

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The fall season did little to ease the overall lack of water. Generally speaking, everything was about average, but we were significantly behind to start the season. Statistically it was a very good season, but more on that later. September temperatures were 2.3°F above average at 64.0°. The high was a very warm 87° on the 6th. The 3.41" of precipitation was about average, but the bulk fell on only three days: the 7th, 16th and 29th. The rest of the month totaled less than an inch. Possible effects of Hurricane Floyd were never felt.

October was a typical autumn month. The average temperature of 50.9° was just a scant amount (0.2°) cooler than usual. There were many crisp days and plenty of sunshine. The month finished with a taste of Indian Summer. The high of 78° was attained on the 13th and a high of 77° was reached on the 30th. Precipitation totaled just over 2", which was 0.32" below normal. The bulk of the rain fell during a two day period on the 13th and 14th, while the final 13 days of the month saw a total of less than 0.2". This monthly total kept surface soil moisture at a decent level, but the subsurface soil moisture continued to be low from the effects of the summer drought.

November was for the most part mild. The average temperature of 44.9° was 4.4° above normal. Only a single day, the 30th, maintained below freezing temps. The high of 71° on the 22nd tied the all time high for that date and kept the average up. Overall precipitation was 2.86", which was only slightly below normal. Once again the bulk fell in a limited period, with over an inch on the 26th. Snowfall was 4.7", compared to the usual of about 6". The majority was focused on the 29th and 30th when the Region experienced some lake effect snows. The only really major weather story for the month was a storm that passed through the Region on 2 November, accompanied by 50–60 mph winds that caused considerable tree damage.

It was a banner season for species. The total for September was 224. This is the highest total ever for a non-May month. Contributing factors included the quest for 300 species in the Region in 1999 undertaken by Dave Tetlow. Combine this with the consistent and effective coverage at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station and the Yanty Creek Banding Station, under the direction of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, and

the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, directed by Brett Ewald, and we had an incredible stretch of records.

When you add October's 198 species and November's 150 to the record September total, we ended the season with a year-to-date total of 296 species. The 10-year average is 282.2. This very good total was accompanied by both some positive and some negative trends and only represented species tallies, not a real picture of the migration. On the plus side were: an impressive Red-necked Grebe showing during September; 10,000 Brant past the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch during a three day period in October; a Greater White-fronted Goose in Lima, providing the first documented record for Livingston County; a record 639 Buffleheads at Hamlin on 4 November; and high Ruddy Duck counts in Wyoming County. Many observers commented that the shorebird habitat was pretty good and that shorebird variety was decent for the most part, even though total numbers were not impressive. Baird's Sandpiper was recorded in Livingston County for the 3rd, 4th and 5th times. The season ended with over 170 jaeger sightings at the lakewatch, the second best season's total ever. Reports of both Thayer's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull continued. An Arctic Tern at Hamlin in October was a good find, as was a new record high of five Caspian Terns in Livingston County in September. Long-eared Owl in October was also unusual. There was a very good flight of Blue Jays in September, and some observers commented on the Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion during that month. The banding stations ringed record numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Observers found good numbers of Northern Shrikes and American Pipits. Winter finches put in an appearance at the end of the season, but overall numbers of individuals were limited.

The down side included a very average season for loons and the early Horned Grebe flight. Spotted Sandpipers seemed to leave the Region early. Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots were also scarce. It was a relatively poor season for Black-legged Kittiwake. The dwindling of reports and numbers of Common Nighthawks continued.

Observers made little mention of trends one way or the other for either passerines or for the migration generally. The banding stations added a considerable volume of data to the mix, but the total field birding picture revealed little, if anything, relative to trends.

The list of rare species was quite extensive. September records included Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black Vulture, Franklin's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Dickcissel and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The October total featured Great Cormorant, Snowy Egret, Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. November added

reports of Cattle Egrets and a maximum of four King Eiders. The local bird of the season was most assuredly the independent sightings of **Cave Swallow** from Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach on 23 November by Dave Tetlow and Brett Ewald and John Bounds, respectively. These were a first record for the Region. They fit with record numbers of this species in the Midwest and Northeast this fall.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay; C – Charlotte, Ontario Beach; CL – Conesus Lake; G – Greece; GE – Geneseo; H – Hamlin; HB – Hamlin Beach; HP – Hogan Pt, Greece; IB – Irondequoit Bay; IC – Island Cottage Woods; K – Kendall; LL – Lake LaGrange WYOM; M – Manitou; NC – Northrup Creek, Greece; NR – Nations Rd, Avon & Geneseo; R – Rochester; SL – Silver Lake; YC – Yanty Creek, Hamlin.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 14 Oct.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 13 Sep; max 24 HB 14 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 44 CL 17 Sep, good total for the location.

GREAT CORMORANT: imm HB 7 Oct (BE); ad HB 19 Oct (BE).

Am. Bittern: last BB 15 Oct.

SNOWY EGRET: imm NC 26 Oct (DT), record late.

Little Blue Heron: ad K 6 Sep (DT); imm IB 11 Sep (DT, SS, CS).

TRICOLORED HERON: BB 11 Sep (DT).

Green Heron: last Salmon Creek 2 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 LL 4-5 Sep, unusual location.

BLACK VULTURE: North Chili 22 Sep (DT).

Snow Goose: arr 3 HB 21 Sep.

Brant: 2056 HB 14 Oct; max 4302 HB 18 Oct; 4242 HB 24 Oct.

Tundra Swan: arr 3 HB 18 Oct.

Eurasian Wigeon: male NC 23-31 Oct (KF).

Blue-winged Teal: last BB 21, 23, 24 Nov, late.

N. Pintail: max 480 HB 21 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: max 309 HB 21 Sep.

Canvasback: arr 15 HB 23 Oct.

Redhead: arr HB 10 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 CL 17 Sep; max 400 Honeoye L 20 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 2799 HB 25 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 300 Honeoye L 20 Nov.

KING EIDER: arr HB 19 Oct (BE); 3 HB 4 Nov (BE, DT); 1 HB 21 Nov (WS); 4 HB 30 Nov (BE, WS).

Surf Scoter: arr 3 HB 5 Sep.

Black Scoter: arr HB 5 Sep.

White-winged Scoter: max 2373 HB 30 Nov.

Oldsquaw: arr BB 27 Sep.

Bufflehead: arr HB 12 Oct; max 639 HB 4 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 7 Oct; max 508 HB 6 Nov.

Com. Merganser: max 2500 G 25 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3584 HB 22 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 90 LL 23 Oct; 109 LL, SL 27 Oct; max 301 CL 20 Nov; 257 SL & WYOM 14 Nov; 147 SL & WYOM 21 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: C 12 Oct (RO); HB 2 Nov; scarce.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CL 27 Nov, uncommon in fall.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr R 30 Sep.

Merlin: HB 12 Nov; 2 WL 23 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: NR 9 Nov.

Sora: last HB 9 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: last BB 2 Nov.

Am. Coot: max 350 SL 27 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 NC 2 Oct.

Willet: H 7 Sep (DT), only report this year.

Upland Sandpiper: last Batavia Airport 2 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: NC 23 Sep (DT); scarce.

Western Sandpiper: LL 7-8 Sep, interesting location.

Baird's Sandpiper: last 2 IB 9 Oct.

Purple Sandpiper: arr BB 6 Nov.

Dunlin: arr 2 BB 27 Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: last NC 2 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Elba 14 Sep, only report.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 juv IB 14 Sep.

Red-necked Phalarope: IB 2-9 Sep (DT et al); 2 HB 21 Sep (BE).

Red Phalarope: max 10 HB 17 Sep (DT, BE); Shore Acres 9 Oct.

Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 18 Oct; HB 21 Oct; HB 24 Oct; 2 HB 25 Oct; 3 HB 27 Oct; 11 HB 3-30 Nov.

Parasitic Jaeger: 4 HB 11 Sep; total 31 HB Oct; total 50 HB 4-25 Nov.

jaeger (sp.): 4 HB Sep; 25 HB Oct; 37 HB Nov.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: 2 ad IB 11 Sep (SSk, DT); juv NC 23-24 Oct (DT).

Little Gull: max 8 HB 6 Nov; total 24 HB 5-30 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: ad C 10-11 (DT); ad HB 12 Oct (BE); imm HB 19 Oct (BE, WS).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 1633 HB 17 Nov.

THAYER'S GULL: ad HB 17 Nov (BE).

Iceland Gull: arr HB 18 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad C 17 Sep; first winter HB 8 Oct; ad HB 9 Oct; ad HB 25 Oct; ad CL 27 Nov.

Glaucous Gull: arr 1st yr HB 9 Nov.

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 2 HB 27 Oct.

Com. Tern: max 11 C 3 Nov; last 2 BB 4 Nov.

ARCTIC TERN: HB 5 Oct (BE, WS, DT).

Forster's Tern: last BB 16 Nov.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: 2 HP 31 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: arr HB 11 Oct.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Bergen Swamp 16

Sep; Penfield 30 Sep.
hummingbird (sp.): Penfield 9 Oct (CZ);
GE 16 Oct (RB).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 2 Conesus
4 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Cuylerville 1
Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last IB 7 Oct (DT).
N. Shrike: arr G 22 Oct; M 19, 20, 25, 26
Oct, each banded; max 4 NR 31 Oct.
White-eyed Vireo: M 20-23 Sep (BBBO);
M 27 Sep (BBBO); both banded.
Philadelphia Vireo: last M 11 Oct, band-
ed.
Fish Crow: Russell Station 18 Sep (DT).
Purple Martin: last HB 5 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last WAYN 11 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: HB 23 Nov (BE); BB
23 Nov (DT).
Winter Wren: 57 banded YC 1-15 Oct; 59
banded M Oct.
Sedge Wren: HP 18, 25, 30 Sep (DT),
very scarce.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M 14 Sep,
banded; last HB 13 Nov, late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 Crusoe L,
WAYN 11 Sep; max 26 M 19 Sep, banded;
106 banded M 1-30 Sep; 120 banded YC
1-30 Sep; last M 11 Oct, banded.
N. Mockingbird: max 14 NR 12 Oct (JK).
Am. Pipit: max 1050 GE 17 Oct (JK); 400
GE 24 Oct (JK); last 2 Cuylerville 14 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr HB 7 Nov.

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HP 18
Sep; M 11 Oct, banded.
N. Parula: arr IC, BB 4 Sep.
Pine Warbler: last HB 13 Nov.
Palm Warbler: last G 10 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 55 M 20 Sep,
banded; 235 banded M 1-30 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: arr M 10 Sep
(BBBO); M 12 Sep (BBBO); M 15 Sep
(BBBO); all banded.
Mourning Warbler: last M 20 Sep, band-
ed.
Hooded Warbler: last Hemlock 23 Sep.
Yellow-breasted Chat: M 20-21 Sep
(BBBO), banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr Beatty Pt G 3 Oct.
DICKCISSEL: BB 6 Sep (DT); BB 29 Sep
(DT).
Savannah Sparrow: max 120 NR 25 Sep.
**NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPAR-
ROW:** YC 18 Sep (DB), banded; YC 6 Oct
(DB), banded; HP 3 Oct (DT).
Fox Sparrow: arr Webster P 3 Oct; last
HB 13 Nov.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 HP 12
Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 2 HP 3 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr HP 10 Oct; max 2665
HB 9 Nov.
Indigo Bunting: last 3 Mt Morris 4 Oct.
E. Meadowlark: 30 GE 3 Nov (JK), good
late total.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:
Beatty Pt G 26 Sep (DT).
Rusty Blackbird: arr IB 17 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr HB 20 Nov.
Red Crossbill: arr HB 25 Oct (BE, WS).
White-winged Crossbill: arr H 27 Oct
(DT).
Com. Redpoll: arr 76 HB 28 Oct.
Pine Siskin: arr HB 19 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 10-25 several
locations 30 Oct.

