

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Average April temperature at Ithaca was about 1.7 degrees above normal, for May about 2.3 degrees below. April temperature changes seemed even more erratic than usual: first week about normal, way above normal with highs of 72 degrees April 9 and 78 degrees April 17, half an inch of snow April 19 and continuing cold, three warm days with high of 84 degrees April 27, back to below normal. May temperatures were generally below normal, with record low of 27.3 for Ithaca May 6, until May 16-18 when 80 degree highs sent most migrants north. In spite of that, Geneva and Ithaca censuses May 18 were better than 1968. By May 20 temperature was back below normal where it stayed except for highs of 84 and 88 May 27 and 28.

Precipitation in Ithaca was about normal, but most of it came in a few very heavy rains. Other areas, especially Geneva-Montezuma, had much more rain than usual. Lakes and ponds remained full to overflowing, leaving minimum shorebird habitat. Jack Brubaker remarked that the shorebird migration was about nonexistent in Schuyler County.

Most migrant ducks departed early, leaving the show to the Canada Geese, whose numbers had continued to increase during early April. At Montezuma Refuge Snow and Blue Geese were present in even greater numbers than last year. In Elmira, except for geese, waterfowl seemed unusually scarce.

Purple Martins are still missing from many former locations. Blue Jays apparently just moved out for the winter, all areas reporting normal spring populations. Gray-cheeked Thrush was unreported and Bluebirds failed to return to many locations. Warbler migration was disappointing with numbers of most species low and no "waves," probably best day in Ithaca was May 7. Redwings and Grackles were superabundant, cowbirds apparently a little less so. At Ithaca, Evening Grosbeaks returned in numbers in late April and early May.

Rarities for the period were Western Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Whimbrel, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Summer Tanager and Oregon Junco.

Localities: Cay—Cayuga; Conn Hill—Connecticut Hill s.w. of Ithaca; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

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Contributors frequently cited: WBS—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; RG—Robert Giddings; WG—William Groesbeck; FG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; JJ—Jan Juterbock; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall; BS—Betty Strath; JW—Jayson Walker; CW—Mrs. George Walsh; MW—Mary Welles; EBC—Eaton Bird Club census.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max eight Cay L; one Apr 27 Hornell RG (WG); five Apr 18, 19 Elmira (MW); one still MNWR May 30 (CH). Horned Grebe: only two MNWR in contrast to many last year (WEB); usual numbers Cay L. **WESTERN GREBE**: one May 4 MNWR (WEB, CH) first Cay Basin record (see Field Note this issue). Double-crested Cormorant: three reports—one MNWR Apr 27 (WEB) and May 18 (mob); two May 22 Geneva (CW). No herons or bitterns seen Hornell area (WG). Great Blue Heron: MNWR—arr two Apr 1, max 20 May 31 (CH); heronries active at Marengo Swamp (WEB) and near Reynoldsville (BS). Green Heron: arr two Apr 17 MNWR (CH). **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one May 17 Spencer (Lynch *et al*)—rare. Cattle Egret: two reports—one Apr 23 MNWR

(CH); two May 18 just n. of MNWR (RG,DM). Common Egret: early arr Apr 12 MNWR (L. P. Williams), max three. Black-crowned Night Heron: arr Apr 8 MNWR, max 40, again nesting in cattails (CH). Least Bittern: arr one SWS May 11 (Euler); several sightings MNWR; one May 18 Watkins Marsh (JB). American Bittern: arr Apr 12, max six MNWR; one report Keuka (FG). *GLOSSY IBIS*: six May 20 MNWR (CH).

Whistling Swan: last, three MNWR Apr 18. Canada Goose: max MNWR 60,000 mid-Apr, 130 May 28; exodus about May 8. "White Canada": Canada Goose size, almost white back and wings, wing tips dark, slate-gray head and neck, white chin-strap; seen first (one) Cay L and MNWR several years ago, gradual increase to five this year. Brant: 60-70 Apr 23 n. end Canadaigua L (MW); over Ithaca Apr 26 (Eric Johnson). Snow Goose: max 450 Apr 30 MNWR (CH) equals 1964 high. Blue Goose: max 1000 Apr 30 MNWR (CH) highest ever.

Gadwall: 400 May 31 MNWR (CH). Pintail: 450 Apr 8, 20 May 31 MNWR. Green-winged Teal: 20 May 31 MNWR; pair May 18 Watkins Marsh (JB). Blue-winged Teal: 90 May 31 MNWR; scattered pairs on ponds and marshes. Wood Duck: 40 May 31 MNWR; scattered breeding pairs elsewhere. In general diving ducks numbers were low, except Ring-necked and Bufflehead. Redhead: 120 May 31 MNWR; none seen Elmira. Ring-necked Duck: numbers good; 250 Apr 8, eight May 31 MNWR. Canvasback: scarce; none seen Elmira; one still at MNWR May 18. Bufflehead: more numerous than usual Keuka L (FG); 100 Cay L Apr 18 including one flock of 45 (RG,DM), a few May 18. Oldsquaw: only one Elmira, Apr 10, usually migrating in numbers with Horned Grebes; reported each week Cay L thru May 18, max 24 Apr 20 (RG). White-winged Scoter: singles Apr 25 SWS, Apr 26, 27 Cay L, Apr 30 Elmira (WH); one May record Keuka L (FG). Surf Scoter: Apr 18 Keuka L (FG); one Apr 25 SWS. Common Scoter: 39 Apr 20 Cay L. (Murray Gardler). Ruddy Duck: arr eight Apr 13 (WEB), 40 May 31 MNWR. Hooded Merganser: good numbers; 440 Apr 30 MNWR.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: increased sightings Watkins area, three each Apr 27, 31, scattered singles (JB); two singles Elmira; max ten MNWR (WEB). Hawks: Goshawk: two Elmira sightings Apr 14 (Al Fudge) and Apr 27 (MW), one Geneva Apr 24, one Ithaca area early Apr; Sharp-shinned: none Elmira or Keuka; one Apr 9 Conn Hill (JB), one late Apr Ithaca; Cooper's: several Apr sightings Watkins (JB), one female Apr 1 Geneva (CW), one early Apr Ithaca; Red-tailed: six or seven regularly Keuka Pk (FG); several active nests Ithaca area, all known nesting sites occupied Geneva (CW), four May 18 EBC; Red-shouldered: very scarce, one Apr 18 Ithaca (JJ), one May 4 Keuka Pk where rare (FG), two Conn Hill in May (JB); Broad-winged: one Apr 24 Etna (DBP), several May sightings Conn Hill (JB) perhaps nesting?; Bald Eagle: one Apr 21 and 29 MNWR, one imm May 15 Elmira (DeWitt); Marsh: more later sightings Watkins (three May 18) probably nesting (JB), several sightings Geneva area (CW); Osprey: last May 18 MNWR (mob); *PEREGRINE FALCON*: one Apr 4 SWS, one Apr 14 Elmira (Al Fudge); *PIGEON HAWK*: one Apr 30 near Ithaca (Mrs. Sherwood). Sparrow Hawk: numbers good.

Very few reports of rails, possibly hard to see with high water. Common Gallinule: arr one Apr 16 MNWR (WEB). Coot: 300 Apr 8, 160 May 31 MNWR. Ring-necked Pheasant: numbers high.

Semipalmated Plover: arr two May 10, max 37 May 20 MNWR (WEB); one Waterloo Dump May 18 (CW). Black-bellied Plover: max nine MNWR May 30 (JW). Woodcock: nest near Tyre Apr 20 (WEB). Upland Plover: arr two Apr 20 Elmira (M. Wingert); fewer Ithaca. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Apr 21 (RG). Yellow-legs: Greater: max 17 Apr 20 last one May 18 MNWR, Lesser: arr one Apr 20 (RG) max 66 May 3 last two May 21 (WEB) all MNWR. Knot: one May 18 Waterloo Dump (CW); two Apr 27-30 MNWR. Sandpipers: Pectoral: NONE

MNWR usual Apr max over 100 (WEB), one May 18 (EBC); White-rumped: two May 3 Elmira (mob), two May 21 MNWR last one May 30 (WEB); Least: arr and max 30 May 10, last two May 25 MNWR (WEB); Dunlin: MNWR arr ten Apr 18 (DBP,DM) max 400 May 18 and last three May 30 (WEB), one Horseheads May 1 (WH), ten Geneva May 14 (CW); Short-billed Dowitcher: arr and max nine May 18 last one May 21 MNWR (WEB); Long-billed Dowitcher: one May 18 Hog Hole Ithaca (P. Kelsey); Semipalmated: arr six May 17 max 500 May 28 & 30 MNWR (WEB); Western: one May 21 (WEB) and May 25 (JW) MNWR, one May 18 Clifton Springs (CW). Northern Phalarope: one May 10-12 MNWR (CH); one May 28 Waterloo Dump (CW,Trails).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Apr 7, 30-40 Kanakadea Pk Recreation Area near Hornell (WG) and nine Elmira (WH); max 750 Apr 20 Cay L (RG); last 12 May 18 (EBC). Great Black-backed Gull: last one May 18 Cay L. Common Tern: arr Apr 11 Aurora (JJ). Black Tern: arr two Apr 26 MNWR (DM); about 200 MNWR (WEB); Caspian Tern: one May 7 Watkins (JB), only report. Cuckoos: Yellow-billed: arr May 12 Waterloo (JW); Black-billed: arr Apr 28 Elmira (N. Hood) early, next arr date May 12. Owls: Screech: only one May 17 Stewart Pk. Ithaca; Great Horned: two young May 18 near Clyde (WEB); Snowy: only record for year one Apr 12 MNWR (Saw Mill R Aud. Soc.); Barred: nesting SWS, present Texas Hollow and Hendershot Gulf (JB); Short-eared: three Apr reports, the last Ithaca during third week.

GOATSUCKERS-STARLINGS: Whip-poor-will: regular near Altay as for several years (JB). Common Nighthawk: scarce, *none* in Elmira. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late, arr May 13 Dryden, not until May 27 Hornell (WG). Red-headed Woodpecker: at least ten pairs nesting in dead elms on Clifton Springs golf course (CW); increasing Keuka, six or seven sightings (FG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: also late, first Apr 11 Watkins, found May 18 Conn Hill, Hendershot Gulf and several Arnott Forest S.E. of Odessa (JB). Flycatchers: Eastern Kingbird: late arr, May 4 MNWR (WEB); Great Crested: none to end of period Hornell (WG); Eastern Phoebe: general arr not until first week Apr, late; Yellow-bellied: one banded Apr 20 Penn Yan (M. Lerch); Acadian: possible one May 18 MNWR (WEB), "very green small flycatcher with eye ring and wing bars, but did not sing" so identification not definite; Eastern Wood Pewee: also late, first May 14 Ithaca and Geneva; Olive-sided: one May 27 Hinman Swamp Watkins (JB). Swallows: Bank: arr Apr 18, several traditional nesting banks empty Geneva area (CW), good numbers Tompkins Co; Rough-winged: arr Apr 18; Barn: arr Apr 12; Cliff: had returned by Apr 27 to Dryden site but colony still small after barn remodelling, two other small colonies near Ithaca, 30 nesting at regular Ferguson's Corners site s. of Geneva (CW); Purple Martin: still scarce, none nesting MNWR, SWS, Geneva.

COMMON RAVEN: one May 18 s. of Mecklenburg being harassed by crows (JB). Tufted Titmouse: unusual winter concentration at Hornell disappeared with spring (WG). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nest May 27 Conn Hill, also present Arnott Forest (JB); pair thru period Camp Ditmer B.S.A. near Geneva (CW). Brown Creeper: May reports SWS, Conn Hill, Arnott Forest, Camp Ditmer, Geneva. Wrens: House: numbers coming back up after drop of a few years ago; Winter: numbers very low; Carolina: one pair each Keuka Pk and Dresden (FG), several locations s. end Sen L and at Montour airport (JB), first pair in several years Stewart Pk Ithaca Apr 28 at least thru May 17; Long-billed Marsh: arr Apr 23 Horseheads (WH), late and scarce MNWR (WEB); Short-billed Marsh: one May 18 Camp Ditmer (EBC). Mockingbird: three and two young fledged May Ithaca; pair Mt. Zoar, Elmira feeding two young in May after two nesting failures (see Field Note May *Kingbird*). Wood Thrush: arr Apr 20 SWS; back up to normal numbers Hornell (WG). Hermit Thrush: late, first one Apr 15 Dryden (DBP). Veery: also late, first May 1 Conn Hill (JJ); regained normal numbers Hornell (WG). Eastern Bluebird: none Geneva, Clyde; one pair Waterloo (JW); missing at several last year's loca-

tions Watkins, but present several new ones especially Bardeen's (JB); ten pairs Penn. Hill Hornell (WG); six pairs Keuka Pk (FG); only one pair Trumansburg area where ten pairs 1967 (L. Proskine). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nesting two locations Elmira; present Montour airport, Conn Hill May 6, Ithaca area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: singing Conn Hill May 6, 11, 18, 27 and Burnt Hill near Bennettsburg May 25 (JB). Cedar Waxwing: about normal; finally returned Watkins May 18 after being absent all winter (JB). Loggerhead Shrike: one Apr 19 near Ithaca (J. Haugh).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: one singing Hector May 22 (BS). Yellow-throated and Solitary Vireos both late (arr May 6 and Apr 28) and scarce. Red-eyed Vireo: arr very late, May 2. Philadelphia Vireo: three reports—one May 11 Conn Hill (JB), one May 17 Keuka Pk (FG), one May 18 Ithaca (JJ, B. Jacobs).

Although all regular species of Warblers were reported, plus Brewster's and one Lawrence's (Ithaca—RG), numbers of most species were low. Many normally arriving mid-Apr to early May (cold spell) were 5 to 12 days late, arr dates: Black-and-white Apr 24 (DBP), Nashville May 3, Yellow May 2 (WEB) abundant, Magnolia May 7 (DBP), Black-throated Green May 2 (DBP), Palm Apr 26, Ovenbird May 2 (back to normal numbers Hornell—FG), Am. Redstart May 3. Oddly, species usually arriving before or during early Apr (warm spell) were even later: Myrtle Apr 12 (WEB) abundant May 1–15, Northern Waterthrush Apr 22, Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 20, Yellowthroat not until May 3. Other warbler records: *WORM-EATING*: one May 30 King Rd Waterloo, heard and seen at distance of 10–15 ft. (JW); Orange-crowned: Alpine (Mrs. Bishop), and singing on nearby Conn Hill May 6 (JB); Tennessee and Blackpoll abundant around May 18; Parula: one May 7 SWS (J. Patterson) and one, Monkey Run Ithaca (DBP) were the only records; Chestnut-sided: one very early, Apr. 22 Dryden (DBP), resident numbers seem low Ithaca; Cerulean: nest found May 18 near MNWR (RG); Prairie: reported from all locations of last year Elmira with six singing males at Comfort Hill (MW), pair back Conn Hill in May, May 7 Watkins (JB), Camp Ditmar Geneva May 18 (CW); Mourning: only reports, one near Dryden (P. Kelsey), singles May 18 near Ithaca (Kellogg) and Clifton Springs; Yellow-breasted Chat: two locations with three or four singing males total Ithaca, only one Keuka record.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr May 4 Ithaca (RG) and Dryden (DBP); numbers seem up. Eastern Meadowlark: normal except Keuka numbers down; finally arr Hornell Apr 4 (WG). Orchard Oriole: pair at Campbell Ave. nesting location in May (Hannan), also seen Stewart Pk May 3, 17 (mob), both Ithaca; imm male May 30 Starkey (R. Norton, mob), same location as last year—rare in Keuka area. Rusty Blackbird: last May 18, one Ithaca and 12 Geneva. Scarlet Tanager: none Hornell, normal elsewhere. *SUMMER TANAGERS* female May 12 s. of Penn Yan (Royce Nortons), (FG, M. Lerch *et al*) seen at Norton's suet feeder at distance of 30 ft. with binoculars—"could plainly note the very small contrast between wings and the rest of the body. The belly had a distinct orange-yellow cast, the bill was cream colored"—first Keuka area record. Indigo Bunting: scarce, none Hornell (WG); first May 9 Watkins (JB). Evening Grosbeak: Hornell flock of about 200 reduced to 25 by May 1, last five May 21, last sighting "all yellow" one Apr 21 and 29 (WG); large numbers returned to Ithaca area late Apr, early May but only a few remained May 18. Purple Finch: scarce—single sightings only MNWR area (two Apr 26—WEB) and Hornell (one male Apr 29—WG); good numbers Watkins after winter's absence (JB). American Goldfinch: large increase over good winter feeder population in late Apr, early May—e.g. abundant May 4 on Geneva, about 150 on Hobart Campus alone (CW). Pine Siskin: very scarce, mostly singles; a few at two or three Ithaca feeders with Goldfinches max 7 Monkey Run May 7 (DPB); Red Crossbill: one May 15 Watkins (*vide* JB).

Sparrows: flocks of Savannahs (scarce Keuka-FG) and Vespers noted second week Apr Ithaca area; Grasshopper and Henslow's: both scarce, present Baker Hill Rd location Ithaca mid-May (Pearsall), no Henslow's at any former Elmira location (MW) and only one record of Grasshopper Keuka Pk area (FG); Slate-colored Junco: large numbers last few days Mar and first two weeks Apr; *OREGON JUNCO*: the one reported at MNWR Mar 31 stayed until at least Apr 29; one Apr 6 Elmira (C. Runey, WH); White-crowned: arr Apr 18 Trumansburg (L. Proskine), large numbers most areas, last May 23 Hornell (WG); Fox: only one record (Apr 11) Keuka Pk as compared to numerous sightings last year (FG), more records than usual Ithaca; Lincoln's: only report one Elmira May 6 (WH); Swamp: late arr, e.g. first MNWR Apr 12 (WEB); Song: migrants and residents abundant.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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April and May averaged warm and dry. Though there was scattered frost as late as May 27 there was a lack of severe storms and prolonged cold or wet periods that would mean trouble for migrants. Apparently as a result of favorable weather conditions the small land bird migration ran ahead of schedule and quite a few early arrivals were noted. The shorebird migration, however, was next to nil.

The frequency with which southern species were reported was close to spectacular, including the almost established Mockingbird in more and more areas, seven Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Red-bellied Woodpecker, three and perhaps four White-eyed Vireos, a Kentucky Warbler, two pairs of Orchard Orioles and another possible and a possible Summer Tanager. Strangely Tufted Titmice, with a head start on the Mockingbird, seem not to keep pace with it. Of course this may be an illusion created by the fact that Mockingbirds are difficult to overlook if present. More sobering is an apparent decrease in Bluebirds.

Place name abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; Chen—Chenango; CC—Choconut Center, a couple of miles north of Johnson City; NV—Newark Valley; WP—Whitney Point.

Observer abbreviations: DB—Donald Bemont; LB—Leslie Bemont; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; MC—Mitchell Cubberly; A,MD—Anna & Marilyn Davis; C,JD—Carleton & Jeanne Davis; LD—Louise Dean; EF—Elizabeth Feldhusen; CC—Clinton Gerould; CCo—Claire Gottschall; JAG—John A. Gustafson; MH—Mark Harris; FL—Florence Linaberry; ML—Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; JN—John New; MS—Mary Sheffield; R.S.—Robert Sheffield; HS—Harvey Spivak; AS—Anne Stratton; E,NW—Elizabeth & Newell Washburn; DW—Donald Weber; CW—Cora Wellman; MW—Mildred White; RW—Ruth Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: one Apr 6 WP (MS); nine other reports to May 10. Horned Grebe: Apr 26 Oneonta (JN, et al.); Apr 28 Owego (ML); May 3 Oneonta; no more. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 19 WP (ML,LD); Apr 29 and May 1 Oneonta (JN, et al.); no others. Great Blue Heron: migrants first reported Apr 6. Green Heron: Apr 18 NV (LD), very early; next ones Apr 27. American Bittern: Apr 13 Apalachin (LB,DB); seemed numerous. Canada Goose: most migrants past by May 6; a flock of about 100 May 17 flying over the Oneonta area (EF); one May 24 on river at Homer (JAG). Snow Goose: Apr 3 Tully (P.Schlenker). Green-winged Teal: one still at Apalachin May 18. Blue-winged Teal: one Apr 12 WP (MS); five Apr 16 Cortland (HS). American Widgeon: six Apr 13 Apalachin (LB,DB), the only report during the period. Shoveller: two males Apr 12 in the Oneonta area (CW); no others. Ring-necked Duck: Apr 24 Owego (ML), the last. Scaup (?): May 5 Owego (MW).