

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051

morgm@roadrunner.com

March 2012 brought record warmth and a stretch of summer-like weather. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 47.4° F, a whopping 13.4° above normal and warmer than the mean temperature for April. A massive ridge of high pressure allowed an unseasonably warm air mass to move into western New York. Record high temperatures were recorded on seven days, including six in a row 17-22 March when temperatures were 30 to 35° above normal. Many trees and plants budded early. There was 1.86" of precipitation, 1.01" below average. Snowfall was only 1.5", 11.4" below average. Lake Erie water temperature set new daily record highs for the last 19 days of the month. April brought a return to normal weather and fluctuations between cooler and warmer periods. The mean temperature was 45.2°, 0.7° below average. Precipitation was 3.04", 0.03" above average; snowfall was 1.0", 2.6" below normal. There was more snow in the Southern Tier in late April. A warm front associated with strong southwesterly winds resulted in a large push of Broad-winged Hawks, other raptors, and Red Admiral butterflies on 16 April. May was very warm, the fifth driest May on record. The average temperature was 63.8°, 6.9° above normal. Above average temperatures were recorded on 27 days, and three record highs were reached on the 20th, 25th, and 28th. Rainfall was only 0.90", 2.56" below normal. Collectively it was the warmest spring on record.

As would be expected, a record warm spring resulted in some earlier migrations and breeding attempts and made for an eventful spring season. The summer-like weather during the third week of March brought many short-distance migrants to the area about two weeks earlier than normal, including Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found by Richard Salembier at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on the record early date of 25 March. It was seen by many at this location through 3 April. Diving ducks departed the Great Lakes and Niagara River earlier than usual around this time. Shorebirds appeared earlier than usual, including early records of Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and the first ever March record of **Long-billed Dowitcher**. The dowitcher was at Kumpf Marsh at Iroquois NWR between 24 March and 7 April and represents only the third spring record for the Region, all in recent years.

The early warmth led to early breeding by some species. Connie Adams reported Mourning Dove chicks on 9 April, and Greg Coniglio had baby chickadees in a nest box on 19 April. On the other hand, the late April snow in the Southern Tier was the likely cause of some Bald Eagle nest failures according to Ken Roblee of NYSDEC. Otherwise it was a remarkable spring, with at least seven new eagle nests in the Region.

A strong push of songbirds, including numerous early arrivals, occurred 1-2 May following a cool period in late April. Raptor migration was also notable on 2 May and featured an **American Swallow-tailed Kite** over the Hamburg Hawkwatch, only the third record for the Region, with the first coming from Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Beal in 1926. The dry conditions made for low water conditions around Iroquois NWR, Tonawanda WMA, and traditional shorebird spots in Niagara County. A large (for this Region) pulse of shorebird migration occurred in these areas 15-18 May. Shorebird migration picked up again late in May, but songbird and raptor migration largely dwindled earlier than usual.

Waterfowl migration started in winter for many species, but goose migration was still prevalent in March. Three reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, with a maximum of four, are about typical for recent years in March. **Cackling Geese** were widespread in low numbers. Tundra Swan migration was evident during the first two weeks of March. Trumpeter Swans are becoming more regular around Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Two were present at Windmill Marsh on Oak Orchard WMA throughout the spring, leading to speculation of a nesting attempt. Nesting has still not been confirmed in the Region.

There were at least two **Eurasian Wigeon** reports around Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Two **Harlequin Ducks** remained in the Niagara River, as viewed from Niagara Falls SP, through 22 April. Scoters were rather scarce this spring, with only one Black Scoter report, a few Surf Scoters, and lesser numbers of the most common White-winged. Red-necked Grebes peaked in mid-March, which is earlier than usual and likely a reflection of the warmer weather and lakes. An **Eared Grebe** was found on Lake Ontario in late April.

While still rare, there has been an uptick in **American White Pelican** reports in recent years. There were two sightings this spring, with one at Oak Orchard WMA on 28 March and another at Prendergast Point on Chautauqua Lake a few days later.

Great Egrets returned a little early to the Motor Island rookery and also nested for the second year on islands above Niagara Falls (in Ontario waters). Willie D'Anna found a **Cattle Egret** in Porter on 17 April, which was an early date for recent years. Late May brought two rare waders. Chris Hollister was surprised to find an adult **Little Blue Heron** near the University at Buffalo on 28 May. Celeste Morien found a **Glossy Ibis** at Oak Orchard WMA on 30 May. Several birders were able to see both birds after the initial sightings, but neither was found beyond the first day. For both species this was the first report in the Region since 2008.

Black Vulture continues around Lewiston, with three sightings of up to three birds between 31 March and 15 April. With the spate of sightings in this area over the past two years, local birders are on the lookout for evidence of breeding, which is usually not easy to determine with vultures. There were few reports of Rough-legged Hawks this spring, which followed a winter with few of them. There were six **Golden Eagle** reports in March and April.

Sandhill Cranes were more widespread than during any other spring. Virginia Rail and Common Gallinule were on the early side.

Besides the previously mentioned shorebirds, there were several other highlights. Joe Mitchell found a **Willet** at Batavia WWTP on 25 May. Dave Muller found a migrant **Upland Sandpiper** in Wilson to go with the regular breeders at Tillman Road WMA as the only reports. Kurt Fox had some high counts of Semipalmated Plovers and a record count of Least Sandpipers at Tonawanda WMA on 16 May. Semipalmated Sandpipers didn't show up in good numbers until late May. Up to seven **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found in late May at Tonawanda WMA. There were two reports of **Wilson's Phalaropes**.

Alec Humann found an adult **Black-headed Gull** in breeding plumage off Squaw Island at the relatively late date of 26 April. It was also found there several days later. It is possible that this was the same bird that wintered in this area. The only other notable gull was a **Laughing Gull** in with Ring-billed Gulls at Dunkirk Harbor on 9 May. Chuck Rosenberg found **six Snowy Owls** at the Niagara Falls airport during his annual winter owl field trip on 6 March. This was the highest count at one location since 1992. **Short-eared Owls** were sighted at mostly traditional locations, with owls remaining at Shelby and Alexander to late April and early May, respectively. NYSDEC staff discovered an adult **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and four downy young using a nest box at Watts Flats WMA on 30 April. **Common Nighthawks** made a very poor showing, with only five reports and a maximum of three. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports were more than usual and were highlighted by one that Bert Schweigert heard frequently calling in Great Valley 19-24 May. There are no known breeding locations in the Region. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from more locations than usual for recent years in May, with at least half of the reports likely migrants rather than breeders.

Common Raven had been absent from the more northern portions of the Region until several sightings in the last few years. There were some more signs of expansion this spring, as Common Ravens were sighted multiple times around the Huntley power plant in Tonawanda and one was seen at the Somerset power plant along Lake Ontario. Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter enjoyed **Lapland Longspurs** at a field in Wilson including an adult in breeding plumage up to 11 May. Warbler highlights not previously mentioned included two **Golden-winged Warbler** reports in early May. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at the regular location at Tonawanda WMA as well as a migrant at Tiff Nature Preserve on 12 May found by Debbie Sharon. Linda Holmes had a **Connecticut Warbler** over several days in mid May at Majors Park in Aurora. Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at their usual Allegany SP location by mid-April.

Clay-colored Sparrows were identified in two locations, including a pair taking up residence in Portland. Up to 1,000 Rusty Blackbirds were estimated around Tonawanda WMA on 18 March, with some other good counts in the area through early April. **Orchard Orioles** are being found with a little more frequency in and beyond the Great Lakes plains. There were several **White-winged Crossbill** reports, with the obvious highlight being the estimated 150 that Jeff Reed found at Golden Hill State Forest in Cattaraugus County on 15

May. Reed felt that two groups came together to forage for a while and then all flew off to the southeast. Two **Common Redpoll** reports were consistent with a poor flight year. **Pine Siskins** were reported throughout the spring, and they were most widespread and numerous in the month of May as they returned north.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on 15 April, which was a little later than usual for the count due to Easter falling on the second Sunday of April this year. A warm front passed slowly the day before the count and temperatures reached 60° F. A record total of 158 species was tallied over the entire Region 1 and the portion of the B.O.S. Study Area in Ontario. There were 22 record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Wood Duck (545), Gadwall (205), Common Loon (531), Great Egret (92), Osprey (57), Common Gallinule (9), Sandhill Crane (4), Spotted Sandpiper (6), Lesser Yellowlegs (52), Dunlin (23), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Pileated Woodpecker (57), House Wren (3), Eastern Bluebird (320), Gray Catbird (16), Brown Thrasher (40), Pine Warbler (43), Yellow-rumped Warbler (241), Eastern Towhee (133), Field Sparrow (257), Savannah Sparrow (367), and Swamp Sparrow (329). Three first count records were made: Cackling Goose, Black Vulture, and Common Yellowthroat; and two second count records were Trumpeter Swan and Scarlet Tanager.

The B.O.S. May Count was held on 20 May on a day with record warmth and moderate wind. The total of 194 species was the lowest since 1991. There were nine record high counts: Mute Swan (33), Wood Duck (351), Pied-billed Grebe (72), Willow Flycatcher (107), Warbling Vireo (430), Gray Catbird (1,268), Northern Mockingbird (54), Prairie Warbler (20), and Blackpoll Warbler (205). Low counts were notable for Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Palm Warbler were very rare no-shows for the count. All of these are indicative of the earlier migration.

CONTRIBUTORS

Connie Adams, Tim Baird, Doug Beattie, Ann Beebe, Jim Berry (JBe), John Black (JBl), Elizabeth Brooks, Corey Callaghan, Bruce Chilton, Paula Clark, Willie D'Anna, Robert & Donna DeLeon, Brett Ewald, Joe Fell (JFe), Jim Flint (JFl), Kurt Fox, Andy Francisco, Mike Galas, David Gordon, Carol Hardenburg (CHa), Chris Hollister (CHo), Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Matt King, Tom Klotzbach, Jim Landau (JiL), Jerry Lazarczyk (JeL), Noah McNeill, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Dave Muller, Sean Phelan, Betsy Potter, Jeff Reed, Ken Roblee, Chuck Rosenburg, Anne Rothrock, Vicki Rothman, Richard Salembier, Bert Schweigert, Debbie Sharon, Sharon Sisti, Loren Smith, Holly Sweeney, Jacque Walters, William Watson, Peter Yoerg, Nathaniel Young, Mike Zebeazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 15 Apr; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 20 May; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE;

BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; MI – Motor I NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, ERIE; Tiftt NP – Tiftt Nature Preserve, ERIE; Tillman WMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: INWR 10 Mar (JM); Somerset NIAG 10 Mar (WD); max 4 Shelby ORLE 12(CM).

Snow Goose: 55 Shelby ORLE 2 Mar (CC); max 300 Yates ORLE 6 Mar (BP); 15 Lancaster ERIE 7 Mar; no Apr reports.

Cackling Goose: BWWTP 2 Mar; 3, 4, 5 INWR 2, 11, 17 Mar; 2 Hartland NIAG 7 Mar; 6, 7 OOWMA 7, 18 Mar; 5, 1 Somerset NIAG 7, 10 Mar; Alexander GENE 9 Mar; max 10 Oakfield GENE 9 Mar; 1 Oakfield GENE 17 Mar; last 3 BOSAC (WD), 1st for count; good showing.

Mute Swan: reported from seven locations along L Ontario; 33 BOSMC, record high for count.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 OOWMA 10 Mar, 17 May (WW, WD), possibly taken up residence at Windmill Marsh; 2 INWR 14 Mar (JM); BOSAC, 2nd record for count; CSWMA 28, 29 Apr (JM); 4, 2 Elba GENE, OOWMA 29, 30 Apr (KF, CM).

Tundra Swan: 217, 542 INWR 6, 10 Mar; 211 OOWMA 7 Mar; max 903 Shelby ORLE 11 Mar (CM); last Tiftt NP 6 May.

Wood Duck: record high counts on both BOSAC (545) and BOSMC (351).

Gadwall: max 100 INWR 17 Mar (KF); 37 NF 31 Mar; 30 INWR 5 Apr; 205 BOSAC, count record high; 2 Hartland NIAG 18 May; 4 BWWTP 25 May.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr INWR 15 Mar (CM); OOWMA 18, 20 Mar (PY, JM).

Am. Wigeon: 650, 600 INWR 15, 17 Mar; max 660 OOWMA 15 Mar (CM).

Blue-winged Teal: arr Bethany GENE 12 Mar (DB); max 12 INWR 14 May.

N. Shoveler: 115, max 121 INWR 17, 21 Mar; 79, 88 BWWTP 14, 28 Apr; INWR 28 May; TWMA 30 May.

N. Pintail: max 234, 123 BWWTP 2, 10 Mar (KF, WW); 152 INWR 10 Mar; 79 Elba GENE 29 Apr; INWR 17, 18 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 85, 82 Elba GENE 18 Mar, 29 Apr; 61, 73 INWR 21, 29 Mar; 2 OOWMA 28 May; 2 INWR 30 May.

Canvasback: arr 1, 5, 5 BWWTP 2, 16, 24 Mar; 1, 4 INWR 11, 17 Mar; NF 11 Apr; last 2 BOSAC.

Redhead: arr 6, 30 INWR 1, 11 Mar; 2 Wethersfield WYOM 9 Mar; 22, 16 BWWTP 12, 13 Mar; 12, 2 Dayton CATT 25 Mar, 8 Apr; 2 CSWMA 7 Apr; 2 TWMA 17 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 400 INWR 29 Mar; max 422 TWMA 31 Mar; 2 NF 18 May; last 2 INWR 27 May.

Greater Scaup: last 3 ChauL 12 May.

Lesser Scaup: 3, 157, 154 BWWTP 2 Mar, 14, 28 Apr; last BWWTP 25 May.

Harlequin Duck: 2 NFSP thru 22 Apr (WW, CM, PY), present through much of winter season at this location.

Surf Scoter: PB 2 Apr; 4 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; 2 BWWTP 14 Apr; Shadigee ORLE 29 Apr; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: 2 BWWTP 7 May (KF), uncommon inland; last 7 BOSMC.

Black Scoter: FNSP 20 Mar; only report.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 2 Oakfield GENE 11 Mar; 4 AISP 14 Mar; 5, 2 INWR 15 Mar, 7 Apr; max 900 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; last 8 BOSMC.

Bufflehead: 229, max 278 BWWTP 6, 14 Apr; last 2 BWWTP 11 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 4 NF 18 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 260 Buffalo ERIE 6 Apr (WW).

Com. Merganser: 1 ad, 18 yg Hamburg ERIE 28 May (JM), good-sized brood.

Ruddy Duck: arr 2 INWR 10 Mar; 300, max 497, 424 BWWTP 29 Mar, 6, 14 Apr; 28 Tiftt NP 3 Apr; 40 INWR 12 Apr, 4 May.

Red-throated Loon: max 81 GHSP 18 Mar (WD); 74, 75 Shadigee ORLE 28, 29 Apr; SPNS 30 May – 3 Jun (MZ, mob).

Com. Loon: arr 2, 1 GHSP, Shadigee ORLE 25 Mar; 531 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high; max 209 Shadigee ORLE 28 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr INWR 10 Mar; 72 BOSMC 20 May, count record high.

Horned Grebe: arr INWR, Oakfield GENE; 52 GHSP 18 Mar; 14 S. Dayton CATT 25 Mar; BWWTP 16-17 May (KF); last 3 GHSP 26 May (MM).

Red-necked Grebe: 18 Somerset NIAG 7 Mar; 77 Wilson NIAG 16 Mar; 2 INWR 17 Mar; max 214 GHSP 18 Mar; Lewiston NIAG 1 Apr; 5 BOSAC; last Olcott NIAG 18 Apr.

EARED GREBE (R1): Shadigee ORLE 28 Apr (WD), spring reports less than annual.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1): OOWMA 28 Mar (CM!), third Mar record; Prendergast Pt ChauL 1 Apr (MK); both photographed.

Double-crested Cormorant: NF 11 Mar; arr 3 TWMA 18 Mar; Freedom ALLE 6 Apr; 2 Dayton CATT 7 Apr; 221 + 68 n BuSP 20 Apr; 501 LBSP, 700 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; more sightings inland than usual.

Am. Bittern: arr TWMA 7 Apr; Tift NP 25, 28 Apr; 2 INWR 29 Apr; GHSP 3 May (WD, BP, CM); 3 TWMA 16 May.

Least Bittern: arr Tift NP 5, 6 May; OOWMA 15 May; 4 INWR 24 May (CM).

Great Blue Heron: 87, 85 + 63 n MI 29 Mar, 6 Apr (WW).

Great Egret: arr BeSP 16 Mar (DS); 92 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high; Wellsville ALLE 19 Apr (EB); LBSP 28 Apr; 53 + 43 n MI 5 May (WW); 34 INWR 30 May.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R1): Amherst ERIE 28 May (CHo! Mob), rare.

Cattle Egret: Porter NIAG 17 Apr (WD!), early, rare.

Green Heron: arr Tift NP 8 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: NF 4 Mar; Tift NP 17 Mar; possible arrivals but could have wintered.

GLOSSY IBIS (R1): OOWMA 30 May (CM!), rare.

Black Vulture: SPNS 7 Mar (LH); 3, 1, 1 Lewiston NIAG 31 Mar, 8 Apr, BOSAC (PC, CG, JFe, JBI); Ripley HW 16 Apr (CHA).

Turkey Vulture: 1382, max 1415 Hamburg HW 20 Mar, 2 Apr.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr INWR 17 Mar (CM); Tift NP 21 Mar; 57 BOSAC 15 Apr, count Record high; max 74 Ripley HW, 37 Hamburg HW 2 May,

impressive day counts; continues to increase as breeder.

AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Hamburg HW 2 May (SS!, JiL! BC! NYSARC), third record for Reg.

Bald Eagle: at least seven new loc for breeding attempts but high failure rate from the late April snow in Southern Tier (KR); 12, max 40 Ripley HW 26 Apr, 2 May.

N. Harrier: 5 Shelby GENE 6 Mar; 5 Alexander GENE 7 Mar; max 12, 10 Ripley HW 15, 16 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 127, max 182 Ripley HW 16 Apr, 2 May.

N. Goshawk: arr Buffalo ERIE 14 Mar; Hamburg HW 5 Apr; Ripley HW 8, 13 Apr; BOSAC; 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 5 May (NM).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Alden ERIE 7 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 9 Mar; max 29 Ripley HW 14 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 Ripley HW 9 Apr; max 3210, 3162 Ripley HW 15 Apr, 2 May; 2000 LBSP 16 Apr (PY).

Rough-legged Hawk: low numbers at hawkwatches and elsewhere; last Ripley HW 30 Apr.

Golden Eagle: arr INWR 11 Mar (WD); Middleport ORLE 14 Mar (BE); 2 LBSP 16 Apr; Ischua CATT 20 Apr (JR), photo; Ripley HW 26 Apr; Hamburg HW 29 Apr.

Merlin: reported from five loc away from hawk watches; 1-2 N Buffalo ERIE 24, 31 May (PY).

Peregrine Falcon: TWMA 28 Apr; Wilson NIAG 3 May; INWR 24 May; only reports away from nesting locations and hawk watches; becoming more regular.

Virginia Rail: arr INWR 3 Apr (CM!), slightly early; 2 WMA 7 Apr; 2 Aurora ERIE 30 Apr; Tillman WMA 3 May.

Sora: arr BOSAC; Tift NP, 2 INWR 16 Apr; Kiantone CHAU 22 Apr; Tillman WMA 6 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr INWR 5 Apr (CM!), early; 9 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high.

Am. Coot: 237, max 267 INWR 29 Mar, 5 Apr (CM).

Sandhill Crane: arr 2 INWR 17 Mar; 2 Hamburg HW 23 Mar; 2 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 8 Apr, 6 May (JBe); Dayton CATT 8 Apr (JM); Kiantone CHAU 14 Apr (JBe); OOWMA 14 Apr; 4 BOSAC, count record high; 1, 1 Tift NP 16 Apr, 11 May (AH, LS); 2 LBSP 16 Apr; 4 Lockport NIAG 21 Apr (CA), returning to same field for at least second year; 2 TWMA 28 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 2, 9 May; 4 GHSP 3 May (CM); Grand Island ERIE 6 May; max 5 TWMA 28 May (PY).

Black-bellied Plover: arr DH 5 May (WW, JeL), only report.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 12 May; 25 Hartland NIAG 15 May; max 94 TWMA Cinnamon Marsh, 59 TWMA Meadville Marsh 16 May (KF), high counts; 45 TWMA 27 May.

Killdeer: arr Shelby ORLE 1 Mar.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 6 BOSAC, count record high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BOSAC; max 11 TWMA 15 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 12 Mar (CC), early; 55 INWR 5 Apr; max 146 TWMA 25 Apr (WW); 75 Elba GENE 29 Apr (KF); good showing.

Willet: BWWT 25 May (JM, CM), only report.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr INWR 18 Mar (MM), early; 52 BOSAC, count record high; 25 Elba GENE 29 Apr; max 50 Hartland NIAG 10 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (DM); Tillman WMA 24 May (JM); only reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr INWR 16 May (KF); 2 BOSMC; 2 BWWT 29 May (JM); only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr TWMA 16 May; 87, 140 INWR 28, 31 May (CM).

Least Sandpiper: arr OOWMA 22 Apr (DG); 300, max 624 TWMA 15, 16 May (CM, WD; KF), record count.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Hartland NIAG 18 May (WD); max 7, 6 TWMA 28, 30 May (PY, WD); only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR, 2 Gasport NIAG 9 Apr; max 11 TWMA 25 Apr; last 2 BOSMC.

Dunlin: arr 2 INWR 9 Apr (CM, CC), early; 23 BOSAC, count record high; max 52 TWMA 16 May (KF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Hartland NIAG 15 May (WD); 2, 8 TWMA 15, 17 May; max 10 OOWMA 17 May (MM); last OOWMA 30 May.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (R1): INWR 24 Mar-7 Apr (CM!, WD!), only third spring record, exceptionally early.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Tillman WMA 11 Mar; max 15 INWR 1 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr Alden 4 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Hartland NIAG 18 May (MM); INWR 27 May (CM).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2, 3 INWR 18, 24 Mar; 16 Oakfield GENE 25 Mar; 18 Lancaster ERIE 28 Mar; max 3051 FNSP 3 Apr (WD); 300 Buffalo NR 6 Apr (WW); 3 Ischua CATT 20 Apr (JR); 11 GHSP 26 May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1): Buffalo NR 26 Apr, 1 May (AH, PY), alt plumage.

Little Gull: 6, 7 Lewiston NR 11, 28 Mar; max 11 FNSP 1 Apr; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 1, 27 Apr.

LAUGHING GULL (R1): DH 9 May (VR), with Ring-billed.

Iceland Gull: 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Mar; LBSP 29 Apr; PB 3 May; 3 Wilson NIAG 4 May; last FMCSP 8 May (BP, CM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: BWWT 2 Mar (KF), unusual inland; Tonawanda NR 9 Mar; max 5 NFSP 25 Mar; DH 8 Apr; Hartland NIAG 22 Apr (WD, BP); 2 PB 25 Apr, 3 May; Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 4 May.

Glaucous Gull: Buffalo NR 4, 8 Mar; WoBSP 1 Apr; 4 BOSAC; 2, 2 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 4 May; last NF 18 May.

Caspian Tern: arr 2 Falconer CHAU, INWR 7 Apr; 115, max 131 PB 28, 29 Apr; 70 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; 67 DH 10 May.

Black Tern: arr 6 INWR 28 Apr; max 24 INWR 3 May (CM); 1, 1 BWWT 17, 26 May; BeSP 22 May (DS).

Com. Tern: arr 3 Buffalo NR 6 Apr (WW); max 240 Buffalo NR 27 Apr; 65 FNSP 29 Apr.

Forster's Tern: arr PB 29 Apr (KF), only report.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Alfred ALLE 14 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Pomfret CHAU 4 May.

E. Screech-Owl: 12 BOSAC, count record high.

Snowy Owl: max 6, 4 NF Airport NIAG 4, 11 Mar (CR); Springville ERIE 15 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: 2, 3, 1 Shelby ORLE 2 Mar, 3 Apr, 29 Apr (CM); max 7, 4 Alexander GENE 10, 20 Mar (DB), 2 thru 28 Apr, last 5 May; 2 N Collins ERIE 10 Mar (AF); Lockport NIAG 15 Mar; 2 OOWMA 18 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: WTSP 12 Mar (BP); BOSAC; ad + 4 yg Watts Flats WMA CHAU 30 Apr (JW, AR), in nest box; only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Buffalo ERIE 10 May; 1, 1 N Buffalo ERIE 15, 19 May; max 3, 1 TWMA 16, 17 May; Clarence ERIE 17 May; Williamsville ERIE 26 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr Waterport ORLE 2 May (TK); Great Valley CATT 19-24 May (BS); N Buffalo ERIE 24 May (PY).

Chimney Swift: arr 7 Buffalo ERIE 16 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Orchard Park ERIE, Alfred ALLE 2 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: LBSP Mar thru Apr; reported from 10 loc in May; good showing for recent years.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Buffalo ERIE 28 Mar.

Pileated Woodpecker: 57 BOSAC, count record high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BOSMC, only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr FLC 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Wilson NIAG 9 May (BP); GHSP 19 May; Williamsville ERIE 22 May; Amherst ERIE 22 May; only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr BOSMC; 3 other reports.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Stockton CHAU, OOWMA 13 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Tiftt NP, TWMA 14 May; 107 BOSMC, count record high.

Least Flycatcher: arr FLC 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Alden ERIE 15 Mar (JM).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 Lancaster ERIE, FLC, Hamburg ERIE 1 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Jamestown CHAU 29 Apr.

N. Shrike: five rep Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr FLC, Lancaster ERIE 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 10 BOSAC.

Warbling Vireo: arr Alexander GENE 27 Apr; 430 BOSMC, count record high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Williamsville ERIE, Stockton CHAU 13 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Tiftt NP 3 May.

Com. Raven: Aurora ERIE 11 Mar; 1-2 Tonawanda NR 23 Mar – 9 May (WW, MG); Hamburg HW 9 Apr; Somerset NIAG 11 Apr (JFI); E Aurora ERIE 23 Apr; 2 Eagle WYOM 6 May; only reports outside ALLE, CATT, CHAU besides BOS counts; continues to increase.

Purple Martin: arr Eden ERIE 8 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Amherst ERIE 9 Mar; max 500 INWR 3 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 NF 11 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 5 BOSAC.

Cliff Swallow: arr BOSAC.

Barn Swallow: arr TWMA 4 Apr.

Brown Creeper: max 19 FLC 25 Mar (RS), impressive count during heat wave.

House Wren: arr 3 BOSAC, count record high.

Winter Wren: arr FLC 19 Mar; Attica WYOM 20 Mar.

Marsh Wren: TWMA 18 Mar (HS); BuSP 12 Apr (JFe); 2 INWR 22 Apr; difficult to separate migrant from possible winterers this year.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 AmSP 4 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr BOSAC.

E. Bluebird: 320 BOSAC, count record high

Veery: arr Tiftt NP, FLC 1 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Tonawanda ERIE 14 May; 4 other rep.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 2 May.

Hermitt Thrush: arr DLSP 12 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr E Aurora ERIE 26 Apr.

Gray Catbird: Aurora ERIE 10 Mar; Tiftt NP 17 Mar; INWR 14, 28 Apr; 16 BOSAC, count record high; more in Mar and Apr than usual; 1268 BOSMC, count record high.

N. Mockingbird: increasing away from traditional lake plain areas; 54 BOSMC, count record high.

Brown Thrasher: arr 3 Tiftt NP, 2 BWWT, INWR 14 Apr; 40 BOSAC, count record high.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 Attica WYOM 17 Mar; 55, max 70 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 12 May; last TWMA 27 May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 BOSAC; last Wilson NIAG 11 May (WD), breeding plumage male, late.

Snow Bunting: no reports.

Ovenbird: arr Tiftt NP 25 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr BOSAC; FLC 19 Apr (CC, JFe), rare in migration.

N. Waterthrush: arr Elma ERIE 19 Apr; FLC 20 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr AmSP 2 May (RS, JM); BeSP 3 May (DS); only reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Tiftt NP, FLC, Hamburg ERIE 1 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG, AmSP 1 May; INWR 14 May; Tonawanda Ind. Res GENE 17 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (BP, WD), early.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr TWMA 4-17 May (CM), regular breeding loc; Tiftt NP 12 May (DS).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Apr (BP).

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr FLC 2 May; 2, 1 Wilson NIAG 3, 6 May; NFSP 3 May; FMCSP 8 May; E Aurora ERIE 10 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr FLC 22 Apr (RS), early.

Connecticut Warbler: Aurora ERIE 16 – 19 May (LH), rare in spring.

Mourning Warbler: arr FMCSP 6 May (WD), early.

Com. Yellowthroat: Sanborn NIAG BOSAC, early or wintered; 3 INWR 28 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr Busti CHAU 2 May.

Am. Redstart: arr FLC, 2 Bethany GENE, 2 Oakfield GENE 2 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FLC 1 May; max 8 Wilson & Porter NIAG 13 May (WD, BP).
Cerulean Warbler: arr 7 INWR 5 May; Lyndonville ORLE 16 May; Somerset NIAG 18 May; Alma ALLE 24 May; last 3 are only reports away from INWR & vicinity.
N. Parula: arr 2 Bethany GENE, FLC 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Hamburg ERIE 1 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG, Como Lake CP ERIE 7 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr AmSP 30 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr BuSP 20 Apr (WW).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 FLC, 2 AmSP, Tift NP 2 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr FLC 3 May; 205 BOSMC, count record high.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 2 FLC, AmSP, Lancaster ERIE 1 May.
Palm Warbler: arr BOSAC; last GHSP 19 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Mar (BM); 3 Wales ERIE 27 Mar; 43 BOSAC, count record high; still increasing throughout.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: GHSP 12 Mar; 3 INWR 18 Mar; Ward ALLE 20 Mar; 241 BOSAC, count record high; max 65 FLC 1 May.
Yellow-throated Warbler: arr FLC 25 Mar-3 Apr (RS! Mob), very early; 2 AISP BOSAC (TB), regular loc; FLC 9 May (AH), uncertain if same bird as earlier.
Prairie Warbler: arr Ashford CATT 5 May; 4 Eagle WYOM 6 May; BOSMC, count record high; max 7 Yorkshire CATT 28 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 16 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr AmSP 2 May (NY).
Wilson's Warbler: arr Tift NP 6 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr BOSMC, only report.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Aurora ERIE 4 Mar; Bethany GENE 10 Mar; 133 BOSAC, count record high.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 4 BMAC 28 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr OOWMA 18 Mar (CC); Buffalo ERIE 19 Mar, earlier than usual.
Clay-colored Sparrow: pr Portland CHAU 19 May thru (CHa); 2 LBSP 22 May (CM).

Field Sparrow: arr Alden ERIE 15 Mar; 257 BOSAC, count record high.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 2 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; 13 BOSAC; reported from six other loc.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Orchard Park ERIE 29 Mar; 367 BOSAC, count record high.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 Artpark SP NIAG 1-18 May; Carlton Hill MUA 17 May; 5 Royalton NIAG 21 May (CM); Newstead ERIE 24 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 Tift NP, Porter NIAG 20 Mar; max 9 Tift NP 25 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tift NP 1 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 Tillman WMA 14 Mar; 2 BWWT 17 Mar; INWR 17 Mar; either wintering or early spring arrivals; 329 BOSAC, count record high.
White-throated Sparrow: last Tift NP 30 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: Bethany GENE 24 Mar; Yates ORLE 31 Mar; arr in numbers late Apr; vacated Reg by mid-May, earlier than usual.
Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 Birdsall ALLE BOSAC (SP!), Reg record early & 2nd count record; next reports 2 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr male N Clymer CHAU 24 Apr (AB).
Indigo Bunting: arr Alden ERIE, FLC 4 May.
Bobolink: arr 2 Yates ORLE, Lancaster ERIE 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 4 Tillman WMA, INWR 11 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr Aurora ERIE 2 Mar; 1000 TWMA 18 Mar (R&DD); 250 Alabama GENE 12 Mar; 400, 387 INWR 2, 5 Apr (CM); 140 BuSP 8 May; last BOSMC.
Orchard Oriole: arr N Buffalo 2 May; more reports than usual, increasing.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Portland CHAU 30 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: FLC 23 Mar (JFe, CC); 2 WTSP 8 Apr (WD, BP); 10 Wilson NIAG (WD) 1 May; max 150 Golden Hill SF CATT 15 May (JR), impressive count, ph; 15, 4 Wilson NIAG 13, 18 May (WD, MM).
Com. Redpoll: Wilson NIAG 14 Mar; 40 GHSP 18 Mar (WD); only reports.
Pine Siskin: small numbers in Mar, Apr; more birds and rep in May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 12 May.
Evening Grosbeak: no reports.