

March 2019 Sightings Report

It was a month with a cold start and a wet end, but no real extremes in between, other than a few periods of strong and gusty winds – March weather. The first 8 days were cold, with lake effect snow. Then temperatures warmed to a spike of 70° on the 14th, followed by 14 of the last 22 days above normal. Temperatures averaged 33.5°F, 0.8° below normal, while precipitation totaled 1.72", 0.78" below normal. Snowfall at 13.9" was 2.4" below normal. Snow was not much problem, other than several events dumping on the roads during commuting periods.

Again, over most of the month, conditions were not conducive to migration, and new arrivals seemed slow, although actually all the arrival dates reported were in the interquartile range or earlier relative to their historical arrival distributions, and few expected species were missed. Species for the month and year to date were both well above their 10-year averages. Reports to eBird totaled 32,156 lines, up about 1/3 from last year. Much of this increase is due to consistent and complete reporting of all species daily by the official Braddock Bay hawk counter, David Brown.

Among the waterfowl, again Snow Geese persisted in high numbers both in our region and nearby. The rarer but now regular geese, Greater White-fronted and Cackling, were found in good numbers, and a Ross's Goose was reported. Again, while missed in February, Eurasian Wigeon appeared early at 3 sites in our region. An adult King Eider seen and photographed at Sodus Point was a nice observation for a few birders. There were some good peak counts at several locations, especially on Braddock Bay and in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Diving duck counts, including Canvasback, were good on the ponds and flooded fields. The usual species tallied passing the lake watch were not so good, especially loons and scoters. There were a few good days for high Red-necked Grebe counts. An early Common Gallinule was spotted from the hawk watch on the 30th. At least 21 Sandhill Cranes were noted from the hawk watch, and at least 19 more from other sites.

Good numbers of Killdeer were noted across the region after the 10th, and American Woodcock starting in mid-month. Late in the month, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and Greater Yellowlegs were added. The first spring Bonaparte's Gull was seen on March 15. There were fair numbers of our regular gulls, the now typical numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gull, and fairly low numbers of the usual winter species, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. There were no really rare gulls reported this month.

Great Blue Heron numbers picked up through the month, and Great Egret arrived near month's end, plus a relatively early American Bittern was noted on the 30th. This year, we had a big jump in Black Vulture sightings at the hawk watch and elsewhere. Again, the official counter this year is David Brown. The hawk count seemed slow, but it progressed in jumps and ended up at 4017, a third above last year's March total. As typical, 3,112 Turkey Vultures was 77% of the total raptor count.

Osprey arrived on the 24th, and this year 3 Northern Goshawks were tallied at the hawk watch. For most species, counts were typical of recent years. A table can be found on the hawk count website.

Only 3 Snowy Owls were reported. The DEC Short-eared Owl surveys out of the Avon office continued with good numbers for this month's counts and a good total of 44 on the March 26th date. Jim Adams reported an excellent year for Northern Saw-whet Owls roosting in the "Owl Woods" area, with a count of 49 for the month. The Long-eared Owl number was only 6. On the 28th, a surprise was a resting Barred Owl, which remained for many views and photos that day. Red-headed Woodpecker was reported only at Durand-Eastman Park. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continued from winter, and some likely spring migrants were noted by month's end. The 3 regular falcons were all reported in typical numbers at the hawk watch and elsewhere.

Passerine arrivals were slow through the month, with only Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, American Pipit, and Rusty Blackbird as new for the year. The two earliest Barn Swallow records were record early on the 14th. Some judgment calls added arrival dates for other species that also wintered in some numbers. The most interesting were Eastern Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark. Others with quite a few winter reports were Winter Wren, Eastern Towhee, and Savannah and Fox Sparrows. None were at really exceptionally early dates. Our tantalizing yet disappointing season for "winter finches" continued, with a few reports of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, some decent counts for Common Redpoll, a Hoary Redpoll or two, and small numbers of Pine Siskins. At months end, signs of spring movement were appearing.

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

	2019	2018	10-year Average (2009-2018)
Species for March	145	138	140.2
New for the year	20	11	17.6
Total for the year to date	155	151	150.7

Bob Spahn and the RBA Records Committee

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Mitchell Barry, Doug Beattie, Steven Benedict, Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Shawn Billerman, John Boettcher, Terry Bohling, Lynn Braband, Joe Brin, David Brown (official BB hawk counter), Robert Buckert, Sara Burch, David Bruestle, Bruce Cady, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Nancy Casper, Robert Cicotta, Tiffany Clay, Kelly Close, Andrew Consler, Lydia Culbert, Kathleen Dalton, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Gregg Dashnau, Ian Davies, Pete Debes, Mark Denecke, Michael DeWispelaere, Deborah Dohne, Crystal Doyle, Mark Druziak, Sarah Dzielski, Diane Eagan, Daena Ford, George Ford, Mark Fitzsimmons, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Janis George, Candy Giles,

Bill & Linda Gillette, Christopher Goetz, Phil Goetz, John, Karla, Shannon, & Tessa Gordinier, Sheryl Gracewski, Star Greathouse, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, Ralph & Georgia Guenther, Michael Gullo, Andrew Guthrie, Richard Guthrie, Robert Hagggett, Helen & Chris Haller, Meena Haribal, Kim Hartquist, Jim & Allison Healy, Christina Hoh, Jennalee Holzschuh, Dick Horsey, Bill & Mari Howe, Nita Irby, Carolyn Jacobs, Alyssa Johnson, Nichlas Kachala, Logan Kahle, Kenneth Kemphues, Tom Kerr, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Renee Kittleman, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Mike Laird, Chris Lajewski, Tom Lathrop, Greg Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Cindy Marino, Pat Martin, Lauri Mattle, Kenneth McCarthy, Jacob McCartney, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ann McMican,

Jim Miles, Kent Millham Adrielle Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Chan Nam, Rivka Noll, David Odell, Joe Ovsiovitich, Michael Palermo, Andrea Patterson, Norma Platt, Jo Popma, Jay Powell, Carolyn Ragan, RBA Field Trips, Rosemary Reilly, Dave Robertson, Robert Ryan, Jackie Salsbury, Livia Santana, Karl Schmidt, Shirley Shaw, Judy Slein, Roger Smith, Tom Smith, Tom & Laura Somerville, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Donna Mason-Spier, Chris Stanger, Rick Stevens, Joel Strong, Steve Taylor, Mike & Joann Tetlow, Eunice Thein, Sarah Toner, Trisha V., John & Bonnie VanDerMeid, Brad Walker, Jeff Ward, Mike Wasilco, Bridget Watts, Cristi Wheat, Dave Wheeler, Joe Wing, Paul Wolter, Jim Wood

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

MARCH 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Snow Goose	<u>10000</u>	15	MAC	A. Johnson
Snow Goose	<u>3000</u>	21	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Snow Goose	<u>max 23,000</u>	24	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
<u>Ross's Goose ph</u>	1	24FS	Savannah Mucklands	J. Wing
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	2	18	Hemlock Lake Park	R. Stevens
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	19	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	M. Gullo
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	23	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>Greater White-fr. Goose</u>	1	24	Salmon Crk, Greece	C. Wood
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>max 23</u>	16	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	<u>37 rep, 87 ind</u>	1-24	17 loc	20+ obs
Canada Goose	<u>max 27,500</u>	14	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
<u>Snow x Canada Goose</u>	1	20-23	North Ponds Park, Webster	G. Ford, J. Wing, N. Kachala
Mute Swan	<u>max 150</u>	13,14	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, D. Bruestle
Trumpeter Swan	<u>max 7</u>	7-30	NMWMA (sev loc)	sev obs
Tundra Swan	<u>max 850</u>	14	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Tundra Swan	<u>430</u>	19	Jones Bridge & Perry Rds. Livingston Co.	N. Kachala
Tundra Swan	<u>500</u>	24	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
Wood Duck	<u>max 56</u>	28	Conesus Inlet WMA	M. Wasilco
Blue-winged Teal	2	19E	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	M. Barry
N. Shoveler	1	10FF	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
N. Shoveler	<u>max 45</u>	15	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	B. Carlson
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	21F	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	24-31	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, mob
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	1 m	24F-30	NMWMA (Carncross Rd +)	M. Gullo , mob
American Wigeon	<u>max 769</u>	26	Braddock Bay	K. Bardon
American Wigeon	<u>350</u>	23	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Mallard	<u>max 1455</u>	29	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
Mallard	<u>1115</u>	29	NMWMA (Marten Tract)	M. Fitzsimmons
American Black Duck	<u>max 15</u>	29	NMWMA (Marten Tract)	M. Fitzsimmons
Northern Pintail	<u>300</u>	14	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Northern Pintail	<u>5000</u>	20	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	M. Haribal
Northern Pintail	<u>max 6025</u>	29	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
Green-winged Teal	<u>30</u>	19	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	M. Barry
Green-winged Teal	<u>max 573</u>	29	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
dabbling duck sp.	<u>5000</u>	23	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Canvasback	<u>max 275</u>	16	Sodus Point	N. Kachala

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2019

Species	No.	Date	Location	Observers
Redhead	<u>max 2000</u>	28	Conesus Lake	M. Wasilco
Ring-necked Duck	<u>max 667</u>	29	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	M. Wasilco
Greater Scaup	<u>max 730</u>	10	Sodus Bay	L. Kahle, S. Toner
Greater Scaup	<u>450</u>	16	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Lesser Scaup	<u>max 250</u>	24	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	R. Buckert, N. Kachala, P. Martin
<u>King Eider ph</u>	1 ad m	9F	Sodus Point	S. Billerman, B. Walker
<u>King Eider ph</u>	1 ad m	10	Sodus Point	D. Dohne, M. Gullo, L. Kahle, S. Toner
White-winged Scoter	<u>max 250, low</u>	9	Sodus Point	S. Billerman, B. Walker
Long-tailed Duck	<u>max 500</u>	4	off Ontario Beach	P. Wolter
Bufflehead	<u>max 150</u>	16	Braddock Bay	M. Barry
Common Goldeneye	<u>max 200</u>	16	Braddock Bay	M. Barry
Hooded Merganser	<u>max 120</u>	19	Conesus Inlet WMA	N. Kachala
Common Merganser	<u>max 500</u>	9	off Edgemere Dr., Greece	M. Barry
Red-breasted Merganser	<u>max 3000</u>	2	West Port Bay Point	J. McGowan, L. Santana
Horned Grebe	<u>max 29, low</u>	31	Silver Lake - S	R. Stevens
Red-necked Grebe	<u>367</u>	27	Hamlin Beach SP	B. Carlson
Red-necked Grebe	<u>max 1136</u>	29	Hamlin Beach SP	A. Guthrie
Common Gallinule	1	<u>30F</u>	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Sandhill Crane	1	<u>2FS</u>	Allen Rd., Savannah	S. Greathouse
Sandhill Crane	<u>7</u>	14	Plank Rd., T Livonia	T. Bohling
Sandhill Crane	<u>9</u>	<u>21</u>	MAC	A. Johnson
Sandhill Crane	<u>11</u>	<u>23</u>	NMWMA (Morgan Rd Marshes)	N. Irby
Sandhill Crane	<u>total 21</u>	21-31	Braddock Bay - hawkwatch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Killdeer	1	10F	Turk Hill Rd. farm	T. Lenz
Killdeer	<u>max 43</u>	30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	<u>30F</u>	Jones Bridge & Perry Rds. Livingston Co.	J. Gordinier
American Woodcock	2	<u>14F</u>	Burger Park	J. Ward
American Woodcock	1	<u>14F</u>	Grassland Trail, Ganondagan	P. Goetz
American Woodcock	2	<u>14F</u>	Jeffrey Rd., Palmyra	T. Clay
Wilson's Snipe	2	<u>24FS</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	G. Dashnau
Greater Yellowlegs	4	<u>22F-30</u>	NMWMA (Carncross Rd)	B. McGuire, K. Kempfues, mob
Bonaparte's Gull	2-4	<u>15FS</u>	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Ring-billed Gull	<u>max 2000</u>	23	Irondequoit Bay Outlet area	T. Lenz
Herring Gull	<u>max 2600</u>	17	Irondequoit Bay Park - W	G. Lawrence
Iceland Gull	<u>total 12+</u>	all month	10 loc	mob
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>max 6</u>	20	Irondequoit Bay - NE	R. Reilly
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>5</u>	27	Sansford Rd., Churchville	Bri. Morse
<u>Lesser Black-backed Gull</u>	<u>total 32+</u>	8-31	14 loc	mob
Glaucous Gull	<u>total 5</u>	1-23	5 loc	6+ obs
Great Black-backed Gull	<u>max 35, low</u>	16	Irondequoit Bay Outlet	M. Gullo
Double-crested Cormorant	1	<u>8FS</u>	Genesee River, Charlotte just south of the bridge	J. Salisbury
American Bittern	1	<u>30F</u>	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Great Egret	1	<u>28F</u>	BB - Hawk Watch; Salmon Crk, Greece	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i> ; R. Spahn
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	<u>14F</u>	Cornwall Preserve, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	15	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
<u>Black Vulture</u>	<u>total 7</u>	15, 21, 24	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
<u>Black Vulture</u>	<u>max 4</u>	21	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2019

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Black Vulture	2	24	Lake Ontario Parkway	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Black Vulture	1	24	Grandview Heights, Greece	K. Griffith
Black Vulture	2	24	Genesee River at River St.	Ji. Miles, L. Mattle
Turkey Vulture	<u>max 783</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Turkey Vulture	<u>total 3112</u>	4-31	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Osprey	1	24F	Mendon Ponds Park	J. & A. Healy
Bald Eagle	<u>total 70</u>	all month	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Bald Eagle	<u>396 lines eBird</u>	all month	many	many
Northern Harrier	<u>max 22</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
N. Goshawk	1 ea	22, 27, 28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>max 72</u>	15	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>total 228</u>	11-29	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Red-tailed Hawk	<u>max 76</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>max 6</u>	28, 30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Golden Eagle	1	3F	Fairport	C. Wheat
Golden Eagle	<u>total 8</u>	10-28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Golden Eagle	<u>total 8</u>	10-28	4 oth loc	4 obs
Snowy Owl	1	6	Brooks Ave., Rochester	M. Denecke
Snowy Owl	1	24	Rt. 414 nr Wayne Co. line	J. Slein
Barred Owl <u>many ph</u>	1	28	<u>Manitou (Owl Woods)</u>	mob
Long-eared Owl	<u>total 6</u>	14-27	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team+
Short-eared Owl	<u>max 44</u>	26	DEC Avon Owl Survey	sev obs
Short-eared Owl	2	24	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
N. Saw-whet Owl	<u>total 49</u>	all month	Manitou (Owl Woods)	count team+
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	3	<u>Durand -Eastman Park</u>	J. Wood
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	29FS	Cornwall Preserve, Wayne Co.	J. Wing
American Kestrel	<u>total 65</u>	15-30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
American Kestrel	<u>max 25</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Merlin	<u>total ~28</u>	all month	20 loc	mob
Peregrine Falcon	<u>41 rep, ~24</u>	all month	14 loc	mob
Eastern Phoebe	1	15FS	Purcell Rd., T Canadice	B. Howe
Northern Shrike	<u>31+ rep, 6+ ind</u>	all month	7 loc	mob
American Crow	<u>max 650, low</u>	27	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Horned Lark	<u>max 250</u>	30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Tree Swallow	4	14F	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Tree Swallow	<u>max 65</u>	30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Barn Swallow ph	1	14F, RE	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown
Barn Swallow ph	1	14, RE	Cornwall Preserve, Wayne Co.	M. Gullo
Winter Wren	2	23FS	Buck Pond, Greece	L. Culbert, R. Noll
American Robin	<u>max 1500</u>	31	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown,
Cedar Waxwing	<u>max 75</u>	15	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	B. Carlson
American Pipit	1	15F	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Evening Grosbeak	1	28	Braddock Bay - West Spit	M. Gullo
Pine Grosbeak	1 f	6-8L	Mendon Ponds Park	mob, initially 2/26
Common Redpoll	120	9	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Common Redpoll	275	9	Jacobs & Redman Rds., Hamlin	R. Cicotta, R. Ryan
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	1	2-3L	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie, 9 oth obs
Pine Siskin	<u>max 8, low</u>	2	Rochester	J. Slein
Snow Bunting	<u>max 215</u>	1	T Groveland, Livingston Co.	J. & K. Gordinier
Snow Bunting	<u>max 215</u>	5	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	K. Groffith
Eastern Towhee	1	27FS	Pittsford-Mendon Center Rd., Mendon	P. Martin

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS (cont'd)

MARCH 2019

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observers</u>
Chipping Sparrow	1	30FS	North Ponds Park, Webster	D. Eagan
Field Sparrow	2	30FS	Honeoye Falls	B. Carlson
Field Sparrow	1	30FS	Bear Creek Harbor, T Ontario	J. Wing
Field Sparrow	1	<u>15, 21, 21</u>	3 oth loc	R. Smith, T. Bohling, M. Wasilco
Fox Sparrow	1	<u>4-7</u>	Newark, Wayne Co.	L. Clark-Benedict, S. Benedict
Fox Sparrow	1	24FS	Conesus Inlet WMA	I. Davies, S. Dzielski
Eastern Meadowlark	1	14FS	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Eastern Meadowlark	1	14FS	MAC	A. Johnson
Red-winged Blackbird	<u>max 5000</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Brown-headed Cowbird	<u>max 200</u>	28	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Rusty Blackbird	1	14FS	Jacobs Rd., Hamlin	A. Guthrie
Common Grackle	<u>max 700</u>	30	Braddock Bay - Hawk Watch	D. Brown, <i>et al.</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1-2	<u>9-23</u>	Caledonia Fish Hatchery	N. Kachala, R. Stevens