

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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There will be those who will claim that there was no summer this year. Or at least that it was only a few days long. Meteorologically that may have been true, but nevertheless, the birds acknowledged that there was indeed a summer season. June continued the wet trend that was established in the spring season. The total of 4.47" of precipitation was 1.47" above normal. It was the 14th wettest June in the last 100 years. The region experienced rain on 22 days. The average temperature of 65.8°F was only 0.7° above normal. No extremes were recorded during the month; it was just wet and dreary.

July was about normal in terms of precipitation. The 3.66" was 0.95" above normal, but the interesting statistic is that 2.36" of that total fell during a deluge on the 15th. It was the fourth highest daily total ever in July. Temperatures were very comfortable in July. The average of 67.1° was just over 3° below normal. It was the second coolest July in the last 100 years. Warm periods included just the first three days of the month and the last four. The rest of the days were cool.

August came in pretty close to the long term norms for the Region. The rainfall was a meager 0.71" above normal at 4.11". The bulk of that came during the first 12 days of the month. The last half of the month produced only an early downpour on the 23rd. The average temperature of 67.5° was 0.5° below normal, with the bulk of the month being quite cool and only the final week bringing traditional summer heat and humidity.

The term often used to describe the season was "uneventful." The spring and early summer wetness may have caused some difficulty for nesters but there are no data for proof. The only suggestion of such a problem was the presence of some late season feeding of young for species that should have been through by that point. Chipping Sparrows in juvenile plumage were noted into the next season. Both points suggest either a possible second brood or a renesting after an early failure. Other than that there were very few trends to note. Far below the average number of reports were submitted this season. Hopefully it is due to observer fatigue with Atlas 2000 work.

This season also includes the end of the spring migration and the beginning of the fall migration. In both cases things were pretty slow. The usual late spring shorebird movements were lackluster as were the early return movements that often begin in July. The August passerine movements were quite poor. Dispersal of young from nesting territories was generally noted, but few true migrants were observed.

One Regional advantage this season was the continued monitoring of passing birds at Hamlin Beach State Park by Bill Symonds throughout the season. This produced some loon sightings as well as numerous reports of lingering waterfowl. Black Scoters seen by Bill on 13 June were record late. Paul Spindler also reported

loons during the season while fishing well offshore in Lake Ontario. There was even a report of Red-throated Loon in the second half of June.

Brett Ewald noted good numbers of Great Blue Herons at the end of the nesting season. A single pond along the lakeshore harbored 25 individuals. Black-crowned Night-Herons continued to be hard to find. Once again Canada Goose and Mute Swan experienced a good nesting season. Numbers of the former continue to grow, causing some turmoil with Regional residents, and the latter's totals remained stable, creating much consternation in the birding community. Numbers of native nesting waterfowl like American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continue to drop as the numbers of geese and swans increase.

Two of the fledglings of the Peregrine Falcons that nested on the Kodak Tower in Rochester disappeared, causing some concern among those following this nesting. At last report, one of the young females was still feeding in downtown Rochester. A Northern Goshawk in Parma in July was interesting. Red-shouldered Hawk in Silver Spring in June was encouraging for this once more common nester. The August flight of Red-tailed Hawks produced a good total, but conditions did not provide for any really good single day flights. Shorebird habitat was poor. Even Ontario Beach at Charlotte was subpar. The county crews seem to be cleaning the beach very early daily and pushing the shorebirds out. The first Parasitic Jaegers of the year were reported from Hamlin Beach in August. Little Gull and Black-headed Gull passing Hamlin Beach in July were good sightings. Black Tern may soon be extirpated as a nester in the Region. It was a dismal season for this Regionally endangered species with very few reports of young birds.

Of continued interest are Northern Saw-whet Owl reports. This summer we received a single report from Pittsford in June and three reports from Penfield in August. This follows the record of a dead juvenile that was found in Greece in late May. Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continue to be scarce. There were good numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers reported by Jim Kimball from the Nations Road area this season. This species fluctuates significantly in numbers reported from that last stronghold in the Region. There were no reports of Sedge Wren.

Of note among the warblers was the presence of Pine Warbler at Hamlin Beach, Mendon Ponds and Pittsford during the season. Golden-winged Warbler continues to be of concern Regionally, with a max of only three reported from Murray in July.

Sparrow highlights included 18 Grasshopper Sparrows reported by Jim Kimball in the Nations Road area in June and reports of Clay-colored Sparrow at Mendon Ponds in June and July. Pine Siskin was reported throughout the season.

The bird of the season was Western Kingbird, discovered by Richard O'Hara and Robert McKinney in Hamlin on 30 August. At first there was a single bird, but by the end of the day there were two individuals frequenting the same short stretch of road. A number of observers were treated to their calling and flycatching.

A total of 195 species was recorded for the season. The total of 254 for the year is significantly lower than last year and below the ten-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay; C – Cuylerville; CL – Clarkson; G – Greece; GE – Geneseo; H – Hamlin; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park; HP – Hogan Point (Greece); M – Manitou; MP – Mendon Ponds Park; NR – Nations Road (Avon); P – Perinton; PI – Pittsford; PO – Portage; W – Webster

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: HB 18 Jun (WS), late.
Com. Loon: L Ontario all Jul; Silver L 6 Aug.
Horned Grebe: arr HB 27 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 460 HB 13 Aug.
Great Egret: Marion WAYN 19 Jun.
Am. Wigeon: max 8 HB 25 Jul, rare in summer.
N. Pintail: HB 11 and 15 Jul, unusual in summer.
Greater Scaup: HB 3 Jun, late; HB 10 Jul, unusual in summer.
Lesser Scaup: arr 2 HB 13 Aug, early.
White-winged Scoter: 2 HB 3 Jun; 3 HB 24 Jun; 2 HB 6 Aug; max 124 HB 20 Aug.
Black Scoter: HB 13 Jun (WS), record late.
Long-tailed Duck: HB 25 Jul, unusual in summer.
Bufflehead: female arr HB 20 Aug, summering?
Red-breasted Merganser: pr WAYN 24

Jun, nesting?; 1-5 HB all Jul.

Ruddy Duck: 1-2 C 19 and 27 Jun.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 34 reported BB 1-31 Aug.
N. Goshawk: imm Parma 17 Jul (DT); BB 7 Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Silver Spring 23 Jun (JK); only report.
Merlin: arr W 15 Aug (JC).
Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 8 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 10, 1 HB, C 27 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 6 HB 25 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: HP 17 Jun, late or early?
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HB 2 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr W 13 Jul.
Whimbrel: CL 16 Jul (RS); HB 19 Jul (WS); HB 30 Jul (WS); 11 reports in Aug; max 3 BB 12 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 HB 30 Jul.
Sanderling: arr 4 HB 23 Jul.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last P 3 Jun; arr 2 HB 23 Jul.
Western Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 30 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: arr GE 3 Jul.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr W 13 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 W 30 Jul.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr NR 5 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 7 HB 27 Aug (WS).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 2 HB 27 Aug (WS).
Little Gull: ad HB 19 Jul.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1st summer plumage HB 19 Jul (WS).
Black Tern: 2 HB 22 Aug.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

N. Saw-whet Owl: PI 27 Jun (AC); P 26, 28, 29 Aug (RMc, CMc).
Com. Nighthawk: HP 1st week Jun; scarce; max 29 Brighton 30 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 12 NR 3 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 5 (2 ad + 3 y) Lima all Jun (JF); Durand-Eastman P 26 Jun, unusual location at that time.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last 2 M 2 Jun.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 2 Jun; arr M 10 Aug.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: 1-2 H 30 Aug

(RMc, RO, et al).
Winter Wren: arr W 23 Aug.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: max 3 Murray ? Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: arr M 20 Aug.
Pine Warbler: HB all Jun; 2 MP 10 Jun; 3 PI 26 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr P 26 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last HP 7-14 Jun; arr BB 26 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: last M 15 Jun, late; arr Portage 11 Aug.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: MP 8 Jun (DS); MP 20 Jul (CC), near same location as last year.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 18 NR 3 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: Bushnell's Basin 16 Jun (HH), very late.
Orchard Oriole: max 6 GE 27 Jun.
Pine Siskin: G 17 Jul; G 25 Jul; Portage 11 Aug.

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