

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The spring season was marked by a series of contrasting and possibly conflicting conditions. Birding conditions were quite pleasant most of the time. Average temperatures were up across the board and rainfall was relatively normal for this time of the year. What resulted was a set of conditions that were not necessarily conducive to grounding of migrants. There were a few good days, but for the most part mediocrity was the fare. Early season warmth brought optimism of early arrivals but this was not necessarily the case. Low or relatively low rainfall failed to produce much shorebird habitat. The high water level of Lake Ontario was also a contributing factor to this condition. I find it hard to describe the season. There were the usually expected species, but the numbers seemed lower than normal. Was the weather too good? Did the birds simply pass us by? Has habitat destruction and pesticide use on the tropical wintering grounds affected the populations? These questions may be answered across the state in next season's reports.

Let's take a look at the seasonal weather statistics. March temperatures averaged out at 36.7° F which was 3.4° F above normal. April's average was 49.6° F which was 3.6° F above the norm. May reached an average of 58.6° F. This represented an above average total of 1.7° F. Precipitation showed less of a fluctuation from the norm. Totals for the most part varied slightly. March precipitation reached a total of 3.47". That was .94 inches above the normal average. April, which should be noted for its showers, was 1.34" below normal at 1.3". May was at 2.08" for a .5" below normal reading.

There were a few noticeable positive points to the spring migration even though most of the commentary points to a negative trend. Waterfowl numbers appeared to be fairly good. The early season warmth brought the expected species and a couple of unexpected ones. The raptor migration had some good days and also produced a surprise visitor. The gull numbers were considerably higher than usual along the lakeshore. Greater than usual concentrations were present at Irondequoit and Braddock Bays. Of note were the good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls and late white-winged gulls. A Snowy Owl in late April is always a good find. The continued presence of No. Saw-whet Owls in May points to local breeding. Likewise, the Acadian Flycatcher reports indicate an expanding breeding population. Yellow-breasted Chats were on the upswing with reports through the end of the period. A good blackbird flight materialized in early spring, and the Brewer's Blackbirds returned once again with sightings into May.

The down side seemed to be more noticeable this season. Loon numbers were very poor with Red-throated Loon reports nearly nonexistent. Waterfowl lingerers were few. The raptor flights in May were less than exciting. Once again I must speak of the lack of shorebird habitat. It seems like each season I bring this point to the foreground. But it is a recent negative trend that continues to be a problem. The expected species were found in small numbers. The emphasis

is on small. Totals were quite low. The tern numbers also showed a downward trend. Traditional numbers were not found. This was in contrast to the gull totals. Migrant Long-eared Owls and No. Saw-whets were fewer in number than usual. Whip-poor-wills were very difficult to locate. The passerine flight was conflicting in the fact that most expected species were recorded but in low numbers. Of special note were the few Cape May Warblers and the absence of Prothonotary Warblers. Rarities: Eared Grebe, Mississippi Kite, Ruff, Thayer's Gull and White-eyed Vireo.

Abbreviations: arr-arrival, B-Braddock Bay, C-Charlotte, CS-Carlton Station, D-Durand-Eastman Park, G-Greece, H-Hamlin, HP-Hogan Pt., I-Irondequoit Bay, IC-Island Cottage Woods, K-Kendall, M-Manitou, P-Pt. Breeze, WL-West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one B 20 March, poor showing. Com. Loon: one G 30 May, last report of season. Red-necked Grebe: max 300 H 4 April, good total. **EARED GREBE**: one Buck Pond, G, 10 April (FD), report from area where they have been reported in past years. Double-crested Cormorant: good totals along the lakeshore. Am. Bittern: arr two B 5 April. Least Bittern: arr one B 18 May. Snowy Egret: one G 12 May, relatively scarce in recent years. Tricolored Heron: one B 24-27 May (RO, ST), good report of uncommon wader. Cattle Egret: max two HP 1-8 May, one reported since 28 April; one H 31 May, returning to former status of regular. Green-backed Heron: arr one IC 22 April. Tundra Swan: good numbers again, two G 9 May, late barriers. Mute Swan: one Mendon Ponds 19 March, one G 24 April, origins unknown. Greater White-fronted Goose: one CS 16-17 March (WS), adult; three K 24 March (WS), adults; one K 24 March (WS), imm; one adult Gaines 26 April (WS), excellent spring totals. Brant: max 14 C 18 May. **BARNACLE GOOSE**: three H 11-24 March, 13 April, 20-24 April (S. Skelly, mob), one adult and two imm. They associated with Canada Geese and kept to themselves within the flock. Their behaviour suggested that they *might* be wild. This question of course always arises with this species and cannot be answered with certainty. An observer from Connecticut who spent this spring in our region saw the three Barnacle Geese observed in Connecticut last fall and he feels that this may be the same trio. Canada Goose: usual good totals, 500+ with neck bands. Blue-winged Teal: arr two Webster 12 March. No. Shoveler: arr two G 14 March. Canvasback: one K 25 May, lingerer. Oldsquaw: three-ten WL 19 May, good totals for late in season. Black Scoter: five WL 23 March, one WL 16/27 April, max 20 WL 19 May, excellent numbers for May. Surf Scoter: one B 9 April, two Webster Park 27 April. White-winged Scoter: present through the season. Com. Goldeneye: one G 16 May, lingerer. Bufflehead: one K 19 May, late report. Ruddy Duck: arr one WL 8 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch was once again manned under the direction of Laura and Neil Moon. The final results are not yet in since the project runs

into June, but some of the details and highlights are included in this report. The Hawk Banding Station was also in operation again this spring under the direction of Clay Taylor. The statistics are summarized in Table I. Turkey Vulture: max 1891 B 6 April, highest ever. Osprey: arr one B 28 March, very early. **MISSISSIPPI KITE**: one Bailey Road, Parma 21 April (R. Mather, J. Dodge, B. Tomasy, J. Beilman, R. Byron), first regional record, adult, studied by experienced observers with previous sightings of the species. This was easily the highlight of the spring hawk flights in terms of rarities. Bald Eagle: arr three imm B 27 March. Red-shouldered Hawk: arr two B 7 March; max 94 B 27 March; one G 27 April, imm, last report for season. Broad-winged Hawk: arr 13 B 14 April, max 11,207 B 21 April. Rough-legged Hawk: down from previous years. Golden Eagle: max five B 21 April, good total. Merlin: one M 4 May, one B 5 May, three M 15 May; totals apparently less than last year. Peregrine Falcon: max two B 21 April, one B 5 May, one M 14 May, one Webster 15 May.

Table I. Hawk Banding Station Results
Species Totals

Sharp-shinned	192	Red-tailed	8
Cooper's	68	No. Harrier	2
No. Goshawk	5	Am. Kestrel	40
Merlin	1		

Wild Turkey: good numbers. Virginia Rail: arr one IC 7 April. Sora: arr one B 16 April. Sandhill Crane: one B 10 April (L. Moon, WL, mob), one B 14 April, probably the same bird. Black-bellied Plover: arr 16 G 6 May. Semipalmated Plover: arr 12 H 10 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr three WL 10 April. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr two H 10 April. Solitary Sandpiper: arr one Ellison Park 4 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr one WL 28 April. Upland Sandpiper: arr two CS 21 April. Ruddy Turnstone: arr two C 18 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two HP 10 May. Western Sandpiper: arr one H 21 May. Least Sandpiper: arr 12 HP, H 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr five WL 7 April. Dunlin: arr two H 21 April. **RUFF**: one male HP 12 May (R & SS). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two Honeoye 20 April. Am. Woodcock: arr two M 10 March. Wilson's Phalarope: max two HP 19 May. Little Gull: one H 7 April. Bonaparte's Gull: good numbers through the season. **THAYER'S GULL**: one C 19 May (RS), first winter plumage. Iceland Gull: one B 11 May, imm; one M 19 May. Caspian Tern: arr one B 6 April. Com. Tern: arr one G 15 April. Black Tern: arr two B 30 April.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr one Wayne Co. 19 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one D 19 May. Com. Barn-Owl: one M 16 April (RS), only spring report. Snowy Owl: one M 21 April (mob), very late in the season. Barred Owl: one Mendon Ponds 28 April, new location. Long-eared Owl: arr one M 10 March. No. Saw-whet Owl: one Bergen 19 May, continues recent trend of sightings in that locale. Com. Nighthawk: arr one G 7 May. Whip-poor-will: arr one Webster 1 May. Chimney Swift: arr two IC 24 April. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one Webster 10 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr several IC 7 April.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr one Letchworth 28 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr one IC 9 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr one IC 12 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one B 19 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr one several locations 19 May. Willow Flycatcher: one G 9 May, early. Least Flycatcher: arr one D 4 May. E. Phoebe: arr M 5 April. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr one H 1 May. E. Kingbird: arr two B 30 April. Purple Martin: arr one M 13 April. Tree Swallow: arr one G 23 March. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr four B 20 April. Bank Swallow: arr five G 21 April. Cliff Swallow: arr two M 21 April. Barn Swallow: arr ten CS 20 April. Carolina Wren: continued good reports. House Wren: arr one Bushnells Basin 20 April. Sedgwick Wren: one Chase Road 25 May. Marsh Wren: arr one B 16 April. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr one IC 15 April. E. Bluebird: good totals of migrants. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one IC 6 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr one IC 6 May.

Wood Thrush: arr one Cobb's Hill 2 May. Bohemian Waxwing: one Sodus 10 March, poor showing this year.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one IC 26 May (Mike Davids, KG, PR), fairly cooperative singing bird, was not associated with any particularly strong bird movement. Solitary Vireo: arr one Penfield 27 April. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr one B/G 6 May. Warbling Vireo: arr one-three several locations 4 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one Webster 29 April (SS), extremely early date. Red-eyed Vireo: one Cobb's Hill 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: several locations reported single birds on 5 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr one G 5 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Norway Rd. 25 May, one Oatka Creek Park 30 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr one-two several locations 5 May, they were quite numerous during the migration, several people commented that they were everywhere they went. Orange-crowned Warbler: one IC 9-10 May, one M 10 May. Nashville Warbler: arr two Mendon Ponds 27 April. N. Parula: arr one D 4 May. Yellow Warbler: arr one WL 28 April. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr one IC 4 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr one D 5 May. Cape May Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 30 April, early. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 1 May, quite plentiful during migration. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr one ICW 1 May, not as numerous as in recent years. Blackburnian Warbler: arr one D 4 May. Pine Warbler: arr one-two IC 15 April. Palm Warbler: arr one IC 22 April, last one IC 19 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 5 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr one G 15 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr three WL 7 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr one B 16 April. Am. Redstart: arr one D 5 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one Genesee River gorge 8 May, continued trend of sightings. Ovenbird: arr one D 5 May. N. Waterthrush: arr one IC 8 April. Louisiana Waterthrush: one from several locations 19 May. Connecticut Warbler: one-two IC 27-29 May, becoming predictable and regular. Mourning Warbler: arr two I 17 May, max 12 IC 28 May. Hooded Warbler: arr one M 7 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr one M 13 May, banded. Canada Warbler: arr one IC 12 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one IC 9 May, one-three present at Norway Rd. from 19-31 May, one M 13-14 May, good year for chat.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr one IC 1 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Powder Mill Park 3 May. Indigo Bunting: arr one Naples late April. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr one IC 15 April. Am. Tree Sparrow: last report of season one IC 21 April. Field Sparrow: arr two Ellison Park 9 April. Vesper Sparrow: good numbers this season. Savannah Sparrow: arr one HP 7 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: one-five from several locations 19 May. Henslow's Sparrow: more numerous away from lakeshore. Fox Sparrow: very good numbers this season. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr one IC 5 May, last one IC 25 May. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers throughout the period. Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon race: four separate reports from April. Lapland Longspur: max 12 K 17 March late. Snow Bunting: max 1000 K 17 March. Bobolink: arr 10 + D 5 May. E. Meadowlark: arr one B 10 March. W. Meadowlark: one Penfield 28-30 April (DS, TT); one Penfield 1-19 (TT, RC); the Pt. Breeze bird did not return for the first time in nearly five years. Rusty Blackbird: one Highland Park 22 May, late. Brewer's Blackbird: one-nine H 7-22 April, numbers lower than in recent years; one H 19 May, late record. Orchard Oriole: max three P 11 May. N. Oriole: arr one Ellison Park 29 April. Red Crossbill: 25 Rochester 10 May (MR), high total and late date. White-winged Crossbill: max eight G 26 April, numerous reports of smaller numbers. Com. Redpoll: max 60 WL 23 March, 60 G 21 April; good numbers for a species that has been scarce of late. Pine Siskin: max 20 WL 22 March. Evening Grosbeak: poor totals for the season.

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