

*[This report is the last to be co-authored by Tony Leukering and John Walsh, who now will assume sole Editorship of Region 10. On behalf of the Federation, thanks to Tony for his contributions to **The Kingbird**. Reports for Region 10 should be sent to **John Walsh, 33 Second Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231** —The Editor.]*

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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[This report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue. Arrival dates marked with an asterisk in the accounts of species are corrections to the list of arrival dates tabulated in the previous issue - The Editor]

March started out wintry in Binghamton with 2.9 inches of snow in the first few days. Then the weather abruptly changed to sunny and dry with normal to above normal temperatures. Snowfall for the month was well below the norm of 14.6 inches, and precipitation was almost two inches short of the average 3.19 inches. Only one day, 10 March, had a mean temperature significantly below the norm while record breaking high temperatures of 62°F, 64°F, and 67°F were recorded on 7, 8, 24 and 25 March, respectively. For the last ten days of March temperatures were ten to twenty degrees above the norm. The weather faucet turned back on to produce the expected April showers but then turned off for May. April was wet, with an above average 1.13 inches of rainfall, and warmer than normal, with only eight days of mean temperatures moderately below normal. May was quite sunny and dry with 1.9 inches of rain less than the average. May seemed warmer than normal with at least ten days in the last three weeks with temperatures in the seventies and eighties, but mean temperatures were nearly normal.

Despite the mild weather which caused an early thaw of our lakes and created good conditions for sighting waterfowl, the species list tied the low of twenty one. Apparently the good weather caused an early migration. Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck, which have been reported in roughly half of the spring reports since 1979, were not reported again, and its not clear why. Greater Scaup was not seen for the first time since 1979. On the bright side Surf and Black Scoter occurred for the first and third times in nine years. Snow Geese in excellent numbers were reported for only the fourth year in nine. Apparently, observers have discovered the secret; keep looking up to see the flocks flying over in early March and April.

It is encouraging that American Bittern was reported from three locations, the second highest count since 1979. Unfortunately, Least Bittern reports continue to be discouraging. This season's report is only the third since 1979. There must be more out there somewhere! About every third year since 1979 a rare long-legged wader has been reported in the region: Snowy Egret in 1979, Glossy Ibis and Little Blue Heron in 1981, and Great Egret in 1984. This year **Cattle Egrets** were seen in April and May. Perhaps the mild weather caused migration overshoot. Any suggestions on what will be reported in 1990?

Raptors are well represented. Turkey Vulture reports are high again indicative of their continued northward expansion. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late; one at Cortland on 23 April is the second latest report in nine years. A Merlin, considered by some to be rare here, was reported for the sixth year in nine. There were two interesting observations of behavior. Shirley Hartman observed Bald Eagles feeding on dead deer on the ice on Cannonsville Reservoir in early March. Mary Dobinsky saw an Osprey feeding on a fish on a log under the watchful eye of two Turkey Vultures, who did not interfere.

Turkey hunters bemoaned the mild weather. The gobblers starting early this year, and poor hunting characterized the second season after mid May. Birders and turkeys rejoiced! Consequently, on the early date of 25 May Joe Sedlacek saw two hens with fifteen poults at North Colesville. There was good variety of shorebirds and other waterbirds. Common Moorhen and Virginia Rail were seen for only the fourth and third year, respectively in the past nine. Eight species of sandpiper ties the previous high count since 1979. Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpiper were reported for only the third time since 1979. Upland Sandpiper was seen for only the fourth time in nine years. Whip-poor-wills apparently are still doing poorly. Perhaps we should be encouraged that there have been single reports for the third year in a row and in six of the last nine.

Southern birds expanding northward are still doing well. Good numbers of Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Cardinals, and Mockingbirds suggest that the mild winter aided their survival. Acadian Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, and Orchard Oriole were reported for the second consecutive spring. Since the weather patterns this year were similar to those of last spring, its difficult to distinguish migration overshoot from range expansion. However, the former may be a mechanism for the latter. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were widely reported this season, indicating continued movement northward. In addition, Louise Dean saw a pair building a nest near Nichols.

Cliff Swallows, somewhat unusual in northern and western parts of this Region, are still present in good numbers at the bridges over the Susquehanna River near Otego where they have bred in the past. There were encouraging and discouraging signs for our rarer species. Marsh Wren was seen for the first time in nine years, but again there were no Sedge Wrens. Purple Martin reports are still low.

All the expected migrant and resident flycatchers, vireos, and warblers occurred in reasonable numbers. We missed only Palm Warbler. Pine Warbler was reported for only the fourth spring in nine. The mild weather caused record early reports

for Eastern Wood-Pewee, Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rufous-sided Towhee apparently overwintered at Finch Hollow Nature Center (Winter Report) so the early report there is understandable. The Northern Waterthrush in March was an especially early and isolated "early bird". There were no major migration movements reported.

All the sparrows appeared this season, including a Henslow's, which is unusual. The numbers of Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows reported are encouraging. Pine Siskins, Redpolls, and Red Crossbills malingered through the period after the good winter flight. Evening Grosbeaks stayed rather late. A Dickcissel, rare here, was reported on the Cortland County Bird Club Spring Count on 9 May but was not included in the species list because no details were provided.

The list of 188 species plus two hybrids is the second highest list since 1979. Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Surf Scoter, Whip-poor-will, Acadian Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Lawrence's Warbler, and Orchard Oriole are great rarities. Other more frequently reported rarities are Black Scoter, American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Virginia Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Pine Warbler. Much of the species account uses field records of Mary Dobinsky and Kathryn Wilson (OPM), Joe Sedlacek (Windsor, NCol), and Jay Lehman (Norwich, Chen, PTT). It is with mixed feelings that I report that Kathryn Wilson has moved to South Carolina. We hope that she finds good birding there, but we will miss the excellent reports that she provided with Mary Dobinsky for all those years.

Observers: Juanita Angle, Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Les Bemont (LBe), Reynolds Bennett, Lois Bingley, Cheryl Boise, Mildred Clark, Sally Carey, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, Nancy Emerson, Margaret Ferranti, Finch Hollow Nature Center, Walt Gardner, Polly & Earl Getkin, Shirley Hartman, Jack Knapik, Doug Kibbe, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Saul Levin, Ray Marchand, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Bobbi Monroe, Soini OConnell, Dick Parker, Marie Petuh, Mr. & Mrs. Halliday Pierce, Marion Pratt, Bob & Jean Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, K. Stalter, Tioga Bird Club, Elizabeth Titus, Elizabeth Washburn, Anne Whitaker, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor.

Abbreviations: CCBSC - Cortland County Bird Club Spring Count; ChBr - Chenango Bridge; CRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; DOASSC - Delaware Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count; JCity - Johnson City; NCol - North Colesville; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PTT- Pharsalia Truck Trail; TBC-Tioga Bird Club.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr L Ludlow 26 Apr (CC); last DOASSC 16 May. Pied-billed Grebe: only one CCBSC 9 May. Horned Grebe: arr U Lisle 12 Apr (MDv). Am. Bittern: singles N Norwich 16 May (JL) and Tiog, high. Least Bittern: only one near Endwell 24 May (ML,JK). Great Blue Heron: arr Coventryville 29 Mar (JS). **CATTLE EGRET**: arr Deans Pd 12 Apr (MDv); one Cort 11 May (BM), rare. Green-backed Heron: arr 11 Apr*; five more sites May, high. Snow Goose: arr Tiog 7 Mar (C&JB,B&EM); unusually many with two large flights Oxford 3 Mar (JA) and 65 Norwich 5 Apr (DW). Canada Goose: arr and max 120 NCol. Wood Duck: arr Tiog 19 Mar. Green-winged Teal: last two OPM 10 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 12 Delhi 27 Mar (MC); last two Dela 8 May (DBC). Blue-winged Teal: arr Tiog Mar, early*; two other sites May, high. N. Shoveler: only one OPM 9 Apr. Am. Widgeon: arr Tiog 7 Mar (B&EM); unusual count of two U Lisle 29 Mar (JL) and one OPM 4 May. Ring-necked Duck: arr ChBr 19 Mar (MDv); max

37 U Lisle 29 Mar (JL); last four Oneonta Res 29 Apr (MD). Lesser Scaup: arr one U Lisle 29 Mar (JL); last two CRes 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE). Oldsquaw: only one CRes 29 Apr (M/MHP,NE). Black Scoter: arr five Dela 23 Apr; last Dela 28 Apr (DBC). **SURF SCOTER:** only one Dela 27 Apr (DBC). Com. Goldeneye: arr ChBr 7 Mar (MDv); only other Tiog Mar. Hooded Merganser: arr eight Delhi 3 Mar (MC). Common Merganser: max 11 Whitney Pt Res 29 Mar (JL); last Dela 10 May (TBC).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr singles Dela, OPM, Hawkins P 24 Mar; widespread Apr-May, increasing. Osprey: arr 7 Apr *. Bald Eagle: max five CRes 6 Mar (SH); last there 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE). N. Harrier: arr Tiog Mar (C&JB); good count of four sites Apr-May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles widespread Mar-May. Cooper's Hawk: singles at seven sites, max three DOASSC 16 May. N. Goshawk: only one Tiog Mar (LD). Red-tailed Hawk: max five mid Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: max six OPM 16 Apr. Merlin: only one Tiog Apr (C&JB). Ring-necked Pheasant: three sites, unusual. Wild Turkey: max *ca* 40 OPM early Mar; several/week thereafter. Virginia Rail: only two Norwich 6 May*. Com. Moorhen: only one U Lisle 9 May* (MDv). Killdeer: common after 8 Mar; max 13 U Lisle P 29 Mar (JL). Greater Yellowlegs: max two OPM 4 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: only report Norwich 17 May (DW). Solitary Sandpiper: arr 27 Apr*; last two DOASSC 16 May. Spotted Sandpiper: common after 4 May. Least Sandpiper: max four Sherburne 16 May (JL); last Vestal 31 May (MP,SL). Semipalmated Sandpiper: only three Vestal 31 May (MP,ME,EW). Dunlin: only one Vestal 31 May (MP, *et al.*), unusual. Com. Snipe: *ca* four each Apr & May. Bonaparte's Gull: arr CRes 29 Apr (M/M HP,NE); last two OPM. Ring-billed Gull: max 30 Otsego L 28 May (MD). Herring Gull: max 10 OPM 9 Mar (RM); last DOASSC 16 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: max 42 Delhi 5 Mar (MC). E. Screech-Owl: only one Tiog (C&JB). Great Horned Owl: singles at *ca* four sites each month. Barred Owl: four sites Apr-May, high. Com. Nighthawk: Norwich 26 May (DW) and Tioga May, scarce. **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** CCBSC 9 May, rare. Chimney Swift: arr Tiog 12 Apr* (D&JB), record early since 1961, regular after 3 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 11 May*. Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar OPM. Red-bellied Woodpecker: only Tiog Mar-May and CCBSC 9 May. N. Flicker: arr Norwich 22 Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: at 12 sites, high.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: only one Delhi 28 May* (MC). E. Wood-Pewee: arr Tiog 30 Apr* (C&JB), record early since 1961; common after 11 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only Smyrna 16 May (WG). Acadian Flycatcher: only Tiog 18 May (C&JB). Willow Flycatcher: several Tiog May (TBC). Alder Flycatcher: only four reports after 17 May. Least Flycatcher: one Windsor 18 Apr, record early since 1961. E. Phoebe: common after 27 Mar. Great Crested Flycatcher: Tiog Apr* (no date, LD), record early. E. Kingbird: arr 2 May*. Horned Lark: only scattered reports Mar-May. Purple Martin: only two sites May, still low. Tree Swallow: max 100 Norwich 29 Mar. N. Rough-winged Swallow: weekly after 24 Apr. Bank Swallow: max 20 Vestal 12 May; then weekly at three sites. Cliff Swallow: regular after mid May; max 70 Otsego 22 May (MD). Barn Swallow: regular after 20 Apr. Tufted Titmouse: widespread Southern Tier at 12 sites, high. Red-breasted Nuthatch: max six Chen 16 May. Brown Creeper: two to five/month. Carolina Wren: one to two at three sites, good winter survival. House Wren: arr Tiog Apr*, early; regular after 2 May. Winter Wren: only four May reports at three sites. **MARSH WREN:** only one DOASSC 16 May*, rare in spring. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Norwich 8 Mar; max ten PIT. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Norwich 17 Apr; last CCBSC 9 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 8 May*; one to two at five sites to 16 May, high. E. Bluebird: arr 4 Mar*, widespread after 8 Mar. Veery: regular after mid May. Swainson's Thrush: one to two at three sites, normal. Hermit Thrush: regular after 18

Apr. Wood Thrush: arr Tiog 19 Apr* (TBC), record early since 1961; common after 7 May. Am. Robin: arr three sites 7 Mar. Gray Catbird: arr 4 May*. N. Mockingbird: at seven Southern Tier sites, high. Brown Thrasher: several/week after 3 May. Water Pipit: arr Tiog 19 Apr (C&JB); only one more CCBCSC 9 May. Cedar Waxwing: arr 12 Unadilla 7 Mar (MD). N. Shrike: only one Trux 1 Mar (DP), died there.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: arr 26 Apr*; max 14 PTT 16 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: max four OPM 22 May. Warbling Vireo: max 12 OPM 28 May. Red-eyed Vireo: widespread after 10 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Vestal 6 May (LBe); regular thereafter. Lawrence's Warbler: arr Tiog 7 May (D&JB), rare. Brewster's Warbler: singles at four sites after 16 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr two Windsor 10 May; singles Vestal 17-31 May and max three DOASSC 16 May, high. Tennessee Warbler: max four PTT 16 May; last Vestal 28 May (LBe). Nashville Warbler: at five sites after 1 May. N. Parula: singles at three sites 13 & 16 May, high. Yellow Warbler: arr Tiog 27 Apr (D&JB); widespread after 2 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max ten Chen 16 May. Magnolia Warbler: max 22 Chen 16 May. Cape May Warbler: arr 15 May*; only other PTT 16 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 13 May*; max six PTT 16 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Delhi 13 Apr (MC). Black-throated Green Warbler: max 14 Chen 16 May. Blackburnian Warbler: max 13 PTT 16 May. Pine Warbler: only one DOASSC 16 May (CB,DK), unusual. Prairie Warbler: arr Vestal 7 May (LBe); singles at four sites Chen-Broo to 24 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: ChBr 24 May (B&S), low. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Tiog 17 May (D&JB); singles at three sites Broo to 24 May. Black-and-white Warbler: regular after 10 May. Am. Redstart: regular after 10 May. Ovenbird: max 20 Chen 16 May. N. Waterthrush: one Walton 29 Mar (SH), very early; max five Chen 16 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr OPM 2 May. Mourning Warbler: arr 14 May*; singles thereafter. Com. Yellowthroat: common after mid May. Hooded Warbler: arr Norwich 16 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr Tioga 11 May (D&JB); singles Norwich 16 & 19 May. Canada Warbler: one to four at three sites 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Vestal Center 26 Apr (SD), earliest since 1961; one to five/week six sites after 13 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Vestal Center 26 Apr (SD), earliest since 1961. Indigo Bunting: widespread but scarce after 12 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Finch Hollow Nature Center 8 Mar, probably overwintered nearby. Am. Tree Sparrow: max 17 Delhi 5 & 9 Mar (MC); last there 12 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: one Pittsfield 28 Mar (CC) very early; widespread after 18 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr Tiog 28 Mar (B&EM). Vesper Sparrow: to five/week six sites 12 Apr-16 May, high. Savannah Sparrow: to five/week six sites after 18 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two Windsor 10 May; one or two at five sites after 16 May, high. Henslow's Sparrow: only one near Endwell 24 May (ML,JK). Fox Sparrow: arr Chen Forks 24 Mar (MDv); ten more until last OPM 12 Apr, high. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report 7 May*. Swamp Sparrow: arr OPM 20 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: max 30 OPM 29 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: max seven; at seven sites until 16 May, high. Dark-eyed Junco: max 40 OPM 14 Apr. Bobolink: max 20 four sites Broome 13 May. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Delhi 6 Mar (MC). E. Meadowlark: arr U Lisle 7 Mar (MDv). Rusty Blackbird: arr Tioga 22 Mar (D&JB,LB); last CCBCSC 9 May. Com. Grackle: arr Norwich 6 Mar (DW). Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Delhi 6 Mar (MC). **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** only one CCBCSC 9 May, unusual. N. Oriole: common after 8 May. Purple Finch: arr four Wells Bridge 7 Mar (MD). House Finch: max 75 J City 1 Mar (MP). Red Crossbill: max 25 PTT 8 Mar and four 15 Mar; three Norwich 16 Apr; max 30 DOASSC 16 May. Com. Redpoll: max 75 J City 1 Mar (JS); last Endwell 12 Apr (ML). Pine Siskin: max ca. 40 OPM 29 Apr; last J City 24 May (JS). Am. Goldfinch: increase at feeders to 35 OPM 12 Mar then decrease. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 OPM 20 Mar; last one J City 22 May (MP), late.

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