

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The fall season was generally good, but there was not much in the line of interesting frontal systems to create bird movements of any magnitude. This is typical. September started things off with a 1°F above average temperature at 62.6°. The total rainfall of 3.00" was a mere 0.03" above normal. October was warm, dry and sunny. The average temperature was 0.1° above normal at 51.2°, while precipitation was just under an inch below normal at 1.45". The weekends were pleasant and the only snowfall was a trace in the higher elevations on the 21st and 22nd. Finally, November's average temperature was 1.3° above normal at 41.8°. There was again a lack of weather systems conducive to groundings or

other concentrations of migrants. The month was very dry, with only 1.41" of precipitation, just over 1.5" below normal. The snowfall total, only 0.1" on the 4th, contrasted sharply with last year's record snowfall total for this month.

Generally speaking it was a lackluster fall migration. The weather was rather benign except for periods of high winds in the early part of September and again in early November. The usual species were found within most groups. Numbers were typically average. The low water levels along the Lake Ontario shore provided some very good shorebird habitat, but unfortunately it reached this state a bit too late in the season.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was once again conducted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and was manned principally by Gene Albanese. Red-throated Loon was again reported in September, as were Horned and Red-necked grebes. There were good numbers of Red-throated Loons still passing in the last half of November. Red-necked Grebes were not exceptionally abundant on any one day, but were seen frequently throughout the season. Northern Gannets proved to be one of the highlights of the lakewatch, with one sighting in October and six in November. All birds observed were immatures. Some early diving duck arrivals were noted, including both scaup species, all three scoters, Oldsquaw, and Red-breasted Merganser all tallied in September. Common and King eiders continued to be reported from the lakewatch this fall.

Cormorant numbers were down in general, but a max of 407 was observed at Hamlin Beach on 13 September. This was well above other seasonal counts. A wader of note was a Cattle Egret located by one of the field trips during the Annual Federation meeting in September. Good totals for American Bittern were tallied by Paul Spindler while spending large amounts of time in the marshes at Braddock Bay. The Glossy Ibis seen at Hemlock Lake by Kurt Fox on 8 November was only the second record for Livingston County.

N. Goshawk continues to be scarce, with but a single report in September and two in November. A number of observers commented on the decent number of Peregrine Falcon and Merlin sightings this season. There was a scattering of Rough-legged Hawks reported towards the end of the season, but no substantial concentrations.

The **Purple Gallinule** discovered at Irondequoit Bay in October by J. Sullivan was only the 2nd record for the Region. The bird was not seen by many observers but was photographed at close range by your Regional Editor.

The lake levels continued to drop, and there were some interesting shorebird reports, but generally numbers were not all that good. In September three Whimbrel put in a brief appearance at Charlotte. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported by Dave Tetlow at Hogan Point in Greece. At one point the bird was harrassed by a peregrine. A second bird was seen in October flying along the lake. Hudsonian Godwit and Long-billed Dowitcher were also reported in small numbers.

The gull and tern picture was not particulary noteworthy, but the presence of up to six Franklin's Gulls at Irondequoit Bay was of interest. Usually sightings in the Region are only of individuals. These birds were seen for quite a period of time. This seemed to coincide with reports from other areas in the East. Little Gulls continued to be reported at Charlotte, and a Black-headed Gull seen at Hamlin Beach in November was noteworthy. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well reported this season, with adult birds being reported from Conesus Lake and Perinton. Both Iceland and Glaucous gulls made appearances at the end of the season. Jaeger totals at the lakewatch were mediocre.

There was only one fall report of Snowy Owl. Common Nighthawk numbers continued very poor. Common Raven continues to be reported south of Rochester; confirmed breeding shouldn't be too far away.

The passerine migration was far from spectacular, but there were some interesting reports. Flycatchers were well represented in the banding totals at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station run by the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. A few more Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted than in recent years. A number of observers commented on the good numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. This was also evident at the banding station. A few individuals fell within the overlap for Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's, some with other characteristics suggesting the latter. The warbler migration was again only fair. Bob Marcotte continued his study at Badgerow Park, where again Magnolias the most abundant but Cape May totals were up slightly. Three Connecticut Warblers were banded during the season as was a Yellow-breasted Chat. Sparrows were noted in their usual concentrations but seemed to linger for shorter periods this year. Of special note were a LeConte's Sparrow at Nations Road and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows along the lakeshore. Reports of this latter species were down, but so was suitable habitat. A lack of tanagers was noted by many observers. Crusoe Lake was once again a good place to be for blackbird observation, with huge numbers on 8 Nov. Finally, winter finches went virtually unreported for the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay; BP- Badgerow Park, Greece; C - Clyde, CH - Ontario Beach, Charlotte; CL - Conesus Lake; CR - Crusoe Lake, Wayne Co; CS - Conesus Swamp; G - Town of Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo; HB - Hamlin Beach; HF - Honeoye Falls; HP - Hogan Point, Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay; IC - Island Cottage Woods; M - Manitou (West side of Braddock Bay area); NR- Nation's Road, Geneseo; P - Town of Portage; R - Rush; SC- Salmon Creek, Greece; SP - Sodus Point; WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 25 Sep;
max 1908 HB 25 Nov.

Com. Loon: max 1035 HB 11 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr 3 HB 20 Sep; max
200+ WL 24 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 4 HB 28 Sep.

N. Gannet: HB 25 Oct (WS,MD); HB 5
Nov (GA); HB 11-12 Nov (GA); Russell
Station 19 Nov (RMc); B 20 Nov
(WS,GA); HB 25 Nov (GA,WS,DSh); HB
27 Nov (GA,WS); HB 28 Nov (GA); all
single immatures.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 407 HB
13 Sep.

Am. Bittern: 11 BB 2 Oct; 16 BB 10 Oct (PS).

Cattle Egret: 1 SC 27 Sep.

Green Heron: last 1 CS 9 Oct.

Glossy Ibis: one HL 8 Nov.

Turkey Vulture: last 1 GE 11 Nov.

Snow Goose: arr 1 HB 6 Oct.

Brant: arr 14 HB 5 Oct; max 2452 HB 22 Oct;
last 12 IB 21 Nov.

Mute Swan: max 68 IB, BB 28 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 1 WAYN 12 Sep; max 12
(10 ad, 2imm) WAYN 8 Nov, origin
unknown.

Tundra Swan: max 204 CL 14 Nov; 49
Mendon Ponds 22 Nov (KD), good total for
location

Blue-winged Teal: last HB 11 Nov.
Green-winged Teal: max 268 HB 22 Oct.
Canvasback: arr 6 HB 19 Oct.
Redhead: arr 1 G 15 Oct, late; max 1178 HB 28 Nov.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 G 26 Sep.
Greater Scaup: arr 3 HB 12 Sep; max 10543 HB 28 Nov.
Lesser Scaup: arr 4 HB 10 Sep.
King Eider: 1 imm male HB 25 Oct (WS,GA); one fem HB 1 Nov (WS,KF,MD); 3 HB 12 Nov (GA).
Harlequin Duck: 1 fem HB 7 Nov (KF,JBo).
Common Eider: 2 HB 26 Oct (GA), uncommon.
Surf Scoter: arr 4 HB 11 Sep, max 156 SP 31 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: arr 8 HB 10 Sep.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 28 Sep.
Oldsquaw: arr 1 HB 17 Sep.
Bufflehead: arr 5 HB 21 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 HB 12 Oct.
Hooded Merganser: max 150 HB 29 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr 1 HB 20 Sep.
Ruddy Duck: max 59 CL 8 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 1 G 20 Nov; 1 Parma 30 Nov, scarce.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 3 Parma 27 Oct.
PURPLE GALLINULE: 1 IB 11-12 Oct (JS,KG,JBa,DT,TH), second Regional record.
Am Coot: max 800 CL 29 Nov.
Black-bellied Plover: max 36 SC 26 Sep.
Am. Golden-Plover: last 1 NR 21 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 IB 11 Oct.
Upland Sandpiper: last 1 GE 3 Sep.
Whimbrel: 3 CH 2 Sep, uncommon.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 Northrup Creek, G

4 Oct (A,D&DS,KW,R&SS).
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 IB 8 Nov (R&SS); 1 BB 25 Nov (PS).
Dunlin: arr 1-3 CH,SC 26 Sep; last 1 IB & 6 SC 15 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 HP 24 Sep (DT), last 1 G 3 Oct (KG), scarce.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 IB 3 Oct (DSh), 3 SC 3 Oct (R&SS).
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 HB 22 Nov (WS), only report.
phalarope species: 3 HB 11 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 2 HB 28 Oct.
Parasitic Jaeger: 2 HB 22 Sep; 1 HB 30 Sep; 5 singles in Oct at HB; 1 HB 13 Nov.
jaeger species: 7 reports in Oct; 3 reports Nov.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: 6 (5ad, 1 imm) IB 13 Nov (JH,RS,KF); 6 (4 ad, 2 imm) IB 21 Nov (RS); 1 ad HB 13 Nov (GA); one imm HB 14 Nov (GA).
Little Gull: 1-2 CH 12 Sep, seen off an on through the month; total 17 HB in Nov.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 HB 8 Oct (GA); 1 HB 8 Nov (GA,WS).
Iceland Gull: arr one HB 9 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 CL 13 Nov (JK); 1 Perinton 25 Nov (JD,DSh,CC); 1 CL 27 Nov (KF).
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 HB 5 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 HB 1 Nov; max 5 HB 13 Nov.
Forster's Tern: last 1 HB 14 Oct.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: arr 1 Pt Breeze 20 Nov.
Barred Owl: 1 HF 9 Nov, only report.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 HB 4 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Penfield 24 Oct (RMc), banded.
Com. Nighthawk: last 1 G 16 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: last 1 G 7 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 1 Conesus Inlet 12 Sep (JK).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 M 7 Sep; 1 M 9 Sep (RMc), both banded.

Trail's Flycatcher: last 1 Beatty Point 25 Sep.

N. Shrike: arr 1 NR 1 Nov.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: M 21 Oct 21 Oct (RMc,RO'H), banded.

Com. Raven: 2 P 13 Oct (AW).

Horned Lark: max 400 NR 21 Nov.

Purple Martin: last 10 CL 12 Sep; 6 C 12 Sep.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 1 Cuylerville 13 Sep.

Bank Swallow: last 1 C 12 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 1 C 12 Sep.

Sedge Wren: last 2 NR 21 Sep (JK).

Marsh Wren: last 1 IB 28 Nov.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 M 7 Oct, banded.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: 1 M 5 Oct (EB), banded.

Am. Pipit: arr 1 Elba & 20 Hamlin 10 Sep; max 300 Avon 16 Nov.

European Starling: max 200,000-400,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob, WG)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 BP 23 Sep (Rma); last 1 P 25 Oct (AW).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 Durand-Eastman Park 12 Oct.

Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 4 Oct

Palm Warbler: arr 1 G 12 Sep; last 1 G 3 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: 1 M 17 Sep; 1 M 21 Sep; 1 M 22 Sep (EB), all banded.

Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last 1 BP 23 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 M 23 Sep (EB), banded.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am Tree Sparrow: arr HP 17 Oct.

Vesper Sparrow: last 2 HP 1 Nov.

Savannah Sparrow: last 2 NR 12 Nov.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: 2 NR 13 Oct (JK,KF).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 HP 10 Oct (GC,DS); 1 HP 12 Oct (KG).

Fox Sparrow: arr 3 Rush 3 Oct; last 1 HF 17 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 P 5 Sep.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 2 BP 6 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 BB,IC 11 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 4 Oct; max 1000 HB 23 Nov.

Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HB 25 Sep.

Indigo Bunting: last 1 P 2 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 75,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Com. Grackle: max 30,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20,000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Rusty Blackbird: max 1000 CR 8 Nov (RDob,WG).

Com. Redpoll: 45 HB 9 Nov, only report.