

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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

Joel Strong

1907 Hess Rd, Appleton, NY 14008
joelstrong78@yahoo.com

March 2021 was dry and much warmer than average. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 40.3° F, 6.3° above normal, with just 1.92" of precipitation, 0.95" below average. April started out warm for the first half and turned cold for the second half of the month. The mean temperature was 48.3°, 2.3° above average. Precipitation was 2.77", 0.24" below average with rain falling on more than half the days. The dry spell continued into May with a total of 1.63" of precipitation, 1.74" below normal. The average temperature was 57.2°, 0.7° below normal.

Waterfowl made a nice showing in March and April with several high counts coming from Iroquois NWR. Snow Geese were seen in several parts of the Region with a seasonal high count of 85 from Chautauqua County and the last being seen on 7 April. There were two records of Ross's Goose in early March, which has become a near-annual spring occurrence. There were three reports of Greater White-fronted Geese in the spring and no Brant reported. Cackling Geese were seen in several locations including a seasonal high count of 25 on 21 March. Celeste Morien had a nice count of 546 Tundra Swans at Iroquois NWR, the highest count for the season. An impressive 1,116 Northern Pintails were also counted at Iroquois NWR and large numbers were seen there from Cayuga Pool for an extended period in late March. A long-staying Eurasian Wigeon provided ample opportunity to birders during its stay at Tiffit Nature Preserve from 11 March to 26 April. An additional individual was also reported from Iroquois NWR on 18 March. A Harlequin Duck was only reported once this season from its usual location at Niagara Falls SP. All three expected scoters were reported with both Surf and White-winged being reported from inland locations, while a report of a Black Scoter was unusual for late May. A seasonal high count of 650 Ruddy Ducks was reported from Chautauqua Lake.

A count of 92 Wild Turkey in Forestville was a seasonal high and very large tally for the Region. Golden Hill SP produced the highest Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe counts of the season with 22 and 175, respectively. Carol Hardenburg hosted yet another rare dove in her yard; this time a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** from 15-22 March, after hosting a White-winged Dove in December 2020. The arrival of Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was first reported on 27 April.

There were several shorebird highlights this spring, in part thanks to the temporary lowering of water levels at some Iroquois NWR pools which attracted good numbers of shorebirds, and subsequently, birders. This included a **Black-necked Stilt** found by Terry Bohling at Iroquois NWR on 30 May. This represents the fourth Regional record, all of which occurred in the past five years. Additionally, the first spring record of a **Ruff** since 2013 was found by Celeste Morien at the Iroquois NWR pools on 11-12 May, as well as a single Long-billed Dowitcher from 9-12 May. American Avocets showed up at Dunkirk Harbor on 29 April with a passing rain event. Buffalo Harbor has proven to be a reliable shorebird location, producing up to 38 Whimbrel and the Region's only Red Knot of the season, both on 25 May, as well as overwintering Purple Sandpipers that continued until 5 April. It was an exceptional year for Wilson's Phalarope within the Region, including reports from three counties. A long-staying, amorous pair that was repeatedly observed mating in Amherst had locals hopeful they would nest in a local retention pond, but after a one-week stay, they moved on.

On the evening of 30 May while at Iroquois NWR for the Black-necked Stilt, Peter Yoerg identified a **King Rail** at Kumpf Marsh. A few birders had it the next day as well, and then after it was mentioned on a Regional text alert on 1 June, many birders chased after it. Sandhill Cranes put on a nice showing throughout the Region including a nice count of 11 in Oakfield.

Winter gulls remained well into spring with Iceland Gull last reported on 25 May, Lesser Black-backed Gull into the end of May, and Glaucous Gull reported as late as 17 April. A high count of five Little Gulls was made on 11 March in Lewiston, the most reliable location for this species in the Region and probably the state.

Golden Hill SP produced nice counts of 198 Red-throated and 82 Common Loons, both on 25 April and representing high counts for the season. The only report of American White Pelican was from Iroquois NWR on 18 April. Beaver Island SP produced two rare waders this spring. A Little Blue Heron was first found on the Canadian side of the Niagara River on 15 April late in the day and stuck overnight so that New Yorkers could catch glimpses of it from the US side throughout the day on the 16th. Bruce Hoover later found a Snowy Egret at the park on 15 May. Another surprise was a Cattle Egret photographed at a local vineyard in Lockport on 29 April. Black Vultures were reported from Sheridan and Bethany, in addition to their usual location in Lewiston. Two Golden Eagles were reported this spring, including one that was scavenging in a field and eventually escorted from the area by American Crows. Joel Strong photographed a juvenile "**Krider's**" Red-tailed Hawk at Tonawanda WMA on 1 April. This population of Red-tailed Hawk is from the Great Plains Region of the US and rarely ventures this far east into NY.

There were few reports of Snowy Owls in the spring, all single birds and no Long-eared Owls reported. Conewango Swamp WMA produced some nice counts of up to eight Short-eared Owls as well as a handful of other locations throughout the Region. Only two Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported this

spring. Red-headed Woodpeckers arrived on 21 April and were well-represented throughout the Region. Both Amherst and Buffalo produced healthy counts of five Peregrine Falcons, a species that is on the rise in the Region.

Passerine migration mostly followed the weather as movement seemed a little ahead of schedule during the warm start to April, then slowed in the colder second half, and picked up to regular schedule in May with a noted decline in activity after the third week.

Six Olive-sided Flycatcher reports made for a decent showing. Steven Pitt found a White-eyed Vireo at Tiff Nature Preserve on 28 April and several birders reported two there a few days later. Another White-eyed Vireo was found in Olean. A Blue-headed Vireo in Olean on 8 April was slightly early, but not surprising in a warm period and warming globe. Up to four Fish Crows continued at the winter roost in Buffalo in March. A flyby Fish Crow was identified along Lake Ontario shoreline in Olcott in May while two in Olean in May made for a good sighting in the same location as the Region's first record back in 2012. A record count of Common Ravens on the BOS May Count is indicative of their recent spread through the northern half of the Region. A Sedge Wren was found at Conewango Swamp WMA which is perhaps the most regular location for this species known for its irregular habits. A record count for Carolina Wrens on the BOS May Count is evidence they are on the upswing of a cycle or just flat out increasing; mild winters always help this species as well.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported in double digits at a few locations, and there was an increase in reports in May as small groups or single birds passed through. A few groups of 40 to 50 Common Redpolls were reported in March, although like the grosbeak, this species was present but not widespread. Birders scrutinized the redpoll flocks that resulted in three reports of individual Hoary Redpolls in March. Birders hoping for a strong return flight of crossbills following the irruption last fall were disappointed. Red Crossbills were found in three scattered locations and a lone White-winged Crossbill visited at a feeder in Newfane in March. The maximum count for Pine Siskin reached 60 in May but there were only several reports in double digits throughout the season.

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from six locations including a maximum of seven in late May at Krull County Park, which is the best-known breeding location. Fox Sparrows made a good showing in migration with up to 11 in Wellsville in late March. Nathan Johnson photographed a record early Lincoln's Sparrow on 19 March at Stiglmeier Park; this is only the second March report and very early for a species with first arrivals in late April. Gale VerHague photographed a **Harris's Sparrow** on 19 May at Point Gratiot and got the word out for other birders to observe this one-day wonder. Gale also found two Yellow-breasted Chats at Canadaway Creek WMA, marking the first Regional report of this species since 2018. On the morning of 23 April, Paul McQuillen was puzzled by a bird in his Hamburg yard. After sending a photo to a local birding social media site, he welcomed many to come see the male Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Orchard Orioles have been on the increase in recent years and the record count on the BOS May Count provides good evidence of this trend.

The highlight of the spring season was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found by John Barton on 20 April at Amherst SP. The chase was then on! The warbler stuck around until 24 April but was not always an easy find in the woods and it was observed during a late season snowfall on one of the days. Over 150 eBird entries were made for this western rarity over the five days. This is the fourth Regional record and first since 2004. On 28 April at Tifft Nature Preserve, Steven Pitt had a brief sighting and took two quick photos in the understory of the Region's first Kentucky Warbler since 2013. A Worm-eating Warbler found by Vicki Rothman at Niagara Falls SP on 5 May drew many subsequent observers that day. An Eastern Palm Warbler was found by Joel Farwell at Four Mile Creek SP in late April. A Western Palm Warbler found and photographed by Matt Nusstein during a field trip at Evangola SP was stunning for the early date of 16 March! Like the very early Lincoln's Sparrow it is possible that these birds did not winter as far south as typical in this mild winter and made their way north earlier. There were five Golden-winged Warbler reports in May. Prothonotary Warbler was found at Tonawanda WMA and Iroquois NWR in traditional breeding locations, while one at Tifft Nature Preserve on 24 May was either late as a migrant or possibly a male prospecting in suitable habitat.

The 86th BOS April Count was held on 11 April on a mild and cloudy day and compiled by Joel Strong. There was a species count of 143 with 81,016 birds recorded, well below average. Highest counts in the period since 1966 were tallied for Trumpeter Swan (8), Virginia Rail (13), Black Vulture (7), Red-bellied Woodpecker (362), Merlin (11), Brown Thrasher (66), Northern Mockingbird (68), and Northern Cardinal (1,369). The lowest counts in the same period included Lesser Scaup (30), Long-tailed Duck (25), Ring-necked Pheasant (2), American Coot (18), and Northern Harrier (15).

The BOS May Count was held on 16 May and compiled by Robert Deleon. A total of 206 species was tallied, and 68,146 birds (below average) were recorded. Record high counts since 1965 included Mute Swan (43, most in Ontario), Trumpeter Swan (6), Hooded Merganser (53), Great Egret (232), Black Vulture (6), Cooper's Hawk (29), Virginia Rail (14), Wilson's Phalarope (5), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Fish Crow (9), Common Raven (64), Tufted Titmouse (173), Red-breasted Nuthatch (122), Carolina Wren (74), Pine Warbler (33), Clay-colored Sparrow (9), and Orchard Oriole (40). Lowest counts over the same period included Ring-necked Pheasant (2) and Purple Finch (47).

CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Ackerman, Chris Akios, John Barton (JBa), Doug Beattie, Jim Berry (JBe), Terry Bohling, Kyle Brock, Brad Carlson, Jess Clippinger, Willie D'Anna, Tony Dvorak, Joel Farwell, Andrew Gaerte (AGa), Barbara Gee, David Gordon, Mark Gretch, Andy Guthrie (AGu), Carol Hardenburg, Bruce Hoover, Alec Humann,

Sarah Hutchinson, Nathan Johnson, Cassandra Kamery, Tom Kerr, Josh Ketry, Nathan Lefort, Karen Lee Lewis, Paul McQuillen (PMc), Phil Mills (PMi), Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Matt Nusstein, Steven Pitt, Betsy Potter, John Rappole (JRa), Bruce Robinson, John Rosenberg (JRo), Duncan Ross, Marcus Rosten, Victoria Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Jim Sawusch (JSa), Stephanie Schelble, William Seleen, Debbie Sharon, R Stineman, Joel Strong (JSt), Travis Suckow, Ron Tyler, Gale VerHague, Chris Wood, Peter Yoerg.

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 – 11 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 16 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 Hawk Watch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JDSP** – Joseph Davis SP, NIAG; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESF** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift 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: 43 Fredonia CHAU 3 Mar; 43 TRWMA 9 Mar; max 85 Pomfret CHAU 10 Mar; last Somerset NIAG 7 Apr.
Ross’s Goose: Olean CATT 2, 3 Mar (BG); CSWMA 4, 7 Mar (BR, PMi); nearly annual in spring.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Yates ORLE 10 Mar; max 5 INWR 12 Mar (TJM); 2 Porter NIAG 14 Mar.
Brant: no reports.
Cackling Goose: 11 Yates ORLE 10 Mar (JSt); 4 BuSP 14 Mar; 15 Somerset NIAG 16

Mar (WD); max 25 Oakfield GENE 21 Mar (PY).

Mute Swan: 2 Tonawanda ERIE 6 Mar; 4 Olcott NIAG 16 Mar; 5 N Collins ERIE 9, 27 Apr, 1 May; 4 Tift NP 10 Apr, 1, 31 May; max 9, 10 PB 24 Apr, 27 May; 7 GHSP 25 Apr; 1, 1 BeSP 4, 24 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 5, 5, 4 INWR 14 Mar, 27 Apr, 13 May, regular at this location in recent years.

Tundra Swan: 295 Long Pt SP CHAU 3 Mar; 198 BuSP 9 Mar; 178 Hamburg HW 10 Mar; max 546 INWR 15 Mar (CM); last NF BOSMC.

Wood Duck: max 80, 80 Cuba ALLE 22 Mar, 6 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr CSWMA 21 Mar; max 18 INWR 14 Apr.

Northern Shoveler: max 60, 73 INWR 21 Mar, 23 Apr.

Gadwall: max 60, 72 INWR 16 Mar, 6 Apr; 43 Dayton CATT 27 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: Tifft NP 11 Mar – 26 Apr (TD, mob); INWR 18 Mar (SS); annual in spring.

American Wigeon: max 299, 354 INWR 23 Mar, 6 Apr; 200 OOWMA 30 Mar.

American Black Duck: 36 CSWMA 6 Mar; max 131, 66 OOWMA 22, 30 Mar.

Northern Pintail: msx 625, 974, 1116 INWR 13, 23 Mar, 6 Apr (CM), impressive numbers at Cayuga Pool.

Green-winged Teal: max 224 OOWMA 30 Mar; 180, 203 INWR 23 Mar, 6 Apr.

Canvasback: 150 DH 2 Mar; max 760 BeSP 2 Mar; last BeSP 16 Apr.

Redhead: 250, 250 Celoron ChauL 2, 15 Mar; 250 DH 2 Mar; max 700 BeSP 6 Mar; 32, 5 INWR 17 Apr, 31 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 200 WFWMA 22 Mar; 357 TWMA 25 Mar; max 375 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Apr.

Greater Scaup: 300 DH 2 Mar; max 1500 BufH 7 Mar; last DH 28 May.

Lesser Scaup: 90 BufH 25 Mar; 66 BWWT 18 Apr; max 100 Chautauqua ChauL 24 Apr; last BWWT 28 May.

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 26 Apr (TK), only report.

Surf Scoter: 3 BufH 25 Mar; 2 DH 30 Mar, 6 Apr; GHSP 14 Apr; 2 SPWS 24 Apr (JBa); max 9 BuSP 2 May (AH); Amherst ERIE 7 May (JSa); 3 Dayton CATT 11 May (JK).

White-winged Scoter: max 100 FNPS 9 Mar; 3 Cuba ALLE 26 Apr (JRo); 2 Dayton CATT 30 Apr; 2 AISP 8 May (KB); 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 17 May; 5 BufH 26 May (KR).

Black Scoter: BufH 26 May (KR), late; with White-winged Scoters.

Long-tailed Duck: max 277 GHSP 25 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 400 Jamestown ChauL 7 Apr; 275 BWWT 24 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 300 Buffalo NR 7 Mar; 160 Celoron ChauL 11 Mar; max 300 BufH 20 Mar; last DH 26 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 38 Bird Swamp CATT 14 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 229 BeSP 3 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 500 DH 28 Mar; 325 LBSP 27 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 78, 368, 250 BWWT 25 Mar, 17 Apr, 1 May; 12, 5 Dayton CATT 27 Mar, 31 May; max 650 N Harmony ChauL 17 Apr.

Wild Turkey: max 92 Forestville CHAU 6 Mar (GV).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 14 TWMA 12 Apr.

Horned Grebe: 15 Dayton CATT 27 Mar; max 22 GHSP, 20 Yates ORLE 14 Apr; last INWR 12 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 54, 80, 74 Somerset NIAG 20, 27 Mar, 14 Apr; max 175 GHSP 27 Mar; BeSP 17 Apr; N Harmony ChauL 24 Apr; BWWT 1 May; last Gerry CHAU 7 May (WS).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Portland CHAU 15-22 Mar (CH, mob), rare, first report since 2015.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Fredonia CHAU 9 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Shelby ORLE, Buffalo ERIE, Gerry CHAU 15 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr 2 BOSMC; 9 TRWMA 25 May; max 34 INWR 30 May (AGU).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Newfane NIAG 1 May; BeSP 2 May; Ellicott Creek CP ERIE 6 May; GHSP 17 May.

Chimney Swift: arr 3 Attica WYOM, Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Forestville CHAU 27 Apr.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

KING RAIL: INWR 30 May thru (PY, WD! CM!), very rare; first Reg record since 2010.

Virginia Rail: arr ACNC, Orchard P ERIE, BuSP, Tifft NP 8 Apr.

Sora: arr BWWT 17 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr TWMA 6 Apr.

American Coot: max 60 TWMA 16 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: 3, 4 CSWMA 6 Mar, 8 May; max 11 Oakfield GENE 21 Mar; 8 WFWMA 25 Mar; 4 ACNC 2 Apr; 7, 6 INWR 17 Apr, 5 May; Dayton CATT 30 May (PMi).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: INWR 30-31 May (TB, mob), 4th Reg record, all in last five years.

American Avocet: 1, 2 DH 29 Apr (GV, BR), reports increasing in spring.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CSWMA, BufH 6 May; 1, 3 INWR 15, 31 May; Somerset NIAG 23 May; BWWT 28 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 4, max 32 INWR 10, 19 May.

Killdeer: max 50 Ripley HW CHAU 22 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 TRWMA 12 May thru; regular breeding location.
Whimbrel: arr 5 BeSP 13 May; 4, max 38 BufH 22, 25 May (KR).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, max 12 BufH 14 May, 22 May; 2-3 INWR 16 May; 2 BWWT 28 May.
Red Knot: BufH 25 May (KR, AGa), only report.
RUFF: INWR 11, 12 May (CM, mob), first spring report since 2013.
Sanderling: arr 2, max 7 BufH 22, 25 May.
Dunlin: arr 3 INWR 10 Apr; max 32 BufH 22 May.
Purple Sandpiper: 2, 2, 1 BufH 11, 25 Mar, 5 Apr, continued from winter.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR 11 Apr (DG), record early; 2 DH 4 May; max 62 Alexander GENE 17 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr CSWMA 29 May (JM), only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr CSWMA 21 Mar; max 33 INWR 12 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 20 BOSMC; 14 Dayton CATT 29 May; 18 INWR 31 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1, 11 INWR 16, 18 May; 8 Dayton CATT 29 May; CSWMA 29 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: INWR 9-12 May (MR, WD, BP), increased spring reports last two years.
American Woodcock: arr Forestville CHAU 1 Mar.
Wilson's Snipe: arr CSWMA 10 Mar; max 45 Hartland NIAG 12 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr West Seneca ERIE 12 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Porter NIAG 9 Apr; max 17 INWR 12 May (PY).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 INWR 25 Mar; 21 Hartland NIAG 28 Apr; 47 CSWMA 4 May; max 71 INWR 15 May.
Willet: no reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 24 Mar; 23 INWR 6 Apr; 23 BWWT 1 May; max 75 INWR 5 May (VR).
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1, 1, 1 INWR 10, 13, 28 May; 3 Somerset NIAG 13-18 May (JSt); Hartland NIAG 15, 16 May; CSWMA 16 May; Forestville CHAU 16 May; 2 Amherst ERIE 21-27 May (JSa, mob), pair observed mating but did not stick around; excellent showing.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3, 1 BWWT 24, 29 May (DB, PMi), only reports.
Black-legged Kittiwake: juv Barcelona Harbor CHAU 1 Mar (GV), rare for date.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 600 Buffalo NR 31 Mar.
Little Gull: max 5 Lewiston NR 11 Mar.
Iceland Gull: 2 Celoron ChauL 12 Mar (TS); 2 WoBSP 3 Apr; reported from 5 other locs; last Olcott NIAG 25 May.
"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL: imm Krull CP NIAG 25 Apr (JSt ph!); ad Olcott NIAG 29 Apr (JSt ph!); nicely documented by photos.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 NFSP 13 Mar; Dayton CATT 21 Mar; Collins ERIE 27 Mar; N Collins ERIE 28 Mar; Olcott NIAG 11 May; WoBSP 18 May; PB 28 May (AGu, CW).
Glaucous Gull: BufH 3 Mar; 2 NPP 14 Mar; Collins ERIE 27 Mar; max 2, 5, 1 WoBSP 30 Mar, 3, 17 Apr.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 14 BufH 2 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr Barcelona Harbor CHAU 8 Apr; 114 Wilson NIAG 7 May; max 204 BuH 24 May.
Black Tern: arr 3 INWR 28 Apr; BMAC 1 May (SA, unusual location; max 21 TWMA 9 May; BWWT 29 May.
Common Tern: arr 3 Buffalo NR 8 Apr; 158 Olcott NIAG 11 May; max 250 BufH 29 May.
Forster's Tern: Silver Creek CHAU 4 May (GV); 2 Allegheny Res CATT 6 May (JK); only reports.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 19 Krull CP NIAG 20 Mar; Dayton CATT 23 Apr (BR, JK); max 198 GHSP 25 Apr (WD); last 7 GHSP 18 May.
Common Loon: arr Somerset NIAG, Franklinville CATT, 2 Dayton CATT 27 Mar; max 82 GHSP 25 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1000 Grand I NR 27 May.
American White Pelican: INWR 18 Apr (RT, NL); only report for this species after multiple reports in recent springs.
American Bittern: arr INWR 13 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr 1, max 3 Tift NP 28 Apr, 21 May; West Seneca ERIE 8 May; 2 TWMA 9 May.
Great Blue Heron: max 172, 171 Motor I NR ERIE 23 Mar, 3 Apr.
Great Egret: arr BeSP 21 Mar; max 96 INWR 19 May.
Snowy Egret: BeSP 15 May (BH), not found after initial sighting.

Little Blue Heron: BeSP 16 Apr; bird on Canadian side of NR, but visible at distance with scopes from US side.

Cattle Egret: Lockport NIAG 29 Apr (DR), surprise find in a vineyard.

Green Heron: arr 2 BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 3 Motor I NR ERIE 27 Mar.

Black Vulture: Sheridan CHAU 22 Mar (GV); Bethany GENE 8 Apr (DB); 2, 2, 1 Lewiston NIAG 10, 23, 30 May, regular location.

Turkey Vulture: max 801, 878 Hamburg HW 22 Mar, 8 Apr.

Osprey: arr CSWMA 21 Mar.

Golden Eagle: OOWMA 7 Apr (CM); Somerset NIAG 20 Apr (JSt), scavenging until chased off by crows.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 32 Hamburg HW 23 Apr.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 11 Ripley HW 22 Mar; max 12 Hamburg HW 6 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2, max 40 Hamburg HW 8, 17 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 4 Orchard Park ERIE 7 Apr; max 293, 319 Hamburg HW 24 Apr, 1 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: TWMA 1 Apr (JSt ph!), “Krider’s” form, rarely documented in Reg.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 7 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; last CSWMA, 2 Hamburg HW 1 May.

Snowy Owl: BufH 2, 13, 20 Mar; Jamestown Airport CHAU 5-10 Mar (RS); Tift NP 10 Mar; only locations with reports.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 8, 5 Conewango CATT 7 Mar, 12 Apr (PMi, JK); 2 INWR 16 Mar; 5 Shelby ORLE 22 Mar; Tift NP 22 Mar; Freedom CATT 25 Mar; Jamestown Airport CHAU 14 Apr.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Kiantone CHAU 3 Mar (JBe, JRa); Tift NP 7 Mar (CA, MM); only reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr ACNC 21 Apr; Shelby ORLE 24 Apr; 2, 4 PG 29 Apr, 8 May; Fredonia CHAU 30 Apr; 3 Tift NP 14 May; 4 Como Lake CP ERIE 18 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: AmSP 2 Mar; Bethany GENE 6 Mar; reported from nine other locations in March, with increased winter reports cannot determine first arrival.

Merlin: max 3, 3 Hamburg HW 21, 27 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Amherst ERIE 22 May; max 5 Buffalo ERIE 25 May.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 RWNP, INWR, BMAC 1 May.

Eastern Kingbird: arr INWR 24 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Jamestown CHU 13 May; five other reports.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr Irving ERIE, Tift NP 8 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr AmSP, PG 19 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 16 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 BOSMC.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Forestville CHAU 11 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Jamestown CHAU 27 Apr.

Eastern Phoebe: arr RWNP, Amherst ERIE 18 Mar.

Northern Shrike: reported from six locs in Mar; last Krull CP NIAG 20 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 1-2 Tift NP 28 Apr – 1 May (SP, mob), two birds reported 1 May; Olean CATT 10 May (BC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr RWNP, INWR 1 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Olean CATT 8 Apr (BG), early; Cassadaga CHAU 10 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP, FLC, Tift NP 15 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr Cherry Creek CHAU 27 Apr.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr FLC, AISP 3 May.

Blue Jay: max 1023 GHSP 2 May.

Fish Crow: 4, 3 Buffalo ERIE 8, 11 Mar, most sightings at or near crow roost; 2 Olean CATT 2-10 May (JM), in an area with historic sightings; Olcott NIAG 22 May (JSt).

Common Raven: 64 BOSMC, record high for count.

Horned Lark: max 35 Stockton CHAU 2 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr 12 BeSP, 2 TWMA 10 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr 2 INWR 10 Mar; max 400, 750 BWWT 30 Apr, 1 May.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr Buffalo ERIE, Tift NP 5 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr BOSAC.

Cliff Swallow: arr Tift NP 18 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Tift NP 30 Mar; max 250, 400 BWWT 30 Apr, 1 May.

House Wren: arr Amherst ERIE 17 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr INWR 12 Mar.

Sedge Wren: 1, 1 CSWMA 10, 29 (BR, JM), regular at this location in recent years.

Marsh Wren: arr 2 TWMA 14 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 74 BOSMC, record high count.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Chautauqua CHAU 17 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr GHSP 27 Mar.
Veery: arr Orangeville WYOM 1 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr INWR, BufH 15 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr RWNP 28 Apr (MG); East Amherst ERIE 30 Apr (KLL ph!); slightly early.
Hermit Thrush: DLSP 13 Mar; arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 20 Mar; Jamestown CHAU 28 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr Buffalo ERIE, Tift NP, INWR 29 Apr.
Gray Catbird: 1, 1 Tift NP 3, 29 Mar; S Buffalo ERIE 12 Mar; arr Buffalo ERIE 10 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr S Buffalo ERIE 2 Apr.
American Pipit: arr Olean CATT 3 Mar (BC); 56 Pomfret CHAU 22 Mar; max 69 Shelby ORLE 3 May; last Amherst ERIE 17 May.
Evening Grosbeak: 15 Gerry CHAU 7 Mar; 10, 12, 8 Andover ALLE 14 Mar, 10 Apr, 9 May; max 24 Machias CATT 26 Mar; 1, 7 BMAC 27 Apr, 2 May; 2 Holland ERIE 30 Apr; 16 Bethany GENE 2 May; 6 LBSP 3 May; 8 Wellsville ALLE 6 May; 5 Wethersfield WYOM 28 May; plus additional reports of 1-2 in May.
Purple Finch: max 11 Jamestown CHAU 28 Apr.
Common Redpoll: max 50 Holland ERIE 4 Mar; 45 OOWMA 6 Mar; 52 Yates ORLE 11 Mar; 41 Ashford CATT 16 Mar; 40 Cambria NIAG 18 Mar; 40 N Tonawanda NIAG 20 Mar; last Newfane NIAG 3 May (JSt).
Hoary Redpoll: Newfane NIAG 7, 14 Mar (JSt); Lockport NIAG 11 Mar (PMi); Wilson NIAG 13 Mar (WD); all among Commons.
Red Crossbill: 15 BMAC 17, 24 Apr (TK); Krull CP NIAG 19 Apr (WD, BP); 8 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 30 May (BC); expected more following fall irruption.
White-winged Crossbill: Newfane NIAG 28, 30 Mar (JSt), at feeder; only report.
Pine Siskin: 23 Jamestown CHAU 28 Mar; 16 Wilson NIAG 27 Apr; 18 Newfane NIAG 28 Apr; 19, 27 Busti CHAU 29 Apr, 3 May; 35 Fredonia CHAU 11 May; max 60 Orchard P ERIE 14 May.
American Goldfinch: max 158 Shelby ORLE 14 Mar.
Lapland Longspur: last 3 Forestville CHAU 24 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 100 Sheldon WYOM 13 Mar; last BufH 27 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr Tift NP 21 Mar.
American Tree Sparrow: last 4 Orchard P ERIE 25 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Attica WYOM 11 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr BuSP 2 May; Buffalo ERIE 3 May; JWWMA 8 May; max 2, 7 Krull CP 8, 29 May, regular breeding loc; 2 LBSP 12 May; 2 Porter NIAG 19 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Portland CHAU 5 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Tift NP 23 Mar; 4 BeSP 14 Apr (DS); max 7 Sheridan CHAU 14 Apr (GV); 6 Shelby ORLE 13 May (VR).
Savannah Sparrow: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 14 Mar; arr Sheridan CHAU 20 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Orchard P ERIE 28 Apr; max 4 JWWMA 16 May; reported from nine other locations.
Fox Sparrow: 1, 6 Tift NP 5 Mar, 5 Apr; max 11 Wellsville ALLE 25 Mar; 5 DLSP 27 Mar; 7 LESP 3 Apr; last Jamestown CHAU, Stiglmeier P ERIE, Tift NP 2 May; good showing.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Stiglmeier P ERIE 19 Mar (NJ), record early; last 2 GHSP 24 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 CSWMA, 2 TRWMA 9 Mar, both possible wintering locations; uncertain first arrival.
White-throated Sparrow: max 85 Tift NP 27 Apr.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: PG 19 May (GV, mob), rare.
White-crowned Sparrow: 9 Porter NIAG 11 Mar; 4 Portland CHAU 29 Mar; Unity I NR 31 Mar; only Mar reports; uncertain arrival date for Apr; last Wilson NIAG 30 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 27 May (GV), has become scarce in recent years.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (PMC, mob), in residential yard.
Bobolink: arr 2 Knox Farm SP ERIE 29 Apr.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr Kiantone CHAU 3 Mar; 11 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 13 Mar; max 18 Knox Farm SP ERIE 18 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr Tift NP 29 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Orangeville WYOM 27 Apr.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2000 Dunkirk CHAU 6 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 160 Villanova CHAU 17 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 40 Cuba ALLE 22 Mar; max 120, 125 Tift NP 22 Mar, 8 Apr; 100 BuSP 4 May; last INWR 19 May.

Common Grackle: max 300 Tift NP 21 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr AmSP, 2 INWR 28 Apr.

Worm-eating Warbler: NFSP 5 May (VR, mob), good find.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Wales ERIE, Emery CP ERIE, Hunters Creek CP 10 Apr.

Northern Waterthrush: arr ACNC, WFWMA 24 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Ripley CHAU 7 May; TRWMA 9 May; FLC 11 May; FMCSP 15 May; Great Valley CATT 16 May, heard only.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Knox Farm SP ERIE, Stiglmeier P ERIE 28 Apr.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr AISP 28 Apr (JK); LBSP 16 May; Attica WYOM 31 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 3 Wilson NIAG, AmSP 27 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr TWMA 15 May, regular breeding location; INWR 19 May; Tift NP 24 May (SH), late migrant or prospecting male?

Tennessee Warbler: arr AISP 2 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr AmSP 8 May; four other reports.

Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP, Tift NP, Buffalo ERIE, 2 Wilson NIAG, BMAC 27 Apr.

Connecticut Warbler: no reports.

Mourning Warbler: arr AmSP, Jamestown CHAU 3 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Tift NP 28 Apr (SP ph!), rare.

Common Yellowthroat: arr AISP 28 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr Cassadaga CHAU 1 May.

American Redstart: arr AISP 28 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr WTSP 28 Apr.

Cerulean Warbler: arr INWR 8 May.

Northern Parula: arr AISP 24 Apr.

Magnolia Warbler: arr AISP 1 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr West Seneca ERIE 5 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Tift NP, AISP 28 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: arr 2 INWR 27 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AISP 28 Apr.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr CHMUA 9 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr East Amherst ERIE 29 Apr.

“Western” Palm Warbler: arr EvSP 16 Mar (MN ph! mob), shockingly early.

“Eastern” Palm Warbler: FMCSP 27 Apr (WD, JF ph!), rare.

Pine Warbler: arr FLC 25 Mar; max 10 GHSP 27 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 71, 200 GHSP 27 Apr, 1 May; 157 LBSP 4 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Ripley CHAU 5 May (JC), rare.

Prairie Warbler: arr GHSP 1 May.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: AmSP 20-24 Apr (JBa, mob), 4th Reg record; *see intro*.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr AmSP 24 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr HBWMA, Ripley CHAU 12 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Bird Swamp CATT 8 May.

SUMMER TANAGER (R1): FLC 12 May (CK), annual in spring recently.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Porter NIAG 28 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Ripley CHAU 24 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Orangeville WYOM 24 Apr.

