

REGION 2—GENESEE

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As far as the weather goes it was a pretty decent fall season. It wasn't until late in the season that we started to see some major fluctuations. September continued the summer trend of warm temperatures. The average of 63.1° F was 1.9° above normal. The first week and the last week were the warmest. To top that off, we went twelve straight days from the 15th to the 26th without any rain. The meager rainfall for the month topped out at 1.66", less than half of the usual 3.45". It was the driest September in 13 years. Meteorologically the main event was Hurricane *Ike* in the middle of the month. While we were spared the major effects of the storm, we did experience high winds resulting in fallen trees and power outages. October was a pretty decent month. Most of the month was pleasant and bright with only a slight hint of winter at the end of the month. The average temperature was a full degree below normal at 49.7°. A brief chilly period at the beginning of the month and a cold spell at the end kept the average down. The precipitation total of 3.38" was 0.78" below normal. The bulk of that fell on the 16th and 25th. Overall conditions did not seem to promote traditional patterns of migration flights and departures. November showed a greater contrast. At the outset of the month temperatures approached 70°. Another unseasonably warm period followed a brief cool stretch. A cold snap settled in by the 15th and produced midwinter conditions. Eleven inches of snow eclipsed the historical average of 8.1". That said, the resulting averages were near

normal. Temperature averaged 39.3°, which was 0.6° below normal. Precipitation was 0.73" below normal at 2.11".

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was manned with some regularity and always adds to our database and knowledge of movements during the fall season. Many reports come from that location. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory members banded into October and contributed a number of departure dates and maxima. Notice also that Auburn Trail continues to be a hotspot for migrants especially late in the season. It has become one of the best spots away from the lakeshore. The increased coverage of locations in the eastern part of the Region, particularly Wayne County, has added to the Regional bird information.

Waterfowl observations showed some significant contrasts. Greater White-fronted Geese spent an extended period of time at Hamlin Beach. The maximum of 73 Cackling Geese (all those included in the count *B.h.hutchinsii*) observed by Dave Tetlow on 24 October at Hamlin was unprecedented. Five Brant in September were early, but Brant totals for the season were low. Of interest was a Trumpeter x Tundra Swan studied by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood on Round Pond in Greece in November. Trumpeters in general continued their trend of increasing sightings. Duck numbers seemed to be down from recent years. This was particularly true for puddle ducks, scaup, and scoters. Loon totals were fair, but without their typical large peaks. Both Horned and Red-necked Grebe numbers were down from recent years. Four immature N. Gannets were observed at Hamlin Beach in November, and Andy Guthrie, Robert Spahn, and Bill Symonds saw an immature Great Cormorant there on the 14th. Great Egrets tarried on late into the season, consistent with the recent trend. Mike Tetlow observed a Black Vulture on the 14th in Perinton. This was at a sheep farm where Turkey Vultures often stay into the winter and where Mike has been watching for Black Vulture to join them, given increasing Regional reports in recent years.

There were few raptor highlights during the season. Of note were one adult and two immature Golden Eagles reported by Mike Tetlow in Williamson on 23 October. The species is uncommon here that late in the season. Northern Goshawk continues to be scarce, with a single report from each month. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon reports continued to be on the rise. A young Common Moorhen at Braddock Bay was slightly encouraging for a species that has decreased significantly in the west lakeshore marshes in recent years. Sandhill Cranes were reported throughout the season, with Lynn Braband observing a pair near Taylor Marsh in Ontario County in November. This area has been suspected of having nesting Sandhill Cranes, but access to the marsh is so limited that searching for them is nearly impossible. A pair with one young was sighted there for a week in late November of 1996. Shorebird habitat was limited in the early part of the season, yet there were some shorebird highlights during that period. Late in the season there was a significant amount of habitat but few shorebirds. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe maxima from East Barre were good. A Western Sandpiper joined a good mix of species on Ontario Beach at Charlotte just in time for field trips of the annual NYSOA meeting held in Rochester this year (Fig. B, p. 51). Given the current low numbers, a Red Knot

at the MAC ponds in Savannah for the Montezuma Muckrace was a nice surprise. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present for several days in decent numbers at the now regular site near Cuylerville in Livingston County, tracked closely by Jim Kimball. Dunlin numbers were much lower than usual. Both Red-necked and Red Phalaropes were reported from Hamlin Beach. Jaeger sightings started off well in August and September, but there was only a single report of a Parasitic in October and two Pomarine and three Parasitic in November. There were two reports of Long-tailed Jaeger from Hamlin Beach in September. Gull highlights included Franklin's and Sabine's Gulls. An immature Arctic Tern was identified by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds at Hamlin Beach on 7 September. Unfortunately, it remains undocumented. Common and Forster's Terns were reported in decent numbers, with a very late Common tern reported in November.

Dave and Kathy Tetlow discovered a Eurasian Collared-Dove in Parma in September. The bird was seen sporadically near the same location throughout the season. After a number of years with limited sightings of Snowy Owl, this year was a banner year. The first was seen at Ontario Beach in October. After that individual, sightings came from all over the area. At least twelve different birds were reported. N. Saw-whet Owls are certainly fall migrants through the area but are not searched for as diligently as in the spring. So two birds banded at the BBBO Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station in October were noteworthy. Few Common Nighthawks were reported, a return to the recent norm after the huge peak this spring. The Chimney Swift roost in Greiggsville topped out at 740 birds. This is an average maximum, but down a bit from the peak of 1000+. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at the Dalheim Unit of the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area on 1 October.

Only two Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported, and the only late-departing flycatcher was a Least banded on 1 October. Other than that, there wasn't much happening of note with this family. The first Northern Shrike of the season was spotted on 18 October. A White-eyed Vireo banded on 1 October at Manitou was the only report of the year and was quite late in the season, though the species has been banded at that site in October in three other of the past 10 years. Common Raven continued its increasing trend, with a bird along the lakeshore in Greece, two at Ontario County Park in the Bristol Hills, and two in Geneseo. Cave Swallows continued their fall occurrence with a total of 34 individuals on five different days. The largest numbers were seen at Hamlin Beach, but there were also reports from Greece and Ontario Beach. The Sedge Wrens that nested at the Dalheim Unit of the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management Area continued to be found into October to a record late date. Some decent kinglet flights were observed in October. The thrush migration in general was unimpressive. There were two reports of Bicknell's Thrush. Robert Spahn and Dominic Sherony reported two individuals in September that were identified by call. This may be the only reliable way to identify them in the field. A number of Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at BBBO, but none keyed out as certainly Bicknell's. There were two November reports of

Bohemian Waxwing. Dave Tetlow found three at Hamlin Beach and Kenny Frisch observed one in Durand-Eastman Park.

The usual warbler species were reported, but numbers were for the most part lackluster. Highlights included Orange-crowned and Connecticut. Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers were noted on the plus side. Observers also noted that they felt Bay-breasted Warbler numbers were down. Late October Nashville, Palm, and Blackpoll Warblers were of interest.

A late Scarlet Tanager was banded on 1 October at BBBO. While Clay-colored Sparrow nests in the Region, a bird seen at Cuylerville on 1 October by Jim Kimball was one of few reported after they stop singing. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow numbers seemed low this season. Quite often fairly large concentrations are noted in the fall, and this was not the case this year. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Town of Marion on 21 October was very unusual.

Winter finch variety was not great this fall, but that was offset by the arrival of two species in great numbers. Richard Crossley and Dave Tetlow witnessed an incredible finch flight on 24 October. The impressive flight included 1 Pine Grosbeak, **1785 White-winged Crossbills**, and **2500 Pine Siskins**. The only Evening Grosbeak report was a single bird in Webster Park on 1 November.

The monthly totals were 202, 194, and 146 species, respectively. These numbers were 3.9 species below and 9.6 and 6.9 species above their monthly 10-year averages. The Regional total species for the year-to-date was four species below the ten-year average, at 287.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Armitage Rd, T Savannah, WAYN; AT – Auburn Trail, T Victor, MONR; b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay Fish and Wildlife Management Area, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; EB – T East Barre, ORLE; G – T Greece, MONR; *The Kingbird* 2009 March; 59 (1)

GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GR -T Greiggsville, LIVI; HB–Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, WAYN; MW – Montezuma Wetlands Complex, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; P – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; RR – Railroad Road, T Savannah, WAYN; RU – T Rush, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Center, T Lima, LIVI; W – T Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE; WP – Webster Park, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 2-3 HB 24-31 Oct (RS, DT, mob); 2 continued HB 1-9 Nov (mob), all Greenland race.

Snow Goose: arr 1 Palmyra, WAYN 19-26 Sep; 1 HB 28 Sep.

Cackling Goose: max 73 HB 24 Oct (DT); 14 PB 24 Oct (DT); 1-47 HB 24-31 (mob); 1-2 HB 4-7 Nov (mob); 5 TC 6Nov (MW); 18 HB 7 Oct (MT).

Brant: arr 5 HB 320 Sep (WS, RS), early; max 281 HB 28 Oct (RS).

Mute Swan: max 86 BB 25 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 MW 5 Oct; 3 G 7 Oct; 2 AR 26 Oct; 2 RR 29 Oct; 2 MAC 30 Oct; max 18 MAC 15 Nov; 1-4 S 9 Nov; 2 G 16 Nov.

Tundra Swan: arr 1 G 18 Oct; max 20 WL 27 Nov.

Trumpeter x Tundra Swan: 1 G 16-30 Nov (JeB, CW, *et al.*).

Wood Duck: max 73 BB 8 Oct.

Gadwall: max 45 BB 3 Oct.

Am. Wigeon: max 70 BB 18 Oct.

Blue-winged Teal: max 14 BB 9 Oct.

N. Shoveler: last 1 DE 16 Nov.

N. Pintail: max 123 S 16 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 365 S 1 Nov.

Canvasback: arr 2 HB 7 Oct.

Redhead: arr 3 HB 3 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 PE 23 Sep.

Greater Scaup: arr 1 HB 9 Sep; max 88 HB 29 Nov, very low.

Lesser Scaup: max 80 G 19 Nov, low.

King Eider: 1 fem HB 1 Nov (R&SS).

Surf Scoter: arr 7 HB 26 Sep.

White-winged Scoter: max 331 HB 1 Nov, low.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 1 HB 30 Sep; max 782 HB 30 Oct.

Bufflehead: arr 3 HB 17 Oct; max 104 HB 12 Nov.

Com. Goldeneye: arr 1 HB 16 Oct; max 85 G 28 Nov, low.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 male PB 26-27 Nov (DT, JP).

Hooded Merganser: max 75 T Penfield, MONR 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 8,000 WL 19 Nov.

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 16 Sep; max 165 OB 15 Nov (JeB, CW), low.

Com. Loon: max 415 HB 1 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 9 Sep; max 100 HB 9 Nov (AGu), low.

Red-necked Grebe: max 19 HB 2 Oct.

N. Gannet: 1 imm HB 1 Nov (RS); 1 imm HB 8 Nov (AGu); 1 imm HB 11 Nov (RS); 1 imm HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1200 G 12 Oct (LiB).

Great Cormorant: 1 imm HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS).

Great Egret: max 26 MW 26 Sep; last 2 T Ogden, MONR 21 Oct (KG), late.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-3 G 12-16 Oct.

Green Heron: last 1 G 3 Oct.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 PE 14 Sep (MT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 TC 2 Oct (MW).

N. Goshawk: 1 W 7 Sep; 1 HP 25 Oct; 1 W 28 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawk: last 1 BB 4 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 HB 25 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 3 (1ad, 2 imm) T Williamson, WAYN 23 Oct (MT).

Merlin: total 6 sev loc Sep; 1 HB 2 Oct; total 4 sev loc Nov.

Peregrine Falcon: total 2 sev loc Sep; 1 HB 2 Oct; total 4 sev loc Nov.

Sora: last 1 PE 7 Nov.

Com. Moorhen: 1 BB 13, 20 Sep (KG); 1 BB 3 Oct (KG).

Sandhill Crane: 2-4 ad Crusoe L WAYN 9-12 Sep (WG); 4-5 S 5-6 Oct (LL, FM); 2 Taylor Marsh, LIVI 7 Nov (LyB).

Black-bellied Plover: last 4 AR 26 Oct.

Am. Golden-Plover: max 122 CU 17 Sep (JK); last 1 G 17 Nov.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 RR 29 Oct.

Killdeer: max 340 East Barre, ORLE 23 Oct (DT).

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Greater Yellowlegs: last 5 G 9 Nov.
Lesser yellowlegs: last 1 S 1 Nov.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 BB 8 Oct.
Spotted Sandpiper: last 1B 15 Oct.
Whimbrel: 1 HB 6 Sep (DT, RS); 1 HB 19 Sep (WS); 1 OB 19 Sep (mob).
Red Knot: MAC 12-16 Sep (mob).
Sanderling: last 2 HB 3 Oct.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 2 G 18 Oct.
Western Sandpiper: arr 1 OB 17-20 (DS, mob).
Least Sandpiper: last 1 G 9 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 1 AR 26 Oct.
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1-2 Summerville Pier, T Irondequoit 10-18 Nov (F&HL); 1 Troutburg, ORLE 27 Nov (JeB, CW).
Dunlin: max 30 HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS, WS), very low.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr 1-6 CU 7-17 Sep (JK, DS); 1 K 9 Sep (KG).
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 juv G 29-30 Sep (RS); last 1 G 18 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 70 East Barre, ORLE 23 Oct (DT).
Wilson's Phalarope: last 1 MW 6 Oct (FM), quite late.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 3 Oct (WS); 2 HB 9 Oct (WS); 2 HB 27 Oct (RS).
Red Phalarope: arr 1 HB 30 Oct (RS).
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1 BB 12 Nov (KG); 1 HB 14 Nov (WS, RS, AGu).
Parasitic Jaeger: total 7 HB all Sep (mob); 1 BB 9 Sep (KG, GL, FL); 1 HB 3 Oct (RS); 1 HB 1 Nov (RS); 1 HB 14 Nov (AGu, RS); 1 G 22 Nov (Ji&LiB).
Franklin's Gull: 2 imm G, BB 30 Sep (GL, FL, KG).
Little Gull: 2 ad G 20 Sep (LiB); 1ad BB 16 OCT (KG); 1ad HB 29 Nov (RS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 242 HB 1 Nov, low.
Iceland Gull: total 5 sev loc 16-27 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 first cycle CL 22 Nov (JK).
Glaucous Gull: total 7 sev loc Nov.
SABINE'S GULL: 1 imm BB 29 Nov (KG).
Black-legged Kittiwake: 1 G 28 Nov (JeB, JiB, LiB, CW).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IB 15 Oct (NP).
Com. Tern: max 57 HB 2 Oct; last 1 BB 2 Nov (DS), late.
ARCTIC TERN: 1 imm HB 7 Sep (WS, DT).
Forster's Tern: max 14 HB 19 Sep (WS).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 P 1 Sep (DT); 1 P all Oct (D&KT, *et al.*); 1 P 1-16 Nov (AGu, mob).

Snowy Owl: arr 1 OB 18 Oct (TMC); total 12 sev loc Nov.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1 HB 12 Oct.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2b M 9 Oct.
Com. Nighthawk: max 5 LW 12 Sep, poor max; last 4 W 18 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 740 GR 1 Sep (JK); last 124 GR 6 Oct (JK).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1 HP 1 Oct (RS).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 LW 12 Sep (AW); 1 CL 20 Sep (MW).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1b M 16 Sep.
Willow Flycatcher: last 1 BB 2 Sep.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: last 1b M 10 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1b M 1 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 M 17 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 S 13 Sep (RD).
N. Shrike: arr 1 South Conesus, LIVI 18 Oct (GP); total 13+ sev loc Nov.
White-eyed Vireo: 1 imm b M 1 Oct (BBBO).
Blue-headed Vireo: last 1b M 23 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1b M 7 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 S 3 Sep; last 1b M 7 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: last 1b M 14 Oct.
Com. Raven: 1 M 1 Oct (RS); 2 Ontario County Park 4 Nov (CJ, JBu); 2 GE 9 Nov (JK).
Horned Lark: max 320 WL 21 Nov.
Purple Martin: last 1 RU, MONR 25 Sep.
Tree Swallow: last 1 RU 16 Nov.
Bank Swallow: last 1 RU, MONR 25 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: arr 13 HB 3 Nov (R&SS, WS, *et al.*); 11 HB 4 Nov (WS, RS); 1 OB 8 Nov (KG, GL); 3 G 9 Nov (JiB, LiB); 5 HB 9 Nov (RS, AGu); 1 HB 10 Nov (RS, DS).
Barn Swallow: last 2 TC 3 Oct.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 Pittsford 10-23 Nov (R&SM), all white.
House Wren: last 1b M 16 Oct.
Sedge Wren: 1-4 HP all Sep (mob); 1 HP 1-14 Oct (KG), record late.
Golden-cr. Kinglet: max 75 G 5 Oct (LiB).
Ruby-cr. Kinglet: max 100 G 5 Oct (LiB); last HB 8 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 1 W 19 Sep.
Veery: 1 HB 24 Oct (DT), record late.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 PE 1 Sep; last 1b M 8 Oct.
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1 HB 18 Sep (RS); 1 M 25 Sep (RS, DS).
Swainson's Thrush: arr 3 WP 1 Sep; last 8b M 23 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: 191b M all Oct.

Wood Thrush: last 2 AT 1 Oct.
Gray Catbird: 1 W 17 Nov (JoB).
Am. Pipit: arr 1 MAC 13 Sep; last 3 K 26 Nov.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 3 HB 24 Nov (DT); 1 DE 25 Nov (KF).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 HP 13 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: last 1 HB 28 Aug.
Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 6 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 IB 16 Sep (KH); 1 AT 27 Sep (ST); 1b M 30 Sep (BBBO); 1b M 3 Oct (BBBO); 1 TC 10 Oct (MW); 1 G 22 Oct (KG); 1b M 12 Nov (R&CMe).
Nashville Warbler: last 1 AT 31 Oct (KH), late.
N. Parula: last 1 AT 31 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN 20 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 1 M 11 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last 2b M 6 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1b M 12 Oct.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 M 17 Sep.
Palm Warbler: last 1 AT 31 Oct (KH), late.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 G 25 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 IB 26 Oct, record late.
Cerulean Warbler: last 1 MW 13 Sep.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 2b M 4 Oct.
Am. Redstart: last 1 TC 6 Oct.
Ovenbird: last 1 HP 4 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1b M 7 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: 1b M 1 Sep (BBBO); 1b M 17 Sep (BBBO); last 1b M 6 Oct (BBBO).

Mourning Warbler: last 1b M 6 Oct.
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 G 16 Nov (JeB, CW).
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 29 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 11 Sep.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: last 1b M 1 Oct.
Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1 HB 13 Oct.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 CU 4 Oct (JK), rarely reported in fall.
Field Sparrow: max 36 Oak Openings, T Rush 9 Oct (MW).
Fox Sparrow: last 1 R 20 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2b M 10 Sep; last 2b M 12 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1b M 7 Sep; max 75b M 4 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2b M 23 Sep.
Snow Bunting: arr 1 HB 13 Oct; max 660 WL 21 Nov.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 imm male T Marion, WAYN (DK).
Indigo Bunting: last 1 M 29 Sep.
E. Meadowlark: 1 S 1 Nov (CJ, LL).
Rusty Blackbird: max 50 PE 15 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last 5 R 20 Sep.
Pine Grosbeak: arr 1 HB 19 Oct (DT); 1 HB 24 Nov (DT).
Red Crossbill: 1 Crusoe L WAYN 13 Sep.
White-winged Crossbill: arr 4-6 HB 24 Oct; 3 HB 31 Oct; max 1785 HB 24 Nov (DT, RC).
Com. Redpoll: 3 HB 7 Nov (MT), only report.
Pine Siskin: 430 HB 24 Oct (DT); max 2500 HB 24 Nov (DT, RC).
Am. Goldfinch: max 404 HB 4 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: 1 WP 28 Nov (JeB, CW).