 12 Oct, uncommon in fall. Great Egret: one Greece 12 Nov, late. Green-backed Heron: one Salmon Creek 29 Oct (MD, JS), very late. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 17 IB 15 Sep. Brant: arr 40 HB 28 Oct, last Pt Breeze 12 Nov. Green-winged Teal: max 40 WL 6 Nov. Ring-necked Duck: arr 18 Webster 14 Oct. Greater Scaup: arr 15 Greece 26 Sep. Lesser Scaup: max 1000+ Greece 5 Nov. King Eider: female IB 20-30 Nov (CC, MR, mob), seemingly regular in recent years. Harlequin Duck: female Charlotte 11 Nov (KG); female BB 24 Nov (KG, ROs). Oldsquaw: arr 100 Greece 28 Sep. Black Scoter: arr one Greece 13 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr one HB 12 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr three HB 16 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr 36 HB 23 Oct. Bufflehead: arr three BB 21 Oct. Com. Merganser: arr one BB 17 Sep. Ruddy Duck: max seven Greece 19 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: N. Goshawk: imm MB 10 Sep; one HB 17 Sep. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Clyde 11 Sep. Rough-legged Hawk: arr one WL 15 Oct. Merlin: one Springwater 1-30 Sep, one Cobb's Hill 15 Sep, one IB 1 Nov. Peregrine Falcon: ad HP 10 Oct (JC,MD,PR). Lesser Golden-Plover: arr five Hamlin 12 Oct, last one IB 12 Nov. Killdeer: max 180 IB 27 Oct. Willet: one Charlotte 3 Sep (KG, ROs), uncommon in fall. Whimbrel: one BB 11 Sep (FD), uncommon. Hudsonian Godwit: one-four IB 5 Sep-31 Oct (MR, JS, mobs), one IB 1-12 Nov (mob); one BB 12-30 Nov, record late. Marbled Godwit: one IB very uncommon, first since 1986. Purple Sandpiper: max three BB 11 Nov (CC,RH, mob), one IB 20 Nov (MR). Stilt Sandpiper: max 46 IB 4 Sep. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one-two Greece 3-5 Sep (KG,ROs), only reports. Com. Snipe: max 61 Salmon Creek 21 Oct. Am. Woodcock: last Mendon Ponds 6 Nov. Red Phalarope: two HB 18 Nov (CC, RO'H), one IB 29 Nov (CC). Pomarine Jaeger: one HB 12 Oct, one HB 19 Oct, poor total for the season. Parasitic Jaeger: max two HB 22 Oct, another very poor total. Little Gull: arr one HB 9 Nov. **Laughing Gull**: one Russell Station 11 Sep (FD). Black-legged Kittiwake: imm Greece 13 Oct (KG), only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: max 15 Retsoff 26 Nov. Com. Nighthawk; *intro*; last Webster 1 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr DEP 19 Sep.

FLYCATHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Webster 3 Sep, only report, scarce. Willow Flycatcher: last DEP 3 Sep. Eastern Phoebe: max 10 BPt 15 Oct. **W. Kingbird**: one Avon 5 Sep (J&AF), seventh Regional record, first since 1986. **Com. Raven**: one S Bristol 1-12 Oct (JC). Winter Wren: last HB 3 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Webster 6 Nov, late. Water Pipit: last 30 Hamlin 20 Oct. N. Shrike: arr one Greece 23 Nov.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Orange-crowned Warbler: one Greece 12 Oct, only report, scarce. Pine Warbler: one Cobb's Hill 13 Sep, only report. **Prairie Warbler**: imm MB 10 Sep (KG, ROs), second fall record MONR. Palm Warbler: last Greece 1 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr two MB 20 Oct. Vesper Sparrow: one Greece 1 Oct, not doing very well. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one Greece 9 Oct (SC, CC),

becoming regular. Fox Sparrow: arr one MB 18 Oct. Oregon Dark-eyed Junco: male Irondequoit 12 Nov (B&BP). Lapland Longspur: arr six HB 19 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr one IB 17 Sep. Red Crossbill: one HB 15 Nov, only report. White-winged Crossbill: two HB 26 Nov (RO'H), only report. Pine Siskin: arr Webster 24 Oct, poor year.

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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September was cool and dry in the Finger Lakes. The month's cool weather was advantageous to New York's apple crop as it improved coloring of the fruit. It was, however, no help to the vegetable farmers since it slowed the ripening of some of their crops. Soil moisture was "adequate" throughout the month and many farmers took advantage of the dry weather by making rapid progress in the harvesting of fruits, vegetables, and some field crops. It was one of the driest Septembers in twenty years.

Birders reported waves of neotropical migrants during periods of high barometric pressure, in advance of cold fronts. Region 3 bird banders reported surges of migrants on 1 Sep, and fifteen species of warblers, as well as flocks of vireos, tanagers, and wood warblers were reported in the 'hundreds' from Finger Lakes National Forest on 3 and 9 Sep by J. Brubaker. Present in the migration waves on 3 and 9 Sep were Blue-winged, Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Black-and-white and Hooded Warbler, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat.

The Regional Climate Center at Cornell University reported that smoke from the fires at Yellowstone National Park caused statewide temperatures to be 2 to 6°F. below normal during the early part of September. The first freezing temperatures of the season occurred on schedule around 28 Sep, when as many as 8 warbler species were still present at Finger Lakes National Forest. As the leaves dropped from deciduous trees & shrubs, an exceptionally abundant fruit crop of Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* came into view, promising plenty of food for wintering birds and wildlife.

Cooler than normal temperatures continued into October, making it the coldest October in ten years and the sixth coldest on record, on a statewide basis. Region 3 received more than the usual precipitation during the month. A low-pressure system over North Carolina developed into a 'northeaster' on 22 Oct, resulting in winter storm warnings, up to nine inches of heavy snow, and tree damage and downed power lines from the heavy wet snowfall. Thousands of people were without electricity following the snowstorm. Ithaca and the surrounding area received a surprising 6.5 inches for the month, all in that one storm, the most ever in the month of October. A flock of 150 Water Pipit, presumably downed by the storm, spent 22 Oct around Clute Pond at Watkins Glen.

Bird banders reported migrant surges in October following the passage of cold fronts into the Region on 8 and 19 Oct. October was also the peak month for migrant waterfowl at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, with maxima of 500