

Records Report

1. A warm, humid, almost tropical month. Temperatures averaged 73.8°F, 3.1° above normal. Warm muggy nights were the rule and in the last half month only two days dropped below 65° at any time. No 90° days, but five days hit 89°, and all maxima were > 70°. It was the 7th warmest August on record. Precipitation totaled 2.55", 0.76" below normal. There was light rain on 14 days, but the only significant rainfall was 0.74" on 1-2 August. The longest dry stretch was four days, 3-6 August.

2. The total number of species reported was again over 200, with good numbers of shorebirds (26) and warblers (26) and at least five rarities - Western Sandpiper, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawk, and Yellow-headed Blackbird - depending on how one assigns that term. Many birders were again still doing Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) work. The close "misses" were Black-billed Cuckoo, Winter Wren, and Cerulean Warbler. The few others were only few irregular arrivals and breeding birds that require dedicated searching by this time of year. There were again a few good finds just short distances outside our region. A total of 350 new bands at the BBBO banding station was back to the 2019 level, mainly due to only one day of banding in the first half month. The eBird download at 35,068 was down about 10 % from last year, certainly influenced by the muggy, damp month and being into a different type of BBA effort.

3. Waterfowl reported were relatively poor in both the numbers of species and individuals. The only really good count was 650 Mallards in the NMWMA. Early or rarer summer visitant diving ducks included: Red-head, White-winged Scoter, and Bufflehead. The major increasing trend for the season was the number of waterbirds, including waterfowl species not seen much in summer near the Lake Ontario shore, present all summer. There was a decent Pied-billed Grebe count from the NMWMA and small numbers of Red-necked Grebe seen passing Hamlin Beach on multiple dates starting on the 14th. Once again, a rare Eurasian Collared Dove was sighted at Hamlin Beach SP; keeps open the questions around why the species has not increased in our region, as it has in many areas across the country. Common Nighthawk was first reported the 2nd, with only small numbers after that. 717 eBird lines for Ruby-throated Hummingbird was another increase. Again, much additional analysis

would be required to extract meaning.

4. Among the Rails, Gallinule, Coot, and Sandhill Crane reports numbers were again low due the habitat issues. Common Gallinule provided the best count at 161 in an area not especially actively birded in the past, the NMWMA (Guy Baldassarre Marsh) area.

5. Lake Ontario water levels were back above average, spotty heavy rains left the NMWMA flooded, and most fields were not harvested and disked, so the bulk of the shorebirding was from the BB-ES site or in birds passing lakeshore sites. The only rarer records included a large flock of 75 Whimbrel, a Hudsonian Godwit, an immature Western Sandpiper, several Willets, and several Wilson's Phalaropes. Another now-scarcer species reported was Upland Sandpiper. Other shorebird counts in our region were low.

6. Late in the month, a Long-tailed Jaeger and another jaeger not identified to species were spotted passing Hamlin Beach SP. There were no really rare gulls or terns reported and only one adult Lesser Black-backed Gull. Peak counts for all were relatively low.

7. Small numbers of Common Loon were scattered through the month, mostly passing Hamlin Beach. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were good at the usual Lake Ontario shore and bay sites. On the 23rd, hawkwatchers had a nice surprise in a **Wood Stork** up soaring with a kettle of Red-tails. No big heron and egret counts this year.

8. No Black Vulture this month. The region's 7th **Swallow-tailed Kite**, photographed over the Town of Rush on the 16th, was another nice surprise. Volunteers again staffed a formal hawkwatch this month at Braddock Bay. The peak counts were: 46 Turkey Vultures, 19 Bald Eagles, 94 Broad-winged Hawks, and 502 Red-tailed Hawks (on the 10th). A Swainson's Hawk on the 26th was a summer rarity here. The total of 3107 raptors tallied was close to last year's tally. American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon sightings were few. The Rochester Peregrine Falcon story can be followed on rfalconcam.com.

9. Again, all of the really expected passerine species were reported. The only outstanding rarity was Yellow-headed Blackbird, but some of the scarcer or more interesting species included: Olive-sided Flycatcher; White-crowned Sparrow; and Prothonotary Warbler, the last still present on Armitage Rd. plus one in Ellison Park. The only "decent" count was Ce-

dar Waxwing. Others were low; reporting or presence issues? More illustrations can be found in the Noteworthy Records table to be posted on the RBA website.

10. Please submit reports to eBird, post them on geneseebirds, and/or send by the 5th of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2021	2020	10-year Average
Species for September	205	207	198.0
New for the year	9	5	5.2
Total for the year to date	283	278	276.2

Observers:

Judith Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Diane Bailargeon, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, BBBO (Andrea Patterson), Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Bender, Linda Clark Benedict, Steven Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Kyle Brock, Janet Brooks, Mark Brown, Logan Brunner, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Jared Clark, Kelly Close, Jeremy Collison, Doug Daniels, Willie D’Anna, Peggy Dempsey, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Daena Ford, George Ford, Jill Frier, Jim Fry, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Bill Gillette, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Karla Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Mike Gullo, Andy Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Bill Haake, Chris & Helen Haller, Kim Hartquist, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Alec Humann, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura Kammermeier, David Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Clayton Kusse, Mike Laird, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb,

Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Patrick Marr, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Randall McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Arthur McDermott, Daniel McDermott, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Ann McMican, Phil McNeil, Scott Meagher, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Randi Minetor, Adrielle Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Leah Mould, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Les Preston, Doug & Elizabeth Rabjohns, RBA Field Trips, Neal Reilly, Rosemary Reilly, Susan Roberts, Dave Robertson, Victoria Rothman, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Kevin Rybczynski, Jackie Salsbury, Erin Sandle, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Rick Stevens, Wendy Stevenson, Joel Strong, Gerri Sweet, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, Jeanne & Thomas Verhulst, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Laura Weir, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Jim Wood. Plus many of the 360 eBird observers.



Whimbrel - Braddock Bay East Spit - © Eunice Thein - Aug 09, 2021