

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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It should have been a pretty good breeding season. The overall picture was of a relatively dry and cool season. Scattered periods of heavy rain dominated the rainfall patterns, with many days passing without precipitation. June was warm with an average temperature of 68°F, 2.9° above normal. Precipitation was also up, with a total of 6.65", 3.65" above normal. July reversed the trend at 2.1° below the normal at 68.1° and precipitation 2.18", a mere 0.53" below normal. August was just about normal, with temperatures 1.3° above the norm at 69.3° and precipitation a scant .06" higher than the 3.40" norm.

Things generally looked pretty average for the passerines. Most observers indicated that typical summer birding seemed to turn up the usual fare. Conditions were good for the most part. The natural food supply was adequate, with good insect populations and the wild fruit crop only a bit down at worst.

Once again Common Loons were located on the smaller Finger Lakes within the Region, though there have still been no "Confirmed" or even "Probable" breeding records. While never really abundant, Pied-billed Grebes were very low along the lakeshore this summer. Rumors of nesting on Round Pond in Greece were just that; no records were submitted.

The status of herons was typical of recent years. Both bitterns were scarce, and Black-crowned Night-Heron went unreported, probably in part due to the high waters along the lakeshore.

Waterfowl nesting season was somewhat interesting. **Trumpeter Swans** were reported nesting in the wetlands of Wayne County. Access to the private land was allowed only to DEC biologists who confirmed their presence. The origin of the birds is unknown at this point [Ed: See Season's Highlights for a recent update.]. While it could possibly be from the relocation efforts in Ontario, Canada, the possibility exists of a local waterfowl breeder being the source. Mute Swans continued to nest along the lakeshore between Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay. A number of young were produced but fortunately not all managed to survive. Quite likely the healthy snapping turtle population helped curtail the numbers. They still seem to be doing much better than is desired. Wood Duck and Mallard did well, but Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal were down again. The usual summer totals for ducks seemed lower than in recent years.

Nesting raptors were typical. Turkey Vultures inhabited their usual haunts. Northern Harriers were found at Braddock Bay, but no nesting was confirmed at Beatty Point this year. N. Goshawk nested once again in the hills south of the city. The traditional scattered reports of Red-shouldered Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk came from the higher elevations in the southern parts of the Region. A highlight of the season was a pair of Peregrine Falcons which nested on a building in downtown Rochester. One of four young fledged successfully.

Pheasants continued their downward trend while Wild Turkeys were common and widespread. Observers noted that the high water levels in wetlands along the lakeshore seemed to contribute to a lack of moorhens and rails. Reports were down, and they were generally difficult to find.

Cuckoo numbers were pretty good but in relatively few locations. Common Nighthawk was unreported as a nesting species. It is very likely that they still are nesting on buildings downtown, but their status has not been well monitored. There was a report from Silver Stadium, home of the Rochester Red Wings, during a night game. Birds were observed catching insects around the lights. Whip-poor-will was completely unreported.

Red-headed Woodpeckers apparently had a good year in the Nations Road area near Avon. Kurt Fox tallied some good totals late in the season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported more regularly this summer. It may have been a result of more thorough coverage rather than of an increase in numbers.

Flycatchers seemed to have a good season. Numbers of Eastern Kingbird were good. However, Acadian Flycatcher was not located in a couple of traditional locations. The swallow picture was mixed, with about average totals for most species. Purple Martins seemed down, as did Bank Swallow, with both reported from fewer active colonies and failing to mass in the usual high totals at the July staging areas. Cliff Swallows were a bit tougher to find this year, especially evident in the decline in numbers near Braddock Bay since the demise of the Elmheart Hotel and nearby structures.

The trend to fewer Carolina Wrens continued, and Sedge Wren was not reported from the lone site it has occupied the last couple of years. Thrushes remained stable. A real highlight was a Bicknell's Thrush which was banded by Robert McKinney on 1 June at the Kaiser - Manitou Beach Banding Station.

Vireos and warblers were noted in about average numbers for the season. Golden-winged Warbler continued to be scarce. Yellow-breasted Chat was reported more regularly this summer, but the totals have never been very high, so it doesn't really give us an indication of status.

There was very little change in the sparrow picture. Grassland species continued at recent, low levels. Vesper Sparrow continues to be scarce along the lake shore but generally more common in the southern parts of the Region. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were located in a few restricted locales, as is usually the case. The Dickcissel found by Kurt Fox along Nations Road was reported into the summer, and a Clay-colored Sparrow was found in the town of Parma by Gary Chapin and Dominic Sherony. Clay-colored is fairly regular in the Region, but the date and location were unusual.

Of interest among the icterids was the report of Orchard Oriole from the Geneseo area. Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball confirmed their nesting in that area. There wasn't really much doing with the finches. House Finch seems to be declining in the Region. A number of observers have reported birds with conjunctivitis. Of interest were reports of Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak into June, but this has happened from time to time over the years and they have even occasionally nested in the past.

The reporting period also covers the tail end of the spring migration and the front end of the fall migration. With things as late as they were this spring, there was a surprisingly light push of migrants into June. Of note were: the Mississippi Kite reports from the Braddock Bay area, while reported nearly each spring now, still of great interest; the numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Swainson's Thrushes banded on June first at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station; and White-throated and White-crowned sparrows late with early June reports.

The usual shorebird species were reported in June, but habitat was limited and numbers low. Warblers had begun their dispersal in August and were carefully monitored daily by Bob Marcotte in Badgerow Park. The Hamlin Beach Lakewatch began daily counts again in August and a record number of early migrants were reported. Some early waterfowl were reported, with sightings of Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter and Bufflehead. The first Parasitic Jaeger of the season was seen on 25 Aug.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, C - Charlotte, CL - Conesus Lake, G - Geneseo, GR - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, LW - Letchworth State Park, M - Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds Park, NR- Nations Road, P - Perinton.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** one-two CL 27-28 Jun; one CL 1 Jul; one Hemlock Lake 5 Jul, typical summer reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr one HB 15 Aug. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 385 HB 24 Aug. **N. Pintail:** one IB 30 Jul, unusual in summer. **Greater Scaup:** arr one HB 15 Aug; max nine HB 24 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr one HB 16 Aug; max five HB 29 Aug. **Black Scoter:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **White-winged Scoter:** arr five HB 15 Aug; max 34 HB 24 Aug. **Bufflehead:** one GR 6 June, not an uncommon visitor but unusual nonetheless; arr one HB 24 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr one HB 22 Aug.

HAWKS-ACIDS: **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** one imm BB 1,3 Jun (RO'H, ML). **Merlin:** one BB 24 Aug, only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** one C 6 Aug (KG); one Hogan Point 17 Aug (GC.K&JF); one GR 21 Aug (KG). **Virginia Rail:** max 10 P sev Jun. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr one H 10 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr one C 25 Jul. **Greater Yellowlegs:** arr one P 11 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr one P 3 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr one P 11 Jul. **Whimbrel:** arr one H 13 Jul. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr one C 22 Jul. **Sanderling:** arr one C 10 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr two C 10 Jul. **Western Sandpiper:** arr

one C 30 Aug. **Least Sandpiper**: arr two P 5 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper**: arr one C 3 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr one P 13 Jul. **Stilt Sandpiper**: arr one H 7 Jul. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr one P 13 Jul. **Parasitic Jaeger**: arr one HB 25 Aug (WS). **Laughing Gull**: one BB 3-5 Jun (R O'H); one C 10 Jun (BM); one IB 19-20 Jul (D&DT) adults, uncommon. **Iceland Gull**: one C 1 Jun (BM), late. **Forster's Tern**: two-three BB 1-2 Jun, 14, 19 Jul; one C 30 Jul. **Black Tern**: last one BB 26 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Com. Nighthawk**: arr one G 21 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: two C 8 Jun, last. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: max 13 M 1 Jun; last one M 6 Jun; arr one M 16 Aug.. **Acadian Flycatcher**: max three LW 13 Jun. **Com. Raven**: one Portageville 22, 25 Aug (AW). **BICKNELL'S THRUSH**: one M 6 Jun (RMc), banded. **Swainson's Thrush**: max 16 M 1 Jun; arr one M 26 Jul, banded.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Philadelphia Vireo**: last one NR 7 Jun; arr one BP 30 Aug. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr one BP 15 Aug. **"Lawrence's" Warbler**: one LW 30 Jun. **Tennessee Warbler**: last one Brighton 11 Jun. **Nashville Warbler**: arr one M 26 Jul, banded. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr one BB 17 Aug. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr one BP, BB 28 Aug. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr one M 6 Aug. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr one BP 5 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: last one M 1 Jun; arr one BP 9 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler**: last one C 10 Jun; arr one BP 31 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler**: last one BP 19 Aug. **Ovenbird**: arr lakeshore one BP 25 Aug. **N. Waterthrush**: arr lakeshore one BP 10 Aug. **Mourning Warbler**: arr lakeshore one BP 5 Aug. **Wilson's Warbler**: last one M 6 Jun, arr one BP 14 Aug. **Canada Warbler**: arr 11 BP 12 Aug. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Rush 6, 8 Jun (AC), new location; one MP 9-10 Jun (J&KF); one LW 6 Jul (KF).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one Parma 7 Jul (DS, GC), uncommon. **DICKCISSEL**: one NR 1-30 Jun, 1-9 Jul. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: max 8 NR 28 Jun. **Henslow's Sparrow**: one-four LW 1-30 Jun; four West Bloomfield 1 Aug, new location. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last one M 4 Jun, late. **White-throated Sparrow**: one Rattlesnake Hill WMA 8 Jun (GH), unusual location. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one M 1 Jun, last. **Dark-eyed Junco**: arr lakeshore one BP 22 Aug. **Orchard Oriole**: one Retsoff 1 Jun (KF); two NR 17 Jun (KF); two-three G 30 Jun, 11 Jul (JK), good totals

for summer. **Pine Siskin:** one G 6 Jun; one M 21 Jun, late. **Evening Grosbeak:** one G 24 Jun, late.

Corrigendum: HEd: In my various table manipulations in editing and formating the hawkwatch table in the spring report for Region 2, Am. Kestrel was dropped out and some of the kestrel data ended up opposite Golden Eagle. The correct table lines in **The Kingbird**, vol.46, p. 233, should read:

Golden Eagle	53	5 - 16 Apr	25 Feb - 16 May
American Kestrel	971	170 - 19Apr	1 Mar - 5 Jun