

numbers, with Ruby-crowned by far the more abundant. Cedar Waxwing staged a massive invasion, particularly in the latter half of May with a peak count of 5000+ in three hrs. at the west spit of BB May 30 (AK, ST). No. Shrike lingered through Mar. at BB. Loggerhead Shrike was sparsely reported with six individuals recorded from late Mar. thru May. (It is encouraging that four potential breeding pairs were located by early June with at least one nesting confirmed [WLI].)

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The vireos were characterized by late arrivals. *None* were recorded in April. By late May, numbers seemed more normal on warm mornings. Noteworthy records included: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Powder Mill Park May 17 (JM); and Philadelphia Vireo: one BANC Preserve May 2, very early. All regularly occurring eastern warblers were reported. Some of the most notable were: Prothonotary: one Murray May 17 (JK); **WORM-EATING:** one IC May 8-9 (RD, CC, WD, mob); Orange-crowned: seven records May 5-17; No. Parula: one BB Apr. 18 (GOS), very early; Blackpoll: one D May 1 (CC, AC), very early; Prairie: one Manitou May 5; Louisiana Waterthrush: 12 Letchworth Park May 17 (DB, PC), a good count; **KENTUCKY:** one BB May 25 (K & JD); and **CONNECTICUT:** singles Murray May 17 (RD, RO, mob); Manitou May 23 (ST); Pittsford May 24 (RS, mob); and BB May 25 (ST, RD, NH, RL), all singing males. Other interesting warbler notes included nine species recorded in Apr. and 21 species found in Letchworth Park May 31, all possibly breeding.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The Icterids provided a number of good records, among them: Bobolink locally abundant; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze Apr. 4 thru, apparently mated, a third year return; **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one Parma Apr. 16-28 (MD, mob); Orchard Oriole: three to eight Pt. Breeze May 9 thru; one H May 17; and one Murray May 27 (MT, SKa); and **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** two to 23 (Max 17 males, six females) Hamlin Apr. 2-30 (MD, mob), a first Regional record, much display and high hopes, but no later breeding evidence. Another rare visitor was a molting **SUMMER TANAGER:** one male BB May 5 (PR, HS, MD, KG). Among the general finch grouping, we saw evidence of the return of the winter's invasion which fizzled. There were very large lakeshore flights of Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. Other interesting reports included: **DICKCISSEL:** singing male Charlotte May 28 (RS); the continued spread of breeding House Finches; and **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Manitou Mar. 1 (KG); and one Webster Mar. 20 (KD). As a climax, the sparrows provided a poor finish. There were no really exciting reports. There were impressions that Grasshopper Sparrow was very low, Fox Sparrow scarce, and Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows holding their own relative to the past few years; otherwise just numbers and dates well within normal expectations. A last hurrah for winter's visitors was Snow Buntings: 300 Kendall Mar. 1.

Once again, "tragically," we have a host of Regional records, well-described, sometimes seen by many, for which the observers are too "busy," too lazy, or too insecure to submit records. Such "records" may be likened to the "sound" made by the falling forest giant with no ears present.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The spring was generally mild and dry. Cold spells came in early and mid-March, a protracted one in mid-April and one in mid-May, when the temperature dipped into the twenties.

Observers generally referred to the migration as somewhat disappointing and devoid of any "waves," although some small waves of warblers were noted at Elmira. May 5-10, the height of the passerine movement, was warm with constant strong south winds. Without any cold fronts to deter them the birds apparently blew right on through without stopping. The earlier warm spells brought on advanced leaf growth making visibility poor for those birds which did stop. An odd twist was that, despite the general mildness of the spring, many species were considered to be one to three weeks late.

But birding in the spring of 1981 had its bright moments. On March 11, eight hawks hunting over a single field south of Newfield included six Rough-legs, four dark and two light phase birds, and two Red-tails, one normal and one completely black melanistic bird. This was the fourth sighting of a melanistic Red-tail in that area since last May. Ithaca had its biggest hawk flight in many years over the airport on April 26 with ninety-seven birds of ten species flying over including such goodies as a Merlin and a Golden Eagle. Fifteen species of shorebirds were located mostly in areas away from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge where the water was high and shorebirds few. Even without any "warbler waves," all of the warblers listed in Bull's *Birds of New York State*, except for the Black-throated Gray Warbler and two hypotheticals, were found for a total of thirty-seven species and two hybrids. The rarities listed below attest to the excitement some birders found in the spring migration.

In addition to the above there were the following seasonal positives: 1) the excellent swan flight, which began during the warm days of February and continued through March; 2) Rough-legged Hawks and Pine Siskins lingered into May with the siskins attempting nesting; 3) Bald Eagles returning to their hacking site at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; 4) the Osprey nest at Montezuma is again occupied; 5) a slight increase in the reports of such beleaguered species as Marsh Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant and Vesper Sparrow; 6) Turkeys spreading; 7) Black Terns more numerous; 8) continued reports of Common Ravens in the southern hills; 9) the Fish Crow colony at Ithaca increasing; 10) encouraging Eastern Bluebird reports; 11) three species of western sparrows found in the Region.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few rail reports; 2) low numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls; 3) scarcity of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; 4) low numbers of thrushes; 5) Eastern Phoebe at a continued low ebb; 6) kinglets, especially the Golden-crowned, scarce; 7) almost no shrikes.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Audubon's race of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: EBD—Elmira Big Day May 16; Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; * (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: an overwintering bird stayed at Watkins Glen until Mar.

28; 30 flew over Ithaca Apr. 26. Red-necked Grebe: five at Elmira Apr. 20 and one at Ithaca Apr. 26 and May 16. Horned Grebe: scarce. Double-crested Cormorant: one MNWR Apr. 5 and up to eight imm the last half of May; nine flying over SWS Apr. 27; two at Branchport and one at Penn Yan Apr. 30; five at Geneva May 15. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: adult Beebe L, Ithaca May 9 (A. Horn)*. Cattle Egret: no reports. Great Egret: one MNWR Apr. 16-May 1; 2 GBD. Black-crowned Night Heron: other than the usual colony at MNWR, three early arrivals were seen at Brooktondale on Mar. 30 and four at Van Cleef L, Sen. Falls May 31. Least Bittern: at Elmira the first in several years was seen on May 16; also one at MNWR on the same date. No other reports. Whistling Swan: the big February influx carried over into March, i.e. 30 at Penn Yan, nine Dryden L late Mar., 12 Elmira Mar. 27, 5 Horseheads Mar. 28 and 51 MNWR Apr. 1. Canada Goose: good flights reported all over the Region. Brant: seven Sen L at the mouth of Reeder's Creek May 29-June 1. Snow Goose: one at Phelps Mar. 24-Apr. 28 was the only report outside MNWR (see below).

Waterfowl numbers as reported by the Montezuma Refuge personnel:

Geese			Snow (inc.		
Canada	85,000	Mar. 31	Blue morph)	12,000	Apr. 4
Ducks					
Mallard	1,700	May 31	Redhead	250	Mar. 23
Black Duck	300	May 31	Ring-necked Duck	75	Mar. 23
Gadwall	500	May 31	Canvasback	300	Mar. 23
Pintail	600	Apr. 15-May 31	Greater Scaup	150	Mar. 18
Green-winged Teal	550	Apr. 15-May 31	Common Goldeneye	15	Mar. 23
Blue-winged Teal	600	Apr. 30-May 31	Bufflehead	40	Apr. 30
Am. Wigeon	125	Mar. 31-Apr. 30	Ruddy Duck	15	May 31
Northern Shoveler	350	Apr. 30	Hooded Merganser	60	Apr. 15
Wood Duck	700	May 31	Common Merganser	200	Apr. 15

The above species were all reported from other parts of the Region in small numbers. Canvasback: 700 Cay L Mar. 21. Lesser Scaup: three Sen L Mar. 26; 12 Elmira Mar. 15. Com. Goldeneye: 100 Cay L Mar. 21. Bufflehead: 70 Cay L Mar. 21. Oldsquaw: six each at Elmira and Dryden L; present at Sheldrake, Cay L, Mar. 8-Apr. 28. Scoters: more than usual numbers of reports of White-winged but no Surf or Black Scoters. Red-breasted Merganser: 30 at Branchport on Keuka L until late May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widely reported with a group of 22 migrating north along the Clyde R Apr. 2. Goshawk: two apparently active nests in Tompkins Co. and one near E. Corning. Red-tailed Hawk: several nests in the Ithaca area and one with two young at SAD; 26 GBD. Red-shouldered Hawk: four territories, one new, in Tompkins Co. (JC). Broad-winged Hawk: many reports of migrants including 78 at Ithaca Apr. 26; seen near E. Corning where they nested last year. Rough-legged Hawk: the massive invasion of last winter hung on to produce some very late dates such as the very light bird at Arnot Forest May 7 and a sighting at Elmira May 16. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: imm at Ithaca Apr. 26. Bald Eagle: an adult at Ithaca May 7 and scattered reports from MNWR, Marsh Hawk: a few scattered reports from Elmira, Horseheads, Ithaca, SAD, MNWR and Geneva. Osprey: nesting at MNWR for the second year with an increasing number of sightings over the Region. **PEREGRINE**: a bird at MNWR Apr. 19 the only report. **MERLIN**: one at Ithaca Apr. 26; female at Michigan Hollow May 13; one found dead at Trumansburg late May. Ruffed Grouse: nest with eggs found in Arnot Forest in early May and recently hatched young were seen in Michigan Hollow. Ring-necked Pheasant: a few scattered reports of this beleaguered species. Turkey: an increasing number of reports including a hen sitting on eleven eggs near Ithaca and a large flock in the Buttermilk Falls area. Com. Gallinule: reports vary from "none" at Penn Yan to "lots" at Elmira. Am. Coot: max 300 MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: two SAD May 16 only report (JMc). Black-bellied Plover: one bird in spring plumage MNWR May 14. Upland Sandpiper: more than normal number of sightings reported from all parts of the Region. Solitary Sandpiper: numbers up following an early arrival at Ithaca Apr. 9. Red

Knot: one at fish ponds west of Canoga (JC). Wilson's Phalarope: one Penn Yan. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: a third year bird Ithaca Apr. 24 (Sibley). Bonaparte's Gull: very few except for 75 on the GBD. Black Tern: the best year for this species at MNWR since before the flood of 1972.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: single reports from Penn Yan, SAD and Southport, all late May. Black-billed Cuckoo: none at Penn Yan but many at Ithaca plus two at Southport May 16 and one at Clyde May 26. Great Horned Owl: a nest with young at Phelps Mar. 28; pair nesting at Montour Falls. Snowy Owl: a heavily marked bird was photographed by Art Foxall when it visited downtown Geneva Mar. 4. Barred Owl: five were found on the EBD with two possibly being young birds. Short-eared Owl: one near Phelps Mar. 28; up to ten wintered near Hall. When their hunting fields were plowed this spring, two birds acted as though they were defending a nest but no nest was located and the birds were gone by June 1. Saw-whet Owl: one calling Reading Center Apr. 1. Whip-poor-will: noted at Elmira May 4 and 16 and at Ithaca May 16. Com. Nighthawk: returned to Elmira May 9 and to Ithaca May 17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very few reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: an overwintering imm bird at Phelps developed a completely red head by Apr. 19; reports indicate increased sightings in the Region.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: a very early bird at Caton Apr. 10. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles at SWS and Connecticut Hill (taped) both May 25. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one singing, tape-recorded, Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 29 (D. Sibley). Willow Flycatcher: many at Elmira and Ithaca but late. Alder Flycatcher: reported from the higher areas in Tompkins Co., i.e. eight from Connecticut Hill May 25 and several on the hillside above Cay L at Milliken Station. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one each on EBD and Hammond Hill and Connecticut Hill in Tompkins Co. May 25. Horned Lark: feeding young along E. Lake Rd., Geneva, May 19. Bank Swallow: at least one active colony at Ithaca; Junius Ponds colony greatly reduced. Rough-winged Swallow: a small colony along Fall Creek, Ithaca, and a single nest along Salmon Creek, Lansing. Cliff Swallow: not nesting at Corning Community College this year but a few nests at Freeville and a colony on a barn at Cayuta. Purple Martin: four houses at MNWR almost completely full. Com. Raven: up to two at Arnot Forest thru the period and up to two on Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 29-30. Fish Crow: three or four pairs at Ithaca. A nest on Cayuga Heights had three young Apr. 30 which were killed by a raccoon on May 15. Carolina Wren: survived the winter well at Ithaca; only one report at Elmira and Montour Falls. **VARIED THRUSH**: a bird in full breeding plumage was found at SWS Mar. 28 (Litwin, Lyons*) for the first Region 3 record. All thrushes were late in arriving and, with the possible exception of the Wood Thrush, all were quite scarce. E. Bluebird: Elmira reports "not too plentiful" but in most of the Region the species seems to be gaining a bit with nesting noted at Ithaca, SAD and Penn Yan. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two nests found at Penn Yan; plentiful on the EBD count. Golden-crowned Kinglet: most observers found them rather scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: low but better than the Golden-crowned. Loggerhead Shrike: one Elmira Mar. 23 was the only report.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: **WHITE-EYED**: one E. Lake Rd., Geneva, May 5 (HPK*). Yellow-throated: in numbers at Elmira and a few more than normal at Ithaca. Solitary: one Elmira Apr. 8 early. Philadelphia: one Elmira May 8; one SAD May 13; upper Buttermilk Creek, Ithaca, May 14 and Connecticut Hill May 23. Warblers: Black-and-white: an active nest at Ithaca. Prothonotary: singles at Cayuga Nature Center, Ithaca, May 14 and at Cayuta L outlet May 17 (Betty & Barie Strath). Worm-eating: more than the usual reports; Ithaca May 14; three Elmira May 16; one Southport May 17; one Dryden May 25. Orange-crowned: one Elmira May 5; one Geneva May 17 (P & M Trail). **YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER**: a singing male on Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 31 (D. Sibley). **YELLOW-THROATED**: one Elmira May 16. No. Waterthrush: widely reported with three pairs at SWS and four at N. Lansing. **KENTUCKY**: singing male taped on Connecticut Hill May 29 (D. Sibley). Connecticut: singing male taped on Connecticut Hill May 25 (D. Sibley). Mourning: more widespread reports than normal. Yellow-breasted Chat: four Elmira

May 16. Hooded: at least three singing males at Dryden (Kelsey) and one taped on Connecticut Hill May 23 (D. Sibley).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Evening Grosbeak: frequent widespread reports thru the entire period. Com. Redpoll: 30 SAD Mar. 9 (JMc). Pine Siskin: 30 were still at a feeder in Penn Yan May 31; many late reports from across the Region; two nesting attempts in Ithaca. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Ithaca Apr. 11 early; quite widely reported. Henslow's Sparrow: only reports were from Ithaca from Apr. 3 on. Vesper Sparrow: the number of reports of this greatly diminished species picked up a bit this spring. **LARK SPARROW:** one SAD May 28 well described (JMc*). Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: one Ithaca Apr. 9. Tree Sparrow: one Ithaca May 16 late. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Clifton Springs observed "courting" a Chipping Sparrow during the last week of May (P. Trail). **HARRIS' SPARROW:** one Ithaca May 11 (W. Dilger). White-crowned Sparrow: there were many in the Phelps area but most observers called them few and late. Fox Sparrow: scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: singles at Ithaca May 5 and MNWR May 19 were the only reports.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

March averaged on the warm side of normal although for a period in the middle of the month there were days when temperatures were below freezing at mid-day and some snow fell. In early April, temperatures were often in or near the seventies with the expected showers. The last three weeks of April were cooler, drier and often windy. Most of the April showers waited until the early part of May when cool wet weather was usual, although not constant. The last ten days of May were much warmer and drier.

Except for geese, our usual light waterfowl migration was even lighter than usual. The most shocking decline among these species, at least to this observer, has been that of Ring-necked Ducks. It has happened over several years, rather than being a sudden one or two year drop. In years past, a single flock on a flooding small stream would contain two, three or even more times as many birds as our total of eleven from all reports this year.

The small land bird migration seemed to be a little ahead of schedule in early April, but in late April and during the cool wet spell in the first half of May, it slowed to the point where some of the later species were behind schedule. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and both kinglets were below par. Kingbirds, Warbling Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers and meadowlarks appeared to be up.

The grassland sparrows continue to be a disaster—no Henslow's Sparrows at all—although Vesper Sparrows may have increased slightly. Until late May it appeared that even Savannah Sparrows were affected, but then more were found.

Observers: Roger Allen (RA); Bill Badgley (BBa); Bill Breidinger (BBr); Nancy Brundage; Sally Carey; Jane Chittenden; Mildred Clark (MC); Eileen & Bill Clayton; John Collins (JC); Carlton & Jeannette Davis; Ann & Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber (SD); Polly & Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall (CG); Bob Grant (BG); Shirley Hartman (SH); Jim & Kathy Hoteling; Margaret Layton; Leona McDowell; Janice Mangan; John