

GENESEE — REGION 2

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a warm summer. It was a dry summer. It should have been a good season for the breeding birds. June started with an average temperature of 67.8°F. This was 2.7° above average. Precipitation was at 2.43 inches, which was only 0.57 inches below normal. July was hot. The average temperature of 73.5°F was 3.3° above normal. July was dry. The 0.61 inches of precipitation was over 2 inches below normal. August was more normal with an average temperature 1.2° above normal at 69.2°F and precipitation at 4.27 inches, which was 0.87 inches above the long term average. All in all, not bad conditions was nesting. The dryness also was a factor in the early shorebird arrivals.

The summer season always is mixed because of the lingering spring migrants in June and early fall migrants in August. June saw a mix of reports from the lake. Of interest were loons and waterfowl. Common Loon was reported all month, with up to 15 individuals sighted on a single day. This seems high for the season. Unexplainable was the great

number of White-winged Scoter on Lake Ontario in early June. It remains to be determined whether this is a regular occurrence. The shorebird movement continued into June, with some good totals for individual species, and there were some interesting species, the best a very late Whimbrel. Little Gull is reported regularly according to the season, but three immatures at Hamlin Beach on 3 Jun were unexpected. The last push of passerines in June included the usual Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. There was also a smattering of warbler reports, but as was the case for the spring migration, they were fairly limited. Late sparrows included Lincoln's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak tarried to the month's end.

The lack of reports left an unclear picture of the nesting season. The summer provided birds with excellent conditions for nesting. Many of the more abundant nesters like American Robin and Mourning Dove managed to fledge their usual multiple broods. Ring-billed Gull once again nested in the Region. This year the site was on a small island in a drainage pond at Market Place Mall in Henrietta. Milt Adams of the Genesee Country Nature Center in Mumford reported a pretty good nesting season for their waterfowl; 483 Wood Duck and 54 Hooded Merganser fledged from nesting boxes on the refuge. The Hooded Merganser total is very high for the Region. Peregrine Falcon was hacked at two locations in the Region. The young birds were seen regularly throughout the season, and were joined by an apparent adult bird late in the season. The three immature Bald Eagle that summered in the Braddock Bay area were a highlight for the season. Northern Saw-whet Owl nesting was once again suspected. Some other positives included Sedge Wren at Beatty Point in Greece. Successful nesting was not confirmed, but the birds were in present throughout the season. Good numbers of Blue-winged and Hooded Warblers were reported from Letchworth State Park. More notable there was the report of Nashville Warbler and good numbers of Prairie Warbler. The midsummer Whip-poor-will at Manitou was a real surprise, but once again they were nearly absent elsewhere. A new Henslow's Sparrow spot was located in Victor in June and observers saw up to four during July. We can only speculate why an Evening Grosbeak appeared at the end of July.

The downside of the nesting season seemed to outweigh the up side. Green Heron was noticeably down. The Blue-winged Teal seems to have almost been extirpated as a nesting species along the lakeshore. There were few, if any, sightings of this once common nester. Black Tern lost a number of nests early in the nesting season, possibly due to water and

weather conditions. The scarcity of Golden-winged Warbler was obvious; the decline of this species has been documented in a number of areas. Other species that were noted in decreased numbers included Black-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Vesper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Yellow-breasted Chat went unreported.

The beginning of the fall migration was slow through July. The highlight was an immature *American Swallow-tailed Kite* observed by Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 3 Aug. The young bird was viewed for about five minutes as it worked along the lakeshore. The lack of habitat due to the dryness may have slowed the usual shorebirds. The best habitat was at Ontario Beach, Charlotte. Early arriving Hudsonian Godwit and Dunlin in July were real surprises. There was a trickle of warblers in July but nothing really noteworthy. Number picked up in August as should be the case. Migrant shorebird reports increased, most likely due to the increased observation time at Hamlin Beach SP. Parasitic Jaeger in August also was a good find for the Region. There were also some good waterfowl reports for August. Many observers commented on the scarcity of passerines during August. Flycatcher, thrush and warbler movements were generally light.

Contributors: Douglas Bassett, Sue Boettger, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Mike Davids. Jeff Dodge, R. Dows, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Herb Keating, Gary Klue, Jerry Liquori, Walt Listman. Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara. Bill & Betty Powell, Ed Sailor, Pat Seager, Dominic Sherony, Robert, Susan & Cathy Spahn, Paul Spindler, William Symonds, Dave Tetlow. Don & Donna Traver.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay Park; BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach State Park; LSP - Letchworth State Park.

Summer reports: **Com. Loon:** max 3-15 HB during Jun, one-two there in Jul. **Great Egret:** one Gates 2-4 Jun (GK), one Greece 27 Jul (KG), uncommon. **Wood Duck:** *intro* N. **Pintail:** one BB 6 Jun, unseasonal. **Greater Scaup:** one Greece 17 Jun, unusual; arr HB 6 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr HB 27 Aug. **Surf Scoter:** six HB 1 Jun (WS), very unusual in Jun. **White-winged Scoter:** max 1030 HB 2 Jun (WS, mob), very high count; one HB 26 Jul, unusual, one HB 25 Aug, first fall. **Hooded Merganser:** *intro*. **Com. Goldeneye:** female Greece 16 Jun, unseasonal. **Bufflehead:** arr HB 28 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** arr Manitou 1 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** last one HB 22 Jun, max 16 HB Jun.

Am. Swallow-tailed Kite: *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** *intro*. **Peregrine Falcon:**

intro; one Rochester 16 Jun, unusual; ad male Greece 22 Jul; one Greece 19 Aug. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr HB 11 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover**: arr HB 25 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr Charlotte 15 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr Charlotte 12 Jul. **Whimbrel**: last HB 1 Jun (WS); arr Manitou 15 Jul (RM, RO'H). **Hudsonian Godwit**: two Charlotte 23 Jul (PS), very early. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr Charlotte 23 Jul. **Red Knot**: ad, imm Charlotte 9 Aug. **Sanderling**: arr Charlotte 10 Jun. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 428 HB 1 Jun, high count. **W. Sandpiper**: last Hamlin 9 Jun; arr Charlotte 9 Aug. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr Brighton 24 Jul. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr Charlotte 23 Jul; max 175 BB 9 Aug (DT), early for so many. **Dunlin**: last HB 1 Jun; one-two Charlotte 23 Jul (PS), very early. **Parasitic Jaeger**: four HB 27 Aug (WS). **Little Gull**: *intro*. **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Black Tern**: last two BB 26 Aug.

N. Saw-whet Owl: imm Rochester 28 Jul (ES, ph). **Whip-poor-will**: one Manitou 30 Jun (RO'H), nesting?

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Manitou 8 Jun. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: last west lakeshore 9 Jun. **Sedge Wren**: one Greece 29 Jun, nesting behavior; one Greece 17 Jul; one Greece 8 Aug. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: last Manitou 6 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 37 LSP 5 Jun. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Lawrence's type Mumford 8 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr BP 10 Aug. **Prairie Warbler**: four Limmerick 4 Jun (AC'), interesting location. **Blackpoll Warbler**: last Greece 3 Jun; arr BP 28 Aug. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max six LSP 5 Jun. **Hooded Warbler**: max 24 LSP 5 Jun.

Indigo Bunting: max 51 Kendall 5 Jun. **Henslow's Sparrow**: *intro*. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last Manitou 6 Jun, late. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one Greece 27-28 Jun (CD-G, KG), very late. **Orchard Oriole**: one Kendall 4 Jun, uncommon nester. **Evening Grosbeak**: last six Manitou 6 Jun; one Naples 31 Jul (RS).

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York, 14612