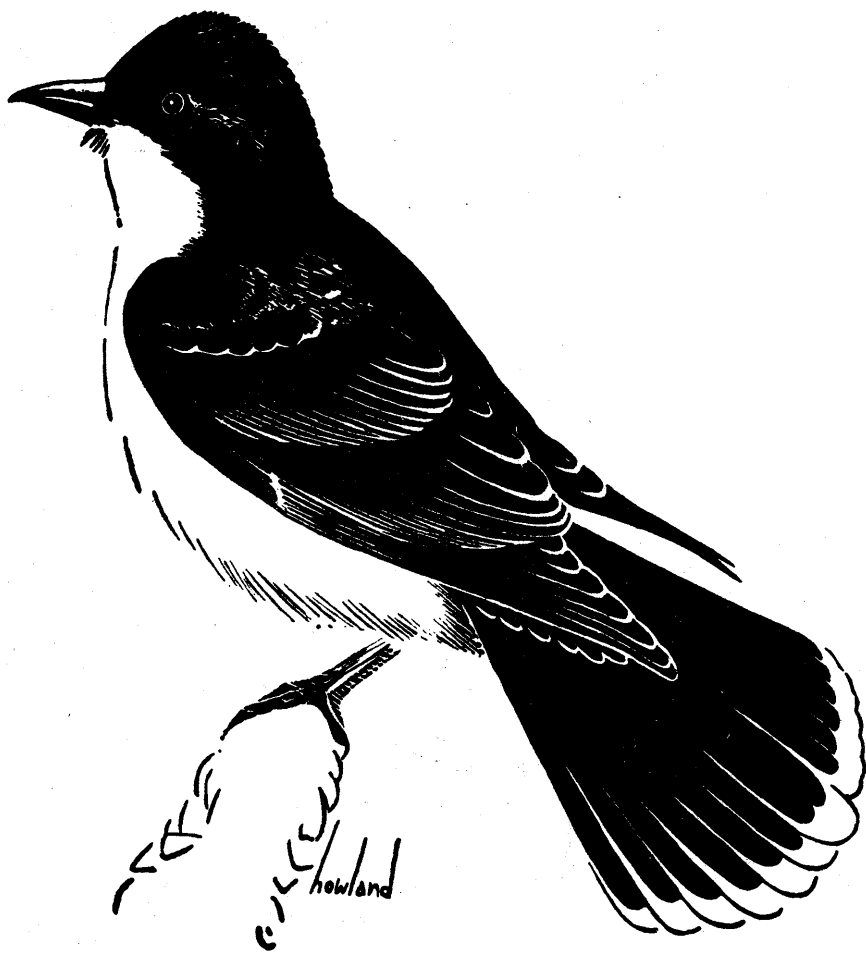


The **KINGBIRD**



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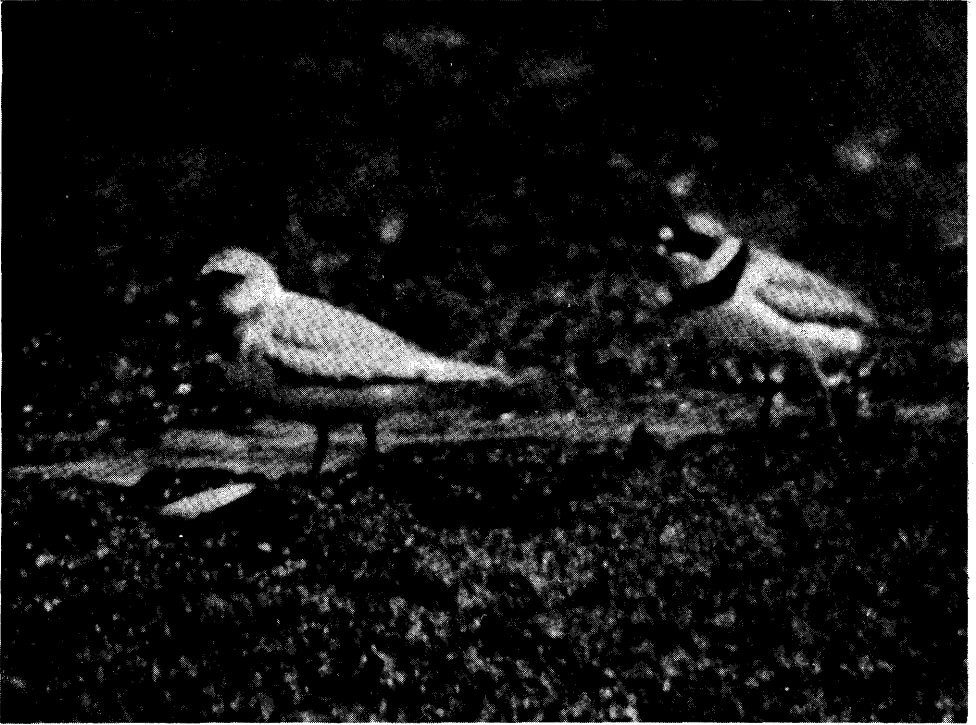
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Highlights of the Spring Season

Guest Editor—Robert Arbib

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Female Wilson's Plover
Great Kills Park, Richmond Co.
May 22, 1978 *Thomas H. Davis*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 32. WILSON'S PLOVER

THOMAS H. DAVIS

The Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) is chiefly a neotropical bird, although breeding along the Atlantic coast north to Virginia; rarely to southern New Jersey (J. Bull, 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, N.Y.). In New York State this species' occurrence is confined to the south shore of Long Island with "more than 25 reports," including nine specimen records, extreme dates April 24-October 2. Eight of these reports are for May and at least nine in September, the latter mostly after hurricanes. From 1954 to 1978, this species had been reported only once, perhaps reflecting its general decline along the Atlantic coast due to loss and disturbance of habitat.

In May 1978, two additional Wilson's Plovers were noted along the New York coast. A female was reported May 20th at Great Kills Park, Richmond Co. by Robert Claremont with John Stoneck, and William and Norma Siebenheller. The bird remained only the following day when it was seen by other birders and photographed by the author. In my original color transparency a small patch of seaweed lies behind the bird's bill, giving its "thick bill" a gross exaggeration in this black-and-white rendition. That the bird was a female is evidenced by its brown breast band, narrow at the center and broadening on the sides. The plover fed at low tide on a hard clay tidal bank along with Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Purple, White-rumped, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Sanderlings, and others, but generally favored the company of Semipalmated Plovers.

On May 28th a Wilson's Plover was observed on a sandy bay beach one-quarter mile west of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., by Allan Keith and a friend. Efforts to relocate this bird the following day were in vain.

9446 85 Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) was established in 1977 to review significant New York State ornithological records. Procedures for submitting reports and a list of species for which reports are desired appeared in *The Kingbird* (Vol. 28, pp. 72-76). Reprints of that report and reporting forms have been distributed to the Federation's member clubs, and also are available upon request from the Secretary of the NYSARC, Charles R. Smith, c/o Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853.

Robert O. Paxton has agreed to replace the late Robert W. Smart as a Committee member. Committee composition otherwise continues unchanged from 1978. In the following report of our activities for 1978, we use the term "documented" to refer to a written report and "substantiated" to refer to a documented report also accompanied by physical evidence such as a tape recording, photograph or specimen.

During its first year of operation the NYSARC received 50 reports representing 36 records. The generally high quality of these reports has led the Committee to accept, usually unanimously, 25 (69%) of them. This figure is similar to levels reported by equivalent committees in other states during their early years of operation. Equally significantly, these accepted reports include first substantiated reports of two species from New York and increase the list of species proven to have nested within the State by one.

With reference to reports not accepted, the criteria for identification were generally plausible, but not enough detail was offered to preclude the possibility that the report was of another, less noteworthy species. A good record cannot be damaged by the inclusion of too much detail. We cannot overemphasize the value of including as much information as possible in submitted reports and suggest that observers treat any report submitted to the NYSARC as if it were the first report of the species from New York State.

Reports submitted to date suggest two primary areas for future concern. First, comparison of the Regional Reports from *The Kingbird* with the list of species for which reports are desired indicates that some significant records are not being submitted to the NYSARC for review. While such submission is the prerogative of the ob-

server, we also suspect that observers frequently assume that someone else will submit a report, with the end result that no one does. Several independently submitted reports in themselves can be convincing evidence of the validity of a record and are always welcomed by the NYSARC. Particularly significant in this respect are reports that establish first and last dates of observation for a record. Second, some reports accompanied by photographs include insufficient written detail to evaluate the report should the photographs be lost or damaged. We urge that contributors treat substantiating evidence as a supplement to and not the basis of reports they submit.

We received a few reports of birds said to have been photographed, but unaccompanied by any photographic evidence. We consider the assembly of reports with substantiating evidence at a single location to be of equal, if not greater, value to future generations of ornithologists than the review process itself, and urge contributors to submit at least copies of photographs, if available, with their reports. A few reports were received as duplicates of reports submitted to local clubs. Processing and establishing an archive of reports by the NYSARC is facilitated if an original report is submitted to us. We again emphasize that use of the NYSARC reporting form is not mandatory; several excellent reports whose format was totally different were accepted in 1978.

All reports, whether accepted or not, are available for inspection by qualified investigators at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. Reviews are confidential to the NYSARC. Reports are catalogued as received according to the following system: year of receipt—serial order of receipt (by record)—serial order of receipt by observer (within record), the last item being indicated by a letter (i.e., report 1978-3-B is the third report received in 1978 as submitted by the second observer). When listed, abbreviations for the name of observers are of the person(s) submitting the report only, regardless of the number of observers involved.

1978 ACCEPTED REPORTS

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*): 1978-14-A to H; female, dark phase; Tupper Lake, St. Lawrence/Franklin Cos., 2 July to 7 Oct., photographs on file (AH, CD, GMM, MK, THD, PDeB, FGS, KPA). A full account of this, the first substantiated record for New York, appears in *The Kingbird* (28: 208-209; 1978).

- WHITE PELICAN** (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*): 1978-6-A, B; adult in nuptial condition; Cross Lake, Onondaga/Cayuga Cos., 5 May, photograph on file (DWC, PDeB). 1978-17-A; adult in basic plumage, Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, St. Lawrence Co., 9 Aug. (PR). Three birds were reported from Bernhards Bay, Oswego Co. on 3 May, from Cross Lake on 4 May, and from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., between 7 May and 27 Sept. (photograph in *American Birds* 32: 1002; 1978). The latter are known to have wandered widely and were followed to Lake Ontario west of Rochester on one occasion in late May. Thus, it is possible that all these reports refer to the same birds.
- WOOD STORK** (*Mycteria americana*): 1978-16-A, B, C; adult, 1+ imm; various localities in Town of Portville, Cattaraugus Co., 11 to 20 Aug., photographs on file (FGS, MF, THD). At least one adult and four immatures are believed to have been present for varying intervals between 14 July and 25 August. A more complete account is in *The Kingbird* (29: 2-4; 1979).
- PURPLE GALLINULE** (*Porphyryla martinica*): 1978-11-A; adult; Kew Gardens, Queens Co., 11 May, photograph on file (THD). This bird was captured exhausted and photographed in hand; it disappeared after having been released at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 13 May.
- PIPING PLOVER** (*Charadrius melodus*): 1978-11-A; adult; Sandy Pond, Oswego Co., 27 May, photograph on file (PDeB). 1978-31-A, B; adult; Sylvan Beach, Oneida Co., 3 to 13 Oct., photographs on file (DWC, DDA). Inland reports.
- WILSON'S PLOVER** (*Charadrius wilsonia*): 1978-12-A; female; Great Kills Park, Richmond Co., 21-22 May, photograph on file (THD).
- MARbled GODWIT** (*Limosa fedoa*): 1978-30-A, B; one, Sylvan Beach, Oneida Co., 19 Sept. to 15 Oct., photographs on file (PDeB, DWC). Inland report.
- CALIFORNIA GULL** (*Larus californicus*): 1978-34-A; adult in basic plumage; Rockland Lake, Rockland Co., 4 Oct. 1978 to early Jan. 1979, photographs on file (PDeB). This is the first record for New York State and the entire Northeast.
- SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*): 1978-19-A; adult in prebasic molt; Block Canyon, 80 mi. s. Montauk Point, Suffolk Co., 8 Oct. (THD).
- BOREAL OWL** (*Aegolius funereus*): 1978-19-A; one; Durand Eastman Park, Rochester, Monroe Co., 4 Feb. (RGS).

- HAWK OWL** (*Surnia ulula*): 1978-1-A; one; Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 18 and 23 Feb. (DRG).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscivora forficata*): 1978-33-A; adult; Spring Creek Park, Howard Beach, Queens Co., 22-27 Oct., photographs on file (THD).
- MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (*Sialia currucoides*): 1978-3-A, B; male; Hyde Park, Dutchess Co., 17-21 March, photographs on file (DWC, HCM). Third state record, all since the winter of 1974-75.
- TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** (*Dendroica townsendi*): 1978-8-A, B; adult female, Hickory Grove Road, Town of New Haven, Oswego Co., 11 May, photographs on file (DWC, FGS). This is the second substantiated report for New York, made only four days after the first (*The Kingbird* 28: 150-151; 1978), and is the first report for upstate New York.
- WILSON'S WARBLER** (*Wilsonia pusilla*): 1978-27-A; female, nest with 4 eggs; North Meadow, Town of North Elba, Essex Co., 1 July (JMCP). A full account of this first proven nesting in New York appears in *The Kingbird* (28: 215-220; 1978).
- PAINTED BUNTING** (*Passerina ciris*): 1978-35-A; female; Town of West Monroe, Oswego Co., 7 June; photographs on file (DEE). This bird was mist-netted and photographed in hand; it showed no signs of prior captivity.
- HOARY REDPOLL** (*Carduelis hornemanni*): 1978-2-A; "female"; Pompey Township, 13-15 Feb., trapped, banded, and photographed in the hand (*The Kingbird* 28: 91-93; 1978), photographs on file (DWC). 1978-15-A; two "females"; Eggertsville, Erie Co., one 3-14 March, the other 14-30 March (A & BM). 1978-21-A; "female"; Webster, Monroe Co., 26 Feb. 1978 (RGS). 1978-23-A; "female"; Greece, Monroe Co., 9-10 April (FD). 1978-36-A; "female"; Pompey Township, 16 March (DWC). These reports, photographs of a bird at Rye, Westchester Co. (*American Birds* 32: 404; 1978), and others noted without details in several of *The Kingbird* Regional Reports suggest that this was the largest influx of Hoary Redpolls ever recorded in New York State.
- LARK BUNTING** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): 1978-9-A; male; East Northport, Suffolk Co., 14 Jan. to 3 May; photographs on file (THD).
- HARRIS' SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia querula*): 1978-4-A; subadult (?); Crane Neck Point, Old Field, Setauket, Suffolk Co., 10 April-7 May (CFW).

In addition, photographs of a Fulvous Whistling-Duck present at Pennellville, Oswego Co., in May 1976 were received and placed on file without formal review.

1978 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

LOUISIANA HERON: 1978-13; Cruger's Island, Dutchess Co., 13 April.

SANDHILL CRANE: 1978-7; Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 8 May. 1978-18; Huntington Bay, Suffolk Co., 19 Aug. 1978-22; Oak Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Cayuga Co., 2 April. 1978-26; Braddock's Bay, Monroe Co., 22 May. While it generally will be our policy not to comment on records not accepted, in this case we note that all reports refer to birds seen at great distances only and that report 1978-22 is accompanied by a photograph of a bird identifiable as a crane but not to species.

COMMON EIDER: 1978-20; Irondequoit Bay Inlet, Monroe Co., 6 Feb.

GYRFALCON: 1978-28; East Norwich, Nassau Co., 27 Sept.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: 1978-24; Fairport, Monroe Co., 19 May.

LAUGHING GULL: 1978-25; west of Rochester, Monroe Co., 21 May.

NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 1978-5; Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 24 April.

The NYSARC treats all of the noteworthy records from the Federation's pelagic trip of 20 May (*The Kingbird* 28: 198; 1978) as having come from Rhode Island or Massachusetts waters. One report from 1978 is still under review.

A function commonly assumed by state records committees is the maintenance of an official state list. We have begun such a review, taking Bull (1974, 1976) as the starting point. A total of 416 species was accepted either by Bull or in our report above. To this list we add:

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*): specimen collected at 39°48' N, 71°02' W, 18 August 1953 (*Auk* 72: 81-82; 1955). This location, often cited relative to Montauk Point, lies outside the area treated by Bull but within the marine boundary as defined by the NYSARC.

The NYSARC agrees that the following list of species, reported only vaguely from New York and treated as hypothetical by Bull, are correctly excluded from the list of birds known to have occurred within the State: American Flamingo, Trumpeter Swan, Red-crested

Pochard, Crested Caracara, Chukar, and Common Ground Dove.

Reports of the following species, although published in *The Kingbird*, also are not accepted by the NYSARC:

LITTLE SHEARWATER: *The Kingbird* 17: 86. The identity was originally published as tentative only.

MEW GULL: *The Kingbird* 27: 179-180. Newly acquired information makes the identity of this bird much less certain than before. More detailed accounts are in preparation by Lauro and by DeBenedictis.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: *The Kingbird* 13: 23-24. This report was also rejected by Bull.

The remaining species listed as hypothetical by Bull or reported subsequently in the literature are presently under review. The NYSARC has been unable to locate detailed accounts of any of the reports of South Polar Skua, Lewis' Woodpecker, Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Golden-crowned Sparrow from New York. We solicit such documentation, preferably with copies of original field notes, for these and any other species not accepted as having occurred within New York State by Bull or in this report.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul DeBenedictis, Chairman
Robert F. Andrlé
Kenneth P. Able
Thomas H. Davis, Jr.
Robert O. Paxton

LITERATURE CITED

- Bull, J. 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press, N.Y.
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OBSERVATIONS ON WATERBIRDS AT JEROME PARK RESERVOIR DURING THE COLD WINTER OF 1976-1977

WALTER SEDWITZ

The winter of 1976-1977 was among the most severe in recent memory in the northeastern United States. The coldest weather began on December 26, 1976, when, following a three-inch snowfall, the temperature dropped below 32° F., to remain there with few interruptions until February 24, 1977. Strong northwesterly winds abetted the cold, and most of our regional inland waters froze. In Bronx County, the Hudson River was full of ice floes as far as the eye could see, while the Harlem River, the Harlem Ship Canal, and the shallow coves at Spuyten Duyvil were frozen over or motionless in a landscape of jammed ice. Only two places I visited in Bronx County during this period had open water: the Bronx River at 233rd Street and Jerome Park Reservoir.

During this two-month period of arctic weather, the writer made frequent trips to Jerome Park Reservoir, in an attempt to see how the waterbirds responded to these profound changes in their environment. Visits were made to the reservoir on December 26, 1976, and on January 2, 8, 19, February 6, 9, 11, 12, 16, 19, 21, 24, and 27, 1977. On each date counts were made of every species present, and notes were taken on the location of birds within the reservoir and on the behavior of the birds.

Conditions at the reservoir changed during the period of observation. Although the reservoir was open on December 26, by January 2 it was about 80% frozen, with ice covering all but the southwest section; under the west side pumping station all of the ducks were crowded in this small remaining area of open water. The northern half of the reservoir was not only frozen, but covered with snow, which resisted the sun's warmth and retarded melting. The land surrounding the reservoir was also snow-covered. Within the reservoir the limited open water attracted the ducks, while the gulls resorted to the areas of ice. By January 19, open water had been reduced to three small, elliptical pools near the center of the reservoir. From this time on, the amount of open water gradually increased, so that by February 20, just before the ice broke up, about 60% of the reservoir was ice-free.

General Observations

During a normal winter, the ducks feed mainly at night, returning

to the reservoir at dawn. It became apparent that during this severe weather, ducks fed at all hours of the day and night. With the estuaries covered by ice, the ducks were pressed to search out those places where the tide and the wind created transient patches of open water. Typical of such places were sewer outlets, parts of protected bays, and stretches of shoreline temporarily free of ice. The reservoir's ducks took every opportunity to search for food in such places, whatever the time of day.

In contrast, the three common wintering gulls, the Herring, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed, seemed to be scarcely inconvenienced by the low temperatures and high winds. There were, however, two changes from the birds' usual behavior. Although there were areas of open water at the reservoir even on the coldest days, the gulls invariably stayed on the ice. This habit persisted even when large areas of open water were available. This behavior was puzzling, since most of the feeding activities, other than foraging at garbage dumps, is directly related to the water or the littoral. Secondly, a restlessness pervaded the large gatherings of gulls on the ice; small portions of the flock would fly up all at once, circle about at a low altitude, while calling as if disturbed, and then return to the group of resting birds. Such behavior was not noted during a normal winter, and may have been related to the fact that the birds spent far longer resting on the ice. Being surface-feeding birds, gulls were able to exploit smaller areas of open water; this and their greater feeding range evidently made them less vulnerable to the effects of the severe weather.

In addition to the cold and the ice, another hazard was presented to the birds. On February 4, a large barge, the *Ethel H*, struck a shoal in the Hudson River just south of Bear Mountain, Orange Co., and spilled 420,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil into the river. Within days, oil-stained gulls and ducks began to appear at Jerome Park Reservoir.

Species Accounts

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). A single bird, calling, was present on the ice on February 2.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). This species is the only waterbird breeding at the reservoir. There was no invasion of large numbers during the frigid weather; numbers remained normal, with up to 29 birds on any one day, throughout the period.

Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). Daily variations in numbers, ranging from four to 100 birds, suggest that this species moves about readily and is less reservoir-bound than the Mallard. On February

9, with no Black Ducks on the water, a group of eight birds flew across the ice, coming from the direction of Van Cortlandt Park and heading southeast. Perhaps this mobile species, as well as the Mallard, moved to the varied feeding areas at Clason Point and Ferry Point Park, on the southern shore of Bronx County, both favored feeding sites for these species all year. As in the case of the Mallard, the numbers of birds evidently represented local populations, with nothing to indicate any invasion from outside the area.

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*). A flock of six wigeons was seen on February 16, burrowing into deep snow, evidently in search of plant material at ground level.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). Although some winters see good numbers of this species on the reservoir during freezes, there was only a single record, of one bird on January 8, during the period. This may indicate that the species withdrew from the area during the severe weather.

Redhead (*Aythya americana*). This species appeared at the reservoir in unusually large numbers during the severe weather, with at least one bird present on most days, and as many as 34 on February 9. A few birds remained in March. Some of the birds were oil-stained. Even in the severest cold, courtship activity was noted. As in the case of the Canvasback, the ratio of males to females was two or three to one.

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*). When the reservoir was almost entirely frozen, this species occupied the small area of open water below the pumping station on the west side of the reservoir, in numbers that varied from 246 to 1026 birds. Here they remained in a single compact flock, with small parties of birds rising from the dense mass of birds, circling the reservoir at low altitude, and then rejoining the resting birds. On February 6, with the widening of the open water, this species, along with American Coots, Mallards and Black Ducks, occupied the east side of the reservoir. The original flock now broke into three flocks of approximately equal size, more or less evenly spaced over the southern half of the reservoir. It was during this period, on February 11, that a maximum of 1560 birds was counted. Several sightings of Canvasbacks away from the reservoir, at Spuyten Duyvil or on the nearby Hudson River, before mid-day, suggested that the population at the reservoir was traveling to these points in pursuit of food. It was

evident that there was a great deal of shifting about within the region, presumably in search of food; besides several flocks seen flying over Riverdale at all times of day, a flock was seen trying to land on the Bronx River at 233rd Street at dusk on February 10, only to be scared off by traffic on the Bronx River Parkway. On February 27, when about 950 birds were resting on the north embankment of the reservoir, I noted that more than ten percent of the birds were oiled.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*). Single males were noted on February 9 and February 27, each time in mixed flocks of ducks.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). This species was not present every day on the reservoir, and when present varied in numbers from a single bird on February 16 to 80 birds on February 9 and 190 on February 11. This species is undoubtedly affected by the condition of the estuaries to the south of the reservoir, and appears to be less dependent on the reservoir as a fresh-water refuge than the Canvasback. The irregular appearances of the Lesser Scaup at Jerome Park Reservoir suggest that the species uses this locality more as a temporary stopover, and resorts to the rivers and estuaries for both feeding and resting.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). A male and a female were present in a mixed flock of diving ducks on February 9.

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). Single males were seen at the reservoir on February 9 and March 6; this species made very short visits, never staying more than a day or two. Its presence usually coincided with a movement of Lesser Scaup or Canvasback.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). Twenty-five birds were seen at the reservoir on December 26, and the species was then unrecorded until February 11, when eight birds were present. Thereafter the birds were only occasionally recorded, in numbers less than a half a dozen. It is possible that some birds were overlooked among the large numbers of diving ducks. The numbers and the distribution of records did not differ from that seen in a normal winter.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). This species was recorded only once, on February 27, when a bird was seen flying along the eastern side of the reservoir at sunset.

American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Twenty-five birds were present at the reservoir on December 26, before the freeze; one or two birds were recorded occasionally thereafter.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). This species was present at the reservoir in numbers varying from a single bird on January 8 to 175 on February 9. The Great Black-backed Gull seemed less affected by the severe weather than the Herring Gull. The presence of several oil-stained birds suggested that the Hudson River was a feeding area for at least some of the Jerome Reservoir population.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Whether the reservoir was frozen or not Herring Gulls invariably gathered in the center of the reservoir, along the north-south axis. A remarkable high count of about 7000 birds was present on January 19, coinciding with a very cold period, with northerly winds and newly fallen snow; at least half of these birds were in subadult plumages. This may have been a movement of birds from regions of more persistent cold and ice than ours, perhaps of birds in the process of passing through our area in search of milder conditions. The population at the reservoir otherwise varied from about 235, on January 8, to about 1850, on February 11. During the most severe weather, the usual flights of birds to the reservoir from the east and northeast ceased, and birds approached from the south and southwest, presumably coming from feeding areas closeby.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). Counts of this species varied from zero, on January 19 and February 6, to 198 on February 9. This variation in numbers reflected the fact that this species had other gathering sites, among them the Parade Ground at Van Cortlandt Park. When present, the Ring-billeds gathered in close flocks either at the extreme southern end of the reservoir or at the far northern end, always separated from the flocks of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls.

525 West 235th Street, The Bronx, New York 10460

OBITUARY

Herbert Axel Johnson
August 16, 1910 – March 8, 1979

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Herbert Axel Johnson died of cancer on March 8, 1979, at his home in Rocky Point, Long Island.

Herb Johnson was the superintendent of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge from its inception in 1953 as part of the New York City Parks Dept., until 1972 when it became part of the Gateway National Recreational Area of the National Park Service.

In winter there are splendid arrays of waterfowl. In spring, and fall, the mudflats shimmer with the restlessness of shorebirds. Fall also brings the excitement of the falcon flights.

But this was not the case before Herb's tenure. Besides if there was an interesting bird, it was an unpleasant place to be because it was part of what people called "Garbage Park." They were referring to Jamaica Bay which was overwhelmed by sewage, transient dumping and unchecked hunting. Herb's wife Nettie remembers that the Refuge "looked like the Sahara Desert," when they first arrived. However, it was this "desert" that precipitated Herb Johnson's appointment by then NYC Parks Commissioner Robert Moses.

The "desert" was there at Mr. Moses' request. It consisted of large piles of sand dredged up from the bay bottom by the Transit Authority which had used it to build a viaduct for the subway's surface extension. It happened that the route ran along the edge of land that Mr. Moses had acquired for park purposes in 1938 to stop the Sanitation Commissioner from imposing a dump on that land. Since the Transit Authority wanted to use part of the land, Mr. Moses arranged that the sand piles be used for impoundments to attract birds. These are the ponds known to birders today as West Pond and East Pond.

The sandy impoundments needed planting so they would not erode. Indeed, the Refuge needed a Superintendent. This was one of the recommendations of Dr. Clarence Cottam, Assistant Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who surveyed the area at Mr. Moses' request. Mr. Moses knew the right man for the job.

The Park Commissioner first met Herb at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Mr. Moses was directing it. Herb was a foreman in the NYC Parks Department. Herb knew horticulture from the time he could walk.

Herb's father, also Herbert Axel Johnson, was a gardener on the estate of John D. Rockefeller in Tarrytown, N.Y., where Herb was born on August 16, 1910. His mother was Hanna Johnson. Later the father moved his family to Long Island where he worked as a gardener on estates. It was only natural for Herb to join the NYC Parks Department as a gardener.

During World War II he served with the Airborne Engineers in the U.S. Air Force. After the war he studied horticulture at the Long Island Agricultural and Technological Institute in Farmingdale, N.Y. Following graduation from the two-year program, he rejoined the NYC Parks Department where much of his work was on golf courses. He performed soil tests and did plantings. In fact, he was sent to the Pelham Bay Park to start a laboratory to grow grasses for putting greens.

Looking back it almost seems as if everything Herb had been learning had been leading up to his appointment. Herb was the man even though a wildlife sanctuary certainly differs from a putting green. As it turned out, this was to be an extraordinary match of a human being and a wild area.

Despite freezing winds, Herb started working immediately when he arrived in February of 1953. He and a six man crew dug up beach grass and brought the plants by outboard to the marshy islands that together with the surrounding waters comprise the 12,000 acres of Refuge. They trimmed, divided and pushed thousands of plants into the sand with a machine that Herb converted from a cabbage planter.

Herb brought healing to this wounded land. The land responded. The first summer Black Ducks nested there. The next year there were nesting Ruddy Ducks and Blue-winged Teal. Two pairs of Northern Shovelers raised young on the West Pond in 1956. Two years later there were two pairs of Common Gallinules. People wondered if Gadwalls would nest and a few years later they did.

In the spring of 1954, Herb took his men and headed farther out on Long Island to the Great South Bay. Working from boats and using post hole diggers, they dug up quantities of eelgrass. By nightfall, the shallow waters of the Refuge had been planted with eelgrass in the hope that it would attract Brant. Whether this was the actual cause, the numbers of Brant at the Refuge did increase. Whatever the case, it showed the efforts Herb would undertake to bring in the birds.

The Japanese black pines, Russian olive bushes, willows, and other plants growing so abundantly on the Refuge came from seed that Herb gathered at places like Jacob Riis Park in New York City and Jones Beach State Park farther out on Long Island. He planted the seeds in a garden by the house where he, Nettie and their daughter, Christine, lived on the Refuge. Then he transplanted them.

The Refuge flourished under Herb's touch and Herb's interest in birds matured and grew at the same time. You could tell this from the pair of binoculars he always carried in the cab of the pickup truck he used to make rounds. He became one of the leading birders of the New York area, but he was not a birder when he took on the job, even though a major part of his responsibility involved plantings for birds. He therefore made an intensive effort to learn about birds and their needs. He read books. He went to the American Museum of Natural History to talk with Dean Amadon, and other leading ornithologists. Herb joined ornithological organizations—the Queens County Bird Club, the Linnaean Society of New York, the National Audubon Society and the American Ornithologists' Union. He often attended meetings of all these groups. In 1972 he and Nettie flew to the International Ornithological Congress at The Hague in the Netherlands.

He became a favorite of people who love and work to save wild areas. He was presented awards for his accomplishments at the Refuge by the New York City Parks Council in 1968 and the National Audubon Society in 1970.

Herb became a favorite of local birders. This was shown at his retirement when on January 11, 1973, in Whitestone, N.Y., the Queens County Bird Club honored him at the first testimonial dinner in their 45 year history. A total of 141 persons attended, many being representatives of at least eight other nature groups.

Among the gifts he received was a weather vane for the roof of his new home at Rocky Point. Designed by wildlife artist John Cameron Yrizarry, it was in the shape of a Glossy Ibis. It was in the summer of 1961 that Herb, Peter Post and Paul Buckley found three Glossy Ibis nests with eggs in them at the Refuge. This was the first known nesting of this species for New York State. Herb took particular personal satisfaction in this. He had a right to feel this way considering that the 315 species recorded at the Refuge as of August, 1978 include many that returned, nested again, or showed up for the first time (as far as birders knew) after he began his restoration.

What George Barr wrote in the Queens County Bird Club newsletter, *News and Notes*, following the testimonial can be repeated again at this time, "We shall all miss big, good-natured Herb, with his boyish grin, standing at the Refuge entrance, patiently answering our inevitable opening query, 'Anything good around today, Herb?'"

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT ARBIB

It was a rather cool, wet spring. Those weather conditions that result in massive "waves" of birds, with warblers dripping from the trees, never materialized for most regions. To some it was a disappointing season, with relatively uneventful weather (with one or two exceptions) and yet, miraculously, when it was over every migrant species had come through—almost all of them on or close to schedule—and breeding was proceeding normally. Some of us wanted to shout "Hey! Go back and start again!" They will do that for us next year.

March began with snow cover over half the state, still deep in some areas, but a succession of mild days, with south to southwest winds, moved the snowline slowly northward. The wind shifted to northwest on March 15, followed by two days of light precipitation; on the 16th the temperature dropped 36° F. overnight, and the winds stayed north for the next week. A warm front on the 23rd changed everything and brought temperatures into the 70's the next day—the day the ice went out on Lake Ontario. From then on, southwest winds were the dominant factor until April 6. That day, with a massive low over Nova Scotia and strong northwest winds (to 63 mph in Syracuse) the state was treated to its final winter storm, with six to nine inches of snow upstate. The bad weather continued through April 10, and northwest winds continued to bring chilly weather through the 20th. Snow on the ground, except for the high peaks, was gone April 15.

From April 20 on there was a gradually warming trend, with westerly breezes until the 26th, when the winds turned southerly and brought rain. The ice on Upper St. Regis Lake went out April 27. May, as expected, continued the warming trend, and westerly and southerly winds predominated. The last snowfall at Paul Smiths was on May 6. May 9, 10, and 12 were unusually warm—to 90° in many areas, but soon a high moved east and then stalled over the ocean bringing cooler weather, the period ending in a cloudy, wet week with temperatures reaching only into the 60's.

Now let us pause for a moment and try to discern, from this weather picture only, which days might have been outstanding for the perception of bird migration. We must recognize at the outset that New York State is large, sprawling, and varied in terrain; state-

wide generalities are risky at best. Some fronts crawl across the state or near it, bringing fairly uniform conditions; others race through and a fall-out at Buffalo may completely miss Albany. We must remember too that what we perceive as "waves" may in reality be several different phenomena. One might be a precipitation of night migrants grounded by bad weather (a cold front, usually) *en route*, or it might be the natural endpoint of a normal night's migration. It might even result from a gradual build-up locally of migrants that have trickled in and are held up by local bad weather. And a paucity of birds where we are, may only mean that a massive flight overflowed us the previous night. There is a further trap for the analyst: is that apparent weekend wave a real one, or an overnight precipitation of birders?

Reviewing the weather summary for this season for New York State, one would predict, with the escape clauses suggested above, a good showing of early March arrivals, especially waterfowl, a slowdown or halt in mid-month, a resumption on the 23rd, an even better period from March 30 to April 5, a halt during the stormy April 6-10 period, a rather poor showing until April 23, excellent birding April 22 to 24 and 26 to 28, and a rather uneventful May, with best days May 8 thru 10 and 12, May 17 thru 19, and May 28 thru 30. And that is almost exactly how it happened.

Two regions, Susquehanna (4) and Hudson-Mohawk (8) had not reported at the time of this writing.

Events

The period was not without excitement. For those lucky enough to be in the right places (Braddock Bay and Derby Hill) at the right times, it was the best migration of raptors in modern memory; both lookouts were staffed daily and the Moons at Braddock Bay logged a record-breaking 31,218 individuals, including 18,729 Broad-wingeds, 4848 Sharp-shinneds, 2659 Red-taileds, five Peregrines, and a Swainson's Hawk. The best days were April 14, 25, and 26. At Derby Hill, less than 100 miles to the east, the best days were March 23 and April 26, with a spectacular Broad-winged flight of 8909 birds on the 28th. Gerald Smith and David Muir kept daily watch there, resulting in a grand total of 54,000+ individuals. Another Swainson's was found here too—not the same bird. A comparison of the two tables published with the reports of regions 2 and 5 would seem to indicate that the two lookouts are not entirely on the same flightline.

A not-so-edifying event happened near Newburgh in mid-March, when a farmer applied Parathion to his frozen fields, only to kill 5-10,000 assorted blackbirds, Starlings, robins, and a few pheasants. At first the farmer insisted that he had spread only fertilizer, but chemical analysis of the victims proved otherwise, and the unrepentant culprit was fined \$1200, a lesson we hope was noted statewide. Ed Treacy notes without details an immense blackbird flight there March 19, of a million plus birds overhead in a half hour's time. It would be instructive if we were told how such an estimate was made.

Finger Lakes (Region 3) reports an excellent waterfowl migration, with 50,000 Canada Geese at Montezuma N.W.R. in April, and 10,000 Snows there in March. It was even better on the Niagara Frontier, where a record 87,717 Canadas were at Iroquois N.W.R. April 10, while Region 2 reported 100,000 along the lakeshore on March 18. The shorebird flight was not sensational, but Region 2 had interesting finds and a late flight at El Dorado May 30 totaled 3225 birds, including a Long-billed Dowitcher and a Purple Sandpiper.

Finally, fine pelagic birding with skuas and other fancies, was reported for several offshore trips originating from Long Island, but alas, some of the birds seen were miles from New York State waters. It is time *The Kingbird* admits that Cox's Ledge belongs either to Rhode Island or Massachusetts, and that birds seen east or northeast of mid-channel between Block Island and Montauk Point must not be reported as Region 10 birds, nor should they enter New York State literature. The facetious argument that the bird is acceptable on state lists if the boat sailed from a New York port is just preposterous; by the same argument a one-day jaunt from Manhattan to Cape May could add birds to a New York State list. If the lister wants to keep a personal list of "Birds seen in New York State or on one-day trips originating therein" that is fine, but the out-of-state birds should not enter New York ornithology.

Lingerers

Winter lingers well into March in our state, and although this past winter brought no northern finches south, we did have some visitors that lingered. The last of the invading Great Gray Owls vanished from Lloyd Neck on March 29; the last of the few Snowy Owls lingered both in Buffalo and Region 5 until March 13, and the latest (only) Boreal Owl at Northrup Creek March 6. A (disabled?) Red-throated Loon was at Great Gull Island on a very late May 24, while a Boreal Chickadee astonished observers at Braddock Bay May 29. Bohemian

Waxwing tarried to April 3 at Ithaca, Varied Thrush at Mastic, L.I., through March 17, and the Rockland Lake California Gull made his curtain call March 11. A Northern Shrike was in Region 5 to April 12, and a Pine Grosbeak to March 10 in Amity township Region 1.

Earlybirds

One searches with some difficulty for notations of birds that returned on record early dates but this was simply not the year. There are many more comments that birds either arrived on time or were late: the small landbird migrants in many cases two to three weeks later than normal. However, a Ruff at Sagaponack March 7 thru 10 was early, as was a White-eyed Vireo April 8 at Hempstead Lake and a Black-throated Green Warbler at Ithaca April 10. Also a Great Crested Flycatcher at Point Breeze April 26, a Swainson's Thrush at Hemlock Lake April 20, and Common Tern at Great Gull Island April 21, the earliest ever!

Rarities

Each Regional Editor has conveniently listed his or her season's rarities, and since they defy analysis, and in the interest of saving space, we merely select here our top statewide birds, in order of splendor. At the very top, because it is a bird new to the state, is Staten Island's two (probably not a pair) Mississippi Kites, that frequented the locust-loud groves around LaTourette Park, May 26 to June 29. Second must be another kite—Swallow-tailed, which put in a brief appearance at Brookhaven, L.I., May 5. Tied for third were the two Swainson's Hawks, and fifth might be another Swainson's—this time Warbler—seen by many in Central Park. A remarkable five spring Baird's Sandpipers appeared, one each in Regions 2 and 6, and three in Region 9. Then comes the Cinnamon Teal at Elmira, the White Pelican at Montezuma, the two Sandhill Cranes in Region 2 and one in Region 5, Common Eider at El Dorado, and that California Gull, which would be tied for first if it hadn't been hooked on that junk food at Rockland Lake since the last season. Lastly, Region 5's first Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

Overshoots

Rarities of a lesser magnitude, because they represent East Coast residents that have ventured north of their recognized ranges (but might well be pioneers of a range expansion) included a remarkable number of Summer Tanagers, 24 of which were in Region 10, the aforementioned kites and Swainson's Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackles

at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge April 21, a Yellow-breasted Chat in Region 6, and scattered Blue Grosbeaks.

Absentees

The various regions report separately on species that seemed either scarcer than usual this spring, or were no-shows. A consensus would seem to be that Upland Sandpipers, *Empidonaces*, hummingbirds, Horned Larks, kinglets, chats, Purple Finches, Palm Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Vesper Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows, and all the thrushes, particularly Gray-cheeked, belong in this category. Most of these judgments are subjective, others reflect real and verifiable population declines. One of the major functions of the season reports is to monitor the rise and fall of species' numbers. The birds you don't see may be more newsworthy than the ones you see.

Odds and End

Dutchess County's only Great Blue heronry disappeared this year—bad news. A pair of Gull-billed Terns returned to near its pioneering nesting grounds at Cedar Beach. An exceptional movement of Gannets along Long Island's south shore was observed on March 24, with several hundred birds/hour counted. Fish Crows nested near Ithaca.

The highlights summary is just that, a summary. There is no way that every meaningful record listed on the pages that follow can be noted here. The reports themselves are a mine of information, albeit tough digging, but worth the mining, refining, and hammering into that precious metal: knowledge.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

In this gentle season of lovely scents, sights and sounds, this special time of fresh beginnings and delightful anticipation, it is pure poverty and a monstrous shame to be wall-bound from Nature's joyous offerings. Admittedly, there were times when four walls and a roof were welcome this spring, even though it was more dry than usual and about ten days ahead of normal. Tree foliage developed early, but the low precipitation held back grasses and shallow-rooted shrubs, encouraging low nesting. During March, which was 3.7° F. (2.1° C.) warmer than usual, a high pressure system brought a good overflight of geese and swans the weekend of the 11th, and by the end of the month, small lakes and ponds were ice-free for the good numbers of April waterfowl. April temperatures were

near normal, but a savage wind, ice and snow storm on the 6th, which closed roads and downed power lines, also downed migrating birds, to the delight of feeder watchers. Unusually high temperatures the first three weeks of May brought the average for the month to 2.6° F. (1.4° C.) above normal in spite of the cold, rainy period between the 24th and 29th. During these six days, it rained every day, a total of 1.2 inches (3 cm.), and temperatures hung at about 50° F. (10° C.) with little overnight change, while bluebird and chickadee young died in their nests. Several species, including Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds, deserted their eggs—discouraged by the dismal weather.

Spring positives include 1) a good loon flight; 2) an intriguing goose story; 3) an exceptionally fine breeding year for Wood Ducks; 4) many Broad-winged and Marsh Hawks as well as Ospreys and American Kestrels; 5) good numbers of Ruffed Grouse; 6) an exciting inland flight of dowitchers; 7) splendid numbers of faithful, prompt reporters, recording not only species, but *numbers* (Limited funding for projects to preserve wildlife makes groups such as ours invaluable!); 8) stable status for both cuckoos; 9) most flycatchers doing slightly better with Great Crested Flycatchers about double last year's population; 10) acceptable numbers of Bank and Tree Swallows and Purple Martins; 11) lots of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers; 12) more than usual Brown Thrashers, with a record early nesting; 13) proliferating Warbling Vireos and Yellow Warblers; 14) a few finches to brag about and many Scarlet Tanagers, the latter feeding on pine tortoise scale; and 15) better numbers of Savannah Sparrows and a huge Fox Sparrow flight.

Spring negatives include 1) continued low numbers of Red-tailed Hawks and fewer Red-shouldered; 2) not many more pheasants and a poor Turkey season; 3) a reduced woodcock population, no Upland Sandpipers, and almost no Screech Owls; 4) Eastern Phoebes barely holding their own; 5) Horned Larks with only a pitiful population; 6) poor numbers of Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows; 7) prevailing paucity of titmice, Winter and Carolina Wrens, and Mockingbirds, with House Wrens scarce locally; 8) low numbers of Veeries and both kinglets, and absence of Yellow-breasted Chats; 9) only a few Eastern Meadowlarks; not many Cardinals or Vesper Sparrows; 10) a poor flight of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and the lowest May Census figures in fourteen years for Song Sparrows in Allegany County.

Regional rarities include Mute Swan, White-fronted Goose, Goshawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: AC or MC—April 8 or May 20 Census for Allegany County through the Allegany County Bird Club, compiled by D. Burton; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NP or NS—Nature Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park.

Contributors: Michael Allen, Sharon Baumgardner, Elizabeth Brooks, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Ed Curtis (Weather data, Wellsville), David Freeland, Helen Graves, Harland Hale, Matthew Hotchkiss, Norman Ives, Clarence Klingensmith, Katherine Palmer, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Ann Scott (ASc), James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy, Larry Wilson; and initialed observers: Robert Andrie,

Flora Elderkin, Marcya Foster, Mary Jordan, Fred Meyer ("Bird Notes," *Olean Times Herald*), John Morse, William Rebovich, Michael Zebehazy.

LOONS-DUCKS: The best spring count of Com. Loons was ten at Cuba L. April 10 thru 30. More than usual Red-necked Grebes were found with max six at Dunkirk Harbor Mar. 3, but the peak of the Horned Grebe migration was but 31 at Lippert's pits Apr. 7. A Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Iroquois NWR Apr. 22, the only report. Although Great Blue and Green Herons are doing well, some other long-legged waders were scarce, including: single Great Egrets at Newstead Sinks Apr. 26, at Tonawanda WMA Apr. 28 and at Iroquois NWR Apr. 29; single Black-crowned Night Herons at S. Buffalo Apr. 10 and 12 and at Tiff Farm Apr. 12; a Least Bittern at Tiff Farm May 22; and single Am. Bitterns at four Allegany Co. locations. A MUTE SWAN appeared at Times Beach May 20 thru 31 (DF), possibly the same bird as was here last summer. When added together, the three largest reports of Whistling Swans make a fine flight; 198 at Clarence and Newstead with 229 in the Oak Orchard area the same day, Mar. 17, and 106 at Tonawanda WMA Apr. 1. The best concentration of Canada Geese was 87,717 at Iroquois NWR Apr. 10 (Olsen, WR)—a record number. Four pairs in Allegany Co. brought off 17 yg., but the goose story of the season is of the pair nesting outside the Clarks' living room window at Farmersville Sta. in early April. The first egg was laid in six inches of snow! Two goslings hatched May 19 and a half-dozen wild Canadas visited them daily—a first for wild Canadas coming in at this refuge during May. A very rare WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was identified at Oak Orchard WMA Mar. 18 (RA+) and at Iroquois NWR Apr. 10 (WR) (same bird?)—the fourth consecutive year for the species in our Region. Reports of Snow Geese totaled at least 14 white morph and seven blue. Maxima for spring dabbling ducks were: Mallard 31 Allegany Co. in Apr.; Black Duck nine Amity Twp. Apr. 10 (Regional total 23); Gadwall four Tonawanda WMA Mar. 11; Pintail 200 Oak Orchard area Mar. 25; Green-winged Teal—bank to bank—200 Oak Orchard area Apr. 22 (DF+); Blue-winged Teal 24 Randolph Mar. 29; Am. Wigeon 16 Cuba L. Apr. 11; N. Shoveler nine Iroquois NWR Mar. 31; and Wood Duck at least eight ad and 45 yg Hume Twp. May 21 thru 30. Highest reports for diving ducks were: Redhead eight Scio Twp. Mar. 5; Ring-necked Duck 80 Randolph Mar. 29; Canvasback 600 Times Beach Mar. 4; Scaup (species?) 65 Lippert's pits Apr. 9; Lesser Scaup 13 Cuba L. Mar. 30; Com. Goldeneye nine Lippert's pits Apr. 19; Bufflehead 31 Cuba L. Apr. 1 thru 30; Oldsquaw 40 Allegheny Res. Apr. 11; White-winged Scoter six Allegheny Res. Apr. 19; Ruddy Duck four Amity L. Apr. 17 (Regional total nine); Hooded Merganser seven Iroquois NWR Mar. 31 and Cuba L. Apr. 11; Com. Merganser nine Amity Twp. Mar. 1; and Red-breasted Merganser 50 Allegheny Res. Apr. 14.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: From the few migrating hawk reports, maxima were: Turkey Vulture 25 Oak Orchard area Apr. 21; Sharp-shinned Hawk eight Evans Apr. 28; Red-tailed Hawk 15 Allegany Rd. Apr. 29; and Broad-winged Hawk 35 Allegany Rd. Apr. 29. A total of 34 Turkey Vultures was noted from 13 scattered locations. A GOSHAWK was found for the MC and a total of five were reported from Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties (EB, MA). Usually noted as single birds, resident Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 14 and Cooper's 11. Concluding a good Rough-legged Hawk year were spring reports of 24 birds counted from 13 widespread locations. An adult GOLDEN EAGLE was seen over Evans Apr. 28 (DF+) and a BALD EAGLE appeared at Iroquois NWR Apr. 22, 25 and 26 (JM, Olsen). Encouraging are reports of 21 Marsh Hawks totaled from 14 scattered areas. A MERLIN was verified in the Oak Orchard area Apr. 21 (MF, Pincelli+). As usual, rail reports were few: Virginia Rail one at Clarence Center Apr. 30 and two at Tiff Farm May 8; and two Sora at Times Beach May 22. Eight Com. Gallinules were counted from five locations and max for Am. Coots was only ten at Cuba L. Apr. 20, but 30 (count 'em: thirty!) Com. Snipes were found at Riverside Mar. 27 thru 30 (FE). Better than usual spring numbers of yellowlegs appeared, with high counts 42 Greater at Clarence Sinks Apr. 22 (DF) and 12 Lesser at Cuba L. May 6 (ASc). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were early at Newstead Mar. 25 (MF, DF+). The really exciting sandpiper news is the record numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers at Cuba L.:

92 on May 13 and 127 on May 16 (ASc); seldom seen inland, three remained for the MC on May 20. Noteworthy larid reports include: Glaucous Gull singles Dunkirk Mar. 3 and Cuba L. Mar. 5; max of Bonaparte's Gull away from the Great Lakes, 100 Cuba L. Apr. 20, 67 Amity L. Apr. 20 and 60 Iroquois NWR Apr. 24; and Caspian Tern, two at Cuba L. May 16.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The last of the Snowy Owls for the season were singles at Times Beach Mar. 4 and at Buffalo Harbor Mar. 13. Although only one Long-eared Owl was noted, at Iroquois NWR Apr. 18, six Short-eared Owls were reported from two areas. A Whip-poor-will was found regularly near Alfred May 9 thru 22 (EB), and the only Com. Nighthawks for the Region were singles on the MC and at Clarence May 7 (Freelands). Although five Red-headed Woodpeckers were tallied on the MC, only five areas reported single birds.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Notable flycatcher reports include: E. Kingbird, one arr. ten days early in South Valley Twp. Apr. 14 (FE); Great Crested Flycatcher, 46 on the MC (20 last year); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, one on the MC; E. Wood Pewee, one early at E. Amherst May 4 (DF); and Olive-sided Flycatcher, one at Tiff Farm May 22. The biggest flock of Horned Larks reported was 100 *Eremophila alpestris alpestris* at Alabama Apr. 7. Single COMMON RAVENS were identified: at Little Genesee Mar. 19 (DeGroof), regularly seen here a few years ago; on Rock City hill Mar. 29 (RV, JV); and in Ward Twp. May 18 (EB). Still in trouble, as shown by totals of usually singles, are: Tufted Titmouse ten, Winter Wren three, Carolina Wren three, and Mockingbird five. Thirty (!) Brown Creepers were seen in S. Buffalo Apr. 22 thru 24 (O'Dell). Three Long-billed Marsh Wrens were tallied on the MC and four were found at Tiff Farm May 8. On the Brown Thrasher hangs a tale: a nest with two eggs was found by EB near Alfred May 6, making the first egg the earliest recorded for the State. Mrs. Brooks commented that the female no doubt courted in South Carolina, mated in New Jersey "and built the nest by moonlight!" A total 62 E. Bluebirds were reported from 19 widespread areas; however, of 28 nestlings from seven breeding pairs near Amity L., only 12 survived the cold, rainy spell May 24 thru 27. The four nestlings of a Fillmore pair died at the same time. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen in four locations during the season. From a fair flight of Northern Shrikes nine birds were located from widespread areas, and Loggerhead Shrikes appeared as two on the AC and singles at Iroquois NWR Mar. 17, at Oakfield Mar. 25, in Clarence Apr. 1, and at 4-Mile Creek SP Apr. 13.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Seen on a joint Cattaraugus Co.-Allegany Co. Bird Club field trip May 12 was an obliging WHITE-EYED VIREO at Tuna Creek (RV, JV, VP, EB+), and another of this species showed up at Delaware Park May 18 (DF). Five Yellow-throated Vireos were counted May 10 thru 18 from three locations and two Philadelphia Vireos were seen at Limestone May 15. High notes from the warbler season include: a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER banded by D. Clark at Farmersville Sta. May 7—only the second sighting for Cattaraugus Co., the first being banded here by Mr. Clark about 1969 (Eaton); a WORM-EATING WARBLER at Delaware Park May 3 (DF); a "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER near Amity L. May 15 (VP); an early Magnolia Warbler near Alfred Apr. 26 (EB); single N. Parulas from three areas; max 220 Yellow-rumped Warblers at Foster's L. Apr. 29; a Cerulean Warbler on the MC and two at Clarence Center May 11; an early Blackpoll Warbler at Tiff Farm May 8 (DF), two on the MC and five others counted from three locations; a total of five Pine Warblers, noted from four areas; two late PRAIRIE WARBLERS in Amity Twp. May 5 thru 30 (VP, RP) and two more near Alfred May 9 thru 31 (EB), the latter location a 1978 breeding spot; ten N. Waterthrushes tallied from four sites; a Louisiana Waterthrush on the MC and singles at Limestone Apr. 22 (RV, JV) and near Alfred May 5 (CK); no Yellow-breasted Chats; and single Hooded Warblers near Scio May 7, near Allentown May 14, and near Alfred (banded) May 19 (EB).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: The excellent Rusty Blackbird flight was marked by a max 50 birds near Scio Mar. 16 (DB, LB, MJ). E. Meadowlarks tallied 117 on the AC, third lowest ever, and 79 on the MC, a new low. Evening Grosbeak reported bandings were: 100 at

Limestone during Mar. and Apr. (RV), 85 at Farmersville Sta. during the same two months (DC); and 16 near Alfred in Mar. (EB). Max flock of the well established House Finch was 14 at Eggertsville during March (McKales) and one was banded near Limestone Apr. 21 (RV). Other notable finches were: Pine Grosbeak, two on the AC, one in Allegany SP Mar. 3 (DF), and nine in Amity Twp. Mar. 10 (VP); Com. Redpoll, 16 on the AC; and Pine Siskin, eight on the AC with 12 noted from eight areas. Sparrow reports well worth mentioning include: Grasshopper Sparrow, four on the MC, max four near Alfred May 19 thru 31, and singles at Williamsville May 10 and at Clarence May 30; Henslow's Sparrow, one on the MC and max six at Clarence Apr. 29 and May 11; Chipping Sparrow, max three, early, at E. Amherst Mar. 23 and 31 (DF); Fox Sparrow, 43 on the AC (41 for the whole Region last year), and 30 birds counted from 16 widespread areas; a Lincoln's Sparrow at Clarence Center May 7; and Song Sparrow, 525 on the MC, lowest since 1965. Single Lapland Longspurs were identified for the AC and at Alabama Apr. 7 (MZ), and Snow Buntings were found (number?) south of Arcade Mar. 2 and 8 (DC).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

Call this the "Spring of the Hawks." The count at the Braddock Bay hawk lookout exceeded the previous two years of daily counts by more than 50% at season's end. This was in spite of a preponderance of days with less than ideal winds and large numbers of hawks passing too far inland to be included in the official totals. Generally, while there were exciting periods, and species totals month-by-month and for the season were good, birding seemed very spotty. There were sizable blank stretches at peak season and counts of many species seemed a bit low. An added advantage of the daily staffing of the hawk lookout was that it served also as a clearing center for nearly all observers in the field on a given day, a point to visit, to pass or seek information, or to help count for a while.

As usual, weather was a major determinant of the migration pattern. March was cool and relatively dry. There were only two periods with the temperature reaching 60° F. (16° C.) or more, March 22-24 and 29-31. Snowfall was very light and only on four days. By the 24th, the ice had melted from all the larger bodies of water and most of the smaller ponds. Waterfowl counts were good, migrant early arrival dates very few. April began with a return to winter, building to a major storm with high winds and 9.1 in. (23 cm.) of snow recorded for April 9 and continuing showery and cool through the 16th. A warming trend through the 26th culminated in the major hawk flight of the season. The month ended cool and rainy. May continued April's pattern for the first week. Finally, May 7-11 saw a prolonged hot, sunny period with the winds from the SW. Migrants poured *through*. There were many records suggesting much overshooting by more southerly breeders. Most of the birds flooded past with only brief pauses. It was over all too quickly. In addition, at this point essentially all but

the breeding waterfowl exited completely. The rest of the month was cool, showery and generally with poor winds for migrant flights. Birding was spotty.

Among the seasonal trends, the most obvious is the continued lakeshore concentration of the Region's observers. A good index is that of 381 "noteworthy records" published by the two major bird clubs, only 75 were from areas significantly removed from the lakeshore and of these, 18 were from sites of annual pilgrimages for specific species. Such statistics are self-perpetuating. In fact, though, during the peak migration of May 7 thru 11, there were few birds at many normally excellent inland sites for those who did check. The shoreline concentration of migrants is usually dictated by the geography unless really bad weather forces them down or disperses them inland. Only a cold early May with northerly winds or, later, a prolonged, slow migration will provide the peaks and pockets of the lakeshore at inland sites.

Trends or observations of note among the avian flocks include: low counts of Red-throated Loon; continued lows for "southern" herons; few Black-crowned Night Herons; better counts for several of the diving ducks; a record hawk flight; continued decline of Ring-necked Pheasants; poor shorebirding, particularly along the lakeshore where water levels rose early; low numbers for gulls and terns, generally, though Black Tern is up a bit; Com. Nighthawk still very scarce in the vicinity of Rochester; Carolina Wren and Mockingbird still low due to winter effects of the past several years; Loggerhead Shrike, lakeplain Rufous-sided Towhee, and grassland sparrows (after dispersal from initial arrival) all low and difficult to explain in terms of any habitat change; and migrant finches generally low on an expected cycle. It is not at all obvious that observations of trends in migration have much validity. Long term numerical data are sparse and difficult to analyze, feelings are apt to be highly biased toward memorable extremes of the past, and the whole picture of any migration is overwhelmingly dominated by vagaries of weather patterns on a scale dwarfing the Region. Let the serious population trends be drawn from careful statistical analysis of well run breeding bird surveys.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Mute Swan, White-fronted Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Baird's Sandpiper, Franklin's Gull, Boreal Owl, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Northern (Bullock's) Oriole, Blue Grosbeak.

Abbreviations: ad.—adult; imm.—immature; BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; D—Durand Eastman Park; H—Hamlin Beach State Park area; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; LP—Letchworth State Park; PB—Pt. Breeze area; and WL—West Lakeshore.

Observers: Bill, Brad, & Steve Carlson, Mike Carlson, Carolyn Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Roger Clark, Bill Colman, Paul Conklin, Mike Davids, Fritz Davis, Frank & Robert Dobson, Jeff & Joan Dodge, Jim & Kay Doris, Mike Ehlers, June Feder, Genesee Ornithological Society, Kevin Griffith, Bill Hartranft, Robert & Sandra Hazen, Øivind Jensen, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Bob & Charlotte Ladwig, Steve Lauer, Jim Lenhard, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Peg Magee, Frank & Mary Mattei, Robert & Margaret McKinney, Mike McKeon, Gordon Meade, Mike Menuhin, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Keith Murphy, Frank, Joyce,

& Lon Myers, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Chip Perrigo, Mike & Tom Peter, Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Durward & Lillian Skiff, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauser, Harriet Stride, Dan & Allen Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Clay Taylor, Steve Taylor, David, Mike, & Tom Tetlow, David & Carl Tremmel, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood, and Peter Zachmann.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 170 Pultneyville Apr. 22. Red-throated Loon was low with only: one H May 19; and one Webster May 20, of interest as late dates. Red-necked Grebes staged a moderate flight: max. 79 WL Apr. 20; and late: one Greece May 13. Horned Grebe passed in good numbers, while Pied-billed Grebe was again relatively scarce. Good counts of Double-crested Cormorant were: nine BB May 19; and 10 BB May 28. Wandering herons were again few, represented by: Great Egret: nine records; D Mar. 30 (KD, mob); and BB Mar. 31 (mob), both early; Snowy Egret: two BB May 9 thru 13 (mob); and one H May 15 (CP); **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: one ad. H Apr. 22 (MME, mob); and Cattle Egret: Parma Apr. 22 thru 25; BB Apr. 24; and BB May 15 thru 17, all probably the same bird. Among the waterfowl, swans and geese produced very high counts: Whistling Swan: 264 Carlton Station Mar. 16 (CP); and 282 WL Mar. 18 (F & RD); Canada Goose: est. 100,000 WL Mar. 18 (mob); and Brant; 64 Chili May 28 (JSK), a good inland count. Unusual were: **MUTE SWAN**: one Sodus Bay Mar. 6 (WLL, BCo); Whistling Swan: one Carlton May 20, late; and **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: 4 ad. PB Mar. 14 (RC, CP, BS, mob), dropping out of a snow squall with Canadas. Ducks were generally good this Spring, though out early. Good diving duck counts were: Canvasback: 1000 Sodus Bay Apr. 8; and Ring-necked Duck: 300 WL Mar. 31. This spring's scoter flight was poor. Mergansers were normal with Red-breasted Merganser: max 8000 WL Apr. 22, a typical peak.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Again this season (Feb. 27 to June ?) the Braddock Bay hawk lookout was staffed daily by compilers Laura & Neil Moon and helpers, too numerous to name here, of varying degrees of dedication or patience. A table of peaks and totals for the season best summarizes the picture:

<u>Species</u>	Peak Count	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Totals to May 31</u>		
	<u>1979</u>		<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
Turkey Vulture	209	4/14	1,531	1,059	846
Goshawk	9	3/23	43	39	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,015	4/26	4,848	6,267	1,921
Cooper's Hawk	33	4/14	133	74	59
Red-tailed Hawk	483	4/14	2,659	1,717	1,047
Red-shouldered Hawk	195	3/25	436	181	265
Broad-winged Hawk	6,376	4/25	18,729	7,665	16,472
Rough-legged Hawk	49	4/26	418	442	174
Swainson's Hawk	1	5/20	1	0	0
Golden Eagle	5	4/21	16	12	4
Bald Eagle	4	4/14	22	14	2
Marsh Hawk	147	4/14	556	347	181
Osprey	22	4/26, 5/12	204	82	37
Peregrine Falcon	2	3/25	5	6	1
Merlin	3	4/25	8	4	0
Am. Kestrel	189	4/14	696	679	109
Unidentified <i>Accipiter</i>			46	15	48
Unidentified <i>Buteo</i>			821	438	722
Unidentified eagle			0	2	1
Unidentified falcon			3	7	2
Unidentified			43	17	77
Total			31,218	19,067	21,901

As noted in the introduction, one can certainly see yearly weather effects in the table. Also, some increases in some of the raptors may be inferred; temporary? cyclic?? Again, numbers of records of the rarer raptors were somewhat encouraging. Many of the eagles were immatures again this year. Of special note are two records of melanistic Red-tailed Hawk at BB; and **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one imm. BB May 11 (RC, BS); and one ad. BB May 20 (AK, BP, EV, RB), very carefully observed at very close range. Records of interest away from the hawk lookout include: Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2000 H and Kendall Apr. 25 (CC, RS, AW); and Broad-winged Hawk: 4000 H Apr. 25 (CP), counted in one hour; and 10,000 Kendall Apr. 25 (CC, RS, AW), estimated in 20 min.; and additional records of rarer species: seven Golden Eagles; eight Bald Eagles; three Peregrine Falcons; and five Merlins. For those with special interest in the details of the hawk flight, the daily records are published monthly in *The Goshawk*, May, June, and July issues.

For most observers the gap between hawks and shorebirds suffers from a sort of benign neglect. A few records document the spread of Turkey and the appearance of Bobwhite, both probably from stocking operations. Two different reports of **SANDHILL CRANE** were received: BB Apr. 17 (L & NM, mob); and H to IC May 17 (BS, mob), bird with a damaged right eye, found feeding in a field, then followed along the Lake Ontario Parkway. Shorebirding was generally hampered by high water or no water and revolved around scattered wet spots and ponds. Interesting records include: Whimbrel: one BB May 28 (WLi); Greater Yellowlegs: 38 H Apr. 28; and 40 Murray May 1, good early counts; Lesser Yellowlegs: 46 H Apr. 28; 240 Murray May 2 (RC, BS, mob); and 300 Murray May 4 thru 6 (RC, BS, mob), the latter two exceptional spring counts; Solitary Sandpiper: 30 Murray May 4, 7 (RC, BS, mob); Red Knot: two BB May 26; Pectoral Sandpiper: seven H Mar. 24 (CP, BS), early; and four BB Mar. 24 (M & TT, WLi); **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: one Murray May 1 (RC); Least Sandpiper: one H Apr. 28 (RO, RS), early; and Wilson's Phalarope: one Murray May 15 thru 17; one H May 18; and one BB May 23. Gulls and terns seemed a bit low this season, but there were a number of good records: Glaucous Gull: one BB May 5; and one Kendall May 11, late records; **FRANKLIN'S GULL**: one ad. PB May 30 (ST); Little Gull: one ad. BB Apr. 16 (WLi); and one imm. BB May 18 (ST); Forster's Tern: three BB Apr. 15 (RC); then reported thru the season with counts of one to two.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Owls again provide the bulk of the noteworthy records: Snowy Owl: three Batavia Mar. 18; Long-eared Owl: max. 11 Manitou Mar. 24, a good count; and the Region's 5th **BOREAL OWL**: Northrup Creek Mar. 3 thru 6 (MC, mob), seen and photographed by many from all over the state. Com. Nighthawk still remains very low in the immediate Rochester vicinity. A good high count of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was: 75 WL Apr. 21 (WLi, MAS).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: A very early record was Great Crested Flycatcher: one PB Apr. 26 (WLi). There were several reports of single, migrant Acadian Flycatcher: IC May 12; IC May 15; Bergen Swamp May 18; Manitou May 20; and Chili May 28, all singing birds. Willow Flycatcher: one Webster Park May 9 (RS), heard calling, was very early. E. Wood Pewee: one Penfield May 8, was also early, again certainly associated with the warm spell with good SW breezes. Olive-sided Flycatcher reports were the usual few: one H May 20 (mob); and one IC May 31. Early swallows were: Tree Swallow: one BB Mar. 22; Barn Swallow: one BB Mar. 24; and Purple Martin: one BB Mar. 24 (WLi, CP, mob). An excellent find was **BOREAL CHICKADEE**: one BB May 29 (B & CL). Wren notes include: Winter Wren: one singing D Mar. 6; and Short-billed Marsh Wren: one-three Chili May 8 thru 31 (Jsk, mob); and one-three Greece May 20 thru (RM, mob). Early thrush reports were: Wood Thrush: one Rochester Apr. 29; Swainson's Thrush: one Hemlock Lake Apr. 20 (CC), very early; and Gray-cheeked Thrush: one IC May 8. A good count of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was: 14 BB Apr. 26 (MC, CP). There were the usual scattered reports of migrant Loggerhead Shrike, but most interesting was: two H May 2 thru 18 (RS, mob), exhibiting

what appeared to be breeding behavior, but then simply disappearing. [Note: As has been suggested by many others for rarer breeders, this site was not generally disclosed or frequently or closely visited during the apparent nesting attempt.]

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: There were many good finds in this grouping. Most normally early migrants were 1 to 4 days ahead of last year and on the early side of average. Many of the usual late May arrivals blew in with the May 7 thru 11 hot spell. The best of the records are: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one BB May 9 (CP, CT, mob); one IC May 15 (CP); and one Penfield May 27 (M & RM); **Red-eyed Vireo:** one several locations May 8, early; **Prothonotary Warbler:** one Greece May 10, and one BB May 13; **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Webster Park May 9 (RS); **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one IC May 9 (JK, FDo, mob); one BB May 13 (CP); and one IC May 15 (CP); **Cerulean Warbler:** one Webster Park May 9; **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one D May 8 (L & NM, J & JD, FDo); **Bay-breasted Warbler:** five IC May 7, early; **Blackpoll Warbler:** one IC May 8 (JK), early; **Prairie Warbler:** one BB May 20 (RC, ST, KD, mob); **N. Waterthrush:** one BB Apr. 22 (MC), early; **Louisiana Waterthrush:** one D Apr. 26, scarce on the lakeplain; an explosion of **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** D May 8 (MC, mob); Webster May 8 (WLi); BB May 9 (RM, mob), banded; BB May 13 (JSk, mob); IC May 15 (CP); Manitou May 19 (NM, mob); and BB May 20 (CP, ST, mob); **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** one PB May 27 (CP); **Mourning Warbler:** one IC May 12 (mob); **Yellow-breasted Chat:** four singing IC Rd. May 30 (ST); **Hooded Warbler:** one Irondequoit Apr. 27; and ten LP May 20 (RC, BS); **Wilson's Warbler:** one IC May 8; and **Canada Warbler:** one IC May 9.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: This year there was no record of careful counting of the streams of passerine migrants passing along the lakeshore, though there was casual noting of the fact of their presence, particularly for the May 7 thru 11 period. Notable records in this group include: **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one male singing PB Apr. 24 thru (WLi, mob); and one Parma May 20 (RO, mob); **Orchard Oriole:** one ad. male Pultneyville May 6 (FDa); one imm. male Kendall May 10 (B & CL); seven, three male, four female PB May 20 (S, B & BC), they have bred at this location for several years; one imm. male H May 20 (RS, mob), and one BB May 21 thru 24 (NM, mob); **NO. (BULLOCK'S) ORIOLE:** one ad. male D May 7 thru 9 (AS, mob), apparently only the 4th state record; **BLUE GROSBEAK:** one female PB May 12 (MD, WLi, HM, mob), very rare here, carefully reported; a late Tree Sparrow: Manitou May 8 (RD); a very late Fox Sparrow: Brighton May 1 thru 29 (AW), frequenting a feeder; and an excellent count of Lincoln's Sparrow: 70 WL May 15 (CP).

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. MCILROY

After February's deep freeze, the mild March was a welcome change. Temperature averaged four degrees above normal, with readings in the 50's and 60's the last ten days. Precipitation was slightly below normal, very little of it as snow. The first half of April was cool and there was a six to eight inch snowfall around the 9th. Unusually warm weather April 20 to 27 with temperatures from the mid 60's to mid 70's brought the month's average up to two degrees below nor-

mal. May was warm and dry until the last week, with an unusually hot spell around the 10th when temperatures reached 85° to 90° for several days. The cool, rainy last week resulted in normal average temperature for the month; rainfall was well below normal.

In spite of the mild weather, March migrants did not arrive early. Many April arrivals were delayed, especially the early warblers. Although all expected warbler species were reported, the migration was disappointing—no waves, no grounding by cold fronts, and the early hot weather seemed to send them north quickly. Yellow-rumped Warbler was the only species reported in large numbers. First reports of Black-and-white, Golden-winged, Palm and both waterthrushes were two to three weeks later than usual and many others were one to two weeks late. Best warbler movement was early, May 6 thru 12, and few migrants were still around for the Ithaca and Geneva censuses May 19 and 20.

Rarities were White Pelican, Cinnamon Teal, Acadian Flycatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, and a first nesting of the Ithaca Fish Crows.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; L—Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen—Seneca; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; * (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and compilers: W. E. Benning; Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen); John Confer; Vernon Dewey (MNWR); Bernice Hilfiker; Wilfred Howard; Malcolm Lerch (Yates Co., Keuka Lake area); D. W. McIlroy (Ithaca); Jeffery Walters; Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: one still present Sen. L May 31. Red-necked Grebe: five singles Cay. L in Mar. one Dryden L Apr. 17—more than usual; singles Chemung River Apr. 5 and 17. Horned Grebe: “hundreds” Keuka L Apr. 7 thru 10, 150 in Branchport Basin. WHITE PELICAN: for second consecutive year appeared at MNWR, one first seen Apr. 28, reported irregularly thru period. Great Blue Heron: WEB counted 191 nests at Marengo Swamp, most appeared to be occupied. Great Egret: one MNWR Apr. 3, only two days later than earliest Regional record. SNOWY EGRET: one Beebe L, Ithaca, Mar. 28, record early (E. Weinstein)*. No Least Bittern, Am. Bittern reported only at MNWR. Whistling Swan: 25 max MNWR end of Mar. Egyptian Goose: one feeding at Dresden, Keuka L with Canadas—escaped from where? Canada Goose: normal large numbers Keuka L and Cay. L. Snow Goose: increase continues, max MNWR 10,000 (both morphs) in Mar. Waterfowl max MNWR:

Canada Goose	50,000 April	Green-winged Teal	800 April
Mallard	2,500 March	Blue-winged Teal	900 April
Black Duck	1,000 March	American Wigeon	1,000 April
Gadwall	600 April	Northern Shoveler	500 April
Pintail	1,200 March	Wood Duck	700 April

Pintail: pair still present MNWR May 31. CINNAMON TEAL: one male Lowe Pond, near Elmira Apr. 9 following very high west winds (Alexander, Clements) and seen on a nearby pond Apr. 14 thru 19, second Regional record. Diving duck numbers were low. Ring-necked Duck: 43 near Tyrone, Schuyler Co. Apr. 5. Lesser Scaup: one male still on Keuka L late May. White-winged Scoter: four Elmira area Apr. 3; four Cayuta L Apr. 6; max 15 Cay. L May 3. Ruddy Duck: max only 20 MNWR in Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 50 MNWR in Apr.; two broods Elmira late May. Common Merganser: scarce Cay. L and left early, none after mid-Apr.; max 60 MNWR in Apr.; one Geneva census May 20.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: only reported in Ithaca area; none until a female was

found on nest Apr. 8, two other active nests. Sharp-shinned Hawk: regularly reported Ithaca, one active nest; only one report Watkins area. Cooper's Hawk: reported each month from several areas near Watkins Glen: reported regularly in Ithaca area thru, one active nest. Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting SWS. Rough-legged Hawk: one Elmira May 12 probably valid though late. Bald Eagle: three immatures MNWR in Apr., two with tags indicating birds hatched there, one darker without tag. Marsh Hawk: very few reports. Peregrine Falcon: one female MNWR May 15 (C. Melin, D. Gooding)*. Ring-necked Pheasant: "uncommon" Watkins Glen; "scarce Keuka until mating season, now more males crowing than usual"; numbers low Cay. L Basin. Almost no reports of rails. Virginia Rail: only report, one Elmira May 3—are they really that scarce? Common Gallinule: max 50 MNWR in May. In spite of no habitat available at MNWR because of high water, most of the usual spring shorebirds were reported, though in small numbers. Ruddy Turnstone: MNWR May 19, uncommon. Upland Sandpiper: ten at Holding Point near Elmira Apr. 21, good numbers there thru. Solitary Sandpiper: first May 5, late; few reports. Greater Yellowlegs: only one, Tyre Township near MNWR May 10. Bonaparte's Gull: very few this spring. Black Tern: first May 9, late.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: The tent caterpillar infestation resulted in many reports of both cuckoos beginning May 8, Black-billed the more numerous. Long-eared Owl: one Ithaca reservoir Mar. 8 (S. Sabo). Chimney Swift: one Dryden Rd., Ithaca, Mar. 30 was very early; not seen regularly until after mid-April. Pileated Woodpecker: more than usual in Keuka area. Red-headed Woodpecker: six reports Cay. L Basin, one Montour Falls, one Odessa. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: migrating numbers still low.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebe: the Feb. one at Ithaca disappeared, no further reports until Mar. 20. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles Ithaca May 28 and 30. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one seen and heard Cayuta L Outlet May 19 (Straths, JB)* first Schuyler Co. record since 1964. Willow and Alder Flycatchers: late arrival May 18 and 19. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Conn. Hill near Ithaca May 19. Bank Swallow: late arriving in numbers, Brooktondale colony of 191 holes not fully occupied until mid-May. First Rough-winged and Barn Swallows were about two weeks late. Cliff Swallow: very scarce; singles Elmira May 4 and 12; a flock appeared in Keuka but did not stay to nest; none at Dryden nesting colony. Purple Martin: scarce Elmira; active colonies north end Cay L and MNWR. Common Raven: none seen Monterey where they have been reported for several years. **FISH CROW:** present Ithaca Apr. 1 thru—a pair was seen courting and carrying nesting material May 4 (J. Hines), nest found in pine tree and bird was incubating, whether young fledged not known, probably the first upstate nesting record. Brown Creeper: very scarce Keuka area but five or six pairs nesting SWS. Winter Wren: singing east of Ithaca in mid-May and at Cayuta L Outlet May 19, both in same places as other years, no nest found yet. Carolina Wren: an Ithaca pair fledged four young May 7 or 8. Long-billed Marsh Wren: very late arrival, Elmira May 12, at MNWR not until May 19. At Keuka, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes and Veery were scarce, Hermit Thrush not seen; Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes also scarce at Ithaca. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Skunk Hollow near Clyde May 17; one Ithaca May 18. E. Bluebird: three wintered at Ithaca. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** three on Cornell campus with about 170 Cedar Waxwings Apr. 2, late (T. Carrolan)*. Cedar Waxwing: more abundant than usual Yates Co., Keuka area and Phelps, good numbers Ithaca. Northern Shrike: one reported Elmira Apr. 5 (C. Wood) caused raised eyebrows, but one was seen well that same day near Tyrone, Schuyler Co. (JB). Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** four reports Ithaca—singles May 7 Cayuga Heights*, May 10 thru 13 City Cemetery, May 11 Game Farm east of Ithaca, May 18 Crescent Pl., still there May 28. All were seen and heard—the 4th year since 1950 this species has been seen in Ithaca. Philadelphia Vireo: one Elmira May 16; one SWS and one Conn. Hill May 19. See introductory comments on warbler migration. Prothonotary: only one re-

port, Elmira May 12. **WORM-EATING WARBLER**: one seen and heard Ithaca May 7 where a White-eyed Vireo also was seen (J. Hines)*, third Cay. L Basin record in last four years but only the fifth record since 1950; one near Phelps May 19-20 (P. Trail)*, first there in 20 years. Although they nest at Elmira they are rare in the Finger Lakes area. Golden-winged: scarce, only four Cay. L Basin all spring; one Phelps. Blue-winged: JC counted a total of 18 residents in the Ithaca area; at least a dozen Monkey Run, Ithaca, May 17, mostly migrants. "Brewster's": four at Ithaca Tomp. Co. airport and Ithaca College; one near Phelps (JW). "Lawrence's": three at Ithaca College study site with one Golden-winged, Blue-winged and "Brewster's" (JC). Orange-crowned: one Ithaca May 30. Northern Parula: scarce. Cape May: one Ithaca Apr. 28, early. Black-throated Green: one SWS Apr. 14, early. Cerulean: several MNWR; present near Phelps for fourth year; one migrant Elmira, they no longer nest since the big trees along the Chemung River were cut. Prairie: colony on West Hill above Montour Falls; present at some new sites Elmira; Conn. Hill near Ithaca May 19. Connecticut: three near Geneva May 20 (Paris Trail)*. Yellow-breasted Chat: four Elmira census May 12, none last year, only one Ithaca May 31. **HOODED WARBLER**: one seen and heard Ithaca May 8 (Hahn), 8th Cay. L Basin record since 1950; one Elmira May 9. Wilson's: very scarce.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird: none Keuka, scarce Elmira, small numbers Cay L Basin. Indigo Bunting: plentiful Ithaca area. Evening Grosbeak: the majority left during the last week of Apr., a few present Ithaca May 19. Purple and House Finches are both increasing in the Keuka area. Pine Grosbeak: one Ithaca Mar. 4. Grasshopper Sparrow: first report May 4, late. Henslow's Sparrow: late arrival, one Elmira area May 17—none had been reported there for last two years; present Tomp. Co. airport. Vesper Sparrow: increase noted; 94 Keuka area Apr. 10 in great influx of sparrows. Dark-eyed Junco: 200 counted in JC's yard near Ithaca Apr. 3 thru 9, 98% males. Tree Sparrow: one Ithaca May 19, late. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Clyde May 8 (WEB).

419 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

Two of the more prominent weather events of the period were high waters and flooding starting March 6 and a severe winter storm April 6. The winter storm was centered to the north of us so that only the northern parts of the Region were much affected. Oneonta received two to three inches of snow while the Owego-Binghamton area remained almost snowless. The rest of March and early May brought long stretches of good weather while April was drier than normal, although frosty at times.

The March 6 high water apparently moved the previously reported Harlequin Duck on his way and the April 6 storm was followed by the best day for waterfowl at Oneonta for the season and an unusual concentration of Horned Grebes at Whitney Point. The generally fair weather through April and early May did little to dam up passerine migrants so there was little in the way of "waves" to report, although the 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers at one location May 5 would seem to qualify.

Arrival dates did seem a little earlier than normal, but only E. Kingbirds and Green Herons were really significantly early while a few such as Louisiana Waterthrushes were late. Both cuckoos again, as if by magic, responded to a heavy tent caterpillar infestation with immediately increased numbers. Other species showing increases were Marsh Hawks, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, E. Kingbirds, Great Crested Flycatchers and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Decreasing were Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and C. Nighthawks.

Rarities reported include a Snowy Egret, Harlequin Duck, a Merlin and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. A Red Phalarope did make the local paper where it was reported, but it would have been nice to have more of the details directly from the observers.

Observers: Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin (C, JB); Don Bemont; Reynolds Bennett (RB); Ted Buckley; Dorothy Burns; Sally Carey; Jackie Covert; Lynn Clark; Mildred Clark; Anna and Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Warren and Louise Dean; Mary Dobinsky (MD); Jennie Doig; Sadie Dorber; Diane Drabo; Polly and Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall; Elva Hawken; Pauline Hovemeyer; Spencer Hunt; Rudolph and Ingeborg Klenke; Jack Knapik; Margaret Layton; Jay Lehman (JL); Robert Lynch (RL); Sandra Lynch; Hugh McDowell; Leona McDowell; Peter and Dorothy Martin (P, DM); Bud and Evelyn Mead; Mike and Kathy Medovich (M, KM); Robert and Rita Pantle; Booth Perkins (BP); Kay Perkins; Elizabeth and David Post (E, DP); Sue and Don Rakow; Jim Riley; Harriett Robison; Bob and Jean Saunders; Bob Sheffield; Mary Sheffield (MS); Elizabeth Washburn; Anne Whitaker; Ruth and Sally White; K. Whitehead; Connie Wilkins (CW); Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom and Beryl Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: one Vestal Mar. 26, first; seven Whitney Point Apr. 8, max; May 6 Otuaga, last. Horned Grebe: upwards of 75 scattered over Whitney Point Reservoir Apr. 8, from singles to one flock of 18; 20 still there Apr. 11, but only three Apr. 13; 14 at Oneonta Reservoir Apr. 7; two Mead's Pond Apr. 9 and three Plymouth Reservoir Apr. 19, both in Chenango Co.; last date Apr. 27 Owego. Red-necked Grebe: one Crumhorn Lake, e. of Oneonta, Apr. 14; one Plymouth Reservoir Apr. 19. Pied-billed Grebe: two Whitney Point Mar. 30, first; one Plymouth Reservoir Apr. 20, last; eight other reports of one to three birds. Great Blue Heron: migrants from Mar. 16 Owego. SNOWY EGRET: one Binghamton May 8 (BP)—careful description, including yellow at base of bill, black legs, yellow feet and active feeding; not seen again. Green Heron: Apr. 14 Binghamton; next report Apr. 23 Owego. Mute Swan: one at Little York, in Cortland Co., Mar. 1 (CW). Canada Goose: 20 North Norwich Mar. 4, first migrants; peak numbers Mar. 10 and again Apr. 21 and 22 with more or less steady movement through May 6, except none from Apr. 12 to 20; still present in ones and twos at the end of the period. Snow Goose: 12 at Mount Vision, near Oneonta, Mar. 3; also reported from Owego in Mar. Black Duck: 45 North Norwich Marsh Mar. 18, max; only two reports after Apr. 1 and total number of reports less than 25 per cent the number of Mallard reports. Pintail: four North Norwich Mar. 18; two Whitney Point Apr. 18; the only reports. Green-winged Teal: two North Norwich Mar. 22, first; ten Mead's Pond Mar. 31, max; three Sherburne Apr. 7, last; also reported from Owego. Blue-winged Teal: Mar. 18 Owego; next date Apr. 7, four at Sherburne and two at Portlandville; one Cortland May 12, the last of eight more reports. American Wigeon: one North Norwich Marsh Apr. 1; only three more reports to Apr. 18. No. Shoveler: two North Norwich Marsh Apr. 7; three at Mead's Pond, Norwich, Apr. 9. Wood Duck: four Portlandville Mar. 17; Mar. 18 Owego; next date Apr. 3 but then reasonably common. Redhead: 45 Cortland, one Homer Mar. 1—best count in the Region for years, but then no more. Ring-necked Duck: three Goodyear Lake Apr. 7 and six Whitney Point Apr. 15 then no more—much below normal. Greater Scaup: 24 Whitney Point Mar. 30. Lesser Scaup: four Goodyear Lake Apr. 7; also at Owego in Apr. Common Goldeneye: two Oneonta area Apr. 14, last date of a poor season. Buffle-

head: eight Mead's Pond Apr. 9, max; three Plymouth Reservoir Apr. 20, last. Oldsquaw: upwards of 80 at Mead's Pond Apr. 9—an unusual concentration for the Region, but the only report of the species. HARLEQUIN DUCK: the bird reported last issue was not seen after Mar. 5 as rivers approached flood stage. Ruddy Duck: Apr. 12 Owego (C, JB, RB). Hooded Merganser: six in Oneonta area Mar. 17; not many migrants, but a pair with 11 young at German, in Chenango Co. (CW). Common Merganser: about 200 scattered over Whitney Point Reservoir Apr. 4, max; two Oneonta Reservoir Apr. 19, the last. Red-breasted Merganser: 18 Whitney Point Apr. 13; last seen Apr. 18.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: Apr. 1 Cannonsville, first; four Oneonta Apr. 19, max. Goshawk: Apr. 27 Owego (M, KM, P, DM), no others. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seven reports. Cooper's Hawk: seven reports. Red-tailed Hawk: 12 counted at seven stops Portlandville-Oneonta Mar. 17, max. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports from Oneonta, Owego and Binghamton. Broad-winged Hawk: one Oneonta Apr. 21, first; reported frequently, but only in small numbers. Rough-legged Hawk: one to three Portlandville-Milford to Apr. 28; one Mar. report from Owego. Marsh Hawk: one Delhi May 19, the only report after Apr. 14; 16 reports of one or two birds, many more than in recent years. Osprey: one Lisle, near Whitney Point, Mar. 10 (A, MD), very early; next report Apr. 15; 15 more to May 7. MERLIN: one North Norwich Marsh Mar. 31 (JL), "small dark falcon, very swift direct purposeful flight." Turkey: a few in almost every part of the Region from which reports received. Common Gallinule: Apr. 20 Apalachin, no others. American Coot: in Mar. and Apr., but only from Owego. Killdeer: two Oneonta Mar. 8, first; 80 counted Apr. 7 in Oneonta area, including 40 in one flock and 14 in another. American Woodcock: first date Mar. 13 at Hinman's Corners, n. of Binghamton. Common Snipe: four Milford Apr. 7; three North Norwich Apr. 21; no others. Upland Sandpiper: May 12 Cortland; one Plymouth area May 26. Spotted Sandpiper: two Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 28. Solitary Sandpiper: May 3 to 17 Port Dickinson, just n. of Binghamton; frequent reports from Norwich area and also reported from Cortland and Oneonta. Greater Yellowlegs: one at a marsh three mi. n. of Norwich May 5 and 8; no others. Least Sandpiper: one n. of Norwich May 5 and three on May 11. Red Phalarope: one May 20 Hobart (E, DP), seen by several observers but gone the next day—the description in a Stamford *Mirror Recorder* article did not appear to originate from the observers. Herring Gull: Apr. 18 Whitney Point, the only report after Mar. 24. Ring-billed Gull: seven Cannonsville Apr. 1; 20 Johnson City Apr. 3; 12 to 15 Whitney Point Apr. 8; best count 27 Whitney Point Apr. 13; three still at Whitney Point May 20. Bonaparte's Gull: 15 Owego Apr. 2; two Whitney Point Apr. 8.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 15 Binghamton; five more reports, all from Triple Cities area. Black-billed Cuckoo: two Binghamton May 11; 11 more Triple Cities reports and also from Cortland and Hamden, Delaware Co. Screech Owl: a nesting pair near North Colesville, in Broome Co., during May the only report. Snowy Owl: one Portlandville Mar. 17 (MD, KW). Common Nighthawk: Port Dickinson May 8; not many and only from Triple Cities and Cortland. Chimney Swift: three Norwich Apr. 15; next report Apr. 25. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 6 Chenango Forks. Common Flicker: Mar. 11 Vestal; next date Mar. 21. Pileated Woodpecker: 12 reports from all parts of the Region. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Sherburne May 13 and 29, thought to have nested in area last year. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr. 14 Vestal; best numbers in years.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Eastern Kingbird: one Norwich Apr. 17 and Owego Apr. 24, the only reports before May 7; good numbers. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 6 Choconut Center; good numbers. Eastern Phoebe: Mar. 22 Vestal Center. Alder Flycatcher: May 20 Endwell; two Plymouth area May 26; no more. Willow Flycatcher: May 18 Choconut Center; Plymouth May 26. Least Flycatcher: three Portlandville-Oneonta May 5. Eastern Wood Pewee: May 12 Cortland. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 20 Binghamton; two Sherburne May 29; May 30 Port Dickinson. Tree Swallow: Mar. 25 Owego. Rough-winged Swallow:

three Portlandville-Oneonta and two Sherburne Apr. 28; ten Norwich May 5. Barn Swallow: Apr. 12 Vestal. Cliff Swallow: Apr. 26 Owego; nesting at Port Crane. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Mar. 4 Candor, evidently a wintering bird; next report, one Portlandville-Oneonta May 5 and found several times during May; May 28 Newark Valley, the only other report. Brown Creeper: still at Newark Valley May 28. House Wren: Apr. 21 Vestal. Winter Wren: Apr. 1 Choconut Center, singing; Apr. 8 Chenango Forks; one Delhi Apr. 26; three Portlandville-Oneonta May 12 and one still in area May 23. Carolina Wren: Owego Mar. 5; Apr. 20 to 25 Port Dickinson; Apr. 21 Binghamton. Mockingbird: reported from Binghamton, Endicott, Endwell, Owego and Delhi. Gray Catbird: one Norwich Apr. 29, first; common after May 5. Brown Thrasher: four Norwich Apr. 21. American Robin: migrants Mar. 3 Cortland, common from Mar. 15. Wood Thrush: May 8 Vestal, Choconut Center, Oneonta and Delhi. Hermit Thrush: Apr. 21 Chenango Forks; five more reports May 6 to 20. Swainson's Thrush: May 8 Vestal to May 18 Port Dickinson, a total of seven reports. Veery: May 5 Chenango Forks. Eastern Bluebird: Mar. 7 Apalachin, first date; six Cortland Apr. 24, the highest count, but small numbers in all reporting parts of the Region except the Norwich-Sherburne area. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Norwich Apr. 21; also at Vestal, Hillcrest and Hinman's Corners. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 5 Choconut Center to two Sherburne May 5; fairly numerous reports, max count 18 or more Apr. 8 Hillcrest. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 1 Choconut Center, singing; quite common from Apr. 21 to the very early last date of May 5. Water Pipit: two Portlandville and three Milford Apr. 7, the only ones. Northern Shrike: one Portlandville-Oneonta Mar. 3, the last.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: May 5 Chenango Forks. Solitary Vireo: one Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 23. Red-eyed Vireo: May 9 Vestal, Vestal Center and Chenango Forks. Philadelphia Vireo: one Portlandville-Milford May 12 (MD, KW); the only one. Warbling Vireo: one Port Dickinson May 4. Black-and-white Warbler: Apr. 30 Hillcrest and Owego. Golden-winged Warbler: May 6 Vestal, common in Triple Cities area; one Portlandville-Milford May 12 and one Plymouth area May 26 the only other reports. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Hillcrest May 10; one Vestal May 20; one Endwell May 20. Blue-winged Warbler: May 6 Vestal; one Portlandville-Milford May 12; one Plymouth area May 26; very uncommon in the 50's but now, on the basis of frequency of reports, almost three to two over Golden-winged Warblers. Tennessee Warbler: May 9 Vestal and three Norwich May 9, first date; May 27 Choconut Center and Hillcrest, last date. Nashville Warbler: Apr. 29 Vestal. No. Parula: one Norwich May 10; Cortland May 12; no others. Yellow Warbler: Apr. 21 Vestal, early; abundant as usual. Magnolia Warbler: May 12 Choconut Center and Vestal; seven Plymouth area May 26, but otherwise scarce. Cape May Warbler: May 11 Vestal Center; May 20 Endwell, the last of only ten reports. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 3 Port Dickinson, four Oneonta-Delhi May 7, max; five more reports to May 20. Yellow-rumped Warbler: Chenango Forks and 15 Sherburne Apr. 21; approx. 100 Hartwick May 5, max; generally abundant until May 20 and still present at Chenango Forks at the end of May. Black-throated Green Warbler: six Portlandville-Oneonta May 5; 15 Portlandville-Oneonta May 15, max; seven still in Plymouth area May 26. Blackburnian Warbler: one Delhi May 8. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 5 Port Dickinson; 17 Plymouth area May 26. Bay-breasted Warbler: Cortland and five Walton May 12; numerous, but gone after May 20. Blackpoll Warbler: May 11 Port Dickinson; never very numerous, but still present at the end of May. Pine Warbler: Apr. 29 Vestal; one Choconut Center May 12 (MS) had "greenish wash" on back, reminiscent of parula. Prairie Warbler: four different sites around Triple Cities, all May 20. Palm Warbler: one Delhi Apr. 23, no others. Ovenbird: May 3 Port Dickinson. Northern Waterthrush: one Portlandville-Oneonta May 5. Louisiana Waterthrush: Choconut Center Apr. 22, about a week late. Mourning Warbler: May 12 two Portlandville-Milford and two Walton; 11 along 10 miles of road in Plymouth area May 26 (JL). Common Yellowthroat: May 4 Port Dickinson. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 12 Cortland, Hillcrest and Vestal; still at Vestal May 20, no other reports. Wilson's Warbler: May 12 Cortland; May 13 Choconut Center; May 19 Vestal;

no others. Canada Warbler: 11 at four stops Portlandville-Milford May 12; also May 12 Cortland. American Redstart: Three Hillcrest May 4.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 6 Vestal; 36 along 10 miles in Plymouth area May 26. Eastern Meadowlark: Mar. 13 Owego. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one Endicott May 20 (RL), fairly close range in good light but observer without binoculars—bright yellow head, dark body and white wing patches seen well; not found May 30 when spot revisited. Red-winged Blackbird: migrants, in numbers, from Mar. 3. Northern Oriole: May 3 Port Dickinson; common from May 6. Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 23 Port Dickinson; May 12 Cortland; also from Owego in Apr. Common Grackle: Mar. 2 Owego; common from Mar. 8. Brown-headed Cowbird: 75 or more Delhi Mar. 6. Scarlet Tanager: May 8, Chenango Forks and 1 Oneonta-Delhi. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Vestal. Indigo Bunting: one Delhi May 6; next report May 12 Chenango Forks; common from May 15. Evening Grosbeak: last date May 15 Port Dickinson. Purple Finch: plentiful to about May 13, then dwindling to small but regular summer population. House Finch: eight Cortland Mar. 11; 15 singing at Norwich Apr. 29; also reported from Owego and regular and prominent in the Triple Cities area. Pine Grosbeak: six Portlandville-Milford Mar. 3, only ones. Pine Siskin: one Cortland Mar. 8; Apr. 5 Owego; Apr. 17 Port Dickinson; 2 Delhi Apr. 26; that's all. Rufous-sided Towhee: Apr. 11 Choconut Center; no more until one Norwich Apr. 21 and Vestal Center Apr. 22. Savannah Sparrow: one Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 14. Grasshopper Sparrow: May 12 Cortland; May 20 Vestal Center; that's all. Henslow's Sparrow: May 20 Endwell; May 30 Endicott; the only ones. Vesper Sparrow: 2 Portlandville-Oneonta Apr. 7; also at Plymouth Reservoir, Hillcrest and Delhi, but not many. Dark-eyed Junco: migrants mostly gone by the end of April; eight May 15 Portlandville-Oneonta May 15 and three Plymouth area May 26, plus a few others are probably summer residents. Tree Sparrow: Apr. 23 Delhi, last date. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 11 Owego; regular from Apr. 15; "lots" singing Apr. 24 Choconut Center and 30 singing in two-thirds of Norwich Apr. 29. Field Sparrow: regular from Apr. 5. White-crowned Sparrow: four Sherburne and one Norwich Apr. 21; 20 Sherburne May 5, max; reported from all reporting areas, mostly from May 3 to 14 with May 20 Port Crane the only later report. White-throated Sparrow: migrants mainly from Apr. 14 to May 12 but several later records, the last three in the Plymouth area May 26, probably representing summer residents. Fox Sparrow: Mar. 11 Vestal and Vestal Center to Apr. 19 Choconut Center and Vestal Center. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 10 Vestal Center, the only one. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 15 Whitney Point. Song Sparrow: migrants evident about Mar. 9.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Spring is often characterized by extremes in central New York and such was the case this season.

The previous season's snow accumulation had largely melted by the middle of March except for scattered drifts and on higher elevations, but total snowfall for March was 14.9 inches, 3.8 inches over the previous March. April became the fourth snowiest on record, 10.2 inches, just short of the 12 inch record in April, 1975.

Temperature extremes for March varied from a low of 10 degrees Fahrenheit to a balmy 76 degrees Fahrenheit recorded at Sylvan Beach, Oneida Lake on March 23rd. The same date also brought one of the finest spring hawk flights at Derby Hill in recent memory. Temperatures for the first half of April rose no higher than 54 degrees Fahrenheit, but a high of 79 degrees Fahrenheit on April 25th confirmed that spring was finally here.

A Bermuda High off the coast of Virginia brought temperatures soaring into the 80's and low 90's for the beginning of an early summer from May 8 thru 12. Winds from out of the south at forty to sixty mph on March 24th proved to be too strong for any spectacular hawk flights at Derby Hill as opposed to the previous day. Again on April 6th wind velocities from out of the west reached 63 mph, the highest in 25 years for Syracuse, but unfortunately it was too early in the season for it to bring any western birds to our area.

Positives for the season include: an increasing number of Great Black-backed Gulls, an excellent, but brief flight of Whistling Swans and Canada Geese; a good return flight of Northern Shrikes through March; *superb* hawk migration at Derby Hill due in part to the first daily coverage by Gerald Smith and favorable weather patterns; heavy movement of Evening Grosbeaks and the further expansion of the House Finch.

Negatives include low numbers of American and Least Bitterns, rails and gallinules; a very poor shorebird flight both early and late; Bonaparte's Gull and all terns showed very low numbers; intercontinental wintering birds are continuing to show below normal numbers, such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, all wrens, Brown Thrasher, kinglets and sparrows both as migrants and breeders.

Extreme rarities: Northern Fulmar, Gannet, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Swainson's Hawk, Great Gray Owl, Sandhill Crane, Worm-eating Warbler.

Rarities: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Mute Swan, Peregrine Falcon, Willet, Boreal Chickadee, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler.

Contributors: Gerald Church (GC); Kate and Steve Coyle (KC); Dorothy W. Crumb (DWC); Paul DeBenedictis (PDeB); Bruno and Dee DeSimone (DeS); Gene Huggins (GH); Kenneth Karwowski; Jay Lehman; Bob Long; David Muir; Belle and Sheila Peebles; Marge S. Rusk (MSR); Fritz Scheider (FGS); Gerald Smith (GS); Christian G. Spies (CGS); Mackenzie Stewart (MacS); Mandy Stooks (MS).

Abbreviations: Fair Haven—FH; Derby Hill—DH; Dewitt Marsh—DeWM; Howland's Island—Higma; Lake Ontario littoral—LOL; Little Sodus Bay—LSB; Nine Mile Pt.—NMPt.; Sandy Pond—SPd; Seneca River Flats—SRF; St. Mary's Cemetery—St.MC; Tug Hill Plateau—THP.

Observations for which no observer is listed should be credited to F. G. Scheider.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: max. 15 L. Moraine Apr. 7 (J. Lehman); Red-necked Grebe: two LSB Apr. 1; Horned Grebe: max 92 LSB, LOL Apr. 8; Pied-billed Grebe: very low in numbers max seven s. Madison Co. Apr. 13 (GC); N. FULMAR: one dead male, found between Mar. 31-Apr. 8. L. Ont. (CGS); GANNET: one dead juvenal, found between Mar. 31-Apr. 8, L. Ont. (CGS); Double-crested Cormorant: max 17 noted at SPd. May 27; Great Blue Heron: max 35/day May 5; GREAT EGRET: seven at Utica Marsh Apr. 10 (DeS); SNOWY EGRET: three at Utica Marsh May 12 (Ken Karwowski); Black-crowned Night

Heron: max four NMPt. May 11 (D Muir); **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**: first regional record, one at a pond in Solvay May 23 thru 30 (B. Ballard, DWC); Am. Bittern: a total of 18 in Regional marshes; Least Bittern: one in Clay Marsh May 11 none reported elsewhere; Mute Swan: one at DH, DeWM, Jamesville Res. Mar. 22 thru Apr. 22; Whistling Swan: a high of 69 SRF last at Otisco L Apr. 1; Canada Goose: max 16, 119 SRF, Higma Mar. 17; Brant: max 15 LOL May 21; Snow Goose: max 200 SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Gadwall: max 14 SRF, Higma Mar. 18 (MSR); Pintail: max 1,323 SRF, Higma Mar. 17; Green-winged Teal: max 40 Apr. 1; Blue-winged Teal: max 16 Oriskany Flats Apr. 14 (MS); Am. Wigeon: max 80 Apr. 1; N. Shoveler: very scarce, one to four/day; Wood Duck: max 36 Apr. 8; Red-head: max 316 Mar. 17; Ring-necked Duck: max 278 Mar. 17; Canvasback: max 370 Mar. 18; Gr. Scaup: max 385 Mar. 17; Common Goldeneye: max 330 Mar. 22; Bufflehead: max 70 Apr. 22; King Eider: first May record one at SPD inlet May 13; White-winged Scoter: max 18 LOL May 6; Surf Scoter: one to two/day LOL; Ruddy Duck: three SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Hooded Merganser: max 11 Apr. 13; Com. Merganser: max 306 Mar. 1; Red-breasted Merganser: max 1,000 Apr. 12.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Derby Hill observations:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arr. Date</u>	<u>Dep. Date</u>	<u>Max./date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 10	May 22	242/Apr. 15*	1,009
Goshawk	Mar. 3	May 19	14/Mar. 3	55
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar. 8	May 31	2,104/Apr. 26	9,367*
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 3	May 19	133/Mar. 23*	464*
Red-tailed Hawk	Feb. 23	May 31	1,074/Mar. 23	7,525*
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 6	May 20	347/Mar. 23	951
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 17	May 31	8,909/Apr. 28	33,055*
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb. 23	May 20	68/Apr. 26*	432*
Golden Eagle	Mar. 7	May 13	3/Mar. 23	18
Bald Eagle	Mar. 13	May 27	3/Apr. 30	14*
Marsh Hawk	Mar. 1	May 30	81/Apr. 13	667*
Osprey	Apr. 12	May 20	122/Apr. 26	692*
PEREGRINE FALCON	May 7	May 14	1/day	3
Merlin	Apr. 13	May 9	5/Apr. 25	14
American Kestrel	Mar. 9	May 20	94/Apr. 13	548

Record daily high and record yearly total* compiled by Gerald Smith and David Muir. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one light-phase adult near Derby Hill Apr. 26, FGS, DWC, second record for the Region; one Golden Eagle west of Stratford, Herkimer Co. May 12 (DeS); Ring-necked Pheasant: declining, a total 24; **SANDHILL CRANE**: one at DH May 8 (DWC, GS, Jan Muir, B. Miner); Virginia Rail: max four May 13, arr. Apr. 22; Sora Rail: max six DeWM Apr. 23 (KC); Com. Gallinule: max 16 Utica Marsh May 17; Am. Coot: very low, a max six SRF Apr. 17 (MS); Semipalmated Plover: max 14 SPd May 27, arr May 13; Killdeer: max 61 DH Mar. 24 (GS); Black-bellied Plover: two/day LOL Apr. 28 thru May 27; Ruddy Turnstone: two/day May 22 thru 31; Am. Woodcock: max eight Fulton May 5 (MSR); Com. Snipe: max 12 Six Mi. Creek May 6 (MSR); Upland Sandpiper: a total 17 in the Region, arr. Apr. 23; Spotted Sandpiper; arr. Apr. 28; **WILLET**: one at DH area Apr. 26 (mob); Solitary Sandpiper: max 12 DH May 3 (GS), arr. Apr. 21; Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 Six Mi. Creek May 6 (MSR), arr. Mar. 29; Lesser Yellowlegs: max 17 Higma May 5; Pectoral Sandpiper: one to seven/day Apr. 26 thru May 10, ~~White-rumped Sandpiper: max 11 DH area Apr. 28 (GS);~~ Least Sandpiper: max 27 LOL May 18, Dunlin: one to seven/day Apr. 22 thru May 27; Short-billed Dowitcher: max 55 SPd May 13; Semipalmated Sandpiper: two/day May 21 thru 27; Sanderling: five SPd May 13 thru 27; Glaucous Gull: one LOL Mar. 1 thru 13; Iceland Gull: one Oswego H. Mar. 1; Bonaparte's Gull: one to six/day, arr. Apr. 1; Com. Tern: max 75 LOL May 10, arr. Apr. 26; Caspian Tern: one to three/day, arr. Apr. 13; Black Tern: numbers continue to decline, a total of 23.

Kenata

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one/day, arr. Chittenango May 12 (MacS); Black-billed Cuckoo: one to three/day arr. StMC May 9; Snowy Owl: three lingering in the area till Mar. 13; Long-eared Owl: one at Noyes Sanctuary Apr. 22; Short-eared Owl: one at Noyes Sanctuary Mar. 5 thru May 5; **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one still in sw. Oswego Mar. 1, none reported afterwards; Saw-whet Owl: a total of six for the Region; Whip-poor-will: two NMPt Apr. 25 (D Muir); Chimney Swift: max 85 DH May 18; Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Apr. 29; Com. Flicker: max 157 DH Apr. 21; Red-bellied Woodpecker: one to four/day; Red-headed Woodpecker: max six Chittenango May 30 (MacS); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 THP, May 28.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: max 43 May 20, arr. May 3; Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 May 28, arr. May 7; E. Phoebe: max 20 Mar. 31, arr. Mar. 31; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a total of three for the Region; Willow Flycatcher: one to eight/day, arr. May 14, DH (GS); Alder Flycatcher: one to seven/day, arr. May 19; Least Flycatcher: max 38 THP May 28; E. Wood Pewee: max 12 THP May 28; Olive-sided Flycatcher: two/day arr. May 15; Tree Swallow: max 1400 DH May 6, arr. Mar. 23; Bank Swallow: max 1200 DH May 6, arr. Apr. 21; Rough-winged Swallow; max 15 DH, May 6, arr. Apr. 21; Barn Swallow: max 1300 DH May 6, arr. Apr. 12; Purple Martin: one exceptional early date of Mar. 24, DH (mob); **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** one at Shackleton Pt. Mar. 10 thru 18 (FGS, MSR); **COM. RAVEN:** two at DH Mar. 6 (GS); Tufted Titmouse: two/day; House Wren: max 34 May 12, arr. Apr. 22; Winter Wren: max eight Apr. 22, arr. Apr. 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren: max eight May 19, arr. May 13; Mockingbird: one to two/day with Waterville, New Haven and DH being new locations; Gray Catbird: max 28, arr. Apr. 27; Brown Thrasher: max seven, arr. Apr. 24; Wood Thrush: max 28 May 12, arr. May 1; Hermit Thrush: max 11 Apr. 29, arr. Apr. 22; Swainson's Thrush: max 11 May 30, arr. Apr. 22; E. Bluebird: max 19 Brookfield May 20 (GC), arr. Mar. 24; Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 45 LOL Apr. 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 45 LOL Apr. 22; N. Shrike: one to three/day lingering to Apr. 12; Loggerhead Shrike: one at DH area Mar. 1 thru Apr. 21.

WARBLERS—VIREOS: Yellow-throated Vireo: max eight May 19, arr. May 5; Solitary Vireo: max seven THP May 28, arr. Apr. 20; Philadelphia Vireo: one/day May 5 thru 28; **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one along Erie Canal, Chittenango Apr. 28 (MacS, B. Peebles, KC); Black-and-white Warbler: one to seven/day, arr. Apr. 22; **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one in St.MC DeWitt May 9 thru 19 (PDeB); Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler: max seven/day, arr. May 8; "Brewster's" Warbler: one to two in scattered localities, Camillus, Chittenango, NMPt, THP; Tennessee Warbler: max 65 St.MC May 17 (PDeB), arr. May 5; Nashville Warbler: max 26 May 10, arr. May 2; N. Parula: scarce one to four/day May 7 thru 22; Yellow Warbler: max 54 May 18, arr. Apr. 24; Magnolia Warbler: ten/day, arr. May 5; Cape May Warbler: ten/day, May 3 thru 20; Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 23 THP May 28; Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 1750 DH May 3 (GS); Black-throated Green Warbler: max 17 May 12, arr. May 3; Cerulean Warbler: seven/day, arr. May 8; Blackburnian Warbler: max 46 THP May 28; Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 61 THP May 28; Bay-breasted Warbler: max 46 StMC, Camillus May 12; Blackpoll Warbler: seven/day arr. May 12; Pine Warbler: a total of six for the Region, arr. at Selkirk, L. Ont.; **PRAIRIE WARBLER:** one at Toad Harbor May 7 (MSR); Palm Warbler: two/day arr. Apr. 24, dep. May 10; Ovenbird: max ten May 10, arr. May 3; No. Waterthrush: arr. Apr. 24, Clay Marsh; Louisiana Waterthrush: arr. Apr. 20, Chittenango Gorge (MacS); Com. Yellowthroat: max 26 May 22, arr. May 3; **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one at StMC May 11 (B. Long); Mourning Warbler: max four FH May 31 (MSR); Hooded Warbler: max six THP May 28; Wilson's Warbler: max three May 27, arr. May 8, Clay M.; Canada Warbler: max five May 23, arr. May 8; Am. Redstart: max 44 Sterling Twp. May 22, arr. May 3.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: max 135 DH May 12 (GS); E. Meadowlark: max 42 LOL Apr. 12; No. Oriole: max 205 DH May 18 (GS); Orchard Oriole: one imm. DH May 20, two at Kirkville May 4, (KC); Rusty Blackbird: arr. Mar. 17, last day at Shore Oaks May 19,

(PDeB, FGS); Scarlet Tanager: max 34 DH May 18, arr. May 3; Rose-breasted Grosbeak: record early arr. Apr. 22; Indigo Bunting: numbers down max ten DH May 20; Evening Grosbeak: departed on May 19, NMPT, (D. Muir); House Finch: two migrating at DH Apr. 21, 30-32 singing males in DeWitt, (B. Long); Purple Finch: max 100 LOL Apr. 26; Pine Siskin: scattered wintering birds till May 20; Rufous-sided Towhee: very scarce, max 22 LOL Apr. 7; Savannah Sparrow: max 19 LOL Apr. 12, arr. Apr. 1, Chittanooga (MacS); Grasshopper Sparrow: two singles, one near Parish, one at Griffis A.F. Base; Henslow's Sparrow: a total of seven, four at Toad Harbor, three at Bolivar; Vesper Sparrow: max ten LOL Apr. 22, arr. Apr. 1; Tree Sparrow: very poor spring flight, max 37 Higma Apr. 1, last May 1; Chipping Sparrow: max 38 LOL May 18; Field Sparrow: max 12 DH May 3; White-crowned Sparrow: one to four/day extremely low in numbers; White-throated Sparrow: max 190 LOL May 3 arr. Apr. 4, DeWitt (B. Long); Fox Sparrow: very low max 3 StMC Apr. 22 (PDeB); Lincoln's Sparrow: two/day; Swamp Sparrow: very scarce, max 15 Scott Swamp, Fox Ridge May 5; Song Sparrow: max 95 Higma, FH Apr. 1; Snow Bunting: max 180 s. Madison Co. Mar. 12 (GC).

1000 Crawford Ave., Syracuse, New York 13224

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1979 presented some real challenges to the serious birder. Weather, and/or the birds, were not very cooperative at times, but persistence eventually paid off. March was generally wet with temperatures below normal. However, on March 23 a high of 72° F. (22° C.) and heavy winds the following day opened up Lake Ontario bays and harbors as well as the northeastern shore. April started out with a bang when the "Big Wind Storm" hit on April 6th with considerable lakeshore and St. Lawrence River damage. A severe snowstorm on April 9th only dusted our area but hit other parts of the state hard. Rain and cool weather continued through April and May except for a warm week in early May when high 80's were experienced and then back to cool and rainy through the period.

Concern for some species which continue to decline is increasing. These species include Pied-billed Grebe, Am. Bittern, Redhead, Canvasback, Common Tern, Black Tern and Vesper Sparrow. Newcomers to our "alert" list are Green Heron, Am. Kestrel, E. Phoebe, E. Wood Pewee and White-throated Sparrow.

Improvements were noted in Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk and Loggerhead Shrike, E. Bluebird, and the Little Galloo Island Ring-billed Gull colony continues to expand.

Rarities for the period were many and included Common Eider, Bald Eagle, Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, House Finch, and Grasshopper Sparrow. An exceptional flight of shorebirds was recorded by Tom Carrolan at El Dorado on May 30th—a miserable day, when he saw a total of 3225 shorebirds in a two

hour period. Joe VanRiet in Massena had some excellent raptor and warbler observations along the St. Lawrence River and the Walkers picked up some excellent observations right in their own backyard—as usual. Each contributor had his own “gem.”

Contributors for the period were: Ivy Benedykt; Richard Brouse; Stewart Brown; Stuart Cameron; Tom Carrolan; Lee Chamberlaine; Frank Clinch; Wm. Gordon; Daphne Hamilton; Lloyd Higgins; Joe Lamendola; Nick Leone; Wm. Pesold; Jim Spencer; Joe VanRiet; Bob and June Walker and Louis Wallace.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: about normal numbers. Horned Grebe: one Wilson Hill Apr. 22. Pied-billed Grebe: nesting only at Wilson Hill in Massena area Apr. 24. Double-crested Cormorant: one El Dorado May 14; one El Dorado May 28; 36 El Dorado May 30; 40 El Dorado May 31; encouraging numbers. Great Blue Heron: three Stony Point Apr. 1; 30+ Sulphur Springs rookery Apr. 12. Green Heron: not in normal numbers? Black-crowned Night Heron: Four Polly's Gut May 13—thereafter regularly; four El Dorado May 28; more than usual in Henderson Harbor. Am. Bittern: only two heard all season—Massena (J. Van Riet); species bears watching. Canada Goose: very abundant Massena—broods everywhere; hatching success at Perch River lower pool down? Brant: 70 Massena May 28 (J. VanRiet). Mallard: as common as ever. Black Duck: no improvements. Gadwall: six Perch River May 1; two El Dorado May 14. Pintail: three Perch River May 1. Green-winged Teal: two Perch River May 1. Blue-winged Teal: everywhere on potholes and flooded fields. Am. Wigeon: four Perch River Apr. 15; four same Apr. 17. No. Shoveler: no reports; Wood Duck: normal numbers. Redhead: none reported. Ring-necked Duck: 30-40 Perch River Apr. 9; 25 Perch River Apr. 17; three Upper and Lower Lakes May 21—no young seen. Canvasback: eight Robt. Moses Mar. 1 thru 10 (J. VanRiet). Bufflehead: 10-20 per day Wilson Hill in Apr. **COMMON EIDER:** one female El Dorado May 14—observed through scope at close range while resting on a rock-long frontal shield and heavy barring on body observed (R. & J. Walker). White-winged Scoter: two El Dorado May 13 (R. Brouse). Hooded Merganser: arrived Mar. 29 Massena area. Com. Merganser: six Three Mile Pt. Apr. 28. Red-breasted Merganser: three Massena area Apr. 25.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three Massena area Apr. 23; 11 Henderson in one tree—early evening May 14; one Perch River May 29. Goshawk: nests in Region indicate later hatchings than normal (J. Spencer). Sharp-shinned: nine Massena area Apr. 23; two same Apr. 24; two same Apr. 26 (J. VanRiet). Cooper's: two Massena area Apr. 26. Red-tailed: four Black River Bay area Apr. 9; 11 Massena area Apr. 26; rather few residents Massena (J. VanRiet). Red-shouldered: one Massena area Apr. 26; one Thompson Park May 19. Broad-winged: 60 Massena area Apr. 26; one Thompson Park May 19. Rough-legged: one Three Mile Pt. May 2. **BALD EAGLE:** three (two adults, one age undetermined) Cary Falls Reservoir-Raquette River feeding on deer carcass (L. Wallace); one adult El Dorado Apr. 13 (W. Gordon); one adult Black River Apr. 13 (I. Benedykt); one adult Three Mile Bay Apr. 26 (Lloyd Higgins)—seen again on May 2, 7 and 11 (mob). Marsh Hawk: many observations—improving—pairs nesting at Robt. Moses Park and Wilson Hill. Osprey: one Chaumont River Apr. 14; two Massena area Apr. 23; four Massena Apr. 26; one Watertown May 1. Am. Kestrel: numbers down? Ruffed Grouse: numbers may be down? Virginia Rail: Perch River May 14. Com. Gallinule: Apr. 24. Am. Coot: one wintered in Norwood area—photographed (Mar. 1); one Wilson Hill Apr. 26 (J. VanRiet). Semipalmated Plover: eight St. Lawrence River May 28; 48 summer plumage El Dorado. Black-bellied Plover: one Wilson Hill May 27; 16 (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Ruddy Turnstone: two St. Lawrence River May 28; 145 (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Am. Woodcock: first Mar. 23. Com. Snipe: first Apr. 22. Upland Sandpiper: two Apr. 26; two old River Road Massena May 13. Spotted Sandpiper: May 19. Greater Yellowlegs: May 17. Lesser Yellowlegs: May 17; two El Dorado May 30. Red Knot: 222 (all summer plumage) El Dorado May 30 (T. Carrolan). **PURPLE**

SANDPIPER: one (mostly winter plumage) El Dorado May 30—NYSARC report filed (T. Carrolan). White-rumped Sandpiper: two (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. Least Sandpiper: 14 El Dorado May 30. Dunlin: three May 27; eight May 28 St. Lawrence River; one El Dorado May 28; 36 El Dorado May 30. Short-billed Dowitcher: two St. Lawrence River May 27; six (summer plumage) El Dorado May 30. **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER:** one El Dorado May 30—NYSARC report filed (T. Carrolan); this location is where previous sightings have occurred. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2012 El Dorado May 30 (T. Carrolan). Unidentified shorebirds: 700 El Dorado May 30, weather that day was heavy rain (T. Carrolan). Great Black-backed Gull: 24 in Massena area near end of period; four El Dorado May 30; and one adult in Ring-billed Gull colony on Strachan Island St. Lawrence River. Herring Gull: less than 20 Massena area at end of period; eight El Dorado May 30; becoming scarce. Ring-billed Gull: four arrivals in Massena Mar. 3; 1000 Strachan Island St. Lawrence River Mar. 21; 5000 or so pairs—same at end of period—a few hatchlings by May 28; indications are that Little Galloo Island population is increasing—inland visits in Henderson and vicinity show many many more birds. Bonaparte's Gull: one Robt. Moses Apr. 25. Com. Tern: three colonies in Massena area in good shape—about 150 to 200 nests—three eggs per nest May 28 (J. VanRiet); two El Dorado May 30. Caspian Tern: none reported. Black Tern: none seen in Massena—common about 15 miles downstream in Quebec; arrived Perch River May 14 and may be decreasing at this location?; 20 Lakeview May 17—this population seems stable.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: normal numbers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Dry Hill May 23 and 30 (R. & J. Walker). Black-billed Cuckoo: arrival Perch River May 29. Snowy Owl: one Iroquois Dam Mar. 9; one Three Mile Bay Mar. 31; one Three Mile Bay Apr. 7; one Copenhagen Apr. 19. Barred Owl: indications from three carcasses found this past winter are they may have starved? **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one Depauville Mar. 1 (D. Hamilton & King); one Depauville Mar. 2 (F. Clinch & King); one Pillar Pt. Mar. 3 (Watertown Times); one Depauville Mar. 9 (R. & J. Walker); one Depauville Mar. 10 (S. Brown); one Brasher on the Helena Rd. Mar. 17 & 18 (Riggs & Ferguson); one Winthrop on the Potsdam Rd. Mar. 18—photo (B. Dendler); one Colton-Reihl Rd. Apr. 5, photo (R. Randall); note: the Pillar Pt. bird was injured and was sent to Albany for successful rehabilitation. **LONG-EARED OWL:** one Watertown Mar. 8 (S. Brown). Short-eared Owl: one Sulphur Springs Apr. 9; one Ives St. Rd. Apr. 17. Whip-poor-will: arrival Massena area May 16. Com. Night-hawk: arrival Massena May 10. Chimney Swift: in Massena May 17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers up? Pileated Woodpecker: pair at Robt. Moses Apr. 25. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Wilson Hill May 19; one Rutland same date. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: pair at Wilson Hill Apr. 22.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: arrival Massena May 5. Great Crested Flycatcher: arrival Watertown May 1. E. Phoebe: one Blake Sanctuary Apr. 3; numbers *way down*. Alder Flycatcher: one Watertown May 18; arrival Massena May 18; two Dry Hill May 31. Least Flycatcher: May 13. E. Wood Pewee: May 24; numbers down? Horned Lark: numbers still down. Tree Swallow: first in Henderson Apr. 1; arrived Massena Apr. 18. Bank Swallow: abundant at eroded banks along St. Lawrence River. Rough-winged Swallow: first Sackets Harbor May 14. Barn Swallow: first Apr. 20; arrived Massena Apr. 25. Cliff Swallow: abundant in Massena area. Purple Martin: numbers in Henderson and vicinity down. White-breasted Nuthatch: only two locations Wilson Hill and Robt. Moses in Massena area—numbers down? (J. VanRiet). House Wren: first May 2. Winter Wren: one only Robt. Moses May 9. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first at Perch River May 14. **SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN:** one singing near Reynolds Aluminum Plant Massena (J. VanRiet). **MOCKINGBIRD:** one Watertown vicinity May 18 arrival Massena area May 16. Gray Catbird: arrival May 9. Brown Thrasher: first Apr. 24. Wood Thrush: first May 9. Swainson's Thrush: one Watertown-Thompson Park May 16. Veery: first May 8. E. Bluebird: five Theresa Mar. 21 (S. Cameron); two Brownville Apr. 13; pair Perch River Apr. 21—nesting? one Wilson Hill May 27; pair at Helena on Smith Rd. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 24 Blake Sanctuary Apr. 3; one Dry Hill Apr. 20. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: none reported? Water Pipit: 30 Adams Cove May 7; 18 near

Wilson Hill May 12. Cedar Waxwing: 35 Watertown Mar. 30. No. Shrike: last on Apr. 9—impaled a mouse on a thorn. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Haverstock Rd. near Reynolds Plant Massena May 30-31 (J. VanRiet).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: two Blake Sanctuary building a nest on May 19 (R. & J. Walker). Red-eyed Vireo: first May 12. Warbling Vireo: first May 8. Black-and-white Warbler: May 5. Golden-winged Warbler: Wilson Hill May 12; one Blake Sanctuary May 13 (N. Leone). Tennessee: Massena area May 10 thru 19; two Thompson Park May 17 & 18; six Thompson Park May 19; eight to ten Thompson Park May 28. Nashville: Massena area May 10 thru 12. No. Parula: one Washington Park May 18. Yellow: May 8. Magnolia: Massena area May 12 thru 28; one Thompson Park May 18. Cape May: two only in Massena area May 14; four Thompson Park May 19; two Thompson Park May 28. Black-throated Blue: missed in Massena area. Yellow-rumped: two Apr. 1. Black-throated Green: May 12 thru 20. Blackburnian: three Thompson Park May 18; May 19-20 in Massena area. Chestnut-sided: May 12 in Massena. Bay-breasted: one Thompson Park May 18; May 10 thru 26 in Massena area. Blackpoll: missed in Massena area; May 28 El Dorado. Pine: Apr. 22 in Massena. Palm: none reported. Ovenbird: May 12. No. Waterthrush: one Blake Sanctuary May 19. **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH**: one Washington Park May 18 (R. & J. Walker). Mourning: one Blake Sanctuary May 19; one Wilson Hill May 28. Com. Yellowthroat: May 9. **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT**: two Watertown Sportsman's Club—Dry Hill May 17 (R. & J. Walker); one same May 18 (F. Clinch & W. Pesold). Wilson's Warbler: May 9 in Massena area. Canada Warbler: one Blake Sanctuary May 19. Am. Redstart: May 12.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: in normal numbers. E. Meadowlark: three Woodville Mar. 4. Red-winged Blackbird: 50 Dry Hill Mar. 2. No. Oriole: first May 8; numbers seem up from previous two years. Rusty Blackbird: none reported. Com. Grackle: first on Mar. 12. Brown-headed Cowbird: in numbers in Henderson area Apr. 21. Scarlet Tanager: first May 12. Cardinal: one male Robt. Moses Park Apr. 25. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arrived May 9. Indigo Bunting: none reported—missed in Massena area? Evening Grosbeak: last on May 23. Purple Finch: a few but may be down? **HOUSE FINCH**: pair daily at feeder Watertown—both males—one banded (F. Clinch). Pine Grosbeak: five Brasher Mar. 17. Am. Goldfinch: 15 Henderson Mar. 15. Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr. 23. Savannah Sparrow: first Apr. 24; in low numbers. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**: one Bradley St. Rd. Watertown May 18; Perch River May 19 (R. & J. Walker). Vesper Sparrow: one Robt. Moses Apr. 18—only one seen in Massena area; none in Henderson area. Dark-eyed Junco: heavy movement Apr. 1; last date May 14. Tree Sparrow: three Henderson Apr. 16; six Dry Hill Apr. 17; last on May 1—very very few. Chipping Sparrow: first Apr. 25. Field Sparrow: first Apr. 23; numbers down. White-crowned Sparrow: May 12 very few compared to previous years. White-throated Sparrow: Apr. 15 in Henderson—numbers way down. Fox Sparrow: three Wilson Hill Apr. 22—seldom reported. Swamp Sparrow: first Apr. 25. Song Sparrow: first in Massena area Mar. 25. Snow Bunting: last on Mar. 1.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

This was a mild spring for the most part. The ice went out of Upper St. Regis Lake on April 22, and, as usual, the day the ice went was also the day the loons

arrived. Perhaps they fly over from Lake Champlain to check on open water. Whatever they do, they sure seem to know on the right day. The last snowfall at Paul Smiths was May 6, after which it warmed up.

There was a splendid crop of red maple seed; more than the chipmunks and red squirrels could ever handle. There was also a good flowering of beech so there may be a good nut crop in the fall.

A large and varied flight of waterfowl was moving during the night and early morning of May 1. Apparently many birds that wintered on the coast were traveling overland toward breeding grounds in the northwest. Several species not usually expected were noted resting on Lower St. Regis Lake by eight students and faculty on an early morning bird trip. Prior to dawn the "ow-owdle-ow" of passing Oldsquaw could be heard. When it was light enough to scan the lake with a scope, there were approximately 16 Red-necked Grebes, 20 Horned Grebes, a scaup which seemed to be Greater but was uncooperative enough to be sure, 30 Common Goldeneyes, eight Buffleheads and a male Red-breasted Merganser with both crest and color pattern clearly seen. This is the first of the latter that I have ever seen in the Adirondacks away from Lake Champlain. We have Common Mergansers as breeders, but the Red-breasted is a rare migrant at best. This is no great event to most regions such as the Lake Ontario area where 600 Red-breasteds wouldn't be all that unusual, but then a Barred Owl might be worthy of comment there. There is a lot of diversity in the state and among the regions. One birder's great find is a trash bird to someone else.

The warbler migration was average. There were good numbers of Black-and-white and Nashville, with No. Parula in above average numbers as were Yellow. Magnolia was as usual which is rather common, and Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Chestnut-sided were in fine numbers. Mourning Warbler is increasing. Timber harvesting favors them. Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, and American Redstart are present in good numbers. All the Yellow-rumped Warblers went to Ferd's Bog where there were 48 on May 12. Nobody reported Palm Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush had less than five reports. Ovenbird seems scarce.

Ravens continue to turn up in new places. Bruno and Dee DeSimone had the good fortune to see two Golden Eagles. Mrs. Delehanty's annual Bald Eagle arrived earlier than usual this year. Altogether it was a good season.

Contributors: Deborah Anson; Charlcie Delehanty; Bruno & Dee DeSimone; Bill Goslin; Elspeth Johnson; Ferd LaFrance; Ted Mack; Norman Mason; John (Mike) Peterson; Bob Rottner; Bill Rutherford; Chris Spies; Elizabeth Williams.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: there seems to be a pair plus one adult on Upper St. Regis Lake. Normally there are two pairs there. There is a pair on Little Clear Pond near Saranac Inn, and another pair on Bay Pond near Paul Smiths. American Bittern: four pairs at Paul Smiths. Canada Goose: first arrivals were at Paul Smiths on Mar. 22 headed south but after some confusion they headed due north. The 21 local geese at Tupper arrived Mar. 21 and by May 25 there were four goslings. Mallard: eight at Tupper Apr. 1 and one at Ferd's Bog May 12 were probably migrants. The Black Duck is still the puddle duck to be expected away from Champlain. Ten Pintails and two American Wigeons were at Tupper Apr. 1. Green-winged Teal were seen by most observers as were Wood Ducks. Ring-necked

Duck: max 16 Tupper Apr. 3 with about three pairs remaining at the marsh. Two female Common Mergansers flew over Paul Smiths Apr. 1.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two were at Wadhams Mar. 23; one at Paul Smiths in mid-Apr. and one May 26 at Bay Pond. Goshawk: one at Ferd's Bog May 12 and one the same date in southern Hamilton Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at Westport Mar. 11; one at Tupper chased birds all day on Apr. 5; one terrorized Mrs. Delehanty's feeder birds Apr. 10 thru May 6. A Red-tailed Hawk was watched by a party of ice fishermen at Tupper on April Fool's Day. Red-taileds increased in the Champlain Valley after Mar. 20 according to the High Peaks Audubon Newsletter. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce. One was at Tupper Apr. 1 and one there Apr. 7 (CD). Golden Eagle: Bruno & Dee DeSimone had a good look at two migrants headed north over southern Hamilton Co. on May 12. Bald Eagle: one at Tupper Marsh Mar. 13 (CD). One was seen several times by a beaver trapper on the Raquette River according to Bill Frenette. It was probably the same Tupper bird (which likes to feed on beaver carcasses). Marsh Hawk: 5 sightings at Tupper and a migrant pair passed over Paul Smiths. Osprey: two at Tupper and a few in the St. Regis Canoe Area, but the nest at Long Pond near Floodwood hit the pond. The whole dead pine broke off at a rotten spot. This was early so perhaps they built elsewhere. A pair did wander down to Bay Pond where they fished together. They are new to the location, in recent times at least. Am. Kestrel: five at Tupper Mar. 30. **SEMIPALMATED PLOVER:** one was seen May 26 at Tupper (CD). This can be a common fall migrant, but I can find no record of a spring occurrence for the Region although it may be overlooked. The observer knows the species as well as Killdeer. Killdeer: a migrant over the snow covered mountains at Paul Smiths on Mar. 22 and one the same day at Tupper. Common Snipe: max five at Bay Pond May 15. Spotted Sandpiper numbers are up. Least Sandpiper: one at Tupper and one at Paul Smiths, both May 26. Black Tern: three to six at Tupper since May 17 (CD).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A pair of Great Horned Owls were at Westport Mar. 7 (JP). Barred Owls were all over as usual with a max of five May 12 at Ferd's Bog. Saw-whet Owls either stopped calling or passed on thru. Three Com. Nighthawks were seen at Paul Smiths. Ruby-throated Hummingbird is in good numbers. One or two Pileated Woodpeckers are to be expected in a day as usual. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 13 Ferd's Bog May 12 (FL, CS, EW). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: three Ferd's Bog May 12 (FL, CS, EW).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird and Great Crested Flycatcher are in good numbers but E. Phoebe is hard to find. Perhaps the cowbirds are causing a loss. Alder Flycatchers are easy to find. Olive-sided Flycatchers are in fair numbers. Tree Swallow: six arrived at Tupper Apr. 1. Barn Swallow arrived at Tupper May 6. Common Raven: two at Ferd's Bog May 12 (FL, CS, EW). There are two croaking at Paul Smiths as I write this on a porch. Boreal Chickadee: max six Ferd's Bog May 12. Winter Wren: max ten Ferd's Bog May 12. Gray Catbird: none at Tupper; three at Paul Smiths but fairly common in southern Hamilton Co. Brown Thrasher: quite a few. Am. Robin arrived at Tupper Mar. 10 with a max of 20 Apr. 14 (CD). E. Bluebird: none at Tupper; perhaps six pairs at Bay Pond. A Water Pipit was at Tupper May 26. Cedar Waxwings first showed at Tupper and Paul Smiths the last week of May.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireos are everywhere and even outnumber Red-eyed in some areas. Max 15 Ferd's Bog May 12. Cape May Warbler was missed. Black-throated Blue Warblers seem scarce. A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Tupper May 13. Nobody seems to have gotten up high enough in the world to report on Blackpoll numbers.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: There were a few Bobolinks. Four No. Orioles were at Tupper May 9. Rusty Blackbirds are on the bog ponds and not hard to find. Scarlet Tanagers are common. A pair of Cardinals is nesting in Tupper. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are in good numbers. Indigo Buntings have really moved in. There are more in the Paul Smiths area than

ever in the last ten years. Evening Grosbeaks are still around and Purple Finches are singing in most places. 30 Pine Siskins were at Ferd's Bog May 12 and a few thru the period at Tupper. A few Rufous-sided Towhees were noted. Bay Pond has plenty of Vesper Sparrows on the burn. Field and White-crowned Sparrows were rather scarce. No Fox Sparrows reported. Lincoln's Sparrows are enjoying an upsurge. They are in excellent numbers. Swamp Sparrows are also doing well.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

RICHARD P. GUTHRIE

When it rains it pours! Or so it must have seemed to sixty or so sodden birders with foggy lenses and squeaky sneakers standing in some soggy swamp spishing sullen sparrows. Yes, it rained on our Century Run day, May 19; but the rain held off until most birders were well into their pre-dawn marsh search of rails and bitterns and the like. The rain held down the individual group totals, but hard work and healthy competitive drive brought up the regional day total. Each group contributed at least one species to the regional compilation. While the highest number of species tallied by one group was a paltry 113, the combined efforts of all ten groups produced a grand total of 165 species (HMBC & ADBC combined).

The Century Run is both an enjoyable and important event on the birding calendar. In addition to the social and competitive nature of the day, it offers an opportunity for participants to become reacquainted with some of the scarcer or more secretive species that they might otherwise have been missed through the year. Finally, and to many the most important contribution, are the records generated by the intensive effort put forth through the day. As will be shown below, many species are represented in this report only from the Century Run.

The temperature averaged below normal through the period while precipitation was well above the norm. The minimum temperature for the Region was 4° F. (-16° C.) on March 15 and the maximum was 97° F. (37° C.) on May 9. Central Rensselaer County had 13 inches of snow in April.

Highlights of the season include Snowy Egret, Gadwall, Bald Eagle, Red Phalarope, Barn Owl, Great Gray Owl, Long-eared Owl, Fish Crow, Prothonotary Warbler, and a high number of Orchard Orioles.

Contributors are: W. Able, A. & T. Brown, Geoffrey Carlton, Paul Connor, Juanita Cook, Nancy Dennis, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, B. & H. Gardenia, Elisabeth Grace, Richard P. Guthrie, David Harrison, Mike Kuhrt, Ron & Carolyn LaForce, E. Mansell, Lois A. Norton, Alice Ross, Walt Sabin, Al Schroeder, Alfred & Shirley Schuster, W. W. Schuster, Robert Speiser, Lester Thomas, M. & W. Ulmer, Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations used here include: Col—Columbia County; CR—Century Run, HR—Hudson River, NB—New Baltimore, SL—Saratoga Lake, VF—Vischer Ferry.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: scattered dates & locations; Apr. 7 thru May 19; four CR groups found some at Alcove Res., SL & Col Co. Red-throated Loon: one Galway Lk Apr. 30. Pied-billed Grebe: one Apr. 11 thru May 19 (PC). Double-crested Cormorant: reports continue to increase in area incl. one Four-Mile Point, Greene Co. Apr. 21; one Albany Apr. 26 (L. Jackson); 14 Four-Mile Point May 27 and 14 NB May 29. Great Blue Heron: found by only two CR groups; also four HR at NB May 31, flying NE in loose group (late migrants?). Green Heron: Apr. 30 Scotia thru May 31; eight CR groups. **SNOWY EGRET:** one Hudson May 18 (A & TB). Snow Goose: May 1 and 23, max 25 Col. Co (JC, KD & EG). Least Bittern: two Rensselaer Marshes May 28 (PC). Am. Bittern: only reports were from five CR groups. Canada Goose: known to be in the area thru period, but nesting reported only from Five-Rivers. Mallard: max 350 Stockport vic. Apr. 7 (PC). Black Duck: max 500 Papscaanee Cr Mar. 18 (PC); **GADWALL:** three Vosburghs Marsh Apr. 21 (RPG); also Castleton May 22, 28 (JC). Pintail: 30 Papscaanee Cr. Apr. 1; and Hudson Apr. 8 (A & TB). Green-winged Teal: Apr. 1 50 thru May 28 two; max 60 Apr. 7 Stockport (PC). Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 7 four thru Apr. 21 six+; one CR group (ADBC). Am. Wigeon: 25 Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 (PC) thru Apr. 31 ten (JC). Wood Duck: 16 Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 thru period; six CR groups. Ring-necked Duck: Apr. 5 thru May 19; one CR group. Greater Scaup: only report is from one CR group. Com. Goldeneye: rather scarce this year; one in Cohoes found by two CR groups. Bufflehead: Apr. 7 thru CR where two groups found the same bird on SL. Oldsquaw: Apr. 6 & 7 11 HR at Rensselaer. White-winged Scoter: three Galway L Apr. 30. Red-breasted Merganser: only report is from Col. Co. Apr. 27 (KD & EG). Com. Merganser: lots of reports Mar. 18 thru CR (two groups). Hooded Merganser: only two reports; a pair each at Papscaanee Cr. Mar. 18 and Vosburghs Apr. 21.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: two Mar. 27 thru period; only one CR group. Goshawk: reported nesting near West Kill; but nest broken up by some logging operations; one banded NB Mar. 8; CR two groups (same bird?) Partridge Run Wildlife area. Sharp-shinned Hawk: ten reports, Mar. 18 thru Apr. 29; no May reports, curious. Cooper's Hawk: six reports, Mar. 10 Cox thru May 20 Gilboa (GC) & May 22 NB. Red-tailed Hawk: thru period; representative numbers: four Apr. 7; eight along Northway bet. Albany & Glens Falls Apr. 27; six CR groups. Red-shouldered Hawk: only reports: Mar. 22 Castleton (JC); May 17 So. Gilboa (GC); nesting mid-May Grapeville (BC). Rough-legged Hawk: thru Apr. 5 Cox and Apr. 8 Chatham (WA). Broad-winged Hawk: Apr. 16 Schodack Ctr. (PC) thru period; only one CR group. **BALD EAGLE:** one imm Apr. 15 HR 1½ mi. N. of Castleton (PC). Marsh Hawk: numerous reports Mar. 4 thru May 29; only one CR group (ADBC). Osprey: 15 reports clustered bet. Apr. 13 & Apr. 29; single reports thru CR (one group) and May 28. **MERLIN:** one feeder raider, So. Gilboa Apr. 4 thru 10 (four times) (GC). Am. Kestrel: thru period; 11 banded Col. & Greene Co. Mar. 3 thru Apr. 7 (RPG); four taking Garter Snakes coming out of hibernation, Germantown Apr. 7. Ruffed Grouse: thru period; few reports; five CR groups. Bobwhite: Apr. 25 Chatham & May 19 Hudson. Turkey: reports from Col. Co. Apr. 15 thru May 23. Virginia Rail: Apr. 15 Papscaanee Cr (PC) thru May 28 Black Cr. Sora: Papscaanee Cr May 13 (PC) two CR gr. & one Black Cr. May 28 (C. & RLaf). Com. Gallinule: Apr. 17 Castleton (JC) thru period; five CR gr. Am. Woodcock: Mar. 15 thru; only two CR groups found any. Com. Snipe: Apr. 7 thru CR (four groups); max ten Papscaanee Cr (PC). Upland Sandpiper: reported only from Coxsackie Flats mid-May thru; CR one group. Spotted Sandpiper: Apr. 23 thru; eight CR gr. Solitary Sandpiper: May 1 thru May 22; only two CR gr. Lesser Yellowlegs: only reports two Ancram May 5 and May 12 Hudson. Greater Yellowlegs: five CR group reports represent two birds, one of which remained very obligingly at the same location on SL for four groups to count it for the day. Pectoral Sandpiper: only report is from the CR with only one group listing. Least Sandpiper: four CR gr and May 22 thru 31 Castleton (JC) only reports. **RED PHALAROPE:** the Region's third record and first Spring occurrence and the State's second inland Spring record was a breeding-plumaged female found at Gardina's pond in Ghent Col. Co. May 20 (B & HG, KD).

Dunlin: one CR group reported this species at VF. Great Black-backed Gull: thru period; max 29 Apr. 5 Coeymans; five CR groups; one imm was seen harassing an Osprey Apr. 28 at Stockport, apparently trying to steal a fish. The effort was for naught as the Osprey, after a while, suddenly quickened its pace and easily outdistanced the gull. Black Tern: one Oohm's Pond May 22 & 23 (JC). Com. Tern: only reports are from CR where three groups found the species on SL & Alcove Res.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: encouraging, with numerous reports beginning in mid-May; found by six CR groups. Black-billed Cuckoo: also encouraging, with an increase in the number of reports over the last few years; max five May 28 Black Cr (C. & RLaf). **BARN OWL:** again nesting in a silo at Cocksackie Flats. Screech Owl: relatively few reports; three CR groups, one in Wood Duck nest box Vosburghs late May. Great Horned Owl: ten reported incl. three CR groups. **GREAT GRAY OWL:** the remnants of the spectacular visitation; one remained thru Apr. 5. Three March reports incl one at NB, one photographed and later believed shot at Voorheesville Mar. 20; and one seen by dozens of people at McDonald's hamburger stand in Clifton Park Mar. 28. The spectacular invasion ended on a rather unhappy note in that the last reported individual was found at VF on Mar. 30 too weak to fly. The bird was captured on Apr. 5 and turned over to a veterinarian where it later died; specimen in NYS Museum. Barred Owl: one Mar. and 5 May reports incl. two CR groups. **LONG-EARED OWL:** one was called out of Luther Woods, Saratoga Co. for the CR by one group. This is the first report of this species in a long time. Saw-whet Owl: thanks to Lester Thomas, one was heard late at night in Lk Luzerne, Warren Co. on the CR by one group. Whip-poor-will: only report is from three CR groups. Com. Nighthawk: arrived in mid-May in time for five groups to find it on the CR; also May 21 thru Col. Co. Chimney Swift: two early Apr. 8 thru period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: only two CR groups. Pileated Woodpecker: nine incl three CR groups. Red-headed Woodpecker: two along the Mitzenkill Col. Co. on the CR. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: only report is of one on CR. Hairy Woodpecker: thru period; six CR groups. Downy Woodpecker: thru period; eight CR groups.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Willow Flycatcher: May 13 thru; max 10+ May 28 Schodack Marsh (PC); six CR groups. Alder Flycatcher: none reported. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two reports, both from Chatham, May 12 and 19. Horned Lark: only two CR groups, one of which found a pair nesting in Col. Co. Rough-winged Swallow: Apr. 21 thru; six CR groups. Barn Swallow: Apr. 21 thru; nine CR groups. Cliff Swallow: only three CR groups. Purple Martin: Apr. 18 thru; five CR groups. Blue Jay: loose flocks totaling hundreds still migrating along the HR on the late date of May 27. Com. Crow: one seen taking a Garter Snake from a lawn Apr. 7 (RPG). **FISH CROW:** one, possibly two around Lansingburg, Rensselaer Co. thru May (RPG & PF). Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce thru period; only one CR group report. Winter Wren: four CR groups found the same bird singing at Thatcher Pk. Long-billed Marsh Wren: found at their usual haunts Black Cr & Schodack. Wood Thrush: 18 banded NB May 7 thru; nine CR groups. Swainson's Thrush: very few reports; May 12 thru May 22; four CR groups. Veery: May 4 thru period; nine CR groups. Eastern Bluebird: a dozen reports Chatham to Corinth Mar. 18 thru. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Apr. 21 Vosburghs thru; five CR groups. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only report is one from CR. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: only reports are birds banded at NB & VF Apr. 21 thru May 5. Water Pipit: 4 Apr. 8 NB & 32 Apr. 9 Castleton. No. Shrike: Apr. 8 Castleton (JC).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: fairly common along Hudson Valley May 5 thru; frequent along Schoharie Cr mid-May (GC). Solitary Vireo: May 2 thru; only one CR group found any. Philadelphia Vireo: May 19 Olana only report. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** an extraordinary story of one male defending a territory around a socket in an electrical fixture *inside* a very busy truck maintenance garage in Chatham, mid-May thru early June when it finally gave up and left. Other warblers: Worm-eating: only reports are

from two groups on CR. Golden-winged: 11 reports are from May 7 thru; three banded in NB. Blue-winged: 18 reports incl. seven CR groups and eight banded NB plus the return of a male with bright yellow wing bars banded last fall. Tennesseee: plentiful; 30 May 13 Schodack (PC); five CR groups. Nashville: May 7 thru; generally scarcer than usual. No. Parula: only two reports; May 8 and May 19 (CR). Yellow: very numerous; 21 banded VF; 25 Schodack May 25; nine CR groups. Magnolia: May 8 thru; few reports; only four CR groups. Cape May: only one CR group; very few six other reports. Black-throated Blue: May 5 thru; five CR groups. Blackburnian: May 8 thru three CR groups. Chestnut-sided: May 8 thru; nine CR groups. Bay-breasted: only one CR group; two Col. Co. reports. Blackpoll: arrived in time for the CR (three gr); thru May 28. Pine: two CR groups found this species in the Luther Woods. Prairie: rather widespread as six CR groups report them; one banded NB. Palm: Apr. 21 Vosburghs thru May 5 (banded VF). Ovenbird: nine CR groups; other reports from May 8. No. Waterthrush: Apr. 28 W Glenville (DH) thru; seven CR groups. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 22 Buskirk (J Davis) thru five CR groups. Com. Yellowthroat: May 3 thru; max 20 May 28 Schodack; nine CR groups. Yellow-breasted Chat: two CR groups incl. three at Black Cr. Wilson's: two banded Wilson Powell Sanct. May 13; another NB May 17. Canada: plentiful; seven CR groups; three banded NB; one VF mid-May. Am. Redstart: nine CR groups; six banded VF; five banded NB mid-May.

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: ORCHARD ORIOLE: five total reports incl. a pair nesting in Colonie and one second-year male banded in Selkirk (RPG), also two CR groups. No. Oriole: May 7 thru; nine CR groups; five banded NB. Rusty Blackbird: Apr. 1 thru May 19. Indigo Bunting: early arrival Apr. 27 (JC); regular after mid-May. Evening Grosbeak: thru May 19 CR 2 groups. Purple Finch: several early May. House Finch: seven CR groups; no nests of this early nester reported. Com. Redpoll: a few thru Apr. 10 & 20 (JC & BHG). Pine Siskin: two at feeder, Cambridge Apr. 9 (ND); and Ghent Apr. 20. Savannah Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; nine nests or singing males, mid-May Cox. Flats. Grasshopper Sparrow: two CR groups and singing male Cox. Flats late May. Henslow's Sparrow: the Five Rivers colony attracted four CR groups and managed to survive a horde of Boy Scouts camping in the same field. Vesper Sparrow: only reports come from Col. Co. Apr. 27 thru period with an impressive five reported on the CR. Field Sparrow: Apr. thru period; eight CR groups. White-crowned Sparrow: Apr. 8 thru CR (six Col. Co.). White-throated Sparrow: March thru period; 45 banded VF May 4, 15, 18. Fox Sparrow: one Apr. 4 Schodack (PC) only report. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 (two banded VF) and May 27 NB. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 21 thru period; max 21 Schodack Apr. 21 (PC). Song Sparrow: thru period. Snow Bunting: 500 Castleton Mar. 2 (JC).

Box 46, New Baltimore, New York 12124

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Weather patterns were rather uneventful this spring of 1979. Most shallow lakes were free of ice by March 1, and the Hudson River and deeper lakes were free by the end of the first week of the period. There was no appreciable snow thru March and April, and the warm weather brought out foliage at least a week before schedule. What rain fell did so largely on the weekends, keeping many birders at home. The last week of May was very wet, flooding many areas.

The biggest local news about birds made the national newspapers when a Newburgh farmer caused the death of an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 individuals. It seems that he spread Parathion over his frozen fields in early March in preparation for planting. Within a week the ground was littered with resident song birds and thousands of migrating blackbirds, killed by ingesting contaminated corn. There was an amusing statement in a local newspaper attributed to a DEC worker who said, ". . . it could have been worse but that most of the migrants had already gone thru." This I read on March 19 in a restaurant only yards away from the fatal fields as more than a million blackbirds flew over in a constant stream for more than a half hour.

Perhaps it was due to the evenness of the weather, but the migration was less than spectacular. Many species were late, and a few never did show. There were no accented duck movements, and warbler waves were reduced to a few days when there were a few more around than usual. Other passerines were even less eventful. Hawk movements had a few good days, and shorebirds were good with a few excellent finds turning up late in May. Rarities included in the report are: Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Willet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, California Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Kentucky Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Peter Both, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Walter Friton, Florence Germond, Thelma and Paul Haight, Alice Jones, Jim and Mary Key, Ken McDermott, Frank Murphy, John Orth, Eleanor Pink, Benton Seguin, Selden Spencer, Tom Story, John Tramontano, Edward D. Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: The first few letters of each county; Ashokan—Ashokan Reservoir; Basha—Bashakill Swamp; CB—Cornwall Bay; CP—Croton Point; HMHW—Hook Mt. Hawk Watch; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; RNC—Rye Nature Center; WC—Waterman Census, Dutchess Co. May 13.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: never more than a few on Ashokan, and mostly single birds elsewhere. One Fishkill Cr. Mar. 3 was almost a month early in Dutch. Red-necked Grebe: one Mar. 5 at CB, and two Ashokan Mar. 7. Pied-billed Grebe: first Basha Mar. 24. Double-crested Cormorant: more reports than usual. An excellent flight along the L. i. Sound Apr. 21. Flocks of as many as 30 birds moving all day. A few hours count produced 1,180 from Rye to Greenwich Pt. One and two birds reported from a half dozen places along the Hudson from Esopus south. Max ten near Staatsburg May 27 (AJ). Great Blue Heron: 2 Dutch heronries occupied at the start of the season were abandoned by late May—reason unknown. Cattle Egret: one at PL Mar. 25 was early. 11 Town of P'kpsie May 29 and eight Pleasant Valley the same day might have been the same birds. Snowy Egret: one PL Mar. 30 was early, as were one at CP and three at Peekskill Apr. 21. Three North Bay Crugers I May 11 were more normal. Louisiana Heron: one PL May 12 was unusual. Black-crowned Night Heron: one at PL from mid-Mar. on 13 there by Apr. 18. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: first at MC Apr. 13. Least Bittern: only one report from Basha May 27 (KM). Glossy Ibis: more than usual. One MC Apr. 11. One North Bay Crugers I May 6. Mute Swan: continues to spread northward. Most young hatched by May 15. Canada Goose: on every pond of any size. Young out by first week of May. Brant: more than 1000 over Basha May 17. Large groups obs May 22 along the Hudson. Last 160 over Ward Pound Ridge Res. May 26. Snow Goose: more than usual. Excellent flights thru Apr. Two remained at Amenia and five to seven at Pine Plains thru May. Gadwall: unusual any time. A pair at Goshen Mar. 29 and one there Apr. 16 (BS). Pintail: several reports, all mid-Mar. Max 12

Goshen Mar. 21. Green-winged Teal: one Eurasian form at Goshen again this spring Mar. 25 thru Apr. 8 (BS). Max American form 25 Goshen Mar. 26. Am. Wigeon: max 20 Goshen Mar. 21. Redhead: max 12 Ulst Mar. 10. Ring-necked Duck: usual nos. thru Mar. Max 52 Basha Apr. 18. Canvasback: coming back to numbers of 20 years ago. More than 1300 on Hudson off Esopus Mar. 10, and 2000-3000 on Hudson off Dutch Mar. 18. Bufflehead: max 75 CB May 1. Oldsquaw: only report two Apr. 3 CB. White-winged Scoter: two males CB Apr. 5 (BS). Hooded Merganser: max 12 Basha Apr. 7. Red-breasted Merganser: max ten Ashokan Mar. 7 (AB).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr most areas Mar. 13 thru 14. First in Dutch Mar. 6. One on West Clove Mt. in Apr. had a blue marker fixed to the wing. Goshawk: very few. Only two on HMHW and two others reported from Dutch. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 235 on HMHW. One continued working Dutch feeder until Apr. 27. Cooper's Hawk: only one on HMHW. Only other report Basha May 5. Red-shouldered Hawk: 25 on HMHW. Many reports of single birds thru period. Broad-winged Hawk: 440 on HMHW. First four Apr. 11. Max 75 over the Trapps at Mohonk Apr. 21 (Hans Weber). Rough-legged Hawk: six near Gardner, Mar. 3 (KM). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one from Apr. 2 thru 5 near Tamarack, Dutch. Two in mid-Apr. near West Clove Mt. One on WC at Stissing Mt. was the first for that count. Bald Eagle: two ad and one imm at Mongaup Mar. 18. One ad Basha May 17. Osprey: 45 on HMHW. First two at Crugers I Mar. 21 were very early (JMK). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** only two reports. One HMHW May 5 and another Coldenham May 27. Ruffed Grouse: seems to be improving. Heard regularly along Mine Rd. USMA thru period. Ring-necked Pheasant: RFD had three dur May in south Rock, a very rare bird there. Turkey: seen regularly in Dutch. One on WC was the first for that count. King Rail: three answered tape at Iona I. May 18 (EDT). Common Gallinule: more than 50 at Basha Apr. 24. Semipalmated Plover: seven near Amenia May 13. Two remained May 14 thru 15. Am. Woodcock: first Mar. 11 at Kingston. Common Snipe: two Kingston Mar. 1. More than 30 Chester Apr. 15. Upland Sandpiper: at least four at Wallkill from late Apr. on. **WILLET:** one on WC Crugers I was the second county record and the first for that count (OW *et al.*). Pectoral Sandpiper: five Wallkill Mar. 31, and eight Chester Apr. 15. **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER:** two June 1 at Amenia (FG, AJ). **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:** three at Amenia May 31 thru June 1; first identified by Trixie Strauss, Helen Manson and Eleanor Pink; and photographed by Florence Germond and Alice Jones. Description and photos sent to NYSARC. If verified, it will probably be the first spring record for the state. Birds were observed in company with Least and White-rumped. Least Sandpiper: three Dutch May 14; 20 Amenia same date; two still there May 31. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Amenia May 14; 24 there May 31. **MARbled GODWIT:** first record for Dutch June 2 thru 3 at Amenia (mob). Iceland Gull: one Wappingers Cr. Mar. 17, inc to two Mar. 19 (TS, JMK). One CP Apr. 13 thru 28 (KM). **CALIFORNIA GULL:** bird of the fall and winter at Rockland L appeared again Mar. 11 (EDT). Ring-billed Gull: max of 125 Vanderburg Cove Mar. 15. **BONAPARTE'S GULL:** more than usual. First 12 Crugers I. Mar. 21. Six CB Apr. 7. One Ashokan Apr. 12 and max 45 CB May 1.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: everywhere! A pr nested in a hanging flower pot on the porch of E. Hommel at Salt Point for the second year. Cuckoos: numbers of both species down esp Yellow-billed. Nowhere near enough to cope with the crop of tent caterpillars. Great Horned Owl: one ad on nest with one imm at Tomahawk L Apr. 8. Barred Owl: obs nesting thru late May in the city of Kingston (FM). Com. Nighthawk: first nine over Iona I. May 10. Numbers down. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: late and very few. Com. Flicker: in good numbers by Mar. 23. Red-bellied Woodpecker: seem to be increasing only in Dutch where 12 were found on WC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: first Wawarsing Apr. 1.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Kingbird: first Apr. 28 Basha. Numbers good after that date. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 3. E. Phoebe: usual mid-Mar. return, but first Rock report was May 23, and still missing from many old locations there. Yellow-

bellied Flycatcher: only report one May 17 near Thompson Pd (EP). Acadian Flycatcher: returned to usual three locations in Dutch dur late May. One near Cuddebackville May 19. Alder and Willow Flycatcher: two of each at W. Haverstraw Marsh May 22 (RFD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: first Weyant's Pd. USMA May 8. Very early (EDT). Several reports thereafter. One on WC was the first for that count. Horned Lark: one juvenal at Stewart Airport Mar. 18 (BS). Missed on WC. Tree Swallow: first three Mar. 24. Numbers normal thru Apr. Rough-winged Swallow: first Apr. 18 Basha. Barn Swallow: first Apr. 23. Cliff Swallow: first Basha May 12. Obs nesting there in new location. Purple Martin: first six in Dutch Apr. 1. Breeding at five locations there by May. Blue Jay: scarcity of feeder birds last winter continued thru spring. RFD noted a good flight of migrants thru Rock May 7 thru 9, and a heavy movement was reported in Dutch from May 25 on. Com. Crow: P'keepsie roost of several thousand last winter was down to ab 600 by Mar. 7. Fish Crow: continues to increase along Hudson to N limit of Region. First noted at Newburgh on Mar. 6. Winter Wren: regular again at Thompson Pd. and Deep Hollow where they were absent last year. Long-billed Marsh Wren: either very late or very scarce. Few reports thru end of period. Mockingbird: everywhere! Gray Catbird: first two at IBM, P'kpsie Apr. 28. Brown Thrasher: first Mar. 30 Wawarsing. Am. Robin: many from Mar. 14 on. Wood Thrush: two Apr. 22 and one Apr. 24 at Verbank were early. Hermit Thrush: eight at CP Apr. 21 was an unusual number. Swainson's Thrush: six Basha May 12. Most did not report them. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none! Veery: first Basha May 2, late and scarce elsewhere. E. Bluebird: FG reports more nesting on her "nest box trail" than ever before. Young hatched in three boxes by Apr. 24. Golden-crowned Kinglet: very scarce. Present at Camp Sharparoon on May 1 thru 16 where they tried to nest two years ago. Water Pipit: many Apr. 11 in Dutch. No. Shrike: one at Wawarsing Mar. 13 was the last after an excellent winter.

WARBLERS—VIREOS: White-eyed Vireo: a very early one at RNC Apr. 14, and another in Rye Apr. 4. Numbers up in Dutch where five were reported in May. Solitary Vireo: first Apr. 13 in Dutch. Six reports there afterward with four Apr. 30. Warbling Vireo: first in Nyack May 11. At least nine reported in Rock on May 22, and 21 on WC. Black-and-white: at RNC from Apr. 15. Worm-eating Warbler: RFD reports a fair number on Clausland Mt. from May 15. One on the Torne May 21 where it had not been found for years. Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler: 19 of the former and 133 of the latter on WC were good numbers for that early date. "Brewster's" Warbler: one on WC was a first for that count. Yellow-rumped Warbler: RFD had a flock of more than 200 near Orangeburgh May 1. Cerulean Warbler: returned to usual localities and a new location at West Park May 12 (FM). Blackburnian Warbler: RFD had one May 30 in Nyack, ties his late record for Rock lowlands set in 1967. Chestnut-sided Warbler: late arr at most usual locations. Did not appear along Mine Rd USMA, where it is usually common, until late May. Has reappeared on the hills west of Nyack where it has been absent for the past ten years. Pine Warbler: first Apr. 8 Wawarsing. Two RNC Apr. 12. Two Ashokan Apr. 22. Prairie Warbler: absent from Mine Rd. USMA where it has bred in numbers for many years. Arr Kingston Apr. 26. WC produced a phenomenal 105, almost twice their previous high. Louisiana Waterthrush: first Dutch Apr. 13. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one Basha May 12 and again May 18 (BS). Mourning Warbler: more than usual. Males in song at Wawarsing May 20, South Nyack May 29, and Deep Hollow, Dutch, May 31. Hooded Warbler: returned to the hills west of Nyack after ten years absence.

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Blackbirds: (see introductory remarks). Bobolink: returned to Oran May 3 and Dutch May 5. E. Meadowlark: seems to be disappearing from Dutch along with pheasant. Fewer each year. Only 40 on WC. Red-winged Blackbird: no migrants in Feb. First few in Dutch Mar. 2. Orchard Oriole: more than usual. Obs in ten locations from last week of Apr. to mid-May. One at Stissing May 30 was nesting (TPH). Com. Grackle: as with Redwing, no Feb. migrants. Appeared with them in Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: strong decline in Mohonk area. More than 300 May 10 at Pleasant Valley. **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK:** one at Cornwall Mar. 3 (BS). Indigo Bunting: arrived mid-May in

the best numbers ever. First May 6 at Wawarsing was early. Found every few yards along Mine Rd. USMA. Evening Grosbeak: the poor numbers of last winter continued thru spring. No increase in migrants noted. Last in Dutch May 7. Purple Finch: continues to decline, especially low in the Mohonk area. Pine Siskin: low numbers of winter continued this spring. Only report one at Stissing May 2 thru 4 (TPH). Rufous-sided Towhee: first Apr. 17. Normal numbers. Grasshopper Sparrow: resident in at least three areas in Dutch dur May. A pair again this year at Little Leage Field, Westbrookville from May 19 (KM). Vesper Sparrow: unreported! Dark-eyed Junco: numbers continue down in Mohonk area. Last at Wawarsing Apr. 24, and in Dutch May 6. Not found in areas of Dutch where it formerly nested. Chipping Sparrow: arr Wawarsing Apr. 13. Numbers normal thereafter. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Tom Burke obs a singing bird at Ward Pound Ridge Res. May 26 from 7:00 to 10:30 a.m. Not found thereafter. White-crowned Sparrow: numbers severely reduced. Unobserved by many active birders. Dutch had only three in May, and only two reported elsewhere May 16. White-throated Sparrow: reduced winter numbers continued into spring. Left in early May. Fox Sparrow: one singing in Dutch May 13 was a very late record. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Kingston May 11 was the only report.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928.

REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Spring weather was generally mild and wet through the period; May saw almost double the normal amount of rainfall, washing out weekend birding and "big day" counts. Southerly winds in early April pushed in a few early or overshooting migrants. Expected mid-April migrants, kinglets, Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, were scarce in most areas and absent in others. Early May saw greater numbers of migrants moving through making birding in city parks rewarding. The last half of May produced limited birding because of the adverse weather.

Herbert Johnson

Birders in our area were saddened to learn of the death of Herbert Johnson, of cancer, on March 8th at the age of 68. Herb was the superintendent of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for many years, and devoted himself to creating the sanctuary we know. Perhaps we can follow the advice of Rene Dubos and "think globally and act locally," as did Herb Johnson, and make some impact on an environmental concern close to home.

An Award

Senator Proxmire presents his "Golden Fleece" award.

"Thanks a Lot"

This column is initiating a "Thanks a Lot" (we needed that kind of help) award to be awarded occasionally as the spirit moves. The first presentation goes to the *New York Times* feature writer whose article on spring birding highlighted policemen assigned to Central Park to watch bird watchers because many

of them carry expensive "\$900" binoculars. Birders meeting the next day nervously fingered their \$85 optics and took hope in the thought that muggers might not read the *Times* regularly.

Great Gull Island Report

The spring season report from Great Gull Island documented the best mist netting in several years. Compiler Joseph DiCostanzo noted that during May 1149 individuals of 69 species were banded compared to fewer than 500 each of the two previous years. May 1st saw a movement of ground birds (Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, towhee, Swamp Sparrow). May 9th and 10th brought a big movement of Blue Jays with 125 banded. Thirteen species of warblers also were banded. The prize of the banding period was a male Summer Tanager banded on May 9th. Yellowthroats were plentiful on May 18th with 74 banded. Movement continued through the month ending with a flycatcher flight May 30 and 31. These dedicated people on Great Gull Island continue to provide valuable data from their isolated vantage point.

Mississippi Kites

The most exciting find of the spring was the pair (?) of Mississippi Kites present May 26 thru June 9 at the LaTourette Golf Course on Staten Island. These birds were feeding on the huge number of 17 year Cicadas erupting at the time. These birds constituted a first state record; they were seen and enjoyed by many, both perched on a dead snag and in flight.

Pelagic Trip Reports

The Federation pelagic trip June 2 to Block Canyon proceeded to beyond the edge of the Continental Shelf approximately 90 miles south of Montauk. The high points were splendid sightings of South Polar Skuas which circled the boat allowing careful study. The penultimate experience occurred near the end of the day when tired birders sighted a dead bird floating miles out to sea. As we approached, this bird was variously identified by groggy birders, with the smart money on Black Guillemot and Cape Pigeon. When retrieved, the object proved to be a submarine officer's cap which was appropriated by Tom Davis for use on future trips. Maybe we could say it was a cap pigeon? (Eds. note—perhaps there should be an appropriate award for that pun.)

March 12: Block Canyon (R. A. Rowlett); 265+ Northern Fulmars, 3600+ Gannets, one Iceland Gull, 5000+ Great Black-backed Gulls, one adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, 3000+ Herring Gulls, 11 Black-legged Kittiwakes, one Razorbill, one unidentified alcid, 13000+ unidentified birds. There were ten fishing trawlers present.

May 26: Hudson Canyon (Urner/DVOC Trip, R. Kane, THD *et al.*): 69 Northern Fulmars, eight Greater Shearwaters, 50+ Sooty Shearwaters, one Manx Shearwater, 160 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, seven Gannets, one Northern Phalarope, one South Polar Skua, one Parasitic Jaeger, one Long-tailed Jaeger, two Arctic Terns.

June 2: Block Canyon (Federation of New York State Bird Clubs trip): six Northern Fulmars, 22 Cory's Shearwaters, two Greater Shearwaters, 87 Sooty Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters, 250+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one Gannet, three South Polar Skuas, two Pomarine Jaegers.

June 3: Cox's Ledge (TWB *et al.*): 12 Northern Fulmars, three Greater Shearwaters, 162 Sooty Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters, 15 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, five Gannets, two Parasitic Jaegers.

Spring positives include: normal shorebird migration, a record total of 24 Summer Tanagers suggesting the possibility of a range extension in the near future, a big flight of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Prothonotary Warblers in increasing numbers including several females.

Spring negatives: low numbers of thrushes, kinglets, Carolina Wrens, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Empidonax Flycatchers were scarce.

Rarities include: Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Great Gray Owl, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle.

Contributors and observers: Robert Adamo, Jim Ash, Albert M. Bell, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Sam Chevalier, Thomas H. Davis, Harry Darrow, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joseph DiCostanzo, Georges Dreameaux, Myra Dreameaux, Paul Gillen, Robert Hines, William Lamoureaux, David Larsen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Alan Lindberg, Lois Lindberg, Glenn Quinn, Gilbert S. Raynor, Hanna Richards, Barbara J. Spencer, Timothy Stiles.

LOONS-DUCKS: A breeding plumaged Red-throated Loon was unusual at Great Gull Island on the late date of May 24 (JDiC). Red-necked Grebes were present at several locations in March with two seen Mar. 4 at Shinnecock Inlet (RA), three at Montauk Mar. 10 (RH), one Mar. 25 at the Robert Moses Bridge (GSR), one at Jamaica Bay Mar. 29 appeared oiled (TS), two were at Oak Beach near the "Sore Thumb" Mar. 31 (L. Brown), while another in changing plumage was off Great Gull Island Apr. 24 and 25 for a first record there (JDiC, H. Hayes). 22 Cory's Shearwaters June 2, 60 to 85 miles south of Montauk, were early, while Greater Shearwaters were late in their migration pattern this year. Two Manx Shearwaters were seen in the same area, while two more were at Cox's Ledge the next day (TWB). A Northern Fulmar was found dead Apr. 6 at Cedar Beach; the specimen was sent to the American Museum of Natural History (N. Wilkins). A big flight of Gannets moved along the south shore on strong SE winds Mar. 24 from Jones Beach to Shinnecock at the rate of 250 to over 600 per hour (AJL, GSR, D. Kibbe). Great Blue Herons were noted in groups of five to eleven Mar. 30 through Apr. 12 in a number of locations. The first Cattle Egrets moved into the area Mar. 25 with one at Tobay (GSR) where the first Snowy Egret was also seen. Snowy Egrets had advanced to the north shore by Mar. 31 with one seen at Sands Point (GQ). A Glossy Ibis was noted the same day at Jamaica Bay (GD, MD). A Least Bittern was heard calling at Calverton May 31 (GSR). Snow Geese were in passage during March and early April with 14 Mar. 10 at Jamaica Bay (GSR), 130 flew over Manorville Apr. 8 (GSR), and 500 were seen overhead at Sands Point Apr. 12 (GQ). A European Wigeon which wintered in the Mecox area was last seen Apr. 28 (DL, GSR). A Ring-necked Duck May 26 at Moriches was late, as was a Bufflehead at Poxabogue (GSR). A pair of Common Mergansers was last seen Mar. 24; Hooded Mergansers lingered until Mar. 31 at Hempstead Lake (SBD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures were reported from several locations: one was seen overhead at Muttontown Apr. 6 (AL, LL), one in Upton Apr. 19 (GSR), one in Manorville shortly afterwards thought to be the same bird (RA), another the same day was in Mill Neck (J. Madden), and two were seen from Prospect Park May 2 (TS). A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE was an exciting find in Brookhaven May 5 (J. & C. Hastings), while the pair (?) of MISSISSIPPI KITES at the LaTourette Golf Course on Staten Island were both unprecedented in the state, and cooperative in staying in the area from May 26 through June 9.

(R. Clairmont, R. ZainEldeen *et al.*). One bird was fully adult, while the other retained immature feathers in the tail and lacked several primaries. A Red-shouldered Hawk Mar. 10 at Muttontown may have been the bird that wintered at the preserve. Another was seen at Miller Place Apr. 19 (DL). An immature Bald Eagle was seen at Jones Beach Mar. 3 (SBD). Apparently at least two Peregrines were involved in sightings around Kennedy airport: one was banded the last week in March (SC), one was seen May 3 at Kennedy without a band (SC, HR, TS), one May 7 was at Forest Park (JA), and one flew over Brooklyn streets May 8 (TS). A Merlin was seen Apr. 18 at Ridge (DL). Six American Oystercatchers arrived at Jones Beach Mar. 9 (W, Wilkins) and one was seen in flight off Montauk Point Mar. 10 (RH). Three Whimbrels were seen May 5 at Shinnecock (GSR), one remained there May 10 (DL). One Upland Sandpiper was located May 12 at Mitchell Field where at least one pair persists despite severe human pressure (EL). A pair arrived at Kennedy airport Mar. 13 (SC). An albino Willet at Lawrence marsh Apr. 22 must have required a second look (RH). A maximum of 40 White-rumped Sandpipers were present May 11 at the Oak Beach marsh (HD). A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was located May 19 and May 28 at Jamaica Bay (PAB, THD, *et al.*). Single Stilt Sandpipers were found Apr. 28 at Mecox (GSR, DL), Apr. 28 thru May 10 at Jamaica Bay, and May 9 at the Oak Beach marsh (HD). An early Ruff was a good find at Sagaponack Mar. 7 thru 10 (RH); two were present at the Oak Beach marsh May 9 thru 13 where they were photographed by HD. A **BLACK-NECKED STILT** was an exciting find May 15 at Mecox (C. McKeever), while four of this species May 24 thru 28 at the Oak Beach marsh were an unprecedented number (R. Miller, J. Greenlaw). A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes arrived at Jamaica Bay May 5, a female was at Oak Beach marsh May 10 thru 13, and a pair at Jamaica Bay May 27. Many observers also enjoyed seeing Northern Phalaropes at Jamaica Bay; a female May 20, a pair May 27 thru 28; three were present May 30. Jaegers were late in their migration as few individuals were seen on pelagic trips through June 3. Three South Polar Skuas were well seen and highlighted the Federation pelagic trip June 2. A second year Iceland Gull was at Jamaica Bay Apr. 29 (GD, MD). A pair of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was observed among Herring Gulls Mar. 4 (AJL). The earliest Laughing Gull report was Apr. 3 from Hempstead Harbor (BJS). Numbers increased on the north shore with highs of 59 at Mt. Sinai May 8, and 32 Apr. 22 in Glen Cove (RC). The persistence of adult birds on the north shore through the summer suggests that breeding may be attempted although suitable sites are scarce. Up to four adult Little Gulls were among the Bonaparte's Gulls in Jones Inlet during late April. Three Little Gulls were seen at Fire Island Inlet Mar. 17 (RH); two were at Plum Beach, Brooklyn Mar. 25 (JDiC). A pair of Gull-billed Terns returned to Jamaica Bay May 5 while one was seen carrying food into the Cedar Beach tern colony May 13 (EL). A Common Tern flying over Great Gull Island Apr. 22 was their earliest return (JDiC) as terns moved into the area generally from Apr. 28 through the first week in May. Three Caspian Terns May 2 at Shinnecock were the only ones reported (GSR). A Black Tern was spotted flying with newly arrived Common and Roseate Terns at dawn Apr. 30 at Great Gull Island (JDiC).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Both species of cuckoos were well reported during May. A gray-phase Screech Owl, the rarer of the two phases on Long Island, was seen in Locust Valley Mar. 4 (R. Miller); the same observer found an injured red phase bird in Mill Neck Mar. 16. The previously reported **GREAT GRAY OWL** lingered until Mar. 29 at Lloyd Neck (S. Ruppert). Another was found dead on the beach at Centerport Mar. 12 and the specimen was added to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary collection in Oyster Bay. Several Chuck-will's-widows were reported: one Apr. 22 at Stony Brook (C. Worster), one May 9 through May 31 in Calverton (DL, GSR), while two calling males were present during May at Oak Beach. One observer reported four birds at that location May 10 (GD). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in low numbers. One was seen in Central Park May 13 and another in Prospect Park May 23 (TS).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Four Acadian Flycatchers were banded on Great Gull

Island, two May 30 and two June 2 (JDiC). Another was found at LaTourette Golf Course May 30 (BJS). A singing Alder Flycatcher at Jamaica Bay May 30 was unusual although numbers probably go unrecorded as most birds must pass through silently (BJS). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Central Park May 10 (GD, MD), from May 15 and Muttontown May 17 (RC). Observers on Long Island reported swallows moving in from April 28 on with a few earlier records: two Tree Swallows March 24 at Poxabogue Pond (DL, RS). Four Rough-winged Swallows Apr. 12 at Hempstead Lake were with six Barn Swallows (EL). Cliff Swallows are hard to find on Long Island. One was at Shinnecock May 9 (GSR) and one at Baiting Hollow May 13 (RA). Purple Martins were first seen at Calverton Apr. 13 (DL). Ten titmice in Sands Point Apr. 1 may have reflected movement from outside the area (GQ). Carolina Wrens seem very scarce on Long Island following several severe winters except for the good numbers on Gardiner's Island. One was seen Apr. 20 at Yaphank (GSR) while another was at Garvie's Point during May (RC). The previously reported **VARIED THRUSH** remained at Mastic until Mar. 17 (GSR). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were widely distributed and well reported. A pair was observed building a nest in Yaphank in late May and successfully fledged young (DL). Northern Shrikes lingered through Mar. 30 at Jamaica Bay (TS) and Apr. 18 at Jones Beach (L. Shore). A total of 20 gnatcatchers were banded on Gull Island starting with six on April 25 (JDiC).

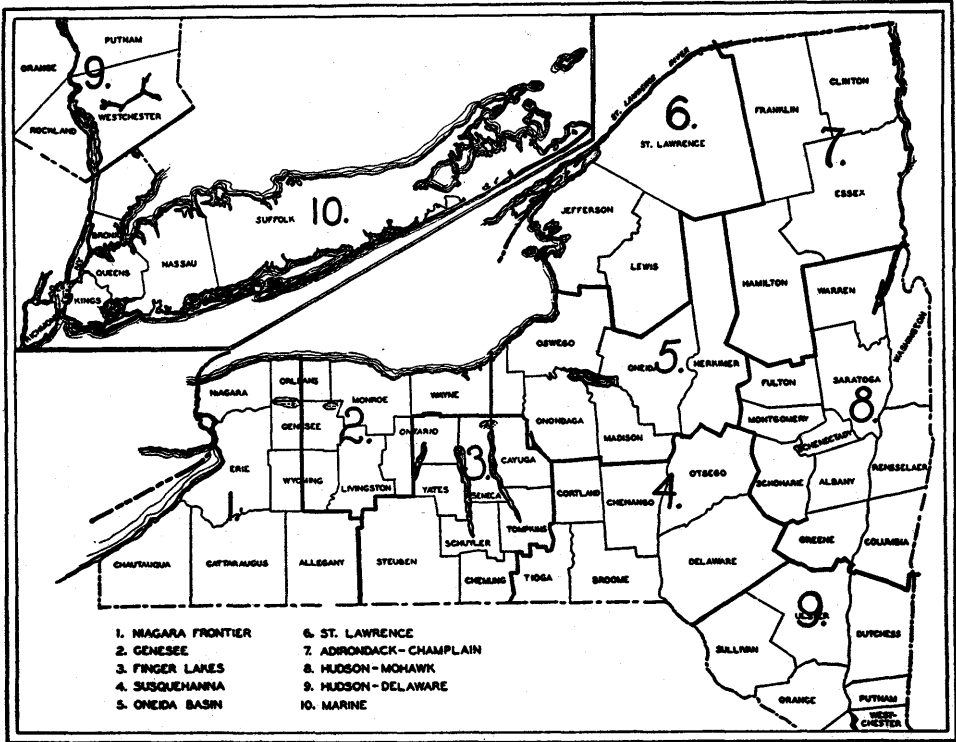
VIREOS-WARBLERS: A White-eyed Vireo Apr. 8 at Hempstead Lake was very early (SBD, EL). Yellow-throated Vireos were reported from three locations: two were in Central Park May 3 (TS), one in Manorville May 8 (GSR), and one in Sands Point May 27 (GQ). Prothonotary Warblers were more in evidence than usual with perhaps eleven individuals reported: a male was seen in Central Park Apr. 24 by many observers. Two males were in Central Park Apr. 26-27. Apr. 28 one was found at Moravian Cemetery Staten Island (R. Zain Eldeen); another was in Lattintown Apr. 29 (RC). A female was present in Yaphank May 5 and 6. A male appeared soon after and was seen until May 31 but observers thought the female had left before the male arrived (J & C Hastings, GSR, RA, DL). A female was found in Forest Park May 12 (DC, RA *et al.*) while a male was in Oyster Bay May 12 (J. Ricks). A pair at Nissequogue Park toward the end of May managed to locate each other and remained to nest successfully rearing three fledglings (M. Wheat, G. Mertz). A singing male **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** was present in Central Park May 7 through 11 seen by (TS, B & W Baumann, S. Rosenberg, P. W. Post and others). Golden-winged Warblers were in better than usual numbers with five individuals reported from the city parks, one at Central, three at Forest and at Alley Pond. A bird in West Babylon May 10 was the only report away from the city (F. File). A "Lawrence's" Warbler was seen by many in Central Park May 4 and 5; and one was found May 6 at Forest Park (BJS, *et al.*). May 1 was notable for the huge number of Yellow-rumped Warblers moving through the area. One observer called the concentration "incredible" at Hempstead Lake with over 100 in a small area along a creek (SBD). Cerulean Warblers were reported from all of the city parks with at least three present at Forest Park in mid-May. Additional Ceruleans were at Hempstead Lake May 5 (EL), at Yaphank May 15 (RA, GSR) and one at Wildwood State Park May 19 (RA). An early Yellow-throated Warbler was seen inspecting the interior of a Dempster Dumpster at Jones Beach on Apr. 8 (A. Wollin, S. Schiff). Another was found dead Apr. 22 at Alley Pond (W. Reilly), while a third was reported Apr. 27 from Central Park (P. W. Post). Pine Warblers are not usually regular at Hempstead Lake where three lingered several days from Apr. 12 on (EL). A Kentucky Warbler was seen to advantage in his backyard birdbath at Baldwin (EL), while a maximum of three Kentucky Warblers were at Forest Park on May 10 (THD) and seen by many for several days thereafter. Two were present at Yaphank woods May 15; one was still there May 22 (GSR, RA, DL). Muttontown Preserve had two singing male Yellow-breasted Chats present from mid-May through the period and seen by many (AL). At least one of the birds appeared to be paired. Chats have not bred on Long Island for a number of years. Another chat was banded on Great Gull Island May 17 (JDiC, AL *et al.*).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: Bobolinks were noted moving through in early May with six seen at Cedar Beach May 8 (EL), 24 at Manorville May 14 (GSR). An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at a feeder in West Sayville Mar. 17 thru Apr. 15 (K. Lindfors, W. Lamoureaux). A female was seen Apr. 5 at Dongan Hills, Staten Island (R. ZainEldeen). **BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES** were reported from several locations near Jamaica Bay. A pair was at the refuge Apr. 21 (W. Kurau); the female lingered to May 13 (JA). A male was seen Apr. 29 at Riis Park (GD, MD, *et al.*). A male was at Point Lookout May 6 (A. Dignan). Two males and a female were seen May 9 on Pearsall's Hassock (HD, A. Dignan). Orchard Orioles appeared at several locations: first year males were in Central Park May 7 (TS), and on Great Gull Island from May 4 to May 12 (JDiC). Two pairs were in Glen Cove where they have bred previously (RC). Two were seen at Wading River May 8, one May 19 at Calverton and one May 20 and 27 at Manorville (all GSR). An unprecedented total of 24 Summer Tanagers were reported from the area including seven at Forest Park, five from Central Park and a number from Eastern Long Island localities including Babylon, Wading River and Great Gull Island. Fifteen of the birds were males, six females and three unspecified. Four subadult male Blue Grosbeaks were found at Riis Park Apr. 29 (THD, M. Chamberlaine). A male was at Forest Park May 3 (T. & A. Torba), two males were at Forest Park May 8 thru 11, subadult males at Jamaica Bay May 13 thru 15 (D. Reipe, *et al.*), LaTourette Golf Course Staten Island (GD), and one found at Jones Beach May 3 lingered three weeks (A. Wollin *et al.*). "White-winged" House Finches were highlighted in the recent issue of *American Birds*. House Finches of this description have been seen for at least two winters on Long Island. In 1977-78 a male and a female were at a feeder in Sea Cliff (BJS). They ranged to nearby Glen Head (J. Doran). A female was present all winter (1978-79) at a feeder in Roslyn (H. Roth). All observers felt that it was unlikely that these birds would be confused with other species as they were clearly like the other House Finches and noted them only as a curiosity. It would be interesting to know if these Long Island birds were related to the Jersey birds in any direct way or whether the white wing panels have cropped up in separate populations. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Forest Park May 17 (H. Roth, J. Lamoureaux) and two were banded on Great Gull Island May 21 (JDiC), where a surprising number of Swamp Sparrows, 49 compared to ten for the two previous years combined, were also banded.

Please send breeding bird compilations in as soon as they are completed to ease the writing task in September.

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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