

One No. Shrike lingered to 9 Apr at Parma. Loggerhead Shrike was noted at places and in numbers typical of recent years during migration, but was later present and presumed breeding only in the Carlton area.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: All expected vireos were reported: Red-eyed and Warbling numerous, Yellow-throated, Solitary, and Philadelphia fewer than usual. **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one LP 23 May (DB), was typical for the season. Thirty-four species of warblers were reported, none rare on an absolute scale. Interesting records included: Black-and-white: one 17 Apr, early; **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one Scottsville 23 May, a rare breeder in this region; Golden-winged: numbers down in contrast with the boom in Blue-winged and "Brewster's"; Orange-crowned: one Murray 22 May; and two BB 23 May, down from the numbers reported the past several years; No. Parula: few; Yellow: abundant; Yellow-rumped: max counted 400+ IC 6 May; Pine: many lakeshore records in late April and possible breeders in late May; **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** one LP 21-31 May, a possible breeding site; Louisiana Waterthrush: one IC 14-15 Apr, a rare lakeshore appearance; **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one PB 31 May (MD, WLi); Mourning Warbler: 16 LP 23 May, a good count; Yellow-breasted Chat: one Mendon Ponds 17 May thru; and one LP 23 May, never common; Hooded Warbler: one IC 26-29 Apr, usually scarce along the lakeshore; and 23 LP 23 May (DB). Most of the other warbler species received only passing comment on their abundance, e.g. singing Ovenbirds were few; Canada and Wilson's Warblers and Am. Redstart seemed particularly abundant.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink and E. Meadowlark were in good numbers in suitable habitat and in flight along the lakeshore. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** was reported only as the singing male at PB 16 Apr thru, its fourth spring return. The Orchard Oriole colony in the PB vicinity thrives. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** returned earlier—one H 21 Mar (MD); peaked higher—24 H 21 Apr (MD); and stayed later—two H 7 May (MD), than last year's first visitors. Can breeding be far behind? There was a large return flight of winter finches. Noteworthy finch records include: Evening Grosbeak: large flocks first appearing in early May; Purple Finch: relatively scarce; House Finch: breeding all through the region; **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Parma 23 Mar (PR); and one Greece 3 Apr (KG); Com. Redpoll: one Greece 6-8 May, the last; Pine Siskin: large flocks in April and early May; and both crossbills observed in small flocks sporadically thru the season. Among the grassland sparrows, Savannah is abundant; Henslow's and Grasshopper local; and Vesper poor on the lakeplain, fairly good in farmland to the south. A good find was a **SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** at Hogan Pt., Greece, 30 May (RO), certainly a regular migrant here, but very rarely seen. The last of the Tree Sparrows noted was one Parma 3 May. The remainder of the sparrow migration was normal for numbers and dates. Very late records were turned in for Lapland Longspur: one H 23 May; and Snow Bunting: six H 23 May, both without details. A large flock of Snow Buntings was 2500+ BB 13 Mar.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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Snow was gone by mid-March and late March brought some warm days, but winter 1982 hated to give up. It came roaring back with a foot of snow in Ithaca on 6 April. The northern part of the region got less, but it had snow for each of the first three weekends in April. Temperatures averaged three degrees F. below normal for the month. May was a little warmer than usual. In the north it was dry all month, but the south had some rain in the last half of the month.

The spring migration reports were mixed, as they often are. Many species were one to three weeks late. Almost daily northwest winds during April did not favor bird flight. Strong southerly winds 15-17 April brought in a good flight. There was a good movement of hawks between Danby and Arnot Forest and at Auburn.

Shorebirds were hard to find but nineteen species were sighted and a dozen, mostly the rarer ones, missed. Numbers were small, such as one Dunlin and one Short-billed Dowitcher. Against this was the region's first Curlew Sandpiper (awaiting NYSARC's decision).

Some birders mentioned the lack of thrushes, kinglets, vireos, and warblers. There were few "waves" and less than usual warbler song, but in the end small numbers of most species were found.

To offset the mostly disappointing passerine movement, the spring migration of winter finches was the best since 1978. They came in all through the period, but especially in late April and early May. Some lingered well toward the close of the period. All species including both crossbills were represented, many in good numbers.

Eastern Bluebirds are holding the gains of the past two years. The Owasco Valley Audubon Society has established a fifty-box bluebird trail in Cayuga County from Scipio to Locke.

Marsh Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasants and Vesper Sparrows, which have been nearly extirpated from the region, are showing slight signs of comeback.

Canada Geese at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge show an interesting and unexplainable change of habit. Last year, and even more so this year, they are leaving the Refuge early in the morning to forage in the surrounding country, and do not return to spend the night until dusk. Previously they made two such trips each day—morning and evening—and spent the day resting on the Refuge. The Snow Geese still follow the old pattern and can be found on the Refuge from mid-morning to late afternoon.

The bird clubs of the region held their usual "Big Day" in May as follows: Elmira Big Day held 15 May had 21 observers and found 144 species and two hybrids; Ithaca Big Day held 15 May found 130 species; and Geneva Big Day held 16 May had 13 observers and found 150 species. The total number of species reported from the region for the period was 214.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose, European Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull, Laughing Gull, Arctic Tern, Common Raven, Fish Crow, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival date; EBD—Elmira Big Day; Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; GBD—Geneva Big Day; L—Lake; Max—Maximum; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers; Ow—Owasco; seminars—Laboratory of Ornithology Monday night seminars at Ithaca; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; * (starred)—details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 18 Cay L 16 May. Red-throated Loon: one at Shel-

drake, Cay L 6 and 13 Mar; one Keuka L south of Branchport in May. Red-necked Grebe: one in Mar at Penn Yan; three MNWR 11 Apr and four on the GBD. Horned Grebe: reported at all Mar seminars; one Elmira 15 May. Double-crested Cormorant: this species is becoming a regular summer resident at MNWR. Arrived 11 May, max 49 on 16 May. Great Blue Heron: small colony near Dundee; two nests at MNWR for the first breeding there in 40 years. Cattle Egret: one south of Penn Yan the only report. Great Egret: arr MNWR 9 May. SNOWY EGRET: one Elmira 6-10 May (WH); one MNWR 14-16 May (Menuhin, WB). Black-crowned Night Heron: one Branchport; at MNWR arr 29 Apr but are scarce. At MNWR they rest in cattails which are being lost. Least Bittern: one MNWR 11 May; one GBD; one Elmira 22 May. Am. Bittern: arr MNWR 15 Apr; two GBD; one Ow L 17 May; one Elmira 25 May. Whistling Swan: 31 on west side of Cay L 14 Mar; three MNWR 20 Mar; one on 5 Apr and five on 21 Apr at Phelps. Canada Goose: arr Elmira 10-13 Mar and at MNWR 13 Mar where the max was 60,000 on 14 Apr; two at Phelps 20 Apr with large white wingtips and partially white bodies. Brant: 12 MNWR and 52 Sen L on 16 May; also a flock at Slaterville the same day. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: eight at Aurelius in northern Cay Co 2 Apr (V. Dewey). Snow Goose: arr MNWR 13 Mar; max there 6500 14 Apr.

Max waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Mallard	2,000	31 May	Redhead	65	22 Mar
Black Duck	300	30 Apr-14 May	Ring-necked Duck	75	22 Mar-15 Apr
Gadwall	1,000	30 Apr	Canvasback	65	15 Apr
Pintail	250	30 Apr	Greater Scaup	200	15 Apr
Green-winged Teal	500	15 Apr	Com. Goldeneye	40	22 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	700	30 Apr-31 May	Bufflehead	80	15 Apr
Am. Wigeon	300	31 May	Ruddy Duck	12	31 May
No. Shoveler	500	30 Apr	Hooded Merganser	85	22 Mar
Wood Duck	750	14 Apr	Com. Merganser	250	15 Apr

Gadwall: three Phelps 5 May; 25 GBD; normally not many found outside MNWR. EUROPEAN WIGEON: male MNWR 26 May (D & I Gaskin) seen by mob thru to the end of the period. BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: male Elmira 21 Mar (MW, mob)*; female Ow L 5 Apr no details (SK). Oldsquaw: Cay L 14 Mar; nine MNWR 17 Apr; 10 Sen L 16 May. White-winged Scoter: Cay L 6 and 14 Mar; one Hammondsport and two Branchport, Keuka L 25 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: this now common scavenger was first reported north of MNWR 21 Mar; on 20 Apr two were observed near Phelps flying among 60 crows thru a woods apparently going to a roost. Goshawk: four reports from Tomp and Cay Cos. Red-tailed Hawk: nest with two young east of Phelps 16 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Sempronius 14 Mar (T. Riley *vide* SK); one S. Danby 14 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: two dark and one light phase birds at Venice 3 Apr; one light phase King Ferry 12 Apr. GOLDEN EAGLE: one seen on a Cornell field ornithology class trip 17 Apr, no details. Bald Eagle: occasional sighting thru the period at MNWR—some of them of marked birds previously hacked there; one west shore Cay L 20 Mar; Ithaca 18 and 19 May; an adult at Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co. 13 and 16 May. Marsh Hawk: the number of reports received on this species seem to offer some hope for a slow recovery from its very low status. Osprey: the stub on which this bird has nested for the past two years at MNWR toppled over in high winds last fall. However, the pair returned this spring and are now nesting on another stub which may not be any more secure than the first, as they are stubs from trees killed forty years ago when the swamp was permanently flooded to form the Tschache Pool. Other sightings were at Elmira 11 May, Phelps 20 and 29 Apr and 6 May. Peregrine Falcon: no reports. MERLIN: one Tomp Co. (K. Confer). Ruffed Grouse: numbers holding at high levels. One heard drumming at Venice 3 May. Bobwhite: seldom found in the region—one was calling south of Breeseport 25 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: reports have increased slightly over the past year; 13 seen during the period in the Auburn area; ten on the GBD. Turkey: continues to increase and spread to the north into Yates, Ontario and Cayuga Co.

Virginia Rail: reported from MNWR 17 Apr, Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co. 12 and 16 May and Branchport 16 May. Sora: MNWR 17 Apr; Elmira 15 May; four Branchport 16 May; one Penn Yan 30 May. Com. Gallinule: very few reports. Am. Coot: 300 max MNWR Apr-May, otherwise few. Semipalmated Plover: three GBD; Elmira 23 May. Killdeer: not as plentiful as usual. Am. Golden Plover: one Cay Marsh 31 May (SK). Black-bellied Plover: no reports. Ruddy Turnstone: one Cay Marsh 31 May (SK)—unusual in the spring. Upland Sandpiper: reports from Elmira, Yates and Seneca Cos. White-rumped Sandpiper: four Elmira 15 May; three Sen Falls 16 May. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**: one south of Sen Falls 16 May (Confer, Gray, Rybczynski)* report to NYSARC and seen again at the same place 18 May (WB)* with a report to NYSARC. If accepted, this will be a first record for Region 3. The bird was nearly in breeding plumage. Dunlin: one bird only Sen Falls 18 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Sen Falls 18 May. No. Phalarope: three Potter 27 May. **GLAUCOUS GULL**: a second year bird at the south end of Cay L 6 Mar (Melin, Gooding) and another 28 Mar. **LAUGHING GULL**: one in full adult plumage on the river Elmira 24 May (D. Clements, mob). **ARCTIC TERN**: one MNWR 7 May (WB)* report to NYSARC. Caspian Tern: six Elmira 11 Apr (WH). Black Tern: arr late and comparatively scarce.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: the first egg hatched in a nest at Etna 7 Apr one day short of the earliest record. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Owasco and Geneva. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Penn Yan and Geneva. Screech and Great Horned Owls: numerous widespread reports. Barred Owl: heard during the day Phelps 5 and 26 Apr; at two new locations Tomp Co; one Venice 1 May. Snowy Owl: one Fleming 7-9 Apr. Short-eared Owl: Sen Co 7 Mar; Tomp Co 13 Mar; Penn Yan thru Mar; six Dresden Apr. Whip-poor-will: one Elmira 26 Apr; one Penn Yan early May; Tomp Co one 14 May and one 16 May. Com. Nighthawk: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Auburn and Phelps. Belted Kingfisher: found nesting in a sandpit east of Phelps. Red-headed Woodpecker: from the number and distribution of the reports received, it appears that this bird may be increasing. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: none at Penn Yan but 12 at Venice 15 Apr and ten at Auburn 17 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Great Crested Flycatcher: nesting in a bird box Venice. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Elmira 25 Apr. Olive-sided Flycatcher: Tomp Co 12 May; Elmira 15 May. Tree Swallow: a few early migrants along Cay L 20 Mar and at MNWR 24 Mar but did not arrive in numbers until mid-Apr. Cliff Swallow: two pairs nesting at Corning Community College; one pair nesting Penn Yan; arr 22 May (late) at their Freeville nesting site. **COMMON RAVEN**: one Elmira 16 Apr (Ostrander *vide* MW); **FISH CROW**: the small colony persists at Ithaca. Red-breasted Nuthatch: a good influx during May. Winter Wren: well-reported regionwide. Long-billed Marsh Wren: decreasing as the cattail marshes decrease. Short-billed Marsh Wren: no reports. Hermit Thrush: JC reports more males on territory in Tomp Co. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ithaca 16 May; one Phelps 27 May. Veery: good flight Auburn 8-17 May. E. Bluebird: appears to be holding the increase of the past two years. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: seen building a nest east of Phelps 21 May. Kinglets: both species in low numbers. Water Pipit: max 110 Tomp Co 23 Apr. No. Shrike: one Danby 2 Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: one Freeville 7-8 Apr, no others.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Elmira 2 May and one Ithaca 10 May. All other vireos well reported. Warblers: a total of 32 species and two hybrids were found. Numbers were low. Species missed were Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated and Kentucky. The Golden-winged is being supplanted by the Blue-winged, continuing the trend of the past several years. "Brewster's": Elmira 15 May, four in one spot all singing the Golden-winged song. "Lawrence's": three Tomp Co. Cerulean: one on 14 May and two on 21 May east of Phelps; one reported at 17 May seminar. Prairie: males on territory Tomp Co.; reported at Elmira and Penn Yan. **CONNECTICUT**: one Branchport 30 May (J. Kesselring). Hooded: males on territory in Tomp Co.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: adult male at Ithaca feeder 6-7 May (J. Plunkett, mob). Orchard Oriole: one Myers Point, Cay L 16 May (Gard-

ner); two Sheldrake 30 May (M. Boynton). Evening Grosbeak: a big regionwide influx March-May; max 300 Danby 6 May. Purple Finch: good movement April-May. House Finch: the swelling tide of these birds rolls on and on. Pine Grosbeak: one on the EBD for the second time in 32 years; at the seminars it was last reported 5 Apr. Com. Redpoll: departed mostly in Mar. or Apr but stayed until mid-May at Sen Falls. Pine Siskin: a widespread influx lasted until late May. Unlike last year, trapped females showed no brood patches. Red Crossbill: two Elmira 11 Mar; Ithaca 12 Apr; Phelps 11 May; 15 GBD. White-winged Crossbill: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Penn Yan, Sen Falls, and Phelps, which had the latest bird on 16 May. Savannah Sparrow: a bird believed to be the dark northern form was south of Sen Falls 18 May (WB). It was the typical Savannah size, shape and markings but was much darker. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Ithaca 12 May; one Clifton Springs 16 May; EBD; very scarce at Penn Yan. Henslow's Sparrow: Ithaca 12 May; Pine City 31 May; Penn Yan very scarce. Vesper Sparrow: a few more reports than in recent years. Tree Sparrow: last bird sighted was at a feeder north of MNWR 30 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Horseheads 12 and 15 May; one Myers Point 15 May. Snow Bunting: large flock Phelps 2 Mar; "a few thousand" at King Ferry 6 Mar; 75 Sen Co 7 Mar; last birds Union Springs 12 Apr.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET T. MARSI

Region Four experienced a March of cold nights, cool days and a few severe weather changes. On the night of 10 March, after a week of tenacious winter, an abrupt south wind ushered in warm sunshine and premature dreams of spring. In the town of Union, a flock of 250 Snow Buntings and 200 Horned Larks, monitored all winter and seen on the tenth, departed for the north, leaving only four Horned Larks to be counted on 11 March (FL). On the 12th and 13th, throughout the area a steady stream of large flocks of geese was sufficiently spectacular to catch the attention of radio announcers and news reporters. A general thaw set in. Streams and rivers, overflowing their banks, created shallow sidewaters where dabbling ducks fed and divers rested. A return by the 15th to nighttime subfreezing temperatures and daytime thirties controlled the run-off, thus maintaining the expanded river condition for almost three weeks. River-watching became a popular lunchtime sport. Records of most ducks were good, but no Northern Shovelers were reported.

On the 25th, a Whip-poor-will, rare for this area, was heard in Vestal. "Just at dusk, the loud, tremulous 'whip-poor-will' call was iterated three or four times, followed by a pause of about five minutes. A second set of 'whip-poor-will' calls was followed by a similar pause. Finally a third set of calls and then no more. Apparently the bird, after resting here for the day, called prior to setting off on another leg of its nocturnal migration." (RM).

On the 27th, back to lower teen thermometer readings until the 31st, when a wild rainstorm with warm winds up to 45 mph moved us into April with 40° temperatures. A blustery west wind on 4 April once more reclaimed the land for winter. All still waters refroze and on 6 and 7 April the heaviest storm of the