

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The fall migration was described by one area birder as dismal and by another as "a disaster." This reaction partly may have been due to the lack of strong frontal systems so characteristic of the migration here, but it also was partly due to the continuing paucity of migrants under all conditions. September began warm, with some of the best summer like weather of the year. That warmth didn't last the month and, by the end of September, the average temperature was 1.3° below normal at 60.9°F. Precipitation was only slightly above average with a total of 3.02 inches. October started much the same with a warm early part, but below average for the remainder of the month. The average reading for the month of 46.4°F was 5.3° below normal. Precipitation at 1.78 inches was about less than an inch below normal. November was cold and damp. The temperature was 1.7° below the norm at 38.9°F and the precipitation was up slightly at 2.90 inches.

There were very few days that evidenced any real movement of migratory birds. Migrant passerines generally were scarce in comparison to years in the not too distant birding past. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks, reported the best movements. Other observers reported a lack of warbler species as well as a decreased count of thrushes. There were a few good days for loon migration, and a few grebes also were noted. The waterfowl were scarce. October Brant flights generated some optimism, and large numbers of White-winged Scoter were observed on Lake Ontario for a period of time. Numbers of other waterfowl species notably Canada Goose, Northern Pintail and Canvasback, were down, and Ring-necked Duck, Oldsquaw, and Black and Surf Scoters were scarce. Accipiters were well reported, but the falcon sightings were down. Few Peregrine Falcon were reported this fall. Rough-legged Hawk failed to move into the area in any numbers. High lake levels reduced shorebird habitat and, therefore, there was a lack of shorebirds, with Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Red Phalarope the only species of note. Many observers noted the lack of gulls. The expected flight of Bonaparte's Gull was lackluster, and the only highlight was sightings of Glaucous Gull. Terns fared much the same, with reduced reports of migrant Common Tern and only a smattering of Forster's Tern sightings. A late Caspian Tern at Ontario Beach in Charlotte was noteworthy.

Early Snowy Owl reports from several locations hinted of another Snowy Owl winter, but Short-eared Owl had not reached substantial numbers by the season's end. Once again Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported from Penfield during the season. There were few reports of numbers of migrating Common Nighthawk and the maximum of 75 is a far cry from not too distant seasons; one seen during the second half of October was notable. A real puzzler for the season was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that tarried until mid November. It survived some cold nights during the month. Also of interest were a group of Tree Swallows that took up residence in Greece. As the season drew to a close, at least 42 were still working Round Pond in the late afternoon. Single birds would be unusual, but a group of this size is unprecedented.

Not much can be said about the passerine migration. Few flycatchers and thrushes were reported. Some observers reported only single digit counts of warbler species, so there weren't many fall warblers about which to be confused. The best were Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers. Sparrow numbers were mediocre with only a few reports of good numbers from Hogan Point and Beatty Point in Greece. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was once again reported from these locations, and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** report came from Highland Park in Rochester. Some early flights of Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur were noted. Migrant finches were represented by a scattering of Pine Siskin reports and a single Evening Grosbeak. There were few rarities. Of note was the *Plegadis ibis* found by Mike Davids in Hamlin on 17 Oct, and which remained there until 19 Oct. A **Gyr Falcon** slighted and documented by Bob Marcotte in Hamlin on 24 Oct was not as cooperative as the ibis and was only seen that one day. **Black-backed Woodpecker** was sighted at two different locations during the season.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; BPt - Beatty Point, Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach; HPt - Hogan Point, Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay; MPd - Mendon Ponds; SC - Salmon Creek, Greece; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario w Rochester).

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HB 18 Oct, max 165 HB 18 Nov. **Com. Loon:** arr HB 2 Sep, max 800 HB 18 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** arr HB 30 Sep. **Red-necked Grebe:** max four HB 18 Oct (CC). **Green-backed Heron:** last MPd 23 Oct, late. **PLEGADIS IBIS:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** max 11 SC 21 Nov, high total. **Brant:** arr HB 17 Oct, max 3500 Sodus 25 Oct. **Greater Scaup:** arr three HB 19 Sep. **Lesser Scaup:** arr HB 26 Sep. **Oldsquaw:** arr HB 2 Sep. **Surf Scoter:** arr three HB 26 Sep. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr one HB 19 Sep. **Bufflehead:** arr one HB 4 Oct. **Hooded Merganser:** max 125 SC 18 Nov.

N. Goshawk: one Webster 26-30 Sep (JC), only report. **Merlin:** one Brighton 20 Sep (NM), scarce this fall. **Peregrine Falcon:** one Hamlin 14 Nov (RO'H), only report. **GYRFALCON:** *intro*. **Com. Moorhen:** last Greece 22 Oct. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** max 118 WL 3 Sep (MD). **Solitary Sandpiper:** last Hamlin, Brighton 7 Sep. **Upland Sandpiper:** last Hamlin 12 Sep. **Whimbrel:** max three WL 1 Sep (MD). **Ruddy Turnstone:** last IB 19 Nov. **Red Knot:** last CH 4 Oct (CC, NM). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr Hamlin 7 Sep. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr CH 2 Sep. **Dunlin:** arr CH 29 Sep, last Summerville 14 Nov, late. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** one Pt Breeze 3 Sep (MD), one Carlton 8 Sep (CC), few reports this season. **Red Phalarope:** one CH 10 Sep (RS), one HB 27 Oct (CC,WS), unusual in Region. **Pomarine Jaeger:** one HB 25 Oct (WS), only report. **Parasitic Jaeger:** one HB 10 Oct (mob), one HB 18 Oct (CC), two HB 8 Nov (WS), about normal total. **Glaucous Gull:** singles HB 2 Nov (WS) and 8 Nov (DS), CH 9 Nov (KG) and 27 Nov (MD), fairly good total. **Black-legged Kittiwake:** singles HB 17 Oct (DS,GC) and 6 Nov (WS), tough to find in recent years. **Caspian Tern:** one CH 26-30 Nov (MD, RMc), very late. **Forster's Tern:** one WL 12 Oct, one HB 26 Oct, poor year.

Snowy Owl: one Sodus 25 Oct (mob), one Greece 31 Oct (ROs), early. **Short-eared Owl:** max four Retsof 16 Nov, scarce. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** singles Penfield 23 Oct (RMc) and 25 Nov (RMc). **Com. Nighthawk:** max 75 Greece 5 Sep (RD, FD), last Greece 21 Oct (KG), late. **Chimney Swift:** max 40 Rochester 28 Sep. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** female lingered Parma to 17 Nov. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER:** one Pittsford 30 Sep (RSh); one Honeoye Falls 4-5 Oct (P&MJW).

Willow Flycatcher: last BPt 7 Sep. **Purple Martin:** last two Durand-Eastman P 7 Sep. **Tree Swallow:** *intro*. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last Hamlin 19 Sep. **Bank Swallow:** max 4100 Hamlin 13 Sep. **Sedge Wren:** one HPt 27 Nov (MD [*details?* - *The Editor*]), very late, only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** last Greece 10 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last two Manitou 6 Oct. **Hermit Thrush:** arr Greece 23 Sep; max 22 Manitou 22 Oct (EB), good total. **Am. Pipit:** last HB 10 Nov (DS , JD), late. **N. Shrike:** arr Hamlin 29 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last one Greece 28 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler :** one BPt 3 Oct (CC), one BB 4 Oct (SS). **Pine Warbler:** last one HB 12 Oct. **Palm Warbler:** last Manitou 1 Oct. **Connecticut Warbler:** one BB 2 Sep (MD , CC), one Manitou 14 Sep (EB), one Greece 2 Oct (MD), good year. **Hooded Warbler:** last WL 8 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last Sodus 1 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr four Kendall 24 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** last Pittsford 1 Nov. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Highland P 28 Sep (CC, JB). **Field Sparrow:** last two Greece 6 Nov. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** last BPt 20 Oct (MD), late. **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW:** one BPt 7 Sep (KG), two HPt 2 Oct (MD). **Fox Sparrow:** last HPt 28 Nov, late. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Springwater 15 Nov. **Lapland Longspur:** arr eight HB 12 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** four HB 18 Oct, max 1200 Hamlin 31 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** last three Greece 14 Nov. **Pine Siskin:** arr 20 Hamlin 19 Sep. **Evening Grosbeak:** arr MPd 29 Oct.

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