

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The season started off pretty wet. The September total of 5.36 inches precipitation was 2.47 inches above normal. There were a number of frontal systems which passed during the month, interspersed with sunny days. The systems seemed not to produce any consistent grounding events, and the early season migration was generally lackluster, especially for the passerines. There were indeed some interesting reports and some early arrivals, but the migration was not stellar at that point. October's temperature was 2°F above normal and precipitation was 0.5 inch below the average. It turned out to be a fairly typical month. November was a bit on the cold side. The average temperature was 3.1° below normal at 37.4°F. Precipitation was 0.67 inches above normal at 3.57 inches. There was a decent amount of snowfall during the month, including over 10 inches on the 14th. The snow cover didn't last long and seemed to have little effect on the bird life. Some slow moving systems out of the northeast helped boost variety and numbers for those counting birds passing along the lake.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was carried out again with some interesting results. The principal observer was Mike Lanzone. He was aided by many other local observers. Very interesting reports included: over 1000 Red-throated Loons tallied on each of 7 days in November, with a maximum of 2777 on 25 November; an impressive maximum of 3985 Double-crested Cormorants on 16 Oct; a Great Cormorant in November, the first in a number of years; a typical, single N. Gannet; and 11,635 Black Scoters tallied by Mike on 7 November, an inland record for the State. Eider counts were amazing, including 16 Common Eiders, 27 King Eiders, and 5 eider species by season's end, the Common Eider total surpassing the total of previous Regional records. The overwhelming majority were immature birds. It will be interesting to see if this begins a trend or was this just an exceptional year due to those northeast weather systems.

It was also a great gull season for the lake watch. **Ross's Gull** and **Sabine's Gull** started the list, followed by very good numbers of Little Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes and 5 Black-headed Gull reports. The consistent coverage at Hamlin certainly contributed to these records, but it is unlikely that this kind of season will be repeated annually. The lack of strong weather systems in September kept the jaeger totals fairly low until October when the second best ever total was amassed. A **murrelet species** seen in November was another plus, even though conditions did not allow conclusive identification to species.

The lakewatch also helped the Region produce its highest ever species list for November, 148. This also brought the local year list to 299, just missing 300

once again, and once again due to the failure of some observer's to report and document rarities.

Looking to ongoing studies, Bob Marcotte continued his work in Badgerow Park. A Prairie Warbler in September was a first for the park.

The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was operated by the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks. Eighteen Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrushes were banded this season, with 3 of these at first considered Bicknell's until recently published literature indicated new wing-chord criteria throwing these into the overlap zone. These criteria reduce our historical records from that site to only 4 certain Bicknell's Thrushes, none in the fall since 1990. They had a generally good fall season with only a few gaps in coverage at the station.

For the most part, fall arrivals fell within the traditional parameters with the exception of five record early dates. The departures too fell within the historical range with only a couple of exceptions.

Additional pluses for the season included: an Eared Grebe at the lakewatch, excellent numbers of Ruddy Ducks, and a Fish Crow report. In these latter cases it is likely that breeding confirmation will occur in the not too distant future. There were also excellent numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches; Bohemian Waxwing sightings, though not in really decent numbers; and a hint of a good finch winter with all winter finches being reported. The only real warbler pluses were good numbers of Prairie and Palm warblers. Wild food crops seem somewhat limited which may spell a change in numbers of reports as winter progresses.

Negatives included a poor Brant flight and mediocre totals for puddle ducks. The Mute Swan population is climbing dramatically, with Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay each having totals exceeding 20 and over 30 being reported from time to time. Once again shorebird habitat was limited and therefore totals were low. N. Shrike reports were few. Wren counts in general were poor, with Sedge Wren now very rare and Carolina Wren only beginning to recover from recent winter losses. Even the usually numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce this season. Scarlet Tanager continues to be of concern with yet another poor showing. There seemed to be relatively few stragglers this year in spite of the easy fall weather.

Other Regional rarities included a **Western Kingbird** reported by William Evans and the Kellings in the Lyons area in September, the first in recent years. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, discovered by Jim Kimball near Nations Road, was a first away from the traditional lake shore locations.

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Abbreviations: BP-Badgerow Park (Greece), CH-Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CS-Conesus Swamp, G-Greece, GE-Geneseo, HB-Hamlin Beach State Park, HL-Hemlock Lake, HP - Hogan Point, LW-Letchworth State Park, M-Manitou, MP - Mendon Ponds, NR-Nations Road (Avon), RS - Russell Station, WC-Wayne County, and WL-West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: first 1 HB 28 Sep, (K&JF, BE, WS), record early; max 2777 HB 25 Nov (ML); many good single day totals during Nov, with seven day's counts exceeding 1000.

Com. Loon: max 2982 HB 7 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: first 1 HB 4 Sep (ML), record early; max 56 HB 23 Nov.

EARED GREBE: 1 HB 26-30 Nov (WS!, ML!, mob), uncommon in Region.

N. Gannet: 1 HB 23 Nov (ML!), recently nearly annual.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 subad HB 5-7 Nov (BE!, WS!, ML!).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 3985 HB 16 Oct (ML), tremendous count for the Region.

Am. Bittern: last 1 BB 16 Oct.

Green Heron: max 33 CS 1 Sep, good total.

Glossy Ibis: 1 GE 10-28 Oct (K&JF!), typical fall report, new location.

Snow "Blue" Goose: 1 WL 30 Sep (D&DT, RA), unusual at this time.

Brant: first 300 HB 22 Oct.

Mute Swan: counts of > 20 from Irondequoit Bay and Braddock Bay.

Tundra Swan: arr 1 BB 23 Oct; max 119 CL 22 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 1041 HB 17 Oct, good total.

Canvasback: arr 2 G 19 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 HB 24 Sep; max 574 Honeoye/Conesus Lakes 15 Nov.

King Eider: 1 HB 6,8,10,12,29 Nov; 2 HB 27 Nov; 3 HB 16,23 Nov; 4 HB 25 Nov; 5 HB 7,9 Nov, (all HBLW), unprecedented totals for Region.

COM. EIDER: 4 HB 7 23 Oct; 1 HB 30 Oct; 5 HB 7 Nov; 1 HB 9,11,21,24 Nov; 2 HB 18 Nov, (all HBLW, ML!), all imm/fem, often flying with King Eiders for direct comparison.

eider species: 1 each HB 17,30 Oct, 7, 10, 12 Nov.

Harlequin Duck: arr 1 HB 20 Nov (ML).

Surf Scoter: max 699 HB 7 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 15 HB 24 Sep, excellent total for so early in the season; max 11,635 HB 7 Nov (ML, *et al*), State record high inland; 10-56 CL 9-22 Nov (KF), great total for that location.

Oldsquaw: arr 1 HB 23 Sep.

Bufflehead: arr 2 HB 11 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 HB 22 Oct; max 1156 HB 7 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 1056 HB 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 7885 HB 19 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 243 Silver Lakes 23 Nov (K&JF).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 Retsof 25 Oct, dark morph.

Merlin: arr 1 G 1 Sep.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 HB 9 Nov, only report.

Am. Coot: max 303 Silver Lake 23 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: last 3 NR 13 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 G 5 Oct.
Whimbrel: arr 1 HB 4 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 HB 16 Oct, (ML).
Ruddy Turnstone: last 1 CH 10 Oct.
Red Knot: 1 CH 7-12 Oct, few this season.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 1 NR 11 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 7 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 2 CH 20 Sep; max 45 BB 13 Nov, low peak.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 HL 13 Oct (KF!), a first for this location.
Com. Snipe: last 3 Hemlock Lake 5 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: first 5 HB 17 Sep, good total early; 3 HB 21 Oct.
Red Phalarope: max 15 HB 27 Nov.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 HB 23 Sep (ML), early; 9 individuals HB Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: arr HB 15 Sep; 11 individuals HB Oct; 7 individuals HB Nov.
jaeger species: 28 individuals Sep; 2 individuals Nov.
Little Gull: 1 CH 5 Sep; 1 HB 17, 21 Sep; 1 CH 2 Oct; 1 CH 24 Oct; 1 RS 28 Oct; seven reports from HB in Oct; max 22 HB 20 Nov (ML), good total for recent years.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 HB 4 Sep (ML!); 1 HB 21 Sep (WS!, ML!); 1 imm HB 1 Nov (KF!); 1 ad HB 29 Nov (ML!, GC); unusual but becoming more regular.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 2363 HB 27 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 HB 4 Nov.
Glaucous Gull: arr q HB 9 Oct (JoB), record early.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 7 total HB 21, 22, 25 Oct; max 18 HB 9 Nov, 17 imm, 1 ad (ML); 52 individuals for Nov, good year.
ROSS'S GULL: 1 juv HB 9 Nov (KF!, JF, ML!, RM, JSu, WS!); 1 juv HB 20 Nov, (ML!, JoB), from unusual plumage, almost certainly the same bird, second record for the Region.
SABINE'S GULL: 1 imm HB 9, 15 Sep (ML!); 1 imm HB 24 Nov (ML!).
Com. Tern: max 63 CH 8 Sep.
Forster's Tern: last 3 CH 9 Oct.
murrelet species: 1 HB 15 Nov (ML!, JoB).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: last 1 M 2 Oct.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last 1 H 6 Oct.
Snowy Owl: first 1 BB 26 Nov.
Barred Owl: 1 Mendon 26, 30 Sep, new location.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 HB 23 Oct; max 17 Lima 15, 18 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: last 1 Penfield 30 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: last 1 BB 25 Sep.
hummingbird species: last 1 BB 5 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 S. Bristol 1 Sep; 1 Genesee 3-4 Sep; 1 CS 5 Sep, good fall total.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 1 M 1 Oct.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: 1 Lyons 24-30 Sep (WE!, S&SK!), Regional rarity.
N. Shrike: arr 1 NR 25 Oct.
White-eyed Vireo: 1 banded M 2 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 NR 7 Oct.
Fish Crow: 2 G 2 Nov (KG, CD-G).
Purple Martin: last 1 CH 7 Sep.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 1 CS 19 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last 1 CS 19 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 50+ HB 13 Sep.
Carolina Wren: 1 CS 13 Sep, only report in Sep; 1 South Warsaw 24 Oct, new location; 1 Ellison Park 20 Nov, only Nov report.
SEDGE WREN: 1-2 WC 6 Sep (RS), this bird has become increasingly rare in the Region.
Marsh Wren: 1 BB 26 Oct, last one of season.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 3 M 7 Oct.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 18 banded M 16 Sep-8 Oct (EB), these assignments based on measurements and most recent criteria.
Hermit Thrush: max 44 banded M 7 Oct.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 G 4 Sep; last one NR 26 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 1 HB 18 Nov (WS); 1 WL 23 Nov (CC, RMa); 1 DE 26 Nov (GC).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: last 1 M 15 Sep.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 LW 21 Sep (J&KF).

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 BP 21 Sep (RMa); last 1 G 28 Oct, uncommon.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: unusually scarce this season.
Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 9 Oct.
Prairie Warbler: last 1 BP 9 Sep, first for location.
Palm Warbler: last 1 GE 18 Oct.
Hooded Warbler: last 1 MP 1 Oct.
Yellow-breasted Chat: last 1 banded M 7 Oct.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 BB 3 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: last 1 NR 9 Oct (JK), very late.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: first 1 NR 28 Sep (JK!), new location for this species, first away from the lake shore; 1 Hogan Point 4 Oct (KF!), traditional location.
Fox Sparrow: last 1 Lima 18 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 BP 4 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 BB, 1 M, 6 BP 13 Sep; max 500+ HB 4 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 BP 22 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HP 4 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 1 HB 11 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 1 WC 6 Sep.
DICKCISSEL: 1 HB 3 Nov (ML!), uncommon.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 BB 25 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: 1 Bristol 7 Sep (W&RC!), record early; 2 HB 11 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 2 M 8 Oct; max 40 HB 8, 23 Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 10 HB 26 Oct; max 110 WL 1 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: 1 HB 1 Nov (R!, S&CS; KG!).
Pine Siskin: arr 1 M 22 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 BB 25 Sep; max 24 HB 1 Nov.

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