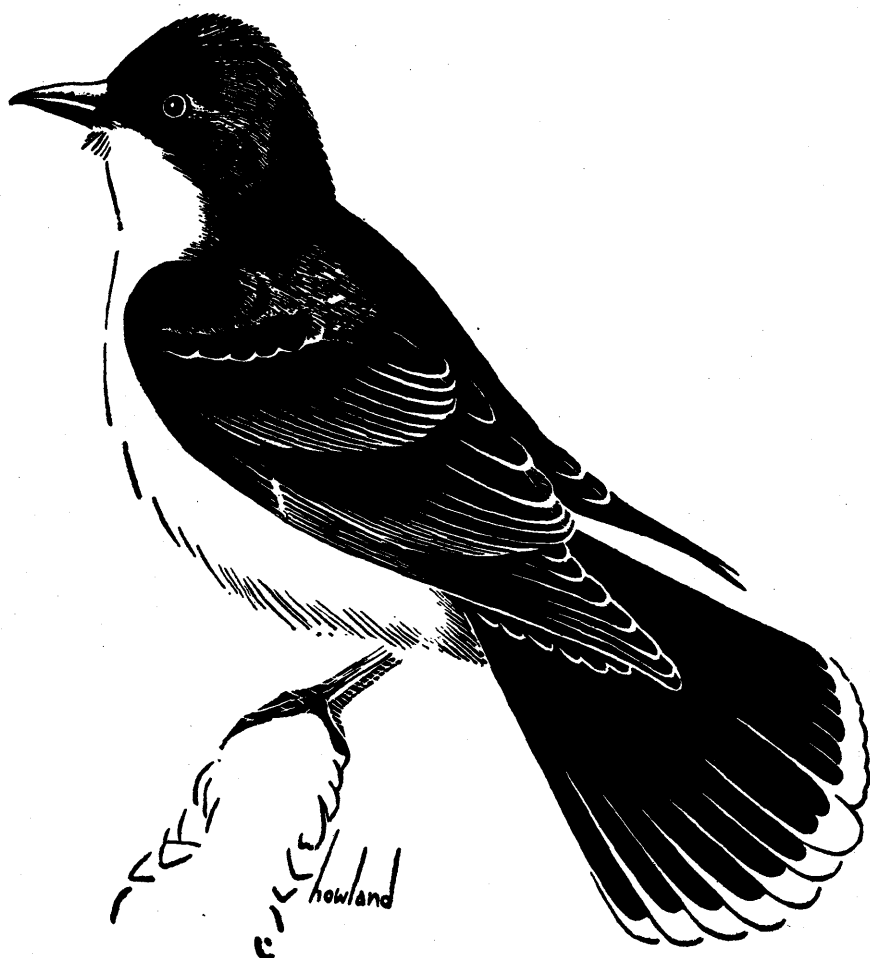


The KINGBIRD



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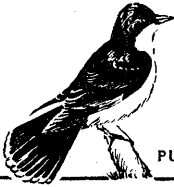
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149-228

CONTENTS

Letter to the Editors Thomas H. Davis 150

Black-shouldered Kite Visits Dutchess County:
A First Record for New York State
..... Mary C. Key and James W. Key 151

Ross' Goose Added to New York State List.. Edward D. Treacy 153

Observations on Habitat Selection by Henslow's Sparrow
in Broome County, New York Allen Peterson 155

Adirondack Woodpeckers in Unusual Plumages
.... Ferdinand LaFrance 165

A Bibliography of New York State Ornithology for 1981
... John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, Stephen W. Eaton,
Valerie Freer and Kenneth C. Parkes 167

Notes and Observations

White-eyed Vireo in Hamilton County John M. C. Peterson 174

A Melanistic Downy Woodpecker Louise B. Proskine 175

Minutes of the 35th Annual Meeting of the
Federation of New York State Bird Clubs 176

Highlights of the Spring Season Robert Spahn 178

Regional Reports 182

Co-Editors — Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

Highlights of the Season

Editor — Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager — Constance N. Wilkins

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS

April 12, 1983

To the Editors,

I greatly enjoyed Ken Able's prognostic piece in the Winter 1983 issue (*Kingbird* 32: 6-12)—may my list of predictions triumph! I would like to add some earlier historical background and comment to Ken's article in which he cites a N.Y.S. total of 432 species at the end of 1981 and 397 species in 1944:

- DeKay, 1844 (*The Zoology of New York*, Part 2, Birds, NYSM) lists about 309 species (including how many "forms"?).
- Lawrence, 1866 (*List of the Birds of New York and Vicinity. Proc. of the Linn. Soc. of N.Y.*) lists about 327 species (including how many "forms"?).
- Eaton, 1910 (*The Birds of New York, N.Y.S.M.*) lists about 371 species.

| From | To | Comment |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1844-1866 | 18 species added in 22 years | period of early exploration |
| 1866-1910 | 44 species added in 44 years | increasing population, prosperity |
| 1910-1944 | 26 species added in 34 years | 2 wars, depression |
| 1944-1981 | 35 species added in 35 years | prosperity, much improved transportation, burgeoning interest. |

Cheers,
Thomas H. Davis

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE VISITS DUTCHESS COUNTY: A FIRST RECORD FOR NEW YORK STATE

MARY C. KEY and JAMES W. KEY

The Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), which is widespread in the Old World, has lately been lumped with the New World White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*).

The Black-shouldered Kite has a varied appetite which includes snakes, lizards, field mice, chipmunks, grasshoppers and sometimes small birds. Although some foods on this list were not available on its visit to Dutchess Co. on 26-27 April 1983, it could still find an ample food supply.

Chuck Roda, who considers himself a non-birder, watched this bird with black elbow markings at about 3 p.m. on 26 April as it hovered like a kestrel while hunting over the wet valley back of his home near Hopewell Junction, NY. This valley is composed of meadows, wet areas, deciduous trees along fence rows, and small wood lots. At approximately 6 p.m. we received an improbable telephone call. By 6:30 p.m. we had positively identified this Black-shouldered Kite as it perched atop a deciduous tree. We watched it for about a half an hour before it flew away. Using a 20-power scope we observed this falcon-shaped kite at about 100 yards on a bright sunny evening in excellent light. We took note of large black patches on the bend of the wing of this white and light gray kite. The head, tail, and underparts were white; the back light gray; the wings were long and pointed (almost as long as tail when perched); the bird had a black, hooked bill; a red eye; yellow feet and cere; and the tarsus was feathered half way down in front. The gray back continued up the back of the nape; and the wings were twice as long as the tail.

The next morning, 27 April, Vaughn Morrison found the Black-shouldered Kite less than a quarter of a mile from the first sighting. Other observers on the 27th were Ken and Joan McDermott and Dave Kintzer. It was observed for about two hours.

After January the species has completed a molt and is renewing its scapulars and tail feathers. Except for wing quills, which are probably not shed until later, a young bird is practically adult by spring.

Young birds are at first streaked with warm brown, and often dangle their feet in flight. This tame and elegant kite was shot in

large numbers by farmers who thought they threatened their chickens. The North American population was reduced to a pitiful remnant and it was feared the species might be extinct here. Recently, however, it has staged a surprising and unexplained comeback, and is again rather numerous in Texas and California.

Once the kite sights prey, it hovers a moment—kiting, or soaring, when the wind blows hard, and beating slowly when it lulls. Then, holding up long pointed wings in a V, the kite slips down for the kill.

The Black-shouldered Kite, a non-migrant, is at home in California (west of desert areas), Texas, and lowland areas from Baja California and Tamaulipas south to Chile and Argentina.

52 Tree Tops Lane, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

ROSS' GOOSE ADDED TO NEW YORK STATE LIST

EDWARD D. TREACY

On the evening of Sunday, 13 March 1983, I received a call from Mary Key of Red Oaks Mill, Dutchess Co., telling me that Dorothy Fleury and Mary Yegella, two of her fellow birders in the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, had earlier that day found what they believed to be a Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*). The bird was seen about 2 p.m. EST on a small pond called Round Pond in the hamlet of Sharon Station near Amenia, NY. It was in the company of two first-year Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea*), about 3,000 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), and a variety of ducks and gulls. In the flock also were two Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*), in itself a great find. After an hour or so they left to spread the word, and returned a half hour later with Trixie Strauss, Florence Germond and Ted Mills who corroborated the find. Upon my arrival at 10 a.m. the next day I found Ms. Yegella, Jim and Mary Key, Trixie Strauss and Florence Germond already there. They had observed the bird standing on the ice and swimming in the water of the pond less than one hundred yards away. Through their 20-power telescopes they had observed the principal identifying features: the warty protuberences at the base of the bill, and the absence of "grin marks" on the bill that a Snow Goose would have shown. At my arrival, the bird was already grazing in the corn stubble on a hillside on the opposite side of the pond, about 200 yards away. As I studied the bird through my 25-power lens, I was immediately struck by its diminutive size. It was at least a third smaller in every way than the Snow Geese that walked beside it. It minced along on its short little legs, taking two or three steps to each one of theirs. At that distance I could not see any of the finer details mentioned before, but in every other way it appeared to be an adult Ross' Goose just like those I had seen in February 1977 at the Salton Sea in California.

The bird was gone the next day, 15 March, but before it left it was seen by many other birders, among them: Ken Able, Walt Sabin, Eleanor Pink, Alice Jones, Helen Manson, Thelma Haight, Otis Waterman and Vaughn Morrison.

In his article in the winter 1983 issue of *The Kingbird* entitled: "Trends in the state list of New York birds," Ken Able and four other prominent New York State birders predicted the next ten additions to the New York State List in order of their likelihood. Only one,

Paul Buckley, mentioned Ross' Goose, ranking it eighth in probability. Recent changes in the movement of the species might have caused the others to give it more serious consideration. Until this decade the species was unknown east of the Mississippi. According to the Fifth Edition of *The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds* (1957) it was known to breed on the Arctic shores of central Canada (discovered in 1940), and to migrate southwest over the Rockies to winter in the central valley of California. It was accidental as far east as North Dakota and Louisiana. Then, in the March 1982 issue of *American Birds*, three occurrences in the northeast were reported: two birds were at Cap Tourmente, Quebec, on 3 Oct 1981; an adult was at Bombay Hook, Delaware, from 28 Oct to 14 Nov (a first for the state); and another was at Blackwater Refuge, Maryland, 27 Nov to 6 Dec (also a first for that state). Then, in the May 1982 issue of the same publication, two more occurrences were reported: the first Virginia record was an adult at Back Bay Refuge from 29 Dec 1981 to 9 Jan 1982, and the first North Carolina record was found at Bodie Island (not far from Pea Island) on 30 Dec 1981. The March-April 1983 issue reported Ross' Geese once again at Cap Tourmente, Quebec in October 1982. This totals six occurrences reported in the year October 1981-October 1982.

It seems only probable that individuals will turn up elsewhere in the northeast, and birders in our neighboring states would do well to look for them as welcome additions to their lists.

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OBSERVATIONS ON HABITAT SELECTION BY HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

ALLEN PETERSON

ABSTRACT

Observations were made at thirty-five field sites in Broome County, New York, between May and August, 1982 to document the range of habitat selection by Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). Five habitat variables were studied and avian conspecifics were noted. Henslow's Sparrows inhabited a range of tall herbaceous communities in a variety of moisture regimes. They inhabited only large fields with virtually no woody invasion, with an average distance to horizon in excess of 10.25 kilometers. Only one field under cultivation held Henslow's Sparrows. The remaining three occupied sites were in ungrazed pasture. It appears that Henslow's Sparrow is an obligate grassland species which requires a set of environmental conditions that are uncommon in Broome County.

INTRODUCTION

Henslow's Sparrow is an uncommon and little known breeder in New York State (Bull, 1974, p. 579). It inhabits open fields and grasslands and seems to prefer wet fields with dense herbaceous cover (Graber *in* Bent 1965). Apparent widespread declines in this species have raised concerns about its status, and it is now listed as a species of concern by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The purpose of this study was to document the range of habitat selection by Henslow's Sparrow in Broome County, and to suggest reasons for its irregular and sparse distribution.

METHODS

This study took place in Broome County, New York (Figure 1), which is almost entirely within the Susquehanna hills region of the Appalachian upland. This land is predominantly hilly with moderate slopes ranging from 9 to 18 percent. Except for lowlands along major rivers, the land has only fair agricultural potential and about 50% of the land is used for farming, primarily dairy. The remainder is covered by mixed-hardwood forest in various seral stages (Thompson 1966).

Thirty-five open field areas were studied between May and August of 1982. Five habitat variables: field size, ground cover, woody emergents, soil moisture and distance to horizon were evaluated at each site and recorded on observation sheets. Other bird species inhabit-

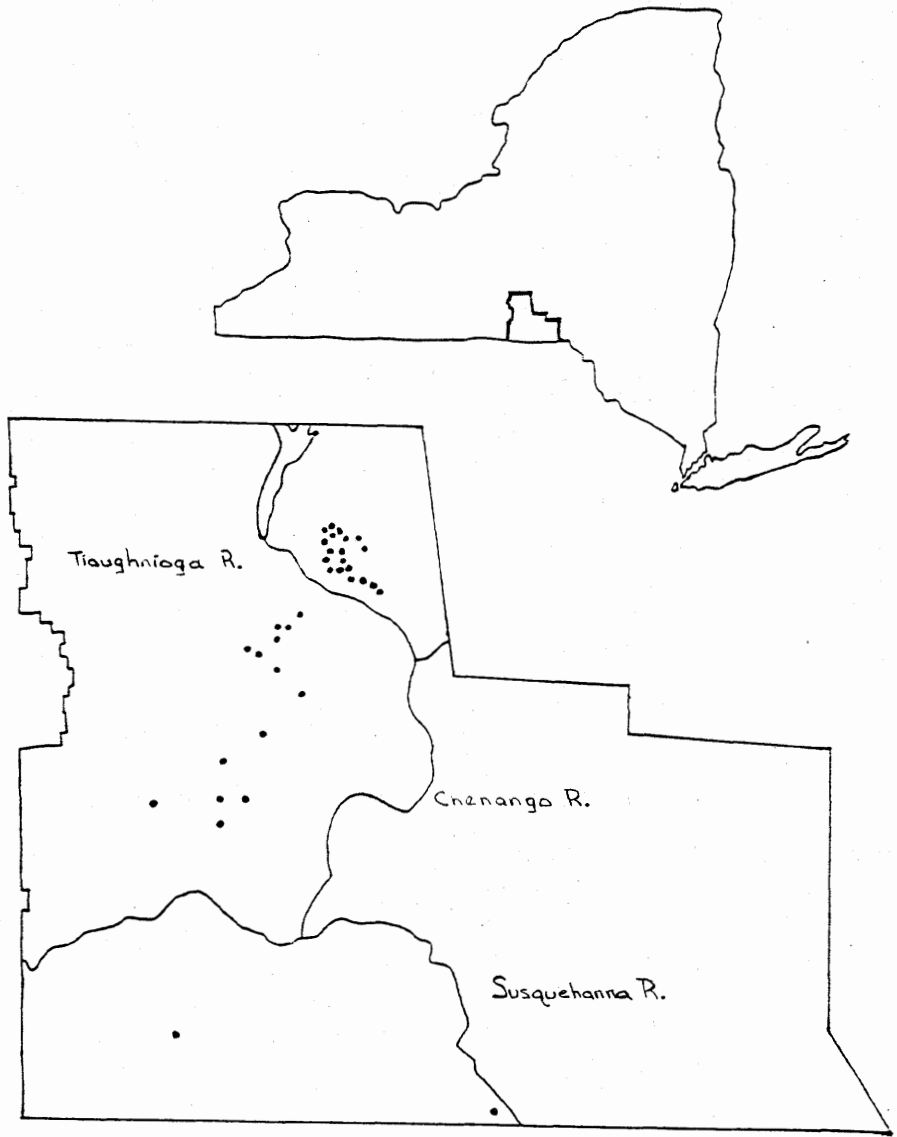


Figure 1. Broome County, New York and location of study sites.

ing the sites were also noted when observed. Some sites with a higher potential of containing Henslow's Sparrow were located through study of 7½-minute topographic maps and through contacts with persons familiar with Henslow's Sparrow. The entire set of sites selected is a sample of the range, but not the relative abundance of field-types encountered. For this reason no county population estimate can be made. The selected sites were searched by walking a zig-zag pattern through the field, stopping every 50-100 meters and listening for singing males for approximately five minutes. The presence of singing males was considered evidence of breeding activity.

Searching was done during daylight hours and during periods of fair weather (lack of heavy rain, fog, or high winds). Sites occupied by singing males were visited more than once to ensure that territories were being held. Some sites where Henslow's Sparrows were not observed were re-visited to confirm that they were not occupied.

Field dimensions were obtained from topographic maps and visual estimates. Distance to horizon was calculated to the nearest kilometer in all cardinal directions (due north, south, east, and west) and were averaged for each site. Horizon distances less than one kilometer were recorded as one kilometer. Distances too long to be measured from topographic maps (>10 km) were estimated conservatively. Horizon distances greater than 30 kilometers were recorded as 30 kilometers. These limits were used as a practicality and to limit the statistical effect of extremely short or long distances.

Only the dominant plant species were recorded. No attempt was made to do a complete plant inventory at each site. Plants were classified by species, height and general abundance. Woody invasion was described qualitatively as "none," "widely scattered," "scattered," and "heavy," with corresponding approximate percentages.

Soil moisture was determined qualitatively by direct observation of standing water or saturated soils. The presence of sedges and the degree of clumping or tussock formation were also used as general indicators of soil moisture.

RESULTS

Four of the 35 sites studied contained singing male Henslow's Sparrows. Detailed descriptions of these sites are contained in Appendix A. At Site 5, three singing males were observed. Two of these were seen with females. At Site 29, two singing males were heard, one of which was observed. At Site 30, one singing male was observed and at Site 31, at least six singing males were heard, one of which was observed.

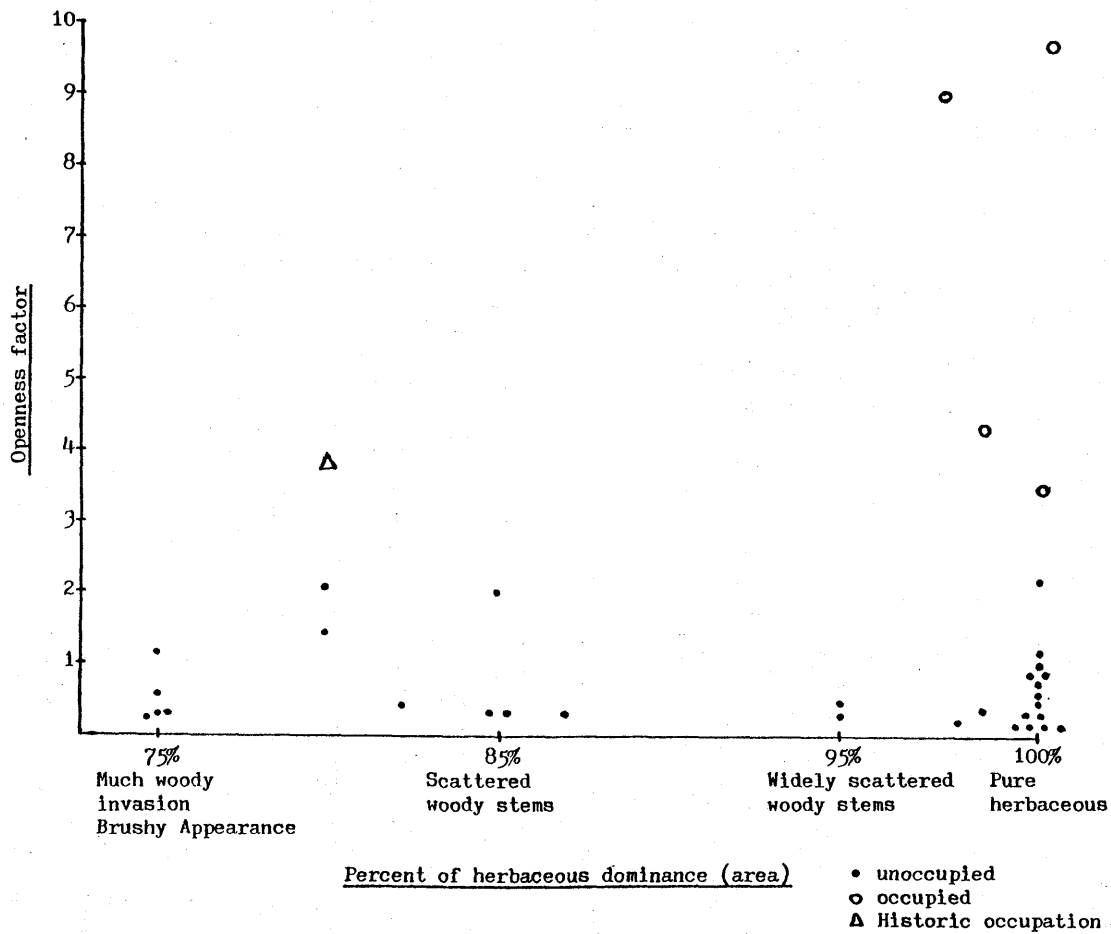


Figure 3. Site openness factor and herbaceous dominance plotted against Henslow's sparrow occupancy.

The estimated field areas of occupied sites were .64, 1.0, .36 and .64 km², with a mean of .66 km². This was significantly greater ($p < .001$) than the mean field area of unoccupied sites, which was .19 km². The mean distances to horizon of occupied sites were 7.3, 9.0, 9.1 and 15.6 km, averaging 10.25 km. This was significantly greater ($p < .001$) than the mean distance to horizon of unoccupied sites, which was 3.3 km. These two variables are plotted in Figure 2, with occupied sites indicated.

Of the variables studied, field area, horizon distance and percent of herbaceous cover were most apparently related to the distribution of Henslow's Sparrow. A useful indicator of habitat suitability can be derived by multiplying the field area and the horizon distance of each site to obtain an "openness factor." The mean openness factor of occupied sites was 8.03, significantly greater than the mean openness factor of unoccupied sites, which was 0.76. Of the 35 sites, the four occupied sites ranked among the top five in openness, with the lowest having a value of 3.3. The unoccupied site which ranked fourth was known to be occupied previously, but may now be unsuitable because of invasion by woody plants (Figure 3). Woody invasion of occupied sites was either nonexistent or limited to a few very widely scattered, low *Crataegus*, *Cornus* or *Rubus* spp, comprising less than 2% of the total area.

Henslow's Sparrows were found in a variety of moisture regimes. Site 31 was dry and well drained with no moist areas. Sites 29 and 30 were primarily dry with occasional moist, sedge dominated spots and Site 5 had up to 30% of its area seasonally or continually moist with considerable sedge and grass clumping.

Three of the occupied sites were in ungrazed pasture and the fourth was in a field of Timothy (*Phleum pratense*). All of the occupied sites were heavily dominated by grasses and most contained sedges. Beyond this, there was no apparent correlation between herbaceous species composition and site occupancy (Appendix B).

Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) were observed at or along the edges of 17 sites and were always associated with woody invasion. Only one Song Sparrow was observed in an area inhabited by Henslow's Sparrow. It was not seen on subsequent visits. Bobolinks (*Dolichonx oryzivorus*) were observed at 13 sites which had a variety of horizon distances, field sizes and degrees of woody invasion, including two sites which were occupied by Henslow's Sparrows. Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) were observed at six sites, including three of the sites occupied by Henslow's Sparrow. The vegetative cover at the remaining three sites occupied by Savannah Sparrows closely resembled the occupied Henslow's sites.

DISCUSSION

The limited number of occupied sites makes significant quantitative analysis difficult, but some patterns of habitat use and non-use can be seen.

The four occupied sites had a set of characteristics quite unlike most of the unoccupied ones. The occupied sites were all very large fields and were on or near hilltops with sweeping panoramic views to distances in some directions of over 35 kilometers. Sites in valley bottoms, with hills or treelines rising all about, were never occupied. Even a single treeline or forest edge at a short distance may preclude occupancy. For example, at two occupied sites, adjacent areas which differed only in the presence of a treeline were unoccupied. This tendency to occupy very open, exposed sites is illustrated in Figure 2 with the occupied sites exhibiting a consistently higher openness factor than the unoccupied ones.

Almost any degree of woody invasion seems to decrease the suitability of an area for Henslow's Sparrow. All four occupied sites were either pure herbaceous communities or had only widely scattered, low (2-3 feet tall) woody stems. Several sites with long horizon distances or large areas and significant woody invasion were studied and found to be unoccupied. Baskett *et al.* (1980) concur with this and classify optimum Henslow's Sparrow habitat as having less than three shade-producing trees or shrub clumps per 50m².

Another example of the species' intolerance to woody invasion and short horizon distances is a site which was occupied in the mid 1970's (personal communication with Harriet Marsi, June, 1972, The Nature Conservancy, Binghamton, NY) but not during the study period. It had an openness factor comparable to the presently occupied sites (Figure 2), but had extensive woody invasion by small *Crataegus*, *Cornus* and *Acer* spp, which resulted in a distinctly brushy appearance (Figure 3). At this site, the only portion without significant woody invasion was the lower, downhill edge which had an openness factor of only 0.24.

The widely differing herbaceous species composition of occupied sites (Appendix A), other than a general dominance by grasses, suggests that sub-dominant species composition is of little importance in habitat selection. Although a diversity of sub-dominant forbs is considered a part of optimum Henslow's Sparrow habitat (Baskett *et al.* 1980), a lack of forbs does not preclude occupancy. One study site was a cultivated Timothy field with virtually no other plant species present. Other observers have noted that Henslow's Sparrow will nest in cultivated fields in Broome County, although ungrazed pas-

ture is more commonly used (personal communication with Mary Sheffield, June, 1982, New York State Federation of Bird Clubs, Binghamton, NY).

Baskett *et al.* (1980) also consider a diversity of vegetation heights necessary for optimum Henslow's Sparrow habitat. Their view is supported by the extensive use of emergent vegetation by singing male Henslow's Sparrows in this study. Where emergent vegetation was scarce or nonexistent, males would sing from below the grass line.

Grazed pasture was not used by Henslow's Sparrow in this study. Robins (1971) found that they prefer fields with dense herbaceous cover. For this reason, grazed pasture may not provide the amount of food or cover Henslow's Sparrows require.

Henslow's Sparrows did not exhibit a preference for moist sedge-dominated fields. Site 31, which had over six singing males, was very well drained and had no moist areas or sedges. The other three sites had varying amounts of moist, sedgy areas. However, no extremely wet areas with large amounts of standing water were occupied. A preference for the median range of moisture regimes was noted by Robins (1971) in his study of Henslow's Sparrow in Michigan.

Some observations were made on other passerine species at the sites to obtain an indication of comparative habitat use. Bobolinks appeared to use a wider range of the habitat variables studied. They were found in cultivated and fallow, herbaceous-dominated sites with a wide range of horizon distances and degrees of woody invasion.

Savannah Sparrows appeared to have the habitat requirements most similar to Henslow's Sparrows. The only observable difference was a tolerance by Savannah Sparrows of nearby treelines or forest edges that Henslow's Sparrows seem to lack. All the sites that were occupied by Savannah Sparrows but not by Henslow's Sparrows differed only in this respect.

Song Sparrows, unlike Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks, did not exhibit any noticeable niche overlap with Henslow's Sparrows and in fact did not occupy any Henslow's Sparrow sites. They were found in those fields regardless of size or horizon distance which had enough woody invasion to create a brushy appearance. Since Henslow's Sparrows seem very intolerant of woody invasion, and since Song Sparrows require brushy vegetation, it appears that the presence of one species may indicate unsuitable habitat for the other.

CONCLUSION

Henslow's Sparrow appears to be a true grassland species in that it is found in large, pure or nearly pure herbaceous communities with long, unbroken views to the horizon. It is intolerant of woody inva-

sion and short horizon distances. It is apparently reluctant to use cultivated or grazed land. These factors may be the primary cause of its irregular occurrence in Broome County, where fields tend to be surrounded by woods, treelines, and hillsides, and when unused revert quickly to woody species. It appears that an openness factor, when considered with the amount of woody invasion, is a useful indicator of habitat suitability.

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APPENDIX A. HENSLOW'S SPARROW SITE INFORMATION

HENSLOW'S SPARROW SITE FORMS

Site: 5 Date: 29 May 1982
Field size: (several subsequent visits through 5 July)
800 m X 800 m, .64 km² Weather: Overcast, calm, 70° F.
Ground cover: Ungrazed pasture. Mainly grasses, broom straw. Mixed forbs, goldenrod. Some sedges in wetter areas. Very dense.
Woody emergents: A few *Crataegus* and multiflora under 6'. Very widely scattered.
Soil moisture: = 1/3 area is moist with some clumping evident. Some spots of standing water.
Distance to horizon: 7.3km. Three sides open, one side brushy. Openness factor = 4.67.
Other species: Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink seen on all visits. Eastern Meadowlark on at least one visit. 1 Song Sparrow on one visit.
Henslow's Sparrows present: Two pair and one singing male observed.

Site: 29 Date: 5 July 1982
Field size: Weather: Sunny, breezy, 80° F.
1 km X 1 km, 1 km²
Ground cover: 2/3 cultivated Timothy field (4' high), 1/3 old field (3' high). Very dense.
Woody emergents: In old field, some small (<5') and widely scattered multiflora. *Cornus* spp.
Soil moisture: some moist runoff channels and small soggy areas with a few sedges.
Distance to horizon: 9.0km. 3 sides open, 1 forest. Openness factor = 9.0.
Other species: Savannah Sparrows, Bobolink.
Henslow's Sparrows present: Two singing males heard, one of them was also seen. Both were near moist runoffs in Timothy when first heard. Birds also heard and seen by other observers in June, 1982.

Site: 30 Date: 30 July 1982 (also 7 August 1982)
Field size: Weather: Sunny, breezy, warm, 75° F.
600 m X 600 m, 36 km²
Ground cover: Ungrazed pasture. Primarily Timothy and other grasses, 1-5' tall. Some Queen Anne's lace, sensitive fern, teasel, buttercups, goldenrod and sedges. Very dense.
Woody emergents: None except line of fence posts.
Soil moisture: Pretty well drained. Some sedges present and concentrated in a couple of soggy spots.
Distance to horizon: 9.1km. 1 side wooded, 3 sides open. Openness factor = 3.3.
Other species: Savannah Sparrow, Barn Swallows.
Henslow's Sparrows present: One male seen and heard.

Site: 31 Date: 30 July 1982
Field size: Weather: Mostly cloudy, breezy, 78° F.
800 m X 800 m, .64 km²
Ground cover: Abandoned field. Primarily Timothy and other grasses. Various forbs and goldenrod. Much milkweed. 1-4' high. No sedges.
Woody emergents: Scattered, low *Cornus* spp.
Soil moisture: Very well drained. No moist areas.
Distance to horizon: 15.6km. 300° panorama. 60° grassy hillcrest. Openness factor = 10.0.
Other species: Eastern Meadowlark
Henslow's Sparrows present: At least 6 male Henslow's Sparrows heard. One was seen. Low side by treeline is unoccupied.

ADIRONDACK WOODPECKERS IN UNUSUAL PLUMAGES

FERDINAND LAFRANCE

During the summer of 1981, Chris Spies and I observed a brown-and-black Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). The brown replaced all areas that were normally white in this species. The size suggested that it was not one of smaller brown subspecies.

In the early 1970's, Robert Smart, Ted Dittrich and myself observed a Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) with a yellow crown patch. I am aware that Hairy Woodpeckers sometimes have a yellow crown patch, but I have seen no reference to this occurring in Downy Woodpeckers.

One summer in northern Herkimer County, Chris Spies and I observed a Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) with the feathers of the lower back so worn that the quills were showing. We observed this very clearly but realized that in conditions less ideal, the bird could very easily have been mistaken for a Three-toed Woodpecker (*P. tridactylus*). We theorized that the excessive feather wear was due to nesting activities.

The race of the Three-toed Woodpecker that occurs in the Adirondacks is *P. tridactylus bacatus*. Its plumage is so varied that I don't believe I have ever seen two alike. I have seen some individuals with no white on the back and but a few white flecks on the rump. The National Museum of Canada has a specimen of this race, that is totally blackish on the back and rump. I have also seen one individual that had brown barring on the back. This sighting was in the month of November. One July I saw a bird that had mouse-gray barring on its back. In general I find that well-barred backs are far less common in *bacatus* than backs that are flecked with white.

In the summer of 1981, Spies and I observed a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers digging a nest hole. At first the yellow-crowned male was digging. The female arrived and began digging as soon as the male left and she had a gray crown patch. Both male and female juveniles may have crown patches, but this was a female of breeding age as evidenced by the fact that the pair nested successfully.

Below is a summation of various plumages observed in *P. tridactylus bacatus*.

1. The back may be totally blackish to strongly flecked with white along the center line of the back, or any degree of marking between these two extremes.

2. Instead of **flecking** as described above, the back may be **barred**, with the same degree of variation as described above.

3. Barring on the back is usually white, but may be mouse-gray or brown.

4. The white stripe behind the eye may be lacking or may extend across the side of the head, down the nape and the center of the upper back or to any length between these extremes.

5. The crown patch, although usually yellow with dark streaks, may be clear yellow, and rarely gray.

6. The crown patch is usually elongated but may sometimes be round as in *P. arcticus*.

7. Adult females may show a gray crown patch.

I have been observing both the Three-toed Woodpecker and the Black-backed Woodpecker for the past fourteen years. All of the above observations were made in the Adirondacks. Both species are easily approached in the field, making good observations possible.

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

ADDENDUM: The following item was omitted from the 1979 bibliography:

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

White-eyed Vireo in Hamilton County: On the morning of 16 July 1982, Elsbeth Johnson, David Rutkowski, and I were blockbusting, or visiting unassigned blocks for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas project, in southeastern Hamilton County. We were headed east on Creek Road in the Town of Hope, toward Hope Falls, and had just passed the Bennett Lake trail which helped mark our entry into Block 5679C. At about 11:30 a.m. we decided to stop just inside the northeast corner of the block at an area shown as open space on the Harrisburg Quadrangle map.

On the left (NE) side of the road we found a small sand bank with an active Bank Swallow colony, the sandy area surrounded by typical scrubby second-growth. On the right (SW) side, the road was bordered by white birch, ash, maple, and aspen mixed second-growth. Behind this screening vegetation we noticed a tiny pond, apparently formed by a small tributary of East Stony Creek. Much of the shoreline was bordered by a black alder stand and dense tangles of shrubs and vines. Approximate elevation was 900'. Weather was hot and humid, the first day of a major heat wave.

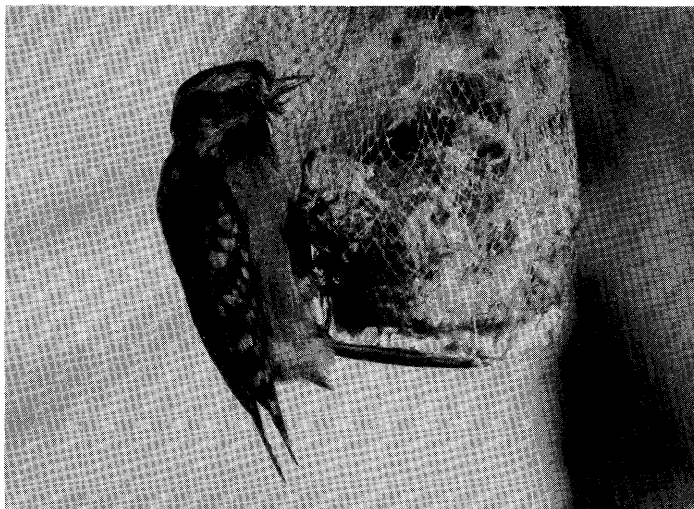
Johnson and I stepped down to the shore while Rutkowski remained on Creek Road. Our presence first attracted one of several calling Black-capped Chickadees. Then in a low pondside willow to my right I noted the movement of a plainer and lighter-colored bird. From 10-15 feet, I observed vireo shape and posture, not as elongated as Red-eyed, wing-bars, a distinct yellow wash confined to just the sides of the breast, and a blank expression. Viewed through 8.5 x 44 binoculars, the bird had a distinct eye-ring, but most amazing of all a white eye. I called to my companions, directing them to the bird and urging them to look at the head. Johnson, using 7 x 40 wide angle binoculars was able to obtain two brief but good views from as close as 3-8 feet, and concurs in the identification of an adult White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). Our shared observation time had lasted no longer than 30 seconds when the vireo, together with the chickadees, moved off toward the dense growth. Efforts to relocate it over the next hour were unsuccessful.

About a week later, the site was visited by Robert Kirker and William Lee, who also obtained satisfactory views of a White-eyed Vireo near the shoreline of the tiny pond. At the time of their observation it was accompanied by a second bird that remained mostly hidden from view behind trees, but based upon quick glimpses of coloration and behavior, Lee felt that it might have been the same species (pers. comm.). This represents a first record for Hamilton County and a second for the Adirondack Park; Carleton earlier reported a White-eyed Vireo at Elizabethtown, Essex Co., 2-11 October 1976 (*Kingbird*, 27: 28). Square 5679 where the vireo was seen is assigned to Atlas Region 8 (Hudson-Mohawk) for administrative purposes.

John M. C. Peterson, Discovery Farm, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

A **Melanistic Downy Woodpecker**. A dark-appearing Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) came to my suet feeder in early March 1983. At first it was difficult to observe as the other Downies would drive it away almost as soon as it would come in to feed. Gradually the normal Downies became more tolerant. Meanwhile the dark individual was likely to feed at odd times, such as at dusk or during a rain or snowstorm when the other half dozen Downies were absent.



Melanistic Downy Woodpecker at Trumansburg, NY
Louise B. Proskine *May 1983*

Upon close observation, this darker bird was seen to have the usual white patterns of a normal Downy, except that the white was replaced by varying degrees of gray in the wing pattern and on the neck, with medium gray on the back and charcoal on much of the breast and side of the head. The dark whiskers seem very prominent. The head always appeared to me to be flatter than the other Downies but that may be an illusion due to the lack of contrasting black and white stripes on the head of the normal bird. The bird behaved like the other Downies except for its wariness of them. It had no red on the back of the head, nor did it appear with a mate. I have heard no call or drumming.

As of 17 May, this bird still appears at my feeder every two or three days. As it has become better tolerated by the other birds, it has been possible to get some pictures. The bird would appear to be a melanistic Downy Woodpecker.

The bird was also observed by Marie King of Ellis Hollow Creek Road, Ithaca, NY on 18 March.

Louise B. Proskine, Tompkins County, Trumansburg, New York.

MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs held its 35th annual meeting at Riverhead, Long Island on 1-3 October 1982. The Council of Delegates met at 2:00 p.m. 1 October. A quorum was declared when 21 clubs answered the roll call.

The membership report for 1982 was distributed. Myrna Hemmerick reported 686 members for 1982 and 36 clubs paid. Robert Arbib volunteered to contact other large state clubs to solicit their membership. Delhi and Goudy Bird Clubs were dropped from membership. Saw Mill River Audubon Society was welcomed as a rejoining club.

Where To Find Birds in New York State is selling well according to Robert Arbib of the Publications Committee. It has received a good review in *Birding* and delegates were urged to include the Baedecker information in their local publication.

Manny Levine stated that *The Kingbird* has good material for articles, but could use more. Connie Wilkins does a good job with the circulation. Dick Sloss called for a vote of thanks for Manny Levine and John Farrand for their excellent work. Connie Wilkins presented the circulation report and it was discussed and filed.

Steve Dempsey submitted the report of the Pelagic Trip Committee, stating there would not be a chartered boat trip next year because it is now difficult to get a full complement to cover costs of a chartered boat.

The Waterfowl Census resulted in 173,301 birds counted in 1982, 1.4% over 1981, according to Walt Sabin. The dates for the 1983 census will be January 15-23, with the target day of 16 January.

Robert Miller from the DEC reported on the Eckert bill which provides a means for the taxpayer to contribute to the conservation fund with donations of five, ten, or even one dollar amounts to be included on the new state income tax forms. It is planned that the money be used for "non-traditional" species and habitat. With the loss of federal funding, it is necessary for the continued existence of the endangered species program. The major thrusts will be habitat protection, identifying toxins in fish and wildlife, and law enforcement in N.Y. City where there is little law enforcement for the extensive trade in exotic, protected species. Public education with bus posters, public service announcements, and radio ads, will be a major effort this year to help people understand where conservations fund money is useful. Robert Arbib, as a member of the resolutions committee, is to prepare a resolution on the Eckert bill guidelines.

Editorial help with *The New York State Birders* would be greatly appreciated according to Max Wheat, the editor.

John Forness presented the treasurer's report. Expenses for the year included 5 *Kingbird* issues. Steve Dempsey and Dick Sloss filed the auditors' report which found no material discrepancies in the treasurer's report. Both were circulated and approved.

Max Wheat distributed an article pointing out the possibility that the Bottle bill, signed by the Governor on 1 July, may be the target of repeal efforts when the new legislature convenes in January. After some discussion, it was decided that the federation should continue to support the bill for aesthetic and financial reasons as it relates to bird habitat. Martin Borko proposed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the Federation of NYSBC fully supports the Bottle bill that will go into effect on 1 July 1983. We are firmly opposed to any postponement or repeal." This was approved.

The report of the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) was submitted by Robert Long. He also reported that Charles Smith has resigned as secretary of NYSARC, to be replaced by John Confer.

Atlas coverage for the third year increased greatly according to Gordon Meade, Atlas Chairman, with 240 species now confirmed including Blue Grosbeak on Staten Island and Boat-tailed Grackle in Queens Co. Computer range maps, as compiled by DEC workers, were praised along with the efforts of Janet Carroll, Robert Miller and Eugene McCaffery and the regional co-ordinators.

Financing the first year came from the Hawk Fund, transferred with permission to the Atlas Fund. The DEC has contributed, at a minimum \$15,000 yearly and probably more. Karen Alben-Confer designed the Atlas logo free of charge. A financial report was distributed and discussed. Proposals for the support of the Atlas project were submitted to seven power and light companies in New York. These resulted in contributions of \$1,000 from Long Island Gas and Light, and \$500 each from Consolidated Edison and Rochester Gas and Electric. Still needed are large corporation contributions. Blockbusters are needed for remote difficult areas. These are needed to supplement the 1,000 workers already involved.

The nominated slate, as presented by Mary Ann Sunderlin, was unanimously elected: President, Morgan Jones; Vice President, Charles Smith; Recording Secretary, Harriet Marsi; Corresponding Secretary, Constance Wilkins; Treasurer, John Forness.

Morgan Jones gave the annual report.

Old business included approving a resolution to support the "Coalition of Hither Woods" in their efforts to acquire and preserve Hither Woods. M. Jones was directed to send greetings from the Federation to an early president of the Federation and author of *Birds of the Niagara Frontier*, Harold Mitchell, on his 91st birthday.

New business included an announcement by Bernice Hilfiker that \$2,000 has been received for the Walter Benning Scholarship Fund. She distributed folders about the fund.

Future locations for the annual meetings were announced. Probable 1983 location will be Albany, with Cayuga Bird Club in Ithaca in 1984; North Country Bird Club in Watertown in 1985; and Fredonia volunteering for the annual meeting after that.

A resolution was presented to thank Moriches Bay Audubon Society for hosting the 35th annual meeting.

Elected committees were as follows: Nominating Committee: Martin Borko, Alice Jones and Mary Ann Sunderlin; and Auditing Committee: Richard Sloss and Steve Dempsey.

The meeting then was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne F. Clarridge

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

As is true for many migration seasons, the highlights of the Spring of '83 are intimately tied to the season's weather patterns. In contrast to many other years, this season the weather and general flavor of the highlights were much the same all across the state. The mild winter continued well into March, leading many to the belief of an early spring; then the other shoe dropped as the official arrival of the spring season was accompanied by plummeting temperatures, and the first of the multitude of storms which were to dominate the remainder of the season. April was generally cold and wet with Regions 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10 reporting the wettest or second wettest Aprils on record; an incredible 14.01" of rain falling in Region 10, to add to the 10.54" in March. Snowfall in April, particularly in the period around 18-20 April, made that month the snowiest for the "winter" in some regions, and in Region 4 brought Binghamton the Golden Snowball Award as snowiest city in the state. May continued the cold, wet pattern with late frosts reported in several regions and tornadoes tossed in for good measure in Regions 1 and 4. The overall patterns were such that many regions noted precipitation on at least one day of nearly every weekend in the season beginning with the vernal equinox, putting a damper on birding activity.

General migration patterns were really very much what one would predict from a reading of the weather data. Waterfowl, which had begun moving in February, moved in and often through quickly, with the balmy weather of early March. The storms of the vernal equinox approached from the south and brought a number of birds on record early dates, especially in Region 10. The cold and wet (or snow) of late March and most of April slowed migration to a trickle with only a few surprising early arrivals. Intervals of good weather during this period swept in bursts of migrants with record counts being noted in several cases. The dramatic snowfall of 18-20 April seemed to have little effect other than to drive large numbers of birds to road edges or feeders. Region 5 reports a roadside census run by Dorothy Crumb on 20 April, with numbers recorded similar to a count she ran under similar conditions in 1976. While birders may have been dampened by all the rainfall on most weekends, the pattern was perfect for "fallouts" and the experiences of several regions are well summarized by Paul DeBenedictis: "The generally rotten weather produced one of the finest spring passerine migrations in years, with many record highs being set." Century Runs or Big Days on the weekends

of 14-15 May and 21-22 May recorded good numbers of species and individuals. Perhaps surprising for a migration which often seemed so slow was Region 5's note of few stragglers after 31 May. Stopping to think about it, I would echo that for Region 2; how about elsewhere? Maybe we'll see in the summer reports.

Typically it is difficult to extract trends from migrations, but the crazy weather of this spring has made the situation even more impossible. So let us just scan the checklist several times, extracting interesting observations. First, a look at families whose passage is watched annually. Loons and grebes, particularly Horned Grebes, were scarce. On Lake Ontario, a good bit of this impression may be again due to near shore disturbance by the hordes of sport fishermen as noted in Region 5. Except for Great Blue and Green-backed Herons, the picture for the other widespread heron breeders looks dim, most being poorly reported. As noted earlier, waterfowl appeared early and passed through rapidly with peak counts; where reported, generally low, especially in Regions 1 and 5. Exceptions were very high counts for Canada Goose over most of upstate and a fantastic 30,000 Snow Geese in Montezuma NWR on 18 April. Region 3's report again contains a table listing peak migration counts at Montezuma which may be compared with similar tables for past springs. The hawk migration is well summarized by tables for Braddock Bay in Region 2 and Derby Hill in Region 5, with additional good numbers on specific dates from a watch at Pinehurst in Region 1. Record high totals for the season were set at both major hawk watches, with several highs for individual species both for the season and for peak dates. As an example, the 1,166 American Kestrels that passed Braddock Bay on 14 April eclipsed all previous yearly totals for the species there. All raptor species appear to be doing at least marginally better, with Osprey noted in all ten regions and flagged as doing particularly well, with only Red-shouldered Hawk and Peregrine Falcon lagging and Golden Eagle apparently slipping. Shorebird reports were generally unspectacular, a case of too much water in their typical habitat in several regions. All expected spring species plus a few surprises were recorded, but numbers were generally low. A notable exception was the unusual variety and very large numbers for some species reported from Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 due to a complete drawdown of that pool. The data typically gathered following such drawdowns at appropriate times should make us aware of the numbers and variety of shorebirds which are passing undetected in "normal" times. Gull and tern reports were very low, with the exception of the reports of Four Brothers Islands census in Region 7. The few rarer species were

not unexpected. Most of the tern species warrant more careful monitoring. The caterpillar invasions seem to have eased a bit this season, and with their decrease cuckoos were flagged as low in virtually all regions. Owls typically receive inadequate attention, thus you should find interesting the report in Region 5 of an owl banding project with 33 Northern Saw-whet and 5 Long-eared banded and a Boreal Owl heard calling during one session. Both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will have been flagged as very low in nearly all regions noting them. The passerine migration proceeded in spurts, with the overall impression ranging from "average" to "the finest—in years" to just plain "confused, confusing, and somewhat erratic." You will find varying reports for swallows across regions, with the exception that Purple Martin was generally noted as low. Wrens as a group appear to bear watching; many regions report one or more wren species of concern and all wren species are red-flagged in at least one region. Most thrush comments were positive, even for Eastern Bluebird, for which 56 young had already been banded on just one trail in Region 9. Warblers and vireos provided exciting birding in several regions, with many regional and state high counts recorded, particularly in Regions 2, 5 and 10. A concerted banding effort is summarized in the introduction to Region 5's report, along with some sighting totals for nearby observers on the same days. It seems that too few observers really bother to make detailed counts or that such data too often fails to reach the regional reports. Among the warbler reports, note in Region 9 that the Blue-winged/Golden-winged ratio has reached three or four to one where only a few years ago it would have registered the inverse. Sparrow reports were quite variable and represented little change from the reports of the past several years, with the possible exception of Vesper being recorded in a bit higher numbers. The numbers of all winter finches were very low across the state, as expected from last fall's and winter's low counts. Yet nearly all species were recorded with only White-winged Crossbill and Hoary Redpoll being missed.

Next, let us examine the status of some of the species particularly under observation over the past several years, but not covered above. Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase, with the largest gains apparently at the east end of Lake Ontario, but with breeding imminent in both Regions 3 and 7. Cattle Egret numbers remain disappointingly low with the exception of Regions 9 and 10. In Region 2, where they have bred, none were reported until a single appeared after season's end. Bald Eagles were reported in nine regions, underscoring the success of the hacking program which will see another 22

released in the Adirondacks this summer. Of course, one of the premiere stories of the season is the two pairs of Peregrine Falcons nesting on bridges in the New York City area, with at least three of the four birds known to be releases from the Cornell Peregrine program. Ring-necked Pheasant was generally reported up a bit, but still very low. Wild Turkeys were reported in eight regions with the population expanding both naturally and through further releases. Belted Kingfisher demonstrated both the concentrating effects of the season's weather patterns and the potential for significant contributions by interested observers in a count of 280 that passed Braddock Bay in Region 2 on 14 April, a day of warm south winds after six days of unfavorable breezes. This count contrasts sharply with the previous maxima of nine in the spring and ten for the fall in John Bull's *Birds of New York State*. Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Tufted Titmouse all appear to be slowly continuing their range expansions to the north. Common Raven was reported in eight regions, with six of these recording multiple sightings. Both kinglet populations were reported in good shape and increasing. Loggerhead Shrike remains critically low with only Region 5 reporting increased numbers of reports. Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers all were reported in better than usual numbers, possibly as a result of overshoot conditions occurring with just the right timing relative to the peak of their movements. Yellow-breasted Chat was reported in eight regions, but in low numbers. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows both bear continued careful monitoring. Purple Finch numbers were good after several seasons of worried comments. House Finch continues to expand both in towns and out into the countryside. Finally, American Goldfinch appeared in large enough numbers for special comment in most up-state regions.

As usual, in addition to the numerical data, there are many simply interesting comments; a few here may pique your interest in searching out others. There are several reports of color variants, with albino American Robins in Regions 1, 3, and 8, American Crow in Region 3, and Brown-headed Cowbird in Region 2; a melanistic Downy Woodpecker in Region 3; and, most interesting, a xanthochroid Evening Grosbeak in Region 8. Region 1 notes a discussion of the potential logging of parts of Allegany State Park and a temporary closure of Tiff Farm due to illegal dumping; large, remote conservation problems can suddenly touch home. A Japanese race of the Cedar Waxwing (orange tail tips) was again recorded, this time in Region 1. Banding reports were less detailed than for many springs past, but

data does appear in the reports for Regions 1, 5, 7, and 8.

As usual, the rarities are saved until last. Once again, there are many exciting finds in nearly every region but, on close inspection, almost none are really unusual on a statewide scale. Virtually all rarities recorded this season are birds whose numbers of sightings have been increasing, birds which are short-range vagrants from established populations, or birds really long expected and awaited. As examples we have: Northern Gannet in Regions 1 and 5, American White Pelican in 1 and 10, Greater White-fronted Goose in 1, 5 and 9; Sandhill Crane in 4, 5 and 9; Stilt Sandpiper in 2, 5 and 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in 1 and 9; Laughing Gull in 5 and 9; Western Meadowlark in 2, 5 and 9; Yellow-headed Blackbird in 1 and 4; Dickcissel in 2, 3, 8 and 10; Painted Bunting in 3 and 10; and Summer Tanager in 2, 9 and 10, with an incredible 30+ sightings in Region 10, by far the most ever in the state for a given season or even year. You will find many other rarities recorded in single regions and generally listed near the beginning of each regional report. Three more of special note are the returning Brewer's Blackbirds in Region 2 (3rd year); two Mississippi Kites in Region 10, and the first report of Prothonotary Warbler northward into the heart of Region 7.

This season the B.O.T.S. Award, both a first and a second place, falls to Region 9. In second place is their Ross' Goose, more or less awaited after appearances in two consecutive fall seasons in neighboring New Jersey. (Start scanning those 30,000 Snow Geese, Region 3.) First place by a landslide goes to their Black-shouldered Kite on 26-27 April. Both of these species are *first* state records.

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REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

VIVIAN MILLS PITZRICK

This was a spring almost as mixed up as the new AOU Check-list of North American Birds. The unusually mild weather of the winter continued, bringing Silver Maples into bloom along the Allegheny River 7 March, the earliest in thirty-four years, and freeing most lakes and ponds of ice by the next day, nearly a month early and the earliest on record for the last thirty years in Cattaraugus County (Eaton). Taking advantage of the southerly winds and good weather, swans and geese were slightly early too, flooding through on 4 to 6 March, with 1,000 of the latter a common daily estimate. There was no mistaking these Canada Geese for other than true migrants, rather than some of the increasing numbers staying north all winter encouraged by rich gleanings of corn fields.

Although March temperatures, aided by the balmy beginning, averaged 3° F above normal, on the 21st they became more seasonal, plummeting to mantle some waterways with skim ice. Even part of Chautauqua Lake froze over! A storm at this time brought down a host of waterfowl, making the following weekend a bonanza for birders. However, since precipitation was about an inch below normal, there was little of the usual flooding of fields to encourage shore-bird fallout (Sundell).

The cool trend continued into April. Coltsfoot, Alder and Trembling Aspen were in bloom 1 April, and birds arrived about on time but in smaller numbers than usual. Although precipitation was near normal, temperatures averaged 2° F below normal. Between the 16th and 21st, a snowstorm grounded flickers, robins, juncos and Song Sparrows, sent Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows and Evening Grosbeaks to feeders, and even brought in crossbills. At least one Killdeer and one Eastern Bluebird nest were lost to the snow and cold.

On 2 May devastating tornados hit Chautauqua County and a twister felled some trees in Allegany County. The first week of May was great for migrants, but cool weather with few southerly winds the rest of the month discouraged them. In spite of rain or snow every weekend of the period, birders came up with a fine assortment of species, including shorebirds and warblers. However, at Farmersville Station where finches abounded, it was a poor migration of warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and kinglets (D. Clark). Since May temperatures averaged 4.4° F below normal with rainfall near normal, foliage developed slowly, making it easier to spot birds and nests.

Discussion still continues regarding the proposed plan to permit commercial logging in Allegany State Park and the effects such operations would have, not only on birds, but also on other wildlife and plants. In mid-April another birding hot spot of the Region was focus of concern when Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve was closed to the public until the contents of some drums discovered there could be analyzed. Fortunately the problem seems less serious than first feared and the Preserve should soon open again. However, for this to happen during spring migration was a low blow.

Spring positives include: 1) the Great Blue Heron doing O.K.; 2) a splendid swan and goose flight and several areas now reporting nesting Canadas; 3) a conscientious hawk watch; encouraging results from the Bald Eagle hacking program; and both Sharpies and Cooper's Hawks holding their own; 4) excellent numbers of Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys; 5) shorebirds well represented but slow in arriving; and more Black Terns; 6) good Black-billed Cuckoo numbers; several Short-eared Owls; many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; and Hairy Woodpecker numbers almost up to normal; 7) swallows apparently doing well, particularly the Cliff Swallow; 8) many Tufted Titmice, some lingering late; and a fair sprinkling of Red-breasted Nuthatches; 9) a few more Winter Wrens; kinglet numbers nearly back to normal, but Ruby-crowned arriving late; 10) Eastern Bluebirds holding steady tho' scarce in March; and more than usual Hermit Thrushes; one to seven per day; 11) an alert Cedar Waxwing bander; 12) good numbers of Yellow Warblers; one to 17 per day; and usual numbers of Northern but many Louisiana Waterthrushes; 13) another great Fox Sparrow flight with 19 birds, total, from 14 reports; and a fine junco flight: 229 banded at Farmersville Station in April (D. Clark); 14) a superb Rusty Blackbird showing; 15) an abundance of Purple Finches with 240 banded at Farmersville Station, mostly

in May (D. Clark), House Finches, and American Goldfinches with 213 banded at Farmersville Station in May (D. Clark).

Spring negatives are: 1) only fair numbers of grebes and no Red-necked; few reports of most long-legged waders and American Kestrels; 2) almost no Ring-necked Pheasants; and American Woodcock more scarce than common: only one to five per day; 3) very few Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Screech-Owls, and Common Nighthawks; and Red-headed Woodpeckers poorly reported; 4) fewer Least Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebe; Horned Larks still ailing with only one to three per day; Carolina Wren nearly absent; most thrushes down in number; and continued difficulty for shrikes; 5) low numbers of towhees locally; and continued concern for Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows; 6) a poor White-crowned Sparrow flight, with max eight; Eastern Meadowlarks at the steady low of one to seven per day; and few Evening Grosbeaks at feeders where hundreds flocked in previous years.

Rarities: Northern Gannet, American White Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Black Vulture, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Hudsonian Godwit, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, "Brewster's" Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Orchard Oriole. Some worth special mention are in bold type below.

Abbreviations: AAC-10 April Bird Census or AMC-15 May Bird Census, for Allegany Co. Bird Club; BC-Bird Club; BH-Buffalo Harbor; BM-Beaver Meadow Audubon Center; CAC-10 April Bird Census or CMC-15 May Bird Census, for Cattaraugus Co. BC; Cem-Cemetery; DH-Dunkirk Harbor; GMA or WMA-Game or Wildlife Management Area; LEAC-10 April Bird Census or LEMC-15 May Bird Census, for Lake Erie BC; NC, NP or NS-Nature Center, Preserve or Sanctuary; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; Res-Reservoir; Sanct-Sanctuary; SF or SP-State Forest or Park.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Six Com. Loons were seen in migration over Pinehurst on both 13 and 30 Apr, while max of grounded birds was four at Lipperts Gravel Pit pond near Allegany 21 Apr. It was an unimpressive grebe flight with Pied-billed scarce, Horned Grebe max 25 at Cuba L. 26 Mar. and the Red-necked missing. Very exciting for the season was the **NORTHERN GANNET** discovered in the Town of Hamburg 16 Apr (RA), extremely rare here, as well as two **AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS** at Point Gratiot, Chautauqua Co., 22

May (AS, Clarks). Again Double-crested Cormorants were well reported with max eight at DH 4 May; and one at Amity L., Allegany Co., 4 Apr, unusual away from the Great Lakes. Three Am. Bitterns were found for AMC with other reports: singles at Iroquois NWR 27 and 30 Apr; and at Alma Pond, Allegany Co., 1 May, better than none. A Least Bittern, unfortunately dead, was discovered beside a pond at the Pinehurst Golf Course, Westfield, 23 Apr (AW, TW); identification was confirmed by MVJ who will save it for the collection at the State University of NY at Fredonia; another was seen at Tonawanda WMA 21 and 30 May (AM, WM, AS). Other notable long-legged waders include: Great Egret: at least three at the Iroquois-Tonawanda wildlife areas 16 Apr to 30 May; Cattle Egret: one at Tonawanda WMA 23 May (AS, Clarks); and Black-crowned Night Heron: max three at the Tonawanda WMA 21 May. A GLOSSY IBIS was studied at Iroquois NWR 1 and 26 May (Seekins, JM, OO). A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) came down at Tonawanda WMA 13 Mar (RA+) and possibly the same bird appeared at Iroquois NWR 24 Mar (JM, Chilton). The Snow Goose reports were: of white morph: one early at Tonawanda WMA 6 Mar (MVJ) plus three others at Iroquois NWR 8-30 Mar; and of blue morph: eight early at Iroquois NWR 6 Mar and one also early at Tonawanda WMA the same day (MVJ) with one to two more at the former location 13-30 Mar. A BARNACLE GOOSE (escape?) appeared at Iroquois NWR 13 Mar (RA+), where the max of the spring flight of 77,400 Canada Geese was tallied 1-24 Mar (OO+). Highest of the spring duck migration, with a few other notes of interest include: Wood Duck: 20 at Farmersville Sta. 28 Mar; Green-winged Teal: eight at both Dunkirk 5 Mar and at Cuba L. 27 Mar and 15 Apr; Am. Black Duck: one at LEAC, six on AAC and one on LEMC; three at Canaseraga 4 Mar; six near Salamanca 23 Mar; and two at Cuba L. 30 Mar—only reports; Mallard: 142 at Cuba L. 26 Mar; N. Pintail: 11 at Farmersville Sta. 23 Mar; Blue-winged Teal: 20 at Farmersville Sta. 28 Mar; N. Shoveler: four at Tonawanda WMA 30 Mar; Gadwall: 13 at Dunkirk 2 Mar; EURASIAN WIGEON: one at Tift Farm NP 17 Apr (RA, RB), a lucky find. Am. Wigeon: 29 near Mayville 5 Apr; Canvasback: 27 at Cuba L. 23 Mar; Ring-necked Duck: 107 at Cuba L. 5 Apr, and one lingering late at Times Beach, Buffalo, 28 May (RA, RBr); Lesser Scaup: 52 at Cuba L. 25 Mar; Oldsquaw: 19 at Cuba L. 5 Apr; White-winged Scoter: two at DH 26 Apr; Com. Goldeneye: 21 at Cuba L. 26 Mar; Bufflehead: 31 Cassadaga L. 28 Apr, and single late females at Amity L. 1-11 May and near Red House, Cattaraugus Co., 22 May, the last one apparently injured; Hooded Merganser: 37 at Cuba L. 23 Mar, and a pair nesting in a Wood Duck box near Belmont in May; Com. Merganser: 27 at Red House L. 21 Mar; the pair nesting in Wellsville last year lost their site when the chimney was toppled during a wind storm this spring (EL); Red-breasted Merganser: 200± at Cuba L. 26 Mar; and Ruddy Duck: 10 at Cuba L. 26 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: For the raptors there follows first, news of the migration and then, special notes on various species. Max of the hawk migration, all over Pinehurst unless noted otherwise, were all better than a year ago: Turkey Vulture: 200 over Silver Creek 7 Apr; Osprey: ten over Buffalo 28 Apr; Bald Eagle: three imm over Hamburg 28 Apr (McNeil); N. Harrier: seven on 16 Apr; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 207 on 7 May; Cooper's Hawk: eight on 13 Apr; N. Goshawk: one on 2 Apr (RA+); Red-shouldered Hawk: 16 over Hamburg on 27 Apr; Broad-winged Hawk: 4,112 over Hamburg on 28 Apr; Red-tailed Hawk: 177 on 13 Apr; Rough-legged Hawk: four on 13 Apr; GOLDEN EAGLE: one over Orchard Park 17 Apr (AM, WM); and Am. Kestrel: 27 over Hamburg on 27 Apr. Further raptor news includes: Turkey Vulture: only 23 counted from 11 reports; Osprey: a total of 26 from 17 areas; Bald Eagle, doing well: one in the Town of Ripley 3 Mar (D. Taylor *vide* TMah); max at Iroquois NWR five imm and two adults on 13 to 27 Mar (TH) plus another imm with yellow marker 7 Mar (OO), as well as one imm at the Allegheny Res. on 18 Apr (SE); N. Harrier: four on LEAC, two on AAC, two on LEMC and six on AMC; and 14 totaled from 13 other reports; Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 on LEAC, two on AAC, three on AMC and singles from 11 areas; Cooper's Hawk: six on LEAC, four on AAC, and nine on AMC and 18, total, from 15 locations, with at least two pairs nesting in Allegany Co.; N. Goshawk: one in the Town of Hamburg 12 May (PH); Red-shouldered Hawk: eight on LEAC, nine on AAC, 15 on AMC, and six birds in addition to at least seven pairs nesting regionwide; Rough-legged Hawk: four on LEAC and eight totaled from six areas; Am. Kestrel: one to four per day, but few reports; MERLIN: One, well-described, on Perkins Rd., Andover Twp., Allegany Co. on AMC (H. R.

Ward); and PEREGRINE FALCON: one at Point Gratiot on 11 May (TM, AS). Rails discovered were: Virginia Rail, six at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr (Keller); and one at East Aurora 22 Apr (MZ); and Sora: one on AMC, two at Iroquois NWR 16 Apr (Keller); one at East Aurora 22 Apr (MZ); one in the Town of Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., 21 May (AB, TM+); and two at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp). Three Com. Moorhens at Iroquois NWR 27 Apr and five at Oak Orchard 28 May were the only reports; and max for Am. Coot was four at Cuba L. 23 Mar. An interesting shorebird season included: Black-bellied Plover: one in Hume Twp., Allegany Co., 10 May (KP), an unusual area; Semipalmated Plover: max 300 at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); a high Regional count; AMERICAN AVOCET: one at Iroquois NWR 27 May (PH+); Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 at Cuba L. 25 Apr, hardly an outstanding spring number; Lesser Yellowlegs: max 19 near Fredonia 30 Apr (TM), high for the season; Upland Sandpiper, numbers still low: two on LEMC; two in the Town of Pomfret 30 Apr; up to three in the Town of Wheatfield 1 and 2 May; one in the Town of Amity, Allegany Co. 4 May; and two at Oak Orchard 28 May; Whimbrel: six at Iroquois NWR 20 May and two on the 26th (JM); HUDSONIAN GODWIT: one at Iroquois NWR 11 May (JM, WD); Ruddy Turnstone: one in the Town of Amherst 26 May (AM, WM); Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2,500+ at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); White-rumped Sandpiper: one at Oak Orchard 22 and 28 May (RSp); Pectoral Sandpiper: max three at Dunkirk 30 Apr; Least Sandpiper: max 150 at Iroquois NWR 19 May (AS); Dunlin: max 800± at Oak Orchard 26 May (Dobson, Clarridge *vide* RSp); Short-billed Dowitcher: one at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp); and WILSON'S PHALAROPE: very early: one at Iroquois NWR 11 May (JM, WD+); and four at Oak Orchard 25 May (RSp+). Noteworthy larids include: Iceland Gull: one at LaSalle Park, Buffalo, 11 Apr (PH), unusual but watched for; Bonaparte's Gull: max 50 at Cuba L. on 15 Apr, a good number away from the Great Lakes; Ring-billed Gull, max grounded in storms; 340+ along the Allegheny R. 21 Mar; LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: one identified at Iroquois NWR 3 Mar (PH); Glaucous Gull: one at Iroquois NWR on 1 Mar; Caspian Tern: two at Times Beach, Buffalo, 28 Apr, one at Iroquois NWR 29 Apr and 21 May, *nine* at DH 30 Apr (TM), an excellent number, and five in the Town of Hamburg 30 Apr; and Black Tern, better numbers: max 10 at Iroquois NWR 11 and 28 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Although the Black-billed Cuckoo is doing well, the only Yellow-billed were singles in three areas. As usual, E. Screech Owls were poorly reported: one on LEAC, two on LEMC, and one near Silver Creek in Apr and May. As exciting now as they were last season are several Short-eared Owls: five in the Town of Java 1-31 Mar (DJ), up to five in the Town of Sheldon irregularly 30 Mar to 16 Apr (Rosches. TH), and one at Oak Orchard 22 May (Griffith *vide* RSp). A N. Saw-whet Owl was found car-killed on Rt. 17 at 10-Mile Rd. near Allegany 30 Mar (SE). The only reported Com. Nighthawks were one in Amity Twp, Allegany Co., 10 May, and two at Point Gratiot 22 May. A Whip-poor-will was found in the Town of Wheatfield 1 May (WD, BP), not often noted anymore. The Red-headed Woodpecker is doing better than last spring: one on LEAC, two on AAC, 11 on LEMC, three on AMC plus 10 birds counted from nine areas.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Outstanding from flycatcher reports were: Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles w. of Salamanca 17 May and in the Town of Cold Spring 30 May; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one in Amity Twp. 17 May, seldom noted; ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: one s. of Fredonia 21 May (TM, AB, JG+); and three in the Town of Pomfret 31 May (FR); Willow Flycatcher: two on LEMC, plus only 11 other birds; and E. Kingbird: max of migration: 96 over Pinehurst 22 May. The max flight of Blue Jays was tallied at 3,616 also over Pinehurst 25 May. Max three Com. Ravens were seen over 10-Mile Rd., six miles w. of Allegany, irregularly from 2 to 13 Apr (R. Werlein *vide* SE), and two appeared near Alfred 29 May with one there the next day (EB). A Carolina Wren was found at Belmont 1 to 18 Apr (BS), the only report; and Winter Wrens, usually singles, appeared in seven areas; and two Marsh Wrens showed up at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp). Kinglet numbers are nearly back to normal: Golden-crowned: max 20 at Point Gratiot 16 Apr; and three, late, on old breeding grounds near Alfred 29 May (EB); and Ruby-crowned, max of many reports; *nine* in Amity Twp. 28 Apr. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher provided some interesting birding for six areas with a total seven birds. Although too few send in records on E. Bluebirds, the species

seems to be doing well with 36 birds totaled from 15 sites in addition to 31 nesting pairs from 10 areas. A beautiful albinistic Am. Robin fed on lawns with "normal" robins at Fairview Ave., Wellsville, Allegany Co., 16 and 17 Apr (VP, Stoll, Gridley). N. Mockingbirds were seen in six locations during Apr and May, and the Brown Thrasher wintering at Belmont stayed on thru May. An alert bander discovered a Cedar Waxwing of the Japanese race with bright orange tail tips in her net near Alfred Sta. 8 Apr (EB). (See *Kingbird* vol. 33, no. 1, pp. 44 and 70). Single N. Shrikes were found at Iroquois NWR 13 Mar and near Alfred 7 Apr, while a Loggerhead was seen on AAC, and singles were in the Town of Hamburg 26 Apr, and at Oak Orchard 28 May (RSp).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A **WHITE-EYED VIREO** appeared in Williamsville 7 May (Yoerg). Five areas reported a total eight Yellow-throated Vireos in May, and single Philadelphia Vireos appeared at four sites. Noteworthy warblers included: Golden-winged Warbler: one on LEMC, three on AMC, and five tallied from four locations; "**BREWSTER'S**" **WARBLER:** one on LEMC, one at Youngstown 13 May (WD, BP), one banded at Farmersville Sta. 16 May (DC), one in Amity Twp. 17 May (VP), and one, paired with a Blue-wing, in the Town of Pomfret 17 May (TM); Orange-crowned Warbler: one at Point Gratiot 30 Apr, and one at Canadaway Creek NS 11 May; N. Parula: one at Forest Lawn Cem, Buffalo, 20 May, and one s. of Fredonia 21 May; Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 counted from six locations besides a pair nest-building at Salamanca 25 May (TB); Yellow-rumped Warbler: max of flight: 54 in Amity Twp. 5 May, and several pairs nesting near Alfred and in Amity Twp. again (EB, VP); Pine Warbler: one at AMC, and singles in Allegany SP 16 Apr, and in the Town of Hamburg 27 Apr; Prairie Warbler: continuing to expand territories in Allegany Co. near Alfred, as well as in Amity and Ward Twps. (EB, VP), the last a new location; Black-poll Warbler, singles at Silver Creek 19 May, near Fredonia 21 May, and at Salamanca 30 May; Cerulean Warbler: one at Iroquois NWR 12 May, one at Salamanca 17 to 26 May, one in the Town of Newstead 20 May, and two at Oak Orchard 28 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one at Canadaway Creek NS 7 May (FR), a precious find; N. Waterthrush: many reports including a nest with five eggs near Salamanca 17 May (TB); Louisiana Waterthrush: eight birds counted from six sites; Hooded Warbler: one in Amity Twp. 12 and 24 May, one at Salamanca 17 to 26 May; and one banded near Alfred 20 May (EB); and Yellow-breasted Chat: three e. of Forestville 15 and 21 May; and one on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation 20 May (WM, AM).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: A Rose-breasted Grosbeak arrived early at an Amity L. feeder. Allegany Co., 29 Apr (VP). Hurray! The **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** returned to the Town of Pomfret 29 May (FR, AS, MVJ), the third record for Chautauqua Co.; there last summer, perhaps this year he will attract a female. Other noteworthy sparrows include: Grasshopper Sparrow: two on LEMC, two on AMC; plus three reports of single birds; Henslow's Sparrow: four on LEMC, one on AMC; and one to two from three locations, the only reports; Lincoln's Sparrow: max six at Youngstown 13 May plus singles on LEMC and from four others reports; White-throated Sparrow: max of flight, 200 Times Beach, Buffalo, 2 May (PH); and White-crowned Sparrow: one at Burton's feeder, Belmont, all winter staying on thru 28 May. A **HARRIS' SPARROW**, probably the same bird as seen during the winter, appeared at J. Goetz' feeder in Fredonia 5 Mar as well as 5 and 23 Apr. A **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was identified at Tonawanda WMA 15 Mar (JM), and another was studied at a Fillmore feeder, Allegany Co., 1 May (JP, JE, Yoerg), very rare here. Two **ORCHARD ORIOLES** were at Silver Creek 12 May (LN). Max House Finch report was 50 in Fredonia 1-31 Mar (JF). Notable as only reports were: Red Crossbill: two at Ashford Hollow 17 Apr (AM, WM); and seven in Salamanca 24 Apr and 1 May (TB); and Pine Siskin: one lone bird at Little Genesee, Allegany Co., 2 May (FD); and another in the Town of Wales 5 May (Rosche). Highest feeder count for spring of the Evening Grosbeak was 50 in the Town of Wales thru 16 May. The House Sparrow is still far from being ousted by anything here: 98 on LEAC, 581 on AAC, 86 on LEMC, 63 on CAC, and 738 on AMC. Thus endeth the reading of the new AOU order. —Not so impossible, was it?

Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Apparently the mild winter was so popular that it decided to hang on through the spring season. Seriously though, I would more accurately compare it to a roller coaster ride. March was up and down with a high of 65° F on the seventh and a low of 9° F on the 25th. Precipitation was just slightly below normal at 2.45 inches and there was 9.3 inches of measurable snowfall. Those figures indicate an above normal early March but a colder than normal second half. April traditionally tends to be a month of fluctuations in terms of weather patterns, but this April was extremely unpredictable. Disorientation may have been a key word for birders, for April exhibited blustery, winter weather patterns alternating with breezy, spring patterns. One did not know how to prepare one's apparel for the day's outing. You could easily switch from winter underwear to a short-sleeved shirt in a short span of days. The low temperature for April was 22° F on the first while reaching a high of 72° F on the 27th. One of the most notable features of the month was the 12.2 inches of snowfall which was considerably higher than the normal four to five inches. Measurable precipitation was three and one-half inches—about an inch above normal. May exhibited more of the same. The low of 30° F was attained on the 17th and the high peaked at 84° F on the 7th. Precipitation was again above the norm with 3.44 inches as compared to the normal of just under three inches.

No one could really complain about this season's migration. Loons were present throughout the period while lingering on through May. Diving ducks showed good numbers and the weather patterns kept them around to the end of the season. Favorable winds brought a record hawk count to the Hawk Lookout at Braddock Bay, aptly manned by Laura and Neil Moon and a host of other volunteers. Wild Turkeys continued to be reported regularly. The wet conditions produced some good shorebird habitat; species totals were generally quite good. Snowy Owls were still being reported into April—a continuation of the good winter population. Barred Owls appeared to be increasing slightly with some good reports. Common Nighthawks put in a commendable spring showing with a couple of early arrivals and consistent numbers through May. Belted Kingfishers put forth an excellent migratory show in April. This spring produced an excellent passerine migration during the second week of May and on through the period. Numbers of some thrushes and warblers were quite high. Overshoots also made for an interesting season. Any year we have a Summer Tanager or two is a good one. Indigo Buntings were found in very good numbers along the lakeshore. Vesper Sparrows staged a minor yet encouraging influx to once abandoned locales. The Brewer's Blackbirds were once again reported along the West Lakeshore—pointing to a now yearly pattern. Numbers of Purple Finches appeared down early, but excellent numbers invaded Island Cottage Woods in May.

On the negative side: Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were down in numbers. The usual April arrival of a few wandering southern herons never materialized. Common Snipe numbers weren't quite up to par. Common and Forster's Terns were relatively scarce. Red-headed Woodpeckers, away from their usual haunts, were tough to find. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were here as usual, but not in traditional abundance. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in small numbers. For no apparent reason, Carolina Wrens were down. Loggerhead Shrike reports

dropped slightly from recent totals. Henslow's Sparrows vacated some traditional breeding locales. Reports of winter finches—what are they?

Rarities: White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Summer Tanager, LeConte's Sparrow, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: B—Bergen; BB—Braddock Bay; C—Carlton; CH—Cobbs Hill; D—Durand-Eastman Park; EL—East Lakeshore; G—Greece; H—Hamlin Beach State Park; L—Letchworth State Park; PB—Point Breeze; WL—West Lakeshore.

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LOONS—DUCKS: The loon migration was atypical for the season. At times the flight was not noticeable due to the myriad of boats from the various and sundry fishing derbys; the fishermen reported large numbers of loons well out on the lake. The Red-throated Loon max was 15 WL 30 Apr, while the Com. Loon max was 325 H 24 Apr. The grebe situation was not outstanding. The first spring Pied-billed report was two at Buttonwood Creek 6 Mar, but numbers were generally down. Horned Grebes were not numerous by any stretch of the word, and Red-necked Grebes made their annual spring appearance along the West Lakeshore with a max of 270 WL 1 Apr (MD). Am. Bitterns were regular in numbers if not perhaps a bit late. Least Bitterns put in a fine spring showing with one WL 30 Apr for an arrival and numerous reports in May. One Great Egret BB 3 Apr was a mediocre showing for Apr. Two Snowy Egrets Kendall 21 May were good but the only indication of a southern heron flight. Glossy Ibis: one BB 12 May. A late Tundra Swan report came from BB 16 May. Waterfowl were typical but concentrations were lacking. Some species carried into the end of the period and may result in summering birds. Noteworthy waterfowl included: Canada Goose: 60,000 WL 1-31 Mar. Eurasian Wigeon: one Kendall 17 Mar (RC, PB), one G 27 Mar (JS, ST), one PB 24, 28 Apr (WS, FD, RD). Oldsquaw: max 600 D 1 Mar. Surf Scoter: first of spring, one PB 6 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: late individual, one BB 21-31 May. Ruddy Duck: arrival, three BB 26 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: The raptor migration, as recorded at Braddock Bay, is summarized in the chart below. Favorable winds produced a record count at the Hawk Lookout with a new high total of 49,592 as of early June. New high counts were established for Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Am. Kestrel.

Braddock Bay Hawk Watch Summary 1983 - February 27 - June 16

| Species | Total | Species | Total |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| Turkey Vulture | 2,081 | Rough-legged Hawk | 330 |
| Osprey | 88 | Golden Eagle | 9 |
| Bald Eagle | 36 | Am. Kestrel | 1,768* |
| N. Harrier | 641 | Merlin | 13 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 10,291* | Peregrine Falcon | 5 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 220 | Unidentified accipiters | 7 |
| N. Goshawk | 141* | Unidentified buteos | 315 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 623 | Unidentified eagles | 2 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 29,991* | Unidentified falcons | 2 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 3,004 | Unidentified raptors | 25 |

Peak Count for some selected species

| Species | Total | Date |
|---------------------|---------|------|
| N. Harrier | 77 | 4/ 4 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 31 | 4/ 4 |
| N. Goshawk | 42* | 4/ 4 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 316 | 4/ 4 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 11,172* | 4/27 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 656 | 4/16 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 55 | 4/ 4 |
| Am. Kestrel | 1,166* | 4/14 |

* new high for annual counts

Five Bald Eagles were recorded on 4 Apr at BB. Merlin reports were scattered with four in Mar, 12 in Apr and one in May. Peregrine Falcon reports were generally good with five in Apr and one in May. Ring-necked Pheasant: The region was filled with spring calling—a good sign. A single Wild Turkey put in an unprecedented appearance at BB to echo the continued spread of this species. Rails were of usual occurrence. Virginia Rail: arrival, one IC 12 Apr. Sora: arrival one BB 9 Apr. Shorebird totals were fairly good due to the presence of suitable habitat. Some noteworthy records included: Lesser Golden-Plover: one BB 14 Apr. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 124 H 3 May. Upland Sandpiper: arrival one C 23 Apr. Red Knot: seven H 21 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2000+ H 26 May. Western Sandpiper: four WL 30 May. Dunlin: 1600+ H 26 May. STILT SANDPIPER: one H 8 May (MD, JD, mob). Short-billed Dowitcher: 100+ WL 15 May. Com. Snipe: one BB 31 Mar, early? Wilson's Phalarope: one H 5 May, one Parma 8 May, one H 8 May, one Kendall 22 May. Bonaparte's Gulls seemed slightly down for the season. The only white-winged gull was a Glaucous Gull: one G 27 Mar. Tern totals were not terribly impressive. Arrival dates were as follows: Caspian Tern: two FF 29 Apr. Com. Tern: three BB 29 Apr. Forster's Tern: one BB 24 Apr. Black Tern: four BB 1 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoo populations seemed about normal. Black-billed arrival date was one B 7 May, while Yellow-billed was one EL 22 May. Owl reports during the period indicated a generally typical spring migration with the usual reports of Long-eareds and Saw-whets. Some interesting reports included: Snowy Owl: one Lee Rd., G thru 11 Apr (JG). Long-eared Owl: two Avon 1-31 May, active nest (A. Wray). Short-eared Owl: one C 1 May, late or nesting? (D & DT). N. Saw-whet Owl: two B 22 May, nesting? (MD, KG, CT), one B 26 May (ST). Com. Nighthawks put on an early show, one G 22 Apr and one Seneca Park 23 Apr. Whip-poor-wills could be found along the lakeshore as well as at the usual haunt, Bergen. A most interesting phenomenon was the migration of Belted Kingfishers, 280 BB 14 Apr (RD, WS *et al.*). Woodpecker populations remained relatively stable. Red-headed Woodpeckers away from their Avon stronghold, continued to be scarce. N. Flickers staged a healthy migration with a max of 263 BB 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Flycatcher arrivals and numbers were quite normal with the exception of an Olive-sided, one CH 9 May, quite early. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were quite easy to find and Acadians remained regular with the first arriving at IC 29 May. Least Flycatchers were approaching abundancy during early May. In general the swallows maintained normal status; but Purple Martins, N. Rough-winged Swallows and Bank Swallows were a bit late in establishing any numbers and sighting frequencies. Blue Jays staged their usual mass migration in May, but the intensity appeared down somewhat. Most interesting was the return of Com. Raven, one H 17 Mar (KB), one H 19 Mar (KG) and one H 23-24, 28 Apr (MD, WS), becoming a yearly occurrence at Hamlin. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce. Brown Creepers were of good status with a max of 25 IC 6 May. Carolina Wrens appear down, even after the mild winter. Sedge Wren went unreported. Marsh Wrens were slightly behind schedule but were found in atypical numbers. Both kinglets were in good supply and several pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers set up housekeeping in Island Cottage Woods in early May. Many observers watched an active pair construct the tiny nest of lichens, cobwebs and such. There were good numbers of thrushes evident along the lakeshore with

the exception of E. Bluebird; reports of this species along the lakeshore were down. The mimids were well reported including a good population of N. Mockingbirds. A late N. Shrike was one Kendall 6 Mar. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported during all three months, but numbers were low.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREOS made an infrequent appearance this spring, one Manitou 21 May (RM, RS), two W. Irondequoit Bay 27 May thru (R & SS). That pair has taken up territory, quite possibly nesting. Solitary Vireo: arrival one D 1 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arrival one CH 3 May, in good numbers this spring. Warbling Vireo: very common. Philadelphia Vireo: arrival one Thousand Acre Swamp 8 May. Red-eyed Vireo: good spring flight. The warbler migration was one of the best in years. The 7th and 8th of May provided very fine birding, some overshoots and some interesting records. "Brewster's" Warbler: one IC 14 May (KG, *et al.*). Tennessee Warbler: 67 L 22 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one IC 12 May, one IC 15 May, one D 17 May, and one PB 22 May. N. Parula: arrival, one CH 2 May, very good numbers this spring. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 25 G 14 May, 25 CH 15 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 500 WL 7 May, 600 WL 8 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: 70 G 7 May. Pine Warbler: arrival, one IC 29 Apr, one CH 29 Apr. Prairie Warbler: one IC 6 May, one CH 9 May. Palm Warbler: 25 IC 8 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: 65 G 17 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one D 5 May, one IC 22, 29 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** super overshoot season, one PB 7 May (MD), one D 8 May (DS, DT), one Webster Park 11 May (J. Wing *vide* ST). Louisiana Waterthrush: arrival one Naples 26 Apr. Kentucky Warbler: one Norway Rd. 22 May (RC). Connecticut Warbler: one Manitou 21 May (RS). Mourning Warbler: arrival one IC 20 May. Hooded Warbler: many along lakeshore, max 20 L 22 May (DB).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Two reports of **SUMMER TANAGER** were a spring highlight. one IC 13 May (PR, WS *et al.*), one Honeoye 22 May (MW, JM). Dickcissel: one G 3, 4 May (RS, KG). Am. Tree Sparrow: late, one Highland Park 10 May. Savannah Sparrow: early, one PB 19 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: 70+ Wayne Co. 20 Apr. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** one C 14 May (RO, RD). Henslow's Sparrow numbers were down quite noticeably. Some traditional breeding spots were vacated. Western Meadowlark: the Pt. Breeze bird returned around the 16th of Mar and has been singing ever since, another bird was located in Carlton 22 May (MC, WS). Once again the **BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS** staged in the Hamlin area, arrival two H 16 Mar (WS), 6-22 were reported through Apr. Brown-headed Cowbird: one albino Webster 22 May. Orchard Oriole: the breeding population took up residence once again at Pt. Breeze. Pine Siskin: four BB 7 May (R & MM).

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

W. E. BENNING

The unusually mild weather of the winter continued into March until the vernal equinox—the advent of Spring—when it turned colder. With an occasional brief respite, it remained so thru the period. At Ithaca, with 6.86 inches of rain, April was the wettest ever recorded in the 104 years of weather records there. Also 14.5 inches of snow made it the top snow month of the 1982-83 winter and the third snowiest April ever. May continued mainly cold and wet with 26 degrees F recorded at Ithaca on 17 and 18 May.

The migration was referred to as "crazy," no doubt made so in part, at least, by the crazy weather patterns. The snow and cold of April held back those species which should have been arriving then. I have documentation that at Arling-

ton, VA, hordes of birds were stacked up during this period. One observer, who has lived in Arlington for over forty years, said she had never seen birds of so many species blanketing the yards, bushes and trees. When the weather broke in late April, a great wave of migrants rolled over the Region. The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell added fifty species to its 1983 yearly list between 28 April and 3 May.

This surge of birds brought a great influx of American Goldfinches. Hordes of them, up to 100 birds, mostly males, descended on feeders for about ten days. Coming to the feeders with them were occasional Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Aberrant coloration in birds is always of interest. An albino American Robin appeared at Watkins Glen. An American Crow showing white in the wings was at Brooktondale. Close study revealed that some of the flight feathers were white-shafted. A melanistic Downy Woodpecker, with all the normally white areas replaced by varying shades of gray, visited Louise Proskine's feeder at Trumansburg all during the period and was still there in early June.

The increasing numbers of Canada Geese at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes have long been one of the ornithological spectacles of the Region. The heaviest movement of the past season came on 4 and 5 March. Observers from all over the Region commented on the steady northward progression of flock after flock both day and night during those two days. At Queen Catherine Marsh near Watkins Glen, observers tallied 37,715 geese between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or 7,000 per hour. The Snow Geese at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, which used to number only a handful each season, have been increasing in recent years. This year, with first arrivals coming in early March, numbers increased to 10,000 by early April and dropped to 8,500 shortly afterwards. Suddenly on 18 April there was an amazing concentration of 30,000 birds present, more than twice any previous high. They continued thru 19 April then, just as suddenly, the numbers dropped back to 8,500 and dwindled down until all were gone in early May.

Seasonal pluses: (1) The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation is acquiring 900 acres of the Queen Catherine Marsh located between Watkins Glen and Montour Falls. Portions of this marsh, formerly closed to birders, will now be available. 2) Increasing use of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge by Double-crested Cormorants, mostly immatures. Future nesting, perhaps? 3) Most raptors continue their slow comeback from threatened oblivion during the DDT period. The Osprey is making the most rapid progress and the Red-shouldered Hawk lagging in this respect. 4) A few more reports of Ring-necked Pheasants. 5) Wild Turkey continues to expand its range. 6) More owl reports. More owls or more owlers? 7) The nearly extirpated Vesper Sparrow shows slight improvement. The most optimistic report comes from John Confer who called this the best year he ever had with at least ten sightings of the species. 8) Increasing reports of Orchard Orioles, some nesting. 9) At long last a good word comes from the pestiferous House Sparrow. Quoting Mary Welles, "House Sparrows are very assiduously eating small gypsy moth larvae from our walnut tree outside the dining room window—more so than other species which are also eating the larvae."

Seasonal minuses: 1) Little shorebird habitat and few shorebird reports. 2) Black Tern nesting drastically reduced at Montezuma National Wildlife Ref-

uge. 3) Low numbers of all swallows, probably due to the reduction of insect numbers in April by the snow and cold. Purple Martins are in the disaster category. Other species are less affected with the Barn Swallow faring the best. 4) After two good years and a good winter, Eastern Bluebird reports have fallen off, again probably due to the cold and snowy weather. 5) Low numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks.

Rarities: Common Eider, Little Gull, Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; M—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Q—Queen Catherine Marsh; Schy—Schuyler; seminar—weekly seminars held at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell; Sen—Seneca; Tomp—Tompkins; * (starred)—confirming details on file.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: a bird of this species was picked up where it had landed on the highway and could not take off. It was taken to M on 4 May where it was determined that there were no injuries. The bird was placed in the Seneca outlet where it immediately started diving for food. Com. Loon: an excellent migration with nearly every correspondent reporting the species. Horned Grebe: the scarcity of the winter season continued into the spring with the only large groups being 24 on Cay L 28 Apr and 20 on 30 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: one Dryden L 17 Apr; one west shore Cay L 21 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: 19 M 4 May. Am. Bittern: one Horseheads 14 May, only report. Least Bittern: one heard M 11 May. Great Blue Heron: only one nest at M this year, one blown down; returning to nest sites in Tomp Co. Great Egret: one Penn Yan 7 Apr; two M 1 May. Cattle Egret: only report one at Dryden 4 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: 20 south of Mecklenberg; 80-100 nests M (VD). Tundra Swan: widespread reports; max 50 flying with the huge goose flight over Q 4 Mar. Snow Goose: see opening remarks. Brant: 30 Sen L 15 May (PT). Canada Goose: 140,000 at M on 10 Mar plus thousands on Cay and Sen L and other smaller lakes and ponds; the first of 41 broods at M, averaging 4.5 birds per brood, hatched on 28 Apr or one week before the migrating geese departed.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at M as reported by the Refuge personnel:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|------------------|-------|--------|
| Wood Duck | 1,000 | 30 Mar | Canvasback | 100 | 21 Apr |
| Green-winged Teal | 4,500 | 30 Mar | Redhead | 1,000 | 30 Mar |
| Am. Black Duck | 5,000 | 31 Mar | Ring-necked Duck | 800 | 1 Apr |
| Mallard | 7,000 | 31 Mar | Greater Scaup | 500 | 28 Apr |
| N. Pintail | 12,000 | 30 Mar | Com. Goldeneye | 50 | 28 Apr |
| Blue-winged Teal | 1,500 | 31 Mar | Bufflehead | 50 | 21 Apr |
| N. Shoveler | 9,000 | 30 Mar | Hooded Merganser | 100 | 28 Apr |
| Gadwall | 2,000 | 31 Mar | Com. Merganser | 1,750 | 31 Mar |
| Am. Wigeon | 5,000 | 30 Mar | Ruddy Duck | 40 | 30 Mar |

Wood Duck: brood of 12 young Elmira 11 Apr and a brood of 11 on 20 May. Canvasback: an injured female found at Elmira on 7 Mar was there for two weeks until a snow-storm struck. It was not seen afterwards. **COMMON EIDER:** a male M 28 Apr (VD). Old-squaw: at least seven records scattered over the Region with max 24 at Branchport 1 Apr. Black Scoter: male Elmira 6 Mar, only report. White-winged Scoter: nine Branchport 1 Apr; Sheldrake 11 May; Geneva Apr and May. Hooded Merganser: did not nest, as previously, at Elmira; brood seen in swamp near Geneva (PT). Com. Merganser: female with eight to ten young Big Flats 14 May; seven young Elmira 26 May. Red-breasted Merganser: seven Elmira 21 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: every correspondent reported this once beleaguered species this year. The nest at M is being used for the third year. Bald Eagle: imm birds seen at M and Aurora; and adult at Cayutaville 26 Apr; one Prattsburg 6 May. N. Harrier: at least ten reports from M, Ithaca, Q and Penn Yan. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks: increasing re-

ports for both species. Two probable nesting territories for Cooper's south of Ithaca. N. Gosawk: imm M 23 Apr; have returned to two nests south of Ithaca. Red-shouldered: reported at four seminars but not showing the resurgence most of the raptors are. Broad-winged Hawk: reported from Elmira, Ithaca, Arnot Forest, Connecticut Hill and Geneva. Red-tailed Hawk: a new nest site near Phelps. Rough-legged Hawk: last three at Elmira 23 Apr; late May birds were one at Geneva and one at Arnot Forest 22 May. Am. Kestrel: on 27 Apr, while checking a Bank Swallow colony at Pine City, WH saw this species enter a hole in the bank twice. Merlin and Peregrine: no reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: slight increase in the number of reports. Wild Turkey: "plentiful" at Elmira; "increasing" in Yates Co; has now spread across Ontario Co to the northern border of the Region. Virginia and Sora Rails: all reports were from the southern half of the Region. Am. Coot: 2,000 M 19 Apr. Black-bellied Plover: 200 M 29 Apr (VD). Other shorebirds: above normal rainfall kept the streams, ponds and lakes at such high levels that there was little shorebird habitat. Only a relatively few species were noted and then in very small numbers. Species seen included Semipalmated Plover; Killdeer; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; Solitary, Spotted, Upland, Semipalmated, Least and Pectoral Sandpipers; Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitcher. Species missed were Lesser Golden-Plover; Whimbrel; Ruddy Turnstone; Red Knot; Sanderling; Western, White-rumped and Stilt Sandpipers; Ruff; all phalaropes. Common Snipe: during Apr several were displaying at Q and one north of M. Am. Woodcock: Slaterville 1 Mar; Elmira 15 Mar; reported at all seminars. LITTLE GULL: Geneva Apr and May (J. Cor). Bonaparte's Gull: one Elmira 15 Apr; Ithaca 25 Apr; 45 Branchport 30 Apr. Ring-billed Gull: Elmira 21 Mar; thousands were on the golf courses, lawns etc. after a snowstorm. Caspian Tern: one Penn Yan 17 May (ML). Com. Tern: two pairs nesting at M. Forster's Tern: two Ithaca May 20 (JC); Geneva Apr and May (J. Cor). Black Tern: only 16 nesting pairs at M.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: nesting in an abandoned Am. Robin's nest at Phelps in late May. E. Screech-Owl: a number of reports but at Ithaca JC played a tape at ten sites, where he usually obtained a response, with no results. Great Horned Owl: nested successfully at Phelps, Varick and Montour Falls. Snowy Owl: one Aurelius 4 Mar. Barred Owl: Slaterville Springs 1 Mar; one Groton 4 Mar; Ithaca 21 May; Watkins Glen 16 May; Geneva during May. Long-eared Owl: Penn Yan during Apr. Short-eared Owl: one east of M; one Penn Yan during Apr. Com. Nighthawk: two Elmira 13 May; observed at Waterloo and Penn Yan. Whip-poor-will: one Elmira 13 and 16 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: reported from all parts of the Region. Red-bellied Woodpecker: none at Elmira but widely reported elsewhere. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: seven Elmira 16 May; no reports from Schy Co.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Geneva 15 May; one Elmira 20 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Elmira 14 May. Alder Flycatcher: Ithaca 21 May; two sites in Schy Co; Branchport in May. Willow Flycatcher: five males singing on territory at Q. Purple Martin: very scarce. Tree Swallow: Myers 18 Mar, early. Bank Swallow: colony at Pine City. Cliff Swallow: again nesting at Corning Community College with more nests than in 1982; returned to traditional site in Cayuta. Fish Crow: six Ithaca 16 Apr. Com. Raven: Connecticut Hill, Tomp Co 14 May (Gray). Red-breasted Nuthatch: sparsely reported. Carolina Wren: reported regularly from Ithaca and Penn Yan; four max at Q. Winter Wren: one Ithaca 7 Apr; one Elmira 2 May; one singing Michigan Hollow, Tomp Co 7 May; one Geneva 15 May. E. Bluebird: nesting at Elmira, Ithaca and M. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Brooktondale; none Penn Yan. Am. Robin: abundant as ever. N. Mockingbird: Ithaca; Branchport; two locations at Phelps; nest at Angus. Water Pipit: 100 at Q 1 Apr. Cedar Waxwing: scarce in most areas. N. Shrike: one Clifton Springs 5 Mar; one Brooktondale 7 Mar; imm Ithaca 14-16 Mar, heard singing; one Ithaca until 4 Apr. Loggerhead Shrike: no reports.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Ithaca 28 Apr. All the other common vireos—Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed—were seen. Among the warblers one might expect to find in the Region, all but the Kentucky, the Yellow-throated and the "Lawrence's" hybrid were reported. "Brewster's" hybrid: one banded Penn Yan 7 May (ML); one Elmira 16 May; one Ithaca 21 May. Orange-crowned: one Geneva 15 May. Cape May: a good flight; in Schy Co a flight on 22 May was entirely females. Cerulean:

a new location at Sullivan's monument near Elmira was found 29 May. Prothonotary: nesting in Unit 17 at M (VD). Worm-eating: one Montour Falls 30 Apr; one Phelps 8 May; three Elmira 14 May; one Ithaca 14 May; one Sen Castle May. Connecticut: one Geneva May. Mourning: Southport 14 May; one 22 May at Q; one Geneva May. Hooded: two singing males 21 May Dryden. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Slaterville 1 May.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: came to feeders in May. Indigo Bunting: at many feeders in early May. PAINTED BUNTING: Pine City 6-7 May (DC*, WH, M. Wigert). Dickcissel: male Ithaca 30 Apr and for several days thereafter (M. Weeks, DM *et al.*). Red-crested Cardinal: Sullivanville, Chemung Co 14-17 Apr (R. & L. Dannerlain, J. & M. Smith, MW*). Probably an escape but Peterson in his 1980 edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies* states that the species has bred in Pennsylvania. Am. Tree Sparrow: small numbers remained thru Apr. Vesper Sparrow: for several years your reporter has been saying that this species was in deep trouble altho perhaps gaining a bit lately, and this season's records appear to continue that gain. Grasshopper Sparrow: a number at Horseheads 8 May; Ithaca 20 May; Branchport May. Henslow's Sparrow: 1 Elmira 1 May; Ithaca 3 May. Fox Sparrow: Myers 5 Mar; last seminar report 2 May; a singing male on Sugar Hill in Schy Co. Lincoln's Sparrow: Rorick's Glen, Chemung Co 14 May; Ithaca 21 May. Bobolink: up in the Phelps area and good elsewhere. E. Meadowlark: rather scarce. Orchard Oriole: a pair at Myers 28 Apr; returned to Sheldrake where they nested last year; two reports from Yates Co; at Pine City 26 May. Purple Finch: nesting at M in Unit 17; widespread in small numbers all spring. House Finch: taken from the observers' reports—"Hungry hordes," "still increasing"—enough said. Pine Siskin: one Elmira 9 Apr labeled the only report of the year for them and it is also the only Regional report for the period. Am. Goldfinch: hordes (see opening remarks). Evening Grosbeak: a feeder in Ithaca (always the Evening Grosbeak capital of the Region) had a max of 65 in Mar and 46 in Apr; otherwise only small numbers drifted thru to the end of the period.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET T. MARSJ

March, continuing the February trend of milder-than-average weather, gamboled in, lamb like, to Region Four. By 7 March ice had left most farm ponds and that day the temperatures reached 70° F. Short-memored optimists sowed their lettuce and spinach seeds and planted rows of onion sets. There being no accumulated snow, there was little spring runoff, no muddy garden soil, no inundated river banks, no fields ankle-deep with soggy meltwaters. On 4 March, skeins and skeins of northbound Canada Geese honked across the morning skies, many flying high in large groups, 700, 800, perhaps 1,000 strong. "Never saw anything like it!" was the common comment. This mild condition was interrupted only briefly on the tenth when cold, northerly winds blew in a mix of drizzle, sleet and one and a half inches of snow which warm succeeding days quickly melted. Area residents were getting themselves emotionally in tune for a lovely early spring. Even the 18 March heavy rains which deluged metropolitan New York City and were forecast for Region Four, bypassed us to the south and we registered only a half inch of rain. Then came the so-called vernal equinox and right here is where the weather gods missed their cue. Official spring was escorted in by rain, freezing rain and finally just plain snow—only the beginning of what was in store for the rest of the month when registered temperature readings were well

below average (13° lower on the 23rd, 14° lower on the 25th, for example) with a dismal rain-snow mix the usual fare. On the 31st, the March lion roared its final defiance with particularly violent windstorms. What did our forefathers know when they made up those weather jingles?

Enter April, therefore, cold and wet—and cold and wet it remained the entire 30 days, accumulating 8.37 inches of precipitation, making it “the rainiest April in 33 years, breaking the former record of 5.48 inches established in 1980 by almost three inches.” And that wasn’t the only record April broke. There were several small snowfalls and one major storm 18 April through 20 April which left Broome Co with close to 20 inches of snow, bringing the total month’s accumulation to 22.9”. This broke the county’s record for snow in April and pushed Binghamton ahead of Albany to earn the Fifth Annual Golden Snowball Award, an honor bestowed upon that New York State city receiving the most snow for the season. This is an honor? And what did all those April showers bring? May flowers? Wrong! Even heavier May showers, of course! Flash flood warnings were issued 1 and 2 May, actually ending in a few violent tornado touchdowns in Tioga and Broome Counties. The Susquehanna River was a foot above flood stage in Conklin and Vestal, two feet above flood at Waverly and just about flood level in Afton and Unadilla! Nor was it exactly warm! “Danger of Freeze!” was a headline 6, 7 and 10 May. On 17, 19 and 28 May those area residents living in “cold spots” woke up to a frost covered world. Despite a few brief flirtations with warmth and sunshine, the area seemed to be caught in a cycle of one rain laden low pressure system following another. At month’s end the weather man still promised, for the tenth time, “Spring Tomorrow!” Some spring!

Bird populations reacted variously to these unusual weather patterns. Ducks, not finding the floodplain lagoons formed by a normal spring runoff, sought out larger bodies of water. Our duck count therefore remained normal except for those ducks that never came south because of the open winter. We even got a Northern Shoveler, a bird that has been on our “worry-list” for a few years. Hawks, also, accommodated well to the changed weather. Sharp-shinned and Broad-wing counts were good. The Northern Harrier count, low for years, also shot up and one Merlin was reported. Shorebirds faced a slightly different problem. Late flooding placed mudflats under deep water when most shorebirds reached the Region. Ergo—a lower-than-usual shorebird count.

Early ground-nesting birds (grouse, killdeer, etc.) whose nests were buried in the April snowstorms made second nest attempts. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows also had tough going at this time, but both species seemed to be back on the track only a week or so late. The heavy storms of April’s end and in early May, plus the general cold and dampness, probably delayed the full migration of songbirds by a week or so. On 31 May there still lingered many species that certainly would migrate through. Partial explanation for the unusual weather may lie with the jet stream which this year, instead of crossing northern USA, dipped into the south crossing southern USA and coming up through the Atlantic states. Given this circumstance, we were not surprised to have a slight influx of unusual birds mostly from the south and southwest.

Sandhill Crane, Varied Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird all made it to our list of rarities this spring.

Contributors: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Don & Judy Bell, Leslie Bemont (LB), Rey-

nolds Bennett, Lois Bingley (LBi), Bruce Bozdos, Wm. Breidinger, Nancy Brundage, John & Mary Cannon, Laura Carey, Sally Carey, Alvin & Helen Carpenter, Mildred Clarke, Anna & Marilyn Davis, Jeff Davis, Louise Dean, Mary Dobinski (MD), Mike Doll (MiD), Sadie Dorber, Alma Douglas, B. Dubben, Robt. & Ruth Eckhardt, Polly & Earl Getkin, John Gustafson, Shirley Hartman, Claude Howard, Ruth Jones, Gail & Eugene Kirch, John Knapik, Mary Lasher, B. Lahman, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Florence Linaberry, Betty Mabin (BM), Harriet Marsi, Rick Marsi (RMA), Leona McDowell, Evelyn Meade, Dave Messineo, Paul Meyers, Bob Miller, Valerie Myers, Connie & Dan Norte, Fran O'Leary, Dick Parker, Meri Petuh, Halliday Pierce, Harriet Robinson, Jean & Robt. Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, B. Seery, Mary & Bob Sheffield, Stuart Snyder, B. Thomas, Agnes Thompson, Wm. Toner, Elizabeth Washburn, Anne Whitaker, Connie Whitcomb, Kathryn Wilson, Tom & Beryl Wilson, Irene Wright, Alice Zimmerman; also Broome Co. Naturalists Club, Cortland Co. Bird Club, Delhi Bird Club, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society.

Abbreviations: BCNC—Broome Co. Naturalists Club; CCBC—Cortland Co. Bird Club; DBC—Delhi Bird Club; DOAS—Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society; DOASSC—Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count; REEC—Rogers Environmental Education Center; TBC—Tioga Bird Club; WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

Weather Statistics from National Weather Service, Edwin Link Field.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: 12 on-water reports, first 17 Mar, last 24 May, well distributed thru area; one couple (R & RE) reported 125 seen in flight from 2 Apr to 1 May, Max 73 30 Apr Broome Co; this is very high for this area. Pied-billed Grebe: eight reports; mostly Broome and Cortland Cos.; first 23 Mar WPR (EW, IW), last 22 May (BCNC); somewhat light for the area. Horned Grebe: 12 birds reported on five occasions; three 23 Mar, Susquehanna R, Vestal (FL), one 23 Mar WPR (BC, NC), six 26 Mar WPR (A & MD), one 22 Apr WPR (R & RE), one 6 May WPR (R & RE); average. Red-necked Grebe: one report; one 5 Apr WPR (A & MD). Double-crested Cormorant: one report of two birds 6 May WPR (R & RE); uncommon. Least Bittern: one 31 May Newark Valley (Tioga Co) "flushed from reed beds around Alexander Park Pond while fishing; unable to find bird next day;" unusual in area. Am. Bittern: five reports; one 23 Apr OPM (MD, KW); one 27 Apr, one 25 Apr WPR (RMA), one 27 Apr, REEC (LC), one 4 May OPM (MD, KW), one 29 May Norwich (JL). Great Blue Heron: common thru area, first 13 Mar WPR (RMA). Green-backed Heron: common thru area, first 29 Apr Broome Co (R & RE). Tundra Swan: three reports of eight birds; one 1 Mar Chenango R (AT), six 15 Mar WPR (SS), one 15 Mar, Plymouth Reservoir (Chenango Co) (DM). Canada Goose: common thru area, first "thousands" 4 Mar Broome Co (GK, others); after this initial burst flocks filtered thru, last one 28 May OPM (MD, KW). Wood Duck: common thru area, first two 13 Mar, Boland's Marsh (Broome Co) (MiD). Am. Black Duck: common thru. Mallard: common thru. N. Pintail: four reports of 25 birds, all Broome Co, first five 23 Mar Boland's Marsh (Broome Co) (RMA), last four 26 Mar WPR (MiD, JD). Blue-winged Teal: 20 reports, 16 Broome Co 7 Mar thru 22 Apr, two 1 Apr REEC (LC), two 1 Apr Sherburne (LC), one 30 Apr Lime Hollow (Cortland Co) (CCBC), one 3 May OPM (MD, KW). N. Shoveler: one report of two birds 7 Apr WPR (A & MD); first report in several years. Gadwall: four reports of six birds, two 24 Mar Boland's Marsh (Broome Co) (MiD), two 27 Mar Susquehanna R, Vestal (Broome Co) (HM), two 3 Apr WPR (MS) (A & MD). Am. Wigeon: 14 reports of 34 birds, first 6 Mar WPR (MS), last 17 Apr WPR (RMA) all except one 12 Mar REEC (MiD) were Broome Co. Canvasback: one report, one 21 Mar WPR (R & RE, A & MD). Redhead: one report of two birds 26 Mar WPR (A & MD). Ring-necked Duck: 15 reports of 170 birds, ten Broome Co, five OPM, first 21 Mar WPR (JD), last 3 May OPM (MD, KW). Greater Scaup: one report 26 Mar WPR (A & MD). Lesser Scaup: two reports; two 7 Mar Delhi (LMcD), two 17 Apr (MS). Scaup sp: four reports; one 20 Mar WPR (A & MD), one 24 Mar Susquehanna R, Vestal (Broome Co) (MiD), 20 26 Mar WPR (MiD, JD, A & MD), one 3 Apr WPR (A & MD). Oldsquaw: three reports: three 17 Mar Balsam Pond (Chenango Co) (JL), seven 7 Apr WPR (A & MD), five 22 Apr WPR (R & RE); good for this area. Com. Goldeneye: six reports: 14 Mar thru 2 Apr; five Broome Co, one Tioga Co; very low but not unexpected since due to the mild, open winter

few flew south last fall. Bufflehead: eight reports, 26 Mar thru 23 Apr, six Broome Co, two Cortland Co, low count, see Com. Goldeneye. Hooded Merganser: six reports, three Broome Co, three OPM, first 28 May WPR (RMA), last 5 May OPM (MD, KW), Com. Merganser: 21 reports: first 5 Mar Oneonta (MD), last 21 May DOASSC, max. 250 23 Mar WPR; 14 Broome Co, five OPM, one Otselec (Chenango Co), Red-breasted Merganser: 11 reports, first 12 Mar WPR (R & RE), last 16 26 Mar Homer (Cortland Co) (WB), five Broome Co, one Cortland Co, five OPM.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: many reports, first 28 Mar Johnson City (Broome Co) all counties reporting; seems to be spreading north, an Otselec (Chenango Co) reporter noted "31 May, very late date, rare here, may be breeding now or soon" (DM). Osprey: over 40 reports: first 4 Mar Tioga Co (RB) last 21 May DOASSC; all counties; exceptionally high count. Bald Eagle: two reports, one 20 Mar Cannonsville Res (BS, BL), one May Delhi "eating dead animal in road" (HO, JC), N. Harrier: 14 reports: first 26 Mar Tioga Co (C & JB), last two 30 May N. Colesville (Broome Co) (JS), 31 May Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM); very good numbers. Sharp-shinned Hawk: over 30 reports throughout area, first 17 Mar Broome Co (R & RE). Cooper's Hawk: 13 reports throughout region; first 3 Mar. So. Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM). N. Goshawk: four reports; one 11 Mar Choconut Center (Broome Co) (MS), one 2 Apr So. Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM), one 28 Apr Broome Co (R & RE), one So. Otselec 21 May "calling near last year's nest" (DM). Red-shouldered Hawk: one 21 May Delhi (SC); first in a few years. Broad-winged Hawk: 19 reports scattered thru area, first 23 Apr Broome Co (R & RE), most reports were of one or two birds but one Broome Co couple who have a good spot and spent time at it reported 72 birds 27 Apr and 231 birds 28 Apr (R & RE); very high for this area. Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: two reports, one 13 Mar Coventry (Chenango Co) (JS), one 25 Mar, last So. Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM). Am. Kestrel: common thru. Merlin: one report; one 17 Mar Norwich; "a small, dark falcon about Kestrel size, dark back and tail (no red) chased by a Common Crow thru Norwich!" (JL). Ring-necked Pheasant: four reports; one 24 Mar Endwell (FL), two 26 Apr Endwell (JS), one 21 May DOASSC, one 22 May BCNC; low numbers. Ruffed Grouse: common thru. Wild Turkey: 13 reports scattered thru region. N. Bobwhite: one report; one 7 Apr Apalachin (Tioga Co) (P & EG). Virginia Rail: none. Sora Rail: one report; one 14 May, Lime Hollow (Cortland Co) CCBC. Com. Moorhen: one report; 14 May Lime Hollow (Cortland Co) CCBC. Am. Coot: six reports; one 17 Mar Norwich (JL), one Mar Tioga Co (RB), one 10 Apr REEC (LC), one 4 May Milford (Mr. B), one 19-20 May Delaware-Otsego area DOAS, one 19 May OPM (MD, KW). **SANDHILL CRANE:** one 1 May Broome Co "It was as large as a Great Blue Heron but it flew with its long, thin neck extended. Its wings were more square and we could see the feathers at the ends of each wing. Also we could see a dark and light pattern under each wing—the bird was flying in circles and kept moving its head from side to side as if looking for something—we have seen Sandhill Cranes before in Florida." (J & RS). Killdeer: common thru area, first 5 Mar (several). Greater Yellowlegs: three reports; two 3 Apr WPR (MS), two 11 Apr WPR (RMA), two 21 May DOASSC; low count. Lesser Yellowlegs: one report; three 1 May So. Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM); low count. Solitary Sandpiper: 11 reports; first 28 Apr OPM (DOAS, DBC), last five 21 May DOASSC; others scattered thru area. Spotted Sandpiper: common thru area, first 28 Apr So. Otselec (Chenango Co) (DM). Least Sandpiper: one report; two 21 May DOASSC; low count. Com. Snipe: ten reports, first 17 Mar OPM (MD, KW), last 25 May Chenango Co (JL); except for one 4 May WPR (R & RE) the rest were Delaware-Otsego area. Am. Woodcock: ten reports: first 2 Mar Johnson City (JD); of the rest five were Broome Co, one DOAS, one Norwich, one S. Otselec (Chenango Co) one Tioga Co. Ring-billed Gull: 15 reports scattered thru region, first 14 Mar (CCBC), max 21 Mar reports from Broome Co, Chenango Co, Otsego Co, all of large (over 100) flocks on land areas such as fairgrounds and parks. Apparently the rainy season had forced earthworms to the surface and the gulls were taking advantage. It was spectacular for a few days. Herring Gull: eight reports; first 14 Mar WPR (FL), last 23 Apr WPR (A & MD); others OPM, So. Otselec (Chenango Co), Tioga Co.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: four reports; 16 May Vestal (Broome Co) (SD), 23 May Tioga Co

(LD), 25 May Vestal (HM), 28 May Choconut Center (Broome Co) (MS); none Chenango, Cortland, Delaware or Otsego; not as high as last year; the cold, wet spring has delayed the Gypsy Moth cycle so that larvae are only a few mm long at end of period which may account for the lower numbers of cuckoos. Yellow-billed Cuckoos: seven reports; all 21-25 May, four Broome Co, two Chenango Co, one Tioga Co; see comment on Black-billed Cuckoos. E. Screech-Owl: two reports: one 7 Mar, one 24 Mar, both Norwich (JL). Great Horned Owl: nine reports thru; four nests, one reporter stated "left nest 13 May" Broome Co (CH). Barred Owl: four reports; one 2 May Berkshire (Tioga Co) (LD), two 5-6 May Pharsalia (Chenango Co) (JL), two 21 May Delhi (J & NC), "calling" 25 May So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM). Long-eared Owl: one 13 Apr Nichols (Tioga Co) injured and taken by Ross Park Zoo for rehabilitation (PM). Com. Nighthawk: five reports, first 13 May Binghamton, all others Broome Co except for five 21 May DOASSC; numbers light. Chimney Swift: 12 reports thru area, first 30 Apr Lime Hollow (Cortland Co) (CCBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: ten reports thru area, first 12 May, So Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM). Belted Kingfisher: common thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: eight reports; one 28 Apr Delhi (Otsego Co) (LMcD, SG), one 4 May Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM), one 4 May Pitcher (Chenango Co) (DM), one 11 May Haight's Gulf (Cortland Co) (Mrs. CS), one 12 May So. Otselic (Chenango Co) "first in Otselic Valley in recent times" (DM), one May 21 DOASSC, one Truxton (Cortland Co) (DP) and one nesting in Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD); this is an excellent count for the area both in numbers and distribution. Red-bellied Woodpecker: nine reports; thru period Newark Valley (LD), one "resident" Cortland (J & NC), one "resident" Cortland (M & BM), one 2, 4, 6 and 9 May Homer (Cortland Co) (WB), one 9 May Oneonta (IW), one 21 May DOASSC; definitely established in Tioga and Cortland Cos and moving into Otsego. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: over 20 reports spread thru area, first 9 Apr Delhi (MC). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: common thru. N. Flicker: common thru area, first 3 Mar Vestal (Broome Co) (FL). Pileated Woodpecker: 13 records scattered thru area.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: common thru area, first 11 May Johnson City (Broome Co) (MP). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two reports, one 12 May Vestal (SD), one 28 May Vestal (HM). Alder Flycatcher: five records, first 22 May Broome Co BCNC, others Broome Co, Chenango Co, OPM, Tioga Co. Willow Flycatcher: six records, first 21 May Broome Co (BCNC), Norwich (JL), DOASSC; others Broome Co, Chenango Co, So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM). Least Flycatcher: common thru area, first 30 Apr So. Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM). E. Phoebe: common thru area, first 19 Mar Vestal (SD). Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru area, first 1 May Vestal (HM). E. Kingbird: common thru area, first 3 May OPM (MD, KW). Horned Lark: 12 reports thru; first singing Cortland (WT). Purple Martin: four reports: 21 May DOASSC, 22 May Owego (Tioga Co) (LB) 22 May BCNC, 22 May Endwell (FL). Tree Swallow: common thru area, first 16 Mar OPM (MD, KW). N. Rough-winged Swallow: 11 reports, first 30 Apr So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM); the rest scattered thru. Bank Swallow: eight reports; scattered thru, first 6 May Homer (Cortland Co) (WB). Cliff Swallow: four reports: 30 Apr So. Otselic (DM), 19 May OPM (MD, KW) 21 May DOASSC 22 May Owego (Tioga Co) (LB). Barn Swallow: common thru area, first 7 Apr WPR (A & MD). Blue Jay: common thru: however, light in some sections, particularly Broome Co, until mid-May when numbers picked up conspicuously—probably returning migrants; a possible explanation of the low numbers in Broome Co last winter and most of the spring may be related to the Gypsy Moth invasion which only heavily reached Broome Co last year (1982); attacking oak trees it probably diminished the acorn crop—a staple food for jays—so that many left. Fish Crow: two reports: one 7 Apr Endwell (Broome Co) "harassed by Com. Crows." (FL), one 26 Apr Vestal (Broome Co) (GK). Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: common thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: ten reports scattered thru. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 16 reports scattered thru. House Wren: common thru area, first 3 May Broome Co (MS). Winter Wren: four reports; three 28 Apr Otsego-Delaware (DOAS & DBC), one 7 May Vestal (HM), one 21 May Chenango Co (JL), three 21 May DOASSC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: ten reports; three Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one Chenango Co, one OPM, last date 22 Apr Cortland Co and Broome Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: common thru area, first 17 Apr So. Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM), last one 21 May DOASSC. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: six reports; one 10 May End-

well (Broome Co) (BT), one 11 May Preble Swamp (Cortland Co) (WB), three 13 May Preble Swamp (WB), one 14 May CCBC, one 22 May Broome Co (MS), one 24 May E. Meredith (Delaware Co) (DBC), one 24 May OPM (MD, KW); unusually high. E. Bluebird: over 30 reports thru; very good numbers. Veery: common thru area, first 5 May Vestal (Broome Co) (HM). Gray-cheeked Thrush: four reports; all Broome Co, one each 16 May, 26 May, 28 May Vestal (HM) one Choconut Center (MS). Swainson's Thrush: six reports; one 9 May So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM), one 21 May DOASSC, three 23 May, two 26 May and three 28 May—all Vestal (HM). Hermit Thrush: 18 reports scattered thru area, first 14 Apr OPM (MD, KW). Wood Thrush: common thru area, first 22 Apr Norwich (JL). Am. Robin: common thru. **VARIED THRUSH**: one 24 May, Oneonta: observers were checking out two bluebirds on a wire and noticed a "different" robin between them; "it seemed to have a band on its breast. We were both concentrating on seeing that and failed to note if there were orange wingbars. The bird took off after a few seconds and landed in a tree farther away. We got him in the telescope and could see the black band clearly and the different eyeline but leaves blocked the view of his wings." (MD, KW). Gray Catbird: common thru area first 30 Apr Norwich (JL). N. Mockingbird: 14 reports; nine Broome Co, two Tioga Co, one Chenango Co, two DOASSC; firmly established in the Southern Tier and pushing north. Brown Thrasher: 15 reports scattered thru area, first 27 Apr Cortland (GN). Water Pipit: two reports; 22 Mar Newark Valley (Tioga Co) "walking around in a field that was planted to alfalfa last year—estimated 200 birds in the field—seemed to swirl around in circles and eventually went over the nearest hill." (Lbi & JB), one 21 May DOASSC. Cedar Waxwing: common thru. N. Shrike: three records; one 2 Apr. Walton (RJ), one 5 Apr OPM (MD, KW) one 11 Apr WPR (RMA). European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: over 20 reports thru area, first 28 Apr Vestal (Broome Co) (LB). Yellow-throated Vireo: ten reports scattered thru area, first 7 May CCBC. Warbling Vireo: 12 reports scattered thru area, first 3 May Norwich (JL), OPM (MD, KW). Philadelphia Vireo: three reports, one 14 May Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD), one 17 May Choconut Center (Broome Co) (MS), one 21 May DOASSC. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru area, first 7 May CCBC. Blue-winged Warbler: 19 reports; first 3 May Vestal (LB), eight others Broome Co, seven Chenango Co, one Cortland, one DOASSC and one OPM. Golden-winged Warbler: four reports; all Broome Co; one 6 May Vestal (RMA), one 7 May (RM), one 8 May Choconut Center (MS), one 22 May BCNC. Tennessee Warbler: many reports thru area, first 7 May Norwich (JL), first 7 May Norwich (JL), 85 banded Vestal (HM); still in area at period's end. Nashville Warbler: many reports thru area, first 1 May Choconut Center (Broome Co) (MS); still present last week in May. N. Parula: three reports; one 3 May OPM (MD, KW), one 19 May OPM (MD, KW), one 19-20 May Delaware-Otsego area (DOAS). Yellow Warbler: common thru area, first 30 Apr OPM (MD, KW). So. Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM), So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM). Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru area, first 1 May Vestal (Broome Co) (HM). Magnolia Warbler: 25 reports scattered thru area, first one 5 May OPM (MD, KW); still present at period's end. Cape May Warbler: six reports; first 12 May Norwich (JL), last 23 May Broome Co (BT) others Chenango Co, Delaware and Otsego Cos. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 reports scattered thru area, first 4 May Vestal (HM) max 12 21 May DOASSC. Yellow-rumped Warbler: many reports thru area, first 15 Apr Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD), last 22 May BCNC, max 60 6 May OPM (MD, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: many reports thru area, first 5 May OPM (MD, KW), So. Apalachin (RM). Blackburnian Warbler: eight reports thru area, first 3 May Vestal (Broome Co) (LB), last 24 May OPM (MD, KW), max 25 21 May DOASSC; numbers down from previous years. Prairie Warbler: 12 reports; first 5 May OPM (MD, KW), ten others Broome Co, one report of three 21 May DOASSC; definitely on the increase in Broome Co and edging north. Palm Warbler: three reports; 4 May Preble Swamp (Cortland Co) (WB), 6 May Preble Swamp (WB), 14 May CCBC. Bay-breasted Warbler: 11 reports, first 8 May Vestal (Broome Co) (HM), last 28 May OPM (MD, KW), others Broome Co, Chenango Co, DOASSC. Blackpoll Warbler: 11 reports, first 14 May Walton (Otsego Co) (LMcD), others three Broome Co, five Chenango Co, one Otsego Co, one DOASSC; still present at period's end. **CERULEAN WARBLER**: one report, 23 May "singing, not heard again" So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM). Black-and-white Warbler: many reports thru area, first 30 Apr, Lime

Hollow (Cortland Co) CCBC. Am. Redstart: many reports thru area, first 4 May Vestal (RMa). Worm-eating Warbler: two reports; one 7 May Town of Binghamton (CH), one 21 May DOASSC. Ovenbird: many reports thru area, first 29 Apr So. Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM). N. Waterthrush: many reports thru area, first 30 Apr OPM (MD, KW). Louisiana Waterthrush: many reports thru area, first 15 Apr. Broome Co "tied my earliest date, usually 21st" (MS). KENTUCKY WARBLER: one report. 15 May Town of Binghamton "saw and heard the bird" (CH). Mourning Warbler: three reports; two 21 May DOASSC, one 22 May Vestal (Broome Co) (HM), one 31 May So. Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru area, first 2 May Cortland (C & DN). Wilson's Warbler: six reports; one 10 May Broome Co (R & RE), one 12 May So. Apalachin (Tioga Co) (RM), one 13 May Delhi (MC), one 20 May Vestal (Broome Co) (HM), one 21 May DOASSC, one 22 May Vestal (HM). Canada Warbler: 12 reports, first 13 May Delhi (MC), others five Broome Co, two Chenango Co, one DOASSC, three OPM. Yellow-breasted Chat: three reports—all 22 May, one Vestal (Broome Co) (T & BW), one BCNC and one Apalachin (RM).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru, first 6 May Vestal (Broome Co) (LB). N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru area, first 1 May Truxton (Cortland Co) (DP). Indigo Bunting: common thru area, first 30 Apr Vestal (Broome Co) (T & BW); many reports of large numbers especially when they first arrived back. Red-crested Cardinal: left Berkshire (Tioga Co) 9 Apr; reported in Vestal (Broome Co) 3 May (AD); stayed only shortly; no further report. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru area, first 19 Apr Johnson City (Broome Co) (MP). Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru area, last 14 May CCBC (only May report). Chipping Sparrow: common thru area, first 10 Apr Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD). Field Sparrow: common thru area, first 28 Mar Tioga Co (RB); very early date. next 17 Apr Vestal (Broome Co) (LB). Vesper Sparrow: seven reports, first 1 Apr Homer (Cortland Co) (WB). Others, one Broome Co, one Cortland Co, one Chenango Co, three OPM. Savannah Sparrow: common thru area, first 17 Apr Town of Maine (Broome Co) (R & RE). Grasshopper Sparrow: one report 15 May Maine (Broome Co) (R & RE); low count. Henslow's Sparrow: seven reports; four 16 May all Town of Binghamton "four different meadows, four different sparrows all singing" (CH), two areas 21 May, Chenango Co (JL), one Broome Co (MS); very high count, mostly new areas. Fox Sparrow: many reports through area, last 21 May Delhi (MC). Song Sparrow: common thru. Lincoln's Sparrow: none. Swamp Sparrow: common thru area, first 22 Apr Oneonta (MD). White-throated Sparrow: common thru area; still a few present in high altitudes at period's end. White-crowned Sparrow: 13 reports thru area, first 11 Apr Endwell (Broome Co) (FL), last 22 May (BCNC). Dark-eyed Junco: common thru area, last migrants 22 May; a few in higher altitudes remaining to nest. Bobolink: many reports thru area, first 30 Apr No. Colesville (Broome Co) (JS). Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: common thru area, first 7 Mar Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: two reports; one bird 21 Apr Binghamton, observer "looking over a large flock (10 or 15 birds) of mixed cowbirds and grackles at a feeder a day after a heavy snowstorm, noticed the yellow-headed one—stayed about 10 minutes—had a good look" (ML); other report of two birds, "male and female, at feeder in Delhi, arriving 23 Apr and staying several weeks when male left. Female is still present. It has been seen at close range both with and without binoculars; feeds with others birds, usually early morning and evening but never stays long" (EM, Mrs. D). Rusty Blackbird: six reports: 15 1 Apr Coventryville (Chenango Co) (JS), 23 Apr Lime Hollow (Cortland Co) (CCBC), five 30 Apr OPM (MD), one 1 May Otselic (Chenango Co) (DM), one 21 May, Hamden (Delaware Co) (M/M HP). Com. Grackle: common thru area, first 1 Mar Tioga Co (LD). Orchard Oriole: two reports, one 17 May Newark Valley (Tioga Co) banded (JB), one 24 May Delhi (SC), unusual for the area. N. Oriole: common thru area, first 29 Apr Newark Valley (Tioga Co) (LD). Purple Finch: common thru. House Finch: common thru. Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: common thru area, last one 21 May DOASSC; last before that 4 May several. House Sparrow: common thru.

Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, New York 13903

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DeBENEDICTIS

The Spring 1983 migration was an exceptional mix of events. March began warm and dry but ended, along with much of April, "borrowing from December to pay for our (mild) February!" Nearly a third of the very light total snowfall fell during the last two weeks of March and the first three weeks of April. What followed was a wet, cool period, extending into early June, during which at least one day of every weekend saw rain. Earlier concerns of a drought vanished. Now the problem began to look like too much water.

The early warm period brought with it an early thaw and drying of flood plains. Many of our traditional waterfowl sites never developed their potential. The early thaw also heralded the appearance of sports fishing craft on Lake Ontario (and Oneida Lake), which greatly disturbed near shore waterfowl concentrations as has been typical of recent springs. Following a very poor season for overwintering waterfowl, the end result was the poorest waterfowl flight in many seasons; only the ubiquitous Canada Goose holding its own.

A heavy snowfall 18-20 April came at a critical period for early migratory species. Swallows appear to have been much reduced in numbers by the season's end. The Purple Martin seemed especially hard hit. Sparrows were also migrating in numbers during this period, but only Savannah Sparrow appeared to be somewhat reduced in numbers afterwards. Dorothy Crumb took advantage of the snowfall to census roadsides in n. Pompey Township on 20 April. She found 55 Savannah Sparrows, 31 Vesper Sparrows, 215 Dark-eyed Juncos, 385 Song Sparrows, and 32 assorted others in ten miles of driving, along with numerous Killdeers and American Robins. (These numbers were exceeded in a similar census in 1976, when many more miles of roadside were covered.) During the cool period which followed, especially in early May, numerous observers reported Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders, normally an unusual sight in the spring.

This generally rotten weather produced one of the finest spring passerine migrations in years, with many record highs being set. Although the winter was mild, only a few exceptionally early reports were obtained, and the migration appears to have ended rather abruptly about 30 or 31 May, with few later stragglers. Roy Slack and David Muir again coordinated a banding effort at Onondaga Audubon Society's Noyes Sanctuary along Lake Ontario, with spectacular results: 646 birds (549 warblers) banded on 15 May and 270 birds (160 warblers) on 21 May. Coincidentally F. G. Scheider and party worked adjacent woodlots on both of these dates, identifying 1,147 warblers on 15 May and 793 on 21 May; these woods were nearly as productive 14 May as well, when coverage was less complete. As is always the case when such numbers are involved, many more individuals went unidentified and/or unnoted. The combined totals from about one and one-half miles of lake shore for several warbler species are truly impressive, especially since Scheider saw NO banded birds either date!: 67 Nashville, 150 Magnolia, 96 Black-throated Blue, 718 Yellow-rumped, and 154 American Redstarts on 15 May; and 51 Tennessee, 64 Nashville, 135 Magnolia, 70 Black-burnian, and 80 American Redstarts on 21 May. The maxima in the species ac-

counts which follow represent the highest single party count. The migration in the urban Syracuse area was generally well-sustained, but not as impressive in terms of numbers as in other recent springs.

Gerald A. Smith again manned Derby Hill almost daily for the entire period. Most hawk totals were high, and a few record seasonal and peak date totals were set; the overall total for hawks was the best ever. If one can judge it so, the (typically) miserable showing of Peregrines is the only real negative. A new twist this spring was a concerted owl banding effort at the Noyes Sanctuary, directed by Roy Slack, which produced a surprising number of Northern Saw-whet Owls, along with one bird which called like a Boreal Owl but could not be confirmed by visual observation. Loggerhead Shrike made its best showing in years this spring, just after I had elevated the species to "boldface" status last spring. One hopes it will continue to improve.

Most late May migrants were very poorly represented. Shorebirds were very low in numbers and variety. Cuckoos were almost nonexistent, and Indigo Buntings were numerous only at a few localities. Southern herons were scarce, and only a scattering of our more regular southern passerines were located: White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating, Prairie and Kentucky Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Their numbers were comparable to recent spring seasons.

Work on the Breeding Bird Atlas began in full by mid-May, and already had produced an obliging Acadian Flycatcher, which was enjoyed by numerous observers. A full discussion of other Atlasing results will come in the next seasonal report.

A total of 237 species plus one hybrid, one color morph and one distinctive subspecies was reported this season, which is about average. The only surprising misses of the season were Bonaparte's Gull and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Great rarities found included Northern Gannet, Greater White-fronted Goose, "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal, Stilt Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Boreal Owl, Acadian Flycatcher and Kentucky Warbler, the last finally recorded so many times as to no longer merit this status.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, Marion Holmes, John Hanyak, Gene Huggins, Steven F. Kahl, Ruth Knight, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Robert L. Long, George Maxwell, David Muir, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Roy Slack, Gerald A. Smith, Chris Spies, Magdalena Stooks, Elba VanDresar, Gary Webb.

Abbreviations: arr—arrival; DH—Derby Hill, Oswego Co; FH—Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; LOL—Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co; NYSARC—report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon—Onondaga; SP—Sandy Pond, Oswego Co; StMC—Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co; Syr—Syracuse.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: last of winter Oswego, 3 Mar; migrants 12 Apr-21 May, max 48 DH on 30 Apr. Horned Grebe: only one FH 14 Mar and two Seneca River Flats 1 May, lowest total ever. Red-necked Grebe: six Toad Harbour, Oswego Co, 12 May, with four persisting to 15 May, record late. NORTHERN GANNET: imm found dead Oswego 2 Mar, specimen to SUNY Oswego (GM), third Regional record. Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 9 Apr, record max 126 LOL 29 May. Am. Bittern: arr DH, Clay Marsh 3 May, late. Least Bittern: arr Clay Marsh 3 May. Great Blue Heron: max 110 Peter Scott Swamp 9 Apr, exceptional in spring. Great Egret: three near Peter Scott Swamp 12 May, singles at Six Mile Creek 5 and 15 May. Cattle Egret: adult Peter Scott Swamp 14 May. Green-backed Heron: arr Clay Marsh 1 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Scott Swamp 24 Apr, another East Syr 6 May, two Snake Swamp 21 May. Tundra Swan: one Bridgeport 13 Mar only report.

Mute Swan: adult FH through season. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: adult Biddicum 31 Mar (FGS) is eighth Regional record. Snow Goose: one to six per day through 17 Apr, about equal numbers of each morph. Brant: 90 Onondaga Lake 24 May, one LOL 30 May. Canada Goose: new record max 42,000 s. Oswego and n. Onon Cos. 26 Mar, last large flocks ca 24 Apr. Wood Duck: arr Syr 5 Mar, low max 28 Clay Marsh on 13 May. Green-winged Teal: max 40 Clay Marsh 3 Apr; male "EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL Clay Marsh 3-11 Apr (FGS, mob) is sixth Regional record. Am. Black Duck: max 200 Seneca River Flats 24 Mar, few after 24 Apr. Mallard: max 500 Seneca River Flats 24 Mar, last flocks on 7 Apr. N. Pintail: low max 200 Pennellville 26 Mar, few after 17 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: arr LOL 26 Mar, max 14 LOL 24 Apr. N. Shoveler: three pairs reported between 3 and 24 Apr. Gadwall: up to nine per day through 12 Apr, low. Am. Wigeon: max 12 LOL 26 Apr very low. Canvasback: max 68 Onon Lake 9 Apr, last Oneida Lake 10 Apr. Redhead: max 4 FH 12 Apr very low, last there 17 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: max 63 Howland's Island Game Management Area 26 Mar, last FH 17 Apr. Greater Scaup: very low max 40, Oneida Lake 10 Apr, last S. Onon 11 Apr. Lesser Scaup: max 55 FH 26 Mar, last there 15 May (late). Oldsquaw: last FH 24 Mar. White-winged Scoter: 11 FH 14 Mar and 4 DH 24 Apr are only reports of any scoters. Com. Goldeneye: max 200 Oswego R 3 Mar, last FH 17 Apr. Bufflehead: max 60 FH 26 Mar, last LOL 24 Apr. Hooded Merganser: only local birds noted after 1 Apr. Com. Merganser: last LOL 17 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: max 350 FH 31 Mar, last LOL 22 May. Ruddy Duck: four reported 20 Mar to 22 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: See Table for DH summary; totals for Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks are new record high, as are max for N. Harrier and Am. Kestrel. Turkey Vulture: 49 Howland's Island Game Management Area 22 May is exceptional count away from LOL. Bald Eagle: also an adult Williamstown 1 Apr (GW). N. Harrier: pairs noted near Georgetown and Oriskany Flats through May. Peregrine Falcon: only three reported, all DH, 27 Apr to 12 May. Virginia Rail: one Clay Marsh 16-17 Mar may have overwintered (earliest spring record in any event), next report Syr 13 Apr. Sora: arr Kirkville 17 Apr, very few noted. Com. Moorhen: arr Kirkville 3 May. Am. Coot: total of five reported 20 Mar to 23 Apr very low. SANDHILL CRANE: adult DH 5 May (GAS, NYSARC) is fifth Regional record. Black-bellied Plover: one Nine Mile Creek 21 May, two SP 29 May. Semipalmated Plover: about 15-20 reported between 15 and 26 May. Killdeer: regularly noted after 4 Mar, max 50 DH 3 Apr. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Clay Marsh and DH 17 Mar, very early, next 3 Apr, max 15 s. Oswego Co. 17 Apr, last Biddicum 12 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Clay Marsh 14 Apr, last and max 6 Biddicum 12 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr DH 30 Apr, max 12 LOL 8 May, last there 21 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Clay Marsh 25 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr Syr 25 Apr. Red Knot: one SP 29 May. Sanderling: four SP 27 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Clay Marsh 6 May, max 150 there 26 May, last SP 29 May. Least Sandpiper: arr Clay Marsh 1 May, max 40 FH 14 May, last SP 29 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: single Pennellville 17-23 Apr, very low. Dunlin: arr Biddicum 14 May, max 26 Clay Marsh 26 May, last SP 27 May. STILT SANDPIPER: beautiful adult Six Mile Creek 15 May (FGS, RK) is second Regional spring report, first well-described. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Biddicum 15 May, three there 16 May. Com. Snipe: arr 17 Mar, max 8 24 Apr. Am. Woodcock: arr New York Mills 9 Mar. LAUGHING GULL: adult FH 21 May is fourth spring (tenth overall) Regional record. Ring-billed Gull: max 6,000 s. Oswego Co. 17 Mar rather low, but widespread inland through May. Iceland Gull: last Oswego 3 Mar. Glaucous Gull: last DH 23 Apr only report of season. Great Black-backed Gull: few after 23 Apr. Caspian Tern: arr LOL 22 May, max 14 SP 27 May. Com. Tern: arr Kirkville 7 May. Black Tern: arr Kirkville 12 May, max 11 LOL 22 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr DeWitt and New York Mills 26 May. Long-eared Owl: five banded Noyes Sanctuary 2 Apr-11 May. BOREAL OWL: one calling Noyes Sanctuary 1 Apr (RS) would be the third modern Regional report. N. Saw-whet Owl: 33 banded Noyes Sanctuary through 7 May (record late), max 6 on 30 Apr. Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 8 May. Whip-poor-will: arr Noyes Sanctuary 30 Apr. Chimney Swift: record early arr DH 14 Apr, next 27 Apr. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Syr 6 May. Belted Kingfisher: first migrants DH 5 Mar. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr LOL 14

May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Syr 25 Apr (late), last 8 May, very scarce. N. Flicker: migrants 6 Mar to 21 May, max 110 DH 23 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: five noted after 14 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr (widespread) 14 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr LOL 21 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr Labrador Pond 22 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr LOL 15 May, very conspicuous by end of season. Least Flycatcher: arr StMC 2 May. E. Phoebe: arr DH 2 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr DH 8 May. E. Kingbird: arr Holland Patent 2 May. Horned Lark: max 200 DH 7 Apr, last migrants DH 22 Apr. Purple Martin: arr DH 4 Apr. Tree Swallow: max 2,000 DH 7 Apr, last migrants ca. 8 May. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 7 Apr, to five per day. Bank Swallow: arr 7 Apr Clay Marsh, low max 500 DH 8 May. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 14 Apr, to eight per day. Barn Swallow: arr DH 7 Apr, scarce all season. Blue Jay: migrant 8-22 May, low max 700 DH 21 May. Am. Crow: total 35,133 past DH through 14 Apr. **COMMON RAVEN:** four past DH 14 Apr to 19 May equals the prior spring total there. Red-breasted Nuthatch: up to five per day 2 Apr to 19 May. Brown Creeper: migrants 17 Mar to ca 8 May, max 24 DH 23 Apr. Carolina Wren: singles Fayetteville mid-Mar and StMC 27 May. House Wren: arr Noyes Sanctuary 30 Apr. Winter Wren: record early arr 14 Mar, max five LOL 23 Apr, last migrant 14 May. Sedge Wren: single near Rome 3 May (GW). Marsh Wren: arr Peter Scott Swamp 12 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr StMC 7 May, last Syr 30 May. Hermit Thrush: arr Noyes Sanctuary 10 Apr, last StMC 17 May. Wood Thrush: arr Noyes Sanctuary 30 Apr. Am. Robin: max 2,600 DH 6 Apr, last migrants ca. 8 May. Gray Catbird: arr StMC 2 May, last migrants ca 21 May. Brown Thrasher: arr New York Mills 23 Apr. Water Pipit: single DH 8 May, 75 there 12 May, only reports. Cedar Waxwing: last wintering birds departed ca. 18 Apr, summering population arr 16 May. N. Shrike: three reported through 2 Apr. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** five reported 2 Apr (New York Mills) to 23 Apr (Holland Patent).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Nine Mile Point 8 May. Solitary Vireo: arr Noyes Sanctuary 29 Apr, last (seven) LOL 21 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr StMC 2 May. Warbling Vireo: arr Noyes Sanctuary 7 May. Philadelphia Vireo: record early arr Seneca River Flats 1 May (MSR), next StMC 16 May, new record max 8 LOL 21 May, last StMC 27 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr DH 8 May, max 28 LOL 21 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 May New York Mills. "Brewster's" Warbler: singles StMC 8-10 May, Camillus 14 May, Labrador Pond 22 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Syr 2 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr DH 8 May, last StMC 29 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: three banded Noyes Sanctuary 29 Apr 7 May, singles n. Pompey Township, Syr 23 May. Nashville Warbler: arr Syr 29 Apr, last StMC 23 May. N. Parula: arr StMC 7 May, max 15 LOL 15 May, last LOL 21 May. Yellow Warbler: arr widespread 1 May, last obvious migrants ca. 22 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr DH 8 May, new record max 44 LOL 21 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr DH 7 May, new record max 110 banded Noyes Sanctuary 15 May, last migrants StMC 31 May. Cape May Warbler: arr DH 8 May, max 45 LOL 15 May, last StMC 22 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr StMC 2 May, new record max 40 LOL 15 May, last StMC 24 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Nine Mile Point 14 Apr, max 610 LOL 15 May, last StMC 28 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr DH 2 May, last StMC 28 May. Blackburnian Warbler: arr DH 8 May, max 67 LOL 21 May. Pine Warbler: arr Clay Marsh 16 Apr, last StMC 17 May record late. Prairie Warbler: singles near Brookfield 7 May, Toad Harbour 13 May and Noyes Sanctuary 22 May. Palm Warbler: arr Noyes Sanctuary 1 May, last LOL 15 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 12 May, max 60 LOL 21 May, last Syr 30 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr StMC 14 May, max 11 StMC 26 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr N. Manlius 12 May, last migrant 21 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Noyes Sanctuary 29 Apr, last StMC 23 May. Am. Redstart: arr New York Mills 30 Apr, last migrants ca 22 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one StMC 9 May. Ovenbird: arr DH 1 May, new record max 31 LOL 15 May, last

migrants ca. 22 May. N. Waterthrush: arr Noyes Sanctuary, Syr 29 Apr, last StMC 26 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early arr Pompey Township 17 Apr. KENTUCKY WARBLER: singles StMC 9-12 May and 20-21 May, one banded Noyes Sanctuary 7 May first Oswego Co. record; only nine previous Regional records. Mourning Warbler: arr StMC 17 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Chittenango 1 May, last migrants ca 29 May. Hooded Warbler: arr DH, StMC 8 May, new record max 18 LOL 21 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr 13 May DH, last StMC 30 May. Canada Warbler: arr StMC 9 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one banded Noyes Sanctuary 29 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr StMC 5 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr StMC 5 May, new record max 65 LOL 21 May. Indigo Bunting: arr DH 8 May, early birds silent and many at feeders, but numbers low through May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr StMC 17 Apr. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Clay Marsh 18 May (JH) record late. Chipping Sparrow: arr FH 17 Apr. Field Sparrow: one March report, arr DH 14 Apr. Vesper Sparrow: arr DH 7 Apr, see introduction. Savannah Sparrow: late arr DH 14 Apr, see introduction. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Pleasant Lake 14 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Toad Harbour 14 May. Fox Sparrow: migrants noted in small numbers 10-27 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr 5 Mar ties record early, see introduction. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Noyes Sanctuary 7 May, last StMC 27 May. Swamp Sparrow: bulk of migrants after 16 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: arr ca 14 Apr LOL, max 400 StMC 5 May, last there 25 May. White-crowned Sparrow: arr New York Mills, Syr 2 May, max 120 LOL 15 May, last StMC 27 May. Dark-eyed Junco: arr ca 23 Mar, max only 35 DH 23 Apr, last LOL 21 May. Lapland Longspur: one DH 23 Apr. Snow Bunting: last DH 6 Apr. Bobolink: arr New York Mills 2 May. E. Meadowlark: arr DH 6 Mar, last ca 8 May. W. Meadowlark: one singing Union Settlement after ca. 11 Apr (John Rodgers, mob). Rusty Blackbird: arr Peter Scott Swamp 6 Mar, max 300 DH 8 May, last LOL 22 May record late. Orchard Oriole: one Camillus township after 28 May. N. Oriole: arr StMC 2 May. Pine Grosbeak: last Holland Patent 3 Mar. Purple Finch: max 300 DH 8 May. House Finch: increasing everywhere, especially in urban/suburban habitats. Red Crossbill: three near Old Forge 25 May. Am. Goldfinch: migrants ca 23 Apr to 21 May, rather numerous this spring. Evening Grosbeak: max 25 DH 2 Mar, last StMC 11 May.

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals - 1983

| Species | Arrival | Max - Date | Last | 90% Date Range* | Total |
|--|---------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Turkey Vulture | 28 Feb | 179 - 14 Apr | 29 May | 2 Apr - 27 Apr | 1,437 |
| Osprey | 1 Apr | 56 - 7 May | 30 May | 14 Apr - 19 May | 270 |
| Bald Eagle | 17 Mar | singles only | 23 May | | 15 |
| Northern Harrier | 19 Feb | 160 - 14 Apr | 30 May | 17 Mar - 8 May | 1,077 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 20 Feb | 1,638 - 2 May | 30 May | 13 Apr - 13 May | 6,142 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 20 Feb | 65 - 14 Apr | 14 May | 13 Mar - 1 May | 608 |
| Northern Goshawk | 28 Feb | 22 - 17 Mar | 14 May | 5 Mar - 22 Apr | 162 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 20 Feb | 165 - 17 Mar | 7 May | 14 Mar - 23 Apr | 859 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 16 Apr | 13,321 - 29 Apr | 30 May | 26 Apr - 30 May | 40,108 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 19 Feb | 937 - 13 Apr | 30 May | 5 Mar - 29 Apr | 8,166 |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 20 Feb | 96 - 6 Mar | 22 May | 3 Mar - 27 Apr | 476 |
| Golden Eagle | 6 Mar | 3 - 3 May | 7 May | | 15 |
| American Kestrel | 27 Feb | 251 - 14 Apr | 29 May | 27 Mar - 2 May | 839 |
| Merlin | 19 Apr | 3 - 27 Apr | 1 May | | 11 |
| Grand Total (including unidentified, rarities) | | | | | 60,305 |

* Dates between which 90% of all birds passed Derby Hill.

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REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

After the warmest, driest winter in 50 years, we had one of the coldest, wettest springs on record. The coldest weather of the period was the 1st week of March, while the heaviest snowfall of the year came on 19 and 20 April. Temperatures in March were above normal; the range was -1° to 65° F. Precipitation in March was about normal, and there was little snowfall. There were warm periods the end of the first and beginning of the third weeks of March. Lows 22 March to 2 April were in the teens with sleet and snow on several days. Temperatures in April were below normal, while precipitation was well above normal. The week of 16-22 April was marked by readings in the freezing range. The warmest April temperatures occurred the last few days of the month. May was on-again-off-again. Daytime highs were often in the sixties (max 76°), but there were 13 days with minimum temperatures below 40° F. and 18 days with rain. The period 8-10 May was cold and wet, and there was a heavy frost and record low of 27° F on 17 May. Warmer periods occurred 1-3 May, 13-15 May and the last 10 days of the month.

The first Northern Shrikes of the winter appeared in March. Early migrants such as Canada Goose, Red-winged Blackbird, American Robin, and American Kestrel arrived on schedule in March. Things always drag a bit in April, but the wet snow 19 April brought large numbers of robins and Killdeers to the roadsides and flocks of juncos to feeders. Aggregations of starlings were seen in late March and early April. Flocks of American Robins were in evidence in mid-April and blackbirds were moving throughout the first two weeks of April and again the last week. Northern Harrier was numerous in late April, and on 23 April we observed all three accipiters as well as Ospreys migrating along the St. Lawrence River. Lee Chamberlaine wrote that warblers and flycatchers trickled in during May—between showers, and several days late. Arrival dates from Marilyn Badger in Brasher were several days ahead of those recorded in Canton. The weather was no better for birding than for the birds, and I received fewer reports than usual. All told, Region Six recorded 176 species of which 165 were seen in May.

For trends, the Upland Sandpiper showed a gratifying increase after last year's zilch; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Brown Thrasher, and Scarlet Tanager were abundant, as were Mourning Dove and American Goldfinch. On the downswing was Golden-winged Warbler (none).

Rarities were few: Willet; a probable intraspecific Northern Flicker hybrid and Orchard Oriole. Throw in a Surf Scoter, Spruce Grouse, and eight Northern Mockingbirds and a few Sedge Wrens for seasoning.

Abbreviations: RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; St.LCo—St. Lawrence Co.; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Mgt. Area; WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

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LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Pt. Peninsula 1 May; single 23 Apr, pair Rainbow Flow, Colton 1 May; pair adult 14 May ULL. Pied-billed Grebe: good numbers in StLCo.

Horned Grebe: one Perch Lake 1 May. Double-crested Cormorant: 18 Southwick Beach 12 May. Am. Bittern: arr PR 17 Apr, ULL 23 Apr, frequent sightings thereafter. Least Bittern: one ULL 25 May (PVD). Great Blue Heron: arr Potsdam 7 Apr. Great Egret: one Canton 12 May; one WH in May. Green-backed Heron: singles ULL 25 and 31 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: one Eldorado 15 May (RW). Mute Swan: three adult, at least 5 young PR 13 May (CD). Brant: 300 moving across L. Ontario in three waves 4 May; 200 Waterman Hill, Canton 16 May; 100 PR 25 May (CD). Wood Duck: one Canton 15 May; two Canton 19 May. Among eight species of dabbling ducks reported were Green-winged Teal: one WH (JVR). Am. Black Duck: 40 ULL 30 Mar. N. Pintail: five ULL 30 Mar. Am. Wigeon: four ULL 30 Mar; three Kring's Pt. 30 Apr; three WH 1 May. Gadwall: two pairs 1 May; six WH 4 May. Nine species of divers were reported, including: Ring-necked Duck: six ULL 30 Mar. Lesser Scaup: pair PR 1 May; eight WH 11 May. Oldsquaw: 200 Sawyer's Bay, L. Ontario 26 Mar (LC). SURF SCOTER: one Eldorado Shores 30 May (RW). Com. Goldeneye: 200 Stony Pt. 26 Mar; three WH 4 May. Hooded Merganser: one with young PR 13 May (RA).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Canton 9 Apr, many sightings thru; 13 going to roost near Westcotts Beach 16 May. Osprey: one PR 17 Apr; many reports in May for Grass R., Little R. and ULL, Canton. Bald Eagle: imm at Allen Pd., Degrasse 17 Apr (JE). N. Harrier: arr Canton 9 Apr; max four ULL 13 Apr, three PR 23 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: five Brownville 28 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: one ULL 13 Apr. N. Goshawk: pair Dillingham Pd., Clifton 30 Apr (JME). Three migrating, Chippewa Pt. 23 Apr. Broad-winged Hawk: ca. 400 in 15 kettles Brownville, 4-5:00 pm 28 Apr; one in woods Canton 12 May, only StLCo. sighting. Rough-legged Hawk: one ULL 13 Apr, two RMSP 21 Apr, one Massena 1 May. Am. Kestrel: pairing first week of Apr in Canton area. Ring-necked Pheasant: male Canton 14 Apr; one Massena 14 May. SPRUCE GROUSE: one Seevey's Corners 22 May (DW). Wild Turkey: sightings near Pierrepont release point. Virginia Rail and Sora: widespread response to tape in vicinity of WH and ULL. Am. Coot: no reports. Killdeer: arr Henderson 5 Mar. Solitary Sandpiper: one Massena 22 May. Spotted Sandpiper: only a few sightings in May. Greater Yellowlegs: one Sulphur Springs 1 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Sulphur Springs 1 May. WILLET: one Eldorado 5 May (RW). Upland Sandpiper: one displaying Canton 23 Apr; one Massena 14 May; two Canton 14 May; one Pierrepont 15 and 29 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: two WH 22 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Sulphur Springs 1 May. Com. Black-headed Gull: aberrant individual at PR 14 May, fifth year (RW). Caspian Tern: 6 Pt. Peninsula 1 May. Com. Tern: small numbers at WH in May. Black Tern: three PR 14 May; six ULL 16 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: singles Lakeview 5 Mar, Thompson Park, Watertown 14 May, ULL 22 May; pair Henderson 5 Mar. Barred Owl: one Black Lake 26 May. N. Saw-whet Owl: one DOR Pierrepont 2 Apr. Com. Nighthawk: arr Watertown 29 May. Whip-poor-will: arr Canton 5 May; six Black Lake 26 May (DK). Chimney Swift: arr Canton 25 Apr; 50 Massena 3 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: pair Pierrepont 17 May thru; three Massena 17 May; two Canton 31 May. Belted Kingfisher: arr Canton 24 Apr. Red-bellied Woodpecker: periodic at feeder in Henderson thru (LC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Canton 23 Apr; several thru. N. Flicker: abundant Henderson mid-Apr. Apparent Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted intermediate on Woodbridge Corners-Rensselaer Falls Rd. 31 May, dead on road (specimen frozen); possible sighting of one in same vicinity in 1982.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: six Massena 17 May; three Canton 28 May. E. Phoebe: arr Canton 6 Apr; numbers still down (LC). Horned Lark: 50 Canton 20 Apr; one Canton 16 May. Purple Martin: 30 Massena 1 May. Mixed swallows: 200 Canton 15 May. Cliff Swallow: 2,000 pairs in Massena (600-800 Moses-Saunders Dam) 1 May (MB, JVR). Gray Jay: one Seevey's Corners 22 May (DW). Com. Raven: two Canton (M & EH). Tufted Titmouse: one Henderson 24 Apr. Winter Wren: one Massena 22 May. Sedge Wren: one ULL 29 May; 5 Sayer Rd., DeKalb 26 May (DK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Massena 1 May; Pierrepont 5 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 20 Massena 1 May; one Canton 28 May. E. Bluebird: arr DeKalb 6 Apr. nesting Pierrepont and Potsdam in May. Swainson's Thrush: one Massena 23 May (JVR). Hermit Thrush: singles S. Colton and Massena 1 May (MB). Am. Robin: 150 over heating pipes in lawn on St. Lawrence U. campus 21 Apr. N. Mockingbird:

one Lisbon thru Mar; one Ogdensburg 8 Mar (NS); 5 Massena 17 May (MB). Brown Thrasher: arr Canton 30 Apr; very abundant. Cedar Waxwing: arr 12 Pierrepont 21 Apr. N. Shrike: one Lakeview WMA 20 Mar; one Pierrepont 23 Mar; one Henderson 25 Mar.

VIREOS--WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: arr Watertown 7 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one Thompson Park, Watertown 21 May (RW). Warbling Vireo: arr Massena 7 May, abundant. Twenty-two species of warblers were reported. Tennessee Warbler: one WH 14 May; one Canton 26 May. Nashville Warbler: arr Massena 7 May. Cape May Warbler: arr Massena 7 May; arr Canton 12 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: Massena 7 May; none Canton. Blackpoll Warbler: Massena 13, 14 May; Canton 29 May. Mourning Warbler: Massena 18 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Canton 7 May.

TANAGERS--WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Massena 8 May, abundant thereafter. N. Cardinal: five resident in Massena (MB). Indigo Bunting: singles Canton 13, 22 May, pair 17 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: 4 Pierrepont 20 Apr. Field Sparrow: one Pierrepont 2 May. Vesper Sparrow: one Pt. Peninsula 1 May. Fox Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 23 Mar, pair thru 21 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: arr Watertown 7 May, max 10 per day mid-May; five Pierrepont 8 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 15 at feeder in Pierrepont 21 Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Canton 6 Mar. Flocks of mixed blackbirds first two weeks of Apr. E. Meadowlark: arr ULL 30 Mar, seem up this year. Rusty Blackbird: one Lisbon 29 Mar (JVR); two Pt. Peninsula 1 May (RW). ORCHARD ORIOLE: one Potsdam 31 May, singing (MDiG). Purple Finch: 12 Pierrepont 21 Apr; 75 (total count) Massena 1 May (MB). House Finch: at least two pairs in Canton in May (M & EH, KC). Evening Grosbeak: large flocks Canton 20-22 Mar; 30 Pierrepont 20 Apr; 55 Massena 1 May. Am. Goldfinch: abundant thru.

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REGION 7 -- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Both adherents of the El Niño shifting ocean current theories and followers of the Mt. St. Helens-El Chichón-Kileuea volcanic ash and dust school of meteorology agreed that the weather continued unusual during the Spring 1983 season. The balmy winter held into March, which came in like a lamb before getting tough. By 8 March the Boquet River was largely open, but there was light snow on the 13th, and on 14 March Ray Brook was the coldest spot in the nation at +12^o, yet winter temperatures were still almost 7^o warmer than long-term averages at mid-month. Sap buckets were imitating Northern Saw-whets along back roads until a cold snap sent thermometers dropping to -4^o at Newcomb on the 25th. March hawkwatchers, those eternal optimists, had to settle for a single Common Raven headed north past Belfrey Mt. on the 12th.

Then came "Aprill whis his shoures soot," that more than pierced the drought of March to the root, as Chaucer put it. By the 25th it was the second wettest April on record. And it began snowing--nearly 16" in parts of the Region on 17 April, followed by a storm that added a record 20" on 19-20 April--only the fifth late April storm of this century at Plattsburgh. Striking at the height of migration for Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, the storm forced extraordinary numbers of these and other species into yards with feeders and out onto plowed road shoulders.

High Peaks Audubon has entered into a lease with The Nature Conservancy, accepting responsibility for management of the Four Brothers Islands, Lake Champlain, where there are large colonies of herons and gulls, as well as many nesting waterfowl, and purchased a 15' fiberglass boat with trailer to conduct management tasks. Meanwhile, Northern Adirondack Audubon plans to continue the census of Great Blue Heron nests on Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, begun by the NYS DEC. Audubon members watched lake water levels with more than usual interest, therefore, as the ice went out. On 1 April Champlain stood at 97.04', seasonally low due to lack of snow runoff in the Adirondacks and Green Mts. By 25 April the lake was 99.06' and rising, in the wake of the storm. Mother's Day was the 13th of 19 Sundays to see rain, and then on 9-10 May another snowstorm blanketed the Region, especially in the Malone area where temperatures fell to 30°. On 19 May Newcomb was 26°, the coldest spot in the nation. Rainfall totals were twice normal over much of the four county region. Champlain stood at 101.32' on 11 May, just short of the all-time record of 101.65', and was still above one hundred feet at the end of the month. Docks could not be installed and landing beaches on the islands were under water, but four management trips to the Four Brothers were carried out during May, thanks to the trailer and anchor and help of volunteers. Census lanes were surveyed and marked on Island C of the Four Brothers and the second census of Ring-billed Gulls carried out.

The shortage of south winds was cause for complaint. The only day of sustained hawkwatching was 23 April, when just seven birds of four species were spotted from Belfrey Mountain. Meanwhile, observers on nearby Coot Hill tallied 32 birds of eight species the same day, over six hours. Bird banding operations were conducted on Crown Point peninsula 12-16 May for the eighth consecutive year. A relatively low total of 51 individuals of 19 species, plus several returns, were netted. Highest total on the mid-May Birdathon was 84 species. In spite of all, a creditable list of 193 species, plus one morph ("Blue Goose") was reported for the three-month period.

Rarities include a record late Barrow's Goldeneye, a pair of Common Barn-Owls, and the Region's first Prothonotary Warbler. Special credit is due the Atlas observer whose penchant for wading icy brooks provided the first Confirmed record of Louisiana Waterthrush in Region 7 since field work began in 1980. His experience also provides a valuable lesson in the importance of starting Atlas field work early in the season and of working from the assumption that a bird might be a breeder, rather than a transient.

Contributors and initialed observers: Merry Baker, Thomas Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Sharon Bissell, Geoffrey Carleton, Bernard Carman, Greenleaf T. Chase, Dewey & Joan Clark, Dean Cook, Charlicie Delehanty, Jeanne DeMattos, Sam Droege, David Dudones, Janet & Tom Dudones, Cindy Edgley, Frances Filshie, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Thomas Hale, Elsbeth Johnson, Sally Johnson, Hal Kelin, John Kopp, Ethyl Kozma, David Kyler, Bruce Landon, Madeline LaPine, Gary Lee, Bower Logan, Theodore Mack, Norman Mason, Larry Master, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Connie Menard, Karen Miller, Ruth Miller, Dan Nickerson, Deirdre North, Terry O'Connell, Barbara Parnass, John Peterson, David Rutkowski, Shirley Ryan, John Schaeffer, Mary & Robert Sheffield, Dean Spaulding, Gen Sutter, Eleanor Sweeny, Pat Taber, Pat Tarkowski, Joanne Treffs, Armand Vaillancourt, Maurice Villeneuve, Jane Wilson.

LOONS-DUCKS: The first Com. Loon was on Tupper L. 15 Apr (MV), with subsequent reports of a mix of migrants and breeding birds from L. Clear, Lincoln Pd., Little Tupper,

Rouses Point, and Sperry Pd. Pied-billed Grebe: one Crown Point 6-14 May. Horned Grebe: three North West Bay 22 Apr, one Essex 29 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: two North West Bay 30 Apr (EJ, JP). Double-crested Cormorants began to gather at the Four Brothers again, with 14 there by 5 May; these are apparently non-breeding birds, although there are now nesting records from the Sisters Islands in VT waters in 1982 and 1983. Am. Bittern arr. Tupper L. 12 May, and Great Blue Herons arr Saranac L. and Tupper L. 12 Apr. Great Egret: two Briar Swamp, Clinton Co. 18 May. A Cattle Egret was at Tupper L 29-30 Apr (JW). Green-backed Heron arr Port Henry 1 May. Glossy Ibis: Gr. Chazy launch site 7 May Clinton Co. had Snow Geese by 24 Mar, with a huge flock of 1,200-1,500 birds seen 27 Mar (TO). Three Snow Geese, including one "Blue Goose," were at Chazy Landing 2 Apr, together with about 500 Canada Geese (TD); one Snow Goose was at Tupper L 3 Apr (AV). Tupper had a flock of 40 Canadas 14 Mar and the local flock there began to arrive 12 Apr. Wood Duck arr Tupper L 6 May. Green-winged Teal: three on Moody Pd. 29 Apr (D & MB). Am. Black Duck: arr Middle Saranac L and Stoney Creek Pd 10 Apr. Mallard: five nests found on Isl. D of Four Brothers 7 May. A male N. Pintail was at Plattsburgh 5 Mar, and two were at Tupper L 9 Apr. A male Blue-winged Teal was at Saranac L 4 May, with pairs of the latter at Essex and Westport 7 May. Eight N. Shovelers were along the Little Chazy R 27 Apr and up to a dozen were at Bud Gravelle's, Clinton Co, mid-Apr. Stoney Creek Pd. had a pair of Gadwalls 6 Apr for the second Franklin Co record (J & F Decker), while a breeding pair was at the Four Brothers 28 May. A large raft of Canvasback and Greater Scaup, plus a male Redhead, were off Wickham Marsh 5 Mar. Gr. Scaup Clinton Co to 15 May. Ring-necked Duck arr Tupper L 17 Mar, with other reports from the Kunjamuk, North West Bay, and Simon Pd. A pair of White-winged Scoters were south of Essex 23 Apr (RH). An adult drake BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was on North West Bay 22 Apr, in company with a male Com. Goldeneye when first seen (EJ, JP; later GC, NM). Bull lists previous late dates of 5 and 20 Apr for NYS, and this apparently constitutes a new late record for the state. Bufflehead turned up on interior waters as well as L. Champlain and L. George, with one at Tupper L. 17 Mar, three at Raquette Pd. 10 Apr, pair Kunjamuk 14 Apr, two Tupper L 18 Apr, five there by 6 May, Clinton Co to 16 May, and a male at Sperry Brook Marsh, Little Tupper L. through the late dates of 24-31 May (CD). Hooded Merganser: several pairs arr L. Alice 2 Apr. Com. Merganser: seven nest sites Island D by 7 May. Red-breasted Merganser: pair Westport 25 Apr, hen Four Brothers 7 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: Saranac Lake 12 Apr, on nests at Bay Pond and Chubb R in May. A max three Bald Eagles (two adults, one imm) were at Tupper L 11 Mar, with one or two birds thereafter until 30 Mar when the remaining adult was caught in a muskrat trap on Raquette Pd. Taken to Delmar by the DEC for x-ray examination, the bird was returned to Tupper L and released 4 Apr, after being fitted with bands and a transmitter; last Tupper sighting was 12 Apr (CD). This eagle then moved to nearby Low's L. and then over the Lewis Co. line 18 Apr to High Falls Pd. where the signal was lost (NYSDEC). Other Bald Eagle sightings included an adult Kirby Pt., Ticonderoga, 13 Mar (DC); one Oseetah L. early Apr (JS); two adults headed north at Moody Pd. 28 Apr (D & MB); adult Paradox late Apr (MB), and imm Crown Point 16 May (EJ, JP) and 22 May (GC) where carp were spawning in flooded fields. An imm Bald Eagle trapped in the Catskills during the winter and fitted with a radio transmitter spent several days at the end of May on Franklin Falls. And if these ten eagles whet the appetite, plans are set for hacking 22 young from Alaska in the Adirondacks this summer (NYSDEC). Red-shouldered Hawk was on nest near Willsboro 23 Apr. First Broad-winged Hawks passed Belfrey Mt. and Coot Hill 23 Apr, a nesting pair arr near Elizabethtown 28 Apr, the day following a record flight at Braddock Bay. Peregrine Falcon: Saranac Lake high school 14 Apr (TD) and flying with raven near Essex Co. hack site 21 May (DN). Plans call for release of 10 more falcons at the Clinton Co. site, plus six at the Essex Co. site this summer (NYSDEC). Gray Partridge: Lake Shore Rd. n. Clinton Co. 16 Apr. A male Spruce Grouse was seen along a private road at Upper Saranac L. prior to 21 May (*vide* TD). A flock of nine male Wild Turkeys were south of Champlain 5 Mar, a tom was gobbling near Elizabethtown 17 Mar, and another in n. Clinton Co 7 May. A presumed Virginia Rail gave the "kicker" call in answer to a tape at Sperry Brook Marsh, also heard 8 May Point au Fer swamp where many Com. Moorhens were seen. With lake levels high,

shorebirds were low, with a Black-bellied Plover at Indian L in late May (M & RM) and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in the Champlain region mid-Apr to mid-May the only migrant species reported. Spotted Sandpiper arr L Colby 19 Mar. A displaced Bonaparte's Gull was in a field outside Lake Placid 28 May (LM). On 22 May the actual ground count of Ring-billed Gull nests on Isl C of Four Brothers tallied 17,347 active nests, up from 15,033 last year. Herring Gulls are distributed over all four islands and are now estimated at about 200 pairs. A large imm White-winged Gull was at Bud Gravelle's. Great Black-backed Gulls are now est. four to five pair, also distributed among all islands of the Four Brothers.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Two COMMON BARN-OWLS were perched along the Northway near the Elizabethtown-Westport exit at 8:00 p.m. on 12 May (EK, RM). An E. Screech-Owl was calling along Sabattis Rd. 21 May (CD). Great Horned, Barred, and N. Saw-whet Owls were calling widely, with reports of the last from Cadyville, Deer Lake, Elizabethtown, Lost Ponds, Paradox, and Tupper Lake. Short-eared Owl arr n. Clinton Co 27 Mar, same location 2 Apr and 22 Apr. Com. Nighthawk arr Newcomb 25 Apr. Whip-poor-will at Moriah 14 May. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the snow near daffodils 9 May at Tupper Lake was poignant (BL). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported, with four at Bay Pond and singles at two Essex locations, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, and Westport. Black-backed Woodpecker: Deer Lake Bog during Mar (SD).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Horned Larks were reported from Sugar Bush 13 Feb and Chazy Landing 2 Apr. Tree Swallows arr Elizabethtown, Inlet, and Saranac Lake 8 Apr, with 75 over open water at Tupper L 29 Apr. N. Rough-winged Swallow arr Saranac Lake 3 May. A pair of Gray Jays was seen at Lost Ponds 17 May and two adults feeding three downy-breasted young at Sabattis Rd. Bog 19 May, where two were seen on later days. Tupper is a tough place for an Am. Crow to make a living: 15 were surrounding a feeding Bald Eagle 9 Mar, and up to three later paid daily visits to a suet feeder (CD). Com. Ravens were flying with newly fledged young near the cliffs above Hadley Pd., Willsboro, 30 May—a new nesting site (D & JC). Some 20 Boreal Chickadees were at North Meadow 20 May (TD). Tufted Titmouse continues to be reported from settled areas like Ausable Point, Crown Point, Fort Ticonderoga, Moriah, Tupper Lake, as well as wilderness parts such as Adjudamo Flow and Gooseberry Mt. A Winter Wren was at Paradox by 21 Mar (MB) and a Marsh Wren at Sperry Brook Marsh 30 May (CD). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Point au Fer swamp by 16 Apr and migration through the Region seemed heavy. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher again returned to Crown Point peninsula. Four Veeries at Tupper Lake found bare places on the ground during 9 May snows. A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Elk L 31 May was presumed to be a migrant (M & RS). Am. Robin: 125 Saranac L athletic field 11 Apr. N. Mockingbird: reported from Wadhams in Apr and Bay Pond and Tupper L in May. A Water Pipit stopped off at Little Wolf Beach 23 Apr (CD), and up to seven were found at Saranac Lake high school 27 Apr-10 May, max 20 McMaster Rd. area 19 May (TD), Clinton Co 7 May. Cedar Waxwing numbers seemed to decline in Mar-Apr, then increase with the return of breeding birds in May. A Loggerhead Shrike at Saranac Lake 8-12 Apr was seen to swoop down and capture what looked like a shrew (TD), while another was near the Crown Point forts 14 May (TB, GC, JP, DR).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Arrival dates are admittedly of limited interest statewide, but at the end of cabin fever season North Country birders compete eagerly to turn up the first warblers and then await the results. Given the extreme weather conditions during May, observers may have been more discouraged than the new arrivals. Consider the male Blackburnian singing amidst big snowflakes near Paradox 9 May or the singing Solitary Vireo at Saranac Lake 10 May, with two inches of snow on the ground. The bulk of movement was, indeed, late this year, but the hardy forerunners were near usual dates and even a few early records were reported. Solitary Vireo: Paradox 29 Apr (MB). Yellow-throated Vireo: Moriah 10 May (GC), also from three other locations in the Champlain district on later dates. Warbling Vireo: Port Henry 8 May (TB, NM). Red-eyed Vireo: Wilson Pd 5 May (GL). Golden-winged Warbler: two singing males Willsboro 21 May (DN) and one at a previous Chesterfield Atlas location 29 May (D & JC). Tennessee Warbler: frequent, Saranac Lake 19 May, pair there 21 May (TD), wave of 25 at Moriah 24 May (TB). Nashville Warbler: Saranac Lake

7 May (TD). N. Parula: Tupper Lake 14 May (CD). Yellow Warbler: Ausable Pt. 4 May (TO). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Moriah 10 May (TB). Magnolia Warbler: Paradox and Tupper Lake 8 May (MB & CD). Cape May Warbler: Plattsburgh (TO) and Saranac Lake 10 May (TD), with numerous sightings there, as well as Lake Placid and Moriah. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Penfield Pd. 2 May (DR). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Inlet 28 Apr (GL). Black-throated Green Warbler: Elizabethtown 30 Apr (GF, EJ, JP). Blackburnian Warbler: Paradox 4 May (MB). Pine Warbler: Champlain Valley 14 May (GC, DR). Palm Warbler: Saranac Lake 6 May (TD, TK). Bay-breasted Warbler: migrants Cadyville 11 May (TO) and Moriah 18 May (TB), but a male foraging in spruces at North Meadow 20 May (TD), one at Sabattis Rd. 21 May (CD), and Cedar R area 28-30 May (M & RM) might have been on territory. Blackpoll Warbler: Elizabethtown 21 May (EJ, JP). Black-and-white Warbler: Paradox 2 May (MB). Am. Redstart: Paradox 6 May (MB). PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: male North Country Comm. College, Saranac Lake, 6 May (KM, verification report on file)—constitutes a new species for Essex Co. and the Adirondack Park. Ovenbird: Elizabethtown 2 May (JP). N. Waterthrush: Port Henry and Moriah 1 May (GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male arr Moriah 27 Apr (TB, NM), where a female was later seen. Atlas codes moved upwards as the male continued singing, a neighboring male from further down the same brook engaged in territorial chases, and the female kept flushing from the same stretch of streambank. Finally, after painstaking searches, on 29 May the female flushed off a nest with five eggs, to flounder in the brook in a dramatic distraction display. Nearby, the 1982 used nest was also discovered, and the '83 eggs hatched on 11 June, moving the record to CO-NY. Meanwhile, a male returned to an Elizabethtown brook for the fourth year of the Atlas on 3 May (JP), another at Cadyville 5 May (TO), and singing males have now been found at three locations in the same Atlas block near Willsboro (DN). This early-nesting species has been located in only eight Atlas blocks in this Region since 1980, suggesting that observers 1) avoid the white noise of rushing brooks, 2) don't know the song and habits, and 3) don't get out early in the season. Mourning Warbler: Indian Lake 28-30 May (M & RM). Com. Yellowthroat: Paradox 6 May (MB). Canada Warbler: Tupper L 24 May (CD). Yellow-breasted Chat: Saranac Lake 14 May (TD) and heard only Deerhead 22 May (DN).

TANAGERS—WEAVERS: First male Indigo Bunting was at Keene 30 Apr (TH), and birds visited feeding stations at Keene Valley and Tupper Lake in early May. First pair of Rufous-sided Towhees at Wadhams 19 Apr (DS). Last report of Am. Tree Sparrow came from Newcomb 26 Apr. Chipping Sparrow arr Paradox 7 Apr. Several Field Sparrows were at a Saranac Lake feeder 23 Mar (TD). Four Vesper Sparrows were at the Saranac Inn golf course 14 Apr (D & MB) and a flock of 20 Savannah Sparrows was at Saranac Lake 14 Apr (TD). A phenomenal rash of Fox Sparrow reports accompanied the 19 Apr snowstorm, with sightings from Ampersand Bay, Bloomingdale, Elizabethtown, Gabriels, Keene, Lake Placid, Newcomb, Twobridge Brook, and Westport, max six Tupper Lake 24 Apr (CD), with the last at Saranac Lake 1 May (D & MB). Lincoln's Sparrow: Saranac Lake 7 May (TD), Tupper Lake 10 May (CD), two banded Crown Point penin. 13-16 May (JP). Swamp Sparrow: two Ampersand Bay 27 Apr (TD). White-crowned Sparrow: Champlain 4 May (MG), Tupper Lake 6-23 May (CD) and many other locations during the same period. Dark-eyed Juncos were already arriving in numbers when the storm hit, forcing birds into feeders; between 19-21 Apr a total of 96 banded near Elizabethtown (JP). Bobolink arr Newcomb 8 May (SB). A mixed flock of several hundred blackbirds near Wadhams had a few Rusty Blackbirds 24 Mar (GC), male L. Alice 10 Apr (MG), a pair nest-building Wilson Pd. 6 May (GL), and one near Paradox 15 May (MB). N. Oriole: Moriah 1 May (TB). House Finches were reported from Elizabethtown, Moriah, Saranac Lake, Westport, and Willsboro, and two males showed up in Tupper Lake for the first time 14 Apr (CD). A flock of a dozen Red Crossbills were feeding in white pines at Saranac Lake 14 May, with eight still there 16 May (TD). A lone Pine Siskin at Champlain feeder 9 May (MG). Saranac Lake also had several Pine Siskins 14-24 May (J & TD). Evening Grosbeak numbers declined, although there were reports of 100 at Tupper Lake 17 Apr, 20 at Keene until 1 May, four near Indian L.-Cedar R. 28-30 May, and a pair at Paradox through May.

Discovery Farms, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

ED REILLY

March ambled in like the proverbial lamb after a very mild February and only snarled a bit on leaving. April denied the promises of March by being generally wet, cloudy, and cool, even thrusting late frosts and snowstorms over the Region. According to the weatherman we had the wettest April in 125 years. April showers brought May showers, the wettest May since 1972 and more than 4.6 times as much rain as we experienced last year. Rain in the period March to 31 May totalled nearly 15 inches, streams and water tables were filled and there was considerable flooding. Winds of more than 20 mph were recorded on two days but averaged about eight or nine mph through the period in which we also had frost on 6, 12, 17 and 28 May. Weatherwise, a poor spring. The worst spring (and summer) on record was in the year 1816 when ice and frost were recorded in Maine up to mid-July. We have no records of birds' arrivals for 1816, but spring migration this year was confused, confusing, and somewhat erratic. Cloudy, rainy, and cool weather persisted right to the last day of May.

Those species whose migratory movements are governed more by the amounts and accessibility of foods, that move northward snapping at the heels of winter, may have suffered with the sudden reversals when snow, ice, and wintry blasts returned for varying periods. Perhaps the confusion was forecast when a Killdeer was sighted flying across I90 during a windy snow flurry on 17 Feb, as early as I've ever seen them, after days of relatively balmy weather. Eastern Phoebes, which usually arrive here when the breaking of the ice on the streams releases swarms of stoneflies and other aquatic insects into the air from their watery nymphal stages, were not reported until 19 April by Tom Palmer and elsewhere, not until May. My own observations indicate that the phoebes' population is low, at least in this area. House Wrens are still not as abundant as they were some ten years ago. Scanning the Region Eight reports back to the spring of 1954 when we first began using the present geographical boundaries, we find almost all the changes are due to variations in the weather patterns, or perhaps fewer observers covering a somewhat smaller area. Some birds are extending their ranges farther north and some are faced with declining populations or environmental changes. The increase in the numbers of observers means more areas are covered more completely by better equipped and perhaps more knowledgeable birders, which means that better statistics are available to protect those birds which need it and lend much more credence to those statements made to the general public and to legislative bodies.

Craig Thompson reported two interesting single birds which appeared at his feeder: an example of *Junco hyemalis oregonus* which used to be called the Oregon Junco (and still is) before it was recognized as conspecific with the Dark-eyed Junco; this bird was also seen by R. Budliger. Of even more interest was a xanthochroid Evening Grosbeak, a grosbeak lacking dark pigment in its plumage, making it appear almost entirely yellow. Craig advertised the grosbeak in the *Ravena Press Herald* and several residents of Coeymans Hollow responded when they saw the bird at their feeder. The "Oregon Junco" was noted from 1/30/83-3/30/83 and the xanthochroid Evening Grosbeak from 2/10/83-3/8/83. Such individual birds allow birders the chance of observing local movements, telling how

far such birds move in a single day or in a short period of time. Since xanthochroidism is usually genetically fixed, it will be interesting to note if any progeny with at least partial xanthochroidism appear in the area in the year to follow.

We hope this summer and the years that follow will bring great birding. Remember, if you find evidence of any species breeding within the boundaries of the State of New York you will send us the details: dates, exact locality (geographically), description of nest and its location (if seen), eggs, young, and any other details, so that we may make sure it reaches the Birding Atlas. Please do not assume others may have reported it.

Abbreviations: CR—Century Run (followed by date 14 May or 21 May and number of groups reporting the species); HR—Hudson River somewhere between Hudson and Albany.

Observers: Vi & Bill Able, Roberta Bernstein, Belinda Bingham, Fran Bogausch, Arlene & Tom Brown, Burrell Buffington, Janet Carroll, Bill Cleveland, Charles Cobb, Juanita Cook, Bill Cook, Mike Crevier, Sandy Custer, Rena Dodd, Kate Dunham, N. & M. Fancher, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Carl George, Elisabeth Grace, W. & Monte Gruett, Andrew & Richard Guthrie, Becky Halberton, Peter Hunt, C. W. Huntley, M. Kuhrt, Betty Laros, J. Loughner, Sam Madison, Dana Mather, Robert McCullough, Tom Palmer, Walt Sabin, Shirley & A. Schadow, Henry Stebbins, Emmy Thomee, Craig Thompson, Marion & Bill Ulmer, Robert Yunick.

LOONS—DUCKS: Com. Loon: two Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr; one L Taghkanic 24 Apr; CR 14 one Queechy Lake; CR 21 one Alcove Res. Horned Grebe: one HR 19 May. Pied-billed Grebe: two at Castleton 27 and 29 May, one at Bear Swamp, Carlisle 21 May. Double-crested Cormorant: CR Cocksackie 21 May, Embough Bay 7 May, three HR 24 Apr, three HR 20 May. Am. Bittern: one HR 3 May, one Copake 11 May; one Black Creek Marsh CR 21 May. Least Bittern: one Copake 20 May; one CR Black Creek Marsh 21 May. Great Blue Heron: HR Mar 26; one Central Bridge 12 Apr; one Elizaville 1 May; one Ancramdale 19 May; two Copake 25 May; CR six+ 21 May. Great Egret: one Old Chatham 20 May. Snowy Egret: one at Vischer's Ferry by Madison and Sabin CR 21 May. Green-backed Heron: one 29 Apr HR; one at Old Chatham 30 Apr; one Claverack 8 May; one Ancramdale 19 May; one CR 21 May. Tundra Swan: two Cocksackie 19 Mar. Snow Goose: several at Castleton HR 14 Mar; 85 headed south at Castleton, HR 4 Apr. Canada Goose: four Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr; several downy young at Churchtown 8 May; Central Bridge 22 Apr; two at Central Bridge on Mohawk River 17 Mar; CR (5) 21 May; two Copake 25 May. Wood Duck: four Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr; four HR 13 Apr; CR (6) 21 May; two Copake 11 May; several HR Mar 26. Green-winged Teal: four Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr. Brant: reported by two parties CR 21 May. Am. Black Duck: earliest report four at Stockport, HR 26 Mar; all but one party reported them CR 14 and 21. Mallard: several at Stockport, HR 26 Mar; by all parties CR 14 and 21. N. Pintail: one reported at Stockport, HR 26 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: seen at Castleton 6 & 31 Mar; four Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr. Am. Wigeon: seen HR 2 & 13 Apr and 3, 27 & 29 May. Canvasback: seen HR 3 Mar; and 2,000+ at Clermont 14 Mar. Redhead: seen HR 5 Mar; one HR Germantown 7 Apr; and by one party (Madison and Sabin) on CR 21 May. Ring-necked Duck: seen HR 3 & 5 Mar; eight at Cocksackie 20 Mar; and by one party on CR 21 May. Greater Scaup: reported on HR 5 & 26 Mar; 50 on HR at Germantown 7 Apr; and on CR by three parties 21 May. Lesser Scaup: ten at Cocksackie 20 Mar; one at Stockport 26 Mar. White-winged Scoter: Douglas Allen and Michael DiGiorgio reported one on 22 May in the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club area. Com. Goldeneye: reported on HR 5 and 26 Mar at Stockport. Bufflehead: reported but once on HR 26 Mar. Hooded Merganser: two males and one female were reported 11 Mar by Tom Palmer and on HR they were reported 5 Mar; and more or less continuously 13-22 Mar. Com. Merganser: 30 reported on Mohawk River on 3 Mar (8); on 11 Mar (30); and on 17 Mar (6); all by Tom Palmer, 20 were at Stockport (HR) 26 Mar and several 5 Mar; they were also reported at Schoharie Creek, Central Bridge and others in May by Bill Cleveland; Yunick reported 13 on Saratoga Lake 19 Mar. and two on Jenny Lake 9 Apr.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: the earliest was reported on HR 14 Mar; intermittently in Col Co to 31 May. Osprey: one reported Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr., others 1-14 May HR, Ghent, Old Chatham. N. Harrier: seen HR, Castleton 3, 17, 24 & 30 Mar; Vosburgh Marsh 2 Apr; Cocksackie 30 Apr; Esperance 18 Apr; and CR 21 May; HR 1-14 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seen intermittently at Ghent, Old Chatham, Castleton, 1-20 Mar; 4-26 Apr; also at Castleton 26-29 May; Claverack 16 May; Vosburgh's Marsh 2 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: seen at Ghent, Castleton, Kinderhook 6 & 12 Mar; and at Old Chatham 9 and 18 Apr; one banded at Vischer's Ferry 13 May. N. Goshawk: one seen near HR 26 Mar; another 14 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: one near HR 26 Mar; one Alcoa Res CR 21 May, four at Clermont 27 Apr. Broad-winged Hawk: reported 9 Apr at Jenny Lake, later a pair exhibiting territorial behavior 14 & 15 May; 22 Apr at Kinderhook; one at Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; another at Old Chatham 30 Apr; an imm was seen in Gallatinville 18 May; seen CR 21 May and in Old Chatham 20, 24 & 25 May; and at Central Bridge 7 May. Red-tailed Hawk: two at HR 26 Mar, three at Vosburgh's Marsh 2 Apr; CR 14 & 21 May by most parties. Rough-legged Hawk: along HR and at Castleton 3, 17, 24, & 30 Mar; one late at Castleton 29 Apr. Am. Kestrel: a female reported at Florida and then for remainder of period 6 Mar-31 May; reported intermittently by birders in remainder of Region Eight. Merlin: a banded adult female was seen in Yunick's yard 26 Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: seen Castleton 4-27 Apr; one Elizaville 1 May; Churchtown 8 May. Ruffed Grouse: one near HR 26 Mar; Churchtown 8 May; one Jenny Lake 22 May; at Central Bridge throughout Mar, Apr, May; CR 21 May by most parties; population seems low. Wild Turkey: single birds and small flocks reported Spencertown and Old Chatham 5 & 14-30 Mar, and from same places and East Greenbush 9-29 Apr; Churchtown 8 May. N. Bobwhite: seen by only two groups CR 21 May. Virginia Rail: reported one HR 12 May; two Ancramdale 19 May; one Claverack 24 May; and by five groups CR 21 May. Sora: three, one nesting, Ancramdale 19 May; one Claverack 24 May; CR by four groups 21 May. Com. Moorhen: reported by five parties CR 21 May and one seen at Copake 25 May. Killdeer: Old Chatham, Spencertown, HR 6, 19-28 Mar; Hudson 15 Mar; nest with eggs Lindenwald (Kinderhook) and at Blue Stores 22 May; downy young at Copake 26 May; present through most of area Apr-May. Greater Yellowlegs: one CR 14 May; reported by one group CR 21 May; one Livingston 22 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: one reported CR 14 May. Solitary Sandpiper: one Ghent 28 Apr; one Claverack 3 May; seen intermittently 1-23 May at Ghent and Old Chatham; by two groups CR 21 May; several CR 14 May. Spotted Sandpiper: HR 21-24 and 28 Apr; two Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; HR, Nassau, and Ghent 1, 5, 12, 14 May; CR 21 May and 14 May. Upland Sandpiper: Montgomery Co CR 21 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one CR, HR 14 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one CR 21 May. Com. Snipe: one Ghent 28 Apr; 1 May; CR 21 May. Am. Woodcock: Muitzeskill, Spencertown, Ghent 4, 17, 21 Mar; Muitzeskill 15 Apr; Muitzeskill, Old Chatham 12, 14, 15 May; CR 21 May, female with three young at Copake 25 May. Bonaparte's Gull: at Saratoga Lake CR 21 May. Least Sandpiper: CR on HR 14 May; CR 21 May by three parties; three at Livingston 22 May. Ring-billed Gull: several HR 5 & 26 Mar; c. 100 Cocksackie 20 Mar; two Stockport 26 Mar; c. 300 Claverack 25-28 Mar; CR 21 May; HR 30-31 May. Herring Gull: HR 1-31 Mar; 50 Cocksackie 20 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: two at Stockport 26 Mar; HR 1-30 Apr; CR 21 May by three groups; HR 21, 30 May. Com. Tern: CR at Saratoga Lake 21 May. Black Tern: CR by one party 21 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: reported in Region throughout period. Mourning Dove: 11 Ghent 26 Mar; generally reported throughout Columbia Co entire period. Black-billed Cuckoo: CR 14 and 21 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: CR 14 and 21 May. E. Screech-Owl: two Snyderville 5 May; CR 21 May; one Claverack 23 May; Castleton, Ghent, Old Chatham 14, 25, 28 May. Great Horned Owl: at Ghent and Old Chatham 5, 6, 17 Mar; two young in nest Claverack 12 May; CR, 21 May; Hudson and Old Chatham 13-28 May. Barred Owl: Old Chatham 14 May; one heard Hillsdale 16 May; CR by four groups 21 May. Com. Nighthawk: CR by three parties 21 May; ten at Copake 25 May; Ghent and Hudson 28-30 May. Whip-poor-will: one Snyderville 4 May; CR by one party 21 May. Chimney Swift: seen at Central Bridge 24 Apr; at Ghent, Hudson, Old Chatham 29-30 Apr; mating at Gallatinville 18 May; CR at Old Chatham 14 May and by all seven groups 21 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: CR 14 May; and by five parties 21 May; Central Bridge 15

May; one Hollowville 16 May. Belted Kingfisher: reported 18 Mar. at Old Chatham; 7 Apr at Cobleskill; one at Claverack 29 Apr; one Elizaville 1 May; CR Columbia Co 14 May and five parties 21 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: at Coxsackie Flats Apr-May; CR 14 May and by one party 21 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: at Hudson 14 Mar; at Ghent 11 May; Clermont State Park 3 May; one Gallatinville 18 May; one Ancramdale 19 May; two nest-building at Copake 11 May; CR 14 and 21 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one seen Hudson CR 14 May. Downy Woodpecker: seen throughout period, five banded 26 Mar. Hairy Woodpecker: generally throughout area and period; one banded Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar; CR 14 and 21 May. N. Flicker: reported from Ghent and Hudson 6, 8-31 Mar; Taghkanic 16-29 Apr; CR 14 May and by all seven parties 21 May. Pileated Woodpecker: seen in Hudson and Canaan 16-28 Mar; one Claverack 16 May; CR 14 May and by four parties 21 May.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: seen Old Chatham, Castleton 14-31 May; Claverack 23 May; CR 14 May and by five groups 21 May. Alder Flycatcher: Copake 26 May. Willow Flycatcher: Ghent 29 Apr and 1-28 May; CR by three parties 21 May. Least Flycatcher: reported Old Chatham 8, 14 May; Gallatinville 18 May; CR by all parties 21 May. E. Phoebe: Ghent 4 Apr, Central Bridge 7 May; Ghent, Castleton, Old Chatham 1-14 May; nesting at Gallatinville 18 May; CR by all parties 21 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: at Churchtown 8 May; Central Bridge 3 May; Old Chatham 14 May (CR); CR seven parties 21 May. E. Kingbird: seen Kinderhook 29-30 Apr; Central Bridge 7 May; Snyderville 4 May; CR by all parties 14 & 21 May. Horned Lark: reported from Ghent, Kinderhook, Castleton 1 & 6 Mar, and 20-30 Apr; Copake 25 May; CR by two groups 21 May. Purple Martin: at Kinderhook 9 & 14 May; CR by three parties 21 May. Tree Swallow: Central Bridge 2 Apr; Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; CR all parties 14 & 21 May. N. Rough-winged Swallow: in Hudson 27 Apr; Howes Cave 7 May; Hudson 21-30 May; nesting in sandbank at Copake 26 May; CR by six groups 21 May. Bank Swallow: Copake 11 May; Old Chatham, Nassau, Ghent CR 14 May; Ancramdale 19 May; CR by six parties 21 May. Cliff Swallow: Castleton, Ghent, East Nassau 14-31 May; one Copake 20 May; CR by three parties 21 May. Barn Swallow: Ghent 24 Apr; Central Bridge 4 May; Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; CR 14 May all parties, 21 May six parties. Blue Jay: reported throughout Region Mar-May and by all parties on both CRs 14 & 21 May. Am. Crow: over Region throughout period and on both CRs no unusual numbers. Fish Crow: HR 4-30 Apr and CR four on HR near Castleton. Com. Raven: one reported by E. Mansell of Spencertown and also by Jack Shea from National Wildlife at Spencertown on 5 May will need further verification to be accepted according to the rules; the species is apparently making a comeback in the northeast. Black-capped Chickadee: throughout season and Region, 61 banded at Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar. Tufted Titmouse: apparently now a regular resident species in Region Eight at least as far north as the Mohawk Valley, found nesting at Clermont State Park 3 May. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar and reported there 1 & 14 May; CR seen by five parties 21 May. White-breasted Nuthatch: present throughout Mar-May and reported by all parties in both CRs 14 and 21 May. Brown Creeper: reported in Castleton, Canaan, Old Chatham 1-31 Mar; singing Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar; one Taghkanic 30 Apr; in Columbia Co 1-31 May and on CR 14 May and 21 May by five groups. House Wren: present at Spencertown 30 Apr; nesting Elizaville 1 May and Churchtown 8 May; Columbia Co 1-31 May and reported by all parties in CRs 14 and 21 May. Winter Wren: at Schoharie 13 May; Hillsdale and Old Chatham 14 May; CR by three groups 21 May. Sedge Wren: reported at Black Creek during CR 21 May. Marsh Wren: at Castleton 14, 29, 30 May and on CR by four parties 21 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: at Castleton 7 Mar; at Old Chatham 1, 2 May; Central Bridge 21 Apr; CR 14 May and by a single group 21 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: at Hudson, Castleton, Ghent 20 Mar; Central Bridge 22 Apr; Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; Ghent 1-7 May; and by one group CR 21 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two at Clermont 3 May; two at Gallatinville 18 May; one Ancramdale 19 May; and reported at Central Bridge 4 May; three groups reported it CR 21 May; and at Castleton 14, 25-30 May. E. Bluebird: at Hudson, Old Chatham, Spencertown 3-9 Apr and 1-31 May; nesting at Copake 25 May; CR most groups 14 May and six groups 21 May. Veery: at Castleton, Hudson, East Nassau 3-29 May; Claverack and Seward 21 May; Copake Falls 17 May; one Gallatinville 18 May; CR by six groups 21 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: at Hudson 23 Apr; the only report. Swainson's Thrush: two at Copake 11 May, one singing

25 May; at Old Chatham 21 May; reported by two parties CR 21 May. Hermit Thrush: at Central Bridge 21 Apr; Castleton 7, 10, 13, 14 May; one Churchtown 8 May; two Copake Falls 17 May; CR by two groups 21 May. Wood Thrush: Hudson, Muitzeskill, Old Chatham 3-31 May; two Snyderville 4 May; Schoharie 13 May; by all seven groups CR 21 May. Am. Robin: at Central Bridge Mar-May; at Florida, Montgomery Co 11, 13, 17 Mar to 31 May; seven at Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar; albinistic male holding territory at Germantown 4-10 Apr; all parties on CRs 14 and 21 May; very common everywhere. Gray Catbird: Central Bridge 3-31 May; about the same elsewhere in Region, but arrived later than usual and in smaller numbers; CRs by all parties both 14 & 21 May. N. Mockingbird: Lake Taghkanic 18 Apr; n. Columbia Co present Mar-May; Guilderland 30 Apr; CRs all parties 14 May, four parties 21 May; Brown Thrasher: Old Chatham 1 May; Central Bridge 2 May; one Claverack 3 May; one Snyderville 4 May; CRs two parties 14 May, five parties 21 May; numbers seem low. Water Pipit: one Cossackie Flats 30 Apr; CR four Langley Rd., Montgomery Co, 21 May. Cedar Waxwing: one Stockport 26 Mar; Spencertown 22, 23 Mar; ten Copake 25 May; Old Chatham, Ghent, Hudson 1-31 May. European Starling: present in Region Mar-May.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: one Spencertown 27 Apr; one Saratoga Springs 4 May; Copake 11 May; Ancramdale 19 May; CR 14 May and by six parties 21 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: CR 14 May; CR 21 May by five parties; Copake 25 May. Warbling Vireo: Snyderville 4 May; Claverack 10 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Copake 25 May; Ancramdale 19 May; CR 14 May and by six parties 21 May. Red-eyed Vireo: Snyderville 4 May; Claverack 10 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake 20-25 May; Old Chatham, Kinderhook, Hudson 14, 21, 27, 29 May; CR by six parties 21 May. Blue-winged Warbler: at Elizaville 1 May; Clermont 3 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Churchtown 8 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Copake 25 May; CR two parties 14 May and six groups 21 May. Golden-winged Warbler: New Baltimore 20 May; Castleton 28, 30 May; CR by three parties 21 May. Tennessee Warbler: Spencertown 14, 16 May; CR by four groups 21 May. Nashville Warbler: at Central Bridge 7 May; Castleton 14, 25, 29 May; two at Copake Falls 17 May; Ancramdale 19 May; CR by five parties 21 May. N. Parula: at Schoharie 13 May; CR by one party 14 May; and by one party 21 May. Yellow Warbler: Elizaville 1 May; Snyderville 4 May; Hudson 12 May; Claverack 23 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Copake 25 May; CRs by almost all parties 14 & 21 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Clermont 3 May; Hudson 12 May; Schoharie 13 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Claverack 23 May; Copake 25 May; CR 14 May and by six groups 21 May. Magnolia Warbler: Castleton, Old Chatham 1-31 May intermittently; Copake 20 May; CR by two groups 21 May. Cape May Warbler: Muitzeskill, Castleton 11-31 May; at Schoharie 13 May; CR by four parties 21 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Hudson, Chatham, Castleton 29-30 Apr; Old Chatham 8, 11, 12, 14 May; Copake 11 May; Gallatinville 18 May CR by four parties 21 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: at Central Bridge 18 Mar. through Apr and May; Churchtown 8 May; Martindale 16 May; Gallatinville 18 May; both CRs by all groups. Black-throated Green Warbler: at Hudson 30 Apr; Central Bridge 3 May; Castleton 14 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Claverack 23 May; CRs most groups 14 & 21 May. Blackburnian Warbler: at Central Bridge 3 May; Muitzeskill, Castleton 8-25 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; CRs two groups 14 May and six groups 21 May. Pine Warbler: Clermont 3 May; CR by two groups 21 May. Prairie Warbler: Hudson, Old Chatham 1-26 May; Clermont 3 May; Elizaville 1 May; Churchtown 8 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Claverack 23 May; Copake 25 May; CR by four parties 21 May. Palm Warbler: Central Bridge 27 Apr; Spencertown, Hudson 27-30 Apr; Castleton 14, 20, 21 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: Castleton 14, 23-25 May; Sharon 21 May; Gallatinville 18 May; CR five groups 21 May. Blackpoll Warbler: Central Bridge 18 May; Castleton, Hudson 22-31 May; Copake 25 May; CR by four groups 21 May. Cerulean Warbler: Schoharie 13 May; CR n. Schoharie Co. 21 May. Black-and-white Warbler: at Old Chatham, Hudson 29-30 May; Central Bridge 3 May; Snyderville 4 May; Churchtown 8 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Copake 25 May; CR by four parties 21 May. Am. Redstart: Old Chatham 1-31 May; Central Bridge 3 May; Snyderville 4 May; Churchtown 8 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Copake 25 May; CR by six parties 21 May. Worm-eating Warbler: on CR by two parties 21 May. Ovenbird: at Clermont and Central Bridge 3 May; East Nassau, Hudson 8, 11, 14 May; Churchtown 8 May; Martindale 16 May;

Copake Falls 17 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Claverack 23 May; Copake 25 May; CR by six parties 21 May. N. Waterthrush: at Ghent 1 May; Spencertown 27 Apr; four at Copake, two on territories, 11 May; Hudson 12 May; Copake Falls 17 May; CRs by one party 14 May, six parties 21 May; Louisiana Waterthrush: at Churchtown 8 May; Hudson 11, 14 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Gallatinville 18 May; CR by five parties 21 May. Connecticut Warbler: reported by one party on CR 14 May. Mourning Warbler: reported by one party at Palmer's Ravine, town of Florida 21 May. Com. Yellowthroat: at Old Chatham 1 May; Clermont, Central Bridge 3 May; Snyderville 4 May; Churchtown 8 May; Hudson 12 May; Martindale 16 May; Copake Falls 17 May; Gallatinville 18 May; Claverack 23 May; Copake 25 May; CR by all seven parties 21 May and a total of 35 banded at Vischer's Ferry. Wilson's Warbler: at Castleton 14, 23-25 May; CR by one party at Langley Rd., town of Florida, 21 May. Canada Warbler: at Copake 11 May; Old Chatham 14, 19 May; CR by five parties 21 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: at Old Chatham 3 May; Schoharie 13 May; CR by six parties 21 May. N. Cardinal: reported more or less through Region during period and by all parties on CRs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: at Olana 4 May; Central Bridge 7 May; CR by all parties 14 May, by all parties 21 May. Indigo Bunting: at Schoharie 13 May; CR by three parties 14 May; two at Lindenwald 15 May; CR by three parties 21 May. Dickcissel: one visited a feeder at North Chatham for at least ten days before called to attention of ADBC and confirmed 21 Apr. Rufous-sided Towhee: at Old Chatham, Hudson 28-30 Apr; Central Bridge 2 May; CR by six groups 21 May; population down. Am. Tree Sparrow: reported in Region through Mar. and at Old Chatham 17 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: at Central Bridge 22 Apr; Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; Chatham from 1 May on; CRs reported by all parties 14 and 21 May. Field Sparrow: reported at Chatham and Kinderhook intermittently 1-27 Mar???; Churchtown, mating, 11 May; CRs by three parties 14 May and by six 21 May. Vesper Sparrow: at Ghent 14 Apr; Kinderhook 1-28 May; at Schoharie 21 May; CR by two parties 21 May. Savannah Sparrow: at Central Bridge 22 Apr; Ghent 30 Apr; Ancramdale 19 May; Copake 25 May; CRs by two parties 14 May and four parties 21 May. Grasshopper Sparrow: CRs by one party 14 May and three parties 21 May. Henslow's Sparrow: CR, locality not given, by one party 21 May. Fox Sparrow: at Spencertown, Old Chatham 19-31 Mar; Central Bridge 21 Apr and no date May. Song Sparrow: Old Chatham regular at feeder 1 Mar-24 Apr; Cocksackie 20 Mar; Central Bridge 25 Mar; Stockport 26 Mar; CRs by all parties 14 and 21 May. Lincoln's Sparrow: at Ghent 14 May; at CRs by all parties 14 and 21 May. Swamp Sparrow: at Kinderhook 1-3 Apr; one Vosburgh's Marsh 2 Apr; Ghent 14, 22 May; CRs one party 14 May, six parties 21 May. White-throated Sparrow: at Central Bridge 25 Mar; Taghkanic 16 Apr; five Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; Old Chatham 24 May; CR by four parties 21 May. White-crowned Sparrow: at Seward 21 May; Old Chatham 24 May; CR by four parties 21 May. Dark-eyed Junco: at Powell Sanctuary, five 26 Mar; Castleton, Hudson, Old Chatham 1-14 May; CR by five parties 21 May. Snow Bunting: one at Stockport 26 Mar. Bobolink: at Central Bridge 8 May; East Nassau 14 May (CR); by six parties CR 21 May; ten at Copake 25 May. Red-winged Blackbird: at Central Bridge 7 Mar; about 3,500 between Claverack and Greenport, HR; generally throughout period and Region—seen by all CR groups 14 and 21 May. E. Meadowlark: at Claverack 15-26 Mar; Central Bridge 18 Mar; Ghent, Old Chatham, Castleton 9-31 Mar. Lake Taghkanic 29 Apr; all field parties both CRs 14 and 21 May. Com. Grackle: at HR 4 Mar; about 2,500 HR Claverack-Greenport 15 Mar; reported by all parties CRs 14 and 21 May. Brown-headed Cowbird: winters in large numbers in downtown plaza of Albany; Central Bridge 18 Mar; about 2,000 at Cocksackie 20 Mar; reported by all groups CRs 14 and 21 May. Orchard Oriole: Chatham Center 11, 14 May; at Saratoga 21 May. N. Oriole: at Chatham 29 Apr; Central Bridge 4 May; CRs by all parties 14 and 21 May. Purple Finch: at Powell Sanctuary 26 Mar and intermittently through rest of period; CR by all parties 14 May and by six parties 21 May. House Finch: generally in Region 1 Mar-31 May; by all parties both CRs 14 and 21 May. Pine Siskin: one at Florida 12 Mar only one recorded. Am. Goldfinch: generally reported intermittently through Region during period and by all parties CRs 14 and 21 May. Evening Grosbeak: a rather light winter invasion; reported well into May. House Sparrow: present Mar-May throughout Region; numbers fairly constant.

Good birding wherever you may be, and may I plead with those turning in reports to me to do it in check-list order, preferably the latest?

P.O. Box 21, Old Chatham, New York 12136.

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After one of the mildest winters of the century, spring was more normal from a temperature point of view. Precipitation however, was something else. March was cold with temperatures ranging from the 30's to the 50's. April ranged from the 40's thru the 60's and on to the 70's in the first week of May. May temperatures were so mild that trees and shrubs went into full leaf in a few days, and by the end of that first week foliage was a good ten days ahead of normal development. Precipitation further helped the foliage with rain occurring on 13 out of 14 weekends. Lakes and streams were brimming over, but worse, weekend birders were discouraged from venturing forth. In spite of these adversities, some remarkable records were made.

One would have thought the warm winter would have insured a thriving insect population this spring. Just the opposite occurred. Caterpillars of all kinds were hard to find. Tent Caterpillars were very few, and oak leaves, usually riddled with holes within a week of development by a variety of inch worms were largely untouched at the end of the period. Obviously the birds which feed upon them were hard pressed to find food. Because of the precipitation however, late summer fruit and seeds should be in good supply for those species dependent upon them.

For too long Region Nine birders have watched those in Regions One and Ten come up with "mouth-watering" finds; seizing the BOTS award almost every season. This time our birders came up with two records, either of which could surely take the prize, and with a few others that could have been contenders. Two new additions to the New York State List were reported and submitted with excellent documentation to NYSARC. They were a Ross' Goose and a Black-shouldered Kite (formerly White-tailed Kite). Detailed reports of these finds are included in this issue. The Sandhill Crane and Western Meadowlark reported, although not new to the state, might well have taken the prize had there been less competition.

For most species, the season was normal. The early thaw in late February sent waterfowl thru early and fast. There were no organized hawk watches this spring. Broad-wings arrived and went thru largely unobserved. Shorebirds made a poor showing, and only a few winter finches appeared. Most species of warblers arrived the weekend of 30 April, and waves were reported the weekends of 14 May and 21 May. Luckily, most Big Days came those weekends. The Ralph T. Waterman Club racked up a respectable 151 species on the 14th, and the Mearns Club tallied 155 species on the 21st.

Rarities found in the report in addition to those already mentioned are: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Greater White-fronted

Goose, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Summer Tanager and Blue Grosbeak.

Contributors and observers cited: Martin Borko, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Jan & Francis Fitzpatrick, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Mary & Jim Key, Helen Manson, Ken McDermott, Ed & Lana Mills, Frank Murphy, Dan Niven, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, John P. Tramontano, Ed Treacy, and Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan--Ashokan Reservoir; Basha--Bashakill Swamp, Wurtsboro; EP--Esopus Point; KP--Kingston Point; MBD--Mearns Big Day, 6 p.m. 20 May-6 p.m. 21 May; MC--Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; PL--Playland, Rye; USMA--U.S. Military Academy, West Point; WMC--Waterman May Census 14 May; the first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS--DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: a very unusual occurrence of two pair at Middletown Res 14 Mar (JPT). Com. Loon: very few migrants reported. FM strongly suspects breeding at Ashokan. While in his boat 28 May he was carefully inspected by an adult which he observed on two other occasions. Horned Grebe: first one Kiamesha L 21 Mar. Two more at EP 10 Apr. Very few. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** rarely ever reported and then mostly on the Hudson. One at Middletown Res. 11 Apr (JPT) and as many as *seven* at Basha 20 Apr (DN, MB). Double-crested Cormorant: 11 flying over Fisherman's Flats, Dutch 17 Apr. Max 30 KP 21 May. Very few reported down river. An unusual report of two Kiamesha L 7 Apr (DN). Least Bittern: back in the usual haunts in good numbers. Great Blue Heron: seem to have abandoned the two new breeding sites at Basha. Good numbers in Dutch, but no breeding sites are now known. Great Egret: one at KP 1 May could have been the same bird seen across the river at Pleasant Valley 1-12 May. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** very unusual in spring. One imm in half white plumage observed near Salt Point 24 May (FG). Another was at MC irregularly from 12-27 May. **CATTLE EGRET:** three at Pound Ridge 30 Apr and one at MC 28 May. One Salt Point 3 May, and one near Amenia 10 May. One near Campbell Hall 14 Apr; unusual to have so many. Green-backed Heron: few reported, numbers down. Black-crowned Night-Heron: seven at KP 6 May, and one heard at EP 14 May. No evidence of breeding in the upper Hudson to date. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: irregularly at MC from 27 Apr. None breeding this year after several years of Great Horned Owl predation. Glossy Ibis: only report inland one at Basha 7 May. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** two at Round Pond near Sharon Station, Dutch 13, 14 Mar. One near Millerton 9 Mar. Only other report from Dutch was in 1977 near Amenia. Snow Goose: two first year birds at Round Pond, Sharon Station 13-14 Mar. More than 500 over Baird Pk, Dutch 5 Apr, and at Wilcox Pk 6 Apr. A few scattered reports of single birds elsewhere. **ROSS' GOOSE:** one in the company of the aforementioned Snow Geese at Round Pond, Sharon Station 13, 14 Mar. A first record for the state of New York. Found by Dorothy Fleury and Mary Yegella and subsequently seen by at least two dozen others, some with previous experience with the species on its wintering grounds in California. Report filed with NYSARC. Brant: the big push seemed to come May 14. An unusual flock of 300 flying west away from the Hudson over Torne Mt, at 8:30 a.m. 25 May. Most migrants are observed flying north in the evening. From five to 13 wintered thru Mar at PL. Canada Goose: populations seem to be leveling off; breeding everywhere. Migrant max 5,000 at Round Pond, Sharon Station 14 Mar. Green-winged Teal: one on MBD was very late. N. Pintail: 17 on Orange L 4 Mar was an unusually large number. One in a Kingston farm field 14 May was very late. Blue-winged Teal: one drake at Croft Village Marsh near Stanfordville regularly thru May. N. Shoveler: a female on Mill Dam Pond at Stone Ridge 16 Mar. unusual so far north so early. A male was observed courting a female Mallard on 9 Apr. Canvasback: the bulk of migrants went thru in Feb. Max for this period 400 at EP 6-13 Mar. Redhead: one at PL 6 Mar was believed to have wintered. A male at EP 20 Mar was the only inland report. Lesser Scaup: max 75 Rockland L 27 Mar. Oldsquaw: only report 10 Kiamesha L 7 Apr. White-winged Scoter: only report one pair Kiamesha L 30 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: max about 100 at EP thru 20 Mar. Com. Merganser: relatively scarce this spring. Max about 100 at EP 5-20 Mar. Of interest was an adult male with two females at Basha 2 May, and another male and female on the Hudson near Esopus on 22 May, no breeding observed. Red-breasted Merganser: no reports from the

lower Hudson where they might be expected. One Ashokan 7 Mar and two at KP 23 Apr. An interesting inland record of four Kiamesha L 20 Mar increased to six there 22-24 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Osprey: an excellent spring movement starting in early Apr and continuing thru mid-May. Maxima five over CB 21 Apr and nine Basha 14 May. **BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE:** Full details of this occurrence new to New York State are reported elsewhere in this issue. One adult obs mid-afternoon 26 Apr by Mr. Chuck Roda at his home in Hopewell Junction. A non-birder, he called Jim & Mary Key who saw the bird at 6 p.m. Observed the next day by Ken McDermott and Vaughn Morrison (the latter is familiar with the bird in the west). It was studied at length, both flying and sitting until 9 a.m. when it flew off to the east. Bald Eagle: more late spring reports than usual. Four lingered in Sull thru Apr and an imm was at Basha thru 21 May. Two adults passed Hook Mt. 13 Apr and an imm was there 22 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: one Basha 30 Apr; one MBD on Mine Rd, USMA. N. Goshawk: one Basha 19 May. Another nesting at Deep Hollow Dutch 24 May. Another at Pound Ridge 18 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: missed on all Big Days. Broad-winged Hawk: one very early bird at Pawling 16 Mar. At least a month early. Not many reports this spring, probably due to lack of coverage rather than a change in numbers. There were no organized hawk watches this spring. Rough-legged Hawk: one dark-phase bird passed Hook Mt 17 Apr (ELM). Merlin: one passed Hook Mt 23 Apr. Another at Crugers 1 a month earlier, 26 Mar. Another was at Pawling 16 Apr. Peregrine: only report one at Hook Mt 13 Apr. Wild Turkey: the 11 that wintered at the Borko home in Wurtsboro from Nov dwindled to three in early May, and disappeared completely when the hunting season started. Rails: both Virginia and Sora were observed almost daily in the Basha. Com. Moorhen: first at Basha 16 Apr. Many reports there thru period. Am. Coot: one Basha 23 Apr was the only report away from Rockland L. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one seen and heard by Eric Kiviat at North Bay, Tivoli 4 May. Flew SW across the Hudson to Ulster Co. and not observed thereafter. Shorebirds: most report a poor passage. Almost none observed in the CB area where they are often in good numbers in spring. Killdeer: first Mine Rd, USMA 5 Mar. A fledgling running about with two adults on the early date of 18 May on Black Meadow R. in Chester. Solitary Sandpiper: an excellent year. EDT had 15 birds on just the south shore line of the Goshen sewage pond 10 May. The north shore was not visible but could have harbored many more. Purple Sandpiper: 15 were still at PL 12 May. Com. Snipe: max 40 at Smithfield, Dutch 20 Apr. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one on WMC at the Carl Ehmer Farm found by MJK and seen by six others that day; gone the next day. Laughing Gull: very unusual in spring. One on Kiamesha L 7 Apr (DN). Bonaparte's Gull: an unusual concentration of 58 at Basha and 16 on Kiamesha L on 16 Apr (DN). Ring-billed Gull: Jack Orth reports flocks of more than 300 daily in the farm fields around Wawarsing from 30 Mar-11 Apr. Max 400 at Kiamesha L 7 Apr; 150 on lawn at SCCC 4-5 May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** one appeared at MC 27 Mar. Glaucous Gull: a second year bird at KP 11 Mar (R. Terwilliger).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: Cuckoos: both species well below normal. Possibly due to the caterpillar crash of this and last year. Barred Owl: a pair continued to thrive within the Kingston city limits despite the fact that their nesting area was demolished for the rerouting of Route 9W. Another was calling from 24 May into June at Fort Montgomery. Another pair were heard calling at Basha on 20 May. Com. Nighthawk: a good migration; more than usual in Rock especially 21-25 May. Five were in the Basha 30 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: early in Dutch on 22, 29 Apr. Only a few reports; numbers down. Red-headed Woodpecker: WMC had its first since 1976. Red-bellied Woodpecker: five on WMC; their first on that count was in 1974. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one in Dutch on 26 Mar was either an early migrant or straggling winterer.

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: very few reports, and all on the usual dates in late May. E. Wood-Pewee: RFD had one at Tallman Mt. Pk. Piermont on 29 Apr—eight days ahead of the previous early date. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: mentioned by four reporters. The first time on WMC since 1977. Also on MBD when one was seen and heard in the Basha. Observed in five different areas of Dutch from 17-31 May. Two were at Rye Nature Center 18 May and another there 23 May. Acadian Flycatcher: continues to hold its own and may be increasing. Found in just about every place it has been for the past

several spring seasons. Alder Flycatcher: in at least three places in the Basha 30 May. Willow Flycatcher: also doing well in the usual locations. Least Flycatcher: this species along with the Great Crested Flycatcher reported scarce in Rock. Arrived late but in normal numbers in the northern part of the Region. E. Kingbird: first 30 Apr in Dutch. Arrived most other areas 14, 15 May. Horned Lark: excellent numbers at Warren Sod Farm, Pine I. 19 Mar, more than 250 there. Purple Martin: back at Excelsior Farm, Bullville where they were driven out by House Sparrows last year. Tree Swallow: arrived late but in normal numbers. Other swallow species normal to better in both dates and numbers. Blue Jay: after the scarcity of last winter, migrants moved thru in their usual large numbers from mid-May. Resident populations were good by end of period. Fish Crow: usual few reported. The 30 at Wawarsing 23 Apr and five there 3 May, along with a few in the Basha were new to that valley. A pair were observed mating in the Kingston area 22 May. Red-breasted Nuthatch: low numbers of winter continued thru spring. Only reports one at Stissing 22 Mar and another at Ashokan 14 May. Carolina Wren: unreported away from the Hudson, where only five were mentioned. House Wren: missing from many of its haunts and generally late arriving. Marsh Wren: appears to have disappeared from the Thompson Pd area of Dutch. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: unreported on any Big Days. Last Dutch 12 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: numbers down with few reported. Did not arrive until late Apr. E. Bluebird: FG had banded 56 young by 28 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Dr. Victor Schwartz had one at Palisades 27 Apr, eight days earlier than previous record. Missed on all Big Day Counts. Swainson's Thrush: arrived fairly early in Rock on 5 May at Blauvelt. Singing in S Nyack on 6 May. N. Mockingbird: reported more frequently and possibly outnumbering the Brown Thrasher. WMC had 37, an excellent number considering the bird did not appear on that count until 1961. They had only 14 Brown Thrashers this year, but 40 in 1961. Brown Thrasher: an early bird was singing at MC 19 Mar. Could have wintered. Water Pipit: none reported anywhere for the entire period. Hard to believe it was overlooked, but that probably was the case. Cedar Waxwing: max 200 feeding on cedar berries in Sleightsburg 27 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: eight reports from 2 May on. Found scattered over the Region, and not concentrated in any one area. Solitary Vireo: more than usual and especially good May numbers. Philadelphia Vireo: one singing on Clausland Mt. back of Nyack on the early date of 30 Apr. Another was in S Nyack 19 May. One on MBD were the only reports. Blue-winged Warbler: arrived most areas 29 Apr. Now outnumbered the Golden-wing on Mine R USMA by a ratio of three or four to one. Only a few years ago that ratio was easily reversed. Tennessee Warbler: peaked on 21 May when it was one of the commonest warblers. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 27 on WMC 14 May, but only a few one week later on MBD. Black-throated Green Warbler: first at Ashokan 7 May. FM considers their numbers down. Blackburnian Warbler: arrived Ashokan 7 May, numbers up. Bay-breasted Warbler: the commonest warbler on MBD. Hundreds observed at the Basha that day. Cerulean Warbler: none reported in the four atlas blocks worked by RFD in Rock where he had eight or ten nesting pairs in 1982. Numbers normal elsewhere. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one at Palisades 24, 25 Apr. One at MC 7 May might well have been the same bird at Rye Nature Center 8 May. N. Waterthrush: numbers down. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** more than usual. RFD has three singing at the end of period in the area of Low Tor Mt. One at Basha 30 May; another at Rye Nature Center 6-23 May. One was in Rye 23 May. Mourning Warbler: BS had three non-singing birds between 21-30 May. None on MBD or WMC, missed completely in Dutch. One Rye Nature Center from 23-28 May. Hooded Warbler: a few more than usual of this truly endangered species. One Mine Rd USMA 28 May. One at Tamarack Sw. Dutch 30 Apr. Another singing near Ashokan 7 May increased to three singing males by 14 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: continues perilously low. One at Wawarsing 14 May. One Pleasant Valley 15-27 May. Another Deep Hollow, Dutch 24 May. Another at PL 28 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER: only reports one adult male at Rye Nature Center 14, 15 May; another at MC 22 May. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** a male in splendid plumage was observed for a half hour as close as 20 feet on Hook Mt 30 Apr (ELM). Indigo Bunting: not expected before mid-May; this year they came in early. Six were at RFD's

home in S. Nyack 30 Apr, another was in Dutch 25 Apr, six at Stissing 6 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: one wintered at Pleasant Valley and was still there thru the spring. Another wintered at Rye Nature Center. Numbers low at end of period. Am. Tree Sparrow: last reports one 26 Apr and two 11 Apr in Dutch. Grasshopper Sparrow: two were at Westchester Airport 31 May. The Westbrookville birds were back on territory by 21 May. Fox Sparrow: one on the extremely late date of 14 May on WMC. Lincoln's Sparrow: only two reports. One at the Basha 14 May and another on WMC the same date. White-crowned Sparrow: very few reports. Three Basha 14 May and four on WMC the same date. Snow Bunting: the only report a single bird on the Concord Golf Course, Monticello 24 Mar. Bobolink: arrived most areas 14 May. A fair-sized flock was at Rockland L as early as 2 May. E. Meadowlark: unreported in Rock where only one has been found in the last ten years. **WESTERN MEADOW-LARK**: one was found singing at Stewart Airport 31 May and was still there in late June at the time of this writing. Benton Seguin found it in the same location as the one he had for only a few minutes in mid-May last year. Rusty Blackbird: unreported except for several on Mine Rd USMA 20-26 Mar. Orchard Oriole: at least seven different birds in Rock from 6 May. Three in Dutch, two at Basha and a few more reported from Oran. Purple Finch: the excellent numbers of last winter continued thru spring. About 72 reported at seven or eight feeders in Dutch thru Apr. House Finch: continues to explode. Originally found only around houses; now found regularly in the more remote areas of the Region. **RED CROSSBILL**: two females visited a Tomahawk L feeder 25 Mar. Com. Redpoll: two at Stormville, Dutch 4 Mar. Pine Siskin: only report five at Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Pk 4 May. Evening Grosbeak: Max 107 at Woodridge, Sull in early Mar. Last at Monticello, eight, on 13 May.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

The line for the Ark forms to the right. Remember, it's two by two and no pushing! Seriously, what can you say about the weather in a spring that was already the wettest on record before April was even over. For birders, the fact that it rained at some point on virtually every weekend of the season was particularly difficult. The El Niño in the tropical Pacific that was responsible for the exceptionally mild winter just past continued to play havoc with weather patterns over large portions of the globe. March reversed the old adage and came in like a lamb and went out like a lion, at least temperature-wise. In the first three weeks of March the temperature fell below normal on only two days, the 12th and the 17th, and then only by a degree. However, precipitation did not match the pleasant temperatures. It rained on ten of the first twelve days in March. The biggest rains, 3.1 inches on 18 March, preceded a big warm front that moved into the Region from the south on 19-20 March bringing a number of record early arrivals. It looked like it was going to be a very early spring following the very mild winter. It was not to be. Temperatures started dropping after the 20th and the rains just kept coming. On seven of the last ten days of March, the temperature dropped to freezing or below; the last frost had been nearly a month earlier in late February. March ended 2.6° F above normal, thanks to the early warm spell, but with a total of 10.54 inches of rain, 6.32 inches above normal.

April temperatures hovered near normal for much of the month with the exception of a cold spell from the 16th-21st, with temperatures dropping to near

freezing and .8 inch of snow on the 19th. Migration slowed to a trickle. A warming trend starting on the 26th and running till 3 May brought in many migrants. April closed with an average temperature .1° below normal. If the temperature in April was innocuous, the rest of the weather wasn't. On six days over an inch of rain fell. On 10 April, 4.31 inches fell; if it hadn't rained on any other day during the month, that alone was enough to put the month above normal. Not far behind was the 16th, when 3.29 inches fell. This latter storm brought some phalaropes to the south shore. By the end of the month 14.01 inches of rain had fallen, 10.26 above normal, and setting a new April record.

In May, the rains finally slacked off but the temperature cooled off and much of May was cooler than normal. The average for the month was 2.4° below normal and the total rainfall of 4.6 inches was only about an inch above normal. Migrants came thru in a slow steady stream with the only major wave occurring relatively late on 21-22 May. This wave particularly included very good numbers of Tennessee, Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers. Another small wave occurred at the end of the month on 29-31 May. (All weather data from New York City.)

After some record early arrivals in late March, the migration fell back into a relatively normal pattern with most migrants and nesters arriving at approximately normal dates. Observers generally termed the migration "unremarkable" or "about average." Tom Davis, doing his spring shorebird survey at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, termed the shorebird flight there "lousy" though some unusual spring migrants, Marbled Godwit and Stilt Sandpiper, turned up elsewhere. One plus of the season was the biggest influx of Summer Tanagers on record. They seemed to be everywhere in May. Another big plus and a very hopeful sign was the return of nesting Peregrine Falcons for the first time in over thirty years. Two pairs nested in New York City. At least three of the birds are known to be releases from the Cornell hacking program. At the time of this writing, both pairs appear to have successfully raised young; more about this in the summer season report. Dr. Tom Cade and his fellow workers from the Cornell program are to be congratulated for their efforts to reestablish this magnificent bird in eastern North America.

Rarities: American White Pelican, Mississippi Kite, Purple Gallinule, Pileated Woodpecker, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Painted Bunting.

Abbreviations: NYSARC—New York State Avian Records Committee; LI—Long Island; SI—Staten Island; SP—State Park; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob—many observers.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Ralph Cioffi, Thomas H. Davis, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joe Di Costanzo, Aline Dove, Fran File, Helen Hirschbein, Rich Kelly, Robert Laskowski, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Robert O. Paxton, Gilbert S. Raynor, Don Riepe, Lore Schore, Ann Shaw, Alvin Wollin.

LOONS—DUCKS: A breeding-plumaged Com. Loon lingered at Brightwater 7-18 May (RL, FF). Following their scarcity during the winter, no Red-necked Grebes were reported this spring. One of the finds of the season was an AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, seen soaring over JBWR on 19 May (C. Pinnock); a case of being in the right place at the right time. Coincidentally, this is the second record for the Refuge; the first was nearly 19 years ago in the fall of 1964. A Least Bittern was found in the Edwards Ave marsh in Calverton 15 May (RA); this was the only report received for the species. All the Region's breeding heron species were in by mid to late Apr, though some arrived on record early dates in Mar. Great Egret was reported at Captree 21 Apr (FF). Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron and Tricolored

Heron were found there earlier on 18 Apr (FF). Cattle Egrets arrived a month earlier, on the record early date of 20 Mar, with individuals found at Montauk (RK) and Jones Beach (J. Lamoureux). More Cattle Egret reports than usual were received this spring, with a high count of 20 at Baiting Hollow 14 May (GSR). The same March warm spell that produced the early Cattle Egrets brought a record early Green-backed Heron to Prospect Pk, Brooklyn, on 20 Mar (*vide* J. Yrizzary). Other early Green-backs were found at Lawrence (SBD) and Alley Pond Pk, Queens (LS) on 26 Mar. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found at Tobay (FF) and JBWR (S. Lipkin) on 12 and 17 Apr, respectively. The previously mentioned March warm weather brought the season's first Glossy Ibis to Jones Beach (LS, S. Yeaton) on the relatively early, but not record date of 20 Mar. Five Tundra Swans were at Hook Pd 5 Mar (GSR). Snow Geese passed through the Region in good numbers in early to mid Apr with a high of 2,000 at JBWR on 5 Apr (DR); 900 were there 12 Apr (LS), the same day that 110 were noted migrating past Tobay (FF). A male Wood Duck was at JBWR, where they are rare, 12 May (JD, AS). The previously mentioned late March warm front brought a relatively early pair of Blue-winged Teals to Lawrence 26 Mar (SBD). Eurasian Wigeons, all males, lingered in the Region till 6 Mar at JBWR (R. Clark) and Grant Pk (SBD) and till 20 Mar at Mecox (RK). Other waterfowl lingering in the Region from the winter were a subadult male King Eider at Montauk Pt till 20 Mar (RK); a pair of Harlequin Ducks also at Montauk Pt till 1 Apr (A & A Townsend); and a male Bufflehead and two Red-breasted Mergansers at JBWR on 15 and 12 May, respectively (JD, AS).

HAWKS—ALCIDS: Turkey Vultures were reported at JBWR 26 Mar (D. Knowles), two in Manhattan at the Harlem R and 181st St 1 Apr (G. Dadone), Upton 6 Apr (GSR) and near Muttontown 30 Apr (A. Townsend). A relatively early Osprey was at JBWR 14 Mar (JD). Possibly the bird, or rather birds, of the season in Region Ten were the two MISSISSIPPI KITES seen in flight, and being harassed by crows, over Forest Pk on 3 May (LS, Jacqueline & Jean Paul Latil). These represent the second NY State record, the first being a pair on Staten I in May-June 1979. The imm Bald Eagle reported in the winter season lingered at JBWR till 29 Mar (mob). On 1 May over 100 Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted migrating past Great Gull I at the mouth of LI Sound (JD). Several Red-shouldered Hawks, relatively uncommon on LI, were reported; singles at Yaphank 16 Mar, Upton 24 Mar, Manorville 26 Mar and two at Montauk 28 May (all GSR). There were scattered reports of migrating Merlins throughout the Region in May. Two pairs of Peregrine Falcons nested in the Region this spring; the first nesting for the species in over 30 years. Both pair nested on man-made structures, in this case NYC bridges. One pair was on the Throgs Neck Bridge and the other on the Verrazano Bridge. Black Rails were heard calling at the Oak Beach marsh on 14 and 21 May (ROP, B. Spencer); they have formerly bred in this marsh but have not been heard here in several years. A very lost PURPLE GALLINULE spent several days walking amongst the litter on the edge of the lake in Prospect Pk, Brooklyn, 6-9 May (mob), until it was found emaciated and with a fractured leg, apparently the victim of either a dog or a mugging. Am. Oystercatchers arrived in the Region by early Apr: one at West End, Jones Beach 7 Apr (AW) and two at JBWR 12 Apr (LS). Upland Sandpipers were found in several locations during May: two near Dix Hills (THD, *et al.*) and one at RMSF (FF, *et al.*) on 15 May and one at Mitchell Field on 21 May (SBD). A Marbled Godwit, a very rare spring migrant, was seen and heard calling in flight over Forest Pk on 22 May (J. Ash). A record early White-rumped Sandpiper was found at JBWR on 23 Apr (THD, K. Ray). Purple Sandpipers lingered at Great Gull I till 29 May (*vide* JD). Another very rare spring migrant shorebird that turned up this season was Stilt Sandpiper, four were at Oak Beach marsh 14-15 May (mob). A male Ruff was found at Orient on 22 May (J & C Hastings). Despite the lack of any reported pelagic trips, all three phalaropes were found in the Region this spring. Three male Wilson's Phalaropes were at Oak Beach marsh 14 May (RK, *et al.*). One of the many April storms was undoubtedly responsible for the other phalaropes found. On 17 Apr, a day after one major storm and only a couple of days before the next, over 50 Red Phalaropes were found at the West End, Jones Beach (AW, HH); over 60 were seen there the next day (mob). On that second day, 18 Apr, five Red-necked Phalaropes were found at Jones Beach as well as 20 unidentified Phalaropes in the Fire I inlet (AJL). Two Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported:

one at Plum Beach, Brooklyn 17 Mar (JD) and an adult in breeding plumage at JBWR 29 May (T W Burke, P Lehman, *et al.*). Iceland Gulls lingered into April and May with second year birds found on 18 Apr at 125th St. and the Hudson R in Manhattan, on 28 Apr at Great Gull I (JD) and on 15 May at Wolfe's Pond Pk, SI (GB). A Gull-billed Tern was noted on Jones Beach 19 May (AW, S. Schiff). A Caspian Tern was seen sporadically at JBWR 11-14 May (THD, *et al.*). Com. Terns arrived in late Apr with 85 at Moriches Inlet on 23 Apr (GSR), a bit early for so many. Both Com. and Roseate Terns had arrived at Great Gull I by 28 Apr (JD). The only reports of Black Terns received were of individuals seen sporadically during May at Great Gull I (*fide* JD); surely others were seen.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS: A pair of Great Horned Owls near Yaphank successfully raised two young (S. Pradon, *fide* FF). A Snowy Owl appeared in Broad Channel 20 Mar (DR, *et al.*), perhaps the bird that was seen intermittently at JBWR during the winter. The Long-eared Owls that wintered at JBWR lingered there until mid Apr (mob). Short-eared Owls were also reported into mid-Apr with one at JBWR 12 Apr (LS, *et al.*) and one at Shinnecock 23 Apr (GSR). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard calling at night at Manorville on 5-6 Mar (GSR). A Com. Nighthawk that didn't seem to mind contradicting its name was seen feeding with a mixed group of swallows over a farm pond in Bridgehampton in the early afternoon of 19 May (RA). Chuck-will's-widows returned again this year to the same areas they have frequented in recent years in E. Manorville (GSR) and at Oak Beach (ROP); Oak Beach was the site of the state's first known nesting of the species in 1975 and they have apparently continued to nest there ever since. A relatively early Chimney Swift was seen at the Wading River marsh on 9 Apr (RA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported throughout the Region this spring, many of them lingering in one place for extended periods: one was at Bronx Pk 20 Mar (B. Renshaw); one at JBWR 30 Apr-8 May (mob); a pair at Forest Pk 7-15 May (mob); one at Ridgewood Reservoir 8 May (THD); and one in Islip 14-25 May (*fide* FF). A **PILEATED WOODPECKER**, an extremely rare bird on LI, was found at Garvie's Pt 14 May (R. Cioffi).

FLYCATCHERS—STARLINGS: E. Phoebes were widely reported in the Region by 2 Apr. A record early E. Kingbird was found at Montauk Pt on 28 Mar (K. Ward). The apparently exhausted bird was approached to within a few feet. Another early E. Kingbird was at the West End, Jones Beach on 18 Apr (H. Mueller). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was seen, flying by to the west, at Gilgo on 31 May (ROP). Hundreds of Tree Swallows were reported at JBWR on 12 Apr (LS) in the wake of the big storm on the 10th. N. Rough-winged Swallows arrived about the same time with one reported at the Wading River marsh on 11 Apr (RA). At least one pair of E. Bluebirds returned to Upton where they have bred in recent years (GSR). One observer felt that Swainson's Thrushes were very common this spring (SBD); quite a difference from two years ago when they were almost lacking.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: The warm front at the end of April brought White-eyed, Solitary, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos to a number of places in the Region. A record early Red-eyed Vireo was found at Forest Pk on 15 Apr (P. Bernarth). Another early arrival, though not a record, was a Blue-winged Warbler found at Tobay 12 Apr (FF). Golden-winged Warblers are always rare on LI, so one at a birdbath in Wantagh on 13 May was a good find (A & E Kretz). A wave on 21-22 May included many Tennessee Warblers with one observer estimating over 250 in Forest Pk on the latter day (THD). An Orange-crowned Warbler, a rare migrant in the spring, was in Central Pk 3 May (mob). The 22 May wave also included good numbers of Blackburnian Warblers with over 40 estimated in Forest Pk (THD). Six Yellow-throated Warblers were reported: 23 Apr Prospect Pk (J. Maraio), 30 Apr Forest Pk (mob), 1 May Central Pk (mob), 3 May Prospect Pk (T. Stiles), 5 May Central Pk (N. Wagerik) and most surprising on 28 May Central Pk (N. Halmi); this last is a bit unusual since most of the Yellow-throated Warblers that turn up in our area usually appear in late April and early May. Several observers commented on the good numbers of Bay-breasted Warblers in the 22 May wave with over 250 estimated in Forest Pk (THD) and many reported in Belmont the same day (FF). It was a good spring for Prothonotary Warblers with about a dozen reported from NYC parks and LI, the first being a very early bird at Babylon on 27

Mar-2 Apr (P & B Herlich). As usual there were scattered reports of Kentucky Warblers from NYC parks. The 21-22 May wave brought individuals to a number of eastern LI localities: Manorville (GSR) and Yaphank (FF) on 21 May and a bird banded on Great Gull I on 22 May (JD). As usual Mourning Warblers were reported from a number of locations in late May. A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded on Great Gull I on 30 May (*vide* JD).

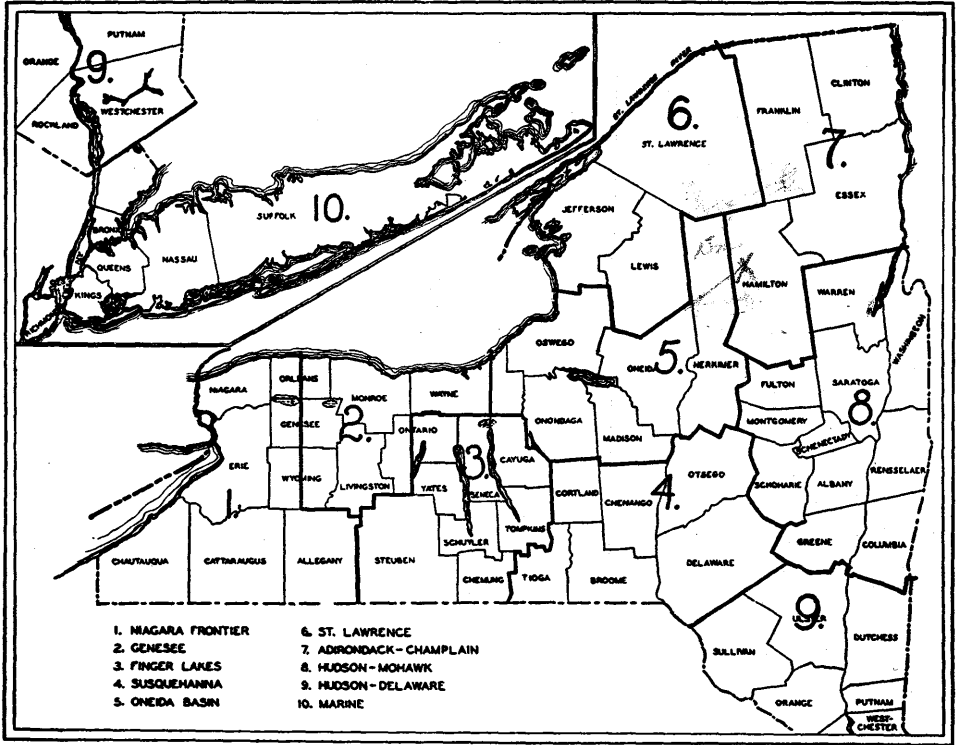
TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanagers were widespread throughout the Region in May with at least 30 individuals reported, easily the biggest flight on record. Seven adult males were reported and many of the rest were imm males; it's possible that the sex ratio of Summer Tanagers turning up in the Region isn't really that skewed but that females are just more easily overlooked. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived a bit early with the earliest a male at a feeder in Deer Pk 21-27 Apr (FF). Good numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were reported this spring, the first a female in Cedarhurst on 23 Apr (HH); four were at Jones Beach 25-26 Apr (R. Miller), perhaps one of the same birds was at Oak Beach 28 Apr (FF), a pair at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens 28 Apr (G. Thompson) and one to four were in Central Park 3-8 May (mob). There was an unusual April flight of Indigo Buntings on the south shore starting with a male at Captree on the near record date of 12 Apr (RL), this or another was at Tobay 18 Apr (AJL), 18 were at the Jones Beach Coast Guard station 26 Apr (R. Miller) and 65 were counted the following day in the stretch between Tobay and Fire I on the Jones Beach strip (FF, J. Smith). A male PAINTED BUNTING appeared at the Helgeson's feeder in Elm Park, SI on 2 May (W & N Siebenheller, photo by S. Jenkins). Unfortunately, it was only there for one day. Two reports of Dickcissels, a very rare spring migrant, were received: 27 Apr at Gilgo (FF, *et al.*) and the same or a different individual 8 May at the Coast Guard station on Jones Beach (AW). A somewhat late Am. Tree Sparrow was on Great Gull I 28 Apr (JD). White-crowned Sparrows were very scarce this spring. Individual late lingering Dark-eyed Juncos were at RMSP 15 May (FF) and Great Gull I 24-25 May (JD). Several observers commented on the good Bobolink flight in mid to late May, particularly on eastern LI: 80-85 birds in an alfalfa field in Mattituck 17 May (AD), flocks at Mitchell Field and Short Beach (SBD) and Suffolk Community College (FF) 21 May, and 40 in Cutchogue 23 May (GSR). Six Rusty Blackbirds were in Alley Pd Pk 14 Mar (SBD). One to two male Boat-tailed Grackles were seen at JBWR from 30 Apr thru the end of May (THD). Given their poor showing during the winter an Evening Grosbeak at RMSP 29 Apr was a good find (M. Cooper).

Correction and Addition to the Winter Season Report: The Queens and Smithtown Christmas Bird Count reports were received too late for inclusion in the winter report. The Queens count was held 18 Dec and totaled 114 species including one Glossy Ibis, the only winter season report for the species. The Smithtown count was held 27 Dec and had 88 species including 20 E. Screech-Owls. Finally, Horned Lark should not have been included in the list of species in normal numbers in the introductory section of the report. They were below normal as mentioned in the main report.

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N. H.
Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024

*Circle 10
County line*

REPORTING REGIONS



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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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