

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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The summer was warmer and dryer than usual. June started the season in moderation, with an average temperature only 0.4° above normal at 65.5°F. July got things going with an average more than 2° above normal at 72.4°F. August finished the season with an average reading of 71.4°F, which was 3.4° above normal. Dry conditions accompanied the increased temperatures. June's precipitation of 2.76 inches was only a quarter inch below normal. July's rainfall was over an inch below normal at 1.67 inches, and August had the same total as July but was 1.73 inches below normal.

Most observers characterized the nesting season as good to very good. Weather conditions played a key role this year. With the exception of a few hot days, conditions were highly conducive to raising young. In many cases, birds fledged multiple broods. Food was also plentiful, with enough precipitation to promote insect hatches and sufficient moisture for growing fruits and berries.

In addition, this reporting period includes the end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall movements. Late spring migrants seemed fewer than in recent years, but early fall migrants represented what some birders felt was an increase from the not too distant past. Spring departures and first fall arrivals are reported in the species accounts.

The usual few summering loons were reported from Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Few nesting Pied-billed Grebe were found, almost none by Lake Ontario. There were more reports of American Bittern this year, possibly indicating a minor increase. Green-backed Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron seemed down this season. A Little Blue Heron was the only wandering heron reported for the season.

Mute Swan continued its nesting expansion in the Region, with nesting attempts in at least three locations. Not all were successful. A few Canada Geese nested in the Region, a trend likely to continue. Ducks had a mixed season. A number of observers felt that Wood Duck had a good season, as did Mallard. Blue-winged Teal were few and far between. One observer felt that they were selecting more secluded areas and were therefore going unnoticed. No nesting American Black Duck were noted. Green-winged Teal and Gadwall both had successful nestings, but numbers were very small. Genesee Country Nature Center staff member, Milt Adams, reported successful nesting of Hooded Merganser again this year. A number of broods were reported. A real surprise was the nesting of Northern Pintail at Braddock Bay. Brett Ewald and Mike Davids reported the pair throughout the summer and observed young birds late in the season.

Once again there were numerous Turkey Vulture reports. More were noted along Lake Ontario throughout the season. Osprey and Bald Eagle reports were also up away from their expected summer locations. A few Northern Harrier were observed during the season, and the presence of some young birds late in the season hinted at a somewhat successful season. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk numbers seemed to be good, but Northern Goshawk was not recorded as a nester this year. One Red-shouldered Hawk family was reported from Rattlesnake Hill in the southern part of the Region. An American Kestrel nest, monitored by Milt Adams of Genesee Country Nature Center, was destroyed in an early wind storm and consequently abandoned. Three weeks later Milt checked the nest and the adults were on the nest again. The young fledged in late July, which is late for the Region.

Of interest this season were a number of Northern Bobwhite reports, but all are assumed to be products of local game farms or individual releases.

There was a surprising increase in Common Moorhen reports. A number of locations showed higher numbers than in recent Years. The **King Rail** that was found this spring was heard again in early June but not after that. There wasn't much data on locally breeding shorebirds. Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper seemed about average for recent years. There were fewer Upland Sandpiper along the Lake Ontario, but good numbers were concentrated at one area in Batavia. Common Snipe continued their poor showing and American Woodcock seemed to be only fair in numbers. The Black Tern colonies in the Region at best held their own. Sharon Skelly once again carried out the research on the Salmon Creek Colony. Her comments indicated that the colony had a

successful season. Eighteen nests were located and others were suspected but not actually seen. The success rate of egg to fledgling was very good, approaching 33%. The Buck Pond colony continued to be reduced and only held a few pairs.

There was not much data on cuckoos, but the general impression was that they were scarce. The same goes for Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk. The former seems to have disappeared as a local breeder and the latter shows very small numbers. Downtown Rochester seems to be the only summer location for the latter.

It seemed like a pretty typical season for most flycatchers. Acadian Flycatcher either is being identified more readily or it is continuing to expand in the Region. Least Flycatcher numbers seemed down a bit along Lake Ontario. Swallow numbers generally were good with only a slight decline in Cliff Swallow due to the destruction of the building at the West Spit of Braddock Bay and the absence of nesting at Hilton High School. Blue Jay was noted in increased numbers this summer, and the Common Raven report from Rattlesnake Hill was good but not totally unexpected. Of interest were the number of breeding Winter Wren, for which Cobbs Hill and Powder Mill Park provided very unusual nesting locations. Sedge Wren was missed once again. The nesting thrushes, Wood Thrush and Veery, continued to be of concern. Wood Thrush was regular, but numbers are still a far cry from recent historical data. Veery was noticeably absent from traditional locations. No Loggerhead Shrike was found this season.

Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos seemed about average. Warbler reports were generally fair for the season. Blue-winged Warbler numbers were strong but Golden-winged Warbler continued its downward trend. The only nesting records of Prairie Warbler were at Letchworth State Park. Observers hinted that Mourning Warbler numbers may have been lower than usual. Hooded Warbler numbers continued to be good. A Wilson's Warbler in mid July was a real surprise, but likely was a nonbreeding male. Scarlet Tanager was noted as scarce by a number of observers. Along Lake Ontario, Indigo Bunting numbers apparently were down, but numbers south of the lake seemed about average. Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrow numbers were low once again. A surprise was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station by Robert McKinney on 1 Jun. It was the fifth spring record, all of them falling between 28 May and 2 Jun. Also of interest was a mid summer White-crowned Sparrow. Brewer's Blackbird

and Orchard Oriole were unreported during the summer months. It wasn't much of a finch season. Purple Finch was scarce, but Pine Siskin on one of the Breeding Bird Surveys was unexpected. Late season Evening Grosbeak reports were a hint of possible things to come.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CH - Cobb's Hill; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; LSP - Letchworth State Park; NRd - Norway Road, Gaines; WL - west lakeshore (Lake Ontario west of Rochester).

Summer reports: **Little Blue Heron:** imm BB 28 Aug (BE, mob). **Brant:** last Hamlin 28 Jun (MD,WS). **Green-winged Teal:** two BB 1 Jun, nesting? **N. Pintail:** one BB 9-11 Jun, 29 Jul, 5, 11, 27 Aug, unusual nesting in Region. **Ring-necked Duck:** one Charlotte 2 Jun, only report. **Oldsquaw:** last Hamlin 9 Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** 11 Pt Breeze 12 Jun (PS), good Jun total. **Com. Merganser:** one BB 7 Jun, unusual.

Osprey: one BB 11 Jul; one DEP 24 Jul, one BB 29 Jul; unusual in Jul. **Bald Eagle:** imm Greece 10 Jul, imm BB 11 Jul, imm Hamlin 23 Jul, when uncommon at those locations. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one BB 10 Aug, unusual. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one BB 19 Aug, uncommon. **Red-tailed Hawk:** albino BB 3 Aug; max 670 BB 27 Aug, good total. **Wild Turkey:** one Pittsford 9 Aug, unusual location. **KING RAIL:** one Hamlin to 8 Jun (KG, CD-G). **SANDHILL CRANE:** one BB 2 Jun (BE), holdover from good spring; one BB 9 Aug (BE, CC), same bird? **Black-bellied Plover:** arr Irondequoit 16 Aug. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** five WL 4 Jun, unusual date. **Semipalmated Plover:** last Hamlin 5 Jun, arr Charlotte 21 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** last Hamlin 4 Jun. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Greece 24 Jun. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BB 28 Jul. **Upland Sandpiper:** max 18 Batavia 17 Aug (PS). **Willet:** one Irondequoit 1 Aug (JC). **Whimbrel:** max two Irondequoit 16 Aug (KG). **Marbled Godwit:** one BB 27 Jul (BE), early. **Red Knot:** one Hamlin 5 Aug, only report.

Sanderling: arr six Charlotte 16 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 150 BB 1 Jun, good total, last ten Hamlin 2 Jun. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** 38 Hamlin 28 Jun (WS), excellent total. **Baird's Sandpiper:** one Manitou 20 Jul, two Charlotte 9 Aug. **Dunlin:** last Hamlin 4 Jun. **Laughing Gull:** one Charlotte 1 Jun (RS), uncommon. **Little Gull:** two Manitou 2 Aug (RO'H), one Charlotte 9 Aug (KG), one Greece 12 Aug (KG). **Iceland Gull:** one Charlotte 1-2 Jun (BM), late. **Common Tern:** two Greece 29 Jul, late; two BB 31 Jul. **Forster's Tern:** one BB 15 Jun, only report. **Black Tern:** *intro.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one NRd 19 Jun, one Williamson 11 Aug, scarce. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** max eight Avon 27 Jun, only Regional stronghold for this species.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one CH 3 Jun, one Rochester 3 Jun, last Greece 5 Jun; arr DEP 14 Aug. **Acadian Flycatcher:** one WL 12 Jul, interesting location. **Bank Swallow:** max 1600+ BB 29 Jul. **Com. Raven:** one Rattlesnake Hill WMA 12 Jun, one BB 20 Aug. **Winter Wren:** one Perinton 1 Jun-17 Jul, one Irondequoit 18-23 Jun, one 1000 Acre Swamp 26 Jun, one Power Mill P 26 Jun, 10 Jul; ad, four y CH 2, 6, 17, 30 Jun, 1 Jul, good year. **Swainson's Thrush:** last WL 7 Jun. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 4500+ BB 31 Aug, great total.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Manitou 22 Aug. **Blue-winged Warbler:** one Greece 30 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler:** one NRd 11 Jul, scarce. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type LSP 6 Jun. **Tennessee Warbler:** last Rochester 1 Jun; arr BB 31 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr Greece 22 Aug. **Magnolia Warbler:** arr Greece 17 Aug. **Cape May Warbler:** arr BB 29 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Manitou 16 Aug. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr BB 17 Jul, early. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Manitou, Greece 21 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Greece 16 Aug. **Pine Warbler:** one BB 12 Aug, dispersal or early migrant. **Prairie Warbler:** two LSP 6-30 Jun, uncommon. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BB 26 Jul. **Blackpoll Warbler:** last LSP 11 Jun. **Cerulean Warbler:** max eight NRd 3 Jul. **N. Waterthrush:** one BB 23 Jul, odd location at that date. **Hooded Warbler:** max 31 LSP 6 Jun. **Wilson's Warbler:** one Victor 9 Jul (CD-G), unusual. **Canada Warbler:** one BB 12 Aug, early.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: *intro.* **White-crowned Sparrow:** one Manitou 13 Jul (RO'H), unusual date. **Bobolink:** max 125 BB 31 Aug, good total. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr five DEP 22 Aug, early. **Purple Finch:** two Webster 13 Jun, interesting location. **Evening Grosbeak:** one BB 19, 22, 26 Jul (RO'H, BE), unseasonal.

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