

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

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The 1993 spring season brought both exceptional weather and exceptional birds to our Region. The spring's weather was dominated by the "Blizzard of '93," which brought two to three feet of snow across the Region on 13 and 14 Mar. Snow fell at a rate of 2–3 inches per hour during the height of the storm. It also was the coldest March for the past 7 years, with -17°F recorded at Ithaca on 19 Mar. April was the third wettest April on record, with precipitation 3 to 6 inches above normal for the month. April temperatures were near normal, however. The heavy rains of April flooded traditional shorebirding spots like Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and probably dispersed shorebirds across a wide front, since many fields and meadows had standing water. As a result, shorebird counts were generally low, though variety was good for the region. May proved to be another extreme month, the sixth driest May since 1895 and the driest since 1980. Total precipitation averaged 2 to 3 inches below normal, with temperatures 1 to 2°F above average for the Region.

Many spring migrants arrived earlier than average this year. Of the 92 species being monitored, 44 (48%) arrived earlier than average for the Region. An apparent "fall-out" of shorebirds occurred on the lakefront at Geneva on 31 May, where Fred Bertram reported 2500 to 3000 birds (85% Dunlin, 10% Red Knot, and 5% Ruddy Turnstone). Other shorebirds reported from the Region in small numbers included Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, and American Woodcock. Ring-billed Gull has expanded its nesting range to include Watkins Glen for the second year and, for the first time, near Elmira, where D. Russell found at least 49 possible nests on 29 May.

Common Raven now is reported frequently from Elmira to Watkins Glen and Ithaca. Several Carolina Wren were reported throughout the Region. Both Olive-sided Flycatcher and Gray-cheeked Thrush were missed this season. There were single crossbill and redpoll reports, Pine Siskin was scattered throughout the period and Region, and there were very few reports of Evening Grosbeak.

Golden Eagle was a highlight of the season, seen by multiple observers throughout the Region, with as many as 8–10 in one day at the Mount Pleasant Hawk Observatory near Ithaca. In general the spring hawk migration over Mount Pleasant was exceptional with a total of 2811 individuals representing 16 species reported for 1667 hours of observation from 23 Mar through 8 May. Other outstanding observations and rarities reported from the region included **Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Swainson's Hawk**, and **Swainson's Warbler**.

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Abbreviations: CHWMA — Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest; KHF — Kestrel Haven Farm banding station (J&SG); MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtP — Mount Pleasant, TOMP; MPt — Myers Point, east shore of Cayuga L; PS — Park Station, Erin; QCM — Queen Catharine Marsh, s end of Seneca L; WG — Watkins Glen.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** last 22 May. **Red-throated Loon:** injured bird found 17 Apr, treated and released Dryden L, last seen 20 Apr; one Cayuga L 16–25 Apr, 10 PS 23 Apr, one Elmira 1–8 May. **Horned Grebe:** four still present Seneca L 31 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** one Cayuga L 11 Apr, three MNWR 16 Apr, one Dryden L 24–26 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** small numbers Cayuga and Seneca L throughout period, total of 245 MtP 4–31 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** singles QCM 24 Apr, MNWR 16 May. **Great Blue Heron:** several active nesting colonies of 8 to 35 nests. **Great Egret:** one Taughannock Falls SP 2 Apr. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one Ithaca 16 Apr and 2 May (J. Yntema, S. Coester). **CATTLE EGRET:** one Horseheads 8 May. **GLOSSY IBIS:** one MNWR 15 and 23 May (KD, M. Smith). **TRUMPETER SWAN:** one Savannah Mucklands n of MNWR 23 Apr (NB, mob, NYSARC). **Tundra Swan:** seven Seneca L 18 Mar, nine Seneca L 21 Mar. **Snow Goose:** max 7000 MNWR 17 Apr. **Brant:** 30 Seneca L 15 May, four Seneca L 30 May. **Canada Goose:** 12,000+ Cayuga L 27 mar. **Wood Duck:** max 42 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Am. Black Duck:** max 277 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Canvasback:** max 190 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Redhead:** max 550 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** max 490 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** max 123 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** four still present Seneca L 30 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 160 Cayuga L 7 Mar, three still

present Seneca L 31 May. **Bufflehead**: max 146 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: nine Sheldrake Cayuga L 3 Apr, two Horseheads 4 Apr, 12 Dryden 7 Apr, seven PS 16 Apr and three on 23 Apr, two Elmira 16 Apr and four 21 Apr. **White-winged Scoter**: one Eldridge L 16 Apr. **Com. Merganser**: max 119 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 37 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Ruddy Duck**: five MNWR 27 May.

Turkey Vulture: max 94 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Osprey**: max 62 MtP week of 25 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: one Dryden L 25 Apr, two-five MNWR throughout period. **N. Harrier**: max 70 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 123 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk**: max 33 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Red-shouldered hawk**: max 150 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 345 MtP week of 25 Apr. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: pale morph KHF 7 Apr (J&SG), pale morph MtP 20 Apr (NB, NYSARC). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 197 MtP week of 28 Mar, 30-40 over Seneca L 30 Mar. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 17 MtP week of 23 Mar. **Golden Eagle**: one MNWR 27 Mar, two Horseheads 27 Mar, one KHF 7 Apr, one Wellsburg 12 Apr, max 18 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Am. Kestrel**: max 30 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon**: six total MtP, 23 Mar-8 May. **Merlin**: one Elmira 6 Mar, one Horseheads 4 Apr, one Elmira 4 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: reported at bird feeders. **Virginia Rail**: one-four Horseheads (Holding Point marsh) 15-30 May. **Sandhill Crane**: one near WG 8 May, "several" over MNWR 16 May [details? - *The Editor*]. **Killdeer**: max 36 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Horseheads 21 Apr. **Whimbrel**: one Myers Point Cayuga L 1 Jun. **Ruddy Turnstone**: *intro*. **Red Knot**: *intro*. **Dunlin**: *intro*. **Bonaparte's Gull**: one WG 23 Apr, four Cayuga L 15 May. **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one MNWR 12-20 Apr. **Caspian Tern**: max 16 Eldridge L 26 Apr. **Forster's Tern**: one Stewart P at s end Cayuga L 11 Apr. **Black Tern**: one Elmira 5 May.

E. Screech-Owl: one Union Springs 22 Mar, one Ithaca 28 May, one Ovid throughout period. **Snowy Owl**: one WG to 2 May, one Savannah Mucklands n of MNWR 5-25 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: three Romulus 21 Mar, five Dresden 21 Mar, eight Levanna 25 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Tanglewood 15 May. **Com. Nighthawk**: several reports, max five Ithaca 29 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Ithaca 29-30 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: several May reports, nesting Benton Center.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Geneva 9 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: one KHF 22 May, one CHWMA 26 May. **Horned Lark**: max 500+ Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Com. Raven**: four KHF 19 Apr, two Wellsburg 7 Apr,

one Big Flats 8 May, three Elmira area Spring Count 15 May, one CHWMA 30 May. **Fish Crow**: two Chemung 14 Apr, 11 Big Flats 8 May. **Sedge Wren**: one singing FLNF 20 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: only two reports, last Venice 21 May. **Am. Pipit**: 15 Southport 2 May. **N. Shrike**: one Veteran 18 and 24 Mar, one Catlin 20 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: one KHF 20 Apr. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Elmira 8 May, only report. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**: one Elmira 29 Apr (NYSARC). **Golden-winged Warbler**: three Elmira 15 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr 5 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr MNWR 16 May. **Prairie Warbler**: arr 8 May, increasing. **Connecticut Warbler**: one SENE 16 May (!), two near Himrod 7 May (J. Corcoran!). **Hooded Warbler**: arr 15 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 12 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr three Dryden 15 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr 18 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: last 17 May. **Lapland Longspur**: one King Ferry 7 Mar, three Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 500+ Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: one WG 3 Apr, two-three Canandaigua 2 May. **Orchard Oriole**: two Myer's Pt Cayuga L 15 May. **Purple Finch**: max 42 Big Flats 20 Mar. **Red Crossbill**: one Ithaca 1 May. **Com. Redpoll**: 45 Southport 3 Apr.

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