

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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March didn't feel much like spring. Besides being the snowiest month of the usually snowy months, the average temperature was over three degrees below normal at 30.2°F. Precipitation was a full inch above the norm at 3.43 inches. April brought the Region a host of cloudy days with days, a total of nineteen without any sun. The temperature was nearly two degrees below the norm of 42.2°F, and precipitation was below normal at 2.64 inches. Snowfall though was slightly above average. May weather showed little deviation from average.

The spring migration was late. Weather conditions may have contributed to the lateness. All the expected species did arrive, but the general feeling was that the season on the whole was a couple of weeks behind schedule. There were few really good migration days and, on the days that were good, birds were concentrated along Lake Ontario. This was documented by the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, which experienced some good days at its lakeshore site while its inland location seemed nearly devoid of bird life. There were days where the lakeshore held good numbers of birds, but short trips inland, in some cases was only a mile or two inland, produced mediocre results at best.

Loons appeared to be a bit late. Common Loon was noted in good numbers, but Red-throated Loon seemed scarce. Grebes were only fair. Observers noted the scarcity of Horned Grebe and the poor concentrations of Red-necked Grebe relative to past years. One observer noted a decline in Pied-billed Grebe numbers. On the upswing, though, were the increased numbers of Double-crested Cormorant, whose effect on the sport fishing industry of Lake Ontario is becoming increasingly controversial. By late May, as many as 13 nests in various stages of completion were visible in one tree in Braddock Bay. Waterfowl numbers were fairly good early in the season. Many observers noted high concentrations of Ring-necked Duck.

Wandering long-legged waders were reported this season. Highlights included Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis. The near lack of **Sandhill Crane** reports was a great contrast to recent years. Shorebird habitat appeared early in the season, but dryness quickly reduced the available habitat. Most species were found but numbers were low. Observers noted a lack of Spotted Sandpiper but spoke about the good numbers of Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone. A late influx of "white-

winged" gulls produced some good sightings early in the season and a few late in the season. Bonaparte's Gull staged a tremendous migration along the Lake Ontario shore in late April. Great Black-backed Gull continued in higher numbers this season. Terns arrived early, but numbers generally were low. Black Tern continues to be of major concern.

The raptor migration was above average, with a total of 55,223 birds for the three month period despite suboptimal migration conditions. April was the usual peak month, with a total of 41,879 raptors counted. Rough-legged Hawk set a new record high count, and a record single day total of 117 individuals. Golden Eagle numbers were good with a total of 41 and a single day record of 11. On the down side were American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk, the latter continuing a precipitous drop in numbers. The Braddock Bay Owl Banding Project once again gave us our best indication of the magnitude of the owl movement. A total of 350 owls were banded during the reporting period, with the bulk of them being Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Once again the passerine migration was noted as being down. Recent migrations have seemed but a fraction of those of the past. On the plus side were Least Flycatcher, kinglets, Yellow-breasted Chat, Field, Savannah, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, and Purple Finch. Negatives were flycatchers, House Wren, thrushes, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, grassland sparrows, and winter finches. Warblers were mixed. Some species, including Yellow, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Cerulean, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada and American Redstart, seemed to be present in good numbers, whereas others, including Golden-winged, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, and Ovenbird, continued to show a decline.

Rarities were generally good this season. An **American White Pelican** spotted at Braddock Bay on April 23 by Brett Ewald heads the list. Raptor highlights included **Black Vulture** and **Swainson's Hawk**. Other notable reports include Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Laughing Gull**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Fish Crow**, Common Raven and **Western Meadowlark**. The warbler highlights included Worm-eating, Connecticut and Kentucky Warblers.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; C - Charlotte (Ontario Beach); CH - Cobb's Hill, Rochester; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; EL - East Lakeshore (Lake Ontario littoral east of Rochester); HPt - Hogan Pt; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; MPd - Mendon Ponds; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario littoral west of Rochester).

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** max one Manitou 18 Apr. **Com. Loon:** max 1000+ Webster 19 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** last two Parma 8 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Manitou 25 Mar (RMc). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr two BB 3 Apr; *intro*. **Least Bittern:** arr ICW 18 May. **Great Egret:** arr BB 4 Apr (T&PS, CC). **Snowy Egret:** one BB 23 May (RO'H, RMc, MD). **Cattle Egret:** one BB 3 May (MD), one HPt 4 May (D&DT). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr two Greece 18 Apr. **Glossy Ibis:** one Sweden 29 May (PSe). **Mute Swan:** max seven BB 5 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one-three Hamlin 11-20 Apr (BM, mob). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Greece 14-16 Mar (BM). **Ring-necked Duck:** max 630 WL 30 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** last six Hamlin 8 May. **Oldsquaw:** last Hamlin 8 May. **Black Scoter:** max 60 EL 19 Apr, good spring total. **White-winged Scoter:** last four Hamlin 16 May.

BLACK VULTURE: one BB 3 Apr (BE), uncommon but increasingly regular. **Turkey Vulture:** max 679 BB 22 Apr. **Osprey:** max 40 BB 20 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** max eight BB 17 May. **N. Harrier:** max 118 BB 20 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 750 BB 20 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk:** max 63 BB 22 Apr. **N. Goshawk:** max four BB 25 Mar and 20 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 191 BB 7 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 15,597 BB 20 Apr. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** imm light morph BB 20 Apr (BE); one BB 29 Apr (BE). **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 908 BB 22 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** max 117 BB 22 Apr, record max; 661 season total BB, record max. **Golden Eagle:** max 11 BB 20

Apr. **Am. Kestrel**: max 55 BB 19 Apr. **Merlin**: max two BB 2 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: max two BB 2 and 13 May. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Webster 9 Apr (DS), two Hamlin 4 Apr (MD), one Greece 2 May (RO'H), poor total. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: arr two Hamlin 30 Mar (JB, CC, DT). **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Rochester International Airport 1 Apr, early. **Whimbrel**: max 35 Pt Breeze 24 May (WL), good spring total. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr one C 25 May. **W. Sandpiper**: max ten Hamlin 19, 21 May (WL), good spring total [details? White-rumped Sandpiper more likely at this time - *The Editor*]. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 97 Hamlin 1 May. **Dunlin**: arr WL 13 Apr. **LAUGHING GULL**: one BB 23 May (D&AS). **Little Gull**: max four BB 10 May (MD), good May total. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 3000+ Hamlin 26 Apr. **Iceland Gull**: two IB 1 Mar, one IB 9 Mar, last BB 1-3 May. **Glaucous Gull**: last HPT 1 May. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Salmon Creek 12 Apr (PSe, MD). **Caspian Tern**: max 106 Sodus 29 Apr. **Forster's Tern**: arr Manitou 16 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Norway Road 23 May. **Barred Owl**: max two Bergen Swamp 20 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: total 291 banded BB; two Bergen swamp 23 May, breeding again. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 39 Greece 29 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Manitou 20 Apr, continues scarce.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Greece 18 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr Manitou 22 May. **FISH CROW**: one BB 12 May (BE). **Com. Raven**: one Webster 10 Mar (DT), one Canandaigua L 13 Apr (RMc). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr ICW 15 May. **Am. Pipit**: arr MPd 16 Mar; last Perinton 30 May, late. **N. Shrike**: last WL 30 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Greece 12 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr two MPd 4 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Webster 2 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: singles DEP 2 May; Greece 2 May, Webster 3 May, ICW 3 and 4 May, good spring total. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Manitou 12 May (RO'H), one Manitou 25 May (BB). **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Manitou, IB 13 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: arr DEP 2 May. **Worm-eating Warbler**: singles CH 3-4 May (AW), Greece 16 May (BM), ICW 27 May (CC, MR, DT). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Letchworth SP 19 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler**: one ICW 11-14 May (JL, mob). **Connecticut Warbler**: one Henrietta 3 May (GH). **Hooded Warbler**: arr CH 2 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last two MPd 6 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr two Hamlin 11 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Greece 24 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: max 12 Mt Morris 23 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr Greece 11 Mar, last Parma 1 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: last three Manitou 19 May. **Lapland Longspur**: max 30 Hamlin 8 Mar (BM, SSk). **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Pt Breeze 16

May (DS), near site where one present for six years. **Rusty Blackbird**: last 12 ICW 18 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one Hamlin 11 Apr, two there 8 May, one on 23 May, returned to last year's location, breeding suspected. **Orchard Oriole**: arr Greece 13 May (BM), new location. **Com. Redpoll**: last two ICW 12 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: last two DEP 2 May.

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