

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The general pattern for this fall was warm to cool to cold, as is generally expected at this time of the year. It started out, though, with above average warmth in September; in fact, it was the warmest since 1961. The average was a full 6.6°F above normal at 67.7° . The temperature reached 94° on the 9th. The first 13 days of October experienced above average temperatures while the remainder of the month was below normal. The average of 49.9° was only 0.5° below normal. November turned things pretty chilly at 0.6° below the normal average of 40.5° . Precipitation started out with a meager 1.87" in September; that was 0.9" below the norm. October followed at 0.51" below the normal total of 2.09". November's total of 3.11" was 0.27" above normal, but the real story for November was the

16.9" of snow that was nearly double the usual amount and accounted for the sixth snowiest November in the past 100 years. Birding conditions were generally good throughout, with only a few days of less than conducive conditions. Species variety was about average due in part to the decent, though not full-time, coverage at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch and to the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station. Generally, adjectives used to describe the season included lackluster and benign, even though the species count was about normal.

No exceptional movements of loons occurred, with Red-throated being fair to good and Common showing no really good flights. A carefully studied **Pacific Loon** was discovered off Bear Creek in Wayne County by Robert Spahn. What may have been the same bird was observed by him there on 5 November and five miles eastward on 13 November. Horned Grebes showed some good totals along the shore. Several Eared Grebe sightings were a highlight. An impressive 11 Northern Gannets were reported from the lakewatch, and what was probably the summer's immature **Brown Pelican** put in other appearances at Hamlin Beach in September. The 28 Great Egrets tallied in Savannah by Robert and Susan Spahn in September was a continuation of the good late summer totals experienced in the Region. The waterfowl picture was highlighted by a **Ross's Goose** discovered at the south end of Irondequoit Bay in September by David Tetlow. The movement of Brant at Hamlin Beach was unusual this year. On the two best days the early flight was westerly, while later in the day and the following days the birds returned east, which is the typical flight direction at that location. Overall the flight was quite good. Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye were good sightings for the season. One of the lowlights was the 200 Mute Swans reported on Irondequoit Bay. Puddle duck numbers were low while the divers experienced average to below average numbers, with Greater Scaup totals noticeably down during most of the season.

A late Osprey was interesting, while accipiter numbers were generally good. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, with only a few reports. The Peregrine Falcon movement was very good, with numerous sightings during the season. Shorebird habitat continued to improve as the season progressed, resulting in a good species total. The highlight was the Region's first **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, discovered by Dominic Sherony at the south end of Irondequoit Bay in October. Many observers were able to see the bird during its four-day stay. American Golden-Plovers were scarce except for the report from the Geneseo airport, which was also the location for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper sighting. Pectoral Sandpipers were on the plus side this season. Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit reports were low. Red Knot in the Region is always a good find. Purple Sandpipers were good late in the season, and the phalaropes put in a fairly decent showing. Parasitic Jaeger numbers were good, but there was only a single Pomarine report. There wasn't much to say about gulls, with the now-expected Lesser Black-backed Gull being the only unusual report. Bonaparte's Gull totals were down, Little Gulls were scarce, only a single Black-legged Kittiwake was reported and the tern flight was slow this year.

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in rural Hamlin continued to be reported. The sad decline of Common Nighthawk was once again chronicled, with no September reports and only a single bird seen 1 October.

The passerine migration was generally weak this year. The species variety was about average but there were few indications of any concentrations or locations with significant numbers at any one time. A major highlight was the sighting of **Cave Swallow** at Hamlin Beach. This is the third year in the last four that this species has been reported. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was responsible for most good totals and unusual species. Magnolia Warbler numbers were good in September, while Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush and White-throated Sparrow were the only species reaching three digit totals at the station in October. White-eyed Vireo and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow were banding highlights. The latter species was also reported at Hogan Point and in Geneseo. Sparrow totals were average to below, with some decent White-throated Sparrow counts reported, but generally low numbers of White-crowned. The only winter finch report was a single White-winged Crossbill.

September's species total was 203, just about at the 10-year average. October's total was higher than the 10-year average, at 193, and November's total of 135 was again about average. By the end of the season, the Region's species total was at 299 for the year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BC – Bear Creek WAYN; C – Cuylerville LIVI; CH – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; CL – Conesus L LIVI; G – T Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo area LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; N – T Naples ONTA; NC – Northrup Creek, T Greece MONR; PA – Parma MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; RP – Round Pd, T Greece MONR; SC – Salmon Creek, T Greece MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 17 Sep; max 1300 HB 25 Nov.

PACIFIC LOON: ad basic East Lakeshore WAYN 30 Oct, 5 Nov, 13 Nov, single or multiple birds indeterminate (RS, NYSARC).

Horned Grebe: max 120 HB 24 Nov.

Eared Grebe: HB 17 Oct (DT); HB 27 Oct (WS, JL, EC); HB 3 Nov (WS); HB 7 Nov (DT); HB 8-10 Nov (BE, KF, WS).

BROWN PELICAN: imm HB 4, 11 Sep (DT, JB).

N. Gannet: HB 9 Nov (mob); 4 HB 12 Nov (WS); CH 18 Nov (PD); 2 HB 19 Nov (WS, JBo); HB 23 Nov (JBa); HB 30 Nov (GC, BE); all immatures.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 782 HB 21 Oct.

Great Egret: max 28 S 5 Sep.

Green Heron: last SC 12 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last GE 17 Nov (JK), fairly late.

Greater White-fronted Goose: H 20 Oct (BE).

Snow Goose: arr 3 HB 29 Sep

ROSS'S GOOSE: IB 18 Sep (DT, KF!, mob).

Brant: arr 6 HB 27 Sep; 990 west, 80 east HB 3 Oct; 7000 west, 2400 east HB 21 Oct.

Tundra Swan: max 100 CL 15 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 IB 20 Nov, origin uncertain.

Eurasian Wigeon: eclipse m RP 8-10 Oct (KG, DS); NC 11 Oct (DT), probably the same bird.

Blue-winged Teal: last RP 11 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 412 HB 28 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: max 254 HB 28 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 3 BB 24 Sep.

Lesser Scaup: max 210 HB 28 Sep.

King Eider: 2 f HB 20 Oct (RS); HB 2 Nov (DS); 4 f L Ontario off Webster P MONR 5 Nov (RS); imm m HB 12 Nov (WS); 3 f L Ontario WAYN (RS); 2 f HB 19 Nov (WS, Jbo); 2 f HB 26 Nov (WS, Jbo); imm/f HB 28 Nov (DT).

Com. Eider: HB 8 Oct (WS, RS!, DT); f HB 21 Oct (WS, JB); f L Ontario off Webster P MONR 5 Nov (RS, NYSARC).

Harlequin Duck: f & imm m HB 17 Oct (DS, PD, DT); imm m HB 18 Oct (mob); ad m HB 3-9 Nov (mob).

Surf Scoter: arr 2 HB 15 Sep; max 107 HB 20 Oct.

White-winged Scoter: max 2500 HB 25 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr HB 4 Sep; max 170 HB 29 Oct.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 L Ontario off Rochester 10 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 7 HB 15 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 8 Oct.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: ad m HB 14 Nov (mob).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4000 HB 12 Nov.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last IB 16 Nov (J&PS), quite late.

N. Goshawk: Rochester last half Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 286 BB 3 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr H 19 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: many reports throughout Oct.

Com. Moorhen: last 2 RP 18 Oct.

Sandhill Crane: S 7 Sep (mob).

Am. Golden-Plover: last GE 26 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 6 BB 19 Nov.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last CL 17 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Sodus Bay WAYN 20 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last Irondequoit Creek MONR 1 Oct.

Whimbrel: last HP 2 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: SC 8, 11 Oct (PD, DS, RS); NC 8 Oct (PD, DS, RS).

Ruddy Turnstone: last BB 9 Nov.

Red Knot: arr 2 CH 23 Sep (KG).

Sanderling: last RP 20 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last SC 18 Oct.

Least Sandpiper: last BB 30 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 3 S 3 Sep;

last IB 11 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 2 BB 11 Nov.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER: juv IB 10-13 Oct (DS, mob). 1st for Reg; well documented by digiscope photos and observer reports.

Purple Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 16 Nov; Summerville MONR 16 Nov; 2 IB 18-21 Nov; BB 26 Nov.

Dunlin: arr 5 HB 23 Sep.

Stilt Sandpiper: last IB 14 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr GE 8 Sep (JK).

Long-billed Dowitcher: max 5 IB 13 Oct.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr HB 23 Sep (WS); 1-6 sev locales all Oct; 2 BC 2 Nov (RS); CH 7 Nov (JL); 4 HB 14 Nov (mob).

Red Phalarope: HB 6 Oct (mob); IB 17 Oct (KG, JBa); HB 14 Nov (mob).

Pomarine Jaeger: arr HB 27 Oct (WS, JS, ST).

Parasitic Jaeger: HB 4 Sep; max 10 HB 27 Oct; 2 ad Chimney Bluff WAYN 7 Nov (DT, DSh); HB 26 Nov.

jaeger sp: HB 4 Sep.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: IB 17 Oct (JBa, KG); IB 9-11 Nov (mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr HB 16 Nov.

Com. Tern: last 9 CH 20 Oct.

Forster's Tern: last CH 20 Oct.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: H 8, 14, 15 Sep (WS, RC, BE, DT); H 11 Oct (BE).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last M 23 Sep.

Short-eared Owl: arr 2 P 26 Oct.

Com. Nighthawk: none Sep; Honeoye Falls MONR 1 Oct; only report.

Chimney Swift: max 1170 C 26 Sep (JK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Bushnell's Basin 19 Sep.

FLYCATHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last M 5 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 17 Sep.

"Traill's" Flycatcher: last M 16 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: last M 16 Sep.

E. Phoebe: Webster P MONR 27 Oct; DE 9 Nov.

Great Crested Flycatcher: last M 8 Sep.

E. Kingbird: last P 6 Oct.

N. Shrike: arr G 27 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: banded M 25 Sep.

Warbling Vireo: last M 29 Sep.

Philadelphia Vireo: last M 4 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last M 11 Oct.

Com. Raven: Penfield 30 Oct.

Tree Swallow: last 28 L Ontario off Camp Beechwood WAYN 13 Nov.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: last HB 10 Nov (DT), record late.

CAVE SWALLOW: HB 11 Nov (DT, MD).

House Wren: last 9 Nov, imm.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M16 Sep.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last M 4 Oct.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr M 7 Sep; last M 9 Oct.

Bicknell's Thrush: arr, banded M 17 Sep.

Swainson's Thrush: arr M 7 Sep; last M 17 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: arr HB 17 Sep; max 60+ HB 10 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last M 18 Sep.

Am. Pipit: arr 3 HB 12 Sep.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 2 PO 3 Oct; last M 31 Oct, late.

Golden-winged Warbler: last M 14 Sep.

Tennessee Warbler: last M 5 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 29 Sep; last N 20 Nov.

N. Parula: arr Crusoe L WAYN 7 Sep; last M 11 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last M 29 Sep.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 2 PO 3 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last Ontario 6 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: arr HB 23 Sep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last M 7 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last HB

20 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last PO 3 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr M 18 Sep; last M 17 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last M 7 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last M 9 Oct.

Am. Redstart: last M 1 Oct.

Ovenbird: last M 7 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: M 4, 18, 21 Sep, 2 Oct; all banded.

Mourning Warbler: last M 25 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last M 20 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last M 4 Oct.

Canada Warbler: last M 22 Sep.

Yellow-breasted Chat: last banded M 4 Oct.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 HB 4 Oct.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr M 21 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last Irondequoit 6 Nov.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 HP 6 Oct (DT, MD); GE 6 Oct (JK); banded and ph M 10 Oct (BBBO).

Fox Sparrow: arr HB 4 Oct; last Castille LIVI 16 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 5 Sep; last M 9 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 1-4 sev locales 12 Sep.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr HP 28 Sep.

Lapland Longspur: arr HB 5 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr HB 18 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: last M 18 Sep.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 HP 19 Sep.

Baltimore Oriole: last G 7 Sep.

White-winged Crossbill: arr Rochester 26 Nov.