

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580

rspahn@prodigy.net

As usual, the weather played a significant role this spring. A winter of little snowfall and all three months averaging $> 5^{\circ}$ F above normal was followed by the warmest March on record, 3.5° above the previous record set in 1945. The week of the 15th to 22nd was especially warm with days in the 80s. Temperatures averaged 47.3° , 13.0° above normal, with precipitation 1.28", 1.22" below normal and snowfall only 4.7", 11.6" below average. April returned to near normal, but this resulted in the first time on record with a year's April averaging colder than its March, 45.8° , 0.5° below normal. Precipitation for April was 3.05", 0.32" above normal, but there was only one measurable snowfall of 2.8" on the 22nd-23rd. A single record low recorded on 29 April was the first local record low since July 2009! May jumped right back to warm and dry, especially the latter half. Temperatures averaged 63.0° , 6.0° above normal, and precipitation 1.38" (1.03" of that in the first nine days), 1.49" below normal. This meteorological spring, these three months, was the warmest on record at 52.1° , topping the 51.4° in 1921. The source of the data helpfully added that an unusual spring like this occurs every 30-50 years and is not indicative of anything long term. However, such a spring is often followed by above average summer temperatures unless the spring has experienced substantial rainfall.

As might be expected, strange weather has its effects on birds and birding. All of the March arrival dates recorded were in the first quartile of their historical arrival date distributions, though only five were record early—Golden Eagle, Common Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, N. Rough-winged Swallow, and Pine Warbler. But there was no wholesale move to early arrival of normal April species; light level is still the major driver and local weather a short term modifier. Between the light winter and warm March, the trend to waterfowl arriving and passing on earlier was exaggerated; they were scarce by April and few lingered into May. Many of our more interesting Regional waterfowl records are now from the Northern Montezuma WMA (NMWMA, formerly noted as Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex) in southern Wayne County in the Town of Savannah rather than from Lake Ontario. With the cooler April, we still had six record early arrivals scattered across the checklist—Least Bittern (a tie), Sora, Warbling Vireo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole (a tie). But there were eight fewer warbler species seen in April compared with last year. However, even this may be misleading, as thirteen species, many of them warblers and flycatchers, arrived just one day later on 1 May. A passing front and burst of warmth on 15-16 April, after a couple of cold weeks, brought the biggest hawk surge of the spring plus a number of other interesting records. May brought arrivals back to dates mostly typical of recent years.

Moving to the checklist, we start with the waterfowl. Many of the peak counts and late records are from the NMWMA. However, this year our peak Regional Snow Goose counts were from further west, with even bigger counts more northwest yet into Region 1 near the south shore of Lake Ontario. Ross's Goose was reported twice, but there were no Greater White-fronted Goose reports from the Region. We had approximately 56 Cackling Geese reported at many sites across the Region in March, none afterward. No Brant were reported. Tundra Swan numbers were good this spring, and both Mute and Trumpeter Swans continue as breeders in similar numbers to recent years, though there have been no reports of the Trumpeter Swan pair on Atlantic Avenue where they have hatched young for several years. Puddle duck peak counts were generally unimpressive. Northern Shoveler present at the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) in Perinton into May and a lone Eurasian Wigeon in the NMWMA were highlights. Among the diving ducks, many of the peak counts came in the short 9-10 March period at either Conesus Lake or on Sodus Bay at Sodus Point. King Eiders lingered at both the mouth of the Genesee River and at the outlet of Sodus Bay. The Hamlin Beach lakewatch was only kept sporadically this spring, but even so passing numbers seemed low most of the time. The only peak numbers there for the season were for Red-breasted Merganser and the usual loons and grebes, and the maxima for all of these were low. An Eared Grebe present for a week was a highlight there. There were good Double-crested Cormorant counts in both April and May, and a lone **American White Pelican** was seen from the Frisbee Hill Road location of the Braddock Bay hawkwatch on 24 May.

Among the waders, there were several very early American Bittern reports in March and a record early Least Bittern in mid April. Great Egret also arrived early, and birds were still being seen past the end of the season in areas suggesting potential breeding. A **Snowy Egret** found in the HANA on 30 April stayed until 7 May to the delight of many. Black Vulture continues to increase its presence in the Region. A record high 18 were recorded at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch plus at least four others elsewhere in the Region. Turkey Vulture numbers, too, remained high, passing the hawkwatch. An unusual sighting accompanying a massive movement on 16 April was a nearly all white Turkey Vulture. Amazingly, a later posting to the geneseebirds list revealed that this bird had been seen very close to one hour earlier near Lakeside Beach SP 25 miles west of Braddock Bay—a chance for a measure of the rate of movement.

The official counter at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch was again Luke Tiller. There was no way to match last year's total, but it still was an exciting spring there. The warm March made for a good start, with 10,807 raptors tallied (though 8,638 of these were Turkey Vultures) and two Golden Eagles record early on 2 March. After an extended cool start to April, an approaching front on 15-16 April brought a huge movement of birds on the latter day. On that day **34,243 Broad-winged Hawks** were tallied, only three days after the first of the season had arrived. Many raptor species were counted at their peak counts for the season on that day. On the low side, very few Northern Goshawks and no Swainson's Hawk were noted for the season. But on 24 May an **adult**

Mississippi Kite passed and a new record high of 450 Bald Eagles was totaled for the season. The accompanying table summarizes the hawkwatch data using numbers from the www.hawkcount.org website.

The Peregrine Falcons nesting in downtown Rochester again provided a wild show this spring. It ranged from injury and rehab and relocation of the old female to new birds arriving, battles between rival females ending with a fatality by collision with a car during one battle, and finally a bit later in the season a new pair in the nest box on eggs. The best way to review the whole story is to visit the rfaalconcam.com website and read the posts.

The marsh birds and relatives usually net few reports, but Common Gallinule in late March and Sora in early April were record early, tempered a bit by such designations being judgment calls for species that probably winter annually in small numbers. Sandhill Crane was also spotted at a record early date near the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC), and at least 63 more were totaled for the season. By season's end, the Carncross Road pair had two colts feeding with them, and other birds were also back in the Taylor Marsh area in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County; breeding is not yet confirmed there.

Shorebirds presented a disappointing picture for the Region. Only short distances east and west of us in the Montezuma NWR and the Iroquois/Oak Orchard/Tonawanda complex vicinities, some really special species and good high counts were reported. Yet in this Region habitat was poor except along the Lake Ontario shore, at HANA, and briefly at puddles in fields after scarce rains. Nearly all of the expected species were reported, but arrival dates were normal and counts were LOW. American Golden-Plover in mid April, two "Western" Willets at Sodus Point, a Sanderling (often missed in spring), and a Red-necked Phalarope at HANA were the only really special records. No Whimbrel or Wilson's Phalarope reports were received.

Gulls and terns joined the set of families with lackluster showings. There is again the effect of no consistent lakewatch, but beyond that there were few birds of interest. No Little Gull was reported and the only Black Terns, excepting two at Sodus Point one day, were in the sites in the NMWMA in the far southeast corner of the Region. Gull and tern highlights were an Iceland Gull to 1 May, Lesser Black-backed Gull each month (now expected), and a peak count of 185 Caspian Terns. For most of the season even Great Black-backed Gull was relatively scarce.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, we start with Eurasian Collared-Dove. After several years of regular sightings in the Hamlin/Parma area west of Rochester, and even some signs of likely breeding, the last report for this season was a single bird on 21 March. Another of the rarities picked out by Luke Tiller at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch was a passing **White-winged Dove** on 24 May, a third Regional record. After the big invasion this winter we were down to only two Snowy Owl reports this season, the last on 19 March. The passage of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls was again monitored with roost counts in the area now called "Owl Woods" along Manitou Beach Road on the west side of Braddock Bay. Searchers from Braddock Bay Raptor Research and others conducted daily searches on all but five days from 18 February to 6 May. GPS

coordinates were recorded for the positions of the roosting birds and a summary map and report will be produced by Jim Adams. Numbers this year were low, with only 10 Long-eared Owls and 16 Northern Saw-whets. [Data provided by Jim Adams.]

Common Nighthawk numbers were again low. Many of the reports were again by Kevin Griffith from the Long Pond area in Greece, with birds present there from 5 May to well into June but with a maximum of only 21 individuals on 10 May. Eastern Whip-poor-will was again found in the fields and brush near the main hawk banding blind west of Manitou Beach Road, with Dave Tetlow reporting the first two on 19 April and a maximum of nine on 4 May. Others were found in the same date range farther west along the Lake Ontario Parkway, with another good count of five at Hamlin Beach SP heard by Kurt Fox also on 4 May.

Moving to the passerines, the arrival dates for 63 species are listed in the Arrival Date Tables in this issue of the Kingbird. Of these, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole set or tied record early dates. Again, some of these carry the caveat that the species does overwinter at times, so the dates involve judgment calls based on numbers and locations. At the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's Kaiser Manitou banding station, the official season started off with a huge banding day on 14 April. Selected banding maxima and totals will be included in the data section.

Among the flycatchers, the total of at least five different Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was good for recent years. Most species arrived at relatively early dates and were reported or banded in average to a bit below numbers. As usual, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher peak was in June. This often occurs also for Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, though not this year, and good numbers for some of the warblers and vireos often also occur well into June. Only a lone White-eyed Vireo, seen by several in the Church Trail area in Greece, was reported. The last Northern Shrike report for the season was on 13 April.

A few of the passerines often stage very large movements along the Lake Ontario shore, and tallies are captured at the hawkwatch or by individuals elsewhere. This year the maxima for Blue Jay, American Crow, and even American Robin were low. Two other interesting observations from this part of the list are: the continued presence of Fish Crow along the Genesee River in the Charlotte area of Rochester and west into the nearby Town of Greece not far from the wintering site of the past two years (breeding confirmation is still awaited); and Common Raven observed and photographed by Brad Carlson and others through the point of fledging three young in Mendon Ponds Park—a first confirmed nesting in Monroe County in modern times (though it is virtually certain they bred historically well into the 1800s).

Continuing, swallows arrived on the early side, but there were no really big movements counted and reported. As we work through the passerines, my general impression was of good bursts of migrants in groups appropriate to various dates, but often with these very local. There were way too many times

with little song and the woods empty, or birds in one woodlot and the one next door or across the street quiet. Kinglets were all over on a few days, but their banding totals were not impressive. Most thrush numbers were low, especially Gray-cheeked, unless you hit just the right place at the right time. There was just one report of Bohemian Waxwing for the season, but it was a nice flock of 50 along the Wayne County shore of Lake Ontario on 17 March. The last of the relatively scarce winter-visitant field birds were Snow Bunting on 18 March and Lapland Longspur on 13 April.

The warbler list is good at 34 species reported. Of the regulars, only Kentucky, Yellow-throated, and Yellow-breasted Chat were missed locally this season. Among the species of special interest we had reports of 10 Golden-winged Warblers from 2-19 May; nine Orange-crowned Warblers from 3-23 May; a "Lawrence's" Warbler on 2 and 6 May and again in June in Oatka Creek Park; Prothonotary Warbler at four sites, including breeding again along Armitage Road on the Wayne/Seneca County border; three reports of Worm-eating Warbler; a lone report of Connecticut Warbler; and Cerulean Warbler well reported from known breeding sites. The species section below will include some examples of numbers for some other species in the form of banding totals and a few field counts.

Among the sparrows, the last American Tree Sparrow was reported from Braddock Bay on 3 May. There was a total of 15 Clay-colored Sparrows reported from 10 locations, a good showing for this Region. Again, no Henslow's Sparrow was reported. There was a big influx of migrants on 1 May that included at least 13 passerine arrivals and an impressive fallout of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows at local sites mainly near the lakeshore. Otherwise, sparrow counts and numbers banded for the season were relatively low. On the rarity end, the Lark Sparrow in the Town of Kendall, Orleans County, continued at a feeder until 5 March. There was one rarity among the blackbirds, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Braddock Bay on 12 May. Beyond that, there were a few decent tallies of blackbirds mainly with the big migrant push on 15-16 April. With Rusty Blackbird being a species of concern, 1,740 on 12 April at the west spit of Braddock Bay is encouraging. Finally, reflecting the nearly total absence of winter finches this winter, spring brought only isolated sightings or brief pulses of finch migrants. Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were reported, but only the redpolls and siskins in numbers greater than four.

For the season approximately 258 species were reported. Species totals for March and April were well above the 10-year averages, for May right on average. Year to date at the end of the season is also matching the 10-year average.

Pulling together quarterly reports such as this provides an opportunity to reflect upon the records gathering business. This season in this Region I downloaded just under 60,000 records from eBird; 1 record = 1 species on a list from one date and location. Some fraction of these are overlaps from several individuals separately reporting their own lists from a joint field trip, but that number is not a large percentage. In addition, there were nearly 400 posts to

geneseebirds ranging from reports of single birds to full lists of varying length (not including in this count posts that were common to eBird data) and a few other reports sent directly to me or through the RBA. Records entered into eBird are the easiest to scan through and assemble for a report like this. They still lack some for consistency in screening, and there are issues around definition of specific sites, especially for longer traveling counts reported as one “trip”. To me this still remains the tool of choice for generating an accessible database of records, and there exists now an increasingly useful suite of tools for analyzing and using this data. However, masses of numbers in themselves are not science and can in fact lead to a situation of chaos unless somehow analyzed and organized toward some end. See some interesting thoughts by Charlton Ogburn, Jr., “The Meaning of Birds,” The Bird Watchers Anthology, ed. Roger Tory Peterson, (Bonanza Books: New York, 1957), pp15-16. Lost in the simple entry of lists into databases are the comments and thoughts that often accompanied the personal exchange of records between observers and records committees or authors of seasonal summaries.

Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	2 Mar	4	6 Apr	18
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	2076	28 Mar	20119
Osprey	22 Mar	54	3 May	234
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	60	4 May	450
N. Harrier	1 Mar	54	16 Apr	355
Sharp-sh. Hawk	7 Mar	1611	16 Apr	3382
Cooper's Hawk	1 Mar	46	16 Apr	374
N. Goshawk	7 Mar	3	14 Apr	9
Red-shld Hawk	6 Mar	135	11 Mar	598
Broad-winged Hawk	13 Apr	34243	16 Apr	51375
Red-tailed Hawk	2 Mar	163	21 Mar	2249
Rough-legged Hawk	2 Mar	12	16 Apr, 18 Mar	72
Golden Eagle	2 Mar	11	16 Apr	43
Am. Kestrel	8 Mar	43	16 Apr	201
Merlin	7 Mar	4	15 Apr	30
Peregrine Falcon	11 Mar	5	4 May	20
Mississippi Kite	24 May	1	24 May	1
Total including unidentified raptors:				79, 530

CONTRIBUTORS

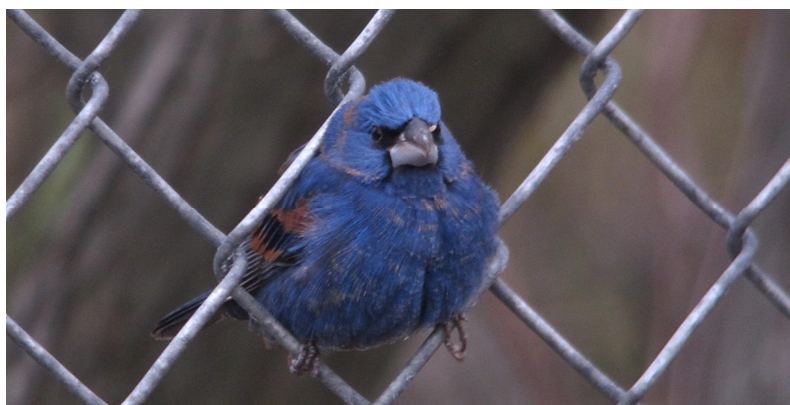
Jim Adams, Richard Ashworth, BBBO (Elizabeth Brooks), Jim Baily, Catherine Ballard, Jessie Barry, Jim & Liz Barry, John Bateman, Bob Beal, Steven Benedict & Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, Richard Bishopp, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Mathew Brincka, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady (BCd), Brad Carlson (BCI), Denis & Judy Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Jill Church, Bob Cirillo, Kelly Close, Anthony Collerton, Clyde Comstock, Don Cowley, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Peter Debes, Laurie Dirx, Jon Dombrowski, Steve Donohue, Cricket Fegan, Mike Flaherty, Daena Ford, Kurt Fox, Richard Fried, Jim Fry,

PHOTO GALLERY

Spring 2012



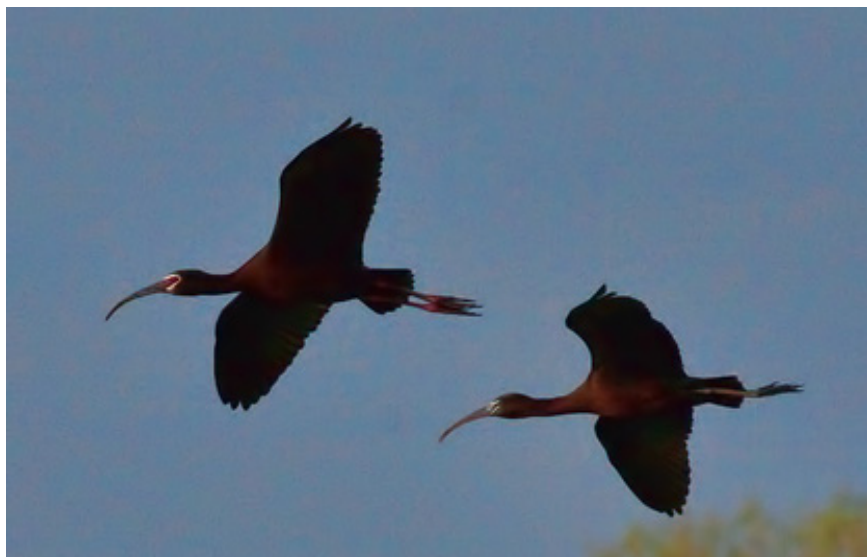
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Leyden, *Lewis*, 5 Mar 12, © Corey Finger. This bird, NY's second documented record pending review by NYSARC, is discussed in this issue in an article on pp. 212-214, and in the *Highlights of the Season* and the Region 6 spring report.



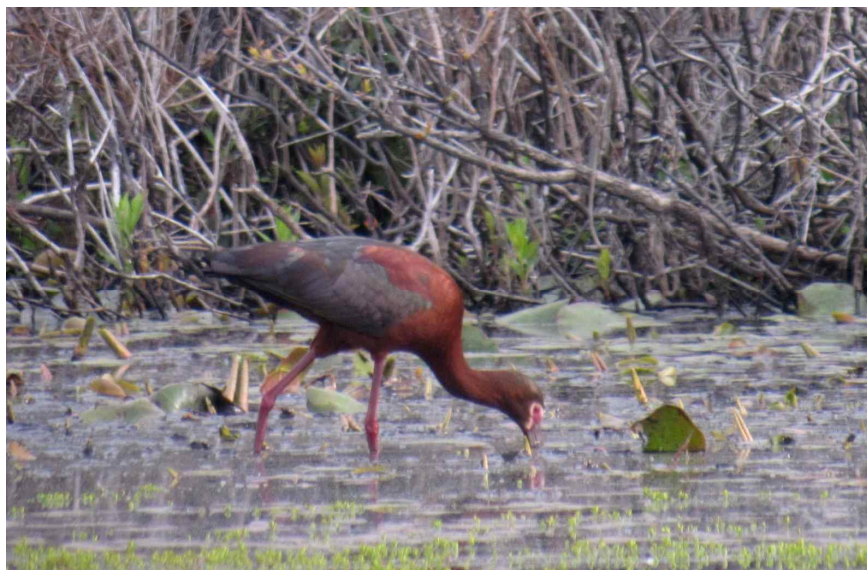
This Indigo Bunting (top: Gilgo, *Suffolk*, 24 Apr 12, © Derek Rogers) and Blue Grosbeak (Gilgo, *Suffolk*, 26 Apr 12, © S. S. Mitra) were part of a small fallout of Neotropical migrants along the outer coast of Long Island during late April.



Lawrence's Warbler, Oatka Creek Park, *Monroe*, 6 May 12 © Jim Adams.



White-faced Ibis, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*. 24 Apr 12, © Andrew Baksh. For reasons that remain unclear, this primarily western North American species has been occurring with remarkable frequency at east coast sites, such as Jamaica Bay.



White-faced Ibis, Scoy Pond, East Hampton, *Suffolk*, 13 May 12, © S. S. Mitra. Found at the other end of Long Island, less than 100 miles east of the Jamaica Bay bird, this bird represented a long-awaited first record for intensively birded Suffolk County.



First-summer Arctic Tern, ca. 78 miles SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, 26 May 12, © Angus Wilson. Although presumably regular in NYS' offshore waters, Arctic Terns have rarely been documented in this context.



Adult Arctic Terns, Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 28 May 12, © Michael McBrien. An unusual number of adult birds was observed this spring during late May.

Andy Garland, Jeff Gerbracht, Craig Gittleman, David Gordon, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, William Gruenbaum, Judy & Lew Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Robert Haggett, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Wesley Hochachka, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Tom Klatzbach, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Tom MacDonald, Jim Maley, Cindy Marino, David Marsh, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Jim & Martha Miller, Lynn & Glenn Miller, Randi Minetor, Frank Morehouse, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Jim Mott, Andy Musgrove, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Dave Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Sue O'Neill, Joseph Osiovitch, Joel Paige, Andrea Patterson, Tim Phillips, Norma Platt, Tom & Nancy Poeth, Jay Powell, Dave Prill, Bill Purcell, J. Rauch, RBA Field Trips, Dick & Dorothy Rosche, Michele Rosenbaum, Peggy Rowe, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jennifer Rycenga, Michael Scheibel, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattey, Judy Slein, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Maris Stager, Al & Di Stout, Kimberly Sucy, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Gerry Teal, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow (DT), Mike & Joann Tetlow, Dick & Mary Jane Thomas, Luke Tiller, Don & Donna Traver, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, John Waud, Dave Wheeler, Julie White, Kinsley Whittum, Brenda Williamson, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, George Yasenchak, Peter Yoerg, Martha Zettel. [In addition there were nearly 200 other contributors to eBird.]

ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicates banded this season, usually at BBBO's Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BB-WS – West Spit of Braddock Bay; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LSP – Letchworth SP; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, T of Savannah, WAYN; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; R – City of Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; Spt – Sodus Point, WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 6,700 TCEA 8 Mar (MW); 500 Honeoye Falls 11 Mar (BCI); last 1 N Wolcott WAYN 3 May.

Ross's Goose: arr Honeoye Falls 1 Mar (BCI); H 11 Mar (AGu).

Brant: no reports.

Cackling Goose: total approx 56 sev loc Mar, none after; max 10 BB 7 Mar (LT, mob).

Mute Swan: breeding still out of control and excessive.

Trumpeter Swan: mainly in the NMWMA, breeding typical of past several yrs; *intro.*

Tundra Swan: max 361 BB 7 Mar (LT, *et al*), last White Brook Nature Center, Perinton 21 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1m MAC 7 Apr (MB), only report.

Am. Wigeon: max 537 Marten Tract, NMWMA 10 Mar (IBA).

Am. Black Duck: max 48 Marten Tract, NMWMA 12 Mar (IBA), very low.

Mallard: max 234 Marten Tract, NMWMA 3 Mar (IBA), very low.

N. Shoveler: last 1 HANA thru 23 May.

N. Pintail: max 475 NMWMA 10 Mar (IBA); last 3 Morgan Rd NMWMA 5 May.

Canvasback: max 180 SB 10 Mar; last 1 SB 23 Apr.

Redhead: max 7000 CL 9 Mar (MW); last 2 Buck Pond, T Greece 17 May (GL).

Ring-necked Duck: max 2500 CL 9 Mar (MW); last 4 Conesus Inlet 10 May.

Greater Scaup: max 3000 SPt 10 Mar (MT); last 2 HB 16 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 350 SPt 10 Mar (MT).
King Eider: 1 f Summerville Pier 2 Mar (BCI); 3 f SPt 10 Mar (MT); last 1 f SPt 23 Apr (W&MR).
Long-tailed Duck: max 900 SPt 10 Mar (MT); last HB 28 May.
Bufflehead: max 54 BB-WS 16 Apr; last 2 NMWMA 14 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last 2 HB 15 May.
Barrow's Goldeneye: no reports.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 1127 HB 25 Apr, low.
Ruddy Duck: 25 Buck Pond, T Greece (GL), good count; last LSP 20 May.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 15+ Nations Rd (MW), high count for recent years.
Red-throated Loon: last 1 HB 23 May, low numbers this spring.
Com. Loon: max 233 HB 20 Apr, low.
Horned Grebe: max 57 HBSP 14 Apr, low; last 2 CL 8 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 39 HBSP 14 Apr, very low; last 1 HB 4 May.
EARED GREBE (R2): 1 HB 8-15 May (AGu, BCI, DD).
Double-crested Cormorant: 320 SPt 8 May, good count; max 467 HB 19 Apr (AGu).
AM WHITE PELICAN (R2): 1 Frisbee Hill 24 May (LT, *et al*).
Am. Bittern: arr Marten Tract, NMWMA 20 Mar (W&MR), very early; 1-3 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 23-30 Mar (W&MR), early.
Least Bittern: arr BB-WS 20 Apr (DT), Reg record early.
Great Egret: arr Brighton 26 Mar (RS), early; 1-8 HANA 20 Apr thru (mob), breeding nearby?
SNOWY EGRET (R2): HANA 30 Apr-7 May (JPo, mob, ph).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 G 3 Apr (DT).
Black Vulture: total 18 passing hawkwatch 2 Mar thru; 1 Webster 4 Mar (M&JT); 1 Irondequoit 8 Mar (M&JT); 1 Fairport 24 May (MT).
Turkey Vulture: see hawkwatch table; mostly white individual from Lakeside Beach SP in Region 1 to BB in about 1 hr (25 miles) 16 Apr (PY, mob), *intro*.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BB 22 Mar (LT), early; 2 Parma 4 Apr thru, at nest on cell tower.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 ad Frisbee Hill, G 28 May (LT, *et al*).

Bald Eagle: total 450 BB season (LT, *et al*), record high.
N. Goshawk: only 7 rep all season away from Braddock Bay, low.
Red-shouldered Hawk: pr on nest WAYN 9 Mar until hidden by leaves in May (J&MM), rare nest find for county.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 9 BB 13 Apr (LT, *et al*); max 34,243 BB 16 Apr, very high single day count.
Rough-legged Hawk: last 10 BB 14 May; low number this spring.
Golden Eagle: arr 2 BB 2 Mar (LT, *et al*), Reg record early; last 1 ad G 25 May (JSK), late.
Merlin: return Genesee 7 Apr Mar (JK), back in vicinity of last year's nesting; no continued reporting of nesting progress this spring from either Rochester or Genesee.
Peregrine Falcon: another year of strange events around nesting in downtown Rochester, see posts on the rfalconcam website.
Sora: arr Marten Tract, NMWMA 7 Apr (DNi), Reg record early.
Com. Gallinule: arr Sandhill Crane Unit, NMWMA 28 Mar (DD), Reg record early.
Sandhill Crane: arr MAC 2 Mar (MB), Reg record early; 2 ad & 2 colts Carncross Rd, S May (sev); 2 Taylor Marsh, T Richmond ONTA 5 Apr (LBr), likely breeding area; total 63+ reports for the season at several sites.
Black-bellied Plover: HB 26 Apr (RS), early.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 14 H 13 Apr (DT), early.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 ICW & Badgerow P 14 Apr (CBa), early.
"Western" Willet: 2 SPt 8 May (DT, LL, sev), photos.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 16 Apr (AGu, RS); few reports.
Whimbrel: no reports.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 SPt 23 May.
Sanderling: arr 3 SPt 18 May (LL), only report, sometimes missed in spring.
Least Sandpiper: max 120 S 19 May (JMcG, LS), low max.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr K 13 May; no large counts this spring.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1 Hemlock Lake 13 May (KC).
Dunlin: arr HB 15 Apr (BCI, DD); max 70 HB 27 May (DT).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr HP 9 May (DT).
Wilson's Snipe: arr BB 7 Mar; max 42 Nations Rd 2 May (MW).
Am. Woodcock: arr T Ontario WAYN 1 Mar (CF).
Wilson's Phalarope: no reports.
Red-necked Phalarope: HANA 8 May (JPo, sev), only report.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 Summerville pier 25 Mar, late.

Iceland Gull: last 1 HB 1 May (AGu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 3 rep each month, all singles.

Glaucous Gull: last Broadway Rd T N Wolcott WAYN 21 Apr.

Caspian Tern: arr 1-2 sev loc 8 Apr; max 185 Spt 5 May (KFO).

Black Tern: arr 2 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 3 May; max 58 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 18 May (BCI); 2 Spt 5 May (KFO), only Reg report away from NMWMA.

Com. Tern: arr 2 BB 15 Apr.

Forster's Tern: arr HB 26 Apr.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: 1 Hamlin 21 Mar, only report.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 1 BB 24 May (LT), 3rd Reg record.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Scottsville 7 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 Caledonia 4 May (MW).

Snowy Owl: 1 Kendall 11 Mar (TM); last Henrietta 19 Mar (M&JT, et al), only reports.

Long-eared Owl: total 10 Manitou 18 Feb-6 May, tallied by BBRR searchers & others and mapped by JAd, *intro*.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 16 Manitou 18 Feb-6 May, tallied by BBRR searchers & other and mapped by JAd, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: arr G 5 May; max 21 G 19 May (KG), low.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M 19 Apr (DT), main hawk blind area; max 9 M 4 May (DT); 5 HB 4 May (KFO).

Chimney Swift: arr Geneseo 18 Apr (JK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr South Conesus LIVI 2 May; arr HP 2 May (DT); total b 39 M 13-28 May (BBBO), low.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Burger P, Greece 13 May (LT, et al); 1b M 16 May (BBBO); HB 21 May (RSp); Spring Farm WAYN 22 May (CJ, et al); Cranberry Pond Trail, Greece 25 May (MT); good number of reports.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1b M 20 May; max b 11 M 21 May, the peak for the season, though 13 were banded on 2 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr LSP-East 12 May (KH).

“Traill's” Flycatcher: arr 1b M 8 May; max b 35 M 21 May; total b 163 M 8 May-5 Jun.

E. Phoebe: arr BB-WS 8 Mar (DT), early.

E. Kingbird: arr 1 TCEA 25 Apr (MW), early.

The Kingbird 2012 September; 62 (3)

N. Shrike: last BB 13 Apr (GL).

White-eyed Vireo: Church Trail, Greece 21 May (RS, DSh, et al), only report.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr HB 15 Apr (DT), early.

Warbling Vireo: arr 2 HANA 20 Apr (JP), Reg record early.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Canadice 4 May (KK), early.

Red-eyed Vireo: total b 75 M 10 May-3 Jun.

Blue Jay: max 1491 HB 9 May (AGu), low max.

Fish Crow: 1- 3 sev loc thru, mainly in the Charlotte area of Rochester and in nearby Greece.

Com. Raven: pr nesting MP 6 Mar thru (BCI, sev), 1st MONR nesting in modern times, fledged 3 yg, photos BCL, *intro*.

Tree Swallow: arr HP 2 Mar (DT), early; max 329 M 15 Apr, low max.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 1 BB 12 Mar (MT, LT, DD), Reg record early; TCEA 29 Mar (MW), earliest other than this year's record.

Barn Swallow: arr S 22 Mar (GY), early.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 8 M 22 Mar – 20 May, very low.

Brown Creeper: max b 36 14 Apr.

House Wren: arr South Conesus LIVI 9 Apr (KC), early.

Sedge Wren: no reports.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 2 HB 14 Apr (JeB,CW).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max b 164 M 14 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 M 1 Apr (CG); max b 73 M 22 Apr; total b 437 M 7 Apr-16 May; last 1b M 16 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr W 13 May; total b 27 M 19-29 May, very low.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: total b 5 M 22-28 May, very low.

Swainson's Thrush: max b 24 M 22 May; total b 108 M 8-31 May.

Hermit Thrush: total b 73 M 14 Apr - 14 May.

Am. Robin: max 1340 BB-WS 8 Mar (DT).

Gray Catbird: total b 232 M 4 May - 5 Jun.

Am. Pipit: max 200 Leicester 24 Mar (MW); 140 H 16 May (DT), good number for date.

Bohemian Waxwing: 50 Broadway Rd N Wolcott WAYN (W&MR), only report.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last HB 13 Apr.

Snow Bunting: last 1 BB – West Spit 28 Mar.

Worm-eating Warbler: Huckleberry Island, Greece 26 Apr (DT); 1b M 1 May (BBBO); ICW 1 May (GL).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LSP 29 Apr (KH), late 1st rep.

N. Waterthrush: 1b M 22 Apr; total b 62 M 22 Apr-28 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: 8 rep of 10 ind sev loc 2-19 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Oatka Creek P 1 May (JAd).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Oatka Creek P 2, 6 May (JAd, ph), seen again in June.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): 1-3 Armitage Rd, S 5 thru (mob), same area where breeding last yr; Firehouse Woods, Greece 13 May (BB); HANA 14 May (JeB,CW); Van Dyne Spoor NMWMA 18 May (R&SSp).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Nations R, Geneseo 29 Apr (JK), early.

Orange-crowned Warbler: total 9 rep sev loc 3-23 May.

Nashville Warbler: total b 73 M 1-28 May.

Connecticut Warbler: 1 M 25 May (DT), only rep.

Mourning Warbler: arr Caledonia 4 May (MW); total b 75 M 18-30 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Mendon Ponds P 6 Apr (R&SS), Reg record early; total b 134 M 2-31 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 8 LSP-East 3 May (AW).

Am. Redstart: total b 213 M 7 May-5 Jun.

Cape May Warbler: last M 25 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr South Conesus LIVI 2 May; found in expected sites.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 106 M 22 May; total b 466 M 1 May-5 Jun.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Rochester 28 Apr (PM), early.

Yellow Warbler: total b 166 M 2 May-5 Jun.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: total b 113 M 7-30 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: total b 124 M 16 May-4 Jun.

“Western” Palm Warbler: arr ICW 14 Apr (D&JC), early; total b 84 M 17 Apr-17 May.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler: no reports.

Pine Warbler: arr W 27 Mar (RS), Reg record early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: total b 91 M 20 Apr-19 May, low.

Prairie Warbler: BB-WS 5 May (AM); Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 7 May (CJ); Firehouse Woods, Greece 17 May (JMo).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BB-WS 16 Apr (DT), early.

Canada Warbler: total b 83 M 9 May-4 Jun.

Wilson’s Warbler: total b 135 M 9 May-5 Jun.

Yellow-breasted Chat: no reports.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 3 May (LT).

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Rochester 25 Apr (JF), Reg record early; total 10 loc with 15 ind 25 Apr-25 May, good number for Reg.

Field Sparrow: arr Honeoye Falls 16 Mar (CG).

LARK SPARROW: K thru 5 Mar (DT), continuing from winter at feeder.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr NR, Geneseo 29 Apr (JK).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 W 15 Mar (D&DTr); last HP 28 May (DT).

Lincoln’s Sparrow: last 1b M 30 May (BBBO).

White-throated Sparrow: total b 119 M 1 May-3 Jun, low.

Scarlet Tanager: arr CH 1 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr T N Wolcott 21 Apr (W&MR).

Indigo Bunting: arr t Leroy 20 Apr (MW), Reg record early.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 7300 BB-West Spit 11 Apr (DT), low max.

E. Meadowlark: arr 1 BB 8 Mar (DT, LT).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): 1m BB 12 May (LT).

Rusty Blackbird: max 1740 BB-West Spit 16 Apr (DT); last 4 H 26 May.

Com. Grackle: max 2250 Macedon (JP), low max.

Orchard Oriole: arr HANA 3 Mar.

Baltimore Oriole: Broadway Rd, N Wolcott WAYN 15 Apr (W&MR), ties Reg record early.

Pine Grosbeak: G 4 Mar (KG), only report.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 M 30 Apr (DT); 4 HB 8 Apr (AGu), only reports.

Com. Redpoll: max 40 H 5 Mar (DT); last Penfield 18 Apr.

Pine Siskin: max 56 HB 14 Apr (JeB, CW).

Evening Grosbeak: 4 Lyons 9 Mar (JS), only report other than Project Feederwatch summaries.