

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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We can almost start every spring season report with a similar statement: It was an up and down season. But that's the nature of spring. March started out mild, but it didn't last. By the 4th, winter had set in and lasted most of the month. Low pressure in eastern Canada kept the cold air flowing over the Region. The average temperature of 31.5°F was 2.4° below normal, with only about four days passing the 50° mark. Precipitation totaled 1.17" above normal at 3.75". Snowfall was 7" above normal for March at 23.6". April, on the other hand, warmed up. The low-pressure system had moved out and a blocking high-pressure system held over eastern Canada. By the second week temperatures were averaging above normal and the month finished with an average temperature of 52.3°, 7.0° above normal. A number of days were in the 70s and 80s contributing to the 3rd warmest April ever. A record high of 86° was recorded on the 19th. Precipitation totaled 0.81" below normal at 1.94". Unusual for April, no snowfall was recorded. Of note was the 76% sunshine, which was well above the normal 50%. May did not continue that trend. An upper level trough over eastern Canada maintained a west to northwest flow across the Region generally keeping things cool. Still, it seemed to be a decent spring month. The average temperature was 54.8°, 2.2° cooler than usual. Amazingly, it was only 2.5° higher than April; we haven't seen a smaller increase since 1945. Precipitation was half of the normal amount, with a total of 1.41". Again, possible sunshine was above normal at 66%. By the end of the season the 3-month temperature average was very near normal.

Waterfowl were interesting in both number and variety. Greater White-fronted Goose reports were about normal, Ross's Goose was noted again, and Cackling Goose was well reported. Canada Goose numbers were good. Four Brant along the lakeshore in Kendall were unusual for spring but not unprecedented. Mute Swans continued to be plentiful, and Trumpeter Swans were reported from the usual locations. Among the diving ducks, Greater Scaup was low; peak numbers in general were not very high. Of special note were reports of Eurasian Wigeon away from Lake Ontario, including a first Livingston County record from Conesus Lake. The male Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze was reported into the spring season. Am. Black Duck reports were few. Waterfowl, for the most part, moved out of the Region early. Unusually high numbers of Red-throated Loons were reported in March, earlier than normal, but loon totals for the season tended to be low or even very low according to some observers. A Pacific Loon flying past Webster Park in May was a highlight. Grebe numbers were very good. There wasn't much in the line of waders, with only a few Great Egret reports and none of the rarer species.

Common Moorhen continues to be reported in very few locations—one at Braddock Bay was the only one noted along the west lakeshore this spring!

March was not a good month for the hawk watch, again manned by Dave Tetlow, but things picked up with April's warmup. April 1st was a good day for raptors as well as Killdeer and some passerines. 20 April saw the peak day for total numbers at the hawkwatch for the season. May didn't produce many great days due to clear skies and a persistent lake breeze. A 31 March arrival date for Osprey was early, but the total of eight recorded on that date was even more unusual. Swainson's Hawk on 14 May was a highlight. Black Vulture was noted on two dates in April near Braddock Bay, but was more unusual at two other locations to the east in Wayne County in April and May. A Rough-legged Hawk at Braddock Bay on 26 May was getting late. Sandhill Cranes were again reported early and in good numbers, continuing the recent trend. Shorebird arrivals were somewhat late. Lack of habitat resulted in the bulk of the reports being birds flying past Braddock Bay or Hamlin Beach or birds visiting a couple of ponds in Geneseo. A Purple Sandpiper at Hamlin Beach in May was the 4th Regional spring record. The Long-billed Dowitcher in Hamlin in May was just the 7th Regional spring record. 2258 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Hamlin Beach on 31 May was a State record high inland. Gull highlights included several Little Gull reports from Braddock Bay and Hamlin Beach in April, Thayer's Gull at Braddock Bay in April, and Iceland Gull in April and Franklin's Gull in May at Hamlin Beach. William Symonds, Robert Spahn, and Dave Tetlow manned Hamlin Beach this year on a regular basis. Their observations contributed to the many noteworthy reports from that location. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported in March and May continuing their trend to presence in most months. Tern numbers were generally poor, with no Forster's in April and only 3 in May. The only Black Tern report was of five individuals at Braddock Bay on 3 May.

Owl numbers were so-so, with Long-eared arriving in March and totaling 21 in April, and with over 40 N. Saw-whet Owls banded in April by Dave Genesky and Mike Frail; none lingered into May. May produced some excellent totals of Common Nighthawks. Greg Lawrence, Kimberly Sucky, and Dave Tetlow made a concentrated effort to count the nighthawks on selected evenings. Whip-poor-wills continued to be scarce, though one in Webster put on a nightly show for birders for several weeks.

The passerine flight was its usual mixed bag. Due to the warm spell in April, many of the arrival dates were record early or tied record early dates for the Region, e.g., Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler, and Ovenbird. May arrivals tended to be on the late side, particularly for flycatchers and thrushes. Late April produced a burst of passerines on the 26th. There were also excellent flights noted at the hawkwatch during April and early May and a tremendous flight on the 14 May at the west spit of Braddock Bay. These were tallied by Dave Tetlow, who tried to count all species passing the hawkwatch this year. This is only possible with excellent skills in both bird identification and estimating of numbers; otherwise the

counter will be swamped by just the time to ID and count the hawks he or she is paid to count on the good days. The April dates produced good numbers of Killdeer, Horned Larks, American Robins, American Pipits, and Lapland Longspurs. The May dates produced very large to record high numbers of Blue Jay, several swallows, American Pipit, some warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Baltimore Orioles, and American Goldfinch. On the down side, kinglet numbers were low, particularly Golden-crowned, with none banded at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. This could possibly be partially accounted for by the early warmth in April and the banding station startup after mid-month. Warblers were the usual mixed bag. On the plus side were N. Parula, Yellow, Cape May, Blackpoll, and Am. Redstart. The negative side included Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped (amazingly), Black-throated Green, and Bay-breasted. Kentucky and Connecticut went unreported. There were a number of Clay-colored Sparrow reports, continuing a trend. Vesper and Grasshopper sparrows were okay, but Henslow's was unreported. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Burger Park in Greece was the 10th spring record for the Region. White-throated and White-crowned sparrows were relatively scarce. Some observers felt that Rose-breasted Grosbeak numbers were generally low. The Western Meadowlark heard at Island Cottage Woods was the first in several years. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak all lingered into May.

The March species total was 138, well below the 10-year average of 152.6; April totaled 194 species, which was considerably higher than the 10-year average of 178.9; and May topped out at 230 species, essentially on the 10-year average. The species total for the year stands at 259, also essentially at the 10-year average of 261.3 ($1s = 7.62$).

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b. – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; E – T Elba, GENE; EL – East Lakeshore, MONR,WAYN; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HI – Highland Park, Rochester, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; I – T Irondequoit, 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, T Avon/Geneseo, LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	5 Apr	1	5 & 9 Apr	2
Turkey Vulture	3 Mar	3279	1 Apr	18656
Osprey	31 Mar	60	3 May	295
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	34	26 May	268
No. Harrier	11 Mar	141	9 Apr	1207
Sharp-sh. Hawk	6 Mar	1266	3 May	5751
Cooper's Hawk	3 Mar	87	1 Apr	564
No. Goshawk	12 Mar	5	1 Apr	20
Red-sh. Hawk	15 Mar	153	1 Apr	588
Broad-wng. Hawk	12 Apr	9570	20 Apr	29093
Swainson's Hawk	14 May	1	14 May	1
Red-tailed Hawk	9 Mar	748	9 Apr	5601
Rough-lgd. Hawk	3 Mar	78	1 Apr	366
Golden Eagle	11 Mar	4	4, 17, & 19 Apr	35
Am. Kestrel	6 Mar	138	7 Apr	480
Merlin	6 Mar	6	12 Apr & 7 May	39
Peregrine Falcon	10 Mar	3	5 & 30 Apr; 5 & 17 May	26
Total, inc. unid.				62,992

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1 BB 6 Mar (DT); 1 BB 14 Mar (DT); 1 H 18 Mar (ST); 1 GE 22 Mar (JK).
Snow Goose: max 3000 S 5 Apr (TL); last 1 EL 7 May (mob).
ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 BB/H 17 Mar (DT, *et al.*); 1 T E 17 Mar (WS).
Canada Goose: max 10,500 BB 1 APR (DT).
Cackling Goose: total 34 Mar; 1 HB 1 Apr (WS); 1-2 E 1-15 Apr (WS).
Brant: 4 K 9 Mar (BB), very early or wandering after wintering nearby.
Trumpeter Swan: 1 Walworth, WAYN 16 May (R&SS); 1-4 S May.
Tundra Swan: max 460 GE 22 Mar (JK); last HB 9 Apr.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 CL 19 Mar (RMC, RO'H, *et al.*); 1 S 30 Mar (TL, TJ); 1 S 13-14 Apr (FM, TL).
Am. Wigeon: max 45 BB 1 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 535 BB 26 Mar (DT), last S 20 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 500 GE 22 Mar (JK).
Canvasback: max 150 BB 15 Mar (DT, GL); last 16 BB 12 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: max 185 BB 1 Apr (DT); last 1 G 15 May.
Greater Scaup: last 1 BB 4 May (SFO).
Lesser Scaup: max 285 BB 5 Apr (DT).
Surf Scoter: max 6 HB 19 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 96 HB 9 Apr (WS).
Black Scoter: max 5 HB 10, 16 Apr; last 3 HB 21 May (RS).
Long-tailed Duck: max 433 HB 5 May (RS, WS).
Bufflehead: max 45 BB 16 Apr (DT); last 2 BB 29 May (RK).
Com. Goldeneye: last 2 BB 14 May (DT).
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 PB 1-7 Mar (mob).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 3695 HB 18 Apr (RS).
Ruddy Duck: last 1 BB 5 May (KG, AT).
Wild Turkey: max 50-60 T Brighton, MONR 20-26 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: 180 HB 27 Mar (WS), large peak for Mar; max 249 HB 5 May (RS, WS); 122 HB 21 May (WS, RS), good total late in season.
PACIFIC LOON: 1 ad off Webster Park 23 May (RS).

Com. Loon: max 136 HB 5 May (RS, WS), low max.

Horned Grebe: max 873 WL 27 Mar (RS), State record high inland; last 1 HB 3 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 1433 WL 27 Mar (RS); last 1 BB 5 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 470 BB 7 May (DT).

Least Bittern: arr 1 G 19 May (GL), late.

Great Egret: arr G 26-28 Mar (JB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr IB 16-17 Mar (ST, GP).

BLACK VULTURE: 1 G 5 Apr (DT); 1 T Ontario, WAYN 6 Apr (JW); 1 BB 9 Apr (DT, MT); 1 EL 7 May (KS, mob).

Turkey Vulture: max 3279 BB 1 Apr (DT); total 18656 BB season (DT), State record total for hawkwatch.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 8 BB 31 Mar (DT, *et al.*), many for so early; max 60 BB 3 May (DT).

Bald Eagle: max 34 BB 26 May (DT), low.

N. Harrier: max 141 BB 9 Apr (DT).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1266 BB 3 May (DT).

Cooper's Hawk: max 87 BB 1 Apr (DT).

N. Goshawk: 1 Canadice, LIVI 24 May (SG).

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BB 15 Mar; last 1 G 13 May (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 9570 BB 20 Apr (DT).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 imm BB 14 May (DT), light morph.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 748 BB 9 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 78 BB 1 Apr (DT); last 1 BB 26 May (DN).

Golden Eagle: arr BB 11 Mar (DT); total 35 BB Apr (DT).

Am. Kestrel: max 138 BB 7 Apr (DT).

Merlin: total 22 BB Apr (DT); total 25 sev 1-26 May (sev).

Peregrine Falcon: total 13 BB Apr; total 15 BB 1-26 May.

Sandhill Crane: arr BB 6 Mar (DT); total 16 BB 6-17 Mar; 2 T Huron, WAYN 22 Mar (RBA); 2 S 30 Mar (TJ, SB); total 16 BB Apr; total 6 sev Apr (mob); total 8 BB 1-26 May; 2ad, 2yg S 1-31 May; 6 T Brighton, MONR 13 May (DS); 1 Bergen, GENE 15 May (MC).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 BB 3 May (DT), rare in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: max 17 HB 31 May.

Killdeer: max 287 BB 1 Apr (DT), State record high for spring.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 S 13 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 MP 25 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 HB 14 May, low.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 21 Apr; 1 HB 27 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 3 HB 31 May (DT, WS).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 3 HB 17 May (WS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2258 HB 14 May (DT, WS), State record high inland.
Least Sandpiper: max 62 HB 27 May (RS).
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1 HP 27 May, late arr.
Dunlin: arr 10 E 11 Apr (DT) max 73 HB 31 May (DT, WS).
Purple Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 31 May (DT), 4th regional spring record.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 BB 7 May.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Hamlin 4 May (ST), 7th regional spring record.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: HB 26 May (CW, JBa, RS).
Little Gull: arr BB 26 Mar (DT); 1 HB 27 Mar (WS); total 6 HB, DE Apr (DT, RS, WS).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 519 HB 9 Apr (WS, RS).
Thayer's Gull: 1 BB 11 Mar (DT).
Iceland Gull: 1 ad HB 8 Apr; 1 ad HB 16 Apr; 1 imm HB 11 May (WS).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 PE 19 Mar (MT); 1 ad 11 May HB (WS); 1 2nd winter CH 23 May (GC); 1 3rd winter CH 23 May (GC).
Glaucous Gull: 1 Byron, GENE 4 Apr (MC).
Caspian Tern: max 57 HB 25 Apr.
Com. Tern: max 23 BB 15 May.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 HB 7 May (RS); 1 HB 27 May (RS).
Black Tern: arr 5 BB 3 May (WS, DT).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 Twin Cedars Environmental Area, LIVI 14 May (MW).
Long-eared Owl: arr 2 M 22 Mar; total 21 M Apr (MF).
N. Saw-whet Owl: total 8 M Mar (mob); 40+6 M Apr (MF, DG).
Com. Nighthawk: arr 1 T Penfield, MONR 11 May (GP); max 510 WL 28 May (GL, KS, DT), State record high for spring; 349 WL 29 May (GL, KS, DT).
Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M 25 Apr (DT); 1 W 6-31 May (JBo, NP).
Chimney Swift: max 35 BB 7, 14 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1b M 27 Apr (BBBO), tied record early; max 19b M 24 May (BBBO).
N. Flicker: max 65 BB 12 Apr (DT).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Badgerow Park 26 May (RMa,KS) & HB 26 May (RS).
E. Wood- Pewee: max 4b M 26 May (BBBO), low.
Yellow- bellied Flycatcher: arr 1b M 17 May; max 28b M 27 May (BBBO).
Least Flycatcher: max 10b M 20 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 BB, W 26 Apr (DT, D&DT), tied record early; max 62 BB 14 may (DT).
E. Kingbird: max 74 BB 14 May (DT).
N. Shrike: last 1 imm S 5 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 1 IB 14 May (BZ), only report.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 CH 17 Apr (JG).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 G 14 May.
Blue Jay: max 5190 BB 14 May (DT), high.
Fish Crow: 1 G 14 Apr (KG); 1 HP 25 Apr (DT).
Com. Raven: 1 BB 25, 30 Mar (DT); 1 W 6 Apr (R&SS); 2 BB 16 Apr (DT); 3 BB 17 Apr (DT); total 6 sev May (sev).
Horned Lark: max 1460 BB 1 Apr (DT), very high.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2400 BB 7 May (DT); max 23,000 HB 21 May (RS, WS); 5670 HB 22 May (RS); State record high counts.
Bank Swallow: 3200 BB 7 May (DT); max 17,000 HB 21 May (RS, WS); 5670 HB 22 May (RS); high counts.
Barn Swallow: 420 BB 7 May (DT); max 2000 HB 21 May (WS, RS); 1260 HB 22 May (RS); good counts.
Marsh Wren: arr 6 S 26 Apr (TL).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 57b M 2 May (BBBO); last 1b M 28 May (BBBO).
E. Bluebird: max 180 BB 14 May (DT).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2b M 26 May, late.
Swainson's Thrush: max 25b M 26 May (BBBO).
Am. Robin: max 86,600 BB 1 Apr (DT), State record high count.
Eur. Starling: max 12,000 BB 1 Apr (DT).
Am. Pipit: arr BB 21 Mar; 1880 BB 3 May (DT); max 2930 BB 7 May (DT), very high count.
Cedar Waxwing: max 4375 HB 31 May (DT, WS).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1, 1b GE, M 26 Apr (R&SS, BBBO), reg. record early.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 PE 2 May (B&MAC).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Victor, MONR 22 May (SD, JG); 1 G 20 May (BB).
Tennessee Warbler: last 1 G 31 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: total 12 sev locations 1-24 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Portage, LIVI 19 Apr (AW), ties record early; max 15 BB 14 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 1175 BB 14 May (DT), State record high count.
Magnolia Warbler: max 63b M 20 May (BBBO).
Cape May Warbler: max 17 BB 14 May (DT); last 1 HB 27 May (R&SS).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20b M 14 May (BBBO).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 4 HB 16 Apr, late; max 825 BB 14 May, good count.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 25 BB 14 May (DT).
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1m Highland Park, R 30 Apr, 1 May (KH, *et al.*), see Fig. B, p. 260.
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 BB 4 May (DT).
Palm Warbler: max 60+ DE 25 Apr (NP); last 1 HB 26 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 27b M 26 May (BBBO).
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 sev 3 May (sev).
Black-and-white Warbler: max 40 BB 14 May (DT).
Am. Redstart: max 65 BB 14 May (DT).
Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Churchville, MONR 17 May (FA).
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 BB 5 May (KG); 1 G 17 May (GL); 1 G 31 May (KG).
Ovenbird: arr 1 M 26 Apr (GC, DS), ties record early.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 LW 16 Apr (CS).
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 W 3 May (D&DT).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 172 BB 14 May (DT), State record high.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 2 Rush, MONR 23 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1 T Henrietta, MONR 1 May (WR); 1 GE 3-31 May (JK); 2 K 26 May (JBa, CW).
Field Sparrow: arr 1 HB 9 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 NR 26 Apr.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 HP 25 May (DT), 10th reg. spring record.
Fox Sparrow: last 1b M 23 Apr.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 BB 1 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: last 1 sev locations 26 May.
Lapland Longspur: max 268 BB 1 Apr (DT); 267 BB 6 Apr (DT); 134 BB 8 Apr (DT); 174 BB 9 Apr (DT); last 1 T Bloomfield 27 Apr (JG).
Snow Bunting: max 500 Avon, LIVI 14 Mar (JK); last 2 BB 12 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 122 BB 14 May (DT).
Indigo Bunting: 1f G 1-19 Apr (GL), continuation of winter bird; max 118 BB 14 May (DT), State record high.
Dickcissel: arr 1 G 23 Apr (KG); 1 BB 14 May (DT); 1 HB 26 May (RS).
Bobolink: max 378 BB 14 May (DT).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 16,650 BB 1 Apr (DT).
E. Meadowlark: arr 1 Conesus, LIVI 11 Mar.
WESTERN MEADOWLARK: 1 singing IC 13 Apr (ST).
Rusty Blackbird: arr 60 BB 31 Mar (m ob); last 1b M 23 May (BBBO)..
Com. Grackle: max 3700 BB 1 Apr.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2600 BB 1 Apr (DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 BB 26 Apr (DT, DS); max 12 BB 14 May (DT).
Baltimore Oriole: max 2962 BB 14 May (DT), State record high.
Pine Grosbeak: last BB 17 Mar.
Red Crossbill: 5 HB 7 Apr (DD, RS).
Com. Redpoll: max 410 BB 6 Apr (DT); 371 BB 7 Apr (DT); last 2 DE 2 May (KG).
Pine Siskin: max 110 BB 14 May (DT).
Am. Goldfinch: max 1190 BB 14 May (DT), good count.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 BB 9 Apr (DT); 3 G 23 Apr (KG); 1 PA 26 Apr (GC, DS); 1 W 6 May (D&DT); 1 ICW 7 May (RS).