

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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Our spring weather was generally mild, especially for much of April and the latter half of May, and rather dry. There were, of course, cold and snowy/rainy days, too, including snow March 20, rain April 2 and 23 and on May 9, a real snow storm that left several inches on the ground.

The mild temperatures did seem to produce some early arrivals but the cold spells were either too few or timed badly for birds/birders and no "waves" were reported. The diffuse nature of the migration led to complaints of small numbers and missed species, particularly among the warblers and thrushes. In the missed species category, at least, one observer or area covered for another to the extent that only Swainson's Thrush of the reasonably expected species was missed region-wide.

The small numbers complaint did seem to hold true region-wide for Cape May and Wilson's Warblers, two species that had been considerably more common for the last few years than they were in the past. Some more or less consistently common species such as Tennessee, Blackburnian and Blackpoll Warblers were relatively scarce. In mid-May thrushes were the object of some concern. Five days after the unseasonable snowfall, in an area where at that time of year singing Wood Thrushes can normally be found every hundred yards or so and Veery call notes can be heard everywhere, only 1 or 2 of each species was found in 2½ hours. Later in the month, thrush numbers recovered, except for Swainson's, and their numbers have a history of wild fluctuations from year to year in migration in this area.

One earlier migrant, the Fox Sparrow, appeared to be notably common, especially in Oneonta.

Three rarities were reported: an Eared Grebe on Otsego Lake and two Arctic Terns at Owego in April, plus Fish Crows at Endwell.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin (C,JB), Jean Barnes (JB), Reynolds Bennett (RB), Florence Bookhout, Ann Casselberry, Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC), Eugene & Vera Converse, Gail Corderman, Glenys Curran, Anna & Marilyn Davis (A,MD), Louise & Warren Dean, Mary Dobinsky (MD), J. Doig, Sadie Dorber, Claire Gottschall, Elva Hawken, Jim & Kathy Hoteling, Louise Hover, Claude Howard (CH), Marian Karl (MK), Cindy Kirch, Rudolph & Ingeborg Klenke, A. Krick (AK), Margaret Layton (ML), Florence Linaberry (FL), Margaret & Dwight Lynch, Harriet Marsi (HM), Rick Marsi, Peter & Dorothy Martin, Evelyn & Bud Mead, Mary Ann Middleton, Robert Pantle (RP), Jim Saunders, Mary Sheffield (MS), Robert Sheffield, Edgar & Frances Vermilya, Elizabeth Washburn, Kathryn Wilson (KW), Tom & Beryl Wilson, Irene Wright (IW).

Abbreviations: Bing–Binghamton; WP–Whitney Point.

LOONS–DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr. 23 Owego; max 20, WP Apr. 24; still at Good-year Lake May 29. Red-necked Grebe: Apr. 17 WP, 2 (MS); Apr. 20 Delhi, 1 (MC). EARED GREBE: 1 Otsego Lake Apr. 23 (MK, *et al.*), 6 observers but no details; no previous records for Region. Pied-billed Grebe: 14 reports of 1, 2 or 3 birds from Mar. 16 to May 15, a good count for this Region. Great Blue Heron: birds on nests Apr. 23 at rookery north of Cooperstown; 35 or more nests at Sibley Gulf rookery same day. Green Heron: only 6 May records. Cattle Egret: 1 report from Owego in Apr. (JB). Great Egret: Apr. 23 Candor; May 2 Owego. Am. Bittern: only 3 reports, Apr. 20 to May 1. Mute Swan: 1 at Portlandville Apr. 2 and 9. Canada Goose: thousands Mar. 9-10 and Mar. 29, otherwise only hundreds during later Mar. and Apr. and occasional singles in May; about Mar. 7, 3 about the size of nearby Mallards at Ouquaga. Black Duck: slightly more than a third the number of Mal-

lards. Gadwall: 1 Otsego Lake Apr. 2; Apr. 30 Owego. Pintail: up to 50 at WP from Mar. 9 to the end of the month; last date Apr. 24. Blue-winged Teal: 1 Cannonsville Mar. 16, early. Northern Shoveler: 3 WP Mar. 16; also reported at Owego. Redhead: small numbers, 1 to 4, thru Mar. Canvasback: Mar. 3 Chenango Forks to Mar. 29, 9 reports, max 10 WP Mar. 21; also reported Owego. Common Goldeneye: last date Apr. 3, Owego. Bufflehead: 30 WP Apr. 24, max and last date. Oldsquaw: Apr. 8 Owego; no others. White-winged Scoter: 8 WP Apr. 24 (MS). Ruddy Duck: Apr. 30 Owego (C,JB). Hooded Merganser: 16 WP Mar. 15, first date and max; 8 Colliersville area Apr. 9, last date. Common Merganser: Apr. 24 last migrants; counts to 42 at WP. Red-breasted Merganser: 6 WP Mar. 15, max; Mar. 23 Owego; 1 WP Apr. 24, last.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Mar. 23 Owego, first date; 5 Cannonsville Apr. 10, max; small number of reports from all reporting parts of Region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 15 Bing to Cannonsville Mar. 9; many reports of 1 to 4 throughout Region; 1 eating 18 inch snake "like a strand of spaghetti" Apr. 16. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Oneonta Mar. 12; 4 Oneonta Apr. 4; 4 other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 13 Owego. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Colliersville area Mar. 31, the only report. Bald Eagle: reported from 2 areas in Candor Mar. 20 (RP). Marsh Hawk: 2 Vestal Center Mar. 19; 2 later Tioga Co. reports. Osprey: 15 reports Apr. 9 to May 8 from all parts of Region; 5 at once Portlandville Apr. 30, max. Merlin: 1 Bing Apr. 20 (HM). Turkey: 9 reports, from all reporting parts of Region. Common Snipe: Mar. 21 Milford 2. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Portlandville area Apr. 30; 10 reports May 7 to 16, 7 max. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr. 17 Upper Lisle. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr. 25 Owego. Least Sandpiper: May 15 Owego. Bonaparte's Gull: Mar. 19 Tioga Co.; 4-5 WP Apr. 24; May 13 Cannonsville Reservoir; no others. Common Tern: 1 Portlandville Apr. 23, the only report. **ARCTIC TERN:** Apr. 24 Owego "Saw 2—perched on floats—50 feet from dock. Had a good look." (C,JB).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 15 Bing; only 1 more report. Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 reports May 15 Bing; 1 Delhi May 20; 2 Oneonta May 22; 1 report from Tioga Co. Screech Owl: only 1 report. Barred Owl: 2 May 15 reports Bing. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Bing Mar. 2 (CH). Com. Nighthawk: May 6 Bing (MS); no more until May 19; scarce. Chimney Swift: May 1 Bing and Owego and daily thereafter; flock of 40 or more WP May 8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 14 Owego. Pileated Woodpecker: 9 reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 still present at Owego during period.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: Apr. 30 and May 1 Tioga Co.; no more until May 10. Traill's Flycatcher (Sp?): May 15 Bing. Willow Flycatcher: May 28 WP. E. Wood Pewee: 1 Portlandville area May 4 (MD,KW), early; next report May 18. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 15 Vestal Center, the only report. Tree Swallow: Mar. 26 Candor. Barn Swallow: Apr. 17 WP. Cliff Swallow: 3 Portlandville May 4; also reported from Tioga Co. but none from Bing area. Purple Martin: Apr. 8 Owego; roughly 1 week early. **FISH CROW:** 2 along golf course near Endwell identified by 2 observers independently (FL,ML) in early May and then recognized as having been present considerably earlier—identified by voice and smaller size compared to other crows in area at the same time—1 observer with experience with species along coast. Tufted Titmouse: daily reports thru Apr., Bing area. Winter Wren: Apr. 18 Bing; 5 more reports to May 14. Carolina Wren: 1 Delhi May 6; reported from 3 Tioga Co. and 3 Broome Co. locations. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 15 Upper Lisle and Apalachin. Mockingbird: scattered reports from all reporting parts of the Region thru. Gray Catbird: Apr. 22 Chenango Bridge; Apr. 26 Vestal Center; daily from May 1. Brown Thrasher: 1 Delhi Apr. 11; next report Apr. 20. Wood Thrush: Apr. 22 Vestal Center; next report Apr. 28; daily after May 3, but relatively scarce until later in the month. Hermit Thrush: Apr. 2 Bing then 1 Delhi Apr. 20; only 3 more. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Delhi May 22; no others. Veery: Chenango Forks, first date. E. Bluebird: 1 Oneonta area Mar. 5, first date; thru Region in usual small numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr. 18 Owego; 3 Broome Co. reports to May 22. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Oneonta area Mar. 21;

Mar. 27 Chenango Forks; no others. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 19 to May 15. Water Pipit: Mar. 20 Candor; 400 plus Owego Apr. 4. Northern Shrike: Mar. 23 Bing (HM), the only report. Loggerhead Shrike: Mar. 26 WP (A,MD); 1 Oneonta area Apr. 9 (MD,KW).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks, first date. Solitary Vireo: Apr. 19 Bing. Red-eyed Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks, first; no more until May 12. Philadelphia Vireo: May 14 Vestal, numerous observers; another May 15 Bing. Warbling Vireo: 2 Portlandville May 4; numbers seem down. Black-and-white Warbler: Apr. 22 Bing; next date May 1. Worm-eating Warbler: May 15 Bing (HM), the only report. Golden-winged Warbler: May 2 Choconut Center; next report May 14; total of 9 reports all from Broome Co. area. "Brewster's Warbler": May 7 Choconut Center, the first of 5 reports from Broome and Tioga Cos. Blue-winged Warbler: May 1 Owego; next date May 8; 5 males May 14 Owego; 13 Broome Co. reports. Tennessee Warbler: May 14 to 22, down. Nashville Warbler: Apr. 23 Choconut Center. Yellow Warbler: 2 Choconut Center Apr. 30. Magnolia Warbler: May 14 Vestal. Cape May Warbler: May 14 Vestal and Owego, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 Delhi May 12, first of only 3 reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 5 Chenango Forks, first migrants. Black-throated Green Warbler: Apr. 29 Chenango Forks; relatively scarce. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Chenango Forks. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 7 reports from Chenango Forks and Choconut Center; regular from May 14. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 21 Endwell; 2 Delhi May 28, the only reports. Blackpoll Warbler: May 20 Choconut Center; only 3 more reports. Prairie Warbler: May 16 Chenango Forks; May 21 Choconut Center. Ovenbird: Apr. 26 Vestal, early; next date May 1. Northern Waterthrush: 2 Crumhorn, in Oneonta area, May 4. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 18 Hinman's Corners, n. of Bing. Mourning Warbler: 1 Delhi May 12; the only report. Yellow-breasted Chat: Apr. 22 Bing (HM), no others. Wilson's Warbler: May 15 Apalachin; also at Endwell, Choconut Center and Owego. Canada Warbler: 2 Oneonta area May 7; only 5 other reports starting May 14. Am. Redstart: May 8 WP; daily after May 14.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 2 Owego, first date. Orchard Oriole: May 28 Delhi (AK). Northern Oriole: 1 n. of Choconut Center Apr. 30; May 3 Owego; daily after May 6. Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 7 Newark Valley; Mar. 25 Owego; Apr. 16 Choconut Center; that's all. Brown-headed Cowbird: reported regularly from Mar. 18. Scarlet Tanager: 1 Delhi May 11, first date. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr. 28 Chenango Forks, first; regular from May 1. Indigo Bunting: May 14 Owego. Evening Grosbeak: 20 Oneonta May 6 and to May 17 at another Oneonta location, the only May reports. Purple Finch: wintering flocks thinned out after Apr. 18 but larger than usual numbers remained thru the period. House Finch: reports becoming more regular and numerous in Mar. and Apr., but thinning in May, apparently as they spread out to breed. Rufous-sided Towhee: obvious migrants Apr. 17. Savannah Sparrow: Mar. 20 Candor and 2 at WP. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 2 Owego, singing; 4 other reports. Henslow's Sparrow: May 20 and 22 Choconut Center; no others. Vesper Sparrow: Mar. 29 WP; only 5 other reports. Dark-eyed Junco: wintering and/or migrating flocks thinning out after Apr. 23, but almost daily reports continued thru May. Tree Sparrow: few after Mar. 31; Apr. 28 Delhi the last report. Chipping Sparrow: Mar. 4 and 20 Oneonta (IW); Apr. 4 Owego; Apr. 16 Candor; daily from Apr. 21. Field Sparrow: Mar. 4 Oneonta (IW); next report Apr. 1 and more or less regularly reported from then on. White-crowned Sparrow: Mar. 27 Owego (RB); next report 1 Delhi Apr. 28; bulk of migrants May 3 to 16; last date May 18. White-throated Sparrow: thinning after May 1 but plentiful until May 16. Fox Sparrow: 1 Oneonta Mar. 3 to 6, the first; bulk of migrants Mar. 17 to 31 with scattered reports to Apr. 12. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 21 Endwell (MS), the only report. Song Sparrow: arrived in force Mar. 1. Snow Bunting: late reports at Owego Mar. 23 and Marathon Mar. 26.

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