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Once again spring was a roller coaster ride. March was brutal. The average temperature was 4° below normal at 30.3°F, with the highest recorded temperature a balmy 49°. One three-day stretch, from the 25th to the 27th, averaged a full ten degrees below normal. Precipitation was 4.13", which was 1.85" above normal. The real story, though, was the snowfall, which totaled 41.4", the fifth snowiest March ever recorded. Fortunately, April showed a marked improvement. It was considerably milder and brought an end to a string of gloomy months. The average temperature was 47.7°, 1.8° on the plus side. Warm spikes on the 8th, 12th and 22nd-23rd brought bursts of raptors to the hawkwatch, and warm spells towards the end of the month helped usher in some early migrants and improved the birding. Precipitation was less than half the usual amount at 1.19". No periods of extended rain occurred, allowing for good, comfortable field conditions. May was really a month of two distinct halves. The first half was warm and very dry. The second half was cooler, with extended periods of cloudy conditions and more persistent showers. By month's end the average temperature was 2.4° warmer than normal at 59.5° and precipitation totaled a very normal 2.66".

The season was, as it usually is, a mixture of positive and negative trends. It was a good spring for loons at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch, with decent totals for Red-throated and good numbers of Common. Horned Grebes were quite slow after a very good winter season. Red-necked Grebes were scarce. Waders were generally slow, with very poor numbers of American Bitterns reported. **Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** and Glossy Ibis were highlights. Black Vulture was reported again this season. It was observed at Braddock Bay on 22 April. A Ross's Goose was discovered in Wayne County by Willie D'Anna and others. This continued the increased sightings of this species in the Region. Most waterfowl seemed to move through quickly with fewer reports of lingering individuals. Mute Swans, unfortunately, continued to be reported in fairly large numbers in a variety of locations.

The number of scoters and Long-tailed Ducks at the lakewatch was generally okay this spring. The hawk flight was generally poor at the outset of the season, but improved considerably in April with some very good days. One such day, the 8th, included a record high count of 5834 Turkey Vultures at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Osprey and Bald Eagle totals were also noteworthy for the season. Two **Swainson's Hawks** were reported in April, one of these a rare dark morph bird recorded on the same day and a few hours earlier than a similar bird at Derby hill. This species continues to be rare but regular. The Peregrine Falcons took up residence again on the Kodak Tower. Good totals of Sandhill Cranes were observed passing the hawkwatch again this spring. Shorebird habitat was once again scarce, so shorebird reports and totals were down. The only reliable location was the traditional farm pond in Perinton east of Fairport. Gull records were generally lackluster, with Little Gull at Hamlin Beach, Black-headed Gull in Kendall and late reports of Glaucous and Iceland gulls from Hamlin Beach as highlights. A record early Forster's Tern at Hamlin was a tern highlight.

The owl migration was fair this spring. Fifty-five Short-eared Owls lingering at Nations Road were a good find in March. However, the real owl highlight was the **Boreal Owl** discovered at Braddock Bay in late March. The bird was quite cooperative and was observed by numerous observers over a three-day period. On two of those days it was roosting in fairly close proximity to a Northern Saw-whet Owl, allowing visitors immediate comparison of the two species. Common Nighthawk continued its downward spiral and Whip-poor-will reports were few and concentrated in the Manitou area at Braddock Bay. Ruby-throated Hummingbird put in a record early appearance in Brockport. In addition, an amazing 123 were netted and released during May at the Kaiser-Mantiou Beach banding station during normal operation. Fifty-one of these were males and 72 were females.

There were a couple of early flycatcher arrivals this spring. Yellow-bellied was observed in Island Cottage Woods on 4 May and an Acadian was banded at Manitou Beach 10 May. Great Crested Flycatcher numbers were good this year. There were three reports of **White-eyed Vireo** this spring: Jim Kimball found one in Geneseo, Don and Donna Traver observed one in Webster and Dave Tetlow and Mike Davids discovered another individual at Braddock Bay. **Fish Crow** was again reported in the Region. Sightings of Common Raven also continued in the Region, fueling the speculation that we may confirm nesting one of these Atlas years. The kinglet flight this year seemed to be over a very narrow time. Numbers weren't bad, but the bulk of both species came through during a relatively short span of days. Eastern Bluebirds continued to do well. The later thrushes, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked in particular, were generally in poor numbers.

Warbler highlights included record early arrivals for Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow, Bay-breasted and Wilson's. Observers reported very good numbers of Wilson's and American Redstart. Yellow-rumped continued to be the most abundant of this group, and Magnolias also were well represented. Unusual but regular species, such as Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut were also sighted. The usual few Yellow-breasted Chats were reported. Observers

noted a scarcity of Cape May and Blackpoll warblers.

Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Island Cottage Woods on 3 May, but the birds from Mendon Ponds went unreported. This may be related to habitat improvement work, including much shrub removal in the areas they frequented the past two years. **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was sighted at Braddock Bay in May. High numbers of Baltimore Orioles were noted by many observers and also similarly, but on a lower scale, for Orchard Oriole. **Bullock's Oriole** was discovered at Braddock Bay by Dominic Sherony and seen by a number of observers on 10 May. This was only the 2nd Regional report for the species

This season saw the total species for the year to date climb to 254, about the same as last year but slightly lower than the ten-year average of 261 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BE – Bergen Swamp GENE; CH – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; CO – Cobbs Hill MONR; E – Elba GENE; G – Greece MONR; GE – Geneseo LIVI; H – Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach MONR; HP – Hogan Pt; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; IC – Island Cottage Woods MONR; K – Kendall ORLE; L – Lyons WAYN; M – Manitou MONR; NR – Nations Road Area LIVI; P – Perinton; W – Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 64 HB 15 Apr.

Com. Loon: max 500 HB 14 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 408 HB 15 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: last HB 28 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr IC 21 Apr.

Great Egret: arr BB 23 Apr.

TRICOLORED HERON: HP 12 Apr

(DT).

Green Heron: arr G 21 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr M 23 Apr.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: M 23 Apr (DT, JG), record early for this rarity in the Region.

Glossy Ibis: 2 North Rose WAYN 11

Apr (D&DT).

BLACK VULTURE: BB 22 Apr (KF, mob).

Turkey Vulture: max 5834 BB 8 Apr (JG).

Greater White-fronted Goose: K 11 Mar (DT); HP 23 Mar (DT); annual but uncommon.

ROSS'S GOOSE: L 31 Mar-1 Apr (WD, KF).

Snow Goose: max 2000 NR 21, 28 Mar.

Brant: arr H 19 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 265 WL 11 Mar; last 3 HB 26 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 H 23 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 4 CH 4 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 175 Galen WAYN 20 Apr.

Canvasback: last BB 8 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr IB 18 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

Species	Total	Peak	Peak Date	Date Range
Black Vulture	1	1	4/22	4/22
Turkey Vulture	16,844	5834	4/8	3/13 – 5/31
Osprey	340	49	5/22	3/31 – 5/29
Bald Eagle	234	44	5/26	3/8 – 5/31
Northern Harrier	435	79	4/8	3/10 – 5/27
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2955	931	4/8	3/8 – 5/28
Cooper's Hawk	324	78	4/8	3/13 – 5/25
N. Goshawk	35	6	4/12	3/8 – 5/27
Red-shouldered Hawk	509	114	4/8	3/14 – 4/25
Broad-winged Hawk	44,100	22,600	4/23	4/14 – 5/31
Red-tailed Hawk	2845	728	4/8	3/7 – 5/31
Rough-legged Hawk	230	57	4/12	3/7 – 5/9
Golden Eagle	31	7	4/21, 4/23	3/14 – 5/9
American Kestrel	181	45	4/12	3/13 – 5/27
Merlin	15	1	sev.	4/5 – 5/24
Peregrine Falcon	11	2	5/2, 5/3	4/2 – 5/31
Total	69,118			

Osprey: arr BB 3 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 931 BB 8 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: 8230 BB 12 Apr; max 22,600 BB 23 Apr.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: dark morph BB 8 Apr (MT, DSh); light morph HP 12 Apr (DT).

Golden Eagle: arr BB 14 Mar; max 7 BB 21, 23 Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr BB 23 Apr.

Sora: arr NR 25 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr 4 Murray Swamp

ORLE 13 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr 3 BB 19 Apr; BB 22 Apr; Clarkson 22 Apr; 4 BB 23 Apr; BB 25 Apr; BB 27 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: arr Elba 16 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr P 10 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr H 4 Apr; last Elba 28 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BB 30 Apr; last P 27 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 26 Apr; last WL 30 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr P 26 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr HB 12 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr P 19 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr P 30 Apr.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 45 BB 12 Apr.
Dunlin: arr HP, HB 13 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher (L. g. griseus):
 P 25-30 May (DSh).
Com. Snipe: arr K 7 Apr.
Little Gull: max 8 HB 28 Apr.
Black-headed Gull: K 28 May (DT, MD), 1st summer.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 3500 HB 28 Apr.
Iceland Gull: HB 20 Apr; last BB 24 May.
Glaucous Gull: last HB 5 Apr.
Caspian Tern: arr BB 4 Apr; max 86 HB 20 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr 8 HB 12 Apr; max 104 HB 22 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 8 Apr (WS), record early.
Black Tern: arr BB 24 Apr.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Norway Rd, Murray ORLE 16 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr BE 19 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 55 NR 31 Mar; last NR 19 Apr.
BOREAL OWL: M 25-28 Mar (TM, mob).
Com. Nighthawk: arr G 2 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M 23 Apr; last M 19 May.
Chimney Swift: arr BB 23 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Brockport 23 Apr (JT), record early.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BB 27 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr M 10 May, early, banded.
Alder Flycatcher: arr sev 19 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr HP 4 May, early.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr BB 8 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr IC 4 May (DT), record early; max 34 WL 27 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr M 30 Apr.
E. Phoebe: arr HB 29 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr HB 28 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr BB 23 Apr.
N. Shrike: last HP 21 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr GE 28 Apr (JK); W 4 May (D&DT); BB 26 May (DT).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CO, W 1 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr IC 21 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 5 GE 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr G 8 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr sev 1 May.
Fish Crow: arr BB 10 May (DT).
Com. Raven: Byron 29 Apr (KG), unusual location; Honoe L 19 May.
Purple Martin: arr BB 23 Mar.
Tree Swallow: arr 2 WL 20 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 HB 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 2 BB 12 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 BB 21 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr CH 7 Apr.
House Wren: arr GE 11 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr BB 23 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr IC, GE 13 Apr; max 75 M 23 Apr, banded; last M 24 May, banded.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr IC 14 Apr.
Veery: arr 2 CO 2 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr IC 21 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr IC 1 May.
Wood Thrush: arr BB 26 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr BB 26 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr NR 16 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 15 NR 17 Mar; last 2 E 20 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr IC 28 Apr, record early.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr M 1 May, banded.
Tennessee Warbler: arr W 3 May (RS), record early.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 4 May, banded; last M 23 May, banded.

Nashville Warbler: arr 2 BB 23 Apr (DT, JG), tied record early.
N. Parula: arr Pittsford 27 Apr; last M 25 May, banded.
Yellow Warbler: arr IC 22 Apr (LG, BC), record early.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr W 1 May; max 29 M 22 May, banded.
Magnolia Warbler: arr M 2 May, banded; G 1 May; max 132 M 22 May, banded.
Cape May Warbler: arr G 5 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CO 30 Apr; 5 M 30 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 BB 20 Mar; max 235 M 8 May, banded.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr IC 23 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr IC 1 May.
Pine Warbler: arr BB 12 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr G 8 May; 2 IC 8 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 2 IC 22 Apr; last CO 16 May.
"Yellow" Palm Warbler: M 22 Apr (EB), banded.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Durand-Eastman P 28 Apr (RS), record early.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr G 8 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr IC 2 May.
Am. Redstart: arr M 30 Apr, banded; max 54 M 21 May, banded.
Prothonotary Warbler: IC 2 May, only report.
Worm-eating Warbler: CO 30 Apr; M 2 May; W 8 May.
Ovenbird: arr M, IC 1 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr IC 22 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr M 22 Apr, banded.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr G 14 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: W 17 May (BK), only report.
Connecticut Warbler: M 24 May, banded.
Mourning Warbler: arr M 9 May,

banded.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Galen WAYN 27 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr G 8 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr M 2 May, banded, record early.
Canada Warbler: arr M 7 May, banded.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr W 10 May (D&DT); M 17 May, banded.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 IC 3 May.
E. Towhee: arr M 6 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Mendon Ponds 19 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 Irondequoit 22 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: IC 3 May (RS), only report.
Field Sparrow: arr NR 7 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr NR 1 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: 6 NR 5 Mar, overwintered.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr NR 28 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr Hemlock 10 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Irondequoit 6 Apr; last CO 30 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr M 30 Apr, banded, early.
Lapland Longspur: max 100+ NR 7 Mar; last 2 Bergen 21 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, Penfield 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr G 3 May.
Bobolink: arr Avon 24 Apr, very early.
E. Meadowlark: arr E 14 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: female HB 23 Apr (DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr Ontario 3 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Rochester 27 Apr.
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE: BB 10 May (DSh, mob), 2nd Regional report, previous 7 May 1979.

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