

REGION 2—GENESEE

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There was no significant weather event or trend that would provide some sort of punctuation to the fall. The first half was fairly warm and dry and the second half was fairly cool and wet. There just weren't any extremes that you could tie with any kind of bird event. September averaged 64.7°F, 3.5° above normal. Rainfall totaled 2.50", 0.95" below normal. October averaged 58.0°F, 7.6° above normal. Rainfall totaled 3.05", 0.45" above normal. November averaged 38.5°F, 1.4° below average. Rainfall totaled 4.01", 1.17" above normal. Snowfall totaled 1.7", 6.4" below average.

Anywhere in this report that monthly or seasonal totals are mentioned, efforts were made to avoid duplication.

For the second fall in a row, waterfowl numbers were lackluster. Only a few maxima occurred that are worth mentioning: 525 N. Pintail in Huron, 305 Green-winged Teal flying by Hamlin Beach, and 96 Ruddy Ducks on Long Pond in Greece. Cackling Goose numbers came down from the previous fall, with only six reported for the season. Brant put in a decent appearance, with three counts of over 1,000 birds. Scaup were again virtually absent from our Region; this is becoming a disturbing pattern. Both loon species were seen in below average numbers. A maximum of 819 Common Loons at Hamlin Beach
The Kingbird 2008 March; 58 (1)

was an exception to the rule here this fall. A lone female King Eider flew by Hamlin Beach and a lone female Harlequin Duck flew by Braddock Bay. That was the beginning and the end of rarer waterfowl for the fall. Pied-billed Grebes were reported in above average numbers; double-digit counts were the norm in multiple locations.

Northern Gannets put in a great showing with **11** being reported. Far more of this species comes inland than most observers realize. There are probably more birds missed than duplicated. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were decent, with maxima of 625 at Braddock Bay and 500+ at Irondequoit Bay on 19 October. It was a good fall for waders. Great Egrets could be found anywhere in the Region and Green Herons appeared to have had a good nesting season. Glossy Ibis was a good find. Both that species and Cattle Egret used to be very regular in the fall. This fall's Cattle Egret was found just out of the Region into Region 1. The wader of the season was a **Little Blue Heron** found by Kevin Griffith. This bird was seen by many during its five-day stay, 12-16 October, a record late date for the Region.

A few Rough-legged Hawks were seen, but a major irruption did not appear imminent. Two N. Goshawks were a seasonal plus. 35 Merlin and 26 Peregrine Falcons were reported this fall. It is nice to see some species doing well with so many doing poorly.

Shorebird arrivals and departures averaged normal with few exceptions. For the third year in a row, a Solitary Sandpiper lingered into November. A Baird's Sandpiper at Irondequoit Bay on 4 October was on the late side. Five Purple Sandpipers at Hamlin Beach were noteworthy both due to the number and that they were slightly on the early side. Now rare in our Region any time of year, a **Red Knot** at Charlotte on 30 October was unfortunately a one-day wonder. Both Red-necked and Red phalarope were seen on Lake Ontario, with 5 Red Phalaropes in Huron being the highlight.

There were several rare gulls around this fall. The best of the best was a **Mew "Common" Gull** found by Bob Spahn at Irondequoit Bay. This first Regional record was fairly well described but never seen in flight or at close range. This species undoubtedly occurs in the northeastern U.S. more often than reported. There were six **Sabine's Gulls** reported including a single day count of four from Huron in early September. Eight Little Gulls and three Black-headed Gulls were around recent averages. Lesser-black Backed Gulls were noted in slightly higher numbers than normal, with eight reports for the season. It was a poor year for Black-legged Kittiwake, with only three seen, but an **adult** was at Long Pond for a very rare inland record. Dave Tetlow had a **Least Tern** fly past Hamlin Beach for a 3rd Regional record. Forster's Tern was reported in slightly above average numbers, with all other terns about normal. Jaegers sent a mixed message with 40 Parasitics and 11 unidentified birds seen providing decent totals, but very few of these were observed after mid-October. Surprisingly, only one Long-tailed Jaeger was sighted after 1 September and no Pomarine Jaeger was reported for the season.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Greece on 4 November seen by Dave and Grace Strong was definitely on the late side. One Snowy Owl arrived in November,

was hit by a car on Rt. 390, then rehabilitated and released in December. **Rufous Hummingbird**, an overdue bird for our Region, finally made an appearance. A beautiful adult male showed up at the feeders of Bill and Loretta Groell in W. Walworth for a first Regional record. It persisted until 1 December due primarily to the homeowners mounting a light over the feeder to keep it from icing up. A **Loggerhead Shrike** found by Dave Tetlow in Greece was a one-hour wonder. The bird was videotaped before it disappeared. There was quite a showing of N. Shrike throughout the Region. Fourteen reports for November were above average. **Cave Swallows** again made at least some news, with twenty birds being reported. All sightings were in the first half of November.

A lone Bicknell's Thrush was banded at Manitou. 38 Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded whose wing chords measured in the overlap range. Bohemian Waxwings arrived a little early. Hopefully with the abundant food crop they will put in a good showing in the upcoming season.

Warbler arrivals and departures were near normal, with the exception of a record late N. Waterthrush banded at Manitou on 24 October. Other late warblers were a Black-throated Blue at Hamlin Beach and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Geneseo. There were seven Orange-crowned Warblers reported for the season. Variety was good but overall abundance seemed low again.

Four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in one spot in Savannah must have made for an impressive sight. Multiples like this however are not without precedent in the fall. A Fox Sparrow banded at Manitou was a little early and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Irondequoit Bay was a little late. A Lapland Longspur in Parma on 1 September would have been record early except for one in the same field the previous day.

Shore Acres, a somewhat under-birded spot, provided an adult **Yellow-headed Blackbird** and two passing flocks of Evening Grosbeaks totaling 77 birds. Evening Grosbeaks moved through in moderate numbers this fall but had virtually vanished by the end of the period. Pine Grosbeaks were scattered about in small numbers but were hard to pin down. Abundant, widespread, everywhere; these were words used to describe Common Redpolls throughout the Region. There were several flocks reported of 100-150+. As expected, a couple of Hoary Redpolls were mixed in with a close flock at Irondequoit Bay. There were several other possible Hoarys seen that may very well have been so, but the identification requires close examination of plumage and structure often not possible with skittish flocks. A few Common "Greater" Redpolls were reported, this race is almost always present during exceptional invasion years and this year was no exception. Proximity again plays a role in positively identifying this subspecies. In total, the fall was interesting and provided tons of promise for the upcoming season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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The Kingbird 2008 March; 58 (1)

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; DEP – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T of Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Point, MONR; HU – T of Huron, WAYN; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K – T of Kendall, ORLE; M – Manitou, MONR; NC – Northrup Creek, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T of Perinton, MONR; S – T of Savannah, WAYN; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; V – T of Victor, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 1,3 HB, BB 8 Oct.

Cackling Goose: arr 1 HB 29 Sep; total 6 reports for season.

Brant: arr 50+ Bear Creek WAYN; max 1810 HU 12 Oct; 1656 HB 16 Oct; 1248 HB 25 Oct, decent counts.

Tundra Swan: arr 1 IB 29 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 13 HB 4 Sep; last 1 NC 20 Oct.

N. Pintail: max 525 HU 29 Sep; 435 HB 16 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 305 HB 25 Oct.

Canvasback: arr 6 HB 22 Oct.

Redhead: arr 80 HB 7 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 12 HB 30 Sep.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 HB 12 Sep.

King Eider: 1 female HB 6 Nov (RS, KG).

Harlequin Duck: 1 female BB 13 Nov (KG).

Surf Scoter: arr 7 HB 23 Sep; max 90 HU 29 Sep.

White-winged Scoter: max 663 HB 28 Nov, very low.

Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 29 Sep.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 HB 7 Oct; max 1260 HB 28 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 3 HB 7 Oct.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 BB 14 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: max 96 Long Pond MONR 12 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr 3 HB 8 Oct.

Com. Loon: max 819 HB 24 Oct.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 22 SB 13 Nov; 19 BB 19 Oct.

N. Gannet: 11 reports HB to CH 5-30 Nov.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 625 BB 19 Oct; 500+ IB 19 Oct.

Great Egret: max 12 IB 3 Sep; last 1 BB 19 Oct.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1 Salmon Creek G 12-16 Oct (KG, mob), record late.
Green Heron: last 1 Salmon Creek G 15 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 1 G 18 Nov.
Glossy Ibis: 1 IB 3 Sep.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 1 G 12 Nov; 1 H 12 Nov.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 1 K 19 Oct.
Merlin: 35 reports for season, several locations, increasing.
Peregrine Falcon: 26 reports for season, several locations, increasing.
Sandhill Crane: 2 S 21 Oct, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last 1 BB 12 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: last 1 HB 31 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: last 1 S 31 Oct.
Killdeer: max 94 IB 3 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last 4 HP 13 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 HP 2 Nov (DT), late.
Whimbrel: 4 reports, several locations, 6-16 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: arr 1 IB 5-10 Oct; 1 NC 20-24 Oct.
Ruddy Turnstone: last 1 SB 11 Oct.
RED KNOT: 1 CH 30 Oct (RS), late.
Sanderling: last 1 CH 30 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1 IB 24 Oct.
Western Sandpiper: 1 S 8 Sep; 1 IB 25 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 200+ S 8 Sep; last 1 IB 24 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 Ogden 2 Sep; last 1 G 3 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: last 1 IB 4 Oct, late.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last 2 Shore Acres H 12 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 5 HB 28 Oct; 1 IB 24 Nov.
Dunlin: arr 1 HB 26 Sep; max 275 HB 28 Oct; last 16 BB 19 Nov.
Stilt Sandpiper: last 5 IB 10 Oct.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: last 1-2 IB 6-15 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: 1 Round Pound G 28 Oct.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 16 Sep; 3 HB 26 Oct.
Red Phalarope: 5 HU 28 Oct (TJ, et al).
Parasitic Jaeger: 21 reports sev loc Sep; 18 rep sev loc Oct; last 1 HB 10 Nov.
jaeger species: 11 rep sev loc Sep; 4 reports, sev loc, Oct.
Little Gull: 8 reports for season, several locations.

The Kingbird 2008 March; 58 (1)

Black-headed Gull: 1 HB 21 Oct (WS, RS); 1 CH 28 Oct (KG, GL); 1 HB 5 Nov (WS, RS).
MEW "COMMON" GULL: 1 1st summer IB 9 Oct (RS!, DS!), 1st Regional record.
Ring-billed Gull: max 10,000+ HB 3 Sep.
Iceland Gull: arr 1 PE 23 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 8 reports for season, several locations.
Glaucous Gull: arr 1 HB 23 Nov.
SABINE'S GULL: 4 juv HU 10 Sep (CW, et al); 1 juv HB 23 Sep (AG); 1 juv HU 28 Sep (DW).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 2 imm HB 13 Nov; 1 adult Long Pond 23 Nov (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 2 IB 9 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 49 HB 4 Sep; last 1 HB 11 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 7 reports, several locations, 10-28 Sep; last 1 IB 8 Oct.
LEAST TERN: 1 HB 10 Sep (DT), 3rd Regional record.
Black Tern: 1 HB 9 Sep; last 1 HB 11 Sep.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 G 4 Nov (D & GS), late.
Snowy Owl: arr 1 G 8 Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 Honeoye Falls 17 Nov.
Com. Nighthawk: last 2 IB 18 Sep; 4 W 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 750 Greigsville 12 Sep; last 1 HB 4 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 W 2 Oct.
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 ad male W. Walworth 10 Oct thru (B & LG), 1st Regional record.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last M 3 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 G 19 Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 1 M 14 Sep, banded.
Willow Flycatcher: last 2 HB 6 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1 M 28 Sep, banded.
E. Phoebe: last 1 Conesus Lake 11 Nov.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 S 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 BB 7 Sep.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 ad G 13 Sep (DT).
N. Shrike: arr 1 K 19 Oct; 14 reports for Nov, several locations.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 H 13 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last 1 Northampton Park MONR 15 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 Auburn Trail V 4 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 M 4 Sep, banded; max 6 Burroughs Audubon Nature Center MONR 12 Sep; last 1 M 29 Sep, banded.
Com. Raven: 1 Rush 30 Sep, increasing.
Purple Martin: last 2 HU 10 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 5 S 21 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 IB 11 Oct.
Bank Swallow: last 4 S 17 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 1 HB 3 Nov (DT); 3 HB 4 Nov (mob); 9 HP 4 Nov (DT, MD); 2 CH 6 Nov (DW); 1 HP 8 Nov (DT); 1 G 8 Nov (KG); 1 DEP 12 Nov (KG, GL); 2 HP 14 Nov (MD, DT).
House Wren: last 1 W 8 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 98 M 12 Oct, banded.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 154 M 12 Oct, banded; last 1 H 12 Nov.
Veery: last 1 M 20 Sep, banded.
Gray-checked Thrush: max 70 M 6-30 Sep, banded; last 1 M 9 Oct, banded.
Bicknell's Thrush: 1 M 17 Sep, banded.
Gray-checked/Bicknell's Thrush: total 38 M Sep & Oct, banded.
Swainson's Thrush: max 150 M Sep, banded; last 1 Portage 17 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last 1 M 1 Oct, banded.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 10 HU 25 Oct (DW), early; 7 K 3 Nov (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 M 12 Sep, banded; last 1 Auburn Trail V 4 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 HB 5 Sep; 6 reports, several locations, 8-18 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 1 M 14 Oct, banded.
N. Parula Warbler: arr 1 Auburn Trail V 5 Sep; last 1 M 6 Oct, banded.
Yellow Warbler: last 2 H 6 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 M 27 Sep, banded.
Magnolia Warbler: max 24 M 16 Sep, banded; last 1 M 7 Oct, banded.
Cape May Warbler: arr 1 M 8 Sep; last 2 M 15 Sep, banded.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 HB 8 Nov, late.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 M 28 Sep, banded.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 S 8 Sep; last 1 Brighton 15 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 2 W 29 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 M 16 Oct.
Cerulean Warbler: last 1 G 13 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 1 M 27 Sep, banded.
Am. Redstart: last 1 M 3 Oct, banded.
Ovenbird: last 1 M 5 Oct, banded.
N. Waterthrush: last 1 M 24 Oct (R & CM), banded, record late.
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 M 3 Sep, banded; last 1 M 19 Sep, banded.
Mourning Warbler: last 1 M 6 Sep, banded.
Hooded Warbler: last 2 W 17 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1 M 7 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last 1 M 16 Sep, banded.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Genesee 9 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1 HU 29 Sep.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 M 12 Oct.
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 4 S 14 Oct (MH, et al).
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 M 12 Oct, banded.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 M 5 Sep, banded; last 1 IB 19 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 G 27 Sep.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 Parma 1 Sep (DT), record early when first heard previous day
Snow Bunting: arr 2 HB 15 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 2 Northampton Park MONR 28 Sep.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Shore Acres H 12 Nov (DT).
Baltimore Oriole: last 4 S 8 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: 14 reports, several locations, Nov.
Com. Redpoll: arr 2 HB 29 Oct.
HOARY REDPOLL: arr 2 IB 17 Nov (RS).
Pine Siskin: arr 1 HP 7 Sep.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 1 Penfield 15 Sep (BMax), photo, early; max 77 Shore Acres H 12 Nov.