

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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It was certainly an interesting summer. The strange spring led us to wonder what kind of summer might follow. It turned out much more normal than many expected. Conditions were generally about normal for June. Early June was cool, but by month's end temperatures had leveled off and the 65.7°F average was a mere 0.6° above normal. Rainfall was a whopping 4.11 inches above normal, with a total of 7.11 inches. Two days, the 26th and 30th, accounted for about half of that total. The violence associated with those rainfalls may have had an adverse effect on some species. DEC personnel were concerned with the Wild Turkey populations relative to the rainfall of that period. It came at a critical time and this may play out in the numbers of birds this fall.

American Kestrels seemed to have some very late broods this year in the Region. Birds were still sitting on eggs well past the typical hatching time. That was not true for all nests, but did occur in some cases. The Lake Ontario level was still quite high at this time and may have affected some marsh birds due to levels in marshes near the lake. Inland marshes were less affected by this condition.

July temperatures averaged 0.6° below the norm at 69.6°F. It was generally pleasant during the month. Precipitation was once again above normal. The 6.09 inches was 3.38 inches above normal. Again there were two days with substantial amounts of rain; 2.61 inches fell on the 4th and 1.35 inches were recorded on the 8th, both set daily records.

August was for the most part pleasant. The average temperature was 1.8° above normal at 69.8° and rainfall was 1.99 inches on the plus side at 5.39 inches. Intense thunderstorms struck on the 18th and 25th causing damage around the area. It was past the critical nesting time for most species, so it remains to be seen whether there will be any effect on birds or habitats from these storms.

There appeared to be few significant trends during the season. There were fewer Double-crested Cormorants at the beginning of the season, with numbers building towards the end. Waders were about average, with Black-crowned Night-Herons becoming more evident in the latter part of the season. They appear to become somewhat less nocturnal later in the season and are considerably more visible along the edges of Northrup Creek, Salmon Creek, and Buck Pond. A Tricolored Heron was spotted in Greece on 3 June. This is quite likely the same bird discovered in May in the same vicinity. Bitterns continue to be holding their own, but that's about it. Green Herons were mentioned by a few observers as being somewhat scarce.

Canada Geese had another banner season, with broods observed throughout the Region. Mute Swan nesting success was down slightly this year, but numbers continue to grow. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continue to show low numbers. Murray Swamp was the only consistent place to see the latter species. As is quite often the case, a few lingering or summering waterfowl species were observed. These included Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser.

A pair of Peregrine Falcons nested on the Kodak Office Building in downtown Rochester. Three young successfully fledged. This was two years after the first successful nesting from downtown Rochester which followed the hacking project. None apparently nested last year, so this was a pleasant surprise. A Merlin in July was out of season. The August hawk flights at Braddock Bay were quite good this year. Some interesting totals were recorded on 8 August, and the banding operation netted over 1000 birds, mostly Red-tailed Hawks.

With the lake level fairly high, there wasn't much shorebird habitat. Early June saw a mixed flock of about 350 shorebirds on the Summerville Pier at the mouth of the Genesee River. This does happen from time to time, but this total was high. The periodically heavy rains produced some habitat and sightings of the usual July migrants. A Marbled Godwit at Charlotte on 10 August was a good find. Another real highlight was the photographing of two American Avocets at Braddock Bay on 8 August. Two fishermen just happened to have a digital camera with them and the presence of mind to capture them passing the mouth of Braddock Bay.

On a sad note, Black Terns continued their decline this year. Personal water crafts did not help the situation much with their continued disturbance at the nesting locations due to both their noise and the wave action produced by the craft.

Common Nighthawks continue to be of concern, with only a single individual reported in July. Numbers increased in August but their origin is unknown; were they migrants or dispersing local nesters? Whip-poor-will nesting was once again unreported.

The passerine picture was fairly normal. BBS Routes and excursions into the hilly regions south of Rochester produced normal results. Of particular interest were the breeding birds in the Nations Road area near Avon. Grassland species had a good year at that location. There were decent numbers of Vesper, Henslow's and Grasshopper sparrows reported. Jim Kimball continued to document the nesting of those species. A real surprise was nesting Sedge Wrens in the same vicinity, with up to six individuals noted. The same area also produced up to five Yellow-breasted Chats, another species which has been scarce as a breeder in the Region.

Two Prairie Warblers in Dalton and one in Ontario, Wayne county were noteworthy. A Nashville Warbler in the Nations Road area in June was quite interesting, as was a Black-and-white Warbler that spent a good portion of the month of July in a suburban backyard in the town of Greece.

Out of season finches were also noted in six White-winged Crossbills and up to four Pine Siskins observed in June.

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Abbreviations: A - Avon, BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park (Greece), CH - Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CL - Canadice Lake, CS - Conesus Swamp, G - Greece, GE - Geneseo, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road, P - Perinton, R - Rochester, W - Webster.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: max 20 HB 2 Jun; 1 CL 21 Jun, late interesting location; 1 WL 30 Jul, summering; one CL 3, 10 Aug, basic plumage.

Horned Grebe: 1 HB 2 Jun, late; 1 CH 15 Aug, summering?.

Great Egret: 3 CS 22 Aug (JK), only report.

TRICOLORED HERON: G 3 Jun (KG), probably the same bird as in May.

Green Heron: max 20 CS 29 Aug.

Gadwall: 1 Brighton 3 Jun; 1 G 7 Jun, uncommon in summer, breeding?

Am. Wigeon: 1 WL 28 Aug, only report.

N. Pintail: 1 Hogan Pt 30 Aug, only report.

Green-winged Teal: 1 P 28 Jun; 1 A 3, 12 Jul, uncommon.

Ring-necked Duck: 1-2 CS 6 Jun; 1 Sodus Pt 13 Jun, uncommon.

Greater Scaup: 1 CH 5-6 Jun, injured.

Lesser Scaup: last 1 BB 2 Jun..

White-winged Scoter: 1 HB 2 Jun, late.

Oldsquaw: 1 CH 3 Aug (KD,KG), out of season.

Bufflehead: 1 BB 14 Jul, uncommon.

Com. Merganser: max 31 Cuylerville 17 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: 10 HB 4 Jun, late:

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 1 BB 2 Jun, imm; 1-2 ad Hemlock Lake 6 Jun, traditional nesting area; max 4 BB 8 Aug.

N. Goshawk: 1 Elba 15 Jun; 1 BB 8 Aug, few reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Rattlesnake Hill 21 Jun, only possible nesting report; 2 BB 9 Aug, migrants.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 275 BB 9 Aug, good total.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 1428 BB 9 Aug, good Aug total.

Merlin: 1 G 31 Jul (KG), rare in summer.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad & 3 yng R 23 Jun, 1-24 Jul, nesting again.

AMERICAN AVOCET: 2 BB 8 Aug (PS,MR).

Black-bellied Plover: last 2 CH, HB 3 Jun; arr 1 BB 9 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 Farmington 22 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 1 P 5 Jun; arr 2 H 25 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 1 R 1 Jun; arr 7 GE 19 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 13 H 8 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 H 7 Jul.

Willet: 1 CH 13-15 Aug (RS,KG,JL,GC), uncommon.

MARBLED GODWIT: 1 CH 10 Aug (KD,FD,RD).

Ruddy Turnstone: max 56 HB 3 Jun; last 4 CH 8 Jun; arr 4 CH 25 Jul.

Red Knot: max 8 CH 3 Jun; 1 CH 3-26 Jun, very late; 1 CH 2-15 Jul, most likely the same bird.

Sanderling: max 70 CH 3 Jun, 4 with bands; arr 1 CH 8 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 146 CH 3 Jun; last 1 CH 13 Jun, late; arr 1 CH 8 Jul.

Western Sandpiper: arr 1 H 13 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 1 GE 3 Jun; arr 1 G 28 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1 CH 7 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 H 12 Jul.

Dunlin: last 1 CH 12 Jun.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 H 8 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 GE 20 Jul.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1 HB 30 Aug (WS).

Little Gull: 1-2 CH much of Aug.

Black Tern: last 2 HB 16 Aug.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: 1 G 5 Jul, only report for Jul.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 BP 10 Aug; 1 G 13 Aug; 1 BP 17 Aug, usual locations.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 19 M 11 Jun, banded; last 1 HB 13 Jun; arr 1 M 6 Aug.

Trail's Flycatcher: max 19 M 11 Jun, banded.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 WL 19 Aug.

Barn Swallow: max 3000 GE 20 Jul.

Sedge Wren: 6-8 NR 19-30 Jun, 1-31 Jul (JK,KF,MD), excellent total.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 M 6 Jun (DB), very late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 G 13 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2 M 9 Jun, banded.

WARBLERS

Yellow Warbler: max 104 M 30 Jul (RMc), banded, very good total.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Portage 22-26 Jun; 1 M 11 Aug (RMc), banded.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 1 BP 17 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 1 NR 14 Jun, unusual location for that time of the year.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1 G 17 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 BB ? Jul, very unusual in Jul.

Prairie Warbler: 2 Dalton 22 Jun, uncommon; 1 Ontario, Wayne Co 2 Jul, new location.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 G 123 Jun; arr 1 G 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 2, 1 IC,CS 6 Jun; arr 1 G 27 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 G 2-31 Jul (RDob), very unusual summer location.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Armitage Road, Wayne Co 19 Jun, known nesting locale.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1 G 13 Jun; arr 1 BP 19 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 1 Mendon Ponds 16 Jun, interesting location; arr 1 BB 7 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: max 5 NR 1-30 Jun (JK,KF), excellent total for a species that has been scarce in recent years; 1 NR 2,10 Jul (JK).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Henslow's Sparrow: max 22 NR 1-30 Jun (JK), 23 NR 1-31 Jul (JK), excellent total.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last 1 M 8 Jun, banded, late.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 M 8 Jun, banded, late.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 G 23 Aug.

White-winged Crossbill: 8 HB 2 Jun (WS), very uncharacteristic for the season.

Pine Siskin: 1 G 22 Jun; 2 M 2 Jul; 1 M 8 Aug, uncommon in summer.