
REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

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In Ithaca, the month of March was 2.4° F cooler than normal. The month's 3.51" of precipitation was 37% more than normal, and its 14.2" of snow was 18% more than normal. Snow covered the ground 1-13 and 16-22 March. April was 2.6° F cooler than normal. The 3.45" of precipitation was only 5% more than normal, but the 16.3" of snow was 340% more than normal. Snow only covered the ground 16-19 April. May was 0.5° F warmer than normal. The month's 0.93" of precipitation was only 29% of the normal amount. There was no snowfall.

While the world became more attuned to global climate change in the past year, migrating birds still have to contend with the daily fickleness of spring weather. In order to aid the understanding of the effect of this spring's weather on migrating birds, I am going to do a chronological analysis by dividing each of the spring's month's into early, middle, and late periods of ten days (eleven for late March; late May is omitted) and by referring to the species which appear annually in *The Kingbird's* spring arrival chart. To see when each of these species arrived, please refer to the chart of statewide spring arrival dates.

Early March began with 11" of snow on the ground and this gradually dwindled to 6" by 10 March. Trace amounts of snow and rain fell throughout the period. The first five days produced fairly normal temperatures, but the last five were much colder than normal, averaging about 10° F. The three duck species that are expected to arrive during early March, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Pintail, all arrived early, averaging 4.67 days early. The two charadriids due then, Killdeer and American Woodcock, both arrived a little late, average 1.5 days. Snow Geese began to arrive. Observers reported the season's peak counts of Mallards, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup, and Common Goldeneyes. The counts for all five species were the highest in at least the last twelve years. Two Golden Eagles passed over Sapsucker Woods. Tim

Lenz reported a Thayer's Gull at Stewart Park on 10 March. Fox Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks also arrived in early March.

Mid-March temperatures were mostly above normal the first five days, reaching 64°F on the 14th and 15th. The last five days were well below normal. Twelve and a half inches of snow fell between the 16th and the 18th. Only two species were due to arrive in mid-March. Tree Swallows arrived four days earlier than average, and Eastern Phoebe arrived three days later than average. Tundra Swan and American Wigeon counts peaked. American Pipits and Rusty Blackbirds arrived. Snow Buntings departed.

Late March temperatures were mostly within 5° F of normal, but temperatures dropped to -2° F on the 21st and rose to 63° F on the 27th. Total rainfall between the 25th and 27th was 0.8". No snow fell and the last of the snow cover melted on the 22nd. The first Osprey was only one day earlier than average. The first Savannah Sparrow was four days early. The first Greater Yellowlegs, however, beat its late March average arrival date by 16 days. This species' arrival dates vary a great deal and this early arrival was still not close to the Regional record. Red-necked Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, Sandhill Cranes, Bonaparte's Gulls, Winter Wrens, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Field Sparrows arrived. Counts of Snow and Canada geese, shovelers, pintails, and Lesser Scaup peaked. Four Northern Goshawks passed Mt. Pleasant, Dryden, in one day. The Pacific Loon, back at Sheldrake for the third consecutive winter, and the Eared Grebe, spending its ninth winter in Aurora Bay, made their last appearances of the season. Tim Lenz found two Greater White-fronted Geese on the 22nd.

The good weather and snowless landscape of late March continued through the first four days of April. Consequently, all seven of the species expected to arrive in early April arrived between three and seventeen days early. Temperatures became very cold 6-10 April, but there was no appreciable precipitation. Species which arrived in early April included Great Egrets, Broad-winged Hawks, Dunlin, and Forster's Tern. Red-breasted Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Northern Flicker numbers peaked. Chris Wood discovered a Little Gull in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Myers Point.

The cold spell that began 6 April continued through mid-April. Sixteen inches of snow fell 17-18 April. The snow cover stayed until 22 April. While six species that were due to arrive in mid-April managed to arrive early, eleven species arrived late. Mark Chao's Palm Warbler at Sapsucker Woods on 6 April beat the Region's earliest Palm Warbler by one day and beat the average arrival date by 12 days. Two species which arrived in mid-April included Upland Sandpiper and Forster's Tern. Observers recorded peak counts for Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, and Wilson's Snipe. Jay McGowan found the only Black Vulture of the season in Dryden, and Stuart Krasnoff found the only Common Redpoll at Myer's Point. Short-eared Owls departed in mid-April.

Late April was warmer than normal with several rainy days. Migration seemed to get back on schedule, with 13 species arriving an average of four days early and nine species arriving an average of less than three days late. Two species arrived on their average arrival date. Other species which arrived in late April included Red-throated Loon, Blue-winged Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Ryan Douglas found a White-eyed Vireo in Sapsucker Woods which many observers were able to see. Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow counts peaked. The last Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Common Goldeneyes, and American Tree Sparrows departed.

Early May began with one week of cooler than normal temperatures followed by three days of warmer than normal temperatures reaching into the 80s on the 9th and 10th. Ten species arrived earlier than their average arrival dates, nine arrived later, and two arrived on their average arrival dates. Species which arrived during early May included Prairie Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Henk den Bakker located a Glossy Ibis in a flooded field in Dryden. David Nicosia reported a Clay-colored Sparrow in Ithaca. Early May high counts included Wilson's Warbler. The last Green-winged Teal, American Black Ducks, Northern Pintails, Red-breasted Mergansers, Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Great Black-backed Gulls departed.

Mid-May was cooler than normal except on the 16th when the temperature reached 85° F. More than one half inch of rain fell. Three species that were due to arrive in mid-May arrived two days early. Three species arrived late. One species arrived on its average arrival date. Three species were not reported at all. Species which arrived in mid-May included Yellow-bellied and Acadian flycatchers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow. The last Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, Canvasbacks, Greater and Lesser scaup, Buffleheads, and Caspian Terns departed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AuB – Aurora Bay CAYU; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CLSP – Cayuga L SP; CU – Cornell University; CygL – Cayuga L; LPBP – Linsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve; LPSP – Long Pt SP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtP – Mt Pleasant TOMP; MyPt – Myers Pt; RSGF – Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SapW -- Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SFDF -- Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE; StP -- Stewart Park TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: 2 Springport 22 Mar (TL), only report.

Snow Goose: arr 150 CU 3 Mar; max 200,000 City Pier ONTA 21 Mar; last MNWR 27 Apr.

Ross's Goose: arr MtP 22 Mar; last SaMu 31 Mar.

Cackling Goose: arr & max 2 Dryden 12 Mar; last AuB 31 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 30,000 City Pier ONTA 23 Mar (CJ), high.

Mute Swan: max 3 MNWR 5 May; last MNWR 13 May.

Tundra Swan: max 1400 CLSP 18 Mar; last 3 MNWR 29 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: max 8 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; 2 MNWR 6 May.

N. Shoveler: max 40 MNWR 27 Mar; last MNWR 13 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: SaMu 31 Mar (TJ).

Am. Wigeon: max 170 CLSP 18 Mar; last 2 MNWR 13 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 450 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 MNWR 6 May.

Mallard: max 300 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high.

N. Pintail: max 1,000 SaMu 24 Mar; last CLB 5 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 200 MNWR 15 Apr; last 3 MNWR 6 May.

Canvasback: max 8,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 MNWR 19 May.

Redhead: max 16,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1500 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.
Greater Scaup: max 2,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 StP 16 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 1,000 CLSP 23 Mar; last MNWR 19 May.
Surf Scoter: max 2 MyPt 22 Apr; last StP 30 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 8 LPSP 3 Apr; last 2 MyPt 27 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: max 58 MyPt 15 Apr (TL), high; last MNWR 22 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 120 MNWR 21 Apr; last 3 Ledyard 13 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 125 AuB 3 Mar; last MyPt 24 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 30 LPSP 3 Apr (TL), high; last 2 MyPt 10 May.
Ruddy Duck: max 300 MNWR 28 Apr (TJ), high.
Ring-necked Pheasant: Ledyard 31 Mar, low.
Red-throated Loon: arr MNWR 22 Apr; Minier's Pd CHEM 25 Apr.
PACIFIC LOON: arr CygL 18 Mar (TL); Sheldrake Bluffs SENE 24 Mar (CW).
Com. Loon: max 32 MNWR 21 Apr; last MyPt 16 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 30 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.
Horned Grebe: max 32 ONTA 14 Apr; last Prospect Hill 16 May.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 6 T Ovid P 23 Mar; max 35 MyPt 3 Apr; last 2 MyPt 29 Apr.
EARED GREBE: AuB 3 Mar (TL); SENE 11 Mar (LL); last AuB 24 Mar (TL).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 20 CU 28 Mar; max 100 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.
Great Egret: arr MNWR 2 Apr; 2 MNWR 29 Apr (MA); last MNWR 19 May.
GLOSSY IBIS: George Road Flooded Field TOMP 3 May (HdB).
BLACK VULTURE: Dryden 20 Apr (JMc), only report.

HAWKS- ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 12 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 15 SapW 20 Apr (LSe), high.
N. Goshawk: max 4 MtP 22 Mar (CW), high.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 SapW 10 Apr; max 35 TOMP 29 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 19 Caroline 3 Mar (SKE), high; last Big Flats 6 May GS, late.
Golden Eagle: arr SapW 2 Mar (JGe), early; max 4 CU 12 Mar; last MNWR 29 Apr.
Merlin: 2 City Cemetery TOMP 15 Apr-1 May.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 SapW 14 Apr; last Big Flats Trail CHEM 8 May (BO), late.
Sandhill Crane: arr 4 Dryden 31 Mar; 4 Tyre 15 Apr (DK); last 2 SFDF 27 May.
Black-bellied Plover: CLB 5 May (LSt).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 23 SaMu East 22 Apr (TL), high; last Potter 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr SFDF 19 Apr; max 5 SFDF 29 Apr.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 11 Junius 29 Apr; last CLB 5 May.
Dunlin: arr MyPt 2 Apr; max 12 MNWR 28 Apr.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 26 Apr (MWe); MNWR 28 Apr (JSI).
Wilson's Snipe: max 30 ONTA 15 Apr; last The Center at Horseheads CHEM 10 May.
LITTLE GULL: MyPt 3 Apr (CW); StP 17 Apr (MCh).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 27 Mar; max 65 MyPt 21 Apr; last 8 MyPt 13 May.
THAYER'S GULL: StP 10 Mar (TL); RSGF 12 Mar (JGe).
Iceland Gull: CLB 18 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 RSGF 11 Mar; last LPSP 31 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: last LPSP 31 Mar.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 40 StP 11 Mar; last 2 MyPt 10 May.
Caspian Tern: max 8 Montezuma Wetlands Complex 28 Apr; last 3 MNWR 16 May.
Com. Tern: StP 12 Apr; last MyPt 15 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr StP 12 Apr; max & last 4 MyPt 27 Apr.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Rock Pigeon: max 100 RSGF 10 Mar, low.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 Elmira 4 Mar, low.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 Junius 2 Mar; last MtP 14 Apr.
N. Flicker: max 17 Moses Mountain CAYU 10 Apr (CW), high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Dryden 17 May (JF), early; max 2 Dryden 28 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Fillmore Glen SP 18 May; Ford Hill TOMP 19 May.
N. Shrike: Seneca Castle 2 Mar; last Middlesex 8 Apr.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: SapW 24 Apr (RD); SapW 30 Apr (CW).
Blue-headed Vireo: max 10 TOMP 13 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: Dryden 16 May; last Dryden 18 May.
Am. Crow: max 1,000 Caroline 2 Mar (SKE), high.
Purple Martin: max 20 MNWR 15 May (KR), high.
Brown Creeper: max 10 CU 7 Apr (CSFO), high.
Winter Wren: arr 4 Caroline 28 Mar; max 5 SapW 14 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 40 SapW 28 Apr (CSFO), high; last Danby 20 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr SapW 19 May; last LPBP 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 4 Caroline 15 May; last McIlroy Preserve CAYU 26 May.
Am. Pipit: arr 15 RSGF 13 Mar; max 150 MyPt 17 Apr; last Montezuma Wetlands Complex 13 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Potter 28 Apr; max 6 Bare Hill YATE 13 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler (Hy): Finger Lakes National Forest 19 May (GDel), only report.
N. Parula: max 2 Caroline 12 May; last SapW 20 May.
Cape May Warbler: max 2 Bare Hill YATE 13 May; last MNWR 19 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Memorial P CHEM 10 Apr; max 75 LPBP 29 Apr.
Pine Warbler: max 10 TOMP 29 Apr (CSFO), high.
Prairie Warbler: arr & max 7 LPBP 5 May, late.
Palm Warbler: arr SapW 6 Apr (MCh), early; max 15 StP 23 Apr; last SapW 14 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 5 SapW 11 May; last Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 20 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr StP 5 May; max 3 MNWR 15 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 LPBP 29 Apr (BW), high.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr LPBP 11 May; LPBP 25 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Caroline 22 Apr; max 3 Buttermilk Falls SP 28 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: max 2 Hammond Hill State Forest 16 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 15 LPBP 14 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr CU 7 May; max 5 LPBP 25 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 SapW 10 May; last SapW 20 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 10 LPBP 29 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 25 Canisteo 5 Mar; last MNWR 22 Apr.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Ithaca 5-6 May (DNi).
Field Sparrow: arr Dryden 26 Mar; max 17 Big Flats Trail CHEM 26 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Caroline 18 May, late; Danby 23 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr 2 SapW 7 Mar; max 20 Danby 2 Apr; last 3 Caroline 22 Apr, early.
Lincoln's Sparrow: SapW 10 May.
White-throated Sparrow: max 50 SapW 28 Apr (DNi), high.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 ONTA 19 Mar; last 2 Canisteo 25 May.
Lapland Longspur: max 3 ONTA 19 Mar; last 2 SaMu 24 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 200 SENE 10 Mar; last ONTA 19 Mar.
Bobolink: max 10 TOMP 13 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Lansing 10 Mar; max 15 Tompkins County Airport 1 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 Dryden 12 Mar; max 200 MNWR 27 Mar (CW), high; last StP 7 May.
Orchard Oriole: arr CU 9 May; max 2 MyPt 16 May.
Com. Redpoll: MyPt 14 Apr (SKr), only report.