

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

ckgrif@localnet.com

It was a cool wet spring. The National Weather Service described March as a “Jekyll and Hyde” month in western New York. The cold of winter lingered on into the first half of March, with 3 March recording the coldest daytime high temperature in 118 years. But then the second half of the month brought a spring-like warmth that balanced out to a near perfect month relative to the norm. The monthly temperature of 34.1°F was 0.2° above normal. The 1.95” of precipitation was 0.63” below normal. Snowfall finally was below normal with a meager 5.6”. This was 11” below normal. The most significant meteorological event for April was the ice storm that paralyzed the area on the 3rd and 4th. It was many days before all power was restored to all area residents. The average temperature for the month was 43.3°, which was 2.0° below normal. Precipitation ended up 1.48” below normal at 1.27” for the driest April in 100 years. Snowfall was 1.2” above normal with a total of 6.3”. Unfortunately, the winds were often out of the northeast, which did not bode well for migration. May was cool again and also wet. The average temperature was 55.2°. This was 1.8° below normal. Precipitation was 1.75” above normal at 4.57”. Rainfall occurred on 15 days during the month, with 0.93” falling on the 11th and 12th.

It was indeed an interesting spring season. While there were indeed some decent migration days, for the most part it was uneventful. There were some good days at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch and the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, but overall the concentrations were few and far between. Many days saw winds out of the north and east with few birds to observe. Passerine arrivals were set back by the ice storm and the cool temperatures often kept the migration at bay. Few days presented excellent birding opportunities.

For the most part, lakewatch birding was mediocre. Loon movements were okay but not really noteworthy. The same was true for the grebes, with the exception of a few good days for Red-necked. The Pacific Loon in alternate plumage observed by Bob Spahn at Hamlin Beach was a continuation of an increase in sightings of the species in the east. Waders were scarce, with even few Great Egret reports. The **Glossy Ibis** in May at Fishers was a plus. Canada Goose and Mute Swan continued their widespread successes, much to the dismay of the local birding community. Greater White-fronted Goose was finally reported but it wasn’t until May; how unusual! Waterfowl dropped off rather quickly, as has been typical in recent years. Canvasback and Redhead numbers seemed low. Highlights included a neck-banded Ross’s Goose and Eurasian Wigeon.

Josh Lawrey manned the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch this season. Despite April’s often uncooperative winds, there were some very good flights, particularly on 15 and 20 April and 1 and 6 May. The 15 April flight produced over 1000 Sharp-shinned Hawks. On 20 April, 27 Bald Eagles were recorded; 1 May saw a Broad-winged Hawk total of 12,450; and 36 Ospreys were counted on 6 May. The Peregrine Falcons nesting on the Kodak Building in downtown Rochester were

again successful, with five young fledged.

Sandhill Cranes continued their trend of reports at the Hawk Watch. This annual occurrence has heightened the experience at Braddock Bay. Shorebird-wise it was a horrible spring. Many species went unreported. This fact contributed significantly to the low species total for the season and the year to date. Many of the species had arrival dates in June, which is part of the summer reporting period. Gull highlights for the season included three immature **Black-headed Gulls** and the ever-increasing Lesser Black-backed Gull reports. Caspian Tern was record early in March at Braddock Bay. The **Roseate Tern** observed at Hamlin Beach by Mike Davids and Bill Symonds was probably the bird of the season in Region 2. It was the third Regional report of this species. Black Tern continued its disheartening decline in the Region.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove discovered in Hamlin in 2002 was reported again, but the sighting frequency decreased considerably after April. The spring migration for Long-eared Owls was on the plus side, with 14 sighted on 15 April. Northern Saw-whet Owl seemed on the down side. Again, Whip-poor-will was reported only sparingly and Common Nighthawk continued its downward trend.

The passerine migration was quite slow. Early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird seemed especially hard hit by the ice storm. Purple Martin put in a record early appearance at Hamlin on 16 March. Most early arrivals were few in numbers of individuals and at somewhat late dates. A few warm days with favorable conditions produced some good pockets of birds, but the overall picture was certainly lacking. A number of traditionally reported warblers went unreported. These included Prothonotary, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat. Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow went unreported, also. I'm not sure if these misses were due to the fact that they weren't here, just weren't reported, or there was a lack of observers in the field. Highlights included a Clay-colored Sparrow visiting a feeder in Greece and Pine Siskins in May, the latter being a highlight based on the fact that there weren't any reported in March or April. Late May Pine Siskins, and even Evening Grosbeaks, were expected in times past.

The species totals for March, April and May were 129, 163 and 224 respectively. All were below the ten-year averages. The total for the season was 238. The total for the year, at a meager 250 species, was well below the ten-year average of 261.7.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, A.Betancourt, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Greg Coniglio, Carol Cottrone, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Mike Davids, Peter Debes, Bob Dobson, Jon & Sandy Dombrowski, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Helen Haller, Tom Hampson, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Bernie Kester, Jim Kimball, Pat Kocinski, Josh Lawrey, John Lehr,

Gerhard Leubner, Dorothy Mauser, Chita & Robert McKinney, Richard Millhouse, Tim Niver, Richard O'Hara, Elinor & Joe Osborne, Betty & Bill Powell, Al Price, Ed Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Doug Smith, Pat & Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff & Paul Spindler, David & Grace Strong, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Bill Thompson, Don & Donna Traver, Chris Villone, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Amy's Pd, T Ontario WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; C – T Carlton ORLE; CB – Chimney Bluffs WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester MONR; CI – Conesus L Inlet LIVI; CL – Canadice L LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HF – Honeoye Falls MONR; I – T Irondequoit MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; PU – T Pultneyville; RH – Rattlesnake Hill WMA LIVI; S – T Savannah WAYN; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 21 Mar;
max 64 HB 12 Apr.

PACIFIC LOON: HB 14 Apr (RS,
NYSARC).

Com. Loon: arr 2 HB 24 Mar; max 163
HB 23 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 250 HB 11 Apr; last
PB 26 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 726 WL 11 Apr;
max 976 WL 14 Apr; last HB 12 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: HB 30 May
(WS).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 3 HB 26
Mar; max 250 BB 28 May.

Am. Bittern: arr BB 18 Apr.

Great Egret: arr HB 16 Apr.

Green Heron: arr HB 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr AP 11
May.

GLOSSY IBIS: Fishers 1 May (PSm).

Turkey Vulture: max 1837 BB 12 Apr.

BLACK VULTURE: BB 15 Apr (JB,
JLa, mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr BB 4
May (JLa), late for a first.

Snow Goose: arr BB 16 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE: C 10 Apr (R&SS),
with a neckband.

Trumpeter Swan: on nest 21 May just
east of WAYN/MONR line.

Tundra Swan: arr 5 G 1 Mar; max 326 S
20 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr BB 26-27 Mar;
last C 8 May (R&SS).

Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 BB 15 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr G 1 Mar.

N. Pintail: 50 C 8 May, good total for
May; last C 22 May.

Surf Scoter: max 62 HB 26 Apr; last 2
BB 20 May.

Black Scoter: last HB 20 May.

Bufflehead: last 2 PB 19 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr Charlotte 15 Mar; max
20+ BB 16 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BB 22 Mar; max 36 BB 6
May.

Bald Eagle: max 27 BB 20 Apr.

N. Harrier: max 218 BB 15 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1017 BB 15
Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: max 55 BB 12 Apr.

N. Goshawk: max 13 BB 20 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 9 BB 16 Mar; max 90 BB 25 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr BB 14 Apr; max 12,540 BB 1 May.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 888 BB 15 Apr; dark phase HB, BB 14 May (RS,AT, JLa).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 25 BB 12 Apr; last BB 18 May.
Golden Eagle: arr BB 14 Mar; max 2 BB sev dates.
Am. Kestrel: max 92 BB 15 Apr.
Merlin: max 3 BB 11 May; last BB 30 May.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad at nest Rochester 20 Mar thru, 5 yg fledged; max 3 migrants BB 6, 11 May.
Virginia Rail: arr CI 19 Apr.
Sora: 2 NR 26 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr CB 3 May.
Sandhill Crane: arr BB 26 Mar (JLa); 4 Victor 24 Mar (PS); 3 BB 28 Mar; 3 W 28 Mar (mob, CV); 2 S 30 Mar (GC); 2 HB 18 Apr (WS); BB 21 Apr (JLa); ICW 26 Apr (DS, GC, ST); 4 BB 20 May (JLa); max 5 BB 23 May (JLa).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 20 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr PE 5 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr H 29 Mar.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HB 14 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 21 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr PE 26 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr BB 6 May.
Sanderling: Russell Station (G) 1-3 Mar, last report of this wintering bird.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 6 PE 28 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 6 PE 5 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr PE 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr H 8 Mar.
Dunlin: arr HB 8 Mar.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 PE 13 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Bergen 22 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr GE 16 Mar.
Little Gull: arr 2 ad HB 25 Mar; ad HB 29 Mar; ad HB 23 Apr; ad HB 24 Apr;

imm DE 24 Apr; ad HB 26 Apr.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: imm HB 29 Mar (mob); 3 imm HB 16 Apr (WS).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr HB 17 Mar; max 500 PU 21 Apr (DD), duration of observation 1 hr.
Iceland Gull: Bergen GENE resting with other gulls in field near Riga MONR landfill 12 Mar, 1st GENE report (KF); last HB 13 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad PE 21 Apr (DS); PE 1 May (DS); max 4 HB 13 May (WS); HB 21 May (WS).
Glaucous Gull: last HB 18 May, ad.
Caspian Tern: arr BB 28 Mar (DT), record early.
ROSEATE TERN: HB 27 Apr (WS, MD), 3rd Reg report.
Com. Tern: arr 4 HB 15 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 HB 15 Apr.
Black Tern: arr HB 13 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: first relocated 16 Mar H thru Apr.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr NR 10 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr W 20 May.
Barred Owl: first report of year 1 Bergen Swamp 20 May.
Long-eared Owl: max 14 M 15 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: GE 21 May (R&CM), nesting?
Whip-poor-will: arr M 21 Apr; max 2 ICW 7 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr G 16 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 4 York 25 Apr.
hummingbird sp.: HB 21 Apr (RS), early.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr DE 3 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr HB 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Sodus 14 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 3 ICW 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr G 20 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 4 banded M 20 May (BBBO), only ones banded there in May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Bergen Swamp 20 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 6 Cuylerville LIVI 16 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr ICW 29 Apr; max 12 G 15 May.
E. Phoebe: arr HB 24 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ICW 1 May.
N. Shrike: last PU 1 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr Genesee Valley P 1 May (AB).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CI 4 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr ICW, RH 27 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr sev 1 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr PU 15 May; 3 ICW 15 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr ICW 1 May.
Com. Raven: CL 3 May T Nunda LIVI, not often reported in that area.
Purple Martin: arr H 16 Mar (DT), record early.
Tree Swallow: arr BB 16 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3-5 HB 15 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 6 HB, BB 21 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Sandy Creek MONR 3 May.
Barn Swallow: arr G 14 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 21 banded M 15 Apr.
House Wren: arr M 27 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr sev 15 Apr; last ICW 22 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr M 21 Apr.
Veery: arr ICW 1 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr ICW 23 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr ICW 11 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr M 15 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr ICW 1 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr M 18 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr sev 16 Mar; max 100 HB 4 May; last 3 HB 22 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Rush 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr ICW 6 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: GE 10, 20 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr DE 6 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 banded M 7 May; total 5 banded M 7-19 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr W 29 Apr.
N. Parula: arr CH 5 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr NR 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr ICW 1 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr CL 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr Sodus 7 May; very low numbers.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CH 29 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr RH 27 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr CH 1 May.
Pine Warbler: arr W 6 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr CL 1 May; ICW 7-10 May.
Palm Warbler: arr East Lakeshore, M 28 Apr; max 50 DE 5 May (LG, DH); last 2 ICW 19 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr sev 11 May; very low numbers.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr CB, I 18 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr ICW 7 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr ICW 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr CH 4 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 3 May.
Ovenbird: arr ICW 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr ICW 29 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr RH 29 Apr.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: banded M 11 May, rare but annual.
Mourning Warbler: arr ICW 7 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr M, G 5 May; max 20 Letchworth SP 10 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Ontario, ICW 11 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Ontario, CI 4 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr ICW 1 May.

E. Towhee: arr HF 9 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last HF 20 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Rochester 6 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr G 9, 11 May
(KG, JB, MD, RS).

Field Sparrow: arr Rush 27 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 2 GE 29 Mar;
Retsof 29 Mar.

Savannah Sparrow: arr H 29 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 16 NR 10
May.

Fox Sparrow: arr Crusoe L WAYN 22
Mar; max 21 W 8 Apr (JC), great total;

last 2 I 19 Apr; 6 Mendon Pds 19 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 banded M 1
May.

White-crowned Sparrow: last G 27 May.

Snow Bunting: last HB 16 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr HF 29 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr CH 8 May.

Bobolink: arr sev 1 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr HB, BB 15 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 50 Crusoe L
WAYN 22 Mar; last WL 8 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr GE 7 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr I 2 May.

Pine Siskin: HB 4 May; 3 HB 18 May.