

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In March, the average temperature was a few degrees Fahrenheit below long-term averages with slightly more precipitation than normal. In April, temperatures and precipitation were very similar to long-term averages, although a few days produced higher temperatures than usual. May temperatures were slightly above average and with less precipitation than expected.

Although some early migrants in mid-April tantalized us with an early season, stalled fronts to our south brought a dramatic lull in migration activity, and the traditional burst of neotropical migrants at the end of April and first week of May never rose much above a trickle. The Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca, while good for normal migrant warblers, hosted neither rarities nor the exceptional numbers that are often seen there. Many species arrived back on territory without being seen first as migrants. Still, despite the perceived late season for birders, most birds arrived quite close to their average arrival dates, with several a good deal earlier, but many in small numbers until later in the season.

Snow Geese passed through in large numbers as usual, with an estimated 150,000 in the northwest part of Cayuga Lake around 9 March. This flock included at least two Ross's Geese and a Eurasian Wigeon.

The 10th of March proved to be an amazing migration day, with thousands of geese, raptors, blackbirds, and many other birds seen overhead. Watching from Hammond Hill SF, Chris Wood had a flyby **Pine Grosbeak**. A Greater White-fronted Goose dropped into Stewart Park for the afternoon.

Possibly the most exciting bird of the season was a **Pink-footed Goose** that Steve Kolbe spotted flying into Knox-Marsellus Marsh at Montezuma on 26 March. This could well have been the same bird that was seen on 18-19 March north of Syracuse in Region 5. It was present throughout the day at Montezuma but not seen subsequently.

A breeding plumaged **Eared Grebe** was present at Stewart Park on 13-14 April, and another was found by Carolyn Jacobs at the north end of Canandaigua Lake on 14 April that stayed for several days. Chris Wood found a pair of late Red-necked Grebes at Myers Point on 16 May and a late Horned Grebe there on 30 May. Individuals of Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, and **Common Goldeneye** all lingered to the end of May and beyond.

The Ithaca area experienced a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** invasion in mid-March, with multiple birds of various ages seen at Stewart Park and the Cornell Compost, peaking at 17 birds at the compost on 15 March.

On 2 April, Ken Rosenberg spotted 16 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Sapsucker Woods. This turned out to be the front line of one of the largest Bohemian invasions in recent memory in Region 3, with a maximum of **150** present at one time at Sapsucker Woods and other flocks seen in Lansing and at Cornell over the course of almost two weeks.

Shorebirds were a highlight this season, with more diversity and higher numbers than often reported in the spring, perhaps simply due to more available habitat in the Montezuma NWR area. Good numbers of the expected species were seen on the Main Pool as well as at a relatively new area just to the west in Cayuga County known as Kipp Island, with birds often moving between the two areas throughout the day. An **American Golden-Plover** appeared at Kipp Island on 13 April, and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on 4 May. Stilt Sandpipers continued to be seen occasionally on the Main Pool through 25 May. Very high numbers, 1000+, of Dunlin were seen in both areas later in May, as well as 110 Black-bellied Plovers on 27 May, a maximum of 16 White-rumped Sandpipers, a **Baird's Sandpiper** on 18 May, and at least two Wilson's Phalaropes from about 18-27 May. Tim Lenz found a breeding plumaged male **Ruff** at Kipp Island on 10 May, and this bird was seen the same day on the Montezuma Wildlife Drive (as well as subsequently on Howland Island in Region 5.) Away from Montezuma, at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake, Jay McGowan found a very early **Sanderling** on 21 April, and Mark Chao had a **Whimbrel** drop in briefly on 24 May. A cooperative **American Avocet** found by James Norwalk spent two days along the shoreline at the Lakefront Park in Geneva on 13-14 April.

A **Tricolored Heron**, presumably the same individual found in Region 2 on 5 May, appeared near the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR on 7 May and stayed for several days. A **Glossy Ibis** appeared at Kipp Island on the same day as the Ruff, and likely the same bird was seen sporadically in the Montezuma area until the end of May. On 10 May, Tim Lenz spotted a subadult **Laughing**

Gull near Aurora, and the same bird was seen at Long Point SP on 17 May and then showed up briefly at Myers Point on 23 May. Also on 23 May, Kevin McGowan saw an immature **Northern Gannet** from a boat out on Cayuga Lake near Aurora, but this bird was not refound. On 22 May, Mark Chao observed a **Mississippi Kite**, extremely rare in Region 3, over Bostwick Road in Ithaca.

Just as in 2012, the 2013 spring season brought several uncommon warblers to our area. On 16 April, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Monkey Run in the Town of Dryden. This bird quickly disappeared, but on 9 May another **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on the Newman Golf Course in Ithaca, in the same area where one or two tried to breed in 2012, and was seen until 22 May. Ben Barkley found another **Yellow-throated Warbler** on Cornell Campus on 14 May, and Jay McGowan and Livia Santana found one at Myers Point on 23 May, quite possibly the same one as at Newman, as this bird was not reported subsequently. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana also found a female “**Audubon’s**” **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Stewart Park on 18 April that stayed for at least a week. Scott Taylor found a cooperative Prothonotary Warbler at Sapsucker Woods on 6 May, and the Prothonotary Warblers returned to breed again at Armitage Road on the R3/R5 border, first reported on 18 May. On 3 May, Jay McGowan found a **Kentucky Warbler** at Sapsucker Woods, where a few people were lucky enough to see and hear it before it disappeared.

A total of 259 species were reported in Region 3 during the spring season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Compost – Cornell Compost Facility, Stevenson Rd., TOMP; Cornell – Cornell Campus, TOMP; Kipp Island – Kipp Island Field unit of Montezuma NWR, CAYU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR (including the Wildlife Drive and immediate vicinity), SENE;

Mucklands – Savannah Mucklands, SENE/WAYN; Myers – Myers Point, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: 1 MNWR 26 Mar (SKo), first record for Region 3.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 Monkey Run TOMP 10 Mar (JB&CW), migrants; 1 StP 10 Mar (TL, BW).

Snow Goose: max 150,000 Lake Rd SENE 9 Mar; last MNWR 30 May.

Ross's Goose: arr Geneva 2 Mar (CW) & Deans Cove SENE 2 Mar (TL,BW,LSe); max 2 Lake Road SENE 9 Mar; last Caroline TOMP 24 Mar (SKe).

Brant: arr/max 300 MNWR 11 May (JM, LSa); last SaW 27 May (JM).

Cackling Goose: max 16 Cornell 10 Mar (LSe, BVD); last Mt. Pleasant TOMP 30Mar (GK).

Canada Goose: max 70,925 Cornell 10 Mar (LSe, BVD), amazing migration day.

Gadwall: max 300 Harris Park CAYU 9 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 Lake Road CAYU 8, 24 Mar; MNWR 13 Apr, 2 May.

Blue-winged Teal: arr MNWR 17 Mar; max 44 MNWR 16 Apr.

N. Shoveler: max 300 MNWR 26 Apr.

Canvasback: max 3000 Union Springs 24 Mar; last Harris Park CAYU 26 May, late.

Redhead: max 15000 Union Springs 24 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: last StP 31 May thru, summering male.

Greater Scaup: last MNWR 29 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: last StP 31May thru, summering pair.

Black Scoter: 1 StP 1 May (CW), late, only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 27 Seneca L. SP; last Aurora 18 May.

Bufflehead: last Myers 26 May (JM, LSa), late.

Com. Goldeneye: last Canandaigua L. ONTA 17 May (CJ), very late, continuing summering male seen into July; next latest Treman Marine Park TOMP 14 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: last StP 31 May thru, late away from Montezuma where they breed in small numbers.

NORTHERN GANNET (R3): 1 imm Long Point SP 23 May (KM), 1st Reg spring record, seen from a boat offshore.

Red-throated Loon: last StP 26 Apr (JM, LSa), late.

Com. Loon: last StP 31 May thru, somewhat late.

Horned Grebe: last Myers 30 May (CW), late.

Red-necked Grebe: last Myers 16 May (CW, JM), late.

EARED GREBE (R3): 1 Canandaigua L 14-17 Apr (CJ); 1 StP 13-14 Apr (mob); usual overwintering bird in Aurora not seen after Jan. **Am. Bittern:** arr MNWR 11 Apr.

Great Egret: arr Downtown Ithaca 8 Apr.

TRICOLORED HERON: 1 ad MNWR 7-10 May (mob), and possibly as late as 16 May (LL), presumably the same bird found by JM, LSa on at Van Dyne Spoor (R2) 5 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr SaW 8 Apr.

GLOSSY IBIS (R3): Kipp Island 10 May (TL), Seneca Meadows 19 May, MNWR 19, 24, 31 May thru, likely all the same bird, perhaps one of the ones seen first at Van Dyne Spoor 5 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Golden Eagle: max 8 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (JeB, CW), high.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 Tutelo Park, Bostwick Rd Ithaca TOMP 22 May, extremely rare R3.

Rough-legged Hawk: last MNWR 11 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: 2 Trumansburg 10 Mar; 3 Dryden L TOMP 13 Apr (NI), scarce away from MNWR; many reports from MNWR thru.

Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 9 May; max 110 MNWR 27 May (MT), very high.

Am. Golden-Plover: 1 Kipp Island 13 Apr (TL, BW), rare but regular in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr Myers 3 May; max 223 MNWR 26 May.

AM. AVOCET (R3): 1 Lakefront Park, Geneva 13-14 Apr (JN).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 60 Kipp Island 13 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 40 Kipp Island 4 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Seneca Falls 13 Apr; max 5 Seneca Falls 21 Apr, 31 May.

WHIMBREL (R3): 1 Myers 24 May (MC, TC), migrating bird stopped briefly on spit.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr Myers & Canandaigua L 11 May; max 8 Myers, high for R3 especially away from MNWR.

Sanderling: Myers 21-22 Apr (JM, LSa), very early upstate.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 May; max 405 Kipp Island 27 May, high.

Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 649 MNWR.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 May (TL); max 16 Kipp Island (JM, LSa), high, especially for spring.

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 18 May (DN), rare in spring.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Goetchius Preserve TOMP 7 Apr (JeB, CW); max 45 Kipp Island 13 Apr.

Dunlin: arr MNWR 7 Apr; max 1150 Kipp Island 26 May (JM, LSA), very high, especially for spring.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 Kipp Island 4-5 May (TJ, CW) & 26 May (JM & LSA); 2 MNWR 10-25 May, intermittently; usually rare in spring.

RUFF: Kipp Island 10 May (TL), rufous & black male discovered here; Wildlife Drive MNWR 10 May (LL), same bird, subsequent days on Howland Island (R5).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 9 May; max 26 Kipp Island 26 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Hanshaw Road TOMP 10 Mar; max 38 Hanshaw Road 14 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 17 May; 2 MNWR 18 May; 1 Kipp Island 25 May; 1 MNWR 26-27 May, uncommon in spring.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Harris Park CAYU 30 Mar; max 75 Myers 14 Apr.

LAUGHING GULL (R3): Aurora CAYU 10 May (TL), subadult; Long Point SP CAYU 17 May (CW), prob. same bird; Myers 23 May (mob), again apparently the same bird.

Iceland Gull: last Compost 21 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 17 Compost 15 Mar (JM), very high for R3; last Aurora 18 May (JM, LSA), late 2nd cycle.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: Compost 15, 21 Mar (JM), apparently this cross.

Glaucous Gull: arr StP 10 Mar; last Aurora 6 Apr.

Black Tern: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 37 MNWR 18 May

Com. Tern: arr StP 10 May; last Myers 30 May; max 24 Union Springs CAYU 25 May, high for this late, this group continued in the marina area at Union Springs for most of the spring.

Forster's Tern: arr Myers 12 Apr (BM); last Myers 29 May (JM, LSA).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 12 Northeast Ithaca 21 May (KR), night migrants.

Long-eared Owl: Roy H. Park Preserve TOMP 26 Mar (CW).

Short-eared Owl: last Mucklands 23 Mar.

E. Whip-poor-will: 1 Danby 19 May (SM).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Shindagin Hollow TOMP 22 May; SaW 29 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Danby TOMP 19 May; last SaW 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Lansing 21 May (JM, LSA).

N. Shrike: last MNWR 31 Mar.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R3): 1 MNWR 27 Apr (CS), singing bird.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Elmira & Ithaca 11 May; last Cornell Plantations 26 May.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: last Sampson SP thru 3 Mar (CW), found Dec 2012.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr SaW 20 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Owasco L & Ithaca 11 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr Northeast Ithaca 7 Apr (JM), slightly early.

Am. Pipit: last Kipp Island 18 May.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R3): arr 16 SaW 2 Apr (KR); max 150 SaW 8 Apr (KR); 120 Lansing 6 Apr (JM, LSA); 100 Cornell 10 Apr; last Lansing 14 Apr (TO); possibly all the same flock moving around the area.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 5 Lake Ridge Road CAYU 2 Mar; last MNWR 8 May, late.

Snow Bunting: max 875 Lake Road CAYU 2 Mar (CW); last Mucklands 23 Mar.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr West Danby TOMP 4 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R3): arr SaW 6 May (ST, mob), cooperative singing migrant; Armitage Rd. SENE/WAYN 18 May thru, breeding pr; 1 MNWR 30 May (JA), another nesting bird? at Tschache Pool.

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 Hawthorns 12 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Hawthorns 10 May (JM).

Mourning Warbler: arr Hammond Hill 4 May, early.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): 1 SaW 3 May (JM), very rare in area, skulky singing migrant.

Hooded Warbler: arr MNWR 27 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr Ithaca 28 Apr (ALT), early; Hawthorns 28 Apr (mob); last Monkey Run TOMP 26 May (CW).

Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May.

Palm Warbler: last Owasco L. 18 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Sampson SP 9 Mar, arr or overwinter?

"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED

WARBLER: StP 18 25 + Apr (JM, LSA), very rare in the State, cooperative, lingering bird.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): 1 Monkey Run 16 Apr (JeB, CW), singing male that quickly disappeared; 1 Newman Golf Course TOMP 9-22 May (mob); 1 Cornell 14 May (BB), prob a different bird than at

The Kingbird 2013 September; 63 (3)

Newman; 1 Myers 23 May (JM, LSa), not seen concurrently with the Newman bird, possibly same.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Dryden L TOMP 24 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Mt. Pleasant & Northeast Ithaca 7 Apr; max 7 SaW 14 Apr (JM, LSa), high.

Fox Sparrow: arr Monkey Run 14 Mar; last Cornell 22 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SaW 22 Apr (CS), early; last SaW 18 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr SaW 12 Mar.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Mucklands 9 Mar, early, possibly overwintering.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 8178 Compost (JeB, CW), migration day.

Rusty Blackbird: last StP 14 May; max 76 MNWR 25 Apr.

Com. Grackle: max 5150 Cornell 10 Mar.

PINE GROSBEAK (R3): 1 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (CW), flyby migrant.

White-winged Crossbill: last Aurora 24 Mar (JM).

Com. Redpoll: last Lansing 2 May (SH).

HOARY REDPOLL (R3): last Yellow Barn Rd. TOMP 30 Mar (KM), a few birds continuing from great redpoll winter.

Pine Siskin: max 100 Northeast Ithaca 13 May (BW) & 100 Cornell 15 May (RR); last SaW 30 May (TS).

Evening Grosbeak: max 24 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (CW); last Danby TOMP 10 May (BE).