

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The summer of 2005 could simply be described as hot. Temperatures for June averaged 70.5°F, 4.7° above normal. It was the fifth warmest June on record. July averaged 73.0°, 2.3° above normal, and August averaged 72.8°, 3.9° above normal. Precipitation for June was 2.44", 0.92" above normal; for July 3.36", 0.43" above normal; and for August 5.10", 1.56" above normal. Precipitation on the lake plain did not mirror that of the Rochester airport. The fields were markedly dry until the remnants of Hurricane Katrina dropped 3.03" of rain on 30-31 August. Due to the summer-long drought, Katrina's rains essentially produced no ponding on area fields.

Katrina caused a minor shorebird grounding at best. Thirteen species were represented among fewer than 300 birds detected on the lakeshore. There was no grounding detected on fields in the towns of Leicester or Geneseo where one could expect such to occur. All previous recent hurricanes passing through this Region had produced at least a few records of significance. Katrina as a birding event was a bust.

The Region's food crop always seems to be a mixed bag. Contrary to what most people think, drought conditions usually produce an abundance of fruit. Along the lake plain, where drought persisted throughout the summer, the crop was plentiful. Even white pine (*Pinus strobus*) had some moderate cone production this year. This is good news for the winter season, as crossbills prefer the seeds of white pine over most others. Inland the food crop seemed somewhere between fair and good. Impressions of food crop are always subjective, owing to no real standard analysis method.

The pair of Trumpeter Swans once again nested in Wayne County, with three to four young noted. Forty Blue-winged Teal at Hamlin Beach was a good count by recent standards. Local nesting of Mute Swan and Canada Goose continues to be out of control. Summering waterfowl in the Region was, as usual, mainly on Lake Ontario, with typical species and unspectacular numbers noted. An immature **Great Cormorant** provided the third report of this species for August in the last ten years. A maximum of 165 Double-crested Cormorants on 30 August included less than ten percent immatures. This percentage was mirrored throughout the month, providing unfortunate evidence that control measures are working all too well. Fourteen Great Egrets were noted passing through the Region, with a maximum of nine at Hogan Point. An adult **WHITE IBIS** at Braddock Bay was a second Regional report.

Mississippi Kite was again seen in June. This is the month when most reports occur in the Region. Ospreys placing sticks on two cell towers, one in the town of Greece and one in Parma, is perhaps a sign of things to come. The August hawk flight was the worst on record. A total of 1082 Red-tailed Hawks was counted for the season. This total is usually surpassed on at least three days during the season. All other species were also noted in record low numbers, even Cooper's Hawks. The Peregrine Falcons in Rochester hatched five young again. Common Moorhen was virtually absent; this is a species obviously in trouble. The Sandhill Cranes in Savannah successfully bred again. This year the two young were observed at a size where their continued survival was likely, though we have received no specific input on that fact to date. The shorebird season was as usual mixed. Late spring flights essentially did not occur. The early summer return flight was fair. Highlights included Willet, numbers of Whimbrel, Red Knot, Wilson's Phalarope and Red-necked Phalarope. The Caspian Tern maximum of 89 stood in stark contrast to counts of typically double that number. A maximum of three juveniles is perhaps cause for concern.

Eurasian Collared-Dove provided a second Regional report, occurring about a mile-and-a-half from the first. How long until they breed in our Region? Common Nighthawk was represented by a low maximum of ten in June, no breeding as usual and a pathetic maximum of four in August. The two Common Ravens seen at Braddock Bay in August were at an unusual location for the date for this expanding species. **Fish Crow** provided a rare summer record at Hamlin Beach. The 40 "Traill's" Flycatchers banded on 2 June would seem to indicate a

strong late spring migration, but this would be misleading. There were actually few late spring migrants noted despite the weather-induced delayed spring. Did most of the expected birds simply over fly our Region when the marginal conditions finally allowed?

Birds banded this summer on the Manitou peninsula could be described as both interesting and intriguing. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula and Magnolia Warbler may all have bred nearby, whereas a White-crowned Sparrow in July and another in August clearly did not. An adult Yellow-breasted Chat with a brood patch and two hatch-year birds banded provided an uncommon lake plains nesting record.

A lone Henslow's Sparrow was reported in Geneseo. This species was never abundant in our Region, but it has become borderline rare. Finally, a tower killed Indigo Bunting in downtown Rochester may very well be a record late migrant.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB — Braddock Bay MONR; CH — Charlotte/Ontario Beach MONR; G — Greece MONR; GE — Geneseo LIVI; H — T Hamlin MONR; HB — Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP — Hogan Pt, T Greece MONR; LSP — Letchworth SP; M — Manitou MONR; PA — T Parma MONR; PE — T Perinton MONR; R — City of Rochester MONR; S — T Savannah WAYN; SB — Sodus Bay WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 3-4 y WAYN
4-6 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: max 40 HB 28 Aug.

N. Pintail: arr 5 HB 31 Jul.

Green-winged Teal: arr HB 21 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: arr BB 26 Aug.

Com. Merganser: arr 13 HB 18 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 165
HB 30 Aug.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 imm BB 4
Aug (DT).

Great Egret: max 9 HP 27 Aug (DT),
record high Reg lakeplains count.

WHITE IBIS: 1 ad BB 6 Aug (DT),
2nd Reg report.

HAWKS — ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 imm BB
16 Jun (DT).

Osprey: placing sticks on cell towers G, PA, possible future nesting sites.
Bald Eagle: total 7 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.
Cooper's Hawk: total 27 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.
N. Goshawk: total 3 BB hawkwatch Aug.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 BB hawkwatch 1 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 23 BB hawkwatch Aug, low.
Red-tailed Hawk: total 1082 BB hawkwatch, low.
Merlin: 1 BB 5 Jun late; 1 HB 16 Aug; 1 HB 30 Aug, becoming regular late summer.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 5 y R all season.
Sandhill Crane: 2 ad & 2 y S 10 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: arr M 8 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr H 14 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 PE 9 Jun; arr PE 18 Jul.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 S 10 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 HP 26 Jun.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 6 GE 18 Jul.
Willet: arr 1 HP 11 Jul, record early (DT).
Upland Sandpiper: 3-4 GE 18 Jul, only report.
Whimbrel: arr HB 10 Jul; total 10 HB & 1B Aug; 2 SB 31 Aug.
Ruddy Turnstone: 12 CH 7 Jun, good spring count; arr 6 H 31 Aug.
Red Knot: arr HB 6 Aug (RS).
Sanderling: arr 6 CH 18 Jul; only 4 HB to SB 29 Jul, worst numbers in years.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 83 PE 8 Jun; arr 2 PE 4 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr PE 30 Jun.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 4 HB 4 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr PE 4 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr S 11 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 14-16 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Rush MONR 17 Jul; max 22 PE 18 Jul; 21 HB 17 Jul; good counts for recent years.
Wilson's Phalarope: juv S 8-11 Aug (DW, mob); juv Elba GENE 10 Aug (RS).

Red-necked Phalarope: 4 HB 27 Aug (DT).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr 2 HB 31 Aug.
Little Gull: arr ad HB 17 Aug; imm CH 31 Aug (KG, GL).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: HB 31 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 89 SB 31 Aug; max 3 juv HB Aug, low productivity?
Com. Tern: max 43 HB 16 Aug.
Black Tern: 1-2 BB 17-28 Jul; no breeding recorded.

PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: H 1-17 Jun (DT, mob), 2nd Reg report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 10 G 1 Jun, low; max 4 R 25 Aug, low.
Chimney Swift: max 228 York LIVI 13 Aug.
Red-headed Woodpecker: ad H 4 Aug, possible nest site.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr H 4 Aug; Port Bay WAYN 31 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last M 8 Jun; arr M 15 Aug, banded, early (C&RM).
"Traill's" Flycatcher: max 40 M 2 Jun, banded.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr HB 18 Aug.
FISH CROW: HB 26 Aug (DT).
Com. Raven: 2 BB 11-27 Jul, unusual site for the dates.
Cliff Swallow: 19 HB 22 Aug; 38 HB 28 Aug; good counts.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: M 8 July (C&RM), odd location for season, banded.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last G 4 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last 2 M 3 Jun, banded.
Am. Pipit: arr 3 H 31 Aug (RS), early.

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: M 8 Aug, probable early migrant.
Tennessee Warbler: arr G 26 Aug.
N. Parula Warbler: M 11 Jul (C&RM), odd date, banded.

Magnolia Warbler: M 11, 15, 18 Jul (C&RM), odd dates, banded.

Cape May Warbler: arr G 26 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last G 10 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: max 65 LSP 6 Jun, counted in field trip drive through.

Wilson's Warbler: last 2 G 5 Jun; arr G 22 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: ad M 21 Jun, banded at MAPS station, brood patch; 2 juv M 8 Aug (C&RM) banded, unusual breeding site.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 GE 6, 12 Jun.

Henslow's Sparrow: GE Jun, only report.

Lincoln's Sparrow: last M 2 Jun.

White-throated Sparrow: last M 8 Jun, late.

White-crowned Sparrow: M 12 Jul (C&RM); M 30 Aug (BBBO), banded; odd dates.

Indigo Bunting: R 22 Jun, tower killed, late migrant?