

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Spring 2006 was nearly normal for temperature and somewhat drier than usual in every month. A half foot of snow fell in early March, but disappeared by 9 March. No subsequent snowfalls produced even one inch of snow.

The highlights of the spring waterfowl migration through the Region were the four Greater White-fronted Geese which Gary Chapin found on the Savannah Mucklands and the ten Eurasian Wigeons that Jesse Ellis and Anya Illes found at various places on Cayuga Lake. Janet Akin and Gary Chapin submitted the only report of a Ross's Goose this spring. Cackling Geese continued to be recorded by several observers.

Bill and Joan Ostrander recorded Chemung County's second and third records of Black Vulture while walking their dog on the dike in West Elmira. The first of the two birds was sailing very high and heading due north. The second was soaring low with Turkey Vultures.

A few Broad-winged Hawk reports came in before the first one was spotted at Derby Hill. While this raised some questions, it may simply be that local breeders arrive before those migrating to Canada pass by the Lake Ontario hawk watches. Karen Allaben-Confer's report was the earliest and included a very detailed description of the bird. The most exciting raptor find of the season was the nesting pair of Merlins in the City of Ithaca. Paul Hurtado found them near his home. He and many visitors were able to document a great deal of the adults' activity around the nest.

Sandhill Crane reports were mostly of birds flying over, apparently migrating, though the first report and the last report were exactly two months apart. Chris Wood had close looks at a Whimbrel flying by Myers Point. Half a dozen Long-billed Dowitchers surprised visitors to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and were not correctly identified until someone heard the distinctive calls of the birds.

The only unusual gull was a Laughing Gull at Stewart Park. More than 2000 Ring-billed Gulls and a few pairs of Herring Gulls were nesting on their island in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira.

Many observers reported Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, as well as many Eastern Tent and Gypsy Moth caterpillars for the cuckoos to eat. A Snowy Owl was in Fayette on the late date of 22 March. The report of one in mid-May in Genoa was appropriately met with some skepticism, but the bird stayed around for nearly two weeks and every skeptic had very satisfying views.

Seventeen Common Nighthawks over the Chemung River in West Elmira was a good spring count for this species that has essentially disappeared as a breeder in the Region. Whip-poor-will surveys in the Region did not turn up any birds, but Tim Lenz heard a probable migrant singing near his Dryden home as he left for work.

Both Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were passing through the Region at the end of the spring season. Mike Morgan found a Sedge Wren at Montezuma NWR. Wes Blauvelt counted 29 Common Ravens flying over South Danby, probably a new high count for Tompkins County.

A single Bohemian Waxwing was found on the Cornell University campus, where numerous fruit-bearing trees attract large numbers of Cedar Waxwings every year.

Chris Wood reported the only Golden-winged Warbler. Dick and Joan Clements spotted a Yellow-throated Warbler in a Pitch Pine snag where they were hoping to find the Red Crossbills that were reported in the same tree earlier that day. The warbler set up and maintained a territory in Harris Hill Park through the end of the season. Bill and Margaret Cady spent an entire day looking for warblers at the Newtown Battlefield Reservation State Park and discovered a probable Swainson's Warbler which twice ran out to an exposed mud puddle for a drink. Bill Ostrander recorded an unfamiliar song from an unseen singer in the Town of Erin and later matched it to a commercial recording of Kentucky Warbler.

Clay-colored Sparrow returned to its territory in Caroline for the fourth year in a row. A smattering of winter finches were in the Region. Harris Hill Park attracted Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills to an abundance of opening Pitch Pine cones. One Pine Siskin was seen feeding fledglings. A flock of Common Redpolls frequented a feeder in Dryden. Evening Grosbeaks were present at several feeders in the Region.

I have not attempted to compare bird populations of this season with that of the previous year's season, as is my custom. My extraction of data from listserve email was not as exhaustive as in years past. I also received a very large quantity of data from eBird. The two sources differ: the former tends to

be biased toward uncommon species and the latter toward common species. So comparing the two years was not advisable.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CU - Cornell University, CWMA - Cayuga L WMA CAYU, CygL - Cayuga L, DLP - Dryden L P TOMP, EIRW - East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP, GRFF - George Road Flooded Field TOMP, HHP - Harris Hill Park CHEM, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP, LPBP - Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP, MNWR - Montezuma NWR, MtPl - Mt. Pleasant

TOMP, MuL - Mud Lock CAYU, MyPt - Myers Pt, NRPd - Neimi Road Ponds
TOMP, SaM - Savannah Mucklands SENE, SSF - Summerhill State Forest
CAYU, StP - Stewart P TOMP, SW - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, TCAH - The
Center At Horseheads CHEM.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED**

GOOSE: arr & max 4 SaM 4 Mar (GC),
high; last Tyre 23 Mar (RD).

Snow Goose: max 110,000 SaM 4 Mar;
last 5 SW 9 May.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Phelps 26 Mar
(JA, GC).

Canada Goose: max 30,000 MtPl 28
Mar (eB), high.

Brant: arr 8 Ithaca 31 May; max &
last 8 MyPt 31 May.

CACKLING GOOSE: CygL 5 Mar
(MA, MiH, PHo, TL); max 2 Seneca
Falls 18 Mar (JE, AI); last Canoga
Marsh SENE 26 Mar (MeH).

Tundra Swan: max 500 CWMA
18 Mar; last 2 TCAH 1 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 Harris P CAYU 5
Mar, only report.

Gadwall: max 20 MNWR 8 Apr; last
6 MNWR 27 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: arr 2 CygL
18 Mar (J&PM); arr & max 10 CygL
18 Mar (JE, AI), high; last MNWR
1 Apr (MA, MiH, TL).

Am. Wigeon: max 500 CygL 29 Mar
(JE), high; last 2 MNWR 13 May.

N. Shoveler: max 80 MNWR 8 Apr;
last MNWR 25 May.

N. Pintail: max 1000 MNWR
29 Mar; last 2 MNWR 8 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 50 GRFF
9 Apr; last 2 MNWR 25 May.

Canvasback: max 400 MNWR 26 Mar;
last MNWR 8 May.

Greater Scaup: max 25 MuL 8 Apr;
last TCAH 10 Apr, early.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 MuL 18 Mar;
last 2 StP 27 Apr.

Surf Scoter: arr & max 8 DLP 8 May
(BP), high; last DLP 10 May.

White-winged Scoter: arr 4 Horseheads
Gravel Pits CHEM 25 Mar; max 9
Ledyard 19 Apr; last MyPt 23 Apr.

Black Scoter: max Ledyard 14 Apr (eB),
only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 45 Aurora Bay
North Bluffs CAYU 22 Apr; last 4 T
Ovid P 7 May.

Bufflehead: max 26 MuL 31 Mar, low;
last Elmira Dam CHEM 16 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 300 CWMA
18 Mar (eB), high; last Ledyard 19 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 15
CygL 29 Mar; last Elmira Dam
CHEM 25 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr 3 StP 12 Mar; max
12 CWMA 18 Mar; GRFF 26 May.

Wild Turkey: max 100 CygL Basin
29 Mar (JE), high.

Red-throated Loon: arr DLP 8 Apr;
last Ledyard 21 Apr.

PACIFIC LOON: T Ovid P SENE
thru 18 Mar (C&JSI).

Horned Grebe: max 8 CygL 29 Mar,
low; last Chemung Ri 26 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr CygL 26 Mar,
late; max 2 MyPt 6 Apr; last MNWR
2 May.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 9 MNWR
24-30 May (BGU), high.

Am. Bittern: 1 SW 23 Mar, kiosk entry,
no details, reg record early; arr
1 Ithaca 11 Apr (SK), nocturnal flight
call recorded.

Great Egret: arr CWMA 18 Mar (eB),
early; max 15 MNWR 6 May (St&SuF),
high; last MNWR 26 May.

TRICOLORED HERON: MNWR
26 May (L&WU).

Green Heron: arr MNWR 29 Mar,
record early.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 StP
23 Mar (DN), early; max 4 MNWR 3
May; last 2 MNWR 27 May.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 West Elmira
Riverine Forest CHEM 9 May (B&JOs!).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Broad-winged Hawk: arr HHSF 30 Mar
(KCo!); max 7 CU 18 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 52 MtPl
28 Mar.

The Kingbird 2006 September; 56 (3)

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 MtPl 28 Mar; last DLP 11 Apr, early.
Golden Eagle: arr SW 8 Mar; max 3 MtPl 28 Mar; last Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 15 Apr.
Merlin: max 2 Ithaca 28 Apr thru (PHu), nesting.
Peregrine Falcon: last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 28 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr & max 4 SW 28 Mar (eB), high; last 2 Dryden 28 May (AF, LS).
Upland Sandpiper: arr Seneca Falls 16 Apr; max 9 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 7 May.
WHIMBREL: arr MyPt 30 May (CWo!).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 20 May; GRFF 27 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 18 May; max 19 Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE 27 May (DL, TL), high.
Dunlin: arr 2 GRFF 9 Apr; max 200 MNWR 13 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 18 May; max 5 Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE 25 May.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: arr 2 MNWR 21 Apr (C&JSI); max 6 MNWR 22 Apr (MA, TL, BWi); 7 MNWR 23 Apr (DoS, GC, ph); last 2 MNWR 30 Apr (DRu, ph).
Wilson's Snipe: max 16 GRFF 9 Apr; last MNWR 6 May.
LAUGHING GULL: StP 12 Mar (eB).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Cayuga Heights 25 Mar; max 52 MyPt 28 Apr; last SW 22 May.
Iceland Gull: max & last 3 Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 5 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2 StP 19 Mar; last Aurora Bay CAYU 15 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: MyPt 5 Mar; last StP 20 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 25 MyPt 12 Apr; last MNWR 13 May.
Com. Tern: max 10 MyPt 23 Apr; last Cameron Mills 12 May.
Black Tern: max 22 MNWR 7 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Caton 15 Apr; max 6 HHSF 28 May (RD), high.
SNOWY OWL: Fayette 22 Mar (DI); Genoa 7-19 May (fide CTH), late.
Long-eared Owl: HHSF 12 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: Horseheads 25 Mar (MPo), only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Dryden 6 Mar; max 2 Connecticut Hill TOMP 7 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: max 17 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 27 May (B&JOs), high.
WHIP-POOR-WILL: Dryden 6 May (TL), only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 StP 3 May (eB), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 29 Apr (StF), high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SW 27 May; Dryden L Trail TOMP 28 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr MNWR 21 May; EIRW 24 May; last EIRW 28 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Lansing 25 May; max 2 Lansing 29 May (eB).
Alder Flycatcher: max 20 Dryden 27 May (KM), high.
E. Kingbird: arr Long Point SP 29 Apr.
N. Shrike: last Steele Pds CHEM 18 Mar, early.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Dryden 8 May; SW 20 May; last Italy 27 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 29 Caroline 20 May (SKe), high.
Com. Raven: max 29 South Danby 21 Apr (WB), high.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 SW 29 Apr (eB), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 15 SW 27 Apr (eB), high.
Brown Creeper: max 10 Dryden 8 May (RD), high.
House Wren: 1 Cayuga heights 11 Mar (NS), state record early or overwinter?; arr Dryden 1 Apr (JM), reg record early; Cayuga Heights 11 Apr (SH), very early.

Winter Wren: arr Upper Buttermilk Falls SP 24 Mar; max 4 SSF 4 May.
SEDGE WREN: MNWR 24 May (MMn).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Park Station P CHEM 8 Apr, low.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 29 Apr (StF), high; last SW 22 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr & max 2 Etna 25 May; last Caroline 30 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 23 Caroline 29 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
Hermit Thrush: max 6 Caroline 30 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 10 Ringwood Nature Preserve TOMP 14 May.
Am. Robin: max 350 Connecticut Hill TOMP 2 Apr (eB), high.
Gray Catbird: Burns Rr, Caroline (SF) and Cornell Plantations (GK) 28 Mar, reg record early or overwinter; arr DLP 16 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: max 10 TCAH 25 Mar (BOs), high.
Am. Pipit: arr 6 Genoa 18 Mar; max 50 MtPl 28 Mar; last 2 SaM 21 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: CU 3-10 Apr (BW_i, BW_a).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Dryden 30 Apr; max 10 Bare Hill YATE 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Ithaca 17 May (CWo!), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 2 EIRW 12 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
N. Parula: max 3 NRPd 7 May; last EIRW 24 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr NRPd 7 May (eB); EIRW 12 May; last Asbury Cemetery TOMP 21 May (eB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 25 NRPd 7 May (eB), high.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: HHP 4 May thru (D&JCI).
Pine Warbler: 1 Ithaca 7 Mar (EM), likely local overwinter; arr Ithaca 24 Mar (eBird), very early; Ithaca 27 Mar (eBird), very early; Caroline 29 Mar (J&KC), very early.
Prairie Warbler: arr LPBP 28 Apr; max

8 Gleason Meadows CHEM 13 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Cornell Plantations 11 Apr (SH), ties reg record early; max 4 StP 8 May; last EIRW 17 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 CU 14 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Dryden 27 May (KM), high.
Cerulean Warbler: arr StP 2 May; max 2 StP 8 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 West Danby 8 May; max 3 LPBP 28 May.
SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Newtown Battlefield Reservation CHEM 13 May (B&MCA!).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Baldwin Preserve TOMP 13 Apr; max 5 Buttermilk Falls SP 30 Apr.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Erin 12 May (BOs, recording).
Hooded Warbler: arr 2 Dryden 6 May; max 6 West Danby 26 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 SW 25 May; last StP 28 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 26 Sugar Hill SCHU 22 Mar; last 9 Owasco Flats CAYU 29 Apr.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Caroline 6 May thru (AM&Tij).
Field Sparrow: arr DLP 23 Mar; max 20 SSF 2 May (MY), high.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Danby 6 May; max 2 TCAH 13 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Dryden 10 Mar; max 15 Caroline 10 Apr; last 2 Erin 24 Apr, early.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 EIRW 12 May; last LPBP 16 May (eB).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 40 CygL Basin 7; last MuL 27 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 220 HHP 2 Apr (Dick Clements), high.
Lapland Longspur: 10 SaM 25 Mar (MA, MiH, DL, TL), only report.
Snow Bunting: max 6 SSF 5 Mar, low; last Union Springs 7 Mar, early.
Indigo Bunting: max 12 LPBP 16 May (eB), high.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Ledyard 11 Mar; max 20 GRFF 7 May.

Rusty Blackbird: arr & max 20 Caroline 9 Mar; last 3 SW 28 Apr, early.

Orchard Oriole: arr Ithaca Farmer's Market TOMP 2 May; max 3 Ledyard 26 May.

RED CROSSBILL: arr SSF 2 May (MY); max 12 HHP 4 May (BOs); last 5 HHP 13 May (BOs).

Com. Redpoll: max 8 Dryden 1 Mar; last SW 25 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 20 HHP 2 Apr; last Elmira 27 May (eB), late.

Evening Grosbeak: max 28 Caroline 12 Mar; last 12 Summerhill 26 Apr.

House Sparrow: max 36 Elmira 1 Mar (BOs), high.