

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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This spring brought very mild weather to the Region. Lingering winter snowfall was essentially nonexistent, and warm weather enabled trees to begin leafing out by late March. Most of March's temperatures ranged 30° F above average, but April brought more typical temperatures. In May, temperatures hovered 10-15° above average. Precipitation in March and April was roughly 20% less than average, but May yielded close to normal rainfall amounts.

Most migrant species arrived several days earlier than their average arrival dates. This is presumably due to mild weather conditions throughout the eastern United States. A cold spell at the end of April seemed to inhibit many late April arrivals, but warm temperatures and south winds during the first few days of May brought a wave of migrants to the Region. Many of the later-arriving warblers, including Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Mourning, arrived during early May, roughly two weeks before their average arrival dates. Alder, Willow, and Olive-sided Flycatchers also arrived 10-17 days earlier than average. Overall, May's migration activity seemed skewed toward early May. After a major migrant push during the first two weeks of May, activity quieted down, and lower migrant numbers were reported during the latter half of the month.

This spring's waterfowl migration brought the expected species mix to our Region. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found on Montezuma's Wildlife Drive on 17 March, and a second was found at Howland Island on 28 March. Beginning on 4 May, a **Eurasian Wigeon** was noted at Tschache Pool. This bird continued through 13 May, constituting a fairly late record for this species. Though not "countable," a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** was found at the Cayuga Marina on 10 March.

The continuing, overwintering **Eared Grebe** was last seen in Aurora on 24 March, and Chris Wood photographed a very late **Horned Grebe** from Myers Point on 29 May. Most exciting on the grebe front, however, were the two **Western Grebes** that continued from January and February. These birds were frequently seen together and seemed to constitute a pair. If accepted, this will perhaps constitute the first record for the species in our Region. One other "Western" Grebe was sighted at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in May 1969. However, Western and Clark's grebes were considered conspecific at the time, and the description given in the July 1969 issue of *The Kingbird* best fits Clark's Grebe.

On 17 April, Chris Wood briefly saw a **Little Blue Heron** at Sapsucker Woods. Though rare in the Region, this species has been regularly reported in the past few years. On 8 April, John and Sue Gregoire photographed a **Glossy Ibis** from Wyers Point in Seneca County. Though somewhat regular in the fall, *Plegadis* ibises are less expected as a spring report. On 23 March, Steve and Susan Fast reported a **Black Vulture** from Brooktondale.

This spring's shorebird migration yielded some interesting reports. A **Hudsonian Godwit** was present at Montezuma from 26 May-3 June. Though this species is somewhat regular in the fall, this bird constitutes one of a handful of spring records from our Region. Also rare in the spring, Steve Fast found a **Red-necked Phalarope** at a small pond in Caroline on 23 May. Though this bird only stayed for one day, it afforded excellent views for many observers.

Several overwintering gulls had notably late departure dates. A first year **Iceland Gull** was present at Stewart Park through 4 May, and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Stewart Park through 5 May. Additionally, Chris Wood and Dave Nicosia found a first year **Glaucous Gull** at Montezuma's Towpath Rd. on 25 April.

This season brought several uncommon warbler species to our Region. Many observers saw a singing **Prothonotary Warbler** at Myers Point on 21 May. John Confer found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Goetchius Preserve on 13 May. This is an extremely good find for the spring, but as typical for the species, it was not resighted. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** pair put on a show at Renwick Woods beginning in early May. Drew Fulton first noted a singing male on 7 May, and a second bird was noted beginning on 25 May. These birds continued through June and presumably bred. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at King Rd. in Seneca Falls on 19 May, where it seemed to be on territory and remained for the summer. Finally, Jessie Barry and Chris Wood noted a flyover **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in a large mixed blackbird flock at Hog Hole on 10 March.

In total, 252 species were reported this spring.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CLSP – Cayuga Lake SP, CAYU; DrLa – Dryden Lake; Goetchius – Goetchius Preserve, TOMP; Hog Hole – Hog Hole at Treman Marina, TOMP; Howland – Howland I, CAYU; MWR – Montezuma NWR (including the Wildlife Drive and immediate vicinity); MWC

– Montezuma Wetlands Complex; Myers – Myers Point, TOMP; Park Pres. – Roy H. Park Preserve, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; Shindagin – Shindagin Hollow, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 10,000 Lake Rd SENE 4 Mar; last MWR 29 May, sitting on nest mound with Canada Goose.

Ross's Goose: 2 MWC 4 Mar.

Brant: many reps 1 May, incl 300 MWR, max.

Wood Duck: max 219 MWR 13 Apr.

Gadwall: max 400 Cayuga Lock CAYU 11 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: MWR 17 Mar, Howland 28 Mar; MWR 4-13 May.

Am. Wigeon: max 1800 CLSP 10 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr DrLa 5 Mar, early; max 50 MWR 20 Apr.

N. Shoveler: max 500 MWR-TP 14 Apr.

“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal: 10 Mar Cayuga Marina.

Canvasback: last MWR 13 May.

Greater Scaup: last Cayuga Lock 21 May.

Surf Scoter: DrLa 31 Mar.

White-winged Scoter: last CLSP 12 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck: max 300 Little Sodus Bay CAYU, high count.

Com. Goldeneye: last Lakefront P ONTA 24 May.

Red-throated Loon: last StP 4 May, late.

Horned Grebe: last Myers 29 May (CW), very late.

Eared Grebe: last Aurora 24 Mar, continuing overwintering bird.

WESTERN GREBE: 2 East Shore Park TOMP 2 Mar - Harris Park CAYU 17 Apr (mob), potential first Reg record.

Am. Bittern: arr Goetchius 21 Mar (CW), early.

Least Bittern: arr Sterling Nature Center CAYU 3 May (TR).

Great Egret: arr MWR 5 Apr.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (R3): SaW 17 Apr (CW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 22 MWC 5 May.

Glossy Ibis: Wyers Pt SENE 8 Apr (John and Sue Gregorie).

BLACK VULTURE (R3): Brooktondale 23 Mar (SSF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Broad-winged Hawk: max 42 SaW 2 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: last MWC 29 Apr.

Golden Eagle: last Cornell Research Ponds 2 May.

Black-bellied Plover: max 20 MWC 29 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr MWR 20 Apr; max 185 MWC 29 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MWR 13 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 MWR 13 Mar, early.

Upland Sandpiper: max 8 Seneca Falls Fairgrounds 24 May.

Whimbrel: Aurora 27 May.

Hudsonian Godwit: MWC 26 May – 2 June, rare in spring.

Red Knot: MWC 21 May (BC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 250 MWC 28 May.

Baird's Sandpiper: MWC 21-22 May, rare in spring.

Wilson's Snipe: arr George Rd. TOMP 14 Mar; max 66 MWR 14 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MWC 19 May; max 4 MWC 20-21 May (mob), uncommon in spring.

Red-necked Phalarope: Caroline 23 May (StF, mob), rare in spring.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 150 Elm Beach Rd SENE 5 May.

Iceland Gull: last StP 29 Apr- 4 May (KR, JM), very late.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: last StP 5 May (CD), late adult.

Glaucous Gull: last MWC 25 Apr (DNi, CW), late.

Black Tern: arr Myers 17 Apr (CW, JG), very early.

Forster's Tern: 4 StP 1 May; 1 StP 2 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Long-eared Owl: Park Pres. 21-23 Mar.

E. Whip-poor-will: Danby 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Fair Haven 18-23 May; Ford Hill TOMP 27 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Ithaca 13 May, early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Dryden 12 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Lansing 16 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr SaW 3 May, early.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Hector 7 May, early.

Least Flycatcher: arr Shindagin 20 Apr, early.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SaW 4 May.

Winter Wren: arr Brooktondale 8 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr MWR 15 Mar, early.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr TOMP 12 Mar (GK).

Swainson's Thrush: arr SaW 4 May.

Am. Pipit: max 275 Lake Rd CAYU 15 Apr.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Worm-eating Warbler: arr SaW 2 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Burdett 3 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R3): Myers 21 May (CW, mob).

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 Hawthorns 5 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Ithaca 2 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Ithaca 20 Apr; max 30 Hawthorns 3 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr Newfield 3 May.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3): Goetchius 13 May (JC), rare in spring.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SaW 4 May, early.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Shindagin 21 Apr.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Dryden 3 May, early.

Palm Warbler: arr Mackenzie Childs Bluffs 24 Mar (CW), early.

Pine Warbler: arr Dryden 14 Mar, early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SaW 24 Mar; max 95 Hawthorns 2 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): StP 7-31 May (mob, found by Drew Fulton), singing male.

Wilson's Warbler: arr SaW 4 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: arr Ithaca 20 Mar.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3): arr Seneca Falls 19 May (JM), territorial male.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Newman Golf Course TOMP 24 Mar; max 5 Freese Rd 3 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: Slaterville 18 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Seneca Fairgrounds 15 Apr, early.

Swamp Sparrow: arr SaW 19 Mar.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 49 Sterling Nature Center CAYU 3 May, high count.

E. Meadowlark: arr Mt Pleasant 2 Mar.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Hog Hole 10 Mar (CW, JB).

Rusty Blackbird: max 250 MWR 25 Mar.

Red Crossbill: Danby State Forest 25 Mar.

White-winged Crossbill: last 15 Summerhill 18 Mar.