

REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

Climatic conditions were highly variable and not always fall like this season. In fact, there was a touch of winter. September started things off in a typical fashion with an average temperature of 62°F which was only 0.3° above normal. Precipitation was 2.14" above normal at 5.11". October pretty much followed a similar pattern, with a temperature average of 51.2° and precipitation at 5.4", 0.1° and 2.96" above normal, respectively. The greatest seasonal contrast came in November, where the average temperature of 34.3° was 6.2° below normal and precipitation was 1.2" above normal at 4.12". The end of the season brought more traditional winter fare as the snowfall record for November was eclipsed.

While the season was marked by a variety of conditions, the most striking was the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Fran. It certainly contributed to the above average rainfall, but more importantly, it deposited species associated with the South Atlantic. At other times the usual frontal passages contributed to concentrations of migrants.

The season's species total was quite good. The hurricane additions contributed to the otherwise good Regional coverage provided by many observers including the Hamlin Lakewatch under the direction of Brett Ewald, the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station under the auspices of Braddock Bay

Bird Observatory, and the warbler surveying done by Bob Marcotte at Badgerow Park in Greece.

The Hamlin Beach Lakewatch was once again the place to find loons. Observers felt that the count was about average this year with no outstanding days or counts. A **Pacific/Arctic Loon** was well described from Point Breeze. In winter plumage the two are difficult to separate, and this bird, while most likely a Pacific based on normal movement patterns and records, was not specifically identified. Grebes too were about average. The **Black-capped Petrel** sighted at Hamlin Beach on 23 Sep was a Regional 1st and most likely the highlight of the season. Two Northern Gannet reports from Hamlin Beach were very good and characteristic of the season. Double-crested Cormorants observations continue, but numbers seem to be stabilized and down from some recent years.

Wader highlights included a Glossy Ibis at Round Pond in September and a Least Bittern at Braddock Bay on 12 Oct, a Regional record late date.

The fall waterfowl flights were generally nondescript, with only a few notable observations. The 37 Snow Geese at Hamlin Beach is a good fall total. Brant numbers were mediocre at best. The dark-winged scoters were well down from recent years. Greater Scaup continued to be one of the highlights, with thousands being reported along the lakeshore. Red-breasted Mergansers had a single day total of over 1200 birds on the 16th of Nov. Two King Eider reports from the Region were noteworthy. Ruddy Ducks were well noted, with two groups numbering over 50 individuals during Oct.

Raptor numbers were about average. There were no noticeable trends. An early Rough-legged Hawk in October was not a sign of things to come, as subsequent records were few. There were also a few reports of Peregrine Falcon continuing recent trends. There were rumors of Peregrines in downtown Rochester, but no actual reports were submitted.

Three Sandhill Cranes in Richmond from the 19th to the 26th of November provided only the second fall report of this species in the Region.

Shorebirds put in a poor showing. High water levels left us with a limited amount of habitat and, as a result, a limited number of decent shorebird days. Observers noted a lack of both Pectoral Sandpipers and Dunlin. A **Piping Plover** at Hamlin Beach from 16 - 20 Sep was the best shorebird of the season. Other highlights included: two Hudsonian Godwits at Hamlin Beach in September, two Purple Sandpipers from the piers at the mouth of the Genesee River, and a number of Red-necked Phalarope reports from Hamlin Beach. Four Red Phalarope reports were quite good.

Jaegers were definitely a highlight of the season. The count started in September with over 100 jaegers reported and continued right through the season with record totals in November. Observers noted that the pattern often

seemed to favor a closer approach to shore affording them a better view for separating the species. Still, many were relegated to the unidentified jaeger row on the charts due the range of observation and the difficulty in separating these species. It was generally a decent season for gulls, with three Laughing Gulls reported after Fran passed and reports of Little, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls rounding out the larid highlights. A **Sooty Tern** which rode in on the passage of Hurricane Fran was only the second for the Region and was easily one of the birds of the season. Black-legged Kittiwake numbers were excellent, with a max of 16 immatures on 22 Nov at Hamlin Beach. Forster's Tern numbers were also good, with counts of over 30 individuals in two separate flocks during September.

Snowy Owls put in an early showing, with birds arriving in early November and building to 19 individuals by the end of the month. Short-eared Owls were in short supply at traditional locations.

The passerine migration was generally characterized as moderate, with some species being reported in low numbers. Flycatchers held on late into the season but did not have a particularly strong showing in totals. Banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station provided some late flycatcher reports. Swallow concentrations and staging numbers seemed a bit down. Thrush numbers were not impressive, but two **Bicknell's Thrushes** were banded at Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station during the season and an impressive 53 Hermit Thrushes were banded at that location on 11 Oct.

Bob Marcotte's survey at Badgerow Park produced warbler totals which nearly doubled last year's count for the park. Numbers elsewhere were not impressive. Many observers commented on the poor showing for this group. Of special note was the generally poor numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Highlights included over ten reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, two sightings of Connecticut Warbler, and a late N. Parula in Mt. Morris during November.

Sparrows were reported in below average numbers. Observers commented on the lack of White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. There was also a scarcity of Eastern Meadowlarks according to a number of observers. Blackbirds in general were found in large numbers but seemed to depart rather early. A lack of reports indicated that it definitely wasn't going to be a finch winter.

Contributors: Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Judy & Denis Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, Robert Dows, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Chita Easton, Brett Ewald, Jeanine & Kurt Fox, Bill Gillette, Kevin Griffith, Sandra Hazen, Jim Kimball, Tom Lathrop, John Lehr, Bob Marcotte, Richard Mather, Robert McKinney, Nancy Miller, Richard O'Hara, Betty & Bill Powell, Dominic Sherony, Robert,

Susan, Cathy & Kristin Spahn, Paul Spindler, Dave & Allan Strong, Jerry Sullivan, William Symonds, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Ann Watson.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park (Greece) CL - Conesus Lake, G - Greece, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, M - Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds Park, PB - Point Breeze, and S - Summerville.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** arr one HB 11 Oct; max 434 HB 23 Nov. **PACIFIC/ ARCTIC LOON:** one PB 29-30 Nov (MD,KG). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr two HB 21 Sep, early. **BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** one HB 23 Sep (WS), first Region 2 record. **NORTHERN GANNET:** one HB 1 Nov (CC); one HB 16 Nov (R&SS,BM,WS), immatures. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 150 BB 2 Nov. **Am. Bittern:** last one BB 26 Oct. **Great Egret:** last one HB 13 Oct. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last one Salmon Creek 12 Oct. **Glossy Ibis:** one G 28 Sep (KG, mob), only fall report. **Tundra Swan:** arr two G 5 Oct; max 109 CL 2 Nov. **Snow Goose:** arr three HB 5 Oct; max 37 HB 11 Oct. **Brant:** arr six HB 11 Oct. **Blue-winged Teal:** last one HB 4 Nov. **Greater Scaup:** max 6000+ BB 23 Nov. **KING EIDER:** one Summerville 22 Nov (BM); one IB 23 Nov (GC,DS), females. **Oldsquaw:** arr five HB 10 Sep. **Surf Scoter:** arr two HB 14 Sep (KG,WS), record early. **Com. Goldeneye:** arr one HB 12 Oct. **Bufflehead:** arr one G 16 Oct. **Com. Merganser:** arr one HB 14 Sep. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1200 HB 16 Nov. **Ruddy Duck:** max 62 Cranberry Pond, G 21 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Rough-legged Hawk:** arr one G 10 Oct, light morph. **Merlin:** one HB 11 Oct; two Rochester 15 Oct. **Sandhill Crane:** three Richmond 19-26 Nov (J&KF). **PIPING PLOVER:** one HB 16-20 Sep (WS). **Solitary Sandpiper:** last one Salmon Creek 2 Oct. **Upland Sandpiper:** last one HB 1 Sep. **Whimbrel:** one HB 1,12,15 Sep, last. **Hudsonian Godwit:** two HB 5 Oct (KF,WS), uncommon. **Ruddy Turnstone:** last one HB 14 Oct. **Red Knot:** one Charlotte 15 Oct (RMc,RO'H); one Charlotte 21 Oct (BM), uncommon. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** last one Sodus Pt 2 Nov. **Baird's Sandpiper:** last two Salmon Creek 13 Oct. **Purple Sandpiper:** arr one Summerville 20 Nov; two other reports in Nov. **Dunlin:** arr four HB 14 Sep; max 54 BB 2 Nov. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one HB 19 Sep (BE), uncommon; one HB 19 Oct (BE). **Red Phalarope:** one HB 18 Oct (BE); one HB 4 Nov (WS); one M 7 Nov (RO'H); one HB 11 Nov (WS), uncommon. **Pomarine Jaeger:** 15 individuals HB during Sep; 20+ individuals HB in Oct; 5 individuals HB Nov. **Parasitic Jaeger:** 62 individuals HB in Sep; max 13 HB 10 Sep (CC,KF); 43+ individuals HB in Oct; 34 individuals HB Nov. **jaeger species:** 49 unidentified individuals HB Sep; 26+ individuals HB in Oct; 8 individuals HB Nov. **LAUGHING GULL:** three HB 8 Sep (WS,KF), two juv.

one ad. **Little Gull**: max five HB 24 Nov. **Iceland Gull**: arr one G 27 Nov. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Cobbs Hill 23 Nov (TL), adult. **Glaucous Gull**: arr one JN 17 Nov. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: arr two HB 10 Nov (WS); max 16 HB 22 Nov (WS), immatures. **Forster's Tern**: 31 HB 14 Sep (KG,WS), max 33 HB 19 Sep (BE), each a single group. **SOOTY TERN**: two passes by probably the same bird HB 10 Sep (KF!,CC!), second Regional record.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: **Snowy Owl**: arr one Rochester International Airport last week Oct; total 19+ sev locations all Nov. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 42 HB 5 Sep; dep three sev locations 8 Sep. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: max 15 Avon 2 Sep. good regional total.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **Willow Flycatcher**: last one Durand Eastman Park 22 Sep. **Purple Martin**: last one HB 15 Sep. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: last one HB 21 Sep. **Bank Swallow**: last two G 13 Sep. **Cliff Swallow**: last one HB 15 Sep. **Winter Wren**: arr one BP 18 Sep. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr two M 19 Sep. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr one BB 10 Sep. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr one M 19 Sep. banded; last one M 9 Oct. banded. **BICKNELL'S THRUSH**: one M 20 Sep; one M 26 Sep (RMc), banded. **Hermit Thrush**: arr two HB 21 Sep. 20; max 53 M 11 Oct (EB), excellent total. **Am. Pipit**: arr one HB 13 Sep; last four Elba 1 Nov. **N. Shrike**: arr one M 15 Nov.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo**: last one Webster 6 Oct. **N. Parula**: one Mt Morris 20 Nov (KF), very late. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: four Sep reports; seven reports various 3-12 Oct. **Pine Warbler**: last one HB 2 Oct. **Palm Warbler**: last one CL 14 Oct. **Cerulean Warbler**: last one M 26 Sep. **Connecticut Warbler**: arr one MP 1 Sep (KF), record early; one M 30 Sep (EB). **Mourning Warbler**: last one BP 20 Sep. **Hooded Warbler**: last one Portageville 14 Oct.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **Indigo Bunting**: last one M 26 Sep. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: arr one BB 28 Sep. **Vesper Sparrow**: last two Lima 10 Oct. **Savannah Sparrow**: last one Avon 25 Nov. **Fox Sparrow**: arr one BP 13 Oct. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr one 1000 Acre Swamp 14 Sep. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr one - two M,G 19 Sep. **Lapland Longspur**: arr on HB 30 Sep. **Snow Bunting**: arr six HB 12 Oct. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr one MP 18 Sep; max 1500+ Crusoe Lake. Wayne Co, 13 Oct; last one WL 11 Nov. **Pine Siskin**: arr one BB 14 Sep (D&AS), early. **Evening Grosbeak**: arr one HB 14 Sep.