

REGION 2-GENESEE

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The fall season was one of variety. Looking at the species totals one might say that it was a good migration, but the numbers were generally low and the migration slow. September started things off warm and dry. However, the average temperature was 60.4°, which was over a degree lower than normal. The precipitation was a mere 1.5" which was barely half of the normal total. There was a definite lack of frontal systems conducive to migration. October reversed the trend with more than twice as much precipitation as normal at 5.7" vs 2.35". This produced many weekends with rain and poor conditions for birding. The average temperature was 4.1° above normal at 55.2°. The general pattern of southerly winds continued the poor conditions for fall migration. Despite those conditions the species count for the month was the highest since that statistic has been kept (1974). November was altogether different, with the key feature being record snowfall. The total reached 23.4". Precipitation totalled 4.17", which was well above

the normal 2.82". The average temperature of 35.2° was over five degrees below normal. Frontal passages were regular but included both rain and snow producing difficult birding conditions at times.

The overall migration was somewhat lackluster, as noted above. However, some systematic studies have added valuable insight to the season's records. The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was conducted once again under the leadership of Brett Ewald. The presence of the observers at that location has helped increase the species count and has given us a data base to search for trends. As that watch continues the data should become increasingly useful. Bob Marcotte spent a great deal of time censusing the fall warblers at Badgerow Park. His efforts at this location have yielded baseline information about the park and the migration throughout that near lakeshore area. The passerine banding at Kaiser-Manitou Beach was continued this year under the auspices of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory and Elizabeth Brooks. Valuable data were received from that location, also. As always, the season brought both high points and low points.

Loon and grebe numbers were not very good this fall. Of note, we find the max for Red-throated Loon exceeded that for Common Loon. The **Western Grebe** observed by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach on 22 October was the 7th Monroe County record for this species. There were a number of N. Gannet reports this fall. It is hard to ascertain how many different individuals were sighted, but there were four reports all received from the Hamlin Beach lakewatch. A **Great Cormorant** observed by Brett Ewald and John Bounds on 5 Sep at Braddock Bay was a good find for the Region. Double-crested Cormorant numbers continued to be down from last year.

The whole grouping of herons and egrets was notable only for few reports and no highlights. The waterfowl picture was mixed. Mute Swan, unfortunately, is doing well, with numerous reports of family groups from Irondequoit Bay to Braddock Bay. The Brant flight was poor this season. Puddle ducks were in good variety but not very high in number. The diving ducks were somewhat late in arriving and numbers were not particularly noteworthy. Scaup seemed well down, as did the dark-winged scoters. A male Harlequin Duck discovered by Bob Marcotte on 3 Nov at Hamlin Beach was observed by many. Ruddy Duck numbers were pretty good, with more consistent reports of a few birds than usual here in the fall.

Two reports of Osprey in late November were most likely the same bird and were late for Osprey in the Region. There were a few N. Goshawk reports. Good numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk reported. A late Broad-winged Hawk report was observed at Durand-Eastman Park in October. Rough-legged Hawk reports this fall exceeded last year's counts. Peregrine Falcon reports were also up again.

It was a dreadful fall for shorebirds. While again most expected species were reported, the totals were described as dismal by one observer. On the other hand, it wasn't a bad fall season for gulls and terns. The surprise of the season was an imm **Least Tern** observed by John Bounds at Hamlin Beach on 25 October. This was a first for the Region this century and correlated with later reports of this species from Region 1 and nearby Ontario, Canada. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reports were up and Black-legged Kittiwake was reported in numbers not seen here in many years. The poor Black Tern nesting season this year was followed by an early departure of the species from the Region.

A few Short-eared Owl were observed crossing the lake at the Hamlin Beach watch. These and the three N. Saw-whet Owl banded at Manitou by Elizabeth Brooks and in Penfield by Bob McKinney were the only migrant owl reports. There were no early Snowy Owl reports this year. Common Nighthawk continued the trend of poor counts.

There was only a single report of Olive-sided Flycatcher. An *Empidonax* flycatcher in October at Geneseo was not convincingly identified to species, but is late for any. Eastern Phoebe was seen into late November. Swallows were generally below average in number and early in departure. A report of Common Raven south of Rochester continued the recent trend of sightings and once again hinted of breeding in the hills. The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight was good, with many reports and a number of birds lingering through the season. Carolina Wren continued to be poorly reported, while the number of Winter Wren reports was good. The thrush migration was somewhat poor, with only a few days of decent numbers for all species. Of note were eleven Gray-cheeked Thrush banded by Bob McKinney at Manitou on 26 Sep. Am. Robin departed early this year; a poor wild food supply may have spurred their exodus.

Bohemian Waxwing was reported in good numbers from Hamlin Beach this fall, with scattered additional reports from other

locations around the Region. This hasn't occurred in a number of years. Increased numbers of N. Shrike were also reported.

Vireos were low and generally early to depart. Two **White-eyed Vireo** banded at Manitou were a highlight. The warbler migration was poor. Noticeably low were Tennessee, Cape May, Ovenbird and N. Waterthrush. An immature female **Prairie Warbler**, rarely reported in the fall, was discovered at Irondequoit Bay Outlet by Gary Chapin on 14 Oct and remained at least until the 22nd. The Connecticut Warbler banded at Manitou on 2 Oct by Elizabeth Brooks was rare, although not unexpected here in the fall.

It was a poor fall for both Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, continuing their recent trends. The sparrow migration was not particularly impressive; numbers were down. A Clay-colored Sparrow in Clarendon in October was a good find. Blackbird numbers were average, with large flocks roosting in the lakeshore marshes to late in the season.

The influx of winter finches was fairly good, with sightings of most expected species. However, numbers were generally low, and the birds didn't linger. This may again have been due in part to the lack of food in the Region. Two **Hoary Redpolls** found by Dick O'Hara at Manitou on 23 Nov marked the third consecutive year of their occurrence in the Region.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, C - Charlotte, Durand-Eastman Park, G- Greece, H - Town of Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, M - Manitou, W - Webster.

Fall reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr one HB 16 Oct; max 958 HB 23 Nov. **Common Loon:** max 245 HB 6 HB 6 Nov. **Horned Grebe:** arr

one HB 4 Sep. **Red-necked Grebe**: one - five HB various Oct, all Nov. **Western Grebe**: HB 22 Oct (WS), 7th MONR record. **N. Gannet**: one HB 30 Oct (BE); one HB 5 Nov (WS,MD); one HB 13 Nov (JB); one HB 30 Nov (BE,JB), all immatures. **Great Cormorant**: BB 5 Sep (BE,JB). **Double-crested Cormorant**: max 400 BB 19 Oct. **Am. Bittern**: last one G 15 Oct. **Least Bittern**: last one G 1 Oct. **Tundra Swan**: arr six BB 3 Nov; max 65 Conesus Lake 19 Nov. **Snow Goose**: max 15 H 4 Nov (RMC), 12 blues,three snows. **Brant**: max 96 HB 19 Oct; last one Mt. Morris 18 Nov. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr one G 26 Sep. **Greater Scaup**: arr one HB 9 Sep. **Lesser Scaup**: arr two HB 2 Sep. **Harlequin Duck**: one HB 3-6 Nov (RM, mob), adult male. **Oldsquaw**: arr one HB 3 Sep. **Black Scoter**: arr 13 HB 24 Sep. **Surf Scoter**: arr one HB 20 Sep. **Common Goldeneye**: arr three HB 16 Oct. **Bufflehead**: arr two HB 16 Oct. **Hooded Merganser**: max 150 Conesus Lake 19 Nov. **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr 15 HB 23 Sep. **Ruddy Duck**: max 16 Conesus Lake 4 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: one Mendon Ponds 7 Nov (K&JF), late. **Osprey**: one HB 21 Nov (BE); one G 22 Nov (KG). **N. Goshawk**: one LHB 9 Nov; one Springwater 16-30 Nov, one G 30 Nov. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: last two Mendon Ponds 29 Oct. **Broad-winged Hawk**: DE 28 Oct (KG). **Rough-legged Hawk**: arr one Sodus, Retsof 22 Oct. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Avon 24 Sep,(CC); one G 25 Nov (DS,GC), unusual at this time of the year. **Common Moorhen**: last one F 25 Oct. **American Coot**: max 420 IB 14 Nov. **American Golden-Plover**: two-seven Carlton 3 Sep; last one H 17 Nov. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last one Batavia 3 Sep. **Whimbrel**: last one H 30 Sep. **Hudsonian Godwit**: 50+ Kendall 2 Sep, (D &MS), one large group flying over. **Red Knot**: one DE 16 Sep; one IB 16 Sep, two C 26 Sep, one C 2 Oct, decent total for the Region. **Western Sandpiper**: last two Summerville 24 Oct. **Purple Sandpiper**: arr one IB 23 Nov (RM), only report. **Dunlin**: arr one HB 23 Sep; last one B 23 Nov. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: arr one Carlton 2 Sep; one H 23 Sep, numbers still low in recent years. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: arr one Parma 16 Sep (RS). **Franklin's Gull**: one imm HB 8 Oct (WS), uncommon in the region. **Little Gull**: arr one HB 4 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one IB 8 Oct (MP); one IB 14 Oct (GC); one C 27 Oct (RM); one C 28 Oct (GC), all adults. **Glaucous Gull**: arr one HB 18-19 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: max 10 HB 19 Nov (WS); one HB 22 Nov (ER); one HB 24 Nov (CC,MP); one HB 26 ov(WS), all immatures. **Forster's Tern**: last one C 25 Oct (RM). **Least Tern**: one imm HB 25 Oct (JB), 1st regional record this century.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last M 4 Oct. **Short-eared Owl:** arr one HB 7 Oct. **Common Nighthawk:** 100 Brighton 5 Sep (D&DT), decent total for recent years. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one Irondequoit 24 Nov (GL), returned again for the winter.

Purple Martin: last three HB 17 Sep. **Cliff Swallow:** last one Batavia 3 Sep. **Common Raven:** two Springwater 20 Oct (KF). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr one G 4 Sep; last one G 17 Nov. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr one M 18 Sep; max 11 M 26 Sep (RMc). **Swainson's Thrush:** arr two W 2 Sep. **Hermit Thrush:** arr five HB 16 Sep. **American Pipit:** arr one H 9 Sep; last six HB 4 Nov. **Bohemian Waxwing:** 15 H 4 Nov R&SS); max 45 H 18 Nov (KG); one-three DE 19-25 Nov (GC), six G 25 Nov (KG). **Northern Shrike:** arr one Henrietta 29 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: one M 9 Oct (EB); one M 11 Oct (EB), both birds banded. **Philadelphia Vireo:** last one w G 13 Oct. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr two G 9 Sep. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one G 25 Sep (KG&CD-G), last one G 13 Oct (RM). **Northern Parula:** arr one W 3 Sep.. **Cape May Warbler:** arr one W 3 Sep. **Prairie Warbler:** IB Outlet 14-22 Oct (GC,RS). **Mourning Warbler:** last one G 19 Sep. **Hooded Warbler:** last one Portage 23 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last one Portage 15 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr one M 9 Oct. **Chipping Sparrow:** last one Portage 26 Nov. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one Clarendon 8 Oct (KG & CD-G). **Fox Sparrow:** arr one G 19 Oct. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr one G 4 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr one HB 18 Sep. **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** one Henrietta 18 Oct, 4 Nov (GH); one G 17 Nov (KG,CD-G); one M 27-30 Nov (RO). **Lapland Longspur:** arr seven HB 7 Oct. **Snow Bunting:** arr eight HB 7 Oct; max 750 G 18 Nov. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr one Mendon Ponds 27 Sep; last ten BB 10 Nov. **Common Redpoll:** arr two W 5 Nov. **Hoary Redpoll:** intro. **Pine Siskin:** arr one HB 6 Oct. **Evening Grosbeak:** arr two M 10 Oct; max 250 Naples 13 Nov.

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