

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta NY 13820

Weather this Spring, especially May, was mostly cloudy, cold, windy and wet. For March, the daily mean temperature of 30.7°F at Cooperstown was only 1.6° below normal and precipitation of 4.2 inches was hardly more than an inch above normal. However, 75% sunshine on 13 March was a rare exception to the succession of cloudy days. The big weather event was a Nor'easter 31 March which dumped a record six to twelve inches of snow across the Region, followed by an April Fool's Day of blowing snow and white-outs from strong NW winds. Sun the next few days melted the snow quickly. Water levels in the rivers rose with the runoff causing some minor flooding. April

temperatures, like March, averaged 1.6° below normal, while precipitation was half an inch over average. The month had more sunshine, but also many windy showery days. May was most disappointing. Although precipitation was slightly below normal, temperatures averaged four degrees colder than usual, and strong winds, usually from the northwest, dominated weather most days 7 to 28 May. Trees were slow to leaf out, insect species were limited, and the growing season was about two weeks behind schedule by late May.

Except for waterfowl, migration was mostly late to very late. So it was that in the warmer southern sector of the Region, BROO birders were out early in March checking any open water. Nor were they disappointed! Hundreds of Snow Geese, unprecedented numbers, first excited spotters at Windsor 9 March. The numbers increased to thousands and spread to areas across the Region during the next two weeks. (Stories of the overpopulation of the species and their threat to life of the Arctic tundra came later!). Other waterfowl highlights included good counts of grebes, sightings of both American and Least bitterns, a dozen Tundra Swans (the first in 10 years), and 21 species of ducks, including excellent numbers of Canvasback but a scarcity of Green-winged Teal.

Spring hawk movement was slow, particularly Broad-winged Hawk. Bill Toner was surprised to find an American Kestrel box with five eggs at the early date of 30 April. Special sightings by Tom Salo in OTSE included a very late departure for Rough-legged Hawk (8 May) and an unexpected incidence of nest parasitism by Wild Turkey. He came upon a Ruffed Grouse sitting on her nest containing 11 grouse eggs and three turkey eggs on 11 May. Eleven species of sandpipers was the best record in nearly twenty years. Included were Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper, all Regional rarities. Other good finds included both Virginia Rail and Sora, good numbers of Bonaparte's Gull, both Common and Black terns for the third successive year, N. Saw-whet Owl, a repeat of last year's excellent Chimney Swift presence, and a Red-headed Woodpecker. Also special was discovery of a Common Raven nest with three large fledglings 12 April on a cliff above Otsego Lake. John Davis and Elliott Adams believe theirs is the second such find in that general area.

North American Migration Counts were conducted 10 May in BROO, CHEN, and DELA - OTSE. The counts have coincided with the start of the big May migration push for the previous two years with big fallouts of warblers. With so many late arrivals, it was a different scene this year. Many flycatcher species hadn't arrived yet. The first Alder Flycatcher was a record late 28 May. In his commentary, Bob Miller, who compiled both the DELA-OTSE NAMC and the DOAS May Big Day Count a week later, reported: "On the 17th there still were very small numbers of Least and Great Crested flycatchers, House Wren, Veery, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, American Redstart, Canada

Warbler and Indigo Bunting. Warblers missing from both counts were Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Mourning and Wilson's."

Despite the late migration, the Region had record early arrivals for Brown Thrasher and Pine Warbler. Encouraging also were good reports of Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Wilson's Warbler. Wood Thrush continued scarce as did most grassland species. Missed species included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. However, a total of 208 species plus one hybrid set a new Spring record, two more than last year's record setting 206.

Contributors: Elliott Adams, Derek Alcott, Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Eleanor Carson, Chad Covey, Mary Ann and Marty Cuff, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society May Big Day Count, Sadie Dorber, Margaret Ferranti, Bob Grosek, Elva Hawken, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Andy Leahy, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Bob and Jean Miller, North American Migration Count, Robert and Ruth Pantle, Eileen Patch, Marie Petuh, Tom Salo, Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan, Gary and Louise Sweet, Tom and Noreen Tasber, Bill Toner, Jan Trzeciak, Chris Vredenburgh, Weed Walkers, William Watson, Nancy Weissflog, Don Windsor, Irene Wright, Jane Young.

Abbreviations: Bpd-Boland Pond, BROO; ChF-Chenango Forks, BROO; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park, BROO; CRes- Cannonsville Reservoir; DOMBDC- Delaware-Otsego May Big Day Count; FHNC- Finch Hollow Nature Center; MSP-Murphy's Sand, Vestal; NAMC-North American Migration Count; OPM-Otsego, Portlandville, Milford; OtsL-Otsego Lake; RTPk- Round Top Park, Endicott; OtPk-Otsiningo Pk, BROO; RRd-River Rd. Endicott; SUNYNP- State University Nature Preserve, Binghamton; WPR Whitney Point Reservoir and surrounding areas, and WB- West Burlington, OTSE.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** arr and max three WPR 19 Apr; four reports OTSE max two to 10 May, lowest count since 1993. **Pied-billed Grebe:** ten reports all BROO - max three 17 Mar; one TIOG May, good count. **Horned Grebe:** max 39 WPR 29 Apr (ES); seven other reports 22 Mar to 12 May, best count since 1988. **Red-necked Grebe:** max nine WPR 21 Apr (ES); two RRd same date (MP), missed some years. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max five BROO NAMC and Vestal 27 May, fewer than recent years. **Am. Bittern:** Triangle 13 Apr (T&NT), often missed. **Least Bittern:** BUNP 26 May (MP,MF), only fourth report since 1979. **Great Blue Heron:** 28 on three NAMC's, average. **Green Heron:** max three Bainbridge 24 May; seven other reports after 2 May. **Tundra Swan:** ten ad, two imm WPR 10 Mar; "took flight north 9:45 a.m. 11 Mar" (mob), first since 1986. **Snow Goose:** arr Windsor 9

Mar: estimated 4,000 WPR 10 Mar: hundreds also at CHEN. CORT. OTSE. TIOG sites to 25 Mar. unprecedented numbers. **Canada Goose**: usual good numbers of nesting pairs. **Wood Duck**: max 20 SUNYNP 27 Mar: 29 on three NAMC's. low count. **Green-winged Teal**: two reports each Mar. Apr. max two. scarce. **Am. Black Duck**: max 12 BPd 19 Mar: none Apr: four on two NAMC's. low count. **Mallard**: max 56 DOAS NAMC. no reports of young. **N. Pintail**: five reports max 12 to 28 Mar. average. **Blue-winged Teal**: five reports. max five. low count. **N. Shoveler**: arr OPk 2 Apr: three Greene 12 Apr. never common. **Gadwall**: WPR 29 Mar: BPd 3 Apr: DOMBDC. average. **Am. Wigeon**: seven reports max eight. BROO. TIOG 9 to 31 Mar. excellent. **Canvasback**: arr and max seven WPR 10 Mar (T&NT): two nearby area 11 Mar (EP): TIOG 18 Mar (C&JB). highest count in at least 20 years. **Redhead**: max 45 OtsL 13 Mar. winter holdovers. often missed. **Ring-necked Duck**: good numbers from 9 Mar thru Apr: last seven CHEN NAMC. **Greater Scaup**: Mirror L TIOG 3. 14 Mar max seven: two WPR 21 Apr. good numbers. **Lesser Scaup**: two reports BPd max four. one OPM. all mid Mar. near average. **Oldsquaw**: max 11 RRd 22 Mar (MP): nine WPR 21 Mar (ES): one other. good count. **White-winged Scoter**: two OnRes 15 Apr (CV): one Binghamton 17 Apr (BG). often missed. **Com. Goldeneye**: max seven WPR 10 Mar: four other Mar reports: two each BROO NAMC and DOMBDC. late departure. **Bufflehead**: arr WPR 5 Mar: max 12 BROO 19 and 23 Apr: last Norwich 20 APR. good counts. **Hooded Merganser**: max 16 Oneonta and 12 MSP 23 Mar. average. **Com. Merganser**: max 484 WPR 5 Mar (ES). high count: female with nine y Canasawacta Creek CHEN 17 May (DW). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max three MSP 15 Mar DOAS NAMC. late departure.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: max Delhi 1 May: many all areas after 10 Mar. **Osprey**: max 28 on NAMC's: high counts mid Apr to 17 May. **Bald Eagle**: frequent singles WPR. not necessarily different birds except one three-year old: banded imm seen Cincinnatus L: ad CORT. Can Res. DOMBDC. good range. **N. Harrier**: max six on NAMC's. generally scarce. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: average numbers. **Cooper's Hawk**: scarce after Mar. **N. Goshawk**: two DOAS NAMC. only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: Triangle occasionally after 11 Mar: two CHEN reports. one TIOG. average. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr BROO 1 Apr. generally scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk**: nesting pairs Endwell and TIOG: max 15 DOAS NAMC. **Rough-legged Hawk**: eight reports max three Mar: last OTSE 8 May "Yes I stopped and went back" (TS). very late departure. **Am. Kestrel**: nest with five eggs on CORT nest trail 30 Apr. "quite early" (BT). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: female DELA feeder Mar. Apr: five other reports max two. good count. **Ruffed Grouse**: female on nest of 11 grouse eggs and three turkey eggs WB 11 May (TS): two ad with 17 y Vestal Center 29 May (SD). **Wild Turkey**: max 120 Harpersville DELA 11 Mar: two reports of

displaying males APR. **Virginia Rail**: SUNYNP 31 May (class group), often missed. **Sora**: two DOAS NAMC, first since 1991. **Com. Moorhen**: TIOG May and SUNYNP 31 May, missed some years. **Am. Coot**: max 35 0tsL 13 Mar; two BROO reports, high count of winter laggards. **Semipalmated Plover**: max two MSP 16, 27 May, third report since 1986. **Killdeer**: max 49 on NAMC's, good count. **Greater Yellowlegs**: only four singles. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max four CHEN NAMC; four other reports, not seen every year. **Solitary Sandpiper**: six each on CHEN and DOAS NAMC's, rather scarce. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max eight CHEN NAMC; four WPR 3 May, fewer than last two years. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: eight BROO NAMC; two DOMBDC; last six MSP 27 May, only fifth report in 18 years. **Least Sandpiper**: two singles BROO early May; DOMBDC, average. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: three CHEN NAMC; DOMBDC, first since 1992. **Com. Snipe**: five singles 29 Apr to 19 May, continues scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: max six Triangle 22 May, average. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 29 WPR (AL), excellent. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 20 on two BROO reports Mar. **Herring Gull**: max 40 CRes 19 Mar. **Com. Tern**: WPR (ES) and MSP (BG) 3 May, often missed. **Black Tern**: BPd 13 May (EC fide MP), third successive year.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: **Mourning Dove**: 122 on NAMC's. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: Vestal Center 31 May (SD), late and only report. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: Vestal Center 31 May, only one. **E. Screech-Owl**: only CVSP 5 Mar. **Great Horned Owl**: max three BROO NAMC. **Barred Owl**: two singles Apr, three May, good number. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: Candor Mar, only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Binghamton 13 -31 May; two other BROO sites; one TIOG, scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 100-150 BROO 7 May; 31 DOMBDC; 17 CHEN NAMC; 28 Bainbridge 17 May, excellent counts from May 1. **Belted Kingfisher**: 18 on NAMC's. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: WB 2 May (TS), often missed. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: TIOG thru; OTSE Apr; two BROO sites May, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 28 DONAMC, high count. **Pileated Woodpecker**: eight on NAMC's; good numbers APR, May.

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **E. Wood-Pewee**: early bird BROO NAMC; next arr 20 Mar; scarce thru. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: s Oxford 21 May (DW), not every spring. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr 28 May, record late; BROO 29 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: six reports after 23 May, late arr. **Least Flycatcher**: four on NAMC's compares with 60 last year. **E. Phoebe**: max 32 on NAMC's. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: nine reports after 12 May, max three, average. **E. Kingbird**: max 15 on NAMC's, generally scarce. **Horned Lark**: five reports, max six CORT Mar; two each CHEN and DOAS NAMC's, low count. **Purple Martin**: TIOG May, only report. **Tree Swallow**: good numbers after 26 Apr; "late nesting - wrens and House Sparrows have been giving them

a hard time: five eggs in one nest destroyed." (JB.Owego). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max 22 CHEN NAMC. **Bank Swallow**: max 51 on NAMC's; no large colonies located. **Cliff Swallow**: 14 active nests WPR 24 May (AL); 51 on NAMC's. **Barn Swallow**: max 52 "mostly perched on plants" s Norwich 10 May (DW). **Am. Crow**: max 665 DOAS NAMC. abundant. **Fish Crow**: max two CVSP 5 Mar. 27 Apr: TIOG 9 Mar: two reports in May: Vestal 4 Apr: one RTPk 5. 19 Apr. small population continues. **Com. Raven**: active nest (two ad. three large fledglings) OtsL 12 Apr (JD.EA). first Regional nesting record. **Tufted Titmouse**: good numbers continue all areas. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: average number of feeder reports. **Carolina Wren**: only three sites. still scarce. **Winter Wren**: seven reports Apr. max three: five May. average. **Marsh Wren**: two DOAS NAMC. scarce. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 10 CVSP 28 Mar: two other BROO sites Apr. scarce. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 30 SUNYNP 14 Apr. average. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher**: nine reports May. max five. good count. **E. Bluebird**: nest with three eggs CORT 29 Apr: max 30 on two NAMC's. not as widespread. **Veery**: max five Bainbridge 17 May: only one NAMC. late arr. **Swainson's Thrush**: five reports 11-24 May. high count. **Hermit Thrush**: max 10 NAMC's: six RTPk 15 Apr. average. **Wood Thrush**: max 37 DOMBDC. generally scarce. **Gray Catbird**: max 42 Bainbridge 17 May. good numbers. **N. Mockingbird**: max four BROO NAMC. average. **Brown Thrasher**: max 13 on NAMC's. numbers up slightly. **Am. Pipit**: OtsPk 1 Apr: TIOG May: two CHEN NAMC. often missed. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 20 Endicott & JCity 26 Mar. an off year.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **Solitary Vireo**: max 23 DOAS NAMC. average. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: max four DOAS NAMC: three ChF 29 May: nest building WPR 24 May: two TIOG. excellent. **Warbling Vireo**: max six DOMBDC: ChF 29 May. scarce. **Philadelphia Vireo**: Triangle 24 May: SUNYNP 31 May. often missed. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max four CHEN NAMC. scarce. **Blue-winged Warbler**: eleven reports after 6 May. max three. average. **Golden-winged Warbler**: n OTSE 5 May: three RTPk 6 May: JCity 12 May: DOMBDC. second best count since 1992. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: singles BROO. CHEN. OTSE. **Tennessee Warbler**: two CHEN. TIOG. continue scarce. **Nashville Warbler**: twelve singles after 25 Apr. good count. **N. Parula**: five May reports. max two. often have but a single bird. **Yellow Warbler**: max 53 on NAMC's. low. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max nine Bainbridge 17 May: only five on NAMC's. poor count. **Magnolia Warbler**: eleven reports. max four: generally scarce after late arr. **Cape May Warbler**: TIOG May. only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: sixteen reports max eight. good count. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: "by the hundreds Brick Pd two weeks in May" (C&JB). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: fewer reports. lower maxima. **Blackburnian Warbler**: ten reports. max three: three on NAMC's compares

with 28 in '96. **Pine Warbler**: nine reports 12 Apr to 28 May, max four, mostly BROO, high count. **Prairie Warbler**: four BROO after 3 May; TIOG; two DOMBDC, near average. **Palm Warbler**: seven singles after 25 Apr, above average. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: seven reports, max two, all BROO, average. **Blackpoll Warbler**: seven reports, max three, good numbers. **Cerulean Warbler**: DOMBDC, usual single report. **Black-and-white Warbler**: eleven on NAMC's, sub par counts. **Am. Redstart**: ten on NAMC's, far below three previous years. **N. Waterthrush**: slightly lower counts. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max four DOMBDC. **Mourning Warbler**: six reports max two after 14 May, average. **Hooded Warbler**: Bainbridge 16, 24 May (DA), often missed. **Wilson's Warbler**: Triangle and Bainbridge 24 May; SUNYNP 31 May, TIOG, excellent after late arr. **Canada Warbler**: seven reports, max three, good numbers.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max seven IBM Woods JCTy; "four in one tree" 20 May (MP); good counts after 18 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 27 on NAMC's, down from record highs past two years. **Indigo Bunting**: a lone early bird 2 May; eight reports after 13 May, max two, fewer. **E. Towhee**: max 16 JCTy 12 May and DOAS NAMC, average. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 30 McGraw 22 Mar; last there 19 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: 144 on NAMC's. **Field Sparrow**: max 20 on NAMC's. **Vesper Sparrow**: CHEN NAMC, only one. **Savannah Sparrow**: average to good in limited areas, generally scarce. **Fox Sparrow**: arr three Vestal 23 Mar; good numbers to 19 Apr. **Swamp Sparrow**: max seven DOAS NAMC; no reports TIOG (JB), scarce. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 15 CHEN 8 Apr, fewer. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 31 NAMC's; most reports 8 - 21 May, average. **Snow Bunting**: max and last 300+ CORT 23 Mar (BT). **Bobolink**: max 58 DOMBDC, scarce. **Rusty Blackbird**: ten Greene 12 Apr (TS), very high count. **Baltimore Oriole**: multiple birds in many yards for extended stays, feeding on suet, apples, oranges, watermelon, peanut butter and nectar (mob). **Orchard Oriole**: New Berlin 17 May, third successive year on DOBDMC, excellent. **Purple Finch**: winter influx hung on thru mid Apr; 67 on NAMC's. **Pine Siskin**: max 15 OTSE 12 Mar; last two CHEN 29 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: two Triangle 22 May.

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