

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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As was the case over most of the state, this summer was described best as wet. Cold also was applicable, but the wetness seemed to overshadow the depressed temperatures. June was 3.2°F below the normal temperature of 63.5°F. June was the driest of the three months with precipitation total of 1.98 inches, 0.8 less than normal. July continued cold but escalated the wetness. The average temperature of 66.5°F was over 5° below average. Precipitation was more than twice the normal amount at 6.03 inches. August kept chilly, with an average temperature 3.2°F below the norm of 66.3°. The precipitation total of 4.45 inches was 1.25 inches above normal.

Reports from area observers were mixed about the effect of these weather conditions on the birds. Early reports indicated that some species, like the Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow, experienced nesting failure due to the cold and wet conditions. Increased water levels may have caused problems for marsh species such as waterfowl, rails and Black Tern. The vegetation was generally behind schedule, and poor cover early in the season may have been a problem. One observer noted that these factors made it difficult to assess the results of the Breeding Bird Surveys. The wet and cool conditions also may have held normal insect populations behind schedule; this could have impacted insectivorous birds too. This may have been true for flycatchers and vireos, which seemed to go unnoticed on some occasions.

Even with these possible problems, there were no catastrophic results this season. The usual species were encountered and the fluctuations in populations were within expected limits. Common Loon was found on Lake Ontario during all three months for the first time in recent history. Even more startling was a June Red-throated Loon report. Mixed reports came in for Pied-billed Grebe. Some observers felt that the grebes were in trouble while others stated that it looked like they may have had a good season. Either way, breeding numbers are still low in the Region. Double-crested Cormorant nests that were reported at the mouth of Salmon Creek on Braddock Bay

were abandoned before the nesting season was over. This met with mixed feelings. Some observers, and fisherman, were elated that these fish-eating birds did not reproduce. Others look at them as evidence of revitalization of the Great Lakes and had hoped for a first Regional breeding record. Herons and bitterns continued to be of concern. American Bittern was noticeably scarce once again. This species continues to draw attention. Green-backed Heron may be in the same category, with low totals for the season. The jury was out on Black-crowned Night-Heron, as numbers were only scant late in the season, when juveniles and adults become more visible.

Waterfowl numbers were mixed. The only stable populations seemed to be Mallard and Wood Duck. Mute Swan successfully nested on Braddock Bay once again, but an attempted nesting on Buck Pond was not successful. Numbers of this import continue to build. Blue-winged Teal were scarce and recent Green-winged Teal nestings didn't happen this year. American Wigeon and Gadwall were reported but no nestings were noted. Hooded Merganser did nest in the Region, but populations continue to be small. Black Tern numbers were stable as was indicated by the research of Sharon Skelly. An early nest was lost to the cold while a June nest succumbed to high water levels. Some of the highlight species in this group included Brant, White-winged Scoter, Rough-legged Hawk and Dunlin.

Raptors for the most part were not highly noticeable. Red-shouldered Hawk went unreported; this species continues to be in big trouble in the Region. Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel numbers were about normal. The early cold and wet did cause some kestrel nest loss.

Early in the season it appeared as though we might have a good year for cuckoos. Some areas with Gypsy Moths drew concentrations but by the end of the season the general consensus was that it was only a mediocre season for both species. Nighthawks were once again down with a few reports coming from Rochester. Whip-poor-will continues to be nearly nonexistent as a breeder.

Acadian Flycatcher continued to be reported from new locations, but the population is still quite small. It looked like a good season for swallows in general and Carolina Wren numbers continued to build. Sedge Wren was found along the Lake Ontario State Parkway, but

nesting was not confirmed. The thrushes continued to get mixed reviews. Hermit Thrush nested in the high country, but Wood Thrush numbers were poor. A real surprise was a July female Swainson's Thrush sporting a brood patch. Both Gray Catbird and Northern Mockingbird were well reported, but Brown Thrasher seemed on the downside. An August report of **Loggerhead Shrike**, a former Regional nester, was the only one for the season. Vireo reports were too limited to be evaluated. Warbler reports were poor. Golden-winged Warbler continues to decline. Some observers noted that Black-and-white Warbler seemed down. The only bright spots were the continued nestings of Hooded Warbler, the return of Prairie Warbler to a historical breeding site, late Northern Parula in interesting habitat, and several nesting Yellow-breasted Chat. Grassland sparrows continued scarce, with a possible slight increase in Henslow's Sparrow reports. Other species like the Grasshopper and Vesper held their own at best. A real surprise was the Clay-colored Sparrow that took up residence at Mendon Ponds. Icterids seemed to show some seasonal highlights. Besides the traditional nesting of Orchard Oriole, the report of a Western Meadowlark at Point Breeze was met with excitement. **Brewer's Blackbird** sightings throughout the season fueled recent speculation that the species is nesting in the Region. The only notable finch report for the season. Pine Siskin reports came from the Region's southern high country and during a brief stint along the west lakeshore. Purple Finch numbers continued to be low. As is usually the case during this season, there were some leftovers from the spring migration. This year was no exception.

Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher numbers seemed to be good into June. Both Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were reported. Some warblers continued on into June with reports of Northern Parula, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Wilson's. Early returning shorebirds are also a highlight of the season. Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Stilt Sandpiper took advantage of some of the wet conditions and were noted during the season. A **Marbled Godwit** found at Point Breeze by William Symonds on 27 July was the shorebird highlight for the season. Also noted were good numbers of Pectoral Sandpiper. A trickle of warblers was about all of the fall land bird migration that was observed in August.

This usually is not a good season for rarities, but this year a couple of birds were noteworthy. A **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported by Laura and Neil Moon from their residence in Irondequoit on 13 Jun. Rounding out the rarities was the **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Mendon Ponds Park was located by Donna Traver and Carolyn Cass on 16 June. It was quite cooperative and was observed by many.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; HB - Hamlin Beach; HL - Honeoye Lake; MPP - Mendon Ponds Park; OB - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

Summer reports: **Red-throated Loon:** one HL 13 Jun, unexpected in summer. **Com. Loon:** one HB 3,17 Aug, unusual in summer. **Least Bittern:** max five WL 9 Aug. **Double-crested Cormorant:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** *intro*. **Brant:** last Manitou 4-7 Jun. **Am. Wigeon:** max seven WL 12 Jul. **White-winged Scoter:** last HB 19 Jun, late. **Com. Merganser:** one BB 30 Jun, unexpected away from breeding population s L Ontario. **Red-breasted Merganser:** one Manitou 23 Jun, three HB 30 Jun, one Manitou 18 Jul, non-breeding birds.

N. Goshawk: one Pittsford 14 Aug, only report. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one Hamlin 6 Jun, last MPP 15 Jun, late. **Merlin:** arr Springwater 15-30 Aug (HH), one Rochester 26 Aug (JCz). **Black-bellied Plover:** arr three WL 3 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** arr four Hamlin 14 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr WL 22 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr WL 16 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr OB 30 Jun. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr WL 17 Jun. **Whimbrel:** arr HB 30 Jun (MD), max nine HB 4 Aug (RMa). **MARBLED GODWIT:** *intro*. **Red Knot:** arr HB 28 Aug. **Sanderling:** arr eight OB 15 Jul. **W. Sandpiper:** arr OB 22-23 Aug (mob). **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr PtB 29 Jul (MD). **Pectoral Sandpiper:**

arr Hamlin 18 Jul, max 105 Hamlin 7 Aug. **Dunlin**: last Perinton 6 Jun, late. **Stilt Sandpiper**: max eight Hamlin 21 Aug (SS). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: arr HB 31 Aug, scarcer than usual. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max 18 WL 16 Jul. **Wilson's Phalarope**: three Hamlin 15 Jul (MD, WSY), once more frequent than recently. **Caspian Tern**: max 45 WL 11 Aug, low total. **Com. Tern**: max 13 HB 17 Jul, scarce. **Forster's Tern**: one-two BB 21-26 Jun, one WL 2 Jul, one Manitou 20 Aug, numbers lower than in past years.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: *intro*. **Chimney Swift**: max 235 Brighton 29 Aug (ST), high total. **Snowy Owl**: ad male near BB 16 Jun, probably a rehabilitated bird released nearby in mid May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr HB 4 Aug (JS). **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Hamlin 13 Jul (MD), new location. **Bank Swallow**: max 10,000 WL 25 Jul. **Winter Wren**: one MPP 12 Aug, breeding? **Sedge Wren**: one Hamlin 1-4 Jul (MD, JS), only report. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: last Manitou 3 Jun. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Greece 10 Jun; one with brood patch Manitou 30 Jul; one Manitou 30 Aug, unusual number of reports for the summer season. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Hamlin 22 Aug (MD), only report.

Tennessee Warbler: last Greece 6 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr Greece 29 Aug. **N. Parula**: one Rush 26 Jun (CC), unusual date and location; arr Manitou 24 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: last Manitou 4 Jun. **N. Waterthrush**: one Greece 18 Aug, migrant. **Wilson's Warbler**: last WL 10 Jun, arr Manitou 20 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: arr Manitou 20 Aug.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: *intro*. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr Manitou 21 Aug, early. **W. Meadowlark**: one PtB 1-30 Jun. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one Hamlin 14 Jun (MD), two Hamlin 1-12 Jul (MD).

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