

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051
morgm@roadrunner.com

James Pawlicki

70 Gaslight Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221
jmpawli10@gmail.com

March 2014 was especially cold and snowy, continuing the trend from the winter months. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 26.7° F, 7.3° below normal; representing the eight coldest March on record. There was 2.55" of precipitation, 0.32" below average. Snowfall was 24.5", 11.6" above average. April brought a welcomed return to normalcy. The mean temperature was 45.8°, only 0.1° below average. Precipitation was 5.08", 2.07" above average; snowfall was 1.2", 1.5" below normal. A warm stretch from the 10th – 14th seemed to bring some early arrivals. Lake Erie slowly lost its ice cover through the month, and the ice out date of 3 May at Buffalo Harbor is the latest since 1996. May was pleasant and provided for excellent conditions for birds and birders alike. The average temperature was 57.7°, 0.8° above normal. Rainfall was 3.12", 0.34" below normal.

The waterfowl migration picked up in the latter half of March, later than in recent springs, no doubt due to the prolonged below average temperatures that carried over from the winter. Seven reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were above average, while Cackling Geese continue to be reported regularly, and larger (for this Region) flocks of Snow Geese are now becoming the norm in the northeastern corner of the Region in spring. A single **Ross's Goose** found with Canada Geese in Yates on 1 May was the Region's latest record by nine days and the season's only report.

With large amounts of ice remaining on the Niagara River and Great Lakes shores into March, several reports of diving ducks such as scaup, Bufflehead, Canvasback, and Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at small inland ponds, presumably escaping the ice and searching for additional sources of food. The massive mortality of diving ducks described in the winter report continued into March. A female **Tufted Duck**, found with scaup on the Niagara River in Buffalo by Pawlicki, was the Region's third record, all within the last two years, and was a different individual from the one seen earlier in January. There were low counts of dabblers in March, while high counts of late migrating waterfowl, such as Long-tailed Ducks were noted in May, presumably returning north after moving south in large numbers to escape the harsh winter. The only report of **Eurasian Wigeon** was from the Elba Mucklands on 6 April. Also notable were three reports of **King Eiders** on Lake Ontario, one from Golden Hill SP, and two at Point Breeze.

Red-necked Grebes were widely reported this spring. Counts on Lake Ontario were relatively high and comparable with recent springs. A late individual was noted at Niagara Falls on 24-25 May, the latter representing the latest Regional record at the time of observation. While counting waterbirds on Lake Ontario from Barker Bicentennial Park on 18 April, Willie D'Anna found a **Western Grebe** swimming offshore with Red-necked Grebes. This is the fifth Regional record and only the second since 1958 and therefore was also the first "chaseable" report in the Region in modern times.

Despite the late spring, Great Egrets arrived on the Niagara River at Motor Island in late March, and a count of 35 at the Tonawanda WMA in late May is likely a sign of increased breeding within the newly colonized Iroquois NWR complex. A fly-by **Cattle Egret** on 11 May and a **Tricolored Heron** from 24-30 May, both found by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter along the Lake Ontario shore in Wilson, were the two rarest waders seen this spring. The Tricolored Heron was the first Regional record since 2007 and only the second for Niagara County. It was usually observed foraging from boat docks or roosting in trees near the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek adjacent to Wilson-Tuscarora SP.

Away from the lower Niagara River where they are now year-round residents, **Black Vultures** continue their upward trend at hawkwatch sites and at other locations near the lakeshores. A season total of six was reported from the Ripley Hawkwatch, and in May single individuals were noted at the Hamburg Hawkwatch and at Point Gratiot. The four reported at a roadkill in the town of Wilson on the BOS May count were likely individuals wandering from the population in Lewiston.

On 24 April, Bill Watson conducted a thorough survey of the Osprey pairs nesting in the vicinity of the Allegheny Reservoir and tallied an impressive 23 adults and 13 nests. The large congregations of Bald Eagles along the Lake Erie shore in the vicinity of Point Gratiot and Dunkirk Harbor continued over from winter and swelled to a maximum of 42 tallied there on 5 March. Both of these large, charismatic raptors continue to increase as breeders within the Region. The five **Golden Eagles** tallied on the BOS April Count were noteworthy given that the only other reports this spring were from the Ripley Hawkwatch on 20 April and 6 May. Jeff Reed had a presumably nesting adult Northern Goshawk unceremoniously meet him along a trail at Golden Hill State Forest in Cattaraugus County. Reed indicated that the hawk "came at me out of a stand of larch like a B-52; it was a classic "NOGO" and definitely time to go!"

Compared with last spring, shorebird reports were spotty, and habitat was scarce and unreliable as it can often be during the spring months. Willie D'Anna was surprised to see a winter-plumaged **Sanderling** on the Wilson Pier at Lake Ontario on the record early date of 14 April. A group of six Black-bellied Plovers that included a record early **Willet** in a flooded field in the town of Wilson on 30 April was noteworthy. Other Willets were seen at the Batavia WWTP on 2 and 5 May. Two to three White-rumped Sandpipers were noted in the town of Wilson in late May, and **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen at the Elba

Mucklands and Tonawanda WMA on 3 and 20 May, respectively. There were no reports of Whimbrels.

An adult **Black-headed Gull** was found on the Niagara River in Tonawanda on 19 April and lingered with Bonaparte's Gulls until at least the 26th. Little Gulls arrived back on the lower Niagara River in Lewiston on the relatively late date of 22 March, and a maximum of 36 was seen there on 8 April. The adult **Thayer's Gull** photographed by Pawlicki on the rock shelf above Three Sisters Islands at Niagara Falls SP represents the latest confirmed record for the Region. **Glaucous Gulls** were more numerous than usual for spring. The 40 Common Terns that arrived on the Niagara River at Squaw Island on 3 April established a new record early arrival by one day. Two migrant Black Terns seen foraging with Common Terns at Fort Niagara SP on 19 and 24 May were noteworthy given the scarcity of the species away from the breeding colonies at the Iroquois NWR complex. The only **Forster's Tern** reported this spring was sighted during the BOS April Count.

Snowy Owls continued to be widely reported into March and trailed off in April following the large irruption that started back in November. Many continued to be seen in areas that held individuals through the winter, while others turned up in new locations as they headed back north for the summer. A single location high count of 11 and then 12 individuals was made at the Lewiston Reservoir on 15 and 17 March, respectively, all of which were seen sitting out on the expansive ice sheet at the east end of the reservoir. The last report was on 9 May.

Common Nighthawks were relatively scarce. At least two lingered in the City of Jamestown, where summer reports and presumed breeding has occurred in recent years. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports delighted some surprised birders.

The warm front during the second week of April may have been responsible for early arrivals of Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler on the BOS April Count, and a Hooded Warbler a few days later. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** sighted by Jim Berry and Don Watts in Jamestown on 23 March was either astonishingly early, or perhaps a bird that wintered more north than usual.

Songbird migrants were plentiful during the first three weeks of May, and birders lauded this wonderful time of year. Alec Humann applauded the "amazing spring migration" while Willie D'Anna indicated "this May has been the best ever for consistently high numbers of warblers" around his property along Lake Ontario in Wilson. Migrants were considered especially numerous and widespread on 7-8 May and 22 May.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** seen at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 8 May is the Region's earliest arrival by two days. The only report of **White-eyed Vireo** this spring was of a male banded at Allegany SP during the annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage festival.

Yellow-throated Warblers have become more regular in recent years. Yet, the five migrants sighted at four locations (Forest Lawn Cemetery, Amherst SP, a feeder in Silver Creek, and birds a month apart at Tifft Nature Preserve), their continued presence at the regular Allegany SP breeding location, and a late May sighting at a new potential breeding location, Hill Higher SF, made for an unprecedented spring occurrence. Other warbler highlights included a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Amherst SP, a **Connecticut Warbler** at Buckhorn Island SP, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Wilson-Tuscarora SP, and two sightings of **Prothonotary Warbler**, adding to its continued presence at the only known breeding location at Tonawanda WMA.

This spring had its share of songbird rarities. **Summer Tanagers** were photographed in Elma and Point Gratiot in May; this species is now nearly annual in May. Lee Ann Childs photographed a handsome male **Blue Grosbeak** at her feeder in Ellery on 7 May. Marilyn O'Connell was notified at her Wild Birds Unlimited store of an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** visiting a nearby backyard feeder in Blasdell on 24 April. Several birders were able to see this rarity before the day was over. Chris Gainey photographed a second Yellow-headed Blackbird at Iroquois NWR on 4 May. Willie D'Anna picked out a **Brewer's Blackbird** among other blackbirds in a pasture-like area during the BOS April Count. The bird's iridescence made the task a little easier and more enjoyable for viewing. Sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrow** at six locations provided more evidence of its continued increase as a spring migrant and breeder.

"Winter finch" sightings were scarce, consistent with the most recent fall and winter seasons. There were only a handful of Pine Siskin sightings. Fran Rew sighted a **White-winged Crossbill** on the BOS April Count for the lone report. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** in Allegany County on the BOS April Count were the only reported this season.

The BOS April Count was held on April 13. A strong warm front passed during count day in the morning with temperatures rising into the 70s on strong southwest winds. A total of 157 species was consistent with record high counts of 158 the previous two years. There were 14 record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Trumpeter Swan (5; all in Ontario), Green-winged Teal (663), Double-crested Cormorant (7,370), Great Egret (123), Osprey (81), Golden Eagle (5), Peregrine Falcon (8), Virginia Rail (7), Caspian Tern (202), Common Tern (355), Northern Flicker (1,576), Brown Creeper (237), Carolina Wren (75), and Hermit Thrush (128).

The May Count was conducted on 18 May on a cooler than average day. The following species recorded the highest count since 1968 when coverage became more uniform throughout the BOS Study Area: Long-tailed Duck (1794), Red-throated Loon (41), Common Loon (97), Great Blue Heron (146), Great Egret (146), Osprey (44), Bald Eagle (51), Peregrine Falcon (9), Caspian Tern (243), Eastern Bluebird (338), Gray Catbird (1428), Northern Parula (33), and Black Vulture (6).

It should be noted that the “Vega” Herring Gull observed last spring on 1 April 2013 by Pawlicki and Bill Watson was retracted by the observers as potentially referring to that subspecies. Further research by Pawlicki suggested that the bird was not a “Vega” Gull, and most closely resembled a “darker-mantled” Thayer’s Gull. Although very unusual, the literature suggests that darker-mantled Thayer’s Gulls, perhaps as a result of hybridization, do occur within the species’ core wintering range on the west coast. But as is often the case with many unusual vagrant gulls, the general consensus on the bird’s identification was that it best be left unidentified.

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Baird, Sue Barth (Sba), Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Steve Brenner (SBr), Jajean Rose-Burney, Joe Carlo, LeeAnn Childs, Seaghan Coleman, Willie D’Anna, Elaine Dart, Brett Ewald, Joe Fell, Larry Frauen, Heather Fogarty, Kurt Fox, Chris Gainey, Andy Guthrie, Joanne Goetz, Ron & Sue Hacker, Carol Hardenburg (CHa), Paul Hess, Chris Hollister (CHo), Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Tom Kerr, Scott Kruitbosch, Jim Landau, Greg Lawrence, Twan Leenders (TwL), Tim Lenz (TiL), Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Marilyn O’Connell, Susan & Tom O’Donnell, James Pawlicki, Ralph Peterson, Betsy Potter, William Purcell, Gil Randell, Jeff Reed (JRe), Fran Rew, John Rosenberg (JRo), Kevin Rybczynski, Richard Salembier, Debbie Sharon, Shirley Shaw, David and Debbie Suggs, Julie Szurgot, Gerry Teal, Gale VerHague, Kirk Vanstrom, Brad Walker, William Watson, Don Watts, Jonathan Weber (JWe), Jim Wojewodski (JWo), Chris Wood, Peter Yoerg, Mike & Wendy Zebehazy.

ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 13 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 18 May; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CHMUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; 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; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, 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; Tiftt NP – Tiftt Nature Preserve, ERIE; TillmanWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; UBNC – University at Buffalo North Campus ERIE; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Gr. White-fronted Goose: arr max 6 Basom GENE 22 Mar (CM, PY); 4 Alexander GENE 28 Mar (ED); 5 Somerset NIAG 29 Mar (WD); TWMA 31 Mar (CM); 2 Batavia GENE 2 Apr; Yates ORLE 2 Apr; INWR 6 Apr; good showing.

Snow Goose: 255 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; 200 BWWT 23 Mar; max 350 Yates ORLE 28 Mar (WD); last BOSAC; flocks now becoming annual in spring.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Yates ORLE 1 May (WD!); first May record, latest by 9 days.

Cackling Goose: DH 1 Mar; max 14 Olcott NIAG 27 Mar; last Oakfield GENE 12 Apr; typical number of reports in Mar and Apr, but no large flocks of recent springs.

Mute Swan: 5 ChauL 10 Mar; JAS 4 Apr; 2 Cuba ALLE 19 Apr; UBNC 27 May; only reports away from L. Ontario shore.

Trumpeter Swan: Elba GENE 3, 5 May (CM, DB), only report.

Tundra Swan: 325 ChauL 14 Mar; max 490 CSWMA 28 Mar (WP); 364 INWR 31 Mar; 310 Elba GENE 6 Apr; last TBNP 18 Apr.

Wood Duck: Tonawanda ERIE 9 Mar; next arrival after reports 19, 22 Feb.

Gadwall: arr 2 BuSP 14 Mar; max 133, 58 TWMA, INWR 11 Apr; 56 BWWT 5 May.

Eurasian Wigeon: Elba GENE 6 Apr (KF), only report.

Am. Wigeon: 115 CSWMA 24 Mar; 125 ChauL 28 Mar; max 450 Elba GENE 6 Apr (KF); 179 TWMA 11 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 10 JAS 18 Mar; 164 BOSAC; 23 Clymer CHAU 27 Apr (KV); 9 BOSMC; continuing trend of low numbers and localized reports in spring.

N. Shoveler: arr DH 11 Mar; max 83 INWR 2 Apr; 32 BWWT 3 May; Wilson NIAG 27 May.

N. Pintail: arr BuSP 11 Mar; 170 CSWMA 24 Mar; max 680, 140, 166 Elba GENE 6 Apr, 3, 4 May; 2 INWR 20, 28 May.

Green-winged Teal: 35 INWR 28 Mar; max 330, 200, 221 Elba GENE 6 Apr, 3, 4 May.

Canvasback: 142 DH 1 Mar; 1-3 AmSP 3-29 Mar; 37 Williamsville ERIE 25 Mar; max 210 BuFH 9 Apr.

Redhead: 108 DH 1 Mar; 18, 80 ChauL 10, 28 Mar; max 180 INWR 10 Apr (GL); 2 NF 24 May; Kiantone CHAU 25 May.

Ring-necked Duck: arr AmSP 11-18 Mar; 150 BWWT 28 Mar; 450 ChauL CHAU 28 Mar;

221 INWR 2 Apr; 300, max 560 TWMA 2, 10 Apr (WW, GL); 100 TWMA 5 May.

TUFTED DUCK: fem Buffalo NR 6 Apr (JP!, ph, mob); third regional record, all within last two years, different individual from January.

Greater Scaup: max 1000 NF 8 Mar; last Tift NP 22 May.

Lesser Scaup: 14 Delaware P Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; 1-3 AmSP 8-16 Mar; max 200, 125 BWWT 19 Apr, 3 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 27, 28 May; INWR 28 May; Tift NP 29 May.

King Eider: GHSP 8 Mar (CW); PB 8, 14 Mar (CW, WD); only reports.

Surf Scoter: 2 DH 1 Mar; GHSP 28, 29 Mar; Buffalo NR 29 Mar; 3 BOSAC; max 23 Wilson NIAG 12 May; last AISP 14 May (TB), uncommon inland.

White-winged Scoter: 38 DH 1 Mar; 4, 5, 1 BWWT 3 Mar, 5, 25-28 May, uncommon inland; Tift NP 16-21 Apr.

Black Scoter: DH 3, 7 Mar (JG, JP, SBA); FNSP 29 Mar (JRB); last Wilson NIAG 12 May (WD); only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 12 ChauL 25 Mar; 9 BWWT 12 Apr; INWR 19 Apr; 1059 BOSAC; 1754 BOSMC; last 5 Wilson NIAG 28 May (WD).

Bufflehead: 6 AmSP 5 Mar; 150 NF 8 Mar; 117, max 213 BWWT 12, 19 Apr (KF); 4 NF 24 May; last 2 AISP 31 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 650 NF 8 Mar (WW); 12 BWWT 16 Mar; 11 Williamsville ERIE 25 Mar; last 6 BOSMC.

Hooded Merganser: 50 CSWMA 29 Mar; max 54, 34 Tift NP 6, 9 Apr.

Com. Merganser: 720 DH 1 Mar; 1230, max 1950 Tonawanda NR 6 Mar (WW).

Red-br. Merganser: 11 AmSP 5, 10 Mar; max 820 Tonawanda NR 17 Mar (WW); 3612 BOSAC; 743 BOSMC; 6 Wilson NIAG 28 May.

Ruddy Duck: 4 DH 1 Mar; arr 2 BWWT 22 Mar; max 243 BWWT 19 Apr (KF); 110, 28 BWWT 3, 25 May.

Red-throated Loon: 2 BuFH 1 Mar, apparent migrants; BuSP 5-11 Mar; 2 OOWMA 6 Apr, rare inland; 41 BOSMC; max 40, last 1 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr, 27 May (WD).

Com. Loon: arr Olcott NIAG 18 Mar; Wellsville ALLE 8 Apr; 90 BOSAC; 97 BOSMC.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr ChauL 15 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr 25 BuSP 11 Mar; 6 ChauL 15 Mar; 47, max 198 INWR 2, 11 Apr; 65

UBNC 22 Apr; 16, last 1 GHSP 3, 24 May (LF, WD, JP).

Red-necked Grebe: 10 ChauL 10 Mar; max 420, 420 Olcott NIAG 31 Mar, 6 Apr (WD); 6, 3 TWMA 6, 10 Apr; 7, 3 INWR 11 Apr, 2 May; NF 24, 25 May (JP!, JM), late

WESTERN GREBE: Barker NIAG 18 Apr (WD!, ph, mob); 5th regional record, only second since 1958.

Double-crested Cormorant: Williamsville ERIE 5, 16 Mar; AmSP 10 Mar; 18 MI 27 Mar; max 1500 DH 19 Apr; 241 INWR 22 Apr; 766, 1067 MI 23 Apr, 4 May.

Am. Bittern: arr TWMA 10 Apr; Tift NP 18, 26 Apr; Tillman WMA 25 Apr; 2 Alexander GENE 26 Apr; Elba GENE 3 May; WFWMA 25 May.

Least Bittern: arr OOWMA 17 May; Tift NP 19 May; TWMA 23 May.

Great Blue Heron: 32, 86, 113, 106 MI 17, 27 Mar, 12 Apr; 20 May; max 245 INWR 23 May.

Great Egret: arr BeSP 28 Mar; AISP 29 Mar; 62, 70, max 121 MI 12, 23 Apr, 4 May (WW); 35 TWMA 23 May.

TRICOLORED HERON: Wilson NIAG 24-30 May (WD!, ph, mob); first regional record since 2007 and second for Niagara County.

Cattle Egret: Wilson NIAG 11 May (WD, BP), only report, fly-by.

Green Heron: arr 2 BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Tonawanda NR 6 Mar; max 49 MI 12 Apr.

Black Vulture: 2 Lewiston NIAG 9 Mar (PY), regular location; season total 6 Ripley HW 19 Mar-9 May (GR); Hamburg HW 4 May (JL); PG 11 May (TiL, BW); 4 Wilson NIAG BOSMC (WD); continued increase in spring reports.

Turkey Vulture: 2962 Ripley HW, max 5437 Hamburg HW 1 Apr.

HAWKS - LARIDS

Osprey: arr, max 23 ad + 13 n Allegheny Reservoir CATT 27 Mar, 24 Apr (JC, WW); 14, 11 Ripley HW 9, 13 Apr; widespread nesting along NR, INWR complex, and Allegheny Reservoir.

Bald Eagle: successful nesting again at Strawberry I NR; 44, 42, 38 DH 1, 5, 8 Mar, continued large concentrations from winter; 42 PG 5 Mar; max 46, 33 Ripley HW 3, 9 May (GR).

N. Harrier: max 18, 8 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 71, 78 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

N. Goshawk: arr Youngstown NIAG 19 Mar (BE); Hamburg HW 3, 6, 25 Apr (JL, AH, SBR); BOSAC; ad Golden Hill SF CATT 12 May (JRe).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Evans ERIE 1 Mar (WW, JP); arr Alden ERIE 11 Mar; max 104 Hamburg HW 31 Mar; 43 Ripley HW 1 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hamburg HW 10 Apr; 1579 Hamburg HW; max 2572, 1725 Ripley HW 28 Apr, 1 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 99, 74 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: 7 S Dayton CATT 1 Mar; max 10 INWR 7 Mar; 8 Hamburg HW 6 Apr; WTSP 13 May; last BOSMC.

Golden Eagle: 5 BOSAC; Ripley HW 20 Apr, 6 May (GR); only reports.

Virginia Rail: arr 2 BWWTP 12 Apr; WFWMA 5 May; Wilson NIAG 17 May; max 4 Tillman WMA 24 May.

Sora: arr TWMA 4 May.

C. Gallinule: arr Tift NP 6 Apr; WFWMA 20 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr TWMA 7 Mar; max 212, 200, 100 DH 1, 29 Mar, 19 Apr; 74 INWR 17 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr 5 Stockton CHAU 21 Mar; TWMA 22 Mar; 2 CHMUA 10 Apr; 2 N Harmony CHAU 17 Apr; Ripley CHAU 15 May; 2 WFWMA 22 May; 12 other reports.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 6, 5, 1 Wilson NIAG 30 Apr, 16, 24 May; 4, 3 Yates ORLE 1, 17 May; 3, 5 Somerset NIAG 17, 23 May; 13, 2 N Harmony CHAU 24, 25 May; max 30 INWR 25 May (DS); good showing for spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 1, 17 N Harmony CHAU 6, 24 May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 16 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 2 BOSAC; max 51 BWWTP 13 May (KF).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr N Harmony CHAU 19 Apr; last Sheridan CHAU 31 May (GV), late.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1, max 268 INWR 1, 17 Apr (LH, CM); arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 1 Apr; 99, 102 Elba GENE 3, 4 May.

Willet: Wilson NIAG 30 Apr (GT, WD!, ph), record early and first Apr record; BWWTP 2, 5 May (JM, DB); less than annual in spring.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 3 N Harmony CHAU 2 Apr (KV); 50 INWR 16 Apr; max 155, 163 Elba GENE 3, 4 May (GL, KF).

Upland Sandpiper: arr N Java WYOM 17, 28 Apr, 6 May (TK, JRB, M&WZ); BOSMC; only reports.

Whimbrel: no reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr PB 10 May (AG); 3 BuH 11 May; Wilson NIAG 19 May; 2 BeSP 21 May; only reports.

Sanderling: arr Wilson NIAG 14 Apr (WD!, ph), record early; only report.

Dunlin: arr 8 Hartland NIAG 1 May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 14 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Newstead ERIE 30 Apr; 75 N Harmony CHAU 11 May; max 100 Wilson NIAG 14 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2, 3 Wilson NIAG 20-23, 24 May (WD, SB, JP), only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Wilson NIAG, 22 Portland CHAU 4 Apr; last 2 Sheridan CHAU 24 May (GV).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 1, 14 N Harmony CHAU 9, 28 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 Sardinia ERIE 10 May (JWo); 2 Yates ORLE 17 May; 6 TWMA 20 May (GL); 1-2 Wilson NIAG 21-24 May (WD); 3 INWR 31 May (CG).

Wilson's Snipe: arr Stockton CHAU 23 Mar; max 47 Sheridan CHAU 12 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr Forestville CHAU 14 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Elba GENE 3 May (KF, CM); TWMA 20 May (CM, SBA); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: 100 DH 29 Mar; 40 AISP 2 Apr; 116 BWWT 19 Apr; 1800 Buffalo NR 19 Apr; max 2500 DH 25 Apr; 85 FNSP 24, 25 May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1): Tonawanda NR 19-26 Apr (JP, mob), alt ad.

Little Gull: arr 1, 18, max 36 Lewiston NR 22 Mar, 5, 8 Apr (LFrauen, WD, JP); 2, 2 Buffalo NR 7 Apr, 1 May; 2, 3 FNSP 24, 25 May.

THAYER'S GULL: ad NFSP 29 Apr (JP!, ph), record late.

Iceland Gull: max 11, 9, 2 DH 5 Mar, 19, 25 Apr (WP, TiL, WD); 2 BeSP 29 Mar; Grand I NR 23 Apr; Olcott NIAG 11 May; last NFSP 15 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 9 DH 1 Mar; 1, 1 ChauL 8, 31 Mar; 2 Carlton ORLE 2 Apr; 3 Portland CHAU 4 Apr; Tift NP 6 Apr; 8, 3 DH 19, 25 Apr; 1, 3 Olcott NIAG 11, 27 May; Wilson NIAG 27 May; 4 other reports; becoming more common and widespread in spring.

Glaucous Gull: max 30 Buffalo NR 1 Mar (JP, WW); 10-18 DH 1-5 Mar; 9 Hamburg HW 9 Mar; 6, 4 BeSP 27, 29 Mar; 3 DH 25 Apr; Buffalo NR 2, 4 May; last 2 DH 11 May; 11 other reports; larger numbers than usual for spring.

Caspian Tern: arr Tift NP 6 Apr; max 200 DH 26 Apr (TiL); 64 Wilson NIAG 15 May.

Black Tern: arr INWR 26 Apr; 18, 27 INWR 10, 28 May (CM); 2 FNSP 19, 24 May.

Com. Tern: arr 40 Squaw I NR 3 Apr (KR, SBr), 1 day record early; 3 BMAC 15 Apr, uncommon inland; 350 DH 11 May; max 975 BuH 11 May (JP).

Forster's Tern: CHAU BOSAC, only report.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Grand I ERIE 10 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr WFWMA 10 May.

Snowy Owl: BuH 1 Mar; S Dayton CATT 10 Mar; 11, 12 Lewiston Res NIAG 15, 17 Mar (JP, WD), record high count for one location; 2 N Collins ERIE 18, 23 Mar; Yates ORLE, Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar; 9 other reports of 1-2 indivs 1-22 Apr; last Cambria NIAG 9 May; good showing after large winter irruption.

Long-eared Owl: WTSP 27 Mar (BP), only report.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 Cambria NIAG 1 Mar; 1, 2 Royalton NIAG 11, 22 Mar; BeSP 26 Mar; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Bond Lake CP NIAG 14 Mar (TK); 1, 1, 1 WTSP 18-27 Mar (BP); only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Wilson NIAG, 2 Jamestown CHAU 9 May, continued at Jamestown thru; Buffalo ERIE 10, 24 May; max 10 Stow CHAU 22 May (KV); 6 ChauL 23 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr Tift NP 18 Apr (D&DS); Jamestown CHAU 2 May (JB); Wilson NIAG 3 May (WD, BP, SBA); only reports.

Chimney Swift: arr SPNS 20 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Shelby ORLE 3 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 1, 3 Emery Park ERIE 18 Apr, 8 May; 3 PG 14 May; 1-2 Tift NP 8-30 May; 7 other reports of 1-2 indiv 8-26 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Fredonia CHAU 3, 26 Mar, poss wintering; arr Jamestown CHAU 24 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: max 29 Ripley HW 1 Apr (GR).

Merlin: now widespread in spring; FLC 4, 23 May, poss breeding location; ad + 1 yg Tonawanda ERIE 21 May (TK), new breeding location; Dunkirk CHAU 27 May.

Peregrine Falcon: several hawk watch reports 15 Mar – 8 May; Hartland NIAG 18 Apr; N

Harmony CHAU 28 Apr, 12 May; WTSP 15 May; Dunkirk CHAU 30 May; 5 other reports near documented summering/breeding locations.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr FLC 8 May (JM!, RS!); record early; AISP 31 May (CM, TB); only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr E Aurora ERIE 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr BeSP 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr INWR, Westfield CHAU 14 May; 7 Fredonia CHAU 22 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr WFWMA 10 May (SK); early.

Willow Flycatcher: arr N Harmony CHAU 9 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Williamsville ERIE, PG 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Olean CATT 24 Mar.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: arr RTPI 1 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Holland ERIE 26 Apr.

N. Shrike: last BuSP 14 Apr (AH).

shrike species: Yates ORLE BOSAC (S&TO).

White-eyed Vireo: AISP 31 May (WD, CM, TB), only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Wilson NIAG 6 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr BOSAC.

Warbling Vireo: arr RTPI 25 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr BuSP 10 May; max 4 Tift NP (DS).

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Royalton Ravine CP NIAG 4 May.

Com. Raven: Bethany WYOM 1-25 Mar; 2 Alden ERIE 5 Mar; PB 8 Mar; 2 Portland CHAU 9 Mar; 2 Somerset NIAG 21 Mar; Tonawanda ERIE 21, 30 Mar; Hamburg HW 21 Mar; Orchard Park ERIE 19 Apr; continued increase in reports region-wide.

Purple Martin: arr Hamburg HW 7 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr 4 AISP 29 Mar; max 1000 INWR 16 Apr (PH).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Shadigee ORLE 11 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 4 INWR 18 Apr; max 100 WoBSP 25 May (WW).

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 19 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr 4 UBNC 9 Apr.

House Wren: arr 2 RWNP 16 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr PG 26 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr INWR 22 Apr.

Carolina Wren: 75 BOSAC, record high for this count.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 4 BOSAC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 Tift NP 29 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FLC 7 Apr.

Veery: arr FLC, Buffalo ERIE 3 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Lancaster ERIE 14 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr RWNP 6 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr 3 Tift NP 9 Apr; Wilson NIAG 24 May, late migrant.

Wood Thrush: arr Alfred ALLE 27 Apr.

Gray Catbird: Tift NP 12, 30 Apr; 3 BOSAC; arrivals?

N. Mockingbird: widespread and seemingly increasing, but still uncommon away from lake shores.

Brown Thrasher: arr BWWT, FLC 12 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar; last 35 BOSMC.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 3 Porter NIAG 6 Mar; 2 Carlton ORLE 31 Mar; 14 Knowlesville ORLE 1 Apr; last 6 Sherman CHAU 18 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 450 Bethany GENE 14 Mar; last 2 BWWT 2 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr Wilson NIAG 1 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: AmSP 12 May (PY, mob), rare.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Fredonia, N Harmony CHAU 12 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr Wilson NIAG 24 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr AmSP 8 May; E Amherst ERIE 10 May; Wilson NIAG 14 May; 3 BOSMC; Portland CHAU 16 May (CHA).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr BMAC, Tillman WMA 6 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: BOSMC, only report.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Ashford CATT 21 May (JRo), rare.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Portland CHAU BOSAC (CH!), early.

Prothonotary Warbler: ALLE BOSMC (RP!); Pomfret CHAU 21 May (GV); TWMA 23-29 May, regular breeding location.

Tennessee Warbler: arr W Seneca ERIE 7 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr FLC 2 May; more reports than usual, similar to last year.

Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP 25 Apr.

Connecticut Warbler: BuSP BOSMC (CHo), only report, rare.

Mourning Warbler: arr Fredonia CHAU, Mt Pleasant SF CHAU, Buffalo ERIE 9 May.

C. Yellowthroat: arr Portland CHAU 1 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Tift NP 16 Apr (JF!), early.
Am. Redstart: arr 4 INWR, JAS 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr PB, Westfield CHAU 3 Apr; max 9 Wilson NIAG 7 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 Tonawanda Ind Res 9 May, regular breeding area; Tift NP 22 May, less commonly found in migr.
N. Parula: arr 2 Tift NP 28 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr PG 1 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 4 FMCS 8 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr E Amherst ERIE, 2 PG 1 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr N Tonawanda NIAG BOSAC (R&SH), record early.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr WFWMA 5 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr AISP 8 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FLC 2 May.
Palm Warbler: arr BOSAC; last Olcott NIAG 23 May.
Pine Warbler: arr S Valley SF CHAU 27 Mar.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: NFSP 6 Mar; 2 BuSP 7 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 1 Apr.
Yellow-throated Warbler: arr AISP 19 Apr, 20, 30 May (TiL, MM, SS); FLC 24 Apr – 9 May (JF, mob); AmSP 26 Apr – 2 May (CHo, mob); 1, 1 Tift NP 26 Apr, 24 May (SBa, SC); Silver Creek CHAU 1 May (MO); Hill Higher SF CHAU 25 May (SK); excellent showing.
Prairie Warbler: arr Ashford CATT 5 May; FLC 8 May, unusual in migr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BOSAC; Williamsville ERIE 14 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr Attica WYOM, Buffalo ERIE, 4 WFWMA 10 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Royalton NIAG 4 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: WTSP BOSMC (WD), only report.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Tift NP 27 Mar.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last BuSP 27 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Medina ORLE 5 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Olcott NIAG 29 Apr (JWe); Blasdell ERIE 1 May (MO); Portland CHAU 1, 8, 25 May (CHa); FLC 2 May (JF); AmSP 12 May (WW); WTSP 15 May (WD, CM); excellent showing.
Field Sparrow: arr Portland CHAU 1 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; Buffalo ERIE 11 Apr; 2 FLC 12 Apr; 8

BOSAC; 2 Elba GENE 3 May; 3 BOSMC; Wilson NIAG 20 May; Yates ORLE 23 May; 2 W Valley CATT 29 May (SBa).
Savannah Sparrow: arr 6 John White WMA GENE 5 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 3 Tillman WMA 17 May; 2 Artpark SP NIAG 22 May; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 26 May; CHMUA 27, 28 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Olean CATT, Jamestown CHAU, S Wales ERIE 24 Mar; last SPNS 20 May (LH), late, injured.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Jamestown CHAU 23 Mar (JB, DW), first Mar record, either exceptionally early or wintered well north; Orchard Park ERIE 30 Apr, next earliest arrival.
Swamp Sparrow: arr JAS 4 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: 2 PB 8 Mar; 2 Wilson NIAG 16-30 Mar; 2 Bethany GENE 16 Apr; arr Tift NP 16 Apr.
SUMMER TANAGER: Elma ERIE 6, 7 May (JS, ph.); PG 10 May (SBa, ph.), becoming nearly annual in spring.
Scarlet Tanager: arr JAS 6 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr SPNS 29 Apr.
BLUE GROSBEAK: Ellery 7 May (LC, ph.), at feeder, very rare.
Indigo Bunting: arr Olcott NIAG 6 May.
Bobolink: arr 3 Jamestown Airport CHAU 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr Portland CHAU 26 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Blasdell CHAU 24 Apr (MO, mob); INWR 4 May (CG, ph., HF); very rare to have multiple sightings in one season.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 6 Newstead ERIE 20 Mar; last 10 BOSMC.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Porter NIAG BOSAC (WD!), very rare.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Portland CHAU 8 Mar, late arrival.
Orchard Oriole: arr Wilson NIAG, Portland CHAU 3 May; 3 AISP 31 May (TB), increasing in this area.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Jamestown CHAU 1 May.
White-winged Crossbill: BOSAC (FR), only report.
Pine Siskin: 4 BOSAC; Belmont ALLE 21 Apr; 2 Porter NIAG 4 May; Wilson NIAG 9 May; only reports.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 ALLE BOSAC, only report.