

REGION 2 – GENESEE

David W. Tetlow

79 Hogan Point Rd., Hilton, NY 14468

dktetlow@rochester.rr.com

September was wet and cloudy. Rainfall was 1.94" above normal. Temperatures averaged 0.8°F above normal, but this was misleading. Daytime highs were typically cool and nighttime lows were held up by the cloud cover. The passage of Hurricane Ernesto on the 2nd brought heavy rains, 1-2" Region wide. Birds that were possibly tied to the hurricane passage occurred on 6 September, when a Long-tailed Jaeger, a **Sabine's Gull**, and 14 Black Terns, plus two **Sooty/Bridled Terns** clearly associated with it, were observed at Hamlin Beach State Park. October's temperatures were very normal, averaging 0.2°F above normal. Rainfall was 4.96", 2.36" above normal, making for a wet month. Generally speaking, October's weather did not seem to have any significant effect on either arriving or departing birds, which is not unusual for the middle month of the season. November was a contrast to the two prior months. Rainfall at 2.89" was just 0.05" above normal and therefore had no visible role involving bird reports. The temperatures on the other hand averaged 6°F above normal and clearly had a role in certain species lingering, namely seven species of warbler.

There is no one word or line that could completely describe the weather of fall 2006. *It had it all*, but nothing in the extreme. Well, I guess that is a line that could describe it after all. That same line could almost be used to describe the birds that were reported as well, with a couple of exceptions.

The waterfowl making headlines this fall were certainly the geese. Four **Greater White-fronted Geese** found by Gary Chapin in Hamlin were an unprecedented fall record. Three **Ross's Geese** in Savannah found by Kevin McGowan were equally unprecedented for the fall. Cackling Goose was numerous, with a high count of seven at Hamlin Beach State Park, and several more detected elsewhere. Two **Ross's x Snow Goose** hybrids were found, one in Savannah and one at Hamlin Beach State Park. With the increasing number of hybrids being found, all "white" geese should be closely scrutinized. Pied-billed Grebe numbers this fall were excellent, with a high count of 60 on Irondequoit Bay and several double-digit reports from other locales. A maximum count of 535 Red-necked Grebes was made along the lakeshore from Hamlin Beach State

Park to Kendall by Robert Spahn. A lone **Eared Grebe** was reported by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach State Park.

In contrast, at Hamlin Beach, lakewatching for waterfowl was in general somewhat uneventful. Low maximum counts were had for many species. An example of this would be a count of 367 Brant. I believe that quite often the timing of cold fronts allows several species of waterfowl to over fly our Region at night, and this may be the main reason for these low totals. Brant are an excellent example of this. It is a common occurrence for Brant to show up on their Atlantic coast wintering grounds without being detected en route from breeding grounds. Several other waterfowl species have a similar pattern. This could explain this season's low numbers. Hopefully more study will be done in the future to support or disprove this.

Numbers for both loons passing the lakewatch were on the low average side this fall, though the Red-throated Loon count actually peaked a bit late in early December beyond this season's end. The story for Common Loon is that, similar to neighboring Regions to the east and west, we experienced a die off due to Type-E botulism, with 115 carcasses picked up by the DEC mainly between Sodus Bay and Fairhaven between 8 October and 18 November. Another 37 dead individuals of other waterbird species were also retrieved over that period.

Double-crested Cormorants were again reported in low numbers. Waders were virtually absent; even though they do not need the water to be as shallow as shorebirds, the high lake level may have contributed to their absence. A flock of nine Sandhill Cranes in Savannah is evidence of an increasing eastern population, as is a flock of four at Sodus Bay. A few Rough-legged Hawk reports unfortunately did not turn into an invasion. Compared to the fall of 2005's bounty, Peregrine Falcon and Merlin numbers returned to normal by recent standards. American Kestrel seemed ok at best.

Shorebird habitat was non-existent in the bays and along the creeks due to the high lake level. Accordingly, numbers and variety of shorebirds were exceptionally poor. The fields were wet, but few were plowed to the liking of plovers and the like. Even the passage of Hurricane Ernesto brought no shorebird grounding. The only highlight was a record late **Solitary Sandpiper** at Hogan Point. There were no reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and plover numbers were pathetic. Along the lakeshore Sanderlings were rare and the Dunlin flight was weak. This may have been the worst shorebird fall on record!

Jaeger, gull, and tern species were well represented, but numbers for each were relatively poor. A total of 18 Parasitic and two Pomarine jaegers for the season was so-so at best, but two **Long-tailed** helped salvage the jaeger picture. A low maximum of 621 Bonaparte's Gulls was somewhat offset by eight Little and two Black-headed gulls. Two **Sabine's Gulls** definitely provided some excitement at the lakewatch. Black-legged Kittiwake was virtually absent, with only four reported. Caspian Terns were apparently hurt by the Type-E Botulism affecting nesting birds at the east end of Lake Ontario. There were no triple-digit counts from on the beach or passing by the lakewatch this fall. Common Tern numbers were also extremely low, with a maximum count of only 27. Black Terns had a high count of 14 pass by the lakewatch, an actual event by modern standards. Two **Sooty/Bridled Terns** flew by the lakewatch four days after the

passing of Hurricane Ernesto remnants; unfortunately, they were too far out to positively identify to species.

A **Loggerhead Shrike** was found in Parma, this is a true rarity anytime but especially in the fall. Northern Shrike was late to arrive but eventually occurred in moderate numbers. One White-eyed Vireo was banded at the Kaiser-Manitou banding station, which has become the norm. Swallows were essentially absent from the Region, back-to-back cold fronts at the very end of the summer season saw to that. **Cave Swallows** appeared on a record late date. The initial sighting by Dave Tetlow involved three Cave Swallows and one **Violet-green Swallow**. The latter was observed closely for about two minutes and then disappeared to the east. At that point phone calls were made. The bird was never seen again, only various size groups of Cave Swallow. This single observer sighting of a potential first state record must unfortunately be treated as hypothetical.

It was a lackluster fall for the thrushes, with basically no maxima worth mentioning. Two Bicknell's were noted, one banded and one identified by nocturnal call note. Warbler variety was good, but the volume was poor. Three Connecticut Warblers were a good total and correlated with a mini-invasion in the Northeast. Seven species of warblers in November is certainly of note and reflects the very mild conditions of the month. Sparrows did not warrant any superlatives with the exception of Fox Sparrow. It was an excellent season for them and multiples could be found almost at will in appropriate habitat. A single flock of 22 in Durand-Eastman Park punctuated this. There was a trickle of winter finches hinting at an upcoming invasion, but this absolutely did not happen. Red Crossbills clearly passed through the Region but did not stay. A total of 20 were noted at different locales by multiple observers.

All said and done, it seemed like a season with tons of potential that ultimately lacked punch. That being said, a year-to-date total of 295 species was aided considerably by several rarities and is quite respectable. The 10-year average through November is 291.4.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Boettcher, George Briggs, Elizabeth Brooks (Braddock Bay Bird Observatory), Brad Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Charlie Chick, Jason Couch, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Mike Davids, Peter Debes, Paul Eschmann, Brett Ewald, Kenny Frisch, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith and Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Judy Gurley, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Rich Guthrie, Helen Haller, David & Vanna Harding, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Mike Harvey, Diane Henderson, Jody Hildreth, Tom Johnson, Rita Kautz, Jim Kimball, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, John Lehr, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, Dick Mather, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Kevin McGowan, Robert & Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Bill O'Neill, Phil Opdycke, Bill & Betty Powell, Gail Price, David Prill, Carolyn Regan, William Ruscher, Andrew Schecter, Chuck Schleigh, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Al & Di Stout, Allan Strong, David Strong, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow,

Michael Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Martha Zettel.

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; NC - Northrup Creek, 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; SB - Sodus Bay, WAYN; V - T. Victor, MONR; W - T of Webster, MONR; Y - T. York LIVI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: 4 H 19 Nov (GC), rare fall report.

Snow Goose: arr 1 HB 18-25 Sep; max 3000+ S 24 Nov.

ROSS'S GOOSE: arr 3 S 19 Nov (KM).

ROSS'S GOOSE x SNOW GOOSE: 2 S 19 Nov (KM); 1 HB 29-30 Nov (DT, MD, et al).

Cackling Goose: arr 3 P Oct; max 7 HB 6 Nov.

Brant: arr 195 HB 5 Oct; max 367 HB 25 Oct.

Mute Swan: max 300+ IB 22 Nov.

Tundra Swan: max 1000+ S 24 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 S 24 Nov.

Am. Widgeon: arr 2 HB 2 Sept; max 72 HB 10 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: last 1 G 19 Nov.

N. Shoveler: arr 1 HB 6 Sep.

N. Pintail: arr 2 HB 2 Sep.

Green-winged Teal: arr 6 G 1 Sep.

Canvasback: arr 1 HB 15 Oct; max 29 HB 10 Nov.

Redhead: arr 3 HB 16 Sep.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 65 G 10 Oct; max 245 G 21 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 9 HB 6 Sep.

Lesser Scaup: arr 16 HB 4 Sep; max 1000+ G 4 Nov.

Surf Scoter: arr 1 HB 23 Sep; max 49 HB 3 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 3 HB 26 Sep; max 210 HB 14 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 25-30 HB 3 Sep.

Bufflehead: arr 1 HB 23 Oct; max 264 HB 3 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 HB 6 Oct.

Hooded Merganser: max 59 HB 21 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 14 G 8 Sept; max 6000+ off IB outlet 18 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 G 18 Sep.

Red-throated Loon: arr 3 HB 8 Oct; max 216 HB 14 Nov, low max, but higher in Dec.

Com. Loon: high counts 1544 HB 15 Oct, 1728 HB 16 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 60 IB 15 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr 4 HB 6 Sep; max 68 HB 27 Nov, low max.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 H 4 Sep; max 535 HB to K 27 Nov (RS), State record high fall count.

EARED GREBE: 1 HB 15 Oct (WS, ST).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 106 HB

11 Sept, low Sep max; max 419 HB 10 Oct.

Great Egret: 1 BB 24 Oct, only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 1 NC 9-10 Nov.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 HB 10 Nov.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 Mt. Morris LIVI 10 Nov.

Merlin: 10 reports for season, several locations.

Peregrine Falcon: 4 reports for season, several locations.

Com. Moorhen: 1 S 9 Sep; last West Lakeshore 19 Sep, only reports.

Am. Coot: max 400+ IB.

Sandhill Crane: 1 S 9 Sep; 4 SB 19 Oct; 9 S 19-30 Nov (KM, et al).

Black-bellied Plover: max 63 HB 5 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: last 1 HB 28 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: last 3 S 15 Oct.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 1 Byron GENE 9 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 HP 15 Nov (DT), ties Reg. record late.
Upland Sandpiper: last 1 H 15 Sep.
Whimbrel: last 1 HB 19 Sep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 S 15 Oct.
Least Sandpiper: last 10 S 15 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 IB 13 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 1 HB 22 Sep; max 300 HB 3 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 5 S 9 Sep; last 4 S 15 Oct.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 G 8-10 Oct; 3 S 15 Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 2 Sep.
Pomarine Jaeger: 1 imm HB 25 Oct; 1 IB outlet 4 Nov.
Parasitic Jaeger: 18 total HB season.
Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 imm HB 5 Sep (WS); 1 dark imm HB 6 Sep (RS).
Little Gull: 8 total HB season.
Black-headed Gull: 1 imm HB 23 Oct; 1 imm HB 24 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 621 HB 16 Oct; 535 HB 1 Nov, both are low for peak counts.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 HB 29 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 Perinton MONR Oct, only report.
SABINE'S GULL: 1 imm HB 6 Sep (DT, KG); 1 imm HB 31 Oct (WS, DT).
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 IB 25 Nov.
Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 imm HB 16 Oct; 1 imm HB 6, 9, 14 Nov.
Caspian Tern: last 1 HB 16 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 27 HB 6 Sep; last 1 HB 16 Oct.
Forster's Tern: last 1 HB 16 Oct.
SOOTY/BRIDLED TERN: 2 HB 6 Sep (DT, KG, RS).
Black Tern: max 14 HB 6 Sep; last 1 HB 18-21 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last 1 Elba GENE 9 Oct.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 Genesee LIVI 28 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 S 9 Sep; 1 Penfield MONR 30 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last 1 G 5 Oct.
Chimney Swift: max 790 York LIVI 10 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 1 Bushnell's Basin MONR 25 Sep.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 3 HB 2 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 banded M 20 Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 1 banded M 30 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 2 Sweden MONR 16 Sep.
E. Phoebe: last 2 banded M 25 Oct.
E. Kingbird: last 1 G 1 Sep.
N. Shrike: arr 2 HB 31 Oct; 16 total reported for Nov.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 PA 23 Sep (DT).
White-eyed Vireo: 1 banded M 1 Oct.
Blue-headed Vireo: last 1 banded M 15 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 2 Penfield MONR 10 Sep.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 banded M 28 Sep.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 banded M 26 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1 G 5 Oct.
FISH CROW: 1 Rochester MONR 5 Oct (DT).
Purple Martin: last 10 S 9 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 300+ Conesus Lake LIVI 15 Oct; last 1 HP 22 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last 1 G 1 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 5 HP 29 Nov (DT, MD, RS), record late.
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: 1 HP 29 Nov (DT), 1st State record should be treated as hypothetical as a single observer record.
Barn Swallow: last 1 HB 31 Oct (WS, mob), late.
House Wren: last 1 Mendon Ponds MONR 15 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 banded M 8 Sep.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 130 banded M 29 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 106 banded M 29 Sep; last 1 IB 4 Nov.
Veery: last HB 2 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 HB 12 Sep; max 24 banded M 26 Sep; last 1 banded M 6 Oct.
Bicknell's Thrush: 1 Webster Park MONR 22 Sept (RS), nocturnal migrant; 1 banded M 27 Sep.
Gray-cheeked/ Bicknell's Thrush: 55 total banded M, all month.
Swainson's Thrush: max 30+ Webster Park MONR 22 Sep; last 1 banded M 15 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 25 M 2 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last 1 banded M 5 Oct.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 banded M 6 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last 1 banded M 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 banded M 5 Oct; last 1 HB 8 Nov.
Nashville Warbler: last 1 HB 8 Nov.
N. Parula Warbler: arr 1 G 1 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 banded M 6 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: last 1 banded M 13 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: last 1 banded M 16 Sept.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 HB 8 Nov (DT, MD); 1 HB 26 Nov (MD), probably same bird, Reg. record late at the time, but seen into Dec.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 HB 9 Nov.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 IB 9 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 Cumming Nature Center ONTA 17 Sept.
Pine Warbler: 1 HB 12, 21 Nov.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 banded M 18 Oct, very late.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 banded M 2 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last 1 banded M 30 Sep.
Ovenbird: last 1 Henrietta MONR 21 Nov (CM), late.

N. Waterthrush: last 1 banded M 29 Sep.
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 banded M 4 Sep; 1 HP 14 Sep; last 1 banded 15 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last 1 HB 25 Sep.
Hooded Warbler: last 2 banded M 18 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1 M 6 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 1 banded M 6 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 2 Auburn Trail MONR 1 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 CU 10 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 S 9 Sep; 1 G 18 Sep.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 HB 27 Sep; max 22 DEP MONR 16 Nov (DT).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 G 5 Sep; last 1 banded M 10 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 banded M 17 Sep.
Indigo Bunting: last 1 H 18 Sep.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 Perinton MONR 27 Sep.
Baltimore Oriole: last 1 HB 12 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: 2 HP 15 Nov.
Red Crossbill: 1 HP 14 Nov; 5 HB 15 Nov; 2 HB 20 Nov; 12 DEP MONR 30 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 1 G 8 Nov; 1 HB 8 Nov.