

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March weather was a pleasant change from frigid February, as a slow moving low pressure system in the Ohio River Valley brought warm south winds and temperatures in the 40s for the first ten days. As bays and rivers opened up, ducks and geese arrived in large numbers. Except for a few days of temperatures in the 30s in mid month, the remainder of March was above 40° F. An Arctic cold front during the first week in April kept temperatures below 40° F, but south winds returned and the remainder of the month was warmer than average. March and April had average precipitation. As the snow pack melted, streams, rivers and marshes were flooded well into May. A warm front during the first week of May was followed by a cold front, with temperatures in the 30s. Gouverneur had the lowest temperature, 26° F on 8 May. Thereafter, May was somewhat cool, with average temperatures of 63 to 67° F. May precipitation was average with the exception of the Tug Hill, which had 2" above the norm.

Due to favorable weather conditions, the waterfowl migration was on time. Snow Gooe numbers however, dropped from 300 in 2003 to ten this year. Clearly their migration path changed again, and they may become scarce, as they were some years ago. Twenty-two species of ducks were reported. Large flocks were confined to only two species: 5000 Greater Scaup at Wellesly Island on the St. Lawrence River and 220 Bufflehead at Pillar Point on Lake Ontario.

Coverage of the Region this spring was the best ever, mainly due to the fact that 12 out of the 14 observers are active in the Breeding Bird Atlas, and they were spread out through the Region, checking out their blocks rather than bunching up at the popular bird spots. Jeff Bolsinger is covering the western slope of the Adirondacks just outside the Park in places where no one has birded in recent memory. Among his discoveries were: Louisiana Waterthrush singing for two weeks and the only reports of Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Canada Warbler. Joan Collins took a field trip through Massawepie Mire and found 16 pairs of Palm Warblers. This matches the counts of the species 20 years ago and is a good sign of the stability of the area. The largest number of Bohemian Waxwings, 250, was located in the Town of Adams, Jefferson County, on 8 March.

The total number of species counted was 176, with a total of 30 species of warblers. Rarities included; Harlequin Duck, Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Goldeneye x Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid, Cattle Egret, Northern Saw-whet Owl, "Brewster's" Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRV – Black R Valley LEWI; Cl – Collins Landing SLR at the Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; EB – Eel Bay WI Orleans JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FL – Fishers Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; MM – Massawepie Mire T Colton STLA; Mon Pt – Montario Pt T Ellisburg JEFF; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course Canton STLA; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Point Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SH – Sackets Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; StPt – Stony Pt THEN; TBr – T Brownsville JEFF; Ted – T Edwards STLA; TEL – T Ellisburg JEFF; THEN – T Henderson JEFF; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Masena STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; TPhil – T Philadelphia JEFF; TPot – T Potsdam STLA; TTh – T Theresa JEFF; TWad – T Waddington STLA; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay, L Ontario CV; WesB – Wescott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr10 TMas 18 Mar.
Canada Goose: arr Potsdam 1 Mar; max 800-1000 THou 9 Mar.
Wood Duck: arr 13 BRV 12 Mar.
Gadwall: arr 2 pr CV 18 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: arr 4 PtPen 28 Mar.
Am Black Duck: arr 2 TBr 16 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr TLou 17 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr 3 Fl 26 Mar.
N. Pintail: arr 20 THou 9 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr 15 THou 9 Mar; max 87 BRV 26 Apr.
Canvasback: arr 12 Fl 9 Mar.
Redhead: arr 12 Fl 9 Mar; max 200 WI 9 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Fl 9 Mar.
Greater Scaup: arr 3000 Fl 9 Mar; max 5000 Eel Bay WI 9 Apr.
HARLEQUIN DUCK: f PIPt 14 Apr (NL).
White-winged Scoter: arr 5 Mon Pt 2 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 36 CV 18 Apr.
Bufflehead: arr Fl 9 Apr; max 220 PIPt 18 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: arr 9 CV 17 Apr; max

220 PIPt 18 Apr.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: arr ad f Fl 7 Mar; ad m Fl 9 Mar.

COMMON GOLDENEYE X

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE hybrid: arr ad m Fl 9 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: 13 TLou 13 Mar.

Com. Merganser: arr 8 CV 17 Mar.

Red-Breasted Merganser: arr 7 PtPen 11 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr TMas 17 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr TMas 17 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr SLR TMas 2 May.

Am. Bittern: one calling TEed 16 Apr.

Great Blue Heron: arr 15 THou 19 Mar.

Green Heron: arr TMas 28 Apr.

Great Egret: PLWMA 16 May.

CATTLE EGRET: TLou 25 May (MB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr PIPt 18 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: arr WATN 15 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr SH 11 Apr.

N. Harrier: arr PLWMA 22 Mar.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr pr Brasher

Falls STLA 24 Mar.

Cooper's Hawk: arr Fl 9 Mar; pr nesting
Canton 2nd yr in same location.

N. Goshawk: 5 reports of singles: Oseola
LEWI, CV, KC, TLou, TMas.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr TTh 26 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr StPt 21 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Canton 28 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: arr Canton 28 Mar.

Virginia Rail: arr TMas 9 May.

Sora: arr TMas 9 May.

Com. Moorhen: arr PRWMA 30 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr TWad 16 Apr.

Black-bellied Plover: arr BRV LEWI 26
Apr.

Killdeer: arr Canton 5 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MonPt 13 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr TPot 18 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr TPot 5 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr TLou 7 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr TBr 5 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 TLou
23 Apr.

Least Sandpiper: arr 5 TPot 14 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr TLou 23 Apr.

Wilson's Snipe: arr TLou 27 May.

Am. Woodcock: arr WATN 11 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: arr PtPen 1
May.

Caspian Tern: arr WesB 22 Apr.

Black Tern: arr 33 WB 17 May.

Com. Tern: arr TLou 9 May.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Pitcairn
STLA 14 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr T Russell
STLA; heard 1-3 per day FD last wk
May.

Barred Owl: pr TLou 1 Mar; pr T
Russell 15 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 singing many nights
TLou 11-18 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: LC 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: Brasher Falls STLA 1
May; 6 calling during a Woodcock survey
T Hermon STLA 16 May; 5 LC 30 May.

Chimney Swift: arr WATN 7 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr TLou
10 May.

Belted Kingfisher: arr KC 15 Apr.

N. Flicker: arr CV 17 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr FD 12
May; pr at nest hole FD 27 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: arr BRV 26
Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: arr StPt 12 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr large influx
Downersville SF T Russell STLA 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr TMas 28 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr KC 2
May.

E. Kingbird: arr WATN 2 May.

N. Shrike: last WI 3 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr FDS 21 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr KC 1 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TLou 9 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr KC 1 May.

Gray Jay: 1 pr and 3 ind MM 25 Apr.
(JC).

Com. Raven: ad on nest in a three-sided
shed FD 12 Apr.

Horned Lark: arr CV 17 Apr.

Purple Martin: arr HP 3 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Canton 28 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr StPt 21
Apr

Bank Swallow: arr TLou 7 May; 54 T
Limeric JEFF May.

Cliff Swallow: arr TMas 12 May.

Barn Swallow: arr StPt 21 Apr.

Tufted Titmouse: St Pt 16 May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 TLou 12 Mar.

Brown Creeper: arr TLou 7 Mar.

House Wren: arr WesB 22 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr PRWMA 1 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr TLou 19 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 17
Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 17 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FD 22 Apr.
E. Bluebird: arr TLou 17 Apr.
Veery: arr TMas 14 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TLou 7 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr FD 20 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr TLou 3 May.
Am. Robin: arr TLou 1 Mar.
N. Mockingbird: WATN 30 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 25 PRGC 28 Mar; 250 Rt 11 near Talcott T WATN 8 Mar (RC).
Brown Thrasher: arr WesB 22 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr CV 17 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr T Dekalb STLA 15 May; TMas 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Canton 10 May; 4 TLou 19 May.
"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER: m FD 24 May, singing near a Golden-winged Warbler.
Tennessee Warbler: arr STLA 9 May; widespread 1-5 per day 13-25 May; singles TLou 9 May & 19 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: arr 2 singing TPit 4 May (JB).
Nashville Warbler: arr WATN 30 Apr.
N. Parula: arr StPt 7 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr PLWMA 30 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr TMas 8 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr TMas 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: 3 singing m FD 24 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr StPt 7 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TMas 1 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TLou 30 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr TMas 7 May.
Pine Warbler: arr TLou 21 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr LC 19 May.
Palm Warbler: arr T Brasher STLA 22 Apr; 16 singing m along the old railroad bed MM 25 Apr (JC).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 13 May;

TMas 22 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr FD 13 May; 1-5 heard daily through end May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr TMas 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr Canton 7 May.
Ovenbird: arr Wolf L SF T Hermon STLA 30 Apr..
N. Waterthrush: arr TEI 9 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: singing m Grass R Downersville SF T Russell STLA 1 May-13 Jun (JB); singing m TLou 8-16 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr TMas 19 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr singing m T Hermon STLA 17 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Hermon 12 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr TLou 2 May.
E. Towhee: arr WesB 22 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Brasher Falls STLA 24 Apr.
Clay-Colored Sparrow: arr StPt 19 May; pr Weaver Rd TBr 29 May.
Field Sparrow: arr StPt 21 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr THou 28 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr KC 17 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr FI 26 Mar
Swamp Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr TMas 17 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr TMas 2 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr TLou 16 Mar.
Snow Bunting: 20 Canton 18 Apr..
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TLou 7 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr StPt 12 May.
Bobolink: arr PRWMA 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr TB 13 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 50+ PRGC 26 Apr.
Com. Grackle: arr GRSP 7 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 3 TMas 3 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr TMas 1 May.
Purple Finch: arr TMas 3 May.

Com. Redpoll: 25+ PRGC 28 Mar; last
18 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: Three Mi Pt 10 Mar.

Pine Siskin: 6 Canton 17 Apr; last WATN
6 May.

Am. Goldfinch: arr TLou 16 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: 30 Brasher Falls
STLA 14 Mar; 2 Oseola LEWI 15 Apr.