

REGION 2 - GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith
61 Grandview Lane
Rochester NY 14612

The summer season really worked out pretty well for a good majority of the species. June and July generally continued the pattern that had been prominent in the spring - warm and dry. June was 3.2°F warmer than usual with an average of 68.3°. Precipitation totaled 2.52", which was just under 0.5" below normal. This was really misleading, since rain on the first two days of the month and heavy thunderstorms on the 28th and 29th brought a good portion of this total rainfall. The bulk of the month really experienced moderate drought conditions.

July pretty much continued the trend, with an average temperature reading of 74.3°. This represented a plus 4.1° departure from normal. Total precipitation was nearly an inch below normal at 1.78". Seventeen days occurred when there was less than 0.1" of rainfall. There were numerous days when high humidity ruled the Region.

August finally broke the mold. Temperatures averaged nearly a degree below normal at 67.1°. Precipitation was 2.32" above normal with a total of 5.72". The cooler temperatures and the increased rainfall brought much needed relief to the area.

The dry conditions produced low soil moisture in the Region for the bulk of the season. While this did create some stressful conditions for plants, it didn't seem to affect the insects and other invertebrate populations. This in turn bodes well for breeding species, primarily the passerines. Sufficient food was available although some annelids were tougher to find due to the low soil moisture, which kept them away from the surface. The Region is blessed with a general abundance of water resources that were available to the birds throughout the season.

Coverage and reporting for the Region were about average for a non-

atlas year. Breeding Bird Survey routes helped with the reporting south of Rochester. A real plus has been the effort of Dave Tetlow in his fund-raising "Big Year." He and Mike Davids have continued to turn up uncommon to rare species in the Region. This was especially true for August.

The season, due to its configuration, always has at least a hint of two migration periods. The late spring migration into June was not particularly eventful this year. The usual shorebirds arrived in July and things picked up pretty well in August for the start of fall migration.

The usual summer reports of Common Loon occurred, but Lake Ontario seemed to have more than usual this summer. A July Horned Grebe was unusual. An August Great Cormorant from Hamlin Beach was a good find. It was not a very good year for summer waders. Least and American bitterns were minimally reported.

Canada Geese again had a good nesting season. Mute Swans seemed down slightly, and a Tundra Swan lingering into June may have been an injured bird.

A Mississippi Kite sighting on 6 June at Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow and Mike Davids highlighted the end of the spring migration. The first Osprey nest for Region 2 was discovered in Wayne County. There were two young on the nest. This is more than likely a dispersal related to the continued nesting at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Penfield in June was unusual for summer. A few still nest south of the city, but it is uncommon in Monroe County during summer. A Merlin at Braddock Bay in June was very interesting, most likely a late migrant. The Peregrine Falcons in downtown Rochester fledged three young this year. A video camera hooked up to a computer system gave local birders and non-birders internet access to the daily goings on at the nest.

The August hawk flights monitored by Braddock Bay Raptor Research logged 2,523 Red-tailed Hawks, 195 Broad-wingeds, 8 Sharp-shinneds, 47 Cooper's, 2 N. Goshawks, 13 N. Harriers, 79 Turkey Vultures, 7 Bald Eagles, 5 Ospreys and 3 Am. Kestrels.

The rail situation was actually quite difficult to evaluate. The water was low in the marshes and numbers of reports were low, but canoe ventures into the more isolated sections of marsh produced rails without too much difficulty. It was only from the peripheral areas of the marshes that traditional rail reports were scarce. The King Rail at Mendon Ponds was a new location for a Regional rarity. Sandhill Crane reports continued into the summer season. This species continued its pattern of an increasingly numerous and widespread occurrence. Shorebird reports were

generally lackluster. Some habitat was available but things were just about typical for the season. A July Marbled Godwit was a good report. A Laughing Gull in June was good, and reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull extended its documented presence to throughout the year. Black Terns had a dismal nesting season and are approaching the point where they may soon be extirpated as a breeder in the Region.

Once again, a juvenile N. Saw-whet Owl was located in the Region. The bird visited the backyard of a Greece resident during the middle of the day and was photographed. It appeared to be having some difficulty with one of its eyes. This once again raises the question of the breeding status of this species outside of Bergen Swamp. A single Whip-poor-will report was the extent of it for that species. Along with Common Nighthawk, it seems to have disappeared as a nester in the Region. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported during the summer along the lakeshore, an occurrence that has not been noted for a number of years.

Common Raven reports continued into the summer. How long will it be before we actually confirm breeding in the Region? Maybe it will happen during the Atlas 2000 field work. Thrushes continued to be on the low side. A singing Swainson's Thrush in early June, while not unprecedented, was interesting.

The rest of the passerine situation didn't seem to bring much to the forefront. Summer observations were limited. Highlights included a singing Yellow-throated Warbler at Letchworth State Park and a Clay-colored Sparrow that was reported into July at Mendon Ponds Park. Breeding was not confirmed for either bird.

Grassland sparrows continue to be a concern. Henslow's and Grasshopper sparrows did make some decent showings in the traditional locations such as Nations Road in Avon/Geneseo, but overall totals continue to be low.

August culminated with a species total for the year to date of 271. That is well above the 10-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, Liz Barry, Dave Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Dan & Judy Davis, Carolyn & Charlie Dean, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, Bob Dows, Jack Duvall, Brett Ewald, Jeannine & Kurt Fox, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Robert Guthrie, Helen Haller, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Chita & Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, John Olson, Elinor Osborn, Tom Painting,

Betty & Bill Powell, Richard Rosche, David Semple, Dominic Sherony, Cathy Spahn, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff Spindler, Paul & Suzanne Spindler, David Strong, William Symonds, David & Kathy Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Ann Watson, Paul Weld, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay; C - Charlotte (Ontario Beach Park); CH - Cobbs Hill Park; CU - Cuylerville (LIV); G - Greece; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; LP - Letchworth State Park; M - Manitou; MP - Mendon Ponds; NR - Nations Road, Avon; P - Perinton; PB - Point Breeze.

LOONS - DUCKS

Com. Loon: max 17 HB 3 Jun.

Horned Grebe: 1 HB 26 Jul, unusual date.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 Hamlin 31 Aug (DT), 2nd year bird.

Tundra Swan: 1 Castile 1-28 Jun, injured?

N. Pintail: arr 1 HB 18 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 6 BB 6 Jun, good summer total.

Greater Scaup: 1 male C 24 Jun; 1 HB 29 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: arr 2 HB 7 Aug.

White-winged Scoter: arr 12 HB 4 Aug.

Bufflehead: arr 1 female HB 8 Aug.

Com. Merganser: arr 2 HB 4 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 1 HB 18 Aug.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 BB 6 Jun (DT, MD).

Osprey: ad & 2 y WAYN (DT), 1st breeding Reg 2.

N. Goshawk: 1 BB 29 Jul; 1 BB 25 Aug, not a traditional summer locale.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Penfield 24 Jun (B&BP), unusual summer locale; 1 BB 25 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 31 BB 8 Aug.

Merlin: 1 BB 6 Jun; 3 CU 29 Aug; 2 HB 29 Aug; 1 C 29 Aug; 1 CU 31 Aug; good season.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad & 3 y Rochester

1-30 Jun; 1 Geneseo 9 Aug; 1 Geneseo 28 Aug.

KING RAIL: 1 MP 26 Jun (DT, MD), new location for this rarity.

Sandhill Crane: 1 Elba 4 Jun (WS), new location.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 HB 8 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 Hamlin 21 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 P 9 Jun; arr 1 HB 21 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 BB 16 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 4 P 1 Jun; arr 1 Galen 27 Jun.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 Galen 27 Jun; max 24 CU 29 Jul (JK), excellent Regional total.

Whimbrel: arr 1 BB 9 Jul.

MARbled GODWIT: 1 BB 9 Jul (DT), not seen every year.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 C 1 Aug.

Red Knot: arr 1 PB 13 Aug, only report for the year.

Sanderling: arr 8 HB 8 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 385 HB 3 Jun, good total.

Western Sandpiper: 3 P 1 Jun; 4 HB 1 Jun.

Least Sandpiper: arr 3 BB 24 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1 BB 22 Jul.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 BB 16 Jul.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 P 19 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 HB 9 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 IB 31 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 HB 13 Aug.

Parasitic Jaeger: arr 1 HB 1 Aug; 1 HB 29 Aug; 2 HB 30 Aug.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: 1 ad HB 18 Aug (WS, DT); 1 ad HB 29 Aug (WS, DT, CC).

unidentified jaeger: 1 HB 29 Aug; 1 HB 30 Aug.

LAUGHING GULL: 1 PB 11 Jun (DT), 1st summer plumage.

Little Gull: 1 ad HB 6 dates 2-27 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Hamlin and C sev Jul dates (DT, MD, ST), 1st summer plumage.

Caspian Tern: 1 Hemlock L 7 Aug (DT, MD), 2nd fall migration record LIVI.

Black Tern: last 1 BB 13 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 G 18 Jul (C&CD), photo.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 1 Brighton 16 Aug.

Whip-poor-will: 1 Webster 9 Jun (JC), only report.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 1 G 2 Jun; arr 1 G ? Aug; 1 G 18 Aug; 1 Clarkson 21 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 45 banded M 1-8 Jun; arr 1 HB 13 Aug.

Fish Crow: 1 C 26 Aug (KG).

Com. Raven: 1 BB 6 Jun (DT, MD); 2-3 LP 20 Jul (RR).

Winter Wren: 1 Penfield 1-30 Jun (C&RMc), unusual location.

Sedge Wren: 1 MP 3 Aug (KG), only record.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1 M ? Jun; arr 1 M 31 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: last 1 H.H. Spencer Rec Area 20 Jun (DT); 1 M 31 Aug.

Hermit Thrush: 1 banded M 1 Jun, late.

N. Mockingbird: max 14 NR 26 Jun.

Am Pipit: arr 1 HB 18 Aug.

WARBLERS

Tennessee Warbler: last 1 M 1 Jun.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1 M 23 Aug.

N. Parula: 1 LP 4 Jun, only summer report.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1 BB 15 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1 M 16 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 M 16 Aug.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 M 15 Aug.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 LP thru 20 Jun (KF, DS, MT).

Pine Warbler: 1 HB 1-30 Jun, nesting?

"Western" Palm Warbler: 1 M 4 Jun (MZ), banded.

Prairie Warbler: 3-4 Nunda 1-30 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 CH 4 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 21 M 2 Jun; 1 G 3 Jul (KG), very unusual date for this species; arr 1 BB 3 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: 1 G 31 Aug (BE), uncommon.

Mourning Warbler: arr 1 BB 10 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1 M 4 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug, banded.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Clarkson 9 Jun, scarce this year.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1-2 MP 6-30 Jun (MZ); 1 MP 1 Jul (KG).

Henslow's Sparrow: max 21 LIVI 28 Jun (JK).

White-throated Sparrow: last 1 M 1 Jun, banded, late; 2 CU 7 Aug (JK); 1 BB 30 Aug (BE), very early.

White-crowned Sparrow: last 1 M 3 Jun, banded, late.

Bobolink: max 82 migrants BB 6 Jun (DT, MD), large migration number for so late.

