

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Apparently the mild winter was so popular that it decided to hang on through the spring season. Seriously though, I would more accurately compare it to a roller coaster ride. March was up and down with a high of 65° F on the seventh and a low of 9° F on the 25th. Precipitation was just slightly below normal at 2.45 inches and there was 9.3 inches of measurable snowfall. Those figures indicate an above normal early March but a colder than normal second half. April traditionally tends to be a month of fluctuations in terms of weather patterns, but this April was extremely unpredictable. Disorientation may have been a key word for birders, for April exhibited blustery, winter weather patterns alternating with breezy, spring patterns. One did not know how to prepare one's apparel for the day's outing. You could easily switch from winter underwear to a short-sleeved shirt in a short span of days. The low temperature for April was 22° F on the first while reaching a high of 72° F on the 27th. One of the most notable features of the month was the 12.2 inches of snowfall which was considerably higher than the normal four to five inches. Measurable precipitation was three and one-half inches—about an inch above normal. May exhibited more of the same. The low of 30° F was attained on the 17th and the high peaked at 84° F on the 7th. Precipitation was again above the norm with 3.44 inches as compared to the normal of just under three inches.

No one could really complain about this season's migration. Loons were present throughout the period while lingering on through May. Diving ducks showed good numbers and the weather patterns kept them around to the end of the season. Favorable winds brought a record hawk count to the Hawk Lookout at Braddock Bay, aptly manned by Laura and Neil Moon and a host of other volunteers. Wild Turkeys continued to be reported regularly. The wet conditions produced some good shorebird habitat; species totals were generally quite good. Snowy Owls were still being reported into April—a continuation of the good winter population. Barred Owls appeared to be increasing slightly with some good reports. Common Nighthawks put in a commendable spring showing with a couple of early arrivals and consistent numbers through May. Belted Kingfishers put forth an excellent migratory show in April. This spring produced an excellent passerine migration during the second week of May and on through the period. Numbers of some thrushes and warblers were quite high. Overshoots also made for an interesting season. Any year we have a Summer Tanager or two is a good one. Indigo Buntings were found in very good numbers along the lake-shore. Vesper Sparrows staged a minor yet encouraging influx to once abandoned locales. The Brewer's Blackbirds were once again reported along the West Lake-shore—pointing to a now yearly pattern. Numbers of Purple Finches appeared down early, but excellent numbers invaded Island Cottage Woods in May.

On the negative side: Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were down in numbers. The usual April arrival of a few wandering southern herons never materialized. Common Snipe numbers weren't quite up to par. Common and Forster's Terns were relatively scarce. Red-headed Woodpeckers, away from their usual haunts, were tough to find. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were here as usual, but not in traditional abundance. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in small numbers. For no apparent reason, Carolina Wrens were down. Loggerhead Shrike reports

dropped slightly from recent totals. Henslow's Sparrows vacated some traditional breeding locales. Reports of winter finches—what are they?

Rarities: White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Summer Tanager, LeConte's Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: B—Bergen; BB—Braddock Bay; C—Carlton; CH—Cobbs Hill; D—Durand-Eastman Park; EL—East Lakeshore; G—Greece; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; L—Letchworth State Park; PB—Point Breeze; WL—West Lakeshore.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The loon migration was atypical for the season. At times the flight was not noticeable due to the myriad of boats from the various and sundry fishing derbys; the fishermen reported large numbers of loons well out on the lake. The Red-throated Loon max was 15 WL 30 Apr, while the Com. Loon max was 325 H 24 Apr. The grebe situation was not outstanding. The first spring Pied-billed report was two at Buttonwood Creek 6 Mar, but numbers were generally down. Horned Grebes were not numerous by any stretch of the word, and Red-necked Grebes made their annual spring appearance along the West Lakeshore with a max of 270 WL 1 Apr (MD). Am. Bitterns were regular in numbers if not perhaps a bit late. Least Bitterns put in a fine spring showing with one WL 30 Apr for an arrival and numerous reports in May. One Great Egret BB 3 Apr was a mediocre showing for Apr. Two Snowy Egrets Kendall 21 May were good but the only indication of a southern heron flight. Glossy Ibis: one BB 12 May. A late Tundra Swan report came from BB 16 May. Waterfowl were typical but concentrations were lacking. Some species tarried into the end of the period and may result in summering birds. Noteworthy waterfowl included: Canada Goose: 60,000 WL 1-31 Mar. Eurasian Wigeon: one Kendall 17 Mar (RC, PB), one G 27 Mar (JS, ST), one PB 24, 28 Apr (WS, FD, RD). Oldsquaw: max 600 D 1 Mar. Surf Scoter: first of spring, one PB 6 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: late individual, one BB 21-31 May. Ruddy Duck: arrival, three BB 26 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The raptor migration, as recorded at Braddock Bay, is summarized in the chart below. Favorable winds produced a record count at the Hawk Lookout with a new high total of 49,592 as of early June. New high counts were established for Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Am. Kestrel.

Braddock Bay Hawk Watch Summary 1983 – February 27 - June 16

Species	Total	Species	Total
Turkey Vulture	2,081	Rough-legged Hawk	330
Osprey	88	Golden Eagle	9
Bald Eagle	36	Am. Kestrel	1,768*
N. Harrier	641	Merlin	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10,291*	Peregrine Falcon	5
Cooper's Hawk	220	Unidentified accipiters	7
N. Goshawk	141*	Unidentified buteos	315
Red-shouldered Hawk	623	Unidentified eagles	2
Broad-winged Hawk	29,991*	Unidentified falcons	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3,004	Unidentified raptors	25

Peak Count for some selected species

Species	Total	Date
N. Harrier	77	4/ 4
Cooper's Hawk	31	4/ 4
N. Goshawk	42*	4/ 4
Red-shouldered Hawk	316	4/ 4
Broad-winged Hawk	11,172*	4/27
Red-tailed Hawk	656	4/16
Rough-legged Hawk	55	4/ 4
Am. Kestrel	1,166*	4/14

* new high for annual counts

Five Bald Eagles were recorded on 4 Apr at BB. Merlin reports were scattered with four in Mar, 12 in Apr and one in May. Peregrine Falcon reports were generally good with five in Apr and one in May. Ring-necked Pheasant: The region was filled with spring calling—a good sign. A single Wild Turkey put in an unprecedented appearance at BB to echo the continued spread of this species. Rails were of usual occurrence. Virginia Rail: arrival, one IC 12 Apr. Sora: arrival one BB 9 Apr. Shorebird totals were fairly good due to the presence of suitable habitat. Some noteworthy records included: Lesser Golden-Plover: one BB 14 Apr. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 124 H 3 May. Upland Sandpiper: arrival one C 23 Apr. Red Knot: seven H 21 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2000+ H 26 May. Western Sandpiper: four WL 30 May. Dunlin: 1600+ H 26 May. STILT SANDPIPER: one H 8 May (MD, JD, mob). Short-billed Dowitcher: 100+ WL 15 May. Com. Snipe: one BB 31 Mar, early? Wilson's Phalarope: one H 5 May, one Parma 8 May, one H 8 May, one Kendall 22 May. Bonaparte's Gulls seemed slightly down for the season. The only white-winged gull was a Glaucous Gull: one G 27 Mar. Tern totals were not terribly impressive. Arrival dates were as follows: Caspian Tern: two FF 29 Apr. Com. Tern: three BB 29 Apr. Forster's Tern: one BB 24 Apr. Black Tern: four BB 1 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoo populations seemed about normal. Black-billed arrival date was one B 7 May, while Yellow-billed was one EL 22 May. Owl reports during the period indicated a generally typical spring migration with the usual reports of Long-eareds and Saw-whets. Some interesting reports included: Snowy Owl: one Lee Rd., G thru 11 Apr (JG). Long-eared Owl: two Avon 1-31 May, active nest (A. Wray). Short-eared Owl: one C 1 May, late or nesting? (D & DT). N. Saw-whet Owl: two B 22 May, nesting? (MD, KG, CT), one B 26 May (ST). Com. Nighthawks put on an early show, one G 22 Apr and one Seneca Park 23 Apr. Whip-poor-wills could be found along the lakeshore as well as at the usual haunt, Bergen. A most interesting phenomenon was the migration of Belted Kingfishers, 280 BB 14 Apr (RD, WS *et al.*). Woodpecker populations remained relatively stable. Red-headed Woodpeckers away from their Avon stronghold, continued to be scarce. N. Flickers staged a healthy migration with a max of 263 BB 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatcher arrivals and numbers were quite normal with the exception of an Olive-sided, one CH 9 May, quite early. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were quite easy to find and Acadians remained regular with the first arriving at IC 29 May. Least Flycatchers were approaching abundance during early May. In general the swallows maintained normal status; but Purple Martins, N. Rough-winged Swallows and Bank Swallows were a bit late in establishing any numbers and sighting frequencies. Blue Jays staged their usual mass migration in May, but the intensity appeared down somewhat. Most interesting was the return of Com. Raven, one H 17 Mar (KB), one H 19 Mar (KG) and one H 23-24, 28 Apr (MD, WS), becoming a yearly occurrence at Hamlin. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Brown Creepers were of good status with a max of 25 IC 6 May. Carolina Wrens appear down, even after the mild winter. Sedge Wren went unreported. Marsh Wrens were slightly behind schedule but were found in atypical numbers. Both kinglets were in good supply and several pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers set up housekeeping in Island Cottage Woods in early May. Many observers watched an active pair construct the tiny nest of lichens, cobwebs and such. There were good numbers of thrushes evident along the lakeshore with

the exception of E. Bluebird; reports of this species along the lakeshore were down. The mimids were well reported including a good population of N. Mockingbirds. A late N. Shrike was one Kendall 6 Mar. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported during all three months, but numbers were low.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREOS made an infrequent appearance this spring, one Manitou 21 May (RM, RS), two W. Irondequoit Bay 27 May thru (R & SS). That pair has taken up territory, quite possibly nesting. Solitary Vireo: arrival one D 1 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arrival one CH 3 May, in good numbers this spring. Warbling Vireo: very common. Philadelphia Vireo: arrival one Thousand Acre Swamp 8 May. Red-eyed Vireo: good spring flight. The warbler migration was one of the best in years. The 7th and 8th of May provided very fine birding, some overshoots and some interesting records. "Brewster's" Warbler: one IC 14 May (KG, *et al.*). Tennessee Warbler: 67 L 22 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one IC 12 May, one IC 15 May, one D 17 May, one PB 22 May. N. Parula: arrival, one CH 2 May, very good numbers this spring. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 25 G 14 May, 25 CH 15 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 500 WL 7 May, 600 WL 8 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: 70 G 7 May. Pine Warbler: arrival, one IC 29 Apr, one CH 29 Apr. Prairie Warbler: one IC 6 May, one CH 9 May. Palm Warbler: 25 IC 8 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: 65 G 17 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one D 5 May, one IC 22, 29 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** super overshoot season, one PB 7 May (MD), one D 8 May (DS, DT), one Webster Park 11 May (J. Wing *fide* ST). Louisiana Waterthrush: arrival one Naples 26 Apr. Kentucky Warbler: one Norway Rd. 22 May (RC). Connecticut Warbler: one Manitou 21 May (RS). Mourning Warbler: arrival one IC 20 May. Hooded Warbler: many along lakeshore, max 20 L 22 May (DB).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Two reports of **SUMMER TANAGER** were a spring highlight. one IC 13 May (PR, WS *et al.*), one Honeoye 22 May (MW, JM). Dickcissel: one G 3, 4 May (RS, KG). Am. Tree Sparrow: late, one Highland Park 10 May. Savannah Sparrow: early, one PB 19 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: 70+ Wayne Co. 20 Apr. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** one C 14 May (RO, RD). Henslow's Sparrow numbers were down quite noticeably. Some traditional breeding spots were vacated. Western Meadowlark: the Pt. Breeze bird returned around the 16th of Mar and has been singing ever since, another bird was located in Carlton 22 May (MC, WS). Once again the **BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS** staged in the Hamlin area, arrival two H 16 Mar (WS), 6-22 were reported through Apr. Brown-headed Cowbird: one albino Webster 22 May. Orchard Oriole: the breeding population took up residence once again at Pt. Breeze. Pine Siskin: four BB 7 May (R & MM).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The unusually mild weather of the winter continued into March until the vernal equinox—the advent of Spring—when it turned colder. With an occasional brief respite, it remained so thru the period. At Ithaca, with 6.86 inches of rain, April was the wettest ever recorded in the 104 years of weather records there. Also 14.5 inches of snow made it the top snow month of the 1982-83 winter and the third snowiest April ever. May continued mainly cold and wet with 26 degrees F recorded at Ithaca on 17 and 18 May.

The migration was referred to as "crazy," no doubt made so in part, at least, by the crazy weather patterns. The snow and cold of April held back those species which should have been arriving then. I have documentation that at Arling-