

REGION 2—GENESEE

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This summer was one of those rare ones with temperatures exactly on normal, with only two days reaching $> 90^{\circ}$ F and with precipitation up a bit but with fewer thunderstorms than usual. June was a benign month, with all the weekends dry and comfortable. Temperatures averaged 68.8° F, 2.6° above normal, and precipitation at 2.06" was 1.28" below normal. July was a cool, wet month. Any signs of warmth were cut off quickly by the next wave of cooler air. Thunderstorms and torrential rain brought flooding, especially south of Rochester. It was the coolest July since 2009. Temperatures averaged 69.3° , 1.5° below normal, and precipitation totaled 7.70", 4.37" above normal. It was our fourth wettest July, and the 2.42" on the 28th was a one-day record total. All the rainfall was accompanying patterns from Hudson's Bay; none was tropical in origin. August brought a quiet end to the summer. It seemed cool but was actually near normal. There were no 90° days, and a high of 67° one day was the coolest August high temperature since 2009. Temperatures averaged 68.2° , 1.1° below normal, and precipitation was low at 2.27", 1.20" below normal. A rain-free period from the 17th to the 30th was the longest dry spell of the season. Generally it was good birding weather, and monthly species counts well above their respective 10-year averages reflect this.

Once again, I will use an approach of looking at the season in three parts, end of spring migration, summer "breeding" season, and start of fall migration, though they all overlap in dates. The end of spring migration may be the fuzziest, as the official hawk counting and passerine banding operations end very early in June and many birders stop searching as diligently as in May. Among the waterbirds we had a good number of lingering species, especially diving ducks, but no real surprises or rarities other than a Snow Goose in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), likely the June bird that was also seen in the Montezuma NWR then and for the rest of the summer. At the Braddock Bay hawkwatch some counting continued into June, and the usual Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Broad-winged Hawks were seen as well as a late Rough-legged Hawk there on 1 June, with another Rough-leg at Hamlin Beach SP on the same day. The usual set of later migrating shorebirds was reported well into June, with most at a continuing wet area in the NMWMA south of Carncross Road and with a late Red-necked Phalarope the most interesting. A Laughing Gull was an uncommon find for the date at Hamlin Beach SP on 1 June. Among the passerines, again most were the expected late migrants, many banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) including: Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Traill's Flycatchers; Philadelphia Vireo; Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes; Tennessee, Magnolia, Bay-

breasted, Blackpoll, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers; and lone White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows.

Moving on to the heart of the "breeding season," June and July for North American Birds reporting, it should have been a good season for nesting birds given the generally good weather conditions. But with no concerted breeding bird study efforts reported—little or nothing from the several local MAPS efforts—there are only the casual observations from many birders. Mute and Trumpeter Swans were found with young in most of their known breeding locations. For Trumpeter Swan, the Atlantic Avenue site was again empty but a swamp on Drury Road in Wayne County held a pair with five young. Canada Goose, Wood Duck, and Mallard were the only widespread breeding waterfowl noted in substantial numbers. There were no surprises among those reported in smaller numbers. Among the raptors, the usual breeding species were reported, though there were again no reports of nesting Northern Goshawk and few of Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, likely mainly a search effort issue in the latter two cases.

A positive was a few more Common Gallinules reported from near the lakeshore west of Rochester than has been the case in recent years. Breeding shorebirds attract little attention in this Region, with Killdeer everywhere, Spotted Sandpiper decreasing, and the other few breeders secretive enough to be seldom reported after courtship flights cease. This year there were no reports on the local roof-top and parking-lot nesting colonies of Ring-billed Gull. Certainly the species was present in substantial numbers, and by late July juveniles were arriving on the local beaches from nearby breeding colonies. Caspian Terns with young also arrived in July but with peak counts down from 10-15 years ago. Moving along, we had no reports of the potentially breeding Eurasian Collared-Doves. Again Red-headed Woodpeckers did well at Hamlin Beach SP but were seldom reported from elsewhere in the Region. The Rochester Peregrine Falcons fledged four young, but there was only one report of a juvenile to suggest confirmed breeding for the local Merlin pairs. There were only a few reports of 1-2 Monk Parakeets in the 19-26 July period from the West Ridge Plaza area.

The large passerine order is very hard to assess without data from focused studies. Some positive observations include: Fish Crow numbers again strongly suggesting breeding in the Charlotte area of Rochester; Golden-winged Warbler hanging on in the North Wolcott area; "Lawrence's Warbler in the Town of Bristol, Ontario County; Prothonotary Warbler back in the Armitage road area in Wayne County; Clay-colored Sparrows at new locations in Oatka Creek Park and in the Town of Kent, Orleans County; and an intriguing female Yellow-headed Blackbird at a feeder in Irondequoit in late June not far from good cattail habitat. On the negative side were no Sedge Wren reports and no breeding reports for Blue-headed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Canada Warbler, all likely simply due to lack of searching or reporting rather than their actually not breeding locally.

There are always reports of summer birds hard to place, most likely just summer lingerers or wanderers. Some of these include: mid-June White-crowned Sparrow and 25 July White-throated Sparrow near Lake Ontario; adult Black-headed Gull at the end of July; lots of Lesser Black-backed Gulls all summer; Tennessee Warbler on 22 June at BBBO; and Ovenbird, Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-throated Green, and Wilson's Warblers all banded in July at BBBO, where none are known to breed really close by yet at dates that really stretch the idea of first fall migrants.

Finally on to fall migration. There can be numbers of shorebirds moving in late June. This year there was no evidence of that other than a Solitary Sandpiper on 18 June at Conesus Lake inlet; coming or going? Sixteen Common Terns on 28 June are likely early dispersal birds. In July many of the shorebirds arrived as expected, and rarer species with them included American Avocet and three Willets. Red-breasted Merganser and both regular loons in July are hard to assign, but again Red-necked Grebe arrived passing Hamlin Beach SP in late July and was then reported at scattered dates through August. Moving on into August we had the first few waterfowl arriving, mostly at Hamlin Beach, and also migrating loons plus a Horned Grebe reported. There was no focused hawk watch, but some good counts were noted at Braddock Bay by Mike Tetlow. Shorebird arrivals and passage continued with good species variety though weak numbers in this Region and only a couple of Willets and Buff-breasted Sandpiper as scarcer records. The only early jaegers were birds not identified to species on 27 & 28 August. Gull and tern counts were not great. A couple of surprises were a young Northern Saw-whet Owl banded at BBBO on 9 August and a calling E. Whip-poor-will in Irondequoit on 18 August. Essentially all of the migrant passerines that usually arrive in August or near the August/September border were reported, and most banded, in August this year. Half a dozen were at what would have been record early fall arrival dates when the historical distributions were compiled in 1984, but all have been reported at even earlier dates during the period since that data summary; we need an update.

In addition to these regular seasonal reports, there were two special rarities. The Region's fourth White-winged Dove was found by Chris Wood on 31 August just west of Manitou Road. Unfortunately, it was not relocated after that. The bird of the season was the State's first fully documented and photographed Kirtland's Warbler found by Andy Guthrie early on 1 June near the entrance to Hamlin Beach SP. He was able to get the word out quickly and many were able to see and photograph or record the bird through dusk that evening. As reported by Dominic Sherony in an article in the October 2014 issue of *New York Birder*, there have been several other reports in Western New York over many years, though none fully verified and satisfactorily documented for a first State record.

The local effort and results summaries for the season are also interesting. There were about 36,668 eBird records plus additional data from geneseebirds posts, BBBO banding records, and other inputs. For all three months the species lists recorded significantly exceeded their recent 10-year averages. In June, the

total of 193 species exceeded the previous high of 191 from the years tracked since 1974, and yet a birder doing a Big June located 216 species, unfortunately with details not provided. July's 174 was ten above the average, and the 196 species in August was second only to the high of 211 recorded in 2009.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – after a number of individuals indicates banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd MONR; CLI – Conesus L Inlet, including WMA marshes, LIVI; Cuy – Cuylerville area, LIVI; G – Greece, MONR; H – T of Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; M – Manitou, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah, WAYN; MP –

Mendon Ponds P, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma WMA, WAYN; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; OCP – Oatka Creek P, MONR; S-Savannah, WAYN; Spt – Sodus Point, WAYN.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) thru 2 June, late, injured.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 5 yg Drury Rd WAYN Aug, new confirmed breeding site.

Wood Duck: 60 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 June; max 61 HANA 16 Aug.

Gadwall: last NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun; HB 7 Aug (AGu), scarce in summer.

Am. Wigeon: arr HB 26 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 9 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 12 Aug, low.

N. Shoveler: last 2 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun, late; 1 CL 2 Aug (KC), scarce in summer.

N. Pintail: arr 8 NMWMA 14 Aug (AGu), Reg record early.

Green-winged Teal: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun; max 41 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 12 Aug.

Redhead: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun, late; arr BB 31 Aug (CW), early.

Ring-necked Duck: last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun, late.

Greater Scaup: arr HB 24 Aug (AGu), very early.

Lesser Scaup: last 2 Geneseo 18 Jun (KC), late; last NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 18 Jun IBA Monitoring), late.

White-winged Scoter: arr HB 27 Aug (AGu), early.

Long-tailed Duck: last HB 14 Jun (AGu), Reg record late.

Red-breasted Merganser: last 5 HB 14 Jun (AGu); 5 HB 3 Jul (AGu), scarce in summer; arr HB 17 Aug (AGu), early.

Ruddy Duck: last 2 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun.

Red-throated Loon: 2 HB 24 Jul; HB 2 Aug; scarce in summer.

Com. Loon: last 3 Hemlock L 15 Jun (KC), late; 1-2 HB 13-27 Jul; HB 14 Aug; scarce in summer.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 29 Aug (JeB, CW), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 27 Aug (AGu, *et al.*), Reg record early; 2 HB 7 Aug (AGu), early.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 434 HB 28 Aug (AGu).

Great Blue Heron: max 200 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 9-27 Jun (IBA Monitoring).

Great Egret: 1 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 15 Jun (PB), unusual date; max 39 MAC 30 Aug (DNI).

Turkey Vulture: 164 BB 2 Jun; max 230 Perinton Center P 25 Aug (MT).

HAWKS – TERNS

Bald Eagle: max 20 BB 2 Jun; nest Twin Hills Golf Club 10 Jun (JBo), new site.

N. Goshawk: 1 BB 26 Aug (MT), only rep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 Manitou Beach 26 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 195 BB 2 Jun (DaF); 58 HB 2 Jun.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 706 BB 26 Aug (MT).

Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 BB 1 Jun (DaF) & 1 HB 1 Jun (AGu, Bri&BroM, CS).

Com. Gallinule: 1 HANA 16-25 Jun; 3 singles BB area 30-31 Aug, few near lakeshore recent yrs.

Sandhill Crane: 1 MP 1 Jun (J&AH), interesting loc; 3-4 NMWMA thru (mob); 3 T Richmond ONTA 20 Aug (DCr).

AM. AVOCET (R2): Summerville Pier 14 Jul (BriM, J&AH)

Black-bellied Plover: last 7 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 6 Jun; arr & max 8 Perry Rd Flats LIVI 26 Aug.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Spt 25 Aug; max 12 SE of Cuylerville LIVI 26 Aug, low.

Semipalmated Plover: last MP 8 Jun; arr 10 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Conesus Lake Inlet 18 Jun (KC), coming or going?; arr HANA 17 Jul.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr HB 3 Jul (AGu).

Willet: 3 Spt 13 Jul (MT, JW, JPo, W&MR); 1 Summerville Pier 21 Aug (PaM); 1 OB 31 Aug (CW).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 7 Jul.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 4-5 Geneseo Airfield 21 Jul (JK).

Whimbrel: arr HB 25 Jul (R&SS); HB 24 Aug (AGu); HB 30 Aug (BriM).

Ruddy Turnstone: last HB 7 Jun; arr 1 Summerville Pier & 3 Spt 23 Jul.

Red Knot: arr 1 HB 25 Aug (AGu).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 27 Jul.

Sanderling: arr 4 Summerville Pier & 5 Spt 21 Jul; max 30 Spt 27 Aug (DWh).

Dunlin: last 5 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 7 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr OB 18 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 30 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) & 60 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 6 Jun (W&MR); arr 4 HB 12 Jul.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Summerville Pier 25 Jul (PaM, ph).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr Perry Rd Flats LIVI 27 Aug (JK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr HB 31 Jul.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 70 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 2 Jun (KB, TR); last 10 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 7 Jun; arr 2 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 15 Jul; max 160 MAC 30 Aug (TGK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr OB 7 Jul; max 38 MAC 30 Aug (DNu).

Short/Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 7 Jul (JTa, DWh).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MAC 27 Jul (BMc).

Red-necked Phalarope: 1 HB 21 Jun (KB, TR), Reg record late or record early.

jaeger sp: arr 1 HB 27, 28 Aug (AGu).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 115 BB 7 Jul, low.

Black-headed Gull: 1 ad HB 31 Jul (AGu), unusual date.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad HB 1 Jun (AGu, RG, JMc, LS, DWe).

Ring-billed Gull: max 2700 HB 10 Jul (PaM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 HB 14 Jun (AGu); 9 HB 20 Jun (AGu); 3-8 HB 3-18 Jul (AGu); max 10 HB 7 Jul (AGu); 2 Spt 24-25 Aug (MG, M&JT); 1 OB 31 Aug.

Caspian Tern: 45 OB 21 Jun (GF); max 135 Spt 24 Jul (MG); 110 Spt 18 Aug (JTa, DWh).

Black Tern: 1 G 3 Jun, scarce now along lakeshore; max 6 NMWMA 21 Jun.

Com. Tern: max 61 HB 27 Aug (AGu).

Forster's Tern: arr 2 Spt 13 Aug (JW).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Parma MONR 31 Aug (CW), 4th Reg record.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1B juv BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP).

Com. Nighthawk: last BB 1 Jun; max 24 G 1 Jun; last Honeoye Lake 15 Jun; arr Genesee Valley P 18 Aug.

E. Whip-poor-will: Irondequoit 18 Aug (GH), calling, unusual date.

Chimney Swift: 48 Honeoye 22 Jul (KS); max 130 York Central School LIVI 23 Jul (JK); 60 Rochester 21 Aug (JBa).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 12 HB 27 Aug (RD).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 32 Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA 12 Jul (R&SS), count.

Merlin: 3 rep Jun; 4 rep Jul; 6 rep Aug; 1 juv? Rochester 28 Jul (DP), known recent nesting area.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad, 4 yg Roch (falconcam) thru.

Monk Parakeet: 1-2 West Ridge Plaza area Rochester 19-26 Jul (AGu, mob).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1B BBBO 10 Jun; 1 Fairport 12 Jun (DD); arr 1 Conesus L Inlet 15 Aug (MW); 1 Riverside Cemetery Rochester 18 Aug (AGa); 3 Riverside Cemetery Rochester 18 Aug (ST); 1 Conesus L Inlet 22 Aug (KC).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 1B BBBO 13 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 11 Aug.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max 20B BBBO 1 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: last 5B BBBO 2 Jun; arr Greece 20 Aug (KG).

Red-eyed Vireo: total B 28 BBBO Aug.

Fish Crow: 1-8 areas near mouth of Genesee Ri thru, nesting likely; Beechwoods SP WAYN 21 Jun, 26 Jul (W&MR, JW); Wolcott 16 Jul (W&MR, DrF).

Com. Raven: 3 HANA 3 Jul (BCad), new loc; 2 ad, 2 yg Canadice L (S end trail) 14 Jun (R&SS).

Purple Martin: max 95 MAC 30 Aug.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 1B BBBO 2 Jun; 1B BBBO 29 Aug.

Swainson's Thrush: total B 14 BBBO 1-2 Jun; last Durand-Eastman P 14 Jun (KH); arr 1B BBBO 25 Aug.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1B BBBO 19 Aug, early.

Gray Catbird: total B 75 BBBO Aug, good number.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: 2B, 1B BBBO 16, 18 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for dates.

N. Waterthrush: 1B BBBO 1 Jun, unusual loc for date.

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 N Wolcott WAYN thru 22 Jun, 8 Jul (W&MR).

“Brewster's” Warbler: 1B BBBO 9 Aug.

“Lawrence's” Warbler: 1 T Bristol ONTA 15 Jun (KK).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1B BBBO 16 Jun (AP), recap 22 Jun; 1B BBBO 4 Jul, recap 16,

18 Jul (AP, EP); 1B BBBO 17 Jul, recap 18 Jul, unusual loc for dates (AP, EP); arr T Gates MONR 17 Aug.

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

Tennessee Warbler: last Beatty Pt, T Greece 5 Jun; 1 BBBO 22 Jun (AP), late; 1B, 2B, 1B BBBO 23, 25, 26 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B M 10 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: last 1B BBBO 5 Jun; 5 singles B BBBO 6, 17, 23, 24, 26 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 2B BBBO 28 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr 1B BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP), very early.

Com. Yellowthroat: total B 20 M 1-31 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: max 25 Letchworth SP 14 Jun (PaM), count in prime breeding loc.

Am. Redstart: max 28 HB – west end 4 Jun, good count; total B 28 BBBO 1-31 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1 Greece 23 Aug.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER: HB I Jun (AGu, mob), 1st fully doc State record, ph, recordings. **N. Parula:** last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1 ph Webster P 26 Jun (BMa), unusual loc for date; arr 1B BBBO 9 Aug (AP, EP), early.

Magnolia Warbler: last 2B BBBO 13 Jun, late; arr 1 M-Owl Woods 15 Aug (KH), early; total B 49 19 Aug thru.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1B BBBO 1 Jun; arr 1B BBBO 19 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr U of Rochester 27 Aug (JBa).

Yellow Warbler: total B 141 BBBO 20-26 Jul; total B 36 1-24 Aug.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr HB 23 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last 2 T Canadice ONTA 13 Jun (ST); arr 1B BBBO & 1 BB-East Spit 29 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 1B BBBO & 1 M-Owl Woods 1 Jun; 1B BBBO 4 Jul (AP, EP); arr 2B BBBO & 1 ICW 29 Aug.

Palm Warbler: 1B BBBO 18 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 HB 11 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 1 Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 13 Jun (ST).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 1B BBBO 24 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr ICW 29 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1B BBBO 13 Jun, late; arr 1B BBBO 18 Aug, early.

Wilson's Warbler: last 1B BBBO 7 Jun; 1B BBBO 14 Jul (AP, EP), unusual loc for date; arr 1B BBBO 27 Aug.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 OCP thru 18 Jun (JAd, ph), new loc; 2 & 1 Cook Rd, Hamlin 29 Jul (AGu) & 4 Jul (BriM), known breeding loc; T Kent ORLE 13 Jul (AGu), new loc.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 17 Nations Rd IBA 2 Jun (GL); 1 Big Field, Webster 30 Jun-6 Jul (JBo, NP, mob), singing m, new loc.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr BBBO 26 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: 1 Hemlock Lake 13 Jun (KC), potential breeding loc; BBBO 19 Jun (AP), late; T Macedon WAYN 25 Jul (KG), unusual loc for date.

Bobolink: max 61 Nations Rd IBA 2 Jun (GL), good count.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 f Irondequoit 20-23 Jun (CY, ph), *intro*.

Com. Grackle: max 343 H 29 Aug (AGu).

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