

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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At Ithaca, March was cooler and drier than normal. The average daily low temperature was 18.4°F, 4.5° below normal. The average high was 39.7°, 2.3° below normal. Total precipitation was 1.44", 1.20" less than normal. Total snowfall was 5.7", 6.0" less than normal. Maximum snow depth of 5.0" accumulated early in the month. Warm fronts passed through the Region on 2, 9, 14, 20, 28, and 31 March.

April temperature was normal, but the month was a little wetter than normal. The average high temperature was 56.1°, 0.6° above normal, and the low was 33.5°, 0.4° below normal. Total precipitation was 3.75", 0.46" more than normal. Total snowfall was only 0.1", 3.3" less than normal. Warm fronts passed through 3, 7, 13, 18, 24, and 27 April.

May was cooler and wetter than normal. Average high temperature was 64.9°, 2.5° cooler than normal, although average low temperature at 44.8° was 1.3° warmer than normal. Total precipitation was 4.85", 1.66" more than normal. Warm fronts passed through 2, 7, 10, 16, 20, 23, and 26 May.

Species of ducks that normally leave the Region for the winter—Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal—all returned a few days earlier than their respective averages. Observers recorded spring high counts for many waterfowl species: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Long-tailed Duck. Two Greater Scaup, three Surf Scoters, and a Common Goldeneye lingered into late May. Ken Reichman photographed a flock of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** in Steuben County. Chris Wood spotted a **Tufted Duck** on Cayuga Lake in early March and many observers observed and photographed one on Canandaigua Lake in mid-March.

Matthew Janson reported a high number of Pied-billed Grebes at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Betty Beckham reported late Red-necked Grebes on Seneca Lake. An Eared Grebe was on Seneca Lake in late May.

Logan Kahle and Tim Lenz found two Whip-poor-wills in the Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca. Another was at Wells College. Observers reported high counts for Sora, American Coot, and Sandhill Crane.

Arrival dates for shorebird species compared to average arrival dates were well mixed, some earlier and some later. Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Wilson's Phalarope had unusually early arrival dates. Observers turned in high counts for Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, and Greater Yellowlegs. Unusual species were **Black-necked Stilt** in late May,

American Golden-Plover in mid-May, **Ruff** in early May, Stilt Sandpiper in early and mid-May, and Red-necked Phalarope in late May, all at Montezuma NWR.

Observers reported high counts for Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Common Tern. Chris Wood found a Franklin's Gull at the Owasco Lake Inlet in late May. Shyla and Tonya Luna photographed a rare **Least Tern** on Seneca Lake at Lakefront Park in mid-May.

Two counts of 500 Double-crested Cormorants were high counts. One of the counts was at Jetty Woods at the south end of Cayuga Lake in mid-April. The other was farther north on the lake at the Frontenac Park Marina in mid-May.

Jay McGowan found an early Least Bittern on 20 April at Montezuma NWR. A Snowy Egret in mid-May and three Glossy Ibises in late May at Montezuma NWR were the most unusual waders of the season.

Black Vultures were scarce in the Region with just four sightings. High counts for Osprey and Bald Eagle came from Montezuma NWR and for Broad-winged Hawk in the Town of Dryden.

Five Eastern Screech-Owls in Ithaca's Cascadilla Gorge was a spring high count for that species. Seven Hairy Woodpeckers in the Town of Caroline was also a high count. Two Peregrine Falcons at Cornell University and at Montezuma NWR also constituted high counts. A Peregrine at Taughannock Falls on 24 May was a late report.

Chris Wood observed a record early Least Flycatcher at Dryden Lake on 19 April. Observers reported high counts for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Northern Shrike, Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and Barn Swallow.

Lynn Braband heard a Sedge Wren sing at a site in the Town of Phelps in early May. A high count of Marsh Wrens came from Montezuma NWR at the end of May. High counts for Brown Thrasher came from the Hanley Biological Preserve and from Sampson State Park. A high count for House Sparrows came from the Finger Lakes National Forest.

Several winter finch species lingered into the season: Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, and Pine Siskin. One Evening Grosbeak was in Freeville on the late date of 18 May. The lone Hoary Redpoll was also in Freeville on 10 March. A high count of Purple Finches came from the Town of Dryden in early May.

Observers reported high counts for Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Eastern Towhee. Jay McGowan photographed a Nelson's Sparrow at the Cornell Research Ponds.

Warbler arrival dates were generally within a few days of average. A Prothonotary Warbler arrived early at the unusual location of Myers Point on 3 May and a Prairie Warbler arrived early on 21 April at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. The only high count was for Bay-breasted Warbler. There were seven reports of Golden-winged Warbler at five locations. Yellow-throated Warblers were reported from five locations.

Wendy Fuller photographed a **Summer Tanager** in her yard in the Town of Ulysses. Many observers were able to see a Dickcissel in the City of Ithaca in mid-May.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CP – City Pier, ONTA; **CLSP** – Cayuga L SP; **CU** – Cornell University; **Cygl** – Cayuga L; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest, SENE; **Fv** – Freeville; **HP** – Harris P, CAYU; **Ith** – Ithaca; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; **LPO** – Lakefront P, ONTA; **LPS** – Lakefront P, SENE; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **OLI** – Owasco L In, CAYU; **OP** – Ontario Pathways, ONTA; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SSP** – Sampson SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCan** – T Canandaigua, ONTA; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 8 T West Union STEU 19 May (KRe, ph).

Ross's Goose: last MNWR 1 Apr.

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 22 CP 3 Mar (ID), high; last 2 Montezuma Heritage P CAYU 2 Apr.

Cackling Goose: max 70 SW 13 Mar (JMcG), high; last Risser Road Swamp ONTA 26 Mar; StP 26 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 150,000 SW 13 May (TH), high.

Mute Swan: max 15 CP 3 Mar (ID), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 110 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

Northern Shoveler: arr 2 SLSP 11 Mar; max 3000 MNWR 13 Apr (JMcG, LSa), high.

Gadwall: max 700 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 2 Cygl, TSF 16 Mar; MNWR 16 Mar; last MNWR 5 May.

American Wigeon: max 2000 Cygl, TSF 17 Mar (PRO, KRo), high.

Am. Wigeon x Mallard: Cygl, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, ph).

Green-winged Teal: max 3000 MNWR 4 May (SBi, JMcG), high.

Canvasback: max 10,000 Cygl, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, KMcGo), high.

Redhead: max 30,000 Cygl, TSF 16 Mar (TLe, BW), high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 9000 Cygl, TSF 16 Mar (JMcG, KMcGo), high.

TUFTED DUCK (R3): ESP 5-6 Mar (CWo!); Canandaigua L ONTA 15 Mar (mob, ph).

Greater Scaup: last 2 LPO 22 May (DDa), late.

Lesser Scaup: max 4000 Cygl, TSF 17 Mar (PRO, KRo), high.

Surf Scoter: arr SSP 8 Mar; max 5 MyPt 11 Apr; last 3 LPS 22 May (LK), late.

White-winged Scoter: max 27 Seneca L, T Lodi SENE 14 Mar; last 15 MyPt 17 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 72 SLSP 16 May (TLe, JMcG), high; last 11 LPS 22 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 235 Aurora Bay Boathouse CAYU 10 Oct; 235 HP 16 Mar; last SLSP 30 May (BB!), late.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 50 MNWR 8 Apr (Matthew Janson), high.

Red-necked Grebe: max 8 LPO 25 Apr; 8 Seneca L, T Varick SENE 6 May; last 2 SLSP 30 May (BB!), late.

Eared Grebe: LPS 21 May (mob!), late.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 17 May; max 3 TEnf 24 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr 2 SSP 6 May (LK, TLe), late and high; HO 9 May; Wells College TOMP 14 May.

RAILS-LARIDS

Sora: max 3 MNWR 5 May (MH); 3 MNWR 11 May (DL, JMcG), high.
American Coot: max 1200 MNWR 13 Apr (JMcG, LSA), high.
Sandhill Crane: max 20 MNWR 31 Mar (CP), high.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 22-25 May (mob, ph).
American Golden-Plover: TCan 17 May; MNWR 26-27 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr & max 4 Lott Farm SENE 18 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 2 MNWR 19 May (MMi, ph), early; max 34 LPO 23 May; last MNWR 28 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 13 May; max 24 CP 26 May.
Red Knot: arr & max 31 Finger Lakes Welcome Center ONTA 21 May (PS, ph), early & high; 1-7 MNWR 24-29 May (mob); LPO 26 May.
RUFF: MNWR 4 May (SBI, JMcG!, ph).
Stilt Sandpiper: MNWR 4 May; MNWR 13 May.
Sanderling: max 10 CP 26 May.
Dunlin: arr 7 MNWR 4 Apr; max 800 MNWR 22 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 May; max 7 MNWR 31 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 30 MNWR 4 May; last 2 TCan 22 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1470 MNWR 31 May (CWo), high.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 13 May; max 4 CP 20 May; 4 TCan 23 May; 4 CP 26 May.
American Woodcock: max 25 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 17 Apr (LK), high.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 400 MNWR 4 May (SBI, JMcG), high.
Willet: 41 LPO 30 Apr (TLu!, ph), high.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 200 MNWR 4 May (SBI, JMcG), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 3 May (DDa), early; last MNWR 27 May.
Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 30 May, late; last MNWR 31 May (mob), late.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 16 Mar; max 105 Aurora Bay CAYU 16 Apr.
Franklin's Gull: OLI 29 May.
Iceland Gull: max 5 ESP 5 Mar; last 4 StP 27 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 24 StP 14 Mar (JMcG, LSA), high; last Paines Creek mouth CAYU 11 May.

Herring X Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 14-19 Mar.

Glaucous Gull: max 3 ESP 9 Mar (JMcG, LSA); 3 StP 12 Mar (TLe); 3 StP 19 Mar (PRO), high; last HP 24 Apr.

Herring X Glaucous Gull: Ith 2-19 Mar.

Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: StP 6 Mar.

LEAST TERN (R3): LPS 19 May (SL, TLu, ph).

Common Tern: max 82 OLI 31 May (CWo), high.

Forster's Tern: arr StP 14 Apr; max 8 CLSP 27 Apr.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: max 4 CLSP 20 Apr; last Canandaigua L, TCan 23 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 Jetty Woods TOMP 17 Apr (TLe); 500 Frontenac P Marina CAYU 11 May (DL, JMcG), high.

Least Bittern: arr MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), early.

Great Blue Heron: max 161 MNWR 30 May (BB), high.

Great Egret: arr SW 31 Mar; max 28 MNWR 4 May (DB, JTo, STor), high.

Snowy Egret: MNWR 11-13 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Allan H Treman State Marine P 11 Apr; max 6 MNWR 25 May.

Glossy Ibis: 3 MNWR 27 May.

Black Vulture: arr & max 5 W Elmira 17 Mar; last CU 8 May.

Osprey: max 26 MNWR 6 Apr (LFr), high.

Golden Eagle: arr Myrers Pt TOMP 10 Mar; max 2 CU 11 Mar; 2 Palmer Woods TOMP 13 Mar; last T Erin CHEM 19 Apr.

Bald Eagle: max 50 MNWR 22 May (JMcG), high.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr TVE 13 Apr; max 62 TDry 21 Apr (JMcG, LSA), high.

Rough-legged Hawk: last FLNF 13 Apr.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 5 Cascadilla Gorge Trail TOMP 11 May (RK, KV), high.

Snowy Owl: max 3 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 16 Mar; last Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 23 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: TCar 12 Mar; TDry 11 May.

Short-eared Owl: max 3 FLNF 17 Mar; last 3 T Phelps ONTA 20 Mar, early.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Ith 3 May; max 2 T Hector SCHU 9 May; 2 OP 17 May.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 7 TCar 21 Apr (SKr), high.

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 CU 13 Mar (KV); 2 MNWR 20 Mar (AMi), high; last Taughannock Falls SP 24 May (PD), late.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 TDry 20 May (JF), high.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CU 19 May; max 2 Northeast Ith 25 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Mark Smith Pd SCHU 18 May.

Northern Shrike: max 2 T Seneca ONTA 25 Mar (NJ), high; last T Tyre SENE 10 Apr (SG), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Louis Agassiz Fuertes Bird Sanctuary TOMP 9 May; HO 9 May; Fall Creek TOMP 9 May.

Fish Crow: max 50 Ith 17 Mar (ADo), high.

Purple Martin: max 350 Aurora Bay CAYU 24 Apr (EHe), high.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 MyPt 19 Apr (LCh, PRo, STon); 50 Ladoga Pt TOMP 20 Apr (KK, BMcG); 50 Beebe L TOMP 14 May (KE, VV), high.

Barn Swallow: max 700 MNWR 13 May (LK), high.

Sedge Wren: T Phelps ONTA 9 May.

Marsh Wren: max 47 MNWR 31 May (CWo), high.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Monkey Run TOMP 17 May; max 2 T Ith TOMP 28 May.

Brown Thrasher: max 8 Hanley Biological Field Preserve SENE 2 May (JN); 8 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Cedar Waxwing: max 70 Palmer Woods TOMP 11 Mar 70 Louis Agassiz Fuertes Bird Sanctuary TOMP 24 Apr, low.

House Sparrow: max 50 FLNF 14 Mar (LK), high.

American Pipit: arr Ith Tompkins Airport TOMP 14 Mar; max 30 TEnf 26 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: max 75 TCar 14 Mar; last Fv 18 May, late.

Purple Finch: max 35 TVE 24 April (JCor); 35 TDry 4 May (LCh, PRo), high.

Common Redpoll: max 150 Mt Pleasant TOMP 31 Mar; last TDry 20 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: Fv 10 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 45 Fv 10 Mar.

Lapland Longspur: max 28 Mt Pleasant TOMP 24 Mar; last MNWR 17 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 200 T Veteran CHEM 3 Mar; last 20 King Ferry Winery CAYU 16 Mar; 2 HP 16 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

American Tree Sparrow: max 26 T Bradford STEU 1 Mar; last MNWR 27 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr LPBP 24 Mar; max 20 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr T Ovid SENE 28 Apr; max 2 T Ledyard CAYU 4 May.

Nelson's Sparrow: Cornell Research Pds TOMP 31 Mar (JMcG, ph).

Fox Sparrow: arr Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 16 Mar; 4 TCar 16 Mar; 3 Boggy Bottom TOMP 16 Mar; 2 Monkey Run 16 Mar; Factory St Pd CAYU 16 Mar; T Catlin CHEM 16 Mar; TDry 16 Mar; TEnf 16 Mar; max 13 Hammond Hill TOMP 1 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 Ith Beer Company TOMP 8 May; 2 HO 16 May; 2 MNWR 17 May; last MNWR 25 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 70 MNWR 20 Apr (JMcG), high.

White-throated Sparrow: max 50 T Farmington ONTA 4 May (JP); 50 Edwards L Cliff Preserve TOMP 5 May (BW), high.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 Soaring Eagles Golf Course CHEM 12 May; last OP 24 May.

Eastern Towhee: max 55 SSP 4 May (BW), high.

Orchard Oriole: arr TCan 1 May; max 6 MyPt 17 May; 6 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 20 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 20 Ith 18 May (DN), high.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Caswell Rd Grassland TOMP 13 Mar; max 100 SW 8-13 Apr.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr LPBP 11 May; max 3 Newtown Battlefield SP 23 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Hi Tor WMA YATE 9 Apr; max 4 Cayuta Creek SCHU 5 May.

Northern Waterthrush: arr SW 23 Apr; 5 Cayuta Inlet SCHU 4 May; 5 Ridgeway Road Rail Trail TOMP 16 May; 5 OLI 23 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: Sixteen Falls Creek SENE 4 May; Ith City Cemetery TOMP 4 May; T Danby TOMP 4 May; LPBP 4 May; SW 8 May; 2 LPBP 11 May; SW 11 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 30 Apr; max 7 LPBP 11 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: TEnf 3 May; SW 6 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr MyPt 3 May (BMcG!), early; max MNWR 10-27 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May; LPBP 4 May; last CLSP 18 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Salo Drive Conservation Area TOMP 2 May; max 5 Keuka L SP 15 May; 5 T Ulysses TOMP 23 May; 5 T Danby TOMP 26 May.

Cape May Warbler: max 12 SW 26 May; last MNWR 27 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May; Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 4 May; max 4 MNWR 19 May; 4 MNWR 22 May.

Northern Parula: max 8 TVE 8 May; 8 Risser Road Swamp ONTA 10 May; last MNWR 23 May; FLNF 23 May; TCar 23 May; Dryden L 23 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 50 OP 19 May (KG), high; last Pine City 25 May; Bluegrass Lane Natural Area 25 May.

Palm Warbler: max 8 MNWR 6 May; 8 Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 7 May; 8 T Middlesex YATE 8 May; 8 MNWR 13 May; last SLSP 22 May; MNWR 22 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr StP 14 Mar (BMcG), early.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Willard T P SENE 21 Apr; MNWR 23-25 Apr; T Ovid SENE 5 May; SLSP 15-16 May; LPO 17 May.

Prairie Warbler: arr LPBP 21 Apr (SBI!), early; max 10 Arnot Forest TOMP 25 May.

SUMMER TANAGER (R3): T Ulysses TOMP 9 May (WF!, ph).

Dickcissel: lth 11 May.