

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Once again we experienced a most interesting fall season. Fall is always one of the interesting times due to the extended period of the migration. September started off with a continuation of the dryness of the summer season. Uncharacteristically high temperatures were experienced in the early portions of the month. During this time migration was generally slow. As the month approached its final week, major weather fronts finally brought more typical September weather and much better birding. By the end of the month the average temperature was 0.5°F below normal at 61.2°. Precipitation was scant in the early part of the month, but picked up with some major rainfalls from the 24th to the 27th. The final total was 0.18" above normal at 3.15".

October proved to be less dramatic. It was indeed a comfortable month, with an average temperature of 52.4°, which was 1.3° above normal. Westerly systems dominated but brought no inclement weather of note. Precipitation was just slightly below normal at 2.27". Birding was good, with many pleasant field days and decent flights.

November proved to be a mild month. The average temperature was 6.6° above normal at 47.1°. On 24 days, the high temperature eclipsed the norm for those days. Precipitation amounted to a paltry 1.90". This was 1.02" below normal. Snowfall was barely measurable at 0.1". The avian variety was quite good, with excellent birding conditions and a significant number of birders scouring the countryside.

The seasonal species total was buoyed by a few human factors. Dave Tetlow once again sought to eclipse the 300 mark for the year, and his diligent efforts turned up a number of good birds. Bill Symonds and a core of other birders manned the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park and kept waterbird coverage at a high level. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO), under the skillful direction of Betsy Brooks, provided a good picture of the passerine migration. After completing his Civil War book, Bob Marcotte once again ventured into Badgerow Park for a fall warbler count.

Somewhat puzzling was the early arrival of some species. This didn't seem to mesh with the mild weather patterns. There were decent Brant flights very early, as well as Harlequin Duck reports. Bohemian Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Lapland Longspur all put in September appearances. All of the winter finches were reported early in small numbers. Wild food sources were limited, so extended stays were few.

The loon movement was relatively weak early but picked up and continued through the season. A very large Red-throated Loon flight was tallied on 21 November. Grebes were just average, but two Eared Grebes in October were a highlight. The cormorant reduction program seems to be having some effect as

numbers are down from historical totals. Great Cormorant is a good find anytime. Great Egret, Snowy Egret and Cattle Egret all put in late appearances this fall. Great Blue Heron continued to be reported through the end of the season as was to be expected. The summer **Wood Storks** lingered in the area, with the last documented report on 5 September. Waterfowl were generally early but not significantly high in number. Of interest were the higher counts of **Common Eider** than King Eider. Eurasian Wigeon in October was a plus. An absence of the usual good rafts of scaup was noted.

Few trends or highlights were recognized in the raptor movements. Northern Goshawk reports were up slightly. There were scattered reports of Rough-legged Hawks but no real numbers. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported through the season. In the shorebird department, things were pretty good. We finally seemed to have some decent habitat and reports were good. Of special interest were the sightings of Hudsonian Godwit and Red Knots, which have been scarce in recent years. It was one of the best years for flights of phalaropes, mainly at the lakewatch. Jaeger reports lasted through the season, with good September totals of Parasitic. Pomarine totals were low, but a Long-tailed Jaeger in September was a highlight. Gulls in general were not very good, but sightings of Franklin's, Black-headed, Thayer's and Sabine's were noteworthy. Tern reports for the fall were about average.

Owls were quite good for the most part. Barn Owl is a rarity anymore, so the Hogan Point report was a plus. Of special interest is the increased number of Northern Saw-whet Owl reports. Snowy Owls showed up in early November and were sighted pretty much through the end of the season. The only Whip-poor-will was one banded at the BBBO Kaiser-Manitou station. Common Nighthawks once again were significantly fewer than historical numbers. A record late bird was reported from Hogan Point on 19 October. Of special note was the count of 80 Chimney Swifts by Jim Kimball in York on 14 October.

Flycatchers were pretty typical. Northern Shrike was reported in small numbers. Vireos were about normal, with some species lingering into October. A late White-eyed Vireo was banded in October. Fish Crow and Common Raven carried on the recent trends with sightings during the season. The birds of the season were most likely the **Cave Swallows** found by Dave Tetlow and seen by many observers on Long Pond and in adjacent areas in Greece. This seems to be part of the increased reports from eastern parts of the USA. Documentation of this species has been on the increase. A very good Black-capped Chickadee movement was noted in October, but Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren and kinglet numbers appeared to be down a bit. Thrushes in general seemed a bit down, but two **Bicknell's Thrushes** banded at Kaiser-Manitou were a highlight. Bohemian Waxwing in September at Hamlin Beach was a real surprise.

The warbler flight was good this season. There was an increased number of reports of Connecticut Warbler, with up to five individuals in September. Cape May and Pine warblers lingered into November. Magnolia and Wilson's totals were quite good.

The sparrow picture was interesting, with reports of **LeConte's** and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows. The latter has become established as a regular fall migrant with the increased coverage from birders actively seeking this species. This trend was spearheaded by Mike Davids a number of years ago and has continued. This season was rather difficult due to the deep plowing, then overgrowth, of a field where they are traditionally located. This made walking the area relatively hazardous. The rest of the sparrows were only fair. American Tree Sparrow was on time but numbers were generally low. White-throated and White-crowned peak numbers were reported in a narrow range of time with few lingerers. Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur were a tad early, but conditions seemed to keep them from hanging around and numbers tended to be low. The only report of large numbers of Snow Buntings was 2500 from the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported by Dick O'Hara in November was very late.

The only real blackbird highlight was the three male **Brewer's Blackbirds** discovered by Dave Tetlow in Hamlin. This species occurred regularly for a number of years in the 1980s but sightings dropped off in the 1990s to the present.

All of the winter finches were reported during the season, but few seemed to hang around in any numbers. The Pine Grosbeak totals were pretty good early and Common Redpolls held on through the season, but numbers were not large.

The season ended with a total of 253 species. Of those, 28 were new for the year and brought the yearly total to 299.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – Butler, WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; Badgerow P, MONR; C – Clyde, WAYN; CH – Charlotte (Ontario Beach), MONR; G – Greece, MONR; H – Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds County P, MONR; P – Parma, MONR; PE – Perinton, MONR; SC – Salmon Creek, MONR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 8 Oct; max 3785 HB 21 Nov, state record high count.

Com. Loon: max 750 HB 20 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 15 Sep.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 16 Sep.

EARED GREBE: IB 2 Oct (DT); HB 21 Oct (mob).

GREAT CORMORANT: G 19 Oct (DT).

Great Egret: last H 3 Oct.

Snowy Egret: arr P 14, 16 Sep (DT).

Cattle Egret: HB 16 Oct; 2 G 25 Oct; HB 14 Nov.

Green Heron: last Byron 1-23 Nov (WS), late.

ibis sp.: BB 20 Oct (JBa).

WOOD STORK: 16 C 1-5 Sep (mob).

Snow Goose: arr IB 15 Sep; 15 HB 28 Sep.

Canada Goose: 32,110 HB 28 Sep (DT, JBo), excellent total.

Brant: arr 63 HB 25 Sep (DSH, JBo), record early; max 179 28 Sep, high for date, low for a seasonal high.

Trumpeter Swan: G 27 Nov, origin unknown.

Tundra Swan: arr 3 HB 29 Oct.

EURASIAN WIGEON: G 17 Oct (DT).

Canvasback: arr 2 HB 21 Oct.

Redhead: arr 2 HB 7 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 HB 2 Oct.

King Eider: imm/fem HB 28 Nov (DT).

COMMON EIDER: 3 imm/fem HB 18 Oct (DT, SS); imm/fem HB 20 Oct (DT, MD); 3 imm/fem HB 12, 17 Nov (WS, DT).

Harlequin Duck: 2 fem/subad male HB 28 Sep (DT, JBo); ad male HB 19 Sep (RS).

Black Scoter: arr HB 23 Sep; max 460 HB 28 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 HB 18 Sep.

Bufflehead: arr 14 HB 18 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 5 HB 18 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: 2 imm Rochester 11 Oct

(TH).

N. Goshawk: BB 3 Sep. early; BB 6 Oct, banded; Pittsford; BB 13 Oct, banded; 10 reports Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr BB 6 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: Irondequoit 30 Nov, only report.

Sandhill Crane: 2 B 8 Sep.

Am. Golden-Plover: last HB 4 Nov.

Greater Yellowlegs: last BB 1 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last IB 2 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: last 5 Monroe County Airport 5 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr SC 28 Sep (DT); HB 29 Sep (DT); G 11 Oct (WD, BP).

Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 HB 17 Oct.

Red Knot: 4 HB 1 Sep.

Sanderling: last BB 24 Nov.

Western Sandpiper: HB 4-10 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 G 20 Sep, late; last 3 BB 3 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last IB 17 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr IB 14 Nov (GC); 1-3 HB 17-30 Nov (mob); CH 22 Nov (KG); 2 BB 24 Nov (DT, MD).

Dunlin: arr 1 IB, 2 SC 22 Sep; max 300 SC 1 Nov (DT, MD).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 14 SC 13 Sep, late; last SC 1 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr P 1 Sep (DT), only report this year.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr IB 20 Sep; IB 2 Oct; 2 G 11 Oct; 2 BB 18-26 Oct; last SC 1 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: 5 HB 8 Oct (mob); max 18 HB 18 Oct (DT, SS); IB 27 Oct (J&PS); HB 6 Nov (DT); 2 HB 12 Nov (WS).

Red Phalarope: arr IB 28 Sep (DT, JBo, DSH); 3 HB 8 Oct (WS, DT); HB 30 Oct (DT); 2 HB 5 Nov (WS, MD); HB 13 Nov (WS, CC).

Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 28 Sep; 2 HB 5, 11, 12 Nov (WS, MD); Chimney Bluff, Sodus 7 Nov (DT).

Parasitic Jaeger: max 13 HB 1 Sep; 2 Chimney Bluff, Sodus 7 Nov (DT).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: subad HB

10 Sep (DT, JBo), 5th bird for this fall.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: juv G 14 Nov (DT).
Little Gull: arr HB 18 Oct.
Black-headed Gull: imm HB 21 Oct (WS, DT); imm HB 12 Nov (WS, JBo).
THAYER'S GULL: ad HB 18 Nov (DT).
Iceland Gull: arr PE 28 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad G 29 Oct, (KG; ad CH 22 Nov (DT, MD, KG)).
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr imm HB 27 Oct; HB 11, 26 Nov.
SABINE'S GULL: imm HB 30 Oct (DT).
Caspian Tern: last IB 4 Oct.
Com. Tern: last 4 HB 18 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last HB 20 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

RARE OWL: HP Oct 11 (D&KT).
Snowy Owl: arr G 6 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr HB 3 Nov.
N. Saw-whet Owl: M 3 Oct, banded; M 24 Oct, banded.
Com. Nighthawk: G 11 Oct; G 19 Oct (DT), record late.
Whip-poor-will: M 13 Sep, banded, only fall report.
Chimney Swift: max 80 York 14 Oct (JK); last 2 BB 26 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last HB, Bushnells Basin 23 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last South Bristol 3 Sep.
E. Wood-Pewee: last 2 WAYN 8 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 7 M 2 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last HP 30 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last C 8 Sep.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last HP 30 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last H 23 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr 3 West Lakeshore 1 Nov.
White-eyed Vireo: last M 30 Oct (RMc), banded.
Yellow-throated Vireo: B 1 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last M 18 Oct,

banded.
Warbling Vireo: last G 30 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last BP 1 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last HB 13 Oct.
Com. Raven: South Bristol 19 Nov (J&PS).
Purple Martin: last 3 HB 28 Sep.
Tree Swallow: 50 G 9 Oct, good late total.
Bank Swallow: last 30+ WAYN 8 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last WAYN 8 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 2/1 Long Pd, G 8/9 Oct (DT, mob); Buck Pd, G 9 Oct (DT, DSh).
Barn Swallow: last G 4 Oct.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 380 M 13 Oct, banded.
House Wren: last 2 M 30 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr M 12 Sep.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: M 16 Sep (BBBO), banded; M 21 Sep (BBBO), banded.
Swainson's Thrush: last 2 M 19 Oct, banded.
Bohemian Waxwing: HB 22 Sep (DT, RS), record early; 1-3 in various locations all Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last M 13 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last M 3 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last BP 6 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr HB 4 Sep.
Nashville Warbler: last BP 25 Oct.
N. Parula: last M 28 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last IB 30 Oct, late.
Magnolia Warbler: max 100 M 2 Sep, banded; last BP 12 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last HP 1 Nov, very late.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last MP 20 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last BP, MP 7 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last BP 27 Sep.
Pine Warbler: HB 17 Nov, wintering?
Palm Warbler: arr G 1 Sep; last MP 20 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Brighton 28 Sep.

Blackpoll Warbler: last M 11 Oct, banded.

Black-and-white Warbler: last M 13 Oct, banded.

Am. Redstart: last IB 28 Oct.

Ovenbird: last M 3 Oct, banded.

N. Waterthrush: last 13 Sep.

Connecticut Warbler: 2 HB 3 Sep (R&SS); M 18 Sep (BBBO), banded; M 19 Sep (BBBO), banded; HB 29 Sep (DSh, GC).

Wilson's Warbler: 70 banded Kaiser-Manitou Sep.

Canada Warbler: last West Lakeshore 20 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: HB 15 Sep (DT, MD).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last BP 8 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 2 West Lakeshore 20 Oct.

LECONTE'S SPARROW: HB 21 Nov

(MD, DT, KG).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr 2 HP 30 Sep (DT, MD).

Fox Sparrow: arr BP 29 Sep; M 29 Sep, banded.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last M 7 Oct, banded.

White-throated Sparrow: max 110 M 23 Sep, banded.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr BP 27 Sep.

Lapland Longspur: arr HB 23 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr 3 HB 15 Oct; max 2500 HB 28 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: G 3-17, 25 Nov (RO), very late.

Indigo Bunting: last 2 WAYN 8 Sep.

Bobolink: last 3 HB 9 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr H 13 Sep.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 3 H 17 Oct (DT).

Baltimore Oriole: last 3 Kendall 3 Sep.

Pine Grosbeak: arr HB 6 Nov; max 14 Webster 18 Nov.

Red Crossbill: arr BB 1 Nov.

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