

REGION 2—GENESEE

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September started off with three weeks of pleasant late summer weather. Warm days and cool nights persisted through the 20th. It was mainly sunny, with 74% of the possible sunshine as compared to the normal 57%. Even though the last part of the month was cloudy and rainy, we still topped that normal average with 59%. The average temperature was 60.7°F, 0.5° below normal. The total rainfall was 2.03" compared to the norm of 3.45". There was little measurable precipitation through the 25th of the month. A warm front brought heavy rains on the 26th through the 27th, then some lake effect rain kicked in on the 28th. The 29th and 30th were cool and cloudy with temperatures more like November. These late month conditions produced some good bird reports. October was cool and cloudy. The first 19 days of the month saw below average temperatures, while the remainder of the month was at or above normal. The mean for the month was 2.2° below normal at 48.2°. The first 19 days also saw periods of light rain and generally overcast skies. The heaviest rainfall was later in the month on the 27th when 1" was recorded. The first snowfall of the season occurred at some of the higher elevations, but not at the official airport location. The Region experienced only 25% of possible sunshine vs. a 50% norm. November was generally quiet and sunny. The average temperature of 41.9° was 2° above normal. The first half of the month saw below normal temperatures, while the second half was above normal. It was the 34th warmest November in 139 years of records. Precipitation totaled 1.13", 1.71" below normal. There was no measurable snowfall, making it only the fourth November in 126 years with a trace or less. 237 consecutive days with only a trace or less of snowfall is the third longest stretch recorded for our area. Winds were light, with a mean of 5.8 mph vs. a norm of 10.9 mph. Possible sunshine was 41% vs. a norm of 29%.

For the most part it was quite a lackluster fall migration, but still there were some highlights. The waterfowl picture in general was not great; one observer used the word "pathetic." There was an early Brant report, and

Cackling Goose reports increased into October though only recorded as singles or twos, quite different from last year's large influx. Trumpeter Swans continued to be reported in the double digits in Savannah. Puddle duck numbers were low, though there was a good Northern Pintail flight on 25 September and a good Green-winged Teal total on the 26th. Divers too were low, with particularly small numbers of Redhead and Canvasback. There also was no significant flight and no subsequent rafts of Greater Scaup on Lake Ontario. The only real waterfowl highlights were the Ross's Goose and Barrow's Goldeneye seen in Orleans County. A **Pacific Loon** discovered by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on 24 October lingered long enough to be seen by others. The loon flight in general was poor. Once again this fall there were very good counts of Red-necked Grebe, on Lake Ontario in late November, a new trend for the fall migration. On 15 November many were heard calling from out in a messy fog over the lake from Hamlin Beach west to Point Breeze. 96 were counted over that stretch in spite of the poor visibility. With no fog to the east, Mike Tetlow tallied 124 off Irondequoit Bay and several more checking spots east to Bear Creek in Wayne County for a total of 128 in that part of the east lakeshore, from which we have few large counts. Another good find was an **Eared Grebe** photographed at the south end of Irondequoit Bay by Charles Goulet on 5 October. Two **Great Cormorants** were spotted passing the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach on 11 September. The only Northern Gannet report of the season was an immature passing Hamlin Beach on 1 November, subsequently seen on the same morning passing near Wilson 45 miles to our west. The only noteworthy reports among the herons and egrets were of late Great Egrets and a couple of November Black-crowned Night-Herons.

It was a generally slow season for raptors. Thirty plus Turkey Vultures again gathered in November at a site in the Town of Rush where they have wintered for several years, and a similar number was seen moving up the Wyoming Valley near the village of Warsaw, Wyoming County. Rough-legged Hawks were good early, but numbers dropped off as the season progressed. The **Golden Eagle** seen by Jessie Barry and Chris Wood is a good find here by late October. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were reported in reduced numbers this fall. Sandhill Cranes continued to be reported in Savannah through the season, with a max of 16 on the 29th of November. The **Purple Gallinule** found by Pat Martin at Mendon Ponds on 11 October was relocated by Brad Carlson on the 13th just as it expired and is now housed in the collection at Cornell.

The shorebird highlight and local bird of the season was a **Long-billed Curlew** photographed by Andy Guthrie as it passed Hamlin Beach on 12 September. It was a Regional first. An **American Avocet** at the south end of Irondequoit Bay, found by Tom Nash on 28 October and seen by many on that and the next day, was another in a series of sightings of this species in the upstate area this summer and fall. **14 Willets** observed by William Symonds at Hamlin Beach on 6 September was a Regional record high. Dave Tetlow's Stilt Sandpiper at the East Spit of Braddock Bay on 18 November was record late for the Region. Other late shorebirds included Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling in November. The only two reports for Black-legged Kittiwake for the season were

two record early on 9 September and another on 14 September. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were way down. There was only a single Little Gull reported for the season, and none seen passing the lakewatch. Franklin's Gull at Hamlin Beach on 30 September is a rarity in the Region. There was only one Pomarine Jaeger sighting on 25 September and ten Parasitic Jaegers for the season.

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be viewed in Parma and Hamlin throughout the season with a maximum of three. A single Snowy Owl, banded in Hamlin late in November, was the only report for this species. Common Nighthawk totals continued to be low, but a fall Whip-poor-will found by Mike Tetlow on 11 September was a surprise. The usual Chimney Swift congregation gathered in Greiggsville and continued until mid October, with a maximum this fall of 1000+ on 12 September. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird visiting a feeder for five days towards the end of October was very late.

The passerine migration was quiet with a few notable exceptions. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Savannah on 24-25 October was seen and photographed by many (Fig. F, p. 43). Doug Racine discovered the bird and word was spread quickly. Northern Shrikes peaked early and were more difficult to locate towards the end of the season. A **Fish Crow** in Greece on 27 November was our latest fall record. Common Raven reports continued scattered across the Region. A late Northern Rough-winged Swallow was spotted at Hamlin Beach on 9 November just before the first of what would total to 73 **Cave Swallows** that day. These turned out to be the only sightings for the latter species here this fall. Winter Wrens were a tad early this year, with decent numbers reported. **2650 Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Hamlin Beach on 16 October was by far a State high count. The thrush migration was weak this season, the only highlight being the Bicknell's Thrush reports from Manitou, Hamlin, and Island Cottage Woods in October. The former report was a banded bird at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. The latter reports were individuals identified by call.

There was not much to report on the warbler flight this fall. Numbers were generally low. Orange-crowned Warblers were well reported, and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler visiting Gerry Leubner's feeder in Irondequoit in late November was a surprise. Clay-colored Sparrow was found among other migrant sparrows at the Beatty Point sparrow hotspot. The only **Nelson's Sparrows** of the season were at least five individuals at the Marten Tract over an extended period and another photographed on Van Dyne Spoor all in the Town of Savannah in October. The species has occurred in the Region regularly in the fall, but can be difficult to locate. The Marten Tract has been a good location the last few years. Birders commented that White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow numbers were poor and their passage through the Region brief. Another seasonal highlight was a female **Summer Tanager** visiting the feeders of the Colby family in Ogden from late November through most of December. Many observers were able to see and photograph the bird. Other *icterid* plusses were Rusty Blackbird counts of 55 on 14 October and 37 on 1 November and a late **Baltimore Oriole** seen on 24 November at a feeder in the Town of Wheatland. There were almost no winter finches; exceptions were a

single Red Crossbill and a scattering of Pine Siskins, the latter not surprising with the species breeding locally this summer.

September's species total was 210, October's 209, and November's 143. September and November were just above their ten-year averages, October way above the 185.4 average for the month. Nineteen new species were added for the year bringing our 2009 total to 291, right at the ten-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AT – Auburn Trail, T Victor, MONR; BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; BG – Bogus Point, T Parma, MONR; C – T Carlton, ORLE; CL – Conesus Lake, Inlet, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GR – Grieggsville, T York, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece, MONR; IBS – Irondequoit Bay, south end, T Penfield, MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds County P, T Mendon, MONR; N – T Newark, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; TOnt - T Ontario, WAYN; P - T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PI – T Pittsford, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SP – Sodus Pt, WAYN; W – T Webster, MONR; WH – T Wheatland, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 1 HB 20-26 Sep, early; max 8000 S 28 Nov.
Ross's Goose: 1 C 13, 27 Nov (DT, GC).
Brant: arr 6 HB 25 Sep; max 345 HB 21 Oct.
Cackling Goose: arr 1-2 HB 21-27 Sep; 1 PE 1 Oct; max 5 HB 11 Oct; 1 HB 27 Oct.
Mute Swan: max 112 G 14 Oct.
Tundra Swan: arr 1 G 12 Oct; max 38 G 26 Nov.
Trumpeter Swan: max 36 MAC 15 Nov.
Gadwall: max 48 G 31 Oct.
Am. Wigeon: max 120 G 27 Oct.
N. Shoveler: max 20 G 4 Nov.
N. Pintail: arr 1 HB 4 Sep; max 450 HB 25 Sep.
Green-winged Teal: max 210 S 25 Sep.
Canvasback: arr 3 T Groveland, LIVI 30 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 5 HB 6 Sep; max 95 G 4 Nov.
Greater Scaup: arr 3 HB 4 Sep; max 64 HB 1 Nov, low.
Lesser Scaup: max 450 G 21 Nov.
Surf Scoter: arr 1 BG 5 Sep, early.
White-winged Scoter: max 558 HB 4 Nov, low.
Black Scoter: arr 1 HB 25 Sep; max 66 HB 4 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: max 699 HB 4 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr 1 G 27 Oct; max 94 HB 3 Nov.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 2 G 17 Oct.
Barrow's Goldeneye: arr 1 PB 18 Nov (DT, MS).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2265 G 4 Nov.
Ruddy Duck: arr 1 G 14 Oct.
Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 18 Sep; max 253 HB 7 Nov, low.
PACIFIC LOON: 1 HB 24-25 Oct (AGu, mob).
Com. Loon: 126 HB 26 Sep; 1st 100+ day; max 500+ SP 15 Nov.
Horned Grebe: arr 1 HB 14 Sep; max 76 HB 3 Nov, low.
Red-necked Grebe: 1-8 HB all Sep; 96 HB-PB 15 Nov (RS); 128 IB to Williamson, WAYN 15 Nov (MT), where typically scarce; max 173 HB 25 Nov (RS), pushed by a ship; good fall total.
EARED GREBE: 1 IB 5 Oct (CG), ph, first of year.
N. Gannet: 1 imm HB 1 Nov (mob), noted passing by 45 miles west in Region 1 only an hour or so later.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 700 G 6, 24, 25 Sep (JiB, LB, JeB).
GREAT CORMORANT: 2 ad HB 11 Sep (DT, DS, *et al.*).

Am. Bittern: 1 S 9 Sep; last 1 S 6 Oct.
Least Bittern: last 1 G 6 Oct.
Great Egret: last 2 BB 17 Oct.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 2 G 16 Nov.
Green Heron: last 1 PE 6 Oct.
Turkey Vulture: 30+ T Rush 5 Nov (MZ).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: last 1 H 3 Nov (AGu).
N. Goshawk: 1 Daboll Rd 5 Sep (LL); 1 imm T Ont 21 Sep (MT, DS); 1 PI 12 Oct (BC); 1 W 28 Nov (FM).
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 S 18 Oct.
Golden Eagle: 1 G 31 Oct (JeG, CWo).
Merlin: total 4 all Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: total 6 all Sep.
PURPLE GALLINULE: MP 11, 13 Oct (PM, BC), 4th Reg record, died, *intro*.
Com. Moorhen: last 2 S 25 Oct.
Sandhill Crane: 5 S 19 Sep (LL); 13 S 26 Oct (JA); 2 G 20 Oct (DT); 2 Taylor Marsh 11 Nov (LB); max 16 S 29 Nov (JS, BL).
Black-bellied Plover: last 2 GE 2 Nov.
Am. Golden-Plover: max 100 T Byron, GENE 6 Sep (JM); last 1 G 19 Oct (DT).
Semipalmated Plover: last 2 P 17 Oct.
AMERICAN AVOCET: 1 IBS 27-28 Oct (TN, mob).
Spotted Sandpiper: last CL 25 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: last IBS 28 Oct.
Greater Yellowlegs: last G 3 Nov.
Willet: max 14 HB 6 Sep (WS), Regional record high.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 1, 3 G, IBS 30 Oct.
Whimbrel: 1 HB 1 Sep (mob); 1 HB 2 Sep (WS, DT); 2 HB 3 Sep (WS, AGu).
LONG-BILLED CURLEW: 1 HB 12 Sep (AGu), photo, 1st Reg record.
Hudsonian Godwit: 1 S 25 Oct (LL, mob).
Sanderling: last OB 4 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last G 1-2 Nov.
Least Sandpiper: last IBS 8 Nov.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last G 8 Nov.
Purple Sandpiper: arr HB 24 Oct (AGu).
Dunlin: arr G 23 Sep; max 260 G 30 Oct (KG).
Stilt Sandpiper: last BB 18 Nov (DT), record late.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr S 3 Oct (BC).
Wilson's Snipe: last GE 2 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: BB 13 Oct (KG).
Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 2 BG 9 Sep (DT); 1 BG 14 Sep (DT).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 185 G 4 Nov, low.
Little Gull: OB 31 Oct (KG), only report.
Franklin's Gull: 1 1st cycle HB 30 Sep (RS, JH).

Iceland Gull: 1 G 10 Nov (BC); 1 T Newark 27 Nov (BF).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 2nd win OB 18 Oct (KF); 1 1st win IBS 21 Oct (KF); 1 1st win G 11 Nov (RS); 1 BB 23 Nov (DT).
Caspian Tern: last 1 IBS 5 Oct.
Com. Tern: max 19 HB 24 Sep; last 2 BB 17 Oct.
Forster's Tern: 2 HB 19 Sep (RS).
Pomarine Jaeger: arr 1imm HB 25 Sep (WS, RS).
Parasitic Jaeger: 2 HB 14 Sep (WS); 1 HB 17 Sep (WS); 1ad HB 18 Sep (WS, RS); 1 BB 7 Oct (KG); 1 HB 25 Oct (AGu); 2ad G 31 Oct (JeB, CWo, Ji&LB); 1 HB 3 Nov (RS); 1 HB 7 Nov (AGu, DT).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared Dove: 1-2 all Sep H (mob); 1-2 all Sep P (mob); 1 P 13 Oct (AGu); 1-2 P all Nov.
Snowy Owl: arr 1 H 27 Nov (TM), banded.
Short-eared Owl: arr 8 Genesee Com. College 26 Sep, early.
Com. Nighthawk: max 10 T Penfield 1 Sep; last 1 G 11 Sep.
Whip-poor-will: 1 Tont 11 Sep (MT).
Chimney Swift: max 1000+ GR 12 Sep (GB); last 22 GR 13 Oct (GB, JK).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last 1fem G 22-27 Oct (KG), ph.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 T East Bloomfield, ONTA 1 Nov (DSt).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: last 1b M 4 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1 T Perinton 26 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: last 1b M 5 Oct.
Great Crested Flycatcher: last 1 S 12 Sep.
E. Kingbird: last 1 H 11 Sep.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 S 24-25 Oct (DR, mob), 3rd Reg record.
N. Shrike: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last 1 S 12 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last 6b M 18 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: last 1 N 2 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 6 Sep; last 1b M 3 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: 61b M all Sep (BBBO); last 3b M 19 Oct.
Fish Crow: 1 G 27 Nov (KG), Reg record late.
Com. Raven: 1 Shore Acres, H 16 Sep (DT); max 3 T Honeoye Falls, MONR 2 Nov (BC), interesting locations.
Purple Martin: last 4 MAC 11 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 5000 H 27 Sep, 2700 HB 4 Oct.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 22 C 15 Oct; last HB 9 Nov (AGu, *et al.*).
Bank Swallow: last 1 HB 2 Oct.
CAVE SWALLOW: max 73 HB 9 Nov DT, MT, mob).
House Wren: last 1 M 14 Oct.
Winter Wren: arr 1 G 9 Sep.
Sedge Wren: 2 HP 1 Oct (BC, JS).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 2650 HB 16 Oct (DT), State record high count.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 180 HB 16 Oct (DT); 454b M all Oct (BBBO); last 1 HB 13 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last 1 ICW 16 Sep.
E. Bluebird: 2 WH 16 Nov (ML), white plumage.
Veery: last 1 M 14 Oct.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 B M 8 Sep; last 27,1b ICW, M 4 Oct (RS, BBBO).
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 2 HB 19 Sep (RS), id by call; 1b M 2 Oct (BBBO); 2 ICW 4 Oct (RS), id by call.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 1b M 2 Sep; last 1 N, AT 9 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: arr 1 HB 19 Sep.
Wood Thrush: last 6 ICW 4 Oct.
Am. Pipit: last 4 T Groveland, LIVI 27 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 240 W 22 Nov.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: last 1 M 13 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last 1b M 5 Oct.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 IB 20 Sep (KH); 1b M 30 Sep (BBBO); 1 HB 30 Sep (RS); total 12 sev all Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last 2 S 10 Oct.
N. Parula: last 1 H 1 Oct.
Yellow Warbler: last 1 Conesus Lake Inlet, LIVI 11 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last 3b M 15 Sep.
Magnolia Warbler: max 47b M 5 Sep; last 3b M 4 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1 T Irondequoit, MONR 28 Nov thru (GL).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 1 PI 8 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last 1 G 3 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last 1 HB 9 Nov.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1 South Conesus, LIVI 1 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr 1b M 14 Sep; last 1 S 25 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 75b M 5 Sep; last 4b M 5 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last 2b M 12 Oct.

Am. Redstart: last 1b M 11 Oct.
Ovenbird: last 1 H 4 Oct.
N. Waterthrush: last 1 ICW 16 Sep.
Mourning Warbler: last 1b M 24 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last 1b M 29 Sep.
Canada Warbler: last 1b M 14 Sep.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: arr 1, 2b S, M 26 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: last 1 Bushnell's Basin,
MONR 16 Nov (H&CH).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 Beatty Point, T
Greece 1-2 Oct (BC).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 5 S 1-6 Oct
(TJ, MH); 1-4 S 8-10 Oct (mob); 1 S 25 Oct
(LL), ph; 1-2 S 25 Oct (mob).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 M 11 Oct; last 3 W 14
Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 b M 14 Sep; last 2b
M 10 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr 1 G 12 Sep; max
460 HB 16 Oct, low.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1b M 24 Sep;
low numbers reported.
Lapland Longspur: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 1 HP 20 Oct.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 T Ogden, MONR
28 Nov thru (F&DC).
Scarlet Tanager: last 1 S 4 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last 1 HB 19 Sep.
Bobolink: last 5 S 10 Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 55 PE 14 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: last 1 WH 24 Nov (ML).
Red Crossbill: 1 W 22 Nov (BC).