

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The spring season turned out to be one of great interest. It was one of the coldest in many years. Dominant fronts and winds emanated from the north and provided the Region with relatively few warm days and many days below average during the period. March experienced only a single day where temperatures eclipsed the 70° mark. There were also only one or two days in April above 70°, and May didn't do much better until late in the month. It was on track to be the coldest May ever until some high temperatures late in the month boosted the average. As it was, it turned out to be the fifth coldest May on record.

The cold weather did have an effect on the migration. Foliage was a full two weeks behind schedule. This helped in locating birds in the trees and bushes, but birds were behind schedule for the most part. Coverage at Cobbs Hill Park and in the nesting areas south of the city did manage to keep some of the arrivals on time, but numbers in general were sparse in the early going. Some days, particularly late in May were quite good. Mid May experienced a couple of decent days with large totals of primarily warblers at Cobb's Hill and sparrows along the lakeshore, but they didn't linger and were gone by the next day.

Loons were about average with a **Pacific Loon** in breeding plumage found by Susan and Robert Spahn off Durand-Eastman Park on 27 April a highlight. The usual few Common Loons lingered into June. Grebes were highlighted

only by a good March total of Red-necked Grebe and an Eared Grebe discovered by Kurt and Jeannine Fox on Conesus Lake on 28 March. Horned Grebe numbers were a bit low. The wader picture was generally poor, with few pluses except that there seemed to be a few more American Bitterns around than in other recent years. Least Bittern, Green Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron were scarce. The Little Blue Heron discovered in Mendon Ponds Park by Robert Cooper on 17 May was a very good find.

Waterfowl were pretty typical. Greater White-fronted Goose was once again located in Hamlin, and a male Harlequin Duck at Hamlin Beach in May was the only real surprise. The hawk flight totals at Braddock Bay were down. Poor weather conditions were certainly a contributing factor in these poor totals. Only Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagles seemed to be counted at recent levels or slightly above, all others were down. A Black Vulture at Braddock Bay in May continued that recent trend in sightings.

Ring-necked Pheasants continued their scarcity, with minimal sightings. Some observers believe that the Ruffed Grouse is in the low portion of its population cycle, as sightings were few. Wild Turkeys, on the other hand, seem to be everywhere.

Sandhill Cranes created quite a stir. The usual numbers were reported at the hawkwatch, but a single bird frequented a feeder in Williamson and a pair was located near the end of the season at Taylor Marsh just north of Honeoye Lake in suitable breeding habitat.

Shorebirds for the most part were less than spectacular, but there were a couple of dates that brought some interesting reports. An Am. Golden-Plover at the Geneseo Airport was unusual for spring, but the standout for this group had to be the well described **Spotted Redshank** seen by Frank and Robert Dobson, Richard O'Hara and Robert Dows on 7 May in Bergen. This was a first record for the Region [and only the fourth for the state. The other three recorded in Region 10. E. Levine]. Observers also reported good numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes this year. Recent trends have been in a downward direction and this year broke that trend. On the down side were Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Red Knot (no reports), and Pectoral Sandpiper.

Gull highlights included two Black-headed Gull reports from William Symonds at Hamlin Beach, continued sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull at Manitou, and good numbers of Little Gulls. Iceland and Glaucous gulls were also well reported through the season. The Perinton landfill continues to be an attractant and the local ponds and fields a Regional gull hotspot. Tern numbers were pretty typical, with Black Tern continuing to be of concern.

The spring owl flights were dismal compared with recent years. Both Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls found in regularly monitored locations were much fewer in number. The lingering Short-eared Owls, probably nesting in the Lima area and being monitored by Kurt Fox, are of interest. A N. Saw-

whet Owl in Island Cottage Woods in late May was either a very late migrant or local nesting bird.

Common Nighthawks continued their downward trend, with few reports of any numbers. This was also true for Whip-poor-will, which seems to have disappeared as a breeder in the Region.

Flycatchers arrived late, but in typical numbers. Acadian seemed down, but they also seem to resurface in new locations from time to time. Bank Swallow colonies are dwindling. The usual few Cliff Swallow nesting locations were reported. A Fish Crow report in April was good, and Common Ravens seem to be increasing in the hills south of Rochester, but breeding has yet to be confirmed.

Once again there were no Sedge Wren reports, but House and Winter wrens were reported in good numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported late into the season. A real surprise was the **Varied Thrush** studied by Paul Weld on Roots Tavern Road in Avon on 22 April. The White-eyed Vireo on 20 May was a good find, and Robert Spahn documented the Region's first **Bell's Vireo** in Island Cottage Woods on 14 May. Good numbers of Orange-crowned, Nashville, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, American Redstart and Wilson's warblers were reported. On the down side were Tennessee, Golden-winged and Blackpoll warblers. Worm-eating and Prairie warblers were also reported in good numbers with some interesting breeding locations found for the latter south of Rochester.

Scarlet Tanagers were again down, but the **Summer Tanager** that stayed around for ten days in May was a highlight. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were well reported at feeders early in the migration and numbers continued to be good.

The grassland sparrows were mixed this season. Jim Kimball and Kurt Fox have found decent numbers of both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows in Livingston County, but Vesper Sparrow continues to be generally low. There were a couple of excellent days for Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows. Fox Sparrows were about average, as were White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. The number of Clay-colored Sparrow reports was up a bit.

Western Meadowlark and **Brewer's Blackbird** round out the highlights for the season. Both were formerly reported in better numbers, but now are rarely reported. Orchard Orioles have again been reported from locations south of Rochester adding to the traditional Point Breeze location. They were once again also found on Cook Road at the western edge of Monroe County.

The season saw very little finch activity. Pine Siskin reports were limited to a single group of three and Evening Grosbeaks were few and scattered.

In spite of the cold weather and the complaints of few birds, observers tallied the highest monthly species total ever in May, with 250 species for just that month.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Charlotte, CL - Conesus Lake, CN - Clarkson, CO - Cobb's Hill, DE- Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, GE - Geneseo, GR- Groveland, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, HP - Highland Park, IC - Island Cottage Woods, L - Lima, LW - Letchworth State Park, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road, P - Perinton, R- Rochester, SB- Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HB 22 Mar; last one HB 17 May. **Com. Loon:** arr one G 20 Mar. **PACIFIC LOON:** one off DE 27 Apr (S&RS!). **Horned Grebe:** last one Hemlock Lake 30 May. **Eared Grebe:** one CL 28 Mar (J&KF). **Red-necked Grebe:** max 372 WL 28 Mar (RS); last one CL 24 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr one CL 1 Apr. **Least Bittern:** one HB 1 May (WS). **Great Egret:** arr one HB 1 May, late. **Cattle Egret:** one Carlton 10 Apr, only report. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one Mendon Ponds Park 17 May (RC!), uncommon. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr one DE 3 May. **Tundra Swan:** max 828 GR 22 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one H 3 Mar (BM). **Snow Goose:** max 75 PB 23 Mar; last two imm LW 25 May. **Am. Wigeon:** last five H 17 May. **Redhead:** max 1200-1600 CL 1-31 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 800 CL 28- 29 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** last 60+ Troutsburg 24 May, good total for late in season. **Harlequin Duck:** one ad male SB 20 Apr (MT); one ad male HB 16 May (WS). **Oldsquaw:** last one WL 25 May. **Black Scoter:** arr 27 HB 18 Apr; last one HB 10 May. **Surf Scoter:** arr 32 HB 18 Apr; last two HB 14 May. **White-winged Scoter:** last one PB 25 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** last two Troutsburg 24 May. **Bufflehead:** last two CL 11 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** one BB 5 May (JB!), nearly annual now. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr one BB 10 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr one

BB 6 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one ad HB 1 Apr (WS). now an annual occurrence. **Golden Eagle**: arr one imm WL 27 Mar (BM). **Peregrine Falcon**: six reports Apr; six individuals in May. **Merlin**: one BB 22 Mar; one W 28 Mar; last one M 29 May.

Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Summary - Spring 1997

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Date Range</u>
Turkey Vulture	8,774	1,373	3 Apr	1 Mar - 31 May
Black Vulture	1	1	5 May	5 May
Osprey	141	13	5 May	3 Apr - 29 May
Bald Eagle	124	21	28 Apr	18 Feb - 28 May
Northern Harrier	704	72	3 Apr	2 Mar - 29 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,066	548	16 Apr	10 Mar - 29 May
Cooper's Hawk	595	62	29 Mar	26 Feb - 26 May
Northern Goshawk	36	4	29 Apr	8 Mar - 16 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	717	465	27 Mar	10 Mar - 30 Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	14,495	4,766	29 Apr	6 Apr - 29 May
Red-tailed Hawk	3,182	403	29 Apr	18 Feb - 29 May
Rough-legged Hawk	238	26	28 Feb, 6 Apr	18 Feb - 13 May
Golden Eagle	18	3	16 Apr, 29 Apr	27 Mar - 11 May
American Kestrel	472	78	29 Mar	10 Mar - 24 May
Merlin	22	2	4 dates	23 Mar - 29 May
Peregrine Falcon	14	3	13 May	24 Apr - 13 May
Unidentified	5	-	-	-
Total	33,604	-	-	-

Wild Turkey: max 92 CN 13 Mar. **Sandhill Crane**: arr two BB 27 Mar; one BB 25 Apr; three BB 26 Apr; one Carlton 26-30 Apr; one Williamson 31 May; two ONTA 31 May, possible nesting?. **Am. Golden-Plover**: arr one GE 11 Apr. **Greater Yellowlegs**: last one P 28 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: last one WL 25 May. **SPOTTED REDSHANK**: one Bergen GENE 7 May (FD! RD. RO'H. RD). 1st Regional record. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last one IC 25 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr one HB 24 Apr. **Whimbrel**: max six M 25 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr one CH 4 May, record early; max 12 CH 30 May. **Sanderling**: arr 11 CH 19 May; last three CH 30 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 60+ CH 30 May. **Western Sandpiper**: arr one H 29 May (R'OH. RD). only report. **Least Sandpiper**: max 100 H 14,19 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr three.six CH.H 19 May. **Dunlin**: arr one GE 11 Apr (JK). record early. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max 140 H 19 May. **Com. Snipe**: max 82 H 19 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope**: nine reports from various locations in May. **Laughing Gull**: one ad M 12 May (R'OH). **Little Gull**: one G 12 Apr; two ad HB 18 Apr; one ad HB 29-30; max four HB 16 May; one imm BB 24 May. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one ad HB 16 Apr (WS); one imm HB 20 Apr (WS). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr one CL 22 Mar. **Thayer's Gull**: one 1st winter P 10 Mar (RMc). **Iceland Gull**: one imm P 22 Mar; three imm P 12

Apr; one HB 29 Apr; five imm HB 30 Apr; one - four HB 1-23 May; three CH 3 May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: three (ad & two imm) P 12 Apr (MT); one ad P 21 Apr (MT); one imm HB 1 May (WS); one sub ad HB 10 May (WS,RS!); one HB 19 May (WW!). **Glaucous Gull**: 1-3 P 12-20 Apr; one imm HB 1 May; one imm CH 3 May. **Caspian Tern**: max 218 SB 27 Apr. **Com. Tern**: max 78 HB 1 May. **Forster's Tern**: arr one HB 16 Apr.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr one M 29 May, late. **Barn Owl**: one CN 4 Apr (WS), only report. **Short-eared Owl**: max 13 L 10 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: arr one M 22 Mar; last IC 28 May. **Whip-poor-will**: arr one M 1 May, poor again. **Chimney Swift**: max 400 CO 22-23 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr one IC.M 24 May; max 31 M 29 May. **Fish Crow**: one M 29 Apr (RMc). **Com. Raven**: one Rattlesnake Hill 5 Apr (J&KF); one G 6 Apr (MT); one W 24 Apr (JC); one Portageville 26 May (AW). **House Wren**: arr one GE 27 Apr. **Winter Wren**: arr one IC.M 28 Mar. **VARIED THRUSH**: one Avon 22 Apr (PW!). **N. Mockingbird**: max nine GR 15 Apr. **Am. Pipit**: arr one Elba 28 Mar; last two WL 24 May. **N. Shrike**: last one G 4 Apr.

WARBLERS-VIREOS: **White-eyed Vireo**: one Rochester 20 May (RS!). **BELL'S VIREO**: one IC 14 May (RS!). Region's first. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr one CO 14 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr one M 1 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr one BP 11 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: one HP 7 May. **"Lawrence's" Warbler**: one LW 21 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: arr one CL 2 May; ten other reports in May. **Nashville Warbler**: max 52 M 12 May. **N. Parula**: max six CO 25 May. **Yellow Warbler**: max 200+ several locations 17 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 30 CH 25 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: max 60 M 29 May. **Cape May Warbler**: last one G 27 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 50 sev 25 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 26 CO 13 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one G 31 May (JB!). **Pine Warbler**: max four IC 27 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: one M 12 May; one LW 17 May; two LW 21-25 May; two Springwater 31 May. **Palm Warbler**: last two IC 26 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 41 CO 25 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr one GE 10 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 38 CO 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 50+ M 29 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one CL 26 May (JK), new location. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr one Seneca Park 5 Apr (V&HH!), state record early; one-two CO 10-13 May; one W 12 May. **Ovenbird**: max 20 BP 12 May. **Kentucky Warbler**: one M 13 May; one BP 14.18 May. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Bayview Park 12 May; one M 29 May. **Mourning Warbler**: max 20 M 12 May. **Hooded Warbler**: arr one CO 3

May. **Canada Warbler**: max 17 M 29 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one M 14 May (EB). only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER: one Irondequoit 12-18 May (BT. *et al.*, sev verifications, photos). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last one sev loc 29 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Brockport May (CN!); one-two W 10-11 May (JC!); one N 24 May (RMc!). good spring total. **Field Sparrow**: arr one CN 28 Mar. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr one NR 26 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr one Retsof 3 May; max 12 sites Livingston County 13-31 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr one W 27 Mar; last one IC 25 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max 60+ ICW.R 12 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 200+ IC.R 12 May. **Snow Bunting**: last six H 15 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr one M 1 Mar. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one H 8 May (RO'H!), first record in recent years. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr 1-75 various 28 Mar; last one IC 20 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one fem M 6 May (RO). **Orchard Oriole**: max three GE 14-31 May; one Cook Rd 24 May. **Pine Siskin**: three HB 23 May, only report.