

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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

Much like the preceding winter months, March was mild and warmer than usual. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 41.3° F, 7.3° above normal, with 3.20" of precipitation, 0.33" above average. There was only 2.1" of snowfall, 10.8" below average. There was little to no ice cover throughout the winter and early spring season for only the sixth time since tracking began in 1927. The only notable weather event was a strong windstorm which brought some damage on the 20th. April turned very cool and unsettled, ending the run of mild weather months. The mean temperature was 43.4°, 2.5° below average. Precipitation was 3.54", 0.53" above average, with 4.3" of snowfall, 1.6" above normal. The first half of May was well below normal and then the second half brought summer-like warmth. The average temperature was 56.0°, 0.9° below normal. Rainfall was 3.87", 0.41" above normal and there was even 0.3" of snowfall on 8 May, souring the mood of everyone that day.

The spring of 2020 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging New York State more than we will remember the birding. Many people took to birding or at least discovering the birds in their yards during this time of increased home confinement. Anecdotally, it seemed that birder activity, beyond backyard birding, was reduced in March and early April but then much greater than normal, especially as spring migration took full stride in May.

It was a memorable spring for some notable rarities and some excellent days of spring migrants stacking up across the Region, especially at traditional migration hot spots.

By far, the most notable of the rarities was a **Gull-billed Tern** that Peter Yoerg saw at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR late on 24 May. Yoerg made a late-night post to GeneseeBirds listserv, which Josh Ketry picked up on and found the tern still present early the next morning on Memorial Day. Many birders raced to see this mega rarity and more than 50 birders reported it in eBird. This was a first for Region 1 and believed to be a first for upstate New York. It was not reported in subsequent days.

Several Glossy Ibises showed up during the first few days of May, which drew birders out to Iroquois NWR where up to four were seen at Kumpf Marsh on the morning of 3 May. TJ Mudd observed a fifth ibis that arrived there and upon closer inspection determined it was a much rarer **White-faced Ibis**, only the third for Region 1. This brought out even more birders on that Sunday afternoon, and good thing since it was not reported afterward. Janet and James Sandefur also reported a Glossy Ibis at Batavia WWTP on 2 May and there were a few later reports that followed around Iroquois NWR.

A **Western Grebe** was found on the Niagara River in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario by Liz Cormack. Many birders saw the grebe over the next few days, 5-7 March, including time the grebe spent on the U.S. side of the river. This was the sixth Regional record.

As noted in the winter season report, waterfowl migration was well underway by the time March began. A Ross's Goose was found at Batavia WWTTP 7-8 March by Greg Lawrence and then one at nearby Gypsum Pond in Oakfield on 14 March could have possibly been the same bird. The group of 17 Greater White-fronted Geese continued at Conewango Swamp WMA into early March and there were reports from three other locations in early March. The maximum count of Cackling Goose was 18 at Oakfield on 18 March. Tim Lenz reported a Brant at Bemus Point on Chautauqua Lake on 18 May for the only report; this species is less than annual in spring as Region 1 is west of the typical migration path. Trumpeter Swans were found around Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA as usual for the last few years, as well as reports from two other locations. There were multiple reports of a drake Eurasian Wigeon around Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA, probably representing more than one bird. Joel Spring photographed a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** on Oak Orchard Creek at Iroquois NWR on 21 March; this form has rarely been documented in Region 1. Joe Mitchell photographed a **putative Tufted Duck hybrid** on 7 March in Buffalo Harbor; this adult male had a short tuft that led Mitchell and others to speculate it was a hybrid with one of the scaup species. A Harlequin Duck was reported from Olean on 19 and 24 April by Keith Neff and Heather Renyck for a rare inland record.

Kirk Vanstrom found a rare-in-spring American Golden-Plover in a field in French Creek on 16 April. Gale VerHague sighted three American Avocets at Dunkirk Harbor on 30 April. There were two Whimbrel reports in late May. There were a few more Ruddy Turnstone reports than usual, including 23 at Bemus Point on 31 May. A Sanderling at Buffalo Harbor was the only spring report. Shorebirds amassed at Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR drained slowly in the second half of May, with an estimated 380 Semipalmated Sandpipers and good variety and numbers of shorebirds on 25 May. Long-billed Dowitchers were found at Iroquois NWR 1-2 May and more surprisingly at wetlands in West Seneca on 8 May. Willets were clearly on the move on 3 May with 17 sighted at Clymer and eight at Bemus Point; four were found at Beaver Island SP on 11 May as well. The only reports for Upland Sandpiper were at the regular breeding location adjacent to Tillman Road WMA. Wilson's Phalaropes were found at three locations in May.

There was only a smattering of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gull reports for the season. A Little Gull at Bemus Point on 23 April was a rare inland report away from the Great Lakes and Niagara River. There were two Black Tern reports on the Niagara River in migration away from their only Regional breeding locations at Iroquois NWR and Tonawanda WMA. Five reports of Forster's Tern were more than usual for a spring season.

There were three American White Pelican sightings, including a long staying bird at Oak Orchard WMA plus single day reports at Beaver Island SP and Woodlawn Beach SP. Josh Ketry was startled to see a **Brown Pelican** flying west along the Lake Ontario shoreline at Golden Hill SP late in the afternoon of 21 May; this was the sixth record for the Region.

The drawdown of Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR attracted good numbers of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets in the second half of May. Josh Ketry found a Snowy Egret among them on 23 May that stuck around for a few more days, while nearby at Tonawanda WMA on the same day, Bev Seyler found a Cattle Egret that also stuck around for a few more days.

The highlight at the Hamburg Hawkwatch was a **Swainson's Hawk** on 15 April photographed by Sue Barth; this was the second record for the hawkwatch and for Erie County in consecutive years. After a successful Gull-billed Tern chase, and plenty of other good birds at Iroquois NWR that day, Joe Mitchell found a soaring Swainson's Hawk upon return to his Alden home. Call that a birding day to remember! There were two Golden Eagle sightings at the Hamburg Hawkwatch in late March. The only documented Northern Goshawk report came from Canaseraga in April. Up to four Black Vultures were in Lewiston, their regular location, plus one at Somerset on 3 May.

A few Snowy Owls were reported in March on the breakwalls around Buffalo Harbor with the last report on 6 April. Long-eared Owl was reported from only one location, with multiple reports in Yates. Short-eared Owls were found at five locations, and there were two locations for Northern Saw-whet Owl reports.

Both cuckoo species were late to arrive this spring. There were relatively few Common Nighthawk reports like most recent spring seasons, but Kevin Rybczynski's count of 106 over Buffalo on 24 May was a nice surprise and the highest count in many years. Eastern Whip-poor-will reports were the most I have encountered in the two decades of preparing this Regional account. One factor included targeted searches for them along Lake Ontario by Joel Strong. Three "whips" at Golden Hill SP on the morning of 20 May was remarkable for this species uncommonly detected in Region 1.

A White-eyed Vireo in Amherst on 3 May was the only report. Fish Crows were reported from several locations in Buffalo and a few slightly beyond there. Alec Humann had a group of 11 Fish Crows along the Niagara River in Buffalo to set a Regional maximum count. A Cliff Swallow was early on 4 April; otherwise, the bulk of swallows arrived a little bit later with the cool start to April. Visiting birder Brent Stephenson did not realize that such excitement would follow his discovery of a Sedge Wren at Amherst SP on the early date of 30 April; many birders were able to find the bird that day and the next. One and then two Sedge Wrens at Conewango Swamp WMA in May are consistent with sightings from that location in recent years. Carolina Wrens appear to be on an upswing; the mild winter and early spring had to help. American Pipit reports and numbers were low again compared to typical spring numbers, but more than the very few from the previous spring season.

A handful of Pine Siskin reports was all the season mustered for irruptive finches. There were only a few early March reports of Snow Bunting and a lone Lapland Longspur report, which might be attributed to February's warmth as encouragement for them to move north quicker.

There were some early arriving Field Sparrows, although with a warm winter and a warming climate, this is another species that becomes challenging to determine what is a spring arrival vs. an overwintering bird, or birds that don't winter as far to the south as usual and then return sooner. For the second spring in a row Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from ten locations, a mix of migration spots and likely breeding areas. Vesper Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows were found in decent numbers compared to recent springs, including some reports from migration locations. Chris Wood was surprised to hear the soft song of a Nelson's Sparrow, on a very windy afternoon, no less, at Tonawanda WMA on 31 May; this represents a rare spring report. Evelyn Whitlock photographed a **Harris's Sparrow** at her feeder in Lockport on 10 May, which is in line for the usual timing of spring reports.

An early adult male Baltimore Oriole showed up at Laura Szmania's feeders in Aurora on 13-14 April. Orchard Orioles were well reported again; I suspect we will see an expanded distribution for this species in the current breeding bird atlas project.

Warbler migration did not disappoint as good numbers showed up, especially in mid-May. There were two sightings each for Worm-eating Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler, where the Region sits slightly north of their range. Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Prairie Warbler were found in migration more often than in any recent spring; for the first two, I'm not sure if this was an anomaly and/or a function of more active May birders. I suspect it is a trend for Prairie Warbler, though, as I noted the same thing last spring and the species could be expanding north in its range some more. Prothonotary Warbler drew a similar note last year and it was found in migration at three locations in addition to locations at or near Iroquois NWR. Rounding out the less common species were a Connecticut Warbler found at Amherst SP by Brent Stephenson and an "Eastern" Palm Warbler that Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter realized upon closer inspection of their photographs from an outing at Four Mile Creek SP.

A **Summer Tanager** was recorded for the eighth consecutive spring season and 11 out of the last 13 years. David Gordon found one at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 3 May, which allowed other birders to see it throughout the day. Tim Lenz discovered a pale **Western Tanager** on the same day at Point Gratiot, representing the fourth Regional record, all of which have occurred since 2013.

The 85th Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) April Count was held on 5 April. There was no participation from the Ontario sections due to COVID restrictions, while Batavia WWTP was not visited on the New York side due to inaccessibility, so the numbers were affected accordingly. The species count (141) was slightly above the historical average, while the 87,843 total birds recorded was well low under the circumstances. Despite the reduced coverage there were

still ten record high counts, including Sandhill Crane (30), American Woodcock (60), Bald Eagle (69), Eastern Screech-Owl (13), Barred Owl (30), Red-bellied Woodpecker (339), Pileated Woodpecker (77), Fish Crow (11), Common Raven (48), and Winter Wren (56), plus a first ever Black-and-white Warbler, a very early find by Tim and Caroline Goff at Chestnut Ridge Park. Record low counts were Blue-winged Teal (39) and American Robin (4,912), the former being noted in decline and the latter a function of reduced participation.

The BOS May Count was held on 17 May, including coverage in the Ontario sections. A total of 206 species was tallied and 75,376 birds were recorded, which were about average and higher than recent totals, respectively. High counts over the last 55 years included Trumpeter Swan (5), Bald Eagle (68), Merlin (8), Red-bellied Woodpecker (420), Pileated Woodpecker (68), Yellow-throated Vireo (41), Blue-headed Vireo (104), Common Raven (40), Carolina Wren (51), Winter Wren (31), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (114), Gray Catbird (1706), Nashville Warbler (186), Northern Parula (133), Chestnut-sided Warbler (336), Black-throated Blue Warbler (245), Black-throated Green Warbler (254), Pine Warbler (33), Palm Warbler (145), Ovenbird (310), Northern Cardinal (1140), and Orchard Oriole (36). Lowest counts in the last 55 years included Ring-necked Pheasant (6), Black Tern (3), Vesper Sparrow (1), House Sparrow (1144), and surprisingly not a single cuckoo of either species was recorded on the count.

CONTRIBUTORS

Denise Appleby, Jessie Barry, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Chris Bertola, Hannah Brenner, Kyle Brock, Brad Carlson, Jessica Clippinger, Richard Collins, Liz Cormack, Peter Corrigan, David Crowe, Willie D'Anna, Ian Davies, Scott Diedrich, Joe Fell, Dave Friedrichs, Tim & Caroline Goff, David Gordon, Andy Guthrie, Christy Hibsich (CHi), Chris Hollister (CHo), Bruce Hoover, Alec Humann, Tom Kerr, Josh Ketty, Greg Lawrence, Twan Leenders (TwL), Tim Lenz (TiL), Karen Lee Lewis, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Keith Neff, Matt Nusstein, Betsy Potter, Heather Renyck, Gerry Rising, Bruce Robinson, Chris Rockwell, Daniel Rosentreter, Marcus Rosten, Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Janet & James Sandefur (J&JS), James Sawusch (JSa), Shelley Seidman, Beverly Seyler (BSe), Debbie Sharon, Tom Simmons, Joel Spring (JSp), Brent Stephenson (BSt), Rick Stevens, Joel Strong (JSt), Laura Szmania, Rick Thomas, David Todtenhagen, Kirk Vanstrom, Conner Vara, Evelyn Whitlock, Chris Wood, Gale VerHague, Peter Yoerg, Barb Zaenglein.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **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 – 05 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 17 May; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **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 Hawkwatch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JDSP** – Joseph Davis SP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Point Gratiot, CHAU; **RTPI** – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Jamestown, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 50 Lyndonville NIAG 2 Mar; max 210 INWR, 150 EvSP, 45 Portland CHAU 3 Mar; 140 Batavia GENE 4 Mar; 67 Belfast ALLE 19 Mar.
Ross's Goose: BWWTP 7, 8 Mar (GL); Oakfield GENE 14 Mar (RS), possibly same as Batavia bird.
Greater White-fronted Goose: 6, 5 Lyndonville NIAG 1, 2 Mar (JSt); max 17 CSWMA 2 Mar (DC); 2 Somerset NIAG 5 Mar (WD, JSt); 3 BWWTP 8 Mar (PY).
Brant: 2 Bemus Pt ChauL 18 May (TiL), unusual location, only report.
Cackling Goose: 2 CSWMA 2 Mar; 13, 12 Somerset NIAG 5, 11 Mar (WD); 7 Yates ORLE 12 Mar; max 18 Oakfield GENE 18 Mar (PY).
Mute Swan: Pomfret 4-28 Mar; 5 PB 14 Mar; Tifft NP 21 Mar – 5 May; BeSP 1 Apr – 30 May; 7 Yates ORLE 8 Apr; Cassadaga L CHAU 11 Apr; 5 INWR 8 May; 7 WTSP 15 May; max 9 Lyndonville NIAG 17 May; 7 Carlton ORLE 24 May.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 Alexander GENE 4 Mar (DB); max 2, 7, 9 INWR 14 Mar, 26 Apr, 25 May, present throughout season; 8, 2 TWMA 12 Apr, 25 May; Buffalo ERIE 25 Apr (GR).
Tundra Swan: max 410 Celoron ChauL, 300 Yates ORLE 2 Mar; 260 INWR 3 Mar; 250 Buffalo NR 6 Mar; 350 Shelby ORLE 10 Mar; last Orchard Park ERIE 10 May.
Wood Duck: max 160 Stockton CHAU 22 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 Conewango CATT 8 Mar; max 29 CSWMA 9 Apr.
Northern Shoveler: max 100, 98 INWR 2, 20 Apr.
Gadwall: max 110 INWR 6 Apr.
Eurasian Wigeon: INWR 24-28 Mar, 5, 7, 11 Apr (CM); TWMA 13 May (PY); annual in spring.

American Wigeon: 275 INWR 19 Mar; max 550 TWMA 22 Mar (JM).
American Black Duck: 17 Batavia GENE 10 Mar; 18 INWR 24 Mar; max 24 CSWMA 18 Apr (ID).
Northern Pintail: max 310, 325 INWR 6 Mar, 24 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: 122 CSWMA 9 Apr; max 204, 275 INWR 15, 24 Apr.
“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: INWR 21 Mar (JSp ph!), rarely documented in Reg 1.
Canvasback: last Dayton CATT 23 Apr.
Redhead: max 550 Celoron ChauL 4 Mar; 185, 5 BWWTP 12 Mar, 23 May; 10, 5 TWMA 16, 26 May.
Ring-necked Duck: 210 BWWTP 12 Mar; 192 N Harmony ChauL 21 Mar; 160 Pomfret CHAU 21 Mar; max 615 TWMA 25 Mar; 250 Westfield CHAU 4 Apr; 180 TWMA 25 Apr.
TUFTED DUCK putative hybrid (R1): BuFH 7 Mar (JM ph!), small tuft on adult male, thought to be hybrid with scaup.
Greater Scaup: max 425 BuFH 1 Mar; 137 BWWTP 9 Apr; last 2 BWWTP, DH 24 May.
Lesser Scaup: 116 BWWTP 18 Mar; max 220 Bemus Pt ChauL 4 Apr; 2 BWWTP 24 May.
Harlequin Duck: NFSP 7, 16 Mar; Olean CATT 19, 24 Apr (KN, HR), unusual location.
Surf Scoter: max 4 Wilson NIAG 14 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: max 211 FNPS 7 Mar; 2 BuSP 29 Apr; 22 N Harmony ChauL (KV), 27 BuSP 18 May (AH), unusual locations for these numbers and on same date; last 4 Porter NIAG 22 May.
Black Scoter: FNPS 6-7 Mar; L Ontario BOSAC; PB 11 Apr; only reports.
Long-tailed Duck: 48 Dayton CATT 1 Apr (BR), good inland count; max 178 Wilson NIAG 19 Apr; still plentiful on L Ontario until late May.

Bufflehead: 144 Bemus Pt ChauL 4 Apr; 163 Cuba L ALLE, 137 Rushford L ALLE 5 Apr; max 237 BWWTP 9 Apr; 125 BeSP 28 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 2500 Unity I NR 5 Mar (JK), possible double counting?; last BeSP 26 May (AH).

Hooded Merganser: max 56, 40 BeSP 7 Mar, 20 Apr; 37 INWR 24 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 78 BWWTP 4 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 450 Buffalo NR 31 Mar; last LBSP 30 May.

Ruddy Duck: 11, 33 Dayton CATT 28 Mar, 23 Apr; 11 AISP 30 Mar; 46 Bemus Pt ChauL 4 Apr; max 237, 446 BWWTP 9, 12 Apr; 2 TWMA 31 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 INWR 28 Apr; 2 JDSP 20 May (MM), pair at nest, unusual breeding location.

Horned Grebe: 44 AISP 30 Mar (KB); max 130 N Harmony ChauL 30 Mar (KV); 64 Amherst ERIE 30 Mar; 3 LBSP 16 May; last Willing ALLE 23 May (DC).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Yates ORLE, DH 8 Mar; 27 GHSP 12 Mar; 20 Wilson NIAG 26 Mar; max 125 Somerset NIAG 7 Apr (WD, BP); N Harmony ChauL 18 Apr; TWMA 3 May; last L Ontario BOSMC.

WESTERN GREBE: FNSP 5-7 Mar (LC, mob), rare, originally found on Ontario side of NR but viewed several times in NY waters; sixth Reg record.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr INWR 16 May, late arriving.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr AmSP 15 May, late arriving.

Common Nighthawk: arr 3 Gerry CHAU 10 May; 9 Grand Island ERIE 24 May; max 106 Buffalo ERIE 24 May (KR), highest spring count in years; few reports.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Amherst ERIE 25 Apr (BS); 1, 1 Newfane NIAG 1, 27 May; 1, 1 Somerset NIAG 3, 20 May; Jamestown CHAU 12 May (TwL); 1, 3 GHSP 14, 20 May (JSt, MM); Buffalo ERIE 19 May (DG); Shelby ORLE 22 May (DR); Wales ERIE 24 May (DT); good showing.

Chimney Swift: arr 3 Hamburg ERIE 25 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Pomfret CHAU 30 Apr.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr Tiftt NP 21 Mar (PC), early; 4 BOSAC; max 5 N Harmony CHAU 18 Apr; 4 AmSP 1 May; 4 CSWMA 2 May; 4 West Seneca ERIE 7 May; 4 BMAC 14 May.

Sora: arr Tiftt NP 19 Apr; 4 BeSP 3 May; 4 West Seneca ERIE 4 May; 4 ACNC 27 May.

Common Gallinule: arr Tiftt NP 17 Apr; max 20 TWMA 26 May.

American Coot: max 50 INWR 27 Mar.

Sandhill Crane: 2, 1, 3 CSWMA 7 Mar, 15 Apr, 19 May; ACNC 12 Mar; 5, 5, 7, 8 INWR 18, 29 Mar, 5 Apr, 10 May; 3 Brocton CHAU 26 Mar; 1, 2 WFWMA 29 Mar, 2 May; 30 BOSAC; 4 Newstead ERIE 11 Apr; 8 Carlton ORLE 12 Apr; 2 Sherman CHAU 12 Apr; 4 FNSP 28 Apr; 2 GHSP 20 May; max 9 TWMA 29 May (JSt).

American Avocet: 3 DH 30 Apr (GV), becoming less rare in spring.

Black-bellied Plover: arr N Harmony CHAU 11 May; 2 INWR, BufH 25 May; CSWMA 31 May.

American Golden-Plover: French Creek CHAU 16, 20 Apr (KV), rare in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr CSWMA 2 May; max 55 INWR 24 May.

Upland Sandpiper: 3 TRWMA BOSMC; only location reported.

Whimbrel: arr INWR 25 May (JM); Bemus Pt ChauL 31 May (KV).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 20 May; 1, 2 INWR 22, 30 May; BufH 22 May; CSWMA 31 May; max 23 Bemus Pt ChauL 31 May (KV).

Sanderling: 2 BufH 30 May (JK), only report.

Dunlin: arr 4, max 46 INWR 5 Apr, 2 May.

Purple Sandpiper: BufH 1 Mar (SS), continued from winter.

Least Sandpiper: arr Yates ORLE 30 Apr; 34 CSWMA 9 May; max 62 INWR 22 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BOSMC; Hartland NIAG 19 May (JK), only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Sheridan CHAU 15 Mar; max 13 INWR 26 Apr; last INWR 28 May (WD, JSt), a little late.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, max 1, 380 INWR 2, 25 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1, max 1, 5 INWR 25 May; only reports.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 1-2 INWR 1-2 May (RT, KR); West Seneca ERIE 8 May (BZ); rare in spring.

American Woodcock: arr Alden ERIE 5 Mar. **Wilson's Snipe:** arr Ischua CATT 1 Mar; max 37 Yates ORLE 18 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Jamestown CHAU 10 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 Brant ERIE 26 Apr; max 10 CSWMA 4 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 Sheridan CHAU 15 Mar; 40 INWR 28 Apr; max 42 CSWMA, 42 Sheridan CHAU 4 May.
Willet: arr 17 Clymer CHAU (KV), 8 Bemus Pt ChauL (TiL) 3 May; 4 BeSP 11 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 24 Mar; 35 Shelby ORLE 28 Apr; max 36 INWR 9 May.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 2 TWMA 13 May (PY); BWWT 23 May (CW, JB); 1, 2 INWR 23, 25 May (MM).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 6000 Buffalo NR 21 Apr (JK); 100 BeSP 6 May; 65 Bemus Pt ChauL 18 May.
Little Gull: 3 Lewiston NR 16 Mar; BufH 29 Mar; 3 BOSAC; Bemus Pt ChauL 23 Apr.
Iceland Gull: max 5 Centennial P Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; 3 NPP 1 Mar; 2 NFSP 5 Mar; 2 Barcelona CHAU 7 Mar; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 21 Mar, 3 Apr; 1 DH 28 Mar; Buffalo NR 3, 5 Apr.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Centennial P Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; max 4 NFSP 5 Mar; 1, 1, 2 DH 13, 28 Mar, 1 May; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 14 Mar; Hamburg ERIE 13 Apr; Wilson NIAG 27 Apr; Bemus Pt ChauL 3 May; 2 Somerset NIAG 22 May.
Glaucous Gull: 1, 1 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Mar, 16 Apr; 1, 1, DH 4 Mar, 1 May; BufH 5 Mar; Barcelona CHAU 7 Mar; NPP 5 Apr; Hamburg ERIE 26 Apr; only reports.
GULL-BILLED TERN (R1): INWR 24-25 May (PY, JK, mob), first for Reg; *see intro*.
Caspian Tern: arr INWR, PB, Barcelona CHAU 7 Apr; 73 DH 9 May; max 182 BufH 30 May.
Black Tern: arr 2 INWR 24 Apr; 3 Buffalo NR 29 Apr (HB); Tonawanda NR 10 May (CR); 14 INWR 23 May; max 20 TWMA 25 May.
Common Tern: arr 4 BOSAC; max 500 Buffalo NR 30 Apr; 165 FNSP 22 May; 5 INWR 25 May, late migrants.
Forster's Tern: arr Buffalo NR 21 Apr (KR); 3 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 26 Apr (SB); max 4 Bemus Pt ChauL 3 May (TiL); Hanover CHAU 15 May (GV); PB 30 May (CW, AG).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 Wilson NIAG 5 Mar; 13 Somerset NIAG 7 Apr; BuSP 11 Apr; max 41 LBS 12 May; 4 FMCSP 16 May; 2 PB 23 May; last 2 Hamburg ERIE 25 May.
Common Loon: max 47 Wilson NIAG 19 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: 328 Bemus Pt ChauL 18 Apr; 600 Jamestown ChauL 24 Apr.
American White Pelican: OOWMA 27 Apr–24 May (DA, CM); BeSP 10 May (KL); WoBSP 11 May (KR); now annual in spring.
BROWN PELICAN (R1): GHSP 21 May (JK), 6th Reg record.
American Bittern: arr 2 BOSAC; Cuba ALLE 8 Apr (DC); 3 Tift NP 26 Apr; 3 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 28 Apr (CHI); West Seneca ERIE 4 May; max 4 TWMA 22 May; TRWMA 26 May.
Least Bittern: arr BeSP 2 May; Tift NP 9 May; 1, 2 TWMA 13, 21 May.
Great Blue Heron: 101, 135 Motor I NR 28 Mar, 5 May; max 250 INWR 26 May (JSt).
Great Egret: arr 1, 75 BuSP 16 Mar, 25 Apr; max 71, 102 INWR 24 Apr, 26 May.
Snowy Egret: INWR 23-26 May (JK, mob), rare.
Cattle Egret: TWMA 23-26 May (BSe, mob), rare.
Green Heron: arr CSWMA 13 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Buffalo ERIE 24 Mar.
Glossy Ibis: 2, 4, 1 INWR 1, 3, 25 May (DF, TJM, JK), observed by many; BWWT 2 May (J&JS).
WHITE-FACED IBIS: INWR 3 May (TJM, mob), 3rd Reg record.
Black Vulture: 2, 4, 1 Lewiston NIAG 7 Mar, 5 Apr, 20 May, regular location; Somerset NIAG 3 May (WD).
Turkey Vulture: max 2627, 1885 Hamburg HW 26, 29 Mar.
Osprey: arr Clay Pond WMA CHAU 20 Mar; max 11, 11 Hamburg HW 25, 27 Apr.
Golden Eagle: 1, 1 Hamburg HW 25, 26 Mar; only reports.
Northern Harrier: max 5 Hamburg HW 27 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 31 Hamburg HW 20 Apr.
Northern Goshawk: Canaseraga ALLE 4 Apr (ID), only report.
Bald Eagle: 11, 14, 11 Hamburg HW 25 Apr, 2, 14 May; max 42 Carlton ORLE 3 May (WD, CM, JK); widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 35 Hamburg HW 25 Mar; 27 Carlton ORLE 26 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1, max 1507, 1011 Hamburg HW 6, 27, 28 Apr; 844, 848 Carlton ORLE 2, 3 May (WD, BP).
SWAINSON'S HAWK: Hamburg HW 15 Apr (SB ph!); Alden ERIE 25 May (JM ph!); 6th and 7th Reg records.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 60 Hamburg HW 25 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 Hamburg HW 25 Mar.
Snowy Owl: max 3, last 1 BufH 18 Mar, 6 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: 1, 2 Yates ORLE 9 Mar, 3 Apr (BP), only reports.
Short-eared Owl: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 5 Mar; max 2 Conewango CATT 8 Mar; John White WMA GENE 19 Mar; BufH 26 Mar, 4, 7 Apr; 2, 1 Shelby ORLE 29 Mar, 5 Apr.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1, 1 Yates ORLE 11-12 Mar, 3 Apr (JK, BP); Andover ALLE 25 Mar (ID).
Red-headed Woodpecker: 2, 3 Wendt Beach CP ERIE 14 Mar, 3 Apr; 1, 2 Bennett Beach ERIE 23 Mar, 12 Apr; Carlton ORLE 8 Apr; 3 EvSP 25 Apr; AmSP 15 – 20 May; 4 LBSP 16 May; max 5 FNSP 21 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Bethany GENE 21 Mar.
Merlin: regular sightings thru; Lakewood CHAU 4 Apr thru (TS), nesting again; Artpark SP NIAG 20 May, perhaps last migrant.
Peregrine Falcon: arr Gasport ORLE 1 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 2 LESP, FLC 29 Apr.
Eastern Kingbird: arr Tift NP 25 Apr.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BOSMC; Willing ALLE 19 May; OOWMA 24 May; Alexander GENE 30 May; only reports.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr BMAC 12 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Java WYOM 16 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 Hamburg ERIE 19 May; max 9 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 30 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Hanging Bog WMA CATT/ALLE 13 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 13 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr RTPI 29 Apr.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Belfast ALLE 19 Mar.
Northern Shrike: five Mar reports; last INWR BOSAC.
White-eyed Vireo: Amherst ERIE 3 May (TK), only report.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Granger ALLE 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr ACNC 14 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr AISP, Buffalo ERIE 14 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr Como L CP ERIE 27 Apr.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Orchard Park ERIE 30 Apr (CB), slightly early.
Fish Crow: 1-2 Buffalo ERIE 3-23 Mar (SD), daily occurrence; 1, 1, 1, 1, Buffalo ERIE 4 Mar, 8, 18, 25 Apr; FLC 10 Mar (KR); RWNP 3 Apr (RC); 11 Buffalo NR BOSAC (AH), in one group; 2 Buffalo 6 Apr (JK); 2 Tift NP 29 Apr; Buffalo ERIE 13-18 May.
Common Raven: many reports Mar, Apr
Horned Lark: max 45 Clymer CHAU 4 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr 4 BOSAC; max 62 INWR 17 May.
Tree Swallow: arr 8 OOWMA 14 Mar; max 275 INWR 24 Apr.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr 4 BOSAC; max 40 BeSP 10 May.
Bank Swallow: arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 15 Apr; max 200 PB 12 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr Grove ALLE 4 Apr (ID), early; max 30 FNSP 28 May.
Barn Swallow: arr 2 BOSAC.
House Wren: arr EvSP 27 Mar (MN); Tift NP 31 Mar; early.
Winter Wren: arr RWNP 21 Mar; AmSP thru May, unusual location for apparent breeding attempt.
Sedge Wren: AmSP 30 Apr – 1 May (BST! mob), early; 1, 2 CSWMA 19, 31 May (TiL, JK).
Marsh Wren: TWMA 12 Mar (PY), early or overwinter?; arr Tift NP 25, 28 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 34 BOSAC; 51 BOSMC
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Cold Spring CATT 12 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Tift NP 8 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Buffalo ERIE 28 Mar; last Jamestown CHAU 24 May.
Veery: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr FLC 15 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Amherst ERIE 6 May; max 46 Buffalo ERIE 23 May (JF), nocturnal flight calls; 20 GHSP 24 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Alma ALLE 28 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr Portland CHAU 27 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr 4 BOSAC.
Brown Thrasher: arr Lakewood CHAU 1 Apr.
Northern Mockingbird: 29 BOSAC; 37 BOSMC
American Pipit: arr 2 Sheridan CHAU 14 Mar; 70 Yorkshire CATT 12 Apr; 189 BOSMC; last West Seneca ERIE 21 May.
Purple Finch: 125 BOSAC; 126 BOSMC.

Pine Siskin: 1-2, 2, 1 Aurora ERIE 7-26 Mar, 28 Apr, 1, 5 May; 2 Charlotte CHAU 27 Apr; max 6 Alfred ALLE 30 Apr – 8 May; BMAC 10 May; Orchard Park ERIE 13 May; last BOSMC.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Yates ORLE 1 Mar; only report.

Snow Bunting: max 19 Yates ORLE 1 Mar; few reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Mar.

American Tree Sparrow: last AmSP 1 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 Tift NP 27 Mar.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Tift NP 26 Apr (RT, KR), early; 3 Porter NIAG 4, 22 May (VR); PG 6 May (GV); BuSP 6 May (TK); 1, 3 Olcott NIAG 9, 22 May; Ripley CHAU 10, 12 (JC); Amherst ERIE 13 May (CHO); Artpark SP NIAG 13, 20 May (MM), new location; BuFH 14 May (SS); LBSP 16 May (BC); increasing reports in spring.

Field Sparrow: arr 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 1 Mar; Silver Creek CHAU 2 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 30 Mar; 11 BOSAC; 3 Sheridan CHAU 8 Apr; max 6 Lyndonville NIAG 11 Apr; 3 Forestville CHAU 17 Apr; 3 CSWMA 4 May; 3 Albion ORLE 20 May; good spring showing.

Savannah Sparrow: arr 2 BuFH 27 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr LESP, Tift NP 29 Apr; AmSP 30 Apr; notable for three early season sightings when rarely found at migration spots; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 11 May; Tift NP 16 May; 4 Artpark SP NIAG 21 May; max 6 TRWMA 26 May; 2 BuFH 27 May.

Nelson's Sparrow: TWMA 31 May (CW!), rare in spring.

Fox Sparrow: arr RTPI, BuSP, Tift NP 24 Mar; max 23 FLC 26 Apr (JF), good count.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tonawanda ERIE 30 Apr (BH, MR); max 6 PB 14 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr Ellery CHAU 17 Mar.

White-throated Sparrow: max 123 Tift NP 27 Apr.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: Lockport NIAG 10 May (EW ph!), at feeder, usual timing for spring records.

White-crowned Sparrow: three Mar rpts; cannot determine which is spring arrival; max 60 Buffalo ERIE 15 May.

Bobolink: arr 2 Busti CHAU 29 Apr; max 28 Knox Farm SP ERIE 25 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr Ischua CATT 7 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Apr; max 4 Orangeville WYOM 7 May (T&LS); max 4 GHSP 22 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Aurora ERIE 13, 14 Apr (LS), early; West Seneca ERIE 28 Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 600 Sheridan CHAU 26 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Buffalo ERIE 7 Mar; 169, 250 INWR 28 Mar, 24 Apr; 140 Sherman CHAU 4 Apr; max 230, 305 BuSP 16 Apr, 6 May; last BuSP, Buffalo ERIE 18 May.

Common Grackle: max 1000 Buffalo ERIE 4 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr LESP, PG, Java WYOM 29 Apr; max 10 RWNP 18 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr PG 29 Apr (GV); AmSP 30 Apr – 1 May (BST); only reports; annual in spring.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr AISP BOSAC (TB), early.

Northern Waterthrush: arr Pomfret CHAU 24 Apr; max 7 BMAC 14 May; max 7 BuSP 18 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr BeSP 11-14 May (BH, mob); Buffalo ERIE, WTSP, Orangeville WYOM 15 May; 3 BOSMC; Long Point SP Chaul 17 May; max 3 GHSP 20 May (MM); unexpected good showing.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU, Chautauqua CHAU 28 Apr.

"Brewster's" Warbler: OOWMA 21 May (PY), only report.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: AmSP 15 May (CR), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE BOSAC (T&CG), early; Pomfret CHAU 24 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 3 May (MR); BeSP 5 May (DS); INWR 6 May thru; 2 TWMA 16 May; LBSP 16 May; Newstead ERIE 31 May (CW), in breeding habitat; good showing.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 6 May; max 40 Long Point SP Chaul 18 May (TiL).

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Chautauqua CHAU, BeSP 3 May; max 3 FNPS 18 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 28 Apr; max 14 LBSP 16 May.

Connecticut Warbler: AmSP 26 May (BST), rare in spring.

Mourning Warbler: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 10 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr Tift NP 11, 12 Apr; ACNC 14 Apr; FLC 26 Apr; on the early side.

Hooded Warbler: arr LBSP 1 May.

American Redstart: arr Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 LESP 29 Apr; max 20 FMCS 16 May; max 20 Long Point SP ChauL 18 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 16 May; AmSP 18 May; NFSP 19 May; GHSP 20 May; 2 PG 26 May; max 10 Newstead ERIE 31 May; more seen in migration than usual.

Northern Parula: arr LESP 1 May; max 14 FN 18 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr AISP, BMAC 2 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 2 WTSP 14 May; max 31 AmSP 18 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 29 Apr; max 24 AmSP 18 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr Jamestown CHAU, Buffalo ERIE 26 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 3 CSWMA, Zoar Valley MUA CATT 2 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr WTSP 15 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr N Harmony CHAU, Chautauqua CHAU, FN 29 Apr; max 18 GHSP 16 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 7, 8 Apr (CR); BeSP 9 Apr (DS); early.

“Eastern” Palm Warbler: FMCS 5 May (WD, BP), only report.

Pine Warbler: arr Yates ORLE 15 Mar; max 6 LESP 29 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 BuSP 28, 31 Mar, wintering; arr 2 SPWS 1 Apr.

Yellow-throated Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 25 Apr (JSA); Pomfret CHAU 28 Apr (CV); only reports.

Prairie Warbler: arr CSWMA 4 May; FLC 14 May; 4 Yorkshire CATT 16 May; 2 Sprague Brook CP ERIE 16 May; FN 18 May; FMCS 19 May; GHSP 20 May; more seen in migration than usual.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr ACNC, 2 Pomfret CHAU 24 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr Orchard Park ERIE 15 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr AISP, FLC 12 May.

SUMMER TANAGER (R1): FLC 3 May (DG), has become annual in spring.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Jamestown CHAU 30 Apr; max 14 Long Point SP ChauL 18 May.

WESTERN TANAGER: PG 3 May (TiL), 4th Reg record, all since 2013.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Ashford CATT 26 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Busti CHAU 3 May.