

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Drought was a word that was often tossed around this season. The dry spell started in June with a paltry total of 1.84" of rainfall, which was 1.16" below normal. July continued the trend with even less precipitation, only 1.8". This was nearly 1.0" below the normal total. Thank goodness August bucked the trend a little. The beginning of the month continued dry, but rains predominated throughout the latter portion of the month so that the final total was 0.91" above normal at 4.31". Both June and July started out cool but finished with a flurry of warm days and produced warm averages. June's 66.7°F was 1.6° above normal, and July's 69.0° was 1.2° below normal. August was sultry with a record high of 95° on the 2nd. By the end of the month things had moderated a bit and temperatures were near normal. The final average of 72.2° was 4.2° above normal for the month.

The dry conditions seemed to have little effect on breeding success this season. Successes and failures could not be directly attributed to the weather conditions. If anything, the lack of consistent rainfall may have cut down on the number of failures due to inclement conditions. The insect populations appeared to be healthy enough to provide sufficient food for the passerines. There also seemed to be enough seed and fruit production to fill those particular needs.

Common Loons were once again reported throughout the season. Both Lake Ontario and Silver Lake had summering birds. Breeding has not been confirmed and speculation rests with the idea that they are simply summering nonbreeders.

Marsh birds did not seem to fare as well as some of the other species. Both bitterns seemed particularly low as did Common Moorhen. One observer has speculated that it may have been due to the condition of the marsh upon their arrival this spring. Much of the marsh vegetation was matted down due to the winter conditions and did not provide very acceptable nesting habitat. A King Rail in Mendon Ponds Park in June was a suspected nester, but not really relocated until this season and still with no proof of breeding. The Black Tern situation was dismal. Only one nest was observed for the whole season, and it was unsuccessful. We probably have seen the end of that species as a breeder in our Region.

Waterfowl were a mixed bag this year. Canada Goose and Mute Swan were once again prolific, much to the distaste of the birding community. Their success accompanies the continued decline of such breeders as American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal. Mallard and Wood Duck seemed typical. Bill Symonds manned the lakewatch into early June and recorded the usual late divers from that location. Hamlin Beach also played host to Red-breasted Mergansers for the summer. Breeding was not suspected. The lakewatch subsequently produced Surf Scoters in August.

Hawks seemed little affected by the drought conditions. Good totals of Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel were noted. A highlight was a Mississippi Kite observed at Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow on 30 June. Osprey were reported late into June on the lakeshore and breeding at several sites in Wayne County. Bald Eagles were observed throughout the season. A young Golden Eagle in June was a surprise. A June Merlin was reported in the Albion area by Bruce Duncan on the 16th, but subsequent searches could not relocate the bird. The Peregrine Falcons nested successfully on the Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester again with four young fledged.

Two Sandhill Cranes in the Town of Butler, Wayne County, in July once again raised the interesting possibility of that species breeding in our Region.

The shorebird picture was somewhat baffling. The late spring push into June was lacking, but the arrivals of summer and early fall were fairly promising. The picture was clouded by the dry conditions and a good number of the reports were flybys at Hamlin Beach. Mudflats in Cuylerville did produce some of the fall arrivals. Whimbrel reports were especially good this year.

The recent trend of Long-tailed Jaeger reports continued this year. There were three report days for a total of four individuals from the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach in August. An adult seen by Bill Symonds on the 29th was a real highlight. The only gull highlight was an adult Laughing Gull at Hamlin Beach State Park.

The only owl of interest was Northern Saw-whet Owl with a bird in Penfield in August and two Atlas reports from the hills to the south of Rochester. These sightings continue to provide supporting evidence that there is much wider spread nesting than just at the traditional Bergen Swamp haunts. The Loggerhead Shrike found in Geneseo by Jim Kimball in July was interesting. This species has disappeared from the Region as a breeder and is only sporadically found during migration. Fish Crow and Common Raven were both reported during the season, although neither has yet been confirmed as a breeder.

The passerine picture presented the usual highs and lows. Observers reported that Great Crested Flycatcher and Northern Mockingbird seemed to have good seasons. Blue-winged Warbler numbers were good, but Golden-winged continued to be hard to find. Atlas blocks along the lakeshore also seemed to support more Hooded Warblers than has been the case in recent years. A Kentucky Warbler at Braddock Bay in August was a puzzler. A Yellow-breasted Chat in Leroy was a plus for this scarce Regional breeder. Both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows seemed down a bit. The Yellow-headed Blackbird in Perinton in June was an unexpected highlight. Orchard Oriole reports were up, as were reports of Baltimore Orioles. Pine Siskins in June and July at Hamlin Beach were unusual. That was also true of single male Evening Grosbeaks spotted in Honeoye Falls in July and at two different locations in Greece in August.

The birds of the season were undoubtedly the **Wood Storks** discovered in Clyde, Wayne County. As many as 16 were seen frequenting a series of ponds in that area. The first date, to the best that has been determined, was 10 August, with birds being reported into September. Many observers were able to see them, as they

were most cooperative and reasonably predictable. To top that off, up to three more were seen in the Braddock Bay area on the 28th and 29th of the month.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – Butler, WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; C – Charlotte (Ontario Beach), MONR; CU – Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – Greece, MONR; H – Town of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HF – Honeoye Falls, LIVI; M – Manitou, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds, MONR; P – Perinton, MONR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: max 19 HB 2 Jun.

WOOD STORK: 6-16 Clyde 10-31 Aug and later (FS, mob, ph, NYSARC); 3 BB 28-29 Aug (JN, mob).

Brant: C 7 Jun, uncommon.

Blue-winged Teal: max 34 HB 31 Aug.

Greater Scaup: HB 5 Jun.

Lesser Scaup: HB 5 Jun.

Surf Scoter: arr HB 26 Aug (WS, ST), record early.

White-winged Scoter: HB 5 Jun.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 HB 2 Jun.

Com. Merganser: G 1-8 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1-6 HB 1-31 Jul.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: subad BB 30 Jun (DT).

Osprey: max 5 BB 19 Jun, good total for that late; 2 ad + 1 imm Butler WAYN 25-28 Jul, nest.

Bald Eagle: 6 imm BB 23 Jun.

N. Goshawk: BB 19 Jun; BB 17, 26

Aug, banded.

Broad-winged Hawk: *dark morph*

Parma 14 Jun.

Golden Eagle: imm Greece 1 Jun (KG).

Merlin: Albion *16 Jun* (BD).

KING RAIL: MP 16 Jun (DT, MD).

Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 3 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1-2 H, HB 19 Aug; max 60 HB 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: last HB BB 19 Jun; arr HB 19 Jul

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 CU 7 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: P 22 Jun.

Willet: BB 17 Aug (DT).

Upland Sandpiper: max 8 Monroe Co. Airport 16 Aug (CC).

Whimbrel: HB 3 Jun; BB 24 Jul; HB 1 Aug; 5 BB 2 Aug; BB 25 Aug; 29 in 2 flocks HB 26 Aug (WS, ST); HB 30 Aug; 2 H 31 Aug; Kendall & DE 31 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 28 Jul.

Red Knot: arr 5 HB 19 Aug.

Sanderling: arr 3 C 27 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: arr 7 HB & 10 CU 1 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 12 P 5 Jun, good total.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr HB 15 Aug; ad HB 31 Aug (DT), very late for an ad.

Dunlin: C 7 Jun.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr HB 3 Jul.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: BB 26 Aug (WS, ST); 2 HB 27 Aug (DT, MD); ad HB 29 Aug (WS).

Laughing Gull: ad HB 3 Jun (WS, DT, MD).

Black Tern: 2 Salmon Creek 19 Jul, few reports; last 1 ad BB 26 Aug.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

N. Saw-whet Owl: Penfield 27 Aug; fl yg Honeoye L Area, ONTA Jul; fl yg LIVI Jul.

Com. Nighthawk: Lyons 3 Jun, only report.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Webster 2 Jun; G 14 Aug; Clyde 30 Aug

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M 11 Aug, banded.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Geneseo 24 Jul (JK).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr M 21 Aug, banded.

Fish Crow: DE 31 Aug (DT), first for year.

Com. Raven: 2 H.H. Spencer State Rec. Area ONTA 14 Jul (R&SS!).

Swainson's Thrush: arr M 11 Aug,

banded.

Am. Pipit: arr H 31 Aug.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 2, 1, 1 Butler 7, 18, 28 Jul.

N. Parula: DE 5 Jun; G 10 Jul, unusual for date and location.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr G 17 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr G 24 Aug.

Kentucky Warbler: arr BB 31 Aug (DT).

Wilson's Warbler: Island Cottage Woods 20 Jun; MP 30 Jun; late; arr M 18 Aug, banded; 1 G 18 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Leroy 10 Jun (DT, KF).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 29 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: M 5 Jun, late; arr M 21 Aug, banded, early.

White-crowned Sparrow: M 4 Jun, late.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: P 7 Jun (MB)

Orchard Oriole: HF 2, 13, 14, 18 Aug (ES), new location.

Pine Siskin: 3, 1 HB 9, 26 Jun; 2 HB 15 Jul.

Evening Grosbeak: ad male HF 9 Jul (ES); imm male M, G 30 Aug.

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