

REGION 2—GENESEE

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The 2013 summer season was generally pleasant with around average temperatures. Rainfall was plentiful early in the season but became scarcer in July and August, with a seasonal precipitation total that was 3.24" higher than the average. Temperatures were just 0.8° above average at 69.6° F. June's rainfall total was 6.27", 2.93" above average, and included two days with over 1.00" and four with over 0.50". The average temperature was 66.4°, only 0.2° above average. July's average temperature was 73.0°, 2.2° above normal, and included five days above 90°. Precipitation in July was 1.08" above average at 4.4". August temperatures were exactly on average at 69.3°. Precipitation level was 0.77" below average at 2.70".

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The “summer” season encompasses three different “seasons” for birds, including the end of spring migration in June, the breeding season, and the beginning of fall migration, which starts in mid June for some species. Thus, it is possible to separate the season into these three parts and discuss each separately.

While migration for many species, and birders alike, ends in late May, there is still quite a bit of movement in the first half of June. Waterfowl movement was only a trickle, but included some late records of Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, and Horned Grebe. An **American White Pelican** on 1 June represents a late wandering bird of a species that has increased in recent years. Though no formal hawkwatch at Braddock Bay was conducted after 1 June, the count on that date was significant; 662 birds were recorded, including: 364 Broad-winged Hawks, 241 Turkey Vultures, and 35 Bald Eagles.

The end of shorebird migration was not well documented and was represented by just three species, all recorded as 1-2 individuals in the first two days of June. These included Greater Yellowlegs, Whimbrel, and a **Willet** found by Andy Guthrie and seen also by Brian Morse. Common Nighthawks were again reported in small numbers, with a max of 24 in Greece and the last record being from Honeoye Lake on 15 June. The late spring passerine movement included a late report of a banded Philadelphia Vireo on 4 June. Typical late migrants included Gray-cheeked and Swainson’s Thrush, both banded and observed in the first week and a half of June. Cedar Waxwings were still recorded passing in large numbers in early June, with a notable high count of 953 from Hamlin Beach on 2 June. The tail end of warbler migration was also observed, with reports of Tennessee, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Canada, and Wilson’s Warblers. None of these species were observed to dates past the first week in June. Single reports of lingering White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were interesting in early June but none were reported any later. Lastly, the remnants of a good winter finch season were still observed into June, as there were three reports of Red Crossbill during the month, most notably two birds on 3 July. White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were all reported as well during June.

The second segment of the “summer” season includes the main breeding season for birds. Trumpeter Swans continue to breed in the Region, but in smaller numbers confined to the Northern Montezuma Wetlands WMA (NMWMA) in Wayne County. However, the species was absent from the historical Atlantic Avenue site on the other side of the county for the second year in a row. Waterfowl showed fairly poorly with small numbers of American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Green-winged Teal. Ruddy Ducks were reported at multiple sites near Braddock Bay as well as in NMWMA. Pied-billed Grebes were reported as usual along with both Least and American Bitterns. Great Egrets were again reported from many sites and in increasingly higher numbers, but no evidence of a breeding colony was reported. Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported as well from NMWMA in usual numbers.

In terms of raptors, Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from usual sites. A Northern Goshawk report from Letchworth SP was notable, as reports of this

species have become scarcer. Black Vulture was reported on three occasions, which continues the trend of increasing numbers of this species in the Region. Common Gallinule and American Coot were reported from the usual sites at High Acres Nature Area and NMWMA, but coot reports from near Braddock Bay were interesting. Sandhill Cranes were once again reported from NMWMA, and a report from Honeoye WMA in Ontario County supports an increasing trend of reports from the area.

Caspian Terns were observed at many sites along the lakeshore including a maximum of 40 from Irondequoit Bay. Common Terns were also reported along the lakeshore in small numbers including a maximum of eight from Ontario Beach Park. Black Terns were reported again in low numbers from NMWMA, but a report from the Braddock Bay area keeps hopes alive that the species could return and breed in the area. Though reports were few, Eurasian Collared-Doves continue in Hamlin in Monroe County. No breeding nightjars were reported in the Region. Merlins were reported nesting in Fairport, which continues the increasing trend of breeding in the area. The Monk Parakeets in Greece continue, but observers noted a size decrease in the nest. Red-headed Woodpeckers also continue but in small numbers, with the most visible centering around a maximum of eight at Hamlin Beach SP.

Fish Crows were again reported in good numbers in the Charlotte area of northern Rochester, but no reports confirmed breeding. It was a particularly good year for Sedge Wrens, with a maximum of seven observed at Burger Park near Braddock Bay. This is a good count for a species that is hard to pin down year to year at breeding sites. Golden-winged Warbler was only reported from a site in North Wolcott in Wayne County, and Prothonotary Warblers continued in the NMWMA at the Armitage Road site shared with Region 3. Hooded Warblers were reported in decent numbers from many locations. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from the usual locations at Nations Road in Avon and Cook Road in Hamlin. Grasshopper Sparrows continue to show fairly well, but Henslow's Sparrows were again unreported in the Region.

Lastly, the beginning of fall migration is the last segment of the summer season. Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Loons, and Red-necked Grebe were all observed passing along the lake by the first week in August. A **Northern Gannet** seen passing on 9 August by Andy Guthrie was notable as the first summer record for the Region. Just five days later, Andy Guthrie spotted and photographed a **Neotropic Cormorant** passing by Hamlin Beach with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants, a New York State first record pending approval by NYSARC. An **American White Pelican** was spotted twice in August at NMWMA, which could be one of two birds seen nearby in Region 3 later and continuing into fall.

By the end of July, 15 shorebird species were reported. Notable sightings included Red Knot and Whimbrel from Hamlin Beach SP. Upland Sandpipers were also reported from the Geneseo airfield as well as two reports from Hamlin. August brought many reports of American Golden-Plover, with a high of 67 from Elba in Genesee County. There were also single reports of both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope.

Some passerine movement was noted already in late July, with a Swainson's Thrush in Wolcott in Wayne County and a Tennessee Warbler banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. August also brought a **Western Kingbird** in Hamlin and two reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, which made it an interesting month for flycatchers. Two reports of Golden-crowned Kinglet from Mendon Ponds Park in August were interesting, though the species breeds in neighboring counties. August also brought migrant warblers, most of which were first reported at typical arrival dates.

For the season, 216 species and one hybrid were reported, with numbers for each month on the 10-year average for June and 18 and 11 above average for July and August, respectively.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; CH – Charlotte, Ontario Beach, MONR; CLI – Conesus Lake Inlet, including Wildlife Management Area marshes, LIVI; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, 310

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MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, WAYN; OCP – Oatka Creek Park, MONR; S- Savannah, WAYN; Spt – Sodus Point, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Trumpeter Swan: max 8 NMWMA thru.
Wood Duck: max 180 NMWMA 2 Aug (JM).
Am. Black Duck: max 18 NMWMA, low.
Blue-winged Teal: max 7 NMWMA 30 Jul Aug, low.
N. Shoveler: arr NMWMA 30 Aug (DTe).
N. Pintail: NMWMA 17 Jul; arr 6 NMWMA 30 Aug (DTe), early.
Green-winged Teal: HANA 5 Jun; max 15 NMWMA 30 Jul.
Com. Merganser: 8 HB 5 Jul (AGu).
Red-breasted Merganser: last HB 8 Jun (TF); arr HB 17 Aug (DTe).
Ruddy Duck: 1-2 G 16, 21 Jun (GL), 1 NMWMA 19 Jun (NH); 1 Port Bay 3 Jul (GL), summering.
Red-throated Loon: arr 1 HB 12 Aug (AGu), early.
Com. Loon: 19 HB 1 Jun, getting late for so many.
Horned Grebe: last HB 2 Jun (BriM).
Red-necked Grebe: arr 3 HB 2 Aug (AGu, RS), early.
NORTHERN GANNET: 1 HB 9 Aug (AGu), 1st Reg. summer record
Double-crested Cormorant: max 300 CH 19 Aug (BriM), low.
NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: 1 HB 14 Aug (AGu, ph), 1st State record prndng NYSARC evaluation, *intro*.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: HB 1 Jun (AGu, ph).
Great Egret: max 112 NMWMA 9 Aug, breeding nearby?; 5 Brockport 25 Jun (JPo).
LITTLE BLUE HERON (R2): 1 imm NMWMA 21-23 Jul (JTa, DWe, DWh).
BLACK VULTURE (R2): 1 G 14 Jun (DTe), 1 Perinton 7 Jul (DSh), 1 G 9 Jul (DTe).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: nest + yg W of Avon on Genesee River thru; sev nests in WAYN.
N. Goshawk: 1 Letchworth SP 12 Jun (DSh).
Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 WAYN 22 Jul (LC-B&SB); 1 Letchworth SP 9-10 Aug (KH).
Bald Eagle: max 35 BB 1 Jun (LT, *et al*).
Broad-winged Hawk: max 364 BB 1 Jun (LT, *et al*).

Com. Gallinule: max 142 NMWMA 30 Aug (DTe).
Am. Coot: 1 BB 21 Jun (GL), scarce now along lakeshore.
Sandhill Crane: 1-4 NMWMA (mob); 1 T Richmond ONTA 15 Jul (KK).
Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 HB 29 Jul (AGu, BriM), max 23 H 18 Aug (AGu).
Am. Golden-Plover: max 67 Elba 24 Aug (GL).
Semipalmated Plover: arr 28 Jul HB, max 24 H 11 Aug (AGu).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 13 Jul NMWMA (TP).
Greater Yellowlegs: last HB 1 Jun; arr 2 NMWMA 25 Jul (JM).
“Western” Willet: 1 HB 2 Jun (AGu, BriM), 1 CH 18 Aug (TF).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 NMWMA 13 Jul.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Genesee 30 Jul (JK).
Whimbrel: last 1 CH 2 Jun (JeB); 1 HB 24 Jul (AGu); 3 CH 1 Aug (TF).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 CH 23 Jul.
Red Knot: arr 1 HB 28 Jul (AGu).
Sanderling: arr 2 CH 23 Jul (GL).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 CH 17 Jul.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 14 Jul.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Groveland flats 16 Aug (KC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr HB 29 Jul.
Dunlin: arr H 20 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr Perinton 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Durand Eastman Park 27 Jul.
Wilson’s Phalarope: arr. 1 Perinton 16 Aug (JPo), only report.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr 1 HB 5 Aug (AGu, BriM).
Bonaparte’s Gull: max 118 CH 19 Aug (BriM), low.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-3 HB 1-2 Jun (AGu, BriM); 1 CH 4 Aug (KF).
Caspian Tern: max 40 IB 28 Jul (RS), low.
Black Tern: 1 G 3 Jun, scarce now along lakeshore; max 25 NMWMA 1 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 11 CH 16 Jun (DTe).
Forster’s Tern: arr HB 10 Aug (BriM, AGu).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: max 2 H thru, historical loc.

Com. Nighthawk: max 24 G 1 Jun; last Honeoye Lake 15 Jun; arr H 30 Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 8 HB 29 Jul (AGu).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 39 Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA 19 Jun (R&SS), illustration of numbers breeding in Reg if observers count.

Merlin: nest w/yg Fairport thru (BMA); 1 NMWMA 30 Jul (W&MR).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 2 yg Roch (falconcam) thru.

FALCONS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 T Huron WAYN 1 Aug (DTe); 1 Mendon Ponds 28 Aug (J&AH).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max B 13 M 2 Jun (BBBO); last 6B M 5 Jun; arr 1B M 18 Aug.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: 1 H 31 Aug (AGu).

Philadelphia Vireo: last BB 4 Jun (BBBO), arr Corbett's Glen 24 Aug (MS).

Fish Crow: max 8 CH thru, nesting???

Com. Raven: 2 ad, 2 yg Mendon Ponds 21 Jun (R&SS).

Purple Martin: max 60 S (MAC) 18 Aug, low.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Webster 29 Aug.

Sedge Wren: max 7 G (Hogan Pt) 8 Jul (GL), good count.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last HANA 9 Jun (DSh).

Swainson's Thrush: last H 8 Jun; 1 Wolcott 5 Jul (W&MR).

Gray Catbird: total B 114 M Aug, high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 953 HB 2 Jun (AGu).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 N Wolcott WAYN Jun -5 Jul (W&MR).

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-2 S (Armitage Rd) Jun (mob), nesting.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 1B M 29 Jul, early.

Mourning Warbler: arr 2B M 25 Aug.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 50 M 1-31 Aug.

Am. Redstart: total B 58 M 1-31 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: 1B M 26 Jul (BBBO), Reg record early, recaptured 27 Jul; 1B M 14 Aug, also early.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 BB 24 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 1 Durand Eastman Park 8 Jun (KH).

Canada Warbler: arr OCP 16 Aug (SB, DH), early.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B M 5 Jun; arr 1 Mendon Ponds 28 Aug (J&AH).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 Nations Rd 8 Jul (DD); 2-4 Hamlin (Cook Rd) thru (sev); both known breeding sites.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 14 Nations Rd 19 Jun (JK), good count.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

White-throated Sparrow: last 1 Huckleberry Swamp WAYN 9 Jun (SS).

White-crowned Sparrow: last 1G 5 Jun (KG), late.

Bobolink: max 197 G (Hogan Pt) 25 Jul (CW), good count.

White-winged Crossbill: last 2 HB 1 Jun (AGu).

Red Crossbill: 1 BB 1 Jun (LT, *et al*); 8 HB 1 Jun (AGu, BriM); 2 HB 26 Jun (DTe); 2 Bergen Swamp 3 Jul (D&JW).

Pine Siskin: last 16 Jun HB (AGu) & Webster (PeM).

Evening Grosbeak: 1 Honeoye Lake 22 Jun (RS).