

## March 2017 Sightings Report

March was a variable, cool month. Temperatures averaged 32.9 °F, 1.4° below normal, and only the 9<sup>th</sup> time the March average has been lower than February's. After a record high 66 °F on the 1<sup>st</sup>, there were only two more warm spells: the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, it was back to winter. There were 3 major weather events: a major high wind event on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest wind gust ever recorded at the airport at 81 mph; trees down all over, and over 200,000 customers without power, some for more than a week. Next, heavy snow fell from late on the 13<sup>th</sup> to late on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with 26.5" at the airport and more elsewhere. Finally, there was a record 1.22" of rain on the 31<sup>st</sup> to end the month. Precipitation totaled 4.66", 2.16" above normal, with 33.0" of snowfall, 16.7" above normal, for the 10<sup>th</sup> snowiest March. The 16.2" on the 14<sup>th</sup> was a new record for the date.

The wild March after a warm end to February seemed to either push out or reroute most of the usual March waterfowl. Some gatherings lingered for more viewing, after which numbers were relatively poor. There were almost no reports of passing waterfowl or gulls or of numbers on the water along our south shore of Lake Ontario. Overall, the usual spring arrivals trickled in or were found, and the total species count for the month and year to date ended up near their 10-year averages. There is still a problem with access to the usual local eBird data, though I would suspect that reports will be comparable with last year for the month for this region.

Continuing from last month, Snow Geese lingered, and numbers even climbed substantially to our south. A few Ross's Geese were noted with them. After the rarities of February, Andy Guthrie started March off finding the region's first **Pink-footed Goose** in the fields along North Hamlin Road. Many were able to arrive in time to view it. Eurasian Wigeon was found there as well as that species continuing in several other locations. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Andy located a male "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal in the same fields. The Tufted Duck at Sandy Bottom Park continued with a few more reports to the 19<sup>th</sup>. Harlequin Duck was seen a couple more times at Irondequoit Bay outlet (the bird from earlier or different?). No significant counts of either loon or any of the regular grebes were reported. Great Blue Heron numbers picked up, but one American Bittern was the only early heron arrival. Peak counts were modest for most waterfowl, but details await access to the data. It was back to no Black Vultures for the month or year to date.

The ugly weather in the first half of the month held back the hawk count, although the new official counter, Bob Baez, put in lots of time when possible. A few decent days in the last week of the month brought the total to 4,998 birds, 4,124 of these Turkey Vultures. Osprey arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup>, though a day earlier at two other locations. No Northern Goshawks were tallied at the hawk watch and only one elsewhere. Bald Eagle numbers were decent at 77, but only two Golden Eagles

were tallied. At least 11 Sandhill Cranes were noted from the watch.

Small numbers of the expected early shorebirds were reported: Killdeer, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock. Pectoral Sandpiper was not reported, but a record early Solitary Sandpiper was found by Andrew Consler in Geneseo on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Puddles in the fields seemed ideal for more shorebirds. The usual congregations of gulls were mostly missing, though the usual regulars were reported, including small numbers of the winter gulls. There was no significant movement of Bonaparte's Gulls noted.

Only 2 Snowy Owls were reported, one at Genesee County airport near Batavia and one at Sodus Point. The DEC Short-eared Owl surveys out of the Avon office were plagued by bad weather on the count nights this month. Per information from Jim Adams, counts of roosting migrant owls, Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet, in the "Owl Woods" area on Manitou Beach Road were tracking well with their medians for the recent 5-year period. There were 12 Northern Saw-whets and at least 4 Long-eared reported for the month. The best day was on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly, the usually hard to find Long-eared Owl was also located in Walworth and in Brighton, with the bird at the latter site seen over several days as it headed out to hunt. At month's end, there were still no Red-headed Woodpecker reports since January. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported at scattered locations. The three regular falcons were all reported in typical numbers at the hawk watch and elsewhere.

Passerine arrivals began with a Purple Martin passing the hawk watch on the 8<sup>th</sup>. As the month progressed, about 17 more species were added, with some work yet to be done looking at detailed data to try to settle on arrivals vs. wintering birds. The list included Eastern Phoebe, Tree and Barn Swallows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping, Field, and Vesper Sparrows plus the ones with quite a few winter reports: Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Savannah and Fox Sparrows, and Rusty Blackbird. Joe Wing located a flock of Bohemian Waxwings near Pultneyville later in the month that remained into the next day. The only "winter finches" reported were single Common Redpolls in Greece and Williamson and small numbers of Pine Siskins. An interesting bird was a very large American Goldfinch photographed by Bill Howe at his home near Honeoye. Recall that last year we had a very large White-throated Sparrow.

Please send your reports by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to Andrea Patterson, 144 Greystone Lane, #24, Rochester, NY 14618.

	2017	2016	10-year Average (2007-2016)
Species for March	144	148	139.1
New for the year	14	21	18.4
Total for the year to date	152	160	150.4

*Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee*

**Observers:** Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Bob Baez (hawk counter), Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, Liz Barry, Sue Barth, John Barton, Doug Beattie, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Adam Bleau, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Gary Chapin, Megan Cardon, Charles Chu, Robert Cicotta, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Kathleen Dalton, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Ian Davies, Bob Dobson, Daena Ford, George Ford, Andy Garland, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Judy Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Barbara & Larry Hall, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Christina Hoh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Carolyn Jacobs, Nicholas Kachala, Laura Kammermeier, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, J. Gary

Kohlenberg, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Melissa Mance-Coniglio, Cindy Marino, David Marsh, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Jim Miles, Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Dave Nutter, Joe Ovsiovitch, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jon Podoliak, Jay Powell, David Prill, Bill Purcell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Dave Robertson, Michelle Rosenbaum, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Kevin Rybczynski, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Judy Slein, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Joseph Stevenson, Kimberly Sucky, Mike & Joann Tetlow, John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Joe Wing, Chris Wood.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

MARCH 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
<u>Pink--footed Goose</u>	1 imm	<u>1, 1st Reg</u>	N. Hamlin Rd.	A. Guthrie, mob, many ph
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	2	5	Hamlin Beach SP	J. Wing, ph
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	10	Bergen	Bri. Morse
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	21	North Ponds Park, Webster	J. Wing, ph, Ji. Miles
<u>Snow Goose</u>	<u>5000+</u>	1-3	N. Hamlin Rd.	mob
<u>Snow Goose</u>	<u>max 15,000</u>	21	T Caledonia	M. Wasilco
<u>Snow Goose</u>	<u>max 5000</u>	26	Broadway Rd., Wayne Co,	D. Robertson
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1-2	1-10	N. Hamlin Rd.	12+ obs, ph
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1	21	s. of Caledonia	M. Wasilco
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>total ~26</u>	all month	12 loc	mob
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>max 5</u>	3; 13	2 loc, Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>Canada Goose</u>	<u>max 10,000+</u>	3	N. Hamlin Rd.	R. Spahn, T. Smith
<u>Snow x Canada Goose</u>	1	21	North Ponds Park, Webster	Ji. Miles
<u>Mute Swan</u>	<u>max 68</u>	25	Buck Pond, Greece	K. Griffith
<u>Tundra Swan</u>	<u>max 300</u>	17	NMWMA (Morgan Rd marshes)	M. Haribal
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	<u>1-28</u>	North Hamlin Road	15+ obs
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	1-5	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	7 obs
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	<u>6</u>	Braddock Bay	D. Horsey, K. Schmidt
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	2 m	20	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	B. Howe
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1m	21-24	North Ponds Park, Webster	9 obs
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	<u>22</u>	Conesus Lake Inlet	K. Close
<u>American Wigeon</u>	<u>max 161</u>	19	North Hamlin Road	D. Horsey
<u>Mallard</u>	<u>max 750</u>	6	Conesus Lake - N	M. Wasilco
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u>	1	<u>9F</u>	North Hamlin Road	J. Strong, R. Wilson
<u>Northern Pintail</u>	<u>max 440</u>	1	North Hamlin Road	A. Guthrie
<u>Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal</u>	1 m	9F	N. Hamlin Rd.	A. Guthrie, P. Martin, Ji. Miles
<u>Canvasback</u>	<u>max 77</u>	25	Braddock Bay	K. Griffith
<u>Redhead</u>	<u>max 610</u>	26	Conesus Lake	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
<u>Ring-necked Duck</u>	<u>max 510</u>	18	Conesus Lake	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
<u>Tufted Duck</u>	1 m	1	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	J. Barton, K. Rybczynski
<u>Tufted Duck</u>	1 m	19L	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	B. Purcell, Bri. Morse, ph
<u>Greater Scaup</u>	<u>max 250</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	T. Lenz
<u>Lesser Scaup</u>	<u>max 590</u>	26	Conesus Lake	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	1 f	3-5; 27L	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	7 obs; D. Horsey

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 1200</u>	9	E. Manitou Rd overlook	K. Griffith
Bufflehead	<u>max 75</u>	26	Conesus Lake	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 120</u>	20	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	B. Howe
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 140</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay	T. Lenz
Common Merganser	<u>150</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay	T. Lenz
Common Merganser	<u>max 140</u>	20	Irondequoit Bay	K. Hartquist
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 175</u>	4	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	Bri. Morse
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 46</u>	29	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Double-crested Cormorant	3	26 <u>FS</u>	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
American Bittern	1	29 <u>F</u>	private, Monroe Co.	L.Braband
<u>Black Vulture</u>	2, 3	1, 26	Letchworth SP	E. Kruger
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	8	<u>xxx</u> , Livingston Co.	J. Stevenson
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 2091</u>	27	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Turkey Vulture	<u>total 4124</u>	all month	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Osprey	2	26 <u>F</u>	Hamlin Beach	S. Guthrie
Osprey	1	26 <u>F</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	M. Gullo
Bald Eagle	<u>total 77</u>	all month	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
<u>N. Goshawk</u>	1	5	Wolcott, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
<u>N. Goshawk</u>	none	all month	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>max 151</u>	27	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 180</u>	27	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>max 9</u>	27	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Golden Eagle	1	8	Broadway Rd, T. Wolcott	D. Robertson
Golden Eagle	1 ea	27, 29	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Sandhill Crane	<u>total 11</u>	7-29	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Solitary Sandpiper	1	24 <u>F, RE</u>	Geneseo	A. Consler
Greater Yellowlegs	4	30 <u>F</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
Greater Yellowlegs	3	30 <u>F</u>	NMWMA (Savannah)	A. Bleau, M. Cardon
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	30 <u>F</u>	NMWMA (Savannah)	A. Bleau, M. Cardon
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	30 <u>F</u>	NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor)	W. & M. Rowley
Wilson's Snipe	1	4 <u>F</u>	Honeoye	B. Howe
Bonaparte's Gull	8	1 <u>FS</u>	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	B. & L. Hall
Iceland Gull	<u>total 10</u>	all month	6 loc	7 obs
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>total 30+</u>	all month	6 loc	6 obs
Glaucous Gull	<u>total 4</u>	all month	4 loc	4 obs
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 52</u>	19	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	E. Gyllenhaal, G. Lawrence
Snowy Owl	1	7	Sodus Pt.	M. Gullo, ph
Snowy Owl	1	26 <u>L</u>	Genesee County Airport	M. Tetlow
Long-eared Owl	1	19	West Walworth	M. Gullo
Long-eared Owl	1	21 -	Brighton	M. Tetlow, sev, ph
Long-eared Owl	<u>max 3+</u>	28	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team
Long-eared Owl	<u>total 4+</u>	all month	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 6</u>	17	Nations Rd. area	E. Trouerbach
N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>max 6</u>	28	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team
N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>total 12</u>	all month	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<u>5 rep, 5 ind</u>	1-30	5 loc	7 obs
American Kestrel	<u>16</u>	26	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
American Kestrel	<u>17</u>	26	Hamlin	A.Guthrie
American Kestrel	<u>max 29</u>	27	Broadway Rd, Wayne Co.	W. & M. Rowley
Merlin	<u>22 rep, ~21</u>	all month	16 loc	14 obs
Peregrine Falcon	<u>12 rep, ~15</u>	1-27	8 loc	11 obs

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2017

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Eastern Phoebe	1	<u>13FS</u>	Powder Mill Park	P. Martin
Northern Shrike	6+ ind	1-27L	6 loc	26 obs, ph
<u>Fish Crow</u>	<u>max 24</u>	mid month	Northgate Plaza area, Greece	R. Dobson
Purple Martin	1	<u>8F, RE</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	M. Tetlow, P. Martin
Tree Swallow	2	<u>23F</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd)	C. Lajewski
Tree Swallow	<u>max 50</u>	31	Greece	J. Boattcher, N. Platt
Barn Swallow	1	<u>26F</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<u>max 32</u>	28	Manitou (Owl Woods)	B. Carlson
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	<u>28FS</u>	Bristol Hills, Ontario Co.	K. Kirsch
American Robin	<u>max 500</u>	26	Broadway Rd, T. Wolcott	D. Robertson
Gray Catbird	1	5	Genesee Valley Park	C. Chu
Gray Catbird	1	12	T. Ontario	J. Wing
Gray Catbird	1	12, 18, 22, 23	Mendon Ponds Park	4 obs
American Pipit	<u>max 50</u>	26	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Carlson
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	<u>20-22; 1</u>	18-19; 19	Pultneyville	J. Wing, ph; M. Gullo
Snow Bunting	<u>max 250</u>	18	North Hamlin Road	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Eastern Towhee	1	<u>16-19FS</u>	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Chipping Sparrow	1	<u>10FS</u>	Webster	M. Rosenbaum, ph
Field Sparrow	1	<u>25FS</u>	T Riga, Monroe Co.	Bri. Morse
Vesper Sparrow	1	<u>27E</u>	Manitou (Owl Woods)	B. Carlson, M. Gullo, P. Martin
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 1500</u>	9	North Rush	N. Kachala
Eastern Meadowlark	2	<u>25FS</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Baez, <i>et al.</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	<u>max 23</u>	<u>27</u>	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	B. Carlson
Rusty Blackbird	<u>max 22, low</u>	4	North Rush	N. Kachala
Rusty Blackbird	<u>max 22, low</u>	12	Sandy Bottom Park, Honeoye	R. Stevens
Common Grackle	<u>max 1750</u>	4	North Rush	N. Kachala
Common Redpoll	1	22	Greece	K. Griffith
Common Redpoll	1	29	Williamson, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Pine Siskin	<u>max 36</u>	1	Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>American Goldfinch, large</u>	1	11	Canadice	B. & M. Howe, ph