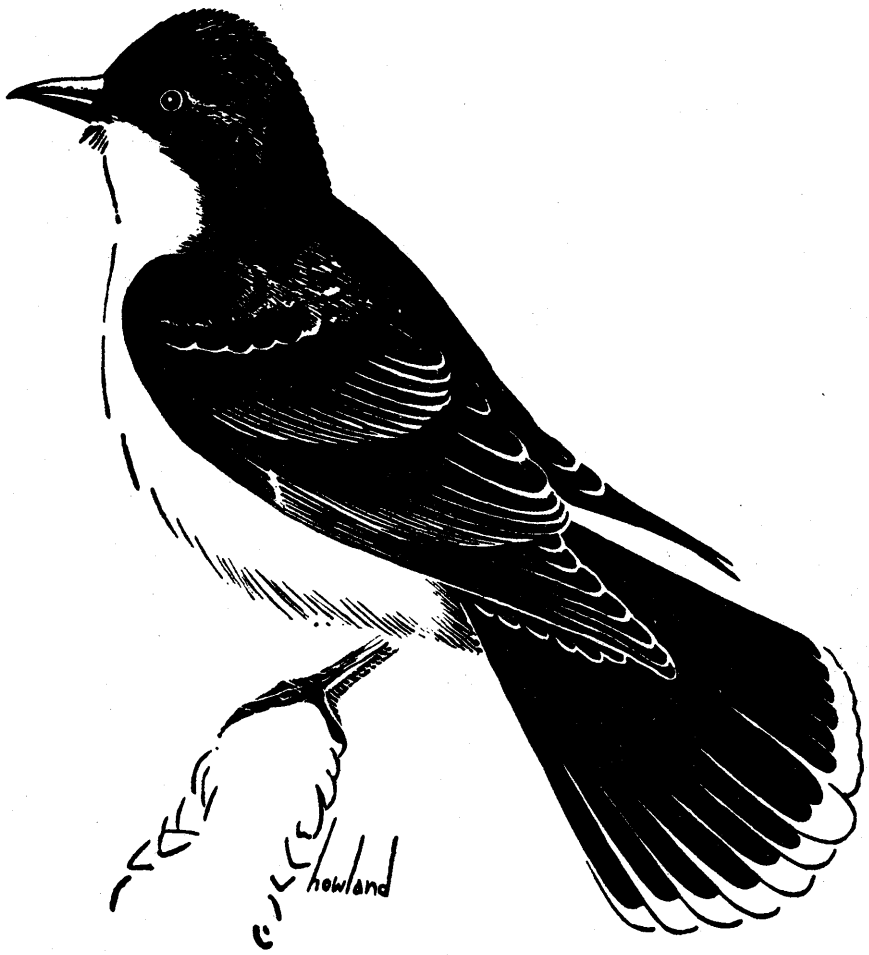


# The KINGBIRD



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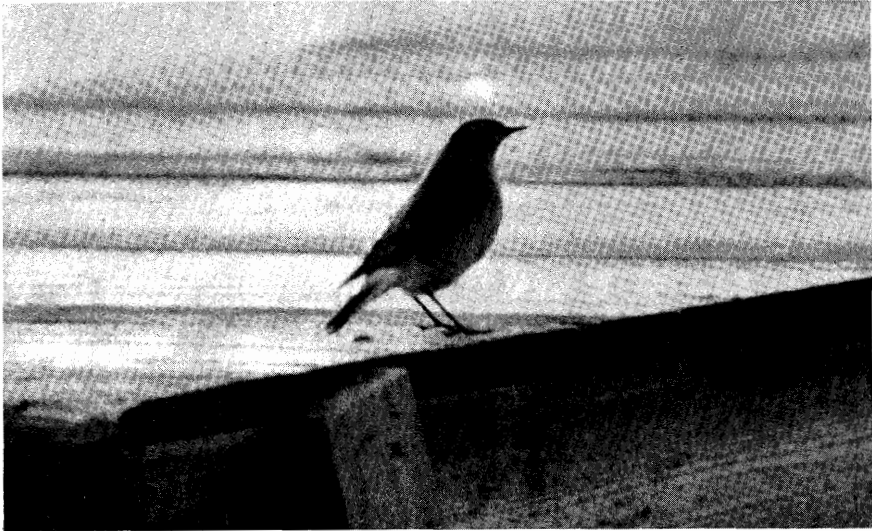
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*Guest Editor* — Robert Spahn

*Circulation Manager* — Constance N. Wilkins

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*"Greenland" Wheatear (Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoea) photographed at Westhampton, Long Island, New York, October 16, 1977.  
— Photo by Bertel Bruun*

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 40. WHEATEAR

BERTEL BRUUN

From October 16, 1977 to October 23 a Wheatear visited my garden in Westhampton, Suffolk County. On the weekends of this time period I photographed the bird.

The Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) is an Old World species that has invaded North America from both east and west, in both cases retaining its original wintering grounds in the tropics of Africa and Asia. It is therefore only a rare visitor to North America south of its breeding grounds and does not occur at all in South America.

The presence of Wheatears in Greenland has been known since the 18th century (Brünnich, 1764; Egede, 1741) but the first record from the North American continent did not occur until the middle of the 19th century. Cassin (1856) described a bird, *Saxicola oenanthoides*, obtained at "Nova Scotia" (actually Cape Harrison, Labrador), which was a Wheatear (Baird, Brewer and Ridgway). Coues (1861) next mentions the species which he came across on his visit to Henley Harbour, Labrador, and he later described it as "astray from Europe via Greenland" (Coues, 1872). It is now known to breed commonly in northeastern Canada as well as in Greenland and Iceland. This population is separated as a distinct subspecies, the "Greenland" Wheatear (*O. o. leucorrhoea*). That the eastern North American population belonged to this subspecies was demonstrated by Stejneger (1901). The retention of the African winter quarters necessitating a biannual transatlantic crossing has been proven beyond doubt (Bruun, Salomonsen, Snow).

The first record of the species from the United States is from New York. There are now a total of 19 records from this state. These are listed below:

1. Long Island, fall of 1863, adult female (Elliot collection), A.M.N.H. collection No. 1236 (Bull, 1964).
2. Junius, Seneca Co., Sept. 9, 1872 (Hampton), specimen in Hobart College collection (Bull, 1974).
3. Jamaica, Queens Co., 1885, two adult females (Akhurst) A.M.N.H. collections No. 439561 and 439562 (Bull, 1964).
4. Rochester, Monroe Co., Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 1934, one (Bull, 1974).
5. Montauk, Suffolk Co., Dec. 27, 1936, one with flock of 50 Snow Buntings (Bull, 1964).

6. Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., June 3, 1941, one in breeding plumage (Bull, 1964).
7. Peekskill, Westchester Co., Nov. 15, 1947, one (Bull, 1964).
8. Glen Oaks Village, Queens Co., Sept. 9-16, 1951, one which perched on boulders and even rooftops (Bull, 1964).
9. Orient, Suffolk Co., May 13, 1956, one (Bull, 1964).
10. Piseco Lake, Hamilton Co., Sept. 25, 1963, one (Bull, 1974).
11. Grand Island, Niagara Co., Sept. 25, 1965, one (Bull, 1974).
12. Tobay Sanctuary, Nassau Co., Sept. 18, 1967, one (*Kingbird* 18: 26, 1968).
13. Hamburg, Erie Co., Sept. 27, 1967, two (Bull, 1974).
14. VanCortlandt Park, Bronx Co., June 8, 1968, one (Bull, 1970).
15. Upton, Suffolk Co., Sept. 28, 1970, one (Bull, 1974).
16. Bridgeport, Madison Co., Sept. 26-27, 1972, one (*Am. Birds* 27: 34, 1973).
17. Captree State Park, Suffolk Co., Sept. 23-28, 1976, one (*Am. Birds* 31: 159, 1977).
18. Westhampton, Suffolk Co., Oct. 16-23, 1977, one (Bruun, 1980).
19. Robert Moses State Park, Suffolk Co., Oct. 19-20, 1978, one (*Am. Birds* 33: 162, 1979).

The four known specimens from New York are all of the "Greenland" Wheatear as is the Westhampton bird and there is no reason to believe the nominate race has ever occurred in New York (Bruun, 1980).

It has been postulated (Peterson), that the Wheatear is increasing in the northeast. Although this may be true on the breeding grounds (Salomonsen, 1967), there is no evidence this is true in New York. The table compares the New York records of Wheatears from the last five decades with the membership of the National Audubon Society at the middle of each decade as an indicator of the relative number of observers. Although records have increased, this appears due to an increase in observers and not in the number of birds or changes in their migratory habits.

	<u>1930-1939</u>	<u>1940-1949</u>	<u>1950-1959</u>	<u>1960-1969</u>	<u>1970-1979</u>
Wheatears	2	2	2	5	5
Members of the Nat. Aud. Soc. in 5th year of decade*	4280	10,250	32,930	45,100	332,035

\* These figures were kindly supplied by Ms. Michelle Epstein of the National Audubon Society.

The Wheatear remains a rare fall vagrant and even rarer and more irregular spring vagrant to New York as well as the rest of eastern North America.

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## THE BREEDING BIRDS OF THREE PINE BARRENS IN NEW YORK STATE

PAUL KERLINGER and CRAIG DOREMUS

The pine barrens of the eastern United States have traditionally been considered wastelands and until recently have been spared heavy pressure from development. As more suitable or desirable habitats have been developed fewer sites remain, so that pine barrens have become more attractive to developers. The pine barrens of New York State are now being developed at an alarming rate, resulting in drastic changes in the biota of these habitats.

Pine barrens are harsh ecosystems, subject to frequent fires. Situated on sandy, well drained and mineral-poor soils, pine barrens usually have large reservoirs of pure, fresh water beneath them. Both vegetation and animals found on pine barrens are depauperate with respect to number of species. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) dominates the canopy vegetation along with white oak (*Quercus alba*) and red oak (*Q. borealis*). The shrub layer is usually dominated by scrub oak (*Q. ilicifolia*) and on some barrens dwarf chestnut oak (*Q. prinoides*). Both species seldom exceed three meters in height. Growing beneath the scrub oaks are various heaths, such as huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*) and blueberry (*Vaccinium vacillans*). Many of these species have the ability to resprout following fires that denude or kill the above ground portion of these plants. When fires are suppressed, organic matter accumulates creating a micro-habitat that is ideal for germination of many non-fire adapted (non-pine barrens) plant species. The result of fire suppression is a succession of species that are most often associated with northern mixed forests which eventually overshadow and eliminate the pine barren plant species. Thus, fire suppression is another of the many disturbances by man in pine barrens.

As citizens and private conservation organizations have become aware that pine barrens are interesting and ecologically important habitats, they have brought pressure on state and federal governmental agencies to preserve these ecosystems. The result has been the acquisition of a few tracts by the state. Before sound preservation and management plans can be formulated, field work is needed to determine what species of plants and animals are present, and in what quantities, so that the tracts can be evaluated for preservation potential. This paper examines the status of the breeding avifauna of



three New York pitch pine barrens: the Rome Sand Plain in Oneida Co., the Albany Pine Bush, Albany Co., and Long Island pine barrens in Suffolk Co. All of these barrens have experienced decreases in size and other disturbances.

We present lists of avian species found as well as their relative abundances, historical presence at each site, comparisons with other New York pine barrens and finally speculation as to the prospects for the persistence of the avifauna at each of these locations.

#### STUDY AREAS AND METHODS

Breeding birds were censused using the Emlen (1971) method at selected habitats along successional gradients at the three New York pine barrens. With the Emlen method, a transect is walked and all birds seen or heard are recorded along with their distance from the transect. After numerous censuses are completed a correction factor (termed the coefficient of detectability) is calculated for each species (Kerlinger 1981). For this study 400 x 200 meter transects were walked twice between 0530 hrs. and 0900 hrs. Transects were selected on the basis of similarity of vegetation (floristics and structure) to pine barren vegetation. Sites that had been invaded by non-pine barren plants were used only when more pristine sites were not available. The number of transects, location and dates of study are given in Table I.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the following three sections the avifauna of the three barrens is discussed. Comparisons may not be entirely justifiable due to the differences in geography and climatic conditions between sites and this must be kept in mind. To take these differences into account we have examined historical data where it was available. Table 2 should be consulted for species recorded on the transects, as well as relative abundances, frequencies and successional stages in which each species was found. We have cited all publications and papers that we know of regarding the avifauna of New York pine barrens so the literature cited can be considered a fairly complete bibliography for birds of New York State pine barrens.

##### Albany Pine Bush

The Albany Pine Bush has been subjected to extensive disturbances and reductions in size. Road construction and urban sprawl have reduced the pine bush from more than 60 km<sup>2</sup> (Rittner 1976) to approximately 1200 hectares that are not contiguous. Fire suppression,

abandonment of agricultural sites and dissection by roads have created a mosaic of habitats that have been overgrown by non-pine barren plants including quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), white pine (*P. strobus*) and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (Milne 1981). The result of these disturbances has been disastrous for the avifauna.

Comparing the list of species in Table 2 with studies of the early 1950's (Treacy 1953) and the 1960's through early 1970's (Miller 1976) shows that numerous changes have occurred in the abundances of characteristic pine barren species. Two species, the Eastern Bluebird and the Pine Warbler, were not found on any of the Albany transects, although the latter species was seen adjacent to one of the 1979 transects. These species were reported as common by Treacy (1953) and as "typical" by Miller (1976). The decline of the Pine Warbler is correlated with the reduction of large stands of mature pitch pine with which it is usually associated (Kerlinger 1981). Three other species, the Prairie Warbler, Brown Thrasher and Ovenbird, were found at low densities and at fewer sites than reported by Treacy (1953), Miller (1976) or Bull (1974). The decline of species characteristic of pine barrens at Albany has been described by Kerlinger and Doremus (1981) who maintain that as vegetation changes have transpired various ecotonal bird species have replaced the dominant ones. Included are the Chestnut-sided Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow and others. Brown-headed Cowbirds were also numerous at Albany and nest parasitism there may be high (Kerlinger and Doremus 1981). Prime habitat at Albany is being destroyed rapidly. Within the past years hundreds of hectares of early successional habitat, prime breeding habitat for Prairie Warblers and Brown Thrashers, have been developed or are slated for development. On the positive side, nearly 400 hectares of the choicest habitat of the Albany Pine Bush has been acquired by the City of Albany and the State of New York for preservation.

### **Rome Sand Plain**

The Rome Sand Plain is situated between the City of Rome and Lake Oneida and encompasses more than 2000 hectares. The canopy vegetation is a mixture of pitch pine, oak (*Q. alba*, *Q. borealis*) white pine, bigtooth aspen (*P. grandidentata*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). The latter three species are not fire tolerant and as such are only found on barrens that have not been burned recently. As pitch

pine is overshadowed by the faster and taller growth of these species, it dies out leaving a forest that no longer resembles a pine barren. The scrub oaks and heaths are also being overshadowed with the same result. Fires seem to be infrequent at Rome and few trees were found bearing fire scars or charcoal. Overall, the forests west of Rome land fill resemble pine barrens in some locations and northern mixed forests in others.

The Sand Plains have not been as heavily impacted by development as at Albany but there is increasing development pressure (personal communication from J. Homburger, Dept. of Environmental Conservation). Because no quantitative studies are available from the past it is difficult to determine if there have been any radical changes in the avifauna. Several qualitative references are available which can provide information on the avifauna present historically at Rome (Rusk 1968, Scheider 1959, Bull 1974). Comparing the list compiled here (Table 2) with the above references produces few differences. Although numerous species characteristic of pine barrens were present, such as the Ovenbird, Pine Warbler and Rufous-sided Towhee, the avifauna was not truly that of a pine barren. Edge species such as the Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Brown-headed Cowbird were numerous on some sites. The remaining birds can be considered as regularly occurring in mixed northern forests. From the presence of the edge species it is obvious that there are ecotonal areas in the vegetation but the shrub stage bird species found at other pine barrens are missing. The avian community has some pine barren, ecotone and northern hardwood affinities. Extensive searches of other areas at Rome failed to find avian communities that were typical of pine barren habitats.

### **Long Island Pine Barrens**

The Long Island barrens are the largest pine barrens in New York, with nearly 100,000 hectares remaining, and have been less severely stressed than the two previously mentioned barrens. Although the westernmost habitats in Nassau County have been all but destroyed the eastern barrens in Suffolk County offer excellent potential for preservation. Unlike the upstate pine barrens that have been invaded by non-pine barren plants, most Long Island habitats are relatively free from this problem. This may be explained by the fact that Long Island is an insular habitat with potential invading species not close geographically or present at densities that are necessary for successful

invasion. The problem on Long Island is fire suppression, with the subsequent overgrowth of oak trees. As the oaks grow they shade out scrub oaks and pitch pines. When fires finally do occur in these forests it is usually much more devastating than fires that occur in pitch pine stands and the recovery following these fires is slow.

Efforts are being made on Long Island to preserve some of the remaining habitats. The state has recently acquired 3000 hectares at sites in Riverhead and Rocky Point (both donated by the Radio-broadcasting Corporation of America). A parcel of this size and quality is a first step toward creating the preserves that pine barrens species need. Selection of appropriate sites for preservation is important and the rarer habitat types such as the pitch pine plains at Westhampton should probably be given priority.

The avifauna at Long Island is most similar to that of the New Jersey pine barrens (Kerlinger and Doremus 1981). This is true on some sites, but on others some species have declined or have been extirpated. For instance, the Pine and Prairie Warblers are now confined to the eastern Long Island tracts (Salzman 1977). Bull (1974) also suggested that the total populations of these species has declined. The trend is the same for other species and Raynor (1976), after examining ten years of census data, concluded that the Brown Thrasher and Rufous-sided Towhee were declining, with the Mockingbird taking their place. Raynor (1976) may have been working in marginal habitats although he asserts that the vegetation changed little during the course of his study. The results of Kerlinger and Doremus (1981), and Raynor (1978) *et al* and (1977) show that on some sites, such as the pine plains at Westhampton, the densities of Brown Thrashers and Prairie Warblers were higher than would be expected if densities were declining, while at other suitable habitats these species were at considerably lower densities than expected. However, Pine Warblers and Ovenbirds were not found at high densities anywhere.

#### MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF PINE BARREN HABITATS

If the plant and animal life of the New York pine barrens is to persist, habitats must be preserved and managed properly. The first step is to preserve large tracts of "good" pine barren habitat. By "good," we mean those with vegetation and animal species characteristic of pine barrens (as mentioned above) at significant densities. Large tracts are preferable to small ones because the larger populations usually found on these tracts are less susceptible to extinctions by random

fluctuations of the environment. It is also desirable in pine barrens to preserve and manage a mosaic of successional habitats to accommodate early and late successional species. Because these ecosystems change rapidly as a result of fire and succession, the presence of stands of similar or slightly different vegetation allow emigration of individuals following fires or as succession proceeds. Eventually, if enough sites are available and natural or prescribed burns occur, a dynamic equilibrium may be achieved that can perhaps persist indefinitely.

### CONCLUSIONS

By presenting historical and comparative data we have shown that the avian communities of pine barrens in New York State have been affected to varying degrees. At Albany, characteristic pine barren species have experienced drastic reductions. The trend may be irreversible due to the small size and vegetational character of the remaining habitat. The avifauna of the Rome site was more like that of northern forests and ecotones lacking many of the brush-scrub community species. In some of the pitch pine stands some species that are characteristic pine barren species were found in high densities. A lack of fires and the invasion of deciduous species such as maples and aspens threaten what is left of the pitch pine forests at both of these sites. The barrens of Long Island, although severely impacted in more westerly locales, offer the greatest potential for preservation of the three pine barrens studied. Large tracts of moderately disturbed forests remain with high densities of plant and bird species characteristic of pine barrens. With adequate preservation and sound management plans, including either selective timber harvests or controlled burns, plant and animal species of these ecosystems may persist.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Bruce Milne for comments on the manuscript and Dr. M. Stewart for encouragement during the study. James Ryan of the Stony Brook office of the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation made suggestions on the study site locations and arranged for us to work on the Riverhead and Rocky Point tracts.

Table 1. Location, number of transects and dates of censusing work at the three New York pine barrens.

	<u>Long Island</u>	<u>Albany</u>	<u>Rome</u>
Dates of Censuses	23-29 May 1979	26 May-12 June 1978 31 May 1979	1-2 June 1979
Latitude/Longitude	40° 51' N, 72° 40' W	42° 30' N, 73° 52' W	43° 10' N, 75° 35' W
Number of Transects	19	15	3
Townships	Brookhaven, Riverhead Rocky Point, Westhampton	Albany, Guilderland Colonie	Rome
County	Suffolk	Albany	Oneida

Table 2. Complete list of bird species found at three New York pine barrens including the proportion of the total at each site accounted for by each species ( $P_i$ ), the percentage of transects on which that species was found (F) and the successional stages in which each was found (E=Early, M=Middle, L=Mature, ED=Edge or Ecotonal). The five most numerous species at each site are indicated by an asterisk.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Seral Stage</u>	<u>Long Island</u>		<u>Albany</u>		<u>Rome</u>	
		<u><math>P_i</math></u>	<u>F</u>	<u><math>P_i</math></u>	<u>F</u>	<u><math>P_i</math></u>	<u>F</u>
Rufous-sided Towhee	E-M-L	.337*	1.000	.205*	1.000	.063	.666
Common Yellowthroat	E-M	.161*	.789	.114*	.733	.092*	.333
Field Sparrow	E-ED	.049*	.526	.110*	.867	----	----
Prairie Warbler	E-M	.170*	.737	.106*	.533	----	----
Brown-headed Cowbird	E-ED	.026	.421	.054*	.800	.043	1.000
Blue Jay	M-L	.046*	.579	.054	.933	.032	.666
Indigo Bunting	ED-E	----	----	.034	.333	.019	.666
House Wren	E-ED	.006	.105	.031	.400	----	----
Gray Catbird	E-M	.012	.263	.030	.600	----	----
American Goldfinch	E-ED	----	----	.030	.533	----	----
Chestnut-sided Warbler	ED	----	----	.027	.267	.084*	.333
Brown Thrasher	E-M	.039	.737	.023	.400	----	----
Black-capped Chickadee	M-L	.028	.474	.020	.467	.043	.666
Song Sparrow	ED-E	----	----	.020	.267	----	----
Wood Thrush	L	----	----	.015	.200	.083*	.666
American Robin	ED	.006	.211	.015	.600	----	----
Veery	L	----	----	.014	.267	.134*	1.000
Eastern Kingbird	ED	.021	.467	.012	.467	----	----
Northern Oriole	ED-M	.019	.421	.010	.333	----	----
Golden-winged Warbler	M	----	----	.008	.200	----	----
Scarlet Tanager	L	.007	.158	.008	.267	----	----

Species	Serel Stage	Long Island		Albany		Rome	
		P <sub>i</sub>	F	P <sub>i</sub>	F	P <sub>i</sub>	F
Eastern Wood Pewee	L	----	----	.007	.200	----	----
Cardinal	ED-M	----	----	.007	.200	----	----
Yellow Warbler	E-ED	----	----	.007	.133	----	----
Ovenbird	L	.018	.211	.006	.133	.193*	1.000
Mourning Dove	----	.006	.158	.006	.067	----	----
Great Crested Flycatcher	----	----	----	.004	.200	.017	.333
Red-winged Blackbird	ED-E	.002	.053	.003	.133	----	----
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M-L	----	----	.003	.133	----	----
Common Flicker	-ED	.010	.263	.003	.067	----	----
Downy Woodpecker	M-L	.002	.053	.003	.133	----	----
Red-eyed Vireo	M-L	----	----	.002	.067	.061	1.000
White-throated Sparrow	E-M	----	----	.002	.067	.008	.333
Common Grackle	ED	----	----	.002	.067	----	----
Eastern Phoebe	ED	----	----	.002	.067	----	----
Starling	ED	----	----	.002	.067	----	----
Hermit Thrush	ED	----	----	.002	.067	+	.333
Black-and-white Warbler	M-L	.023	.316	.002	.067	.070	.666
Yellow-breasted Chat	E	.003	.053	----	----	----	----
Bobwhite	----	+	.158	----	----	----	----
Pine Warbler	M-L	.014	.263	----	----	.041	1.000
Mockingbird	ED	.003	.105	----	----	----	----
Chipping Sparrow	ED	----	----	----	----	.018	.666



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**MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
PAWLING, NEW YORK  
September 26, 1980**

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., hosted by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, convened Sept. 26, 1980 at 2:30 p.m. at the Holiday Hills Convention Center, Pawling, NY. Martin Borko, President, presided. Roll call was taken. Twenty-seven clubs were represented by forty-one delegates. A quorum was declared. The minutes of the 1979 Annual Meeting were approved as circulated among those present. The membership report presented by M. Borko in the absence of M. Hemmerick indicated 60 life, 5 part-life, 48 supporting, 95 family, 392 annual, and 31 student members as of Sept. 24. Report accepted. The bibliography report, presented by M. Borko in the absence of A. Benton, was accepted and filed. The committee now consists of John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, chairman; Stephen W. Eaton, Valerie Freer, and Kenneth C. Parkes. Each member club was asked to list its publications on a paper which was circulated. Conservation Committee report: In absence of K. Slotnick, the floor was open to reports from delegates. M. Borko reported that the Executive Committee has formulated a policy statement on "Forest Resources As Relating to Birds," available on request. The Executive Committee is also working on a policy statement on the introduction of exotic species.

Gene McCaffrey of the DEC reported on Federal non-game legislation, eagle hacking, and the Peregrine program. Federal non-game legislation has passed the House of Representatives and the Senate but in slightly different forms. It should soon be ready to submit to the President. This will authorize the protection of non-game species but the appropriation of funds to carry out the authority may be a while in coming. The Wildlife Management Institute has a non-game newsletter which can be supplied when requested. The DEC Bald Eagle hacking program at Montezuma produced two eagles, hacked in 1976, who mated, built a nest, laid eggs and raised young this year—a year earlier than had been anticipated. One of the eaglets was found dead at the foot of the nest, cause unknown. The other fledged successfully. NYS is the only state conducting an eagle hacking program. An osprey, also a rarity in the Montezuma area, nested near the eagles' nest and harrassed the eagles. Attempts will be made to move the osprey nest. There are eight other potential eagle release sites in the State. The Peregrine Falcon program has also been successful. Four birds were hacked on a roof in N.Y.C. Their release drew considerable attention from the media. One has been found dead in a chimney. To date the other three are all right. Peregrine hacking programs are succeeding outside N.Y.S. also—N.J., Me., Md., Quebec.

A landfill expansion has been proposed near Montezuma. The Federation has written a statement expressing its deep concern that the marsh be protected as a wildlife refuge of great importance to migrating and breeding waterfowl and other birds and as the site of the eagle hacking program.

The Waterfowl census report was read, accepted and filed. A total of 242,976 loons, grebes, cormorants, swans, geese, ducks, coots and one gallinule were counted, over 17% above the 1979 total. Jan. 10 through Jan. 18 are dates for 1981—Jan. 11 the target date.

Pelagic trips report: Steve Dempsey distributed a financial report which indicated a net profit of \$735.06. The June trip ran into bad weather with many seasick, but August and September trips had mild seas. Three trips are planned for 1981. These trips not only pay for themselves but also bring in new members. Report accepted.

*Kingbird* circulation report, presented by Connie Wilkins, was accepted and filed. Eight hundred and eight *Kingbirds*, including six hundred thirty-one to individual members, were mailed out.

NYSARC report was read by C. Smith in the absence of P. DeBenedictis. The committee will henceforth send an acknowledgement postcard immediately after receipt of a report although actual work evaluating the report may not begin for several months. Report accepted and filed.

Ohio State University's Dr. J. Bart, and also of US Fish and Wildlife Service, asked for help with a Breeding Bird Survey Evaluation program he is conducting. He has tapes of a specific number of bird songs which he hopes to play to Breeding Bird Survey participants and other qualified birders, asking them to record the number of calls they hear. Comparing this with the known actual number of calls should give a good idea of the percent of accuracy of the field reports. A signup sheet was circulated. Delegates were asked to notify their clubs of the program.

G. Meade gave a brief report on the Breeding Bird Atlas Program, details to be filled in at the workshops later in the evening. He gave great credit to DEC and the *Delmar Wildlife Resources Center* (G. McCaffrey, R. Miller, J. Carroll) for the program's first year success. Over 700 workers are cooperating. DEC is computerizing the results. Funding is still needed. Anyone with suggestions notify G. Meade. A first newsletter has just gone out.

Bylaws change: As the bylaws now stand, any change in the dues structure takes two years to accomplish. The Executive Committee recommends a change. Delegates were asked to come to this meeting with instructions on the following changed wording which had been submitted to all clubs for consideration over 60 days ago:

Article II, Section 1b to read: "Individual members shall be persons who have an interest in the purposes of the organization. Individual membership shall include the following categories: Benefactors, Patrons, Life and such other categories as the Executive Committee may decide upon from time to time." Article II, Section 2, to read: "Dues. A. The dues of member clubs shall be based on a uniform charge per each of their dues-paying members. This charge shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee which shall also determine the minimum and maximum dues for member clubs. The dues shall be payable annually on a date to be established by the Executive Committee except that, in the year of election to membership, they shall be payable one month after notice of election has been sent to the club.

"B. The dues of Individual Members shall be as follows: 1. Any person desiring to further the aims of this organization may become a Benefactor upon payment of \$1,000, a Patron by payment of \$500. These payments may be made by gift or bequest. 2. Any person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$200 either in a lump sum, or in four equal yearly installments. During the period of installment payments all other dues shall be waived provided the installments are paid regularly. 3. Benefactor, Patron or Life Member shall not be assessed for any further dues. 4. In accord with Article II, Section 1b, the Executive Committee may establish other categories of Individual Membership as it may deem necessary or desirable. The Executive Committee shall set the dues rate for each category provided the dues shall be made payable annually. The Executive Committee may authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Membership Committee, to waive the dues of a dues-paying member for the year he or she may be either on military service or on a scientific expedition lasting a full year."

Discussion was called for. There being none, it was moved (F. File) and seconded (D. Kibbe) that the above recommendation be accepted as mailed to each club. Unanimously passed. Delegates were then informed that, according to Federation By-laws, their clubs must now reaffirm the change. Many delegates reported that their clubs had already fully considered and had given approval. It was agreed that, if a delegate came to this meeting under those conditions, he could sign the copy of the recommendation which his club had received (a copy of which he had been given at this meeting) explaining his authority to approve for his club.

The meeting adjourned temporarily at 4:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:40 a.m., Sept. 28, 1980, same place.

The Treasurer's report was submitted by John Forness, accepted and filed. The Treasurer pointed out the difference between income and expenses and stressed the need for raised dues. He also indicated that the present income from Memorial Funds is based on 5% interest. These funds are now reinvested at a higher interest which will show up in the next report. R. Sloss recommended that money market funds be investigated.

The auditor's report: report from D. Clark found the books of the Federation to be in good order. Accepted and filed.

The DEC, represented by G. McCaffrey, S. Free, R. Miller and R. Brewer, was welcomed. R. Brewer explained the DEC financial set-up. Non-game species get overlooked because most of the funding comes from sportsmen. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has direct control of 8 million dollars which it divides among environmental protection, environmental management, public uses, extension services and species management. This last category includes non-game species, the allocation for which is \$100,000. Inflation can be expected to reduce this further next year. To offset this DEC is initiating a series of public service announcements on TV and radio, promoting contributions. They are also pushing a direct mail campaign. Members discussed phases of the report. R. Arbib suggested a small incentive for contributions such as a sticker. M. Borko thanked Mr. Brewer for his report.

Report of Publication and Research Committee was given by R. Arbib. He praised G. Meade for his work as chairperson of the Breeding Bird Atlas program this year; also DEC for its great help with printed material and other measures.

The *NYS Birding Baedeker* is still being worked on by Susan Drennan, who has taken six months leave of absence from *American Birds* for this purpose. No contract has as yet been made with a publisher.

Beach Bird Survey Report was given by R. Arbib. Essentially this program calls for volunteers to watch a stretch of shoreline at the high tide mark, patrolling at least once a month, looking for carcasses, noting species, cause of death if possible, age and sex if possible. The purpose is to try to determine the causes and rates of deaths in marine birds, especially noting oil spills. Volunteers are needed to form a committee to promote the project. Anyone interested, report to M. Borko.

President's Report: Martin Borko, President, reported an active year for the Federation. The report was accepted and filed.

Nominating Committee (S. Dempsey, Ch., W. Lee, G. Meade) presented the following slate of officers for 1980-81:

Martin Borko—President  
Morgan Jones III—Vice President  
John W. Forness—Treasurer  
Harriet Marsi—Recording Secretary  
Constance Wilkins—Corresponding Secretary

The slate was accepted and the officers declared elected.

Nomination Committee: S. Dempsey, Ch., W. Lee and G. Meade were appointed to the 1981 Committee.

Auditing Committee: It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed that Donald Clark and Irving Cantor be appointed to the Auditing Committee for the succeeding year.

Old Business: None.

New Business: 1. It was announced that patches and decals are now available. 2. It was announced that the 1981 meeting will be held Sept. 25, 26 and 27 at the Hotel Syracuse in Syracuse. Gerry Smith will be in charge of the Paper Session. Anyone wishing to give a report contact him. 3. Mary Ann Sunderlin asked anyone interested in signing up for a Birding Niagara River Trip to do so on a paper now circulating. Same for the Adirondack Trip. 4. E. Levine announced that Guy Coheleach had donated 12 prints and Arthur Singer one which would be on display on the stage at the front of the room. They are to be auc-

tioned at a silent auction, results of which will be announced at the Annual Dinner. 5. M. Rusk made a motion that the Federation support a position taken by the Onondaga Audubon Society and the Owasco Valley Audubon Society concerning a plan to expand the Tantalio Landfill near Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. In essence this called for "a carefully engineered closure plan that will include a well-monitored containment system." M. Borko reminded the delegates that the Federation had already written the Hearing Officer, expressing its concern that any solution assures the protection from pollution of the Refuge, as reported earlier in these Minutes. M. Jones stated that DEC regulations are very tight. G. McCaffrey stressed that the present landfill does not pollute the marsh and that the hearings are still in progress. There were other questions about costs and whether this landfill will serve the city of Rochester. No answers to these questions. The motion died for lack of a second.

There being no further business, the meeting was officially adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harriet Marsi, Recording Secretary

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1980

I'd like to state that the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs has had a very active year. Last evening many of you attended the briefing on the Breeding Bird Atlas project where Gordon Meade mentioned that we have over 700 cooperative surveyors. This will turn out to be a very conservative estimate. These individuals represent a wealth of talent that when fully organized and directed will contribute to one of the finest Atlas projects in the United States. The Federation is strong and is getting stronger because of its great diversity of talent—namely the human resource. People like Doug Kibbe cooperated early in the Atlas project whereas people like Mike Peterson and Roger Robb, who thrive on field work, came on strong as regional coordinators. A glance at the DEC early September Atlas map indicates the general productivity of the project. In initiating the Atlas project the Federation has joined with and has gained the respect of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation who heretofore probably was never sure of our existence. We share a common interest in many areas and I should like to thank Gene McCaffrey, Robert Miller and Janet Carroll for helping us develop this latent talent.

The Federation's interests are diverse and we have had the good fortune of having Steve Dempsey and Barbara Spencer coordinate pelagic trips for the last several years. This has increased the collection of data on pelagic species, increased the membership of the Federation and has, most important, offered our membership a fine birding opportunity. Thanks to host clubs in the Adirondacks and to Mary Ann Sunderlin, we have had Adirondack excursions and soon expect a Great Lakes exploration.

The Federation developed a NYSARC program for evaluating sightings and perhaps changing them into records. With the help of Charlie Smith, secretary and members like Paul DeBenedictis, NYSARC has been transformed into a sound evaluation program. In this regard I should state, for those of you who were not with us yesterday, that from last week on all sighting reports will be acknowledged upon receipt so that no one feels his or her report has been discarded. The process of evaluation is mechanically a long one and we ask you to be patient.

Susan Drennan has been working diligently on the *NYS Birding Baedeker*. Hopefully, this project of Susan's, in cooperation with the Federation, will soon be completed and available for market.

Walt Sabin has for years been coordinating our annual waterfowl count. Recent analysis of the data collected over the years by Morgan Jones begs our attention be placed on the horned grebe whose population appears to be declining.

Max Wheat has for all the years of my association with the Federation been involved

with conservation, poetry, and the *New York Birders*. Manny Levine and John Farrand, Co-editors of *The Kingbird*, have turned *The Kingbird* into a publication that merits more and more attention. *The Kingbird* and *New York Birders* are the Federation's main vehicles for contact with our membership. A good publication is a reflection of good organization and editing. The Federation is indebted to Wilkins/Printers and, in particular, to Connie Wilkins who has most recently agreed to serve as Corresponding Secretary for 1981—a glutton for punishment.

I cannot thank enough the members of the executive committee who drive and fly distances of over 400 miles for a 5-hour session in rain, sleet and snow so that our organization, the Federation, can appear to run smoothly.

I have left out many names, like Davis, Sloss, Benton, Bell and others. I can't possibly begin to tell you why the Federation works—but I can tell you this—it works because of you. Everyone of you makes my job as facilitator of this organization easy. With your continued active support, our projects will all be successfully backed and we can look forward to many fledgling projects where we will be able to say—yes, the Federation was a part of that.

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Cash on Hand 12-31-78			
Checking Account	\$	681.85	
Trans. to Life Account		561.68	
Trans. from Pelagic Account		1,400.00	
Savings Account		9,826.78	
Net Loss		<u>(297.15)</u>	
			\$12,173.16
Cash on Hand 12-31-79			
Checking Account	\$	61.32	
Savings Account		<u>12,111.84</u>	
			\$12,173.16
INCOME			
Dues			
Club	\$	1,451.05	
Annual 1978		16.00	
Annual 1979 ½ year		28.00	
Annual 1979		3,401.00	
Annual 1980		33.00	
Family 1979 ½ year		5.00	
Family 1979		1,010.00	
Supporting 1979		315.00	
Student 1979		114.00	
Life		262.50	
Supplements		39.00	
Contributions		35.00	
Subscriptions		414.00	
Back Issues		2.25	
Interest on Life Members		383.81	
Feeder Sales		102.00	
Auction		32.00	
Funds Transferred		1,400.00	
Interest on Savings Account		<u>323.38</u>	
TOTAL			\$ 9,366.99

EXPENSES

Kingbird	\$ 5,486.91	
Dues Notice	224.34	
New York Birder	906.07	
Miscellaneous	248.45	
Supplement to New York Birder	5.25	
Membership	190.86	
Transferred to Life Account	1,500.00	
Birding Baedeker	77.00	
Annual Meeting	75.45	
Dues	50.00	
Lillian Stoner Award	150.00	
John J. Elliott	75.00	
Decals	180.00	
Conservation	25.00	
NYSARC	226.84	
Breeding Bird Atlas	43.70	
Treasurer's Expenses	40.00	
Returned Checks	18.52	
Executive Meetings	<u>140.75</u>	
		\$ 9,664.14
Net Loss		<u>(297.15)</u>
		\$ 9,366.99

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980  
 Books and accounts examined and found in good order.  
 Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
 JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL FUND  
 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,078.91	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	<u>59.66</u>	
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,138.57

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980  
 Books and accounts examined and found in good order.  
 Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
 LILLIAN STONER ACCOUNT  
 TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,028.60	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	50.76	
Deposits	<u>785.00</u>	
Total		\$ 1,864.36
Loaned to Account No. 12-401449-0		<u>461.68</u>
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,402.68

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980  
 Books and accounts examined and found in good order.  
 Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
HAWK NESTING FUND  
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1979

Balance on Hand 1/1/79	\$ 1,409.03	
Interest Earned—Year 1979	<u>79.60</u>	
Balance on Hand 12/31/79		\$ 1,488.63

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, February 21, 1980  
Books and accounts examined and found in good order.  
Donald F. Clark, Auditor, 9-1-80; Irving Cantor, Auditor, 9-13-80

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.  
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 1980

EXPENDITURES

Kingbird	\$ 3,832.98	
New York Birders	599.25	
Dues Notice	285.73	
Miscellaneous	194.53	
Supplements	.78	
Membership	52.45	
Conservation	50.00	
National Audubon	50.00	
Treasurer's Expense	48.49	
Hawk Fund	1,183.35	
Spring Count	<u>27.05</u>	
		\$ 6,324.61

INCOME

Clubs	\$ 1,349.45	
Annual 1980 (½)	14.00	
Annual 1980	2,992.00	
Annual 1981	8.00	
Family 1980 (½)	5.00	
Family 1980	950.00	
Supporting 1980	720.00	
Students	96.00	
Life	675.00	
Supplements	54.00	
Contributions	906.55	
Subscriptions	441.00	
Back Issues	24.75	
Interest Life Memberships	289.19	
Decals	3.00	
Refund of Postage	19.90	
Replacement Checks	<u>26.00</u>	
		\$ 8,573.84

Submitted by John W. Forness, Treasurer, 9-15-80



## A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGY – 1979

JOHN B. BELKNAP, ALLEN H. BENTON, STEPHEN W. EATON,  
VALERIE FREER and KENNETH C. PARKES

The Bibliography Committee regularly examines some twenty journals which contain ornithological material. In addition, we attempt to keep track of books published during each year which may contain New York references. Further, we encourage the submission of important references from local publications, even though we do not routinely include items of purely local interest.

The journals which we regularly review include those below. We would welcome suggestions of journals which we should be reviewing, and urge members to send us items which we may have missed.

<i>American Birds</i>	<i>Journal of Animal Ecology</i>
<i>American Midland Naturalist</i>	<i>Journal of Field Ornithology</i>
<i>Animal Behaviour</i>	<i>Journal of Parasitology</i>
<i>Audubon Magazine</i>	<i>Journal of Wildlife Management</i>
<i>Auk</i>	<i>The Kingbird</i>
<i>Behaviour</i>	<i>Linnaean Society News-Letter</i>
<i>British Birds</i>	<i>The Living Bird</i>
<i>Condor</i>	<i>North American Bird Banding</i>
<i>Ecological Monographs</i>	<i>New York Fish &amp; Game Journal</i>
<i>Ecology</i>	<i>New York State Conservationist</i>

Another project of this committee is the publication of a list of all regular publications of member clubs in the Federation. Thus far we have information from 25 clubs. If your club was not one of those to give us this information at last year's Federation meeting, we would like to receive it.

Information, suggestions and bibliographic items should be sent to the chairman, Dr. Allen H. Benton, 292 Water St., Fredonia, NY 14063.

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### CORRIGENDUM

Please note the following correction in "Photographs of New York State Rarities 39. Ivory Gull" appearing in Vol. XXXI, No. 2, pg. 63. The second paragraph reads as follows:

"This bird was observed and photographed by many people on the following Monday and Tuesday, 12 and 13 January, but disappeared for the rest of the week, only to return on the following Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, 25-27 January; it was not reported thereafter."

The correct dates for the return of the Ivory Gull should be Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, 18-20 January, not 25-27 January as stated originally.

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Gray Partridges in Essex County:** The European Gray Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) was introduced into New York State between 1927 and 1932, when thousands of birds were released in Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin and Clinton counties (John Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 203); until recently, this was the only part of the state in which this species could be found. According to records of the State Department of Environmental Conservation, the first release in Essex Co., just to the south, took place in April 1967, when 170 adults, reared on a game farm, were released near Whallonsburg in the Town of Essex. A second release, of 140 adults, was made in April 1968 about a mile south of the original site. None of these birds was seen after March 1969, and the releases were considered a failure. Geoffrey Carleton (1980, *Birds of Essex County*) does not list the species as occurring in the county.

On 23 January 1981, six Gray Partridges were observed feeding and resting in oat stubble on the Marsh Farm, south of the Village of Westport. As I was confirming the presence of these birds, a neighbor stopped and informed me that she had first seen 14 birds around Thanksgiving, 1980. At the same time, the owner of the Marsh Farm remembered seeing one of the partridges killed by a large hawk, allegedly a Red-tail.

It is difficult to explain the sudden appearance of these birds. It is possible that they represent an expansion of the population in Clinton County, some 25 miles to the north. It is also possible that they have recently been released by some unknown person or group, or that they are survivors from the group thought to have disappeared in the 1960s. According to Vermont Fish and Game officials, no Gray Partridges exist in Panton or Ferrisburg, towns in Vermont that lie directly east of Westport.

The author wishes to thank Environmental Conservation Officer David C. Scudder for bringing this matter to his attention.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Pine Grosbeak Eating at Feeder:** My home is located in the town of Pompey, in southeastern Onondaga County. Much of the town is still farmland, but the area near me has been planted with acres of evergreens. It is a good location for migrating birds.

On Thursday, January 29, 1981, at 8:10 a.m., I heard Evening Grosbeaks at the feeder. In other winters, I have fed huge flocks of these birds, but this year they have been rather scarce around the feeders. I went to the window and saw 12 Evening Grosbeaks, and in with them, one female Pine Grosbeak.

I have seen Pine Grosbeaks in the yard before, but they never before came near the feeders. This individual sat on one small feeder eating snow. Then she flew a few feet to a honeysuckle bush and started eating buds. Shortly she left there and flew around the corner of the house. I went to another window and saw that she had landed on the picnic table. In the winter, I spread a mixture called chick grains on this table for the birds. The mixture contains finely cracked corn, three kinds of millet, wheat, oat groats and milo. I also add some niger seed and sunflower seeds.

The Pine Grosbeak fed from this mixture for five minutes. I never saw her take a sunflower seed, she seemed to prefer the fine cracked grain. Then she flew off and did not return. Although I have discussed this with many people over the years, I have never known of anyone who knew of a Pine Grosbeak actually eating at a feeder.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Across the state, the general descriptions of this season are as uniform as any which I have seen. In virtually all regions, the weather averaged warmer and drier than normal, but with a number of strategically placed and spaced cold snaps, such as the April ones which seriously damaged the fruit crop. Very warm temperatures in the beginning of the season led to many early arrival dates for normally early migrants, but had little impact on later arrivals. The early warmth also led to advanced foliage in all areas except parts of Region 1, where the cold struck at just the right time to severely retard foliage, particularly in the Southern Tier. In Region 9, the advanced foliage was stripped later by the massive Gypsy Moth invasion.

The general summaries of the migration nearly all mention scarcity, particularly of passerine migrants. Several note that species counts were excellent in spite of the thin numbers of individuals. Bill Cook of Region 8 states directly the lingering possibility skirted by most: "This could be a frightening harbinger of 'silent springs' or perhaps, hopefully, the migrants passed by unnoticed." It is interesting that virtually all references to scarcity are to feelings or to numbers "appearing" or "seeming" low, or to lack of sightings in very local areas rather than to statistical data. Perhaps the really frightening point is that with no historical statistical distributions for comparison, we cannot really recognize the first "silent spring" until it is very silent indeed.

Enough morbid speculation! As Paul DeBenedictis notes: "The weather can probably be blamed for most of this." The historical data apparently doesn't exist, models to weight weather and other extraneous variable effects are a long way off for migration, so leave the hard analysis to the breeding bird surveys. Spring is a time to roam free after winter's strictures. Wander through the regional reports and note the goodies turned up and the results of the Big Days or Century Runs and the hawk watches.

Scanning through the general notes and commentary we find: most waterfowl poor or through quickly; hawk counts down a bit; shorebird habitat poor, but variety interesting; a May drawdown of a reservoir in Region 8 netting only "at least ten species of shorebirds"; hordes of fishermen impacting the Lake Ontario waterfowl picture; banding effort reports in Regions 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10; a

Gypsy Moth preview in Region 8; and an interesting sexual separation of only one day in migration of warblers in Region 10. Among the more specific positives and negatives of broad occurrence of special interest we have: a poor loon flight; very low numbers of Horned and Pied-billed Grebes; increases in Double-crested Cormorant; lower Cattle and Great Egret numbers; American Bittern dismal; a large Whistling Swan flight upstate; no Surf Scoters; few Goshawks; Osprey nesting at Montezuma again; slight improvements for Ring-necked Pheasant; Turkey increases reported in seven regions; a huge Pectoral Sandpiper flight upstate; Great Black-backed Gull nesting on Little Galloo Island; excellent tern variety on Long Island; few Caspian Terns; cuckoos up with the Gypsy Moths, down elsewhere; Screech Owl poor; Chuck-will's-widow increasing in Region 10; Common Nighthawk decreases spreading; Eastern Phoebe mixed, but lows predominant; Common Raven appearing in six regions; Fish Crow increasing inland; Winter Wren very low; thrushes generally very poor; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at unexpected locations in the northern higher elevations; kinglets up, Ruby-crowned the better; Loggerhead Shrike still poor, but a few more; Red-eyed Vireo low; Warbling Vireo abundant; warblers generally scarce overall with few waves; Eastern Meadowlark in trouble in several regions; and excellent return flights of several finches, particularly Pine Siskin.

Moving on to the rarities, we find the bulk just overshoots or strays from populations breeding relatively close to the south or west of New York State. This is in strong contrast to the heavy western flavor of last spring's rarities. The *crème de la crème* includes: Region 1: Purple Sandpiper, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Painted Bunting, and "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow; Region 2: Louisiana Heron, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Roseate Tern, Brewer's Blackbird, and Summer Tanager; Region 3: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Varied Thrush, Lark Sparrow, and Harris' Sparrow; Region 4: Glossy Ibis; Region 5: White-fronted Goose, King Rail, and Summer Tanager; Region 6: Black-headed Gull, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Region 7: Barrow's Goldeneye and Wilson's Phalarope; Region 8: the Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Fish Crow, and Connecticut Warbler; Region 9: Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Brewer's Blackbird; and Region 10: White-faced Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Swainson's Warbler, and Townsend's Warbler.

For the record, a total of 316 species was reported with several

additional morphs and hybrids. Probably another ten to fifteen would be added using a complete listing from Region 10. There were 49 species recorded only from one region with Regions 10 and 2 leading with 23 and 9, respectively, though all reporting regions had at least one unique species.

The BOTS award this season is very difficult to assign. No bird really stands head and shoulders above the rest. Several would have been automatics a few years ago, but have become "regular." My final vote must fall to Brewer's Blackbird, due to sheer weight of numbers, with 23 in Region 2 and 2 in Region 9, regional first records in both cases.

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## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

Beautiful, beautiful spring, a season of promise, this year was one with little to complain about except for the continued drought, only partially relieved in February. With this season's precipitation steadily averaging 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) below normal, the consistent lack of rain made birding more pleasant but didn't help the water table. The migration, so strong in February, halted abruptly as March came in cold and miserable. Although March temperatures averaged 1.8<sup>o</sup> F. (1<sup>o</sup> C.) below normal, the warm final week cleared ponds of ice and brought good flights of early water birds, swans, geese and blackbirds. April's weather was storybook stuff with temperatures 3.9<sup>o</sup> F. (2.2<sup>o</sup> C.) above normal, and many species arrived early. May, too, averaged warmer than normal by 1.4<sup>o</sup> F. (.8<sup>o</sup> C) but the cool, dry first two weeks retarded foliage, particularly in the Southern Tier, causing birds to hide their nests as best they could on the ground or under sod, or occasionally in an unaccustomed conifer. Although much of the May migration was thin and scraggly, with some areas very poor for warblers except for "Butter-butts" (D. Clark's Yellow-rumps), there was a good representation of species. (Weather Data: Wellsville and WIVB-TV Buffalo.)

Spring positives include 1) Great Blue Herons doing well and an enormous Whistling Swan flight, 2) an excellent migration of Sharp-shinned Hawks, good reports of the Red-shouldered Hawk and Bald Eagle, and a slight improvement in American Kestrel numbers, 3) many grouse and turkeys, 4) a lively shorebird flight and a big flight of Bonaparte's Gulls, 5) lots and lots of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 6) fair numbers of Tufted Titmice and a good Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, 7) catbirds "insanely abundant" (Jones), a great robin and Veery flight, and bluebirds doing well with one pair a record-breaker, 8) good numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a few more Golden-crowns, 9) many Cedar Waxwings, 10) incredible numbers of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches,

particularly at feeders, and continued large House Finch population, 11) the big Common Redpoll flight persisting well into spring, and an invasion of Pine Siskins, 12) a fine junco flight and several other interesting sparrows.

Spring negatives include 1) a poor loon flight and scarcity of most long-legged waders, 2) a mediocre duck season and very few Black Ducks, 3) low numbers of Goshawks, Marsh Hawks and Ospreys, 4) a pheasant conundrum, 5) near-absence of Upland Sandpipers, cuckoos, Screech Owls and nighthawks, 6) fewer Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers (suggested by M. Jones as a reflection of the fine "sharpie" flight), 7) a drop in the Eastern Phoebe population by May, 8) usual scarcity of Horned Larks, and few Rough-winged or Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins, 9) lack of most wrens, except for the House Wren, 10) not many Mockingbirds, Hermit Thrushes or shrikes, 11) low count of Yellow Warblers, 12) only scattered reports of one to five Eastern Meadowlarks per area, 13) locally fewer Red-winged Blackbirds but many Common Grackles, and 14) continued chronic difficulty for many sparrows.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Barrow's Goldeneye, Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper, Acadian Flycatcher, Common Raven, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, "Brewster's" Warbler, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Painted Bunting, and "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AAC—April 12 Bird Census, or AMC—May 17 Bird Census, for Allegany County; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; CAC—April 12 Bird Census, or CMC—May 17 Bird Census, for Cattaraugus County; EEC—Environmental Education Center; GMA or WMA—Game or Wildlife Management Area; NC, NP, or NS—Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR—National Wildlife Refuge; Res—Reservoir; SF or SP—State Forest or Park; and SPA—State Power Authority.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Max of the small Com. Loon flight was eight at Derby May 1 (DP), while the one being watched for in Hume Twp. returned Apr. 21 (KP) and of the four at Cuba L. during Apr. and early May, one stayed on to the end of the period (AnS). A single Red-necked Grebe was found in Yates Twp. Apr. 19 (RA+) and two were at Cuba L. Apr. 21 (AnS). Unusual for the area were the two Double-crested Cormorants at Houghton May 13 (Carpenter) and eight appeared at Iroquois NWR May 18 (JM). News of long-legged waders includes: three early CATTLE EGRETS at Iroquois NWR Apr. 15 (OO, Prusa); at least ten Great Egrets, total, from three areas; max three Black-crowned Night Herons at Derby Apr. 13; and a total of five Am. Bitterns from four locations. The report of 570 Whistling Swans at Newstead Sinks Mar. 1 (AM, WM), while the seasonal max, shows little of the magnitude of the flight; other high counts were: 442 at Randolph Mar. 8; 320 at Cuba L. Mar. 1; 300 at Tonawanda WMA Mar. 1; 280 over Derby Apr. 9; 210 at Iroquois NWR Mar. 22; and 201 at Oak Orchard WMA Mar. 22. Best number for the Canada Goose

migration was 32,900 at Iroquois NWR Mar. 24 (JM+) while the pair nesting again at Farmerville Sta. in Apr. produced four goslings (DC, JC), and 17 yg. were found in Hume Twp. in May (KP). With early arrival of seven (blue morph) Snow Geese at Iroquois NWR Mar. 7 (AS), max of other reports were 50 (morph?) in Alma Twp., Allegany Co., Mar. 20 (D. King), seven "whites" at Iroquois NWR Mar. 8 and eight "blues" at the last location Apr. 5. It was a less than great duck season. Maxima of spring reports, with a few other interesting notes, were: Mallard, 130 at Cuba Marsh during Mar.; Black Duck, 12 on the AAC and eight from two other reports; Gadwall, 16 at Celoron Mar. 13; Pintail, 20 at Randolph Mar. 13; Green-winged Teal, four at Buckhorn Is. SP Mar. 28 and four at Cuba Marsh Apr. 22; Blue-winged Teal, 15 at Cuba Marsh Apr. 2 to 30; Am. Wigeon, 60 at Iroquois NWR Mar. 3; No. Shoveler, three at Iroquois NWR Mar. 20; Wood Duck, 16 at Cuba Marsh Apr. 21; Ring-necked Duck, five at Cuba Marsh Mar. 27 and Apr. 2; Canvasback, one on the AAC and six at Cuba L. Mar. 27; Lesser Scaup, 80 at Cuba L. Apr. 20; Com. Goldeneye, singles at Amity L. Apr. 16 and at Cuba L. Apr. 21 and 22; BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, one at Niagara Falls Mar. 11 and 28 (AS, PS), staying on from fall and winter, and one at Celoron Mar. 19 and 21 (FE); Bufflehead, 92 at Cuba L. Apr. 20; Oldsquaw, four at Cuba L. Apr. 3 and the same number at Amity L. Apr. 5; White-winged Scoter, two on the AAC and 38 at Cuba L. Apr. 23; Ruddy Duck, one on the AAC, 15 at Iroquois NWR Mar. 29 plus 14 counted from three other locations; Hooded Merganser, four in Birdsall Twp. Mar. 29 to 31 and four at Cuba L. Apr. 7, with two pairs nesting in Amity Twp.; Com. Merganser, five at Scio Mar. 21 with possible nesters: a pair five miles w. of Allegany Apr. 17 (SE) and three in Willing Twp. May 21 (Babcock); and Red-breasted Merganser, 6,000 at Derby Apr. 1 (DP).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Maxima from hawk flights, all over Derby unless otherwise noted, were: Turkey Vulture, 145 Apr. 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk—an excellent flight—117 over Pinehurst May 9; Cooper's Hawk, five on May 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 131 Mar. 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 23 on Mar. 29; Broad-winged Hawk, 1061 at Westfield Apr. 26; Rough-legged Hawk, five on Mar. 24, with last for the season one at Derby Apr. 23; Marsh Hawk, 17 on Mar. 9; Osprey, six on Apr. 19; and Am. Kestrel 48 on Apr. 1. Turkey Vultures arrived early with singles at Iroquois NWR Mar. 1 (AM, WM), and at Tonawanda Indian Reservation Mar. 9 (AS). Only three active GOSHAWK nests were reported, all in Allegany Co., where in one a yg. was banded and in the second an infertile egg was found, on May 31 (ES *vide* DB), and on the third an adult was incubating (RA+); other sightings of the species were: one on the AMC, and singles at Belmont Mar. 20 (DB, LB) and in Westfield Apr. 26 (FR). Territorial Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered 15 from 11 areas and Cooper's Hawks, 17 from 14 locations. Of the latter a nest was found in Cattaraugus Co. (SE) and two were active in Allegany Co. in May (VP, EB). It is good news for the Red-shouldered Hawk, with seven nests reported from Allegany Co. and one from Cattaraugus Co. in addition to eight other birds from five sites. Several BALD EAGLES were identified: a third-year bird at Iroquois NWR Mar. 8 (AM, WM, JM), a second-year bird at the same location Mar. 18 (JM) with single immatures (different birds) also here Apr. 7 and 9 (OO), one to two irregularly over Derby Apr. 14 to May 7 (DP), a sub-adult at the Allegheny Res. Mar. 8 and an adult at the same site Mar. 20 (SE). Other than migrating birds, only eight Marsh Hawks were noted, total, from six sites, and Ospreys were less common than normal: singles on the AAC (16 last year) and on the CAC, with last of the season three on the AMC. From 11 other Osprey reports, 12 birds were recorded. In view of the Ring-necked Pheasant restocking program undertaken by the Department of Environmental Conservation last October, with at least 1967 birds released in scattered locations throughout the Region, in addition to about 1000 in the Tonawanda WMA (Olean *Times Herald*, Sept. 30, 1980, p. 39), why are reports so scarce? Can it be that hunters aren't birders—or do birders not hunt? A Virginia Rail was seen at Iroquois NWR May 18, a Sora was found in the Town of Pembroke Apr. 15, single Com. Gallinules were noted on the AMC and at Cuba Marsh Apr. 28, and the only reports of Am. Coot were 22 on the AAC, two on the AMC and 16, total, from four locations. A WHIMBREL was spotted at Lippert's Gravel Pit near Allegany May 22 (SE); although one was also seen last year on the same date at St. Bonaventure Univ., these are the first occur-



rences in Cattaraugus Co. since May 23 thirty years ago. Also exciting from the shorebird flight were: Black-bellied Plover, singles at Iroquois NWR May 21 and at Buffalo Harbor May 31; Upland Sandpiper, one at Clarence May 31; Greater Yellowlegs, max for season, 20 at Kent Switch Apr. 5; **PURPLE SANDPIPER**, three at Niagara Falls Apr. 20 (AM, WM)—three months later than normal; Pectoral Sandpiper, a huge spring migration with 35 on the CAC and maxima 450 at South Dayton Apr. 5 (FR) and 400 in the Town of Pembroke Apr. 8 (Seamans); White-rumped Sandpiper, two in the Town of Amherst May 18 (AM, WM) and one near Allegany May 27 (SE); Dunlin, 104 at Buffalo Harbor May 22 (AS, ARC); and Short-billed Dowitcher, two near Allegany May 22 (SE). Noteworthy spring larids include: Glaucous Gull, one on the Niagara R. Mar. 1 (HM+) and one at Tiff Farm NP May 13 (RA+); Great Black-backed Gull, 123, a good number, at Derby Mar. 25 (DP); Bonaparte's Gull, max 700 at Dunkirk Harbor Apr. 3 (FR) and max away from the Great Lakes, 135 at Cuba L. Apr. 22 (AnS); Com. Tern, one at Niagara Falls Apr. 5 (RA+), two days early, six at Derby Apr. 12 and seven at Cuba L. Apr. 20; Caspian Tern, one on the AAC, max, at Derby, 14 on May 1 and four at Cuba L. Apr. 20; and Black Tern—very scarce—singles at Derby Apr. 28 and at Iroquois NWR Apr. 29.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** The only report of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was two at Derby May 28, and Black-billed totaled but eight from three areas. In addition to four from three Allegany Co. locations, single Screech Owls were found for the AAC and the CAC. Last for the season of Snowy Owls were singles at Buffalo irregularly Mar. 14 to 31 (RA, Way+) and at Niagara Falls Mar. 21 (FR+). Again, no Long-eared Owls were noted but two Short-eared appeared in the Town of Yates Apr. 19 (RA+). A Whip-poor-will was found at Amity L. Apr. 23 (RP) and another was at Iroquois NWR May 1 (OO). A couple of woodpeckers should be closely watched: Red-headed, with three on the AMC and colonies at Point Gratiot and along the Lake Erie plain doing well (MVJ), and only eight other birds, total, noted from five locations, and Hairy, with 45 on the AAC (63 last year), six on the CAC and 39 on the AMC (82 last year).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen in Cheektowaga May 24 (AM, WM+), an **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER** was identified at Eggertsville May 28 (AM, WM), and an Olive-sided Flycatcher was found on the AMC and another at St. Bonaventure Univ. May 30 (SE). While the E. Phoebe numbered 88 on the AAC (70 last year), on the AMC there were only 95 (240 last year). A flight of 3800 Blue Jays was noted over Derby May 1 (DP). Single **COMMON RAVENS** were spotted at Bolivar Apr. 1 (EK, Smith) and near Alfred May 19 (EB). Only fair numbers of the Tufted Titmouse were found: three on the AAC, two on the CAC and one on the AMC plus 30 counted from seven reports. A pair of Brown Creepers was seen building a nest in Amity Twp., Allegany Co., Apr. 20 (VP). Wrens, other than the House Wren which seems to be recovering, were scarce, with only reports: Winter Wren, singles in four areas in Apr., and Long-billed Marsh Wren, one at Tiff Farm NP May 7 and another at Iroquois NWR May 17. Two Mockingbirds were tallied on the AMC, and four other reports totaled five birds. Two nests of the Hermit Thrush, with two eggs in each, were found near Allegany May 17 (SE). The E. Bluebird is thriving with more trails being established; 76 birds appeared on the AMC and 28 nesting pairs have been reported from Allegany Co.; one nest, five mi. north of Scio had four yg. in nest Apr. 29—record early for NY State (VP). Regionwide, 61 E. Bluebirds were reported from 14 widespread locations. An early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found for the AAC (DB) and singles were seen at Iroquois NWR Apr. 28 and in Amity Twp. May 26. Golden-crowned Kinglets continue scarce: 22 on the AAC (four last year), ten on the AMC (18 last year), max six on old nesting territory near Alfred thru May (EB) and a total 16 counted from five other reports. Max of the good Ruby-crowned Kinglet flight was 18 at Derby Apr. 7 (DP). Single No. Shrikes were in Amity Twp. Mar. 1, at Iroquois NWR Mar. 2, and at Tonawanda WMA irregularly Mar. 7 to 31, and a Loggerhead Shrike appeared at Derby May 10.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Single **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** were banded at Fredonia May 10 (MVJ) and at Farmersville Sta. May 17 (DC), and another was seen at Tiff Farm NP May 8

(RA, RB). Other good vireo reports were: Yellow-throated Vireo, singles on the AMC, at Iroquois NWR May 9 and at Derby May 10; Solitary Vireo, singles, each a few days early, at Ten-Mile Rd., Cattaraugus Co., Apr. 10 (SE) and near Amity L., Allegany Co., Apr. 13 (VP); and Philadelphia Vireo, singles on the AMC, at Tift Farm NP May 9 and at Derby May 22. An exciting spring find was the nest of a pair of Golden-winged Warblers at Amity L. May 22 (VP); the files of the Nest-Record Card Program of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, have no previous record for Allegany Co. of a nest of this species; new to the Blue List this year, this may be the first documentation for the county. Other notable warblers include: PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, two at Iroquois NWR May 19 (OO); Blue-winged Warbler, appearing early: two in Amity Twp. Apr. 28 (VP), one at Farmersville Sta. Apr. 29 (JC), and one at Fredonia Apr. 30 (MVJ); "BREWSTER'S" WARBLER, one at Iroquois NWR May 8 (JM); "LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER—what a find!—one at Holland May 29 and 31 (RA, Barbers+); Orange-crowned Warbler, one at Tift Farm NP May 14 (AS) and one banded at Fredonia May 24 (MVJ); Nashville Warbler, max 14 near Alfred May 3 to 31, where a nest was discovered (EB), and up to seven in Amity Twp. May 13 to 30; No. Parula, four birds, total from three locations in May; Yellow Warbler, 286 on the AMC (630 last year); Yellow-rumped Warbler, max of migration 52 in Amity Twp. May 2, ten on Alfred nesting territory May 20 to 31 (EB) and two at a nest in Amity Twp. May 30 (VP); Black-throated Green Warbler, one four days early in the Town of Amherst Apr. 18 (AM, WM); Cerulean Warbler, one at Iroquois NWR May 14 (JM); Chestnut-sided Warbler, one early in Amity Twp. Apr. 28 (VP); Blackpoll Warbler, one banded at Farmersville Sta. May 21 (DC) plus four other birds, reported from three areas; Pine Warbler, singles in four locations between Apr. 25 and May 8; a rash of PRAIRIE WARBLERS, 12 on the AMC, one at Tift Farm NP May 9 (RA+), eleven territorial males on breeding grounds near Alfred by May 29 with a nest discovered there May 26 (EB) and two pairs in Amity Twp. May 30 (VP) where they nested last year; No. Waterthrush, one on the AMC plus four, total, from three other reports; Louisiana Waterthrush, seven on the AMC, one early in s. Cattaraugus Co. Apr. 4 (*vide* FM), two at Shale Creek Apr. 25 (O'Dell) and one at Derby May 8 (DP); Com. Yellowthroat, one early at Grand Island Apr. 27 (Dannels); and Hooded Warbler, one near Alfred May 20 (EB).

WEAVERS—SPARROWS: High count of the Rusty Blackbird flight was 70 at Frewsburg Mar. 7 (FE), while Com. Grackles over Derby numbered 12,656 Mar. 1 (DP). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak arrived a day early at Belmont Apr. 29 (DB, LB). A rare visitor to the Region this spring was the PAINTED BUNTING which came to Faulkner's feeder, Henley St., Olean, Apr. 28 to about May 15 (SE, DB, LB+, mob). Evening Grosbeaks tallied 606 on the AAC and 57 on the CAC with max from other reports 59 at Amity L. Mar. 8; total reported spring bandings were eight at Limestone (RV), 62 at Farmersville Sta. (DC) and 70 near Alfred (EB). An example of the excellent status of the Purple Finch is the banding at Farmersville Sta. of 179, most of them during the final week of Apr. and first week of May (DC). Max count of House Finch reports was 46 at a Scio feeder Mar. 22 (VP, RP). A single Pine Grosbeak was seen in Amity Twp. Apr. 3 (VP), the only spring report. The winter Com. Redpoll flight continued through Mar. with spring max near Alfred of 150 on Mar. 9 (CK). High count for the big Pine Siskin flight was 30 at Belmont May 5 (DB, LB), 125 were tallied on the AMC and 40 were banded during May at Farmersville Sta. (DC). A flight of 680 Am. Goldfinches was watched over Derby Apr. 12 (DP) while 137 were banded at Farmersville Sta. during Apr. and May (DC). Seen at feeders were two White-winged Crossbills in Batavia Apr. 14 (Seamans) and one in Fredonia Apr. 15 and 16 (MVJ, Parker, Woods), the only reports. Notable spring sparrows include: Grasshopper Sparrow, one early on the AAC (VP), and one to two in Amity Twp, near Alfred and at Fredonia airport during May; Henslow's Sparrow, four on the AMC, and up to three near Alfred and Alfred Sta. and at Fredonia airport in May; Vesper Sparrow, five on the AAC, one on the AMC, and ten, total counted from six other reports; Tree Sparrow, one late on the AMC, with spring max 37 at Amity L. Mar. 20; White-crowned Sparrow, two wintering birds at Belmont, still there thru May 21 (DB, LB); "GAMBEL'S" WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, western subspecies

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*, one at Bergeson Sanct. Apr. 12 (*vide* RS, Gagne) and photographed by Kibbler Apr. 18; White-throated Sparrow, a fair migration starting the last week in Apr. with max 28 in Amity Twp. May 3, as well as one near Alfred (EB), two in Amity Twp. (VP) and six near Allegany (SE) through May—possibly setting up nesting territories; Fox Sparrow, one on the AAC, two on the CAC, plus nine others, total, seen in four localities; and Lincoln's Sparrow, singles banded at Farmersville Sta. May 2, 13 and 24 (DC) and at Fredonia May 11 (MVJ). A Lapland Longspur was found near Belmont Mar. 29 (MacEwen) and 100 Snow Buntings were seen near Cuba Mar. 7 (AnS) with last for the season of the latter, 19 in Birdsall Twp. Mar. 19 (Clancy).

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

ROBERT SPAHN

This year featured another spring of misleading statistics. All three months averaged above normal temperatures, yet all featured long stretches of cold temperatures, northerly oriented winds, and quiet birding. The number of species recorded was at a new high level, but many were represented by one or a few individuals. Rainfall was very low, yet the expected shorebird bonanza never materialized as the lake level slowly rose and remained high enough to inundate the best areas, amid reports of the level being well below long term averages. Arrival dates of many passerines were early to very early, yet most numbers remained low and others expected to accompany those present, arrived relatively late.

In the weather department, March started with average temperatures, dropped to a sharp cold spell from the 13th to the 21st, refreezing most bays and ponds, then rose to a peak of 74° F. (23.3° C) on the 29th. Precipitation was only 1.04" (2.64 cm), 1.60" (4.06 cm) below normal. April started as a continuation of March's warm ending through the 11th, then dropped to below normal for the rest of the month. Again, precipitation was low, 1.95" (4.95 cm), 0.85" (2.16 cm) below normal. The first two thirds of May was cold except for brief warm peaks on the 4th and 5th and 8th-11th. From the 20th on, we came under the influence of a Bermuda high with warm temperatures and steady, though not strong SW winds. May precipitation was 2.27" (5.77 cm), only 0.53" (1.35 cm) below average. The odd weather patterns this spring did help to demonstrate the dominance of photoperiod and general temperature levels on migration over local weather which provides only a minor perturbation on these. The early warm spells brought a few very early arrivals and biased the general arrival of early migrants toward the early end of their local, historic, arrival-date distribution; 57% of all spring arrivals were in the early quartile. Plant life leaped several weeks ahead. However, many of the later passerines were at normal to slightly late dates, influenced little if any by that early warmth and the advanced plant life, except to be much harder to locate in the greenery.

Concentrated effort produced an excellent species list for the season, 264, though many were represented by very small numbers of individuals. The basic feeling was one of scarcity. There were too many days and too many locations

with very quiet woodlands. This year the rarities were all fairly regular migrants, visitants, or breeders within 500-600 miles, in sharp contrast with last year's western flavor. With substantial numbers of very active, competent observers choosing to search for specialties in the proper habitats at the proper times, the list has become unwieldy. It seems apparent that many occur annually in small numbers requiring only diligence and a bit of luck to turn them up. The "lakeshore effect" was again evident with 77% of all first spring arrivals and 90% of the rarities being reported from the lakeshore area.

Two major trends which continue to impact local birding negatively are: 1) the annual spring rise in lake level, man-controlled, resulting in the inundation of virtually all shoreline mudflats before the bulk of the spring shorebird flight, and 2) the annual Trout and Salmon Derby which floods the inshore waters of Lake Ontario and the larger ponds with boats at the peak of the historic loon, grebe, and merganser flights.

Positive avian trends include good counts for: Whistling Swan and Canada Goose, most swallows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Wilson's Warblers, American Redstart, Bobolink, House Finch, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin. Negatives included lows for: both loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Cattle Egret—the first time in 20 years with no reports, Black-crowned Night Heron, both bitterns, Goshawk, Forster's, Common, and especially Caspian Terns, Common Nighthawk, Winter Wren, most thrushes, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows. It is hoped that many of these apparent lows are the results of cool, gray mornings, too much foliage too early, and no major May groundings.

Rarities: Seen less than eight of the past ten years or less than five years consecutively: Little Blue Heron, Louisiana Heron, White-fronted Goose, European Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sandhill Crane, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Thayer's Gull, Laughing Gull, Roseate Tern, Barn Owl, Common Raven, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Summer Tanager, Dickcissel, and Hoary Redpoll. Rare-but-regular, only a very few each year: Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Acadian Flycatcher, Short-billed Marsh Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

Abbreviations: BB—Braddock Bay State Park area; D—Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; H—Hamlin Beach State Park and vicinity; IC—Island Cottage Woods, Greece; and WL—west lakeshore, generally Rochester to Pt. Breeze.

Observers: Dawn Anthony, Ron & Kay Ballard, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn & Roger Cass, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Joyce & Jack Connor, Dorothy Crumb, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Frank & Bob Dobson, Kay & Jim Doris, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Dick Garnham, Genesee Ornithological Society, Harold Griffen, Kevin Griffith, Norm Henderson, Oivind Jensen, Scott Kampmeier, Allen & Bea Kemnitzer, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Tom Kretchmer, David Levy, Walter Listman, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Mary Mattei, Mike McKeon, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Hyde Miller, Ann Miranian, Laura & Neil Moon, Jane Morris, Richard O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Mike & Tom Peter, P.O.S. (Allan, Brian, Dan, David, & Grace Strong, Doug Keim, James Lenhard & Kinsley Whittum), Pat Reister, Rochester Birding Association, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Ann Stear, Helen Steinhauser, Harriet Stride, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Steve Taylor, Tom, Mike & David Tetlow, Ann Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Munro Will, Doris Wilton, Alice Wood and Peter Zachmann.

**LOONS--DUCKS:** Loons and grebes were generally reported in very low numbers. Let us hope that they were simply driven out beyond observation limits by the swarms of fishing boats. The Com. Loon max was 125+ Pt. Breeze May 13, very late for a peak. Red-throated Loons were almost unreported, only scattered singles. The best of the grebes was Red-necked Grebe: 75 Pt. Breeze Mar. 26; 190 H-Pt. Breeze Apr. 5; and 100+ Parma Apr. 7. Double-crested Cormorant appeared at typical spring dates with max 16 BB late May, present all month. The heron list sounds like Florida (or Long Island) except that quantities are ones and twos and no Cattle Egret showed. The best of the herons were: Great Blue Heron: max 41 BB May 16; **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one imm Round Pond/Buck Pond May 9-17 (J & JCo, mob); Great Egret: four distinct records Apr. 5 thru, low; Snowy Egret: one Buck Pond (ST, mob); **LOUISIANA HERON:** two Buck Pond Apr. 23-25 (MD, WLi, mob); and Glossy Ibis: one BB Apr. 4-12 (LM, mob). Black-crowned Night Heron and both bitterns were scarce this spring. Among the waterfowl, all expected species were reported, though numbers were average to a bit low for most and most moved on early due to a combination of the early very warm weather and the continuous presence of fishing boats in their traditional resting and feeding areas. The most interesting of the waterfowl records were: Whistling Swan: 278 WL Mar. 1; 450 W Rush Mar. 8; and 220 Byron Mar. 28, all very high counts for this Region; and one Irondequoit Bay May 17; and Braddock Bay May 25-28, late; **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Carlton Mar. 28 (MD, ST); **EUROPEAN WIGEON:** one male Rose's Marsh Apr. 23-28 (MD, WLi, mob); Redhead: max 1200 Sodus Bay Mar. 15; Canvasback: max 1500 Sodus Bay Mar. 15; **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** two males BB Mar. 16 (TK); and Black Scoter: max 90 WL Apr. 5.

**HAWKS--ALCIDS:** The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch was again manned daily by compilers Laura and Neil Moon and numerous other observers. The table below summarizes the peak days, totals, and the averages for the five years of daily coverage, including this year. Once again this year there was no one super hawk day. Through May 1, totals matched last year's record highs, then followed a quiet May. A persistent weather pattern this spring was SW winds for a few hours followed by N-NE lake effect breezes which generally shut off the bulk of a Braddock Bay hawk flight.

**BRADDOCK BAY HAWK WATCH SUMMARY--FEBRUARY 15 TO JUNE 18**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Peak No.</u>	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>5 yr. Average</u>
Turkey Vulture	178	4/1	1,694	1,393
Goshawk	4	3/29	11	24.6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	645	5/9	4,612	5,080
Cooper's Hawk	23	3/29	124	106
Red-tailed Hawk	387	3/15	2,297	2,145
Red-shouldered Hawk	210	3/15	395	312
Broad-winged Hawk	3449	4/27	15,881	17,489
Swainson's Hawk	0		0	0.2
Rough-legged Hawk	39	2/28	275	308
Golden Eagle	3	5/9	6	9.6
Bald Eagle	3	5/25	18	13.0
Marsh Hawk	31	3/29	338	377
Osprey	16	5/9	96	111
Peregrine Falcon			2	3.6
Merlin	2		7	5.0
Am. Kestrel	206	3/29	488	504
Unidentified accipiter			34	32
Unidentified buteo			655	651
Unidentified eagle			1	0.8
Unidentified falcon			0	3.0
Unidentified raptor			87	54
<b>Total Hawks</b>			<b>27,021</b>	<b>28,625</b>

Additional hawk records of interest were: Golden Eagle: one imm Greece Mar. 29; Bald Eagle: singles, Irondequoit Bay Mar. 21; Greece Mar. 29; Hemlock Lake Apr. 12; and Rose's Marsh May 3, all imm except the Hemlock bird; Osprey: one Webster Mar. 26, early; Peregrine Falcon: one Hilton Mar. 23 (MD); one imm Webster Mar. 26 (WLi); one Manitou Apr. 2 (A1S, JL); and one imm Webster Apr. 24 (SS); and Merlin: six reports scattered thru the season. SANDHILL CRANE continued its increases of the past several years with: one BB Mar. 24 (NM, mob); one Hamlin Mar. 28 (CC, AC, AWa); one Greece Mar. 29 (KG) and IC (MM); two Webster (JCz) and BB (L & NM) Apr. 19; and one Carlton May 23 (HM, RS—photo, AK, JCl, TG). Turkey continues to increase and spread, both naturally and through stocking. Ring-necked Pheasant seems up a bit this spring. The rails and company were again poorly reported. The spring shorebirds were well represented by the expected migrants in spite of the poor habitat situation; 23 species were reported. The best of the records were: Wilson's Phalarope: two Greece May 22; Red Knot: two BB May 27-28; Sanderling: one to four Charlotte May 29-30; Western Sandpiper: one Perinton May 24; Pectoral Sandpiper: 500+ WL Apr. (AK, mob); 300+ Lima Apr. 7; and 305 Perinton Apr. 19; Dunlin: one BB Apr. 11, early; and 150 Perinton May 22; and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: one Carlton Station May 13 (WS, MD, WLi). Gulls and terns provided their usual bit of spring excitement with: Glaucous Gull: four records thru Mar.; Iceland Gull: one Greece Mar. 19-25; two BB May 9-11; and one BB May 17; Great Black-backed Gull: max 400+ Irondequoit Bay Mar. 22; THAYER'S GULL: one 1st yr. Irondequoit Bay Mar. 21-23 (MAS, WLi, mob); and one to three imm Manitou May 2-26; LAUGHING GULL: one ad BB May 16 (MD); Forster's Tern: three BB Apr. 17 (MD, RS, mob), very early; Com. Tern: one BB Apr. 17, early; and ROSEATE TERN: two BB area Apr. 17 (MD, RS, WLi, mob), a first regional record. Terns generally were scarce, particularly Caspian.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: This grouping received its traditional lack of attention. Cuckoos were briefly locally abundant along the lakeshore, otherwise scarce. Owls of particular interest included: BARN OWL: one Manitou May 24 (MD, CC); Snowy Owl: five March birds; and Short-eared Owl: one BB May 21, suggestive of possible breeding. Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls were a bit fewer than are usually recorded during spring migration. A Whip-poor-will at BB Apr. 18 was early. Com. Nighthawk continued low. Woodpeckers provided no news of note.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: Among the flycatchers, arrival dates were generally on the early side. E. Phoebe seemed a little low in numbers, the rest normal, though the bulk of the individuals followed the annual Big Day. As expected, all of the eastern Empidonax could be found together at favored locations along the lakeshore during the last week of May. In particular, *all five* were calling within a 100 yard circle in Island Cottage Woods May 25. Acadian Flycatchers were at their breeding locale in Bergen Swamp by May 23. Olive-sided Flycatcher was scarce with only three reports, the first at Maplewood Park May 14. All of the expected swallows returned by average to early dates in good numbers. Notable records included: Bank Swallow: one WL Mar. 29 (MP), very early; and Barn Swallow: one Kendall Apr. 4, early. Peak counts were not submitted, a task for an enterprising observer in 1982. COMMON RAVEN continued its appearances in the Region with several seen, though only one report was received: one Buck Pond Apr. 24 (RS). Com. Crow and Blue Jay staged their usual protracted lakeshore migrations. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were reported present in proper habitat, suitable for breeding, through the Region thru the season's end. Among the wrens we had: House Wren: abundant; Winter Wren: almost nonexistent; Carolina Wren: sparsely reported, but with three young fledged Irondequoit May 9 (L & NM), very early; Long-billed Marsh Wren: late, but later common; and Short-billed Marsh Wren: scarce and not present in some former breeding areas. The numbers of thrushes on migration seemed quite low with the exception of Am. Robin. Of particular interest was the report of migrating E. Bluebird along the lakeshore May 30, long after most local birds of this species are nesting. It has been postulated that these late migrants are birds which may be found nesting in the Adirondacks in late June. Comments? Blue-gray Gnatcatcher arrived early: one H Apr. 11 (R & SS). Kinglets appeared in good

numbers, with Ruby-crowned by far the more abundant. Cedar Waxwing staged a massive invasion, particularly in the latter half of May with a peak count of 5000+ in three hrs. at the west spit of BB May 30 (AK, ST). No. Shrike lingered through Mar. at BB. Loggerhead Shrike was sparsely reported with six individuals recorded from late Mar. thru May. (It is encouraging that four potential breeding pairs were located by early June with at least one nesting confirmed [WLI].)

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** The vireos were characterized by late arrivals. *None* were recorded in April. By late May, numbers seemed more normal on warm mornings. Noteworthy records included: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Powder Mill Park May 17 (JM); and Philadelphia Vireo: one BANC Preserve May 2, very early. All regularly occurring eastern warblers were reported. Some of the most notable were: Prothonotary: one Murray May 17 (JK); **WORM-EATING:** one IC May 8-9 (RD, CC, WD, mob); Orange-crowned: seven records May 5-17; No. Parula: one BB Apr. 18 (GOS), very early; Blackpoll: one D May 1 (CC, AC), very early; Prairie: one Manitou May 5; Louisiana Waterthrush: 12 Letchworth Park May 17 (DB, PC), a good count; **KENTUCKY:** one BB May 25 (K & JD); and **CONNECTICUT:** singles Murray May 17 (RD, RO, mob); Manitou May 23 (ST); Pittsford May 24 (RS, mob); and BB May 25 (ST, RD, NH, RL), all singing males. Other interesting warbler notes included nine species recorded in Apr. and 21 species found in Letchworth Park May 31, all possibly breeding.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** The Icterids provided a number of good records, among them: Bobolink locally abundant; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** one Pt. Breeze Apr. 4 thru, apparently mated, a third year return; **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** one Parma Apr. 16-28 (MD, mob); Orchard Oriole: three to eight Pt. Breeze May 9 thru; one H May 17; and one Murray May 27 (MT, SKa); and **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** two to 23 (Max 17 males, six females) Hamlin Apr. 2-30 (MD, mob), a first Regional record, much display and high hopes, but no later breeding evidence. Another rare visitor was a molting **SUMMER TANAGER:** one male BB May 5 (PR, HS, MD, KG). Among the general finch grouping, we saw evidence of the return of the winter's invasion which fizzled. There were very large lakeshore flights of Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. Other interesting reports included: **DICKCISSEL:** singing male Charlotte May 28 (RS); the continued spread of breeding House Finches; and **HOARY REDPOLL:** one Manitou Mar. 1 (KG); and one Webster Mar. 20 (KD). As a climax, the sparrows provided a poor finish. There were no really exciting reports. There were impressions that Grasshopper Sparrow was very low, Fox Sparrow scarce, and Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows holding their own relative to the past few years; otherwise just numbers and dates well within normal expectations. A last hurrah for winter's visitors was Snow Buntings: 300 Kendall Mar. 1.

Once again, "tragically," we have a host of Regional records, well-described, sometimes seen by many, for which the observers are too "busy," too lazy, or too insecure to submit records. Such "records" may be likened to the "sound" made by the falling forest giant with no ears present.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The spring was generally mild and dry. Cold spells came in early and mid-March, a protracted one in mid-April and one in mid-May, when the temperature dipped into the twenties.

Observers generally referred to the migration as somewhat disappointing and devoid of any "waves," although some small waves of warblers were noted at Elmira. May 5-10, the height of the passerine movement, was warm with constant strong south winds. Without any cold fronts to deter them the birds apparently blew right on through without stopping. The earlier warm spells brought on advanced leaf growth making visibility poor for those birds which did stop. An odd twist was that, despite the general mildness of the spring, many species were considered to be one to three weeks late.

But birding in the spring of 1981 had its bright moments. On March 11, eight hawks hunting over a single field south of Newfield included six Rough-legs, four dark and two light phase birds, and two Red-tails, one normal and one completely black melanistic bird. This was the fourth sighting of a melanistic Red-tail in that area since last May. Ithaca had its biggest hawk flight in many years over the airport on April 26 with ninety-seven birds of ten species flying over including such goodies as a Merlin and a Golden Eagle. Fifteen species of shorebirds were located mostly in areas away from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge where the water was high and shorebirds few. Even without any "warbler waves," all of the warblers listed in Bull's *Birds of New York State*, except for the Black-throated Gray Warbler and two hypotheticals, were found for a total of thirty-seven species and two hybrids. The rarities listed below attest to the excitement some birders found in the spring migration.

In addition to the above there were the following seasonal positives: 1) the excellent swan flight, which began during the warm days of February and continued through March; 2) Rough-legged Hawks and Pine Siskins lingered into May with the siskins attempting nesting; 3) Bald Eagles returning to their hacking site at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; 4) the Osprey nest at Montezuma is again occupied; 5) a slight increase in the reports of such beleaguered species as Marsh Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant and Vesper Sparrow; 6) Turkeys spreading; 7) Black Terns more numerous; 8) continued reports of Common Ravens in the southern hills; 9) the Fish Crow colony at Ithaca increasing; 10) encouraging Eastern Bluebird reports; 11) three species of western sparrows found in the Region.

Seasonal negatives: 1) few rail reports; 2) low numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls; 3) scarcity of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; 4) low numbers of thrushes; 5) Eastern Phoebe at a continued low ebb; 6) kinglets, especially the Golden-crowned, scarce; 7) almost no shrikes.

Rarities: Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Merlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Audubon's race of Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow.

Abbreviations: EBD—Elmira Big Day May 16; Cay—Cayuga; Co—County; L—lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SAD—Seneca Army Depot; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; \* (starred)—details on file.

Contributors and compilers: Harold Axtell, W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker (Watkins Glen), John Confer, Vernon Dewey (MNWR), Bernice Hilfiker, Wilifred Howard, Herbert & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch (Penn Yan), Judie McCormick, Dorothy McIlroy (Ithaca), Mary Welles (Elmira).

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: an overwintering bird stayed at Watkins Glen until Mar.



28; 30 flew over Ithaca Apr. 26. Red-necked Grebe: five at Elmira Apr. 20 and one at Ithaca Apr. 26 and May 16. Horned Grebe: scarce. Double-crested Cormorant: one MNWR Apr. 5 and up to eight imm the last half of May; nine flying over SWS Apr. 27; two at Branchport and one at Penn Yan Apr. 30; five at Geneva May 15. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: adult Beebe L, Ithaca May 9 (A. Horn)\*. Cattle Egret: no reports. Great Egret: one MNWR Apr. 16-May 1; 2 GBD. Black-crowned Night Heron: other than the usual colony at MNWR, three early arrivals were seen at Brooktondale on Mar. 30 and four at Van Cleef L, Sen. Falls May 31. Least Bittern: at Elmira the first in several years was seen on May 16; also one at MNWR on the same date. No other reports. Whistling Swan: the big February influx carried over into March, i.e. 30 at Penn Yan, nine Dryden L late Mar., 12 Elmira Mar. 27, 5 Horseheads Mar. 28 and 51 MNWR Apr. 1. Canada Goose: good flights reported all over the Region. Brant: seven Sen L at the mouth of Reeder's Creek May 29-June 1. Snow Goose: one at Phelps Mar. 24-Apr. 28 was the only report outside MNWR (see below).

Waterfowl numbers as reported by the Montezuma Refuge personnel:

Geese			Snow (inc.		
Canada	85,000	Mar. 31	Blue morph)	12,000	Apr. 4
<b>Ducks</b>					
Mallard	1,700	May 31	Redhead	250	Mar. 23
Black Duck	300	May 31	Ring-necked Duck	75	Mar. 23
Gadwall	500	May 31	Canvasback	300	Mar. 23
Pintail	600	Apr. 15-May 31	Greater Scaup	150	Mar. 18
Green-winged Teal	550	Apr. 15-May 31	Common Goldeneye	15	Mar. 23
Blue-winged Teal	600	Apr. 30-May 31	Bufflehead	40	Apr. 30
Am. Wigeon	125	Mar. 31-Apr. 30	Ruddy Duck	15	May 31
Northern Shoveler	350	Apr. 30	Hooded Merganser	60	Apr. 15
Wood Duck	700	May 31	Common Merganser	200	Apr. 15

The above species were all reported from other parts of the Region in small numbers. Canvasback: 700 Cay L Mar. 21. Lesser Scaup: three Sen L Mar. 26; 12 Elmira Mar. 15. Com. Goldeneye: 100 Cay L Mar. 21. Bufflehead: 70 Cay L Mar. 21. Oldsquaw: six each at Elmira and Dryden L; present at Sheldrake, Cay L, Mar. 8-Apr. 28. Scoters: more than usual numbers of reports of White-winged but no Surf or Black Scoters. Red-breasted Merganser: 30 at Branchport on Keuka L until late May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: widely reported with a group of 22 migrating north along the Clyde R Apr. 2. Goshawk: two apparently active nests in Tompkins Co. and one near E. Corning. Red-tailed Hawk: several nests in the Ithaca area and one with two young at SAD; 26 GBD. Red-shouldered Hawk: four territories, one new, in Tompkins Co. (JC). Broad-winged Hawk: many reports of migrants including 78 at Ithaca Apr. 26; seen near E. Corning where they nested last year. Rough-legged Hawk: the massive invasion of last winter hung on to produce some very late dates such as the very light bird at Arnot Forest May 7 and a sighting at Elmira May 16. **GOLDEN EAGLE**: imm at Ithaca Apr. 26. Bald Eagle: an adult at Ithaca May 7 and scattered reports from MNWR. Marsh Hawk: a few scattered reports from Elmira, Horseheads, Ithaca, SAD, MNWR and Geneva. Osprey: nesting at MNWR for the second year with an increasing number of sightings over the Region. **PEREGRINE**: a bird at MNWR Apr. 19 the only report. **MERLIN**: one at Ithaca Apr. 26; female at Michigan Hollow May 13; one found dead at Trumansburg late May. Ruffed Grouse: nest with eggs found in Arnot Forest in early May and recently hatched young were seen in Michigan Hollow. Ring-necked Pheasant: a few scattered reports of this beleaguered species. Turkey: an increasing number of reports including a hen sitting on eleven eggs near Ithaca and a large flock in the Buttermilk Falls area. Com. Gallinule: reports vary from "none" at Penn Yan to "lots" at Elmira. Am. Coot: max 300 MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: two SAD May 16 only report (JMc). Black-bellied Plover: one bird in spring plumage MNWR May 14. Upland Sandpiper: more than normal number of sightings reported from all parts of the Region. Solitary Sandpiper: numbers up following an early arrival at Ithaca Apr. 9. Red

Knot: one at fish ponds west of Canoga (JC). Wilson's Phalarope: one Penn Yan. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: a third year bird Ithaca Apr. 24 (Sibley). Bonaparte's Gull: very few except for 75 on the GBD. Black Tern: the best year for this species at MNWR since before the flood of 1972.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: single reports from Penn Yan, SAD and Southport, all late May. Black-billed Cuckoo: none at Penn Yan but many at Ithaca plus two at Southport May 16 and one at Clyde May 26. Great Horned Owl: a nest with young at Phelps Mar. 28; pair nesting at Montour Falls. Snowy Owl: a heavily marked bird was photographed by Art Foxall when it visited downtown Geneva Mar. 4. Barred Owl: five were found on the EBD with two possibly being young birds. Short-eared Owl: one near Phelps Mar. 28; up to ten wintered near Hall. When their hunting fields were plowed this spring, two birds acted as though they were defending a nest but no nest was located and the birds were gone by June 1. Saw-whet Owl: one calling Reading Center Apr. 1. Whip-poor-will: noted at Elmira May 4 and 16 and at Ithaca May 16. Com. Nighthawk: returned to Elmira May 9 and to Ithaca May 17. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very few reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: an overwintering imm bird at Phelps developed a completely red head by Apr. 19; reports indicate increased sightings in the Region.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING**: E. Kingbird: a very early bird at Caton Apr. 10. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles at SWS and Connecticut Hill (taped) both May 25. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: one singing, tape-recorded, Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 29 (D. Sibley). Willow Flycatcher: many at Elmira and Ithaca but late. Alder Flycatcher: reported from the higher areas in Tompkins Co., i.e. eight from Connecticut Hill May 25 and several on the hillside above Cay L at Milliken Station. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one each on EBD and Hammond Hill and Connecticut Hill in Tompkins Co. May 25. Horned Lark: feeding young along E. Lake Rd., Geneva, May 19. Bank Swallow: at least one active colony at Ithaca; Junius Ponds colony greatly reduced. Rough-winged Swallow: a small colony along Fall Creek, Ithaca, and a single nest along Salmon Creek, Lansing. Cliff Swallow: not nesting at Corning Community College this year but a few nests at Freeville and a colony on a barn at Cayuta. Purple Martin: four houses at MNWR almost completely full. Com. Raven: up to two at Arnot Forest thru the period and up to two on Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 29-30. Fish Crow: three or four pairs at Ithaca. A nest on Cayuga Heights had three young Apr. 30 which were killed by a raccoon on May 15. Carolina Wren: survived the winter well at Ithaca; only one report at Elmira and Montour Falls. **VARIED THRUSH**: a bird in full breeding plumage was found at SWS Mar. 28 (Litwin, Lyons\*) for the first Region 3 record. All thrushes were late in arriving and, with the possible exception of the Wood Thrush, all were quite scarce. E. Bluebird: Elmira reports "not too plentiful" but in most of the Region the species seems to be gaining a bit with nesting noted at Ithaca, SAD and Penn Yan. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two nests found at Penn Yan; plentiful on the EBD count. Golden-crowned Kinglet: most observers found them rather scarce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: low but better than the Golden-crowned. Loggerhead Shrike: one Elmira Mar. 23 was the only report.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Vireos: **WHITE-EYED**: one E. Lake Rd., Geneva, May 5 (HPK\*). Yellow-throated: in numbers at Elmira and a few more than normal at Ithaca. Solitary: one Elmira Apr. 8 early. Philadelphia: one Elmira May 8; one SAD May 13; upper Buttermilk Creek, Ithaca, May 14 and Connecticut Hill May 23. Warblers: Black-and-white: an active nest at Ithaca. Prothonotary: singles at Cayuga Nature Center, Ithaca, May 14 and at Cayuta L outlet May 17 (Betty & Barie Strath). Worm-eating: more than the usual reports; Ithaca May 14; three Elmira May 16; one Southport May 17; one Dryden May 25. Orange-crowned: one Elmira May 5; one Geneva May 17 (P & M Trail). **YELLOW-RUMPED "AUDUBON'S" WARBLER**: a singing male on Connecticut Hill, Ithaca, May 31 (D. Sibley). **YELLOW-THROATED**: one Elmira May 16. No. Waterthrush: widely reported with three pairs at SWS and four at N. Lansing. **KENTUCKY**: singing male taped on Connecticut Hill May 29 (D. Sibley). Connecticut: singing male taped on Connecticut Hill May 25 (D. Sibley). Mourning: more widespread reports than normal. Yellow-breasted Chat: four Elmira

May 16. Hooded: at least three singing males at Dryden (Kelsey) and one taped on Connecticut Hill May 23 (D. Sibley).

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Evening Grosbeak: frequent widespread reports thru the entire period. Com. Redpoll: 30 SAD Mar. 9 (JMc). Pine Siskin: 30 were still at a feeder in Penn Yan May 31; many late reports from across the Region; two nesting attempts in Ithaca. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Ithaca Apr. 11 early; quite widely reported. Henslow's Sparrow: only reports were from Ithaca from Apr. 3 on. Vesper Sparrow: the number of reports of this greatly diminished species picked up a bit this spring. **LARK SPARROW:** one SAD May 28 well described (JMc\*). Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: one Ithaca Apr. 9. Tree Sparrow: one Ithaca May 16 late. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Clifton Springs observed "courting" a Chipping Sparrow during the last week of May (P. Trail). **HARRIS' SPARROW:** one Ithaca May 11 (W. Dilger). White-crowned Sparrow: there were many in the Phelps area but most observers called them few and late. Fox Sparrow: scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: singles at Ithaca May 5 and MNWR May 19 were the only reports.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

March averaged on the warm side of normal although for a period in the middle of the month there were days when temperatures were below freezing at mid-day and some snow fell. In early April, temperatures were often in or near the seventies with the expected showers. The last three weeks of April were cooler, drier and often windy. Most of the April showers waited until the early part of May when cool wet weather was usual, although not constant. The last ten days of May were much warmer and drier.

Except for geese, our usual light waterfowl migration was even lighter than usual. The most shocking decline among these species, at least to this observer, has been that of Ring-necked Ducks. It has happened over several years, rather than being a sudden one or two year drop. In years past, a single flock on a flooding small stream would contain two, three or even more times as many birds as our total of eleven from all reports this year.

The small land bird migration seemed to be a little ahead of schedule in early April, but in late April and during the cool wet spell in the first half of May, it slowed to the point where some of the later species were behind schedule. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and both kinglets were below par. Kingbirds, Warbling Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers and meadowlarks appeared to be up.

The grassland sparrows continue to be a disaster--no Henslow's Sparrows at all--although Vesper Sparrows may have increased slightly. Until late May it appeared that even Savannah Sparrows were affected, but then more were found.

Observers: Roger Allen (RA); Bill Badgley (BBa); Bill Breidinger (BBr); Nancy Brundage; Sally Carey; Jane Chittenden; Mildred Clark (MC); Eileen & Bill Clayton; John Collins (JC); Carlton & Jeannette Davis; Ann & Marilyn Davis (A, MD); Mary Dobinsky (MD); Sadie Dorber (SD); Polly & Earl Getkin; Claire Gottschall (CG); Bob Grant (BG); Shirley Hartman (SH); Jim & Kathy Hoteling; Margaret Layton; Leona McDowell; Janice Mangan; John

New (JN); Peter Petokas (PP); James Riley; Harriett Robison; Robert & Jean Saunders (R, JS); Joe Sedlacek; Mary Sheffield (MS); Robert Sheffield; Jared Shore (JS); Kathryn W. Smith (KS); Lois Stalter (LS); William Stupke; Bill Toner (BT); Jo Tuttle; Elizabeth Washburn; Connie Wilkins (CW); Kathryn Wilson (KW); Tom & Beryl Wilson; Irene Wright (IW).

Abbreviations: CSC—Cortland Spring Count May 16; OSC—Oneonta Spring Count May 23.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one at Homer Apr. 26, the first of eight reports and at least 13 individuals to May 30—most of the reports from Oneonta-Portlandville area, but also from Upper Lisle in Broome Co. Horned Grebe: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 4, but no others. Red-necked Grebe: four in one flock Upper Lisle May 16 (A, MD). Pied-billed Grebe: one Upper Lisle Mar. 15, the first of four reports—the last Apr. 21. Great Blue Heron: fairly frequent reports from Mar. 18; 13 Oneonta May 23, max. Green Heron: Apr. 30 Oneonta, first; not many. Little Blue Heron: one CSC, no details. Black-crowned Night Heron: one CSC, no others. Am. Bittern: one Apalachin May 17, the only report. Glossy Ibis: three Little York, in Cortland Co., Apr. 2 (PP), a first for the Region—no details. Canada Goose: migrating flocks all during Mar. and Apr.; 1,000 at Apalachin Apr. 28 and 200 near Middlefield, Otsego Co., May 4; last report May 20 Upper Lisle. Snow Goose: 20 at Cannonsville Reservoir Mar. 28 (SD). Black Duck: 80 Cannonsville Res. Mar. 4, the best count. Pintail: approx. 20 at Upper Lisle Apr. 4 (A, MD), the only report. Green-winged Teal: three Homer Mar. 26, the first, and four May 4 Oneonta-Portlandville, the last; never common. Blue-winged Teal: Apr. 4 Upper Lisle, Apr. 26 max; also reported from Oneonta-Portlandville. Am. Wigeon: 30 or more Mar. 15 Upper Lisle; also at Upper Lisle Apr. 11 and 12, but no others. Wood Duck: at Homer and Cortlandville Mar. 21, first date. Red-head: four and five Whitney Point Mar. 15 and 22 respectively; also there Mar. 28, but no others reported. Ring-necked Duck: two Whitney Point Mar. 15; six Homer Mar. 29; two Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 4; one at Choconut Center, on a small man-made pond Apr. 19; no others. Greater Scaup: four Homer Mar. 29, scaup (sp?): Apr. 4 and 12 Whitney Point. Com. Goldeneye: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7, the last. Bufflehead: four Whitney Point Mar. 15, first; seven CSC max and last; also reported from Oneonta-Portlandville. Oldsquaw: three Homer Apr. 3, first; 14 Whitney Point Apr. 4, max; three at Crumhorn Lake, e. of Oneonta, May 2, last. Hooded Merganser: Mar. 9 Delhi, first date; 12 Upper Lisle Mar. 15, max; Apr. 8 last. Com. Merganser: two still at Cortland May 16. Red-breasted Merganser: ten Upper Lisle Apr. 4 (A, MD), first and max; the last of three more reports was five OSC.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: three at Cannonsville, one near Vestal and one Oneonta-Portlandville all Mar. 28; fairly frequent thereafter. Goshawk: one CBC; no others. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 17 reports. Cooper's Hawk: five reports, all of single birds and all from Oneonta-Portlandville. Red-tailed Hawk: 16 OSC, best count. Red-shouldered Hawk: one Vestal May 9 (CG); one Crumhorn May 14 (MD); one CSC; one OSC. Broad-winged Hawk: one Delhi Apr. 10; two more Apr. reports and routine in May. Rough-legged Hawk: four Homer Apr. 2 (BT), the last report; only two Mar. reports. Bald Eagle: one Cannonsville Mar. 4 (SD), two Hancock Mar. 22 (BBr); two Cannonsville Mar. 23 (SH); a mature bird Apr. 25 at Lisle (RA); one Upper Lisle May 29 (JS). Marsh Hawk: two females Mar. 28 Apalachin (JC); Apr. 30 Oneonta (JN); no other reports. Osprey: one Cannonsville Mar. 2 (SH) was very early; next report one at Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7 (MD, KW); 13 reports from Apr. 19 to May 23. Ruffed Grouse: 36 OSC the best count, but numbers up everywhere. Ring-necked Pheasant: only a half dozen reports. Turkey: a flock of 26 at Delhi Mar. 4 to Apr. 10 (MC); other scattered reports. Am. Coot: five CSC, the only ones. Killdeer: Mar. 4 Delhi; next area reporting Oneonta-Portlandville Mar. 21. Black-bellied Plover: one CSC, the first in the Region in several years. Am. Woodcock: Apr. 11 Choconut Center, probably there earlier; Apr. 27 Franklin, two adults with five young. Com. Snipe: three Upper Lisle Apr. 11—species still there May 9 and reported several times between. Spotted Sandpiper: two Upper Lisle Apr. 19 (MS); three Homer Apr. 20; next report May 2. Soli-

tary Sandpiper: Apr. 27 Oneonta (JN); Apr. 30 Delhi; five Portlandville May 4, max; May 23 last date. Greater Yellowlegs: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle the first, and one OSC the last of seven reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: seven OSC, the only report. Least Sandpiper: one Portlandville May 19, and 15 OSC; that's all. Semipalmated Sandpiper: seven OSC; no others. Herring Gull: 25 Franklin Mar. 11, max; May 9 Upper Lisle, last. Ring-billed Gull: 30 Upper Lisle May 3, max. Bonaparte's Gull: seen at Upper Lisle Apr. 11 and May 2 and 9 (A, MD); no others. Com. Tern: seen at Upper Lisle May 2 and 20 (A, MD); no others.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: May 22 Oneonta; two Oneonta-Portlandville May 30, that's all. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 13 Vestal Center, first of 12 May reports; max five OSC. Screech Owl: one OSC the only report. Snowy Owl: one Apr. 8, 17 and 21 (BT)—sick or injured? Barred Owl: one OSC the only report. Long-eared Owl: May 12 Springfield Center, a nest with one imm. and one adult—four young present three days earlier (BBa, *vide* MD, KW, IW). Saw-whet Owl: Mar. 21 Hinman's Corners (R, JS). Whip-poor-will: one OSC; no others. Com. Nighthawk: from mid-May in downtown Oneonta. Chimney Swift: first date Apr. 29, one over Oneonta. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 7 Oneonta, first; "about six pairs" early evening May 23 to 28 in a horse chestnut tree in Oneonta (BG). Com. Flicker: Mar. 21 Endwell; regular from Mar. 28. Pileated Woodpecker: 16 or more reports; six OSC max. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one CSC, no details. Red-headed Woodpecker: CSC but no others. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr. 4 Chenango Forks, to the end of May; 18 OSC, max.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: May 4 Oneonta-Portlandville and Middlefield; quite common; 62 OSC. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 6 Oneonta; 22 OSC. E. Phoebe: Mar. 29 Middlefield; 31 OSC. Willow Flycatcher: three OSC, first date; two Upper Lisle May 24. Alder Flycatcher: two OSC, the only ones. Least Flycatcher: two Oneonta-Portlandville May 2, first. E. Wood Pewee: May 14 Middlefield, first. Tree Swallow: Mar. 29 Chenango Forks and Delhi. Bank Swallow: very few reports and no representative first date, but 175 OSC. Rough-winged Swallow: one Upper Lisle Apr. 19, first; 100 or more May 2 Oneonta-Portlandville (MD, KW), unusual numbers for the species. Barn Swallow: Apr. 30 Delhi. Cliff Swallow: Apr. 27 and regularly Oneonta-Portlandville, max eight May 4; only one other report, May 16 Upper Lisle. Purple Martin: "many" May 5 at Little York; about 12 pairs nesting at Unadilla; also reported at Owego. Tufted Titmouse: regular at Chenango Forks; also reported from Binghamton, Chenango Bridge, Choconut Center, Endwell and Vestal Center. Red-breasted Nuthatch: remained common through Apr. and still at Oneonta May 23. Brown Creeper: four OSC. House Wren: Apr. 29 Walton, first. Winter Wren: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4, the only report all spring. Mockingbird: reported from at least a dozen places during the period. Gray Catbird: Apr. 30 Delhi, first. Brown Thrasher: Apr. 21 Cortland; only 13 on OSC, which seems representative. Am. Robin: regular from Mar. 14. Wood Thrush: one Apalachin Apr. 24; next date May 2. Hermit Thrush: seven reports of one to three birds each Apr. 16 to May 23, all from the Oneonta-Portlandville-Middlefield area; no others. Swainson's Thrush: three OSC, the only ones. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one OSC, the only report. Veery: May 7 Oneonta, first. E. Bluebird: 15 OSC, max; numerous reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Preble Apr. 27, earliest; five OSC, max; also reported from Endwell, Hinman's Corners and Upper Lisle. Golden-crowned Kinglet: only two Mar. and Apr. reports but two still present for OSC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle, earliest; one OSC the only report after May 9. Water Pipit: CSC—seems very late, but no details. Cedar Waxwing: numbers up again from about Mar. 21. No. Shrike: one Oneonta-Portlandville Mar. 24, the only report.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Delhi May 5, first; 12 OSC, max. Solitary Vireo: one Hamden, Delaware Co., Apr. 30, first. Red-eyed Vireo: May 9 Vestal, first. Philadelphia Vireo: May 16 CSC; one Oneonta-Portlandville May 19 (MD, KW); one OSC. Warbling Vireo: one Cortland Apr. 29 (CW), first; quite common. Black-and-white Warbler: one Delhi Apr. 30; common. Golden-winged Warbler: May 9 Choconut Center; of the ten reports received one OSC the only one not from Broome Co. Blue-winged Warbler:

May 9 Vestal, earliest; four OSC, max; 19 other reports, one each from Cortland, Middlefield and Oneonta-Portlandville, the rest from Broome Co. "Brewster's" Warbler: one near Hamden Apr. 30 (Delhi Bird Club), rather early; May 10 Choconut Center one singing Golden-wing song and in the same spot May 16 one singing Blue-wing song; OSC, three different birds. Tennessee Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; fairly common May 17 around Binghamton; 37 OSC, max; last date May 24 Vestal. Nashville Warbler: May 6 Choconut Center, first; high count 39 OSC. Yellow Warbler: one Delhi Apr. 30, common from May 9. Magnolia Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; 26 OSC is a good high count for the Region, but only four other reports. Cape May Warbler: May 16 CSC, first; only five other reports, the last May 25; it seems significant the species was missed on the otherwise highly successful OSC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 10 Choconut Center; 16 OSC; six other reports; never really common in the Region, but not rare either. Yellow-rumped Warbler: one Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 16, first; next report Apr. 25 Upper Lisle; 38 OSC and two Oneonta-Portlandville May 30 the only later report. Black-throated Green Warbler: Apr. 30 Oneonta; common from May 3. Blackburnian Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; 43 OSC. Chestnut-sided Warbler: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4; 97 OSC. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 7 Oneonta; next report May 16 and gone after May 22. Blackpoll Warbler: May 16 Cortland and May 17 Apalachin; only four OSC. Pine Warbler: one OSC; no others. Prairie Warbler: May 14 Vestal and four OSC, but that's all. Palm Warbler: one Hamden Apr. 30, no others. Ovenbird: one Delhi May 1; next date May 10 and common only after May 16. No. Waterthrush: one Cortland Apr. 28; 14 OSC. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr. 12 Berkshire, in Tioga Co., next report Apr. 24; 12 OSC. Mourning Warbler: one Delhi May 13 (MC); six OSC. Com. Yellowthroat: one Oneonta-Portlandville May 4, a late first date; common after May 9. Wilson's Warbler: May 16 Cortland, May 17 Endwell and May 24 Vestal (two banded), but no others. Canada Warbler: one Milford May 8, earliest; six Oneonta-Portlandville May 16, the next date; 36 OSC, a surprisingly high count for the Region. Am. Redstart: May 9 first date at both Vestal and Oneonta-Portlandville; 62 OSC.

WEAVERS--SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 7 Oneonta; common in upland fields; 103 OSC. E. Meadowlark: three Delhi Mar. 2, first since Jan.; next date Mar. 19 Oneonta; common after Apr. 4; 33 OSC; better numbers than in recent years. Orchard Oriole: one CSC May 16, no details. No. Oriole: Apr. 30 Hamden and Endwell; common from May 3. Rusty Blackbird: Mar. 31 Oneonta and May 16 Cortland, the first and last of five reports. Brown-headed Cowbird: clearly migrants Mar. 17, common after Apr. 2. Scarlet Tanager: three Delhi May 6; common from May 9. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Delhi and Choconut Center, common. Indigo Bunting: everywhere May 16, the first date; loose flocks noted in brushy fields May 17 Vestal Center. Evening Grosbeak: 150 Oneonta-Portlandville May 2, the last large count; regular to May 13 and six OSC the last. Purple Finch: noticeably increased numbers Apr. 1 to May 10; 20 OSC. House Finch: 33 CSC and 20 OSC; abundant in many Triple Cities urban and suburban areas, but still penetrating some more rural sites; two seen regularly at Delhi throughout the period, the first year of such regular reporting in the area. Pine Grosbeak: 13, five and six reported Mar. 17, 21 and 24 respectively Oneonta-Portlandville, the only ones reported within the period. Com. Redpoll: never in really large numbers, last seen Mar. 24 at Middlefield, Oneonta-Portlandville and Apalachin. Pine Siskin: decreasing slowly through Apr. and the first week of May, then tapering off more quickly to the last date of May 23. Rufous-sided Towhee: more common from about Apr. 18; 30 OSC. Savannah Sparrow: one Delhi Apr. 6, first; scarce through mid-May, but 19 OSC and seemed more common thereafter. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Endwell May 17; May 25 Oneonta; the only reports. Vesper Sparrow: first found Apr. 16 Oneonta; six reports of one or two birds each in May, including two OSC. Dark-eyed Junco: common until May 11, but never overwhelming; 31 OSC; eight Oneonta-Portlandville May 30. Tree Sparrow: very few after Mar. 31. Chipping Sparrow: Apr. 4 Vestal Center (SD); five more reports before Apr. 26 and then common. Field Sparrow: Mar. 24 Oneonta; common after Apr. 1. White-crowned Sparrow: one Delhi May 1 to May 18 Vestal Center; five CSC; only six other reports. White-throated Sparrow: wintering birds obscured the start of the relatively

light migration, which had mostly passed by May 3; 22 OSC and four Oneonta-Portlandville May 30 are likely summer residents. Fox Sparrow: Delhi Mar. 19 and Oneonta-Portlandville Apr. 7, the first and last of five reports, all single birds. Lincoln's Sparrow: three banded May 24 Vestal, the only ones reported. Swamp Sparrow: Apr. 12 Upper Lisle, first report. Song Sparrow: common from Mar. 19.

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The 1981 Spring migration demonstrated that one need not find large numbers of birds to uncover a multitude of species. Almost all observers commented on the general scarcity of migrants, and raptor totals from Derby Hill were down conspicuously from the previous two years even though coverage was comparable. The weather probably can be blamed for most of this. The entire Spring exhibited above average temperatures and below average precipitation, with only a half-inch of snow after March in Syracuse. The total precipitation deficit for the Spring was 3½ inches, and only May was close to normal. Strong southerly winds occurred only 30 March to 1 April, on ten other dates (mostly mid-month) in April, and 8-11 and 25-27 May. Mild temperatures encouraged buds to awaken about two weeks early and the emergence of foliage was only slightly retarded by a cold snap on 21 April.

Species which migrate in March and April, with the notable exception of Pectoral Sandpiper, were the ones most obviously depressed in numbers. Salmon sports fishing on Lake Ontario once again eliminated an inshore waterbird flight, and dry conditions coupled with an early thaw left few inland areas suitable for waterfowl and shorebirds, especially after early March. The continued scarcity of Horned and Pied-billed Grebe and of American Bittern was evident throughout the Region. Early Spring land birds, especially Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow, were notably scarce. Species that arrive in late April and early May tended to be slightly tardy, and only moderate numbers of migrants were found later in May. The small Broad-winged Hawk flight at Derby Hill, no doubt due to the absence of suitable winds during the peak of that species' migration period, largely accounts for the low seasonal total of raptors there.

After too long an absence, C. G. Spies renewed his bi-weekly surveys of dead birds from the Lake Ontario shoreline within this Region. With the assistance of Mike Corey, Diane Emord, Sue Montgomery, Marge Rusk, Granger Ward and Liz Williams, Spies covered the entire shoreline 11-12 April, 25-26 April, 9-10 May and 23-24 May. The number of carcasses recovered per survey varied from 146 to 208 and totaled 731 birds of 70 species. Waterfowl predominated on the early surveys and land birds, especially Common Flickers, on the later ones. Spies attempted to determine the cause of death whenever possible. Only two trends are evident. Most crows died as the result of gunshot. Mortality in gulls reveals

a second unfortunate aspect of the salmonid fishery on Lake Ontario—about a quarter of the gulls found dead were entangled in fishing gear.

David G. Muir described the increasing effort by members of the Onondaga Audubon Society to net migrant birds on the Noyes Sanctuary, located on the shore of Lake Ontario west of Derby Hill. Netting on 14 dates (with only one hour of activity on four of these dates) in May produced about 500 birds of 54 species, including an excellent variety of migrants. Totals from late May were especially interesting, as they provide insight to the end of the migration, which is less effectively revealed by standard birding techniques. Eleven species of warblers, most represented by multiple individuals, were netted at the end of the month. Best of all, this is a project whose continuation can be anticipated.

Observers reported 239 species, 3 hybrids and 1 or 2 color morphs from the Region during the Spring. Your attention is called in particular to the accounts of Pectoral Sandpiper and of Pine Siskin in the accounts that follow. While there were no southern herons, southern land birds were conspicuous. The best of these was a Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating and Prairie Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. Other notable rarities included: White-fronted Goose, King Eider, King Rail, Willet, Franklin's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Common Raven.

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Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DBS—Dead Bird Survey; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; LSB—Little Sodus Bay/Fair Haven, northern Cayuga Co.; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral in Oswego Co.; max—Maximum; NPT—northern Pompey township; Onon—Onondaga; PSS—Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr 29 Mar., max 59 there mid-Apr., last 26 May, all LOL. Red-necked Grebe: two LOL on 11 Apr., one Onon L on 25 Apr. plus two on DBS only reports. Horned Grebe: arr LOL 22 Mar., max only seven there 30 Mar., last 25 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Oneida R on 22 Mar., max seven on 19 Apr., last on 3 May, but no coverage of Howland's Island, our last toehold for this species. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 28 Mar. LSB, max 17 DH on 19 Apr.; one at Chittning Pond, Oneida Co., on 16 May (GH) is from a very unusual locality. Great Blue Heron: arr DH 21 Mar., but see Winter report. Green Heron: arr DH 2 Apr., max 30/day mid-Apr. LOL. Black-crowned Night Heron: two LSB on 18 Apr., one there 15 May, one DH on date, two recovered DBS; 12 birds in the Snake Swamp, Oswego Co., prompted GRM to undertake an unsuccessful search for nests; nesting is anticipated in the near future. Least Bittern: three Utica Marsh on 21 May; one Peat Swamp on 22 May. Am. Bittern: arr 26 Apr. Pennellville. Whistling Swan: 108 Seneca R Flats, Cayuga Co. on 1 Mar. soon departed as the water receded. Canada Goose: counts in 1000's through early May, about 20,000 for the season at DH. Brant: about 200 reported LOL 18-24 May. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: three Biddlecomb Marsh, Oswego Co., 3 Apr. only (DWC, Granger Ward, NYSARC), adult Pool's Brook Pond, Onon. Co., 10-18 Apr. (mob, NYSARC). A probable Snow x Canada Goose hybrid was at Beaver Lake, Onon. Co. 4 Apr. (MSR). "Blue"/Snow Goose: best numbers from Seneca R Flats (86/18), last "Blue" 27 Apr. DH, last Snow 18 Apr. LSB. Dabbling ducks: no exceptional maxima: Green-winged Teal: arr 24 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: arr 19 Mar., no large counts of either teal. No. Shoveler: arr 23 Mar., max 10 in mid-Apr., last 26 Apr., most PSS. Wood Duck: arr PSS 19 Mar., max only 20 in mid-Apr. Diving ducks: most departed by 16-19 Apr., exceptions—a Bufflehead on 28 Apr., five White-winged Scoters DH on 10 May. Two King Eiders, two Surf and one Black Scoter from DBS were the only scoters reported. Ruddy Duck: two Beaver Lake,



Onon. Co., on 19 Apr., one Onon. Lake on 25 Apr. were only reports. Com. Merganser: last 12 Onon. Lake 25 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: last LOL on 23 May.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** see Table for Derby Hill summary. Record highs for the season were set by Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Marsh Hawk, while the Goshawk total is perhaps a record low. In addition to the Derby Hill birds, an imm Bald Eagle was at ?SS and an adult Peregrine at Biddlecomb, both on 3 May (FGS). Turkey: flock of at least six on Shackham Road, s. Onon. Co., on 23 May (DWC). **KING RAIL:** one Toad Harbour Road on n. shore Oneida Lake, 23 May only (FGS). Virginia Rail: arr PSS 11 Apr. Sora: arr PSS 10 Apr. Com. Gallinule: arr LOL 26 Mar. Am. Coot: arr Brewerton 19 Mar. Semipalmated Plover: arr Biddlecomb 9 May, max 15 there 30 May. Killdeer: arr 24 Apr., no large number. Black-bellied Plover: arr 17 May LSB; 41 at Biddlecomb on 31 May (MSR) is record high Spring count. Ruddy Turnstone: one SP 24 May only report. Am. Woodcock: arr Syr 18 Mar. Com. Snipe: arr LSB 19 Mar., max 30 Biddlecomb in mid-Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr 19 Apr. Syr airport. Spotted Sandpiper: arr 23 Apr. LOL, in numbers only at nesting areas. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 11 Apr., max 11 LOL on 10 May, last Utica Marsh 21 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr PSS 26 Mar., max 16 Biddlecomb on 6 Apr., last Clay Marsh 16 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Pennellville 2 Apr., max 30 Biddlecomb on 12 Apr., last LOL 23 May. **WILLET:** one at Biddlecomb on 14 May (FGS, JH, DWC) is our fourth spring record in the last decade. Pectoral Sandpiper: the first astounding reports of birds in the 100's were quickly followed by high counts of 400 and 550 (FGS) in the Biddlecomb-Pennellville area in mid-Apr., with record numbers also passing DH during this period. The extreme dates for the species were 2 Apr. to 10 May and at least 700 different birds were found this Spring. Our previous record high was 116! Least Sandpiper: arr LOL 12 Apr., max 50 LSB on 14 May. Dunlin: arr Biddlecomb 6 Apr. Short-billed Dowitcher: 17 reported 14-18 May, Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr seven LOL on 23 May, max 140 at Biddlecomb 31 May (MSR). Glaucous Gull: last LOL 18 Apr. Iceland Gull: five reported LOL, last 23 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: max only 6000 in mid-Apr. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** adult Oswego 18 May (FGS) is fourth Spring record in last decade. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Biddlecomb 6 Apr., max 36 LOL on 11 Apr., last 23 SP May. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** singles recovered on each of the April DBS's are our first "Spring" records; the condition of these birds was not indicated. Com. Tern: arr 9 May DH, max 45 LOL 17 May. Caspian Tern: arr DH 9 May (DWC); only other report Syr on 23 May (REL). Black Tern: arr 10 May LOL, to 6/day by end of period.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Clay Marsh 19 May, only definite report. Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 12 May NPT. Snowy Owl: last Oneida Lake on 29 Mar. (FGS). Long-eared Owl: two DBS; and Short-eared Owl: one DBS, only reports. Saw-whet Owl: about eight reported, including one from DBS, more than normal. Whip-poor-will: arr 5 May, Noyes Sanctuary. Com. Nighthawk: arr 14 May Syr. Chimney Swift: arr 28 Apr. DH. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 9 May DH. Belted Kingfishers arr DH about 23 Mar. Com. Flicker: arr DH 4 Mar.; 116 recovered on DBS. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one near Old Forge early Mar. (Richard Knight *vide* MSR). Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread and conspicuous all Spring. Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering birds to 22 Mar., about a half-dozen migrants/nesters reported after 5 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr DH 8 Apr., max only 5/day, last DH 10 May.

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** E. Kingbird: arr DH 4 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr DH 5 May. E. Phoebe: arr DH 29 Mar. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two to three after 20 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr Shackham Rd. 17 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr NPT 24 May. Least Flycatcher: arr LOL 1 May. E. Wood Pewee: arr Syr 13 May. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one LOL 23 May only report of a migrant. Tree Swallow: arr DH 26 May, max 3000 PSS 23 Apr. Bank Swallow: arr DH 9 Apr., highest counts from nesting areas. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 23 Apr. Barn Swallow: arr DH 8 Apr., max 1400 there 10 May. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 23 Apr., max 35 on 9 May. Purple Martin: arr DH 23 Apr., max 40 there 9 May, low. Blue Jay: total 15,000 past DH, with max 3000-3500 on 9 and 10 May. Com.

Crow: total past DH 42,000, max in last report. COMMON RAVEN: three probably at nest site near Old Forge 15 Mar. to 12 Apr. (mob), one DH on 10 May (GAS). Tufted Titmouse: one to three/day is excellent number for a species often absent after winter, and includes first NPT report in early Mar. (until zapped by cat-DWC). Boreal Chickadee: one DH 5 May (GAS). Red-breasted Nuthatch: moderate Spring flight only, but nesting proved DeWitt in May (GH). Brown Creeper: max 25 LOL 11 Apr. House Wren: arr DH 30 Apr. Winter Wren: perhaps a half-dozen migrants reported after 10 Apr. Long-billed Marsh Wren: arr Pool's Brook Pond 8 May. Short-billed Marsh Wren: five Toad Harbour Road on 23 May (FGS). Gray Catbird: arr DH 5 May. Brown Thrasher: arr Syr 30 Apr. Am. Robin: max 350 mid-Apr. is unimpressive. Wood Thrush: arr Syr. 3 May. Hermit Thrush: migrants 16 Apr. to 18 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr Syr. 6 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: six reported after 15 May. Veery: arr Syr. 6 May. E. Bluebird: max 27 DH and total 37 there, last 2 June, best in several years. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 11 Apr. LOL, increasing numbers in the Snake Swamp (GRM) are evidence of expansion into Lake Ontario shoreline wood lots. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max about 25 during migration period 8 Mar. to 17 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: similar max during period 7 Apr. to 18 May. Water Pipit: arr 29 Mar., max 150 DH 16 Apr., last there 16 May. No. Shrike: three reported, last LSB on 28 Mar. (MSR). Loggerhead Shrike: none!

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: No exceptional numbers of any vireo or warbler. Vireo arrival dates were: Yellow-throated: 7 May; Solitary: 25 Apr; Red-eyed: 5 May; Philadelphia: 14 May; Warbling: 13 May; White-eyed: St. Mary's Cemetery, Syr. on 18 May (REL, DWC). Warbler arrival dates were: Black-and-white: 2 May; Golden-winged, "Brewster's" and Blue-winged: 7 May; Tennessee: 5 May; Nashville: 30 Apr.; No. Parula: 6 May; Yellow: 30 Apr.; Magnolia: 5 May; Cape May: 7 May; Black-throated Blue: 5 May; Yellow-rumped: 30 Mar. DH, record early; Black-throated Green: 30 Apr.; Cerulean: 7 May; Blackburnian: 4 May; Chestnut-sided: 5 May; Bay-breasted: 9 May; Blackpoll: 15 May; Pine: 9 Apr.; Palm: 3 May; Ovenbird: 5 May; No. Waterthrush: 28 Apr.; Louisiana Waterthrush: 19 Apr.; Mourning: 14 May; Com. Yellowthroat: 2 May; Hooded: 15 May; Wilson's: 14 May; Canada: 13 May; and Am. Redstart: 6 May. The more unusual warblers reported were: "Lawrence's": Pompey 26 May on (FLaF); Worm-eating: singles from N. Syr. 2 May, Hickory Grove on 10 May (both FGS), NPT 15-16 May (DWC), and St. Mary's Cemetery 26-27 May (REL) are about eight times the average reported. Orange-crowned: one Camillus 16 May (FGS), another St. Mary's Cemetery the next day (REL). Prairie: one DH 10 May to 11 June (mob), another St. Mary's Cemetery 15 May (REL). Pine: one St. Mary's Cemetery 24 Apr., very rare away from LOL. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Camillus 16 May (RGS).

WEAVERS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr DH 29 Apr. E. Meadowlark: arr DH 23 Mar., max 70 there on 28 Mar. No. Oriole: arr DH 4 May, generally common. Orchard Oriole: male Camillus after 15 May (JH, mob), another Holland Patent 26 May on (REL). Rusty Blackbird: arr LOL 8 Mar., max and last 300 DH on 10 May. Scarlet Tanager: arr Syr. 5 May. SUMMER TANAGER: female St. Mary's Cemetery 19 May (FGS, mob, NYSARC) is our second Regional record. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 5 May Syr. Indigo Bunting: arr 10 May DH. Evening Grosbeak: 2600 past DH 9-11 May, last there 1 June. Purple Finch: arr late Apr., max 300 past DH 9 May. Pine Grosbeak: last 18 Mar., widespread until then. Com. Redpoll: max 85 DH 30 Mar., last 10 Apr. Pine Siskin: for most of the season, this species was to be found anywhere there were spruces or hemlocks. Paired, displaying birds acting territorial were widespread. Typical of many, the bird which "owned" my yard vanished without a trace in mid-May. About 800 passed DH 10 May, when most local populations vanished, but scattered birds remained in Syr. to the end of the period. None of these birds definitely could be identified as juveniles. The only evidence of nesting was two family groups NPT in May. Similar behavior has been noted after other flights, and failure to demonstrate nesting has been equally frustrating in those years as well. Red Crossbill: four Tassel Hill State Forest 16 May (GH). White-winged Crossbill: two DH on 19 Mar. and again 16 Apr., 40 near Pennellville 22 Mar. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr DH 11 Apr. Savannah Sparrow: arr LOL 4 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Syr Airport 14 May. Henslow's Sparrow:

arr Pennellville 4 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr LOL 3 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 LOL 25 Apr., last migrant 10 May. Tree Sparrow: max 50 early Mar., last 9 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr NPT 14 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr NPT 30 Mar. White-crowned Sparrow: overwintering bird Syr. last seen 22 Mar., small numbers only 4-23 May. White-throated Sparrow: arr 9 Apr., max 200 LOL 9 May, last migrants 22 May. Fox Sparrow: very few 31 Mar. to 30 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 30 Apr. Song Sparrow: main arrival after 11 Mar., late. Snow Bunting: last DH 29 Mar.

#### DERBY HILL RAPTOR TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Last	90% Date Range	Total
Turkey Vulture	22 Feb.	154	29 Mar.	2 Jun. 27 Mar.-10 May	1,294
Goshawk	16 Feb.	4	26 Mar.	9 May	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13 Mar.	833	4 Apr.	30 May 1 Apr.-9 May	7,272
Cooper's Hawk	22 Feb.	158	1 Apr.	24 May 3 Mar.-9 May	674
Red-tailed Hawk	15 Feb.	595	4 Apr.	3 Jun. 4 Mar.-9 May	5,848
Red-shouldered Hawk	27 Feb.	136	28 Mar.	10 May 23 Mar.-13 Apr.	749
Broad-winged Hawk	4 Apr.	5007	27 Apr.	3 Jun. 19 Apr.-26 May	20,032
Rough-legged Hawk	15 Feb.	165	22 Feb.	2 Jun. 16 Feb.-4 Apr.	622
Golden Eagle	26 Mar.	5	5 May	10 May	15
Bald Eagle	26 Feb.	1		26 May	10
Marsh Hawk	15 Feb.	91	4 Apr.	2 Jun. 28 Feb.-10 May	719
Peregrine	1 Apr.	2	5 May	5 May	4
Merlin	1 Apr.	5	11 Apr.	5 May	15
American Kestrel	19 Feb.	183	1 Apr.	10 May 26 Mar.-1 May	561
<b>TOTAL (includes unidentified hawks)</b>					<b>39,283</b>

90% Date Range are dates between which 90% of tallied individuals passed.

306 Kensington Place, Syracuse, New York 13210

## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

LEE CHAMBERLAINE

Spring of 1981 was late in coming or at least was confounding. The warm weather in February got things moving in migration overnight and many summer residents and winter visitors were on the move north.

On April 4th, Watertown set a new high temperature of 80° F. and on April 22nd the low was 15° F. Very heavy frosts occurred on May 18, 19 and 20, which caused heavy damage to vegetation which was very evident later on in the period.

Lake Ontario water levels continued to drop and rainfall for the period was behind about two inches. Indications are that we may be in for a dry summer.

Trends during the period were as follows: increase in sightings of accipiters; a drop in Marsh Hawks at nesting locations in Massena; some more expansion in St. Lawrence County Turkey release; Upland Sandpiper disappearance in Massena at former sites; Common Nighthawk still in trouble; phoebes in trouble; bluebirds improved and grassland sparrows having problems.

A few of the rarities for the period include: Bald Eagle, Willet, Black-headed Gull, Long-eared Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Contributors: Richard Brouse, Stewart Brown, Lee Chamberlaine, Frank Clinch, Kenneth Crowell, Buzz Devan, Gerry Smith, Joe VanRiet, Bob & June Walker.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Com. Loon: two Upper and Lower Lakes May 2. Horned Grebe: none reported. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 at Wilson Hill at the end of the period—this is an increase at this location; one calling east of the Brasher Iron Works on May 30. Double-crested Cormorant: two Croil Island SLR May 24; 12 El Dorado May 12. Great Blue Heron: numbers at Sulphur Springs rookery about Mar. 26; three to four per day Lake Ontario shoreline. Green Heron: two to four per day. Black-crowned Night Heron: one at Polly's Gut-SLR May 24. Least Bittern: one Upper and Lower Lakes May 12 (K. Crowell); one calling east of Brasher Iron Works May 30 (J. VanRiet). Am. Bittern: one Perch River May 24; three Wilson Hill May 30; one heard at Allied Chemical Pond near Helena May 31; numbers remain down from what they were a few years ago. Mute Swan: one at Perch River May 24 thru (R. Brouse); this is probably the same bird that spent previous two summers at El Dorado and winters off Oswego. Canada Goose: arr Henderson Pond Mar. 3; max numbers around Mar. 20, last on Henderson Pond in numbers May 9; new nesting localities showing up around established flocks. Brant: two at Perch River May 18 (C. Devan); six at Robt. Moses Dam May 22; 66 Croil Island-SLR May 24 (J. VanRiet); seldom reported for spring period. Snow Goose: one Upper and Lower Lakes Apr. 13; one at end of period at Helena. Mallard: eight to ten per day. Black Duck: a few in Henderson with "home-grown" Mallard flock. Gadwall: pair at El Dorado at end of period—may be breeding there. Green-winged Teal: pair at El Dorado May 11. Blue-winged Teal: a pair to six per day on Lake Ontario and wetland areas. Wood Duck: in normal numbers. Redhead: one male at Wilson Hill May 23. Ring-necked Duck: a pair at Wilson Hill through May. Lesser Scaup: a male at El Dorado May 11. A pair at Wilson Hill May 23. Com. Goldeneye: 300+ at Ray's Bay near Henderson Mar. 28; last on May 24 above Robt. Moses Dam. Bufflehead: a pair at Upper and Lower Lakes Apr. 11. White-winged Scoter: one cripple above Robt. Moses Dam at the end of May; two El Dorado May 26. Ruddy Duck: two at Perch Lake Apr. 21 (S. Brown); seldom reported in spring and never at this location in spring. Hooded Merganser: a pair near Colton Mar. 28. Com. Merganser: a pair in North Branch Sandy Creek near Adams Mar. 23.

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: first on Mar. 27 and increasing thru; six over Henderson Pond May 7. Goshawk: nesting near Canton Apr. 19; two nests in Indian River Lakes area both produced four young which were banded (J. Spencer). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one near Canton May 1 (K. Crowell). Cooper's Hawk: one Upper and Lower Lakes Apr. 28; one Colton May 20 (K. Crowell). Red-tailed Hawk: one to two per day thru. Red-shouldered Hawk: none reported. Broad-winged Hawk: short-flight in early May Canton. Rough-legged Hawk: 20 Chaumont-Point Peninsula Mar. 8. **BALD EAGLE:** one nearly adult (some white in wing linings), not a marked bird, present near Black Pond outlet (s. of El Dorado) May 11 and 21 (G. Smith). Marsh Hawk: many migrants reported; in Massena and vicinity, birds seem to have disappeared from last year's nesting sites except for west of Helena and at Brasher Center; areas around Watertown appear as active as last year. Osprey: singles at Canton May 1; pair at Upper and Lower Lakes May 5. Am. Kestrel: all over the place in Massena area; numbers in Canton about normal; in Watertown and vicinity increasing through period. Ruffed Grouse: abundant in Canton area—four nests found; fair numbers on Tug Hill. Gray Partridge: in Theresa on Mar. 27; a pair at Massena Center in the middle of Apr.; in Watertown and vicinity a good winter carry-over. Turkey: Fort Drum releases still remain a mystery and disappointment while the St. Lawrence Co. release is successful with birds answering in spring surveys. Virginia Rail: heard in wetland at Eisenhower Lock-SLR. Com. Gallinule: three at Wilson Hill at the end of period. Coot: Wilson Hill May 29. Semipalmated Plover: three El Dorado May 17; six El Dorado May 28. Killdeer: two to six per day. Ruddy Turnstone: one El Dorado May 26. Am. Woodcock: in normal numbers if

not up a little bit. Com. Snipe: normal numbers. Upland Sandpiper: disappeared from Haverstock Road site near Massena; four at Munson Road west of Helena; locations near Watertown where birds were seen include Rices Road, Brownville, Beaver Meadow, River Road and a pair near Mannsville and Dexter; indications are an increase from last year's excellent year. Spotted Sandpiper: six to 12 per day; 18 El Dorado May 17. Solitary Sandpiper: one May 21 others thru. WILLET: one well studied El Dorado May 16 (Steve Kahl); one El Dorado May 17 and 21 (G. Smith); previous records at El Dorado. Greater Yellowlegs: six Perch River Apr. 26; two El Dorado May 21. Lesser Yellowlegs: two Apr. 26; one El Dorado May 11 and 21. Red Knot: one El Dorado May 26; one in partial breeding plumage El Dorado May 28. Pectoral Sandpiper: 20 Baggs Corners Apr. 26. Least Sandpiper: five El Dorado May 7-17; 10 El Dorado May 21; one Wilson Hill May 21; one Wilson Hill May 23; 12 El Dorado May 28; one Upper and Lower Lakes May 29. Dunlin: 18 El Dorado May 7; 21 El Dorado May 17; 18 El Dorado May 28. Semipalmated Sandpiper: four El Dorado May 17; six El Dorado May 28. Great Black-backed Gull: reported nesting on Little Galloo Island by Canadian Wildlife Service Apr. 19; field trip to Little Galloo with CWS two to three eggs in nest; one full adult El Dorado May 26 and May 28. Herring Gull: ten to 30 per day at El Dorado mostly non-breeders thru. Ring-billed Gull: numbers in Henderson and vicinity possibly up from last year; increasing at Strachan Island-SLR 500+ nest on the eastern part of the island where none have nested there this early—total nests there for last year was 9600 from Blockpoel (J. VanRiet). **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one Perch River May 25 (R. Brouse); the third year in a row that this bird has appeared at Perch River and then disappeared. Bonaparte's Gull: three Upper and Lower Lakes May 17 (K. Crowell); one Robt. Moses Dam May 22. Com. Tern: two per day El Dorado May 17 thru. Caspian Tern: one El Dorado Apr. 26; three El Dorado May 24. Black Tern: three to eight Upper and Lower Lakes May 6; three overhead Wilson Hill end of period; two to four per day El Dorado May.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS**: Mourning Dove: appears numbers are increasing on the Lake Plain. Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Black-billed Cuckoo: none reported and tent caterpillar numbers appear down from last year. Screech Owl: none reported—usually heard calling in Henderson area in Apr. Great Horned Owl: nesting at Upper and Lower Lakes. Snowy Owl: one Point Peninsula May 3; one Philadelphia May 4. **LONG-EARED OWL**: one Wilson Hill May 17 (K. Crowell). Short-eared Owl: several Chaumont-Point Peninsula area, Apr. 8; four Watertown International Airport Apr. 8; two Point Peninsula May 3; Whippoorwill: near Morley May 4; Pierrepont May 23; Massena vicinity heard at Brasher Center, but none heard at Brouse Rd. nor Winthrop area—number probably down (J. VanRiet). Com. Nighthawk: one May 24; very few heard over Watertown—numbers down. Chimney Swift: first May 4 in Henderson—numbers seem down from last years. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: first on May 5; numbers up from previous two years—good flower year. Belted Kingfisher: normal numbers. Com. Flicker: one Apr. 5; numbers seem somewhat down from last year. Pileated Woodpecker: several sightings in Canton and Russell areas. Red-bellied: seen many times during period in Henderson—possibility of two individuals but not proven. Red-headed Woodpecker: one School House Rd. and Route 54 May 17 (S. Brown); one May 26 near Watertown. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: a pair through May at Wilson Hill; not as many migrants through Henderson as usual. Hairy Woodpecker: in Henderson more than last year but still depressed. Downy Woodpecker: better improved than previous species. **BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER**: one at Winthrop May 17 (J. VanRiet); one Wilson Hill May 22 (J. VanRiet); one at Sevey's Bog May 30 (Walkers).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING**: E. Kingbird: showing up in numbers in late May—then everywhere. Great Crested Flycatcher: first May 24—late. E. Phoebe: one Apr. 26; none in Henderson until late May—very few as compared to last year. Willow Flycatcher: four per day May 17 one at El Dorado (G. Smith). Least Flycatcher: showing up in late May—more than normal numbers. E. Wood Pewee: mid-May thru—normal numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one El Dorado May 24 (R. Brouse). Horned Lark: none reported. Tree Swallow: first at Henderson Mar. 28 when 20+ were seen. Bank Swallow: showed up in May. Rough-

winged Swallow: first in May. Barn Swallow: first in Henderson May 2. Purple Martin: first arrivals Apr. 26; in Henderson and vicinity—may be down? Red-breasted Nuthatch: one May 24. Few thereafter. Brown Creeper: abundant in Canton at St. Lawrence Univ. Natural Area. House Wren: very common this year even in Tug Hill sections. Winter Wren: no reports. Long-billed Marsh Wren: increasing at Wilson Hill (J. VanRiet). Short-billed Marsh Wren: no reports. Mockingbird: one El Dorado May 24 (Walkers); one Farrell Road near Evans Mills May 27 (R. Brouse). Gray Catbird: first May 8. Brown Thrasher: three May 10 Henderson—late. Am. Robin: first young of the year left nest on May 22. E. Bluebird: one near Harrisville Mar. 29 (R. Brouse); two near Mannsville-Hagen Rd. (M. Wiggins); pairs nesting in Parishville, So. Colton and No. Russell (K. Crowell). **BLUE-GRAY GNAT-CATCHER**: one Upper and Lower Lakes May 9 at close range by E. Morrison and D. Turin—only previous record in St. Lawrence Co. was at Piercesfield in May 1977 by K. Crowell. Cedar Waxwing: 500 Dry Hill Mar. 9; increasing thru period. Loggerhead Shrike: none reported although last year's nesting locations were checked.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: one Thompson Park in Watertown May 23 (R. & J. Walker). Red-eyed Vireo: numbers seem down. Warbling Vireo: very, very common. Golden-winged Warbler: two Pierrepont May 17 (K. Crowell); one Macomb May 22 (K. Crowell). Nashville Warbler: May 25. Yellow: very abundant. Magnolia: May 25. Cape May: May 10 to May 27. Black-throated Blue: May 25. Blackburnian: abundant. Chestnut-sided: May 25. Bay-breasted: May 11 to May 24. Blackpoll: Upper and Lower Lakes May 17; Colton May 20. Pine: in Canton Apr. 22; one DeGrasse May 31 (K. Crowell). Ovenbird: may be a slight decrease in numbers? Louisiana Waterthrush: one at Washington Park near Adams May 15 (R. & J. Walker). Wilson's Warbler: one Canton May 14 (J. Phillips). Canada: May 25. Am. Redstart: very common.

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS**: E. Meadowlark: numbers are down. N. Oriole: arrived May 5, numbers are up. Com. Grackle: very common. Brown-headed Cowbird: numbers in Henderson are coming back. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arrived May 6. Evening Grosbeak: over 1000 banded Mar.-May (F. Clinch); decreasing thru and last May 23. Purple Finch: increasing thru period. House Finch: three at feeder on Dry Hill Apr.-May. Pine Grosbeak: last Mar. 3. Com. Redpoll: last on Mar. 19. Pine Siskin: 197 banded Mar. 1 thru May 8; large numbers in the Henderson area May 5-14. Am. Goldfinch: in normal numbers. Savannah Sparrow: low numbers in Henderson; fair numbers in Canton and vicinity. **GRASSHOPPER SPARROW**: one Farrell Road near Evans Mills May 27 (R. Brouse). Henslow's Sparrow: one Perch River May 27 (R. Brouse); one Farrell Road near Evans Mills May 27. Vesper Sparrow: none reported. Dark-eyed Junco: a few moving thru on Apr. 5 and 25. Tree Sparrow: last on Mar. 31. Chipping Sparrow: some increase in numbers in Henderson area. Field Sparrow: returning late. White-crowned Sparrow: first on May 5; last seen on May 22. White-throated Sparrow: in numbers around May 6 increasing thru.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

There was nothing especially unusual about the weather. We had a little snow in March and the temperature often seemed to be a reasonable 26<sup>o</sup> F. at Paul Smiths. Stuart Hall, our TV weatherman, had Adirondack locations as coldest in the nation for a few April days.

The beginning of May was quite dry. A fire burned approximately twenty acres in a rather inaccessible part of the canoe area before it was contained with help of Paul Smiths College forestry students and others. Perhaps a twenty acre burn in a mature forest area is a blessing. Old growth forest has a limited number of plants and animals in the temperate zone of North America. The burn should encourage forbs and bring in some clearing and brush loving species from Mourning Warbler to deer.

The end of May is the time of the Big Day Counts when people try to run up a big list of birds identified in one 24 hour period. This is a game that is a lot of fun. A person can try to break his own record each year or compete with others. It seems that each May some species missed on the list should not be hard to find. House Sparrow has a habit of eluding at least one Franklin County Big Day List each year. Perhaps another year this crew will get lucky with a search of Saranac Lake earlier in the day.

Contributors: Elizabeth Anderson; Merry E. Baker; Tim Barnett; Dirck and Mary Benson; Geoffrey Carleton; Karl Cerasoli; Nancy Craig; Charlie Delehanty; Mike DiNunzio; Steve Everett; Colin Fink; Mark Gretch; Robert Hagar; Elspeth Johnson; Harold Klein; Ferdinand LaFrance; Ted Mack; Norman Mason; Robert McKinney; Terry and Louise O'Connell; John "Mike" Peterson; William Rutherford; Carole Slatkin; Chris Spies; Don Timmons.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: scarce or absent in Indian Lake area. One was on Tupper Lake where the current from the Bog River Falls opens the lake ice, on Apr. 4 (CD). Another loon was on Rickerson Brook at Gabriels on the same date (KC). A brook loon is almost always translated as unknown duck, possibly Hooded Merganser, but this really was a loon. The still water there opens before ice is out of the lakes. It is long enough for a loon to take off from and has a good supply of trout which in turn may have a generous dose of pesticides from the nearby agriculture. Several others were noted including one in flight at Ferd's Bog, a pair on the duck pond at Duane, and two pair on Upper St. Regis Lake. There were only two Pied billed Grebes: one at Tupper Apr. 11; one at Port Henry Apr. 12. A few spring Double-crested Cormorants were on Lake Champlain. CS found one at Crown Point as early as Apr. 18. Least Bittern was seen in the Champlain Valley. Am. Bittern was scarce. 50 Canada Geese arrived at Tupper Mar. 28. About 22 local birds were there and seven goslings were seen May 27 (CD). Over 1,000 were at Essex Apr. 15 (NC, CF). Mark Gretch had good numbers of Snow Geese in Clinton Co. Mar. 29 thru May 3 with a max of 46 Apr. 4. Only one dark-phase bird was seen there. Ten Pintails arrived at Clinton Co. Mar. 14 and later the max. was about 100 (MG). CD had a pair of Green-winged Teal Apr. 12 at Panther Marsh as well as a few Blue-winged Teal thru the period. The latter are unusual so far from Lake Champlain farm country. An early male Am. Wigeon was in Clinton Co. Mar. 27 and a few stayed thru the period (MG). Four of this species were at Tupper Marsh Apr. 11. A No. Shoveler, always a good find in this Region, arrived in no. Clinton Co. Mar. 27. The last of this species was seen May 27. Max. was five (MG). The same area had two Redheads Apr. 28 and three May 12. There were many pairs of local Ring-necked Ducks near Paul Smiths. The first migrants at Tupper were 15 on Apr. 2. A transient Greater Scaup stopped at Moody Pond in Saranac Lake, looking rather out of place on so small a pond (MB, DB). A Lesser Scaup was on Lower St. Regis Lake near some Greater Yellowlegs Apr. 11 (KC). KC watched a male **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** with an unidentified female Goldeneye for one hour on Bear Pond Apr. 22. A male Com. Goldeneye was near for comparison. Oldsquaws were heard talking as they passed over Gabriels at night. A White-winged Scoter was on Lower St. Regis Lake Apr. 12 (KC). There seemed to be fewer resident Hooded Mergansers than usual except in the canoe area. Some previously occupied territory was vacant unless the birds were quietly nesting the last days of May. Next month may disclose more. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was in no. Clinton Co. May 22 on Champlain (MG).

**HAWKS—ALCIDS:** A very early Turkey Vulture was at Lewis Mar. 16 (TB, MD). Two were over Tupper Marsh Apr. 12 and 12 were seen on a Coot Hill hawk watch Apr. 16. Three Cooper's Hawks were seen. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks seen other years did not return to Tupper. There were at least seven Red-shouldered Hawks in the Paul Smiths to Gabriels area and it looks as though three pairs were on territory. One was at Ferd's Bog May 2. This species has been very scarce in recent past years. A Rough-legged Hawk was over Tupper Marsh Mar. 4 (CD). The Delehantys had the luck to see an adult Bald Eagle feeding on the ice at Raquette Pond in Tupper on Mar. 1. Three otters had fun pestering it for about 45 minutes. On Mar. 28 there was an adult and imm. and the next day another adult joined them. Apr. 1 was the last day all were seen together. On Apr. 20 the last bird, the imm., left. Single Bald Eagles at Derrick and Bay Pond could well have been one of these birds. A dead deer on the ice at Derrick was used by an eagle. An adult was at Inlet May 3 (Vernon Mathis). About ten Marsh Hawks were reported. CS had a courting pair at Essex. The Bear Pond Ospreys were at the nest Apr. 12. The first Virginia Rail reported was at Lake Alice May 3. No. Clinton Co. had a Com. Gallinule May 12. An Am. Coot was there Apr. 1 and two Apr. 13 (both species MG). Both are rare in the Region. Semipalmated Plover moved in the 21 and 22 of May. CD had eight on the 22 at Little Wolf Pond beach in Tupper. MG had five in no. Clinton Co. the previous day. They are seen in Clinton Co. and rarely at Tupper in spring. An exceptionally early Com. Snipe was at Franklin Falls Apr. 4 (KC). The following are no. Clinton Co. shorebirds reported by Mark Gretch. There is some good spring shorebirding there. Woodcock chicks May 2; five Solitary Sandpipers May 16; two Greater Yellowlegs Apr. 11; ten Pectoral Sandpipers Apr. 25; five White-rumped Sandpipers May 27; five Least Sandpipers May 12; ten Dunlin May 22; and two Short-billed Dowitchers May 21. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** at the mouth of the Great Chazy River Mark Gretch saw a female that fed to within forty feet of him. He felt that two birds were present so returned the next day and by May 27 Charles Mitchell, Harold Klein, and others had confirmed the identification and noted a male bird in the area. A Solitary Sandpiper was at Paul Smiths May 6 (KC). Several Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Tupper Marsh May 23. Early Least Sandpipers were at Cadyville May 9 (T and LO). Black Tern: Tupper had one May 13 and two May 23 while no. Clinton Co. had one May 30.

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** There were more Mourning Doves than usual in interior areas such as Paul Smiths. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported from Essex Co. May 16. A Screech Owl was both seen and heard at Paul Smiths Apr. 4 (KC). They are extremely rare here away from the Champlain and St. Lawrence Valleys. A few Great Horned Owls were heard in inland areas including Paul Smiths. A late Snowy Owl was in Clinton Co. Apr. 24-26 (MG, T & LO, HK). Long-eared Owl was reported Apr. 10 near Elizabethtown (EJ, JP) and from Little Long Pond at Paul Smiths on Memorial Day weekend (SE). The mouth of the Great Chazy River had two Short-eared Owls Apr. 10 and one Apr. 19 (MG). Saw-whet Owls were all over the Region thru the period. Whip-poor-wills were in the Champlain Valley and at least one was on the Brandon Burn. JP had one use a mist net pole as a singing perch at Crown Point! Com. Nighthawk was at Brandon Burn and over Saranac Lake Village. There are plenty of Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The first hummer reported was at Paul Smiths May 13 (WR). A pair of Belted Kingfishers started a nest in my back yard sand bank using the television aerial as a perch but they soon relocated when they realized humans lived so close. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers: one Bear Pond at Paul Smiths Apr. 12 (KC); one Ferd's Bog May 3 (FL, CSp), and a female the same day at Lake Alice at 220 feet of elevation (MG). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: pair digging a nest May 3 at Ferd's Bog (CSp, FL) and a male in no. Clinton Co. at 230 feet elevation May 6 (MG).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** There were good numbers of E. Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, E. Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, E. Wood Pewee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. A few Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were in the Paul Smiths area. They tend to be missed even when present. No reports of Alder Flycatcher. Rough-winged Swallow was in the Champlain



Valley. The other swallows were well-represented. Three Gray Jays were at Ferd's Bog (CSp, FL). Com. Ravens were not hard to find. Go to the Brighton Town dump in Gabriels for a guaranteed sighting and hearing, any time of year. They add something to a trip into the north woods since they have increased to the point where a canoe trip or hike will usually expose one to a calling bird. A nice wilderness sound, even at the local dump. Boreal Chickadees were widely reported. They are not hard to find in large expanses of timber even at lower elevations such as Bloomingdale and Onchiota. Winter Wren was very scarce. Carolina Wren with fledged young was at Port Henry (GC, EJ, JP). Long-billed Marsh Wren was in the Champlain Valley. Bob McKinney found a Mockingbird near Chimney Mountain at Indian Lake May 3. One was outside Saranac Lake Village and another at Gabriels in May. RH had one in Saranac Lake Apr. 18. Even Paul Smiths had one briefly. Gray Catbird arrived most places about May 9. Hermit Thrush numbers are down while Swainson's are the highest in years. An early Hermit sang at Paul Smiths Apr. 7. A few Gray-cheeked Thrushes were noted. An early E. Bluebird was seen Mar. 5 (Sally Johnson). Most reporters had a pair or so. They continue to nest at the Brandon Burn. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in the Champlain Valley and on May 14 one was seen at Paul Smiths (KC). This is hardly to be expected here. An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was singing near Paradox Lake Mar. 26 (MEB) and one was at Paul Smiths Apr. 7 (KC). 25 Water Pipits were in a plowed field in Clinton Co. May 6 (MG). On Apr. 16 Don Timmons found a flock of ten and another flock of 25 Bohemian Waxwings at a Coot Hill hawk watch.

**VIREOS--WARBLERS:** A Yellow-throated Vireo May 25 at Little Long Pond (SE) was in an unusual location. This is to be expected in the Champlain Valley however. Black-and-white Warblers were rather scarce. A Golden-winged Warbler was buzzing on territory at Paul Smiths the last week of May and was verified by three observers. I wish it luck in finding a female companion. It was on the edge of a brushy, cut over block. This is a rare species even in the Champlain Valley. Mike Peterson banded a Blue-winged Warbler May 9 at Crown Point and another unbanded bird was there May 10. Both were seen by several people. This is a new species for Essex Co. Tennessee Warbler: two at Tupper May 19 (CD); two at Little Long Pond May 25 (SE); one at Onchiota May 30 (KC, TM). No. Parula was in good numbers. Cape May Warbler was in Essex Co. May 16 and three were in Onchiota May 30 (KC, TM). One was at Paul Smiths May 16 (KC). CD had one May 19 in Tupper. Yellow-rumped Warbler heaven was Ferd's Bog May 2 when CSp and FL counted 37. KC had one at Paul Smiths Apr. 2. Chestnut-sided Warbler numbers were low. Two Bay-breasted Warblers were singing at Onchiota May 30 (KC, TM). Pine Warbler was reported from the Champlain Valley and one was catching flies in the air Apr. 28 at Tupper. A Palm Warbler was at Ferd's Bog May 2 and another was at Paul Smiths May 6. There were a few Mourning and Canada Warblers.

**WEAVERS--SPARROWS:** Bobolinks were at Tupepr, Rainbow Lake, and Bay Pond grassland near Paul Smiths. Tupper and Bay Pond had token E. Meadowlarks. As one would expect these two species are very local because of the mostly forested interior. No. Oriole numbers are good. Several Rusty Blackbirds were reported. Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are in good numbers. Evening Grosbeak numbers thinned as the breeding season advanced. There are plenty of singing Purple Finches. House Finch seems to be continuing its expansion into new territory with two pairs at Saranac Lake Mar. 26 (EA) and two at Port Henry Apr. 7 (GC, NM). The last Pine Grosbeak was seen Apr. 3 by Mike Peterson who banded 364 Pine Siskins this year near Elizabethtown. A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen and heard at Jay in late May (KC) and MG had one in Clinton Co. May 30. This species is rare in the Region. There were quite a few Vesper Sparrows but Field Sparrow was scarce in inland regions. Seven Fox Sparrows were reported. Lincoln's Sparrows were in good numbers. Two lingering Snow Buntings were feeding at the Rockefeller gatehouse Apr. 4.

Paul Smiths, New York 12970

## REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

A mild spring, beginning in February, tended to hasten reproductive activities among many species. Bob Yunick banded a fledgling Mourning Dove on April 24 and the Ring-billed Gulls breeding on Lake Champlain in Region 7 seem to be a week or two ahead of schedule according to Mike Peterson.

The return of the warblers, what there was of them, appeared about on schedule. There just were no large waves observed. This could be a frightening harbinger of "silent springs" or perhaps, hopefully, the migrants passed by unnoticed. Adequate numbers of resident species suggest the latter but the alarming loss of winter range can't be ignored. In the June issue of *Natural History*, Hazel R. Delcourt estimates tropical land clearance to be currently "proceeding at an estimated rate of one percent of the land area every year."

The "Good-birding Fairy" visited Region 8 and arranged for the lowering of the water level for repairs at Basic Creek Reservoir one week before the Century Run. The exposed mudflats attracted at least ten species of shorebirds including Dunlin, White-rumped, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, both yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper and Semipalmated Plover.

With spirited enthusiasm, Century Run participants produced a list of 29 species plus two hybrids that otherwise would not have been reported this season, bringing the total number of species observed in Region 8 this spring to 212 plus four hybrids. For a few, such as Bobolink and Semipalmated Sandpiper, this was certainly an oversight. For others, such as Least Bittern and Sora, one assumes that aside from the Century Run, predawn birding is perhaps infrequent at best. However, the bulk of the 29, such as Merlin, Upland Sandpiper, both marsh wrens, Water Pipit, Worm-eating and Cerulean Warblers, are a result of the diligent efforts of a large number of dedicated observers.

Here the value of the Century Run as a data gathering device becomes obvious. Further, in order to make data available it has been the philosophy of this compiler, in this and last season's report, to mention every species observed in the Region.

Now for the box scores. The Alan Devoe Bird Club with 22 observers counted 138 species. The Hudson-Mohawk Club with 47 observers counted 172 species plus two hybrids. Six groups tallied over 100 species but the high honors go to Ken Able's group which amassed 134 species to set a new record for a single group.

This season's rarities are Black Vulture and Connecticut Warbler. Attempts to locate Black Vultures reported in Columbia and Greene Counties failed but this species might be expected as it seems to be moving its range northward. Four reports of Connecticut Warbler by competent birders is interesting since this bird is considered very rare in eastern New York in spring. These days it's also worth highlighting Loggerhead Shrike. Tom Palmer's sighting is the first regional report in three years. Finally, a Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian race was observed at Stockport Station in early April.

Good Birding, and may your fall migration be warblerfully confusing.

Abbreviations: CR—Century Run May 16, followed by a number indicating the number of groups from the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club reporting that species.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: CR seven; three reports from mid-Apr. in numbers as high as 15 on the Hudson River. The only Horned Grebe for the season was seen on the Hudson at Stockport Station on Apr. 11 simultaneously by a group across the river at Vosburgh's Marsh and by R. Ramonowski at Stockport. Ten reports of Pied-billed Grebe from Mar. 28 to May 16 over a wide area. Double-crested Cormorant: CR five; Embough Bay thru period. Although seen during the winter, mid-Apr. seemed to signify the return of Great Blue Herons to most areas; CR seven. The earliest Green Heron report is Apr. 23 from Ghent; CR nine. Black-crowned Night Heron: CR one; New Baltimore Apr. 21; Castleton May 18. Least Bittern and Am. Bittern were reported on the CR by two groups each. Three sightings of Mute Swan: Stony Creek Res. Mar. 29; Galway Lake in Mar.; Clifton Park Apr. 26. Skeins of 35-120 Canada Geese were reported by eight observers in Mar. and Apr.; CR six. Brant: Hudson River at Linlithgo May 14 (RM); 150 landed at Alcove Res. that same evening. Snow Goose: Hudson Mar. 31; two Stockport Sta. Apr. 4; Lake Taghkanic Apr. 10-30 (A. & TB); a blue morph was seen among white colleagues in New Baltimore Apr. 28. A pair of Mallards nesting at Jenny Lake hatched eleven young before the end of May; as might be expected all eleven CR groups found this species but only five found the probably equally common but secretive Black Duck. Gadwall: CR one. Flocks of 12 to 20 Pintails are among the four reports of this species observed from Mar. 4 to Mar. 28 from Columbia to Warren Co. Green-winged Teal: more than six reports in late Mar. and early Apr. near the Hudson but numbers dwindled as they moved north out of our Region so only two groups found them on the CR. A EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (old name—Common Teal) was spotted with several American cousins at Stockport Sta. Apr. 4 (RG). Blue-winged Teal were reported by nine observers and five groups tallied this duck on the CR. Am. Wigeon: five reports on the Hudson Mar. 5-28. Wood Duck: CR nine; ten other reports thru. Red-head: four Cocksackie Mar. 15 (AG). Ring-necked Duck: six reports from Columbia and Greene Co. Mar. 15-Apr. 30. Canvasback: five reports along Hudson R. Mar. 15-Apr. 27. Greater Scaup: Cocksackie Mar. 15; Hudson R. Mar. 28; Stockport May 16. Lesser Scaup: Cocksackie Mar. 15; Saratoga Apr. 18. Com. Goldeneye: found on the Hudson from Mar. 4 to Mar. 26; Mar. 21 reports from both Niskayuna and Saratoga L. Bufflehead: Basic Res. Mar. 9-27 (JC); six at Saratoga Apr. 18 (AR). Six White-winged Scoters were found by Peter Feinberg on the Mohawk R. at Colonie Apr. 29. Hooded Merganser: pair at Stony Cr. Res. Mar. 22; reports from Basic Res., Collins L. and Hudson R. Mar. 4-Apr. 29. Com. Merganser: CR three; of the eight rafts counted Mar. 4-Apr. 29 Paul Conner's tally of 60 on the Hudson R. Apr. 11 is the highest. Red-breasted Merganser: CR two; three Saratoga Apr. 18 (AR).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures appeared in Feb. but became more frequent following mid-Mar. Three were seen on the brief (two or three hour) "Olana hawk watch" held for the Columbia-Greene Community College Bird Study Class Apr. 18 (RG); CR five. Two reports of BLACK VULTURE: one with a wing tag in Hillsdale Apr. 29; another in

Kiskatom May 5 (JB). The Bird Study class was also treated to a Goshawk sighting at CGCC on their first outing Mar. 21; the following weekend one was seen in Old Chatham Mar. 28 (PF & RR). The other two accipiters were sighted much more frequently with close to 20 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk and seven of Cooper's Hawk; both were tallied by one group on the CR. Red-tailed Hawk: CR ten; 16 Olana Apr. 18. Red-shouldered Hawk returned to our area in mid-Mar.; Ghent Mar. 15 (BC); Black Creek Marsh Apr. 18 (PF); CR two. By mid-Apr. Broad-winged Hawks were besieging Columbia Co. with 11 at Olana Apr. 18; two were seen in Saratoga on that same date; CR six. The last date for Rough-legged Hawk in Old Chatham is Mar. 13 as the New York winter resorts are vacated for a hopeful June rendezvous in the Arctic. BALD EAGLE: single imm Basic Creek May 30 (RG); Hudson R. at Roe-Jan May 16. Marsh Hawk: at least ten from Old Chatham and along the Hudson thru; CR one. Ospreys inundated Region 8 in Apr. and nearly *fifty* birds reported that month; six on the "Olana hawk watch" Apr. 18; but moved out of the area in May with only three CR groups able to track down a straggler; max 27 along the Hudson between Catskill and New Baltimore Apr. 25. Peregrine Falcon: not reported in the Region since last year's CR was seen in New Baltimore Apr. 25 (AG). A MERLIN was seen on the Alan Devoe CR near Stuyvesant (JC, RD, BL). Am. Kestrels cooperated in banding demonstrations for the CGCC Bird Study class on both Mar. 14 and Apr. 4; six Olana Apr. 18; CR ten. Ruffed Grouse: CR six; a dozen others. Bobwhite: CR one. Ring-necked Pheasant: CR six; six Columbia Co. Turkey: seven from N. Columbia Co. Mar. 21-May 17. Virginia Rail and Sora were each tallied by six CR groups; earliest date for Virginia Rail is May 1 New Baltimore. Com. Gallinule: CR three; Vosburgh's Marsh Apr. 25. Am. Coot: CR one Embough Bay. Semipalmated Plover: CR three Basic Creek Res. Killdeer returned to area nesting sites in late Mar. and early Apr.; CR ten. Am. Woodcock: CR seven; six Columbia Co. Mar. 27-May 16. Com. Snipe: CR six; Castleton May 12. Upland Sandpiper: CR three. Spotted Sandpiper: earliest date Apr. 23 Scotia; CR nine. Solitary Sandpiper: earliest date Apr. 27 Vischer's Ferry; CR four. Greater Yellowlegs: Vischer's Ferry Apr. 27-May 3; N. Chatham Apr. 29; CR four. Lesser Yellowlegs: Vischer's Ferry Apr. 29-May 3; CR two. Pectoral Sandpiper was seen in flocks as large as 23 in early Apr. over a wide area but only one CR group found it in May. White-rumped Sandpiper: CR one. Least Sandpiper: CR three; Spencertown May 15-20. Dunlin: CR three. Semipalmated Sandpiper: CR two. The Niskayuna wide waters played host to white-winged gulls this spring with a report of two Glaucous Gulls Apr. 4 (A & SS) and an Iceland Gull Mar. 29. Great Black-backed Gull: CR five; max 15 Niskayuna Mar. 21. Herring Gull: CR seven; max 70 Saratoga Apr. 18. Ring-billed Gull: CR eight; max 300 Niskayuna Mar. 21. Bonaparte's Gull appeared frequently in late Apr., max 22 Mohawk R. at Colonie Apr. 29; CR three. Black Tern: not reported since last year's CR appears again on four CR tallies; Oom's Pond May 16.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Of course all 11 CR groups tallied the ever present Rock Dove and Mourning Dove. RY noted early breeding of Mourning Dove due to exceptional warmth in Feb. and Mar., banding a fledgling Apr. 24 (May 5-10 is the norm). Cuckoo populations seem to be doing well with the widespread gypsy moth eruptions; both species on five CR returns. Barn Owl: CR one; Devil's Kitchen May 1 (PF). Screech Owl: CR five; Spencertown Mar. 22-Apr. 9. Great Horned Owl: CR six; Old Chatham Mar. 4-Apr. 19; Devil's Kitchen May 1. Barred Owl: CR three; Hagel Hill Apr. 7 (V & BA); Devil's Kitchen May 1-31. Whip-poor-will and Com. Nighthawk reports confined to four CR groups each. Chimney Swift: CR ten; earliest report Apr. 24 Schenectady and Hudson. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CR four; four banded at Vischer's Ferry in May. Belted Kingfisher: CR ten; max eight Hudson R. Apr. 11. Com. Flicker: CR ten; two banded Vischer's Ferry May. Pileated Woodpecker: CR five; 13 other reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: CR two; and still at Lake Taghkanic Mar. 31 since Jan. (A & TB); S. Rensselaer Co. May 11 (KD & EG). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: CR five; Hudson Apr. 4; Spencertown Apr. 10; Poestenkill Apr. 26; Ghent May 16-31. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers tallied by eight and ten CR groups respectively; two each banded at Vischer's Ferry May.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLING: E. Kingbird: CR nine; earliest date Apr. 30 Hudson.

Great Crested Flycatcher: CR ten; Resist Sanctuary May 3. E. Phoebe: CR ten; Hudson Apr. 1; arrived at Jenny L. Apr. 18. Willow Flycatcher: CR three; Ghent May 1-30. Alder Flycatcher: New Baltimore May 30. Least Flycatcher: CR 11; for the first time in 14 years none were banded at Vischer's Ferry during May. E. Wood Pewee: CR two; Hudson May 25. Olive-sided Flycatcher was found for the Alan Devoe CR. Horned Lark: CR two; Castleton Mar. 16-May 5. Tree Swallow: CR eleven; earliest date Mar. 28 Stockport Station, Old Chatham and Vosburgh's Marsh. Bank Swallow: CR ten; Vosburgh's Marsh Apr. 25. Rough-winged Swallow: CR seven; earliest date Apr. 19 Bell's Pond. Barn Swallow: CR ten; earliest date Apr. 18 Olana and Saratoga. Cliff Swallow: CR six; Ghent-Old Chatham May 5-20. Purple Martin: CR three; Saratoga L. Apr. 14. Blue Jay: CR 11. Two COMMON RAVENS were seen and heard at Jenny L. on Mar. 2 by Gordon Link (RY). A Com. Crow, obviously anxious to get a head start in the atlas project, was observed gathering nest material during a snow squall at Saratoga L. on Mar. 21; CR 11. FISH CROW: Colonie Landfill Mar. 28; New Baltimore May 23-27 (RG). Nineteen Black-capped Chickadees banded in Mar. brought the total for this record winter invasion at Jenny L. Nov. 80-May 81 to 288; CR 11. Tufted Titmouse: CR eight; reports dwindling in May. A White-breasted Nuthatch with a crippled leg manages to feed at Shirley Schadow's feeder in E. Glenville; CR ten. The Red-breasted Nuthatch record invasion at Jenny L. resulted in 64 banded Nov. 80-May 81 but was not noticed south of Saratoga Co.; CR three. A female Brown Creeper with brood patch captured May 8 and 9 at Vischer's Ferry seems to be nesting in a river valley elev. 210 feet, an interesting place for this species (RY); CR four. House Wrens returned to Region 8 in mid-Apr.; CR 11. Winter Wren could be found thru the spring; three banded Vischer's Ferry May; CR six. The New Baltimore Carolina Wren stayed thru the end of Apr. then vacated, perhaps across the river to Castleton for Juanita Cook to tally on the Alan Devoe CR. Long-billed Marsh Wren and Short-billed Marsh Wren were reported only on the CR by six and two groups respectively. Mockingbird: CR nine. Gray Catbird: CR ten; 41 banded Vischer's Ferry May. Brown Thrasher: CR seven; Vosburgh's Marsh Apr. 11. The first Am. Robin fledgling banded this year was May 19 in Niskayuna; CR 11. First Wood Thrush banded May 4 Saratoga; CR 11. Hermit Thrush: CR five; Poestenkill Apr. 26; Old Chatham May 14-16. Swainson's Thrush: CR one; three banded Vischer's Ferry; one banded New Baltimore May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Castleton May 2 (JC). Veery: CR nine; 12 banded Vischer's Ferry May. E. Bluebird: CR six; at least eight other reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CR eight; two Olana Apr. 18. Golden-crowned Kinglet: CR one. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: CR three; earliest date Apr. 11 Old Chatham and Hudson R field trip. Water Pipit: CR one (TP *et al.*). Cedar Waxwing: CR seven; West Ghent Mar. 1-29; Old Chatham Apr. 4-11. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: Montgomery Co. Apr. 5 (TP). The adaptable Starling was frequently observed competing with woodpeckers, chickadees and the like at suet feeders this year; first fledgling in Schenectady May 26; CR 11.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: Yellow-throated Vireo: CR nine. Solitary Vireo: CR four; three New Baltimore Apr. 24 earliest date. Red-eyed Vireo: CR eight; returning to Columbia Co. in May. Warbling Vireo: CR 11; four banded Vischer's Ferry May. Black-and-white Warbler: CR 11; Hagel Hill Apr. 28 earliest date. Worm-eating Warbler: CR two. Golden-winged Warbler: CR six; three banded New Baltimore May. Blue-winged Warbler: CR eight; Olana Apr. 24 earliest date. "Brewster's" Warbler: CR one. "Lawrence's" Warbler: CR two (BB & DA). Tennessee Warbler: CR seven; Columbia Co. May 14. Nashville Warbler: CR two; Devil's Kitchen May 1. No. Parula: CR three. Yellow Warbler: CR 11; Ghent Apr. 29 earliest date; 24 banded Vischer's Ferry May. Magnolia Warbler: CR six; Clifton Park Apr. 26 earliest date. Cape May Warbler: CR two. Black-throated Blue Warbler: CR six; Devil's Kitchen May 1. Yellow-rumped Warbler: CR nine; 24 banded at Vischer's Ferry May; Clifton Park Apr. 26; six other reports. Black-throated Green Warbler: CR seven; Devil's Kitchen May 1. Cerulean Warbler: CR one (TC *et al.*). Blackburnian Warbler: CR five; Devil's Kitchen May 1. Chestnut-sided Warbler: CR ten; one banded Vischer's Ferry May. Bay-breasted Warbler: CR three. Blackpoll Warbler: CR six; first observed in Schenectady May 12. Pine Warbler:

CR four; Saratoga Apr. 20 (RTP); four other Apr. reports. Prairie Warbler: CR five; Hudson Apr. 29; several males singing persistently at Kiskatom and CGCC from early May. Palm Warbler: six reports; one banded New Baltimore Apr. 6; last date E. Nassau May 3. Ovenbird: CR nine; Kiskatom May 6. No. Waterthrush: CR nine; Coeymans Apr. 29 earliest date. Louisiana Waterthrush: CR six; Olana Apr. 29; three Columbia Co. reports in May. A "rash" of CONNECTICUT WARBLER reports include one at Gt. Bear Swamp Albany Co. in early May (RL); one in Warren Co.; one in Delmar in early May (JL); and a CR individual (DA). Bull (*Birds of New York State*, 1974) describes this bird as rare in spring for New York with only four undoubted reports, all from the western part of the state. Mourning Warbler: CR one; one banded Vischer's Ferry May. Wilson's Warbler: CR one; four Columbia Co. reports in May. Canada Warbler: CR seven; two banded Vischer's Ferry. Am. Redstart: CR 11; eight banded Vischer's Ferry.

**WEAVERS-SPARROWS:** Observers note a sharp decline in the House Sparrow population since 1974 as they seem to be replaced by the House Finch; CR ten. Bobolink: CR ten. E. Meadowlark: CR ten; wintered in Greene Co.; CGCC Mar. 27; Saratoga Apr. 18. Red-winged Blackbird: CR 11; five banded Vischer's Ferry May. Orchard Oriole: CR two; Old Chatham May 5 earliest date (PI). No. Oriole: CR 11; three banded Vischer's Ferry. Rusty Blackbird: Niskayuna Apr. 11; Ghent Apr. 23; Nassau Apr. 27. Com. Grackle: CR 11; three banded Vischer's Ferry; gradually replaced Blue Jay as feeder tyrant thru Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: CR 11; 13 banded Vischer's Ferry. Scarlet Tanager: CR nine; three reports from Columbia Co. in May. The Cardinal population has saturated to the point that territorial disputes are being observed at such favorable locations as Shirley Schadow's feeder and record numbers are being banded (ten at Vischer's Ferry); CR 11. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: CR 11; 13 banded Vischer's Ferry. Indigo Bunting: CR five; Old Chatham Apr. 11. Evening Grosbeak lingered in Ghent until Mar. 22; traveled through Schenectady Apr. 16-May 13 where 151 were banded; still at E. Glenville feeder May 29; CR two. Purple Finch: CR nine; arrived at Jenny L. breeding ground Apr. 8 becoming abundant in May. House Finch: CR 11; experiencing a local population explosion and is apparently ousting the House Sparrow; Bob Yunick's banding of 294 for Mar.-May is about five times greater than the average for this period in the last five years. Pine Grosbeak: Old Chatham Mar. 2-Apr. 30; Lake Taghkanic Apr. 6. On Mar. 22 Bob Yunick banded and photographed a specimen suspected of being a Hoary x Common Redpoll cross. It had the Hoary's unstreaked rump and undertail coverts but the overall dark plumage was that of a Common Redpoll. A weak flight of Com. Redpolls occurred this year with 120 banded thru Apr. 19 at Schenectady. Pine Siskin: CR four; 136 banded thru May 20 in Schenectady, a weak flight. Am. Goldfinch: CR 11; ten banded Vischer's Ferry. **RED CROSSBILLS** were seen for the first time since 1973 in Old Chatham Mar. 5-27 (KD, EG, RD). Rufous-sided Towhee: CR eight; arrived in E. Glenville Apr. 23. Savannah Sparrow: CR eight. Grasshopper Sparrow: CR three. Four CR groups listed Henslow's Sparrow, probably all from the Five Rivers colony, possibly even the same bird. Vesper Sparrow: CR two; max 12 Alcove Res. Apr. 29 (PF). Dark-eyed Junco: CR seven; 258 banded in Schenectady is five times normal. Tree Sparrow: thru Apr. 24 in Old Chatham; one reported on May 16 for the CR (G & AS). Chipping Sparrows returned to Coxsackie Apr. 11; CR ten. Field Sparrows became numerous in Mar.; CR nine. White-crowned Sparrow: Old Chatham Apr. 9; E. Glenville May 5-7; Leeds May 13; Ghent May 22 but nobody found one for the Century Run. White-throated Sparrow: CR five; 39 banded during flight thru Saratoga Apr. 16-May 13; 12 banded at Vischer's Ferry is lowest since 1968. Fox Sparrow: CR one; Old Chatham Mar. 14-Apr. 28. Lincoln's Sparrow: four banded Vischer's Ferry; two banded New Baltimore May 25. Swamp Sparrow: CR ten; eight banded Vischer's Ferry. Song Sparrow: CR 11; 26 banded Vischer's Ferry.

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Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

The warm weather of February brought one of the earliest thaws to the Region, and because of it the waterfowl migration was anything but spectacular. Most species slipped through early and in numbers sufficient to prohibit any buildup. March was cool, with no extremes of weather. The only snow was about three or four inches in the southern portion during the first week, and the end of the month saw 80° F. weather.

April continued warm, with showers in each of the last two weeks. Foliage was well along by the end of the month. A shift of winds to the south on April 28 and 29 brought showers and the first wave of migrants. For a day or two into May, warblers and other passerines were everywhere, with most species being represented. Another warm front on May 12 triggered another wave just in time for the bird clubs' "big day" and censuses. Foliage hampered much of the viewing, but not for long. The Gypsy Moth hatch at mid-month had much of the canopy stripped by early June, and undoubtedly imperiled many species dependent upon it for food and shelter. Never had the trees been so viciously attacked, and thousands of acres of mountainside were completely denuded. This was especially true in the mid-Hudson area and parts of the Catskills, for the second consecutive year. Considerable private spraying went on, but it appears that most municipalities were more cautious. Only time will tell the effects of the devastation on bird life, and it is hoped that birders will be alert to the changes and publicize them.

Rarities for the period include: Glossy Ibis; Fulvous Whistling-Duck; Ruddy Turnstone; Prothonotary, Kentucky and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Brewer's Blackbird.

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Abbreviations: The first four or five letters of each county; HMHW—Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, Mar. 15-May 5; MC—Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL—Playland, Rye; USMA—U.S. Military Academy; WCC—Waterman Club Census, Dutchess Co., May 17.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: usual few migrants reported in Apr. and May. Max seven over Hook Mt. May 5. Double-crested Cormorant: migrants appeared in mid-Apr. and reached a max of 30 on the Hudson at Esopus by May 16. Great Blue Heron: seven at the Stissing Rookery by the end of Mar. Two or three are nesting near the old site at Tamarack Swamp in Dutch. LITTLE BLUE HERON: one in Dutch Apr. 6 and another at MC May 17. Cattle Egret: two at the Rye YMCA ball field Apr. 25, and two others at Piermont Marsh May 13. The latter was the first record for Rock in three years. Great Egret: two at North Bay, Cruger's I. Apr. 11. LOUISIANA HERON: unusual in spring, one PL May 17-31. Yellow-crowned Night Heron: returned to MC in early Apr. Only two nests found during May after last year's Great Horned Owl predation. Least Bittern: returned in usual numbers in early May. Three on WCC were the first since 1976. Am. Bittern: rarely reported in recent years in Rock; one at Blauvelt May 14 and another at West Haverstraw May 18. GLOSSY IBIS: one was a surprise when it flew south down the Bashakill May 17 (Joan & Dewey Clark). Brant: first report of three flocks of 300-400 in each flying up the Hudson

the evening of May 19. 300 more flying north over Ft. Montgomery May 20. Snow Goose: seven at MC Apr. 26. 40 over E. Walden Apr. 5, and two during Apr. at separate locations in Dutch. Two blue morphs were also reported there. FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: one at Cruger's I. Apr. 9—was not seen after that date. Gadwall: a few more than usual. Max six at Monroe Apr. 28. Pintail: six at L. Tappan Mar. 24 was a good number. Rarely more than five reported at any time. Wood Duck: in good numbers and nesting in Dutch. At least ten in the Stanfordville area. Com. Goldeneye: a male at PL thru May 23 was quite late. Oldsquaw: only report inland was one on the Hudson at New Hamburg Mar. 10. White-winged Scoter: 160 at MC May 2 were observed moving west along the Sound. Black Scoter: only report a male at Orange L Apr. 3. Ruddy Duck: max 122 at Croton Pt. Mar. 8. Hooded Merganser: six at Kenozia L Mar. 18. A female obs at Bashakill May 14 and again May 16 was very late—no evidence of breeding there. Com. Merganser: max 200 at Ashokan Mar. 22.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Goshawk: more reports of single birds than usual. Obs. in at least six locations. Two on HMHW, the first Apr. 21 and the other Apr. 29. Two at MC Feb. 25 remained thru Mar. 8. One Bashakill Apr. 28; one Cruger's I. Mar. 27. Sharp-shinned Hawk: the best movement at HMHW was Apr. 18-20 when 113 passed the lookout. Another good day was Apr. 29 when 35 were counted in less than two hours on a cloudy, rainy day. Cooper's Hawk: 11 on HMHW. Max. 2 on Apr. 18. This made nine days when single birds were observed. None after Apr. 28. Red-tailed Hawk: max. on HMHW was 15 on a cold Mar. 28. Red-shouldered Hawk: two obs. over Mine Rd., USMA May 23 were unusual in that location. Regularly found there 30 years ago. One obs. courting in the town of Sauger-ties Apr. 8. HMHW had 16 from Mar. 15 thru Apr. 2—none after. Broad-winged Hawk: migration started in earnest on HMHW Apr. 16 when 115 were counted. Peak flight was Apr. 18-20 when 791 were obs. Rough-legged Hawk: after an excellent winter, most were gone by early Mar. Last Warren Sod Farm near Pine Island Mar. 25. Bald Eagle: one ad Bashakill Mar. 7; an imm over Ashokan Mar. 12; one imm over P'kpsie Mar. 1. Marsh Hawk: HMHW had a long drawn out migration of single birds each day from Mar. 28 thru Apr. 30. Max. five on Apr. 28; total for the season 18. Peregrine: two on HMHW; the first Apr. 30 and the second May 5. Merlin: only three on HMHW; one on Apr. 16, and two Apr. 22. Am. Kestrel: HMHW tallied 111 with a max of 27 on Mar. 29, followed closely by 21 on Apr. 4. Bobwhite: always on the edge of extirpation. This season a record high of 32 on WCC. Three May 30 south of Pine Plains. Turkey: spreading eastward out of Sull; sev obs during May at Bashakill. Sora: fewer than usual. One at Bashakill Apr. 17, and another at Iona I. May 24. Semipalmated Plover: one Cornwall Bay May 16 and another Bashakill May 25. Black-bellied Plover: five at Warren Sod Farm May 12, and one Esopus Flats near Kingston May 16. RUDDY TURNSTONE: two at Piermont Pier May 13 were unusual in that there are only two previous spring records for Rock. Am. Woodcock: back in all the usual places on the usual dates. Upland Sandpiper: usually arrives in Apr. but this year first reports were in May. Four at Stewart Airport May 2 inc. to eight May 4. Breeding at Blue Chip Farm and Galeville Airport by end of May. Solitary Sandpiper: one Apr. 4 on Waterman Bird Trip was very early. Purple Sandpiper: more than 20 were still on the waterfront at Rye May 17. Laughing Gull: first noted at MC on Apr. 4; early. In good numbers there by mid-month. Bonaparte's Gull: one at Ashokan May 16. Black Tern: one at Ashokan May 13, and another at Bashakill May 16.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: exc. numbers of last winter continued into spring. Black-billed Cuckoo: reported in Dutch to outnumber Yellow-billed by two to one. A good year for both species. Owls: a few more Barred reported than usual. Short-eared Owl: last reports, three at Galeville Airport Mar. 24, and a very late bird at Warren Sod Farm May 16. Saw-whet Owl: one at Bowdoin Pk. New Hamburg Mar. 11. Com. Nighthawk: a poor migration, late and in low numbers. First reported sev. areas May 16. No more than one or two per report. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to increase. Reports from all areas, and in better numbers than Red-headed Woodpecker.



**FLYCATCHERS--STARLING:** BSe observed all five species of *Empidonax* flycatchers in the Bashakill May 27. E. Kingbird: earliest report at MC Apr. 26. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: unreported in Dutch. One singing May 18 west of Tompkins Cove, and another the same date at Rye Nature Center. Acadian Flycatcher: fewer than usual, but still well-represented by several birds in the Bashakill area—one at Rye Nature Center May 21, 22 and two at MC May 31; one at Peekamoose May 16, another at Turkey Hollow, Dutch May 26. Alder Flycatcher: always uncommon, and even less this year. One at PL May 25 and three at MC the same date. Only one reported south of Bashakill May 24 to end of period. Olive-sided Flycatcher: unreported in Dutch and very few elsewhere. Tree Swallow: max 300 at Tamarack May 11. Usurping bluebird boxes in Dutch by end of May. Bank Swallow: arr late but in usual numbers. First Apr. 30 at Bashakill and Apr. 25 at Thompson Pd. Rough-winged Swallow: unusually early at Wurtsboro. First Mar. 29, nesting on Twin Arch Rd., Washingtonville by May 8. Cliff Swallow: colony at Camp Buckner holding up well for many years now. Has not spread elsewhere in the immediate area. First arr there May 6. More than 100 on wires at Bashakill May 8. **COMMON RAVEN:** one obs flying west over Hook Mt. Apr. 30 by Hugh Martin is the sixth local record for Rock and first spring date. Fish Crow: continues to increase in numbers and distribution. Regularly found inland from the Hudson. Red-breasted Nuthatch: numbers improving from dearth of a few years ago. Single birds reported from Rock on the late dates of Apr. 30 and May 4. Several reported at Middletown Res. thru May. House Wren: absent from many of its usual haunts. Almost all reports mention numbers reduced. Brown Thrasher: one returned to MC as early as Mar. 25. Am. Robin: appeared everywhere in good numbers on Mar. 18-20. Swainson's Thrush: abundant in Rock on May 25, but not one was to be found on the 26th. Gray-cheeked Thrush: missed by most birders this season. Unreported in Dutch. (We emphasize it when a bird goes unreported in Dutchess county, since this is the most heavily-birded county in the Region with the greatest number of active, skilled observers. Any bird that goes unreported there must surely be scarce.) Only reports of this species from Bashakill May 15 and again May 24, 25. Veery: numbers very low on most reports. Arr most areas late. E. Bluebird: a pair obs nesting at Winding Hills Park, apparently died or abandoned after the county sprayed in late May. Florence Germond reported sev. building along bluebird trail in Mar. Never had them so early before. Young were in by the 24th of Apr. 123 young were banded from the first nesting in May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: very numerous and widely distributed. Appeared most areas by mid-Apr. Cedar Waxwing: usually uncommon in spring, but obs. in good numbers this season. At least 35 on Mine Rd., USMA June 1 feeding on Mayfly hatch. **NORTHERN SHRIKE:** one at Galeville Airport Mar. 24 was the only report (BSe). **LOG-GERHEAD SHRIKE:** two reports from Dutch: one at Millerton Mar. 3 and another at Tamarack Mar. 31.

**VIREOS--WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: always rare, but fewer this year. First P'kpsie Apr. 29 was earlier than usual. Three others in Dutch dur. May. First in Rock appeared May 5. Yellow-throated Vireo: the only member of the group that was near normal in numbers. Solitary Vireo: three in Dutch Apr. 18. Last Mine Rd. USMA May 23. Philadelphia Vireo: none in Dutch, but two were obs. at Bashakill May 14 and 16. Another was there May 24. Warbling Vireo: normal most areas, but RFD reports the best numbers in Rock in memory. First there May 2. Twelve near Tompkins Cove May 18. There are three nesting pairs in two blocks along the Nyack waterfront. Black-and-white Warbler: first Apr. 23 at Bashakill. Very large movement noted Apr. 28. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one seen well at Tallman Mt. Park, Rock on the amazingly early date of Mar. 29 (VS). Previous early date was Apr. 19, 1954. Orange Co. may well have its first verified record for this species with a singing bird found off Port Orange Rd. a few miles south of Bashakill on May 31. Bird was found by BSe and confirmed by mob. Worm-eating Warbler: more this season than in recent years. Max eight on the south end of Mine Rd. where it leaves the Military Reservation. "Brewster's" Warbler: one near Moore's Mills May 23, and another on Mine Rd. May 26. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** one May 12 near Stillwell L. USMA was well-des-

cribed (KM). Another singing at Bashakill May 24 (BSe). Another the same date at Middletown Res. (JT). No. Parula: most reporters feel their numbers reduced. Rock had a new early date of Apr. 12 at Palisades. Previous early date was Apr. 19. Cape May Warbler: only four reports in Dutch in May. Also low through rest of Region. Many active birders reported seeing only one or two thru entire period. Cerulean Warbler: first appeared Mine Rd. May 2. Max there 12 on May 10. Blackburnian Warbler: reported "shockingly scarce" in Rockland. RFD birded almost every day in May, and had his first on May 5, with only two reported after that date. Usually sees a couple of dozen migrating thru the county. Bay-breasted Warbler: BSe had his first May 6, and described it as a poor year. Only one or two per trip. Blackpoll Warbler: RFD reports a most extended migration with the first appearing on Apr. 29, tying their previous early date for Rock set in 1956 and 1962, and continuing thru the month of May. BSe feels the numbers for this species was the lowest in 40 years. EP described them as unbelievably low in Dutch, with only seven reported thru the entire month of May. Pine Warbler: this early migrant rarely reported. A few more this year than usual. Four at Ashokan Apr. 19. One at Bard College May 16 was very late. One on WCC May 17 was the second time for that count since 1967. Prairie Warbler: BSe heard 17 different singing birds along a one mile stretch of the upper Mine Rd., USMA on May 6. BSc and EDT had 15 in the same location May 10. Palm Warbler: last report six at Weyant's Pd. USMA Apr. 26. Louisiana Waterthrush: one on the very early date of Mar. 29 at Ft. Montgomery. Other arrival dates and numbers were normal. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one, singing near Weyant's Pd., USMA May 31. Seen by several observers, gone the next day. An earlier bird at Bashakill May 17. Mourning Warbler: one at Palisades May 25. A singing male at Bashakill May 14 remained in the same location for more than a week giving mob a look and listen. A second bird was found about a half mile away from the first on May 25, but only stayed a day. Two birds were at Rye Nature Center May 25-30. Another was at MC May 31. Yellow-breasted Chat: one May 13 and May 16 singing at Hackensack Creek in Blauvelt was the fifth record in Rock in ten years, and only the second record for the eastern part of the county since 1969. One was at MC May 30, and two at Purchase May 31. One at the north end of the Bashakill May 15, inc. to two the next day and remained thru the end of the period. Hooded Warbler: one arr at Black Rock Forest May 9, but disappeared after the foliage was stripped late in the month. Another was at Bashakill May 24. Canada Warbler: one of the few warblers to have a good year. First at the Bashakill May 8 by BSe who several times reported more than 20 birds on each of several trips. It appears that others did not find them in these numbers. Reported low in Dutch thru May.

**WEAVERS--SPARROWS:** E. Meadowlark: a rarity now in Rock. One at New City Mar. 17 was the first record in several years. Disappearing there as its habitat is destroyed. Orchard Oriole: more than usual. At least six correspondents reported it. One at Iona I. May 24 was unusual there. A pair were together at Kingston May 16. There were three reports from Dutch between May 2-May 16. Rusty Blackbird: very few reports. First eight Mine Rd. USMA from Mar. 15 thru 29. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** a very convincing report submitted by Fred and Wava Abbott of Goshen. Two males in a flock of mixed blackbirds and Starlings. They were compared at close range with Redwings, grackles and Starlings and met all the field marks. They were discovered at Warren Sod Farm near Pine Island, May 10. A first for the Region. Indigo Bunting: arr May 9 along Mine Rd. where breeding pairs were established every few yards by the end of the month. Evening Grosbeak: last reports May 9 at Stissing, and May 18 at Middletown. House Finch: WCC count has increased from two in 1965 to 145 last year and 173 this year. Pine Grosbeak: two along Mine Rd. Mar. 28 were in song. Com. Redpoll: four lingered at a Middletown feeder thru Mar. 12, and one was at Pleasant Valley Mar. 28. Pine Siskin: remained at feeders in Dutch thru mid-May. Last at Verbank May 15. Grasshopper Sparrow: returned to usual breeding locales in Westbrookville, Galeville Airport, and Unionville. Also found in two places along the Shunpike in Dutch. Tree Sparrow: last appeared on Mine Rd., USMA Apr. 19, and thru Apr. 30 in Dutch. White-throated Sparrow: an unusually large flock of more than 200 near Palisade,

Rock Apr. 30. Last reported May 10 along Mine Rd. Lincoln's Sparrow: unreported in Dutch, and very few elsewhere. One at Palisades May 4 and one at Bashakill May 24. Snow Bunting: last report six at Middletown Res. Apr. 19.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

BARBARA J. SPENCER

Many active local observers came to the conclusion that Spring passed to the west of Region 10 this year. Prevailing weather conditions with easterly winds kept waves of birds from the coast during early May. There was a modest flight mid-week on May 13 and 14 and a large wave that lacked variety on May 24 and 25. This extraordinary late push of birds brought enormous numbers to banding stations on the beaches. Over 700 birds were banded on Fire Island and almost 600 at Tobay. Common Yellowthroat was the most numerous species; together with Magnolias, Canadas, and American Redstarts, they accounted for 60% of the total. Blackburnian and Mourning Warblers were also in good numbers. Interestingly, 65% of the birds on Sunday were males and on Monday 61% were females. Breeding birds returned on schedule.

March was dry with about one quarter of the usual rainfall and higher temperatures than average, especially toward the end of the month. Precipitation conditions became more normal as the spring went on, bringing some relief to the area.

### BIG DAY REPORTS

Using three parties, the Queen County Bird Club members found a total of 150 species on May 16. Unusual species included a Curlew Sandpiper and a Gull-billed Tern at Jamaica Bay, Upland Sandpiper and Grasshopper Sparrow at Mitchell Field, an Orange-crowned Warbler at Alley Pond Park and a Sooty Shearwater off Fire Island. Thrushes were scarce. Not a single Swainson's Thrush was located. No owls were found.

The Lyman Langdon Audubon Society's Big Day, held early, on May 9, found only 124 species, highlighted by a Townsend's Warbler, a Yellow-throated Warbler, and a Gull-billed Tern. Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Waterthrush and Savannah Sparrow were missed.

Positive notes for the season include: Cerulean Warblers in a "wave" in early May, Yellow-throated Vireos in better numbers in migration, a large late flight of more common warbler species after a dull spring. Ospreys returned to nesting locations on schedule.

Negative features: very few thrushes this spring with Swainson's Thrush almost unseen. Phoebes seemed scarce; a drab and erratic spring migration in general.

Rarities include: White-faced Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-necked Stilt, Arctic Tern, Sandwich Tern, Swainson's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Paul A. Buckley, Ralph Cioffi, Peter Connell, Harry Darrow, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joseph DiCostanzo, Aline Dove, Georges Dremeaux, Myra Dremeaux, Fran File, Walter Friton, David Larsen, Emanuel Levine, Millard Lindauer, Alan Lindberg, Robert O. Paxton, John Ruscica, Lore J. Schore, Walter Sedwitz, Barbara J. Spencer, Gilbert S. Raynor, Peter Tozzi, Alvin Wollin, Sam Yeaton, Richard ZainEldeen.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** Com. Loons were observed off shore flying easterly all morning May 9 with a total of 75 seen (WS). Four were seen on a boat trip south of Montauk May 31 (BJS) as was one Red-throated Loon. A Red-throated Loon also lingered at Shinnecock Inlet May 23 (RA). A breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebe June 1 at Great Kills Park was a repeat of two years ago (GB, B. Schiefer). Sooty Shearwaters arrived at Cox's Ledge Apr. 25 (D & C Lynch). Sooty Shearwaters, Greater Shearwaters, and Wilson's Petrels were present there by May 20 (PT). A trip 15 miles south of Montauk on May 31 produced 94 Sooty Shearwaters, one Greater Shearwater and two Gannets (BJS). A Great Cormorant was still present Apr. 3 at Montauk Point (LS, *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants moved northward during Apr. with over 100 observed at Jamaica Bay Apr. 8 and Apr. 22 (L. Schore *et al.*) and small numbers moved up the Hudson River (WS). Movement over Long Island Sound came somewhat later with groups of 25-40 seen May 6, 16 and 23. Early arrival for Little Blue Heron was Apr. 11 at Shinnecock, Snowy Egret Apr. 9 (DL). A Cattle Egret was reported at Jamaica Bay Apr. 25 by the same observer. Four Cattle Egrets were unusual in Flushing Meadow Park May 15 (G & MD). A Least Bittern was seen May 26 at Fresh Pond in Baiting Hollow (RA). Are they breeding there? Glossy Ibis were seen as early as Apr. 3 (LS, *et al.*). The **WHITE-FACED IBIS** returned for the third year to Jamaica Bay on Apr. 19 (G & MD). Flocks of 200 Snow Geese flew over the North Shore on Mar. 28 at Muttontown (AL) and Glen Cove Apr. 5 (RC). Two drake "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were seen Mar. 22 at Mecox (J. Ruscica, J. Clinton). A pair of Harlequin Ducks was seen on Long Island Sound near E. Marion Apr. 4 (JR). Two drake King Eiders were reported: one Apr. 3 at Montauk (L. Shore, *et al.*) and one May 10 at Great Kills, SI (R. Clermont). Three pair of Hooded Mergansers were seen at Hempstead Lake Mar. 15, the last two were reported there Mar. 22 (SBD). The last report at that location for Com. Mergansers was also Mar. 22 by the same observer.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** More than the usual number of reports of Turkey Vultures were received: on Staten Island Turkey Vultures were reported Mar. 13 and Apr. 10 (GB & B. Bouquio). One was at Middle Island May 7 (JR). Four separate reports of one and two Turkey Vultures Apr. 2-7 in the Brookville-Mill Neck Area were probably the same two birds (B. Conolly, J. Bookalam). One was seen at Napeague Apr. 20 (DL) and one was at Wildwood State Park May 25 (RA, DL). A **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was well-described by an observer who saw it moving northeast over North Sea, Suffolk Co. on Apr. 18 (L. Joanas). A Goshawk seen over Mill Neck Apr. 5 was late (P. Connell). A Cooper's Hawk was seen at Muttontown Mar. 27-28 (AL). One was at Garvies Point Apr. 5 (J. Pion, SY). A Red-shouldered Hawk was reported at Alley Pond Park Apr. 12 and 13 (SY). One was at Hither Hills State Park May 30 (JR, DL) and Riverdale Mar. 25 (WS) and at Forest Park May 9 (H. Roth). Two pairs nested in Prospect Park (J. Yrizarry). A late Rough-legged Hawk in "tattered" plumage was seen *May 16* at Gardiner's Island (M. Weinberg, *et al.*). A Golden Eagle was seen riding a thermal over Alley Pond Park Apr. 23 (SBD). Ospreys returned to their nesting sites: eight nests from Mattituck to Orient Point (JR) and eight pairs at Mashomack (B. Conolly, S. Melum). The nest of the westernmost pair at Cold Spring Harbor was damaged over the winter, although one of the birds was seen Mar. 3 (RC). What was almost certainly the Gyrfalcon that wintered in the Lawrence area was sighted Mar. 6 heading east over the beach at Easthampton (L. Joanas). Single Merlins were reported from Caumsett Mar. 25 (SY), Mecox May 19 (WS) and Muttontown May 8 (AL). A single Com. Gallinule in Van Cortlandt Park May 3 was rare for that area (WS). Am. Oystercatchers arrived at a number of points on Long Island on Mar. 14. A single Am. Golden Plover at

Mecox May 9 was the only report received (WS, PAB). Twenty-one Am. Woodcocks were a good concentration at Muttontown Preserve May 4 (AL, *et al.*). A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was present May 16-24 at Jamaica Bay. Another was reported from Shinnecock Inlet May 31 (G & C Hastings, GSR). Approx. 500 Least Sandpipers, and a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen on eastern Long Island May 9. On May 31 over 750 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen by the same observer and few Least (WS). Two Ruffs were seen Apr. 22 at Jamaica Bay; one lingered to Apr. 26. A Reeve was at Cow Meadow, Freeport May 7 (AW, EL) and at Hempstead Lake State Park May 10 (SBD). **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** were seen in the Goethals Bridge Pond on May 27 (A. Peterson) where they remained until June 2 and reportedly through the first two weeks of June (RZE). This is a first to Staten Island. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at the Oak Beach marsh May 17 (J. DiCostanzo, ROP). A No. Phalarope was found at Sagaponack May 16 (M. Cashman). Three Northerns were seen at sea south of Montauk May 31 (BJS). Four Pomarine Jaegers were found 10 miles south of Block Island May 31 (P. Tozzi). Several Glaucous Gulls lingered in the area: a second year bird was at Easthampton May 22 (PAB), Mar. 22 at Jones Inlet (AW), and one was at Cow Meadow, Freeport, May 3 (SBD). An adult Black-headed Gull was present in early Apr. at Jones Inlet. A breeding-plumaged adult in Huntington Apr. 26 (ML) was banded on the right leg. Up to four Little Gulls were in Jones Inlet in early Apr. Four were seen May 22 at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB). Gull-billed Terns arrived Apr. 29 at Jamaica Bay (*vide* THD). Two Forster's Terns were at Jamaica Bay May 16-17 and two were found at Shinnecock Inlet May 22 (PAB). 40 Roseate Terns were at Hicks Island in Napeague May 16 (DL). A second-year **ARCTIC TERN** was found June 1 at Shinnecock Inlet (PAB), as well as a **SANDWICH TERN**—the third year there for this species. A Caspian Tern was found May 23 at Mecox (JR, RA, GSR); another was at Great Kills Park May 29 (W & N Siebenheller).

**PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS:** Snowy Owl was last reported from the West End Mar. 8 (SBD). A Barred Owl Apr. 11 in Greenwood Cemetery was unusual for Long Island (JDiC). Long-eared Owls were seen at Muttontown Mar. 7 (AL) and at Lawrence Mar. 10 and 14 (SBD). A pair of Saw-whet Owls were present in Locust Valley from Apr. 1 through the period (H. McClure). Chuck-will's-widow is increasing its range on Long Island, or is being heard more often. One was in Calverton May 15 (DL), one in Manorville May 17 (JR), one was calling from a location near Amagansett where it was found last year (BJS), another was in Riverside Park May 1 (J. Nolle), one on Gardiner's Island May 16 (MW, *et al.*), and the pair returned to its Oak Beach location where nesting was confirmed several years ago. A "calling" bird has been present on Staten Island for several years. This year the bird was found in Pleasant Plains (GB). Single Com. Nighthawks at Napeague May 16 (DL) and at Port Jefferson May 11 (JR) and Forest Park May 21 (H. Roth), were the only reports. A pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was seen at Yaphank Woods May 16 (JR). A hummingbird was seen at sea off Montauk May 31. Another bird had been observed from the boat a week earlier (BJS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at Forest Park May 14-17, at Alley Pond Park May 24 (*vide* THD); one was at Dix Hills May 7-25, for the fifth year. No sign of a pair has been seen during that time (H. Pembleton). A "flock" of ten Hairy Woodpeckers in Alley Pond Park Mar. 10 was unusual (A. Wagner).

**FLYCATCHERS—STARLING:** The first E. Phoebe was reported Mar. 22 at Hempstead Lake (SBD). An Acadian Flycatcher arrived May 16 in Forest Park. Singing birds were also reported from Brookhaven Lab May 20 (JR), Cold Spring Harbor May 26 (RC), Camp Upton May 21 (RA), and Glen Cove May 30 (RC, J. Doran). The first Least Flycatcher arrived in Central Park Apr. 27 (W. Baumann). An Alder Flycatcher at Wildwood State Park May 25 was unusual (DL). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at Tobay May 25 (SBD). Ten Cliff Swallows May 5 seen in passage at Jamaica Bay was an unusually large number (LS, *et al.*). Fish Crows are rare on the North Fork; one was seen May 26 at Sears Bellows Park, a first record for an active observer (AD). Six were seen at Montauk May 30 (RA, DL, GSR). Nesting Fish Crows were reported at Glen Cove (AL) and Flushing (G & MD).

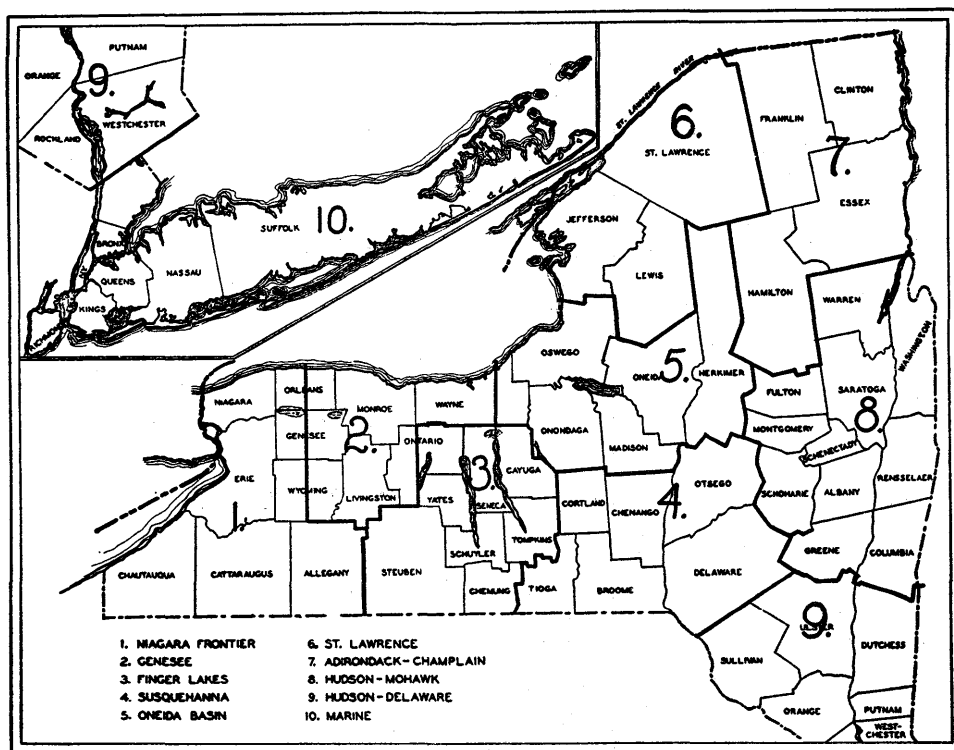
Thrushes, particularly Swainson's Thrush, were in small numbers this Spring. E. Bluebirds were sparingly reported: a pair at Manorville May 23 (DL), a pair at Cedar Beach Mar. 31 (*vide* FF), and five were seen Apr. 3 at Brookhaven Lab in Upton (JR). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived in small numbers in mid-Apr; two were displaying at Muttontown May 8 (H. McClure).

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireos were reported in larger numbers than usual: two were at Hempstead Lake Apr. 19, three were there Apr. 26 (EL, *et al.*). Two Philadelphia Vireos were located: one at Napeague May 30 (DL) and one well described May 21 at Muttontown (AL). Prothonotary Warblers were found at a number of locations: Apr. 16-20 at Glenwood Landing (T. Backelin), a female Apr. 28 in Mill Neck (H. McClure), another female Apr. 30 in Prospect Park (M. Sohmer), May 2 Central Park, and May 20 Jamaica Bay (D. Rippe, J. Ash, *et al.*). A singing SWAINSON'S WARBLER was briefly present at Prospect Park May 13 (C. Cohen, P. Prall, *et al.*). Several Golden-winged Warblers were seen: one at Hempstead Lake May 3 (SBD), one May 2 at Nugent Street, Staten Island, one at Alley Pond Park Apr. 30 (LS, *et al.*). One was in Forest Park during that period. A "Brewster's" Warbler singing a Golden-winged song was found May 6 in Forest Park (H. Roth, A. Townsend). An unusual spring record for Orange-crowned Warbler was recorded May 16 at Alley Pond Park on the Queens Big Day. Cerulean Warblers were present in better than average numbers the first few days of May. The first was reported Apr. 28 at Prospect and Forest Parks. A male TOWNSEND'S WARBLER was found in Hempstead Lake State Park, the same location where one was found two years ago. It was present Apr. 29-30 (EL, *et al.*). A second male was found May 9 at Alley Pond Park May 9 (O. Dunning, *et al.*). Yellow-throated Warblers were reported as follows: Apr. 18 in Glen Cove (A. Bell, *et al.*), Apr. 23-25 Prospect Park (L. Cohen, M. Sohmer), Apr. 26 Jones Beach (S. Schiff, AW), Apr. 30 Riverside Park (J. Woile), and a bird May 9 at Forest Park was seen by many observers. Kentucky Warblers were also reported in better than average numbers with about ten reports. Four were banded May 25 on Fire Island (D. Ford). At least two Yellow-breasted Chats were seen in Wading River May 1, 8, 16, 19 (RA, JR, DL). Two were in Greenvale May 29 (J. Bookalam), and one at Glen Cove the same day (AL).

**WEAVERS—SPARROWS:** Three Orchard Orioles were located in the Glen Cove area where they have been regular (RC). A first-year male in Babylon stayed into June (D. Kaufman); and a pair was found at Connetquot June 6 (R. Kelly). A courting pair of Orchard Orioles was seen at Neponsit May 10 (PAB). A pair of Boat-tailed Grackles was seen Apr. 26 at Gilgo Beach (ROP). A male was present at Jamaica Bay May 16-17. An early Scarlet Tanager was seen Apr. 20 in Roslyn (SY). Summer Tanagers were reported from a number of locations; a sub-adult male was seen May 9 in Central Park, a female was in Forest Park May 15-16 (G. Tudor *et al.*), and a male was in Central Park again May 17 (S. Faison). A singing male Summer Tanager was seen in Glen Head May 24 (RC), and another was in Oyster Bay the same day (W. Kolodnicki). On May 13 a Summer Tanager was found at Hempstead Lake (EL). Three Blue Grosbeaks were seen this spring: a sub-adult male May 3 at Inwood Hill Park (*vide* THD), a female May 16 at Forest Park (G & MD), another of unspecified sex was found in Ridge May 14 (JR). An early male was present in Central Islip Mar. 23 (A. Clerke). A flock of about 16 Evening Grosbeaks remained at the Maly's feeder in Islip from Dec. to May 16 (FF). A European Goldfinch at a thistle feeder in Centereach Apr. 1-6 has to remain of uncertain origin. A Com. Redpoll was seen at a feeder Mar. 1 in Huntington (*vide* S. Ruppert); ten were seen at Alley Pond Mar. 12 (SY). Two pairs of Seaside Sparrows were reported from the north shore where they might breed: one pair was seen in Douglaston May 21 (SY), the other in Port Washington May 16 (BJS). Twenty Swamp Sparrows at Wading River Apr. 29 was a large concentration (DL). Thirty-four Lapland Longspurs were seen at Jamaica Bay Mar. 28. Some were approaching breeding plumage. Thirty or more remained at Bay Park until Mar. 29 (SBD).

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

# FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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