

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a fall to remember. A visitor from afar led the list. The weather and the resulting migration took a back seat. September was pretty much average. The temperature was slightly below average at 60.7°. The precipitation was 0.7 inches above normal at 2.66 inches. The coldest day of the month was on 18 Sep, when it reached 37°. October was a different story. The temperature range for the month was 56°, with a high of 83° on 6 Oct and a low of 27° on 27 Oct. The average was slightly above normal at 52.1°. It was also a wet month, with a total precipitation of 4.37 inches,

1.83 inches above normal. November was mild and wintry weather was postponed once again. There were six days with temperatures over 60°, and it reached a balmy 74° on 28 Nov. The average temperature of 42.4° was almost 2° above normal. The precipitation total of 2.27 inches was less than an half inch below normal.

The meteorological conditions seemed to have no significant effect on the migration, which was somewhat slow for the most part. There were few really good days of migration. October's species total was fairly good but numbers of individuals of some species seemed low again. The lack of consistent day to day coverage of the lakeshore may account for some of the lower totals. There were some late departures, including a record late Alder Flycatcher and a very late Bay-breasted Warbler. Some of the fall arrivals were late compared to recent trends, and the mild weather may have contributed to both of those trends.

The ornithological event of the season most assuredly was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**. Bob and Hedy Marcotte of Greece first spotted it along Moscow Road in Hamlin while taking their somewhat traditional Sunday tour of the west lakeshore birding spots. A phone call started a whirlwind of events that brought eager visitors to Moscow Road from around the country. The bird was first seen on 7 Oct and was last reported on 15 Oct. The events that led to its arrival are unknown, but this species often appears in North America at this time of the year.

Also of interest were two western subspecies seen during the season: an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler and a "Gray-headed" Dark-eyed Junco in Hamlin. [*All such observations deserve review by the NYSARC - The Editor*]

Loon and grebe totals were only fair. Double-crested Cormorants, on the other hand, were present in large numbers throughout the season as they continued to increase here. The best of the long-legged waders were up to three Glossy Ibis, which remained through the period. Black-crowned Night-Heron persisted in number through the season. Also of interest were two reports of **Northern Gannet** from separate locations along the west lakeshore. This species has been reported a few times in recent years.

The waterfowl picture was somewhat muddled. Brant were noted on a few days, but no real buildup of Canada Goose was recorded along the lake. This is a recent trend. Other waterfowl seemed to be scarce early in the season but began to increase as the season progressed. Dark-

winged scoters were sighted in good numbers well offshore and Common Goldeneye produced good counts by the end of November. This was also true of mergansers. Hooded Mergansers persisted through the period. Puddle ducks were either about average or slightly down, and the hunting season made observations of this group difficult at times.

Shorebird totals were once again controlled by the availability of habitat. Numbers started out fairly good but dropped off quickly in October. Red Phalarope and Purple Sandpiper were obvious misses for the season. In recent years good numbers of jaegers have been seen from the Hamlin overlook. This year was not one of the good years. Critical weather patterns seemed to be missing and sightings were few. Gulls were not particularly numerous but provided some seasonal highlights, including **Sabine's Gull**, **Franklin's Gull**, and **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Bonaparte's Gull showed good numbers late in the season, and a few Little Gull were reported with them. Tern totals were very weak this season. All expected species were seen but with substandard numbers of individuals.

Bald Eagle continued to show recovery, with a number of sightings from around the Region. Peregrine Falcon echoed the same trend with continued reports of this species. Snowy Owl was first reported in November, but few individuals lingered for extended observation. The fall movement of Short-eared Owl was noted at Beatty Point.

The passerine migration was slow. Sedge Wren, found for the first time in a couple of years, was a highlight of the season. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was also good. Gray-cheeked Thrush were reported at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station in good numbers. Warblers continued their downward trend. Sparrows were highlighted by a buildup at Beatty Point, the best a record maximum of at least six **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on 6 Oct. The area also held large numbers of other species including Savannah, Swamp, Song, Field, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow. Fox Sparrow was well reported in the Region and stayed later than usual at Durand-Eastman Park. The fall flight of finches was lackluster. A few Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were joined by a scattering of Red Crossbill.

Contributors: Richard Ashworth, Sue Boettger, Nancy Boudrie, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids, Frank Dobson, Steve Donahue, John Foster, Kevin Griffith, Andy Grimsey, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Greg

Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Connie Nitsch, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Nancy Kilbourn, Wayne Klockner, Mike Lanzone, John Lehr, Walt Listman, Bob Marcotte, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Betty & Bill Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Dee Robinson, Marty Robinson, Pat & Mary Scheible, Marge Schmale, Pat Seager, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Paul Spindler, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Ann Stear, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Lyn VanderWerf, Doris Wilton, and Alice Wood.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DE - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; IB - Irondequoit Bay; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - west lakeshore (L Ontario shore w of Rochester).

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Hamlin 20 Oct, max 44 there 17 Nov. Com. Loon: max 378 Hamlin 14 Nov. Horned Grebe: arr two Hamlin 13 Oct. Red-necked Grebe: one IB 23 Nov (NM), max three Hamlin Nov (mob). **N. Gannet**: subad Greece 8 Nov (KG), subad PtB 22 Nov (WL). Double-crested Cormorant: max 33 BB 6 Oct. Am. Bittern: last WL 3 Oct. Least Bittern: last one BB 12 Sep. Great Egret: one Greece 7 Nov, late. Green-backed Heron: last two Island Cottage 11 Oct. Glossy Ibis: one BPt 3-6 Oct (MD, KG), one-three BB during Nov (mob). Tundra Swan: arr Sodus 28 Oct. Mute Swan: max five BB Nov. Snow Goose: max 20 Hamlin 15 Oct. Brant: max 400 PtB 26 Oct. Canvasback: arr IB 26 Sep. Redhead: arr Greece 27 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: arr two Kendall 16 Sep. Oldsquaw: arr three Hamlin 20 Oct. Black Scoter: arr Hamlin 20 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr Hamlin 13 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr Hamlin 15 Sep. Common Goldeneye: arr Hamlin 24 Oct. Bufflehead: arr WL 20 Oct.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: imm WL 15 Oct; imm BB 3 Nov. N. Goshawk: one BPt 21 Oct. Rough-legged Hawk: arr two WL 21 Oct. Merlin: one IB 9, 11, 15, 20 Sep; one Springwater 1-15 Oct. Peregrine Falcon: one BPt 1 Oct, one Hamlin 13 Oct, one BPt 16 Oct. Virginia Rail: one Brighton 2 Nov (CC), wintering? Com. Moorhen: last BB 19 Oct. Red Knot: one Charlotte 22-26 Sep, one Charlotte 3 Oct. Sanderling: last Charlotte 12 Nov. White-rumped Sandpiper: last IB 14 Nov. Dunlin: last BB 24 Nov. Long-billed Dowitcher: one IB 14 Sep. **Franklin's Gull**: one in Basic I plumage Charlotte 1 Oct (FD). **Sabine's Gull**: imm IB 14-15 Sep (MR). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad IB 30 Sep (MAS). Forster's Tern: one Hamlin 10 Oct (DS), only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: one Churchville 25-30 Nov. Long-eared Owl: one BB 17 Nov (RO'H), uncommon in fall. Short-eared Owl: arr two BPt 7 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Penfield 7, 25 Nov (RMc). Com. Nighthawk: max seven Rochester 26 Sep, last Island Cottage 6 Oct. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Lima 24 Nov, late.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: last one singing BPt 14 Oct (DS), record late. Willow Flycatcher: last Powder Mill P 4 Sep. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**: intro. Purple Martin: last two Island Cottage 11 Oct, late. Tree Swallow: max 7000 Greece 8 Sep. **Sedge Wren**: one BPt 14 Oct (R&SS), only

report for the season. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Greece 8 Sep, last DE 25 Nov (DH), late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 16 BB 26 Sep, last Island Cottage 4 Oct. N. Shrike: arr singles WL and Mumford 27 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: last Henrietta 15 Oct. Orange-crowned Warbler: one BPt 12 Oct. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one "**Audubon's**" Greece 3 Oct (FD). Pine Warbler: last BPt 7 Oct. Palm Warbler: last BPt 12 Oct. Bay-breasted Warbler: one DE 17 Nov, very late.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last WL 27 Sep. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: *intro* (MD, KG, RMa). Fox Sparrow: last DE 12 Nov, late. Song Sparrow: max 100 BPt 7 Oct. White-throated Sparrow: max 200 BPt 7 Oct. White-crowned Sparrow: arr five WL 27 Sep, max 100 BPt 7 Oct. Dark-eyed Junco: one "**Gray-headed**" Hamlin 24 Nov (DS), first state record if accepted. Rusty Blackbird: arr two IB 14 Sep. Red Crossbill: one DE 16-17 Nov, one-three Chili several days Nov. Evening Grosbeak: arr five Manitou 24 Oct, max 59 Greece 22 Nov.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612