

Region 4-Susquehanna

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Weather data is as recorded by the National Weather Service Station at the Binghamton Regional Airport in the town of Maine, Broome County. This year's mild winter temperatures continued into March, with a monthly average of 39.4°F, nearly 7° higher than the average. A high of 70°F was reached on 8 and 9 Mar, while the lowest of 10°F occurred on the 18th. Total rainfall of 3.25" was about a half-inch more than average. There was 5.5" of snowfall for the month. Most of this melted quickly. The greatest depth of 2" was measured on 17 Mar.

April's temperatures were closer to normal with a monthly average of 43.1°F, about 1° cooler than average. The lowest temperature was 22°F on 9 Apr. The highest temperature of 72°F occurred in the middle of the month on the 15th. Total precipitation of 6.47" was double the normal amount. Adding to the already wet month was 8.3" of snow. The largest amount of 7.2" fell on 8-9 Apr. This storm had left 5" of standing snow on the ground by the 9th.

The slightly warmer temperatures in May averaged 57.2°F. This was 1.4°F higher than normal. The low of 35°F was recorded on the 3rd and the high of 87°F occurred on the 9th. Rainfall was again about double the normal amount. A total of 7.04" fell for the month. The greatest amount came over 9-10 May, with 1.57".

Waterfowl numbers were good, but most impressive was the number of species. Twenty-one duck species included the less common Gadwall, Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Oldsquaw, and Red-breasted Merganser. The only ones missing were Redhead and Black Scoter.

A **Cattle Egret** in Vestal, Broome County on 10 Apr was certainly the most unusual sighting this season. Hats off to Bill Howard for spotting this adult in full breeding plumage in an abandoned field near a quarrying operation along Old Vestal Road near the Sycamore Road intersection. Marie Petuh also confirmed this sighting at 2:30 pm, but the bird was gone by 3:30 pm when others tried to locate it. This is the fifth Regional report and only the second ever sighted in Broome County. The first was on 22 May 1960 in Nineveh. The other reports for Region 4 are as follows: fall 1980 in Milford, two in the spring of 1987 at Deans Pond in Willet and in Cortland, and in the summer of 1999 in the town of Preston.

Geese were on the move the first week of March, with winds over 20 mph for five of those days. A very high count of 13,600 Canada Geese and 210 Snow Geese in 119 flocks on 7 Mar were noted by Jon Weeks in Glen Aubrey, Broome County. Elva Hawkin in the town of Preston also noted high numbers on the 7th, perhaps some of the same birds.

Raptors had average counts. Only a single N. Goshawk was reported from West Burlington. Three Golden Eagle reports were impressive, and last summer's resident Peregrine Falcons returned to Binghamton. The nest box erected on the Security Mutual Building in downtown Binghamton did not seem to appeal to the pair. However they may have found another location on the same building for a nest.

High water levels kept shorebirds away from their usual haunts and nothing unusual was sighted. A single Virginia Rail was seen at Boland Pond in Chenango Bridge 11 May.

Tom Salo reported habitat destruction due to the heavy rains. "This sand bank (in Edmeston) annually hosts a pair of kingfishers and a colony of Bank Swallows. The kingfishers began excavating the bank on 26 Apr. The bank collapsed three times following very heavy rains, twice after the swallows had arrived. The kingfishers were not seen again after the first collapse and are presumed dead."

The songbirds provided some nice surprises this migration. Olive-sided Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo were uncommon sightings. Rare in our Region, reports of **Cerulean Warbler** and **Kentucky Warbler** from Broome County were exciting. Other less common warblers reported were the Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Mourning, and Hooded warblers.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ATP - Aqua Terra Park, BROO; BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPd - Boland Pond, BROO; BrPd - Brick Pond, TIOG; CoP - Nathaniel Cole Park, BROO; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park, BROO; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center, BROO; GP - Greenwood Park, BROO; HPd - Hawkins Pond, BROO; RTP - Round Top Park, BROO; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; WeB - West Burlington, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: Susquehanna R. Vestal 11 Mar; Hillcrest BROO 3 Apr; TIOG Apr; 3 WPR 23 Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr Endwell 10 Mar; TIOG Apr.
Horned Grebe: 5 Endwell 10 Mar, max 8 there 11 Mar.
Red-necked Grebe: WPR 25 Apr; 3 Chenango R. Binghamton 19 Apr (RG).
Double-crested Cormorant: Endwell 3 Apr; WPR area Apr and May.
Am. Bittern: UL 14 Apr; scarce.
Great Blue Heron: BROO and TIOG thru; 64 birds and about 25 nests occupied at Owego rookery 2 Apr (ES); arr Norwich 15 Apr; 2 Cooperstown Junction 22 Apr.
Great Egret: arr BrPd 6 Apr (SK).
CATTLE EGRET: Vestal BROO 10 Apr (BH), 5th Regional and 2nd BROO report, intro.
Green Heron: arr UL 28 Apr; arr Norwich 7 May; a few scattered reports.
Turkey Vulture: arr Johnson City 5 Mar; WeB 9 Mar; 2 Oneonta 15 Mar; max 12 Gyl 5 Apr.
Mute Swan: BPd 8 Mar.
Tundra Swan: about 100 along route 7 near Afton 1 Mar (S&MH); 60 still there 2

Mar; 26 along route 12 in two flooded farm fields Greene and Oxford 4 Mar (ES); good numbers!
Snow Goose: 100+ WPR 5 Mar; 210 over Glen Aubrey BROO 7 Mar (JW); hundreds T Preston 7, 8 Mar (EH); 228 over Johnson City 14 Mar (T&NT); last one UL 7 May; good numbers.
Canada Goose: "thousands" T Preston 4, 7, 8 Mar; 300 Norwich 6 Mar; 119 flocks totaling 13,600 Glen Aubrey 7 Mar (JW); thousands over T Binghamton 9 Mar.
Wood Duck: Endwell 10 Mar; "investigating cavity" WeB 23 Mar; arr Triangle 25 Mar; arr Norwich 29 Apr; TIOG thru; max 11 CHEN NAMC.
Green-winged Teal: arr 4 WPR 11 Mar; TIOG Apr.
Am. Black Duck: max 27 BPd 11 Mar.
Mallard: average numbers.
N. Pintail: Chenango Bridge BROO 2 Mar; Otsego L 5 or 6 Mar; max 3 BPd 11 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: BPd 1 Apr; TIOG Apr and May.
N. Shoveler: BPd 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP); pair UL 14 Apr (JW); scarce.

Gadwall: 4 BPd 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP), (T&NT); again on 24 Mar; often missed.

Am. Wigeon: UL 4 Mar; max 9 BPd 11 Mar; TIOG Apr.

Canvasback: Susquehanna R Vestal 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 36 BPd 10 Mar; TIOG Apr.

Greater Scaup: 4 BPd 11 Mar (T&NT).

Lesser Scaup: BPd 10 Mar (DWt); Hillcrest 3 Apr (RG).

Oldsquaw: Westover BROO 12 Mar (MC), only report.

White-winged Scoter: UL 14 Apr (JW), not seen every year.

Com. Goldeneye: UL 18 Mar (MD); TIOG Apr; last 3 T Preston 2 May (EH), very late.

Bufflehead: max 36 Susquehanna R.Vestal 11 Mar; TIOG Apr, May.

Hooded Merganser: 20+ WPR 5 Mar; "visiting nest box" Maryland 11 Mar (D&TK); TIOG thru.

Com. Merganser: max 50 WPR 5 Mar; "pair visiting nest box" Maryland 12 Mar (D&TK).

Red-breasted Merganser: WPR 12 Mar (J&JW); 2 Apr WPR, max 3 on 1 Apr; BrPd 19 Apr; good numbers.

Ruddy Duck: 1 Allen P T Morris OTSE 11 Apr (JF); Owego 19 Apr; WPR 25 Apr (MD,BT).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Johnson City 3 Apr (GG); 2 other BROO reports Apr, May; TIOG Apr, May.

Bald Eagle: WPR 5 Mar (JW); Port Dickinson 8 Mar; "one feeding on deer carcass on Otsego L" 7 Mar (BD); max 3 Otsego L 9 Mar (WH); Cannonsville Res 7 Apr (MP); UL 14 May; 3 reports TIOG May.

N. Harrier: arr Pitcher and Pharsalia CHEN 15 Mar (DW); TIOG thru; 2 WeB 14 Apr; New Berlin 13 May; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: at nest south Binghamton 17 Apr (SC); few other reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BROO reports Mar; 26 Apr Norwich; TIOG thru.

N. Goshawk: 1 WeB 27 Mar, flew in between two fighting Kestrels (TS), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Triangle 25 Mar; TIOG thru; max 3 Pharsalia 26 Apr: 1 CHEN NAMC.

Broad-winged Hawk: T Binghamton 26 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: 9 CHEN NAMC.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Preston 8 Mar; Binghamton 9 Mar.

Golden Eagle: imm West Exeter OTSE 5 Mar; BPd 29 Mar (NCBC); imm WeB 8 Apr headed north (TS).

Am. Kestrel: Norwich 6 Mar; good numbers after mid-Apr; 5 T Preston 23 Apr; max 16 CHEN NAMC.

Merlin: Johnson City 26 Mar (MP), often missed.

Peregrine Falcon: arr downtown Binghamton 8 Mar (NK); 2 ad there May, intro.

Ruffed Grouse: widespread; max 6 after 10" snowfall T Morris 9-11 Apr; "on nest with 11 eggs" HPd 20 May (TT).

Wild Turkey: good numbers; max 200+ Schenectady 11 Mar (DK).

Virginia Rail: BPd 11 May (MP,SK), only report.

Com. Moorhen: BPd 11 May (MP,SK); TIOG May.

Am. Coot: 7 BrPd 6 Apr; Apalachin Marsh 7 Apr; UL 12 May.

Killdeer: BROO, CHEN, TIOG Feb thru; arr Oneonta 23 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: Mirror L Owego 19 Apr (NCBC); 2 CHEN NAMC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: UL 28 Apr, 7 May (JW).

Solitary Sandpiper: UL 28 Apr, 7 May

(JW); TIOG Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Spotted Sandpiper: WPR 22 Apr; arr Norwich 29 Apr; TIOG May.

Com. Snipe: UL 1 Apr and 7 May; 2 BROO reports 12 Apr; T Preston 14, 20 Apr; WeB 15 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: 3 Maryland 19 Mar; Vestal Center 28 Mar; WeB 15 Apr; max 4 T Preston 17 Apr; TIOG thru.

Bonaparte's Gull: 10 Susquehanna R Endwell 12 Mar (RG); Hillcrest 28 Mar; WPR 16 Apr (JW); 3 Norwich 12 May (DW), not seen every year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: 135 CHEN NAMC.

Mourning Dove: 75 CHEN NAMC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: UL 14 May (J&JW); WeB 26 May (TS); TIOG May.

E. Screech-Owl: T Dickinson 19 Apr.

Great Horned Owl: Chenango Forks all Mar; TIOG May.

Barred Owl: pair Triangle Mar; pair Burlington Flats Mar; TIOG May.

Com. Nighthawk: Johnson City 11 May (MP); TIOG May; few reports, scarce

Chimney Swift: Susquehanna R Johnson City and Hillcrest 30 Apr; TIOG May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oneonta 1 May (MB,IW); Glen Aubrey 3 May; arr WeB 6 May; "good numbers" TIOG May.

Belted Kingfisher: intro; average reports; 4 CHEN NAMC.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: TIOG thru; Chenango Forks 14 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr. Endicott 2 Apr; WeB and 3 T. Morris both 8 Apr; TIOG Apr, May.

Downy Woodpecker: 7 CHEN NAMC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 CHEN NAMC.

Northern Flicker: 10 CHEN NAMC.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 CHEN NAMC; average reports from most areas.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 BROO 28 May

(TT); 1 BROO 29 May (J&JW).

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 1 BROO 17 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 1 CHEN 19 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 1 CHEN 2 May; max 26 CHEN NAMC.

E. Phoebe: arr 1 FHNC 16 Mar; max 20 CHEN NAMC.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 BROO 4 May; max 5 CHEN NAMC.

E. Kingbird: arr 1 BROO 17 Mar; 9 CHEN NAMC.

N. Shrike: 2 BROO 5 Mar; 1 CHEN 18 Mar last.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 ATP/ 1 CHEN 26 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr 1 BROO 17 Apr; 9 CHEN NAMC.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Red-Eyed Vireo: arr 1 CHEN 7 May; 6 CHEN NAMC.

Blue Jay: 51 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Crow: 154 CHEN NAMC.

Fish Crow: 1 BROO 9 Mar; 2 CVSP 1 May.

Com. Raven: 2 CHEN 19 Mar.

Horned Lark: 1 CHEN NAMC.

Purple Martin: arr 6 BROO 9 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 1 BROO 8 Mar; max 243 CHEN NAMC.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BrPd 19 Apr; 13 CHEN NAMC.

Bank Swallow: arr 1 BPd 11 May.

Cliff Swallow: 1 WPR 31 May (MD), no details.

Barn Swallow: arr 3 BrPd 14 Apr; max 54 CHEN NAMC.

Black-capped Chickadee: 65 CHEN NAMC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 CHEN NAMC.

Carolina Wren: 1 BROO 29 Apr.

House Wren: arr 1 BROO 6 Apr; 8

CHEN NAMC.

Winter Wren: arr 1 BROO 26 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr 1 BPd 11 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 ATP 26 Apr; 1 BROO 7 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr several WPR 14 Apr; 1 CHEN NAMC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 1 BROO 24 Apr.

E. Bluebird: max 15 CHEN NAMC.

Veery: arr 1 BROO 30 Apr, max 8 CHEN NAMC.

Swainson's Thrush: 1 BROO 7 May, only report.

Hermit Thrush: 1 BROO 1 Mar; 4 CHEN NAMC.

Wood Thrush: arr 1 BROO 4 May thru; max 22 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Robin: 177 CHEN NAMC.

Gray Catbird: arr 1 CHEN 4 May; 62 CHEN NAMC.

N. Mockingbird: 1 BROO 3 Mar.

Brown Thrasher: arr 1 GP 28 Apr.

European Starling: 209 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Pipit: BROO 23 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 BROO 4 May 00; 4 CHEN NAMC.

"Brewster's" Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BROO 13 May; 1 WPR 14 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 BROO 13 May, only report.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1 BROO 6 May; 6 CHEN NAMC.

N. Parula: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 1 BROO 5 May; 60 CHEN NAMC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 40 CHEN NAMC.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 BROO 13 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May; 5 NAMC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 BROO 9 Apr; 29 NAMC.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 BROO 25 Apr; 18 NAMC.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 2 May.

Pine Warbler: arr 1 RTP 26 Mar.

Prairie Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Palm Warbler: arr 1 BROO 13 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May.

CERULEAN WARBLER: 1 BROO 14 May (RG).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Am. Redstart: arr 3 BROO 4 May.

Ovenbird: arr 1 BROO 1 May; 55 CHEN NAMC.

N. Waterthrush: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 BROO 25 Apr.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: arr 1 BROO 13 May (TT).

Mourning Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 86 CHEN NAMC.

Hooded Warbler: 1 BROO 10 May (RG); 1 BROO 13 May (JnW).

Wilson's Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May; 1 CHEN NAMC.

Canada Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Eastern Towhee: arr 1 BROO 12 Apr; 16 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 6 CHEN 2 May last.

Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 BROO 3 Apr; 38 CHEN NAMC.

Field Sparrow: arr. BROO 5 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr 1 Web 9 Apr; 10 CHEN NAMC.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 BROO 18 May, only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 OTSE 1 Mar; last

BROO 14 Apr.

Song Sparrow: 69 CHEN NAMC.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 BrPd 19 Mar.

White-throated Sparrow: 14 CHEN NAMC.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr few BROO 6 Apr; 7 CHEN NAMC.

Dark-eyed Junco: 18 CHEN NAMC.

N. Cardinal: 30 CHEN NAMC.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 14 CHEN NAMC.

Indigo Bunting: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 13 CHEN NAMC.

Bobolink: arr 1 BROO 7 May; 53 CHEN NAMC.

Red-winged Blackbird: 236 CHEN NAMC.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr 1 CHEN 15

Mar; 8 CHEN NAMC.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 BROO 12 Mar; 9 BrPd 2 Apr; max 20 TIOG 7 Apr.

Com. Grackle: 102 CHEN NAMC.

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 1 CHEN 11 Mar; 15 CHEN NAMC.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 33 CHEN NAMC.

Purple Finch: 1 GP 28 Apr; 32 CHEN NAMC.

House Finch: 16 CHEN NAMC.

Com. Redpoll: max 18 CHEN 13 Mar; last WeB 28 Apr.

Pine Siskin: UL 1 Apr; 9 CHEN NAMC, at feeder.

Am. Goldfinch: 135 CHEN NAMC.

Evening Grosbeak: TIOG 10 May, last.