

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

Temperatures for April were about average, but rainfall was almost an inch below normal. Precipitation for May was almost average, but temperatures for the month were the coldest for fifty years. Snow fell on May 7 and was still present the next day. May 21 (the day of the Spring Census) showed a reading of 31°.

The spring flight of Common Loons was average, but Red-throated Loons were rather scarce. There was a very good flight of Red-necked Grebes. Geese and ducks seemed about average. The spring hawk flight did not appear as spectacular as some years. The peak of the spring migration occurred May 19. Northern Finches were scarce or absent. Among the more outstanding records were Cattle Egret, Common Teal, European Widgeon, King Eider, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull and Western Meadowlark.

Observers cited: JJD—James Doherty; JF—John Foster; WH—William Hartranft; AEK—Allen Kemnitz; WCL—Walter Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; CM—Catherine Mack; TM—Ted Mack; RM—Robert McKinney; JM—Joseph McNett; TM—Thelma McNett; HSM—Howard Miller; MO—Michael O'Hara; RTO—Richard O'Hara; ES—Ester Stiles; MS—Maryann Sunderlin; TET—Thomas Tetlow; RW—Robert White.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddocks Bay; ELS—East Lake Shore; HL—Hawk Lookout; SA—Shore Acres; WSP—Webster State Park; WLS—West Lake Shore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 250 Apr 23 along ELS (JM, TM). Red-throated Loon: max 16 Apr 16 at ELS (AEK). Red-necked Grebe: peak count on the heavy flight 152 WLS (AEK). Horned Grebe: 130 Apr 12 in Sodus area (ES). **Cattle Egret:** two seen May 20 perched on a muskrat house on Buck Pond (CM, TM). Common Egret: one May 21 at BB (JF, WCL, TET). Glossy Ibis: one May 6 BB (GOS hike); one at Rose's Marsh, May 21 (WCL).

Whistling Swan: four still at BB May 21 (JF et al). Canada Goose: 10,000 Apr 29 WLS (WL), an average count for our area as we do not get the concentrations such as are recorded at Oak Orchard and Montezuma. Brant: a very light flight with max five May 29 BB (WCL). Gadwall: six May 19 along WLS (WCL). Shoveler: 14 May 21 SA (WCL et al). **Common Teal:** one male in a flock of puddle ducks in a flooded field on Chase Rd Apr 16 (AEK); this bird, the area's second record, remained until Apr 23 and was carefully studied by numerous observers who all noticed the horizontal stripe above the wing through scopes. European Widgeon: one male at SA Apr 22 (GOS Hike). **King Eider:** one at BB Apr 9 (AEK). Surf Scoter: one at Holland's Cove Apr 8 (AEK); a pair near Irondequoit Bay May 7 (HSM, RTO). Common Scoter: one at Oklahoma Beach Apr 30 (JM, TM).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: max 64 at HL Apr 15 (TET et al). Goshawk: a late one was at HL Apr 22 (TET). Broad-winged Hawk: max only 786 at HL Apr 15 (TET et al). **Golden Eagle:** one over Webster Apr 20 (AEK, WL), carefully observed with a scope and binoculars for some time—AEK has had experience several times with this species in the West. Bald Eagle: three went past the HL Apr 1 (WCL) and one passed there May 1 (TET); one at the WSP Apr 20 (WL). Peregrine Falcon: only one for the spring went past the HL Apr 30 (WL, MS). Pigeon Hawk: one seen in Hamlin Apr 22 (WCL et al), one at Hamlin State Pk Apr 30 (WL), and one at Buck Pond May 21 (JJD).

Golden Plover: one appeared in Hamlin Apr 16 (AEK, WCL), and remained three days—rare here in the spring but rather common in the fall. Whimbrel: twenty-five flew west past BB May 28 (AEK, WCL, WL)—uncommon here in late May. Spotted Sandpiper: very high count of 300 migrating at BB May 19 (WCL)—

this was the peak day generally for the whole spring. **Purple Sandpiper:** one at BB May 21 (HSM, M & RTO et al)—was observed with a “zoom scope” and binoculars as close as 15 feet; the dull orange legs and base of the bill, general shape and streaked breast were noted by all observers. This is the first spring record for our area. **Least Sandpiper:** 1000 were seen in wet fields in Hamlin May 21 (JF, WCL, TET). While common in spring, this was a very high count. Most of the shorebirds have been observed in wet fields this spring as the lake is so high there is little shore line exposed. **Dunlin:** three Apr 17 Hamlin (WCL); max 300 along the WLS May 21 (JF et al). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** two early ones in Hamlin Apr 2 (WCL); max 25 at BB May 19 (WCL). **Northern Phalarope:** one near SA May 21 (WCL et al)—while not too uncommon in the fall here, it is very rare in the spring.

Iceland Gull: a late one was at BB May 19 (WCL). **Franklin's Gull:** one adult at BB May 14–21 (AEK, JM, TM and MS). **Forster's Tern:** one at BB May 26 (WCL). **Long-eared Owl:** one at Manitou May 21 (HSM, M & RTO).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Red-headed Woodpeckers were rather common. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one seen in Bergen Swamp May 21 (RM), and one in Rochester May 23 (JF). **Eastern Bluebird:** max eight in WSP May 29 (AEK).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Twenty-two species of warblers were netted May 19 at Manitou by Robert McKinney; included were one Orange-crowned Warbler and one Pine Warbler. Parula Warblers seemed quite numerous, with six in Durand-Eastman Pk on May 21 (RTO et al). While the number of species of warblers present at one time was frequently good, it seems that the overall number of individual birds present was below average.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: **Western Meadowlark:** at least three were singing on apparent territories in Parma and Hamlin. Not only the songs but the call notes were carefully checked and found to be typical of the western bird. Also, the face pattern and paler upperparts seemed to well match the color pattern of the rarer bird. **Evening Grosbeak:** eight frequented a feeder in Sea Breeze during Apr and four were still present May 21 (JM, TM, MS & RW). **Red Crossbill:** one in Seneca Pk Apr 22 (GOS hike); two at Cobbs Hill Apr 29 (Frank Phelps). **Lincoln's Sparrow:** ten seen at BB May 19 (WCL). The unusual thing about this is not that ten birds of this species were present but that it was possible to identify this many of such a secretive species.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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This period continued the recent topsy-turviness of the seasons. April started out fairly mild and some migrants arrived early or at least on time. Then came snow near the end of April, followed by an early May of freezing temperatures, rarely getting above 45 during the day, and cold, wet rain, day after day. Migration was at a stand-still. Birds didn't arrive or remained stranded if they had arrived. There was a slight warming trend May 13–21 which brought in a few birds, but then it again turned cold, and delayed the late migrants until the end of the month. In Ithaca it was the coldest May in 92 years, and one of the wettest.

These conditions brought more waterfowl than usual to Elmira, on the Chemung River, especially during the wet snow of April 24, and also to the former Almond Dam area at Hornell (now KPRA) and at the reservoir. High water reduced the shorebird count. Most clubs had their spring census the weekend of the 14th, with resulting low counts.