

VIREOS-WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one singing ICW 11 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr CH 8 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Rochester 7 May, max 43 LSP 23 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Manitou 11 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles ICW 11, 12 and 18 May and WL 23 May. Prairie Warbler: singles ICW 11 May and Mendon Ponds 20-22 May, six LSP 23, 29-31 May (two reported throughout). Cerulean Warbler: arr CH 11 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one Greece 24-25 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr five LSP 23 Apr. Kentucky Warbler: singles BB 22 May, ICW 23 May. Connecticut Warbler: singles Manitou 22 May, ICW 29 May. Hooded Warbler: arr ten LSP 20 May, max 49 LSP 23 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Norway Road 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max 22 LSP 23 May. Indigo Bunting: max 56 LSP 23 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Manitou 20 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr WL 29 Mar. Savannah Sparrow: arr BB 29 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Nation's Road, Avon, 3 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Nation's Road 3 May. Fox Sparrow: arr ICW 20 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: last Manitou 30 May. E. Meadowlark: max 125 BB 30 Mar. Yellow-headed Blackbird: male BB 30 Mar. Brewer's Blackbird: male Manitou 10 Apr (FN). Orchard Oriole: arr ICW 19 May. Red Crossbill: singles Mendon Ponds 13 Mar, BB 24 Mar. White-winged Crossbill: two LSP 25 Apr. Common Redpoll: max 2680 BB 24 May, 2410 BB 25 May (FN). Pine Siskin: ten Manitou 27 May, one banded had a brood patch, nesting? 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

March was significantly warmer and sunnier than normal. There was about 1 inch of precipitation in the first days of March, followed by high pressure and record high temperatures from 5 to 8 Mar. On 9 Mar, a surge of cold arctic air plunged temperatures to their lowest levels of the month, but by 13 Mar temperatures were closer to normal. The weather continued to be mild, reaching daytime highs in the 60's and 70's, until 25 Mar when it rained again. By 29 Mar, afternoon highs were again in the upper 60's and 70's. A cold front on 31 Mar brought heavy precipitation and wind gusts of 35 to 50 mph. This storm was quickly followed by another on 2 Apr, which became stationary until 8 Apr. This stalled front brought up to 3 inches of rain and caused flooding in some areas. After the front passed, temperatures warmed up to the 60's and 70's. There was more rain on 12 Apr, followed by a warm and sunny period from 19 to 21 Apr, with temperatures in the upper 70's to 80's. Two successive cold fronts on 22-23 Apr brought more seasonal temperatures and frost to many locations. During the last five days of April there was only about 1 inch of precipitation. May was one of the ten driest since 1890! Temperatures were above normal for the third month in a row. During the month there were three cold fronts, with associated thunderstorms and up to a half inch of precipitation, on 10-11, 19-20 and 22-23 May.

During the last five days of the month it was hazy, hot and humid and several temperature records were broken. Ithaca set a new record of 90 on 30 May, and there were severe thunderstorms during this period, especially in Schuyler County where 12 trees were uprooted in the town of Odessa.

Birders were active during the season's warm and sunny weather. As a result, there were detailed reports of a wide variety of species. Several winter irruptive species were observed well into the spring season. A Snowy owl was at Seneca Lake State Park through the second week of March. Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks and Common Redpolls were observed regularly throughout the Region until mid-April.

There were numerous detailed reports from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge this season. A Cattle Egret was observed there 14 Apr. A pair of Osprey arrived in April, built a nest at Tshache Pool, and were incubating as of 31 May. Two adult Bald Eagles, which have been present at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for most of the past year, were still present throughout the Spring season with no evidence of nesting. Double-crested Cormorants arrived in May and, although a maximum of 60 Cormorants were recorded, there is no evidence of nesting - yet! However, as of 31 May there were 114 active nests of Great Blue Heron. Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon and Ruddy Duck were recorded in April, although there were few other reports. The water level at May's Point Pool was low this spring, and many shorebird species were observed in late April and May. These included: Black-bellied and Lesser Golden-Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Dunlin, Wilson's Phalarope, and both Dowitcher species. There were also a variety of "peep" sandpipers including Western, White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers.

Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were present in small numbers all season. Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser were present on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, although few details are available.

There were many reports of almost all transient and summer resident warbler species. There were many reports even of uncommon warblers such as Prairie, Cerulean, Mourning, and Hooded. There were no reports of Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers. Two species - Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush - were underreported and may have been overlooked. Except for Grasshopper Sparrow, there were virtually no reports of "grassland" sparrow species, a group often overlooked.

Highlights for the Spring season include **RED-THROATED LOON**, **CATTLE EGRET**, several sightings of **EURASIAN WIGEON** and a **SANDHILL CRANE**. A singing male **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** was observed for over an hour 26 May at Arnot Forest. This bird is presumed to be a transient, as it was not observed the following week when a Summer Field Ornithology class, sponsored by the Laboratory of Ornithology, was held at this facility.

This season's report is the final one for two people who are no longer able to contribute regularly to the *Kingbird*. A special note of thanks to Polly Keating and Malcolm Lerch for their efforts over the years.

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Abbreviations: AF - Cornell University's Arnot Forest Teaching & Research Facility, CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area, FB - Frenchman's Bluff Nature Conservancy Preserve, FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest, HH - Hammond Hill State Forest, MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Aurora 27 Mar. Great Egret: three singles, Elmira 23 Apr, MNWR 3 & 19 May. **CATTLE EGRET:** *intro*. Black-crowned Night Heron: sole report SWS 7 May. Tundra Swan: three Ithaca area reports without numbers, only reports. Snow Goose: reported on Cayuga & Seneca Lakes in Mar, max 12,000 MNWR 21 Apr. Brant: none. Canada Goose: max 55,000 MNWR. Wood Duck: max 630 MNWR. Green-winged Teal: max 70 MNWR. AM. Black Duck: max 520 MNWR. Mallard: max 2,000 MNWR. N. Pintail: max less than 20 but widespread. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** several sightings at both Aurora and Sheldrake 9 Mar, max two males and two females. Ring-necked Duck: widespread in Mar & Apr, max 50 MNWR 24 Mar. Hooded Merganser: several reports, max 30 MNWR Mar and Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread all season. Osprey: isolated record early report Ithaca 8 Mar; *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk: widespread all season. N. Goshawk: two reports from traditional nesting areas at Brooktondale & E Corning, no confirmed nesting. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports in the Ithaca area in Apr & May, also two present AF and two HH in May. Broad-winged Hawk: five reports in Apr & May. Red-tailed Hawk: widespread all season, two at a traditional nest site near Elmira, nesting success unconfirmed. Merlin: one MNWR 29 Mar. Peregrine Falcon: im MNWR 22 Mar. Ruffed Grouse: widespread all season, several reports of drumming in Apr & May. Wild Turkey: reported at several locations, numbers increasing. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one MNWR 20 May seen by two Refuge employees. **KING RAIL:** one MNWR 23 May, responding to taped calls and observed clearly several times. Upland Sandpiper: four reports from Ithaca & Elmira 21 Apr-16 May. Bonaparte's Gull: very few reports. Iceland Gull: two reports, Aurora 8 & 30 Mar, Seneca Lake 11 & 12 Mar. Glaucous Gull: one Aurora 29 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: regularly reported in the Cayuga Lake and MNWR areas, but none elsewhere. Black Tern: sole report 17 May, *no locality*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one sedentary bird at C. Melin's home throughout May, only report. Barn Owl: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: only one report. Great Horned Owl: widespread. Barred Owl: all reports Ithaca area. N. Saw-whet Owl: one CH 7 May. Whip-poor-will: AF 7 May, FB 16 May. Chimney Swift: about 150 Ithaca 23 Apr, using a public school chimney. Red-headed Woodpecker: four reports from Aurora, Esker Brook Trail MNWR, Jordan Swamp in May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: widespread. Bank Swallow: over 100 at traditional nesting site Watkins Glen 16 May. Fish Crow: present all season at Stewart Park, Ithaca. Com. Raven: one CH 17 May. Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread. Carolina Wren: present at several locations in Ithaca, Watkins Glen, and Elmira. Winter Wren: six reports. Marsh Wren: four May reports. Eastern Bluebird: present all season, may be increasing. Gray Catbird: one Ithaca early Mar probably over-wintered nearby. N. Mockingbird: one "pure white" individual 17 May Slaterville Rd. Water Pipit: widespread after 28 Mar, max 30 Poplar Ridge Aurora. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mt Zoar 28 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Hile School Rd, Freeville 9 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: isolated record early report Ithaca 20 Apr. Warbling Vireo: isolated record

early report Ithaca 19 Apr. Red-eyed Vireo: isolated record early report Ithaca 23 Apr. Bay-breasted Warbler: isolated record early report Seneca Falls 16 Apr (no details). Yellow-breasted Chat: one SWS 13 May, two FB 31 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: plentiful, many reports. Orchard Oriole: singing male Aurora 16 May, nest-building in progress 22 May, female at nest 31 May (TC). Grasshopper Sparrow: a dozen singing males AF 27 May. Clay-colored Sparrow: *intro*. Red Crossbill: pair with nesting material plus another singing male FLNF 9 Mar and four WGSP 19 May. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak: widespread all season.

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REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

[The Region 4 spring report was delayed by a computer failure - The Editor.] (See page 173 for winter report)

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Unseasonably cold weather this spring at the end of April and the beginning of May slowed the advance of northward migrants. There were only four reports of Black-billed Cuckoo and none of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Flycatchers and Swallows were generally low in numbers. Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow and Barn Swallow were the only swallows with counts of 100 or more. Thrushes, especially Swainson's, Hermit and Wood Thrush, were unusually scarce with maxima only up to ten. Only one Loggerhead Shrike was reported. The warbler flight produced low numbers for most species with the exception of Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Ovenbird. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin made a remarkable return flight, the largest since 1981. The raptor flight at Derby Hill brought record maximum numbers of Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle. A light morph adult **SWAINSON'S HAWK** on 12 Apr was the eighth Regional record. Three Peregrine Falcons over Derby Hill between 29 Mar and 23 Apr were the season's total for this endangered bird. Two adult **SANDHILL CRANES** flew by Derby Hill on 16 Apr, appearing there for the third consecutive year. Owl banders at Noyes Sanctuary also had good results with the capture and release of the Region's fifth **BOREAL OWL** 11 Apr (see Field Notes). Twenty eight N. Saw-whet Owls were banded at the Sanctuary from 25 Mar to 26 Apr, and seven Long-eared Owls from 25 Mar to 1 May.