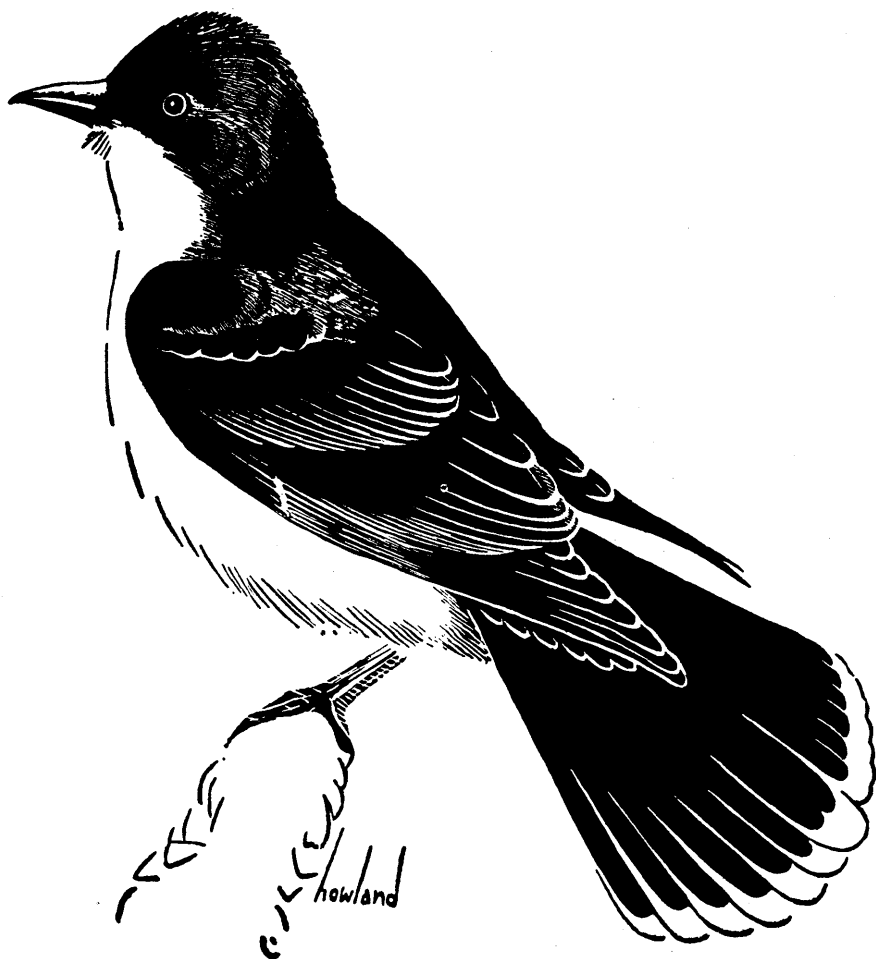


# The **KINGBIRD**



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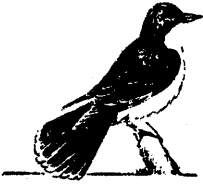
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*Highlights of the Season*

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*Figure 1. Two examples of triple or quadruple primary crotches in deciduous trees, the preferred nesting substrate for Northern Goshawks in eastern mixed forests.*

# NEST TREES SELECTED BY NORTHERN GOSHAWKS ALONG THE NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY BORDER

ROBERT SPEISER AND THOMAS BOSAKOWSKI

During the past two decades, research has begun to elucidate essential parameters of Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) nesting habitat in North America (McGowan 1975, Allen 1978, Hennessey 1978, Shuster 1980, Reynolds *et al.* 1982, Moore and Henny 1983, Hall 1984, Speiser and Bosakowski 1987). The role of the nest tree in site selection often has been overlooked or emphasized less than other habitat variables. In this paper, we examine the nest trees used by Northern Goshawks for nesting on the southeast margin of their range. This area provides an unique opportunity to examine nest tree selection in an ecotone between northern and southern tree associations. Here we attempt to explain why certain trees were chosen by Northern Goshawks for nest building and what advantages were gained by selecting these trees. These findings could lead to better forest management practices for nesting Northern Goshawk populations in the Northeast.

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Goshawk nests were located in hilly, mostly forested terrain within 30 km of the New York-New Jersey border, and is included by Bull (1964) as part of the New York [City] Area. This area includes Orange and western Rockland Counties in New York and northern Sussex, northern Morris and northwestern Passaic Counties in New Jersey. Here, the range of the Northern Goshawk ends along the coastal plain. Nesting in this area has been documented since 1964 following a southern range extension (Speiser and Bosakowski, 1984).

A total of 32 nests were found at 18 different breeding areas (*sensu* Grier 1982) from 1977 to 1987. Detailed descriptions of the study area, field work and methods are reported elsewhere (Speiser and Bosakowski 1984, 1987). This paper includes data on 10 additional nests. The total number of trees and species composition within a 21.5 m radius (= 0.145 ha) centered on the nest tree were recorded at 26 nest sites. Tree diameters at breast height (DBH) were measured with calipers (<50 cm DBH) or from circumferences (>50 cm DBH). Heights were measured with a homemade triangulation instrument (Bakst 1967), accurate to 0.3 m. Other standard forestry procedures followed those

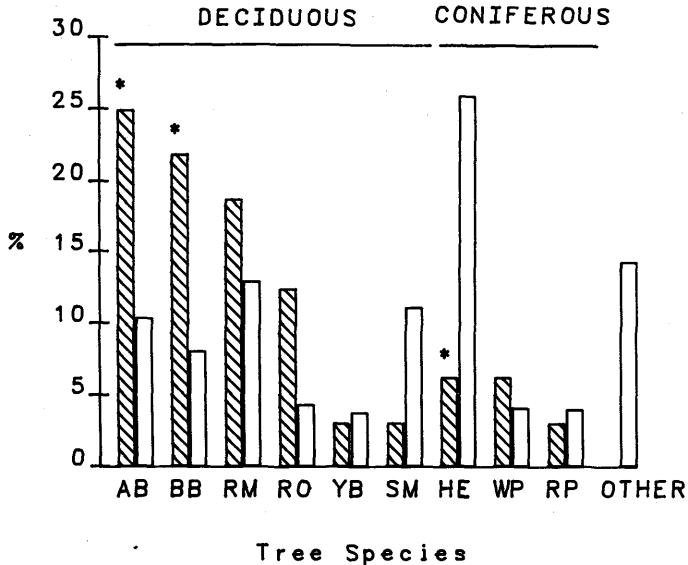


Figure 2. Frequency distribution of tree species used for nesting (shaded bars) by Northern Goshawk versus mean relative density of trees in all nest sites (open bars). Asterisks indicate a significant difference between use and availability (Fisher Exact Test,  $p < 0.05$ ). AB = American Beech, BB = Black Birch, RM = Red Maple, RO = Red Oak, YB = Yellow Birch, SM = Sugar Maple, HE = Eastern Hemlock, WP = White Pine, RP = Red Pine.

outlined in Husch and Beers (1982). Canopy cover and shrub cover were estimated visually at the nest sites and were rounded to the nearest 5 percent. Suitability of other trees for nest substrate in the nest site was estimated by inspection from the ground.

## RESULTS

A total of 9 tree species were used for 32 nests: Black Birch (*Betula lenta*) 25%, American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) 22%, Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) 19%, Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) 13%, Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) 6%, White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) 6%, Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) 3%, Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) 3%, and Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) 3%. On the basis of availability of tree species in the 26 quantified nest site plots (Fig. 2), Black Birch and American Beech were used as nest trees significantly more often than expected from their relative frequency (Fisher Exact Test:  $p = 0.013$ ,  $p = 0.017$ , respectively)

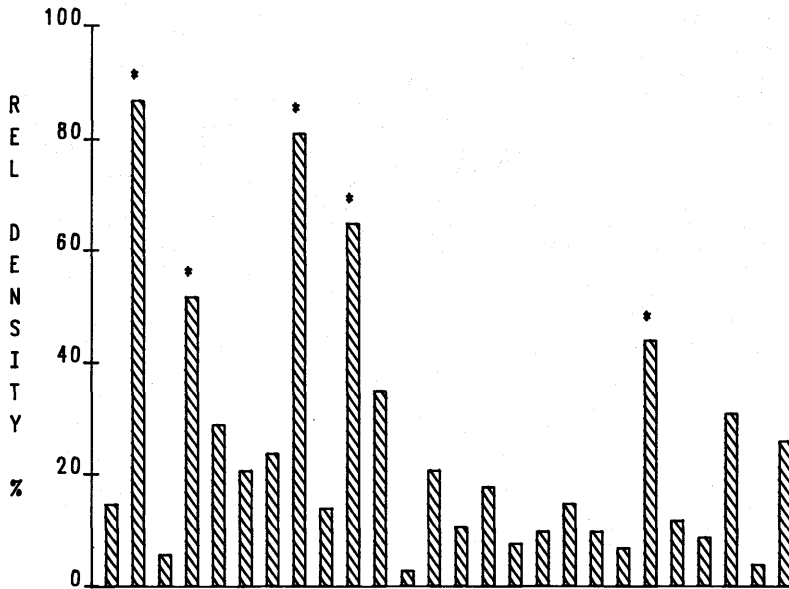


Figure 3. Relative frequency of the nest tree species in 26 quantified nest site plots of Northern Goshawk. Asterisks indicate nest sites where the nest tree was the dominant tree species in the plot (0.145 ha).

whereas Eastern Hemlock was used significantly less often ( $p = 0.007$ ). At individual nest sites, Northern Goshawks selected the dominant (highest relative frequency at the nest site) tree species for nesting in only 5 cases (Fig. 3).

In our study, the majority (58%) of nests were constructed in primary crotches (Fig. 1), with the remainder in secondary crotches (21%) or in limb axils (21%). Comparison of nest sites and adjacent forest showed that the branching structure preferred for nest placement (triple or quadruple crotch) was very uncommon. Only one nest site contained more than one tree with a triple-quad primary crotch.

All nest trees were alive when they were used for nesting. The nest tree was the largest tree (DBH) in the nest site plot in 4 instances. Nest tree diameters ranged from 19 to 63 cm (mean = 39.7, SD = 10.78, N = 29). Nest tree heights ranged from 14.3 to 41.6 m (mean = 23.6, SD = 6.02, N = 29). The height of nests above ground ranged from 7.4 to 20.4 m (mean = 12.6, SD = 2.84, N = 29). Of these 3 variables, nest tree height



*Figure 4. Example of typical open understory around a goshawk nest tree in eastern mixed forest of the northern New Jersey Highlands. Note unobstructed view between camera and person standing next to the nest tree (arrow).*

had the highest linear least-squares correlation with tree diameter ( $r = 0.827$ ) while nest height and tree diameter had the lowest correlation ( $r = 0.745$ ). The correlation between nest tree height and nest height fell between these values ( $r = 0.775$ ). All three correlations were similar, suggesting that nest height was related to the height and girth of the nest tree. Nest height above ground as a percentage of nest tree height ranged from 38-74% (mean = 54.5, SD = 8.80, N = 29). The minimum canopy cover in a nest site was 65%; 76% of the sites had at least 80% cover. The shrub layer surrounding the nest tree was greater than 10% cover in only one case.

One nest was inspected closely. It was comprised of sticks mostly 4.5 to 6.0 mm in diameter. The nest cup was lined with hemlock bark strips and the entire nest was liberally draped with sprigs of hemlock foliage. All other active nests observed in the study area contained greenery, usually hemlock or white pine sprigs.



## DISCUSSION

It is apparent from nest tree analysis that Northern Goshawks were selective in choosing suitable nest trees. The primary feature associated with nests is the presence of triple or quadruple crotches for stable nest support. This factor is apparently not significant in Western coniferous forests (Reynolds *et al.* 1982, Moore and Henny 1983, Hall 1984) but has important management implications in the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome. If suitable nest trees can be identified within an otherwise suitable stand, these stands and trees can be protected from harvest or other disturbance to help assure an adequate supply of Northern Goshawk nest sites. Newton (1979) mentions that in a survey of nest trees for White-tailed Eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) in Finland, only one in a thousand trees were suitable for nesting.

Deciduous hardwood trees were favored (84%) for nest trees despite the availability of conifers at many nest sites. *Betula* and *Fagus* probably were preferred for nesting because large triple or quadruple crotches occur more frequently in these genera owing to their highly deliquescent growth forms. Conifers have a different growth form than hardwoods and rarely produce large, relatively open tree crotches. Thus, when nesting in eastern mixed forests, Northern Goshawks more often use deciduous hardwoods (Todd 1940, Allen 1978, this study) in contrast to regions where conifers predominate (Reynolds *et al.* 1982, Moore and Henny 1983, Hall 1984). Northern Goshawk nests constructed in primary crotches were bulkier than those in secondary crotches and limb axils and nest durability was also greater. Nests in primary crotches often remained in good condition and were identifiable 8 years following their last use, while nests in secondary crotches usually disintegrated after 3-4 years. This difference suggests that building nests in primary crotches is adaptive because nests in primary crotches also should be expected to collapse less often during occupancy.

Because of the preference for primary crotches, nests were almost always situated below or in the bottom quarter of the canopy. Thus, variability of nest heights probably was a function of variable canopy heights in the study area since nest height remained strongly correlated with the height and girth (DBH) of the nest tree. The height of the nest appears to be less important than is the type of nest support and relative position in the canopy.

Nest trees were often relatively isolated in the nest site despite the typically continuous canopy cover of the nest site. Another large tree (50+ cm DBH) was within 3 m of the nest tree trunk in only one instance.

Most nest trees had at least one cardinal direction in which there were few or no neighboring trees within 15 m, although the canopy usually remained unbroken (Fig. 4). This resulted in part from the large size of nest trees and in part from the overall habitat selected, usually mature and old growth forest (Speiser and Bosakowski 1987). Understory trees and the shrub layer were usually sparse or absent, leaving relatively open flyway space below the canopy. In addition, the nest trees often had a small (although rarely large enough to create a break in the canopy) open area directly adjacent on at least one side. This feature also has been observed by other investigators (Shuster 1980, Reynolds *et al.* 1982, Hall 1984) and suggests the importance of an unobstructed flight path to the nest. The apparent value of this open flyway space was evident upon numerous observations of nest defense by the adults when we intruded upon active nest sites.

Active Northern Goshawk nests always displayed greenery. Newton (1979) reviewed the theories of greenery utilization by nesting raptors. Pre-incubation greenery is thought to serve as a signal marker of ownership, warning other raptors. We suggest that during the nestling stage the greenery enhances the comfort level for downy young by virtue of its softening effect as well as covering feces and decaying prey remains in the nest.

Northern Goshawks clearly selected certain tree species as nest trees. If the choice was independent of tree species, then Northern Goshawks should nest most often in the most dominant tree species. This only occurred at 19% percent of nest sites. Instead, Northern Goshawks overutilized Black Birch and American Beech and underutilized Eastern Hemlock. The preference of Black Birch for nesting is noteworthy since it has seldom been reported as a nesting tree for the Northern Goshawk (Table 1). This shift away from more traditional nest tree species following the southern range extension of the Northern Goshawk suggests that the choice is not fixed by imprinting (Hilden 1965) or early experience (Klopfer 1963). Rather, nest tree selection probably is the result of a preference for certain structural characteristics (e.g., large open triple/quad crotch) which may occur more frequently in particular tree species. The fact that Northern Goshawks in the East have nested in a variety of other tree species (Table 1) also shows that these hawks are flexible as to the type of nest tree species they select. Newton (1976) suggested that nest site preferences are not fixed genetically and changes in preferences can become established in a population through conditioning or imprinting. Thus, Northern Goshawks slowly spreading southward into the temperate deciduous forests of the New

York area could be expected modify their habitat and nest tree use. This process was called "tradition drift" by Wilson (Temple 1978) and can change population traits and niche dimensions more rapidly than genetic drift.

If the limited supply of suitable nest trees dictates the ultimate location of a nest within a suitable forest stand, then the importance of other nesting habitat features may be obscured by the characteristics of suitable nest trees. This would introduce an additional source of variation into the study of nest-site habitat selection by Northern Goshawks.

#### Acknowledgments.

Advice on statistical design was generously provided by R. Parris from Piccatinny Arsenal, U.S. Army, Dover, New Jersey. We also wish to thank R.T. Reynolds and J.W. Wiley for their comments on the manuscript.

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**Table 1. Northern goshawk nest tree species in eastern North America.**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
Knight, cited in Bent (1937)	Maine	often in birch or maple, occasionally in pine, spruce or fir
Todd (1940)	Pennsylvania	mostly beech; others include oak, pine, hemlock, Black
Bull (1974)	Birch, maples New York	mostly deciduous trees (85%); beech favored (40%)
R. Parris (pers. comm.)	New York (Tug Hill Plateau)	mostly in Sugar Maples
Allen (1978)	New York	Yellow Birch (33%), beech (33%), Sugar Maple (17%), Black Cherry <sup>a</sup> (8%)
Root and Root (1978)	Connecticut	White Pine (30%), Red Oak (15%), Black Birch (10%), Red Maple (10%), beech (10%), hemlock (10%), Yellow Birch (5%), Red Pine (5%), White Birch <sup>b</sup> (5%)
S. Postupalsky (pers. comm.)	Michigan	mostly deciduous: aspens, White Birch, Yellow Birch, beech, Sugar Maple, basswood <sup>c</sup> , White Pine, Jack Pine <sup>d</sup>

a-*Prunus serotina*, b-*Betula papyrifera*, c-*Tilia americana*, d-*Pinus banksiana*

# OFFICIAL CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF NEW YORK STATE

A SPECIAL REPORT OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

This list represents the first publication of an official list of the birds of New York State for which acceptable specimen, photographic or written documentation exists since publication of John Bull's *Birds of New York State* in 1974 and its Supplement in 1976. It has been approved by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. New York State's avifaunal list currently includes 435 species representing 18 orders and 52 families. Of these, seven species are introduced, two species are extinct, two species are extirpated (no longer occur in New York State but not extinct) and two species were introduced but no longer persist (in at least one case owing to habitat change).

This checklist follows the nomenclature and taxonomy of the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (1983, American Ornithologists' Union) and its Thirty-fifth through Thirty-seventh Supplements (*Auk* 102:680-686, 1985; *Auk* 104:591-596, 1987 and *Auk* 106: 532-538, 1989).

A booklet containing a version of this checklist suitable for keeping field notes has been published by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and is now available c/o the Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (phone: 607-254-2400). Single copies cost \$1.75 including postage and handling, and two or more copies cost \$0.75 each plus \$0.75 postage and handling for each order. Make checks payable to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Notations following the name of a species signify:

- N** Species for which documentation should be submitted to the NYSARC for any sightings within New York State (NYSARC, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850). The NYSARC also reviews any additions to the New York State List, first state nesting records, reports in the next two categories and reports of very unseasonal occurrence.
- U** Species for which documentation should be submitted to the NYSARC only when observed in **upstate** New York.
- O** Species for which documentation should be submitted to the NYSARC only when observed **outside the Adirondacks**.
- B** **Breeds** or has bred within New York State.
- I** **Introduced** (all also breed within New York State).
- †** Extinct.
- E** **Extirpated**.
- IE** Introduced, formerly bred, but now extirpated.
  - 1** All records are well documented sightings; no other substantial evidence of occurrence in New York State exists.
  - 2** Modern nesting populations are derived from reintroduced populations (or, in some cases, injured individuals) of species which occur naturally in New York State.
  - 3** This record has not yet been reviewed by the A.O.U.'s Committee on Nomenclature and Classification.
  - 4** Spring records (especially from upstate New York) should be submitted to the NYSARC for review.
  - 5** Reports of western or palearctic races should be submitted to the NYSARC for review.
  - 6** An indeterminate species of the genus *Selasphorus* has been photographed in New York State; it is not included in the total for species recorded here.

English Name	Scientific Name	Notes
<b>Order GAVIIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Gaviidae - Loons</b>		
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
Pacific Loon	<i>G. pacifica</i>	N
Common Loon	<i>G. immer</i>	B
Yellow-billed Loon	<i>G. adamsii</i>	N
<b>Order PODICIPEDIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Podicipedidae - Grebes</b>		
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	B
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	
Red-necked Grebe	<i>P. grisegena</i>	
Eared Grebe	<i>P. nigricollis</i>	
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	N
<b>Order PROCELLARIIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Diomedeidae - Albatrosses</b>		
Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>	N
<b>Family Procellariidae - Shearwaters and Petrels</b>		
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	U
Black-capped Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	N
Mottled Petrel	<i>P. inexpectata</i>	N
Herald Petrel	<i>P. arminjoniana</i>	N
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	U
Greater Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	U
Sooty Shearwater	<i>P. griseus</i>	U
Manx Shearwater	<i>P. puffinus</i>	U
Audubon's Shearwater	<i>P. lherminieri</i>	N
<b>Family Hydrobatidae - Storm-Petrels</b>		
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	U
White-faced Storm-Petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>	N
Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	N
<b>Order PELECANIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Phaethontidae - Tropicbirds</b>		
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	N
Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>P. aethereus</i>	N
<b>Family Sulidae - Boobies and Gannets</b>		
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	N
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	U
<b>Family Pelecanidae - Pelicans</b>		
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	N



Brown Pelican	<i>P. occidentalis</i>	N
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae - Cormorants</b>		
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	U
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>P. auritus</i>	B
<b>Family Fregatidae - Frigatebirds</b>		
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	N
<b>Order CICONIIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Ardeidae - Bitterns, Herons and Allies</b>		
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	B
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	B
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	B
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	B
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	B
Little Blue Heron	<i>E. caerulea</i>	B
Tricolored Heron	<i>E. tricolor</i>	BU
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	B
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	B
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	B
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	BU
<b>Family Threskiornithidae - Ibises and Spoonbills</b>		
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	N
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	B
White-faced Ibis	<i>P. chihi</i>	N
<b>Family Ciconiidae - Storks</b>		
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	N
<b>Order ANSERIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Anatidae - Swans, Geese and Ducks</b>		
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	N
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	
Mute Swan	<i>C. olor</i>	I
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	
Ross' Goose	<i>C. rossii</i>	N1
Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	5
Barnacle Goose	<i>B. leucopsis</i>	N
Canada Goose	<i>B. canadensis</i>	B2
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	B
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	B
American Black Duck	<i>A. rubripes</i>	B
Mallard	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	B
Northern Pintail	<i>A. acuta</i>	B

Blue-winged Teal	<i>A. discors</i>	B
Cinnamon Teal	<i>A. cyanoptera</i>	N
Northern Shoveler	<i>A. clypeata</i>	B
Gadwall	<i>A. strepera</i>	B
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>A. penelope</i>	
American Wigeon	<i>A. americana</i>	B
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	B2
Redhead	<i>A. americana</i>	B
Ring-necked Duck	<i>A. collaris</i>	B
Tufted Duck	<i>A. fuligula</i>	U
Greater Scaup	<i>A. marila</i>	
Lesser Scaup	<i>A. affinis</i>	B2
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	U
King Eider	<i>S. spectabilis</i>	
Labrador Duck	<i>Camptorhynchus labradorius</i>	†
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	
Oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	
Surf Scoter	<i>M. perspicillata</i>	
White-winged Scoter	<i>M. fusca</i>	
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	B
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>B. islandica</i>	
Bufflehead	<i>B. albeola</i>	
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	N
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	B
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	B
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>M. serrator</i>	B
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	B
<b>Order FALCONIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Cathartidae - American Vultures</b>		
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	N
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	B
<b>Family Accipitridae - Kites, Eagles, Hawks and Allies</b>		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	B
American Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	N
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	N1
Mississippi Kite	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	N
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	B2
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	B
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	B
Cooper's Hawk	<i>A. cooperii</i>	B

Northern Goshawk	<i>A. gentilis</i>	B
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	B
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>B. platypterus</i>	B
Swainson's Hawk	<i>B. swainsoni</i>	N
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>B. jamaicensis</i>	B
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>B. lagopus</i>	
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	B
<b>Family Falconidae - Caracaras and Falcons</b>		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	B
Merlin	<i>F. columbarius</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>F. peregrinus</i>	B2
Gyrfalcon	<i>F. rusticolus</i>	N
<b>Order GALLIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Phasianidae - Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys and Quail</b>		
Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	I
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	I
Spruce Grouse	<i>Dendragapus canadensis</i>	BO
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	B
Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	E
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	B2
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	B
<b>Order GRUIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Rallidae - Rails, Gallinules and Coots</b>		
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	N
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	BU
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	N
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	BU
King Rail	<i>R. elegans</i>	BN
Virginia Rail	<i>R. limicola</i>	B
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	B
Azure Gallinule	<i>Porphyryla flavirostris</i>	N3
Purple Gallinule	<i>P. martinica</i>	U
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	B
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	B
<b>Family Gruidae - Cranes</b>		
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	N
<b>Order CHARADRIIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Charadriidae - Plovers and Lapwings</b>		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	N
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Lesser Golden-Plover	<i>P. dominica</i>	

Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	N
Semipalmated Plover	<i>C. semipalmatus</i>	
Piping Plover	<i>C. melodus</i>	BU
Killdeer	<i>C. vociferus</i>	B
Family <b>Haematopodidae - Oystercatchers</b>		
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	BU
Family <b>Recurvirostridae - Stilts and Avocets</b>		
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	U
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	U
Family <b>Scolopacidae - Sandpipers, Phalaropes and Allies</b>		
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>T. flavipes</i>	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	N
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>T. solitaria</i>	
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	B
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	B
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	B
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	NE
Whimbrel	<i>B. phaeopus</i>	5
Eurasian Curlew	<i>B. arquata</i>	N
Long-billed Curlew	<i>B. americana</i>	N
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>L. lapponica</i>	N
Marbled Godwit	<i>L. fedoa</i>	U
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	
Sanderling	<i>C. alba</i>	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>C. pusilla</i>	
Western Sandpiper	<i>C. mauri</i>	4
Rufous-necked Stint	<i>C. ruficollis</i>	N
Little Stint	<i>C. minuta</i>	N1
Least Sandpiper	<i>C. minutilla</i>	
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>C. fuscicollis</i>	
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>C. bairdii</i>	4
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>C. melanotos</i>	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>C. acuminata</i>	N
Purple Sandpiper	<i>C. maritima</i>	
Dunlin	<i>C. alpina</i>	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>C. ferruginea</i>	U
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>C. himantopus</i>	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	

Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>L. scolopaceus</i>	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	B
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	B
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>P. lobatus</i>	
Red Phalarope	<i>P. fulicaria</i>	
<b>Family Laridae - Skuas, Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</b>		
Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>S. parasiticus</i>	
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>S. longicaudus</i>	N
Great Skua	<i>Catharacta skua</i>	N
South Polar Skua	<i>C. maccormicki</i>	N
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	B
Franklin's Gull	<i>L. pipixcan</i>	
Little Gull	<i>L. minutus</i>	
Common Black-headed Gull	<i>L. ridibundus</i>	
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>L. philadelphia</i>	
Mew Gull	<i>L. canus</i>	N1
Ring-billed Gull	<i>L. delawarensis</i>	B
California Gull	<i>L. californicus</i>	N
Herring Gull	<i>L. argentatus</i>	B
Thayer's Gull	<i>L. thayeri</i>	N
Iceland Gull	<i>L. glaucooides</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>L. fuscus</i>	
Glaucous Gull	<i>L. hyperboreus</i>	
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>L. marinus</i>	B
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	
Ross' Gull	<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>	N1
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	4
Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	N
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	BU
Caspian Tern	<i>S. caspia</i>	B
Royal Tern	<i>S. maxima</i>	U
Sandwich Tern	<i>S. sandvicensis</i>	N
Roseate Tern	<i>S. dougallii</i>	BU
Common Tern	<i>S. hirundo</i>	B
Arctic Tern	<i>S. paradisaea</i>	N
Forster's Tern	<i>S. forsteri</i>	B
Least Tern	<i>S. antillarum</i>	BU

Bridled Tern	<i>S. anaethetus</i>	N
Sooty Tern	<i>S. fuscata</i>	N
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	B
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops nigra</i>	BU
<b>Family Alcidae - Auks, Murres and Puffins</b>		
Dovekie	<i>Alle alle</i>	U
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	N
Thick-billed Murre	<i>U. lomvia</i>	U
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	U
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	U
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	N
<b>Order COLUMBIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Columbidae - Pigeons and Doves</b>		
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	I
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	N
Mourning Dove	<i>Z. macroura</i>	B
Passenger Pigeon	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	†B
<b>Order CUCULIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Cuculidae - Cuckoos, Roadrunners and Anis</b>		
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	B
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>C. americanus</i>	B
<b>Order STRIGIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Tytonidae - Barn Owls</b>		
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	B
<b>Family Strigidae - Typical Owls</b>		
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	B
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	B
Snowy Owl	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	
Northern Hawk Owl	<i>Surnia ulula</i>	N
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	N
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	B
Great Gray Owl	<i>S. nebulosa</i>	N
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	B
Short-eared Owl	<i>A. flammeus</i>	B
Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	N
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>A. acadicus</i>	B
<b>Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES</b>		
<b>Family Caprimulgidae - Goatsuckers</b>		
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	B
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	BU
Whip-poor-will	<i>C. vociferus</i>	B

Order APODIFORMES

Family Apodidae - Swifts

Chimney Swift *Chaetura pelagica* B

Family Trochilidae - Hummingbirds

Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris* B

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family Alcedinidae - Kingfishers

Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* B

Order PICIFORMES

Family Picidae - Woodpeckers and Allies

Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* B

Red-bellied Woodpecker *M. carolinus* B

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius* B

Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens* B

Hairy Woodpecker *P. villosus* B

Three-toed Woodpecker *P. tridactylus* BO

Black-backed Woodpecker *P. arcticus* BO

Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus* B

Pileated Woodpecker *Dryocopus pileatus* B

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family Tyrannidae - Tyrant Flycatchers

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus borealis* B

Eastern Wood-Pewee *C. virens* B

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher *Empidonax flaviventris* B

Acadian Flycatcher *E. virescens* B

Alder Flycatcher *E. alnorum* B

Willow Flycatcher *E. traillii* B

Least Flycatcher *E. minimus* B

Eastern Phoebe *Sayornis phoebe* B

Say's Phoebe *S. saya* N

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus* N

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens* N

Great Crested Flycatcher *M. crinitus* B

Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis* U

Eastern Kingbird *T. tyrannus* B

Gray Kingbird *T. dominicensis* N

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher *T. forficatus* N

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *T. savana* N1

Family Alaudidae - Larks

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* IE

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* B

<b>Family Hirundinidae - Swallows</b>		
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	B
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	B
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	B
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	B
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	B
Barn Swallow	<i>H. rustica</i>	B
<b>Family Corvidae - Jays, Magpies and Crows</b>		
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	BO
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	B
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	N
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	B
Fish Crow	<i>C. ossifragus</i>	B
Common Raven	<i>C. corax</i>	B
<b>Family Paridae - Chickadees and Titmouse</b>		
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	B
Boreal Chickadee	<i>P. hudsonicus</i>	B
Tufted Titmouse	<i>P. bicolor</i>	B
<b>Family Sittidae - Nuthatches</b>		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	B
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>S. carolinensis</i>	B
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>S. pusilla</i>	N
<b>Family Certhiidae - Creepers</b>		
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	B
<b>Family Troglodytidae - Wrens</b>		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	N
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	B
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	NB
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	B
Winter Wren	<i>T. troglodytes</i>	B
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	B
Marsh Wren	<i>C. palustris</i>	B
<b>Family Muscicapidae - Muscicapids</b>		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	B
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>R. calendula</i>	B
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	B
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	N
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	B
Mountain Bluebird	<i>S. currucoides</i>	N
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	N
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	B



Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>C. minimus</i>	B
Swainson's Thrush	<i>C. ustulatus</i>	B
Hermit Thrush	<i>C. guttatus</i>	B
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	B
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	N1
Redwing	<i>T. iliacus</i>	N
American Robin	<i>T. migratorius</i>	B
Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	
<b>Family Mimidae - Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Allies.</b>		
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	B
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	B
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	N
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	B
<b>Family Motacillidae - Wagtails and Pipits</b>		
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	
<b>Family Bombycillidae - Waxwings</b>		
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	
Cedar Waxwing	<i>B. cedrorum</i>	B
<b>Family Laniidae - Shrikes</b>		
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>L. ludovicianus</i>	B
<b>Family Sturnidae - Starlings</b>		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	I
<b>Family Vireonidae - Vireos</b>		
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	B
Bell's Vireo	<i>V. bellii</i>	N
Solitary Vireo	<i>V. solitarius</i>	B
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>V. flavifrons</i>	B
Warbling Vireo	<i>V. gilvus</i>	B
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>V. philadelphicus</i>	B
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>V. olivaceus</i>	B
<b>Family Emberizidae - Emberizids</b>		
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	B
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>V. chrysoptera</i>	B
Tennessee Warbler	<i>V. peregrina</i>	B
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>V. celata</i>	
Nashville Warbler	<i>V. ruficapilla</i>	B
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	B
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	B
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>D. pensylvanica</i>	B
Magnolia Warbler	<i>D. magnolia</i>	B

Cape May Warbler	<i>D. tigrina</i>	B
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>D. caerulescens</i>	B
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>D. coronata</i>	B5
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>D. nigrescens</i>	N
Townsend's Warbler	<i>D. townsendi</i>	N
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>D. virens</i>	B
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>D. fusca</i>	B
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>D. dominica</i>	BU
Pine Warbler	<i>D. pinus</i>	B
Prairie Warbler	<i>D. discolor</i>	B
Palm Warbler	<i>D. palmarum</i>	B
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>D. castanea</i>	B
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>D. striata</i>	B
Cerulean Warbler	<i>D. cerulea</i>	B
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	B
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	B
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	B
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helminthos vermivorus</i>	B
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnithlypis swainsonii</i>	N
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	B
Northern Waterthrush	<i>S. noveboracensis</i>	B
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>S. motacilla</i>	B
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	B
Connecticut Warbler	<i>O. agilis</i>	
Mourning Warbler	<i>O. philadelphia</i>	B
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	B
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	B
Wilson's Warbler	<i>W. pusilla</i>	B
Canada Warbler	<i>W. canadensis</i>	B
Painted Redstart	<i>Myioborus pictus</i>	N
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	B
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	U
Scarlet Tanager	<i>P. olivacea</i>	B
Western Tanager	<i>P. ludoviciana</i>	N
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	B
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	B
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>P. melanocephalus</i>	N
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>	BU
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	B
Painted Bunting	<i>P. ciris</i>	N
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	B

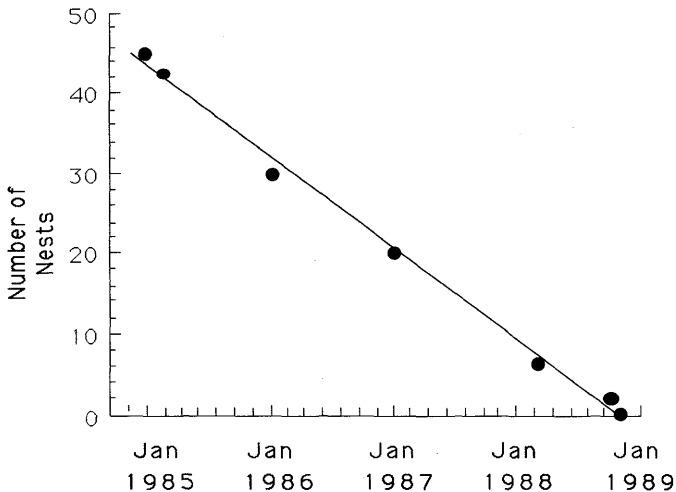
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	N
Rufous-sided Towhee	<i>P. erythrophthalmus</i>	B5
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	N
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	
Chipping Sparrow	<i>S. passerina</i>	B
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>S. pallida</i>	B
Field Sparrow	<i>S. pusilla</i>	B
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	B
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	U
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	N
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	B
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	N
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>A. savannarum</i>	B
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>A. henslowii</i>	B
Le Conte's Sparrow	<i>A. lecontei</i>	N
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	<i>A. caudacutus</i>	BU
Seaside Sparrow	<i>A. maritimus</i>	BU
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	B
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>M. lincolnii</i>	B
Swamp Sparrow	<i>M. georgiana</i>	B
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	B
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Z. atricapilla</i>	N
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Z. leucophrys</i>	
Harris' Sparrow	<i>Z. querula</i>	N
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	B
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	
Smith's Longspur	<i>C. pictus</i>	N
Chestnut-collared Longspur	<i>C. ornatus</i>	N
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	B
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	B
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	B
Western Meadowlark	<i>S. neglecta</i>	B
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	B
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>E. cyanocephalus</i>	N
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	BU
Common Grackle	<i>Q. quiscula</i>	B
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	B
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	B

Northern Oriole	<i>I. galbula</i>	B5
Family <b>Fringillidae - Fringilline and Cardueline Finches and Allies</b>		
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	N
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	B
House Finch	<i>C. mexicanus</i>	I
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	B
White-winged Crossbill	<i>L. leucoptera</i>	B
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	
Hoary Redpoll	<i>C. hornemanni</i>	N
Pine Siskin	<i>C. pinus</i>	B
American Goldfinch	<i>C. tristis</i>	B
European Goldfinch	<i>C. carduelis</i>	IE
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	B
Family <b>Passeridae - Old World Sparrows</b>		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	I

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Attrition Of Nests From An Abandoned Great Blue Heron:** Since the summer of 1984 I have been observing the activity of a Great Blue Heron at King's Bay State Game Area along Lake Champlain in northern Clinton County. Permission was granted in 1984 from the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation to place numbered aluminum tags on each of the trees used by the herons in the heronry. This facilitated monitoring the heronry. As it turned out, the summer of 1984 was the last nesting season in which the heronry was fully active. Nesting at the heronry was disturbed by Great Horned Owl predation during the 1985 and 1986 nesting season (see *The Kingbird* Winter 1987, page 6). The heronry essentially has been abandoned since the end of the 1984 nesting season. Even though the heronry has been abandoned I have continued to monitor it. Each winter a complete survey of the remaining nests is conducted by me. How fast did this heronry deteriorate once abandoned? The graph below answers the question quite nicely. This heronry lost 25.8% of its nests each year. In other words it took fully four years for all traces of the heronry to disappear. The data fits a linear model for loss of nests with time amazingly well. The graph shows the least squares line for the data. I am not prepared to interpret the meaning of this linear decay. Obviously the loss of nests with time is site specific. However, these results may be a good first approximation of nest attrition for any heronry on the western shore of Lake Champlain. The yearly loss of nests is only one element in understanding the dynamics of a heronry.

Mark Gretch, 62 Pratt St., Rouses Point, N.Y. 12979



## From the Editor

The Thirty-seventh Supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds (*Auk* 106(3):532-536; 1989) contains several changes that affect the scientific and English names of birds on the New York State list. The official list which appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Kingbird* incorporates these changes, but the Regional reports in this (and the next) issue do not. *The Kingbird* will adopt the newer nomenclature effective the Fall 1989 reporting season, which will appear in issue 1 of Volume 40. This will change the names of the following birds as indicated:

The scientific name of Northern Gannet changes from *Sula bassanus* to *Morus bassanus*.

The scientific name of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron changes from *Nycticorax violaceus* to *Nyctanassa violacea*.

The English name of *Tyto alba* changes from Common Barn-Owl to **Barn Owl**.

The English name of *Surnia ulula* changes from Northern Hawk-Owl to **Northern Hawk Owl**.

The English name of Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* changes to **American Pipit**, and its scientific name becomes *Anthus rubescens*.

*The Editor*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The spring 1989 offered another lackluster migration enlivened a bit in every Region by a good selection of rarities. Once again overall variety was good and arrival dates generally were not far from average but, as noted specifically in Region 10's introductory comments, there was an universal impression of fewer small birds. Only in Region 7 was the picture a bit more upbeat. The Region 2 report notes birds dripping from the trees and record banding totals in the interval 18-20 May, but living and birding there on those days, I observed on 18 and 19 May that there was little sign of these migrant hordes more than a mile from the Lake Ontario, a fact similarly noted in Region 5; and that only on May 20 was there finally some sign of widespread movement of small birds in numbers, very good numbers for some species.

This spring's weather certainly contributed to the overall picture. Over most of the state the icy grip of winter extended into early March, followed by some moderation, a relatively dry period. From 18-20 Mar some excellent waterfowl concentrations upstate were accompanied by the arrival of at least three different Eurasian Wigeon across Regions 1-3. April remained cool with near normal precipitation over most of the state, but with no weather systems suitable to produce waves of migrants until the waning days of the month. May was generally cool and **wet!** This period of heavier precipitation began in April in Regions 9 and 10, and the many wet weekends substantially impacted reporting there. The lack of good winds in April and much of May also dramatically reduced hawkwatch totals. Only Region 7 appeared to counter these trends with a warmer and drier than normal spring; only 1/10 the snowfall of a normal season was recorded in some places, and record hawk tallies and banding totals were obtained there. A freak heavy snowfall on 7 May brought lots of color in the form of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings to feeders in Regions 1, 2 and 3. The rains of May produced losses to Purple Martins, Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds in Region 1 and probably elsewhere in many areas.

Let us move to the major groups of birds generally sought in the spring. Once again there were no really good counts of loons and the only grebe count of note is a very high fallout of 445 Horned Grebes noted in Region 3 during mid April. The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continues unabated inland. From Region 10, we have note of a mid May pelagic trip with totals for some species which would have

been unprecedented 15 years ago. Most heron notes were negatives, with the exceptions of Great Blue Heron and Great Egret. The annual appearance of several species rare away from the coast included Cattle Egret in Regions 2 and 6; Snowy Egret in Region 7; Little Blue Heron in Regions 6 and 7; Tricolored Heron in Regions 3 and 9; and Glossy Ibis in Regions 5 and 9. As with last year, waterfowl variety was good. There were no serious misses, but numbers for most species, particularly Brant, Am. Black Duck and Canvasback, were relatively poor. Positives included good numbers of Tundra Swan within their expected distribution; very high Snow Goose counts in Regions 3 and 7; Greater White-fronted Goose in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 5, where it has been found regularly in recent years with large concentrations of Canada Goose; Ross' Goose as Regional firsts in Regions 2 and 5; and the highest Oldsquaw count in many decades in Region 10. Once again for the dataphiles, the Region 3 report provides maxima from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Hawkwatching suffered from poor winds most of the season. Where tables or totals are presented, the overall numbers are low, though many species were still tallied in large numbers. It was a good year for the Bald Eagle both in passage and in nesting. Osprey hacking has paid off with nesting in Region 1 at last. Turkey Vulture is on the increase across the state and ever more Black Vulture reports include a peak of eight in Region 9. Swainson's Hawk, now apparently regular in spring, produced two at Braddock Bay this year. Other positives include the establishment of a new watch at Sodus Bay in Region 2 and record counts at Coot Hill in Region 7. The principal negatives were very low N. Goshawk totals and very few breeding pairs of Red-shouldered Hawk noted. Additional reports associated with the hawkwatches are several Sandhill Crane reports, with multiple birds/sightings in Regions 1, 2 and 6. The total of about 12 in Region 2 includes an incredible eight in one day, although the observations of three headed east and later five (in a group) headed west leaves the possibility only five individuals were present that day. Certainly the status of this species has changed dramatically in recent years, consistent with breeding colonies reestablished and expanding not far north and east in Ontario and lower Michigan.

Shorebirds, gulls and terns again repeated their dismal showing of a year ago. Shorebirds possibly were even worse, as there were lots of seasonal puddles in May but few birds except in Region 9. Even the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge notes from Region 10 reported the six most common species down an average of 27 percent. Among the negatives,



Short-billed Dowitcher has seemed very scarce locally for several seasons and was mentioned only in Region 9 this spring. Does this reflect only a lack of reports? Positives included very high counts (which should be submitted to the NYSARC for review) of Western Sandpiper in Region 2 and of Willet in Region 5. Well above average totals for Black-bellied Plover and Red Knot came from Region 10. Gull notes of interest include several rarer species accompanying flocks of Bonaparte's Gull in Regions 2 and 10, a Thayer's Gull in Region 5, and typically late white-winged gulls in several Regions. Hopefully, tern reports were scarcer than were the actual terns. Reports of special note include only a record early Forster's Tern in Region 1 and yet another Arctic Tern in Region 10. Black Tern appears to continue in serious trouble across the state. The large rise in marsh water levels with May/June rains compounded with typical water level tinkering of the St. Lawrence seaway almost certainly has impacted Great Lakes nesting colonies drastically this year.

Moving on to the large order Passeriformes, most were felt to be late and scarce, yet late arrivals in no family were consistently statistically significantly later than normal (only a total of 10 passerines fit that criterion *vs* three early). The feeling of scarcity derives from general comments and from the fact that no noteworthy high counts were found in any Region for any of these species, even though record banding totals were obtained in Regions 2 and 7. Unfortunately these banding totals are not accompanied by more details even though the data certainly were available. Specific negatives among the passerines included few reports of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; possible problems with the colonial swallows in several Regions; few migrant Red-breasted Nuthatches; House Wrens late and scarce in Regions 2 and 9; only two Sedge Wrens reported for the state; only six Loggerhead Shrike reports, none apparently breeding; low counts for Golden-winged, Cape May and Cerulean Warblers; low counts also for Indigo Bunting in several Regions; continued lows for the grassland sparrows; few Lincoln's Sparrows in Regions 3, 5 and 9; and the lack of a spring movement of the northern finches as a group. Positives within this order included Common Raven in five Regions; increases for N. Mockingbird, highlighted by four banded in Region 7; good numbers of reports of the rarer warblers, with Yellow-throated in Regions 1, 2 and 10, Prothonotary in Regions 1, 2, 3 and 10, Worm-eating and Kentucky in five Regions, and Connecticut in Region 2; a record early female Bay-breasted Warbler on a nest in Region 7; several Clay-colored Sparrows in mid May in Regions 1 and 2; good counts for Fox Sparrow in Region 5

and Lincoln's Sparrow in Regions 1 and 2; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 2, 5 and 10; Orchard Oriole in six Regions, with two banded in Region 7; and, in spite of the scarcity of finches, an early fledgling date for Pine Siskin in Region 5.

For many species and families, there is no organized approach to reporting and too few random notes among the Regional reports to say anything about status or trends. For example the mid May super wave which hit banders in Region 2 resulted in several single day totals exceeding record maxima in Bull's *Birds of New York State* even though 100's of birds were freed unbanded as banders and helpers at first couldn't keep up and then ran out of small bands. It is disappointing that this event was not summarized in more detail.

As usual, there are reports which don't belong to the major groups and other bits and pieces of interest scattered among the Regional reports. These include continued increase of Wild Turkey across the state; very low counts for most marsh birds in many Regions; few cuckoo reports except in Region 9; few owl reports, though good numbers are noted for the Lake Ontario Plain; very low counts again for both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will; continued range expansion and increase of Red-bellied Woodpecker in Regions 6, 7 and 9; fair numbers of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting lingering well into Spring; and token single Common Redpolls in five Regions in this off year for finches. Very early arrivals, the exception this spring, included an American Robin in the Adirondacks in Region 7; Louisiana Waterthrush in Region 5; Connecticut Warbler in Region 2; and Hooded Warbler in Region 10. The Region 7 report describes an eagle-gull chase, a veritable raptor air show over Coot Hill, a retrap of a very old Yellow Warbler, observations of orange-tipped Cedar Waxwings (and are others finding that strongly orange tail-tipped birds also tend toward orange hues on all other normally yellow or yellowish areas of the bird?), and a very interesting summary of observations at a remote lake - what might be found if more of these remote areas could be covered well periodically at different seasons? Finally, in the Region 5 report we have food for thought in the comment that, while most first arrival dates were relatively normal, the bulk of arrival date records for most species from nearly all observers were late. Perhaps dwelling on Regional arrivals as data easily gathered will not give much warning of dwindling numbers as large numbers of observers continue to ferret out that one early bird and we fail to note that the next of its kind came days or weeks later, or that no one ever recorded more than 1 or 2 at a time all season.

I have recorded my reservations about the data in the arrival date

## Waterbird Arrivals 1989

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
American Bittern	16 Apr	16 Apr	8 Apr		4 May	21 Apr	7 Apr		5 Apr		15 Apr
Green-backed Heron	23 Apr	29 Apr	15 Apr		28 Apr		8 May		20 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr
Wood Duck	14 Mar		16 Mar		11 Mar	16 Apr	2 Apr		18 Mar	12 Mar	21 Mar
Green-winged Teal	16 Mar	12 Mar	18 Mar		<i>18 Mar</i>	14 Apr			12 Mar		20 Mar
Northern Pintail	11 Mar		10 Mar		<i>17 Mar</i>	26 Mar	28 Mar		13 Mar		17 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	18 Mar	16 Mar	19 Mar		25 Mar		27 Apr		25 Mar	1 Apr	27 Mar
Osprey	2 Apr	28 Mar	3 Apr		28 Mar	19 Apr	5 Apr		2 Apr	26 Mar	2 Apr
Virginia Rail	22 Apr		29 Apr		9 Apr	10 Apr	15 May		7 May	2 Apr	22 Apr
Sora	27 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr		20 Apr	24 Apr			13 May	2 Apr	21 Apr
Common Murrelet	15 Apr	15 Apr	30 Apr		8 Apr	24 Apr	10 May		5 May	17 Apr	23 Apr
Black-bellied Plover		26 May	28 May		2 Jun						29 May
Semipalmated Plover	19 May	20 May	2 May		20 May				13 May	19 Mar	5 May
Killdeer	4 Mar		16 Mar		12 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar		10 Mar	5 Mar	13 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	9 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr		25 Mar	23 Apr	10 May		17 Apr	19 Mar	9 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	9 Apr	4 Apr	24 Apr		2 Apr	24 Apr	20 May		5 May	20 Apr	21 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	29 Apr	29 Apr	21 Apr		16 Apr		23 May		5 May	29 Apr	30 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	21 Apr	26 Apr	22 Apr		1 May	4 May	1 May		30 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr
Sanderling		26 May	2 May								14 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	20 May	17 May			20 May				13 May	29 Apr	13 May
Least Sandpiper	6 May	4 May	2 May		30 Apr				12 May	20 Apr	2 May
Pectoral Sandpiper		17 Mar	17 Apr		14 Apr	25 Apr			13 May	19 Mar	12 Apr
Common Snipe	17 Mar	26 Mar	3 Mar		19 Mar	5 Apr	3 Apr		25 Mar		22 Mar
American Woodcock	14 Mar	11 Mar	17 Mar		16 Mar	23 Mar	29 Mar		5 Mar		16 Mar
Caspian Tern	13 Apr	4 Apr			14 Apr	21 Apr	3 Jun			19 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	16 Apr	27 Apr	18 Apr		2 May	30 Apr			27 Mar	29 Apr	21 Apr
Black Tern	6 May	30 Apr	3 May		30 Apr	13 May	11 May			6 May	5 May
Marsh Wren	7 May	1 May	5 May		5 May				8 Apr	8 Apr	25 Apr

**Bold** Regional Record Early      *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

Spring Arrivals 1989

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Black-billed Cuckoo	19 May	17 May	20 May		19 May	22 May	19 May		8 May	6 May	16 May
Common Nighthawk	4 May	15 May	17 May		20 May		11 May		26 May	7 May	14 May
Chimney Swift	20 Apr	29 Apr	24 Apr		28 Apr	25 Apr	4 May		21 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	15 May	13 May	6 May		23 Apr	18 May	14 May		26 Apr	7 May	7 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29 Mar	6 Apr	4 Apr		8 Apr		9 Apr		26 Feb	26 Mar	29 Mar
Olive-sided Flycatcher		21 May	16 May		20 May		24 May			22 May	20 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	16 May	13 May	1 May		15 May	16 May	27 Apr		9 May	19 May	10 May
Alder Flycatcher	16 May	25 May	19 May		19 May	29 May	8 May		21 May	27 May	20 May
Willow Flycatcher	15 May	19 May	13 May		17 May		18 Jun		12 May	19 May	20 May
Least Flycatcher	30 Apr	29 Apr	1 May		2 May	14 May	2 May		4 May	13 May	4 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	24 Mar	20 Mar		21 Mar	28 Mar	27 Mar		14 May	12 Mar	28 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	27 Apr	30 Apr	3 May		2 May	12 May	7 May		1 May	1 May	2 May
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr		30 Apr	4 May	12 May		22 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Purple Martin	23 Apr	28 Mar	18 Apr		17 Apr	17 Apr	20 Apr		17 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr
Tree Swallow	19 Mar	26 Mar	18 Mar		15 Mar	5 Apr	4 Apr		21 Mar	18 Mar	23 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	16 Apr	19 Apr	31 Mar		22 Apr		20 May		6 Apr	1 Apr	16 Apr
Bank Swallow	30 Apr	30 Apr	2 Apr		28 Apr	4 May	13 May		29 Apr	16 Apr	26 Apr
Cliff Swallow	3 May	15 Apr	27 Apr		5 May	28 Apr	30 Apr		15 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr
Barn Swallow	8 Apr	4 Apr	15 Mar		14 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr		21 Apr	1 Apr	9 Apr
House Wren	27 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr		26 Apr	30 Apr	4 May		15 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5 Apr	8 Apr	11 Mar		15 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr		2 Mar	2 Apr	2 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	30 Apr	18 Apr	9 Apr		29 Apr		12 May		8 Apr	8 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird	11 Mar		1 Mar		14 Mar	28 Mar	25 Mar		10 Mar		14 Mar
Veery	28 Apr	30 Apr	4 May		30 Apr	5 May	3 May		29 Apr	29 Apr	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	6 May	5 May	9 May		12 May		5 May		5 May	13 May	7 May
Hermit Thrush	27 Mar		8 Apr		12 Apr	4 May	11 Apr		30 Mar	28 Apr	12 Apr
Wood Thrush	30 Apr	1 May	30 Apr		1 May	4 May	6 May		27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May
Gray Catbird	30 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr		1 May	8 May	3 May		29 Apr	1 May	30 Apr
Brown Thrasher	27 Apr	13 Apr	9 Apr		16 Apr	5 May	29 Apr		16 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr
Solitary Vireo	17 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr		29 Apr	10 May	28 Apr		17 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	4 May	5 May	29 Apr		13 May				5 May	29 Apr	4 May
Warbling Vireo	1 May	4 May	29 Apr		6 May	15 May	11 May		5 May	3 May	5 May
Red-eyed Vireo	14 May	5 May	30 Apr		14 May	14 May	4 May		5 May	3 May	7 May

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Tennessee Warbler	7 May	9 May	13 May		13 May	9 May	19 May		7 May	4 May	10 May
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr		6 May	8 May	5 May		1 May	29 Apr	1 May
Northern Parula	6 May	5 May	7 May		6 May	16 May	19 May		22 Apr	26 Apr	5 May
Yellow Warbler	29 Apr	5 May	16 Apr		28 Apr	7 May	1 May		20 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4 May	6 May	6 May		12 May	8 May	14 May		30 Apr	29 Apr	6 May
Magnolia Warbler	6 May	5 May	6 May		15 May	11 May	14 May		29 Apr	3 May	7 May
Cape May Warbler	30 Apr	5 May	6 May		6 May	16 May	15 May		5 May	5 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	6 May	30 Apr	<b>30 Apr</b>		30 Apr	8 May	3 May		27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	27 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr		1 May	4 May	5 May		28 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	3 May	<b>30 Apr</b>		30 Apr	7 May	10 May		30 Apr	29 Apr	2 May
Pine Warbler	29 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr		16 Apr	19 Apr	4 May		<b>19 Mar</b>	22 Mar	16 Apr
Palm Warbler	29 Apr	29 Apr	23 Apr		28 Apr	22 May			5 Apr	1 Apr	23 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	13 May	6 May		16 May	18 May	20 May		12 May	7 May	12 May
Blackpoll Warbler	19 May	15 May	14 May		20 May	18 May	19 May		30 Apr	7 May	14 May
Black-and-White Warbler	29 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr		30 Apr	5 May	1 May		21 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr
American Redstart	6 May	5 May	29 Apr		6 May	17 May	12 May		30 Apr	13 Apr	3 May
Ovenbird	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		5 May	21 May	5 May		3 May	20 Apr	3 May
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr		23 Apr	9 May	4 May		30 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	13 May	15 May	19 May		15 May		21 May		20 May	8 May	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	3 May	1 May	<b>30 Apr</b>		6 May	11 May	9 May		4 May	19 Apr	2 May
Wilson's Warbler	18 May	13 May	<b>9 May</b>		18 May	19 May	20 May		17 May	7 May	15 May
Canada Warbler	17 May	15 May	9 May		15 May	19 May	18 May		5 May	4 May	12 May
Scarlet Tanager	2 May	5 May	7 May		6 May	17 May	7 May		5 May	29 Apr	6 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr		5 May	5 May	6 May		29 Apr	16 Apr	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	14 May	13 May	8 May		19 May		10 May		5 May	6 May	10 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	28 Mar	25 Mar	1 Apr		15 Apr	25 Apr	5 May		17 Apr	1 Apr	10 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	4 Apr	6 Apr	16 Mar		18 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr		14 Apr	29 Mar	6 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	5 Apr	24 Mar	29 Mar		16 Apr		15 Apr		24 Apr		8 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	1 Apr	24 Mar	2 Apr		5 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr		4 Apr	23 Apr	7 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	13 May	4 May	6 May		5 May		5 May		14 May	26 Apr	6 May
White-crowned Sparrow	30 Apr	16 Apr	29 Apr		1 May	<i>27 Apr</i>	25 Apr		12 Apr	29 Apr	24 Apr
Bobolink	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		30 Apr	8 May	12 May		1 May	6 May	3 May
Northern Oriole	30 Apr	4 May	29 Apr		4 May	7 May	6 May		30 Apr	26 Apr	2 May

**Bold** Regional Record Early      *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

tables several times in the past and I also have detailed the mechanics of my analysis before, so this time I will simply proceed to report the results of the somewhat fuzzy statistical analysis. Water birds, land birds, and the total of all species in the tables averaged statistically significantly (at least 2 standard deviations) late this spring, though only 14 individual species were significantly late. Three species were early. These species are well scattered across families and expected arrival periods. If repeated lateness is significant, then Green-backed Heron, Bank Swallow, Vesper Sparrow and Northern Oriole are repeats from last year and all are species of some concern in at least some Regions. There were no repeats of significantly early arriving species. Using a sign test to look at groups of species with normal arrival dates in various parts of the season, only those normally arriving in the 21 Mar to 14 Apr and 25-30 Apr periods were scattered equally about their normal dates. All other 1-2 week periods had many more late than early arrivals. Looking to the summary table, seasonality shows Regions 1 and 2 averaging significantly late arrivals, Region 3 early, and the rest not significantly different from the 25 year baseline. The pattern of relative arrivals among regions under Advance generally shows the south to north movement with time that we feel is "normal."

<b>Region</b>	<b>Species Reported</b>	<b>Seasonality (days)</b>	<b>Advance (days)</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	89	2.0	-1.0
<b>Region 2</b>	87	2.7	-2.0
<b>Region 3</b>	91	-1.9	-3.7
<b>Region 4</b>	0		
<b>Region 5</b>	92	1.5	0.9
<b>Region 6</b>	72	0.7	8.0
<b>Region 7</b>	81	-0.7	8.3
<b>Region 8</b>	0		
<b>Region 9</b>	88	0.7	-2.2
<b>Region 10</b>	84	0.9	-6.4

This spring rarities really were the brightest spot of the season in most Regions. The best of the lists, generally not repeating those already mentioned above include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Swainson's Warbler and Brewer's Blackbird in Region 1; American White Pelican, Ross' Goose and Fish Crow in Region 2; American White Pelican, Blue

Grosbeak and Lesser Black-backed Gull in Region 3; Ross' Goose, Black-necked Stilt, Stilt Sandpiper and Fish Crow in Region 5; Sandhill Crane, Cattle Egret, and Little Blue Heron in Region 6; Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Prairie Warbler and Black-headed Grosbeak in Region 7; Little Blue Heron in Region 9; and Barnacle Goose, Wilson's Plover, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Arctic Tern, Thick-billed Murre and Harris' Sparrow in Region 10. As usual, the list from Region 10 includes only the great rarities and omits numerous species which would be great finds anywhere else in the state. From scanning this list, it is obvious that many species in it would be candidates for the BOTS Award, but this Spring they are touched out by the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Region 10, a species unprecedented in the State at this time of year.  
*716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580*

**Standard abbreviations:** county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad — adult; arr — arrival or first of season; FL — fledgling; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; j — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

The season began with near average weather. The average temperature in March at Buffalo International Airport was 33°, precipitation 3.15 inches, snow 10.1 inches and sunshine 45% of possible. Ice storms occurred on 4, 17 and 18 Mar at Buffalo and on 31 Mar at Amity Lake. The ice boom protecting the hydroelectric intakes on Lake Erie began to be removed on 27 March and the ice field in the lake had shrunk to less than 100 square miles by the end of the month. Water birds and early passerines arriving in March from the east coast and the south were late in arriving. There was little migration until mid month; 17 Mar was a "boomer day...finally" at Amity Lake according to Vivian Pitzrick, Bob Sundell reported ice off the lower half of Chautauqua Lake on 18 Mar and many returning species late, and most of Terry Mosher's records also occurred after 17 Mar.

April was the coolest in seven years at Buffalo but dry. This allowed the water table to drop even lower but afforded good stream fishing for Common Merganser, early Louisiana Waterthrush and nimrods after trout. The average temperature at Buffalo was 41.9 degrees, 3.5° below normal. Although there were 11 days of rain at Buffalo, total precipitation was only 1.88 inches (two-thirds normal) and only 2.5 inches of snow fell. Sunshine was 48%, just below normal. Lake Erie was clear of ice by 6 Apr, ten days ahead of schedule and the *Maid of the Mist* was launched in the Niagara River two weeks early on 23 Apr. The last half of April high pressure dominated over the Region and brought reports of fourteen species of warblers before the end of the month. We learned about *omega blocks* from the weather reports on television. Lack of southwesterly winds disrupted the hawk watch project of the Buffalo Ornithological Society until 30 April finally brought favorable winds and high counts of Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks.

May averaged slightly lower than normal temperatures at 55.1° but was the wettest May of the century and the second wettest on record. This finally brought the water table up just in time to help open up the leaf buds of the forest. Vivian Pitzrick wrote that this was the first year she went birding with an umbrella. Precipitation was 7.22 inches at Buffalo International Airport (175% of normal). A freak snow storm on the seventh left 7.9 inches at Buffalo, up to a foot of snow in the snowbelt. On the plateau this snow lasted a few days and produced great color at feeders: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, bright Am Goldfinch and Purple Finch were highlighted against the snow. Swallows were forced to forsake nesting areas to hawk for insects over flooded fields, rivers and ponds. There were unconfirmed reports of many Purple Martin dying in mid May, but no specifics. Nine Tree Swallow nests without eggs in Carrolton were interrupted by snow, rain and cold temperatures from 7 to 16 May; only four pair returned with warm weather. Eastern Bluebird also experienced some loss of young due to cold and wetness. The last half of May was sultry and



summerlike. With water tables up, most sandpipers overflow the Region.

The Osprey hacking project at the Allegheny Reservoir begun in 1980 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and monitored by John and Mary Forness, finally succeeded! Two young hatched at the Bone Run nest site in the Allegheny Reservoir and one hatched at the nest near the hack site. It is thought that both males were hacked in the area and these paired with unmarked females. The Bald Eagles nesting at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge were successful again this year. Two adults were at the nest in March and Apr. The eggs hatched 29 or 30 April and there were two nestlings by mid May (DT). Bald Eagle sightings over the entire Region have increased with seven additional reports in March and eight in April. These added much excitement to Region 1 bird watching. The success of the nesting eagles and Ospreys add a new dimension and great credit to those responsible.

Owls coming south from Canada to winter mainly along the lake plains continue to be reported and appreciated. Long-eared, Short-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls were found during March and April in towns along Lake Ontario. A few were found further inland in Java, Wyoming County and Wales, Erie County.

Waterfowl migration across the southern tier remains generally low compared to the 1950's and 1960's but Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase. It was a big spring for Great Egrets which appeared in many wetlands across the Region in April and May. Sandhill Crane was again reported as observers scanned the skies for migrating hawks.

Willie D'Anna, birding mainly along Lake Ontario's south shore, said many passerines arrived 30 April whereas last year similar waves occurred 8 May and welled up there for the next two weeks. This year only 19 and 20 May produced the numbers seen during the two weeks of 1988. The differences certainly seem weather related as the last half of April was warm and dry and the first half of May wet and cold.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson's Warbler and Brewer's Blackbird** all added spice to the life of various observers.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrlr, Betsy Brooks, Chris Budniewski, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou and Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Dick Collins, Don and Jane Clark, William D'Anna, E. Derleth, Fred Evans, Steve Eaton, Donald Endres, Michael Galas, Joe Gula, Sr., Joe Gula, Jr., Paul Hess, Jamestown Audubon Society, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry Mahoney, Terry and Judy Mosher, Linda & Bill O'Brien, Vivian and Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Donald Robenson, Olga Rosche, Art Schaffner, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Don Tiller, Jim and Regina VanScoy, William Watson.

Abbreviations: ASP - Allegany State Park; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; CCNS - Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; FN - Fort Niagara; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NR - Niagara River; PTwn- Pomfret Township, CHAU; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS, Red-throated Loon: one DH 12 Mar. Com. Loon: arr three GHSP 11 Mar. Pied-billed Grebe: arr two INWR 17 Mar. Horned Grebe: 21 INWR 17 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: arr three Somerset and Yates, L Ontario 14 Mar. Double-crested Cormorant:

arr four Tonawanda Twn 11 Apr; max 60 NF 16 May. Least Bittern: one TWMA 19 May. Great Egret; arr TWMA 1 Apr; seven reports BOS Apr-May. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: one Scio Twn 11 May (L&DB, Fullers). Tundra Swan: arr Carrollton Twn 3 Mar; max 1600 Chautauqua L 17 Mar; 354 INWR 18 Mar, more than usual. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Yates Twn 19 Mar (WD,BP); one INWR 15 Apr (DT). Snow Goose: arr INWR 12 Mar. Brant: one DH 4-12 Mar, only report. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one TWMA 20-29 Mar. Canvasback: max 85 DH 18 Mar. Redhead: max 24 DH 12 Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 1200 DH 18 Mar. **Harlequin Duck**: two DH 3-5, 12 Mar (TM,mob), ninth CHAU record (RS).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: arr two Pinehurst 14 Mar. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 370 Hamburg 30 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 16 Pinehurst 14 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Ward Twn ALLE 13 Apr; max 1049 Hamburg 30 Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: 13 reports BOS 4-27 Mar; one Apr. **Golden Eagle**: imm Wales Twn ERIE 8 Apr (RA,DR); ad Pinehurst (BP,mob). Merlin: one DH 4 Mar, apparently overwintered in area; three reported BOS Apr. Peregrine Falcon: one Pt Gratiot, L Erie, 15 May. **Sandhill Crane**: two Hamburg 30 Apr (J&KT). Upland Sandpiper: arr two Randolph 30 Apr. Purple Sandpiper: seven Goat I, NR, 19 Apr, late. Am. Woodcock: 107 singing males INWR 1-7 May (DD *fide* DT). Bonaparte's Gull: 2000 Barcelona H 15 Apr. Caspian Tern: max 55 DH 18 Apr. Forster's Tern: one in Alternate plumage INWR 6 May; one DH 5 Apr (JG) and three Barcelona H 15 Apr.(RS), all in Basic plumage. Black Tern: 23 INWR 27 May (DD),

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Allegheny Res 29 May. Whip-poor-will: arr Hamburg 30 Apr; two PTwn 15 May. Chimney Swift: 202 Section 20 (Fredonia-Dunkirk) 21 May (BOS), still concentrated?

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Williamsville Glen ERIE 16 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr PTwn 19 May, late; five Wheeler's Gulf CHAU 21 May (PDBA). Purple Martin: two INWR 23 Apr, 17 Pinehurst 23 Apr, only reports BOS; *intro*. Tree Swallow: *intro*. Com. Raven: continues to be reported CATT and ALLE. Tufted Titmouse: seven reports Mar, four Apr, five May. Marsh Wren: max six TWMA 20 May. E. Bluebird: 32 pairs nesting Amity, Ward, Scio bluebird trail late May (VP), 24 pairs same time 1988. N. Shrike: six reports BOS Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: White-eyed Vireo: two PTwn 18 May (TM) where present last several summers. Philadelphia Vireo: one TNP 15 May, one CCNS 29 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr PTwn 30 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Lewiston Twn and Amherst 16 May as weather finally broke. "Brewsters" Warbler: one FNSP 16 May: one PTwn 18 May: one Allegheny Res 29 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TNP 7 May: on PTwn 14 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: singing male Science L, ASP, mid May (AS). Cerulean Warbler: arr TNP 7 May; one PTwn 14 May. Prothonotary Warbler: two INWR 24 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one Orchard P Twn 16 May, rare migrant. **Swainson's Warbler**: one Lancaster 18 May. Kentucky Warbler: one Williamsville Glen ERIE 16 May, rare migrant and probable breeder southern CATT. Hooded Warbler: arr Goat I, NR, 16 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Amity Twn ALLE 15 May, one PTwn 19 May.

**TANAGERS - WEAVERS**: Scarlet Tanager: female Carrollton 2-7 May, at feeder eating sunflower seeds. Clay-colored Sparrow: one Amity Twn ALLE 15 May (VP), PDBA. Vesper Sparrow: arr Sheridan Twn CHAU 5 Apr; one INWR 14 May; one Hamburg 11 Apr; three Elma Twn ERIE 15 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr PTwn 6 May; max five 19 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr two PTwn 6 May, one Clarence Twn ERIE, only reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: "in good supply this spring" (TM). Oregon (Dark-eyed) Junco: one W Ellicott Twn CHAU 7 Apr.(RS, L&W0, ph RTP Institute collection!). Lapland Longspur: last Clymer 9 May, late. Brewer's Blackbird: one TNP 16 Apr (DC, mob). Orchard Oriole: Forest Lawn Buffalo 13 May. Purple Finch: nine reports March, seven April, many at feeders. Com. Redpoll: three Warsaw Twn WYOM 8 Apr, only report. Pine Siskin: one Wales 19 Mar; one to two Amity L 19-23 May. Evening Grosbeak: eight Carrollton 21 Mar, three to five Wales

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The spring season started on a frigid note with early March temperatures at 30° and below. Things improved of course, but at the end of the month the average was still a full degree below normal at 32.3°. Precipitation was the opposite, over an inch above average at 3.69 inches. April's temperature didn't show much improvement. The average of 42.1° was nearly four degrees below normal. April was the driest month of the season with a total of 1.62 inches, about 60% of normal. May's precipitation made up for that with a total of 5.99 inches, more than twice normal. Temperatures continued on the cool side with an average of 56.3°. An unexpected snowfall also added to the variety of May.

The rain and cold may have been responsible for the generally late arrivals of a number of species. The snow and rain created undesirable birding conditions, but sometimes also improved birding by grounding migrating birds. Notable was a March ice storm that grounded waterfowl. During this period any available location contained waterfowl and these concentrations were high in numbers. Contrarily, the weather made hawk watching difficult. Good conditions for hawk movement were inconsistent and this is reflected in the poor totals this season.

Loon and grebe totals were generally low. Red-throated Loon seemed to be down considerably. Red-necked Grebes were present, but only one large concentration materialized along the west lake shore. Two sightings of **Am. White Pelican** were the first here in the last few years. Herons and egrets showed no real surprises, but Great Egrets were relatively easy to find and peaked at eight at Braddock's Bay on 20 Apr. The waterfowl concentrations of March failed to keep up the overall season total, but there were some definite highlights. The first Regional **Ross' Goose** was seen by Robert and Susan Spahn on 2 Apr (details to Genesee Ornithological Society and NYSARC). Tundra Swan totals were excellent, a flock of 50 Snow Geese on the west lake shore on 3 Apr was noteworthy, and Redhead peaked at 4000 on Canadaigua Lake on 4 Mar. Another top waterfowl rarity was a cooperative **Eurasian Wigeon** at Irondequoit Bay that apparently arrived with the large waterfowl fallout in March.

The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay and this year at Sodus Bay was a bit lackluster. There were few massive flight days. Eagle totals were good and three Peregrine Falcons were sighted on two separate days. Highlights included **Black Vulture** and **Swainson's Hawk**. Eight **Sandhill Crane** at Braddock Bay on 27 Apr was amazing for the Region. Shorebirds were generally late and few in number. A group of 25 Sanderlings at Charlotte on 26 May, a very good count for spring, was the only highlight. Gulls turned out to be one of the more interesting

groups of the spring. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were very good, and rarities included **Laughing Gull**, Franklin's Gull, Little Gull and **Com. Black-headed Gull**. Terns were represented by the usual species and a good spring total for Caspian Tern.

Migrant owls were a little tougher to find than usual and tended to be late. A total of 113 owls were banded at the Braddock Bay Raptor Research Owl Banding Project. Common Nighthawk was scarce. After its high totals last fall a better spring flight was anticipated.

The passerine migration was mixed. As usual there were some good days and some bad days. The rain produced some good grounding conditions and there were a few days where numbers were good. 18-20 May were super days at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station with a 500+ day on 20 May. Elizabeth Brooks stated that the birds were literally dripping off the trees. Overall, however, migrants seemed to be down in numbers. Flycatchers were noticeably scarce with poor totals of Olive-sided. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper seemed to be present in smaller numbers than usual. House Wrens continued to be reported in reduced numbers, and Sedge Wrens remained consistent with only one report. Kinglets were in fairly good supply during the season. Their numbers along the lake shore seemed stable relative to recent years. Thrushes were scarce early in the season but increased somewhat late in May. Cedar Waxwings were difficult to find early in the season but increased to expected totals by its end. Loggerhead Shrike reports continued to be few and far between.

While vireo numbers were generally down, Philadelphia Vireo was fairly easy to find during a two to three day stretch of May. Warblers followed the same trend: good numbers were reported on a few days but the overall totals were off again. The banding station recorded good numbers of Yellow, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Wilson's and Canada Warblers. Cape May and Cerulean Warbler and N. Parula were noticeably scarce. Highlights included **Yellow-throated**, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers, and Orange-crowned Warblers were reported more frequently than usual.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting showed up at feeders in unprecedented numbers during the May snow storm. Sparrow totals were mediocre. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continued to be few in number with only a couple of strongholds left. Migrant sparrows like Lincoln's and White-throated were very scarce. White-crowned Sparrow seemed to be more abundant at times than the White-throated. Clay-colored Sparrow was the highlight for this group. A late female Yellow-headed Blackbird in Greece on 13 May was the most unusual icterid reported. Finches continued to be nearly nonexistent from earlier in the year. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak numbers were way down from recent years, but this was to be expected with the kind of finch year we've had.

Contributors: Scott Adamson, Bob Ambrose, Tom Allison, Sue Boettger, Nancy Boudrie, Elizabeth Brooks, Bea & Dan Brunsetter, Steve Carlson, Julie Carter, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Scott Chase, Julie Claffey, Sharon Clark, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Gary Costanza, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Bill & Jean Dingserson, W & J

Duerr, June Feder, John & Arlieen Foster, Ralph & Mary Gerner, Kevin Griffith, Bill Gruenbaum, April & Avie Grunspan, Harriet Hamilton, Diane Henderson, Øivend Jensen, Herb & Polly Keating, Brian & Eileen Keelan, Nancy Kilburn, Carolyn Klinge, Wayne Klockner, Ken Larsen, Gary Leubner, David Levy, Doug Linehan, Walt Listman, Pat Lynch, Paul Mango, Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Jane Mason, Robert McKinney, Dave Miller, Nancy Miller, Monroe County Interpretive Staff, Neil & Laura Moon, Jane Morris, Frank Nicoletti, Jim Nonnemacher, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Tom Painting, Thomas Penner, Clyde & Ruth Potter, Bill & Betty Powell, Mary & Arliss Ransom, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Chris Rider, Marty Robinson, Ray Robinson, Don Ross, Pat Scheible, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sheron, Jeanne & Sharon Skelly, Bill Smith, Robert, Susan & Kristin Spahn, Cathy Spahn, Evan Speck, Paul & Jeff Spindler, Harriet Stride, Dave Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Charlene Talbot, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike, Joann & Justin Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Eric & Lynn VanderWert, Ann & Joe Watson, Eleanor Weld, Paul Weld, Chris White, Kinsley Whittum, Munro Will, Don Wolf, and Alice Wood.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; DEP - Durand Eastman Park, Rochester; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; LSP - Letchworth State Park; MB - Manitou Beach; PtB - Pt. Breeze; WL - west lake shore (L Ontario).

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Charlotte 11 Mar; last Parma 14 May. Com. Loon: arr singles MB, BB 26 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: max 215 WL 6 Apr, only large concentration. **Am. White Pelican**: one Canadaigua L 7-8 May (fide EB), one Parma 9 May (FN,CC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 74 BB 28 May. Least Bittern: arr Greece 20 May. Great Egret: *intro*. Cattle Egret: one BB 9 May, two BB 12 May, uncommon. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr two Greece 30 Apr. Tundra Swan: max 300 BB 19 Mar, last BB 25 May, very late. Mute Swan: one BB 13 Apr-31 May, continuing to spread? Greater White-fronted Goose: on BB 27 Mar (MD,FN), three BB 9 Apr (FN), uncommon but regular in recent years. Snow Goose: *intro* (DM). **Ross' Goose**: *intro*. Brant: one Greece 25 May, uncommon in spring. N. Pintail: max 450 WL 18 Mar. N. Shoveler: arr two BB 13 Mar. Eurasian Wigeon: male IB 18-23 Mar (DS, mob). Redhead: *intro*. Ring-necked Duck: max 300 WL 24 Mar. Hooded Merganser: max 300 WL 19 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: singles Webster 13 Apr (D&DT), PtB 19 May (WL), BB 24 May (FN), great spring total, becoming regular. Bald Eagle: max five BB 27 Mar, 4 Apr, 20 May. N. Harrier: max 82 BB 4 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1251 BB 5 May. Cooper's Hawk: max 144 BB 4 Apr. N. Goshawk: max three BB 15 Mar, 27 Mar. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 507 BB 27 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: max 8465 Sodus 26 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: singles BB 27 May (FN, RS) and 30 May (FN). Red-tailed Hawk: max 1117 BB 27 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: max 85 BB 19 Apr. Golden Eagle: max three BB 24 Apr and 3 May. American Kestrel: max 152 BB 38 Mar. Merlin: max six BB 30 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: max three BB 30 Apr and 4 May. Wild Turkey: three BB 8 May, unusual along the lake shore but increasing. **Sandhill Crane**: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hamlin 30 Apr. Whimbrel: three Charlotte 26 May (P&JS), only report. Sanderling: *intro*. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 75 Kuckville 30 May. **Western Sandpiper**: max 25 PtB 26 May (WL), very good number for spring. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Kuckville 20 May, only report. Dunlin: arr two Hamlin 14 May. Wilson's Phalarope: female PtB 19 May (WL), only report. **Laughing Gull**: ad Charlotte 26 May (P&JS). Franklin's Gull: one BB 23 May (FN). Little Gull: two ad BB 3 Apr (FN), uncommon in spring. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: one PtB 8 May (WL), excellent spring report. Bonaparte's Gull: max 62 BB 30 May. Iceland Gull: one IB 1-15 Mar, one BB 30 Apr, one BB 22-31 May. Glaucous Gull: one Russell Station 13 Mar, one BB 22-26 Mar, one BB 15 Apr, poor year for white-winged gulls. Forster's Tern: arr BB 6 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr ICW 26 May. Long-eared Owl: three BB 14 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: arr one MB 10 Mar; singles Greece 20 May (ST) and BB 22 May (FN), late. Whip-poor-will: arr ICW 30 Apr, few reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: arr one Bergen Swamp 20 May. **Fish Crow**: one BB 6 Apr (FN), one Greece 7 May (KG), possibly the same individual, reports continue to increase. **Com. Raven**: one BB 27 Mar (FN), one South Bristol 5 Apr (JCz), good potential habitat for this species. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max eight ICW 26 May. **Loggerhead Shrike**: singles BB 23 Mar, Hamlin 23 Mar, BB 6 Apr, MB 8 Apr, all in the same general area and possibly the same bird.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr one MB 5 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr one ICW 5 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr one Several 13 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: nine reports May 16-25. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Greece 13 May (NM), one ICW 22 May (CC), 2nd and 3rd reports this year. Prairie Warbler: arr Genesee Country Museum Nature Center 18-20 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Mendon 15 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one Parma 14 May (R&SS), one ICW 14 May (MD), unusual along the lake shore. Worm-eating Warbler: one DEP 6 May, one MB 13 May, one Brighton Town Park 14 May, one ICW 29 May, good spring total. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LSP 6 May, late. Kentucky Warbler: singles Rochester 5 May (found dead), Brighton Town P 13 May, Cobb's Hill 18 May, Genesee Country Museum 18 May; good spring total. Connecticut Warbler: one Webster 5 May (D&DT), one ICW 26 May (mob). Hooded Warbler: arr one DEP 6 May, one LSP 6 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one MB 19 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: singles MB 13 May (RS, MD), BB 13 May (FN) and ICW 18 May (P&JS). Grasshopper Sparrow: arr WL 20 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Nations Road 20 May. Fox Sparrow: last Webster 3 May. Yellow-headed Blackbird: *intro* (FN). Rusty Blackbird: arr six BB 13 Mar. Orchard Oriole: arr ICW 9 May (PM), away from expected location. Common Redpoll: last two Mendon 7 Mar (PW).

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

The 1989 Spring Season was average or below in temperature, while precipitation was normal to above normal. There was no indication of drought in the Finger Lakes Region. The first three weeks of March were cooler and drier than normal, and most of March's precipitation fell during the last eight days of the month. A strong warm front 15 Mar brought record high temperatures and brisk southerly winds, but was followed by two cold fronts on 18 and 21 Mar which moved in a northeasterly direction across the state. These two systems brought brisk winds, freezing temperatures, and up to eight inches of snow to the Finger Lakes Region. Following these fronts, peak numbers of Mallard, Am. Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Am. Wigeon, and Hooded and Com. Mergansers were at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 22 Mar. The period from 15-25 Mar was the peak for waterfowl, with highest numbers at MNWR, followed by Waneta Lake, Seneca Lake and nearby Queen Catherine Marsh. The Elmira area and Corning Pond had comparable waterfowl species variety, although fewer numbers of individual birds, as expected.

Most of this Season's unusual reports were of water birds seen along the Region's lakeshores during March. Most of these unusual sightings were made by more than one individual, making errors in identification unlikely. A **Red-**

**throated Loon** was present at Watkins Glen from 4 Mar until 7 May, when it had molted into breeding plumage. An adult **Am. White Pelican** was at Canandaigua Lake 8-9 May. Ithaca's Stewart Park was the location of several rarities, including a **Greater White-fronted Goose** on 25 Mar, an **Eurasian Wigeon** on 18 Mar, a third-year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 6 Mar as well as a second individual on 25 March.

It was exceptionally rainy and cold throughout April, with rain, snow, and temperatures as much as 10-15° below normal. A second 'pulse' of migrants followed a coastal low pressure and south/southeast winds on 1 Apr. A Peregrine Falcon and a N. Saw-whet Owl were at QCM on 1 Apr, and counts of Redhead, Canvasback, and Lesser Scaup peaked at MNWR on 3 Apr. A third 'pulse' of waterfowl migrants arrived ahead of a cold front on 12-13 Apr, when Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, and Ring-necked Duck peaked at MNWR. Another coastal front 15-16 Apr, followed by cold and rainy weather until 20 Apr, downed a number of migrant water birds on the Chemung River in Elmira, including 445 Horned Grebe, 75 Greater Scaup, 86 Bufflehead, 21 Ruddy Duck, 35 Bonaparte's Gull, and 20 Com. Tern.

The cold weather broke briefly at the end of April, bring in the first rush of neotropical migrants for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Spring Field Ornithology overnight at Cornell's Arnot Teaching & Research Forest. The class found 50 species there 29-30 Apr, including Solitary Vireo and five warbler species, in addition to woodland residents such as Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, three Barred Owls, and Pileated Woodpecker. The Arnot caretaker reported courtship displays by N. Goshawk this Spring, making nesting probable but unconfirmed. Also unknown was the breeding status of grassland sparrows in the fields at the interior of the forest. These fields could not be accessed this season, as the Arnot roads were closed to all except logging vehicles.

May was characterized by cloudy skies, heavy precipitation, and near normal temperatures. New York State as a whole received about 6.5 inches of precipitation in May, which is 3 inches more than normal and the second greatest May amount on record (dating back to 1895). The persistent rains resulted in widespread flood warnings 10-11 May, and hampered the progress of farm fieldwork. Corn planting was about two weeks behind schedule at the end of May. It rained in the Finger Lakes on 1-4 May, 7-8 May, 9-17 May, and 23-31 May, for a May precipitation total of 6.5 to 9 inches, or 210 to 300 percent of normal for the Region! A high pressure system briefly raised temperatures to seasonable 70's and 80's on 18-19 May, but otherwise it was a difficult month for birding. Bird clubs in Region 3 reported neotropical migrants arriving up to two weeks late, and unusually large numbers of Am. Goldfinches and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeding stations in May. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also arrived later and lingered in the Region. In addition, two bird clubs in Region 3 held "Big Day" counts in May. The Chemung Valley Audubon count 13 May totaled 131 species, highlighted by 14 Com. Moorhen, four Great Egret, and many Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Many warblers not present for the Chemung Valley count had arrived in time for the Eaton Birding Society count on 21 May, when 13 warbler species were counted. The Eaton count totaled 109 species, including Yellow-

breasted Chat, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Com. Loon. Several people on the Eaton count reported a Blue Grosbeak they had all observed together, but no details were submitted.

The trio of nesting Bald Eagles at MNWR hatched at least one, possibly two, eaglets on 25 Apr. The eaglets will be banded at 6-7 weeks of age, when they are capable of regulating their body temperature, and are expected to fledge in midsummer. Two of the three parent birds are products of N.Y. State's 1978 and 1982 Bald Eagle restoration program. Other highlights at MNWR included as many as 500 Great Blue Heron, three Osprey, and a May shorebird migration which included maxima of 26 Semipalmated Plover, 35 Killdeer, ten Lesser Yellowlegs, 27 Spotted Sandpiper, 108 Least Sandpiper, 5 Pectoral Sandpiper, and 81 Dunlin. A maximum of 1360 Ring-billed Gull were present there in April, but they decreased to only 160 by May, as expected. Only a handful of Common and Black Tern were at the refuge this season.

Resident birds reported as increasing throughout Region 3 were Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, N. Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. Following several consecutive mild winters, Carolina Wren was common at southern locations of the Region. In the Ithaca area, Carolina Wren are typically found in sheltered locations along streams and lakes, where there is adequate leaf litter and brushy cover. Dick Clements reports five fledglings from a Carolina Wren nest in a plastic bag hanging from a clothesline in Southport.

There were scattered reports throughout the Region of "southeastern" species including Prairie, Hooded, Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard Oriole. These birds were singing during May, but it is too early to determine their breeding status here. Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Thrasher, and Golden-winged Warbler were very scarce in the Region and are thought to be decreasing.

Dick Clements in Pine City provided the sole report of Bank and Cliff Swallow colonies. He reports Bank Swallow at their traditional nesting site in Southport, and Cliff Swallow nests increasing on bridges in the Elmira area. Bank and Cliff Swallows probably nest at other locations in Region 3, but colony locations are neither well-known nor reported to *The Kingbird*.

Highlights for the season were **Red-throated Loon, Am. White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Acadian Flycatcher and Loggerhead Shrike.**

Abbreviations: CLO - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest (formerly Hector Land Use Area); MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh; SL/WG - Seneca Lake at-Watkins Glen; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; WG - Watkins Glen; WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, D. Clements, T. Gingrich, Eaton Birding Society, B. Hilfiker, D. McIlroy, C. Melin, Schuyler County Bird Club, C.R. Smith, M.E. Westlake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro*. Common Loon: widespread all season. Horned Grebe: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: widespread all season. **Am. White Pelican:** *intro* (NYSARC). Double-crested Cormorant: max 142 MNWR May. Am. Bittern: one SWS Apr. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro*. Black-crowned Night-Heron: single report, one



Dryden 25 May, nearly 6 weeks late. **Tricolored Heron**: one Dryden L 25 May. Tundra Swan: 80 WGSP 17 March. Brant: two flocks 13 May, 120 over Beam Hill Road, also MNWR. Snow Goose: max 17000 MNWR 12 Apr. Canada Goose: max 64000 MNWR 12 Apr. Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR 12 Apr. Green-winged Teal: max 1100 MNWR 24 Apr-9 May. Am. Black Duck: max 580 MNWR 22 Mar. Mallard: max 5500 MNWR 22 Mar. N. Pintail: max 7500 MNWR 22 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: max 420 MNWR 24 Apr. N. Shoveler: max 800 MNWR 2 May. Gadwall: max 40 MNWR 22 March. Am. Wigeon: max 110 MNWR 22 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: *intro*. Redhead: max 70 MNWR 3 Apr. Canvasback: max 100 MNWR 3 Apr. Greater Scaup: *intro*; 25 SL/WG 20 March. Lesser Scaup: max max 290 MNWR 3 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: last 17 Apr; max eight SL/WG 9 Mar. Bufflehead: *intro*. Oldsquaw: max eight Elmira 18 Apr. White-winged Scoter: max eight Elmira 18 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max 80 MNWR 22 March. Common Merganser: max 140 MNWR 22 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: a few all season. Ruddy Duck: *intro*; max 70 MNWR 9 May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture: arr 17 Mar. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. **Golden Eagle**: one near Trumansburg 27 Mar. N. Harrier: widespread all season; pair FLNF 9 April. Broad-winged Hawk: max six Southport 13 May. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Virginia Rail: present MNWR, Corning Pd, CS, HS. Com. Moorhen: *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: *intro*. Killdeer: *intro*. Lesser Yellowlegs: *intro*. Spotted Sandpiper: *intro*. Upland Sandpiper: max six Horseheads 13 May, a traditional nesting area. Least Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral Sandpiper: *intro*. Dunlin: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro*. Com. Tern: *intro*.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Great Horned Owl: pair Southport 23 Apr, nests with y QCM 29 Apr and Dryden Apr. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: two Southport 15 May in corn stubble field; present Geneva Fordham Swamp 21 May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: **Acadian Flycatcher**: one Monkey Run North, Ithaca, 22 May. Fish Crow: nest in pine tree Oak Hill Road, Ithaca. Carolina Wren: *intro*. Swainson's Thrush: one SWS 9 May, one FLNF 21 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one SWS 20 May. N. Shrike: one Tshache Pool MNWR 11, 13 and 28 Mar. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one MNWR 22 Apr.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: Blackpoll Warbler: several singing birds 24-27 May. Prairie Warbler: one SWS 9 May, several near Montour Falls 21 May at a former colony site. Hooded Warbler: one Star Stanton Hill 13 May, three near Montour Falls, one near Cayuta L 21 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one WG 21 May. Prothonotary Warbler: present May's Point Pool MNWR 28 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: *intro*.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *intro*. Henslow's Sparrow: present Hile School Road, Freeville 30 Apr and Ithaca area throughout May. Lincoln's Sparrow: only report SWS 9 May. Snow Bunting: last Ithaca area 13 & 27 March, only reports. Orchard Oriole: male Pine City 13 May, pair there 20 May, breeding status unconfirmed; also Sheldrake 14 & 28 May.

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[The Region 4 report had not arrived in time for this issue of The Kingbird.]

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

What a strange spring! The chill of February lingered into early March, when the season awoke to warmer dryer weather which had planners deeply worried about a severe drought in late April. May showed them! Three periods of heavy rain just exceeded the average for the month and had flooded all of spots local that observers found for shorebirding before there was any shorebirding to be done! Cool weather in late April and early May held the foliage back a little, but it evidently retarded the birds as well, because the season got off to a slow start.

Everyone recognized it had been a dull winter. Sometimes such winters are followed by good flights of hawks and winter finches during the spring. That didn't happen this spring, except possibly for Purple Finch, whose numbers peaked late Feb-early March and then declined to currently expected numbers. Black-capped Chickadee, which were more numerous than usual on Ben Burt's feeder survey, remained so in March but gave no indication of an April return migration. Almost no migrating Red-breasted Nuthatch were reported. The single Com. Redpoll on 25 Mar and a total of four Evening Grosbeak 8 Apr and 9 May at Derby Hill is no return flight! Almost no finches were reported any where else, yet Pine Siskin nested between Old Forge and Eagle Bay, where Gary Lee found fledglings on 15 May.

The raptor flight was mixed. All three accipiters, Broad-winged and Rough-legged Hawk and Am. Kestrel were scarce, no shrikes of either species were reported, but Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle and Merlin set record highs passing Derby Hill this spring. A N. Harrier nest found near Jamesville and a Red-shouldered Hawk nest in Highland Forest during May were the first Onondaga Co. nests recorded in years. Unhappily, an active Osprey tree nest near Beaver Lake fell during the early May storm and the pair disappeared. Another pair was reputed to be nesting in Three Rivers Game Management area but no other details were submitted.

Waterbird numbers were generally poor but the variety was impressive. Heron observations were enriched by multiple Great Egrets, a Snowy Egret and the first **Glossy Ibis** here in three springs. Waterfowl were late arriving, low in numbers and left early but included Greater White-fronted and **Ross' Goose**, European Wigeon and a Black Scoter, seldom reported in spring. Shorebirds literally would have been a washout had not the few spots with suitable habitat produced **Black-necked Stilt**, **Willet** and **Stilt Sandpiper**. Gulls and terns provided little excitement but Black Tern was reported more widely though sparsely than usual.

Landbirding was mixed. About the only expected species missed was Philadelphia Vireo, but almost none of the almost annually found rarities like Orange-crowned and Prairie Warbler was reported either. Early arriving species were somewhat late, but from mid March on arrival dates were unexceptional. However, almost everyone's individual reports were dominated by late arrival dates. Someone, somewhere found an on-time arrival and the list filled in

satisfactorily from the combined effort of everyone. There were no reports of impressive numbers, although second-hand reports suggest that good numbers of migrants were packed along the south shore of Lake Ontario in mid May; they definitely weren't inland at this time. Numbers of Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow were better than in many recent springs. The best of the rarities were a Kentucky Warbler and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

A total of 220 species plus one hybrid was reported, about 15 less than average, which reflects the absence of lesser rarities more than the lack of great rarities or the absence of expected species. The best birds of the season were the Black-necked Stilt and Yellow-headed Blackbird, which remained put long enough to be seen by most of the active birders in the Region, while the "beast" of the season were the "here today, gone today" Ross' Goose seen by just a single observer (who even had seen the species previously in New York! [That's envy, folks!]).

Contributors: Sue Adair, Chad Covey, Kate Coyle, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, Gene Huggins, Mary A. Koenike, Gary N. Lee, Robert E. Long, Belle Peebles, Robert L. Post, William Purcell, Margaret S. Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Gerald A. Smith

Abbreviations: Adk arr - Adirondacks arrival; BBFS - Ben Burt feeder survey; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; NPT - northern Pompey township; NS - Noyes Sanctuary, OSWE; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores SP; StMC - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, ONON; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Oswego to 5 Mar; one DH 12 Apr. Com. Loon: Adk arr Old Forge 27 Apr; max about 15. Horned Grebe: arr Brewerton 19 Mar, max 15 Otisco L 20 Apr; last Beaver L 26 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: six in three reports 10-26 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: at least 50 birds on Wontry Island, Oneida L, certainly nesting but no nest count available. Least Bittern: arr Dewitt Marsh 30 Apr, at least four there mid May; reported three other sites. Great Blue Heron: Adk arr Fourth L 4 Apr. Great Egret: two Beaver L 29 Mar, one DH 22-28 Apr, another 14 May, one Snake Swamp 9 May, three SSSP 29 Apr. Snowy Egret: one SSSP 16-18 Apr. Green-backed Heron: scarce. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 7 May. **Glossy Ibis**: one Navarino, ONON, 7-8 Apr (mob). Tundra Swan: about six reports 19 Mar-8 Apr, max 27 Bridgeport 20 Mar. Greater White-fronted Goose: ad Beaver L 24 Apr (KM, ph). Snow Goose: reported 19 Mar-21 Apr, most regularly at Beaver L where max 37 on 4 Apr. **Ross' Goose**: two Pennelville 28 Mar (DWC, NYSARC), Regional first. Brant: only report 55 Toad H 20 May. Canada Goose: arr ca 5 Mar, max 13500 Beaver L 15 Mar. Green-winged Teal: overwintered Syr. N. Pintail: overwintered Syr. N. Shoveler: arr Brewerton 19 Mar, max six DH 28 Mar, last Beaver L 29 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon**: male Poolsbrook 25 Apr (MSR, JR). Am. Wigeon: arr NPT 17 Mar. Canvasback: arr Brewerton 15 Mar, max 86 Beaver L 18 Mar, last there 29 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: arr Brewerton 15 Mar, max 270 there 18 Mar, last Beaver L 29 Apr. Greater Scaup: last Toad H 30 Apr. Lesser Scaup: last Oswego 21 May. Oldsquaw: last Tuscarora L 29 Apr. Black Scoter: one Oswego 20 Mar, unusual in spring. White-winged Scoter: last Oswego 22 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: last Toad H 14 Apr. Bufflehead: last Beaver L 13 May. Hooded Merganser: last migrants ca 10 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Beaver L 15 May. Red-breasted Merganser: last Otisco L 10 May. Ruddy Duck: Beaver L 27 Mar-11 May, max 27 on 16 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max -	Date	Last	90% Date Range*	Total
Turkey Vulture	14 Mar	1038 -	5 Apr	29 May	2 Mar - 6 May	3575
Osprey	28 Mar	50 -	5 May	29 May	12 Apr - 23 May	389
Bald Eagle	13 Mar	5 - 2 dates		29 May	14 Mar - 25 May	49
Northern Harrier	4 Mar	99 -	4 Apr	30 May	15 Mar - 15 May	812
Sharp-shinned Hawk	14 Mar	516 -	5 May	30 May	4 Apr - 19 May	2667
Cooper's Hawk	2 Mar	46 -	5 Apr	20 May	14 Mar - 4 May	410
Northern Goshawk	8 Mar	5 -	14 Mar	14 May	9 Mar - 12 May	27
Red-shouldered Hawk	8 Mar	169 -	27 Mar	20 May	14 Mar - 6 Apr	595
Broad-winged Hawk	14 Apr	4261 -	4 May	30 May	23 Apr - 5 May	10988
Red-tailed Hawk	28 Feb	1056 -	27 Mar	30 May	13 Mar - 4 May	7436
Rough-legged Hawk	8 Mar	40 -	14 Mar	6 May	13 Mar - 1 May	248
Golden Eagle	13 Mar	6 -	27 Mar	14 May	13 Mar - 14 May	26
American Kestrel	14 Mar	58 -	28 Mar	26 May	13 Mar - 5 May	306
Merlin	28 Mar	5 - 2 dates		5 May	4 Apr - 5 May	23
<b>Total</b> (including unidentified)						27599

Turkey Vulture: arr Otisco L 2 Mar; set record high for max and for season DH; broken egg found T Brookfield 15 May; one Old Forge 28 May is in Adirondacks. Osprey: *intro*. N. Harrier: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: near Big Moose 29 May, only report. Ring-necked Pheasant: very few reports. Am. Coot: very scarce. Semipalmated Plover: only one report. **Black-necked Stilt**: one near Beaver L 20-22 May (SA, mob, ph, NYSARC), Regional first. **Willet**: seven SVB 7 May (BP, mob, ph!), probably w race by plumage. Upland Sandpiper: arr W Monroe 27 Apr. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SPd 18 May. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr n ONON 20 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one LSB 20 May (MSR). Dunlin: arr SPd 18 May. **Stilt Sandpiper**: ad near Beaver L 15 Apr (SA!). Bonaparte's Gull: arr Brewerton 1 Apr. Iceland Gull: last DH 23 Mar. **Thayer's Gull**: one Oswego 5 Mar (MSR). Black Tern: scarce but reported from six sites.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Pompey 22 May. Snowy Owl: last Syr Airport 10 Mar. Long-eared Owl: one NS 15 May. Short-eared Owl: one DH 13 Apr. Com. Nighthawk: scarce. Whip-poor-will: arr W Monroe 3 May, max there six. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one early report 23 Apr. Red-headed Woodpecker: only two reports. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max five StMC, last 9 May. N. Flicker: arr ca 6 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: no migrants reported. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no migrants reported. Tree Swallow: max 2500 Beaver L 24 Apr. Bank Swallow: scarce. Blue Jay: few migrants reported. **Fish Crow**: New York Mills early Apr (Gary Webb in BBFS). Am. Crow: DH totals not reported. Com. Raven: five DH 27 Mar-5 May, record for season there. Black-capped Chickadee: numbers up Mar BBFS but few migrants reported. Red-breasted Nuthatch: almost no migrants reported. Carolina Wren: reported Syr, Oneida, Biddlecomb, Toad H but none certainly nesting. Winter Wren: migrants 28 Mar-12 May, numbers unexceptional; Adk arr LimeKiln L 29 Mar. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr StMC 28 Mar, max 70 NS 15 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 45 NS 28 Apr, last SPd 18 May. N. Mockingbird: to five/day Syr. Cedar Waxwing: one report 7 Mar, then none until 29 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Blue-winged Warbler: arr Nelson May 6. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Camillus 13 May. "Brewster's Warbler": two reported. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 15 Apr; Adk arr Old Forge 27 Apr. Pine Warbler: arr StMC 16 Apr. Palm Warbler: reported 28 Apr-17 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Camillus 18 May, few reported. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early arr Pratt's Falls Co P 5 Apr (DWC); migrant NPT 15 May. Kentucky Warbler: one StMC 15 May (mob). Mourning Warbler: arr Mexico Pt 15 May. Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 18 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Adk arr LimeKiln L 15 May. Indigo Bunting: few reported. Rufous-sided Towhee: Adk arr Old Forge 4 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last 4 May. Field Sparrow: arr Pine Plains 24 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: only three reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: only one report. Henslow's Sparrow: only report W Monroe 20 May. Fox Sparrow: arr 18 Mar, max 16 StMc and 15 NPT 18 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Syr 5 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: only one reported. Swamp Sparrow: arr Peter Scott Swamp 2 Apr. Lapland Longspur: 60 DH 11-12 Apr. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Syr 6 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: male Chittenango 17-25 Apr (mob, ph). E. Meadowlark: arr Erieville 17 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr Peter Scott Swamp 25 Mar. Com. Grackle: arr Syr 4 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 11 Mar. Orchard Oriole: males Oswego 15 May, LSB 20-21 May. Purple Finch: most reports during March. White-winged Crossbill: Booneville 1 May. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: last NPT 16 May; *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*, max six Pratt's Falls 29 Apr.

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*[Mr. Gene Huggins will become Region 5 Editor effective the 1989 summer reporting season. Reports should be sent to him at 1065 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse NY, 13210.]*

## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

This was a cool dry spring. Both temperature and precipitation for March and April were below normal, a trend which continued into May. The first week of March was cold with six inches of snow falling on 12 Mar. Red-winged Blackbirds arrived with the next mild weather on March 10 in Jefferson Co. and on 15 Mar in St. Lawrence Co. I was away in April, and spring waited for my return. The "early birds" seemed a few days late in the Canton area. Killdeer, E. Phoebe, Com. Grackle and Song Sparrow all arrived 20-27 March. We watched an Am. Woodcock peenting in a partially frozen roadside ditch on 27 Mar. Notable movements included large flocks of Com. Grackle in Massena on 14 Mar, flocks of mixed blackbirds in Canton 4-5 Apr and numbers of Dark-eyed Junco in Henderson on 6 Apr. Arrivals of long-distance migrants were telescoped into the balmy days of mid May. "Spot-breasted" thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared first, followed by Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird, then Am. Redstart and Scarlet Tanager. As usual, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers brought up the rear. The median arrival date for 24 species of flycatchers, thrushes and warblers was 12 May.

Were two reports of Com. Loon from Wilson Hill of migrants, immatures, or breeders escaping the effects of acid rain in the Adirondacks? Numbers were reported up for Osprey in St. Lawrence County. Lee Chamberlaine reports the most Turkey Vulture ever in Henderson. Peter O'Shea reports frequent sightings of Ruffed Grouse feeding on aspen catkins, for which it was a good year. E. Phoebe was reported up. It is a good year for E. Bluebird with four of 35 boxes occupied in the Canton area in mid May. Four out of five major contributors

reported Rusty Blackbird. Northern Oriole seemed to be everywhere in St. Lawrence Co. but was reported down in Henderson. What does it mean when two observers have conflicting impressions? Other negatives included low numbers of mergansers, goldeneye and gulls at Moses-Saunders Dam, poor hawk flights at Westcott's Beach SP, no Barred Owl in southern St. Lawrence Co., and no Vesper Sparrow in Jefferson Co. Winter finches continued scarce from the winter season.

A total of 167 species for the region including 28 waders and shorebirds, 20 waterfowl, 16 raptors; the 91 passerines included 28 vireos and warblers. Noteworthy sightings were two **Sandhill Crane**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Merlin**, **Sedge Wren**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and Northern Mockingbird.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Dick Bartlett, Carol Budd, R & S Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Jim Farquhar, John Green, Lee Harper, Bob Henrickson, Kelly Kingsley, Debbie & Steve Lithuler, Anne Mastromarchi, Linda Murray, Peter O'Shea, Pat Sears, Andy Thurber.

Abbreviations: MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, Massena; PR - Perch River WMA; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Pied-billed Grebe: only grebe reported. Great Egret: one JEFF April. **Little Blue Heron**: one Massena 2 May (MB). **Cattle Egret**: one Massena 6 May (MB). Snow Goose: 23 Henderson 23 Apr. Green-winged Teal: pair Canton 14 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 30 MSD 19 Mar; four reports of pairs STLA. Canvasback: three MSD 19 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: reported from several sites in STLA, including WH and from Rock Pd near Belfont LEWI. Bald Eagle: five imm, three ad by aerial survey of SLR 16 Mar (JF); one Rainbow Flow, Colton, 8 Apr; two ad Star L late Apr. Cooper's Hawk: one Thompson Pk 13 March, one WH 28 Apr, one Dear Creek Flow s STLA 14 May, only reports. N. Goshawk: one Village of Canton 6 Mar, one WH 5 May; one upper Oswegatchie R. Red-shouldered Hawk: singles WH 23 Apr and 8 May and Massena 5 May, only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Canton 27 Apr early, but numbers down. Rough-legged Hawk: two dark morph JEFF 21 Mar; one Pierrepont 5 Apr. Merlin: one Louisville 15 Apr (MB), no details. Gray Partridge: two MSD 26 Mar, first report in some time. Virginia Rail: arr eight MSD 10 Apr, record early, good numbers. Sora: arr six MSD 24 Apr, early, good numbers. **Sandhill Crane**: one calling in flight T Orleans 5 May (DB); one along Black R LEWI in May (BH *vide* LBC), possibly first LEWI record. Am. Woodcock: *intro*. Iceland Gull: one MSD 19 Mar. Com. Tern: arr 200 MSD 30 Apr. Black Tern: 20 PR 13 May; 15 or so ULL late May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Louisville 22 May, only report. E. Screech-Owl: calling in Oswegatchie. Short-eared Owl: one Tylerville 7 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: one Louisville 25 Mar. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Henderson March and April. N. Shrike: one with impaled chickadee T Clare 7 Mar; one Lorraine 12 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Purple Martin: max 43 pairs Massena 19 April. Gray Jay: T Webb near s STLA line (PO'S). **Sedge Wren**: one MSD 18 May (HB). N. Mockingbird: one Pierrepont 18 May (KC); one Lorraine 18 May (D&SL). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one W Potsdam in April (R&SC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr Louisville 18 May, rarely reported. Golden-winged Warbler: Lorraine 19 May, few recent reports. Palm Warbler: one report only.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Vesper Sparrow: singing Pierrepont as usual, but LBC reports none. Am Tree Sparrow: last Henderson 28 Apr. White-crowned Sparrow: one overwintered Louisville to 23 Mar Apr. Rusty Blackbird: arr 14 Louisville 27 Mar; max 45

in four flocks Louisville 18 Apr; Watertown 4 May; T Webb 27 May, breeders? Snow Bunting: max 300 Henderson 20 Mar. Purple Finch: max 60 Henderson 20 Mar, heavy movement to 13 Apr. Pine Siskin: max 28 Louisville 24 Mar, otherwise scarce. Com. Redpoll: two Louisville 8 Apr, only report. Evening Grosbeak: generally scarce, but large numbers at feeder in Lorraine in March with 68 on 20 Mar (JF).

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

In sharp contrast to the autumn 1988 report, there was no lack of hawkwatchers, warbler-watchers, or other birders across the Region this spring. Despite a late spring, with snow on Dix and the Great Range on 10 May, new 14-year records were set at Coot Hill hawkwatch and the Crown Point bird-banding station. Around the Region, there were rare visitants, migrants, and nesters. High Peaks Audubon marked the start of its eighth year of management of the Four Brothers Islands with the acquisition of a 19-foot marine workboat, "Four Winds," named after the islands' old 18th century French name: *Les Iles des Quatres Vents*.

The season's start was inauspiciously marked by frozen wells and water lines; the total annual snowfall at Elizabethtown by 1 March was a bare 17.5 inches. The average is 175 inches! The month began bitterly cold. By 7 Mar, when the sun was again close to its 1 Oct position, noontime temperatures remained below 0°F across the Region. There had been no daytime temperatures this cold since the turn of the century. Some "maple sugaring weather" followed, but the weather was erratic. Newcomb dropped to -15°F on 13 Mar, with Plattsburgh climbing to 46°F the following day. Elizabethtown was a balmy 72°F by 28 March, and Piseco had 0.7 inches of rain the next day. The month closed with 0.5 inches of wet snow, for a total of just 2.6" monthly precipitation, with 58% possible sunshine.

April began with Wood Frogs and northern lights, with Lake Champlain at 96.75' and 35°F; lower elevations had received just under 40 inches of seasonal snowfall and just over 4 inches of yearly precipitation (normal would be about 7 inches). Much of the month was cool, with snow flurries that made hawkwatching less than perfect. In spite of 2 inches of snow at Ray Brook on 10 Apr, total precipitation was only about 73% of normal at midmonth. After weeks of cold weather, April finally ended with two sunny, warm days.

May began with more than an inch of badly needed rain. Temperatures on 4 May ranged from 30°F at Newcomb to 70°F at Plattsburgh. Thanks to spring rains and melting snow, Lake Champlain rose to 98.72' and 42°F by 5 May. Spring was slow in unfolding, but unfold it did. By 17 May, the hawthorn groves on Crown Point peninsula were leafing out; each day thereafter, the little green worms doubled in size and the avian waves arrived to gobble them. Both reservoirs and mistnets were full, and all was well in the North Country.

Hawkwatcher Elsbeth Johnson provided 30 days (168 hours) of dedicated and virtually unbroken coverage of Coot Hill between 8 Apr to 10 May, assisted at times by other members and friends of High Peaks Audubon. During her month-long vigil, she tallied a record 766 raptors of all 15 hoped-for species, including 50 unidentified raptors. The old record of 627 was set with 24 days of coverage, 13 Apr-14 May, 1988. She also managed to break the single-day record of 165 raptors that had been set back on 21 Apr 1979. That figure was tied, then broken, as a Turkey Vulture and Red-tailed Hawk passed shortly before 4 PM on 26 Apr, for a new single-day record of 166.

Especially notable among the raptors this spring were the eagles. Charlcie Delehanty was watching two adult Bald Eagles through her scope at Tupper Lake on 2 Apr when one started chasing a Ring-billed Gull. There were many swoops and dives as the gull tried to elude the eagle, and it seemed to have escaped until the second eagle took over from the first bird. The chase continued, and the second eagle was able to force the gull down into the open water, but even though it tried several times, it couldn't get the gull out of the water. Suddenly a third, immature eagle appeared; it dove on the gull, was able to drag it out of the water and onto the ice shelf, where it proceeded to consume the gull. The adults did not contest the prey, but sat on the ice and did not approach the feeding immature. Migrant immature Bald Eagles passed Coot Hill on 14, 19, and 20 Apr; on the latter date, the immature eagle gave a superb noontime airshow, engaged for 30 minutes in aerial maneuvers with an Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Common Raven. There were continued sightings of immatures from neighboring Crown Point peninsula into mid May. On 10 May, Greg Furness watched two immature Bald Eagles displaying for over an hour. On 14 May, Gordon Howard, Gary Lee, and Mike Peterson saw an immature interacting with several other raptor species over the banding station. On 16 May, another immature with a different underwing pattern caught a fish in Bulwagga Bay. The same day John Parke saw a pair of mature Bald Eagles displaying near Whallon's Bay. There were other Bald Eagle reports from Ticonderoga Marsh in late March and Piercefield Flow in 1 ate May. The only reports of Golden Eagles were of distant birds that passed Coot Hill on 9 Apr and 9 May.

Banding operations commenced on Crown Point peninsula just two days after Coot Hill hawkwatch closed for the season, and the station was open from 12-22 May, with record totals of 603 individuals of 53 species banded. The previous record of 429 birds of 43 species was set in 1985. On 14 May, there was a foreign retrap of a second-year female Yellow-rumped Warbler banded elsewhere. There were also ten returns of birds previously banded at Crown Point: a Black-capped Chickadee from 1987 and three from 1988; a Brown Thrasher from 1984 (now 5 years, 11 months old) and one from 1987; a Field Sparrow and a Red-winged Blackbird from 1987; and a Brown-headed Cowbird from 1988. Especially noteworthy was a female Yellow Warbler (#1590-07496) banded 14 May 1983, recaptured the next day, and not seen again until 20 May 1989 when it was at least 6 years, 11 months old, or just two years shy of the North American longevity record for this species. A total of 77 species of birds have been banded



at Crown Point since 1976.

One of 29 Cedar Waxwings banded on Crown Point was a second-year male on 18 May whose tail tip was a *burnt orange* rather than the typical yellow. Mike and Susan Peterson saw a second, unbanded waxwing with a similar *burnt orange* tail tip on 22 May. Intergrades with a yellow-orange tail tip and yellow tail band tipped with red were also banded. Details and color slides will be forwarded to Kenneth C. Parkes at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, who has solicited data on such waxwings from museum curators, bird banders, and birders. According to Dr. Parkes, orange tail tips are not only uncommon in cedar waxwings, but apparently represent a completely new phenomena. The possibility exists that this is a genuine new mutation spreading through the waxwing population.

Prior to the opening of the Crown Point station, an additional 155 birds of a dozen species were banded near Elizabethtown between 9 Apr-9 May. Most numerous at the Elizabethtown station were 70 American Goldfinch, 40 Pine Siskin, and 18 Dark-eyed Junco. Most numerous at Crown Point, by comparison, were 111 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 62 American Goldfinch, and 54 Red-winged Blackbird.

Mark Gretch encountered nine Canada Geese wearing orange or yellow neck collars in northern Clinton Co. between 26 Mar-12 Apr. They had been collared in Delaware (3), New Jersey (3), New York, South Carolina, and Virginia. Snow Geese also moved through the region in good numbers throughout the season. Greg Furness saw the first 500 south of the Crown Point Bridge on 22-23 Mar, Mark Gretch saw 150 in Clinton Co. on 26 Mar and 2,000 south of the Great Chazy River on 4 Apr. Elsbeth Johnson had 143 at Coot Hill on 12 Apr, 120 there on 17 Apr, and 12 "Blue" Goose on 18 Apr. The maximum was 5,000 Snow Geese in northern Clinton County on 5 May, by Gretch's estimate.

As in any exhilarating spring like this one, there were rarities and unexpected finds. Jeff Carleton found a **Tricolored Heron**, the second for the Region, Adirondack Park, and Essex County, at the Westport beach on 26 May. Greg Furness spotted a pair of **Barrow's Goldeneye** under the Crown Point Bridge on 23 Mar. In addition to several pairs of Regional nesting birds, Elsbeth Johnson noted three "Tundra" Peregrine Falcon pass Coot Hill 25-28 Apr. A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** wintered at Shirley Martin's feeder on the Hoel Pond Road, Saranac Lake, to 30 Mar. An unusual location for a **Louisiana Waterthrush** was the Berrymill Pond area of Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, where Merry Baker found one on 17 May. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited the Elizabethtown feeder of Bart & Isabelle Bailey on 7 May. Among the rarities banded at Crown Point peninsula were an adult male **Orchard Oriole** on 14 May, followed by a second-year female on 19 May.

Finally, we've previously speculated on what might be landing on those hundreds and hundreds of Adirondack lakes and ponds in a given season, based upon limited coverage of just a few. Consider what Ted Mack found, in addition to the calling Common Loons, during a four-day sound recording trip to Low's Lake during late May. On 17 May, *nine* Whip-poor-will were calling at 11 p.m. On 19 May, he had 18 male White-winged Scoter in breeding plumage, plus 16

more that night after midnight, calling and low on the full moon. The finale came on 20 May when he recorded 24 Brant, plus two **Snowy Egret** perched in a dead tamarack where Ted was recording Lincoln's Sparrow. As wonderful as all these birds are, what else is out there?

Observers: John Askildsen, Bartlett & Isabelle Bailey, Merry Baker, Tom Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Bev Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Dean Cook, James Cunningham, Charlcie Delehanty, William Frenette, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Jacqueline Jones, Gary Lee, Ted Mack, Shirley Martin, Frank Morrison, Keith Murphy, John Parke, John & Susan Peterson, William & Karen Peterson, Gary Randorf, David Rutkowski, Andrew Taylor, Shirley Titus, Jan Trzeciak, Hollis White.

Abbreviations: CH - Coot Hill hawkwatch; CPt - Crown Point peninsula.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: six Raquette Pd 13 May (EM) unusual inland locale. Great Egret: arr L Alice 9 Apr; Bud Gravelle's CLIN 6 May. **Snowy Egret**: *intro*. **Tricolored Heron**: *intro*. Snow Goose: *intro*. Brant: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 100 Bud Gravelle's CLIN 20 Apr. N. Shoveler: one Gravelle's 20 Apr, only report. Gadwall: 4 Gravelle's 20 Apr only report. Am. Wigeon: max 26 Gravelle's 27 Apr. Oldsquaw: one Mountain View 31 Apr, only report. Ring-necked Duck: max 25 Tupper L 29 Mar. White-winged Scoter: *intro*. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: total 13 past CH. Osprey: total 64 past CH; *intro*. Bald Eagle: total three past CH; *intro*. N. Harrier: total 27 past CH; chasing Blue Jay at Tupper L feeder 18 Apr; male killed Rose-breasted Grosbeak in mist net CPt 20 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 98 past CH. Cooper's Hawk: total 34 past CH. N. Goshawk: total seven past CH. Red-shouldered Hawk: total 13 past CH. Broad-winged Hawk: total 286 past CH, max 107 on 27 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: total 133 past CH. Rough-legged Hawk: total one past CH. Golden Eagle: *intro*. American Kestrel: total 27 past CH. Merlin: total five past CH. Peregrine Falcon: total three past CH; *intro*. Spruce Grouse: several Boreal Heritage Preserve.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: N. Saw-whet Owl: Eighth L 8 Mar, Elizabethtown 11 Mar, Owl's Head 1 Apr. Whip-poor-will: *intro*. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: *intro*. Black-backed Woodpecker: Eighth L 9 Mar, Moose River R.A. 10 Mar, only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Gray Jay: only report Vermontville 21 Apr. Com. Raven: 9 Rattlesnake Mt 7 May undoubtedly included FL at new nest site (J&SP). Boreal Chickadee: reports from Dix Pd, Eighth L, High Peaks, Low's L, Madawaska, Onchiota, Paul Smiths, Rainbow L, and Sabattis Bog. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: two banded CPt. Am. Robin: Indian Pass 3 Mar (GR), exceptional site so early. Gray Catbird: 44 banded CPt. N. Mockingbird: four banded CPt. Brown Thrasher: *intro*. Cedar Waxwing: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Blue- or Golden-winged Warbler: heard singing Paradox 18 May (MB). Orange-crowned Warbler: heard singing CPt 21 May (TB,JP). Yellow Warbler: *intro*, 44 banded CPt. Yellow-rumped Warbler: *intro*. **Prairie Warbler**: singing male on territory Miner Institute, Chazy, 15 May (TM). Bay-breasted Warbler: singing male, female on nest Elk L 28 May, three-four other males heard (JA, JJ, AT, ST). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: *intro*. Wilson's Warbler: seen CPt.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Black-headed Grosbeak**: *intro*. Field Sparrow: *intro*. Savannah Sparrow: 20 banded CPt. Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 9 Apr; apparent mate-feeding Mountain View 23 Apr (AH). Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*, five banded CPt. Dark-eyed Junco: *intro*. Snow Bunting: six Tupper L feeder 18 Mar, one to 19 Mar unusual. Red-winged Blackbird: *intro*. Brown-headed Cowbird: *intro*. **Orchard Oriole**: *intro*. N. Oriole: 11 banded CPt. Pine Grosbeak: pair Mountain View 16 Mar only report. White-winged Crossbill: five Blue Ridge Rd 3 Mar (GR), Moose River R.A. 10 Mar (GL), only reports.

Com. Redpoll: one Tupper Lake 6 Mar (CD) only report. Pine Siskin: *intro*, apparently nesting by end of season. Am. Goldfinch: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: paired and even bringing young to feeder at Mountain View by end of season.

*Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932*

[The new editor for Region 8 is: Dr. Ken Able, Department of Biology, SUNY at Albany, Albany, NY 12222.]

## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

March continued the dry snowless winter. Reservoirs continued to drop as March came in dry and mild. Just as it seemed we could stand it no longer and as tapping the Hudson River for much needed water for our Big City to the south was seriously being considered, the rains came. The floods rose and the reservoirs filled. By the end of April they were well toward the full mark. May turned out to be the wettest in many years. According to the records at the Dutchess County Airport, beginning May first it was the wettest 45 day period in 25 years. This also brought the biggest crop of mosquitoes in many years.

Except for a few early arrivals migration was slow and uneventful. Pine Warblers were especially numerous in Dutchess Co. and both cuckoos were plentiful as were the tent caterpillars. Most warblers arrived in time for the annual Spring Census and, as the trees were not in full leaf, it was easier to see them. The seasonal puddle at the McEnroe farm in Amenia again produced some good shorebirds. Humpo Marsh was once again host to rails, Common Moorhen, herons and Wood Duck. Birding between the deluges was a rewarding challenge.

Unfortunately, there were no reports from either Putnam or Westchester Counties this season.

Contributors: Jean Beck, Barbara Butler, Peggy Fasciani, Sibyll Gilbert, Susan Joseph, Alice Jones, Jim and Mary Key, Sandy Koonce, Helen Manson, Barbara Michelin, Selden Spencer, Ed Treacy, John P. Tramontano, Marion VanWagner, Otis T. Waterman, Joe Weise.

Abbreviations: Basha - Bashakill Wetlands; HMMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, MPHW - Mount Peter Hawk Watch; MMC - Mearns May Census 19.May; SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society; WMC - Waterman May Census, 13 May.

LOON-DUCKS: Com. Loon: widely reported in heavy migration late Apr and early May (JPT), 11 over West Point 29 Apr, 22 over Basha 6 May. Pied-billed Grebe: 13 DUTC Apr. Horned Grebe: two Kiamesha L 22 Mar, one 6 Apr (SCAS), one in bay Beacon 5 May (JB). Double-crested Cormorant: 17 Hudson R 20 Apr, eight WMC. Am. Bittern: very scarce, one Crugers I 5 Apr, one L Vista 7 Apr, a few SULL and ORAN. Least Bittern: very few ORAN and SULL, none DUTC. Great Blue Heron: 84 WMC; 13 active nests Tamarack, 16 in Great Swamp, Pawling and five new nests along Taconic Parkway all in DUTC. **Little Blue Heron**: one Cornwall Bay 4 May, one WMC at Beacon. Snowy Egret: one Rhinebeck 20 Apr (EP). Green-backed Heron: one Vassar Farm 28 Apr, one Dennings Pt 29, 30 Apr, ten WMC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one being chased by a Green-backed Heron Basha 20

May, two DUTC 25 Apr (SK). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: ad Warwick 12 May (EMBC). **Glossy Ibis:** one Rhinebeck 29-31 Apr (SJ, HM). Mute Swan: continues to increase, pairs nesting in most ponds. Snow Goose: wintering flock in DUTC stayed until 22 Mar, few migrating flocks noted. Brant: few noted in transit. Wood Duck: nesting Humpo Marsh, noted in good numbers throughout Region. Green-winged Teal: max 50 Basha 22 Mar. Am Black Duck: 50 Basha 22 Mar, over 200 throughout DUTC Mar, 34 WMC. N. Pintail: eight Basha 21 Mar and 20 on 22 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: seven Basha 2 Apr, eight McEnroe Farm Amenia 24 Apr, four WMC. N Shoveler: one Basha 22 Mar, two Cornwall Bay 18 Mar (ET), five Crugers I 5 Apr. Gadwall: two Vanderburg Cove 18 Mar, six Wappingers L 19 Mar. Am. Wigeon: 20 Basha 22 Mar, 17 Wappingers L 17 Mar. Canvasback: 25 Norrie Pt 10 Mar (MVW). Ring-necked Duck: max 150 Basha 22 Mar, over 200 inland ponds DUTC. Greater Scaup: two Kiamesha L 23 Mar, 20 Wappingers L 17 Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 100 Wanasink SULL 16 Mar. Oldsquaw: three Basha 20 Mar, one Hopewell Junction Apr (PF). Surf Scoter: one Basha 20 May, late and rarely noted in migration (JPT). White-winged Scoter: one Basha 26 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: 14 Wappingers L 3 Mar, ten Crugers I 25 Mar, few others. Bufflehead: three SULL Mar, nine Hudson R 9 Mar. Hooded Merganser: two Neversink, four Basha Mar, max 50 DUTC Mar; female going to nest box Stissing May. Com. Merganser: 30 Rondout Res 23 Mar, max 500 off Norrie Pt 1 Mar (OTW), 20 Pawling 30 Apr. Ruddy Duck: one Dover Plains 30 Apr.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture:** two Warwick 19 Mar, observed well (ET), eight 20 Apr MPHW. Turkey Vulture: 60 roosting in Norway Spruce Ellenville Apr, 64 WMC. Osprey: max 20 per day transited Basha mid Apr, 47 MPHW, 82 HMHW, one Apr, two May DUTC. Bald Eagle: nesting pair Mongaup Res; six Norrie Pt 1 Mar, one Dennings Pt 30 Apr, five HMHW; several other singles. N. Harrier: several throughout DUTC Mar-May, possibly nesting (JPT), 49 HMHW, five MPHW. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 53 MPHW, 361 HMHW, many reports DUTC. Cooper's Hawk: seven MPHW, 19 HMHW; nesting pair Wappingers Falls area. N. Goshawk: one HMHW, two L Walton 17 Apr, two ad late Apr. imm noted late May (JPT). Red-shouldered Hawk: two Rhinebeck 3 Apr, singles DUTC 27 and 30 Apr. 9 HMHW, one MPHW, one Mt Cliff Rd 27 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: no large flights noted DUTC, 2084 HMHW, 221 MPHW. Red-tailed Hawk: 17 HMHW, 10 MPHW, nesting fourth year in same nest Blue Hill SULL. Golden Eagle: two HMHW. Am. Kestrel: few reported until late Mar, then good numbers DUTC, 152 HMHW, 15 MPHW. Merlin: one Hosner Mt 3-10 Apr, one MPHW, three HMHW, one WMC. Peregrine Falcon: one MPHW 27 Apr, 4 HMHW. Ring-necked Pheasant: max 17 Crugers I area 25 Mar. Ruffed Grouse: 19 WMC. Wild Turkey: 45 daily Eldred (AJ), 40 Dover Plains (DF), continues to spread and increase. N. Bobwhite: three Salt Pt 7 May. Virginia Rail: three WMC, one on occasion Millbrook School Marsh. Sora: one WBC. Com. Moorhen: one Stissing 16-19 May, eight MMC. Am Coot: one MMC. Semipalmated Plover: one WMC. Killdeer: max 25 Separate Rd 29 Mar. Greater Yellowlegs: eight WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two WMC. Solitary Sandpiper: max 37 WMC. Spotted Sandpiper: max 31 WMC. Upland Sandpiper: three MMC. Least Sandpiper: 17 WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: one WMC. Short-billed Dowitcher: one McEnroe Farm 22-23 May. Common Snipe: one Basha 27 Mar, three Separate Rd 5 May, one WMC. Am. Woodcock: three displaying Claryville 28 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: one Cornwall Bay 15 May (ET), late. Ring-billed Gull: heavy migration of ad early to mid Mar, notable migration of imm mid May (JPT). Greater Black-backed Gull: one Kiamesha L 21 Mar.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Black-billed Cuckoo: good year, six WMC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Pawling 20 May (BB), one MMC. E. Screech-Owl: very scarce DUTC, two MCM. Great Horned Owl: at Warren Sod Farm and Pine I 27 Mar, two WMC. Barred Owl: two MMC, four WMC. Com. Nighthawk: 52 on 28 May (AJ), 15 on 26 May (SG), recorded by seven groups MMC. Whip-poor-will: one Highland Mills 30 Apr (BV), very early, did not appear in DUTC until 15 May; one calling every night except when raining for two

weeks, Moores Mills; one continued calling Verbank into June, one Stissing 27 May, very late, five MMC. Chimney Swift: four Beacon 27 Apr (JB). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: one 26 Apr Pleasant Valley (MVW), early; one Claryville 4 May (JW). Red-headed Woodpecker: remains very local ORAN, one Claryville, first in 18 years. Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to increase, 30 WMC. Pileated Woodpecker: 14 WMC, remains common in mature woodlands.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided flycatcher: few noted ORAN and SULL, none DUTC. E. Wood-Pewee: most arrived after 15 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: missed! Acadian Flycatcher: local and late arriving, two singing and nest found Deep Hollow. Alder Flycatcher: local (JPT), one MMC. E. Kingbird: two Rhinebeck 22 Apr (SJ), early, next two Dennings Pt 30 Apr. Horned Lark: nine Blue Hill 28 Mar (JW), six WMC. Purple Martin: scout for houses on Milewood Rd 17 Apr, four pair by 29 Apr; nesting in three known places DUTC, three colonies remain intact ORAN. Tree Swallow: arrived most areas mid Apr. N. Rough-winged Swallow: arrived usual places mid Apr. Bank Swallow: nesting throughout Region. Cliff Swallow: noted by seven groups MMC, four Claryville 30 Apr, no nesting pairs noted in DUTC. Com. Raven: four pairs Catskills, two Frost Valley 28 Mar, two Halls Mills 28 Mar, on increase. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one 28 Apr on suet and again 16 May (MVW). Brown Creeper: 13 WMC. House Wren: one Millbrook 15 Apr (EP). Winter Wren: two Basha 22 Mar, three heard singing Pond Gut mid Apr, also Buttercup, Deep Hollow and Thompson P, 14 WMC. Marsh Wren: heard Moodna Marsh, Cornwall 8 Apr a full month early, probably wintered there (ET), heard Vanderburg Cove 25 May, reported by nine groups MMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two pairs on territory Middletown Res 21 May, using Norway Spruce. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: peak migration 2-3 Apr (JPT); 20 WMC. Gray-cheeked Thrush: five MMC. Hermit Thrush: many reports through Apr and May. Am. Robin: arrived in flocks early Mar. Water Pipit: missed. Cedar Waxwing: good flocks Apr. N. Shrike: one along I-84 at Shenandoah 4 Mar (JB).

VERIOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Vassar Farm 5 May and two 15-20 May. Solitary Vireo: one Pond Gut 17-18 Apr (HM), good migration and some local nesters. Yellow-throated Vireo: 31 WMC, recorded by nine groups MMC. Philadelphia Vireo: two MMC. Blue-winged Warbler: two 1 May. Golden-winged Warbler: one WMC, seven MMC. "Brewsters" Warbler: one WMC, one MMC. Tennessee Warbler: not too plentiful. N. Parula: one Pawling 22 Apr, early. Magnolia Warbler: 17 WMC. Cape May Warbler: scarce, three MMC, one WMC. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 12 WMC. Yellow-rumped Warbler: very abundant Apr and May. Pine Warbler: arr Pawling 19-31 Mar, one Poughkeepsie 21 Mar; daily Eldred (AJ), best migration in years. Prairie Warbler: arr Beacon 29 Apr, high numbers on May census. Palm Warbler: good migration. Bay-breasted Warbler: four MMC. Blackpoll Warbler: two WMC, recorded by nine groups MMC. Cerulean Warbler: pair WPMR 20 May, one WMC, four MMC, one Dover Plains 14 May (MY), one Tamarack 31 May, none at Ferncliff where they have nested for several years. Black-and-white Warbler: good numbers. Worm-eating Warbler: arr 5 May, nine WMC. N. Waterthrush: scarce DUTC, recorded by eight groups MMC. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pond Gut 8 Apr, good numbers. Kentucky Warbler: one Basha 26 May. Mourning Warbler: three MMC. Hooded Warbler: two Pawling 25 May (SG). Wilson's Warbler: numbers down DUTC, five MMC. Canada Warbler: two WMC, nine MMC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: one late Apr Ferncliff, fair numbers. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: early ones came to feeders. Indigo Bunting: one 5-7 May at feeder (FG), late arriving in nesting areas. Am Tree Sparrow: last 28 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr late Mar. Vesper Sparrow: singles DUTC 4 May, 15 May, 19 May. Savannah Sparrow: widespread and good numbers. Grasshopper Sparrow: several singing third week May ORAN, two heard in same large field DUTC. Henslow's Sparrow: none in May, known colony will be checked in June. Fox Sparrow: singles several localities SULL mid Mar, 14 sightings through early Apr (SCAS); remained several places DUTC to end of Apr. Lincoln's

Sparrow: two WMC. Swamp Sparrow: heard 7 Mar. White-throated Sparrow: at feeders through Mar, numbers built up through Apr, most gone by mid May. White-crowned Sparrow: good numbers, 17 WMC. Snow Bunting: last flock of 20 Blue Hill, SULL 19 Apr. E. Meadowlark: good numbers Apr, May. Orchard Oriole: few noted ORAN, SULL, one Basha 16 May. Purple Finch: few at feeders Mar, Apr, very scarce most areas. Pine Siskin: one at feeder Salt Pt 20 Mar, only report. Evening Grosbeak: ten DeBruce early Apr, 12 through early May, one Wurtsboro 27 Apr, two Claryville 10 May.

*Moore's Mills, RD4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.*

## REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF & ALVIN WOLLIN

After the warm dry winter, the spring started in a perfectly normal fashion. Both the mean temperature and rainfall for March and April were just about normal. The temperature even managed to get over 80°F. at the end of March although it never reached those heights in April. Rainfall for the two months was an aggregate of 1.22" over the norm of about 8 inches, an insignificant amount after the past winter's lack of precipitation. However, May was another story. On 16 May 3.35" of rain fell in Central Park during a 30 hour period, almost equalling the expected total for the entire month. This storm left only 0.75" at Montauk but eastern Suffolk Co. experienced a deluge with a maximum of 6.15" at Dix Hills, the heaviest downpour since hurricane Connie in 1955. May had a total precipitation of 10.24 inches as measured at the Central Park weather station and a lot of wet days. For those of us on Long Island May's precipitation was probably heavier than in the city. For the first time in some years, streams and ponds in Southern Nassau Co. approached their former levels before the storm sewer system became operable. Did the raising of the water table help the birding? Did the rain hurt the birding? Our contributors reported lackluster results and the universal observation that there are fewer small birds these days.

Two of the best birds of the season were seen by the same person on the same day! On 21 May, Tony Lauro was in the same general area of *Elaeagnus* shrubs at Robert Moses State Park which produced last fall's Western Tanager. Then, the birds fed on the berries. Now the shrubs were in bloom and drew an assortment of insects which the birds were feeding on. In this spring group of tanagers and thrushes were two rare western birds more likely to be seen in November rather than May, an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and an **Audubon's Warbler**, the western race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. Both birds are very rare in the fall and unprecedented at this time of year. Another even rarer bird of the fall, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was seen and photographed two miles west of Oak Beach Inn on 7 May by Dick Cartwright. While the first two birds were preceded by the substantial rain storm that came from the west on 16 May, the latter bird just appeared without any unusual weather phenomenon. Explanation anyone? To round out our spring rarities list, a **Wilson's Plover** was seen at JBWR on 19 May by Geoff LeBaron, Susan Drennan, *et al.*

The only report of a pelagic trip came from Michael O'Brien. We report his findings here in their entirety. The Okeanos Whale Watch trip out of Montauk on 20 May produced 14 Common Loon, ten Northern Fulmar, three Greater Shearwater, 83 Sooty Shearwater, two Manx Shearwater, 113 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 30 Northern Gannet, six Red-necked Phalarope, and 351 Red Phalarope.

The summary report of the Spring Shorebird Survey at JBWS comes courtesy of Arthur Morris and David Mizrahi: "The Spring maxima for Black-bellied Plover and Red Knot were about 50% above the 6-year average maxima. The Spring maxima for Semipalmated Sandpiper and Semipalmated Plover were down 72% and 67% when compared to the 6-year average maxima. Maximum counts for the six most common migrant species were down 27% as compared to the 6-year average. There was no distinct peak. No White-rumped Sandpipers were noted through 6 Jun; a few are usually present in very late May and early Jun."

A number of winter birds lingered into the spring reporting season. They are reported in their proper places below. These records come primarily from Tom Burke, the voice of the NYRBA.

Watching the flock of Bonaparte's Gulls which frequent the tip of Captree State Park, as they feed and call in the surf on the waning tide, is one of the delights of winter birding. This flock can number as many as several thousand but usually is in the hundreds. These gulls also attract Little and Common Black-headed Gulls. Both species were seen with them throughout most of the month of March with a maximum of four of the former on 13 Mar.

We had more rain on the weekends in May this year, so there was less opportunity to be out during the height of the migration. Even so, few birders spoke of large lists of warblers on any one day, highs in the low twenties being the usual maximum. This in contrast to the past when 25 or more was a common occurrence on a big day. The numbers for individual species are also down. This comment applies not only to warblers, but to all small migrant birds.

The Jones Beach Checklist has been prepared by a group of experienced Long Island birders in conjunction with the NY State Dept of Parks and is available at various offices in the park. It covers the entire strip to Captree and is quite good. If you ask for one at the Beach, make sure you get the right list. The park attendants gave us the Staten Island list.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Aline Dove, Henry F. Flamm, Paul H. Gillen, Dave Kunstler, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Michael O'Brien, Brenda Renshaw, Herbert H. Roth, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pond Park; CP - Central Park; LI - Long Island; FBF - Floyd Bennett Field; FP - Forest Park; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBCh - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PP - Prospect Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SPtP - Smith Point Park; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: N. Fulmar: *intro*. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: one Oak Beach 27 May (NYRBA). Oldsquaw: 4500 moving past JBCh Inlet 11 Mar (SW). Snow Goose: 160 JBWS 4 Mar (Tom Preston). Barnacle Goose: one at Cold Spring H last seen 1 Mar. Harlequin Duck: nine at Ditch Plains 3 Mar (SW), one Lawrence 28 Mar. White-winged Scoter: causeway at

Orient Point 13 May (BA).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** Turkey Vulture: six Riverhead 31 Mar (PG), one Welwyn Preserve 1 Apr (Lois Linberg), two Muttontown Preserve 1 Apr (Allen Lindberg), one Wading R 7 Apr (BA), one Lawrence 10 Apr, one APP 21 Apr, one HLSP 22 Apr (Tom Preston), one FP 26 May, [a small invasion or a new Spring migration route]. N. Goshawk: one wintered in CP till 2 Apr, seen eating an Am. Woodcock on 19 Mar (BR). Red-shouldered Hawk: APP 15 May (S. Deifik, J. Rubin). Rough-legged Hawk: JBWS 3 Mar, FBF 10 Mar. **Wilson's Plover:** *intro.* Whimbrel: two ShIn 25 Apr (MO'B). Red-necked Phalarope: female in alternate plumage JBWE 31 May (AM), *intro.* Red Phalarope: *intro.* Iceland Gull: one Ditch Plains 4 Mar, one adult ShIn 31 Mar, one Hempstead H 1 Apr. Little Gull: *intro.* Com. Black-headed Gull: *intro.* Iceland Gull: one to two birds ShIn 3 Mar to 3 Apr. Gull-billed Tern: pair in Com. Tern colony at JBWE 25 May (SS, AW), seen early June but did not appear to have nested; MeB 30-31 May. Caspian Tern: one MeB 19 April (PG, MO'B). Royal Tern: three MeB 30 May. **Arctic Tern:** one sitting with Common Terns Mecox Inlet 14 May (Joe DiCostanzo). Black Tern: Jones Inlet 6 and 14 May, two Goethal's Bridge Pd, SI 11 May (AM). Thick-billed Murre: one swam up to the beach SPtP 5 Mar (Bob Kurtz).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** Snowy Owl: FBF 1 Mar, one SPtP 5 Mar. Chuck-will's-widow: one CP 14 May (AM). Red-headed Woodpecker: one wintered in CP to 19 Apr. Pileated Woodpecker: Bronx 17 Mar, Hunter I early Apr.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** **Ash-throated Flycatcher:** *intro.* **Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** *intro.* American Robin: partial albino Caumsett SP Apr-May (DK). **Loggerhead Shrike:** one Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside 10 Apr (John Bull).

**VIREOS-WARBBLERS:** Golden-winged Warbler: a few early May records all from NYC parks. Brewster's Warbler: CP 13 May. Lawrence's Warbler: PP 7 May, Queens 11 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: Van Cortland P 27 Apr, PP 8 May. **Audubon's Warbler:** *intro.* Yellow-throated Warbler: one PP 22 Apr, one Mattituck 3 May (Aline Dove). Cerulean Warbler: a few early to mid May records all from NYC parks. Prothonotary Warbler: several records NASS and SUFF, range extension? Worm-eating Warbler: max four HLSP 7 May (Matt Bayer), plus various other records. Kentucky Warbler: a few early to mid May records all from NYC parks. Mourning Warbler: arr PP 8 May. Hooded Warbler: one very early JBch 6-13 Apr (AW).

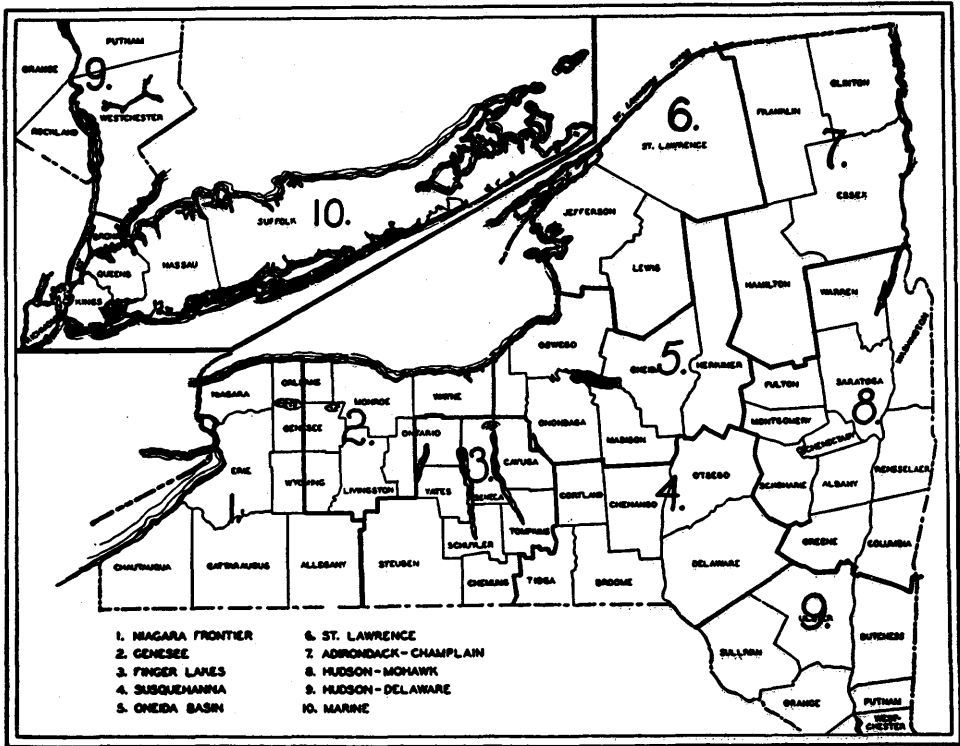
**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** Summer Tanager: a number of NYC and NASS records. Blue Grosbeak: singles Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, and CP 7 May. Dickcissel: one wintered Whitestone to 23 Apr, one Brooklyn feeder 28 Feb, 5 Mar. Lark Sparrow: one w end JBch 18 May (Rex Stanford). Harris Sparrow: one at a Brooklyn feeder until early April. Bobolink: a number of scattered records. Yellow-headed Blackbird: one Shinnecock Bay 11 Apr (MO'B). Rusty Blackbird: 50+ Shu Swamp 22 Apr (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society). Boat-tailed Grackle: seen regularly on SI this May, further range extension?

**ERRATA:** The Yellow Rail reported 10 Sep 88 should be 13 Sep 88. Turkey Vulture record of 23 Sep attributed to A. Bell should be A. Lindberg.

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550.



## REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

### REPORTING DEADLINES

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

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

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

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

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