

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

March temperatures averaged 2.2 warmer than normal at Buffalo. From 10 through 22 Mar (except for the 12th and 13th) it was unseasonably cold, so cold that the sap failed to run in the maple producer's tubing and reduced the crop in much of southwestern New York to 2/3 normal. Precipitation was about normal in Buffalo but "almost nonexistent" at Amity Lake. Snow depths at Buffalo totaled 6.1 inches, just over half the norm. April at Buffalo was "drab and disappointing" according to the *Buffalo News*. Rainfall was near normal but quite continuous; temperatures averaged slightly above average. The Lake Erie ice boom was removed on 9 Apr and ice disappeared from the Lake as its temperature reached 33° on 23 Apr, compared to 8 Mar in 1987. May temperatures at Buffalo averaged 2.5° above normal. However, the southern tier counties were generally colder than normal and precipitation was almost continuous until the last five days of May, which were warm and without rain. The foliage, which had been held back by cold temperatures in early and mid-May quickly burst forth by the end of the month.

Dan Carrol, DEC Region 8, tells a joyous story about a pair of Bald Eagles at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The male which successfully nested in the spring of 1986 lost his mate in 1987, but quickly found a new one hacked at Alcove Reservoir near Albany. This female was only three years old in 1987 but a good pair bond was maintained. The original male and his new mate returned in the fall of 1987 and built a second nest, but in the spring they returned to the original nest and after activities of various sorts began incubating two eggs on 20 Apr. Hatching occurred on 24 May. The two eaglets seem to be developing normally. Less joyous only because of its outcome is the tale of two Osprey at a nest at Cold Spring, Cattaraugus Co., reported by Tom Jurezak and myself. Found on 27 Apr, one bird was incubating on 8 May. Two eggs were laid but unfortunately they didn't hatch; this is the first recent Regional nesting attempt by Ospreys. Maybe next year it will be a success!

Fran Rew and her team of hawk watchers at Ripley, believe it or not, counted 825 Turkey Vultures on 29 Mar. This is in the southwestern corner of the Region along the Portage Escarpment. They logged 54 days of observations between 20 Feb and 22 May. A total of 2867 TVs were counted during the 54 day period, more than the Moons counted at Braddock's Bay in 1984 (*Kingbird* 35(1):7-37) and more than passed Derby Hill in 1987 (*Kingbird* 37:155). There seems to be migration along a broader front here than at Braddock's Bay or Derby Hill.

The waterfowl migration across the southern tier counties continues to be merely a trickle. There were some interesting highlights such as an **Eared Grebe**, **White Pelican**, **Greater White-fronted Goose** and **Barnacle Goose** at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge and a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Tifft Farm Nature Preserve. The Tundra Swan migration was early and spectacular along the southern tier, but ended abruptly. The birds should have arrived on the tundra in good time for nesting. Spring records of **Sandhill Crane** and **Hudsonian Godwit** were likewise notable.

Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter report that along the lake plain the warbler migration started slowly but on 8 and 9 May birds "poured in" and the next two weeks were outstanding. The southern counties were not so lucky. No great waves or abundance of migrants was found. Perhaps the heavy, cold air over the Great Lakes piled them up. Both cuckoo species were widespread in the southern tier.

Earl Shriver, a hawk bander from Pennsylvania, located the first **Common Raven's** nest of this century in Allegany County on 16 Apr in a mature Red Pine plantation. Vivian Pitzrick was an eager witness later in the day and documented the event for us and Cornell University. On 1 May she reported two well feathered young at the nest edge. Cattaraugus County should follow with a confirmed nesting soon. Other unusual landbird sightings included **Western Kingbird**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Yellow-throated Warbler** (3 reports, one a PDBA) and **Brewer's Blackbird**.

The Cattaraugus County Bird Club honored Don Clark, master bird bander of Farmersville Station, on the occasion of his banding his 38,000th bird, a Mourning Dove. To give you brief results of his efforts he has had 3,111 returns of 48 species, and 119 recoveries of 29 species. Congratulations Don! Thanks go to Regina VanScoy for organizing the event.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andriele, Tim Baird, Lois Beck, Allen Benton, Betsy Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou and Doris Burton, Dan Carroll, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Bruce Chilton, Dick Collins, Don and Jane Clark, Dick Clements, William D'Anna, DiTommaso(DiT), Steve Eaton, Flora and Ted Elderkin, Donald Endres, Michael Galas, Joe Gula, Jr. and Sr., Jamestown Audubon Society, Tom Jurezak, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry and Judy Mosher, Vivian and Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Earl Shriver, David Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Jim and Regina VanScoy, William Watson.

Abbreviations: ASP-Allegany State Park; ATwn-Amity Township, Allegany Co; DH-Dunkirk Harbor; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; PTwn-Pomfret Township, Chautauqua Co.; TFNP-Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA-Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one DH 14-17, 23-24 Apr. Com. Loon: arr three Ripley Twn CHAU 25 Mar, over hawk watch site; max Hamburg 26 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Celeron 10 Mar. Horned Grebe, arr two INWR 13 Mar, max 190 Bear L CHAU 18 Apr, last Lewiston Res NIAG 7 May. Red-necked Grebe: seven in Alternate plumage Foster L ALLE 10 Apr. **Eared Grebe**: one INWR 1 Apr (WD, CD mob). **White Pelican**: one Jamestown 28 Apr, Chautauqua L 29 Apr (*fide* RS). Double-crested Cormorant: arr INWR 9 Apr, max Chautauqua L 25 Apr; six different localities in May. Am. Bittern: reports from CHAU, CATT, ERIE and ORLE, hopeful increases. Least Bittern: arr TWMA 16 May, four other reports May. Great Egret: arr TWMA 9 Apr, max seven TWMA 21 May. Snowy Egret: one TWMA 30 May. Cattle Egret: one Ripley 9 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Porter Twn NIAG 26 Mar. Tundra Swan: arr 500 on ice Coburns, Chautauqua L, 28 Feb; great movement through Region 6 Mar, last 4 Apr. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one INWR 22 Mar (DE!). Snow Goose: arr INWR 7 Mar, max 12 Apr. **Barnacle Goose**: one INWR 22 Mar (DE!). Am. Black Duck: max 150 PTwn 27 Mar. N.Shoveler: arr three INWR 12 Mar. Gadwall: arr two TFNP 26 Mar. Eurasian Wigeon: one TFNP 1-4 Apr (WW, MG, mob!). Am. Wigeon: arr 15 INWR 10 Mar. Canvasback: arr two TWMA 12 Mar. Redhead: arr four 27 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: arr two Celeron 25 Mar, also wintered DH, max 85 PTwn 28 Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 136 Lewiston Res NIAG

12 Apr. Oldsquaw: arr Celeron 25 Mar. Black Scoter: arr two Pt Gratiot CHAU 13 Apr. Surf Scoter: arr Buffalo Harbor 28 Apr. White-winged Scoter: max 65 Shadagee NIAG 1 Mar. Com. Merganser: pair ASP 7 May, Salamanca 15 May (TB). Red-breasted Merganser: five Allegheny Res 29 May, late migrants? Ruddy Duck: arr mouth Niagara R 30 Mar, max 12 TWMA 30 Apr, last INWR 22 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Summary hawk migration at Ripley:

Species	First	Max (Date)	Last	Total
Turkey Vulture	2 Mar	825 (29 Mar)	22 May	2867
Osprey	2 Apr	10 (10 May)	22 May	58
Bald Eagle	31 Mar		10 Apr	3
N. Harrier	2 Mar	7 (5 Apr, 8 May)	15 May	102
S. shinned Hawk	2 Mar	222 (8 May)	22 May	1315
Cooper's Hawk	5 Mar	8 (25 Mar)	14 Apr	63
N. Goshawk	28 Feb		9 May	5
Red-shouldered H.	28 Feb	66 (23 Mar)	22 May	209
Broad-winged H.	14 Apr	425 (1 May)	22 May	2007
Red-tailed H.	20 Feb	190 (23 Mar)	22 May	1698
Rough-legged H.	8 Mar	6 (8 Mar)	26 Apr	25
Am. Kestrel	2 Mar	24 (29 Mar)	13 May	166
Merlin	23 Apr		25 Apr	2
Unident. raptor				45
Total				8565

Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*; max six over Hamburg 29 Mar; several reports throughout Region. N. Goshawk: one nest located CATT and a few ALLE. Red-shouldered Hawk: first territorial male Carrollton 9 Mar. **Golden Eagle**: one Lac-kawana 28 Apr (DiT). Merlin: singles Pt Gratiot CHAU 14 Apr, Dunkirk 23 Apr, Joseph Davis SP 24 Apr and Ripley 23, 25 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: one Buffalo 4, 7 May. **Sandhill Crane**: one Ripley 23 Apr, becoming regular in spring (RS, mob). Willet: one TWMA 30 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hamburg 26 Apr. Whimbrel: arr ten TWMA 24 May, max 40 Times Beach ERIE 22 May. **Hudsonian Godwit**: one N Harmony CHAU 30 Apr. (F and TE). White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Times Beach ERIE 22 May. Dunlin: max 35 TWMA 25 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two Wheatfield NIAG 21 May. Com. Snipe: max 60 PTwn 7 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: one TWMA 7-8, 11 May, one Times Beach ERIE 22 May. Little Gull: two Lewiston 27 Mar, one 25 Apr. Bonaparte's Gull: max 2475 mouth Niagara R 14 Apr. Iceland Gull, one Pt Gratiot CHAU 8 Apr. Glaucous Gull: one Niagara Falls 22 Apr. Gr. Black-backed Gull: max 26 Barcelona H 30 May. Caspian Tern: max 36 DH 24 Apr. Com. Tern: max eight DH 21 Apr.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr PTWN 25 May. Snowy Owl: last TFNP 1 Apr. Long-eared Owl, max six Cambria Twn NIAG 4 Mar. Short-eared Owl: max 11 Shelby Twn ORLE 1 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: two Golden Hill SP 25 Mar, only report. Whip-poor-will: two to three calling Webster Rd, PTwn late May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 14 reports Mar, one Apr, six May (BOS), doing well.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher, arr PTwn 10 May, five PDBA 16,18 May, one South Valley CATT (PDBA) 28,29 May. **W. Kingbird**: one Somerset Twn NIAG 11 May (Rey). Horned Lark: max 50 Somerset Twn NIAG 12 Mar. Com. Raven: *intro*, one ASP 15 May (TB). Tufted Titmouse: six reports Mar, two Apr, six May (BOS), influx continues. Marsh Wren: two Gainsville Twn WYOM 30 May, only third locality BOS area (second is TFNP). E. Bluebird: 24 pairs Amity, Ward, Scio Twn ALLE 1-31 May (VP). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Pt Gratiot CHAU 8 May. N. Mockingbird: three localities Mar, two Apr, five May, all from lake plains. Water Pipit: arr 30+ ATwn 13 Mar (DB!) N. Shrike: seven reports Mar (BOS). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Ripley Twn 30 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one to two TFNP 10-15 May (WD, mob). Solitary Vireo: one Carrollton 12 Apr, two days later than earliest (SE). Philadelphia Vireo: arr Leon 1 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr PTwn and ATwn 7 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr TWMA 8 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: arr PTwn 14 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Williamsville Glen ERIE 12 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Pt. Gratiot CHAU 8 May (DS), one TFNP 11 May (DC,WD), two Cold Spring CATT 16 May (PDBA). Prairie Warbler: arr CHAU 8 May; one to three ATwn 11-23 May, three Carroll Twn CHAU 16 May (PDBA), five to eight on 28 May. Prothonotary Warbler: arr INWR 21 May, two 30 May, one TWMA 28 May. Kentucky Warbler: one Franklinville 11 May. Hooded Warbler: arr Carrollton 10 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr TFNP 9 May, one Salamanca Twn CATT 15 May (TB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last Buckhorn ISP 3 May, late. Clay-colored Sparrow: one Alabama Twn GENE 8 May (DE!). Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Ward Twn ALLE 30 Apr, one ATwn and Ward Twn ALLE 11, 12, 18 May, two PTwn 15 May, six PTwn 16 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr PTwn 8 May, one to five to 29 May. Lapland Longspur: three Somerset 12 Mar. Snow Bunting: max 135 Yates 1 Mar, only report BOS. Rusty Blackbird: arr Williamsville Glen ERIE 6 Mar. **Brewer's Blackbird**: female Porter Twn NIAG 10 Apr (WD,BP!). Red Crossbill: 14 Jamestown 13 Mar, eight 13 Apr, only reports BOS. Pine Siskin, max 81 Amity L ALLE 31 Mar, 12 other reports throughout region Mar, nine reports Apr, 11 reports May (BOS). Evening Grosbeak: max 75 Wales ERIE 30 Apr.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

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While birds are the focus to this report, the weather helps to determine the quality and quantity of reports and sightings. This season the weather was quite variable. March began with fluctuations between winter and spring. Days with temperatures in the 30's were followed by highs in the 50's or 60's and warm southwest winds. The overall result was an average of 34.7°, nearly 1.5° above normal. Precipitation, 0.91 inches below average at 1.6 inches, came both as flurries and showers. April began warm but reverted to winterlike conditions by mid month. Those cold days periodically were interrupted by warm days, but the result was still a below average temperature of 45°. Precipitation was just