

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

**Kevin C. Griffith**

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

ckgrif@frontiernet.net

September was more like summer than any of the traditional summer months. The average temperature was 30° F above normal at 64.2°. Eight days during the month saw temperatures over 80°. Rainfall was limited to only five days, but 3.5" fell on the 8th and 9th from the remnants of Hurricane Frances. Hurricane Ivan pretty much passed to the south of us and spared us the heavy rainfall. The total for the month was still only 0.85" above normal at 4.3". October was its usual self with much fluctuation. The first half was relatively warm and dry while the latter half was cool and wet, with the only temperature break on the 30th when it reached 70°. The average temperature of 50.2° was 0.2° below normal while the rainfall totaled 1.49", which was 1.11" below normal. November was relatively warm with a 1.2° above normal average of 41.1°. Total precipitation was 0.53" below normal at 2.31". Snowfall was a scant 1.9".

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was not manned on a daily basis, but William Symonds and other active birders counted on a significant number of days. The banding operations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach, under the auspices of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, carried operations into October and provided us with some of the later departure dates. Jim Kimball monitored the Geneseo Airfield and provided Livingston County with some excellent birds.

The waterfowl picture was mixed. The split of Cackling Goose added a new species to the state and Region lists, notwithstanding the historical sightings of the then subspecies. Reports were received from Hamlin Beach and Geneseo. There were some decent Brant days, but nothing exceptional. The plus side included Blue-winged Teal, which has continued to decline locally as a nester. Record early arrivals occurred for Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter and Bufflehead. King Eider is always a plus, even though it is expected at Hamlin Beach yearly. Ducks for the most part were down this year. This was particularly true of Redhead and both Scaup species. Red-throated Loons weren't up to recent standards, but Common Loon numbers were good. The Northern Fulmar, spotted independently by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds at separate times, was a Regional first. Northern Gannet reports were good. Wader highlights were limited to the four Glossy Ibis at Hamlin Beach on 7 September.

The November Red-shouldered Hawk was unusual, as were the variant forms of Red-tailed Hawk, two *calurus* and a Krider's, reported in November. The influx of Rough-legged Hawks was light. Observers noted a shortage of American Kestrels. This was particularly true along the lakeshore. Merlins seemed to be on the increase, and the downtown Rochester Peregrines were in evidence much of the early season. Common Moorhens continued their scarcity along the west lakeshore, with very few reports. Sandhill Crane continued the now expected sightings with two seen over Rochester and two more at Mendon Ponds.

The Hurricane Frances remnants produced some excellent shorebird groundings, with good totals for American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover,

Baird's Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers easily surpassed previous highs, 95% of them adults. Reports of this species persisted into November. The Ruff found in Hamlin in October was a highlight. There were good Dunlin flights on some days. Late season shorebirds were few in spite of good habitat.

The jaeger picture was mixed. Parasitic was okay, with a single day high of eight in September; Pomarine went unreported; the single Long-tailed is typical of recent years, when observers have searched for it. Bonaparte's Gulls were low through the season. Highlights included a Black-headed Gull and two Sabine's Gulls. Black-legged Kittiwake was decent for a change. Things were pretty quiet for tern sightings this fall.

A few Snowy Owls were reported. The piers at the mouth of the Genesee River were the most consistent spot, but there were no guaranteed sightings anywhere. An early Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard calling in Webster in September. Common Nighthawk numbers were again very low. Jim Kimball's monitoring of the Chimney Swifts in York produced a 400+ maximum, somewhat lower than in other recent years.

The passerine migration experienced an early peak, with relatively quick departures. No significant trends were noted for the flycatchers. Observers felt that Warbling Vireo numbers were down. White-eyed Vireo has become an expected species. Northern Shrike was reported in typical numbers. Cave Swallow is another one of those species that has become almost expected after this year's reports represented the fourth year in the past five. However, swallow numbers in general were low this fall. Winter Wren totals were good and Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers were also on the plus side. There were good banding days for Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Hermit thrushes. Bicknell's Thrush has become an expected species at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. With the ability to take measurements, positive identification can occur, although many banded thrushes still fall within an overlap range and can only be classed Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's. There were excellent concentrations of American Robins. A few Bohemian Waxwings were found with fairly large flocks of Cedar Waxwings later in the season.

Magnolia and Black-throated Blue warblers were noted in pretty decent numbers. This was not true for most species, and many observers commented on the poor warbler showing. Connecticut Warbler is always a good find; one was banded.

Chipping Sparrow numbers were good, as were the early totals for White-throated Sparrow. The latter, along with White-crowned, did not match last year's influx, and both seemed to experience a rapid departure. Observers noted that Fox Sparrow reports were down and the window of passage short. Lapland Longspur totals were good. Dave Tetlow's discovery of the Region's first Smith's Longspur was probably right there with the Northern Fulmar for the local bird of the season. [*Details? Report to NYSARC? There is but a single NYS record of Smith's Longspur, a 1974 specimen. B. Lincoln, copy editor*] Snow Bunting numbers were low this fall. The only significant flight of finches was the good numbers of Pine Siskins seen along the lake and at feeders. Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks were reported late in the season in small numbers.

September's species total was above the ten-year average at 210. October 's total of 170 was significantly lower than the ten-year total but just about on par with last year's 174 species. The 131 species reported in November was only slightly below the ten-year average. The year-to-date total of 295 species was above the ten-year average of 287.7 and well above last year's 276 species.

## Observer

John Bounds, George Briggs, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Brad Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Judith Gurley, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Jack Hartwig, Barbara Hergesell, Jim Kimball, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Cindy Marino, Robert Mauceli, Chita & Robert McKinney, Rudolfo Montez Jr., Dan Niven, Richard O'Hara, Betsy Potter, Betty & Bill Powell, Marty Robinson, Robert Salisbury, Ed Sheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Steve Soule, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff & Paul Spindler, Allan Strong, David & Grace Strong, William Symonds, David & Mike Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Chris Villone, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum.

## Abbreviations

B – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CH – Charlotte (Ontario Beach) MONR; CU –T Cuylerville LIVI; G –T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H –T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Point MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; M – Manitou MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park MONR; P – T Parma MONR; PE – T Perinton MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; V – T Victor MONR; W – T Webster MONR.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** arr 1 imm white morph GE 12 Sep; 1 imm white morph HP 19 Sep; max 69 (65 blue, 3 white, 1 mixed) HB 2 Nov (RS,WS).

**ACKLING GOOSE:** 1 HB 26 Sep (WS); 1GE 1,3 Oct (JK); 1 HB 27 Nov (WS).

**Brant:** arr 230+ HB 11 Oct; max 799 HB 28 Oct.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 2 H 1 Nov; max 49 Conesus Lake 24 Nov.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 15-20 CU 1 Sep.

**N. Pintail:** max 393 HB 28 Sep.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 108 HB 28 Sep.

**Canvasback:** arr 4 G 21 Oct.

**Redhead:** arr 6 G 21 Oct.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr 1 fem BB 1 Sep, record early; 3 G 9 Oct.

**King Eider:** arr fem HB 31 Oct (WS); max 10 HB 9 Nov (WS). Regional record high; 4 HB 12 Nov (WS).

**Harlequin Duck:** arr 2 fem HB 28 Oct (DS, RS); 1 fem HB 6 Nov (RS).

**Surf Scoter:** arr HB 20 Sep.  
**Black Scoter:** arr HB 3 Sep, record early; max 550 HB 28 Oct.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 3157 HB 1 Nov.  
**Bufflehead:** arr G 9 Sep, early.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** arr HB 1 Oct.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5000 HB 27 Nov.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr 1 juv HB 10 Sep, early; 1 HB 12 Sep; max 1000+ HB 8 Nov.  
**Com. Loon:** max 3500 HB 7 Nov.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 21 HB 20 Nov, good count for fall.  
**NORTHERN FULMAR:** 1 intermediate morph HB 7 Nov (WS, DT), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional record.  
**N. Gannet:** arr 1 imm T 10 Sep (DT), early; 1 HB 22 Oct (WS, R&C Mc); 1 imm HB 8 Nov, (WS, DS, DT).  
**Great Egret:** last 2 IB 18 Oct.  
**Green Heron:** last HB 23 Oct.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 4 HB 7 Sep.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** 1 G,P 6-30 Nov (DT).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 Williamson, WAYN 23 Nov.  
**Red-tailed Hawk (*calurus*):** 1 K 11 Nov DT; 1 Pultneyville, WAYN 23 Nov (DD).  
**Red-tailed Hawk (Kriger's)** 1 H 15 Nov (DT).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** arr 1 HP 20 Oct.  
**Merlin:** total 8 Oct; total 3 Nov.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 2 R 23 Sep (T&PS); 2 MP 23 Oct (MT).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 60 H 21 Oct (RS), high for inland; last 1 IB 5 Nov.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 135 WL 9 Sep (DT; max 240 WL 10 Sep (DT), record high fall inland; 110 CU 20 Sep (JK).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 30 WL 9 Sep.  
**Killdeer:** max 140 WL 9 Sep.  
**Willet:** 1 T 9 Sep (DT).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** last GE 12 Sep.  
**Whimbrel:** 1-3 HB 5-12 Sep; total 6 HB 1-25 Sep.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 2 HB 28 Sep (DT, WS, RS).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 8 HB 12 Sep, juv.  
**Red Knot:** 1 H 10 Sep; 1 juv CH 11 Sep; 1 HB 12 Sep  
**Sanderling:** last HB 8 Nov.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 170 WL 9 Sep.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 175 WL 9 Sep; max 484 WL 10 Sep (DT), record high inland count, nearly all adult; 66 Elba 11 Sep (DT,KF), Genesee County high; 6 G 25-26 Oct (DT), juv; last 4 IB 20 Nov.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** max 5 CU 29 Sep; total 17 sev 1-30 Sep:  
**Purple Sandpiper:** arr IB 18 Nov, only report.  
**Dunlin:** max 375 HB 19 Oct; last IB 20 Nov.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** last 8 juv G 25-26 Oct.  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** max 9 CU 20 Sep (JK), Regional record high count; 1-9 CU 1-30 Sep (JK); 2 SA 29 Sep (DD); 1 CU 1 Oct (JK); 3 H 3 Oct (WS); last H 17 Oct (KG).  
**RUFF:** 1 m H 11 Oct (DT)  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 H 12 Sep (DT, WS), only report.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr P 9 Sep (DS, JS).  
**phalarope species:** 1 HB 3 Oct.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** total 18 HB Sep; max 8 HB, T 10 Sep (DT); total 18 HB Oct; 1 HB2,3,9 Nov.  
**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** 1 imm HB 2 Sep (DT).  
**Little Gull:** total 6 HB 7-19 Nov.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** arr 1 imm IB 12 Nov (DT).  
**Thayer's Gull:** 1 imm HB 21 Nov (DT, WS, CC, GC).  
**Iceland Gull:** arr HB 8 Nov.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 alt ad K 9 Sept; 1 IB 2 Oct; 1 ad IB 7 Nov.  
**Glaucous Gull:** arr HB 14 Nov.  
**Sabine's Gull:** arr HB 10 Nov (DT); 1 HB 19 Nov (WS).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 2 imm HB 9 Nov (WS, et al); 1 imm HB 12 Nov (WS); 2 imm HB 19 Nov (WS).  
**Caspian Tern:** last PA 20 Oct.  
**Com. Tern:** max 52 HB 22 Sep; last 1 HB 7 Nov.

#### DOVES – WOODPECKERS

**Snowy Owl:** 2 Summerville 21 Nov (KF), present for several days.  
**Short-eared Owl:** arr HB 8 Oct, early.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 Webster 23 Sep.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 25-30 3 Sep, very low maximum.  
**Whip-poor-will:** W 11 Sep (D&DT), rarely reported in fall.  
**Chimney Swift:** max 420 York 12 Sep; last 135 York 6 Oct.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1 Penfield 11 Sep; 1 Victor 18 Sep, only rreports.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** last HB 20 Sep.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 2B M 18 Sep.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** last H 1 Sep.  
**Trail's Flycatcher:** last 1B M 15 Sep.  
**Least Flycatcher:** last 1B M 28 Sep.  
**Great-crested Flycatcher:** last HB 20 Sep.  
**E. Kingbird:** last H 10 Oct, very late.  
**N. Shrike:** arr G 18 Oct; total 6 sev Nov.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1B M 15 Sep.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** last V 29 Oct.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** last 2 S 11 Sep.  
**Warbling Vireo:** last Fairport 20 Sep.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr G, M 11 Sep; last 1B M 25 Sep.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** last 1B M 29 Oct.  
**Com. Raven:** 1 Portage 9, 16 Oct (AW); 2 S. Bristol 26 Oct (P & JS).  
**Tree Swallow:** max 1500 CU 1 Oct, low maximum.  
**CAVE SWALLOW:** arr 3 HB 31 Oct (mob); 1 HP 21 Nov (DT); 4 WI 23 Nov (DT, RS!, NYSARC, RMc).

**House Wren:** last BB 14 Oct.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 2 HB 14 Sep.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1B M 17 Sep; max 80B M 5 Oct..  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 1B M 10 Sep; 92B M thru Sep; max 124B M 5 Oct.  
**Veery:** last 1B M 12 Oct.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max 44B M 27 Sep; total 194B M thru Sep; last HB 18 Oct.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 1B M 20 Sep; 1B M 24 Sep; 2B M 26 Sep  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 1B M 8 Sep; total 143B thru Sep; last HB 13 Oct.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr 3 HB 20 Sep; max 68B M 13 Oct.  
**Wood Thrush:** last 1B M 30 Sep.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr H 10 Sep; max 200+ CU 23 Sep; K 25 Sep; last Elba 2 Nov.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 1 HP 10 Nov (DT); 1 H 19 Nov (DT); 2 G 21 Nov (KG).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1000+ West Lakeshore 17 Nov.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** last M 1 Sep.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 1B M 10 Oct.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr 1B M 10 Sep; last V 14 Oct.  
**Nashville Warbler:** last V 22 Oct.  
**N. Parula:** arr 1B M 11 Sep; last 1B M 28 Sep.  
**Yellow Warbler:** last 1B M 10 Sep.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr M 11 Sep.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** total 167B M thru Sep. b; last M 22 Oct, b.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 2B M 27 Sep; last 3B M 30 Sep.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** last 1B M 13 Oct.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** last V 10 Oct.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** last 1B M 23 Sep.  
**Palm Warbler:** last PE 5 Oct.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 1B M 3 Sep.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 1B M 4 Sep; last M 8 Oct.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** last 1B M 23 Sep.

**Am. Redstart:** last 1B M 12 Oct.

**Ovenbird:** last Portage 28 Sep.

**N. Waterthrush:** last 2B M 24 Sep.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1B M 13 Sep.

**Mourning Warbler:** last 1B M 16 Sep.

**Hooded Warbler:** last Naples 26 Sep.

**Wilson's Warbler:** last 3B M 23 Sep.

**Canada Warbler:** last 1B M 11 Sep.

#### **TANAGERS – WEAVERS**

**Scarlet Tanager:** last 1B M 6 Oct.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** arr 1B M 12 Oct.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 imm G 18 Sep 18 (KG).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1B M 10 Oct.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1B M 5 Sep; last V 22 Oct.

**White-throated Sparrow:** total 465B M thru Sep.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 1B M 22 Sep.

**Lapland Longspur:** arr HB 26 Sep; max 90 H 22 Oct.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR:** 1 H 22-23 Oct (DT), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional record.

**Snow Bunting:** max 400+ H 10 Nov.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** last V 10 Oct.

**Indigo Bunting:** last H 27 Sep.

**Dickcissel:** 1 HP 9 Oct (DT).

**Com. Redpoll:** arr 30 HB 4 Nov.

**Pine Siskin:** max 251 HB 13 Oct; 130 G 23 Oct.

**Evening Grosbeak:** arr HP 10 Nov.

