

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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This was one of the most bizarre springs on record. Climatic conditions were strange and the migration was odd. March set the tone for the season. The first ten days of the month averaged 7°F above normal while the next 15 days were 6° below normal and the final 6 days were a whopping 23° on the plus side. The next surprise for the month was a snowfall total that reached 27.9 inches, making it the snowiest month of this winter. Overall precipitation totaled 3.5 inches, 1.22 inches above normal.

April saw an average temperature that was 1.8°F above the normal 47.7°. Everything seemed to be on an even keel for the month. The low was only 28° and the high 72°. Precipitation was less than an inch below normal at 1.81 inches. The major story for April though was the vegetation. Everything bloomed early. Everything seemed to grow in profusion and to last longer than usual. One observer commented that it reflected the biggest year-to-year change that they had ever experienced.

The word for May was "warm". The 62.9°F average was 6.2° above normal. Precipitation for May was 2.4 inches, just 0.31 inches below normal, thus not a particularly significant factor in the month's assessment.

The overall migration was strange, but didn't seem to match the local environmental conditions. The warm spells in March didn't create any strong, early movements of migrants. A few early arrivals occurred, but the overall arrival pattern did not seem to be particularly early. Numbers for species traditionally arriving in that time period didn't match expectations. This was even more apparent for April. Frontal systems seemed to pass south of us on the national map, and when they did reach us, they often met a NW flow which seemed to shut things down.

Bill Symonds once again manned the watch at Hamlin Beach and contributed the bulk of the loon and grebe reports. Decent numbers of loons were a highlight, with a very good spring Red-throated Loon total. Waterfowl appeared to move in and then out again in rapid fashion. Highlights included good numbers of Greater White-fronted Goose and excellent totals for Snow Goose, white morphs predominant. Symonds also noted good movements of scoters along the lake shore. Trumpeter Swans continued to be reported raising the question of origin once again. Also of note were two Eurasian Wigeon reports and two King Eider reports.

The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, under the direction of Braddock Bay Raptor Research, was manned by Shawn Hawks. Good hawk flight conditions basically did not occur this spring. As a result, numbers were down for most species. Eagle counts, however, continued to be encouraging. The only

relatively rare hawk report was a Swainson's Hawk at Braddock Bay on 14 April. It was a good spring for Sandhill Crane.

Shorebirds were generally poor, mainly due to a lack of habitat. Gull and tern reports were also in general poor. A few highlights though included Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and 19 Iceland Gulls at Hamlin Beach during a span of two weeks in April.

Cuckoos seemed up, while owls seemed scarce. Of special interest was a N. Saw-whet Owl observed by Fred Bertram and a group from the Finger Lakes Land Trust at the end of Canadice Lake on 30 May. This is most likely a breeding bird. Common Nighthawks were generally scarce, and Whip-poor-wills continued even harder to find.

The passerine migration was generally lacking in numbers. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, under the direction of Betsy Brooks and the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, experienced a slow spring with no days even approaching the maximum single-day totals of recent springs past. Flycatchers and vireos were notably down, with Yellow-throated Vireo especially low. Thrushes were poor, as were the warblers. This was also true for White-crowned and White-throated sparrows, two typically very numerous migrant species.

On the plus side, Carolina Wren continued its recovery, as did the N. Mockingbirds, and kinglets seemed pretty good. Waxwings were present in good numbers late in the season. There were also good reports of finches during the season, certainly rebounding from the southward movements of the past fall and winter.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed along Nations Road in Avon on 26 May by Jon Dombrowski. This represents the first documented record for the Region. Other seasonal rarities included **Great Cormorant** at Irondequoit Bay outlet from 1-17 Mar, a **Tricolored Heron** at Round Pond in Greece on 2,5-6 May, a **Black Vulture** at Braddock Bay on 27 Mar, and a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Island Cottage Woods on 17 May.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Ontario Beach (Charlotte), CO - Cobb's Hill, G - Geneseo, GR - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, IC - Island Cottage Woods, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road (Avon), P - Parma, PE - Perinton, RP - Round Pond (Greece), SB - Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WC - Wayne County, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loon: max 211 HB 19 Apr, good spring total; last 3 Hemlock L 21 May.

Com. Loon: max 532 HB 25 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 279 HB 29 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: max 36 HB 31 Mar; last 2 HB 12 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 IB 17 Mar (CC, KD), continued presence.

Least Bittern: arr 1 HB 12 May.

Great Egret: 1 Spencerport 1 May, very late arrival.

TRICOLORED HERON: 1 Round Pond, GR 2, 5-6 May (DS,GC,RS).

Glossy Ibis: arr 1 HB 30 May (RS), uncommon in spring.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 M 25 Mar.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 BB 27 Mar (SH,CC), rare but increasing sightings.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 H 7 Mar, 2ad, 1imm; 1 ad P 7 Mar; 4 ad H 20 Mar; 1 ad P 29 Mar; 1 H 9 Apr; good year.

Brant: arr 7 H 7 May (RS), early.

Snow Goose: max 15,000+ WC 7 Mar (RDob, BG), very high for Region; last three G 16 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 338 WC 7 Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 7imm WC 7 Mar (RDob, BG); 2 PE 4 Apr (DS,MT), origins?

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 HB 8 Mar (WS), first; 1 Silver Lake 24 Mar (J&KF,RR), first WYOM record; 1 Huron 29 Mar.

N. Pintail: last 4 G 18 May.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 H 24 Mar.

Greater Scaup: last 1 BB 17 May.

King Eider: 1 ad male HB 19 Apr (WS); 2 fem HB 26 Apr (WS), unusual in spring.

Surf Scoter: max 57 HB 26 Apr, good spring count.

Black Scoter: max 16 HB 26 Apr, good in spring.

Oldsquaw: last 8 HB 17 May.

Bufflehead: last 1 GR 23 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 BB 15 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 1 BB 25 Mar; 1 Rattlesnake Hill WMA 30 May, breeding?

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 R 6 Apr (PS), early.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 ad, dark morph BB 14 Apr (SH).

Golden Eagle: arr 1 M 24 Mar.

Merlin: arr 1 BB 27 Mar; last 1 G 17 May.

Peregrine Falcon: arr 1M 29 Mar; 1 BB 18 Apr; 1 Hemlock L 21 May.

Sandhill Crane: arr 11 BB 28 Mar (SH), very high total; 2 BB 29 Mar; 4 P 15 May; 1 MP 17 May; one Brockport 23 May; 2 BB 28 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 PE 27 May.

WILLET: 1 PE 22-23 May (DS,GC,KF), rare.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 NR 12 Apr.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 CH 30 May.

Red Knot: arr 1 CH 30 May.

Western Sandpiper: arr 1 H 18 May (RO'H), uncommon, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 75 G 15 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 H 16 May; max 12 G 24-26 May.

Dunlin: 1 HB 3 Apr (RMC,RO'H), record early.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6-9 H 16 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 H 19 May.

Little Gull: 3ad, 1imm CH 12,27-28 Mar; 1-2 HB thru Mar; 5 ad, 2 imm HB 3 Apr; 10, 5, 1 HB,CH,BB all Apr.

THAYER'S GULL: 1 1st yr G 10 Mar (KG); 1 imm HB 18 Apr (WS); 1 BB 17 May (KG), late.
Iceland Gull: max 7 HB 17 Apr, good spring total; last 1 HB 12 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 PE 14 Mar (JB); 1 PE 22 Mar (DS), 1 imm HB 17 Apr (WS); 1 ad PE 20 Apr (DS), rare but regular.
Glaucous Gull: last 2 HB 17 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 G 14 Apr.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one NR 9 May.
Barred Owl: 2 Castille 22 Mar (JK), new loc; 1 SB 23 May, unusual location.
Long-eared Owl: arr 2 M 27 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: 1 Honeoye Falls 20 May, breeding?
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr 1 M 27 Mar; 1 Canadice L 30 May (FB), breeding?
Whip-poor-will: 1 W 4 May (JC); 1 M 5-13 May (EB,CS), only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M 24 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 LW 23 May.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 NR 26 May (JD), first Region 2 verified report.
N. Shrike: last 1 CH 28 Mar.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 M, IC 15 May.
Winter Wren: arr 1-2 G 27 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 1 M 23 May.
Veery (*Catharus fuscescens saliculus*): 1 M 7 May (RS).
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: arr 1 CO 13 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 27 CO 30 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 NR 22 Mar; last 1 G 26 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr one Pittsford 4 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr M 12 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr 1 M 13 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 300+ sev 23 May (RS, KW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 IC 30 Mar.
Pine Warbler: 1 pair HB 30 May, nesting?
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 IC 13 May; 1 GR 14 May, uncommon.
Palm Warbler: last 1 IC 16 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 Murray, CH 9 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1 WAYN 22-23 May, known breeding site near Montezuma NWR.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 NR 10 May, late.
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 M 5 May (EB, RS), uncommon.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 CO 8 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 IC 17 May; 1 M 28 May, banded.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 3 IC 18 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr 1 NR 28 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 4 NR 2 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 NR 9 May.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 IC 17 May (MDe, DH), rare in spring.
Fox Sparrow: last 1 IC 2 May.
White-throated Sparrow: last 1 M 28 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 1 M 29 May; max 200+ IC and R 12 May.
Snow Bunting: max 3000+ Fowlerville 25 Mar, good total in a poor year.
E. Meadowlark: arr 1 BB 4 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 100 WC 7 Mar; last one IC 16 May.
Orchard Oriole: arr 3 G 3 May.
Pine Grosbeak: 1 G 22 Apr (JK); last 1 Rush 24 Apr (JK).
Red Crossbill: 17 Thousand Acre Swamp 27 Apr (JB), very good number.
White-winged Crossbill: 13 BP 24 May (BM), good number for late in season.
Com. Redpoll: max 1000 H 7 Mar; last 1 G 30 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: 1 G 28 Mar (KG).