

## REGION 4 SUSQUEHANNA

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The average temperatures for the spring season months were well within the normal range according to data from the Binghamton Regional Weather Service. The average temperature in March was 30.3°F, in April 45.0°F, and May 59.1°F. Eleven days of unseasonably warm temperatures began on 29 March and continued through 8 April. The warmest days these months were: 67° on 31 March, 71° on 3 April, and 85° on 31 May.

Records show that the average precipitation for March, 2.57 inches, and April, 2.53 inches, was slightly below normal by 0.25 and 0.6 inches, respectively. However, precipitation was significantly below average in May. The area received an average of 1.53 inches of precipitation in May, 1.83 inches below normal. Obviously, unless this situation improves, we will be faced with drought conditions for the nesting season.

Snowfall totalled 33.8 inches during March. Of this, 12.3 inches came in a storm on 21-22 March. Snowfall of 1.7 inches was recorded on the ground in April, with most of that, 1.6 inches, falling on 11 April. No snow was recorded in May.

An analysis of wind direction data revealed that during March, there were 7 days on which the winds came from a southerly direction. Two of them occurred during the snowstorm previously mentioned. There were 10 favorable wind days in April, five of those during the week of the 15th to the 22nd. Unfortunately, wind data for May was unavailable.

The mild spring seemed to allow migrants to arrive over a scattered number of dates, rather than in big waves on a few particular days. One notable exception was a broad flight of Snow Geese on 18 March. Westerly winds at 39 mph pushed them into our Region, yielding several reports between Broome and Otsego counties, with a high count of at least 545 over Binghamton. These were tallied by some one while making rounds in a delivery truck. Another 810 unidentified geese also flew over Binghamton. One can only imagine how many birds flew over undetected.

Nearly all waterfowl species normally found in our Region were reported, including Canvasback, Redhead, both scaup, and Ruddy Duck. Average river levels made favorable stopover conditions for Ring-necked Duck, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter and Oldsquaw. Missed were Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, and Brant.

Raptor numbers were not overly impressive, though there were good counts for Osprey, Bald Eagle, and American Kestrel. Northern Harrier was not reported in Broome or Delaware counties. Accipiters had average to low counts. Always uncommon, a Merlin was observed in Cortland. Missed were Northern Goshawk and Golden Eagle.

The highlight of the season was a report of two **Peregrine Falcons** in downtown Binghamton. Nesting was not confirmed, however it is suspected. They are believed to be a pair and frequent the area near the courthouse. The Press Building and the Security Mutual Building are their favored perches. Apparently, the birds were first noticed early in Spring, but were not reported until early June.

Sue and Les Bemont had a good find of a Northern Bobwhite near their Vestal home on 24 May. Fewer and fewer are reported, if any at all. Sora and Common Moorhen were missed.

Low numbers for plovers and sandpipers may have reflected a lack of mudflats due to higher water levels. Only a single Common Snipe was reported. A nice find was a **Short-billed Dowitcher** on Allen Pond in Morris, 8 & 9 May by John Fritz. Not reported since 1994, this is only the third report in 23 years. Missed were Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Pectoral Sandpiper. The tern family was well represented with Caspian, Forster's, and Black terns reported. The **Caspian Tern**, unreported between 1968 and 1992, may only be the fourth Regional report.

Most species of owls were reported in good numbers, with 6 Long-eared Owls at Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne from 27 February-16 March especially interesting. Northern Saw-whet Owl was missed, as was Whip-poor-will. A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen south of Owego TIOG in May. An exact date and location were not reported. With more scattered reports in recent years, we should be watchful for breeding evidence from this former breeder in our Region.

All expected passerines were reported. Most of the unusual migrants through the area, such as Gray-checked Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Cape May Warbler, sometimes reported by one or two people, were not sighted. "Brewster's" Warbler was reported by more than one set of observers, but no reports of "Lawrence's" Warbler were received.

No reports of Henslow's or Grasshopper sparrows were submitted. Apparently continued habitat loss for these and other grassland species is making it more difficult to locate these birds. It is worthwhile to note that the Henslow's Sparrow was added to the New York State List of "Threatened Species", an uplisting from its previous status as a species of "Special Concern".

Unusual passerines reported included Hooded Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Both birds have expanded the northern edges of their range during the past 15 years and are reported occasionally but not every year.

Region 4 birders may find it interesting to learn what other species in our area were uplisted to "Threatened" status. These are Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, and Upland Sandpiper. Bald Eagle was downlisted, from "Endangered" to "Threatened", following increases in the number of nesting pairs.

Region 4 species listed as species of "Special Concern" include: American Bittern, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Osprey, Horned Lark, Bicknell's/ Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. All of these species except the Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey are newly listed. The Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey are downlisted from their previous "Threatened" status. Short-eared Owls have been moved up to "Endangered". The entire list of Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern is available at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BUNP- Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPd-Boland Pond, BROO; BrPd-Brick Pond, TIOG; CanRes-Cannonsville Reservoir, DELA; Cole P-Nathaniel Cole Park, BROO; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park, BROO; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center, BROO; GyL-Goodyear Lake, OTSE; HPd-Hawkins Pond, BROO; Murphy's-Murphy's Sand Pits, Vestal BROO; REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne CHEN; WeB-West Burlington, OTSE; WPR-Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby areas, BROO.

### LOONS-DUCKS

**Com. Loon:** arr Endicott 20 Mar; max 8 CanRes 8 Apr; last GyL 17 Apr; 2 other reports.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 3 Murphy's Vestal 20 Mar; singles BROO, OTSE to 7 Apr; low count.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 4 Apr, last 8 Apr; max 17 WPR 7 Apr (WW); short stay.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 9 reports; max 8 WPR 25 Apr; low to average numbers.

**Am. Bittern:** 2 BPd 21 Apr (PB), often missed.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 33 heronry w of Owego 28 Mar; 4 birds with 7 nests Spencer TIOG 7 Apr (WW), new locale?

**Green Heron:** arr Hillcrest BROO 24 Apr; 5 May reports max 2, average.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 15 GyL 29 May (IW); good numbers after 20 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** 1 Mirror L Owego 27 Mar (SK, MP).

**Mute Swan:** 1 BPd 17 Mar; 2 WPR 20 Mar.

**Snow Goose:** reports from BROO, CORT, OTSE, all 18 Mar, max 545

Binghamton(ES), large flight; last Unadilla R T. Edmeston 15 May.

**Canada Goose:** max about 300 BROO 20 Mar; ad with y 8 May BROO.

**goose sp:** 810 unidentified geese over Binghamton 18 Mar (ES), migrating north.

**Wood Duck:** arr 5 Vestal 19 Mar; max 8 BROO 25 Apr.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 4 Murphy's Vestal 17 Mar (GK, HM); 3 other BROO reports, low.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 200+ Otsego L 18

Apr (BD).

**N. Pintail:** Endwell 8 Mar; last BPd 24 Mar, low count, early departure.

**Blue-winged Teal:** max 4 BROO 22 Apr (PB); one other report, low.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 4 WPR (MD, GK, HM) and 5 Otsego L (BD) both 1 Apr, scarce.

**Gadwall:** 4 Mirror L Owego Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr Endwell 10 Mar (NCBC); max 4 Murphy's 17 Mar; 9 reports to 21 Apr, average.

**Canvasback:** Endwell 10, 18 Mar (NCBC), missed some years.

**Redhead:** Endwell 13 Mar (MD,BT), not seen every year.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 100 Murphy's 20 Mar (GK, HM); 50 Mirror L 27 Mar; 50 WPR 1 Apr; scarce elsewhere in Region.

**Greater Scaup:** 2 pair BROO 9 Apr (PB).

**Lesser Scaup:** Endwell 12 Mar (DWa); 4 TIOG Mar; max 12 WPR 8 Apr (EHw, MP, DWa); 6 T. Morris OTSE 2, 3 Apr (JF); flock of both scaup sp. (no number) Otsego L 4 Apr.

**White-winged Scoter:** 1 Murphy's 27 Mar (GK, HM); Otsego L 5 Apr (BD); a "large flock" there 15 Apr (BD).

**Black Scoter:** 2 Hillcrest 23 Apr (RG)

**Oldsquaw:** pair Susq R. Owego 4 Apr (TBC); 4 Otsego L 15 Apr (BD).

**Com. Goldeneye:** 1 Murphy's 29 Mar; TIOG thru Mar; scarce, early departure.

**Bufflehead:** max 4 Morris OTSE 2 Apr; 4 reports, last BROO 15 Apr.

**Hooded Merganser:** arr Hillcrest 13 Mar; max about 50 WPR 1 Apr; average.

**Com. Merganser:** max 200 WPR 1 Apr (GK, HM); good numbers throughout.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr Vestal 17 Mar (RG); total of 10 CanRes and WPR 8 Apr (WWa); 2 Otsego L 2 Apr (BD); Chenango Forks 25 Apr; last TIOG May, no date, (TBC); good numbers.

**Ruddy Duck:** Otsego L 4 Apr (BD), scarce.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr TIOG Mar, no date (TBC); max 2 Hillcrest 26 Apr (MP); Greenwood P BROO 3 May; 6 other reports, good numbers.

**Bald Eagle:** ad Owego 5 Mar; Vestal 12

Mar; ad CVSP 20 Mar; imm WPR 20 Mar; pair OTSE 24 May; TIOG May, average.

**N. Harrier:** 2 reports CHEN Apr; 3 reports CORT Apr; TIOG thru.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 12 reports, low.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 7 reports, average.

**N. Goshawk:** none reported.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr T Morris 2 Apr (JF); Greenwood P 15 Apr (MP); pair Cole P BROO 2 May, "same area as past years" (MP).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Endwell 31 Mar; average numbers.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 7 reports; max 5 CORT 20 Mar; last Carr Rd Willet 12 Apr.

**Am. Kestrel:** pair Cortland 27 Mar, "copulating near nest box" (BT); "on 5 eggs" Homer 25 Apr; McGraw 1 May; max 9 Towns of Lisle and Triangle 3 Apr (MP), good numbers.

**Merlin:** 1 City of Cortland 20 April, "harassed by starlings" (John Confer via John Gustafson), scarce.

**PEREGRINE FALCON:** pr Binghamton early spring thru.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** TIOG Mar, Apr; WeB early May.

**Wild Turkey:** max 30 McGraw 13 Mar and Homer 24 Mar; on nest Vestal Center BROO 2 May; many reports.

**N. Bobwhite:** 1 Meeker Rd Vestal 24 May (S&LB), first report since 1995.

**Virginia Rail:** arr BPd 27 Apr; BPd 14 May (RG); TIOG May (TBC), scarce

**Am. Coot:** 1 WPR 8 Apr; 1 BPd 21 Apr, scarce.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** 1 WPR 7 Apr (WWa), not seen every year.

**Killdeer:** arr Vestal 20 Mar.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 3 WPR and 1 T Deposit 8 Apr; last Unadilla R 15 May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Allen P T Morris 8, 9 May; last Unadilla R 15 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 3 Endwell 20 May.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 8 reports, average.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 5 Struble Rd Flood Control Dam Endwell 20 May (MP), only report.

**Least Sandpiper:** 2 TIOG May; Allen P T Morris 8, 9 May (JF); last Unadilla R 15

May.

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER:** Allen P T Morris 8, 9 May (JF), first report since 1994, 3rd in 23 years.

**Com. Snipe:** WeB 21 Apr (TS), only report.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr T Binghamton 5 Mar; max 5 T Morris 2 Apr.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 32 WPR 8 Apr; 17 Murphy's 3 Apr; last 3 Hillcrest 26 Apr; high numbers.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** Endwell 24 Mar (DWa).

**CASPIAN TERN:** 2 BROO 9 Apr; 10 Hillcrest 23 Apr (RG), 2nd report since 1968, *intro*.

**Forster's Tern:** Hillcrest 23 Apr (RG).

**Black Tern:** Hillcrest 23 Apr (RG), uncommon.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 4 reports BROO late May; 1 WeB late May, average.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1 Vestal 23 May (L&SB).

**E. Screech-Owl:** T Binghamton 5 Mar, only report.

**Great Horned Owl:** 1 TIOG May, only report.

**Barred Owl:** 1 Sky L Windsor 1 Apr (N&TT); 2 German 9 May, "calling back and forth" (DW); 2 other reports May.

**Long-eared Owl:** 6 REEC 27 Feb-16 Mar (Fred Von Meechow); good number.

**Short-eared Owl:** Edmeston OTSE 27 Mar (TS), scarce.

**Com. Nighthawk:** downtown JC 14 May (MP); 2 BROO 18 May (PB); CVSP 29 May (RG), only reports.

**Chimney Swift:** several BROO 27 Apr; CHEN, OTSE, TIOG May, only reports.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 S Owego May (TBC), regionally uncommon.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** CVSP 24 Mar; TIOG thru; 2 BROO 30 Apr; 2 T Union BROO 17 May, only reports.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 OTSE 2 Apr.

**N. Flicker:** arr CVSP 24 Mar.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** widespread reports.

#### FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr 1 BROO 11 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 2 BROO 18 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr 1 BROO 17 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr 1 BROO 4 May.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr 1 BROO 24 Mar.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 1 BROO 6 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr BROO 4 Apr

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr 1 BROO 8 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 2 BROO 24 Apr.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr 2 TIOG 6 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr BROO 8 May.

**Fish Crow:** BROO 10 Mar.

**Com. Raven:** HPd 26 Mar; 5 reports TIOG thru.

**Horned Lark:** few Edmeston OTSE 12 Mar.

**Purple Martin:** arr BROO 13 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr BROO 18 Mar.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr BrP 21 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 1 BROO 15 Apr; 40+ colony Edmeston OTSE.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr 2 OTSE 24 May, only report.

**Barn Swallow:** arr 2 BROO 15 Apr.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1 OTSE 24 Apr.

**Carolina Wren:** 1 BROO 12 Mar.

**House Wren:** arr BROO 29 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** TIOG 15 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 2 BROO 30 Apr, courting pair.

**Veery:** arr. BROO 7 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 2 WeB 26 Apr.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr Triangle 4 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr 1 Gyl 17 Apr.

**Gray Catbird:** arr 1 BROO 6 May.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr 1 BROO 15 Apr

**Am. Pipit:** arr CORT 31 Mar, only report.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BROO 6 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr BROO 19 May.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** arr BROO 6 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr BROO 15 May (NCBC).

**Nashville Warbler:** arr 1 BROO 3 May.

**N. Parula:** arr 1 BROO 9 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr BROO 30 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 1 BROO 27 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 1 OTSE 8 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 1 BROO 1 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr WeB 8 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr BROO 27 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 1 BROO 30 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Cole P 3 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr BROO 9 May; 1 TIOG May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr 1 WeB 4 Apr.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BROO 8 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr BROO 5 May; TIOG May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr 1 BROO 28 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr 1 BROO 5 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr BROO 5 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr 1 BROO 27 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 1 BROO 30 Apr.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr BROO 15 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr 1 OTSE and BROO 8 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 1 Vestal BROO 27 May (VL); 1 TIOG May, only occasionally reported.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Ely Park Binghamton 14 May, only report.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr BROO 12 May.

#### **TANAGERS-WEAVERS**

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr T Burlington and BROO 8 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr BROO 15 Apr.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last BROO 25 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 1 OTSE 2 Apr.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr BROO 17 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr BROO 23 May, only report.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 3 BROO 15 Apr.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr BROO 22 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1 BUNP 29 Apr.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr 2 BpD 7 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr BROO 30 Apr; 3-4 WeB until 15 May; last CORT 18 May.  
**Snow Bunting:** about 12 birds Meredith DELA 1 Mar; max 400+ Edmeston 12 Mar.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr BROO 23 Apr.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr BROO 5 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr BROO 8 Apr.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 1 OTSE 1 Apr.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 1 BROO 12 Apr, only report.  
**Orchard Oriole:** 1 OTSE 8 May (JF), rarely reported.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr 1 BROO 5 May.  
**Purple Finch:** 2 pair OTSE 2 Apr; common in WeB.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 1 TIOG 8 May, only report  
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