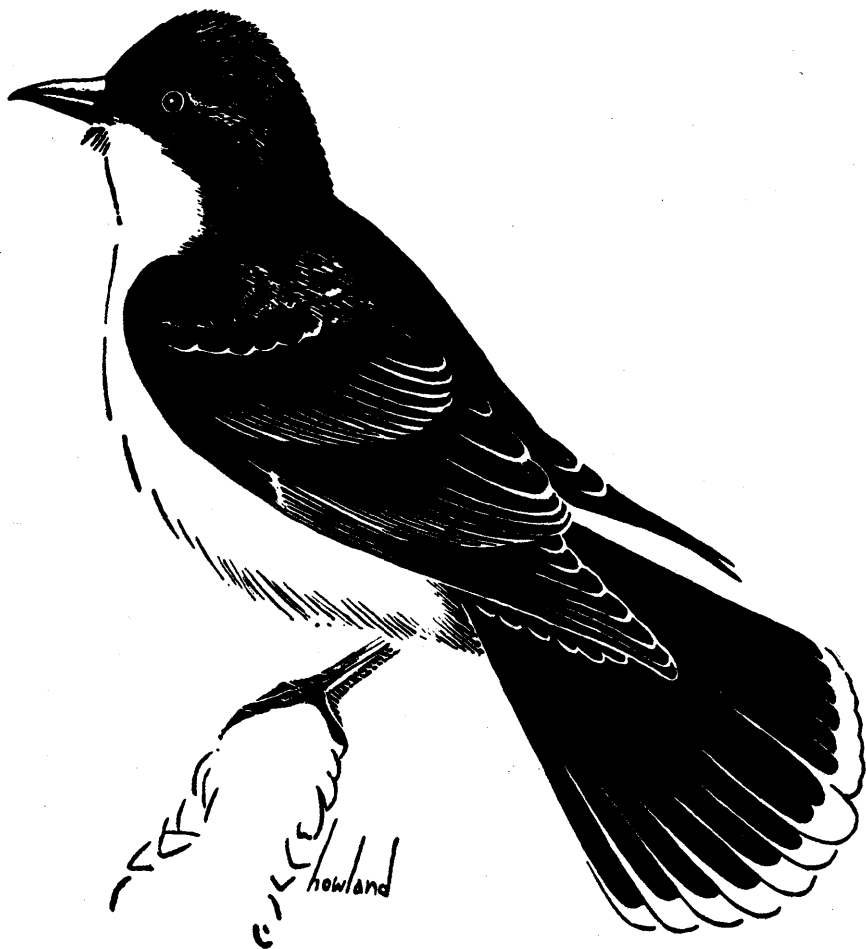


Bernard Allen

The

# KINGBIRD



VOL. XXV, NO. 3

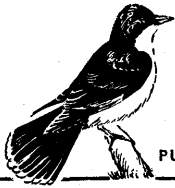
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# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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## FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT, RICHARD A. SLOSS—

Two years ago when Gordon Meade became the Federation's President he wrote: "—I sense a distressful feeling among some members that the Federation has come to rest on center, that it is not moving forward, that it does not meet its members' needs—in short that it needs revitalizing." Two years ago I shared those sentiments. Since then I have watched and been privileged to participate in a revitalization of our organization due in large part to Gordon's enthusiastic dedication and his inexhaustible supply of energy. The Federation is once again moving forward, new activities and publications have been instituted and are on the planning boards, more people are becoming actively involved in directing and implementing our programs, and there seems to me to be a renewed confidence and enthusiasm among our membership. To Gordon, we all owe our deep appreciation and gratitude.

Our thanks must also be extended to Joe Taylor, who for many years labored valiantly and productively as Editor of *The Kingbird*. Despite many responsibilities and demands for his numerous talents and expertise by a host of organizations he devoted long hours to an often unrewarding task and gave unselfishly of himself to the Federation.

Appreciation is also due to Alice Jones, our retiring Recording Secretary, without whom none of the proceedings of the past two years would have become part of the archives.

Generally, the newly elected officers of the Federation have assumed their active responsibilities immediately after the first of the year. However, due to prior commitments, Gordon Meade will be unable to devote the necessary attention to the duties of president in the coming months and accordingly, he has requested that I assume office as of the Annual Meeting. Since the bylaws do not express themselves with respect to when the new administration assumes office I shall recommend to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee that terms of office coincide with the Annual Meeting in order to avoid several months of a "lame duck" administration. Additionally, I hope that the Federation will approve a policy of having all our Annual Meetings in the fall of the year so that terms of office and committee assignments will maintain a regular continuity.

I believe that the formation of the Executive Committee has been the most significant improvement in our organizational structure since I have become actively associated with the Federation. Formerly, the few dedicated people comprising the Board of Directors and the heads of the various committees struggled valiantly to overcome what to me has always been one of the greatest handicaps that confronted the Federation—the enormous difficulties of liaison between the officers, committee chairmen and 35 to 40 member clubs, to say nothing of the individual membership. A great deal of the activities of our Federation depend

(continued on page 137)

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD  
BROOD PARASITISM ON THE EASTERN PHOEBE**

MORGAN V. JONES III

The ammunition storage area at Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, New York, contains fifty small concrete structures, six feet square and seven feet high, evenly distributed throughout 5,000 acres. These shelters and several small bridges provide undisturbed yet easily checked nesting sites for two common birds that build adherent nests, the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) and the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

A study of the nesting biology of these species was initiated on June 9, 1973, and continued throughout the 1973 and 1974 breeding seasons. All bunkers and bridges were checked weekly. This paper is concerned only with brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) on the phoebe during the 1974 breeding season.

The late starting date caused me to miss the first month of phoebe nesting in 1973. I found only two cases of cowbird activity in 41 nests, each a single egg that caused the phoebe to abandon its nest. The early May start in 1974 presented a different picture, with 23 cases of cowbird egg-laying in 71 nests. After June 8, 1974, cowbirds were involved in only three of the nests. Nesting activity was almost over by the end of July. The data gathered suggest that although the Brown-headed Cowbird breeds throughout May and June, with most of its activity in the first two weeks of June (Bent, 1958), parasitism against the Eastern Phoebe is directed almost exclusively against the first nestings in early May, and the phoebe is not bothered much thereafter when the cowbird concentrates on other species (see Appendix 1). Hann (1941) was of the opinion that first nests of all species generally received the most cowbird eggs.

Bent (1940) quotes Friedmann (1929) as noting that the phoebe is "one of the very commonest foster parents of the young cowbird. In regions where both species are common, fully 75 percent of the nests contain eggs of both kinds." Pressure is not nearly that intense at Seneca Army Depot, but it is significant, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Effects on Phoebe

	<u>No. of Nests</u>	<u>Number Successful</u>	<u>No. of Eggs</u>	<u>Number of Young Fledged</u>
Parasitized Nests	23	4 (17%)	48	6 (12.5%)
Unparasitized Nests	48	35 (73%)	202	150 (74.3%)
TOTALS	71	39 (55%)	250	156 (62.4%)

The figure for number of eggs in parasitized nests includes only those phoebe eggs actually counted, and not those removed by the cowbird hen. A more realistic evaluation of the cowbirds' effect on their hosts can be reached by discounting the seven parasitized nests that were abandoned before a full clutch was laid, and where the phoebes immediately renested. This reduces the total number of parasitized nests considered from 23 to 16. The observed mean clutch size for these 16 parasitized nests is 3.0, but the true mean is probably very close to the mean of 4.2 eggs for unparasitized nests. This removal of around 1.2 eggs per parasitized nest leads me to estimate conservatively that 15-20 additional phoebe eggs were lost, reducing the actual percentage of phoebe fledging success to 8.8% - 9.5%, rather than 12.5%. Any way you compute it, the phoebe is coming off badly.

It is obvious that cowbirds are causing one half of the losses by interfering with one third of the nests, making them the greatest single destructive agent during the entire nesting season, predation parasites and pollution notwithstanding. Norris' figures (1947) for 14 species cannot be compared because he did not give a detailed breakdown of egg success by parasitized and unparasitized nest.

Bent (1940) quotes Bendire (1895) as saying "Occasionally they build a new nest on top of the old one, and this is sometimes done to get rid of cowbirds' eggs that may have been deposited by these intruders, but ordinarily they do not appear to object much to such additions, and care for them as faithfully as if they were their own." This is not entirely true. In the present study, of seven abandoned nests containing one or more cowbird eggs, five contained one cowbird egg and no phoebe eggs, one contained one cowbird egg and one phoebe egg, and one contained four cowbird eggs and one phoebe egg. The only case of roofing over noted was the nest containing one cowbird egg and one phoebe egg. One clutch consisting of two cowbird eggs was incubated. It appears the phoebe is usually reluctant to incubate if her eggs are badly outnumbered, or unless some of her own eggs are there. The cowbird that strikes too soon will be unsuccessful.

Norris also noted that "Most host species would accept a single cowbird egg when it was not laid prematurely with reference to the host's clutch. But nests in which a cowbird egg was laid before the host's clutch was begun and nests in which more than one cowbird egg was laid were usually deserted."

With the greater number of cowbird eggs lost, it would appear that the phoebe is not a choice host. However, it is possible to compare figures from the present study with Norris' figures for all parasitized species, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Cowbird Success

	Total Nests	Parasitized Nests	Nests with			
			1	2	3	4
			Cowbird Eggs			
Eastern Phoebe (1974)	71	23 (32.2%)	16	5	1	1
All hosts (1947)	237	73 (30.8%)	45	21	7	0
	Cowbird Eggs		Cowbirds			
	Laid	Hatched	Fledged			
Eastern Phoebe (1974)	33	17 (51.5%)	15 (45.5%)			
All hosts (1947)	108	46 (42.6%)	29 (26.8%)			

The 18 cowbird failures were caused by abandonment (10), failure of egg to hatch (4), removal of egg by host (1), disappearance of egg (1), death of young in nest (1), and removal of young by another young cowbird (1). Despite these losses, it appears that the phoebe is a relatively good bet for the cowbird. Norris found only 4 of the 14 species he studied to be better hosts, none of them significantly so.

Percentages of nests containing different numbers of cowbird eggs seem to be similar for all hosts, and agree very closely with Nice's (1939) data from 98 Song Sparrow nests over a 7-year period: 70.5% with one egg, 26.5% with two eggs, and 3% with three. To find four or more cowbird eggs in a single nest is unusual. I could not determine whether or not my case of four was the work of more than one cowbird, but the case of three in one nest appeared to be the work of two cowbirds.

The incubation period (about 12 days), and time spent as a nestling (about 10 days) agreed with Bent's data (1958).

It is not entirely fair or accurate to measure the effect of cowbird parasitism in terms of nest success only. Immediate renesting usually follows abandonment or other failure, and multiple nestings are common. I feel the summary in Table 3 is closer to measuring the true effect by measuring the number of young produced in a season by nesting pairs rather than in each individual nesting. Note also under "Attempts Incubated" that there is a tendency for the parasitized pairs to try harder. Perhaps the shorter incubation and nestling periods of cowbirds are less likely to satisfy the phoebe's "breeding instinct."

Table 3. Pair Production

	<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Nesting Attempts</u>	<u>Attempts Incubated</u>	<u>Total Young/Season</u>	<u>Avg/Pair Season</u>
Parasitized	20	46	37	72	3.60
Non Parasitized	17	25	22	84	4.95

Therefore, each case of brood parasitism against a nesting pair of Eastern Phoebes produced, on the average, a loss of 1.35 young. For the study area at Seneca Army Depot in the summer of 1974, it meant a loss of 27 Eastern Phoebes to produce a total of 15 Brown-headed Cowbirds. Most bird lovers wouldn't think that is much of a trade.

Norris' figures for individual nests of 14 species showed an average of 2.94 host nestlings for unparasitized nests, and 2.05 for parasitized nests, a loss of about one host young for each cowbird attempt. Obviously, the phoebe is not coming off nearly as well. Similar calculations led to Porter's heated demand (1919) that cowbirds be exterminated.

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*Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, New York 14541*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Morgan Jones, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army and a mechanical engineer by training, has been stationed at Seneca Army Depot since 1972 with his wife and two children. He is an active field birder whose main interests are behavior, breeding biology and population dynamics. He refers to the birds described in this article as a "target of opportunity" that was too fascinating to pass up.



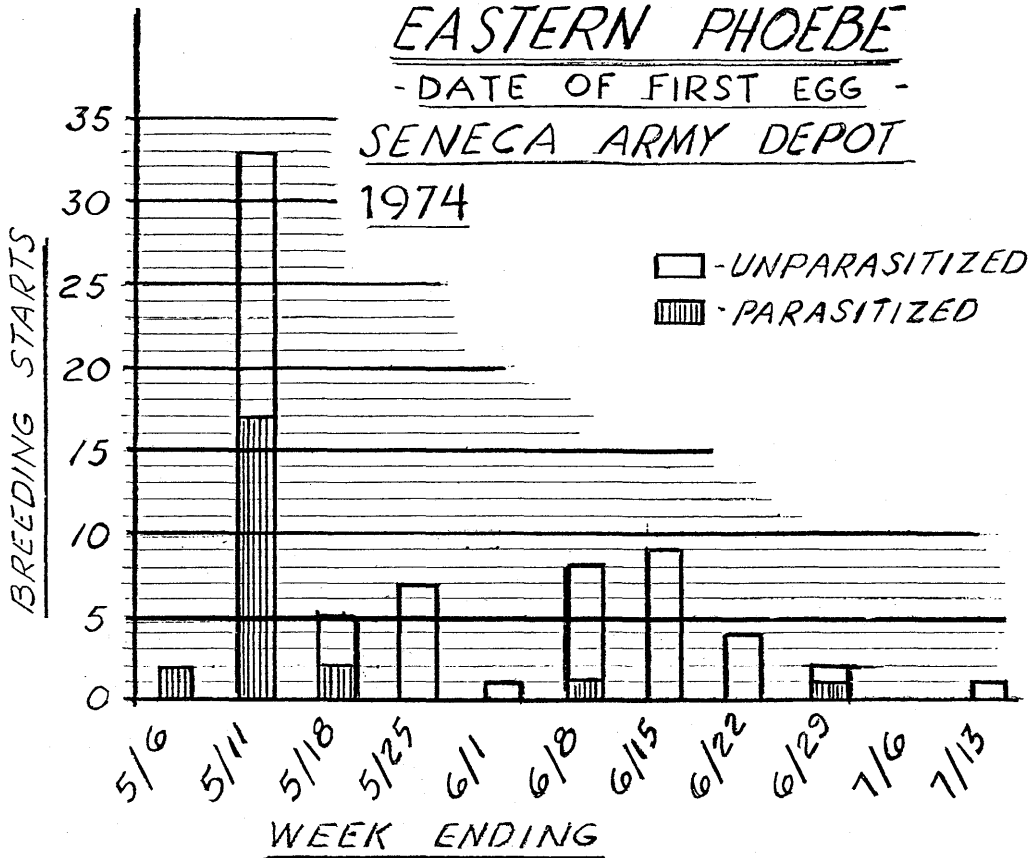
APPENDIX 1

EASTERN PHOEBE

- DATE OF FIRST EGG -

SENECA ARMY DEPOT

1974



## HOOK MOUNTAIN: HIGHWAY FOR HAWKS

BY ERIC W. SINGLE  
in collaboration with STILES THOMAS

In Upper Nyack, New York, about two miles north of where the Tappan Zee bridge spans the Hudson River at its widest point, there is a sheer cliff rising 730 feet above the shoreline. This is Hook Mountain, the northernmost outcropping of the Palisades.

One might think that the name for Hook Mountain derives from its shape, since the mountain forms a ridge which runs from north to south and then “hooks” sharply to the west. But nomenclature is rarely so logical and thus the name for Hook Mountain stems instead from a Dutch term, “Verdrietige Hoeck” which means troublesome point. As the seventeenth century river boats approached this area of the Hudson, they invariably lost a good deal of time as the mountain would block the wind. Hence the term “Verdrietige Hoeck,” subsequently shortened and anglicized to Hook Mountain.

It is precisely because of the nature of wind currents surrounding Hook Mountain that it has recently received much attention from bird watchers and naturalists. Much to the surprise of metropolitan New York area bird watchers, who associated hawk migration with distant areas such as Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, it has been discovered that Hook Mountain is an excellent site for observing migrating raptors. The birds of prey can be seen not only in large numbers, but also at close range, often at eye level or below. The hawks seek the short East-West ridge and fly close to the observation site in order to take advantage of updrafts created by the steep slope of the mountain. And all of this occurs within sight of the New York skyline!

Just as favorable winds attract migrating hawks, so do the migrating birds of prey attract an unusual species of bird watcher—the hawk watcher. Hawk watching is in many ways a strange pastime, involving long hours and frequent disappointments, rewarded by a few moments of exhilaration when a large kettle of Broad-winged Hawks or a rarity such as an eagle comes soaring gracefully toward you. The fascination produced by the power and beauty of hawks can only be understood by experiencing such moments. There are many devotees of the increasingly popular sport of hawk watching. Most are generally interested in bird watching, but there are some ardent devotees who would ignore close-by bluebirds and other in-

teresting passerines in favor of a glimpse of the distant silhouette of a hawk.

Although birders and naturalists have long been fascinated by the phenomenon of hawk migration, the sport of hawk watching did not begin in any organized fashion until the establishment of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in 1934. In that year, a militant conservationist, Mrs. Charles Noel Edge, leased (and later bought) a large tract of land along the Blue Mountains in Pennsylvania which had been a favorite shooting stand for misguided hunters engaged in the "sport" of slaughtering migrating hawks. She hired a remarkable young naturalist, Maurice Broun, as caretaker for the property. With his courageous wife Irma, Broun withstood intimidation from frustrated hunters, set about managing the newly created sanctuary and collecting the first systematic records of raptor migration. The entertaining story of Hawk Mountain can be found in Maurice Broun's book, *Hawks Aloft* (New York: Dodd, Mead Co., 1949).

As Maurice Broun's work gradually became known in ornithological circles, several other hawk lookouts were established in the 1940's and the sport of hawk watching was born. Increasing in popularity ever since, there are now about one hundred hawk watches throughout North America. In 1974 the Hawk Mountain Association and the National Audubon Society co-sponsored the first North American Hawk Migration Conference, held that spring in Syracuse, New York. The conference was an enormous success and resulted in the creation of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, which provides standardized reporting procedures and other organizational aids so that valuable observations collected by hawk enthusiasts may be utilized by migration researchers. Thus the sport of hawk watching has become not only an enjoyable pastime but also an important adjunct to research which will ultimately be beneficial to the hawks.

Despite the increasing popularity of hawk watching, up to 1970 there were few lookouts in the vicinity of the metropolitan New York area. The Montclair, New Jersey lookout was begun in the early 1950's, followed in 1959 by the Mt. Peter Hawk Watch in Orange Co., New York. But sizeable flights at these locations are generally limited to the Broad-wing movement in September, and New York City birders often traveled to Cape May or to the Kittatinny Ridge lookouts to watch hawks at other times.

No one suspected that there was an excellent hawk lookout along the Hudson, within view of New York City. No mention of hawk

migrations at Hook Mountain is made by Arbib, *et al.* (*Enjoying Birds Around New York City*), Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*), or even Deed (*The Birds of Rockland County*). Hook Mountain was known as a former nesting site for Peregrine Falcons and wintering ground for Bald Eagles, but no mention is given to other birds of prey.

Unbeknownst to other birders, one man had discovered tremendous autumn hawk flights at Hook Mountain. John Rex, a German-born bird watcher now residing in West New York, New Jersey, had heard of the eagles in the area and had noticed Hook Mountain during his frequent canoe trips on the Hudson. (He once canoed all the way from New York to Albany.) In the late 1940's he began making day trips to the Hook on a regular basis, and in the 1960's he introduced Ed and Lana Mills, two of New York's most ardent hawk watchers, to the area. By the late 1960's perhaps a half-dozen birders from the city made occasional trips to the Hook each autumn. Ironically, it was not until 1970 that local birders in Rockland County became aware of the extent of the migration at Hook Mountain. This occurred when the author of this report, after spending a day searching for migrating hawks elsewhere, returned to his home under the cliffs of the Hook and noticed a kettle of Broad-wings settle down for the evening. The next day he bushwacked to the top and discovered that the observation site he had long been searching for was in his own back yard.

About the same time that he was making this discovery, the Mills invited Stiles Thomas to the Hook. Stiles Thomas is a leading hawk watcher in the New York-New Jersey area. He was Eastern Director for the Society for the Preservation of Birds of Prey, and he had founded the Mt. Peter Hawk Watch. He was immediately convinced that Hook Mountain was a premier location for a watch, and he set about applying his considerable organizational skills to the formation of a formal hawk watch. The following summer he called a meeting of the little band of hawk watchers who frequented the Hook, and in the autumn of 1971 the first Hook Mountain Hawk Watch was begun.

The first watch proved to be an enormous success. After a slow start, the Broad-winged Hawks began to appear in large numbers, but perhaps it was the sighting of three Bald Eagles and a Golden Eagle in the third week of the watch that did more than anything else to stimulate interest in the effort. In all, some 7067 raptors were observed during the 1971 watch, with 13 species of hawks represented.

Perhaps as significant as the numbers seen was the fact that many of the hawks would pass at very close range. The sight of a Sharp-shinned Hawk darting through the trees to attack an owl lure would produce more converts than a dozen hawk silhouettes high overhead.

The optimism generated by the 1971 success was somewhat dissipated by poor weather and poor numbers in the first weeks of the second watch in 1972. The relationship between weather conditions and migration patterns is not at all clear, with many confusing and often contradictory theories on the part of both ornithologists and laymen, but one thing is certain, poor weather makes for poor hawking. In any case, there was a substantial decrease from 1971 in the numbers of hawks seen in September and October of 1972, probably due to the poor weather. But just as the watch was drawing to a close, one of the more rare and beautiful birds of prey, the Northern Goshawk, began to appear almost daily. It was decided to continue the watch into November, an effort that was well rewarded by an exceptionally large flight of goshawks. In all some 112 "gos" were observed, probably the greatest southward migration for this species since 1927, making 1972 the year of the goshawk.

In 1973 record numbers of hawks were observed at the Hook. Weather conditions were generally favorable throughout the watch, with fair skies and prevailing north or northwesterly winds. The watch began on a good note, with a mature Bald Eagle on the first day, September 8. This proved to be a harbinger of things to come. On September 10, 1315 hawks passed by the Hook, and three days later there was a record flight of 2903 raptors, including another Bald Eagle in the middle of a low flying kettle of 300 Broad-winged Hawks. As Walter Friton, a Hook Mountain regular, put it, "It was like a battleship with her escort." The 1973 total of 7762 Broad-wings was more than twice either of the two previous years. Toward the end of September, the Broad-wings decreased, but Sharp-shinned Hawks took up the slack. The good weather continued in October, providing a constant passage of a variety of hawks, geese and passerines.

In November of 1973 the goshawks reappeared, although not with the same frequency as the previous year, thus following the general pattern for this species. Periodically these big "blue darters" migrate down from the Far North in exceptional numbers, followed by an "echo" flight the next year, and then they again became rare.

It would appear that each year the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch

produces one highlight which stands out, and 1974 was no exception to this pattern. Just as 1972 was the year of the goshawk and 1973 was the year of record numbers overall, 1974 was highlighted by a record flight of accipiters. Weather conditions were mixed throughout the watch, with prolonged periods of haze and unfavorable winds but generally followed by fair skies and northwest winds. These conditions resulted in a good flight overall, with the total number of raptors close to that of the record 1973 flight. However, totals can be deceptive, as they are largely determined by the fickle nature of the local Broad-wing movement, and the feature of the 1974 watch was the accipiter flight. Record numbers of Sharp-shins were seen; the goshawk, while less numerous than during the influx of the two prior years, continued to be observed in numbers suggesting a range extension; and perhaps most encouraging was the record number of Cooper's Hawks, offsetting a pattern of continuous decline throughout the east.

Table 1 presents a summary of each species observed in the four years of the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch. The most common hawk observed is the Broad-wing, which generally migrate in the middle of September. It should be noted that although by far the most common raptor seen, Broad-wings constitute only about one half of the hawks seen at Hook Mountain. At many lookouts, these chunky buteos account for 80% to 90% of the hawks seen. The next most common raptor observed is the aggressive Sharp-shinned Hawk. Sharp-shins reach a peak in early October and often provide spectacular displays as they dive at other hawks or at an owl lure. Other species of hawks commonly seen include the American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Marsh Hawk and Red-Shouldered Hawk.

TABLE I  
Summary of Hook Mountain Hawk Watch  
1971 - 1974

	1971	1972	1973	1974
Goshawk	2	112	87	19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2,095	1,694	1,932	2,667
Cooper's Hawk	37	43	20	55
Red-tailed Hawk	347	452	462	374
Red-shouldered Hawk	85	93	146	177
Broad-winged Hawk	3,295	1,105	7,762	6,324
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	2	1

Summary of Hook Mountain Hawk Watch (continued)

	1971	1972	1973	1974
Golden Eagle	5	3	7	3
Bald Eagle	5	1	3	4
Marsh Hawk	200	102	162	177
Osprey	256	122	206	178
Peregrine Falcon	4	7	2	2
Merlin	7	7	9	8
American Kestrel	623	324	354	512
Unidentified Hawks	103	89	162	188
TOTALS	7,064	4,155	11,316	10,689

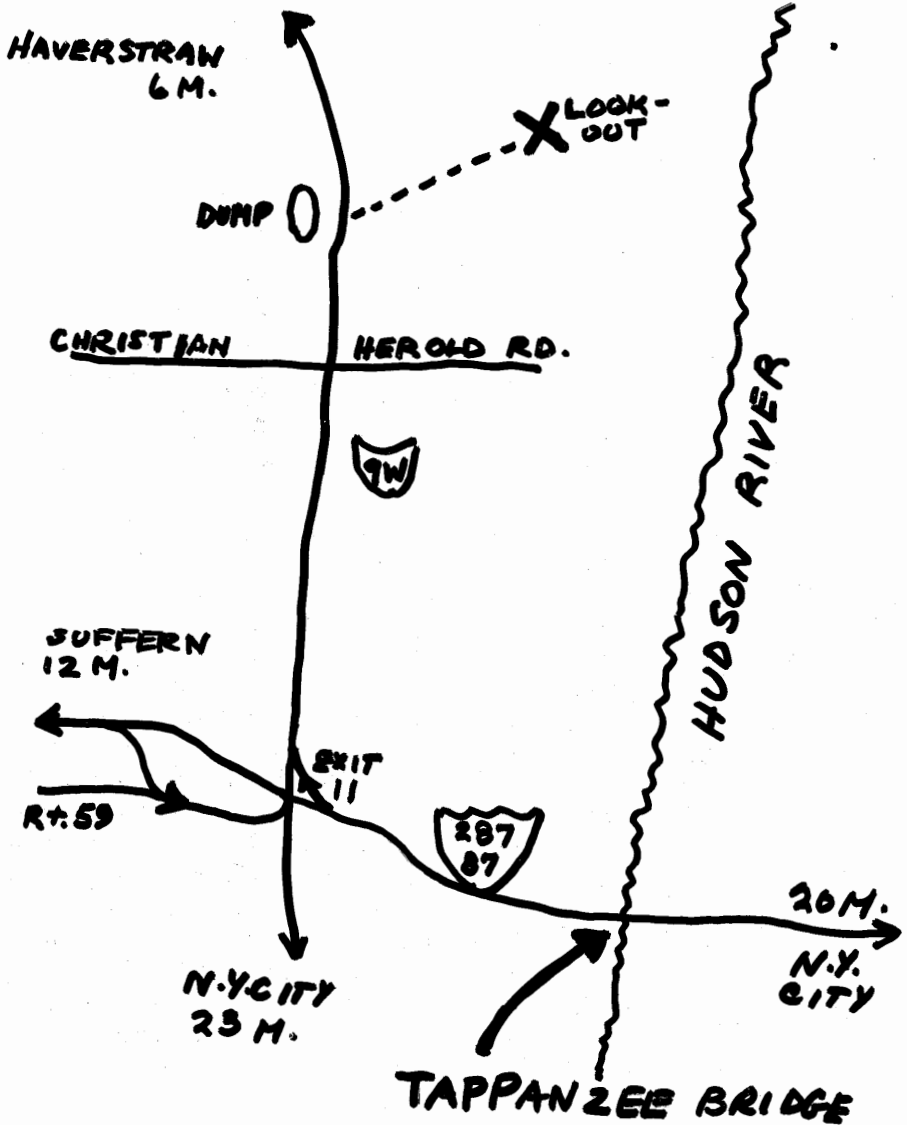
Editors' Note: Due to corrections, the figures for 1974 differ slightly from those of other sources.

The autumn hawk watching season can be divided into three periods. The first wave of migration occurs in the middle of September when the Broad-wings pass in large kettles. This is also the most likely time to find the Bald Eagle. In late September and early October the Sharp-shins are seen in large numbers. This is also the period in which one finds the greatest variety of raptors. On several days there have been as many as eleven different kinds of hawks seen at the Hook. The third period of the migration occurs from late October through November when the Red-tails pass. It is then that one has the best chance to see a goshawk or a Golden Eagle.

It should also be noted that there is a spring hawk migration at Hook Mountain as well. The spring flight, for reasons as yet unknown, is generally more spread out. Consequently the numbers observed do not approach autumn figures but there are often excellent days. For example, on April 27 of this year there was a flight of some 909 hawks of ten species including both a Bald Eagle and a Golden Eagle.

Adding to the observers' pleasure at the Hook is a variety of birds other than hawks—various warblers, nesting bluebirds, an occasional Pileated or Red-headed Woodpecker, tremendous flights of swallows, winter finches, loons, shorebirds and a variety of ducks. Large flocks of cormorants, brant and geese are regularly seen. One of the most unusual sights ever witnessed at the Hook occurred on October 6, 1973. As a flock of about 200 Canada Geese passed very high over the Hudson River, one bird suddenly dropped and tumbled wing over wing into the river, an apparent victim of a heart attack.

# HOO K MOUNTAIN





The 1975 Hook Mountain Hawk Watch will begin on September 6 and continue into November. Experienced leaders will be on hand each day, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone who would like to assist in this project should contact Stiles Thomas, P.O. Box 168, Allendale, New Jersey 07401. Hook Mountain can easily be reached by car or public transportation. A marked path to the top of the Hook begins on the east side of Route 9W about two miles north of the New York State Thruway. Cars should be parked at the "dump" at the top of the hill. The entrance to the path is found by walking about 200 feet south on 9W and crossing to the east side. A stencilled arrow in the roadway points to the trail. Uphill walking time is about 20 minutes.

*635 North Broadway, Upper Nyack, New York 10960*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Eric Single is a research analyst who lives in Upper Nyack, New York. Upon receiving his doctorate in sociology from Columbia University in 1973, Mr. Single set about combining his vocation (research) with his avocation (birding). He is currently director of the Jamaica Bay Preservation Project, a study of visitor impact at Jamaica Bay sponsored by the National Park Service. He is also president of the Rockland Audubon Society, clearinghouse chairman of the Hawk Migration Association of North America, Eastern Director of the Society for Preservation of Birds of Prey, and lecturer on hawks for the New Jersey Audubon Society. In addition, he is a member of the Linnaean Society and the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs.

Stiles Thomas is director of the Hook Mountain Hawk Watch. He is a member of the executive board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and is past president of the Fyke Nature Association. He was formerly Eastern Director of the Society for the Preservation of Birds of Prey and has been a director and treasurer of the New Jersey Audubon Society. He is engaged in activities of the Nature Conservancy, especially in areas relating to the endangered Prairie Chicken and has devoted much time to bluebird nesting box campaigns. Mr. Thomas is a master wood carver, specializing in birds of prey, and is the owner of an insurance agency in Allendale, New Jersey.

## NOTES CONCERNING THE FIRST NEW YORK STATE NESTING OF CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

THOMAS H. DAVIS

In 1972, I annotated the New York State Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) occurrences to date (Photographs of New York State Rarities—22. Chuck-will's-widow. *Kingbird* 22: 157-158). At that time, the sum total of records was nine, six of these during the period 1969-1972. I cited this species' recent range expansion in New Jersey, and the likelihood that an individual that repeated three consecutive years at Islip, Suffolk Co. was a "forerunner of others to come."

Following 1972, additional New York State Chuck-will's-widow reports were as follows:

1. Mist-netted, banded, and photographed, May 11-16, 1973, at Fire Island Light, Suffolk Co., by Darrel B. Ford *et al.* (*Kingbird* 23: 168).

2. Injured female found May 21, 1973, at JFK International Airport, Queens Co., by A. Moorhouse. Later died; specimen at AMNH (*Kingbird* 23: 168).

3. Dead, badly decomposed bird found November 18, 1973, along Ocean Parkway at Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., by Michael Gochfeld *et al.* Bill and wing saved for AMNH collection (*Kingbird* 24: 96).

4. Male, May 1, 1974, at Ridgewood Reservoir, Queens Co., by Thomas H. Davis (*Kingbird* 24: 161).

5. Calling bird, May 18-July 7, 1974, at Richmond Valley, Staten Island, by Susan Kerber, Howard Fischer *et al.* (*Kingbird* 24: 161 and 25: 61).

6. Calling bird, May 25-June 13, 1974, at Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., by many observers (*Kingbird* 24: 161 and 25: 61).

The lingering calling birds at Richmond Valley and Oak Beach in 1974 caused conjecture that these birds were breeding, but pairs were not seen, and it was deemed a near impossible task to locate the nest of a cryptically-colored, nocturnal bird.

In 1975, Chuck-will's-widows returned to Richmond Valley on May 10 (Howard Fischer *et al.*) and Oak Beach on May 3 (Thomas H. Davis *et al.*). In addition, a female was photographed May 8 at Forest Park, Queens Co., by Don Reipe, slide copies to AMNH, and a bird was noted May 14 at Central Park, New York City, by Bill and Wilma Baumann, Lore Schore *et al.*



Fig 1.—The Chuck-will's-widow's "home grove." Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., N.Y.,  
June 14, 1975. —Photograph by Thomas H. Davis

I decided to focus my attention on the bird discovered calling at Oak Beach, Suffolk Co., on May 3. A chronological sequence of events is as follows:

- May 3— Accompanied by Luanne Clark and Peter Polshek. The male was heard calling upon our arrival at 9:30 P.M. It called from within several Japanese Black Pine groves, but seemed to favor one grove in particular (hereafter termed its "home grove," see Fig. 1). I tape-recorded the calling bird. In response to playback of its calls it fell silent, then suddenly flew past my head, and was soon heard calling from another pine grove.
- May 10— Accompanied by Elaine Cook and Joe Costa. The male began calling from its home grove at least a half hour before sunset. Joe entered the grove and soon located the calling bird perched about 6 feet above the ground on a bare pine branch. We rushed to Joe's side. The bird fell silent, and then we heard a guttural *waugh!* from elsewhere in the grove. Joe and Elaine watched the perched bird while I circled toward the strange sound which was re-

peated every few seconds. Suddenly, I flushed a large nightjar which continued to utter the guttural call in flight. It was joined by the first bird, then they disappeared. After a brief wait the male began calling anew from a nearby pine grove. I tape-recorded its calls, including a sequence which terminated with two closely spaced calls, and then a series of clacking sounds, apparently produced by bill snapping. A short while later he continued calling from a more distant pine grove.

May 14— Accompanied by Mike Beyer, Anthony and Brook Lauro, and Bob Parris. Entered the home grove at 7:00 P.M. As we searched the grove, the pair of Chuck-will's-widows suddenly took flight at Brook's approach. They had been roosting side-by-side in leaf litter.

May 24— Accompanied by Stephen B. Dempsey, John Farrand, and Anthony and Brook Lauro. Entered the home grove at 1:00 P.M. As we searched the grove, the female suddenly flushed within 8 feet of John's approach, exposing two eggs. The female disappeared into thick cover, and then



Fig. 2—Chuck-will's-widow's nest with 2 eggs, May 24, 1975.

—Photograph by Thomas H. Davis



Fig. 3—Downy Chuck-will's-widow about 2 days old, June 14, 1975.

—Photograph by Thomas H. Davis

we immediately heard a single "Chuck-will's-widow" call from that direction. The nest site was a bed of dead leaves and twigs with low (6 inch) Virginia Creeper growing about. I photographed the nest (see Fig. 2) and then searched a pine grove 150 feet distant where I flushed a pair of Chuck-will's-widows. We left for 3 hours and then I returned alone to the nest and found the female incubating. I photographed her at 20 feet, at 15 feet, and then she flushed as I approached closer. This time she flew a short distance, and gave a distraction display on the ground, flapping her wings weakly while uttering *churr* notes.

June 8— Accompanied by Fritz G. Scheider. Entered the home grove at 2:00 P.M. and found the female incubating. When flushed at our approach, she repeated the previously-noted distraction display.

June 14— Entered the home grove at 10:00 A.M. and found the female brooding two downy young at the nest site. The young were entirely covered with cinnamon-brown down, their primaries were sheathed; I guessed their age at 2-3

days. While photographing them (see Fig. 3), the pair of adults flew about me in great excitement. They repeated the distraction display described above, but delivered it from pine tree perches well above the ground.

- June 22— Accompanied by Luanne Clark and Brook Lauro. Found the female brooding both young 55 feet from the nest site. I photographed and banded the young. When handled, they uttered *cheep* notes which stimulated the adults to a near frenzy. The adults flew around us constantly, uttering *churr* notes. When perched, they held their wings outstretched and flashed their tails open and shut. After we left the grove at 2:00 P.M., the male immediately burst into song and continued calling until after we were out of earshot.
- June 23— Michael Gochfeld found the young about 50 feet from the nest site. When approached, they ran with wings outstretched and jumped into the air, as if attempting to fly.
- June 25— Michael Gochfeld found the situation little changed from 2 days earlier except that the young appeared stronger.
- June 29— At a point 15 to 20 feet from the nest site I suddenly flushed both young and the adult female. The young birds flew strongly directly away from me, while the female circled and began a distraction display. I ignored her, and continued after the young. Despite 30 minutes' intensive searching I could not locate them, perhaps they had departed the grove. While I searched, the parents circled me, giving distraction displays.
- July 12— Accompanied by Joe Costa. We searched the home grove and an adjacent grove for the Chuck-will's-widows, but to no avail.

This is then the first known instance of Chuck-will's-widow breeding in New York State. There would appear to be great opportunity for this species to establish itself on Long Island and perhaps even Staten Island. The south shore of Long Island includes miles of barrier beach habitat similar to that at Oak Beach. A mid-May 1976 survey of all the roadside pine groves along the "Jones Strip" (ie., Jones Beach State Park east to Captree State Park) might be very revealing. Also, Chuck-will's-widows are appearing in pine-oak habitats now inhabited by Whip-poor-wills (*Caprimulgus vociferus*), such as at Richmond Valley, Staten Island. At this writing, a Chuck-will's-wid-

ow has been calling nightly since late June in pine-oak habitat at Shinnecock Hills, Suffolk Co. (Charles McGuinness *et al.*) In recent years Chuck-will's-widows have been pushing far inland in Virginia, displacing Whip-poor-wills (Robert O. Paxton, pers. comm.).

I am deeply indebted to all those persons cited above who assisted in locating and studying the Chuck-will's-widow's nest, their curiosity and enthusiasm made this documentation possible.

9446 85 Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421  
July 23, 1975.

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**FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT—** (continued from page 118)

upon communication on a personal level and too often attempts at progress were limited to hurried meetings once a year at our Annual Convention. Now an Executive Committee, comprising 15 members, including the officers, will be meeting a minimum of three times per year other than at the Annual Meeting. Most importantly, about one third of our member clubs are represented on the Executive Committee. With much broader representation and more willing hands I am sure that the Federation will continue to become a more viable organization.

During my term of office I will be grateful for all constructive criticism and suggestions and I wish to emphasize that increased participation by our members and member clubs can only result in a much healthier Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

This is the first and last "President's letter" that I shall write for *The Kingbird*. Communications from me to the membership rightfully belong in "New York Birders." *The Kingbird* should devote itself exclusively to New York State ornithology. However, I do feel that *The Kingbird*, as a more permanent record of the Federation's activities, is the proper repository for a grateful membership's recognition of Gordon Meade, Joe Taylor, and Alice Jones.

Richard A. Sloss, President

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Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography Committee: Sally Hoyt Spofford, Chairman, John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton and Kenneth C. Parkes.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

We are starting a new feature called "*Letters to the Editors.*" Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Monk Parakeet building nests in western New York:** During the past few years there have been several sightings of Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) in western New York, but no breeding evidence has been reported. In August 1974 Mr. Eugene Malczewski notified us that a parakeet had been building a nest for a few weeks on a factory at 1144 Military Road in the town of Tonawanda, on the north side of Buffalo. This lone bird was possibly the same individual that had been reported earlier that summer in an adjacent residential area.

On 20 August A. Clark, J. C. Burke, Jr. and R. Semlitsch went with me to the site. The nest was an elongated structure (1.8 x .5 m) composed of hawthorn and other small twigs under the eaves on the south side of the low building, and rested horizontally on the junction of power wires with the building about 6 m above ground (Fig. 1). The entrance to the nest was on one end and a passageway led along the building wall to a cavity where an old American Robin nest was placed on an insulator. There was a small apple in the nest cavity and a few parakeet feathers. Factory personnel said that they had not seen the bird at the nest recently and that possibly some boys had pulled down one end of it by ascending to the roof on a nearby ladder. They also said that the parakeet sometimes frequented a dense grove of apple trees and hawthorns just north of the factory. During our visit we saw the bird in the trees and also watched it fly across the road into the adjacent residential neighborhood where there are a number of fruit-bearing trees scattered through the yards.



Fig. 1. Nest of Monk Parakeet in Tonawanda, N.Y.  
Photograph by J. Carl Burke, Jr. 5 March 1975

Upon receiving another call from the factory we visited the site again on 30 August, and found what was presumably the same parakeet building a new nest about 7 m above ground in a 10 m tall pear tree at the northeast edge of the large parking lot on the north side of the factory. The parakeet was flying about, perching on telephone wires and calling frequently—a 1-2 sec. long, fairly low-pitched, slightly harsh, rolling trill with softer notes. Factory personnel said that they had seen it take sticks from the old nest to build the new one. This second nest was roughly circular and about .3 m in diameter. We watched the bird fly to the grove of fruit trees and then fly back to the new nest carrying in its beak a thin .3 m long branch which it began to work into the nest. At no time was a second bird seen.

A subsequent visit in September revealed no change in the tree nest and no sign of the parakeet, which factory personnel said they had not seen recently. A single Monk Parakeet, which may have been the same bird which built the nests, was reported during the winter at a feeder about 4.5 km east of the nest site. The nest on the factory was retrieved intact and is now in the Buffalo Museum of Science. To my knowledge these are the first nests of this species in western New York.

Robert F. Andrie, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N.Y. 14211

**An extreme fall record for Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)**—On 10 November 1974 while mist-netting House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) at the Richard E. Reynolds Game Farm, Ithaca, Tompkins Co., New York, I caught a Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). John Bull's *Birds Of New York* (1974) lists 29 October as the latest fall record inland; 10 November as the latest coastal record. No winter record exists for New York State. This very late record is made more unusual by the atypical habitat in which this thrush was discovered. Before dawn one 12 meter mist-net had been opened next to a corn crib in a large goldenrod field. The net was not far from barns, garages, and farm equipment. Later, when checking the net, I found the thrush along with six House Sparrows, two Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*), and one Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*).

The age of the bird remains uncertain. Cranial ossification was complete, yet each greater secondary wing covert had one small (1 x 1 mm) buff spot on its tip. In comparison, all first-year Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes examined five weeks earlier had not yet begun skull ossification. If this were a first-year bird, ossification took place over the intervening 5-6 weeks; if this were an adult it had retained some buff marking in the wing coverts. The thrush weighed 43.8 g, appeared in good health, and had no injuries. Its furcular and abdominal fat depots bulged slightly above the body contours and molt was not evident.

Leberman & Clench (1973, *Bird Banding At Powdermill*, 1972; Research Report No. 31) banded 527 Swainson's Thrushes over four autumn seasons at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pennsylvania. Only 2% of these birds were captured after 10 October; none were caught after 24 October. Based on their distributions, Leberman & Clench consider adult and first-year Swainson's Thrushes to be simultaneous migrants. Compared to these data, this thrush is three to four weeks later than typically late migrants.

For a two-week period after capture this thrush was maintained in a cage designed to monitor perch-related locomotor activity. On the third and succeeding nights the bird was awake and active, a putative reflection of migratory disposition. The bird gained weight in captivity on a diet of dried insects and dog food and on 1 December 1974 was heavier than when caught (50.5 g). Post-mortem examination revealed it to be a male (testes: 2 x 1 mm). The flat skin was deposited in the Cornell University collection (CU No. 35422).

Clearly, this male thrush was not delayed by overt disease or trauma, lack of nocturnal activity, depleted fat reserves, or late molt.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

There was absolutely no disagreement about the weather for the Spring Season. April was cold, snowy, and just plain rotten. The ever literate Dr. Scheider found the most appropriate quotation but I would extend it one line further: "mixing memory and desire." It seems that every year one remembers the glories of the past migrations and waits with growing frustration for the birds to arrive once again. No season could possibly live up to those lovely recollections of balmy, warbler-filled days. This year, however, there could be no doubt of the reality of the backward season. Notice the various comments concerning robins and phoebes in early April. The late snow forced other species to feed in flocks along the roadsides. One of the most spectacular migration sights in the Northeast—Derby Hill in late April—was wiped out in the cold, northerly winds coming off the lake.

May, on the other hand, tended to be warm or, at times, even hot. This undoubtedly helped the birds considerably but was not particularly good for the observers. The birds moved through rapidly with little build-up into spectacular "waves" so eagerly awaited by the observer. There were occasionally good numbers of warblers but they moved on very rapidly. By mid-May the migration dates seemed about normal. As usual, the migration continued well beyond the end of the month. Although June is usually considered part of the breeding season, some of the most interesting migration occurs during the first half of that month.

It was a very good season for southern herons away from the coast. Cattle Egrets made a particularly good showing. A very interesting report from Region 7 tells of four nesting at Four Brothers Islands on May 17. It is hoped that further details will be available in the next issue.

There seemed to be a general impression of an expansion of southern nesting species. The winter was very good for such species as Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. This was reflected in this season's reports. However, other, non-wintering species showed this increase. Gnatcatchers, Prairie Warblers, Acadian Flycatchers, White-eyed Vireos and Orchard Orioles were all reported in increased numbers in various regions.

On the negative side, there were fewer reports of southern species

which do not breed in this area. This was particularly true in the coastal regions. Hugh McGuinness has been reporting the trend of recent years of the appearance of more and more of these specialties. In contrast, this season's numbers were quite low. Tom Burke predicted, after a trip to the Delmarva in late April, that if there were not a strong push from the south by early May there would be few birds left to overshoot their marks as most were already on territory. This is an interesting speculation on the timing of the warm fronts which proved to be quite true. Notice, however, some of the southern goodies from Region 10 topped by Purple Gallinule and Swainson's Warbler!

The reports of raptors are somewhat encouraging. The Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be making a slight come-back although this is not true for all regions. It is interesting that the New England Hawk Watch Committee reported a strong upswing for the latter species. Hopefully this will be a continuing trend.

Several other highlights may be picked at random from the following reports. White-fronted Geese turned up in three regions in what might almost be called a flight. Region 2 produced a Swainson's Hawk, Franklin's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake. What a shame that the Common Teal in Region 3 now has to be called the Eurasian Green-winged Teal. I certainly hope that such birds as this, along with Bullock's Orioles, Oregon Juncos, and Ipswich Sparrows will continue to be reported. The Piping and Golden Plovers in Region 5 are fine records. Region 6 had two new regional records—Laughing and Black-headed Gulls—but I suspect that the Bohemian Waxwings would be the envy of most birders in the state. Three very interesting nesting records came at the end of the period. Philadelphia Vireo in Region 7. Bull lists only one positive breeding record and very few summer occurrences. In Region 9 a nest of Golden-crowned Kinglet was found. This bird is expanding as a breeding species in the state but this is much the furthest southeast that a nest has been found. Lastly, the first nesting of Chuck-will's-widow in the state occurred on Long Island. Also on Long Island, a pair of Gull-billed Terns was observed copulating. In this day and age this does not indicate a serious attempt to breed but one can hope that the first nest for this species will soon be found.

Region 1 reported one species which your Highlights Editor removed from the printed report. This was an adult Barnacle Goose at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. There is certainly no doubt

about the identification of this bird. The big question concerns its origin. It has been reported from the area previously, see Beardslee and Mitchell, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, but Axtell writing in the *Prothonotary* believes that they may well have been escaped birds. It is impossible to properly evaluate records of exotic waterfowl. Unfortunately, there is no Federal law requiring color marking of captive birds. Such a law would help to remove some of the questions surrounding this type of record.

And now for the moment that you have all been waiting for: the name of the winner of the BOTS award. Because of its extreme rarity, its difficulty of identification, and the fact that it made it through the rigors of the BOS Statisticians, the LeConte's Sparrow at Belvidere in Region 1 is the obvious winner.

In a future issue there will be a new list of deadlines for individual reports. In the meantime, please get your reports to the regional editors as soon as possible. It is much easier if done on a monthly basis. This gives everyone more time to work on the records.

*Millbrook School, Millbrook, N. Y. 12545*

## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

It was a grim April. Although Lake Erie was ice-free April 1st, the month was cold with a delayed winter storm arriving the 3rd and numbing the Region for a week. Birds flocked to feeders in unprecedented numbers and in the field congregated on available open ground where stupefied robins in particular showed little fear of observers. Following the storm came reports of phoebe and robin kills and generally lower numbers of flycatchers and swallows. The Allegany County Count was held as scheduled, but, because of the 13-inch snow cover in the snow belt, the Buffalo Ornithological Society Census was postponed a week. May was warm with frequent light rains but little total precipitation, and for the Regional Count, foliage was well advanced. Usual migrants for the first week of the month, especially insectivorous species, arrived about a week late at higher elevations.

Rarities for the spring are: Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Laughing Gull, Barn Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven (for Winter '74-'75), Prothonotary Warbler, Prairie Warbler, House Finch, and LeConte's Sparrow.

Contributors: Robert Andrie; Elizabeth Brooks; Doris Burton; Lou Burton; Donald Clark; Jane Clark; Stephen Eaton; Ed Ellis (Weather Data, Wellsville Water and Light); David

B. Freeland; Helen Graves; Aurette Hampton; Doris Hurlburt; Douglas Kibbe; Clarence Klingensmith; Michael Pitzrick; Raymond Pitzrick; Vivian Pitzrick; Lillian Simons; Sharley Vossler; and Observers cited in text: Thomas Bourne; Arthur Clark (ArC); Flora Elderkin; Harriette Klabunde; Walter Klabunde; John Morse; Katherine Palmer; Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; A. Schaffner; Robert Sundell; Robert Wagner.

Abbreviations: BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; BOSApC—Regional Census Apr. 6, 13; BOSMaC—Regional Census May 17, 18; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; WMA—Wildlife Management Area.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** It was an unusually poor flight of Common Loons with maximum of 20 Apr. 23 in Hanover and Evangola St. Pk. (AS, ArC), and only 13 on the BOSApC. However 21 on the BOSMaC was much better than last year. Six Double-crested Cormorants, never common here, appeared on the BOSMaC, with seven also reported from four Lake Erie and adjacent areas. A rare **CATTLE EGRET** was spotted Apr. 21 and 22 near Frewsburg (FE) and another Apr. 21 at Frissell Rd., Kiantone (RS). Appearing on the BOSMaC in the Ont. section of the Region was an equally uncommon **SNOWY EGRET**. 70 (!) Black-crowned Night Herons were counted Apr. 26 at Niagara F., Ont. (AS, ArC) while among the other 19 reported was one May 28 at Cuba L. (Scott), a most unusual area, since this is only the second sighting in Allegany Co. in ten years. Seven Least Bitterns seen in May in two locations indicate either that there are more than usual or that observers are becoming more skilled in detecting this retiring species.

Although several areas were treated to a sight of Whistling Swans, the 254 for the Region on the BOSApC was an unusually low figure. The Canada Goose migration was also disappointing with maximum count 37,600 Apr. 10 at Iroquois NWR (JM); of special interest were the four with yellow collars, seen in Apr. near Lyndonville and banded this last winter at Mattamaskeet NWR in N.C. (DK); nor would we overlook the little family of 7 adults with 2 young May 28 near Hume (KP), an unusual breeding area. A very rare goose species was reported from the Iroquois NWR: the **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: three Apr. 13 on the BOSApC at the Cayuga Overlook (Wilcove, Goodman), and two Apr. 14 at the Co. Line Dike (JM).

Comparison of BOSApC's shows considerably higher numbers of dabbling ducks this year than last except for Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall, which are fewer.

Among diving ducks there was more variation in numbers from last year's BOSApC (H=Higher; L=Lower, than 1974) with 1975 tallies: Redhead 480(H), Ring-necked Duck 780(H); Canvasback 853(L); Gr. Scaup 1984(L); L. Scaup 1377(L); Com. Goldeneye 428(H); Bufflehead 1079(H); Oldsquaw 54(L); White-winged Scoter 28(H); Ruddy Duck 7(L); Hooded Merganser 399(H); Com. Merganser 648(H); Red-br. Merganser 287(the same!)

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Contrary to an otherwise apparently late season, the first Broad-winged Hawk arrived Apr. 9, about a week early, at Alfred (EB). The best hawk flights were reported Apr. 9, 30 and May 3-10 with maxima at Youngstown (HK, WK): 38 Turkey Vulture, Apr. 9; 62 Red-t. Hawk, Apr. 23; 4 Red-sh. Hawk, Apr. 10; and 13 Rough-leg. Hawk, Apr. 23; at Pinehurst, all Apr. 30 (AS, ArC, RA): 240 Sharp-sh. Hawk; 4 Cooper's Hawk; 5545 Broad-winged Hawk (What a one-day Count!); 14 Marsh Hawk; 34 Osprey; and 19 Am. Kestrel. On the BOSApC, 39 Rough-legged Hawks is very high, and the last report was three May 21, late, near Barker (DK). A rare, but not unexpected, **GOLDEN EAGLE** was seen Apr. 9 near West Clarksville (Carrier). Three sightings of the unusual Bald Eagle are encouraging: an adult, Apr. 7 at the Allegheny Reservoir Rd. (FE), and two immatures, one Apr. 13 at Iroquois NWR (Olsen) and another May 20 on Hickox Rd., Hamburg (TB). A most exciting bird was the rare **PEREGRINE FALCON** identified Apr. 1 near Frewsburg (FE). Other Hawk highlights of the season were: Cooper's again unexpectedly outnumbered Sharpies on both Regional Counts; Red-shouldered are still declining badly, but Marsh are up sharply; in addition to the Osprey flight mentioned above, 24 were seen in 14 areas, a better than usual showing.

On the BOS Counts, Turkey numbers of 28 for Apr. and 30 for May were down over 25% from last year, but 16 individuals were gobbling on the Gobbler Census, Apr. 16–June 2 in Humphrey (Eaton). Rails were exceptionally few: Virginia: three on the BOSMaC and reports of six birds in four locations; Sora: one on the BOSMaC, and up to two birds Apr. 30–May 1 at Frewsburg (FE).

Most shorebirds apparently overflowed our Region during the fair weather of early May (DK). Single Black-bellied Plover, rare in spring, appeared May 11 at Erie Beach, Ont. (RA *et al.*) and May 14 at Times Beach, Buffalo (DBF), as well as on the BOSMaC. The Upland Sandpiper, decreasing in recent years, seems to be barely holding its own here with 12 on the BOSMaC and six birds seen in three areas.

Eight each of the uncommon “winter” gulls, Glaucous and Iceland, occurred in Lake Erie areas with two Glaucous remaining very late to May 29 at Mohawk Is., Ont. (RA *et al.*). The counts of the Great Black-backed Gull, 55 on the BOSApC and 13 on the Regional MaC, plus 44 on Apr. 27, and 35 on May 29 at Mohawk Is., Ont. (AS, ArC, RA), dramatize their steady increase noted in recent years. At least 100 Ring-billed Gulls, a remarkable flight away from the Great Lakes, were noted at Cuba L., Apr. 25 (KP). Single LAUGHING GULLS, sighted May 5, 6 and 8 at Times Beach, Buffalo (Happ, Harrington *et al.*), made the “Dial-A-Bird” grapevine (DBF). At Rockhouse Pt., Ont., an unusual Little Gull was spotted Apr. 27, and a second was noted May 11 at Erie Beach, Ont. (AS, ArC *et al.*). Up to 30 Caspian Terns, uncommon in spring, frequented four locations Apr. 18–May 11, while two Black Terns, uncommon for the area, appeared May 5 near Allegany (Eaton). Only 5 Yellow-billed and 19 Black-billed Cuckoos were noted on the BOSMaC.

One lone Barn Owl for the season was near Lyndonville, Apr. 30 (DK), and two Snowy Owls appeared on the BOSApC with another Apr. 4 and 9 at the Sheridan Golf Course, Tonawanda (Thill, Pratt). Very poorly represented were Long-eared Owls: one on the BOSApC, one on the BOSMaC, one Apr. 6 at Hamburg (TB), and a third, nesting, Apr. 27 near Frewsburg (RS). Short-eared Owls were also scarce with but two on the BOSApC and two Apr. 3 at Iroquois NWR (Olson).

**GOATSUCKERS–STARLING:** On the BOSMaC, numbers of Common Nighthawk dropped to a tiny ten from 24 last year, while the decrease for Chimney Swifts was even greater, from 1300 in 1974 to 497 this season.

No longer a common species, the Red-headed Woodpecker was up in numbers with eighteen observed in ten areas. Although the Hairy Woodpecker is in trouble in some sections of the country, our Regional Count for the season was up nearly 20% from 1974. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, unusual for the Region and incredibly late, was noted again this spring on Apr. 27 at Buffalo (Wilcove) where one was seen in Nov. and Jan.

Low, low reports of the Eastern Phoebe came from most areas, but 265 on the BOSMaC (cp. with 318 in 1974) is more than expected, considering fatalities following the Apr. storm. Singles of the rare ACADIAN FLYCATCHER appeared on the BOSMaC and May 21 near Barker (DK). An early Willow Flycatcher arrived May 14 at Times Beach, Buffalo (DBF) and higher than usual numbers were noted for the season. At last: the “half-hardy” Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren are noteworthy as too common to report! Although seldom found, a Long-billed Marsh Wren was observed May 3 at Iroquois NWR (Heck), and a rare and secretive Short-billed Marsh Wren was discovered May 21 near Barker (DK), a second May 24 near Eden (TB) and another May 26 at Tonawanda WMA (RA *et al.*).

Nesting Eastern Bluebirds were exceptionally scarce this spring in the northern half of Allegany Co., where normally regular (KP, Wilson *et al.*). A strong showing of 107 Water Pipits on the BOSApC is 78 more than last year. The Loggerhead Shrike, uncommon in recent years, was discovered at a NEST (always hard to find) with 5 eggs, May 22 near Lyndonville, when one adult was dead below; the second adult hatched young (number unknown)

by June 3 (DK); individuals were also noted Apr. 12 near Allegany Reservoir (FE) and Apr. 19 at Hamburg (TB).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Three Prothonotary Warblers—still rare—appeared on the BOSMaC while one to two were seen several times in May in the usual Iroquois NWR area. The uncommon Brewster's Warbler (Hybrid) was back on its nesting grounds May 15–27 at Amity L., Belmont (VP) and three were recorded on the BOSMaC. A Nashville Warbler's nest, first for Allegany Co., discovered Apr. 25 in Amity north of Scio, was found empty and damaged June 3 (VP). With three also on the BOSMaC, singles of the rare Parula Warbler appeared in May in five locations. An alternate yearly fluctuation in numbers of the Yellow-rumped Warbler is noted at Farmersville Station where this season 66 were banded, over twice the 1974 total there (DC, JC). Four "Myrtles" were seen late, May 31, on their breeding grounds at Alfred (EB). The very scarce Cerulean Warbler, with 16 on the BOSMaC, was found in two areas: one May 13 near Frewsburg (EP) and two May 16 at Iroquois NWR (JM, Rebovich). A Pine Warbler, exceptionally rare in spring, was banded Apr. 23 at Farmersville Station (DC, JC) and another appeared very, very late, May 20, at the Allegheny Reservoir Rd. (FE, EP). Unusual for the area, a late **PRAIRIE WARBLER** at Alfred May 14 was near where 2 adults were seen feeding 2 young last summer. The uncommon Yellow-breasted Chat appeared as one on the BOSMaC; one was banded at Farmersville Station May 12 (DC, JC); and five others were noted in four areas.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Northern Orioles were exceptionally abundant this year, and 2761 Evening Grosbeaks on the BOSApC was nearly twice last year's figure. Two areas reported the very rare **HOUSE FINCH**: Belmont, with two Apr. 16 and one Apr. 23–25 (DB, LB), an expansion of its usual territory, and Hamburg, with two Apr. 22 (Foster *et al*). Two Red Crossbills, which were very scarce this year, were seen at Scio on the BOSMaC, and one came to a feeder Apr. 28 in Hamburg (Skrzypek). Grasshopper Sparrow numbers were higher than usual, but still lower than Savannahs, on the L. Ont. Plains (DK). The most outstanding bird this season was the rare, and exceedingly difficult to identify, **LE CONTE'S SPARROW** studied Apr. 6 at Belvidere, Allegany Co., by Bruce and Robert Smalley, whose verification "write-ups" were accepted by BOS Statisticians. Henslow's Sparrows were up in number. An exceptionally late, disabled Tree Sparrow came to a Wellsville feeder daily, May 10–21 (Larson). Lincoln's Sparrow was more widely reported than common and three were banded May 12–25 at Farmersville Station (DC, JC).

Addendum: Omitted from the Winter report (*Kingbird*, May 1975, Region 1) was the rare **COMMON RAVEN**, seen Mar. 6 at Hamburg Airport (TB).

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## REGION 2 – GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

April and May were almost direct opposites this spring. The former was cold—6° below average, while the latter was 6° above normal. A record snowfall in early April was hard on such vulnerable species as woodcock, phoebe, Tree Swallow, robin, and Fox Sparrow.

Foliage progressed slowly until mid-May when a sudden heat wave forced both vegetation and migration to a rapid climax. Late May was generally rather poor especially since shorebirds were scarce.

In general the flight of waterfowl was good in April but ended early; hawks were slow but a high surge on May 2nd was heartening and most species showed continued slow improvement. Good shorebird habitat was very scarce and so these birds were poorly reported here. Passerine species, notably warblers and vireos, were quite spotty but most were present in pretty good numbers for a rather short time in mid-May.

Rarities: Snowy Egret, Swainson's Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, King Rail, Golden Plover, Franklin's Gull, kittiwake, Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.

Positive Features: (1) Fine flight of Common Loons and most ducks, (2) Good variety of raptors—some species in encouraging numbers, (3) High counts of Winter Wrens and both kinglets, (4) 34 species of warblers, (5) Continued reports of some southern species—i.e. Acadian Flycatcher, Worm-eating Warbler, Orchard Oriole.

Negative Trends: (1) Poor flight of Red-breasted Mergansers, (2) Apparent failure of Bald Eagle nest again, (3) Poor reports of most shorebirds and both Common and Caspian Tern, (4) Probable loss of some April migrants in cold weather, (5) Weak flight of swallows along Lake Ontario, (6) Scarcity of some migrant thrushes and Loggerhead Shrike, (7) No Short-billed Marsh Wrens and very few Vesper Sparrows.

Observers: MC—Michael Carlson; JC—Julie Claffey; JC—Jerry Cyech; GD—Gertrude Davies; FD—Frank Dobson; RD—Robert Dobson; KD—Kay Doris; ME—Michael Elders; A&JF—Arlene & John Foster; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society; WH—William Hartman; NH—Norm Henderson; K&IJ—Kathy & Ian Johnson; AK—Al Kemnietzer; WCL—Walter C. Listman; WL—Warren Lloyd; m. ob.—many observers; RM—Robert McKinney; R&SO—Richard & Stephen O'Hara; RS—Robert Spahn; JS—Jean Shelly; MS—Mary Sprague; MAS—Mary Ann Sunderbin; ST—Sara Talpey; M&TT—Tom Tetlow; DT—David Tremmel; EW—Eleanor Weld; RW—Robert Weld.

Localities: BB—Braddocks Bay; DP—Durand Park; EL—East lakeshore; HL—Hemlock Lake; IB—Irondequoit Bay; IC—Island Cottage; MB—Manitaw Beach; MP—Mendon Ponds; RR—Reed Road; RM—Rose's Marsh; WHP—West Hill Preserve; WL—West lakeshore.

LOONS—DUCKS: A fine flight of Common Loons occurred on April 17 when 632 were counted on E.L. (A.K.&R&SO). Red-throated Loons were scarce—last one May 17 (W.L.). One D.C. Cormorant was at M.B., April 28 (N.H.). The first Great Egrets were two on April 18—best count was 7. Five Cattle Egrets were at B.B. on April 19—a very windy day, while the first SNOWY EGRETS were two there on April 25. The best count of Black-crowned Night Herons was 54 at R.M. May 25 (J.S.). In general most herons seem to be present in pretty good numbers.

An inland count of 53 Whistling Swans at Fowlerville is good. April 1. (A.&J.F.). Snow Geese continue to increase—best local report was 25, April 12, W.L. (R.D.). Unusually good counts of ducks include: 300 Blacks, April 6 (M.C.), 35 Gadwalls, April 8 (K.D. *et al.*), 500 Canvasbacks, April 6 (F.&R.D.). Red-breasted Mergansers were gone early and were also poor in number.

HAWKS—OWLS: April hawk flights were disappointing chiefly due to cold weather and adverse winds. Nevertheless some good counts were reported including the following:

Turkey Vulture	April 16	52	B.B.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	April 19	400	B.B.
Red-tailed Hawk	April 19	167	B.B.
Rough-legged Hawk	April 19	24	B.B.
American Kestrel	April 18	51	B.B.

The bulk of Broad-winged Hawks came through on May 2 when 9,110 were seen at B.B. (T.T.). Best bird honors go to our first accepted SWAINSON'S HAWK, well seen on the

same day in Webster (W.L.&M.S.). This report lends some credence to 2 birds last spring, neither of which was formally reported with details. In addition there were an unprecedented 4 **GOLDEN EAGLES** noted in the same vicinity on May 5 (J.C.) and two other dates elsewhere. Four reports of Bald Eagles came in—one or two birds each from April 12 to May 31, and the local pair were again at the nest near H.L. (m. ob.). **PEREGRINE FALCON** was noted 5 times—April 19 to May 17—one bird each time, and **MERLIN** 3 times including two birds on April 19 at B.B. (S.T. *et al.*). The best count of Osprey was 22 on May 2, B.B. (D.N.&R.K.).

Ruffed Grouse were noted at R.R. May 14 and 18 (J.C.&J.S.). Our first **KING RAIL** in several years was seen at close range on April 26 at I.C. (R.S.). We have only a few noteworthy records of shorebirds this spring, even the common species were rather scarce. A single **GOLDEN PLOVER** was at B.B. on April 18, however (W.L.) and 15 Black-bellied Plovers appeared inland on May 28 in Perinton along with 110 Dunlins (M.&D.T.). Four Red Knots and one White-rumped Sandpiper were in Kendall on May 31 (L.&K.J.) while a Short-billed Dowitcher was also there on May 19 (W.L.). The only Wilson Phalarope so far was in Carlton on May 18 (J.F. *et al.*).

A **FRANKLIN'S GULL** was seen on April 13 at B.B. (K.&I.J.) and a **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** was at I.B. on April 6 (R.S.). Owl records were not too frequent this spring but do include 5 Long-eared Owls on April 19 near B.B. and a few other single reports of this species and also Saw-whet Owls. No Barn Owls again this year to date. Great Horned and Screech Owls—a few each.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** The usual few migrant Whip-poor-wills were noted along the lakeshore in late April and May. A migrant flock of 20+ Nighthawks were reported in late May (I.S.). Sapsuckers were very scarce until late April when a large number were present for a very few days. E. Kingbirds were slow to appear in numbers and phoebes were almost entirely absent in many parts of this region. An E. Wood Pewee on May 3rd at I.C. (M.T.&R.W.) is one of the earliest dates ever reported here. Two records of **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** are unusual here—May 24 at I.C. (M.C.) and May 25 at R.R. (J.S. *et al.*). The usually rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted 5 times—May 13–21, (G.D. *et al.*).

A high count of 300 Horned Larks was made on April 6 at W.L. (F.&R.D.). Swallow flights were poor along the lake and some species seemed late, especially Bank Swallows. Winter Wrens were reported in better numbers than usual and Carolina Wrens seem to have survived the late April storm well.

In general migrant thrushes were uncommon. The Hermit Thrush, like so many April migrants, was delayed and appeared in number only after mid-April. Only a few Grey-cheeked Thrushes were seen and like the Swainson's Thrush they left early. Bluebirds showed no noticeable improvement. The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen on April 19—fairly early—B.B. (G.O.S.).

Kinglets staged a good flight—both species were common over a long period. Few pipits were noted and mostly in small numbers. Loggerhead Shrikes were scarce, but a bird in Kendall on May 18 may indicate a nesting pair (R.S.).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** A White-eyed Vireo was singing in D.P. from May 11 to 17 (D.K. *et al.*). This bird is now seen every spring here. A **WORM-EATING WARBLER** was in Maplewood Park on May 9 (R.S.). This is a possible nesting area but the bird did not stay. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** were noted 3 times, May 13 to 21—more than usual (R.O. *et al.*). Parula Warblers were again scarce with only singles reported. Cape May Warblers were excellent—up to 10 per day (R.M.). A Cerulean Warbler on May 3 was early (J.C. *et al.*) as was a Blackpoll on May 13 (E.W. *et al.*). Pine Warblers were noted 3 times (M.T. *et al.*) while **PRAIRIE WARBLER** was seen only once, May 10 (K.&I.J.). A Louisiana Waterthrush was on breeding ground at H.L. on April 30 (T.T.) and the Northern Waterthrush was also first noted on April 30 (N.H.). A new station for Yellow-breasted Chats was



located at W.H.P. (W.H.) and Hooded Warblers made a better appearance than usual in recent years—4 reports from May 15 to 31. Only one **CONNECTICUT WARBLER** this spring—M.P. (S.T.).

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** The only **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** this spring was a singing bird in Kendall on May 18 (W.L. *et al.*). It was still present a week later. Three Orchard Orioles returned to the region's only known nesting site in Carlton on May 11 (W.L.). A very early Northern Oriole was at B.B. on April 22 (m. ob.). Two hundred Rusty Blackbirds on April 19 is a good spring count, B.B. (R.&M.Mc.).

The last Common Redpoll in a poor season was noted on April 5 in Webster (A.&B.K.). Pine Siskins, however, were still being seen in Irondequoit on May 31 (M.E.&D.T.). This could be a nesting area. Many observers noted the great scarcity of Vesper Sparrows but most other species appeared normal. Fox Sparrows however were in poor numbers this year with the last one seen on May 11 (M.A.S.). A report of 500 Snow Buntings on April 6 is a late record for so many, W.L. (F.&R.D.).

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. MCILROY

The coldest April on record, averaging 9 degrees below normal, was followed by the warmest May since 1934. The week of April 5-11 averaged 17 degrees below normal! The April 3-5 blizzard left several inches of snow in the southern areas, but the northern part had about 2 feet, which did not completely disappear until April 20. So many geese moved from refrozen Montezuma Refuge to the Barge Canal that it was blanketed from shore to shore. Strong, cold, northwest winds persisted most of the month. After mid-April a slow, steady warming trend brought 70 degree temperatures in late April and over 80 after May 18. Precipitation in April was less than 50% of normal; May total was about normal, occurring as heavy rains separated by long dry spells.

The April snow brought birds flocking to feeders, especially Song Sparrows and blackbirds that had already arrived in numbers. Ten wild turkeys were seen in a barnyard near Elmira April 3. Morgan Jones reported "three robins eating seeds at the Larson's window-shelf feeder in Tyre on April 6, a sure sign of desperation." Savannah, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows came to feeders near Elmira, and the only redpolls for the period were seen at feeders during the snow. Many Fox Sparrows came to feeders and fed in flocks along roadsides. Early phoebe arrivals disappeared. Within four days phoebes were back in Ithaca, but Walter Benning considered this a disaster species, with only three sightings all spring; J. Walters saw none at Clifton Springs between March 31 and May 2; although nesting was somewhat delayed at Seneca Army Depot, Morgan Jones had 31 pairs nesting in his study area (37 pairs in '74 and 28 in '73). Early Tree Swallows disappeared and the numbers of Tree and Barn Swallows were low until late April.

The Eaton Ornithological Society census May 18 reported only 132 species, including 15 warbler species instead of the usual 25. Warblers had moved out with warm south winds on Saturday, and new migrants did not arrive until Monday. Two good finds were a Barn Owl at Fayette where they have nested for two years (7 young fledged in '74) and a group of 10 Short-billed Marsh Wrens found by the Jorgensens along the railroad causeway at the

north end of Cayuga Lake. Subsequent trips showed none remained, however. Ithaca census May 18 was also low, 155 species.

Notable rarities were Willet, Common Raven and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: arr—first date; Cay L—Cayuga Lake; EOS—Eaton Ornithological Society census; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot.

Contributors and compilers: WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker, Watkins Glen; JG—Jim Gibson; RG—Robert Gustafson, MNWR; BH—Bernice Hilfiker; WH—Wilfred Howard; MJ—Morgan Jones, SAD; EK—Elaine Kibbe, Ithaca; JW—Jayson Walker, Waterloo; Mary Welles, Elmira.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: 1 Apr. 16 Cay L. Pied-billed Grebe: scarce Elmira, numbers still low MNWR after Agnes. Great Blue Heron: 51 Apr. 30 Addison heronry; max. 40 May 25 MNWR. CATTLE EGRET: 1 Apr. 26 Sheldrake (Holloway); 1 May 24-25 MNWR. Great Egret: max 4 May 29 MNWR. SNOWY EGRET: 1 May 25 MNWR (WEB). Black-crowned Night Heron: Apr. 3 MNWR, very scarce, WEB saw none. GLOSSY IBIS: 1 May 1 and May 18-20 MNWR. Whistling Swan: 1 May 25 (WEB) and 29 (JG *et al.*) MNWR, late. Maximum duck numbers at MNWR higher than March max: Gadwall 500 Apr. 2, Green-winged Teal 1000 Apr. 14, Blue-winged Teal 1200 Apr. 4, Am. Wigeon 200 Apr. 2, Northern Shoveler 500 Apr. 14, Wood Duck 450 Apr. 1, Redhead 60 Apr. 14, Ring-necked Duck 200 Apr. 2, Canvasback 20 Apr. 2, Lesser Scaup 50 Apr. 1, Bufflehead 50 Apr. 21, Oldsquaw 18 Apr. 1. Eurasian Green-winged Teal: 1 Apr. 2 MNWR (JG *et al.*). Ring-necked Duck: 164 Apr. 2 Tobehanna L., Tyrone, largest concentration ever seen in Watkins area; 2 Apr. 12 Elmira, only report of species formerly common on spring migration. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 3 Apr. 28 Seneca L. (BH). BLACK SCOTER: 1 male May 14 Cay L (JG *et al.*).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: more than usual Watkins—nine reports in Apr., max. 7 Apr. 21. Goshawk: regular Ithaca, nest with 3 downy young May 27. Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported regularly Ithaca; 1 Apr. 29 Clifton Springs. Cooper's Hawk: 4 Apr. reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: seen regularly Ithaca; 3 or 4 sightings a week SAD. Broad-winged Hawk: several reports late Apr., early May. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 light phase May 17 SAD, late. Bald Eagle: immature May 5 MNWR.

Sora: arr Apr. 27 Ithaca, about 2 weeks late. Common Gallinule: numbers still low MNWR after Agnes. Semipalmated Plover: max. 35 May 29 MNWR. Black-bellied Plover: max. 22 May 27 MNWR. Am. Woodcock: 11 Apr. 15 in less than 1 mile airport area Ithaca (EK). Common Snipe: numbers low MNWR. Upland Sandpiper: 12 near Ithaca, more than usual. WILLET: 1 Apr. 12 MNWR (H. Lapham), also reported there the following weekend. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Apr. 21 MNWR. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR Apr. 26-27 (RG, D. Lancaster). Common Tern: 1 Apr. 20 Ithaca, early. Caspian Tern: 2 Apr. 30 MNWR, 1 May 9 Cay L. Black Tern: some recovery from Agnes, but numbers still low MNWR. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: none. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr May 19, late; 4 in half mile May 27 Ithaca (EK); only 6 reports rest of Region. Barn Owl: 1 Fayette all period; 1 Apr. 19 Watkins Glen. Short-eared Owl: last seen week of Apr. 8. Saw-whet Owl: 1 May 17 Elmira (Stasche).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 2 calling Kennedy near Elmira and 1 Horseheads, mid-May; 1 heard May 26 SAD. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 27 May 18 EOS. Red-headed Woodpecker: 10 May 18 EOS. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: scarce, WEB saw none.

Eastern Phoebe: see introduction. Willow and Alder Flycatchers: arr late, May 17 and May 15, both present Ithaca airport, Alder in good numbers; 3 Willow May 27 Big Flats. Least Flycatcher: more than usual (WEB). Bank Swallow: arr May 2, 3 weeks late. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 each May 24 and 26 Ithaca, uncommon. Purple Martin: have recovered from low numbers at MNWR with all houses filled and have recovered from Agnes at SAD; numbers still low Elmira. COMMON RAVEN: 1 Apr. 2 and 2 May 18 Monterey (JB)—pos-

sibly nesting? Fish Crow: the 1, possibly 2, regularly seen Ithaca (Hahn, others). Carolina Wren: the increased populations survived the Apr. snow; several Ithaca, 4 May 18 EOS, pair nesting Clifton Springs, "well established along Seneca Lake between Willard and Geneva where there were none before last fall" (MJ). Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr May 18 MNWR, nearly a month late. Short-billed Marsh Wren: see introduction. Gray Catbird: plentiful after May 6. Wood Thrush: few until well into May. Swainson's Thrush: wave May 17 Watkins area, singing Cayuta L. Outlet; only 3 other reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Ithaca reports; 1 singing May 20-24 SAD. Eastern Bluebird: max. migrants 20 Apr. 10 Ithaca; 14 May 18 EOS; 11 nesting pairs SAD by end of May (6 pairs all last year), 2 broods of 5 young each already fledged; few nesting Ithaca.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Vireos: Yellow-throated: arr May 10, late. Solitary: arr Apr. 10 Ithaca, nearly 2 weeks late. Philadelphia: 1 each May 17, Elmira, May 15 and 19 Ithaca. Warbling: arr May 3, late.

Arrival of about two-thirds of the warbler species was anywhere from a week to a month late. Prothonotary: 1 Apr. 27 Myers (Goodloe), very early; 1 May 11 (SAD). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle): trickled in the last of Apr., first big influx not until May 9; good numbers Cayuga Basin, scarce Elmira. Blackpoll: arr May 11 Waterloo, on time, but none Elmira until May 19. Pine: arr on time Elmira, a month late Ithaca. Prairie: 7 May 17 Elmira census, all in new locations, none found in former locations. Northern Waterthrush: arr Apr. 28 Ithaca, more than 2 weeks late; arr May 12 Elmira, a month late. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr a week late Ithaca, a month late Elmira. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** 1 May 27 Ithaca (C. Mullen, many), present at least a week, third Cayuga Basin record. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** 1 May 11 Waterloo (JW); 1 May 12 Seneca Falls (Jorgensen). Yellow-breasted Chat: 4 Ithaca area in May, more than usual; 1 Seneca Falls; 2 locations Watkins area; 4 locations Elmira. Am. Redstart: 1 Apr. 20 Cay L the day after heavy south winds (Schuyler Co. Bird Club), early.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: 100+ males May 12 Dutch Hill, Elmira (WH). N. Oriole: arr Apr. 11 Phelps, not until May 9 (late) Elmira. Scarlet Tanager: arr May 10, late. Indigo Bunting: arr Apr. 25 near Geneva (BH), early. House Finch: Etna, several locations Ithaca, many singing in Elmira, reports from Big Flats and Horseheads, feeding fledged young May 19 Corning. Common Redpoll: 2 Apr. 4-6 Elmira feeder; 1 Apr. 4-9 Newark feeder. Savannah Sparrow: scarce until May. Grasshopper Sparrow: 6 in late May on 700 meter transect near Ithaca airport (EK). Vesper Sparrow: arr Apr. 6, about 3 weeks late; 1 Apr. 11 at Corning feeder; scarce everywhere. White-crowned Sparrow: 1 early Apr. Ithaca, no more until May; good migration May 1-20. Lincoln's Sparrow: singles May 10 and 12 Ithaca. Lapland Longspur: last, week of Apr. 8 Ithaca. Snow Bunting: last, week of Apr. 30 Ithaca.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April was decidedly cold, especially from the 4th thru 13th when the temperature never was above 40 degrees F and fell to 22 or less every night. May was almost as decidedly warm and produced no temperatures below 40. The early April cold was accompanied by some snow and produced considerable activity at feeders. The May heat, on the other hand, brought many complaints of a "fast" migration.

Rarities included a Cattle Egret, a White-eyed Vireo, Hooded Warblers and an Orchard Oriole.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; CC—Choconut Center, Broome Co.; CF—Chenango Forks, Broome Co.; Co.—County; max—maximum count; Mil—Milford, Otsego Co.; WP—Whitney Point, Broome Co.

Contributing Observers: Robert Austin; Billy and Lynne Badgeley; Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin (C,JB); R. W. Bennett; Jim Briggs; Dr. & Mrs. Carpenter; Anne Casselberry; Mildred Clark (MC); Gail Corderman (GC); Anna & Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Warren & Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber; Elizabeth Feldhusen; Clare Gottschall; Elva Hawken (EH); Claude Howard (CH); Harriett Johnson (HJ); Pearl Johnson (PJ); Cindy Kirch; Eugene Kirch (EK); Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kull; Florence Linaberry; Leona McDowell (LM); Elizabeth Mabon (EM); Harriet Marsi; Rick Marsi; B. Mead; George Mead; Mary Ann Middleton; Robert Pantle (RP); Robert Saunders (RS); Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Betty Titus (BT); Louise Viglione; Elizabeth Washburn (EW); Donald Weber; Cora Wellman; Ruth & Sally White (R,SW); Evelyn Williams; Kathryn Wilson; Irene Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: May 17 at Crumhorn Lake, in Otsego Co., the last of 4 spring records. Horned Grebe: Apr. 17 Owego, the last of only 3 records. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 May 18 Bing area, the last of 12 Apr.-May records; 6 Apr. 6 WP max. Green Heron: Apr. 28 Owego; no more until May 10. CATTLE EGRET: 1 Apr. 25 Bing (RS), much experience with species in Florida. Common Egret: 1 May 12 Norwich. American Bittern: 1 Apr. 8 Portlandville, Otsego Co. Whistling Swan: 9 Apr. 1 WP. Canada Goose: 53 May 11 CC the last large flock. Black Duck: relatively scarce. Pintail: Apr. 13 WP, last date. Green-winged Teal: 5 Apr. 19 Mil, last date. Blue-winged Teal: still in Bing area May 18. American Wigeon: none after Apr. 13. Redhead: Apr. 13 Candor, no others. Ring-necked Duck: 2 May 3 Crumhorn Lake, the only ones after Apr. 20; 80 or more Apr. 12 WP max. Canvasback: Apr. 6 Owego, the only date in period. Common Goldeneye: 1 Apr. 12 Mil area, last date. Bufflehead: Apr. 13 WP, last date; 12 Apr. 12 WP max. Hooded Merganser: still present near Hartwick, Otsego Co., May 24 and near Owego May 25. Common Merganser: Apr. 20 WP, last date. Red-breasted Merganser: over 40 Apr. 6 WP max; Apr. 13 Owego last date.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Apr. 9 Apalachin. Goshawk: May 18 Bing (GC, EK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 2 reports. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 23 Candor; numbers up again from low last year. Rough-legged Hawk: Apr. 26 Vestal the only report after Apr. 12. Bald Eagle: 2 May 1 Cannonsville Reservoir (LM). Marsh Hawk: May 18 Bing the only record after Apr. 14 but 8 before. Osprey: Apr. 26 Kirkwood; 7 more reports of at least 10 individuals to May 10 Bobwhite: 1 Apr. 12 suburban back yard in Endwell. Turkey: May 27 Vlei—Franklin Mountain (HJ), Otsego Co., a female at nest with 13 eggs; 6 Apr. 19 Vestal (EH); also 2 other Bing area localities and in Owego area. Common Gallinule: 2 May 3 Sherburne. American Coot: 1 Apr. 5 Mil; also Apr. 13 Owego. Common Snipe: 8 Apr. 6 Delhi first and max; 4 other reports to Apr. 19. Upland Sandpiper: 1 May 10 Meredith, Delaware Co. (PJ). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 May 10 Bloomville, Delaware Co. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr. 25 Owego. Pectoral Sandpiper: Apr. 12 and 13 Owego (C, JB), early, but not unprecedentedly so. Herring Gull: Apr. 26 CF last date. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 May 8 Mil, only 2 others. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 18 Bing, 5 later reports. Screech Owl: only 2 reports. Great Horned Owl: 2 young in nest May 7, Springfield Center, Otsego Co.; common as usual. Snowy Owl: 1 Apr. 5 at Hallstead, just south of Penna. line (EW, BT). Barred Owl: 1 adult and 2 young at nest May 7 Springfield Center; also reported at Bing and 2 Mil locations.

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: 1 heard about mid-May in Oneonta. Com. Nighthawk: May 13 Bing. Chimney Swift: Apr. 28 Owego. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 11 Oneonta. Pileated Woodpecker: 7 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 May 2 Delhi (MC); 1 May 18 Bing; 1 May 23 Sherburne (R,SW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr. 5

Mil area; quite common. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 10 in several areas and quite common thereafter. Willow Flycatcher: 3 May 18 Bing; 4 May 24 Mil. Least Flycatcher: Apr. 29 Vestal. Eastern Wood Pewee: May 15 Walton. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 May 31 Mil, the only report. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr. 23 Owego. Barn Swallow: Apr. 19 Delhi. Cliff Swallow: Apr. 18 Bing; the only report. Purple Martin: Apr. 20 Owego. Tufted Titmouse: fairly common in several Bing localities. Red-breasted Nuthatch: May 18 Bing last date. Brown Creeper: fairly common during migration; still present May 26 CF. House Wren: Apr. 25 CC; regular from May 5. Winter Wren: Apr. 4 Vestal: fairly numerous reports—7 different places in Mil area during May. Carolina Wren: occasional reports from 3 areas in Vestal and from Owego. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 2 May 28 Norwich, the only report. Mockingbird: scattered reports from Delhi, Owego and Bing areas. Gray Catbird: migrants from May 4. Brown Thrasher: Apr. 19 Candor; regular from May 1. Wood Thrush: May 3 Nanticoke, in Broome Co.; common. Hermit Thrush: Apr. 10 Bing; 15 different reports, 5 Apr. 22 Delhi max; 4 different places in Mil area during May. Swainson's Thrush: 1 May 13 Vestal and 7 May 18 Bing area, the only reports. Veery: 2 May 9 Vestal, fairly plentiful. Eastern Bluebird: recorded in all reporting parts of Region, but only in small numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr. 29 CF; 1 May 14 Mil, in the same place as last 2 years; 2 May 18 Endwell; that's all. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 May 3 Mil last date. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common from Apr. 18 to May 13; May 20 Mil last date. Water Pipit: 1 May 7 Delhi (MC), that's all. Loggerhead Shrike: Apr. 2 Vestal; 1 Apr. 12 and 13 WP (MS).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO:** May 10 CF (A,MD). Yellow-throated Vireo: May 8 CF, more common than usual. Solitary Vireo: May 3 Bing and Mil. Red-eyed Vireo: May 1 Nanticoke, no more until May 13. Philadelphia Vireo: May 3 Bing (CH); May 18 Bing; May 25 Owego. Warbling Vireo: May 3 Owego; only 7 more reports in May. Golden-winged Warbler: May 10 Bing; nesting pair May 29 Hartwick; fairly common. Blue-winged Warbler: May 4 Bing; at roughly 70 per cent of Golden-wing population. Tennessee Warbler: May 14 Crumhorn; common until May 23, last date. Nashville Warbler: May 3 CF; May 29 Hartwick, "nesting pair." Parula Warbler: 1 May 10 Mil, May 11 CC and May 14 CF—that's all. Magnolia Warbler: May 9, 2 at Delhi and 1 near Mil; max 8 May 20 at Mil. Cape May Warbler: 20 May 10 Mil first and max; daily at Oneonta and Bing to May 18. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 9 to 18. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 26 CF; 200 May 10 Mil max; mostly gone after May 19 but still at Owego May 25 and CF May 31. Black-throated Green Warbler: May 3 Nanticoke and Bing; most migrants passed thru between May 10 and 18. Blackburnian Warbler: 2 May 9 Delhi; 7 May 18 Bing max. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 4 Owego, very early; next date May 15 and last date May 19; very few. Blackpoll Warbler: May 10 Mil; next date May 17 and daily reports to the end of May; "lots" at Norwich. Palm Warbler: Apr. 12 Mil, 2 May 4 Oneonta and 1 May 10 Sherburne. Prairie Warbler: 1 May 16 Vestal Center at the station occupied regularly the past few years and 1 May 17 Vestal, about 4 miles away. Northern Waterthrush: May 3 Bing and Sherburne. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 22 Glen Castle, north of Bing—first day sought; recorded in 7 different places in Mil area during May. Mourning Warbler: May 17 Mil area and at 3 other places in the general area by the end of May; 1 May 23 Delhi; 1 May 31 CC. **HOODED WARBLER:** 2 May 16 Delhi (EM), not often reported in Region. Wilson's Warbler: 3 May 18 Bing, no others. Canada Warbler: May 3 Bing; next date May 11; May 25 Emmons, a "nesting pair."

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** Bobolink: May 11 CC; 28 May 18 Bing. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** May 10 CF, good description (A,MD). Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 2 to 19 Bing, more reports than usual; also reported from Owego. Scarlet Tanager: May 9 Mil; next May 14. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 4 Owego; quite common everywhere. Indigo Bunting: 1 May 10 Delhi, earlier than average. Evening Grosbeak: common until Apr. 23 but mostly gone by Apr. 30; 1 still at Bing May 18. Purple Finch: very common from Apr. 15 to May 15 but thinned out quickly thereafter; 2 flocks Apr. 5 Mil totalling 60 feeding on burdock. House Finch: a pair regularly at a feeder in Oneonta during period (MD); regularly present at 5 different feeders and in numbers in Bing—Endwell area; also reported at Owego, Can-

dor and Apalachin. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 1 Vestal; next date Apr. 19; not particularly common. Savannah Sparrow: 13 May 18 Bing. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 17 Bing; only 4 reports. Henslow's Sparrow: May 15 CC; only 4 reports. Vesper Sparrow: Apr. 4 Afton; fairly common. Dark-eyed Junco: 405 May 3 Mil area but only stragglers left a day or 2 later throughout Region; May 25 and 26 still at Owego and CC, respectively. Tree Sparrow: May 2 Vestal last date. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 21 Candor (RP); all other reports May 3 to 19 and numerous. White-throated Sparrow: very common from Apr. 4 to May 12. Fox Sparrow: good numbers to Apr. 13, stragglers to Apr. 25. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 8 Vestal; 5 to May 18, 4 of them banded. Song Sparrow: 150 Apr. 5 Mil area; 42 actual count within a few minutes Apr. 6 CC.

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## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April is, indeed, the cruelest month—a ten inch plus snowstorm April 4-5-6 followed by persistent cold for a week concentrated desperate birds at the cleared roadedges (everything from American Woodcock to Song Sparrows) and the consequent lack of insect food decimated the local Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow—and perhaps other swallows, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, and Savannah Sparrow populations. The best description of the roadside birding that snowstorm produced is Robert Frost's "Our Singing Strength" (q.v.). April persisted with cold—the coldest April in forty-three years—and almost continuous north and northwest winds. The hawk and diurnal landbird migrations along Lake Ontario were almost nil and the month proved that the hawks do not need the south winds for migration but the birders certainly do. Despite the weather and the lack of hawks, Derby Hill was rife with bird watchers this spring, a type of birding concentration almost certain to increase in future springs. I would to heaven other sectors of the region could achieve this intensity of observation.

Early May continued cold until the 12th. Then a great surge of hot, humid weather produced instant spring and the local woods advanced from stick-like nakedness to verdant jungle in eight days. The remainder of May proved clear and warm and migration, ten days to two weeks behind as of the 12th, was normal or even advanced by the 25th. No cooling frontal systems in late May developed to trigger migrational interruptions and local birding except for the Ontario lakeshore was rather uniform, even dull in that period. Shorebird habitat remained minimal throughout the spring and shorebirds were also.

Vernal positives include 1) a small influx of southern herons; 2) a superb Canada Goose flight; 3) increased numbers of Virginia Rails; 4) heavy Lake Ontario flights of Common Crows and Blue Jays; 5) increasing numbers of Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds—true enough, the South will rise again; 6) increased numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos; 7) above average numbers of some boreal forest warblers, especially Yellow-rumped Warblers (q.v.); 8) heavy Ontario lakeshore Icterid flights; and 9) large concentrations of Fox and Song Sparrows secondary to the Apr. snowstorm.

Vernal negatives are many—1) a miserable duck migration; 2) a wind-crossed, watery-eyed, bone-chilling, wretched hawk flight; 3) a mediocre shorebird flight, primarily from lack of habitat and, in late May, good conditions for sustained, i.e. flyover, migration; 4) very low cuckoo numbers; 5) a profound loss in numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers,

Eastern Phoebes, Hermit Thrushes, Eastern Bluebirds, and Savannah Sparrows secondary to the deep snow and sustained cold of early April; 6) low counts of most swallows; 7) low tallies of certain species of migrant vireos and warblers (q.v.); 8) no significant return of winter finches except for some passage of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches; and 9) a generally poor sparrow migration, notably poor in Vesper Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows.

Rare birds for the spring include Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron, White-fronted Goose, Piping and Golden Plovers, breeding Loggerhead Shrike and Orchard Oriole, Prairie and Kentucky Warblers, Western Meadowlark, and Red Crossbill.

Initialed localities and observers—CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; HG—Hickory Grove near New Haven; L—lake; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; mob—multiple observers; SP & SPI—Sandy Pond and Sandy Pond Inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; Syr—Syracuse; DWC—D. W. Crumb; PAD—P. A. DeBenedictis; FGS—F. G. Scheider; mob—many observers.

Thanks to the numerous observers and compilers for materials for and assembly of the report.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: very low numbers now, even in migration—max only 11 Apr. 13 SSSP, SP. Great Egret: single Apr. 19 and two Apr. 26 both DH—only reports. CATTLE EGRET: three singles DH, Dempster Beach, and Beaver L Apr. 19—May 20; no flocks reported. LITTLE BLUE HERON: an ad Apr. 18-19 Rice Creek Biological Station (G. Maxwell, mob), part of the rich fallout from the Apr. 18-19 frontal system. Black-crowned Night Heron: apparently a slight increase—two—three/day at DeWitt Marsh, five at Fox Ridge, three at Oneida whereas previous recent springs had only one-two birds/season.

Canada Goose: superb spring flight with thousands to tens of thousands reported—max 12,000 Beaver L May 2 (late for such a large number); lesser counts from Howland's Island GMA, Fox Ridge, Cross Lake, Scott Swamp, and the east end of Oneida L. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: two, possibly three, at Beaver L with the many Canadas Apr. 17—May 3 (M. Mathis, mob)—second regional record in 21 years.

Spring duck migration was uniformly dismal—numbers were very poor as the following seasonal max will demonstrate and most observers had their waterfowl, particularly dabblers, in tiny collections; a flock of over a hundred ducks was an event—Mallard 360 Apr. 6; Black Duck 320 Apr. 6; Gadwall 20 Apr. 6; Pintail 450 Apr. 17; Green-winged Teal 80 Apr. 27; Blue-winged Teal 42 Apr. 27; American Wigeon 96 Apr. 6; Shoveler six Apr. 27 (incredibly low); Wood Duck 19 Apr. 27; Redhead nine Apr. 2; Ring-necked Duck 180 Apr. 6; Canvasback 70 Apr. 10; Greater Scaup 400 Apr. 6; Lesser Scaup 12 Apr. 20 (almost lower than mid-winter numbers); Common Goldeneye 116 Apr. 13; Bufflehead 95 Apr. 13; Oldsquaw 4 Apr. 10 (lowest spring tally ever!); White-winged Scoter 40 (very low) May 8; Ruddy Duck 4 Apr. 16; Hooded Merganser 37 Apr. 13; Common Merganser 46 Apr. 13; Red-breasted Merganser 710 Apr. 5 (should be in the thousands).

HAWKS—OWLS: The Red-shouldered Hawk tally is the lowest ever recorded since inception of the counts and the Bald Eagle score matches the lowest ever—a sad commentary on our raptors. (See Chart—next page).

HAWKS – OWLS: 1975 Derby Hill Raptor Tally

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Departure Date</u>	<u>Season Totals</u>	<u>Peak Tally &amp; Date</u>
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 22	May 20	311	54 Apr. 11
Goshawk	Feb. 21	May 3	51	21 Mar. 18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar. 18	May 26	3,046	930 Apr. 18
Cooper's Hawk	Feb. 28	May 15	176	37 Mar. 18
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 21	May 20	2,660	504 Mar. 18
Red-shouldered Hawk	Feb. 28	May 18	304	77 Mar. 28
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 22	May 26	7,116	2,238 Apr. 29
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 21	May 5	222	48 Apr. 18
Golden Eagle	Mar. 18	Apr. 30	4	singles only
Bald Eagle	Apr. 9	Apr. 28	2	singles only
Harrier	Feb. 22	May 26	368	118 Apr. 18
Osprey	Apr. 15	May 20	186	62 Apr. 29
Peregrine	Apr. 11	Apr. 16	2	singles only
Merlin	Mar. 29	Apr. 18	4	3 Apr. 18
A. Kestrel	Mar. 12	May 26	397	159 Apr. 18
Unidentified Hawks			80	

Ring-necked Pheasant: in smashing decline—spring max only nine (very low) May 18 Pompey, especially considering the conspicuousness of this species in spring. Virginia Rail: a real upsurge locally—five-six/day at Scott Swamp, Clay Swamp, and DeWitt Marsh; in contrast Sora were incredibly scarce—only nine individuals heard or seen for entire spring. American Coot: very, very scarce—only five to eight/day thru Apr.

PIPING PLOVER: an ad May 22 SPI is the first local record in four years. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER: one in winter plumage Apr. 17 (M. S. Rusk, FGS, *et al.*) is only the third spring record and this one, like the previous two, was at Six Mile Creek near Phoenix. Ruddy Turnstone: 250 June 1 SPI is a record tally. American Woodcock: max ten courting males May 22 Cicero Swamp, late for such numbers. Greater Yellowlegs: max 42 Apr. 22 and 38 May 1, both Pennellville—Scott Swamp area, otherwise very scarce. Lesser Yellowlegs: very scarce—only one-three/day Apr. 17 thru May 20. The mid-Apr. flight was very poor, particularly in Common Snipe and Pectoral Sandpiper, and the push of “peep” sandpipers in late May never materialized.

Glaucous Gull: a second year bird May 18 Oswego Harbor is very late. Bonaparte's Gull: spring max 42 May 1 off DH—quite scarce otherwise with the Oneida L tallies especially low. Common Tern: arr Apr. 20 two Dempster Beach is early, particularly in view of the extreme cold and adverse winds of Apr.; max 85 (low) May 29 SPI; other tern species equally scarce—Caspian Tern only two Apr. 20 Oswego and Black Tern 23 May 15 SP, SSSP.

Cuckoos again almost non-existent—Yellow-billed only six and Black-billed five for 17 observers and this in the face of a strong outbreak of tent caterpillars.

Great Horned Owl: a pair in a deserted Great Blue Heron nest (who would contest it?) in the Three Rivers GMA heron colony was unusual for both site and degree of exposure. Saw-whet Owl: an ad May 13 St. Mary's Cemetery, Syr (R.E. Long) suggests possible local nesting.

CAPRIMULGIDS—SHRIKES: Chimney Swift: scarce—max only 30 May 16 HG; not seen in the usual numbers in the swallow migration passing DH.

Common Flicker: max 159 Apr. 23 DH (lower than in previous years). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: extremely scarce—max only four Apr. 15 Syr and most observers had singles only.



Eastern Phoebe: decimated by the early Apr. snowstorm and cold—max/day after that is only five May 1 and May 10. Alder and Willow Flycatchers: despite the hot siege in mid and late May still late as migrants with resident birds not appearing in many areas until Jun 10-12.

Swallows seemed scarce this spring and the numbers observed locally were undoubtedly much reduced by the early Apr. snow and cold further south—all max low with Tree Swallow 4000 May 1; Bank Swallow 100 May 15 (very low); Rough-winged Swallow 12 May 11 (still no recovery from 1972); Barn Swallow 1000 May 1; Cliff Swallow 27 May 15; and Purple Martin 30 May 8.

Carolina Wren: 30 singing males now present in the Region, a tremendous change from the scarcity of this species six years ago. Short-billed Marsh Wren: three individuals May 17-May 31 in Clay and Schroepel Townships—this species was missed locally last year.

Mockingbird: continuing to expand—three DH, one Euclid, one Oakwood Cemetery in Syr, one Oswego; seems to be expanding most rapidly on the Ontario Lake plain. Hermit Thrush: counts of three-four/day during the early Apr. snowstorm; scarce thereafter and local breeding numbers may have been severely affected by that particular storm. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: steadily expanding—max 13 CV May 10 and now many areas, especially the southern highland valleys, have multiple pairs rather than the usual single pair. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: everywhere this spring—max 60 May 8 LOL but many people reported small groups of Ruby-crowns like “flocks of migrant warblers.”

Water Pipit: unbelievably scarce this spring—max 20 May 5 Oswego with many observers having singles only. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: a pair with nest near Mexico (four eggs in nest Jun. 1), only recent breeding record.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: like the Carolina Wren and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, apparently increasing with reports of seven-eight/day in the wooded valleys south of Syr. Solitary Vireo: terrible flight—one-three/day with some observers missing the species entirely. Warbling Vireo: building up from the low of three years ago—many counts now of six to eight/day with max 18 May 17 CV, S Onondaga.

The late Apr. warbler flight was much delayed and of poor numbers with only Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in above average tallies. The early May and mid-May flights were compressed in a brief hot surge May 12 to May 20, producing some good but not spectacular counts. The late May warblers had good counts, some very high, but they rapidly passed thru and few individuals were evident in the last week of the month. Particularly abundant were Tennessee 200 May 21 Syr; Cape May 50 May 15 DH, HG; Black-throated Blue 26 May 16 HG; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) 600 May 15 DH, HG; Bay-breasted 55 May 22 Syr; Blackpoll 60 May 21 Syr; Yellowthroat 28 May 17 CV, S Onondaga.

In fair numbers only were Nashville 19 May 16 HG; Yellow 36 May 15 DH; Magnolia 25 May 16 HG; Chestnut-sided 11 May 16 HG; Wilson's 11 May 22 SP; Redstart 36 May 16 HG, Shore Oaks. Poor numbers were especially evident in the following species—Northern Parula 6 May 16 HG; Black-throated Green 30 May 16 HG; Blackburnian 15 May 15 DH, HG; Palm 7 May 15 DH, HG; Mourning 1-2/day only; and Canada 6 May 16 HG.

The presence of seven Brewster's Warbler and one Lawrence's Warbler type hybrids gives some measure of the growing intermix of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in the region. Yellow-breasted Chat: expanding locally—four singing individuals CV, Tully and one May 20 SP dunes, a first for that locality (R. E. Long, FGS). Rare warblers for the period include a **PRAIRIE WARBLER** May 9 North Syr and a vigorously singing **KENTUCKY WARBLER** May 23-31 Pompey (DWC, mob).

**ICTERIDS—SPARROWS**: Bobolink: poor counts this spring, even in the DH flights—max only 50 May 15 DH. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: One at Syr Airport May 17-30; now almost an annual occurrence in the region. Red-winged Blackbird: not decimated by southern control measures; max 200,000 Apr. 19 DH; still migrating by there May 20. **ORCHARD**

**ORIOLE:** pair breeding at Martisco May 16 to period end (D. Muir); also adult male May 18 DH (G. A. Smith, mob) is first migrant recorded there. Rusty Blackbird: max 5000 Apr. 15 DH, reported in hundreds elsewhere thru Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr May 11 three DH, a bit early; numbers again, like 1974, not in until early Jun. with max a mere ten May 23. Evening Grosbeak: late Apr. flight with max 750 May 1 DH; last noted May 23 eight Snake Swamp west of Oswego. Purple Finch: aside from the Evening Grosbeak, the only local winter finch in numbers—30-35/day to mid-May. **RED CROSSBILL:** only report for spring two Apr. 13 SSSP (PAD, FGS)—a rare bird this season.

Savannah Sparrow: quite scarce this spring—max only 20 Apr. 24 DH; even scarcer were Vesper Sparrow with the max for that species only three Apr. 19 LOL, where formerly a common migrant. Dark-eyed Junco: a poor Apr. flight with max only 200 Apr. 6 Cayuga and Onondaga Co. roadsides following the early Apr. snowstorm. Chipping Sparrow: heavy Ontario lakeshore flight—200 May 15 DH but much lower numbers (12–25/day) away from there. White-crowned Sparrow: seemed quite scarce this spring—field max only 20 May 20 LOL; however, DWC banded 25 individuals frequenting her feeder in Pompey. White-throated Sparrow: numbers markedly depressed with no counts above a hundred—the max is a ridiculously low 85 May 11 DH, HG, Scott Swamp. Fox Sparrow: max 20 Apr. 3 Pompey (J. Hamel fide DWC), a snowstorm induced concentration; singles present to May 1 LOL. Song Sparrow: massive flight stalled locally by the early Apr. snowstorm—max 1176 Apr. 6 on cleared roadsides of Cayuga and Onondaga Counties; similarly “hundreds” of sparrows and even Lapland Longspurs noted at the scraped roadsides in Oneida County that same day (P. Paquette).

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1975 was a mixed bag of weather conditions—from snow to very hot summer conditions and back to cool rainy days.

On April 3rd considerable snow fell in the Region and snow depths on Tug Hill were five feet plus well into late April. May started out very hot and dry with wet and cool conditions for the last half.

Highlights of the spring season include some excellent waterbird and waterfowl observations; many good raptor sightings; two new regional records of gulls; warblers of great variety and good numbers and another regional first Orchard Oriole as well as some unusual sparrows to round out the report.

Rarities included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Least Bittern, Snow Goose, Spruce Grouse, Glaucous Gull, Black-headed Gull, Laughing Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Bohemian Waxwing, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, and Henslow's Sparrow.

Observers: JBB—John B. Belknap; TLC—Tom L. & Cathy Carrolan; LBC—Lee B. Chamberlaine; RCW—Robert C. & June Walker; JAV—Joannes (Joe) A. VanRiet; mob—many observers.

Locations: DH—Dry Hill; ED—Eldorado; HH—Henderson Harbor; HP—Henderson Pond; LV—Lakeview W.M.A.; PR—Perch River W.M.A.; PTP—Pt. Peninsula; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; SNP—Snowshoe Point; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; TP—Thompson Park; WI—Wellesley Island.

Abbreviations: drk—dark; fem—female; imm—immature; lgt—light; pd—pond; pr—pair.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: 1 Apr. 27. **RED-THROATED LOON:** 3 May 3 ED (TLC) rare in Region. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** 1 May 16; 4 May 17 (2 in summer plumage) upstream RMPD (JAV) rare. Double-crested Cormorant: 3-5 May 17 SLR (JAV). Great Blue Heron: 9 Apr. 8 SNP. Green Heron: population in Henderson area up. **CATTLE EGRET:** 1 Apr. 22 Castorland-Lewis Co (Burrell Buffington). **GREAT EGRET:** 1 May 2 PTP (TLC). **LEAST BITTERN:** 2 May 11; 1 May 17 RMSP pd (JAV); 1 May 24 Black Crk near Hammond (JBB).

Canada Goose: 4000+ Apr. 10 near Belleville in cornfield; 5000 May 3 (JAV). **SNOW GOOSE:** 21 with 2 blue morphs Apr. 10 near Belleville (LBC); 1 Apr. 17 PR. Mallard: everywhere. Black Duck: 500+ Apr. 10. Gadwall: 6 Apr. 24 WH; 6 May 2 PR; 15 May 17 WH. Pintail: 100+ Apr. 10. Northern Shoveler: 6 Apr. 19 HP; 2 Apr. 19 RMSP pd; 3 May 2 PR. Wood Duck: everywhere. Redhead: 6 Apr. 16 WH; 40+ Apr. 21 LV (LBC); 2 May 17 WH. Ring-necked Duck: 60 Apr. 17 PR (RCW); 48 Apr. 18 HH (LBC); 4 Apr. 24 WH. Canvasback: 4 Apr. 16 HH; 1 May 2 PTP (TLC). Lesser Scaup: 5 May 3 SLR (JAV). Common Goldeneye: flocks of up to 20+ each moving over Apr. 16 SNP (LBC). Bufflehead: flocks of 25+ scattered in HH Apr. 16. Oldsquaw: 190 Apr. 12 SNP. Common Scoter: 1 pr. Apr. 3 WH (JAV). Hooded Merganser: 1 pr Apr. 9. Common Merganser: 11 May 17 SLR. Red-breasted Merganser: 18 May 17.

**VULTURES—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: 2 Apr. 12 near Adams. Goshawk: 1 fem Apr. 15; 1 May 1; 2 May 24 near nest w/2 young WI (TLC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Apr. 24; 1 Apr. 27; 1 Apr. 30. Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr. 7; 1 Apr. 29. Red-tailed Hawk: more than in previous years (LBC). Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: 248 May 2 Ellisburg (TLC); 75 May 3 RMSP (JAV). Rough-legged Hawk: 4 drk phase, 1 lgt May 10 W Martinsburg (TLC); 1 May 22 Alex Bay (TLC) late. Bald Eagle: adult May 30 ED (RCW); only report for period. Marsh Hawk: 10 observations reported—up. Osprey: nests in Indian River Lakes active; 4 May 3 RMSP (JAV). Kestrel: numbers up—high microtus population LK Plain.

**SPRUCE GROUSE:** 1 male May 7 near Sampson Pond Outlet (Russell Biss). Ruffed Grouse: numbers still up. Ring-necked Pheasant: some broods seen probably released birds that overwintered. Gray Partridge: 2 Apr. 8 RMSP (JAV); 5 May 4 PTP (TLC); numbers still very low.

Virginia Rail: 5 observations of 11 individuals during the period. C. Gallinule: 7 May 17. Semipalmated Plover: 5 May 29 ED. Black-bellied Plover: 3 May 29 ED (TLC). Woodcock: nest w/4 eggs May 7 (JBB). Upland Sandpiper: more common than previous 2 yrs (LBC). Greater Yellowlegs: 2 May 17 WH (JAV). Lesser Yellowlegs: 6 May 2 PR. Knot: 1 in breeding plumage May 29 ED (TLC). White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 May 25 ED (RCW); 1 May 29 ED (TLC). Least Sandpiper: 38 May 14 Mill Creek (TLC); 3 May 17 WH (JAV). Dunlin: 2 May 21 WH (JAV). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 2nd yr Apr. 22 WH; 1 2nd yr Apr. 25 RMPD both (JAV) late. Great Black-backed Gull: 4 Apr. 16; 4 May 17 SLR; 4 May 3 & 10 at ED. **BLACK-HEADED GULL:** 1 adult breeding plumage May 29 ED (TLC) details supplied—*Regional record*. **LAUGHING GULL:** 1 sub-adult May 10 to 14 ED (TLC); details supplied 3 other observers—*Regional record*. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 May 1; 6 May 17 SLR (JAV). Caspian Tern: 2 Apr. 20 ED (RCW) early. Black Tern: a few on HP this year (LBC).

Mourning Dove: population still seems to be increasing on LK plain. **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO:** 1 May 31 TP (TLC). Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers—tent caterpillar year. Screech Owl: 5 May 17 (TLC); other individuals thru period. Great Horned Owl: 9 individuals 6 reports for period. Snowy Owl: 1 Apr. 14 RMSP (JAV) late. **BARRED OWL:** 1 May 3

& 3 May 17 Brasher Center (JAV) not often reported. **SHORT-EARED OWL:** 1 May 4 PTP (TLC).

**GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES:** Whip-poor-will: 1 May 9; 5 May 17 (JAV). C. Nighthawk: May 22 Massena. Chimney Swift: later arrival than normal and numbers up in Henderson area (LBC). Ruby-thr. Hummingbird: numbers up in Henderson area (LBC).

Pileated Woodpecker: 4 reports 4 individuals. Red-headed Wpk: 1 Apr. 27 Henderson early; seen at WH and 1 other location in St. Law Co (JAV). **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER:** 1 fem Apr. 1 DH (RCW) very late.

Eastern Kingbird: later than normal. Great Crested Flycatcher: also late. E. Phoebe: numbers down—cold weather in Apr.? Alder Flycatcher: May 25 early. Willow Flycatcher: 6 individuals 5 reports (RCW) & (TLC) unusual for Region. Least Flycatcher: 4 May 17 (JAV).

Horned Lark: last group 12 Apr. 7. Tree Swallow: 3 Apr. 11—early considering cold weather. Bank Swallow: 18 May 17. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 May 3; 2 May 17 Alcoa Powerhouse ruins Massena (JAV). Cliff Swallow: more reports than usual; small colony DH (RCW). Purple Martin: late.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 20+ Apr. 15 THP Highmarket (LBC); 3 May 11 TP. Brown Creeper: 4 Apr. 30. House Wren: 6 May 17. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 4 May 17 WH first year heard there (JAV). Mockingbird: 5 reports 5 individuals—increasing? Hermit Thrush: 1 May 2 Watertown (TLC); 1 May 18 Chases Lk (TLC). Swainson's Thrush: 1 May 13 Dennison Rd (JAV); 1 May 17 PR; 1 May 24 TP both (TLC) E. Bluebird: 2 May 24 Blake feeder (TLC); 2 May 28 Middle Rd (RCW); 2 May 31 near Limmerick (RCW); pr nesting in Potsdam (L. Gumaer).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER:** 2 May 5 SNP Rd (TLC); 1 May 11 (JAV) farthest north reported in Region. Water Pipit: 9 May 11 (TLC); 15 May 17 near Wilson Hill (JAV). **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 2 Apr. 5; 11 Apr. 6 still on last year berries RMSP (JAV). Northern Shrike: 1 Apr. 5; 1 Apr. 8; 1 Apr. 11 all (JAV). Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Apr. 11; 1 Apr. 14 (JAV) 2 Apr. 20 near Henderson (LBC).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireo: 1 May 11 TP (TLC). Golden-winged Warbler: 1 May 20 DH (RCW); 6 males May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC); 1 May 25 Bonaparte LK Rd (TLC) no longer rare in region. Tennessee: 3 May 17 WH (JAV); 3 May 25 TP (RCW); 4 other individuals on single days. Nashville: 5 May 17 (JAV); 2 other reports 2 individuals. N Parula: 1 May 13; 2 May 17 (JAV). Cape May: 1 May 11 TP (TLC); 3 May 12 WH; 3 May 17 WH—both (JAV); 1 May 17 PR (TLC); Yellow-rumped: 5 Apr. 26 (LBC); 29 May 12 (JAV); 20 May 17 (JAV). **CERULEAN:** 8 male May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC); 1 same date TP (RCW). Bay-breasted: 3 May 21. Blackpoll: 2 May 21 (JAV); 2 May 22 (TLC); 1 May 28 (RCW). Pine: 1 May 14 & 17 Brasher State Forest (JAV); 1 singing male May 25 Muskalonge LK Rd (TLC). Palm Warbler: 1 May 3 ED (TLC) early; 1 May 17 WH (JAV) late. **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH:** 5 May 18 Bear Gulf (TLC); 1 May 31 Washington Park (RCW). Mourning Warbler: 1 male May 31 TP (TLC). Wilson's: 1 May 17 (JAV). An excellent warbler year species and number wise.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS:** **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** singing imm—male May 23 ED (Gates & Janet Wiesburg); May 29-30 mob—*Regional record*. Rusty Blackbird: 3 Apr. 19 Helena; 2 May 2 (JAV). Evening Grosbeak: 1 May 3 Brasher State Forest (JAV). Purple Finch: none in Henderson area this yr (LBC). **HOUSE FINCH:** 1 fem May 2 at Frank Clinch residence Watertown; seen again May 5 (mob). Pine Grosbeak: heard Apr. 15 THP Highmarket (LBC). Redpoll: 2 Apr. 11 last date. Pine Siskin: heard Apr. 15 THP. Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 May 17 Rt. 12 (TLC); 1 May 31 PR (RCW). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** 2 May 17 Rt. 12 (TLC); 1 May 31 PR (RCW). Tree Sparrow: Apr. 27 last date. White-crowned: arrived May 4 in many numbers and moved on thru. Snow Bunting: last date 2 Apr. 12 late.

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## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

April weather was normal. One snowstorm on the third and fourth indirectly killed early arrival sparrows, juncos, and some goldfinches. These birds flocked to plowed roads to scratch pits in frozen soil for weed seeds. Many were exhausted to the point of allowing a close approach and some small bodies lay about. Snow melted a little in afternoons until the ice finally went out on Lower St. Regis Lake on May 7.

May was quite warm and rather dry. The outstanding feature of the month was the total absence of many common birds for a week or more after the usual arrival time. Many observers asked where the Red-eyed Vireos and sapsuckers were but the birds suddenly appeared on territory in the usual numbers.

Black flies were not as bad this year in Paul Smiths and the area was not sprayed. Last year they were bad in spite of spray efforts that apparently killed birds if not flies. Unfortunately many other towns have sprayed heavily this year. Also DEC has sprayed several campgrounds for mosquitoes.

Observers: TB—Tom Barber; GC—Geoffrey Carleton; GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; GH—Gene Hubsch; MK—Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; DK—Don Knies; BMc—Betsy MacMillan; JMc—John MacMillan; CLM—Cathy Mack; TM—Ted Mack; NM—Norman Mason; mob—many observers; PM—Peter Merritt; CM—Charles Mitchell; JP—John (Mike) Peterson; SP—Sherry Peterson; WP—William Peterson; R&MS—Robert & Mary Sheffield; CS, FL etc.—C. G. Spies, Ferdinand LaFrance, L. M. Holland, W. G. Holland, E. D. Treacy; PT—Pat Tabor; MLW—Maurice L. Ward; PW—Philip Warren; KW—Ken West.

Abbreviations: Au—Ausable Marsh, LC; BTP—Browns Tract Ponds; CL—Chazy Landing; ChR—Chubb River; CrPt—Crown Point; E'town—Elizabethtown; FourBros—Four Brothers Islands, LC; Good—Goodnow Flow, Newcomb; Jones—Jones P near PS; L—lake; LC—Lake Champlain; LP—Lake Placid; Mad—Madawaska near PS; Mor—Moriah; PS—Paul Smiths; Plat—Plattsburgh; P—pond; Ti—Ticonderoga; TL—Tupper Lake; Wad—Wadhams.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: most migrants were thru first 4 days of May; max 7 May 1 TL (MK). Red-necked Grebe: none; probably went thru fast in one or a few groups; this species is easily missed for this reason. Double-crested Cormorant: 5 individuals LC. CATTLE EGRET: 4 NESTING May 17 Four Bros (JP, PT). Great Egret: 1 Apr. 27 CL (CM) Black-crowned Night Heron: 40 nesting May 17 FourBros (JP, PT). Snow Goose: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Gadwall: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM), a rare bird. Mallard: 1 pair migrants on a beaver flow May 2 PS (TM), rare in this area. Pintail: 2 Apr. 19 Lewis (GC); 2 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Green-winged Teal: 1 pair May 29 Mad (MK). Northern Shoveler: 1 Apr. 19 CL (CM). Canvasback: 100 Apr. 14 Au (CM). Lesser Scaup: a few Apr. 19 CL (CM). SURF SCOTER: 3 May 11 Good (CLM, TM); a serious attempt was made to ignore these but they stayed all day; All were females. Red-breasted Merganser: pair May 17 FourBros (JP, PT); hard to find in this region.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first 2 Mar. 28 CrPt (JP). Cooper's Hawk: 1 Apr. 6 Wad (JP, PT); 1 Apr. 12 Whiteface Mtn (TM, JP, PT); 1 May 23 E'town (GH, JP, WP). Red-tailed Hawk: 4 migrating Apr. 6 ChR (JP, PT, TM). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.); 1 May 23 E'town (GH, JP, WP, PT). Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Mar. 30 Wad (SP, WP); 2 Apr. 10 E'town (GC); 1 Apr. 15 PS (TM); all sightings during deep snow time. Bald Eagle: 1 Apr. 12 Corey's; 2 Apr. Eagle L feeding on dog-killed deer; 2 Apr. Chaple P, all (GTC). Osprey: at least 13 seen, max 3 May 14 Jones (TM). PEREGRINE FALCON: 1 May 17 (JP, PT)—sideburns, heavy size, lack of sharp tail barring noted and bird seen

perched and flying. Common Gallinule: 2 May 4 Au (CM); 3 May 17 Ti (BMc), rare for region. **RUDDY TURNSTONE**: 2 May 20 Plat (PW), apparently a first record for region. Whimbrel: 12 May 16 Plat (GC, PW, mob). Upland Sandpiper: 6 May 20 Plat (PW, DK). Dunlin: 14 May 16 Plat (GC, PW). **ICELAND GULL**: 1 imm May 28 LP (MLW, later verified by JP)—first year bird, well described. Great Black-backed Gull: 2 May 3 on edge of ice Blue Mtn L (LMH, WGH, EDT). Black Tern: 3 May TL (MK); 3 May 17 Ti (BMc); 5 May 26 Ti (GC). **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO**: 1 May 13 Mor (TB), very rare. Great Horned Owl: 1 May 25 TL (Ruth Meier). Saw-whet Owl: first Apr. 2 PS (TM); several thru May PS (KW, TM); 1 May 17 Good (CLM, TM).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING**: Whip-poor-will: 1 May 19 TL (Ruth Meier). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 female Apr. 12 Ch R (JP, PT, PW); 2 males May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.); 1 May L Clear (John Seaman). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 1 May L Clear (GTC, later mob); 1 male, 2 females May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc.). Gray Jay: 2 May 11 BTP (FL, PM). Common Raven: 3 cliff nests that are common knowledge; each had 3 young soon to leave nest about May 10 (GTC, TM, JP). Mockingbird: expanding its range; nesting pair May 15 Au (CM); 2 building a nest May 17 Plat (PW, mob); 6 May 17 Essex Co. (High Peaks Audubon); 1 May 19 Ti (BMc, JMc); 1 May 24 Gabriels (PW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: numbers up, by late May most large tracts of black spruce or balsam had 2 or more singing males on territory. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 5 reports in May; this southern species may be expanding its range because it appeared last year in numbers. Water Pipit: 3 reports of 5 individuals, first 1 Apr. 5 Plat (PW, DK). Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Apr. 27 Plat (PW, CM), very rare.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 May 11 Mor (NM). **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**: pair building nest near Marcy Dam May 28 (MLW), well described, song compared to Red-eyed and recorded, nest 25 feet high in top of sugar maple; verified by JP. Tennessee Warbler: 1 May 29 Mad; 1 May 31 Heart L; both (MK). Cape May Warbler: in late May several pairs could be found on territory in most suitable areas of black spruce or balsam; difficulty in finding a nest contributes to lack of breeding records. Bay-breasted Warbler: not reported. Pine Warbler: 1 May 10 Mor (Helen Phinney); 1 May 12 Plat (CM). **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: 1 male BTP (CS, etc. except FL)—well described; there are 1955 and 1963 records of 2 pair at port Douglas (R. Herbert, W. Spofford, GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Apr. 27 Mor (TB, Kathy Collins); 1 singing May 25 Raquette L (Bruce Peterson), "many Northern Waterthrush singing nearby." Mourning Warbler: 4 or 5 noted in PS area.

**BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS**: Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Apr. 2 TL but soon died in snow-storm (Ruth Meier). **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: 1 male May 10 Ti (BMc, JMc, mob); 1 female May 20 CrPt (GC, NM); 1 imm male May 26 CrPt (GC), black throat. Northern Oriole: numbers up. Rusty Blackbird: max 12 May 3 BTP (CS, FL, etc). House Finch: 1 banded Apr. 4 Essex (JP). Pine Grosbeak: 2 late birds Apr. 6 PS (TM). White-winged Crossbill: 2 pair with males singing Apr. 12 ChR (JP, PT, TM). Common Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 imm May 11 BTP (FL, PM); in bog at 4 to 6 feet for 15 minutes; well described, bird on ground or creeping under grass at all times.

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## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

GLADYS SNELL

The spring weather for 1975 was the reverse of 1974 with a cold April and warm May. April had a -6.2 degree departure from normal with a new low of 26 degrees on the 27th, and less precipitation than normal. It was the 4th coldest April on record. May was more comfortable for birds and birders with a plus 4.2 departure and slightly less than normal precipitation.

The May bandings at Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area by R. P. Yunick, R. J. Pantle, J. C. Covert III, and A. B. Schoeder were about normal with the bird yield of 49.3 birds/100 net hours, second to 1972's record of 51.61/100.

The Century Run was held on May 17. The weather and results were similar to last year's with 7 groups of 24 observers reporting 156 species. Unusual among the birds reported were: Goshawk, Canvasback, Cerulean Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Orchard Oriole. There were disappointing reports of hawks, owls, and shorebirds, with no Grasshopper or Henslow's Sparrows reported.

With the exception of Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Pileated Woodpecker, and Cedar Waxwing the common birds of the region were reported in normal numbers.

Abbreviations: BCM—Black Creek Marsh; Col Co—Columbia County, Alan DeVoe Bird Club; cr—Century Run, May 17 Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; HR—Hudson River; L7—Lock 7; M'dale—Meadowdale; MR—Mohawk River; NWW—Niskayuna Wide Waters; RPY—R. P. Yunick; SCR—Stoney Creek Reservoir; SL—Saratoga Lake; TCA—Tri-city area; VFGM—Vischer Ferry Wildlife Management Area; thru—throughout period.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: April 6 thru max. 10 April 21 SL; 1 April 27 New Baltimore; cr. Red-necked Grebe: 1 April 14, 9 April 15 SL; 1 April 23 NWW; 2 April 25 SL. Horned Grebe: 1 April 1 SL; 1 thru May 8 Round Lake. Pied-billed Grebe: 3 April 2 to 2 April 21 SL; thru April and 2 May 2 Col Co; cr. Double-crested Cormorant: first 1 April 22 Hoosick River; 1 May 25 L7. Great Blue Heron: April 8 thru May 31 TCA; 2 May 15 Col Co; 12 pairs nesting in West Glenville. Green Heron: few April 12 thru TCA; first in Col Co May 2. CATTLE EGRET: 1 April 18 Col Co; 1 in breeding plumage April 20 Saratoga Co. Great Egret: 1 April 28 New Brunswick. Least Bittern: 1 May 14 VFGM; cr. American Bittern: May 6 thru TCA; cr. Canada Goose: April 1 to May 25 NWW; thru April, max. 500 April 14 SL; thru Col Co. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 5 April 14 SL. Snow Goose: first 12 large flocks April 5 HR Col Co; 1 to 2 April 15 thru 28 TCA. Gadwall: 2 April 12 VFGM. Pintail: April Col Co; April 1-22 BCM; 1 April 15 SL. American Wigeon: thru April Col Co and VFGM. Northern Shoveler: 1 April 9 Saratoga Co; 2 May 3 SL. Wood Duck: thru Col Co; April 6 thru TCA. Redhead: 4 April 12 MR. Ring-necked Duck: 6 April 12 MH; 19 April 1 thru 7 and April 25 SL; 13 April 27 E. Greenbush; May 5 HR Col Co. Canvasback: April 1 thru 21, max. 105 April 14 SL; 4 April 12 MR; 1 May 17 Coxsackie; cr. Greater Scaup: thru April Col Co; 2 April 12 MR. Lesser Scaup: April 1—May 8 SL. Bufflehead: April 1—May 18 Round L; cr. Oldsquaw: 2 April 1 Round L. White-winged Scoter: 1 May 8, 10, 17 SL; cr. Surf Scoter: 3 May 5 SL. Ruddy Duck: 1 May 10 Mariaville Lake; 1 May 10 SL. Hooded Merganser: thru April Col Co; April 6 thru VFGM. Common Merganser: thru April Col Co and TCA. Red-breasted Merganser: April 1 thru May 8 SL; 2 April 17 Selkirk; several on MR during April.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first April 16 Col Co; 1 April 22 River Rd; 1 April 28 M'dale; 2 May 15 Mariaville; 3 May 23 Col Co. Goshawk: 2 April 22, 1 April 27 New Baltimore; cr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 April 26 New Baltimore; 1 May 13 Mariaville. Cooper's Hawk: 1 April 27 Berne; 2 May 5 Malta. Broad-winged Hawk: first April 16

M'dale; 2 May 10-31 Mariaville; May 3 Col Co; cr. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 April 2 Altamont; 1 April 14 Albany; 1 April 16 S. of Saratoga Springs. **BALD EAGLE**: 1 adult May 27 Col Co. Osprey: 1 April 19 VFGM; 6 April 28 Schodack Landing; April 26 thru May Col Co; 1 May 3 M'dale; 1 May 24 SCR. **TURKEY**: 5 May 9, 19 Ghent Col Co. King Rail: 1 May 6 BCM. Virginia Rail: thru May. Sora: April 6 thru. Common Gallinule: April 22 thru. American Coot: 1 April 14 SCR. Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 12 NWW. American Woodcock: April 6 thru Col Co; occasionally in late May, 2 banded. Common Snipe: April 19 thru. Upland Sandpiper: 2 April 1-5 Coxsackie; fairly common southern Montgomery Co. thru May; cr. Spotted Sandpiper: thru May 2. Solitary Sandpiper: April 30 thru May 13 NWW; first in Col Co May 5; cr. Lesser Yellowlegs: first May 6 Col Co and May 8 SL. Pectoral Sandpiper: first April 12 Col Co; 1 May 12 Albany Airport. Least Sandpiper: 1 May 12 NWW; cr. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 April 30 NWW. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 May 12 NWW. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 April 14, 17 and May 30 SL; cr. Common Tern: 1 May 25 NWW; cr. Black-billed Cuckoo: first May 10 M'dale; May 17 Col Co; cr. Barn Owl: 1 April 17 Albany; 2 May 3 Coxsackie. Screech Owl: few during May. Great Horned Owl: heard only. Barred Owl: common in May. Short-eared Owl: 4 April 17, 1 April 24 Coxsackie.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING**: Whip-poor-will: first May 9 Col Co; 1 May 15 Mariaville; cr. Common Nighthawk: May 17 thru. Chimney Swift: April 25 thru. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 12 thru. Belted Kingfisher: thru May. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 at nesting site May 10-31 Montgomery Co, at least 5 different birds seen nearby; cr. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first April 5 Loudonville; May 17 Col Co and cr; 2 May 22 Berne. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: 1 May 11 Duanesburg. Eastern Kingbird: May 10 thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 5 thru. Eastern Phoebe: April 6 thru. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: first May 7 Col Co; cr. Willow Flycatcher: 1 May 10 M'dale; May 27 NWW. Alder Flycatcher: cr, scarce at VFWM, only 1 banded in May. Least Flycatcher: May 7 thru reduced at VFWM, only 14 banded vs 27 last year. Eastern Wood Pewee: first May 17 Col Co and cr; thru. Tree Swallow: April 6 thru. Bank Swallow: April 14 thru; small flock April 21 Schodack Landing. Rough-winged Swallow: May 2 thru. Barn Swallow: April 22 thru. Cliff Swallow: April 29 thru; reports indicate an increase of nesting colonies. Purple Martin: first 15 April 12 Col Co; thru. **FISH CROW**: 5 April 28 Saugerties; 1 May 18 Coxsackie. House Wren: April 23 thru; banding of 13 was a record spring high. Carolina Wren: April 4 thru. Long-billed Marsh Wren: several in May. Brown Thrasher: first April 25 Col Co; thru. Wood Thrush: May 10 thru; May bandings new record. Hermit Thrush: April 27 thru; 4 bandings early May. Swainson's Thrush: May 9 thru; 3 banded. Veery: May 5 thru; 14 bandings tied record. Eastern Bluebird: few thru; 1 pair nesting Mariaville and 2 pairs Col Co. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: May 3 thru; 3 banded early May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first April 6; last April 10. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: April 22 thru; 29 banded early May. Water Pipit: April 12 thru.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Vireos: Yellow-throated: May 10 thru; 2 banded. Solitary: May 3; thru. Red-eyed: May 8 thru; 1 banded May 24. Warbling: May 10 thru; 3 banded. Warblers: Black-and-white: May 9 thru; 3 banded. **PROTHONOTARY**: 3 May 17 Alcove Reservoir. Worm-eating: cr. Golden and Blue-winged: May 10 thru. Tennessee: May 10-24 VFGM; 3 banded May 17. Nashville: May 6 thru; 8 banded early May. Northern Parula: May 10 thru. Yellow: May 3 thru; 45 banded. Magnolia: May 9 thru; 6 banded. Cape May: May 9 thru; 3 banded May 10. Black-throated Blue: May 9 thru; 4 banded. Yellow-rumped: April 16 thru; 280 banded. new record. Black-throated Green: May 6 thru; 4 banded. **CERULEAN**: May 17 thru. Blackburnian: May 8 thru; 1 banded May 10. Chestnut-sided: May 9 thru; 1 banded May 10. Bay-breasted: May 13 thru. Blackpoll: May 15 thru; 1 banded May 24. Pine: 1 May 3 Malta; several May 21-31 Lake George. Prairie: May 8 Col Co; 4 May 15 Berne; cr. Palm: 1 April 22 BCM; 2 May 10 M'dale; 5 banded early May; cr. Ovenbird: May 9 thru; 1 banded May 24. Northern Waterthrush: May 4 thru; 6 banded. Louisiana Waterthrush: May 8 thru. Mourning: cr; 1 banded May 17. Common Yellowthroat: May 10 thru; 19 banded. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 6 Col Co; 1 May 13 Mariaville; cr.



**HOODED WARBLER:** 1 May 30 Mariaville. Wilson's: May 13 thru; 2 banded. Canada: May 13 thru; 4 banded. American Redstart: May 10 thru; 16 banded.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: May 5 thru. Orchard Oriole: 1 May 10 M'dale; cr; 1 May 28 Col Co. Northern Oriole: May 7 thru; 6 banded. Rusty Blackbird: April 12 thru; 1 banded. Scarlet Tanager: May 11 Col Co; May 12 thru L7; cr. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 4 thru; 14 banded, tied record. Indigo Bunting: May 10 thru. Evening Grosbeak: last May 14; 45 banded in April, 9 in May at yard feeder (RPY). Purple Finch: abundant thru; 428 banded in April, 89 in May at feeder. House Finch: thru; 13 banded in April, 7 in May at feeder. Pine Siskin: few at Jenny Lake, no real flight. American Goldfinch: thru; 161 banded in April, 100 in May (RPY). Rufous-sided Towhee: April 19 thru. Sparrows: Savannah: April 18 thru. Grasshopper: 1 May 13 Mariaville; 1 May 17 Col Co. Henslow's: 1 May 20 M'dale. Vesper: April 16 thru. Dark-eyed Junco: thru; 1 banded May 3 VFGM, first spring banding here in 9 years; 61 banded in April at feeder. Tree: 1 April 4-17 Loudonville; thru Col Co. Chipping: April 22 thru. Field: April 22 thru. White-crowned: April 17 thru; 3 banded. White-throated: thru May; 23 banded early May. Fox: at feeders during April. Lincoln's: cr; May 17 Col Co; 9 banded. Swamp: April 19 thru; 12 banded. Song: April 4 thru; 37 banded. Snow Bunting: last 2 April 6 South of Saratoga Springs.

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## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

April was cool and dry, with 2.05 of 2.64 inches of rain falling on the 3rd. Snow was visible in the Catskills longer than usual. People in the Waterman Bird Club thought it was the coldest April in about 40 yrs. Winds were stronger than usual and persisted from the north west. May continued cool until about midmonth when a warming trend arrived. A rainfall of 4.35 inches was made up of several shower periods. Plant life was slightly behind schedule but not exceptionally so. Migrants were late with many unreported. The only marked movement reported was the weekend of May 10-11. There were no waves reported before or after that date.

Contributors: Robert F. Deed, Rockland Co.; Jack Orth, Palisades Interstate Park and Wawarsing area of Ulster Co.; William Howe, Westchester Co.; Al Merritt, E. Orange Co.; John Tramontano, W. Orange Co.; Fred Hough, Ulster Co.; Marty Borko, Sullivan Co.; Eleanor Pink and Otis Waterman, Dutchess Co.; Peter Both, Hook Mountain Hawk Watch.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Common Loon: well reported thru region from mid-April to mid-May. Max 8 over Bedford, West. Apr. 20. 9 Croton Pt. May 17. 1 pr present Middletown Res. from May 10 thru end of period. Horned Grebe: Max 12 Apr. 24 Basher Kill. Double-crested Cormorant: not usual in spring. 3 Apr. 19 Croton Pt. 1 Apr. 25 Cornwall Bay. Great Blue Heron: Tamarack Swamp heronry active. A new heronry near Thompson Pd. discovered 2 years ago by Thelma Haight had 11 nests this spring. Cattle Egret: more than usual. 3 Apr. 19 Basher Kill; 12 May 3 Glenham. Single birds May 12 Stormville, and May 14 Salt Point. Common Egret: 1 Apr. 17 Croton Pt. 1 May 10, Beaver Dam, Dutch. Snowy Egret: 1 May 11 Wappingers Cr. 1 May 21 Croton Pt. **LOUISIANA HERON:** 1 May 25 Cornwall Bay. Black-crowned Night Heron: a few more than usual. First 1 Apr. 17 Croton Pt. 2 there Apr. 19 and May 3; 1 USMA May 17 and a single bird at Cruger's Is. Apr. 27 and

May 3. Least Bittern: first May 18 at Iona Is., Cruger's Is. and Croton Pt. **GLOSSY IBIS:** 1 May 3 Cruger's Is. (Eric Kiviati). The third record for Dutch. Mute Swan: now an uncommon but regular breeder thru much of region. Brant: very heavy movement May 19-26, with heaviest on May 22-23. More than 1200 over Dutch on May 22. Snow Goose: 1 Apr. 19-20 Croton Pt. 2 there on Apr. 27. 1 May 25 Kensico Res. American Wigeon: 1 May 31 Croton Pt. Very late. Northern Shoveler: always rare; 2 dur Apr. at Tamarack Swamp. 1 Apr. 19 Basher Kill. Ring-necked Duck: last 5 birds May 6, L. Tiorati. Canvasback: last 1 female May 18 Cruger's Is. Common Goldeneye: 14 Apr. 13 Rio Res. Bufflehead: last 5 May 6 Welsh L. Oldsquaw: "a few" May 11 Ashokan Res. Black Scoter: 14 Apr. 25 on Hudson R. off Cornwall. Hooded Merganser: Max 16 May 3 Salt Point; a female May 28 Basher Kill was either late or resident. Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Apr. 14 Cornwall Bay.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Goshawk: reports continue this year. 1 at Mohonk May 11 was observed in the same area earlier on Apr. 2. 1 May 18 Pleasant Valley; 1 attacked Robert Shulz of Richmond Hills, N.Y. on Mar. 1 and again on June 14 as he hiked the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail in Harriman St. Pk. This is the same location where he observed another of this species on Nov. 12, 1967. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Max 22 Apr. 20 HMHW. Cooper's Hawk: 1 May 17 and 24 at Middletown Res. Red-tailed Hawk: Max 75 Mar. 23 HMHW. Red-shouldered Hawk: Sev reports thru region. 1 regularly in the vic of Welsh L. Max 7 Mar. 23 & 25 HMHW. Broad-winged Hawk: Max 865 Apr. 27 HMHW. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 ad Apr. 27 HMHW. Bald Eagle: Several reports from Dutch in the Rio-Mongaup area. Max 3 imm and 1 ad Apr. 13. Last report May 7 there. Marsh Hawk: single birds at Iona Is and Middletown Res May 17. 1 May 31 Croton Pt. Osprey: Max 15 Apr. 27 HMHW. American Kestrel: 19 Mar. 25 HMHW. Bobwhite: only reports Dutch, only 1 or 2 birds on 3 occasions. Turkey: all of the many reports from Sull. Doing well there. Semiplumated Plover: 2 May 12 Haight Marsh, Dutch. 1 May 21 Croton Pt. Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 24 Cornwall; 3 May 31 Croton Pt. Woodcock: courting behavior observed thru entire month of May on Mine Rd. USMA. Common Snipe: Max 35 Apr. 9 Croton Pt. Reduced to 25 Apr. 17. Upland Plover: 3 Apr. 27, Buttonwood Tree Farm, Hamptonburgh. Obs there again May 15. Pectoral Sandpiper: 4 Apr. 13 Monroe, only report. Dunlin: only report 1 May 17. Short-billed Dowitcher: 45 May 18, Croton Pt. only report. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE:** 2 females May 13 in full breeding plumage observed for 10 min at 15 ft. at Welsh L, Harriman State Park by Jack Orth. Birds were feeding on a species of fly on the water. This is the second report for the park, the first being on Aug. 22, 1937 in a Beaver Pond which is now L. Askoti. Laughing Gull: only report 2 May 31 Croton Pt. Bonaparte's Gull: 6 Apr. 20 Cornwall Bay; 1 May 10 Basher Kill. Common Tern: 1 Apr. 19 Basher Kill. Cuckoos: both species late and rare. Barn Owl: wintering birds in Warwick persisted thru spring. Great Horned Owl: all reports Dutch. At least 2 nests with 2 young in each. Barred Owl: 2 ad with 3 young at Forest Glen, Dutch. Short-eared Owl: as many as 10 indiv wintered at Galeville Airport, Walkill. 2 remained 'til May 17.

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Whip-poor-will: first Apr. 19 Croton Pt. Common Nighthawk: poor movement thru most parts, but 350 May 21 at Croton Pt. is worth mentioning (William Howe). **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD:** very early date of April 19-20 at Fort Montgomery. C. Flicker: 102 counted in 35 min by Al Merritt at Cornwall Bay between 6:30-7:05 a.m. Apr. 20. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regular but local now. Single birds from several areas in Dutch, Ulst and Sull. Eastern Kingbird: late. Great Crested Flycatcher: late and low. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: none reported. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** 2 from May 17 on Deep Hollow Rd, Dutch. Same as last year. Willow Flycatcher: first May 10 Wawarsing. Others at Croton Pt. May 17-18. Generally late thru rest of region. Horned Lark: nest with 3 eggs flooded out on Apr. 4 in Dutch. Reported May 17 in Dutch and West. Bank Swallow: first Apr. 14 at 2 places in Dutch. Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr. 16 in Dutch. Purple Martin: arr Dutch Apr. 2. In good numbers there by end of month. At least 3 known colonies in Orange. Fish Crow: still "academically inclined;" reports from Bard Coll., Vassar Coll., New Paltz State, and Orange County Comm. Coll. House Wren: generally late. Winter

Wren: singing thru Apr. and May at Thompson Pond and at Pond Gut, Dutch. Carolina Wren: exc numbers after exc winter. Mockingbird: everywhere in excellent numbers. Gray Catbird: in Dutch from Apr. 7-20, probably a winter bird. Spring arr generally late thru region. Gray-cheeked Thrush: very few reported. Single birds in West. May 18, 25, 26 at Gedney Brook Sanct. 1 May 24, Middletown Res. Veery: first Apr. 26 in Dutch. Numbers generally low thru May. E. Bluebird: excellent numbers and breeding well in nest boxes thru Dutch. Gnatcatcher: seems to be inc. numbers exc from Apr. 23 on. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET**: Singing birds obs May 24 at Middletown Res. and May 10 at Kensico Res. Last year 1 found singing at Camp Sharparoon, Dover Plains. This year observed building nest there in a spruce woods May 17. Nest completed May 23. First found by Jim Fiedler, Mary Yegella, Helen Manson, and Roz Davis. Water Pipit: more May records than usual. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Apr. 15 Black Meadow Road, Chester.

**VIREOS-SPARROWS**: White-eyed Vireo: 1 May 25 Wawarsing; remained thru end of period. 1 May 26 on territory at Hawthorne. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 10 and 2 May 18 at Basher Kill. Warblers: best on weekend of May 10-11. Other than that probably the worst year ever. No unusual dates or numbers. Cerulean Warbler: obs again this year at Slabsides in West Park Ulst. 3 obs on Mine Rd. USMA from May 12 on. A male and female continually obs in the same locale there, but no nest found. Pine Warbler: from 4 locations in Dutch. All April. 2 reports in Ulst; 1 Mohonk May 11, the other Slabsides, May 14. Yellow-breasted Chat: only report, 1 May 24 to end of period at Middletown Res. **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK**: one heard clearly by E. Treacy and W. Holland at the Earl Farm in Blooming Grove, Oran on May 17. The bird sang once at about 30 ft. and then flew off. It was not heard again. This is only a few miles from the location in Hamptonburgh where one was heard several years ago. Orchard Oriole: 1 May 10-11 near Po'kpsie, 1 May 8-14 Pleasant Valley; 1 May 11 near New Paltz. Northern Oriole: 1 Apr. 25 at Palisades was the earliest spring date for that county. Rusty Blackbird: 32 Apr. 23 Iona Is. single birds May 12 and 15 at Wappingers Falls and 24 May 3 at Po'kpsie. **DICKCISSEL**: only 1 Apr. 12 Pleasant Valley, Dutch. Evening Grosbeak: numbers good in Apr. Lingered to May 3 at Monticello, and 2 flying over Middletown Res May 24. Purple Finch: many reports in early Apr. Max 200+ Apr. 14 in Dutch. Pine Siskin: Max 18 Apr. 11, no reports in May. A. Goldfinch: exc numbers in West in late Apr. 500 Apr. 19 Bedford and 500 Apr. 27 Armonk, 100 May 4 Mt. Kisco. Dark-eyed Junco: most gone by end of Apr. except for reports in usual nesting areas. Tree Sparrow: 5 Apr. 29 in Dutch. 1 May 1 in Dutch. White-crowned Sparrow: generally poor. 3 wintering birds Apr. 5 at Croton Pt. 1 still there May 3. White-throated Sparrow: good migration, last May 19 in Dutch. Lincoln's Sparrow: single birds reported May 10, 11 in Dutch. Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

## REGION NO. 10 — MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO AND BARBARA J. SPENCER

The spring migration period could, at best, be described as fair to poor with the poorest results coming from south shore coastal areas and slightly better birding reported from inland locations. Perhaps this can be explained by the lack of deciduous cover on the coastal regions due to cool onshore winds. The prevailing air mass flow for much of the period was from northerly directions. Generally, coastal banding stations had disappointing results with

low numbers of wood warblers. "Southern" warblers were generally in poor numbers this spring. Prothonotary, Cerulean and Kentucky were reported fewer times than usual, Yellow-throated Warbler was non-existent and numbers of Worm-eating and Hooded seemed diminished. "Northern" warblers such as Tennessee, Cape May and Bay-breasted again appeared in good numbers.

The Osprey continues to make progress in recovering past reported numbers and good numbers of oystercatchers were reported from the South Shore. Large numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported throughout the region for the second consecutive year. The highlight of the season was the first nesting record of Chuck-will's-widow.

Abbreviations used: BLSP—Belmont Lake State Park; CRSP—Connetquot River State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; GSBAS—Great South Bay Audubon Society.

Contributors frequently cited: JA—Jim Ash; PAB—Paul A. Buckley; TWB—Thomas W. Burke; RC—Ralph Cioffi; JC—Joe Costa; THD—Thomas H. Davis; SD—Stephen B. Dempsey; AD—Adrian Dignan; DE—David Edwards; JF—John Farrand; DB—Darrel Ford; MG—Michael Gallagher; RG—Robert Giffen; HH—Helen Hirschbein; MK—Michael Kleinbaum; BL—Brook Lauro; AL—Anthony Lauro; CMcK—Chris McKeever; RP—Roger Pasquier; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 600+ were estimated from dawn-1130 May 26—Mecox Bay (JA) highest regional count.

Sooty Shearwater: Arrived May 22 (4) at Fire Island (R. Kelly). During a NE storm on May 25 probably 1,000+ passed E.L.I.—(JA and JC) counted 520 from 0830-1030 & 1300-1430 at Montauk Pt. & Mecox. Ken Berlin counted 325 from 1330-1430 & 1730-1800 at Shinnecock Inlet. On May 26 at Mecox, JA counted an additional 502 birds from dawn-1130. Interestingly, (AL) noted only a handful of Sooties each of these days at Democrat Point, Fire I. Manx Shearwater: May 25 Montauk Pt. (JA, JC) May 25 Mecox (JA, JC). This bird becoming regular in spring. N. Gannet: May 17, 25 immatures Democrat Point, F.I. (AL). Least Bittern: May 26 Crab Meadow, Robert St. Cyr also June 15 (BS) Breeder? Common Eider: (3) May 25, Montauk Point (JA, JC). Some interesting counts of waterfowl include: 41 Lesser Scaup on March 29, Cold Spring Harbor, John Taylor: 200 Ruddy Duck Kellis Pond Watermill (CMcK): 30 Common Merganser March 15 Hempstead Lake (SD).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture April 10 Hoyt Farm, Smithtown (RG) in AM; same date PM CRSP G. Bergin. Same individual? Sharp-shinned Hawk: (2) May 7 Muttontown Preserve (Staff). Broad-winged Hawk: April 1, Hoyt Farm, Smithtown (RG). Rough-legged Hawk: March 23 CRSP G. Bergin; April 11 Tobay Sanctuary Ann Townsend. Osprey: Good numbers (20+) were seen throughout Long Island and Dennis Puleston reported 31 active nests with 19 young on Gardiners Island as of June 23. Peregrine Falcon: Only one report—May 1 JBWR (B. Stout). Merlin: (1) March 16 Tobay (SD); (1) April 9 BLSP GSBAS.

Ruffed Grouse: Sporadic resident March 28 Wainscot (CMcK). King Rail: The individual which wintered at Tobay was still present on May 17. PURPLE GALLINULE: 2 Reports: Adult captured alive April 4 at Wading River, later died, specimen preserved by Carl Helms, Quogue Refuge Mgr. (Fide Aline Dove); May 14 to May 18 Brookhaven (DP) (Gil Raynor). Black Rail: Several pairs again present at Oak Beach Marsh May 25 (AL *et al.*). Am. Oystercatcher: Continues impressive expansion into western Great South Bay and South Oyster Bay and Jamaica Bay, 10 to 12 pair May 25 (AL). SANDHILL CRANE: Adult May 1-5 Montauk (Elbert Edwards *et al.*). Golden Plover: sub adult May 17, Rye (Bill Howe *et al.*). Stilt Sandpiper: May 18-19 JBWR (MOB). Long-billed Dowitcher: May 19 JBWR (PAB). BLACK-NECKED STILT: May 20 Jones Beach S.P. (A. M. Wilkens). Wilson's Phalarope: female May 24 Oak Beach Marsh (THD, AJL, *et al.*). Iceland Gull: 2nd year bird May 11 Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford (AL). Little Gull: sub adult May 17, Rye (Bill Howe *et al.*). GULL-BILLED TERN: 2 pairs May 16 onward at JBWR (MOB), pair May 18 and later at Cedar Beach (PAB, M. Gochfeld). A pair was seen copulating May 26 at JBWR but there

is no evidence of breeding as of this writing. Forster's Tern: May 24 Mecox (JA) very rare spring migrant on L.I. Caspian Tern: May 17 JBWR (J & M Yrizarry). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (2) May 28 Muttontown Preserve (Bill Patterson) (SD). Black-billed Cuckoo: (3) May 12 Muttontown Preserve (Bill Patterson) (SD). Barn Owl: Nesting pair with (5) eggs April 8 Hoyt Farm Smithtown (RG). Great Horned Owl: The following is a nesting survey compiled by Otto Heck for 1975:

Location	Adults	Young	Dates
Cold Spring Harbor	1	0	3/13/75
Cove Neck	2	3	2/27; 3/25
Lattingtown No. 1	2	4	2/7; 3/25
Lattingtown No. 2	2	1 (& 1 dead)	3/28; 3/25
Glen Cove	2	2	3/14; 3/25
Upper Brookville	2	2	2/27; 3/25
Upper Brookville	1	0	----
South Oyster Bay	2	0	3/14
Brookville-Wheatley	2	0	mid-Feb. (Donaldson)
Muttontown	2	0	2/7
Sands Point	2	0	2/20
Brookville	2	1	3/26

Long-eared Owl: March 19-24 Muttontown Preserve (MOB).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: Arrived May 3 at Oak Beach, nest with 2 eggs discovered May 24 (THD, JF, AL, BL, SD)—1st proven nesting record for NYS. See pg. no. 132 this issue. Arrived May 10 at Richmond Valley, S.I., still present in early June, having shifted position 1/3 mile (H. Fischer *et al.*); female May 8 Forest Park (Donald Riepe, THD *et al.*)—Photograph, copy to AMNH. May 14 Central Park (Lana Mills *et al.*). Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted): 400 to 500 were observed at Fire Island April 19 with over 100 banded (DF). Acadian Flycatcher: May 25 Sea Cliff (BS); May 25 JBWR (SD). Eastern Bluebird: (5) April 3 Muttontown Preserve (MOB); (3) April 21 CRSP (MOB). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: unusually abundant throughout region with 20 sightings to April 30 Northern Nassau (B. Connolly) and (8) on 4/29 Big Reed Pond (BS).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 11 Garvies Point (RC) May 16 Mill Neck (BS). Philadelphia Vireo: 12 mid-May reports exceed by far the usual season total. Prothonotary Warbler: Male April 20 Fire Island (DBF), male April 20-28 Shu Swamp, Mill Neck (BS *et al.*); singing male May 10 Poundridge Res. (AD); May 22 Forest Park (J & JP Latil). SWAINSON'S WARBLER: May 10 Forest Park (THD, John Carabella, Elaine Cook, MK, Michael Gochfeld, Tom Robben, SD, Dave Ewert) 5th State record, field note submitted to *KINGBIRD*. Lawrence's Warbler: May 9 Far Rockaway (HH); May 10 Greenwich Audubon Ctr. Conn. (FIDE TWB). Orange-crowned Warbler: Apr. 27 Central Park (MG, DE). Kentucky Warbler: Male May 9 Forest Park (JA *et al.*); Female May 11 Central Park (MOB); May 10 Bronx Botanical Gardens (MOB); Female May 18 Rye (TWB). Yellow-breasted Chat: Only one report—May 12 Central Park (JF *et al.*). Where have all the chats gone?

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Summer Tanager: sub-adult male May 9-10 Central Park (RP *et al.*); adult male May 11 Fire Island Light (DBF); May 12 Muttontown Preserve (Staff). Blue Grosbeak: sub-adult male May 14-17 Central Park (M & N Larsen, JF *et al.*); May 14 two adult males, Garvies Point Preserve (Anne Townsend, Florence McDonough). Evening Grosbeak: Apr. 19 (12) Nissequoque (RG); April 20 (6) Islip (Bill Macy); May 16 Tobay (AL *et al.*).

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## FROM THE EDITORS

Starting in 1976, *The Kingbird* will no longer carry a monthly designation, but instead carry the heading of Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. It therefore becomes necessary to define what those seasons cover, and assign deadlines for reports to the regional editors.

Since there is so much seasonal overlap, it is difficult to have winter, spring migration, breeding, and fall migration periods. Instead there will be a three month period assigned to each season as follows:

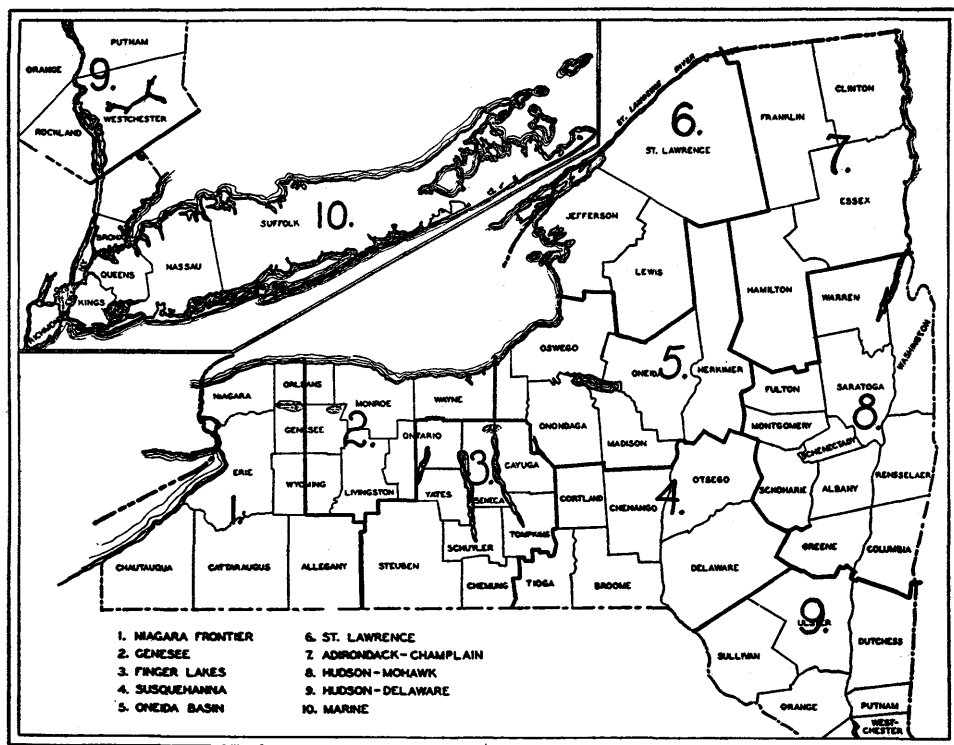
Winter Season: December, January, February  
Spring Season: March, April, May  
Summer Season: June, July, August  
Fall Season: September, October, November

The deadlines for each of these seasons will be:

Winter Season: March 7th  
Spring Season: June 7th  
Summer Season: September 7th  
Fall Season: December 7th

These dates are the target dates for the observers' reports to the regional editor. The regional reports are the backbone of this publication and we urge the participation of all members. The name and address of each regional editor is listed in the text of that region. Your participation will make this a better publication.

## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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