

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

ckgrif@frontiernet.net

As is often the case, the spring season was one of contrast. The beginning of spring bird movements was actually a bit delayed; no major flights occurred until 12 March, when waves of birds were observed. There were many fluctuations in temperature and precipitation. March started things off with 21 days of cold, harsh weather. It warmed up considerably after that, and an average temperature of 35.3° F resulted, 1.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 0.04" below normal at 2.98". Snowfall was 2.6" above normal at 19.2". April started out much the same as the end of March with warm temperatures. That only lasted for a couple of days, as we then went into a deep freeze. Temperatures were significantly below average, and some heavy snowfall was recorded in the higher elevation parts of the Region. The last week and a half of the month saw above average temperatures and less precipitation. The average temperature was 44.5°, 0.8° above normal. The 3.64" of precipitation was 0.89" above normal. The 6.2" of snowfall was 1.1" above normal. That brought the season's total to 6", above normal at 100.7". Due to the roller coaster ride at this point in the season, vegetation was slightly behind its usual growth. May was just a nice month. There were a number of record high temperatures and scant precipitation. While this made it comfortable for birding, conditions didn't produce any major groundings, and birding was generally lackluster. The average temperature for the month was 59.5°, 2.5° above normal. Precipitation was lowest ever recorded for May at 0.24", 2.58" below normal.

This year we were once again fortunate to have a full time hawk watcher, Dave Tetlow, at Braddock Bay from 1 March to 15 May, with a few later dates. Dave not only counted hawks, but kept accurate records of all species. This was a plus for the Region. Mike Frail once again carried out the daytime owl roosting surveys on the west side of Braddock Bay in the Wildlife Management area and was responsible for the spring migration totals. William Symonds and

Robert Spahn were the principal observers at the Hamlin Beach lake watch and chronicled the major flights of water birds during the spring. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory under the leadership of Betsy Brooks conducted banding operations at the Kaiser/Manitou Beach Station and was a good monitor of passerine flights in the Region. On Easter Sunday, after heavy snowfall, Dave Tetlow surveyed the west lakeshore from Parma to Carlton. His diligent coverage of the roadways produced some startling totals of birds that were escaping the deep snows and foraging along the roadsides. Also noted were substantial road kills due to the location of the birds at road edges. These efforts added considerably to our knowledge of the species present and their abundance at that point in the season and to the data base for the season.

There were some good waterfowl observations. The usual scattered occurrences of Greater White-fronted Goose were reported, and there were very good concentrations of Snow Geese in the Savannah area. Ross's Goose has become an annual visitor now, and this trend continued with multiple reports. Cackling Goose sightings were good, owing primarily to increased scrutiny since it was given full species status. The fourth Regional record of Barnacle Goose (origin unknown) was a bird found by Gary Chapin and seen by multiple observers. Tundra Swans put on a good show, with 2500+ reported from Groveland on 24 - 25 March. The continued increase in Trumpeter Swan reports documents their success in this area due to various introduction programs, including breeding of this species in private collections. The pair along Atlantic Avenue in Wayne County was once again successful in hatching cygnets. Puddle ducks once again seemed to vacate early, with early concentrations at Braddock Bay and elsewhere dropping off rapidly. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continued in their declines. Canvasback numbers were also down, with few good concentrations reported. The other divers were about average, with reports of some scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser lingering through most of May. There were some decent Bufflehead numbers reported from the Hamlin Beach lake watch in April. The Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze was observed into the season, and a female was also reported at Hamlin Beach. Loon numbers at the lake watch were down this year. Peak Red-necked Grebe numbers occurred in late March, earlier than many years. But good numbers continued through most of April. The two Great Cormorants spotted at Braddock Bay were a season's highlight. Wandering waders were few. A couple of Great Egrets and reports of Glossy Ibis from the Carncross Road area of the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex were about it. Even Black-crowned Night-Herons were few and far between. There were no Black Vulture sightings at the hawkwatch this year.

Numbers at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch were mostly average or below. Early east and northeast winds depressed the flights. The best day was 23 April, when maxima were recorded for a number of species. Eagle totals were good, but Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel were low. An Osprey nest on the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management area was the first in

this lakeshore area in birders' memories. A single Swainson's Hawk was observed by Dave Tetlow on 11 May. Reports of nesting Merlin in a downtown neighborhood were again received, and the downtown Peregrine Falcons were once again successful. Common Moorhen sightings continued their decline. Sandhill Cranes on the other hand, continued the trend of numerous sightings, and the pair in the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex again produced two colts

It wasn't much of a spring for shorebird reports. Am. Golden-Plover and a record early Wilson's Phalarope were the major highlights. Fields on Carncross Road and the airfield at Geneseo were the only locations with consistent reports. There were very few reported from the lake watch. Upland Sandpiper continued its decline. There isn't much to report about gulls and terns. Both groups were low this season. Little Gull, Iceland Gull, and Forster's Tern were among the few interesting sightings.

Both cuckoos were reported in good numbers. Migrating owl numbers, as represented by the counts in the Manitou Beach Road pines, were generally mediocre. There were also no N. Saw-whet Owl reports later in May from their traditional breeding sites in Bergen Swamp. But then, there were few (maybe only two) Big Day groups in the field this year stopping to search the area. Common Nighthawk numbers were again very low, as were Whip-poor-will numbers. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their increase in reports on the Lake Ontario Plain. Reports from elsewhere were few.

It was an interesting season for the passerine migration. Alder Flycatcher and N. Rough-winged Swallow were reported at record early dates. Flycatchers in general were good, though only a single report of Olive-sided Flycatcher was received. White-eyed Vireo was missed for the season. Philadelphia Vireos were down. A magenta-wing-tagged Fish Crow observed in Greece for two days was the first of the tagged Ithaca birds to be observed wandering outside that Region. Fish Crow and Common Raven reports were up a bit. Numbers reported for both kinglets were down. The expected thrushes were all present but in lower than typical numbers. The Varied Thrush wintering in Penfield continued into this season. N. Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher numbers were good.

It was the usual mixed bag for warblers. On the plus side with decent to good numbers were Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackpoll, and American Redstart. On the negative side were Tennessee, Nashville, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Bay-breasted. There were two reports of Worm-eating Warbler, but none for Kentucky or Connecticut warblers.

The Summer Tanager seen at the West Spit of Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow was a seasonal highlight. It was a mixed bag for sparrows. Fox Sparrow numbers were good and sightings continued into May. Clay-colored Sparrows continued the trend of increased numbers, mainly in locations where reported in previous, recent years. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrow reports continue few, with the Nations Road area the last stronghold for the latter. White-throated Sparrows numbers were down and peak counts occurred over a narrower date

range than typical. The wintering **Harris's Sparrow** in Irondequoit continued on into May and molted to nearly complete adult male plumage. A second immature male **Harris's Sparrow** was reported from Batavia in late April. It was on private property and only a very few birders were allowed to visit and verify the bird.

Some observers felt that Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were down. In contrast to that, there were good numbers of Indigo Buntings. Two Dickcissel reports on 8 May were noteworthy. The trend to decreasing numbers continued for Eastern Meadowlark. A rare male Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by several observers on two days and later a female was reported once, all near the Long Pond Firehouse in the Town of Greece. Brewer's Blackbird was reported in April from several spots in Hamlin, all in the general area with most of our records over the years. One of the reports was of a flock of 27 individuals. Orchard Orioles continue their increase, and Baltimore Oriole numbers were very good. A first spring male **Bullock's Oriole**, the third Regional record for the species, was seen in Webster by Robert Spahn.

Purple Finches were down. The only noteworthy finch report was of two Red Crossbills seen at Braddock Bay on 22 March.

March's species total was 136, slightly above the 10-year average; April's 184, seven species above the 10-year average; and May's 231, just slightly below the 10-year average. 252 species were recorded for the season, adding 124 species to the year's list for a 262 total, 13 species below last year but right at the 10-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Anderson, Paul Anderson, Doug & Sharon Beattie, Barry Bermudez, Richard Bishop, John Boettcher, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce & Mary Cady, Gary Calabrese, Brad Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Judy & Dennis Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Roger Clark, Jim & Mary Lee Compitello, Don Cowley, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Danials, Steve Daniel, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davids, Henk den Baker, Jon & Sandy Dombrowski, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Paul Eschmann, Kurt Fox, Mike Frail, James Frey, Kenny Frisch, Andrew Garland, Jeff Gerbract, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Tim Guenther, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie Helen Haller, Dave & Vanna Harding, Kim Hartquist, Jack Hartwig, Bill Heckman, Diane Henderson, Paul Hurtado, Phil Irons, Tom Johnson, Bernie Kester, Jim Kimball, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg, Holly & Fred Lawrence, Jerry Lazarcyck, Tim Lenz, Gerhard Leubner, Joan Lindberg, Joani & Jeff Macnus, Jan Mahood, Bill Maier, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Robert & Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Bud Morgan, Frank Morlock, Jim Mott, Jim Ochterski, Richard O'Hara, John &

Suzanne Olson, Phil Opdycke, Jim Pawlicki, Michael Peter, Norma Platt, Betsy Potter, Bill & Betty Powell, Mike Powers, Gail Price, Dave Prill, Dick Rosche, Ken Rosenberg, Jim Rudman, William Ruscher, Ed Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Joe Slattery, Judy Slein, John Slowik, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Al & Di Stout, Kimberly Sucy, William Symonds, Joe Testa, Dave Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Chris Villone, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Chris Wood, Mark Wyman, Martha Zettel, Bruce Zollner.

ABBREVIATIONS

b -- banded; BB -- Braddock Bay, MONR; CH -- Cobbs Hill, C Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; EL – East Lakeshore, MONR, WAYN; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; I – T Irondequoit, MONR; ICW -- Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K -- T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; MU – T Murray, ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PN – T Penfield, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; V – T Victor, MONR; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 BB 10, 14 Mar (DT); 1 H 23 Mar (GC).
Snow Goose: max 85,000 S 25 Mar (TL).
ROSS'S GOOSE: 2 H 16 Mar (DT); 1 H 23 Mar (DT); 1 S 31 Mar (mob).
Cackling Goose: max 14 BB 13 Mar (DT); total 46 Mar; 1 BB 3 Apr (DT); 2 G 23 Apr (DT).
BARNACLE GOOSE: 1 H 22 Apr (GC, mob).
Trumpeter Swan: 2 WAYN 1-31 May (mob); 17 total S sev loc May (mob); 1 DE 7 May (DS).
Tundra Swan: max 2500+ Groveland 24, 25 Mar (JK); 4376 BB 13 Mar (DT); 413 BB 14 Mar (DT); last 12 GE 24 Apr (JK).
Gadwall: last 2 S 25 May (LL).
Eurasian Wigeon: 1m BB 13 Mar (DT, BM); 1m S 29 Mar (CW, TL, JG); 1m S 7-9 Apr (TJ, TL).
Am. Wigeon: total 578 BB all Mar; max 800 S 7 Apr (TJ).
N. Shoveler: arr 1,2 HB, BB (WS, DT) .

N. Pintail: max 775 BB 14 Mar (DT); total 1974 BB all Mar; last 2 S 13 May (PH).
Green-winged Teal: max 435 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 2 S 19 May (TL, MA).
Ring-necked Duck: max 500 S 7 Apr (TL); last 1 G 15 May (RS).
Greater Scaup: last 4 BB 5 May (WS).
Lesser Scaup: max 300 BB 9 Apr (DT); last 1 HB 23 May (WS).
Surf Scoter: last 2 HB 29 May (RS).
White-winged Scoter: max 1250 HB 12 Mar (WS).
Bufflehead: max 300 HB 22 Apr (WS); last 1 HB 15 May (RS).
Com. Goldeneye: last 1 HB 1 May (RS).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1m Point Breeze, ORLE 1-17 Mar; 1f HB 28 Mar (KG).
Ruddy Duck: last 3 S 19 May (TL, MA).
Horned Grebe: last 1 HB 27 May (AG).
Red-necked Grebe: max 614 WL 23 Mar (RS, DD); last 1 HB 18 May (RS).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 200 G 20 May (CC).

GREAT CORMORANT: 2 ad BB 8 May (DT).

Least Bittern: arr 1 G 4 May (JG).

Great Egret: arr 1 ICW 31 Mar (HL, GL)

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 W 22 Apr (RS).

GLOSSY IBIS: 1 Carncross Rd (Savannah) 2, 7 May (CW, TL, JS).

Turkey Vulture: max 718 BB 8 May (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 21 BB 15 May (DT).

Bald Eagle: max 28 BB 8 May (DT).

N. Harrier: max 150 BB 12 Apr (DT).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1519 BB 23 Apr (DT).

Cooper's Hawk: max 176 BB 23 Apr (DT).

N. Goshawk: max 5 BB 23 Apr (DT).

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 1 BB 10 Mar (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 BB 20 Apr (DT); max 12,976 BB 23 Apr (DT).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm drk mph

BB 11 May (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 drk mph G 8 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 33 BB 19 Apr (DT); last 1 BB 8 May (DT).

Golden Eagle: arr 1 BB 22 Mar (DT); max 25 BB 23 Apr (DT).

Am. Kestrel: max 111 BB 23 Apr (DT).

Merlin: max 10 BB 27 Apr (DT).

Peregrine Falcon: 3 BB 13 Mar (DT); total 7 BB all Apr; 2ad 4yg R all May (mob).

Sandhill Crane: total 18 BB 13-31 Mar (DT); 2 S all Apr (mob); total 13 BB 2-22 Apr (DT); 2 ad, 2 yg S all May (mob).

Black-bellied Plover: max 15 S 30 May (RS, KW, DD).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 BB 27 Apr (DT); 1 S 3-5 May (TJ, mob).

Semipalmated Plover: max 38 S 19 May (TL, MA).

Killdeer: max 204 BB 22 Mar (DT); total 574 all Mar BB.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 120 S 2 May (CW, TL).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 145 S 2 May (CW, TL).

Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 Byron 30 May (DD, RS, KW).

Spotted Sandpiper: max 16 DE 18 May (AGa).

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 22 Apr (WS).

Whimbrel: max 6 K 30 May (DD, RS, KW).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 GE 15 May (JK); max 4 HB 16 May (WS).

Least Sandpiper: max 130 GE 15 May (JK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 20 S 5 May (KR), low max.

Dunlin: arr 2 GE 13 Apr (JK); max 160 S 19 May (TL, MA).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 PE 10 May (DS).

Wilson's Snipe: max 499 WL 8 Apr (DT).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 fem S 26-30 Apr (FM), record early; 1 S 5 May (JS, mob); 2 S 13 May (PH).

Little Gull: 4 ad HB 11-27 Apr (RS, WS, JH); 1 2nd win DE 11 Apr (RS); 1 imm S 3 May (TJ).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 450 HB 23 Apr (RS).

Ring-billed Gull: max 10,000 OB 24 May (R&SS).

Herring Gull: max 300 OB 24 May (R&SS).

Iceland Gull: total 8 HB 3-30 Apr (WS, *et al*).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 ad & 1 2nd win OB 24 May (R&SS).

Glaucous Gull: last 1 HB 30 Apr (RS, DD).

Caspian Tern: max 57 HB 25 Apr (RS).

Com. Tern: max 52 HB 23 Apr (RS).

Forster's Tern: arr 1 G 12 Apr (DT).

Black Tern: max 2 BB 15 May (mob).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 ICW 8 May (KFr).

Long-eared Owl: total 11 BB all Mar (MF); total 17 BB all Apr (MF).

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 24 BB all Mar (MF).

Com. Nighthawk: max 18 G 16 May (KG, KH).

Whip-poor-will: arr 3 M 23 Apr (DT); 1 BB 27 Apr (SD); 1 Groveland, LIVI 5 May (MW).

Chimney Swift: max 32 T York 22 Apr (JK).

N. Flicker: max 597 WL 8 Apr (DT).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: max 28 M 27 May (BBBO).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1b M 16 May (BBBO).

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 5 Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN 20 May (R&SS).

E. Phoebe: max 72 WL 8 Apr (DT)
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 W 6 May (JB, NP); 1 ICW 16 May (RS); 3b M 16 May (BBBO).
Fish Crow: arr 1 PN 4-7 Apr (R&C Mc, CM); 1 w/magenta wing tag ICW 7-8 May (KFr, mob); 1 BB, M 8 May (KFr, DS).
Com. Raven: 4 L 1 Mar (DD); 1 BB 12 Mar (DT); 1 BB 8 May (DT).
Horned Lark: max 1240 BB 26 Mar (DT).
Barn Swallow: max 85 BB 23 Apr (DT).
Sedge Wren: arr 1 S 13-30 May (mob); 1 H 23 May (RS).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 53 WL 8 Apr (DT); 30 CH 8 Apr (PM).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 77b M 1 May (BBBO); last 1 G 23 May (CC).
E. Bluebird: max 62 WL 8 Apr (DT).
Gray-checked Thrush: arr 1 CH 15 May (JG).
BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1b M 24 May (BBBO); 1b M 31 May (BBBO).
Swainson's Thrush: max 29b M 24 May (BBBO).
Am. Robin: max 6000+ WL 8 Apr (DT).
VARIED THRUSH: 1m PN 1-8 Mar (RF).
N. Mockingbird: max 19 G 6 May (JK).
Am. Pipit: arr 1 BB 22 Mar (DT); max 548 WL 8 Apr (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1b M 30 Apr (BBBO).
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 G, BB 9 May (mob).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 V 7 May (SD); 1 MU 27-29 May (mob).
"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 MU 29 May (KS); 1 MU 31 May (RC).
Tennessee Warbler: last 1 sev loc 29 May (mob).
Orange-crowned Warbler: total 6 sev loc 8-22 May (mob).
Nashville Warbler: max 11b M 8 May (BBBO).
N. Parula: last 1 LW 28 May (R&SS).
Magnolia Warbler: max 98b M 27 May (BBBO).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 30b M 15 May (BBBO).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 150 G 1 May (RS).
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 ICW 8 May (RS); 1 G 15 May (KS).
Palm Warbler: last 1 R 21 May (SG).

Blackpoll Warbler: max 37 b M 24 May (BBBO).
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 G 5 May (JK).
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 CH 9-10 May (KFr, PM); 1 G 14 May (mob).
Ovenbird: max 20 b M 10 May (BBBO).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 LW 26 Apr (DT).
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 LW 26 Apr (DT).
Wilson's Warbler: max 17 b M 23 May (BBBO).
Canada Warbler: max 16 b M 27 May (BBBO).
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 MU 27, 29 May (AGu, KS); 1 MU 31 May (RC).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: 1ad m BB 9 May (DT).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 92 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 1 T Pittsford 27 Apr (MP).
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-4 H 5-31 May (mob); 1 G 7-25 May (JK).
Field Sparrow: arr 1 MP 29 Mar (PO).
Vesper Sparrow: max 129 WL 8 Apr (DT).
Savannah Sparrow: max 321 WL 8 Apr (DT).
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 G 9 May (JK).
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 G 9 May thru (JK).
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 BB 12 Mar (DT); max 204 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 3 ICW 7 May (GL).
Song Sparrow: max 1155 WL 8 Apr (DT).
White-crowned Sparrow: 1b 29 May 15 May (BBBO), (*gambelii*); last 1 b M 29 May (BBBO).
HARRIS'S SPARROW: 1 imm 1 from winter thru 9 May (GL); 1 imm Batavia 21-24 Apr (DTh, DB, JL, KF), *intro*.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 3520 WL 8 Apr (DT).
Lapland Longspur: max 40 WL 8 Apr (DT).
Snow Bunting: last 1 HB 14 Apr (WS).
Dickcissel: 1 HB 8 May (RS); 1 HP 8 May (DT).
Yellow-headed Blackbird: 1m G 7-8 May (GL); 1f G 11 May (AGa).
Rusty Blackbird: max 885 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 6, 5 BB, PE 8 May (DT, AGa).
Brewer's Blackbird: arr 2 m, 2 m & 1 fH (KG, BC); 18 m, 9 fH 11 Apr (DT, BC); 1 m H 11 Apr (DT); 1 m H 18 Apr (DD, RS).

Orchard Oriole: arr 1 G 8 May (JK); 1 b M
8 May (BBBO).

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: 1 1st sp m W 17-
18 May (RS), 3rd Regional record.
Red Crossbill: 2 BB 22 Mar (DT).

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