

warblers were reported: "Brewster's": 1 Murray May 14 (GOS); 1 Canadice May 30 (JF); "Lawrence's": 1 Canadice May 30 (JF).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolinks were very plentiful this season. A **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** 1 Gaines May 9 thru (RC,mob), appeared to be nesting, mated to an E. Meadowlark. Orchard Oriole: 3 Pt. Breeze May 15 thru (WLi,mob), again nesting. House Finch has nested successfully again: 2 young at feeder Brighton May 25 thru (F,J,&LM). Of the few winter finches reported, interesting is White-winged Crossbill: 1 Brighton May 25-26 (J&ND), at a thistle feeder. Rufous-sided Towhee is very low on the lakeplain, good elsewhere. The sparrow migration was normal except as noted above and lower than usual White-crowned Sparrow numbers. Fox Sparrow passed in about a one week window: max. 10 WL May 13 (RS). Similarly with Lincoln's Sparrow: max. 6 Manitou May 22 (B&MM).

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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March was very mild with the average temperature above normal and precipitation about normal. The warm days of March 10-15 completely thawed Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Up to a foot of snow fell on March 23. The month closed with higher temperatures which hit the mid 80°s F (28° C). April 1-10 was rather cold with a little snow, the only snow of the month. A very warm and dry period followed with the temperature often in the 80°s F (28° C). A heavy rain on the 24th preceded a cooler period running to May 15. On May 9th the Region was blanketed with snow ranging from one inch in the north to nearly a foot in some parts of the south. The last half of May was sunny, hot and dry, the driest May since 1966. The temperature was in the 80's daily and was over 90 on the 21st.

Seasonal pluses: (1) At Elmira the heavy rain of April 24th brought in many Common Loons, White-winged Scoters and terns, including 2 Arctic Terns; (2) a beaver pond near Guyanga hosted 11 species of shorebirds, the most since 1970. It included a Baird's Sandpiper, a very rare migrant here in the spring; (3) a very good Whistling Swan migration; (4) the best Ring-necked Duck movement in several years; (5) improved numbers, though still somewhat minimal, of both cuckoos probably in response to the many tent caterpillars; (6) hundreds of Horned Larks along the roadsides after the March 18 snowstorm; (7) very good numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling Vireos and Northern Orioles; (8) the most White-crowned Sparrows in many years.

Seasonal minuses: (1) scarcity of white herons; (2) continued low numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons; (3) few scaup of either species; (4) continued scarcity of Eastern Phoebe; (5) reduced numbers of Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and almost no Cliff Swallows; (6) fewer Purple Martins; (7) a disappointing migration of flycatchers, vireos and warblers. The latter was variously described as "slow," "dull" and "boring" with the Yellow-rumped being the only migrant warbler seen in any numbers. However, a look at the reports shows that all of the migrant warblers normally seen here, except for the Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat, were seen by someone during the season. Most observers missed many species. The uniformly warm, sunny weather, without the conditions which built up "waves" of birds, no doubt allowed the birds, which did not seem to be singing as much as usual, to slip thru quickly, unobtrusively and without detection. The summerlike weather of mid-April had pushed leaf growth so that most trees were

fully leafed when the warblers arrived. Warbler watching was a maddening, frustrating exercise in futility.

Rarities: European Wigeon; Whimbrel; Baird's Sandpiper; Arctic Tern; Fish Crow; White-eyed Vireo.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; ESC—Elmira Spring Census May 14; GSC—Geneva Spring Census May 15; ISC—Ithaca Spring Census May 15; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; * (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: widely reported in Apr.; 30 Elmira Apr. 24 "never had so many" (MW). Red-throated Loon: 1 Penn Yan Apr. 22. Red-necked Grebe: more reports than usual from Ithaca, MNWR and Elmira. Horned Grebe: 63 Elmira Apr. 8. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Penn Yan May 22; 1 MNWR May 24 on. Great Blue Heron: fewer nests at Addison heronry; down at MNWR; 24 on GSC. Great Egret: 1-2 Elmira Apr. 7-13. Black-crowned Night Heron: up to 6 MNWR Apr. 19 on, observed gathering nesting material; 1 Penn Yan May 3; 1 Elmira first in several years. American Bittern: 1 Penn Yan first in several years. Glossy Ibis: 1-2 MNWR May 22-25 (JG *et al.*).

Whistling Swan: a good flight year; 15 Dryden L Mar. 20; 45 MNWR Mar. 21; flock Cayuta L late Mar. 48 Camp Dittmer near Phelps Apr. 1. Canada Goose: 85,000 max MNWR; probably an equal number on Cay L; thousands on Seneca L and many more scattered on small lakes and ponds, such as 3,000 on the little lake at Camp Dittmer, would mean a total of 200,000 in the Finger Lakes area. Snow Goose: max 3,000 MNWR down from 8,000 in 1976.

Ducks: Dabbling ducks about normal. EUROPEAN WIGEON: 1 Penn Yan Mar. 13 (ML). Ring-necked Duck: widely reported in better numbers after several poor years. Scaup: both species in small numbers only. Common Goldeneye: apparently left early by late Mar. Oldsquaw: 2 Camp Dittmer early Apr. an unusual location; 1 Cay L May 15. White-winged Scoter: 4 Elmira Apr. 24; Keuka L Apr. 29; 3 GSC. Surf Scoter: 3 Elmira Apr. 28. Black Scoter: 1 Sheldrake May 15 (DM). Red-breasted Merganser: 27 Elmira Apr. 24 more than usual.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: many reports beginning Mar. 10, 2 weeks early. Goshawk: nest with 3 young Ithaca; 1 Texas Hollow Sanctuary May 7. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 each ESC, ISC and GSC; 1 Cayuta May 15. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 dark phase Townsend Apr. 3. Osprey: max 4 Niles Apr. 21, singles Elmira Apr. 16, 29, May 5, Phelps May 1, Clifton Springs, May 6 and MNWR May 24. Turkey: 3 reports Yates Co.; 1 W. Caton May 14. Com. Gallinule: 1 MNWR Apr. 9, 2 weeks early.

Semipalmated Plover: 5 GSC; max 23 MNWR May 31. Am. Golden Plover: 1 MNWR Apr. 19 (WB) rare in spring. Black-bellied Plover: 1-2 MNWR May 15-31. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 MNWR May 28 (Menuhin). WHIMBREL: 1 MNWR May 24 (JG)*. Upland Sandpiper: reported from Etna, Dryden, Horseheads, Waterloo. Red Knot: 18 MNWR May 28 (Menuhin). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Apr. 5 MNWR; max 26 Apr. 19. White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Horseheads Apr. 15; max 21 MNWR May 25. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1 on beaver pond near Guyanga (ML) very rare in spring. Least Sandpiper: arr 30 Waterloo May 15. Dunlin: max 60 MNWR May 24. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 5 MNWR May 18 max 10 May 29. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR May 15 (DM). Northern Phalarope: 1 MNWR May 15 (TR, WB) uncommon in spring.

Glaucous Gull: 1 Ithaca Mar. 6 (DM). Bonaparte's Gull: 5 Elmira Mar. 31; 200 Canoga Apr. 26. Common Tern: 5 GSC; 6 Elmira May 15. ARCTIC TERN: 2 Elmira Apr. 23

(MW)*. Black Tern: arr 6 MNWR May 6 late; 2 Elmira May 9; 3 Cayuta Marsh May 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: several Ithaca College Campus; 1 Elmira May 5; 1 Clyde May 27. Black-billed Cuckoo: increasing at Penn Yan; singles at Clifton Springs and Niles May 6; 1 Clyde May 13; 2 ESC. Barred Owl: 1 Monkey Run, Ithaca (JG). Short-eared Owl: 1 Horseheads Mar. 8. Whip-poor-will: only report 1 Horseheads Mar. 8. Common Nighthawk: 2 ESC; 1 Watkins Glen May 15; Cornell Campus May 24. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 GSC; nest Stewart Park May 21. Red-headed Woodpecker: widely reported in small numbers.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: the very low numbers of the past two years continue. Alder Flycatcher: 1 report at Tompkins Co. Airport May 31 (JG). Least Flycatcher: good numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Niles May 20 (TR); 1 Elmira May 22 (WH).

Swallows: all but Tree Swallows somewhat late in arriving. Tree Swallow: numbers at MNWR continue to decrease as dead trees with nesting sites continue to topple. Bank Swallow: colonies in the Clifton Springs-Phelps area doing well but elsewhere declining; colony at Myers Point gone. Rough-winged Swallow: few reports; arrived at nesting site in Clifton Springs Apr. 30. Barn Swallow: perhaps down a bit but doing well. Cliff Swallow: birds returned to Voak Farm colony in northern Yates Co. but left shortly. Nests had been knocked down and barn painted last fall. Over 100 nests here for many years. Purple Martin: reduced numbers at MNWR; scarce around Cay L; very scarce Elmira. **FISH CROW:** returned Ithaca early Mar. for fourth year. House Wren: abundant. Winter Wren: 1 Camp Dittmer Mar. 29 and Apr. 16; 1 ESC; 3 GSC. Carolina Wren: a casualty of the winter; 1 Phelps; 3 ESC. Wood Thrush: 40 GSC. Hermit Thrush: normal. Swainson's Thrush: relatively few reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 GSC; ISC. Veery: low numbers. Eastern Bluebird: only a few scattered reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: above average numbers; nesting at Lowman and at Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Water Pipit: the May 9 snowstorm brought many into the Elmira streets, the country roads and even in the woods.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: **WHITE-EYED:** 1 Geneva May 15 (P. Trail). Yellow-throated: scarce. Philadelphia: 2 reports Elmira. Warbling: a good year; 35 GSC.

Warblers: Worm-eating: at a new site in Elmira. Cerulean: 1 Clyde May 12; 1 Niles May 18; 2 at new location in Elmira. Blackpoll: very scarce. Pine: at usual places on Harris Hill and at a new site on Mt. Zoar, Elmira. Prairie: 3 Elmira May 2 and 7 on May 14. Northern Waterthrush: 2 ESC; 2 GSC. Louisiana Waterthrush: Ithaca Apr. 20; 1 Elmira May 2. Mourning: 1 GSC; 1 Waterloo May 22. Hooded: 2 Elmira May 25. Canada: 1 Elmira May 13.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: good numbers; 42 GSC. Northern Oriole: good numbers everywhere. Rusty Blackbird: at MNWR Mar. 3-May 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 19 GSC. Indigo Bunting: very few reported. Evening Grosbeak: last report was from Clifton Springs Apr. 30. Purple Finch: few reports; 3 GSC. House Finch: this fast spreading newcomer now covers much of Region 3; "lots" at Elmira; "all over the place" at Watkins Glen; new locations at Waterloo, Clyde, Savannah. Am. Goldfinch: abundant; 227 GSC.

Sparrows: Savannah: 27 GSC. Grasshopper: 3 GSC; down Elmira; "hard to find" Penn Yan. Henslow's: 1 Elmira May 2. Vesper: continued scarce. 2 ESC; 5 GSC. Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco: 1 Elmira Jan. 1-Mar. 14. Tree Sparrow: last report Clyde Apr. 19. Field: good numbers; 12 GSC. White-crowned: reported as more plentiful everywhere; at the regional editor's feeders up to 16 were present Apr. 29-May 20 against a normal 4-8 for about 2 weeks. Lincoln's: 1 ESC; 2 GSC; 1 trapped Ithaca. Snow Bunting: 12 Clifton Springs Mar. 24; 1 changing to summer plumage Elmira Apr. 15.

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