

## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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The meteorological spring season of March, April, and May 2013 was slightly colder than the 30-year normal period. March was the coldest month and averaged between 2 - 3°F below normal. April averaged about 1° below normal. May was warmer than normal, averaging about 2° above normal. Snow cover lasted until the middle to end of March in most areas, with the highest elevations in the Region seeing snow cover until the second week of April. The last significant snowstorm occurred on 18-19 March, with between 5 and 10 inches. The spring was drier the normal by a little over 1 inch.

The first major warm spell occurred 9-12 March, and with it a massive influx of geese. Canada and Snow geese came by the thousands across the Region with this mild spell. In addition, the first major influx of blackbirds including Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and, to a lesser extent, Brown-headed Cowbirds came on these dates. American Robins also made a decent push northward during this first spring mild spell. There was an epic fallout of waterfowl around 10 April, with scores of Long-tailed Ducks, Red-necked Grebes, Horned Grebes, both scaup, and Bonaparte's Gulls. Stormy weather knocked a lot of these northbound migrants out of the sky to area lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Of note this spring was a nice push of Vesper Sparrows in the middle of April.

Rusty Blackbirds also made a nice showing, with many reports right into early May. Most migratory species' arrival dates were close to normal. A couple

of exceptions were Osprey, with the first spring record on 24 March, and Louisiana Waterthrush, with the first spring record on 7 April.

Some notable species this spring: Great Egret in both Broome County at Boland Pond and Tioga County at the Brick Pond, Red-throated Loon reported on Whitney Point Lake, and a small flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls which dropped in on Whitney Point Lake as well.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pd; BrPd – Brick Pond; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; DP – Dorchester P; HP – Hillcrest Pits; JC – Johnson City; GP – Grippen P; UL – Upper Lisle CP; MP – Murphy's Pits; RR – River Road, Endwell.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 1475 Johnson City 10 March, last Endicott, NY 16 May.

**Mute Swan:** 1 Hillcrest Pits & BPd thru 25 May.

**TRUMPETER SWAN:** 1 CVSP 11 May; BPd thru 16 May, same bird?.

**TUNDRA SWAN:** 6 Upper Lisle County P 15 March.

**Wood Duck:** max 30 Grippen P 22 March.

**Gadwall:** max 22 Upper Lisle County P 14 April; last there 3 May.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 36 River Road Endwell 4 March; last UL 4 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** present thru, in higher than usual numbers.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr BPd 31 March; max 6 BPd 13 April; dep 22 May Town of Maine, NY.

**N. Shoveler:** max 10 UL 14 April; dep UL 17 May.

**N. Pintail:** max 53 BPd 24 March, dep BPd 24 April.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 30 UL 4 April.

**Canvasback:** scarce; 1 f HP 3-14 March.

**Redhead:** max 4 Lopke Gravel Pit 13 April; scarcer than normal.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 60 MP 20 March; few thru.

**Greater Scaup:** max 20 MP 10 April (JoW, DN).

**Lesser Scaup:** max 30 Keibell Rd, Whitney Point 4 April (JoW).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 45 Murphy's Pit 10 April (JoW, DN).  
**Bufflehead:** max 100 MP 10 April (JoW, DN).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 25 Harold Moore Park 14 March; dep 18 April.  
**Hooded Merganser:** widespread thru.  
**Com. Merganser:** common thru; max 101 Port Crane 13 March.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 12 DP 13 April (ChW).  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 10 UL 14 April (MeP).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Greene 3 March; BPD 10 April; very scarce.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** few rep.  
**Wild Turkey:** widespread, fairly common.  
**Com. Loon:** max 22 10 UL, few lingered from winter; at least 1 UL thru.  
**Red-throated Loon:** 1 UL 10, 14 April (ChW, DN).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 River Rd Endwell 17 April; uncommon breeder.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 58 DP 13 April; dep UL 16 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 9 UL 14 April (MeP, RD, DN).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr HP 20 March; max 104 UL 14 April (DN).  
**Great Egret:** max 4 BPD 10 April (MiJ)  
**Green Heron:** arr BPD 28 April.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Waverly, NY 24 March.  
**Golden Eagle:** max 3 JC 13 March; sev rep thru.  
**N. Harrier:** few rep.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** fairly common thru.  
**N. Goshawk:** 1 JC 13 March; sev other rep thru; 1 nest confirmed Port Crane.  
**Bald Eagle:** Fairly reg along rivers & lakes thru.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** scarce or under reported.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Campville 13 April.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** dep UL 20 March.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr BPD 9 April BPD.  
**Sora:** arr 14 May BPD; scarce.  
**Com. Gallinule:** 1 UL 28 April (JH).  
**Am. Coot:** dep BPD late April; max 4 BPD 21 April.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 MP 20 May.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr RR 12 May; max 6 MP 20 May; dep end of May.  
**Killdeer:** max 13 MP 3 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr RR 10 April; max 15 RR 25 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr RR 27 April; max 5 MP 20 May continue through.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr RR 10 April; max 7 UL 28 April; continued through.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Rte 79, Itaska, 13 April; scarce; dep RR 3 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr RR 15 May; max 16 RR 25 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr RR 3 May; max 20 RR 14 May; dep RR end of May.  
**Dunlin:** arr RR 28 April; max 75 UL 24 May (Mal).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Kolb Rd Maine 1 April; max 12 Rte 79, Itaska 5 April; dep UL early May.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr 12 March.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr RR 1 April; max 88 RR 10 April (MiA, DaA); dep UL end of May.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 115 JC Home Depot 9 March.  
**Herring Gull:** few rep; max 20 UL 27 April.  
**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 16 UL 7 April (GW).  
**Caspian Tern:** max 5 DP 13 April; arr 10 April, dep early May.  
**BLACK TERN (R4):** RR 17 May, only rep.  
**Com. Tern:** arr UL 14 April; max 2 UL 17 May.  
**Forster's Tern:** 2 (1ad, 1imm) UL 17 April; few other rep. Apr.

### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**E. Screech-Owl:** few rep.  
**Great Horned Owl:** sev rep, widely distributed.  
**Barred Owl:** few reports.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** few NYSEG stadium late May thru.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Binghamton 19 April; max 300 MP 25 May (DW).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 30 April Nichols.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** fairly widespread along river in low numbers.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 5 King Street Barker 16 May.  
**Am. Kestrel:** fairly common throughout in open agricultural areas.  
**Merlin:** scattered rep thru; likely breeding greater Binghamton.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Binghamton thru, expected.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr UL 10 May.  
**YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (R4):** 1 Bassett Rd Triangle 22 May (RD, DN).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr UL 18 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr UL 16 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr UL 2 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr Hancock & Oneonta area 31

March.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Round Top Park, Endicott 3 May. **E. Kingbird:** arr 30 April BPd, common breeder.

**N. Shrike:** dep UL late March.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Treadwell 28 April.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Wildwood Nature Reserve, Waverly 14 April.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr GP, Endicott 26 April.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** few rep BROO end of May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr sev loc 5-7 May.

**Fish Crow:** airly common along the Susquehanna River, Binghamton to Owego.

**Com. Raven:** widespread in low numbers.

**Horned Lark:** dep Edwards Hill Rd Barker early April.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Kmart Plaza, Binghamton 10 April.

**Purple Martin:** arr Apalachin 13 April; 1 flyover Round Top Park, Endicott 2 May (MeP, DN); max 12 Glen Mary Drive, Tioga Center, known breeding site.

**Tree Swallow:** arr MP 13 March; max 650 DP 14 April.

**Bank Swallow:** arr CVSP 27 April.

**Barn Swallow:** arr MP 1 April.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr Chenango Forks 8 May; max 25 CVSP 24 May.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** few rep thru.

**House Wren:** arr GP, Endicott 22 April.

**Winter Wren:** few rep.

**Marsh Wren:** arr BPd 6 May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr GP, Endicott 21 April.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** few rep.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Round Top Park, Endicott 7 April; dep BU Nature Preserve 17 May.

**Veery:** arr CVSP 25 April.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** few rep very end of May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** sev rep late May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr Oneonta 14 April.

**Wood Thrush:** arr Endicott 2 May.

**Gray Catbird:** arr Vestal 27 April.

**N. Mockingbird:** widespread, low numbers.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr Vestal 13 April.

**Am. Pipit:** 1 UL 16 March; max 11 Kolb Rd Maine (JoW)

**Cedar Waxwing:** arr Vestal mid May; very common after.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** several reported moderate to large flocks thru.

**LAPLAND LONGSPUR (R4):** 1 Smith Hill Road, Lisle 2 March (MeP, RD, DN).

**Ovenbird:** arr East Meridith 29 April.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 Foley Road, Vestal 10 May (DW).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Vestal 7 April.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr CVSP 19 April.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr T Union 3 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 20 April.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr River Rd, Endwell 13 May; dep Triangle, NY end of May.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr King St Barker 3 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr King Street Barker 22 May.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr T Union 3 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr King Street Barker 16 May.

**Am. Redstart:** arr Tri-Cities Airport 27 April.

**Cape May Warbler:** few rep mid to late May.

**N. Parula:** arr CVSP 5 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 6 May; few breed in higher terrain.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** scarce; 1 BU nature preserve 16 May; 1 Hancock 27 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 1 May. **Yellow Warbler:** arr Delhi 24 April.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Jones Park, Vestal 1 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Round Top Park, Endicott 12 May; rep thru end of May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Treadwell 29 April.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Bear Spring Mountain Game Area, Downsville 8 April; last Binghamton mid May.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 7 April.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** abundant spring migr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Dunham Hill Rd Town of Maine 30 April.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Round Top Park, Endicott 20 April.

**Canada Warbler:** arr BU Nature Preserve 12 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 Vestal 17 May (MeP); scarce or underreported spring migr.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Owego 14 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** common by mid April.

**Field Sparrow:** arr HP 2 April.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Tri-cities Airport 11 April; sev more rep to early May; more common than usual this spring.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr GP, Endicott 9 April.

*The Kingbird* 2013 September; 63 (3)

**Fox Sparrow:** fairly common migr mid to late March.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW (R4):** 1 Edwards Hill Rd Whitney Point 28 May (DW).

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr Waverly 9 April.

**White-Throated Sparrow:** most migr dep mid May.

**White-Crowned Sparrow:** arr Conklin 28 April; dep mid May Binghamton.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Vestal 10 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Conklin 28 April.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Nichols 6 May.

**Bobolink:** arr Barton 24 April.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1500 BPd 6

April.

**E. Meadowlark:** fairly common by late March.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Victory Street, JC 9 March; max 25 HP 24 March; migr to mid May; good numbers.

**Com. Grackle:** max 2000 BPd 10 March.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE (R4):** 1 Endwell 5 May (MiJ); 1 Finch Hollow, Union 12 May (MiJ)

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Owego 29 April.

**Purple Finch:** migr arr mid to late April.

**Com. Redpoll:** dep Laurens 15 April, end of major winter invasion.

**HOARY REDPOLL:** 1 Richford thru 28 March (DM).

**Pine Siskin:** few thru Chenango Bridge thru.