

on May 27; Henslow's Sparrow, max four in each of two Alfred areas May 5-31, and one at Iroquois NWR May 6; and Vesper Sparrow, 25 on the AC (226 last yr.), singles in the town of Newstead Apr. 9 and near Alfred May 25 and 28, and two at Amity L. Apr. 20. The western form of the Dark-eyed Junco, tentatively identified as *Junco hyemalis cismon-tanus* and banded at Limestone last winter, was still seen at the feeder there in late Mar. (RV). A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was identified at Hamburg May 1 (ARC, McNeil) while the Chipping Sparrow, banded in Feb. at the Burtons' in Belmont and which spent the winter there, was seen there through Apr. (DB, LB). The Fox Sparrow numbered only 21 on the AC (165 last yr.) with other reports totaling 16 birds from eight areas, while the Lincoln's Sparrow wintering in Wellsville was still there May 3 (EL); five others of the latter species were reported from four sites. Last of the Snow Buntings for the season were 80 at Riverside Mar. 12 and ten at Alfred Mar. 20.

Amity Lake, Belmont, NY 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This was a season of bland, uniform weather. Following the warm winter, spring, too, averaged warmer than usual. There were no major storms and few significant peaks or valleys in temperature; it simply gradually warmed from winter through to early summer. In March and April, the average high temperatures were a bit below normal, but lows were above enough to hold the averages $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1° F. above normal. May was more than 2° F. warmer than average. Throughout the period precipitation was below normal with only two significant snowfalls, March 14 and 22, and rain or brief showers on only 17 days, totalling 5.2 inches (13.2 cm) of moisture for the season. Warm spikes in the flat pattern occurred on March 19 and 28, April 7 and 21, and May 3, 17, 23 and 31.

Regional birding records generally matched the weather pattern—flat! Mi-grants dribbled through at average to late dates with few major waves. The hawk flight saw only one really exciting day, and even then the birds passed on a wide front with significant numbers seen over 10 miles inland from the lakeshore. With a friendly year-listing contest in progress, many observers spent much time in the field and a large number of unusual records resulted, most with many corroborating observers. There were a few very early arrival dates, an unusually large number of western vagrants, a few southern overshoots, and one of the best single-day shorebird flights on record. Included among the vagrants were two new state records, a regional first, and several birds seen less than five times previously in the spring. The lack of southern migrants overshooting is probably due to no warm nights or strong S-SW winds until well after they should have been on breeding territories. The western vagrants may be associated with the massive pushes of warm air through the west and midwest well up into Canada with fronts from Alaska then sweeping down across the top of these to our area, cutting off the early warm weather, but possibly picking up western over-shooting migrants.

With the migration late and few finches about, the local Big Day date seemed ill-timed at May 18, but the combination of a warm day and SW winds to 11 P.M. on the 17th followed by rain until dawn and switching E to SE winds all day resulted in the best shorebird flight in recent memory and several party counts exceeding 170, with 183 as a high "single party" total. The regional total will certainly reach a new high. The total shorebird picture will be documented later, when all reports can be compiled and analyzed.

The observations on trends which follow once again warrant a reminder of their strong and not really well understood ties to weather patterns and observer activity. Positives include: good waterfowl, generally, though most moved out early; excellent Canada Goose counts; another good, increased hawk total, in spite of a lack of exciting single days; the good shorebird day, in spite of lack of good habitat; good peak days for many passerine migrants; both kinglets back to very good numbers; and Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows good in appropriate habitat. Negatives include: the fishing mob scene from late March to May, eliminating any chance of inshore resting or feeding by waterfowl on Lake Ontario; very high lake levels, in spite of little rainfall or snow cover—seaway effect; gulls low; Common and Caspian Terns scarce; Winter Wren low; Loggerhead Shrike still low; too few good passerine migrant days; and a lack of the usual large flocks of passerines moving along the lakeshore. Illustrative of observer effects is few Virginia or Sora Rails reported, yet any stop at a marsh with tape produced a response this spring.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, White-fronted Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, phalarope sp. (probably No.), Barn Owl, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Western Tanager, and Summer Tanager.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park; H—Town of Hamlin; HP—Hogan Point (Bill's Point), Greece; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; K—Kendall; LP—Letchworth State Park; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Ron & Kay Ballard, Doug Bassett, John Brown, Jean Browning, Nancy Boudrie, Bill, Brad & Steve Carlson, Mike Carlson, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bob & Dottie Coffee, Bill Colman, Paul Conklin, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, June Feder, Arleen & John Foster, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Norm Henderson, Øivind Jensen, Doug Keim¹, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, C. Knobel, John Koopmans, Bob & Charlotte Ladwig, Edith Lank, Jim Lenhard¹, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhäuser, Harriet Stride, Brian, Dan, David, Allan & Grace Strong¹, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Sarah Talpey, Steve Taylor, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Bob Thomen, Mike Tunison, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum¹, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, and Peter Zachmann. P.O.S. = 1. Big Day Groups: G1 = Dawn Anthony, Ø. Jensen, W. Lloyd, R. Spahn, & M. A. Sunderlin; G2 = Tom Hamp-

son, Bob Herndon, Allan Klonick, G. Meade, Steve Oresman, & Joe Taylor; G3 = K. Griffith, D. & S. Sibley, & Clay Taylor; and G4 = M. Carlson, R. Clark, C. Ferrigo, W. Symonds, and S. Taylor.

LOONS-DUCKS: The loon flight was only fair with most birds passing far offshore with the large number of boats certainly a factor. The Com. Loon max. was 200+ E. lakeshore Apr. 21. Red-throated Loon was very scarce: one Webster May 18, was late. Red-necked Grebe numbers were good again: 68 H. Mar. 28; 135 Parma Mar. 29 (CP,RCI); 74 Webster Mar. 30; and 32 Greece Apr. 3. Horned Grebe was fairly good, Pied-billed Grebe low again, particularly by May. Records of 1-2 Double-crested Cormorant were scattered thru from mid-May on. The heron family was generally relatively scarce except for Great Blue and Green. Cattle Egret: one H May 10; and 1-2 HP May 11-17, appeared only briefly again. Great Egret appeared early: one BB Mar. 25 (RL, mob); and 1-2 were seen sporadically thru. There was only a single **SNOWY EGRET:** IC May 11 (mob). The first **GLOSSY IBIS** in several years was: one ad. H May 2 (RS, mob); and BB May 3 (R & KB, PR), undoubtedly the same bird. Waterfowl were generally unspectacular, in at average March dates and out by early April except for breeders and very few stragglers. Interesting records include: Whistling Swan: 55 BB Mar. 23; and 60 K Mar. 29; Canada Goose: 40,000 BB Mar. 20 (AK), the best in memory at this location; **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 13 BB Mar. 6-13 (MD, mob), a new state high count; one imm. Pt. Breeze Mar. 26 (MD, WS); and one ad. Pt. Breeze Apr. 19 (RCI, MD, CP); Brant: 25 Webster May 18; and 150 Perinton May 18 (G1, mob); Snow Goose: one H May 1-11 (mob), late; Pintail: max 1200 K Mar. 23 (F & RDo); Ring-necked Duck: max 175 WL Mar. 30; and Com. Merganser: one pair LP May 18 (WS).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Rather than publish partial totals, the tally for the Braddock Bay hawk watch will wait for completion of the observations on June 30 and will appear with the summer report. Again L. & N. Moon, a few faithful helpers, and many occasional passers-by have provided daily coverage from late Feb. In spite of the lack of really big days, the total raptor count has reached a new high. Major changes from last year are large increases in Sharp-shinned Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk and a decrease in Red-shouldered. Most of the other species fall within normal data scatter (in fact, the apparently significant changes may also eventually be found to lie within reasonable annual or longer term cyclical bounds). Other than the Hawk Lookout birds, interesting raptor reports include: **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** one ad. K Apr. 25 (WL); **FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** one ad. light phase Parma May 3 (MD, KG, RS), a first state record; Golden Eagle: four records; Bald Eagle: nine birds, including the Hemlock Lake pair; Osprey: 14 HP Apr. 27 (F & RDo), in only one-and-a-half hours; Peregrine Falcon: four reports; and Merlin: eight birds. Ring-necked Pheasant continues low while Turkey was found near Sodus Bay and in the towns of Wheatland, Scottsville, and Murray in addition to previous reporting localities. Once again **SANDHILL CRANE** passed thru: one BB May 26 (SH, MD, RDo, mob), probably to be expected annually. Rails were very poorly reported, but indicative of their abundance is Virginia Rail: eight IC Apr. 12, at a single point. The wintering Virginia Rails and Sora were reported from Mendon Ponds Park thru mid-March. While shorebird habitat is poor, the list of noteworthy records is long, primarily reflecting the large flight of May 18. Of particular note are: Am. Golden Plover: six BB May 18; Black-bellied Plover: one HP Apr. 23, early; and max 15 HP & BB May 18 (G1); **WHIMBREL:** total 100 lakeshore May 18 (several groups); **WILLET:** one BB May 18 (G3); one HP May 18 (G3, mob); and one Summerville May 18 (G1); Lesser Yellowlegs: max 80 H May 3 (F & RDo, mob); White-rumped Sandpiper: max seven H May 18; Least Sandpiper: one Perinton Apr. 23, early; and max 100+ WL May 18 (GL); Dunlin: 10 H Apr. 8 (MD), early; Short-billed Dowitcher: 1000+ WL May 18 (G4); and 600+ WL May 18 (G1), very high spring counts inland; **STILT SANDPIPER:** one H May 18 (G1, mob); one K May 18 (mob); and two HP May 18 (mob); Western Sandpiper: one Perinton May 12, 18 (RS, mob); and one Carlton May 18 (G2); **MARBLED GODWIT:** one H May 9 (RS, mob); Wilson's Phalarope: eight birds, including two pairs, in Perinton and Hamlin, the latter present more than a week, May 22-31; and **PHALAROPE**

(sp.), probably No.: one Sweden Apr. 6 (JKo, BM), description strongly suggesting No. though Red not entirely eliminated; in any case, an unprecedented inland phalarope date. Gulls and terns were uninspiring, at best. There were only five Glaucous Gull reports, with one ad. BB May 13 (MD), late. The single Iceland Gull appeared at BB Apr. 29. The only Little Gull was: one ad. BB May 25. Com. and Caspian Terns were quite scarce this spring. Interestingly, Forster's Tern appeared first with two to three BB Apr. 11-12 a first date and sporadic sightings from then thru. Black Tern: three HP May 2, was a bit early; their numbers seem good in marsh breeding areas.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: The least exciting group this season. Owls of note were: **BARN OWL:** one BB Apr. 8 (MD, KG-photo), always a good find; **Snowy Owl:** one Henrietta thru Mar. 22; **Long-eared Owl:** one K May 17-18 (RCI, mob), usually little reported after April; and **Short-eared Owl:** max 15 H thru Mar. 15. The rest of the group expected in western New York were all reported, but in usual numbers at normal dates. Many birders and casual observers did note an apparent boom in Mourning Doves, particularly in residential areas. Com. Nighthawk remains at the dismally low levels of the past several years.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: While generally a bit late arriving, flycatchers were in good numbers. Records of note include: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** six banded Manitou May 31 (RM); **Acadian Flycatcher:** two Bergen Swamp May 24 thru (MD, RS, mob), at the breeding area of the past several years; and two calling IC May 31 (RS, DT), regular at that location at that date; and **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** numerous reports May 11 thru. Among the swallows, **Cliff Swallow:** one Greece Mar. 22 (RDo), was a state record early date, appearing sitting on a tree limb in a feeder area during a snow storm; and 15 nests BB by late May, is an encouraging increase; and **Purple Martin:** one BB Mar. 20 (L & NM), was very early. The Blue Jay and crow flights along the lakeshore were noted, but not enumerated. For the third time in the past four springs a single **COMMON RAVEN:** Greece Mar. 15 (RCI), was observed passing. **Winter Wrens** were few. **Carolina Wren** popped up at a few different locations during migration. **Short-billed Marsh Wren:** one IC May 5 (KG-photo), was very early; and two **Scottsville** May 24, was their first appearance at a regular breeding area. One **Gray Catbird:** IC Apr. 9, might be considered an early migrant. **Thrushes** were generally normal, with only **Swainson's Thrush:** one Durand-Eastman Apr. 27, a bit early. Both kinglets appeared in good numbers over an extended period, rebounding well from lows of the past several years. **Water Pipit:** 150 H May 13, was a good count. **Loggerhead Shrike** remains low with only a few migrants noted at typical lakeshore locations.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Arrival dates were average to late in this group. There were no March records at all, no April vireos, and few April warblers. Many of the species enjoyed excellent peak days, but these were few. Once again, the overall picture was one of limited numbers. Among the interesting vireo records were: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Murray May 18 (KD, mob); **HUTTON'S VIREO:** one Brighton May 6 (JeD), a new state record, observed at close range and studied carefully by a former California birder well acquainted with the field marks and separation from kinglets; **Philadelphia Vireo:** one Irondequoit Bay May 7 (RS), very early, chased off by a gnatcatcher; and three in one tree Manitou May 29. The warblers accounted for many interesting, bright spots in this dull spring: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one IC May 11 (WLi); and one **Scottsville** May 18 (JT); **Orange-crowned Warbler:** five records WL May 10-18, certainly a regular, though rare visitor here; **Cape May Warbler:** one IC Apr. 20 (WLi, MAS), a very early date; **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** one sub-ad. male BB Apr. 20 (PR, RS, NM, mob), a new regional record, identifiable photos by KG and JSk; and one ad. male IC May 19 (R & JK), well-described; the usual few **Pine Warblers** recorded along the lakeshore Apr. 20-early May and at LP breeding areas May 17 thru; **Prairie Warbler:** 1-3 **Canadice** May 17 thru at the breeding colony location, and one IC May 18 (JT); **Palm Warbler:** 15 IC May 5, a good count, typical of local pockets of abundance this year; **Louisiana Waterthrush:** one IC May 14 (NH, PR, mob), a rare lakeplain appearance; **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one Manitou May 29 (RS), a sharp contrast to last

year's plenty; **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one IC May 23 (RS, mob), singing, taped by FDo, responded well to its own voice; and one BB May 25 (MD, mob), again singing; Mourning Warbler was numerous the last week of May; and Wilson's Warbler: one IC May 6, was very early.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: one K Apr. 28, was a bit early; they were very common this spring. There were three **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**: one K Apr. 4 (CP); one K May 9 (NH); and one Pultneyville May 14 thru (FDa, mob), seen courting and attempting copulation with an E. Meadowlark May 15 (R & SS). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD**: one male Honeoye Apr. 21 (CK), was this season's only report. Orchard Oriole appeared at several locations: 2-4 Pt. Breeze May 10 thru, at the usual breeding area; one H May 11 (M & RM); one IC May 17 (CP, CC); and one BB May 24 (WLi). Another western vagrant was **WESTERN TANAGER**: one male Irondequoit May 6 (VM, D, *fide* R & SS—identifiable photo), apparently only the second regional record; another male was rumored from Pittsford a few days later, but not verified. From the south appeared **SUMMER TANAGER**: one male LP May 18 (PC, DB), well-described. House Finch continues to boom with reports received of numbers of birds in new and old locations scattered all over the Region. The "winter" finches remained very scarce. Interesting was Red Crossbill: 10 Irondequoit May 18-20 (MTu). There were few noteworthy sparrow reports, though all of the expected species were recorded. The most interesting representatives were: Henslow's Sparrow: 25 HP May 4, a good count for one large field; Fox Sparrow: one Manitou May 18 (SO), a very late date; and Lincoln's Sparrow: one IC May 4 (CP, mob), very early.

As a caution to those who might attempt a seasonal species tally, for whatever reason, from the necessarily sketchy data here and in the other regional reports, the regional seasonal total was 259, bearing no resemblance to the total of the above records.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

March, perhaps, came the closest to being a normal month in an otherwise very mild and snowless winter. Spring was rather backward during April with consistent, cold northwest winds. May brought more normal temperatures but was decidedly dry.

Seasonal positives: 1) Highest number of Snow Geese (both morphs) ever at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. *The Kingbird* report of 1960 shows 56 at the Refuge. This number increased to 1,000 in 1970 and 15,000 in 1980. A remarkable species success story or just a change of flyway? 2) a pair of Ospreys incubating at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Bull's *Birds of New York State* shows no previous nesting records for central New York. 3) More Black-billed Cuckoo reports. 4) An abundance of Barn Swallows and American Robins. 5) Encouraging reports of more Eastern Bluebirds nesting in Tompkins County. 6) A spreading tide of House Finches.

Seasonal negatives: A delayed migration with much of the passerine movement being late, especially the flycatchers, swallows, vireos and warblers. Many species