

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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June had good, maybe even excellent weather. There weren't any periods of heavy rain or any real dry spells. It made for a good nesting season. The late spring weather systems that ground migrants were weak and provided a typical late spring total. July turned hot, sunny and dry, although the rainfall total was a scant 1/4 inch below average. The temperature reached 94° and 96° on 19 and 20 Jul. August was much the same. Rain was at a premium, with about an inch and a half less than usual.

How did this impact the breeding season? It seemed to be a plus for the birds. Some species were able to rear multiple broods. Storms were infrequent and didn't damage or destroy nests. This was certainly helped Mourning Dove, which is well-known for its poorly constructed nest. The

prolonged dry may have affected insect populations. There were fewer mosquitoes in some locations than usual. Other insect species less reliant on standing water seemed to do okay. The wild food supply was generally good. Berries were plentiful even with the dryness. Apparently there was enough precipitation to produce a good crop.

This season always features the both end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall migration. This year's late spring flight was about on par with other years. There were the usual late hawks and passerines. Waterfowl counts were down and shorebirds were mediocre due to lack of habitat. The best bird of the season occurred in June but may not be a late migrant. A **White-winged Tern** was discovered by Brian Keelan on 19 Jun while he was studying Black Tern with Sharon Skelly and Eileen Keelan along Salmon Creek off Manitou Road. The bird was active for quite a while until early evening. About twenty birders were able to see and photograph it. Unfortunately it didn't stay for the observers who sought it the following day.

The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay continued into June, when few birds were seen. Winds were predominantly from the north and didn't provide good hawkwatching. The only June highlights were a Rough-legged Hawk and a late Golden Eagle. The seasonal totals for the spring season were: **Black Vulture** - 1; Turkey Vulture - 4,885; Osprey - 297; **Mississippi Kite** - 1; Bald Eagle - 79; N. Harrier - 768; Sharp-shinned Hawk - 3346; Cooper's Hawk - 397; N. Goshawk - 25; Red-shouldered Hawk - 736; Broad-winged Hawk - 26,596; **Swainson's Hawk** - 1; Red-tailed Hawk - 3,263; Rough-legged Hawk - 478; Golden Eagle - 33; Am. Kestrel - 363; Merlin - 24; Peregrine Falcon - 9; unidentified raptors - 94. The total was 41,396 birds of prey.

The most interesting feature of the summer nesting season was the timing. The growing season was extremely advanced. As a result there was some indication of early harvesting which may have caused some difficulty for field nesting species. On the whole there were few real surprises. Mute Swan nested again at Braddock Bay, continuing the controversy over this often aggressive breeder and its potential displacement of local waterfowl. Canada Goose continued sporadic breeding along Lake Ontario. Wood Duck did well near Lake Ontario and fairly well at Genesee Country Nature Center until Raccoon disrupted the project. There were scattered reports of Green-winged Teal and Am. Black Duck from around the Region. Mallard had a good season, but Blue-winged Teal numbers continued to appear to

dwindle. There were scattered sightings of Am. Wigeon but no confirmed nestings were noted. Hooded Merganser once again nested at Genesee Country. In some cases the eggs were tended by Wood Duck. Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel remained somewhat stable during the summer. Young were observed in traditional nest sights. Raccoons continue to be a problem with the kestrel nests. Northern Harrier was noted at a few summer locations. Wild Turkey continues to be well reported. Ring-necked Pheasant, on the other hand, was scarce and may have leveled off from some recent increases. The drier conditions in the marshes made it easier for some of the low nesting marsh birds like rails. Both Virginia Rail and Sora were well reported, and Com. Moorhen seemed to have a very successful season. Locally nesting shorebirds were few as usual. Upland Sandpiper was harder to find than in recent years, with fewer broods in the more traditional locations. Com. Snipe continued what appears to be a downward trend. Black Tern colonies were surveyed once again by Sharon Skelly along Lake Ontario.

Gypsy Moth populations may have contributed to the good totals of cuckoos reported. Passerines as a whole seemed to do fairly well. On the plus side, Carolina Wren and N. Mockingbird had a good summer, with continued reports of young and new nesting locations. A bad winter might bring this back to earlier levels. Acadian Flycatcher continues to be reported in new locations. A Common Raven report once again raising the possibility of its nesting in the Region. E. Bluebird did fairly well, with some good reports from the caretakers of bluebird trails south of the city. Am. Robin raised as many as three broods and had a booming population. Brown Thrashers had a good breeding season in certain locations, like Genesee Country Nature Center. The report of a **Bohemian Waxwing** was unprecedented. Two reports of White-eyed Vireo in June were very interesting but breeding was not confirmed. Warblers had few real surprises. Louisiana Waterthrush was found farther north than usual, and Hooded Warbler was noted in a number of locations on their move northward.

Less happily, House Wren and Wood Thrush numbers, while not reaching panic levels, continued to decline. There were a few good House Wren concentrations, but levels still seemed down along the lakeshore and other locations. Golden-winged Warbler continued its population slide. Some of this has been attributed to Blue-winged Warbler increases, yet habitat changes may also be a factor. Woodland warblers also showed slim totals. Numbers in general were mediocre. This seems to be echoing the overall

decline of northeastern woodland nesters. Sparrows of the fields and weedy areas did not have a great year. Vesper Sparrow was scattered and only two reports Henslow's Sparrow were submitted. Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows seemed to be at least holding their own.

Early fall migrants were scarce this year. The very dryness left very little shorebird habitat, but regardless of the shorebirds, other migrants were scarce. Highlights included Whimbrel and W. Sandpiper in July, and Little Gull and Lesser Golden-Plover in August. Warblers were found but in extremely low numbers. The August hawk flights turned out to be rather good this year. Excellent numbers of Red-tailed Hawk were counted with a smattering of others, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle and accipiters.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; LSP - Letchworth State Park; SB - Sodus Bay; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario w of Rochester).

LOONS-DUCKS: Am. Bittern: in expected numbers at known locations. Green-backed Heron: numbers perhaps down slightly. Black-crowned Night-Heron: numbers perhaps down slightly. Canada Goose: broods noted Cranberry Pd, Greece. Redhead: one Kendall 5 Jun, late. Greater Scaup: one Charlotte 22, 27 Jul, uncommon in summer. Lesser Scaup: one Perinton 5 Jul (MT), uncommon in summer. Com. Merganser: two LSP 5-9 Jun, uncommon summer nester. Red-breasted Merganser: last five Manitou 1-6 Jun; 18 WL 25 Aug, good total for Aug. Ruddy Duck: one Greece 2 Jul, uncommon.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one IB 18 Jun, late; one Greece 10 Jul, very unusual in Jul. Broad-winged Hawk: two LSP 23 Jun, uncommon nester; eight Greece 17 Aug, part of fall movement. Red-tailed Hawk: max 100+, primarily imm, 18 Aug. Rough-legged Hawk: one BB 10 Jun (CC), very late. Golden Eagle: one Fairport 22 Jul, unprecedented date; with single observer and no photo must go down as probable. Lesser Golden-Plover: max 25 HB 31 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: last WL 1 Jun; arr Charlotte 22 Jul. Solitary Sandpiper: arr IB 31 Jul. Upland Sandpiper: max five Batavia 7 Aug. Whimbrel: arr two Charlotte 13 Jul (KG); one DEP 26 Aug (MD).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 25 Jul. Sanderling: arr Charlotte 13 Jul. W. Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 27 Jul. Baird's Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 22 Jul. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Charlotte 14 Jul. Laughing Gull: one SB 12 Jul (DT), one Charlotte 28 Aug (MD), both second year birds, uncommon species. Little Gull: one Charlotte 10 Aug (DS), uncommon in summer. **White-winged Tern:** *intro*. Black Tern: only Salmon Creek seemed to have good numbers, numbers down at Buck Pd; two± pairs nested BB; last Greece 31 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: found regularly. Com. Nighthawk: good numbers downtown Rochester and Kodak P only. Whip-poor-will: no nesting reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: returned to Roots Tavern Road between Avon and Geneseo.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last LSP 9 Jun. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Manitou 3 Jun. Acadian Flycatcher: four Leroy 16 Jun (R&SS), new location. **Com. Raven:** two Honeoye L 9 Jun (JF). Carolina Wren: max five Highland P 20 Jul. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Webster 21 Aug (B&BP), very early. Swainson's Thrush: last Manitou 4 Jun. N. Mockingbird: max nine Avon 10 Jul. **Bohemian Waxwing:** one near Retsoff 5 Jul (GH, NYSARC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one LSP 1 Jun (MR), one Leroy 16 Jun (R&SS). Philadelphia Vireo: arr ICW 31 Aug. Nashville Warbler: arr Brighton 12 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: arr Greece 14 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr Greece 18 Aug. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Thousand Acre Swamp 20 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Greece 19 Aug. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Greece 29 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Leroy 16 Jun. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Manitou 19 Aug. Prothonotary Warbler: one DEP 25 Aug (MD), very interesting location. N. Waterthrush: arr Greece 14 Aug. Louisiana Waterthrush: four+ Leroy 16 Jun, new location. Hooded Warbler: four Huron 22 Jun, new location; max 13 LSP 1 Jun. Wilson's Warbler: last one ICW 1 Jun; arr Greece 14 Aug. Canada Warbler: arr Greece 18 Aug.

TANAGERS-OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Henslow's Sparrow: one Avon 6 Jul, two Greece 11 Jul, poor total. White-throated Sparrow: one Pittsford 7 Jun (AS), very late. White-crowned Sparrow: one Pittsford 7 Jun (AS), very late.