

REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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After a winter that lacked nearly any winter weather, March came in as the warmest on record. Records were set every day from 17-23 March—this was the second longest stretch of record-breaking temps of all time, and the mean temperature for March was actually higher than April's. March was also the eighth driest on record. In April we experienced near normal temperatures, but the dry weather continued. May was well above average for temperature, with slightly above average precipitation. Conifers continued to hold seed, and therefore wild food availability was still high for seed-eating finches.

Since there was nearly no winter, waterfowl migration actually started before March began—Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Snow Geese were on the move in late February. There was a good fallout of late moving waterbirds on 1 April that included White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, and Red-necked Grebes. Whitney Pt. Reservoir continues to be a hotspot for migrating waterfowl. The spring hawk watches east of Otsego Lake yielded lower numbers, like last year, but this was again likely due to the strange, warm, snowless weather conditions. Returning breeding **Merlins** were again noted in

the cities and villages of Cortland, Binghamton, and Oneonta. Notable non-passerines for the period were **Black Vulture** in Otsego County and **Glossy Ibis** at Boland Pond in Broome County. During the first two weeks of May **Common Tern**, **Forster's Tern**, and **Black Tern** were observed in Broome County, River Rd. in Endwell being a good location for terns.

Common Raven continues to increase as a breeder throughout the area. A pair nested again this year at Lime Hollow Nature Center less than half a mile from the city limits of Cortland. Five young were seen. **Fish Crow** was again heard in March in Cortland, a new location for this species. **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on nesting grounds in late May in the Pharsalia area. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in Region 4 where Swainson's Thrush can be found nesting. Many typically more northern breeding warblers can also be heard regularly in the Pharsalia, along with Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and other northern specialties such as White-throated Sparrow.

An Eastern Whip-poor-will was reported on 20-21 May in Tioga County and a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on 21 April in Broome County. With the warm weather, this year's passerine migration started early, and thus it seemed stretched out. Notable passerines were **Cerulean Warblers** again observed on territory at the south end of Skaneateles Lake; a migratory overshoot of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at a feeder on 21 April; **Vesper Sparrow** at Murphy's Pits 23 April; and **Orchard Oriole** at Upper Lisle Park 19 May. The best find for the Region though was an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at West Corners Marsh. The bird was very cooperative staying from 26 April to 11 May.

It was a very sizable **Pine Siskin** nesting event year across the Region, the best breeding event for Central NY since 2004, owing much to the largest hemlock cone crop in more than 10 years. A few Common Redpolls were seen February-March, sometimes mixed in with siskin flocks. **White-winged Crossbills** were seen and heard in Pharsalia, as were **Type 1 Red Crossbills**. Type 1 with dependent juveniles were seen in March at Pharsalia.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCC – Binghamton Country Club; BHL – Buck Horn Lake, OTSE; BpD – Boland Pond; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; GP – Greenwood Park, BROO; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center; ML – Mirror Lake, TIOG; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow, BROO; OtL – Otsego Lake, OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area; RivR – River Rd., Endwell, BROO; SkanL – Skaneateles Lake; UL – Upper Lisle; WCM – West Corners Marsh, BROO; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: most thru area by Mar.

Wood Duck: a few overwintered River Rd and elsewhere; migrants arr BpD and Tioga Airport 1-2 Mar; max 22 Vestel 29 Mar.

Gadwall: few overwintered; arr BpD 1 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: few overwintered; arr BpD 1 Mar; max 11 BpD 10 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: dozens of reports; numerous until early April; 1 into May BpD, does breeding occur there?

Blue-winged Teal: arr Endwell 19 Mar; pair BpD into May.

N. Shoveler: arr BpD 1 Mar, might be birds that overwintered.

N. Pintail: 1 BpD 1 Mar; max 19 Bainbridge Pond 9 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: arr BpD 1 Mar, pr lingered to early May; max 12 UL 14 Apr; sev reports.

Canvasback: 2 WPR 1 Apr.

Redhead: 6 K-Mart BROO 2 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: arr BpD 1 Mar; max 15 Whitney Pt.; UL thru 19 May.

Greater Scaup: 14 WPR 1 Apr, only report.

Lesser Scaup: arr Whitney Pt 14 Mar; max 10 WPR 1 Apr; few reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 11 WPR 1 Apr; birds grounded throughout area 1 Apr.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (R4): 2 reports CORT 1 Apr (mob), *intro*.

Bufflehead: sev reports; no big numbers.

Com. Goldeneye: few reports.

Hooded Merganser: many reports; breeding at many beaver ponds scattered thru Region; max 23 BROO 7 Apr.

Com. Merganser: max 28 Whitney Pt. 14 Mar; breeding along rivers and larger ponds/lakes.

Red-breasted Merganser: 7 WPR 1 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 1 Murphy's Pit 1 May, late, only report.

Com. Loon: 13 WPR 15 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: pr breeding BpD; dozens of reports.

Horned Grebe: arr TIOG 12 Mar; max 24 BROO 6 Apr.

RED-NECKED GREBE (R4): small fallout 1-2 Apr; 3 Dwyer Park CORT & Hillcrest Pits 1 Apr (mob, *intro*).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr BROO Mar 23; max 30 WPR 23Apr; sev May reports; breeding in area yet?

Am. Bittern: arr TIOG 22 Apr.

Great Egret: a few reports, unusual in Reg in Spring but becoming more common; arr BpD 7 Apr - mid May.

Green Heron: arr DELA 17 Apr.

GLOSSY IBIS (R4): BpD 16 Apr (GW).

BLACK VULTURE (R4): OTSE 21 Apr (LG).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Murphy's Pits 14 Mar, early.

Bald Eagle: well established with nesting numbers stable or still increasing along SusqR, TioR, and other areas; 20+ at carcass survey sites.

N. Harrier: 15 reports; few breeders?
Sharp-shinned Hawk: appears stable, but hard to find due to nesting in remote forested areas.
Cooper's Hawk: becoming a common city/village nester.
N. Goshawk: pr nesting Heiberg SUNY-ESF Forest CORT Apr; single calling bird North Rd Phar 24 Mar; 1 at a carcass survey site, unusual behavior species.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BROO, OSTE, CORT, CHEN 10-20 Mar; sev pr throughout Reg; appears well established in state lands in sev counties.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr BROO 13 Apr; well established in many state forests throughout Reg.
Rough-legged Hawk: few reports including a few at carcass survey sites; last BROO 11 Apr; below ave yr.
Golden Eagle: fewer migrating eagles at hawk watch sites east of Otsego Lake Mar; only 6 at carcass sites & likely migr not winter residents; well-established migr throughout Reg.
Am. Kestrel: few wintering lingerers; influx of migr Mar; still fairly well established as a breeder despite lower wintering numbers.
Merlin: usual prs Binghamton, Cortland, & Oneonta Apr; few others.
Peregrine Falcon: breeding pr Binghamton Mar.
Virginia Rail: arr BpD 13 Apr.
Sora: no reports.
Am. Coot: 4 loc, incl BpD & West Corners Marsh.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Murphy's 14 May; 4 rep.
Killdeer: arr River Rd 2 Mar.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr River Rd 19 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Murphy's Pits 23 Apr; 20+ rep.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr River Rd 26 Mar; 30+ rep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Murphy Pits 28 Apr; max 5 Upper Lisle 16 May; 18 rep.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr & max 14 Murphy's Pits 14 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr BROO 4 May; max 28 River Rd 16 May; sev other rep.
Dunlin: arr BROO 14 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr CHEN 1 Apr; few reports.
Am. Woodcock: arr Richford 13 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr BROO 1 Apr; many rep
BLACK TERN (R4): RivR 8 May (DW); 2 RivR11 May (GW).
COMMON TERN (R4): Upper Lisle 15 May (MM), *intro*.
FORSTER'S TERN (R4): River Rd Endwell 3 May (GW & DN), *intro*.

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R4): Round top Park 21 Apr (NM, MP).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr BROO 5 April.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr BROO 5 May; much lower numbers compared with recent big tent caterpillar outbreak years.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr BROO 17 May; much lower numbers compared with recent big tent caterpillar outbreak years.
EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (R4): TIOG 20-21 May (DA).
Chimney Swift: BROO 21 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr BROO 4 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr BROO 10 May; incr rep after 20 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr DELA 7 May; incr rep after 15 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr UL 13 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr BROO 4 May.
E. Phoebe: arr BROO 16 Mar.
Great-crested Flycatcher: arr BROO 4 May.
E. Kingbird: arr BROO 2 May; incr rep after 5 May.
N. Shrike: 6 rep; last BROO 1 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr BROO 4 May; incr rep after 10 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Round Top Park BROO 14 Apr; incr rep after 1 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr BpD 2 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr DELA 6 May, only report.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Parsons Rd 2 May.
FISH CROW (R4): rep of breeding from Endwell, Bing, Owego, Vestal, & Union; continue Cort (MY).
Com. Raven: numbers in high elevation locs throughout yr; nested again LHNC within half mile of city limits of Cortland; widespread and incr breeder & resident throughout; expanding into river valley at lower elevations.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr River Rd Endwell 26 Mar.
Tree Swallow: arr BROO 10 Mar; "big numbers" after 1 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr BpD 28 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr BROO 28 Apr; nesting colony w a few nests Preble CORT June; ~3 nests Port Watson Bridge CORT June.
Barn Swallow: arr BpD 7 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: incr nester along many river valleys at <1500'; expanding into areas up to 1800-2100'; less common CHEN & DELA.
Carolina Wren: nesting along many of the major river valleys & smaller ravines <1300ft.;

less common CHEN & DELA.

Marsh Wren: arr BpD 13 Apr.

House Wren: arr CVSP 24 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr CHEN 24 Mar; fairly com state forests early Apr thru.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CVSP1 9 Apr; many rep after mid Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CVSP 15 Apr; local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.

E. Bluebird: sev rep Mar; increasingly common after March.

Veery: arr BpD 1 May; incr rep after 5 May.

Swainson's Thrush: breeders returned to Phars WMA late May.

Hermit Thrush: arr BROO 14 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr BROO 1 May; widespread 5 May thru.

Gray Catbird: arr TIOG 23 Apr.

N. Mockingbird: "few" overwintering birds Owego & Binghamton; at least 1 Cortland.

Brown Thrasher: arr BROO 20 Apr; incr rep late Apr.

Am. Pipit: 5 rep.

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: few CORT early Mar; last mid Mar.

Ovenbird: arr BROO 1 May, increasing 2 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr OTSE 22 Apr; many rep Apr thru.

N. Waterthrush: arr BROO 1 May; 10 reports.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr BROO 1 May; widespread, many reports.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr BROO 1 May; several rep.

Tennessee Warbler: arr BROO 17 May; 5 rep.

Nashville Warbler: arr OTSE 21 Apr; many rep after 1 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr W. Burlington 10 May; fairly widespread uncommon breeder in Region.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Aquaterra Park 29 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr BROO 4 May; scarce breeder Reg except CORT.

Am. Redstart: arr BROO 2 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr BROO 5 May; 4 rep.

CERULEAN WARBLER (R4): max 3 SkanL May (MY), on territories.

N. Parula: arr Nuthatch Hollow BROO 3 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Richford 6 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr BROO & TIOG 18 May; 5 rep.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Roundtop P 25 Apr; sev rep after 5 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr TIOG & BROO 1 May; sev rep after 1 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr BROO 1 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Murphy's Pits 15 May; 20+ rep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Roundtop P 28 Apr.

Palm Warbler: arr Murphy's Pits 23 April; 10 rep.

Pine Warbler: arr Roundtop P 21 Apr; breeding locations continue to increase.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BROO 21 Apr.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R4): Vestal 21 APR (CM), at feeder.

Prairie Warbler: arr Roundtop P 21 Apr; local, well-established breeder in southern tier.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Vestal 21 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr BROO 4 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr CHEN 6 May, only report.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr OTSE 21 Apr; many rep 25 Apr thru.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last CORT early Apr; numbers down this winter after being way up last winter.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Vestal 20 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr Vestal 21 Apr; many rep 1 May thru.

VESPER SPARRW (R4): arr Murphy's Pits 23 Apr (DN).

Savannah Sparrow: arr TIOG 21 Apr.

Fox Sparrow: arr Aquaterra Park 21 Mar; sev rep thru first half Apr.

Swamp Sparrow: arr DELA 21 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: overwintered in small numbers at sev loc; nests at sev higher elevation areas CHEN, CORT, DELA.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr TIOG 1 May; last mid May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr BROO 2 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Richford 28 Apr; sev loc after 2 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr BROO 12 Apr; many after 15 May.

Bobolink: arr BROO 4 May; incr mid May thru.

E. Meadowlark: arr Upper Lisle P 23 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 rep.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad male West Corners Marsh Apr 26-11 May (SK).

Baltimore Oriole: arr BROO 3 May.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (R4): Upper Lisle Park 19 May (DN).

Purple Finch: few Mar; widespread breeding behavior May above 1000'.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (R4): small flocks Pharsalia CHEN Mar-Apr (MY), some singing.

RED CROSSBILL (R4): small flocks of Type 1 CHEN Mar-May (MY); dependent Type 1 juv 24 Mar Pharsalia.

Com. Redpoll: scattered inds & a few very small flocks of 2-5.

Pine Siskin: large breeding event across most state forests coinciding with a great cone crop, particularly on hemlock; a few reports of dependent juv Apr-May.