

crowned Warbler: arr Oatka Creek Park 28 Apr. Nashville Warbler: arr BB 19 Apr. N. Parula: arr Greece 6 May. Yellow Warbler: arr BB 28 Apr. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CH 5 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr ICW 29 Apr. Cape May Warbler: arr Webster 6 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CH 4 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr three CH 28 Apr. Blackburnian Warbler: arr Greece CH 6 May. Pine Warbler: arr two ICW 25 Apr. Palm Warbler: arr ICW 29 Apr, good totals this season. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr ICW 10 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Greece 17 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr two Greece 6 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr CH 28 Apr. Am. Redstart: arr Greece 6 May. Ovenbird: arr three CH 30 Apr. N. Waterthrush: arr ICW 29 Apr. Mourning Warbler: arr ICW 15 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr ICW 1 May. Hooded Warbler: arr LSP 4 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr Manitou 16 May. Canada Warbler: arr three Murray 10 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one ICW 9 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr two Greece 6 May. Indigo Bunting: arr BB 10 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Springwater 19 Mar. Am. Tree Sparrow: last three Parma 21 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: arr WL 15 Mar. Field Sparrow: arr Manitou 29 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: arr Kendall 23 Mar. Savannah Sparrow: arr HB 30 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two HB 26 Apr. Fox Sparrow: arr Manitou 26 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr ICW 1 May. White-crowned Sparrow: arr one-two Greece 29 Apr. Snow Bunting: last 60 BB 26 Apr. Bobolink: arr two ICW 1 May. E. Meadowlark: arr BB 8 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr seven Manitou 15 Mar. Orchard Oriole: arr PB 18 May, probably not true arr date. N. Oriole: arr IB 29 Apr. Pine Grosbeak: last PB 17 Apr. Com. Redpoll: last two BB 19 Apr.

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REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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Spring 1986 was characterized by average precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures for three consecutive months. During March, both record maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded. Total March precipitation was within an inch of the long-term mean. The first storm of the month, on 6 and 7 Mar, brought snow and cold temperatures, as well as wind speeds of 20-30 miles per hour. This winter weather was broken by a warm southern front on 10 Mar, bringing temperatures to above normal with daytime highs in the 60's. Region 3 had several first spring reports of migrant species during this brief warm spell, including Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, and Osprey. Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird also were reported as arriving in number. A cold front moved across the state on 11 Mar with some accompanying thunderstorms and strong winds. Rain fell, heavily at times, from 13 through 15 Mar. This inclement weather was followed by warmer than normal temperatures through 19 Mar, when another storm system moved across the state. A second pulse of migrants was reported with this warm spell, including Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered

and Broad-winged Hawks, Common Snipe, and Barred Owl. The Region also had its first spring report of Field Sparrow, and reports of American Tree Sparrow departing in numbers. Temperatures dropped dramatically following the front on 19 Mar. At Ithaca, for example, the temperature dropped from 68 degrees at 4 PM to 48 degrees at 9 PM, and by 4 PM on 20 Mar it was only 14 degrees (a drop of 54 degrees in 24 hours). Daily minimum temperatures were broken on 21 Mar, then it began to warm up again on the 22nd. By the 26th, daily temperature records were broken again, but this time they were maximum temperature records. Daytime temperatures were in the upper 60's and low 70's, and on 29 and 30 Mar, temperatures were in the 70's and 80's, surpassing record highs again.

Monthly average temperatures for April were also above normal, this being the warmest April since 1968. Maximum temperatures were in the upper 70's to low 80's. The traditional April showers began on 4 Apr, and persisted through the 11th due to a large stationary storm system, which circulated unseasonably cold air from 9 through 13 Apr. For a brief period, above normal temperatures were recorded, then the rain returned until 17 Apr. A cold front on 20 and 21 Apr brought temperatures below freezing, with associated frost damage, through 24 Apr, when skies cleared. The remainder of April featured lots of sunshine.

In spite of the extended cold and rainy period between 4 and 24 Apr, many spring migrants arrived. These included Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Virginia and Sora Rails, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows. The season's first report of Solitary Vireo came on 19 Apr, during a pause in the rain and before the cold spell.

Two adult Bald Eagles were present at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge throughout April. Although no nest building was reported, the birds investigated appropriate nest sites and engaged in stick exchanging behavior. Hopefully this portends nesting in a coming year.

The first days of May were cold, with nighttime temperatures below freezing. By 6 May temperatures were in the 70's and 80's and remained well above normal through the 18th. Between 18 and 23 May, a cold stationary front dominated our weather with associated thunderstorms. High pressure moved in on the 24th and provided beautiful weather for the remainder of May.

The impression of this spring's birding season was that many birds arrived later than usual, and that fewer individuals of each species were observed. Overall, the usual number of species was recorded. The following are examples of migrant species with unusually few reports this season: Common Nighthawk, Sedge Wren, Henslow's and Lincoln's Sparrows, and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were only single reports of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush. There were also single reports of Caspian, Common, and Black Terns. Migrant shorebirds were reported on relatively late dates and in small numbers, although this may be due to lack of habitat. Many warbler species were difficult to find, as there seemed to be few individuals.

Abbreviations: FLNF—Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SSW—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: one Keuka L in Mar (ML). Least Bittern: single report Cayuga Marsh 26 May. Great Egret: two MNWR 7 May. Green-backed Heron: arr SSW 22 Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Ithaca 1 Apr. Brant: no reports. Am. Black Duck: reported throughout Region, although no reports of large flocks. Mallard: plentiful throughout Region, max 100+ Watkins Glen 2 Mar. N. Shoveler: arr MNWR 5 Apr, none elsewhere. Gadwall: reported throughout Region, max eight Watkins Glen 24 Mar. Am. Wigeon: present throughout Region. Canvasback: present throughout Region, last Ithaca 28 Apr. Redhead: many reports in Mar, tapering off by late Apr. Greater Scaup: reported throughout Region until 21 Apr. Lesser Scaup: last Ithaca 5 May. Oldsquaw: conspicuously absent during the Winter season, now six reports throughout Region. White-winged Scoter: four reports during Mar, all from Cayuga L. Com. Goldeneye: reported throughout Region, last Cayuga L 26 May. Bufflehead: last Cayuga L 27 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 35 on 22 Mar, apparently driven from Queen Catherine Marsh to the lake front by freezing temperatures; nesting Big Flats 19 Apr and near Burdett 24 May. Ruddy Duck: two reports MNWR 20 and 27 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: N. Goshawk: only 3 reports, all from the Ithaca area, and absent from their traditional nesting area near Brooktondale. Rough-legged Hawk: last 29 Apr. Golden Eagle: one subad Arnot Forest 27 Apr (C. S. Robbins *et al.*); also one other report with scanty details. Wild Turkey: increasing, several reports throughout Region. Virginia Rail: arr near Ithaca 25 Apr, five other reports. Sora: arr near Ithaca 14 Apr, four other reports. Com. Moorhen: arr Ithaca Airport, 19 Apr, few reports. Am. Coot: reported throughout Region, max 87 Watkins Glen. Killdeer: arr Cornell University 3 Mar. Spotted Sandpiper: arr MNWR 20 Apr. Am. Woodcock: few reports outside Ithaca area, where it was reported consistently throughout May. Bonaparte's Gull: four Lansing 30 Mar, six Elmira 13 Apr, only reports.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Dryden and Ithaca 17 May. E. Screech-Owl: calling during a warm spell Ithaca 3 and 10 Mar, also two y in one of D. Clements flicker houses 29 May. Great Horned Owl: nesting at Newtown Battlefield Monument. Whip-poor-will one Tyre 29 Apr. Chimney Swift: arr Ithaca 20 Apr and Montour Falls 21 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Ithaca 26 Apr, several early May reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Aurora 13 May, few other reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very few reports. Pileated Woodpecker: increasing, several reports throughout Region.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: three reports, first SSW 12 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr Aurora, 12 May, with several other reports in rapid succession. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one HHSF 17 May. Acadian Flycatcher: one Arnot Forest 25 May, at its traditional site. Purple Martin: arr Seneca Falls 19 Apr, scarcer than usual. Tree Swallow: arr MNWR 15 Mar, early. Cliff Swallow: nesting in Cayuta at a traditional site but not reported at a Big Flats nesting area. Fish Crow: Ithaca until 5 May. Carolina Wren: seemed to have survived the winter well, with several reports throughout Region. Winter Wren: singing at several locations throughout Region, present all season. Marsh Wren: single report MNWR 14 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Aurora 6 Mar, followed by several reports until the end of April. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Ithaca 14 Apr, subsequently reported throughout Region. Gray Catbird: arr Elmira 3 May. Brown Thrasher: arr Connecticut Hill 19 Apr, late. Water Pipit: reported in Mar, last Aurora 17 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLED: White-eyed Vireo: single report Elmira 10 May. Philadelphia Vireo: only two reports SSW 16 May, Dryden Lake 17 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: two reports Elmira 3 & 12 May (A. Smith), Ithaca 7 May (*vide* McIlroy). Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Michigan Hollow 4 May, few reports. Magnolia Warbler: only two reports Ithaca 3 May, Elmira 15 May. Cape May Warbler: three reports between 6 and 10 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Dryden L 26 Apr, then few reports. Pine, Prairie, and Palm Warblers: several reports of each throughout Region. Blackpoll Warbler: four reports 17-23 May. Cerulean Warbler: four singing males along the canal at MNWR in May; also three other reports. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Ithaca 14 Apr, scarce. Prothonotary Warbler: single report Ithaca 5 May, not present at traditional MNWR sites 14 May. Ovenbird: arr FLNF 24 Apr, early; present in usual numbers after 29 Apr. N. Waterthrush: arr SSW 30 Apr. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 15 Apr. Mourning Warbler: two reports, Hammond Hill 11 May and Sullivan's Monument 17 May. Hooded Warbler: several singing males at traditional nesting sites in Ithaca and Montour Falls. Wilson's Warbler: single report Ithaca 15 May. Canada Warbler: only three reports through Region, scarcer than usual. Yellow-breasted Chat: two reports, Ithaca and Elmira, both 13 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: arr Elmira 1 Apr, few reports thereafter. Fox Sparrow: one Elmira 31 Mar; also SSW 20 Mar to 21 Apr. Lapland Longspur: two Apr reports. Bobolink: arr Trumansburg 28 Apr. Orchard Oriole: two reports Elmira, 10 and 17 May. Pine Grosbeak: last Ithaca 21 Apr; none elsewhere. Purple Finch: present all season, but scarce. Pine Siskin: present all season throughout Region. Evening Grosbeak: present all season, with greater than usual numbers during May when they were observed gorging themselves on maple buds.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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Mark Twain's apt 1876 description of the weather as having "a sumptuous variety that compels the stranger's admiration and regret" was appropriate for our spring. Early March was seasonably cold, followed by a warming trend with heavy rain and floods in Broome and Delaware Counties. March ended very warm, with daily high temperatures at Binghamton above 60° for five of the last seven days. A record breaking 81° was recorded on 30 March! Somewhat lower but still above average temperatures continued through most of April, except for a cold period with some snow from 9 to 12 April. Unseasonal cold brought a late snow storm that blanketed Otsego and Delaware Counties on 23 and 24 April. Eleven inches fell at Walton. One day later temperatures were back up in the seventies! The rest of April and all of May were warmer and sunnier than normal. May also was dry except for the third week, when 2.3 inches of rain fell. Precipitation was about average for the period.

What a pleasure it was to have a nice Spring for a change! In the past two years there were five or six consecutive rainy weekends. This year, however, there were nice sunny weekends for most of the migration in May, probably resulting in more eyes and ears in the field and, hence, an excellent species list. The nice weather apparently pushed most migrants through in the first half of