

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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September usually has extremes in temperature. Even though the overall temperature averaged 60.5°, which was less than 2° below average, the range during the month was 60°. Even more of the possible sunlight was seen in September than in July, with a 70% reading. Precipitation was 0.2 of an inch higher than normal at 2.86 inches. October continued sunny with slightly higher than normal temperatures and less precipitation than usual, just 1.65 inches and a nearly an inch below average. November was near normal, but provided a slight hint of winter with a snowfall total of 13.7 inches. The temperature was 1.6° below the long term average at an even 39°. Measurable precipitation was at 2.39 inches, 0.26 inches below normal.

Weather conditions were conducive to birding and provided the Region with a number of good birding days. Frontal systems were not terribly strong, but there were some good migration days. This seemed to be particularly true late in the season, when there was an excellent flight of Common Redpoll. The November snowfall seemed to have little effect on Regional bird life, because there were lingering numbers of some species while others seemed to disappear early. November species totals tended to be very high.

Waters remained open, so some waterfowl tended to linger. Loon numbers were good, with reports of some good flight days for both Red-throated and Common Loons. Horned Grebe numbers appeared to be down slightly along Lake Ontario. Waterfowl were once again mixed. The season as a whole was pretty good. The fall Tundra Swan flight was excellent, Snow Goose also seemed to be relatively easy to find, and there were some good flights of Brant. Puddle duck numbers were quite good overall. Ponds held concentrations of most species, but Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal counts seemed a bit low. Bay and diving duck numbers weren't as good. Canvasback and Redhead continued to be somewhat scarce, and diving duck totals were mediocre early in the season but recovered to some degree late in the season. All three scoter species were recorded.

Shorebird habitat was better this year, with lake and pond levels seemingly below normal, but shorebird numbers were not. While most species were recorded, totals were unimpressive. Ontario Beach produced one of its worst shorebird flights in recent years. The shorebird highlight and

the bird of the season was a **Piping Plover** discovered at Braddock Bay on 27 Nov by Robert Beal, not only out of range but also very late. Gulls and terns attracted little note, the highlights being Sabine's Gull in September and Franklin's Gull in October.

Raptor notes indicated a good flight of Rough-legged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon reports also continued to be on the rise. The late season was enlivened by the arrival of Snowy Owl. The piers at the mouth of the Genesee River held at least three of these large owls and at least that number also were reported at Braddock Bay. Numerous individuals were reported from the eastern to the western boundary of the Region. Short-eared Owl also appeared in good numbers late in the season.

The passerine migration was good for some species. Good numbers of kinglets moved through the Region and totals for Winter Wren were good. Warbler species totals were fairly good, but numbers of individuals continued low. Beatty Point was once again the staging area for good numbers of fall migrant sparrows, notably Song, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow. Sharp-tailed Sparrow was not found this year. Flycatcher and thrush numbers were down. The only thrush that was consistent was the Hermit Thrush. Half-hardy species were frequent in early November but became scarce towards the end of the month. Carolina Wren continued its increase and was reported in unprecedented numbers.

A tremendous flight of Common Redpolls in mid November hinted of a finch winter. With 3000+ sighted along the lakeshore in a single day, it looked like this was going to be the year. They essentially vanished by late November, and the numbers continued to be scattered.

The most notable rarities for the season were **Northern Gannet** and **Piping Plover**. King Eider, Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls also enlivened the season.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; WL - Lake Ontario shore west of Rochester.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr two HB 12 Oct, max 175 HB 20 Nov. Com. Loon: arr two HB 24 Sep. Horned Grebe: arr HB 28 Sep. Red-necked Grebe: one HB 28 Sep (CC), one HB 1 Oct (WS), one HB 13 Oct (WS), uncommon in fall. **N. Gannet:** imm Charlotte 27 Nov (RMc). Am. Bittern: last BB 7 Nov, late. Cattle Egret: one Hamlin 27 Oct; several in early Nov (no details). Tundra Swan: arr two BB 29 Oct, max 73 Conesus L 30 Nov. Snow Goose: max four WL 16 Nov. Brant: max 550 HB 13 Oct. N. Pintail: arr 15 HB 28 Sep. Redhead: arr seven Greece 30 Sep. Ring-necked Duck: arr seven Greece 30 Sep. Greater Scaup: arr one HB 24 Sep, max 150 HB 12 Oct. Lesser Scaup: arr IB 9 Sep. King Eider: one Manitou 28 Nov (RO). Oldsquaw: arr HB 19 Oct. Black Scoter: arr seven HB 12 Oct. Surf Scoter: arr HB 19 Oct. White-winged Scoter: arr HB 24 Sep, max 2450 HB 10 Nov. Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 12 Oct. Bufflehead: arr two HB 23 Oct. Red-breasted Merganser: arr HB 28 Sep. Ruddy Duck: arr four BB 14 Oct, max six Greece 9 Nov.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: last along the lakeshore HB 18 Nov. Bald Eagle: imm Greece 13 Oct. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Webster 17 Nov (JC), seasonally uncommon. Rough-legged Hawk: arr IB 25 Sep. Merlin: one BPt 29 Sep, one IB 29 Sep, uncommon. Peregrine Falcon: one BPt 10 Oct, one Greece 12 Oct, one BB 2 Nov, one WL 8 Nov, one WL 16 Nov, impressive number of reports this season. Ruffed Grouse: one Pt Breeze 11 Oct (WL), uncommon along the lakeshore. Wild Turkey: four Henrietta 21 Sep, new location; 20 Rush 15 Nov, continuing the spread. Sora: six Greece 6 Sep, nine HB 8 Sep, last Greece 2 Nov, good season for lingering birds. Com. Moorhen: last BB 19 Nov, late. Am. Coot: max 440 IB 7 Nov. Lesser Golden-Plover: three BB 17 Nov, late. **Piping Plover:** *intro*. Solitary Sandpiper: last IB 3 Oct. Hudsonian Godwit: one Parma 31 Oct (RO), only report. Red Knot: one Charlotte 14 Sep, scarce. W. Sandpiper: three IB 25 Oct, two BB 11 Nov, late. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr IB 5 Oct, last two BB 30 Nov, late. Baird's Sandpiper: one IB 3 Oct, scarce. Purple Sandpiper: arr two IB 16 Nov (R&SS, MR). Buff-breasted Sandpiper: one Hamlin 22 Sep (CC, MD), only report. Long-billed Dowitcher: one Greece 5 Nov (KG), only report. Red-necked Phalarope: one WL 29 Sep (MD), one Greece 30 Sep (CC, FD), uncommon. Red Phalarope: one BB 7-11 Nov (JSP, MD, NM, mob). Pomarine Jaeger: one HB 20 Oct (CC). Parasitic Jaeger: one HB 19 Oct (CC, DS); one Greece 9 Nov (KG). Franklin's Gull: *six* IB 1 Oct (MR), excellent number of individuals. Little Gull: arr Charlotte 13 Sep, one Greece 5 Nov. Glaucous Gull: arr imm Greece 28 Oct. Sabine's Gull: one Charlotte 1 Sep (RMa). Forster's Tern: one Charlotte 6 Nov, two Charlotte 9 Nov, one BB 9 Nov, scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Webster 28 Sep. Snowy Owl: arr three Charlotte 3 Nov, max seven WL 24 Nov (MD). Long-eared Owl: arr Parma 22 Nov (RO). Short-eared Owl: arr three Hamlin 30 Oct. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Perinto 30 Oct (RMc); one found dead Manitou 28 Oct (RO); one found dead WL

24 Nov (KG). Com. Nighthawk: last three ICW 3 Oct. N. Flicker: max 100 DEP 21 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DEP 21 Sep. Willow Flycatcher: last DEP 21 Sep. Cliff Swallow: last IB 6 Oct. Winter Wren: arr Webster 19 Sep. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr three Manitou 20 Sep. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Manitou 12 Nov, late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: last Manitou 10 Oct. Hermit Thrush: arr six Manitou 22 Sep. Gray Catbird: max 50+ DEP 21 Sep. Am. Pipit: arr Hemlock 17 Sep, last HB 9 Nov. N. Shrike: arr Webster 28 Oct.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Orange-crowned Warbler: one DEP 1 Oct, one BPt 5-9 Oct, one Greece 8 Oct, mediocre total. Palm Warbler: last Sodus Bay 27 Oct, late. Connecticut Warbler: one BB 6-7 Sep (MD), one Manitou 8-9 Sep (JS, SS), one BPt 21 Sep (MD, DS), good year. Mourning Warbler: last IB 14 Oct. Yellow-breasted Chat: two IB 22 Sep (TH), only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: last DEP 27 Sep. Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Rochester 18 Oct. Chipping Sparrow: last ICW 2 Nov, late. Vesper Sparrow: one BPt 22 Sep, last six Bergen 10 Oct. Savannah Sparrow: last HB 16 Nov. Grasshopper Sparrow: last BPt 21 Sep, late. Fox Sparrow: arr Seneca P 24 Sep, last two Penfield 11 Nov. White-throated Sparrow: arr Greece 11 Sep. White-crowned Sparrow: arr HB 28 Sep. Rusty Blackbird: arr Manitou 20 Sep. Pine Grosbeak: arr Manitou 20 Sep [details? - Ed.]. Com. Redpoll: 3000+ WL 17 Nov. Pine Siskin: arr 30 BPt 29 Sep. Am. Goldfinch: max 500 WL 17 Oct. Evening Grosbeak: arr two Manitou 17 Sep.

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