

late individual. W. Meadowlark: has returned to its Point Breeze location once again. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: one R 3 March (WRS). Brewer's Blackbird: two H 15-30 April (mob), this is a significant drop from the 12-24 of the last two years. Orchard Oriole: returned to Point Breeze nesting area. Purple Finch: down from last year. Com. Redpoll: one D 25 March (RO), one G 25 April (JK), it certainly wasn't a flight year. Pine Siskin: excellent flight in April continued into May. Evening Grosbeaks: super flight with hundreds passing in April.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

Spring in our region was normal - completely unpredictable. March had temperatures which were at least five degrees below normal. Between 7 and 14 March the daytime temperatures never got above freezing and overnight lows averaged only four degrees less. Snowfall was insignificant until 29 March when 15 inches of heavy wet stuff fell in the Elmira area, bending and breaking branches from trees and shrubs. Naturally, birds flocked to feeders during the snowstorm. Even our sunflower feeders were visited by starlings. A slab mixture of suet, peanut butter and corn meal attracted a pair of Northern Mockingbirds that eventually ended up defending it from other birds. They continued to feed on this even when warm temperatures and heavy rains turned the mixture into a mush. The rest of the period was generally cool and wet with an occasional shot of warmth. The Elmira area had 5.16 inches of rain in April and 5.62 inches in May, both totals being over twice the normal amounts.

The rain negated hawk flights and the subsequent high water levels covered many of the mudflats usually visited by migrating shorebirds. Bad weather did bring down a Roseate Tern and Laughing Gulls in the Elmira area. The tern is included in the report, your editor being one of the observers, with the obvious understanding that NYSARC approval is needed before being permanently recorded.

The "Wet Scope" award goes to Wilfred Howard, who in a driving rainstorm, managed to single out ten species of shorebirds at the Holding Point, a large grassy area in Horseheads. This was the only significant shorebird report of the entire period.

The cool weather seemed to put spring into refrigeration. Flowering trees and shrubs such as dogwood lasted "forever." The bird migration was late but also drawn out. Dorothy McIlroy mentioned almost a dozen species that were two to three weeks late on arriving. Those species mentioned included Virginia Rail, Greater Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow. Linger-

ing species included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warblers singing thru the end of period and White-crowned Sparrow.

Most observers feel that the number of vireos, thrushes and warblers was way down. Waves were few and far between. Cuckoos are either extinct, very late or hiding, for not one reporter mentioned these birds. John Confer reports having twelve Northern Orioles in his yard at once with eight simultaneously on five suet feeders. Others in his area also reported these birds eating suet. Polly Keating reports an unusually colored Red-winged Blackbird at Montezuma Refuge. The bird had "normal" red-winged coloration on its head, back and wings. The throat however was ivory colored, a black band with a tinge of orange just below the throat and an ivory colored abdomen.

If anyone needs an incentive for erecting bird houses, these reports from Pine City should do the trick.

1) A White-breasted Nuthatch nested in a "bluebird" house located on a utility pole in the middle of a farm yard. At least five birds fledged.

2) A box placed in the woods to "attract anything" enticed an Eastern Screech-Owl to nest. The result was two nestlings playing peek-a-boo with a frustrated photographer and interested birdwatchers.

3) An amazing eighteen wood ducklings tumbled from a box. This could possibly have been a "dump nest" - a nest shared by more than one female.

4) And then there are the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows

Seasonal pluses include 1) more sightings of Bald Eagles; 2) massive waterfowl concentration on Cayuga Lake at the end of March, including Tundra Swans; 3) Great Blue Herons doing well; 4) good Brant flight. Seasonal minuses include 1) the continued scarcity of bitterns and Purple Martins; 2) no uncommon flycatchers found.

Rarities are Merlin, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Roseate Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; L-Lake; M-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pt-Point; QC-Queen Catherine Marsh; Seminar-weekly seminars held at Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker, Dick Clements, John Confer, Vernon Dewey, Wilfred Howard, Herb & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch, Dorothy McIlroy, Joan Scrocarelli, and Mary Welles.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: no reports. Com. Loon: scarce in Elmira; 18 flying over QC 7 April the same day 17 were spotted on Cay L, 13 flying at once. Pied-billed Grebe: scarce Penn Yan area; three Elmira reports with two birds calling. Horned Grebe: Cay L until early May. Red-necked Grebe: one Keuka L March; max four Cay L 18 March. Double-crested Cormorant: one Stewart Pk 14 April; max five M late April thru. Am. Bittern: one Branchport 19 May; one Big Flats 29 May, the only two birds reported. Least Bittern: none reported. Great Blue Heron: eight to ten nests at Mecklenberg; 19 nests M; 25 nests between Avoca and Wheeler. Great Egret: one Chase's Pond Horseheads 12 May. Cattle Egret: one M 4 May; one Cornell Equine Pk 25 May. Green-backed Heron: first report Ithaca 28 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: M 15 April only report. Tundra Swan: two Elmira 14 April; 100 plus Cay L 24 March; 30 Watkins Glen 25 March. Snow Goose: 20,000 M 12 April. Brant: max 20 Penn Yan 19-21 May, first report from this area since May 1980; 20 M 12 May; 46 Watkins Glen 28 May. Canada Goose: goslings M 12 May.

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

Wood Duck	300	3 Apr.	Redhead	1,500	9 Apr.
Green-winged Teal	1,000	30 Apr.	Ring-necked Duck	375	12 Apr.
Am. Black Duck	1,000	26 Mar.	Greater Scaup	600	12 Apr.
N. Pintail	3,000	26 Mar.	Bufflehead	300	30 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal	800	30 Apr.	Hooded Merganser	370	3 Apr.
N. Shoveler	700	26 Mar.	Com. Merganser	450	4 Apr.
Gadwall	1,200	30 Apr.	Ruddy Duck	150	12 Apr.
Am. Wigeon	900	30 Apr.			

Mallard: newly hatched young Elmira 18 May. Green-winged Teal: scarce Keuka L. Oldsquaw: max 35 Sheldrake 5 May. Black Scoter: M 21 April. White-winged Scoter: two Elmira 28 March; one Sheldrake 21 April. Hooded Merganser: young emerged from nest Chemung 10 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: high muddy water in Chemung R forced birds to hunt small streams; reported to be on nest at M again. Bald Eagle: observed at Lodi Pt 18 March; M 29 March; Myers Pt 8 April; Sapsucker Woods 27 April. N. Harrier: reported from all areas. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one continued to raid feeder in Pine City into May. Cooper's Hawk: no comments on increase or decrease. N. Goshawk: two nests Ithaca area mid-May. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported in April and May Ithaca area; one Elmira 12 May, first report since 1980. Broad-winged Hawk: returned to their nesting area in Southport. Red-tailed Hawk: one pursuing Mallards Southport late April; very evident in all areas. Rough-legged Hawk: last report Ithaca area 23 April. **MERLIN:** Cornell Plantations 10 April (Milburn); Sheldrake 21 April (Kress); Ithaca airport 30 April (C. Smith). Ring-necked Pheasant: continues to be scarce in most areas. Wild Turkey: spreading into new areas. Virginia Rail: missing thus far at Corning Pond where it has nested previously; first report M 5 May. Sora: Michigan Hollow 5 May. Com. Moorhen: first report in Warren Rd Ponds Ithaca 27 April; none in Keuka L area. Am. Coot: max 500 M 9 April. Shorebirds: except for the one big day at Horseheads, birds were very skimpy. Listed below are the birds observed at Horseheads on 28 May.

Black-bellied Plover	40	Semipalmated Sandpiper	150
Upland Sandpiper	2	Western Sandpiper	1
Ruddy Turnstone	30	Least Sandpiper	3
Red Knot	1	White-rumped Sandpiper	1
Sanderling	1	Dunlin	32

Semipalmated Plover: Myers Pt 12 May; Montour Falls 20 May. Greater Yellowlegs: three Southport 24 April. Lesser Yellowlegs: Ithaca 23 April. Pectoral Sandpiper: M 5 May; Elmira 12 May. Com. Snipe: regularly found in Ithaca area only. Am. Woodcock: mating flights in Seneca Falls area. **LAUGHING GULL:** two Corning Pond 4 May, second record for Elmira area. Bonaparte's Gull: numerous reports from Ithaca area and Elmira in April; last report Seminar 7 May. Ring-billed Gull: close to 1,500 forced down by high winds Big Flats 12 May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Cay L 18 March (E. Gates). Glaucous Gull: Stewart Park 24 March. Great Black-backed Gull: present Cay L thru early May. Caspian Tern: one chased off perch on Chemung R by Red-winged Blackbird 9 May. **ROSEATE TERN:** one Elmira 4 May (WH, DC, JS) report to NYSARC. **FORSTER'S TERN:** one M 21 May (Milburn, Thompson, Hunt) report to NYSARC. Black Tern: M 5 May; Elmira 8 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: reported regularly at Seminars; one QC 20 March. Great Horned Owl: nesting in Geneva; two young making "unearthly" calls to answering adult, Pine City 19 May. Barred Owl: one report Seminar 7 May. Short-eared

Owl: Ludlowville 4 March; Aurora 15 March. Com. Nighthawk: first report Elmira 17 May. Whip-poor-will: none reported. Chimney Swift: arrived Ithaca and Elmira late April. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: four in one bush Pine City, and seen in other locations 9 May; Watkins Glen 10 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: one defending suet feeder Big Flats 24 May thru. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported only from Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: regular at Ithaca; two reports Watkins Glen; nesting Pine City.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Acadian Flycatchers: none reported. Alder Flycatcher: one report Sapsucker Woods Rd 22 May. Willow Flycatcher: observed in Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen, earliest 20 May. E. Kingbird: scarce Ithaca. Purple Martin: your editor would be interested to know if there are any colonies in our region. Tree Swallow: one west side Cay L 24 March. N. Rough-winged Swallow: observed carrying nesting material into abandoned kingfisher hole in Pine City 28 May. Cliff Swallow: no reports of colonies. Fish Crow: nesting Stewart Pk. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Arnot Forest 28 May (Gray). Carolina Wren: reported regularly from Ithaca; singing from new locations in Elmira area. Winter Wren: singing birds found in Penn Yan, Ithaca, Elmira and QC in April and May. Sedge Wren: no reports. Marsh Wren: M 5 May; Big Flats 12 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good numbers reported with some lingering into late May. E. Bluebird: conflicting reports; returned to some former breeding areas but missing in others. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Elmira 17 May. Swainson's Thrush: good migration. Hermit Thrush: one Pine City "attacking" tape recorder accidentally left replaying his song; few in Penn Yan. N. Mockingbird: continue to be found in new locations in Chemung Co. Water Pipit: six Elmira 20 May (JS); none seen in Ithaca area where "they are always seen in the spring" (DM). N. Shrike: one Corning area 7 March. Loggerhead Shrike: one Peruville 1 May (Patterson). Eur. Starling: flock of six billion flying toward the Atlantic Ocean and Europe, being chased by a N. Mockingbird - wishful thinking!

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: none reported. All other vireos expected in our area - Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed - were observed. Most of the regular warblers were reported. Comments on some species follow. Blue-winged: becoming more and more numerous every year (JC). "Brewster's" hybrid: Ithaca and Elmira areas. "Lawrence's" hybrid: one Penn Yan in May; one Southport returned to known nesting area 26 May. Orange-crowned: Monkey Run Ithaca 7 May. Cape May: four regular in fir tree for five days Pine City May. Yellow-rumped: very numerous in Penn Yan, Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen areas and staying later. Prairie: two colonies located Watkins Glen. Cerulean: Southport 12 May; Ludlowville 21 May. Prothonotary: none observed. Worm-eating: singing Pine City 12 May. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** singing Texas Hollow Sanctuary 12 May (JB) second report for Watkins area. Connecticut: none reported. Mourning: observed in Penn Yan, Ithaca and Watkins Glen. Hooded: only one report, Elmira 16 May (WH). Yellow-breasted Chat: very few.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: low numbers in Elmira, Penn Yan, normal Ithaca. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: several feeder reports. Am. Tree Sparrow: lingered in Ithaca to the end of April. Vesper Sparrow: very scarce in Elmira; two fields with singing birds Ithaca. Grasshopper Sparrow: on the increase. Henslow's Sparrow: returned to nesting grounds in Pine City but only a fraction of the number present last spring; two reports Penn Yan; Ithaca Airport 1 May. Fox Sparrow: last reported in Ithaca 25 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: reported from Penn Yan, Elmira, Watkins Glen, and Ithaca. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers. Lapland Longspur: five Ithaca 18 March. Snow Bunting: 30 Watkins Glen 1 March; 200 Elmira 15 March; last report Ithaca 19 March. Bobolink: arrived early at Ithaca and Elmira. Orchard Oriole: one Branchport May; one first year male Pine City 24 May. House Finch: your editor refuses to bore you by saying that House Finches are still increasing, even though they are. Pine Siskin: arrived at feeders in late spring and lingered into middle of May. Evening Grosbeak: flock of 75 arrived Pine City 11 March and many stayed until the sunflower seed ran out in mid-May; four still around in Odessa 30 May.

989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, New York 14871.