

(Perrigos). The last large flock of Snow Bunting for the season was 750 on Apr 1 at BB (WCL).

265 Carling Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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In the Ithaca area precipitation was about an inch below normal in April and about normal in May. Temperatures in April averaged three to four degrees below normal, in May one or two degrees below normal. This delayed warming following the unusually cold March showed up in the slow leafing out of the trees, some of which were not yet in full leaf by the third week of May, especially at higher elevations.

Migration was delayed. Arrival of many land birds was a week or more late, including most thrushes, vireos, warblers, Bobolink, Scarlet Tanager and some of the sparrows. A few species had not arrived by May census dates—May 15 Chemung Valley Audubon Soc. (132 species), May 16 Eaton Ornithological Soc. (139 species), Cayuga Basin census (174 species) and Schuyler County Bird Club. As usual, no leaves—no warblers; not only were they late in arriving, but numbers were low and they were very quiet, slipping through quickly not grounded by adverse weather.

Unusual reports were Yellow-crowned Night Heron, first record of Black Rail for Cayuga Basin, Piping Plover second record at MNWR, Hooded Warbler, Lark Sparrow first record at Ithaca.

Abbreviations: Cay L—Cayuga L; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; Sen L—Seneca Lake.

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Contributors: DA—Douglas Auer; WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker; MC—Mildred Comar; FKG—Frank Guthrie; WH—Wilfred Howard; PMK—Paul Kelsey; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DBP—David Peakall; GR—Gary Randorf; SHS—Sally Spofford; JT—James Tate; JW—Jayson Walker; MPW—Mary Welles; MNWR records unless otherwise attributed are by Refuge personnel reported by Douglas Mullen, Acting Refugee Manager.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max, flock of 21 Keuka L in Apr (FKG); 2 died Ithaca, 1 of fish hook Apr 24, 1 oiled bird May 17 SWS. Red-necked Grebe: 1 May 1 Dryden L (PMK), late. Double-crested Cormorant: 4 May 10 MNWR (M. Thomas) stayed thru May 23. Great Blue Heron: Marengo Swamp heronry active (WEB); 2 new active sites discovered Elmira area, about 30 nests each, 1 near Welsburg and 1 near Caton (MPW); at least 7 active nests Reynoldsville (JB). Green Heron: first, 1 Apr 5 MNWR, max 10 late Apr. Cattle Egret: 4 reports—1 May 1 MNWR (D. Parks); 1 imm May 3, 1 adult May 8 Elmira; 1 May 20 Ithaca. Common Egret: first, 1 Apr 5 MNWR, max 2; 1 near Ithaca Apr 21. Snowy Egret: 1 Apr 24–30 MNWR. Black-crowned Night Heron: first, 2 Apr 18 MNWR (WEB), max 30, 12 there May 30. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: 1 May 16 Serven Rd, Geneva area (C. Walsh, Trails). Least Bittern: first Apr 28 Ithaca (T. Howe), several other Ithaca sightings including Stewart Pk and SWS. American Bittern: first Apr 5 MNWR, max 20 Apr 30. Glossy Ibis: May 7 MNWR (O. Hewitt). Whistling Swan: 2 May 5–7 Elmira (MPW); 3 May 17–31 MNWR.

With MNWR frozen until Apr 9, early ducks and geese concentrated on flooded mucklands north of the Refuge. Canada Goose population at MNWR peaked at 60,000 week of Apr 15 and stayed 22 days because of ice conditions in Canada; peak

numbers normally stay a week. Snow and Blue Geese: peak of 1,000 Snows and 2,000 Blues Apr 22 into first week of May, highest counts ever. Peak duck numbers at MNWR: Mallard 1,000 weeks of Apr 1 thru Apr 22, Black 500 weeks of Apr 1 thru Apr 15, Gadwall 200 week of Apr 29, Pintail 500 week of Apr 8, Green-winged Teal 500 week of Apr 22, Blue-winged Teal 1,000 week of Apr 8, American Widgeon 100 weeks of Apr 8 and 15, Shoveler 500 week of Apr 15, Wood Duck 100 Apr 8 thru month, Redhead 100 weeks of Mar 25 and Apr 1, Ring-necked Duck 1,000 weeks of Apr 15 and 22, Canvasback 100 weeks of Apr 1 and 8, Scaup 500 week of Apr 15, Common Goldeneye 500 thru week of April 1, Bufflehead 200 weeks of Apr 15 and 22, Ruddy Duck 50 week of Apr 22, Hooded Merganser 200 week of Apr 15 thru month, Common Merganser 200 weeks of Apr 15 and 22, Red-breasted Merganser: 500 week Apr 22 thru month. WEB comments that his impression is that in the past ten years as the goose numbers—Canadas, Snows and Blues—have shot up dramatically in the spring, there has been a steady decline of spring ducks at MNWR. First Mallard ducklings at SWS May 5 (SHS). American Widgeon: late pair May 6 and female May 16 Watkins Marsh (JB). Shoveler: first Apr 4 MNWR (DA); missing at Elmira second consecutive year. Ring-necked Duck: last May 4 MNWR (WEB). Ring-necked Ducks and Common Goldeneyes present in far greater numbers than ever before at Elmira, seen well into Apr, 1 Goldeneye unable to fly still there May 31 (MPW). Oldsquaw: 2 Apr 2 Waneta L, Watkins (JB); max 8 May 16 Cay L (DBP); also Dryden L May 2 and Keuka L May 16. White-winged Scoter: first and max 11 May 11 Cay L (DBP). Surf Scoter: four May 2 and 16 Dryden L (PMK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first, 2 Apr 4 MNWR, nest in Marengo Swamp had two eggs May 30 (WEB). Goshawk: 1 imm plumaged Danby Apr 30 (S. Temple); "one flying with prey presumably to nest" Connecticut Hill May 16 (JT, JB et al). Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported regularly in Ithaca. Cooper's Hawk: very few reports. Red-tailed Hawk: good numbers; 7 successful nests MNWR. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported regularly Ithaca. Broad-winged Hawk: migration lasted into third week of May, reported May 13, 15, 16 and 18. Golden Eagle: 1 May 15 Elmira (Arlene Harvey)—"all dark bird with white barrings on underside of tail, wings flat when soaring." Bald Eagle: imm Apr 29—May 20 MNWR; 1 adult May 9 or 10 Cornell campus Ithaca (G. Florant); imm May 22 MNWR (WEB); adult May 24 Varna (B. Clark); 1 May 16 Dresden (FKG). Marsh Hawk: numbers seem low, 1 to 2 during period MNWR. Osprey: first, 2 Apr 17—May 2 MNWR; 1 shot east side Sen L (JB); migrating in numbers Elmira May 2 (MPW). Peregrine Falcon: 2 Ithaca reports, 1 Apr 11 (B. Gebhart), 1 Apr 13 (M. Shepherd). Pigeon Hawk: 1 report, May 2 Waterloo Cemetery (JW).

Bobwhite: several reports near Alpine, a breeding population? (JB); only other report May 12 Sheldrake (CW). Virginia Rail: first Apr 28 Ithaca (MC). Sora: first May 5 Ithaca (S. Wiseman). Both rails late Elmira, not reported until May 15 census. **BLACK RAIL:** first Cayuga Basin record, 1 Apr 27 near airport (B. Mai et al), report on file. Common Gallinule: first Apr 18 MNWR, max only 3 (WEB); 8 or 10 calling May 16 Watkins Marsh (JB); very late Elmira, not reported until May 20.

Shorebird records, first dates and max, are all from MNWR by WEB unless otherwise noted. Peak number at MNWR 500 birds of nine species May 23. Semipalmated Plover: 26 May 15, max 65 May 23. **PIPING PLOVER:** 1 May 2, second record. Killdeer: although nesting was delayed more than two weeks MNWR, success was excellent, 8 nests found on one mile of Storage Pool road, all successfully hatched (D. Mullen). American Golden Plover: 1 Apr 21—25. Black-bellied Plover: 3 May 2, last 2 May 22. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 May 16—31 MNWR (R. T. Peterson, JT, WEB), very rare in spring. Common Snipe: over 25 Apr 3 Montour airport (JB); max 32 MNWR Apr 18. Whimbrel: 1 May 19, rare. Upland Plover: first Apr 17 Elmira, max only 3 at Holding Point (MPW); present Dryden and Etna. Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Apr 25.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Apr 28 Dryden (DBP). Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 Apr 9 MNWR (DBP?). Pectoral Sandpiper: 6 Apr 14, max 32 Apr 18. White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 May 23, max 97 May 30 and 87 May 31, usual max under 12. Least Sandpiper: Apr 27 Trumansburg (GR, Willings); max 63 May 15, last 2 May 29. Dunlin: 1 Apr 10, max 300 May 22. Short-billed Dowitcher: May 8 SWS (Jean Tate); max 46 May 22. Semipalmated Sandpiper: May 16 MNWR (R. T. Peterson et al); max 100 May 29. Northern Phalarope: 1 May 29.

Iceland Gull: 1 Apr 15 MNWR (DM). Bonaparte's Gull: first, 3 Apr 14 MNWR (DBP); max 300 May 4 Cay L (SHS); Elmira max 10 Apr 2. Common Tern: first, 1 Apr 28 MNWR. Caspian Tern: first, Apr 14 MNWR (DBP). Black Tern: first, 5 Apr 28 MNWR; 3 May 12 Lowe Pd, Elmira (MPW), only other location. Cuckoos: arrived late; first Yellow-billed May 13 Elmira, not until May 23 Bath (BA); first Black-billed May 16 MNWR (WEB), none reported Elmira. All owls scarce except Great Horned. Great Horned: 2 successful nests MNWR; 2 young raised at Reynolds-ville where pair used Great Blue Heron nest (JB). Snowy Owl: the 1 reported MNWR Mar 31 stayed to Apr 2.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: first May 5 Ithaca (DBP), reported Waterloo, Elmira, Freeville, none Watkins. Common Nighthawk: first May 16 Elmira (MPW); not seen until May 27 Ithaca, max 8 there May 29. Chimney Swift: first Apr 30 Freeville (PMK). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first May 8 Ithaca. Red-bellied Woodpecker: missing from Elmira, last year's nesting area lumbered off (MPW). Flycatcher first dates—Eastern Kingbird May 1 Ovid; Great Crested May 10 Ithaca; Traill's May 11 MNWR; Least May 2 Ithaca; Eastern Wood Pewee May 11 SWS but other arrival dates May 13 Elmira, May 19 Keuka, May 23 Watkins. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 May 14 Dryden (DBP), unusual.

There was a large swallow migration on Cay L May 4. Barn Swallow: first Apr 14 MNWR (WEB). Purple Martin: colony at MNWR has 15 pairs nesting compared with 7 individuals and no nesting last year; reports seem up slightly. Brown Creeper: several pairs SWS; seen building nest Stewart Pk, elevation only about 390 feet; many reports Watkins, pair nesting Hendershot Gulf (JB). Long-billed Marsh Wren: first May 11 Ithaca (MC), very late. No Short-billed Marsh Wren reported. Swainson's Thrush: first May 15 Elmira. Gray-cheeked Thrush: only 2 reports, 1 May 15 Elmira (Andrus), 1 May 19 Waterloo (JW). Veery: first May 3 Etna (Lewellyn), late. Eastern Bluebird: nesting reports up in Ithaca, but scarcer Elmira where they are entirely absent from many of last year's sites (MPW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: first, May 2 MNWR (WEB); arr May 5 Elmira, in numbers May 8. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 seen, 1 singing, May 16 Burnt Hill near Watkins, same place as last year—nesting? (JB). Water Pipit: flock of 50 Apr 10 Elmira. Loggerhead Shrike: first, 1 Apr 4 MNWR (Walton Sabin), also reported Watkins, Dryden, Ithaca and Geneva area.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos except Red-eyed were all a week or more late in arriving. Philadelphia Vireo: May 11 Waterloo (JW); May 17 MNWR (GR, CW); May 19 Elmira (WH).

With two exceptions, warblers arrived late, from a few days for later-arriving species to five or six weeks for early-arriving species. First dates were: Black-and-white: Apr 28 Ithaca, May 8 Elmira; Golden-winged May 16 Groton, scarce Elmira; Blue-winged May 10 Ithaca in tall spruce trees, leaves not yet out in usual habitat; Tennessee May 10 Dryden L; Nashville May 2 Ithaca; Parula May 11 SWS, scarce everywhere; Yellow May 2 MNWR, big movement of Yellows May 4; Magnolia May 2 Ithaca; Cape May May 2 Ithaca; Black-throated Blue May 3 Dryden; Myrtle Apr 14 Ithaca, large numbers May 4; Black-throated Green Apr 3 SWS (JT), extremely early, no others reported until end of month; Cerulean May 13 Elmira, scarce; Black-

burnian May 8 Ithaca; Chestnut-sided May 7 Dryden L; Bay-breasted May 14 Ithaca; Blackpoll May 13 Ithaca, May 18 Watkins, abundant Etna May 20-22; Prairie May 6 Elmira, none at Connecticut Hill nesting area up to May 16; Palm Apr 27 Ithaca, not until May 12 Elmira; Ovenbird May 2 Dryden L; Northern Waterthrush May 6 SWS; Louisiana Waterthrush Apr 24 Elmira; Mourning May 15 MNWR, 1 May 28 Elmira, unusual there; Yellowthroat May 8 Ithaca; Wilson's May 11 Ithaca; Canada May 10 Dryden L; American Redstart May 7 SWS. Other warbler records: Worm-eating present May 24 York Hill, Elmira, no one checked earlier (MPW); Brewster's found 3 locations Elmira May 15 census, all singing Golden-winged song; Orange-crowned, 1 banded May 16 Geneva area (C. Walsh, Trails) and 1 May 24 Elmira (WH, M. Smith); Pine scarce Elmira, only 2 records May 1 and 5; Yellow-breasted Chat: May 13 Ithaca, May 16 Watkins; *HOODED WARBLER*: 2 reports, 1 May 16 near Ithaca airport (CW) and 1 May 19 Mt. Zoar, Elmira (WH), unusual.

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: first, 1 May 8 MNWR (WEB), present in numbers after that. Orchard Oriole: 3 reports Keuka; May 29 Stewart Pk, Ithaca (D. Simmers). Rusty Blackbird: last May 2 MNWR (WEB). Grackle numbers seem to continue to increase. Scarlet Tanager: first, May 7, 2 Bath (B. Ammerman) and Ithaca (MC), late. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: seemed unusually numerous in mid-May. Indigo Bunting: normal arrival Ithaca May 5, but none until May 16 Watkins. Evening Grosbeak: pair still present Ithaca May 31 (Brann). House Finch: several locations Elmira; the 2 males present Utica St. Ithaca thru period; 2 males and one female May 17 on, Etna feeder (SHS). *RED CROSSBILL*: 1 male Apr 22 at Elmira feeder (Harriet Woodward), only report all year.

Sparrows: Savannah: first May 10 SWS, late. Vesper: first Apr 13 Ithaca. *LARK SPARROW*: 1 Apr 23-25 Comfort Rd Ithaca (Mrs. Turk), first record, report on file. Grasshopper and Henslow's continue to be scarce. Tree: still present May 8 Ithaca (Pettingill), May 15 Elmira census (Al Fudge et al). White-crowned: Apr 2 Bath (J. Rezelman) early, next reports Apr 21 and 26; last 1 May 24 MNWR (WEB). Lincoln's: Apr 13 Elmira, singing (WH); 2 other reports Elmira May 22; first Ithaca Apr 27. Swamp: first Apr 18 MNWR (WEB), late.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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Cool, wet weather lasted until almost the middle of May and, whether as a result of that or not, the small land bird migration was decidedly late. As usual under those circumstances the arrival dates for some species appear reasonably normal, but on closer examination, in most of those cases, a few individuals of the species appeared at the usual time but the main body of migrants lagged behind by a week or more.

Three "waves" of migrants were noted. The first was April 10 when something in excess of 2000 waterfowl, unusual numbers in the Region, were at Whitney Point. On the same day a non-birder reported seeing more than 1000 ducks on the river at Owego. May 14 the Conservation Center at Sherburne was "alive with warblers" and May 25 at East Branch, in Delaware County, it was as though "someone had opened the dam" when the wind switched from the north to the southeast. That last wave included several species usually migrating weeks earlier, such as Blue Jays, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Blackburnian, Myrtle and Black-throated Green Warblers. Arrival dates for later species such as Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers and Traill's and Olive-sided Flycatchers and Wood Pewees seemed unaffected.