

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Spring 2011 was quite wet, with precipitation levels in March and April both higher than average. March's precipitation was 125% of normal, much of which fell as snow. This contributed to the fairly late snowmelt; many areas had snow cover until late March. April received 10 inches of precipitation, 200% of normal. May had close to average precipitation levels. Except for a cold spell in late March, temperatures were near average.

Migration brought a fairly standard waterfowl mixture to the Region. David Wheeler reported a **Greater White-fronted Goose** at Knox-Marcellus Marsh on 16 March, and mid-March's large Snow Goose movement came with scattered reports of **Ross's Geese**. **Cackling Geese** were reported mixed with Canada Goose flocks throughout the season. As in the past few years, **Eurasian Wigeon** was reported in the Montezuma area in late March and early April.

In addition to these reports of truly countable waterfowl species, several other interesting ducks were also seen. Jay McGowan found a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca crecca*) at George Rd. Pond in Dryden on 17 March and later a "**Common**" **Teal x Green-winged Teal** intergrade in the same place on 30 March. Chris Wood found a second intergrade at Montezuma NWR on 9 May. A male **hybrid scaup sp. x Ring-necked Duck** was found at Stewart Park on 12 March and stayed in the area through 3 April. Finally, Chris Wood photographed a **hybrid Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler** at the Montezuma NWR Visitor Center on 9 May (see pp. 206-207 & 242).

An **Eared Grebe** overwintered on Cayuga Lake for the twelfth winter in a row and was last reported on 12 March. Joe and Carol Slattery found two **American White Pelicans** at East Road at Montezuma on 7 May, which continued through 8 May. Particularly rare in the spring, a **Little Blue Heron** visited Sapsucker Woods on 5 May.

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Two **White-faced Ibis** at Stewart Park on 7 May provided a first Tompkins County record for this species. Originally found by Tim Lenz, these breeding-plumaged birds were later viewed and photographed by many others. David Wheeler photographed another **White-faced Ibis** along the Montezuma NWR Wildlife Drive on 16 May.

This spring brought several interesting shorebird sightings to our Region. Dave Nutter found a **Willet** of the western subspecies (*Tringa semipalmata inornata*) at Myers Point on 28 April, and Tim Lenz found one at the Treman Marina on 3 May. Greg Lawrence and John Bateman reported a **Marbled Godwit** at Montezuma NWR on 21 May, which many observers saw and photographed on 23 May. Montezuma NWR also hosted a group of nine **Whimbrel** on 27 May. Fairly rare in the spring, **American Golden-Plovers** were reported from Montezuma on 21 April and 30 May. Also rare in the spring, David Wheeler found a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Montezuma on 18 May.

It was an excellent spring for **Red-headed Woodpecker** sightings, with one at Treman State Marine Park on 5 May, a second in Freeville on 20 May, and a pair in Aurora 21-26 May. **White-eyed Vireos** were also easier to come by than normal. Bob McGuire found one in Lansing on 26 April, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes found one at the Hawthorn Orchard on 30 April, and Jay McGowan found one along Dodge Rd. in Ithaca on 2 May. Finally, Chris Wood found a **Sedge Wren** in Dryden on 22 May, which continued until the following morning.

Warbler migration was slow until late April, but a warm spell with light southerly winds on 26 April brought a large wave of migrants into the area. Ithaca's Hawthorn Orchard proved particularly birdy this spring, with 24 warbler species reported including high counts for several species. Highlights there include **Golden-winged Warbler** on 19 May, a "cacophony" of 85 **Tennessee Warblers** on 17 May, 17 **Blackburnian Warblers** on 17 May, 13 **Bay-breasted** and 60 **Blackpoll Warblers** on 21 May, and six **Canada Warblers** on 17 May.

As usual, there were scattered reports of the less common warblers as well. Ken Rosenberg had a **Yellow-throated Warbler** near the Ithaca Airport on 8 May, and **Prothonotary Warblers** again returned to breed in the Montezuma area. **Worm-eating Warbler** also continued to breed at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, as in the past several years.

A **Harris's Sparrow** that had overwintered at a feeder in Dryden was last reported on 5 May. Finally, several birders saw a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Montezuma NWR's Tschache Pool on 30 May, a particularly rare record for the spring.

A total of 254 species was reported this spring.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

DrLa – Dryden Lake, TOMP; HaOr – Hawthorn Orchard, TOMP; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MRun – Monkey Run, TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtP – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt; SavM – Savannah Mucklands; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; SFair – Seneca County Fairgrounds, SENE; SLSP – Seneca Lake SP, SENE; StP – Stewart Park; HowI – Howland Island, CAYU.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: MWC 16 Mar (DW).

Snow Goose: max 200,000 SavM 12 Mar; last SavM 30 May (DW), late.

ROSS'S GOOSE: arr StP 5 Mar (TL, KR); last SaW 15 Mar (CS, JG, TS).

BRANT: Cass P TOMP 20 May (CW).

Cackling Goose: max 8 MtP 15 Mar (JM); last Seybolt Rd Bait Ponds SENE 27 Apr (JM), late.

Gadwall: max 530 MNWR 25 Mar (JM).

EURASIAN WIGEON: first Seneca Lake ONTA 8 Mar (RD); max 3 MNWR 25 Mar (JM); last MNWR 10 Apr (JM).

Am. Wigeon: max 2636 MNWR 25 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: max 3000 SavM 12 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 7000 SavM 12 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 1304 MNWR 25 Mar.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL: George Rd. Pond 17-20 Mar (JM).

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL x

Green-winged Teal: George Rd. Pond 30 Mar (JM); MNWR 9 May (CW).

Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler:

MNWR 9 May (CW); see article this issue.

Ring-necked Duck: max 6000 Cayuga L SP SENE 25 Mar; last Ithaca Airport TOMP 15 May.

Hybrid scaup sp. x Ring-necked Duck: StP 12 Mar-3 Apr (TL, JM, HB, *et al.*).

Surf Scoter: last DrLa 28 Apr (JM).

White-winged Scoter: last MyPt 15 Apr (SKr).

Black Scoter: Cayuga L 20 Mar; max 2 SLSP 5 Apr; last Aurora 7 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck: max 38 MyPt 5 Apr; last MyPt 30 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 237 MyPt 5 Apr (JM); last StP 7 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 6 MyPt 5 Apr; last George Rd TOMP 10 Apr.

EARED GREBE: last Cayuga L 12 Mar (HB, TL, JM), overwintering bird.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 MWC 7-8 May (J&CS, mob).

Least Bittern: arr MNWR 28 Apr.

Great Egret: arr DrLa 5 Apr.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: SaW 5 May (WH, *et al.*).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr SaW 7 Apr; max 22 MWC 6 May.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 2 StP 7 May (TL, mob); MNWR 16 May (DW).

BLACK VULTURE: 2 East Shore P TOMP 11 Apr (DNu), flyovers.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Rough-legged Hawk: last Ithaca Airport TOMP 24 Apr.

Golden Eagle: last Taughannock Falls TOMP 22 Apr.

Sora: arr MNWR 4 May, late.

Com. Moorhen: max 9 HowI 30 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr Varick SENE 14 Mar.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: MWC 21 Apr (DNu, BM); MNWR 30 May (JM, TL, KR, SH), unusual in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr MNWR 23Apr (DN), Reg record early; max 150 MNWR 30 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 250 MWC 23 Apr.

WILLET: MyPt 28 Apr (DNu, mob), western subspecies; Treman State Marine P TOMP 3 May (TL, *et al.*).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 100 MWC 23 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr SFair 17 Apr.

WHIMBREL: 2 MNWR 26 May (GK, JM, etc); 9 MNWR 27 May (JA, DK, mob); 4 MyPt 27 May (KR).

MARBLED GODWIT: MNWR 21 Apr (GL, JohB); MNWR 23 Apr (mob).

Ruddy Turnstone: 4 MyPt 27 May; 2 MyPt 29 May; max 20 MNWR 30 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SavM 30 Apr (HB, JM, BM), early; max 10 MNWR 26 May.

Red-necked Phalarope: MNWR 18 May (DW), unusual in spring.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 4 Apr; max 147 MyPt (CW).

Herring Gull: max 6000 MNWR 25 Mar (JM).

Iceland Gull: last MNWR 25 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 MNWR 25 Mar (JM); last Cayuga L CAYU 23 Apr.

Glaucous Gull: last StP 6 Apr (TL).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 70 MNWR 25 Mar.

Black Tern: max 10 MNWR 7 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

BARN OWL: Danby TOMP 29 Apr (BE), recorded in flight.

Short-eared Owl: max 3 Ovid SENE 12 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: TOMP 8 May (SK); HaOr 19 May (GC, CTH).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: Hog Hole TOMP 5 May (CW); Freeville TOMP 20 May (CW); pr Aurora CAYU 21-26 May (mob).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Fort Hill TOMP 22 May; LPBP 25, 29 May.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Lansing TOMP 26 Apr (BM); HaOr 30 Apr (CTH); Dodge Rd. TOMP 2 May (JM).

SEDGE WREN: Dryden TOMP 22-23 May (CW, JB, JM).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr SaW 17 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 12 SaW 23 Apr.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: last 17 East Rd SENE 10 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr HaOr 11 May (CTH); last HaOr 19 May (JM).

Tennessee Warbler: max 85 HaOr 17 May (JM), high count.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Etna TOMP 29 Apr; Dodge Rd TOMP 2 May; last SaW 16 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr StP 20 Apr (JM), ties Reg record early.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Cornell U 26 Apr (AJ), ties Reg record early.

Cape May Warbler: arr SaW 27 Apr (MC), Reg record early; max 5 Ithaca TOMP 6 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 120 HowI 30 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Lansing 25 Apr (BH), Reg record early; max 17 HaOR 17 May (JM).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Lansing 8 May (KR).

Pine Warbler: max 11 MRun 15 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Lansing TOMP 26 Apr; max 12 LPBP 14 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 13 HaOr 21 May (JM, HB).

Blackpoll Warbler: max 60 HaOr 21 May (JM, HB).

Cerulean Warbler: arr HowI 30 Apr; max 12 HowI 10 May.

Am. Redstart: max 28 MRun 14 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: MNWR 6 May (JB, CW); MWC 30-31 May (mob).

Worm-eating Warbler: LPBP 25 May (JM).

Com. Yellowthroat: max 21 MNWR 14 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Phelps ONTA 29 Apr.

Wilson's Warbler: max 4 SaW 20 May.

Canada Warbler: max 6 HaOr 17 May (JM).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr SFair 19 Apr.

HARRIS'S SPARROW: last Dryden TOMP 5 May (JM), overwintering bird.

Bobolink: max 50 SFair 10 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: MNWR 30 May (TL, SH, JM, KR).

Rusty Blackbird: max 130 SaW 23 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr MyPt 28 Apr.

Red Crossbill: MRun 11 Apr (CW, JB), flyover.

Com. Redpoll: last TOMP 1 May, late.