

REGION 2 - GENESEE

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It was not the most eventful spring we've ever had. While there certainly were some highlights, the overall picture was less than encouraging. March played its traditional role by coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb, a phrase I heard more than once this spring. A three-day snowfall total of 43.2 inches from the 4th to the 6th was just shy of the record. Combined with the cold temperatures, this period of the month stalled any migration. Things started to warm up again by mid month and the snow was gone by month's end. The average temperature for the month was 30.8°F which was 3.5° below normal. Precipitation measured 1 inch above normal at 3.28 inches. A total of 128 species was reported during the month.

April started off with some rain, but by month's end things were pretty much normal. The average temperature was only 0.6° below normal at 45.3°, and precipitation was 0.54 inches below normal at 2.07 inches. There was very little snowfall to speak of, with a scant 2.9 inches recorded. Overall the migration for the month was slow. The passage of fronts conducive to a good migration was limited. Winds that produce good hawk flights were few and far between. The often noted early arrivals were delayed and kept a number of traditionally late April species from being reported or kept their numbers low. The species total for the month stood at 174.

May was generally average meteorologically. The average temperature of 59.5° was 2.4° above normal. Precipitation was right on the normal mark at 2.72 inches. The overall migration was once again disappointing. The area was quiet much too often. This may have been due to the blocking high-pressure systems that persisted during much of the month. Conditions didn't seem to affect the species total, as 240 were recorded.

The overall picture was one of a relatively poor spring migration. The

species total was by no means alarmingly low, but numbers of individuals were lacking. As stated earlier, there just weren't any grounding conditions on a consistent basis. Did the birds simply pass over us, were they guided in a different direction, or is the population in dire straits? There were some very early arrivals, but also some species that traditionally arrive early which were absent at that time this year. Arrivals, relative to the Monroe County Checklist were distributed somewhat evenly between the 1st quartile and the interquartile range. There were few that were later. Spring departures were about normal with just a few exceptions.

Waterbird numbers were average to low average. Loons generally were good, as were Horned Grebes, but Red-necked Grebe numbers were down considerably from recent years. Single Eared Grebes were reported from Sodus Bay and Hamlin Beach in April. Ten Double-crested Cormorants were spotted on Silver Lake for a new high for Wyoming County. Waders were scarce, with only a single Cattle Egret report and scattered reports of Great Egret. There were some good waterfowl sightings, with good numbers of Greater White-fronted Goose and an unprecedented number of Ross's Goose reports within the Region. Eurasian Wigeon was reported from two locations, and there were three separate reports of Harlequin Duck. Numbers of waterfowl left the Region earlier than normal and were scarce by the time May rolled around. Surf Scoter numbers were good from Hamlin Beach. A Snow Goose was present in Perinton late in the season.

It was a tough year for the spring hawkwatch. Conditions were generally poor for decent flights. Often lake breezes kicked in early and shut down any chance for a good afternoon flight. An immature Swainson's Hawk at Braddock Bay and one in Webster were highlights. The Peregrine Falcons returned to downtown Rochester and were rearing young in May, documented continuously on the Kodak website. Rails were scarce. None of the Big Day participants were able to turn up a Sora. The only reports were of an individual along Nations Road (Avon) on 25 April and another from the first half of May. Moorhens were also relatively scarce. On the plus side though was Sandhill Crane. The trend of increased sightings of this species continued this spring, with birds being seen throughout the season. It quite possibly suggests the confirmation of nesting in the not too distant future. Shorebird numbers were low even with the presence of good habitat due to the lower lake level. Fields inland from the lakeshore had very little flooding and dried early, which limited that habitat. Of interest was a record early Whimbrel heard flying over Fairport on 5 May and 103 Common Snipe at just a few

spots along the west lakeshore on 10 April was an excellent total. Gull reports for the most part were lackluster, with the highlights being a continuation of Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings and a spring Black-legged Kittiwake at Hamlin Beach on 17 April. Terns were generally scarce.

The spring owl migration was poor. Long-eared Owl reports were fair, but N. Saw-whet Owls were down for the second year in a row. There is some speculation that the availability of proper roosting trees will remain low until some of the smaller trees that were planted recently grow to a suitable height. Both species were reported from Bergen Swamp, which is a traditional nesting location. Whip-poor-wills were poorly reported again other than a burst of sightings during the first week of May and a single report during the second half of the month. Common Nighthawk continued its downward trend, with only small numbers reported in the Region. Also of interest is an increased number of Red-headed Woodpecker reports away from the most reliable nesting site along Nations Road. Is this the reoccupation of areas where birds were found during the Breeding Bird Atlas or just better coverage this spring? The Atlas 2000 effort beginning next year may help us to sort this out.

As previously reported, passerine numbers were down. All the expected flycatchers were sighted but with only average to low average numbers. A late push of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was noted, particularly in the early June banding reports. A single Loggerhead Shrike at Braddock Bay on 5 May was the first sighting in a couple of years. Warbling Vireo was well reported, but Yellow-throated was scarce. A White-eyed Vireo seen in Greece on 23 May was noteworthy. There were decent numbers of Philadelphia Vireos around. Fish Crow was once again reported, with an individual sighted at Mendon Ponds Park in May. Common Raven also continued its recent trend of sightings with reports from Naples, Hamlin, and Hilton. Carolina Wrens were up a bit, but some observers commented that Marsh Wrens seemed to be fewer in number, possibly due to very low water levels in the lakeshore marshes for much of the season. Thrush numbers never reached notable levels. A female Varied Thrush at Manitou in April was a good find.

The warbler picture was mixed. Overall it was not very good, but there were decent numbers of Yellow, Magnolia, Blackpoll, N. Waterthrush, Am. Redstart, Wilson's and Canada. On the down side were N. Parula, Cape May, and Black-and-white. A highlight was a Yellow-throated Warbler discovered singing in Letchworth State Park at the end of May (still present late in June). Prairie, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut warblers were all reported. Some

Some observers felt that Scarlet Tanager numbers were good this spring. None of the usual large concentrations of White-throated or White-crowned sparrows materialized this spring. Rose-breasted Grosbeak numbers also were down. There were several reports of multiple Brewer's Blackbirds once again this spring, a change from recent years. Baltimore Oriole numbers were up, and Orchard Orioles took up residence in the Geneseo Arboretum again this spring. There really wasn't much to say about finches other than that there weren't many. Purple Finch was not very numerous, two Pine Siskins were reported from Braddock Bay, and Evening Grosbeak was reported on a couple of days in late April.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, BE - Bergen Swamp, CH- Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CO - Cobbs Hill (Rochester), CL - Conesus Lake, DE- Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, GA - Galen (Wayn Co), GE - Geneseo, H - Hamlin, HB -Hamlin Beach State Park, IC - Island Cottage Woods, K - Kendall, LW - Letchworth State Park, M - Manitou Beach area, MP - Mendon Ponds Park MONR, NR - Nations Road, P -Perinton, R - Rochester, SB - Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 93 HB 20 Apr; last 1 HB 22 May.
Com. Loon: max 480 HB 18 Apr.
Horned Grebe: last 6 HB 22 May.
Red-necked Grebe: last 1 WL 4 May.
EARED GREBE: 1 HB 7 Apr (WS); 1 SB 9 Apr (DT).
Double-crested Cormorant: 10 Silver Lake, WYOM 24 Apr (KF).
Least Bittern: arr 1 IC 19 May.
Great Egret: arr 1 BB 18 Apr.
Cattle Egret: 1 M 23 Apr, only report.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 M 3 Apr.
Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 ad H 25 Mar (RMC,RD,RO'H); 1 ad H 27 Mar (R&SS); 1 BB 2 Apr (DT); 1 H 12 Apr (DT); 1 H 17 Apr (PS).
ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 ad GA 11 Mar (DT); 1 H 28 Mar (PF,R&SS,DS,GC).
Snow Goose: max 140 K 24 Mar.
Canada "Richardson's" Goose: 1 H 17 Mar.
Brant: arr 2 DE 15 May.
Tundra Swan: 1 Castile 25-31 May (JK), late.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 BB 20-21 Mar (DS,GC); 1 G 28 Mar (KG), both males.
N. Shoveler: last 2 DE 1 May.
Green-winged Teal: last 5 G 5 May.
Greater Scaup: last 1 BB 2 May.
Lesser Scaup: 5-9 sev 22 May.
Harlequin Duck: 1 fem H 8 Apr (DT); 1 fem SB 9 Apr (DT); 1 fem HB 26 Apr (WS).
Surf Scoter: max 77 HB 20 Apr; 3 MP 26 Apr (AC), interesting location.
Black Scoter: max 16 HB 26 Apr; last 1 HB 25 May.
Oldsquaw: last 5 HB 27 May.
Bufflehead: last 1 BB 7 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last 1 BB 1 May.
Hooded Merganser: max 300 CL 19 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: arr 1 BB 31 Mar; max 33 G 4 Apr; last 1 CL 11 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: 2 Pike 29 May, nesting.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 3 BB 16 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 G 15 Apr.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm BB 7 May (DT); 1 imm W 16 May (R&SS,CS).
Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 IC 1 May.
Golden Eagle: arr 1 BB 17 Mar.
Merlin: last 1 G 24 May.
Peregrine Falcon: arr 1 R 16 Mar, 5 reports from May.
Sandhill Crane: arr 2 BB 23 Mar (SA); 2 Richmond 24-25 Mar (VB); 4 BB 28,31 Mar (SA,BE,DT); 2 Richmond 2 Apr (KF); 2 BB 7 May (CC); 1 G 8,9 May (KG); 1 G 9 May (CC); 1 HB 9 May (DB); 1 IC 16 May (WS); 1 BB 17 May (CC).
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 Cuylerville Marsh 30 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 NR 15 Apr.
Whimbrel: 1 Fairport 5 May (DT), record early; max 3 M 13 May (RO'H).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 CH 24 May, only report.
Sanderling: arr 1 Turning Pt Park 22 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1 P 27 May.
Dunlin: arr 3 BB 22 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher (*L.g. griseus*): 1 P 18 May (DS,NYSARC).
Com. Snipe: max 103 WL 10 Apr (D&KT).
Iceland Gull: last 3 P 1 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 ad P 5 Mar (DK); 1 CL 19 Mar (JK); 1 ad G 9 Apr (RO'H); 1 3rd yr P 30 Apr (DS); 3 P 1 May (DS), 1 ad, 1 subad, 1 1st sum; 1 1st sum CH 22 May (BDG 1).
Glaucous Gull: last 2 P 1 May.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 imm HB 17 Apr (WS), rare in spring.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 CH 9 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 NR 15 May.
Long-eared Owl: max 11 M 31 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr 1 M 20 Mar.
Whip-poor-will: arr 1 M 25 Apr.
Chimney Swift: max 100 IC 10 May.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 1 W 15 May.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 BB 5 May (DT).

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 G 23 May
(DT,ST).

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 1 CO 30 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 CO 8 May.

Fish Crow: 1 MP 12 May (PF).

Com. Raven: 1 Cummings Nature
Center, Naples 28 Mar (RC); 1 H 8 Apr
(DT); 1 Hilton 28 May (CS).

Winter Wren: arr 2 IC 31 Mar.

Sedge Wren: arr 1 GE 18 May.

Marsh Wren: arr 4 IC 1 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 1 BB 31 May
(DT,MD), late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 Thousand
Acre Swamp 15 May.

VARIED THRUSH: 1 fem M 4 Apr (DT).

Am. Pipit: arr 1 Elba, BB 7 Mar; max 700+
K 22 Apr (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 sev 5 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 IC 7
May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 M 6 May, band-
ed.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Portage 6,15
May; 1 Bushnell's Basin 17 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 M 12
May, banded.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER
(*abilora*): 1 LW 30 May (RS,mob).

Prairie Warbler: arr 1 IC 15 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 W 4 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1 W 5 May
(D&DT); 1 WAYN Co 8-29 May, nesting?

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 1 W 7 May
(D&DT); 1 CO 9 May (AW).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 IC 28 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: arr 1 IC 16 May
(S&RS); 1 IC 24 May (DT).

Connecticut Warbler: 1 G 30 May
(DT,MD).

Hooded Warbler: arr 1 IC 5 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: arr 1 HB 18 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 1 BB 1 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 GE 25 Apr.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 GE 21 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: arr 3 GE 23 Mar; max 20 IC
10 Apr; last 1 Irondequoit Bay 27 Apr.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 G 21 Mar.

White-throated Sparrow: last 1 BB 31
May.

Lapland Longspur: last 25 H 3 Apr.

Snow Bunting: last 3 HB 27 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr 2-3 BB, NR 21 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 CL, Penfield 4
Mar; last 1 M 23 May.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: max 12 H 21
Mar (DT,BE); 2 H 28 Mar (JB); 2 H 2 Apr
(RS).

Orchard Oriole: arr 1 GE 4 May.

Purple Finch: arr 1 BB 24 Mar.

Pine Siskin: 2 BB 2 may (DT), only
report.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 M 29,30 Apr.