

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March 2013 was uneventful, cool, and dry. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 32.9° F, 1.1° below normal. There was only 1.01" of precipitation, 1.86" below average, representing the second driest March on record. Snowfall was 9.8", 3.1" below average. Lake Erie remained frozen until early April. April brought unsettled weather and alternating cool and warm periods. The mean temperature was 46.3°, 0.4° above average. Precipitation was 3.92", 0.91" above average; snowfall was 0.3", 2.4" below normal. At least a trace of rain was recorded on 22 of the 30 days. Strong southerly winds ahead of a powerful storm system brought a record high of 82° on 18 April along with a boost of migrants in its wake. The month ended with a warm spell. May was warm with a series of thunderstorm events. The average temperature was 61.4°, 4.5° above normal. Rainfall was 3.57", 0.11" above normal and a few snow flurries occurred on 12-13 May. A warm stretch near mid-month seemed to accelerate songbird migration.

Keeping the trend with recent winters, waterfowl migration was evident nearing the latter half of February, but still peaked during the month of March. Three reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose** occurred in March, and several groups of Cackling Geese were reported throughout March and early April. Large flocks of Snow Geese stopped on the Lake Ontario Plain in Orleans County, with a max of 1,750 in Waterport on 22 March. Careful searching through the flocks turned up single **Ross's Geese** in Yates and Waterport on 21 and 22 March, respectively. Another Ross's Goose, found by visiting birder Ethan Gyllenhaal at Goat Island in Niagara Falls on 15 April, was unusual for both the location and its association with gulls. It remained cooperatively with a Ring-billed Gull flock in the fenced off area at Terrapin Point until the 19<sup>th</sup>. Tundra Swan migration peaked in mid-March, and high counts were tallied at Iroquois NWR and at the mucklands in Elba. **Trumpeter Swans** are now expected at a handful of locations throughout the Region; however, a single bird was sighted at a new location in Lewiston on two separate dates during the month of May.

In addition to reports from Tonawanda and Oak Orchard WMAs, **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported from the southern tier counties where much less frequent. Sightings were made at Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown and on private mining property in the town of Allegany. Blue-winged Teals were scarce and reports were made from only three widely scattered localities. A flock of 31 *The Kingbird* 2013 September; 63 (3)

was seen on the relatively early date of 14 March but was followed by few reports into April and May. Northern Pintails passed through in larger than normal numbers, with high counts of 2,750 at Elba on 11 March and 4,890 at Iroquois NWR on 14 March, the latter being a new Regional maximum. Interesting was a drake **hybrid Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp.** that Jim Pawlicki and Brendan Klick found and photographed with a small flock of Lesser Scaup at Barcelona Harbor on 29 April. This is the first Regional report of what is a probably an overlooked hybrid. A female **Harlequin Duck** was discovered on the upper Niagara River in Buffalo on 16 March, while the wintering female on the Allegany River in Salamanca was noted again from 23-29 March. Scoter reports were highlighted by three reports of Black Scoters, with a late sighting at Four Mile Creek SP on 20 May. A flock of 10 Surf Scoters was a nice find inland at Allegany SP on the relatively late date of 18 May.

The Horned Grebe migration peaked in mid-April, and a Region-wide “fallout” was noted on the B.O.S. April Count. A breeding-plumaged **Eared Grebe** found during the count on Lake Ontario in Yates provided the third consecutive spring record for the Region. Red-necked Grebes passed through in good numbers on Lake Ontario from late March thru mid-April.

During the B.O.S. May Count, Mike Galas found a pair of **American White Pelicans** in a gull and cormorant colony on the upper Niagara River just offshore Buckhorn Island SP. This was following a second-hand, unconfirmed report three days prior of two birds in flight over the east branch of the Niagara River.

Great Egrets arrived a little later than usual this year to the Motor Island colony and continued to nest in increasing numbers on islands above Niagara Falls in Ontario waters. Rare, but nearly annual in spring, two **Snowy Egrets** were found on 24 May by Paul Hess on the Niagara River offshore Beaver Island SP. Another rare wader was a **Glossy Ibis** found by Gale VerHague and seen by multiple observers at the Berry Road marsh in Pomfret from 6-13 May. Two were sighted at this location on 10 May and another or perhaps one of these two was observed in Jamestown on 12 May.

Along the lower Niagara River in Lewiston, **Black Vultures** continue to be year-round residents, and a new max of nine was noted on 20 March. Migrants were reported in Fredonia and at the Ripley Hawkwatch, where a new seasonal max of seven was recorded. It is likely a matter of time before nesting of this species is confirmed in the Lewiston area.

**Sandhill Crane** sightings were again widespread, with 14 reports and many of multiple individuals coming from eight widely scattered locations, including a max of six in Oakfield on 9 May. Common Gallinules were scarce this spring and late to arrive, with the first reports occurring in early May.

There were several shorebird highlights, many of which were due to low water levels at Iroquois NWR and unsettled weather during the peak migration period from late April thru May. Early shorebirds included a Black-bellied Plover at Iroquois on 21 April and a record-early **Whimbrel** at Buffalo Harbor on 9 May. On 13 April, Kurt Fox found a pair of **American Avocets** standing

with Ring-billed Gulls at Batavia WWTP, providing only the third spring and first April record for the Region. A molting male **Ruff** was found and photographed by Greg and Melissa Coniglio at Iroquois NWR on 18 April. The bird was initially thought to have been a one-day wonder until Greg Lawrence re-found it nearly a week later in the town of Shelby, approximately nine miles to the northeast. During this period it was seen by many and was later observed back at Iroquois through 30 April. This was the first spring and second overall record since 1997. Other notable shorebirds at Iroquois included two reports of single **American Golden-Plovers**, a high count of six **Stilt Sandpipers**, two Wilson's Phalaropes, Willet, and Whimbrel. The Stilt Sandpipers represented only the fourth spring record for the Region. While at Batavia WWTP in wet and windy conditions on 11 May, Jim Pawlicki came across several shorebirds that included a banded **Piping Plover** seen foraging on the gravel berms. The banding information was submitted to the USGS Bird Banding lab, and it was determined that the bird was hatched and banded in 2012 on the western shore of Lake Huron at Tawas Point SP, Michigan. This is the first Regional record of Piping Plover to occur away from the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shores and the first since 1998.

While at Dunkirk Harbor on 1 April, Pawlicki and Bill Watson observed a "darker-mantled" gull rafting on the water with several hundred Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. After extensive study Pawlicki identified the bird as the East Asian subspecies of Herring Gull, known as "**Vega**" **Herring Gull**. Several photos were taken and a detailed report was submitted to NYSARC. If accepted this would represent the first record of this subspecies for the state and one of a handful of records for eastern North America. Nearly annual in spring, an adult **Black-headed Gull** was sighted in early April with the large spring Bonaparte's Gull flocks on the upper Niagara River in Buffalo. The spring migration of Little Gulls on the Niagara River peaked in early to mid-April, with a high of 50 tallied at the "fly-past" into Lake Ontario on 12 April. Two adult **Laughing Gulls** were found on the Lake Erie shore on 9 May, the first at Dunkirk Harbor and the second a fly-by at Times Beach in Buffalo. Two record-early Black Terns arrived on the breeding grounds at Iroquois NWR on 19 April. Forster's Terns were more numerous than recent springs with eight reports.

The Common Raven pair at Tonawanda continued. A sighting in North Buffalo demonstrates the ever-increasing expansion of this species as it is no longer confined to only the higher elevations of the Region. **Fish Crows** continued in Buffalo during March as they departed their roost and foraged for gizzard shad carcasses along the shore of the Niagara River.

Passerine migration experienced some lulls and delays in early April and late April to early May, while seeming to surge to a peak on and around 18 May. There were several very early arrivals that turned up at feeders; however, only one, a record early **Blackpoll Warbler**, could be directly tied to weather systems. The Blackpoll Warbler showed up at a feeder in East Aurora on 20 April following very strong southwest winds in preceding days. The head scratching early arrivals began with a male **Indigo Bunting** photographed by Jacalyn Perry on 30 March (!) at her feeder in Lockport. Presumably the same

bird reappeared at the feeder on 19 April. A record early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Bob LaPorta's suet feeder in Orchard Park on 11 April. Tom Murphy was delighted to host a male **Scarlet Tanager** at a suet feeder in his Hamburg yard from the early date of 14 April through the 26<sup>th</sup>. This marks the second consecutive year with an early Scarlet Tanager arriving several weeks before the next of its kind.

A **Western Tanager**, while a bonafide rarity, also fit with this pattern of early arriving passerines at feeders. Jim Berry alerted the birding community after John Ruska confirmed a Western Tanager making visits to a suet feeder in Irving on 22 April. Pauline Fox indicated that the bird had been coming to her feeder for several weeks prior. This is the first record for the Region. Many birders were able to enjoy this rarity through 26 April. To complete the trifecta of tanagers, Joe Mitchell found a **Summer Tanager** while leading a spring bird walk at Tift Nature Preserve on 5 May.

Other warbler highlights included a few more **Golden-winged Warbler** reports than in recent springs, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Evangola SP in addition to the regular Allegany SP location, a **Connecticut Warbler** in the D'Anna & Potter yard in Wilson, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** found by Doug Beattie at Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area.

**Common Redpolls** continued their abundance from winter in March and then declined by mid-April, with the last report coming 9 May. A **Hoary Redpoll** at Jim Berry's feeder in Jamestown is our latest on record for the Region. There were only two **White-winged Crossbill** reports, including a late May report of two at a feeder in Westfield. Pine Siskins were most numerous in May. **Evening Grosbeak** reports were scattered and not widespread but still a delight to see slightly increased reports.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on April 14. A warm front passed during count day but the high was only 46° F. A total of 158 species matched the record set last year. There were 21 record high counts since the 1935 inception including first count records for Fish Crow and Hoary Redpoll. Maxima included: Cackling Goose (5), Trumpeter Swan (3), Gadwall (205), Eurasian Wigeon (2), Northern Shoveler (359), Green-winged Teal (477), Red-throated Loon (159), Black Vulture (4), Bald Eagle (63), Sandhill Crane (8), Little Gull (55), Iceland Gull (7), Lesser Black-backed Gull (11), Glaucous Gull (15), Forster's Tern (3), Eastern Screech-Owl (13), Barn Swallow (254), Carolina Wren (51), Winter Wren (50).

The B.O.S. May Count was held on May 19. The full compilation was not available at the time of this writing.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 14 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 19 May; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE; BWWTWP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; EvSP – Evangola SP, ERIE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FMCSPP – 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; LESP – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; 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; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPi – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, CHAU; RWNP – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; TillmanWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

### WHISTLING- DUCKS - VULTURES

**Gr. White-fronted Goose:** Waterport ORLE 21-23 Mar (WD, BP, CM); max 4 INWR 23 Mar (JW); Yates ORLE 24 Mar (WD, BP).

**Snow Goose:** 500, 700 Yates ORLE 16, 20 Mar; max 1200, 1750 Waterport ORLE 21, 22 Mar (WD, BP, CM), large spring flocks near L. Ontario shore in recent years; last 2 INWR 26 Apr (BK).

**Ross's Goose:** Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!, BP, VR); Waterport ORLE 21 Mar (WD!, BP), with Snow Goose flocks; NFSP 15-19 Apr (EG!, mob), unusual location and with Ring-billed Gulls.

**Cackling Goose:** several reports from multiple locations in Mar; max 30 Hartland NIAG 24 Mar (WD, BP); last 5 BOSAC.

**Mute Swan:** 2 INWR 24 Mar; 3-4, 1 Cassadaga L CHAU 9-17 Apr, 15-19 May; only reports away from L. Ontario shore.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Elba GENE 10 Mar (KF); E Shelby ORLE 26 Mar (JM); Lewiston NIAG 1, 17 May (WD, BP); Conewango Creek WMA CATT 9 May (BSc); INWR 23 May (DH, SB); increased reports.

**Tundra Swan:** max 696 Elba GENE, 450 INWR, 300 TWMA 10 Mar; 200 Batavia GENE 28 Mar; last TWMA 25, 26 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** arr 1 Mar BeSP; max 50, 46 INWR 4, 15 Apr (CM).

**Gadwall:** arr 2 ChauL 2 Mar; max 42 BeSP 7 Mar; 38 INWR 1 May; 12 BWWTWP 26 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** OOWMA 31 Mar (D&DS, BK); TWMA 6-15 Apr (WD, J&KL); Allegany CATT 6 Apr (JRe, PC); ChauL 14-16 Apr (BSu, JB, mob); rare in Southern Tier counties.

**Am. Wigeon:** 201 INWR 11 Mar; max 345 TWMA 24 Mar (WW); 173 INWR 4 Apr.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr, max 31 Pomfret CHAU 14 Mar (GV); 25 INWR 17 Apr; few reports away from these locations.

**N. Shoveler:** arr Wilson NIAG 10 Mar; max 179 INWR 15 Apr (CM); BWWTWP 30 May.

**N. Pintail:** 2750, 650 Elba GENE 10, 11 Mar (KF, DB); max 4825 INWR 16 Mar (WD, BP, CM), record count; AISP 31 May (CM), unusual for location for date.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 319, 365 INWR 4, 17 Apr (CM); 96 INWR 1 May; BWWTWP 25 May.

**Canvasback:** 520 BufH 28 Mar; Tift NP 28 Apr; last AISP 9-31 May (TB, J&KL, RT), unusual location for date.

**Redhead:** arr 18 BWWT 12 Mar (CM); max 855 BufH 28 Mar (JP); 4 Allegheny Res CATT 30 Mar; 25 ChauL 7 Apr; 14 TWMA 19 Mar; 2 BWWT 11 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 1270 INWR 28 Mar (CM); 425, 250 ChauL 30 Mar, 6 Apr; 265 TWMA 6 Apr; 2 Allegany CATT 17 May; Tift NP 21 May.

**Ring-necked Duck x Scaup sp.:** Barcelona CHAU 29 Apr (JP!, BK, ph), first documentation of this hybrid for Region.

**Gr. Scaup:** max 2000 BufH 10 Mar (MM); last BWWT 26 May (AG).

**Lesser Scaup:** 490 Tonawanda NR 5 Mar; max 600 BufH 28 Mar (JP); 78 BWWT 21 Apr; last 2 BWWT 30 May (CM).

**Harlequin Duck:** fem Buffalo NR 16 Mar (PY); fem Salamanca CATT 23-29 Mar (TB!, BSc!), only 2<sup>nd</sup> inland record, presumably same bird from January in CATT.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 PB 9 Mar; 7 DH 23 Mar; 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Apr; 10 AISP 18 May (TB, ph), uncommon inland; last 10 Wilson NIAG 24 May (WD).

**White-winged Scoter:** max 1904 FNSP 20 Mar (JP, WW); last 10 Wilson NIAG 24 May.

**Black Scoter:** DH 4 Mar; BufH 10, 28 Mar; Youngstown NIAG 20 Mar; 2 Wilson NIAG 6 Apr; last FMCSP 20 May (WD), May reports are rare.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 4 BWWT 12 Mar (CM); max 1252 lower NR 20 Mar (WW); 6 Allegheny Res CATT 30 Mar; 1216 FNSP 12 Apr; last 11 Wilson NIAG 24 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 80 NF 6 Mar; 16 ChauL 30 Mar; 77, 45 BWWT 21, 28 Apr; last 3 BOSMC.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 1000 BufH 10 Mar; last NIAG 25 Apr (CC, WD).

**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R1):** PB 5 Mar (DB), continued from winter.

**Hooded Merganser:** arr 15 PB 9 Mar (KM, DB); max 260 BufH 6 Apr (WW).

**Red-br. Merganser:** 55 ChauL 30 Mar; max 1400 DH 16 Apr (WW).

**Ruddy Duck:** arr 15 INWR 16 Mar; max 197 BWWT 21 Apr (DB); 16 BWWT 30 May (CM).

**Red-throated Loon:** difficult to determine spring arrivals with recent increases in winter reports on L Ontario; 2 PB 2 Mar; 32 Wilson NIAG 7 Mar; BuSP 13 Apr (DSH, AH); DH 16 Apr; last FMCSP 20 May (WD).

**Com. Loon:** arr Hamburg HW 17 Mar.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr INWR 11 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** 40 PB 10 Mar; arr BWWT 12 Mar; 50 BWWT 13 Apr; max 76 ChauL 19 Apr (JB); last BWWT 28, 30 May (JM, CM).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 39, 69 Wilson NIAG 7, 26 Mar; max 73 Shadigee ORLE 6 Apr; last 2 GHSP 25 Apr (WD).

**EARED GREBE (R1):** BOSAC Yates ORLE (JP!, BK, ph); rare in spring, third consecutive spring sighting on L. Ontario.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1):** 2 BuSP BOSMC (MG!), in gull/cormorant colony and following report from same area few days prior.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Tift NP 19 Mar; 138 DH 23 Mar; 432 NFSP 24 Apr (WW); 55 INWR 21 Apr; max 612 MI 17 May; 340 BuSP 20 May.

**Am. Bittern:** arr BOSAC; INWR 17, 30 Apr, 27 May; Tift NP 2 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr Tift NP 7 May; 2 TWMA 14 May; OOWMA 20 May; INWR 29 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** 61 Strawberry I NR 5 Mar; 157 + 91n MI 15 Apr; max 302 INWR 14 May (CM).

**Great Egret:** arr Wilson NIAG 31 Mar; DH 8 Apr; Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; 91 MI 21 Apr; 14 INWR 23 Apr; max 94 + 54n MI 3 May (WW).

**Snowy Egret:** 2 BeSP 24 May (PHT, MG, mob); nearly annual in spring.

**Green Heron:** arr BOSAC.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 3 NFSP 6 Mar, likely recent arrivals; 2-6 DH 4-27 Mar; max 165 + 55 n NFSP 7 May (WW).

**GLOSSY IBIS (R1):** ad Pomfret CHAU 6-13 May (GV, WD!, WW!), two reported on 10 May; Jamestown CHAU 12 May; rare.

**Black Vulture:** Fredonia CHAU 5 Mar (NZ); max 9, 5 Lewiston NIAG 20 Mar, 25 Apr (JP, LF), regular in this area; Ripley HW 6 Apr (GR), record count of 7 for season.

**Turkey Vulture:** 1770 Hamburg HW, 1608 Ripley HW 29 Mar; max 1874 Ripley HW 15 Apr.

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr OOWMA 27 Mar; max 23, 26 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr; continued increase in nests along NR and INWR complex.

**Bald Eagle:** new nesting location at Strawberry I NR; max 12, 17 Ripley HW 4, 30 Apr (GR).

**N. Harrier:** max 23, 26 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr (GR).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 312, 217 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr.

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**N. Goshawk:** arr Ripley HW 17 Mar; 1, 3 Carlton ORLE 7, 18 Apr (BK, JP, WD); BOSAC; Ripley HW 23 Apr.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** DLSP GENE 4 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 8 Mar; 120 Ripley HW 29 Mar; max 143 Hamburg HW 30 Mar; 79 Olcott NIAG 4 Apr.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Hamburg HW, RTPI 9 Apr; max 1085, 1235 Ripley HW 18, 22 Apr.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 105, 102 Ripley HW 4, 15 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Yates ORLE 2 Mar; 1-2 INWR 7-15 Mar, 7 Apr; Carlton ORLE 28 Apr, only reports away from HWs; last 3 BOSMC.

**Golden Eagle:** CSWMA 23 Mar (TB, BSc); 1, 1 Hamburg HW 21, 28 Apr (LC); only reports.

**Virginia Rail:** arr INWR 6 Apr; 2 Fredonia CHAU 18 Apr; 2 SPNS 19 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 27 Apr; max 4 Tift NP 5 May; RWNP 13 May.

**Sora:** arr Tift NP 23 Apr; BWWT 25 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 27 Apr; WFWMA, Tift NP 2 May.

**Com. Gallinule:** arr INWR, Pomfret CHAU 1 May, very late arrival.

**Am. Coot:** max 405 DH 27 Mar; 125 INWR 3 Apr; 90 ChauL 16 Apr.

**Sandhill Crane:** INWR 31 March; Olcott NIAG, 3 OOWMA 4 Apr; 2 TWMA, Jamestown CHAU 7 Apr; ChauL 8 Apr; 2 Carlton ORLE 18 Apr; 3, 2 INWR 25, 30 Apr; 2 WFWMA, Buffalo ERIE 2 May; 4 INWR 4 May; max 6 Oakfield GENE (JD) 9 May; 4 Hamburg HW 10 May.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr INWR 21 Apr (JP!, WD! ph.), early; 2, 4 INWR 1, 10 May; 2 BWWT 11 May; Somerset NIAG 12 May.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 1, 1 INWR 21 Apr, 11 May (JP!), rare in spring.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr INWR 1 May (NA); max 70, 100 INWR 23, 27 May.

**PIPING PLOVER:** BWWT 11 May (JP!, mob, NYSARC); first in Reg since 1998, first inland report; *intro*.

**AM. AVOCET (R1):** 2 BWWT 13 Apr (KF, WD!, mob); first Apr record.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 2 BOSAC.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BOSAC; last 2 Sherman CHAU 21 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr INWR 29 Mar (KF); max 265 INWR 1 May (CM); last INWR 28 May.

**Willet:** INWR 4 May (WD, BP, CM); Jamestown CHAU 14 May (JB); less than annual in spring.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BWWT 3 Apr; max 100 INWR 15 May (CM).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr BOSAC; Sheldon WYOM 25-30 Apr, 6 May (TK); 1, 2 Clarence ERIE 28, 29 Apr (CH, WD, CM); 3 Cheektowaga ERIE 25 May (RT); greater number of reports than recent springs.

**Whimbrel:** arr BufH 9 May (WW!), record early; 18 Newstead ERIE 22 May (AS), brief stop at old quarry site; INWR 22 May (PHI, JM); BWWT 23 May (JM).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 2, 6 BWWT 11, 28 May (DB, JM); 3 Wilson NIAG 14 May (WD, BP); only reports.

**Sanderling:** arr INWR 26 May (JP, BK), only report.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 1, max 75 INWR 9, 26 May (WD, BP, AG).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr INWR 21 Apr (BP, CM); max 300 INWR 14 May (WD); 94, 30 Yates, BWWT 12 May; 40 Jamestown CHAU 14 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 2 INWR 23 May (JP, WW), only report.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 9 INWR 7 Apr (BK); max 49 INWR 1 May (CM); last 10 INWR 10 May (DB).

**Dunlin:** arr 2 INWR 8 Apr (PY); max 350 INWR 26 May (JP, BK).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 6 INWR 23 May (JP!, WW!), high count and fourth Reg spring report.

**RUFF:** INWR 18 Apr (M&GC, ph); Shelby ORLE 24 Apr (GL, WW!, WD!, NYSARC, mob); INWR 28, 30 Apr (WW!, MM!); same individual in all sightings; first spring report since 1997.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 1, 3 INWR 14, 23 May (WD, JP); Newstead ERIE 23 May; 3 BufH 24 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Tillman WMA 30 Mar; max 14 INWR 15 Apr (CM).

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Grand I ERIE, AISP 10 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr 1, 1 INWR 14, 22-24 May (BP, WD, JM); only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1150 Lewiston NR 20 Mar; max 7905 FNSP (WD, CM); 3500 Upper NR 16 Apr; 70 INWR 19 Apr; 4 ChauL 16 May; 85 FNSP 31 May.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1):** Buffalo NR 12 Apr (JP), breeding plumage.

**Little Gull:** 10, 30 Lewiston NR 17 Mar, 6 Apr; max 50 FNSP (WD, BP, VR) 12 Apr, flypast into L. Ontario; FNSP 31 May; consistent with reports at this location in recent years.

**LAUGHING GULL (R1):** DH 9 May (JP!, WW!); TBNP 9 May (BK!, RSo); rare.

**“VEGA” HERRING GULL:** DH 1 Apr (JP!, WW!, ph, NYSARC), pending NYSARC first rec of ssp for State.

**Iceland Gull:** 12, 7 NF 20, 31 Mar; 6 DH 1 Apr; 6 BuFH 20 Apr; Wilson NIAG 14 May; last BOSMC.

**THAYER’S GULL:** Tonawanda NR 28 Mar (JP, WW!, ph), second-winter.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 12 NF 20 Mar; max 16, 10 DH 23 Mar, 1 Apr (JP, WW); 4 BuFH 20 Apr; Olcott NIAG 30 Apr; 5 DH 24 May; PB 25 May; increasing in spring.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 9, 8, 11 DH 23 Mar, 1, 3 Apr (JP, BK); 6 BuFH 20 Apr; last 3 WoBSP 1, 2 May (JP, JM, WD).

**Caspian Tern:** arr 4 LESP 4 Apr, 32, 63 DH 13, 16 Apr; max 170 L. Erie shore Ripley to Hanover CHAU (JP, BK).

**Black Tern:** arr 2 INWR 19 Apr (WD!, CM), record early; 3 TWMA 28 Apr; 2, 3, 1 BWWT 11, 12, 28 May; BeSP 14 May.

**Com. Tern:** arr Wilson NIAG 6 Apr (WD); 400 Buffalo NR 21 Apr; max 1803 BuFH (JP, CC), following strong winds; 9 BWWT 11 May.

**Forster’s Tern:** arr Buffalo NR 12 Apr (JP); 1, 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 15, 25 Apr, 14, 22 May (WD, BP); 2 INWR 15 May (CM); 3 N Tonawanda NR 21 May (JP, WW); FNSP 31 May (JP, JM); good showing.

## PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Alden ERIE 14 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Medina ORLE 10 May.

**Snowy Owl:** NF Airport NIAG 3 Mar (CR), only report.

**Long-eared Owl:** GHSP 9 Mar (BP, CM); WTSP 7 Apr (BP); 2 BOSAC; only reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 3, 1 Wilson NIAG 3, 7 Mar; max 12 Shelby ORLE 4 Mar (RT); 2-3, 2 Bethany GENE 7-24 Mar, 4 Apr; Yates ORLE 30 Mar; last 2 BOSAC.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** 2 Bond Lake CP NIAG 3 Mar (CR); FMCSP 27 Mar (BP); WTSP 31 Mar (BP); FLC 1 Apr (DGr, mob); 2, 1 WTSP 10, 12 Apr (BP, RSa); BOSAC; only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 2 Williamsville ERIE, WFWMA, 4 AISP 17 May (RS, JP, TL); max 9 Tonawanda Ind Res GENE 19 May; 2 WTSP 21 May; INWR 29 May; Marilla ERIE 30 May.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr RWNP 30 Apr (LS); FMCSP 16 May (WD, BP); only reports.

**Chimney Swift:** arr FLC 18 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Jamestown CHAU 28 Apr (TL); Forestville CHAU 29 Apr (GV); slightly early.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** PG 26 Mar, prob wintering; Hunter’s Creek CP ERIE 4 Apr; 1-2 Emery P ERIE 30 Apr, 5, 8 May; INWR 4 May; 2, 4 Como Lake CP ERIE, PG 8 May; TBNP 10 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr 2 PG 1 Apr.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 134 Ripley HW 18 Apr (GR).

**Merlin:** continued increase in sightings; 2 + n Portville CATT 5 May (TB), new breeding loc.

**Peregrine Falcon:** OOWMA 18 Mar; Hamburg HW 22 Mar; 2, 2, 2 Ripley HW 23 Mar, 18, 23 Apr; DH 4 Apr; 7 other reports from known breeding locs.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Conewango CATT 15 May (TL); BeSP 16 May (DSh); 2 BOSMC.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr FLC 9 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr BOSMC; Bethany GENE 22 May; 2 Tift NP 29 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 29 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 4 BOSMC.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr INWR 16 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr FLC 14 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Carroll CHAU 28 Apr,

**E. Phoebe:** arr Hamburg ERIE 30 Mar.

**Gr. Crested Flycatcher:** arr 3 INWR 1 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr BMAC 23 Apr.

**N. Shrike:** 4 BOSAC; last INWR 15 Apr (CM); more Apr reports than usual.

**White-eyed Vireo:** GENE BOSMC, only report.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Bethany GENE 2 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FLC 16 Apr.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr N Harmony CHAU 26 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr AmSP 10 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr NFSP 2 May.

**FISH CROW (R1):** 5 Buffalo NR 17 Mar (WD!), continued sightings from this location thru Mar.

**Com. Raven:** 1-2 Tonawanda NR thru, breeding activity observed; 2 N Buffalo ERIE 1 May (DGo), indicative of increasing reports in ERIE.

**Purple Martin:** arr DH 6 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr Lewiston NIAG 13 Mar; max 400 TWMA 6 Apr.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Tift NP 8 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr Fredonia CHAU 18 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr 3 FNSP 18 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr TWMA 6 Apr.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 12 FLC 7 Apr (RSa).  
**House Wren:** arr ALLE BOSAC.  
**Winter Wren:** arr AmSP 26 Mar; max 10, 16 FLC 7, 9 Apr.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr INWR 25 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr BOSAC.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 7 FLC 31 Mar.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 FLC 7 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr INWR 30 Apr.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr BOSMC; 2 Tonawanda ERIE 29 May, flyovers; PG 31 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Alexander GENE 6 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** Orchard Park ERIE 23 Mar, wintered; arr? Busti CHAU 24 Mar.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE, Westfield CHAU 29 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** 2 BOSAC, arrivals?  
**N. Mockingbird:** continued, slow increase away from traditional lake plain areas.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Tift NP 8 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr Buffalo ERIE 10 Mar; last GHSP 22 May.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 Carlton ORLE 2 Mar; TillmanWMA 17 Mar; 8 Shelby ORLE 23 Mar; max, last 27 Hartland NIAG 25 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 300 Barre ORLE 2 Mar; last Hamburg HW 30 Mar.  
**Ovenbird:** arr PG 29 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 2 BOSAC.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr RWNP 26 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr FLC 3 May (RSa); 1, 1 AmSP 8, 11 May (TMC, RSa); WTSP 11 May (WD); Wilson NIAG 12 May (BP, WD); 3 BOSMC; more reports than recent springs.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Jamestown CHAU 1 May.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** no reports.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** BMAC 11 May thru (TK), rare.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 11 Apr (BL! ph), record early, at suet feeder.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** not reported in May at traditional breeding areas at TWMA.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 7 May.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 27 Apr; a few more reports than usual.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr AmSP 24 Apr.  
**Connecticut Warbler:** Wilson NIAG 21 May (WD, BP), only report.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Lancaster ERIE 15 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Forestville CHAU 30 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Middlebury WYOM, FLC 29 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr WTSP, Tift NP 3 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr AISP 27 Apr (BD).  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr WTSP 7 May; Wilson NIAG 15 May; less commonly found in migration.  
**N. Parula:** arr Long Point SP CHAU 26 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr RWNP 2 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Tift NP 4 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr AmSP, TillmanWMA 30 Apr.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr ChauL 20 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Clay Pond WMA CHAU 1 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr E Aurora ERIE 20 Apr (NV, photo); earliest on record; Buffalo ERIE 8 May, next earliest arrival.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr INWR 1 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr PG 16 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 21 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr FLC 29 Mar.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Bond L CP NIAG 7 Mar; INWR 24 Mar; arr 2 FLC 31 Mar.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** arr EvSP 29 Apr-9 May (JM, mob); AISP BOSMC, traditional loc.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr FLC 3 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG, PG 16 Apr.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr 2 WFWMA 12 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Como Lake CP ERIE 8 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Middlebury WYOM 31 May (DB), only report.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Clymer CHAU 31 Mar.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Marilla ERIE 8 May (LH).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 16 Mar (JF), or wintered?; FLC 6 Apr, next arrival.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 4 Olcott NIAG 27 May (WD), apparent new breeding location.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Fredonia CHAU 6 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Busti CHAU 24 Mar; 2 Fredonia CHAU 25 Mar; 3 Hamburg HW 12 Apr; FLC 15, 21 Apr; Alfred ALLE 24 Apr; Shelby ORLE 26 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Zoar Valley MUA CATT 30 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr TillmanWMA 5 May; Sheldon WYOM 6 May; 3 John White WMA GENE 29 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Portland CHAU 20 Mar; max 9 FLC 7 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr FMCSP 1 May; last Tift NP 29 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr RWNP 6 Apr.

**White-throated Sparrow:** Wilson NIAG 30 May, on late side.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Marilla ERIE 7, 9 Mar; max 18 Bethany GENE 16 Mar; arr Colden ERIE 18 Apr; last Portland CHAU 23 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h. oreganus*):** Colden ERIE thru 9 Apr (J&KL), continued from winter; Tonawanda ERIE 5 Mar (WW); Wilson NIAG 8, 9 Apr (WD); good showing.

**SUMMER TANAGER:** Tift NP 5 May (JM!, mob), becoming near annual in spring.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Hamburg ERIE 14-26 Apr (TMu! ph), at feeder, very early; Tift NP 4 May, next arrival.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** Irving CHAU 22 – 26 Apr (PF, JRu, JB, mob!, NYSARC), apparently present several weeks earlier; first Regional record.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Irving CHAU 24 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Lockport NIAG 30 Mar (JPe! photo), very early, also at same location 19 Apr; next earliest arrivals not until 11 May.

**Bobolink:** arr Strykersville WYOM 27 Apr.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Yates ORLE, Fredonia CHAU 10 Mar; max 62 Olcott NIAG 9 Apr (WD), apparent migration fallout in one field.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr TBNP 7 Mar; max 400 INWR 16 Apr (CM); last BOSMC.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Portland CHAU 29 Apr (CH); continued increasing reports.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Wilson NIAG 28 Apr.

**White-winged Crossbill:** BuSP 9 Mar (TK); Westfield CHAU 27 – 29 May (KH), at feeder; only reports.

**Com. Redpoll:** 130 Bethany GENE 3 Mar; 102 Shelby ORLE 24 Mar; max 140 Holland ERIE 10 Mar; 110 Olcott NIAG 31 Mar; well reported to mid-Apr; last E Amherst ERIE 9 May (MM).

**HOARY REDPOLL:** Jamestown CHAU 9-14 Apr (JB!), latest on record.

**Pine Siskin:** small numbers in Apr; more birds and reports in May; max 80 Wilson NIAG 26 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 12, 9 Ashville CHAU 3, 4 Mar; 35 BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 24 Apr; 5 Lockport NIAG 27 Apr; Carlton ORLE 10, 12 May; last Silver Creek CHAU 17 May; only reports.