

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: arr one Bergen Swamp 20 May. **Fish Crow**: one BB 6 Apr (FN), one Greece 7 May (KG), possibly the same individual, reports continue to increase. **Com. Raven**: one BB 27 Mar (FN), one South Bristol 5 Apr (JCz), good potential habitat for this species. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max eight ICW 26 May. **Loggerhead Shrike**: singles BB 23 Mar, Hamlin 23 Mar, BB 6 Apr, MB 8 Apr, all in the same general area and possibly the same bird.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr one MB 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr one ICW 5 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr one Several 13 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: nine reports May 16-25. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Greece 13 May (NM), one ICW 22 May (CC), 2nd and 3rd reports this year. Prairie Warbler: arr Genesee Country Museum Nature Center 18-20 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Mendon 15 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one Parma 14 May (R&SS), one ICW 14 May (MD), unusual along the lake shore. Worm-eating Warbler: one DEP 6 May, one MB 13 May, one Brighton Town Park 14 May, one ICW 29 May, good spring total. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LSP 6 May, late. Kentucky Warbler: singles Rochester 5 May (found dead), Brighton Town P 13 May, Cobb's Hill 18 May, Genesee Country Museum 18 May; good spring total. Connecticut Warbler: one Webster 5 May (D&DT), one ICW 26 May (mob). Hooded Warbler: arr one DEP 6 May, one LSP 6 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one MB 19 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: singles MB 13 May (RS, MD), BB 13 May (FN) and ICW 18 May (P&JS). Grasshopper Sparrow: arr WL 20 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Nations Road 20 May. Fox Sparrow: last Webster 3 May. Yellow-headed Blackbird: *intro* (FN). Rusty Blackbird: arr six BB 13 Mar. Orchard Oriole: arr ICW 9 May (PM), away from expected location. Common Redpoll: last two Mendon 7 Mar (PW).

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REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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The 1989 Spring Season was average or below in temperature, while precipitation was normal to above normal. There was no indication of drought in the Finger Lakes Region. The first three weeks of March were cooler and drier than normal, and most of March's precipitation fell during the last eight days of the month. A strong warm front 15 Mar brought record high temperatures and brisk southerly winds, but was followed by two cold fronts on 18 and 21 Mar which moved in a northeasterly direction across the state. These two systems brought brisk winds, freezing temperatures, and up to eight inches of snow to the Finger Lakes Region. Following these fronts, peak numbers of Mallard, Am. Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Am. Wigeon, and Hooded and Com. Mergansers were at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 22 Mar. The period from 15-25 Mar was the peak for waterfowl, with highest numbers at MNWR, followed by Waneta Lake, Seneca Lake and nearby Queen Catherine Marsh. The Elmira area and Corning Pond had comparable waterfowl species variety, although fewer numbers of individual birds, as expected.

Most of this Season's unusual reports were of water birds seen along the Region's lakeshores during March. Most of these unusual sightings were made by more than one individual, making errors in identification unlikely. A Red-

throated Loon was present at Watkins Glen from 4 Mar until 7 May, when it had molted into breeding plumage. An adult **Am. White Pelican** was at Canandaigua Lake 8-9 May. Ithaca's Stewart Park was the location of several rarities, including a **Greater White-fronted Goose** on 25 Mar, an **Eurasian Wigeon** on 18 Mar, a third-year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 6 Mar as well as a second individual on 25 March.

It was exceptionally rainy and cold throughout April, with rain, snow, and temperatures as much as 10-15° below normal. A second 'pulse' of migrants followed a coastal low pressure and south/southeast winds on 1 Apr. A Peregrine Falcon and a N. Saw-whet Owl were at QCM on 1 Apr, and counts of Redhead, Canvasback, and Lesser Scaup peaked at MNWR on 3 Apr. A third 'pulse' of waterfowl migrants arrived ahead of a cold front on 12-13 Apr, when Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, and Ring-necked Duck peaked at MNWR. Another coastal front 15-16 Apr, followed by cold and rainy weather until 20 Apr, downed a number of migrant water birds on the Chemung River in Elmira, including 445 Horned Grebe, 75 Greater Scaup, 86 Bufflehead, 21 Ruddy Duck, 35 Bonaparte's Gull, and 20 Com. Tern.

The cold weather broke briefly at the end of April, bring in the first rush of neotropical migrants for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Spring Field Ornithology overnight at Cornell's Arnot Teaching & Research Forest. The class found 50 species there 29-30 Apr, including Solitary Vireo and five warbler species, in addition to woodland residents such as Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, three Barred Owls, and Pileated Woodpecker. The Arnot caretaker reported courtship displays by N. Goshawk this Spring, making nesting probable but unconfirmed. Also unknown was the breeding status of grassland sparrows in the fields at the interior of the forest. These fields could not be accessed this season, as the Arnot roads were closed to all except logging vehicles.

May was characterized by cloudy skies, heavy precipitation, and near normal temperatures. New York State as a whole received about 6.5 inches of precipitation in May, which is 3 inches more than normal and the second greatest May amount on record (dating back to 1895). The persistent rains resulted in widespread flood warnings 10-11 May, and hampered the progress of farm fieldwork. Corn planting was about two weeks behind schedule at the end of May. It rained in the Finger Lakes on 1-4 May, 7-8 May, 9-17 May, and 23-31 May, for a May precipitation total of 6.5 to 9 inches, or 210 to 300 percent of normal for the Region! A high pressure system briefly raised temperatures to seasonable 70's and 80's on 18-19 May, but otherwise it was a difficult month for birding. Bird clubs in Region 3 reported neotropical migrants arriving up to two weeks late, and unusually large numbers of Am. Goldfinches and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeding stations in May. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also arrived later and lingered in the Region. In addition, two bird clubs in Region 3 held "Big Day" counts in May. The Chemung Valley Audubon count 13 May totaled 131 species, highlighted by 14 Com. Moorhen, four Great Egret, and many Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Many warblers not present for the Chemung Valley count had arrived in time for the Eaton Birding Society count on 21 May, when 13 warbler species were counted. The Eaton count totaled 109 species, including Yellow-

breasted Chat, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Com. Loon. Several people on the Eaton count reported a Blue Grosbeak they had all observed together, but no details were submitted.

The trio of nesting Bald Eagles at MNWR hatched at least one, possibly two, eaglets on 25 Apr. The eaglets will be banded at 6-7 weeks of age, when they are capable of regulating their body temperature, and are expected to fledge in midsummer. Two of the three parent birds are products of N.Y. State's 1978 and 1982 Bald Eagle restoration program. Other highlights at MNWR included as many as 500 Great Blue Heron, three Osprey, and a May shorebird migration which included maxima of 26 Semipalmated Plover, 35 Killdeer, ten Lesser Yellowlegs, 27 Spotted Sandpiper, 108 Least Sandpiper, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper, and 81 Dunlin. A maximum of 1360 Ring-billed Gull were present there in April, but they decreased to only 160 by May, as expected. Only a handful of Common and Black Tern were at the refuge this season.

Resident birds reported as increasing throughout Region 3 were Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, N. Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. Following several consecutive mild winters, Carolina Wren was common at southern locations of the Region. In the Ithaca area, Carolina Wren are typically found in sheltered locations along streams and lakes, where there is adequate leaf litter and brushy cover. Dick Clements reports five fledglings from a Carolina Wren nest in a plastic bag hanging from a clothesline in Southport.

There were scattered reports throughout the Region of "southeastern" species including Prairie, Hooded, Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole. These birds were singing during May, but it is too early to determine their breeding status here. Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Thrasher, and Golden-winged Warbler were very scarce in the Region and are thought to be decreasing.

Dick Clements in Pine City provided the sole report of Bank and Cliff Swallow colonies. He reports Bank Swallow at their traditional nesting site in Southport, and Cliff Swallow nests increasing on bridges in the Elmira area. Bank and Cliff Swallows probably nest at other locations in Region 3, but colony locations are neither well-known nor reported to *The Kingbird*.

Highlights for the season were **Red-throated Loon, Am. White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher and Loggerhead Shrike.**

Abbreviations: CLO - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest (formerly Hector Land Use Area); MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh; SL/WG - Seneca Lake at-Watkins Glen; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WG - Watkins Glen; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro*. Common Loon: widespread all season. Horned Grebe: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: widespread all season. **Am. White Pelican:** *intro* (NYSARC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 142 MNWR May. Am. Bittern: one SWS Apr. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: single report, one

Dryden 25 May, nearly 6 weeks late. **Tricolored Heron**: one Dryden L 25 May. Tundra Swan: 80 WGSP 17 March. Brant: two flocks 13 May, 120 over Beam Hill Road, also MNWR. Snow Goose: max 17000 MNWR 12 Apr. Canada Goose: max 64000 MNWR 12 Apr. Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR 12 Apr. Green-winged Teal: max 1100 MNWR 24 Apr-9 May. Am. Black Duck: max 580 MNWR 22 Mar. Mallard: max 5500 MNWR 22 Mar. N. Pintail: max 7500 MNWR 22 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: max 420 MNWR 24 Apr. N. Shoveler: max 800 MNWR 2 May. Gadwall: max 40 MNWR 22 March. Am. Wigeon: max 110 MNWR 22 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: *intro*. Redhead: max 70 MNWR 3 Apr. Canvasback: max 100 MNWR 3 Apr. Greater Scaup: *intro*; 25 SL/WG 20 March. Lesser Scaup: max 290 MNWR 3 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: last 17 Apr; max eight SL/WG 9 Mar. Bufflehead: *intro*. Oldsquaw: max eight Elmira 18 Apr. White-winged Scoter: max eight Elmira 18 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 80 MNWR 22 March. Common Merganser: max 140 MNWR 22 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: a few all season. Ruddy Duck: *intro*; max 70 MNWR 9 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr 17 Mar. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: one near Trumansburg 27 Mar. N. Harrier: widespread all season; pair FLNF 9 April. Broad-winged Hawk: max six Southport 13 May. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Virginia Rail: present MNWR, Corning Pd, CS, HS. Com. Moorhen: *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Killdeer: *intro*. Lesser Yellowlegs: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: max six Horseheads 13 May, a traditional nesting area. Least Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper: *intro*. Dunlin: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro*. Com. Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: pair Southport 23 Apr, nests with y QCM 29 Apr and Dryden Apr. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Southport 15 May in corn stubble field; present Geneva Fordham Swamp 21 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Monkey Run North, Ithaca, 22 May. Fish Crow: nest in pine tree Oak Hill Road, Ithaca. Carolina Wren: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: one SWS 9 May, one FLNF 21 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one SWS 20 May. N. Shrike: one Tshache Pool MNWR 11, 13 and 28 Mar. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one MNWR 22 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Blackpoll Warbler: several singing birds 24-27 May. Prairie Warbler: one SWS 9 May, several near Montour Falls 21 May at a former colony site. Hooded Warbler: one Star Stanton Hill 13 May, three near Montour Falls, one near Cayuta L 21 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one WG 21 May. Prothonotary Warbler: present May's Point Pool MNWR 28 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*. Henslow's Sparrow: present Hile School Road, Freeville 30 Apr and Ithaca area throughout May. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report SWS 9 May. Snow Bunting: last Ithaca area 13 & 27 March, only reports. Orchard Oriole: male Pine City 13 May, pair there 20 May, breeding status unconfirmed; also Sheldrake 14 & 28 May.

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[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue of The Kingbird.]