

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Considering the violent rampages of the Weather Gods throughout the country this spring, any complaints from Region Four would be in poor taste. So be assured that the following is simply a statement of fact. Spring in Region Four was late, cold, wet and cloudy. Late in March the worst storm of the season left 20" of official snow (Edwin A. Link National Weather Station) in the form of heavy, wet flakes. Widespread damage was done to trees and shrubs and a high run-off pushed rivers and streams over banks. In April, rainstorms predominated, a heavy deluge early in the month causing more flooding with evacuation of homes, and another one mid-month repeating the performance. Off and on rain the rest of the month checked April out with 4.95" precipitation (normal 2.70"). May was more of the same with a final culmination of steady rain for the last three days bringing precipitation for the month to 6.09" (normal 2.32").

Birdlife reacted typically. Ducks migrated on schedule, accepting wetness and coolness as normal. The flooded fields and riverbanks attracted waterfowl, gulls and waders, groups that often pass us by. A Little Gull, one Least Bittern, and two sightings of Great Egret were welcome surprises. High water offered good feeding for Osprey. Numbers of other hawks were also up, including Red-shouldered. Passerines, however, seemed to find the soggy weather a delaying factor. A few vanguard birds of each species were reported near the usual date for arrival but the major migrant flocks were late. In some cases, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers for example, migrants had just begun to show by 31 May, the period's end. Nesting of swallows and bluebirds was also late. The late May rains flooded culverts so Rough-winged Swallow nests were washed out. Ground nesters must have suffered a similar fate.

A few rarities did turn up. A Painted Bunting, 4 to 6 May near Homer was seen by many, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird made off and on appearances near Delhi.

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Abbreviations: Br-Broome, CBC-Chenango Bird Club, CCBC-Cortland Co. Bird Club, Chen-Chenango, Co-County, Cort-Cortland, CR-Cannonsville Res, DBC-Delaware Bird Club, Del-Delaware, L-Lake, NCBC-Naturalists Club of Broome Co, OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area, R-River, REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center, SOFH-South Otselic Fish Hatchery, Susq-Susquehanna, TBC-Tioga Bird Club, WPR-Whitney Point Res.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: four reports: one 8 April CR (M/M HP); two 25 April Chen L (DN); one 3 May Pharsalia (CC); five 5 May WPR (CBC). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports: one 20 March Binghamton (RM); one 27 April Oneonta Res (MD). Horned Grebe: five reports: one 8 April Chen Co (CC); two 14 April WPR (RA, EP); two 14 April Chen Co (CBC); five 14 April Guilford L (CBC). Red-necked Grebe: two reports; one 5 April WPR (A/MD); three 14 April Chen L (CBC, JL). Double-crested Cormorant: one 14 April Homer (PP); one 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). **LEAST BITTERN:** two 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). Great Blue Heron: regular thru; first 12 March Tioga Co (TBC). **GREAT EGRET:** one 18 April WPR (HM, RM); one 5 May Cincinnatus L (CC, DW, CL, JL). Green-backed Heron: regular thru, first 23 April So. Otselic (DM). Brant: 12 19 March Susq R (RBr, FR). Canada Goose: regular March-April thru, last migrant 2 May Delhi (MC); one pair with young and two adult "guards" 19 May REEC (LC). Wood Duck: regular thru, first 14 March WPR (A/MD). Green-winged Teal: six reports; first 25 March Br Co (RM); last 14 April Chen Co (CC). Am. Black Duck: sparsely regular thru. Mallard: common thru. N. Pintail: six reports: first 3 March Br Co (A/MD); last 3 April WPR (JD, RM). Blue-winged Teal: 12 reports: nine Br Co, one Cort Co, one Chen Co, one OPM; first 19 March Cort Co (WS); last 28 April OPM (MD). N. Shoveler: two 7 April WPR (A/MD), one 15 April Br Co (HM). Greater Scaup: March Tioga Co (D/JB, RB, LBi). Lesser Scaup: three reports: 12 20 March WPR (JD, RM); one 25 March CR (SD); 50 3 April (JD, RM). Oldsquaw: three reports: one 14 April Chen Co (CC, CL, JL, DW); "a raft" 15 April Homer (PP); one 5 May WPR (CBC). Com. Goldeneye: regular thru March, last date 6 April Chen Co (CC). Bufflehead: six reports; four Br Co, two Chen Co; first two 3 April Br Co (JD, RM); last two 13 May Norwich (CC, JL). Hooded Merganser: 17 reports: eight Br Co, 2 Chen Co, 2 Cort Co, 5 OPM; first two 20 March Br Co (JD, RM); last one 16 May OPM (MD, KW). Com. Merganser: regular thru; last date one female 25 May So. Otselic R "possible breeder," "agitated behavior" (DM). Red-breasted Merganser: none.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: com thru; first one 20 March Tioga Co (RMi), one 20 March So. Otselic (DM). Osprey: over 30 reports: unusually frequent; one March Tioga Co (LD); another 1 April OPM (MD, KW); most mid-April thru mid-May; last 30 May Delhi (SC); regular reports of groups of three and four from 24 April thru 24 May at Sanitaria Springs, feeding on abundant minnow supply in feeder stream to Chen R; a road accident with large chemical spills 25 May totally contaminated stream; result - no more Ospreys. Bald Eagle: 12 reports scattered thru, first 9 March Del Co (KW), last 26 May Del Co (DBC); high numbers, hacking program results? N. Harrier: 17 reports scattered thru; first four 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: sparsely regular thru. Cooper's Hawk: sparsely regular thru. N. Goshawk: one 4 March Norwich (JL); one third week in March Tioga Co "catching pigeons near dairy barn" (AP). Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports scattered thru; numbers improving. Broad-winged Hawk: 18 reports scattered thru; first 17 April Br Co (GK, HM). Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: regular in northern part of area March thru early April; last 9 April So. Otselic (DM). Am. Kestrel: common thru. Merlin: one 9 May Colliersville, Otsego Co (MC). Ring-necked Pheasant: one 24 April Br Co (JS), one 10 May Br Co (JS), one 26 May OPM (MD, KW). Ruffed Grouse: regular thru but several comments on "numbers down." Wild Turkey: regular thru. Am. Coot: one 28 April Cort Co (CCBC). Semipalmated Plover: one 5 May WPR (CBC); one 12 May Norwich (JL). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: nine reports, five Br Co, three Chen Co, one OPM, first 14 April WPR (RA, EP); last 13 May Norwich (JL). Lesser Yellowlegs: six reports, three Br Co, three Chen Co; first 12 April WPR (JSh), last 13 May Norwich (JL). Solitary Sandpiper: 21 reports scattered thru but especially OPM (11 reports) (MD, KW); first 29 April Br Co (JDi); last 24 May OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: regular thru; first 28 April Br Co (JDi). Least Sandpiper: five reports: one Br Co, one OPM, four Chen Co; first 4 May SOFH (CBC); last 31 May OPM (MD, KW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). Dunlin: one 12 April WPR (RA, BP); two 5 May WPR (CBC). Com. Snipe: nine reports, four Chen Co, five OPM;

first 24 April OPM (MD, KW); "on territory," two locations 23 May So Otselic (DM). Am. Woodcock: regular thru; first 15 March Br Co (A/MD). **LITTLE GULL**: one 12 May, Norwich, "flooded field near river," "adult plumage," first seen (RD) confirmed (JL), stayed approx two hours. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 5 May WPR (C&C, JL); one 12 May Otselic "flooded field" (DM). Ring-billed Gull: reported regularly thru but in smaller flocks than in previous years (two to 30, only one of 100); first 25 18 March Br Co (RM); last 19 May Norwich (JL). Herring Gull: regular thru mid-March thru 1 May; first 12 March So. Otselic (DM); last May Tioga Co (LD). Com. Tern: one 25 April Br Co (NCBC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one 24 May Br Co (GK). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one 24 May Br Co (GK). E. Screech-Owl: sparsely regular thru; 27 May "female with four young in box" So. Otselic (DM). Great Horned Owl: regular thru. Barred Owl: five reports, all Chen Co. Long-eared Owl: one found dead 18 March Br Co (R/RE). Short-eared Owl: one mid-March Cort Co (AS). N. Saw-whet Owl: one 4 March dead Br Co; turned in to Finch Hollow Nature Center (CW). Com. Nighthawk: 20 May Br Co (HM); 21 May Otsego Co (MD). Chimney Swift: regular thru; first 28 April Br Co (JDi). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: regular thru; first 11 May Tioga Co (LD). Belted Kingfisher: regular thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: three reports; Br Co (AT) Del Co (HS), Tioga Co (LD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one report Br Co May (AT), one report Chen Co 14 May So Otselic "first I've seen here" (DM), four reports Cort Co "all winter" (BM, PK, FO'L, DP), one report 12 May CCBC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: regular thru; first 12 April Br Co (RM). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: regular thru. N. Flicker: common thru; first March Tioga Co (RB). Pileated Woodpecker: regular thru.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: regular thru; first 19 May Smyrna (JL). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 31 May Br Co (HM). Alder Flycatcher: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 26 May OPM, (MD, KW), one 31 May Tioga Co (LD). Willow Flycatcher: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 24 May, four 26 May, one 31 May OPM (MD, KW), four 26 May Chen Co (JL). Least Flycatcher: common thru; first 3 May Br Co (RM). E. Phoebe: common thru; first 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru; first 9 May Tioga Co (LD). E. Kingbird: common thru; first 2 May Delhi (LCI). Horned Lark: sparse thru; last 12 May (CCBC). Purple Martin: one report 9 April Tioga Co (SD). Tree Swallow: common thru; first 21 March Br Co (FL). N. Rough-winged Swallow: regular thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC, CC). Late May heavy rains washed out many nests built in metal drainpipes feeding into larger culverts; too early to assess results. Bank Swallow: six reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Cliff Swallow: five reports scattered thru; first 28 April So. Otselic (DM). Barn Swallow: common thru; first 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Boreal Chickadee: a winter bird at feeder in Tioga Co stayed thru 31 March (BC). Tufted Titmouse: regular thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: eight reports: one Chen Co (DM); one Cort Co May (CCBC); three OPM 1 April, 7 April, 14 May (MD, KW); three Tioga Co March (D/JB, LBi), 18 May (LD), 12 April (RMi). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 19 reports scattered thru. Carolina Wren: two reports both Br Co (A/MD, AT). House Wren: common thru, first 27 April Tioga Co (RMi). Winter Wren: eight reports: one Br Co 30 April (HM); two Chen Co, one 15 April (RM), one 3 May (JL); one Cort Co 12 May (CCBC); three OPM 9, 11, 24 May, (MD, KW); one Oneonta 6 May (MD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 23 reports scattered thru; last 20 May Chen Co (JL), Tioga Co (LD), numbers high. Ruby-crowned kinglet: 24 reports scattered thru; first 15 April Chen Co (CBC); last 17 May OPM (MD, KW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one 22 and 23 April Ingraham Hill Br Co (CH); one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). E. Bluebird: 27 reports scattered thru; first 9 March (several). Veery: common thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one 22 May Tioga Co (LD); one 22 May Br Co (HM). Swainson's Thrush: four reports: one 17 May OPM (MD, KW); two 19 May Del. Co. (DBC); one 22 May Br Co (HM), one 23 May Br. Co (FL, HM); low numbers. Hermit Thrush: five

reports: one 18 April Br Co (JDi); one 28 April Tioga Co (RMi); one 3 May Delhi (MC); one 26 May Delhi (DBC); one 23 May So Otselic (DM); low and late. Wood Thrush: common thru; first 1 May OPM (MD, KW). Am. Robin: common thru; first 12 May Br Co (RM). Gray Catbird: common thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). N. Mockingbird: 11 reports scattered thru; gradually increasing. Brown Thrasher: regular thru; first 29 April Br Co (RM). Water Pipit: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC); one 12 May Norwich (JL); one 15 May Sherburne (JL). Cedar Waxwing: sparsely regular thru. N. Shrike: one bird seen frequently 10 March thru 22 April So Otselic (DM). Eur. Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: 16 reports scattered thru; first 27 April Tioga Co (RMi). Yellow-throated Vireo: 12 reports; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Warbling Vireo: 13 reports; first 28 April Br Co (JMDi). Philadelphia Vireo: two 20 May So Otselic (DM); one 21 May Tioga Co (LD). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru; first 7 May Delhi (MC, SH). Blue-winged Warbler: seven reports; two Br Co, three Chen Co, one Cort Co, one OPM; first 9 May Norwich (JL). Golden-winged Warbler: one 8 May Br Co (RM), one 22 May Br Co (HM). Tennessee Warbler: one 22 May So Otselic (DM) very late and unusually low in numbers. Nashville Warbler: 16 reports scattered thru; first 1 May Norwich (JL); last 26 May (several). N. Parula: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC); one 13 May Norwich (JL); two 26 May Delhi (DBC). Yellow Warbler: common thru; first 27 April Br Co (JDi). Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru; first 25 April Tioga Co (GW). Magnolia Warbler: 16 reports; scattered thru; first 13 May Chen Co (RM). Cape May Warbler: ten reports scattered thru; first 12 May Chen Co (JL), Cort Co (CCBC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; first 9 May OPM (MD, KW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: common thru; first 9 May OPM (MD, KW), still a few 31 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). Blackburnian Warbler: six reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Pine Warbler: one 26 May Delhi (DBC). Prairie Warbler: one 11 May Br Co (GK); one 26 May Delhi (DBC). Palm Warbler: one 12 May Norwich (RD); one 13 May Tioga Co (LD); one 7 May OPM "yellow race"; one 19 May OPM "yellow throat and rump but pale breast" both (MD, KW); one 20 May Br Co (GK). Bay-breasted Warbler: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 22 May Br Co (HM); two 26 May Delhi (DBC); late migration still in progress 31 May. Blackpoll Warbler: ten reports scattered thru; first 21 May Norwich (JL); late, still in progress 31 May. Cerulean Warbler: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Black-and-white Warbler: regular thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). Am. Redstart: common thru; first 11 May Tioga Co (LD). Ovenbird: common thru; first 28 April Cort Co (CCBC). Louisiana Waterthrush: regular thru; first 24 April OPM (MD, KW). Mourning Warbler: one 22 May Br Co (HM); one 22 May Tioga Co (LD); one 26 May Delhi (MC). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; first 3 May Norwich (JL). Wilson's Warbler: two 17 May OPM (MD, KW); one 18 May Norwich (JL); one 21 May Tioga Co (LD). Canada Warbler: nine reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru; first 30 April Br Co (A/MD). Indigo Bunting: regular thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), Del Co (HS). **PAINTED BUNTING:** one 2 May thru 6 May at residence on Homer-Tully Rd (BM); seen by many. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru; first 18 April Tioga Co (RMi). Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru; last 28 April Br Co (RMi). Chipping Sparrow: common thru; first 8 April Tioga Co (E/PG). Field Sparrow: common thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC). Vesper Sparrow: five reports; four OPM (MD, KW); one Chen Co (JL). Savannah Sparrow: common thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC). Grasshopper Sparrow: one 13 May Chen Co (JL); sparse. Fox Sparrow: 19 reports; first 9 March Delhi (MC); last 17 April Br Co (HM); numbers light. Song Sparrow: common thru. Lincoln's Sparrow: one 13 May Norwich (JL); one 5 May WPR (CBC); May Tioga Co (LD). Swamp Sparrow: regular thru; first 24 April OPM (MD, KW). White-throated Sparrow: many reports all period, thru. White-crowned Sparrow: 16 reports scattered thru; first 1 May Cort Co (FO'L), Delhi (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: abundant April and early May; a few still present 31 May. Snow Bunting:

50 2 March Chen Co (DM); March Tioga Co (several). Bobolink: common thru; first 6 May Tioga Co (LD); numbers up. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru; first 22 March Tioga Co (AP). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: one female at various dates in May, Delhi (EM, BD). Rusty Blackbird: one 27 March Tioga Co (D/JB, RB, LBi); one 29 April Preble Swamp, Cort Co (WB); 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. N. Oriole: common thru; first 5 May Tioga Co (LD). Purple Finch: common Chen. and Otsego Co; present in fewer numbers in rest of area. House Finch: present in large numbers in Br and Tioga Cos; present but in smaller flocks in remainder of area. Pine Siskin: common in Otsego Co; scattered sparsely elsewhere in area. Still present 26 May Delhi (MC). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: present in spotty numbers thru; last 26 May Delhi (JDo).

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The 1984 spring season was remarkably like that of 1983 climatologically. The season was cold and wet, with late heavy snowfalls through mid-April at lower elevations and mid-May in the Adirondacks. Cold weather and rain was frequent in May. Derby Hill fans bemoaned the lack of southerly winds. Earlier parallels were also similar. The miserable spring weather followed a remarkable late February warm spell in both seasons as well.

Given these parallels, we might anticipate that the two migrations would be similar as well. This was not the case. All observers, and the spring banding operation at the Noyes Sanctuary along Lake Ontario, were unanimous that this spring's migration was one of the worst ever. There were no big days for land birds in the Syracuse area and only two dates, 18 and 22 May, were notable along Lake Ontario. The early part of the migration suffered most, and sparrows were not well represented. Arrival dates generally were average, but the bulk of most populations arrived five to ten days late. Maxima were low. The few warbler maxima in excess of 50 are in the species accounts that follow; peak counts for flycatchers, swallows, kinglets, and the commoner sparrows were similarly unimpressive. Most species that migrate at the end of the period were seen then, but few migrants were reported in June. It is not yet clear to what extent breeding populations are affected, but for the most part changes are small.

There was a marked return flight of Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees, a moderate flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. The last redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks of the winter were seen in early March, but no crossbills were found. Purple Martins and Cliff Swallows were scarce, and the grassland sparrows (especially Henslow's) continue in low numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Hooded Warblers and Am. Goldfinches made very good showings, especially along Lake Ontario. More Orange-crowned Warblers were noted than usual.