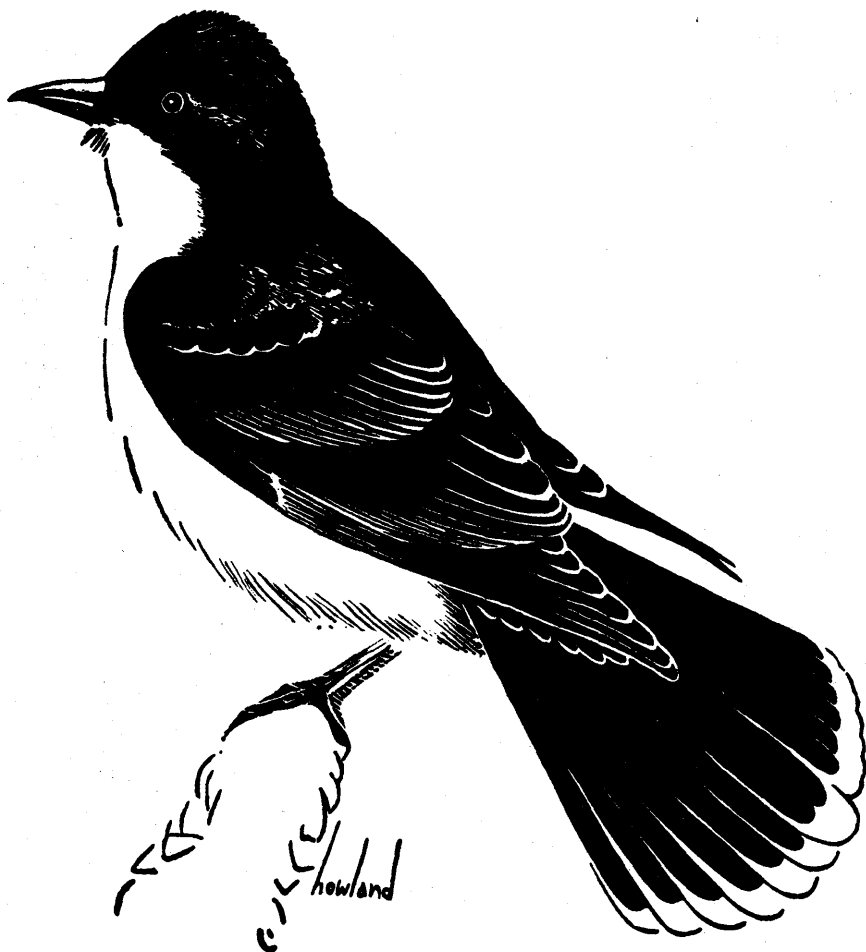


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*Herring Gulls feeding in the Niagara River gorge.
Nov. 26, 1974*

GULLS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT F. ANDRLE

All Photographs by the Author

Bordered by two of the Great Lakes and crossed by a major river, the Niagara Frontier Region, which includes the western portion of New York State and part of the Niagara peninsula of Ontario, is an outstanding area for gulls. It is one of the very best areas in North America, and probably in the world, for viewing large numbers and a great variety of these fascinating birds. Sixteen species plus one subspecies have been recorded here so far, and keen observers have tallied 13 species in one day on the Niagara River. At times in fall, there have been over 100,000 gulls present in the region, most of them on the Niagara.

Species identified in the region are: Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull (2 ssp.), Great Black-backed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mew Gull, Black-headed Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake and Sabine's Gull. In addition, individuals have appeared here which are probably hybrids, and others have shown plumage variations that are probably due to aberrancy or some other factor.

The Niagara River is largely ice-free in winter and provides a year-round source of food for gulls, as well as a migratory route in season. Gulls are also attracted in numbers to the shores and offshore areas of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Less often, and in considerably lower numbers and variety, they range inland in western New York, sometimes following streams or frequenting lakes, plowed fields, refuse dumps and other open land. The abundance of small fish, such as shiners (*Notropis*), alewives (*Pomolobus*), gizzard shad (*Dorosoma*) and smelt (*Osmerus*), in the Niagara and the Great Lakes attracts these multitudes of gulls, especially in autumn and early winter. The late summer and early fall swarms of caddisflies on the Niagara also are an important source of food for the medium-sized and small-sized gulls.

Distribution and Abundance

Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) give brief historical accounts of the distribution and abundance of gull species that were recorded to that time in the region. In a supplement to this book, Mitchell and An-

drle (1970) reported on the occurrence of Thayer's and Mew Gulls here. Bull (1974, 1976) gives some additional and more recent information. Reference is made to some pertinent data from these publications in the species accounts that follow.

Although some records of gulls and information on their status in the Niagara Frontier Region are available from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it was not until the 1930's, and the creation of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, that increased field study commenced and more data began to accumulate. The distribution and abundance of these birds in the region vary considerably, not only seasonally and by location, but from year to year, influenced by factors such as fish abundance and distribution, weather conditions, water levels, icing of water bodies, and human-induced changes involving breeding sites, power generating stations, refuse disposal and ice boom. There is much more to be learned about gull numbers and distribution in the region. This is often difficult to accomplish because observers of gulls are relatively few, and afield only on weekends, because few studies or counts are made, and because gulls are exceedingly peripatetic here.

Both natural and human-induced fluctuations in forage fish numbers and distribution have undoubtedly affected gull occurrences. For example, in some years the numbers of shiners in sections of the Upper Niagara River are so great that they attract thousands of gulls, particularly Bonaparte's and Ring-billed. In other years these small fish are much less abundant, and gull numbers reflect this. A warmer water outflow from the generating station in Dunkirk Harbor has kept part of the area open all winter in recent years, and has probably increased the numbers of fish and other organisms, this serving to attract more gulls. Storms or high winds sometimes drive gulls from Lake Erie and Lake Ontario into the Niagara River, or from the lakes and river inland over western New York. The creation of two large power reservoirs (Fig. 1) on either side of the river above the Niagara Escarpment has helped to attract large numbers of gulls to feed and rest, particularly in fall and early winter. Additional generating stations built on the Lower Niagara have provided more outflows which bring fish to the surface after passing through them. This too has attracted thousands of gulls; sometimes the concentrations are referred to as a veritable "blizzard" of birds.

Prior to the early 1950's as many as 3,500 gulls were estimated in one day frequenting various refuse dumps along the Buffalo water-

front. The elimination of these dumps since then has caused a general decline in the numbers of gulls frequenting this section in winter. The methods used to cover refuse in current "sanitary landfills" do not leave food exposed for very long. In recent years the ice retention boom maintained in winter and spring at Lake Erie's entrance into the Niagara River has served to attract gulls to feed and rest in the relatively shallow waters kept open below the structure. Lake Erie and Buffalo Harbor are usually ice-covered during the winter. However, the Niagara River remains largely open except for shore ice, sometimes ice-covered areas at the south and north ends of Grand Island, and the "ice bridge" extending for a few kilometers below the Falls in the gorge. Frequently in late winter and in spring considerable amounts of ice move downriver from Lake Erie. Lake Ontario remains essentially open in winter except for varying widths of shore ice. All these ice conditions either effectively eliminate, restrict or otherwise influence gulls and their movements in these parts of the region.



*Immature Glaucous Gulls in the gorge below Niagara Falls.
Jan. 4, 1975*

As noted in the species accounts, some gull species have actually increased here during the last few decades. However, there are more observers now than formerly, and some of them have become more proficient at gull identification, or at least more aware of and interested in studying gulls. Thus the increase in sightings of some species is probably due both to more birders spending more time in the field plus a real increase in abundance and frequency of occurrence.

Species and Subspecies

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). This gull has shown an increase in abundance here since early in the century, when it was considered rare. It usually occurs in small numbers every fall and winter on the Niagara River and the Great Lakes. Niagara Falls is often the best place to see them. Occasionally individuals wander inland. Before 1974 the maximum number recorded in a day in the region was 12. On 28 December 1974, 30 were counted on the river (29 at Niagara Falls) and 43 (41 at Niagara Falls) on 10 January 1975, unprecedented totals that may not be repeated. A total of 22 was counted on the Niagara on a day in December 1975.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). During the past few decades this species has apparently occurred in slightly greater numbers in the region. It is recorded each fall and winter and is usually less numerous than the Glaucous Gull. The Iceland frequents the Niagara River and the Great Lakes but is more often found on the former. Both this and the preceding species have been sighted into late spring. Both *L. g. glaucooides* and *L. g. kumlieni* have been recorded here, the latter possibly occurring more frequently. Adults of *L. g. kumlieni* are seen more often than adults of the nominate race. Most individuals sighted are in first-winter plumage, and second-winter birds are rather rare. The maximum number noted in a day in the region was 12 on the Niagara River.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). This species has increased in the region during recent decades. It is most numerous in late fall and winter. The maximum in one locality of 215, seen at Dunkirk on 3 March 1968, is closely followed by the 210 at Niagara Falls (217 on the Niagara River) on 20 December 1974. The open harbor at Dunkirk has frequently attracted fairly large numbers, but it usually occurs most abundantly on the Niagara River, and especially in the vicinity of the Falls. Although a few individuals summer here, no evidence of breeding has been discovered.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). There had been no acceptable records of this species in the region since 1949, when an adult (*L. f. graellsii*) was collected in Buffalo in 1949, until an adult was seen in December 1972 in Ontario on a garbage dump several miles west of Niagara Falls. In November and December 1976 and January 1977 two adults and two immatures were satisfactorily identified at Niagara Falls by many observers. Another immature, but possibly one of the previous birds, was seen on 10 December 1976, flying over the Black Rock Canal near the foot of Porter Avenue in Buffalo.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). This abundant visitant and local resident is a major component of the fall and winter gull flocks on the Niagara River and the Great Lakes. Its numbers may be exceeded during this period only by those of the Bonaparte's Gull, and by the Ring-billed Gull from spring to fall. A few Herring Gulls wander inland at various seasons. On 17 December 1969, there were an estimated 31,000 Herring Gulls at Niagara Falls. This is the highest one-day total for a single locality in the region. The regional total at this time probably far exceeded that number, but no one-day estimates are available for the whole region for this or any other species of gull. Herring Gulls particularly favor the power plant outflows in the Niagara River gorge, and the high percentage of immature birds at such locations in fall and winter perhaps reflects the easier availability of fish there. Herring Gulls breed at three places in western New York. About 25 pairs nest with Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns on a gravel spit at the north breakwater in Buffalo Harbor, two or three pairs with Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns on the power control dike in the Niagara River off the north end of Grand Island, and about 50 pairs on the cliff and talus slope of Goat Island at Niagara Falls (Andrle, 1976).

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). This fall and winter visitant has occurred in the region since at least as early as 1945 when a specimen was taken in Buffalo and was later identified as this form. The species was probably sighted in the 1950's but not identified with certainty except for one collected specimen. In the 1960's and 1970's more have been noted and specimens have been secured. They have probably increased in actual numbers here in recent years, even though more observers have been looking for and have learned how to identify them. Thayer's Gull has been seen on dumps in Buffalo Harbor and on Squaw Island in the Niagara River, but it is most often observed, occasionally several in a day, in the Niagara River gorge off

the power plants upstream from Lewiston and sometimes at Niagara Falls. Andrlé (1969) discussed its occurrence and the collection of several specimens here.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). The Ring-billed Gull has increased considerably in recent years and more have wintered than formerly. The maximum estimate of about 35,000 was made in November 1958 along the Niagara River from the Falls to some distance below Lewiston. On 26 December 1976, there were an estimated 20,000 in Dunkirk Harbor. Individuals and flocks range inland, especially in late winter and spring. There are three breeding colonies on natural and man-made islands or weirs in the Niagara River and one in Buffalo Harbor. The largest colony, containing about 3,200 pairs, is on the power control dike at the north end of Grand Island.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). Two of these gulls, an adult and an immature, were secured in October and November 1967, in the Ontario portion of the region on the Welland Canal about 15 km west of the Niagara River (Andrlé and Axtell, 1969; Mitchell and Andrlé, 1970). These are the western subspecies, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, and, though not recorded definitely within western New York, the species is included here because it is conceivable that Mew Gulls could occur on the Niagara River or the Great Lakes among the many thousands of Ring-billed Gulls that frequent these water bodies. There were two unsubstantiated sight reports of this species on the Lower Niagara in the winters of 1968 and 1969.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Since 1949, when it was first seen in the region, this species has occurred sporadically, but more frequently, on the Niagara River, usually in fall and winter and occasionally in spring. Almost all have been adult birds. They almost invariably associate with Bonaparte's Gulls, and have been sighted at half a dozen or so locations on the river, especially where Bonaparte's Gulls congregate in large numbers, such as at Niagara Falls, Lewiston and the river's mouth at Lake Ontario. Usually single birds have been found and in some years the species is not seen. In January 1971 two were found in Dunkirk Harbor.

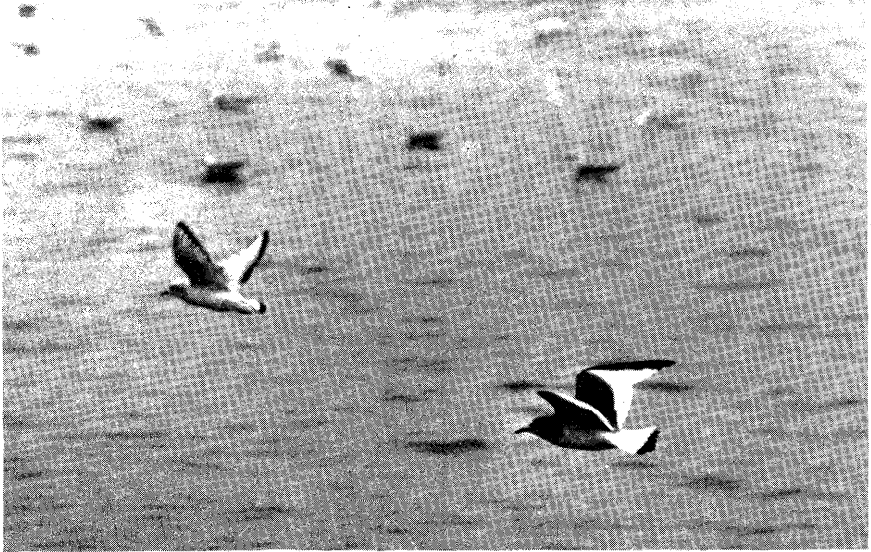
Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). This gull is very rare in the region and may occur in spring, late summer or fall on the Niagara River or the Great Lakes. Once it was reported inland. Both adult and immature plumaged individuals have been seen. There is no particular location

where it is more likely to be found.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). First reported in the region in 1937, this gull has become more numerous in recent years. It occurs mostly in late summer and fall on the Niagara River and has also been seen sporadically on the Great Lakes. Most are in immature plumage or in various transitional stages, but a few adults have been noted. From one to seven birds have been observed in a day with the maximum sighted being 11 on 1 November 1967, on the Niagara River. Niagara Falls and on the Niagara about the Peace Bridge at Buffalo are good places to find them in late summer and fall.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). This species has increased as a migrant and visitant in the region and many thousands occur in late summer and fall, with lesser numbers in spring. Beardslee (1944) analyzed its status here, and Burger and Brownstein (1968) have updated its occurrence regionally in the state. In November 1959 and 1967 there were great influxes of these gulls, as many as 100,000 being estimated in 1959 on the Niagara River and one of the reservoirs. In November 1973 they were again extremely abundant on the Niagara, an estimate of at least 75,000 being made. However, they usually are considerably less numerous, estimates in fall in other years ranging from about ten to thirty thousand or so. Favored locations are the Upper Niagara River at Buffalo, Niagara Falls and the gorge downstream, and the river mouth. They also occur in numbers at Dunkirk Harbor and on the Great Lakes, particularly in passage along the shores. Franklin's, Black-headed, Little, and Sabine's Gulls sometimes accompany them, as well as Black-legged Kittiwake. Occasionally they appear in small numbers inland.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). First recorded here in 1938, and in almost every year since then, Little Gulls have been increasing in numbers. Almost all are in adult plumage, although occasionally subadults and more rarely juvenals are found. They are almost always with Bonaparte's Gulls. On 4 November 1973, the highest count, 29, was made between Buffalo and Lewiston on the Niagara River, 21 of these being in a flock off Queenston, Ontario. The highest count elsewhere in one location was 12 at Times Beach in Buffalo Harbor on 17 August 1975. However, normally only one or two individuals are sighted in one location. The fact that this species has been found breeding to the north in Canada may account at least partially for its increase in the Niagara Frontier Region.



*Immature Sabine's Gull flying with a Bonaparte's Gull over the
Niagara River off Fort Erie, Ontario. Nov. 23, 1967*



*Immature Black-legged Kittiwake on the Niagara River
off Fort Erie, Ontario. Nov. 23, 1967*

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). Recorded only three times here, this very rare species was seen at Niagara Falls in December 1924, February 1934 and December 1973. The first was an adult, the other two birds were immatures.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The species has occurred here sporadically, usually in fall and winter on the Great Lakes and the Niagara River. At least twice it has been found inland, the most recent record a bird found dead there. Very few have been in adult plumage. Birds are usually seen singly, but on occasion two birds have been seen at once, and five were reported near the Falls in November 1969. The Falls are a good place to find them, but they may occur at various places on the Niagara, especially with large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). This rare visitant was reported in 1937 on the Niagara River, but was not recorded again until the 1950's. The species has occurred casually since, mainly in the fall. A few have also been discovered on the Great Lakes, particularly on Lake Ontario where they are possibly more frequent offshore, individuals occasionally coming from there up the Niagara River. Burger (1968) discussed its status in New York and summarized Niagara Frontier Region records. Mostly single birds in immature plumage are seen, but at times two birds have been sighted at once and in October 1964 there may have been 3 or 4 present at Niagara Falls, where the gorge below the cataract is one of the better places to see the species.

Movements

As stated previously, the propensity of gulls to wander and shift locations frequently makes it difficult to calculate their numbers, and this likewise makes it hard to ascertain their local movements here. That the region's Great Lakes and the Niagara River are routes for gull migration is evident, but not enough data have been acquired about this passage to draw definite conclusions. So far as I know, no one has yet tried to analyze gull migration through the region with the intent of obtaining clear geographical and seasonal patterns.

These local wanderings are very evident on the Niagara River, especially from late summer to spring, when migrants linger or overwinter and move to and from various roosting places or to where food is more abundant and readily available. The great late afternoon and evening exodus of gulls in fall downstream on the Lower Niagara River to Lake Ontario, and the opposite movement at the same time

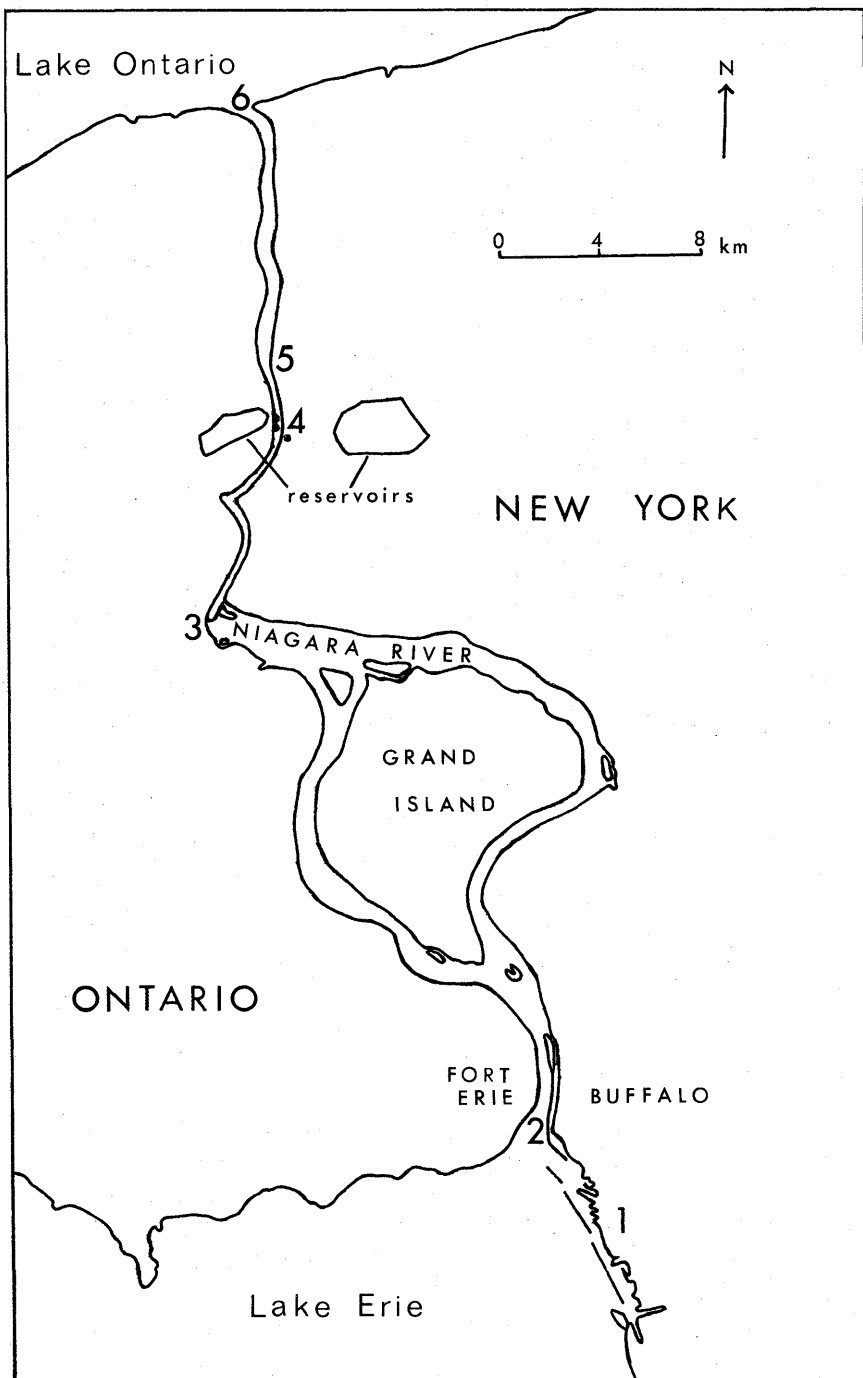
from the Upper Niagara to Lake Erie, are phenomena well known to gull watchers. Also, their movement from feeding areas in the gorge off the generating stations to the two large reservoirs on either side of the river are familiar. The birds shift to feed in various sections of Buffalo Harbor and nightly fly to roost on outer breakwaters or sometimes on the ice of the inner harbor or canal. In the Fall of 1976, large numbers were feeding in the harbor area and off Bird Island Pier at the entrance to the Niagara, several thousand roosting on the ice in the Black Rock Canal off LaSalle Park. An estimate of 5,000 birds was made at this time in the harbor area.

Actual migration on the Niagara River is not as easy to detect as it is on the Great Lakes because of the large concentrations, the birds' frequent movements between feeding areas, and the daily flights to roost. On the Great Lakes, migration takes place both in spring and fall. For example, on 11 April 1976, at Sturgeon Point on the south shore of Lake Erie, over 1,200 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen flying southwestward in about one hour on strong northwest winds. Many more passed during the day. Yet, in other years at this season, there is a movement in the opposite direction. On 10 October 1976, with the wind 30-40 kph west-southwest, there was a major flight of Ring-billed Gulls northeastward along this shore. Such migrations, as with raptors, may also be against the wind. For example, at Olcott on the south shore of Lake Ontario on 23 October 1976, between 0830 and 1030 with the wind west at 15-35 kph, Bonaparte's Gulls were passing westward in large numbers, over 2,000 birds being recorded. Similar gull migrations have been noted on the Great Lakes here in past years, some of them involving passage of birds on a broad front extending considerable distances offshore.

Even though at present there are insufficient data to provide a comprehensive picture of gull migration here, it appears that the situation is a complex one and it is conceivable that there is some irregularity to these movements. Factors which may contribute to this are that the region possesses both open and ice-covered water areas whose expanses vary to some extent each year, that it is a favored wintering location for gulls, that it has extremely variable weather, and that it is situated so as to intercept gulls from vast areas to the north as well as from the Atlantic coast and the other Great Lakes.

Concentration Areas and Observation Points

Gulls can be seen in varying numbers at different seasons from many locations in the region along the Great Lakes shores and the



Niagara River as well as inland on lakes and open land. The numbers in Figure 1 denote the following areas where gulls tend to concentrate in greater numbers and can be viewed from convenient lookouts.

1. Buffalo Harbor—this large harbor protected by several breakwaters is a favored place for gulls, although it becomes almost or completely frozen in winter. Views can be had from various points along Fuhrmann Boulevard on the harbor side of the expressway from the Coast Guard station south to the Union Ship Canal. Though gull numbers here have generally been smaller since the decline of the refuse dump, hundreds and sometimes thousands of birds can at times be seen feeding in the harbor or roosting on the breakwaters, dikes, the silt flat at Times Beach, or on the ice in fall and early or late winter.
2. Source of the Niagara River, Bird Island Pier and the Black Rock Canal—On the United States side these areas are best viewed from LaSalle Park, from north of the Great Lakes Laboratory near the foot of Porter Avenue, and from Bird and Squaw Islands (now joined) at the foot of West Ferry Street. Good views can also be obtained from the parks and parkway at Fort Erie on the Canadian side of the river from Erie Beach downstream to the International Railway Bridge. The comparatively shallow, swift-flowing waters here above the Peace Bridge, particularly about the Bird Island reef, and the deeper waters of the canal and the Niagara for a few kilometers downstream from the bridge, often attract large flocks of gulls in fall and winter with a good variety of species possible. Some roost on the pier extending upstream from Bird Island, which separates the canal from the river and Lake Erie.
3. Niagara Falls—The combination of shallow water, rapids and rocky areas upstream from the Falls and the deeper water and upwellings from the Canadian Horseshoe Falls and the power station in the gorge makes this a great concentration area for gulls and a mecca for some of the rarer species. On the United States side good views can be obtained from various places on Goat Island (especially Three Sisters Islands) reached by vehicle from the mainland, and from Prospect Park, upstream from the Rainbow Bridge. However, better and more comprehensive observation points can be utilized from the Canadian side, where, in order from upstream of the Falls downriver, they are: above the Falls—the large parking lot just upstream from the weir that extends perpendicularly into the river from the shore; the drive-off parallel parking opposite

Dufferin Islands (short walk to the river edge); the small parking lot just downstream from the old stranded barge; the upstream end of the large parking lot at the Horseshoe Falls (short walk upstream to low wall overlooking rocky area, jetty, island and rapids above the Falls); gorge below the Falls—opposite restaurant in Queen Victoria Park above power station; several overlooks at low wall in park (short walk to edge of gorge) downstream to Rainbow Bridge. The rocky islands and ledges in the rapids upstream from the Horseshoe Falls are particularly good locations to study thousands of gulls roosting and feeding in fall and early winter.

4. Niagara River Power Generating Stations—The best view into the gorge here is from a small parking lot (few steps to the edge) on the Canadian side just upstream from the newer Sir Adam Beck station and opposite the U. S. Robert Moses Power Plant. Several thousand of the larger gulls, and occasionally some of the smaller species, congregate here in late fall and early winter and can be studied from above as they fly about or perch on the station roof.
5. Niagara River at Lewiston—This section of the river where it emerges from the gorge downstream from the Niagara Escarpment is broad, deep and comparatively slow flowing. It can be viewed either from the top of the river bank at Lewiston or better from the Ontario shore below the village of Queenston where a flat area and gravel road border the river. Good concentrations of the large and smaller gulls occur here, especially in fall and winter, with rarer species frequent.
6. Mouth of the Niagara River—Gulls often congregate in the rougher water where the Niagara flows into Lake Ontario and also upstream for varying distances in the river. Views can be had from the Coast Guard station at Fort Niagara on the United States side, and from the Ontario shore, in Niagara-on-the-Lake at several places by shore road and in short walks from the marina downstream to the river mouth.

As mentioned previously, the generating station outflow in Dunkirk Harbor keeps it ice-free to varying extents in winter. Best viewing places here are the marina dock area on the south, the large central fishing pier (drivable), and the drive along the harbor edge in the northern portion. At least eight species of gulls have been recorded there with sometimes thousands of birds being present in fall, winter and spring.

Generally there are no major gull concentration areas on the south

shore of Lake Erie except at Dunkirk and Buffalo, and also none on the shore of Lake Ontario within the region. At times in fall there may be lesser concentrations in places other than those mentioned on the Niagara in the sections of river between Lewiston and Fort Niagara and in the wide stretch between the southern end of Grand Island and Strawberry Island in the Upper Niagara. Sometimes Bonaparte's Gulls are so numerous that they feed along lengthy stretches of the Niagara, such as in the gorge from the Falls downstream to Lewiston or well downstream from the International Railway Bridge at Fort Erie.

Especially since the late 1940's, gulls have become the object of increasing interest and study by local observers here. The exceptional attractiveness of the region for these birds, both ecologically and geographically, has not only stimulated local birders to study them but also has drawn others from considerable distances in the United States and Canada to see them. Chief among these stimulants are the increase in numbers of several species, the relative frequency with which rarities from Arctic, subarctic and ocean areas occur among the more common forms, and the ease with which they can often be observed.

Thus, coincident with the initiation in the early 1950's and subsequent use of the Buffalo Ornithological Society's verification system for sight records, a file of detailed verification reports and some photographs has accumulated documenting many occurrences of the more unusual species and extreme dates of observation. Also, specimens to substantiate these sightings have been selectively taken over the years. All these probably have given the Niagara Frontier Region better documentation for unusual gull records than any other region. However, though such evidence is available, and some yearly data on numbers are also at hand, much more information could be gathered, not only consisting of reliable counts and estimates, but also of data on such subjects as migration, local movements in relation to food and weather, feeding habits and possible causes of large concentrations.

Given the variability of gull plumages and the large numbers of birds gathering in the region, many coming from great distances and from a variety of geographic areas, it is to be expected that some birds would present problems in identification. In addition to individuals exhibiting leucistic or melanistic plumages or unusual variation in coloration with age, some adult-plumaged gulls have evoked much

speculation among observers and even at least tentative opinions that they were Western or Slaty-backed Gulls. Though these two species might be a remote possibility here, we have collected two of these types and concluded from measurements, coloration, and process of elimination that they, and probably others similar to them, are very likely Great Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrids (Andrle, 1972, 1973). Another specimen secured recently on the Niagara may be a hybrid of Glaucous and Herring Gull.

We have often thought that, if more observation and considerable banding or color marking were possible in eastern Canadian Arctic and subarctic gull colonies, more about their identification, plumages and distribution might be learned by collecting, photographing or observing such individuals that reach the Niagara Frontier Region and other northeastern United States and southern Canada locations. There is no question that gulls, as intriguing subjects for observation, study and the simple appreciation of their beauty, arouse the curiosity and interest of many field birders, especially in places like the Niagara Frontier Region where their great numbers and variety provide a constant stimulus to identify and learn more about them.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert F. Andrie has had a special interest in gulls for many years, and has studied them both in the Niagara Frontier Region and in various other places in the world. He earned his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University and is presently Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Buffalo Museum of Science. He has also been interested for a long time in tropical ornithology and has published on the results of his research in Latin America and the West Indies. He is a Fellow and past president of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and is currently one of its Statisticians. An elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union, Dr. Andrie is also a member of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Cooper Ornithological Society, in whose journals some of his scientific papers have appeared.

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1976

The 1976 Federation Waterfowl Count was held from January 10 to January 18, 1976, inclusive. All ten regions were covered. The weather before and during the first weekend of the count period was very cold. As a result, many lakes and most smaller bodies of water were completely frozen over. However, the weather moderated slightly after the first weekend. Depending on the day or days covered, remarks from cooperators ranged from "lowest count we have had in the twenty-two years that the Waterfowl Count has been conducted," to "with a little perseverance, everyone helped make this the best count on record." The total count was 200,512 individuals, or a reduction of 11.2% from 1975.

The aerial count by the Department of Environmental Conservation conducted between January 5-19, 1976, yielded a total of 158,278 birds, a reduction of 13.4% from 1975. Even though the aerial count is considerably below the Federation figure, the percentage decline in both counts is remarkably similar. In both counts the low scaup total is the most important single species accounting for this decline from the 1975 results.

A direct comparison of the most abundant species, by ground count and aerial survey, is given below.

	Upstate		Long Island	
	Aerial	Ground	Aerial	Ground
Canada Goose	4,113	7,958	7,328	7,693
Brant	0	1	17,040	9,267
Mallard	2,016	12,573	4,324	8,888
Black Duck	4,111	3,730	16,636	11,535
Am. Wigeon	0	153	355	3,054
Redhead	7,270	12,759	0	140
Canvasback	8,640	11,991	5,190	8,163
Scaups (both)	8,193	9,866	28,910	40,576
Common Goldeneye	6,513	9,802	2,505	1,546
Bufflehead	0	783	2,246	2,643
Oldsquaw	1,551	1,935	1,670	815
Scoters (all three)	45	139	2,845	12,781
Mergansers (all three)	16,139	11,809	7,758	1,958
Am. Coot	2,270	1,906	385	1,655
Totals	60,861	85,405	97,192	110,037

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1976
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Common Loon	1		6		1
Red-throated Loon					
Loon (sp?)					
Red-necked Grebe					
Horned Grebe	6		100		17
Pied-billed Grebe	4	9	22	1	5
Great Cormorant					
Double-crested Cormorant					
Mute Swan					
Whistling Swan					
Canada Goose	17	28	7,640	8	36
Brant		1			
Snow Goose					
“Blue Goose”					
Mallard	1,623	1,208	6,998	221	1,422
Black Duck	444	264	1,349	144	206
Mallard x Black Duck			6		25
Gadwall	97		125		58
Pintail	6		9		2
Green-winged Teal			1		1
Blue-winged Teal					
European Wigeon					
American Wigeon	81	1	69		
No. Shoveler					
Wood Duck	2	1	1	1	2
Redhead	236	164	12,272		83
Ring-necked Duck	2	1	25		17
Canvasback	3,822	42	4,409		882
Scaup (both species)	1,914	1,748	2,217		3,004
Common Goldeneye	5,532	2,683	557	23	525
Bufflehead	325	152	225		38
Oldsquaw	1,345	40	78		101
Harlequin Duck		1			
Common Eider					
King Eider					1
Eider (sp?)					
White-winged Scoter	26	94	1		2
Surf Scoter					
Black Scoter	2				11
Scoter (sp?)					
Ruddy Duck		17			1
Hooded Merganser	6	3	24		3
Common Merganser	6,549	185	97	9	182
Red-breasted Merganser	45	5	27		6
Duck (sp?)		5			
Am. Coot	27	60	1,634		20
TOTALS	22,112	6,712	37,892	407	6,651

GROUND SURVEY – JANUARY 1976
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
				83	91
				80	80
				4	4
				1	1
				300	423
			5	59	105
				60	60
				35	35
			17	650	667
				13	13
			229	7,693	15,651
				9,267	9,268
				12	12
				1	1
38	15	208	840	8,888	21,461
305	45	150	823	11,535	15,265
				4	35
				398	678
				266	283
		1	2	247	252
				5	5
				2	2
			2	3,054	3,207
				323	323
			1	17	25
2			2	140	12,899
			121	218	384
700	1,800		336	8,163	20,154
700	265		18	40,576	50,442
376	90	2	14	1,546	11,348
2	14		27	2,643	3,426
350	20		1	815	2,750
					1
				37	37
				4	5
				1	1
				9,283	9,406
				2,367	2,367
3				454	470
				677	677
			1	801	820
			11	52	99
4,443	22		192	40	11,719
				1,866	1,949
			45		50
1	1		163	1,655	3,561
6,920	2,272	361	2,850	114,335	200,512

SUMMER, 1977

AERIAL SURVEY – JANUARY 1976
STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

	Upstate	Long Island	Totals
Mute Swan	18	701	719
Whistling Swan	7	0	7
Canada Goose	4,113	7,328	11,441
Brant	0	17,040	17,040
Mallard	2,016	4,324	6,340
Black Duck	4,111	16,636	20,747
Pintail	0	2	2
No. Shoveler	0	11	11
American Wigeon	0	355	355
Redhead	7,270	0	7,270
Canvasback	8,640	5,190	13,830
Scaup (both species)	8,193	28,910	37,103
Common Goldeneye	6,513	2,505	9,018
Bufflehead	0	2,246	2,246
Oldsquaw	1,551	1,670	3,221
Scoters (all three)	45	2,845	2,890
Ruddy Duck	0	1	1
Mergansers (all three)	16,139	7,758	23,897
Am. Coot	2,270	385	2,655
Totals	60,886	97,907	158,793

I would like to thank all cooperators, particularly the regional organizers.

Region 1 – Dr. Alan H. Reckhow	Region 6 – Robert C. Walker
2 – Walter Listman	7 – John Peterson
3 – Paul J. DuBow	8 – Paul Grattan
4 – Leslie E. Bemont	9 – Edward D. Treacy
5 – Dr. Fritz G. Scheider	10 – Stephen B. Dempsey

Walton B. Sabin, 652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, N.Y. 12159

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Long-eared Owl breeding on Long Island: The following are a few of the more pertinent details of the nesting of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) at the Muttontown Preserve, East Norwich, Nassau Co., in the Spring of 1977. This is the first documentation of nesting Long-eared Owls in Nassau Co. since the 1940's. Notes were kept on the nest area and behavior of these owls from the time of their first sighting, on 12 December 1976, until a final observation of the young birds on 30 June 1977. My sightings and identification of the nest and young have been confirmed by William E. Paterson, Naturalist, Nassau County Museum; Otto Heck, Professor of Biology, Trenton State College, Trenton, New Jersey; and Ralph Cioffi, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Breeding Bird Census for Northern Nassau County.

A family group of five Long-eared Owls was first located on 12 December 1976, in a large stand of conifers consisting mainly of Eastern White Pines (*Pinus strobus*). During the winter the owls evidently hunted over open fields; an analysis of 303 pellets taken from the roost showed that 90% contained remains of Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). On or about 23 March 1977 the three young of the previous year were evicted from the area by the two adults, presumably in preparation for the coming breeding season. The nest was located in a pine with a breast-height diameter of eleven inches, in a section of the Preserve consisting of open fields, which had been mowed within the past year, surrounded by stands of conifers. The nest was an old crow's nest, partially rebuilt by the owls, and was in a crotch 43.6 feet from the ground.

Only two young appear to have fledged. I located them on 8 June 1977 on the ground, and from their plumage I estimated that they were between four and five weeks old. The nest tree was not climbed at this time. A final sighting of the two young and one adult bird was made on 30 June 1977. In the future, this area will be left as undisturbed as possible to encourage the owls to stay for at least another year.

The complete nest record, with photographs, is on file at the Nassau County Museum, at the Muttontown Preserve.

Allan J. Lindberg, Muttontown Preserve, Muttontown Lane,
East Norwich, New York 11743

Green-tailed Towhee on Long Island: A Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) was first noticed on December 9, 1976, at the feeders of Robert Adamo, Wading River, Long Island. Mr. Adamo, who had previously seen the species in the West, notified Aline Dove who confirmed the identification the next day. It was seen by the writer and other observers on December 11 and by many other competent birders on later dates. The bird was in perfect adult plumage and associated primarily with White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

A wooded area overgrown with bushes and vines, including Japanese Honey-suckle, was directly behind the feeding area and the towhee spent most of its time there, appearing at the feeders periodically. For a few days in January, it was also reported at the feeder of James Clinton, about three-fourths of a mile to the east. On one occasion, it was heard to give the soft "mew" call note typical of the species, and on January 16 it was lured from cover, obviously excited, by a tape-recording of the species' song. However, it failed to respond to repeated playbacks a short time later. Recognizable photographs were obtained by at least two photographers but none was adequate for publication. One photo has been deposited in the American Museum of Natural History to verify the record.

Bull (1974) listed three previous records from mainland New York State and earlier (1964) reported two occurrences in northern New Jersey. Three of the previous birds were first seen in December or January, one in October and one in May.

This bird survived one of the coldest Januaries in many years with the ground nearly continuously covered with snow and ice. After warmer weather returned and the snow cover disappeared in mid-February, it visited the feeder less frequently but was seen sporadically through April 22, 1977. During its stay, it was seen at least 56 times on 51 days by the Adamos and other observers.

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Gilbert S. Raynor, Schultz Rd., Manorville, Long Island, New York 11949

Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Oswego County in May: Because spring shorebirds are often difficult to observe in the Oneida Lake basin region, and encouraged by the low level of Lake Ontario, on 28 May 1977 I led my Syracuse University Ornithology Class to the inlet of Sandy Pond, Oswego Co., where we were rewarded by one of the finest collections of spring shorebirds I have seen in upstate New York. While attempting to center a small group of Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatarola*) in my spotting scope, I noticed what seemed to be an over-sized pipit staggering about in a wrack line of dead alewives (*Pomolobus*). A second glance immediately suggested Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), an identification confirmed by detailed and repeated observations, at times within 15 m through a 30x telescope, during the next two hours under good lighting conditions.

The bird was between the accompanying White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*) and Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) in size, but had a more erect stance than either. The characteristically small-headed, large-bodied appearance of the

species was obvious. The bill was short, straight, slender and black; its legs were golden yellow; and its dark eye was accentuated by a paler eye-ring. The upperparts were dark golden buff, the back conspicuously scaled, and the feather centers, particularly on the crown and neck, were vaguely streaked with blackish; its closed remiges were darker than the rest of the upperparts. The face and underparts were unmarked and of a lighter, brighter, golden buff, shading gradually to an off white on the crissum. In flight the bird was easily picked out by its color and lack of pattern, excepting the white underwing, neatly bordered with darker buff or brownish. It was silent and spent most of its time feeding actively by moving erratically and pecking at the ground in the wrack lines of dead alewives away from the water's edge but in loose association with a small group of White-rumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

I knew that this species was unusual locally in the spring, but was surprised to find no previous spring records listed for New York State. Kathi Carlson, Anne Farnsworth, Richard Grabman, Kevin Judge, and George Painter, although new to birding, were able to compare the bird with Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin and Sanderling. F. G. Scheider observed this bird at the same location on 30 May. The lengthy, detailed observations, in direct comparison with other shorebirds, noting in particular the characteristic flight pattern, eliminate the possibility of all other species. Its presence was doubtlessly associated with the concurrent passage of a cold front, conditions which regularly bring down migrating shorebirds at Sandy Pond.

Paul DeBenedictis, Dept. of Biology, Syracuse, New York 13210

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nesting attempt in Clinton County: On 1 May 1977, Harold Klein, Ray Payson, Steve Sanford, and I found two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliioptila caerulea*) at the Ausable River delta area in southeastern Clinton County. Due to the light and dark coloration differences of the two birds, we felt this was a mated pair. On 7 May, I returned to the area and discovered the two birds actively building a nest in the vertical fork of a small tree. The nest was approximately eight meters above the flooded ground. On one occasion the male fed the female a soft caterpillar as she worked on the nest. Subsequent visits to the completed nest, by many observers, have produced no further sightings. The tree has no foliage and is apparently dead, which may have been the reason for the abandonment. This nest is located only 7 miles north of the nest found by Peterson on Schuyler Island, Essex County (1976, *Kingbird*, 26(3): 150). This species has been observed only once before in Clinton County, near Chazy by Mitchell (Bull, 1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, p. 33).

Philip H. Warren, 9 Cumberland Place N., Plattsburgh, New York 12901

House Finch sight record and possible nesting in Clinton County: On 7 April 1977, I received a telephone call from Earl Meisenheimer, my next door neighbor, in Plattsburgh, Clinton County. He thought he had a pair of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at his feeder, and suspected that they had tried to nest over his porch light. A storm with high winds the previous week had demolished the finches' nesting efforts, leaving only strands of dried grass. I carefully identified both birds at the feeder as House Finches. Since the pair continued to visit the suet feeder, efforts were made to follow them in order to discover a new nest. On 25 May, I found the pair a block away near an old two-story building in which many House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) nest. Although I never actually saw a nest, I feel it was nearby, since the male was seen driving off a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). The male also gave a continuous alarm note whenever I approached the immediate area. While I am unable to pinpoint the northernmost confirmed nesting record to date, this breeding attempt of the House Finch is probably a jump of over 150 miles. This is also the first definite sight record for Clinton County.

Philip H. Warren, 9 Cumberland Place N., Plattsburgh, New York 12901

Franklin's Gull on the St. Lawrence River: On 2 January 1977 at Oak Point in St. Lawrence County, I observed a sub-adult Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The bird was observed for a period of an hour and a half while at rest and in flight. It had a uniformly dark brownish-gray mantle with a trailing wing edge of white. There was a distinct, white slash separating the brownish-gray from black wing tips. The tail was entirely white. The head pattern could best be described as mottled. The black markings and streakings were limited to, but covered most of the crown and cheek. The black extended right up to a prominent half eye-ring. The occiput, nape, forehead, lore, and chin were white. The lower mandible shape gave the bill a stout or full look.

Prior to these observations a general sense of size was noted. Although it was only in the company of Great Black-backed Gulls, I was able to judge its size directly as four separate Common Goldeneyes passed behind this gull. At this time the gull was prone (lying) on the edge of the ice and open water. One goldeneye was the same size as the gull, but the gull was smaller than each of the other three goldeneyes.

To summarize, this was a small, extensively hooded gull with a uniformly dark mantle that was interrupted by a distinct, white slash near the black wing tips.

Previous winter sightings were in the Buffalo area on 26 December 1955 and 23 December 1967. Fritz Scheider observed a gull of this species on 3 January 1960 at Oswego Harbor (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 284). Most recently, a breeding-plumaged individual was present at Dunkirk, February 6-28, 1975. (Bull, 1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*.)

T. Carrolan, Airport Rd., R.D. 2, Dexter, New York 13634

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

After a wretched winter, the warm, dry weather of early March was greeted with open arms by all observers. All regions reported precipitation to be normal or low. In early April and early May there were reports of cool (or cold) and wet periods, but the overall impression of the season was warm and dry with the emphasis on the "dry." The snow on May 9th brought back horrid memories of the winter, but that mess vanished rapidly under the warm, almost hot, sun of the last part of the month. One of the less obvious benefits of the early warm weather is mentioned with understated joy by the editor of Region 7—the early demise of the snowmobiles!

Unfortunately, however, the pleasant spring weather did not produce good birding. The age-old statement that "fair-weather" birders do not see many birds was proven true once again. But this time it was not the birders' fault. Except in the parks in New York City, the migration was reported as being very poor. For most birders this comment means that there were not the waves of small landbirds—warblers, thrushes, etc., that had been dreamed of all winter long. Many people blamed the extreme cold of the winter for the lack of birds, but they forget that the great majority of these species winter far south of the United States and away from the northern winter weather. There were no cold fronts or evening rains to force the overhead migrants down to the ground where they could be observed. As noted by the editor for Region 5, passage migrants moved through very rapidly. There were many evenings in Dutchess County when large numbers of chips from migrants were heard but on the following morning there were very few migrants to be found in the field. Birders should pray for some bad weather during the spring migration.

Another great problem resulted from the early warm weather. The leaves may have been lovely to look at but they certainly hid the small birds in the treetops. Compounding the difficulties was the remarkable silence of the migrants. Nearly everybody commented on the lack of song. The only area that benefited from the lush early foliage was the barrier beaches of Long Island, where migrants were more numerous than usual.

The effect of weather conditions on local migration is very well documented by the editor for Region 2. The warm high-pressure

systems were so large that the pressure gradient was weak. As a result, lakeshore breezes developed to offset the southerly flow of air, and ruined the normal concentration of hawks and landbirds. The major exception to this pattern occurred on April 21, producing record flights along the lakeshores. Note the very similar hawk counts from Regions 2 and 5. Last year I commented on the attractions of Derby Hill in the spring. This year I was fortunate to have picked April 21 for my only visit. It was a fabulous choice!

Another ornithogeographical effect is noted in Region 2. This is the "Lakeshore Concentration"—not of birds but of birders. This is related to the "Weekend Syndrome" which results in most arrival dates for migrants occurring on Saturdays or Sundays. Birds are reported only when and where the birders are. Both physical and temporal coverage is unfortunately spotty, as the following records show. However, the situation is improving.

The one report that runs counter to the general dismal passerine picture was that from Forest Park in Queens County. Such phrases as "clouds of birds" and "hundreds of birds" are nearly incomprehensible to most of the birders in the state this spring. Central Park in Manhattan has long been known as a great migrant trap. Forest Park partisans claim that their park consistently produces greater concentrations of individual migrants, and yearly records of most of the southern wanderers. The reports from Region 10 will support this claim. It is also a very pleasant urban birding area.

It is always hard to find state-wide trends in the regional reports. What is true for some areas will nearly always be contradicted in others. Region 7 comments on the very large number of Saw-whet Owls, whereas Region 2 says that Saw-whets were "very low." Nearly all areas reported low numbers of species that winter within the United States, with particular comments on Eastern Phoebes. Swallows were generally reported as low, particularly Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff; a positive note from Region 6 reports 600+ nests of the latter species, however. Most areas had continuing low counts of nighthawks but Region 9 had good numbers over Newburgh. The White-crowned Sparrow flight was superb throughout the state with the exception of Region 2 (where they had a good swallow flight) and all upstate regions report dramatic increases in House Finches. Other species which seem to be expanding their range, or, in some cases, recolonizing, are Turkey (due to reintroduction), Raven, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and White-eyed Vireo.

The following are random thoughts and quotes from the individual regions. These are in no way a substitute for the original reports which are, after all, the heart and soul of the seasonal records. Region 1 had an early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on May 7 and a very late Tree Sparrow on May 15. Please note also the excellent quote from Harold Axtell about "ecologically ignorant bird lovers," who are shooting hawks and shrikes at their private feeding stations. The meaning of the word "sanctuary" should be relearned.

Region 2 reports a remarkable count of 1210 Red-necked Grebes and 60 Western Sandpipers. Note the low Black Duck numbers as compared to Mallards—a point that has been raised in previous issues. The Thayer's Gull problem is still with us but note the comments in a recent issue of *American Birds*.

Region 3 produced a very well described Arctic Tern record. This is a very difficult species to prove in the field and none of the current guides mention all of the diagnostic points. The best information that I know of was published in the first issue of *California Birds*; it describes in words *and* photographs the differences in bill size and shape, length of head and neck, wing pattern, etc. This record of April 23 is given support by the report of Arctic Terns in Region 4 on April 24. There will always be some questions raised about identification of this species away from its breeding areas, no matter who the observer is.

An interesting note from Region 5 reports low cuckoo numbers in spite of a heavy infestation of tent caterpillars. A good food supply does not always produce the birds. Read also the delightful description of 100 singing Least Flycatchers in one small area.

Region 6 supplies a heartening report of Black-crowned Night Herons being "very common" in two areas. This species is generally in very poor shape. Also good news was the report of some improvement in numbers of Gray Partridge after the severity of the previous winter. Black Ducks were again well done as compared to Mallards.

Region 7 calls attention to the problem of Common Loon nesting areas in regions of increasing development. The Audubon Society of New Hampshire has just started experimenting with artificial nesting islands and this concept might be introduced into some of our up-state lakes if it works. Attention was also drawn to the decrease of Black Terns, reported by Robbins *et al.* to be declining by 12% a year in the East. Region 5 also commented on this. An early March 15th Broad-winged Hawk was balanced by a late May 25th Glaucous Gull.

Region 8 remarks on continued improvement in Goshawk, Cooper's and Osprey reports. Region 9 comments on the increasing number of Goshawk nests, and tells of an April 7th Chimney Swift.

Region 10 had Long-eared Owls breeding on Long Island for the first time in 40 years, and also had breeding-plumaged Little Gulls and Long-billed Dowitchers. The Eastern Kingbird on April 12 was remarkably early.

Most of the regions have highlighted their own rarities in the introductory paragraphs so they need not be mentioned here. A few goodies to whet your appetites are White-fronted Goose in Regions 1 and 9; Black Vulture, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (first spring record for the state) and a singing Lark Bunting in Region 5, Marbled Godwit and three singing Clay-colored Sparrows in Region 6 and a calling Sandhill Crane in Region 7.

There were several birds in Region 10 which might qualify for the BOTS award. The list was finally narrowed down to two. The Boat-tailed Grackle should occur more often as it is expanding its range slowly up the coast and should be seen more often. The palm, or feather if you will, therefore goes to the breeding-plumaged male Townsend's Warbler, a worthy recipient in any field of competitors.

Millbrook School, Millbrook, New York 12545

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

After the bone-wearying winter of '77, with its record lows and snows, a gentle Spring was most welcome. March temperatures and precipitation were nearly normal and small lakes were ice-free about mid-month, earlier than usual. Very dry weather the first three weeks of April retarded vegetation, but for the month, rainfall averaged only .6 in. (1.5 cm.) below the norm and temperatures were 1.4° F (.8° C) above the expected. Lake Erie reached 32° F on April 15 when the ice boom moved out four days earlier than last year. What is more rare than two weeks of June arriving in May? In contrast to the snowstorm May 9, which ended the strong frontal systems, temperatures for the month averaged 4.8° F (2.7° C) above normal, and precipitation totaled 1.5 in. (3.9 cm.) below the usual.

Spring positives abound: 1) many early arrivals, a reflection of the smiling season; 2) a fair representation, but generally low numbers, of the large fish-eating birds, indicating a cautious optimism; 3) excellent swan and duck flights, but a mediocre goose migration; 4) good reports of Turkey Vultures, Marsh Hawks and Ospreys; 5) Turkey survival good,

with many brood reports (SE); 6) a fine early shorebird flight producing a state record-breaker, but a poor late flight; 7) a good cuckoo year paralleling another tent caterpillar plague; 8) widespread reports of Red-bellied, Red-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers; 9) nearly normal recovery of flycatchers; 10) good numbers of Tufted Titmice that toughed it through the winter; 11) a fine flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches; 12) many E. Bluebirds, a tribute to faithfully maintained bluebird trails as well as favorable migration conditions; 13) triple last year's House Finch population and discovery of 2 nests; and 14) good flights of juncos, and White-crowned, White-throated, Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Spring negatives include: 1) disappearance of some hawks and shrikes around home feeders, a result of the little-realized-as-common practice of illegally shooting birds of prey—often “by some ecologically ignorant ‘bird lover’ at his feeding station” (H. Axtell, *The Prothonotary*, Mar. 1977); 2) few Com. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts, as well as Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows; 3) one-third usual numbers of Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds, an expected aftermath of the killer winter; 4) continued decline of Horned Larks; 5) poor warbler waves, a result of consistently fine flying weather which allowed the birds to over-fly our Region; 6) continuing trouble for E. Meadowlarks as well as for Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows with a poor prognosis for Savannahs, and 7) low tallies on both the April and May RC's, possibly due to the week-early April date, to the severe winter and to too few May storms to ground migrants.

Rarities include: Snowy Egret, White-fronted Goose, European Wigeon, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Wilson's Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Barn Owl, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, “Brewster's Warbler,” Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and House Finch.

Abbreviations: GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NP—Nature Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; RC—Buffalo Ornithological Society Regional Census (Apr. 3, compiled by E. Fessler, and May 15, compiled by E. Howe); SP—State Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: There was a fair flight of Com. Loons with max 10 at Carlton Apr. 17 (AM,WM+) and 25 on the May RC. Encouraging, after the severe winter, is a count of 75 Red-necked Grebes in Yates-Carlton areas Apr. 17 (AM,WM+) and 12 on the Apr. RC. A total of 5 Double-crested Cormorants was made from 3 locations. A mixed season for long-legged waders includes: 9 Great Egrets counted from 7 locations; a rare SNOWY EGRET near Hamburg (Pinehurst) Apr. 10 (MF); a low max 24 Black-crowned Night Herons at Niagara Falls Apr. 1 (FR,Schwartz); single Least Bitterns on the May RC, and at Tiff Farm May 24-31 (O'Dell,MF+); and 19 Am. Bitterns on the May RC with only 5 areas reporting singles.

A superb Whistling Swan flight, especially across the Southern Tier, culminated with an estimated 1,000 at Kennedy and Randolph Mar. 16 (FE), but the max Canada Goose count was only 38,000 at Iroquois NWR Mar. 15 (JM). 3 very rare WHITE-FRONTED GEESE appeared at Royalton Mar. 20 (RA,Schwartz+). Seen in the Oak Orchard-Iroquois-Tonawanda wildlife complex were at least 2 Snow Geese (white morph) during Mar. and Apr. (Olsen+) and a single “Blue” Mar. 26 (HM+).

Ducks with higher numbers than last year on the Apr. RC were 1,001 Mallards, 100 Green-winged Teals, 40 N. Shovelers, 497 Canvasbacks, 3,180 Greater Scaups, 1,356 Lesser Scaups, 1,094 Oldsquaws and 1,434 Com. Mergansers. On the May RC ducks numbering higher than 1976 were 546 Mallards, 122 Wood Ducks, 62 scaups (combined), 115 Buffleheads, 38 White-winged Scoters and 9 Com. Mergansers, but Red-breasted Mergansers were a low 48. Max count of Pintails was 700 in the Iroquois NWR-Newstead-Clarence area Mar. 26 (DF+) and of Redheads, 49 at Dunkirk Harbor Mar. 11 (AS,ARC). A snow storm Apr. 6-9 grounded many ducks along the Southern Tier, with incomplete totals: 173 Pintails, 132 Am. Wigeons, 331 Com. Goldeneyes, 342 Oldsquaws and 190 Com. Mergansers. 126 Oldsquaws also came down on Langford Pond Apr. 8 (Chapples). At Langford Pond a single EUROPEAN WIGEON was identified Apr. 12 (PA,DF+) and 4 Surf Scoters were seen Apr. 30 (RA+).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Single Turkey Vultures appeared early at Cherry Creek Mar. 5 (FR, Buck) and at Hamburg Mar. 9 (AS,ARC). 3 **GOSHAWKS** on the Apr. RC were from Allegheny Co. where 2 nests have been located this year (LB,ES). Max from reported hawk flights are: over Hamburg-Mar. 12, Red-tailed Hawks, 62 and Red-shouldered Hawks, 29, and Apr. 10, Turkey Vultures, 34 (MF+); over Oak Orchard area Mar. 20-Rough-legged Hawks, 16; and over Lakeview Apr. 21-Sharp-shinned Hawks, 48 and Broad-winged Hawks, 305 (RA). On the RC's: Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 3 in Apr. and 4 in May, while the count of Cooper's Hawks was 13 in Apr. and 15 in May. Other sightings, excluding migrants, totaled 20 Sharp-shins from 15 locations and 15 Cooper's from 14 areas, including an adult and nest of the latter in New Hudson May 2 (LB,ES). Good reports of Rough-legged Hawk continued through mid-Apr., with 6 on the Apr. RC and last of the season one on the May RC. Single imm. **BALD EAGLES** were seen at Iroquois NWR Mar. 29-Apr. 2 (Olsen, FR+) and at Shadigee Apr. 17 (AM,WM+). A **MERLIN** was identified at Cheektowaga Mar. 21 and at Amherst Apr. 13 (DF).

Turkeys numbered a high 50 on the Apr. RC and 26 on the May RC. The elusive rails were represented on the May RC by 3 Virginia Rails and 10 Soras. 472 Am. Coots rested on the Allegheny Reservoir Apr. 10 (JF,MFr), an unusual Spring concentration.

The early shorebird season produced some interesting notes. Nearly a month early were the 2 Am. Golden Plovers in Kiantone Mar. 19 (RS,Cooney,FE), and 5 were seen in South Dayton Apr. 24 (RA+). A Black-bellied Plover arr at Burgeson Sanctuary May 21 (FE), uncommon away from the Great Lakes. Only one Upland Sandpiper was found for the May RC (11 last year). Two Solitary Sandpipers on the Apr. RC were over 2 weeks early, and also early was the Greater Yellowlegs in Kiantone Mar. 12 (FE). White-rumped Sandpipers were noted as 2 at Times Beach May 25, 27 (RA,DF+) and one at Tonawanda WMA May 30 (AM,WM). Also at Times Beach were an early Least Sandpiper Apr. 21 (DF) and max 3 early Dunlin Apr. 13, 19 (RA,DF). Also early were a dowitcher (species?) at Burgeson Sanctuary Apr. 16 (FE) and 3 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Tonawanda WMA May 1 (Freelands). Short-billed Dowitchers appeared as 3 on the May RC and 4 at Iroquois NWR May 13 (JM). Among reports of an excellent Pectoral Sandpiper flight is a state record-breaker of 508 at Newstead and Clarence Apr. 16 (DF). The rare **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** was spotted at Tonawanda WMA May 18 (Krog,Poland), nearly two months early.

Noteworthy gull sightings include: single Glaucous Gulls on the Apr. RC, at Niagara Falls Mar. 11, 13 (FR,Schwartz+) and in Yates-Carlton Apr. 17 (AM,WM+); an out of season **FRANKLIN'S GULL** on 10-mile Rd. May 2 (SE); at least 100 Bonaparte's Gulls at Amity L Mar. 16 (VP), unusual numbers for the area, but a low 786 on the Apr. RC; and a Little Gull at Lewiston Mar. 20 (HK,WK). 5 Caspian Terns were tallied on the May RC and 11 were totaled from 5 locations.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A **BARN OWL** was discovered at Frewsburg Mar. 23 (T. Elderkin). Owl nesting reports include: a Screech Owl, 1 egg, near Alma May 1 (NI);

a Great Horned Owl at Farmersville Sta., 2 yg, up to May 11 (DC,SE) and another, 2 fledglings, near Scio May 15 (RP,VP); a Long-eared Owl on nest in Birdsall May 2 (LB,Shriver). Alert watchers located 2 Long-eared Owls on the Apr. RC, one on the May RC, one at E. Amherst Mar. 19 (DF) and max 2 at Cuba Mar. 22-Apr. 30 (JF,MFr). A seldom-seen Saw-whet Owl was found on 10-mile Rd. Apr. 30 (SE). Single Whip-poor-wills were recorded at Hamburg Apr. 24 (RA,PA) and at Amherst May 11 (DF).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher appeared at E. Amherst May 7 (DF). On the May RC were 18 Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and at Tonawanda WMA 2 Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found May 21 (RA+). A max 8 Golden-crowned Kinglets were back on nesting grounds near Alfred May 20-25 (EB). 4 Northern Shrikes appeared for the Apr. RC, with other reports noting singles in 8 areas. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were identified at Oak Orchard WMA Mar. 5, early (HK,WK), at Limestone Mar. 17 (JV,RV), at Hamburg Apr. 14 (PA), and on Grand Is. Apr. 16 (DF). 25,779 Starlings on the Apr. RC was about half of last year's figure.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Single **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** were seen at Hanover May 1 (FR), and at E. Amherst May 3 (DF). There were 15 Yellow-throated Vireos on the May RC, but no *Philadelphias*.

The only warbler counts on the May RC higher than last year were 349 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 13 Cerulean Warblers, 6 Palm Warblers and 21 Hooded Warblers; missing this year on the census were "Brewster's Warbler" and Blackpoll Warbler. Other worthy warbler notes include: 3 **PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS** on the May RC and one at Iroquois NWR May 20 (Olsen); an early Blue-winged Warbler at Hanover May 1 (FR); a "**BREWSTER'S WARBLER**" in Amity May 19 (VP); single Orange-crowned Warblers on the May RC and at Times Beach May 19 (DF); male and female Cerulean Warblers in s. Cattaraugus Co. May 15 (SE, JV,RV) in the same area as last year, suggested nesting; a **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** at Tiff Farm May 22 (RW+); a Pine Warbler on the May RC and one to 3 in 5 areas including singles late in Phillips Creek State Forest May 21 (CK+) and at Keeney May 28 (EB, KP); 2 **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** on the May RC, and singles at Tiff Farm May 7 (RA+) and Spring Brook May 9 (DD), as well as late near Alfred May 22, 23, 26 (CK,EB) and at Foster L May 30, 31 (EB); an early Ovenbird at Medina Apr. 23 (Schrader,Cook); a Louisiana Waterthrush arr at 10-mile Rd. Mar. 31, earliest ever by 2 days in western N.Y. (SE); a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** near Vandalia May 15 (SE), in time for the May RC, and on May 17 one at E. Amherst (DF) and 2 at Forest Lawn (DW); and 4 Yellow-breasted Chats on the May RC as well as singles at Newstead May 13 (DF) and W. Seneca May 20 (O'Dell).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: 34,442 Red-winged Blackbirds on the Apr. RC was nearly double the 1976 figure. A rare **SUMMER TANAGER** was identified at Iroquois NWR May 4 (JM). The **DICKCISSEL** showed up again at Cuba L Apr. 8-16 (AnS). On the May RC were 62 Evening Grosbeaks. The **HOUSE FINCH** expansion here is truly extraordinary, with 34 on the Apr. RC, 28 on the May RC, discovery of a nest, 5 eggs, at Snyder Apr. 1-29 (DF+) and another with one yg at Eggertsville May 26 (AM,WM), and with reports of 50 (16 last year) at former locations in addition to 12 from the new areas of Wellsville (EL), Little Genesee (FD), Houghton (KP,VC) and Fillmore (KP). 5 Com. Redpolls were seen at N. Java Mar. 6 (DF) and another at Snyder Mar. 22 (DeKleine). Pine Siskins tallied 9 on the Apr. RC and 5 on the May RC with only other reports: 6 at Oakland Rural Cemetery Mar. 25 (HK,WK), and one at Hamburg Apr. 7 (RA,PA)—scarce indeed. One lone Red Crossbill appeared this season: on the Apr. RC.

Two late Tree Sparrows stayed for the May RC. The 2 White-crowned Sparrows at Belmont were banded (EB) and wintered there until May 20 (DB). Single Fox Sparrows arr Mar. 6, early, at Alfred (EB), and at Farmersville Sta. (DC), while one was found late at Williamsville May 20 (DF). Lapland Longspurs were unreported except for one at Bennington Center Mar. 6 (DF). 25 Snow Buntings appeared for the Apr. RC (only 2 last year).

ADDENDUM: Results of the Waterfowl Census, Jan. 8-16, compiled by A. Reckhow, show totals of 15,237 individuals and 21 species—near-record lows for its 23-yr. existence. A N. Shoveler appeared on the count for the first time ever, spotted by HA. High counts were: 2,769 Mallards, 54 Gadwalls, and 4 Ring-necked Ducks. Low counts were: 1 Horned Grebe, 4,582 Black Ducks, 2,216 Canvasbacks, 1,357 (Greater + unspecified) Scaups, 547 Oldsquaws, 4 White-winged Scoters, 3 Hooded Mergansers, 3,295 Com. Mergansers and 35 Red-breasted Mergansers.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

The spring season began with March weather see-sawing between weeks of record heat and shorter periods of record cold. There was only one snowfall of any significance and that was short-lived on the ground. April began miserably—wet and cold for the first ten days, then switched to two weeks of warm, sunny weather, and concluded on another cold, windy note. Unfortunately, the massive high pressure systems producing the warm weather were so widespread that the warm, southerly winds were generally very light. As a consequence, as temperatures soared, the warm air over the land rose and moderately strong, cold, lake breezes developed day after day, snuffing out any budding hawk flight or surge of early migrants. The one day this pattern broke, April 21, brought a one-day-record hawk flight. The cold of late April persisted through the first half of May accompanied by snow flurries in Rochester and a heavy, damaging snowfall to the south May 8-9. Cold nights continued through mid-month followed by a change to hot days and warm nights through the end of the month. Precipitation was below normal all season, climaxing in a record low of only .36 in. (.91 cm) in May.

In analyzing the regional records, particularly comparing with the past, two major factors must be weighed: 1) over the past two or three years there have been more and better-qualified observers spending more hours in the field than ever before, with their numbers and quality growing, and 2) probably 80% or more of the coverage is in a band from Irondequoit Bay to Point Breeze (*ca.* 35 miles) and within 5 miles (mostly 1 mile) of Lake Ontario. Many observers are mainly interested in listing and all know that most of the rarities occur in this lakeshore area.

With all these observers in the field, a general note in common was that while numbers of species were excellent and at average dates, numbers of individuals seen were often very low, to the point of being alarming. The weather and the lopsided lakeshore coverage may explain some of this. Those who birded early found most mornings through 8:00 a.m. too cold for much birdsong or movement. The persistent lake breezes and northwest winds may have sent most migrants through many miles inland where coverage was poor. However, on the occasions when the "inland" areas were covered, the same long stretches of silent, deserted woods were often noted. An additional complication present by early May when the small passerine migrants arrived, was the advanced foliage caused by early leafing in the warm spells of March and April.

Birds particularly on the downside were: the southern herons, Saw-whet Owl, Com. Nighthawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Loggerhead Shrike, some warblers, and the winter

finches. Also, the half-hardy species, particularly Carolina Wren and Mockingbird, appear to have been decimated by the severe winter.

On a brighter note, there were many rarities found and observed by numbers of people. Red-necked Grebes appeared and persisted in unprecedented numbers, and E. Bluebird, some warblers, and the pastureland sparrows—Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper—were up.

RARITIES: Eared Grebe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Duck, Willet, Ruff, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.

ABBREVIATIONS: BB—Braddock's Bay; D—Durand Eastman Park; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LO—Lake Ontario; MP—Mendon Ponds Park; NC—Northrup Creek Refuge, Long Pond, Greece; and WL—West Lakeshore area.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon arrived at the usual locations and dates: max 200 Pultneyville Apr. 16 (CP,CIT). Red-throated Loon was very scarce: 1 MP Apr. 27 (RBA). The incredible Red-necked Grebe invasion summarized: max 1,210 WL Apr. 10 (RC,CP); range LO Mar. 28-May 3 (mob). A pleasant surprise was a breeding-plumaged **EARED GREBE:** 1 IC May 1-7, 28-31 (KG,CIT,mob).

The low numbers of southern herons were reflected in only scattered reports of Cattle Egret, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret: 3 BB May 23 (JSk,mob); 1 Greece May 24 (KG). A lone **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** Irondequoit May 2-17 (MMo,mob), spent many days sitting in a backyard sassafras clump; (photo). Many of the regular breeding herons appeared low, but this may be due to low water levels pushing them back to less accessible areas.

Canada Goose is nesting in the area in increasing numbers. The closest to Rochester is a family in Greece; 9 Buck Pond May 30 (photo FD,mob).

Ducks moved through in good numbers at normal dates, but departed early, particularly from LO, except for the few lingering on "borrow pits" along the Lake Ontario Parkway. Of particular interest were: Black Duck: very low; Ring-necked Duck: 262 BB Mar. 20 (GOS); **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** 1 ad. male (1st regional record), 1 imm. male, *possibly* 1 fem. BB vicinity Mar. 20-Apr. 4 (AT,GOS,RBA); **HARLEQUIN DUCK:** 1 LO thru Mar. 12 (GOS,RBA); and Ruddy Duck: 36 Manitou Apr. 14 (AKI).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: This spring's hawk flight along Lake Ontario, mainly observed from the BB hawk lookout, was excellent in spite of several periods of unfavorable wind conditions. The season's count was about 22,900 hawks. The peak was 10,470 BB Apr. 21. Of particular note are: very early Turkey Vulture: 2 BB Mar. 9 (GOS,RBA); Goshawk: only 8 recorded; Broad-winged Hawk: total 16,423; max. 9,653 BB Apr. 21 (LM,mob); Golden Eagle: 1 ad. BB Mar. 13 (GOS,RBA); 1 imm. Kendall Apr. 1 (RC,BS); 1 imm. BB Apr. 11

(GOS,RBA); 3 ad., 1 imm. BB Apr. 21 (RBA,GOS); Bald Eagle: 1 imm. BB Mar. 11 (HD, *fide* RS); 2 ad. Kendall Mar. 12 (RC,CP,BS); 1 ad., 2 imm. Hamlin Mar. 30 (WLi,TT); 1 imm. Kendall Apr. 3 (GOS); 1 ad. BB Apr. 27 (GOS,RBA); 1 imm. BB May 7 (CP); 1 imm. BB May 18 (LM); 1 imm. Greece May 26 (KG); Osprey: total 33; Peregrine: 1 Hilton Mar. 12 (RO); 1 Ontario Mar. 16 (WLi,DSk); 2 Webster Mar. 20 (WLi); 1 BB Mar. 30 (WLi,DSk); Merlin: 1 BB Mar. 13 (TT,mob); 1 Gates Mar. 30 (CP); 1 BB Mar. 30 (RC,BS); 1 Kendall Apr. 4 (RC,BS); 1 Hamlin Apr. 10 (RC,CP); 1 Hamlin May 9 (CP); and Am. Kestrel: total 107 BB, very low.

As the fields dried early and the lake level remained high, shorebird prospects appeared dull. In fact, good early birds were reported in the puddles before they dried and the few farm ponds left and the lakeshore spots uncovered as the water level fell provided considerable excitement in May. The best records were: **WILLET**: 1 Kendall May 22 (GOS,RBA), winter plumage, 2nd regional spring record, (photo); Red Knot: 1 NC May 27 (MC,mob); 1 Fair Haven May 30 (RS); Sanderling: 1 Kendall May 22 (GM,mob); Western Sandpiper: many records of 1-2, many locations May 2 thru; max. 60 NC May 27 (MC,mob), carefully observed, documented, (photos); **RUFF**: 1 Perinton May 12 (D&MT,DSH); 1 reeve Perinton May 13 (R&SS,mob); 1 reeve NC May 27-28 (MC,RBA,mob), a different reeve, *fide* RS; Wilson's Phalarope: 3 fem. Perinton May 12 (M&DT,DSH); 1 fem. Perinton May 13 (A&BK, mob); 1 male Carlton May 22 (GOS,RBA); 1 male Perinton May 23 (FD); 1 male NC May 28 (RBA).

Gulls and terns, except Black Tern, were generally a bit low. Of note were: **THAYER'S GULL**: 1 ad. Parma May 9 (CP), well documented; **LAUGHING GULL**: 1 ad. (1st adult regional record) Sodus May 22 (D,M,TT); 1 ad. NC May 29 (JK,mob), possibly the same bird; and Forster's Tern: 2 BB May 1 (AKe,mob); 1 BB May 14 (CP,mob).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos were in good numbers, Black-billed predominant. Short-eared Owl tarried: 30 Avon thru Mar. (J&AF). Saw-whet Owl was very low; normally 6-10 per season (per day with diligent effort) for one active observer, one record: 1 Manitou Mar. 13 (J&WLi,mob). Com. Nighthawk still low. Red-headed Woodpecker: 35 Avon Mar. 12 (F&BD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers were generally good with E. Phoebe still low, but recovering; a few **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** reports: 1 Manitou May 22 (GM, mob); 1 IC May 28 (RBA); 1 IC May 30 (RS); 1 Bergen May 30 (BS); and 5 Olive-sided Flycatcher records on the usual late May dates.

Swallows passed in good numbers, especially Cliff Swallow in the lakeshore area. Blue Jays also poured through: 3,000 (½ hr.) Manitou May 6 (RS); 5,000 BB May 15 (CP). Short-billed Marsh Wren was recorded at 5 locations. Golden-crowned Kinglet seemed low; Cedar Waxwing very high: max. 5,000 BB May 22 (WLi,mob); and Loggerhead Shrike: very low, only 5 records.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: With the exception of few reports of Philadelphia Vireo, the vireo migration was normal. A single **WHITE-EYED VIREO**: 1 IC May 19 (HeS) was reported.

While observation was difficult due to advanced foliage and rapid, concentrated passage in the latter half of May, warblers also were within normal bounds. Records of special note were: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: 1 Pittsford Apr. 26 (SK); **WORM-EATING WARBLER**: 1 IC May 21 (B&DC); Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 IC Apr. 22 (J&TM); 1 Manitou May 22 (GM,mob); Yellow-rumped Warbler: max. 500 WL Apr. 23 (RC,CP); Bay-breasted Warbler: max. 150 BB May 22 (JSk,mob); Pine Warbler: 1 IC Apr. 11 (MC,mob); 1 BB Apr. 11 (RO); 1 IC Apr. 20 (KD,AS,DW); 1 BB Apr. 24 (GOS); 5 D Apr. 30 (CP); 1 IC May 1 (GOS); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: 1 D Apr. 23 (RC,CP); 1 BB May 5-8 (JC,mob); 2 BB May 14 (CIT, mob); 1 IC May 14 (CP,mob); Palm Warbler: 1 BB May 17 (KD,AS,DW), late. Both hybrid

warblers were reported: "Brewster's": 1 Murray May 14 (GOS); 1 Canadice May 30 (JF); "Lawrence's": 1 Canadice May 30 (JF).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolinks were very plentiful this season. A **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** 1 Gaines May 9 thru (RC,mob), appeared to be nesting, mated to an E. Meadowlark. Orchard Oriole: 3 Pt. Breeze May 15 thru (WLi,mob), again nesting. House Finch has nested successfully again: 2 young at feeder Brighton May 25 thru (F,J,&LM). Of the few winter finches reported, interesting is White-winged Crossbill: 1 Brighton May 25-26 (J&ND), at a thistle feeder. Rufous-sided Towhee is very low on the lakeplain, good elsewhere. The sparrow migration was normal except as noted above and lower than usual White-crowned Sparrow numbers. Fox Sparrow passed in about a one week window: max. 10 WL May 13 (RS). Similarly with Lincoln's Sparrow: max. 6 Manitou May 22 (B&MM).

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

March was very mild with the average temperature above normal and precipitation about normal. The warm days of March 10-15 completely thawed Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Up to a foot of snow fell on March 23. The month closed with higher temperatures which hit the mid 80^os F (28^o C). April 1-10 was rather cold with a little snow, the only snow of the month. A very warm and dry period followed with the temperature often in the 80^os F (28^o C). A heavy rain on the 24th preceded a cooler period running to May 15. On May 9th the Region was blanketed with snow ranging from one inch in the north to nearly a foot in some parts of the south. The last half of May was sunny, hot and dry, the driest May since 1966. The temperature was in the 80's daily and was over 90 on the 21st.

Seasonal pluses: (1) At Elmira the heavy rain of April 24th brought in many Common Loons, White-winged Scoters and terns, including 2 Arctic Terns; (2) a beaver pond near Guyanga hosted 11 species of shorebirds, the most since 1970. It included a Baird's Sandpiper, a very rare migrant here in the spring; (3) a very good Whistling Swan migration; (4) the best Ring-necked Duck movement in several years; (5) improved numbers, though somewhat minimal, of both cuckoos probably in response to the many tent caterpillars; (6) hundreds of Horned Larks along the roadsides after the March 18 snowstorm; (7) very good numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Warbling Vireos and Northern Orioles; (8) the most White-crowned Sparrows in many years.

Seasonal minuses: (1) scarcity of white herons; (2) continued low numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons; (3) few scaup of either species; (4) continued scarcity of Eastern Phoebe; (5) reduced numbers of Bank and Rough-winged Swallows and almost no Cliff Swallows; (6) fewer Purple Martins; (7) a disappointing migration of flycatchers, vireos and warblers. The latter was variously described as "slow," "dull" and "boring" with the Yellow-rumped being the only migrant warbler seen in any numbers. However, a look at the reports shows that all of the migrant warblers normally seen here, except for the Prothonotary, Orange-crowned, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat, were seen by someone during the season. Most observers missed many species. The uniformly warm, sunny weather, without the conditions which built up "waves" of birds, no doubt allowed the birds, which did not seem to be singing as much as usual, to slip thru quickly, unobtrusively and without detection. The summerlike weather of mid-April had pushed leaf growth so that most trees were

fully leaved when the warblers arrived. Warbler watching was a maddening, frustrating exercise in futility.

Rarities: European Wigeon; Whimbrel; Baird's Sandpiper; Arctic Tern; Fish Crow; White-eyed Vireo.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; ESC—Elmira Spring Census May 14; GSC—Geneva Spring Census May 15; ISC—Ithaca Spring Census May 15; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; * (starred)—details on file.

Compilers and contributors: Walter E. Benning; Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen); James Gibson (Ithaca); Bernice Hilfiker; Wilfred Howard; Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan); Dorothy McIlroy; Thomas Riley; Jeffery Walters; Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: widely reported in Apr.; 30 Elmira Apr. 24 "never had so many" (MW). Red-throated Loon: 1 Penn Yan Apr. 22. Red-necked Grebe: more reports than usual from Ithaca, MNWR and Elmira. Horned Grebe: 63 Elmira Apr. 8. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Penn Yan May 22; 1 MNWR May 24 on. Great Blue Heron: fewer nests at Addison heronry; down at MNWR; 24 on GSC. Great Egret: 1-2 Elmira Apr. 7-13. Black-crowned Night Heron: up to 6 MNWR Apr. 19 on, observed gathering nesting material; 1 Penn Yan May 3; 1 Elmira first in several years. American Bittern: 1 Penn Yan first in several years. Glossy Ibis: 1-2 MNWR May 22-25 (JG *et al.*).

Whistling Swan: a good flight year; 15 Dryden L Mar. 20; 45 MNWR Mar. 21; flock Cayuta L late Mar. 48 Camp Dittmer near Phelps Apr. 1. Canada Goose: 85,000 max MNWR; probably an equal number on Cay L; thousands on Seneca L and many more scattered on small lakes and ponds, such as 3,000 on the little lake at Camp Dittmer, would mean a total of 200,000 in the Finger Lakes area. Snow Goose: max 3,000 MNWR down from 8,000 in 1976.

Ducks: Dabbling ducks about normal. EUROPEAN WIGEON: 1 Penn Yan Mar. 13 (ML). Ring-necked Duck: widely reported in better numbers after several poor years. Scaup: both species in small numbers only. Common Goldeneye: apparently left early by late Mar. Oldsquaw: 2 Camp Dittmer early Apr. an unusual location; 1 Cay L May 15. White-winged Scoter: 4 Elmira Apr. 24; Keuka L Apr. 29; 3 GSC. Surf Scoter: 3 Elmira Apr. 28. Black Scoter: 1 Sheldrake May 15 (DM). Red-breasted Merganser: 27 Elmira Apr. 24 more than usual.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: many reports beginning Mar. 10, 2 weeks early. Goshawk: nest with 3 young Ithaca; 1 Texas Hollow Sanctuary May 7. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 each ESC, ISC and GSC; 1 Cayuta May 15. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 dark phase Townsend Apr. 3. Osprey: max 4 Niles Apr. 21, singles Elmira Apr. 16, 29, May 5, Phelps May 1, Clifton Springs, May 6 and MNWR May 24. Turkey: 3 reports Yates Co.; 1 W. Caton May 14. Com. Gallinule: 1 MNWR Apr. 9, 2 weeks early.

Semipalmated Plover: 5 GSC; max 23 MNWR May 31. Am. Golden Plover: 1 MNWR Apr. 19 (WB) rare in spring. Black-bellied Plover: 1-2 MNWR May 15-31. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 MNWR May 28 (Menuhin). WHIMBREL: 1 MNWR May 24 (JG)*. Upland Sandpiper: reported from Etna, Dryden, Horseheads, Waterloo. Red Knot: 18 MNWR May 28 (Menuhin). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Apr. 5 MNWR; max 26 Apr. 19. White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Horseheads Apr. 15; max 21 MNWR May 25. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1 on beaver pond near Guyanga (ML) very rare in spring. Least Sandpiper: arr 30 Waterloo May 15. Dunlin: max 60 MNWR May 24. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 5 MNWR May 18 max 10 May 29. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR May 15 (DM). Northern Phalarope: 1 MNWR May 15 (TR, WB) uncommon in spring.

Glaucous Gull: 1 Ithaca Mar. 6 (DM). Bonaparte's Gull: 5 Elmira Mar. 31; 200 Canoga Apr. 26. Common Tern: 5 GSC; 6 Elmira May 15. ARCTIC TERN: 2 Elmira Apr. 23

(MW)*. Black Tern: arr 6 MNWR May 6 late; 2 Elmira May 9; 3 Cayuta Marsh May 15.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: several Ithaca College Campus; 1 Elmira May 5; 1 Clyde May 27. Black-billed Cuckoo: increasing at Penn Yan; singles at Clifton Springs and Niles May 6; 1 Clyde May 13; 2 ESC. Barred Owl: 1 Monkey Run, Ithaca (JG). Short-eared Owl: 1 Horseheads Mar. 8. Whip-poor-will: only report 1 Horseheads Mar. 8. Common Nighthawk: 2 ESC; 1 Watkins Glen May 15; Cornell Campus May 24. Pileated Woodpecker: 3 GSC; nest Stewart Park May 21. Red-headed Woodpecker: widely reported in small numbers.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: the very low numbers of the past two years continue. Alder Flycatcher: 1 report at Tompkins Co. Airport May 31 (JG). Least Flycatcher: good numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Niles May 20 (TR); 1 Elmira May 22 (WH).

Swallows: all but Tree Swallows somewhat late in arriving. Tree Swallow: numbers at MNWR continue to decrease as dead trees with nesting sites continue to topple. Bank Swallow: colonies in the Clifton Springs-Phelps area doing well but elsewhere declining; colony at Myers Point gone. Rough-winged Swallow: few reports; arrived at nesting site in Clifton Springs Apr. 30. Barn Swallow: perhaps down a bit but doing well. Cliff Swallow: birds returned to Voak Farm colony in northern Yates Co. but left shortly. Nests had been knocked down and barn painted last fall. Over 100 nests here for many years. Purple Martin: reduced numbers at MNWR; scarce around Cay L; very scarce Elmira. **FISH CROW:** returned Ithaca early Mar. for fourth year. House Wren: abundant. Winter Wren: 1 Camp Dittmer Mar. 29 and Apr. 16; 1 ESC; 3 GSC. Carolina Wren: a casualty of the winter; 1 Phelps; 3 ESC. Wood Thrush: 40 GSC. Hermit Thrush: normal. Swainson's Thrush: relatively few reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 GSC; ISC. Veery: low numbers. Eastern Bluebird: only a few scattered reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: above average numbers; nesting at Lowman and at Reeder's Creek Seneca Co. Water Pipit: the May 9 snowstorm brought many into the Elmira streets, the country roads and even in the woods.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Vireos: **WHITE-EYED:** 1 Geneva May 15 (P. Trail). Yellow-throated: scarce. Philadelphia: 2 reports Elmira. Warbling: a good year; 35 GSC.

Warblers: Worm-eating: at a new site in Elmira. Cerulean: 1 Clyde May 12; 1 Niles May 18; 2 at new location in Elmira. Blackpoll: very scarce. Pine: at usual places on Harris Hill and at a new site on Mt. Zoar, Elmira. Prairie: 3 Elmira May 2 and 7 on May 14. Northern Waterthrush: 2 ESC; 2 GSC. Louisiana Waterthrush: Ithaca Apr. 20; 1 Elmira May 2. Mourning: 1 GSC; 1 Waterloo May 22. Hooded: 2 Elmira May 25. Canada: 1 Elmira May 13.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: good numbers; 42 GSC. Northern Oriole: good numbers everywhere. Rusty Blackbird: at MNWR Mar. 3-May 15. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 19 GSC. Indigo Bunting: very few reported. Evening Grosbeak: last report was from Clifton Springs Apr. 30. Purple Finch: few reports; 3 GSC. House Finch: this fast spreading newcomer now covers much of Region 3; "lots" at Elmira; "all over the place" at Watkins Glen; new locations at Waterloo, Clyde, Savannah. Am. Goldfinch: abundant; 227 GSC.

Sparrows: Savannah: 27 GSC. Grasshopper: 3 GSC; down Elmira; "hard to find" Penn Yan. Henslow's: 1 Elmira May 2. Vesper: continued scarce. 2 ESC; 5 GSC. Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco: 1 Elmira Jan. 1-Mar. 14. Tree Sparrow: last report Clyde Apr. 19. Field: good numbers; 12 GSC. White-crowned: reported as more plentiful everywhere; at the regional editor's feeders up to 16 were present Apr. 29-May 20 against a normal 4-8 for about 2 weeks. Lincoln's: 1 ESC; 2 GSC; 1 trapped Ithaca. Snow Bunting: 12 Clifton Springs Mar. 24; 1 changing to summer plumage Elmira Apr. 15.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Our spring weather was generally mild, especially for much of April and the latter half of May, and rather dry. There were, of course, cold and snowy/rainy days, too, including snow March 20, rain April 2 and 23 and on May 9, a real snow storm that left several inches on the ground.

The mild temperatures did seem to produce some early arrivals but the cold spells were either too few or timed badly for birds/birders and no "waves" were reported. The diffuse nature of the migration led to complaints of small numbers and missed species, particularly among the warblers and thrushes. In the missed species category, at least, one observer or area covered for another to the extent that only Swainson's Thrush of the reasonably expected species was missed region-wide.

The small numbers complaint did seem to hold true region-wide for Cape May and Wilson's Warblers, two species that had been considerably more common for the last few years than they were in the past. Some more or less consistently common species such as Tennessee, Blackburnian and Blackpoll Warblers were relatively scarce. In mid-May thrushes were the object of some concern. Five days after the unseasonable snowfall, in an area where at that time of year singing Wood Thrushes can normally be found every hundred yards or so and Veery call notes can be heard everywhere, only 1 or 2 of each species was found in 2½ hours. Later in the month, thrush numbers recovered, except for Swainson's, and their numbers have a history of wild fluctuations from year to year in migration in this area.

One earlier migrant, the Fox Sparrow, appeared to be notably common, especially in Oneonta.

Three rarities were reported: an Eared Grebe on Otsego Lake and two Arctic Terns at Owego in April, plus Fish Crows at Endwell.

Observers: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin (C,JB), Jean Barnes (JB), Reynolds Bennett (RB), Florence Bookhout, Ann Casselberry, Lynn Clark, Mildred Clark (MC), Eugene & Vera Converse, Gail Corderman, Glenys Curran, Anna & Marilyn Davis (A,MD), Louise & Warren Dean, Mary Dobinsky (MD), J. Doig, Sadie Dorber, Claire Gottschall, Elva Hawken, Jim & Kathy Hoteling, Louise Hover, Claude Howard (CH), Marian Karl (MK), Cindy Kirch, Rudolph & Ingeborg Klenke, A. Krick (AK), Margaret Layton (ML), Florence Linaberry (FL), Margaret & Dwight Lynch, Harriet Marsi (HM), Rick Marsi, Peter & Dorothy Martin, Evelyn & Bud Mead, Mary Ann Middleton, Robert Pantle (RP), Jim Saunders, Mary Sheffield (MS), Robert Sheffield, Edgar & Frances Vermilya, Elizabeth Washburn, Kathryn Wilson (KW), Tom & Beryl Wilson, Irene Wright (IW).

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; WP—Whitney Point.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Apr. 23 Owego; max 20, WP Apr. 24; still at Good-year Lake May 29. Red-necked Grebe: Apr. 17 WP, 2 (MS); Apr. 20 Delhi, 1 (MC). EARED GREBE: 1 Otsego Lake Apr. 23 (MK, *et al.*), 6 observers but no details; no previous records for Region. Pied-billed Grebe: 14 reports of 1, 2 or 3 birds from Mar. 16 to May 15, a good count for this Region. Great Blue Heron: birds on nests Apr. 23 at rookery north of Cooperstown; 35 or more nests at Sibley Gulf rookery same day. Green Heron: only 6 May records. Cattle Egret: 1 report from Owego in Apr. (JB). Great Egret: Apr. 23 Candor; May 2 Owego. Am. Bittern: only 3 reports, Apr. 20 to May 1. Mute Swan: 1 at Portlandville Apr. 2 and 9. Canada Goose: thousands Mar. 9-10 and Mar. 29, otherwise only hundreds during later Mar. and Apr. and occasional singles in May; about Mar. 7, 3 about the size of nearby Mallards at Ouquaga. Black Duck: slightly more than a third the number of Mal-

lards. Gadwall: 1 Otsego Lake Apr. 2; Apr. 30 Owego. Pintail: up to 50 at WP from Mar. 9 to the end of the month; last date Apr. 24. Blue-winged Teal: 1 Cannonsville Mar. 16, early. Northern Shoveler: 3 WP Mar. 16; also reported at Owego. Redhead: small numbers, 1 to 4, thru Mar. Canvasback: Mar. 3 Chenango Forks to Mar. 29, 9 reports, max 10 WP Mar. 21; also reported Owego. Common Goldeneye: last date Apr. 3, Owego. Bufflehead: 30 WP Apr. 24, max and last date. Oldsquaw: Apr. 8 Owego; no others. White-winged Scoter: 8 WP Apr. 24 (MS). Ruddy Duck: Apr. 30 Owego (C,JB). Hooded Merganser: 16 WP Mar. 15, first date and max; 8 Colliersville area Apr. 9, last date. Common Merganser: Apr. 24 last migrants; counts to 42 at WP. Red-breasted Merganser: 6 WP Mar. 15, max; Mar. 23 Owego; 1 WP Apr. 24, last.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Mar. 23 Owego, first date; 5 Cannonsville Apr. 10, max; small number of reports from all reporting parts of Region. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7 reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 15 Bing to Cannonsville Mar. 9; many reports of 1 to 4 throughout Region; 1 eating 18 inch snake "like a strand of spaghetti" Apr. 16. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Oneonta Mar. 12; 4 Oneonta Apr. 4; 4 other reports. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 13 Owego. Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Colliersville area Mar. 31, the only report. Bald Eagle: reported from 2 areas in Candor Mar. 20 (RP). Marsh Hawk: 2 Vestal Center Mar. 19; 2 later Tioga Co. reports. Osprey: 15 reports Apr. 9 to May 8 from all parts of Region; 5 at once Portlandville Apr. 30, max. Merlin: 1 Bing Apr. 20 (HM). Turkey: 9 reports, from all reporting parts of Region. Common Snipe: Mar. 21 Milford 2. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Portlandville area Apr. 30; 10 reports May 7 to 16, 7 max. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr. 17 Upper Lisle. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr. 25 Owego. Least Sandpiper: May 15 Owego. Bonaparte's Gull: Mar. 19 Tioga Co.; 4-5 WP Apr. 24; May 13 Cannonsville Reservoir; no others. Common Tern: 1 Portlandville Apr. 23, the only report. **ARCTIC TERN:** Apr. 24 Owego "Saw 2—perched on floats—50 feet from dock. Had a good look." (C,JB).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 15 Bing; only 1 more report. Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 reports May 15 Bing; 1 Delhi May 20; 2 Oneonta May 22; 1 report from Tioga Co. Screech Owl: only 1 report. Barred Owl: 2 May 15 reports Bing. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Bing Mar. 2 (CH). Com. Nighthawk: May 6 Bing (MS); no more until May 19; scarce. Chimney Swift: May 1 Bing and Owego and daily thereafter; flock of 40 or more WP May 8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 14 Owego. Pileated Woodpecker: 9 reports. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 still present at Owego during period.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: Apr. 30 and May 1 Tioga Co.; no more until May 10. Traill's Flycatcher (Sp?): May 15 Bing. Willow Flycatcher: May 28 WP. E. Wood Pewee: 1 Portlandville area May 4 (MD,KW), early; next report May 18. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 15 Vestal Center, the only report. Tree Swallow: Mar. 26 Candor. Barn Swallow: Apr. 17 WP. Cliff Swallow: 3 Portlandville May 4; also reported from Tioga Co. but none from Bing area. Purple Martin: Apr. 8 Owego; roughly 1 week early. **FISH CROW:** 2 along golf course near Endwell identified by 2 observers independently (FL,ML) in early May and then recognized as having been present considerably earlier—identified by voice and smaller size compared to other crows in area at the same time—1 observer with experience with species along coast. Tufted Titmouse: daily reports thru Apr., Bing area. Winter Wren: Apr. 18 Bing; 5 more reports to May 14. Carolina Wren: 1 Delhi May 6; reported from 3 Tioga Co. and 3 Broome Co. locations. Long-billed Marsh Wren: May 15 Upper Lisle and Apalachin. Mockingbird: scattered reports from all reporting parts of the Region thru. Gray Catbird: Apr. 22 Chenango Bridge; Apr. 26 Vestal Center; daily from May 1. Brown Thrasher: 1 Delhi Apr. 11; next report Apr. 20. Wood Thrush: Apr. 22 Vestal Center; next report Apr. 28; daily after May 3, but relatively scarce until later in the month. Hermit Thrush: Apr. 2 Bing then 1 Delhi Apr. 20; only 3 more. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Delhi May 22; no others. Veery: Chenango Forks, first date. E. Bluebird: 1 Oneonta area Mar. 5, first date; thru Region in usual small numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr. 18 Owego; 3 Broome Co. reports to May 22. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 Oneonta area Mar. 21;

Mar. 27 Chenango Forks; no others. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 19 to May 15. Water Pipit: Mar. 20 Candor; 400 plus Owego Apr. 4. Northern Shrike: Mar. 23 Bing (HM), the only report. Loggerhead Shrike: Mar. 26 WP (A,MD); 1 Oneonta area Apr. 9 (MD,KW).

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks, first date. Solitary Vireo: Apr. 19 Bing. Red-eyed Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks, first; no more until May 12. Philadelphia Vireo: May 14 Vestal, numerous observers; another May 15 Bing. Warbling Vireo: 2 Portlandville May 4; numbers seem down. Black-and-white Warbler: Apr. 22 Bing; next date May 1. Worm-eating Warbler: May 15 Bing (HM), the only report. Golden-winged Warbler: May 2 Choconut Center; next report May 14; total of 9 reports all from Broome Co. area. "Brewster's Warbler": May 7 Choconut Center, the first of 5 reports from Broome and Tioga Cos. Blue-winged Warbler: May 1 Owego; next date May 8; 5 males May 14 Owego; 13 Broome Co. reports. Tennessee Warbler: May 14 to 22, down. Nashville Warbler: Apr. 23 Choconut Center. Yellow Warbler: 2 Choconut Center Apr. 30. Magnolia Warbler: May 14 Vestal. Cape May Warbler: May 14 Vestal and Owego, scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 Delhi May 12, first of only 3 reports. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 5 Chenango Forks, first migrants. Black-throated Green Warbler: Apr. 29 Chenango Forks; relatively scarce. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Chenango Forks. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 7 reports from Chenango Forks and Choconut Center; regular from May 14. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 21 Endwell; 2 Delhi May 28, the only reports. Blackpoll Warbler: May 20 Choconut Center; only 3 more reports. Prairie Warbler: May 16 Chenango Forks; May 21 Choconut Center. Ovenbird: Apr. 26 Vestal, early; next date May 1. Northern Waterthrush: 2 Crumhorn, in Oneonta area, May 4. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 18 Hinman's Corners, n. of Bing. Mourning Warbler: 1 Delhi May 12; the only report. Yellow-breasted Chat: Apr. 22 Bing (HM), no others. Wilson's Warbler: May 15 Apalachin; also at Endwell, Choconut Center and Owego. Canada Warbler: 2 Oneonta area May 7; only 5 other reports starting May 14. Am. Redstart: May 8 WP; daily after May 14.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 2 Owego, first date. Orchard Oriole: May 28 Delhi (AK). Northern Oriole: 1 n. of Choconut Center Apr. 30; May 3 Owego; daily after May 6. Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 7 Newark Valley; Mar. 25 Owego; Apr. 16 Choconut Center; that's all. Brown-headed Cowbird: reported regularly from Mar. 18. Scarlet Tanager: 1 Delhi May 11, first date. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Apr. 28 Chenango Forks, first; regular from May 1. Indigo Bunting: May 14 Owego. Evening Grosbeak: 20 Oneonta May 6 and to May 17 at another Oneonta location, the only May reports. Purple Finch: wintering flocks thinned out after Apr. 18 but larger than usual numbers remained thru the period. House Finch: reports becoming more regular and numerous in Mar. and Apr., but thinning in May, apparently as they spread out to breed. Rufous-sided Towhee: obvious migrants Apr. 17. Savannah Sparrow: Mar. 20 Candor and 2 at WP. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 2 Owego, singing; 4 other reports. Henslow's Sparrow: May 20 and 22 Choconut Center; no others. Vesper Sparrow: Mar. 29 WP; only 5 other reports. Dark-eyed Junco: wintering and/or migrating flocks thinning out after Apr. 23, but almost daily reports continued thru May. Tree Sparrow: few after Mar. 31; Apr. 28 Delhi the last report. Chipping Sparrow: Mar. 4 and 20 Oneonta (IW); Apr. 4 Owego; Apr. 16 Candor; daily from Apr. 21. Field Sparrow: Mar. 4 Oneonta (IW); next report Apr. 1 and more or less regularly reported from then on. White-crowned Sparrow: Mar. 27 Owego (RB); next report 1 Delhi Apr. 28; bulk of migrants May 3 to 16; last date May 18. White-throated Sparrow: thinning after May 1 but plentiful until May 16. Fox Sparrow: 1 Oneonta Mar. 3 to 6, the first; bulk of migrants Mar. 17 to 31 with scattered reports to Apr. 12. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 21 Endwell (MS), the only report. Song Sparrow: arrived in force Mar. 1. Snow Bunting: late reports at Owego Mar. 23 and Marathon Mar. 26.

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REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The March inheritance of ice left fairly quickly with the warm, calm weather in the first two-thirds of March and the snow cover around Syracuse disappeared even earlier. A brief but severe cold spell in late March probably wiped out a number of the earlier, more tender migrants, but late March saw a period of strong southwest winds (March 29-30) with attendant excellent raptor and early landbird (American Robin, icterids) flights along Lake Ontario. April, however, produced day after day of dry, fair weather with winds either northwest, north, or northeast and movement for virtually three weeks was almost nil; a few early landbirds (e.g. Solitary Vireo) showed up with warm weather in mid-April but waves or lakeshore flights were non-existent for that time. The April raptor flights were virtually accomplished in two days (April 21-22) and the rest of the month was a bust. May was dry and fair with persistent northwest winds, abundant in obscuring foliage, mingy in warblers, and dull as a Ford speech. Warbler waves occurred later than usual (May 16-26) and the trans-regional passage of strict migrants (e.g. Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers) was remarkably quick. However, a number of local breeding species (both cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting) did not arrive until early or mid-June. The extreme dryness of both April and May is reflected in the currently reduced water levels in virtually all the local marshes and lakes and, though it bodes well for early fall shorebirding, this drought may contribute to significant breeding failure in the already jeopardized paludous species.

Spring positives include 1) a sprinkling of white herons; 2) an excellent Canada Goose flight; 3) a heavy flight of diving ducks, albeit of short duration and confined to the Lake Ontario zone; 4) a particularly good late March raptor movement at Derby Hill; 5) good tallies of early shorebirds and a brief but rich late May shorebird flight; 6) large flights of Common Crow in March and of Blue Jay in May along Lake Ontario; 7) fair survival of Tufted Titmouse and definite expansion in Mockingbird; 8) above average numbers of some vireos, although late in coming; 9) better numbers of certain warblers, especially Tennessee, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, and Bay-breasted Warblers, and Common Yellowthroat; 10) continued expansion of House Finch; and 11) a heavy flight of White-crowned Sparrow.

The litany of spring negatives, the "downers," include 1) very poor tallies of Common Loon and Horned Grebe; 2) low counts on American Bittern; 3) an incredibly poor dabbling duck migration; 4) poor numbers of Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers; 5) a poor hawk migration in April except for one glorious day (April 21); 6) very low numbers of Bonaparte's Gull and all terns; 7) a paucity of cuckoos; 8) a delayed flight of Willow and Alder Flycatchers; 9) reduced tallies on all swallows; 10) striking drops in many migrants which overwinter in the continental U.S., e.g. Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, and both kinglets; 11) reduced numbers of most early warblers; 12) profound reduction in many sparrows, most striking in Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Fox Sparrows.

Rare species for the season—Glossy Ibis, European Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Black Vulture, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, White-eyed Vireo, "Brewster's," "Lawrence's," and Prairie Warblers, Lark Bunting, and Clay-colored Sparrow..

Observers: G. & M. Church; K. M. Coyle; D. W. Crumb; P. A. DeBenedictis; B. & D. DeSimone; G. Huggins; R. E. Long; D. & J. Muir; M. B. & S. Peebles; M. S. Rusk; F. G. Scheider; G. A. Smith; C. G. Spies.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FH,LSB—Fair Haven

and Little Sodus Bay in northern Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, lakeshore if referring to waterbirds, woodlots or thickets if referring to landbirds; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; L—lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: poor spring flight—max only 45 Apr. 20 DH; present to Jun. 2. Horned Grebe: like Common Loon, very poor flight—max only 45 Apr. 10 DH—SSSP. Double-crested Cormorant: scarce—one noted Apr. 11 DH—unreported otherwise. White herons—Great Egret: singles at Churchville Mar. 31 (very early), April 28 near Utica, Six-mile Creek May 1, Scott Swamp May 12, and Pond Hundred near Fair Haven May 14, a bit above average; Cattle Egret: single adults Apr. 11 DH and May 8 Clay Swamp. American Bittern: max for spring four Scott Swamp May 12 and four again May 21 near Utica; continues to grow ever more scarce. **GLOSSY IBIS:** single in DeWitt in late Apr. and again May 21 near Utica. Canada Goose: an impressive spring flight—max. 10,000 plus Seneca River flats Mar. 1 and 13,600 over DH Apr. 30, the date of major exodus; lesser concentrations include 9,000 Brewerton Mar. 9 and 3,000 Apr. 12 near east end of Oneida L. Brant: a miserable spring flight—max nine on May 16 Mexico Point West; singles otherwise with the most unusual one at Utica Marsh May 21 (B. & D. DeSimone).

Dabbling ducks were a spring disaster and this for nearly all species—*sic*, Mallard max 185 Mar. 1 Baldwinsville; Black Duck max 85 Mar. 27 DH—Scott Swamp; Gadwall max 45 Mar. 26 FH; Pintail max 300 Mar. 20 Clay Swamp; Green-winged Teal max 20 (incredibly low) Apr. 20 Clay Swamp; Blue-winged Teal max 24 Apr. 23 DH—Scott Swamp; American Wigeon max 45 (amazingly low) Mar. 17 FH—Seneca River flats; Northern Shoveler max four Apr. 2 DH; Wood Duck max 40 May 22 Scott Swamp. The only rare dabbling duck for the spring was a male **EUROPEAN WIGEON** Mar. 20 west of Oswego (M. Rusk). A huge diving duck flight noted on Lake Ontario and Little Sodus Bay with impressive numbers there briefly in the last third of March—however, numbers of divers were very low on Oneida L and in the ice-choked waters of eastern L Ontario. Maxima include Redhead 2,200 Mar. 20 LSB; Ring-necked Duck 730 Mar. 20 LSB and Pond Hundred and 117 Mar. 19 Onondaga L; Canvasback 2,000 Mar. 20 LSB; Greater Scaup 6,550 Mar. 25 LSB and L Ontario; Lesser Scaup 1,020 Mar. 26 LSB—Oswego; Common Goldeneye 500 Mar. 20 LSB—L Ontario; Bufflehead 290 Mar. 20 LSB; and Common Merganser 2,000 Mar. 20 LSB—L Ontario; this huge diving duck flight was not shared by Oldsquaw (max 75 Apr. 20 DH), White-winged Scoter (max 300 May 15 DH), Hooded Merganser (max 60 Mar. 26 LSB), and Red-breasted Merganser (max 200—miserably low—Apr. 10 DH). Rare diving ducks include a male **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** Mar. 6 at Caughdenoy, a pair of **SURF SCOTERS** Apr. 30 Salmon River at SSSP, and the now sadly rare Ruddy Duck—two Mar. 10 DH, two Mar. 19 Beaver L, and one Apr. 3 FH.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: expanding eastward; now regular in small numbers east to Town of Marshall, Oneida Co. and West Winfield in southern Herkimer Co. The Derby Hill figures are presented here in chart form.

DERBY HILL SPRING RAPTOR SUMMARY

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date Range</u>	<u>90% Date Range</u>	<u>Peak Tallies</u>	<u>+ Date</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 9-Jun. 2	Mar. 29-May 1	157	Mar. 30	683
Goshawk	Feb. 24-Apr. 11	Feb. 27-Mar. 29	7	Mar. 9	40
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Feb. 27-May 22	Mar. 29-May 4	982	Apr. 21	3,919
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 5-May 17	Mar. 12-Apr. 22	50	Mar. 30	269
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 22-Jun. 2	Mar. 5-Apr. 22	589	Mar. 29	3,701
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 5-May 12	Mar. 9-Mar. 30	266	Mar. 29	935
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 13-Jun. 2	Apr. 20-May 6	8,105	Apr. 21	16,107
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 12-May 6	Feb. 27-Apr. 22	44	Apr. 21	203
Golden Eagle	Mar. 9-Apr. 21	Mar. 12-Apr. 21	10	Apr. 21	25

Species	Date Range	90% Date Range	Peak Tallies	+ Date	Totals
Bald Eagle	Mar. 8-May 6	--	2	Mar. 8	5
Marsh Hawk	Feb. 24-May 6	Feb. 27-Apr. 30	57	Apr. 21	337
Osprey	Mar. 29-Jun. 2	Apr. 11-May 12	28	May 4	130
Peregrine Falcon	Apr. 11-May 4	---	singles only		3
Merlin	Mar. 12-May 4	---	singles only		5
American Kestrel	Feb. 26-May 22	Mar. 10-May 1	55	Mar. 28	283
Unidentified	---	---	---		196
Total					26,850

Record high counts were achieved at DH for Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle; record low for Goshawk; nearly record high tallies were logged for Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, the first upswing in Red-shouldered Hawk in several years. Note the concentration of peak dates Mar. 29-30 and again Apr. 21 and be aware that virtually no other days had notable numbers of migrant raptors; it was a remarkably concentrated flight this year. Besides the rare Peregrine Falcon and the declining Bald Eagle, the other notable raptor was a **BLACK VULTURE** Mar. 30 (GAS,DM,H. Axtell,mob), the second in four years. American Coot: very scarce—max only 15 Apr. 24 FH. Spring shorebirds staged a surprisingly good April flight and a brief but beautiful late May movement—the late Mar.-Apr. max consisted of 42 Killdeer Mar. 27 DH, Common Snipe 12 Apr. 28 Six-mile Creek, 16 Greater Yellowlegs May 1 Six-mile Creek, 26 Lesser Yellowlegs May 1 Six-mile Creek, and the most surprising tally, 115 Pectoral Sandpiper Apr. 28 Six-mile Creek. Late May shorebird maxima include 16 Black-bellied Plover, 20 Ruddy Turnstone, 28 Red Knot, and 22 Short-billed Dowitcher all at Sandy Pond Inlet May 29. Rare shorebirds for the spring are a **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** May 28 and 30 SPI (first for the region and the state—P. DeBenedictis,FGS) and a male **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** May 17 near Lakeland (FGS). Ring-billed Gull: 3,000 to 7,000/day thru late March on the ice of LSB at FH, obviously a major staging area for the species locally. Bonaparte's Gull: spring max a wretched seven Mar. 11 FH; virtually unrecorded elsewhere. The tern picture grows steadily worse—max are 30 Common Tern May 14 Oswego, three Caspian Tern May 26 SPI, and ten Black Tern May 26 SSSP; with the loss of the N. Syracuse group, there are no extant Black Tern colonies in Onondaga Co. now.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Despite a massive food supply in the local tent caterpillar outbreak, both species of cuckoos were remarkably scarce—a total of three Yellow-billed and two Black-billed were reported for all observers for all of May; numbers did appear to pick up in mid-June, however. Whip-poor-will: first noted May 1 (rather late) Syracuse. Chimney Swift: max 170 May 13 CV-Fish Gulf, a large number for spring away from L Ontario. Common Flicker: max for DH 130 (a bit thin) Apr. 18 with not even minor flights after that. Red-headed Woodpecker: max nine DH May 16, undoubtedly birds passing along LOL to St. Lawrence River Valley breeding localities. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singularly scarce thru spring—max only two Apr. 17 thru 28 at various locales.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: max 26 DH May 15; still migrating by there Jun. 2. Eastern Phoebe: first noted Mar. 11 one DH—that bird probably did not survive the later cold weather; later tallies very poor—probably hard hit by the severe winter just passed—max only six May 12 (very late) DH. Willow and Alder Flycatchers: arr May 19 three N. Syracuse and May 17 one Clark's Reservation respectively; however, counts of local breeding areas showed that neither species arrived in numbers until Jun. 8-10, very much like the pattern of cuckoo numbers and of Indigo Bunting. Least Flycatcher: 100 singing birds on Sandy Pond dunes May 19—it sounded like continuous popcorn popping—a record local tally and mayhops for the state also. Horned Lark: max only 200 Apr. 8 near Oneida; frankly scarce now both as breeder and migrant. Swallow data—arrival dates are Tree Swallow Mar. 27 (late) two Scott Swamp; Bank Swallow Apr. 19 (very late) two DH; Rough-winged Swallow Apr. 10 one DH; Barn Swallow Apr. 10 one DH; Cliff Swallow Apr.

24 (very late) one DH; and Purple Martin Apr. 21 (very late) four DH. Swallow max for spring strikingly low with best tallies Tree Swallow 2,000, Bank Swallow 1,000, Rough-winged Swallow 20, Barn Swallow 1,000 all May 8 DH-LOL; max Cliff Swallow 12 (very low) May 15 DH and Purple Martin 40 May 19 SP-SSSP, probably mostly breeding birds. It appears the local Tree Swallows were badly hit by the severe winter of '76-'77 in the southern U.S. as local numbers may properly be said to have been decimated. Blue Jay: heavy LOL migration—951 May 12, 3,500 May 16, 1,500 May 17 all DH; still passing there Jun. 2. Common Crow: max 7,000 Feb. 27 with lesser numbers later—1,767 Mar. 8, 1,740 Mar. 9, 1,900 Mar. 12, 820 Mar. 29, 450 Apr. 2, all DH—over 16,000 noted in passage there. Tufted Titmouse: three singing birds CV May 14 indicates some winter survival. Winter Wren: migration max a wretched two Apr. 23 LOL; seems to have been hard hit by the severe '76-'77 winter. Carolina Wren: two singing birds in DeWitt—the only ones left after that terrible winter. Long-billed Marsh Wren: max only 11 May 14 Bridgeport area; another species hard hit by the winter. Mockingbird: singles noted in many areas around DeWitt, Clay, N. Syracuse, and L Ontario; appears to have come thru much better than either the Tufted Titmouse or the Carolina Wren. Gray Catbird: max 35 May 19 SP dunes—otherwise only fairly common. Brown Thrasher: max seven CV May 17, probably mostly breeders; scarce generally and, like the wrens, probably much reduced by the past severe winter. Hermit Thrush: spring max only four May 15 LOL—another victim of the rough winter. Swainson's Thrush: max 18 May 18 Syr. and 12 May 19 SP dunes—no late birds noted. Eastern Bluebird: max five Apr. 11 DH—incredibly scarce away from there. Golden-crowned Kinglet: seasonal high only 20 (very low) Apr. 7 FH and Ruby-crowned Kinglet only slightly better—50 Apr. 23 LOL woodlots; suspect both species much reduced by the winter's severity. Northern Shrike: departure date Mar. 20 one Bolivar, the last of a very good irruption.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: One May 22 SP dunes; now almost an annual spring vagrant. Yellow-throated Vireo: max five May 21 FH. Solitary Vireo: arr very early—Apr. 19 two Syr; rather scarce thereafter. Red-eyed Vireo: max 60 May 30 Tug Hill Plateau—probably includes both breeders and later migrants. Warbling Vireo: max 32 CV-Fish Gulf May 14 and 12 Onondaga L May 30, definitely above average numbers. Warbler waves were much delayed—none noted in late April or early May. Major waves occurred May 13-14, 16, 18-19, 22, and 26 with the 18-19th outstanding; warm fair weather in late May allowed everything—and I mean everything—to zip right thru; essentially May warbling was ten days—May 16-26, zilch otherwise. Above average numbers (max only given) were achieved by Tennessee Warbler 110 May 19 Syr, Yellow Warbler 120 May 19 SP dunes, Magnolia Warbler 25 May 19 SP dunes, Black-throated Blue Warbler 28 May 19 SP dunes, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 240 Apr. 21 DH, Bay-breasted Warbler 48 May 19 SP dunes, Common Yellowthroat 60 May 19 SP dunes, Canada Warbler 18 May 19 SP dunes, and American Redstart 40 May 21 FH. Especially scarce (max only given) were Black-and-white Warbler five May 19 SP dunes, Nashville Warbler 16 May 13 CV-Fish Gulf, Northern Parula four May 19 SP dunes, Cape May Warbler 12 May 19 Syr, Black-throated Green Warbler 10 May 15 LOL woodlots, Blackburnian Warbler seven May 19 SP dunes, Chestnut-sided Warbler eight May 19 SP dunes, and Palm Warbler four May 12 DH. Both the low numbers of the earlier species and the striking concentration of maximal counts on May 19 stand out sharply.

Rarer warblers include seven "**BREWSTER'S WARBLERS**" and a "**LAWRENCE'S WARBLER**" (one May 21 near Brookfield—B. & D. DeSimone); **PRAIRIE WARBLER** one May 21 CV; and Yellow-breasted Chat one May 21-24 CV—however, the last did not persist.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird: max 35,000 Mar. 17 and 70,000 Mar. 30, both DH; birds still moving by DH in early June; Rusty Blackbird: max 400 Apr. 21 and again Apr. 23 both DH; present to May 15 six DH. Cardinal: survived the winter very well—max 24 CV-Fish Gulf May 12 and now common enough to be a significant part of local roadkills. Indigo Bunting: counts in late May only one-five/day; numbers did not arrive locally until the second week of June. Evening Grosbeak: light return flight by DH—

max only 110 Apr. 2 with last date there May 15 ten. Pine Grosbeak: the last of a mini-flight—19 Mar. 3 near Eaton (G. Church). House Finch: expansion accelerating—pairs now at seven sites in Syr., and also in Utica, N. Syr., and Oswego. **LARK BUNTING**: a gorgeous male in full breeding plumage and song May 19-22 Wampsville (M., B., and S. Peebles, mob), the first regional record.

Most local sparrows seem much reduced in numbers with even the ubiquitous Chipping and Song Sparrows showing lower tallies. Meadow or grassland sparrows seemed particularly low—max are Savannah Sparrow 12 May 16 Clay, Grasshopper Sparrow singles only, Henslow's Sparrow two May 9 near Canastota, Vesper Sparrow three Mar. 31 Pleasant L near Phoenix. Similarly scarce were Fox Sparrow—max four Apr. 2 Clay with the last noted Apr. 20 two also Clay.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: a singing bird with White-crowned Sparrows May 15 Mexico Point West (M. Rusk), only the fifth local record. White-crowned Sparrow: arr May 1 three near Chittenango and also two DH; like the warblers, very few in the next ten days but a heavy migration May 13-19 with max 295 May 16 LOL woodlots. Song Sparrow: max 110 Mar. 12 DH and 90 Mar. 26 DH-Scott Swamp—much reduced, particularly if compared with last year's very high tallies. Snow Bunting: max 600 Mar. 19 Skyline Dr. near Oriskany Falls; last noted Apr. 9 110 same area (late for so many).

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1977 came early in the lowlands but winter hung on in the Tug Hill and Adirondack sections with snow present into late April. The May snowstorm missed most of the lower-lying sections in the Region. Temperatures ranged from 20^o F to the mid 60^os F (-6^o C to 15^o C).

May brought cool and dry conditions with very little rainfall—the opposite of last year. Lake levels dropped 2 feet below last year's and waterfowl nesting success was much improved from last year.

Rarities for the period were Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Cattle Egret, Least Bittern, Red-shouldered Hawk, both eagles, Am. Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, House Finch, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Contributors: Lee B. Chamberlaine (LBC); Frank A. Clinch (FAC); Kenneth L. Crowell (KLC); Charles Devan; Richard Esden; Aizel LaFave; John Sandwick; Joe A. VanRiet (JAV); Robert C. and June Walker (RCW).

Abbreviations: ED—Eldorado Shores; LWMA—Lakeview WMA; PRWMA—Perch River WMA; RMPD—Robert Moses Power Dam; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA—Wilson Hill WMA.

Corrigenda: Vol. XXVII, No. 1, p. 49, Remove **LAUGHING GULL**: 1 ED Sept. 11 (TLC), at request of observer.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: many reports; new location ULLWMA May 25; some new nesting locations also. **RED-THROATED LOON**: pair Nichols Isl WHWMA May 27 good description (JAV). **RED-NECKED GREBE**: 4 Pillar Pt. Apr. 17 (RCW). **Horned Grebe**: 1 only May 7 (JAV). **Pied-billed Grebe**: arrived WHWMA Apr. 15. **Double-crested**

Cormorant: many reports Lake Ontario and SLR; numbers seem up considerably from previous years (LBC). Great Blue Heron: good numbers—new rookeries located. Green Heron: good numbers. **CATTLE EGRET**: 1 near Ellisburg May 13 (FAC); 3 Dexter May 31. **GREAT EGRET**: 3 PRWMA May 23 (C. Devan). Black-crowned Night Heron: very common in Henderson and Lakeview areas this year—numbers up (LBC). **LEAST BITTERN**: 1 RMPD pond May 11 (JAV); 2 LWMA May 30 (RCW); Am. Bittern: numbers up? Whistling Swan: 1 PRWMA May 24 (C. Devan); same May 30 (RCW). Canada Goose: arrived WHWMA Mar. 10; 4,700 Croil Isl 1,500 RMPD Apr. 18; nesting everywhere WHWMA to RMPD—first young May 9 (JAV); better nesting success PRWMA than last year (LBC); two sets of goslings Henderson Pond (R. Esden). Brant: 110 May 20; 1 May 24; 6 May 25; 5 May 26; 39 May 27 all SLR (JAV). Snow Goose: 1 Apr. 18; 2 (one blue morph) Apr. 27 (JAV). Mallard: all over the Region—high brood production. Black: 4 to 6 per day end of May many nesting. Gadwall: 10 to 12 per day end of May (JAC); 2 PRWMA May 3 (RCW). Pintail: 6 Mar. 28; 22 Mar. 29; 60 Mar. 30; 100 Apr. 2; 1 pair Croil Isl May 26—very few locals (JAV). Green-winged Teal: 9 May 11; 5 May 14; 1 May 24—only ones seen (JAV). Blue-winged Teal: 2 to 4 per day (JAV); LWMA loaded with nesters (LBC). Am. Wigeon: 10 to 12 a day (JAV). No. Shoveler: 2 May 3 only ones seen (JAV). Wood Duck: very few seen (JAC); many, many in Henderson and lakeshore marshes (LBC). Redhead: 2 Mar. 5; 4 Mar. 20; 4 May 4; 9 May 23; 1 May 25—only ones seen (JAV). Ring-necked Duck: 8 PRWMA Mar. 26. Canvasback: 15 Mar. 20; 97 Mar. 28; 16 Mar. 31 all SLR; 2 PRWMA Mar. 26 (RCW). Greater Scaup: max 1,200 RMPD Mar. 28; 1 pair SLR May 23 (JAV). Com. Goldeneye: 6 Apr. 29; 1 RMPD May 14 seen flying (JAV). Bufflehead: 1 Mar. 28; 6 Apr. 10; courtship Apr. 17; 5 pair Apr. 18; 10 pair Apr. 29; 3 May 23. Oldsquaw: 5 RMPD Apr. 20. Ruddy Duck: 1 WHWMA Apr. 13; 1 Croil Isl May 23; 2 WHWMA May 24—all males (JAC). Hooded Merganser: 3 Mar. 26 PRWMA; 2 Mar. 28; 2 Apr. 18. Com. Merganser: 2 to 3 a day; pair Croil Isl May 23 & May 27; 1 pair off WHWMA May 27. Red-breasted Merganser: 11 RMPD May 4; 1 pair SLR off Coles Crk Marina May 30 (JAV).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 3 Henderson Apr. 18 (LBC); 1 Redwood May 28. Goshawk: new nest location with 3 young Indian Lakes vicinity (A. LaFave). Sharp-shinned: 1 Mar. 29; 1 Apr. 28; 1 May 1 (JAV). Cooper's: none observed. Red-tailed: in good numbers. **RED-SHOULDERED**: 1 Henderson Harbor Mar. 12 (RCW); 1 SLR Mar. 29 (JAV) *seldom reported*. Broad-winged: 18 Apr. 27; 1 RMSP May 6. Rough-legged: 3 Mar. 26; 1 Mar. 29; 1 Apr. 27—late. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: 1 immature RMSP 2:45 p.m. Mar. 29—Derby Hill leftover (JAV). **BALD EAGLE**: 2 RMSP in with Golden above Mar. 29 (JAV); 2 immature Raquette River 3 mi west of Massena (JAV); 1 Blake Reservoir Raquette River So. Colton May 1 (J. Sandwick). Marsh Hawk: 4 reported—numbers not what they use to be. Osprey: many many sightings throughout Region. Am. Kestrel: regular thru. Ruffed Grouse: 2 or 3 per day drumming. Gray Partridge: 2 Chaumont Mar. 26; 2 Sulphur Springs May 23 (RCW); possibly some improvement in numbers from previous 3 years (LBC). Virginia Rail: 1 Dennison Rd. May 7; 3 Grantville May 14. Sora: 2 Eisenhower Lock swamp May 7; 2 May 14. Com. Gallinule: 1 May 2; 1 May 5. Am. Coot: 1 Apr. 29; 1 Croil Isl May 23. Semipalmated Plover: 3 May 23; 5 May 24. Killdeer—March 19. **AM. GOLDEN PLOVER**: 1 Croil Isl summer plumage May 25 (JAV). Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 20; 1 May 25; 1 Croil Isl May 27; 1 ED May 30. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Croil Isl; 19 Long Sault Isl; 2 off Koffer Dam May 29. Com. Snipe: 3 Apr. 12. **WHIMBREL**: 1 ED May 30 (RCW). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Harverstock Farm Apr. 29; seems to be up from previous two years (LBC). Spotted Sandpiper: 2 May 1; 1 or 2 every 300 yds. along SLR shorelines. Greater Yellowlegs: 1 May 1; 1 WHWMA May 15. Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 Apr. 15. Red Knot: 1 island off Koffer Dam May 25; 28 Croil Isl May 28 (JAV). Pectoral Sandpiper: 50 Baggs Corners Apr. 17 (RCW). Least Sandpiper: 5 May 20; 5 May 23; 4 May 27; 2 May 28; 5 May 29 all SLR. Dunlin: 1 WHWMA Apr. 15 winter plumage moulting; 2 Long Sault Isl May 28. Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Croil Isl May 27 (JAV). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 24 Bradford Point WHWMA May 27. **MARbled GODWIT**: 1 on sandbar off Coles Creek Marina May 27 (JAV)—a Regional

First—notes to editor. Sanderling: 5 SLR May 25 (1 still in winter plumage).

Glaucous Gull: 1 Mar. 5; 1 Mar. 10; 2 Mar. 15; 1 2nd yr May 29 *very late*. (JAV). Iceland Gull: 1 Mar. 5; 1 Mar. 10; 2 Mar. 15. Great Black-backed Gull: 8 to 10 immatures per day, very few mature—1 pair in courtship, regurgitating etc. May 12. Herring Gull: 10 to 12 per day. Ring-billed Gull: arrived RMPD Mar. 15—steady flight direction SW along SLR; thousands Mar. 27 into Apr. (JAV); the numbers in Henderson area are as high as I have ever seen them—inland movement to croplands go as far as peripheral Tug Hill (LBC). Bonaparte's Gull: 1 RMPD winter plumage; 2 off WHWMA May 14; 2 immatures May 23. Com. Tern: arrival May 1; 120 + pair nesting from Coles Creek to RMPD (JAV). Caspian Tern: 2 Long Sault Isl May 26. Black Tern: 8 May 4; 23 May 13; good numbers LWMA.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: down a little from previous high—Henderson area. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Dry Hill Rd, May 21 (RCW). Black-billed Cuckoo: fairly abundant this year—big caterpillar year in some areas (LBC). Whip-poor-will: Apr. 2; down in So. Colton area (L. Wallace). Com. Nighthawk: May 19. Chimney Swift: down in Henderson area (LBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird slow in showing up—numbers about the same. Belted Kingfisher: Apr. 27. Com. Flicker: 3 Mar. 30. Pileated: 1 WHWMA May 8. Red-headed Woodpecker: one individual—Henderson area reported (LBC). Hairy Woodpecker: numbers still down—as in winter report.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: 3 May 14. Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 WHWMA May 14. E. Phoebe: not in numbers as previous years (LBC). Willow Flycatcher: 2 Brownville May 23 (RCW). Alder Flycatcher: 1 LWMA May 30 (RCW). Least Flycatcher: 2 May 12; 5 May 14 (JAV). E. Wood Pewee: numbers as usual. Horned Lark: numbers are down in most of Region.

Tree Swallow: Mar. 23. Bank Swallow: May 4; 250 + pairs nesting along SLR from Massena golf course to RMPD (JAV). Rough-winged Swallow: arrival 4 Massena Power House Alcoa Apr. 15. Barn Swallow: Apr. 20. Cliff Swallow: arrived RMPD Apr. 20 and building nests—600 + nests at RMPD Koffer Dam and Massena Intake (JAV). Purple Martin: 23 houses occupied by May 29 along SLR Wilson Hill area. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 or 2 per day. Brown Creeper: 1 or 2 per day. House Wren: May 3. Winter Wren: April 12; 1 May 8. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numbers up at LWMA. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** 1 WHWMA May 14 & May 29 (JAV). Mockingbird: 1 Winthrop May 18 to May 23 imitating more than 13 other species—1 hour tape available (JAV). Gray Catbird: May 17. Brown Thrasher: Apr. 30. Wood Thrush: May 8. Swainson's Thrush: 2 May 17. E. Bluebird—no reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 Piercefield Apr. 30 (KLC); rare in Region. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 Mar. 31; 1 Apr. 14. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: May 6; 4 May 8. Water Pipit: Canton Apr. 19.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 Dry Hill Rd Mar. 22 (RCW). 14 Dry Hill Mar. 28 (RCW). Cedar Waxwing: 100 Dry Hill Mar. 3 and 23. No. Shrike: last Mar. 20. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Hogansburg May 27 (JAV).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: 1 May 1. Red-eyed Vireo: May 20. Warbling Vireo: May 4. Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Dry Hill May 21; 3 same loc. May 27 (RCW). Tennessee: 10 Thompson Pk May 16 (RCW). Nashville: 1 May 2; 4 May 3 (JAV), 2 May 8; abundant in Canton (KLC). No. Parula: 1 May 17. Yellow: 4 May 6. Cape May: 3 May 17 (JAV). 2 Thompson Pk May 16 (RCW). Black-throated Blue: May 12. Yellow-rumped: 5 Apr. 20; 30 Apr. 30; 60 May 4. Black-throated Green: May 14. Blackburnian: May 14. Chestnut-sided: May 12. Bay-breasted: May 15. Pine: 2 Apr. 20; 1 May 1 (JAV). Palm: 1 Brasher State Forest Apr. 20 (JAV). Ovenbird: May 12. Com. Yellowthroat: 2 May 14. Redstart: May 14.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 12; numbers may be up. No. Oriole: Apr. 29. Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 10. Scarlet Tanager: May 16. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 14.

Evening Grosbeak: last May 3. Purple Finch: fewer than previous year. **HOUSE FINCH:** 1 male and two females or immature males at window feeder—usually only one or two at a time during April—one male and one female or immature male banded Apr. 30—last seen May 1 (FAC). Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 21. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 15.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 1 Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). **HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** 1 Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). Vesper Sparrow: numbers down. Dark-eyed Junco: last May 1. Tree Sparrow: 14 Mar. 23; wave Mar. 25-27; last Apr. 1. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 20; more common than last two years. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 3 males Watertown Airport May 27 (FAC). Field Sparrow: 1 Apr. 12; 1 May 12 scarce here (Massena) (JAV). White-crowned Sparrow: 4 May 6; wave May 15; more in Henderson area than previous 3 yrs.—outnumbered white-throats 3 to 1 (LBC). White-throated Sparrow: Apr. 20 diminishing May 6. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 21. Snow Bunting: 21 Mar. 23; last 4 Mar. 26.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

March was unseasonably warm with 55° F (12.7° C) on the 13th and a fantastic 60° F (15.5° C) on the 29th. This helped shut off the snow machines a bit sooner than normal. I suspect a few people were not entirely upset at this result. By April 17th the ice was gone from most of the lakes. There were no late storms to endanger migrants.

The number of Saw-whet Owls was noteworthy. They were throughout the area from Ferd's Bog in Hamilton County to Tupper Lake and the Champlain Valley. At least 15 individuals were calling in the Paul Smiths area in March and April. Sometimes more could be heard in an evening than Barred Owls—our most common species.

A fourth Raven's nest was finally located near where Glenn Perrigo saw a Raven vanish into the ledges above the West Branch of the Ausable River near Wilmington a few years ago. Another pair seems to have taken up housekeeping near Paul Smiths but the nest has not been located.

Ospreys are nesting at Ochre Pond and Bear Pond in the canoe area as usual. It is quite a sight to see them soaring against the ledges of St. Regis Mountain.

This May was the driest in 20 years so Lake Champlain was at low levels early. This should provide excellent shorebird stopover areas for late summer. It may have helped Clinton County reach 122 species for their May Big Day.

Two additional records for nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatchers indicate both a recognition of the gnat problem in this region and a likelihood that this species is going to increase its known breeding range to new northern limits.

The hunting fraternity has released some New York Turkeys at Willsboro. Another release at Ticonderoga indicates only hunters will be to blame if this new species takes hold in our area. Hopefully it will.

Sandhill Cranes wander on occasion. It was nice to have one visit this spring. All told, it was a good migration.

Localities: Chazy Landing; Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain; Paul Smiths; Plattsburgh; Saranac Lake; Ticonderoga; Tupper Lake.

Observers: Geoffrey Carleton; Mrs. Charles Chapman, Jr.; Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Decker; Charlie Delehanty; John David Delehanty; High Peaks Audubon Society; Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; Hal Klein; Ferdinand LaFrance; Esther MacCready; Betsy & John MacMillan; Betty Martin; Norman Mason; Ruth Meier; Ray Payson; John (Mike) Peterson; Gary Randsdorf; William Rutherford; Chris Spies; Steve Sanford; Greg Smith; Phil Warren.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Black Pd at PS is probably gone as a breeding place because a lean-to is located too close to the nesting island. No birds lingered there this year. Fishing pressure and subsequent human activity seems to increase every season. Increased use of the St. Regis canoe area islands as camp sites may well pose a problem for those birds. Nesting islands should be declared off limits to campers until the young are on the water. Red-necked Grebe: 2 Whallon's Bay L Cham May 3 (EM). Pied-billed Grebe: several L Cham Apr. 9 (mob). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Platts May 22 (PW). Great Blue Heron: many birds this year. Dr. Kingsbury watched one individual soar from tree top to the limit of vision on a thermal. American Bittern: 1 Tup L May 22 (MK); 1 Tup L May 22 (Mrs. Chapman); plus several L Cham. Canada Goose: 69 Chubb R Mar. 12 (PW *et al.*); breeding for fifth year straight at Four Bros; breeder at Tup L. Snow Goose: 43 Moriah May 3 (NM); 6 Chazy Ldg May 14 (PW,SS,RP). **GADWALL:** 1 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 and 2 May 14 (PW,SS,RP). Pintail: max 33 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 (PW). American Wigeon: max 170 Chazy Ldg Apr. 24 (PW). **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** 1 male seen at 50 meters thru a Balscope for 20 minutes; rufous head and gray sides clearly seen (PW). Northern Shoveler: max 10 Chazy Ldg May 14 (PW,SS). Redhead: 2 Chazy Ldg Apr. 9 and May 8 (PW,RP); 1 Essex Station May 14 (GR *et al.*). Ring-necked Duck: at least 15 pair noted on breeding areas. Hooded Merganser: at least 10 females on various snag-filled beaver flows and small ponds near PS in late May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: several L Cham; 1 PS in May seemed out of place (WR). 27 Sharp-shinned Hawks reported but only 2 Cooper's Hawks. 9 Red-shouldered Hawks noted. An early Broad-winged Hawk on Mar. 15 at Chapel Pd was reported with full details (Paul Bishop). Bald Eagle: 1 Tup L Mar. 21 (CD); 1 Crown Point Apr. 9 (NM). Several Marsh Hawks from Cham Valley and 1 transient at Gabriels. Osprey: several migrants—max 3 PS May 22. Spruce Grouse: 1 male Madawaska in April. **SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 seen in flight at 150 yards with 7 x 50 binoculars. Large gray bird with darker wing tips, lighter head and neck outstretched. It gave a guttural rattling call (SS). Virginia Rails and Sora increased from May 11 (EM,JP) with max 5 of former at Lake Alice May 22 (PW,HK). Common Gallinule noted in May at Ti (BM,JM). American Coot: 1 Platts May 24 (PW). Black-bellied Plover: 2 Platts May 22 (PW). American Woodcock were at Lake Clear Mar. 28 and John Parke had them at Essex Mar. 11. Ruddy Turnstone: 1 Platts May 22 (PW). Upland Sandpiper: 2 Wadhams Apr. 30 (Deborah & Teresa Anson); 3 pair Platts May 22 (PW). Dowitcher (sp): Four Bros May 19 (EM,JP). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** second year immature with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls so large size noted. Entirely white with large bill black on end and flesh color at base. Tail equal to wing tips but large size ruled out Iceland. No color in primaries in flight. This May 25 Platts sighting is a very late date. Black Tern: 2 Ti May 7 (BM,JM). Look at them because they are decreasing in the east by 12 percent a year (Chandler Robbins, Danny Bystrak, U.S. Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Lab).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: There are quite a few Whip-poor-wills calling at Malone; 6 there late May (Lang Elliott). Dr. Michael Kudish, a professional botanist, noted a Pileated Woodpecker eating bittersweet berries in Saranac Lake. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Lewis Apr. 12 (Mike McCasland); nest located Westport May 14 for Essex Co. first breeding record (Hi Peaks Aud); 1 Peasleeville May 19 (Judy Barker). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 2 digging nest hole at Ferd's Bog May 7 (FL,CS *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Good numbers of Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Horned Larks arrived at Lake Clear Mar 3 (WR). Cliff Swallow widely reported but 3 known Bank Swallow sites are deserted. Gray Jay: 1 Ferd's Bog May 7 (FL,CS *et al.*). Winter Wrens seem scarce. Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes

are in good numbers. Eastern Bluebird: several reports with a max of 28 carefully identified in mid-Feb. at Crown Pt (Earl Davis). They take risks with our weather. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: pair building a nest 8 meters up in vertical fork of tree over flooded land at Ausable River delta May 7 but later abandoned (HK,RP,SS,PW); pair building nest 7 feet up in 10 foot hawthorn near flooded land at Crown Pt on May 13. A third individual was nearby the next day (EM,JP). Water Pipit: 3 Westport May 7 (GC); 18 Keene May 15 (Hi Pk Au). Northern Shrike: several. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Essex Apr. 15 as well as a Northern on same date (EM,JP).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Good year for Solitary Vireo. MK had a Philadelphia Vireo near Axton May 20 as well as Warbling Vireo. The former is scarce while the latter is most readily found in the villages. Yellow-rumped, Am. Redstart, and Blackburnian Warblers are common as usual in that order of abundance. Black-and-white, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler are in good but smaller numbers than the preceding. Pine and Bay-breasted were noted more than usual. Prairie Warbler at the usual Crown Pt place in May was the best warbler find. A territorial pair of Louisiana Waterthrush at Ausable Pt on L Cham thru period (SS,mob).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Red-winged Blackbird arrived at Tup L Feb 22 and came in force with 45 Mar. 9 (CD). More Northern Orioles than usual were reported. Rusty Blackbird: max 6 Ferd's Bog (FL,CS *et al.*). Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks in fine numbers. RM had an Evening with solid black on wings in place of the usual white. A March Cardinal Tup L was unusual (CD). House Finch continues to spread. PW had a pair in Platts at his house which is apparently a first Clinton Co. record altho Essex Co. has them. Pine Grosbeak: several reports in March. Pine Siskin: many but local. Red Crossbill: several Mar Ray Brook (GR); 2 Westport Mar. 30 (EM,JP); 3 Saranac L May 21 (MK). White-winged Crossbill: 3 Ray Brook Mar. 10 (GR); 2 Blue Ridge Rd Mar. 15 (JM). Vesper Sparrow: 5 reports PS to L Cham. Chipping Sparrow: Bob Hagar's 3 wintering chaps stayed thru to spring in good health except they disappeared for the Christmas count day.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Spring 1977 was characterized by early foliage and late migrants. It all began with a record warm spell followed by torrential rains in the second week of March. While April was more nearly normal, May was all mixed up. A heavy, wet snow smothered the Region on the morning of May 10. Up to 18 inches covered elevated areas such as Berne and Warrensburg; most localities had between 8 and 12 inches. The storm was particularly troublesome to the aerial insectivores but the treetop-foragers appeared to be undaunted.

Birding in the area was spiked a bit by a wager among a small group of birders for top lister. From one to five points were awarded to species according to their relative rarity. The indefatigable Ken Able took the pool with a tally of 193 species for the Region between Jan. 1 and May 31. Next year, 200 anyone?

A few trends are apparent from the reports submitted. Among these are: a general increase in the number and variety of waterfowl; a continued upswing in most raptor reports, especially species with recent problems, such as Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk and Osprey; a

troublesome dip in the insectivores, with a virtual disappearance of Carolina Wren; and finally, an interesting increase in some intriguing fringillids. Unusual sightings include: Jeff Davis' Snowy Egret; Peter Feinberg's European Wigeon; Tom Palmer's Golden Eagle; Ken Able's Lesser Black-backed Gull; Beverly Waite's White-eyed Vireo; and Chris Ketcham's "Lawrence's Warbler."

Contributors to and observers cited in this report include: Ken Able, Vern Bingman, Ann & Tom Brown, Jim Bush, Paul Conner, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugh Gardina, R. P. Guthrie, Chris Ketcham, Bill Lee, Sam Madison, E. Mansell, Bob Marx, M. Mickle, Tom Palmer, Walt Sabin, M. Smilow, Beverly Waite, Robert Yunick, Doug Allen, Hollis Ingraham, and Barry Noon.

Abbreviations used herein are: CC—Columbia County; CR—Century Run, May 14 (may be followed by the number of groups reporting a species); Cox—Coxsackie; HR—Hudson River; NB—New Baltimore; VF—Vischer Ferry; Vos—Vosburg's Marsh.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: seemed scarcer than usual. Red-throated Loon: 1 Stony Cr. Res. Apr. 29 (KA,VB); 1 SL May 4 (RPG). Red-necked Grebe: more reports than usual, Mar. 27 thru May 19. Horned Grebe: 3 Alcove Res. Apr. 2 thru CR (1 gr). Double-crested Cormorant: 20 May 1 HR at Cox; 4 CR (1 gr). Cattle Egret: 1 May 27 Brunswick. **SNOWY EGRET:** 1 Hoosic R. at Buskirk (JD). Least Bittern: CR (1 gr) Castleton Marsh; Meadowdale May 22 (KA). **WHISTLING SWAN:** 1 SL Mar 20 (B. Noon). Brant: 14 flocks reported, mostly flying over at night by KA. Snow Goose: only 1 report Ohm's Pond Apr. 17 (JC). **GADWALL:** 2 Vos May 1 (RPG); CR (1 gr). **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** 1 male Vos May 1 (PF) and May 14 (KA). Wood Duck: thru; max 23 Castleton Mar. 20 (PC). Canvasback: thru Apr. 29; max 250 Castleton Mar. 27 (PC). White-winged Scoter: 5 (SL) May 7 (KA,VB). Mergansers: all three well reported, especially Hooded at Castleton Marsh by PC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: a few thru. Goshawk: three nests reported, 1 Rensselaer Co. (a first), 2 Albany Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 5 reports thru May 8. Cooper's Hawk: 8 reports thru May 18. Red-shouldered Hawk: 7 reports thru CR (2 gr). Rough-legged Hawk: 1 E. Greenbush Mar. 27 (PC). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 imm Leonard Hill, Schcharie Co. May 13 (D. Allen, TP). Bald Eagle: 1 imm Catskill Apr. 27 (JB). Osprey: 10 reports incl some multiple sightings (PF reports at least 12 in the air at one time at Vos Apr. 30). Semipalmated Plover: 2 (CR) Niskayuna. Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 3 (*very early*) Castleton (JC). Solitary Sandpiper: (early) Apr. 18 Ghent (BHG). Glaucous Gull: 1 Colonie Mar. 15 (KA). Iceland Gull: 5 reports thru Apr. 13 (KA). **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 3rd-yr bird Colonie Apr. 13 (KA). Common Tern: 1 (SL) May 14.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 3 reports. Black-billed Cuckoo: only 2 reports. **BARN OWL:** returned to nest site in Cox silo. Barred Owl: only report 1 CR (1 gr). Short-eared Owl: Cox thru mid-Mar. and Apr. 17 Niska Isle (KA). Common Nighthawk: late returning this year and scarce at that. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 reports mid-May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only 3 reports, maybe they were just overlooked.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 Hunter Mt. May 30 (singing) (RPG). Cliff Swallow: numerous early May, scarce later. May have suffered from May snow. **FISH CROW:** 3 Niskayuna Apr. 20 (KA). Red-breasted Nuthatch: gen scarce yet reported by 5 groups on CR. Carolina Wren: only reports 1 singing NB mid-Mar. (not heard since), and 1 Hudson vic. May 14 (A&TB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: 1 Meadowdale May 22 (KA). Gray-cheeked Thrush: only 2 reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: numerous reports; Apr. 16 Vos (RPG) thru. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: seemed normal until CR—then only 1 group reported 1 indiv. **NORTHERN SHRIKE:** 1 Mar. 17 (RPG) & 1 Mar. 27 Rensselaer (VB). **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** 1 Altamont singing May 6 intermittently thru period (BW,WBS,KA). Yellow-throated Vireo: seems more plentiful; CR (6 gr). Red-eyed Vireo: very much reduced in numbers; CR (only 3 gr). Worm-eating Warbler: 1 Indian Ladder May (KA), 6 Slinger

lands May 20 (HI). "LAWRENCE'S WARBLER": 1 Greenville May 14 (CK). Northern Parula: scarce; only 3 reports. Cerulean Warbler: 1 singing Palmer's Ravine May 27 (TP). Pine Warbler: only 1 report—1 Vos Apr. 16 (RPG). Prairie Warbler: appears to be increasing outside of the Albany Pine Bush. Northern Waterthrush: CR (1 gr); 10 banded VF (RPY). Mourning Warbler: 1 banded May 21 VF (RPY).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: 1 Meadowdale May 21 (VB). Evening Grosbeak: CR (2 gr). House Finch: continued increase; CR (6 gr). Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Five Rivers May 8; 5 singing Altamont May 22 (KA). Vesper Sparrow: thru Apr. (JC); CR (1 gr). White-crowned Sparrow: mild invasion; CR (6 gr). Fox Sparrow: another invader; unusually high number. Lincoln's Sparrow: 9 banded VF (7 on May 21) (RPY).

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REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The warming trend in February continued into March, and about all of the lakes and Hudson River were well free of ice by the start of the season. The warmer than usual weather in March and April had the foliage well out by the third week in April. The last week of that month saw shrubs such as azalea and lilac in blossom a good three weeks early. The Mohonk Weather Station reported winter snows a good three feet (91.5 cm) above average and what with a 2.3 inch (5.5 cm) rainfall March 22 that amounted to as much as 13-16 inches (33-40.6 cm) of snow in the mountains, the drought of April and May was barely felt. The mean temperature for May was some 4.3° F (2.4° C) above the 80 year average.

In spite of the relatively good weather, the migration ranks with the poorest on record. Breeding birds seemed to arrive on time, but the transients thru the area were late and in very small numbers. Many active birders reported missing some species entirely, and seeing only one or two representatives of others. This was especially true of warblers. Most active birders could not recall any waves, and the only thing that resembled one took place in Dutchess Co. on Apr. 27, 28, 29. Shorebirds were poor, with the max number and species occurring on May 14. Sparrows were normal to better, but thrushes were way down. May 31 seemed to be a good day for the herons when four species were observed in the Cornwall Bay area.

Data from the Hook Mt. Hawk Watch is included with this report. The mountain was covered for 3 days in March, 20 in April and 2 in May; a total of 25 days. Total number of hours reported was 140.5. Total Hawks—1595. Best days were Apr. 16—192, Apr. 17—70, Apr. 18—101, Apr. 28—340, Apr. 29—180, and Apr. 30—253. Numbers fell to 5 on May 1, and 11 on May 2. 50% of the total observed came thru on the last 3 days of April. Winds on the six best days were northwest to north except Apr. 28, the best day, when they began south and went to northwest by 1 p.m.

Contributors and observers cited: Gene Brown, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Florence Germond, Bill Howe, Ken McDermott, Helen Manson, Al Merritt, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Robert Smart, Robert Speiser, Selden Spencer, Tom Storey, William & Trixie Strauss, Czecher Terhune, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; HMMW—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point; WC—Waterman Bird Club Census, Dutchess Co. May 14; first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: usual few high flying migrants in April and early May. Horned Grebe: last May 12 CP and May 14 Dutch. Pied-billed Grebe: surprising low in E. West. Max 7 Katonah Res. Mar. 20. Double-crested Cormorant: more than usual. Arr L.I. Sound area Mar. 21. On Hudson from CP to CB thru April. Four Vanderburg Cove Dutch May 3 were unusual (MVW,EP). Little Blue Heron: 1 Moodna Marsh Cornwall May 4 (TS). Cattle Egret: more than ever. Arr several areas Apr. 18-19. Max 12 Valley Cottage May 5, and 7 CP Apr. 19, 1 obs swallowing a mouse at Hamptonburg, Oran May 17 (EDT). Great Egret: unusual in spring. 1 over Pleasant Valley May 25, and 3 CB May 31. Snowy Egret: excellent numbers, 4 PL from Mar. 29. 1 CB May 4 and 9 there May 31. Black-crowned Night Heron: returned to PL Mar. 25. 1 imm CB May 31. 2 on WC. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: returned to MC Mar. 26. Least Bittern: 1 Cruger's I Apr. 30. Late most other areas. Unreported Moodna M till late May. Glossy Ibis: 6 at MC on Apr. 7. Ducks were disappointingly low even though all lakes and streams were open at the start of the season. Mute Swan: the flock usually obs at CP was reduced to only a few, possibly due to Feb. oil spill. Canada Goose: many flights from Mar. 20. Max more than 3,000 Mar. 30 over Dutch. Residents hatched by May 1, but it appears that very few survived the period. Brant: first 500 May 15 over Iona I, early. Sev hundred more over P'kpsie May 29. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** 1 Rockland L Feb. 27 (Greenland race; BW), 1 Amenia Apr. 10-19 (WTS,mob) might well be the same bird. Snow Goose: ab 750 over Hook Mt. Apr. 11. Singles in Dutch Apr. 8, 30. Green-winged Teal: fem with 5 imm Salt Point from May 14 (CT). Max 42 Goshen Mar. 25 (KM). Redhead: failed to return to Tarrytown Res. where there are usually ab 20 each spring. Usual few on Wappingers L from Mar. 13-28. Ring-necked Duck: max 140, Trinity Res Pound Ridge Mar. 27. Canvasback: max 400 PL Mar. 20. Last there Apr. 18. 100 on Hudson R at Cruger's I Mar. 12 was largest count in Dutch. Hooded Merganser: fem with young at Stanfordsville thru May. Common Merganser: max 100 Rondout Res Mar. 12.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture in E. Dutch. Earliest migrant there Mar. 11. Goshawk: more than ever before. Active nests in Dutch in Apr., Sterling Forest in Apr. and Harriman Park in May. 1 South Salem Apr. 10. HMHW total 9, max 3 Apr. 28. Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles reported many areas thru period. HMHW total 205, max 65 Apr. 28. Cooper's Hawk: HMHW 4. Singles there on each of Apr. 6 and 13, and 2 on Apr. 28. 2 over Wurtsboro Apr. 30 (EDT). Red-tailed Hawk: HMHW 26; most probably went thru before count started. Numbers excellent thru region. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles from Port Chester Mar. 13 and Kensico Res Mar. 27. HMHW 28, 13 on Mar. 17. Broad-winged Hawk: HMHW total 961, 243 on Apr. 28. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 Breakneck Ridge Mar. 15 (Dan Nickerson), 1 HMHW Mar. 6 (Paul Bernath). Bald Eagle: none on HMHW. 1 ad Neversink Res Mar. 12, 1 over Wawarsing May 30 (JCO). 1 ad Lamontville, Ulst May 7 (Jim & Marjorie Dunbar). Marsh Hawk: HMHW had 22, max 5 on Apr. 6. A male and female at Galeville Airport Apr. 9. Female there Apr. 23 (KM). Osprey: HMHW 50, max 15 Apr. 28. 10 at Constitution I Apr. 24. 1 still there May 22. 10 in Dover area thru much of Apr. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** imms at Hook Mt. Apr. 19, 20 possibly the same bird. Merlin: 1 Briarcliff May 15 (Art Gingert). HMHW had singles on Apr. 10, 11, 30. Am. Kestrel: HMHW had 86, 21 on Apr. 18. Bobwhite: none. Turkey: 1 Wawarsing May 25, 4 Dover Apr. 18. King Rail: 1 Millbrook School May 18-31 (mob). Common Snipe: first Mar. 9 Skidmore Sanct. Dutch. Exc nos by end of month. Max 20 Chester Apr. 9, 25 Walkkill Apr. 10. Upland Sandpiper: first Blue Chip Farm, Walkkill Apr. 16, inc to 4 Apr. 23. Spotted Sandpiper: max 10 CP May 12. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Apr. 9, max 22 Walkkill Apr. 10, this no. reduced to 16 by Apr. 24. Least Sandpiper: max 50 CP May 5. **ICELAND GULL:** Mar. 2 on Hudson near New Hamburg. Also Wappinger's L on Mar. 3. Possibly the same bird. 1 CP Apr. 16 (KM). Laughing Gull: arr Dobb's Ferry Apr. 18. None up river thru period. Bonaparte's Gull: 1 Wappinger's Cr. Mar. 5 (KM). 1 CP May 1 (KM). Black Tern: 2 Bashakill May 12, 13 (KM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: 3 Galeville Airport Apr. 9. 2 still there Apr. 18 (EDT). Com. Nighthawk: missed on WC. No major flights reported, but in good

numbers over Newburgh by mid-May. Chimney Swift: 1 Traver's Marsh, Dutch Apr. 7, early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first Apr. 26 New Paltz (Hans Weber). Com. Flicker: small numbers all winter, large movement in Dutch Mar. 30, 31. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a few resident birds in every county, some coming regularly to suet feeders. Red-headed Woodpecker: only 1 from Dutch May 7, but numbers good in Oran. Max 7 Wallkill Apr. 30. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only singles reported thru Apr. in Dutch.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: first May 1 sev areas. Max 8 Salt Point May 10. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 6 Canoe Hill and 7 Cruger's I May 7. About the only flycatcher in normal numbers, all others reduced. Eastern Phoebe: first Mar. 16, all reporters say numbers down. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** nesting again at Deep Hollow, and in two places at Pond Gut, all Dutch. First reported May 22, Alder Flycatcher: none. Willow Flycatcher: first May 22 Millbrook, late. Least Flycatcher: very scarce all areas, WC reports 18, usual average 40. Olive-sided Flycatcher: only 1, May 13, Dutch (W, TS). Tree Swallow: 1 Mar. 13 Traver's Marsh, another same date Wappinger's L. FG found 26 dead in bluebird boxes in Dutch dur May. Bank Swallow: first Cruger's I Apr. 23. Rough-winged Swallow: first 2 Stissing Apr. 10, 5 Wallkill Apr. 18. Barn Swallow: 1 Smithfield Apr. 6. 2 Rockland L Apr. 8 (BH). Hundreds over Cruger's I Apr. 23. Cliff Swallow: first 2 South Bay, Cruger's I Apr. 23. 10 Croton Dam colony May 12. Purple Martin: several Oran colonies did not return; first Dover Plains Mar. 30 was very early; only 7 on WC. Fish Crow: more than ever; established in usual places. Max 10 P'kpsie Mar. 24; 20 there Apr. 17. Black-capped Chickadee: most report lower numbers this year. Brown Creeper: also lower. Winter Wren: 4 on Clove Mt. Dutch Apr. 4. 1 Thompson Pd Apr. 8 was attracted to an owl tape. Carolina Wren: reported scarce in Region 10, but came thru the winter well in Region 9. As many or more than ever. Heinz Meng reports good numbers in the New Paltz area. Mockingbird: singing everywhere. 4 young in nest at Salt Point by Apr. 29. Brown Thrasher: seems down. First Weyant's Pd. Apr. 12. Am. Robin: good migration. Everywhere by Mar. 26-27. Wood Thrush: first Newburgh Apr. 26. Numbers normal after May 1. Hermit Thrush: unusually low after very large movement of last fall. Swainson's Thrush: max 6 in Rock May 16 (GB). Gray-cheeked Thrush: unreported. Eastern Bluebird: WC had 7, usual avg 14. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: continues to increase, reported everywhere by mid-Apr. Water Pipit: very few. First 2 Cornwall Mar. 20. Northern Shrike: 1 Cruger's I Mar. 6 and Mar. 12. Same location as last Dec. and Jan.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: 2 locations at Millbrook School by May 1. 1 Vassar College May 11, another Pleasant Valley May 19, and at usual location on Mine Rd. USMA by May 22. Yellow-throated Vireo: first Salt Pt. May 3. Numbers only fair afterward. Red-eyed Vireo: May 3 Salt Pt. was early. Warbling Vireo: first May 3 P'kpsie, numbers down. "Lawrence's Warbler": more than usual. Males returned for fourth year at Brinton Brook, Croton; and third year at Sprain Ridge, Ardsley. 1 on WC at Sharparoon. Tennessee Warbler: first May 5 in Dutch. No one reported more than 3 in any day. Last May 21. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** 1 very well observed and described by competent birders on Hook Mt. Apr. 18. Obs for 10 min in good sunlight from 40-60 ft. with 8x glasses. All marks obs incl crown color (John Irvine, Hugh Martin). Nashville Warbler: first Apr. 29. Dutch, last May 18. Only a few reported. Magnolia Warbler: first May 6, last May 19. Only 8 reported in Dutch. Usually that many in a single day in other years. Cape May Warbler: first May 6, last May 19. Only 6 in Dutch for period. Yellow-rumped Warbler: first Mar. 9. Usual numbers. Cerulean Warbler: first Rhinebeck May 7. Nest obs May 11. None on Cruger's I where they nested for years. Colony at Weyant's Pd, USMA seems somewhat increased to about 6 pr. 1 Pine Swamp, Harriman Pk May 16. Pine Warbler: first Apr. 2 Nyack and P'kpsie. 5 reports in April, last Apr. 28 Cruger's I. Prairie Warbler: numbers seem normal to better. In good numbers along Mine Rd. USMA. 3 Perkins Drive, Bear Mt. Pk. was a new location May 16 (GB). Northern Waterthrush: numbers seem up. Still coming thru West May 28-30. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 near Pleasantville Apr. 4 was very

early (BH). **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: 1 MC Apr. 23, another Elmsford Ridge, Tarrytown from May 14 and another a half mile away May 31 (BW). Mourning Warbler: 1 MC May 24, 25. Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Wawarsing from May 7, another Mine Rd. USMA from mid-May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: more than usual; first Apr. 28 P'kpsie. A nesting pair near Salt Point from May 14. Northern Oriole: first Apr. 22. Scarlet Tanager: normal numbers from May 6. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: first Wawarsing Apr. 25, normal. **BLUE GROSBEEK**: 1 male Brinton Brook, Croton May 14 (Jed Kiel). Indigo Bunting: excellent from mid-May. **DICKCISSEL**: 1 at South Salem feeder from Mar. 1 thru Apr. Another in Dutch Mar. 9. Evening Grosbeak: most left southern part of region in late Feb. Last at Stissing on May 12. Purple Finch: good numbers at feeders thru region to mid-Apr. Pine Siskin: absence of winter continued into spring. Only 1 or 2 reported. Savannah Sparrow: max 13 Walkkill Apr. 16 (KM). Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 at new location of Stewart Air Field May 18 (KM). Vesper Sparrow: first Wawarsing Apr. 8. Max 5 Walkkill Apr. 30. "Oregon Junco": 1 Millbrook School Mar. 24 (HM). Tree Sparrow: last Apr. 17 in Dutch. White-crowned Sparrow: many on May 14. First May 6 in Dutch. Last May 18. White-throated Sparrow: large numbers thru mid-May, with excellent movement in mid-Apr. Fox Sparrow: last Apr. 17 in Dutch. Lincoln's Sparrow: only reports 2 Wawarsing May 16 and 1 Montrose May 14.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

ANTHONY J. LAURO

After a record cold winter, an early spring was a welcome event. The resultant early May leaf cover extended to the barrier beaches where deciduous leaf cover usually lags two weeks behind that on the mainland. Since the deciduous trees are sparse on the barrier beaches, in late springs there is little evidence of bird migration there, but this spring was different. May was extremely dry and warm, although a heavy rain fell on May 9, accompanied by hail and snow.

Weather data for the period:

	High Temp.	Low Temp.	Precip.
March	55.0 F (12.7 ^o C)	38.5 F (3 6 ^o C)	7.41 in. (18.8 mm)
April	63.4 F (17.4 ^o C)	43.8 F (6.5 ^o C)	3.75 in. (9.2 mm)
May	75.1 F (23.9 ^o C)	55.0 F (12.7 ^o C)	1.71 in. (4.3 mm)

There was a paucity of reports of the species that winter in southern United States, such as bitterns, herons, rails, Tree Swallows, wrens, and Hermit Thrushes. The very severe winter may be the reason. Carolina Wrens seemed especially hard hit, with only two reports from the area.

Forest Park in Queens County continues to be the premier spring passerine hot spot in Region 10. Reports of "clouds of birds," "hundreds of birds," were cited describing the bird activity in this park.

Notable wave days occurred on May 6, May 15 and May 18. After May 18, although southerly winds were present on given days, no heavy sustained flights took place, and migration continued fitfully thru the end of the period.

Northern Parulas were in abundance, and all birders agreed that there were extremely high counts of Blackpoll Warblers. The writer banded over 100 Blackpoll Warblers at Tobay Pond in May—an unprecedented number.

Rarities for the period were: "Black Brant," Sandwich Tern, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, Painted Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Observers' initials: JA—Jim Ash; TWB—Tom Burke; THD—Tom Davis; AJL—Tony Lauro; GSR—Gil Raynor.

Site abb.: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; MP—Muttontown Preserve.

LOONS—DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: Apr. 25, Fire Island (AJL). Horned Grebe: Max 250 Mar. 5, Mecox (JA). Gannet: 1,000 plus, all immatures, feeding on incoming tide at Fire Island Inlet Apr. 25 (AJL & Brook Lauro). Sooty Shearwater: 15 May 20 Shinnecock (GSR), 150 May 21 Mecox (JA), 12 May 28 Democrat Point (AJL). Snow Geese: 150 Manorville winging north Mar. 31 (GSR). "BLACK BRANT": Mar. 3 Riis Park (Baumanns). European Wigeon: 2 Mar. 5 Manorville (GSR).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Mar. 31, MP (Lindberg) a rare LI migrant. Goshawk: 2 Mar. 5, MP (Lindberg). Red-shouldered Hawk: most of March at MP (Lindberg). Broad-winged Hawks breeding at MP (Lindberg). Only three Peregrine Falcon reports this spring and they may all be the same bird: 1 May 11 JBWR (Connolly), 1 May 14 JBWR (mob), 1 May 15 Jones Beach (Levine, Schiff, Wollin). Bald Eagle: 2 imm 1 Oak Beach Apr. 23 (Post) and Moriches Inlet May 4 (GSR)—"flushed from fully eaten kill of Herring Gull." King Rail: May 11, JBWR (Connolly). American Oystercatcher: Mar. 12, Cedar Beach (Neidich)—extremely early. Long-billed Dowitcher, May 15 JBWR (THD, Able)—seen and heard, this species sometimes goes unrecorded in spring. Ruff: Apr. 6 JBWR (*vide* JA). Wilson's Phalarope: 1 May 7 & 1 May 22, JBWR (mob). Glaucous Gull: May 1, Georgica Pond. Iceland Gull: May 1, Georgica Pond (Hamilton)—both first year birds. Laughing Gull: 4, Hempstead Harbor (Spencer)—arrival date. Bonaparte's Gull: two to three thousand lingered on the south shore between Lawrence Harbor and Fire Island Inlet until late May, many of the birds acquiring hoods by the time they left, giving local birders an opportunity to study the birds in full regalia. Little Gulls: 2 Lawrence Harbor May 15 (mob)—breeding-plumaged birds in with flock of a thousand Bonaparte's; all Bonaparte flocks must be scanned carefully for this now regular bird. Gull-billed Tern: 3 JBWR thru (mob), pair May 22 Tobay (AJL). Royal Tern: 2 May 15, Hempstead Lake (Levine, Schiff, Wollin)—unusual spring record, usually Caspian shows up in spring, not Royal. SANDWICH TERN: 1 May 24, Mecox (Cashman). Black Tern: 1 May 14 Moriches (GSR)—only report for period.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: 25 ad, 8 fledglings, in No. Nassau count circle (Otto Heck)—the population of this bird seems to be holding up well on LI. Long-eared Owl: a pair bred in MP (Lindberg)—would seem to be first recorded breeding this species on LI in almost four decades—that Muttontown Preserve producing some interesting records. Chuck-will's-widow: heard calling thru May at known breeding site at Oak Beach (Post) also 1 May 21 and May 22, East Quogue (Salzman, GSR). Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 thru May, East Patchogue (Caruso)—no nest found, but birds reported to be acting "territorially."

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: 1 Huntington Apr. 12 (O'Connor)—earliest recorded date. Acadian Flycatcher: 3 May 19 thru, Central Park (Pasquier), 2 May 22 Forest Park (mob), 1 Deer Park May 23 (File), 1 May 28 Shu Swamp (Kelly)—this bird seems to be moving back into parts of its former northeastern range. Purple Martin: 1 Mar. 2 Quogue Refuge—new early arrival date. Fish Crow: various observers thru region have commented on remarkable increase of this bird on eastern LI. VARIED THRUSH:

male May 5 Locust Valley (J. Ward). Eastern Bluebird: 6 Mar. 18 Caumsett (Nathanson), 2 May 14 MP (Lindberg). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: numbers off this spring with only eight birds reported (or observers are starting to take bird for granted?)

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Apr. 24-25 Van Cortlandt (Oswald *et al.*), 1 Apr. 26 Prospect Park (Sohmer *et al.*), 1 May 1-6 Central Park (mob), 1 May 1 Manorville (GSR), 1 May 13-22 Shu Swamp (mob). **SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** 1 Apr. 30 Bronx Bot. Gardens (Rafferty, Oswald, Maguire, Peszell, *et al.*), 1 May 7 Glen Head (A. Townsend). "Lawrence's Warbler": 1 Apr. 25 Forest Park (TWB). Cerulean Warbler: 3 month of May Forest Park (mob), 1 May 12 Glen Cove (Cioffi). **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** 1 Hempstead Lake State Park Apr. 15 (Spencer, AJL)—beautiful breeding-plumaged male in company of "Myrtle Warblers" as was the Townsend's found last fall at Montauk by Jim Ash. This may be an indication of what to look for in the future. Yellow-throated Warbler: 10 individual reports for month of May ranging from the Bronx to Suffolk. Kentucky Warbler: 5 reports Forest Park, 1 Great Gull I (*fide* Pasquier), 1 Amityville May 12 (AJL), 1 Hempstead Lake May 15 (Levine, Wollins, Schiff). Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 Huntington May 15 (O'Connor, Loscalzo, Reiss)—possible breeding birds.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** JBWR Apr. 12-22 (JA *et al.*). Bobolink: 6 males May 10 in field at Central Islip State Hosp (Laskowski, Cooper). Summer Tanager: 1 female May 1 Cedarhurst (Hirshbein), 1 male May 3 Forest Park (Bearnarth), 1 sub-adult male May 22 Forest Park (Yrizarrys). Blue Grosbeak: sub-adult male May 10-11 Forest Park (Wagerik), sub-adult male May 13-14 Jones Beach (AJL, Paxton), 1 Apr. 27-May 1 Eastport (GSR). **PAINTED BUNTING:** sub-adult male May 10-11 Forest Park (Wagerik, THD)—singing bird in female-like plumage. Examination of specimens at AMNH suggest that this bird may have been the western subspecies. **GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE:** first reported on Dec. 8 (*The Kingbird*, Vol. 26, No. 2, p. 116) this bird still coming to the Adamo feeder as of Apr. 18. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** May 12-15 Forest Park (TWB, Wagerik, *et al.*), photo by D. Ripe.

Cox's Ledge Pelagic Trip

May 7, 18 species including 43 Common Loons, 21 Red-throated Loons, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 56 Gannets, 11 phalarope sp. and 2 Iceland Gulls (THD, Spencer, Dempsey, Quinn, *et al.*).

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