

July 2020 Sighting Notes:

Flip the switch from last July to a cool, wet month this year. Temperatures averaged 69.6°F, 2.7° below normal. There was only one day above 90° and 11 days above 80°, eight days below the average. Temperatures were also variable, with only six days the longest stretch for periods either above or below average. The 5th saw the warmest day. Precipitation totaled 7.66", 3.56" above normal, making it the 5th wettest July on record. There were 20 days with rainfall, 11 of these heavy, another July record. The longest stretch without measurable rainfall was four days, a record short interval. The 3.03" on 17 July broke the old record of 2.04" set in 1873 and was the 13th wettest day in Rochester weather records. Damaging thunder storms occurred on the 20th, with the hardest hit areas west of Rochester seeing damage from high winds and hail (to tennis ball size in Lewiston, Region 1!). The month ended with a relatively quiet period from 22-29 July and a cold front pushing south to end that.

Typical of July, there were few waterfowl reports and numbers were low other than for Mute Swan. The most interesting story was the number of puddle duck species lingering around the Braddock Bay barrier-beach island, many all month. Most of these species have been present, at least irregularly, as summer visitors or even as breeding species in the past, but the variety and number of species this year is surprising. In contrast, their presence and numbers reported from the NMWMA this year were way down. The diving ducks very were scarce. Only Ring-necked Duck and Ruddy Duck were reported from the Braddock Bay site and the regularly breeding Hooded and Common Mergansers a bit more widely.

Pied-billed Grebe was still present in fairly good numbers in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit), but monitoring was made difficult by the current state of the vegetation there. Cuckoo numbers were good in areas with major gypsy moth outbreaks. There were 614 lines in eBird for Ruby-throated Hummingbird, up quite a bit from the usual numbers. Back at the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit), the vegetation status greatly reduced counts of Common Gallinule and American Coot there, and their maxima were at the Guy Baldassarre Marsh not too far away. Sandhill Cranes reports were also low, with the maximum only five birds.

Again, 20 shorebird species reported to start the fall migration. Much of the action was around the barrier beach island off the East Spit of Braddock Bay. Some of the scarcer species included Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, the

first Long-billed Dowitcher of the year, and Willet. Black-bellied Plover and American Golden-Plover were not reported. Counts remained on the low side.

Bonaparte's Gull was seen through June and into this month in enough numbers to make assignment of departure and arrival dates meaningless. Gull counts were generally low. Rarer species for the month were an Iceland Gull continuing off and on along the lakeshore and several observations of Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Once again, tern counts were generally low, with the peak for Black Tern only five at the NMWMA (Guy Baldassarre Marsh).

No loons were reported; the Double-crested Cormorant peak was only 119 at Point Breeze, likely just outside our region; Great Blue Heron and Great Egret tallies were low; and no rarer large waders were reported in our region. It was a different story only a short distance outside into Region 3, with Wood Stork and Roseate Spoonbill arriving and staying. An unofficial summer hawk watch at Braddock Bay was not really organized and active until just after month's end. There was only one Red-shouldered Hawk report and a few Broad-winged Hawk reports, nearly all from areas south of Rochester. Continuing to follow Red-headed Woodpecker, there were 23 reports of about 16 individuals from nine locations this month. The three regular falcons were recorded in typical numbers, with American Kestrel up a bit. The ralconcam.com website continued to try to keep track of the downtown Peregrine Falcons.

Typical of recent years, essentially all of the regularly reported passerine species were recorded. The "missing" were again just some of the warblers requiring special effort searching in the forests south of Rochester or in other limited habitats – Louisiana Waterthrush, Nashville

Photo caption: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Plains Road, Hunt, NY, RBA Field Trip Barnhart's Camp, ©Jeanne Verhulst, June 27, 2021



Warbler, and Canada Warbler. Sedge Wren, Clay-colored Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler, and Prairie Warbler each were reported and would fall into a scarcer-species grouping. Pine Siskin showed up in Webster late in the month. Both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows were reported from sites where usually not seen in the summer. The Noteworthy Records table on the RBA website contains additional illustrations.

Some general observations are almost a bit confusing. The eBird data download for the month at about 41,541, after removal of out-of-region data from an initial download of 52,536, was up almost 15% from last July. This seems surprising with all the rain, but eBird participation continues to increase generally, there was lots of NY BBA work in progress, and increased waterbird activity around the barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay attracted lots of birder attention. The effects of these seem present in the details. On the downside, this year we lack both banding data and Jim Adams' regular Oatka Creek Park monitoring report.

Please submit reports to eBird, post them on genesee-birds, 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 July | 179 | 187 | 176.1 |
| New for the year | 1 | 4 | 2.7 |
| Total for the year to date | 274 | 273 | 271.0 |



Black-crowned Night Heron (Juv) - Braddock Bay East Spit
- © Eunice Thein - Aug 09, 2021

Observers:

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Osvaldo Araya, Kevin Armstrong, Daniel & Eileen Baldassarre, Ted Barnett, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Betty Beckham, Don Bemont, Linda Clark Benedict, Steve Benedict, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Alan Bloom, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Toni Bowen, Lynn Brand, Joe Brin, Erik Brodsky, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Denis Caysinger, Robert Cicotta, Larry Chen, Kelly Close, Richard Cohen, Jeremy Collison, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Gordon Dutter, Diane Egan, Mark Fitzsimmons, Peacock Flower, George Ford, Jim Fry, Andrew Gaerte, Kyle Gage, Andrew Garland, Janis George, Jessica George, Michelle Gianvecchio, Candy Giles, Christopher Goetz, James Goetz, John Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Jane Graves, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Michael Gullo, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Andrew Guthrie, Chris Guthrie, Bill Haake, Helen & Chris Haller, Julie Hart, Kim Hartquist, August Hazel, Jim & Allison Healy, Scott Hess, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Lynn Howes, Marshall Iliff, Pam Inzinna, Carolyn Jacobs, Alyssa Johnson, Nicholas Kachala, Amy Kahn, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, David Kennedy, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Ethan Lai, Michael Laird, Chris Lajewski, Greg Lawrence, Gayle Lazoration, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Andrew Mason, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Bill McConnell, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Kaley McHale, Ann McMican, Scott & Sophie Meagher, Kimberly Merchant, Jim Miles, Kent Millham, Phil Mills, Celeste Morien, Jack Morrell, Brian & Brooke Morse, Jim Mott, Linda Mott, Sheila Mumpton, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Hollis Noble, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Michael Palermo, Gary Palmer, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Neal Reilly, Rhonda Roaring, Susan Roberts, Rochester Young Birders Club, Brian Rohrs, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Robert Ryan, Erin Sandle, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Dominic Sherony, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Wendy Stevenson, Allan Strong, James Sullivan, June Summers, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Bruce Thompson, Geoff Twardokus, Nathan Ukens, Alison Van Keuren, Jeanne & Tom Verhulst, Matthew Voelker, Jules Wagner, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Kim Weeks, Deb Weltsch, Wyatt Westerkamp, Kinsley Whittum, Sean Williams, Angus Wilson, Joe & Joyce Wing, Glen Wolford, Paul Wolter, Chris Wood, Jim Wood.