

REGION 2—GENESEE

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June was a warm sunny month. The average temperature was 3.7° above normal at 69.5°F. It ranked as the second warmest in 30 years and in the top 10 in the last 100 years. Precipitation was 1.06" below normal at 2.30", the majority of that falling on the 19th. These conditions may have contributed to the weak showing of the usual late spring migration that carries over into June. This was evident also in the number of birds banded in early June at the BBBO Kaiser/Manitou banding station. July was a pleasant month. A good portion of the days was called "mostly sunny" while only four days fit the "mostly cloudy" designation. The rest were a mix. There were a few scattered days with thunderstorms and violent weather, but for the most part the weather was good for birding. The average temperature of 71.4° was only slightly above normal. Precipitation totaled 0.34" below normal at 2.80". August was cooler and drier than normal. The average temperature of 67.6° was 1.3° below normal. The August precipitation measured 2.97", which was just about a half-inch below normal. Up to this point in the year we were ahead of the yearly precipitation, but the August total dropped us a little behind. August saw a deep trough of low pressure over the Great Lakes during the middle of the month. This provided us with a cool period and the only time during the month when we experienced precipitation. Temperatures during this period averaged below normal. Thunderstorms were present and the Region had periods of large hail.

All in all it turned out to be a pretty productive summer for birding. The lakewatch was manned at Hamlin throughout the summer and was responsible for the bulk of the water bird reports. The Geneseo Airfield accounted for a number of shorebird records. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory began banding in August and contributed numerous records. Since the Atlas ended in 2005 there seem to be fewer reports of nesting birds, yet there were still some interesting sightings.

Waterfowl was pretty typical for the summer. Out of the ordinary were a Brant at Hamlin Beach on 22 July and a Snow Goose at Braddock Bay in June. The effects of the nesting Mute Swans continue to be an issue. Trumpeter Swans were successful nesters along Atlantic Avenue in Wayne County again. Blue-winged Teal and Am. Black Duck continue to be of concern as nesters. The waterfowl flights that often are observed in August were lackluster this year, with White-winged Scoter numbers down considerably. The usual summering Common Loons were reported, but a July Red-throated Loon was a surprise. Pied-billed Grebe reports were lacking; the species continues to decline as a regional nester. There were numerous Red-necked Grebe reports from Hamlin Beach in August. This has not always been the case.

Great Egret numbers were typical. An adult Little Blue Heron in North Greece was the only wader highlight. Black-crowned Night-Herons were noteworthy in their absence. There were single June and July reports with scattered reports of adults in late August. Dave Tetlow reported a Black Vulture, a rare summer sighting, in the town of Hamlin. Dave also spotted a Mississippi Kite on 5 July in North Greece. The August flight of Red-tailed Hawks was generally weak this year. A Golden Eagle was spotted in June during a late spring migration flight on 6 June. Merlins nested again in the city of Rochester, and the Peregrine Falcon pair on Kodak Tower was successful once again downtown.

Nearly all Common Moorhens were located away from the lakeshore, where they now seem to be absent. This is particularly true of the marsh areas west of the Genesee River where they were once quite common. The Sandhill Crane pair at Carncross Road in Wayne County hatched two young this year, but only one was being seen by the end of June, and there were few sightings of any of the birds later in the season. Even though shorebird habitat was at a premium, there were some noteworthy reports. June sightings included a record late spring Dunlin as well as Willet late in the month and Red Knot early in the month. Bill Symonds observed three Am. Avocets land on the beach at Hamlin. Others subsequently observed them at that location. August highlights included 5 Willets at Hamlin Beach and a Red-necked Phalarope found by Jim Kimball at the unlikely location of the Geneseo Airfield. There were few Ruddy Turnstone reports, and the seasonal max for Sanderling was a paltry 23. The fact that there have been no Wilson's Phalarope reports this year is of interest. With the continued coverage at Hamlin Beach the usual jaeger sightings occurred in August with Long-tailed being reported every year now and a record early sighting for this species on 12 Aug by William Symonds and Robert Spahn. The only summer gull sightings of real interest were two Lesser Black-backed

reports in June. Great Black-backed Gull numbers were down significantly. This was true historically, but in recent years there have been growing numbers of this species in summer. Caspian Tern numbers appeared to be down slightly, but Common Terns numbers were good and consistent. Single reports of Black Tern in June and July continue to chronicle the demise of that species in the Region.

There were good reports of both cuckoo species. There was an early June report of 30+ Common Nighthawks at Manitou in June, the remnant of the large numbers there in late May, but there were no July sightings and only a single report from August. Chimney Swifts had begun to assemble in fairly large numbers by the end of August. Red-headed Woodpeckers were well reported from Hamlin Beach and Conesus. Three Olive-sided Flycatcher reports of four individuals during the season were a pleasant change from recent years. A July Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded on 29 July at Manitou was out of character for the Region. Acadian Flycatchers continue to do well. Some observers felt that Least Flycatcher was down slightly. Eastern Kingbird numbers were good.

Common Raven continues to expand in the Region, with a report from the town of Sweden as well as one in Penfield. There were a good number of reports of Cliff Swallow nestings from around the Region. There seems to be a slight increase. Sedge Wrens in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management area were the first for the year for the Region. The usual late spring migration of thrushes in early June never materialized this year. Eastern Bluebird numbers continued to increase along the west lakeshore. The usual continuation of migrant warblers into June was typical. Of note was a Nashville Warbler banded at Manitou on 11 July. While this species does nest in the Region, a bird near the lakeshore in July is out of the ordinary. Prairie Warblers were well reported this year. August migrant warbler numbers were low, but species totals were okay. Numbers of young Yellow Warblers were found in fairly large concentrations along the west lakeshore from late July into August, a time when they typically depart in large numbers. A Yellow-breasted Chat was heard on only a single day along Norway Road in Orleans County for the only July report.

The *Emberizidae* family was a mixed bag this season. Clay-colored Sparrow continued its presence as a nester in the Region. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported. Continuing a recent trend, White-crowned Sparrows were found in June. Dark-eyed Juncos breed regularly in the higher elevations of the Region and even in small patches of suitable habitat elsewhere, but a pair nesting and feeding young in the yard of Bob and Sandy Mauceli was unusual. With the reports of crossbills around the state this summer, it seemed only a matter of time before they were reported in Region 2. There were three separate sightings in August. The June Pine Siskin was also a good find, though some years after substantial late spring migrations some do stay to nest.

The June species total was significantly different from the 10-year average at 178. July's total was 169, nine species above the 10-year average. August totaled 179 species which was slightly above the average. The year's total was just about normal at 273 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; BR – Lake Ontario off of Broadway Road, T Huron, WAYN; C – Conesus LIVI; CA – T Canadice, ONTA; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; HS – Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN; I – T Irondequoit, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; NO – Norway Road, T Murray, ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; TM – Taylor Marsh, T Honeoye, ONTA; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 BB 24 Jun (DT, KG, GL).
Brant: 1 HB 22 Jul (WS).
Trumpeter Swan: 2ad, 2yg WAYN 4, 11 Jun; max 8 WAYN 7 Jul; 5 MAC 10 Jul; 4 WAYN 27 Jul.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 PE 4 Jun; 1 HB 27 Jun.
Redhead: 1 C 19 Jul.
Lesser Scaup: 1 BB 3 Jun; 2 HB 29 Jul; arr 2 HB 15 Aug (WS), record early.
White-winged Scoter: last HB 11 Jun; arr HB 14 Aug.
Black Scoter: last 2 HB 1 Jun.
Bufflehead: 1 fem HB 10 Jul.
Long-tailed Duck: last HB 9 Jun.

368

Ruddy Duck: 1 G 3 Jul.

Red-throated Loon: max 12 HB 1 Jun; 1 HB 18 Jun; 1 HB 29 Jul (WS).

Com. Loon: max 25 HB 1 Jun; 1 Hemlock Lake 29 Jun.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 HB 28 Jul (WS); 1 HB 1 Aug (WS); 2 HB 17 Aug (WS), 1 HB 25 Aug (DS, RS); 5 HB 26 Aug (WS); 2 BR 31 Aug (TL).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 450 BR 31 Aug (TL).

Am. Bittern: 1 GE 28 Jul.

Least Bittern: max 2 TM 4 Jun (LB).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1ad G 18 Jul (DT).

The Kingbird 2008 December; 58 (4)

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 G 6 Jun; 1 BB 29 Jul.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 H 21 Jul (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 G 5 Jun (DT).
Bald Eagle: max 11 G 6 Jun; 8 BB 18 Aug; 6 BR 31 Aug.
N. Goshawk: 1 Brighton, MONR 27 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 251 G 6 Jun; 57 BB 18 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 634 BB 18 Aug.
Golden Eagle: 1 imm G 6 Jun (KG).
Am. Kestrel: max 22 WL 22 Jul.
Merlin: 1 R 23 Jun (LB); 1 R 10 Jul (LB).
Com. Moorhen: 1 TM 4 Jun; 1 S 5 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 2 S 1-30 Jun; 1 S 5 Jul.
Black-bellied Plover: arr HB 10 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr GE 23 Aug.
Semipalmated Plover: last OB 5 Jun; arr 2 GE 28 Jul; 2 HB 28 Jul.
Killdeer: max 200+ GE 11, 19 Aug (JK).
AMERICAN AVOCET: 3 HB 13 Jul (WS, sev).
Greater Yellowlegs: last S 1 Jun; arr 7 GE 28 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last BB 6 Jun; arr G 6 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr HS 9 Jul.
Willet: 1 HB 25 Jun (WS); 1 G 23 Jul (DT); max 5 HB 24 Aug (WS, *et al.*).
Upland Sandpiper: max 7 GE 28 Jul.
Whimbrel: arr HB 15 Jul (RS, WS); 1 HB 28 Jul (WS); 1 G 17 Aug (JBa, CW); 3 HB 28 Aug (WS, R&SS); 1 HB 31 Aug (WS, DT).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 11 Aug.
Red Knot: 1 Summerville Pier, 1 3-5 Jun, (RS, sev).
Sanderling: arr HB 15 Jul; max 23 HB 26 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last OB 5 Jun; arr OB 17 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 27 Jun.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 21 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr OB 11 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr GE 6 Aug.
Dunlin: last 4 HB 17 Jun (WS), record late; arr GE 23 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 8 GE 21 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 OB 17 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 GE 25 Aug (JK).
phalarope sp: 2 HB 29 Aug (RS).
Parasitic Jaeger: arr BR 31 Aug (TL); HB 31 Aug (WS, RC, DT).
Long-tailed Jaeger: arr HB 12 Aug (WS, RS), record early; 2 HB 25 Aug (DS, R&SS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 132 HB 27 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 OB 5 Jun (RS); 1 juv I 29 Aug (JBa, CW); 1 ad HB 22 Aug (WS).
Caspian Tern: max 74 WL 27 Jul.
Com. Tern: max 36 HB 25 Aug.
Forster's Tern: 2 HB 1 Jun;
Black Tern: 1 HB 17 Jun; 1 HB 21 Jul; 1 MAC 9 Aug (DM); 5 BR 31 Aug (TL).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Com. Nighthawk: max 30+ M 2 Jun; last R 15 Jun; arr T Webster, MONR 6 Aug (FM).
Chimney Swift: max 72 T York, LIVI 11 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 G 5 June (RMA); arr 1 G 29 Jul (RMA); 2 BR 31 Aug (TL).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 6b M, 1, 6 Jun; last M 7 Jun; 1b M 29 Jul (R&CMc).
Acadian Flycatcher: max 9, 8 LW 1, 20 Jun.
Philadelphia Vireo: last 1 HS 3 Jun.
Com. Raven: 2 T Sweden, MONR 29 Jul (DT); 1 T Penfield, MONR ? Aug (DT).
Cliff Swallow: max 25 HB 29 Aug.
Sedge Wren: 2-3 HP 10-31 Jul (DT), first for the year, rare nester.
Gray-checked Thrush: last 1 HS 8 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last 2b M 6 Jun.
Am. Pipit: last 1 HB 9 Jun.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 NO 11, 22 Jul (KG); 1 HB 28 Aug (R&SS).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 LW 20 Jun (JR).
Tennessee Warbler: last 4b M 1 Jun; arr G, H 25 Aug.
Nashville Warbler: 1b M 11 Jul (R&CMc).
N. Parula: last 1 BB 6 Jun; arr PE 21 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 38 G 30 Aug.
Cape May Warbler: arr G 15 Aug.
Prairie Warbler: 1 CA 7 Jun; 1 Springwater, LIVI 12 Jun; 2 CA 15 Jun; 1 LW 20 Jun.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr M, HB 28 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1b M 9 Jun; arr G 25 Aug.
Hooded Warbler: max 62 LW 1 Jun (RBA).
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 12 Jun; arr M 13 Aug.
Canada Warbler: arr M 13 Aug.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 NO 2 Jul (KG).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 H 7-30 Jun; 1-2 K 1-30 Jun; 1 GE 1-30 Jun; 1 CA 7 Jun; 1-2 H, K 1-14 Jul.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 b M 3 Jun; 2 T Barre, ORLE 25 Jun.

Dark-eyed Junco: 2 ad feeding yg Pittsford, MONR 14-15 Aug (R&SM).

Bobolink: max 200 T York, LIVI 19 Aug.

E. Meadowlark: max 50+ T Penfield, MONR 13 Aug (GP).

Red Crossbill: 3 HP 1 Aug (DT); 2 juv HB 13 Aug (RS); 1 juv G 28 Aug (KG).

Pine Siskin: 1 HB 5 Jun; 1 HB 3 Aug; 2 HB 5 Aug; 2 G 28 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: 3 South Conesus, LIVI 3 Aug (KC).

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