

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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The season was off to an interesting start in March, with a notable lack of sunshine. It was the cloudiest March on record. The first week experienced above normal temperatures and was followed by two weeks of cold and snowfall, with a record 11.6" on the 16th. The final week of the month was characterized by above normal temperatures again. The result was an average temperature that was 4.7° above normal at 38.6° F. Precipitation was 2.04", which was only 0.54" below normal. Snowfall was a mere 0.3" below normal at 16.3". April was a more typical month. Temperatures fluctuated throughout the month, with a final average of 45.7°. This was 0.4° above normal. Precipitation was 0.73" above normal at 3.48", due in part to severe thunderstorms on the 13th and 18th and periods of heavy rain during the last week. May ended the season with an average temperature of 58.7°. This was 1.7° above normal. The beginning of the month was cool, while the middle was generally warm, followed by a cool end. Precipitation totals were influenced by a period of heavy rain 22–24 May, with accompanying flooding in some areas. Of the 31 days of May, rain fell on 19.

With the cool beginnings to March and April, arrivals for the early part of the season were slightly late. Thanks to the warming trends towards the terminus of each month, some of the later arrivals were a tad early. May arrivals contrasted

with this pattern as early migrants came in early and traditionally late arrivals were about normal with some scattered late dates. Clear, windy days may have contributed to groups of migrants flying over the Region due to the lack of grounding conditions. There were some good days at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, conducted by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and manned this year by Tim Smart, with strong south and southwest winds during each month. The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach State Park was carried out for a good portion of the season, with William Symonds manning the post on the majority of the days. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding program at Kaiser-Manitou Beach was a major contributor to the seasonal records.

Waterfowl peaked early and then moved out early. This continued the recent trend. Of note were excellent numbers of Snow Geese, with William Symonds and Dave Tetlow recording an estimated maximum of 5800 in Hamlin on 24 March. These large numbers also contributed to the now almost annual reports of Ross's Goose. Other highlights included the usual scattered reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Green-winged "Common" Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, a rare dark morph Ruddy Duck on Braddock Bay and the Region's first **Cinnamon Teal**, a male discovered in Hamlin on 25 March by Geoffrey Buell and Rodney Pack. Loons moved through steadily, with no noteworthy counts. Horned Grebes were good, as were Red-necked Grebes. The latter experienced some high counts in early April due to conditions conducive to grounding near the Lake Ontario south shore. Four **Great Cormorants** observed by Bob and Susan Spahn moving along the Hamlin shoreline in April were a Regional high count for this species. Waders were generally good, with reports of Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret and Snowy Egret heading the list. **Black Vulture** is now expected yearly at Braddock Bay, but the individual discovered by Bob Spahn and Kinsley Whittum in Elba in late May was a surprise.

It was a good hawkwatch year. The Bald Eagle numbers were excellent, with a seasonal total of 366 and a record single day high of 60 on 24 May. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were good, with a maximum of 136 on 19 April. Golden Eagle totals were down, with only three in April. Swainson's Hawks were reported in April and May. Merlin totals were good, with 27 in April. A gray phase Gyrfalcon flew over on 30 March. The Sodus Bay Gyrfalcon was still reported through 7 March. The hawkwatch tallied a record total of 47 Peregrine Falcons for the season.

Common Moorhen continues to be poorly reported from the marshes along the lake. Sandhill Crane continued its upward trend with up to 17 individuals reported and the Wayne County pair on territory. Typically early shorebirds were late. As the season progressed, things improved with some good counts and all the expected species except Red Knot reported. Good counts of Black-bellied Plover came from Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach in May. The 23rd turned out to be an exceptionally good spring shorebird day at Hamlin Beach, with the Region's only Willet and a record total of 216 Whimbrels. Upland Sandpiper continues to be a species of concern, with a paltry two reports. The four **Baird's Sandpipers** observed at Sodus Point in May by Mike Tetlow were a very rare spring occurrence. Two Wilson's Phalarope reports were good, considering recent trends. Gulls were generally poor, with the Perinton landfill being the most consistent spot for observing Iceland, Thayer's, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous into the

season. A Regional high count of five Lesser Black-backed Gulls was spotted at the Perinton landfill and at Hamlin Beach during the season. Little Gull reports were lower than expected. Caspian and Common tern totals were good, as were the less common Forster's Tern. Black Tern is no longer a regional breeder and even migrants are now few.

The owl migration produced lower than usual counts during most of the season. Late March produced some days with good totals. Kurt Fox carried out a systematic search for owls in the hill regions of Wyoming County. He found Barred Owl in nearly every Breeding Bird Atlas Block he visited and located Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared owls in more than expected. This is a major contribution to the Regional data. Common Nighthawk was interesting this spring. It arrived somewhat early, with a single report in Greece on 30 April. Dave Tetlow recorded a total of 304 in the evening hours of 24 May after having tallied 184 in the morning hours. Kevin Griffith and Karen Huey had nighthawks roosting in their yards as well as feeding at night from 11 May through the end of the season and into June in the town of Greece. They conducted daily counts throughout May. This is by no means an indication that numbers of this declining species are increasing, but rather an indicator of conditions conducive to their presence. Whip-poor-will reports were about normal, with the Rose's Marsh area continuing to be a good spot during spring migration.

A huge surprise this spring was a record early Olive-sided Flycatcher found by Mike Tetlow on 30 April. The usual late May sightings occurred with no reports in between. Flycatchers in general were slightly early and in pretty much expected numbers. Northern Shrike was reported into April, as is typically the case. Vireos were about average, with an above average four reports of White-eyed Vireo and good numbers of Philadelphia Vireos early in their migration period. Common Raven continued the trend of scattered reports, with lakeshore reports from April and May. Cliff Swallow reports were encouraging, with new colonies reported along the Lake Ontario State Parkway. The historical colony at Braddock Bay was decimated years ago with the demolition of the structures on which they nested. They have been a little tougher to locate since that time. Carolina Wren numbers continued to be good. Winter Wrens and both kinglets were noticeably down this spring. Sedge Wren went unreported during the season. In the thrush category, Eastern Bluebirds were good, with arrivals at the early end of expected dates. For other species, numbers were generally low and observers particularly remarked that the local breeders, Veery and Wood Thrush, were noticeably low. Mimids were about average. American Pipits exhibited their usual split migration with the March arrivals, meager April totals and good numbers through May. Cedar Waxwing counts were poor early, but picked up considerably in May. The March report of five Bohemian Waxwings in Hamlin was an early spring, late winter surprise.

Warblers showed their usual mix of highs and lows. On the plus side were Orange-crowned, Blackpoll, Mourning, Hooded, Wilson's and Canada. On the negative side were Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted and Ovenbird. There were good numbers of Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut warblers this spring. Prothonotary is recorded each spring but is quite rare, as is the case for Prairie. The **Yellow-throated Warbler**, observed by Sandra Hazen in Durand-Eastman Park on 1 May, was a warbler highlight.

Scarlet Tanager was early and reported in good numbers. American Tree Sparrow at Braddock Bay Park on 9 May was quite late. Sparrow pluses included good numbers of Clay-colored, Fox, Vesper, Lincoln's, White-throated and White-crowned, although the last two seemed to move out early this year. Some observers felt that Savannah Sparrow numbers were down. Henslow's Sparrow went unreported. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were fairly numerous early. Among the icterids, observers remarked that Bobolink numbers were up, Rusty Blackbirds were down and Baltimore Orioles were early and present in good numbers. The **Boat-tailed Grackle** reported by Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 19 April was the third report of this species for the Region. Purple Finch was well reported this spring. Common Redpolls were recorded on the record late date of 21 May and Pine Siskins were reported through the end of the season. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce.

March's species total was 129, April reached an above ten-year average of 196 and May was just about at the ten-year average at 235. The total for the year stood at 266, slightly above the ten-year average.

CONTRIBUTORS

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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; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; I – T Irondequoit MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; PA – T Parma MONR; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; PU- T Pultneyville; S – T Savannah WAYN; SO – T Sodus WAYN; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1 ad HB 3 Mar (WS); 2 H 26 Mar (M&JT).
Snow Goose: max 5800 H 24 Mar (WS, DT); last 4 K 2 Apr.
ROSS'S GOOSE: 2 H 8-10 Mar (DT); 1-2 K 20-27 Mar (GC,DS,WS,RS).
Tundra Swan: max 129 E. Barre 3 Apr; last H 13 May.
Eurasian Wigeon: H 25-26, 30 Mar (DT, BC); BB 12 May (TS).
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2-6 BB 25 Mar.
CINNAMON TEAL: H 25 Mar (GB, RP), 1st Reg report.
N. Shoveler: last 6 H 2 May.
N. Pintail: max 1200 BB 24 Mar; last 2 HB 5 May.
Green-winged Teal: arr 2 HB, BB 1 Mar.
GREEN-WINGED "COMMON" TEAL: BB 25 Mar (DT); BB 8 Apr (TS), likely the same bird.
Ring-necked Duck: max 242 BB 14 Mar; last 2 BB 5 May.
Surf Scoter: max 25 HB 4 May; last 4 HB 16 May.
Black Scoter: last 2 HB 11 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last BB 6 May.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: K 20-27 Mar (WS, mob).
Ruddy Duck: max 22 BB 26 Mar; dark morph m BB Apr (TS, mob), very rare, poor photos.
Red-throated Loon: max 78 HB 9 Apr.
Com. Loon: max 350 HB 9 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr WL 6 Mar.
Horned Grebe: max 126 HB 19 Apr; last HB 28 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 1487 HB-K 3 Apr (RS, WS); 665 PA-H 7 Apr (RS); last HB 12 May.
GREAT CORMORANT: 4 ad Troutsburg 18 Apr (R&SS), Reg high count.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr BB 6 Mar; max 815 HB 4 May.
Least Bittern: arr CU 13 May.
Great Egret: arr W 10 Apr.
Snowy Egret: 3 BB 1 May (ST), only

report.

Little Blue Heron: ad Henrietta (RIT Campus) 30 Apr (MZ).
Cattle Egret: SO 25 Apr (D&DT); BB 14 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Powdermill P MONR 20 Mar, still hanging around at winter roost site.
Turkey Vulture: max 1447 BB 19 Apr.
BLACK VULTURE: BB 8-9 Apr. (TS); Elba 22 May (RS, KW).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 60 BB 24 May (TS), record high.
N. Harrier: max 52 BB 19 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1136 BB 19 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 20 BB 19 Apr.
N. Goshawk: max 9 BB 19 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BB 6 Mar; max 393 BB 25 Mar (TS).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 25 BB 14 Apr; max 11,639 BB 19 Apr.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: ad lt morph BB 16 Apr (TS); imm lt morph BB 26 May (TS).
Red-tailed Hawk: max 571 BB 19 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 136 BB 19 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 90 BB 19 Apr.
Merlin: arr 2 BB 11 Mar; max 8 BB 19 Apr.
GYRFALCON: SO 1-7 Mar (LC), bird reported in winter season; BB 30 Mar (RS, TS, CC).
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 BB 27 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr 3 BB 26 Mar; 3 BB 30 Mar; 3 W 30 Mar; 3 WAYN 30 Mar, probably the same birds moving along the shore; K 18 Apr; BB 19 Apr; S 20 Apr; BB 26 Apr; BB, IC 1 May; 2 BB 6 May; 2 S 9 May; CB 16 May.
Black-bellied Plover: 14 BB 24 May; 14 H 23 May; 18-19 H 28-29 May; max 31 H 30 May, good spring counts.
Greater Yellowlegs: last HB 22 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last HB 30 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: last IC 24 May.
Willet: arr HB 23 May (DT, TS).
Upland Sandpiper: arr HB 18 Apr.
Whimbrel: max 216 HB 23 May; 3 HB 24 May; HB 24 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 HB 23 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 440 HB 28 May.
Western Sandpiper: arr 2 Byron 21 May (WS).
Least Sandpiper: max 51 PE 19 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 HB 23 May.
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 4 SO 30 May (MT), very rare in spring.
Dunlin: arr G 24 Apr; max 2240 HB 23 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 32 HB 15 May.
Wilson's Snipe: max 29 H 22 Apr.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr m CU 7 May (JK); m PE 16 May (DSh).
Little Gull: arr 3 ad BB 19 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 10 BB 26 Mar.
Thayer's Gull: 1st yr PE 20 Mar (MT).
Iceland Gull: max 2 PE 17 Apr; last PE 7 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 5 H 20 Mar (JB, GC); 5 P 20 Mar, 1-19 Apr (MT, DSh).
Caspian Tern: max 102 HB 6 May.
Com. Tern: 11 HB 19 Apr; max 67 HB 21 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 7 BB 19 Apr; 7 HB 21 Apr; PE 2 May (DSh), unusual location.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr IC 19 May.
Com. Nighthawk: max 304 DE-PB 24 May (DT).
Whip-poor-will: arr Rush 29 Apr; max 6 M 1 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BB 30 Apr

(MT), record early; G 24 May; M 25 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr G 18 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr IC 19 May.
N. Shrike: last H 2 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr IC 1 –2 May (BC, RS); G 7 May (TS); M 14 May; M 29 May (ST).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr CH, IC 11 May.
Com. Raven: M 30 Apr (DN); BB 6 May (TS).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 83 M 10 May; last M 31 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr IC 11 May.
Am. Pipit: arr Byron 24 Mar; last 2 WL 19 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: 5 H 25 Mar (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr M, LW 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr LW 8 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: M 7 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: M 18 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 2 M 30 Apr; IC 30 Apr; max 3 M 6, 10 May; last M 22 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 90 M 20 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 55 M 10 May.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: DE 1 May (SH).
Prairie Warbler: arr IC, LW 30 Apr.
Palm Warbler: max 67 M 10 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr CH 11 May.
Am. Redstart: max 42 M 26 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr G 30 Apr (RR).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 2 May (ST); CH 6 May (PM, JG); G 11 May (KG); G 16 May (JL).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr IC 10 May, late.
Kentucky Warbler: arr M 30 Apr; CH 11-12 May (GC, DS); G 14 May (RS); CB 16 May (DD).

Connecticut Warbler: IC 18 May (JM);
CH 23 May (KF).
Hooded Warbler: arr IC 29 Apr.
Wilson's Warbler: max 23 M 24 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Leroy 13 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 9 May (TS),
quite late.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Warsaw
WYOM 1 May (JK); G 6 May (TS); G 26
May (RS).
Field Sparrow: arr H 2 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr NR 18 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 H 29 Mar; last 4 M 7

May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last G 26 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: last M 31
May.
Snow Bunting: last 3 H 29 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr BB 6 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: last WL 14 May.
BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: m East
Spit BB 19 Apr (DT), 3rd Reg report.
Orchard Oriole: arr IC 1 May.
Com. Redpoll: last 2 G 21 May (DT),
record late.
Pine Siskin: max 500 BB 29 Mar (TS).
Evening Grosbeak: Churchville 3 Apr;
DE 25 Apr; W 29 Apr..