

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** singles Greece 12 May (SH), MB 14-15 May (J & SSK), IC 8 May (AC), excellent spring total, uncommon but somewhat regular recently. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr MB 13 May, last WL 28 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr MB and Oatka 8 May, max 50 LSP 22 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr MB 8 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** one MB 10 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** last MB 31 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one WL 17 May, one MB 24 May, uncommon in spring. **N. Parula:** last Greece 29 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 50+ LSP, WL 28 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 300+ WL 14 May; **"Audubon's" Warbler:** one IC 2 May (SCa), report to RBA. **Prairie Warbler:** one IC 8-10 May, one MPd 27-30 May, one LSP 22-31 May, breeding?, increasing. **Palm Warbler:** max 12 IC 8-10 May, low. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr IC 8 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr MPd 14 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one IC 11 May (SCa), one BB 11 May (SCa). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LSP 5 Apr, breeding location. **Hooded Warbler:** arr IC 9 May, max 40 LSP 22 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr LSP 14 May, breeding location.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Summer Tanager:** two Webster 21 May (D&DTr!, NYSARC). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Hamlin 4 May, late. **Lark Sparrow:** one IC 26 Apr (KG!, NYSARC), 2nd MONR record. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr MPd 14 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr five MPd 2 May. **Fox Sparrow:** last IC 1 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** last MB 31 May. **White-throated Sparrow:** last two IC 21 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Greece 28 May. **Lapland Longspur:** last four BB 24 Apr. **Snow Bunting:** max 300 BB 25 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** male Rose, WAYN (D&DTr). **Rusty Blackbird:** last IC 13 May. **Brewer's Blackbird:** one Rose 31 Mar (NB,AC), new location. **Orchard Oriole:** arr Pt Breeze 22 May. **White-winged Crossbill:** two BB 23 Mar (FN), two BB 25 Mar (FN). **Pine Siskin:** max 4000 BB 11 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** last WL 24 May.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

March was dry with plenty of sunshine. The month began with temperatures well below normal, followed by high pressure and sunshine from 5 through 8 Mar. The single Golden Eagle of the Season coasted through Big Flats on 8 Mar, and numbers of Tundra Swans and Canada Geese migrated during this mild period, moving into the Region before a cold front brought some rainfall from 9 to 13 Mar. A low pressure system over Lake Huron brought snow and rain to the Region from 13 to 15 Mar, followed by a period of cold temperature with highs in the 20's, northwesterly winds, and more snow until 21 Mar. Another cold front on 24 Mar produced heavy rains. From 25 to 27 Mar, a combination of a high pressure system moving over the State and low pressure over the Midwest generated some strong southerly winds. The Bald Eagle nest at MNWR was blown down during this period, and record high numbers of Horned Grebe were reported. There were 60 Horned Grebe in Elmira, and 212 Horned Grebe in a single raft on Cayuga Lake. March concluded with warm temperatures in

the 60's and 70's, seasonal rainfall, and another period of strong southwesterly winds. Most waterfowl numbers peaked at MNWR during the period from 29 March through 5 April.

April started off with a nice, warm first week, but then the temperatures fell below normal and remained that way for the rest of the month. It was the coolest April since 1983. Soil moisture was rated as "adequate" as the agricultural season began to get into motion. The cool temperatures, however, delayed planting and slowed development of the crops that were already seeded. The dry weather pattern that dominated the spring season continued in May. Fine weather allowed farm fieldwork to progress quite well during the first two weeks of the month. Soil moisture was rated as "adequate" during this period. Wet weather during the second two weeks delayed fieldwork and soil moisture was rated adequate to surplus. There were thunderstorms with strong winds and up to an inch or more of rainfall on 12 and 13 May. The weather was warm, but continually rainy through 22 May, with a total accumulation of one to three inches of rainfall for the period. A return to better weather at the very end of the month allowed planting and harvesting activities to get back on track and soil moisture returned to a rating of adequate.

Dry conditions created low water levels at May's Point Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR). There was also fine habitat for transient shorebirds this season at Corning Pond, Dryden Lake, and the Cornell Agronomy Ponds. Maximum numbers for shorebirds during April and May at MNWR are as follows: 19 Semipalmated Plover, 26 Killdeer, 17 Lesser Yellowlegs, 195 Spotted Sandpiper, 2 Sanderling, 26 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 526 Least Sandpiper, 246 Pectoral Sandpiper, 80 Dunlin; a single Wilson's Phalarope was reported. These numbers match or exceed the numbers of shorebirds at MNWR during the Fall Season, when shorebird habitat has been deliberately created for the past two years by opening the dikes to lower the water levels at May's Point Pool.

Waterfowl numbers at MNWR peaked during March and April. Maximum numbers for the Region at MNWR during March were: 6800 Snow Goose, 690 Mallard, 80 Black Duck, 50 Gadwall, 460 Pintail, 180 Am. Wigeon, and 80 Ring-necked Duck. There were a maximum of 50 Hooded Merganser and 230 Common Merganser during March. Peak waterfowl numbers at MNWR during April were: 38,000 Canada Goose, 200 Blue-winged Teal, 440 Shoveler, 440 Wood Duck, 8 Lesser Scaup, and 130 Ruddy Duck. White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, and Black Scoter were all conspicuously absent from the Region this Season. Other highlights at MNWR include maxima of 460 Great Blue Heron, 1380 Ring-billed Gull, and 34 Great Black-backed Gull. Black Tern were observed on 8 May, Caspian Tern on 22 May, and a single **Least Tern** on 22 May. This is the fourth Region 3 record of Least Tern, and the first report since July 1965.

The observation tower at Tschache Pool was closed to the public for several weeks this spring to prevent disturbance of the three adult Bald Eagles that were nesting a few hundred yards from the tower. A 2 May news release from the Refuge explains the events of the spring season: "1988 has been a very unsettled year for the three Bald Eagles. In late January, the birds moved from the pole nest to a tree some 200 yards distant. After partially completing that nest, they moved to a dead tree over water only a few hundred yards away from the Tschache Pool Tower, and began adding to an old Great Blue Heron nest.

"Several days later, for no apparent reason, the birds again moved, this time to an old osprey nest at the base of Clark's Ridge. The birds apparently laid two eggs and incubated them for several days before three days of sustained gusty winds blew down the entire nest on March 25. The next day the birds moved back to the "heron" tree. It is likely that one egg was laid.

"Bad luck continued to plague the birds when on April 16 they abandoned their nesting attempt. The reason for the second failure is still unclear, but may have resulted when the egg was damaged during the incubation process.

"Following the second nesting failure, the birds moved back to the site of the 1987 successful nest. Refuge and State biologists have observed the birds placing sticks atop the platform on the pole installed by NYSEG. Also, other mating behavior has been seen.... The most hopeful sign is that even if an eaglet is not produced in 1988, the adult eagles appear to be locked onto the secure pole nest, rather than the rotten old trees over open water."

The 1987 Northern Goshawk nest at Arnot Forest was checked the first week of May, but trees in the surrounding area had been cut the nest to manage for maple syrup production since last year and the intact nest was unused. Bent (1938) indicates that Northern Goshawk shows a marked preference for the same nesting locality, and when not using the same nest as the previous year, can usually be found nesting in the same locality.

At Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, Steve Sibley kept track of the Spring Season hawk migration. Spring Season totals included 9 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagle, 22 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4 Cooper's Hawk, 3 Red-shouldered Hawk, 30 Broad-winged Hawk, and 33 Red-tailed Hawk. A single Rough-legged Hawk was reported in April at SWS, as well as a total of 68 Common Loon during the Season. Staff members at the Laboratory of Ornithology tape-recorded a Common Raven at Shindagin Hollow on 7 March and at Connecticut Hill on 26 March. A N. Saw-whet Owl was seen and tape recorded on 11 March. These tape recordings are a good indication of possible breeding in the Region for two uncommon species.

The Cayuga Bird Club held a Big Day Count on 22 May, covering various locations throughout the Cayuga Lake Basin. A total of 149 species were counted. Highlights were an Acadian Flycatcher singing at Michigan Hollow, an Orchard Oriole at Sheldrake, an Prothonotary Warbler singing at May's Point, and the Least Tern MNWR. At Aurora, there were four Oldsquaw and two Horned-winged Grebe, all in breeding plumage. A total of 13 waterfowl species and 23 warbler species were counted. There were no reports this Season of the following warbler species in Region 3: Worm-eating, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Dick Clements from the Chemung Co. Audubon Society filed the only report of a Cliff Swallow colony, located beneath the Main Street bridge in Elmira. He also reported two large colonies of Bank Swallow in Pine City, nesting Rough-winged Swallow along Seely Creek in Pine City, and the only pair of Orchard Oriole in the Region at Pine City since 14 May. Dick will attempt to confirm the breeding status of the Orchard Oriole next season. Although there were several scattered reports of Orchard Oriole throughout the Region this season, most appear to be transients and/or their breeding status has not been determined. Highlights for the Spring Season were: Cattle Egret, Least Tern, N. Saw-whet Owl, and Common Raven.

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Abbreviations: MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; FLNF-Finger Lakes National Forest; YBSF-Yellow Barn State Forest; CLO-Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; QCM-Queen Catherine Marsh; SWS-Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: present in small numbers all season. Horned Grebe: *intro*. Red-necked Grebe: none. Am. Bittern: one Corning Glass Pond 30 Mar, one QCM 23 Apr. Least Bittern: none. Great Blue Heron: *intro*; new colony with 17 nests discovered in CHEM. Great Egret: sole report MNWR May. Cattle Egret: one Horseheads 3-15 Apr. Green-backed Heron: widespread after 16 Apr. Tundra Swan: *intro*; six Horseheads 5 Mar, 46 Seneca L 6 Mar, 35 Taughannock Falls SP 14 Mar. Snow Goose: *intro*; present until about 1 May; among the flocks at MNWR, 75-90% are "blue phase". Brant: none. N. Pintail: *intro*; present all winter and spring at the spring fed ponds at Union Springs. Ring-necked Duck: *intro*; flock of 80 Big Flats 23 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: present in the Cayuga L area through March & April, none elsewhere.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread after 12 Mar. Osprey: widespread all season; one pair nesting MNWR with an unknown number of y hatched during the last week of May. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier: widespread all season. Sharp-shinned Hawk: widespread all season; raiding feeding stations Pine City early May. Cooper's Hawk: widespread all season. N. Goshawk: *intro*; nesting FLNF 25 Apr; present 30 May at traditional nest location s Brooktondale but breeding status unconfirmed. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*; no reports of nesting. Broad-winged Hawk: *intro*; nesting within 30 feet of last year's nest Southport; one pair displaying and vocalizing throughout May YBSF. Rough-legged Hawk: present throughout Region until April. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: four eggs hatched in a kestrel box used by a pair banded in 1987 Burdett 9 May, y still being fed 25 May; this appears to be an early hatch date for Am. Kestrel. Peregrine Falcon: ad swooping at waterfowl in a 12 acre marsh Fleming 23 Apr; observed for 40 minutes; several other reports with few details. Ring-necked Pheasant: reported all season at weekly seminars at CLO, but no details available and none elsewhere. Wild Turkey: ad male displaying to four females Ellis Hollow Creek Rd early May. Virginia Rail: present MNWR 16 Apr; also at Caton Swamp near Corning. Sora: present Dryden L 27 Apr; also at Caton Swamp. Shorebirds: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: only report 30 Eldrige L, Elmira, 27 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*; new breeding colony Cornell Agronomy Ponds on Niemi Rd; four nests with eggs mid May (J. Confer). Herring Gull: present all season throughout. Iceland Gull: one Stewart P, Ithaca, 14 Mar. Glaucous Gull: one Union Springs 5 Mar. Caspian Tern: *intro*. Least Tern: *intro*. Black Tern: only reports MNWR 8 May, one Elmira 18 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: on nest QCM 16 Mar. Snowy Owl: no reports. Barred Owl: present in April & May SWS, YBSF; no other reports. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*. Long-eared Owl: sole report Mecklenburg Road 7 May (JG). Whip-poor-will: sole report Big Flats 13 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: *intro*. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: sole report SWS 20 May (Sibley). N. Rough-winged Swallow: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: *intro*. Fish Crow: present all season in the Ithaca area, breeding status unreported. Com. Raven: *intro*. Carolina Wren: present all Season throughout the Region. Winter Wren: singing at various locations, including Texas Hollow, Connecticut Hill, Hammond Hill and Old 600, in May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none. Swainson's Thrush: two singles, Trumansburg 9 May, Elmira 13 May. Water Pipit: widespread in numbers in agricultural areas until early May. Cedar Waxwing: scarcer than usual, but reported nesting in Pine City. N. Shrike: none. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: sole report Ithaca 10 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: reports of "many" in new habitat Pine City and Southport. Pine Warbler: one Elmira 6 Apr; one 21-22 Apr SWS. Prothonotary Warbler: *intro*. Hooded Warbler: one Big Flats 14 May; two singing males Star Stanton Hill 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: present in agricultural areas during Apr & May. Savannah Sparrow: present and common in agricultural areas. Grasshopper Sparrow: "decreasing" in the Elmira area; present Ithaca Game Farm Road 24 Apr, Arnot Forest 10 May. Henslow's Sparrow: returned to former nesting location in Pine City; persisting in former nesting areas now grown up to marginal habitat at Tompkins County Airport with more than five singing males 5 May. Snow Bunting: last 25 Horseheads 4 Mar. Orchard Oriole: *intro*. Red Crossbill: four Ithaca Community Corners 25 Mar; SWS 3 May. White winged-Crossbill: sole report eight Elmira 30 Apr.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

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The major meteorological event of each month this spring occurred during the 18th through the 22nd when there was record cold in March and April and heavy rain in May. The first quarter of the moon occurred during this period each month. Perhaps astrologers are right! In any event, the 1988 spring season was as variable as expected for this time of year. The mild weather of February continued into March with above average temperatures until 13 Mar, followed by below average temperatures to 22 Mar. Although spring was due, record lows of 3° and 7° on 21 and 22 March, respectively, were reported at Binghamton. How depressing! The rest of March and the first week of April were warmer than normal. Then temperatures plummeted with 18 days of below normal temperatures until the end of April. Low temperatures of 25° and 24° on 19 and 20 Apr, both tied previous record lows. After three cold days at the beginning of the month, temperatures for the rest of May were about normal, except for a warmer period during the last five days. Precipitation for the period was variable. March was dry with below average precipitation and snowfall, while April had nearly normal precipitation. Most of May was dry as nearly all of the above average rainfall fell during a three day period.

The early thaw of our lakes parallels last year's. However, unlike last year the waterfowl species list is above average and the number of individuals per species reported is excellent. Perhaps the colder weather during this April delayed the migration and held the birds here. Birders are also commended for their field work and good reports. Unfortunately, we again missed Gadwall, Greater Scaup, and Ruddy Duck, which have been reported in half of the last ten springs. On the bright side, White-winged Scoter made an excellent showing. Other waterfowl reports of note included a Bean Goose on the north end of Otsego Lake, which created a bit of excitement until someone pointed out that it had been there for about three years and therefore is probably an escapee. A reverse migration of Snow Geese into Chenango County on 12 Mar, initiated by stormy, cold weather, was observed by Richard Pancoe in Earlville (Region 5) and reported by Chad Covey. Breeding pairs of Canada Geese in the Region seem to be on the increase. Dave Messineo reports that Common Mergansers appear to be