

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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It was indeed a spring of contrasts both meteorologically and ornithologically. March continued the trend started in the winter by averaging 1.2°F above normal temperature at 35.1°. However, this was not really indicative of the contrasts of the month. The temperature reached 70° on the 9th, but was followed on the 10th by a high of 33°. There seemed to be an ongoing battle between air masses that represented winter and spring. This produced a mix of precipitation. The total for the month was 0.49" below normal at 2.09". Snowfall reached a total of 13.8", which was just slightly above normal, but still left the Region well below the average for the year. These changes in weather were accompanied by strong winds. Gusts of over 50 mph were recorded on four days during the month. In many places, large trees were blown over.

April weather was also a roller coaster ride. Two cold snaps bookended a summer-like warm spell. Half of the days of the month experienced temperatures that were either 10° above or below normal. The final average temperature was 2.9° above normal at 48.2°. Record highs were set on the 16th and 17th. Unfortunately, these warm days were not accompanied by strong, southerly winds and good hawk flights did not materialize. Precipitation totaled 3.44", which was 0.69" above normal. Snowfall once again was above average at 6.5", still leaving us well below normal for the year.

May could be best described as wet and cool. The unseasonably cool and wet trend carried over from late April, and if not for a warm stretch at the end of the month, we would have recorded a record chill. It was the third wettest and 14th coolest May in the last 100 years. The average temperature was nearly 4° below normal at 53.4°. From the 10th through the 27th there were 16 days with below normal temperatures. Fortunately, the last week of the month experienced muggy, summer-like conditions. Precipitation was more than double the usual amount at 5.87". A good deal of the rain fell during thunderstorms on the 29th.

The season was also a contrast, as is often the case, ornithologically. Bill Symonds, Dave Tetlow and others put in much time at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch and contributed to the data on waterbirds. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks, carried out their banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station and produced some interesting birds and numbers. A Big Day run by Dave Tetlow, Kurt Fox and Jessie Barry on 26 May tallied over 200 species, topping the previous high of 195 species.

The loon totals for the spring season were about average, with no significant daily totals. Horned and Red-necked grebes, on the other hand, produced some very good counts during the end of March. The **American White Pelicans** along the west lakeshore in May were a good find. Waterfowl pluses included good numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads and Red-breasted Mergansers, as well as some excellent Brant reports. Surf Scoters also had a good spring. Greater White-fronted Goose reports were down this year, perhaps due to a decrease in observers scouring the Canada Goose flocks. Species highlights included the 4th Regional, and first since 1967, **Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal** and a Eurasian Wigeon. Numbers of locally breeding Canada Geese continued high, as was the case with the Mute Swan.

The hawkwatch flights were monitored by Braddock Bay Raptor Research; the official counter again this year was Jason Guerard. The count was for the most part lackluster. The total of 49,395 individuals was lower than the long-term average. Highlights included 72 Osprey, a May **Mississippi Kite**, 72 Bald Eagles and 23 Golden Eagles. Peregrine Falcons again took up residence on the Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester and produced two young from four eggs. The male of the last several years was driven off or killed by a new male.

For a change, there seemed to be ample shorebird habitat, but it didn't seem to matter. Shorebirds in general were only fair. There were a couple of days with good totals of both yellowlegs and most expected species were noted, but numbers in general were only so-so until the end of May, when the 26th brought a good influx of migrants. Highlights included Willet, Marbled Godwit and more Wilson's Phalarope reports than in recent years. Whimbrel went unreported.

Gulls and terns were about normal, with only a few surprises. The season started out slowly, with the now expected Lesser Black-backed Gulls and three Little Gulls as highlights. May highlights included the reporting of an adult **Laughing Gull** at Braddock Bay and two **Arctic Terns** at Hamlin Beach. The traditional late season Iceland and Glaucous gulls were reported. The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls was slow this season and Black Terns continued their precipitous decline.

Long-eared Owl totals were fairly good this spring, while Northern Saw-whet Owls seemed down a bit. Decent numbers of Whip-poor-wills were noted, but Common Nighthawk numbers once again were dismal compared with historical totals. An all-out group search for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was initiated on 10 and 11 April with a result of 432 individuals tallied in woodlots over a 20 mile stretch of lakeshore.

The passerine migration pretty much began as expected, with mostly typical arrival dates and a few early ones. The warm spell in April brought a good influx of migrants, which then slowed to a trickle by the end of the month. May was not a banner month, due in part to the cool and wet conditions. Cuckoos, flycatchers and thrushes were down in numbers and late arriving this spring. Warblers on the negative side included Tennessee, Cape May and Blackpoll. The season was not without its passerine highlights, though. A first for the Region was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** banded and photographed by BBBO on the last day of April; it stayed in the vicinity until 3 May. An immature female **Townsend's Warbler** was reported in April. Also falling in the first Regional category was a female **Painted Bunting** that frequented a Greece feeder for 5 days in May. **Summer Tanager** and **Brewer's Blackbird** rounded out the highlights. There was a huge influx of Baltimore Orioles in early May. Of note also was a very late Pine Grosbeak observed in Penfield in late May.

March's species total was 131, April's was 182 and May's was 241. The total for the year reached 270 species.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

B – T Byron GENE; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CH – Cobbs Hill, City of Rochester MONR; DE – Durand-Eastman County P MONR; G – Greece MONR; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt T Greece MONR; IC – Island Cottage Woods T Greece MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI; M – Manitou MONR; P – T Parma MONR; PB – Pt Breeze ORLE; PE – T Penfield MONR; PN – T Perinton MONR; SA – Shore Acres T Hamlin MONR; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore along south shore of L Ontario MONR/ORLE.

## LOONS – DUCKS

**Red-throated Loon:** last HB, PB 26 May.  
**Horned Grebe:** last PB 26 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 100 HB 29 Mar; last HB 11 May.  
**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:** 3 WL 3-9 May (CR, mob).  
**Am. Bittern:** arr G 10 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** arr IC 11 May.  
**Great Egret:** arr HB 29 Mar.  
**Snowy Egret:** arr BB 14 May (DTe, MD, JG), only report.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr W 31 Mar.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 2529 BB 30 Mar; total 8907 for the season BB.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** B 1 Mar (WS); BB 8 Mar (DTe).  
**Snow Goose:** last HB 3 May.  
**Brant:** max 425 HB 27 Apr (WS); good spring total.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** HB 4 May, wingtag #601; HB 19 May, no wingtag.  
**Wood Duck:** B 25 Mar, late.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** H 31 Mar-1 Apr (SD).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr H 19 Mar.  
**N. Pintail:** last HB 5 May.  
**GREEN-WINGED "EURASIAN" TEAL:** H 17 Apr (MD, mob), ph, 5th Reg record.  
**Redhead:** last 2 BB 15 May.  
**Surf Scoter:** max 35 HB 20 Apr (WS); good spring total; last HB 23 May.  
**Black Scoter:** last 2 HB 4 May.  
**Bufflehead:** last PB 26 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** last PB 26 May.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 24 K 19 Apr.

## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr BB 30 Mar; season total 160 BB.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** imm BB 30 May (JG).  
**Bald Eagle:** season total 132 BB.  
**N. Harrier:** season total 470 BB.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** season total 3168 BB.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** season total 509 BB.

**N. Goshawk:** season total 82 BB.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr BB 9 Mar; season total 765 BB.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 1, 9 HB, BB 12 Apr; season total 36,376 BB.  
**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** light morph ad P 12 Apr (RS).  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** season total 3249 BB.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** season total 194 BB; last 2 BB 6 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr BB 11 Mar; last BB 10 May; season total 23 BB.  
**Am. Kestrel:** season total 264 BB.  
**Merlin:** season total 31 BB.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr Rochester 20 Mar; season total 16 BB; max 4 BB 9 May.  
**N. Bobwhite:** H 15-16 May; 2 Canandaigua 31 May; origin?  
**King Rail:** H 23, 26 May (JeB, MD, KFo, DTe), calling, traditional location.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr BB 16 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr SA 12 Apr.  
**Com. Moorhen:** arr BB 9 Apr.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr BB 30 Mar; 2 H 8-9 Apr; BB 10 May; H 15-16 May; SA 16 May; 2 BB 16 May; BB 17 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr BB 10 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr BB 30 Mar; max 51 H 16 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 1 K & 2 HB 7 Apr; max 120 H 15 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Mendon 8 Apr (DTe), record early.  
**Willet:** arr 2 BB 9 May (JG, CC); western subspecies H 30 May (BE).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr PN 25 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** BB 17 Apr.  
**Marbled Godwit:** BB 15-16 May (JG, MD, WS, CC).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr HB 11 May (WS), record early.  
**Red Knot:** arr HB 23 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr HP 16 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr HB 4 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 4 HB & 2 HP 30 Mar.  
**Dunlin:** arr 3 H 9 Apr (RS), record early;

max 208 HB 23 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr PN 12 May.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr P 24 May (BE);  
PN 28-29 May (DSH, KD).

**Laughing Gull:** BB 30 May (JG).

**Little Gull:** 3 HB 10 Apr.

**Iceland Gull:** PN 29 Apr; last G 19 May.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 PN 29 Apr.

**Glaucous Gull:** last 1 ad HB 17 May.

**Caspian Tern:** arr 2-4 several sites 9 Apr;  
max 48 HB 30 Apr.

**Com. Tern:** arr HB, BB 10 Apr.

**ARCTIC TERN:** 2 HB 5 May (WS,  
MD).

**Forster's Tern:** arr 2 BB 9 Apr.

**Black Tern:** arr BB 7 May.

#### DOVES – WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 2 WL 19 May.

**Barred Owl:** Victor 15 Apr (RMc), new  
location.

**Long-eared Owl:** Mar total 15 M; max 19  
M 10 Apr; Apr total 77 M.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Mar total 14 M; max 5  
M 9 Apr; Apr total 17 M.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Rush 22 Apr; max  
30 BB 30 May.

**Whip-poor-will:** arr 2 M 16 Apr; max 8  
M 5 May.

**Chimney Swift:** arr BB 19 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr  
Pittsford 5 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 3 IC 6  
Apr; total 432 WL lakeshore woodlot  
search 10-11 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr M 30 May.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr CH 5 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr M 16  
May; max 13 M 31 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 2 M 31 May,  
late.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr IC 25 May, late.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr IC 6 May.

**"Traill's" Flycatcher:** max 59 M 31  
May, banded.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr G 1 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr HP 9 Mar.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 3 IC 27  
Apr.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Chili 20 Apr; BB 26  
Apr; very early for 2 records.

**N. Shrike:** last BB 7 May (JG), record  
late.

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr Geneseo 28 Apr  
(JK); G 15 May (GC).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr M, Powder  
Mill P 5 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr LW 16 Apr (RS),  
record early.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr M 16 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr IC 27 Apr.

**Purple Martin:** arr HP 29 Mar.

**Tree Swallow:** arr HB & BB 9 Mar.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr WL 8  
Apr (ST), ties early record.

**Bank Swallow:** arr HB & BB 17 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr 3 HB 17 Apr; scarce.

**Barn Swallow:** arr BB 1 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr BB 18 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr P 30 Mar.

**SEDGE WREN:** K mid May, implied  
arrival from DTe finding colony and  
adults feeding yg in early Jun; very scarce  
in recent years.

**Marsh Wren:** arr DE 11 Apr.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr BB 8 Apr;  
max 96 5 May; last P 27 May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr G & IC 16  
Apr.

**Veery:** arr G 5 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr M 16 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr IC 3 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr IC 9 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr Pittsford 16 Apr  
(P&TS), record early.

**Gray Catbird:** arr M 27 Apr.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr M 14 Apr.

**Am. Pipit:** arr HB 31 Mar; max 200 Elba  
26 Apr; last 2 HB 23 May.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BB 5 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr IC 6 May.

**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** M 5 May; LW

19 May; M 30 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr IC 1 May (DSh), record early.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr M 30 Apr.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr M 26 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr M 5 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr IC 27 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr BB 5 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr several sites 5 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr DE 5 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr M & IC 2 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 2 HB 8 Apr.  
**BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER:** M 30 Apr–3 May (BBBO, MD), banded, ph, 1st Reg record.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr M 17 Apr.  
**TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** imm fem BB 13 Apr (BE).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 1-4 several sites 5 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr HB 10 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr IC 6 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr BB 12 Apr; max 17 M 6 May, banded; last G 26 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr IC 6 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr IC 17 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr CH & B 7 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr M 26 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr several sites 5 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr M 1 May; IC 6 May.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr M 6 May (BBBO); IC 7 May (SD, RS).  
**Ovenbird:** arr CH 27 Apr.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr IC & M 27 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LW 16 Apr.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** G 24 May (DSh,

JG); M 26 May (BBBO).  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr IC 7 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr IC 27 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 M & G 5 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr IC 7 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr CH 7 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr M 6 May.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**SUMMER TANAGER:** M 23 May (BBBO), banded.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr IC 6 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr HB 8 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Clarkson & G 8 Apr.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Honeoye Falls 10 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr H 7 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr H 9 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr H 10 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr Nations Rd Geneseo 19 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr HP 5 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** last 2 HB 29 Mar.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr W & Brighton 20 Apr.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Irondequoit 27 Apr.  
**PAINTED BUNTING:** G 11-15 May (Chris Gates, DSh, mob); 1st Reg record.  
**Bobolink:** arr IC 4 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 3 HB 3 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** last 7 HP 22 May, late.  
**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** H 8 Apr (ST, RS); 2 H 14-17 Apr (mob).  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr BB 6 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr several sites 5 May; max 150+ BB 6 May (BE, CC).  
**Pine Grosbeak:** last PE 21 May (FB), very late.  
**Com. Redpoll:** last Fairport 17 Apr.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 100 HB 29 Mar.