

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The spring of 2023 started off wetter than normal and finished drier, with mostly average temperatures for the season. March was slightly wetter than normal with average temperatures for the month. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 41.4° F (0.4° below normal), with 4.05" of precipitation (1.16" above average). A total of 10.0" of snow fell in March, which was 4.1" below normal. April was warm and dry during the first half of the month, shifting to cool and wet for the end. In the end, April's average temperature of 49.5° was 3.9° above average and the 4.6" of precipitation was 1.2" above average. May was full of sunshine and mild temperatures. The average temperature of 56.6° was 1.3° below normal and the 1.15" of precipitation was 2.25" below normal.

Following the early start to migration in a warm February, there was still a nice showing of waterfowl in March and April. Highlights included the Region's earliest spring record of **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** when Gale VerHague found two in Chautauqua County on 17 April. An overwintering **Tufted Duck** continued from November at Buffalo Harbor. Snow Geese flocks were more common than usual for Region 1 in March with three flocks numbering between 1,000-1,400 birds. Ross's Goose has become annual for the Region in spring and two were found in Niagara County on 19 March and another in Erie County on 24 March. Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from several locations in March and April with max counts of four individuals. Cackling Geese made a nice showing with a maximum count of 16 birds in Genesee County on 9 March. Migrating Tundra Swan flocks are always a treat to witness and a nice count of 230 and 110 came from Niagara County on 6 and 19 March, respectively. There were few diving duck counts that surpassed 1,000, but 1,100 Ring-necked Ducks and 2,100 Lesser Scaup tallied on Chautauqua Lake were nice inland counts on 17 April. A record number of Ring-necked Ducks was also tallied during the Buffalo Ornithological Society's (BOS) April Count, with a total of 3,697. There

were just a handful of Harlequin Duck reports in March, most of which came from Buffalo Harbor. There were no spring reports of Brant or King Eider.

There were just two spring reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will, both from Niagara County on 9 and 11 May. John Garrett and Sam Heinrich had a huge surprise on 6 May at Conewango Swamp WMA when they heard the unique “pebbles tapping together” display call of a **Yellow Rail**! They were able to get a recording to document their sighting, which was heard and recorded the following night by Joe Mitchell. This secretive species is rarely documented in the Region even though individuals likely pass through each spring and fall in migration. There were some nice counts of Sandhill Cranes, including an April Count maximum of 33 and a count 14 from Iroquois NWR on 26 May.

Notable shorebird sightings were lower than normal and with an absence of any Red Knot and Whimbrel reports. Highlights included two American Avocet sightings with two at Dunkirk Harbor on 17 April and seven at Chautauqua Lake on 22 April. There were just two Upland Sandpiper reports, the first on 4 May clearly a migrant while the other in Cattaraugus County on 12 May did not result in any follow up reports. A Purple Sandpiper that overwintered in Buffalo Harbor continued to 24 March. There was just one report of Short-billed Dowitcher (27 May) and one report of Long-billed Dowitcher, with 5-6 seen in Niagara County from 1-5 May. Other highlights included three separate sightings of Willets throughout the Region on 22 April and a single Wilson’s Phalarope report on 15 May.

Gulls made a nice showing in spring with some notable highlights, including the Region’s first May record of Black-legged Kittiwake, an adult found by Joel Strong on 14 May in Olcott. A nice count of 1,000 Bonaparte’s Gulls was tallied along the Niagara River on 2 April and Tim Lenz found a Black-headed Gull at Barcelona Harbor on Lake Erie on 9 April. There were multiple Little Gull reports as well as a handful of Laughing Gull reports. Iceland Gulls were well represented including a single “Thayer’s” individual on 19 April. Glaucous Gulls were tough to find this spring, following a winter season in which there were also fewer reports than usual. The first Black Terns were reported from Tonawanda WMA on 21 April and several Forster’s Terns were reported in April and May, including a nice count of four from Chautauqua Lake.

A nice count of 50 Red-throated Loons was made at Golden Hill State Park on 4 May and an impressive inland count of 271 Common Loons occurred on Chautauqua Lake on 22 April. Most locally breeding waders arrived by late March and April, and there were some other notable sightings, including a Cattle Egret at Iroquois NWR on 18 April and Matt Cohen found a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron associating in a Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery from 22-25 April at Niagara Falls SP in the Niagara River.

An impressive 10 Black Vultures were counted at Lewiston in late May as they headed to roost, a reliable location for this species. Additionally, a handful of migrating birds were reported throughout the Region, including a group of five in Somerset, Niagara County. The Hamburg Hawkwatch tallied high counts of 1,930, 1,075, and 1,032 Turkey Vultures in late March and early April. The Hawkwatch also reported two Golden Eagle sightings, on 16 and 26 March. Two other Golden Eagle reports were made elsewhere in the Region, including a rather late report on 21 May in Erie County. Maximum counts of 45 Sharp-shinned, *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

1,504 Broad-winged, and 24 Red-tailed Hawks were also made from the Hawkwatch. Maximum counts of eight Cooper's, 18 Red-shouldered, and 24 Red-tailed were made from an impromptu, roadside hawkwatch in Orleans County on 29 March. American Goshawk again went unreported as this species has been conspicuously absent in recent years.

There were few owl reports beyond the regular breeding species of Great Horned, Barred, and Eastern Screech. Peter Yoerg reported a Long-eared Owl from Buffalo on 15 and 16 March and a single report of Northern Saw-whet Owl came from Tifft NP on 11 April. There were just two Short-eared Owl reports, one from Cattaraugus County on 12 March and two from Iroquois NWR on 16 and 21 March. There were no Snowy Owls reported, which followed a winter season with few reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker has increased over the last few decades to the point where it is the most recorded woodpecker species on the BOS May Count. Downy Woodpecker maintains the top spot for woodpeckers on the BOS April Count, as there is a noticeable drop off from the April Count to the May Count since Downys are often quieter around their nests in May.

Passerine migration was considered generally good this spring, as birders are becoming more accustomed to "hit or miss" mornings based on the previous night's flight movements. There was a little lull in late April and early May, likely due to cool weather, which is noticeable in the arrival dates of some species.

A White-eyed Vireo found by Tim Lenz at Lake Erie State Park on 28-30 April was the only report for the season. Joe Mitchell was surprised to find a **Loggerhead Shrike** during the May Count in the Town of Dayton. Many birders made the trip to Cattaraugus County that day to see this rarity, and it was not found there in subsequent days. Eight days later, on 29 May, Gale VerHague found a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Dunkirk Airport, raising the question if this could be the same bird as the one seen in Dayton, or might there be increased migrational movement of shrikes this spring? There were also spring reports nearby at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania and in Region 2. The likelihood is that the few Loggerhead Shrike sightings we get are connected to the small Ontario population centered on the Carden Alvar, due north of Region 1.

Fish Crows remained at the Buffalo area winter roost into March, with a maximum of 16 identified on 19 March. Two documented by Katelyn Davis in Fredonia on 20 April were notable for both the unusual location and date. This species is a known breeder just east and just west in the Rochester and Niagara region of Ontario, respectively, but breeding evidence remains scarce for Region 1. Another was recorded calling at Golden Hill SP on 27 May, where there is recent precedent of some movements along Lake Ontario.

The only Sedge Wren reports came from Conewango Swamp WMA, where this species is regularly reported. There wasn't much presence of finch species this spring, with neither crossbill species reported, only three Common Redpoll reports, and few Pine Siskins around, with a maximum of only four siskins. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in double digits at several Southern Tier feeding stations into May, with a maximum count of 80 in Hume on 5 April, while others were reported in small numbers throughout the Region on their return north.

A handful of Lapland Longspur reports were made in low numbers, and Snow Buntings returned north in March, with the last reports coming on 19 March. Clay-colored Sparrow was found at three locations in addition to the now regular breeding spot at Krull County Park where three were singing on 13 May. Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow are present as breeders and can be found in regular locations or by spending enough time searching suitable habitat. Both species are less frequently found as migrants, and there were a few clear cases of migrants being seen this spring.

Some Baltimore Orioles are arriving earlier in April than previously. It wasn't that long ago that any oriole appearing before 25 April was considered 'early'. This year, the number of Baltimore Orioles appearing before 25 April is too many to include in the records compilation, with the first observed 18 April.

There were no big rarities among the warblers this spring. There were four Golden-winged Warbler sightings, as they have become a sort-of-rarity with their declining population. A Western Palm Warbler was notably early on 5 April, while the uncommon Eastern Palm Warbler was documented at three locations in April. Shelley Seidman found a Yellow-throated Warbler in Buffalo on 29 April, and Carol Hardenburg reported one at Chautauqua Institution on 5 May for the only reports of this uncommon migrant this spring.

The 88th annual BOS April Count was held on 2 April, the earliest date ever held due to avoidance of the Easter holiday weekend the following weekend. The day started out chilly with northerly winds, which then shifted to warmer, southerly winds to reach a high of 41°. This count, compiled by Joel Strong, includes both Region 1 and the adjacent area to the west in Ontario, Canada. A total of 222 birders on both sides of the border tallied 144 species and 96,898 birds. Record high counts were set for Greater White-fronted Goose (4), Trumpeter Swan (14), Northern Shoveler (373), Ring-necked Duck (3,697), Sandhill Crane (33), Bald Eagle (84), Merlin (13), Common Raven (69), and Tufted Titmouse (334). Record low counts were tallied for Purple Finch (27), Vesper Sparrow (1), and Savannah Sparrow (5).

The annual BOS May Count was held on 21 May on a mild day with favorable southwest winds and a high of 63°. This count was compiled by Robert L. DeLeon. Totals of 208 species and 76,587 birds were recorded. Record high counts (since 1965 when the counts received more geographic coverage) were set for: Double-crested Cormorant (6,727), Great Egret (250), Osprey (68), Sandhill Crane (22), Caspian Tern (515), Eastern Wood-Pewee (222), Acadian Flycatcher (18), Alder Flycatcher (72), Great Crested Flycatcher (307), Warbling Vireo (529), Common Raven (67), Carolina Wren (94), and American Redstart (471). Many of these species are part of increasing trends in recent years. Record low counts included Common Loon (only 1!), Black-throated Green Warbler (46), White-crowned Sparrow (8), and Common Grackle (1,639).

CONTRIBUTORS

Wendy Akin, Sue Barth, Frederic Beaudry, Don Bemont, Chris Bertola, Gary Bletsch, Matt Bossert, Ian Campbell, Brad Carlson, Jess Clippinger, Matt Cohen, Dan Curr, J. Scott Cymerman, Willie D'Anna, Katelyn Davis, Dean DiTommaso, John Garrett, David Gordon, Andy Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Carol Hardenburg, Sam Heinrich, Bruce Hoover, *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

Alec Humann, Josh Ketry, Hans Kunze, Tim Lenz, J. Miller, Phil Mills, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Terry Mosher, Rob Mrowka, Nicole Munkwitz, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Karl Schmidt, Shelley Seidman, Debbie Sharon, Joel Strong, David Suggs, Gale VerHague, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 2 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 21 May; **BuffH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CHMUA** – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, GENE/WYOM; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil’s Hole SP, NIAG; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara Ri; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Rd WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-

DUCK: 2 Sheridan CHAU 17 Apr (GV ph!); earliest spring rec.

Snow Goose: 300 Lyndonville ORLE 12 Mar; 110 Rushford ALLE 15 Mar; 200 INWR 16 Mar; 1000 N Collins ERIE 17 Mar (SB); 130 Pomfret CHAU 18 Mar; max 1400 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (JS); 1000 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; 200 Dunkirk CHAU 20 Mar; last 4 BOSAC.

Ross’s Goose: 2 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (JS); Springville ERIE 24 Mar (SB); annual in spring.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Belfast ALLE 3 Mar (FB, NM); 2 Cuba ALLE 4 Mar (IC); max 4 Alabama GENE 6 Mar (BC); Yates ORLE 11 Mar (JS); max 4 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar (BC); last INWR 14 Apr.

Brant: no reports.

Cackling Goose: 8 TWMA 7 Mar; max 16 Oakfield GENE 9 Mar; 5 Canadea ALLE 10 Mar; 9 Lyndonville ORLE 12 Mar; 5 Pomfret CHAU 19 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 4000 INWR 6 Mar.

Mute Swan: Barcelona CHAU 5 Mar; max 10 PB 6 Mar; 2 BeSP 9 Mar; Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Apr; ACNC 8 Apr; 9 WTSP 16 May.

Trumpeter Swan: Cassadaga L CHAU 12 Mar (TM), unusual loc; 6, 7 INWR 13 Mar, 27 May, regular breeding area; 14 BOSAC, a count maximum.

Tundra Swan: 94 Oakfield GENE 2 Mar; max 230 TWMA 6 Mar; 91 Grove ALLE 12 Mar; 110 Porter NIAG 18 Mar; last BOSMC.

Wood Duck: max 58 Cuba L ALLE 30 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 Lewiston NIAG, Tift NP 7 Mar; 20 CSWMA 1 Apr; 24 INWR 23 Apr.

Northern Shoveler: 59 BWWTP 8 Apr; 373 BOSAC, a count maximum; max 120 INWR 13 Apr.

Gadwall: 45, 54 Tift NP 18 Mar, 12 Apr; max 65 INWR 27 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1, 2 INWR 6, 8 Apr (CM), males; annual in spring.

American Wigeon: 60 WFWMA 8 Mar; max 200 INWR 14 Apr.

Mallard: max 208 Pomfret CHAU 9 Mar.

American Black Duck: max 35 CSWMA 11 Mar; 23 Grove ALLE 12 Mar.

Northern Pintail: 70 Cuba L ALLE 9 Mar; 150 CSWMA 11 Mar; 100 INWR 20 Mar; 150 Yates ORLE 26 Mar; 120 TWMA 1 Apr; max 424 Elba GENE 2 Apr (CM).

Green-winged Teal: 45 CSWMA 11 Mar; max 74 Cuba ALLE 2 Apr; 45 Shelby ORLE 8 Apr.

Canvasback: max 190 DH 12 Mar; last Tift NP 27 Apr.

Redhead: max 600 Mayville ChauL 6 Mar (GB); INWR 7 May; BWWT 31 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 300 INWR 20 Mar; 235 BWWT 29 Mar; 3697 BOSAC, a count maximum; max 1100 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Apr; 600 Mayville ChauL 25 Apr; last 3 ChauL 25 May.

TUFTED DUCK (R1): BufH thru 3 Mar; continued from late Nov.

Greater Scaup: 200 FNSP 11 Mar; max 316 Lewiston Res NIAG 10 Apr; 2 NF 30 May.

Lesser Scaup: 45 Cuba L ALLE 22 Mar; 248 BWWT 8 Apr; max 2100 Chautauqua ChauL 18 Apr (TL); DH 26 May.

King Eider: no reports.

Harlequin Duck: GHSP 5 Mar (DSu); BufH 6, 7, 22 Mar (PM, KR); only reports.

Surf Scoter: Barcelona CHAU 4 Mar; 2 FNSP 13 Mar; 2 BuSP 11 Apr; 2 N Collins ERIE 11 Apr; 2 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; max 12, 3 Chautauqua ChauL 19. 26 Apr (TL); PB 2 May; Buffalo ERIE 5 May; Dayton CATT 7 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 220, 250 FNSP 1, 11 Mar; 4 Chautauqua ChauL 27 Apr; scarce on L Ont in May.

Black Scoter: BufH 6 Mar; FNSP 9 Mar; 2 Barcelona CHAU 18 Apr; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: max 2000 BufH 1 Mar; 143 BuSP 28 Mar; last GHSP 29 May.

Bufflehead: 200 Tonawanda NR 4 Mar; 150 BWWT 1 Apr; 150 Attica WYOM 14 Apr; max 275 Mayville ChauL 25 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 350 Buffalo NR 9 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 90 BeSP 5 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 1000 Buffalo NR 4 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 350 BeSP 1 Mar; max 1000, 650 Buffalo NR 4, 26 Mar; max 650 Barcelona CHAU 9 Apr; 430 Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 110, 270, 180 BWWT 29 Mar, 23 Apr, 2 May; max 700 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL); BeSP 29 May.

Wild Turkey: max 45 Stockton CHAU 13 Mar.

Ruffed Grouse: max 3 Boutwell Hill SF CHAU 15 Apr; max Birdsall ALLE 21 May.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 TWMA 26 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 17 INWR 12 Apr.

Horned Grebe: 23 Amherst ERIE 6 Apr; max 60 Mayville ChauL 7 Apr; last BufH 16 May.

Red-necked Grebe: FNSP 12 Mar; Yates ORLE 12 Mar; max 30 GHSP, 11 Somerset NIAG 24 Mar (DSh); last Tift NP 21 Apr.

Eared Grebe: Barcelona CHAU thru 17 Mar, continued from Feb.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr AmSP 11 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 NFC Orchard P ERIE 11 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr RWNP 12 May; 6 Buffalo ERIE 23 May; 5 Wellsville ALLE 26 May; max 19 W Seneca ERIE 29 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Somerset NIAG 9 May; TWMA 11 May; only reports.

Chimney Swift: arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 15 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Jamestown CHAU 2 May.

Virginia Rail: arr TRWMA, ACNC 28 Mar; Tift NP 30 Mar.

Sora: arr Cheney Rd Swamp CHAU 2 Apr (WA!), early.

Common Gallinule: BWWT 8 Mar (HK), overwintered; arr INWR 8 Apr; max 20 INWR 13 May.

American Coot: max 100 INWR 25 Apr.

YELLOW RAIL: CSWMA 6-7 May (JG, SH), heard and recorded calling multiple times in suitable habitat.

Sandhill Crane: 10 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; 10 OOWMA 24 Mar; 33 BOSAC, a count record; 5 WFWMA 21 Apr; 12 Amity ALLE 30 Apr (NM); 22 BOSMC, a count record; max 14 INWR 26 May (DSh).

American Avocet: arr 2 DH 17 Apr (GV), 7 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL), becoming regular in spring.

Black-bellied Plover: arr Evans ERIE 13 May; max 5 Wilson NIAG 24 May; 4 GHSP 27 May.

Killdeer: max 20 Buffalo ERIE 16 Apr.

Semipalmated Plover: arr INWR, Yates ORLE, 5 Hartland NIAG 11 May; max 66 Hartland NIAG 22 May.

Upland Sandpiper: GHSP 4 May (WD), flyover; Randolph CATT 12 May (JK); only reports.

Whimbrel: no reports.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, 1 BufH 9, 22 May; Wilson NIAG 19 May; max 3 PB 27 May; Tonawanda ERIE 28 May.

Red Knot: no reports.

Sanderling: arr 3, 1 BufH 16, 25 May; only reports.

Dunlin: arr Newfane NIAG 11 Apr; max 12 Yates ORLE 20 May.

Purple Sandpiper: BufH 6, 24 Mar (PY, PM), continued from winter.

Least Sandpiper: arr Amherst ERIE 2 May; max 76 Hartland NIAG 19, 21 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 INWR 25 May (PY); only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 OOWMA 11 Apr; last INWR 13 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr INWR 15 May; max 43 Amherst ERIE 24 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr, max 20 Strawberry I NR 27 May (MB), only report.

Long-billed Dowitcher: 5-6 Hartland NIAG 1-5 May (WD, JS, mob), becoming annual in spring.

American Woodcock: many returned early Mar; first arrivals in Feb.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Porter NIAG 9 Mar; CSWMA 11 Mar; 22 Sheridan CHAU 13 Apr; max 39 Hartland NIAG 14 Apr (JS).

Spotted Sandpiper: arr AmSP 15 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Tiffit NP 19 Apr; max 16 Newfane NIAG 10 May (JS).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 7 INWR 30 Mar; max 75 Hartland NIAG 2 May; 51 Newfane NIAG 6 May.

Willet: arr 3 BuSP (AH), Chautauqua ChauL (TL), DH (JC) 22 Apr, clear movement on this day; only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Rushford ALLE 23 Mar; 21 INWR 9 Apr; max 33, 50 Hartland NIAG 30 Apr, 2 May; 40 Forestville CHAU 3 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Yates ORLE 12 May (JS), only report.

Black-legged Kittiwake: ad Olcott NIAG 14 May (JS ph!), first May Reg record.

Bonaparte's Gull: 500 Buffalo NR ERIE 26 Mar; max 1000 DHSP 2 Apr; 300 Barcelona CHAU 9 Apr.

Black-headed Gull: Barcelona CHAU 8 Apr (TL), good find.

Little Gull: Buffalo NR 5 Mar; max 3, 4 Lewiston NR 31 Mar, 2 Apr; Chautauqua ChauL 26 Apr (TL); Long Pt SP CHAU 7 May (TL).

Laughing Gull: BufH 16 May (PY); Somerset NIAG 21 May (WD, BP); PB 29 May (JS); good showing.

Ring-billed Gull: max 2850 NIAG BOSAC.

Herring Gull: max 500 NFSP 14 Mar.

Iceland Gull: 7 NPP 5 Mar; max 5 NFSP 19 Mar; Conewango CATT 26 Mar (JoM), unusual loc; 2 Yates ORLE 4 Apr; last Olcott NIAG 14 May.

Iceland "Thayer's" Gull: Olcott NIAG 19 Apr (JS ph!), only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1, 2 Chautauqua ChauL 3 Mar, 27 Apr; Rushford ALLE 4 Mar; 1, 1 Dayton CATT 4 Mar, 3 Apr; max 4 NFSP 19 Mar; Barcelona CHAU 22 Apr; Wilson NIAG 24 May; PB 29 May.

Glaucous Gull: ChauL 9 Mar; Grand I NR ERIE 11 Mar; Barcelona CHAU 18 Mar; fewer reports this winter and early spring.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 20 WBSP 22 Mar.

Caspian Tern: arr GHSP BOSAC; 50 Barcelona CHAU 21 Apr; 83 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; 515 BOSMC, a record count; max 170 BufH 26 May, at nesting colony.

Black Tern: arr TWMA 21 Apr; BufH 14 May; max 51, 39 INWR 13, 16 May.

Common Tern: arr 2 Evangola ERIE, 2 Lewiston NR BOSAC; 150 NFSP 25 Apr; max 350 Strawberry I NR 18 May.

Common/Arctic Tern: FNSP 21 May (DG), noticeably shorter legged than adjacent Commons; no further details.

Forster's Tern: Lewiston NR 7 Apr; INWR 21 Apr; 1, max 4 Chautauqua ChauL 21 Apr, 7 May (TL); Barcelona CHAU 22 Apr; BufH 3 May; Grand I NR 7 May.

Red-throated Loon: GHSP 26 Mar; 10 Wilson NIAG 10 Apr; Cassadaga L CHAU 24 Apr (GV), unusual loc; max 50, last 1 GHSP 4, 27 May.

Common Loon: 4 Buffalo ERIE 26 Mar; 4 Pomfret CHAU, 8 BeSP 31 Mar; max 271 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL), impressive

count for location; 1 BOSMC, count minimum; indicative of less lake-watching on count day but also of earlier passage through Reg this year.

Double-crested Cormorant: 775 Wilson NIAG 17 Apr; max 1000 Olcott NIAG 22 Apr; 6727 BOSMC, record for count.

American Bittern: arr Tifft NP 6 Apr.

Least Bittern: arr Tifft NP 27 Apr; max 3 INWR 26 May.

Great Blue Heron: max 125 Tonawanda NR ERIE 2 Apr.

Great Egret: arr 2, max 85 Motor I NR 20 Mar, 14 Apr; NFSP 22 Mar; 250 BOSMC, record for count.

Cattle Egret: INWR 18 Apr (DC), only report.

Green Heron: arr Boston ERIE 16 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 NFSP 24 Mar; max 76 NFSP 23 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: NFSP 22-25 Apr (MC, mob), adult at Black-crowned Night-Heron breeding colony.

Black Vulture: 4 Lewiston NIAG 9 Mar; 5 Somerset NIAG 12 Mar (JS); TWMA 24 Mar (JW); 2 AmSP 29 Mar (PM); max 10 Artpark SP NIAG 26 May (MM).

Turkey Vulture: max 1930, 1075, 1032 Hamburg HW 26, 29 Mar, 3 Apr.

Osprey: arr Onoville CATT 21 Mar; AISP 22 Mar; 6 Hamburg HW 14 Apr; 68 BOSMC, record count; max 11 AISP 30 May.

Golden Eagle: Hamburg HW 16, 26 Mar (KR, SB); Ripley CHAU 16 Apr; Newstead ERIE 21 May (AG, RG ph!), on the late side.

Northern Harrier: max 3 at multiple locs and dates.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 45 Hamburg HW 16 Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: max 8 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar, migrants during raptor watch.

American Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: max 7 BeSP 4 Mar; 84 BOSAC, a count maximum; 6 Dunkirk CHAU 4 Apr; 6 Hamburg HW 21 Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 11 Hamburg HW 21 Mar; max 18 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1, max 1504 Hamburg HW 10, 21 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 24 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; max 24 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: 15 reports Mar 1-2 each; last Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr.

Snowy Owl: no reports.

Long-eared Owl: Buffalo ERIE 15, 16 Mar (PY); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: Conewango CATT 12 Mar (JK); 2 INWR 16, 21 Mar (DSh); only reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Tifft NP 11 Apr (DD), only report.

Red-headed Woodpecker: ACNC 29 Mar; max 7 PG 21 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 353 BOSAC; 369 BOSMC, most reported woodpecker species on May Count.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 Tifft NP 6 Apr.

Downy Woodpecker: 418 BOSAC, most reported woodpecker species on April Count; 182 BOSMC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 115 BOSAC; 103 BOSMC.

Northern Flicker: 206 BOSAC; 261 BOSMC.

Pileated Woodpecker: 51 BOSAC; 43 BOSMC.

American Kestrel: max 12 Hamburg HW 21 Apr.

Merlin: 13 BOSAC, a count maximum.

Peregrine Falcon: nesting at regular locations.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr E Aurora ERIE 27 Apr; 307 BOSMC, a count record.

Eastern Kingbird: arr Como L CP ERIE 26 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Allegany CATT 19 May; Buffalo ERIE 30 May; Ripley CHAU 31 May.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr Sherman CHAU 5 May; 222 BOSMC, a count record.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr BufH 18 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr AISP, Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU, Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 11 May; 18 BOSMC, a count record; max 4 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 26 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr AISP, FLC 11 May; 72 BOSMC, a count record.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Wethersfield WYOM 9 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr FLC 1 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Hamburg ERIE 18 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr LESP 28-30 Apr (TL), only report.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr BeSP 5 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Rushford ALLE 13 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Tifft NP 8 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr BuSP 26 Apr; 529 BOSMC, a count record.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr GHSP 5 May.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Dayton CATT 21 May (JoM ph! mob); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 May (GV ph! mob); rare; *see intro*.

Northern Shrike: eight Mar reports 1 each; last TWMA 29 Mar.

Blue Jay: max 320 Wilson NIAG 7 May.
American Crow: max 500 Buffalo ERIE 16 Mar.

Fish Crow: max 16 Buffalo ERIE 19 Mar; RWNP 27 Mar; 2 Fredonia CHAU 20 Apr (KD), new location; Buffalo ERIE 1, 9 May; GHSP 27 May.

Common Raven: max 9 Conewango CATT 12 Mar; 69 BOSAC, a count record; 67 BOSMC, a count record; 6 Cambria NIAG 28 May, family group nesting in DOT garage.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 27 Sprague Brook CP ERIE 2 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: 334 BOSAC, a count maximum.

Horned Lark: 68 Shelby ORLE 12 Mar; max 110 Wilson NIAG 14 Mar; 75 Yates ORLE 15 Mar.

Bank Swallow: arr ACNC 8 Apr; max 100 Porter NIAG 10 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Buffalo ERIE 21 Mar; 100 INWR 24 Mar; max 350 Dayton CATT 23 Apr.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr multiple locs 6 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr 2 TWMA 9 Apr; max 90 BeSP 27 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Tifft NP 28 Mar; 140 LESP 28 Apr; max 350 BWWTP 2 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 BufH 21 Apr; max 30 BufH 29 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HBWMA 2 Apr; last Forestville CHAU 28 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 30 Ayers Stevenson NP ERIE 5 Apr.

Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Westfield CHAU 30 May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 Ischua CATT 29 Apr.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 9 RWNP multiple dates.

Brown Creeper: max 20 FLC 6 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 13 Apr.

House Wren: arr Hamburg ERIE, RWNP, BufH 12 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr ACNC 9 May.
Sedge Wren: arr 2, 1 CSWMA 12, 31 May (JoM); only reports.
Marsh Wren: arr 3 TWMA 21 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 67 BOSAC; 94 BOSMC, a count record.

Gray Catbird: Caneadea ALLE 3 Mar; Tifft NP 11 Mar; with more wintering it is challenge to determine first spring migrant.
Brown Thrasher: arr 3 BOSAC.
Northern Mockingbird: 24 BOSAC; 29 BOSMC.

European Starling: max 800 Somerset NIAG 20 Mar.

Eastern Bluebird: max 12 Hamburg ERIE 6 Mar.
Veery: arr Charlotte CHAU 27 Apr; PG 28 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Ripley CHAU 10 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May; max 131 NFC Orchard P ERIE 19 May (CB).
Hermit Thrush: arr N Harmony CHAU 24 Mar; max 12 FLC 15 Apr; max 12, 12 NFCs Orchard P ERIE 16, 28 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Cherry Creek CHAU, Ripley CHAU 22 Apr.
American Robin: max 100 Wales ERIE 24 Mar.

American Pipit: arr Newstead ERIE, N Harmony CHAU 11 Mar; 3 Dunkirk CHAU 13 Mar; max 100 Middlebury WYOM 28 Mar; 30 Marilla ERIE 29 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 22 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 16, 7, 20 Machias CATT 4 Mar, 5 Apr, 14 May (RM); 15, 14 Portville CATT 7 Mar, 7 Apr (JMi); 4 Houghton ALLE 16 Mar (IC); 2 Colden ERIE 24 Mar (JSC); max 80 Hume ALLE 5 Apr (HK); 10 Wilson NIAG 5 May.

House Finch: max 29 Amherst ERIE 8 Apr.

Purple Finch: 9 Rushford ALLE 12 Mar; 27 BOSAC, a count minimum; 21 Ashford CATT 18 Apr; max 24 Newfane NIAG 22 Apr.

Common Redpoll: 2 Porter NIAG 3 Mar; Lackawanna ERIE 11-16 Mar; INWR 15 Mar; only reports.

Red Crossbill: no reports.

White-winged Crossbill: no reports.

Pine Siskin: max 4 Wilson NIAG 1 Apr; few reports.

American Goldfinch: max 87 Shelby ORLE 24 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: Attica WYOM 2 Mar; 3 Shelby ORLE 13 Mar; max 5 Porter NIAG 14 Mar; max 5 Yates ORLE 19 Mar; last Sheridan CHAU 1 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 100 Wales ERIE 6 Mar; max 100 Yates ORLE 11 Mar; last multiple locs 19 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1, 3 Tift NP 23 Apr, 6 May; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 14 May; 3 TRWMA 29 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Hamburg ERIE 22 Mar.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1, 3 Krull CP 7, 13 May, regular breeding loc; Waterport NIAG 12 May (CM); Yates ORLE 13 May (DB); JWWMA 21 May (BH).

Field Sparrow: Hamburg ERIE 3 Mar; Tift NP 5 Mar; early arrivals?; Wellsville ALLE 21 Mar.

Fox Sparrow: arr Holland ERIE 4 Mar; last Forestville CHAU 9 May.

American Tree Sparrow: last Alfred ALLE 5 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 80 Forestville CHAU 31 Mar.

White-crowned Sparrow: 4 Porter NIAG 18 Mar; LESP 1 Apr; migrations peaks

around 2nd week of May; 8 BOSMC, a count minimum.

White-throated Sparrow: max 200, 100 Tift NP 21 Apr, 6 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 1, max 4 Sheridan CHAU 30 Mar, 10 Apr; 2 BeSP, 2 Panama CHAU 8 Apr; 2 BuSP 26 Apr; five locs in May.

Savannah Sparrow: Lyndonville NIAG 24 Mar, overwintered; arr multiple locs 1 Apr; 5 BOSAC, a count minimum.

Song Sparrow: max 75 Tift NP 2 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1, last 1 FLC 3, 26 May.

Swamp Sparrow: 2 BWWT 9 Mar; 2 Pomfret CHAU 15 Mar; 2 INWR 22 Mar; 2 Tift NP 28 Mar, all in locs of potential overwintering.

Eastern Towhee: arr Jamestown CHAU 30 Mar.

Yellow-breasted Chat: no reports.

Bobolink: arr 7 Knox Farm SP ERIE, 3 Youngstown NIAG 4 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr Dunkirk Airport, Sheridan CHAU 1 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: arr Orchard P ERIE 6 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Tift NP 18 Apr; Chautauqua CHAU 20 Apr; Amherst ERIE, Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr; many reports earlier than usual.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 350 BWWT 2 May.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 100 Pomfret CHAU 4 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 100 Buffalo ERIE 3 Apr; max 1600 INWR 9 Apr; 250 Middleport NIAG 13 Apr; 60 Gainesville WYOM 26 Apr; 65 Hartland NIAG 5 May; last INWR 24 May.

Common Grackle: max 200 Buffalo ERIE 22 Mar; 1639 BOSMC, a count minimum.

Ovenbird: arr Tift NP 26 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr AISP 7 Apr; max 4 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 14 Apr, max 4 Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 11 May.

Northern Waterthrush: arr ACNC 21 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Porter NIAG 10 May; GHSP 11 May; AmSP 15 May; Olean CATT 17 May (JoM); Delevan CATT 30 May (VR).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Frewsburg CHAU 1 May.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: HBWMA 13, 21 May (IC, KS); Attica WYOM 15 May (BC); more reports than Brewster’s recently.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr multiple locs 21 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: 2 TWMA 13 May, breeding area; FNSP 21 May (DG).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Jamestown CHAU, Orchard P ERIE 7 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr; FLC 9 May; Hamburg ERIE 17 May; Marilla ERIE 22 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr 2 BuSP 23 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: arr Whitesville ALLE 8 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr Tift NP 20 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr Jamestown CHAU 3 May.

American Redstart: arr ACNC 30 Apr; 471 BOSMC, a count record.

Cape May Warbler: arr multiple locs 6 May; max 8 GHSP 11 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr NFSP 7 May; max 8 INWR 18 May, breeding area.

Northern Parula: arr AISP 21 Apr.

Magnolia Warbler: arr RWNP 4 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr ACNC 30 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: arr Conewango CATT 20 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Oakfield GENE 30 Apr.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr CHMUA 9 May; NFSP 11 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr NFSP 29 Apr.

“Western” Palm Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU 5 Apr (GV), early; max 21 GHSP 11 May.

“Eastern” Palm Warbler: HBWMA 8 Apr (KS); LESP 13 Apr; Hamburg ERIE 20 Apr (SB), uncommon.

Pine Warbler: arr Orchard P ERIE 21 Mar; 6 Tift NP 15 Apr; max 7 ACNC 1 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Tift NP 15 Mar; RWNP 22 Mar; 68 BWWT 23 Apr; max 86 NFC Orchard P ERIE 13 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 29 Apr, 4 May (SS); Chautauqua Institution CHAU 5 May (CH).

Prairie Warbler: arr, max 9 Yorkshire CATT 12 May, breeding area.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 2 AISP, Tonawanda ERIE 21 Apr; 46 BOSMC, a count minimum.

Canada Warbler: arr Stockton CHAU 10 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Independence ALLE 9 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May.

Northern Cardinal: max 36 Stiglmeier P ERIE 25 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Hamburg ERIE, Caneadea ALLE 23 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr multiple locs 6 May.

EXOTICS

Whooper Swan: Barcelona CHAU thru 26 Mar, continued from Feb.

