

## REGION 2—GENESEE

**Kevin C. Griffith**

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612  
ckgrif@frontiernet.net

June told us two different tales this year. The beginning of the month was quite pleasant, but things changed and the second half of the month saw stormy and unsettled conditions. It resulted in the 19th coolest and 8th wettest June in the last 139 years of weather record keeping. The average temperature of 63.5° was 2.3° below normal. The only really warm and humid period occurred from 22-27 Jun. Only two days reached 80°, matching the 1889 record for least in the month. The rainfall total of 6.25" was almost twice as much as the average of 3.36". The 54% sunshine was 11% below normal for June. July was truly unusual. It was unusually cool and unusually wet. The average temperature of 66.2° was a whopping 4.5° below normal, making it the coolest July in 125 years. The coolest was way back in 1884 with an average of 65.4°. There were only four days in the eighties while we usually have 19. A late month warm-up kept our average out of the record books. Humid, warm air brought some severe weather to our Region on the 25<sup>th</sup> that included the first recorded tornado in Monroe County since 1981. Precipitation was 1.39" above normal at 4.32". Rainfall was frequently heavy and variable across locations. There was only 51% of the possible sunshine, compared to the usual 67%. August finally brought us what might be classified as real summer weather. The middle two weeks of the month were characterized by heat and humidity. That was sandwiched in between two weeks of cooler weather, which was the pattern for June and July. The average temperature of 69.3° was a mere 0.4° above normal, but still a welcome change from the previous months. Rainfall was a scant 1.63" recorded at the airport, but some areas in the Region actually received close to 5", so this total was somewhat misleading. The 1.63" was 1.91" below the normal amount. We received 60% of possible sunshine, four points below normal. There were 12 days of mostly sunshine, but there were a few days of overcast skies at the end of the month.

Continued lakewatch coverage at Hamlin Beach made a significant contribution to the Regional summer data. In the past, summer coverage was somewhat limited. In recent years observers have continued to watch the lake from what was a traditional fall site, and as a result we are accumulating interesting summer season data. One observer engaged in a quest for a big August species total, reaching 208 species and pushing the Regional total to well beyond the highest previous for the month. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory operated at various times during the season and contributed data.

Locally nesting waterfowl continue to be on the decline, with Blue-winged Teal in serious decline. Canada Goose and Mute Swan continue to buck the trend as their numbers continue to rise. This increase also holds true for nesting Trumpeter Swans as a minimum of six pairs and 18 cygnets were tracked down

from various sources by Dominic Sherony. There were also the usual scattered reports of puddle ducks and summering, but not breeding, divers among which were reported sightings of Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser. A July Redhead report was unusual.

Both Red-throated and Common Loons were reported during the season. Of more interest were the multiple sightings of Red-necked Grebe, with a max of five on 7 August. The only highlight for waders was a **Little Blue Heron** found by Dave Tetlow in Greece on 23 August. The high counts of Least Bittern came from a Marsh Monitoring Program route surveyed by Robert Spahn at Quaker Pond in Mendon Ponds Park.

The hawk highlight of the season was a **Swainson's Hawk** seen at Ontario Beach by Jessie Barry, Tom Johnson, and Chris Wood on 30 August. This was the first summer report for this rarity in the Region. Bald Eagles were successful nesters along Irondequoit Bay. Others were present, but no additional nesting data was received. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were present all season and are most certainly breeding. A June Golden Eagle sighting continued a recent trend. Am. Kestrels were found in decent numbers along the lakeshore in July once the young fledged. Merlins once again nested in the city of Rochester with at least two successful pairs. The nest box for the Rochester Peregrine Falcons was moved this year. Last year's female returned and was injured by a new pair. She was rehabbed and released. She again returned to the original nest site. The new pair apparently built a nest on another building. There were rumors of eggs and feeding of young, but no evidence that they fledged. The rail highlight was a King Rail found in August at the traditional Brush Creek location in Hamlin. Common Moorhens continued to be scarce along the west lakeshore but were present in other locations in the Region. The Sandhill Cranes in Savannah produced a single colt, but it was not observed during the summer season.

The shorebird picture was mixed. The rains of June produced good looking habitat in fields on our west lakeshore, but this was visited by few birds, while just to our west similar habitat attracted good variety and numbers. The best observations here were right along the lakeshore. Some good totals were recorded from Hamlin Beach Park, e.g., 506 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 2 June. Unusual June finds included Sanderling and Baird's Sandpiper at Sodus Point and two "Western" Willets found by Dave Tetlow. The return shorebird migration began in earnest in late June into July. A Dunlin at Hamlin Beach on 29 July tied the Regional record early date. Other return migration highlights included two American Avocet sightings in July and one in August and a "Western" Willet and a Marbled Godwit in August. A Regional record high total of 12 "Western" Willets was observed by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 17 August. Not quite as spectacular, but still of interest were the good number of Whimbrel reports and the 11 Baird's Sandpipers found in a Kendall field on 27 August. Four Red-necked Phalaropes spotted by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood in Greece were good August birds.

The usual Parasitic Jaeger sightings came from Hamlin Beach in August, and Broadway Road in the Town of Huron continues to be a good spot to view

the lake migration; a Parasitic report also came from that location. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 31 August, continuing that recent trend. Gull highlights consisted of Black-headed Gull and Sabine's Gull at Hamlin Beach in August. Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be seen at almost any season, with two July reports and a single August sighting. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low. Common and Caspian Tern numbers were about average, with the latter possibly low average. The first of the year Black Terns in the Region were at Braddock Bay and Cranberry Pond in mid-July.

Eurasian Collared-Dove seems to be taking hold in the Region. A single bird was seen repeatedly in Parma continuing from September 2008. A presumed pair was discovered by Dave Tetlow about two miles away in Hamlin and exhibited possible courtship behavior. Add to that an additional bird seen by Dave and Kathy Tetlow south of those locations in Ogden. Only singles had been previously reported in the Region. Migrant Common Nighthawk numbers in early June were low, and there were only single reports in both July and August. An August search in Bergen Swamp turned up Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl. This is a known nesting location but is not often checked in the summer.

Olive-sided Flycatcher can be a difficult bird to find in the Region, so three August reports was a good number. A decent flight of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers occurred in August, with a maximum of 12 banded at the BBBO on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. A White-eyed Vireo discovered at Lehigh Swamp on the University of Rochester Campus by William Rowley on 19 June was not seen subsequently; potential breeding records for the Region are few. Common Raven continues to be expanding in the Region. A bird seen by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach in August was noteworthy for location. Winter Wrens found in Ellison Park and banded at Manitou were north of traditional Regional breeding locations. Sedge Wren continues to be a bird of concern in the Region. Birds found in Burger Park and an adjacent area in June were not reported again until August. Andy Guthrie found another group in suitable breeding habitat in Carlton in July. These were subsequently seen by many observers. Breeding thrushes and mimic thrushes were present in normal numbers.

The usual late spring warblers persisted into June, with some fairly late departure dates. Among the local breeders, Golden-winged Warbler continues its decline. Nashville Warbler and Northern Parula were reported well into the season. While Nashville breeds regularly at local sites and N. Parula has bred in Letchworth SP, both species are unusual in summer near the lakeshore. Prairie Warblers are not a common species in the Region. The birds reported in the Canadice area were at a known nesting location, but the Town of Sweden bird was in a new spot.

Scarlet Tanager numbers seemed a bit low. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from two traditional breeding sites but were tougher to locate this year. A third site, in Geneseo was occupied this year, but eliminated by hedgerow destruction, mowing, and plowing of the field during the season. Andy Guthrie found Henslow's Sparrow across the road from the Sedge Wren location in Carlton. Many observers were also able to see this much sought after species.

There were several White-throated Sparrow reports from near the Lake Ontario shore in June and July. The species is an occasional breeder in the southern portions of the Region and in Bergen Swamp, but is not regular along the lakeshore in those months. Recent years have produced summer White-crowned Sparrow reports, but this year the species was unreported.

An immature male Yellow-headed Blackbird, first discovered in Region 1 by Jim Pawlicki, was subsequently seen just across the road in Region 2 in August. It was a very good year Baltimore Orioles, as many observers commented on their abundance. This was also true for Orchard Oriole.

Pine Siskins were reported breeding in selected locations. This is often the case when spring numbers are as high as they were this season. The big invasion of White-winged Crossbills in winter and spring brought reports as late as 29 June, but no confirmed breeding.

The June species total of 187 species was slightly more than 10 species over the 10-year average. The July total at 180 species was significantly higher than the 10-year average of 160.6 species. The 211 species for August was well above the 10-year average 174.9. The species total of 273 for the year through August was only slightly below the 10-year average of 273.8.

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

Landy & Deb Atkinson, BBBO (Betsy Brooks), John Banks, Jessie Barry, Bob Beal, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, Sheila Buck, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady, Brad Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Kelly Close, Jim Compitello, Willie D'Anna, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Kenny Frisch, Andy Garland, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Helen & Chris Haller, Bill & Regina Hobbs, Christopher Hollister, Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Dave Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Mike Klimeczko, Russell Lainhart, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Fred & Holly Lawrence, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Joan Lindberg, Celeste & Gwen Marien, Bob McGuire, Robert & Chita McKinney, Marian Nelson, Dan Niven, Jim Pawlicki, Bev Pierson, Norma Platt, Betsy Potter, Jay Powell, David Prill, RBA Field Trips, William Rowley, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattery, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, David Strong, Kim Sucy, June Summers, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, William Watson, Bridget Watts, Chris Wiley, Chris Wood.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BE – Bergen Swamp GENE; BR – Lake Ontario off of Broadway Road, T Huron WAYN; C – Conesus LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; I – T Irondequoit, Summerville Pier MONR, IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; M – Manitou Beach area MONR, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds

County Park MONR; MU – T Murray ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; PA – T Parma MONR; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; R – C Rochester MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; SP – Sodus Point WAYN; SW – T Sweden MONR; W – T of Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR, ORLE.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 1 S 5-8 Aug.  
**Brant:** 1 SP 15-16 Jul (DS, mob), first of the year, unusual date.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** at least 6 pr w. 18 cygnets WAYN thru, information gathered by (DS) from mult sources.  
**Wood Duck:** max 58 PE 19 Aug.  
**Gadwall:** 2 C 4 Jun; arr 3 HB 25 Jul.  
**Am. Wigeon:** 1 PE 3 Jun; 2 HB 12 Jun; 1 PE 15 Jun, good June total; arr 4 HB 30 Jul.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** 1 HB 4 Jun.  
**N. Shoveler:** 2 PE 28 Jul.  
**Redhead:** 1 G 1 Jul, unusual date.  
**Greater Scaup:** arr 1 HB 7 Aug (WS, DT), record early.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 1 HB 4 Jun; 2 HB 31 Jul.  
**White-winged Scoter:** last 1-5 HB 13 Jun (WS, CWo); arr 2 HB 22 Aug.  
**Black Scoter:** 1 HB 4 Aug.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 1 HB 22 Aug; 1 G 30 Aug.  
**Com. Merganser:** 1 HB 1 Jun.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 6 PB 5 Jul; arr 9 HB 20 Aug.  
**Red-throated Loon:** last 1 HB 12 Jun.  
**Com. Loon:** max 10 HB 7, 12 Jun.  
**Horned Grebe:** last 1 HB 6 Jun.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 1 HB 28 Jul (WS), tied record early; 2 HB 31 Jul (WS); 1 HB 3 Aug (WS, RS); max 5 HB 7 Aug (WS, *et al.*); 2 HB 19 Aug (WS); 1 HB 23 Aug (mob); 2 HB 26 Aug (WS).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 424 HB 7 Jun.  
**Least Bittern:** max 5 MP 24 Jun.  
**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** 1 G 23 Aug (DT, JeB, CWo).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 6 S 12 Jul.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** 3 y banded IB nest Jun (DEC); 11 OB 4 Aug (TJ); 12 BB 17 Aug (DT); 10 BB 18 Aug (DT).  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 imm G 20 Jul (GL), only report.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 686 BB 17 Aug.  
**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** 1 OB 30 Aug (JeB, TJ, CWo), 1<sup>st</sup> Regional summer record.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 1956 BB 18 Aug.  
**Golden Eagle:** 1 imm G 9 Jun (KG).  
**Merlin:** 2ad, 3y, nest west R all Jun (L&DA); 1ad, 1y northeast R 26-30 Jun (BW).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 3 ad R all Jun, *intro*; 1 HB 2 Jun.  
**KING RAIL:** 1 H 2 Aug (DT).  
**Com. Moorhen:** max 20 S 30 Aug.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 1-2 S all Jun, 1 colt seen earlier, not this season.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 1 SW 29 Jul.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 P 23 Aug; max 58 Byron GENE 29 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** last 1 HB 13 Jun; arr 1 HB 19 Jul.  
**Killdeer:** max 150-200 CU 25 Aug.  
**AMERICAN AVOCET:** 1 SP 16 Jul (WW, JL); 1 IB 17 Jul (JC); 1 SP 1 Aug (MT, JT).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 HP 26 Jul.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1 HP 27 Jun (DT).  
**"Western" Willet:** 1 HP 12 Jun (DT, mob, AG photos); 1 OB 21 Jun (DT); 1 PB 2 Aug (ST); max 12 HB 17 Aug (DT), Reg. record high count.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 H 2 Jul.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 2 GE 26 Jul; max 15 CU 6 Aug.  
**Whimbrel:** 1-4 I 13 Jul (FL, GL); 1 HB 24 Jul; 1 HB 27 Jul; 2 HB 29 Jul; 3 HB 30 Jul; 1 HB 12 Aug; 1 HB 23 Aug; 2 CU 30 Aug.  
**MARbled GODWIT:** 1 HB 31 Aug (DT, BC, AG, RS).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 25 HB 2 Jun; arr 1 HB 28 Jul.  
**Red Knot:** arr 1 SP 1-2 Aug (MT, JT, DT, DK).  
**Sanderling:** 6 SP 2 Jun (DT), few in spring; arr 1 HB 19 Jul; max 16 HB 26 Aug.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 506 HB 2 Jun (RS); arr 2 I 22 Jul.  
**Western Sandpiper:** arr 1 HB 18 Aug (DT).  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 119 HB 23 Aug (AG, DS, DT, CWo).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 4 HB 2 Jun; arr 1 HB 17 Aug.  
**Baird's Sandpiper:** arr 1 SP 2 Jun (DT), very rare spring migr; arr 1 SP 26 Aug; max 11 K 27 Aug (DT, BC, DS).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 1 HB 28 Jun.

**Dunlin:** arr 1 HB 29 Jul (DT), tie Reg. record early.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** arr 1 T Barre ORLE 4 Aug (DT, KG).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1 HB 29 Jul.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** arr 4 G 28 Aug (JeB, CWo).  
**SABINE'S GULL:** 2 imm HB 31 Aug (AG, DT, BC, RS), early date.  
**BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 imm HB 11 Aug (WS, RS).  
**Iceland Gull:** 1 HB 1 Jun.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1ad HB 2 Jun (RS); 1 1<sup>st</sup> sum OB 11 Jun (RS); 1 HB 16 Aug (DT, WS, AG).  
**Caspian Tern:** max 95 HB 21 Jun.  
**Black Tern:** arr 1 BB 15 Jul (KG); 2 BB 17 Jul (R&SS); 4 G 22-25 Jul (GL); 1 G 3 Aug (KG); 2 HB 20 Aug (WS); 1 HB 23 Aug (WS); 1 HB 24 Aug (DS).  
**Com. Tern:** max 46 HB 23 Aug.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr 1 BB 3 Aug.  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr 1 BR, HB 30 Aug (TL, CWi, TJ, DS); 1 HB 31 Aug (DT, RS).  
**Long-tailed Jaeger:** 1 HB 31 Aug (DT).  
**jaeger species:** 2 HB 31 Aug (sev).

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1 P all Jun, all Jul (DT, mob); 2 H 20-30 Jun, all Jul (DT, mob); 1-2 H & P all Aug (mob); 1 Ogden 25 Jul (D&KT); 1 H 14 Aug (KG).  
**Barred Owl:** max 5 BE 20 Aug (DT).  
**Long-eared Owl:** max 2 BE 20 Aug (DT).  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 1 BE 20 Aug (DT).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** max 32 G 3 Jun (GL); last 1 G 13 Jun (KG); 1 Henrietta 28 Jul (DN); arr 1 G 20 Aug (GL).  
**Chimney Swift:** max 20 Fairport 12 Aug.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr 1 R 17 Aug (DT); 1 G 20 Aug (KS); 1 HB 28 Aug (DT).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** last 1 C 9 Jun; arr 12b M 23 Aug.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 R 19 Jun (WR), interesting site for potential breeding.

**Com. Raven:** 1 HB 6 Aug (WS), scarce on lakeshore.  
**Purple Martin:** max 120 M 20 Aug.  
**Cliff Swallow:** max 22 HB 23 Aug.  
**Winter Wren:** b M 6 Jun; 1 Ellison Park 13 Jul (CJ), unusual location for the season.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr 3 HP 1 Jun (DT); 1 HP 18-30 Jun (GL, KG); 2-3 C 5-31 Jul, 1-9 Aug (AG, mob).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1 M 30 Aug (TJ, CWo, DT), early.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** last 1b M 2 Jun.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** last 1 HB 1 Jun.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 P 30 Aug.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 MU 11 Aug (KG).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 2b M 27 Aug.  
**Nashville Warbler:** 1b M 6 Jun; 1b M 10 Jul.  
**N. Parula:** 1 HP 11 Jun (DT); 1 G 14 Jun (CWo).  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr 1 M 23 Aug.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 1 Sweden 1 Jun (JeB, CWo); 1-2 Canadice 7-13 Jun (sev); 1 HB 16 Aug (DT, AG); 1 Auburn Trail 31 Aug (SD).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 1 M 23 Aug.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** last 1 G 13 Jun.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** 1 MU 15 Aug (DS).  
**Ovenbird:** 1b M 24 Jul.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** last 1b M 8 Jun; arr 1 M 23 Aug.  
**Canada Warbler:** 1b M 9, 21 Jul, unusual loc for date.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1 H all Jun (sev); 1 H 6 Jul; 1 H 15 Aug (DT); 1 H 22 Aug (GL).  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 C 5-31 Jul, 1-9 Aug (AG, mob).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** 1b M 2 Jun; 1 HB 17 Jul; 1imm b M 24 Jul; unusual loc for dates.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** no rep after sev yr w. late ind.  
**Bobolink:** max 270 S 27 Aug (DT).  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** 1 Barre 11 Aug (JP, DT).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 HB 15 Jun (JeB, CWo); 1 Victor 29 Jun (DT).  
**Pine Siskin:** rep of local breeding.



Figure B. Trumpeter Swans, Hogback Rd., Wayne Co., 12 Aug 09, © Dominic Sherony.