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*Highlights of the Season*

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*Figure 1. Double-crested Cormorant colony site in Home Pond, Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co., NY. Photo taken June 1984 looking east.  
Photo by Paul Buckley*

# EXPANDING DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT AND LAUGHING GULL POPULATIONS ON LONG ISLAND, NY

P. A. BUCKLEY and FRANCINE GEBER BUCKLEY

When we reported on our detailed aerial censusing of Long Island's breeding colonial waterbirds each June from 1974 to 1978 (Buckley and Buckley 1980), Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) was not breeding and we had only once found one pair of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). In the intervening years, both species have surprisingly established substantial Long Island breeding populations.

Safina, Peterson and Scheibel (1983) and Buckley and Buckley (*in press*) independently discovered cormorants nesting on Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co., near Montauk in 1983; and Buckley, Gochfeld and Buckley (1978) recorded Long Island's first breeding Laughing Gulls since about 1900, in Great South Bay near Jones Beach in 1978. That site was abandoned the next year, but a small colony was found in 1979 some 16.5 miles (26.5 km) west in Jamaica Bay (Post and Riepe 1980). We have monitored these populations since their arrival and here report our findings, plus some additional pertinent information. A recent, detailed review of the status of these two species, as well as of other seabirds along the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina to New Brunswick, Canada, is presented elsewhere (Buckley and Buckley *in press*), but brief synopses are in order.

## Double-crested Cormorant

This species is expanding in New England and the Maritime Provinces, and has been steadily pushing southward for some time, reaching well into Long Island Sound (all but undetected) by 1972. It first nested in Virginia, near Richmond, in 1978, and inland, on the New York and Vermont sides of Lake Champlain in 1982 and 1983, respectively. The date of the first nesting on Fisher's Island, New York (off New London, Conn.) remains unknown, but it probably was in the early 1970's. Birds carrying sticks toward likely up-creek nesting sites have been seen in Barnegat Bay, NJ, in recent years, and proven breeding is confidently expected there soon. In view of the large number of breeding-plumaged adults we were seeing each June in the mid to late 1970's in and around Gardiner's Island, the establishment of a colony there in 1983 was hardly unexpected. We can confidently state that they were not breeding there any June between 1974 and 1982.

We found the Gardiner's Island colony at Home Pond, on the island's n.w. shore, on 6 June 1984 (Fig. 1), and censused it again on 9 July; both times we recorded about 130 nests and about 250 birds. This nest number was confirmed by counting nests in a series of photographs

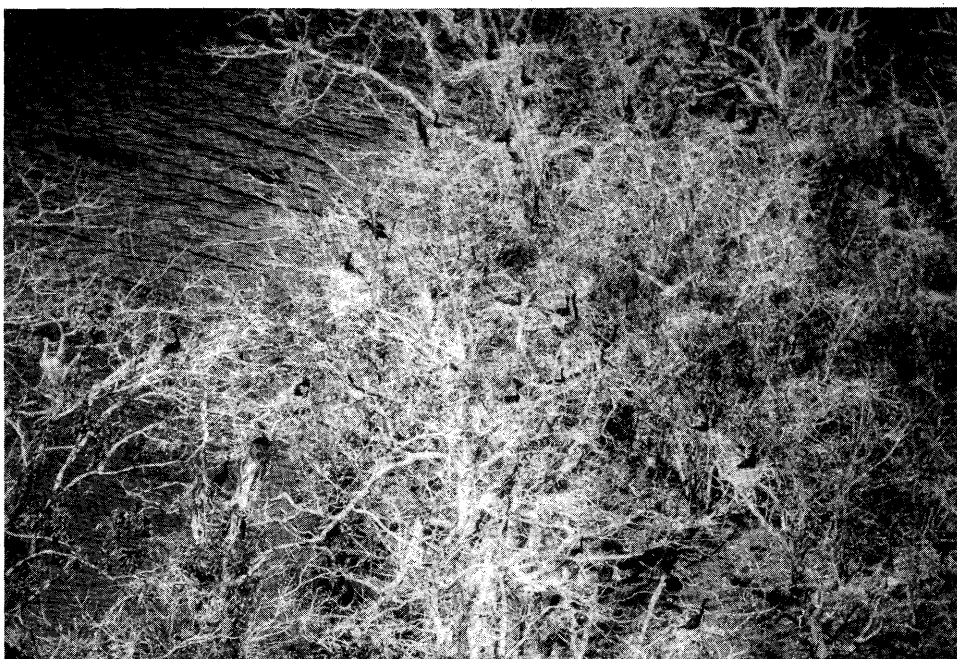


Figure 2. Close-up of Gardiner's Island cormorant colony in June 1983.  
Photo by Paul Buckley

(Fig. 2) taken from several sides of the colony through zoom telephoto lenses while the helicopter hovered a sufficient distance away to prevent eggs from being thrown from the nest by fleeing adults – a common problem in cormorant colonies. It is understandable that Safina *et al.* were able to count only 60 nests, as many were hidden behind vegetation, or visible only from certain angles, and they undoubtedly did not approach very closely on the ground for fear of disturbing incubating birds. All nests we saw had eggs but no nestlings. We censused this colony next on 13 June 1984, finding it somewhat greater in extent than in 1983, with about 225 nests. Over 300 birds were in the area, and several thousand adult-appearing cormorants were elsewhere on the island, notably on Tobaccolot Pond, where similar aggregations since the mid 1970's led us to believe first nesting would occur.

Although summering adult or near-adult cormorants have been seen at many locations around the periphery of Long Island in recent years,

we were totally unprepared to find Long Island's second colony – and New York City's first – in trees on South Brother Island in the middle of the East River, almost under the Triboro Bridge (Fig. 3). But on 15 June 1984, there it was – 68 nests in 3 clusters, near but not actually in the heronry that was equally surprising when we first found it in 1978. As we approached the island some 40 cormorants flew from the narrow shoreline on South Brother Island; we thought nothing of it until we looked down onto incubating adults. We censused the nests carefully and examined adjacent North Brother Island for more, but found none. These birds represent, at present, the southernmost known breeding Double-crested Cormorants likely belonging to the subspecies *P. a. auritus*, as the few Virginia and North Carolina breeding birds have been ascribed to *P. a. floridanus* (although this assumption may be unwarranted: see Clapp and Buckley *in press*).



Figure 3. Double-crested Cormorant colony on South Brother Island, East River, New York City. Photo taken June 1984, looking southwest: small arrow marks Empire State Bldg., large arrows indicate cormorant nest clusters among breeding herons and gulls.

Photo by Paul Buckley

Judging from the numbers of summering birds we see each year, new breeding sites could appear almost anywhere on Long Island and indeed we were momentarily expectant when we found cormorants in an *Ailanthus* tree on the small island in the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 6 June 1984. However, they seemed to be only roosting. We suspect that the next most likely colony sites are Hoffman and Swinburne Islands (in lower New York Bay south of the Verrazano Bridge), Plum Island off Orient Point, and perhaps islands in Long Island Sound like Huckleberry off Westchester. As both of the present sites are in or near heronries, Huckleberry and Plum Islands seem especially promising.

### Laughing Gull

Laughing Gulls until recently bred in salt marshes along the Atlantic Coast north to mid-New Jersey, and then, in upland island habitat similar to that occupied by Herring Gulls, from the Nantucket Islands northward sporadically into Maine. The status of this declining or marginal population was reviewed by Nisbet (1971), and updated by Buckley and Buckley (*in press*), along with the thriving New Jersey-Virginia birds. Once the Long Island population had reestablished itself at Jamaica Bay in 1979, we censused it by helicopter each year from 1980-1984, during its period of rapid growth. Table 1 presents annual populations and rates of growth. The colony is so far restricted to three main islands (Fig. 4) in the eastern end of Jamaica Bay - JoCo Marsh, East High Meadow, and Silver Hole Marsh - about one mile (1.6 km) off the end of the J. F. Kennedy International Airport landfill for Runway 4L/22R's extension. Laughing Gulls are breeding only in this small portion of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, where reduced tidal flux and delayed bay water retention times (now on the order of 30 days) have produced large areas of short-form *Spartina alterniflora*, interspersed with *S. patens* and *Distichlis spicata* (Fig. 5). As most of this area is characterized by shallow salt pools (pannes), sinuous tidal creeks and an absence of the scars of parallel-grid mosquito-control ditching, it provides optimal Laughing Gull habitat, the only such in Jamaica Bay.

The accelerating population growth that was producing a doubling of breeding pairs each successive season (Table 1) has now begun to taper off (Fig. 6), and as most population growth curves tend to be symmetrical, it appears that Jamaica Bay's Laughing Gull population should stabilize at about 4000-5000 pairs by 1986 or 1987. That number compares favorably with the largest colonies in New Jersey in recent years (*cf.* Buckley 1978; Kane and Farrar 1976), but is smaller than maxima from North Carolina southward (Clapp and Buckley *in press*).



Table 1. Breeding population of Laughing Gulls at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, from colony inception to the present.

YEAR	BREEDING PAIRS	PERCENT INCREASE
1978	0	n/a
1979	15	n/a
1980	235	n/a*
1981	325	38%
1982	715	120%
1983	1805	152%
1984	2802	55%

\* 1979 census was not aerial and therefore possibly incomplete.



Figure 4. Laughing Gull colony site in eastern Jamaica Bay. Large island in foreground is Silver Hole Marsh, that in background is JoCo Marsh (each marked with two small arrows indicating main gull nesting areas). Photo taken June 1982, looking north; large arrow marks J. F. Kennedy Intl. Airport. Photo by Paul Buckley



*Figure 5. Close-up of tidal creek/panne area where Laughing Gulls nest in JoCo Marsh. Small arrows mark East High Meadow colony site; large arrow the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Photo taken June 1982, looking northwest. Photo by Paul Buckley*

The rate of growth between 1980 and 1984 was too steep to be intrinsic (although by 1982 or 1983 some locally raised birds were probably breeding), and most likely resulted from immigration by New Jersey birds. Certainly through 1983, and probably 1984 as well, the only breeding Laughing Gulls on Long Island (hence in New York State) were those in the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge colony, a finding that still amazes us, considering that colony's population size.

One closing observation. In a fascinating juxtaposition, the Double-crested Cormorants chose to locate their first colony on Long Island's closest thing to a truly unspoiled wilderness not greatly different from what it was a few hundred years ago, while placing their second in the middle of New York City. Not to be outdone, Laughing Gulls' only

Long Island bastion is also in New York City within sight of both the Empire State Building and World Trade Towers. These incidents provide further evidence of the health and diversity of the area's colonial waterbird populations in the face of ever-increasing development.

### Summary

Double-crested Cormorant colonized Long Island for the first time in 1983 when 130 pairs nested at Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co. By 1984 the colony had increased to 225 pairs, and that year a second colony of 68 pairs was located on South Brother Island, in the East River, New York City, just off LaGuardia Airport. No other Long Island colonies are known at present. Laughing Gull re-colonized Long Island in 1978 (Great South Bay, a single pair), but the only viable population was established in the eastern part of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Recreation Area, Queens, New York City in 1979. By 1984 that site was supporting 2802 pairs, and its slowing growth rate indicates the colony should stabilize at 4000-5000 pairs by about 1986. No other Laughing Gull breeding sites are currently known from Long Island.

### Acknowledgments

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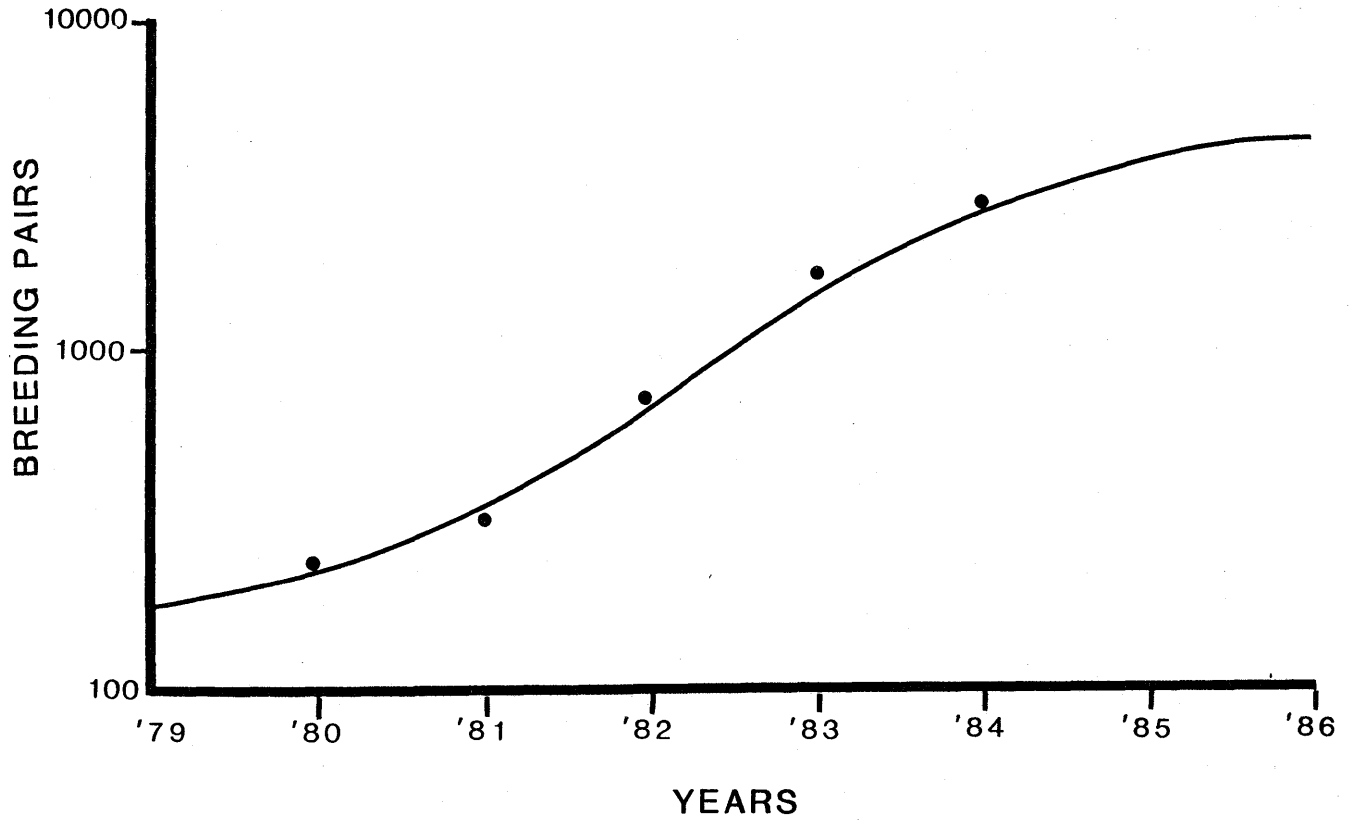
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**Corrigendum:** *Kingbird* XXXIV, No. 2, page 76 – Photograph mislabeled by editor. Instead of reading "Juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper," caption should read "Juv. Semipalmated Plover."



## SOME NOTES ON BLACKBIRDS

WALTER SEDWITZ

It is the intent of this paper to review the status of seven species of blackbirds in an area of three square miles in Bronx County between October 1981 and August 1983. The writer has been active in this region for more than thirty years, and was impressed by events during this particular period of time. The records were compiled during walks taken almost daily.

**RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). This species was originally a common marsh-nesting bird. Of late, because of drainage and invasive spoilage, our local wetlands support fewer pairs each year. However, it appears that this adaptable species has taken to nesting in drier portions of the terrain, such as hillsides near water or marshy habitat.

Samples of the typical fall movements are:

29 October 1981	187	Van Cortlandt Park
24 November 1981	25	Van Cortlandt Park
14 November 1982	455	Van Cortlandt Park
25 December 1982	30	Van Cortlandt Park
4 November 1983	275	Seton Park

These counts are cited to show the decline from just a few years past, when in Riverdale great clouds of redwings, mixed with grackles and other blackbirds, streamed over in a large flight line at Riverdale and 238th Street. These large numbers came from the direction of Van Cortlandt Park, to the northeast.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD.** (*Euphagus carolinus*). This species is found almost exclusively around the lakes and swamp waters in our area. The great majority of the records are from Van Cortlandt Park. However, one was noted several years ago on the dry brushy margin of Jerome Park Reservoir.

Typical records:

18 October 1981	5	Van Cortlandt Park
7 October 1981	7	Van Cortlandt Park feeding with redwings in wet field
27 October 1982	19	Van Cortlandt Park feeding as above birds

Normally found from October to April in Van Cortlandt Park.

**BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD** (*Molothrus ater*). For many years a fair sized flock of cowbirds was noted at the Bailey Avenue entrance

lawns to the Van Cortlandt Park golf course, usually with the advent of cold weather. However, nothing prepared the observer for the widespread proliferation in the fall of 1981. Records before and after showed the more normal status of this parasitic bird — flocking after breeding season.

Its presence signaled success of the species during the nesting season. However, during the four years of breeding censuses the bird never appeared as commonly as anticipated. The few in the local breeding area seemed elusive, with hosts possibly Red-eyed Vireos, Song Sparrows and House Wrens.

On 13 October 1981 I found 50 cowbirds in Van Cortlandt Park. The weather was unusual for so early in the fall, for hoar frost covered most of the low vegetation on the edge of the swamp, and all of the lawns on the Parade Ground, as a very early cold front moved in. Many small birds were on the move. Sighted on the Parade Ground was a Baird's Sparrow, uncorroborated, and a small flock of extremely dark Savannah Sparrows.

The records for Brown-headed Cowbird for the fall of 1981 are:

18 October 1981	75	Van Cortlandt Park. Normal.
20 October 1981	230	Jerome Res. First intimation.
22 October 1981	180	Seton Park. Feeding on dry chickweed ( <i>Stellaria media</i> ).
24 October 1981	450	Inwood Park. With a few redwings, all immature birds.
30 October 1981	425	Seton Park, with 35 grackles.
4 November 1981	125	Seton Park.
7 November 1981	217	Jerome Park Reservoir.
8 November 1981	80	Seton Park, with 220 grackles, 9 redwings.
12 November 1981	150	Riverdale - flying over.
13 November 1981	125	Riverdale - flying over.
21 November 1981	250	Jerome Park Reservoir, with 25 sub-adult redwings.
28 November 1981	35	Seton Park - declining.
29 November 1981	1	Van Cortlandt Park - with 2 grackles
11 December 1981	50	Dyckman Park - with starlings and House Sparrows.

**COMMON GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus quiscula*). This species breeds in the Riverdale area in small numbers, limited to coniferous trees in parks and on estates. Grackles, when present, which is most of the year, follow a flight movement to and from Van Cortlandt Park, performed each morning from the park, and to the park swamp area each evening, where the blackbirds spend the night amid the dense growths of phrag-

mites (*Phragmites australis*), appearing at dawn to fly back to diurnal feeding grounds. These flights continue even in the midst of the breeding cycle. It is not uncommon, except in mid-winter, to see grackles passing overhead to and from the direction of Van Cortlandt Park during all daylight hours. Each fall and early winter, this species moves through Riverdale in small to large flocks, accompanied by redwings and cowbirds. A few grackles apparently winter among the dense phragmites beds, where at dawn an observer may find grackles, redwings and Rusty Blackbirds in varying numbers.

17 October 1981	275	Seton Park
24 October 1981	109	Riverdale
28 October 1981	400 +	Riverdale
3 November 1981	6	Van Cortlandt Park swamp
3 November 1981	240)	Riverdale, flying over
	90)	
15 October 1982	350	Van Cortlandt Park with 5 cowbirds
20 October 1982	380	Inwood Park
27 October 1982	260	Van Cortlandt Park, with 19 Rusty Blackbirds and 91 redwings.
7 November 1982	8925	Riverdale, including 50 cowbirds. Flew by in a continuous stream, 15-20 birds wide, at 350 feet in SSW direction parallel to Hudson River; in two separate flocks. Greatest number in my records.
8 December 1982	250	Seton Park. Late.
26 December 1982	4500 +	Woodlawn Cemetery. Possibly part of flock of 7 November.
12 January 1983	1	Inwood, wintering bird.

**EASTERN MEADOWLARK** (*Sturnella magna*). The almost complete absence of this species for the last several years was relieved by these two records.

25 October 1981	2	Seton Park. In tree top.
20 December 1981	1	Dyckman Park. Christmas census, flying high toward New Jersey.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). This western species has been appearing in our state with greater frequency, with suspicion of late that it might be breeding. In California, where I stayed for six months, the bird is a common resident. At that time I felt that if ever I saw a Brewer's Blackbird again I would recognize the species. On 18 October 1981, I sighted a bird in a large flock of grackles at Van Cortlandt Park which after careful study I decided was a male



Brewer's Blackbird. All of the blackbirds were in deep lawn grass, but both species in the flock acted similarly: *i.e.*, walking about the lawns with a dignified step. Though two-thirds the size of a grackle, its black feathering was similar to that of the larger bird. What were different were the small bill, slimmer than that of the redwing, the short tail, the short legs and the steel-blue sheen of the head area. In comparison with the redwing and Rusty Blackbird, both present within ten yards, the Brewer's Blackbird was calmer, with the intentness of a grackle in searching for food, without the tail-twitching of the redwing, and the love of damp areas that the Rusty Blackbird sought. Also present for comparison were cowbirds. Wishing to corroborate my record of this rare bird, I went back to the same place an hour later at the end of my tour, and picked out the Brewer's Blackbird this time among grackles, redwings, cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds on the wet lawn, a sunken area, just south of Van Cortlandt Mansion, one corner of which was flooded by recent rains.

While checking out late breeding birds in the Van Cortlandt Park swamp area on 2 August 1983, I noticed a small flock of European Starlings on the golf green, along side of the railroad tracks. Among them was a blackbird, neither a Rusty Blackbird nor a redwing. The former at this date was nesting many miles north of our region, while the latter was just about getting young out of the nest. The solid black feathering, again the stately walk, and the size similar to the redwing, brought my mind to only one species, the Brewer's Blackbird. The date, of course, was most puzzling, but the field marks were unquestionably an adult male Brewer's Blackbird. The flock was observed in perfect light, at close range until some golfers approached and frightened the starlings and blackbird away. The following day the place was visited to strengthen the record of the rarity, but few birds remained from the hundreds the day before.

Four days later, 6 August 1983, on a bird trip to Riverdale Park on the steep slope of the river valley, a spot where I often stop to scan the river for water birds, I noticed an altercation on one of the bare limbs of a Tulip Tree. Sitting on the uppermost branch was a blackbird, under attack from a male Northern Oriole and a male Northern Cardinal. The blackbird was being treated as an intruder. However, this same limb was the display perch for several redwings nesting farther down the slope, which called and cavorted without upsetting the nesting birds in the surrounding countryside. This strange battle alerted me, for at times an unusual bird such as an owl or hawk is revealed in the hubbub. I moved as close to the tree as possible, and after a careful study decided the bird was a Brewer's Blackbird, possibly the same one noted a few days before. An examination of the local geodetic

map showed this area to be almost 1500 meters west of the golf course at Van Cortlandt Park. Under constant harassment, the high perching blackbird flew down the hill toward the river edge and into dense brush.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (*Quiscalus major*). In the summer of 1981 I visited Brigantine, NJ, and was fortunate enough to see a pair of Boat-tailed Grackles. This encounter was the closest to my home I had seen the species up to then. On 24 March 1982, while watching birds in Van Cortlandt Park swamp, I heard and then saw several male Red-winged Blackbirds calling and acting disturbed. The birds flew up to a tall streamside willow tree. After walking around obstructing foliage, I had a clear view. On the top of the willow, under perfect light conditions, I sighted through my ten-power binoculars at less than fifty feet a female Boat-tailed Grackle. The male of this coastal species offers no problem, being almost twice the size of a redwing, its enormous tail making it look even larger. The female bird I saw was brown-backed, with a tawny eyebrow, a tawny breast, and a brown patch through and around the eye, the tawny of the underparts extending to the chin. The attacking redwings appeared much smaller, due to their lesser bulk. The constant harassment by the smaller blackbirds affected the grackle. After twenty minutes of watching I could absorb no more of the markings, and when the bird finally flew upstream into a dense stand of trees, I was certain of my identification. Later visits in the days following proved fruitless. What was unusual about this record of a Boat-tailed Grackle was the early date and the distance from the salt-marsh terrain that the species occupies along the Atlantic coast.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Early Egg Dates for Common Goldeneye in New York State** – In 1981 Gordon Meade prepared a tabular summary of the breeding season for all those species known to nest in New York State. He said "in some species good data is almost totally lacking." He goes on to say "there is an opportunity for Atlas workers to secure information to fill in the gaps." The Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) is one of those species for which "little is known about its nesting habits in the state" (Bull 1974).

From my five years experience working on the Atlas I believe Lake Champlain along the shore of Clinton County to be one of the primary breeding areas for this species in the state. Where suitable habitat exists along Lake Champlain, the Common Goldeneye is a fairly common breeder. In Vermont, at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, which is directly opposite Clinton County across Lake Champlain, the Common Goldeneye is the most numerous species of duck using the waterfowl boxes.

Bull (1974) cites Lake Alice in Clinton County as the northernmost known breeding record in the state. On 4 July I observed a female Common Goldeneye with 8-10 downy young at a location north of the ruins of old Fort Montgomery, within one-quarter of a mile of the U.S.-Canada border. This is about 10 miles north of Lake Alice.

For the last three years I have maintained a small (12 boxes) waterfowl nest box project along Lake Champlain in northern Clinton County. On 28 April of this year while checking the boxes along the Little Chazy River within about one mile of Lake Champlain, I found two boxes occupied by Common Goldeneyes. In both boxes a full clutch of about 10 eggs was found. If we assume that one egg was laid per day and that incubation had not yet started, the first egg would have been laid 19 April. This is a very conservative estimate since Bellrose (1976) says that egg laying by Common Goldeneyes is at a lower rate than by most other waterfowl, about 1.36 days per egg. At the other end of the range for dates, the downy young observed on 4 July were either in Class IA or B (Bellrose 1976) or no older than about 13 days. Calculating backwards they would have hatched about 21 June (19 April - 21 June). So therefore a more accurate estimate of egg dates than late May-June suggested by the tabulation of Gordon Meade would be mid April-mid June.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Ring-necked Duck nests at Lake Alice, Clinton County** – In middle to late May I observed six Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*), four males and two females, at Lake Alice Wildlife Management Area in northern Clinton County. By this time Ring-necked Ducks have usually departed the area. On 20 June I visited Lake Alice and again I found four male Ring-necked Ducks still present. At this point I checked it off as a possible breeder for the Atlas Project. It also made me suspect that perhaps they would nest here. On 17 July, four males were observed in the open water part of the marsh and a female with seven downy young in cover along the shoreline. This therefore represents the northernmost known breeding site in the state for this species and one of only a few breeding sites outside the Adirondack Park boundary (Bull 1974).

On 17 July, the young appeared as if they were either late Class IB or early Class IIA (Bellrose 1976), or about 15-20 days old. At this point the nuptial plumage of the drakes looked as if it were fading.

Over the last two years Lake Alice has gone through a rapid change, with many more emergent cover plants appearing at the southern end of the lake. This appears to have been responsible for inducing the Ring-necked Ducks to nest here for the first time this year. The dominant vegetation at this end of the lake is a thin border of cattails along the shoreline with bulrush and spikerush as one proceeds away from the shoreline into open water. A fair amount of spatterdock was dispersed throughout the spikerush and bulrush. The optimal proportion of cover to open water for Wood Duck breeding habitat is 50:50 and 75:25 for brood cover (Golet and Larson 1974). The southern end of Lake Alice approaches this situation. The males at this point, ready to go through wing molt, also did not stray far from this excellent cover.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Cedar Waxwing caught on fishing line** – Birds are frequently injured or killed because of man-made structures. There are numerous reports of birds, particularly waterfowl, colliding with telephone and power lines, barbed wire fences and other structures (Cornwell, G. and H. A. Hochbaum. 1971. Collisions with Wires - a Source of Anatid Mortality. *Wilson Bull.* 83: 305-306. Edeburn, R. M. 1973. Great Horned Owl Impaled on Barbed Wire. *Wilson Bull.* 85: 478.) These reports generally involve the accidental striking of obstacles in the path of the bird's flight. I recently discovered a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) that had encountered a somewhat different hazard.

On 7 July 1984 I was fishing along Nine Mile Creek between the Village of Camillus and Marcellus in Onondaga County, New York. This small stream is heavily wooded along its edges. From an overhanging limb about four feet above the water's surface, a fisherman's dry fly and accompanying hook was dangling from a snagged monofilament line, apparently the result of an errant cast. Attached to the hook was a Cedar Waxwing. The bird was apparently catching insects flying over the stream and had mistaken the fly for a live insect. Perhaps a light wind had given the fly the appearance of a moving insect and attracted the Cedar Waxwing. This species occasionally feeds on flying insects and is often seen feeding in open areas above water bodies with forested edges. The hook was impaled in the roof of the bird's mouth. It was alive when found and upon removal of the hook it was released.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Once again, we find ourselves with a season of contrasts. The general impressions of the migration run from Joe Thill's, "In spite of the insalubrious weather, the migration was generally one of the more memorable spring passages of the past five years . . ." to Paul DeBenedictis', "All observers, and the spring banding operation at the Noyes Sanctuary along Lake Ontario, were unanimous that this spring's migration was one of the worst ever." Surely we can all find a position somewhere between these. Personally, sandwiched between their two regions, I observed long stretches of dismal, empty woods punctuated by a few dates with some of the best spring birding in years. Far off to the southeast, we note Region 10 also with an overall average to good spring with relatively few dates with major movements. Consolidating the impressions of all of the regions, the major theme of this spring is "late." However, if you look closely, this may mean species or families late in one area of the state were average to even record early elsewhere. It may mean that most species due in a particular time period, e.g. late March or early May, were late, while others whose arrivals fall near a frontal passage arrived at average or even very early dates. It may mean that, while the "arrival dates" were average, the bulk of the populations of many species arrived very late. You will find these variations of the late theme developed in the various regional reports.

This spring's weather was relatively similar across the state. The overall trend was cool and wet, with April a bit closer to normal temperatures and the other two months colder. Snowfall for the season typically ended with significant storms upstate in mid to late March. The major storm path swinging south, then up the coast deluged Regions 9 and 10 with rain in May, particularly from the 28th to the 31st, 9" and 5+", respectively. Major weather-driven movements noted in a number of regions across the state occurred on 3/15-20, 4/26-30, 5/11-13, and 5/19-23.

Looking through the regional reports we can find widespread, consistent evidence of the effects of these major pushes spaced by long stretches of weather uncondusive to migration. As examples we find: southern herons better represented than in the past several years; waterfowl generally having started early with February's warmth and somewhat scarce through spring; raptors staging a great spectacle in late April with over 40,000 recorded at both Braddock Bay and Derby Hill between the 26th and 30th April, and each location with high days

the 27th and 28th April over 20,000. This movement was also reflected in good counts on these dates in Regions 1, 7 and 9; a Laughing Gull and Roseate Tern inland in Region 3 on 4 May; rare spring occurrences or numbers of Sandwich Terns, Gull-billed Terns, and Royal Terns late in the month in Region 10; many southern passerine rarities across the state, including 16-18 Yellow-throated Warblers reported, highlighted by confirmation of that species as a new breeding bird for the state in Region 8.

Developing the theme of contrasts a bit further, we find: generally poor shorebirding cited in most regions, yet record high counts for Dunlin, 2,000 on 10 March in Region 10, and inland for spring for Black-bellied Plover, 40 on 28 May in Region 3; the 10th regional record for Wilson's Phalarope in Region 5 and 10+ of that species reported by Big Day groups on 20 May in Region 2 (though some of the sightings were actually in Region 1); there are the generally poor banding results cited in Regions 5 and 7, yet good banding reports for owls in Region 5, warblers in Region 1, and hawks near Braddock Bay in Region 2; Common Nighthawk is flagged low in Regions 1, 6 and 9, while in Region 2, 300 were sighted over one pond on 30 May; flycatchers are generally noted as late, yet Region 10 recorded four record early dates for the state with Eastern Kingbird on 4 April, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on 2-5 May, Acadian Flycatcher on 6 May, and Great Crested Flycatcher on 6 April, and Region 5 recorded Alder and Willow Flycatchers on 6 May. Similarly, vireos are often noted as late and low, but with normal dates and good numbers in Region 10. Finally, warblers are generally reported late with unexceptional numbers, yet there are two record early dates, Yellow-throated on 11 April in Region 9 and Cape May on 19 April in Region 10, and high counts of 200+ Bay-breasted on 23 May and 22 Hooded on 20 May, both in Region 2. For almost any positive or negative note one can find an opposite in another region, sometimes distant, often neighboring.

All is not contrasts. Among the reports one can find many observations or trends which are quite uniform across many regions. Among these are: Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe very low in regions where good numbers are expected; bitterns still generally low; good counts of Snow Goose across the state, peaking at 20,000 in Region 3; American Black Duck, *low*; many scattered late dates for lingering diving ducks; Ruddy Duck, *scarce*; Sandhill Crane back in the news in Regions 1, 2, and 9; cuckoos late and *low* across all regions noting them at all; Common Raven reported in six regions; Winter Wren, *low*, Sedge Wren, *none*; no red flags for kinglets after many years of recovery; thrushes flagged as low in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 4; Loggerhead Shrike, *none* in Regions 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10, 1-2 in Regions 5, 7 and 9, and still

at about 10+ reports in Region 2; Blue-winged Warbler increasing at the expense of Golden-winged; about 18 reports of Prothonotary Warbler scattered across the state; good counts for Kentucky Warbler; American Tree Sparrow lingering in many regions, to a record late date of 20 May in Region 2; Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, *low*; a flood of Yellow-headed Blackbird reports, nine in six regions; and Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks late into May in most regions.

Additionally, one can wander about among the various regional reports and, as usual, find numerous interesting morsels to chew on. I'll point out a few. In Region 3 we have a report of many unexpected visitors taking up residence in bird houses. Region 4 reports the probable loss of many Northern Rough-winged Swallows due to culvert flooding in late May, a reminder to atlasers of places to look for used nests to CO that species. Similarly, Region 9 expected heavy losses of ground nests due to heavy rains on 5 April and again on 28-31 May. In the Region 8 report we find good Big Day counts in spite of the weather and a second new regional nest record, Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow. Back to Region 6, we stumble across 500 Bohemian Waxwings - most of us rush about to turn up one straggler among the Cedars in widely spaced years! In Region 7 there is the retrap of a Yellow Warbler banded there on 5/17/79, old for one of the tiny ones. Back into the Region 9 report there is an intriguing Great Cormorant report, suggestive of the European continental subspecies, *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*; then the Common Moorhen leg under a Great Horned Owl nest, the closest one observer has come to locating that species in coastal Westchester Co. in years of birding. Finally, one can wander into the Region 10 report and drool away for hours. This listing could go on and on, but the reader should be left with a little work and study.

Once more, the rarities have been saved for last. The list this spring is not overwhelming, but the selection is of good quality. Among the best from each region are: Region 1: Northern Gannet, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose - origin?, American Avocet, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 2: Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Ferruginous Hawk - 3rd regional record, Sandhill Crane, American Avocet, Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 3: Roseate Tern, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Raven, and Western Tanager; Region 4: Painted Bunting and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 5: Fish Crow - regional 1st, Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Piping Plover - 1st since 1978, Summer Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 6: Cattle Egret, Ross' Goose - 2nd state record, Greater White-fronted Goose, Peregrine Falcon, and Great Gray Owl; Region 7: Eared Grebe, Northern Bobwhite -

1st in about 90 years, Prothonotary Warbler - snatched in full song as a Sharp-shinned Hawk meal, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; Region 8: King Rail, Yellow Rail, Sandhill Crane, Varied Thrush, Yellow-throated Warbler - CO, Summer Tanager, and Clay-colored Sparrow - CO; Region 9: Tricolored Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Vulture, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird; and Region 10: Sandwich Tern, Great Gray Owl, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

There is one more new to the New York State list, the undisputed BOTS Award winner for the season, the Brambling of Region 9, viewed by few from 1-27 March as it unfortunately settled at the feeder of a birder with no interest in putting up with the horde that would descend if the find were broadcast.

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## **REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER**

JOSEPH F. THILL

It is commonplace that spring on the Niagara Frontier is, on average, a dreary time with winter seeming to linger almost until June and pleasant, sunny days so rare after the vernal equinox that they can be counted on one hand. Although meteorological data presents a much less pessimistic assessment of the months of March, April and May, there is no doubt that the spring of '84 was a miserable period even for this area, which is not remarkable for its pleasant weather. March was abnormally cold with the average temperature at Buffalo of 27.1° F, 6° below normal for that month, which ended with an early spring blizzard dumping up to 24 inches of snow on the Southern Tier on the 29th. Even at Buffalo, where precipitation measured only 1.77 inches in March, 1.20 inches below normal, snowfall was four inches above average. The weather in April was generally mild with temperatures averaging more than two degrees above normal, but the thermometer did not reach the 70° mark until the 26th when a large mass of warm Gulf air, ushered in on southwest winds, precipitated a huge movement of migrants into the region, including the first significant wave of passerines. On 30 April, early morning rains preceded a weather front accompanied by gale force winds, gusting up to 72 mph at Buffalo, which caused some flooding and property damage from uprooted trees and downed power lines. This front brought a mass of unseasonably cold air in its wake and May was a cloudy, wet and chilly month with the average temperature of 52.9° F, 3.2° below normal. Again, no temperature in the 70° range was reached until 21 May and five days later another cold front pushed the thermometer down to end the period on a decidedly chilly note.

Fortunately for area birdwatchers, there seems to be little correlation between bird migration and pleasant weather. In spite of the insalubrious weather, the

migration was generally one of the more memorable spring passages of the past five years although the passerines which winter in the neotropics in general were late in their arrival dates and thrushes in particular were low in numbers. Earlier in the season, low temperatures in March kept the sinks and ponds in the wetlands east of Buffalo ice-covered until the end of the month, but many of the anticipated migrants including such rarities as the Greater White-fronted Goose and the Barnacle Goose made their appearance in the Oak Orchard area of Genesee and Orleans Counties nonetheless. The Oak Orchard area was also the scene of the sighting of a rare Black Vulture in April. Later that month, the warm weather precipitated a good movement of Broad-winged Hawks and other raptors, and the reports of Sandhill Cranes in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario seem to raise the status of this crane in our region to a virtually annual spring migrant. In May the appearance of two rare Yellow-throated Warblers at a feeder in Hamburg at the same time was a cause of excitement among local birdwatchers, as was the report of two male Summer Tanagers in the area on the Buffalo Ornithological Society's census day on the 20th. Morgan Jones of Chautauqua County was exuberant in his assessment of the May migration at Fredonia which he rated the best in five years of bird banding activity there. He banded over 200 warblers of 20 species. Jones also remarked on the banding of 13 Lincoln's Sparrows between 10 and 21 May, whereas the average number of this species recorded in previous years was only four or five birds.

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LOONS-DUCKS: There were no reports of Red-throated Loons from the Niagara River or Lake Ontario this spring but two, both in winter plumage, were seen in Allegany State Park on 7 May (FE, TE) and a third bird there on 16 May (FE, TE); another Red-throated Loon was seen on Red House Lake in the park on 17 May (FE, EP) - both of these birds also in nonbreeding plumage. Com. Loon: many migrants in April with max numbers: eight Bear Lake, Chautauqua Co. on the 17th (TM), 11 Allegheny Res on the 18th (TB), and ten Pinehurst, Hamburg Twp. 28 April (RA *et al.*). Horned Grebe: well below average in numbers for spring migration: max count ten at Allegany State Park on 18 April (TB). Red-necked Grebe: first record for migration: one Dunkirk Harbor 23 March (TM, JB); also one Allegany State Park 18-19 April (TB), one Mayville 21 April (FR, LBu), and two Iroquois NWR 22 April (DS, GS). NORTHERN GANNET: one imm bird flying over hawk lookout at Ripley, Chautauqua Co 22 April (FR, LBu). Double-crested Cormorant: max counts: 18 Barcelona 22 April (FR, LBu), and six Iroquois NWR 23 May (DE). Great Blue Heron: 105 counted Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR 20 May (DE). Great Egret: one Iroquois NWR 20 May (BOSBC) and one 22 May (DE). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 50 to 60 birds, Niagara Falls 22 April (WDA, BP), five Point Gratiot 27 April (TM). Tundra Swan: good flight through region this spring; max count: 334 18 March, Stockton Twp. (FR, LBu); last date:



22 May five Amity Twp. (VP). Mute Swan: one adult bird Times Beach, Buffalo, between 2 May and 21 May (RA, GO). **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one adult of the Greenland race, (*A. a. flavirostris*) at Newstead Twp., Erie Co. 25 March (RA *et al.*), one Pembroke Twp., Genesee Co. 2 May (DS, GS). Snow Goose: seven Iroquois NWR 25 March (DE), one Alabama Twp. 24 April (DE), and one Iroquois NWR 29 April (RA *et al.*). Brant: 45 Allegany State Park 14 May (FE, TE) and one Niagara Falls 26 May (WDA) - this species is very uncommon in spring migration. **BARNACLE GOOSE**: one adult Iroquois NWR 25 March (RA, DS, GS). Canada Goose: 25,000 Iroquois NWR 25 March - max count for the period (MD). Green-winged Teal: max count: 60 Randolph Twp. 28 March (FE, TE). Mallard: max count: 500 17 March, Randolph Twp. (FR, LBU). N. Pintail: max counts: 590 21 March Iroquois NWR (DE), 400 Randolph Twp 28 and 31 March (FE, TE, RS). **EURASIAN WIGEON**: one adult male Ring-neck Marsh, Iroquois NWR, 25 to 31 March (RA, DE, WK). Ruddy Duck: max count: four Iroquois NWR, 13 May (DE).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: In spite of largely adverse weather conditions, there was an excellent raptor flight through Region 1 in March and April. A Buffalo Museum of Science Bird Study class field trip 7 April was enlivened by sighting of an adult **BLACK VULTURE** in Alabama Twp. Genesee Co. (WV, KR) - the second record for the region in as many years! Turkey Vulture: max counts for the migration: 156 over Ripley 1 April and 115 over Ripley 13 April (FR, LBU). Osprey: max counts: three 21 April, three 22 April and four 28 April, all over Hamburg Twp. (RA *et al.*); last: two Villenova Twp. 17 May (TM *et al.*). Bald Eagle: at least one adult and two imm birds seen regularly at Iroquois NWR and adjacent wetlands during period (DE *et al.*), two imm birds East Randolph 24 March (SE *et al.*), and one adult Wales Twp. 14 May (AR, OR). N. Harrier: max counts for migration: six 13 April, four 14 April, five 15 April, all Ripley (FR, LBU). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max counts: 63 Ripley 22 April (FR, LBU), 52 Pinehurst, Hamburg Twp. 22 April (RA *et al.*), 54 Hanover Twp. 26 April (FR, AS) and 516 Hamburg Twp. 27 April, "the big day!" (FR *et al.*). N. Goshawk: actually far more numerous in migration than the published records would indicate; one Ripley on 1 April and one Elma 2 April (CF). Red-shouldered Hawk: max counts: 44 Ripley 31 March and 55 Ripley 1 April (FR, LBU), 29 Hamburg Twp. 2 April (FR, BW), 19 Porter Twp. 3 April (WDA, BP). Broad-winged Hawk: first migrants were reported in region 15 April but the big flight did not commence until the advent of very warm weather 26 April; 503 Hanover Twp. 26 April (FR, AS) and 762 Hamburg Twp. 27 April (FR *et al.*). Red-tailed Hawk: max counts for migration: 146 Ripley 31 March and 86 Ripley 1 March (FR, LBU). Rough-legged Hawk: max counts for migration: 16 Randolph Twp. 17 March (FR, LBU) and 11 Kent Switch, Chautauqua Co. 18 March (FR, LBU). Am. Kestrel: max counts for migration: five 13 April and four 14 April, Ripley (FR, LBU), six Hanover Twp. 26 April (FR, AS) and four Hamburg Twp. 27 April (FR *et al.*). Merlin: two Pinehurst, Hamburg Twp. 28 April (RA). Peregrine Falcon: one adult female at Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR 29 April - perched not ten feet from a Great Horned Owl on nest! (RA *et al.*). Chukar: one Andover Twp. 23 May; bird believed to have wandered from game preserve in area (EB, HW). **SANDHILL CRANE**: Three records in April for this virtually annual "vagrant"! One Olean, 8 April (FM), one Hamburg Twp. 27 April (FR *et al.*) and one Kiantone Twp. 28 April (RS *et al.*). Black-bellied Plover: one very early record: two Niagara River, Buffalo, 30 April (HA); one Pomfret Twp. 5 May (TM, MJ). Semipalmated Plover: six Cherry Creek 26 May (FR, LBU), seven Iroquois NWR 27 May (DE). **AMERICAN AVOCET**: one Angelica Twp. Allegany Co 13 May (RP, VP, DB, LB, CK) - first record for Allegany Co. Greater Yellowlegs: nine Allegany Twp 25 April (SE). Lesser Yellowlegs: 54 Kiantone Twp. 28 April (RS *et al.*). Least Sandpiper: 85 Iroquois NWR 25 May (DE). White-rumped Sandpiper: 10 Kiantone Twp. 19 May (RS). Pectoral Sandpiper: 65 Iroquois NWR 29 April (RA *et al.*). Com. Snipe: 24 Stockton Twp. 29 March (TM). Wilson's Phalarope: one Yates Twp. 29 April (RA *et al.*). Little Gull: one Lewiston 31 March (HK, WK) and one Niagara River, Buffalo, 30 April (HA). Glaucous Gull: one Dunkirk Harbor 18 March (FR, LBU), three Niagara River, Buffalo, 30 April (HA), one Silver Creek 13 May (FR). Caspian Tern: 11 Dunkirk 23 April (TM). Com. Tern: late arrival this year and numbers significantly down,

possibly reflecting pressure on breeding population in finding nesting sites not usurped by Ring-billed Gulls, a species rapidly assuming the status of pest. Max. count: 50 Niagara Falls 22 April (WDA, BP). Black Tern: two Niagara River, Buffalo, 30 April (HA), two Iroquois NWR 1 May (DE).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Snowy Owl: one bird at Wheatfield Twp. in Niagara Co. 8 & 10 March (WDA, BP), last record one Ivory Twp., Chautauqua Co. 29 March (FE, TE). Long-eared Owl: one record of this furtive local resident, two birds Porter Twp. 13 April (WDA, BP). Short-eared Owl: only two records for season, one Kent Switch, Chautauqua Co. 9 March and one Shelton Twp. Wyoming Co. 3 April (OR, AR). Com. Nighthawk: dramatic decrease in numbers of this once common spring migrant and summer resident is cause for concern; only two records: four Iroquois NWR 26 May (DS, GS) and one Salamanca 27 May (TB). Chimney Swift: present in good numbers after arrival date, 26 April. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common during migration after arrival date Amity Lake 9 May (VP). Red-headed Woodpecker: two Angola 4 March (GO); several reports of single birds, presumably migrants in April and May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: wintering pair remained at Lewiston until 17 March (HK, WK); first migrants, two Buffalo 13 April (GO) and one Youngstown on that date (WDA, BP).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** All ten species of flycatchers occurring in our region during spring passage were recorded. Olive-sided Flycatcher: two records, one Cold Spring Twp. 21 May and one Holland Twp. 27 May (FE, TE, EsB). Acadian Flycatcher: one Pomfret Twp. 17 May (TM). Only two records of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: two Fort Niagara State Park 26 May and one Allenburg Bog, New Albion Twp 27 May (WDA, EB, JC). Purple Martin: first record 15 April at Hamburg Twp. 15 days later than average (RA) but common thereafter. No record of Bank Swallows received by compiler this spring. **COMMON RAVEN:** one in usual area on State Reforestation Land in Ward Twp., Allegany Co. 3 May, identified by guttural croaking call (EB); the question now remains: who will be the first to document this corvid as a breeding bird in Region 1? **BOREAL CHICKADEE:** wintering bird at feeders in Belmont last seen there 9 April (DB, LB). Carolina Wren: five records of this uncommon local resident for region: one Alfred Twp 28 April (EB), two Point Gratiot 28 April (RS, LK), two Portland Twp 29 April (FR) and one Point Gratiot 17 May and 31 May (TM *et al.*). Marsh Wren: only one record for period, one Tiffit Farm Nature Preserve, Buffalo, 28 April (WDA *et al.*). Sedge Wren: no reports of this shy species although presumably present in suitable habitat. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one early record 8 April (BOSBC) and reported in above average numbers thereafter. E. Bluebird: another late arrival with first migrant recorded 25 March at Tonawanda WMA (TH) and max count of 36 between 1 May and 31 May in Amity Twp. (VP). There were only two records of Gray-cheeked Thrushes during the period, one 6 May Salamanca and three 22 May Buffalo (PH). N. Mockingbird: three records, lower than average for region in recent years; one Lewiston 1 April (PH), one Youngstown 13 April (WDA, BP), and one Westfield 22 May (JG, JF). Water Pipit: max count for migration, 120 Sinclairville 22 April (FR, LB). N. Shrike: last date 31 March Iroquois NWR (DE). Loggerhead Shrike: no records for migration; this species is apparently extirpated as a breeding summer resident in Region 1 and also greatly reduced in numbers as a passage migrant.

**VIREOS-WARBLED:** No group illustrates the relationship between spring arrival dates and weather conditions better than these migrants. Solitary Vireo: arrival ten days later than average; Philadelphia Vireo: arrival nine days later than average; Red-eyed Vireo: arrival seven days later than average. In addition, of 35 species of warblers recorded in their spring passage this year, 15 were first reported at least seven days later than average arrival dates! There was a record high count of White-eyed Vireos in Region 1 this spring: one Buffalo 25 May (GO), one (singing male) Salamanca 27 May (TB), two Pomfret Twp. 27 May (TM), one also Pomfret Twp. 28 May (TM *et al.*) and one Point Gratiot 28 May (RS, LK). "Brewster's" Warbler: one record: one Holland Twp. 24 May (EsB, WB). Orange-

crowned Warbler: four records for migration: one Fort Niagara State Park 9 May (WDA, BP), one Fredonia 18 May and one 19 May (both banded) (MJ), one Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary, Dunkirk (TM, NB). Yellow-rumped Warbler: only winter record: six Town of Westfield, 31 March (FR, LBU); max counts for migration: 50 Alfred 29 April (EB), 25 Tiff Farm Nature Preserve, Buffalo (HS), 36 Amity Twp. 11 May (VP). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: two at feeder in Hamburg Twp. on unseasonably cold day, 1 May, eating sunflower seed fragments (LL, RL, RA). Pine Warbler: record high counts for spring migration: one Lewiston Twp. 17 April (WDA, BP), five Pinehurst, Hamburg Twp. 27 April (RA, RS), five Tiff Farm Nature Preserve, Buffalo (WDA *et al.*), one Eggertsville 29 April (AM), one Salamanca, 30 April (TB). Prairie Warbler: two pairs on territory in previously documented nesting locations in Amity Twp., Allegany Co. 31 May (VP); also one Alfred Twp. 17 May and two Alfred Twp. 30 May (EB). Connecticut Warbler: rarely recorded in spring migration: one banded Fredonia 27 May (MJ).

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER Tanager**: one "second year" male seen at Point Gratiot 20 May (BOSBC-MJ); an adult male of this rare vagrant also seen at Fort Erie, Ont. near Buffalo on this date. Am. Tree Sparrow: last 28 April five Wales Twp. (OR). Lincoln's Sparrow: 13 banded Fredonia between 10 May and 21 May (MJ). Snow Bunting: last 9 March, 200 Arcade Twp. (DC). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: three reports of this rare western icterid this spring: one adult female at feeder in Hamburg Twp. 23 March; a second adult female at same feeder on 11 May - same bird? - (PM); one adult male at feeder Fredonia 24 April (JF). Orchard Oriole: one female Fredonia 26 May (JF). Pine Siskin: an irruption of sorts of this erratic finch this spring: six records in April and eight records in May of this bird visiting feeders in numbers from one to four. Evening Grosbeak: unusually large number of birds remaining at feeders until late April; last record: one bird at feeder Wales Twp. 28 May (OR).

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The conditions that prevailed during the spring season provided for interesting, if not puzzling, contrasts in sightings and trends. March began by dumping substantial amounts of snow on the region, and throughout the month temperatures rarely reached average. These conditions alone stalled the anticipated migration, yet species totals were about normal. April was dominated by cool, wet conditions with generally undesirable winds and weather systems. This too forced some species to delay arrival. A four to five day period at the end of the month provided good conditions and brought the month to near normal. May continued the cool, wet trend with temperatures averaging 4° F below normal and nearly three inches above average precipitation. Early days in the month saw only a meager push; it wasn't until mid to late in the month that things really began to pick up.

Common Loons continued their general success and could be found during most of the period. The hawk flights once again reached record proportions with the last five days of April producing a phenomenal count of over 44,000

hawks; 27 April was the peak day with a total of 21,191. A hawk banding project in the region also produced some interesting data. Sandhill Cranes once again put in a spring appearance as was customary in the not too distant past. A couple of days of favorable conditions and desirable habitat produced some good shorebird reports. The usual migration of Blue Jays reached high levels and Water Pipits were found in good numbers. The usual contingency of wandering warblers arrived despite the generally poor conditions. The flight of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks was not impressive, though late.

The poor weather conditions produced generally late arrival dates for many species. Black-crowned Night-Herons were few and far between. Waterfowl numbers were low and species totals were thin. Terns appeared to be less numerous and dispersed quickly. The scarcity of cuckoos was quite noticeable. The migrant owls were generally late in making their anticipated arrival. Whip-poor-wills remained very scarce. Once again Loggerhead Shrikes were few. A fairly substantial number of passerines were in short supply. The prevailing conditions did indeed provide us with an unusual migration period and a contrasting set of values.

Rarities: Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Ferruginous Hawk, Sandhill Crane, American Avocet, Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Localities: A-Avon, B-Bergen, BB-Braddock Bay, C-Carlton, CH-Cobbs Hill, D-Durand-Eastman Park, EL-East Lakeshore, G-Greece, H-Hamlin, HL-Hemlock Lake, HP-Hogan Point, I-Irondequoit, IC-Island Cottage Woods, K-Kendall, L-Letchworth State Park, M-Manitou, P-Point Breeze, R-Rochester, T-Turning Pt. Park, WL-West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: The loon populations may have stayed well out on the lake; numbers were not great but sightings were frequent. Red-throated Loon: arr one WL 13 Apr. Com. Loon: max 40 WL 14 Apr. Grebe numbers were less than spectacular with relatively few noteworthy observations. Pied-billed Grebe: arr one T 17 Mar. Eared Grebe: one WL 5 Apr (CC). Red-necked Grebe: max 60 WL 3 Apr (RS); late individual, one H 17 May (WS). An early heron flight didn't materialize, but by the end of the season most expected species had been recorded. Am. Bittern: one BB 5 March (LM), very early. Least Bittern: arr one IC 13 May. Great Egret: max three WL 1-31 May. Snowy Egret: one Chase Rd 27-29 May (CC, ST). Cattle Egret: one G all May, good report after some lean years. Green-backed Heron: arr one IC 27 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr one BB 27 April, low numbers. The waterfowl flights were late and dropped off in intensity very early. Tundra Swan: max 175 WL 17 March, one B 24 May, very late. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one C 28 March (WS), one Ontario 27 May (DS, D, M, & JT), very late and unusual. Snow

Goose: 22 H 14 April, good total for area. Wood Duck: arr six BB 16 March. Blue-winged Teal: arr one G 24 March. N. Shoveler: two H 14 April. Canvasback: one K 20 May, late. Ring-necked Duck: one G 18 May, late tarrier. Oldsquaw: 20 EL 20 May, good total for late date. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: one female G 31 March (ST), last seen 7 April. Red-breasted Merganser: 75 WL 20 May, good number for late date.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: The raptor flights reached record proportions this season. The chart below summarizes the three months' total from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch under the direction of Laura and Neil Moon. The presence of a hawk banding station run by Clay Taylor also brought new insights into the understanding of the hawk migration, particularly in the case of the Merlin. The banding results are charted below, but first, some noteworthy observations. **BLACK VULTURE**: one Webster 3 April (WL), second regional report. **FERRUGINOUS HAWK**: one Webster 31 March (WL). Merlin: 20+ reports, see banding results also. Peregrine Falcon: five separate reports.

**Braddock Bay Hawk Watch Totals March to May 1984**

Species	March	April	May
Turkey Vulture	60	2,106	376
N. Goshawk	26	58	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	28	8,299	1,180
Cooper's Hawk	9	174	33
Red-tailed Hawk	430	2,598	386
Red-shouldered Hawk	99	412	3
Broad-winged Hawk		36,979	7,139
Rough-legged Hawk	36	484	20
Golden Eagle		8	3
Bald Eagle	1	16	4
N. Harrier	74	582	55
Osprey		91	30
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	3
Merlin		12	4
Am. Kestrel	23	506	26

Hawk Banding Station results - Total by species - 4/23 to 5/18

Goshawk: 5	Broad-winged Hawk: 1	Note: two Sharp-shinned & two Cooper's Hawks were trapped that had been previously banded.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 176	Red-tailed Hawk: 3	
Cooper's Hawk: 29	Merlin: 3	
	Am. Kestrel: 4	

The WL reached a peak of excitement with the presence of a **SANDHILL CRANE** which was sighted numerous times, one H 29 April (mob), one C 20 May (D, B & DS), one BB 5 May (L & NM), one BB 9 May (CT), one BB 24 May (L & NM). The shorebird flight produced some good reports with the existence of decent habitat. **AMERICAN AVOCET**: one HP 11-12 May (BM, mob). Black-bellied Plover: one HP 12 May, one Perinton 12 May. Lesser Golden-Plover: one H 29 April (BD). Solitary Sandpiper: four G 28 April. Willet: two BB 30 April (RS), one K 11 May (WS), one HP 11-12 May (RM, KG). Whimbrel: max 16 Canandaigua 25 May (RD). Ruddy Turnstone: two Charlotte 20 May. W. Sandpiper: one K 20 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one H 13 May; one B 20 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 100 BB 28 April. Stilt Sandpiper: one B 20 May (MD, KG, CT), uncommon spring migrant. Wilson's Phalarope: numerous sightings, max three several locations 20 May (MD, CT, KG). Gull populations fluctuated normally for the period with some good reports. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 BB 22 May, good late total. Iceland Gull: one HP 17 May (JS, MT), one WI 20 May (WL, MAS). Glaucous Gull: last report, one HP 16 May. All expected tern species were reported, but numbers were generally low.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Both cuckoos were late and in short supply. Great Horned Owls could be heard calling at sunrise any day. Snowy Owl: last report, one G 31 March, one G 1 April. Barred Owl: turning up in new locations and in increasing numbers. Long-eared Owl: max 9 M 27 April. Short-eared Owl: max 15 Retsoff 1-31 March. N. Saw-whet Owl: max four M 24 March, one B 20 May, possible nester again. Com. Night-hawk: a good flight year though a tad late, 300 G 30 May. Whip-poor-will: scattered reports, generally scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: mediocre migration, a late individual, one R 20 May. Pileated Woodpecker: observed migration, six BB 28 April (BD, WS).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Flycatcher arrivals were late, but numbers were decent. Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr one Mendon Ponds 19 May, good numbers. E. Wood-Pewee: arr one R 18 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr one IC 22 May, good numbers. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one R 20 May, some new locations for sightings. Alder Flycatcher: arr one IC 9 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr one R 17 May. Least Flycatcher: arr one D 5 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr one M 28 April. Swallows produced some interesting early surprises. Tree Swallow: one BB 22 Mar. Bank Swallow: one WL 7 April. Cliff Swallow: one G 21 March, in middle of heavy snowfall (KG). Blue Jay: great migration, 1,500 BB 26 May, in 15 minutes. Com. Raven: one C 5 May (WS), continuation of occurrence in recent years. Red-breasted Nuthatch: good year. Carolina Wren: numerous reports. House Wren: sparse early. Winter Wren: meager totals. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 80 IC-BB 20 April, one I 26 May, late individual. Golden-crowned Kinglet: good numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: normal supply. Thrush totals were not as high as in recent years, yet all expected species were represented. Brown Thrasher: the Feb. bird was still around for March. Water Pipit: late individual, one HP 26 May. Loggerhead Shrike: some early reports, only one after April, max two G 16 March.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** All the expected vireos were present, although in low numbers until the latter part of May. Solitary Vireo: arr one IC 1 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: one WL 12 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr two IC 19 May, quite plentiful last week of May. The warblers were much the same. Only marginally late, they increased in numbers toward the end of May and were found in good numbers. The regulars were present and also some very interesting warblers appeared. Blue-winged Warbler: expanding in area. Golden-winged Warbler: record late arrival, six Powder Mill Park 15 May (CC). "Brewster's" Warbler: two reports. Orange-crowned Warbler: ten reports, good total. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 36 L 20 May. Cape May Warbler: max 26 L 20 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: common as usual. Blackburnian Warbler: quite common. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one IC 6 May (RB), good record to follow up fall '83 bird. Pine Warbler: several reports. Prairie Warbler: one IC 22 May, uncommon along lakeshore, continues to be found in scattered locations away from the lake. Palm Warbler: good totals, stayed in area longer than usual. Bay-breasted Warbler: good flight, max 200 + Webster 23 May (RS), in half an hour. Prothonotary Warbler: three IC 18 May, two Wayne Co. 20 May, increase in number of recent reports. Worm-eating Warbler: one IC 29 April (mob), one IC 12 May (KD), one Webster 13 May (RS), one IC 26-27 May (MR), this is a continuation of recent spring sighting trends. Louisiana Waterthrush: six L 20 May (DB, PC), record late arrival date. Kentucky Warbler: one R 11 May (RS), good find. Connecticut Warbler: one IC 26-27 May (MD). Mourning Warbler: good totals., Hooded Warbler: max 22 L 20 May (DB, PC). Yellow-breasted Chat: scarce.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER:** one IC 12 May (PC). Scarlet Tanager: numbers down this spring. Indigo Bunting: numbers low early, but increased towards latter part of May. Rufous-sided Towhee: fewer sightings than usual. Am. Tree Sparrow: late individual, one Penfield 20 May (R & MM). **LARK SPARROW:** one R 30 Apr (RS), carefully studied bird. Henslow's Sparrow: three HP 6 May, return to former nesting location, but not found there subsequently. Lapland Longspur: 25 H 17 March, good late total. Snow Bunting: 1,500 H 17 March (KG), good number for season; one BB 18 May,

late individual. W. Meadowlark: has returned to its Point Breeze location once again. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: one R 3 March (WRS). Brewer's Blackbird: two H 15-30 April (mob), this is a significant drop from the 12-24 of the last two years. Orchard Oriole: returned to Point Breeze nesting area. Purple Finch: down from last year. Com. Redpoll: one D 25 March (RO), one G 25 April (JK), it certainly wasn't a flight year. Pine Siskin: excellent flight in April continued into May. Evening Grosbeaks: super flight with hundreds passing in April.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

Spring in our region was normal - completely unpredictable. March had temperatures which were at least five degrees below normal. Between 7 and 14 March the daytime temperatures never got above freezing and overnight lows averaged only four degrees less. Snowfall was insignificant until 29 March when 15 inches of heavy wet stuff fell in the Elmira area, bending and breaking branches from trees and shrubs. Naturally, birds flocked to feeders during the snowstorm. Even our sunflower feeders were visited by starlings. A slab mixture of suet, peanut butter and corn meal attracted a pair of Northern Mockingbirds that eventually ended up defending it from other birds. They continued to feed on this even when warm temperatures and heavy rains turned the mixture into a mush. The rest of the period was generally cool and wet with an occasional shot of warmth. The Elmira area had 5.16 inches of rain in April and 5.62 inches in May, both totals being over twice the normal amounts.

The rain negated hawk flights and the subsequent high water levels covered many of the mudflats usually visited by migrating shorebirds. Bad weather did bring down a Roseate Tern and Laughing Gulls in the Elmira area. The tern is included in the report, your editor being one of the observers, with the obvious understanding that NYSARC approval is needed before being permanently recorded.

The "Wet Scope" award goes to Wilfred Howard, who in a driving rainstorm, managed to single out ten species of shorebirds at the Holding Point, a large grassy area in Horseheads. This was the only significant shorebird report of the entire period.

The cool weather seemed to put spring into refrigeration. Flowering trees and shrubs such as dogwood lasted "forever." The bird migration was late but also drawn out. Dorothy McIlroy mentioned almost a dozen species that were two to three weeks late on arriving. Those species mentioned included Virginia Rail, Greater Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow. Linger-

ing species included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warblers singing thru the end of period and White-crowned Sparrow.

Most observers feel that the number of vireos, thrushes and warblers was way down. Waves were few and far between. Cuckoos are either extinct, very late or hiding, for not one reporter mentioned these birds. John Confer reports having twelve Northern Orioles in his yard at once with eight simultaneously on five suet feeders. Others in his area also reported these birds eating suet. Polly Keating reports an unusually colored Red-winged Blackbird at Montezuma Refuge. The bird had "normal" red-winged coloration on its head, back and wings. The throat however was ivory colored, a black band with a tinge of orange just below the throat and an ivory colored abdomen.

If anyone needs an incentive for erecting bird houses, these reports from Pine City should do the trick.

1) A White-breasted Nuthatch nested in a "bluebird" house located on a utility pole in the middle of a farm yard. At least five birds fledged.

2) A box placed in the woods to "attract anything" enticed an Eastern Screech-Owl to nest. The result was two nestlings playing peek-a-boo with a frustrated photographer and interested birdwatchers.

3) An amazing eighteen wood ducklings tumbled from a box. This could possibly have been a "dump nest" - a nest shared by more than one female.

4) And then there are the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows . . . .

Seasonal pluses include 1) more sightings of Bald Eagles; 2) massive waterfowl concentration on Cayuga Lake at the end of March, including Tundra Swans; 3) Great Blue Herons doing well; 4) good Brant flight. Seasonal minuses include 1) the continued scarcity of bitterns and Purple Martins; 2) no uncommon flycatchers found.

Rarities are Merlin, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Roseate Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Raven, and Kentucky Warbler.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; L-Lake; M-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pt-Point; QC-Queen Catherine Marsh; Seminar-weekly seminars held at Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: no reports. Com. Loon: scarce in Elmira; 18 flying over QC 7 April the same day 17 were spotted on Cay L, 13 flying at once. Pied-billed Grebe: scarce Penn Yan area; three Elmira reports with two birds calling. Horned Grebe: Cay L until early May. Red-necked Grebe: one Keuka L March; max four Cay L 18 March. Double-crested Cormorant: one Stewart Pk 14 April; max five M late April thru. Am. Bittern: one Branchport 19 May; one Big Flats 29 May, the only two birds reported. Least Bittern: none reported. Great Blue Heron: eight to ten nests at Mecklenberg; 19 nests M; 25 nests between Avoca and Wheeler. Great Egret: one Chase's Pond Horseheads 12 May. Cattle Egret: one M 4 May; one Cornell Equine Pk 25 May. Green-backed Heron: first report Ithaca 28 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: M 15 April only report. Tundra Swan: two Elmira 14 April; 100 plus Cay L 24 March; 30 Watkins Glen 25 March. Snow Goose: 20,000 M 12 April. Brant: max 20 Penn Yan 19-21 May, first report from this area since May 1980; 20 M 12 May; 46 Watkins Glen 28 May. Canada Goose: goslings M 12 May.



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

Wood Duck	300	3 Apr.	Redhead	1,500	9 Apr.
Green-winged Teal	1,000	30 Apr.	Ring-necked Duck	375	12 Apr.
Am. Black Duck	1,000	26 Mar.	Greater Scaup	600	12 Apr.
N. Pintail	3,000	26 Mar.	Bufflehead	300	30 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal	800	30 Apr.	Hooded Merganser	370	3 Apr.
N. Shoveler	700	26 Mar.	Com. Merganser	450	4 Apr.
Gadwall	1,200	30 Apr.	Ruddy Duck	150	12 Apr.
Am. Wigeon	900	30 Apr.			

Mallard: newly hatched young Elmira 18 May. Green-winged Teal: scarce Keuka L. Oldsquaw: max 35 Sheldrake 5 May. Black Scoter: M 21 April. White-winged Scoter: two Elmira 28 March; one Sheldrake 21 April. Hooded Merganser: young emerged from nest Chemung 10 April.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Osprey: high muddy water in Chemung R forced birds to hunt small streams; reported to be on nest at M again. Bald Eagle: observed at Lodi Pt 18 March; M 29 March; Myers Pt 8 April; Sapsucker Woods 27 April. N. Harrier: reported from all areas. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one continued to raid feeder in Pine City into May. Cooper's Hawk: no comments on increase or decrease. N. Goshawk: two nests Ithaca area mid-May. Red-shouldered Hawk: reported in April and May Ithaca area; one Elmira 12 May, first report since 1980. Broad-winged Hawk: returned to their nesting area in Southport. Red-tailed Hawk: one pursuing Mallards Southport late April; very evident in all areas. Rough-legged Hawk: last report Ithaca area 23 April. **MERLIN:** Cornell Plantations 10 April (Milburn); Sheldrake 21 April (Kress); Ithaca airport 30 April (C. Smith). Ring-necked Pheasant: continues to be scarce in most areas. Wild Turkey: spreading into new areas. Virginia Rail: missing thus far at Corning Pond where it has nested previously; first report M 5 May. Sora: Michigan Hollow 5 May. Com. Moorhen: first report in Warren Rd Ponds Ithaca 27 April; none in Keuka L area. Am. Coot: max 500 M 9 April. Shorebirds: except for the one big day at Horseheads, birds were very skimpy. Listed below are the birds observed at Horseheads on 28 May.

Black-bellied Plover	40	Semipalmated Sandpiper	150
Upland Sandpiper	2	Western Sandpiper	1
Ruddy Turnstone	30	Least Sandpiper	3
Red Knot	1	White-rumped Sandpiper	1
Sanderling	1	Dunlin	32

Semipalmated Plover: Myers Pt 12 May; Montour Falls 20 May. Greater Yellowlegs: three Southport 24 April. Lesser Yellowlegs: Ithaca 23 April. Pectoral Sandpiper: M 5 May; Elmira 12 May. Com. Snipe: regularly found in Ithaca area only. Am. Woodcock: mating flights in Seneca Falls area. **LAUGHING GULL:** two Corning Pond 4 May, second record for Elmira area. Bonaparte's Gull: numerous reports from Ithaca area and Elmira in April; last report Seminar 7 May. Ring-billed Gull: close to 1,500 forced down by high winds Big Flats 12 May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** Cay L 18 March (E. Gates). Glaucous Gull: Stewart Park 24 March. Great Black-backed Gull: present Cay L thru early May. Caspian Tern: one chased off perch on Chemung R by Red-winged Blackbird 9 May. **ROSEATE TERN:** one Elmira 4 May (WH, DC, JS) report to NYSARC. **FORSTER'S TERN:** one M 21 May (Milburn, Thompson, Hunt) report to NYSARC. Black Tern: M 5 May; Elmira 8 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** E. Screech-Owl: reported regularly at Seminars; one QC 20 March. Great Horned Owl: nesting in Geneva; two young making "unearthly" calls to answering adult, Pine City 19 May. Barred Owl: one report Seminar 7 May. Short-eared

Owl: Ludlowville 4 March; Aurora 15 March. Com. Nighthawk: first report Elmira 17 May. Whip-poor-will: none reported. Chimney Swift: arrived Ithaca and Elmira late April. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: four in one bush Pine City, and seen in other locations 9 May; Watkins Glen 10 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: one defending suet feeder Big Flats 24 May thru. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported only from Ithaca area. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: regular at Ithaca; two reports Watkins Glen; nesting Pine City.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Acadian Flycatchers: none reported. Alder Flycatcher: one report Sapsucker Woods Rd 22 May. Willow Flycatcher: observed in Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen, earliest 20 May. E. Kingbird: scarce Ithaca. Purple Martin: your editor would be interested to know if there are any colonies in our region. Tree Swallow: one west side Cay L 24 March. N. Rough-winged Swallow: observed carrying nesting material into abandoned kingfisher hole in Pine City 28 May. Cliff Swallow: no reports of colonies. Fish Crow: nesting Stewart Pk. **COMMON RAVEN:** one Arnot Forest 28 May (Gray). Carolina Wren: reported regularly from Ithaca; singing from new locations in Elmira area. Winter Wren: singing birds found in Penn Yan, Ithaca, Elmira and QC in April and May. Sedge Wren: no reports. Marsh Wren: M 5 May; Big Flats 12 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good numbers reported with some lingering into late May. E. Bluebird: conflicting reports; returned to some former breeding areas but missing in others. Gray-cheeked Thrush: Elmira 17 May. Swainson's Thrush: good migration. Hermit Thrush: one Pine City "attacking" tape recorder accidentally left replaying his song; few in Penn Yan. N. Mockingbird: continue to be found in new locations in Chemung Co. Water Pipit: six Elmira 20 May (JS); none seen in Ithaca area where "they are always seen in the spring" (DM). N. Shrike: one Corning area 7 March. Loggerhead Shrike: one Peruville 1 May (Patterson). Eur. Starling: flock of six billion flying toward the Atlantic Ocean and Europe, being chased by a N. Mockingbird - wishful thinking!

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: none reported. All other vireos expected in our area - Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia and Red-eyed - were observed. Most of the regular warblers were reported. Comments on some species follow. Blue-winged: becoming more and more numerous every year (JC). "Brewster's" hybrid: Ithaca and Elmira areas. "Lawrence's" hybrid: one Penn Yan in May; one Southport returned to known nesting area 26 May. Orange-crowned: Monkey Run Ithaca 7 May. Cape May: four regular in fir tree for five days Pine City May. Yellow-rumped: very numerous in Penn Yan, Ithaca, Elmira and Watkins Glen areas and staying later. Prairie: two colonies located Watkins Glen. Cerulean: Southport 12 May; Ludlowville 21 May. Prothonotary: none observed. Worm-eating: singing Pine City 12 May. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** singing Texas Hollow Sanctuary 12 May (JB) second report for Watkins area. Connecticut: none reported. Mourning: observed in Penn Yan, Ithaca and Watkins Glen. Hooded: only one report, Elmira 16 May (WH). Yellow-breasted Chat: very few.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Scarlet Tanager: low numbers in Elmira, Penn Yan, normal Ithaca. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: several feeder reports. Am. Tree Sparrow: lingered in Ithaca to the end of April. Vesper Sparrow: very scarce in Elmira; two fields with singing birds Ithaca. Grasshopper Sparrow: on the increase. Henslow's Sparrow: returned to nesting grounds in Pine City but only a fraction of the number present last spring; two reports Penn Yan; Ithaca Airport 1 May. Fox Sparrow: last reported in Ithaca 25 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: reported from Penn Yan, Elmira, Watkins Glen, and Ithaca. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers. Lapland Longspur: five Ithaca 18 March. Snow Bunting: 30 Watkins Glen 1 March; 200 Elmira 15 March; last report Ithaca 19 March. Bobolink: arrived early at Ithaca and Elmira. Orchard Oriole: one Branchport May; one first year male Pine City 24 May. House Finch: your editor refuses to bore you by saying that House Finches are still increasing, even though they are. Pine Siskin: arrived at feeders in late spring and lingered into middle of May. Evening Grosbeak: flock of 75 arrived Pine City 11 March and many stayed until the sunflower seed ran out in mid-May; four still around in Odessa 30 May.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

Considering the violent rampages of the Weather Gods throughout the country this spring, any complaints from Region Four would be in poor taste. So be assured that the following is simply a statement of fact. Spring in Region Four was late, cold, wet and cloudy. Late in March the worst storm of the season left 20" of official snow (Edwin A. Link National Weather Station) in the form of heavy, wet flakes. Widespread damage was done to trees and shrubs and a high run-off pushed rivers and streams over banks. In April, rainstorms predominated, a heavy deluge early in the month causing more flooding with evacuation of homes, and another one mid-month repeating the performance. Off and on rain the rest of the month checked April out with 4.95" precipitation (normal 2.70"). May was more of the same with a final culmination of steady rain for the last three days bringing precipitation for the month to 6.09" (normal 2.32").

Birdlife reacted typically. Ducks migrated on schedule, accepting wetness and coolness as normal. The flooded fields and riverbanks attracted waterfowl, gulls and waders, groups that often pass us by. A Little Gull, one Least Bittern, and two sightings of Great Egret were welcome surprises. High water offered good feeding for Osprey. Numbers of other hawks were also up, including Red-shouldered. Passerines, however, seemed to find the soggy weather a delaying factor. A few vanguard birds of each species were reported near the usual date for arrival but the major migrant flocks were late. In some cases, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers for example, migrants had just begun to show by 31 May, the period's end. Nesting of swallows and bluebirds was also late. The late May rains flooded culverts so Rough-winged Swallow nests were washed out. Ground nesters must have suffered a similar fate.

A few rarities did turn up. A Painted Bunting, 4 to 6 May near Homer was seen by many, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird made off and on appearances near Delhi.

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Abbreviations: Br-Broome, CBC-Chenango Bird Club, CCBC-Cortland Co. Bird Club, Chen-Chenango, Co-County, Cort-Cortland, CR-Cannonsville Res, DBC-Delaware Bird Club, Del-Delaware, L-Lake, NCBC-Naturalists Club of Broome Co, OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford area, R-River, REEC-Rogers Environmental Education Center, SOFH-South Otselic Fish Hatchery, Susq-Susquehanna, TBC-Tioga Bird Club, WPR-Whitney Point Res.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: four reports: one 8 April CR (M/M HP); two 25 April Chen L (DN); one 3 May Pharsalia (CC); five 5 May WPR (CBC). Pied-billed Grebe: two reports: one 20 March Binghamton (RM); one 27 April Oneonta Res (MD). Horned Grebe: five reports: one 8 April Chen Co (CC); two 14 April WPR (RA, EP); two 14 April Chen Co (CBC); five 14 April Guilford L (CBC). Red-necked Grebe: two reports; one 5 April WPR (A/MD); three 14 April Chen L (CBC, JL). Double-crested Cormorant: one 14 April Homer (PP); one 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). **LEAST BITTERN:** two 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). Great Blue Heron: regular thru; first 12 March Tioga Co (TBC). **GREAT EGRET:** one 18 April WPR (HM, RM); one 5 May Cincinnatus L (CC, DW, CL, JL). Green-backed Heron: regular thru, first 23 April So. Otselic (DM). Brant: 12 19 March Susq R (RBr, FR). Canada Goose: regular March-April thru, last migrant 2 May Delhi (MC); one pair with young and two adult "guards" 19 May REEC (LC). Wood Duck: regular thru, first 14 March WPR (A/MD). Green-winged Teal: six reports; first 25 March Br Co (RM); last 14 April Chen Co (CC). Am. Black Duck: sparsely regular thru. Mallard: common thru. N. Pintail: six reports: first 3 March Br Co (A/MD); last 3 April WPR (JD, RM). Blue-winged Teal: 12 reports: nine Br Co, one Cort Co, one Chen Co, one OPM; first 19 March Cort Co (WS); last 28 April OPM (MD). N. Shoveler: two 7 April WPR (A/MD), one 15 April Br Co (HM). Greater Scaup: March Tioga Co (D/JB, RB, LBi). Lesser Scaup: three reports: 12 20 March WPR (JD, RM); one 25 March CR (SD); 50 3 April (JD, RM). Oldsquaw: three reports: one 14 April Chen Co (CC, CL, JL, DW); "a raft" 15 April Homer (PP); one 5 May WPR (CBC). Com. Goldeneye: regular thru March, last date 6 April Chen Co (CC). Bufflehead: six reports; four Br Co, two Chen Co; first two 3 April Br Co (JD, RM); last two 13 May Norwich (CC, JL). Hooded Merganser: 17 reports: eight Br Co, 2 Chen Co, 2 Cort Co, 5 OPM; first two 20 March Br Co (JD, RM); last one 16 May OPM (MD, KW). Com. Merganser: regular thru; last date one female 25 May So. Otselic R "possible breeder," "agitated behavior" (DM). Red-breasted Merganser: none.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: com thru; first one 20 March Tioga Co (RMi), one 20 March So. Otselic (DM). Osprey: over 30 reports: unusually frequent; one March Tioga Co (LD); another 1 April OPM (MD, KW); most mid-April thru mid-May; last 30 May Delhi (SC); regular reports of groups of three and four from 24 April thru 24 May at Sanitaria Springs, feeding on abundant minnow supply in feeder stream to Chen R; a road accident with large chemical spills 25 May totally contaminated stream; result - no more Ospreys. Bald Eagle: 12 reports scattered thru, first 9 March Del Co (KW), last 26 May Del Co (DBC); high numbers, hacking program results? N. Harrier: 17 reports scattered thru; first four 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Sharp-shinned Hawk: sparsely regular thru. Cooper's Hawk: sparsely regular thru. N. Goshawk: one 4 March Norwich (JL); one third week in March Tioga Co "catching pigeons near dairy barn" (AP). Red-shouldered Hawk: five reports scattered thru; numbers improving. Broad-winged Hawk: 18 reports scattered thru; first 17 April Br Co (GK, HM). Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: regular in northern part of area March thru early April; last 9 April So. Otselic (DM). Am. Kestrel: common thru. Merlin: one 9 May Colliersville, Otsego Co (MC). Ring-necked Pheasant: one 24 April Br Co (JS), one 10 May Br Co (JS), one 26 May OPM (MD, KW). Ruffed Grouse: regular thru but several comments on "numbers down." Wild Turkey: regular thru. Am. Coot: one 28 April Cort Co (CCBC). Semipalmated Plover: one 5 May WPR (CBC); one 12 May Norwich (JL). Killdeer: common thru. Greater Yellowlegs: nine reports, five Br Co, three Chen Co, one OPM, first 14 April WPR (RA, EP); last 13 May Norwich (JL). Lesser Yellowlegs: six reports, three Br Co, three Chen Co; first 12 April WPR (JSh), last 13 May Norwich (JL). Solitary Sandpiper: 21 reports scattered thru but especially OPM (11 reports) (MD, KW); first 29 April Br Co (JDi); last 24 May OPM (MD, KW). Spotted Sandpiper: regular thru; first 28 April Br Co (JDi). Least Sandpiper: five reports: one Br Co, one OPM, four Chen Co; first 4 May SOFH (CBC); last 31 May OPM (MD, KW). Pectoral Sandpiper: one 5 May WPR (CBC, JL). Dunlin: one 12 April WPR (RA, BP); two 5 May WPR (CBC). Com. Snipe: nine reports, four Chen Co, five OPM;

first 24 April OPM (MD, KW); "on territory," two locations 23 May So Otselic (DM). Am. Woodcock: regular thru; first 15 March Br Co (A/MD). **LITTLE GULL**: one 12 May, Norwich, "flooded field near river," "adult plumage," first seen (RD) confirmed (JL), stayed approx two hours. Bonaparte's Gull: 12 5 May WPR (CBC, JL); one 12 May Otselic "flooded field" (DM). Ring-billed Gull: reported regularly thru but in smaller flocks than in previous years (two to 30, only one of 100); first 25 18 March Br Co (RM); last 19 May Norwich (JL). Herring Gull: regular thru mid-March thru 1 May; first 12 March So. Otselic (DM); last May Tioga Co (LD). Com. Tern: one 25 April Br Co (NCBC).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one 24 May Br Co (GK). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one 24 May Br Co (GK). E. Screech-Owl: sparsely regular thru; 27 May "female with four young in box" So. Otselic (DM). Great Horned Owl: regular thru. Barred Owl: five reports, all Chen Co. Long-eared Owl: one found dead 18 March Br Co (R/RE), Short-eared Owl: one mid-March Cort Co (AS). N. Saw-whet Owl: one 4 March dead Br Co; turned in to Finch Hollow Nature Center (CW). Com. Nighthawk: 20 May Br Co (HM); 21 May Otsego Co (MD). Chimney Swift: regular thru; first 28 April Br Co (JDi). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: regular thru; first 11 May Tioga Co (LD). Belted Kingfisher: regular thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: three reports; Br Co (AT) Del Co (HS), Tioga Co (LD). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one report Br Co May (AT), one report Chen Co 14 May So Otselic "first I've seen here" (DM), four reports Cort Co "all winter" (BM, PK, FO'L, DP), one report 12 May CCBC. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: regular thru; first 12 April Br Co (RM). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: regular thru. N. Flicker: common thru; first March Tioga Co (RB). Pileated Woodpecker: regular thru.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: E. Wood-Pewee: regular thru; first 19 May Smyrna (JL). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 31 May Br Co (HM). Alder Flycatcher: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 26 May OPM, (MD, KW), one 31 May Tioga Co (LD). Willow Flycatcher: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 24 May, four 26 May, one 31 May OPM (MD, KW), four 26 May Chen Co (JL). Least Flycatcher: common thru; first 3 May Br Co (RM). E. Phoebe: common thru; first 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Great Crested Flycatcher: common thru; first 9 May Tioga Co (LD). E. Kingbird: common thru; first 2 May Delhi (LCI). Horned Lark: sparse thru; last 12 May (CCBC). Purple Martin: one report 9 April Tioga Co (SD). Tree Swallow: common thru; first 21 March Br Co (FL). N. Rough-winged Swallow: regular thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC, CC). Late May heavy rains washed out many nests built in metal drainpipes feeding into larger culverts; too early to assess results. Bank Swallow: six reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Cliff Swallow: five reports scattered thru; first 28 April So. Otselic (DM). Barn Swallow: common thru; first 1 April OPM (MD, KW). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Boreal Chickadee: a winter bird at feeder in Tioga Co stayed thru 31 March (BC). Tufted Titmouse: regular thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: eight reports: one Chen Co (DM); one Cort Co May (CCBC); three OPM 1 April, 7 April, 14 May (MD, KW); three Tioga Co March (D/JB, LBi), 18 May (LD), 12 April (RMi). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: 19 reports scattered thru. Carolina Wren: two reports both Br Co (A/MD, AT). House Wren: common thru, first 27 April Tioga Co (RMi). Winter Wren: eight reports: one Br Co 30 April (HM); two Chen Co, one 15 April (RM), one 3 May (JL); one Cort Co 12 May (CCBC); three OPM 9, 11, 24 May, (MD, KW); one Oneonta 6 May (MD). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 23 reports scattered thru; last 20 May Chen Co (JL), Tioga Co (LD), numbers high. Ruby-crowned kinglet: 24 reports scattered thru; first 15 April Chen Co (CBC); last 17 May OPM (MD, KW). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; one 22 and 23 April Ingraham Hill Br Co (CH); one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). E. Bluebird: 27 reports scattered thru; first 9 March (several). Veery: common thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one 22 May Tioga Co (LD); one 22 May Br Co (HM). Swainson's Thrush: four reports: one 17 May OPM (MD, KW); two 19 May Del. Co. (DBC); one 22 May Br Co (HM), one 23 May Br. Co (FL, HM); low numbers. Hermit Thrush: five

reports: one 18 April Br Co (JDi); one 28 April Tioga Co (RMi); one 3 May Delhi (MC); one 26 May Delhi (DBC); one 23 May So Otselic (DM); low and late. Wood Thrush: common thru; first 1 May OPM (MD, KW). Am. Robin: common thru; first 12 May Br Co (RM). Gray Catbird: common thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). N. Mockingbird: 11 reports scattered thru; gradually increasing. Brown Thrasher: regular thru; first 29 April Br Co (RM). Water Pipit: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC); one 12 May Norwich (JL); one 15 May Sherburne (JL). Cedar Waxwing: sparsely regular thru. N. Shrike: one bird seen frequently 10 March thru 22 April So Otselic (DM). Eur. Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: 16 reports scattered thru; first 27 April Tioga Co (RMi). Yellow-throated Vireo: 12 reports; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Warbling Vireo: 13 reports; first 28 April Br Co (JMDi). Philadelphia Vireo: two 20 May So Otselic (DM); one 21 May Tioga Co (LD). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru; first 7 May Delhi (MC, SH). Blue-winged Warbler: seven reports; two Br Co, three Chen Co, one Cort Co, one OPM; first 9 May Norwich (JL). Golden-winged Warbler: one 8 May Br Co (RM), one 22 May Br Co (HM). Tennessee Warbler: one 22 May So Otselic (DM) very late and unusually low in numbers. Nashville Warbler: 16 reports scattered thru; first 1 May Norwich (JL); last 26 May (several). N. Parula: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC); one 13 May Norwich (JL); two 26 May Delhi (DBC). Yellow Warbler: common thru; first 27 April Br Co (JDi). Chestnut-sided Warbler: common thru; first 25 April Tioga Co (GW). Magnolia Warbler: 16 reports; scattered thru; first 13 May Chen Co (RM). Cape May Warbler: ten reports scattered thru; first 12 May Chen Co (JL), Cort Co (CCBC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; first 9 May OPM (MD, KW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: common thru; first 9 May OPM (MD, KW), still a few 31 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: 15 reports scattered thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). Blackburnian Warbler: six reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW). Pine Warbler: one 26 May Delhi (DBC). Prairie Warbler: one 11 May Br Co (GK); one 26 May Delhi (DBC). Palm Warbler: one 12 May Norwich (RD); one 13 May Tioga Co (LD); one 7 May OPM "yellow race"; one 19 May OPM "yellow throat and rump but pale breast" both (MD, KW); one 20 May Br Co (GK). Bay-breasted Warbler: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), one 22 May Br Co (HM); two 26 May Delhi (DBC); late migration still in progress 31 May. Blackpoll Warbler: ten reports scattered thru; first 21 May Norwich (JL); late, still in progress 31 May. Cerulean Warbler: one 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Black-and-white Warbler: regular thru; first 27 April Br Co (RM). Am. Redstart: common thru; first 11 May Tioga Co (LD). Ovenbird: common thru; first 28 April Cort Co (CCBC). Louisiana Waterthrush: regular thru; first 24 April OPM (MD, KW). Mourning Warbler: one 22 May Br Co (HM); one 22 May Tioga Co (LD); one 26 May Delhi (MC). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; first 3 May Norwich (JL). Wilson's Warbler: two 17 May OPM (MD, KW); one 18 May Norwich (JL); one 21 May Tioga Co (LD). Canada Warbler: nine reports scattered thru; first 11 May OPM (MD, KW).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: common thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). N. Cardinal: common thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: common thru; first 30 April Br Co (A/MD). Indigo Bunting: regular thru; first 12 May Cort Co (CCBC), Del Co (HS). **PAINTED BUNTING**: one 2 May thru 6 May at residence on Homer-Tully Rd (BM); seen by many. Rufous-sided Towhee: common thru; first 18 April Tioga Co (RMi). Am. Tree Sparrow: common thru; last 28 April Br Co (RMi). Chipping Sparrow: common thru; first 8 April Tioga Co (E/PG). Field Sparrow: common thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC). Vesper Sparrow: five reports; four OPM (MD, KW); one Chen Co (JL). Savannah Sparrow: common thru; first 14 April Chen Co (CBC). Grasshopper Sparrow: one 13 May Chen Co (JL); sparse. Fox Sparrow: 19 reports; first 9 March Delhi (MC); last 17 April Br Co (HM); numbers light. Song Sparrow: common thru. Lincoln's Sparrow: one 13 May Norwich (JL); one 5 May WPR (CBC); May Tioga Co (LD). Swamp Sparrow: regular thru; first 24 April OPM (MD, KW). White-throated Sparrow: many reports all period, thru. White-crowned Sparrow: 16 reports scattered thru; first 1 May Cort Co (FO'L), Delhi (MC). Dark-eyed Junco: abundant April and early May; a few still present 31 May. Snow Bunting:

50 2 March Chen Co (DM); March Tioga Co (several). Bobolink: common thru; first 6 May Tioga Co (LD); numbers up. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru; first 22 March Tioga Co (AP). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: one female at various dates in May, Delhi (EM, BD). Rusty Blackbird: one 27 March Tioga Co (D/ JB, RB, LBi); one 29 April Preble Swamp, Cort Co (WB); 12 May Cort Co (CCBC). Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. N. Oriole: common thru; first 5 May Tioga Co (LD). Purple Finch: common Chen. and Otsego Co; present in fewer numbers in rest of area. House Finch: present in large numbers in Br and Tioga Cos; present but in smaller flocks in remainder of area. Pine Siskin: common in Otsego Co; scattered sparsely elsewhere in area. Still present 26 May Delhi (MC). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: present in spotty numbers thru; last 26 May Delhi (JDo).

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## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The 1984 spring season was remarkably like that of 1983 climatologically. The season was cold and wet, with late heavy snowfalls through mid-April at lower elevations and mid-May in the Adirondacks. Cold weather and rain was frequent in May. Derby Hill fans bemoaned the lack of southerly winds. Earlier parallels were also similar. The miserable spring weather followed a remarkable late February warm spell in both seasons as well.

Given these parallels, we might anticipate that the two migrations would be similar as well. This was not the case. All observers, and the spring banding operation at the Noyes Sanctuary along Lake Ontario, were unanimous that this spring's migration was one of the worst ever. There were no big days for land birds in the Syracuse area and only two dates, 18 and 22 May, were notable along Lake Ontario. The early part of the migration suffered most, and sparrows were not well represented. Arrival dates generally were average, but the bulk of most populations arrived five to ten days late. Maxima were low. The few warbler maxima in excess of 50 are in the species accounts that follow; peak counts for flycatchers, swallows, kinglets, and the commoner sparrows were similarly unimpressive. Most species that migrate at the end of the period were seen then, but few migrants were reported in June. It is not yet clear to what extent breeding populations are affected, but for the most part changes are small.

There was a marked return flight of Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees, a moderate flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. The last redpolls and Pine Grosbeaks of the winter were seen in early March, but no crossbills were found. Purple Martins and Cliff Swallows were scarce, and the grassland sparrows (especially Henslow's) continue in low numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Hooded Warblers and Am. Goldfinches made very good showings, especially along Lake Ontario. More Orange-crowned Warblers were noted than usual.

The raptor flight was a mix of high overall totals resulting from sustained but low daily totals of birds passing under conditions unfavorable for producing concentrations. This season's owl banding operation at the Noyes Sanctuary produced far more Long-eared Owls than diurnal birdwatchers ever detect, and a strong N. Saw-whet Owl flight in late April to early May that lacked last spring's early spring component. More in keeping with the past decade, only two Loggerhead Shrikes were reported this spring.

The waterfowl flight can be summarized as a species - Canada Goose. Most other species were scarce, and few notable maxima were obtained. Horned Grebe remains alarmingly low, and Ruddy Duck and Bonaparte's Gull were missed this spring. Only a handful of southern herons were found, and night-herons were confined to the Snake Swamp area. Shorebirds, other than local nesters, yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers, were virtually nonexistent. Many of the scarcer species were missed and others found on a single date only. Habitat shortage was not a problem; perhaps there was too much habitat this season to concentrate shorebirds in the numbers we usually see in the spring.

Spring is always a time for rarities, and this season was no exception. Fish Crow was added to our Regional list, and other great rarities include Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Piping Plover, Forster's Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Summer Tanager and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Slightly less rare finds were Snowy Egret, Wilson's Phalarope, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole. A total of 237 species plus two hybrids were reported, about average. The only real miss was Sedge Wren, but missing Worm-eating Warbler was a surprise given the showing of southern landbirds this season.

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Abbreviations: arr-arrival; DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co; LSB-Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co; NS-Noyes Sanctuary near Nine Mile Point, Oswego Co; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon-Onondaga; PSS-Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co; SP-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co; StMC-St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co; Syr-Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: singles DH 12-15 April and LSB 19-22 May. Com. Loon: arr 2 April DH, max 35 LOL 3 May, last 26 May Skaneateles L; DH total 57, low. Horned Grebe: only four reports 8 March to 3 May. Red-necked Grebe: a dozen reported including ten Onon L 12 April and one Chitting Pond 14-21 April. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 5 April LOL, max 46 there 18 May; five Otisco L 8 May is a high count away from L Ontario. Am. Bittern: arr DH 19 April. Least Bittern: one PSS 19 May only report. Great Blue Heron: arr DH 20 March. Great Egret: singles Nine Mile Creek 22 May, Oswego 23 May. Snowy Egret: one Oswego 23 May (LH). Cattle Egret: singles town of Vernon 9 May (Mary Felle *vide* MS) and Snake Swamp 10 May (JH). Green-backed Heron: arr DH 23 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: up to 27 Snake Swamp after late March. Tundra Swan: last Bonta Bridge 25 March. Snow Goose: last white morph DH 26 April, last blue morph DH 28 April. Brant: 600 LOL 18 May only report. Canada Goose: last count > 1000 on 3 May. Wood Duck: arr DH 22 March. Green-winged Teal: arr DH 22 March. Mallard: last count > 100 on 5 April. N. Pintail: max 144 Duck Lake 1 April, last PSS 28 April. Blue-winged Teal: arr DH 22 March. N. Shoveler: arr DH 22 March, last Pennellville 22 April. Gadwall: last PSS 19 May, where possibly nesting. Am. Wigeon: last PSS 6 May. Canvasback: last



LSB 7 April. Redhead: ditto. Ring-necked Duck: last Poolsbrook 6 May. Greater Scaup: max 450 Oswego 19 March, last Poolsbrook 27 April. Lesser Scaup: last DH 19 April. Oldsquaw: max 60 Oswego 8 March, then one DH 29 April. White-winged Scoter: last LOL 21 May. Com. Goldeneye: last LSB 7 April. Bufflehead: last Poolsbrook 10 May. Hooded Merganser: last migrants about 7 April. Com. Merganser: max 110 LOL 22 March, last DH 14 April. Red-breasted Merganser: last LSB 22 May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** See table for DH summary; total counts for Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk are new highs, as are maxima for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk and Golden Eagle. Two each of Bald and Golden Eagle reported away from DH. Rarer raptors reported include the Region's third **BLACK VULTURE** on 2 April and sixth **SWAINSON'S HAWK** on 30 April at DH (GAS, NYSARC) and four Peregrines there 12 April and 11 May plus one found mortally wounded NS 12 May. Virginia Rail: arr Syr 26 April. Sora: arr Clay Marsh 1 May. Com. Moorhen: arr DH 19 April. Am. Coot: arr LSB 24 March, last Poolsbrook 19 May. Semipalmated Plover: only two reports 20-24 May. **PIPING PLOVER:** three SP 21 May (FGS, NYSARC) are first Regional spring report since 1978. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Pennellville 7 April, max 18 there 19 April, last Lysander 18 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Pennellville 15 April, max 24 there 10 May, last Lysander 18 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 21 April, strong flight through 18 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 21 April. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 23 April, scarce. Ruddy Turnstone: one SP 26 May. Sanderling: one SP 24-26 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: one SP 24 May. Least Sandpiper: arr Pennellville 6 May, max 26 on 13 May, last SP 26 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: only about ten reported 3-13 May. Dunlin: one Pennellville 8 April (FGS, RK, JH) early, last seven SP 24 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: seven Poolsbrook 19 May. Com. Snipe: arr Pennellville 22 March. Am. Woodcock: arr Pompey 18 March. Wilson's Phalarope: female Pennellville 28 April (FGS) is tenth modern spring Regional record. Ring-billed Gull: max 3,500 DH 5 April, very low. Iceland Gull: last Oswego 10 March. Glaucous Gull: last Oswego 12 March. Great Black-backed Gull: last count > 100 Oswego 14 March. Caspian Tern: arr Selkirk Shores State Park 12 April. Common Tern: arr DH 9 May. **FORSTER'S TERN:** adult DH 15 April (GAS, NYSARC) is third and earliest Regional spring record. Black Tern: arr DH 3 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Camillus 19 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr StMC 23 May. Snowy Owl: last (at feeder catching birds!) DH 9 March. Short-eared Owl: singles town of Mexico 4 March and DH 17 April. Long-eared Owl: 13 banded NS, most 1-15 April. N. Saw-whet Owl: 27 banded NS, most in April, including record late on 19 May; three others found elsewhere late March to late April. Com. Nighthawk: arr Clay 2 May. Whip-poor-will: arr NS 29 April. Chimney Swift: arr DH 17 April, ties record early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr DH 11 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr DH 28 April, scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Syr 9 April, scarce all spring but at least two males drumming Camillus valley in May, an unusual potential nesting locality. N. Flicker: arr DH 8 April, max 80 there 28 April, last migrants about 18 May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr LOL 18 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr LSB 20 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr two sites 22 May. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one singing LSB 22 May (FGS) is seventh Regional record. Alder Flycatcher: arr StMC 6 May (JH) record early. Willow Flycatcher: arr StMC 6 May (JH) early. Least Flycatcher: arr StMC 28 April. E. Phoebe: arr DH 7 April. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr StMC 29 April. E. Kingbird: arr DH 28 April, max 55 LOL 24 May. Purple Martin: arr DH 4 April, low all season. Tree Swallow: arr DH 22 March, max 2,000 there 10 May. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 12 April. Bank Swallow: arr DH 14 April. Cliff Swallow: arr DH 14 April, low all season. Barn Swallow: arr DH 12 April, max 2,000 there 10 May. Blue Jay: migrants conspicuous after 27 April, max 1,800 DH 11 May. Am. Crow: 31,975 past DH in March and April. **FISH CROW:** one DH 28 April (FGS, GAS, mob, NYSARC) with Am. Crows - is Regional first. Black-capped Chickadee: strong return flight, 132 banded NS, 75-150/day

DH early May. Red-breasted Nuthatch: up to four/day 4 April-24 May. Brown Creeper: to seven/day 8 April to about 3 May. House Wren: arr DH 29 April. Winter Wren: migrants scarce 8 April to 18 May. Marsh Wren: arr DH 3 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Syr 9 April, last SP 21 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr DH 14 April, last LSB 22 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr two sites 28 April. E. Bluebird: DH total 19, low, last on 6 May. Veery: arr 29 April NS. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 20 May StMC. Swainson's Thrush: arr DH 7 May, last Syr 31 May. Hermit Thrush: arr StMC 13 April, last LOL 22 May. Wood Thrush: arr Clay 2 May. Am. Robin: max 2,000 DH 21 April. Gray Catbird: arr StMC 29 Apr. Brown Thrasher: arr three sites 27 April. Water Pipit: migrants 8 April to 21 May. N. Shrike: last Albion 25 March. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: singles DH 14 April and LOL 22 April.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: White-eyed Vireo: singles StMC 6 and 19 May. Solitary Vireo: arr Syr 18 April, last LOL 21 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr StMC 11 May. Warbling Vireo: arr DH 5 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 19 May, max 9 SP 24 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr Clay 12 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr StMC 11 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr TRIGMA 13 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: about six reported after 17 May. "Lawrence's" Warbler: one Camillus 31 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr StMC 3 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: about seven reported 12-19 May much better than average. Nashville Warbler: arr StMC 29 April, last about 22 May. N. Parula: arr Clay 2 May, last SP 24 May. Yellow Warbler: arr Clay 27 April. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Syr 30 April. Magnolia Warbler: arr Syr 8 May. Cape May Warbler: arr Clay 2 May, last LSB 22 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr NS 28 April. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Syr 18 April, max 460 LOL 18 May, last SP 24 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr NS 28 April. Blackburnian Warbler: arr Clay 2 May. Pine Warbler: arr DH 17 April, last LOL 12 May. Palm Warbler: arr DH 29 April, last NS 19 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr LOL 19 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr two sites 22 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Camillus 12 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Syr 30 April, last LSB 22 May. Am. Redstart: arr Clay 2 May, max 94 LSB 22 May. Ovenbird: arr StMC 30 April. N. Waterthrush: arr Clay 27 April. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Fabius 17 April. Kentucky Warbler: singles StMC 19 and 23 May, LSB 22 May. Mourning Warbler: arr two sites 22 May. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Clay 2 May. Hooded Warbler: arr 17 May StMC. Wilson's Warbler: arr LOL 19 May. Canada Warbler: arr Shackham Rd. 12 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one NS 12 May, two males Camillus valley after 27 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER**: females Canastota 9-12 May (DWC, JL, NYSARC) and Camillus 27 May (FGS, NYSARC) are third and fourth Regional records. Scarlet Tanager: arr Syr 17 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr two sites 6 May. Indigo Bunting: arr Camillus 12 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr StMC 27 April. Am. Tree Sparrow: last DH 9 May. Chipping Sparrow: arr DH 21 April. Field Sparrow: arr DH 14 April. Vesper Sparrow: arr DH 12 April. Savannah Sparrow: arr DH 12 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr LOL 18 May. Henslow's Sparrow: only report Clay 6 May. Fox Sparrow: migrants 23 March to 4 May. Song Sparrow: arr Syr about 12 March. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Camillus valley 2 May, last LOL 24 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr DH 5 April. White-throated Sparrow: last about 24 May. White-crowned Sparrow: unexceptional flight 3-22 May. Dark-eyed Junco: arr about 14 April, last Camillus valley 27 May, late. Bobolink: arr DH 28 April. Red-winged Blackbird: max only 9,000 DH 28 April, low. E. Meadowlark: arr Pennellville 22 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: male Pennellville 17-19 April (DWC, FGS, NYSARC) is sixth Regional record. Rusty Blackbird: arr Bolivar 31 May, last LOL 19 May. Com. Grackle: max only 2,000 DH 29 April. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 3,000 DH 28 April. Orchard Oriole: two males near Camillus 19 and 31 May. N. Oriole: arr DH 3 May. Pine Grosbeak: last NS 4 March. Purple Finch: arr DH 12 April. Com. Redpoll: last DH 26 March. Pine Siskin: arr Syr 2 April, max 35 LOL 18 May, last there 21 May. Am. Goldfinch: max 1,000 LOL 18 May. Evening Grosbeak: return flight began about 13 April, max 1,450 DH 9 May, last SP 21 May.

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Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals - 1984

Species	Arrival	Max - Date	Last	90% Date Range*	Total
Turkey Vulture	23 Feb	161 - 2 Apr	27 May	31 Mar - 29 Apr	1,600
Osprey	4 Apr	78 - 28 Apr	28 May	15 Apr - 12 May	342
Bald Eagle	23 Feb	4 - 20 Mar	20 May		22
Northern Harrier	17 Feb	74 - 14 Apr	28 May	21 Mar - 9 May	914
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16 Mar	3,019 - 28 Apr	28 May	14 Apr - 11 May	11,582
Cooper's Hawk:	23 Feb	64 - 17 Apr	25 May	21 Mar - 6 May	676
Northern Goshawk	17 Feb	36 - 22 Mar	7 May	15 Mar - 26 Apr	174
Red-shouldered Hawk	15 Mar	127 - 22 Mar	11 May	22 Mar - 22 Apr	964
Broad-winged Hawk	17 Apr	16,582 - 28 Apr	28 May	27 Apr - 27 May	39,673
Red-tailed Hawk	17 Feb	1,233 - 17 Apr	28 May	20 Mar - 27 Apr	8,166
Rough-legged Hawk	17 Feb	45 - 28 Apr	11 May	5 Mar - 29 Apr	563
Golden Eagle	22 Mar	22 - 22 Mar	5 May		22
American Kestrel	16 Mar	57 - 13 Apr	25 May	21 Mar - 29 Apr	435
Merlin	1 Apr	9 - 12 Apr	30 Apr		26
Grand total (including unidentified, rarities):					66,409

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

## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

If we had April weather in February, January descended in March. The mean temperature for the first half of the month was 9° F and the mean monthly temperature in Canton was 19° F - ten degrees below normal. The low for the month was -24° F on 8 March, and 22 March was the only day when the temperature in Canton exceeded 50° F. Precipitation was less than half of normal at 1.08 in. Snowfall for the month ranged from seven inches in eastern St. Lawrence Co. to 58 inches at Highmarket on Tug Hill. Major snowstorms occurred on the 14th and 30th, the latter accompanied by the strongest winds of the month. Other wind storms occurred 1, 6-7, 11-12, 17-19, 23-25 and 29-30 March. April was generally mild with temperatures slightly above normal. Extreme temperatures ranged from 16° F at Wanakena on the 1st to 81° F at Massena on the 28th. Fewer than half the days had frost, the last occurring at Canton on the 23rd. Precipitation was about normal (3.67 inches at Canton) with a maximum of 1.28 inches falling on 17 April. Light snow fell on the 8th. A brief cold snap was followed by two weeks of mild, dry weather. There were thunderstorms and local hail on the 17th. The month's coldest weather came during the third week, followed by mild temperatures leading to thunderstorms and high winds on the 28th. May weather was variable, with a distinctly cool, wet flavor. The month began with snow flurries. There were a few spells of two or three warm days,

with a decided change for the better after the 20th; but almost every time the time was ripe for a wave of migrants, the weathr closed in. Mean temperatures were more than two degrees below normal. There was rain on 20 days and total rainfall in Canton was five inches - 1.8 inches above normal. Major storms occurred on 4-5, 8-9, and 29 May.

A total of 181 species was reported. There were good numbers of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks in March. There were more Northern Shrikes and redpolls and as many Pine Grosbeaks in March as earlier in the winter. Arrivals of March migrants, including Killdeer, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, American Robin and Common Grackle, were several days late. Marsh birds such as American Bittern, Common Moorhen and ducks arrived about on time in April. In spite of the weather, long distance insectivorous migrants arrived on schedule in May, but numbers were scant till late in the month. Kinglets were late and very few. Twenty-three species of warblers were reported, with few Blackpolls, Magnolias, and Bay-breasteds. With regard to species expanding ranges, Tufted Titmouse and Red-bellied Woodpecker show no increase; there was one migrant (?) gnatcatcher in Potsdam and one at Sandy Pond, and Northern Mockingbirds in Antwerp and Canton. House Finches seem to be preparing for an onslaught. For raptors, there were good numbers of Bald Eagles and Ospreys, but very few Cooper's Hawks. 28 April seems to have been a banner day for hawk migration throughout the region. Flycatchers seem to be in good shape. Especially notable were large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows in mid-May. Virtually all departed the night of 18 May. Reports of rarities point up the problems encountered in a region with few birders and no organized system for confirming sightings out of range or season. Confirmed, subject to NYSARC, were Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Wilson's Phalarope and Merlin.

Abbreviations: Jeff Co-Jefferson Co; MSPD-Moses Saunders Power Dam, Massena; PL-Perch Lake Wildlife Management Area; PR-Perch River WMA; Pt Pen-Point Peninsula; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park, Massena; St. Law Co-St. Lawrence Co.; SLR-St. Lawrence River; ULL-Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH-Wilson Hill WMA.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Jeff Co 4 April; singles ULL 20 April, Rainbow Falls Res 26 May So. Colton; pairs Pt Pen 2 May, PL 10 May. Pied-billed Grebe: arr WH 8 April; three ULL 26 May. Red-necked Grebe: one SLR near WH 12 May (JVR). Double-crested Cormorant: two Southwick Beach 14 April; five to ten MSPD 16 April thru; one PL 19 April; 25 Southwick Beach 27 May. Am. Bittern: common throughout St. Law Co mid-April thru; four ULL 11 May; three Fine 6 May. Least Bittern: one WH 18 May. Great Blue Heron: "in every block of northern St. Law Co" (JVR); colony at Scott Rd S of Stockholm Ctr abandoned. Great Egret: two PR 20 May (RJW), also one 30 May. **CATTLE EGRET:** one PR 27 May (RJW). Green-backed Heron: 15 reports from No. St. Law. Co. late April thru. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Jeff Co 14 April; one west of Cornwall I (JVR). Mute Swan: two PR 14-19 April, three 27 May. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Henderson Pond 25-26 March (RJW); first confirmed Regional record. Snow Goose: very large flight; first report 17 Sulphur Springs 29 March; max 100 Massena April, 200 Lowville 18 April, 200 Canton 28 April; seven other reports from St. Law. and Jeff. Co. Canada Goose: 5,000 Lakeview WMA 21 March; 10,000 Henderson Pond 25 March; 6,000

PR 19 April. **ROSS' GOOSE**: one Henderson Pond 25 March (RJW), also on 1 April (DC, JH); first Regional record and only second NYS record, report sent to NYSARC by LC. Wood Duck: arr three Potsdam 15 April; several sightings in Canton thru; four Canton 25 May. Green-winged Teal: 20 near Ellisburg 2 May; one ULL 9 May. Am. Black Duck: max 200 Henderson Pond 25 March. Mallard: seems unusually abundant. N. Pintail: 100 Henderson Pond 25 March; ten Morley 8 April. Green-winged Teal: one Jeff. Co. 31 March; one ULL 11 May. N. Shoveler: one Massena 18 May. Gadwall: arr Jeff. Co. 31 March, WH 21 April. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: male near Woodville 5 May (RJW). Am. Wigeon: arr Jeff. Co. 31 March, Morley 8 April. Canvasback: Jeff. Co. 8 March (SH). Redhead: Jeff. Co. 31 March; pair WH 15 April, only sighting by JVR. Ring-necked Duck: eight PR 19 April; two to six per day WH and ULL. Greater Scaup: pairs PR 27 May, WH 29 May. Lesser Scaup: one to two pairs WH thru May. Oldsquaw: 80 above MSPD 18 May. White-winged Scoter three Stony Pt 4 March. Com. Goldeneye: WH 12 May. Bufflehead: one to two ULL 4-9 April; eight PR 19 April; eight to ten WH late April. Hooded Merganser: three Dexter 1 March; five PR 4 April; five WH 12 May. Com. Merganser: small numbers thru. Red-breasted Merganser: one MSPD 7 April; two Pt Pen 3 May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: increased numbers from early April thru. Osprey: three migrating PR 19 April (LC); two, one on nest, PR 22 April; male displaying with fish Henderson 29 April (LC); six SLR Massena 28 April; arr Canton 23 April; two Canton 28 April; one ULL 1 May. Bald Eagle: one adult near Dexter 2 April; one Rainbow Falls Res, Colton 29 March (JG); one adult Carry Falls Res, Colton 15 May. N. Harrier: arr three Millens Bay 1 March; max 5 Pt Pen 24 March and 2 May; report of singles Jeff. Co. thru; singles St. Law. Co. thru. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one at feeder in Canton thru April; one Henderson 20 March; 22 SLR Massena 28 April; other sightings from Henderson, PR, ULL. Cooper's Hawk: two PR 19 April; three 22 and 29 April; four 28 April all Henderson (LC); three singles from Brownville and Canton; none Massena (JVR). N. Goshawk: singles PR 19 and 22 April, Henderson 22 April, "the odd one thru" Massena (JVR); pair at nest site south of Canton 2 May (KLC). Red-shouldered Hawk: four Potsdam-Massena area thru May (JVR); two screaming Pierrepont 28 March; pair resident Fine 4 April thru (PO's). Broad-winged Hawk: 375 Henderson 10:30-1:30 28 April; 500 Massena and SLR 28 April; abundant in Fine, pairs in Canton and Colton. Red-tailed Hawk: max 32 PR 19 April, 28 Massena 28 April; two pairs on nests Jeff. Co. (KC, SH). Rough-legged Hawk: several sightings in Jeff. Co. and western St. Law. Co. thru early April; max six PR 19 April; last 19 May (SH). **MERLIN**: one RMSP 28 April (MDiG, JVR). **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one PR 19 April, one Lakeview WMA 27 April (SH, *vide* LC). Gray Partridge: two Massena 19-20 April, only report. Ring-necked Pheasant: female Pierrepont 17 April; two RMSP 16 April; male ULL 26 May. Virginia Rail: pair ULL 2 May; common with tape (JVR). Sora: less common than preceding species (JVR). Am. Coot: one ULL 23 April; one being eaten by N. Harrier WH 18 May. Killdeer: arr Watertown 21 March. Greater Yellowlegs: arr PR 22 April. Lesser Yellowlegs: six Woodville 5 May. Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitcher: a few reports. Upland Sandpiper: three Massena 28 April; five Pierrepont 8 May. Com. Snipe: arr Henderson 25 March. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: male Watertown 20 May (RJW). Bonaparte's Gull: seven 3 April, 12 on 17 April, Hawkin's Pt. Caspian Tern: Jeff. Co. 14 April, three PR, two Pt Pen both 2 May; Eldorado Beach Preserve 30 May. Com. Tern: arr six SLR Massena 28 April; three ULL 10 May. Black Tern: arr three ULL 10 May; two WH 18 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr one ULL 26 May. E. Screech-Owl: one RMSP 18 May. Snowy Owl: last two Pillar Pt. 24 March; others in early March at E. Hounsfield, Baggs Corners, Evans Mills. Barred Owl: one Russell in yard 14-15 March; one Canton near Cray Mills 1 May; singles Long Lake 21 May, Aldrich 26 May, both town of Fine. **GREAT GRAY OWL**: one Pope's Mills 8 March (SB). Short-eared Owl: two Dexter Airport 24 March. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Potsdam thru (MDiG); one Massena 17

May. Com. Nighthawk: Potsdam 24 May, only report. Whip-poor-will: arr Canton 10 May; 18 Potsdam-Parishville area 3 hour survey 22 May (MDiG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Canton 13 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Calcium 25 May; one on Rt. 3 at Southwick Beach 26 May; one Stony Pt. 27 May; pair Mummery Rd., Ogdensburg (NS), pair raised young here last year. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Henderson March and April. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Canton 17 April; four Massena 18 May. No. Flicker: first migrants 14 April (LC).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Willow Flycatcher: one Eldorado 30 May (SH). E. Phoebe: arr 4 April; six PR 19 April, most in two years (LC). Least Flycatcher: one arr 29 April, early. Horned Lark: flocks thru March, male in Sora flight Canton 10 April; one Canton 26 May. Purple Martin: arr ULL 9 May; arr Henderson and Massena 29 April, late. Tree Swallow: arr 8 April, 3,000 PR 19 April. N. Rough-winged Swallow: pair Canton 10 May. Bank Swallow: arr Pierrepont 6 May; 50 Bank and Tree Swallows killed on Rt. 131 causeway at WH 17 April. Cliff Swallow: ten Hawkins Pt., Massena 22 April; resident at several farms south of Canton in May. Com. Raven: heard at Church Pd. bog, Colton 14 March; two near Cranberry Lake 10 April; two Dead Creek, S. Colton 17 April. Boreal Chickadee; two Potsdam late Feb thru 15 March; one Canton 18 May. Tufted Titmouse: two Henderson thru. Winter Wren: singles Pierrepont 24 April; Stony Pt. 27 April; Watertown 27 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: three Louisville 21 April; Pierrepont 24 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Louisville 21 April; three Canton 29 April. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Potsdam ca. 12 May, not found again (MDiG); one Sandy Pond 30 May. E. Bluebird: none Potsdam and Massena (JVR, MDiG); arr Potsdam 21 March; two Potsdam 14 April thru, four 21 April and 30-31 May, pair in nest box 31 May (all SC DeG); other reports from Brownville, DeKalb, Pierrepont, Louisville. Hermit Thrush: two Bombay 18 May. Bohemian Waxwing: four 28 March, 500 DryHill, Watertown 7 April, "We examined the flock carefully for Cedar Waxwings, 500 is a conservative number." (RW). Cedar Waxwing: 60 Dry Hill 28 March; few elsewhere till late May. N. Shrike: one Adams 21 March; two ULL 30 March; dep 7 April. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Vireos arrived late. Solitary Vireo: one Louisville 2 May; one WH 18 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: one Jeff. Co. 18 May. Warbling Vireo arr 12 May. Most arrival dates for warblers lay between 11-18 May; following are a few extremes. Golden-winged Warbler: one Helena 29 May; one Pierrepont 31 May. Yellow Warbler: arr Canton 6 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Canton 2 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Canton 20 April. More interesting sightings included: Blackpoll Warbler: one Louisville 22 May; three Watertown 25 May. Palm Warbler: one Jeff. Co. 27 April (SH), one Louisville 25 May (MB). Cerulean Warbler: one Watertown 25 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Watertown 27 May. Mourning Warbler: six Watertown 27 May. Wilson's Warbler: one Watertown 20 May, all Watertown reports from RJW. N. Cardinal: no change. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: good numbers. Am. Tree Sparrow: dep Henderson 1 April; gone from Massena 1 May. Field Sparrow: arr Jeff. Co. 17 May; six Canton 2 May. Vesper Sparrow: seven Potsdam 20 April. Fox Sparrow: two Canton 15 April; singles Louisville 18 April and 1 May. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Massena 19, 20 May (JVR). White-crowned Sparrow: arr Henderson 29 April, dep 20 May; exceptionally abundant. Snow bunting: max 200 Dexter 3 March. Rusty Blackbird: two Henderson 28 April. Pine Grosbeak: eight Canton 6 March; last one male Pierrepont 17 April. House Finch: male Pierrepont 31 March, female 2 April, new record for town (KC); at least four pair Canton thru, almost as abundant as Purple Finch; two pair Potsdam, one courting 16 May (SC); one nesting failed, one fledgling seen Henderson late May (LC); two Louisville 6 May (MB) and one 6 April, three pair 14 April, six males, two females 14 April (JVR) both new records. Red Crossbill: one to two Louisville 21 May. Com. Redpoll: very few, max 12 Potsdam 17 March, one to four Henderson 3 March to 1 April; last one Massena 20 April. Pine Siskin: six to ten at feeders Canton, Massena, Henderson thru 20 May; max 20 Canton mid-April. Evening Grosbeak: last flocks 20 May.

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Cold and snow marked the start of the period, with Plattsburgh -11° F on 9 March and temperatures 19° F to 27° F below long-term averages on some dates by mid-month. The biggest storm of the season dumped a foot of snow 13-14 March, bringing accumulations on the High Peaks to about seven feet. Lovely high pressure dropped the thermometer to 6° F at Newcomb 27 March before the barometer dropped on 29 March, adding up to a foot more snow. This was the third coldest March on record, with over 16" of snowfall (64" seasonal) in lower parts of the region and only 52% sunshine.

The next month began with rain, got cold, and turned to light snow by 8 April with temperatures 10° F cooler than long-term averages. The first half of the month saw only 50% sunshine; the second half began with hail and thunderstorms as a massive low moved to the west. The few fair days (22-23 April) were followed by cloudy, rainy, and cold days of adverse winds (24-25 April). Finally, the weather began to break and the hawks began to move. Coot Hill had 20 birds 26 April, 77 on 27 April, 120 on 28 April, and 68 on 29 April. During six days between 21-29 April a total of 327 raptors were counted from Coot Hill, plus seven more on Belfrey Mt. 23 April.

Early May was marked by more rain and cold, with a delayed migration. Bird-banding operations were conducted on Crown Point peninsula 10-14 May for the ninth consecutive year, although adverse conditions provided only 36 individuals of 14 species, plus returns. Highlight was the first return, at 8 p.m. on 13 May with a cold front pushing in, of a female Yellow Warbler banded at the same station 17 May, 1979. Cold, blustery rains on 19 May, together with a NOAA Small Craft Advisory, forced the seven member team on the Four Brothers Islands to return to the mainland and postpone the Ring-billed Gull census until 24 May, but not before confirming a Double-crested Cormorant as a new breeding species for the region. Lake Champlain stood at 97.96' on 2 March, rising to 99.28' on 27 April, and still above 98 feet at the end of May. Once again landing beaches on the Four Brothers were under water, but management activities were completed by High Peaks Audubon in spite of difficulties. Highest party totals on the mid-May "Big Day" bird counts were 86 species in Hamilton County, 96 species in Franklin, and 97 species in Essex, although the cumulative list for the three-month season was about 192 species, plus a morph ("Blue Goose") and subspecies ("Yellow" Palm Warbler).

Recent publications of regional note include "The Four Brothers" by Robert F. Hall in *The Conservationist* March-April issue, John M. C. Peterson's "NYS Breeding Bird Atlas" in the April *Adirondack*, and a "Checklist of Birds" in the *Adirondack Wildguide*, just published by the Adirondack Conservancy and The Adirondack Council, and listing 279 species of birds recorded in the Adirondack Park through 1983, of which 193 are presumed to breed. This season one new species - Thayer's Gull - was added to the Park list, and one more - Double-crested Cormorant - was found nesting as stated earlier. The season also provided a number of regional rarities, including two Eared Grebes, the mysterious return

of the long-extirpated Northern Bobwhite, the dramatic if untimely end of a Prothonotary Warbler, and two sightings of possibly the same wayward Yellow-headed Blackbird in the lakes district of the Adirondack boreal zone.

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**LOONS-DUCKS:** Transient Com. Loons were on Penfield Pd. 15 April, heard flying over Moriah 20 April, and on Moody Pd. 29 April. Two **EARED GREBES** were near a Big Tupper dock 2 April, "dark, golden feathers sticking out of sides of head" (MV, *fide* CD), for first Franklin Co. and second Regional record (earlier records from SLCBC and Clinton Co. are no longer accepted). Three Double-crested Cormorants migrated by Coot Hill 26 April, with 75 going by the next day, and one was at Chazy Landing 12 May. Cormorants have frequented the Four Brothers Islands for at least 33 years and, finally, on 19 May an adult was on a nest in a birch tree on Island B (TB, GF, MG, JP); this constitutes the first nesting record for the region and the Adirondack Park. Am. Bittern: arr Moody Pd. 28 April. Great Blue Heron: arr LaChute R. 26 March. Great Egret: in a tree in marsh on Raquette R. 18 April (GS) and at Chazy Landing 12 May (MG). A Snowy Egret was spearing minnows near the Westport sewer plant 8 May (GC), while a Cattle Egret was at Chazy Landing 5-9 May (J & MG). Green-backed Heron: arr LaChute R. 1 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: several imm Crown Point peninsula in early May and one at L. Alice 9 May. Glossy Ibis: Chazy Landing 26 May (MG). Two Tundra Swans were near Raquette L. in early May (*fide* GL). This was an exceptional season for Snow Geese: Chazy Landing from 24 March, 12 flying lead for a wedge of Canadas at Essex 30 March, 60-75 (several "Blue" morphs) headed north at Crown Point 9 April, several (including "Blue" morph) with Whallon's Bay Canadas in early April, 40 in flight Essex 10 April, two flocks c. 120 each over Moriah same day, 1,000 (including three "Blues") at Chazy Landing 13 April, 35 flying over Coot Hill 27 April, three on Island C of the Four Brothers 19 May and 24 May, and 13 at Chazy Landing up to 27 May. Two Canada Geese with yellow collars at Chazy Landing 18 April had been marked 16 Jan in New Jersey (J & MG). Wood Duck: arr Penfield Pd. 15 April, two clutches in nest boxes, one in natural cavity Kings Bay WMA 6 May. Green-winged Teal: 25 Chazy Landing 18 April. N. Pintail: five Chazy Landing 18 April. Blue-winged Teal: male, Essex Station 19 May. N. Shoveler: pair Chazy Landing 2 May. Gadwall: two pair Chazy Landing 18 April, pair Four Brothers 19 May. Am. Wigeon: one Tupper L. 3 April, four pair Chazy Landing 19 April. Ring-necked Duck: 8-10 Tupper L 21 April, pair Keeseville 26 April. Greater Scaup: Chazy Landing 18 April, pair Rouses Point 31 May (J & MG). Lesser Scaup: two Tupper L. 5 April and 13 April; 20 scaup (sp.) at Ausable Point 24 April. Com. Goldeneye: pair Ausable R. 23 April, two full clutches in Little Chazy nest boxes 28 April. Bufflehead: pair Tupper L. 13 April. Hooded Merganser: two Tupper L. 10 March, full clutch Little Chazy R. nest box 28 April, Corbeau Creek nest box 9 May. Com. Merganser: pair arr Boquet R. 16 March.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Two Turkey Vultures were at Crown Point by 1 April, max 15 Coot Hill 28 April. Osprey: arr Tupper L. 19 April, max 15 Coot Hill 27 April. Bald Eagle: Tupper L. 22 March, adult Ticonderoga Marsh 2 April tried to feed on fish on the ice, but was chased off by four gulls; two adults and one imm seen almost daily, sometimes all day, at Tupper L. thru 9 April, last there on 22 April. N. Harrier: male arr Crown Point 1 April, migrants still passing Coot Hill 29 April. Cooper's Hawk: arr Moriah 28 April, nest found



16 May (TB, NM). Red-shouldered Hawk: nest with one egg found near Keeseville 26 April (D & JC), but migrants still passing Coot Hill two days later. First two Broad-winged Hawks passed Coot Hill 21 April, max 76 there 28 April. Red-tailed Hawk: Chazy 31 March, max 15 Coot Hill 27 April. A dark phase Rough-legged Hawk was migrating at Keeseville 22 April (D & JC). Golden Eagle: imm Coot Hill 27 Apr, another there 29 Apr ((EJ, JP), and one was reported picking up raccoon-sized prey along road near Saranac Lake (PS, *vide* TD). Merlin: one Belfrey Mt. hawkwatch 23 April (TB, GC). Peregrine Falcon: adult Whallonsburg 30 March (JPa), Coot Hill 29 April, adult snatched a Rock Dove at the Saranac Lake Grand Union on 30 April and appeared several times after (RH), and a migrant passed the Four Brothers Islands on 3 May (RH, DY). The origin of a **NORTHERN BOBWHITE** heard 19 May just north of Point au Roche is a mystery (H & RB); the last regional record was collected at Willsboro by Augustus Paine some 90 years ago! Com. Moorhen: arr Chazy Landing 12 May. The same location had Black-bellied Plover 27 May and Semipalmated Plover 26 May. Killdeer arr Ticonderoga 20 Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: two Chazy Landing 28 April, one there 12 May, one Westport beach 18 May. Solitary Sandpiper: two Moody Pd. and one Crown Point peninsula 12 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Chazy Landing and Crown Point 12 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Chazy Landing 27 April. Chazy Landing also had eight Ruddy Turnstones and two Semipalmated Sandpipers 26 May, two Dunlins 9 May, and six Short-billed Dowitchers 12 May. Com. Snipe: arr Tupper L. 18 April, where Am. Woodcock arr 9 April. Bonaparte's Gull: six were on the Rouse's Point breakwater 31 May (J & MG). The 24 May actual ground count of Ring-billed Gull nests on Isl. C of Four Brothers tallied 16,697 active nests, down slightly from 17,347 last year, but above the first count of 15,033 in 1982. Pink seagulls set some hearts racing and phones ringing. As the ten thousand Ring-billed Gull nests on Young Island (South Sister), Vermont, were censused for the first time, researchers from the University of Vermont dusted each set of eggs with red dye, producing numerous reports of pink-bellied adults from Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Cos; several even appeared in the midst of the colony on Four Brothers in just a matter of days! Two second-summer **THAYER'S GULLS** were found at Westport beach 18 May for a first county, regional, and Adirondack Park record (EJ, JP; later TB, GC, NM). A Glaucous Gull was at Ausable Point 1 April (SO). Great Black-backed Gull: 16 mostly subadults Crown Point bridge 1 April, several still at Chazy Landing through late May, and one or two pair nesting on each of the Four Brothers. Com. Tern: two Chazy Landing 9 May. Black Tern: one arr Chazy Landing 9 May, four or five thereafter, one arr Tupper L Marsh 18 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Great Horned Owl: Chilson, Crown Point, Essex, Paradox, and Westport. Barred Owl: Chilson, Paradox, Penfield, and Westport. Long-eared Owl: one along LaChute R. 21 March (JC). Short-eared Owl: North Farm Rd., Clinton Co., 6 May (JR). N. Saw-whet Owls began tooting at Paradox 5 March, Blue Ridge 24 March, Elizabethtown 1 April, Chilson and Ironville early April, and one was found dead 16 March near a Tupper Lake feeder. Whip-poor-will: Crown Point 12 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: The Glen 26 May (RH). Black-backed Woodpecker: female, Newcomb 17 April (WC).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Purple Martin arr Champlain 28 April. 20 Tree Swallows arr LaChute R. 26 March. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 10-15 Point au Roche 20 May (MG). Com. Raven: pair in nuptial flight at Essex 27 March, noted at new cliff site at Pok-o-moon-shine, several migrants headed north past both Belfrey Mt. and Coot Hill hawkwatches 22-28 April, and a northerly record from the Old Chazy dump 29 April. A "white-capped" leucistic Black-capped Chickadee was at the Crown Point Historic Site 12-13 May, mated with a normal bird. Two Boreal Chickadees continued to visit a Newcomb feeder through 18 April, and two Tufted Titmice continued to come to a Crown Point feeder. A dozen Brown Creepers were migrating at Moriah 29 April, yet a pair nest-building near Elizabethtown 6 May. A flock of a dozen Golden-crowned Kinglets were in hazelnut bushes at Paradox 10 April, where a Ruby-crowned Kinglet arr 17 April. Blue-gray Gnat-

catchers were at Crown Point and Port Kent in early May. A Gray-cheeked Thrush, a rare migrant in the region, was at Moriah 22 April (GC). N. Mockingbird: Newcomb 17 April. A Brown Thrasher visited a Peru feeder from 8 Dec to 25 April (VM). Bohemian Waxwing: 12 Essex 1 April (JPa). Loggerhead Shrike: one south of Tupper L 21 April (DR).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Keen competition among regional observers, as always, produced a host of arrival dates and good finds. Solitary Vireo: Newcomb 28 April (WC). Warbling Vireo: Elizabethtown 7 May (JP). Red-eyed Vireo: Paradox 12 May (MB). Tennessee Warbler: Paradox 23 May (MB). Nashville Warbler: Moody Pd. 3 May (D & MB). N. Parula: Paradox 7 May (MB), Crown Point 13 May, Elizabethtown 20 May. Yellow Warbler: Crown Point and Tupper Lake 11 May (JP, CD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: Paradox 7 May (MB). Magnolia Warbler: Tupper Lake 17 May (CD). Cape May Warbler: Tupper Lake 11 May (CD), plus migrants at Plattsburgh 16-18 May (H & RB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: Paradox 7 May (MB). Yellow-rumped Warbler; Keeseville 22 April (D & JC). Black-throated Green Warbler: Moody Pd. 1 May (D & MB). Blackburnian Warbler: Paradox 7 May (MB). Pine Warbler: Moody Pd. 22 May (D & MB). Prairie Warbler: singing male Crown Point 11 May (TB, JP). Palm Warbler: ("Yellow" Palm) Keeseville 22 April (D & JC); Port Kent 2 May (MM); Plattsburgh 18 May (H & RB); Moody Pd. 20 May (D & MB). Black-and-white Warbler: Moriah and Paradox 29 April (NM, MB). Am. Redstart: Paradox 11 May (MB). Prothonotary Warbler: singing male along Dry Mill Brook, Peru, near Ausable Marsh was feeding when caught by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, who landed on the bank to get a better grip and then flew off into the pines with the first Clinton Co. record in its talons (E & SB). Ovenbird: Moriah 29 April (NM). N. Waterthrush: Auger Pd. 28 April (D & JC). Louisiana Waterthrush: Keeseville and Moriah 22 April (D & JC, TB); Elizabethtown 3 May (JP); the three singing males found in one Atlas block on Hammond and Hoisington Brooks, Westport 27 May (EJ, JP) are suggestive of regional abundance and distribution of this species, usually overlooked prior to the Atlas, and still only sketchily known. Mourning Warbler: Elizabethtown 22 May (JP). Com. Yellowthroat: Paradox 10 May (MB). Wilson's Warbler: Moody Pd. 22 May (D & MB); pair, I-87 rest area north of Frontiertown 27 May (LM, ER). Canada Warbler: Paradox 20 May (MB).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Last Am. Tree Sparrows were at Elizabethtown 20 April (JP) and Tupper L 22 April (CD). Fox Sparrow: reports of one or two from Elizabethtown, Newcomb, Paradox, and Peru from 9-20 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: banded Crown Point peninsula 12 May and 14 May (JP), and one visited a Newcomb feeder (WC). White-crowned Sparrow: Moriah 28 April to Tupper L 20 May. Dark-eyed Junco: returning migrants began to appear in early April; max 100+ Paradox 13 April and 150 Chilson 20 April. Snow Bunting: 200 Wadhams and several at a Tupper L feeder in early March. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: a bird described as a female was at a Raquette L feeder 11 May (*vide* GL); a bird first described also as a female, but later felt to be a subadult male, was at a Tupper L feeder 27-30 May (C & JC, CD, TD, mob), and may have been the same individual, providing first records for both Hamilton and Franklin Cos. Orchard Oriole: male, Crown Point peninsula 14 May (TB, JP; also EJ). N. Oriole: arr Tupper L 11 May (CD). Purple Finch: male arr Paradox 3 April (MB). House Finches were reported from Newcomb, Ticonderoga, and Tupper L. Red Crossbill: Paradox 7 March (MB). Last Com. Redpoll was at Champlain 7 April. Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches, and Evening Grosbeaks were present through the end of May.

*Addendum*: Two of 18 Brant feeding in fields south of Great Chazy boat launching site 6 Nov 1983 wore large yellow leg bands bearing bold letters. They had been banded 8 Aug near Cape Dominion, southern Baffin Island, Northwest Territory, Canada, near the Arctic Circle, some 1,400 miles to the north. The birds are part of a study examining to what extent Brant from different breeding colonies intermix while on their wintering grounds along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. (J & MG).

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

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

PETER FEINBERG

A weather observation network organized for this region in May of 1978 by the American Meteorological Society reports March as the coldest in its six year reporting history. An average minimum temperature of 20.9° F and an average maximum temperature of 37.3° F were recorded. We had two major snowstorms. Thirteen inches of snow were dumped on the region on 13 March making it the second heaviest snowstorm ever recorded for March. The record is still held by the blizzard of '88.

April and May, though milder, continued to deliver bad weather conditions, with 15 and 13 days of rain respectively. April had 11 clear days and four cloudy days. May had ten clear days and eight cloudy days. This continuous bad weather is not conducive to migration. It has set up what some have called the theme of the spring season, a late migration. Migrating orioles, grosbeaks and warblers were still seen feeding in cornfields until 17 May.

The bad weather had limited influence on the Century Run of the Alan Devoe Bird Club (ADBC) held on 12 May and the Guy Bartlett Century Run (GBCR) held on 19 May. Hardy birders gave good showings on both days. Despite the rain, the ADBC compiled an impressive 128 species with such highlights as a Brant on Nassau Lake, a Snowy Egret on Lake Taghkanic, and a Lapland Longspur in Ghent.

The Hudson-Mohawk Bird Clubs GBCR had one of the few nice days in May. A total species count for the day was 168 with a phenomenal, record-breaking 150 species by one party. Highlights were Bald Eagle, King Rail, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, and "Brewster's" Warbler.

The eagle sighting is the first for a CR in 20 years. With the greater than usual winter and spring reports for this region and the initiation of the Bald Eagle hacking project at the Alcove Reservoir, the restoration of this national bird to its former abundance in the Hudson and Mohawk watersheds looks promising.

For the spring period, the region reported a total of 215 species and two hybrids. Among these were two real showstoppers. In this last year of New York's Bird Atlas Project, we were rewarded with two new confirmed breeding species - the Yellow-throated Warbler and the Clay-colored Sparrow. A nesting pair of Yellow-throated Warblers was found in Catskill. A male Clay-colored Sparrow set up house with a female Chipping Sparrow near Harlemville in Columbia County. The nestling *Spizella passerina x pallida* is the second of our two hybrids.

Contributors: Kenneth P. Able, Arlene & Tom Brown, J. D. Cherry, William Cleveland, Bill Cook, Jack & Juanita Cook, Mike Crevier, Kate Dunham, Peter Feinberg, Barbara & Hugo Gardina, Elisabeth Grace, Richard P. Guthrie, Edgar M. Reilly, Scott Terrill, and Robert P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: GBDC-Guy Bartlett Century Run.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one L. Taghkanic 6 May; five groups GBCR. Pied-billed Grebe: one Embough Bay 26 March; one Vosburghs Marsh 14 April. Horned Grebe: three Tomhannock Res 8 April; one Saratoga L 17 May. Red-necked Grebe: one Hudson R Albany 4 March, retrieved dead from ice; two Tomhannock Res 8 April; two Saratoga L 15 April. Double-crested Cormorant: 15 Embough Bay 15 April; Hudson R 20, 26 April; Hudson R 11, 12 May; two groups GBCR. Am. Bittern: one Tomhannock R 9 April; one Catskill 7 May; one Kinderhook 7 May; five groups GBCR. Least Bittern: one group GBCR. Great Egret: one Melrose 11 April. Snowy Egret: one Stockport 12 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Vischer's Ferry May; one Vosburghs M 19 May; one Rotterdam GBCR; one Old Chatham 27 May. **TUNDRA SWAN**: one Claverack 6-11 April (BC), adult feeding in cornfield. Snow Goose: migration reports 2 April thru 15 April with max 3,000 Hudson R, Washington Co. 10 April; late date Hillsdale 21 May. Brant: Nassau L 12 May; 200+ Berne 22 May. Green-winged Teal: four Embough B 26 March; one Hudson 2 April; two Vosburghs M 15 April; one group GBCR. N. Pintail: four Embough B. 26 March; one Five Rivers 13, 14 April; one group GBCR. Blue-winged Teal: four Embough B. 26 March two Vosburghs M 15 April; three groups GBCR. N. Shoveler: four Embough B. 26 March; one Hudson 20 thru 26 April. Gadwall: four Vosburghs M. 15 April. Am. Wigeon: eight Embough B. 26 March; Queechy L. 2, 13 April; eight Vosburghs M. 15 April; three Embough B. GBCR. Canvasback: Castleton 4 March; 500 Catskill 24 March; and six Embough 15 April. Redhead: Castleton 24 March; Hudson 12 April; and Cent. Col. Co. 20 April. Ring-necked Duck: 12 Tomhannock R 8 April; six Vosburghs M. 15 April; two Olana 22 April; two Embough GBCR. Greater Scaup: ten Embough 15 April. Lesser Scaup: three groups GBCR. White-winged Scoter: two Athens 15 April; one Cheriots 27 April; one Basic Creek Res 16 May. Com. Goldeneye: three groups GBCR. Hooded Merganser: one n.e. Rensselaer Co. GBCR. Com. Merganser: one Embough B GBCR Red-breasted Mergansers: six Tomhannock R 8 April; Embough B. 16 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: five groups GBCR; and max 10 Central Bridge May. Bald Eagle: eight reports for Region 4 March thru GBCR, that's a lot of eagles! N. Harrier: one group GBCR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one group GBCR. Cooper's Hawk: three groups GBCR. N. Goshawk: one group GBCR. Red-shouldered Hawk: one group GBCR, only report received for period. Broad-winged Hawk: five groups GBCR. Rough-legged Hawk: Rotterdam March. Merlin: Olana 7 May (JP). Ring-necked Pheasant: four groups GBCR. Wild Turkey: Central Bridge thru; one group GBCR. N. Bobwhite: Black Cr. M. GBCR, only report for period. **YELLOW RAIL**: one flushed Beebe Rd. Knox 15 May (KPA). **KING RAIL**: one Black Cr. M. GBCR (KPA, SBT, JDC and RFG). Am. Coot: one Castleton 24 March; Merwins P. 4 April; Ooms Pond 18 April. **SANDHILL CRANE**: Colonie 1 March; New Scotland 2-4 March. Greater Yellowlegs: Clermont 4 May; Stockport 12 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: Clermont 4 May. Solitary Sandpiper: three groups GBCR. Upland Sandpiper: three Coxsackie 23 April; two Altamont 7 May; Montgomery Co. 19 May; zero reports for GBCR. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Clermont 4 May; Ancram 5 May; one group GBCR. Least Sandpiper: two groups GBCR, only reports received. Pectoral Sandpiper: one group GBCR; only report received. Com. Snipe: four groups GBCR; Black Cr. M. 20 May thru. Am. Woodcock: five groups GBCR. Bonaparte's Gull: one group GBCR, only report received. Iceland Gull: Cohoes 9 April. Glaucous Gull: Cohoes 6 April. Black Tern: Great Vly 16 May; two Saratoga L 17 May; one Saratoga L GBCR.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barred Owl: two groups GBCR. Short-eared Owl: one Old Chatham 14 March. Com. Nighthawk: numerous Albany 16 May thru; only one group GBCR. Whip-poor-will: two groups GBCR; Berne 21 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: three groups GBCR. Belted Kingfisher: five groups GBCR. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Cheriots 27 April; one Spencertown 30, 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports; three groups GBCR. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: four groups GBCR. Pileated Woodpecker: four groups GBCR.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: one Columbiaville 7 May; one Clermont 22 May; one Schenectady Co. 18 May; no reports for GBCR. Alder Flycatcher: one group GBCR; Berne 23 May. Willow Flycatcher: five groups GBCR. Horned Lark: N. Chatham 14 March; two Sch. Co. Airport 14 March; Knox 6, 15 May; and two groups GBCR. Purple Martin: Stockport Station 14 May; four groups GBCR. Cliff Swallow: four groups GBCR. Fish Crow: numerous reports; two Washington Park Albany March thru, probably breeding; one group GBCR. Com. Raven: two Elk L 24 March (RPY); one Central Pk. Sch. 1 April (MC). Carolina Wren: two Catskill 16 May; one Embough GBCR. Winter Wren: three groups GBCR. Marsh Wren: six groups GBCR. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two groups GBCR. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two groups GBCR. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: seven groups GBCR. E. Bluebird: numerous reports; seven groups GBCR. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Ghent 3 May. Swainson's Thrush: four groups GBCR. **VARIED THRUSH**: one N. Chatham 14 March (EG & KD). Water Pipit: 25 Berne 6, 15 May; 40 Coxsackie 16 May; one group GBCR. Cedar Waxwing: three groups GBCR.

VIREOS-WARBLER: White-eyed Vireo: one N. Baltimore May. Golden-winged Warbler: five groups GBCR. "Brewster's" Warbler: Linlithgo 11 May; two groups GBCR. Tennessee Warbler: three groups GBCR. N. Parula: one group GBCR. Magnolia Warbler: two groups GBCR. Cape May Warbler: four groups GBCR. Blackburnian Warbler: six groups GBCR. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: two Catskill May thru, nesting (RPG). Pine Warbler: two Vosburghs M. 15 April; 2 Philmont 16 May. Palm Warbler: one Ancram 5 May; two Five Rivers 21 April. Bay-breasted Warbler: one Castleton 12 May; one Kinderhook 17 May; three Clermont 22 May. Blackpoll Warbler: Berne 22 May; three Ancram 23 May; three Poolsburg 24 May; five banded at Vischer's Ferry 25, 26 May; first banded at VF in May in 12 years (RPY). Cerulean Warbler: one group GBCR; only report received for this period. Worm-eating Warbler: two Gallatin 15 May; three groups GBCR. **MOURNING WARBLER**: three banded at Vischer's Ferry 26 May, only five other individuals of this species banded in May at VF in the last 15 years. **HOODED WARBLER**: one Berne 15-19 May (AH, KPA, SBT). **WILSON'S WARBLER**: two groups GBCR. Yellow-breasted Chat: three groups GBCR.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **SUMMER TANAGER**: one Vosburghs M. 16 May (SBT, RPG, JDC and KPA). Indigo Bunting: three groups GBCR. Am. Tree Sparrow: Embough B. 26 March; Jenny L 7 April; Schdy. 18 April. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one Harlemville 23 May thru, confirmed nesting with a female Chipping Sparrow. Vesper Sparrow: four Berne-Knox 29 April thru 19 May; Clermont 4 May; two groups GBCR. Grasshopper Sparrow: six Philmont 16 May; three groups GBCR. Henslow's Sparrow: two Knox 6 May; one Knox 15 May; one Knox GBCR; two Rotterdam 19 May. Fox Sparrow: two Leeds late March; Eagle Mills 27 March; Niskayuna 1 April; and Vosburghs M. 15 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: nine banded at Vischer's Ferry 12 May; two banded at VF 18 May; two banded at VF 19 May (RPY). White-crowned Sparrow: five groups GBCR; two banded at VF 12 May. Lapland Longspur: one reported from Ghent 12 May. Snow Bunting: large flocks reported thru 24 March. Rusty Blackbird: Old Chatham 17 March; Olana 26 April. Orchard Oriole: one Central Bridge 14 May; one Embough 16 May; one Stuyvesant 21 May. Pine Grosbeak: Clear Pond 24 March. **RED CROSSBILL**: Clear Pond 24 March. Pine Siskin: many Altamont, Berne thru 23 May; two Jenny L 13 May; one Jenny L 30 May; two groups GBCR. Evening Grosbeak: numerous reports thru 18 May, flock of 12 Sch. Co.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area bird news at (518) 377-9600.

306 Hudson Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.

## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

After an unusually warm February, March and April were colder than average. The last week of April brought a warming trend, but by that time foliage and birds were a good week to two weeks behind schedule. May, though more normal, was also a bit cooler than usual. Snow fell on 9, 13 and 28 March; but was completely melted by 1 April. Four inches of rain on 5 April caused widespread flooding, and very likely wiped out the early ground nesters such as American Woodcock. Each week in May had some rain with floods returning on 28-31 May when more than *nine inches* fell - just in time to catch the ground nesters who by this time would probably have tried again. May alone had more than 11 inches of precipitation, this in a region where less than 45 inches is the *yearly* average. One good thing about the rain, though, was the flooded fields especially in Ulster and Dutchess which lured shorebirds to stop and feed.

The big news in the report is another addition to the NYS checklist from Dutchess Co; their third addition in a little over a year. This spring, herons put on a good show. Waterfowl went thru in late winter, and the only ducks of note were the unusual numbers of N. Pintails and Oldsquaws. The only hawkwatch was an impromptu thing during the third week of April at Mt. Peter, but it was enough to initiate a more organized count next spring. Judy Cinquina had a "bang-up" day on 27 April when in five hours she logged 1,365 birds including: 1,269 Broad-wings, 46 Sharp-shins, 16 Ospreys, 6 Northern Harriers and 15 American Kestrels. For quality she had one Peregrine and two Merlins. The appearance of a Black Vulture there in March caused some excitement. Bald Eagles lingered in their usual wintering areas until quite late and were still being reported until mid-May. Wild Turkeys are now regularly reported in the eastern and southern parts of the Region. Cuckoos went largely unreported, probably due to the absence of their favorite caterpillars. Owls were reported in good numbers, especially Barred and Great Horned. Most species of flycatchers were late, and finches and sparrows with a few exceptions were largely unnoteworthy. Warblers came in on 30 April and again on 12 May. After the latter date they stayed in such good numbers that subsequent waves were not noticed. By 22 May the bulk of northern migrants were gone, and those birders who waited for the usual late May waves were disappointed. Probably due to the poor weather there were none. The migration that began so late, ended early; and by the last week of May we were into the lazy days of summer birding.

The new bird for New York State is a Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) at a feeder in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co. See report for details. Other rarities were relatively few and included: Red-necked Grebe, the white egrets, Tricolored Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Vulture, Lesser Golden-Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Red Crossbill.

Contributors and observers cited: John Askildsen, Barbara Belanger, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Judy Cinquina, Robert F. Deed, Peter Derven, Jan & Francis Fitzpatrick, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Roger Frost, Florence Germond, N. S. Halmi, Mary & Jim Key, Lana & Ed Mills, Frank Murphy, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, Brian Schiefer, John Stellwagen, Robert Terwilliger, John Tramontano, Edward E. Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Mary Yegella.

Abbreviations: EP-Esopus Point; KP-Kingston Point; PL-Playland, Rye; PP-Piermont Pier; WMC-Waterman May Census, Dutchess Co. May 12; and the first four or five letters of each county.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: max four Grassy Sprain, West 11 May. Very few reports from Ashokan this season probably due to the silt-laden water from spring floods. On 20 May FM observed a pair calling in courtship for several minutes only to take off and fly NE out of sight. Horned Grebe: missed by most birders. Only reports one Rio Res. 24 March and seven Kiamasha 18 April. RED-NECKED GREBE: more reports than usual. One at PL 12 March increased to two by April and three by 23 April. Two were on Croton Res 13 March. Single April individuals were on Middletown Res and Kiamasha. Max was 11 at Bashakill 16 April. Great Cormorant: among the few dozen at PL 12 March was a single bird with a white head and neck broken by a thick black eyeline that curled behind the eye and formed a chin strap on the white throat. Double-crested Cormorant: continues its increase on the Hudson. Three at Stony Point 9 April increased to 60 there one week later. Another 60 were south of there at PP on 28 April. Unusual inland reports with one at Bashakill 11 April and 14 April, five Swinging Bridge Res 14 April and 10 Kiamasha 20 April. Great Blue Heron: after several years of losses in Dutch, this spring produced three new nesting locations; about 20 nests observed in the Shunpike-Tamarack area. Three more nests in the Stockbriar area where in recent years two attempts at nesting were deserted. On 24 May four birds were observed building two nests at Tamarack, and by 1 June there were four nests. Great Egret: always unusual in spring, one at Thorndale, Dutch 18 April. Snowy Egret: one Cruger's I on WMC was the first record for that count. TRICOLORED HERON: what could be Sull's first record was a single adult at Bashakill 29 April (JT, EDT, *et al.*). One flying over Piermont Marsh 8 May was the second record since 7 May 1976 at the PP (PD). Cattle Egret: one MC 15 May. Two 30 April Woodstock Rd Dutch. One Day Rd, Hamptonburgh 30 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arrived in coastal West 25 March. One Vassar L, Dutch 15 May. Four at KP 27 April (RT). Glossy Ibis: always rare away from coast. One on WMC was the second record for that count. More to be expected were the single birds at MC on 20 April and 5 May. GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: the Jan bird found by DF and MY at Round Pd Amenia was observed there thru mid-April when there were two on 27 April. They remained until 18 May. Snow Goose: RT reports "thousands" over KP on 10 April. 64 reported over Saugerties that same date. Two flocks of 106 and 158 over Wawarsing on 10 April. Brant: large mid-May movements of most years unreported, must have gone thru unnoticed. Wood Duck: more than 70 reports in March in Dutch. WMC had 48, the highest number for that count since 52 in 1978. Green-winged Teal: a male and female together in a puddle along Rt 17K at Bullville 23 May were very late for migrants, but no evidence of breeding was found. N. Pintail: more than usual. Max an extraordinary 40 on the Hudson at EP 18 March. Canvasback: although the bulk moved north in Feb, as many as 500 were still in the EP area from 11-20 March. Greater Scaup: a male at PP 8 May was very late. Late spring and summer scaup there are usually Lesser. Oldsquaw: also more than usual; latest were two at Ashokan 13 May. Black Scoter: 25 at Esopus Light 24 March. White-winged Scoter: three at Ashokan 9-18 May. Bufflehead: last report one at Garrison's Pd, Fort Montgomery 8 May. Com. Merganser: numbers still good into April. Last a female at Ashokan 18 May. No evidence of nesting. Red-breasted Merganser: none on the Hudson where they usually pass thru in March. Only reports were Rio Res three on 17 March and Mongaup where there were two on 10 April.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE:** one with several Turkey Vultures below Mt. Peter at Warwick 10 March (Dennis Murphy and Highland Audubon Society of NJ). Hopefully we can soon look for it with some regularity in spring. Osprey max 15 at Bashakill 13 April. One lingered there till 19 May; failed to use the breeding platforms provided by DEC. Bald Eagle: remained into spring in most wintering locations. Five at Iona 16 March (LEM), last at Ashokan an imm wearing a yellow tag with green center 2 May. Last at Rondout 12 May, and at Mongaup 27 April. Sharp-shinned Hawk: continued working Dutch feeders thru April. Cooper's Hawk: exc numbers. Single birds reported most areas April and May. A beautiful male was killed when it hit a window in Pleasant Valley in April. A possible nesting record at Cruger's I in May, and two on WMC were the first since 1976. N. Goshawk: only report a female at Pound Ridge Res 6 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: more than usual. RFD reports them as common as Red-tails in Rock, but this is not the case elsewhere. Nests observed in Putnam Valley 27 April and several active nests observed in the Ashokan area. Broad-winged Hawk: in addition to the flight mentioned in the introduction, 105 were over Campbell Hall that same day of 27 April. Rough-legged Hawk: three at Bashakill 22 March, the last at Wappinger's L 7 April. Merlin: one 10-11 April at Rhinebeck. Peregrine Falcon: one moving thru Gardner Hollow, Dutch 27 April. Another made a pass at a Bald Eagle at Iona 16 March. One was at Bashakill 22 March. Wild Turkey: now regular in Dutch. Five on WMC for the fourth census record. Com. Moorhen: in all the years TB has birded maritime West he has never found this species. He is getting closer, however, this spring he found the leg of one under a Great Horned Owl's nest at MC. **LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER:** rare in spring. One near Wurtsboro 12-13 May (VF, BB). Willet: two at PP 8 May (PD). This was the fourth record for that location. Purple Sandpiper: still at Milton Pt 18 May. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one in a flooded field near Kingston 15-16 May (RT). Another was along Black Meadow Road, Chester 16-17 May (JFF). Bonaparte's Gull: one Bashakill 14 April, four Ashokan 12 May. Ring-billed Gull: more than a thousand at Beacon 19 March, 280 at Kiamesha 1 April. Iceland Gull: a second year bird at KP 17 March; another imm off PL 9 March remained to 25 March. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** the Harbor Island Park bird in Mamaroneck which returned with the thaw remained there till at least 12 March. Great Black-backed Gull: observed regularly now in numbers well up river in Ulst and Dutch. **FORSTER'S TERN:** an adult in breeding plumage at Cornwall Bay 9 May where another was observed in the spring of '83. Black Tern: two at Bashakill 9 May, one at Great Vly near Saugerties 12 May and again 19 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Cuckoos: numbers of both species severely down. Only one or two birds reported by people who bird daily thru the period. Unreported in many parts of the Region. Barred Owl: reported from seven areas in Dutch. Calling repeatedly there thru May. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Grassy Sprain, West 1 March. Another survived an encounter with a picture window near Red Hook on 3 April. Com. Nighthawk: very poor migration. Only two or three birds reported from 21-27 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers appear very low. Woodpeckers: most species in good numbers with the exception of Red-headed and Pileated. Red-headed Woodpecker: always unusual in Rock. An adult at the Tank Farm, Palisades 15 May. Another was at a feeder in Dutch 11-20 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: ten reports in March in Dutch. A pair observed all month of March in Wappingers. Pileated Woodpecker: Dutch had the best results with nine in May and 18 in April. Very few reported elsewhere in the Region.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: singing at Weyants Pd, USMA 13 May. Another was on Mine Rd nearby 15 May, and another was at Doodletown 17 May. E. Wood-Pewee: late in all areas. Numbers normal at end of period. Acadian Flycatcher: unreported most areas. One at Rye Nature Center 22 May. One Grassy Sprain, West 23 May were the only reports. Least Flycatcher: RD reports them returning to areas of Rock where they were absent for the last few years. Purple Martin: late returning, but numbers



appear normal. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 20 on WMC was a record for that count. Cliff Swallow: observed in very good numbers at Bashakill where they breed nearby, 18 on WMC where they are usually missed. About 40 were nesting on the dam at Cross River Res 10 May. Fish Crow: heard in the Bashakill 2 May where they were not found previously. Two more at Wawarsing a few miles up the valley from Bashakill on 6 May. Black-capped Chickadee: WMC had a record high of 135; that count usually averages 80. Tufted Titmouse: WMC had 61; usual average is 30. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Dutch had excellent numbers migrating thru on 26 May. One observed at Sharparoon 26 May smearing pitch around a partly dug hole; nesting not proven by end of period. Winter Wren: singing at Thompson Pd and Deep Hollow, Dutch. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two at Pawling 18 May were very late for migrants, but nesting not proven. A late bird at Weyant's Pd 1 May was with a flock of Ruby-crowns. E. Bluebird: FG and her co-workers report heavy losses of young along her Dutch Co. trail, probably due to poor weather in May. Cedar Waxwing: observed building in the same tree as last year in the Bashakill 26 May. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one near museum at Pound Ridge Res 24 May was the only report.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: White-eyed Vireo: four Grassy Sprain, West 20 May. One Pawling 3-15 May, one Bashakill 2, 23 May. Philadelphia Vireo: unreported. Red-eyed Vireo: late arr and numbers well below normal. Blue-winged Warbler: continues to increase while the Golden-winged decreases thru the Region. WMC had 54 Blue-wings but only one Golden-wing. The latter has had a steady decline since a high of 32 in 1974. Nashville Warbler: eight at Grassy Sprain 6 May was a good number for such an early date. Magnolia Warbler: excellent numbers thru third week of May. "Most ever" in Dutch this spring. Yellow-rumped Warbler: continued in excellent numbers thru mid-May which was late for so many. Black-throated Green Warbler: max 12 Grassy Sprain 16 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: an extremely early bird 11 April at Tallman Mt. Pk (Victor Schwartz), the fourth record for Rock. One Rye Nature Center 20 May, one Bashakill 12 May. Pine Warbler: one Cross River Res 13 May. A singing male, it was either a very late migrant or a possible breeder. Arr Ashokan 29 April, late. A female observed carrying nesting material there 21 May. Blackpoll Warbler: one early bird at Dunderberg 30 April. Cerulean Warbler: RFD reports them everywhere in Rock 21 May. At least six were at his home in S Nyack, and three or four at Tallman Mt. Two more were along Rt. 9 W in Nyack. On 22 May he observed 15 in a six block walk thru Nyack, but they were gone the next day. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one Bashakill 12 May; another Malden-on-Hudson 19 May. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one Rye Nature Center 11-21 May, one Grassy Sprain 11 May. Mourning Warbler: one Rye Nature Center 25 May, and two there 26 May. One at MC 26 May. A male at Tamarack, Dutch 16 May. Hooded Warbler: TB reports a few at coastal West beginning with one at Rye Nature Center 29 April. Yellow-breasted Chat: one at PL 12-18 May, one Purchase from 24 May, one at Grassy Sprain 11 May, one Pleasant Valley, Dutch 7 May; and another Pawling 15 May. One was at Bashakill 13 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **SUMMER TANAGER**: one observed at close range for several minutes at Wawarsing 14 May. One at Brinton Brook Pk, Croton 21 May, one Grassy Sprain 5 May. **BLUE GROSBLEAK**: one Grassy Sprain 11 May was the only report. Am. Tree Sparrow: most gone by mid-April. One still at a Pleasant Valley feeder on 30 April. Lincoln's Sparrow: usual few mid-May reports of single birds scattered thru region, one exceptional report of seven birds observed in a two hour walk thru Tallman Mt. Pk (N. S. Halmi). White-crowned Sparrow: one early bird at Mt. Kisco 3 May, numbers down thru Region. Dark-eyed Junco: one very late bird at Bashakill 19 May. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: a female at Great Vly north of Saugerties on 24 March (Steve Chorvas). Orchard Oriole: RFD reports a wave on 12 May with two singing in S Nyack and one in Upper Nyack. The S Nyack birds remained thru 17 May where last year a pair nested and brought off young. **BRAMBLING**: an imm male of this Palearctic species was at a Pleasant Valley feeder from 1 thru 27 March and was verified and photographed by several Water-

man Bird Club members, two of whom have experienced the bird before. For personal reasons the owner, a nonbirder, refused other visitors and demanded secrecy. Documentation has been forwarded to NYSARC, and if accepted will add another species to the NYS List (EP, OW, MVW, MJK). Purple Finch: numbers up during May after a very poor winter. *RED CROSSBILL*: one on WMC. Reported twice on that count in past years: two in 1964 and three in 1973. Com. Redpoll: only report two at Stissing 14 March. Pine Siskin: around in small numbers at feeder during May, last in Dutch 25 May. Evening Grosbeak: March saw 20 at each of three feeders in Dutch, last 12-14 May in Sull.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 - MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

It was a wet spring for the second consecutive year, but it didn't come close to matching last year's deluges. March was generally cool, particularly the period 8-13 March when temperatures rarely got above freezing; nearly seven inches of snow fell on the 8th and 9th. With measurable amounts of rain on nearly half the days of the month, the total rainfall of 6.30 inches was 2.08 above normal. A warm spell the 15th-20th brought the first small wave of migrants, but cool weather from the 23rd on slowed things down again and helped to put the month's average temperature at 36.7° F, 4.7° below normal. The first half of April continued damp with over six inches of rain by the 16th and less than half an inch thru the rest of the month; the total of 6.62 inches was 2.86 above normal. Overall, April temperatures were close to normal, with the average varying from the norm by more than ten degrees only on the 23rd when it was 12° below normal during the height of a cold spell the 22nd-25th. The month's average was only 0.5° below normal. Warm weather 5-7 April brought a number of arrivals, including some record and near record dates for flycatchers and Summer Tanager. The next significant movement of migrants occurred on the 16th-17th. Warm weather on the last couple of days of the month brought the first major wave of migrants to the Region including many warblers. May was pretty close to average in temperature and rainfall until the last four days of the month when record rains hit New England. The month's total of 9.74 inches of rain was 5.98 above normal with over five inches of that coming on the 28th-31st. The average temperature for the month was only 0.8° below normal. Numbers of migrants on 1-2 May seemed to be mainly fallout from the late-April movement mentioned above. There was a modest movement accompanying warm weather on the 11th-13th. A cold spell the 14th-18th put a damper on migration, but when it broke on the 19th migration picked up again. Overall, the spring migration could be described as average to good. Nothing really stands out sharply from the rest, except perhaps the good numbers of some southern species like Prothonot-

ary and Yellow-throated Warblers and Blue Grosbeaks. Summer Tanagers, however, did not repeat last year's record invasion.

Rarities: Sandwich Tern, Great Gray Owl, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; SP-State Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob-many observers.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joe DiCostanzo, Georges Dremeaux, Marilyn E. England, Fran File, Paul Gillen, Rich Kelly, Michel Kleinbaum, William Kolodnicki, M. Lindauer, Arthur Morris, Hannah Richard, John J. Ruscica, Lore Schore, Walter Sedwitz, Ann Shaw, Barbara J. Spencer, Guy Tudor, Alvin Wollin, John Yrizarry.

LOONS-DUCKS: The storms at the end of the season brought Sooty Shearwaters to the beaches with eight at Mecox and 12 at Shinnecock 27 May (MK) and 19 at Ammagansett 29 May (AW). Single Least Bitterns were found in several locations in early- to mid-May: 5 May at JBWR, where they have been regular in recent springs (TWB), and much more surprisingly at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI (AM) and Central Pk (L. Rosenberg), both on 15 May. Warm weather 20-22 March before the cold, wet weather of the 28th and 29th brought returning Great and Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis. Tundra Swans lingered into late-March with three each at JBWR 18 March (M & A Penzer) and Manorville 26 March (JJR). Also lingering were four Snow Geese at JBWR 24 May (J. Viglietta). In the early evening of 21 May flocks of Brant, totaling 1,375 birds, were noted flying over Riverdale (WS). Two male Eurasian Wigeons were reported: 4 March at Phelp's Pd, N Babylon (FF) and 17 March at Lyndhurst (SBD). The female Tufted Duck at the Central Pk reservoir reported in the winter season just made it into the spring with the last report received on 1 March. Another holdover from the winter were the six Harlequin Ducks at Jones Inlet 4 March (mob). Other lingering waterfowl included a male Oldsquaw at Tobay 10 April (FF) and a pair of Bufflehead at Great Kills, SI 19 May (mob).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Relatively rare for the Region was a Black Vulture over Mt. Peter, SI on 11 March (D. Murphy). Single Turkey Vultures were reported over Sea Cliff 23 March (A. Bell), Lawrence 1 May (A. Bisk), Rockville Ctr 16 May (AW) and HLSP 17 May (AW); the last two sightings were possibly of the same individual. Nesting Ospreys returned again to Connetquot RSP and Seatuck in Islip this spring (FF); on 7 April 27 Ospreys were counted between Mattituck and Orient Pt (JJR). Two Bald Eagles were reported this spring: 23-24 May at High Rock, SI (H. Fischer) and 25-27 May at JBWR (mob). A N. Goshawk was at HLSP 27 March (AW). Single Merlins were found along Dune Rd 5 May (JJR) and at JBWR 13 May (J. Bull). A pair of Peregrine Falcons were seen in courtship display at JFK Airport 16 March (HR), but it is not known if they returned this spring to the Verrazano and Throgs Neck Bridges. Black Rails again returned to Oak Bch marsh where they were heard calling 20 May (RK). A Lesser Golden-Plover, rare in the spring, was found at JFK Airport 14 May (S. Chevalier). Two Semipalmated Plovers at Jones Inlet 17 March (SBD) were record early arrivals by one day. Piping Plovers returned at their normal time in mid- to late-March. Two. Am. Oystercatchers at JFK Airport 19 March were early but not a record (HR). Eight Solitary Sandpipers at Goethal's Bridge Pd 19 May (GB) was a good number for a single location. Upland Sandpipers arrived in mid-April with one at the Cedar Bch Golf Course 10-14 April (FF) and two along the Ocean Causeway 14 April (FF). Whimbrels are fairly uncommon in the spring in this Region so the following two observations are noteworthy: six on Dune Rd, near the Ponquoque bridge 5 May (JJR) and 19 at Great Kills, SI 21 May (B & M Paul). A single Red Knot at Zach's Bay 31 March (SBD) was a good early spring find. A count of 65 Purple Sandpipers on Jones Bch 20 May (RK) was quite high for so late. Another good count was 2,000 Dunlin on Jones Bch 20 March (LS, W. Baumann). Two Curlew Sandpipers were found, both in breeding plumage, 25

May JBWR (H. Martin) and 29 May Nassau Bch Pk (ML). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported: a female in breeding plumage 6 May JBWR (mob) and a male 20 May Jones Bch (RK). Two Little Gulls, an adult and an imm were at Jones Inlet 18 March (SBD) and another two were at Great Kills 6 May (AM). Three Iceland Gulls were reported during the spring: 31 March Mt. Loretto, SI (AM), 14 April Westhampton (J. Lamoreux), and 22 April Jones Bch (GD). Another fallout of the late May storms was an imm Black-legged Kittiwake at Shinnecock Inlet (MK). Two Gull-billed Terns were at JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT). Caspian Terns are uncommon in the Region in spring so three reports totalling five birds is above normal: three at Mecox Bay 17 April (PG), and singles at Gilgo 19 April (AW) and JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT). Even rarer in the spring was a Royal Tern at Great Kills 28 May (AM). A **SANDWICH TERN** stopped in briefly at the Common and Roseate Tern colony on Great Gull I on 25 May (M & P King); the first Com. Tern of the season was seen there 20 April (JD). Small numbers of Black Terns were reported in the Region around 20 May (mob).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** According to the NYC Rare Bird Alert both species of cuckoos were way down this year with very few reports received (TWB). A Great Horned Owl was seen with two young in Roslyn 15 March (H. Roth). The **GREAT GRAY OWL** reported in the winter season was last seen in Brookville on 27 March (*vide* BJS). Three Chuck-will's-widows were heard calling 13 May at Oak Bch (JD, AS) where they have bred for at least the last eight years; another was heard at Heckscher SP the same night (JD, AS); one at JBWR 10) May (R. Machover) was a first record there and another was at Ridge 22 May (JJR). The warm weather at the end of April brought a slightly early Ruby-throated Hummingbird to Wading River 30 April (RA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widely reported this spring, among others: Great Gull I picked up its first ever 20 May (T. Male), and two were at Cutchogue 3 May (RA), but the best place to find them was Forest Pk where three pairs were seen thru the spring, perhaps nesting?

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported in good numbers throughout the Region from mid-May on with the peak for a single location three at Forest Pk 20 May (TWB, GT). An early Acadian Flycatcher was at Forest Pk 6 May (B. Weissman). A Willow Flycatcher was on territory in the Thorne Preserve in W. Bay Shore 22 May (FF). E. Phoebes arrived with the warm spell of 20 March. The warm weather of 5-6 April brought with it some record early flycatchers: a Great Crested Flycatcher at Oak Bch 6 April (MEE); and single E. Kingbirds at Mattituck (J. S. Ruscica) and Jamesport (*vide* BJS) on 7 April and at Jones Bch on 8 April (*vide* TWB). A **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** was in Locust Valley 2-5 May (J. Shumsky, *et al*). Two Purple Martins returned to their breeding colony at Lemon Creek, SI on the somewhat early date of 6 April (AM). On 12 April 100 Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in Forest Pk (R. Wolfert), a good number for the spring. Over 100 migrant Am. Robins were noted on the Van Cortlandt Pk Golf Course 22 March (WS).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** High numbers of vireos were found at Alley Pd Pk on 3 May with 20 Solitaries and five Yellow-throateds both very high counts (LS). Yellow-throateds were widely reported throughout the Region during May. In contrast, at least one observer felt that Red-eyed Vireos were less numerous this spring (GB). Golden-winged Warblers, rare in this Region, were at Forest Pk 6 May and Central Pk 11-13 May (mob). Three Orange-crowned Warblers, a rare spring migrant, were reported: 28 April Central Pk (mob), 6 May Forest Pk (GT), and 12 May JBWR (RA). A record early Cape May Warbler was found at the West End, Jones Bch on 19 April (AW). It was a banner spring for Yellow-throated Warblers with eight to ten individuals reported, including: individuals in Prospect Pk 19 April-5 May (JY, J. Marai), Tobay 28 April and 5 May (A J Lauro) and Central Pk 27 April and 5 May (mob), among others. Cerulean Warblers were also fairly widely reported with individuals found in most of the major city parks. It was also a good year for Prothonotary

Warblers with perhaps ten individuals reported, the first being singles at Wading River marsh (RA) and Seatuck (R. Halbeisen) on 10 April thru, a male at Wolfe's Pd Pk, SI on 5 May (AM) with an amazing four birds reported in Prospect Pk 16 April (JY). Six to seven Kentucky Warblers were reported, starting with one in Prospect Pk on 25 April (JY) thru, one at Southard's Pd, Babylon on 29 May (FF). Eight reports of Mourning Warblers were received from 13 May Forest Pk (JD, AS) to 28 May Buck's Hollow, SI (GB). Hooded Warblers were reported in good numbers throughout the Region. A Yellow-breasted Chat was at JBWR 6-20 May (mob) with scattered reports of individuals in other areas also.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Approx. ten Summer Tanagers were reported, far below last year's total; the first was on the near record date of 7 April at Forest Pk (GD). A somewhat early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Forest Pk 17 April (GD). Over a dozen Blue Grosbeaks were reported this spring, well above average, with the earliest a male at Brookhaven 21 April (JJR). Indigo Buntings, usually rare before May, staged a virtual April flight this spring with the first a record early molting male at Jones Inlet 9 April (SBD); another four were on Jones Bch 19 April (AW) at a time when normally even one would be unusual. A Vesper Sparrow was at Heyerdahl's Hill, SI 19 May (AM). A flock of approx. 30 Bobolinks was at Riverhed 16 May (RA). After this past winter's reports Boat-tailed Grackles at JBWR are hardly surprising, but still eight on Ruffle Bar in Jamaica Bay on 3 May (R. Cook) and five at the West Pd, JBWR 20 May (TWB, GT) are good numbers. Single singing male Orchard Orioles were noted at Van Cortlandt Pk on 30 April and 27 May (WS) and a "pair" was seen at Wading River 10 May (RA). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks lingered at feeders in Islip till mid-May (FF). Finally, a pair of European Goldfinches were seen in Shoreham 26 May (H. Halama, T. Droisen); these are almost certainly recent escapes but since there was a breeding population of introduced birds on LI until the 1950's they may breed again.

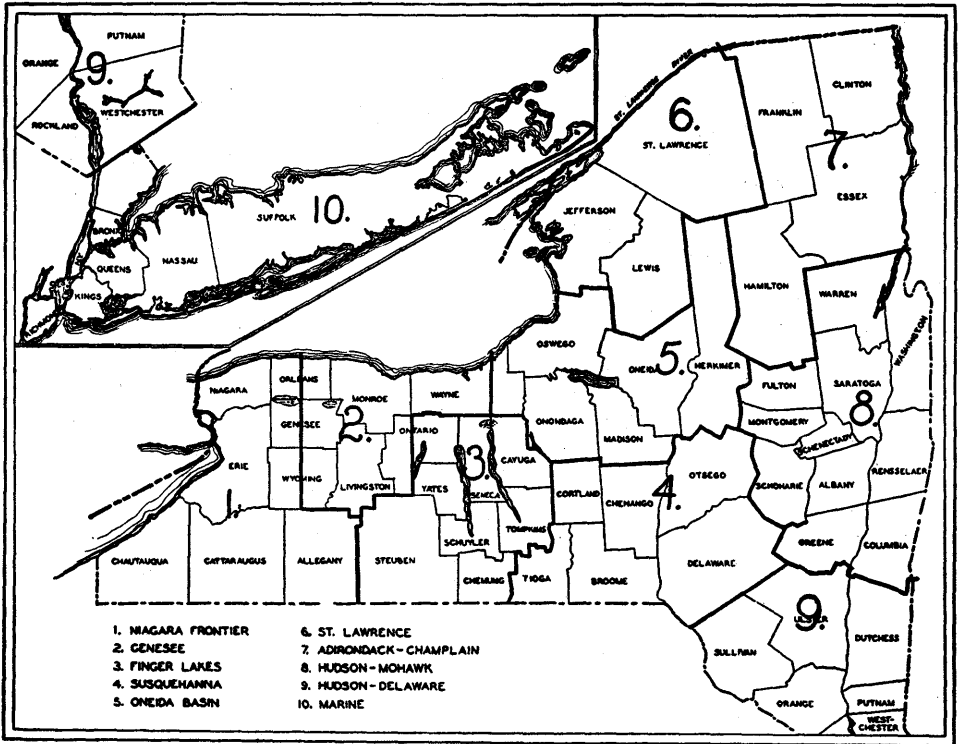
Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Letters may be of a general nature as long as they pertain to New York State ornithology, or may be of a specific nature with reference to something that has appeared in *The Kingbird*. The editors reserve the right *not* to accept a letter for publication, or to edit a letter in accordance with space requirements. All letters received will be acknowledged. Your participation is invited.

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

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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  
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