

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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It was certainly a fall to remember. Anytime we receive the results of a hurricane it becomes most interesting. September for the most part was mild, with an average temperature of 62.5° F, which was 1.3° warmer than usual. Precipitation was 0.76" below normal at 2.69", with the bulk of the rain falling on the 15th, 22nd and 27th. The rest of the month was relatively dry. The passing of the remnants of Hurricane Isabel on the 19th was the meteorological highlight of the month. October started out with conditions more like November, with temperatures 5-15° below normal, but that was followed by a week of above normal temperatures. The remainder of the month was typical. The average for the month was 2.2° below normal at 48.2°. Precipitation was 0.70" below normal at 1.90". There were few days with any measurable precipitation. Thunderstorms were experienced on the 20th and 21st with the passage of a cold front. Our first snowfall of the season fell on the 2nd, although it was only a trace. November was quite mild, with an average temperature of 42.2°, 2.3° above normal. Many days had above average temperatures. There was a single cold spell from the 6th to the 10th. It was a wet November, with a total of 4.26" of precipitation. That total was 1.42" on the plus side. The most significant rainfall was on 2, 19 and 27-30 November. Water levels were quite high at these times, but no real flooding occurred.

September's highlight was Hurricane Isabel. It sent observers to the Lake Ontario shore to look for fallout birds. This resulted in some most interesting reports, including **Bridled Tern** and **Sooty Tern**. The rest of the month saw little in the way of events that would spur a good migration. October offered much the same: few frontal passages to bring good birding days. The fall migration was generally late and lackluster. This was particularly true for the waterfowl. Birding was again relatively slow in November. The highlight of the month and the season was the discovery of a *Tyrannus flycatcher* in Cuylerville by Gary Chapin. At last word, it was being tentatively identified as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Couch's Kingbird hybrid. If this hypothesis is accepted, it will be the first record of such a cross.

Again this year, the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was not staffed by a single, paid observer, but William Symonds and a number of other individuals manned the site on a fairly consistent basis. Highlights and numbers were down from recent years. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory once again operated the banding station at Kaiser-Manitou Beach. The period of 5-11 October was the most productive week of the season.

The waterfowl picture for the season was categorized as slow and late. An example of the latter was the Lesser Scaup totals outnumbering the Greater Scaup in October. This is generally true of September, but by October Greater generally

significantly outnumbers Lesser. Most Snow Goose reports came from southeastern Wayne County at the periphery of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. The only puddle duck that was well reported was Green-winged Teal. There were a few days with decent counts of Surf and Black scoters. The only other waterfowl on the plus side was Red-breasted Merganser. Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup and White-winged Scoter all were reported in below normal numbers. Notable by their absence were both eiders and Harlequin Duck; there are often multiple reports of each of these species.

Ring-necked Pheasant continued to be scarce. Wild Turkey numbers were about average to slightly below. Summer breeding reports were not particularly encouraging and this may have carried over into the fall season. Reports were still good but not the magnitude of some recent years. There were many reports of very late broods of very small poults in late August and September.

Loons and grebes in general were fair for the season. Good numbers of Red-throated Loons were still in alternate plumage and Common Loons could be found resting on the lake in good numbers. Horned Grebe counts were fairly high this season. It was quite a fall for American White Pelican in the Region. Mike Tetlow discovered a single bird on 7 September at Braddock Bay. It was seen up through the 9th both there and later at Irondequoit Bay. It was followed by an unprecedented eight reported at Braddock Bay by Jim and Liz Barry on 4 October. They were seen again briefly on the 5th.

Not much happened in the hawk department. The usual residents were present, with Peregrine Falcon and Merlin continuing to be reported on a consistent basis. Of interest were 12 Northern Harriers observed as they came to shore at Hamlin Beach after crossing the lake on 21 September. Northern Goshawk was again reported, echoing the trend of good sightings from the hawkwatch at Braddock Bay in August. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were good late in the season.

Shorebird habitat was once again scarce. The water levels remained high, covering the mudflats at the south end of Irondequoit Bay and at Salmon Creek. Reports were primarily of flybys at Hamlin Beach or the occasional bird that landed on the beach. Ontario Beach has traditionally been a good spot, but the county's efforts to keep the beach free of algae have made that spot less desirable in recent years. One had to arrive before the machines began clearing or the day was spent looking at frequently flushed shorebirds. Dunlin was the only species reported in decent numbers. American Golden-Plovers were again scarce, with the only decent totals from Geneseo. Sixteen Hudsonian Godwits seen at Point Breeze by Dave Tetlow were a high for recent years. There was only a single report of three Purple Sandpipers. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was only reported once.

Jaeger totals were poor. A total of 21 Parasitics was reported from Hamlin Beach in September. A few Pomarine Jaegers were also reported from that location. Gull highlights were few and far between. Laughing Gull reports were up with the passage of Isabel. There were only two sightings of Little Gull and Glaucous Gull went unreported in November. Lesser Black-backed Gull

continued to be well reported. Terns, on the other hand, were an extreme highlight for the season. The first **Bridled Tern** for the Region was sighted at Hamlin Beach, with an immature seen on 19, 21 and 23 September, although records and verifications were submitted only for the latter two. The situation for **Sooty Tern** was similar, with birds seen on 19, 21 and 23 September at Hamlin Beach and Point Breeze, but reports only for an immature sighted at Hamlin Beach on the 23rd.

Common Nighthawk continued its precipitous drop. October totals were higher than September and numbers were low from traditional hotspots. Flycatchers led the way this season. A **Tyrannus hybrid** was discovered in Leicester, Livingston County by Gary Chapin on 9 November. It was seen by numerous observers and was there through the first two days of December. Many have viewed photos of the bird and the jury remains out on the actual identity. David Sibley suggested that it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (report to NYSARC). Normally, Western Kingbird would be our top flycatcher, but the one observed by Robert Spahn and Steve Taylor at Hamlin Beach came in a distant second.

Cave Swallows are becoming a rare but regular occurrence, unfortunately again suffering from the problem of lack of documentation. Only five at Hamlin Beach on 24 November were reported documented. Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the Region, with an estimated 150 at Hamlin Beach on 23 October. Hermit Thrush numbers were high, with 424 banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station in October and a single day high of 107 on the 6th. An early and only report of Bohemian Waxwing came from Hamlin Beach on 23 October. The only real warbler highlight was the three Connecticut Warblers banded during the season at Kaiser-Manitou Beach. A record late Indigo Bunting was discovered in Cuylerville by Lucretia Grosshans, Diane Henderson and Shirley Shaw, a bonus from the attention generated for that area by the hybrid flycatcher. A calling Dickcissel was reported by Dave Tetlow in September and another was observed and photographed by Judy and Denis Caysinger in Parma in October. Winter finches put in a lackluster arrival, with Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks reported in small numbers.

Two hundred species were reported in September and the yearly total reached 271. Both figures were below the ten-year average. October saw 174 species, bringing the year-to-date total to 274. One hundred thirty species were observed in November, with the yearly total reaching 276, which was well below the ten-year average of 288.6 by the end of the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; C – near village of Cuylerville, T Leicester LIVI; CH – Ontario Beach Charlotte; CL – Crusoe L WAYN; DE – Durand-Eastman Park MONR; G – T Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo LIVI; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; L – T Leicester LIVI; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; PB – Pt Breeze ORLE; S – Sodus WAYN; SA – Savannah WAYN; W – T Webster MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 2 HB 14 Oct.
Brant: arr 6 HB 2 Oct; max 836 HB 4 Nov.
Tundra Swan: arr 13 HB 6 Nov.
Blue-winged Teal: last HB 24 Oct.
N. Pintail: max 395 HB 21 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 5 G 16 Oct.
Redhead: arr 3 HB 16 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr G 26 Sep.
Surf Scoter: arr 2 HB 21 Sep; max 580 HB 5 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr HB 18 Sep; max 538 HB 5 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr HB 18 Oct.
Bufflehead: arr 25 HB 16 Oct.
Com. Goldeneye: arr HB 18 Oct.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000 HB 10 Nov.
Red-throated Loon: max 1500 HB 16 Nov.
Com. Loon: max 800 HB 19 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 554 HB 14 Nov.
Eared Grebe: HB 5 Sep (WS).
Am. White Pelican: 1 BB 7 Sep (MT); 1 IB 8-9 Sep (mob); max 8 BB 4-5 Oct (J&LB), NYS record high count.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 480 HB 4 Nov.
Am. Bittern: last Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 18 Oct.

Least Bittern: last C 24 Sep (JK), late.
Great Egret: last HB 26 Oct.
Green Heron: last Bushnells Basin MONR 7 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: max 34 Byron 4 Oct.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last IB 18 Oct.
N. Harrier: max 14 HB 21 Sep.
N. Goshawk: G 20 Sep.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr HB 23 Oct.
Peregrine Falcon: G 6 Oct (KG).
Merlin: W 4 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr HB 2 Sep; max 53 GE 20 Oct; last GE 1 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last HB 5 Oct.
Hudsonian Godwit: 16 PB 21 Sep (DT), high, only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: last HB 6 Oct.
Red Knot: imm BB 28-30 Sep; poor showing.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 SA 6 Sep; last IB 1 Nov.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last IB 1 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: 3 IB 4 Nov, only report.
Dunlin: max 307 Hamlin 15 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr HB 20 Sep.
Red-necked Phalarope: max 3 HB 21 Sep.

Pomarine Jaeger: arr PB 20 Sep (DT); HB 25 Sep (BR); early.
Parasitic Jaeger: total 21 HB Sep; max 4 HB 8 Sep; total 4 HB Oct; last HB 7 Nov.
Laughing Gull: imm HB 19 Sep (mob); imm HB 21 Sep (WS, DT).
Little Gull: max 2 ad CH 16 Sep (KG); HB 30 Nov; only reports, low.
Iceland Gull: arr HB 3 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad CH 4 Oct; ad IB 18 Oct; ad HB 21-27 Oct; 2 ad IB 24-28, 30 Oct; ad HB 5 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last CH 4 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 44 HB 221 Sep; last HB 19 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last CH 1 Nov.
BRIDLED TERN: imm HB 20 Sep (DS!, RS!, PK, NYSARC); imm HB 23 Sep (WS!, JBo, NYSARC).
SOOTY TERN: imm HB 23 Sep (WS!, RS!, JBo, NYSARC).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Barred Owl: max 6 WAYN 6 Sep.
Short-eared Owl: arr 2 GE 28 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: max 30+ Genesee Valley P MONR 12 Sep; last 2 Rochester 9 Oct.
Chimney Swift: max 275 York 24 Sep (JK); last 100 IB 1 Oct, hawking insects low over the water with Tree Swallows.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last fem G 4 Oct (RD).
hummingbird sp.: fem Honeoye Falls 9 Oct (ES).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr SA 6 Sep, only report.
E. Wood-Pewee: last M 9 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 29 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last HB 27 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last DE 1 Nov.
E. Kingbird: last Byron 6 Sep; 3 CL 6 Sep.
WESTERN KINGBIRD: HB 20 Sep (RS!, ST, NYSARC).
Tyrannus hybrid: L 9-30 Nov (GC),

documented by many.
N. Shrike: arr Brighton 18 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last M 12 Oct.
Com. Raven: 1-2 Parma/G 1-8 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 2 S 23 Nov.
Cliff Swallow: max 18 HB 3 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 5 HB 24 Nov (DT, RS!, JBo, NYSARC).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 150 HB 23 Oct (MT).
Brown Creeper: max 33 banded M 26 Oct.
House Wren: last W 9 Nov (R&SS), record late.
Marsh Wren: 2 DE 8, 16 Nov.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr M 10 Sep.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last M 8 Oct.
Veery: last G 5 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last G 13 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last M 12 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 107 banded M 6 Oct; total 424 banded M Oct.
Gray Catbird: last Avon 15 Nov.
Am. Pipit: arr 6 HB 21 Sep.
Bohemian Waxwing: HB 23 Oct (MT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last M 1 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last M 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 20 Sep; last C 13 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last M 9 Oct
N. Parula: last S 19 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last M 16 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last G 5 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last M 8 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last M 17 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last M 10 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last M 12 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last M 7 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last M 7 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: last M 8 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last HB 13 Oct.
Ovenbird: last M 1 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: M 4 Sep; M 20 Sep; M 5 Oct; all banded by BBBO.

Mourning Warbler: last M 5 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: last fem DE 16-30 Nov.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 30 C 1 Oct.

Chipping Sparrow: last G 13 Nov.

Fox Sparrow: arr M 7 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 7 Sep; last M 10 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 300+ Hogan Pt G 9 Oct; 300+ HB 23 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr M 26 Sep; max 150+ Hogan Pt G 9 Oct.

Lapland Longspur: arr PB 20 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr HB 14 Sep.

INDIGO BUNTING: C 30 Nov (LG, DH, SSh, ph), record late.

Dickcissel: PB 21 Sep (DT); Parma MONR 12-14 Oct (J&DC, ph).

Com. Redpoll: arr HB 6 Nov.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 5 L 23 Nov.