

August 2016 Sightings Report

This month was the warmest August and the second warmest month on record for Rochester. Still, it was not a month of extremes; just consistent hot days and warm nights. There was only one record high tied on the 12th and record high lows on the 12th and 13th. We were also high in the all time lists for August with ten 90° days (3rd) and 29 days >80° (new record). Temperatures averaged 75.9 °F, 6.6° above normal. Precipitation at 3.91" was 0.44" above normal. This was the wettest month since September 2015 and the first above normal since May of this year. The month deepened the ongoing drought through the first half, then some rain storms, including heavy rains in the last week of the month, brought some local relief. Generally, fronts were weak and there were no major pushes of migrants.

The total number of species reported was still above average at 198. There were again no major misses, just a few birds that sometimes arrive on the early end of their date distributions, but not this year. Warblers seemed slow in arriving, but 26 species were reported, and it was just numbers that were slow in increasing. BBBO banding was off to a slow start. About 19,570 eBird records were reported.

Waterfowl numbers were mainly low, with most arrivals and higher numbers from the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area. Diving ducks were missing other than a surprise Common Goldeneye seen passing Hamlin Beach by Andy Guthrie, the usual Hooded and Common Mergansers, and an early Red-breasted Merganser. With low water almost everywhere except Lake Ontario, reports of waterfowl nesting success were few. As is typical, a few Common Loons and Red-necked Grebes were seen at Hamlin Beach early in the month.

Double-crested Cormorant made the local news with the numbers increasing and nesting in Irondequoit Bay and large flocks seen foraging along the Lake Ontario shore. There was a large gathering of Great Blue Herons feeding in the Shore Acres ponds west of Rochester for most of the month. Again, there were no reports of rarer, wandering, post-breeding herons in the region.

Mike Tetlow and several others spent some time observing at the hawk watch and caught a pretty good summer flight on the 5th, with some of the peak counts noted in the noteworthy table. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings also were typical of recent years, but again with no details on Merlin nesting success in the region.

The drought resulted in very limited shorebird habitat, compounded by high Lake Ontario levels. Fortunately,

there is a new wetland near the Morgan Road DEC office, and this held good numbers of shorebirds as well, and other waterbirds, through the month. Observations there and on the beaches and piers and of passing birds on Lake Ontario produced a good shorebird species list and even some good counts. A Willet at Sodus Bay was the only "rarer" find until Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes were seen late in the month. Also later in the month, American Golden-Plovers and some good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were located in fields west of Rochester.

The passage and gathering of gulls and terns was slow in developing, but a Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger was seen passing Hamlin Beach, at least two Little Gulls were seen there, and an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found on the Summerville Pier.

Once again, one of the elusive Eurasian Collared-Doves appeared to a lucky few at the Greenwell farm on Church Road in Hamlin.

Among the passerines, all of the really expected species plus a scattering of the less regular for this month were reported, but there were no particularly rare species until we get to a female Yellow-headed Blackbird found and photographed on the piers at the mouth of Sodus Bay on the 21st. Similarly to last year, there were 26 species of warblers reported, though numbers were low, and many did not appear until near the end of the month. An interesting event was the reporting of a very red Baltimore Oriole at a feeder in Dansville. Following up, Andrea Patterson found that this is a previously reported phenomenon associated with the birds eating the berries of an alien honeysuckle at just the right time during molt. BBBO banders took blood and samples from several individuals to determine their sex and to test for the presence of the relevant carotenoids. Their photos show some very interesting coloration in some of the individuals. Finally, a White-winged Crossbill passing the lake watch at Hamlin Beach might give us hopes of a finch winter ahead.

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.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	10-year Average <u>(2005-2014)</u>
Total species for August	198	202	191.0
New species for the year	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5.9</u>
Total for the year to date	277	275	275.4

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

August 2016 Observers: Jim Adams, Janet Akin, John Ballou, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Sue Barth, BBBO, Doug Beattie, Don Bemont, Mike Bergin, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Bruce Cady, Doug Cameron, Brad Carlson, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Kathy Kirsch, Mark & Kelly Fitzsimmons, George Ford, Drew Fowler, Kenny Frisch, Andrew Garland, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Mike Gullo, Andy Guthrie, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Chris & Helen Haller, Kim Hartquist, Sam Heinrich, Dick Horsey, Bill Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Logan Kahle, Nichoas Kachala, Tom Kerr, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Dana LaVanture, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Pat Martin, Donna Mason-Spier, Lauri Mattle, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Allen Nash, Ann Nash, David Nicosia, Dan Niven, David Nutter, Andrea Patterson, Jim Pawlicki, Scott Peterson, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Fernando Riera, Richard Rosche, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jennifer Rycenga, Ed Sailor, Robin Salisbury, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Kimberly Sucey, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Sarah Toner, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Matthew Voelker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Eileen & Tom Wheeler, Alex Wiebe, Joe Wing. Plus approx. 59 other eBird observers.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

AUGUST 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Trumpeter Swan	1	10	<u>I-90, Pittsford</u>	M. Morgante
Trumpeter Swan	1	28	<u>Ridge Rd, T Williamson, Wayne Co.</u>	M. Gullo
Wood Duck	<u>max 75</u>	13	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan
Gadwall	<u>6</u>	13	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan
American Wigeon	3	<u>30</u>	Conesus Lake Inlet	K. Close
American Black Duck	<u>max 6, low</u>	14	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	J. McGowan
Blue-winged Teal	<u>max 20, low</u>	14	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	M. Bergin
Northern Shoveler	6	<u>5FF</u>	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	F. Riera
Northern Pintail	1	<u>28FF</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	D. Nutter, <i>et al.</i>
Green-winged Teal	8	<u>12FF</u>	NMWMA (Carnecross Rd)	M. Gullo
Common Goldeneye	1	<u>6</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Red-breasted Merganser	1	<u>7</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie, W. D'Anna
Common Loon	2	<u>4</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>max 28</u>	14	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	RBA Field Trip
Red-necked Grebe	5	<u>6</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Red-necked Grebe	3	<u>7</u>	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>300</u>	20	Sodus Bay	D. Daniels
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>350</u>	21	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>max 880</u>	27	Ontario Beach area	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Great Blue Heron	<u>max 84</u>	23	<u>Shore Ares (Hamlin)</u>	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Great Egret	<u>max 26</u>	13	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 61</u>	5	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	M. Tetlow, E. Sailor
Bald Eagle	<u>max 75</u>	5	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	M. Tetlow, E. Sailor, D. Niven
Broad-winged Hawk	<u>max 75</u>	5	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	M. Tetlow, E. Sailor
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 542</u>	5	Braddock Bay - Hawkwatch	M. Tetlow, E. Sailor
Common Gallinule	<u>max 41; 40</u>	9; 14	NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit)	K. Burdick; RBA Field Trip
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 18</u>	14	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	RBA Field Trip
Sandhill Crane	<u>max 18</u>	22	NMWMA (Marrten Tract)	K. Burdick
Sandhill Crane	2	31	<u>Allen's Hill Rd area</u>	K. Kirsch
Black-bellied Plover	1	<u>16FF</u>	Conesus Lake Inlet	K. Close
American Golden-Plover	1	<u>18F</u>	Church Rd (Hamlin)	A. Guthrie
Semipalmated Plover	<u>max 105</u>	11	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	D. Sherony, R. Buckert
Killdeer	<u>max 170</u>	21	Church Rd (Hamlin)	P. Martin
<u>Willet</u>	1	16	Sodus Point	W. & M. Rowley
Upland Sandpiper	<u>max 9</u>	20	RT. 256, Conesus, Livingston Co.	K. Close
Stilt Sandpiper	<u>max 10</u>	28	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	S. Heinrich, L. Kahle, S. Toner, A. Wiebe

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

AUGUST 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Sanderling	<u>max 21</u>	21	Ontario Beach area	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Baird's Sandpiper	1	10F	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
Least Sandpiper	<u>max 400</u>	10	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
White-rumped Sandpiper	<u>max 12</u>	10	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	<u>21F</u>	Church Rd (Hamlin)	A. Guthrie, sev
	<u>max 14, Reg</u>			
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<u>RH</u>	<u>24</u>	Church Rd (Hamlin)	A. Guthrie
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<u>11-1</u>	<u>25-27</u>	Church Rd (Hamlin)	mob
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<u>5</u>	<u>27</u>	Transit & Byron Rds.	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<u>max 250</u>	13	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	13FF	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	S. Peterson
Wilson's Phalarope	1	30E-31	HANA	M. Gullo, mob
Red-necked Phalarope	1	22F	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
<u>Parasitic/Long-tailed</u>				A. Guthrie, W. D'Anna, D.
<u>Jaeger</u>	1	22F	Hamlin Beach SP	Sherony
Bonaparte's Gull	<u>max 68, low</u>	20	Braddock Bay	Bri. Morse
Little Gull	2 ad	7FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie, W. D'Anna
Little Gull	1 ad	7FF	Hamlin Beach SP	B. & B. Morse
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 ad	26	Summerville Pier	P. Martin
Common Tern	<u>max 57</u>	31	Ontario Beach area	A. Guthrie
				R. Spahn, T. Smith; N.
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1	30; 31	Hamlin (Greenwell Farm)	Kachala
Common Nighthawk	1	15FF	Macedon	J. Powell
Chimney Swift	<u>300-400</u>	28	York Central School, Greiggsville	J. Kimball
American Kestrel	<u>max 7</u>	16	Sand Rd, W. Bloomfield	D. Beattie
	<u>15 rep, 15</u>			
Merlin	<u>ind</u>	5-28	sev	sev
Peregrine Falcon	<u>9 rep, 10 ind</u>	20-30	sev	sev
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	19FF	Victor	B. Bermudez
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1B	17FF	HANA	D. LaVanture
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<u>total B 12</u>	17-30	Manitou	BBBO
Least Flycatcher	<u>total B 21</u>	15-30	Manitou	BBBO
Philadelphia Vireo	1B	29FF	Manitou	BBBO
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>max 20</u>	26	Hamlin Beach - West End	R. Spahn
Red-eyed Vireo	<u>total B 25</u>	all month	Manitou	BBBO
<u>Fish Crow</u>	<u>max 16</u>	5, 26	Ontario Beach Park	R. Spahn
Common Raven	<u>max 7</u>	7	Lake Ontario Parkway, Orleans Co.	W. D'Anna
Purple Martin	<u>max 78</u>	4	Braddock Bay	A. Guthrie
Tree Swallow	<u>max 250</u>	14	NMWMA (Taylor Rd)	J. Powell
N. Rough-winged Swallow	<u>max 105</u>	27	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	E. & T. Wheeler
Bank Swallow	<u>max 1000</u>	28	NMWMA (Armitage Rd)	S. Heinrich, L. Kahle, S. Toner, A. Wiebe
Barn Swallow	<u>max 250</u>	23	Braddock Bay	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Winter Wren	3; 1	19; 21	<u>Webster Park</u>	R. Spahn; M. Scheibel
Swainson's Thrush	1B	23FF	Manitou	BBBO
Gray Catbird	<u>max 42; 40</u>	19; 30	Wester Park	R. Spahn
Gray Catbird	<u>total B 67</u>	all month	Manitou	BBBO
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 100</u>	3	HANA	G. Ford
Northern Waterthrush	2B	15FF	Manitou	BBBO
Blue-winged Warbler	1	23FF	Hamlin Beach - West End	R. & S. Spahn
Black-and-white Warbler	2; 1B	19FF	Church Trail (Greece); Manitou	K. Frisch; BBBO
Mourning Warbler	5B	27FF	Manitou	BBBO
Common Yellowthroat	<u>total B 23</u>	all month	Manitou	BBBO

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

AUGUST 2016

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
American Redstart	<u>total B 18</u>	all month	Manitou	BBBO
Cape May Warbler	1B	28FF	Manitou	BBBO
Northern Parula	1B	28FF	Manitou	BBBO
Magnolia Warbler	3B	17FF	Manitou	BBBO
Magnolia Warbler	<u>total B 34</u>	17-30	Manitou	BBBO
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	31FF	Greece	K. Griffith
Blackburnian Warbler	1	19FF	Church Trail (Greece)	K. Frisch
Yellow Warbler	<u>total B 9</u>	13-19	Manitou	BBBO
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	17FF	Manitou	A. Patterson
Blackpoll Warbler	1B	25FF	Manitou	BBBO
Black-th. Blue Warbler	1B	27FF	Manitou	BBBO
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	12FF	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Pine Warbler	<u>max 14</u>	20	Hamlin Beach SP	J. Pawlicki
Black-th. Green Warbler	1	29FF	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Ji. Miles
Canada Warbler	2B	15FF	Manitou	BBBO
Wilson's Warbler	1	25FF	Four Mile Creek Pres., Webster	J. Miles
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 6,000</u>	14	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	R. Buckert
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u> <u>fem</u>	1	21	Sodus Point	J. Wing, 5 other obs, photos
Common Grackle	<u>max 1300</u>	15	T Rush	N. Kachala
Baltimore Oriole - red	<u>total B 23</u>	27, 29	studied BBBO	A. Patterson
White-winged Crossbill	1	5	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Pine Siskin	1	5, 6, 18	Webster	P. Mabb