

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Spring 2006 was pretty nondescript; generally mild and dry. March followed the mild winter with above average temperatures and below average precipitation. The average temperature was 2.1° above normal at 36.0°F. Precipitation amounted to 1.8", which was 0.78" below normal. March quite often experiences significant snowfall, but this year a mere 4.2" was recorded compared to the average of 16.6". This finished off the 2nd lowest winter snowfall total in 50 years. March 31st brought a rush of migrants, as southwest winds dominated. The bulk of the month saw northerly breezes that hampered the hawk flights that usually materialize in March. April continued the trend, with a 2.7° above normal average temperature of 48.0° F. Total precipitation of 2.18" was 0.57" below normal. Snowfall was negligible. Sunshine dominated the month, but so did winds out of the east and north keeping decent concentrations of migrants off of the lakeshore. This was especially true for hawks. May produced much of the same. The average temperature of 59°F was 2.0° above normal, and the 1.77" of rainfall was 1.05" below normal. The only true weather oddity was the occurrence of a few snowflakes on the 21st and 22nd. The warmest May day was on the 30th, when temperatures climbed to 93°, the 3rd highest temperature ever for May. A record high for the 29th of 92° had preceded it. This brought a rush of migrants again, but there were few days where this was the case.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was carried out on many days during the season. The banding operations at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory were also active after mid-April. Unfortunately, the hawkwatch at Braddock Bay was not manned for very long during the season. Coverage was sporadic after 1 April, and totals cannot be compared with those for years with the usual daily coverage. With generally good contributions from most areas, we experienced a species total that was well above the 10-year average.

The waterfowl picture was mixed. Numbers from the lakewatch were lower than usual, and the waterfowl generally present at Braddock Bay and the lakeshore ponds peaked and moved out early. There were some good counts away from the shore. Noteworthy records included Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, and record numbers of Eurasian Wigeon. A March King Eider was a good find. On the plus side were good counts of Snow Goose, record numbers of Tundra Swan, and good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers throughout the period. On the down side were Canvasback, Blue-winged Teal, Am. Black Duck, and migrating scoters. Canada Goose nesting attempts were reported in fewer locations, but Mute Swans again occupied just about every suitable location. Trumpeter Swans returned to their nesting sites in Wayne County. Peak counts for both Red-throated and Common loon were somewhat low. Red-necked Grebe peaked at 1000+ birds on 24 March, a bit early. Eared Grebe is always a good find in the Region, with a single bird reported from Braddock

Bay in March. It was the first since 2004. The nine Am. White Pelicans seen and photographed at Braddock Bay in May were a record high count for the Region. The typical herons were reported, with additional single reports of some of the uncommon ones. Bitterns were low, and only a single Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported. The only Black Vulture report was a single at Braddock Bay on 8 May. Turkey Vulture numbers were good throughout the season.

Without consistent coverage at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch, the raptor picture was difficult to evaluate. Both eagles were well reported, but hawk numbers were reported only sporadically. There were days with good flights, but they were few and not documented consistently. The Peregrine Falcons returned to Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester and 6 eggs were laid. An injury to the female resulted in the loss of three before fledging. Common Moorhen continues to be a bird of major concern; reports from the west lakeshore were scarce, while birds on the east lakeshore and in marshes south of Rochester seem to be faring better. Something is wrong with the marshes of the west lakeshore. Sandhill Crane reports were fewer this spring, most likely a result of the inconsistent coverage at Braddock Bay. Two colts with the pair in Savannah were observed by the end of May.

Shorebirds didn't do much this spring. Poor habitat is an ever-present problem, but even in suitable locations numbers were generally low. On a positive note, an American Golden-Plover report is always good in spring, Semipalmated Plover showed some decent numbers at times, and record early Solitary Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and Least Sandpiper were reported. The negative side included poor counts for both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Upland Sandpiper. Gulls were pretty lackluster, with 8 Little Gulls at Hamlin Beach on 2 April, a Thayer's Gull in Perinton, and a smattering of reports of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls in April and May as the only real highlights. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were down, and observers felt that Great Black-backed Gull numbers were low early in the season. Terns fared much the same; numbers of reports were low for Caspian, Common, and Forster's terns. Only two Black Terns were reported continuing the recent trend.

It was a good spring for both cuckoos. This was especially true for Yellow-billed, which many observers felt outnumbered the Black-billed. The migration of Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls was less than spectacular. Common Nighthawk totals were again low, as was true also for Whip-poor-will reports. Red-headed Woodpeckers put in a good showing along the lakeshore, with sightings in multiple locations. The Long Pond woods along Edgemere Drive in Greece played host to up to three individuals for a number of days. A Loggerhead Shrike found by Dave Tetlow was a real plus for this increasingly rare bird that had not reported since 2000. The only vireo of note was a single White-eyed seen near Maxwell Creek in Wayne County by Doug Daniels. Fish Crows were reported engaging in flight display at Riverside Cemetery in Rochester in early May. Traditional Cliff Swallow colony locations seemed to be inactive while new locations under numerous bridges along the lakeshore were active. April experienced some very good kinglet movements, with a peak of 391 tallied at Durand-Eastman Park on the 30th. Thrush totals reported by observers

and numbers banded were low. The wintering Varied Thrush in Webster Park was last reported on 8 March.

The warbler migration was fairly good, with all the 35 expected species reported and some decent totals amassed for the less common species like Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Connecticut. There were also multiple sightings of Orange-crowned, Prothonotary, and Yellow-breasted Chat. While numbers still do not approach historical totals, some species seemed to be in good supply this spring. These included Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Am. Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's. Wilson's was also recorded on record early date on 24 April. N. Parula and Cape May numbers were okay. On the negative side were Palm, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll. Tennessee Warbler was tough to assess for abundance because some observers encountered good numbers while others felt they were more scarce than usual.

Of note among the sparrows were multiple reports of Clay-colored. This continues a recent trend of the last 6-8 years. On the positive side were good numbers of Fox Sparrow, White-throated, and White-crowned sparrows. A spring Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a good find. Henslow's Sparrow was again located at only a single location in Livingston County. Two fly-over Dickcissels in May were good. The report of three male Yellow-headed Blackbirds flying together along the lake was a record high total for the Region. A single female was the only Brewer's Blackbird sighting this spring. Orioles were very good this spring, with excellent totals for both Orchard and Baltimore.

The wintering flock of Common Redpolls at Hamlin Beach lingered on into March, with 1-2 accompanying Hoary Redpolls often found and studied. That was about it for noteworthy finch reports. Typical Purple Finch and Pine Siskin numbers were noted.

The March species total was above the 10-year average at 139 species. April totaled 175 species, which was slightly below the 10-year average. May reached a total of 229 species for again a figure that was slightly below the 10-year average. 120 new species for the year brought the year's count to 275 species. This was significantly better than last year and noticeably above the 10-year average of 261.6 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB- Braddock Bay, MONR; CB- Chimney Bluffs, WAYN; CH - Cobbs Hill, City of Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CS – Conesus Swamp, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; EL – East Lakeshore, MONR, WAYN; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB –Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; ICW - Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K - T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI & WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MP - Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NR- Nations Road area, LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA- T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – T Rush, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; V – T Victor, MONR; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 700 WL 13 Mar;
last HB 2 Apr.
ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 H 11 Mar (DT);
1 K 13 Mar (RS).
Cackling Goose: 1,2 HB 8,11 Mar (WS);
1 G 27 Mar (KG).
Brant: 1 HB 17 May.
Tundra Swan: max 720 H 23 Mar;
last 6 BB 1 May.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 Atlantic Ave,
WAYN all May.
Gadwall: last 2 G 26 May.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 H 11 Mar (DT);
1 H 16 Mar (MD); 4 S 25 Mar (mob);
2 S 26 Mar (GC); 1 H 27 Mar (RS); 1
HB 27 Mar (WS); 1 BB 31 Mar (BM).
Am. Wigeon: max 400 H 13 Mar; last
G 26 May.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 BB 10 Mar.
N. Pintail: max 1400 H 13 Mar; last
HP 9 May.
Green-winged Teal: last 4 GE 7 May.
Ring-necked Duck: last 2 BB 4 May.

Canvasback: last CL 23 Apr.
Redhead: last 2 G 30 May.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1200 BB
13 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 1000+ IB
24 Mar, low.
Lesser Scaup: max 2000+ IB
24 Mar; last G 4 May.
King Eider: 1 BB 10 Mar (DD),
imm male.
Surf Scoter: last 2 HB 5 May, early.
White-winged Scoter: max 730 HB
8 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: last 3 HB 25 May.
Bufflehead: last 2 DE 16 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last 16,4,1 HB,G,
BB 15 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: max 73 HB 2 Apr,
low max; last 2 HB 28 May.
Com. Loon: max 340 HB 4 May.
Horned Grebe: max 300+ WL 24 Mar;
last HB 31 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 1088 WL
24 Mar (DD,RS); last HB 7 May.

EARED GREBE: arr BB 20 Mar (DT).
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:
 9 BB 21 May (CB), record number.
Am. Bittern: arr DE 1 May.
Least Bittern: arr Williamson, WAYN
 18 May.
Great Egret: arr CS 18 Mar (JK),
 record early; max 6 PA 23 May.
Snowy Egret: 1 PA 23 May (DT);
 1 T Ogden, MONR 29 May (WS).
Little Blue Heron: 1 BB 10 May (DT).
Cattle Egret: 1 G 19 May (CM).
Green Heron: arr R 27 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr
 BB 11 Apr.
Turkey Vulture: max 3119 BB 31 Mar.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 BB 8 May (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2,1 S,BB 1 Apr.
N. Goshawk: 1 b BB 2 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr sev BB
 12 Apr.
Golden Eagle: arr Clarendon, MONR
 25 Mar; 1 BB 31 Mar; 1 Byron 31 Mar.
Peregrine Falcon: 5 (2ad, 3 yg)
 Kodak Tower, Rochester all May,
 6 eggs laid, but 3 lost due to injury
 to female.
Sora: arr CU 29 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr CU 17 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: 3 BB 31 Mar; 1 BB
 4 May; to 4 (2ad, 2yg) S all May.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 3 OB,HB
 30 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr S15 Apr
 (MV), early.
Semipalmated Plover: arr HB 8 May;
 max 31 HB 26 May.
Killdeer: arr sev WL 7 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr S 25 Mar;
 last PE 23 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HB 12 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 4 Apr (DT,
 JB), record early; 1 G 11 Apr (KG),
 very early; last HP 22 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr WL 29 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr GE 6 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 1PA, DE 5 May
 (MD,DT), ties record early; 1 DE
 10 May (RS), very early; max 3 HB
 26 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 HB 25 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 199 H
 20 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr BB 31 Mar (DT),
 record early.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr G 11 Apr.
Dunlin: arr HP, HB 10 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CU
 12 May.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 ad m HP
 22 May.
Little Gull: 1 HB 30 Mar (WS,RS,DT);
 3 ad HB 31 Mar (WS,RS); 8 (7ad, 1
 imm) HB 2 Apr.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 imm PE
 1 Mar (MV).
Iceland Gull: 1 imm PE 6 May; last HB
 7 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 HB
 7 Apr, ad; 1 G 11 May.
Glaucous Gull: HB 12 Apr; last HB
 21 May.
Caspian Tern: arr HB 7 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr 14 HB 12 Apr; max
 47 EL 26 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 13 Apr; 1 G
 20 May.
Black Tern: arr 2 G 14 May (KG),
 only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr GE 13 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr S 13 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 G 12 May; max
 15 G 217 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr BB 11 Apr; last
 Groveland, LIVI 1 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 14 T York 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1
 W 2 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MP11
 May; 1 M 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr BB 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr
 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 18 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr G 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr CU 14 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr DE 30 Apr;
 max 14b M 22 May.
E. Phoebe: arr CS 23 Mar.

Great-crested Flycatcher: arr GE 30 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr NR 3 May.
N. Shrike: last S 26 Mar.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 PA 20 Mar (DT).
White-eyed Vireo: arr Maxwell Creek, WAYN 18 May (DD).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr CH 21 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 2 GE 6 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr WL 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr ICW 10 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr CH 8 May.
Fish Crow: 2 Rochester 9, 13 May (R&SS, DS).
Tree Swallow: arr 5 Groveland 14 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 HB 11 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr HB 12 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 CL 6 May.
Barn Swallow: arr PA 19 Mar, (G&FL), early.
House Wren: arr 1b M 20 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr ICW 8 Apr; max 391 DE 30 Apr (LG, *et al*); last 1b M 29 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 2b M 27 Apr.
Veery: arr CH 5 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1b M 19 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr sev 10 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 1b M 1 May.
VARIED THRUSH: last report Webster Park 8 Mar.
Gray Catbird: arr G 30 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr 2b M 15 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr H 24 Mar; last 6 HB 18 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150+ GE 22 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr DE 1 May
Golden-winged Warbler: arr BB 2 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1b M 2 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr CH 9 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 5 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 1b M 23 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 1 b M 6 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr CU 26 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr DE 30 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 3b M 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr DE 30 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CH 1 May; max 30b M 25 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 456 DE 30 Apr (LG, *et al*).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr sev 1 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr V 30 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr HB 7 Apr; max 24 DE 30 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr CH 12 May.
Palm Warbler: arr CL 30 Apr; max 24 DE 30 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1b, 1 M, ICW 10 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr DE 11 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr V 6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr CH 23 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 2 CH 5 May; max 50+ WL 26 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr PA 10 May; 1 S 20-23 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 13 May; 1b M 15 May.
Ovenbird: arr CH, R 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 1b M 26 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LW 20 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: arr S 13 May; 1 CH 14 May.
Connecticut Warbler: arr M 26 May; 1 G 27 May.
Mourning Warbler: 1 V 8 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr ICW 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr V 6 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Highland Park, Rochester 24 Apr (KH), record early; max 20b M 29 May.
Canada Warbler: arr G 11 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 BB 2 May (DT, MD); 1 GE 13-31 May (JK, mob); 1b M 29 May (RMc).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr GE 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr Pittsford, MONR 11 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 24 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 H 30 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1 BB 2 May; 1 H 20-31 May; 1 GE 30-31 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr CU 15 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr NR 1 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 3 GE 30 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr GE 7-31 May
(JK, mob).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1b M
18 May.
Fox Sparrow: last 1b M 5 May
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr NR 30 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: last 2 G 26
May.
Snow Bunting: last HB 11 Mar.
Lapland Longspur: last 1 K 7 May
(DT), late.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Fairport,
MONR 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr sev 10 May.

Dickcissel: 1 BB 4 May (DT,MD); 1
ICW 10 May (RS).
Bobolink: arr 3 GE 30 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Honeoye Falls,
LIVI 6 Mar.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: 3 m HB 13
Apr (DT), Regional high count.
Rusty Blackbird: max 200 WL 13 Mar;
last 2 ICW 22 May.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 1 f K 13
Mar (RS), only report.
Orchard Oriole: arr GE 2 May; 4 BB 4
May; max 7 GE 7 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr GE 2 May; max
248 BB 4 May (DT,MD).
Hoary Redpoll: 1-2 HB 12-19 Mar
Com. Redpoll: max 150 HB 1-19 Mar.