

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2018 was pleasant. The mean temperature was 67.2°F, 0.9° above average. Rain was light until later in the month, with a monthly total of 2.82" at the Buffalo airport, 0.84" below average. July was warm and mostly dry, with an average temperature of 74.4°, 3.3° above normal. Rainfall at Buffalo was 2.15",

1.08" below average. The very warm weather continued through August, with the mean temperature at 72.8°, 3.2° above normal. There was 3.62" of rain, 0.36" above average. Weather data excerpted from National Weather Service *Monthly Weather Summary* for Buffalo.

Among notable breeding reports, two **Trumpeter Swans** at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR raised six young and provided the first confirmed breeding record for Region 1. **Caspian Terns** again bred in Buffalo Harbor following last year's first confirmed Regional breeding. **Black Vultures** were again sighted in the Lewiston area consistent with recent summers; however, there is no confirmed breeding evidence yet.

The less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report were found mostly in their previously documented breeding areas. **Upland Sandpipers** were at Tillman Road WMA again, plus a mid-July report at Iroquois NWR and a nocturnal flyover in August. **Common Nighthawk** was only reported in Buffalo before late summer migrants arrived by mid-August. **Sandhill Cranes** were present in Iroquois NWR, although I'm not aware of confirmed breeding this year. **Merlins** bred at several locations, which has become the new normal. **Sedge Wrens** were at three locations. **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at four locations, all near Lake Ontario. **Prothonotary Warblers** were at Tonawanda WMA as usual, but nowhere else. It will be interesting to see how these species will fare in the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas that is approaching in less than two years.

Summer shorebirding was decent, with most highlights coming from along Lake Erie. The biggest highlights included a Regional maximum of **26 American Avocets** at Westfield on 15 July and a **Marbled Godwit** at Barcelona Harbor on 19 August; both were observed and photographed by Gale VerHague. There were four **Willet** reports, including a group of 11 at Brant on 5 August. **Whimbrel** were reported from three locations. Two to three **Red Knots** were found at Dunkirk Harbor 22-23 July, while another was found at Buffalo Harbor in late August. **Sanderlings** were reported in higher numbers than usual, which may have been the result of reportedly poor breeding for most shorebird species in the arctic.

Joel Strong was surprised to find an adult **Glaucous Gull** at Wilson Pier on 27 July, representing the first July record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Olcott on 11 June was notable but becoming consistent with more frequent summer reports. There were two **Black Tern** sightings in August, the only reports away from Iroquois NWR and vicinity which is the lone breeding area.

There was a good showing for both **Least Bittern** and **American Bittern**, a continuation from May. Dick Collins found a **Snowy Egret** at Tift NP in June and then Kevin Rybczynski found one at Times Beach NP three weeks later. There was likely one bird given that there were also sightings this summer along the Ontario side of the Niagara River.

Diving duck reports included Redhead at three locations and **Ring-necked Duck** at two locations, with lone sightings of Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, and

Bufflehead. Long-tailed Duck continued from spring on Lake Ontario until at least 7 June.

Late summer or “fall” migration for passerines was well reported but without notable concentrations or rare species. Seven **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** reports in August were more than usual for this species. A **“Brewster’s” Warbler** was identified in late August; perhaps more notable in that we went through another summer without any Golden-winged Warbler reports, though I’m not sure if anyone is really searching for this species. Hopefully there will be some out there to be discovered when atlas work starts in a few years. It was notable that Purple Martins did not congregate at the Grass Island roost in late summer this year.

A male **Summer Tanager** photographed by Kris and Mike Tripi in their yard in Rushford, Cattaraugus County on 20 June was the second summer record for this species. Both records have occurred in recent years, so it will be interesting to see if reports of this more southerly species will occur more regularly in the years ahead.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I, SP ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JAS** – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, CHAU; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, ORLE/GENE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: Ellery ChauL 22 Jun; DH 23 Jun thru; 6 Wilson NIAG 29 Jul; max 11 WTSP 20 Aug; 6 Carlton ORLE 27 Aug.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad + 6 yg INWR 15 Jun thru; first confirmed nesting in Reg.

Wood Duck: max 82 INWR 9 Jun.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Tift NP 10 Jul; 2 BuSP 19 Jul; max 50 TWMA 30 Aug.

N. Shoveler: TBNP 3 Jun; Hamburg ERIE 21 Jun; 2 BWWTP 5, 12 Jul; Buffalo NR 30 Aug; only reports.

Gadwall: 3, 1 BWWTP 6 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 Tift NP 12 Aug; only reports.

Am. Wigeon: Amherst ERIE 6 Jun; LBSP 17 Jul; Grand Island NR 16 Aug; only reports.

Am. Black Duck: max 3 Barcelona CHAU 28 Jul; 2 Ellery ChauL 31 Aug.

N. Pintail: max 2 TWMA 30 Aug.
Green-winged Teal: 2, 4 INWR 24 Jun, 7 Jul; max 8 LBSP 31 Aug.
Redhead: 2, 1 BWWT 13 Jun, 12 Jul; 2 BuFH 31 Jul; 2 Leon CATT 24 Aug, unusual loc.
Ring-necked Duck: INWR 3, 9 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); only reports.
Greater Scaup: Buffalo NR 31 Aug, only report.
Lesser Scaup: BWWT 21 Jul, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: last PB 7 Jun (CM).
Bufflehead: INWR 9 Jun (AG), only report.
Com. Merganser: max 41 DH 8 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 13 FNSP 3 Jun; Barcelona CHAU 23 Jun, 29 Aug.
Ruddy Duck: 30, 24, 12 BWWT 6 Jun, 5 Jul, 4 Aug, reg loc in sum; 3 INWR 7 Jun.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 21 INWR 31 Aug.
Com. Nighthawk: 1, 1, 8 Buffalo ERIE 24 Jun, 22 Jul, 19 Aug; arr 2 Ellery CHAU 17 Aug; five other Aug reps.
Chimney Swift: max 125 NF 10 Aug.

RAILS - LARIDS

Virginia Rail: Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 1, 26 Jun; 2 N Harmony CHAU, 2 CSWMA 16 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; 2, 5 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul, 11 Aug; 6 TBNP 29 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Sora: CSWMA 18, 24 Jun; 4 Kiantone CHAU 28 Jul; only reports away from INWR and vicinity.
Am. Coot: max 10 INWR 20 Jun; DH 14-29 Jul; BuSP 29 Jul.
Com. Gallinule: max 30 INWR 31 Aug.
Sandhill Crane: 3, 4, 5 INWR 24 Jun, 27 Jul, 19 Aug; max 9 Shelby ORLE 18 Aug (DeS).
Am. Avocet: 26 Westfield CHAU 15 Jul (GV, ph!), Reg max, only report.
Black-bellied Plover: last Yates ORLE 4 Jun; arr 2, 3 Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Aug; Ridgeway NIAG 3 Aug; BuFH 12 Aug.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 3 Wellsville ALLE 19 Aug (DC).
Semipalmated Plover: arr DH 22 Jul; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.
Killdeer: max 82 Oakfield GENE 9 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 TRWMA 20 Jun; INWR 18 Jul; Grand Island ERIE 8 Aug (AH), nocturnal migrant.
Whimbrel: arr BWWT 21 Jul; 3 DH 22 Jul; max 4 Olcott NIAG 25 Jul; only reports.
MARBLED GODWIT (R1): Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug (GV, ph!), rare.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, 5 DH 22, 23 Jul; 2 LBSP 23 Jul; Wilson NIAG 27 Jul, 7 Aug; Olcott NIAG 31 Jul; Barcelona CHAU 11 Aug; 2 PB 15 Aug; 3 Buffalo NR 30 Aug.
Red Knot: arr 2, 3 DH 22, 23 Jul (GV); BuFH 28-31 Aug (PY); only reports.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr LBSP 23 Jul; max 3 John White WMA GENE 5 Aug.
Sanderling: arr BWWT 21 Jul; 46, 36 DH 22 Jul, 18 Aug; 48 WoBSP 27 Jul; max 55 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 12 Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug; higher numbers than usual.
Dunlin: PB 9 Jun; last Wilson NIAG 24 Jun (AG).
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1, 1 BuFH 19, 31 Aug; only reports.
Least Sandpiper: arr LBSP 8 Jul; max 62 TWMA 5 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BuFH 19 Aug; Wilson NIAG 21 Aug; Buffalo ERIE 25-30 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 TWMA & 3 Ischua CATT 5 Aug; max 7 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 20 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last PB 9 Jun; arr PB 12 Jul; max 255 LBSP 23 Jul (DB, CM); 44 TWMA.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr LBSP & Pomfret CHAU 17 Jul; max 3 DH 23 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 3 Jamestown CHAU & 2 Royalton NIAG 10 Jul; max 10 Franklinville CATT 5 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 13 INWR 7 Jul; max 20 TWMA 30 Aug.
Willet: arr DH 9 Jul, early; Barcelona CHAU 24 Jul; max 11 Brant ERIE 5 Aug (AT, MJ); TWMA 6 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr LBSP 17 Jul; max 14 TWMA 30 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: PB 24 Jun; Buffalo NR 26 Jun; TWMA 14 Jul; max 40 NF 25 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Olcott NIAG 11 Jun (WD), only report.
GLAUCOUS GULL: ad Wilson NIAG 27 Jul (JS, ph!), first Jul record.
Caspian Tern: 230 BuFH 2 Jun, nested for 2nd year in a row; 40 Ellery ChauL 15 Jul.
Black Tern: max 30 INWR 26 Jun; N Collins ERIE 5 Aug (SB); BeSP 23 Aug.
Com. Tern: max 100 BuFH 4 Jul.

LOONS - PARROTS

Com. Loon: 5 PB 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 23 Aug.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 BuFH 2 Jun; 500 NF 13 Jul.

Am. Bittern: 3 INWR 9, 15 Jun; JAS 5 Jul; Cuba ALLE 13 Jul (DC); TBNP 27 Jul; TWMA 5 Aug; good showing.

Least Bittern: 2 INWR 6, 19 Jun; N Harmony CHAU 16 Jun (TL); max 5 Tift NP 16 Jun; 2, 3, 3 TBNP 30 Jul, 2, 25 Aug; Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul (JG); good showing.

Great Egret: 20 INWR 4 Jun; Sinclairville CHAU 25 Jun; max 42 TWMA 5 Aug.

SNOWY EGRET: Tift NP 19 Jun (DCo); TBNP 11 Jul (KR); probably same bird that was also seen along Niagara R on Canadian side.

Black Vulture: Lewiston NIAG 10, 27 Jul, year round resident at this loc.

Osprey: well reported from known breeding locs.

Bald Eagle: well reported from known breeding locs; max 6 DH 23 Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: GHSP 24, 26 Aug, unusual loc.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 TBNP 3 Jun; max 5 FNSP 11 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 4 Jul; Buffalo ERIE 5 Jul; 3 N Tonawanda NIAG 8 Jul; Westfield CHAU 15 Jul; 4 LBSP 29 Jul; 4 Sheridan CHAU 12 Aug.

Merlin: 2 ad + y, 3 Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun, 29 Jul (PY); Jamestown CHAU 29 Jun (JB); Lakewood CHAU 10, 16 Jul (TS); reps multi loc Aug, likely wanderers or migr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr TBNP 19 Aug; Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 19, 30 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun; arr 1, 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 7, 24 Aug; 1, 2 TBNP 19, 24 Aug; six oth Aug reps; good showing.

Acadian Flycatcher: last Gaines ORLE 16 Aug.

E. Kingbird: 17 LBSP 17 Aug; max 30 TWMA 27 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TBNP 19 Aug.

Purple Martin: 163, 167 BWWT 24 Jun, 1 Jul; max 235 Shelby ORLE 20 Jun; 170 OOWMA 12 Jul.

Tree Swallow: max 300 TWMA 5 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: max 50 Dayton Gravel Ponds CATT 28 Jul.

Barn Swallow: max 100 DH 8 Aug.

Sedge Wren: 1, 2 Yates ORLE 4, 8 Jul (WD, JS, DD, DoS); Leon CATT 11 Jul (R&DR); John White WMA 18 Jul (CH); only reports.

Swainson's Thrush: last 2 Buffalo ERIE & INWR 9 Jun; arr Wilson NIAG 16 Aug.

Purple Finch: max 9 Fredonia CHAU 7 Aug.

Pine Siskin: rep 8 loc Jun; Wilson NIAG 17 Jul, 11, 14 Aug (WD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 3, 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Jun, 5 Jul; Somerset NIAG 1, 8 Jul; 2 LBSP 4 Jul; 2 Carlton ORLE 6 Jul; becoming more regular along L Ontario.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Bethany GENE 2 Jun; Waterport ORLE 8 Jun; Yates ORLE 4 Jul; Somerset NIAG 13 Jul; Farmersville CATT 23 Jul; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: rep9 loc; max 4 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Jul.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 Harmony CHAU 17 Jun (TL); Carlton Hill MUA WYOM 8 Jul; Forestville CHAU 13 Aug; only reps away from ALLE, CATT.

Bobolink: max 80 INWR 9 Aug; 75 Ischua CATT 31 Aug.

Orchard Oriole: rep 15 loc Jun, good showing; 2 AISP 2 Jun; CSWMA 3 Jun; Wellsville ALLE 12 Jun; 2 JAS 16 Jul; last Barcelona CHAU 19 Aug.

Com. Grackle: max 1050 Lewiston Res NIAG 11 Aug.

Ovenbird: arr TBNP 8 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: rep only 4 loc.

N. Waterthrush: arr AmSP 14 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: GHSP 26 Aug (WD), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: Almond ALLE 4, 11 Jun; Alfred ALLE 9 Jun; Willing ALLE 27, 28 Jul; arr Buffalo ERIE 13 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 3 TWMA 9 Jun; reg breeding loc.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Orchard Park ERIE 13 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: WFWMA 11 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 26 Jul; arr DH 12 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: arr Tift NP 15 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Aug; max 6 FNSP 22 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 INWR 4, 30 Jun; AISP 24 Jun; last Royalton NIAG 8 Aug.

N. Parula: max 4 AISP 2, 23-30 Jun; Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 12 Jun; Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 23 Jun (GC), unusual loc; arr Ellery CHAU 19 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 WoBSP 19 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 9 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr NF 14 Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr WoBSP 17 Aug.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 2 Hanging Bog WMA
ALLE 25 Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr NFSP &
Tift NP 25 Aug.
Palm Warbler: arr TWMA 30 Aug
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr WoBSP 12
Aug.
Prairie Warbler: rep 5 locations.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TBNP 19
Aug.
Canada Warbler: last Wilson NIAG 3 Jun;
max 5 Keeney Swamp SF ALLE 15 Jun; arr
AmSP 13 Aug.
Wilson's Warbler: arr TBNP 23 Aug.
SUMMER TANAGER: Rushford ALLE 20
Jun (K&MT, ph!), unexpected; 2nd summer
record.