

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.

84-A Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

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

May. Judy Bell banded few migrants after the rainy third week of May. The flooding in March and normal precipitation in April resulted in good conditions for shorebirds at Norwich. Although the weather was generally pleasant, the cold, snowy weather on 12 April forced large numbers of robins and several Hermit Thrushes to the roadsides in Chenango Co. for food and induced E. Phoebes near Chenango Lake to eat sumac berries. Malingering winter finches from the good winter flight also contributed to our species diversity. No crossbills were reported, but no one checked the large conifer tracts in Cortland and Chenango Counties.

Long-legged waders, waterfowl and hawks were well represented. Reports of American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Mute and Tundra Swans, and Merlin at two different locations in the same season are excellent for this Region. Turkey Vultures continue to expand their range north into Chenango Co., where they have been uncommon. Although all of the expected species of owls were reported, numbers were down probably because no one was Atlasing this year. Virginia Rail and Sora, and Loggerhead and Northern Shrike in the same report are a special treat.

An extremely unusual observation of a fishing Am. Crow was reported at Chenango Lake near Norwich by Dan Newby on 17 May. Apparently the crow "dove?" into shallow water, caught a small bullhead and flew off with it in its bill. This report is not to be confused with a Fish Crow which is uncommon in this Region! Two Fish Crows **were** reported on 19 May by Harriet Marsi and Bruce Bozdos at Chenango Valley State Park, which is north of those reported at Vestal in 1980, 1982 and 1984. The birds were identified by voice and size comparisons to nearby Am. Crows, to which they seemed relatively indifferent. This record probably indicates further range expansion up the Susquehanna River and its tributaries.

Of the flycatchers, vireos, and warblers, the only notable misses are Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers and Golden-winged Warbler. Why we continue to miss Olive-sided Flycatcher in migration is a mystery. Perhaps they are relatively silent then. Surely there were some Alder Flycatchers among the five Traill's banded at Newark Valley. The dearth of Golden-wingeds is apparently due to the continuing displacement by Blue-wingeds. Notable southern landbirds that came north this year are Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. Could the extremely warm first half of May have encouraged over-flight migrants to stay?

No Sedge Wrens or Marsh Wrens were reported this Spring. Although Atlas data confirms that Sedge Wrens are rare in this Region, habitat is improving as more farms are being abandoned. Readers are encouraged to search the wet abandoned hayfields required by this species. Because Marsh Wrens are less rare, the lack of reports suggests that we are not birding in cattail marshes. Similarly, only a few Henslow's Sparrows were reported, apparently because few birders look in the appropriate habitat. Hopefully, in future years we can monitor the breeding locations found during the Atlas years.

The species list of 189 plus one hybrid ties that of 1983 as the highest since

1979. Black-crowned Night-Heron, Tundra and Mute Swans, Merlin, Virginia Rail, Sora, Whip-poor-will, Loggerhead Shrike, Fish Crow, and Orchard Oriole are rarities. Only the Delhi Bird Club Spring Count held on 17 May reported total numbers of each species seen.

Observers: Joe & Marion Aloï, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Bill Breidinger, Ted Buhl, Sally Carey, Mildred & Lynn Clark, Ted Clark, Cortland County Bird Club, Chad Covey, Anna & Marilyn Davis, Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Mal & Sadie Dorber, Nancy Emerson, Polly & Earl Gerkin, Marsha Guzewich, Shirley Hartman, Jack Knapik, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi, Leona McDowell, Stella McPherson, Dave Messineo, Naturalists Club of Broome County, D. O'Neill, Betty Potter, Harriet Robinson, Dick Parker, Marie Petuh, Karl Scott, Shane Stalter, E. Sturgess, Tioga Bird Club, Elizabeth Titus, Bill Toner, George Wade, Elizabeth Washburn, Kathryn Wilson, Tom & Beryl Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: bnd—banded; BCC—Broome Community College; CRes—Cannonville Reservoir; CCBSC—Cortland County Bird Club Spring Count; DBCSC—Delhi Bird Club Spring Count; End—Endwell; NV—Newark Valley; Norw—Norwich; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center; WPres—Whitney Point Reservoir; Wind—Windsor; Vest—Vestal.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: two Hunts Pd (DW) and Chen L (JL) 5 Apr, only reports. Com. Loon: arr two Marathon 13 Apr (A & MD), last OPM 19 May (MD, KW). Pied-billed Grebe: arr Apalachin 9 Apr (EW). Horned Grebe: arr Hunts Pd 8 Apr (JL), last two WPres 12 Apr (A & MD). Double-crested Cormorant: Chen L 5 May (JL). Am. Bittern: OPM 29 Apr (MD, KW). Great Blue Heron: arr Vest 17 Mar (T & BW). Green-backed Heron: arr Wind 9 May (JS), two more OPM May, scarce. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Cortland 11 Apr (J & MA). Tundra Swan: arr Tiog 4 Apr (C & JB), last eight Truxton 16 & 17 Apr (BP), unusual. Mute Swan: four Pepacton Res 19 Mar (SMcP). Snow Goose: only report Tiog 21 Apr (C & JB). Canada Goose: arr Norw 4 Mar (DW), max 240 three flocks OPM 17 Mar (MD, KW), 150 Johnson City 19 Apr (JS), last big flight. Wood Duck: arr WPres 23 Mar (A & MD), one f and 12 eggs Coventryville 3 May (JS), early breeding. Green-winged Teal: arr WPres 22 Mar (A & MD), last two OPM 14 Apr (MD, KW). Am. Black Duck: last one DBCSC. Mallard: max 29 OPM 24 Mar (MD, KW). N. Pintail: arr OPM 17 Mar (MD, KW), last Chen Forks 25 Mar (A & MD). Blue-winged Teal: arr OPM 3 Apr (MD & KW), last pair Norw 19 Apr (JL). Am. Wigeon: only report WPres 22 & 23 Mar (A & MD). Gadwall: only report WPres 22 Mar (A & MD). Redhead: only report WPres 23 Mar (A & MD). Ring-necked Duck: arr two 20 Mar Norw (DW), last WPres 6 Apr (A & MD). Greater Scaup: arr one Norw 5 Apr (DW, JL), last pair Geneganslet L 12 Apr (JL). Oldsquaw: arr eight Chen L 8 Apr (JL), last and max 16 WPres 12 Apr (A & MD). Com. Goldeneye: last 10 Apr Davenport (MD). Bufflehead: max 5 OPM 8 Apr (MD, KW), last f OPM 9 May (MD). Hooded Merganser: arr Chen Forks 15 Mar (A & MD), max ten Norw 16 Mar (JL). Com. Merganser: max 12 Oneonta 5 May (MD), last six Port Crane 26 May (HM, BB, FL). Red-breasted Merganser: only six WPres 12 Apr (A & MD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Vest Center 15 Mar (SD), max 40 DBCSC. Osprey: arr Portlandville 14 Apr, max four 5 May OPM (MD, KW). Bald Eagle: only report Hamden 5 May (HR). N. Harrier: arr S. Otselic 13 Mar (DM), few singles through May, low. Sharp-shinned Hawk: about one/week through May, normal? Cooper's Hawk: about three/mo, low? N. Goshawk: arr Apalachin 9 Apr (EW), last Norw 4 May (DW). Red-shouldered Hawk: only report two OPM 13 and 19 May (MD, KW). Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hunts Pd 23 Mar (CC), max two OPM 29 Apr and 26 May (MD, KW). Red-tailed Hawk: arr Apalachin 1 Mar (P & EG), max migration eight OPM 31 Mar (MD, KW),

max 15 DBCSC. Rough-legged Hawk: last three Marathon 16 Mar (JL). Am. Kestrel: max 11 OPM (MD, KW). Merlin: arr one Delhi 21 Mar (MC), last S Otselic 25 Apr (DM). Ring-necked Pheasant: two m End 14 Mar (JS); one Johnson City 20 May (MP), scarce. Ruffed Grouse: max eight DBCSC. Wild Turkey: max 50 Hamden 23 Mar (HR), max breeding 14 DBCSC. Virginia Rail: arr exhausted migrant Smyrna 6 May, fed and released, max two REEC after 29 May (MG). Sora: arr REEC 14 May (JL). Semipalmated Plover: arr BCC 9 Apr (ET), last Norw 17 May (JL). Killdeer: arr 3 Mar OPM (MD, KW), max 20 Franklin 11 Mar (SS) and Plymouth 22 Mar (JL). Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Sherburne 28 Mar (CC), max three Norw 10 May (JL), last two DBCSC. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Norw 19 Apr (JL) & last there 10 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr four 2 May, max 20 10 May, last four 17 May all Norw (JL). Spotted Sandpiper: arr OPM 6 May (MD, KW), max seven DBCSC. Least Sandpiper: only three Norw 17 May (JL). Am. Woodcock: arr Vest 14 Mar (LB). Com. Snipe: arr OPM 28 Mar (MD), max nine WPres 5 Apr (A & MD). Ring-billed Gull: max 150 Delhi 12 Mar (MC). Herring Gull: max 25 N. Colesville 16 Mar (JS).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 50 Delhi 1 Mar (MC). Black-billed Cuckoo: Vest Center 15 May (SD) and Norw 17 May (JL) only reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only report Tiog May (LD). E. Screech-Owl: Tiog Mar (LD) and Vest 5 May (LB), scarce. Great Horned Owl: very few, av one/mo. Barred Owl: only report Valonia Springs 19 Apr (JS). Whip-poor-will: only report Broome May (LD). Com. Nighthawk: arr Oneonta 18 May (MD), last four New Berlin 25 May (CC). Chimney Swift: arr Vest 27 Apr (LB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr NV 13 May (JB). Belted Kingfisher: max 12 DBCSC. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr DBCSC. Red-bellied Woodpecker: few scattered 1-3/mo. Tiog-Broome, one REEC 17 May (JL) where unusual. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Chen Forks 29 Mar (A & MD), max six Wind 9 May (JS). Downy Woodpecker: max 17 DBCSC. Hairy Woodpecker: max 15 DBCSC. N. Flicker: arr Vest Center 18 Mar (SD), max 32 DBCSC. Pileated Woodpecker: max 15 DBCSC, very high.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: arr OPM 10 May (MD). Acadian Flycatcher: two NV 16 & 17 May (JB), only report. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only report Norw 17 May (JL). Traill's Flycatcher: arr two bnd NV 15 May (JB). Willow Flycatcher: arr BCC 23 May (ET). Least Flycatcher: arr Walton & OPM 29 Apr. E. Phoebe: arr Vest Center 25 Mar (SD), max 25 DBCSC. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Vest Center 6 May (SD). E. Kingbird: arr Walton 29 Apr. (MC, LMCD, SH). Horned Lark: max 250 OPM 12 Mar (MD, KW). Purple Martin: only report Owego 19 Apr (C & JB). Tree Swallow: arr Delhi 26 Mar (MC), max 103 DBCSC. Rough-winged Swallow: arr NV 20 Apr (JB). Bank Swallow: arr 30 Walton 29 Apr (MC, LMCD, SH). Cliff Swallow: arr two DBCSC. Barn Swallow: arr Norw 20 Apr (JL). Blue Jay: max 90 DBCSC. Am. Crow: max 54 DBCSC. Black-capped Chickadee: max 41 DBCSC. Tufted Titmouse: scattered 3-4/week Mar-Apr Southern Tier only. Red-breasted Nuthatch: several/mo. everywhere. White-breasted Nuthatch: max 16 DBCSC. Brown Creeper: arr OPM 3 Mar (MD, KW). Carolina Wren: two Broome Mar, last Chen L 12 Apr (JL), unusual. House Wren: arr NV & Chen Forks 27 Apr. Winter Wren: arr Pittsfield 13 Apr (CC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr and max six N. Colesville 2 Mar (JS). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Norw 10 Apr (JL), last DBCSC. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Norw 21 Apr (JL), max 12 NV 16 May (JB). E. Bluebird: arr Delhi 15 Mar (SC). Veery: arr Norw 28 Apr (DW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only report OPM 12 May (MD, KW). Swainson's Thrush: arr bnd NV (JB), max three DBCSC. Hermit Thrush: arr three Whaley Pd & N. Pharsalia 12 Apr (JL). Wood Thrush: Pharsalia 28 Apr (CC). Am. Robin: max 300 Chen 12 Apr (JL). Gray Catbird: arr four Wind 9 May (JS). N. Mockingbird: several/mo Southern Tier, normal, one Norw 29 Mar (DW) & Otselic 15 May (DM) where uncommon. Brown Thrasher: arr Norw 7 Apr (JL), max 17 DBCSC. Water Pipit: arr & max 25 OPM 8 Apr (MD, KW), last Norw 17 May (JL). Cedar Waxwing: max 30 Bing 5 Mar (ML) & Norw 7, 28, 29 Apr (JL). Loggerhead Shrike: only report N Colesville 2 to 16 Mar (JS). N. Shrike: only report im Preston 22 Mar (JL).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr OPM 29 Apr (MD, KW). Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Norw 6 May (JL). Warbling Vireo: arr OPM 29 Apr (MD, KW), max 10 DBCSC. Red-eyed Vireo: arr NV (JB) & Broome (SD) 7 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr bnd NV 29 Apr (JB). Golden-winged Warbler: only report Tiog May (GW), scarce. "Brewster's" Warbler: only report Truxton 18 May (DP). Tennessee Warbler: reported Vest 7 to 19 May (LB). Nashville Warbler: arr Vest 28 Apr (LB). N. Parula: only report bnd NV 9 May (JB). Yellow Warbler: arr three locations 29 Apr, max 62 DBCSC. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Delhi 29 Apr (MC, LMCD). Magnolia Warbler: arr Norw 24 Apr (DW). Cape May Warbler: arr OPM 9 May (MD), last two DBCSC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Hunts Pd 11 May (CC), max six DBCSC. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr three locations 28 Apr, max 20 OPM 29 Apr (MD, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Lincklaen 28 Apr (CC). Blackburnian Warbler: arr three Walton 29 Apr (MC, LMCD, SH), max seven DBCSC. Prairie Warbler: arr Vest 30 Apr (LB). Palm Warbler: only report Truxton 11 May (KS). Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Delhi 28 Apr (MC), max & last nine Chen 17 May (CC, JL). Blackpoll Warbler: arr bnd NV 16 May, max & last 24 there 24 May (JB). Black-and-white Warbler: arr Nimmonsburg 9 Apr (ET). Am. Redstart: arr Vest 8 May (LB). Worm-eating Warbler: only report CCBSC 10 May. Ovenbird: arr OPM 29 Apr (MD, KW), max 25 DBCSC. N. Waterthrush: arr bnd NV 27 Apr (JB). Louisiana Waterthrush: arr two Walton 29 Apr (MC, LMCD, SH). Mourning Warbler: arr bnd NV 16 May (JB). Com. Yellowthroat: arr two Wind (JS) & ten OPM (MD, KW) 9 May, max 45 DBCSC. Hooded Warbler: arr m Norw 14 May (JL) still present 31 May. Wilson's Warbler: singles bnd NV 12 & 13 May (JB), only report. Canada Warbler: arr five OPM 10 May (MD).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Vest 6 May (LB). N. Cardinal: max 17 DBCSC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr m Walton 29 Apr (MC, LMCD, SH). Indigo Bunting: arr one bnd NV 10 May (JB). Rufous-sided Towhee: arr Vest 5 Apr (LB). Am. Tree Sparrow: late max 22 OPM 3 Mar (MD, KW), last two Coventryville 3 May (JS). Chipping Sparrow: arr Vest 6 Apr (LB), max 64 DBCSC. Field Sparrow: arr OPM 24 Mar (MD, KW). Vesper Sparrow: arr BCC 9 Apr (ET). Savannah Sparrow: arr two Norw 8 Apr (JL). Grasshopper Sparrow: arr four N Colesville 17 May (JS), still present 31 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Norw 12 Apr, another there 3 May (DW), one Broome 18 May (ML, EW), still scarce. Fox Sparrow: arr Vest Center 12 Mar (SD), max six Choconut Center 28 Mar (JS), last Apalachin 19 Apr (EW). Song Sparrow: max 60 DBCSC. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report bnd NV 6 May (JB). Swamp Sparrow: arr OPM 3 Apr (MD, KW). White-throated Sparrow: max 12 DBCSC. White-crowned Sparrow: max 14 DBCSC, last OPM 19 May (MD, KW). Dark-eyed Junco: migration max 90 OPM 3 Apr (MD, KW). Bobolink: arr three Valonia Springs 10 May (JS), max 55 DBCSC. Red-winged Blackbird: arr three N Colesville 9 Mar (JS), max 300 Coventryville 16 Mar (JS). Rusty Blackbird: arr 6 Apr REE (JL), last OPM 9 May (MD). E. Meadowlark: arr six OPM 17 Mar (MD, KW). Com. Grackle: arr three West Corners 11 Mar & migration max 200 N Colesville 5 Apr (JS). Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Delhi 1 Mar (MC), max 40 DBCSC. Orchard Oriole: only report f bnd NV 11 May (JB). N. Oriole: arr bnd NV 5 May (JB), max 74 DBCSC. Pine Grosbeak: max 15 N Colesville 9 Mar (JS), last six S Plymouth 22 Mar (JL). Purple Finch: arr Walton 3 Mar (SH), max 21 DBCSC. House Finch: max 60 DBCSC. Com. Redpoll: max 24 End 18 Mar (ML), last Norw 29 Mar (DW). Pine Siskin: max 30 NV to 12 May (JB), last two Coventryville 25 May (JS). Am. Goldfinch: max 119 DBCSC. Evening Grosbeak: max 100 Norw 22 Apr (JL), last Broome three locations 24 May.

RD 2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815