

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female at feeder Dec 7—27 Point Stockholm, Chaut L. (OS et al)—found dead on last date, specimen to Bflo Museum of Science. *DICKCISSEL*: singles at feeders with House Sparrows—Dec 4 Alfred (CK); Dec 11 Belmont (LDS); Fluvanna Dec 28 Jamestown CC; adult male mid Mar Lakewood (OS, MH et al). Evening Grosbeak: good counts in Bflo suburbs and hill country to south—454 Dec 27 Scio CC; 412 Dec 27 Allegany County count; 160 Dec 28 Jamestown CC; 109 Dec 28 Hamburg CC; 105 Dec 27 Olean CC. Purple Finch: max 20 Mar 14—29 Alfred (CK). Pine Grosbeak: 1 Jan 30 Hamburg (TLB). *HOARY REDPOLL*: singles critically identified at feeder Feb 1, 25, Mar 6 Hamburg (TLB); several unverified reports. Common Redpoll: one of best flights ever recorded with birds distributed throughout region in small to large flocks, many visiting feeders—max counts 580 Dec 21 BOSCC; 225 Dec 28 Hamburg CC. Pine Siskin: a few individuals and small flocks scattered throughout region with max 20 Dec 27 Allegany County count. American Goldfinch: only large number 218 Dec 28 Hamburg CC. Red Crossbill: individuals and small flocks sparsely distributed throughout region with some visiting feeders, max 25 Dec 28 Hamburg CC. White-winged Crossbill: same comments for Red but numbers much smaller, max 5 at feeder mid Mar Lakewood (Judy Morrell). Rufous-sided Towhee: scattering of pairs and singles at feeders throughout region, max 7 Dec 28 Hamburg CC.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 27 Allegany County count. Slate-colored Junco: high winter counts—634 Dec 27 Allegany County count; 329 Dec 28 Hamburg CC. Tree Sparrow: only unusually large number 1498 Dec 27 Allegany County count; most other counts above average. Chipping Sparrow: very rare in winter—2 Dec 28 Hamburg CC. White-crowned Sparrow: 33 Dec 27 Allegany County count; a few individuals or pairs at scattered feeders throughout winter. White-throated Sparrow: exceptionally high CC totals 42 Dec 27 Allegany County count; 35 Dec 21 Bflo; 30 Dec 28 Hamburg CC; 26 Dec 28 Jamestown CC. Fox Sparrow: 10 on five area CCs; arr 1 Mar 21 Hamburg (TLB). Swamp Sparrow: 4 Dec 28 Jamestown CC; 1 Dec 22 INWRCC; singles at feeders Dec 21—Jan 27 Silver Creek (RHH), throughout winter Jamestown (LFK). Song Sparrow: max 84 Dec 27 Allegany County count; counts in mid to low 40s at Hamburg, Jamestown, Bflo and Scio, large numbers for all of these CCs. Lapland Longspur: excellent flight in Jan on Ont plain—max 350 Jan 19 Somerset (WHK). Snow Bunting: excellent CC totals—836 Dec 22 INWR; 756 Dec 27 Allegany County count; 547 Jan 1 Dunkirk—smaller max individual count than recently, 650 Jan 19 Somerset (WHK).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Overall, the weather came pretty close to average for spring in Rochester. Precipitation was somewhat above average reducing the yearly deficit from perhaps three inches at the end of March to two inches on June 1st. Temperature patterns were as varied as usual—April was generally cool until the last few days when a sudden hot spell resulted in about three weeks of progress in leaf development compressed into one week.

May then produced a return to a more slow and steady progression with migrants appearing on schedule for the most part. Several warm fronts with good south and south west winds resulted in fine flights of most regular species and many rarities.

The weather even was kind enough to cooperate on weekends—not true at all some years!!

The general impression of several active observers was that we had the best spring flight in several years with the exception of some ducks, certain shorebirds and a few scattered species such as the Loons, Short-eared Owls and Swainson's Thrush, and Philadelphia Vireo. Hawk flights were fairly frequent and good in both number and variety; warblers were quite common on many days and the spring census on May 17 was close to a record day in spite of less than perfect conditions. Perhaps the fact that local birders are more numerous and active than ever also helps to account for some of our good results.

While high water levels do not foretell good shorebirding later in the year, it does appear that local ducks and marsh birds should fare well. There is some reason to hope that we are finally beginning to see a drop in pollution and algae growth in some of our ponds and bays so that we may hope for better nesting success of these species.

Rarities noted included: Glossy Ibis, Golden Plover, Peregrine Falcon, Pigeon Hawk, Laughing Gull, Wilson's Phalarope, Saw-whet Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, House Finch.

Abbreviations: BANS—Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary; BB—Braddocks Bay; HB—Hamlin Beach; HL—Hawk Lookout; WP—Webster Park.

Observers Cited: MC—Michael Carlson; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; JD—James Doherty; JF—John Foster; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Robert McKinney; TM—Thelma McNett; RO—Richard O'Hara; FP—Frank Phelps; JT—Joseph Taylor; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

LOONS—DUCKS: The spring flight of Common and Red-throated Loons seemed rather light and very few were noted after May 1st. Red-necked Grebes were likewise scarce, but Horned Grebes seemed in good supply with some groups of 20 or more. Pied-billed Grebes are also up from a few years ago, but the species is not yet back to former status as a fairly common breeder.

Three Double-crested Cormorants appeared at Manitou on May 17 (WCL). Both Cattle Egret and Common Egret were reported, the former on May 16, 17 in Parma (JT et al) and the latter a bird which stayed at Braddocks Bay through most of May (WCL et al). Black-crowned Night Herons may be increasing. The best count was 22 at Cranberry pond May 17 (TT). Fifteen Glossy Ibis was a new high for the region, May 3 BB (TT), and a few of these remained in the area for some time. American Bittern and Least Bittern were both seldom reported this spring.

A lone Brant was noted at Manitou May 17 (JF et al). A few Canada Geese seemed to be intent on staying in this region indefinitely. Perhaps these are birds from the breeding stock at Montezuma or other nearby refuges. Ducks continued to be less than spectacular this spring. A good count of 500 White-winged Scoters was obtained on April 29 at Webster Park (WL). Scaup, including at least some Greater, lingered in unusual numbers until the end of May. Locally, high-water levels may provide high breeding success for Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks, all of which are present in good numbers, The Black Duck in contrast is scarcer than ever on local waters.

HAWKS—OWLS: Our annual spring hawk flight was unusually well observed this year and provided several highlights. Peak counts and rarities in April and May are as follows: (all at Hawk Lookout unless otherwise noted)

Species	Date	No.	Observers
Turkey Vulture	5/1	22	JT, TT
Goshawk	"	1	" "
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4/25	207	WL, et al
Rough-legged Hawk	4/17	11	WL
Broad-winged Hawk	4/23	3,687	"
" " "	5/1	3,312	JT, TT
Golden Eagle	4/23	1	GOS Hike
" "	4/26	1 (WP)	Perrigos
Bald Eagle	5/17	2	Moons
Marsh Hawk	4/20	40	WCL
Osprey	5/16	15	Klonicks
Peregrine Falcon	4/17	2 (WP)	WL
" "	4/23	1	WCL
" "	4/26	1	JB
" "	5/1	3	JT, TT
" "	5/17	2	TT, et al
" "	"	1 (IC)	JT, et al
Pigeon Hawk	5/23	1	D. Foster, WL
" "	5/15	1	WCL, JB
" "	5/17	1	Moons, Perrigos
" "	"	1	WL, MS
Sparrow Hawk	4/23	29	WL

This is certainly the best showing in recent years for Peregrine Falcon, and it is also quite good for some other species. Bald Eagle and Osprey, however, remain far below the levels of ten or more years ago and so does the Cooper's Hawk and some other local breeders, especially the Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawk.

Ruffed Grouse is unreported for the year illustrating how little the high country away from the Lake Ontario plain is reported in this region. Ring-necked Pheasant may be reduced in numbers after a hard winter, and it will be interesting to see if our population can maintain itself long without large-scale restocking as in past years. Rails, Gallinules and Coot all seem in normal numbers and should have a good year with marshes full of water.

Shorebirds were never really common or especially exciting this season, but several noteworthy records were received. These include: Golden Plover—1 Apr 26 HB (AK); Short-billed Dowitcher—25 BB (RO et al); and Wilson Phalarope—2 Curtis Road (MC et al). Most of the more common varieties were normal for the season where suitable habitat was available, chiefly in flooded fields along the west Lake-shore. A few species sometimes listed in the spring were missing or scarce. These included Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped Sandpiper and Knot.

Gulls provided few noteworthy records except for the Laughing Gull at Manitou on May 17 (JF et al). A fine flock of Bonaparte's Gulls—approximately 2,500—paused for a few days on Lake Ontario off BB about April 25, but no unusual species were noted with them as was the case in the fall flight.

Both Common and Caspian Tern were relatively scarce again this spring. Some observers noted none of either variety, although both did appear briefly and in small numbers. Black Tern were present in good numbers, however, as the breeding season began. Mourning Doves are doing well; they are far more common than at one point, perhaps 15 years ago, when they seemed to drop off in numbers for awhile. Neither cuckoo was well reported until the end of May. It is possible that more will yet appear, but they do not seem to have recovered as yet from low numbers of the last year or two.

Both the Barn and Barred Owl are still missing from our list this year. A few

Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls were noted in woods and hedge rows near the lake after flight nights. These include a Long-eared Owl on April 18 near Flynn Road (FP et al), and a Saw-whet Owl banded near Manitou on May 9 (RM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: The Whip-poor-will was a scarce bird although a few moved along the lakeshore on flight nights, including one calling on May 17 in McNett's yard on Lake Road as spring census day began. Nighthawks were not common either, even at the very end of May, although at least one or two could be noted most any night by any city resident. Chimney Swifts were very late in arriving in numbers but were present in the downtown area of Rochester in good numbers by mid-May (TT).

Among the woodpeckers, Flickers and Red-headed showed well but Sapsuckers were rather thinly scattered except for one or two days in mid-April when good counts could be made. Flycatchers were generally rather late in arriving in force but put on a good show at the very end of May when one hedgerow alone produced good numbers of all the commoner species except Phoebe, plus one or two Yellow-bellied, several Trail's, one Olive-sided and one singing bird whose call seemed to match the Cornell record of Acadian Flycatcher although neither observer was familiar with this species from past experience (MC, RO) May 31.

Swallows were somewhat slow to arrive in April but eventually appeared about normal. Purple Martins are nesting in better numbers this year than last and hopefully have begun a recovery from recent poor seasons. Several Cliff Swallows were moving with the others on May 17 (WCL et al).

A Carolina Wren was singing near Cobbs Hill in early May (JD) and another at BANS on May 13 (GOS). Only one Short-billed Marsh Wren was noted—May 17 in Fairport (TT). This bird was singing before daylight in a grassy field.

A very late Brown Creeper was banded at BB on May 31 (RM). On the same day a wren in the same hedgerow and briefly seen in dense underbrush may have been a late Winter Wren (MC). Long-billed Marsh Wren seemed somewhat scarcer this spring, but House Wrens may be doing a little better although still not up to the numbers of several years ago.

Mockingbirds, now well-established in Webster, on the northeast side of Rochester, were regularly noted. Thrashers are doing well, too, and seemed especially evident this spring. An early Catbird appeared in Webster on May 1 (WL, TM). A fine flight of Robins, estimated at 5,000 birds was observed at BB on April 10 (WCL), and they are present in good numbers everywhere. Bluebirds are still a scarce bird in most of this region but may be slowly increasing. Birds were noticed nesting or investigating sites at two new localities this spring, one along the west Lakeshore where they are very scarce breeders for no very apparent reason.

Wood Thrushes and Veeries seem to be present in all regular breeding sites here, but the migrant thrushes were scarce this spring—Hermit Thrushes and Swainson's Thrushes, especially. Whether or not this is merely a local condition is not certain. Both Kinglets were common enough and Water Pipits were widely noted in mid-May although in rather modest numbers.

A very scarce bird this spring was the Loggerhead Shrike. Many observers including this one saw none at all. Equally obvious was the dearth of Waxwings although they were beginning to appear along the Lakeshore in mid and late May after being almost completely absent through winter and spring.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo is certainly one of the birds to be noted this spring. At least 3 separate records were turned in, and, in one case, there may have been two birds present. A singing male at Mendon was still present at the end of May and could indicate nesting. (Whites and Perigos)

Warblers may have been the best in several years. It certainly seemed so to many weekend observers. A few species may not have shared the prosperity, but overall it was a fine flight from an early wave in late April to a peak on Census Day, May 17

and on into the early days of June. All regular species were noted, about 25 in all, and several of the rare ones too, including Prothonotary, Prairie, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Such species as Parula, Cape May and Bay-breasted, sometimes scarce here, were frequently noted. Hooded Warblers may be harder to find breeding here than formerly but were present at least at one of its regular stations, Pellet Road, by May 17 (TM). After several springs in which Warblers were often thin at almost all times it was delightful to have days when pockets of warblers were rather common and numbers were improved.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: A Western Meadowlark is once again singing along Church Road in Parma where the species now seems regular. Cowbirds seemed less common or perhaps late in arriving in numbers this year. Rusty Blackbirds were not common but Redwings and Grackles are everywhere.

An early Indigo Bunting appeared at BB on May 2 (TT). Evening Grosbeaks were migrating in good flocks in mid-May with separate flocks on May 17 of 30 and 75 birds being noted by two census parties and smaller flocks by others. Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were also passing through and still present at the end of the month. The former included a flock of 15 on May 30 at Lima (Fosters).

Both Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Scarlet Tanager were common. One party on the spring census noted several Tanagers in one tree and others nearby also (WCL). Baltimore Orioles were common in migration although fears have been expressed that the disappearance of the American elm may be detrimental to this bird in its breeding range.

One of the very few records of the House Finch in this region was made by Mrs. Munson when she banded one at her feeder in Penfield on April 21. The Rufous-sided Towhee may be a more common breeder here than formerly, although this may simply be due to former farm land growing up to brush areas near suburbs. Short-tailed sparrows, i.e., Savannah, Henslow and Grasshopper seem to be recovering after a rather sudden and decided dip in abundance a few years ago. They are not yet back to optimum status but decidedly up from the low point.

No Sharp-tailed Sparrows have been reported in recent years, and this was true again. After a few years when they seemed to be almost regular in late May or early June—although rare—they have stopped appearing here.

Most of the regular sparrows seem normal in numbers and dates of appearance although Song seemed unimpressive this year. Such common species as Chipping, Field, Swamp and Vesper Sparrows may have arrived late, as April remained consistently cool until the last few days. White-throated Sparrows were up after an unusually poor flight last spring, and the always attractive White-crowned Sparrow was also common. Juncos went through strongly in April, but no reports of Oregon Junco were received this spring. A very late Lapland Longspur in a field with a few Horned Larks and one Pipit was noted on May 31 in Parma (MC, RO).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The outstandingly bad winter in the Finger Lakes was followed by an unusually fine spring: April was sunny, mild, warm with below normal rainfall. May was marked by close to normal rainfall except in Schuyler and Steuben Counties which were somewhat dry, and temperatures just a little on the warm side. As a result migrants and residents arrived 'early'—that is, in the first days of their expected arrival period, and