

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The first two weeks of the season were beautiful with sunny dry comfortable conditions. The weather switched in mid June with an oppressive heat wave. Five record high temperatures in six days brought the month's average to 4° above normal. Rain on eleven of the last twelve days of the month drenched fields and may have wreaked havoc on many ground-nesting species. The Southern Tier received the worst of this weather. One example was at Allegany SP, where thunderstorms damaged a beach and picnic area and also washed out a bridge, which limited visitor access for a few weeks. July was warm without extremes and on the dry side. The average temperature was 2° above normal while the precipitation was one inch below. The first southbound shorebirds were reported but no significant numbers were noted. August was another month without extremes. The average temperature was slightly below normal, precipitation was normal. The southbound passerine migration began with an early Olive-sided Flycatcher. However, there were few other highlights and only small groups of birds were reported.

There were a number of interesting probable breeding species found. At Allegany SP *Yellow-throated Warbler* and N. Parula continued at the Red House area while a Lawrence's type Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler returned for its second year. The Pine Warbler at Bush Hill State Forest CATT was last reported on 5 Jun. This species has never been confirmed as a breeder in the Region. Sedge Wren returned to the Buckhorn I SP ERIE site where it was first found last year. Four Red Crossbills in the Town of W Almond ALLE on 20 Jun may well have been breeding though this species wanders erratically. Orchard Oriole returned to a previous nesting site in the Town of Westfield CHAU, where two adults with two young on 3 Jul confirmed breeding. Lastly, the efforts of Chuck Rosenburg to assist Barn Owl in the Region bore fruit this summer. A pair were found using the nest box he put up in a silo in the Town of Royalton NIAG. It was touch and go for the three young in August when a Great Horned Owl was found roosting in the silo. The Great Horned Owl was just three ladder rungs below one young bird while the other juveniles were in the box. An attempt to capture the bird for transport to another area was unsuccessful but must have at least frightened it for a while, as the Barn Owls successfully fledged around 22 Aug.

Comments on the more regular breeding species were provided by few observers. Vivian Pitzrick in ALLE noted good numbers of Mourning Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, and Field Sparrow. She reported that numbers were down for Purple Martin, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow. Tim Baird in CATT found better than average numbers of Black-billed Cuckoo, Tufted Titmouse, Magnolia Warbler, and American Redstart. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported by several observers.

There were no reports of passerine migrants in June. Perhaps the most noteworthy event of the season was the exposure of the Batavia Sewage Lagoons GENE as a very good location for ducks and shorebirds. Walt Listman reported on several trips to these large ponds. On his list were 15 species of ducks, including such unusual summering birds as Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Apparently, none of these species bred in the vicinity. Northbound shorebirds on 2 Jun at the lagoons included Ruddy Turnstone, rare inland, two rare Western Sandpiper, and seven White-rumped Sandpiper. Thirteen Solitary Sandpipers there on 19 Jul were an unusually high number. On 29 Jul Listman recorded one Sanderling, rare inland, and a Baird's Sandpiper. A Red-necked Phalarope on 25 Aug brought the summer list to 17 shorebird species for the lagoons.

It was a season for exotics and released birds in the Region. Two of the records came from Sinking Ponds in East Aurora, where waterfowl are known to have been released but also where a number of legitimate rarities have been found. One, an eclipse male Tufted Duck (LH!) arrived on 16 Jul and stayed until 27 Jul. The Region still has no acceptable record of this species, and one occurring with diving ducks in fall or winter would be less suspect. A Trumpeter Swan (LH!, ph) at Sinking Ponds 21-29 Jun was unbanded and may possibly have been a wild bred bird from Ontario's program to reestablish that species. An adult Black Francolin with eight young (WW!) at Iroquois NWR was not on anyone's list of possible future breeding species in the region! This family, along with the N. Bobwhite, also at Iroquois NWR, were the result of releases by hunting-dog trainers at the refuge complex. The other exotics were a Collared Dove in Buffalo (CM!, ph) and a Budgerigar in the Town of Tonawanda (PH).

The only rarities not yet mentioned were *American Avocet* and Peregrine Falcon.

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Abbreviations: BSL - Batavia Sewage Lagoons, GENE; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; TWMA - Tonawanda WMA.

Summer reports: **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 643 Buckhorn I SP 23 Aug (WW); several nesting attempts at Buckhorn I SP, none successful. **Am. Bittern:** T Lancaster 26 Aug (MM), uncommon away from INWR complex. **Least Bittern:** road kill TWMA 12 Jul (WW), only report. **Great Egret:** max seven INWR 23 Jul; BSL 22 Jun and two 16 Aug (WL); Chautauqua L CHAU 21-24 Aug (RS). **Trumpeter Swan:** *intro.* **Green-winged Teal:** TWMA 12 Jun (WW); T Yates 12 Jun (RW); max 20 BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Am. Black Duck:** *intro.* N. **Shoveler:** T Ashford CATT 5 Jun (BC); arr BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Gadwall:** INWR and NF through season; *intro.* **Am. Wigeon:** several locations upper NR through season; ad with 7 y Beaver I SP 21 Jun (RA); arr BSL 16 Aug (WL). **Canvasback:** last BSL 2 Jun (WL), late. **Redhead:** BSL pair 2 Jun and one 22 Jun (WL), perhaps spreading from releases at Iroquois NWR. **Ring-necked Duck:** pair BSL 22 Jun and one 19 Jul (WL), rare in summer. **Tufted Duck:** *intro.* **Greater Scaup:** three BSL 2 Jun (WL), rare in summer. **Bufflehead:** BSL 19 Jul, 18 Aug, 25 Aug (WL), very rare in summer. **Hooded Merganser:** only broods INWR and BSL. **Com. Merganser:** two TWMA 12 Jun (WW), unusual location; Allegany SP 29 Jun (PH), a breeding area; up to six NF through season, nonbreeders. **Red-breasted Merganser:** NF 26 Jul (WW), uncommon in summer. **Ruddy Duck:** up to five BSL all season (WL), nonbreeders?

Osprey: T Ashford CATT 5 Jun (BC); several reports INWR where has not bred yet; Allegheny Res remains only Regional breeding site. **Bald Eagle:** two y fledged at INWR nest site; several reports of nonbreeders, mainly at INWR complex and Allegheny R. **Cooper's Hawk:** juv T Great Valley 31 Jul (TB), increasing as a breeder. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** BSL 18 Aug (WL), unusual location. **Peregrine Falcon:** imm Grand I 7 Aug (Hall!, ph). **Com. Moorhen:** several broods BSL 22 Jun (WL), only report away from INWR and Tiff Nature Preserve. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr T Somerset 22 Aug (WD). **Semipalmated Plover:** arr TWMA 19 Jul (WW). **Am. Avocet:** Barcelona Harbor CHAU 2 Aug (RS!), second

consecutive year for CHAU, ninth Regional record. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr T Newstead 19 Jul (WW). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr TWMA 17 Jul (MD). **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Machias 17 Jul (BC); *intro.* **Upland Sandpiper:** INWR 19 Jul (WW), only report, declining. **Ruddy Turnstone:** *intro.* **Sanderling:** *intro.* **W. Sandpiper:** *intro.* **Least Sandpiper:** arr INWR and BSL 19 Jul (WL); max 105 BSL 18 Aug (WL). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** BSL 25 Aug (WL); *intro.* **Baird's Sandpiper:** T Somerset 22 Aug (WD); *intro.* **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr BSL 19 Jul (WL). **Red-necked Phalarope:** *intro.* **Caspian Tern:** three reports away from Great Lakes, increasing. **Com. Tern:** two BSL 19 Jul, one 16 Aug, unusual away from Great Lakes and NR. **Black Tern:** 38 NR 15 Aug (WD); BSL 16 Aug (WL); only reports away from INWR complex.

Barn Owl: *intro.* **Com. Nighthawk:** breeders reported from Buffalo only; arr T Tonawanda 12 Aug (PH). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** Pt Gratiot 3 Aug (WW), only breeding report; two Four Mile Creek SP 27 Aug (WD, BP), probably migrants.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Allegany SP 7 Aug (TB, SE), early; E Aurora 14, 15, 28 Aug (LH). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** singles banded T Alfred 14, 18, 31 Aug (EB). **Acadian Flycatcher:** five reports, doing well in Maple-Beech-Hemlock forests. **Bank Swallow:** max 300 TWMA 29 Jul (BC). **Com. Raven:** Bush Hill State Forest CATT 1, 27 Jul (BC), also present in May, may be a new nesting area. **Tufted Titmouse:** *intro.* **Carolina Wren:** only three reports. **Winter Wren:** T Somerset 1, 4, 11 Jun (GR, RA), unusual location. **Sedge Wren:** T Yates 12 Jun (RW); *intro.* **Marsh Wren:** ten Buckhorn I SP 18 Jun (GR), first recent reports from this location. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** T Amity 18 Jun (MP), new location. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 ad, 1 y Allegany SP 24 Jul (TB), only report away from INWR complex. **E. Bluebird:** 24 pairs fledged 162 y Amity L Bluebird Trail ALLE (VP). **Swainson's Thrush:** last T Tonawanda 1 Jun (PH); arr T Tonawanda 31 Aug (PH). **N. Mockingbird:** T Ward 18 Jun (EB), only report away from L Ontario plain.

Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Brewster's type Tonawanda Indian Res 5 Jun (RA); Lawrence's type *intro.* **Tennessee Warbler:** arr Goat I 26 Aug (BP). **Nashville Warbler:** one breeding site ALLE and one WYOM; arr Fort Niagara SP 27 Aug (WD, BP). **N. Parula:** *intro.* **Yellow Warbler:** nest with eggs Amity Lake ALLE 7 Jul (VP), late. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr T Wheatfield and Goat I 26 Aug (BP). **Magnolia Warbler:** arr INWR 24 Aug (WW). **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** three breeding sites CATT and one ALLE; arr Golden Hill SP 22 Aug (BP). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Prendergast Pt CHAU (RS) and T

Alfred (EB) 31 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr Fort Niagara SP 27 Aug (WD,BP). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: *intro*. **Pine Warbler**: *intro*. **Prairie Warbler**: ten sites ALLE and one site CATT; more than usual. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr Goat I 21 Aug (WD). **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr Oak Orchard WMA 24 Aug (WW). **Black-and-white Warbler**: two breeding sites CATT and one ALLE; INWR 5 Aug (WW), unusual location, could have bred; arr two T Newstead 24 Aug (WW). **Prothonotary Warbler**: two INWR 26 Jun (WW); five Oak Orchard WMA (MD), family group?; only reports. **N. Waterthrush**: Buckhorn I SP 18 Jun (GR), unusual location. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr Golden Hill SP 22 Aug (WD). **Canada Warbler**: arr T Newstead 24 Aug (WW).

Indigo Bunting: Buffalo 1 Jul (PY), unusual location. **Vesper Sparrow**: two reports ALLE, one report ERIE, one report NIAG, now a very uncommon breeder. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: five breeding sites ALLE, CHAU, and ERIE. **Henslow's Sparrow**: T Andover and Alfred Jun (EB); at least four T Clarence 7 Aug (PY, BH); hanging on at previous sites. **White-throated Sparrow**: five breeding sites ALLE and three CATT, doing well. **Orchard Oriole**: *intro*. **Red Crossbill**: *intro*.

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