

GENESEE - REGION 2

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The summer season was not one of major trends or deviations from the norm. For the most part it was a pretty average season. June started things off with a continuation of the cool spring, but the usual hot, dry weather was soon

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to follow. Precipitation was 1.94 in. The average for the month is 2.61 in. Plant growth may have been a bit behind schedule, but the birds seemed to be relatively unaffected by it. Reports from BBS routes seemed to indicate that things were pretty much on schedule.

July was dry but not overly warm. Precipitation was a little over one-half an inch below normal at 1.94 in. Temperatures were about average. Reported totals were down for the month, but breeding birds continued to be very active. The early migration was lackluster with few reports of moving nonbreeders.

August saw a change in the precipitation pattern with rainfall significantly above normal. Total precipitation reached 4.22 in. against a norm of 3.18 in. There were signs of migration but no real systems to produce major early flights. The species total for the month was the highest since the onset of the tracking system.

One of the big pluses for the season was the fact that Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball continued to log many field hours in and around Livingston County. Their records show some interesting numbers and concentrations as well as some noteworthy species. Kurt is in the process of documenting species' occurrence for that county. Other field work by area observers helped produce a seasonal total that was very respectable.

Bob Marcotte's surveying of Badgerow Park in Greece for August warblers was also helpful in documenting species for the season. Totals were similar to those of the '95 season when weather conditions were fairly similar. The lake-watch also began at Hamlin Beach late in the season and produced some early waterfowl observations.

The nesting season saw neither major trends nor unusual conditions to drive trends, but there were some interesting and noteworthy observations. Loons were once again reported from Lake Ontario. Pied-billed Grebe was reported as a nester in Murray, but other late spring sightings of this species failed to produce additional nesting reports in the Region.

Marsh birds seemed to have a difficult time. With the exception of American Bittern, which seems to be holding its own, waders were generally scarce. Least Bittern and Green Heron weren't well reported. The only exception to this was the surprising 30 Green Herons seen at Conesus Lake by Jim Kimball on 29 Aug. Marsh species in general were reported with less frequency. Rail and moorhen numbers were down. High water conditions may have contributed to this situation. The King Rail in Hamlin may well have bred, but there was no confirmation of this.

Nesting Mute Swans numbers continued to climb. In the Braddock Bay/Salmon Creek area four to five broods were present for much of the season. Two broods numbered six cygnets each. Canada Geese had a great season and could be found nesting in almost any little pond. The ponds along the Lake Ontario shore particularly produced a number of broods. The rest of the waterfowl was typical, such as the continued scarcity of Am. Black Duck and

Blue-winged Teal and the continued nesting success of Hooded Merganser at the Genesee Country Nature Center in Mumford.

Immature Bald Eagles were reported at Braddock Bay for most of the season. Up to three individuals were seen. On a continued decline were Ring-necked Pheasants. The stocking program at Beatty Point has produced a limited number of sightings there. Once again the Wild Turkey population seems to be expanding and growing.

The Sandhill Cranes which were sighted at Taylor Marsh in Richmond during May were reported again on 10 June. The area possesses suitable habitat for nesting, but is highly inaccessible to observers. The only viable option would be an aerial survey. This is the same location where three birds were seen in last November. Confirmed breeding may not be too far away.

Black Terns did not have a good year, with traditional areas like Buck Pond and Salmon Creek showing declines, while the Braddock Bay nesters seemed to do all right. A **White-winged Tern** was found by Sharon Skelly at Salmon Creek in Greece. It was the same location where the one in June of 1991 was seen and photographed. It remained in the area for only a very short time.

The Short-eared Owl pair in Lima which was being monitored by Kurt Fox apparently did not produce any young; at least none was seen. The downward trend for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continued, with no nesting reports from the Region.

The flycatcher picture, while somewhat typical, had a couple of interesting notes. Again Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Letchworth State Park in mid June. This has happened before, but not even presence on multiple dates to indicate Probable breeding has ever been reported. Observers noted that Acadian Flycatcher numbers seemed to be lower than in recent years.

Common Raven was again reported in the higher elevations south of Rochester, but no breeding evidence of the level of Possible has yet been found for this Region..

Passerines in general seemed to be about normal. Winter Wrens were on the plus side, and the usual Hermit Thrushes were reported from the higher elevations. The number of Prairie Warblers in the Region was up, as was that of Hooded Warblers. Cerulean Warbler was also reported in one location at a higher elevation than usual. Scarlet Tanagers were noteworthy in their scarcity. Indigo Buntings seemed to have a banner year.

Vesper Sparrows held their own again this year. Thanks again to the efforts of Kurt Fox and Jim Kimball, good numbers of nesting Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows were found in the Livingston County area. An immature **Lark Sparrow**, discovered on 11 July in Lima by Anne Clarridge, was a great find for the season. Once again Orchard Orioles nested in the Genesee Arboretum, with that site joining Point Breeze as the only consistent nesting locations in the Region.

As usual there were some late spring migration reports and some early fall reports during the season. Glaucous Gull was reported during the first week of June; not unprecedented, but unusual. A Swainson's Thrush was at Northhampton Park on 11 June, and a Tennessee Warbler was seen in the Manitou area in June.

The early return migration often experienced in July was lacking in numbers. Habitat for shorebirds was poor, certainly contributing to a lack of these species. The water level was somewhat high at Ontario Beach, Charlotte, but some birds put in appearances. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Tern were also reported in July, and there were a number of Little Gull reports during the season. The August movement of warblers was nondescript, with just a trickle of individuals noted.

The early lakewatch at Hamlin Beach produced some August waterfowl reports of interest. These included both scaup, Surf and White-winged scoters and Red-breasted Merganser.

A Rough-legged Hawk, observed by Paul Spindler in the Town of Ontario, Wayne County, was very early. Evening Grosbeak reports in August were also quite interesting, especially in a year when there were few reports for the previous winter and the spring migration.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CL - Conesus Lake, G - Town of Greece, H - Town of Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, LW - Letchworth State Park, LI - Livingston County, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road (Avon), P - Town of Parma, WB - West Bloomfield, WL - West Lake Shore.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** three-four HB 14-22 Jun, typical; arr one BB 9 Jul. **Horned Grebe:** arr one HB 24 Aug. **Green Heron:** max 30+ CL 29 Aug (JK), very high total. **Greater Scaup:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **Lesser Scaup:** arr one BB 19 Aug. **Surf Scoter:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **White-winged Scoter:** arr four HB 19 Aug. **Com. Merganser:** arr one HB 29 Aug. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr one HB 19 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Caneseraga State Forest 19 Jul, only report. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 171 BB 10 Aug. **Rough-legged Hawk:** one Ontario 13 Aug (PS), early. **Peregrine Falcon:** one P 16 Aug; one G 22 Aug. **KING RAIL:** one H 6 Jun (RO'H), same site as previous years. **Sandhill Crane:** one Williamson 1 Jun (MT), late and an unusual location; one-two Richmond 10 Jun (KF), **breeding?** **Black-bellied Plover:** arr one CH 16 Aug. **Am. Golden-Plover:** arr one H 29 Aug. **Semipalmated Plover:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Solitary Sandpiper:** arr one CH 25 Jul; one Hamlin 25 Jul. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 30+ Genesee River 13 Jul. **Whimbrel:** arr one CH 20 Aug. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr one CH 27 Jul. **Sanderling:** arr one Ch 19 Jul. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr one CH 19 Jul. **Baird's Sandpiper:** arr one CH 1 Aug. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr two BB 8 Aug. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr one G 24 Jul. **Little Gull:** max two CH 9 Aug; one CH 16,19-20 Aug. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr one CH 19 Jul. **Glaucous Gull:** one Perinton 2,5,14 Jun, late. **Forster's Tern:** arr one BB 21 Jul. **WHITE-WINGED TERN:** one G (Salmon Creek) 29 Jul.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: **Short-eared Owl:** two Lima var Jun, 1,18 Jul (KF), nesting? **Com. Nighthawk:** one BB 22 Jul, only report.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one Island Cottage Woods 5 Jun, last; one LP 15 Jun (MD); arr one BP 9 Aug. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max ten M 6 Jun (RMc), banded; arr one M 25 Aug. **Com. Raven:** two Naples 9-11 Jun; one Wyoming 8 Aug. **Sedge Wren:** one Marten Tract, Wayne Co 30 Aug (R,S&CS), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** one Portageville 20 Aug (AW), unusual date and location. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Northampton Park 11 Jun, last; arr one M 30 Jul.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr one BP 30 Aug. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** one LW 14 Jun; one LW 5 Jul; one Rush 30 Aug. **Tennessee Warbler:** one M 7 Jun, last; arr one BP 12 Aug. **Nashville Warbler:** arr one BB 24 Aug. **N. Parula:** one WB 19 Jun (AC), unusual location. **Cape May Warbler:** arr one M 8 Aug. **Prairie Warbler:** max three LW 14 Jun; one Springwater 14 Jul, new location. **Palm Warbler:** arr one M 31 Aug. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr one M 12 Aug. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr two M 24 Aug. **Cerulean Warbler:** one H.H. Spencer State Recreation Area 14 Jun, new location. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr one BP 19 Aug.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **LARK SPARROW:** one Lima 11 Jul (AC), rare at any time in Region. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 10 NR 16 Jun (KF), single location; max 15 LI 16 Jun (KF), multiple locations. **Henslow's Sparrow:** max 10 WB 9 Jun (KF,JK), single location; max 14 LI 9 Jun (KF), multiple locations. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one M 15,26 Jun, recent trend to later

dates. **Orchard Oriole:** max six Geneseo 15 Jul. **Evening Grosbeak:** one M.BP 24,29 Aug (RO'H, RM), early and unusual in context of recent history.

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