

REGION 2 — GENESEE

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It was a varied and interesting spring season. For the most part the season was dry. March's precipitation of 1.15 inches was barely half the norm, and April's precipitation at 1.18 inches was 45% the norm. May was a little better with a reading of 1.75 inches, almost an inch below normal. The many precipitation free days were good for birding but hard on crops and vegetation. Temperatures were variable but close to normal overall. March was warm at 38.5°F, 4.2° above normal. April's 41.6°F average was the opposite, 4.3° below normal. May was nearly average at 57.2°F. March and April winds were predominantly northerly. This didn't seem to alter the migration drastically, and arrival dates were average or a little early relative to long term averages. May was a very interesting month. The month began as a near disaster in terms of passerine migration. North winds prevailed and nothing seemed to be moving. On 10 May, things changed dramatically. It seemed as though the early days had caused a backup of birds and when conditions improved, everything moved at once. A light overnight rain caused the birds to be grounded. Numbers were reminiscent of years past. There were good numbers of species and good total numbers for individual species at many locations.

Elizabeth Brooks again directed the passerine banding operations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. As was consistent with the migration, there were some very good banding days. A single day record was set as well as a number of daily highs for individual species.

Rob Clemens manned the hawk watch at Braddock Bay this year. He stated that, if weather conditions might have been more favorable, this probably would have been a record breaking year. The hawk watch suffered somewhat because the flights were somewhat dispersed by unfavorable winds. Lake effect winds also contributed to this condition. The total of 42,207 hawks was 12% below average. There were good totals for Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon. Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawks were especially scarce. Broad-winged Hawk totals were 38% below average, which contributed to the low total count.

The season had many highlights and low points. There were some good loon flights this spring, but in general totals were not very high. A *Pacific Loon* was a highlight. Grebe arrivals were about normal, but once again the totals were low. Of interest were the low counts of

Double-crested Cormorant. Except for a couple of days with counts of 200, counts were off a bit. This species has been gradually increasing in the Region. Herons and egrets were very scarce. American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Green Heron were very hard to find. There were few wandering egrets to be found, with only one Snowy Egret and a few Great Egret. The only other highlight was Glossy Ibis.

Waterfowl were most interesting. While the regular species seemed to depart a bit early this year, there were some very unusual sightings. Greater White-fronted Goose has become somewhat regular in spring. A *Barnacle Goose*, as is always the case, is of uncertain origin, though it appeared to be wild. Also spotted were Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck. Scoters and Oldsquaw were reported on Lake Ontario through the season.

The usual few reports of *Sandhill Crane* came from the hawk watch. Sora and Virginia Rail numbers seemed about normal, and a *King Rail* was reported. The variety of shorebird species reported was about average, but numbers were down. There was some suitable habitat in May, but no major flights materialized. Dowitchers were scarce. Dunlin totals appeared to be good. Gulls and tern picture were mostly lackluster. The highlight was the Region's first *Ross's Gull*. Also of interest were Lesser Black-backed Gull and Laughing Gull. The local populations of Black Terns seemed to be down.

Wild Turkey continued to be well reported, but Ring-necked Pheasant was very scarce. It was a good spring for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, even though it arrived late. Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in Bergen Swamp in May. Whip-poor-will reports were up this year, but it was still absent from former breeding locations. Common Nighthawk numbers were down.

Reports of passerines were quite varied. There was a slight increase in Olive-sided and Least Flycatcher reports, but Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seemed to be scarce. The last building at the west spit of Braddock Bay where the Cliff Swallow nested burned this spring. Attempts by Cliff Swallow to nest on other buildings were met with apparent displeasure by the homeowners and their nesting attempts were thwarted. Sedge Wren was not reported. Kinglet reports were about average. Thrush totals were only fair, but Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes appeared well into the season. Brown Thrasher reports were good. Loggerhead Shrike was not reported, but there was a late Northern Shrike.

Vireo reports, with the exception of Philadelphia Vireo, were generally good. There was a single White-eyed Vireo report. Warblers

were very interesting. There were few late April reports but things were very good during a 10-15 day period in mid May, especially 10, 11t and 17 May. The usual uncommon species were reported. Most observers commented on the high numbers of Blue-winged, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Green Warblers, and Ovenbird. Good numbers of other species were also noted. However, numbers still are as high or consistent as were totals in the 1970s and earlier. The flight days this season were more concentrated in the past. Yellow-breasted Chat went unreported.

There were good reports of tanagers, grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Sparrows had no real highlights but numbers of some species were noteworthy. Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continued to be scarce. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were common only on a few days. Lincoln's Sparrow was noted in good numbers over a wide range of dates. A single male *Brewer's Blackbird* was observed at a site that was frequented by a pair in past years. The usual number of Orchard Oriole reports came from the west lakeshore and Northern Oriole was well reported. Purple Finch was quite scarce and virtually no other winter finches were reported. There were a few Pine Siskin and only a couple of Evening Grosbeak.

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Abbreviations: BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; BB - Braddock Bay; CH - Cobb's Hill Park; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; WL - shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester (west lakeshore).

Spring Reports: Red-throated Loon: max 62 HBSP 18 Apr; last two HBSP 3 May. *Pacific Loom*: one HBSP 14 Apr (WS). Horned Grebe: last

HBSP 18 May. **Red-necked Grebe**: arr 29 HBSP 23 Mar, max five HBSP 29 Mar, last Greece 15 Apr, early departure. **Double-crested Cormorant**: arr six BB 3 Apr, max 200 BB 23-24 May. **14 Least Bittern**: arr Mendon Ponds P 8 May. **Great Egret**: one BB 23 Apr, scarce. **Snowy Egret**: one East Avon 13 May (KF), only report. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: max two Manitou 13 Apr, scarce. **Glossy Ibis**: one Greece 14 May (CD-G, KG, RO). **Tundra Swan**: max 150 BB 13 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Hamlin 10 Mar (RM). **Barnacle Goose**: one with Canada Goose Hamlin 12 Mar (RM). **Snow Goose**: max ten BB 15 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Hamlin 15 Mar (RM). **Harlequin Duck**: female Genesee R 24 May (RM, RO'H, RS), very out of character for the Region. **Oldsquaw**: max 1200 HBSP 23 Mar. **Black Scoter**: one HBSP 23 Mar (WS), last two HBSP 26 May, unusual in spring. **Surf Scoter**: two HBSP 26 Mar (DH), max 133 HBSP 27 Apr, unusual in spring. **Com. Goldeneye**: last Pt Breeze 20 May. **Bufflehead**: last three Manitou 22 May. **Com. Merganser**: last three HBSP 5 May.

Turkey Vulture: max 1853 BB 20 Mar. **Osprey**: max 79 BB 14 May. **Bald Eagle**: max 13 BB 29 Apr. **N. Harrier**: max 204 BB 12 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 872 BB 14 May. **Cooper's Hawk**: max 119 BB 20 Mar. **N. Goshawk**: max six BB 20 Mar. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr eight BB 12 Mar, max 453 BB 20 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr BB 18 Apr, max 2923 BB 28 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one BB 23 Apr (RC). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 816 BB 13 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 31 BB 20 Mar, last Greece 17 May. **Golden Eagle**: arr BB 12 Mar, max six BB 14 May. **Am. Kestrel**: max 135 BB 11 Apr. **Merlin**: arr Greece 18 Mar, max four BB 27 Apr, 14 May, 17 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: max four BB 27 Apr. **King Rail**: one Brush Creek, Hamlin 20 May (RS, RO, KG). **Sandhill Crane**: max three Manitou 21 Mar (RO'H). **Com. Moorhen**: arr one, three Greece, BB 16 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last East Avon 29 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr HBSP 12 Apr. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr HBSP 19 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 385 HBSP 24 May. **Least Sandpiper**: arr two-three WL, East Avon 6 May. **Dunlin**: arr WL 22 Apr. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: two four HBSP, East Avon 17 May. **Com. Snipe**: max 23 West Sweden Road Bergen 17 Apr (WS), good total for this spring. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one Hamlin 12 - 13 May (D&HL), only report. **Laughing Gull**: one Charlotte 28 May (DS, MT). **Little Gull**: arr BB 23 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr HBSP 23 Mar. **Iceland Gull**: one HBSP 28 Apr, one 21 May, only reports. **Glaucous Gull**: one BB 15 Mar, one IB 23 Mar, scarce. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad IB 2 Mar (RM). **Ross's Gull**: one off DEP 23 Apr (RS, NYSARC). **Forster's Tern**: arr HBSP 12 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one-two CH 28 May, late. **Short-eared Owl:** max 11 Lima 12 Apr. **Whip-poor-will:** arr Manitou 28 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Manitou 17 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Letchworth SP 20 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 121 Manitou 10 May, banded. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Webster 15 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr BB 7 Mar, last HBSP 21 May. **N. Shrike:** one Pt Breeze 17 Apr (KG, CD-G), late.

White-eyed Vireo: one ICW 7 May (PW). **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr BP 14 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BP 3 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr several sites 10 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Lawrence's type ICW 21 May (CC). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Manitou 26 Apr (EB). **Nashville Warbler:** max 20 BP 10 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 252 Manitou 17 May, banded. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 50 several sites 10 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 500 ICW 10 May. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Manitou 7 May, two other reports, uncommon. **Palm Warbler:** last ICW 27 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 24 Manitou 17 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Manitou, Webster 11 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max 50 several sites 10 May. **Am. Redstart:** max 80 ICW 17 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one ICW 17 May (KD), one banded Manitou 26 May (EB). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one CH 12 May (D&DT), one Webster 17 May (D&DT), one Greece 24 May (KG), good total. **Ovenbird:** max 30 Webster 10 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr ICW 19 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler:** one ICW 15 May (BT, PD), one Webster 17 May (D&DT), one Murray 21 May (R&SS). **Connecticut Warbler:** one banded Manitou 25 May (EB). **Hooded Warbler:** arr one-three several sites 11 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 40 several sites 10 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last ICW 7 May. **Chipping Sparrow:** one Webster 1 Mar (BC), wintering bird? **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Hamlin 14 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr Letchworth SP 20 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Manitou 30 May. **Lapland Longspur:** last three Hamlin 11 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** last 12 BB 14 Mar. **Eastern Meadowlark:** arr BB 15 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr three HBSP, ICW 29 Mar; last Webster 21 May. **Brewer's Blackbird:** male Hamlin 21 May (TH, AK, KW). **Orchard Oriole:** arr BB 12 May. **Pine Siskin:** max six DEP 13 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** max two Manitou 12 May.

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