

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The summer season started out on a rather pleasant note, with a warm but comfortable June. The average temperature was 67.8° F. That was 2° above normal. It was cloudy a good portion of the time, but the 3.72" of rainfall was 0.36" below normal. July raised the bar a bit. The term "tropical" was bantered about in the description of the month. It was the warmest July in 51 years, with an average temperature of 75.0° F, which was 4° above normal, with significant humidity. This was accompanied by above normal thunderstorm activity. Rainfall was the 3rd largest amount ever for July at 8.02", 5.09" above normal. The 3.33" of rain that fell on the 12th was the largest total ever recorded for a single July day. August toned things down a bit. The first couple of days were hot and humid, but after that the pattern fell into a more typical August scenario. The average temperature was 1.4° above normal at 70.3°. Rainfall was fairly typical totaling 2.75", with a departure from normal of 0.79".

The late spring migration into June was relatively slow. There were reports of lingering species, but no consistent coverage. This was especially true of the hawk flights which continued but received only minor coverage. June can often be a good month. For raptors, yet there were few days of coverage. As was the case in the past, after the Breeding Bird Atlas work is done, reports dwindle. Conditions seemed right for a good breeding season, and there were some indicators that pointed in that direction. Those will be addressed as individual species are reviewed. The natural food supply was good. The warm temperatures and abundant rainfall prompted excellent plant growth, and as a result seed and fruit production was good. Insect populations were stable and provided excellent food sources for many species.

Bill Symonds and other observers carried out the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach on a semi regular basis. The return migration in July and August was often described as SLOW. This was particularly true for shorebirds. Habitat scarcity continues to be a problem in the Region.

Waterfowl nesting was a mixed bag as usual. Trumpeter Swans were again nesting at multiple locations in the Region. At one, a total of 7 cygnets was observed, while two other sites didn't produce any young this year. Mute Swans once again had a banner year. Efforts to stem the population trend are not keeping up with the swan production. Canada Geese again were found almost anywhere there was a bit of water. The local nesting population continues to build. Possibly related to the continued increase in Mute Swans, American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal went unreported as breeders. The latter has completely disappeared from the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area as a breeder. Historically, they were fairly common. Other puddle ducks were reported as singles or in low numbers, but none were noted as breeding. Wood Duck and Mallard numbers were good. Hooded and Common merganser were reported as breeding away from the lakeshore. A few Red-breasted Mergansers lingered on the lake in the early part of the season. Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck each received single reports.

There were few loon reports on the lake for the season. A June Horned Grebe was late. Pied-billed Grebe only nested in the East Lakeshore marshes and south of Rochester. Once again the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area was devoid of the nesting grebes. The Brown Pelican observed by Jim Barry flying along the lakeshore was a seasonal plus. Bittern reports were very limited, and the only possible wader highlight was the few Great Egrets that seemed to hang around for the summer. Pheasants continued scarce, but Wild Turkey once again looked good.

It was an interesting season for raptors. Numbers of Broad-winged Hawks were noted into mid June, and excellent numbers of Bald Eagles were reported. The Golden Eagle videotaped by Dave Tetlow on 18 June was unusual for that time of the year. Dave Tetlow also reported a imm. Mississippi Kite in early July. The nesting highlight was nesting pairs of Merlin. One pair in Rochester fledged four young, while another pair along Honeoye Lake in Ontario County produced three young. The former pair was reported to have nested last summer, but the news didn't reach the birding community until late winter. The Peregrine Falcons that have nested on Kodak Tower were again successful, but only three of the six eggs resulted in fledging. This result was due in part to a leg injury that kept the female from incubating the eggs effectively.

The Wayne County Sandhill Cranes again produced young. The two hatchings didn't survive, which so far has been the norm for this pair. Common Moorhens again were rare along the west lakeshore marshes. One juvenile was sighted at Shore Acres, Town of Hamlin, in August. The only other breeding reports came from the Geneseo area and from marshes in Wayne County. Of note in the shorebird department was the appearance of a male Wilson's Phalarope in a pond in Greece in mid June. Upland Sandpiper went unreported as a breeder this year. Gull highlights included an adult Franklin's Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. A small colony of nesting Ring-billed Gulls was reported again on a small island in a borrow pit at Marketplace Mall in Henrietta. An uncommon bird in summer, Forster's Tern was seen at Braddock Bay. An adult and an immature Black Tern were also seen there, a surprise as there are currently no known nesting Black Terns in the Region.

Both cuckoos were reported in good numbers. Common Nighthawks were reported in early June but not after that, which indicated no nesting again this year. The Regional bird of the season was undoubtedly the male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** in the Town of Rose, Wayne County. The bird was seen on two consecutive days in late June. Photos were taken and the bird will almost certainly be accepted by NYSARC as a new bird for the Region and State.

Again, probably because the Atlas work was over, there were not an abundance of summer nesting reports for passerines. Fish Crow and Raven were both reported. The former has shown up with some regularity, but confirmation of nesting has not occurred. Cliff Swallows were nesting in small groups under bridges along the lakeshore creeks and streams. The larger colonies of a few years ago are no longer active. Sedge Wrens were found at two different sites. Prairie Warbler reports were good. This species continues to breed in small numbers in the Region. The 15,000+ Cedar Waxwings observed by David Tetlow at Hamlin Beach in August was a record high for New York. Clay-colored Sparrows were again reported from multiple sites. This is a continuing trend. Henslow's Sparrows continue to be found only in very low numbers. Again this year only a single location was noted. There was some disagreement as to the status of Bobolink; some observers indicated reduced numbers in traditional grassland sites, while other observers reported usual numbers. They were in agreement on Eastern Meadowlark; numbers were down. Observers noted that Baltimore Orioles were numerous, and Orchard Orioles again had a good year.

179 species were reported in June. This is just about the 10-year average. July totaled 147 species, below the 10-year average. August totaled 176 species, right about at the 10-year average. 10 new species were added for the year, bringing the total for the year to 285.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, MONR; CA - Canadice lake area, LIVI; CH - Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CU - T Cuylerville, LIVI; G - Greece, MONR; GE - Geneseo, LIVI; H - T of Hamlin, MONR; HB - Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HL - Honeoye Lake, ONTA; HP - Hogan Point, T Greece, MONR; I - T Irondequoit, MONR; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; LP - Long Pond, T Greece, MONR; M - Manitou, MONR; PB - Point Breeze, ORLE; R - City of Rochester, MONR; S - Savannah, WAYN; SP - Sodus Pt, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad WAYN all Jul; 2 ad, 7yg S 1-31 Jul; 2 S 1-31 Jul, different location.

N. Shoveler: 1 m GE 7, 10 Jun, uncommon in summer.

Green-winged Teal: 1 HP 16-18 Jun.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 HB 11 Aug.

Lesser Scaup: 1 f BB 29-30 Jun.

Com. Merganser: arr 10 HB 18 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 12 HB 10 Jun.

Ruddy Duck: 1 m G 7 Jun; 1 IB 18 Aug.

Red-throated Loon: 1 HB 25 Jun (WS); 1 HB 11 Jul; 1 HB 18 Jul; 1 HB 22 Aug.

Horned Grebe: 1 LP 2 Jun.

BROWN PELICAN: 1 G 4 Jul (JB), very rare.

Am. Bittern: 1 H 8 Jul, only report.

Great Egret: scattered single thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 imm BB 6 Jul (DT).

Bald Eagle: max 17 BB 18 Jun (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 75 BB 18 Jun.

Golden Eagle: 1 BB 18 Jun (DT), late.

Merlin: 2ad, 3yg HL 25-14 Jul (RS, DD, mob), 1st breeding record for the county in at least a century; 2 ad, 4yg R all Jul.

Com. Moorhen: 1 juv H 17 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 2 ad, 2 yg S 1 Jun - 31 Jul; 1 ad CU 15 Jun (JK); 2 ad T of York LIVI 31 Jul (AS, PC).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 HB 22 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 1 CH 10 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 GE 21 Jul.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 HP 23 Jun, early;

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 9 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: max 12 GE 24 Jul.

Whimbrel: 1 HB 27 Aug.

Hudsonian Godwit: 1 HB 26 Aug.

Sanderling: 2 HB 10 Jun, often missed in spring; arr 4 CH 11 Jul

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr CU 14 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 H 2 Jun.

Dunlin: last 1 SP 1 Jun.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr CU 27 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr CU 21 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 m HP 17 Jun (DT), late.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr HB 16 Aug.

Franklin's Gull: 1 ad K 18 Jun (DT).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 imm HB 10, 20 Jun (WS); 1 ad SO 1 Jun (DS).

Black Tern: 1 BB 2-28 Jul (DT, DN, JB); 1 ad BB 10 Aug.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Whip-poor-will: 1f R 13 Jul (JF), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: max 9 G 1 Jun; last 1 G 6 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 120 T of York LIVI 13 Aug.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD:

1 ad m T of Rose WAYN 24-25 Jun (D&HL-photos), report to NYSARC.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 11 M 1 Jun; last 1b M 12 Jun; arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1b M 31 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 22 Aug.

Fish Crow: 1 G 13 Jun (KG), calling.

Com. Raven: 1 BB 17 Jun; 2 BB 18 Jun; 1 LW 28 Jun; 1 BB 1 Aug.

The Kingbird 2006 December; 56 (4)

Sedge Wren: 4 ad w/yg PB 2-30 Jun, 1-16 Jul (R&SS, mob); 2 S 19-30 Jun (R&CMc, mob).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1b M 1 Jun, late; arr 1 HP 27 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2b M 12 Jun; arr 1b M 31 Aug.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1b M 16 Aug, early.

Cedar Waxwing: max 15,820 HB 26 Aug (DT), new high for State; 7860 HB 27 Aug (DT).

WARBLERS

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1b M 8 Aug.

Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 1 Jun; arr 1b M 23 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: 1b M 14 Jul; 2b M 17 Jul, unusual date for location.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 1 CA 25 Jun; 1 HL 25 Jun; 1 Dalton 25 Jun.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 G 17 Jun, late; arr 1b M 16 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: 1 I 30 Jun (DT), very late; arr G 28 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 RO 8 Jun; 1 G 10 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 1b M 12 Aug.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 GE all Jun.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3 H all Jun, 1-13 Jul; 2 GE thru Jun & Jul.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 GE thru Jun & Jul.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1b M 1 Jun; 1 HP 6-17 Jun, unusual in summer; arr G 12 Aug.

Red Crossbill: arr HP 28 Aug (DT), very early.