

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

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

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

slightly below normal at 2.32 inches. May alternated between southerly winds and northerly winds from day to day. Temperatures also seesawed. The month's average was 1.8° above normal at 58°, while the total precipitation, 1.73 inches (0.85 inches below average), was a sign of things to come.

The migration generally was better than last year, but still not on par with other recent springs. There were definite positives as well as negatives. Loons and grebes started slowly but picked up in April when the peak totals were recorded. Some persisted into May, including a very late Red-necked Grebe at Braddock Bay. Horned Grebes generally were scarce all season. Double-crested Cormorants began to build in numbers by mid May and were plentiful at Braddock Bay by the end of the month, continuing their recent trend of increasing numbers. Herons were a real disappointment. They were both late and the only unusual species reported was Snowy Egret. Waterfowl numbers showed some very good highs. Tundra Swans were well above last spring's dismal showing, and Canada Geese continued to be reported in excellent numbers. One highlight of the waterfowl season were the **Greater White-fronted Geese** found among the Canadas. Duck populations peaked early and, due to some mild days, were mostly gone by early April. As usual a few ducks lingered along the lakeshore in May. Notable reports were the encouraging numbers of Canvasbacks and good totals of Red-breasted Mergansers, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** was found. Conversely, American Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal seemed to be scarce.

The shorebird season was poor. Habitat was poor early in the season, and by the time it improved, conditions for grounding migrants were poor. Terns and gulls were generally unexceptional. Totals were down and highlights included a Thayer's Gull and several Forster's Terns. The latter species has been scarce in recent years.

The spring hawk flights at Braddock Bay also had its ups and downs. March was in a class by itself with a total of 13,976 raptors. A single day total on 26 Mar with 1414 Red-shouldered Hawks amid the daily total of 4,718 was astonishing, and set a new daily high for March. New single day highs were set for Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, with totals of 1628 and 213 respectively, on the same day. Good numbers of N. Harriers passed by in March with an incredible total of 1,043 for the month. Last season's record total was only 1,072. April brought great anticipation after such an eventful March, but it was not to be. Frank Nicoletti and Brian Mongi manned the lookout for all thirty days of the month, but poor weather produced hours of empty skies. The April total of 24,714 was the lowest in the last three years; there had been single day totals in past years that exceeded this month's total! While the April total was mediocre, there were some scattered positive notes. A total of 35 eagles were counted with Golden Eagles accounting for 21 of that total. That eclipsed by 5 the total of 16 from all of last year. May started out hopefully but by mid month it too fizzled to almost nothing. The month's total was 22,713 for the 29 days of coverage. Of these hawks, 20,332 were seen in the first half of the month. May's highlight was the late Rough-legged Hawk flight with a total of 261 for the month. This was a very high total for so late in the season. A record single day Osprey total of 110 birds was recorded on 9 May, and the single day high for Bald Eagles of ten was set on 10 May. This was nearly half the monthly total of 24. The one noteworthy sighting away from the Hawk Lookout was a **Black Vulture**. This species has been reported each of the last couple of years.

A positive aspect of the season was the owl flight. Common Barn-Owl was reported from two separate locations. The owl banding project conducted by Jeff Bouton and Clay Taylor gave us a glimpse of a migration which has been somewhat of a Regional mystery. One-hundred one Saw-whets and 19 Long-eared Owls were banded. These numbers far eclipse suspected totals of migrants and don't include any that passed without being banded. A continuation of the program May will give us more insights into the intensity and scope of the owl migration. Short-eared Owls continued to be reported, and breeding was once again suspected in the Region with apparent pairs noted in at least two locations. The summer report may contain an update on this species.

The passerine migration was slow during the early portion of the season. Early arrivals appear to be the result of a change in the coverage by observers during the first part of the season. One interesting feature of the season was the appearance of **Fish Crow** in nearly the same location and at the approximate date as last year. Is this a hint of a new pattern? Only continued observation and coverage will tell. For the most part the passerine migration was slightly better than last year. Some of the earlier migrants, including Red-breasted Nuthatch and both kinglets, appeared in good numbers. There were a fair number of Winter Wrens but House Wrens seemed down, and Sedge Wren once again was not reported. Hermit Thrushes seemed to be quite numerous, while Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush were found in smaller numbers than usual. The best vireo of the season was a White-eyed at Manitou Beach and seen by many observers. Another was located in the town of Greece. Warblers seemed to be more plentiful this year. Good numbers were banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station. The general consensus was that totals for most species were up. Some even stayed later than usual into the season. While the overall warbler picture seemed good, some species were reported in somewhat lower than normal numbers, including Black-throated Green Warbler, Ovenbird and Black-and-white Warbler. These are usually common species. Rarities included Prairie and Worm-eating Warblers. Probably one of the best finds of the season was a pair of **Summer Tanagers**. Sparrows were highlighted by a **Lark Sparrow**. Grassland sparrows were tough to find away from traditional haunts, and both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were low in numbers. The icterid highlight was a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and **Brewer's Blackbird** continued its recent string of spring sightings.

The winter finch movement was a disappointment for the most part. The only real highlight was the large numbers of Pine Siskins. Some days saw 1000's moving through, and a female sporting a brood patch was banded late in the season. This seems not to be unusual during heavy flights.

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Abbreviations: BB-Braddock Bay; GOS-Genesee Ornithological Society, IB-Irondequoit Bay; IC-Island Cottage Woods; LSP-Letchworth State Park, MB-Manitou Beach, MPd-Mendon Ponds, RBA-Rochester Birding Association, and WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: last Hamlin 4 May. Com. Loon: last four WL 21 May. Pied-billed Grebe: arr BB 11 Mar. Horned Grebe: max 14 BB 30 Mar, last three Hamlin 4 May, poor year. **Eared Grebe**: one IB 15 Mar (WL, MAS). Red-necked Grebe: arr 50+ WL 24 Mar, max 75 WL 25 Mar, last BB 15 May (ROs), very late, injured? Double-crested Cormorant: max 74 BB 10 May. Least Bittern: arr BB 21 May, late. Great Blue Heron: max 56 BB 30 Mar, migrants passing Hawk Lookout. Great Egret: one Greece 18 Apr. Snowy Egret: only report BB 27 May (MD,WS). Tundra Swan: max 121 BB 25 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: singles Hamlin 10-13 Mar (MD,WS), Kendall 31 Mar (WS), Hamlin 12-18 Apr (MD,WS), all pink-billed birds. Snow Goose: arr two BB 8 Mar. N. Pintail: max 575 BB 13 Mar. N. Shoveler: arr two BB 2 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Carleton 26 Mar (MP). Redhead: two lingering Kendall 22 May. Ring-necked Duck: max 325 BB 23 Mar. Greater Scaup: one Kendall 22 May, late. Black Scoter: six Kendall 27 Mar (RD), very unusual number for the spring season. Surf Scoter: one MB 26 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: max 700 BB 11 Mar. Bufflehead: one Kendall 29 May, late. Hooded Merganser: max 187 BB 11 Mar. Ruddy Duck: max four BB 13 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: two Webster 21 May (WL,MAS). Bald Eagle: *intro*. Golden Eagle: reports away from Hawk Lookout one WAYN 10 May, one Webster 13 May. Merlin: arr BB 23 Mar. Peregrine: singles BB 25 Mar, Webster 8 May, WAYN 10 May, poor spring total. **Sandhill Crane**: singles Greece 13 Apr (FN) and 17 Apr (FN), fewer than in recent springs. Lesser Golden-Plover: three Troutberg 27 Mar (RD), three BB 16 Apr (FN), one WL 19 May (AS), good total for uncommon spring migrant. Solitary Sandpiper: last Newark 21 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr four Hamlin 1 May. Whimbrel: one Conesus L 30 May (CB), poor spring total. Western Sandpiper: singles Perinton 16 and 26 May, uncommon spring migrant. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Perinton 26 May (RO'H), only report. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 125 BB 30 Mar. Dunlin: arr eight BB 26 Apr (FN), early. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr four IB 3 May, max 29 Perinton 19 May. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: one Perinton 13 May (R&SSp, NYSARC). Wilson's Phalarope: one Perinton 13 May (RSp), one Hogan Pt 14 May (JS), scarce this season. **Thayer's Gull**: first year bird, beginning molt Durand-Eastman Beach 11 May (SC), report to RBA. Forster's Tern: one - seven BB all month May (FN).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one several sites 27 May. Com. Barn-Owl: one BB 7 Apr (JBo, CC, CT, RO'H), one Greece 21 May (MD, KG, CT, DTe). Snowy Owl: last Kendall 4 Apr. Short-eared Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: arr two MB 9 Mar, last two IC 1 May, *intro*. Whip-poor-will: one MB 26 Apr, scarce once again. Belted Kingfisher: max 27 BB 30 Mar, migrants pass Hawk Lookout. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Tryon P 6 Mar (TC), perhaps overwintered nearby.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: arr WL 17 May, three WL 29 May, increase continues. E. Phoebe: max 16 BB 30 Mar. Horned Lark: max 300 migrating BB 2 Mar. **Fish Crow**: one Greece 6 May (MR!, NYSARC), five Perinton 23 May (R&SSp!, NYSARC), record total in Region. Winter Wren: arr IC 30 Mar. Marsh Wren: arr two Greece 30 Apr. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr WL 14 May. Gray Catbird: one BB 25 Mar (SCa), winter holdover or migrant? Water Pipit: arr BB 2 Mar. N. Shrike: last Hamlin 2 Apr. **Loggerhead Shrike**: only reports one Lima 9 Mar (JF), one Kendall 4 Apr (KG).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** singles Greece 12 May (SH), MB 14-15 May (J & SSK), IC 8 May (AC), excellent spring total, uncommon but somewhat regular recently. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr MB 13 May, last WL 28 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr MB and Oatka 8 May, max 50 LSP 22 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr MB 8 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** one MB 10 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** last MB 31 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one WL 17 May, one MB 24 May, uncommon in spring. **N. Parula:** last Greece 29 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 50+ LSP, WL 28 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 300+ WL 14 May; **"Audubon's" Warbler:** one IC 2 May (SCa), report to RBA. **Prairie Warbler:** one IC 8-10 May, one MPd 27-30 May, one LSP 22-31 May, breeding?, increasing. **Palm Warbler:** max 12 IC 8-10 May, low. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr IC 8 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr MPd 14 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one IC 11 May (SCa), one BB 11 May (SCa). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LSP 5 Apr, breeding location. **Hooded Warbler:** arr IC 9 May, max 40 LSP 22 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr LSP 14 May, breeding location.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Summer Tanager:** two Webster 21 May (D&DTr!, NYSARC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Hamlin 4 May, late. **Lark Sparrow:** one IC 26 Apr (KG!, NYSARC), 2nd MONR record. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr MPd 14 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr five MPd 2 May. **Fox Sparrow:** last IC 1 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** last MB 31 May. **White-throated Sparrow:** last two IC 21 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Greece 28 May. **Lapland Longspur:** last four BB 24 Apr. **Snow Bunting:** max 300 BB 25 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** male Rose, WAYN (D&DTr). **Rusty Blackbird:** last IC 13 May. **Brewer's Blackbird:** one Rose 31 Mar (NB,AC), new location. **Orchard Oriole:** arr Pt Breeze 22 May. **White-winged Crossbill:** two BB 23 Mar (FN), two BB 25 Mar (FN). **Pine Siskin:** max 4000 BB 11 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** last WL 24 May.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

March was dry with plenty of sunshine. The month began with temperatures well below normal, followed by high pressure and sunshine from 5 through 8 Mar. The single Golden Eagle of the Season coasted through Big Flats on 8 Mar, and numbers of Tundra Swans and Canada Geese migrated during this mild period, moving into the Region before a cold front brought some rainfall from 9 to 13 Mar. A low pressure system over Lake Huron brought snow and rain to the Region from 13 to 15 Mar, followed by a period of cold temperature with highs in the 20's, northwesterly winds, and more snow until 21 Mar. Another cold front on 24 Mar produced heavy rains. From 25 to 27 Mar, a combination of a high pressure system moving over the State and low pressure over the Midwest generated some strong southerly winds. The Bald Eagle nest at MNWR was blown down during this period, and record high numbers of Horned Grebe were reported. There were 60 Horned Grebe in Elmira, and 212 Horned Grebe in a single raft on Cayuga Lake. March concluded with warm temperatures in