

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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It was a warm fall. September's average temperature was above normal, and temperatures generally were quite stable. October was similar. November's average temperature was 45.8°F, over 5° above normal. The first half of the month saw only one day when the temperature dipped below freezing. September's precipitation stood barely below normal at 2.84 inches, but rain occurred on just a few days during the month. October received 0.82 inches, about a third of the normal precipitation. November's precipitation was 0.32 inches above

normal at 3.24 inches. Even more significantly, the first official snowfall was not recorded until 23 Nov, setting a record for the latest date ever. All of this added up to a pretty uneventful season for weather systems. Major fronts seemed to be nonexistent and bird movements and concentrations followed pretty much the same pattern. Birds seemed to be well dispersed and in some cases missing.

Undoubtedly, the event of the season and most likely the year was the first *Ancient Murrelet* for the Region and New York State. It discovered by Bob Marcotte of the end of the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River on 31 Oct. The bird afforded many observers great views as it fished in close proximity to the pier. The bird stayed around into November and was finally spotted flying west from Hamlin Beach and was later rediscovered off St. Catherines, Ontario. Full details will appear in a future *Kingbird*.

What was the fall migration like? The faithful group of observers at Hamlin Beach kept careful track of migrants one Lake Ontario. They indicated that birds were about average in variety and number during the season. The Red-throated Loon flight was very good, but Common Loon was down. The arrival of Red-necked Grebe during September was unusual, and the discovery of an Eared Grebe was noteworthy. The Lake Watch also produced two good counts of Brant. The usual jaeger reports came from that location.

Waterfowl concentrations were mixed. Dabbling duck totals seemed up a bit. Systematic observing along Lake Ontario helped here and the closing of Round Pond in Greece to hunting also was a big plus. The numbers of migrant diving ducks were lower than in recent years. Two reports of *Common Eider* were highlights for the season. Shorebird habitat was minimal and hence the shorebird totals also were low. The only consistent location was Ontario Beach at Charlotte. But even late in the season as the exposed mud flats increased, there continued to be few birds. The lack of Dunlin was noted by a number of observers. Gulls and terns were noteworthy most for the few reports of any unusual nature. There were very few tern observations and Little Gull was the only rare gull sighted.

Raptors were lackluster, with good reports of Cooper's Hawk about the only positive. There were few reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk and Northern Goshawk. A Golden Eagle was very unusual for the Region. Rough-legged Hawk arrived in fair numbers during October but were scarce after that. Peregrine Falcon continued to be reported with regularity. A Barn Owl was one of the few reports of this species this year. It may be a bit more common than observations indicate, but it is

still quite rare in the Region. Snowy Owl set a record early arrival date for the Region. Short-eared Owls were observed crossing Lake Ontario in October and November. A N. Saw-whet owl was one of the few fall records over the last 25 years. It is suspected that more actually migrate through, secretive at this time of the year.

The passerine migration, warblers in particular, was hard to interpret. Either there weren't very many birds or observers just weren't out looking for them. Bob Marcotte's almost daily check of Badgerow Park in Greece kept the variety of warbler species at about normal levels. The banding stations at Manitou Beach and a few good days in the backyard of Don & Donna Traver also added to the totals. The only warbler highlights for the season were Orange-crowned and Connecticut Warblers. If those were the only concentrations, then warblers were dismal. There was every indication that counts of other groups also were down. Good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow and American Goldfinch were reported at Hamlin Beach in October, but generally speaking the expected concentrations of sparrows were lacking. White-crowned Sparrow seemed to be in short supply.

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Abbreviations: HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; SB - Sodus Bay.

Fall Reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HBSP 15 Oct; max 1944 on 27 Nov. **Com. Loon:** max 516 HBSP 8 Nov, low total. **Horned Grebe:** arr HBSP 7 Sep, max 249 on 2S Oct. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr HBSP 11 Sep (WS, RS, MD), record early, max eight on 20 Oct. **Eared Grebe:** one HBSP 1 Oct (WS), very unusual. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 118 HBSP 27 Oct. **Brant:** arr one HBSP 9 Oct; max 1606 HBSP 1 Nov, 1438 2 Nov; last three HBSP 6 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** max 4676 HBSP 10 Nov. **Com. Eider:** one HBSP 15 Oct (CC, BE, WS); one HBSP 22 Oct (MDv, WS). **Com. Goldeneye:** arr four HBSP 15 Oct, max 1017 HBSP 13 Nov. **Bufflehead:** arr two HBSP 12 Oct, max 326 HBSP 1 Nov. **Oldsquaw:** arr L Ontario 18 Sep. **Hooded Merganser:** max 150 Conesus L 29 Nov. **Com. Merganser:** arr 15 HBSP 8 Oct. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 944

HBSP 13 Nov. **Ruddy Duck**: max 42 SB 23 Oct (DS,MT), good total.

Turkey Vulture: last S Bristol 12 Nov. **Bald Eagle**: ad Conesus L 26 Nov, few reports. **N. Goshawk**: one Greece 24 Oct, few reports. **Golden Eagle**: one Naples 4 Nov (JC). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr Braddock Bay 11 Oct. **Am. Coot**: max 500 SB 27 Nov. **Merlin**: max two Greece 13 Sep. **Peregrine Falcon**: singles Greece 1 Sep (KG), HBSP 1 Sep (CC, WS), Greece 10 Sep (RBA), HBSP 24 Sep (BE), excellent fall totals. **Purple Sandpiper**: arr three HBSP 1 Nov. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: one T Hamlin 17 Sep (DS), only report. **Parasitic Jaeger**: max three HBSP 18 Sep (CC, WS), three singles during Oct. **Forster's Tern**: max two Ontario Beach 17 Sep. *Ancient Murrelet*: intro.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Elba 11 Oct. **Barn Owl**: one where? 11 Oct (BE). **Snowy Owl**: arr Geneseo area 17 Oct (GH), record early. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one banded Penfield 8 Nov (RMck). **Com. Nighthawk**: max 53 Brighton 14 Sep (CC), numbers continue to dwindle.

Willow Flycatcher: last one Thousand Acre Swamp 2 Oct, late. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max 80 HBSP 22 Oct. **Winter Wren**: max six Irondequoit 30 Sep. **Marsh Wren**: last two IB 21 Oct. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Greece 18 Sep, last two S Bristol 22 Nov (P&JS). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr Manitou 14 Sep, last HBSP, S Bristol 29 Oct. **N. Shrike**: arr Chili 25 Oct, few reports.

Orange-crowned Warbler: singles Greece 30 Sep (BM), Greece 3 Oct (BM), Manitou 10 Oct (RMc). **Palm Warbler**: last three Irondequoit Oct 8 (B&BP), only report. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Webster 30 Sep. **Mourning Warbler**: last Webster 11 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Chili 25 Oct. **Field Sparrow**: last at feeder Manitou 20 Nov (RO'H). **Vesper Sparrow**: last one Hogan Pt 28 Oct. **Fox Sparrow**: last three Webster P 27 Nov. **Lapland Longspur**: arr three HBSP 29 Oct. **Snow Bunting**: arr HBSP 9 Oct. **Pine Grosbeak**: arr two Irondequoit 31 Oct (RS, SS).

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