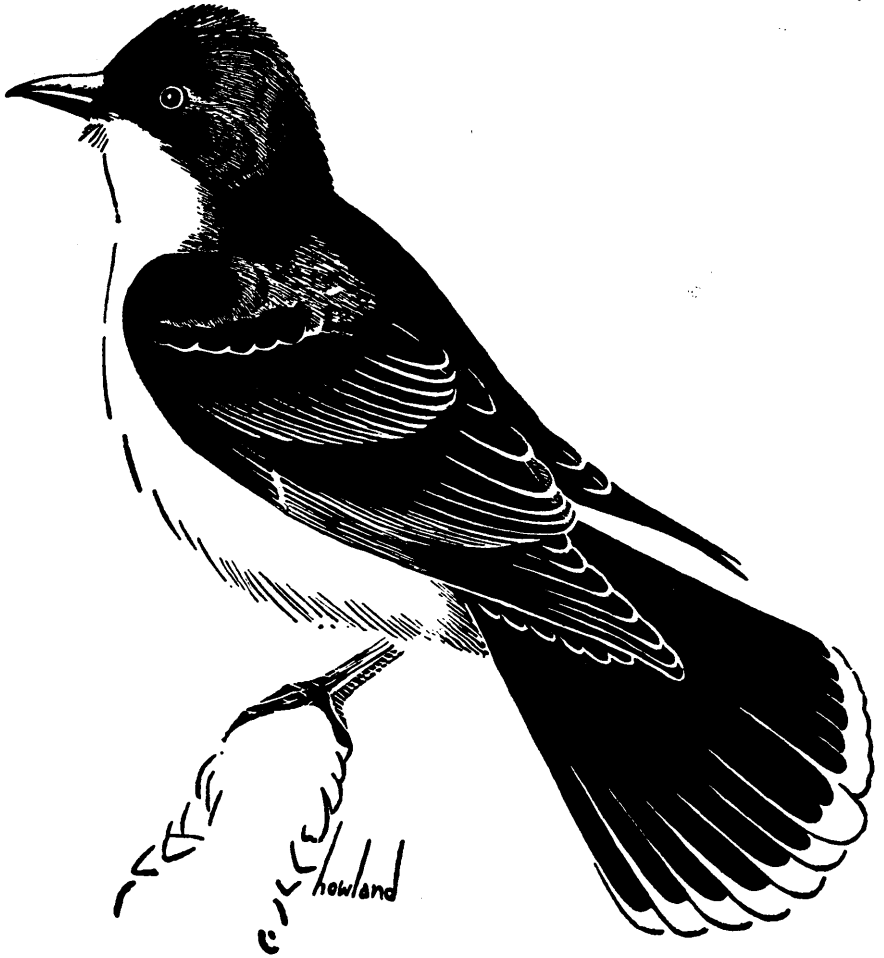


# The **KINGBIRD**



**VOL. XXXV, NO. 3**

**Summer • 1985**

**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.**

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# The KINGBIRD

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## CONTENTS

Editors' Message . . . . .	Manny Levine, John A. Farrand, Jr.	158
Albinism and Maladaptive Feather Wear in American Kestrels . . . . .	James W. Parker	159
Federation of New York State Bird Clubs 37th Annual Meeting . . . . .		163
Back Issues Wanted . . . . .		166
The Carolina Parakeet in New York and Ontario: A Review and a Footnote . . . . .	Daniel McKinley	167
Notes and Observations Early fledgling date for Eastern Phoebe . . . . .	Eric Salzman	173
Highlights of the Summer Season . . . . .	Robert Spahn	174
Regional Reports . . . . .		178

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*Co-Editors* – Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

*Highlights of the Season*

*Editor* – Robert Spahn

*Circulation Manager* – Constance N. Wilkins

*Cover Design* – Douglas L. Howland

## EDITORS' MESSAGE

This will be the last issue to appear with the names of Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr., on the masthead. We have jointly edited *The Kingbird* for more than a decade, starting with Volume XXV, No. 2. In that time, we have been privileged to document many important events in the life of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, but three stand out above all the others. They are the publication of Susan Roney Drennan's *Where to Find Birds in New York State*, the creation of The New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), and the conception, birth, and growing pains of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. That trio of events alone is proof of the vitality of our organization, and the success of recent membership drives bodes well for continued growth.

Before writing this note, we looked at Joe Taylor's farewell words as previous editor. He says, "I have enjoyed being editor for the past six years, even though it was sometimes disheartening and frustrating . . ." We can echo those sentiments. The joy came from the friendships made throughout the state among the birding community, and the sense of accomplishment when the issue we were working on was finally completed. The frustration came in not having enough good material at times, and the deadlines that were missed.

We are being succeeded by Paul A. DeBenedictis, present Editor for Region 5 and Chairman of the NYSARC, both of which positions he will relinquish. We wish him well and hope that he gets the same cooperation that has been given to us.

There are many people who must be thanked for their valued contributions over the years. It goes without saying that *The Kingbird* could not exist without the Regional Editors, both past and present, the present Highlights Editor, Robert Spahn, and before him the late Robert Smart. There are two other people who must be singled out, Thomas H. Davis and Constance Wilkins. All one need do is thumb through the issues of the last ten years to see how many articles bear Tom's authorship. We hope that he will continue to contribute to *The Kingbird*. And if it were not for Connie's careful stewardship at Wilkins Printers, it would not have been possible to bring out a publication of such excellent quality.

Finally, we would like to thank the Federation itself for the opportunity to participate in its important activities.

Manny Levine  
John A. Farrand, Jr.

## ALBINISM AND MALADAPTIVE FEATHER WEAR IN AMERICAN KESTRELS

JAMES W. PARKER

Albinism in North American Falconiformes has been most frequently reported (about 25 instances) in the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) (Gross 1965, Fremeyer and Fremeyer 1972, Oakley and Eltzroth 1980). Only three cases are recorded for the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) (Ross 1963, Jenkins 1979). Here I describe two additional cases of albinism in kestrels and discuss associated abnormal feather wear.

In October 1976 I hand captured a partial albino female American Kestrel in Dunkirk, Chautauqua County, at a suburban residence near a large area of shrubby, open fields, and woodlands. The residents there had observed the bird, but they had no knowledge of its origins. The kestrel was unable to fly because of extensively worn albino flight feathers, but otherwise appeared healthy and active. It survived in captivity on a diet of live and dead birds and mammals, primarily live laboratory mice, for 25 months, behaved normally, and died on 24 December 1978. At death, it had paired ovaries, which seemed normal in other respects. Otherwise, the bird showed no pathologies or abnormalities. It is preserved as a study skin (JWP 432, University of Maine at Farmington).

Although most of the kestrel's plumage was pure white (Fig. 1), it had a few normally-pigmented, symmetrically positioned greater primary and secondary coverts, secondary remiges, rump feathers, and one normal rectrix. A few contour feathers with dull, dark gray tips occurred on the back, breast, and abdomen. Similar dull gray contours formed superciliary lines extending to the rear of the crown, and also formed remnants of the vertical black stripes of the face. About a third of the remiges and rectrices showed areas of dilute pale brown in the pattern of a normal bird, but all quills were white. The irises were dark brown, the bill was black, the cere and bare skin around the eyes were pale pink, and the legs and feet were dingy white. There was one partly black talon on each foot; the others were white.

When the kestrel was found, some of its flight feathers were so worn that only the quills remained, and some of these were broken. The condition of the plumage was apparently the result of normal activity in the wild; the circumstances of its capture did not suggest otherwise. During the bird's two years in captivity, it molted several times, producing new feathers in the original albino pattern. They were at first structurally intact, but within two or three weeks many of the white remiges and rectrices were excessively worn or broken. The bird was kept in a

cage of glass and smooth wood. Nevertheless, the wear and breakage of the feathers was the result of abrasion on the cage walls and wooden perch as the bird moved about the cage. Occasionally, albino feathers broke as blood quills, probably because they were unprotected by other intact feathers. The body plumage was always ragged and loose. A normal male American Kestrel was later maintained in the cage for more than two years and showed no excessive feather wear or damage.

Melanin apparently renders feathers more resistant to wear (Van Tyne and Berger 1976, Welty 1975, Burt 1981). As Burt (1981) summarized, it is not clear how this occurs, but in an earlier study (Burt 1979), he demonstrated that melanic feathers are significantly less abraded by airborne aerosol particles than non-melanic feathers. Presumably the abrading effects of larger structures would also be less for melanic feathers.

Van Tyne and Berger described a captive-raised albino American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) afflicted, like the kestrel, with the problem of excessive plumage wear. Barrowclough and Sibley (1980) quantified the greater wear of albino primaries of a wild Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata auduboni*) versus its normal primaries. They demonstrated a negative aerodynamic effect of this wear, but were not certain that it had significantly reduced the fitness of the warbler in the wild.

A major and anecdotal explanation for the short lives of most albinos is increased susceptibility to predators. Assuming the biochemical and physical composition of the kestrel's feathers was otherwise normal, the bird demonstrated another disadvantage. Compared to normal wild kestrels, it showed the ecological relevance of abnormally rapid feather wear; it seems to represent the first recorded demonstration of how the rapid wear of albino feathers, presumably by abrasion with physical structures, is maladaptive under natural conditions by rendering a bird flightless.

It is possible that the kestrel's feather structure was abnormal in ways unrelated to pigmentation, perhaps in amount of keratinization or in gross structure. Hormones, particularly androgens and thyroxine, affect melanin deposition in feathers, and altered thyroxine concentrations also affect the structure and growth of feathers (Ralph 1969). Keratinization of feathers depends on pituitary hormones (Yatvin 1966).

If the kestrel's albinism were the result of abnormal pituitary function or diet, it is possible that keratin structure might also have been adversely affected. However, when microscopically examined, the external and internal structure of the albino feathers appeared normal. More significantly, the kestrel's normally-pigmented feathers were clearly more resilient and longer-lasting than the white feathers. If something other than pigmentation was the cause of weakened feathers, both



*Figure 1. An incomplete albino kestrel showing excessive plumage wear.*

unpigmented and normal feathers would have been equally worn, which was not the case. Consequently, it is most likely that the excessive wear of the kestrel's feathers was the result only of a lack of melanin.

Personal communication in 1983 with Ada Potter, a wildlife rehabilitator from Topsham, Maine, provides another interesting case of kestrel albinism in which feather wear was also problematic. She maintained a male American Kestrel that produced normally-pigmented feathers until molt prior to its eighth year. At that time, the kestrel unaccountably produced a pure white feather coat. No change in diet

or aspects of care of the kestrel occurred. Regardless of why the change in pigment production occurred, Potter said the white feathers wore rapidly.

The absence of melanin might more significantly increase the rate of feather wear in a small species like the American Kestrel compared to a large species like the Red-tailed Hawk, simply because the kestrel has smaller feathers, for which the strengthening effect of melanin would probably be more important. Indeed, most bird species with white plumage are large. Feather wear, because of the abrading effect of dense vegetation, also might be more of a problem for raptors that forage in dense woodland habitat than for those that use open country. This would help explain why the largest number of cases of albinism for one raptor species is for the Red-tailed Hawk, which is large and hunts in the open. There are few records of albino accipiters which hunt within the woodland canopy, but all accipiters are less frequently observed for the same reason. Nevertheless, the situations with the two kestrels indicate that the effect of albinism on feather wear and its ecological implications warrant additional, preferably experimental, study.

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## FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS 37th ANNUAL MEETING

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held Friday, 7 September, and Saturday, 8 September 1984, in Ithaca. The Cayuga Bird Club was host.

The Council of Delegates meeting, chaired by Charles Smith, President, was convened at 2:45 p.m., 7 September. Twenty-four member clubs answered the roll call. The minutes of the 36th Annual Meeting were accepted as published in *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXXIV, No. 2.

The Membership Report, showing 694 individual members and 36 club members at this time, was distributed, accepted and filed. Myrna Hemmerick, Chairman of the Committee since 1972, was recognized for her service. At the Annual Dinner on 8 September, it was announced that individual membership had then passed 700, for the first time in the organization's history.

The Treasurer's Report for the calendar year 1983 was distributed by William Vaughan, Treasurer, accepted and filed. A delegate's suggestion that a "Family Life Membership" category be established was referred to the Executive Committee.

The Auditing Committee, Allan Klonick and Harold Smith, reported the books of the Federation for 1983 in good order. Their report was accepted and filed.

The Waterfowl Count report, printed in *The Kingbird*, was summarized by Walton Sabin who announced 1985 dates of 12 to 20 January.

*The Kingbird* is currently lacking Regional Editors for Regions 1 and 8, Emanuel Levine, Co-Editor reported. If volunteers are not found, those Regional Reports may be missing from the next issue for the first time. *The Kingbird* Co-Editors were recognized for their long and professional service.

The Editor of *New York Birders*, Max Wheat, asked for suggestions for a change in format of that publication. He would like to use more reprints from club newsletters. Connie Wilkins was recognized for her contribution to this publication.

The John J. Elliott Award goes to George Maxwell and Gerald Smith for their article, "Reproductive Success of Island Nesting Ring-billed Gulls and Common Terns in the St. Lawrence River," *The Kingbird*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 1.

The Lillian C. Stoner Award was presented to David Kraus, nominated by The Linnaean Society of New York, and to Christine Brothers, nominated by the Rochester Birding Association.

The New York State Avian Records Committee report, to be printed in full in *The Kingbird*, was summarized by Paul DeBenedictis, Chairman. The official state list is now 427. The Committee hopes to prepare

a state checklist, by Region, for publication. The files of NYSARC repose in Charles Smith's office at the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell.

The Nominating Committee, Morgan Jones, chairman, Stephen Dempsey and William Lee, proposed the incumbent officers, Charles Smith, President; Harriet Marsi, Vice President; William Vaughan, Treasurer; Constance Wilkins, Corresponding Secretary; Berna Weissman, Recording Secretary, be elected for a second year. The Council voted unanimous approval.

President Smith proposed that the 1984-1985 Nominating Committee consist of Morgan Jones, Chairman, Stephen Dempsey and William Lee and that the 1984-1985 Auditing Committee consist of Allan Klonick and Harold Smith. The Council voted unanimous approval.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project Treasurer's report was distributed by Richard Sloss, accepted and filed.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 3:50 p.m., to reconvene 8 September at 10 a.m., Charles Smith, presiding.

The Conservation Committee, Karen Slotnick, Chairman, presented the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (FNYSBC) is committed to the preservation and protection of threatened and endangered species of birds and their habitats in New York State, and WHEREAS "The Essential Habitats Bill" (A 9030) adds definitions of "essential" habitat and "activity" and new subdivisions to the section of law which provide procedure for the designation by DEC of essential habitats of threatened and endangered species and requirement for DEC approval of management plans prepared in connection with activities which are likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat, therefore, be it: RESOLVED, that the FNYSBC, assembled at its Annual Meeting at Ithaca, NY, on 8 September 1984, supports "The Essential Habitats Bill," and be it further RESOLVED, that the FNYSBC strongly urges the New York State Assembly and Senate to enact this legislation.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project's Chairman, Gordon Meade, reported on the clarification of roles of the agencies involved and on tentative plans for 1985 field work. Dr. Robert Andrie has been appointed Editor of the Atlas, Janet Carroll, Assistant Editor. Ms. Carroll gave an update on 1984 field results.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry Williams addressed the Delegates about where the DEC stands on our interests. He hopes this will establish a tradition of such annual reports. He promised a Department commitment to funding as necessary until the Atlas Project is completed.

The National Audubon Society's NY State Representative, Ron Dodson, gave an overview of his office's activities.

The following resolution was presented by Mary Ann Sunderlin and passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and in particular the Non-Game Section headed by Eugene McCaffrey, has provided support, encouragement and advice for the Breeding Bird Atlas from the initiation of the project, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Henry Williams has shown consistent interest and support for the Atlas, and

WHEREAS, the DEC has provided indispensable help for the operation of the Atlas by the assignment of the indefatigable and capable Janet Carroll as Atlas Coordinator, with the expert back-up services of Robert Miller, and

WHEREAS, the DEC has designed and built a portable display case portraying the purpose and results of the Atlas, and has shown the display at important meetings, and

WHEREAS, the DEC has provided a place at the Wildlife Resources Center at Delmar for meetings of the Atlas Coordinator and Steering Committee and has provided the services of the DEC computer unit to analyze and store Atlas data, to construct computer-composed print-outs of the state, and graphic maps of the block coverage and species ranges, and

WHEREAS, the DEC has provided funds from the "Return a Gift to Wildlife" income tax contribution for intensive surveying, or blockbusting, of remote areas, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs extends its wholehearted thanks to the Department of Environmental Conservation for its monumental contribution to the Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

At the Dinner that evening, the following resolution was read and unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the 37th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs has been held at Ithaca, NY, 7, 8 and 9 September 1984, and

WHEREAS, the Cayuga Bird Club has been the host club and, as such, has planned and provided an excellent program of papers, workshops, field trips and associated activities, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Cayuga Bird Club have devoted much effort for many months on behalf of the delegates and members at this convention, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs extends its sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to the Cayuga Bird Club for making possible such an outstandingly successful Annual Meeting.

Berna Weissman, Recording Secretary

## BACK ISSUES WANTED

The Federation finds itself in an unfortunate situation regarding its archives of *The Kingbird*. We are actually completely out of six back issues, and have very low reserves of a number of others. Copies are especially needed to provide for future orders of complete sets from libraries and institutions of higher learning. We obviously cannot now provide these.

Donors of any or all of the following wanted issues may take deductions of their current value on their income tax, as contributions to a not-for-profit organization.

- Vol. 3, No. 2 (July 1953)
- Vol. 6, No. 3 (Oct. 1956)
- Vol. 8, No. 4 (Jan. 1959)
- Vol. 10, No. 1 (May 1960)
- Vol. 13, No. 1 (March 1963)
- Vol. 24, No. 2 (April 1974)
- Vol. 14, No. 1 (Jan. 1964)
- Vol. 14, No. 2 (May 1964)
- Vol. 19, No. 1 (Jan. 1969)
- Vol. 22, No. 1 (Jan. 1972)
- Vol. 24, No. 4 (Oct. 1974)
- Vol. 26, No. 1 (Winter 1977)
- Vol. 26, No. 2 (Spring 1977)

Any back issues may be sent to the Circulation Manager, 4000 West Road, Cortland, NY 13045.

## THE CAROLINA PARAKEET IN NEW YORK AND ONTARIO: A REVIEW AND A FOOTNOTE

DANIEL MCKINLEY

One early check-list of birds of the state of New York merely included the Carolina Parakeet (*Conuropsis carolinensis*) and referred to it as "historic" (Farr 1900, 399). A recent critical examination of New York birds consider it as "Extinct. Hypothetical. Sight records only" (Reilly and Parkes 1959, 24).

The curious birdwatcher may want to know how historic the records and how substantial the sightings.

Part of the mischief began with Audubon, who summarized things broadly by saying that formerly the species had been found "sometimes as far north-east as Lake Ontario," clearly a reference to New York but not substantiated by him in any specific citations (1831, 138). Elon Howard Eaton followed Audubon without adding anything (1901, 37; 1911-1914, vol. 2, pp. 129, 130). The same is also true of Vaughan MacCaughey; indeed, he claimed the parakeet as "a bird of Chautauqua" more as an object lesson than for substantive reasons (1917, p. 16).

Neither Alexander Wilson (1811) nor any of his predecessors mentioned any Lake Ontario records, so the burden of proof for that reference rests upon Audubon and his followers. But Wilson did cite a New York record, one that was curiously ignored by Audubon. It had been reported a few years previously by Professor Benjamin Smith Barton. Barton had been told by Egbert Benson, Esq., of the State of New York, that "a very large flight of parakeets . . . came from the westward . . . a few years ago, about twenty-five miles to the north-west of Albany . . . . The arrival of these birds in the depth of winter [footnote: "In January, 1780"] was, indeed, a very remarkable circumstance. The more ignorant Dutch settlers were exceedingly alarmed. They imagined, in dreadful consternation, that it portended nothing less than the destruction of the world" (Barton 1799, pt. VI, p. vi).

Bent incorrectly referred to this as the oldest record of the eastern and southern race; he was correct to call it the northernmost (1940, p. 2). But Bent was quite unhappy in following DeKay, who placed the event in the year 1795. DeKay also, with entirely uncalled for precision, supposed the birds "probably transported by a whirlwind" (1844, p. 183). Aside from the whole matter of the so-called Albany visitation, wherein he differed from Audubon who did not mention it, DeKay uncritically followed Audubon on other matters in regard to the parakeet.

Error begat error. Although Nuttall did not date the "Albany" incursion (1840, p. 647), Ridgway twice referred to Nuttall's works as source and yet attributed the date of 1790 to the flight (1916, pp. 145, 146). (Nuttall, of course, got his information not from Barton but from Wilson, who likewise did not date the event.)

As I have pointed out (1959), the date of January 1780 was correctly given by Barton in the first place. It was also independently confirmed by Francisco de Miranda's diary of 1784, first published in 1928. He reported that the visit of the parakeets took place at "Schoharie, a delightful location forty miles from Albany." The whole episode is well accounted for by Miranda and clearly attributed to "the year 79-80 in the winter." Schoharie is very nearly directly west of Albany and the distance is somewhat less than 40 miles. The house where they appeared, Miranda continued, was the first residence destroyed by the next invasion of British troops, thus confirming in the minds of the superstitious people there the preternatural bearing upon events of the unusual visit by the parakeets (Miranda, 1928, pp. 72-73; 1963, p. 99).

So much for the most venerable—and most frequently confused—of the sightings of parakeets in New York. A recent work on the ornithology of the Niagara Frontier added one other reference (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965, pp. 273-274); in spite of their thorough search of literature, it was their only improvement upon the early Audubon claim.

The second Beardslee and Mitchell reference was to Bergtold (1927), who belatedly published an account of a conversation with David F. Day in 1889. Day, an attorney in Buffalo and a competent amateur botanist and reliable birdwatcher, "once saw thirteen Carolina Paroquets light on the old City Buildings, Cor. of Franklin and Eagle Streets, and . . . he knew of a lot being captured at West Seneca (N.Y.) many years ago." Buffalo, of course, is on Lake Erie, not Lake Ontario, so this is no comfort to Audubon; West Seneca is an Erie County suburb of Buffalo.

There is a dubious report of a parrot of some kind from the New York City area in the book written by Charles Wooley (or Wolley) first published in 1701. It purports to be an account of New York and "its territories in America," but all the talk within it seems to be of New York and Long Island. When Wooley left after a two-year stay (he had arrived in 1678), he took with him a "Grey Squirrel, a Parret and a Rockoon, the first Lady Sherard . . . had some years at Stapleford, the second, I left at London . . ." (1860). There is no way of knowing whether it was the native parakeet. Perhaps more probably it was an exotic waif from some sailor's visit: ". . . the Parot was a pratling familiar bird, and diverting company in my solitary intervals upon our Voyage home." It even once fell into the sea in a calm and helped

effect its own rescue by hooking its bill into a rope that was thrown to it. The latter behavior seems in character for the Carolina Parakeet, according to old accounts; but if "pratling" means "talkative," that is another matter, for the species is generally given low marks on ability to "talk."

The only other account of a parakeet in the region of New York City concerns a very tenuous report from northern New Jersey (W. F. Eaton 1936). See McKinley, 1979 (1981).

One ought not to ignore prehistory, but there is not much help from that quarter. I cannot find any reference to skeletal remains in Indian middens. William M. Beauchamp discussed the possibility that an Iroquois pottery pipe found in New York was an effigy of the parakeet (1898, p. 132). As I have shown in a review of the archeozoology of the parakeet in the *Central States Archaeological Journal* (McKinley 1977), it pretty certainly is not. Beauchamp noted rather ambiguously that "the Iroquois, however, seem to have known nothing of the parrot till they extended their wars southward, after the downfall of the Eries in the middle of the 17th century." Beauchamp must not be supposed to have been saying definitely that he knew of any evidence for connections of the Iroquois with parakeets after that time. Indeed, Beauchamp's history of Onondaga County (1908) faithfully cited ornithological works to that time. Although it contained an alert discussion of rarities, it contained no hint that parakeets had ever been known there.

And yet, if I were looking for evidence of parakeets in New York, Beauchamp's Onondaga County would be in the heart of the region where I should look hardest. Perhaps parakeets did visit western New York at times. The topography and, above all, the prevalence of salt springs, must have made the countryside attractive to them. An Onondaga effigy pipe in the National Museum of Natural History, showing what may be a figurine of a parakeet, with a collar around its neck as if a captive, comes to mind. It is from "Atwell's Works," clearly a salt-making site, and is illustrated and commented upon in the archeological account referred to above. Salt springs were not found or at least not worked east of the Otsego-Fulton county line; even those easterly springs yielded weakly saline water. The outcropping of the salt-spring producing rocks of the Salina group do go as far eastward as the valley of the Schoharie, where that formation is very narrow on the surface (Merrill 1893, frontispiece map and pp. 14-19). This may account for the presence of the parakeet flock at Schoharie in 1780, since the birds were very fond of salt licks; but a close and comprehensive study of travelers' journals, naturalists' lists and the like has failed to reveal anything of substance on the parakeet in early New York, aside from what I have given above.

As a footnote to what is itself hardly more than a footnote, there is the matter of the Carolina Parakeet to the north of New York, in Ontario. Actually, it is only a matter of disposing of a couple of allegations and a misinterpretation.

In 1703 Baron Lahontan published "A list of the fowl or birds that frequent the south countries of Canada," including "Parrots" among the species. But he later qualified this by saying: "The *Parrots* are met within the Illinese Country . . ." (1905, pp. 350,354). This was therefore, at most, just an Illinois account.

Some such all inclusive definition of "Canada" probably also accounts for the presence of "parrots" on altogether suspect lists for both "the southern parts of Canada" and for the "northern parts of Canada," (the latter referring to those species that visit during the milder seasons) by George Heriot (1807, pp. 516-517). Heriot was, after all, Deputy Post Master General of British North America—a rather indefinite region—and the lists were probably borrowed from other authors anyway. Furthermore, his accounts of two otherwise acceptable northern birds, loons and pigeons, are very wild. Under such circumstances, it is meaningless to give him credit for a species that is questionable in the first place.

The chief authority for some later uncritical regional lists of Ontario birds is none other than Audubon. He alleged that formerly parakeets had been found on Lake Ontario, as cited above. This undoubtedly meant only the southern shore of Lake Ontario in New York and even this never met with the questioning it deserved, for it is without substance.

A final allusion remains. Albert Hazen Wright pointed out a very curious reference to a parrot-like bird mentioned by Samuel de Champlain. It was late November 1615 and Champlain was "just north of Lake Ontario"—according to Wright (1912, p. 345); probably near present Kingston, according to my calculations. Champlain lost himself while chasing "a certain bird that seemed to me peculiar. It had a beak like that of a parrot, and was of the size of a hen. It was entirely yellow, except the head which was red, and the wings which were blue, and it flew by intervals like a partridge" (1878-1882, vol. 3, p. 140). It flew from tree to tree for a long time, drawing him onward in pursuit. If all the facts were as stated, the bird could only have been a quite aberrantly colored and perhaps malformed individual: but of what species I am unprepared to guess.



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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Early fledgling date for Eastern Phoebe:** On 26 May, 1985, while engaged in Atlas work on the Carmen's River in eastern Suffolk County, I became aware of the note and presence of a flycatcher that appeared new to me. The double note (*seebit* or the like), the olive coloration of the bird, a pair of buffy wing bars and the trace of an eye ring suggested an unfamiliar *Empidonax*, an *Empidonax*, I should add, that wagged its short tail vigorously but otherwise did not move.

The mystery was eventually solved when two adult Eastern Phoebes appeared and fed what now could be clearly seen as a fledgling. This is earlier by two weeks than the earliest fledgling date – 9 June – given by Bull for *Sayornis phoebe* in *Birds of New York State*.

The Eastern Phoebe is surprisingly rare as a breeding bird on Long Island (hence accounting for my unfamiliarity with its early plumages) and the Carmen's River has long been one of its strongholds. Apparently Long Island data has been lacking for this species. This pair, which nested in classic phoebe fashion under a bridge over the river, raised a second brood in the month of June with more young birds active in the area in the second week of July.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Continuing where last season left off, this season did bring us a better selection to tempt us all afield. This was Spring! It's always better than winter for selection. However, Joseph DiCostanzo in Region 10 summarizes well the thoughts of many with, "It was a dismal spring migration. Many birders called it the worst in memory." The only real dissent from this came in Region 7's excellent banding results and a spring judged "better than last year." A few editors grasping for something positive noted that the weather was pleasant for observers. Generally speaking, variety, even rarities, was quite good and major complaints concerned low numbers, especially during the early-to-mid-May period when so many birders look for the waves of grounded migrants for their warbler "fix" to see them through another year. With very few, very local exceptions, this simply did not occur in New York this spring.

For explanation, we can as usual look to the weather. No contrasts to play upon this season. Warm and dry prevailed everywhere; almost no late winter snow except for Region 7 and rainfall way behind nearly everywhere until late May. Drought in the eastern regions looms on the horizon. The warmth of March and most of April brought a surge of record early dates for singles of many species in many locations in the last ten days of April, then a flat May weatherwise resulted in almost no significant groundings over most of the state. As Ed Treacy notes in Region 9, and as I heard from other contacts, Atlas blockbusters in remote areas found breeding birds on territory before migrants of those same species were noted passing in traditional coastal or lakeshore migration corridors. With some effort, you can note that many Adirondack arrival dates coincide with or even precede more southerly or westerly migrant arrival dates. Interesting! Before you rush away now, properly relieved by a neat explanation, I don't buy this as the complete story. Personally, in the breeding season, in lots of atlasing hours here and in the midwest, I wandered through too many large tracts of varied habitat types with far too little birdsong. Maybe we ought to be doing more thinking and discussing of impressions with fellow birders and others concerned.

Turning to the spring's passage of major groups of birds, we find notes of interest in nearly all. Beginning as usual with loons, grebes, and waterfowl, a warm spell in February started their movement early and a warm March resulted in few lingering concentrations, except for Canada Geese. An indication of the numbers of geese may be garnered

from 500+ and 183 collared individuals logged in Regions 2 and 6, respectively, less than 1% of the totals present. Red-throated Loons were very scarce. Good Red-necked Grebe counts were recorded in Regions 2 and 9. Greater White-fronted Geese continued their increased appearances of recent years with sightings in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 9. Last fall's Connecticut grouping of three Barnacle Geese and a "Richardson's" Goose appeared in Region 2 in mid-March and tarried thru most of April. Snow Goose numbers were reported good in six regions. Eurasian Wigeon reports are confined to Regions 9 and 10. Most ducks were recorded in typical numbers, best represented by the annual table of peak counts at Montezuma NWR in Region 3. Am. Black Duck, Redhead, and Canvasback are the species of greatest concern. Excepting the bitterns, herons were generally a bit upbeat this spring. Somewhat surprisingly, Region 1 provided the most interesting variety, including: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis, and Wood Stork. Tricolored Heron (s?) appeared upstate in Regions 2 and 6 (dates suggesting one bird) and a Little Blue Heron appeared in Region 5. Raptor counts were a bit off this year, summarized in tables for Derby Hill in Region 5 and for banding in Region 2 near Braddock Bay. (The full count continues until June 30 and will be reported next season.) Still, record highs were reported for Broad-winged Hawk, 11,200 on 21 April and 18,500 on 22 April, and Turkey Vulture, 1891 and 433 on 6 April at both Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, respectively. Note that high counts were reported also in Regions 1 and 7 in the 21 April to 22 April time period. Numbers for the scarcer, regular raptors, eagles, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, did not vary significantly from those of other recent years. Only Rough-legged Hawk was truly low, in keeping with their scarcity all winter. Sandhill Cranes were again reported, in Regions 1, 2, and 5 this year, a lakeshore movement of probably fewer birds than the number of reports. Shorebirds provided little to highlight this season with numbers generally poor in all inland regions, with only a few dates a bit earlier than average, and the only significant highs in records were for Solitary Sandpiper-60 on 19 May in Region 9 and Ruddy Turnstone-542 on 16 May in Region 10. Rarities included only a Willet in Region 5, Ruffs in Regions 2 and 5, and Wilson's Phalaropes in six regions. Again, with lots of leg work, observers turned up a good variety in most regions so that a season's check-only list wouldn't look too bad. Of interest to many will be the fact that the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge shorebird survey is continuing under Arthur Morris. Gulls and terns were generally low, except for a massive invasion of Ring-billed Gulls in Region 2 late in the season and good numbers in Region 7 on the breeding islands. In the latter case, note details of the world's largest color marking project in the

Region 7 report. Can you even imagine individually counting 16,329 active nests, much less spreading dye in each and every one? Other highlights in the group include: a Laughing Gull in Region 1, Little Gulls in Regions 2, 9, and 10, and Thayer's Gull in Regions 2 and 5. Terns are of note mainly in their absence. Very low numbers of Black Terns are flagged in several regions. Cuckoos were very scarce from all regions except the current Gypsy Moth center in Region 3. Owls did not receive much attention this spring; only one Common Barn-Owl was reported, a migrant in Region 2, and the numbers of Long-eared and Northern Saw-Whets banded were off a bit in Region 5. Both normally widespread goatsuckers appear to be in trouble in our state, as there was no really encouraging news for Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. They were red-flagged as very low in six of the seven regions noting them at all.

Moving along to the passerines, the general picture was provided earlier. Looking a bit more closely, species which normally arrive about 1 May were often located in small numbers a week or two early, *e.g.* lots of April warbler arrivals. Normally later arrivals were often later yet, *e.g.* cuckoos and flycatchers and the later warblers, and generally their numbers were reported as low. Except for the many slightly late arrivals, flycatchers were not notable for any significant trends. In contrast with this late theme, a record early Eastern Wood-Pewee was located on 13 April in Region 3. A good American Crow total is provided from Derby Hill; other hawkwatches probably could add a line or two for the likes of crows, robins, and jays to be noted during the duller hawkwatching periods or as something constructive for extra people to do on mob days. A couple of early breeding notes are Common Raven feeding young on 21 March in Region 7, and a record early White-breasted Nuthatch fledgling on 23 May in Region 10. Wren trends include very few reports for Carolina Wren for most regions, only *one* Sedge Wren for the entire state, and a low Winter Wren note from Region 5. Among the thrushes we see cautious optimism for Eastern Bluebird from several regions, but notes of very low counts for Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Hermit Thrushes from widespread locations. This year's reports are not mitigated by any reports of the keen ears of our night-owl observers picking up waves passing in the night in May. Are we soon to lose Loggerhead Shrike completely? Migrants were reported only from Regions 3 and 5 this season, only one and three reports, respectively. From the vireos, note White-eyed reports from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9, and a record early Philadelphia in Region 2. Among the warblers, one might compare arrival dates across the state, noting similarities and differences, then speculating on the origins, whether migration patterns or observer activity. Note the banding

summaries, especially in Region 7. Record early dates include: Tennessee Warbler on 25 April in Region 1, Blackpoll Warbler on 3 May in Region 7, and Black-and-white Warbler on 20 March in Region 9. The only record high count is 1100 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Region 5 on 5 May, the best migration date of the season for several regions. Rarities included Yellow-throated Warblers in Regions 4 and 10, at least 11 Kentucky Warblers, and Connecticut Warblers in Region 2. Going through the rest of the list, we note American Tree Sparrow departure dates quite uniform across the state, in the 20-30 April range, three male Lark Buntings in Region 5, grassland sparrows generally a bit better, Henslow's still very local with colonies popping up or disappearing in several regions, Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Regions 5 and 10, Brewer's Blackbirds in Regions 1 and 2 (who will find the first nest?), the continued saga of the crossbills and siskins, with breeding confirmed in Regions 3, 4, 5, and 7 and appearances noted in all regions except Region 10, and finally, last, and here even least, we have Evening Grosbeak still very low or missing from all but Regions 4 and 7. Overall, there were no glaring misses this season.

Most of the special comments from the editorial sections of the regional reports which especially appealed to me have been woven in above, but Harriet Marsi in Region 4's report has a few more which I must call to your attention. There you will find the tale of a turkey hunter hit twice by a goshawk, of a Purple Finch, crown raised, drumming like a grouse, and the unhappy story of a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls tangling with a power line. What is the toll of our machines and structures on birds? It might be interesting for many of us to keep a tally of all the birds we see killed over a season by cars, windows, towers, lines, etc. and pass this along to the regional editors with our quarterly reports and comments. A little more hard data wouldn't hurt.

Again we close the story on another season with the rarity report for those special birds not mentioned earlier. By region we have: Region 1—Mississippi Kite; Region 2—Eared Grebe and the same Mississippi Kite a day later; Region 3—Kentucky Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow; Region 4—Prothonotary Warbler; Region 5—Swainson's Hawk and Stilt Sandpiper; Region 7—Red-throated Loon and Clay-colored Sparrow; Region 9—Black Vulture; and Region 10—Western Grebe, Gyrfalcon, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Painted Bunting. In addition to the abundance of rarities just noted, Region 10 also carries off the BOTS Award with a Bridled Tern on 29 May, even in the absence of major storm activity this season.

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## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

This was a spring to remember for its fine weather and rarities. The relatively warm winter weather continued through much of March, which averaged 2.6° F. above normal. The heaviest snow occurred on 4 March, about three inches at the Greater Buffalo International Airport, and up to eight inches in the Southern Tier. This brought birds back to the feeders. The only day when the temperature stayed below freezing was on 18 March. This was also the coldest day of the month, 10° F. at Buffalo, 3° F. at Jamestown, and it gave the maple syrup producers a day of rest. The warmest day was on 27 March when the thermometer reached 71° F. at Buffalo. All ice melted off small, sheltered ponds at higher elevations on 28 March—earlier on the lake plains and exposed valleys.

The warmest April in 30 years was logged at Buffalo and it was the driest since 1946 with only 1½ inches of snow (3.3 is normal), and 1.3 inches of rain (normal is 3.05). As the temperatures rose into the 70's on 5 April our Louisiana Waterthrush arrived on the Ten Mile Creek. On 8 April there was 350 square miles of ice on Lake Erie with the ice boom in place. It was taken out on the 13th and heavy ice was still packed in the Niagara River below the falls at the end of the month (VP). The coldest day of April occurred the night of the 10th with 21° F. at Buffalo, followed by almost three weeks of gorgeous weather, as a high pressure system parked over the eastern and central United States. This led to many record-breaking early dates, particularly warblers.

Tornadoes and a wet Memorial Day weekend marked the only dramatic weather of May as another beautiful spring month followed April. A soaking rain of over an inch fell on 6 May and again on the last day of the month, but the rest of the month was not as wet as the northeastern forest generally needs. The effect of this weather on bird migration was to dampen the birdwatchers' anticipation of bushels of birds in trees and produced instead early and steady leap-frogging by the migrants. The average temperature turned out to be 3.4° F. higher than normal and precipitation about one-half inch above normal.

The warm spring quarter resulted in a spectacular showing of rarities but most observers complained of low numbers, particularly of land birds. Double-crested Cormorants continued to be a feature of our spring migration. Great Egrets were reported as early as March and at several places in April. Red-breasted Mergansers dominated the March-April waterfowl world. Common Mergansers continue to be seen at nesting time in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties. Hawk migration went about as expected with best flights on 10, 11, 21, and 30 March and 4, 14, and 20-23 April. Peak day was 21 April (Grimsby, Walter Klabunde). The shorebirds had very dry conditions inland and good weather to speed them on to the arctic, so were reported in low numbers. Local populations of Common Snipe in the Southern Tier counties are prospering but not the Am. Woodcock. Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed concentrated in Southern Tier Counties as lepidopterid larvae reached a peak, particularly the Gypsy Moth.

Sixteen species of warblers in April must be a record for the region. Blue-



winged, Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, No. Waterthrush, and La. Waterthrush were seen between 5 and 30 April.

The finches, tuned to a seed diet on migration, responded more reasonably than the insect eating warblers and were generally on time as were the blackbirds, mainly probers for insect larvae. Orchard Orioles appear to be increasing in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties where one was seen nest building. Cardueline finches were low in numbers.

Rarities include: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (four in Chaut. Co.), Wood Stork (same general area as 1978), Glossy Ibis, Harlequin Duck, Mississippi Kite (first regional record), Golden Eagle (three localities same date), Sandhill Crane.

Chautauqua County birders are becoming very active as Bob Sundell's *Birds of Chautauqua County* comes into focus. When are you calling a deadline on new data, Bob? The Southern Tier Expressway still makes news as traditional Iroquois block its completion. It is too bad that we are losing so much Allegheny River bottomland forest and right where Kentucky Warblers had been singing on territory.

Abbreviations: AAC-14 April Bird Census or AMC-19 May Bird Census, for Allegany Co. Bird Club; BC-Bird Club; ASP-Allegany State Park; BOS-Buffalo Ornithological Society; DH-Dunkirk Harbor; JAC-14 April Bird Census or JMC 19 May Bird Census, for Jamestown Audubon Society; LEAC-14 April Bird Census or LEMC-19 May Bird Census, for Lake Erie BC; NWR-National Wildlife Refuge; Res.-Reservoir.

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LOONS-DUCKS : Red-throated Loon: one DH 2 March (WD *et al*), one JAC. Com. Loon: one Iroquois NWR 21 March (Chilton), first of season, 14 N end Chautauqua L 28 April (DG) was a max, seen also Amity L, DH, Pinehurst, Greenhurst and Red House L. Pied-billed Grebe: 17 Cuba Lake 31 March a max (ASc), seen in April and May in fewer numbers as migrants. Horned Grebe: 15 LEAC, 22 Cuba L (AAC), 30 Cuba L 4 April (KP, Rice) a max. Red-necked Grebe: two Cuba L AAC only reports of season. Double-crested Cormorant: becoming regular inland from the Atlantic Coast; two DH 2 April (J & TM), were first, four Pinehurst 13 April (AS, RA *et al*), three Mayville, Chautauqua L 29 April and two at Greenhurst 18 April (DG, DD), five DH 19 April (DD) was a max, one Amity L 1 May (VP) latest. Am. Bittern: one AAC, one Tiff Farm 18 April (Chilton), one Burgeson Sanc. 20 and 21 April (DG, DD), one Bird Swamp, Machias, Cattaraugus Co 20 April (TB and Cattaraugus Co. BC), one Tonawanda WMA 21 and 28 April, one Tiff Farm 4-15 May; things are looking brighter for this bird. Least Bittern: one Tiff Farm 15 May (FR) first, two Tiff Farm 21 May (GO), one Times Beach, Buffalo 30 May (RA). Great Blue Heron: continues to be common nester in forested uplands of So. Tier Cos.

Great Egret: two 23 March Iroquois NWR (Watson) first, one Martin Rd. Ext., Jamestown 31 March, one E. Pembroke 4 April (G & DS), one Burgeson Sanc. 10 April (DG, DD), one Cuba 10 & 11 April (L & DB, Jordan), two Tonawanda WMA 11 April (Walker). Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Buffalo 27 & 28 March (GO) only reports. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** one Burgeson Sanc. 10 May (DG), two same place with a considerable amount of courtship display 13 May (F & TE), a fourth record, one Fredonia College Camp, Twns.) Stockton and Portland 12 May (TM, Bowser *et al.*) **GLOSSY IBIS:** one Tonawanda WMA 4 May (Chilton). **WOOD STORK:** one Haskell Valley 14 May (J & MF), also seen Windfall Rd. near Olean 8 June (MB); these observations not far from previous records 1978 (*Kingbird* 29: 2-4). Tundra Swan: 50 over Jamestown 1 March marked the beginning (DC); 320 NW of Randolph, Cattaraugus Co. and 425 on the Allegheny Res. 10 March (DG), 650 Swamp Rd. 21 March (DG) a max, most had gone through by early April; one Pomfret Twn., Chautauqua Co. 10 May was very late (T & JM). Mute Swan: one Burgeson Sanc. through March had arrived with Tundra Swans (DD), one Tiff Farm 4 & 12 May may have been a local. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Newstead Sinks 9 March (WD, BP) identified as imm of the Greenland race, *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, four Iroquois NWR a short time later 9 March not identified to subs. (WD, BP). Snow Goose: one Iroquois NWR 1 March (DE) first; both white and blue morphs seen there through most of month with a max of five, one blue phase Swamp Rd., Randolph, Cattaraugus Co. 3 March (DG). Canada Goose: 50 Jamestown 1 March (DC) about start of migration, 40,000 a max at Oak Orchard in March but count difficult because of dispersal to grain fields. Wood Duck: two Amity L 23 March (VP) first, regular after 11 April, mostly So. Tier Cos. Green-winged Teal: four Burgeson Sanc. 10 March (DG) early. Am. Black Duck: four Belmont 12 March (L & DB), three Allegheny Res. 17 March (TB), four Birdsall, Allegany Co. 11 April (KP, Rice). Mallard: still most common puddle duck. No. Pintail: six Red House L 29 March (TB), 16 AAC but most breezed by without being seen or reported. Am. Wigeon: one Allegheny R at Salamanca and Red House L 2 March (TB) early. Canvasback: eight Cuba L 11 April (LB *et al.*), 17 AAC, six Chautauqua L 21 April (DG) only reports for period. Redhead: seven JAC, one LEAC only reports. Ring-necked Duck: 55+ near Jamestown 25 March (MS), 16 and three Amity L 27 and 29 March (VP, L & DM), 14 Red House L 29 March (TB), 66 JAC, four AAC. Greater Scaup: four JAC, 46 LEAC. Lesser Scaup: 204 JAC. **HARLEQUIN DUCK:** one male remained at DH from 5 Feb. (A & OR) to 9 April (JG). Oldsquaw: three Celeron, Chautauqua L 10 March (DG), one Quaker L 17 March (TB) illustrates early ice melt, 11 Amity L 3 April (VP), 128 JAC. Surf Scoter: one DH 19 & 21 April (DD, DG). White-winged Scoter: three Quaker L 17 March (TB), five Mayville, Chautauqua L 29 April (DG, DD), seen also DH, Allegheny Res., Iroquois NWR 19-28 April. Bufflehead: 110 JAC, 26 AAC, 16 Red House L 19 April, a max that location (TB). Hooded Merganser: pair Allegheny R 9 March (TB), regular later as nester. Com. Merganser: winters and now breeding Allegany Co. and probably Cattaraugus Co.; three Allegheny R. 25 April (TB), seven-26 Amity L 1-31 May (VP), two females seen entering stove pipe Wellsville, Allegany Co. 20 May (NI *vide* VP). Red-breasted Merganser: 86 Red House L 29 March (TB), 2500 DH 2 April (TM), 5000± DH 11 April (RS, DG) max, 75 Allegheny Res. 1 May (TB); exceptional flight this year. Ruddy Duck: seven JAC, 11 LEAC.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** The main hawk watch areas are at Forsythe Rd., Twn. of Ripley, Chautauqua Co. then proceeding NE along the Portage Escarpment to Pinehurst, near Hamburg, Erie Co. and then Grimsby, Ontario, 30 miles W of the Niagara R. along the Niagara Escarpment. It is assumed here that all hawks passing Grimsby have come either along the S shore of L Erie or overland through the region, then either turn W to pass Grimsby or E to pass Braddock's Bay in Region 2. Turkey Vulture: one Twn. Amity, Allegany Co. 10 March (L & DB), one Grimsby 10 March and 361 there 4 April, max and

latest there 30 May; 87 LEAC, 26 AAC. Osprey: one Grimsby 27 March was first, then one to eight 4-27 April, two there 1 May last: seen along Allegheny River and Res. through most of period near hacking site but only sporadic nest building; three indiv. present and one with aluminum government band adding sticks to nest but pair bond seemed weakly established (TJ). **MISSISSIPPI KITE**: one Bird Swamp, Machias, Cattaraugus Co. 20 April, Cattaraugus Co. BC field trip (TB *et al*); verification report to BOS accepted. Bald Eagle: first bird of passage Grimsby 23 March, two there 4 April then singles 5-22 April; one imm Burgeson Sanc. 17 April with orange streamer (DD) and one imm 20 April unmarked (DG), one imm W of Allegany, NY 25 May (TB *et al*), one same place 26 May (SE); 2 imm and one adult in vicinity of Osprey hacking site Allegheny Res. through most of period. No. Harrier: one-two Grimsby 1-23 March, then six there 26 March and nine next day; 11 Grimsby 5 April max; five Pinehurst 13 April (AS *et al*), nine Ripley 13 April (FR, LB), 12 LEAC; one Alfred 3 May (CK), one and two Friendship, Allegany Co. 17 and 22 May (L & DB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Grimsby 1 March, nine on 15 March, gradually building to 82 there 4 April and 138 on 5 April; 761 max 21 April and gradually diminishing to 78 per day on 10 May and down to two 31 May; 67 Forsythe Rd., near Ripley, Chautauqua Co. 21 April (DG, DD), 112 Ripley 21 April (FR, LB) and other counts along portage escarpment or below indicated main flight 21 April. Cooper's Hawk: one Grimsby 10 March was first at that site, 19 there 21 April was a max, last bird of passage there 8 May. No. Goshawk: one Grimsby 9 March first at that site, one or two seen most days later in March, six there 4 April a max and one there 12 April was last; two imm fed mostly on Mourning Doves at Forness' feeders near Cuba during March; this species seen near Allegheny Res. in late April (DG) and Alfred 22 May (CK) are probably breeders. Red-shouldered Hawk: six Grimsby first report, then three 9 March and 51 on 10th; 123 there 21 March was max and one on 27th last; our locally nesting pair Ten Mile Hollow, Cattaraugus Co. arrived 10 March and had placed much hemlock on nest by 16 March as large numbers of migrants slid by or leap-frogged over at Forsythe Rd., Pinehurst and Grimsby. Broad-winged Hawk: one seen and heard Ivory Rd. near Allegheny Res. 21 March (DG) earliest, three Grimsby 4 April—first at that site, 6007+ there 21 April max and 1189 Twn. of Ripley, Chautauqua Co. same day (FR, LB), 667 Pinehurst 20 April (RA *et al*), small numbers seen over higher parts of region in April. Red-tailed Hawk: 101 Ripley 9 March (FR, LB), 349 Grimsby same day max but good counts through March and April. Rough-legged Hawk: two Grimsby 1 March first day of count, six there 4 and 21 April, one 27 April last. Golden Eagle: one imm ASP (France Brook) 13 April (TB), one Pinehurst same day (HA, RA *et al*), six Grimsby 16-30 March, three there 4 April, one there 13 April; makes one wonder if ASP bird, Pinehurst bird and Grimsby bird were same indiv.; last at Grimsby 26 April. Am. Kestrel: 12 Grimsby 21 April max at that site; birds seem fewer as the dead elms fall. Merlin: singles Grimsby 5, 13, 20, 21, 26 April, one female Point Gratiot, L Erie 21 April feeding on bird (DG), one male Twn. Pomfret, Chautauqua Co. 25 April (DG). Peregrine Falcon: one Grimsby 5 and 21 April, one adult male 2 mi. SE of Salamanca, Cattaraugus Co. 19 May (J & MF). Wild Turkey: early broods reported out in late May; also Ruffed Grouse (TJ). Virginia Rail: one N. Harmony, Chautauqua Co. 11 April (DG) first, reported too from Stillwater, Times Beach, Iroquois NWR and Tiffit Farm April. Sora: two Stillwater, Chautauqua Co. 14 April (DG), one Iroquois NWR 27 April (DE), one LEAC—very sad showing. Com. Moorhen: two Tonawanda WMA 20 April (WD, BP), one mouth Tunungwant Creek, Cattaraugus Co. 6 and 7 May (TB), one Burgeson Sanc. 12 May (DG, DD), one Amity L 21 May (VP). **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Twn. Yates, Orleans Co. 14 May (Cooper). Black-bellied Plover: one Greenhurst, Chautauqua L, 21 April (8 days early according to Bob Sundell), one Kiantone Twn. Chautauqua Co. 17 May (TM *et al*), one Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L 18 May (DG *et al*), one Vandalia, Cattaraugus Co. 19 May (SE), two Burgeson Sanc. 20 May (DG, DD). Semipalmated Plover: two Vandalia, Cattaraugus Co. 19 May (SE), three JAC. Greater Yellowlegs: two Burgeson Sanc. 28 March (DG) first, also one Poland same date (DG), 13 LEAC, 3 AAC, two Machias 20 April (TB

*et al.*) Lesser Yellowlegs: three Kiantone, Chautauqua Co. 6 April (DD) first, two JAC, four Burgeson Sanc. 20 May (DG, DD). Solitary Sandpiper: one Pomfret, Chautauqua Co. 19 April (TM) first, two Machias 20 April (TB *et al.*), eight Irvine Mills, Cattaraugus Co. 24 April (TB), one Hamburg 7 May (FR), 12 Burgeson Sanc. 7 May (DG), five JAC, one ASP 27 May (DG *et al.*). Spotted Sandpiper: one Amity L 22 April (VP) first. Upland Sandpiper: one Frewsburg (F & TE) and three Pomfret (TM) both 22 April first, one Frissell Rd., Chautauqua Co. 7 May (DG, DD). Whimbrel: one Dutch Hollow Creek, Greenhurst, Chautauqua L 20 May only report. Ruddy Turnstone: 14 JMC (Bemus Creek), two Dutch Hollow Creek 29 May (DG, Gardner). Semipalmated Sandpiper: three to eight Burgeson Sanc. 10-27 May (DG *et al.*). Least Sandpiper: five Tunungwant Creek, Cattaraugus Co. 7 May (TB), 25 Burgeson Sanc. 20 May (DG, DD). White-rumped Sandpiper: one Burgeson Sanc. 17 May (TM *et al.*), two same place 27 May (DG *et al.*). Pectoral Sandpiper: six Iroquois NWR and two Sommerset 27 March (WD, BP) first. Purple Sandpiper: four Goat Island 1 May (WD *et al.*) very late but one was at Buckhorn Island 8 June 1954 (Beardslee and Mitchell). Dunlin: six Burgeson Sanc. 11 May (DD), four same place 17 May (TM *et al.*), 37 mouth Bemus Creek, Chautauqua L 21 May (F & TE, DG). Short-billed Dowitcher: 28 Burgeson Sanc. 10 May (RTP *et al.*), 31 same place 13 May (DG, DD). Com. Snipe: one Kiatone, Chautauqua Co., 13 March (DG), 11 Twn. Dayton, Cattaraugus Co. 24 March (FR, LB), 19 Twn. Stockton, Chautauqua Co., each in courtship flight 14 April (TM), five ASP 19 April (TB), 38 AAC, maybe good weather increased their conspicuousness but hopefully it's a population surge. Am. Woodcock: 2 Burgeson Sanc. 8 March (DD, DG) first, one-ten Twn. Amity 10-29 March (VP); according to Olean Office DEC population still in decline in northeast. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: one Tunungwant Creek, Cattaraugus Co. 25 May (TB, Cattaraugus Co. BC field trip), only report. Laughing Gull: one at DH which was reported last quarter remained through March and was last seen DH 11 April (RS, DG), same or another adult Barcelona, along L Erie to the S, 26 May (DG). Bonaparte's Gull: one DH 26 March (TM) first, 32 DH 29 March (TM, RS), 85 Red House L 21 April (TB), 1500+ Ft. Niagara State Park 23 April (WD, BP) max. Glaucous Gull: one Buffalo 2 April (RA, MF), one DH 28 April (DG). Caspian Tern: one Greenhurst, Chautauqua L 14 April (DG *et al.*) first, 23 Barcelona 21 April max. Com. Tern: 31 Allegheny Res. 21 April (DG, DD)-a large flock away from Great Lakes. Forster's Tern: two Greenhurst, Chautauqua L 21 May (F & TE, DG). Black Tern: sadly no reports.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Amity L 13 May (VP) first, up to three there to end of month, two Cold Spring, Cattaraugus Co. 17 May (TM *et al.*), one Burgeson Sanc. 17 May (TM *et al.*), three Allegheny Res. area 17 May (DG, RS), three Salamanca 19 May (TB). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Burgeson Sanc. 8 May (DD) first, one Amity Twn. 15, 31 May (VP), two Salamanca 19 April (TB); both species responding to abundant lepidopterid defoliators; Terry Mosher up to end of May had not seen them in Dunkirk area. Great Horned Owl: on nest Salamanca 2-22 March and 13 April one young left nest unable to fly but 16 April still cared for by parents (TB). Snowy Owl: one Twn. Wheatfield, Niagara Co. 3 March (WD, BP). Long-eared Owl: one Youngstown 13 April (WD, BP). Com. Nighthawk: two over Jamestown 12 May (DG), one over Salamanca 23-31 May (TB). Whip-poor-will: not reported. Chimney Swift: one Jamestown 23 April (RS), one Pt. Gratiot, L Erie 25 April (DG). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: two-four Amity L 8 May and to end of period, two-three Belmont 8-31 May (L & DB), two ASP 26 May (TB). Red-headed Woodpecker: two Batavia 4 April (G & DS), one Iroquois NWR 4, 5, 24 April (DE), two Pt. Gratiot 11-30 April (DG), two Waterport 14 April (G & DS). Red-bellied Woodpecker: still present Genesee Valley, on lake plains, Conewango Valley and Zoar Valley but missing Allegheny Valley. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Twn. Amity 22 March (VP) first, one Pt. Gratiot 31 March (DG), one ASP 9 April (TB), four ASP 13 April (TB).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Times Beach, Buffalo 14 May first and no other reports in May. E. Wood-Pewee: 12 May Tiff Farm (RB) first. Acadian

Flycatcher: three Wheeler's Gulf 25 May (TM *et al*) first; continues to prosper in So. Tier Cos. Alder Flycatcher: one Amity Twn. 13 May (VP) first. Willow Flycatcher: Burgeson Sanc. 14 May (DG) first. Least Flycatcher: three Amity L 1 May (VP) first, seven LEMC, 37 LMC. E. Phoebe: three Iroquois NWR 28 March (Collins) first. Great Crested Flycatcher: one Delaware Park, Buffalo 6 May (GO) and two Amity L same date (VP). E. Kingbird: one W. Almond, Allegany Co. 30 April (L & DB) first. Horned Lark: 15 Twn. Pomfret, Chautauqua Co. 25 April (DG), three JMC, five LEMC. Tree Swallow: six Burgeson Sanc. 22 March (DD) first, continues as common E. Bluebird box inhabitant in So. Tier Cos. Cliff Swallow: appears to be increasing in Allegheny River Valley and its tributary valleys, often using Expressway overpasses for nesting sites. Purple Martin: one Pinehurst, Erie Co. 13 April (AS) first, two Amity L 15 April (VP), 22 LEAC, two JAC, 77 LEMC, 88 JMC. Com. Raven: continues to be regularly reported in So. Allegany and So. Cattaraugus Cos.; one White Hill, Allentown, Allegany Co. 4 April (Don King), one various times in March and two 8 and 22 April ASP (TB). Tufted Titmouse: carrying nest material Amity L 16 April (VP), continues as regular resident in So. Tier Cos. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two Canadaway Creek Sanc. 21 April (DG, DD), two Alfred 25 April (CK), ten AAC, none JAC or MC. House Wren: one Alfred 21 April (CK) first. Carolina Wren: one Pinehurst 5 April (Chilton, *et al*), only report. Sedge Wren: no report. Marsh Wren: two Iroquois NWR 14 May (Jones), four West Mud L, Arkwright, Chautauqua Co. 18 May (DG, *et al*), two Cheny Rd., Stow, Chautauqua Co. 26 May (DG). Both kinglets seen in good numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one Burgeson Sanc. 14 April (DG *et al*), 12 Allegheny Res. 28 April (DG), pair building Tunungwant Creek, Irvine Mills, Cattaraugus Co. 25 April (TB); common summer resident now of Allegheny River Valley; one Tift Farm 20 April (RA, MF) and Iroquois NWR same date (DE), one Amity Twn. 22 April (VP). E. Bluebird: one Amity L 1 March (VP) first, reported from 15 localities by BOS in March and April; 16 nesting pairs 12 with eggs Amity L by 30 April (VP). Veery: one Tift Farm 4 May (Cooper) first. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Buffalo 14 May (PH) first. Swainson's Thrush: one Forest Lawn, Buffalo 3 May first. Hermit Thrush: one Kiantone 15 April (DD). Wood Thrush: one Pomfret Twn. 26 April (T & JM) first. Am. Robin: 400+ Forsythe Rd. 10 March (FR, LB), as spin-off of hawk watching. Gray Catbird: one Allegheny Res. 25 April (F & TE). No. Mockingbird: one Kiantone Chautauqua Co. 9 and 10 March and 12 April (F & TE), only report for period. Water Pipit: 26 Twn. Charlotte 24 March (FR, LB) first, also seen Twn. Collins and Eden (GO) same date, 500 Twn. Amity 30 March (VP), a fine "gathering". No. Shrike: six locality records reported to BOS in March but no Loggerhead Shrikes.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Pomfret Twn., Chautauqua Co. 20 May (FR). Solitary Vireo: one Forest Lawn, Buffalo 17 April (GO) first. Yellow-throated Vireo: two Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) first. Warbling Vireo: one Tift Farm 4 May (Cooper), one Shongo same date (VP, ACBC). Philadelphia Vireo: one Pomfret Twn. 16 May (TM) first, three Cold Spring Twn., Cattaraugus Co. 17 May (TM *et al*), one Hamburg 18 May (FR); always makes a special day. Red-eyed Vireo: one Springville, Erie Co. 7 May (GO) first. Blue-winged Warbler: one Kiantone, Chautauqua Co. 27 April (DD) first. Golden-winged Warbler: one Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) first. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Amity Twn. 29 May (VP). "Lawrence's" Warbler: one Kennedy 23 May (DG *et al*). Tennessee Warbler: one Pt. Gratiot 25 April (DG) a very early bird; beats Bull's coastal extreme date by four days, inland by one week. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Burgeson Sanc. 10 May (DG), one Pomfret Twn. 14 May (TM). Nashville Warbler: one Forest Lawn, Buffalo 25 April first, two Alfred 27 April (CK). No. Parula: one Pomfret Twn. 14 May (TM), one ASP 27 May (DG *et al*). Yellow Warbler: one E. Aurora 24 April (Becker) first, one Belmont 25 April (L & DB), two Tunungwant Creek, Irvine Mills, Cattaraugus Co. 25 April (TB). Chestnut-sided Warbler: two Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG). Magnolia Warbler: one Dunkirk 6 May (Chilton) first also one Tunungwant Creek same date (TB). Cape May Warbler: two Cheektowaga 9 May (GO) first. Black-throated Blue Warbler: one Tift Farm 4 May (Cooper) first. Yellow-rumped Warbler: three JAC, two AAC, eight LEAC. Black-throated Green

Warbler: one Scio Twn. 21 April (VP) first, also one ASP same date (TB)—several there 30 April (TB). Blackburnian Warbler: three Onoville, Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) and five ASP same date (TB). Pine Warbler: one Burgeson Sanc. 18 April (first) and two 19 April (DG), two Forest Lawn, Buffalo 20 April (AS, AC), one Goat Island 22 April (WD, BP). Prairie Warbler: one Amity L 26 April (VP) first. Palm Warbler; one Tiff Farm 18 April (Chilton) first. Bay-breasted Warbler: eight Delaware Park, Buffalo 6 May (GO) first. Blackpoll Warbler: one Amity L 15 May (VP) first. Cerulean Warbler: eight-ten Cold Spring and South Valley 17 May (TM *et al*) first; should have been on territory even earlier. Black-and-white Warbler: four Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) first. Am. Redstart: one Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) first. Ovenbird: one Forest Lawn, Buffalo 2 May (GO) first. No. Waterthrush: one Burgeson Sanc. 19 April (DG) first. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Ten Mile Creek 5 April (SE) first, one 15 April Amity L (VP), two Pomfret Twn. 16 April (TM). Mourning Warbler: one Burgeson Sanc. 11 May (DD) first. Com. Yellowthroat: one Pomfret Twn. 2 May (TM) first. Hooded Warbler: one Fredonia College Camp 5 May (TM) first. Wilson's Warbler: one Ft. Niagara State Park 16 May (WD, BP) first. Canada Warbler: one Burgeson Sanc. 4 May (DD) first, seven JMC, four LEMC; very scarce So. Cattaraugus Co. Yellow-breasted Chat: two Amity Twn. 20 May (VP).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: two Stockton Twn., Chautauqua Co. 30 April (DG, TM) first. Clay-colored Sparrow: one Pomfret Twn., Chautauqua Co. 13 May (FR) first, one there 18 May (DG *et al*). Field Sparrow: one Belmont 7 April (L & DB) first. Vesper Sparrow: one Twn. Pomfret 29 March (TM, RS). Grasshopper Sparrow: one Amity Twn. 24 April (VP) first, two Fredonia Airport 29 May (DG, Gardner). Henslow's Sparrow: one Kiantone Twn. 6 May (DD) first, one Alfred 13 and 14 May (CK), one Arkwright Twn. 25 May (TM). Lincoln's Sparrow: two Tiff Farm 4 May (RA *et al*) first, noted by BOS in 3 other localities. White-crowned Sparrow: one Jamestown 12-14 April (E & DA), two Pomfret Twn. 21 April (DG, DD), both early, if migrants. Snow Bunting: one Batavia 9 April (DE) late. Bobolink: one Allegheny Res. 30 April (DG) first. Red-winged Blackbird: 4500+ migrating by Pinehurst 10 March. Brewer's Blackbird: two males and three females near Burgeson Sanc. 10 April (DG, DD). Bob Sundell reminds us this species now nests near Toronto and is proving to be a regular migrant in Chautauqua Co. Orchard Oriole: one male South Valley, Cattaraugus Co. 13 May (DG, DD) then a pair same place 17 May and finally building nest 19 May (DG, RS); one imm male singing Salamanca 19 May (TB). No. Oriole: one Stockton Twn. 30 April (DG, TM). Purple Finch: reported from 7 localities by BOS in April. House Finch: continues to climb—135 LEMC, 53 JMC, 343 AAC. Red Crossbill: three to 12 various times 9 March-10 May Alfred (CK)—could they be nesting? Pine Siskin: one Burgeson Sanc. 10 March (DG), up to 20 ASP 10-23 March (TB *et al*); reported from six localities by BOS in April, three Red House, Cattaraugus Co. 1 May (TB), two Amity L 5 May (VP), 20 ASP 27 May (DG *et al*)—nesting? Evening Grosbeak: two-25 Amity L 1-23 April (VP); one-12 Belmont 4, 9 April (L & DB), one ASP 13 April (TB), three Wales 14 April (OR), one Burgeson Sanc. 19 April (DG)—no reports in May.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, NY 14706

## REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The spring season was marked by a series of contrasting and possibly conflicting conditions. Birding conditions were quite pleasant most of the time. Average temperatures were up across the board and rainfall was relatively normal for this time of the year. What resulted was a set of conditions that were not necessarily conducive to grounding of migrants. There were a few good days, but for the most part mediocrity was the fare. Early season warmth brought optimism of early arrivals but this was not necessarily the case. Low or relatively low rainfall failed to produce much shorebird habitat. The high water level of Lake Ontario was also a contributing factor to this condition. I find it hard to describe the season. There were the usually expected species, but the numbers seemed lower than normal. Was the weather too good? Did the birds simply pass us by? Has habitat destruction and pesticide use on the tropical wintering grounds affected the populations? These questions may be answered across the state in next season's reports.

Let's take a look at the seasonal weather statistics. March temperatures averaged out at 36.7° F which was 3.4° F above normal. April's average was 49.6° F which was 3.6° F above the norm. May reached an average of 58.6° F. This represented an above average total of 1.7° F. Precipitation showed less of a fluctuation from the norm. Totals for the most part varied slightly. March precipitation reached a total of 3.47". That was .94 inches above the normal average. April, which should be noted for its showers, was 1.34" below normal at 1.3". May was at 2.08" for a .5" below normal reading.

There were a few noticeable positive points to the spring migration even though most of the commentary points to a negative trend. Waterfowl numbers appeared to be fairly good. The early season warmth brought the expected species and a couple of unexpected ones. The raptor migration had some good days and also produced a surprise visitor. The gull numbers were considerably higher than usual along the lakeshore. Greater than usual concentrations were present at Irondequoit and Braddock Bays. Of note were the good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls and late white-winged gulls. A Snowy Owl in late April is always a good find. The continued presence of No. Saw-whet Owls in May points to local breeding. Likewise, the Acadian Flycatcher reports indicate an expanding breeding population. Yellow-breasted Chats were on the upswing with reports through the end of the period. A good blackbird flight materialized in early spring, and the Brewer's Blackbirds returned once again with sightings into May.

The down side seemed to be more noticeable this season. Loon numbers were very poor with Red-throated Loon reports nearly nonexistent. Waterfowl lingerers were few. The raptor flights in May were less than exciting. Once again I must speak of the lack of shorebird habitat. It seems like each season I bring this point to the foreground. But it is a recent negative trend that continues to be a problem. The expected species were found in small numbers. The emphasis

is on small. Totals were quite low. The tern numbers also showed a downward trend. Traditional numbers were not found. This was in contrast to the gull totals. Migrant Long-eared Owls and No. Saw-whets were fewer in number than usual. Whip-poor-wills were very difficult to locate. The passerine flight was conflicting in the fact that most expected species were recorded but in low numbers. Of special note were the few Cape May Warblers and the absence of Prothonotary Warblers. Rarities: Eared Grebe, Mississippi Kite, Ruff, Thayer's Gull and White-eyed Vireo.

Abbreviations: arr-arrival, B-Braddock Bay, C-Charlotte, CS-Carlton Station, D-Durand-Eastman Park, G-Greece, H-Hamlin, HP-Hogan Pt., I-Irondequoit Bay, IC-Island Cottage Woods, K-Kendall, M-Manitou, P-Pt. Breeze, WL-West Lakeshore.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one B 20 March, poor showing. Com. Loon: one G 30 May, last report of season. Red-necked Grebe: max 300 H 4 April, good total. **EARED GREBE**: one Buck Pond, G, 10 April (FD), report from area where they have been reported in past years. Double-crested Cormorant: good totals along the lakeshore. Am. Bittern: arr two B 5 April. Least Bittern: arr one B 18 May. Snowy Egret: one G 12 May, relatively scarce in recent years. Tricolored Heron: one B 24-27 May (RO, ST), good report of uncommon wader. Cattle Egret: max two HP 1-8 May, one reported since 28 April; one H 31 May, returning to former status of regular. Green-backed Heron: arr one IC 22 April. Tundra Swan: good numbers again, two G 9 May, late arrivals. Mute Swan: one Mendon Ponds 19 March, one G 24 April, origins unknown. Greater White-fronted Goose: one CS 16-17 March (WS), adult; three K 24 March (WS), adults; one K 24 March (WS), imm; one adult Gaines 26 April (WS), excellent spring totals. Brant: max 14 C 18 May. **BARNACLE GOOSE**: three H 11-24 March, 13 April, 20-24 April (S. Skelly, mob), one adult and two imm. They associated with Canada Geese and kept to themselves within the flock. Their behaviour suggested that they *might* be wild. This question of course always arises with this species and cannot be answered with certainty. An observer from Connecticut who spent this spring in our region saw the three Barnacle Geese observed in Connecticut last fall and he feels that this may be the same trio. Canada Goose: usual good totals, 500+ with neck bands. Blue-winged Teal: arr two Webster 12 March. No. Shoveler: arr two G 14 March. Canvasback: one K 25 May, lingerer. Oldsquaw: three-ten WL 19 May, good totals for late in season. Black Scoter: five WL 23 March, one WL 16/27 April, max 20 WL 19 May, excellent numbers for May. Surf Scoter: one B 9 April, two Webster Park 27 April. White-winged Scoter: present through the season. Com. Goldeneye: one G 16 May, lingerer. Bufflehead: one K 19 May, late report. Ruddy Duck: arr one WL 8 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Braddock Bay Hawk Watch was once again manned under the direction of Laura and Neil Moon. The final results are not yet in since the project runs



into June, but some of the details and highlights are included in this report. The Hawk Banding Station was also in operation again this spring under the direction of Clay Taylor. The statistics are summarized in Table I. Turkey Vulture: max 1891 B 6 April, highest ever. Osprey: arr one B 28 March, very early. **MISSISSIPPI KITE**: one Bailey Road, Parma 21 April (R. Mather, J. Dodge, B. Tomasy, J. Beilman, R. Byron), first regional record, adult, studied by experienced observers with previous sightings of the species. This was easily the highlight of the spring hawk flights in terms of rarities. Bald Eagle: arr three imm B 27 March. Red-shouldered Hawk: arr two B 7 March; max 94 B 27 March; one G 27 April, imm, last report for season. Broad-winged Hawk: arr 13 B 14 April, max 11,207 B 21 April. Rough-legged Hawk: down from previous years. Golden Eagle: max five B 21 April, good total. Merlin: one M 4 May, one B 5 May, three M 15 May; totals apparently less than last year. Peregrine Falcon: max two B 21 April, one B 5 May, one M 14 May, one Webster 15 May.

Table I. Hawk Banding Station Results  
Species Totals

Sharp-shinned	192	Red-tailed	8
Cooper's	68	No. Harrier	2
No. Goshawk	5	Am. Kestrel	40
Merlin	1		

Wild Turkey: good numbers. Virginia Rail: arr one IC 7 April. Sora: arr one B 16 April. Sandhill Crane: one B 10 April (L. Moon, WL, mob), one B 14 April, probably the same bird. Black-bellied Plover: arr 16 G 6 May. Semipalmated Plover: arr 12 H 10 May. Greater Yellowlegs: arr three WL 10 April. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr two H 10 April. Solitary Sandpiper: arr one Ellison Park 4 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr one WL 28 April. Upland Sandpiper: arr two CS 21 April. Ruddy Turnstone: arr two C 18 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr two HP 10 May. Western Sandpiper: arr one H 21 May. Least Sandpiper: arr 12 HP, H 10 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr five WL 7 April. Dunlin: arr two H 21 April. **RUFF**: one male HP 12 May (R & SS). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two Honeoye 20 April. Am. Woodcock: arr two M 10 March. Wilson's Phalarope: max two HP 19 May. Little Gull: one H 7 April. Bonaparte's Gull: good numbers through the season. **THAYER'S GULL**: one C 19 May (RS), first winter plumage. Iceland Gull: one B 11 May, imm; one M 19 May. Caspian Tern: arr one B 6 April. Com. Tern: arr one G 15 April. Black Tern: arr two B 30 April.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr one Wayne Co. 19 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one D 19 May. Com. Barn-Owl: one M 16 April (RS), only spring report. Snowy Owl: one M 21 April (mob), very late in the season. Barred Owl: one Mendon Ponds 28 April, new location. Long-eared Owl: arr one M 10 March. No. Saw-whet Owl: one Bergen 19 May, continues recent trend of sightings in that locale. Com. Nighthawk: arr one G 7 May. Whip-poor-will: arr one Webster 1 May. Chimney Swift: arr two IC 24 April. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one Webster 10 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr several IC 7 April.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr one Letchworth 28 May. E. Wood-Pewee: arr one IC 9 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr one IC 12 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one B 19 May. Alder Flycatcher: arr one several locations 19 May. Willow Flycatcher: one G 9 May, early. Least Flycatcher: arr one D 4 May. E. Phoebe: arr M 5 April. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr one H 1 May. E. Kingbird: arr two B 30 April. Purple Martin: arr one M 13 April. Tree Swallow: arr one G 23 March. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr four B 20 April. Bank Swallow: arr five G 21 April. Cliff Swallow: arr two M 21 April. Barn Swallow: arr ten CS 20 April. Carolina Wren: continued good reports. House Wren: arr one Bushnells Basin 20 April. Sedge Wren: one Chase Road 25 May. Marsh Wren: arr one B 16 April. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr one IC 15 April. E. Bluebird: good totals of migrants. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one IC 6 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr one IC 6 May.

Wood Thrush: arr one Cobb's Hill 2 May. Bohemian Waxwing: one Sodus 10 March, poor showing this year.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one IC 26 May (Mike Davids, KG, PR), fairly cooperative singing bird, was not associated with any particularly strong bird movement. Solitary Vireo: arr one Penfield 27 April. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr one B/G 6 May. Warbling Vireo: arr one-three several locations 4 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr one Webster 29 April (SS), extremely early date. Red-eyed Vireo: one Cobb's Hill 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: several locations reported single birds on 5 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr one G 5 May. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Norway Rd. 25 May, one Oatka Creek Park 30 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr one-two several locations 5 May, they were quite numerous during the migration, several people commented that they were everywhere they went. Orange-crowned Warbler: one IC 9-10 May, one M 10 May. Nashville Warbler: arr two Mendon Ponds 27 April. N. Parula: arr one D 4 May. Yellow Warbler: arr one WL 28 April. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr one IC 4 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr one D 5 May. Cape May Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 30 April, early. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 1 May, quite plentiful during migration. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr one ICW 1 May, not as numerous as in recent years. Blackburnian Warbler: arr one D 4 May. Pine Warbler: arr one-two IC 15 April. Palm Warbler: arr one IC 22 April, last one IC 19 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr one Cobb's Hill 5 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr one G 15 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr three WL 7 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr one B 16 April. Am. Redstart: arr one D 5 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one Genesee River gorge 8 May, continued trend of sightings. Ovenbird: arr one D 5 May. N. Waterthrush: arr one IC 8 April. Louisiana Waterthrush: one from several locations 19 May. Connecticut Warbler: one-two IC 27-29 May, becoming predictable and regular. Mourning Warbler: arr two I 17 May, max 12 IC 28 May. Hooded Warbler: arr one M 7 May. Wilson's Warbler: arr one M 13 May, banded. Canada Warbler: arr one IC 12 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one IC 9 May, one-three present at Norway Rd. from 19-31 May, one M 13-14 May, good year for chat.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Scarlet Tanager: arr one IC 1 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Powder Mill Park 3 May. Indigo Bunting: arr one Naples late April. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr one IC 15 April. Am. Tree Sparrow: last report of season one IC 21 April. Field Sparrow: arr two Ellison Park 9 April. Vesper Sparrow: good numbers this season. Savannah Sparrow: arr one HP 7 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: one-five from several locations 19 May. Henslow's Sparrow: more numerous away from lakeshore. Fox Sparrow: very good numbers this season. Lincoln's Sparrow: arr one IC 5 May, last one IC 25 May. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers throughout the period. Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon race: four separate reports from April. Lapland Longspur: max 12 K 17 March late. Snow Bunting: max 1000 K 17 March. Bobolink: arr 10+ D 5 May. E. Meadowlark: arr one B 10 March. W. Meadowlark: one Penfield 28-30 April (DS, TT); one Penfield 1-19 (TT, RC); the Pt. Breeze bird did not return for the first time in nearly five years. Rusty Blackbird: one Highland Park 22 May, late. Brewer's Blackbird: one-nine H 7-22 April, numbers lower than in recent years; one H 19 May, late record. Orchard Oriole: max three P 11 May. N. Oriole: arr one Ellison Park 29 April. Red Crossbill: 25 Rochester 10 May (MR), high total and late date. White-winged Crossbill: max eight G 26 April, numerous reports of smaller numbers. Com. Redpoll: max 60 WL 23 March, 60 G 21 April; good numbers for a species that has been scarce of late. Pine Siskin: max 20 WL 22 March. Evening Grosbeak: poor totals for the season.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

It was so dry that kingfishers were forced to feed on the lawns next to the robins! Well, a little exaggerated but precipitation was sparse in our region. A storm in early March dropped several inches of snow on most areas, but it quickly melted. After that, rainfall was meager until the end of May. In April, only .54 inches of rain fell compared to an average of close to three inches. In May, the total was 1.8 inches, again significantly below normal. Our streams looked like August instead of springtime.

Temperatures had their extremes. We experienced eighty degree weather in April. Just to keep us honest, some late frosts occurred. For most people it was an ideal spring—warm temperatures and just enough rain to keep the flowers growing. With little rainfall or storms, many warblers and shorebirds passed us by. Very few birders experienced any waves.

Your editor was very fortunate on 5 May. . For over two hours he watched a parade of warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers, kinglets and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks pass by. Warbler species totalled fourteen, mostly in mixed flocks but occasionally a group of four or five of the same species would be seen. Competition could be rough for male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks as eight males were seen feeding with one female.

It's hard to draw any conclusions concerning the effects of the weather on bird migration. Dorothy McIlroy's report from Ithaca is full of conflicting arrival dates. A Common Moorhen and Eastern Wood-Pewee were three weeks early while the Savannah and Vesper Sparrows arrived a month late. Pity the poor Tree Swallows that were seen in an Ithaca parking lot during a snowstorm on 4 March.

The hybridizing of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in the Elmira area has made it impossible to identify these birds by song alone. A particular song which your editor has not seen described in any journal consists of a rapid series of seven to eight chips followed by a buzz. He has heard a Blue-winged and a "Brewster's" sing this song. One day he heard this song and upon investigation noticed that it was being sung by a typically plumaged male Golden-winged but with a yellowish belly. He then heard a Blue-winged song but it turned out to be a "normal" male Golden-winged. It has always been difficult to identify these warblers by song alone, but more and more surprises are turning up.

House Sparrows in Chemung Co. continue their supposedly atypical behavior by eating sunflower seeds from hanging feeders, nesting in hanging nest boxes and nesting quite a distance from any dwellings. This has become a problem in that they have invaded bluebird trails. A pair of bluebirds have nested in a box that has a 1½ inch hole in the top. These houses have been used in other localities especially in the west. If they continue to have success in these boxes, many more will be put up to deter the increasing invasion of the House Sparrow.

Seasonal positives and interesting tidbits include: 1) First confirmed nesting of Canada Geese in Chemung Co. 2) Good numbers of Tennessee Warblers, Yellow Warblers and American Redstarts. 3) First ever report of an Acadian Flycatcher in Chemung Co. 4) A confirmed nesting of a Red Crossbill in the Ithaca area. 5) Bill Welles in Elmira reported seeing an unusual looking American Crow flying. When the crow landed, an Eastern Kingbird hopped off its back. 6) Wild Turkeys becoming tame? One was seen on a sidewalk in Phelps, another in a backyard in downtown Ithaca. 7) Vernon Dewey retired from Montezuma Wildlife Refuge after years of faithful waterfowl observations. Good luck to Vernon in his new endeavors.

Seasonal negatives include: 1) Red-headed Woodpeckers just about vanished from Chemung Co. 2) Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Hermit Thrushes very low. Your editor did not hear one Hermit Thrush singing even at its known nesting areas. 3) Maintenance workers destroyed Cliff Swallow nests at Corning Community College buildings.

Rarities include: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; Chem-Chemung; L -Lake; M-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Pk-Park; Pt-Point; Sch-Schuyler; Sen-Seneca; St-State; QC-Queen Catherine Marsh.

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LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Keuka L April and May; one Stewart Pk area 9 April. Com. Loon: reported on Sen, Keuka, and Cay L as well as ponds in the Elmira area, however they were not numerous. Pied-billed Grebe: present in small numbers in Ithaca, Penn Yan and Elmira during April. Horned Grebe: lingered on Cay L thru mid-May; 21 Elmira 29 March. Red-necked Grebe: none observed. Double-crested Cormorant: two flying Elmira 19 April; a few M 20 April; 15 Sen L 7 May. Am. Bittern: Penn Yan April and May, first report since 1983; M 12 April; Sapsucker Woods 22 April; Horseheads 18 May. Great Blue Heron: returned to nesting area south of Ithaca 23 March. Great Egret: one Penn Yan April; one Punch Bowl L Watkins Glen St. Pk 14 April; one Michigan Hollow 13 April; M 22, 29 April and 6 May. Green-backed Heron: seems to be decreasing. Black-crowned Night-Heron: Penn Yan Marsh March and April; Ithaca 27 April; Elmira 5 May; M 13, 23 May. Tundra Swan: two Elmira 31 March; Penn Yan and Phelps during March and April; Cay L thru 15 April. Brant: 50 Sen L 7 May. Canada Goose: four adults and six young Horseheads 18 May.

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

Snow Goose	10,000	20 Mar.	Am. Wigeon	750	18 Mar.
Wood Duck	700	18 Mar.	Canvasback	75	25 Mar.
Green-winged Teal	1,000	1 Apr.	Ring-necked Duck	800	8 Apr.
Am. Black Duck	1,500	18 Mar.	Greater Scaup	200	25 Mar.
No. Pintail	1,500	25 Mar.	Bufflehead	50	1 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal	750	8 May	Hooded Merganser	20	1 Apr.
No. Shoveler	500	18 Mar.	Com. Merganser	400	18 Mar.
Gadwall	900	18 Mar.	Ruddy Duck	50	29 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: a few QC 6 March; scarce Penn Yan and Elmira; Sapsucker Woods thru mid-May. Black Scoter: none observed. Surf Scoter: one female Elmira 20 April.

White-winged Scoter: Cay L 11 March, 22 April. Com. Goldeneye: good numbers Cay L thru late April. Bufflehead: 30 Elmira 19 April. Hooded Merganser: female with downy young east of Varna 28 May; female with eight young Corning Pd. late May. Red-breasted Merganser: 11 Elmira 29 March; many Cay L lingering thru early May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: common in Sch. Co. and Penn Yan. Osprey: pair seen again in M 5 April; reported also from QC, Elmira and Penn Yan. Bald Eagle: one imm Keuka L south of Branchport 31 March; one imm Van Atta's dam 3 March; two adults Ithaca area 3 March, 16 April; one adult Elmira 2 May. No. Harrier: often observed QC; more reports from Elmira area and Tompkins Co. Sharp-shinned Hawk: regular in the Cay L basin; scarce Elmira. Cooper's Hawk: defending territory against crows Chem. Co. during May. No. Goshawk: on nests south of Brooktondale and Michigan Hollow late May. Red-shouldered Hawk: pair South Danby 13 March; four other Cay L basin reports; one Connecticut Hill 19 May. Broad-winged Hawk: observed everywhere except Penn Yan and Phelps areas. Red-tailed Hawk: successful nesters in Phelps and Elmira. Rough-legged Hawk: Hector Forest 14 March; Penn Yan March and April; Ithaca thru 22 April. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** one adult Snyder Hill 16 March (P. Milburn). Am. Kestrel: two successful nests Chem. Co. **MERLIN:** Catherine Creek 20 April; one Six Mile Creek Valley 14 April; one M 20 April. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** flying over Cornell Campus 7 May (Cornell Ornithology Club). Gray Partridge: one Ithaca area; D.E.C. released 130 birds near Union Springs in Feb. Ring-necked Pheasant: more observations with good numbers reported from Sch. Co. and Penn Yan area but still scarce in Chem. Co. Wild Turkey: continuing their increase. Virginia Rail: one Michigan Hollow 11 May; one Horseheads responding to tape recording 18 May. Sora Rail: Michigan Hollow 11 May; Elmira 16 May. Com. Moorhen: very early one Ithaca 3 March; Alpine 24 April. Am. Coot: 70 Sen L 10 March; max 1,500 M 8 April. Shorebirds: a poor showing number-wise but a variety of species were observed. Black-bellied Plover: M 24 March. Semipalmated Plover: three Elmira 16 May; two M reports in April and May. Killdeer: several successful nestings in Chem. Co. Greater Yellowlegs: one Watkins Glen St Pk 18 April; in flooded fields Phelps area April; Elmira 8 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: one Myers Pt 28 March, matches earliest Cay L basin record. Solitary Sandpiper: a number of observations throughout our region. Upland Sandpiper: two Lansing in wet pasture 18 April; six Horseheads 18 May. W. Sandpiper: M 11 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: M 11 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: two Cay L basin reports in April; one Penn Yan 1 May. Dunlin: two M April; two Horseheads 18 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: one Lansing 18 April. Com. Snipe: scarce in Chem. Co. Am. Woodcock: nest with four eggs Elmira 20 April. Wilson's Phalarope: one near route 31 5 May. Bonaparte's Gull: observed throughout our region. Ring-billed Gull: 1000 Sen L 3 March. **GLAUCOUS GULL:** one Aurora 20 April (K. David). Caspian Tern: Keuka L April and May; Myers Pt. 18 April. Com. Tern: four Sen L St Pk 21 May; seen also Cay L and Elmira during April and May. Black Tern: Aurora 4 May; M 11 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: fairly good numbers in Sch Co and Penn Yan; small number in Elmira. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Camp Barton 11 May, ten days late in arriving. Com. Barn-Owl: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: pair Watkins Glen St Pk; scarce Penn Yan; only one report from Ithaca. Great Horned Owl: fledged four young near Phelps 26 April. Barred Owl: Sapsucker Woods thru. Short-eared Owl: Penn Yan area March and April. Com. Nighthawk: College Town 24 April, early; returned to nesting area on school roof in Elmira. Whip-poor-will: only two reports, one each from Ithaca and Penn Yan. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: attracted by fuscias, flying between customers at a commercial greenhouse. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Aurora 22 March; solitary male calling for mate Elmira 15 May thru. Red-bellied Woodpecker: regular QC and Cay L basin. No. Flicker: a pair resorted to nest building in a low stump when most of the large trees were removed in a Pine City block. Pileated Woodpecker: nesting QC early May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Ithaca and Elmira 9 May; Dryden 15 May. E. Wood-Pewee: east of Ithaca 13 April, very early. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: none reported. Acadian Flycatcher: one repeatedly calling Horseheads swamp 23 May. Alder Flycatcher: Sch Co 19 May; Aurora 20 May. Willow Flycatcher: Penn Yan, Elmira, Ithaca, the earliest 11 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: more numerous in Chem. Co. Horned Lark: adults with young Horseheads 18 May. Purple Martin: no encouraging reports. Tree Swallow: nest boxes have benefited these birds tremendously in Phelps, Penn Yan and Elmira areas. Cliff Swallow: returned to nests in Freeville 28 April. Fish Crow: present again Stewart Pk with a possible new location in Aurora. Black-capped Chickadee: nesting in wren house Pine City. Red-breasted Nuthatch: regular at Hector Forest. Winter Wren: two localities in Sch Co April; two singing Roricks Glen area April. Marsh Wren: M 11 May; one QC 19 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: regular Hector Forest. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good migration as all reports were favorable. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: nesting Texas Hollow 25 May. E. Bluebird: nest boxes increased populations Penn Yan area; three nesting pairs near Phelps. Gray-cheeked Thrush: none observed. Swainson's Thrush: scarce Penn Yan and Ithaca; none Elmira. Hermit Thrush: Ithaca April and May only; Connecticut Hill 19 May. Am. Robin: nesting on second story window ledge, re-used same nest when first nestlings preyed upon by Blue Jays. No. Mockingbird: numbers up in Sch Co after scarce in winter. Water Pipit: Cay L area in March and April, only report. No. Shrike: one north of Ithaca airport 17 March. Loggerhead Shrike: one Hammondsport 4 April.

**VIREOS-WARBLED:** **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** banded Penn Yan 29 April, 10 May. Philadelphia Vireo: Penn Yan and M in May. Selected warblers with comments follow. "Brewster's" hybrid: Ithaca and several locations in Elmira. "Lawrence's" hybrid: Ithaca 12 May. Tennessee: numerous Ithaca, Sch Co; singing everywhere Elmira early May. Black-throated Blue: generally scarce. Pine: started visiting suet feeder Watkins Glen 24 March and carrying nesting material 24 April. Cerulean: at least six singing males M 17 May. Prothonotary: one Six Mile Creek 28 April; one Elmira 20 May. Worm-eating: Butter-milk St Pk 15 May; Montour Falls 19 May. No. Waterthrush: returned to nesting area of a hemlock covered ravine in Pine City, very atypical habitat. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one Michigan Hollow 22 May (L. Goodloe). Mourning: reports from four locations. Hooded: reported from Sch Co and Penn Yan; two singing males Dryden 18 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one Elmira 7 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Rose-breasted Grosbeak: at feeder Pine City early May. Am. Tree Sparrow: Ithaca thru late April. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one singing south of Aurora 11 May (K. David). Vesper Sparrow: no comments about increased or decreased numbers. Henslow's Sparrow: at least ten singing birds in nesting area Pine City; none observed in Ithaca area. Lincoln's Sparrow: Horseheads 16 May; Sapsucker Woods 17 May. Bobolink: increased numbers in Phelps and Elmira. Rusty Blackbird: eight M 5 April; QC 11, 17 April; Elmira 19 April. Orchard Oriole: one imm male QC 11, 19 May. Purple Finch: regular Hector Forest; no large flocks in Ithaca. Red Crossbill: three Hector Forest 7 March; ten Watkins Glen St Pk 20 March; a mixed flock of "hundreds" of Red and White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins on Hammond Hill Rd. 23 March; male and female Red Crossbills with three fledglings corner Irish Settlement and Hammond Hill Rds. 20 April. White-winged Crossbill: many sightings Sch Co; 25 to 30 Hector Forest 1 March; four Connecticut Hill 19 May. Evening Grosbeak: small flocks Watkins Glen, Elmira, and Phelps during April and May; flock of hundreds South Danby 7, 8 March.

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## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

In Region Four March 1985 came in like a lamb and went out like a pussy cat. In between were the usual ups and downs of the thermometer and a scattered few showers with only two noteworthy events. On 4 March a warm front/cold front confrontation left 4.1" of snow. And on 12/13 March a violently turbulent snowstorm with winds between 30 and 50 mph left less than an inch. April lived up to its reputation for unpredictability by seesawing from extreme daytime highs to extreme overnight lows, including a few broken records (high 5 April-75°; low 10 April 17°). One very warm week, geese were flying by the thousands and other migrants were definitely on the move, only to be stopped by a period of excessive cold. The month, however, was definitely disappointing as far as "showers" were concerned. Only .96" of precipitation fell, opposed to a normal of 2.24".

The mercury continued to yo-yo throughout May but never stayed long on the up side. Cold Canadian fronts seemed to prevail over warm southerly systems. Meanwhile there was very little accumulated precipitation. There was no spring runoff to push river waters over their banks. Thus no floodplain lagoons were created for dabbling ducks and no rich mudflats for shorebirds. Area counts in both these categories were very low. Farmers, too, were concerned for their crops, until finally the last week of May brought "real" rain. They called it a "million dollar rainfall." It brought our annual precipitation up to 9.14", only 3.57" below the norm of 12.71". We were off the critical list. But it cost our neighbors many millions more as it was accompanied by high winds which developed into damaging, even fatal, tornadoes to our west and north. The month that went out like a lion was May.

We did, however, get a few rarities, such as two Whip-poor-wills Chenango Co. (JL), Tioga Co. (LD), Orange-crowned Warbler, banded Broome Co. (HM), Yellow-throated Warbler, Bainbridge (ML), Prothonotary Warbler Broome Co. (RA), and an Orchard Oriole banded Newark Valley (JB).

The area also had some interesting experiences: One observer watched a female Wood Duck at her nest hole for the last two weeks of the period. "At 7:30 each evening she lands, looks this way and that, then disappears into a knothole 20 ft. up in the main trunk of a large sugar maple. Only once accompanied by the male." (SJ, RM). Another less pleasant report told of a turkey hunter "attacked and struck" by a No. Goshawk. It first hit him on the back of the head without warning or call. It hit him again a second time about 200 yds. from the first attack, leaving deep lacerations about the back of the head and neck (JP, CC). An equally sad report was of a flock of several hundred Bonaparte's Gulls attempting to land at twilight in a cornfield across which stretched two power lines. "Many hit the lines. Several were killed instantly—not by electricity but by impact. Others lay flopping on the ground with broken wings and died shortly thereafter. In all 10 birds were lost." (PR, RM). On a more cheerful note the No. Saw-whet Owl reported in Feb. continued to call thru the first week of

March. It was not heard again till 23 May and has been heard nightly since. At Amber St. Forest, New Berlin, "A Purple Finch male was puffed out, crown raised and drumming like a grouse. A female Purple Finch chased the male. It then flew in the road in front of me carrying about a six inch stick in its beak and continued to drum in the road until chased again by the female." (CC). And finally, incredibly, the presence in Chenango Co. in large numbers of *Red Crossbills*, *White-winged Crossbills* and *Pine Siskins*. Tireless observations and painstaking records have definitely established the successful breeding, nesting and fledging of young in all three species. Congratulations to CC, JL, DM and DW.

Observers: R. Andrus, J/C Baldwin, J. Bell, D. Bell, R. Bennett, L. Bingley, B. Bozdos, W. Breidinger, S. Carey, B. Carmier, L. Clark, M. Clark, C. Covey, L. Dean, M. Dobinsky, Mike Doll, R. Eckhart, R. Fitzgerald, S. Hartman, S. Jewel, G. Kirch, M. Lafayette, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, R. Marsi, D. Messineo, Ron Milliken, L. Prescott, J. Proud, H. Robison, P. Roubie, J. Sedlacek, Julian Shepherd, D. Sortman, H. Snyder, K. Stalter, S. Stiles, W. Toner, S. Waldron, A. Whitaker, F. Whitcomb, K. Wilson, D. Windsor, C. Yates.

Abbreviations: Br—Broome, Chen—Chenango, Co—County, DBC—Delhi Bird Club, OPM—Oneonta-Portlandville-Milford, R—River, reg—regular, sev—several, WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: few reports; one 25 March, one 27 March, both Tioga Co (RE); one 20 April Otsego Co (MD); one 13 May OPM (MD); one 25 May Chen Co (DS). Pied-billed Grebe: three reports: one 28 March WPR (BB, FL, HM); two 30 March Downsville (DBC); one April Tioga Co (RoM). Horned Grebe: three reports: one 28 March WPR (BB, FL, HM); two 11 April WPR (FL, HM); one 29 April OPM (MD, KW). Am. Bittern: one 6 May So. Otselic (DM). Great Blue Heron: normal numbers; first ten 10 March So. Otselic "flying in tight formation" (DM). Green-backed Heron: normal numbers; first March Tioga Co (LD). Mute Swan: two 29 April OPM, two 7 May OPM (MD, KW). Canada Goose: migration continued heavily thru March, tapering off in April with three records of pairs remaining thru May, OPM (MD, KW), Chen Co (DW), So. Otselic (DM). Wood Duck: good numbers; first 18 March WPR (RM). Green-winged Teal: five records; four 11 March Milford (MD); two 18 March OPM (MD, KW); two 27 March WPR (HM, RM); one 28 March Br Co (MiD); two 28 March WPR (BB, FL, HM). Am. Black Duck: eight reports scattered thru. Mallard: normal thru. No. Pintail: three reports: March Tioga Co (CY); ten 18 March WPR (RM, MiD); one 27 March WPR (HM, RM). Blue-winged Teal: 11 reports scattered thru; first three 27 March WPR (HM, RM); last pair 21 May Chen Co (JL). No. Shoveler: one report; March Tioga Co (CY). Gadwall: one April Tioga Co (RoM). Am. Wigeon: two reports; two 21 March Br Co (FL, HM); one 8 April OPM (MD, KW). Canvasback: one Tioga Co (RB). Ring-necked Duck: 11 reports, scattered thru; first 16 May OPM (MD, KW); last 13 April Chen Co (CC). Greater Scaup: two reports: over 100 28 March WPR (RM); 27 11 April WPR (FL, HM). Lesser Scaup: March Tioga Co (C/JB); April Tioga Co (BC); May Chen Co (DW). White-winged Scoter: pair 30 March Homer (SW). Com. Goldeneye: March Tioga Co (sev); April Tioga Co (CY). Bufflehead: three reports; March Tioga Co (CY, RE); seven 11 April WPR (FL, HM); April Tioga Co (RB, BC). Hooded Merganser: 20 reports scattered thru; first two 6 March Br Co (RM); last 27 May Chen Co (JL). Com. Merganser: 15 reports scattered thru; first two 6 March WPR (RM). Red-breasted Merganser: two 3 April OPM (MD, KW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: normal thru; first 21 March OPM (MD, KW). Osprey: 16 reports: first, 29 March Tioga Co (RE); one comment: "Very low count – Otselic R. was clear and fishable and there is no other food source. High April winds from south may



have passed them over" (DM). No. Harrier: 14 reports scattered thru; first 10 March Br Co (JS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: numbers good thru. Cooper's Hawk: 15 reports scattered thru. No. Goshawk: six reports; one 1 April Chen Co (DM); one 5 April, one 27 April Chen Co (JL); one April Tioga Co (RB); nest 25 May Chen Co (DM); one May Cortland Co, struck a hunter (JP, CC). Red-shouldered Hawk: one 27 April Chen Co (JL); one April Tioga Co (BC, RoM, SS); one May Tioga Co (RoM). Broad-winged Hawk: 22 reports scattered thru; first March Tioga Co (RB). Red-tailed Hawk: common thru. Rough-legged Hawk: March Tioga Co (sev); one 2 March Tioga Co (BB, JS). Am. Kestrel: normal thru. Ring-necked Pheasant: one 17 April, one 23 April Br Co (JS); one April, one May Tioga Co; So. Otselic "fall stocked birds surviving" (DM). Ruffed Grouse: normal thru. Wild Turkey: good numbers thru. Com. Moorhen: one nesting Newark Valley (JB, LB, LD). Am. Coot: one 27 March WPR (RM); three 28 March WPR (FL, RM); one 8 April OPM (MD, KW). Killdeer: common thru. Lesser Yellowlegs: one May Tioga Co (RB). Solitary Sandpiper: eight reports scattered thru; first 1 April Chen Co (DW). Spotted Sandpiper: normal thru; first 29 April OPM (MD, KW). Least Sandpiper: two 14 May OPM (MD, KW); one 26 May Chen Co (JL). Com. Snipe: ten reports: all but one Chen Co and OPM; first 17 March Chen Co (JS); one March Tioga Co (RB, CY). Am. Woodcock: common thru; special atlas in Chen Co produced 26 locations, 39 birds (JL). Bonaparte's Gull: several hundred 9 May Br Co (PR, RM). Ring-billed Gull: 14 reports scattered thru; first 17 March WPR (RM); last ten 25 May Otsego L (MD). Herring Gull: normal thru March, April; last three 1 May Br Co (FL, HM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: one 23 May Br Co (GK, HM); one 26 May, one 27 May Chen Co (JL); "common" May Tioga Co. E. Screech-Owl: one April Tioga Co (RE); one adult, 5 fledglings 17 May Chen Co (JL). Great Horned Owl: over 20 reports thru. Barred Owl: one May Br Co (FW); thru May Chen Co (JL); several throughout in conifers So Otselic (DM). **NO. SAW-WHET OWL:** one heard in Feb. continued to call thru first week of March . . . not heard again (though not consistently listened for) till 23 May. Since then nightly thru the period Br Co (GK, HM). Com. Nighthawk: 13 May Binghamton (BB); 28 May Chen Co (CC). **WHIP-POOR-WILL:** one 2 May Chen Co (JL); one May Tioga Co (LD). Chimney Swift: eight reports scattered thru; first 30 April Tioga Co (D/ JB, LD). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: nine reports; first April Tioga Co (LD). Belted Kingfisher: normal thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one March Tioga Co (CY); one 30 April Tioga Co (RE); one May Tioga Co (D/ JB); one 23 May Chen Co (CC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one March, April, May Tioga Co (sev). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: normal thru; first 4 April Delhi (MC). Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: normal thru. No. Flicker: common thru; first migrant 27 March Br Co (RM). Pileated Woodpecker: sparsely regular thru.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: normal thru; first 11 May Chen Co (CC). Acadian Flycatcher: one 28 May Norwich "singing at dusk" (JL). Alder Flycatcher: one 8 May Br Co (HM); one 20 May So. Otselic (DM). Willow Flycatcher: one 20 May, one 23 May OPM (MD, KW); one 23 May Br Co (GK); "common" May Tioga Co (sev). Least Flycatcher: normal thru; first 2 May Tioga Co (sev). E. Phoebe: common thru; first 23 March Br Co (GK). Great Crested Flycatcher: normal thru; first 1 May Br Co (RM). E. Kingbird: normal thru; first 1 May OPM (MD, KW). Horned Lark: nine reports: one March Tioga Co (LB, RE); one 17 March, one 26 April OPM (MD, KW); April Tioga Co (RE); "thruout, one pair on territory" March So. Otselic (DM); 25 17 March, two 16 March, two "feeding young" 4 May, one 18 May, all Chen Co (JL). Purple Martin: one colony 24 April Tioga Co (sev); one colony 13 May Br Co (BB). Tree Swallow: common thru; first 21 March Br Co (HM, RM). No. Rough-winged Swallow: eight reports scattered thru; first 10 May Br Co (BB). Bank Swallow: eight reports scattered thru; first 20 May Delhi (MC). Cliff Swallow: one 30 April So. Otselic (DM); one 18 May Delhi (DBC); five 18 May Chen Co (JL). Barn Swallow: common thru; first 21 April (sev). Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow:

common thru. Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: normal thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: normal thru. White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: normal thru. Carolina Wren: one April Tioga Co (RB). House Wren: common thru; first 20 April Br Co (FL). Winter Wren: five reports: one 5 April Chen Co (JL); one April Tioga Co (LD); one 7 May OPM (MD, KW); one 8 May Br Co (HM); one 18 May Delhi (DBC). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 19 reports: March and April thru; May Chen Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: normal thru; first 11 April WPR (FL, HM); last 18 May Delhi (DBC). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one 18 April Walton (SH); one 27 April Norwich (JL). E. Bluebird: good numbers thru. Veery: normal thru; first 22 April OPM (MD, KW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one 8 May Chen Co (CC). Swainson's Thrush: one 2 May, one 28 May Chen Co (JL); one 13 May Br Co (HM); one 15 May Tioga Co (JB, LB). Hermit Thrush: 14 reports scattered thru; first 20 April Chen Co (JL). Wood Thrush: common thru; first 21 April Tioga Co (CY). Am. Robin: common thru. Gray Catbird: common thru; first 28 April Tioga Co (sev). No. Mockingbird: slight increase in Br, Del and Tioga Cos. Brown Thrasher: normal thru; first 13 April Tioga Co (sev). Water Pipit: one 16 April Tioga Co (CY); two 4 May OPM (MD); one 5 May Chen Co (JL); one 18 May Delhi (DBC). Cedar Waxwing: common thru. No. Shrike: one thru 21 April So. Otselic (DM). Eur. Starling: common thru.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Solitary Vireo: normal thru; first 18 April Br Co (GK, HM). Yellow-throated Vireo: normal thru; first 20 April Del Co (SH). Warbling Vireo: normal thru; first 27 April Tioga Co (LD, RE). Philadelphia Vireo: one report: Tioga Co May (LD). Red-eyed Vireo: common thru; first 8 May Br Co (HM). Blue-winged Warbler: good numbers; first 4 May Br Co (HM). Golden-winged Warbler: one 8 May Br Co (HM); one 13 May Chen Co (JL); one 30 May Chen Co (DM). Tennessee Warbler: unusually high numbers: first 7 May Otsego Co (MD, KW); Tioga Co (JB); bander Br Co banded 35 10-13 May (HM); another bander Tioga Co banded 60 7 thru 18 May (JB). **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:** one banded Br Co 8 May (HM, GK). Nashville Warbler: normal to high numbers; first 19 April Br Co (FL). No. Parula: one 18 May Delhi (DBC); one 19 May Tioga Co (JB); one May Tioga Co (CY). Yellow Warbler: normal thru; first April Tioga Co (LD). Chestnut-sided Warbler: normal thru; first 4 May Tioga Co (sev). Magnolia Warbler: normal thru; first 2 May Br Co (FL, HM). Cape May Warbler: normal thru; first 11 May (sev). Black-throated Blue Warbler: normal thru; first 7 May OPM (MD, KW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: normal thru; first 21 April So. Otselic (DM). Black-throated Green Warbler: normal thru; first 1 May OPM (MD, KW). Blackburnian Warbler: normal thru; first 8 May Chen Co (CC). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one 11-12 April Bainbridge (ML) "on bird feeder just inches from kitchen window . . . morning and late afternoon both days. Song was quite loud, clear, fast and melodious, no buzzes or harsh notes . . . pure yellow under his beak, down his throat to a clean white breast with black streakings along the sides. He showed clear white stripes thru his eyes. There was absolutely no other yellow marking on him save for his throat." Prairie Warbler: one 18 May Chen Co (JL); one May Tioga Co (RoM); decrease from other years. Palm Warbler: one 14 April Tioga Co (LB, RE); one 22 April OPM (MD, KW); one May Tioga Co (LD). Bay-breasted Warbler: normal thru; first 2 May Tioga Co (sev). Blackpoll Warbler: normal thru; first 19 May So. Otselic (DM). Black-and-white Warbler: normal thru; first, April Chen Co (DW), 28 April Tioga Co (RoM). Am. Redstart: normal thru; first 1 May Tioga Co (sev). **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** one 1 May Br Co, at confluence of Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. First seen by RA, confirmed by RF, GK, HM, JuS. Ovenbird: normal thru; first 26 April Tioga Co (RoM). No. Waterthrush: normal thru; first 27 April OPM (DM). Louisiana Waterthrush: normal thru; first 12 April Tioga Co (RoM). Mourning Warbler: normal thru; first 14 May OPM (MD, KW). Com. Yellowthroat: common thru; first 3 May Delhi (MC). Wilson's Warbler: normal thru; first 8 May Chen Co (JL). Canada Warbler: normal thru; first 7 May OPM (MD, KW).

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Scarlet Tanager: normal thru; first, 7 May OPM (MD, KW). No. Cardinal: normal numbers. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: normal thru; first, one female

16 April Homer (WB) very early. Indigo Bunting: normal thru; first 12 May Chen Co (CC). Rufous-sided Towhee: normal thru; first 7 April Tioga Co (sev). Am. Tree Sparrow: last date 29 April Br Co (JS). Chipping Sparrow: common thru; first 7 April Br Co (JS). Field Sparrow: common thru; first 5 April Delhi (MC). Vesper Sparrow: nine reports scattered thru; first two 13 April Br Co (JS); seems to be slightly increasing. Savannah Sparrow: normal thru; first 21 April (sev). Grasshopper Sparrow: normal thru; first 5 May Br Co (JS). Fox Sparrow: five reports; three 30 March 3 locations Chen Co (JL); one 5 April Walton (HS); one April Tioga Co (RB). Low count. Song Sparrow: common thru. Lincoln's Sparrow: two 7 May, one 9 May, one 14 May, one 19 May all Newark Valley banded (JB). Swamp Sparrow: normal thru; first 8 April OPM (MD, KW). White-throated Sparrow: normal thru; first migrants 8 April Chen Co (CC). White-crowned Sparrow: normal thru; first 8 April Br Co (FL); last 18 May Delhi (DBC). Dark-eyed Junco: normal thru. Bobolink: normal thru; first 10 May Chen Co (CC), Delhi (MC). Red-winged Blackbird: normal thru. E. Meadowlark: normal thru; first 11 March OPM (MD, KW). Rusty Blackbird: six 27 March WPR (HM, RM); two April Cortland Co (WT); one 2 May Tioga Co (JB). Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. **ORCHARD ORIOLE**: one 21 May Newark Valley; second year male, banded (JB). No. Oriole: normal thru; first April Tioga Co (LD). Purple Finch: normal thru. House Finch: normal thru. **RED CROSSBILL**: present all period in good numbers in Chen Co (CC, JL, DM, DW). Adequate proof of successful breeding; also present May Del Co (MC), March and May OPM (MD, KW). **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**: present all period in good numbers in Chen Co; successful breeding (JL, DM); fledgling 1 April, Pharsalia Game Management Area (DM); also present in Cortland Co 16 April (WB); 8 April OPM (MD, KW). **PINE SISKIN**: present in good numbers in Chen Co all period; definite nesting records (DM); also reports of a few thru rest of area, last date for these 18 May Delhi (DBC). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. Evening Grosbeak: did not come to feeders until late in season but regular in state forests; last date 26 April Norwich (JL). House Sparrow: common thru.

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## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The Spring 1985 season perhaps was as memorable for its delightful weather as for the variety of birds. All three months averaged two to three degrees above normal, and each had at least short spells of very warm weather. Much of April felt like June. Vegetation was about two weeks ahead of normal. There was no snow at Syracuse during May. Precipitation was about an inch below normal in March and April, and May would have ended the same way except for a deluge on the last day of the month. The season also was rather windy. As the winds were mostly off Lake Ontario, they seldom concentrated migratory birds.

Most observers were disappointed by the migration because of the general lack of migrants, or perhaps better put, the continual presence of small numbers only. There were a few very good dates, notably 28 March, 18 and 22 April, and 5 May. Unfortunately the region picked a cold 18 May, probably the worst day of the entire month, for its "Big Run." Despite the warm weather, there were few very early records. The migration ended early with no late May fallout of thrushes, Tennessee or Blackpoll Warblers. This pattern of migration made it easy to miss species, yet the list compiled for the entire region was long and included several species that are quite unusual here.

There were virtually no irruptives either among raptors or land birds. Numbers of No. Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk were low, and almost no No. Saw-whet Owls were banded along Lake Ontario this season. Similarly, there was no suggestion of a chickadee or nuthatch flight, and almost all winter finch reports came from areas where the species had begun nesting during the late winter. An apparent exception, Purple Finch, produced a massive flight exactly one day in length.

The waterfowl flight generally was very poor, except for the ubiquitous Canada Goose. Snow Geese were found more widely than usual, and more Red-throated Loons were reported than usual. The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase and good numbers were found away from Lake Ontario. Grebes (especially), ducks, gulls and terns were scarce locally. It was an average season for southern herons. There was a good variety of shorebirds, but virtually everything was at Biddlecum in central Oswego Co.

The ornithological event of the season, however, was not the migration at all! Rather, continued monitoring of crossbills in northern Herkimer Co. and in the highlands in southern Madison and Onondaga Cos. yielded nesting records of both species, and also numerous Pine Siskin nestings. In Herkimer Co., Gary Lee found fledged young White-winged Crossbills in four Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks, and observed Red Crossbills nest building at several sites without being able to confirm successful nesting. Dorothy Crumb found fledged crossbills of both species in southern Madison and Onondaga Cos. Red Crossbills were last suspected to nest in this region in 1973, while White-winged Crossbill is a new nesting species for the region. In addition nests and families of Pine Siskins were found by both workers. It is expected that fuller details of this remarkable irruption will appear later in *The Kingbird*.

Observers felt a number of species were unusually scarce this season, with a general pattern that neotropical migrants were less affected than were migratory species which winter in the southeastern United States. Maxima for the migration period certainly support this feeling. The coming Breeding Bird Surveys should provide additional evidence. There were no surprising misses this season, although the absence of Brant, Red Knot and dowitchers come close. Only one each of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Henslow's Sparrow and Orchard Oriole were reported. The great rarities reported included Little Blue Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane, Swainson's Hawk, Stilt Sandpiper, Ruff, Lark Bunting and Yellow-headed Blackbird. More regular rarities reported included Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Thayer's Gull, White-eyed Vireo, and Kentucky Warbler. A total of 249 species plus three morphs and hybrids were reported this season.

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Abbreviations: arr-arrival; DH-Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH-Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, Cayuga Co.; last-last of season; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT-northern Pompey township; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon-Onondaga; ph-photographed; PSS-Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SP-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; StMC-Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.; Syr-Syracuse; twsp-township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: about nine reported LOL to 15 May. Com. Loon: max 50-55/day DH late April-early May, last LOL 20 May. Horned Grebe: max 12 LOL 7 April, none in May. Red-necked Grebe: three singles 23 April to 16 May. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 5 April DH, max 54 there 6 April and eight Otisco L 26 April are indicative of continued increase. Am. Bittern: arr DH 21 April. Least Bittern: only two reported. Great Blue Heron: arr DH 22 March. Great Egret: four singles DH 14-22 April; one PSS 2-4 May. Snowy Egret: one FH 29 April (P & HK). **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: adult DH 16 April (GAS, NYSARC) is tenth regional report, first since 1978. Cattle Egret: adult near DH 16 May (GAS) only report. Green-backed Heron: arr two sites 24 April. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 20 April Poolsbrook. Tundra Swan: one LOL 3 March, 24 Otisco L 27 March (RLP) only reports. Mute Swan: six Lyons Pond, Oneida Co., after 29 March of uncertain origin. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: adult *frontalis* near Port Byron 23 March (RK, PDeB) and adult *flavirostris* irregularly at Biddlecum 23 March-23 April (FGS, JH) are ninth and tenth regional records. Snow Goose: unusually widespread, including 80 Poland 5 April (SH) and noted Holland Patent 17 March (RLE); about 90% were white morph. Canada Goose: max 26,000 Onon Co. 24 March, last count above 100 on 4 May. Wood Duck: arr 11 March Clay, max only 14. Green-winged Teal: arr Scriba 3 March, max 28 Clay 7 April, last ca 5 May. Am. Black Duck: max 70 n Onon Co. 24 March. Mallard: max 185 n Onon Co. 24 Mar. No. Pintail: max 200 n Onon Co. 24 March, last Clay 23 April. Blue-winged Teal: arr 23 March Seneca River Flats, max 44 PSS 14 April. No. Shoveler: to ten/day 27 March to 21 April. Gadwall: max 26 FH 2 March, last PSS 5 May. Am. Wigeon: max 30 PSS 18 April, last Poolsbrook 5 May. Canvasback: max 210 FH 2 March, last there 24 March, early departure. Redhead: max 110 FH 2 March, last there 24 March, early departure. Ring-necked Duck: max 130 PSS 24 April, last Clay Marsh 23 April. Greater Scaup: max 400 FH 9 March, last PSS 27 April. Lesser Scaup: max 160 DH 23 March, last LOL 18 April. Oldsquaw: 30 Otisco L 13 April good count away from LOL; last DH 12 May. White-winged Scoter: late season push to 20/day LOL and Oneida L 22 April-16 May. Com. Goldeneye: max 230 LOL 2 March, last DH 23 April. Bufflehead: max 56 FH 24 March, last DH 4 May. Hooded Merganser: max 41 LOL 16 March, only locals after 28 March, early departure. Com. Merganser: last DH 2 May. Red-breasted Merganser: max 400 LOL 23 March, last DH 16 May. Ruddy Duck: singles Beaver L 4 April Biddlecum 22-27 April.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: see table for DH summary. Turkey Vulture and Broad-winged Hawk set record max, but overall total is about 60% of 1984 total. Bald Eagle: three others reported away from DH. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: singles DH 14 and 22 April (GAS, mob, NYSARC) are sixth and seventh regional reports. Golden Eagle: singles also noted Poland 5 April (SH) and Canastota 7 May (MS). Peregrine Falcon: singles DH 18 and 30 April. Ruffed Grouse: continues scarce. **SANDHILL CRANE**: adult DH 22 April (GAS, NYSARC) is eighth regional record. Virginia Rail: arr 13 April PSS. Sora: arr 20 April PSS. Com. Moorhen: arr DH 25 April. Am. Coot: last 21 April Poolsbrook. Black-bellied Plover: three singles Biddlecum 5-21 May. Semipalmated Plover: arr 16 May, max 24 on 21 May, last 27 May, most Biddlecum. Killdeer: arr 2 March, max 56 LOL 24 March. Willet: adult DH 12 May

(GAS). Greater Yellowlegs: arr Biddlecum 7 April, max 17 there 18 April, last there 27 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr DH 6 April, last Biddlecum 27 May. Solitary Sandpiper: to four/day 6 April (record early) to 27 May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 21 April. Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 18 April. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 16 May, max 20 two dates. Least Sandpiper: arr Biddlecum 5 May, max 45 there 19-20 May, last 29 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: single Biddlecum 21 May, three there 27 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Beaver L 4 April, max 41 Biddlecum 27 April, last 4 May. Dunlin: arr Biddlecum 20 April, max 95 there 21 May, last there 29 May. **STILT SANDPIPER**: three adults Biddlecum 16 May (FGS, MSR) third regional Spring report. **RUFF**: female Biddlecum 21 May (FGS, JH, DWC), fourth and latest regional spring record. **Com. Snipe**: arr 27 March DH. **Am. Woodcock**: arr Schroepel 16 March. **Wilson's Phalarope**: females Biddlecum 16-17 May and 23 May, male there 24-27 May (FGS, mob). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr DH 14 April, max 40 Oswego 18 May high. **Ring-billed Gull**: max only 3000 FH 14 March. **Herring Gull**: max only 300 FH 14 March. **THAYER'S GULL**: imm Oswego 21-23 March (FGS, PDeB, RK, NYSARC). **Iceland Gull**: last Salmon R mouth 15 March. **Glaucous Gull**: last FH 9 March. **Caspian Tern**: arr DH 11 April. **Com. Tern**: arr Constantia 5 May, late. **Black Tern**: arr DH 10 May, scarce.

#### Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals - 1984

Species	Arrival	Max -	Date	Last	90% Date Range*	Total
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar.	433	-	6 Apr. 30 May	27 Mar. - 9 May	1623
Osprey	4 Apr.	32	-	14 Apr. 31 May	14 Apr. - 17 May	268
Bald Eagle	7 Mar.	2	-	20 May		15
No. Harrier	24 Feb.	102	-	14 Apr. 30 May	10 Mar. - 5 May	592
Sharp-sh. Hawk	11 Mar.	1074	-	15 Apr. 31 May	5 Apr - 15 May	4587
Cooper's Hawk	1 Mar.	46	-	27 Mar. 30 May	11 Mar. - 24 Apr.	373
No. Goshawk	1 Mar.	4	-	1 Mar. 24 Apr.	1 Mar. - 24 Apr.	21
Red-shld. Hawk	1 Mar.	114	-	19 Mar. 9 May	10 Mar. - 15 Apr.	520
Broad-wngd. Hawk	11 Apr.	18493	-	22 Apr. 31 May	21 Apr. - 31 May	27924
Red-tailed Hawk	13 Feb.	610	-	14 Apr. 30 May	8 Mar. - 24 Apr.	4474
Rough-iggd. Hawk	21 Feb.	17	-	14 Apr. 29 Apr.	5 Mar. - 21 Apr.	149
Golden Eagle	11 Mar.	4	-	4 May		13
American Kestrel	7 Mar.	164	-	5 Apr. 30 May	16 Mar. - 18 Apr.	551
Merlin	5 Apr.	4	-	14 Apr. 10 May		15
Grand total (including unidentified, rarities):						41430

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

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 12 May Poolsbrook, scarce. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only report 21 May Toad Harbour. Long-eared Owl: seven banded Noyes Sanctuary 29 March-15 April. Short-eared Owl: one DH 6 April. No. Saw-whet Owl: five banded Noyes Sanctuary 28 March-14 April; road kill Poland 5 April; calling Old Forge area thru season. **Com. Nighthawk**: arr DH 12 May. **Chimney Swift**: arr Oswego 30 April. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: arr widespread 10 May. **Belted Kingfisher**: arr DH 23 March. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr DH 9 May, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr Cold Brook 5 April, last migrants StMC 5 May. **No. Flicker**: max 149 DH 15 April.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Old Forge 15 May. **E. Wood-pewee**: arr DH 2 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr Quiver Pond 16 May. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr s Onon Co. 18 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: arr StMC 17 May. **Least Flycatcher**: arr DH 5 May. **E. Phoebe**: arr DH 28 March. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: arr Pumpkin Hollow 4 May. **E. Kingbird**: arr DH 23 April. **Purple Martin**: arr DH 18 April. **Tree Swallow**: arr 24 March PSS, max 900 DH 14 April. **No. Rough-winged Swallow**: arr Holland Patent 4 April. **Bank Swallow**: arr DH 18 April. **Cliff Swallow**: arr DH 21 April. **Barn Swallow**: arr DH 21 April. **Blue Jay**: first migrants DH 22 April. **Am. Crow**: DH total 32,465, 80% of 1984 total. **Brown Creeper**: max 13 LOL 7 April. **Carolina Wren**: single StMC after 15 April only report.

House Wren: arr widespread 23 April. Winter Wren: migrants very scarce 15 April to 5 May. Marsh Wren: arr DH 4 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 50 LOL 17 April, last StMC 2 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr StMC 6 April, max only 16 LOL 20 April, last FH 21 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr PSS 20 April. Veery: arr LOL 5 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr StMC 22 May. Swainson's Thrush: arr StMC 10 May. Hermit Thrush: migrants scarce 12 April to 9 May. Wood Thrush: arr StMC 1 May. Am. Robin: max 900 DH 28 March; a nest built on the ground in Jamesville was unsuccessful (Ben Burt *vide* DWC). Gray Catbird: arr 1 May StMC. Brown Thrasher: arr StMC 16 April. Water Pipit: arr DH 14 March, max 110 LOL 13 April, last. No. Shrike: last FH 2 March. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: singles LOL 23 March, 11 April (FGS); one Chenango Forks 2 May (RLE).

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: White-eyed Vireo: one StMC 15 May (REL). Solitary Vireo: migrants 30 April-11 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Camillus 2 May. Warbling Vireo: arr Poland 22 April (SH). Philadelphia Vireo: migrants 3-23 May. Red-eyed Vireo: arr DH 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr 5 May StMC. Golden-winged Warbler: record StMC 30 April; about six hybrids reported, including two black-throated birds. Tennessee Warbler: migrants 5-30 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one Syr 16 May (PDeB). Nashville Warbler: record early StMC 26 April. No. Parula: migrants 2-21 May. Yellow Warbler: arr widespread 23 April. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr widespread 5 May. Magnolia Warbler: arr 3 May StMC. Cape May Warbler: migrants 5-20 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: migrants 30 April-21 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 5 April, max 1100 LOL 5 May, last there 23 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: migrants 30 April-29 May. Blackburnian Warbler: migrants 5-29 May. Pine Warbler: arr widespread 21 April. Palm Warbler: migrants 2-12 May, record max 45 LOL 5 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr StMC 5 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr StMC 11 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr two sites 5 May. Black-and-white Warbler: arr Camillus 2 May. Am. Redstart: arr Noyes Sanctuary 29 April. Ovenbird: arr widespread 5 May, present Old Forge 8 May. No. Waterthrush: arr Pumpkin Hollow 4 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early s Pompey twsp 16 April. Kentucky Warbler: three males central Onon Co 12-18 May. Mourning Warbler: arr 13 May StMC. Com. Yellowthroat: arr 2 May Camillus, present Limekiln L 8 May. Hooded Warbler: arr StMC 10 May. Wilson's Warbler: migrants 12-29 May. Canada Warbler: migrants 7-27 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one StMC 31 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Scarlet Tanager: arr widespread 7 May, max 32 LOL 12 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Camillus 2 May. Indigo Bunting: arr StMC 10 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr NPT 24 March. Am. Tree Sparrow: scarce, last Biddlecum 20 April. Chipping Sparrow: record early 6 April StMC (REL). Field Sparrow: arr Bolivar 29 March. Vesper Sparrow: arr DH 7 April, scarce. **LARK BUNTING**: three males Earlville 3 May (Ed & Marion Covey *vide* CC, NYSARC), second regional report. Savannah Sparrow: arr Oswego Co. 7 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Warners 11 May. Henslow's Sparrow: one W. Monroe 23 May (MSR) only report. Fox Sparrow: migrants scarce 29 March to 14 April. Song Sparrow: reported regularly after 14 March. Lincoln's Sparrow: migrants 5-22 May, arr Old Forge 8 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr 24 March PSS. White-throated Sparrow: migrants 7 April to 21 May, no large counts reported. White-crowned Sparrow: max 55 LOL 5 May, last there 16 May. Lapland Longspur: three reported DH 28 March to 4 April. Snow Bunting: last DH 28 March. Bobolink: arr Oswego Co. 5 May. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: imm male Cicero 16-18 April (FGS, DWC, JH), female Mexico 5-9 May (ph Rosanne Russ *vide* GAS, NYSARC), are eighth and ninth regional records. Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 DH 28 March. E. Meadowlark: arr Seneca River Flats 14 March. Rusty Blackbird: arr Seneca River Flats 2 March. Com. Grackle: max 40,000 DH 28 March. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 20,000 DH 28 March. Orchard Oriole: adult male n Camillus 18 May (PDeB, RK). No. Oriole: arr Camillus 2 May. Purple Finch: record (for state) max 8000 DH 28 March (DWC, FGS); Field Note submitted. Dark-eyed Junco: last Camillus 19 May. Com. Redpoll: three reports up to four, last 16 March. Evening Grosbeak: 200 Cold Brook 5 April (SH) only large number reported.

*CORRIGENDA.* Vol. 34: 192; Rusty Blackbird: arr should read S. Onon 27 March. Golden Eagle: max 11 (not 22). Vol. 34: 254; Acadian Flycatcher: correct locality is Maple Hill, Oswego Co. Vol. 35: 55-56; Lesser Golden-Plover: last 12 (not 10) Nov. Hudsonian Godwit: arr and max 16 SP 2 Sept., last there 6 Sept.; one Delta L 5 Sept. (omitted). Solitary Vireo: arr FH (not SH). Connecticut Warbler: one E. Syr 5 Oct. (JL) only report (also omitted).

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## REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

This year's mild snow-free spring was marked by few surprises. For the three month period both temperatures and precipitation were normal. March began with little snow accumulation, except on Tug Hill. The only major snow for the period was several inches on 4-5 March followed by below zero temperatures. There were only five days with temperatures minimally above freezing, and 11 days had measurable precipitation. Ice was out of eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River by April first. April was mild and dry. Wet snow 1-2 April followed by the coldest weather of the month on the 9th and 10th brought numbers of winter residents and early arrivals to the feeders. A warm spell the 20th to 23rd was marked by temperatures in the 70's. Rain fell only three days during the second half of the month. May continued warm and dry with only a few frosts. In spite of the early snow melt and a warm April, cool damp weather in early May delayed spring arrivals. A southerly air flow 9-11 May produced an extraordinary influx of neotropical migrants. I recorded at least 20 arrivals with two weeks worth of everything from Common Yellowthroat to Bay-breasted Warbler compressed into one day.

A total of 180 species was reported including 23 Anatids and 26 warblers. There are increasing numbers of Turkey Vultures in southern St. Lawrence Co. and of House Finches in the Canton area. Otherwise little is new on range expansions—one report each for Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, and No. Mockingbird. We had no reports for Red-throated Loon or Horned Grebe, but this probably reflects a dearth of observers. There were *no* reports for the following locally occurring species on the Blue List and/or State or Federal lists: Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Spruce Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Com. Barn-Owl, E. Screech-Owl, Com. Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, and Henslow's Sparrow. Down as well are Blue-winged Teal, Upland Sandpiper and Black Tern.

On the up side are Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, kinglets, E. Bluebird, Veery, and Brown Thrasher—not to mention Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, and especially Purple Finch. Noteworthy was several Grasshopper Sparrows in Jeff. Co. and continued successful nesting of Bald Eagles as well as Ospreys and No. Harriers. Our only rarity was another(!) Tricolored Heron.



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Abbreviations: BSF—Brasher State Forest; EDB—Eldorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.—Jefferson Co.; PR—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; RMSP—Robert Moses State Park; St. Law. Co.—St. Lawrence Co.; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: none reported; are we missing this species? Com. Loon: arr one SLR north of Massena 19 April; a few other reports of one to three per day to mid-May but generally scarce; as usual scattered pairs present along SLR and one pair at ULL in late May are probably attempting to breed. Pied-billed Grebe: reports of this blue-listed species were definitely up this spring; arr ULLWMA 2 April; four PRWMA 9 April (LBC); max seven Massena area 16 April (MB, BB); two Brasher State Forest, one WHWMA 19 April (JVR). Horned Grebe: none reported. Double-crested Cormorant: usually common in n.e. Lake Ontario from mid-April on but information for 1985 before mid-May is lacking; max 84 EDB 27 May (GAS); SLR reports include regional arr one RMPD 16 April; six north of Massena 6 May; 21 RMPD 21 May; 14 Chippewa Bay, St. Law. Co. 21 May. Am. Bittern: two Town of Fine April-May (PO); regular at ULL; several reports Massena area (MB, BB, JVR). Least Bittern: one Massena area 13 May (MB, BB) only report. Great Blue Heron: arr Oswegatchie R. 19 March and Hen. Pd. 25 March; max 14 Massena area 17 April; two to four per day scattered in most areas mid-March on; much more common within 10-20 miles of breeding colonies. Great Egret: one ULLWMA 2 April (KC); one near Ellisburg 19 April; two records of this locally rare species in a single season are not unexpected in light of multiple observations of northbound individuals at nearby Derby Hill Bird Observatory in Region 5. **TRICOLORED HERON**: one EDB 18 May, being harassed by gulls (LBC report to NYSARC) is the second report for that location and the second regional report. Green-backed Heron: Chamberlaine comments that numbers are up in the Henderson area two ULL 24 May; four to six per day at EDB in late May (GAS). Black-crowned Night-Heron: one Hawkins Pt., Massena only report. Mute Swan: four at PRWMA through period (LBC) is continued evidence of the potential for expansion of the limited local population. Snow Goose (white morph): an excellent spring with the following reports: arr 24 Massena area 16 March (MB, BB); one to two Hen. Pd. 17-24 March; 41-43 there 25-29 March (LBC); 45 Brownville 29 March (WG); 108 Ellisburg 2 April (SS); 344 there 3 April (LBC, SS) is an extraordinary number for this region; dep six SLR near Massena 20 April (JVR)—a major influx for a species that seems to be increasing here; (blue morph), three reports all from Hen. Pd. (LBC); three 24 March; one 27 March; one 13 April. Brant: 300 over Watertown, 13 May (LBC); 200+ Brownville 21 May (SL *vide* LBC); 250 in scattered flocks of 20-65 along the SLR between Clayton and Massena 21-23 May (GAS); 18 SLR near Clayton 2 June (GAS). Canada Goose: arr 20 Hen. Pd. 1 March, more common than usual during March and April; max daily count 16,000 Hen. Pd. 25 March; during his extensive March-April watch there Chamberlaine recorded 183 of this species marked with neck collars; dep Hen. Pd. May; broods of eastern SLR resident population by 11 May, a little later than usual (JVR). Wood Duck: scattered reports of one to three per day April-May. Green-winged Teal: max ten Hen. Pd. 30 March; scarce otherwise. Am. Black Duck: scarce; most reports less than five per day; primarily before mid-April; 16 Massena area GAP; max 40 Black R near Dexter 19 March (SH). No. Pintail: arr three LWMA and 20 Hen. Pd. 14 March; max 200 Ellisburg 4 April; dep two SLR Massena 19 April. Blue-winged Teal: arr five Hen. Pd. 30 March; max 12 Massena area 14 April; most reports two to four per day; scarce; "not present in numbers of a few years ago" (LBC); showing strong evidence of a decline locally and should be closely watched. No. Shoveler: singles Hen. Pd. 30 March and 11 April; ULLWMA 1 May. Gadwall: arr two L. Ont. off Stony Pt. 15 March (SH); max 34 Massena area 6 April (MB, BB); six to ten per day WHWMA April (JVR); nesting pairs scattered through SLR during late May (GAS). Am.

Wigeon: arr one LWMA 13 March; maxs 65 Massena area 6 April (MB, BB) and 40 Ellisburg 7 April (SS); most migrants gone by 20 April; E. SLR breeding population two to four per day in May. Canvasback: 40 Black River Bay area, 19 March (SH) is only report. Redhead: no reports. Ring-necked Duck: arr 25 Black R. area 19 March; excellent numbers present at state WMAs during April include 160-220 PRWMA 9-10 April (LBC); 50-200 per day WHWMA thru April (JVR); dep 12 there 9 May. Greater Scaup: max 200-300 per day along L. Ontario during March. Lesser Scaup: four SLR north of Massena 16 April is only report. Oldsquaw: one Cape Vincent SLR 19 March and eight there 2 April (SH) are only reports. Com. Goldeneye: 25-75 per day along L. Ontario March-early April; six WHWMA through April. Bufflehead: arr two PRWMA 14 April, five to 15 per day L. Ontario March-early April; max 26 Massena area 6 April; two to ten per day WHWMA April, dep four there 11 May. Hooded Merganser: arr one LWMA 13 March; max 4 Black River Bay area 19 March (SH) is a good spring count; one to four per day WHWMA April; dep two there 11 May. Com. Merganser: maxs 80 Black R. Bay area 19 March, 90 Massena area 6 April; two to 20 per day WHWMA and SLR N of Massena April; a few still present SLR May; pairs present several locations in Oswegatchie, (PO) may be breeders.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr one ULLWMA 19 March-early for interior St. Law. Co.; one to four per day at scattered lowland areas during April and May. Osprey: arr one PRWMA 11 April; one to two per day scattered areas primarily during April; singles present along L. Ontario during May and early June are probably non-breeders. Bald Eagle: no reports of migrants. The Jeff. Co. nest contained two young and one unhatched egg in May (LBC). No. Harrier: individuals present Lake Ontario area in early March (SH) are probably successful winterers; one to five per day from all reporting observers mid-March through early May; numbers of migrants reported seem up; one Rodman; Jeff. Co. 29 May (LBC) is possible breeder; a confirmed breeding of a pair at nest containing four eggs in a cattail marsh near West Potsdam, (PO). Sharp-shinned Hawk: six migrating over Massena 22 April (JVR) occurred on the same date as the largest flight of all hawks at the Derby Hill Bird Observatory; three other reports of singles during late April and May. Cooper's Hawk: one harassing ducks at Hen. Pd. 30 March (LBC); one So. Colton St. Law. Co. 21 April (JG); one Henderson 12 May (LBC) only reports. No. Goshawk: migrants were noted only at Henderson with one each 17 March and 20 April; one calling at Wanakena, St. Law. Co. 6 April (PO) is a likely local breeder. Broad-winged Hawk: the only reports of migrants were of a few boils over Massena during the third week of April (JVR); probably breeders present in southeastern St. Law. Co. from 29 April on (PO). Red-tailed Hawk: most reports are one to five per day; four migrating over Massena 20 April. Rough-legged Hawk: one Canton 18 March; one migrating over Massena 22 April (JVR) are the only reports. Very scarce since fall of 1984. Am. Kestrel: two to five per day scattered in most lowland areas during March and April, fewer in May; max 12 Massena area (MB, BB); numbers down on the Jeff. Co. lake plain (LBC). Gray Partridge: three Massena area 27 March (MB, BB) only report. Ring-necked Pheasant: three Massena area 13 April only report. Wild Turkey: two ULL 15 March; four reports of one to two near Pierrepont (KC) in May; one near Oswegatchie, Town of Fine, 18 May. Chamberlaine reports that the first Spring gobbler hunting season in this area was successful from the sportsmen's standpoint with 50 plus being harvested. Virginia Rail: four RMSP 17 April (JVR) and six Massena area, possibly including the preceding, on the same date (MB, BB) are the only reports. Sora: three Massena area 13 May and 3 WH 14 May only reports. Am. Coot: one Dexter Marsh, Jeff. Co. 26 March and one ULLWMA 21 April are only reports. Greater Yellowlegs: two Henderson 13 April is only report. Solitary Sandpiper: four scattered singles were reported between 11 and 17 May. Spotted Sandpiper: one to four per day present most areas after 29 April. Upland Sandpiper: very scarce as the only report is one Pierrepont 22 May (KC). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 19 Gull Island SLR near Clayton 21 May and 12 EDB 6 June are the only reports. Dunlin: a total of 450 in flocks of 20-150 scattered along the western SLR on small islands 21 May only report. Com.

Snipe: arr Henderson 11 April fairly common two to six per day in many areas. Am. Woodcock: arr Pierrepont 21 March; few reports. Bonaparte's Gull: arr one RMPD 15 April; 52 there 16 April, zero the next day; 12 SLR near Chippewa Bay 21 May. Ring-billed Gull: everywhere in lowland areas. Herring Gull: only comment is fewer at Massena (JVR). Great Black-backed Gull: only comment is few at Massena (JVR). Com. Tern: arr SLR near Massena 9 May; at usual breeding colonies during late May. Caspian Tern: only report is one to three per day at EDB during late May (GAS). Black Tern: a few ULL mid-April but not later; one Massena area 4 May and one to two per day EDB late May are only reports. Is this species growing ever more scarce?

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: two reports each Louisville and ULL 21-24 May. Great Horned Owl: three successful nestings Canton, ULL and Morely. Barred Owl: one Louisville 8 April. Whip-poor-will: one Canton 11 May, only report. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Canton and Henderson 10 May. Belted Kingfisher: arr Watertown 30 March, Louisville 6 April. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Pierrepont 9 April, abundant thereafter. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Henderson thru 12 April. No. Flicker: migrants common 23 April thru early May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: several Louisville and Canton 17 May thru. E. Phoebe: arr Pierrepont 6 April; still down in Jeff. Co. (LC). Purple Martin: arr 40 Louisville 20 April (MB). Tree Swallow: arr Henderson 5 April. Bank Swallow: arr 200 Pierrepont dump 2 May. Cliff Swallow: arr 12 RMSP 19 April. Com. Raven: regular thru at Cranberry L dump and other southern St. Law. Co. locations (PO). Tufted Titmouse: last seen in Henderson in May, only report. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Canton 4 April; Massena area and BSF 15-21 April; max 22 Louisville 17 April (MB). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Massena area 17 April thru 10 May (MB, JVR). E. Bluebird: arr Russell 23 March; pair displaced from nest box by Tree Swallows Pierrepont 14 April; nesting pairs Pierrepont, Canton (ULL), Louisville. Veery: arr Massena 6 May. Hermit Thrush: Canton 23 April; Louisville 18 May. Am. Robin: second broods fledging late May (LC). No. Mockingbird: one RMSP thru 19 April. Brown Thrasher: arr DePeyster 22 April. Cedar Waxwing: max 86 Louisville 3 March; other scattered reports.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: up this year; arr Canton 25 April. Philadelphia Vireo: one Louisville 21 May (MB). There were reports for all expected warblers but Golden-winged, Cerulean, and Mourning; arrival dates for most species were 6-10 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr early May, which is late. Pine Warbler: arr Massena 19 April. Palm Warbler: one Macomb 22 April (KC). Wilson's Warbler: one ULL 23 May (KC). Canada Warbler: two reports St. Law. Co. late May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Canton 10 May. Indigo Bunting: arr Henderson 12 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Massena 19 April. Field Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 21 April. Vesper Sparrow: arr RMSP 14 April. Grasshopper Sparrow: two Limerick Cedars Preserve, Jeff. Co. 28 May (SH). Fox Sparrow: one BSF 19 April (JVR). Song Sparrow: arr Pierrepont 25 March. White-throated Sparrow: arr 7 April (LC). White-crowned Sparrow: rapid movement 5-11 May (LC, JVR). Dark-eyed Junco: max 20 Brasher State Forest 19 April. Snow Bunting: max 62 Pillar Pt. 5 March; dep. Canton 7 April. Bobolink: arr Canton and Massena 10 May. No. Oriole: arr 8-10 May. Purple Finch: unusually abundant; 20 to 30 per day at feeder thru early April (JVR); heavy movement 8-10 March (LC). House Finch: pair Pierrepont 10 April. White-winged Crossbill: pair BSF 19 April. Com. Redpoll: a few at feeder in Wanakena early March (PO)—almost only report all year. Pine Siskin: at feeder thru 7 May (KC); 20 Brasher Ctr. 27 May; many Tug Hill late May. Evening Grosbeak: max 45 Pierrepont 3 March; only a few Henderson; 10 to 40 per day late April.

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## REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Although the season began pleasantly, with a sunny, warm 1 March that saw a high of 57°F at Plattsburgh, snow began to fall about noon on 4 March, and before midnight Indian Lake already had 10". This was the biggest storm of the season and fifteenth on the list of the all-time March snowfalls. By 5 March the depths varied from just 6" at Malone to 16" at Elizabethtown and Peru. Newcomb felt temperatures fall to -17°F on 7 March and then again on 19 March. Plattsburgh thermometers climbed to the 60's on 27-28 March, but Newcomb was 22° on 29 March. Monthly temperatures averaged several degrees above normal, but seasonal averages remained over seven degrees below normal, and only 45% sunshine penetrated during March. Lake Champlain stood at 97.30' on 31 March.

All Fools' Day was marked by three to five inches of sleet and snow over the region, but by 5 April it was 53° in balmy Plattsburgh. Cool temperatures then set in, blocking any major waves of arrivals through the first half of the month, while up to seven and one-half feet of snow covered the summits of the High Peaks in mid-April. Finally, a high pressure system to the north and stalled frontal system to the south encouraged hawkwatchers to get out. Coot Hill had 70 birds 20 April, one (!) on 21 April, 29 on 22 April, and seven migrants on 30 April. Hollis White discovered a new hawkwatch at Hogansburg on the St. Regis Indian Reservation, counting 49 birds on 24 April and 44 birds on 25 April; hawks were approaching from the southwest, presumably following the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario. During the four days between 20-30 April a total of 107 migrant raptors were counted from Coot Hill, plus another 93 passing Hogansburg 24-25 April.

The first week of May saw cool nights (19° at Newcomb on 4 May), but warming days that brought good migrant waves by the second week. This marked the tenth consecutive year of spring bird-banding operations on Crown Point peninsula, with about ten nets open from 10-15 May. The migration was exceptional, and a record 429 individuals of 43 species (also a new record) were banded. Variety is suggested by the 19 species of warblers banded, with Yellow-rumped (181), Tennessee (39 plus a foreign retrap), and Yellow (29) most numerous. Monthly temperatures were just slightly warmer than long-term averages. There were 3.53" precipitation for the month and 51% sunshine. Champlain was 40° at the start of May, 50° by the end, and dropping from 97.98' to 96.61', providing additional nesting areas around the shingle beaches of the Four Brothers Islands for Herring Gulls and a few Com. Mergansers. A total of 179 species was reported, much lower than last year, although this was judged by all a "better" spring.

On 21 May, non-toxic rhodamine green liquid dye was sprayed on each active Ring-billed Gull nest on Island C of the Four Brothers, site of the largest colony on Lake Champlain. A joint team from High Peaks Audubon, the Adirondack Conservancy, Huntington Wildlife Forest, and the University of Vermont counted and marked 16,329 active nests and, since both parents share incubation

duties, a potential 32,658 adults could have been marked. Four days earlier, 10,558 nests on Young Island (or South Sister), Vermont, were sprayed with red dye, representing perhaps 21,116 adult gulls with pink bellies. The project is being conducted by U. of Vt. graduate student Diane Jay and will attempt to delineate "A Population Model of Ring-billed Gulls on Lake Champlain." If each breeding adult picked up the dye, as many as 53,774 nesting birds could have been marked this year, making this apparently the largest color-marking project undertaken anywhere in the world. The dye usually shows as a faint greenish tinge or pinkish blush on the gulls' bellies, often only visible with binoculars. The color-marking will help identify the foraging range of Ring-billed Gulls from these two largest Champlain colonies as a first step towards understanding their population dynamics. The dye lasted into July and disappeared with the post-breeding molt in late summer. Reports of summer 1985 sightings would be appreciated and will be forwarded to Diane Jay.

Nesting by crossbills and siskins continued into the spring season. There were few seasonal rarities, although several individuals showed up in surprising locations like the Upland Sandpiper walking about in Newcomb.

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**LOONS - DUCKS:** A **RED-THROATED LOON** in basic plumage was on Bulwagga Bay near the tip of Crown Point peninsula 11 May (TB, GF, JP). First Com. Loon was on Mt. View L. 19 April (JT), with a max. 11 at Westport 6 May (JP, WP). A Pied-billed Grebe was at Port Henry beach 31 March (CW) and Westport had six Horned Grebes 6 May. Two Double-crested Cormorants were at Port Henry by 17 April and were nest-building on Islands A and B of the Four Brothers through May. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Westport by 6 May and nest-building on Islands A, B, and D of the Four Brothers by the end of the month. The Snow Goose migration seemed concentrated, with over 500 rafted off Crown Point peninsula 20 April, 35 at Tupper Lake Marsh 21 April, and the last on Mountain View L. 22 April. Tupper L. had three No. Pintails 31 March, and Mountain View L. had a pair of Blue-winged Teal 19 April. No. Shoveler: male, Whallon's Bay 16 March (CW). Pairs of Gadwalls were seen on Bulwagga Bay and around the Four Brothers Islands during May. Whallon's Bay had a Canvasback 16 March. Five Ring-necked Ducks arr. Tupper L. 23 March, max. 68 on 7 April, pairs in May. Whallon's Bay had 30 Lesser Scaup 16 March. Rather unexpected was the pair of Oldsquaws on Mountain View L. 22-23 April (JT), not to be outdone by the adult male White-winged Scoter that stopped on Harris L. 23 May (A & WC)! Com. Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, and Com. Mergansers were widely reported, with a number of sightings from inland lakes. Com. Mergansers were nesting on the Four Brothers, as usual, but less usual was the sight of one dropping down the chimney of an abandoned house in Whallonsburg 14 April (BB). Six pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers were on L. Champlain by 31 March, and a pair at Westport 6 May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Add to the January sightings a Turkey Vulture at Inlet on 12 March (GL) and one hunting over snow-covered fields at Westport on 2 April (GC); max. 11 Coot Hill 20 April. Ospreys arr. at Owls Head and Tupper L. 6 April; max. 10 Hogansburg 25 April. Bald Eagle: adult Whallon's Bay 1 March (JPa); adult Tupper L. 1-31 March; imm. Tupper L. 1 March-7 April (CD); two adults Conifer 15 March; two adults Raquette Pond 31 March; one, 27 April (RM). No. Harrier: max. 3 Hogansburg 25 April. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max. 7 Coot Hill 20 April; Cooper's Hawk: max. one Coot Hill 22 April and Elizabethtown 25 April; No. Goshawk: max. 2 Hogansburg 25 April. Red-shouldered Hawk: max. two at Coot Hill and at Belfrey Mt. on 20 April. Broad-winged Hawk: max. 11 Coot Hill 22 April. Red-tailed Hawk: max. 29 Coot Hill 20 April. Rough-legged Hawk: max. two Hogansburg 24 and 25 April. Golden Eagle: Coot Hill 20 April (HPAS); Moody Pond 3 May (MB, WC)-6 May (D & MB). Am. Kestrel: no more than one in a single day seen at Coot Hill or Hogansburg. Merlin: one, Hogansburg 24 April; adult female roadkill found near New Russia about 8 May (PT). A Peregrine Falcon appeared to be hunting locally at Coot Hill on 30 April (GC), while pairs were Confirmed nesting near Keene Valley and Wilmington for the first time in many years, and other pairs frequented sites near Hawkeye and Westport through May; this brings the list of species Confirmed in the region since 1980 to 186! An Upland Sandpiper was somewhat of a surprise at Newcomb 21 May (A & WC). Ticonderoga had Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and a Dunlin 18 May (DR), while Bulwagga Bay had five Least Sandpipers 21 May (GC); otherwise the spring shorebird migration was about as uninspired as usual in this region. An Am. Woodcock nest with eggs had hatched by 12 May at Tupper Lake (CD). The census of Ring-billed Gulls on the Four Brothers colony on Island C showed a slight decline for the second straight year to 16,329 active nests, from a high of 17,347 in 1983. While Ring-bills are confined to Island C, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls are distributed over all four islands.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** A nestling Great Horned Owl came down in a logging operation near Altona 7 May (PJ) and is being reared at the raptor center at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Barred Owl owlets began peeking out of their nest hole near Paradox 13 May and the younger, still incapable of flight, was perched in a balsam below 17 May, perhaps pushed out by its larger sibling (MB). No. Saw-whet Owls began calling at Tupper Lake 1 March, Moody Pond 3 March, Elizabethtown 9 March, and heard at St. Regis Pond 27 April. Whip-poor-will: arr. Witherbee 25 April (CW). Red-headed Woodpeckers were found nesting near Ticonderoga, Three-toed Woodpeckers at Ferd's Bog.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** Olive-sided Flycatcher: Dix Pond 23 May; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Moose Mt. Pond 15 May (MB). Horned Lrk: Crown Point 7 March (JB). Purple Martin: Westport 6 May. Two Gray Jays were carrying nesting material at Sabattis Road Bog 23 March (F & RM), where there were sightings thru the period, and one was seen near Spring Pond Bog 7 May, Ferd's Bog 26 May. Com. Ravens were carrying food at Eagle L. by 21 March, and a group of six were at Tahawus 17 April, with numerous other sightings. Boreal Chickadees were noted at Hurricane Mt., Ferd's Bog, Sabattis Road Bog, and Spring Pond Bog. A Marsh Wren was at Tupper Lake Marsh 18 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Ferd's Bog 26 May (AB, SC). E. Bluebird young had hatched at Tupper Lake by 30 May. A migrant Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Moriah 19 May (GC). No. Mockingbirds were reported from Teboville Rd., Franklin Co., in late April and Crown Point peninsula in early May. A flock of 35 Bohemian Waxwings was along the Whallon's Bay Rd. on 13 March (JPa).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** Most arrivals were from several days to a week earlier than 1984. Solitary Vireo: Elizabethtown and Paradox 21 April (JP; MB). Philadelphia Vireo: one banded Crown Point 13 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr. Witherbee 11 May (CW), male banded Crown Point 15 May, seen Hogansburg 22 May (HW). Tennessee Warbler: Crown

Point and Paradox 11 May (TB; MB); 39 banded Crown Point; Ferd's Bog 26 May. Nashville Warbler: Elizabethtown and Paradox 1 May (JP, MB); 11 banded Crown Point. No. Parula: Tupper Lake 22 May (CD). Yellow Warbler: Paradox 3 May (MB); 29 banded Crown Point. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Paradox 7 May (MB); two banded Crown Point. Magnolia Warbler: arr. Crown Point 13 May, eight banded. Cape May Warbler: arr. Crown Point 10 May, 11 banded, banded bird present to 18 May (MA, CW); Ferd's Bog 26 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Moriah 2 May (CW). Yellow-rumped Warbler: Coot Hill 20 April (HPAS); 25 feeding on insect hatch Little Long Pond 27 April; 181 banded Crown Point. Black-throated Green Warbler; Auger Pond 27 April (D & JC); one banded Crown Point. Blackburnian Warbler: Paradox 8 May (MB); 1 banded Crown Point. Pine Warbler: Saranac Lake 30 April (D & MB). Two 'Western' Palm Warblers banded Crown Point 12-13 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr. Crown Point 14 May, eight banded. Blackpoll Warbler: Tupper Lake 3 May (CD), one banded Crown Point 15 May, late migrant Essex 27 May (CS). Black-and-white Warbler: arr. Crown Point 29 April (GF), two banded. Am. Redstart: Paradox 8 May, three banded Crown Point. Ovenbird: Witherbee 2 May (CW). No. Waterthrush: Schroon Lake 7 May (MB), one banded Crown Point 12 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: Elizabethtown 26 April (JP); Westport 6 May (JP, WP). Mourning Warbler: Moriah 19 May (GC). Com. Yellowthroat: arr. Crown Point 10 May, nine banded. Wilson's Warbler: arr. Crown Point 11 May, three banded; migrants Moriah 17 May (GC) thru 24 May (CW). Canada Warbler: one banded Crown Point 14 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rufous-sided Towhee: Moriah 16 April (GC). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** singing male in scattered red cedar-juniper "old field" habitat on the tip of Crown Point peninsula 11 May (G & MC, KE, GH, JP). Fox Sparrow: Witherbee 2-5 April (CW); Elizabethtown, 12 April (JP). Lincoln's Sparrow: two banded Crown Point 11-14 May; Ferd's Bog 26 May. White-crowned Sparrow: arr. Moriah 4 May, four banded Crown Point. Snow Bunting: three, Ticonderoga 3 March (JC); 40, Tupper Lake 5 March (JED); one, Tupper Lake 6 March (CD); one near gravel pit at Paradox 7 March (MB). Purple Finch: an albino visited a Tupper Lake feeder 4 March and was seen at neighboring feeders (CD); many appeared after the early April storm at feeding stations. House Finch: even in Newcomb! Red Crossbill nesting continued, with fledglings near Paradox 29 March and seen with young during beaver season near Inlet; a used nest was found near the top of a balsam near Paradox 25 April. Migrants were passing steadily north over Coot Hill in late April, but at the same time a pair was noted near Auger Pond and a family group near Owls Head. White-winged Crossbills also continued to be reported into mid-April, with 15-20 at Owls Head 14 April and eight at Tupper Lake 16 April. Com. Redpolls were scarce; reports included one in woods near Elizabethtown 10 March, at a nearby feeder in early April, one at Witherbee 3 April, and the last at an Owls Head feeder 27 April. Pine Siskins seemed to be nesting virtually everywhere: building, doing song flights, displaying, harassing Barred Owls, feeding juveniles, and keeping the woods alive with song and movement through March and April; many road kills by mid-March had skulls incompletely pneumatized, but by May the numbers had declined. Evening Grosbeak: max. 300 near Paradox on 12 March and again on 2 April.

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

There is no REGION 8 report, as *The Kingbird* has no Region 8 editor at the present time.

## REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

A year ago we were complaining about a spring that was at least two weeks late in foliage and birds. This year it was just the opposite—foliage was at least two weeks early, and the birds were right on time. Oaks at lower elevations were coming into leaf on 19-20 April, largely due to a very warm March. Some reporters said it was the warmest March in the past fifty years. Temperatures in April and May were also well above normal. Precipitation in March and April was very low, with the latter month described as the driest in fifty-five years with less than one-half inch of rain. What with the lack of melt and runoff after an almost snowless winter, reservoirs were well below half capacity. May precipitation was a good two inches above normal, and although the fresh groundwater kept vegetation lush and green, it was insignificant in adding to depleted reservoir supplies.

In spite of the early spring, birds arrived on time and in good numbers, but it didn't last. 27-28 April saw the first flood of warblers which continued into the first week of May and then died. Many birders felt the lack of subsequent waves was due to the evenness of weather patterns that crossed the region. There were days when birding was a bit better than others, but no real waves. Most warblers failed to show peak movements, and people who bird daily actually missed some species which are common in other years. BW, while "block busting" for the Atlas in the Catskills, found some breeders on territory before they were observed as migrants passing thru her home county of Westchester. RFD found flycatchers later than usual in Rockland with E. Wood-Pewees and Willow-Flycatchers not in their usual haunts until after 25 May. The Waterman May Census and the Burroughs Century Day took place on 11 May, a very early date, and this might have been responsible for their poor show of numbers and species. The Waterman Count completely missed Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers; and had only one Cape May, two Nashvilles, two No. Parulas and four Black-throated Blues.

Once again leaves that came in early seem largely untouched by caterpillars and other insects, implying little food for many species. Some areas do, however, show Gypsy Moth egg masses in astounding numbers and will likely suffer defoliation in early summer.

The report includes a spectacular movement of Red-necked Grebes in late April, and a good migration of loons. Herons were well represented as were waterfowl, but Passerines were very poor. Rarities in the report include: Red-necked Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Tundra Swan, White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, breeding Hooded Merganser, Black Vulture, Wilson's Phalarope, Little Gull, Caspian Tern, Monk Parakeet, Snowy Owl, both crossbills, and Rockland came thru with its exotic in the form of an Eared Dove.

Contributors and observers cited: John Askildsen, Al Brayton, Tom Burke, Robert F. Deed, Liz & Lew Dumont, Jan & Francis Fitzpatrick, Valerie Freer, Adam Martin, John C. Orth, Eleanor Pink, John Stellwagen, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman.



Abbreviations: MBC-E. A. Mearns Bird Club; MC- Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; MPHW-Mt. Peter Hawk Watch (15 days from 9 April-30 April); PL-Playland, Rye; WBC-R. T. Waterman Bird Club; WMC-Waterman Bird Club May Census, 11 May.

LOONS--DUCKS: Com. Loon: more than 30 on the Hudson off Croton Pt 20 March, ten on Kiamesha L 15 April and 13 over MPHW 23 April. Migrants still passing thru Dutch as late as 15 May. Horned Grebe: one Netherwood Pd, Dutch, 5 April, three Kiamesha L 29 March and one there, 15 April, max 65, Rye, 20 April. **RED-NECKED GREBE**: fantastic flight in Rye 20 April. Several flocks obs with a max of 65 at one time, 145 counted overall. Birds were flying by Rye all afternoon in varying directions. Many landed on LI Sound, on 21 April only six were obs. Double-crested Cormorant: a few wintered and migrants returned in early April. BW had eight on several occasions on L DeForest, well back from the Hudson. Missed on WMC. Am Bittern: one found injured 11 March at Chelsea died the next day. Great Blue Heron: making a good comeback from a decline of some years ago. At least a dozen nests reestablished near Warwick at a site occupied more than 30 years ago. Two nests at Tamarack, Dutch in April inc to five in May. No evidence of breeding this year at Bashakill. Great Egret: more than usual in spring, one Croton Point 17 May, and two mid-April reports from Sull, another at Amawalk Res 26 April. Snowy Egret: one at MC on 29 March was very early. Six at Amawalk Res 12 May was a high number but normal date. **LITTLE BLUE HERON**: very rare any time, especially in spring. One on east shore of the Hudson near the Tappan Zee Br 31 May. An adult was at PL 27 April. Cattle Egret: one or two usually found in April. Numbers better this year, one at Washingtonville 19 May, four Campbell Hall 26 April, one Purchase 23 April. Green-backed Heron: first 14 March at Monroe was very early. Numbers seem normal at end of period. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: first at MC 2 April. Several May sightings there and at PL but no nesting since Great Horned Owl predation several years ago. Glossy Ibis: two at Cornwall Bay 6 April, seven at MC 12 April, five there 23 May. **TUNDRA SWAN**: one Black Meadow Road, Chester in a flooded cornfield 13 March, gone next day. (JS). **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: for the third consecutive year obs at Round Pd. Amenia 8 March. Snow Goose: 112 over Wawarsing 13 April. Many reports from Dutch during March. Single birds on the 30th and 26th to 175 over Red Oaks Mill 28 March, 200 over E Fishkill 27 March, reports continued thru 8 April. Brant: three flocks totaling 500 birds flying NW over Mine Rd, USMA on 14 May. About the same number obs the same day at Tarrytown. 70 on the Hudson at Rhinecliff 16 May. Six flocks avg about 450 birds each passed over Middletown on 9 May (unusually early). No. Pintail: max 25 feeding with the Tundra Swan on Black Meadow Rd, Chester 13 March. No. Shoveler: always rare in Dutch. One pair at Vanderburgh Cove 31 March. Gadwall: five on a small pond near Congers, Rock on 18 April. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: a drake on Premium Mill Pd in Larchmont from 24 February-24 March (Jim Johnson, TB, *et al*). Am. Wigeon: a male on Tarrytown Res 17 May was in the company of Mallards. Canvasback: 1,200 at Esopus 1 March was an excellent number considering the very early departure in February. Redhead: several obs during March at Vassar College dormitories (ducks, not girls). One 10 March Vanderburgh Cove. Ring-necked Duck: 130 at Lake Walton, Dutch 13 March, inc to 300 there by 27 March, last reported Dutch 20 April. Scaup: (sp?) four on Kiamesha L 10 May were quite late. Lesser Scaup: peaked at PL 18 April with 48. White-winged Scoter: always rare, two Kiamesha L 24 March. Hooded Merganser: one obs setting in Wood Duck box at Stissing in March. Adult with seven young there 4 May and again on WMC. First breeding record for Dutch. Com. Merganser: last a late bird on Cornwall Bay 17 May. Red-breasted Merganser: one on Round Pd, Amenia 8 March; and two Vanderburgh Cove 19 March. Never common, and rarely away from the Hudson R.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **BLACK VULTURE**: for the second consecutive spring, the Highland Audubon of N. J. turned up one in March. Last year's was at Warwick, this year's was at Goshen. The latter was joined by a second bird in April and was seen off and on for

the rest of the period at the Al Turi Landfill on Rt 6 in Goshen. One was at MPH 24 April. Osprey: three over Monroe 14 March were early, max MPH 16 on 23 April. Bald Eagle: two imm at Iona I as late as 18 March. Eight imm and four adults at Rondout Res 10 March, last in Dutch at East Park 28 April. Last two imm at Rondout Res 19 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: in good numbers in Dutch on 21 April, max MPH 23 on 22 April and 24 on 23 April. Cooper's Hawk: nested at Pound Ridge Museum; two at Port Orange Rd Town of Deer Park, Oran late May. No. Goshawk: Bob Schulz reports he found a nesting pair in Surebridge Sw, Harriman St Pk at the same location where he was attacked by a pair in 1975. One Fahnstock Pk 1 March, reported nesting in March in the Pawling area. A female on the nest there 15 April. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 9 MPH 25 April. Broad-winged Hawk: first birds at Hook Mt first week of April (W. Friton). One in Dutch on WBC trip 27 March. Max more than 2000 over Dutchess Hill in one hour 21 April, max MPH 205 on 22 April. Am. Kestrel: resident numbers perilously low. Even the migration was poor. MPH had only 19 total, max there was nine on 22 April. WMC had only four when their average is usually ten. Merlin: rarely reported in spring. The only bird on MPH came on 22 April. One was at Yorktown Heights 27 March. Peregrine Falcon: the bird of the winter on the Tappan Zee Bridge was obs thru 25 April but not thereafter. No. Bobwhite: very rare in recent years. Five near Stanfordville 16 May was the only report. Clapper Rail: two returned to MC on 20 April. Virginia Rail: numbers good in the Bashakill. Most trips reveal five or more calling. Semipalmated Plover: unusual in spring. Three at Croton Point 17 May, and four L DeForest 30 May. One on the Burroughs Century Day by Frank Murphy in Ulster, 11 May, one on WMC. Greater Yellowlegs: two at Goshen 13 March were early, returned to MC 30 March. Solitary Sandpiper: peaked in the Sull 19 May with more than 60 at Wurtsboro. Upland Sandpiper: at least two pairs at Warren Sod Farm 18 May, obs regularly thereafter. One from 21-29 May along Rt 22 between Amenia and Millerton. White-rumped Sandpiper: usually unreported, two L DeForest 30 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: one Belaire, Dutch 8 April inc to four the next day. Dunlin: only inland report was on the Burroughs Century Day 11 May. Com. Snipe: four in flight display and another standing on a dead tree north of Amenia at mid-day 16 April. First three migrants reported at Goshen 13 March, max 20 Black Meadow Rd. Chester 20 March. Am. Woodcock: last report had them courting in late Feb., and this one has them continuing to court beyond mid-May. Obs 18 May in Oran and 23 May in Dutch. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: second consecutive spring for this species. Two males and one female near Wurtsboro 11 May (MBC). **LITTLE GULL**: one adult with an imm at PL 22 April, in the company of more than 200 Bonaparte's. Nine passing thru Dutch 13 April. Ring-billed Gull: max more than 500 in the flooded cornfield referred to along Black Meadow Road, Chester 13 March. More than 200 on Kiamesha L 1 March. "Hundreds" at the Bashakill 8 March. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: Rock had its sixth record with an adult on L DeForest 10 March. The bird at Harbor I Pk in Mamaroneck was not reported after mid-Feb. **GLAUCOUS GULL**: almost unreported this winter and spring. One L DeForest 18 April and another at PL 30 March. Great Black-backed Gull: two Kiamesha L 15 April. Unusual so far from the Hudson R. **CASPIAN TERN**: one Cornwall Bay 17 May and two Kingston Pt 30 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Eared Dove: one of these exotics appeared at the feeder of RFD in S Nyack 7 March. Was seen by Donald S. Deed who is familiar with the species in Venezuela and Tobago. He feels it might have been released by a nearby gun club, although not locally. It is certainly not feral. Monk Parakeet: an unconfirmed report of nest building in Spring Valley in early April. Cuckoos: most people feel both species down in number. Unreported in Ulst. Only one of each species reported in Dutch during May. Both were calling at several locations along Mine Rd. USMA during May. Low numbers could be an indication of low food supply last year. Great Horned Owl: nine on WMC was well above their usual average of three. **SNOWY OWL**: one obs at 6½ Station Sanct in Goshen for several days in early March. Barred Owl: a pair obs at Tarrytown Res thru

period, no proof of breeding there. An adult with two young just out of the nest at East Park, Dutch 9 May. Another in Deep Hollow in early May and another at Pawling 29 May. Com. Nighthawk: first three migrants over Mine Rd USMA 14 May, very few reports. Whip-poor-will: only two reports, one at Bashakill regularly from 29 April, and one at Stissing, Dutch on 7 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: normal numbers and dates. First at a feeder near Stanfordville 30 April. Red-bellied Woodpecker: a male that spent the winter at a feeder at JO's home in Wawarsing was joined by a female on 15 May and obs daily thereafter. Ten reports from Dutch during March.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: a good early date of 13 May at Tallman Mt. Pk., and 15, 16 May at Rye Nature Center. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: in at least three different places in Dutch, on 25 May. One at MC 26, 27 May and another at PL 23 May. Alder and Willow Flycatchers: on territory in Ulster and Dutch by 21 May. Alders were at MC 29 May and PL 23 May. Least Flycatcher: on territory in Sull by 28 April. E. Kingbird: right on time the last week of April. Peak movement in Dutch 14 May, numbers good thereafter. Horned Lark: 50 at Warren Sod Farm 2 April, reduced to 25 there by 2 May and only two by 19 May. No sign of breeding thru end of period. Purple Martin: nesting again in Rye, first there 21 April. Bank Swallow: numbers seem good in Dutch. 25 at Shunpike 14 May and more than 80 at Pawling Dump 21 May. Cliff Swallow: back on their usual bridges, and dams where they nest in West, Putn, and Ulst. Colony near Bashakill has grown considerably and they are commonly found over the water there in May. On 27 May, BW and Stan Lincoln found five nests in Wassaic, Dutch. Appears to be the first confirmed nesting in that county since 1970. Fish Crow: calling in almost every riverside town and village along the Hudson. Max 30 flying over Highland Falls 11 March. Continues to move well back from the Hudson with one at Cross River Res 9 May and another at Croton Res 29 May. JO had three at Wawarsing 19 April. Brown Creeper: 17 reported in Dutch during April. Two at Tamarack 23 April appeared to be building. Nesting again in the Bashakill with two carrying nesting material 19 April. Carolina Wren: came thru the winter well. Six in Dutch during March and four on WMC. Winter Wren: heard in two places in Deep Hollow on 20 May. An adult was feeding three young on 31 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: in exc numbers thru region, nest building everywhere. First at Weyant's Pd 9 April, arr Croton Pt 20 March. Thrushes: a poor migration. Few Hermits and Swainson's. The only report of Gray-cheeks was five at Rye Nature Center 28 May. Brown Thrasher: numbers the lowest they have ever been, unreported most areas. BW says "atlas work supports that this species might be in trouble". WBC had three, down from an average of 60 per census in the 1960's.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: three reports from Dutch 13 May thru 20 May. Other species seem normal. Wood Warblers: looked like a good migration the third and fourth week of April, but numbers petered out after the first weekend in May. WMC had no Blackpolls, Wilson's or Canadas listed. The latter was down from 160 in 1978. Other warblers on that count were: two Nashvilles, two No. Parulas, one Cape May, four Black-throated Blues and eight Black-throated Greens. The only bright side of their warbler count was one Kentucky seen, and one Yellow-breasted Chat heard. "Brewster's" Warbler: four singing males during May. One at Bashakill was singing a Blue-wing song. All the others were singing Golden-wing songs. The one at Bashakill and another along Mine Rd. USMA were apparently mated to Blue-wings. Pine Warbler: BW found them in ten additional atlas blocks in Ulst and Sull. Seemed to favor Red Pine. A singing male seemed to be mated in a White Pine plantation at Cross River Res 22 April. On 9 May there were two singing males there thru end of period. At Titicus Res a few miles north, JA located a singing male in mid-May. Prairie Warbler: in exc numbers along Mine Rd. USMA. Palm Warbler: two at Forest Glen, Dutch 17 May were quite late. Cerulean Warbler: the small colony at Ferncliff, Dutch was down to only one pair this May. Single birds were heard in three other areas of Dutch. One Deep Hollow 19 May, another Pine Ridge 18 May and

Pawling 29 May. Black-and-white Warbler: one at Croton Point 20 March was extremely early. Louisiana Waterthrush: first on Mine Rd, USMA 20 March was very early. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: one on WMC, one Rye Nature Center 7 May and another at MC the same date. Mourning Warbler: first Rye 14 May. Several others there from 25 May on, including six in Rye spread over three locations on 26 May. Only one other report at Bashakill 18 May. Hooded Warbler: numbers improving. One Mine Rd USMA 14-18 May was defending a territory. JO had his first ever at Wawarsing 26 May thru end of period. Another was at Doodletown, Bear Mt Pk 22 May and obs carrying food there in early June. Another singing male was on Stone Rd in the Town of Hurley for the third consecutive year. One at Rye Nature Center 1 May, and another there from 12-14 May. One at MC 25-27 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: in addition to the WMC bird, one was singing at Monroe on 21 April (early), another was at PL 7 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Am. Tree Sparrow: left most areas by second week of April. Two in Dutch 30 April were quite late. Lincoln's Sparrow: one at MC was the only report. White-crowned Sparrow: one singing for a week from 28 April at Campbell Hall. Two others were at Monticello for about 10 days from 27 April. Dark-eyed Junco: disappeared from local feeders by 23 April. Obs in Deep Hollow, Dutch from 19 May to end of period, have been known to breed there. Bobolink: no April sightings this year. In their usual haunts by 9, 10 May. Rusty Blackbird: found on WBC trip to Tamarack 1 May, any May date is late. Orchard Oriole: Around in good numbers. An adult male was competing with a first year male for a female at Westbrookville on 11 May, and still at it one week later. At least two breeding pairs in Nyack, and singing males at both ends of L Tappan. Another pair was at Rutgers Cr. near Port Jervis 24 May. A pair were at Stissing, Dutch from 11 May. Several reports in West from 7 May. **PINE GROSBEAK**: the absence of finches all winter would make one wonder about three found along the roadside at Claryville on 5 March. Purple Finch: max 40 Wurtsboro 8-10 March, very few elsewhere. **RED CROSSBILL**: on 16 March BW rechecked the pair found above Willowemoc, Sull on 23 Feb. She located only the male eating grit along the roadside. A subsequent check on 6 April found the male dead in the road, and no sign of the female. **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL**: VF had one pair near Liberty in mid-March, but could not relocate them. Bob Terwilliger had another pair near Ashokan in March, but they too could not be found later. Pine Siskin: BW continued to find them across northern Ulst and Sull thru last week of April, but no proof of breeding there. Evening Grosbeak: BW found small scattered groups in northern Sull thru the first week of April. This was the only county reporting them. 42 were at Forestburg, 34 at Hankins, and 12 at Monticello, all 15 April.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

## REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DICOSTANZO

It was a dismal spring migration. Many birders called it the worst in memory. How bad was it? It was so bad the *New York Times* printed several letters to the editor from people asking "Where are the birds?" There were no large waves and birds just trickled thru in small numbers. The weather wasn't particularly bad this spring. It was warm and dry overall; so dry in fact that drought warnings were in effect. March was mild for the most part with below normal temperatures on only 12 days during the month. A warm spell 27-29 March pushed temperatures to a high of 82° F on the 29th and brought the first small wave of migrants. The largest rainfall of the month was only .49 inch on the 12th. The month's mean temperature of 45.8° was 4.4° above normal and the total rainfall of a mere 1.91 inches was 2.31 inches below normal. April followed the same pattern as March with warm, dry weather throughout. While temperatures were not quite as far above normal as in March the dry spell deepened. The heaviest rain fell on the 19th, only .39 inch. This was also the warmest day of the month with a high of 88° and a mean of 77°. April's mean temperature of 55.5° was 3.1° above normal and the total rainfall of 1.41 inches was 2.34 below normal. May continued warm but with finally some rain, though not enough to make up for the earlier deficit. May's mean of 65.3° was 2.9° above normal but the total rainfall of 5.72 inches was 1.96 above normal. (All weather data from New York City.)

As mentioned above there were very few waves. However, many warbler species started arriving in late April so that the last two weeks in April saw an above normal variety of migrants present in the city parks. It was all part of the trickle thru nature of this spring's migration. Arthur Morris continued a shorebird survey at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Some of his interesting results are incorporated into the main body of the report, others include highs of 881 Black-bellied Plovers on 10 May, 542 Ruddy Turnstones 16 May, 450 Red Knots 23 May and 3342 Semipalmated Sandpipers 25 May. As you can see below the list of rarities is surprisingly long for what was a very poor migration, though a number of them are holdovers from the winter season.

Rarities: Western Grebe, Gyrfalcon, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Bridled Tern, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Painted Bunting, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

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

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**LOONS-DUCKS:** A Red-necked Grebe at JBWR 23 March (NYRBA) was unusual there, even more so since it was a poor winter for them in the region. The **WESTERN GREBE** found at Ditch Plains, Montauk in Jan. was rediscovered there 24 March (J. Coe) and then vanished again. A Least Bittern at JBWR 20 April was a bit early (AM). Great and Snowy Egrets returned on schedule in late March and early April. A Little Blue Heron at Tobay 12 April was slightly early (SL). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were more in evidence at JBWR this spring than they have been in a number of years. A Glossy Ibis at JBWR 2 March (SL) was a bit early. Over 1000 Snow Geese were at JBWR 3 April; a lone bird was at Southard's Pd., Babylon 7-21 May (FF), perhaps an injured bird? A "Common Teal," the Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal, was found in Lawrence 13 March (SBD). Four Eurasian Wigeons, some holdovers from the winter, were reported: JBWR 3-23 March (mob), Babylon 2-19 March (JJR, FF, *et al*), Eastport 15-18 March (NYRBA) and Mill R. 30 March (NYRBA). A King Eider lingered at Montauk till 28 April. The four Harlequin Ducks that wintered at Pt. Lookout were last seen there 17 March, the same date as the last report for the species at Montauk. A lingering male Oldsquaw was at Great Gulf I 11-14 May (WPC, H. Hays).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** It was an above average season for vultures with a **BLACK VULTURE**, very rare in the region, seen at Forest Pk 11 May (IC) and Turkey Vultures at Cedar Beach 2 April (M. England, *et al*), Ridge 5 April (J. S. Ruscica), two at Mill Neck 16 April (A. Townsend), CRSP 6 May (JD, AS), between Gilgo and Cedar Beaches 8 May (L. Merryman) and Sagaponack 22 May (RA). Ospreys returned to Seatuck and CRSP in mid-March; CRSP now has two pairs nesting (G. Bergen). Four Bald Eagles were reported this spring: one flying over the Wm. Floyd Pkwy 15 March, another at Sunken Meadow 29 March and two at JBWR 23 May (all NYRBA). At least six Peregrine Falcons, a good number, were reported throughout the region this spring. The **GYRFALCON** that wintered at Jones Beach was last reported there on 27 March (SBD). A **PURPLE GALLINULE** found at Prospect Pk, Brooklyn 11 May (R. Wade) did not linger; perhaps it heard of the mugging of the last representative of its species to appear there in 1983. A breeding plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover at JBWR 20 April was a good find for the spring (AM). A flock of 22 Piping Plovers at the West End, Jones Beach 2 April was a good number for this declining species (*vide* FF). An Am. Oystercatcher at Captree 2 March was a bit early (JJR). A **BLACK-NECKED STILT** was found at JBWR 5 May (S. Walter, K. & S. Feustel) but did not stay. A scattering of Whimbrels were reported this spring: one at JBWR 20 April (AM), four at Shinnecock (NYRBA) and ten at Lawrence (SBD) on 7 May, one along Dune Rd. in the Hamptons 25 May (RA), and one at Great Kills, SI the same day (AM). White-rumped Sandpipers were at JBWR in good numbers from 19 May thru the end of the season, peaking at 28 birds on 24 May (AM, NYRBA). An estimated 200-300 Purple Sandpipers at the West End, Jones Beach 2 March was a good count (JJR); ten Purples lingered at Great Kills till 26 May (AM). Two Stilt Sandpipers at JBWR 20 May was a good spring find (AM). Three or four Wilson's Phalaropes were reported: one at JBWR 24 May (AM), the same or a different bird there 27 May (NYRBA) and two at Nazareth I, Great South Bay 30 May (D. Peterson, *et al*). Up to five Little Gulls were at Shinnecock in early to mid-March (mob), but a bird there 29 May was very late for the species in the region (mob). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Shinnecock 5 & 16 March and at Jones Inlet 17 & 23 March (mob); two were at Fire I inlet with a couple of hundred Bonaparte's Gulls 2 May (JB). An imm Glaucous Gull was seen intermittently at JBWR from 9 March-24 May (JH, AM, *et al*). Terns were very well represented this spring. Two Gull-billed Terns were at JBWR 18 May (NYRBA). Caspian Terns appeared in the region in mid-April with one at Hechscher 16 April (FF), three there 18-23 April (RL, A. Clerke) and five at Mecox Bay 17 April (PG). A Royal Tern was at Shinnecock Inlet 31 May (RA). Com. and Roseate Terns returned to their traditional breeding colonies in early May. The tern of the season, however, has to be the **BRIDLED TERN** found at Shinnecock Inlet 29 May (P. Bernarth). Finally, three Black Terns were at JBWR 18 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** A Great Horned Owl at JBWR 3 April (LS, *et al*) was the second record of the species for the refuge. Several Snowy Owls lingered into mid-March with birds reported at Pt. Lookout 5 March, Breezy Pt. 10 March, No. Hempstead Beach 14 March and West End, Jones Beach 17 March (M. Zelazinski, SBD, NYRBA). Chuck-will's-widow had returned to its traditional Oak Beach nesting location by 11 May (K. Ward, W. Lamoureux). On 15 May 300 Chimney Swifts were seen going into one chimney of the County Court Building in Riverhead (J. Clinton, Sr.). The Red-headed Woodpecker that wintered at a feeder in East Islip remained there until 6 May (JM, MM); another Red-head was on Jones Beach 27 May (NYRBA).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** E. Phoebe arrived at Muttontown Pres. 19 March and were on territory at the Welwyn Pres. by 15 April (AL). A phoebe nest was found at the Pouch Boy Scout Camp on 12 May for the first nesting attempt for the species on SI in over 20 years (AM); unfortunately the nest was later destroyed by vandals. E. Kingbirds arrived late April with one at RMSP 30 April (FF). The first six Purple Martins arrived at the Lemon Creek, SI colony 18 April (AM). As would be expected following their near total absence this past winter, Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually nonexistent during the spring migration. A pair of White-breasted Nuthatches fledged young from an old bird house in East Islip 23 May, perhaps an early nesting record (MM). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived throughout the western portion of the region 5-6 April (mob). A flock of 60 Cedar Waxwings in Islip 22 March was a good number for that early (RL). An interesting report was of a waxwing with a scarlet-tipped tail in a flock of 30 birds at Wantagh 16-17 May (A. & E. Kretz, G. & W. Renkens); a scarlet-tipped tail is the diagnostic field mark of the Japanese Waxwing. The bird in question was probably an escaped cage bird if it was not a very aberrant Cedar.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Solitary Vireos arrived on schedule the last week in April. Golden-winged Warblers are fairly rare on LI so one at Southard's Pond, Babylon 1 May was a very good find (D. Kaufmann); another was at Yaphank Woods 5 May (NYRBA). Both "Lawrence's" and "Brewster's" Warblers were in Central Pk in early May (mob). Following their widespread occurrence in the winter report, Orange-crowned Warblers were found in above average numbers this spring; one apparently wintered in the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, others were at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn 29 March, Bronx Botanical Gardens 20 April and Central Pk 28 April. A possible female **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER** was found in Forest Pk 19 May (R. Lewis, details to NYSARC). There were fewer Yellow-throated Warblers reported than last year with one at Prospect Pk 14-17 April (mob), the same or a different bird at Greenwood Cem. 20 April (JD) and one at Muttontown Pres. 24 April (AL). It was a good spring for Pine Warblers with widespread reports mid-March to mid-April. Prothonotary Warblers had a good spring showing in the region for the second year in a row with once again about ten individuals reported starting with one at Prospect Pk 25 April (mob) and ending with one at Belmont Lk SP 27-28 May (B. Lansing & P. Herlich). An early Worm-eating Warbler was at Forest Pk 21 April (B. Spencer). Fewer Kentucky Warblers were reported than in recent years with singles at Prospect Pk and Yaphank Woods both 8 May (NYRBA), Forest Pk 10 May (J. Viglietta), one banded at Great Gull I 11 May (WPC) and the South Shore Nature Center in Islip 24 May (R. Halbeisen). There were scattered reports of Mourning Warblers in the region after 16 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** About seven Summer Tanagers were reported; below the numbers of recent springs. A female **PAINTED BUNTING** was seen and photographed at a feeder in the Four Corners section of SI 17-19 May (*vide* AM). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak that wintered at the same East Islip feeder as the previously mentioned Red-headed Woodpecker remained until 22 April (MM). Blue Grosbeaks were way down this spring

with the only report received one at Forest Pk 19 May (G. Tudor.) A Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Mitchell Field 11 May (SBD). A somewhat early White-crowned Sparrow was at the West End, Jones Beach 12 April (TH). A lone Lapland Longspur lingered till 1 March at Great Kills, SI (AM). Another lingerer was a Snow Bunting at RMSP 28 April (L. & L. Feldman). An adult male **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was found at Riis Pk 20 March (W. & W. Baumann). Following their spectacular showing this past winter, Boat-tailed Grackles were regularly reported at JBWR this spring (mob). A male Orchard Oriole returned to a known nesting site at Southard's Pd, Babylon 7 May (J. Viglietta). A young House Finch, still with down on its head, at a feeder in Elmhurst, Queens 2 May may have represented a record early nest (TH). Six Evening Grosbeaks at Ridge 5 April were undoubtedly holdovers from the only group of them reported this past winter (JJR).

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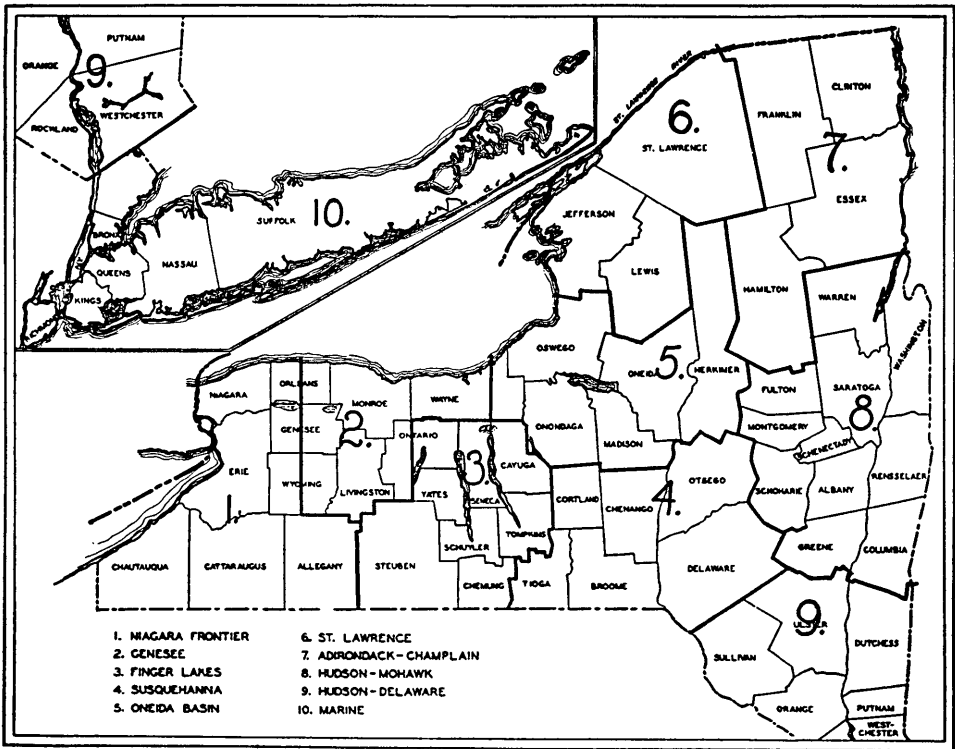


## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 editor reserves 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.



## REPORTING REGIONS



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

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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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