

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The spring conditions once again brought a mix of activity to the region. March started off a warm and dry. The average temperature of 37.3° was a full 4° above normal. Two days during the month eclipsed the 80° mark. These warm conditions brought some record early arrivals and produced good early flights of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch. Precipitation was nearly an inch below average at 1.56 inches; snowfall was only 5.4 inches, 9 inches below normal. April started on the cool side, but temperatures escalated and the average temperature for the month was 48.8°, almost 3° above normal. There were six days when the temperature reached 80° or higher, with a record high of 93° on 28 Apr. Precipitation was about an inch above normal thanks in part to a snowfall of 15.8 inches, far above the average of about 3.5 inches. The late April warm spell produced a good push of migrants, including birds expected then or in early May. May, cool and wet, was somewhat of a disappointment. The average temperature was 54.4°, 2.5° colder than normal. Precipitation was more than double normal total at 5.76 inches, more than May and June combined on the average. These conditions produced some good but no exceptional birding days. The wetness produced good shorebird habitat for a change but shorebirds generally were poor.

Loon numbers were mixed; Common was generally regarded as fairly plentiful with some good flight days, while Red-throated was somewhat scarce throughout the period. Red-necked Grebe was found along the shore of Lake Ontario in reduced numbers compared to recent years. Double-crested Cormorant numbers built during the season and reached into the hundreds. A seasonal highlight was an **American White Pelican** first reported by Frank Nicoletti and Walt Listman at Braddock Bay on 15 May. The bird shifted from location to location along Lake Ontario and was seen by many observers for over a week. Heron and egret reports were varied. Interesting reports included Little Blue Heron and Tricolored Heron at Braddock Bay, and Snowy Egret was another good report. Cattle Egret were at expected levels while Great Egret numbers were slightly reduced. Black-crowned Night-Heron was scarce, as were both of the bitterns. White-fronted Goose put in its usual appearance with up to two individuals reported at a single sighting. Two reports of Brant flocks, 40 and 70 birds, on 19 May were good for the season.

Canada Goose may have been slightly down. However, their population is difficult to monitor accurately. Puddle ducks were fairly numerous. N. Shoveler numbers were good while Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continue to be species of concern. Diving ducks were about average with good numbers of Ring-necked Duck again. A highlight was the immature male King Eider spotted by Robert Oswald at Braddock Bay on 15 March.

The bulk of the raptor reports came from the Braddock Bay Hawk-watch, once again manned by Frank Nicoletti. The total of over 60,000 raptors was good but exceeded by some past seasons. There were new high totals for four species: 92 Bald Eagle, 29 Merlin, a phenomenal 43 Golden Eagle, and, to top it off, three **Mississippi Kite** were seen in May. Four species also recorded new daily highs: 11 Bald Eagle were seen on 17 Mar, nine Merlin on 29 Apr, nine Golden Eagle on both 24 and 30 Apr, and three Peregrine Falcon on 8 May. A **Swainson's Hawk** on 9 May was a seasonal highlight. The Braddock Bay Hawk Banding Project banded a total of 417 raptors, with a high of 152 birds on 29 Apr. The seasonal total included the project's first Bald Eagle. The owl season was average at best. The owl banding project netted a total of 100 birds. N. Saw-whet Owl numbers seemed down and Long-eared Owl was somewhat difficult to find. Short-eared Owl didn't linger on through the season as they have in recent years. A late Snowy Owl was in the Byron-Bergen area during March.

Sandhill Crane continued the recent trend with a number of sightings. Shorebird habitat was generally good but totals were poor. Common Snipe and American Woodcock numbers were reported as fairly good by observers. Highlights included Willet and Whimbrel. The gull highlight of the season was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull found by Frank Nicoletti at Braddock Bay on 11 Mar. Terns were reported in large numbers well off shore but the species was not noted. Terns were less numerous along the shore. Black Tern seemed to be holding its own.

The passerine migration was marked with the usual ups and downs. A record early E. Wood-Pewee appeared in the warm days of April. The later flycatchers were somewhat behind schedule, and Olive-sided Flycatcher was scarce. Tree and Barn Swallows arrived early. Common Raven was once again reported in the Region with singles at Braddock Bay on the 7 and 20 Mar. Sedge Wren once again went unreported. Another record early was a Swainson's Thrush on 12 Apr. Only two reports of Loggerhead Shrike emphasized the continued plight of that

species. A very early White-eyed Vireo was banded by Elizabeth Brooks at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station on 29 Apr; this species has appeared in the Region every spring in recent years. The only vireo with any semblance of abundance was Warbling. Warbler reports were generally bleak. A number of species, including Golden-winged, N. Parula, Cape May, Black-and-white, Ovenbird and Yellow-breasted Chat, were noticeably down. The early wave of individuals brought record early reports of Magnolia and Tennessee Warbler. On the plus were Palm and Prairie Warblers. Seasonal highlights included Connecticut and Kentucky Warblers, and the best bird of the season was a **Swainson's Warbler** found by Martha Reinhardt on the east side of Letchworth State Park on 14 May. The bird was observed on two different occasions and its song was recorded. The report is presently under review, and has been sent to the NYSARC. Sparrows highlights were few in number. Fox Sparrow was reported in good numbers, but most other species were either average or below average in total. Savannah Sparrow put in a record early appearance. The Clay-colored Sparrow at Hogan Point on 15 May was a highlight. A single **Brewer's Blackbird** report kept the trend for this species going, although numbers have dropped considerably from a few years ago. Finches were erratic as usual. Good numbers of White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin were reported, and a group of Pine Grosbeak was sighted in Greece. Evening Grosbeak was down and other "winter" type finches were scarce.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; LSP - Letchworth State Park; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore (of Lake Ontario).

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Greece 3 May, late. Com. Loon: max 300 WL 19 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: max 85 WL 17 Mar, last one WL 15 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: max 300 BB 9 May. **Am. White Pelican**: *intro*. Great Egret: max two IB 14 Apr, BB 30 Apr. Snowy Egret: one WL 20 May (CC, JC, MD).

Cattle Egret: four individuals reported. Greater White-fronted Goose: one Hamlin 28 Mar (CS,CC); two Hamlin 31 Mar (AC,PM). Brant: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 1300 BB 14 Mar, good total. Gadwall: max 56 Greece 15 Apr. Eurasian Wigeon: one Hamlin 24 Mar (CC), continues recent trend. Ring-necked Duck: max 1000 WL 20 Mar. Black Scoter: two Manitou 15 Mar (RO'H), unusual. Ruddy Duck: arr two Kendall 27 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 427 BB 9 Apr. Osprey: max 101 BB 29 Apr. **Mississippi Kite**: subad BB 15, 22 and 24 May. N. Harrier: max 135 BB 20 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1386 BB 8 May. Cooper's Hawk: max 131 BB 9 Apr. N. Goshawk: max one BB several dates. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 956 BB 13 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: max 9944 BB 24 Apr, poor total. **Swainson's Hawk**: *intro*. Red-tailed Hawk: max 1538 BB 13 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: max 64 BB 13 Mar. Am. Kestrel: max 149 BB 29 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hamlin 27 Apr. Willet: one Hamlin 19 May. Whimbrel: seven WL 20 May (CC), 12 Parma 21 May (FN). Ruddy Turnstone: arr Charlotte 19 May. Western Sandpiper: one Kendall 19 May, uncommon in spring. Dunlin: arr two Hamlin 27 Apr, early. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr five Hamlin 26 Apr, max 50 Hamlin 20 May. Com. Snipe: max 80 Hamlin 27 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: one Hamlin 19 May, two Hamlin 21 May, one Perinton 29 May. Little Gull: one BB 29 Mar (FN), one Greece 11 Apr (KG), uncommon. Glaucous Gull: one BB 25 Mar (FN), 2nd year bird. Lesser Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Forster's Tern: arr BB 21 Apr (MR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Manitou 15 May. Com. Nighthawk: max 21 Greece 24 May, poor total. Whip-poor-will: one Manitou 25 Apr (FN), one Rochester 15 May (TP), continues scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Manitou 10 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one-three LSP, Bergen Swamp 19 May. Winter Wren: arr one Penfield 20 Mar. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Manitou 26 May, quite late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one Penfield, Manitou 22 May. Am. Pipit: arr two WL 23 May N. Shrike: last Penfield 10 Apr. Loggerhead Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: *intro*. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Webster 15 May. Blue-winged Warbler: record early arr Mumford 28 Apr (SA). Golden-winged Warbler: record early arr Victor 28 Apr (JF). Orange-crowned Warbler: singles Rochester 26 Apr, BB 10 May, BB 19 May, BB 22 May, good spring total. Cerulean Warbler: arr two ICW 30 Apr (FD), record early. **Swainson's Warbler**: *intro*. Kentucky Warbler: one ICW 25 May (CC). Connecticut Warbler: one Manitou 12 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr one LSP 28 Apr. Hooded Warbler: arr one ICW 5 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one WL 18 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last singles Webster, Greece 25 Apr. Clay colored Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: arr one Mendon 16 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two LSP 14 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr three LSP 14 May. Fox Sparrow: last three Rochester 25 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: "Oregon" type one PtB 27 Apr (WL). Snow Bunting: max 2500 BB 15 Mar, excellent total. Rusty Blackbird: arr ten Greece 13 Mar. **Brewer's Blackbird**: one Hamlin 18 Apr (AC, FD). Orchard Oriole: arr two PtB 29 Apr. Pine Siskin: max 5000 BB 23 May.

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