The unusual, early warm weather in the East accelerated the seasonal appearance of nearly all butterfly species and many of the Recent Sightings reports highlighted the early species observed. In addition, the immigration of many species from the south was stronger and earlier than in previous years so it was definitely a fun time to be out and looking for butterflies.

Examples of early sightings included a report from Troy Shively on April 2 of very early Silvery Blues and Common Roadside-Skippers in Shawnee State Forest in Scioto Co., OH, five species of swallowtails seen by Sherry Cartwright on April 5 at Allen Creeks Trail, Monroe Co., IN, and a very early report of Cobweb Skippers at Lily Pond, Harriman St. Park, Rockland Co., NY by John Lampkin on April 20.

Other reports highlighting the early appearance of species included a May 10 list by Ann Thering of 33 species from Bauer Brockway area, Jackson Co., WI, including many early dates, with 100+ Gorgone Checkerspots and a photo of a Spring Azure mineralizing on the eye of a Blanding’s Turtle! At the same site, on May 21, a Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association field trip recorded 42 species eclipsing the previous high of 26 species on this field trip. Tom Fiore reported early Sachems and Dun Skippers from Pelham Bay and Van Cortlandt Parks, Bronx Co., NY on May 26 and an early Silvery Checkerspot on May 31.

By mid-April the migration of Red Admirals, Question Marks, and many other species was being reported from throughout the East. Examples of these include an April 16 report by Trudi Beckerich Moag of thousands of Red Admirals in North Tonawanda, Niagara Co., NY, an April 21 list of 155 Red Admirals at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, Keosauqua Unit of