

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii, one at Bergeson Sanct. Apr. 12 (*vide* RS, Gagne) and photographed by Kibbler Apr. 18; White-throated Sparrow, a fair migration starting the last week in Apr. with max 28 in Amity Twp. May 3, as well as one near Alfred (EB), two in Amity Twp. (VP) and six near Allegany (SE) through May—possibly setting up nesting territories; Fox Sparrow, one on the AAC, two on the CAC, plus nine others, total, seen in four localities; and Lincoln's Sparrow, singles banded at Farmersville Sta. May 2, 13 and 24 (DC) and at Fredonia May 11 (MVJ). A Lapland Longspur was found near Belmont Mar. 29 (MacEwen) and 100 Snow Buntings were seen near Cuba Mar. 7 (AnS) with last for the season of the latter, 19 in Birdsall Twp. Mar. 19 (Clancy).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This year featured another spring of misleading statistics. All three months averaged above normal temperatures, yet all featured long stretches of cold temperatures, northerly oriented winds, and quiet birding. The number of species recorded was at a new high level, but many were represented by one or a few individuals. Rainfall was very low, yet the expected shorebird bonanza never materialized as the lake level slowly rose and remained high enough to inundate the best areas, amid reports of the level being well below long term averages. Arrival dates of many passerines were early to very early, yet most numbers remained low and others expected to accompany those present, arrived relatively late.

In the weather department, March started with average temperatures, dropped to a sharp cold spell from the 13th to the 21st, refreezing most bays and ponds, then rose to a peak of 74° F. (23.3° C) on the 29th. Precipitation was only 1.04" (2.64 cm), 1.60" (4.06 cm) below normal. April started as a continuation of March's warm ending through the 11th, then dropped to below normal for the rest of the month. Again, precipitation was low, 1.95" (4.95 cm), 0.85" (2.16 cm) below normal. The first two thirds of May was cold except for brief warm peaks on the 4th and 5th and 8th-11th. From the 20th on, we came under the influence of a Bermuda high with warm temperatures and steady, though not strong SW winds. May precipitation was 2.27" (5.77 cm), only 0.53" (1.35 cm) below average. The odd weather patterns this spring did help to demonstrate the dominance of photoperiod and general temperature levels on migration over local weather which provides only a minor perturbation on these. The early warm spells brought a few very early arrivals and biased the general arrival of early migrants toward the early end of their local, historic, arrival-date distribution; 57% of all spring arrivals were in the early quartile. Plant life leaped several weeks ahead. However, many of the later passerines were at normal to slightly late dates, influenced little if any by that early warmth and the advanced plant life, except to be much harder to locate in the greenery.

Concentrated effort produced an excellent species list for the season, 264, though many were represented by very small numbers of individuals. The basic feeling was one of scarcity. There were too many days and too many locations

with very quiet woodlands. This year the rarities were all fairly regular migrants, visitors, or breeders within 500-600 miles, in sharp contrast with last year's western flavor. With substantial numbers of very active, competent observers choosing to search for specialties in the proper habitats at the proper times, the list has become unwieldy. It seems apparent that many occur annually in small numbers requiring only diligence and a bit of luck to turn them up. The "lakeshore effect" was again evident with 77% of all first spring arrivals and 90% of the rarities being reported from the lakeshore area.

Two major trends which continue to impact local birding negatively are: 1) the annual spring rise in lake level, man-controlled, resulting in the inundation of virtually all shoreline mudflats before the bulk of the spring shorebird flight, and 2) the annual Trout and Salmon Derby which floods the inshore waters of Lake Ontario and the larger ponds with boats at the peak of the historic loon, grebe, and merganser flights.

Positive avian trends include good counts for: Whistling Swan and Canada Goose, most swallows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Wilson's Warblers, American Redstart, Bobolink, House Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin. Negatives included lows for: both loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Cattle Egret—the first time in 20 years with no reports, Black-crowned Night Heron, both bitterns, Goshawk, Forster's, Common, and especially Caspian Terns, Common Nighthawk, Winter Wren, most thrushes, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows. It is hoped that many of these apparent lows are the results of cool, gray mornings, too much foliage too early, and no major May groundings.

Rarities: Seen less than eight of the past ten years or less than five years consecutively: Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, White-fronted Goose, European Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sandhill Crane, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Roseate Tern, Barn Owl, Common Raven, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and Hoary Redpoll. Rare-but-regular, only a very few each year: Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Acadian Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; D—Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; and WL—west lakeshore, generally Rochester to Pt. Breeze.

Observers: Dawn Anthony, Ron & Kay Ballard, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Joyce & Jack Connor, Dorothy Crumb, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, June Feder, John & Arleen Foster, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Harold Griffen, Kevin Griffith, Norm Henderson, Oivind Jensen, Scott Kampmeier, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Tom Kretchmer, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Mary Mattei, Mike McKeon, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, P.O.S. (Allan, Brian, Dan, David, & Grace Strong, Doug Keim, James Lenhard & Kinsley Whittum), Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauser, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike & David Tetlow, Ann Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS--DUCKS: Loons and grebes were generally reported in very low numbers. Let us hope that they were simply driven out beyond observation limits by the swarms of fishing boats. The Com. Loon max was 125+ Pt. Breeze May 13, very late for a peak. Red-throated Loons were almost unreported, only scattered singles. The best of the grebes was Red-necked Grebe: 75 Pt. Breeze Mar. 26; 190 H-Pt. Breeze Apr. 5; and 100+ Parma Apr. 7. Double-crested Cormorant appeared at typical spring dates with max 16 BB late May, present all month. The heron list sounds like Florida (or Long Island) except that quantities are ones and twos and no Cattle Egret showed. The best of the herons were: Great Blue Heron: max 41 BB May 16; **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one imm Round Pond/Buck Pond May 9-17 (J & JCo, mob); Great Egret: four distinct records Apr. 5 thru, low; Snowy Egret: one Buck Pond (ST, mob); **LOUISIANA HERON:** two Buck Pond Apr. 23-25 (MD, WLi, mob); and Glossy Ibis: one BB Apr. 4-12 (LM, mob). Black-crowned Night Heron and both bitterns were scarce this spring. Among the waterfowl, all expected species were reported, though numbers were average to a bit low for most and most moved on early due to a combination of the early very warm weather and the continuous presence of fishing boats in their traditional resting and feeding areas. The most interesting of the waterfowl records were: Whistling Swan: 278 WL Mar. 1; 450 W Rush Mar. 8; and 220 Byron Mar. 28, all very high counts for this Region; and one Irondequoit Bay May 17; and Braddock Bay May 25-28, late; **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Carlton Mar. 28 (MD, ST); **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** one male Rose's Marsh Apr. 23-28 (MD, WLi, mob); Redhead: max 1200 Sodus Bay Mar. 15; Canvasback: max 1500 Sodus Bay Mar. 15; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** two males BB Mar. 16 (TK); and Black Scoter: max 90 WL Apr. 5.

HAWKS--ALCIDS: The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch was again manned daily by compilers Laura and Neil Moon and numerous other observers. The table below summarizes the peak days, totals, and the averages for the five years of daily coverage, including this year. Once again this year there was no one super hawk day. Through May 1, totals matched last year's record highs, then followed a quiet May. A persistent weather pattern this spring was SW winds for a few hours followed by N-NE lake effect breezes which generally shut off the bulk of a Braddock Bay hawk flight.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWK WATCH SUMMARY--FEBRUARY 15 TO JUNE 18

<u>Species</u>	<u>Peak No.</u>	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>5 yr. Average</u>
Turkey Vulture	178	4/1	1,694	1,393
Goshawk	4	3/29	11	24.6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	645	5/9	4,612	5,080
Cooper's Hawk	23	3/29	124	106
Red-tailed Hawk	387	3/15	2,297	2,145
Red-shouldered Hawk	210	3/15	395	312
Broad-winged Hawk	3449	4/27	15,881	17,489
Swainson's Hawk	0		0	0.2
Rough-legged Hawk	39	2/28	275	308
Golden Eagle	3	5/9	6	9.6
Bald Eagle	3	5/25	18	15.0
Marsh Hawk	31	3/29	338	377
Osprey	16	5/9	96	111
Peregrine Falcon			2	3.6
Merlin	2		7	5.0
Am. Kestrel	206	3/29	488	504
Unidentified accipiter			34	32
Unidentified buteo			655	651
Unidentified eagle			1	0.8
Unidentified falcon			0	3.0
Unidentified raptor			87	54
Total Hawks			27,021	28,625

Additional hawk records of interest were: Golden Eagle: one imm Greece Mar. 29; Bald Eagle: singles, Irondequoit Bay Mar. 21; Greece Mar. 29; Hemlock Lake Apr. 12; and Rose's Marsh May 3, all imm except the Hemlock bird; Osprey: one Webster Mar. 26, early; Peregrine Falcon: one Hilton Mar. 23 (MD); one imm Webster Mar. 26 (WLi); one Manitou Apr. 2 (A1S, JL); and one imm Webster Apr. 24 (SS); and Merlin: six reports scattered thru the season. **SANDHILL CRANE** continued its increases of the past several years with: one BB Mar. 24 (NM, mob); one Hamlin Mar. 28 (CC, AC, AWa); one Greece Mar. 29 (KG) and IC (MM); two Webster (JCz) and BB (L & NM) Apr. 19; and one Carlton May 23 (HM, RS—photo, AK, JCI, TG). Turkey continues to increase and spread, both naturally and through stocking. Ring-necked Pheasant seems up a bit this spring. The rails and company were again poorly reported. The spring shorebirds were well represented by the expected migrants in spite of the poor habitat situation; 23 species were reported. The best of the records were: Wilson's Phalarope: two Greece May 22; Red Knot: two BB May 27-28; Sanderling: one to four Charlotte May 29-30; Western Sandpiper: one Perinton May 24; Pectoral Sandpiper: 500+ WL Apr. (AK, mob); 300+ Lima Apr. 7; and 305 Perinton Apr. 19; Dunlin: one BB Apr. 11, early; and 150 Perinton May 22; and **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: one Carlton Station May 13 (WS, MD, WLi). Gulls and terns provided their usual bit of spring excitement with: Glaucous Gull: four records thru Mar.; Iceland Gull: one Greece Mar. 19-25; two BB May 9-11; and one BB May 17; Great Black-backed Gull: max 400+ Irondequoit Bay Mar. 22; **THAYER'S GULL**: one 1st yr. Irondequoit Bay Mar. 21-23 (MAS, WLi, mob); and one to three imm Manitou May 2-26; **LAUGHING GULL**: one ad BB May 16 (MD); Forster's Tern: three BB Apr. 17 (MD, RS, mob), very early; Com. Tern: one BB Apr. 17, early; and **ROSEATE TERN**: two BB area Apr. 17 (MD, RS, WLi, mob), a first regional record. Terns generally were scarce, particularly Caspian.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: This grouping received its traditional lack of attention. Cuckoos were briefly locally abundant along the lakeshore, otherwise scarce. Owls of particular interest included: **BARN OWL**: one Manitou May 24 (MD, CC); Snowy Owl: five March birds; and Short-eared Owl: one BB May 21, suggestive of possible breeding. Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls were a bit fewer than are usually recorded during spring migration. A Whip-poor-will at BB Apr. 18 was early. Com. Nighthawk continued low. Woodpeckers provided no news of note.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Among the flycatchers, arrival dates were generally on the early side. E. Phoebe seemed a little low in numbers, the rest normal, though the bulk of the individuals followed the annual Big Day. As expected, all of the eastern Empidonax could be found together at favored locations along the lakeshore during the last week of May. In particular, *all five* were calling within a 100 yard circle in Island Cottage Woods May 25. Acadian Flycatchers were at their breeding locale in Bergen Swamp by May 23. Olive-sided Flycatcher was scarce with only three reports, the first at Maplewood Park May 14. All of the expected swallows returned by average to early dates in good numbers. Notable records included: Bank Swallow: one WL Mar. 29 (MP), very early; and Barn Swallow: one Kendall Apr. 4, early. Peak counts were not submitted, a task for an enterprising observer in 1982. **COMMON RAVEN** continued its appearances in the Region with several seen, though only one report was received: one Buck Pond Apr. 24 (RS). Com. Crow and Blue Jay staged their usual protracted lakeshore migrations. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were reported present in proper habitat, suitable for breeding, through the Region thru the season's end. Among the wrens we had: House Wren: abundant; Winter Wren: almost nonexistent; Carolina Wren: sparsely reported, but with three young fledged Irondequoit May 9 (L & NM), very early; Long-billed Marsh Wren: late, but later common; and Short-billed Marsh Wren: scarce and not present in some former breeding areas. The numbers of thrushes on migration seemed quite low with the exception of Am. Robin. Of particular interest was the report of migrating E. Bluebird along the lakeshore May 30, long after most local birds of this species are nesting. It has been postulated that these late migrants are birds which may be found nesting in the Adirondacks in late June. Comments? Blue-gray Gnatcatcher arrived early: one H Apr. 11 (R & SS). Kinglets appeared in good

numbers, with Ruby-crowned by far the more abundant. Cedar Waxwing staged a massive invasion, particularly in the latter half of May with a peak count of 5000+ in three hrs. at the west spit of BB May 30 (AK, ST). No. Shrike lingered through Mar. at BB. Loggerhead Shrike was sparsely reported with six individuals recorded from late Mar. thru May. (It is encouraging that four potential breeding pairs were located by early June with at least one nesting confirmed [WLI].)

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The vireos were characterized by late arrivals. *None* were recorded in April. By late May, numbers seemed more normal on warm mornings. Noteworthy records included: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Powder Mill Park May 17 (JM); and Philadelphia Vireo: one BANC Preserve May 2, very early. All regularly occurring eastern warblers were reported. Some of the most notable were: Prothonotary: one Murray May 17 (JK); **WORM-EATING:** one IC May 8-9 (RD, CC, WD, mob); Orange-crowned: seven records May 5-17; No. Parula: one BB Apr. 18 (GOS), very early; Blackpoll: one D May 1 (CC, AC), very early; Prairie: one Manitou May 5; Louisiana Waterthrush: 12 Letchworth Park May 17 (DB, PC), a good count; **KENTUCKY:** one BB May 25 (K & JD); and **CONNECTICUT:** singles Murray May 17 (RD, RO, mob); Manitou May 23 (ST); Pittsford May 24 (RS, mob); and BB May 25 (ST, RD, NH, RL), all singing males. Other interesting warbler notes included nine species recorded in Apr. and 21 species found in Letchworth Park May 31, all possibly breeding.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The Icterids provided a number of good records, among them: Bobolink locally abundant; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze Apr. 4 thru, apparently mated, a third year return; **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one Parma Apr. 16-28 (MD, mob); Orchard Oriole: three to eight Pt. Breeze May 9 thru; one H May 17; and one Murray May 27 (MT, SKa); and **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** two to 23 (Max 17 males, six females) Hamlin Apr. 2-30 (MD, mob), a first Regional record, much display and high hopes, but no later breeding evidence. Another rare visitor was a molting **SUMMER TANAGER:** one male BB May 5 (PR, HS, MD, KG). Among the general finch grouping, we saw evidence of the return of the winter's invasion which fizzled. There were very large lakeshore flights of Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. Other interesting reports included: **DICKCISSEL:** singing male Charlotte May 28 (RS); the continued spread of breeding House Finches; and **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Manitou Mar. 1 (KG); and one Webster Mar. 20 (KD). As a climax, the sparrows provided a poor finish. There were no really exciting reports. There were impressions that Grasshopper Sparrow was very low, Fox Sparrow scarce, and Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows holding their own relative to the past few years; otherwise just numbers and dates well within normal expectations. A last hurrah for winter's visitors was Snow Buntings: 300 Kendall Mar. 1.

Once again, "tragically," we have a host of Regional records, well-described, sometimes seen by many, for which the observers are too "busy," too lazy, or too insecure to submit records. Such "records" may be likened to the "sound" made by the falling forest giant with no ears present.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The spring was generally mild and dry. Cold spells came in early and mid-March, a protracted one in mid-April and one in mid-May, when the temperature dipped into the twenties.