

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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March certainly followed the old adage: “In like a lion, out like a lamb.” We opened the month in the grip of a winter storm, but ended with a series of spring-like days. The average temperature was 4.2° below normal at 29.7°F. It was the coldest in nine years and the seventh coldest in the last 50 years. Near record cold temperatures were the norm for 24 of the first 26 days. The mild end to the month brought things closer to normal. It was a dry month, with a mere 1.11” of measurable precipitation. It was the driest in 24 years and the third driest in the last 50 years. The 17.4” of snowfall was pretty close to the average of 16.6”. April was a month of contrast. An extensive stretch of mild spring weather was sandwiched between two periods of major storm activity. The average temperature of 46.0° was 0.7° above normal. Precipitation totaled 4.42”, which was 1.68” above normal. The bulk of this fell during two storms on 2–3 and 22–24 April. Of note was the lack of snowfall; only a trace was recorded for the entire month.

May was cool and dry. The average temperature of 52.2° was 4.8° cooler than normal. It was the third coldest in the last 50 years. An unusually late freeze was recorded on 13 May. The rainfall total was 1.58” below normal at 1.24”. A blocking system kept the area in dry cool weather for the last half of the month, while an upper low was forced to the east of us and brought that area significant moisture. The unfortunate part of the spring season was persistent northeasterly winds. This made for some decent weather but not for a decent migration. The exceptions to this spring trend were 31 March and 10 May, when significant flights were experienced. The March date included some very high numbers of migrants counted and estimated by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds. The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay was affected significantly by the few days with favorable migration conditions. William Symonds and others continued the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory continued the passerine banding operation at its Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station.

Waterfowl generally moved out of the Region early. Greater White-fronted Goose and Ross’s Goose continued to be reported and Cackling Goose was widely reported now that it is recognized as a full species. Waterfowl numbers were decent, but by early April the bulk of the birds had departed. Highlights included the Region’s second and third **Cinnamon Teal**, the now-expected Eurasian Wigeon, **Tufted Duck**, King Eider, and Barrow’s Goldeneye. Ruddy Duck numbers were poor. Red-throated Loon numbers were down this year and Common Loon was about average. Grebes were noteworthy only in the lack of Pied-billed. Of interest was the very few juvenile Double-crested Cormorants, with only a modest increase in late May. DEC control efforts seem to be effective. Not much of note, other than Glossy Ibis, was reported for the waders. The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, conducted by Jason Starfire this year under the

direction of Braddock Bay Raptor Research, was far below normal due to the unfavorable conditions. Black Vulture and Swainson's Hawks were highlights. Observers commented that American Coot numbers were low and Common Moorhens almost nonexistent. Sandhill Crane reports continued the trend of increasing reports. Shorebirding was generally poor this spring. Habitat was scarce due to the dryness and the persistent northerly winds were poor for flights in our direction. Spotted Sandpipers were well reported and Least Sandpiper numbers were good over an extended period of time. Observers noted a lack of Wilson's Snipe. Not much of note occurred with gulls other than poor totals of Bonaparte's and a late Iceland Gull on 18 May. Caspian Tern numbers were good and Black Tern sightings, for some unknown reason, were better than in recent years. Forster's Tern numbers were also good.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos outnumbered Black-billed this spring. April/May arrivals were a bit on the late side even though we did have some record early arrivals. Flycatchers, vireos, House Wren, thrushes, mimids, warblers and Bobolink were all fairly late, although within the long-range arrival pattern. Whip-poor-will, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Hooded Warbler and Baltimore Oriole all arrived at record early dates. Common Raven continued to be reported in increasing numbers. Thrushes in general were poor this spring. Brown Thrashers had a good spring. On the plus side for warblers were Northern Parula, Palm, Nashville, Blackburnian, American Redstart and Canada. Most of the others were about normal with Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white and Wilson's being okay or down slightly. Of note was the lack of southern overshoots into the Region.

The sparrow picture was mixed. There were good reports of Vesper away from the lakeshore. Grasshopper continues to be of concern and Henslow's is nearly gone. Clay-colored Sparrow continued its trend of spring sightings. White-throated and White-crowned sparrows seemed to drop off in numbers early. Overall, the former was just okay in numbers, while the later appeared to be down. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Baltimore Oriole numbers were up. A **Brewer's Blackbird** found by Dave Tetlow in Hamlin on 31 March was the only report of this nearly annual rarity.

The species total for March was 131. That was slightly above the 10-year average of 126.6. April's total of 169 species was more than 10 species below the 10-year average. May was also below the 10-year average with a total of 221, although it was only slightly behind last year's total of 225 species. The total for the year at the end of the season was about normal at 258 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CB – Chimney Bluffs WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; L – T Livonia LIVI; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; MZ – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex WAYN; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; PA – T Parma MONR; PE – T Perinton MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; PU – T Pultneyville; R – T Rush MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; SO – T Sodus WAYN; T – T Troutburg ORLE; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr P
21 Mar; max 2 H 26 Mar.

Snow Goose: arr 15 BB 7 Mar;
max 10,000 S 25 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE: arr 2 H 23-25 Mar
(DT, *et al*); P 25 Mar (DT).

Cackling Goose: total 17 sev 17-31 Mar;
WL 2 Apr (DT); WL 6 Apr (DT);
WL 17 Apr (DT).

Brant: arr 62 PE 14 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 WAYN all
May, nesting; MZ 18 May (RS,DS);
max 5 MZ (RS,KW,DD).

Tundra Swan: arr 35 WL 7 Mar;
last HB 7 May.

Eurasian Wigeon: BB 30-31 Mar (BMo);
BB 1 Apr; 2 (m & f) HB 6 Apr (WS).

Am. Wigeon: last GE 7 May.

Blue-winged Teal: last 2 GE 28 May.

CINNAMON TEAL: m BB 6,10
Apr (JS,DT); m H 6 Apr (DT).

N. Shoveler: arr 3 I 19 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: last 2 GE 28 May.

Ring-necked Duck: last f PE 27-30 May.

TUFTED DUCK: m BB 6 Apr (DT).

Greater Scaup: last 10 BB 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: last HB 15 May.

King Eider: 2 f HB 28 Mar (RS).

Surf Scoter: max 41 HB 4 May;
last HB 26 May (WS), very late.

Black Scoter: max 36 HB 27 Apr;
last HB 29 May.

Long-tailed Duck: last 2 HB 26 May
(WS,RS), late.

Bufflehead: last 2 HB 4 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 HB 6 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: T 1-26 Mar
(DT, *et al*).

Ruddy Duck: arr BB 30 Mar.

Red-throated Loon: max 25 HB 4 May;
last HB 26 May.

Com. Loon: max 416 HB 26 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 BB 21 Mar.

Horned Grebe: last HB 25 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 1200 WL
2 Apr; last HB 4 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 900
HB 26 Apr, only 9 immatures.

Least Bittern: arr S 25 May.

Great Egret: arr 2 Bergen 8 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr BB
27 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: H 8 May (DT).

Turkey Vulture: max 1238 BB 8 Apr.
BLACK VULTURE: BB 1 Apr (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 4 BB 31 Mar; max 15 BB 14 May.
Bald Eagle: total 53 BB Apr; max 22 BB 27 Apr.
N. Harrier: max 184 BB 31 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 249 BB 26 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 49 BB 31 Mar.
N. Goshawk: max 8 BB 17 Apr; 4 BB 3 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr HP 7 Mar; max 59 1 Apr, low.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 11 BB 17 Apr; max 9506 BB 20 Apr.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: ad lt morph HP 26 Apr (DT); juv lt morph BB 27 Apr (DT); imm lt morph BB 2 May (JS).
Red-tailed Hawk: *calurus* BB 15 Apr (JS); *calurus* BB 19 Apr (D&JS); *calurus* BB 20 Apr (DT,JS); Krider's BB ? Apr (DT); max 238 BB 1 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 61 BB 31 Mar.
Golden Eagle: arr BB 17 Mar; total 7 BB Mar; max 11 BB 27 Apr; total 21 BB Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 93 BB 31 Mar.
Merlin: total 7 BB Mar; total 13 BB Apr; max 4 31 Mar, 26 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: total 13 BB Apr; total 8 BB 1-16 May; max 3 BB 26 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr BB 17 Mar; max 17 BB 31 Mar (MD, mob); total 22 BB Apr; 2 S 5 Apr (D&VH); 4 (2 ad & 2 yg) S 17 Apr; HB 1 May; ICW 1 May; total 7 BB May.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 BB 28 Apr, rare in spring.
Semipalmated Plover: max 43 PE 27 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: last S 25 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last PE 29 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: last PE 27 May.
Willet: G 10 May (JSI).

Upland Sandpiper: arr BB 20 Apr.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 4 OB & HB 31 May.
Red Knot: arr 9 HB 29 May (DT,WS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 80 HB 30 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 2 Apr (JK), record early; max 185 PE 19 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr GE 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last GE 28 May.
Dunlin: arr 2 GE 2 Apr (JK), record early; max 430 HB 27 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr GE 1 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 GE 5 May (JK); PE 14 May (MT), uncommon in spring.
Little Gull: 2 BB 31 Mar; HB 1 Apr; HB 6 Apr; HB 11 Apr; HB 28 Apr.
Thayer's Gull: HB 18 Mar (RS).
Iceland Gull: last PE 18 May.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 1 May; max 6 HB 15 May.
Black Tern: arr PE 1 May (R&SS,MT); 1-2 BB 13-21 May (JS); max 5 G14 May (KG); 3 HB 17 May (WS); GE 17 May (JK); G 23 May (KF).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CU 17 May.
Snowy Owl: L 7 Mar (L&FS); H 26 Mar (DT).
Long-eared Owl: arr 2 M 24 Mar; total 15 M Mar; Gates 31 May, found dead.
Short-eared Owl: last GE 24 May
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr M 18 Mar; total 23 M Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: max G 29 May (KG,KH).
Whip-poor-will: arr BB 5 Apr (DT), record early; last W 25 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: HB 28 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: arr ICW 20 May.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: b M 10 May; max 19 b M 28 May.

Least Flycatcher: max 30+ WL 10 May.
N. Shrike: total 16 WL Mar (DT).
White-eyed Vireo: arr BB 2 May (JS).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr b M 18 May.
Fish Crow: HP 19 Apr (DT).
Com. Raven: 2 Nunda LIVI 12 Apr; HP 21 Apr; Castille 11,16 May; 2-3 LW 17 May; 2 Castille 18 May; LW 22 May.
Horned Lark: max 2200+ BB 31 Mar (DT,WS).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 Brockport MONR 4 Apr (DT), record early.
Bank Swallow: arr 4 HB 14 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 40+ BB 31 Mar.
House Wren: max 30 WL 10 May.
Winter Wren: arr BB 31 Mar.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 180 BB 31 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 56 b M 6 May; last G 23 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr PE 12 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 ICW 20 May.
Am. Robin: max 42,000+ BB 31 Mar.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 T 14 Mar; max 3600+ BB 31 Mar; last 6 HB 17 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: HP 12 Mar (DT); HP 30 Mar (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CH 3 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Victor 9 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: 3 b M 10 May; Victor 29 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 26 Apr; ICW 6 May; ICW 10 May; b M 10 May; ICW 14 May; b M 19 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 30+ WL 10 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 BB 31 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr PO 5 May; Pittsford 7 May; ICW 10 May.
“Western” Palm Warbler: max 41 b M 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr GE 8 May.
Am. Redstart: max 80+ WL 30 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: M 9-10 May (MD,DT), only report.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LW 18 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr m BB 24 Apr (RS), record early.
Canada Warbler: max 16 b M 24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 24 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 2-3 GE 2 May; b M 28 May.
Field Sparrow: arr R 5 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr GE 9 May.
Henslow’s Sparrow: arr GE 9 May thru, only individual reported.
Fox Sparrow: arr K 25 Mar; max 25+ BB 31 Mar; last HB 22 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 2 HB 30 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 30+ WL 10 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 HP 22 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 HP 30 Mar; max 600 BB 31 Mar; last G 12 May.
BREWER’S BLACKBIRD: m H 31 Mar (DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr GE 7 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr NR 17 Apr (JK), record early; max 50+ WL 14 May.
Com. Redpoll: total 40 HP 1-29 Mar; last 12 HP 1 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 G 31 May.