

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.

Box 84A Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

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

breeding on the Otselic River where they nested during the Atlas Project. A new reservoir, Millbrook Reservoir, in Chenango County will provide birders a new resource and will be watched closely.

For the second consecutive spring American Bittern reports are up but no Least Bitterns were seen. There was a record early arrival for Green-backed Heron. Last spring's Cattle Egret fit the pattern of a rare long-legged wader reported here about every third year since 1979. This year the pattern was broken by Great Egret and Glossy Ibis. A well described **Glossy Ibis** seen on 9 Apr by Marilyn Davis at Upper Lisle Park on the north end of Whitney Point Reservoir is only the second record for the Region. **Great Egrets** were reported at Whitney Point Reservoir on 6 Apr by Rick Marsi and at Oneonta in early April by Robert Miller.

Turkey Vultures are still increasing. On 29 Mar at Portlandville Mary Dobinsky observed a flock of 20 vultures encouraging a lone Red-tailed Hawk to abandon its kill. Raptor reports were good. Jim Hoteling saw 20 Red-tailed Hawks migrating along a three mile stretch of road near Smithville Flats on 10 April. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late, and Northern Harrier reports were up. Marie Petuh and Anna Casselberry found a Sharp-shinned Hawk nest with young in Glenwood Cemetery on 17 April.

Shorebirds and other waterbirds were well reported. Six species of sandpipers is about average for the past ten years. Pectoral Sandpiper was reported for only the third time in ten years. However, we again missed Upland Sandpiper. Sora and Common Moorhen were reported for the first and fifth times, respectively, in ten years.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Mockingbird, and Cardinal, which have expanded their range from the south, are still doing well. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen by Mary Dobinsky in May near Oneonta gathering milkweed silk for a nest. In Broome County Harriet Marsi observed a Carolina Wren nest with young on 23 April. Despite the variable weather in March and April, early migrants such as Nashville Warbler, and Warbling Vireo, returned on record early dates, and a very early Gray Catbird was reported. The generally good weather in May created good conditions for field observation but induced no fall outs of passerines. Consequently, the list of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers is excellent, but the usual numbers were reported. Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Pine Warbler, Parula Warbler, and Palm Warbler, which are often missed, were all seen this year. A well described **Yellow-throated Warbler**, the second spring record since 1979, was seen and heard singing at IBM Glen, Binghamton, on 27 May by Anna Casselberry and Claire Foster. Despite this good showing, results are mixed for our less common species. There were no Whip-poor-wills, Sedge or Marsh Wrens, and Henslow's Sparrows. Fortunately, more Purple Martins were seen this year.

The species list of sparrows is very good, and the rarer grassland species, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, were seen in good numbers. The late winter movement of Redpolls continued into March, and the incursion of Pine Siskins during the winter kept populations high through the period. White-winged and Red Crossbills appeared in April and stayed through May. Evening Grosbeaks stayed late.

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

1979. Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Yellow-throated Vireo, Fish Crow, and Lawrence's Warbler are rarities. White winged Scoter, Philadelphia Vireo, Palm Warbler, and Pine Warbler are lesser rarities. Much of this report uses field records of Joe Sedlacek (Windsor, N Colesville), Mary Dobinsky (Oneonta area), Mildred Clark (Delhi), and Judy Bell's banding records (Newark Valley).

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Al Bayless, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Don & Judy Bell, Reynolds Bennett, Bill & Richard Breidinger, Anna Casselberry, Sally Carey, Mildred Clark, Bart Cormier, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Delhi Bird Club, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Carl Eastwood, Claire Foster, E. & P. Getkin, John Gustafson, Shirley Hartman, James Hoteling, Gail Kirch, Nancy Kirch, Jack Knapik, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Saul Levin, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi (RMA), Leona McDowell, S. McPherson, Bud & Evelyn Mead, Dave Messineo, Robert Miller, Bobbi Monroe, M. Musci, Don O'Neill, Dick Parker, Marie Petuh, Halliday Pierce, Joe Sedlacek, Shane Stalter, Tioga Bird Club, Elizabeth Titus, Bill Toner, George Wade, Richard Wakeman, Ann Whitaker, Connie Wilkins, Don Windsor, Anne Whitaker.

Abbreviations: CCBSC-Cortland County Bird Spring Count (14 May); ChFk-Chenango Forks; CRes-Cannonsville Reservoir; DBCSC Delhi Bird Club Spring Count (21 May); DOASSC-Delaware Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count (21 May); JCity-Johnson City; NCol-North Colesville; NVal-Newark Valley; OPM- Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; PTT-Pharsalia Truck Trail; REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center; WPres-Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr three CRes 23 Apr (DBC). Com. Loon: arr two Walton 31 Mar (SH); max four in five reports until 14 May, high. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Chenango Valley SP 25 Mar (SDr); max four in 12 reports to 30 Apr, very high. Horned Grebe: arr & max 60 WPres (JH) 26 Mar; to two/day in three reports to 21 Apr, very high. Double-crested Cormorant: arr Norwich 16 Apr (JL); six more CRes 29 May (SH), high. Am. Bittern: three reports May, high. Great Blue Heron: arr OPM 24 Mar; five reports/week Apr-May. **Great Egret:** *intro*. Green-backed Heron: several/week after 24 Apr. **Glossy Ibis:** *intro*. Snow Goose: arr TiOG 7 Mar; max & last 60 NBer 22 Mar (CC), excellent count. Canada Goose: arr continuous flocks McGraw 5 Mar (BT); max 12 flocks of 100 Coventryville 6 Mar (JS). Wood Duck: max 16 Bowman L SP 9 Mar (JL). Green-winged Teal: max 12 OPM 6 Apr; max four in eight reports to 26 Apr, high. Am. Black Duck: max 20 CRes 13 Apr (SH); last two there 23 Apr (HP). Mallard: at eight sites/month, max eight. N. Pintail: at five sites to 26 Apr, max four, good count. Blue-winged Teal: at three sites to 30 Apr, max five. Am. Wigeon: arr BROO 11 Mar (HM,FL,BB); several at four sites to 30 Apr. Canvasback: only report WPres 26 Mar (RMA,MDv). Redhead: arr BROO 18 Mar (HM,FL,BB), last there 8 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: arr Chenango Bridge 16 Mar (MDv); max 13 N Norwich (JL); last three Maine 28 Apr. Lesser Scaup: arr WPres 25 Mar (RMA); max & last six CRes (DBC). Oldsquaw: arr WPres 26 Mar (RMA); max & last 15 CRes 29 Apr (DBC). White-winged Scoter: arr WPres 26 Mar (RMA,MDv); max & last 12 CRes 29 Apr (DBC). Com. Goldeneye: last Plymouth Res 9 Apr (JL). Bufflehead: arr WPres 26 Mar (MDv); max & last 15 CRes (DBC). Hooded Merganser: arr BROO 11 Mar (HM,FL,BB); at nine sites Mar, max six, less frequent thereafter. Com. Merganser: eight reports Mar-Apr max ten; last four DBCSC 14 May. Red-breasted Merganser: arr WPres 26 Mar (JH); last DOASSC, good count.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr TiOG 7 Mar (C&JB); max 20 OPM; many sites thereafter. Osprey: max several at 12 sites last week April; last Windsor 22 May. Bald Eagle: max seven CRes 6 Mar (SH); last imm Binghamton 28 Apr. N. Harrier: to four at six sites Apr. N. Goshawk: only report 28 Mar REEC. Red-shouldered Hawk: arr REEC 25 Mar; last DBCSC. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Finch Hollow Nature Center 4 Apr;

max ten there 26 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: four reports/week widespread. Rough-legged Hawk: three reports/month Mar-Apr, max two; last CORT 3 May (BT), very late. Am. Kestrel: frequent & widespread after 14 Mar. Merlin: only reports Delhi 9 & 12 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: one JCity 13 Mar; TIOG Mar, May. Ruffed Grouse: at 13 sites after 26 Mar, max four. Wild Turkey: max 25/flock twice weekly to mid Apr; fewer thereafter. Sora: one N Norwich 8 May (JL). Com. Moorhen: three sites May, good count. Killdeer: many widespread after 7 Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: singles REEC Apr 29 & Binghamton 27 May; max four Portlandville 4 May. Solitary Sandpiper: up to three at six sites to 7 May; last five OPM 21 May. Spotted Sandpiper: max two/day. Least Sandpiper: last REEC 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: last CHEN 14 May (DW). Com. Snipe: max 10-15 Binghamton 28 Apr, high. Am. Woodcock: singles at seven sites. Bonaparte's Gull: arr singles WPRes (JH) & NBER (CC) 3 Apr; max eight CRes 23 Apr (DBC). Ring-billed Gull: max 33 CRes 23 Apr (DBC). Herring Gull: five sites Mar.

PIGEONS WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four sites to 23 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr NCol 4 May; singles two sites BROO 27 & 28 May (JS). E. Screech-Owl: only two sites. Great Horned Owl: singles six sites. Barred Owl: singles three sites BROO (JS). Com. Nighthawk: five sites BROO from 14 May. Chimney Swift: several at five sites May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: several at six sites after 8 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: TIOG Mar-May; daily ChFk to 3 Apr; singles three sites May; still numerous. N. Flicker: widespread after 27 Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: singles at 12 sites.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report CCBSC . E. Wood-Pewee: several/week at 11 sites. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only one banded NVal 21 May. Traill's Flycatcher: one banded NVal 15 May. Alder Flycatcher: only report DOASSC. Willow Flycatcher: several at two sites after 27 May. Least Flycatcher: five sites/week after 8 May; max seven OPM 12 May. E. Phoebe: widespread after 22 Mar. Great Crested Flycatcher: at five sites/week after 10 May, max five. E. Kingbird: max seven. Horned Lark: max 450 Sherburne 5 Mar (JL). Purple Martin: May TIOG; three DOASSC; CCBSC, excellent count. Tree Swallow: widespread after 27 Mar. N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 Portlandville 2 May; four sites/week to 7 May. Bank Swallow: max 50 N Norwich 7 May (JL); several sites/week May. Cliff Swallow: max 12 Otego 15 May (MD). Barn Swallow: widespread after 26 Apr. Fish Crow: BROO 11 Mar & 2 May (HM,FL,BB). Tufted Titmouse: at 11 sites mostly BROO, TIOG May, still numerous. Red-breasted Nuthatch: several at three sites/week to 21 May. Brown Creeper: several at five sites Mar; fewer Apr-May. Carolina Wren: one Norwich 16 Mar (CE); Mar-May Endwell (ML); one DBCSC 21 May, still numerous. House Wren: widespread after 1 May. Winter Wren: singles Hamden, Delhi, OPM 6, 12, 27 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: at five sites/month. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 28 May NCol, late. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: five sites to 21 May, max two, very high. E. Bluebird: widespread after 6 Mar. Veery: at six sites/week after 8 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Smithville Flats 1 May (JH); CCBSC, good count. Swainson's Thrush: only TIOG. Hermit Thrush: at two sites/week from 17 May, max two. Wood Thrush: widespread after 1 May. Gray Catbird: widespread after 5 May. N. Mockingbird: singles at five sites May. Brown Thrasher: five sites/week after 1 May, max six. Water Pipit: arr & max N Norwich 13 20 Mar; singles there 30 Apr & 7 May (JL). Cedar Waxwing: arr one OPM 7 Apr, late; three sites/week May, scarce. N. Shrike: only one Willet 11 Mar (HM,FL,BB).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: max four OPM 7 May; several at eight sites May. Yellow-throated Vireo: at five sites, max three. Warbling Vireo: at two sites, max four. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Bowman L SP 28 May (DW). Red-eyed Vireo: frequent reports May; max 14 OPM 23 May. Blue-winged Warbler: max four after 8 May. Lawrence's Warbler: one banded Vestal 27 May (GK). Golden-winged Warbler: arr 5 May BROO (GK); max two at four sites from 12 May, good count. Tennessee Warbler: max seven

banded NVal 17 May; singles at two sites/week after 15 May. Nashville Warbler: singles at five sites/week to 22 May. N. Parula: only at ChFk. Yellow Warbler: widespread after 30 Apr. Chestnut-sided Warbler: to six/day at six sites to 14 May, fewer thereafter. Magnolia Warbler: at nine sites to 14 May, max two, then fewer. Cape May Warbler: max three DOASSC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: at two sites/week to 27 May, max four. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr N Norwich 9 Apr (JL); regular many sites from 24 Apr. Black-throated Green Warbler: at several sites/week to 21 May, max four. Blackburnian Warbler: at two sites/week May, max five. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** *intro*. Pine Warbler: only N Norwich, unusual. Prairie Warbler: arr Vestal 3 May (LBe); singles at two sites/week to 27 May. Palm Warbler: only BROO. Bay-breasted Warbler: singles three sites to 23 May; max four DOASSC. Blackpoll Warbler: at three sites to 21 May, max seven. Black-and-white Warbler: at seven sites/week May, max four. Am. Redstart: at five sites/week from 8 May, max 12. Ovenbird: widespread after 2 May. N. Waterthrush: singles at three sites/week to 21 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Binghamton 27 Apr (ML); to two at four sites/week May. Mourning Warbler: max six DOASSC; few others. Com. Yellowthroat: widespread after 7 May. Wilson's Warbler: singles banded NVal & DOASSC 17 May. Canada Warbler: two sites to 21 May, max two.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: at five sites/week after 5 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: widespread after 7 May, max ten. Indigo Bunting: at four sites/week after 9 May, max 12. Rufous-sided Towhee: four sites/week May. Am. Tree Sparrow: max eight OPM 28 Apr; last Smithville Flats 13 Apr (JH), scarce. Chipping Sparrow: widespread after 17 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr TiOG Mar (B&EM); widespread after 17 Apr. Vesper Sparrow: at four sites/month Apr-May, max two. Savannah Sparrow: several at three sites/week from 1 May. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two NCol 14 May; several at five sites BROO, CHEN to 30 May, good count. Fox Sparrow: arr Delhi 14 Mar; max three Norwich 13 Apr (JL); last REEC 1 May (CC), good count. Song Sparrow: regular after 6 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: singles Sherburne & CCBCSC 5 May. Swamp Sparrow: at several sites/week from 8 Mar, max nine. White-throated Sparrow: to ten daily at six sites to 4 May. White-crowned Sparrow: several at seven sites to 21 May. Dark-eyed Junco: widespread Mar-May; max 25 Windsor 2 Apr. Snow Bunting: max & last ten Sherburne 5 Mar (JL). Bobolink: at six sites/week after 6 May, max 20. Red-winged Blackbird: widespread after 6 Mar; max 100+ McGraw 8 Mar (BT). E. Meadowlark: arr BROO 11 Mar (HM,FL,BB); at seven sites/week to 31 May, max six. Rusty Blackbird: arr nine Norwich 30 Apr (DW); last CCBCSC. Com. Grackle: arr TiOG 6 Mar; common thereafter. Brown-headed Cowbird: widespread after 6 Mar. N. Oriole: at three sites/week after 8 May. Purple Finch: arr singles Oneonta & Norwich 28 Mar; regular thereafter. House Finch: max 30 JCity Apr-mid May; then fewer. Red Crossbill: arr 25 Norwich 6 Apr (JL); up to five there three days to 13 May; last four PTT 29 May (DW). White-winged Crossbill: arr two Cortland 7 Apr (BT); last j OPM 11 May. Com. Redpoll: arr 100 Hunts Pd SP 5 Mar (CC); last four Oneonta 23 Mar. Pine Siskin: max 100/day JCity Apr (JS); last two there 31 May. Am. Goldfinch: max 40 Oneonta 22 Mar; widespread Apr-May. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 Norwich 2 Mar (JL); last PTT 29 May (DW), late.

RD2, Box 68C, Norwich, New York 13815