

the exception of E. Bluebird; reports of this species along the lakeshore were down. The mimids were well reported including a good population of N. Mockingbirds. A late N. Shrike was one Kendall 6 Mar. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported during all three months, but numbers were low.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREOS made an infrequent appearance this spring, one Manitou 21 May (RM, RS), two W. Irondequoit Bay 27 May thru (R & SS). That pair has taken up territory, quite possibly nesting. Solitary Vireo: arrival one D 1 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arrival one CH 3 May, in good numbers this spring. Warbling Vireo: very common. Philadelphia Vireo: arrival one Thousand Acre Swamp 8 May. Red-eyed Vireo: good spring flight. The warbler migration was one of the best in years. The 7th and 8th of May provided very fine birding, some overshoots and some interesting records. "Brewster's" Warbler: one IC 14 May (KG, *et al.*). Tennessee Warbler: 67 L 22 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one IC 12 May, one IC 15 May, one D 17 May, one PB 22 May. N. Parula: arrival, one CH 2 May, very good numbers this spring. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 25 G 14 May, 25 CH 15 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 500 WL 7 May, 600 WL 8 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: 70 G 7 May. Pine Warbler: arrival, one IC 29 Apr, one CH 29 Apr. Prairie Warbler: one IC 6 May, one CH 9 May. Palm Warbler: 25 IC 8 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: 65 G 17 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one D 5 May, one IC 22, 29 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** super overshoot season, one PB 7 May (MD), one D 8 May (DS, DT), one Webster Park 11 May (J. Wing *fide* ST). Louisiana Waterthrush: arrival one Naples 26 Apr. Kentucky Warbler: one Norway Rd. 22 May (RC). Connecticut Warbler: one Manitou 21 May (RS). Mourning Warbler: arrival one IC 20 May. Hooded Warbler: many along lakeshore, max 20 L 22 May (DB).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Two reports of **SUMMER TANAGER** were a spring highlight. one IC 13 May (PR, WS *et al.*), one Honeoye 22 May (MW, JM). Dickcissel: one G 3, 4 May (RS, KG). Am. Tree Sparrow: late, one Highland Park 10 May. Savannah Sparrow: early, one PB 19 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: 70+ Wayne Co. 20 Apr. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** one C 14 May (RO, RD). Henslow's Sparrow numbers were down quite noticeably. Some traditional breeding spots were vacated. Western Meadowlark: the Pt. Breeze bird returned around the 16th of Mar and has been singing ever since, another bird was located in Carlton 22 May (MC, WS). Once again the **BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS** staged in the Hamlin area, arrival two H 16 Mar (WS), 6-22 were reported through Apr. Brown-headed Cowbird: one albino Webster 22 May. Orchard Oriole: the breeding population took up residence once again at Pt. Breeze. Pine Siskin: four BB 7 May (R & MM).

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The unusually mild weather of the winter continued into March until the vernal equinox—the advent of Spring—when it turned colder. With an occasional brief respite, it remained so thru the period. At Ithaca, with 6.86 inches of rain, April was the wettest ever recorded in the 104 years of weather records there. Also 14.5 inches of snow made it the top snow month of the 1982-83 winter and the third snowiest April ever. May continued mainly cold and wet with 26 degrees F recorded at Ithaca on 17 and 18 May.

The migration was referred to as "crazy," no doubt made so in part, at least, by the crazy weather patterns. The snow and cold of April held back those species which should have been arriving then. I have documentation that at Arling-

ton, VA, hordes of birds were stacked up during this period. One observer, who has lived in Arlington for over forty years, said she had never seen birds of so many species blanketing the yards, bushes and trees. When the weather broke in late April, a great wave of migrants rolled over the Region. The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell added fifty species to its 1983 yearly list between 28 April and 3 May.

This surge of birds brought a great influx of American Goldfinches. Hordes of them, up to 100 birds, mostly males, descended on feeders for about ten days. Coming to the feeders with them were occasional Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Aberrant coloration in birds is always of interest. An albino American Robin appeared at Watkins Glen. An American Crow showing white in the wings was at Brooktondale. Close study revealed that some of the flight feathers were white-shafted. A melanistic Downy Woodpecker, with all the normally white areas replaced by varying shades of gray, visited Louise Proskine's feeder at Trumansburg all during the period and was still there in early June.

The increasing numbers of Canada Geese at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes have long been one of the ornithological spectacles of the Region. The heaviest movement of the past season came on 4 and 5 March. Observers from all over the Region commented on the steady northward progression of flock after flock both day and night during those two days. At Queen Catherine Marsh near Watkins Glen, observers tallied 37,715 geese between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or 7,000 per hour. The Snow Geese at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, which used to number only a handful each season, have been increasing in recent years. This year, with first arrivals coming in early March, numbers increased to 10,000 by early April and dropped to 8,500 shortly afterwards. Suddenly on 18 April there was an amazing concentration of 30,000 birds present, more than twice any previous high. They continued thru 19 April then, just as suddenly, the numbers dropped back to 8,500 and dwindled down until all were gone in early May.

Seasonal pluses: (1) The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation is acquiring 900 acres of the Queen Catherine Marsh located between Watkins Glen and Montour Falls. Portions of this marsh, formerly closed to birders, will now be available. 2) Increasing use of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by Double-crested Cormorants, mostly immatures. Future nesting, perhaps? 3) Most raptors continue their slow comeback from threatened oblivion during the DDT period. The Osprey is making the most rapid progress and the Red-shouldered Hawk lagging in this respect. 4) A few more reports of Ring-necked Pheasants. 5) Wild Turkey continues to expand its range. 6) More owl reports. More owls or more owlers? 7) The nearly extirpated Vesper Sparrow shows slight improvement. The most optimistic report comes from John Confer who called this the best year he ever had with at least ten sightings of the species. 8) Increasing reports of Orchard Orioles, some nesting. 9) At long last a good word comes from the pestiferous House Sparrow. Quoting Mary Welles, "House Sparrows are very assiduously eating small gypsy moth larvae from our walnut tree outside the dining room window—more so than other species which are also eating the larvae."

Seasonal minuses: 1) Little shorebird habitat and few shorebird reports. 2) Black Tern nesting drastically reduced at Montezuma National Wildlife Ref-

uge. 3) Low numbers of all swallows, probably due to the reduction of insect numbers in April by the snow and cold. Purple Martins are in the disaster category. Other species are less affected with the Barn Swallow faring the best. 4) After two good years and a good winter, Eastern Bluebird reports have fallen off, again probably due to the cold and snowy weather. 5) Low numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks.

Rarities: Common Eider, Little Gull, Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; M—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Q—Queen Catherine Marsh; Schy—Schuyler; seminar—weekly seminars held at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; * (starred)—confirming details on file.

Contributors and compilers: Tim Bates, W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), Dick Clements, John Confer, John Corcoran, Vernon Dewey (Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge), B. Hilfiker, Wilfred Howard, Herbert and Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Paris Trail, Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: a bird of this species was picked up where it had landed on the highway and could not take off. It was taken to M on 4 May where it was determined that there were no injuries. The bird was placed in the Seneca outlet where it immediately started diving for food. Com. Loon: an excellent migration with nearly every correspondent reporting the species. Horned Grebe: the scarcity of the winter season continued into the spring with the only large groups being 24 on Cay L 28 Apr and 20 on 30 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: one Dryden L 17 Apr; one west shore Cay L 21 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: 19 M 4 May. Am. Bittern: one Horseheads 14 May, only report. Least Bittern: one heard M 11 May. Great Blue Heron: only one nest at M this year, one blown down; returning to nest sites in Tomp Co. Great Egret: one Penn Yan 7 Apr; two M 1 May. Cattle Egret: only report one at Dryden 4 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: 20 south of Mecklenberg; 80-100 nests M (VD). Tundra Swan: widespread reports; max 50 flying with the huge goose flight over Q 4 Mar. Snow Goose: see opening remarks. Brant: 30 Sen L 15 May (PT). Canada Goose: 140,000 at M on 10 Mar plus thousands on Cay and Sen L and other smaller lakes and ponds; the first of 41 broods at M, averaging 4.5 birds per brood, hatched on 28 Apr or one week before the migrating geese departed.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at M as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Wood Duck	1,000	30 Mar	Canvasback	100	21 Apr
Green-winged Teal	4,500	30 Mar	Redhead	1,000	30 Mar
Am. Black Duck	5,000	31 Mar	Ring-necked Duck	800	1 Apr
Mallard	7,000	31 Mar	Greater Scaup	500	28 Apr
N. Pintail	12,000	30 Mar	Com. Goldeneye	50	28 Apr
Blue-winged Teal	1,500	31 Mar	Bufflehead	50	21 Apr
N. Shoveler	9,000	30 Mar	Hooded Merganser	100	28 Apr
Gadwall	2,000	31 Mar	Com. Merganser	1,750	31 Mar
Am. Wigeon	5,000	30 Mar	Ruddy Duck	40	30 Mar

Wood Duck: brood of 12 young Elmira 11 Apr and a brood of 11 on 20 May. Canvasback: an injured female found at Elmira on 7 Mar was there for two weeks until a snowstorm struck. It was not seen afterwards. **COMMON EIDER:** a male M 28 Apr (VD). Oldsquaw: at least seven records scattered over the Region with max 24 at Branchport 1 Apr. Black Scoter: male Elmira 6 Mar, only report. White-winged Scoter: nine Branchport 1 Apr; Sheldrake 11 May; Geneva Apr and May. Hooded Merganser: did not nest, as previously, at Elmira; brood seen in swamp near Geneva (PT). Com. Merganser: female with eight to ten young Big Flats 14 May; seven young Elmira 26 May. Red-breasted Merganser: seven Elmira 21 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: every correspondent reported this once beleaguered species this year. The nest at M is being used for the third year. Bald Eagle: imm birds seen at M and Aurora; and adult at Cayutaville 26 Apr; one Prattsburg 6 May. N. Harrier: at least ten reports from M, Ithaca, Q and Penn Yan. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: increasing re-

ports for both species. Two probable nesting territories for Cooper's south of Ithaca. N. Goshawk: imm M 23 Apr; have returned to two nests south of Ithaca. Red-shouldered: reported at four seminars but not showing the resurgence most of the raptors are. Broad-winged Hawk: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Arnot Forest, Connecticut Hill and Geneva. Red-tailed Hawk: a new nest site near Phelps. Rough-legged Hawk: last three at Elmira 23 Apr; late May birds were one at Geneva and one at Arnot Forest 22 May. Am. Kestrel: on 27 Apr, while checking a Bank Swallow colony at Pine City, WH saw this species enter a hole in the bank twice. Merlin and Peregrine: no reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: slight increase in the number of reports. Wild Turkey: "plentiful" at Elmira; "increasing" in Yates Co; has now spread across Ontario Co to the northern border of the Region. Virginia and Sora Rails: all reports were from the southern half of the Region. Am. Coot: 2,000 M 19 Apr. Black-bellied Plover: 200 M 29 Apr (VD). Other shorebirds: above normal rainfall kept the streams, ponds and lakes at such high levels that there was little shorebird habitat. Only a relatively few species were noted and then in very small numbers. Species seen included Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Solitary, Spotted, Upland, Semipalmated, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers; Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitcher. Species missed were Lesser Golden-Plover; Whimbrel; Ruddy Turnstone; Red Knot; Sanderling; Western, White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers; Ruff; all phalaropes. Common Snipe: during Apr several were displaying at Q and one north of M. Am. Woodcock: Slaterville 1 Mar; Elmira 15 Mar; reported at all seminars. LITTLE GULL: Geneva Apr and May (J. Cor). Bonaparte's Gull: one Elmira 15 Apr; Ithaca 25 Apr; 45 Branchport 30 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: Elmira 21 Mar; thousands were on the golf courses, lawns etc. after a snowstorm. Caspian Tern: one Penn Yan 17 May (ML). Com. Tern: two pairs nesting at M. Forster's Tern: two Ithaca May 20 (JC); Geneva Apr and May (J. Cor). Black Tern: only 16 nesting pairs at M.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: nesting in an abandoned Am. Robin's nest at Phelps in late May. E. Screech-Owl: a number of reports but at Ithaca JC played a tape at ten sites, where he usually obtained a response, with no results. Great Horned Owl: nested successfully at Phelps, Varick and Montour Falls. Snowy Owl: one Aurelius 4 Mar. Barred Owl: Slaterville Springs 1 Mar; one Groton 4 Mar; Ithaca 21 May; Watkins Glen 16 May; Geneva during May. Long-eared Owl: Penn Yan during Apr. Short-eared Owl: one east of M; one Penn Yan during Apr. Com. Nighthawk: two Elmira 13 May; observed at Waterloo and Penn Yan. Whip-poor-will: one Elmira 13 and 16 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from all parts of the Region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: none at Elmira but widely reported elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seven Elmira 16 May; no reports from Schy Co.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Geneva 15 May; one Elmira 20 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Elmira 14 May. Alder Flycatcher: Ithaca 21 May; two sites in Schy Co; Branchport in May. Willow Flycatcher: five males singing on territory at Q. Purple Martin: very scarce. Tree Swallow: Myers 18 Mar, early. Bank Swallow: colony at Pine City. Cliff Swallow: again nesting at Corning Community College with more nests than in 1982; returned to traditional site in Cayuta. Fish Crow: six Ithaca 16 Apr. Com. Raven: Connecticut Hill, Tomp Co 14 May (Gray). Red-breasted Nuthatch: sparsely reported. Carolina Wren: reported regularly from Ithaca and Penn Yan; four max at Q. Winter Wren: one Ithaca 7 Apr; one Elmira 2 May; one singing Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co 7 May; one Geneva 15 May. E. Bluebird: nesting at Elmira, Ithaca and M. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Brooktondale; none Penn Yan. Am. Robin: abundant as ever. N. Mockingbird: Ithaca; Branchport; two locations at Phelps; nest at Angus. Water Pipit: 100 at Q 1 Apr. Cedar Waxwing: scarce in most areas. N. Shrike: one Clifton Springs 5 Mar; one Brooktondale 7 Mar; imm Ithaca 14-16 Mar, heard singing; one Ithaca until 4 Apr. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: one Ithaca 28 Apr. All the other common vireos-Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed-were seen. Among the warblers one might expect to find in the Region, all but the Kentucky, the Yellow-throated and the "Lawrence's" hybrid were reported. "Brewster's" hybrid: one banded Penn Yan 7 May (ML); one Elmira 16 May; one Ithaca 21 May. Orange-crowned: one Geneva 15 May. Cape May: a good flight; in Schy Co a flight on 22 May was entirely females. Cerulean:

a new location at Sullivan's monument near Elmira was found 29 May. Prothonotary: nesting in Unit 17 at M (VD). Worm-eating: one Montour Falls 30 Apr; one Phelps 8 May; three Elmira 14 May; one Ithaca 14 May; one Sen Castle May. Connecticut: one Geneva May. Mourning: Southport 14 May; one 22 May at Q; one Geneva May. Hooded: two singing males 21 May Dryden. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Slaterville 1 May.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: came to feeders in May. Indigo Bunting: at many feeders in early May. PAINTED BUNTING: Pine City 6-7 May (DC*, WH, M. Wigert). Dickcissel: male Ithaca 30 Apr and for several days thereafter (M. Weeks, DM *et al.*). Red-crested Cardinal: Sullivanville, Chemung Co 14-17 Apr (R. & L. Dannerlain, J. & M. Smith, MW*). Probably an escape but Peterson in his 1980 edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies* states that the species has bred in Pennsylvania. Am. Tree Sparrow: small numbers remained thru Apr. Vesper Sparrow: for several years your reporter has been saying that this species was in deep trouble altho perhaps gaining a bit lately, and this season's records appear to continue that gain. Grasshopper Sparrow: a number at Horseheads 8 May; Ithaca 20 May; Branchport May. Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Elmira 1 May; Ithaca 3 May. Fox Sparrow: Myers 5 Mar; last seminar report 2 May; a singing male on Sugar Hill in Schy Co. Lincoln's Sparrow: Rorick's Glen, Chemung Co 14 May; Ithaca 21 May. Bobolink: up in the Phelps area and good elsewhere. E. Meadowlark: rather scarce. Orchard Oriole: a pair at Myers 28 Apr; returned to Sheldrake where they nested last year; two reports from Yates Co; at Pine City 26 May. Purple Finch: nesting at M in Unit 17; widespread in small numbers all spring. House Finch: taken from the observers' reports—"Hungry hordes," "still increasing"—enough said. Pine Siskin: one Elmira 9 Apr labeled the only report of the year for them and it is also the only Regional report for the period. Am. Goldfinch: hordes (see opening remarks). Evening Grosbeak: a feeder in Ithaca (always the Evening Grosbeak capital of the Region) had a max of 65 in Mar and 46 in Apr; otherwise only small numbers drifted thru to the end of the period.

R.D. 2, 793 Tyre Rd., Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET T. MARSJ

March, continuing the February trend of milder-than-average weather, gamboled in, lamb like, to Region Four. By 7 March ice had left most farm ponds and that day the temperatures reached 70° F. Short-memoried optimists sowed their lettuce and spinach seeds and planted rows of onion sets. There being no accumulated snow, there was little spring runoff, no muddy garden soil, no inundated river banks, no fields ankle-deep with soggy meltwaters. On 4 March, skeins and skeins of northbound Canada Geese honked across the morning skies, many flying high in large groups, 700, 800, perhaps 1,000 strong. "Never saw anything like it!" was the common comment. This mild condition was interrupted only briefly on the tenth when cold, northerly winds blew in a mix of drizzle, sleet and one and a half inches of snow which warm succeeding days quickly melted. Area residents were getting themselves emotionally in tune for a lovely early spring. Even the 18 March heavy rains which deluged metropolitan New York City and were forecast for Region Four, bypassed us to the south and we registered only a half inch of rain. Then came the so-called vernal equinox and right here is where the weather gods missed their cue. Official spring was escorted in by rain, freezing rain and finally just plain snow—only the beginning of what was in store for the rest of the month when registered temperature readings were well