

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The fall season was typically variable. We had some warm days, some cold days and some in between days. Precipitation was about average for the season. September had an average temperature of 61.7°, which was 0.5° below normal. The precipitation of 2.82 inches was only 0.16 inches above average. October's temperature of 52.6° was 0.9° higher than usual. Late in the month some highs reached the 70's. Precipitation was up slightly at 3.13". November saw a sudden temperature drop at mid month. This put the average temperature 2.5° below normal at 38.1°. Precipitation also was down to 2.01 inches, which was 0.64 inches below normal.

The season was somewhat disappointing in the sense that there were few really good migration days. Whether this was due to conditions or population changes is really not known. We anticipated fallout from Hurricane *Hugo*, which faded before it reached our area and had little if any effect on the Region's birds. We should remember the misfortune that this storm brought to those living in South Carolina and not always think in terms of our own birding experiences.

Birding along Lake Ontario proved to be fairly good. Common Loon was numerous this fall and Red-throated Loon had a single day record high of over 2000 at Pt. Breeze on 31 Oct. Horned Grebe numbers were slightly better than in recent years and the other grebes were present in average numbers. Double-crested Cormorant reports increased towards the end of the season and began to fade in November. There were some waterfowl highlights. Brant had some good totals, and a flock of over 200 birds put down on one of the lakeshore ponds was an unusual sighting in the Region. Tundra Swans reached a maximum of 46 birds at Sodus on 26 Nov. Their numbers are normally much smaller than during the spring migration. Snow Geese seemed to be a bit more plentiful than normal. Puddle ducks generally had reduced numbers while diving duck numbers were about average. Great Blue Herons was still being seen in the area by the end of the season, and two October reports of American Bittern were good.

Shorebirds, as usual, received a mixed review. Habitat was fair to poor yet there were some highlights. Hudsonian Godwit continued to be well reported as was White-rumped Sandpiper late in the season. There were a few lingerers with a late godwit and some Black-bellied Plover and Greater Yellowlegs. Lesser Golden-Plover seemed to be down. Jaeger numbers were mediocre, perhaps due to the lack of coverage at the Hamlin Beach overlook. Gulls were about average, with Glaucous and Laughing Gull being the two high points. Black-legged Kittiwake

reports were down. Terns were generally average with a good total for Common Tern and a few reports of Forster's Tern.

Raptors were about normal with a good influx of Rough-legged Hawk and good numbers of accipiters, particularly Cooper's Hawk. There were a smattering of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports to keep the appetites for falcons whetted. Owls tend not to be a fall concern but Barred Owl was found at a new location at Mendon Ponds and a single Long-eared Owl sighting was good in fall. Short-eared Owl moved into the Region during the season with good totals.

The passerine migration was lackluster. Flycatchers were down in general, with the highlight being a late Eastern Kingbird report. Olive-sided Flycatcher was poorly reported this fall. There were some good swallow counts. A good movement of chickadees was noted during the season. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper moved through the Region in good numbers, as did kinglets and Winter Wren. Thrushes only experienced a few good days and were generally scarce. A **Varied Thrush** was observed in Webster for a period of time and very likely was the highlight of the season. Bohemian Waxwing began to show up late in the season. Vireos and warblers were poor at best. Few good flight days existed and species totals were low. The only good flight was of Yellow-rumped Warbler late in the season. Sparrows weren't especially numerous until late in the season. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** put in its now expected appearance at Hogan Point on 9 Oct, but not as many were found as in recent years. There was a suggestion of an impending finch winter with reports of Pine Siskin, redpolls, both crossbills and some grosbeaks.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro* (WL). Common Loon: max 1000 Webster 20 Oct. Horned Grebe: 500+ WL 29 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: four WL 29 Oct (R&SS), uncommon in the fall. Double-crested Cormorant: max 210 BB 13 Sep. Am. Bittern: *intro*. Green-backed Heron: last HB 29 Oct (R&SS), late. Tundra Swan: *intro*. Brant: max 2700+ HB 18 Oct (FD), good total. Redhead: arr two

Kendall 24 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr 13 HB 24 Sep. Com. Goldeneye: arr four HB 17 Oct. Bufflehead: arr one HB 17 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: two imm BB 9 Sep; imm WAYN 25 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr HB 9 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: one E Rochester 23 Sep (PM), one Penfield 8 Oct (PM). Ruffed Grouse: one Moul Rd, Parma 26 Sep (FD), new location. Com. Moorhen: last four BB 16 Oct. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 110 WL 1 Sep. Hudsonian Godwit: max seven Kendall and IB 29 Oct, three-six IB 21-28 Oct. Ruddy Turnstone: last OB 7 Oct. Red Knot: last OB 7 Oct. White-rumped Sandpiper: 25-27 IB 27-31 Oct, good count for Region. Purple Sandpiper: one IB 3-9 Nov, two BB 10 Nov, fair total. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one HB 3 Sep, one WL 9 Sep, poor year. Red Phalarope: one IB 5-7 Nov (MR, mob), seldom found. Parasitic Jaeger: max five HB 22 Oct. Little Gull: arr one IB 3 Nov, scarce. Glaucous Gull: ad HB 9 Oct; one in Basic I plumage HB 14 Nov. Black-legged Kittiwake: one Manitou 16 Sep (RO'H), scarce. Com. Tern: max 100 HB 10 Sep (DS, MT).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: last Greece 5 Oct, late. Barred Owl: one Mendon 12 Oct, new locale. Long-eared Owl: one Manitou 1 Nov (CC). Short-eared Owl: arr three Lima 8 Nov. Com. Nighthawk: max 45 Rochester 6 Sep, fair total for fall. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one DEP 19-25 Nov, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Island Cottage Woods 23 Sep. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last is only report. E. Kingbird: *intro* (KG). Winter Wren: arr one Penfield 19 Sep, last one DEP 11 Nov. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Manitou 13 Nov. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Webster 29 Oct. **Varied Thrush**: female Webster 4 Nov (MAS), first report in recent years. Bohemian Waxwing: three Greece 13 Nov (BMA), three DEP 23 Nov (MR), off to a good start. N. Shrike: arr BB 25 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBBLERS: Blue-winged Warbler: none. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Oatka Creek P 11 Oct (CC), scarce. N. Parula: last is only report. Cape May Warbler: none. Pine Warbler: last Letchworth SP 1 Oct. Palm Warbler: last WL 14 Oct. N. Waterthrush: last is only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: arr WL 26 Oct. Fox Sparrow: arr Springwater 26 Sep, last DEP 8 Nov. Sharp-tailed Sparrow: *intro* (KG). Lapland Longspur: arr three HB 14 Oct. Snow Bunting: arr 60 East Lakeshore 21 Oct. Rusty Blackbird: arr one-four WL 28 Sep. N. Oriole: one Greece 16 Nov, late. Red Crossbill: max seven 9 Oct. Com. Redpoll: arr HB 28 Oct. Pine Siskin: arr Manitou 28 Sep. Evening Grosbeak: arr DEP 28 Oct, scarce once again.

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