

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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September of 2005 was essentially a continuation of the summer weather conditions, hot and dry. Temperatures averaged 65.5° F, 4.3° above normal. Rainfall was misleading at 4.98", 1.53" above normal. Over 4 inches of this fell on just 4 days. October started out warm and dry, with a record 5 straight days exceeding 80°. Would summer ever end? Yes. During the second week of the month there was an abrupt shift to autumn. The weather became cooler, somewhat wetter than normal, and predictably cloudier. All said and done, the temperatures averaged 53.4° F, 3.0° above normal. November was typical. Windstorms, thunderstorms, record warmth, heavy rains, and lake effect snows all occurred. Could all that be called typical? Temperatures averaged 43.7° F, 3.8° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.18", 0.34" above normal. Snowfall was near normal at 7.8" (-0.3").

The southern branch of the jetstream was aligned perfectly from northern Mexico to southeastern Canada from approximately 29th of October through the 6th of November. This may have been responsible for the movement/displacement of Cave Swallows into the Northeastern United States. There were no low pressure systems originating out of the northern Mexico/southwestern United States region during this time period. In the past, these systems riding up and along the jetstream have been tied to other Cave Swallow events. It remains to be seen what weather pattern, if any, played a role in this event. Weather is almost always thought to be a major player in bird movements. Is it possible or even likely that there are some other triggers to these “events” and weather merely enhances them to a point that they are more easily detectable to humans? A lack of food is of course the most probable of all triggers. Hopefully we will have concrete answers in the near future.

Waterfowl numbers as a whole were poor this year. There were of course a few exceptions. Common Loon had several days of 1000 or more birds seen passing by Hamlin Beach. 10,000+ Red-breasted Mergansers off of Irondequoit Bay was an excellent count. Any double-digit count of Ruddy Duck is good but 90 on Braddock Bay was exceptional for our Region. There were four count days of 20 or more Red-necked Grebes at Hamlin Beach, certainly good totals by fall season standards. Both scaup species were virtually absent this fall. Tundra Swans appeared record early at two separate locations. The waterfowl highlight was had by two separate Common Eiders, one an incredibly cooperative bird found by Gary Chapin in the Irondequoit Bay Channel.

It was a record year for Northern Gannet, with 14 birds recorded. Most of these birds were definitively separable by plumage characteristics. Some observers have suggested the possibility of duplication. This is highly unlikely, though certainly possible in some cases. A late season incursion of Cattle Egrets totaled 5 individuals. Warm southerly winds brought these birds into our Region. One can't help but wonder what other species were brought in by these conditions but went undetected. A total of 18 Merlins for October was impressive, but not nearly as impressive as 19 Peregrine Falcons in two days time and a total of 26 reported for the month. Shorebird diversity was fine but numbers were unspectacular. A long-staying Red Phalarope found by Kim Hartquist at the south end of Irondequoit Bay was a nice find. Solitary, Least and Bairds sandpipers were record late. The jaeger season finished off with a pseudo-bang after a slow start. A total of 12 Pomarines, 68 Parasitics and 1 LONG-TAILED were reported, making for a very respectable season.

The gull picture also wasn't too shabby. The following rarities were seen: LAUGHING GULL, 2 SABINE'S GULLS, and 5 BLACK-HEADED GULLS. In addition to the aforementioned birds, there were 12 Little Gulls and a record early Black-legged Kittiwake. Unfortunately, a total of 5 kittiwakes made for an extremely poor season. An excellent, by recent standards, 8 Black Tern day was had at Hamlin Beach.

Three Snowy Owl reports in November gave hope for an invasion year, whereas only 2 Short-eared Owl reports for the season did not. A lone Whip-poor-will report was unusual for the fall. Chimney Swifts were again well represented at the Greigsville roost site with a maximum of 1300. Chimney

Swifts from this site tied a record late departure date. Mourning Doves nesting in mid-October? Improbable as it may seem, a pair was found sitting on eggs at Manitou. Not surprisingly, they did not succeed.

A GRAY KINGBIRD found by Dave Tetlow along Salmon Creek in Greece was a second Regional occurrence. Record late dates included Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler banded by BBBO at Manitou and also a Blue-headed Vireo seen in Webster Park. A total of 33 Blue-headed Vireos were reported in October, making a late bird not surprising.

Swallows were the story of the season. A flight of 600 Tree Swallows was seen at Hamlin Beach. A flock of 108 Northern Rough-winged Swallows was seen at Point Breeze, and 5 of the same were nearly record late at Hamlin Beach. But of course, CAVE SWALLOWS made all the headlines. It all began with what would turn out to be a modest 28 birds on the 3rd of November. By November 17th the beyond comprehension total of 784 had been tallied. On November 6th, Dave Tetlow, with primary assistance from Mike Davids and Kim Hartquist, counted 579 of the aforementioned total. These birds were moving at first light and continued moving until a powerful cold front shut down the flight. All but 25 of the 784 birds during this fifteen day event were moving east to west, the 25 were obviously "leftovers" from the main flights. This is not the typical direction that this species has been detected moving here in the past. Obviously, nothing about this flight was typical.

Passerine numbers and diversity were fabulous. The following maximum counts speak for themselves: 85 Winter Wren, 30 Swainson's Thrush, 160 Hermit Thrush, 50+ Field Sparrow, 600+ Savannah Sparrow, 1200+ White-crowned Sparrow, and 1200 Rusty Blackbird. Wow! These were not all day out birding type counts. These were from single locations. It was certainly the best sparrow season in many years. Two Snow Buntings at Hamlin Beach and 7 in a field in the town of Hamlin tied a record early date. Most of the "winter finches" were reported but in small numbers. Five Common Redpoll at Hogan Point were record early.

It was definitely an entertaining fall season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, MONR; CA - T. Carlton, ORLE; CH - Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CHU - T. Churchville MONR; CU - T. Cuylerville, LIVI; DEP Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G - Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo, LIVI; H - T of Hamlin, MONR; HB - Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; He -T Henrietta, MONR; HP - Hogan Point, MONR; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K - T. Kendall, ORLE; M - Manitou, MONR; P - T of Parma, MONR; PB Point Breeze, ORLE; PE - Perinton, MONR; R - City of Rochester, MONR; RU - T. Rush, MONR; S- Savannah, WAYN; V - T. Victor, MONR; W - T of Webster, MONR; Y - T. York LIVI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 47 HB 2 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 1 CA 21, 28 Nov.

Brant: max 1293 HB 25 Oct.

Tundra Swan: arr 4 HB 26 Nov (WS,DS; 10 HP 26 Nov (DT), record early.

Blue-winged Teal: last 1 G 15 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 500 HB 23 Sep; 475 HB 25 Oct, also good count.

Canvasback: arr 3 HB 16 Oct.

Redhead: arr 10 HB 16 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 32 G 22 Oct

COMMON EIDER: ♀ IB 13 - 30 Nov (GC); 1 ♀ G 21 Nov (DT).

Surf Scoter: arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 42 HB 5 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 310 HB 9 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 1 HB 9 Oct; max 611 HB 26 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 1 HB 6 Oct; max 177 HB 11 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 3 HB 20 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 10,000+ IB 26 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: max 90 BB 13 Oct.

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 16 Oct; max 381 HB 28 Nov, low max.

Com. Loon: max 1460 fly-by, 1200 on water HB 1 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 1 Sep.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 HB 1 Sep; max 23 HB 8 Nov.

N. Gannet: arr 1 HB 17 Oct, 14 total for season.

Am. Bittern: last 1 DEP 2 Oct, 1 BB 2 Oct.

Great Egret: last 1 HP 1-15 Oct.

Cattle Egret: 5 total 16-22 Nov.

Green Heron: last 1 G 6 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 14 G 1 Oct.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 Roch 1 Nov; 10 total 1-30 Oct.

Bald Eagle: 11 total 1-31 Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last 1 HP 18 Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 calurus race He 11 Nov. Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 K 5 Nov.

Merlin: 8 total 1-30 Sep; 18 total 1-31 Oct; 6 total 1-30 Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: max 11 BB 8 Oct; total 26 1-30 Oct.

Com. Moorhen: 3 BB 1 Sep, only report.

Am. Coot: max 130 BB 18 Oct.

Black-bellied Plover: last 1 IB 20-22 Nov.

Killdeer: max 288 H 12 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: last 1 G 6-26 Nov.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 G 9-15 Nov (DT), record late.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr 1 SC 6 Oct; 1

HB 12 Nov.
Sanderling: last 1 HB 7 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 SC 6 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last 4 IB 22 Nov (DS), record late.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 1 GE 6 Nov (JK), late.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 1 IB 2 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 IB 15 Nov; 1 HB 15 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 1 IB 30 Sep.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1 CU 18-21 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 4 ad SC 16 Sep; 1 SC 6-7 Oct; 1 IB 15-17 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 42 SC 14 Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 GE 11 Oct; 1 HB 25 Oct.
Red Phalarope: arr 1 juv IB 15-26 Oct; 1 juv HB 24 Oct.
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 HB 28 Oct; 12 HB total for season.
Parasitic Jaeger: 68 HB total for season.
Laughing Gull: 1 juv HB 4 Sep (WS, DT).
Little Gull: 12 HB total for season.
Black-headed Gull: arr 1 imm HB 28 Oct; 1 imm IB 12 Nov; 1 ad 1 imm HB 8 Nov; 1 ad HB 18 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 858 HB 8 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 PE 25 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 6-9 total for season.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 CA 28 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 imm HB 4 Sep (WS), record early; 5 total for season, low.
SABINE'S GULL: 2 imm HB 16 Oct (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IB 6 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 112 HB 8 Sep; 1 IB/CH 22-27 Nov, late.
Black Tern: max 8 HB 8 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 2 NE M 15 Oct (DT), record late nesting attempt.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last 1 P 27 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr 2 CH 25-27 Nov; 1 BB 25 Nov.

Short-eared Owl: arr 2 GE 30 Oct.
Whip-poor-will: 1 W 9 Oct (D&DT), late.
Chimney Swift: max 1300 Y 24 Sep (JK, JG); last 26, 19 Oct (JK), record late.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 CHU 24 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 1 V 10 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 M 28 Sep, banded.
Traill's Flycatcher: last 1 M 7 Sep, banded.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 M 9 Oct, banded BBBO record late.
E. Phoebe: 1 R 20 Nov; last 1 H 27-30 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 M 11 Sep, banded.
E. Kingbird: last 1 G 18 Sep.
GRAY KINGBIRD: 1 SC 1-4 Oct (DT, mob) 2nd Reg. record.
N. Shrike: arr 1 HB 31 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 DEP 25 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: total 33 Oct; last 1 W 10 Nov (R&SSp), record late.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1 GE 18 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 M 23 Sep, banded.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.
FISH CROW: 2 G 15 Oct (KG).
Tree Swallow: max 600 HB 8 Oct; last 1 G 14 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last 1 HB 19 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last 1 H 1 Sep.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 108 PB 4 Oct (DT); last 2 HB 8 Nov (WS).
CAVE SWALLOW: 28 HB 3 Nov (JB, JG, DT); 112 HB 4 Nov (MD, DT); 42 HB 5 Nov (ST, DS, DT, et al); 579 HB 6 Nov (DT, mob); 2 HB 11 Nov (MD); 1 G 13 Nov (DT, video); 4 G 14 Nov (DT); 11 HP 14 Nov (DT); 7-1 SC 15-17 Nov (RS, DS, DT), photos, 1 specimen.
Barn Swallow: last 1 IB 24 Oct.
House Wren: last 1 GE 14 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 HB 13 Sep; max 85 M 9 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max

125 M, banded.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 HB 7 Sep; max 135 M, banded.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 20+ S 11 Sep; max 195 Sep, banded.

Bicknell's Thrush: arr 1 M 22 Sep, banded.

Swainson's Thrush: max 30 HB 7 Sep; last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.

Hermit Thrush: max 160 M 9 Oct.

Wood Thrush: last 1 M 11 Oct.

Bohemian Waxwing: 15 total Nov.

Cedar Waxwing: max 500 W 26-27 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 V 14 Sep.
Orange-crowned Warbler: total 10 G 7-17 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: last 1 M 15 Oct, banded.

N. Parula Warbler: arr 1 P 9 Sep; last 1 M 5 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last 1 G 17 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 V 7 Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: last 1 M 15 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last 1 M 3 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 M 27 Oct (RMc), banded, record late; total 56 Oct.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 BB 14-18 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 G 10 Sep.

Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 26 Nov.

Prairie Warbler: last 1 HB 1 Oct (R&SSp, et al).

Palm Warbler: last 1 V 27 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 M 9 Oct, banded.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 M 12 Oct, banded.

Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 M 2 Oct, banded.

Am. Redstart: last 1 M 9 Oct.

Ovenbird: last 1 M 12 Oct, banded.

N. Waterthrush: last 2 M 20 Sep, banded.

Connecticut Warbler: 3 total Sep.

Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 11 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: last 1 M 19 Sep, banded.

Canada Warbler: last 1 M 17 Sep, banded.

Yellow-breasted Chat: last 1 M 6 Oct, banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1 HB 27 Sep.

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 HP 9 Oct.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3 HB 9 Oct (DT).

Field Sparrow: max 50+ RU 14 Oct (MZ).

Vesper Sparrow: max 10+ H/K 1-9 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 600+ H 2 Oct (MD, DT).

Grasshopper Sparrow: last 1 DEP 2 Oct (GC, DS).

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 M 9 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded.

White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 8 HP 23 Sep; max 1200+ HP 28 Sep (MD, DT).

Lapland Longspur: arr 2 HB 30 Sep.

Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 28 Sep; 7 H 28 Sep (RS, DT), record early.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last 1 M 17 Oct, banded.

Indigo Bunting: last 1 H 27 Sep.

Bobolink: last 1 HB 2 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 HP 26 Sep; max 1200 SC(P) 18 Oct (DT).

Baltimore Oriole: last 1 S 10 Sep.

Pine Grosbeak: arr 1 W 26 Nov.

Red Crossbill: arr 5 HB 12 Nov.

White-winged Crossbill: arr 1 HP 16 Nov.

Com. Redpoll: arr 5 HP 9 Oct (DT), record early.

Am. Goldfinch: max 176 M 4 Nov, banded.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 1 M 7 Oct; total 8 Nov.