

REGION 2—GENESEE

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It was indeed an interesting spring season. There were some great days for birding, but not necessarily great numbers of birds. It started off with a March to remember, our first ever with no measurable snowfall. The average temperature of 39.9° F was 6° above normal. There were 17 days classified as mostly sunny and 27 days with above normal temperatures. Precipitation was nearly half an inch below normal at 2.09". The only real weather event for the month was the wind and rain of 12-14 March, a result of a storm that hit the East Coast but spared us. Snow cover and ice left early. It was the warmest April in 89 years for the Rochester area. The month started out with record high temperatures on the first three days, and the first eight days averaged 21° above normal! That was followed by near normal temperatures until we finished the month off with summer-like weather on the last day. The mean for the month was 52.4°, 7.1° above normal. It was the third warmest April in 140 years. The month was fairly dry, with 1.56" of precipitation compared to the average of 2.75". We had 63% of the possible sunshine compared to the average of about 50%. It did make for some pleasant birding days. It would seem as though we would have had a flood of early arrivals, but that was not the case. There were some early ones, but for the most part things were about average or in some cases a bit behind. It seemed as though conditions were never ideal. The warm temperatures did give a boost to foliage progression, so vegetation was well ahead of normal. A 0.2" snowfall on 27 April kept us from recording the shortest snow season ever. May was quite an interesting month. It was variable to say the least. The average temperature of 60.5° was 3.5° above normal. It was the warmest May in 12 years, but it wasn't warm all month. The period 7-12 May experienced below average temperatures, with some days 10° below normal. That didn't last, as the final 10 days were all in the 80s. Precipitation totaled 2.55", 0.27" below normal. Most of the precipitation fell early in the month. There was a very slight snowfall on the 9th. There were plenty of pleasant birding days, but conditions weren't conducive to major groundings, and in some cases the weather was simply too nice. For the most part it was a lackluster month, as passerine numbers continued to be low.

It was not a good year for waterfowl. The lakewatch was manned somewhat regularly, but less than in the recent past. Even when covered, the passage of birds was very poor. Numbers were quite low for most species. Most also departed early, with few stragglers left behind. Highlights included Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, King Eider, and the continuing Barrow's Goldeneye. A Blue-winged Teal x N. Shoveler at Salmon Creek was a very interesting bird. Loon maxima were low, but this may have been partially due to reduced coverage at Hamlin Beach during the usual peak time. It was not a good spring

for grebes. The maxima for Horned and Red-necked Grebes were low. A **Western Grebe** found by Chuck Gibson at Chimney Bluffs in March was a real highlight, the twelfth record for the Region. Many observers were afforded good views of this rare visitor. There were few highlights for waders. The arrivals were generally early, but not record early. Ray Robinson's **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a good find, about the eighteenth record for the Region and first since 2002. Great Egret sightings were down considerably.

The Hawkwatch was manned once again by Dave Tetlow. There were a limited number of good flight days, but totals did not deviate significantly from the norm other than the number of Black Vultures. Typically we log 1-3 Black Vultures in a season and the total through 2009 was 31 total records. This year there were 11 reports of 16 individuals scattered across the Region and season. A maximum of 30 Bald Eagles was tallied at Braddock Bay on 14 May. Northern Goshawk numbers were low. Three Swainson's Hawk sightings was above average.

It was a below average year for Sandhill Cranes at Braddock Bay, but reports from other locations continued. An enticing report of a pair in the Town of Richmond observed by Paul Cowan was repeated by others into summer. This is in close proximity to Taylor Marsh, where breeding has been suspected, but the marsh is very difficult to enter and breeding has not been confirmed. The pair in Savannah again produced colts, but they were not being observed late in the season. There was little good shorebird habitat. Species totals were generally low. An American Golden-Plover in Hamlin on 25 March was near record early, and the group of 2-4 in Savannah in April was still early and unusual for spring. The Willet observed by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach was another highlight. Spring gull reports were not impressive, with Little Gull, Thayer's Gull, and a host of Lesser Black-backed Gulls being the only sightings of note. Common Tern numbers were low and Forster's Tern totals even lower. Black Terns were reported from Savannah and in very low numbers from Braddock Bay. This species continues its decline in the Region. The Eurasian Collared-Doves in Parma and Hamlin were seen consistently through the season. Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl numbers were just okay.

The passerine migration was characterized as poor by a number of observers. "Where are the birds?" was heard more than once. There were some decent flight and grounding days, but for the most part, it was not a great spring for songbirds. Both cuckoos arrived early but with numbers down a bit. Yellow-billed seemed to be the more numerous of the two. Common Nighthawk numbers continued to be low, and there were few Whip-poor-will reports. There were three Olive-sided Flycatcher reports, but flycatchers in general were down. This was particularly true of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Jay Powell found the only White-eyed Vireo of the spring, and Philadelphia Vireos were tough to find. Fish Crows continued to be reported in Rochester. Common Raven also maintained the trend of increased sightings, with new locations seemingly reported every season. It was a very poor swallow migration in the Region; peak counts were very low. There were two reports of Sedge Wren, a species continuing as a very rare breeder in the Region. One report was from Savannah

and the other from Mendon Ponds Park. Thrush numbers varied; Veery and Wood Thrush were okay, but Gray-cheeked was very scarce and Swainson's low. Gray Catbird numbers were good; large numbers were banded at the Kaiser-Manitou Passerine Banding Station. The 485 Am. Pipits at Braddock Bay on 1 May was a good count but still down from some recent years' peaks.

The warbler situation was mixed. Blue-winged, Tennessee, Yellow, Pine, Palm, Mourning, and Wilson's were early, and Yellow-throated and Louisiana Waterthrush were record early. The rest were about average for arrival date. Some observers felt that N. Parula and Cape May numbers were good, but the rest of the species were not found to be very plentiful. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (Kaiser-Manitou Station) numbers were good in the second half of the season. Five "Brewster's Warbler" reports do not necessarily bode well for Golden-winged Warbler. There were six reports for Orange-crowned Warbler. The maximum count for Yellow-rumped Warbler was a low 165. Warbler highlights included the record early Yellow-throated Warbler discovered by Lucretia Grosshans and Shirley Shaw on 11 April, a Worm-eating found in Island Cottage Woods by Robert Spahn on 10 May, a Kentucky observed by Dave Tetlow in Huckleberry Swamp on 25 May, and a Connecticut seen by Andy Guthrie on 24 May at Hamlin Beach. Yellow-breasted Chat is uncommon in the Region, but we had the usual few reports. Clay-colored Sparrows continued to be found, with reports from Braddock Bay, Hamlin, and the Nations Road area. The sparrow highlight for the season was a **LeConte's Sparrow** found by Richard Crossley and Dave Tetlow at Burger Park on 2 May. Lincoln's, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows seemed to be scarce.

It was a good spring for **Summer Tanager**. There were three sightings of this uncommon species. Dave Tetlow reported two **Dickcissels** from Braddock Bay in May. This species can be missed unless you are familiar with the flight call. This year's only spring **Brewer's Blackbird** was one in Hamlin seen on 14 April by Dave Tetlow. Baltimore Oriole was early and in good numbers. Finches were poor, with only a single Red Crossbill and a scattering of Pine Siskins in addition to the normal residents.

March's species total of 142 was above the 10-year average, April's 188 total surpassed the 10-year average of 184.4, but May was slightly below the 10-year average at 225. The species total for the year stands at 255. This is just a bit below the 10-year average of 260.9.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CB – Chimney Bluffs, WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, C Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; GW – Ginna Woods, WAYN; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HA – High Acres Trails, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HI – Highland Park, C Rochester, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; HS – Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN; IC – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI, WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NO – Norway Road, T Murray, ORLE; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; PA – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PO – T Portage, LIVI; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; SP – Sodus Point, WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 30,000 S 13 Mar (MI); last 1 H 28 Apr.

Ross's Goose: arr 2 S 13 Mar (SB); 1 T Rose, WAYN 14 Mar (TL, CWi).

Cackling Goose: max 11 BB 15 Mar (DT); 1 S 10 Apr (TW); 4 PA 28 Apr (AGu); 2 G 30 Apr (DT).

Canada Goose: max 12,960 BB 10 Mar, low.

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 S 19 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 100+ T Stafford, GENE 11 Mar (MC); last 1 H 14 Apr.

Wood Duck: arr 3 BB 9 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1m S 13 Mar (GC); 1m SB 20-21 Mar (mob); 1 m S 9-19 Apr (mob).

Am. Wigeon: max 257 S 4 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 BB 12 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal x N. Shoveler: 1 G 25-31 Apr (RS, KW), photos.

N. Shoveler: arr 1 H 9 Mar; last 5 S 19 May.

N. Pintail: max 13,000 S 12 Mar (JM).

Green-winged Teal: max 900 S 9 Apr (JM).

Canvasback: last 1 G 21 Apr.

Redhead: last 1 BB 12 May.

Lesser Scaup: last 1 BB 19 May.

King Eider: imm m PA 7 Mar (CWo); 2f HB 8 Mar (DT); 1st win m G 9 Mar (GL, F&HL).

Surf Scoter: last TC 12 May.

Bufflehead: last CU 8 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 1 HB 19 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1m PB thru 8 Mar (JP).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 3200 BB 13 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr 4 BB 10 Mar; last 1 HA 19 May.

Red-throated Loon: last 1 HB 20 May.

Com. Loon: max 909 HB 21 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: max 164 CB 14 Mar (JeB, CWo), low max; last 1 HB 4 May.

WESTERN GREBE: 1 CB 11-22 Mar (CG, mob), 12th regional record.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 310 G 30 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr 1 HP 30 Mar, early.

Least Bittern: arr 1 HA 11 May.

Great Egret: arr 1 G 28 Mar, early.

Green Heron: arr 1 HA 24 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 Sandy Bottom, ONTA 11 Apr.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: arr 1ad G 1 May (RR), about 18th regional record.

Turkey Vulture: max 2388 BB 2 Apr (DT).

Black Vulture: 3 T Ontario, WAYN 18 Mar (DT); 1 BB 3, 5, 11, 19 Apr (DT); 2 BB 12 Apr (DT); 1 M 1 May (RK); 1 G 15 May (BC); 2 M 20 May (RK); 3 BB 27 May (DT, mob); *intro*.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2 MP 27 Mar (KF); max 11 BB 7 Apr.

Bald Eagle: max 30 BB 14 May (DT).

N. Harrier: max 42 BB 2 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 378 BB 21 Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: max 26 BB 3 Apr.

N. Goshawk: total 8 BB all Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 1 sev loc 7 Mar; max 202 G 17 Mar (DT).

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 HA 8 Apr (MT); max 4388 BB 30 Apr, low max.

Swainson's Hawk: 1 H 3 Apr (AGu); 1 BB 3 Apr (DT); 1BB 4 Apr (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 316 BB 2 Apr.

Golden Eagle: arr 2 CB 14 Mar (M&JT); max 3 BB 28 Mar (DT); total 21 BB all Apr.

Am. Kestrel: max 50 BB 9 Apr.

Merlin: 6 all Mar sev; total 14 BB all Apr, total 6 BB all May.

Peregrine Falcon: total 3 BB all Apr; 3 BB all May; 2ad, 2yg R 2 May thru.

Sora: arr 1 S 14 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr 1 S 10 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr 1 BB 7 Mar (DT); 2 T Richmond, LIVI 9 Mar (PC); 1 S 14 Mar (TL, CWi); total 4 BB all Apr; total 20 sev all Apr, away from BB.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 H 12 May.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 1 BB 25 Mar (DT), very early; 2-4 S 9-24 Apr(mob), early.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 H 11 May.

Killdeer: arr 1 BB 7 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 BB 28 Mar.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 7 CU 2 Apr.

Willet: 1 HB 27 May (AGu).

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 2 HA 24 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 HA, BB 7 Apr; last 5 S 20 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 S 17 Apr; few other reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 HB 17 May.

The Kingbird 2010 September; 60 (3)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 H 12 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 9-12 S 22 Apr.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 G 24 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 14 S 25 Mar; last 6 S 19 May.

Dunlin: arr 1 S 2 Apr (DNic), early.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1 G 24 Apr; few other reports.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 1 HP 5 Apr; max 60 S 17 Apr (CWi).

Am. Woodcock: arr 1 HB 11 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 BB 8 Mar.

Little Gull: arr 1 ad BB 19 Mar (DT); 1 ad HB 21 Apr (RS).

Herring Gull: max 3600 HB 16 Apr.

Thayer's Gull: 1 IB 6 Mar (JeB, CWo).

Iceland Gull: max 3 MONR 16 Apr; last 1 1st cycle G 24 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total 11 all May.

Caspian Tern: arr 1 BB 3 Apr.

Black Tern: arr 5 S 7 May.

Com. Tern: arr 3 BB 5 Apr.

Forster's Tern: arr 2 HB 8 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1-3 H/PA thru.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 BB 2 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 M 1 May.

Long-eared Owl: total 9 Manitou all Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 26 Manitou all Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 1 G 6 May; max 17 G 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr 1 M 1 May.

Chimney Swift: arr 2 Greggsville, LIVI 21 Apr, early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 M 5 May; 25b M 22 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 1 G 31 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 G 22 May (DT); 1 G 24 May (KG); 1 M 3¹ May (GL, JD).

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 1 M 2 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1b M 19 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 3 HS 23 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 NR 17 May.

Willow Flycatcher: 1 sev 5 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 1 M 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr 1 BB 12 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 M 29 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr 1 G 30 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 1 HA 9 May (JaP).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 NO 3 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 1 CH 10 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr 1 G 30 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 1 H 29 Apr.

Blue Jay: max 6240 BB 1 May.

Fish Crow: 1 R 23 Mar (KF); 1 R 15, 24 Apr (KF); 1 R 4 May (KF).
Com. Raven: 1 G 20 May (GL).
Purple Martin: arr 1 BB 28 Mar.
Tree Swallow: arr 2 Groveland Flats, LIVI 16 Mar; max 65 M 14 May, very low.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 BB 7 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 2 G 6 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 1 BB 3 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr 6 G 6 Apr.
House Wren: arr 1 South Conesus, LIVI 10 Apr (KC), early.
Winter Wren: arr 1 IC 1 Apr.
Sedge Wren: arr 1 S 19 May; 1 MP 21 May.
Marsh Wren: arr 1 BB 18 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 MP10 Apr; last 1b M 23 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 1 IC 9 Apr.
Veery: arr 1 WAYN 23 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 GW 16 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 1 R 30 Apr.
Hermit Thrush: arr 1 CH 1 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr 1 T Richmond, ONTA 30 Apr.
Gray Catbird: 1 HA 24 Mar (JaP), wintering bird.
Brown Thrasher: arr 1 WL 7 Apr.
Am. Pipit: max 485 HB 1 May; last 2 HB 20 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 211 HB 26 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 IC/PO 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 M 2 May. .
Tennessee Warbler: arr 1 NR 1 May (JK), early.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 11 May; total 6 rep May.
Nashville Warble: arr 1 HP/CH 21 Apr
N. Parula: arr 1 BB 4 May; max 9 IC 14 May (SD).
Yellow Warbler: arr 1 HA 22 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 T Huron, WAYN 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 BB 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 1 R 30 Apr; last 1 Zurich Bog, WAYN 29 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 G 30 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 Burroughs Audubon Nature Center, MONR 10 Apr; max 165 BB 5 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 IC 29 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 CH 30 Apr.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: arr 1 DE 11 Apr (LG, SS), record early.

Pine Warbler: arr 1 DE 2 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 M 14 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 CL 8 Apr; last 2b M 18 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 G 6 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 G 6 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 NO 3 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 IC 30 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 1 GW/ PO 1 May
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 1 IC 10 May.
Ovenbird: arr 1-4 sev 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 1 HS 24 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 LW 7 Apr (CS), record early.
Kentucky Warbler: arr 1 HS 25 May (DT).
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 HB 24 May (AGU).
Mourning Warbler: arr 1 IC 10 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 1 M 29 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 CH 2 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 1 BB 4 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 1b M 9 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr 1 Rochester Institute of Technology, MONR 10 May (AGa); 1 M 14 May (DT); 1b M 24 May (BBBO).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr 1 PO 12 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 2 Mill Landing 20 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: 1 WAYN 26 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1 BB 4 May (DT); 1-5 H 17-31 May (mob); 1 NR 5-31 May (JK).
Field Sparrow: arr 1 H 3 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 1 H 31 Mar.
Savannah Sparrow: 1 HP 1 Mar (DT); arr 4 HP 5 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 NR 1 May.
LECONTE'S SPARROW: 1 HP 2-3 May (RC, DT), 11th regional record.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 W 12 Mar; last 2 HB 19 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 M 1 May; last 1 M 28 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 1 R 12 Apr; last 1 HB 26 May.
Lapland Longspur: last 2 BB 16 Apr.
Snow Bunting: last 1 H 16 Apr.
SUMMER TANAGER: arr 1 CH 14 May (KH); 1 IC 16 May (ML, AH); 1fem G 22 May (GL), 19th – 21st regional records.
Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 M 5 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 1 T Ontario, WAYN 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr 1 BB 1 May.

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DICKCISSEL: arr 1 BB 1 May (DT); 1 BB 14 May (DT).

Bobolink: arr 3 G 30 Apr; max 152 BB 14 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr 1 G 12 Mar; max 12 HP 26 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 BB 25 Mar; max 867 BB 3 Apr; last 4 HB 20 May.

Brewer's Blackbird: arr 1 H 14 Apr (DT).

Orchard Oriole: arr 1 IC/NR 1 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 PA 17 Apr, very early; max 84 BB 5 May.

Red Crossbill: arr 1 HP 10 Apr (DT).

Pine Siskin: last 1 HB 27 May.

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