

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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Meteorologically, the summer season held no real surprises. June was the most inconsistent of the three months with an average temperature of 67.2°. Precipitation measured 2.88 inches. July was quite stable with close to average temperatures throughout the month, and precipitation was only slightly above normal at 3.05 inches. August similarly showed little, if any, real variation from the norm. These conditions should have provided a good nesting season. No surprise rain deluges caused havoc and the season certainly wasn't as dry as some years. Wild food was available and insects were not lacking. With such positive conditions one would have anticipated a banner nesting season. Of course, not all nesting success revolves around the weather and climatic conditions. Therefore, the nesting season was once again a series of positives and negatives.

A look through the summer species provides us with a picture of the season. Common Loon was reported in surprising numbers; breeding was not evident. Pied-billed Grebe was scarce. Traditional nesting sites along Lake Ontario west of Rochester produced only a single sighting. The continued increase of summering Double-crested Cormorant raises the possibility of nesting in the future if they can find suitable habitat. Nesting herons and bitterns were in short supply. American Bittern continued to be scarce, and Least Bittern showed somewhat of a decline. Its traditional stronghold at Buck Pond in Greece didn't produce expected totals. For the most part Green-backed Heron numbers seemed down except for a pocket of nesting in Wayne County east of Rochester, where they were common during the atlasing period. Black-crowned Night-Heron was uncommon. The first successful nesting of Mute Swan at Braddock Bay was met with mixed emotions. Some observers and nonbirders were thrilled with the prospect of seeing them, while others were concerned about their aggressive nature and their habit of discouraging other nesting waterfowl. Two young were seen with the adults at the end of the season. Other waterfowl that appeared to do well included Canada Goose, Gadwall and American Wigeon along the shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester. Mallard and Green-winged Teal seemed down slightly from the last couple of years. Wood Duck seemed to be doing fairly well. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal

continued to experience a decline, and the latter has been down noticeably for the last few years. The continued nesting of Hooded Merganser at Genesee Country Nature Center has been a real plus.

Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel reports were about normal. Accipiter totals seemed down slightly, and there were no reports of N. Goshawk as has been the case in recent seasons. Red-shouldered Hawk also went unreported as a nester. Ring-necked Pheasant was well reported, perhaps pointing to a reverse of their somewhat mercuric decline of recent years. Wild Turkey numbers continued to expand along Lake Ontario.

The marsh dwellers, Sora, Virginia Rail and Common Moorhen, appeared to experience a decline. Observations by canoe, which usually report good numbers, were considerably lower than normal. One observer commented that if the causes are not explained then we are experiencing a serious decline. Upland Sandpiper seemed to be fairly stable if not increasing slightly, although numbers are not very high. Spotted Sandpiper seemed to be down somewhat as a nester. Ring-billed Gull attempted to nest atop a Kodak building in Rochester again, but nesting was successfully discouraged by the company due to unsanitary conditions brought about by the nesting birds. Black Tern seemed to be holding their own in the areas of concentration near the lakeshore, but numbers on the whole continue to be quite low.

Cuckoos showed some promise early in the season, especially near gypsy moth infestations, but slacked off during the season and were not very plentiful. Bergen Swamp once again provided the summer highlight for nesting owls. N. Saw-whet Owl was heard calling into June. While no nests actually have been discovered, nesting has been suspected in recent years. Barred Owl also was present in the swamp as has normally been the case. The caprimulgids continued to be of concern. Whip-poor-will, for all general purposes, has been nonexistent as a breeder. Common Nighthawk was present only at a couple of locations, and breeding was not confirmed. Ruby-throated Hummingbird seemed typically active at feeders and flower beds were visited regularly as in recent years.

Acadian Flycatcher continued to appear in new locations as well as traditional nesting sites. Eastern Kingbird may have been on the plus side while Least Flycatcher and Great Crested Flycatcher appeared to be on the down side. The former was very scarce compared to recent years. The swallows were not at usual levels. Tree Swallow experienced some losses with the early season cold and wet of spring, but they did renest.

Purple Martin was scarce along Lake Ontario. Congregations of Bank Swallows late in the season were smaller than usual. Sedge Wren, never numerous but some usually evident, was absent again this year. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was scarce in typical habitat and traditional nesting sites. Golden-crowned Kinglet, on the other hand, continued to do well in Regional spruce plantations. American Robin and the Eastern Bluebird did well, Veery appeared down slightly and Wood Thrush was somewhat of a puzzle, generally down but with some good concentrations. Gray Catbird was at standard levels and Northern Mockingbird exhibited their usual scattering of reports. Brown Thrasher was scarce. An interesting puzzle was the **Loggerhead Shrike** in marginal habitat at Geneseo on 22 Jun. It was not found on the following day. Perhaps a repeat next year will give us something to work with.

Yellow-throated Vireo seemed to have a successful season and were widespread in typical habitat. Solitary Vireo was found at the higher elevations, and Red-eyed and Warbling Vireo numbers were about par. The warblers demonstrated a variety of situations. Overall they showed low numbers, especially for Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white and Mourning Warblers, N. Waterthrush and Yellow-breasted Chat. Hooded Warbler once again was quite plentiful in Letchworth State Park. Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat were easily the most abundant warbler species.

Sparrow trends were few. Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continued to be hard to find or scarce. The usual breeding locations held some individuals yet numbers were small. Field Sparrow seemed to be down slightly in its usual locations. Dark-eyed Junco appeared to have a good nesting season in the higher elevations. Eastern Meadowlark numbers seemed to be up while Northern Oriole numbers were reduced. Purple Finch continued to be scarce. Some observers blame the House Finch for the Purple Finch's decline, but the two differ in habitat preference and Purple Finch was already declining here before the House Finch invaded. There was evidence of Pine Siskin breeding throughout the season. This is typical of years when wintering and migration numbers are good.

This season encompasses the end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall movement. Another highlight was the possible resighting of an **Am. White Pelican** that was seen a number of times in May. Late spring highlights included Black Scoter, Willet, Western Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. A Sanderling at Ontario Beach on 2 Jun was noteworthy. Few are reported in the area during the spring

migration. Late passerines included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and a few warbler species. An unusually large flock of Cedar Waxwing was reported from Pt. Breeze in June.

Returning shorebirds were evident in July. Whimbrel headed the group with multiple sightings. More shorebirds arrived by August, with good numbers of Sanderling and a single Red Knot being highlights. The passerine migration was of little note. There was no evidence of a real push of migrants. Only a few warblers were noted towards the end of the month.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park, HH - Harriet Hollister Specer Park, ICW - Island Cottage Woods, OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte, PtB - Point Breeze, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Hemlock L 1 Jul; max five Keuka L. **Am. White Pelican**: one Greece 23 Jun (RC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 150 BB 31 Aug. Cattle Egret: three Hamlin 7 Jun, unusual time of the year. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 BB 31 Aug, good total. Tundra Swan: one Greece 5 Jun, late. Mute Swan: *intro*. Gadwall: four ad and y Kendall 19 Jul. **Am. Wigeon**: two Kendall 28 July. Black Scoter: one Greece 6 Jun, unseasonal. Bufflehead: on BB 17 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Greece 18 Jun, late; arr Williamson 3 Aug. Bald Eagle: ad Letchworth SP 2 Jun, from Hemlock L nesting pair?; two imm Hamlin 3 Jun; one Williamson 3 Aug; one Hamlin 5 Aug; good summer totals. Merlin: one Springwater 1-15 Aug; one Greece 20 Aug. Wild Turkey: three HBSP 20 Aug, new location. Semipalmated Plover: one Perinton 10-14 Jun, injured bird. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Perinton 3 Jun, one Manitou 3 Jun, late. Willet: one OB 2 Jun, uncommon. Upland Sandpiper: max 15 Batavia 5 Aug (CC), good total. Whimbrel: one Greece 5 Jul (ROs), one OB 12 Jul (RMa), one PtB 19 Jul (RO'H), one OB 18 Aug (CC), one HBSP 29 Aug (CC), more than usual. Red Knot: one OB 20 Aug (CC), uncommon. Sanderling: *intro*; arr OB 24 Jul; max 120 OB 20 Aug. W. Sandpiper: two OB 2 Jun, uncommon in June [*White-rumped Sandpiper is more likely - The Editor*]. Least Sandpiper: arr four OB 24 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one Perinton 2 Jun. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: one Salmon Creek, Greece 16 Jul (JS), new location. N. Saw-whet: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: max 25 Rochester 30 Aug. Whip-poor-will: one Manitou 3 Jun.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one ICW 1 Jun, one PtB 24 Jun, poor total, late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last three ICW 1 Jun. Acadian Flycatcher: one Huron 8 Jul, new location; two HH 23 Jun, continued breeding there. Bank Swallow: max 1000 Manitou 28 Jul, poor total. Winter Wren: one Irondequoit 1-30 Jun, one Webster 28 Jun, unusual locations. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Manitou 8 Jun. Swainson's Thrush: arr Greece 30 Aug. N. Mockingbird: max six Nations Road 22 July. Cedar Waxwing: max 5000 PtB 1 Jun (WL). **Loggerhead Shrike: intro.**

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Manitou 22 Aug. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Lawrence's" Canadice Lake 23 Jun, very unusual; several sightings of "Brewster's". Tennessee Warbler: last ICW 1 Jun; arr Greece 30 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Greece 30 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Greece 30 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: one Manitou 8 Jun, late. Wilson's Warbler: last Manitou 8 Jun; arr Greece 29 Aug. Canada Warbler: one Greece 19 Aug, early.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: White-crowned Sparrow: one Webster 4 Jun (MAS), very late. Orchard Oriole: one Hamlin 16 Jun (KG), new location; three imm Huron 8 Jul (RS). Pine Siskin: one PtB 7 Jul, one Webster 8 Jul, three (ad with y) Manitou 21 Jul; one Webster 24 Jul.

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