

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The fall season was wet and cool. Even though conditions were cooler and slightly wetter than normal, they didn't put a damper on birding, and the fall season was quite good.

September's average temperature was barely below normal at 59°F. Precipitation was 1.4 inches above normal at 4.37 inches. September had a well above normal species count. All families were well represented but numbers of some passerines seemed rather low. A Red-necked Grebe in Alternate plumage at Hamlin Beach on 25 Sep was unusual not only to the plumage but also the very early date. Other sightings from Hamlin Beach included Sabine's Gull. The Little Blue Heron at Braddock Bay was also good. Shorebird habitat was scarce and their numbers were low. A *Fish Crow* continued a trend of scattered sightings in recent years.

October's average temperature was 48°F, just about 3° below normal. Precipitation was 3.21 inches, about 3/4 inch above average. October was characterized as "good" by many observers. The lake watch at Hamlin Beach was covered daily, and the results were indicative of the coverage and of good weather patterns. There were many days with good flights of loons, grebes and waterfowl. Two more Alternate plumage Red-necked Grebe were reported, one at Hamlin on 10 Oct by Carolyn Cass and Bill Symonds and one in Webster on 30 Oct by Don & Donna Traver. Diving ducks were well reported with respectable numbers of Canvasback and Redhead, two species that have not been very numerous in recent Years. Surf and Black Scoters, while not reported in high numbers, were seen regularly. Some dabbling ducks, like Northern Pintail, seemed scarce once again. Shorebird habitat improved as precipitation was up and the lake level went down. There were a number of species with good peak counts, including Hudsonian Godwit and Dunlin. Two Long-billed Dowitcher were reported. American Golden-Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher seemed scarce, and White-rumped Sandpiper was scattered. Other highlights for the month included a Snowy Egret, another Sabine's Gull, an *Arctic Tern*, a *Fish Crow* and cooperative *Sharp-tailed Sparrow*.

The mean temperature in November was 39°F, which was 1.5° below normal. Precipitation was 0.35 inch above normal at 3.27 inches. While being somewhat gloomy, November was still ornithologically eventful.

Most noteworthy was the unprecedented Red-throated Loon flight. Flights of 1201 and 1413 were counted on 10 and 16 Nov, respectively. These totals were far above any recent or historical trend. Also notable was the good flight of winter finches. Common Redpoll was very numerous, and Pine Grosbeak was found at several locations. A good count of Bohemian Waxwing was exceptional also. Other highlights for the month included *Northern Gannet*, a Harlequin Duck, Common Raven, and a very cooperative *Lark Sparrow*.

Generally speaking numbers of birds were only a hint of what observers remember. While there were some good sightings and interesting reports, there continues to be a number of trouble spots. Pied-billed Grebe was once again poorly reported. Dabbling ducks, especially American Wigeon, were scarce. Numbers of some of the diving ducks like Oldsquaw and scoters were down. Raptor counts were not good in general. Bald Eagle and Osprey reports were fewer than in recent years, and very few Rough-legged Hawk were reported. Ring-necked Pheasant continued scarce. Gulls and tern reports were generally lackluster, and reports of the regular species seemed a bit off. Swallow numbers were low with peak counts of Tree and Bank Swallow off slightly from recent years. Yellow-throated Vireo was not reported, and warblers in general continued to be scarce. Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak numbers were down and they seemed to depart early. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow counts were not up to expectation, the best reports a surge at Manitou 5-8 Oct. Snow Bunting arrived with low counts only.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CL - Conesus Lake; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; HP - Hogan Point; IB - Irondequoit Bay; Rpd - Round Pond; WL - west lakeshore (Lake Ontario shore west of Rochester).

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr HBSP 9 Oct; *intro.* **Com. Loon:** max 720 HBSP 21 Oct. **Horned Grebe:** arr two HBSP 25 Sep; max 200+ WL 30 Oct, good total. **Red-necked Grebe:** *intro.* **N. Gannet:** juv HBSP 22 Nov (BM, ER, DT!). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 150 WL 18 Sep. **Am. Bittern:** last BB 7 Oct. **Green Heron:** last Rpd 23 Oct. **Snowy Egret:** one HBSP 22 Oct (WS). **Little Blue Heron:** one BB 25 Sep (RS!, RO'H), scarce in recent years. **Tundra Swan:** max 70 CL 27 Nov. **Snow Goose:** max 18 CL 27 Nov. **Brant:** arr 28 HBSP 29 Sep; max 1000+ HBSP 31 Oct. **Greater Scaup:** arr six HBSP 21 Sep; max 4500 HBSP 18 Nov. **Harlequin Duck:** female HBSP 27-28 Oct (BM, BE), one HBSP 1 Nov (BE, WS). **Oldsquaw:** arr three HBSP 21 Sep. **Black Scoter:** arr HBSP 11 Sep; max 100 HBSP 1 Nov. **Surf Scoter:** arr ten HBSP 30 Sep. **Hooded Merganser:** max 100+ CL 4 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** two BB 11 Nov, poor total this fall.

Bald Eagle: imm Ellison P 9 Nov, unusual location. **N. Goshawk:** one Manitou 29 Sep; one Bristol Springs 24 Sep. **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr HBSP 26 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon:** four reports in Sep. **Merlin:** four reports Oct, one report Nov. **Virginia Rail:** last WL 2 Oct. **Whimbrel:** one HBSP 2, 5, 16 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit:** five-17 IB 6-31 Oct. **Red Knot:** last Greece 23 Oct. **W. Sandpiper:** last BB 11 Nov. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last BB 11 Nov. **Purple Sandpiper:** arr singles BB, Greece 22 Oct, one IB 22-23 Nov, one HBSP 22 Nov, more than usual. **Dunlin:** arr 12 WL 20 Sep, early; last three Salmon Creek 19 Nov. **Stilt Sandpiper:** last two IB 10 Oct. **Long-billed Dowitcher:** one IB 7-10 Oct (DS), one Greece 9 Oct (KG, CD-G). **Red Phalarope:** one-two HBSP 23-28 Oct (WS), one-two IB 7-10 Nov (BM). **Pomarine Jaeger:** one HBSP 10 Nov (BE, CC, WS!), only report. **Parasitic Jaeger:** arr two HBSP 11 Sep (CC), singles HBSP 5, 13, 23 Oct, and 24 Nov (BE). **Little Gull:** one Rpd 26 Nov (BM, RO'H, PW), only report. **Sabine's Gull:** juv HBSP 11 Sep (CC, MD, SSk, RS!); ad HBSP 14 Oct (WS). **Arctic Tern:** one on the beach HBSP 14 Oct (CC, WS!).

Snowy Owl: eight individuals Nov. **Long-eared Owl:** one Webster 1, 12 Sep (D&DT), unusual date and location. **Short-eared Owl:** arr two HBSP 23 Oct. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 150 Rochester 2 Sep; last HBSP 15 Oct. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one Irondequoit 26 Nov (GL), presumably one that has returned there in recent winters.

Alder Flycatcher: last Port Bay 5 Sep. **Purple Martin:** last BB 23 Sep. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** last Greece 15 Oct. **Bank Swallow:** last ten Port Bay 5 Sep. **Fish Crow:** one T Greece 26 Sep, 8 Oct (KG!). **Com. Raven:** Cumming Nature Center near Naples 1-3 Nov (JC). **Winter Wren:** last two Ellison P 9 Nov. **Sedge Wren:** two HP 3 Oct (R&SS), only report. **Marsh Wren:** last IB 7 Nov. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr three Greece 19 Sep; last DEP 7 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last DEP 16 Oct. **Hermit Thrush:** max 20 Webster 30 Oct, good total. **Brown Thrasher:** max six Webster 17 Sep (CG), good total. **Gray Catbird:** max 25 Webster 17 Sep, good total. **Bohemian Waxwing:** 42 HBSP 9 Nov (MD). **N. Shrike:** arr Webster 7 Nov.

N. Parula: last BB 4 Nov (MD), very late. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** last BB 16 Nov. **Pine Warbler:** one Manitou 24 Nov (RO'H), quite late. **Palm Warbler:** last Beatty Pt 11 Oct. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** two Webster 19 Sep (R&SS), only report. **Connecticut Warbler:** one Manitou 15 Sep (RO'H). **Mourning Warbler:** last Webster 15 Sep. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one Manitou 7 Oct (EB), only report.

Field Sparrow: last WL 15 Nov. **Lark Sparrow:** one HBSP 12-15 Nov (MD, mob, ph,!). **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** one Hogan Pt 3-10 Oct (MD, RS!); one HBSP 17 Oct (MD). **Fox Sparrow:** arr Irondequoit 29 Sep; last Ellison P 9 Nov. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Greece 16 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Greece 16 Sep; last Manitou 18 Nov. **Lapland Longspur:** max 100+ H 17 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** arr three IB 19 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Hamlin 9 Sep; last Greece 21 Nov. **Pine Grosbeak:** max 26 HBSP 9-30 Nov. **Red Crossbill:** two DEP 30 Oct. **White-winged Crossbill:** two Manitou 25 Oct (EB), only report. **Com. Redpoll:** *intro.* **Pine Siskin:** arr two Hamlin, 15 Greece 29 Sep. **Evening Grosbeak:** max 100+ Webster 20 Oct.

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