

REGION 2 — GENESEE

THOMAS E. TETLOW

Although April produced temperatures nearly 3.3 degrees above normal, it also produced 8.2 inches of snow, 5 inches more than the previous record and well above the average of 2.4 inches. Total precipitation, however, was slightly below the average of 2.74 inches. May, on the other hand, produced only a trace of snow, but total precipitation was almost 3 inches above the normal of 2.80 inches. Most of this was due to a storm on May 16 that dropped 3.85 inches of rain on the Rochester area. Temperatures of the first half of May were approximately 6 degrees below the average, but by the end of the month, temperatures were about normal.

In general, I would say that April was good, with more than our share of good flight days. However, May was poor with only one notable flight occurring, that being on May 15.

Lake Ontario is again high, destroying almost all lakeshore shorebird areas.

Rarities Include: Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Hoary Redpoll.

OBSERVERS: MC—Mike Carlson; JC—Jery Czech; J&AF—John and Arlieen Foster; NH—Norman Henderson; AK—Allen Kemnitzer; WCL—Walter Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; RM—Robert McKinney; E&BM—Erwin and Barb Molyneaux; B&SO—Richard and Steve O'Hara C&BP—Chip and Betty Perrigo; NP—Neil Prosser; JS—Jean Skelly; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderlin; T&MT—Tom and Mike Tetlow; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; MOB—many observers.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB—Braddocks Bay; ELS—East Lake Shore; DEP—Durand Eastman Park; IROND—Irondequoit; IB—Irondequoit Bay; IBO—Irondequoit Bay Outlet; WEB—Webster; WP—Webster Park; WLS—West Lake Shore.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max 729 April 27 ELS (AK); several reports of 1-2 birds through end of period. Red-throated Loon: max 46 April 27 ELS (AK). Red-necked Grebe: only report 3 April 14 BB (AK, TT). Double-crested Cormorant: first report 1 April 12 IBO (NP); max 7 May 14 BB (NH, JS); migrants were reported on 11 days in May, a definite increase over recent years. Cattle Egret: first report 2 April 28 Greece (WCL et al); max 16 (new high) May 19 Parma (C&BP). Great Egret: first report 4 April 28 WLS (GOS); both the Cattle and Great Egret remained with us throughout the period and are roosting(?) in a local marsh; herons in general seem to be benefiting from the high water of recent years. Brant: only 1 report of this not-to-be-expected spring migrant 13 May 19 IB (M. Foley, WL, RM, MAS). Snow Goose: only report 2 April 16 WLS (K. Doris, P. Magee, et al). There were no unusual occurrences with migrant ducks either in numbers or departure dates. Local ducks seem to be in good numbers, but I have no doubt that the 3.85 inches of rain we received on May 16 will have some effect on the local population, as it left most low-lying areas under water for 24 hours.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: max 209 April 4 BB (J&AF), this is a new single day high for our region. Goshawk: excellent numbers reported throughout April, max 26 April 4 WEB (JC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: counts exceeding 100: 130 April 4 BB (J&AF et al); 336 April 13 BB (TT et al); 404 April 28 (GOS). Cooper's Hawk: good counts throughout April, max 35 April 4 WEB (JC). Red-tailed Hawk: counts exceeding 100: 155 BB April 4 (J. Claffey, P. Dutcher et al); 175 April 13 WEB (JC). Broad-winged Hawk: counts exceeding 100: 1500 April

20 WEB (JC); 2450 April 21 WEB (JC); 1500 April 27 WEB (JC); 7640 April 28 WEB (JC). Rough-legged Hawk: max 13 April 4 BB (J&AF). *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 3 April 4 WEB (JC); 1 April 13 WEB (JC); 1 April 20 WEB (JC). *BALD EAGLE*: 1 April 26 WEB (JC); 1 April 28 BB (GOS). *PEREGRINE FALCON*: 1 April 13 BB (R. Coffee, RM, TT); 1 April 14 BB (GOS); 1 April 27 Greece (TT); 1 May 11 WLS (R&SO, T&MT); 1 May 15 WLS (R. Spahn); 1 May 26 WEB (JC). *MERLIN*: 1 April 28 WEB (WL); 1 May 11 WEB (JC). Kestrel: max 65 April 13 BB (TT et al). Locally, Red-tailed and Kestrel are maintaining what seems to be a stable population. Single nests of both Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk were reported at the end of the period, the former containing two young. Status of the latter is unknown. It was a poor spring for shorebirds. The high level of Lake Ontario completely eliminated all lake shore habitat and normally good inland areas produced only a token number. Ruddy Turnstone: only 1 report for period, a single bird May 12 BB (T&MT). Common Snipe was present in good numbers along the WLS. *WILLET*: 1 May 31 BB (MC); this is the second consecutive year, both being May records. Dunlin: 1 April 13 BB (R. Coffee, RM, TT), not reported again until the first week of May. *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 1 May 18, 19 Parma (AK et al). Glaucous Gull: last report 2 April 28 ELS (AK). Iceland Gull: last report 1 April 13 WP (AK). Bonaparte's Gull: excellent numbers present at BB from mid-April thru the first week of May, max 5110 April 27 (GOS); 1500 May 4 (G. Meade) was the last large number reported. *LITTLE GULL*: 1 April 26 BB (JS); 1 April 2 ELS (P. Dutcher); 1 May 4-17 BB (MOB). Barn Owl: no reports. Screech and Great Horned present in average numbers. Barred Owl: 1 May 19 Honeoye (C&BP); 1 May 19 Bergen (WCL). Long-eared Owl: 2 April 2 BB (E&BM); 1 May 19 Fishers (G. Meade et al), in addition, at least 1 nest containing 4 young was reported. Short-eared Owl: 1 April 27 Pultneyville (AK), only report for period. Saw-whet Owl: there were 6 reports from April 1 thru 14, one consisting of 2 birds, all reports from the WLS.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: very few reported during migration. Common Nighthawk: resident birds still reported in low numbers, but migrants were reported in excellent numbers along the WLS May 25 thru 31, max 30 May 29, (Greece), these birds were all perched in a small lakeshore woods (NH). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 May 19 Bergen (MCL et al); 1 May 22 Powder Mill Park (R&SO). An estimated 3300 swallows went past BB on May 12 between 6 and 8 A.M., the majority were Barn, but all were represented, including Chimney Swift, included among them were no less than 40 Cliff Swallows (T&MT). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 May 27 Parma (MC, R&SO). Swainson's Thrush: estimated 100 May 29 WLS (NH); Gray-cheeked Thrush: 6 May 29 WLS (NH); several verbal reports were received of the numbers of thrushes present on this day. Eastern Bluebird: no nesting reports. Loggerhead Shrike: no nesting reports and unreported since early April.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warblers and Vireos were very slow in coming, but the quality proved interesting. Our only notable flight occurred on the 15th of May. *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 May 4, 5 BB (NP et al); 1 May 15 Greece (WL et al). Prothonotary Warbler: 1 April 29 WLS (H. Bramley, L. Drivness, R. Hartwell), this bird is reported almost every year now from the lake shore. *WORM-EATING WARBLER*: 1 April 22 Irondequoit (L. Moon); 1 April 28 BB (E. Vollmer et al); 1 May 17 Brighton (D&E Vollmer); 1 May 19 Greece (J. Taylor). *ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*: 1 May 24 Greece (MC&CP). Magnolia Warbler: 60 May 15 WLS (WL&MAS). Many observers noted the large increase in Cape May Warblers in the past two years. *YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER*: 1 May 30 Bergen (R. Clark, W. Symonds). Pine Warbler: 1 April 20-28 BB (MOB); 1

May 2 DEP (JS); 1 May 5 DEP (R&SO); 1 May 15 Geece (R. Spahn). *PRAIRIE WARBLER*: 1, 2 May 11-17 Greece (K. Doris, D. Wilton, L. Trainor). Although Louisiana Waterthrush can be expected in the southern part of our region, it is noteworthy to find one along the lake shore, finding three is rare indeed; 1 April 13 Iron. (D. Tremmel); 1 April 28 BB (D. Vollmer et al); 1 May 15 WEB (J&T McNett). *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: 1 May 15 BB (D&L Skiff, WL, MAS, R. White), if our records are accurate, this is the first report since June 1954. *CONNECTICUT WARBLERS* 1 May 15 WEB J&T McNett); 1 May 23 Greece (NH, R. Ladwig); 1 May 31 Greece (R. Spahn).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: 1 April 26 Bergen (E&BM), this is an early date for our region. *ORCHARD ORIOLE*: 2 May 19 Kendall (WCL et al), this bird has nested successfully in the same area in past years. Evening Grosbeak: several reports throughout period, max 15, last reported May 22. Reports of House Finch are becoming more frequent, but no nesting reports were received thru the end of period. No reports of Pine Grosbeak. *HOARY REDPOLL*: 2 April 4-13 Perinton (F. Phelps). There were 11 reports of Common Redpoll in April (max 6) and no reports in May. Pine Siskin: many reports throughout period (max 44) last reported May 22. Red Crossbill: 3 May 18 Powder Mill Park (Museum Bird Spotters); 1-4 May 16-31 Brighton (M. Schmale); 10 all month Penfield (F. Munson). White-winged Crossbill: no report in April and only two in May (max 8). Lapland Longspur: 1 May 29 Parma (MC, CP).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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While April averaged a little above normal in temperature, there were wide swings in the daily readings with high temperatures at the start, in the middle and at the close of the month and cold periods in between. Precipitation, mostly in the first half, was about normal with snow (11 inches at Ithaca and 2 at Montezuma) on the 8th and 9th. Cloudy, cool and rainy characterized May with a warm spell at mid-month. Total rainfall was about normal and temperature average 3 degrees below normal. Migration was delayed and "waves" were largely absent.

Snow Geese continued to increase in numbers at Montezuma Refuge but the Canada Goose peak, which reached 70,000 in 1972, was only half that number. Maximum counts of migrant dabbling ducks, which had reached an unbelievable low last year, rebounded strongly. Diving ducks were a different story. Continued declines have brought them almost to the vanishing point. The marsh nesting birds continue in very low numbers since the destruction of their broods by Agnes in 1972.

Good shorebird habitat was minimal at Montezuma but the frequent rains kept parts of the Waterloo dump most attractive to these migrants. May rains also produced temporary pools in farm fields some of which had surprising visitors such as 18 Ruddy Turnstones on such a pond north of Geneva.

Savannah, Vesper and Swamp sparrows were difficult to find all spring while Field Sparrows inundated the fields in early May.

Two new species have been added to the Cayuga Basin list, the Cinnamon Teal which visited Montezuma Refuge and the Fish Crow which spent several weeks in the Cayuga Heights section of Ithaca. Field notes will appear on each.

Other rarities include Brant, Ruff (2), Hudsonian Godwit (2), Prairie Warbler,