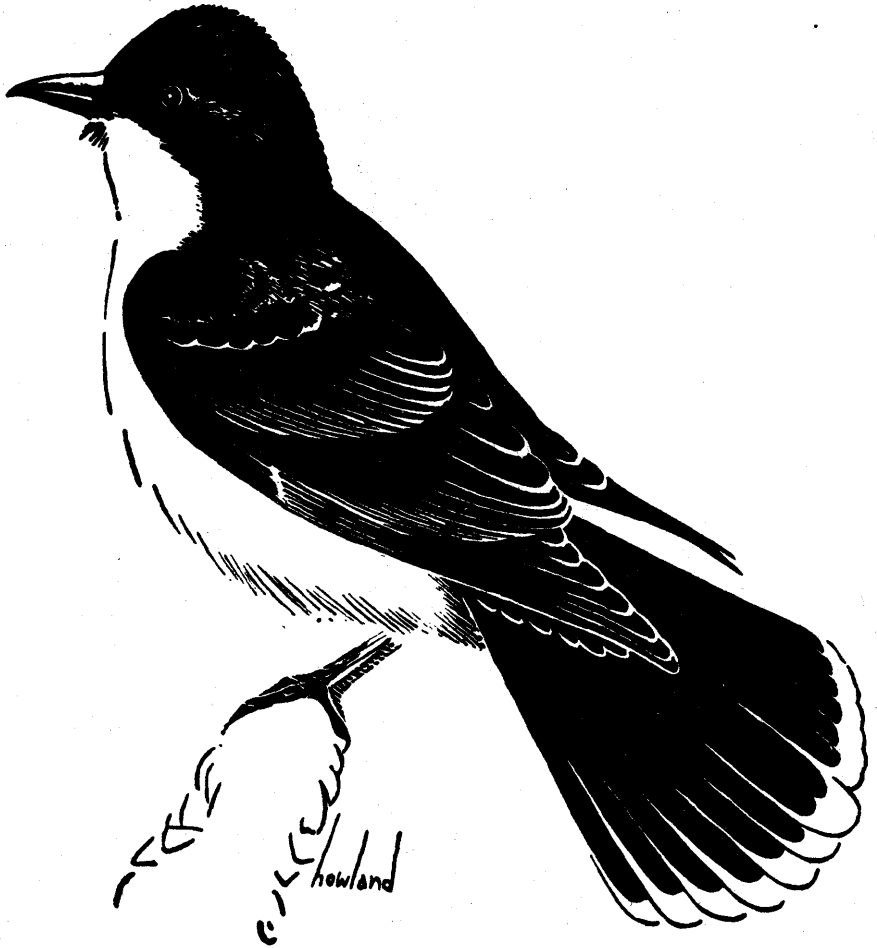


The **KINGBIRD**



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SUMMER • 1978

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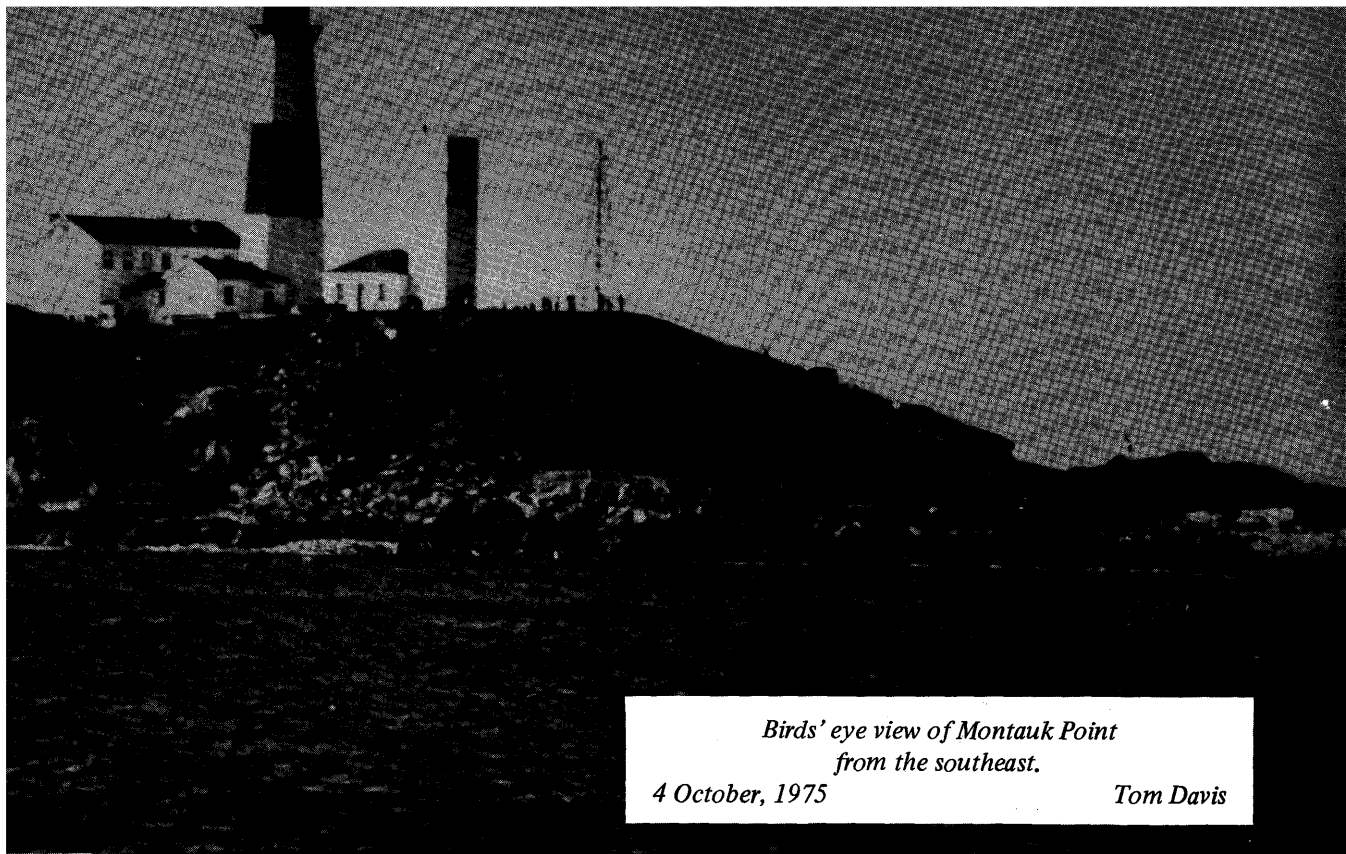
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*Birds' eye view of Montauk Point
from the southeast.*

4 October, 1975

Tom Davis

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIPS TO COX'S LEDGE FROM MONTAUK POINT, LONG ISLAND

THOMAS H. DAVIS

Cox's Ledge is a famous warm weather cod-fishing area lying about 40 miles east of Montauk Point, Long Island, or 25 miles ESE of Block Island, Rhode Island (coordinates 41° 05' N, 71° 10' W). A. R. Wickers' article "Cod at Cox's" (*Salt Water Sportsman*, 33 (8): 42-47, 1972) describes the Ledge as "a piece of rough bottom about 5 miles wide and 10 miles long with a water depth of 85 to 140 feet. Crabs, lobsters, baitfish, and myriad other sea organisms attract the Cod . . . several Montauk party boats (*i.e.*, open public boats) fish the Ledge, beginning in late May, continuing through October."

Birders Ben and Joanne Trimble first visited Cox's Ledge in the summer of 1966, noting a rewarding number and variety of sea birds, plus surprises such as summering Gannets and a large unidentified alcid. Trips in 1967 and 1968 produced two rarities, Skua and Long-tailed Jaeger. In 1972 birding trips to Cox's received a big boost when Captain Paul Forsberg began offering birders a discount rate aboard his 104-foot *Viking Star*. In 1974, at the suggestion of Gordon Meade, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs began sponsoring chartered pelagic trips to Cox's aboard the *Star's* sister ship, the *Viking Starlite*.

Table 1. A Chronological Listing of Cox's Ledge Trips
Included in Compiling This Paper

1966: July 2; August 1, 13.
1967: June 11.
1968: September 1.
1969: September 6.
1970: August 30.
1971: September 11.
1972: August 19; September 23.
1973: May 26; July 20; August 25; September 2, 16, 22; October 6.
1974: May 26; June 15; September 14, 28; October 26.
1975: June 7, 21; August 26; September 6, 20, 28; October 4.
1976: May 22, 31; June 12; July 16; August 14; September 11, 25;
October 23.
1977: May 7; June 4; August 13; September 5, 24; October 8.

To date, 112 species of birds have been recorded on 43 trips to Cox's Ledge from Montauk Point. These species include loons, shearwaters, storm-petrels, Gannets, cormorants, herons, waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds, jaegers, gulls, terns, alcids, doves, swifts, kingfishers, swallows, and a wide variety of passerines. Many of these birds occur regularly as seasonal visitors or migrants, while many others, especially passerines, are wind-drifted migrants. Drifted migrants are much more prevalent in the fall when most nocturnal movement takes place with offshore NW winds. Suffice it to say that any nocturnal migrant occurring at Montauk Point might also eventually be recorded at Cox's Ledge. Land birds sometimes alight on the boat (even on the tips of fishing rods!), but usually fly along side, or around the boat for a while before departing to the NNW. During the summer months, shorebirds are often seen, singly or in small flocks, flying low over the water from the general direction of Cape Cod toward Long Island. In late September-early October, numbers of raptors, especially falcons, are noted along this same flight line.

Excepting the pelagic species listed in Table 3, no birds seen within 2-3 miles of Montauk Point are included in this compilation. To do so would introduce an inshore bias, inflating numbers of loons, waterfowl, gulls, and terns. Some birds that occur rather commonly in this zone (*i.e.*, Ring-billed Gull and Roseate Tern) are rather rare farther offshore. The number of species identified at sea averages about 15 per trip, slightly higher in the fall, with a maximum of 35 on September 23, 1972.

Many sea birds, including Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Gannet, jaegers, gulls, and terns are attracted to the presence of sport-fishing boats at Cox's Ledge. Gulls are "professional" boat-followers, seeking cleaned fish scraps, discarded trash fish, pieces of bait—literally anything edible. The gulls' presence seems to attract the other sea birds, especially Northern Fulmar, Greater Shearwater, and jaegers. The better the fishing, the more boats present, the more gulls will be present, and the higher the likelihood that other sea birds will be attracted. During the past five years, fishing quality has been declining at Cox's Ledge and there has been a decline in the number of boats visiting the Ledge and in daily counts of gulls.

A sharp temperature differential at Cape Cod, caused by upwelling water between June and September, separates the Gulf of Maine from the Mid-Atlantic Bight. Cox's Ledge is under the influence of the

colder waters of the Gulf of Maine, while the waters from Montauk Point to south of Block Island are Mid-Atlantic. In birds, this contrast is most evident in comparing numbers of Greater and Cory's Shearwaters at and away from the Ledge. Also, to the north of the barrier during the summer period, the water temperature is relatively constant, while the Mid-Atlantic Bight waters are variable. Year-to-year variations in water temperature at Cox's Ledge may be responsible for fluctuations in numbers of Greater and Cory's Shearwaters. None of the species listed on Table 3 breed south of Cox's Ledge along the U.S. coast while 11 species are found breeding to the north. Nine of the northern species breed north of the Canadian border while Manx Shearwater and Leach's Storm-Petrel breed south to the vicinity of Cape Cod (as does the Arctic Tern, as yet unrecorded on these trips). Six others are migrants from southern waters; of these the Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters range only accidentally north of Cape Cod.

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

A description of the marine environment is essential to understanding the distribution of birds from Montauk Point to Cox's Ledge and the conditions in which they are observed. This description has been abstracted from Volume I of the *Final Environmental Statement for the Proposed 1977 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale Offshore the North Atlantic States OCS Sale No. 42*, prepared by the Bureau of Land Management for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

- I. Marine Geology: Cox's Ledge lies on the continental shelf, the natural seaward extension of the coastal plain. During the Pleistocene era most of the continental shelf south of Long Island and Cape Cod was exposed land beyond the glacial limit. With the retreat of the Laurentide ice sheet, beginning about 15,000 years ago, terminal moraines were deposited along a line stretching across Long Island and Georges Bank. Cox's Ledge lies along the outwash zone of this glacial front. The "rough bottom" at Cox's cited above includes boulders "as big as a house" (verb. comm., Paul Forsberg). Most of the bottom between Montauk Point and Cox's is sandy, with some deposits of gravel. The water depth at Cox's is 18-19 fathoms, 4 fathoms at Great Eastern Rock 2 miles east of Montauk Point, and the greatest depth in between is 31 fathoms (C & GS chart 1108, Approaches to NY).

II. Meteorology:

A. Temperature: averages low 30's (F.) in midwinter to high 60's in midsummer.

B. Precipitation: average annual precipitation is 40 inches with a frequency percentage per month as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
12	12.7	10.2	9.8	6.7	4.8	5.5	6.4	7.2	7.0	9.3	12.7

C. Surface Winds: Surface winds generally come from a prevailing westerly direction throughout the year. There is an overall shift to the NW in winter and to the SW during summer. Offshore wind conditions for the months this paper includes are:

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Mean speed (knots) and direction	10.8SW	10.1SW	9.4SW	10.3SW	11.6SW	13.7W
Wind > 34 knots	.6%	.2%	.1%	.3%	1.3%	2.5%
Wind > 41 knots	.2%	.1%		.1%	.5%	.5%

D. Sky Cover and Visibility: Data for the months this paper includes is as follows—sky cover is given in eighths, sky overcast or obscured and visibility are given in percent frequency:

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Sky Cover	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.9
Sky overcast or obscured	34.2	25.5	30.9	28.8	27.9	26.1
Visibility < 2 nautical miles	12.3	8.1	7.8	4.4	3.2	2.7
Visibility < .5 nautical miles	9.2	5.1	4.0	1.8	1.8	1.8

Reduced visibility due to advection sea fog is more often encountered during the warmer months when the winds are from the S or SW, especially with light to moderate winds. This type of fog forms when warm humid air is cooled in passing over the cold ocean.

III. Physical Oceanography:

A. Water Temperature:

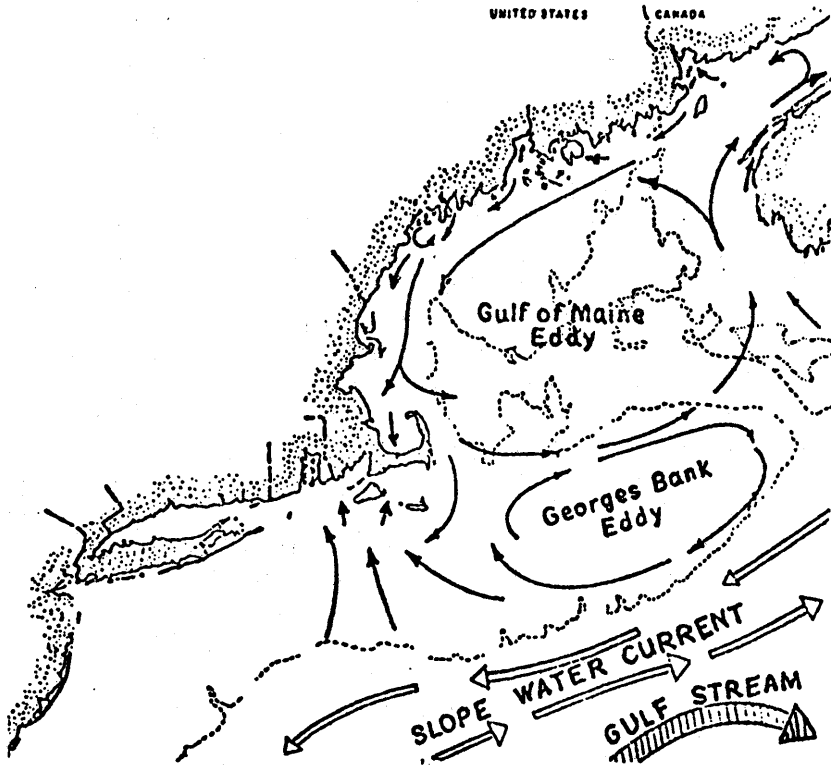
1. Seasonal variation in the vicinity of Cox's Ledge is as follows:

	Feb.	May	Aug.	Nov.
Surface	4° C	10° C	20° C	12° C
Bottom	4° C	6° C	10° C	12° C

2. Seasonal variation in the vicinity of Montauk is as follows:

	Feb.	May	Aug.	Nov.
Surface	3° C	10° C	21° C	12° C
Bottom	3° C	7° C	14° C	13° C

Figure 1.
Surface Currents Within Slope and Coastal Water Masses



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, 1973

The Georges Bank Eddy is a seasonally dependent phenomenon. The eddy develops over the Bank during the spring. By summer, the flow at the eastern edge is southerly and offshore. By autumn, the flow over the western edge becomes westerly and southerly. In winter, the entire drift over the Bank is, in general, southerly.

- B. Gulf Stream: The Gulf Stream flows north parallel to the Continental Margin. The mean position of the inner margin of the Gulf Stream lies about 150 miles south of Cox's Ledge. There is some fluctuation in direction, with some meandering north of its axis, especially in late summer. Eddies may occasionally break off from the main body of the Gulf Stream and impinge on the slope water (see Audubon's Shearwater account below).
- C. Surface Circulation: see Figure 1
- D. Bottom Circulation: Along the shelf of southern New England there is consistent residual bottom drift shoreward from the inner two-thirds of the shelf area, particularly toward the mouths of estuaries. Beyond this region the bottom water moves seaward. The near bottom velocities are considerably less than velocities on the surface, .1-1.3 kilometers per day vs. up to 9 or more kilometers per day.
- E. Sea and Swell: Winds blowing over the water surface generate waves. In general, the higher the wind velocity, the longer the fetch over which it blows, and the longer it blows, the higher and longer will be the average waves that result. The New England landmass prevents NW waves from being generated along the inner shelf by limiting the fetch, while easterly winds may generate waves that gradually increase in size as they move landward. Table 2 presents seasonal and month-by-month estimates of the percentage of time that seas of selected height categories can be expected in the vicinity of Cox's Ledge. Sea heights less than indicated can be expected the remainder of the time.

Table 2. Inshore Wave Heights

	WINTER			SPRING			SUMMER			AUTUMN		
	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
≥ 5 feet	20-30	20-30	10-20	10-20	<10	<10	<10	<10	<20	<30	30	30
≥ 8 feet	<20	10	10	5	<5	2	2	<5	5	10	<20	20
≥ 12 feet	5	5	5	2-5	1	1	<1	1	2	2	5	5
≥ 20 feet	<2	2	<2	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	2	2

F. Nutrients: Nitrates and phosphates along with dissolved oxygen and other nutrients are the elements needed to support phytoplankton which is the primary producer of the marine environment. Nutrients are transported to the ocean by rivers, surface run-off, and air transport. Certain seasonal variations and concentration levels of these nutrients are dependent on the mixing or non-mixing of the different water masses. During the winter months the differentiation between surface and bottom waters disappears as the thermocline breaks down. Nutrients and oxygen mix and deficient areas are replenished. In the spring and summer, as the phytoplankton blooms and the segregation begins again, the bottom waters experience an increase in nutrient concentrations and a decrease in oxygen concentrations; the reverse occurs in the surface waters.

IV. Biological Communities:

A. Phytoplankton: Phytoplankton is the base of the food chain and any change in abundance or community structure will invariably affect subsequent portions of the chain. The major types of phytoplankton in the North Atlantic area are the diatoms, dinoflagellates, coccolithophorids, silicoflagellates, euglenoids, blue-green algae, and microflagellates. In the marine environment the phytoplankton derives its nutrients mainly from nitrogen and its movement is regulated by currents. Phytoplankton production takes place in a relatively shallow surface band which will vary in depth according to the intensity of solar radiation, turbidity, latitude, and season.

B. Zooplankton: Zooplankton represents the animal component of the plankton, including every phylum in the Animal Kingdom. Many species of zooplankton can swim or change position vertically in the water column but are not able to move horizontally against the tide and currents.

C. Benthos:

1. Flora: The benthic flora of the New England coast exhibits a well-defined geographical distribution. Nantucket Island-Cape Cod forms a distinctive geographical boundary between northern species of algae with subarctic tendencies and a southern boreal flora adapted to warmer waters.

The boundary is not sharp; south of Cape Cod there are several areas in which the algae are more characteristic of more northern waters such as Montauk Point where a year-round development of kelp occurs.

2. Fauna: The benthic fauna, including jellyfish, clams, mussels, shrimps, crabs, and lobsters, is also separated into two distinctive temperature or climatic zones at Cape Cod. From the Cape northward, the region is boreal, while southward, the region is warm-temperate. On the gravel and sandy-gravel bottom of Georges Bank, similar to the bottom at Cox's Ledge, is found the greatest faunal weight. The high biomass is due largely to the occurrence of dense beds of Northern Horse Mussel (*Modiolus modiolus*).
3. Fish: Fish are also divided into northern and southern populations at Cape Cod. Summer catches of Atlantic Cod, Haddock, and Pollack at Cox's Ledge imply an affinity with colder northern waters.
4. Marine Mammals:
 - a. Cetaceans: Up to 20 species of whales and dolphins occur more or less regularly in the North Atlantic off Long Island. Nearly all these animals occur only as migrants, principally along the outer continental shelf south of Cox's Ledge. It is therefore not surprising that only two species have been identified on trips to Cox's from Montauk Point. Finback whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) were reported Aug. 25, 1973 and May 7, 1977, and a school of 3 or 4 Common Dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*) was noted May 7, 1977.
 - b. Sea Turtles: There are 5 species of sea turtles known to be summer residents of New England waters. Of these, only the Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) has been noted—one observed swimming on the surface 6 miles south of Montauk Point Sept. 25, 1976, and a carcass floating several miles south of Block Island Sept. 28, 1974 (see Northern Fulmar account below).

Table 3. Pelagic Birds Noted on Cox's Ledge Trips from Montauk Point, New York

	May 1-15	16-31	June 1-15	16-30	July 1-15	16-31	Aug. 1-15	16-31	Sept. 1-15	16-30	Oct. 1-15	16-31
No. trips in period	1	4	5	1	1	2	4	4	8	8	3	2
N. Fulmar		2-3.5								3-20	1-2	1-1
Shearwater, Sooty	1-1	4-19.8	5-25.6	1-3	1-1	1-30	3-1.3	1-2				
Greater		2-2.5	5-20.2	1-21	1-6	2-112.5	4-4.6	4-28.8	6-54.2	8-72.8	3-18.3	2-167.5
Cory's			1-1	1-83	1-14	2-77.5	4-57.5	4-34	6-55.2	7-18.9	2-26	2-10.5
Manx		2-1	3-2		1-1		1-1	1-1	1-1	4-1.8		
Audubon's							1-1					
Storm-Petrel, Leach's								1-2	1-1			
Wilson's		4-70.5	5-67.4	1-25	1-60	2-245	4-77.5	4-244.5	8-72.5	6-25.8		
Gannet	1-56	4-8.5	3-2.7		1-1		1-1		1-1	2-5	2-3	2-31.5
Phalarope, Red		2-26.5						1-2	3-5.7	2-3	1-12	1-12
Northern		3-29	2-5.5				1-1	2-2.5	4-14.8	3-2.7	1-22	1-6
Unidentified	1-11		1-1						3-8	1-4	1-8	1-11
Skua sp.		1-1	3-1.3	1-1		1-1				1-1		1-1
Jaeger, Pomarine		1-1	3-2.3	1-2				3-1.7	7-5.4	7-12.6	3-6.3	2-5
Parasitic		1-1	3-2.3				1-5	1-2	6-3	4-5.8	2-1.5	
Long-tailed									1-1			
Unidentified		1-3					1-1	1-1	5-3.4	3-1.7	1-1	2-1.5
Sabine's Gull									1-1	2-1		
Black-legged Kittiwake		1-1						1-1	1-1	4-1.3	1-3	2-15.5

Legend: Number of trips noted in period → A-B ← Average number noted per trip.
 Example: "Sooty Shearwater 4-19.8" means that Sooty Shearwaters were noted on four trips, with an average of 19.8 birds per trip.

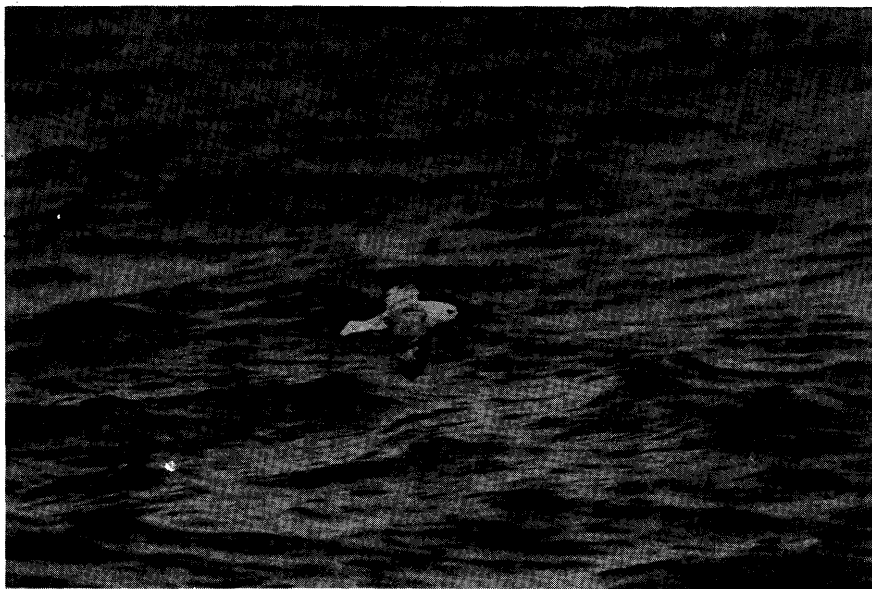
SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Common Loon: 18 reports. In spring to June 12, max 43 on May 7.

In fall Aug. 19 on, max. 30 on Oct. 26. Earliest fall arrivals may represent disrupted breeders.

Red-throated Loon: 4 spring reports to June 11, max. 21 on May 7.

Northern Fulmar: increasing in frequency and abundance since first reported Sept. 16, 1973; max. 59 Sept. 24, 1977 during an easterly storm. By choice or chance, the only two dark-phased birds ever seen were both feeding on carcasses—the first Sept. 28, 1974 on a Leatherback Turtle, and one Oct. 8, 1977 on a Great Black-backed Gull, the gull having died from entanglement with a fishing lure. Fulmars are quite fearless in approaching boats. Capt. Forsberg fishes for tilefish at the edge of the Continental Shelf during midwinter; fulmars are common here at this season, and bold enough to steal bait from the hooks of the set line as it is being paid out! To keep away the fulmars, he assigns a man to bang garbage can covers together to frighten them!



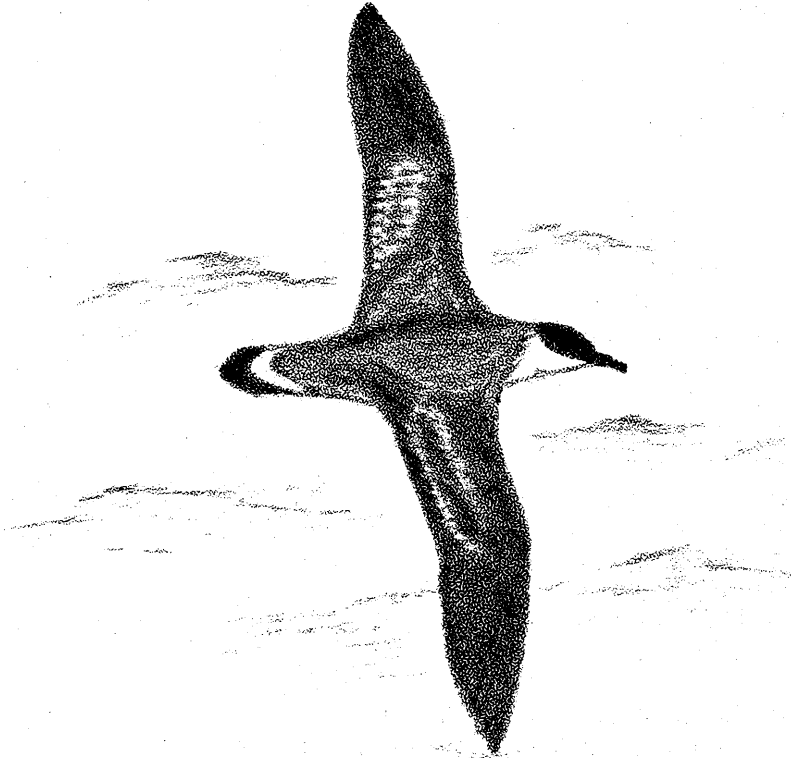
"Double light" Northern Fulmar

1975

Bill Wilson

Sooty Shearwater: an inshore species, seen principally near Montauk Point.

Greater Shearwater: prefers the colder waters of Cox's Ledge. Will approach boat closely if chum, bait, or fish parts are proffered. Lands on water with wings held slightly out from body, then surface dives, wings open, for as long as 10-15 seconds.



Greater Shearwater

1977

Luanne Clark

Cory's Shearwater: prefers warmer waters from Great Eastern Rock (ca. 3 miles east of Montauk Pt.) to several miles SE of Block Island. Does not approach boats closely. In recent years (since 1970) fall flights declining in abundance, but showing a greater tendency to appear before mid-June.

Manx Shearwater: increasing in frequency since 1973, the year found breeding in North America for the first time at nearby Penikese I.,

- Mass. Rarely approaches boats. An inshore species, seen principally from near Montauk Point (especially at Great Eastern Rock) to SE of Block I. Feeds by low-angle plunge dives into wave swells. Peter Alden's photograph of a Manx at Cox's Ledge, published in John Bull's *Birds of New York State* (1974. Doubleday/Natural History Press. Garden City, NY.) is unquestionably this species, despite Bull's skeptical remarks concerning the appearance of the undertail coverts in the photo, which are in shadow.
- Audubon's Shearwater:** one thoroughly described Aug. 13, 1977 during an incursion of Gulf Stream water—5 species of shearwaters were observed this day!
- Leach's Storm-Petrel:** 2 reports, Sept. 11, 1971 and two Aug. 25, 1973.
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** numbers fluctuate from year to year. A leucistic individual similar to that figured by Joanne Trimble in *The Auk* (85: 130, 1968) was seen at Cox's Ledge Aug. 19, 1972, among over 500 Wilson's that day.
- Gannet:** regular from early Oct. through the first week of June, may occasionally summer.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** 12 reports. In spring to June 4, in fall Aug. 13 on. Max. counts 58 Sept. 25 and 22 Oct. 6.
- Great Blue Heron:** 4 reports—May 7, Sept. 25 (2), Oct. 8 (5), and Oct. 26. All of the fall birds were headed either west toward Long Island or WSW, a course that would take them over water to central New Jersey. Interestingly, birds seen late in the day favored the WSW orientation.
- Snowy Egret:** one May 22, 1976, flying west from SW of Block I. toward Montauk Point.
- Green Heron:** one May 26, 1974 at the Ledge.
- Canada Goose:** 3 fall reports—Oct. 4 (57), Oct. 6 (73), and Oct. 26 (76), all birds headed west toward Long Island.
- Black Duck:** five Oct. 6, 1973.
- Gadwall:** two Sept. 22, 1973.
- Green-winged Teal:** 5 fall reports, Sept. 22-Oct. 6, max. 5 on Sept. 25.
- Blue-winged Teal:** 11 birds Oct. 8, 1977.
- Oldsquaw:** three Oct. 26, 1974.
- White-winged Scoter:** two May 7, 1977, and 5 fall reports Sept. 22 on, max. 20 on Oct. 4. Usually the most abundant wintering scoter at Montauk Point.

- Surf Scoter:** 4 fall reports, Oct. 4 on, max. 80 on Oct. 4. Many waterfowl, especially scoters, are reported "unidentified."
- Black Scoter:** 12 May 7, 1977, and 6 fall reports, Sept. 23 on, max. 45 on Oct. 6.
- Red-breasted Merganser:** two fall reports—Oct. 23 and Oct. 26.
- Marsh Hawk:** two Oct. 4, 1975.
- Osprey:** 3 fall reports—Sept. 20, Sept. 28, and Oct. 4 (5).
- Peregrine Falcon:** 2 fall reports—Sept. 28 and Oct. 6. In both instances seen south of Block I. headed toward Montauk Pt., one of these birds was flying about 150 feet above the water, flapping constantly.
- Merlin:** 5 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 4, max. 4 on Sept. 28. Will chase after wind-drifted passerines, one seen at the Ledge Sept. 23, 1972, had a small bird clutched in its talons.
- American Kestrel:** two Sept. 28, 1974.
- Semipalmated Plover:** 2 fall reports—Aug. 30 and Sept. 14 (2).
- Killdeer:** one Oct. 6, 1973.
- Black-bellied Plover:** 4 reports—May 26 (4), Aug. 14 (2), Sept. 2 (4), and Sept. 16 (2).
- Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 reports—May 26 (2), Aug. 14 (5), Sept. 16 and Sept. 20.
- Whimbrel:** one Aug. 19, 1972.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** one Sept. 11, 1972. Seen about 1 hour after sunrise in dense fog south of Block I. flying west.
- Least Sandpiper:** 2 reports—Aug. 14 (2) and Sept. 11.
- Short-billed Dowitcher:** one Aug. 14, 1976.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** two Sept. 23, 1972. Several sightings of unidentified "peep sp." may pertain to this species, but 2 birds seen and dimly heard Sept. 5, 1977 were possibly Baird's.
- Sanderling:** 5 fall reports, Aug. 19-Oct. 6, max. 10 on Aug. 26. See ID remarks under Red Phalarope.
- Red Phalarope:** in the fall beware of confusion with Sanderlings, which are infrequently seen singly or in small flocks flying low over the water. The Sanderling's head pattern is strikingly different, and it does not settle on the water.
- Northern Phalarope:** Most phalaropes are seen at the boat's approach, flying away at right angles. It may sometimes be difficult to get one's glasses on the low-flying birds, leaving one with little more than a total of "unidentified phalaropes." If you see the phalaropes settle, a *slow* approach with a final turn to the sun will

usually provide the best views for the most people.

Skua sp.: has been noted throughout the reporting period, but especially during June. All observations have been at the Ledge; sometimes seen harassing Herring Gulls (Pomarine Jaegers also pirate the larger Herring Gull). Four of the skuas observed by the author conform to Deviller's description of South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) (see *The Auk* 94: 417-429, 1977), certainly none exhibited the rufous coloration of Great Skua (*C. skua skua*).



Subadult dark morph Pomarine Jaeger

Note the extensive, prominent white flash in the primaries.

1975

Bill Wilson

Pomarine Jaeger: an offshore species, seen principally at the Ledge where it outnumbers Parasitic by a wide margin. May occasionally summer. Dark-phased birds are in the minority but percentagewise occur much more frequently than in Parasitic. Young dark-phased birds, still lacking extended rectrices, may exhibit excessive white in the primaries making them resemble skua at a distance.

Parasitic Jaeger: mostly seen from Montauk Pt. to south of Block I,

especially harassing Laughing Gulls and terns near Montauk Pt. May occasionally summer.

Long-tailed Jaeger: an adult was closely observed Sept. 1, 1968. Rhode Island birders have seen Long-tails 5 or 6 times in the first half of June.

Iceland Gull: 2 reports—1st and 2nd year birds on May 7, 1977, and a 1st year bird Oct. 26, 1974.

Great Black-backed Gull: noted every trip but one (Aug. 14, 1976). Average 15 per trip overall, slightly lower during July and August. Living up to its Latin name *marinus*, the Black-back is outnumbered by Herrings only 7.2 to 1, a much lower ratio than ashore.

Herring Gull: noted every trip. Average 107 per trip overall, slightly lower during July and August. Some trips' gull totals are inflated by numbers of birds following trawlers. Gulls will endeavor to drive exhausted passerines into the sea, and snatch them from the surface. On one occasion a House Wren flying near the boat turned into the wind, nearly stalling, whereupon an alert Herring Gull swooped down and "inhaled" the hapless bird!

Ring-billed Gull: 4 fall reports, Sept. 11-Oct. 8, max 3 (2x). Although common inshore, decidedly rare beyond 2 miles of land, most likely to occur during fall migration.

Laughing Gull: 14 reports. In spring to June 12, only singles noted. In fall Aug. 13 on, max. 14 on Sept. 25.

Bonaparte's Gull: a sub-adult May 26, 1974.

Black-legged Kittiwake: earliest immature was Aug. 25, 1973, otherwise irregular before mid-October.

Sabine's Gull: 3 reports—winter adult Sept. 28, 1975, and immatures Sept. 11 and 25, 1976. The Sept. 11th bird was noted south of Block I. migrating with 2 Common Terns, and the Sept. 25th bird appeared with Herring Gulls in the boat's chum slick 6 miles south of Montauk Pt.

Common Tern: reported 39 of the 43 trips, May 7-Oct. 8. Migrant flocks noted in spring and fall, max. 84 on Sept. 11, only scattered individuals during mid-summer.

Roseate Tern: 5 birds May 7, 1977, 2 of them resting on a piece of flotsam south of Block I.

Least Tern: May 7, 1977 and three Sept. 28, 1976.

Royal Tern: a pair was seen at the Ledge June 12, 1976.

Black Tern: 3 fall reports, Aug. 14-26, max. 20 Aug. 26.

Alcid Sp.: a large alcid, possibly a Thick-billed Murre, was observed

in flight at the Ledge July 2, 1966.

Mourning Dove: 4 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 6.

Chimney Swift: three May 7, 1977.

Belted Kingfisher: one Sept. 6, 1969.

Common Flicker: 7 fall reports, Aug. 13-Oct. 6. Max. 100+ Sept. 28, 1975: "at one point 17 flickers counted aboard ship—so exhausted they could easily be picked up . . . winds strong this day, 15-20 mph from the NW," otherwise only 1 or 2 per trip.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Aug. 25, 1973. Unidentified empidonaces reported May 26 and Sept. 28.

Eastern Wood Pewee: one May 26, 1974.

Tree Swallow: 7 reports—June 7, and Aug. 13-Oct. 6, max. 6 Sept. 28. Unidentified swallows reported May 7 and Aug. 13.

Barn Swallow: 6 spring reports, May 7-June 12, max. 10 May 26; 4 fall reports, Aug. 13-Sept. 28, max. 18 Sept. 28.

Blue Jay: one June 7, 1975.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23, 1972 and Oct. 4, 1975. The former bird perched on the boat's radio mast!

Brown Creeper: one Aug. 13, 1966.

House Wren: one Sept. 25, 1976—see Herring Gull account.

Winter Wren: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Brown Thrasher: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23 and 28.

American Robin: 27 Sept. 28, 1975.

Wood Thrush: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Swainson's Thrush: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: one Oct. 6, 1973.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23 and Oct. 4.

Cedar Waxwing: 2 fall reports, Sept. 16 and 25.

Red-eyed Vireo: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Philadelphia Vireo: one Sept. 23, 1972.

Black-and-white Warbler: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Nashville Warbler: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Northern Parula: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Yellow Warbler: singles May 26, 1974 and Aug. 30, 1970.

Magnolia Warbler: singles May 26, 1974 and Sept. 11, 1971.

Cape May Warbler: 5 fall reports, Sept. 2-Oct. 4.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: two Sept. 25, 1976.

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: 5 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 26, max. 14 Sept. 28 and 9 Oct. 8.

Black-throated Green Warbler: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Aug. 30, 1970.
Bay-breasted Warbler: one Sept. 20, 1975.
Blackpoll Warbler: May 31, and 4 fall reports, Sept. 11-Oct. 8
Palm Warbler: 5 fall reports, Sept. 11-Oct. 8.
Northern Waterthrush: 2 fall reports, Aug. 26 and Sept. 11.
Common Yellowthroat: 5 fall reports, Aug. 30-Sept. 23.
American Redstart: 4 fall reports, Aug. 26-Sept. 30, max. 4 Aug. 30.
Most parulids fly past the boat calling, at least 43 "unidentified warblers" were noted on 13 of the trips reported.
Bobolink: 3 fall reports, Sept. 5-16.



Eastern Meadowlark at Cox's Ledge—see text.

6 October, 1973

Tom Davis

Eastern Meadowlark: 2 fall reports, Oct. 6 and 23. In a report on the Oct. 6, 1973 trip (*Linnaean News-Letter*, vol. 27, no. 6, Nov. 1973) I cited incidents occurring to 2 of the 3 meadowlarks noted that day: "While watching one of the meadowlarks circle the boat, a Herring Gull suddenly gave chase to the bird. In its frantic desire to escape being eaten, the meadowlark flew headlong at our boat, crashed into the side, and sank without a trace. Another meadowlark fell exhausted into the sea some distance from our boat and lay there with wings and tail spread open for buoyancy."

A gull swooped down, trying to pluck it off the water but only succeeded in lifting it off the surface. The bedraggled bird flew directly to the boat, was captured and later released at Montauk.”
Red-winged Blackbird: 2 spring (May 7 and 26), and 3 fall reports, Aug. 13-Oct. 23.

Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: 6 fall reports, Aug. 26-Sept. 23.

Rusty Blackbird: one Oct. 6, 1973.

Brown-headed Cowbird: one Aug. 30, 1970.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one Sept. 28, 1975.

Purple Finch: one Sept. 23, 1972.

Pine Siskin: 17 Oct. 6, 1973. This report preceded one of the largest siskin invasions ever recorded locally.

American Goldfinch: one Oct. 6, 1973.

Savannah Sparrow: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 8.

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 6.

Chipping Sparrow: 3 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 8.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 fall reports, Sept. 23-Oct. 6.

Song Sparrow: 4 fall reports, Aug. 25-Oct. 23.

—In addition, 8 trip reports cite a total of 44 unidentified passerines, blackbirds, fringillids, and sparrows.

Cox's Ledge trips undertaken from Point Judith, Rhode Island, add the following notable records:

Yellow-nosed Albatross: a sub-adult was seen at the Ledge Aug. 21, 1976.

Franklin's Gull: 2 adults were photographed at the Ledge May 27, 1977.

Sabine's Gull: one spring report, June 17, 1976.

Sooty Tern: an adult at the Ledge Aug. 11, 1976, the day following the passage of Hurricane Belle.

Alcids: a breeding-plumaged **Black Guillemot** was observed at the Ledge Feb. 26 and Mar. 12, 1977. On the latter date **Common Murre**, 3 **Thick-billed Murres**, and **Common Puffin** were also seen.

A max. of 13 **Razorbills** was noted March 6, 1977.

Say's Phoebe: one Sept. 30, 1977.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of persons contributed information and other assistance toward making this article possible, including Jim Ash, Frank Bader, Bob Dieterich, Steve Dempsey, Dick Ferren, Michel Kleinbaum, Hugh McGuinness, Gordon Meade, Rick Radis, Gil Raynor, Richard Rowlett, P. William Smith, Barbara Spencer, Peter Tozzi, Ben and Joanne Trimble, Janet Witzeman, and Charles Wood.* A far greater number of people provided companionship, and helped spot and identify birds. Many thanks to one and all, and to Captain Paul Forsberg and his *Viking* crew. *Viva Stercorariidae!*

*My special thanks to Luanne Clark who sketched the Greater Shearwater expressly for this article, and to Bill Wilson for the use of his excellent photographs.

—9446 85 Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES
28. TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

JOSEPH DiCOSTANZO, RICHARD EDES HARRISON
and JOHN O. BIDERMAN



Townsend's Warbler
Great Gull Island, Suffolk Co., N.Y.

7 May 1978

Photo by Joseph DiCostanzo

On 7 May 1978 a breeding-plumaged, male Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) was mist-netted, banded, photographed and released on Great Gull Island, at the eastern end of Long Island Sound. This constitutes the ninth record for New York State and the first to be confirmed by a photograph.

The bird was first sighted (Biderman) and identified (Harrison and DiCostanzo) while it was moving about in bayberry bushes (*Myrica*

pensylvanica) about an hour before it was mist-netted. Other observers present were S. Bloomfield, D. Boxer, M. Coulter, E. Hansen, H. Hays and R. Tyler. The bird was seen again the following day by Biderman, Bloomfield and Coulter.

The warbler was easily identified by its striking head pattern with a black ear-patch, crown and throat on a yellow face and breast. This individual also showed much white in the outer tail. In the hand, the four outer rectrices were nearly entirely white except for an elongated dark spot near their tips. The amount of white in the tail varied considerably in specimens examined by Harrison in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. The measurements taken on this bird during banding were: wing chord—68 mm., weight—9.0 gms., and fat—0.

Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 488) lists six sightings of Townsend's Warbler in New York, five of them on dates between 24 April and 9 May. More recently the species has been reported at Montauk, Suffolk Co., 2 October 1976 (*Kingbird*, 27: 60) and at Hempstead Lake State Park, Nassau Co., 15 April 1977 (*Kingbird* 27: 175).

All banding on Great Gull Island is done under the permit of Helen Hays. The Great Gull Island Project is supported by the American Museum of Natural History and by contributions from the members of the Linnaean Society of New York.

This is publication No. 53 of the Great Gull Island Project.

Joseph DiCostanzo, 280 18th St., Brooklyn, New York 11215
Richard Edes Harrison, 313 E. 51st St., New York, New York 10022
John O. Biderman, 24 First South St., Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

[Editors' Note: An adult male Townsend's Warbler in winter plumage was present in Southampton Township, near Vincentown, Burlington Co., New Jersey, from 5 December 1977 to 21 February 1978 (Merit, J. K. 1978. *New Jersey Audubon Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 2, p. 48, Summer 1978, Research Unit Supplement), and an adult male in breeding plumage was seen and photographed on 11 May 1978 near New Haven, Oswego Co., by Dorothy W. Crumb and F. G. Scheider.]

**MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
ALBANY, NEW YORK
September 30th - October 1st, 1977**

The 30th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at the New York State Museum, Albany, N.Y. with the Alan DeVoe Bird Club and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club as co-hosts. At 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 30th, the meeting was called to order by President Richard A. Sloss, who introduced Noel Fritzinger, Assistant Commissioner of Museums for New York State. Mr. Fritzinger welcomed the Council of Delegates with a resume of the basic changes in the State Museum, pointing out that the former 75-year-old building featured natural resources of the State, whereas the new complex adds human activity to the natural, and thus presents the interaction of nature and man. He praised Edgar Reilly for his work as curator and his dedication.

The roll call of delegates was answered by 22 Member Clubs constituting a quorum for the transaction of business. The Delegates waived the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, accepting them as presented in the Winter, 1977 issue of *The Kingbird*.

Myrna Hemmerick, Membership Chairman, presented the report of the Membership Committee. Membership was at an all time high with a total of 601 paid memberships as follows:

Annual Membership	414	Student Membership	36
Family Membership	85	Life Membership	48
Supporting Membership	12	Partial Life Membership	6

Myrna Hemmerick pointed out that the 17% growth in membership attests to the success of Gordon Meade's intensive and effective campaign. Gordon Meade later requested a membership roster from each club, to aid in the continuation of this drive. The reapplication for membership by the Great South Bay Audubon Society was unanimously approved by the delegates and with this election the total number of Member Clubs became 41.

The Treasurer, Stephen Dempsey, presented his reports for the calendar year 1976 and through September 29, 1977. His reports for the preceding calendar year are presented herewith:

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/31/76 AND FOR THE THEN ENDED YEAR**

Cash on Hand 12/31/75	
Checking Account	\$ 1,665.16
Savings Accounts	9,049.78
Net Gain in 1976	<u>310.13</u>
	\$11,025.07
Cash on Hand 12/31/76	
Checking Account	\$ 1,636.08
Savings Accounts	<u>9,388.99</u>
	\$11,025.07

Income, 1976

<u>Dues</u>			
Annual - 1976 - Renewal - 294		\$ 2,352.00	
New 43		344.00	
New ½ year - 11		44.00	
1977 - Renewal - 9		72.00	
New 10		<u>80.00</u>	\$ 2,892.00
Family - 1976 - Renewal - 45		\$ 450.00	
New 5		50.00	
New ½ year - 6		30.00	
1977 - New 8		<u>80.00</u>	610.00
Supporting - 1976 - Renewal - 17		\$ 255.00	
New ½ year - 1		<u>7.50</u>	262.50
Student - 1976 - Renewal - 15		\$ 45.00	
New 17		51.00	
1977 - New 4		<u>12.00</u>	108.00
Life - Complete - 2		\$ 300.00	
Partial 6		<u>200.00</u>	500.00
Clubs - 1976 - Renewal - 40		\$ 1,231.20	
New 1		<u>6.75</u>	<u>1,237.95</u>
Total - Dues			\$ 5,610.45
<u>OTHER</u>			
Contributions			\$ 1,030.68
Lillian C. Stoner Award for 1975			75.00
Pelagic Trip - 6/12		\$ 976.00	
9/25		832.00	
11/27		<u>752.00</u>	\$ 2,560.00
Subscriptions - 1976 - 15		\$ 135.00	
1977 - 37		<u>333.00</u>	468.00
Index to <i>Kingbird</i>			17.00
Back Issues of <i>Kingbird</i>			31.50
Sale of Feeders			133.64
Sale of Decals			10.50
Supplement to <i>Birds of New York State</i>			510.35
Refund of Deposit on 1976 Annual Meeting Banquet			250.00
Interest on Savings Account			<u>608.59</u>
Total - Other			\$ <u>5,895.26</u>
Grand Total			\$11,305.71

EXPENSES, 1976

<i>Kingbird</i>	\$ 4,419.41
<i>New York Birders</i>	536.67
Supplement to <i>Birds of New York State</i>	1,305.60
Membership Brochure	563.65
Purchase of Decals	164.38
Purchase of Feeders	39.42
Index to <i>Kingbird</i>	1,033.84
Membership	<u>149.21</u>

Dues Notices		\$ 84.19
Miscellaneous		316.55
Annual Meeting		227.01
Conservation		25.00
Dues		50.00
Pelagic Trip - 6/12	\$ 799.97	
9/25	683.34	
11/27	<u>597.34</u>	<u>2,080.65</u>
Total		\$10,995.58
Net Gain		\$ 310.13

Submitted by: Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer 6/13/77

Books and accounts examined and found in good order

Irving Cantor, Auditor 6/21/77

Herbert H. Roth, Auditor 7/18/77

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
LILLIAN C. STONER STUDENT EXPENSE FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976

Balance on Hand 1/1/76	\$ 1,089.61
Interest Earned - Year 1976	80.39
Less: Awards presented in 1975 and 1976	150.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/76	\$ 1,020.00

Submitted by: Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer 6/13/77

Books and accounts examined and found in good order

Irving Cantor, Auditor 6/21/77

Herbert H. Roth, Auditor 7/18/77

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
HAWK NESTING FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976

Balance on Hand 1/1/76	\$ 1,128.96
Interest earned - Year 1976	86.19
Balance on Hand 12/31/76	\$ 1,215.15

Submitted by: Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer 6/13/77

Books and accounts examined and found in good order

Irving Cantor, Auditor 6/21/77

Herbert H. Roth, Auditor 7/18/77

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1976

Balance on Hand 1/1/76	\$ 1,054.96
Interest earned - Year 1976	82.20
Less: Awards presented in 1976	75.00
Balance on Hand 12/31/76	\$ 1,062.16

Submitted by Stephen B. Dempsey, Treasurer 6/13/77

Books and accounts examined and found in good order
Irving Cantor, Auditor 6/21/77
Herbert H. Roth, Auditor 7/18/77

Mr. Dempsey pointed out that as suggested at the Annual Meeting in 1976 the financial reports had been distributed in advance to all those Delegates whose names had been submitted to the Recording Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting, in order to allow study and the formulation of any questions. Mr. Dempsey asked the Delegates for any comments and since none was forthcoming, the reports were approved as submitted. Mr. Herbert Roth, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, read a report (at the Saturday morning session of the Delegate meeting) attesting to the fact that Mr. Irving Cantor and Mr. Herbert Roth had examined the books and accounts of the Federation and had found them to be in good order.

In the absence of Sally Hoyt Spofford, Bibliography Committee Chairman, President Sloss read her report. The bibliography of New York State ornithology covering articles and notes published in numerous journals during the year 1975 was compiled by the Committee and submitted to the Editors of *The Kingbird* for publication in the Fall, 1977, issue. Material for the bibliography of 1976 publications is being collected and information from any member relative thereto would be appreciated. Appreciation was expressed to the Chairman's Committee members, John Belknap, Allen Benton and Dr. Kenneth Parkes.

Walton Sabin, Chairman of the Waterfowl Census Committee, reported that the Waterfowl Census for 1976 would appear in the next issue of *The Kingbird* and the census taken for 1977 would appear in a subsequent issue of *The Kingbird*.

Robert Arbib, Chairman of the Publications & Research Committee, presented his report. He complimented Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr., Co-Editors of *The Kingbird*, and Robert Smart for their fine work in maintaining and increasing the quality of the Federation's quarterly journal. He also paid recognition to the work done and the contributions made by the Regional Editors. Mr. Arbib then called the attention of the Delegates to the continued excellence of the quarterly newsletter of the Federation, *New York Birders*, under the able editorship of Max Wheat, assisted by Mary Ann Sunderlin, Gordon Meade, Albert Bell and Betty Ferrigo. Susan Drennan's progress on the monumental *Where To Bird In New York State* was the next subject of Mr. Arbib's report. He advised the Delegates that 50 to 60 questionnaires had been received and that these are already being compiled to form a very creditable beginning for this project.

Mr. Arbib reported on the Federation's activities, under Edgar Reilly, for the 1977 summer resident survey. He also commented on the fact that Vermont is making a county by county atlas, 120 quadrants, of bird populations; West Virginia is doing a similar product, and a new book entitled *Breeding Birds of Great Britain* has recently been published giving an intensive survey of all breeding birds. He suggested that the next issue of *New York Birders* outline a proposal for a committee to revise the basic maps dividing New York State into regions and a plea for volunteers to work during May, June and July to compile the data on breeding birds more effectively than we have done in the past.

Richard Sloss read a report from Frederick Dittrich, Chairman of the Circulation Committee. As of September 23, 1977, *Kingsbird* mailings: 594 individual memberships; 38 copies to Member Clubs; 48 subscriptions; 14 exchanges; 18 complimentary; 4 extras to Clubs; and 1 Post Office copy. Mr. Dittrich pointed out that this represents an increase of 101 for the current year.

Mary Ann Sunderlin advised the Delegates that Stanley Quickmeyer, member of the Federation and former Northeast Representative of the National Audubon Society, died in 1977. Stan attended many Annual Meetings of the Federation when he was active as National Audubon Society representative. William Lee called the Delegates' attention to the fact that approximately ten days before, Guy Bartlett had passed away; he was a founder of the Federation and of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club.

The Friday afternoon session of the Annual Meeting of Delegates was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Richard Sloss convened the Saturday morning session of the Council of Delegates at 9:15 am. A roll call of Delegates showed that 30 Member Clubs were represented. President Sloss asked Allen Benton to serve as parliamentarian for this session of the Annual Meeting.

President Sloss reviewed the activities and progress of the Federation for the past year. He told the Delegates of the time and effort contributed by the Officers of the corporation and the ten members at large who, together with the Officers, comprise the Executive Committee. This Committee met three times during the year and was responsible for many of the programs and projects carried on by the Federation. He also advised the meeting that communication between the Federation and its Member Clubs has improved, with the growing number of Federation representatives appointed by the Member Clubs. He urged Delegates to those clubs which had not yet appointed a Federation representative to do so. The President dwelt briefly on what he felt was one area in the Federation's activities which certainly could be improved, conservation. He urged continuing efforts to reestablish an aborted cooperative conservation program with the Northeast Representative of the National Audubon Society and the appointment of an effective Conservation Committee.

The President reviewed the history of the proposed New York State Avian Records Committee, first suggested in 1975 at the Annual Meeting in Oneonta, New York. He advised the Delegates that since the last Annual Meeting at Hempstead a new committee chaired by Edgar Reilly and consisting of Robert Andrlé, Paul DeBenedictis, Allen Benton, John Farrand, Jr., Robert Spahn and William Vaughan had completed proposed bylaws and reviewed them with the Executive Committee of the Federation in March. These proposed bylaws were sent to all Member Clubs in the spring for the purpose of review, criticism and Delegate instruction with respect to rejection or acceptance at this Annual Meeting. Mr. Sloss called upon Edgar Reilly, Chairman of the NYSARC Committee, to take the chair and review the bylaws with the Delegates. Dr. Reilly presided over a detailed analysis of the bylaws, during which period amendments were proposed and either adopted or rejected. Upon motion made by Paul DeBenedictis, the Council for Delegates unanimously approved the adoption of the bylaws as submitted, and further amended by the Delegates, thus establishing New York State's first Avian Records Committee under the auspices of the Federation. Said bylaws will be reproduced in their final form and sent to each Member Club.

The President then called upon the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Gordon Meade, to present the slate of Officers for the coming year, 1977-1978. Dr. Meade presented the following slate: President—Stephen B. Dempsey, Vice-President—Alice D. Jones, Recording Secretary—Dee DeSimone, Corresponding Secretary—Martin Borko, Treasurer—John Forness. Since no other nominations were received, the President moved that one vote be cast to elect the slate presented by the Nominating Committee and the Delegates seconded and unanimously carried this motion. Mr. Sloss then turned over the gavel to the incoming President, Stephen Dempsey.

Mr. Dempsey pointed out that there were two elective committees upon which the Delegates must act. He called for nominations for a Nominating Committee and the following were elected: Allen Benton, Chairman; Richard Sloss and Ronald LaForce. He then asked for nominations to serve as an Auditing Committee and the following members were nominated and elected: Irving Cantor and Donald Clark.

President Dempsey asked Gordon Meade to draw up a resolution, to be read at the annual dinner, thanking the host clubs.

Martin Borko asked the Delegates to consider passing a resolution placing the Federation in opposition to the use of Endrin for control of the Pine Vole in the orchards in the Hudson River Valley. After due discussion the Delegates adopted this resolution.

Gordon Meade announced that the next Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Genesee Ornithological Society, the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the Rochester Birding Association in Rochester on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1978.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Lona T. Coates
Recording Secretary

At the Annual Banquet on Saturday evening the following noteworthy actions were taken:

Martin Borko presented the resolution that had been adopted at the Delegates Meeting as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs is opposed to the use of Endrin to control the Pine Vole in New York State, as it poses a threat to avian predatory species and more particularly to the attempted reintroduction of the endangered Peregrine Falcon.

A resolution of appreciation to the Alan DeVoe Bird Club and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club was presented by Gordon Meade as follows: WHEREAS, the Alan DeVoe Bird Club and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club have been joint hosts for the 30th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs in the setting of the magnificent New York State Museum in Albany, N.Y. on September 30th, October 1st and 2nd, 1977, and

WHEREAS, all the Clubs and members of the Federation wish to express their thanks for the careful planning and smooth execution of the unusually fine program, and now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federation hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to each member of the local committees who made this all possible, and to the members and Officers of the host clubs for their warm hospitality at this milestone meeting marking the Federation's third decade. This resolution was adopted by acclamation of those present at the banquet on October 1, 1977.

Outgoing President Richard A. Sloss presented the Lillian Stoner Award to Ms. Jean Schiller of New York Mills, N.Y., a member of the Kirkland Bird Club. Richard Sloss also announced that Thomas J. Rauber had been selected by the Committee as the winner of the John J. Elliott Memorial Award for his article in Volume 26, No. 3, Summer Issue of *The Kingbird*, entitled: "Notes on a New York Nest of the Bald Eagle." Honorable mention went to Gilbert S. Raynor for his article in *The Kingbird*, Volume 26, No. 4, Fall Issue, entitled: "Decrease in Breeding Brown Thrashers and Rufous-sided Towhees on Central Long Island."

OBITUARY

LILLIAN CHRISTIANSON STONER

The death of Lillian Christianson Stoner on March 25, 1978, in St. Petersburg, Florida, deprived the Federation of a founder, patron, benefactor and long-time friend. Born in Norway, Iowa, on June 12, 1885, she attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, where she was a pre-medical student and where she met Dayton Stoner, whom she married in 1912. Her college work included a great deal of zoology, and she shared in her husband's work both in the field and out. They had no children, and Mrs. Stoner devoted her life to her husband and his interests, which closely paralleled her own. When Dr. Stoner died in 1944, while State Zoologist of New York, Mrs. Stoner completed his unfinished "Birds of Washington Park, Albany, New York," which was published in 1952 as *Bulletin* No. 344 of the New York State Museum. She wrote many papers on birds for *The Kingbird*, *Feathers*, the journal of the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, and other publications. She had a prominent role in the founding of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, an activity that gave her great pride and satisfaction. In 1974 she established the Lillian C. Stoner Award, to encourage aspiring young ornithologists to join the Federation and attend its annual meetings. She was a Patron of the American Ornithologists' Union, having joined that organization in 1907. These are only a few of her many accomplishments and activities.

It is hard to speak of Lillian in the past tense, because she was so interesting, interested, and alive. Our memories of her include a two-day auto trip from Albany, New York, to Columbus, Ohio; she was 84 at the time and her range of conversation greatly enlivened the trip for us. She knew many people and had enjoyed many things; she spoke of her college days, her life with Dayton, her trips, and her investments. We also remember her at the age of 85, when she sat and ate under a picnic table during a sudden shower instead of climbing into a car with the "softies." It is with great personal sorrow that I write these words, for Lillian was a great lady and person as well as a friend. We shall miss her.

— E. M. Reilly

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

TV tower kill at Elmira: The worst kill of migrating passerines in fourteen years occurred during the nights of September 19-23, 1977 at the WSYE television tower, Elmira, in Chemung Co. In 1963, the height of the tower was greatly increased to 843 feet above the top of Hawley Hill, which has an elevation of about 1725 feet. With clear weather or high clouds, the tower presents no hazard, but migrating birds flying under low clouds encounter the tower and its many guy wires.

Usually on rainy nights no birds are flying. September 18, with heavy rains, brought no birds. However, on the night of September 19, also with heavy rains, there was the enormous kill. It would appear that the migrating birds flew into the rainstorm from clearer skies. The low cloud cover continued the rest of the week, with intermittent periods of partial clearing, which no doubt accounted for the lower kills on the last three days.

The total of 1817 birds picked up on September 20 was followed by totals of 1358, 375, 132 and 180 on the following days. Prior to this year, the highest total for one night was 844, on September 21-22, 1974, and the total for that season, 1200 birds, also a high. In some years, depending on weather, the total kill has been as low as 100 or 200.

On the morning of September 20, Wilifred Howard called for help, saying she and Millie Wingert had been picking up dead birds for three hours in pouring rain. This was the worst kill ever. They brought the birds to our barn, in plastic bags, shopping bags and boxes. My husband put up tables, rigged up lights, and with two more volunteers, we went to work. Later in the afternoon, two more volunteers brought in several more bags of birds. We sorted, identified and saved the better specimens, putting them in "trays" (cut-down soft drink cartons). On the first day alone we threw away two bushel crates of badly damaged specimens. We phoned a number of colleges, but only two responded, and they took only a few trays. So, finally, all the rest were discarded, many of them beautiful specimens. The other persons helping were Helen Samson, Helen Knapp, Fran and Marge Converse, Dawn Klinko, Rosemary Connelly, Marge Johnston, Bill Ostrander and Peg Campbell.

Tower Kill, Elmira, N.Y. — September 20-24, 1977

No.	Species	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Total
1.	Bay-breasted Warbler	456	628	71	44	27	1226
2.	Tennessee Warbler	243	65	37	12	18	375
3.	Magnolia Warbler	93	174	29	10	20	326
4.	Ovenbird	188	64	22	12	25	311
5.	Swainson's Thrush	188	2	17	1	10	218
6.	Black-throated Green W.	58	108	16	5	13	200

No.	Species	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Total
7.	Red-eyed Vireo	86	37	13	7	3	145
8.	Wood Thrush	108	5	15	2	1	132
9.	Blackburnian Warbler	47	53	10	6	4	120
10.	Black-throated Blue W.	41	40		4	13	98
11.	Blackpoll Warbler	56	19	4	1	7	87
12.	Com. Yellowthroat	45	17		1	3	66
13.	Chestnut-sided Warbler	16	28	6	1	4	55
14.	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	39	3	5	4	1	52
15.	Black-and-white Warbler	20	18	4	3	5	50
16.	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	10	19	5	5	2	41
17.	Wilson's Warbler	8	22		3	2	35
18.	Nashville Warbler	11	12	2	2	5	32
19.	Northern Parula	10	7	2	1	4	24
20.	Canada Warbler	4	9	6		1	20
21.	American Redstart	10	2	1	3	3	19
22.	Scarlet Tanager	17		1	1		19
23.	Philadelphia Vireo	7	7	3		1	18
24.	Cape May Warbler	14	1		1		16
25.	Northern Waterthrush	6		1		4	11
26.	Gray Catbird	5	1	1	2		9
27.	Mourning Warbler	5	1	1		1	8
28.	Solitary Vireo	3			1		4
29.	Lincoln's Sparrow	4					4
30.	<i>Empidonax</i> sp.	2	1				3
31.	Orange-crowned Warbler	2	1				3
32.	E. Wood Pewee	2					2
33.	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2					2
34.	Black-billed Cuckoo	1					1
35.	Eastern Phoebe	1					1
36.	House Wren					1	1
37.	Long-billed Marsh Wren					1	1
38.	Veery			1			1
39.	Warbling Vireo	1					1
40.	Yellow Warbler	1					1
41.	Connecticut Warbler	1					1
42.	Yellow-breasted Chat					1	1
43.	Bobolink			1			1
44.	Dark-eyed Junco	1					1
	Unidentified	6	15	100	1		122
	Totals	1817	1358	375	132	180	3862

There were nine birds killed prior to, and three more following, the dates tabulated above. An immature Common Gallinule, killed on October 3, is noteworthy.

The above figures are far from being a true total count. From the tower, there are about 30 guy wires reaching across to various points over fields and wooded areas, so that birds striking these wires fall onto a large area. It was impossible even with the help we had to cover all tracts. That first morning the road leading up to the tower was covered with crushed birds. Below the tower on one side were two fields of very deep grass. Later in the week, it was mowed and a small flock of crows was seen there on different days feeding on the dead birds. Besides the dead, there are always a number of live injured birds, which, of course, do not survive.

If these figures are multiplied by the number of TV towers in the country, one wonders what the future holds. In former years there were large, or larger kill at lighthouses. Do TV towers outnumber lighthouses? Perhaps the solution lies in some electronic means of repelling the birds. Dorothy Crumb of Syracuse told me that the kills at the tower there had been greatly reduced since the installation of two telephone relay towers in the vicinity.

Mary Welles, R.D. 1, Elmira, N.Y. 14903

The ability of a Saw-whet Owl to see by day: On the afternoon of 19 March 1978 several of us were observing a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) well concealed in a tangled grapevine in an old pear orchard in Braddock Bay State Park, Parma, Monroe County. One birder was within five feet of the owl, immediately below it, taking pictures with a long lens, and the bird was leaning forward slightly, staring down at him. At least ten other people were scattered about between six and 30 feet away from the bird. While we watched, a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) flew overhead at an estimated altitude of 300 to 400 feet. Instantly, the owl's eyes narrowed to slits and its head snapped back, its gaze following the hawk until it disappeared. This is particularly interesting in that in spite of the owl's being seemingly buried in the tangle and virtually invisible, it sighted the hawk and then considered it more of a threat than this group of people, one of them only a few feet away pointing a long lens at it. After the hawk had passed the owl's gaze was again focused, wide-eyed, on the photographer.

Robert Spahn, 716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14850

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT W. SMART

For once nearly all regions agreed on the character of the season. Winter would not give up and snow and ice lasted well into April even as far south as Region 9 and until mid-May in the northern highlands. Precipitation varied greatly from region to region, the "lake effect" from Lake Ontario and storms along the coast producing heavy amounts locally while parts of the state were dry during much of the season. As a result of this weather pattern, arrivals were very late. In March and April waterfowl returned to the larger bodies of water. Landbird migration was almost non-existent during this period, with scattered individuals of some species and many not being recorded at all. Until nearly the middle of May most observers rated the season as about two weeks behind. This lateness did work to the advantage of birders in one way, because when the dam finally broke on May 9th, the foliage was equally as retarded and the birds were therefore highly visible. The two principal waves occurred on May 9th-14th and May 19th-21st. Because of the lateness of the season the birds moved through very rapidly and it was all over in two weeks. The fact that these two good waves came on weekends partially made up for the frustrations of earlier in the season.

The last two severe winters have obviously taken their toll among a number of species. Some of these are southern forms that periodically extend their range northward; the most obvious of these are the Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird and, most particularly, the Carolina Wren.

An even more interesting effect of the nationally bad winter was the apparent decrease of some species wintering in the southern states. Many observers commented on the scarcity of Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Winter Wrens. There are other species mentioned by some editors as having been affected; among these are the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher. It is very easy for birders in northern states to overlook the importance of weather and habitat conditions farther south. It is possible also that some of the numerical decreases noted in the following pages are due to habitat destruction in tropical areas, where many of our breeding species spend the winter.

On the brighter side, raptors did very well, with good numbers of

Sharp-shins and Rough-legs. Greater-than-usual numbers of Marsh Hawks were very encouraging. Merlins were reported from all but one of the regions. The number of Broad-wings was low along the shore of Lake Ontario, but this was evidently due to local weather conditions rather than to a genuine decline in this species. The birds were spread out over the countryside rather than being concentrated at the edge of the lake.

Inl nd, shorebird migration depended on local water levels. Lake Ontario was very high, the water level at Montezuma was purposely kept high, and the lack of rain in many areas resulted in a paucity of flooded fields. In spite of these conditions, the spring produced some interesting records and good numbers. Notice particularly the reports from Regions 2, 5 and 9.

Ravens continue to increase in number and to enlarge their range; this season they were reported not only from the Adirondacks but also in Regions 2 and 3 to the west and from Region 9 to the south.

A few other items may be noted briefly. Many regions reported very late white-winged gulls. There was a heavy flight of Canada Geese, but note the warning given by Mr. Benning in Region 3. There were large numbers of cuckoos due to the heavy infestation of tent caterpillars. A migrant species not counted often enough is the Blue Jay; note the count of 10,000+ at Braddock Bay on May 12th and the count of 9,000 there on May 13th.

A number of odd-ball birds were reported. There was a Mallard that nested successfully atop a 40-foot spruce at Penn Yan, and a "goldpoll" at Ithaca. In Region 7 there was a white Crow with a black face, a White-throated Sparrow with charcoal-colored head, neck and bib (Could this have been a hybrid with a Harris' Sparrow?), a Vesper Sparrow with no white outer tail feathers, and, best of all, a Purple Sandpiper walking down the middle of Route 22 in Essex.

The list of rarities is far too long to present here in its entirety. One must remember too that a bird that is rare in one area may be common in another. I will just call attention to those that are of more or less statewide interest, and give the region or regions in which these were seen: White-fronted Goose (1), Sandhill Crane (1, 2), Wilson's Plover (10), Ruff (1, 5), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5), Thayer's Gull (2), Chuck-will's-widow (2), Varied Thrush (2, 8), Mountain Bluebird (9), Yellow-throated Warbler (9), Connecticut Warbler (2, 3), Western Meadowlark (2), Yellow-headed Blackbird (2, 9), Summer Tanager (2, 9), Lark Bunting (9), Clay-colored Sparrow (1, 5) and Harris' Sparrow (10).

Three species deserve special awards. The first, for the most confused, goes to the Purple Gallinule that landed in a yard in Queens and was taken to Jamaica Bay where it wandered around on the dry paths under the feet of the birders. The second, for the most obliging, goes to the three White Pelicans that had the good taste to land for a while in Region 5, soon moved over to Region 3, and from there made sorties into Region 2. But the Bird of the Season (BOTS) award must go to the two Townsend's Warblers; the photographs taken at Great Gull Island and at New Haven in Oswego County serve to remove the species from the state's Hypothetical List.

This is my last season as the Highlights editor, and I would like to thank publicly all the regional editors, who have been so cooperative. Their hard work has made mine easy.

[Eds. Note: The Editors would like to express their appreciation to Bob Smart for the superb job he has done as Highlights editor. His enthusiasm, and his knowledgeable comments and interpretations have greatly enhanced the Regional Reports, and have helped us all to see where an individual record fits into the overall picture of the birdlife of New York State.]

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Backward, turned backward, was time in its flight—or so seemed the spring season as the virile winter, taking second place only to last year's as vilest of the century, persisted for a week into March, extending to 42 days the period when temperatures never rose above freezing. Although major flooding was feared as the above-normal snow cover melted, there was a beautiful dissipation of the snow. March and April were cold and dry with smaller lakes iced in until April 10, ten days past normal. Although May began cold and wet, a dry heat wave took over April 19, continuing to the end of the period. With few exceptions, "flights" were too weak to deserve the name, apparently most movements overflying the Region. The two-weeks-late season retarded migrants, delayed nesting and held back foliage, and before the last week in May when adequate cover finally developed, nests were built lower than usual or even on the ground. However, with the advent of hot, sunny weather, all nature surged to make up for lost time.

The spring's bright side includes: 1) larger egg clutches 2) a good flight of Turkey Vultures and Rough-legged Hawks, and a fair flight of other hawks—most resident raptors doing well 3) an abundance of field mice, protected by lasting snow cover—a good food source 4) fine reports of Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers 5) improved status for Horned Larks and swallows, except Cliff

Swallows 6) crows nesting in lowlands, possibly moving out of hills to escape the Goshawk (S. Eaton) 7) an irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches 8) numbers of E. Bluebirds holding up well 9) Warbling Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the increase, the latter feeding on pine tortoise scale; many, many Evening Grosbeaks, one pair courtship feeding near Allegany late in the season (S. Eaton) 10) House Finches still expanding; Purple Finches everywhere and lots of lovely little Common Redpolls 11) plentiful Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches, the former staying late and showing courtship behavior (S. Eaton).

On the dark side are 1) honey bees hard hit by the severe winter 2) bird numbers generally down—259 banded at Farmersville Station in April being under half that for the two previous years (Clark) 3) poor duck and sandpiper flights 4) absence of Double-crested Cormorants 5) few reports of Ruffed Grouse and Turkeys, and fewer still of Ring-necked Pheasants 6) only a scattering of cuckoos despite a big tent caterpillar outbreak 7) almost no Common Nighthawks 8) fewer Hairy Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers 9) E. Phoebes nesting on time, disregarding the late season, but in 30% less locations than six years ago 10) very low numbers of Tufted Titmice, both kinglets, and House Wrens, and almost no Winter Wrens, Carolina Wrens, or Mockingbirds 11) continued scarcity of Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows, with Field Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows joining the list this year.

Regional rarities include White-fronted Goose, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, Ruff, Saw-whet Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, House Finch, Hoary Redpoll and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—April Census, Apr. 9, compiled by P. and R. Schwartz, through the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS hereafter); GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NP or NS—Nature Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; SP—State Park.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Elmer Becker (EBk), Esther Becker (EsBk), Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather Data, Wellsville), Frances DeGroff, Stephen Eaton, Genevieve Fish, David Freeland, Helen Graves, Matthew Hotchkiss, Norman Ives, Clarence Klingensmith, Frederick Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), Katherine Palmer, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Earl Schriver, Ann Scott (ASc), Bruce Smalley, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy, Audrey Westley; and initialed observers: Patricia Andrie, Marcya Foster, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Alice McKale, Willard McKale, Harold Mitchell, John Morse, William Rebovich, Frances Rew, Robert Sundell, Alice Ulrich.

LOONS—DUCKS: The best seasonal count of Com. Loons was 11 at Cuba L May 6. Of the half dozen Red-necked Grebes noted from widespread areas, one was unusually late at Cuba L May 3. As snows melted in Mar. and Apr., four more dead Horned Grebes were found in Cattaraugus Co., probably killed in the early Jan. storm which downed so many near Quaker L, Allegany SP (SE). Maximum of the migration for Horned Grebe was a low 80 at Dunkirk Harbor Mar. 24. Regional long-legged waders were in very low numbers including: four Great Egrets, one a day—early bird at Iroquois NWR Apr. 3 (James+); a Black-crowned Night Heron at Farmersville Sta. Apr. 20 (DC), a new and unusual location, plus eight others from three sites; and only two Am. Bitterns, one at Cuba L Apr. 22 and the other at Iroquois NWR Apr. 24.

The graceful Whistling Swans put on another show this year with 432 on the AC, highest in 10 years, and the largest flock of 700 appearing in Conewango Twp. Mar. 31. One stayed

late at Dunkirk until May 31 (JM). Maximum Canada Geese were estimated at 78,000 in the Oak Orchard area Apr. 17 while about 1500 rested near Rossburg Mar. 22-30. The 15 that wintered with a Snow Goose along the Allegheny R near Allegany were still there Mar. 4 and appeared near Oramel two weeks later (*vide* SE). The resident pair of Canada Geese at Farmersville Sta. was nesting in Apr. (DC, JC). Although *very rare*, the **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** at Iroquois NWR Apr. 2 (FR, Chapple+) marks the third consecutive year for this species in our Region. Total reported Snow Geese, in addition to the one above, was two on the AC and at least 12 white morph and four "blues." Ducks with higher counts than last year on the AC were: Black Duck 179, Pintail 164, Wood Duck 114, Canvasback 628, Lesser Scaup 1645, Com. Goldeneye 1367, Bufflehead 1232, White-winged Scoter 82 (highest in 10 years), Black Scoter 31, Ruddy Duck 15, Hooded Merganser 169, Com. Merganser 6637 (highest in 10 years), and Red-breasted Merganser 3419. Ducks unusually low on the AC were: Green-winged Teal 62 (100 in 1977), Blue-winged Teal 184 (264 last year) and Ring-necked Duck 186 (416 last year). Dabbling ducks appeared in pitiful numbers for some species with highest reports: Mallard 35 Hume Apr. 7; Black Duck 4 Cuba L Apr. 29; Gadwall 15 Conewango Mar. 31; Pintail 250 Oak Orchard Apr. 2; Green-winged Teal 150 Conewango Mar. 31; Blue-winged Teal 50 Conewango Mar. 31; Am. Wigeon 300 Conewango Mar. 31; N. Shoveler 14 Tonawanda WMA Apr. 30; and Wood Duck 18 Hume Mar. 25. Diving ducks reached maxima as: Redhead 88 Celeron Mar. 18; Ring-necked Duck 200 Conewango Mar. 31; Canvasback 7 Cuba L Apr. 3; Lesser Scaup 50 Cuba L Apr. 3-24; Com. Goldeneye 20 Limestone Mar. 8; Bufflehead 60 Cuba L Apr. 25; Oldsquaw 15 Cuba L May 3; White-winged Scoter 18 Allegany Apr. 8; Hooded Merganser 80 Randolph Apr. 8; and Red-breasted Merganser 20 Cuba L Apr. 17, 18. The increasingly scarce Ruddy Duck was reported from only five locations with a total of but 10 birds.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Migrating hawks just dribbled through, with highest one day reports: Turkey Vulture 122 Allegany Rd. Apr. 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 25 Youngstown Apr. 6; Cooper's Hawk four Lyndonville Mar. 22; Red-tailed Hawk 95 Youngstown Apr. 6; Red-shouldered Hawk 32 Youngstown Mar. 31; Broad-winged Hawk 174 Allegany Rd. May 3; Rough-legged Hawk 10 Youngstown Mar. 31; and Marsh Hawk seven Lyndonville Apr. 3. 180 Turkey Vultures on the AC was highest ever. A **GOSHAWK** appeared on the AC and singles were reported from two locations. Resident Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks numbered 21 and 19 respectively, with usually a single bird seen in an area. Buteos are doing well, including the Red-shouldered Hawk. With 60 Rough-legged Hawks on the AC (6 last year), 50 were noted from widespread locations throughout the season until the last three at Iroquois NWR Apr. 30. An imm **BALD EAGLE** was identified at Dunkirk Mar. 24 (FR, AU) and one, also imm, was at Oak Orchard May 8 (WR, Meddaugh), possibly Florida residents coming north for the summer. Among many Osprey reports was one early bird in Amity Mar. 31 (DB, LB). A **PEREGRINE FALCON** was found for the AC and one was in the Tonawanda WMA Apr. 28 (WR). A **MERLIN** was "watched with scope set at 40 x at 75 yards eating Starling—left after eating and circling to altitude towards north—3 mi. w. of Allegany" Apr. 23 (SE). A **SANDHILL CRANE** was found at Oak Orchard in Apr. by competent birders from Rochester (*vide* FM, Olean *Times Herald* Apr. 28), and a "crane" (species?—same bird?) was seen at nearby Iroquois NWR Apr. 2 (Klonicks+). Sharp-eyed observers located single Virginia Rails in three areas and single Soras at two sites in May. At least six Com. Gallinules were totaled from four areas in May. Noteworthy sandpiper reports include: a total three Upland Sandpipers from two locations—a species more difficult to find each year; 75 Pectoral Sandpipers at Tonawanda WMA Apr. 16, a good flight; 50 Dunlin at Cuba Marsh May 19-22, an astonishing number for the area; and a rare **RUFF** at Tonawanda WMA Apr. 16, 17 (FR, Buck+) and again at the same location May 2, 3 (WR+). Unusual larids were scarce. A single Glaucous Gull appeared at Dunkirk Harbor Mar. 4, the only report, and 200 Bonaparte's Gulls were estimated at Cuba L Apr. 3-30, an enormous number away from the Great Lakes. A max 24 Caspian Terns were seen at Yates Apr. 23 while at least 10 others were totaled from four areas during Apr. and May. A Com. Tern was counted

on the AC. Uncommon away from the Great Lakes plain were single Black Terns near Alfred May 7 and at Cuba L May 10.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Total reported cuckoos numbered only 11 Black-billed and four Yellow-billed. Snowy Owls appeared this season as singles at Buffalo Harbor Mar. 5-12 (RA, MF+) and at Times Beach Mar. 16 (DF), the same number as last spring. Seven Long-eared Owls were counted on the AC and the only reports of the Short-eared were a max 12 at Lyndonville Mar. 8-27 and 2 at Somerset Mar. 12. A **SAW-WHET OWL** was spotted at E. Amherst Apr. 8 (DF), probably the same one appearing on the AC for the first time since 1964. Single Whip-poor-wills stopped at Ft. Niagara May 12 (HK, WK) and at Tonawanda WMA May 21 (WR). Disregarding the late season, a Com. Nighthawk arrived at Buffalo Apr. 27 (DF), a week early, and but one other was noted at Forest Lawn May 13 (Wendling+).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatchers are struggling after two successive hard winters, but most seem to be gaining slowly. E. Phoebes numbered 86 on the AC (75 last year). Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Delaware Park May 13 and in Eggertsville May 26, 31. An **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** was found in Yates May 24 (DF), the first Regional report since 1975 and 1976. Single Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared in four locations in May. The Horned Lark is cautiously noted as doing better with more on regular monthly reports, with Regional maximum 65 in Carroll Twp. Mar. 4. On the AC were 22 *Eremophila alpestris alpestris* (55 last year) and 323 *E. a. praticola* (289 last year). Attesting to destruction by two terrible winters are tallies from the AC: Tufted Titmouse 17, Winter Wren eight, Carolina Wren one, and Mockingbird four. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were noted as two at Tift Farm May 13 and five more at Iroquois NWR May 18, and one Short-billed was seen at Somerset May 29. Thrushes were well reported including 36 E. Bluebirds counted from 13 areas. Only six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were located for the season. Five faithful—and surviving—Golden-crowned Kinglets were back on nesting grounds near Alfred during May (EB). For a good Northern Shrike flight, 13 birds were found. Loggerheads appeared as five on the AC, and singles at Barre Mar. 27 (Walker, Orfeo), in Hume Apr. 8 (HM, VP+) and at Amherst Apr. 10 (DF).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Five Yellow-throated Vireos were seen May 13-15, located in 3 areas, and single Philadelphia Vireos were identified in five territories. Accents from the warbler season include: a **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** at Iroquois NWR May 10, 20, 21 (JM, RA+) and a "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER** at the same location May 28 (WR); a disappointing Tennessee Warbler migration in the Southern Tier but a max 50 birds at E. Amherst May 12; an Orange-crowned Warbler at E. Amherst May 12; five N. Parulas, total, from three areas; near Alfred, 100 migrating Yellow-rumped Warblers May 22 and 3 nesting pairs May 30; at least eight Blackpoll Warblers for Regional total, including one early at Delaware Park May 9 (King); an early Pine Warbler at New Albion Apr. 16 (Chapple) plus singles at Tift Farm Apr. 29 and at E. Amherst May 19; single **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** at Alfred May 16 (EB) and in Amity Twp. May 18 (VP), the latter a new area; six N. Waterthrushes counted from four locations; single Louisiana Waterthrushes at 10-Mile Rd., Allegany, Apr. 16 (SE) and at Newstead May 19 (DF); a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** at Limestone May 13 (Cattaraugus Co. Bird Club *vide* RV, JV); and single Hooded Warblers at Alfred May 23, at Limestone May 13 and in Zoar Valley May 20.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: With the exception of a good count of E. Meadowlarks of 565, icterid tallies on the AC were low with: Red-winged Blackbirds 16,364; Rusty Blackbirds 267; Com. Grackles 16,816; and Brown-headed Cowbirds 3242. Single **HOUSE FINCHES** were seen in two new locations: Farmersville Sta. Mar. 11 (DC) and Holland Apr. 10 (EbK, EsBk). At least two **HOARY REDPOLLS** were identified at Eggertsville Mar. 3-30 (AM, WM) and 2 appeared for the AC. With 1312 on the AC (none last year), Com. Redpolls reached a high count of 400 at N. Tonawanda in Mar. (Clemesha, Laux). A few crossbills were seen: Red as three at Hamburg Mar. 25 (RA, PA), one at E. Amherst Apr. 15, 30 (DF), and six at Holland Apr. 28 (EbK, EsBk); and White-winged as three on the AC, and at

least 10 totaled from five areas. The only reported Grasshopper Sparrows were four at Tonawanda WMA May 15 and one at Somerset May 29, being absent this year in the Alfred area where formerly common. The declining Henslow's Sparrow was noted as seven at Clarence May 4 and one near Alfred May 21. Tree Sparrows stayed late again at Belmont, with two there May 15 (DB, LB). Single CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS were identified at Eggertsville May 11 (AM, WM, Reeveses) and at Grand Island May 22-25 (Nutting, Burch). Maximum of a slim migration for White-crowned Sparrows was 35 at Forest Lawn May 9 and of White-throated Sparrows was 150 in the same area the same day. From the great Fox Sparrow flight, 41 were on the AC (18 last year) and a total of 28 birds were reported from 18 areas. More than usual Lincoln's Sparrows were found: 13 in all, from eight sites! Lapland Longspurs were reported as two in Carroll Twp. Mar. 5, five at Ransomville Mar. 7, and two in Yates Mar. 12. Maximum Snow Buntings for the Southern Tier was 250 at Caneadea Mar. 6 and for the northern plains was 500 at Ransomville Mar. 7.

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION TWO – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Weather again dominated the spring migration with a few brief periods of excitement interspersed among long, dull stretches either too cold, too hot, or with adverse winds. The long bottlenecks in the migration ended with brief surges when the onrush of "late" migrants swept with them numbers of species either vagrant or early for the dates. Spring was late. The first above-freezing day since January 25 occurred on March 9, low -4° F (-15° C) and high -41° F (5° C). Warming followed slowly. Ice held most of the smaller, shallower bodies of water in its grip well into April. A final snow fell on April 22 with depth ranging from one to three inches depending on location. A stretch of good weather with south winds March 14-19 culminated in a good push of waterfowl blowing in on strong westerlies on the 19th. Another surge March 30-April 1 brought an influx of passerines, waterfowl, and a few herons. Another unfavorable period followed, ending with a good flight April 11-13. Except for a continuous trickle of individuals, migration was then uniformly poor through about May 8, excepting also a few hours on April 29. During this period, cool temperatures and winds in the NW-NE quadrant prevailed. For most observers, spring migration occurred May 9-14 and 19-21. Ideal temperatures, winds, and frontal spacings swept in nearly all the bright, familiar migrants. A lack of development of foliage left them highly visible, in sharp contrast with last spring. Even many non-birders commented on sightings during this period. The activity died quickly. May ended with a final week, very calm, hot, dry and quiet.

Continuing on a theme pursued erratically the past several seasons, trends are very difficult to analyze seriously, particularly during a spring migration with their very complex dependence on weather and observer activity. As a regional comment, though probably little different from other regions, the records, particularly at this season, are predominantly those of bird finders—many very good field birders, rather than those of students of population dynamics. The records

are also predominantly from the Ontario lakeshore, since that is where the action is. With few exceptions (principal among these being a roost count and the hawk watch) there is little planned enumeration of migrants. Numerical data mainly are received as a result of some unusual movement that catches and holds the interest of an observer for some period. This information is not intended as a value judgment—we each have our good reasons for birding—but as an aid to the reader in evaluation of the following comments concerning trends. Most such commentary is based on the general levels of records received, coupled with discussions with the Region's experienced observers, as opposed to mathematical analysis of years of numerical data. Some specific complexities will be pointed out in the species accounts.

Apparent trends for the season include a continued drop in marsh birds—Black-crowned Night Heron, both bitterns, Virginia Rail and Sora. Last year the very low water was blamed; this year Lake Ontario levels are very high. Brant was unrecorded; wait until Fall for an assessment. Most raptors, excepting Red-shouldered Hawk, seemed up a bit. Ring-necked Pheasant continues low. Saw-whet Owl were in good numbers; apparently last year's drop was not real. Winter Wren, Mockingbird, and both kinglets are definitely way down. Loggerhead Shrike migration reports were up slightly, but again apparently none stayed to breed. In spite of the glowing reports for the peak of warbler migration, no real upward trend is obvious. It was all over very quickly. The House Finch is expanding its breeding foothold in the Rochester area. Grasshopper, Henslow's, and Vesper Sparrows are still way down; after brief, high, very local concentrations in migration each dispersed to a scattered remnant. The passage of White-crowned, White-throated, and Lincoln's Sparrows was very good in number and extent compared with some years.

Rarities: White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, European Wigeon, King Eider, Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Willet, Baird's Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, Barn Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, and Hoary Redpoll.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay area, D—Durand Eastman Park, IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece, K—Kendall, IB—Irondequoit Bay, PB—Point Breeze, WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: John Blaisdell, Kay Brugler, Mike Carlson, Steve Carlson, Julie Claffey, Roger Clark, Jack & Joyce Connor, Fritz Davis, Gertrude Davis, Jean & Neil Dille, Frank & Robert Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, Mike Ehlers, Joan Esley, June Feder, Arleen & John Foster, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Tom Hampson, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Betty Hedges, Norm Henderson, Bob Herndon, Bob Hill, Lois Jenkins, Oivind Jensen, Ian Johnson, Scott Kampmeier, Sheila Karlson, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Allan Klonick, John Koopmans, Ray Ladwig, Steve Lauer, Walter & Jim Listman, Gerry Leubner, David Levy, Warren Lloyd, H. Lulöf, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Paul Mango, Frank & Mary Mattei, Bob & Margaret McKinney, Joe & Thelma McNett, Gordon Meade, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, David Mozurkewich, Jane Morris, Leon Nawojchik, Eric Noji, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Brad Patterson, Betty Perrigo, Chip Perrigo, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Allen Shea, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durwood & Lillian Skiff, Virginia Skuse, Robert & Susan Spahn, Anne Stear, Helen Steinhauser, Alison Stewart, Jim Street, Harriet Stride, William Sy-

monds, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Clat Taylor, Steve Taylor, Phillip Teitelbaum, David, Mike & Tom Tetlow, Bill Thomas, Stan & Helen Thomas, David Tremmel, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Christopher White, Kinsley Whitum, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Peter Zachmann, Dominic Zero.

LOONS-DUCKS: Loons staged a relatively poor show this Spring with no large, resting gatherings and most flights occurring far offshore over Lake Ontario. Com. Loon max was 160 WL Apr. 22. Red-throated Loon numbers were low. Similarly, Red-necked Grebe returned to normal with max 11 WL Apr. 23. **WHITE PELICAN:** three Wayne County May 19 (CP, CT-photo), was documented as the third regional record when the birds were followed on one of their morning pleasure flights from Montezuma to near Port Bay. An unusual Double-crested Cormorant record was 10 at Charlotte Mar. 19 (RS, KW). There were several interesting reports of wandering herons. Great Egret appeared in good numbers relatively early: seven Greece Apr. 14 and off and on thru to three BB May 21. Three **SNOWY EGRET** reports were: five K May 5 (FD, LM); one BB May 7 (mob); and one Hamlin May 14 (CP, mob), the latter two records probably lingerers from the first flock. The region's third **LOUISIANA HERON:** one K Apr. 1 (MAS, KW, HL), was found on the shore of one of the "borrow pits" along the Lake Ontario Parkway. Cattle Egrets were few: one Parma May 12, three Hamlin May 14. A lone **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON:** one imm. Hamlin May 26 (CP), was reported. Black-crowned Night Heron and both bitterns were scarce. The waterfowl picture was badly biased by the late ice cover. The forced concentration of the passing flocks made trend analysis virtually impossible. Arrival dates were late and the birds moved on quickly with relatively few stragglers by season's end. Interesting records included a larger than normal visitation by Whistling Swan: max 129 BB May 20; with singles remaining late: one BB to Parma May 1-24 (mob) and one K May 14-24 (mob). Snow Geese were more numerous than usual near Rochester and lingered late to the west; two K May 14-16 (CP). Interesting duck records included: the first **EUROPEAN WIGEON** in several years: one K May 18-21 (CT-photo, mob); Canvasback: 1000 Sodus Bay Mar. 27 (MT) and 800 BB Mar. 28; late Com. Goldeneye: one IB May 27 (WL, RS); **KING EIDER:** one imm. male Greece Mar. 1 (KG-photo, NH); scoters of all three species thru the season with White-winged Scoter: max 500+ PB May 13 a very good count; and the usual large Red-breasted Merganser flight well represented by: max 6000 IB Apr. 15 (MAS, WL, A&JW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The raptor story is best summarized by a table of the Braddock Bay hawk lookout records for the migration thru season's end:

Species	Peak count	Date	1978	1977
			Total to May 31	Total to May 31
Turkey Vulture	155	4/12	1,059	846
Goshawk	7	3/28	39	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2914	5/9	6,267	1,921
Cooper's Hawk	22	4/1	74	59
Red-tailed Hawk	217	4/1	1,717	1,047
Red-shouldered Hawk	55	4/1	181	265
Broad-winged Hawk	3720	5/9	7,665	16,472
Rough-legged Hawk	91	3/28	442	174
Golden Eagle			12	4
Bald Eagle			14	2
Marsh Hawk	39	4/1	347	181
Osprey	12	5/9	82	37
Peregrine Falcon			6	1
Merlin			4	0
American Kestrel	237	4/1	679	109
Unidentified accipiter			15	48
Unidentified buteo			438	722

Unidentified falcon	7	2
Unidentified eagle	2	1
Unidentified	<u>17</u>	<u>77</u>
Total	19,067	21,901

While the figures are up sharply over 1977 (the only prior year with comparable, daily, coverage) one must again be wary of simplistic interpretation. The large jumps in Sharpshinned Hawks and Am. Kestrels in large part reflect good coverage on the lakeshore itself this season versus almost no such coverage there last year. The Red-shouldered Hawk picture matches observers' concerns over the past several years. Broad-winged Hawk demonstrates clearly a weather effect as the peak migration period coincided with a long spell of NW-NE winds. The birds were observed moving on a very wide front, often far to the south of the hawk lookout. Missing was last year's big single day with nearly 10,000 on 4/21/77. The increase in records of the rarer raptors is encouraging. Well over half the eagles reported for each species were immatures. It is also worth noting that in addition to the lookout records there were: two Peregrine Falcons, eight Merlins, 13 Golden Eagles—including 4 ad. Sodus Bay Apr. 9 (RBA), and seven Bald Eagle reports elsewhere in the region. There were two reports of **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Hamlin May 21 (JCI, JSK, PR) and one BB May 22 (LM, mob), possibly the same bird, and both possibly the same as the birds reported Apr. 2 at Oak Orchard and May 19 at Montezuma. While shorebird habitat was (and is) very limited due to the very high Lake Ontario level and the dry fields, there were many interesting sightings: early American Golden Plover: three Parma Apr. 15-18 (GM, mob); early Black-bellied Plover: four Greece May 9; **WHIMBREL**: eight BB May 21 (WLi, ST, CP); **HUDSONIAN GODWIT**: one Sodus Bay May 21 (D, M, & TT, DS); **WILLET**: one Greece May 12 (MC); one BB May 20 (CP, mob); and one K May 21 (mob); a massive flight of Dunlin: 1200 BB May 21 (mob); 600 Sodus Bay May 21 (D, M & TT); 670 IB May 21 (AK); early Red Knot: five BB May 21; early Pectoral Sandpiper: one Honeoye Falls Mar. 16 (FJ); and one K Mar. 19 (RD); good numbers for spring of White-rumped Sandpiper: 10 BB May 10 (WLi, CP, ST); 14 Parma May 21 (JCL, JSK, PR, mob); 15 Perinton May 23 (M & TT); **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: two Perinton May 19 (RS, WLi), record submitted to NYSARC for evaluation; Western Sandpiper: eight Perinton May 21 (KG, SL, CT); and nine records of Wilson's Phalarope May 9-29, supporting changing their spring status: max four Bergen May 11 (RC, WS). Gull observations of note include: late Glaucous Gull: one BB May 7-11; one K May 16; and one Sodus Bay May 21; very late Iceland Gull: two K May 14-21 (CP, mob); **THAYER'S GULL**: should now be considered regularly occurring in the region under appropriate conditions (see *Little Gull*, Vol. IV, No. 6, pp. 52-53, June, 1978), one ad. Hamlin May 14 (C & BP, EV, RC); and one ad. K May 21 (eight observers, CT-photo); **LAUGHING GULL**: one ad. K May 21 (WLi, M & RM, MAS) and one ad. BB May 29 (J & JCo, IJ), possibly the same bird; and Bonaparte's Gull: max. 402 IB May 15. Tern records were relatively sparse; good were **FORSTER'S TERN**: one ad. Charlotte Apr. 16 (JCI, CT-photo); two ad. & one imm. K May 26 (CP); two ad. BB May 29 (JCI, CP, WS); and one ad. BB May 31 (RS); and Caspian Tern: max. 21 IB Apr. 15 (WLi, MAS, A & JW), a good spring count.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: During migration interest in this group centers on owls. The first regional record in two years for **BARN OWL** was: one IC Apr. 12 (KG-photo), a migrant. A late Snowy Owl: one BB Apr. 5 (CT-photo, mob), spent the day resting and posing. A single Barred Owl was reported: one East Barre May 16. The Saw-whet Owl migration was excellent with many records of three to five individuals found sitting on a given day in the BB area. Vying for bird of the season was a well observed **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**: one BB May 13 (J & WLi).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Relatively early was Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Perinton May 11 (DS). Rare but regular were: Acadian Flycatcher: one IC May 23; one BB May 28; and one Manitou May 29; and Olive-sided Flycatcher: two WL May 13 (CP, mob). Purple Martin: four BB Mar. 29, joined the parade of Tree Swallows. Very poorly document-

ed is the continuous flow of Blue Jays along the lakeshore thru April and May; two samples were: Blue Jay: 10,000+ BB May 12 (RD); and 9,000 WL May 13 (JSk, CP). Very rare was **COMMON RAVEN**: one Batavia Apr. 2 (CP). Short-billed Marsh Wren was recorded from several locations: one IC May 12; three Chili May 21 thru; one K May 28; and one PB May 29. Other records of interest in this group included: the last report of the winter's **VARIED THRUSH**: one fem. D Mar. 12 (J & ND); a good count of Am. Robin: 3000 WL Apr. 1; early Swainson's Thrush: one IC May 9; early Gray-cheeked Thrush: one IC May 12; early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; one IC May 13; and a good showing of March and April records of Loggerhead Shrike, though only one for May: one Hamlin May 9. The only Starling story is tied to a count of the Howard Rd., Gates roost directed by JSk, Mar. 28; totals were: Starling: 300,000; Red-winged Blackbird: 1,875,000; Com. Grackle: 100,000; and Brown-headed Cowbird: 175,000.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: This grouping was cited generally for abundance and visibility this year, though the abundance was brief and quite local, being confined to near the lakeshore within a 10 day period in May, and visibility was mainly due to late foliage and the sharp contrast with last year's memories. Among the vireos the record of note was an early Philadelphia Vireo: one Maplewood Park, Rochester May 10. Warbler arrival dates were generally late. Interesting rarer warbler records include: **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one IC May 13 (DS, mob); "Brewster's" Warbler: two Murray May 13 thru (mob); **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: one Webster May 12 (WLI); one IC May 18 (FD); one IC May 24 (NH, RS); late Pine Warbler: one BB May 27 (DS); **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: one BB May 12 (CP); one IC May 19 (NH); and one BB May 27 (MC, CP); lakeplain occurrence of Louisiana Waterthrush: one Maplewood Park, Rochester May 14; one IC May 14; **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one Rochester May 14 (TH); and one Murray May 29 (F & RD); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one IC May 20 (F & RD); and one Hamlin May 26 (JE); and Yellow-breasted Chat: two Greece May 28 thru. On May 13 WLI and MAS observed warblers streaming through a yard near the NE intersection of the shorelines of IB and Lake Ontario with the following high counts over about 4 hours: Black-throated Blue: 23; Yellow-rumped: 188; Blackburnian: 59; Chestnut-sided: 15; and Bay-breasted: 25.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Again we have a rare report of an observer tallying the passage of several of the commoner species. On May 12 from 6 - 10 am at the west spit of BB RD recorded: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 500; Evening Grosbeak: 800; Purple Finch: 300; and Pine Siskin: 1000. It was observed that, as with the hawk flights, as the day warmed, with only moderate S-SW winds and no cloud cover, the migrants rose higher and higher until visible only with optical aids. Other notable records included: E. Meadowlark: 300 WL Apr. 1; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Hamlin Mar. 30 (RC, WS); and one Hamlin May 12-19 (MC, mob); **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: three Tryon Park, Rochester, Apr. 20 (AC, mob); **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: one Pittsford May 11 (AIS); and one to three PB May 19 thru (WLI, mob); Rusty Blackbird: 100 IC May 9, a late high count; **SUMMER TANAGER**: one fem. BB May 28 (WLI, mob); early Indigo Bunting: one Webster Apr. 26 (PZ, RS). From the winter finches, lingering reports of note were: Evening Grosbeak: 1000 BB May 13 (WLI); Pine Grosbeak: 40 D Mar. 16 (CT); and late, one BB Apr. 2; and one BB Apr. 11; **HOARY REDPOLL**: one Greece Apr. 1-11 (F & RD-photo); and Com. Redpoll: two Webster thru May 12; one Irondequoit May 3-4; and one IC May 12, all late records. Finally, once again the sparrow family made its bid for recognition with several good dates and numbers: high for the generally depressed, brushy-field type was Vesper Sparrow: 20 Hamlin May 16 (MC); the winter's Dark-eyed ("Oregon") Junco lingered: one Webster thru Apr. 15 (A & BK); late lakeplain Dark-eyed Juncos were: one IC May 27; and one Greece May 27; a very late Tree Sparrow was: one Greece May 22 (FD); a good count, Field Sparrow: 60 Letchworth State Park Apr. 28; White-crowned Sparrow: 300 WL May 13 (CP); late Fox Sparrow: one D May 9 (RO); and excellent Lincoln's Sparrow reports capped by: 35 Hamlin May 13 (RC, WS).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

Cold and dry, with north winds much of the time, characterized the weather to May 10 when south winds began to blow and the temperature began to rise so that by the last week in May it was like mid-summer. The deep snow of early March was gone by the twenty-second. The effect was to make the March and April migrants one to four weeks late and delay early May species a week to ten days. When the weather finally broke, the passerine migration was intense, short, fast, and highly visible as there had been very little leaf growth. Birding was fantastic May 10-14 and good for another week. What a contrast with last May!

Positives: 1. More cuckoos of both species—no doubt associated with the high tent caterpillar population. 2. An excellent warbler year with Tennessees, Cape Mays and Bay-breasteds especially plentiful. 3. Better than average numbers of Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Bobolinks. 4. The best year in several for Orchard Orioles. 5. Most winter finches stayed well into spring.

Negatives: 1. A real scarcity of Hermit Thrushes, Eastern Bluebirds and Gold-en-crowned Kinglets. 2. Continued low numbers of Eastern Phoebe. 3. Fewer Purple Martins. 4. Few shorebirds due to lack of habitat—high water levels maintained at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and few flooded fields due to low rainfall.

The goose situation deserves a comment. It is estimated that there were 300,000 Canada Geese in the Region this spring. The Montezuma Refuge count peaked at 135,000 on April 20. Twenty years ago this peak was 7,000. On May 7, the total count on the Refuge was 115,000 with 75,000 of them covering the Main Pool "wall to wall." They were restless and nervous all day. About 5 pm they departed *en masse* for their northern breeding grounds. It was truly one of nature's great "spectaculars." While such concentrations of these magnificent creatures are thrilling to observe, particularly in flight, one cannot help being a bit disturbed about the damage to wheat fields for miles around and concerned over the possibility of disease striking under these crowded conditions. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin already has a problem with too many geese. Will Montezuma have one too?

Speaking of nature's "spectaculars," Dorothy McIlroy and some friends witnessed one on May 4 along the Esker Brook trail at Montezuma Refuge. She writes—"Thousands of swallows (barn, cliff, tree, bank, rough-winged, purple martin) came in low over the grassy farm fields adjacent to the trail—between the trail and the N.Y. State Thruway. The mass of birds circled over the fields in a clockwise pattern feeding on a plentiful supply of flying insects. In the whirling group one could hear a few scattered voices, but after a five to ten minute interval the number of voices and the pitch increased suddenly as if on signal and the mass moved to a higher level and away to the north. In a few minutes another mass of birds descended for the same low level feeding pattern before moving on. At least three huge concentrations were observed to follow this pattern."

Rarities: White Pelican; Little Blue Heron; Barrow's Goldeneye; Merlin; Glaucous Gull; Iceland Gull; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; Olive-sided Flycatcher; Com. Raven; Fish Crow; Worm-eating, Orange-crowned, Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers; Hoary Redpoll.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; * (starred)—details on file; † (dagger)—exceeds upstate New York maxima as reported in J. Bull's *Birds of New York State*.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: numerous reports including sightings at Elmira Apr. 4 and 12, six migrating over Watkins Glen Apr. 5 and 16 over Penn Yan May 7, six on Cay L and two at MNWR May 21 and one heard on Owasco L May 26. Red-necked Grebe: one Cay L Mar. 11; Elmira Mar. 12 and 17. **WHITE PELICAN**: 3 discovered by Connor and Suman on May 7. Seen by many thru May 19. Double-crested Cormorant: present at MNWR Apr. 16-May 21 with max. of eight. Great Blue Heron: 40 at heronry near Wellsburg Apr. 9. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: Adult at Guyanoga Pond near Penn Yan (ML) (mob). Second record for that area since 1946. Cattle Egret: one in breeding plumage Ithaca May 15 only report. Great Egret: one MNWR Apr. 22. Whistling Swan: good migration with many reports. Best counts—49 near Elmira Mar. 21 and 40 Savannah mucklands Apr. 9. Brant: 25 Ithaca May 19. Snow Goose: max. 8,000 MNWR Apr. 25 with most of them departing May 5 but 75 still present May 9.

Ducks: the maximum counts reported by the MNWR personnel are as follows:

Mallard	5,000	Apr. 1	Redhead	300	Mar. 28
Black Duck	500	Apr. 1	Ring-necked Duck	300	Mar. 31
Gadwall	300	May 15	Canvasback	50	Mar. 28
Pintail	2,000	Apr. 1	Lesser Scaup	200	Apr. 15
Green-winged Teal	1,000	Apr. 30	Com. Goldeneye	200	Apr. 1
Blue-winged Teal	1,300	Apr. 25	Bufflehead	100	Apr. 25
Am. Wigeon	200	Apr. 20	Ruddy Duck	50	Apr. 25
N. Shoveler	200	Apr. 25	Hooded Merganser	200	Apr. 1
Wood Duck	400	May 1	Com. Merganser	200	Apr. 1

Mallard: At Penn Yan a hen successfully brought off a brood of 11 young from a nest atop a 40 foot spruce tree. Wood Duck: at Elmira the male which accompanied a female and 11 young appeared to be a Mallard-Wood Duck cross. Redhead: 1,000 north end Cay L Mar. 24. Canvasback: 1,000 scattered in small groups on Cay L Apr. 4. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: one MNWR Mar. 25 (G. Hocutt). Bufflehead: a late bird MNWR May 28. Oldsquaw: two Elmira May 8 and 28; small numbers Cay L thru the period. White-winged Scoter: two MNWR Apr. 6; two Elmira May 6; 15 Keuka L May 7; two Elmira May 6; two MNWR Apr. 6. Surf Scoter: one Sheldrake Apr. 30.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: nest with two young at Ithaca May 13; few sightings. Sharp-shinned Hawk: sightings thru the period at Ithaca; one Elmira May 13. Cooper's Hawk: seen thru the period at Ithaca and with increasing frequency around feeders at Penn Yan; one Elmira May 13. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Ithaca Mar. 11 thru period. Broad-winged Hawk: nesting on Mt. Zoar near Elmira; reported on Guyanoga Valley and E. Corning; observed attacking a Red-tailed Hawk at Ithaca. Bald Eagle: an adult sighted at Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary Apr. 23 and an immature the same day at 6 Mile Creek; three MNWR Apr. 23 including a color-banded immature, but not one of the eaglets raised at the Refuge in '77 or '78, and another on May 8 (V. Dewey); 1 Freeville May 3. Marsh Hawk: a few scattered reports. Osprey: one Elmira Apr. 19 and one May 13; one Texas Hollow Sanctuary Apr. 24; two MNWR latter half of period; one shot and killed near Clyde mid-

May. **MERLIN**: one near Tompkins Co. airport Apr. 22 and 23 (C. Leopold *vide* DM). Am. Kestrel: nesting in a telephone pole by Six Mile Creek, Turkey: 14 near Texas Hollow during April; reported from Connecticut Hill and West Hill, Ithaca, also near Trumansburg and one which ate corn outside M. Ehrhart's window in Trumansburg Mar. 4. Am. Coot: 1500 MNWR Mar. 31.

Normally, most shorebird records come from MNWR but there were few this year. Water levels were kept high in an attempt to control purple loosestrife. Mays Point Pool was lowered temporarily in April for a few days and some suitable habitat developed in late May. All records below not attributed to a specific locality are from MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: one Elmira May 13. Black-bellied Plover: three May 21; also two Sen L. same day. Ruddy Turnstone: 11 Sen L May 21. Am. Woodcock: good numbers at Tompkins Co. airport thru May 15 with the first Mar. 21. Com. Snipe: first Elmira Mar. 4; displaying over Watkins Marsh Apr. 1. Upland Sandpiper: three Elmira and four Waterloo both on Apr. 30; reported from Penn Yan and on the Ithaca Big Count; one Sen L. May 21. Solitary Sandpiper: one Ithaca May 9 only report. Greater Yellowlegs: one Elmira Mar. 24 early. Red Knot: 20 May 21 and an unprecedented 110 at Geneva the same day (R. Spahn *et al.*).† Pectoral Sandpiper: 128 Apr. 27. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Guyanoga Pond May 21. Dunlin: first Apr. 22; max 100 Sen L. May 21. Wilson's Phalarope: one May 21 (R. Spahn). Northern Phalarope: female in breeding plumage at Ferguson's Corners May 13-14 for the first Penn Yan area spring record (ML). **GLAUCOUS GULL**: one Watkins Glen in Mar. (Betty Strath); one Cay L Mar. 19 (Cay Bird Club). **ICELAND GULL**: one Cay L Mar. 19 (Cay Bird Club). Caspian Tern: five MNWR May 3; two Sen L May 21. Black Tern: 130 MNWR May 9 late.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: more widely reported than usual with sightings at Clyde, Ithaca, Geneva, Elmira, MNWR and Watkins Glen. Black-billed Cuckoo: also more widely reported than usual. Barn Owl: one W. Elmira in Apr., the first in several years. Whip-poor-will: one calling Ithaca May 11; one Horseheads May 24. Com. Nighthawk: Elmira May 13; Ithaca May 13; two MNWR May 21. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two Watkins Glen Apr. 11-20; relatively low numbers at Ithaca; pair observed excavating nesting hole along Clyde River.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER**: one Tompkins Co. Airport May 20 (G & M Shepard *vide* DM); one Six Mile Creek May 21 (SS). Least Flycatcher: apparently more abundant with many widespread reports. **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER**: one Clyde May 13 (WB); one Elmira May 24 (WH); one Horseheads (R. Knapp *vide* MW). Bank Swallow: large colony at Ithaca, small one at Myers Point and two at Junius Ponds. Cliff Swallow: a few individuals but no colonies reported. Purple Martin: absent or very scarce in much of the Region: at MNWR one house fairly well-occupied, one with a few pairs and one with none. **COM. RAVEN**: a second report from Connecticut Hill was made at the Ornithology Seminar Apr. 3. **FISH CROW**: one seen and heard at Ithaca Apr. 5 and for two weeks thereafter. Winter Wren: scarce; one Geneva May 21 late. Carolina Wren: one Elmira May 13; a few Ithaca reports. Hermit Thrush: none reported from Ithaca and Penn Yan; one Elmira May 5; one Geneva May 21. Swainson's Thrush: more reports than usual especially from Ithaca and MNWR areas. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Etna May 11; one Six Mile Creek May 14; one Geneva May 21. Eastern Bluebird: four Ithaca reports, one from Enfield and one from Cay L State Park. Golden-crowned Kinglet: reports vary from scarce to none. Water Pipit: many sightings: max 75 Ithaca Apr. 2; a late bird King Ferry May 20. Cedar Waxwing: almost none in Mar. and Apr. but reappeared in small groups in May. Northern Shrike: Ithaca Mar. 13. Loggerhead Shrike: one MNWR Apr. 3; one Ithaca Apr. 4.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: The bulk of the vireo and warbler migrants of all species came with a rush in four fantastic days May 10-13. Philadelphia Vireo: Elmira May 13; Newfield May 14; Ithaca May 20. Warblers: Black-and-white: a strong south wind brought a very early migrant to Six Mile Creek on Apr. 7. Prothonotary: one Ithaca May 4-7; one near Ithaca

May 5; one Penn Yan May 21. **WORM-EATING**: two Elmira-Horseheads area May 13; one Six Mile Creek May 19 (SS)*. "Brewster's": one Elmira May 13; one Ithaca May 20. "Lawrence's": Ithaca May 20. **ORANGE-CROWNED**: one Texas Hollow May 13 (JB). Cape May: 28 Ithaca May 17 (SS)†. Cerulean: Seven to eight MNWR May 20. Pine: Elmira Apr. 30; one Six Mile Creek May 11 (SS)*; one Ithaca May 13. Prairie: Elmira May 10 late and with fewer locations; Ithaca May 12; two colonies one with eight singing birds near Montour Falls. Northern Waterthrush: Elmira May 6; Ithaca May 7 nearly a month late. Louisiana Waterthrush: Ithaca Apr. 22 late. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one male Elmira May 13 (T. Bates *vide* MW). **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: one Hall May 12 (ML); one Elmira May 13 (WH *et al*); one Geneva May 20 (Paris Trail). Yellow-breasted Chat: no reports.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: reported up in most areas. Orchard Oriole: one Trumbull's Corners near Ithaca May 18; one Sheldrake May 19; one at Lake Ridge and three unconfirmed Ithaca sightings—the most Ithaca sightings since 1970. Indigo Bunting: a male at ML's feeder in Penn Yan on Apr. 20 was very early. Winter Finches; the northern finches which moved into the Region during the winter months continued into the spring. Evening Grosbeak: good movement of birds during May. Purple Finch: good migratory movement the second week of May. Pine Grosbeak: three Ithaca May 12 (SS). **HOARY REDPOLL**: one at an Ithaca feeder Mar. 1-6 along with 100-150 Common Redpolls. Com. Redpoll: after one of the best invasions in recent years their numbers began to dwindle in Mar. Last record at Watkins Glen Mar. 26 and at Ithaca the first week in May. One at Ithaca had a gold rather than red cap. Pine Siskin: some remained to the end of the period. Observed copulating Six Mile Creek Mar. 31. Red Crossbill: flocks of 5-20 at Watkins Glen State Park with the last ones seen May 16. White-winged Crossbill: W. Danby Road Mar. 3; one Keuka Park Apr. 19. Rufous-sided Towhee: one Ithaca Mar. 11 early. Sparrows: Savannah: one wintered successfully at an Ithaca feeder. After some poor years in the MNWR area, numbers seem to be picking up a little. Grasshopper Sparrow: two reports Penn Yan; two Elmira May 13; one Ithaca May 20; two Geneva May 21. Henslow's: one Ithaca May 23; also Penn Yan. Vesper: 10 reports of this species which had all but disappeared from the Region. Dark-eyed Junco: nesting at Guyanoga (ML); still present on Mt. Zoar where it has nested in the past. Tree: Elmira May 12 late. Fox: Ithaca May 20 late. Lincoln: two Six Mile Creek May 11; one Elmira May 11 and two on May 13; one MNWR May 17. Snow Bunting: no large flocks at Penn Yan but 600 on the Savannah mucklands.

R.D. 2, Clyde, New York 14433

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

It was a cold, late spring, although there were quite a few sunny days. There were still two to three feet of snow in parts of the Oneonta area March 11 and a favored spot for ducks at Portlandville was not open until March 25. Snow flurries, and occasional heavier snowfalls, continued all through March and well into April. Temperatures remained low enough to suppress any great amount of insect activity until about May 10-11 with no earlier warm spells to entice and then trap the tenderer bird species.

Waterfowl numbers, Canada Geese excepted, were generally down, possibly because our better waterfowl gathering spots were still frozen when the birds went through or because the delayed migrants hurried on past us. A Double-

crested Cormorant and a flock of Brant, both in May, were the high points.

The earlier small land bird migrants, such as robins and Red-winged Blackbirds, arrived about two weeks later than in the previous year. Their hardiness was put to the test even then and there were some rather uncomfortable robins to be seen. Losses, if any, were light enough to go unreported.

A measure of the lateness of the insectivorous species is the fact that the only warblers reported before May 5 were the Yellow-rumped and the Louisiana Waterthrush and only four more warbler species and one vireo were known to have arrived by May 7. The delayed first arrivals were to some extent compensated for by compression of the main part of the migration into little more than two weeks. But a "wave" of normally early Yellow-rumps mixed with a "wave" of normally late blackpolls at Apalachin May 21 would seem to indicate that considerably more than simply first arrivals were delayed.

The rarities of the season were a Little Blue Heron, Brant, Golden Eagle, Merlin, Kentucky Warbler and Hoary Redpoll, all hypothetical for lack of details, plus a Prothonotary Warbler.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; WP—Whitney Point.

Observers: Cutler and Jeanette Baldwin (C, JB); Jean Barnes; Reynolds Bennett (RB); Anne Casselberry (AC); Mildred Clark; Gail Corderman; Anna and Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Warren and Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky; Sadie and Malcom Dorber (SD, MD); Polly and Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall (CG); Elva Hawken (EH); Paul Hicok (PH); Jim and Kathy Hoteling (J, KH); Claude Howard; Spencer Hunt; Barry Ingber; Al Johnson; Jackie Keeler (JK); Rudolph and Ingeborg Klenke; John Knapik; Bill and Margaret Layton; Florence Linaberry; Shaw Lively (SL); L. McDowell (LMcD); Peter and Dorothy Martin; Bud and Evelyn Mead; Mike and Kathy Medovitch; Mary Ann Middleton; Robert Pantle; John Roman (JR); Robert and Jean Saunders; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Helen Spear (HS); K. Stalter (KS); E. B. and R. Vermilya (E, RV); Elizabeth Washburn; Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson; Irene Wright.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: Oneonta Reservoir Apr. 22; WP May 21; the only reports. Horned Grebe: Apr. 23 WP the last of a half dozen reports, all from Broome and Tioga Counties. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr. 23 WP, last of six reports, also all from Broome and Tioga Counties. Double-crested Cormorant: one imm. WP May 4 (CG, AC); a species that is seldom reported in the Region. Great Blue Heron: first apparent migrant Mar. 18 Endwell and the usual frequent scattered reports of one to three birds for the rest of the period; 20 or more at rookery at Sibley Gulf Pond in Oneonta area Apr. 30. Green Heron: Apr. 15 Owego (C, JB), very early but no details; next report May 13 Chenango Bridge. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one Franklin, in Delaware Co., May 22 (KS), no details. Common Egret: one Delhi area May 20, the only report. American Bittern: May 18 Chenango Bridge; may 21 WP. Whistling Swan: two at Spencer Lake in Tioga Co. the week of Mar. 27, no others. Canada Goose: first migrants Mar. 19; "thousands" going over Mar. 25 and many flocks, 40 at Owego alone, Apr. 1; counts in hundreds as late as May 12; approximately a dozen still at Windsor, east of Bing, to the end of May. **BRANT:** 50-60 WP May 21 (MS), flushed in closely bunched flock, black front—white tail, goose-like calls. Snow Goose: three at Greene Apr. 1 and three WP Apr. 16 and 22 (A, MD). Mallard, Black Duck: due to both an increase in Mallards and a further decrease in Blacks the report ratio was better than five to one in favor of Mallards. Gadwall: one or more Apr. 16 at WP; no others. Pintail: one at Cannonsville Mar. 11, two reports from WP Apr. 8 and 15 plus an Apr. report from Tioga Co., but that's all; down from 50 at a time last year. Green-winged Teal: Apr. 8 WP and Apr. 15 Chenango Bridge, plus a Tioga Co. report in Apr.; have been scarce for a couple of years. Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 6 Chenango Bridge, the first of 7 or more Apr. reports; still at Delhi May

20. American Wigeon: Apr. 9 Chenango Bridge to May 21 WP, four reports in Apr. and only the one in May; smaller numbers and later than last year. Wood Duck: Mar. 2 Owego, first date. Redhead: Mar. 13 Owego, the only report. Ring-necked Duck: Mar. 2 Owego; next reports Apr. 1 Oneonta and WP; best count 21 Oneonta Apr. 8; last date Apr. 15. Canvasback: Mar. 31 Chenango Bridge, the only report. Scaup (sp?): 10 reports thru Apr. 30 from Owego, Chenango Bridge, Chenango Forks and WP apparently all Lessers; Greater Scaup May 21 WP (MS), Com. Goldeneye: 60 or so Apr. 2 WP, max; Apr. 9 last date. Bufflehead: Mar. 2 Owego; small numbers, one to four at WP Apr. 1 to 30. Oldsquaw: Apr. 5 Owego; 8 WP Apr. 23, max; also two at Oneonta Reservoir May 7 and one at Delhi May 9. White-winged Scoter: 11 Oneonta Reservoir May 7; four Delhi May 9; also at WP in late Apr. Hooded Merganser: Mar. 2 Owego; one Milford Apr. 22, the last; 10 other scattered reports. Com. Merganser: regular reports to Apr. 23; May 28 at Emmons, near Oneonta, the only report after May 14. Red-breasted Merganser: Mar. reports from Owego; small numbers at WP from Apr. 2 to May 4.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Apr. 16 Oneonta; 8 "circling South Mt. near Oneonta" May 21, the best count; also at Delhi, Owego, Candor and Chenango Bridge. Goshawk: Mar. 19 Chenango Bridge (MS); four other reports thru Apr. and May, all from Bing area. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 reports. Cooper's Hawk: four reports. Red-tailed Hawk: eight Colliersville-Milford area Mar. 25 and six Chenango Bridge Apr. 1, the best counts; numerous other reports all period. Red-shouldered Hawk: Apr. 9 Chenango Bridge; two Arnold Lake, Oneonta area, May 12; no others. Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 22 Milford, first date. Rough-legged Hawk: Apr. 23 Chenango Bridge, the last of seven reports. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one Devil's Elbow, in Tioga Co., Apr. 28 and May 1 (Barnes); one Vestal May 11 (J, KH); no details with either report. Bald Eagle: one Cannonsville Mar. 11 (SD, MD); one adult flying over Candor May 27 at 9:00 am (JR). Marsh Hawk: Mar. 10 Owego; two reports May 21 Bing area, last date; three birds Apr. 1 Chenango Bridge, the highest count; only five other reports, all from Oneonta-Milford area. Osprey: one Oneonta Apr. 8, first date; May 21 Chenango Bridge, last; four Milford Apr. 22, max; 14 other reports. **MERLIN:** Mar. 10 Owego (RB); one Oneonta Mar. 16 (E, RV); one Delhi Apr. 18 (LMcD); none with details. Bob-white: only one report, May 21 Bing. Turkey: at Owego Mar. 6 plus an Apr. report; 12 Delhi Mar. 17; three WP Apr. 16. Com. Gallinule: one Apalachin May 21, the only report. American Coot: one WP Apr. 1; also an Apr. report from Owego. Killdeer: Mar. 15 Owego; common from then on. Am. Woodcock: Mar. 22 Apalachin, first spring record. Com. Snipe: Mar. 11 Milford, no others. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr. 28 Owego, first date; none too common. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr. 30 Owego and Milford area; May 21 Maine, in Broome Co.; no others. Lesser Yellowlegs: Apr. 30 Owego; May 21 Bing; that's all. Least Sandpiper: May 21 Owego and WP. Dunlin: May 21 WP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: six WP May 21. Herring Gull: 20 Johnson City Mar. 28, the highest count; only ones and twos after Apr. 1, but still present May 21 in Bing area. Ring-billed Gull: several WP Apr. 23; not many reports but over 100 at WP and 30 at Endicott May 21, a late date for such numbers in the Bing area. Bonaparte's Gull: four WP May 7.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: plentiful and, especially in residential areas, becoming more so. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Apalachin May 21 then daily reports in Bing area. Black-billed Cuckoo: in Bing area three reports May 21 and five later reports; one Delhi May 25. Snowy Owl: one between Candor and Spencer Mar. 2 (HS), the only one all winter. Saw-whet Owl: one road kill found Mar. 12 between Portlandville and Milford. Com. Nighthawk: Oneonta May 18, first date. Chimney Swift: May 7 Chenango Bridge, first date. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 18 Vestal Center. Common Flicker: wintering birds present from the beginning of the period, migrants evident from about Apr. 12. Pileated Woodpecker: 15 reports; numbers seem to be up. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar. 13 Owego; Apr. 1 the next date then daily reports to Apr. 19; the smaller numbers present to the end of the period evidently represent the breeding population.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: one at Milford Apr. 26; next date May 7.

Great Crested Flycatcher: May 10 Newark Valley and Endwell. E. Phoebe: Mar. 23 Vestal Center. Willow Flycatcher: May 21, 2 Bing area reports. Least Flycatcher: one Endwell May 10; eight counted May 12, Portlandville-Milford area. E. Wood Pewee: May 12 Chenango Bridge; no more until May 20. Horned Lark: 425, in 4 flocks, counted Mar. 4 Otego on freshly manured fields; the usual small numbers representing the breeding population present thru May. Tree Swallow: Apr. 1 Chenango Bridge, Candor, Goodyear Dam and Portlandville; 100s at Owego Apr. 15. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr. 28 Owego. Barn Swallow: Apr. 17 Apalachin; common after Apr. 26. Cliff Swallow: May 24 Oneonta Area, probably not a representative arrival date; also at North Colesville in eastern Broome Co. Purple Martin: Apr. 25 Owego. Tufted Titmouse: regular at at least three feeders in Bing area; also reported from several Owego locations and two reports from Oneonta. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintering birds present from the beginning of the period with migrants evident May 7 to 21, but then none. House Wren: Apr. 25 Oneonta; common after May 12. Winter Wren: Apr. 11 Owego; one Delhi Apr. 26; no others. Carolina Wren: reported from three Bing area sites and Owego, but not regularly. Mockingbird: reports from Owego, Endwell, Chenango Bridge, Oneonta and Delhi, Gray Catbird: one Choconut Center May 8, found dead—apparent window casualty; first live ones May 10. Brown Thrasher: one Delhi Apr. 11, then scattered Apr. reports; regular from May 6. Am. Robin: Mar. 15 Owego; regular from May 18. Wood Thrush: May 6 Chenango Forks. Hermit Thrush: Mar. 12 at a feeder in Oneonta; Apr. 29 Chenango Forks; one Delhi May 20 and one Oneonta May 27; no others. Swainson's Thrush: May 14 Chenango Bridge; only five other reports. Gray-cheeked Thrush: May 21 Chenango Bridge; the only report. Veery: one Delhi May 12. E. Bluebird: Mar. 28 Candor; 16 Crumhorn Mt. east of Oneonta Apr. 16, the best count. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 Portlandville Apr. 30; May 6 to 15 at Chenango Forks; May 21 Chenango Bridge. Golden-crowned Kinglet: last date Apr. 25 at Chenango Forks. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 16 WP; common from Apr. 22 to May 14; two reports May 21 Bing area. Water Pipit: Apr. 28 Owego; four Franklin, in Delaware Co., May 20. Cedar Waxwing: none reported from Mar. 1 to May 19; one Delhi May 20; five different reports May 21 in Bing area. Northern Shrike: Mar. 6 to 18, six reported from five Oneonta locations plus one report from Owego, Loggerhead Shrike: Mar. 28 Chenango Bridge (A, MD); one WP Apr. 1 (PH); one Apalachin Apr. 1 (SD, SL).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 6 Chenango Forks. Solitary Vireo: three Milford May 12; only three other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: May 10 Chenango Forks. Philadelphia Vireo: May 21 Bing area (EH *et al*); the only report. Warbling Vireo: May 12, Delhi and Portlandville-Milford area. Black-and-white Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one Vestal May 21 (JK), seen by only one person while three others a few feet away compared spoken description with book—after identification completed the bird rewarded the admirable restraint of the other three would-be observers by flying off as soon as they attempted to get into position for a look of their own. Golden-winged Warbler: May 13 Vestal; next report May 20. "Brewster's" Warbler: May 20 Vestal; two others, one singing Bluewing song. Blue-winged Warbler: May 13 Choconut Center and Vestal; three to two reporting ratio over Golden-wings. Tennessee Warbler: May 12 Portlandville-Milford to May 27 Choconut Center. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 13 Chenango Bridge, the only one. Nashville Warbler: May 7 Vestal. N. Parula: May 12 Chenango Forks; seven other reports, three of them May 21, the last date. Yellow Warbler: May 7 WP. Magnolia Warbler: May 12 Delhi and Portlandville-Milford. Cape May Warbler: May 11 Oneonta to May 21 Bing area; numbers up from last year. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 10 Endwell and Newark Valley. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Apr. 22 Chenango Forks; trees still alive with them May 21 Apalachin. Black-throated Green Warbler: May 6 Chenango Forks. Blackburnian Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks; good numbers to May 21. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 9 Chenango Forks. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 12 Chenango Forks; common May 21, the last date reported. Blackpoll Warbler: May 19 Delhi; numerous May 21 Apalachin; still at Choconut Center May 29. Pine Warbler: May 13 Chenango Bridge. Ovenbird: May 9 Chenango Forks. Northern Waterthrush: one Vestal May 7, banded; four Arnold Lake, near

Oneonta, May 12. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 18 Choconut Center. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one Bovina Center, Delaware Co., May 20 (L. Barnhart). Mourning Warbler: one Delhi May 20; the only one. Com. Yellowthroat: May 5 North Colesville. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 29 Choconut Center. Wilson's Warbler: May 21 Apalachin and Bing area, several reports; the only date. Canada Warbler: May 12 Delhi, Chenango Forks and five birds in the Portlandville-Milford area. Am. Redstart: May 10 Chenango Bridge; quite common.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 7 WP. E. Meadowlark: Mar. 25 Choconut Center. Red-winged Blackbird: Mar. 12 Vestal; common after Mar. 18. Northern Oriole: arrived May 10 in a half dozen different localities. Rusty Blackbird: 1 WP Apr. 2; Apr. 9 Owego; no others. Com. Grackle: Mar. 17 Owego and Endwell. Brown-headed Cowbird: migrants Mar. 17 Owego, common after Mar. 30. Scarlet Tanager: May 11 Oneonta. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 5 North Colesville; particularly numerous after May 13. Indigo Bunting: May 12 Apalachin; not many until May 20. Evening Grosbeak: noticeably increased numbers from about Apr. 23 thru the first three weeks of May; last date May 23. Purple Finch: migrants swelling numbers from about Apr. 5, the higher numbers remaining into late May. House Finch: now a common permanent resident in much of the urban and suburban parts of the Bing area, but still scarce in rural areas. Pine Grosbeak: six Oneonta area and one Owego area reports, the latest Mar. 15; max. 20 Portlandville Mar. 4. **HOARY REDPOLL**: Mar. 2 Owego (C, JB), but no details. Common Redpoll: common to Apr. 9 but only in Delhi after May 1; the last stragglers May 10. Pine Siskin: wintering birds common thru Mar. but not many thru Apr. and until May 7, then a spurt in numbers until May 16; last date May 21 in Bing area. Am. Goldfinch: common all period. Red Crossbill: one Oneonta Mar. 14 (KW), "following a wind storm which had brought down several spruce cones, and this bird walked right between my feet!"; the only report. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 12 Choconut Center and Chenango Bridge; no more until Apr. 22 and not many until May 12. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 17 Delhi; not reported again until May 20, but seemed reasonably common after that. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 27 Choconut Center, the only report. Henslow's Sparrow: none. Vesper Sparrow: Apr. 11 Choconut Center; Apr. 18 Delhi; May 27 Oneonta area; that's all. Dark-eyed Junco: the large number of migrants present during all of Apr. dwindled steadily until after May 12 only the scattered summer residents remained. Tree Sparrow: less common after Apr. 10, but progressively smaller numbers remained until the abnormally late date of May 7 when two were banded at Vestal. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 13 Delhi and Oneonta; not really common until May 5. Field Sparrow: one Delhi Mar. 25; next reports Apr. 11 and then regular. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 25 Oneonta; Apr. 28 Owego; most reports May 11 to 21, then none. White-throated Sparrow: the bulk of migrants passed thru between Apr. 15 and May 14; nine counted in Oneonta area May 27. Fox Sparrow: Mar. 16 Owego; most migrants Mar. 22 to Apr. 12; one Oneonta Apr. 17; one banded Vestal May 7. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 15 Apalachin. Song Sparrow: swollen numbers marking arrival of numerous migrants Mar. 22. Snow Bunting: 90 Oneonta-Milford Mar. 4; 30 south of Vestal Mar. 5; Mar. 7 Owego; Mar. 15 Willet, the last date.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

"I know a place where summer strives
With such a practised frost
She each year leads her daisies back
Recording briefly 'Lost,' "

It's called Syracuse. Cold, cold, cold, cold—cold ice, cold water, cold land, cold winds, cold birds, and cold birdwatchers! The ice of March became the ice of April, and had it not been for gale force west winds driving the floe ice to beaches, it would have been the ice of May; ground snow persisted in Selkirk Shores State Park 'til the last week of April, in the Tug Hill Plateau 'til the first week of May, in the Adirondacks 'til the second week of May, and perhaps longer. Who was there to check? Goose and duck watching in late March thru mid-April became an exercise in endurance; hawk watching in April and May with adverse winds, particularly the frustrating "lake effect" winds, reduced the most avid watchers to invective, imprecations, and the mumbling of mantras. The weekend birders kept asking "Any birds moving?" and the answer was repeatedly "No," not loud but deep, rather like cursing. In many cases, April arrivals—Tree and Barn Swallows, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows—were clearly not on territory until the second week of May. And the warbler migration, that acme of spring, was delayed by at least ten days. April produced no waves and almost no warblers and early May did little better. May 9 was the first wave day, more notable for species than numbers; May 11-12 engendered a good but not overwhelming flight. An expected surge May 14-18 never materialized but birders still went out looking, albeit in down jackets, wool hats, and gloves; it had turned cold again. May 19-21, the winds turned to the south, the floodgates opened, and a torrent of migrants rushed through the area. The next five days were a swarm of swallows, a glory of warblers, a confusion of flycatchers, a trip of thrushes, a vexation of vireos, and by Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29) it was all over. Soaring temperatures (90 degrees), stiff south winds, and the last Blackpoll Warblers and myriads of *Empidonax* proclaimed spring was done and summer at hand. Truly a ten-day spring—May 19-29!

Heavy rainfall in March and early April virtually ceased around April 20, and May rainfall was so light that smaller pools and ponds looked like late summer rather than late spring; this plus some drained ponds helped a little on local shorebirding.

Vernal positives include 1) a small flight of Whistling Swans; 2) a superb and protracted migration of Canada Geese; 3) excellent migrant numbers of Pintails, Common Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, and Red-breasted Mergansers; 4) record numbers of Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks in the Lake Ontario raptor migration; 5) a brief but beautiful mid-May shorebird migration; 6) a spate of late white-winged and rare spring gulls; 7) some increase in local cuckoo numbers; 8) great numbers of migrant Common Crows and Blue Jays; 9) somewhat above average numbers of the later warblers; 10) tremendous numbers of Icterids—Bobolinks and Northern Orioles included; and 11) good numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, American Goldfinches and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Negatives, however, are 1) poor numbers of white herons and Least Bitterns; 2) very poor counts of both teal and Northern Shovelers; 3) low numbers of the *Aythya* diving ducks, Oldsquaws, and Ruddy Ducks; 4) abysmally low numbers of Goshawks and Broad-winged Hawks; 5) continued decline in Ring-necked Pheasants; 6) notable decreases for the second spring running in intra-continently wintering species—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Winter and Long-

billed Marsh Wrens, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Rufous-sided Towhee; 7) the tardiness of most early warblers with only moderate numbers of same; 8) a continued, if not growing scarcity of meadow sparrows; and 9) very few Dark-eyed Juncos and low counts of migrant Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated and Fox Sparrows (see item 6).

Rare and uncommon species for the vernal period—Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, Western Sandpiper, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed and Franklin's Gulls, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee, Prairie and Kentucky Warblers, Orchard Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow, but the *crème de la crème* of the season were the White Pelicans and a Townsend's Warbler.

Observers: B. Burtt, K. Coyle, D. W. Crumb, P. A. DeBenedictis, B. and D. DeSimone, G. Huggins, F. LaFrance, R. E. Long, D. and J. Muir, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, M. Stooks, G. Webb, and C. Wernick.

Abbreviations: CV—Camillus Valley south of Camillus; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; FH—Fair Haven; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral; SP—Sandy Pond; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; SRF—Seneca River flats; L—lake; mob—multiple observers.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: spring max 104 flying SSE to NNW over DH Apr. 13; migrants present to May 27 SP. Pied-billed Grebe: courting birds at HIGMA, Scott Swamp, and Sterling Creek near FH. WHITE PELICAN: three Cross Lake May 4, one May 5—first modern regional record (mob). Great Egret: singles Mar. 18 (very early) at Eaton, Apr. 13 Mattydale, and May 9 near Rome. Single CATTLE EGRET and SNOWY EGRET in first week of May at a small marsh south of Rome. Least Bittern: max three at Utica Marsh May 19; otherwise only a single bird at Scott Swamp May 20—growing ever more scarce. GLOSSY IBIS: only report—one flying south of DH Apr. 29. MUTE SWAN: single adult Beaver L Apr. 28 (PAD), a very rare bird here in spring. Whistling Swan: small flight apparently downed by foul weather in late Mar. this year—22 Seneca River flats Mar. 27, two at Scott Swamp Apr. 6-9, and two at east end of Oneida L Mar. 25. Canada Goose: an avian success—14,000 SRF-HIGMA Apr. 2; also 18,000 Beaver L May 7 with 5,000 Apr. 29 DH, and 5,150 May 2 Six Mile Creek-Scott Swamp, rather late for such numbers; in some cases, flocks of migrant geese had barely left before local Canada Geese goslings were hatched (May 14). Brant: only report—75 May 20 flying north over Phoenix. Snow Geese: small numbers regularly seen at SRF but unusual are six Snow and one "Blue" Apr. 9 at the east end of Oneida L and one Snow Apr. 22 in southern Oneida Co. Pintail: heavy brief flight at SRF—3,000 Mar. 28, 2,800 Apr. 2, down to 400 by Apr. 8. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal: appeared widespread but numbers actually low—not one report of over 100/day from any part of the region for either species. Northern Shoveler: very scarce—max only six SRF-FH Apr. 8? is it growing more scarce in other areas? Diving ducks—either a rapid passage or rather scarce or both; max are Redhead 170 SRF-FH Apr. 8; Ring-necked Duck 390 SRF-FH Apr. 2; Canvasback 300 SRF-FH Apr. 8; Greater Scaup 900 Oswego Mar. 19; and Lesser Scaup 210 SRF-FH Apr. 2—the low numbers of both scaup are particularly distressing in view of their previous vernal abundance. Common Goldeneye: heavy Mar. flight—670 Mar. 22 Brewerton and 900 Mar. 25 Brewerton-FH. Bufflehead: like Common Goldeneye a strong Mar.-early Apr. flight—100 each Apr. 9 LOL and Apr. 15 FH. Oldsquaw: very scarce—spring max only 20 Mar. 19 Oswego; ?where do all the fall and winter Oldsquaws go come spring? Ruddy Duck: total individuals for spring is five with date range Apr. 6 to 30—very scarce. Red-breasted Merganser: huge flight along L Ontario, especially at Little Sodus Bay—1,000 there Apr. 2, 2,500 Apr. 8, 3,800 Apr. 15, down to 350 by Apr. 20 with stragglers there to May 29.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: For Derby Hill totals, please refer to chart. Record high counts were achieved for Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Rough-legged and Marsh Hawk; record low tallies for Goshawk and Broad-winged Hawk. The major Broad-winged Hawk flight was just not seen this spring and the only "thousand-bird" day for the entire spring was on May 8; even that flight did not have a thousand Broad-winged Hawks; it was a "down" spring for the hawkwatchers. Sadly no rare raptors and no Peregrine! Late May observations indicate a significant movement of raptors and the lack of coverage on many days after the 10th of May undoubtedly means that the last chapter of each spring migration is missed—I would not be surprised if numbers of hawks were found to be passing thru as late as mid-June on a regular basis. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues to decline—max five at Eaton Mar. 18, most reports only one-two/day. **PIPING PLOVER:** an adult May 27 SP beach is the first local record since 1975.

1978 DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION SUMMARY

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Depart. Date</u>	<u>Maxima/Date</u>	<u>90% Date Range</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 20	May 27	80 Apr. 12	Mar. 31-May 13	577
Goshawk	Feb. 26	May 19	4 Mar. 25	Mar. 10-May 5	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar. 21	May 27	1685 May 8	Apr. 4-May 13	5274
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 14	May 23	52 Apr. 4	Mar. 28-May 9	301
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar. 9	May 27	385 Apr. 18	Mar. 14-May 13	3089
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 11	May 27	76 Apr. 6	Mar. 21-Apr. 29	553
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 12	May 27	991 May 8	Apr. 18-May 23	2327
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 26	May 27	48 Mar. 28	Mar. 20-May 9	287
Golden Eagle	Mar. 20	May 8	2 Apr. 13,18		
			May 8		7
Bald Eagle	Mar. 29	May 27	2 Apr. 10		
			May 23,27		10
Marsh Hawk	Mar. 20	May 19	69 Apr. 11	Mar. 30-May 13	547
Osprey	Apr. 1	May 27	60 May 13	Apr. 11-May 19	208
Merlin	Mar. 28	May 13	3 May 13		17
Amer. Kestrel	Mar. 13	May 27	202 Apr. 11	Mar. 21-May 8	640
Unidentified					268

A shorebird migration May 21, put down by fog and cold lake winds, resulted in three Semipalmated Plovers, a Ruddy Turnstone, two Whimbrels, 26 Red Knots, seven White-rumped Sandpipers, 100 Least Sandpipers, 85 Dunlins, and seven Semipalmated Sandpipers at a small drained pool at HIGMA and the same day at SP a superb collection of migrant shorebirds—five Semipalmated Plovers, three Ruddy Turnstones, 65 Red Knots, 1500 Dunlins, two Short-billed Dowitchers, six Semipalmated Sandpipers, and a **WESTERN SAND-PIPER** in full breeding plumage. Late May shorebirding otherwise was about average. White-rumped Sandpiper: a neat little flight this spring—counts of one-seven/day with date range May 11 to 25; surprisingly no late May birds as this species is normally the latest of spring shorebird migrants locally. **RUFF:** male with white ruff and crests May 11 near Pennellville, only the second spring record. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** two brilliantly plumaged females May 11-13 in same small pool as the Ruff near Pennellville. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: tardy individuals are an Iceland Apr. 22 DH and a very late Glaucous May 7 Cross Lake, a most unusual place for a white-winged gull at any time. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** an adult in breeding plumage Apr. 23 with Ring-billed Gulls in a cornfield off Sage Creek Drive near DH (PAD, mob), the third local and second spring record. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** adult in breeding plumage May 13 near Pennellville (C. G. Spies, M. Rusk, mob) is only the fourth spring record in 24 years.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Some increases in both Yellow-billed (seven) and Black-billed (12) Cuckoos; it was obvious that both species of cuckoos were still moving into the area in the first week of June, perhaps in response to the huge local tent caterpillar outbreak.

Short-eared Owl: three singles, two at DH and one at Scott Swamp Apr. 1-16 probably represent returning Arctic-bound migrants as none were reported in those areas during the winter. Chimney Swift: better numbers this spring than the last three years—max 200 May 19 DH. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: the narrow flight path at DH makes this an ideal species to count there—max 42 (one shy of the previous high) May 19, many whizzing by just inches from the observers. Red-bellied Woodpecker: spreading eastward—one DH Apr. 26, also at West Winfield, southern Herkimer Co. Mar. 5; it is only a matter of time before this species enters and spreads east down the Mohawk River Valley. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very scarce as a migrant this spring—max only six Apr. 16 LOL woodlots; many observers saw none this season—? was it reduced even further by the severe winter of '77-'78 much as it was hit in the winter before? **NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: an adult male Apr. 16 near New Hartford (G. Webb) is only the third regional record away from the Adirondacks and only the sixth local record altogether (details on file).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: a dramatic increase of migrants this spring—counts of 29-40/day at DH May 14-29 and they seemed to be everywhere. Eastern Phoebe: in contrast to Eastern Kingbird, very scarce—max only eight in a day, usually only one-two/day; many previously known breeding sites unoccupied this spring; suspect this is another species hit by the two severe winters in a row. Least Flycatcher: arrival late—May 9 Clay Marsh and Syracuse; migrant numbers thereafter excellent with 16-20/day, even to the end of the period. Horned Lark: increasingly scarce as both migrant (max 96 Mar. 5 Sangerfield) and as breeder (six known breeding sites). Swallows were late in coming (understandable in the face of the persistent cold weather) and low in numbers—arrivals are Tree Mar. 23, Bank Apr. 11, Rough-winged Apr. 11, Barn Apr. 11, Cliff Apr. 20, Purple Martin Apr. 23 (very late), all DH. Swallow max quite low for the second year running—Tree 1200 May 14, Bank 1900 May 14, Rough-winged 20 May 19, Barn 3200 May 14, Cliff 40 May 13, Purple Martin 45 May 27, all DH or LOL; note that all peak dates fall in May (actually mid-May) this year and no major counts were reported at anytime in Apr. Blue Jay: another heavy flight along L Ontario—first big influx 510 May 9, 800 May 14, 4400 May 19, 700 May 21, 1500 May 23, 700 May 29, all but the last at DH; I suspect this lakeshore flight, like the raptor movements, goes well into mid-June. Common Crow: heavy L Ontario flight—19,000+ birds with max 7500 Mar. 21; most interesting are small numbers of Common Crows still in evident migration—and molt!—passing DH as of May 19 and 20. (NB—we still have a lot to learn about diurnal spring migration along the south shore of L Ontario!) **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one May 7 Nine Mile Point is remarkable, especially in view of their complete absence this past winter. Carolina Wren: severely set back by last winter—only two singles noted—one Mar. 11 Clinton, one May 20 CV. Long-billed Marsh Wren: incredibly scarce and late—first noted May 19 (late) two Scott Swamp and max only four May 20 FH; another winter hit species probably. Winter Wren: very scarce—max only four Apr. 13 Nine Mile Point-SSSP; missed by many observers this spring. Hermit Thrush: like Winter Wren, very scarce—first noted Apr. 15 (late) one at Syracuse; spring max only three May 6 (late) LOL; missed by most observers this season and absent from many previously occupied breeding stations. Both kinglets were markedly decreased—normally both kinglets are a nuisance in late Apr.-early May warbler watching but this year you had to scratch to find them; max are 30 Golden-crowned Apr. 16 SSSP and 20 Ruby-crowned May 6, LOL. Loggerhead Shrike: total of 12 individuals this spring (Mar. 29-Apr. 16), a bit better than the past few years.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo: late but everywhere this spring—max 18 May 20 CV-HIGMA. The tardiness of the earlier migrant warblers is graphically limned by the recording of only two species—Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" and Pine—for all of April. First major migrant warbler wave occurred May 9 with a small surge May 11-12, a huge wave May 19-21, a veritable stampede in the next week, and near exodus by the Memorial Day weekend (May 27-29). Particularly poor tallies (max in parentheses) were Tennessee (35), Nashville (16), Black-throated Green (17), Chestnut-sided (10), Ovenbird (14), Mourning (two) and

Canada (seven) Warblers. Above-average tallies were logged for Black-and-white (11), Yellow (250), Black-throated Blue (23), Yellow-rumped (350), Bay-breasted (46), Blackpoll (30), and Wilson's (18) Warblers, and American Redstart (65 and 70); most peak dates fell within the May 19-21 period. Yellow-breasted Chat: four sightings involving five singing birds, a bit above the usual one or two. Rarer warblers include two single Orange-crowned Warblers (May 13, CV; May 20, DeWitt), **PRAIRIE WARBLER** May 14-15 at Pompey, and a **KENTUCKY WARBLER** May 15 at Labrador Pond; a regional first was a **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** well studied and photographed May 11 Hickory Grove Rd. near New Haven (FGS, DWC).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Hugh icterid flights along L Ontario (FH to DH) with maxima from DH as follows—300 Bobolink May 19, 300 Eastern Meadowlark Apr. 1, 850,000 Red-winged Blackbird Apr. 11, 250 Northern Oriole Apr. 19, 100,000 Common Grackle Apr. 6, and 50,000 Brown-headed Cowbird Apr. 6; hundreds of icterids, mainly Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles with smaller numbers of Bobolinks and Northern Orioles, still passing DH May 27. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** two adult males and a female May 18 near E. Syracuse and an immature male in vigorous song at McIntyre Bluff east of FH May 23; none noted at CV however. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: everywhere—50 May 19 passing DH, 40 May 20 CV, and 22 at a single feeder in Pompey; still passing in numbers (ten-20/day) at DH in late May. House Finch: still spreading; first noted in SSSP Apr. 16; ? will it breed there soon? Winter finches seem to just slip away thru late March and early April; only Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were noted passing in numbers with maxima 445 Evening Grosbeaks May 9 and 370 Common Redpolls Apr. 4, both DH. Departure dates, some remarkably late, are Evening Grosbeak May 29 one FH, Pine Grosbeak May 12 one DeWitt, Common Redpoll May 11 one Hickory Grove, and Pine Siskin May 28 four CV. American Goldfinch: a veritable Danaan downpour of the species this spring; dozens everywhere, passing DH in hundreds to thousands (max 6000 May 19), and still moving thru in hundreds there the last five days of May.

Meadow sparrows continue their paucity of numbers—max for this declining group are Savannah Sparrow 20 Apr. 13 DH-FH, Grasshopper Sparrow singles only, Henslow's Sparrow two May 20 near FH, and Vesper Sparrow 16 Apr. 16 DH-Pleasant L. Migrant sparrows seemed quite low in numbers; probably like Hermit Thrush and the kinglets, they have been hard hit by the back-to-back severe winters; most tallies much below normal, even much lower than the following max would suggest—Chipping Sparrow 34 May 11 DH, Field Sparrow 6 (very low) May 11 DH, White-crowned Sparrow 15 (very low) May 11 DH, White-throated Sparrow 165 May 12 Syracuse, and Fox Sparrow ten Apr. 15 FH. Lincoln's Sparrow: 18 (record high locally) May 21 SP dunes. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one May 21 SP dunes is the fourth spring and sixth local record.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

After an extreme winter from all standpoints, spring was long in coming and when the migration started it was rapid and many species were missed. Snow persisted in the Tug Hill and Adirondack sections into late April, with piles in shaded spots in evidence well into May. Snow depths in the Tug Hill area were about 30 inches as of April 24. The thaw occurred during the first week of May in Adirondack sections. Temperatures were below normal and precipitation was

also below normal. Black flies, mosquitos and no-see-ums were unbelievable once they emerged. Concerning the spring migration, once it got underway (it was hard to tell when at times), it proceeded rapidly. Some species moved through so fast that they were missed entirely by reporting observers. Waterfowl and warblers were good examples of this rapid movement through the Region.

A few species showed some improvements in numbers, such as Double-crested Cormorant, Marsh Hawk and Eastern Bluebird. Others seem still to be in trouble with very low numbers; these include Redhead, Canvasback, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Phoebe, Savannah Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow. Some species are apparently down in numbers at certain localities; these include Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Highlights of the period include large numbers of Brant, House Finches possibly nesting, large numbers of lingering winter finches, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bohemian Waxwings and Golden-winged Warbler.

Contributors: Pat Arnold, Lee Chamberlaine, Frank Clinch, Ken Crowell, Joe Lamendola, Gerry Smith, Joe VanRiet, and Bob and June Walker.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: seven Massena May 22; in better than average numbers. Pied-billed Grebe: two Perch River April 2. Double-crested Cormorant: one Henderson April 26; one Henderson Apr. 29; 10 Massena May 22; 23 Eldorado May 24; 15 same location May 24; 16 (eight adults eight first year) near Jastadt Isl. St. Lawrence River May 23; two same location May 30. Great Blue Heron: more numerous this year than two previous years. Green Heron: numbers about same as usual. Great Egret: reported at Perch River in May; reported at Upper and Lower Lakes no dates. Black-crowned Night Heron: no reports for the period. Am. Bittern: First May 12. Canada Goose: 28 St. Lawrence River Mar. 30; 600 Robt. Moses Dam April 15; many stayed later than normal. Brant: 300+ Carthage along Black River May 21; 30 above Robt. Moses Dam May 24; 34 same location May 24; 29 Croil Island May 29; seemed to be a push through Region all along Lake Ontario and tributaries—late. Snow Goose: 34 Wilson Hill April 2; nine Croil Island April 15; reports of birds in Henderson mid-May—no date; more birds than normally reported. Mallard: 22 March 12; 43 March 25. Black: 42 March 12; 49 March 18; 85 March 25—all Robt. Moses Dam. Gadwall: arrival two Robt. Moses Dam March 24. Pintail: arrival March 30; 140 St. Lawrence River April 10; two on Croil Island May 29. Green-winged Teal: pair Robt. Moses Dam March 29. Blue-winged Teal: normal numbers. Am. Wigeon: one pair Robt. Moses Dam April 14; six pairs Croil Island May 31. No. Shoveler: none reported. Redhead: pair wintering Robt. Moses Dam; eight same location March 19; decrease in numbers normally reported. Ring-necked Duck: four Wilson Hill April 25, not in numbers normally reported. Canvasback: arrival at Robt. Moses two on March 5; 14 St. Lawrence River April 1; 20+ Henderson Harbor April 6. Greater Scaup: 39 March 24; 304 St. Lawrence River April 1; 200 Henderson Harbor April 6. Lesser Scaup: one pair Wilson Hill April 25. Com. Goldeneye: 1,000 wintered in open water below Robt. Moses Dam and around Cornwall Island—down to 20 April 10; three near Crossover Island May 18—late. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** one pair and two imm males Robt. Moses Dam to Cornwall Island in March (Joe VanRiet). Bufflehead: single male wintered below Robt. Moses dam; two pair Wilson Hill April 21; not in normal numbers in Henderson Harbor. Oldsquaw; two near Scorpion Isl. SLR May 24. Hooded Merganser: 2 pair Robt. Moses Dam Mar. 21. Red-breasted Merganser: one or two wintering Robt. Moses Dam; seven same location April 14.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: numbers migrating through and local birds still increasing—becoming fairly common along Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River. Goshawk:

active nest in south Jefferson. Sharp-shinned: a few migrants per day through April SLR. Cooper's Hawk: one Highmarket, Lewis Co. Tug Hill Plateau May 7. Red-tailed: numbers may be up somewhat from previous three years? Red-shouldered: one May 22 St. Lawrence Co.; only one reported. Broad-winged: first Dry Hill Apr. 16; two imm probably 2nd year birds: near Allen's Point SLR; one Brasher State Forest May 29. Rough-legged: last two on Apr. 1, St. Lawrence Co. Bald Eagle: no verified reports received: two possibles on Apr. 24 near Butterville in Jefferson Co. (H. Bates). Marsh Hawk: one Mar. 22; two Apr. 1; pair Upper and Lower Lakes Apr. 13; one pair Apr. 15 LaRue Rd. Massena; pair courting over Grasse River Canton Apr. 22; pair Robt. Moses Park May 20; encouraging observations. Osprey: first pair over Little River Canton Apr. 15; one Wilson Hill Apr. 25; one near Blind Bay SLR May 13. Am. Kestrel: about normal numbers. Ruffed Grouse: nine Robt. Moses Park Mar. 12. Gray Partridge: covey of eight Donahue Rd. Massena; only report for period. Killdeer: arrival Cornwall Isl SLR Mar. 24. Am. Woodcock: first Mar. 29. Com. Snipe: two Apr. 15. Upland Sandpiper: two May 19; three May 23; numbers still down. Dunlin: one Lakeview May 13. Glaucous Gull: one imm Mar. 22; two on Mar. 28 last date. Iceland Gull: imm last seen Apr. 14. Great Black-backed Gull: up to 20 in Mar. Massena area; 56 same area Mar. 24; 30 imm birds same area in May. Herring Gull: 53 Massena area Mar. 24; 62 Robt. Moses Dam Apr. 1. Ring-billed Gull: returned Mar. 12; 50 on Mar. 21; 400+ on Mar. 30; approximately 4,000 pair nesting on Strachan Isl. SLR—increasing and spilling over to other islands—chicks hatched by May 22. Bonaparte's Gull: one Apr. 8; 30 Robt. Moses Dam Apr. 25; three to six per day through period around Chippewa Bay. Com. Tern: two colonies SLR Massena area—80 nests total with an average of three eggs by May 29. Caspian Tern: two Croil Isl May 22. Black Tern: four Wilson Hill May 13; Upper and Lower Lakes May 13.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: about in same numbers as last year. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill May 29-31. Screech Owl: through period. Great Horned Owl: on nest Mar. 11—young in nest April 15. Whip-poor-will: none reported. Com. Nighthawk: numbers way down. Chimney Swift: numbers in Henderson down; arrived May 9—late. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: in Henderson area numbers are down—late Spring? Belted Kingfisher: about normal numbers. Com. Flicker: about normal numbers arrived late. Pileated Woodpecker: thru period. Red-headed Woodpecker: one wintered in Massena successfully on cracked corn. Hairy Woodpecker: numbers in Henderson are way down. Downy Woodpecker: may be down slightly in Henderson.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: late but normal numbers. Great Crested Flycatcher: late but normal numbers. E. Phoebe: almost non-existent throughout Region. Alder Flycatcher: two Dry Hill May 26-31; one Massena May 29. E. Wood Pewee: arrival Massena May 27. Horned Lark: 14 on March 14; 29 on March 18; departing on April 1. Tree Swallow: one Dry Hill April 1; birds appeared in Henderson about 4 times before they stayed. Barn Swallow: late in Henderson and numbers down from previous year. Purple Martin: late in Henderson, and numbers down. Blue Jay: up in numbers in Henderson area. White-breasted Nuthatch: way down in Henderson area—one on one day at feeder through period. Brown Creeper: three Wellesley Isl. April 15; not in normal numbers. House Wren: about normal numbers. Carolina Wren: one Watertown May 19; only one reported during period. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arrived Upper and Lower Lakes May 23. Mockingbird: none reported. Hermit Thrush: one Brasher State Forest May 29. Swainson's Thrush: none reported. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none reported. E. Bluebird: male arrived Natural Bridge April 2—2½ weeks earlier than previous years (Pat Arnold); two Massena April 24 (VanRiet). Male and female near Watertown May 14. Golden-crowned Kinglet: first on April 14; four Massena Point April 15. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** all on Dry Hill—100 Mar. 1; 70 March 10, 15 & 16; one on March 28; 60 Mar. 31 and 14 on April 4 (Walkers). N. Shrike: last on April 25 at Canton.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed Vireo: arrival May 24. Warbling Vireo: arrival May 12. **GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER:** two Dry Hill May 29-31 (Walkers). Tennessee: one Perch

River May 21, eight Massena area May 23. Yellow: May 10. Magnolia: May 18. Cape May; four Wilson Hill May 13; one Perch River May 23. Black-throated Blue: May 12. Yellow-rumped: May 9. Black-throated Green: May 13. Blackburnian: May 12. Chestnut-sided: May 13. Bay-breasted: 10 Wilson Hill May 19; four near Massena May 21. Blackpoll: May 18. Pine: one Wilson Hill May 13. Ovenbird: May 12. N. Waterthrush: May 13. Com. Yellowthroat: May 12. Am. Redstart: May 12.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: may be down somewhat? E. Meadowlark: thru period. Red-winged Blackbird: 50 on Mar. 17. N. Oriole: First May 12. Rusty Blackbird: none reported. C. Grackle: Mar. 29-late. Scarlet Tanager: May 21. Cardinal: thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First May 9. Indigo Bunting: two on May 21. Evening Grosbeak: thru period. Purple Finch: thru period-may be up in Henderson area. HOUSE FINCH: at feeder during April and May-at least seven-but not all at once. After banding a male, I saw three unbanded males at once and later three females. Late in May a male and females came at the same time. Female rarely seen first two weeks in June-nesting?-more often after June 15. (Frank Clinch). Pine Grosbeak: last-eight Massena April 10. Com. Redpoll: 360 banded April 3-May 24 (F. Clinch); last April 30. Pine Siskin: first April 4; last May 19; 203 banded (F. Clinch). Am. Goldfinch: thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: first May 9. Savannah Sparrow: first 5 on April 13; numbers down. Vesper Sparrow: first two Massena April 13; down in numbers. Dark-eyed Junco: max migration numbers April 13 and 14. Tree Sparrow: last May 5. Chipping Sparrow: first April 28. Field Sparrow: first April 17. White-crowned Sparrow: first Henderson April 23; heavy migration May 9. White-throated Sparrow: first April 13. Fox Sparrow: one Watertown April 13. Swamp Sparrow: first April 26.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

A slow spring caused several people to migrate to the Big Bend and other points south in a desperate attempt to cure cabin fever, which was increasingly prevalent in March. Lake Champlain was still mostly frozen on March 15. High water levels kept most mudflats and jetties in Clinton County covered through the last week in May, so that shorebirding was slow. Newcomb was the coldest spot in the U.S. on April 25 and 26, with 14° F. on both dates. The ice went out at Lower St. Regis Lake on May 9, with a nice first-of-the-season thunderstorm to help it along. Many of our birds arrived before the ice and snow were gone. Some first arrivals at Paul Smiths were: Red-winged Blackbird on April 10, Am. Robin and Killdeer on April 11, and Barn Swallow on April 26. The black flies emerged on May 17. A woodcock at Tupper Lake tried to set some sort of record on February 27, sitting in skidder tracks in over three feet of snow at a logging job according to Philip N. Jackson (*vide* G. Carleton).

Summer people should watch for female Common Goldeneyes with young, because there were more females than usual well into June. Little Polliwog Pond, Echo Pond, and other ponds near Fish Creek may produce more breeding records since one or more females were on each as of June 14.

It was interesting to find a large, open area near Paul Smiths with at least eight Vesper Sparrows on territory. Equally interesting were at least seven Com-

mon Nighthawks displaying nearby—diving and “booming” in a way delightful to see at close quarters. The absence of humans and their associated pets lets the birds breed in relative security on open ground, as they did before gravel roofs and fenced-in power substations became a necessity in more heavily populated areas. The high coyote population doesn't seem to be interfering with them seriously so far.

This was quite a season for aberrant birds. An extremely pale Marsh Hawk was staying near Paul Smiths and producing many questions about white hawks. Equally as puzzling was a white Common Crow with a black face. Then there was a Tupper Lake White-throated Sparrow at Mrs. Delehanty's that had a trace of yellow lores, an indistinctly streaked crown, no white throat, and most of the head, neck and bib charcoal as in Harris' Sparrow. A singing Vesper Sparrow at Paul Smiths had no white outer tail feathers; just when you think you can recognize a few birds in your area you get hit with a few oddities like these.

Abbreviations: Bruce Beehler, Walter Chapman, Chazy Landing, Charlie Delehanty, Bruno and Dee DeSimone, Elizabethtown, Steph Farrington, Colin Fink, Southern Hamilton County, Hal Klein, William Kreuger, Ferdinand LaFrance, Phoebe MacDougal, Margaret and Robert McKinney, Ray Payson, Paul Smiths, John (Mike) Peterson, Plattsburgh, Steve Sanford, Chris Spies, Lester Sweatt, Pat Tabor, Tupper Lake, Phil Warren.

LOONS—DUCKS: It was interesting to see that resident loons arrived on many of their home waters exactly the same day the ice went out. Perhaps they wait on open water in Lake Champlain and take scouting trips. Pied-billed Grebe: one Tupper April 4 (CD). **GLOSSY IBIS:** one Platts alternately flapping and gliding as it flew toward the Saranac River. It looked solid black with a decurved bill (Charles Mitchell, Jr.). This seems to be a first regional record. Snow Goose: one injured bird stayed at Paul Smiths into May. Gadwall: two pair thru May Ch Lg (PW, RP, SS). Five Pintails, four Blue-winged Teals and one American Wigeon at Tupper on April 18 were all good finds since these are scarce away from the Champlain Valley (CD). Ring-necked Duck: max 29 Tupper May 2 (CD); four Long Lake May 27 (M & R Mc). Bufflehead: max 37 Ch Lg April 23 (HK, PW); 13 Tupper April 24 (CD). Oldsquaw: male and female Simon Pond and two females Little Tupper May 6 (CD). Black Scoter: one adult male on a bit of fast open water on Lake Abanakee March 4 (M & R Mc). Rare but does occur in Hamilton County. Hooded Merganser: good numbers. Red-breasted Merganser: six in Clinton County where it is rare (PW) and three Tupper May 2 where it is still more rare (CD).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two Everton Falls Preserve April 13; two Paul Smiths early May (Bob Rottner) were probably headed elsewhere. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 29. Cooper's Hawk: four. Red-tailed Hawk: one Newcomb in early March must have had slim pickings (WC). Red-shouldered Hawk: two at Coot Hill Hawk Lookout; two Hamilton May 27 (BDS). Bald Eagle: one Newcomb April 2 (WC); one imm Tupper April 23 and one adult Tupper May 7, both (CD). Marsh Hawk: total of six including a mated pair in Champlain Valley: one Hamilton (BDS); two including male staying thru May at Paul Smiths. Osprey: about 20 noted including an active nest at Little Polliwog Pond near Fish Creek. A male Merlin was carefully documented as to falcon-shaped narrow pointed wings and strongly barred tail at Ausable Point April 26 for the first spring record for Clinton County. Semipalmated Plover: five Tupper May 21 (CD). Common Snipe: banner year at Paul Smiths. Dunlin: two Ch Lg May 6 (SS, RP, HK, PW). A **PURPLE SANDPIPER** was seen on March 29 walking down Rt. 22 at Essex and was carefully identified as to size, dark color, slightly decurved yellow bill and yellow legs (PM, LS). Least Sandpiper: three Tupper May 21 and one Semipalmated Sandpiper Tupper May 21, both (CD). Bonaparte's Gull: three Tupper April 21 (CD) a good find there. Black Tern: two Ch Lg May 20 (WK) and no breeders at Lake Alice (PW) but six Tupper May 21 (CD) is encouraging.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: pair Willsboro Point (CF). A late Snowy Owl was at Lake Placid March 16 (SF). Saw-whet Owls were absent after being so numerous last year. Perhaps they are erratic breeders like Red Crossbills. Whip-poor-will: one Hamilton May 20 (BDS); eight between Wilmington and Jay (M & R Mc). A Belted Kingfisher April 9 and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker April 7 at Paul Smiths and Rainbow Lake respectively were a big deal when you consider that on April 10 it was -1 degree F. only moving water was open, and snow lay deep. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: three Ferd's Bog May 6 (CS, FL). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: one as preceding.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Alder Flycatcher: good numbers. Horned Lark: one Tupper March 15 and then six March 17 were pioneers. Gray Jay: a few Paul Smiths. Blue Jay: as several people noted they were absent until spring weather came. Common Raven: 20 ravens fledged according to Paul Bishop who located the Paul Smiths nest. Tufted Titmouse: 1 Cadysville (Fran Howe). Gray-cheeked Thrush: R Mc reports none heard at or near mountain tops May 27-29. Eastern Bluebird: none Tupper and perhaps 10 Paul Smiths. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one May 13 Ausable Point (mob); two pair there May 27 (SS). Water Pipit: one Tupper May 21 (CD). Bohemian Waxwing: the Essex flock that stayed several months left April 20 and the last of the Beekmantown birds left April 22. Northern Shrike: one Tupper March (CD); one imm E'town late March (BB, JP); one Paul Smiths April 18.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: pair building a nest at Lake Alice. Eaton lists this species as a rare summer resident in Clinton County. Philadelphia Vireo: one singing and yellowish breast noted at Lyon Mountain May 20. This seems to be a first record for Clinton County (RP, HK). Tennessee Warbler: one Hamilton May 20 (BDS). Northern Parula: excellent numbers, just listen near any body of water with conifers along the shore. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Tupper and one Paul Smiths on April 26 were first warblers for the Region even beating the Champlain Valley by one day. They are especially appreciated when you are still looking at snow. Bay-breasted Warbler: three Tupper May 21 (CD). Palm Warbler: one Tupper May 13 (CD). Blackpoll Warbler: good numbers. Wilson's Warbler: one male Ausable Point May 21 (Sue Sullivan).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: numbers still good. Rusty Blackbird: a few in the bog ponds and beaver flows if there are plenty of trees near the water. Cardinal: 64 in region according to Fran Howe. Purple Finch: 42 Tupper May 6, many since (CD). House Finch: many at Platts but still no breeding record. Pine Grosbeak: more in early March than Evening Grosbeak in many areas. Hoary Redpoll: one Platts April 3 had pure white rump and almost no side streaking. It was chunkier than the 160 Common Redpolls with it (PW); one banded E'town April 13 with similar characteristics (JP, PT). Common Redpoll: literally thousands as they moved thru our region from further south. Pine Siskin: eight Tupper May 13 (CD). Vesper Sparrow: two Tupper April 14 (CD); five Ausable Point April 26 (SS); one April 29 Chazy (RP, SS, PW). Fox Sparrow: two at Tupper and two at Ausable Point. These are scarce in spring. Snow Bunting: one Tupper March 28.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

Century Run enthusiasts did a lot of worrying as the big day approached. March-like weather persisted through April and into May. Many folks began to

wonder if Spring would ever arrive. It did, of course, hesitantly, but eventually. A few early migrants were caught up in the indecision, however. Many swallows, for example, must have been mighty hungry as the cold, rainy weather kept the insects down. By mid-May, the weather caught up to the calendar, and a good Century Run was had by all. Actually, the bad weather retarded the departure of some species, compensating for the late date of the count, May 20, leading to a respectable total of 163 species for the day (combined HMBC-ADBC tally).

A favorable feature of the season is the comeback of the cuckoos. Both species are likely to sustain their good numbers thanks to the tent caterpillars and webworms. Also doing well are the "conifer warblers," i.e. Cape May and Bay-breasted, probably owing to the Spruce Budworm outbreak up North.

Contributors include: Arlene & Tom Brown, Bob Budliger, Jim Bush, Bruce Coyne, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Jeff Davis, Gretchen DeKalb, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Marion Ford, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, William Gorman, Elisabeth Grace, Bernie Grossman, Monte Gruett, Richard Guthrie, Betty Hicks, Paul Kerlinger, Bill Lee, Ron LaForce, Larry Meyers, Paul McDermott, Tom Palmer, Ed Reilly, Walt Sabin, Al Schroeder, Helen Storer, and Robert Yunick. Alan DeVoe Bird Club, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club records are also used. Remember Dial-A-Bird (518) 377-9600 to receive or report news of local bird happenings.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: 14 Tom. Res. Apr. 23; reported by six Century Run groups, but only from a few locations. Horned Grebe: four at Four-Mile Point and one Castleton Apr. 23. Pied-billed Grebe: reported by only one group (ADBC) on CR; only other report—Franklinton Vly May 27 (KMCD). Double-crested Cormorant: scattered individuals along HR plus one group of eight mid-May. CATTLE EGRET: two Montgomery Co. May 14 (TP). Great Egret: one Rensselaer Co. May 20 (WG *et al.*). Black-crowned Night Heron: only one report Apr. 30. Least Bittern: May 20 (WG); two Rensselaer May 28 (PC). American Bittern: only two groups on CR; few other reports—Apr. 23 thru. MUTE SWAN: 1 Collins Pond, Scotia was featured in a front page photo in the Schenectady *Gazette*. Canada Goose: many reports, especially "thousands" HR at Stockport, fanning out during the day through the Coxsackie Flats corn fields—returning each evening to the river—a splendid sight indeed. Snow Goose: a flock of 42 flying over Apr. 2; scattered reports thru May 5 (JC). Ducks appeared in normal or higher numbers. Totals of Paul Connor's counts from the HR near Castleton on March 26 are: Mallard 285, Black Duck 140, Gadwall one, Pintail 45, Green-winged Teal 71, Blue-winged Teal 16, American Wigeon 38, Wood Duck 16, Ring-necked Duck 148 (high), Common Goldeneye 38, Bufflehead three, Hooded Merganser eight, Common Merganser 27, Red-breasted Merganser two. Additional duck reports of interest are as follows: Pintail: many flocks of eight to ten most of the morning of Apr. 23 Four-Mile Point. Surf Scoter: three Saratoga Lake HMBC Century Run.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: 21 Southern Col. Co. Apr. 29. Goshawk: three reports of territorial pairs from Heldebergs & Rens. Plateau. Sharp-shinned Hawk: eight reports received mid-Apr. on. Cooper's Hawk: three May reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 29 individual reports—seems a bit sparse. Red-shouldered Hawk: eight reports incl. only one CR group. Broad-winged Hawk: numerous scattered reports. Rough-legged Hawk: a few lingered to mid-Apr. in Col. Co. Marsh Hawk: 14 reports thru May 20. Osprey: Apr. 22, incl. seven CR groups. Merlin: a very early **March 4th** individual Coxsackie Flats (RPG), poss. same individual same loc. one week later (PK); also one each Apr. 23 & 30 Vosburgh's Marsh (RPG & PF). Ruffed Grouse: maintaining population upswing. Bobwhite: one report Hudson-Mohawk CR. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues disappearing slowly six CR groups notwithstanding. Turkey: new addition to ADBC CR. Virginia Rail: Apr. 23 thru (JC); incl. five CR groups. Common Gallinule: Apr. 23 (PC). American Coot: only report early May Col. Co. (ER). American Woodcock: fewer reports than usual; Mar. 13 (BC) thru. Upland Sandpiper: Apr. 23 Cox. Flats (RPG). Spotted & Solitary Sandpipers: almost identical re-

ports received incl. six CR groups. Greater Yellowlegs: early May Col. Co. (ER). Lesser Yellowlegs: May 4 thru 26 Ooms Pond (JC). Pectoral Sandpiper: May 13 Col. Co. & CR one group. Least Sandpiper: May 18 Col. Co. Short-billed Dowitcher: Hudson-Mohawk CR one group. **NORTHERN PHALAROPE**: 1 Ooms Pond May 13 (KD & EG). **ICELAND GULL**: one Colonie Dump May 20—a new addition to the Hudson-Mohawk CR composite list bringing it to 237 species (RPG & WG *et al.*). Great Black-backed Gull: ten HR north of Mechanicville Mar. 15; seven CR groups. Black Tern: May 13 Black Creek (KMCD); Saratoga Lake HMBC CR.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: definitely more numerous this year than in the recent past, about a dozen reports received from many locations; the infestation of tent caterpillars that we've just experienced should insure continued success of this and the next species. Black-billed Cuckoo: this species parallels the previous in having a banner year, only more so. Barn Owl: one report Chatham area mid-May (ER). Screech Owl: four reports received which is rather slim, considering the bird's more probable numbers. Great Horned Owl: again, few reports for a generally common bird. Barred Owl: more reports than usual incl. one road kill near Buskirk Mar. 15 (JD). Short-eared Owl: last reports for season Cox. Mar. 11. Saw-whet Owl: one Malta Saratoga Co. Mar. 7; one road kill Athens Mar. 11. Whip-poor-will: very few reported—CR two groups, only one other report received. Disturbing news for this species. Common Nighthawk: late arriving, four CR groups worked hard eeking out this species; only two other reports received. Chimney Swift: later arriving than the swallows, this species was not as adversely affected by the cold rains of early May. As the swallows return to Capistrano so have the swifts returned, on schedule, to Northville, much to the delight of the Chamber of Commerce and the local TV stations. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: conflicting reports, should be watched closely in the future. Belted Kingfisher: well reported. Common Flicker: likewise. Pileated Woodpecker: conspicuous mid to late Apr., then reclusive; only four CR groups found it. Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 Nassau, Col. Co. ADBC Century Run May 20 (ER *et al.*). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: fewer reports three CR groups. Hairy Woodpecker: seven CR groups. Downy Woodpecker: nine CR groups.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: some suggestions that there may be a dip in numbers despite its being recorded by 11 CR groups. Great Crested Flycatcher & Eastern Phoebe: no apparent change in status. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only report one Col. Co. May 15 (ER). Willow Flycatcher: CR four groups; 12 Rennselaer May 27 (PC). Alder Flycatcher: no reports. Least Flycatcher: favorable reports incl. nine CR groups. Eastern Wood Pewee: five CR groups. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Stuyvesant May 30 (JC). Horned Lark: very few reports only one CR group; also May 14 & 31 Col. Co. Tree Swallow: Apr. 16 thru; 11 CR groups. Bank Swallow: arrived late this year; not reported before May 14; six CR groups. Rough-winged Swallow: another latecomer mid-May; seven CR groups. Barn Swallow: first reports Apr. 13; 11 CR groups. Cliff Swallow: five CR groups; only one other report. Purple Martin: reports from Col. & Saratoga Co.; five CR groups. Blue Jay: very conspicuous this year apparently maintaining their population peak. **FISH CROW**: one HR at Four-Mile Point Apr. 30 (HS). Tufted Titmouse: eight CR groups. White-breasted Nuthatch: only six CR groups. Red-breasted Nuthatch: seven CR groups; gone by May 31. Brown Creeper: scarce, only one CR group; few other scattered reports, mid-Apr. Winter Wren: Apr. 16 thru CR (two groups). Carolina Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: five CR groups. Mockingbird: six CR groups. Gray Catbird: all 11 CR groups. Brown Thrasher: eight CR groups. Am. Robin: perhaps more common this year. Wood Thrush: likewise. Hermit Thrush: five CR groups seemed harder to find this year. Swainson's Thrush: seven CR groups; plentiful in migration, reflecting last year's successful breeding season; Bob Yunick had his highest number banded at Vischer Ferry in 11 years there. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one CR group; one VF May 13. Veery: also plentiful, all CR groups; also exceeds previous numbers banded at Vischer Ferry. Eastern Bluebird: only 4 CR groups; Bob Marx's survey over Dial-A-Bird located nine nests. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: continues general increase; six CR groups. Golden-crowned Kinglet: generally absent, only one CR group. Ruby-crowned

Kinglet: also scarce, only two CR groups. Cedar Waxwing: numbers remain high, ten CR groups; two banded Vischer Ferry (RPY). Northern Shrike: leftovers from winter last seen Mar. 11. Loggerhead Shrike: one Niverville Col. Co. Apr. 8 (KD).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 Chatham May 15 (ER). Yellow-throated Vireo: increasing and more widespread; seven CR groups. Solitary Vireo: only three groups, unusually scarce this spring. Philadelphia Vireo: two CR groups reported this rarity. Warbling Vireo: numerous and widespread, apparently becoming more so. The following warblers were reported: Black-and-white: slightly down in numbers; six CR groups. Golden-winged: definitely on the increase; nine CR groups; numerous other reports. Blue-winged: normal compared to recent years; seven CR groups. Tennessee: seven CR groups; perhaps not as numerous as last year. Nashville: seven CR groups. Northern Parula: still in a slump; only three CR groups; few reports elsewhere. Magnolia: numerous on CR (eight groups) and elsewhere. Cape May: also riding peak; ten CR groups. Black-throated Blue: nine CR groups; five banded Vischer Ferry. Yellow-rumped: although reported by ten CR groups, may be down compared to recent years; RPY banded only 30 vs. 100-200+ in previous years. **CERULEAN:** one Five Rivers Environmental Center May 28. Blackburnian: although not in substantial numbers, widely reported; nine CR groups. Bay-breasted: similar, but this represents a nice comeback for this species; nine CR groups. Pine: usual few scattered reports; two CR groups. Prairie: small local population increasing and spreading; five CR groups. Palm: one CR group (Col. Co.). Ovenbird: reported scarce by some, well-reported elsewhere; ten CR groups. No. Waterthrush: appears to be doing quite well, 15 banded Vischer Ferry; nine CR groups. Louisiana Waterthrush: also doing well but on a lesser scale; five CR groups. Mourning: three banded VF incl. an early May 13 individual. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Olana May 17 (A & TB); only report. Wilson's: four CR groups; apparently down in numbers. Canada: eight CR groups; three banded at Vischer Ferry (RPY).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: apparently continuing its long, slow decline; eight CR groups found it in traditional areas. Orchard Oriole: one CR group, only report. Scarlet Tanager: all CR groups. Cardinal: all CR groups. Indigo Bunting: arrived just in time to be included on seven CR lists. Evening Grosbeak: a few remained thru May 20 found by six CR groups. Purple Finch: also six CR groups. House Finch: Bob Marx's D-A-B survey located at least 2 dozen singing males or nesting pairs around Albany and Schenectady; reports from hilltop communities suggest that this species is not restricting itself to the Hudson-Mohawk lowlands. Pine Grosbeak: a few flocks of 10-20 were around thru March. Common Redpoll: remained the talk of the season. Bob Yunick banded a phenomenal 3,348, with a max. of 491 on the peak day of Apr. 2. He estimates that there must have been over 700 in his yard on that day alone. A "distinctly different" individual fitting well within the description of the otherwise poorly defined "Holboell's subspecies" was banded on Mar. 9. Pine Siskin: moved in as the redpolls moved out but only in modest numbers at that; remained thru CR; one straggler persisted 'til May 30. Red Crossbill: four Albany Pinebush May 30 (late). Savannah Sparrow: six CR groups. Grasshopper Sparrow: only three reports incl. one CR group. Henslow's Sparrow: returned to its small colony at Five-Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, where four CR groups listed it. Vesper Sparrow: very few reports; conspicuously absent from the Century Run where it has been reported in 30 of the 33 CR years. Tree Sparrow: very late departures; banded at VF May 5 & 6; an extremely late individual was found and carefully identified at Black-creek Marsh on the Century Run May 20 (BH, MF, GD). Field Sparrow: eight CR groups. White-crowned Sparrow: eight CR groups; other reports mid-May. Lincoln's Sparrow: five banded Vischer Ferry; one CR group. Swamp Sparrow: ten CR groups; five banded VF; 20 Rensselaer May 14 (PC). Snow Bunting: E. Greenbush Mar. 26 last report.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The cold of last winter continued into May. Foliage was more than two weeks late, and so were many migrants. Last year lakes thawed in late February, but this year not until the weekend of April 7. Six inches of snow fell on March 16, and April and May had more than their share of precipitation. More than nine and one-half inches of rain fell in early May, thankfully much of it in mid-week. The big weekend of May 13-14 was misty and rainy, but not enough to interfere with record numbers of species on many clubs' "big day."

All contributors remarked on the lateness of the season. Florence Germond had the unusual pleasure of seeing five newly arrived Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feeding with the still present 20 Evening Grosbeaks at her home in Clinton Corners on May 9. The combination of winter residents still here and spring migrants just arriving ran up long "big day" totals for the listers. On May 13 the Ralph T. Waterman Club of Dutchess Co. had their third highest census with a total of 157 species. Their previous highs were 160 in 1972 and 158 in 1974. Otis Waterman described the season as the best warbler year since 1972. Eleanor Pink observed peak movements in Dutchess on May 11-13, and 21. Bob Deed, who has been afield almost daily since his retirement earlier this year, did not observe any marked movements in Rockland Co. until May 23, and then he found a warbler movement dominated by Tennessees: "the largest number I've seen anywhere—more than 40 birds in 2 hours." The May 13 movement was observed by many contributors. Your reporter observed 26 species of warblers along the east side of the Bashakill by noon that day.

No formal hawk watch was organized this spring, but Hook Mt. was covered for 18 days, a total of 82.5 hours. The biggest days were April 29 and 30 when 461 and 433 birds were observed. The numbers of individual species are covered in the report.

Some of the rarities for the season include: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Common (European) Teal, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Sanderling, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Summer Tanager, and Lark Bunting.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Peter Both, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Mary and Jim Key, Ken and Joan McDermott, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Roger Robb, Benton Seguin, Robert Smart (RSm), Robert Speiser (RSp), Marion VanWagner, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: CB—Cornwall Bay, HMt.—Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; WC—Waterman Bird Club Census Dutchess Co. May 13; and the first few letters of each county.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: usually obs flying over, but this season many birds were observed on lakes and reservoirs. Several persisted thru end of period. Max seven on WC. **RED-NECKED GREBE**: one CB Mar. 20, two there Apr. 8 (KM). Horned Grebe: not many reported, but an unusual conc of 11 at 6½ Sta Rd., Goshen Apr. 7 (RR). Double-

crested Cormorant: more than usual. Ret to Croton Pt. Apr. 20. Numbers good all the way up river by mid-May. Five as far north as Esopus Lt. May 14. An unusual inland record of one on Tamarack L Dutch May 30. Great Blue Heron: first two arr Rt. 82 herony in Dutch Mar. 13. Two at Stissing Mar. 15. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: very rare in spring. One PL Apr. 24-29 (TB). Cattle Egret: fewer than usual. First Piermont Pier Apr. 13. One Amenia Apr. 21, and another Pleasant Valley Apr. 26. Great Egret: one CB Apr. 15, one Bashakill Apr. 23-May 15; two Monticello Apr. 24, 25. Snowy Egret: four Bashakill May 13. **LOUISIANA HERON**: first Dutch record, 1 North Bay, Cruger's Is. Apr. 13 (RSm). Black-crowned Night Heron: first PL Mar. 26. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: back at breeding location at MC by Mar. 30. Two nests under obs by end of Apr. **GLOSSY IBIS**: one MC Apr. 13; one Bashakill May 12, probably the first record for Sull (KJM, ET). Canada Goose: excellent migration. Residents are legion. Breeding on almost every lake and pond. Many young hatched by May 4. Brant: 10 over Rhinecliff May 14; 500 over USMA May 19; 700 Iona I. May 22; 2000 P'kpsie May 23. Snow Goose: many reports from Mar. thru Apr. into May. Max 42 Tamarack Sw. Apr. 30. Last at Briarcliff May 25, 26. Very late. Gadwall: 10 Roosevelt Est. Mar. 22. Three pr. Rockland L Apr. 15. Three Goshen Apr. 6-8. Pintail: four Roosevelt Est. Mar. 22. 25 Haight Marsh Dutch Apr. 4. Max 49 Goshen Apr. 5. **COMMON TEAL (EUROPEAN)**: one Goshen Apr. 6 (BS, EDT). Green-winged Teal: max 35 Goshen Apr. 11, Am. Wigeon: max 16 Goshen Apr. 6. Wood Duck: max 52 on WC. Redhead: two New Hamburg Mar. 3; two Ashokan Res. Mar. 12. Canvasback: 200 Iona I. Mar. 28. Greater Scaup: more than 3000 PL end of Mar. Oldsquaw: one Upper Kays, Dutch Apr. 6-8. Five Goshen Apr. 4. Max 49 Goshen Apr. 5. Four Basha Apr. 5. White-winged Scoter: one CB Apr. 7, inc to eight next day. Max 40 there May 6. Black Scoter: seven CB Apr. 1. Four there Apr. 2. Max 20 CB May 6. Hooded Merganser: first two Wappingers L Mar. 13. Inc. to 40 there by Mar. 25. 20 on Hudson off Dutch Apr. 1. Last Apr. 8. Common Merganser: max 200 Georges I' Mar. 8. Red-breasted Merganser: exc nos in Dutch thru Apr. 3. Most areas reporting one or two birds thru first week of Apr. Generally late.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Goshawk: back in usual nesting areas. HMt. total seven. Max two Apr. 29. Sharp-shinned Hawk: a male and an imm still hunting feeders in Pleasant Valley thru Mar. HMt. total was 237. Max 64, Apr. 29. Cooper's Hawk: one pursuing a duck in air Apr. 14 was in turn chased from prey by crows. HMt. total eight. Max three Apr. 29. A pair in apparent courtship near Little Dam Lake, Sterling Forest. Several other reports from there and nearby Harriman Pk. Red-tailed Hawk: well reported. An albino with mate at Verbank Mar. 5. Broad-winged Hawk: first two HMt. Apr. 1. Max 355 Apr. 29 and 360 Apr. 30 at HMt. Total there 1,363. Rough-legged Hawk: last Mabbettville Apr. 22. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: the pair in the Clove area of Dutch continued to Mar. 12. One obs at Verbank Cem. Apr. 30 (Stephley VanVlack). One near Samuels Pt. in the Catskills Apr. 22 (Frank Murphey). Bald Eagle: seven Mongaup Res. Mar. 5. Three ad and one imm. at Rondout Res. Mar. 19. HMt. had one imm on Apr. 16 and another imm Apr. 30. Osprey: good nos thru period. First Apr. 7 Dutch. HMt. total 50, max 13, Apr. 29. An unusual conc of nine at Basha May 3. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one imm at HMt. Mar. 31. another imm in Dutch at Verbank Apr. 16 (Pat Redmond). Merlin: HMt. total three: one Apr. 29 and two Apr. 30. One reported in Ulst dur. Mar., no date (Heinz Meng). One Millbrook Apr. 6 (EP). One Pleasant Valley Apr. 25 (MVW). Am. Kestrel: HMt. total 111, max 42 Apr. 1. Nos good there thru rest of month. Two at Cruger's I Apr. 27, both carrying small snakes. Turkey: heard at Wawarsing Apr. 16 and 25 (JCO). King Rail: one on WC at Millbrook School. Virginia Rail: ret Iona I Apr. 8. Black-bellied Plover: one Cruger's I on WC (Eric Kiviat). First on that count since 1932. One Kingston Pt. May 13. Three May 15 Stewart Airport. Am. Woodcock: still displaying at Kingston May 28. Upland Sandpiper: three ret to Blue Chip Farm Apr. 23. Inc. to four May 13. Three at Stewart Airport May 7-12. Spotted Sandpiper: Max. 13 Croton Pt. May 10. Purple Sandpiper: two still at PL on Mar. 15. Least Sandpiper: WC had high of 266 mostly in Cruger's I area. Max Croton Point 113 May 15. Dunlin: one Kingston Pt. May 13. Five Vanderburg Cove May 14. **SANDERLING**: what appears to be the first record for Ulst, one Kingston Pt. May 14 (Hans Weber). Iceland Gull: an unusual

winter report of one inland at Rondout Res. Feb. 25—was there again Apr. 9 (JCO). Great Black-backed Gull: has become the dominant gull at CB with a max of 70 there May 25. Outnumbers all other gulls combined. Bonaparte's Gull: a flock at MC inc to 70 by Apr. 16. Departed Apr. 23, 40 at Goshen Apr. 7 was unusual inland from Hudson. Two at Cruger's I late date of May 6. One at Basha May 8 and one CB as late as May 27 (BS). **FORSTER'S TERN**: Several at Round L Monroe May 15, after sev days of SE winds. (RSm). Common Tern: one Basha May 8, inc. to two by May 15. One Vanderburg Cove May 17. **CASPIAN TERN**: one Kingston Pt. Apr. 24 (Bob Terwilliger). Black Tern: only report, one Basha May 12 (KJM, ET).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: nos exc. Young off nest in Dutch by Apr. 23. Cuckoos: nos of both species extremely high. Considering the nos of caterpillars available this spring, they should do very well. Barn Owl: two Beacon, same hollow sycamore as last year (MJK). Great Horned Owl: nesting in widely scattered areas. Nos good. Barred Owl: thought to be diminishing in recent years, but added coverage in the Harriman Pk Sterling Forest area by RSp has shown them to be in better numbers than expected. Nesting in widely scattered areas of region. Long-eared Owl: one spent Mar. 4 in a pine tree at Pleasant Valley (MVW). One still at Town of Newburgh Roost Apr. 6. Short-eared Owl: last one Wal-kill Apr. 24. Saw-whet Owl: only report: one Amenia Mar. 11. (JK, RSm). Common Nighthawk: few and very late. Chimney Swift: late thru entire area. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers severely down and very late return. Common Flicker: invasion on Apr. 11. Pileated Woodpecker: nesting by Apr. 12 at P'kpsie, very early. Red-bellied Woodpecker: wintered well—in all the usual places and a few more.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Phoebe: arr 3 wks late; lower than usual. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: very few. One Congers May 22, 23. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one Basha May 25, inc to three by end of period. Hans Weber reports three singing along Coxingkill near Mohonk May 30. Usual Dutch birds did not appear this year. Willow Flycatcher: first May 20 Iona I. May 26 seems to be the big date when one was found at Basha and four in Dutch. Three at Piermont Marsh May 29, and six at Grassy Pt. May 31. Alder Flycatcher: RFD had two Haverstraw Marsh May 31. One at Basha May 26-30. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Weyant's Pd. May 10 was one day earlier than previous early date for the Region. Another in the same tree there May 23. One Basha May 13; a max of six on Balsam Cap Mt. in the Catskills May 20. Horned Lark: few reports, max 50 Stewart Airport Mar. 5. Swallows: exc movement at Croton Pt. Apr. 29., inc many Cliff. Barn Swallow: first New Hamburg Apr. 3. Purple Martin: ret to only two of six locations usually found in Dutch. Blue Jay: a massive flight in Rock May 8 with 250 every 15 min along the ridge at Hook Mt. **COMMON RAVEN**: one seen and heard over Table Mt. south of Slide May 27 (PB). Fish Crow: continues to inc up river. More abundant in Rock area, and "all around the city of P'kpsie;" an unusual flight of eight birds over Weyant's P May. White-breasted Nuthatch: generally scarce, RFD had one flycatching near Hook Mt. Apr. 10. Unusual behavior. Brown Creeper: numbers down. Max four in one tree Croton Pt. Mar. 25. House Wren: numbers up from low of last year, but very late. First Apr. 28 in Dutch. Winter Wren: continues low, only three Dutch records thru May. Carolina Wren: seems to have survived hard winter. **VARIED THRUSH**: one feeding on Sumac with Pine Grosbeaks near Mohonk in late Feb., remained thru Mar. 7 (Bob Larsen). Wood Thrush: late but in good numbers after May 11. Hermit Thrush: first Mar. 9 Red Oaks Mill (JMK). Swainson's Thrush: first May 10, low thru rest of period. Grey-cheeked Thrush: first Clausland Mt. May 11, only three on WC. E. Bluebird: Florence Germond had 36 pr. nesting by the end of May in her nest box program. **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**: 1 reported near Schultzville, Dutch Mar. 17 by Francis Van Auken. Had been there for a week when reported and remained thru Mar. 21 (mob). Third record for state. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one of the few species that arrived on time and in good numbers everywhere. Water Pipit: very few 12 near Millbrook May 1 and 10 Town of Crawford May 13. Northern Shrike: last imm Mar. 11 Newburgh (BS). Loggerhead Shrike: one near Galeville Airport Mar. 18 (EDT).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: a pr at Plutarch Sw. Town of Lloyd May 27 was quite far north. Philadelphia Vireo: one May 10 Blodgetts, near Fishkill. One singing Basha May 19. Warbling Vireo: numbers up in Rock. Four near Piermont May 29 and five Haverstraw May 31. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** 1 Hastings Apr. 24 (BW). "Lawrence's" Warbler: an unusual number of two at Ardsley and one Brinton Brook, Croton in May. Tennessee Warbler: exc nos as previously noted. Nashville Warbler: first May 11 in Dutch, last May 17 Rock. N. Parula: first May 7 Blodgetts near Fishkill. Exc nos thru May 27. Cerulean Warbler: did not return to Cruger's I, only Dutch records near Ferncliff. Good nos thru the Highlands of Oran. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one in song at Bashkill May 30 (BS). Pine Warbler: more than usual. One Basha May 11 and again May 13. Four Dutch records: first Apr. 4, others Apr. 18 and 26. One on WC was the first since 1964. Ovenbird: one Apr. 30 Mine Rd. USMA was early. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** a male near Hastings May 11 and another Basha in mid-May (no date).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: exc nos thru first half of May in usual areas. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** an ad male with several thousand grackles at E. Walden Apr. 16 (R. Widmer, EDT). Orchard Oriole: three reports from Dutch from May 10. One seen and heard at CB May 28 (EDT). Northern Oriole: first Apr. 23 Town of Crawford. Not common 'til mid-May. Rusty Blackbird: exc at Goshen thru Apr. Max there 500 Apr. 16 (RR). **SUMMER TANAGER:** a singing male at Hastings May 25 (D. McIntyre). **LARK BUNTING:** one in winter plumage from Feb. 25-Apr. 12 at a feeder in Stoney Pt. Photograph submitted (Doris Metraux). Evening Grosbeak: exc nos thru region thru mid-May. Most listers had them on "big day" counts in mid-May. Still in northern areas thru end of period. Purple Finch: exc nos of winter tapered off by end of period. Well outnumbered by House Finch. House Finch: outnumbered the House Sparrow 111 to 100 on WC. Pine Grosbeak: exc winter nos diminished in Mar. Last three near South Salem Apr. 14. Common Redpoll: peaked in Dutch around Mar. 24. Last there Apr. 10, Port Chester Apr. 14, Kingston Apr. 15 and one still at Wurtsboro May 30. Pine Siskin: cont at Kingston thru end of period. Dark-eyed Junco: more reports than usual due to late departure. Tree Sparrow: last Apr. 24. Walkill. Chipping Sparrow: one Apr. 3 Dutch was early. On time most other places. White-crowned Sparrow: fewer than usual RFD found none in Rock after daily birding in May. White-throated Sparrow: as with junco, numbers exc thru mid-May, very late departure. Fox Sparrow: one May 1, two Moore's Mills was last. Lincoln's Sparrow: a good late bird at Hackensack Sw, Blauvelt May 25. Lapland Longspur: last two Mar. 4 Walkill and one Mar. 5 Marshall's, Dutch. Snow Bunting: last five, Mar. 5 and four Mar. 6 in Dutch.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 - MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

February's unrelieved cold weather developed into a late spring. While mean temperature and rainfall approached normal for the season, spring migration and foliage were delayed at least two weeks. Weekend birders fell back on their hopes for "next weekend" until it became clear that the next weekend was almost Memorial Day and May was over. Mid-week birders fared better as the flight days in the western part of the Region, May 4, 10, and 18, occurred on Wednesday or Thursday. Incoming birds did not linger. The only expression of enthusiasm for this spring was received from a Central Park observer, Peter Post,

who termed the migration from May 10 on as "one of the best I have seen in 28 years!," with May 18 "probably the biggest day in terms of sheer numbers since May 10, 1952." Post reported large numbers of "just about everything," with 33 species of warblers plus "Brewster's." Clearly a man in the right place at the right time. The late spring found scattered numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Dark-eyed Juncos reported after May 18.

A perplexing problem of "countability" may have occurred for some state listers when an exhausted Purple Gallinule was captured in a weedy suburban lot in Kew Gardens, Queens, and was released and photographed May 13 at nearby Jamaica Bay Refuge. The bird certainly reached Long Island on its own, perhaps only to become confused in a holding pattern over Kennedy airport. Can it be counted at Jamaica Bay?

The Federation pelagic trip May 20 to the edge of the continental shelf 95 miles SSE of Montauk Point, aboard the 104-foot *Viking Star*, reported 37 Northern Fulmars, 24 Sooty and 12 Greater Shearwaters, 63 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 32 Gannets, 1100+ Red and 12 Northern Phalaropes, one Great Skua (adult *Catharacta skua skua*), one Pomarine and one unidentified jaeger, two Black-legged Kittiwakes, and at least three Arctic Terns. This long trip was demanding on participants, yet rewarded them with exceptional experiences of phalaropes in numbers, of Arctic Terns well observed standing and flying, and spectacular views of the breeding-plumaged skua. Tired birders, scattering for cars or scrambled eggs in the middle of the night, generally agreed they would go again (after they recovered).

Spring positives: 1) Good numbers of migrants in several areas; Muttontown Preserve recorded more than 100 species during May. 2) Actions of certain hawks suggested breeding.

Spring negatives: 1) Red-throated Loons were in low numbers. 2) Northern Orioles seemed scarce in some areas. 3) Carolina Wrens were low in number. 4) Brown Creepers were scarce in April. 5) Acadian Flycatchers were absent after having been found regularly in recent years.

Rarities include: Purple Gallinule, Wilson's Plover, Arctic Tern, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Townsend's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Jamaica Bay—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Jones Beach—Jones Beach State Park, Fire Island—Robert Moses State Park, Muttontown—Muttontown Preserve, Hempstead Lake—Hempstead Lake State Park.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loons were very scarce on eastern Long Island (DL). Breeding herons and egrets returned on schedule during April and May. A Cattle Egret was seen Apr. 19 at Wading River (RA), and another was at Baiting Hollow May 13 (DL). A Least Bittern May 22 in East Hampton was possibly breeding (RA). A Glossy Ibis Mar. 27 in Sands Point was early, and unusual on the North Shore (BJS). Flocks of 20 to 70 Snow Geese were reported from several locations as they moved north. Two male Harlequin Ducks were still present at Shinnecock Inlet on May 6 after overwintering, with one re-

maining on May 13 (DL); a drake was also present Apr. 18-27 at Gravesend Bay (C. Gancher). Five Hooded and seven Common Mergansers were last seen Apr. 9 on Hempstead Lake where these species winter (SBD). Ten Common Mergansers were seen Mar. 29 on Swan Pond in North Manor (RA).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: An unusual number of Turkey Vultures were reported this spring; one was sighted at Muttontown Mar. 19 (AL), while two joined the soaring immature Bald Eagle which wintered at Mill Neck, on Mar. 16 (J. Madden); J. Ruscica sighted one at Ridge Apr. 9; another flew over the parking lot at Jamaica Bay May 21 (PWP); on the same day one was seen at the Brookhaven Lab (GSR). An adult Bald Eagle was seen Apr. 28 at the Bronx Botanical Gardens (*vide* N. Wagerik). At least two Cooper's Hawks, seen together in aerial display suggestive of breeding behavior, were seen several times between Mar. 3 and Apr. 23 at Muttontown (AL). Two Red-shouldered Hawks seen at Muttontown during the same period, and an individual seen repeatedly in Wading River (DL), may also indicate breeding attempts. Peregrine Falcons were reported Mar. 5 from Shinnecock (GSR), May 7 from Freeport (C. Ward), and May 17 from Jamaica Bay (JA). An exhausted **PURPLE GALLINULE** was captured May 11 in Kew Gardens (L. Rosano) and released and photographed at Jamaica Bay (THD). Am. Oystercatchers returned to the Shinnecock area by Mar. 25 (RA), although the presence of overwintering birds this year makes the date of return moot. The shorebird of the season was a female **WILSON'S PLOVER** May 20-21 at Great Kills Park on Staten Island (R. Claremont, J. Stoneck, W. and N. Siebenheller). A Golden Plover was seen Apr. 13 at Shinnecock Inlet (JA). Two were at Sagaponack Apr. 21 (JA); one at Baiting Hollow Apr. 25 (DL) was joined by a second bird Apr. 26 (RA). An individual was present at Jamaica Bay from late April through May 6. Two Marbled Godwits were seen May 13 in Freeport (C. Ward). One to six Whimbrels were present in the Shinnecock area from Apr. 28 through May 24 (DL). Upland Sandpipers returned Apr. 18 to Kennedy airport where a number of pairs breed (S. Chevalier). Another was seen Apr. 15 in Hampton Bays (RA). A breeding-plumaged female Wilson's Phalarope was found in Freeport May 13 as was a Northern Phalarope May 15 (C. Ward). Eighteen Red Knots seen Mar. 19 (DL) near Shinnecock were probably wintering birds. Freeport also attracted a Stilt Sandpiper May 20 (A. Dignan), and a Reeve May 13-15 (C. Ward). A subadult Ruff was seen by many observers May 6 at Jamaica Bay. A subadult Glaucous Gull was present at the late date of June 1 at the Fountain Ave. Landfill in Brooklyn (PAB). An Iceland Gull in Glen Cove Apr. 30 was unusual for the north shore (RC, J. Doran, H. McClure). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was found at Jamaica Bay Apr. 2 (B. Bruun, P. Grandjean). A Black-headed Gull was present in West Hampton Mar. 3 (GSR), while an adult Little Gull was seen at Jones Inlet Mar. 5 (GSR). A subadult Little Gull cruised off Breezy Point June 1 (PWP). A Gull-billed Tern arrived May 7 at Jamaica Bay (M. Gochfeld) where the species has summered recently. A carefully observed and described **ARCTIC TERN** was studied on the ground and in flight May 26 at Jamaica Bay (R. Claremont, W. and N. Siebenheller). A Royal Tern was sighted Apr. 29 at Mecox Bay (DL), and another was at Democrat Point on Fire Island June 1 (M. Cooper). Perhaps we can look for a breeding record soon following these pioneering efforts as occurred with Gull-billed Terns. Three Caspian Terns were at Mecox on Apr. 29, and one was at Shinnecock the same day (DL). Another Caspian Tern was seen at Jamaica Bay June 1 (JA).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: A Chuck-will's-widow was found at Alley Pond Park May 20 (T. O'Connor). Calling birds were also present during late May in Oak Beach, East Quogue, and in Calverton. The Calverton bird remained through the period. A Whip-poor-will calling May 29 in Sea Cliff was rare for the north shore (BJS), while a Common Nighthawk over the salt marsh near Moriches Inlet was uncommon in spring (GSR). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen May 2 in Alley Pond Park (A. and H. Richard), and at Forest Park May 18-21, and at Jamaica Bay May 21-27 (mob).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: A small *Myiarchus* flycatcher, identified as an **ASH-**

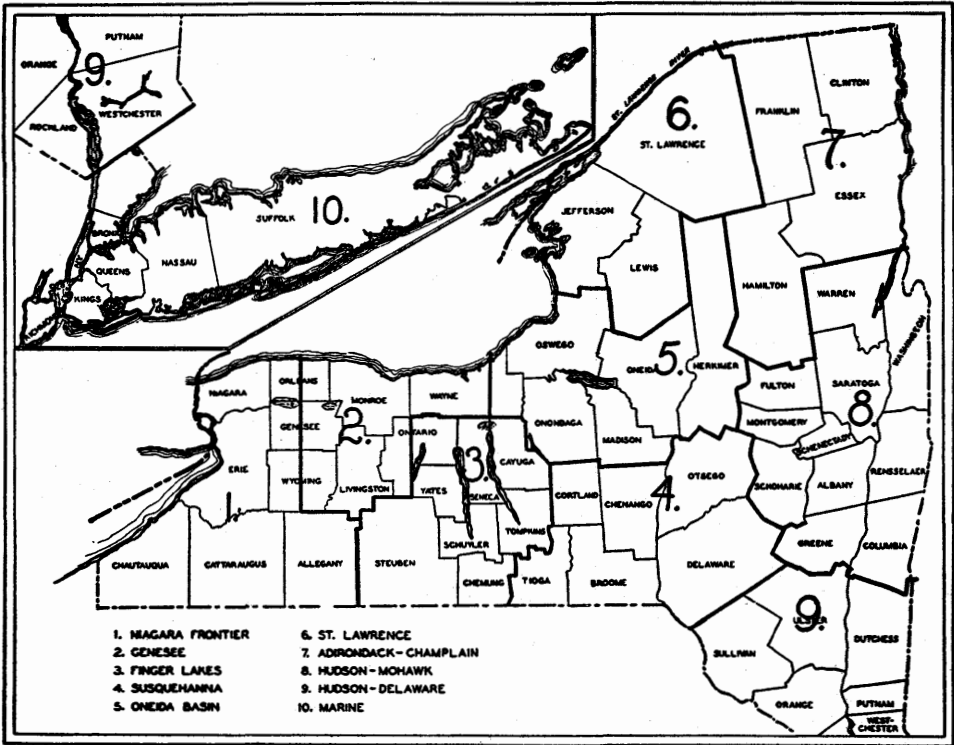
THROATED FLYCATCHER was carefully studied at Riis Park May 10 (PAB). This bird could not be relocated the next morning despite considerable searching. A Northern Shrike was seen on the Meadowbrook Parkway as late as Mar. 11 (GSR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Increasing reports of migrant White-eyed Vireos from city parks over the last few years suggests a possible uptrend north of our Region. Numbers have not increased on breeding-bird surveys on Long Island where the species remains a relatively rare breeder. Two to three Yellow-throated Vireos were rare finds for Central Park May 10 (PWP). Prothonotary Warblers appeared at several locations: males Apr. 29-May 2 in Sands Point (G. Quinn), May 1-4 in Freeport (A. Dignan), May 19 in Wading River (DL, RA), and a female May 22-23 in Central Park (PWP). Hybrid warblers were discovered in two locations: "Lawrence's" in Alley Pond May 11 (SBD), and "Brewster's" in Central Park May 17 (PWP). Orange-crowned Warblers are rare in spring; the sighting of three birds was remarkable. One was found in Forest Park May 2 (W. Kuro). A singing male was in Caumsett State Park May 19 (S. Smith), and a third was seen the same day in Wading River (GSR). The warbler find of the spring was a male **TOWNSEND'S** netted, banded and photographed May 7 on Great Gull Island (R. Harrison, J. Biderman, J. D. Costanzo). Cerulean Warblers were hard to come by this year. One was found by W. Bauman May 17 in Central Park and was seen by many through May 19; another was located in Wading River May 12 (DL). Kentucky Warblers were reported from several locations; one from Central Park May 20 (PWP, H. Tretault), a second the same day in Riverhead (FF), and a third from Hempstead Lake May 28 (SBD). Two or three adult male Mourning Warblers were present in Central Park from May 20 for several days (PWP, H. Tretault).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Fifty Bobolinks in Locust Valley May 18 were unusual for the area (B. Lotowycz). The male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** present at the Otero feeder in Centereach since Feb. 19 was last seen Apr. 25. A female was seen at the same feeder for one day only on Mar. 17. Summer Tanagers were reported from most city parks: A male Apr. 30-May 1, Bronx Botanical Gardens (N. Wagerik), a subadult male May 8 Alley Pond Park (L. Shore), a female May 13 Forest Park (D. Reipe), a subadult male May 17 Prospect Park (J. Yrizarry), a male May 18 in Central Park with many observers, and a subadult male in Alley Pond May 26 (O. Dunning). A **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK** was carefully studied feeding on the ground with robins on the Meadowbrook Parkway Causeway May 5 (AJL). An early Indigo Bunting was seen Apr. 13 (A. Townsend, F. McDonough), while an unusual concentration of 15 Indigo Buntings was apparently grounded by the fog on Fire Island Apr. 20 (L. and L. Feldman); with them were two male Blue Grosbeaks. A female Blue Grosbeak was reported Apr. 21 from Jones Beach (P. Bernarth); a male was in Central Park May 10-12 (PWP, E. Conder). A Dickcissel was seen by many observers at Jamaica Bay May 20. Thirty-five Common Redpolls remained on Fire Island Mar. 5 (GSR). A European Goldfinch at a thistle feeder in Mattituck with Am. Goldfinches was of undetermined origin (N. Wells). The status of this bird on Long Island remains unclear with a few reports every year. Several years ago a breeder is known to have released six individuals at Muttontown early in the spring. The fate of these birds is unknown. The male **LARK BUNTING** was last seen at Bob Benjamin's feeder in East Northport May 3, having first been seen Jan. 4. A late Tree Sparrow lingered at Jamaica Bay until May 20. The feeder bird of the season was the breeding-plumaged **HARRIS' SPARROW** present intermittently in Setauket from Apr. 10 to May 7 (C. Wurster). This bird was enjoyed by a number of observers. Eighteen Lapland Longspurs were seen at Jamaica Bay Mar. 11, a good concentration (GSR).

154 Dayton Street, Sea Cliff, New York 11579

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is December 7

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