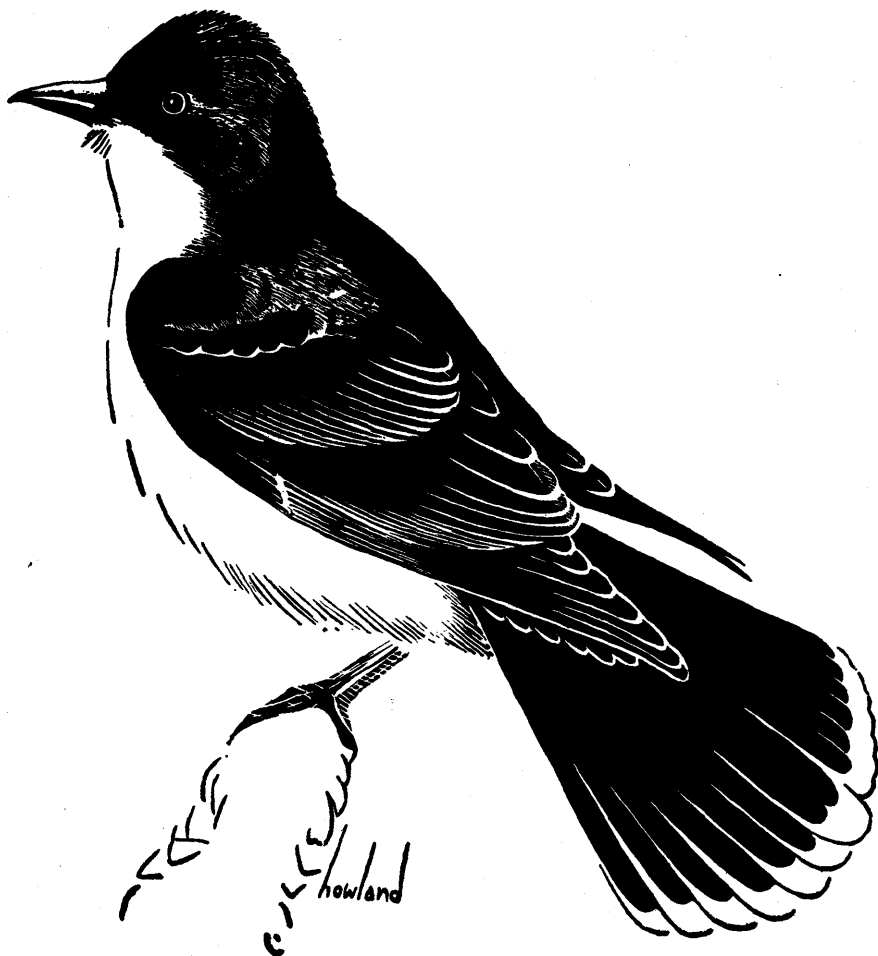


# The **KINGBIRD**



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**SUMMER • 1990**

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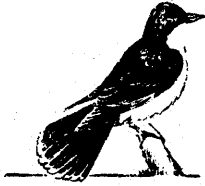
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# *The* **KINGBIRD**

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC

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*Editor - Paul A. DeBenedictis*

*Highlights of the Season*

*Editor - Robert Spahn*

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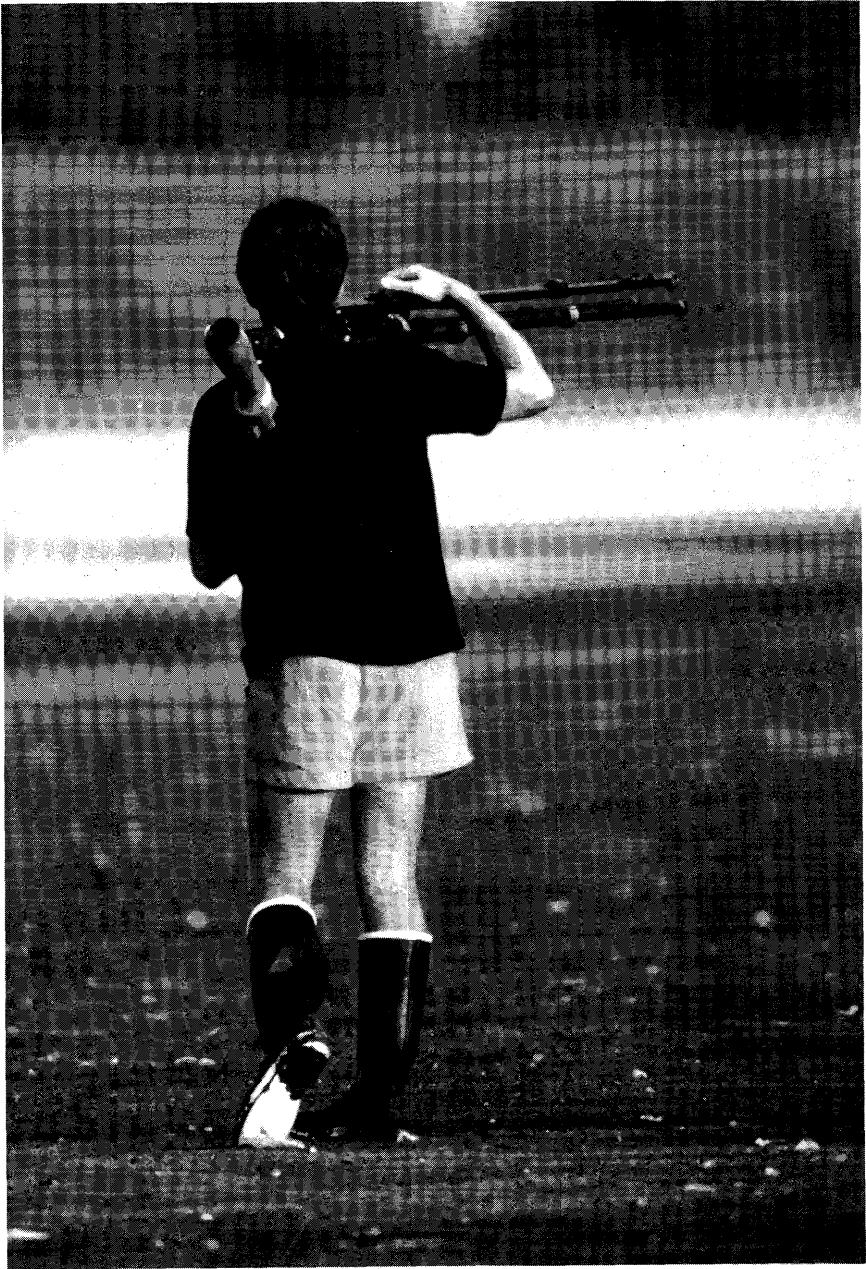


Figure 1. Shorebirder, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York. Photograph by A. Morris.

## THE 1989 FALL SHOREBIRD SEASON AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

ARTHUR MORRIS

Thirty-four species of shorebirds were noted at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, New York during the 1989 fall migration. The refuge was visited 42 times between 23 June and 25 November. All species present were censused on each visit. Most visits, which averaged three to four hours, overlapped the time of high tide when the greatest number of birds fly into the East Pond to rest, feed, and preen. A majority of these birds disperse to tidal flats throughout Jamaica Bay as the tide recedes.

Censusing techniques are described by Morris (1988). In addition to the seven previously described census areas, "A" through "G", (Morris 1986) the tidal bay just north of the East Pond was added as census area "H." This area is nicknamed "Outflow Cove" because it is here that the East Pond's outlet pipe empties into Jamaica Bay. Small numbers of shorebirds have always fed here at low tide on saltwater mud flats, but this year, many also roosted on the sandy beach at high tide, especially when torrential rains flooded the East Pond. Areas "A" through "E" were counted regularly. Area "F" was visited infrequently as it attracts very few birds during fall migration. Each spring, however, thousands of northbound migrant shorebirds roost there.

Census results for areas "A" through "F" are presented in Table 1. Areas "G" and "H" were covered regularly throughout the season, though they were not visited as often as the East and West Ponds were. Census results for these areas are presented in Table 2. Daily counts from these areas are not included in Table 1. Average daily totals of all species are compared with the 8-year average in Figure 2. Species diversity is summarized in Table 3. Adult and juvenile arrival dates for the most common migrant species, for both 1989 and for the past 8 years, are summarized in Table 4.

Because of record rainfall in May and June, the water level at East Pond was far higher than anyone could remember when the gate valve at the north end of the East Pond was finally opened in late June; it should have been opened several weeks earlier. To make matters worse, a log jammed the flap valve so that it did not close at high tide; thus, while the pond drained at low tide, it refilled (with saltwater) at high tide. National Park Service personnel were indifferent to these high

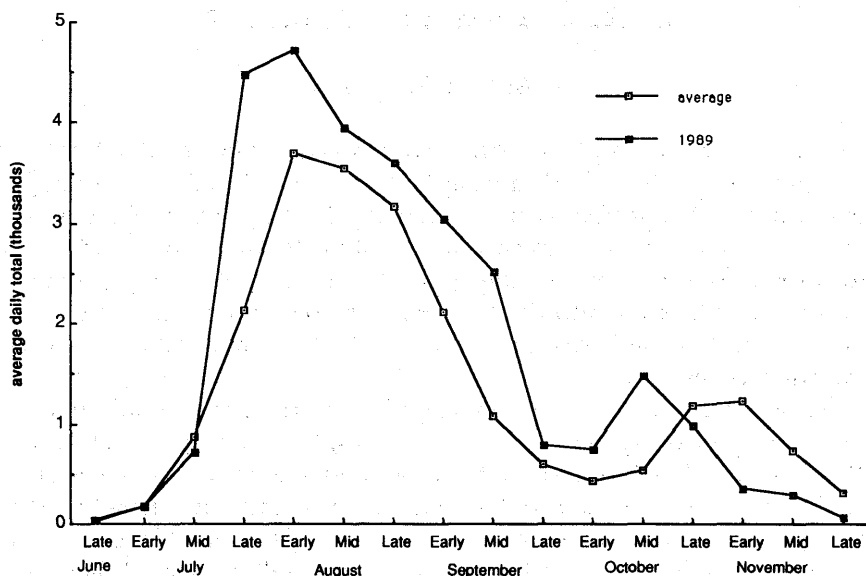


Figure 2. Average daily shorebird totals per ten day period, 1989 versus the 8-year average.

water levels that prevented all but a handful of returning shorebirds from utilizing the East Pond through mid July and pushed back adult arrival dates for many species that normally arrive early in the season. On 2 July the water level at the East Pond was so high that no mudflats were exposed. Thus, I was completely amazed to find that the gate valve, which allows the pond to drain at low tide, was closed. I was later told that the valve had been closed in error by an inexperienced employee. By late July the pond had drained to normal, low levels and adult migrants flocked to the pond in record numbers. A new daily total maximum of 5616 birds was established on 28 July. The second highest daily total ever, 5388, was recorded on 4 August.

Heavy rains from 10-13 August raised the East Pond level six inches. When I visited the pond on 16 August I was again amazed to find the gate valve closed. This was even more astounding considering the weather forecast; ten inches of rain were to arrive the next day with Hurricane *Hugo*! When I asked refuge personnel why the pond was not

being drawn down, I was told, "the gate valve will be opened tomorrow." If Hugo had not fizzled, three to four thousand shorebirds would have been forced off the East Pond.

Juvenile arrival dates averaged a week early. Juveniles of several species were noted in above average numbers (with approximate maxima) from late August through September as follows: Semipalmated Plover (100), Semipalmated (750) and Least Sandpiper (125), Short-billed Dowitcher (650), and Red Knot (225). Young Greater Yellowlegs (475), most in first winter plumage, made an excellent showing in early October.

Heavy rains in mid September once again raised the water level of the East Pond and reduced suitable shorebird habitat, but refuge personnel quickly drained the pond; shorebird numbers, boosted by large flocks of Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and a good early flight of Dunlin, remained above average through mid October. The rains continued and, in late October, the pond was drained yet again. But as it has done for the past 3 years, the rain persisted and reflooded the pond; shorebird numbers late in the season were down 54% from the 8-year average.

Shorebird numbers at Area "G," adjacent to the North Railroad Bridge, fluctuated as they had in previous years. A maximum of 1562 birds of six species, mostly Dunlin, was noted here on 29 October. Eight species present on 10 August were the most recorded at this site, a sand beach, used primarily as a high tide roost. At Area "H" the season's maximum was 457 on 14 August and was mainly Semipalmated Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper. David Mizrahi found 5 juvenile Hudsonian Godwit roosting here on 29 October; one was barely larger than a dowitcher!

Species diversity was below average for most of the season as Ruff, and both Curlew and Upland Sandpiper were absent and only single Marbled Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope were noted. Species diversity was far below average during the late season when high water levels prevented the traditional lingering species from visiting the East Pond.

With shorebird numbers 39% above the eight year average through late October, my criticism of the National Park Service management of East Pond water levels might be questioned, but several relevant factors must first be considered: 1) Shorebird numbers unquestionably would have been higher had ideal conditions at the East Pond existed throughout the season. 2) When water levels are too high, birders are

unable to make their way past large flocks of roosting birds without disturbing them, thus depriving these long-distance migrants of needed rest. 3) During the 1988 and 1989 seasons, an observer was present at both ends of the East Pond during high tide (Morris, 1989). The daily totals for these two years, when compared with the daily totals for 1981-1987, are almost surely inflated by ten to twenty percent. Average daily totals for 1989 were up 43% compared to 1988 numbers. 4) November 1989 totals were down 54% from the eight-year average. 5) For the past several years National Park Service personnel have not even followed their own guidelines for controlling the water levels at East (or West) Pond as set down in their Resource Management Plan.

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Black-bellied Plover:** Black-bellied Plover abounded this year (47% above the 8-year average) through September, but numbers were far below normal thereafter. They were down 69% from early October on.

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** A poor season was nonetheless an improvement on the three straight abysmal ones that preceded it.

**Semipalmated Plover:** An average adult migration was followed by a fairly good showing of juveniles, distinguished by their solid black bills, their brown, not black, neck bands, and the finely scalloped feathers of their upperparts.

**Killdeer:** A below average season for both local breeders and migrants.

**American Oystercatcher:** While large flocks of oystercatchers are now a common sight at the refuge, it seems that the explosive increases of recent seasons have leveled off at least temporarily. Three pairs nested within sight of refuge visitors; two produced young. The nest present for the third consecutive year just west of Bench 3 was washed away by extremely high tides. I observed one parent sitting on a single egg, far from the original nest, several days after the nest had been destroyed!

**American Avocet:** A single avocet that visited both ponds briefly on 9 Aug (Max and Nellie Larsen) is not included in Table 1.

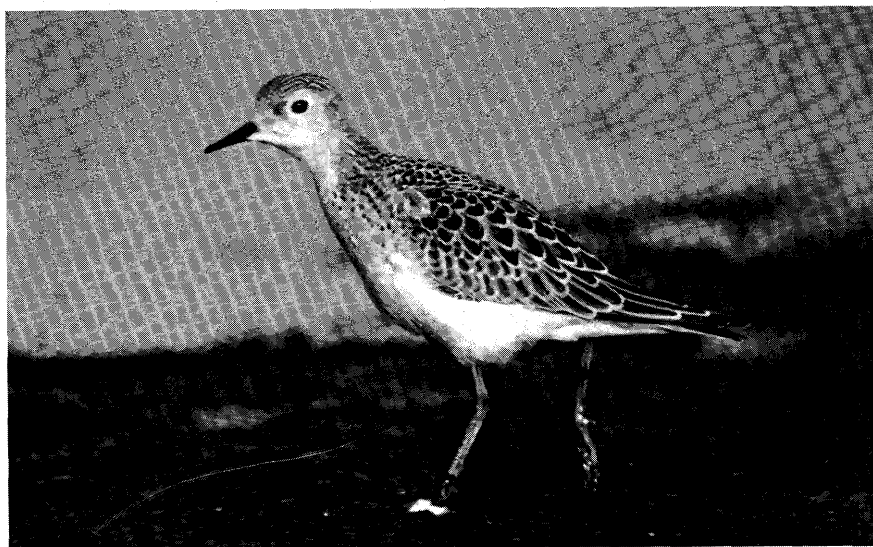
**Greater Yellowlegs:** Though late in arriving, large flocks of this tall, elegant wader were seen throughout the season; numbers were up 76% from the 8-year average.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Both adults and juveniles were noted in somewhat above average numbers.





**Figure 3.** Downy young American Oystercatcher, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York. Photograph by A. Morris.



**Figure 4.** Juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York. Photograph by A. Morris.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** A single bird present on 14 Aug is not included in Table 1.

**Willet:** For the first time in nine seasons a new record maximum was not noted this season, but local and regional populations continue to do exceptionally well. A leucistic Willet in first winter plumage was present on 7 Sep. It was eggshell white overall with a buff cap, greyish buff splotching on the upperparts, and faint greyish brown streaking on the sides of the head, the neck, and the upperparts — except for the coverts which were pure white. The tail and the primaries were white with greyish tips. The bend of the wing was dark grey. The eye was dark, the bill pink basally with a dark distal half. The bird was an amazing sight, especially in flight.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1989 was a below average season for this local breeder. The last was seen on 7 Sep.

**Whimbrel:** The season's total of 6 birds on three scattered dates was a typical showing.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** An average season featured a good showing of juveniles including 6 present from 4-11 Nov.

**Marbled Godwit:** Members of the Queens County Bird Club discovered the season's only Marbled Godwit on 1 Sep. It is not included in Table 1.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** More than twice the usual number of Ruddy Turnstone were present during the peak of adult migration, yet juveniles were scarce as usual. In mid August I saw an adult Ruddy Turnstone feeding on a dead blue claw crab.

**Red Knot:** 1989 was a fabulous season for this well-studied shorebird. Well above average numbers of adults arrived at the end of July, about one week early. Between 17 Jul and 11 Aug, 18 different color-banded Knots were sighted. As always, band data was sent to Manomet Bird Observatory; it is most discouraging that researchers there often fail to acknowledge these reports or to forward relevant information detailing where and when specific birds had been banded.

**Sanderling:** Down 93% from the 8-year average, the virtual disappearance of this species from the East Pond is, at least in part, an indication of its precipitous decline in the Americas over the past two decades.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** An excellent season was highlighted by a new maximum of 2457 on 28 Jul. Well above average numbers of adults, which arrived a week early, were followed by a record flight of

young birds that remained at the refuge in good numbers through mid September. Five color-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper were picked out of large flocks of adults between 24 Jul and 5 Aug. One wore a blue leg flag denoting that it had been banded in Brazil. CEMAVE, the Brazilian banding agency, sent a certificate in Portuguese. The bird had been banded in the spring of 1989 at "Coroa do Aviao, Itamaracape, Brasil" (07°40'S, 34°50'W). JBWR is located at 40°40'N, 70°00'W.

**Western Sandpiper:** As usual, only a few (fading) adults were noted this season. Good numbers of juveniles did visit the refuge; as many as 35 were seen in mid September. They usually peak about 1 Sep.

**Least Sandpiper:** Average numbers of adults were followed by a good showing of juveniles.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Except for a small, late flight in mid September, few adults were noted. Juveniles were also scarce. A "runt" juvenile, much smaller (by direct comparison) than several Semipalmated Sandpipers, was carefully observed at the south end of the East Pond in mid November.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** Single juveniles (same bird?) noted on 23 Aug and 1 Sep were not included in Table 1.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Typically few adults were followed in early to mid October by a good showing of handsome juveniles.

**Dunlin:** Dunlin made a strong showing in early October, but numbers fell far below average as conditions at the East Pond deteriorated late in the season.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** It was an average year for adults, a bit below average for juveniles.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** One elegantly beautiful bird in fresh Juvenal plumage delighted birders at the north end of East Pond for several days in early September. Birds of this species are best aged by noting the black subterminal spot on some of the coverts. Uncharacteristically, this bird spent a good deal of time roosting in shallow water on the edge of large flocks of shorebirds. It is not included in Table 1.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Great numbers of adults visited the refuge in summer of '89; the peak in late July was 65% above the 8-year average. An unprecedented flight of juveniles peaked in early September. September totals were nearly seven times greater than usual!

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Adults, which arrived a week late, were very scarce this year. A good number of first-winter birds were found in early October, roosting as usual at the East Pond's north end where

they associate with Greater Yellowlegs. In first-winter plumage Long-billed Dowitcher averages darker grey, stockier, and shorter winged than does first winter Short-billed Dowitcher. In most years, Short-billed Dowitcher is at best uncommon when first-winter Long-billed Dowitcher arrive. All first-winter Short-billed Dowitcher retain a tertial or two; these feathers, no matter how worn, always exhibit the markings that distinguish the birds in fresh Juvenal plumage. Additionally, the Short-billed Dowitcher coverts, even when worn, are more broadly fringed than the coverts of first year Long-bills. Any juvenile dowitcher showing broad orange-buff fringes on the coverts is, of course, a Short-billed Dowitcher. [Editor's note: although their Juvenal and Alternate plumages are distinctive, no plumage characters that distinguish all Basic plumaged dowitchers are known. The differences noted above separate the great majority of individuals.]

**Common Snipe:** Singles present on 1 Sep and 15 Oct are not included in Table 1.

**American Woodcock:** Only six sightings of this secretive local breeder were made this year. The 25 Nov bird was the latest ever recorded by more than 5 weeks.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** A fading adult male in late July and five first year birds on scattered dates was a dismal showing for this species.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A juvenile at the south end of the East Pond seen by NPS Ranger Mary Hake in mid September is not included in Table 1.

### Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the many observers who helped fill in the gaps in daily counts, especially those who made detailed, legible log entries. David Mizrahi, in his second year as co-compiler, once again proved to be an extremely reliable, tireless worker and a skilled birder. Special thanks go to Max and Nellie Larsen, Shane Blodgett, Jack Dineen, Martin Sohmer, Bob Kurtz, Steve Walter, and Kevin Karlson, who assisted in gathering data for the 1988 count. This survey was done in cooperation with the International Shorebird Surveys, Manomet, Massachusetts.

80-11 160th Ave. Queens, N.Y. 11414

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Table 1. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1989

Species	June		July							
	23	29	2	5	9	12	16	17	20	24
Plover, Black-bellied								2		2
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated						1	6	1	22	151
Killdeer	3	2	2	2	4		7	1		21
American Oystercatcher	4	15	9	9	21	31	18	19	12	35
American Avocet										
Yellowlegs, Greater						7	15	42	29	30
Lesser				2		3	22	11	29	55
Solitary Sandpiper										
Willet	9	29	13	19	39	22	22	45	31	9
Sandpiper, Spotted				1	2	1	4	2	1	3
Upland										
Whimbrel										
Godwit, Hudsonian										
Marbled										
Ruddy Turnstone										4
Red Knot						5	4	30	102	170
Sanderling								1		
Sandpiper, Semipalmated			1			23	79	134	629	1179
Western									1	3
Stint, Little										
Rufous-necked										
Sandpiper, Least		11	12	111	53	31	97	53	38	37
White-rumped										
Baird's										
Pectoral					1					
Sharp-tailed										
Dunlin										
Sandpiper, Curlew										
Stilt									3	5
Buff-breasted										
Ruff										
Dowitcher, Short-billed		7	23	109	131	160	246	323	541	1699
Long-billed										
Common Snipe										
American Woodcock		1				1				
Phalarope, Wilson's										
Red-necked										
Number of species	3	6	6	7	7	11	11	13	12	15
Daily total	16	65	60	253	251	285	520	664	1438	3403
Coverage: East Pond		a	a	a	abcd	Abcd	ABCd	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD
West Pond	E	EF	E	E	Ef	EF	EF	E	E	E

Coverage: lower case = 0 birds in surveyed area

Species noted in the species accounts as NOT included in Table 1 ARE included in the number of species and the daily totals.

Table 1 (cont). Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1989

Species	August									
	28	30	31	4	8	11	14	18	23	28
Plover, Black-bellied	23	4	90	236	346	335	583	700	932	847
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated	339	58	426	717	567	587	491	576	523	551
Killdeer	1	3	6	5	4	5	5	1	5	9
American Oystercatcher	47	10	15	35	62	48	38	3	6	64
American Avocet										
Yellowlegs, Greater	78	5	111	141	156	155	178	343	225	311
Lesser	126	3	62	72	130	32	47	73	25	84
Solitary Sandpiper							1			
Willet	9	11	40	39	32	15	19	3	15	33
Sandpiper, Spotted		4	5	2	2	7	3	2	1	3
Upland										
Whimbrel		2								3
Godwit, Hudsonian	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	8	5	4
Marbled										
Ruddy Turnstone	137	23	81	309	255	300	338	215	178	132
Red Knot	1129	556	622	889	458	405	476	129	196	471
Sanderling	5			1	1				12	2
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	2457	224	2133	2267	1576	1555	1675	1152	786	1100
Western	2			2	1		2		3	4
Stint, Little										
Rufous-necked										
Sandpiper, Least	38	11	18	24	13	31	23	12	21	107
White-rumped	3		2	2	3	4	3	4	5	12
Baird's									1	
Pectoral	1		2	1	1	4	3		1	2
Sharp-tailed										
Dunlin										1
Sandpiper, Curlew										
Stilt	5		12	3	4	8			9	11
Buff-breasted										
Ruff										
Dowitcher, Short-billed	1212	88	800	640	457	314	414	533	182	350
Long-billed	2			2			1	3		4
Common Snipe										
American Woodcock									1	
Phalarope, Wilson's	1								1	1
Red-necked										
Number of species	20	15	17	20	19	17	19	16	22	23
Daily total	5616	INC	4426	5388	4069	3810	4305	3757	3133	4106
Coverage: East Pond	ABCD		ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD
West Pond	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

**Table 1 (cont). Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1989**

Species	September						
	1	7	12	16	21	26	30
Plover, Black-bellied	859	575	721	456	485	192	76
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated	1	1	2	1	3		
Killdeer	318	159	145	114	8		6
American Oystercatcher	11	10	16	5	2		1
American Avocet	3	122	4	3		24	
Yellowlegs, Greater	341	165	164	259	66	55	422
Lesser Solitary Sandpiper	80	46	95	26	44	6	22
Willet	6	20	10	11		1	
Sandpiper, Spotted Upland	2	1					
Whimbrel							1
Godwit, Hudsonian	5	2		4	2	1	4
Marbled	1						
Ruddy Turnstone	34	16	27	9		8	
Red Knot	304	114	200	99	247	113	8
Sanderling	6			2			
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	496	955	762	1054	66	1	8
Western	10	15	35	35	1		
Stint, Little							
Rufous-necked							
Sandpiper, Least	137	50	78	94	4		3
White-rumped	15	13	21	28	1		1
Baird's	1						
Pectoral	9	1	5	5	8	1	9
Sharp-tailed							
Dunlin	1			2	6	8	6
Sandpiper, Curlew							
Stilt	3	20	20	17	2		1
Buff-breasted		1					
Ruff							
Dowitcher, Short-billed	509	658	352	171	327	72	72
Long-billed	2		1		1		6
Common Snipe	1						
American Woodcock	1						
Phalarope, Wilson's	1	2					
Red-necked			1				
Number of species	27	20	19	20	17	12	16
Daily total	3157	2944	2659	2395	1273	482	646
Coverage: East Pond	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD
West Pond	E	E	E	E	E	E	E



Table 1 (cont). Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1989

Species	October			November				December	
	9	15	21	29	4	12	19	25	3
Plover, Black-bellied	1	225	55	6	6				
Lesser Golden-	2	2							
Semipalmated	7	1							
Killdeer	3	1							2
American Oystercatcher	33				15	20	96	46	
American Avocet									
Yellowlegs, Greater	480	353	194	167	129	223	38		
Lesser	10	11	4	13	1	3	1		
Solitary Sandpiper									
Willet									
Sandpiper, Spotted									
Upland									
Whimbrel									
Godwit, Hudsonian	2	2			6	6	2		
Marbled									
Ruddy Turnstone		1	1						
Red Knot		40	58		2				
Sanderling									
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	70	52	5	6	1	1			
Western	1	1		1					
Stint, Little									
Rufous-necked									
Sandpiper, Least									
White-rumped	9	5	1	3		1			
Baird's									
Pectoral	24	15	6		1				
Sharp-tailed									
Dunlin	52	795	557	879	197	131	87	27	9
Sandpiper, Curlew									
Stilt		8							
Buff-breasted									
Ruff									
Dowitcher, Short-billed	22	15	17	1					
Long-billed	33	1	16		2	2			
Common Snipe		1							
American Woodcock		1						1	
Phalarope, Wilson's									
Red-necked									
Number of species	15	19	11	8	10	8	5	3	2
Daily total	749	1530	914	1076	360	387	224	74	11
Coverage: East Pond	ABCD	ABCD	ABCD	AbCD	ABCD	AbCd	abCd	abcd	
West Pond	E	E	E E		E	E	E	E	E

Table 2. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge 1989 Shorebird Survey. Areas "G" and "H"

Species	Area "G"																				
	July					August				September				October				November			December
	9	12	16	21	30	10	14	23	3	12	16	26	9	14	25	29	4	11	19	25	3
Plover, Black-bellied						1	3			12	175	40	37	23	155	205	9	10	1	14	3
Lesser Golden Semipalmated					29	12	21		16			5									
Killdeer	4			1																	
American Oystercatcher		3				2	3														
Yellowlegs, Greater						1	4														
Lesser						1	2														
Sandpiper, Spotted						1															
Godwit, Hudsonian																					1
Ruddy Turnstone					12	2	14		3	7				1	1	13			1	1	2
Red Knot										15	12		1	2	85	121				1	
Sanderling						7			1												
Sandpiper, Semipalmated					1	141	19	17	1			1	4			1					1
Sandpiper, Least					1																
White-rumped																2					
Dunlin												20	18	16	550	1220	11	660	133	1325	4
Number of species	1	1	0	3	7	8	4	0	3	2	3	6	4	4	4	6	2	3	3	5	2
Daily total	4	3	0	3	193	44	55	0	18	15	197	79	60	42	791	1562	20	671	135	1343	7

Species	Area "H"																			
	July					August			September			October			November			December		
	2	16	17	21	28	30	10	14	23	3	26	9	14	25	29	4	11	19	25	3
Plover, Black-bellied						2	1			4		3	6	5	5	9	7			
Lesser Golden Semipalmated						3	5	112	3	43	22	8	25	12						
Killdeer	1			1	1	1		1												
American Oystercatcher	2	2	3	3	1			3	2											
Yellowlegs, Greater		3	3	1		2									12					
Lesser		3	8	2		4	2													
Willet																				
Sandpiper, Spotted																				
Godwit, Hudsonian															5					
Ruddy Turnstone				1		2	12	4	1	1	1		1							
Red Knot																				
Sanderling																				
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	49	15	2	5	6	26	337	5	1	2	1	4	3	7						
Western																				
Sandpiper, Least	13	2	1																	
White-rumped														1						
Dunlin															12	11	141			185
Dowitcher, Short-billed		22	22	4											1					
Number of species	2	6	6	8	3	7	5	5	0	5	4	4	3	5	7	2	3	0	0	1
Daily total	3	92	53	15	7	20	46	457	0	15	46	28	15	36	50	20	155	0	0	185

Table 3. Species Diversity

	Late June & E. July	Late July	Early Aug	Late Aug	Early Sept	Late Sept	Early Oct	Late Oct & Nov
1981	14	25	25	26	26	27	23	21
1982	13	24	25	29	31	30	26	19
1983	12	27	24	26	31	28	22	22
1984	13	25	29	26	28	29	26	21
1985	15	24	25	29	27	30	22	20
1986	14	23	29	29	23	22	16	18
1987	14	22	25	26	27	26	21	24
1988	15	22	23	28	26	24	20	23
<b>Average</b>	13.8	24.0	25.6	27.4	27.4	27.0	22.0	21.0
1989	13	23	22	25	29	23	20	15

Note: American Woodcock, which breeds locally, is presumed to be present throughout the season whether observed in a given period or not.

Table 4. Summary of adult and juvenile arrival dates

	Span	Adults			Juveniles			
		Years	Mean	1989	Span	Years	Mean	1989
Black-bellied Plover	25 Jul - 6 Aug	* 8	30 Jul	28 Jul	26 Aug - 27 Sep	7	6 Sep	7 Sep
American Golden Plover	14 Aug - 3 Sep	7	26 Aug	7 Jul	29 Aug - 11 Sep	7	4 Sep	1 Sep
Semipalmated Plover	30 Jun - 15 Jul	7	7 Jul	12 Jul	11 Aug - 22 Aug	8	16 Aug	16 Aug
Greater Yellowlegs	22 Jun - 30 Jun	7	27 Jun	12 Jul	7 Aug - 25 Aug	6	18 Aug	14 Aug
Lesser Yellowlegs	24 Jun - 3 Jul	8	29 Jun	5 Jul	25 Jul - 11 Aug	9	5 Aug	28 Jul
Ruddy Turnstone	19 Jul - 29 Jul	7	22 Jul	21 Jul	12 Aug - 30 Aug	6	23 Aug	18 Aug
Red Knot	16 Jul - 28 Jul	7	19 Jul	12 Jul	15 Aug - 29 Aug	7	21 Aug	23 Aug
Sanderling	15 Jul - 29 Jul	7	20 Jul	17 Jul	23 Aug - 30 Aug	5	27 Aug	3 Sep
Semipalmated Sandpiper	24 Jun - 12 Jul	8	1 Jul	2 Jul	7 Aug - 19 Aug	7	13 Aug	3 Aug
Western Sandpiper	12 Jul - 24 Jul	7	17 Jul	20 Jul	12 Aug - 30 Aug	6	19 Aug	17 Aug
Least Sandpiper	28 Jun - 9 Jul	7	2 Jul	29 Jun	26 Jul - 10 Aug	7	4 Aug	28 Jul
White-rumped Sandpiper	18 Jul - 6 Aug	7	27 Jul	28 Jul	13 Sep - 16 Oct	8	27 Sep	8 Sep
Pectoral Sandpiper	5 Jul - 20 Jul	7	13 Jul	28 Jul	22 Aug - 9 Sep	7	30 Aug	30 Aug
Dunlin	7 Sep - 24 Sep	** 8	17 Sep	21 Sep	5 Sep - 20 Sep	8	13 Sep	21 Sep
Stilt Sandpiper	9 Jul - 20 Jul	7	15 Jul	20 Jul	26 Jul - 31 Sep	8	17 Aug	12 Aug
Short-billed Dowitcher	24 Jun - 6 Jul	8	30 Jun	29 Jun	8 Aug - 15 Aug	9	10 Aug	4 Aug
Long-billed Dowitcher	17 Jul - 6 Aug	7	22 Jul	28 Jul	14 Sep - 8 Oct	7	27 Sep	21 Sep

\* lingering, non-breeding adults may be present throughout July

\*\* only scattered adults present before mid September

## THE PELHAM BAY HAWKWATCH, 1988-1989

ROBERT DECANDIDO

During the fall of both 1988 and 1989, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group sponsored a hawkwatch in Pelham Bay Park, The Bronx, New York. The park is located on the Long Island Sound in the northeasternmost section of the city, southeast of the Butler hawkwatch at Mt. Kisco, Westchester County, and west of the Fire Island hawkwatch on south-central Long Island (Figure 1). Raptors moving southward in migration over the park are counted from an observation area (lookout) in the parking lot adjacent to Orchard Beach. Approximately 18,000 raptors of 17 species were tallied in migration in the first two years of organized hawkwatching from this locale. In addition, Pelham Bay Park proved to be an important foraging area for migrating Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), as these hawks were often seen diving into the waters of the park in pursuit of fish.

### RAPTOR MIGRATION 1988-1989

Totals of the numbers and species of raptors seen in migration in 1988 and 1989 are in Table 1. Although raptors were counted in migration on most days from late August through the end of November, days when northwest winds prevailed brought the highest total number of hawks as well as the greatest diversity of species. Winds from the north or west also brought good numbers of migrants. In both years, the second day of consecutive northwest winds brought the best flights of hawks. This was especially apparent for the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) in the month of September. For example, on 15 Sep 1988, 6030 Broad-winged Hawk were counted on the second day of consecutive northwest wind days. Large flights of Broad-winged Hawk also occurred on 11 September 1988 (1169 total) and 24 September 1989 (2004 total). Both of these large flights also took place on the second day of consecutive northwest winds. These observations of Broad-winged Hawk at Pelham Bay conform to the wind drift hypothesis for migrating raptors proposed by Mueller and Berger (1967), as well as to Single's (1980) ideas concerning the migration of the Broad-winged Hawk in the New York City region (see also Kerlinger, 1989).

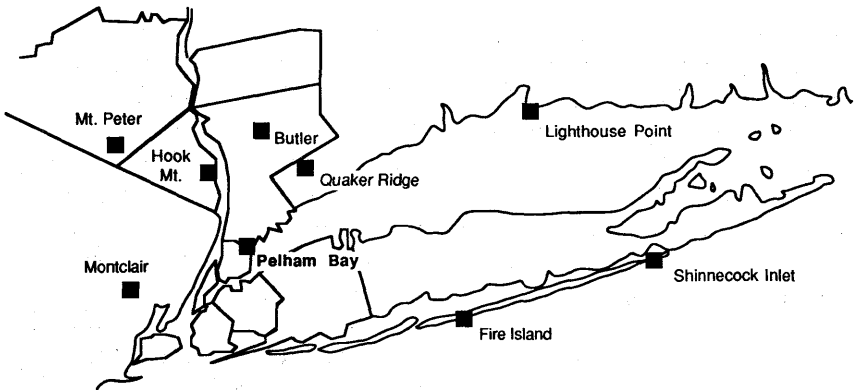


Figure 1. Hawkwatches in the New York City area.

Overall, northwest winds were so critical to the migration of raptors in Pelham Bay Park that there was a decline in the counts of migrating Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier and Broad-winged Hawk in September 1989 as compared with the same period of the previous year. September 1989 was marked by long periods of overcast skies with southerly or northeast winds, whereas a series of high pressure systems with associated northwest winds had moved through the region during September 1988. Similarly, the first half of October 1989 was dominated by a series of high pressure systems and northwest winds. October totals of Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel and Merlin exceeded the totals for these species the entire month of October 1988, a month of intermittent days of northwest winds.

Other important trends observed at the Pelham Bay hawkwatch in both years were that the vast majority of the migrants passed the lookout between 9 AM and 2 PM Eastern Standard Time, and that the American Kestrel flight peaked earlier in the day than the Sharp-shinned Hawk flight. In the month of September in both years, 21% of the American Kestrel flight had passed the lookout from 6 AM to 8 AM EST, as opposed to only 5% of the Sharp-shinned Hawk flight.

**Table 1. Two year totals of all raptor species observed at the Pelham Bay hawkwatch, 1988-1989**

Species	1988	1989	Mean
Turkey Vulture	25	17	21
Osprey	1447	1620	1533
Mississippi Kite	0	1	0
Bald Eagle	20	8	14
Northern Harrier	213	301	257
Sharp-shinned Hawk	983	1438	1210
Cooper's Hawk	44	43	43
Northern Goshawk	2	1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	10	9
Broad-winged Hawk	8366	2233	5299
Swainson's Hawk	1	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk	372	269	320
Rough-legged Hawk	1	3	2
Golden Eagle	0	2	1
American Kestrel	510	652	581
Merlin	23	67	45
Peregrine Falcon	28	20	24
Unidentified raptors	21	18	19

Species of note counted in migration in 1988 and 1989 were a Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) seen on 24 September 1988; a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) on 27 August 1989 (details filed with the New York State Avian Records Committee); and two immature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) on 22 October 1989. The sighting of each of these species represent new records for New York City (Bull, 1964), although all have been recorded from the surrounding area.

### OSPREY FORAGING

The Pelham Bay hawkwatch has counted the third highest total of migrating Osprey in all of North America in each of the last two years, surpassed only by the Cape May hawkwatch in New Jersey and the Lighthouse Point hawkwatch in New Haven, Connecticut. Migrating Osprey are often seen diving into the waters of Pelham Bay Park in pursuit of fish, most often the Mossbunker (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), a

plankton feeding member of the herring family which travels in large schools (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953). Groups of up to 14 Osprey were recorded feeding on Mossbunker and resting in the same tree in Sep 1988. Osprey also have been observed occasionally capturing 8-14 inch Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), and on one occasion a Winter Flounder (*Psuedoolueronectes americanus*).

Osprey foraging activity in the park is summarized in Table 2. The number of foraging attempts (dives) recorded by migrating Osprey during 1987-1989 in Pelham Bay Park has not been reported in the literature for any other location in North America. The decline in the number of foraging attempts in 1989 was attributed to the paucity of Mossbunker in the park and throughout the Long Island Sound.

**Table 2. Summary of Osprey Foraging Attempts, 1987-1989**

HRS. - Number of hours of observations made; ATT. - number of foraging attempts observed; SUC. = number of successful attempts; PCT. - percent successful; PEAK DAY - the day with the most number of hunting attempts for the month; ATT/SUC. - total and successful hunting attempts on peak day.

	HRS.	ATT.	SUC.	PCT.	PEAK DAY	ATT/SUC.
<b>1987</b>						
August	21	7	7	100%	21 Aug	3/3
September	35	37	22	60%	3 Sep	6/5
October	24	2	1	50%	---	---
Total	80	46	30	65%	---	---
<b>1988</b>						
August	28	32	15	47%	30 Aug	7/4
September	223	99	36	36%	26 Sep	26/10
October	192	30	10	33%	3 Oct	18/6
Total	443	161	61	39%	---	---
<b>1989</b>						
August	92	14	6	43%	25 Aug	6/3
September	170	5	1	20%	8 Sep	4/1
October	148	5	4	80%	6 Oct	2/2
Total	410	24	11	46%	---	---



## Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Dr. Martin Hegyi, S.J., of Fordham University, my father, Robert DeCandido, Sr., and Steve Walter. Drew Panko, director of the Fire Island Hawkwatch, provided the map of the hawkwatches in the New York City region. The Pelham Bay Park Hawkwatch was funded by the Natural Resources Group of the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. Research grants were provided by the Hawk Migration Association of North America and the New York City Chapter of the Audubon Society.

*New York City Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group, 1 Bronx River Road, Bronx, N.Y. 10462.*

Present address: *Dept. of Biology, Larkin Hall, Fordham University, Bronx, New York 10458.*

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## PURPLE MARTIN AT CANANDAIGUA LAKE: BEHAVIORAL NOTES AND CENSUS

STEPHEN W. EATON AND ELLEN E. EATON

From 1965 to 1969 behavioral notes were made on a Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) colony established in a sixteen hole box on our lake front property in town of South Bristol, Ontario County, on the west shore of Canandaigua Lake opposite Vine Valley. Censuses of Purple Martin in boxes around the perimeter of Canandaigua Lake were made in 1967 and 1989.

### OBSERVATIONS

**Nesting chronology:** Birds arrived in the nesting area about 1 May. Pair formation and nest building extended through May and into the first two weeks of June. Four nests were checked on 28 June 1966; young were hatching in two nests, one nest held four eggs and one recent nest contained no eggs. On 24 June 1967 one nest had 5 eggs, another 6, and a third was fresh with no eggs. Young were visible at entrance holes 28 June 1965 and were usually visible through July and early August. The last young left the box on 16 August 1966, 9 August 1967, 28 August 1968 and 2 August 1969.

**Food:** Adults feeding the young were observed from 50 feet with a 20x Bushnell telescope. In June, young were fed mainly mayflies (Ephemeroptera) after periodic hatches. In early July, adults brought in mostly medium-sized dragonflies (Odonata). Once a Hummingbird Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*) was identified and several times large horseflies (*Tabanus*) were brought. As young neared fledging, cicadas (Cicadidae) were often fed to the gaping young.

**Predation:** All young in 10 nests and at least one adult were killed by a Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) which climbed a wooden pole the night of 29 June 1965. A Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) feather was found below the same box following another complete kill of young by a predator in the 1970s. One colony on the east shore of the lake was thought to have been destroyed by Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*). In May 1930 my father, E.H. Eaton, was called upon to dispatch a Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) which was killing a colony, one by one, in Geneva, New York (Dean Amadon, *pers. comm.*).

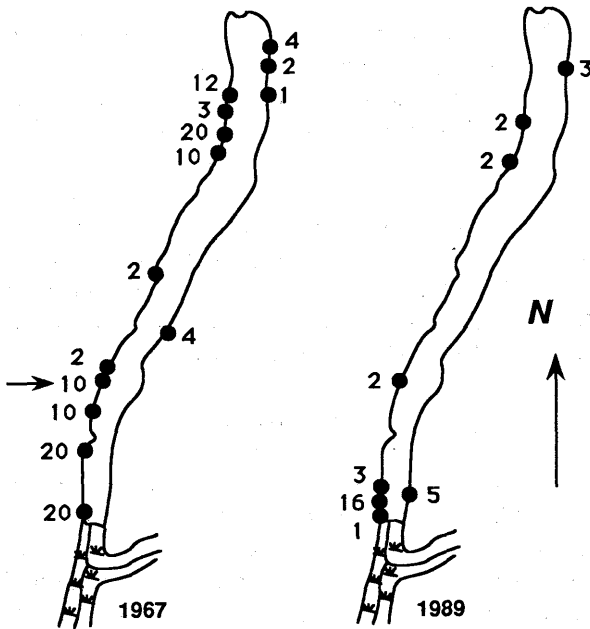


Figure 1. Locations of occupied Purple Martin houses, and number of pairs established, around the perimeter of Canandaigua Lake in 1967 and 1989. The arrow indicates the colony where behavioral observations were made.

**Census:** In an attempt to census the entire perimeter of Canandaigua Lake (34 miles or 54 km) A.M. Seymour, Sr., A.M. Seymour, Jr. and S.W. Eaton circled the shoreline 4 July 1967 from 0830 hrs to 1530 hrs in a 25 h.p. outboard skiff. We counted the number of martin houses visible from the lake and counted the number of pairs occupying each house. At this time adults were very actively feeding young and we felt that after a short stay observing nest material or young, our figures were reasonable. The average numbers of holes in a box was about 12. Thirty-seven boxes were observed (444 holes). One hundred nine pairs were counted along the west shore of the lake, 11 pairs along the east shore, for a total of 120 pairs (27% occupancy).

On 6 July 1989 the authors circled the southern third of the lake perimeter in a Grumman Sportboat with Mercury 4 h.p. outboard engine. We completed the northern two-thirds on 7 July. We counted 51 boxes which averaged about 12 holes per house (612 holes). Along the

west shore only 26 pairs were counted, plus 8 pairs along the east shore, for a total of 34 pairs (5.6% occupancy). The most populous colony of 16 pairs was on the west side near the south end at Hunter Marine. This box was near much human activity night and day and within 200 yards (182 m) of High Tor Wildlife Management Area, a large cattail (*Typha*) marsh at the south end of Canandaigua Lake. Even though there were 168 more holes available to the martins in 1989 than in 1968, the total population around the lake had dropped 74% (from 123 to 32 pairs). The colony at *Hunter Marine* had almost 50% of all the pairs around the entire lake. This colony has been one of the largest and most consistent, at least since the early 1930's (S.W. Eaton, *pers. obs.*).

## DISCUSSION

Why has the Canandaigua Lake Purple Martin population declined to such a degree? In 1956 and 1957 Hoyt (1958) in a survey of central New York Purple Martin colonies said under Canandaigua, "Roseland Park (n. end) several houses full". In 1989 three poorly maintained boxes at the north end contained only House Sparrows. Benton and Tucker (1968) found that Purple Martin mortality in Chautauqua Co. approached 75% during the wet cold May of 1966. This may explain the low rate of nest hole occupancy which we observed in 1967. Five years after our 1967 census Hurricane *Agnes* pounded the Finger Lakes area. Citing the official weather bureau report, Spofford (1972) said, "June was the wettest month ever recorded in the Finger Lakes Area at any time of year... Purple Martin... numbers continued low." Rusk (1964) in a census of the perimeter of Oneida Lake in 1963 found a population of about 1930 pairs around a shoreline of sixty-five miles (1040 km) (Stoner 1931), establishing nice base line data. Rusk and Spies (1972) checked 54 boxes on the north shore of Oneida Lake in 1972 following the passage of Hurricane *Agnes* and found they housed only 114 pairs. These same boxes in 1963 had housed 740 pairs, down 85%. Levine (1980) summarized the 'Blue-listed' Purple Martin in New York as "...always absent at higher elevations, only Region 3 saying anything encouraging (houses at Montezuma well filled) and Region 10 most gloomy." Levine (1981) said again, "only Region 3 gives us good news." Here, Benning (1981) reported "very good numbers of nesting birds at the north end of Cay[tuga] L[ake], including M[ontezuma] NWR, but scarce elsewhere." Benning (1983) said of Region 3 "very low numbers". Clements (1984) for Region 3, "scattered reports of very few individuals." Robbins (1986)

said, "Prolonged periods of rain at the time Purple Martins have young in the nest can cause heavy mortality of both young and adults and produce dramatic changes in local populations." He further stated, "Hurricane *Abby* June 1968, *Agnes* 1972 and local heavy rains in summer 1977 and early June 1978 in the Appalachian Region (including the Allegheny Plateau) showed significant population losses associated with those years."

S. C. Sibley (1988) showed the birds favor lower altitudes and margins of waters for breeding. The map in that publication shows confirmed Purple Martin nesting concentrated along the west and south ends of Canandaigua Lake. The west shore of Canandaigua Lake is better habitat for martins than the east shore (probably due to the east shore's exposure to west winds). The south end of the lake with its extensive cattail marsh and protected west shore is prime habitat for this bird. The fairly stable populations adjacent to good marshland at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge also seem to represent prime habitat as do those around Oneida Lake.

These data indicate that Purple Martin populations can fluctuate wildly in areas of marginal habitat but stay relatively stable in prime habitat where boxes are available near consistently good hatches of aquatic insects.

*Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706*

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## MIGRATION OF CANADA GEESE THROUGH CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK

MARK GRETCH

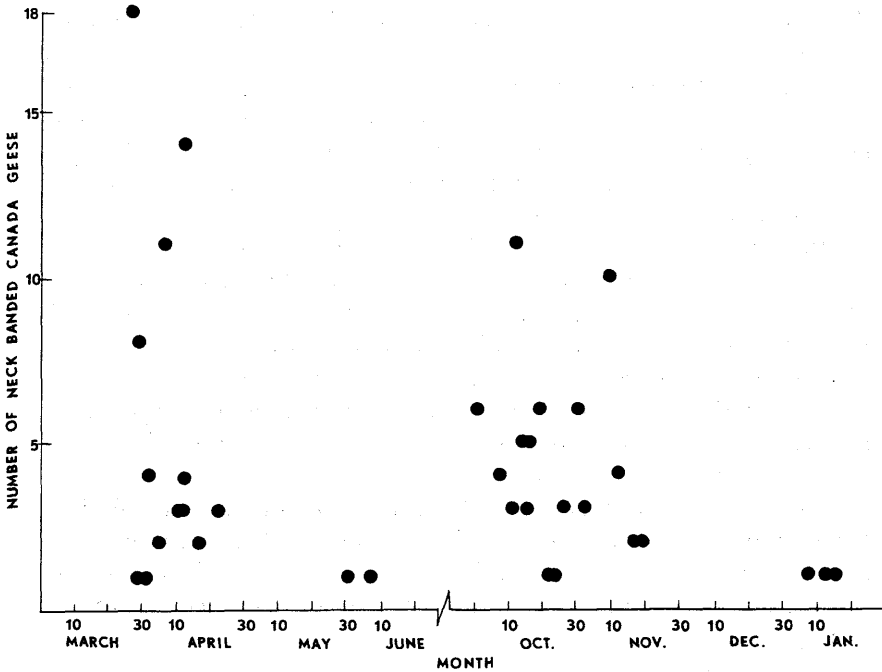
Clinton County lies in the most northeastern corner of New York State. It borders the province of Quebec, Canada on the north, Lake Champlain on the east, and its southwestern portion lies within the Adirondack Park.

With the exception of a brief period between 15 January and 25 February, Canada Geese have been reported in Clinton County throughout the year (Gretch 1985). These extreme dates (departure and arrival dates) are of limited usefulness. It would be more helpful to know the peak period of spring and fall migration. The neck banding of Canada Geese in the Atlantic flyway by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and eight states in the Atlantic flyway was a perfect opportunity to learn more about the dynamics of Canada Geese migration in Clinton County.

Biologists with these state agencies trapped over 25,000 geese and marked them with three inch wide yellow neck collars. Each of the collars had a unique black number and letter code printed on the collar to identify each bird. During the springs of 1984 through 1989 I observed 76 collared geese. During the falls of 1984 through 1989 (excluding the fall of 1987) I observed 78 collared geese. Figure 1 shows when these collared geese were observed. Peak spring migration occurs on 8 April, with all but two sightings between the dates of 28 March and 23 April. Peak fall migration occurs on 26 October with all but three sightings between the dates of 1 October and 19 November. It appears that Canada Geese are in more of a hurry to get to their breeding grounds in spring than they are to get to their wintering area. Most of spring migration occurred within 27 days, whereas the fall migration was a more leisurely 50 days' period. The data in graph 1 concurs with what others have found, that the 35°F isotherm appears to be a predictor of the speed at which geese move north in spring (Lincoln 1935). On 30 March the 35°F isotherm is near Glens Falls, N.Y. If we assume that spring advances northward at one degree latitude (69 miles) in four days (Kudish 1975), it would be near the U.S.-Canada border approximately on April 7.

Table 1. Neck banded Canada Geese

State	Total Sightings	Spring Sightings	Fall Sightings	Total Banded	<u>Sighted Banded</u>
New Jersey	28.8	39.2	18.1	8.6	3.35
Pennsylvania	21.2	14.9	27.8	10.4	2.04
Delaware	18.5	10.8	26.4	9.1	2.03
New York	15.8	14.9	16.7	21.0	0.75
Maryland	7.5	6.8	8.3	31.9	0.24
Virginia	5.5	8.1	2.8	6.8	0.81
N. Carolina	2.1	4.1	0	9.1	0.23
S. Carolina	0.7	1.4	0	3.2	0.22



The letters on the neck collars enable one to determine where each bird originally had been collared. Table 1 shows the breakdown according to state. The percent of total (spring and fall) sightings by state, in decreasing order, are of birds banded in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The next two columns in Table 1 show that the mix of birds from each state differ between the spring and fall flights. In spring the mix includes a higher percentage of birds from New Jersey, Virginia, North and South Carolina. In fall the mix has a higher percentage of birds from Pennsylvania and Delaware. There is about an equal split between spring and fall of geese banded in the states of New York and Maryland.

The percent of Canada Geese neck banded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was not divided equally between the eight Atlantic flyway states. The fourth column of Table 1 shows the percent of Canada Geese banded in each state. The last column shows the ratio of total sightings (column 1) to the total banded (column 4) as a correction for the above inequity. This column shows that for all bird sightings (spring and fall) more geese than expected percentage come from the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Fewer than expected come from the states of Maryland, North and South Carolina.

I had only three cases of repeated fall sightings of the same bird and none for the spring. Only in two cases did I obtain both spring and fall sightings of the same bird. The bird I have the most data on was J47P, which hatched someplace in the vast subarctic of Canada in 1982. It was collared on 16 January 1984 in New Jersey. I saw it for the first time on 18 April 1984. Almost 6 months to the day from 16-24 October, I observed it again at Lake Alice Wildlife Management Area. The next spring our paths failed to cross but between 20 October and 17 November 1985 I found him back at Lake Alice W.M.A. This was almost one year to the day from the previous fall sighting. The other two repeated fall sightings I have also show the same regularity of migration. Both geese were observed about on the same date in two different years.

In some quarters Canada Geese are designated a problem species. Some think there are too many. I like to believe that these huge flocks of Canada Geese each spring and fall are the grandest wildlife spectacle on this continent. I would like to see their numbers multiply further.



## Acknowledgments

Thanks to Richard Malecki of the N.Y. Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Cornell University, for information on banding summary for the Atlantic flyway Canada Goose neck band project 1983-86.

*111 Madaline Lane, Depew, NY 14043*

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

"Most reporters concurred that Spring, 1990, was another in a growing series of lackluster migrations." Ken Able's Region 8 summary captures the feel of this season. He then discusses whether bird populations are really declining and if we can detect such changes with casual field observations. This is a must for reading and reflection. The problem is at least as difficult as it is serious. Anyone can recognize a big increase in bird numbers or a when rarity appears or that a passing flock or procession totaled much higher than any previous record. However, to convince skeptics of the reality of population declines one needs both data that show some species was observed in numbers much below some long-term average and also evidence that this decline is not due to some easily explained, short term factor such as weather, local land use changes, or observer numbers, activity and/or competency. Unfortunately, both long-term averages and, especially, measures of the variability of avian numbers are generally lacking, and few studies include enough information to address the potential biases in a meaningful fashion. Only efforts such as the Breeding Bird Surveys, well planned hawkwatches, and possibly the long-term seasonal censuses, such as are conducted in Region 1, have any hope of addressing this lack of hard data. In spite of these difficulties, I would differ from Ken's conclusion. I think there are serious overall population declines and I, and any other experienced field observer, can list a number of species for which there have been declines. These conclusions are not from one season's observations and also are based on reports from both nearby and more distant regions. Like everyone else, I don't know the cause of these observed effects or which changes really are of serious concern and which are "normal" population fluctuations over cycles we don't understand. The more carefully planned studies we can organize, the better chance we will have of detecting significant changes in populations as compared to depending on the assembly of casual observations.

This season really has some outstanding highlights: weather effects, early and late dates, a good supply of rarities, and a few special notes and comments. Before launching into these topics, I will present a quick survey of the groups of birds I usually discuss. Loons and grebes

## Waterbird Arrivals 1990

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
American Bittern	8 Apr	1 Apr	28 Apr		20 Apr	24 Apr	26 Mar	22 Apr	18 Apr	30 Apr	16 Apr
Green-backed Heron	21 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr		1 May		30 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	10 May	27 Apr
Wood Duck	17 Mar	28 Feb	10 Mar		9 Mar	28 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar	1 Mar	3 Mar	10 Mar
Green-winged Teal	11 Mar	8 Mar	3 Mar		13 Mar	1 May	11 Apr	14 Mar	18 Mar		21 Mar
Northern Pintail	10 Mar	18 Feb	12 Mar		3 Mar	17 Mar	3 May	12 Mar	10 Mar		14 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	12 Mar	13 Mar	16 Mar		14 Mar	21 Apr	3 May	29 Mar	12 Apr	21 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	9 Apr	15 Apr	31 Mar		27 Mar	16 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	2 Mar	17 Mar	1 Apr
Virginia Rail	28 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr		24 Mar	1 May		24 Apr	5 Apr	14 May	22 Apr
Sora	5 May	25 Apr	15 Apr		15 Apr	27 Apr			11 Apr	14 May	24 Apr
Common Moorhen	17 Apr	10 Apr	27 Apr		22 Apr	29 Apr		3 May	29 Apr	6 Apr	21 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	20 May	19 May	12 May		21 May			25 Apr			13 May
Semipalmated Plover	5 May	11 May	12 May		5 May					18 Apr	4 May
Killdeer	7 Mar	27 Feb	4 Mar		10 Mar	11 May	13 Mar	22 Feb	24 Feb		11 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	22 Mar	18 Mar	1 Apr		19 Mar	5 Apr		28 Apr	10 Apr	18 Mar	30 Mar
Lesser Yellowlegs	8 Apr	18 Mar	23 Apr		13 Apr	5 May	10 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	7 Apr	15 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	26 Apr	25 Apr	2 May		13 Apr		6 May	2 May	29 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	26 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr		24 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr
Sanderling		2 Jun			29 May						31 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5 May	3 May	8 May		19 May	23 May		6 May		19 Apr	7 May
Least Sandpiper	5 May	1 May	8 May		5 May		9 Jun	12 May	12 May	23 Apr	9 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	22 Mar	26 Mar	1 Apr		16 Mar	9 May	9 Jun	29 Apr	25 Apr	19 May	20 Apr
Common Snipe	15 Mar	14 Mar	16 Mar		13 Mar	31 Mar	18 Mar	26 Mar	17 Mar		18 Mar
American Woodcock	10 Mar	11 Mar	9 Mar		12 Mar	11 Mar	15 Mar	13 Mar	11 Mar	24 Feb	9 Mar
Caspian Tern	15 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr		13 Apr	27 Apr				18 Apr	16 Apr
Common Tern	8 Apr	16 Apr	26 Apr		6 May	5 Apr			12 May	29 Apr	23 Apr
Black Tern	29 Apr	4 May	26 Apr		9 May	29 Apr			7 May	14 May	4 May
Marsh Wren	29 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr		5 May	21 May	6 May	24 Apr	12 May	12 May	4 May

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

Spring Arrivals 1990

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	12 May	13 May	12 May		12 May	26 May	22 May	10 May	9 May		14 May
Common Nighthawk	20 May	15 May	9 May		19 May	12 May	17 May	16 May	13 May	22 Apr	12 May
Chimney Swift	25 Apr	24 Apr	23 May		23 Apr	12 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	1 May
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	7 May	28 Apr	7 May		10 May	12 May	8 May	5 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	4 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr		15 Apr	22 Apr	10 Apr		10 Mar	6 Apr	8 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	20 May	24 May	7 May		25 May		9 May		8 May	19 May	16 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	15 May	21 Apr	14 May		14 May	24 May	24 Apr	9 May	12 May	11 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	15 May	19 May	14 May		18 May	19 May	21 May		12 May		16 May
Willow Flycatcher	15 May	15 May	21 May		14 May			12 May	10 May	24 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	25 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr		25 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	7 May	26 Apr
Eastern Phoebe	15 Mar	13 Mar	12 Mar		15 Mar	31 Mar	16 Mar	17 Mar	13 Mar	14 Mar	16 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	26 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr		28 Apr	1 May	1 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	27 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr		28 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr
Purple Martin	15 Apr	29 Mar	29 Mar		21 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr		20 Apr	22 Apr	14 Apr
Tree Swallow	17 Mar	13 Mar	10 Mar		14 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	13 Mar	23 Mar	14 Mar	23 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	16 Apr	21 Apr	6 Apr		16 Apr		9 May	19 Apr	10 Apr	6 May	20 Apr
Bank Swallow	28 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr		16 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	14 Apr		22 Apr
Cliff Swallow	10 May	5 May	3 May		26 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	28 Apr	26 Apr		1 May
Barn Swallow	8 Apr	15 Mar	12 Apr		15 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	21 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr		24 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	22 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	31 Mar	31 Mar	6 Apr		22 Mar		19 Apr	10 Apr	3 Mar	18 Apr	2 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	28 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr		24 Apr			22 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr
Eastern Bluebird	1 Mar	10 Mar	1 Mar		13 Mar	14 Mar	14 Mar		1 Mar	13 Mar	8 Mar
Veery	28 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr		8 May	8 May	9 May	9 May	3 May	27 Apr	2 May
Swainson's Thrush	28 Apr	12 Apr	23 Apr		13 May	14 May	16 May	9 May	9 May	1 May	3 May
Hermit Thrush	8 Apr	13 Mar	12 Apr		15 Apr	11 May	12 Apr	15 Apr	9 Apr		11 Apr
Wood Thrush	27 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr		24 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr
Gray Catbird	28 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr		30 Apr	6 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr
Brown Thrasher	21 Mar	21 Apr	17 Apr		21 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr
Solitary Vireo	21 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr		25 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	28 Apr	3 May	28 Apr		29 Apr			28 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	28 Apr
Warbling Vireo	27 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr		28 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	5 May	28 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	6 May	8 May	27 Apr		1 May	9 May	1 May	9 May	1 May	5 May	4 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	15 May	26 Apr	6 May		9 May	2 May	12 May	9 May	9 May	5 May	7 May
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr		28 Apr	4 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	7 May	29 Apr
Northern Parula	29 Apr	1 May	8 May		3 May	19 May	1 May	28 Apr	4 May	22 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	27 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr		27 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	27 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr		28 Apr	9 May	26 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr
Magnolia Warbler	28 Apr	25 Apr	8 May		8 May	10 May	8 May	12 May	2 May	28 Apr	4 May
Cape May Warbler	8 May	6 May	6 May		28 Apr	7 May	11 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	8 May	4 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr		28 Apr	4 May	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	28 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr		28 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 May		29 Apr	8 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	8 May	29 Apr	4 May
Pine Warbler	28 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr		21 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	15 Apr	14 Apr	17 Mar	18 Apr
Palm Warbler	27 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr		27 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr		13 Apr	8 Apr	22 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	28 Apr	9 May	14 May		8 May	17 May	14 May	5 May	12 May	2 May	8 May
Blackpoll Warbler	19 May	9 May	18 May		17 May	17 May	19 May	19 May	12 May	28 Apr	14 May
Black-and-white Warbler	27 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr		25 Apr	8 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr
American Redstart	29 Apr	8 May	1 May		8 May	9 May	9 May	10 May	12 May	3 May	6 May
Ovenbird	28 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr		29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	28 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr		26 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	20 May	9 May	12 May		12 May	19 May	22 May	25 May	19 May	8 May	16 May
Common Yellowthroat	29 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr		26 Apr	9 May	9 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	15 May	5 May	15 May		17 May	30 Apr	20 May	9 May	7 May	8 May	10 May
Canada Warbler	15 May	7 May	8 May		10 May	30 Apr	9 May		12 May	8 May	8 May
Scarlet Tanager	8 May	21 Apr	5 May		1 May	19 May	9 May	4 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr		28 Apr	9 May	3 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	5 May	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	4 May	8 May	3 May		8 May	17 May	22 May	10 May	28 Apr	2 May	8 May
Rufous-sided Towhee	8 Apr	21 Mar	27 Mar		15 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr		11 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	3 Apr	31 Mar	16 Apr		7 Apr	20 Apr	17 Apr	15 Mar	12 Apr	18 Apr	8 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	8 Apr	23 Apr	11 Apr		13 Apr	6 May	31 Mar			15 May	19 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	8 Apr	13 Mar	15 Mar		14 Apr	13 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr		5 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	28 Apr	14 Apr	7 May		6 May	17 May	9 May	18 May	6 May	8 May	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow	20 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr		28 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	5 May	2 May	27 Apr
Bobolink	25 Apr	5 May	29 May		2 May	8 May	2 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	5 May	5 May
Northern Oriole	27 Apr	27 Apr	28 May		27 Apr	30 Apr	9 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May

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

moved through Lake Ontario basically on schedule, Double-crested Cormorant populations continue to explode, southern heron reports were scattered about Upstate, waterfowl numbers were often flagged as low, and hawks passed their watchers at Braddock Bay, Derby Hill, Coot Hill, and several of the usual fall watches in Region 9. As usual, few observers looked for rails or owls, the shorebird picture was generally dismal, there were few gull and tern records of note, and both of our regular, widespread goatsuckers continued to be scarce west of Region 9. Other than the excitement over arrival dates, passerines mostly elicited notes of low numbers although with reporting so irregular, it is difficult to draw a statewide conclusion about most species for even this one season. The few exceptions will be noted later.

The weather was responsible for a good portion of this season's highlights. Everybody got a shot of warmth just before mid March and a big jolt, with many record highs, near the end of April. Generally, the first three weeks of both April and May were damp and cool, with the May cold period wet across the entire state. In March and April, precipitation ran higher toward the southeast, especially in Region 10. From the arrival date tables and the Regional reports you can find that the warm spells brought a few record early dates (relative to John Bull's *Birds of New York State*) in March: Osprey in Region 9, Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 5, and Barn Swallow in Region 2; as well as a horde of early dates in late April. Several Regions specifically note large numbers of species arriving in those hot days, many of which would normally have appeared in the first few days of May. Twenty-five species whose 25-year average arrival dates were 26 April to 12 May arrived 1 to 6 days early. Seventeen statewide or inland record early dates were recorded, including: E. Wood-Pewee in Regions 2 & 7, Least Flycatcher in Region 2, Willow Flycatcher in Region 9, Veery in Region 3, Swainson's Thrush in Region 2, Philadelphia Vireo in Region 9, Red-eyed Vireo in Region 3, Golden-winged Warbler in Region 2, Tennessee Warbler in Region 2, Chestnut-sided Warbler in Region 7, Magnolia Warbler in Region 2, Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 10, Bay-breasted Warbler in Region 1, Blackpoll Warbler in Region 10, Mourning Warbler in Region 10, Scarlet Tanager in Region 2 and Lincoln's Sparrow in Region 2. The bulk of the relatively late arrivals in the arrival date tables fall in the first three weeks of April and those expected after May 13. In broader terms, water bird arrivals averaged slightly but statistically insignificantly later than their base line

<b>Region</b>	<b>Species Reported</b>	<b>Seasonality (days)</b>	<b>Advance (days)</b>
<b>Region 1</b>	92	-0.1	-2.0
<b>Region 2</b>	93	-0.7	-4.9
<b>Region 3</b>	92	-1.2	-1.3
<b>Region 4</b>	0		
<b>Region 5</b>	93	-1.4	-0.8
<b>Region 6</b>	81	-1.4	7.5
<b>Region 7</b>	79	-4.4	5.2
<b>Region 8</b>	79	-2.0	0.8
<b>Region 9</b>	87	-0.3	-1.9
<b>Region 10</b>	80	3.9	-1.0

average and land birds significantly 0.89 days early. By family, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers predominantly arrived early, while the rest of the families were mixed. Significantly, the early appearing families are those whose members predominantly normally arrive near May 1, so given the weather, their early tendency this year is no surprise.

A personal surprise was damage to a "pet theory." I had hypothesized that southern overshoots arrive in best numbers when big fronts/warm bursts hit early, when these species are still on the move rather than settled on their breeding territories to our south. This year saw the best weather push in years at the "ideal" time and one of the poorest of recent years for these expected southern overshoots. Even the flurry of Kentucky Warbler reports came after May 15, when the push expected to bring them was long over.

The only outstanding late date was record late Bohemian Waxwing in Region 6. From the small summary table, seasonality overall was significantly early only in Regions 7 & 8 and late in Region 10, the rest falling within 2 standard deviations of the base line data. The relative arrival pattern among Regions looked normal, except that Region 10 averaged late relative to Regions 1 & 2.

The next obvious highlight was the best list of rarities in several

years, probably again related to the unusual, extreme seesaw weather pattern of this season. The best way to treat these is probably to revert to the standard checklist sequence. Multiple occurrences included: Eared Grebe in Regions 1 & 10; Cattle Egret in Regions 1, 2 & 6; Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Regions 5 & 8; Greater White-fronted Goose, probably now to be considered a regular rare migrant, in Regions 1, 2, 5, 9 & 10; Ross' Goose in Regions 3 & 10; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1 & 10; Black Vulture in Regions 3 & 9; Mississippi Kite (all subadults) in Regions 2 & 5; Swainson's Hawk in Regions 2 & 5; Sandhill Crane, perhaps now regular, in Regions 1 (3), 2 (10+) & 3; Com. Black-headed Gull in Regions 1 & 10; Lesser Black-backed Gull in Regions 1, 2 & 3; Fish Crow nesting in Regions 3 & 8; Loggerhead Shrike in Regions 1, 2, 5, & 7; Orange-crowned Warbler in Regions 2, 7, 8 & 10; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 1, 3 & 10; Swainson's Warbler, a Regional first in Region 2, plus in Region 10; Kentucky Warbler in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 9; Dickcissel in Regions 1 & 8; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 1 & 9; and Brewer's Blackbird in Regions 1 & 2. Single records, with Region numbers following in parentheses, were: shearwater sp. (9), Sooty Shearwater (10), American White Pelican (2), Little Blue and Tricolored Herons (2), Glossy Ibis (7), Trumpeter Swan (3), Barrow's Goldeneye (3) Gyrfalcon (7), Black-necked Stilt (10), Franklin's and Little Gulls (8 - each a second Regional record), Sedge Wren only in Region 3, Townsend's Solitaire (9), Mountain Bluebird (9), Varied Thrush (1), Blue-winged and Hooded Warbler (6), Yellow-breasted Chat (7), Lark Sparrow (1), and Harris' Sparrow (3). An excellent collection!

There were some notable reports of more regular species as well. Record or near record high counts included: 14,000 Snow Goose in Region 3; 1000 Ring-necked Duck in Region 2; 24 Harlequin Duck in Region 10; 201 Osprey on two dates in Region 5; 1538 Red-tailed Hawk on 13 Mar in Region 2 followed by 1550 on 14 Mar in Region 5; and 5000 Pine Siskin past Braddock Bay in Region 2 on 23 Mar. For general birding, the Crown Point banding effort in Region 7 logged its second best total. For those seeking summaries, look for banding notes in Regions 2, 3, 7 & 8. Bob Yunick in Region 8 ringed over 4000 Pine Siskin from January to May. Additional records of note include N. Cardinal on the Tug Hill Plateau in Region 6 and a big spring for Bald Eagle, including 92 past Braddock Bay and one banded there. Hawk aficionados might want to compare peak dates between Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, but they will find no table for the former hawkwatch.



From local information, I can relate that Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawk all showed peaks at about the same time at both sites. Among the hawks, the lack of N. Goshawk is conspicuous. Abundance notes and endangered and threatened species is summarized in Region 6, plans to survey the Shawangunk Mts. for Peregrine Falcon nest site activity noted in Region 9, and interesting Staten Island data presented in Region 10.

This season's events again caution investigators to avoid over analyzing the arrival dates table because of its strong dependency on weather patterns. Some species whose populations seem to be in the worst shape, e.g., Loggerhead Shrike and Golden-winged Warbler, continue to appear at normal to early arrival dates. However, the four species whose arrival was significantly late this season, Green-backed Heron, Chimney Swift, Cliff Swallow, and Vesper Sparrow, have all been flagged as being of special concern by at least some observers. Fourteen species averaged significantly early arrival. Having finally obtained the raw data used to compute arrival/departure date range statistics for Monroe County in Region 2, the source of my variance values for assessing the date table data here, I could check some of my reservations about such data. First, as indicated several times, I suspected that several regions and Region 2 in particular reported only "noteworthy" dates. [*Editor's note: this once was a Kingbird editorial policy.*] The published data average 11 and 5 days early for water bird and land bird arrivals, respectively, relative to the more complete regional data (typically 40-70 arrival dates from the late 1800's to 1983). Comparison of early data (that through 1970) with 1971 to 1983 data showed less than 1 day differences in these averages, so there are no long-term trends in the data. The variances calculated from the full data set, the 1971-1983 data, and from the interquartile range were all essentially the same, lending some credibility to the use of these numbers as estimates of the year-to-year variability of arrivals.

As a final note, the BOTS Award for the season must be bestowed on the state's first **Cave Swallow** in Region 10, topping an excellent group with several other good candidates this season had they picked another year to appear.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

**Standard abbreviations:** county names are shortened to their first four letters and are in UPPER case; months are shortened to their first three letters; ! — details seen by Regional editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; CO — confirmed; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; 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

March began clear and cool but on 9 Mar tropical air began moving up the Ohio Valley, pushing the arctic air northward. This tropical air persisted to 17 Mar, setting the all time high temperatures at Olean from 12 to 15 Mar (76°, 75°, 79° and 70°, respectively) and at Buffalo from 14 to 16 Mar (78°, 79° and 70°, respectively). This warm air over the ice of Lake Erie produced thick fog on 13 Mar closing Greater Buffalo International Airport. The warm spell in mid March ruined the maple sugar season on the Allegheny plateau but brought in many early birds. During these balmy days, Tundra Swan moved through the southern part of the Region in great numbers along with other water birds, Pectoral Sandpiper, swallows, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird and other early migrants. The rest of the month's temperatures were closer to normal but the month averaged out 4° above normal, continuing the mild trend of January and February. Precipitation was much below normal and sunshine near normal. The ice boom on the Niagara River was removed 26 Mar and by month's end most Lake Erie ice was gone. Ice melted off Amity Lake 13 Mar (19 days early) and off our farm pond 15 Mar (16 days early).

April was a month of weather extremes. The first 18 days averaged 3° cooler than normal, with four inches of rain and ten inches of wet snow. The last eight days averaged 20° too warm, with only a single shower and sunshine on 78% of the daylight hours. A 94° temperature on 28 Apr shattered all previous Buffalo records and it was the hottest city in the United States outside of the desert southwest. The next day brought 81° at Buffalo, a record for 29 Apr. This last Sunday of the month found birders in the field logging many new early migration dates. Tim Baird found fifteen species of warblers in Allegany State Park and a Solitary Vireo nest building. The warm spell during the last eight days of April brought in other species on early dates: Least Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo and many species of warblers. Twenty one species of warblers, including Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Cerulean, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird and Com. Yellowthroat, were reported to the Buffalo Ornithological Society in April (documented where needed).

May saw a turnaround in the weather. Temperatures averaged a bit below normal and the highest reading of the month was 79° on 28 May. It was the seventh wettest May on record in Buffalo with six inches of rain, double the normal amount. On 12 May the temperature was 25° at our sugar house near Vandalia, CATI, and it killed all new growth on Black Locust, White Ash, American Chestnut sprouts, oaks and many species of ferns. Although the temperature was not unusual for that early in the season, the vegetation was much ahead of where it should have been and consequently got nipped. Storm systems plagued the Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys until 22 May when the weather settled to more normal temperatures and sunny skies. The long period of wet, cool weather in the first three weeks of May tended to dam the flow of migrants. When the cold spell broke with overnight showers and southwest winds, Terry Mosher, scribe of the Lake Erie Bird Club, said, "it produced the best fallouts we'd had in years." On the same day, Betsy Potter counted 18 species of warblers, three of vireos, two of flycatchers, 2 of thrushes, 2 of sparrows and a Bobolink in a small backyard of Niagara Falls. A previous high for warblers there was nine species.

The Osprey hacking project on the Allegheny Reservoir continues to be successful. Pairs were nesting at the two sites that were successful in 1989 and there was an unconfirmed report of a possible third pair nesting in the Kinzua arm of the reservoir in Pennsylvania. The Bald

Eagle pair nesting at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge hatched two young males 18 Apr. The adults were visible at the nest by telescope and observed by hundreds at the refuge headquarters.

Henslow's Sparrow continues its downward slide and was not reported from Chautauqua County this spring. Vesper Sparrow numbers remain low with only two reports in April and two in May from the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Unusual sightings of birds were sprinkled across the entire phylogenetic scale starting with **Eared Grebe**, Cattle Egret, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Eurasian Wigeon** and Golden Eagle. Three observations of **Sandhill Crane** during the period continue the trend of the past few years and seem to support suspected nesting of these birds as far east as Quebec. Songbirds at feeders were represented by a beautiful adult male **Varied Thrush**, a **Dickcissel** and two **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen, the fourth spring report in the Region in ten years. **Brewer's Blackbird** and Orchard Orioles were reported and seem to be on the increase, or are becoming better recognized.

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrie, Antkowiak (A), Paul Baglia, Tim Baird, Lois Baron, Betsy Brooks, Cris & Ray Budnewski, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou & Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Don & Jane Clark, Richard Collins, William D'Anna, E. Derleth, Dan Dougherty, Steve Eaton, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula, Sr., Joe Gula, Jr., Jamestown Audubon Society, Don Klaybor, Lake Erie Bird Club, John Luensman, Terry Mahoney, Terry and Judy Mosher, David Neveu, Vivian & Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Minnie Raistrick, Gerry Rising, Illa Stewart, Bill & Linda Saleen, Ellen Schopp, D & D Suggs, Robert Sundell, Joe Thill, Don Tiller, Jim and Regina Van Scoy, Robert Wagner, Young.

Abbreviations: ARes - Allegheny Reservoir; ASP - Allegany State Park; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; FN - Fort Niagara; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NR - Niagara River; PTwn - Pomfret Town CHAU; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area; W-TSP - Wilson-Tuscarora State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr four Yates Twn 22 Apr. Com. Loon: arr Yates Twn 31 Mar. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Amity L ALLE 1 Mar. Horned Grebe: arr seven E Aurora 13 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: arr two Yates Twn 31 Mar. **Eared Grebe**: one INWR 27 May (RW, A). Double-crested Cormorant: arr three ARes 8 Apr; max 20 Buffalo 21 Apr; last Ellery Twn CHAU 19 May. Least Bittern: arr TWMA 6 May. Great Blue Heron: nine on nests Cuba Twn 13 Mar, early. Great Egret: arr GHSP 21 Apr; max three TWMA 19 May. Cattle Egret: one Poland Twn CHAU 16 Apr (IS *fide* RS). Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr TNP 7 Apr. Tundra Swan: max 540 Ellington Twn 11 Mar, *intro*. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one INWR 21 Mar (Watson, mob). Snow Goose, max six Newfane and Somerset

Twms 18 Mar. Brant: 45 in flock over Salamanca Twn 20 May (TB). N. Shoveler: arr nine INWR 15 Mar. **European Wigeon**: one TWMA 18 Apr (GR!). Am. Wigeon: max 300 TWMA 1 Apr. Canvasback: arr 35 TWMA 11 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: arr INWR 11 Mar; max 475 INWR and vicinity 1 Apr. Oldsquaw: arr 29 Amity L ALLE 17 Mar. Ruddy Duck: arr one INWR 19 Apr.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: Turkey Vulture; arr four PTwn 12 Mar; max 75 Feeder Rd INWR 4 Apr. Osprey: arr Hamburg Twn 9 Apr; max nine 16 Apr; one on nest, incubating posture ARes 4 May, *intro*. Bald Eagle: several reports vicinity INWR, TWMA, ARes and elsewhere (*Prothonotary* 56, Nos. 4, 5, 6); *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: four active nests Ward Twn ALLE 1-3 May (BB). Broad-winged Hawk: arr one Hamburg Twn 15 Apr; max 200± Sheridan Twn 24 Apr. Golden Eagle: imm ASP, Cricks Run 4 Mar (TB); one Westfield 9 Apr (JL); imm Hamburg Twn 15 Apr (RA); imm W-TSP 15 Apr (WD,mob); imm Porter Twn NIAG 28 Apr (WD). Merlin: arr one W-TSP 25 Apr; one Ripley Twn 28 Apr; one INWR 30 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: one over Hamburg Twn 15 Mar (FR, mob). Wild Turkey: 128 in 11 sections BOS territory 8 Apr, good count for that time of year. Am. Coot: arr five INWR 10 Mar; max 203 INWR 19 Apr. **Sandhill Crane**: one Porter Twn NIAG 18 Mar (D&DS); one Frewsburg 26 Mar (LB *fide* RS); one Red House CATT 31 Mar (LS *fide* RS); *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: max 25 TWMA and vicinity 12 May. Willet: one TNP 4 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr GHSP 21 Apr. Red Knot: two Eden Twn 15 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one Eden Twn 15 May. Purple Sandpiper: six Goat I 8 May, late. Dunlin: arr Times Beach Buffalo 29 Apr. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr two INWR 12 May, max 28 TWMA 13 May. Com. Snipe: max 80 Eden Twn 7 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: one Eden Twn 21 May. Red-necked Phalarope: one Eden Twn 22 May. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: one mouth NR 5, 8, 12 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: 45 Wellsville Twn 11 Apr. Iceland Gull: one DH 3 Mar (FR, RS, mob). Glaucous Gull: one DH 3 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: record max 194 BOS count 8 Apr. Forster's Tern: one-two TNSP 13 May (WD). Black Tern: nine INWR and vicinity 5 May; max 17 Silver Creek Res CHAU 13 May (DN).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr sections 3, 20, 24 BOS territory 20 May, one seen in precopulatory display (TB). Long-eared Owl: two GHSP 21 Apr. Short-eared Owl: one TNP 15 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: one W-TSP 10, 13 Mar, one Carrollton 13 Mar, migrants? Com. Nighthawk: arr sw corner of Region I (CHAU BOS sections 20, 22, 23) 20 May but not elsewhere recorded that day when entire Region was canvassed. Whip-poor-will: one Canadaway Creek Nature Sanctuary 27 Apr; one-two Webster Rd PTwn 27 May, where apparently nested last four years (T&JM).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: E. Phoebe: arr two ASP (TB) and one Jamestown (PB *fide* RS) 11 Mar; record early is 10 Mar. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr NIAG and Buffalo 20 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr six PTwn 24 May (PDBn, TM). Com. Raven: two ad, four y Ward Twn 1,3 May (BB), same nest as 1988; unverified reports from CHAU and CATT. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 78 BOS regional count 8 Apr, highest in over 40 years, seen in 25 of 28 BOS sections, not reported BOS May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 8-10 singing males in mature spruce at 2000 ft Charlotte Twn CHAU 28 May (TM, R&CB). Gray-cheeked Thrush:

Williamsville Glen ERIE 15 May. Hermit Thrush: nest 4 eggs Carrollton Twn 31 May. **Varied Thrush**: ad male at feeder Fredonia 3-8 Mar (TM, mob) and Goat I 19-21 Apr (WD, mob), same bird? Am. Pipit: arr Yates Twn 17 Mar; max 100 Newstead Twn ERIE 25 Mar. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one GHSP 31 Mar (WD,BP).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: arr TNP 12 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one INWR 12 May (WD,mob). Blue-winged Warbler: arr TNP 26 Apr. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Fredonia 20 May (DK). Prairie Warbler: arr Amity Twn ALLE 1 May PDBA: one Lyndon Twn CATT 5 May, probable new breeding area at Johnson Tree Farm (SE,TB). Prothonotary Warbler: arr INWR 12 May. Kentucky Warbler: one Little Valley 31 May; three reported n CHAU 16-22 May, no details. Connecticut Warbler: one Williamsville Glen ERIE 20, 21 May (Young!). Hooded Warbler: arr Carrollton 10 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr PTwn 14 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Dickcissel**: one Fredonia 18 Apr (JG). **Lark Sparrow**: one BOS section 20 CHAU 20 May (!). Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two Amity Twn ALLE 9 May, one Clarence Twn 13 May, still on the wane. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Amity Twn ALLE 9 May; one Clarence Twn 12, 13 May; *intro*. White-throated Sparrow: two singing on territory Waterman Swamp, Napoli 27 May (SE). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: one Sheridan Twn 12-14 Apr (R&CB, ph); one Jamestown 19-20 Apr (MR, mob). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 3-16 Eden Twn 2-18 Apr (RA, mob). Orchard Oriole: two singles Sheridan Twn 1, 10 May; one PTwn 2 May. White-winged Crossbill: max 38 GHSP 3 Mar; six Lewiston 4 Mar; two Porter Twn NIAG 4 Mar; six-eight PTwn 12 Mar; two Alfred, Ward 26, 27 Mar; 25 Yates Twn 31 Mar; eight, four, five Ward Twn 21, 24, 30 Apr (last); two Alfred Twn 23 Apr (BB), nesting suspected but no reports May. Com. Redpoll: max 35-40 Barcelona (L&JV *vide* RS); one Hamburg Twn 20 Mar (FR). Pine Siskin: max 475 banded Alfred Twn Mar; 501 banded Apr (BB); seen throughout Region through period, largest last flock 200± Jamestown 22 May; last two reported Olcott 25 May. Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Sheridan Twn Mar; 1210 BOS count from 14 sections 8 Apr; 17 BOS count 20 May (sections unknown).

*Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706.*

## REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The spring conditions once again brought a mix of activity to the region. March started off a warm and dry. The average temperature of 37.3° was a full 4° above normal. Two days during the month eclipsed the 80° mark. These warm conditions brought some record early arrivals and produced good early flights of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch. Precipitation was nearly an inch below average at 1.56 inches; snowfall was only 5.4 inches, 9 inches below normal. April started on the cool side, but temperatures escalated and the average temperature for the month was 48.8°, almost 3° above normal. There were six days when the temperature reached 80° or higher, with a record high of 93° on 28 Apr. Precipitation was about an inch above normal thanks in part to a snowfall of 15.8 inches, far above the average of about 3.5 inches. The late April warm spell produced a good push of migrants, including birds expected then or in early May. May, cool and wet, was somewhat of a disappointment. The average temperature was 54.4°, 2.5° colder than normal. Precipitation was more than double normal total at 5.76 inches, more than May and June combined on the average. These conditions produced some good but no exceptional birding days. The wetness produced good shorebird habitat for a change but shorebirds generally were poor.

Loon numbers were mixed; Common was generally regarded as fairly plentiful with some good flight days, while Red-throated was somewhat scarce throughout the period. Red-necked Grebe was found along the shore of Lake Ontario in reduced numbers compared to recent years. Double-crested Cormorant numbers built during the season and reached into the hundreds. A seasonal highlight was an **American White Pelican** first reported by Frank Nicoletti and Walt Listman at Braddock Bay on 15 May. The bird shifted from location to location along Lake Ontario and was seen by many observers for over a week. Heron and egret reports were varied. Interesting reports included Little Blue Heron and Tricolored Heron at Braddock Bay, and Snowy Egret was another good report. Cattle Egret were at expected levels while Great Egret numbers were slightly reduced. Black-crowned Night-Heron was scarce, as were both of the bitterns. White-fronted Goose put in its usual appearance with up to two individuals reported at a single sighting. Two reports of Brant flocks, 40 and 70 birds, on 19 May were good for the season.

Canada Goose may have been slightly down. However, their population is difficult to monitor accurately. Puddle ducks were fairly numerous. N. Shoveler numbers were good while Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continue to be species of concern. Diving ducks were about average with good numbers of Ring-necked Duck again. A highlight was the immature male King Eider spotted by Robert Oswald at Braddock Bay on 15 March.

The bulk of the raptor reports came from the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, once again manned by Frank Nicoletti. The total of over 60,000 raptors was good but exceeded by some past seasons. There were new high totals for four species: 92 Bald Eagle, 29 Merlin, a phenomenal 43 Golden Eagle, and, to top it off, three **Mississippi Kite** were seen in May. Four species also recorded new daily highs: 11 Bald Eagle were seen on 17 Mar, nine Merlin on 29 Apr, nine Golden Eagle on both 24 and 30 Apr, and three Peregrine Falcon on 8 May. A **Swainson's Hawk** on 9 May was a seasonal highlight. The Braddock Bay Hawk Banding Project banded a total of 417 raptors, with a high of 152 birds on 29 Apr. The seasonal total included the project's first Bald Eagle. The owl season was average at best. The owl banding project netted a total of 100 birds. N. Saw-whet Owl numbers seemed down and Long-eared Owl was somewhat difficult to find. Short-eared Owl didn't linger on through the season as they have in recent years. A late Snowy Owl was in the Byron-Bergen area during March.

**Sandhill Crane** continued the recent trend with a number of sightings. Shorebird habitat was generally good but totals were poor. Common Snipe and American Woodcock numbers were reported as fairly good by observers. Highlights included Willet and Whimbrel. The gull highlight of the season was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull found by Frank Nicoletti at Braddock Bay on 11 Mar. Terns were reported in large numbers well off shore but the species was not noted. Terns were less numerous along the shore. Black Tern seemed to be holding its own.

The passerine migration was marked with the usual ups and downs. A record early E. Wood-Pewee appeared in the warm days of April. The later flycatchers were somewhat behind schedule, and Olive-sided Flycatcher was scarce. Tree and Barn Swallows arrived early. Common Raven was once again reported in the Region with singles at Braddock Bay on the 7 and 20 Mar. Sedge Wren once again went unreported. Another record early was a Swainson's Thrush on 12 Apr. Only two reports of Loggerhead Shrike emphasized the continued plight of that



species. A very early White-eyed Vireo was banded by Elizabeth Brooks at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station on 29 Apr; this species has appeared in the Region every spring in recent years. The only vireo with any semblance of abundance was Warbling. Warbler reports were generally bleak. A number of species, including Golden-winged, N. Parula, Cape May, Black-and-white, Ovenbird and Yellow-breasted Chat, were noticeably down. The early wave of individuals brought record early reports of Magnolia and Tennessee Warbler. On the plus were Palm and Prairie Warblers. Seasonal highlights included Connecticut and Kentucky Warblers, and the best bird of the season was a **Swainson's Warbler** found by Martha Reinhardt on the east side of Letchworth State Park on 14 May. The bird was observed on two different occasions and its song was recorded. The report is presently under review, and has been sent to the NYSARC. Sparrows highlights were few in number. Fox Sparrow was reported in good numbers, but most other species were either average or below average in total. Savannah Sparrow put in a record early appearance. The Clay-colored Sparrow at Hogan Point on 15 May was a highlight. A single **Brewer's Blackbird** report kept the trend for this species going, although numbers have dropped considerably from a few years ago. Finches were erratic as usual. Good numbers of White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin were reported, and a group of Pine Grosbeak was sighted in Greece. Evening Grosbeak was down and other "winter" type finches were scarce.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; LSP - Letchworth State Park; PtB - Point Breeze; WL - West Lakeshore (of Lake Ontario).

Contributors: Scott Adamson, Sue Boettger, Elizabeth Brooks, Steve Carlson, J Carter, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Julie Claffey, Mike Davids, Jean Dingerson, Frank Dobson, Robert Dobson, Bob & Betty Edgerton, June Feder, Mary Gerner, Kevin Griffith, Andy Grimsey, Gill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Greg Hartenstein, Dianne Henderson, Brian Keelan, C Klinge, Mike Lanzone, Richard & Roseanne Lawrence, Gerry Leubner, Walt Listman, Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Robert McKinney, Neil & Laura Moon, Frank Nicoletti, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Tom Painting, B & B Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Marty Robinson, Ray Robinson, Domonic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, Robert, Susan, Cathy & Kristen Spahn, Paul Spindler, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Dave Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Lyn VanderWerf, and Ann & Joe Watson.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Greece 3 May, late. Com. Loon: max 300 WL 19 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: max 85 WL 17 Mar, last one WL 15 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: max 300 BB 9 May. **Am. White Pelican**: *intro*. Great Egret: max two IB 14 Apr, BB 30 Apr. Snowy Egret: one WL 20 May (CC, JC, MD).

Cattle Egret: four individuals reported. Greater White-fronted Goose: one Hamlin 28 Mar (CS,CC); two Hamlin 31 Mar (AC,PM). Brant: *intro*. N. Pintail: max 1300 BB 14 Mar, good total. Gadwall: max 56 Greece 15 Apr. Eurasian Wigeon: one Hamlin 24 Mar (CC), continues recent trend. Ring-necked Duck: max 1000 WL 20 Mar. Black Scoter: two Manitou 15 Mar (RO'H), unusual. Ruddy Duck: arr two Kendall 27 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 427 BB 9 Apr. Osprey: max 101 BB 29 Apr. **Mississippi Kite**: subad BB 15, 22 and 24 May. N. Harrier: max 135 BB 20 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1386 BB 8 May. Cooper's Hawk: max 131 BB 9 Apr. N. Goshawk: max one BB several dates. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 956 BB 13 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: max 9944 BB 24 Apr, poor total. **Swainson's Hawk**: *intro*. Red-tailed Hawk: max 1538 BB 13 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: max 64 BB 13 Mar. Am. Kestrel: max 149 BB 29 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hamlin 27 Apr. Willet: one Hamlin 19 May. Whimbrel: seven WL 20 May (CC), 12 Parma 21 May (FN). Ruddy Turnstone: arr Charlotte 19 May. Western Sandpiper: one Kendall 19 May, uncommon in spring. Dunlin: arr two Hamlin 27 Apr, early. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr five Hamlin 26 Apr, max 50 Hamlin 20 May. Com. Snipe: max 80 Hamlin 27 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: one Hamlin 19 May, two Hamlin 21 May, one Perinton 29 May. Little Gull: one BB 29 Mar (FN), one Greece 11 Apr (KG), uncommon. Glaucous Gull: one BB 25 Mar (FN), 2nd year bird. Lesser Black-backed Gull: *intro*. Forster's Tern: arr BB 21 Apr (MR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Manitou 15 May. Com. Nighthawk: max 21 Greece 24 May, poor total. Whip-poor-will: one Manitou 25 Apr (FN), one Rochester 15 May (TP), continues scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Manitou 10 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one-three LSP, Bergen Swamp 19 May. Winter Wren: arr one Penfield 20 Mar. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Manitou 26 May, quite late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr one Penfield, Manitou 22 May. Am. Pipit: arr two WL 23 May N. Shrike: last Penfield 10 Apr. Loggerhead Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: *intro*. Philadelphia Vireo: arr Webster 15 May. Blue-winged Warbler: record early arr Mumford 28 Apr (SA). Golden-winged Warbler: record early arr Victor 28 Apr (JF). Orange-crowned Warbler: singles Rochester 26 Apr, BB 10 May, BB 19 May, BB 22 May, good spring total. Cerulean Warbler: arr two ICW 30 Apr (FD), record early. **Swainson's Warbler**: *intro*. Kentucky Warbler: one ICW 25 May (CC). Connecticut Warbler: one Manitou 12 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr one LSP 28 Apr. Hooded Warbler: arr one ICW 5 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr one WL 18 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last singles Webster, Greece 25 Apr. Clay colored Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: arr one Mendon 16 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr two LSP 14 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr three LSP 14 May. Fox Sparrow: last three Rochester 25 Apr. Dark-eyed Junco: "Oregon" type one PtB 27 Apr (WL). Snow Bunting: max 2500 BB 15 Mar, excellent total. Rusty Blackbird: arr ten Greece 13 Mar. **Brewer's Blackbird**: one Hamlin 18 Apr (AC, FD). Orchard Oriole: arr two PtB 29 Apr. Pine Siskin: max 5000 BB 23 May.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN

The spring of 1990 was warmer than normal, with average precipitation. Several cold fronts and snow at the beginning of March were followed by a slow warming trend beginning 8 Mar and continuing for a ten day period of record warm temperatures as high as 80°. This extreme warm spell caused some localized flooding as melting snow and ice jams caused swollen rivers and creeks to overflow their banks. By 19 Mar, the weather had become seasonable again and there were winter snowstorms throughout the Region. For the remainder of March, there were cold fronts and associated precipitation as expected during early spring. This pattern of cold temperatures and a few snowstorms continued throughout the first half of April. This weather hindered agricultural fieldwork, but good progress was made toward the end of April as warming temperatures helped to dry the fields out. Soil moisture, stream flow, and reservoir levels around New York State were rated as normal to above normal at the end of April. After 21 Apr, temperatures began to rise into the 70s and 80s, reaching record high temperatures on 28 Apr. Ithaca set a record 89° on the 28 Apr. The warm spell from 21-28 Apr marked the arrival of many summer breeding species, including flycatchers, vireos, and 12 warbler species. A total of 33 species arrived in the Region between 21 and 28 Apr. May was the coldest in five years, with statewide precipitation 225% of normal and higher than a 30-year normal for precipitation. The wet conditions delayed the alfalfa hay harvest and vegetable, corn, and oat fieldwork. May temperatures were cold until a warm front 9 May, but a cold front brought the coldest temperatures of the month by 10 May. Rains and cool temperatures were daily events until Memorial Day, when the weather dried out and temperatures were in the 80s.

Winter finches lingering through the season included Pine Siskin, Pine Grosbeak, and White-winged and Red Crossbill. Pine Siskin was reported nesting in Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary 31 Mar. At a banding station near Burdett, a Pine Siskin with eggs present in the oviduct was banded on 8 May (Gregoire). Pine Siskin may have nested at many other locations in the Region, as they were abundant all winter throughout the Region.

Most Region 3 waterfowl reports came from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, as expected. The Eaton Birding Society confirmed many

of the reports contributed by Refuge staff. Waterfowl maxima there during March and the first weeks of April are listed below. Other water birds at MNWR included a total of 178 Double-crested Cormorant and 420 Great Blue Heron, and one Red-throated Loon and one Great Egret were also reported as well as a scattering of shorebirds including Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Am. Woodcock. The trio of nesting Bald Eagles hatched two young this season. A pair of Osprey nested but their success was unknown as of this report. Refuge staff also reported that a patagial tagged Trumpeter Swan [from the Ontario reintroduction] was sighted south of Seneca Falls on 26 Mar. The swan stayed on a small man-made pond on private property until 11 May.

The Chemung Valley Audubon Society reported a great variety of waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds comparable to the diversity at MNWR but with fewer individuals at Eldridge Lake, Big Flats, and Corning Pond. Highlights were: Great Egret, Whistling Swan, White-winged Scoter, and ten shorebird species. Finger Lakes National Forest was also a springtime resting location for migrant shorebirds. Black-bellied Plover (max 23), Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and Common Snipe were all observed on FLNF in wet pastures from 29-31 May.

Spring is a season of many unusual bird reports, including accidentals, transients, and lingering winter finches. On 8 Mar, an adult white morph **Ross' Goose** was seen on Cayuga Lake at Stewart Park, among a flock of Canada Geese. The **Ross' Goose** was seen further north at Aurora on 10 Mar, with several thousand Canada Geese. Other water birds of interest at Aurora included a Red-throated Loon on 25 Mar, and a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** on 17 Apr (B. Mitchell, *vide* McIlroy). Cayuga Lake was the location for an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on 28 Mar and a second-year Iceland Gull on 25 Mar. At a Groton feeding station, an immature **Harris' Sparrow** was confirmed 11 Mar, where it was seen by many and heard singing during the days following. It had been present at the feeding station since November, according to the home owners, but had remained unidentified for months. The Chemung Valley Audubon Society confirmed three new records for Chemung County. These were: an adult **Sandhill Crane** in Horseheads from 23-27 Apr, a **Kentucky Warbler** at Tanglewood Nature Center 21 May, and a **Fish Crow** flying over TNC 26 May. The CVAS also reported the only swallow colonies in Region 3, including a Bank Swallow colony in Southport and Cliff Swallow nesting under Elmira's bridges. The

stream banks in Southport are the nesting sites of a few Rough-winged Swallow, as well.

Common Raven continue to appear in Region 3, and there were reports during March from Mt. Pleasant and Shindagin Hollow near Ithaca, as well as one near Elmira and one at Texas Hollow. On 1 Apr two were observed copulating at Finger Lakes National Forest, where they had been during the winter months.

John and Sue Gregoire run a bird banding station near FLNF and had banded a total of 123 species by the end of May. Dates of the transient species banded were: Fox Sparrow 23 Apr, White-crowned Sparrow 2 through 23 May, and Lincoln's Sparrow 22 through 25 May. Fifty and more Turkey Vultures migrated overhead during April, as well as an immature Golden Eagle on 25 May. Believed nesting in the area are a number of uncommon species including Common Snipe, N. Goshawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Long-eared Owl, Brown Thrasher, and Eastern Meadowlark. The Gregoires reported no Henslow's Sparrow this season, but were able to count nine young Am. Kestrel at their nestboxes.

During May, there was a single report of a Sedge Wren along the railroad tracks running through Cayuga Marsh (D. McIlroy, M. Sheperd). Along Fall Creek near Cornell University, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers were reported during the first week of May. Other May reports of interest were one **Black Vulture** at Dryden Lake on 6 May (D. Evans) and several reports of Black Tern at MNWR.

On May 19, the Cayuga Bird Club completed a "Big Day" census of birds in the Cayuga Lake Basin, including resident, breeding, and transient bird species. The results were representative of birds throughout Region 3 and reflect the Region's variety of woodlands, farmlands, and wetlands. A total of 160 species of birds were seen, including 13 shorebird species and 24 warbler species. Black Tern and Fish Crow were the highlights of the day, as well as a **Yellow-throated Warbler** seen and heard in the Fall Creek gorge and Prothonotary Warbler at Mays Point Pool. One N. Saw-whet Owl was seen just outside the Cayuga Basin in Shindagin Hollow.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, D. Clements, Eaton Birding Society, T. Gingrich, J. & S. Gregoire, B. Hilfiker, S. Kahl, D. McIlroy, Onondaga Audubon Society, Schuyler County Bird Club, D. Smith, J. Wells, G. Wolford.

Abbreviations: CL — Cayuga Lake; FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest; HHSF — Hammond Hill State Forest; MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM — Queen Catherine Marsh; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; TMP — Treman Marine Park, Ithaca; YBSF — Yellow Barn State Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro.* Com. Loon: 36 Kashong Pt 6 May, 17 Big Flats 18 May. Pied-billed Grebe: max ten MNWR April. Horned Grebe: max four MNWR 31 Mar. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro.* Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 MNWR May. Great Egret: one QCM 4 & 26 Apr, four Big Flats 14 Apr. Trumpeter Swan: *intro.* Tundra Swan: max 90 MNWR Mar. Snow Goose: max 14,400 MNWR Apr. **Ross' Goose:** *intro.* Canada Goose: max 42,000 MNWR Mar. Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR Apr. Green-winged Teal: max 90 MNWR Mar. Am. Black Duck: max 550 MNWR Mar. Mallard: max 440 MNWR Mar. Gadwall: max 80 MNWR Apr, 20+ MNWR 7 Apr. N. Pintail: max 80 MNWR Apr. Blue-winged Teal: max 80 MNWR Apr. N. Shoveler: max 550 MNWR Apr. Am. Wigeon: max 150 MNWR Mar. Redhead: max 80 MNWR Mar. Canvasback: max 1800 MNWR Mar. Ring-necked Duck: max 290 MNWR Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 160 MNWR Mar. Oldsquaw: present all season on CL & MNWR. White-winged Scoter: six Erin P Station 21 Apr. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** *intro.* Com. Merganser: max 34 MNWR Mar. Ruddy Duck: max 50 MNWR 24 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** *intro.* N. Harrier: widespread all season. Broad-winged Hawk: migrants widespread after 9 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: one ad TMP 15 Mar, two displaying YBSF May. Rough-legged Hawk: five FLNF 10 Mar, one Elmira Heights 11 Mar. Golden Eagle: *intro.* **Sandhill Crane:** *intro.* Virginia Rail: one Danby Jennings Pd 29 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: returned to traditional nesting site in Horseheads. White-rumped Sandpiper: two MNWR 12 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: present but local Phelps, Weedsport, FLNF. Com. Snipe: present but local in Big Flats, Weedsport, FLNF. Ring-billed Gull: max 400 Union Springs 10 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** *intro.* Iceland Gull: *intro.* Black Tern: present April & May MNWR.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: gray phase using Wood Duck nest box Union Springs March. Great Horned Owl: fledged young QCM and FLNF. Barred Owl: territorial YBSF. Short-eared Owl: one Scipioville 7 Apr, one TMP 12 Apr. Long-eared Owl: *intro;* max four Dodge Road Ithaca all season. Whip-poor-will: single report Agronomy Ponds Ithaca 2 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: possible nesting Ithaca w. of County Hospital. Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread but scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: widespread but scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: one Elmira Heights 22 May. Com. Raven: *intro.* Fish Crow: *intro.* Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread in conifers. Winter Wren: possible breeding Shindagin Hollow, heard singing 5 May. Carolina Wren: widespread, several in QCM. Marsh Wren: present and nesting in Horseheads Swamp and MNWR. Sedge Wren: *intro.* N. Mockingbird: present FLNF but scarce elsewhere. Brown Thrasher: *intro.* Am. Pipit: reported 14 Mar through 16 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Pine City 16 May, one Caton 19 May, one Connecticut Hill 22 May. White-eyed Vireo: one Cornell Plantations 29 Apr. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: *intro.* Hooded Warbler: possible nester Hammond Hill and FLNF. Worm-eating Warbler: one

stream banks in Southport are the nesting sites of a few Rough-winged Swallow, as well.

Common Raven continue to appear in Region 3, and there were reports during March from Mt. Pleasant and Shindagin Hollow near Ithaca, as well as one near Elmira and one at Texas Hollow. On 1 Apr two were observed copulating at Finger Lakes National Forest, where they had been during the winter months.

John and Sue Gregoire run a bird banding station near FLNF and had banded a total of 123 species by the end of May. Dates of the transient species banded were: Fox Sparrow 23 Apr, White-crowned Sparrow 2 through 23 May, and Lincoln's Sparrow 22 through 25 May. Fifty and more Turkey Vultures migrated overhead during April, as well as an immature Golden Eagle on 25 May. Believed nesting in the area are a number of uncommon species including Common Snipe, N. Goshawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Long-eared Owl, Brown Thrasher, and Eastern Meadowlark. The Gregoires reported no Henslow's Sparrow this season, but were able to count nine young Am. Kestrel at their nestboxes.

During May, there was a single report of a Sedge Wren along the railroad tracks running through Cayuga Marsh (D. McIlroy, M. Sheperd). Along Fall Creek near Cornell University, both "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers were reported during the first week of May. Other May reports of interest were one **Black Vulture** at Dryden Lake on 6 May (D. Evans) and several reports of Black Tern at MNWR.

On May 19, the Cayuga Bird Club completed a "Big Day" census of birds in the Cayuga Lake Basin, including resident, breeding, and transient bird species. The results were representative of birds throughout Region 3 and reflect the Region's variety of woodlands, farmlands, and wetlands. A total of 160 species of birds were seen, including 13 shorebird species and 24 warbler species. Black Tern and Fish Crow were the highlights of the day, as well as a **Yellow-throated Warbler** seen and heard in the Fall Creek gorge and Prothonotary Warbler at Mays Point Pool. One N. Saw-whet Owl was seen just outside the Cayuga Basin in Shindagin Hollow.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, D. Clements, Eaton Birding Society, T. Gingrich, J. & S. Gregoire, B. Hilfiker, S. Kahl, D. McIlroy, Onondaga Audubon Society, Schuyler County Bird Club, D. Smith, J. Wells, G. Wolford.

Abbreviations: CL — Cayuga Lake; FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest; HHSF — Hammond Hill State Forest; MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; QCM — Queen Catherine Marsh; SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; TMP — Treman Marine Park, Ithaca; YBSF — Yellow Barn State Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: *intro.* Com. Loon: 36 Kashong Pt 6 May, 17 Big Flats 18 May. Pied-billed Grebe: max ten MNWR April. Horned Grebe: max four MNWR 31 Mar. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro.* Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 5 MNWR May. Great Egret: one QCM 4 & 26 Apr, four Big Flats 14 Apr. Trumpeter Swan: *intro.* Tundra Swan: max 90 MNWR Mar. Snow Goose: max 14,400 MNWR Apr. **Ross' Goose**: *intro.* Canada Goose: max 42,000 MNWR Mar. Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR Apr. Green-winged Teal: max 90 MNWR Mar. Am. Black Duck: max 550 MNWR Mar. Mallard: max 440 MNWR Mar. Gadwall: max 80 MNWR Apr, 20+ MNWR 7 Apr. N. Pintail: max 80 MNWR Apr. Blue-winged Teal: max 80 MNWR Apr. N. Shoveler: max 550 MNWR Apr. Am. Wigeon: max 150 MNWR Mar. Redhead: max 80 MNWR Mar. Canvasback: max 1800 MNWR Mar. Ring-necked Duck: max 290 MNWR Mar. Lesser Scaup: max 160 MNWR Mar. Oldsquaw: present all season on CL & MNWR. White-winged Scoter: six Erin P Station 21 Apr. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: *intro.* Com. Merganser: max 34 MNWR Mar. Ruddy Duck: max 50 MNWR 24 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: *intro.* N. Harrier: widespread all season. Broad-winged Hawk: migrants widespread after 9 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: one ad TMP 15 Mar, two displaying YBSF May. Rough-legged Hawk: five FLNF 10 Mar, one Elmira Heights 11 Mar. Golden Eagle: *intro.* **Sandhill Crane**: *intro.* Virginia Rail: one Danby Jennings Pd 29 Apr. Upland Sandpiper: returned to traditional nesting site in Horseheads. White-rumped Sandpiper: two MNWR 12 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: present but local Phelps, Weedsport, FLNF. Com. Snipe: present but local in Big Flats, Weedsport, FLNF. Ring-billed Gull: max 400 Union Springs 10 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: *intro.* Iceland Gull: *intro.* Black Tern: present April & May MNWR.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: E. Screech-Owl: gray phase using Wood Duck nest box Union Springs March. Great Horned Owl: fledged young QCM and FLNF. Barred Owl: territorial YBSF. Short-eared Owl: one Scipioville 7 Apr, one TMP 12 Apr. Long-eared Owl: *intro*; max four Dodge Road Ithaca all season. Whip-poor-will: single report Agronomy Ponds Ithaca 2 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: possible nesting Ithaca w. of County Hospital. Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread but scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: widespread but scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: one Elmira Heights 22 May. Com. Raven: *intro.* Fish Crow: *intro.* Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread in conifers. Winter Wren: possible breeding Shindagin Hollow, heard singing 5 May. Carolina Wren: widespread, several in QCM. Marsh Wren: present and nesting in Horseheads Swamp and MNWR. Sedge Wren: *intro.* N. Mockingbird: present FLNF but scarce elsewhere. Brown Thrasher: *intro.* Am. Pipit: reported 14 Mar through 16 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Pine City 16 May, one Caton 19 May, one Connecticut Hill 22 May. White-eyed Vireo: one Cornell Plantations 29 Apr. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: *intro.* Hooded Warbler: possible nester Hammond Hill and FLNF. Worm-eating Warbler: one



Horseheads 12 May only report. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: *intro*. Prothonotary Warbler: *intro*. **Kentucky Warbler**: *intro*. Mourning Warbler: possible nester HHSE.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. **Harris' Sparrow**: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: *intro*. Lincoln's Sparrow: one SWS 7 May; *intro*. Snow Bunting: 800 to 1000 near Watkins Glen Race Track 1 Mar. E. Meadowlark: *intro*; 3-6 TMP all season. Rusty Blackbird: Corning Pd 8 Apr. Orchard Oriole: none. Pine Grosbeak: imm Southport 10 Mar, male Elmira 13 Mar, female at feeder Big Flats 10-13 Mar. Pine Siskin: *intro*.

*449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, NY 13068*

## REGION 4 - SESQUEHANA

*The new editor for Region 4 is:*

Mrs. Mary Dobinsky, 7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820.

## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The most noteworthy meteorological events for this spring were several days when temperatures rose above average during the first week of March and the last week of April. A record 161.3 inches of snow by 6 Apr surpassed the seasonal average by over 51 inches and, if that wasn't enough precipitation, another record 5.62 inches of rain fell for the month of May. Perseverance is the key word when it comes to birding in central New York and observers were able to record 227 species, two hybrids and one color morph despite getting wet.

For the second spring in a row, Great Egret and Snowy Egret were found foraging in local marshes, but the most sought after heron was a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. An adult bird was observed in wetlands north of Chittenango 16-28 May, for a third Regional record and the first in ten years (mob, NYSARC). The diversity of waterfowl species

continued to be impressive this season. Two Greater White-fronted Geese made a one-day appearance on a partially flooded field several miles west of Phoenix 12 Mar (S. Adair). Unfortunately, most waterfowl numbers were below average except Snow Goose, Am. Black Duck and Red-breasted Merganser. An estimated 1,087 Snow Geese, of both color morphs, were observed across the Region. The highest concentration occurred along the flood plains of Six Mile Creek in southern Oswego Co. Birds of the blue morph appeared in modest numbers with a maximum of 102 on the Seneca River Flats on 3 Mar. Not only were the geese attracted to this same locale, but over 1000 Am. Black Duck, the Region's second highest spring maximum, found conditions ideal for feeding and resting. Red-breasted Merganser was abundant with over 3000 on Lake Ontario 21 Apr, the highest count since 1986.

In terms of raptors, it was an exciting time to witness their annual migration over Derby Hill and to see Osprey on the nest in two locations. Dinglehole Swamp in the Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area provided haven for three Osprey, with one sitting on a nest 15 May. Another pair continued to nest for the second year on the pylon of an electrical transmission line on the lower Salmon River Reservoir. Increasing Osprey population also was demonstrated when two record high one day counts were set at Derby Hill on 29 Apr and 8 May. Among buteos, Red-shouldered Hawk set a record high one day count, and indication that three pairs were nesting on the north shore of Oneida Lake (P. Burns) was most encouraging. Two **Swainson's Hawk** and record high seasonal counts for Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon highlighted observations from the bluffs overlooking Lake Ontario. But without a doubt, the best bird from Derby Hill was the region's very first **Mississippi Kite** on 10 May (G. Smith, G. Church, J. Williams) From descriptions provided by the observers, the bird was believed to be a subadult in advanced plumage (details to NYSARC).

Partially flooded fields in areas where agricultural use is intense sometimes provides suitable habitat for migrant shorebirds. Flooded conditions along creeks near Biddlecum and Lamson Roads in southern Oswego Co. became the temporary stopover for at least ten species this spring. The most notable observation was a record early arrival for five Pectoral Sandpipers at Lamson Rd on 16 Mar (S. Adair). An adult **Laughing Gull** on the eastern shores of Oneida Lake provided a rare opportunity to compare its size with neighboring Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls. Late departing Iceland and Glaucous Gulls along the Seneca and Oswego Rivers summarized this season's gull and tern flight.

The reports on land birds was mixed with **Loggerhead Shrike** and **Kentucky Warbler** being the only outstanding passerines. The shrike was observed at Biddlecum for fifteen minutes on 18 Mar and then disappeared shortly afterwards to the chagrin of dedicated birders (DWC). A Kentucky Warbler reported near Camden was far from where it is normally observed, the valleys of southern Onondaga Co. Other positives for the season included a more than above average group of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen at St. Mary's Cemetery. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Erieville on 22 Mar set a record early arrival for this species (E. Hawken), while Cape May and Chestnut-sided Warbler set record early dates in Dewitt's St. Mary's Cemetery (P. DeBenedictis).

On a more negative note, indication was that populations for most of our passerine birds was way down. Except for Am. Robin, the other remaining six species of thrushes averaged no more than a maximum of nine per day. Seven species of warblers which include Cape May, Pine, Blackpoll, Black and White, Louisiana Waterthrush, Mourning and Wilson's were very low reaching a maximum of only four per day. On the brighter side, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Com. Yellowthroat were averaging more than 50 per day. No Orange-crowned or Prairie Warblers were reported, but two Yellow-breasted Chat enriched the warbler flight.

On a more interesting note, Gary Lee reported Common Raven mobbing a pair of Turkey Vulture when they got too close to their nest on Bald Mt in the Adirondacks. Later one of the vultures was retrieved from the waters of Fourth Lake.

Contributors: Kenneth Able, Sue Adair, Sandy Bonanno, Patrick Burns, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, William T. Gruenbaum, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Steven F. Kahl, Gary Lee, Sheila McCombie, Belle Peebles, Robert E. Post, Bill Purcell, Marqaret S. Rusk, Jeanne Ryan, Gerald Smith, Magdalena Stooks, Jim & Elba Van Dresar, Glenn Wolford.

Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; NPT - n Pompey Township, ONON; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SRF - Seneca River Flats, CAYU; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; StMC - St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, ONON; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI; Syr - Syracuse.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Adk arr Limekiln L 22 Apr; max 250 LOL 21 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: max two LOL 1 Apr. Horned Grebe: arr FH 4 Mar, max five Toad Harbor 19 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: seven in three reports 19 Apr-14 May. Double-crested Cormorant: max 500 LOL 21 Apr, nine Fourth L Adk's 19 May. Am. Bittern: ten reports. Least Bittern: arr Toad H 6 May. Great Egret: two

Boliver 24 May, only report (MSR). Snowy Egret: one Sage Creek Marsh DH 29 Apr (mob). Green-backed Heron: max six LOL 15 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one to five Snake Swamp OSWE 21 Apr-12 May; one DH 14 Apr. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: *intro*. Tundra Swan: seven Seneca River Flats 3 Mar, eight Biddlecum 13 Mar, one Erieville 29 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: *intro*. Snow Goose: max 647 Biddlecum 13 Mar, last Clay 29 Apr, *intro*. Brant: max 80 LOL 13 May, last Chittning Pd ONEI and SPd 19 May. Canada Goose: max 5000 Twn of Cato 7 Apr. Green-winged Teal: overwintered Hookway Tract, Syr. Am. Black Duck: max 1250 SRF 3 Mar. Gadwall: pair SPd 19 May not seen following weekend. Blue-winged Teal: max ten Utica Marsh 4 May. N. Shoveler: arr SRF 23 Mar, max & last 12 LOL 21 Apr. Am. Wigeon: arr SRF 3 Mar. Canvasback: arr Brewerton 3 Mar, max 95 there 11 Mar, last Erieville 5 Apr. Redhead: two reports, one Brewerton 3-9 Mar, four FH 4-23 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: arr Sage Creek Marsh 2 Mar, max 155 Toad H 29 Mar, last two Richfield 24 Apr. Greater Scaup: last Erieville 31 May. Lesser Scaup: max 135 FH 4 Mar, last two SSSP 12 May. Oldsquaw: last three LOL 21 Apr. White-winged Scoter: last Otisco L 29 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: last Otisco L 19 May. Bufflehead: max 100 LOL 21 Apr, last SPd 14 May. Hooded Merganser: last migrants Chittning Pd ONEI 13 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Otto Mills 30 May. Red-breasted Merganser: last SPd 28 May. Ruddy Duck: Beaver L 17-29 Apr, max five on 28 Apr.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS: Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals:

Species	Arrival	Max -	Date	Last	90% Date Range	Total
Turkey Vulture	2 Mar	274 -	15 Apr	15 May	16 Mar-30 Apr	2538
Osprey	10 Apr	201 -	2 dates	28 May	24 Apr-10 May	643
Bald Eagle	13 Mar	6 -	30 Apr	28 May	14 Mar-15 May	54
N. Harrier	8 Mar	65 -	15 Apr	28 May	14 Mar-10 May	650
Sharp-shinned Hawk	13 Mar	896 -	29 Apr	28 May	2 Apr-10 May	5327
Cooper's Hawk	2 Mar	44 -	16 Mar	2 May	14 Mar-29 Apr	303
N. Goshawk	8 Mar	2 -	14 Mar	9 Apr		7
Red-shouldered Hawk	9 Mar	617 -	14 Mar	3 May	14 Mar-2 Apr	956
Broad-winged Hawk	15 Apr	9558 -	25 Apr	28 May	23 Apr-9 May	23490
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mar	1550 -	14 Mar	27 May	11 Mar-30 Apr	4663
Rough-legged Hawk	8 Mar	59 -	14 Mar	23 May	13 Mar-8 May	298
Golden Eagle	14 Mar	5 -	2 dates	8 May	16 Mar-30 Apr	31
American Kestrel	9 Mar	74 -	20 Apr	17 May	14 Mar-29 Apr	382
Merlin	20 Apr	5 -	20 Apr	8 May	20 Apr-30 Apr	19
Peregrine Falcon	27 Apr	2 -	15 May	15 May		7
<b>Total (including unidentified)</b>						<b>39400</b>

Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. **Mississippi Kite**: *intro*. Bald Eagle: two imm Cleveland 7 May, imm Hastings 31 May, one Fourth L during May, *intro*. N. Goshawk: record low seasonal count. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*. **Swainson's Hawk**: singles DH 9 Apr & 28 Apr, first in three years. Golden Eagle: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ring-necked Pheasant: 13 reports for the period. Am. Coot: four reports, very scarce. Semipalmated Plover: one Biddlecum 5 May, SVB 19 May, two SPd 14-28 May. Greater Yellowlegs: last DH 26 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: last Boliver 24 May. Solitary Sandpiper: last Toad H 22 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Lakeport 22 Apr. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SVB 14 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: last Biddlecum 2 May, *intro*. Dunlin: arr SPd 14 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Biddlecum 18 May, max 15 Hastings 23 May. **Laughing Gull**: ad SVB 13-19 May, tenth Regional record (B. Purcell, mob). Bonaparte's Gull: arr Brewerton 1 Apr. Iceland Gull: last Baldwinsville 4 Apr. Glaucous Gull: last Phoenix 14 May. Caspian Tern: max 96 SPd 14 May. Com. Tern: max 60 SVB 13 May. Black Tern: max 17 SSSP 19 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: only five reports. Barred Owl: two Beaver L 10 May, one Cleveland 19 May, two Old Forge 1,2 May. Com. Nighthawk: three reports, very scarce. Whip-poor-will: arr Hinckley L 28 Apr. Chimney Swift: max 60 Oswego 19 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: five reports, only one from southern highlands. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max eight Tug Hill 12 May, last StMC 19 Apr, Adk arr 30 Apr. N. Flicker: max 60 LOL 21 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Syr, Quiver Pd Adk's 25 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr StMC 16 May, max six there 18 May. Willow Flycatcher: max 28 Peat Swamp 28 May. Horned Lark: max 40 Fabius 4 Mar. Bank Swallow: max 70 Oak Orchard 12 May. Blue Jay: max 370 DH 26 May. Tufted Titmouse: 13 reported for the season. Brown Creeper: max 25 LOL 21 Apr. Carolina Wren: four reports Syr, one Toad H, one SSSP. Winter Wren: Adk arr Limekiln L 1 Apr, max eight SSSP 26 Apr. Marsh Wren: max 14 Peat Swamp 28 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Erieville 15 Mar, max 36 SSSP 27 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 LOL 21 Apr, last two Sterling 19 May. E. Bluebird: max 12 LOL, Tug Hill 15 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two StMC 16-24 May. Am. Robin: max 435 s ONON 20 Mar. N. Mockingbird: five reports Syr, one Old Forge. Am. Pipit: arr Biddlecum 13 Mar, max and last 90 DH 19 May. Cedar Waxwing: max 180 DH 26 May. N. Shrike: last near Pineville OSWE 10 Apr. **Loggerhead Shrike**: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Warbling Vireo: max 31 SPd 14 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 16 May, last Syr 25 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Pompey Hollow 30 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: arr W. Monroe 2 May, eight reports for the season. "Brewster's" Warbler: one Camillus 12 May, only report. "Lawrence's" Warbler: one Hastings 29-31 May (B. Purcell). N. Parula: five reports, last StMC 23 May. Cape May Warbler: five reports, scarce. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Pumpkin Hollow 10 Apr, Adk arr 26 Apr, max 80 LOL 21 Apr. Pine Warbler: one Snake Swamp OSWE 21 Apr, SSSP 19 May, Hickory Grove 21 Apr-19 May, SVB 27 May, Amboy 30 May. Palm Warbler: reported 27 Apr-19 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Toad H 6 May; one SPd 19 May (PDeB) far north. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr near Oran Gulf Rd NPT 14 Apr (DWC). Kentucky Warbler: *intro*. Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 12 May, max six Twn of Sterling 19 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one StMC 6-10 May, one Poolsbrook 15 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: Adk arr 19 May, max 42 LOL 15 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Adk arr Old Forge 18 May, max 30 LOL 15 May. Indigo Bunting: Adk arr Big Moose 9 May, max 27 LOL 15 May, record spring maximum. Am. Tree Sparrow: last DH 24 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: *intro*. Field Sparrow: arr Oneida 10 Apr. Vesper Sparrow: max six near Oswego 21 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: three Carpenter's Brook 12 May, one Hastings 15 May, one s OSWE 12-19 May. Henslow's Sparrow: six W Monroe 2-25 May. Fox Sparrow: arr NPT 15 Mar, last Noyes 21 Apr. Song Sparrow: arr Syr 8 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: Adk arr Third L 17 May. Swamp Sparrow: arr Peter Scott Swamp 3 Apr, max 37 there 28 May. White-crowned Sparrow: one DH 9 Apr (WP) may have overwintered locally; max seven Twn of Schroepfel 9 May, last Holland Patent 24 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 LOL 21 Apr. Snow Bunting: last DH 11 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr Biddlecum 10 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr Van Buren 5 Mar, last Erieville 7 May. Brown-headed Cowbird: arr Camillus 1 Mar. N. Oriole: max 108 LOL 15 May. Pine Grosbeak: last eight Forestport 9 Mar. Purple Finch: one to six/day. Red Crossbill: eight Forestport 9 Mar, only report. White-winged Crossbill: max 30 Georgetown 3 Mar, 25 Tassel Hill State Forest ONEI 19 May, last flocks Syr, Georgetown 26 May, no evidence of nesting reported. Pine Siskin: max 70 Forestport 9 Mar, persistent at feeders to the end of the period. Evening Grosbeak: max 32 Oneida 18 Apr, last Holland Patent 12 May.

*1065 Westmoreland Ave. Syracuse, N.Y. 13210.*

## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Without citing chapter and verse, suffice it to say the weather was cold and wet. Hopes were falsely elevated in mid March by three days of balmy weather and a burst of early arrivals; but hopes were soon dashed and Spring Peepers were not heard again until 19 Apr. Heavy rain on 17 Mar was followed two days later by temperatures in the 30s and snow on 26 Mar; snow also fell on 5-6 and 11-12 Apr. Temperatures did soar 27-30 Apr, with a max of 89° on 29 Apr, and Yellow Warblers were ushered back by opening leaves and trilling toads. The mercury next reached the 70s on 4 and 10 May, but sleet fell on 11 May and heavy rains on 20-21 May.

The weather was offset by both the number and extent of contributions. Marilyn Badger sighted 146 species and Mary Beth Wood was close behind. Cape Vincent looks like a hot spot for spring migrants. M. B. Wood sighted Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 26 May, Winter Wren on 14 Apr, Yellow-throated Vireo on 25 May, and Lincoln's Sparrow on 17 May. In all 185 species were reported, including 26 species of waterfowl, 17 raptors, four rallids, 16 shorebirds, four vireos and 24 warblers.

Among lingering winter residents were a dozen Oldsquaw until 17 May at Cape Vincent, the last Rough-legged Hawk on 16 Apr, last N. Shrike on 3 Apr. Two White-winged Crossbill were in Canton on 26 Mar, and six Am. Tree Sparrow in Massena on 1 May. Bohemian Waxwing was in residence eating crab apples on the SUNY-Potsdam campus in Mar and on the St. Lawrence University campus in April, with a max of 150 seen by Mike Sheard in Canton 7 Mar. The last two were in Canton on 24 Apr.

The spring migration is difficult to summarize. There were no February early arrivals. Sheila Cerwonka writes, "Robins, Song Sparrows, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Grackles descended March 16. The next day, we saw Kestrels, Meadowlarks, and male Cowbirds. These two days were unseasonable mild". Am. Woodcock, Com. Grackle and Song Sparrow in mid Mar seemed early, while arrival of E. Phoebe and Tree Swallow in late Mar and early Apr appeared to be delayed by inclement weather. In Apr and May neotropical migrants seemed right on schedule or even a tad early, from a burst of species the first week of May to Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers bringing up

the rear on 15 and 17 May, respectively. Pectoral, Least, and Spotted Sandpiper were all reported between 5 and 15 May. Among the more interesting migrants were Brant, Snow Goose, and several reports of Rusty Blackbird, seldom reported in spring, between 5 Mar and 17 Apr. Lee Chamberlaine reported maxima of 10,000 Canada Goose at Henderson Pond on 22 Mar; and of 20 Am. Black Duck, 1500 Mallard, and 60 N. Pintail all on 17 Mar. He also describes "literally thousands" of Am. Robin searching for food in woodlands and roadsides of Croghan on 12 Apr. Movement of both species of kinglet was reported 26-27 Apr. White-throated Sparrow was abundant during the last week of Apr and White-crowned Sparrow moved through during the last three weeks of May with a max of eight per day in Henderson.

Regarding range expanding species, Wild Turkey and Turkey Vulture continue to increase. Red-bellied Woodpecker departed Henderson 26 Mar, and one sighted by Paul Kelly in Lisbon on 22 Apr is the third St. Lawrence Co. record. A N. Mockingbird was reported from Lisbon 25 May, and a **Blue-winged Warbler** reported from Cape Vincent by Mary Beth Wood is a first or second record for St. Lawrence Co. Debbie Litwiler reports a N. Cardinal at Lorraine on the Tug Hill 19 Mar, "the first and only Cardinal we've seen in the four years we've lived up here, and we haven't seen it since". House Finch was reported in small numbers from everywhere but the Tug Hill.

Nesting of many species was late, and mortality due to cold rains may have been high. Among interesting nesting records reported by M. B. Wood were Great Blue Heron nest building at Sackett's Harbor on 7 Apr. She also reported two Red-tailed Hawk nests with young on 29 Apr, an E. Screech-Owl fledgling with much down on 28 May, two Great Horned Owl nests each with one young 29 and 19 May, Short-eared Owl, 13 Bank Swallow in a highway dept. pile of sand and gravel for winter roads, Purple Martin feeding young 31 May, and five pairs Horned Lark with first young 22 May, all near Cape Vincent. On 15 May 18 Purple Martin were found dead beneath nest houses and sent to DEC for analysis. Nest building was observed in Barn Swallow on 20 Apr, Am. Robin on 22 Apr, and Warbling Vireo and Yellow Warbler on 24 May. Marilyn Badger found House Finch eggs on 12 Apr; and fledged young were recorded for European Starling on 30 Apr, and for Com. Grackle on 30 May.

On the upside were E. Phoebe, Yellow Warbler, and Pine Siskin,



with numbers of 1-200 reported in Mar and Apr. Low grades were given to Blue-winged Teal, Broad-winged Hawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Warbling Vireo. Only one observer reported Redhead, N. Goshawk, cuckoos, E. Wood-Pewee, N. Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Field Sparrow. There were no sightings of Solitary Sandpiper, Barred Owl or pipits.

On the New York State list of endangered, threatened, and species of special concern was a pair of Bald Eagle at Perch River 14 Mar and one at Moses-Saunders Dam on 19 Apr. Three pair of Osprey nested at Perch River WMA, and Peregrine Falcon was reported near Massena by Bob Patterson on 10 Apr. At least five reports of Upland Sandpiper included a pair displaying at Cape Vincent on 6 May. There were 12 Black Tern at Perch River 12 May and others at Wilson Bay Marsh near Cape Vincent, but none from Upper and Lower Lakes or Wilson Hill WMAs. Com. Nighthawk at Ogdensburg was the only report, and Vesper Sparrow was at Cape Vincent on 6 May and the Pierrepont Colony on 14 May.

Another species of interest was a Cattle Egret. Many other "good birds" were sighted, but definitely rare were Marilyn Badger's possible light morph **Gyr Falcon** near Massena on 16 Apr and a male **Hooded Warbler** at the same locale on 14 May, probably a first Regional record.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Jim Farquahar, John Green, Michael Greenwald, Lee Harper, M. J. Heisey, Paul Kelly, Steve & Debbie Litwiler, Michael Sheard, Brian Watson, and Mary Beth Wood.

Abbreviations: CV — Cape Vincent; MSD — Moses-Saunders Dam; WBM — Wilson Bay Marsh, Cape Vincent; SLR — St. Lawrence River.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: three Upper and Lower Lakes WMA 20 Apr, unusual this far from SLR. Great Egret: one Gouverneur ca. 16 May. **Cattle Egret**: one in partial breeding plumage WBM. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one WBM 5 May. Canada Goose: *intro*. Brant: four Clayton 21 May. Snow Goose: three reports, max 75 at June LaVack's farm Gouverneur ca. 15 Mar and 4 Apr. Mallard: *intro*. Am. Black Duck: *intro*. N. Pintail: *intro*. Blue-winged Teal: three reports, max 14 Massena 1 May. Canvasback: 12 SLR 5 Apr. Greater Scaup and Lesser Scaup: max 300 SLR 15 Mar. Oldsquaw: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: early arr on 5 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports. Cooper's Hawks: three reports. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: three migrating over CV 14 Mar. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: max 30 Southwick Beach 28 Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Gyr Falcon**: *intro*. Gray Partridge: three regularly Massena. Semipalmated Plover: one MSD 23 May. Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs: three reports from StLA. Upland Sandpiper: *intro*. Pectoral

Sandpiper: two Massena 9 May. Bonaparte's Gull: one in breeding plumage CV 5 Apr. Caspian Tern: three reports. Com. Tern: max 18 MSD 22 Apr. Black Tern: *intro*.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Louisville 26 May. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: *intro*. Short-eared Owl: two CV 29 Apr and 19 May. Com. Nighthawk: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: three Louisville 31 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: *intro*. Horned Lark: *intro*. Purple Martin: *intro*. Tree Swallow: *intro*; numbers down in May due to cold weather (LBC). Bank Swallow: *intro*. Cliff Swallow: large colony at MSD with fledged young 24 May. Winter Wren: *intro*. Bohemian Waxwing: *intro*. N. Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one CV 25 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one Louisville 6 May. Warbling Vireo: *intro*. **Blue-winged Warbler**: *intro*. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. Palm Warbler: singles CV 27 Apr and Louisville 8 May. **Hooded Warbler**: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: one CV 17 May, only report. Am. Tree Sparrow: *intro*. Vesper Sparrow: *intro*. Fox Sparrow: one to two Lorraine 12-17 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: *intro*. White-crowned Sparrow: *intro*. Rusty Blackbird: *intro*. Com. Grackle: *intro*. Purple Finch: max 24 Lorraine 5 May. House Finch: *intro*. White-winged Crossbill: *intro*. Red Crossbill: several in flock feeding in woodland with 200 Pine Siskin, Clare 16 March. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: numbers small and sporadic, but hundreds Theresa 30 Mar and Redwood 20 Apr.

*RD 4 Box 97, Canton, New York 13617*

## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

Although the weather was often less than ideal, a late April warm spell pushed in numbers of early migrants, and the Coot Hill hawk-watch and Crown Point banding station celebrated their fifteenth seasons with the second best totals ever, eclipsed only by the spring of 1989. A total of 190 species was reported regionally, including several rarities. The arrival of nine warbler species before the end of April is alone worthy of note.

The season began with a 55°F jump in temperature, from a low of -2°F (due to a blocking high pressure cell) at Ellenburg Depot 1 Mar to a high of 53°F at nearby Plattsburgh AFB the following day. March had 10.2

inches of snow at lower elevations, with half of that falling 20-21 Mar, and seasonal snowfall was 4 inches less than normal by month's end, when L. Champlain stood at 99.13 ft, with 4 ft of snow left on the High Peaks. By 5 Apr, Champlain stood at 99.7 ft (100 ft is flood level). Weather in weeks following was erratic, with a 10 inch snowfall on the St. Regis Indian Reservation 11 Apr, yet not a flake in Elizabethtown that same day. It was warm on 19, 22, 25-26 Apr, and hot on 27-28 Apr, helping to push in warblers and other early migrants. May saw several pleasant days, but rain seemed to be the norm, with everything from passing showers to cloudbursts during the 11-21 May period that the spring bird banding station was open at the Crown Point State Historic Site.

Coot Hill hawkwatch received 33 days (160 hours) of coverage between 24 Mar-14 May, much of it by Elsbeth Johnson, who was again supported by High Peaks Audubon. A near record 695 raptors of 15 species were recorded, including five Bald Eagle and one Golden Eagle, plus a Peregrine Falcon. The best flight days were 26-27 Apr, with 128 and 143 raptors respectively. Unhappily, the fifteen years of unbroken coverage at this scenic site may be at an end, the hill's owner having informed High Peaks Audubon that local members are no longer welcome at the summit due to the National Audubon Society's support of the highly controversial report of the Commission on the Adirondacks. In addition to the raptor passage, other interesting transients at Coot Hill included over a hundred Double-crested Cormorant and two Bohemian Waxwing on 8 April.

Bald Eagle was widely reported: Eighth Lake HAMI 8 Mar, ad Saranac Lake, 12 Mar, ad Ticonderoga 18-19 Mar, ad Mountain View Lake FRAN Apr, mottled ad Deer River Flow FRAN 17 May, and two ad and an imm Salmon River FRAN 17 May. Migrants also passed the Coot Hill hawk watch on 24 Mar and 8, 15, 26, and 28 Apr, suggesting a Regional total of about 13 individuals.

The banding station near the northern tip of Crown Point peninsula opened two days before Coot Hill closed, and remained in operation from 11-21 May. A total of 465 individuals of 48 species were banded, and the cumulative list of species banded since 1976 now stands at 80. There were also 11 returns of birds previously banded at Crown Point, including a Tree Swallow, two Black-capped Chickadee, a Gray Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, and a Northern Oriole, all from 1989. Other returnees included a Black-capped Chickadee from 1987, a Brown Thrasher from 1984 (now 6 years, 11

months old), and a geriatric Blue Jay originally banded on 9 May 1981 (now 9 years, 11 months old); the present longevity record for the species belongs to a 16 year, 4 month Blue Jay from Glens Falls. Most numerous species this spring were 149 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 34 Cape May Warbler, and 32 American Goldfinch.

As usual, the birding at the State Historic Site was as superb as the banding, from a Common Loon on Bulwagga Bay 21 May to over 50 Double-crested Cormorant migrating overhead on 18 May. If the Great Egret that Gordon Howard and others spotted flying south down Bulwagga Bay the morning of 14 May was rather unexpected, the two **Glossy Ibis** that Keith Murphy and others witnessed following the same route the evening of 15 May were a total surprise, providing not only excitement, but also a first record for Essex County. Brant are unusual enough along L. Champlain, but Brant spotted grazing on the lawn beside the ruins of historic Fort St. Frederick by site manager Greg Furness is even more so, remaining from 25-29 May. Overhead migrants included two flocks of White-winged Scoter 18 May, the second with Oldsquaw, two late transient Red-shouldered Hawk 18 May and a Peregrine Falcon winging north 17 May. A newly fledged Great Horned Owl was seen well the evening of 18 May. Northern Mockingbird and Philadelphia Vireo both appeared on 19 May. A cooperative Orange-crowned Warbler posed at the banding station for most of 14 May, managing to avoid the nearby mist nets. And a similarly adult male Orchard Oriole was feeding in the hawthorns on the morning of 12 May. The ever changing variety of birdlife made even the calf-deep clay mud and unceasing rains more tolerable.

Nor was all of the avian action confined to Coot Hill and Crown Point peninsula. Candy and John Hess found 3-4 **Ruddy Duck** on Lake Champlain near Chazy 5 May, for only about the eighth regional record and first spring occurrence (all others were between 20 Oct and 10 Nov). Norman Mason was fortunate enough to spot a white morph **Gyr Falcon** along the Northway south of Plattsburgh on 21 Mar. Dean Cook had a **Yellow-breasted Chat**, rare in this region, at Ticonderoga on 24 May. A number of other good finds are included in the species listings, as well.

Northern Adirondack Audubon Society (Clinton County) has relinquished its charter and merged its membership and activities with those of High Peaks Audubon Society (formerly Essex County). High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., now serves the entire Adirondack-Champlain Region.

Observers: Merry Baker, Thomas & William Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Bev Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Dean Cook, Shirley Cook, Charlcie Delehanty, William Endocott, Rita Fitzgerald, Greg Furness, Robert Hagar, Candy & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Anne Hungerford, Elsbeth Johnson, Ruth Kuhfahl, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Mark Manske, Laura Meade, Nancy Miller, Keith Murphy, John & Nathaniel Parke, John & Susan Peterson, David Rutkowski, Ross Sutton, Jan Trzeciak, Margaret Tsuda, Hollis White.

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

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: arr Ausable Pt 14 Apr; calling and whooping all over Webb Royce Swamp ESSE 6 May. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Great Egret: *intro* (WE, GH, NM, KM, JP). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-3 nests Webb Royce Swamp 6 May (J&NP). **Glossy Ibis**: *intro*. (RK, GL, KM, JP). Snow Goose: 5 inland flocks sighted. Brant: 200+ flying n Upper St. Regis L 22 Apr; *intro*. Gadwall: pair Bulwagga Bay 7 Apr (EJ). Am. Wigeon: two pair arr Ausable Pt 22 Mar (C&JH). Canvasback: 6-10 Ausable Pt 22 Mar good find. Oldsquaw: *intro*. White-winged Scoter: *intro*. Red-breasted Merganser: drake Duck Hole ESSE 24 May (T&WB), unexpected in the High Peaks. **Ruddy Duck**: *intro*.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr CPt 21 Mar, very early; total 10 past CH. Osprey: total 38 past CH. Bald Eagle: *intro*: N. Harrier: total 14 past CH. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 103 past CH. Cooper's Hawk: 20 past CH. N. Goshawk: total 6 past CH. Red-shouldered Hawk: total 7 past CH. Broad-winged Hawk: total 283 past CH. Red-tailed Hawk: total 160 past CH. Rough-legged Hawk: only one past CH 11 Apr. Golden Eagle: one past CH 15 Apr. Am. Kestrel: total 14 past CH. Merlin: one past CH 14 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: one past CH 17 May; Wilmington Notch bird present by 15 Mar. **Gyrfalcon**: *intro*. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Plattsburgh 17 Apr.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Great Horned Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: Chilson 15 Mar, Owls Head 31 Mar. Whip-poor-will: arr Ticonderoga 28 Apr, relatively early. Red-headed Woodpecker: Owls Head 12 May (JT), a good find. Three-toed Woodpecker: excavating nest hole Ferd's Bog 17 May (GL); Duck Hole area 31 May (T&WB) a good showing for this species. Black-backed Woodpecker: also at Duck Hole 26 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Gray Jay: Ferd's Bog 27 Apr; Moose River Plains 19-20 May (GL) only reports. Com. Raven: pair nesting CH 8 Apr. Boreal Chickadee: reports from Armstrong Mt, Duck Hole, Ferd's Bog, Mt Jo. Tufted Titmouse: transient arr Elizabethtown 17 Mar. Carolina Wren: Port Henry 12 Apr-15 May (GC), perhaps the only breeding locale for this species in the Region (see Atlas map). Marsh Wren: Webb Royce Swamp 6 May only report. Gray-cheeked Thrush: territorial birds at Duck Hole 28-30 May. N. Mockingbird: *intro*; widely reported this spring from Blue Mountain L, Chilson, CPt, Hogsburg, and Ticonderoga. Am. Pipit: 12 Bloomingdale 11 Apr (RH) a good find. Bohemian Waxwing: *intro* (JP *et al.*). Cedar Waxwing: 15 transients Elizabethtown 13 Mar. N. Shrike: transient ad Elizabethtown feeder 4 Apr the only report.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: *intro*; singing male Duck Hole 27 May (T&WB). Orange-crowned Warbler: *intro*. Cape May Warbler: *intro*. Yellow-rumped Warbler: record early arr Moriah feeder 1 Apr (GC). Palm Warbler: "Yellow" arr 21 Apr; "Western" arr CPt 12 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Elizabethtown 28 Apr (J&SP). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Fox Sparrow: arr Mountain View 11 Apr. Rusty Blackbird: max 20 Bloomingdale 17 Mar (RH). Orchard Oriole: *intro*. White-winged Crossbill: pr Westport 8 Mar, 28-29 Mar (GC); max 20 Paradox swamp 21 Apr, some singing (MB); Duck Hole 31 May (T&WB). Com. Redpoll: Inlet 8 Mar (GL) only report.

ADDENDA: Canada Goose: neck banded bird sighted Westport on 16 Dec 1989 Ferrisburg CBC (JP) had been banded in Maryland as an ad male 21 Jan 1986. Pine Siskin: banded bird found dead Golden Beach Pk HAML 14 Dec 1989 (GL) had been banded by D. G. Follen at Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 24 Jan 1988.

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

## REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

Most reporters concurred that Spring, 1990, was another in a growing series of lackluster migrations. We are being bombarded with messages about the decline of neotropical migrants. Is the decline real, and are our casual field observations reflecting it? I would answer, "I don't know" and "Probably not." Last winter I attended a symposium, sponsored by Manomet Bird Observatory, devoted entirely to the question of what is happening to populations of passerines that migrate into the tropics. I left with the conclusion that no very clear answer emerged. Data were presented that showed some species declining in some regions, but increasing or stable in others. Other neotropical migrant species seem to be increasing everywhere, some declining everywhere. Not all declining species go into the tropics. The issue is very complicated and I think it is not clear what the patterns are; in many of the cases where population declines seem clear, it is not known whether the problem lies on the wintering ground, the breeding ground, or both. It is hard to imagine that the massive deforestation that has occurred in Middle America (where most of our tropical migrants overwinter) has not had an adverse impact on migrant populations. But not all species require or even prefer mature forest habitat. Differences in species' ecology are one of the

complicating factors. The other, more relevant to our consideration here, is that the population changes are likely to be small. We are not going to go from an apparently normal situation to the silent spring in one step. This makes it very difficult to monitor with much confidence what is going on. At any one time, some bird populations are always declining, others increasing. What point do we pick as the standard against which to compare present levels? It is critically important that we continue to try to discern the trends so that we can know what is going on before populations reach crisis levels. One of the organizers of the conference used an apt metaphor: he noted that a man may be losing his hair at only two percent per year, but inevitably he will be bald.

Can local observations during migration tell us much about what is going on? Unless they are very systematically made and long term, I doubt it. This spring, for example, an observer in this Region would have to conclude that Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers, and the transient *Catharus* thrushes are on the verge of extinction. This is surely not the case. The problem is that there are many other variables besides actual population size. Notable among these is the fact that migration as viewed on the ground is strongly influenced by weather, both local and regional.

This spring's weather in Region 8 was odd in several ways that profoundly affected migration. March and April were the third and fourth straight months with temperatures averaging above normal. These two months, as well as May, were also above normal in precipitation, so that by the end of the period Albany was 7.5 inches above normal for the year. The first big weather event that influenced migration was that April was actually cool until near the end of the month. Beginning 26 Apr, abnormally warm air streamed northward, bringing record temperatures (90° on 26 Apr, 92° on 28 Apr). With this air mass came a huge push of migrants; many early and some record early arrival dates were established. During that three day period, 14 species of warbler arrived, along with Least and Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Wood Thrush, Gray Catbird, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole. Strangely, no overshoot southern species were found. With the beginning of May, winter returned; cool and wet weather dominated the first twenty days of the month. Migration came to a virtual standstill. Those species that didn't arrive at the end of April tended to be late. The situation didn't improve until the last ten days of the month when a period of fine weather with southerly winds occurred. Almost no

migrants were seen. Many active field observers saw one, two, or even no Blackpoll Warblers during the entire season! Tennessee Warblers, whose songs usually ring forth from every maple, were reported in ones and twos. Presumably they all just flooded through as rapidly as possible once the weather dam was broken.

The other extraordinary event of the spring was really an extension of winter events. Crossbills and Pine Siskin remained in large numbers and the latter bred in many places. Siskin numbers began building in late February and this continued through March and the first half of April. In 20 years of intensive banding of winter finches, Yunick had never seen anything like it. From January through May he banded 4044 siskins. He noted the first bird in breeding condition (female with brood patch) on 29 Mar in Schenectady. Males in breeding condition were noted at about the same time. Females with eggs in the oviduct were captured beginning on 7 Apr at Jenny L, and others sporadically until mid May. By that time, some females had brood patches that were beginning to refeather, indicating that breeding was completed. Young of the year first appeared in Schenectady on 9 May. Breeding activity was also noted in Berne (KPA) and S. Westerlo (BC). By the last half of May, numbers had declined markedly. Did they move north and breed again? Both crossbill species were present until the end of the period and may have bred, but nesting was not reported.

Rarities during the period included **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Little Gull**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Dickcissel**, and an extraordinary adult **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage.

Contributors: K.P. Able, M. Able, Alan Devoe Bird Club, E. Andrus, L. Armstrong, K. Beale, B. Boehm, M. Brunet, R. Calkins, P.F. Connor, Juanita and Jack Cook, W. Cook, B. Crins, K. Dunham, C. Fosdick, W. Gorman, E. Grace, M. Gruett, R.L. Holberton, P. Ingalls, N. Kern, M. Kuhrt, A. Long, S. Madison, A. Mapes, A. Mason, L. Meade, K. Omland, B. Putnam, E. Rising, A. Ross, W.B. Sabin, P. Saffold, D. Shaw, J. Sotis, S.B. Terrill, M. Ulmer, O. Whitbey, R.P. Yunick.

Abbreviations: Alcove - Alcove Res, ALBA; Basic - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BlCrM - Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar; SaraBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park; SaraL - Saratoga L.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Round L 5 May (SBT), only report. Com. Loon: 25 SaraL 15 Apr (SBT), large number. Pied-billed Grebe: seven reports including return to Stony Cr Res breeding locale. Horned Grebe: 15 SaraL 15 Apr (SBT), large number; one 26 May Basic (BC), late. Red-necked Grebe: max 20 SaraL 13 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: max 24 Hudson R COLU 26 Apr (PFC). Least Bittern: one BlCrM 22 May (BB,KB). Great Egret: one Vischer Ferry 19 May (CF). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: one ad Slingerlands ALBA 17



May (WBS). Mute Swan: stable on Hudson R south of Albany; near Ft Edward WASH 28 May (JS). Snow Goose: large movements 14-18 Mar; one each SaraL and Sutherland Pd COLU 19 May (WG, et al.; RC, et al.), late. Brant: flocks of 200-400 ALBA 15-20 May. Canvasback: 2000 Hudson R COLU 10,11 Mar (WC). Lesser Scaup: two Basic 27 May (BC), late. Oldsquaw: max 60 ALBA, SARA 21 Apr (SBT). Black Scoter: one Hudson R COLU 12 May (KD,EG,MU), rare in spring. Surf Scoter: six L George 30 Apr, 14 May (LM), rare in spring. Hooded Merganser: two nest boxes active Ghent and Churchtown COLU 7 May (fide WC). Com. Merganser: max 200+ Round L 25 Mar (SBT).

HAWK-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Gallupville 11 Mar (BB,KB). Bald Eagle: 18 reports including two hacked Alcove 1985 and 1988. N. Goshawk: increase, 14 reports including nesting Greenfield SARA (CF). Merlin: four reports. Peregrine Falcon: one each E Schodack 16 Mar, Catskill 31 Mar (PFC; fide WC). Ring-necked Pheasant: now regular only in COLU; one Hague WARR 15 Mar (MB), one Greenfield 19 May (CF). Black-bellied Plover: one Basic 25 Apr (KPA), record early; Basic 29 Apr, 26 May (BC), rare in spring. Semipalmated Plover: max 20 Basic 26 May (BC). Greater Yellowlegs: one Basic 27 May (BC), late. Upland Sandpiper: one COLU 12 May (NK,DS), one Minaville 26 May (BB,KB). Dunlin: Basic 6-27 May, max 11 16 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 Basic 16 May (KPA), rare in spring. **Little Gull**: one ad Alcove 15 Apr (KPA), second Regional record. **Franklin's Gull**: one ad SaraL 19 May (WG,PFC,MG,MK), second Regional record, first in spring. Com. Tern: 15+ SaraL 19 May (PFC, et al.), large number.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: one Ancram 10 May (fide PI), early. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Jefferson 25 May (AM), only report. Short-eared Owl: one each Claverack 12 Apr, Ancram 12 May (WC). N. Saw-whet Owl: two reports of migrants. Whip-poor-will: arr WARR 30 Apr (BP). Red-headed Woodpecker: COLU 12 May (JJC), only report. Red-bellied Woodpecker: three reports, all COLU.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: one Greenport COLU 9 May (WC), early. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Vischer Ferry 19 May (RPY), only report. Great Crested Flycatcher: one Delmar 29 Apr (SM), early. E. Kingbird: arr 28 Apr, early. Purple Martin: 20+ Hague after mid Apr (LM), possible new breeding locality. Tree Swallow: six Schuylerville 13 Mar (BP), early. Barn Swallow: arr FiveR 10 Apr (AM), early. Fish Crow: nesting again Schenectady (RPY). Com. Raven: reported from Thacher SP, Petersburg, Hague. Black-capped Chickadee: at Jenny L small numbers in winter built in Mar and Apr, with 114 captures in Apr; many spring birds were lingerers from winter; 20 males in breeding condition in May were far more than the usual 4-6 breeding pairs (RPY). Tufted Titmouse: breeding again 1250 ft elevation at Jenny L (RPY). Red-breasted Nuthatch: stayed and bred in several atypical places; late winter and early spring numbers well above average at Jenny L (RPY). Carolina Wren: four reports including Chrysler Pd COLU (WC), FiveR (AM). Golden-crowned Kinglet: large movement 13 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 10 Apr FiveR (AM). Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Thacher SP 26 May (LA), only report. Wood Thrush:

one Schodack Center 27 Apr (PFC), early. Cedar Waxwing: numerous. N. Shrike: singles Gansevoort 8 Mar (BP), Jefferson 6 Apr (AM).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: one L Taghkanic 28 Apr (WC), early. Red-eyed Vireo: one Olana COLU 9 May (WC), early. Tennessee Warbler: two Albany 9 May (KPA,RLH), early. Orange-crowned Warbler: two Delmar 16 May (SM), rare in spring. N. Parula: one BiCrM 28 Apr (SBT), early. Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Berne 29 Apr (KPA), early. Cape May Warbler: one m Luther Woods SARA 28 Apr (SBT), very early. Bay-breasted Warbler: one m SaraL 5 May (SBT), early. Hooded Warbler: unconfirmed report of male stunned by window Colonie 24 May (fide BB). Wilson's Warbler: one FiveR 9 May (AM), record early.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Berne 29 Apr (KPA), early. Indigo Bunting: arr Gallupville 10 May (BB,KB), early. Dickcissel: male Ghent last seen 1 Apr (OW). Am. Tree Sparrow: last Gansevoort 8 May (BP). Grasshopper Sparrow: SaraBNHP 12 May (BB,KB). Henslow's Sparrow: SaraBNHP 6 May (BB,KB). Lincoln's Sparrow: scarcer than usual (RPY). Dark-eyed Junco: departed Schenectady 27-28 Apr, earlier than usual (RPY). Bobolink: arr Knox 30 Apr (KPA). Rusty Blackbird: two pair Ballston L to end of period (SBT). Brown-headed Cowbird: continues scarce Jenny L; more numerous 10-15 years ago (RPY). Orchard Oriole: two reports COLU. Pine Grosbeak: three reports, last Hague 24 Mar (LM,ER). House Finch: not as numerous Schenectady as 10-15 years ago (RPY). Red Crossbill: lingered late; 20 Cole Hill SF 16, 19 May (KPA,RLH), 25 FiveR 16 May (AM). White-winged Crossbill: present to end of period; 200 Partridge Run GMA 11 Mar (BC); 7,4 Cole Hill SF 16, 19 May (KPA,RLH). Com. Redpoll: three reports of singles. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: last Jenny L 19 May (RPY).

*Department of Biology, State University of New York, Albany, NY 12222*

## REGION 9 - DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN MANSON

A record breaking hot spell in mid March sent temperatures soaring into the 80s and provided some early spring peeper records for the Hudson Valley. However, the promise of an early spring was dashed by three inches of snow at the month's end. Waterfowl migration on the Hudson River was generally poor, although some inland ponds brought forth some good sightings. Eastern Bluebird began nesting in March but some did not succeed due to cold wet weather and lack of insects. Later nestings were mostly successful. April was generally cool although temperatures averaged 3.5° higher than normal. Some birds were at least

a week late but a flurry of activity in late April brought in some good migrants. May seemed to be either rainy or windy and generally cool, which made birding hard. The leaves were pretty well out by the time most census runs were done in mid month and, though most were in, warblers were hard to see. A few species were late arriving.

Humpo Marsh continues to add surprises. This year a Black Tern was seen. Mallard and Wood Duck hatched young and both Green-backed and Great Blue Heron persisted but as yet no nests have been found.

Steve Stanne reports while out in a boat in the Hudson River just north of the Tappan Zee Bridge he saw a **shearwater**. He was in mid channel and the bird was moving up river off the east shore. A brief view through 7x50 binoculars allowed the following observation: "Wednesday, April 11, 3:15 pm. a small shearwater flying north on the Hudson off Kingsland Pt Park in N. Terrytown - low glide over water followed by a climb - rapid wing beats, stiffly held wings - then another glide; at a distance all I could make out was dark, almost black upper parts, white underparts and wing linings - no other distinguishing pattern or marks on wings or body such as darker cap or white at base of tail" He was not able to distinguish between Manx and Audubon's Shearwaters on the basis of the field marks seen but the season as well as both species' seasonal occurrence in the northeast suggest Manx Shearwater. This interesting observation must remain a tentative record only.

Contributors: Arlene Borko, Frank Brown, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Florence Germond, Thelma Haight, David Hayes, Alice Jones, Jim and Mary Key, Helen Manson, Ken McDermott, Barbara Michelin, Mickie & Tom Mutchler, Jo Orth, Eleanor Pink, Selden Spencer, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: EMBC - Edgar Mearns Bird Club; HMHW - Hook Mt Hawkwatch; MPHW - Mount Peter Hawkwatch; SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society; WMC - Waterman May Census, 12 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one Rondout Res 11 Apr (JW), one West Branch Res 12 Apr (FB), one White L 12 Apr (AJ). Pied-billed Grebe: most areas by mid Mar. Horned Grebe: three, one in Alt plumage, Ashakan Res 6 Apr (DH), one 31 Mar. Round Pd, DUTC (JMK). **Red-necked Grebe**: one Round Pd 7-18 Mar (DF, MY), one Orange L 24 Mar (KMCD). **Shearwater sp**: *intro*. Double-crested Cormorant: three Upper Toronto Res 10 Apr (AJ), first she has ever seen there; well observed on the Hudson R. Am. Bittern: three WMC, one Valkill 18 Apr (DH); few noted (JPT). Least Bittern: none! Great Blue Heron: many singles noted; on nests Tamarack 11 Mar, one on nest between lanes of Taconic Parkway DUTC; seven on nests and on ground Warwick 25 Mar (ET); also noted at nests Stissing. Green-backed Heron: very few (JPT), six WMC, one Dover Plains 25

Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one 19-20 L Walton (BM). Tundra Swan: one overhead honking like a goose Monticello 30 Apr (AB). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Greenland race Round Pd 6-16 Mar (MY, DF, ET). Snow Goose: 300-400 overhead Hartland 28 Mar (M & TM); ten 11-31 Mar Round Pd DUTC; good night flights. Brant: large transits up the Hudson R evening 8 Mar (ET). **Barnacle Goose:** one Round Pd 6-11 Mar. Canada Goose: many wintered; return flights mid Mar, nesting early Apr. Wood Duck: abundant SULL, ORAN: 40-50 Bashakill 31 Mar, 60 WMC. Green-winged Teal: 29 DUTC Mar-Apr. Am. Black Duck: female with nine y Wappingers Creek (MVW), normal throughout Region. N. Pintail: four Neversink R through Mar, six Round Pd 11 Mar. Blue-winged Teal: two Bashakill 12 May, eight central DUTC mid Apr, two L Walton 22 Apr. N. Shoveler: four 6 1/2 Mile Station 17 Mar (JPT); one Wassaic 17 Mar (DF, MY). Am Wigeon: two L Walton 7 Mar, four Round Pd 17 Mar. Canvasback: max 20 Hudson R in Mar (OTW), scarce; four Round Pd. Redhead: four Round Pd 16 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: good numbers most areas, max 50 Abels Pd, 60 Round Pd. Greater Scaup: three L Oniad DUTC Apr; six Hudson R 6 Apr; four Orange L 31 Apr. Lesser Scaup: observed Hudson R 24 Mar (JBNHS). Oldsquaw: one Hudson R 6 Apr. Com. Goldeneye: 15 Hudson R Mar two Travers Marsh DUTC 27 Mar. Bufflehead: two Bashakill 31 Mar, six Beaver Dam Pd 10 Mar (VF), four Kenoza L 20 Apr (DH); seven Kays Pd 11 Mar. Hooded Merganser: six Beaver Dam Pd 2 Mar (SCAS), nesting in Wood Duck box Stissing (TH). Com. Merganser: good migration PUTN (FB) and DUTC (OTW); 40 Rondout Res 27 Swan L (SCAS). Red-breasted Merganser: good migration PUTN, stayed well into Apr (FB).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture:** three HMHW, two flying north with 12 Turkey Vultures Iona I 22 Mar (ET); three over Wisner Farm ORAN 7 Mar. Turkey Vulture: 80 at a roost Ellenville 16 Mar. Osprey: arr Neversink Res 2 Mar, very early (JPT), 60 HMHW, 79 MPHWS Apr; two Bashakill 19 May, two WMC. Bald Eagle: one HMHW, three MPHWS; one pair hatched two young SULL; imm Bashakill all spring; scattered singles several SULL sites; ad Ashokan Res 4 Mar (DH); one 23 May, one Wawarsing 16-19 Mar (JO), two MPHWS; scattered sightings DUTC Mar, Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 99 MPHWS, 361 HMHW, several reports at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: 18 HMHW, five MPHWS, nesting for second year Millbrook area. N. Goshawk: two WMC, one HMHW, one Taconic 14 Apr (BM). Red-shouldered Hawk: 66 HMHW, one over Newburg 19 May (JPT), one MPHWS, one Valkill 27 Mar, one Ferncliff DUTC 9 May. Broad-winged Hawk: 1784 HMHW, 974 MPHWS, five WMC, 30 Tamarack and Pleasant Valley 20 Apr, 40 over Hudson R 26 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: nesting most areas. Rough-legged Hawk: several at three SULL locales early Mar; one Pond Gut DUTC 10 Mar. Golden Eagle: one Rhinebeck 2 Mar, eating squirrel. Am. Kestrel: 158 HMHW, 14 MPHWS, 14 WMC; seem normal or better in DUTC. Merlin: nine HMHW, five MPHWS, injured bird found in Carmel, taken to Green Chimney farm to have its broken wing mended, it survived but probably will not be released. Peregrine Falcon: one MPHWS, one HMHW; Dr. Heinz Meng reports an extensive survey is being planned to determine if any pairs are settling in the

Shawangunk Mts, where it is hoped that they will return to the old nesting sites that were last used in 1957. Ruffed Grouse: 12 WMC. Wild Turkey: good sightings continue most areas. **King Rail**: two WMC from marsh near Pine Plains. Virginia Rail: reported from Bashakill, scattered areas DUTC. Greater Yellowlegs: three WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two Amenia 6 Apr. Solitary Sandpiper: one Bashakill 12 May, 29 WMC. Spotted Sandpiper: 24 WMC. Upland Sandpiper: two pair on territory Blue Chip Farm 25 Apr. Least Sandpiper: 12 WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: four Blue Chip Farm 25 Apr, two WMC. Dunlin: one Amenia 18 May. Com. Snipe: three or four displaying and winnowing upper Cape Rd 26 Apr (VF). Am. Woodcock: displaying Claryville 16 Mar. Com. Tern: seven WMC. Black Tern: one Humpo Marsh 7 May, one Bashakill 19 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: Black-billed Cuckoo: calling Carmel 9 May, ten WMC; scarce? SULL, ORAN (JPT). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: four WMC. E. Screech-Owl: very few reported. Great Horned Owl: fairly well reported. Barred Owl: one WMC, one Valkill 14-28 (DH). Short-eared Owl: three Pine I 4 Mar (ET), five Gailville Airport 10 Mar, put on a fine show (JPT). N. Saw-whet Owl: one Claryville 1 Mar (SCAS) where they breed. Com. Nighthawk: many DUTC 25 May, 14 WMC. Whip-poor-will: common Bashakill, one WMC, one calling one night only Moores Mills, persistent at Stissing Mt. Red-headed Woodpecker: few sightings most areas, one Poughkeepsie 26-27 May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one Vassar College 10 Mar. N. Flicker: big migration through Fahnestock Park 11-12 Apr (FB).

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Dunderburg Mt 8 May (ET), record early; one WMC, one Bashakill 19 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Bangall DUTC 24 May (MVW). Acadian Flycatcher: two Deep Hollow 25 May, where they nest, arr 22 May SULL. Alder Flycatcher: three at three locales central DUTC. E. Kingbird: arr DUTC 25 Apr. Purple Martin: two or three small colonies DUTC. Com. Raven: several reports SULL, one Millbrook 24 Apr, one WMC at Dover Furnace. Red-breasted Nuthatch: common winter feeder resident, stayed well into spring. Carolina Wren: good numbers throughout Region. House Wren: most returned by 20 Apr. Winter Wren: singing several places DUTC and SULL Mar-May. Marsh Wren: six Tivoli Bay 26 May (DH), eight WMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: one WMC, eastern DUTC. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: most arrived mid Apr. E. Bluebird: widespread and pleasantly common, *intro*. **Mountain Bluebird**: one N. Terrytown 20 Apr (Robert Lewis). **Townsend's Solitaire**: the bird first discovered in e DUTC by Marion VanWagner, Mary Yegella, Jean Beck and Dot Fleury (whose names I omitted in the last report) was last seen 13 Mar. Gray-cheeked Thrush: few noted in transit (JPT). Swainson's Thrush: very few DUTC, one singing 17-18 May (BM). Hermit Thrush: very quiet. Brown Thrasher: 22 WMC.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: White-eyed Vireo: second record Mine Torne Rd 22 Apr (EMBC) did not stay; pair Haight Hill through May (MVW, EP), one Vassar Farm 1 May. Solitary Vireo: nest building Pond Gut 8 May. Philadelphia Vireo: two Bashakill 28 Apr, one Ferncliff 24 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: two Buttercup

Sanctuary DUTC, very scarce most areas. Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler: one "Lawrence's" Vassar Campus Apr-May. Cerulean Warbler: three males fighting for territory Ferncliff 9 May, colony heard regularly Doodletown early May (ET). Prothonotary Warbler: one 18 May Bashakill (EMBC). Louisiana Waterthrush: arr on time DUTC 13 Apr and Doodletown 20 Apr (ET). Kentucky Warbler: one Doodletown Cemetery 15 May. Mourning Warbler: one 23 May Valkill (DH); one Bashakill 19 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: arr Pawling 28 Apr, very early; most arrived first week of May. Indigo Bunting: arr two Mine Rd 28 Apr, at least two weeks early (ET). Am. Tree Sparrow: last 25 Apr. Fox Sparrow: lingered through Mar and into early Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: two reports totaling three birds. White-crowned Sparrow: five WMC. Dark-eyed Junco: singing Deep Hollow DUTC late May, where they nest. E. Meadowlark: good spring population. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: well described male 12-13 May Iona I with Red-winged Blackbird (ET). Rusty Blackbird: heavy transit early Mar (JPT), scarce DUTC. Orchard Oriole: one Stewart Airport 29 Apr (OCAS). Purple Finch: low numbers most areas, 30 at feeder Apr, three pair May (FG). White-winged Crossbill: flock of 50± in Catskills ULST 7 Apr (Bill Swabb). Evening Grosbeak: regular at feeders SULL, ORAN, few into Mar; max 30 at De Bruce (JPT).

*Moore's Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569*

## REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

March started with normal temperatures and monthly rainfall a scant half inch less than the 4.25 inch normal. But that was all that was normal. The temperature slowly rose to the mid fifties in the first week, plunged to 12° on 7 Mar, and then moved steadily upwards by mid month to record three new daily highs including 85° on 12 Mar. The monthly temperature averaged 3.7 degrees above normal. April also had a new high, 90° on 29 Apr, the second of two over 90° days. Precipitation was 1.37 inches above normal, and included two inches of snow on the ground on 7 Apr, which all melted by noon. In spite of this, April's temperature was still 1.1° above normal. Reversing the trend May was 2.3° below normal, reached 80° only on three days during the month and included a new daily low. The rain was 9.10 inches against a normal of 3.76 inches so our April showers were delayed and the temperature reversed.

As in recent spring migrations, there are the continued comments of

fewer birds. These comments are highlighted by the emphasis on a few so called flight days. We used to have migration days which were good and "great days". Now we hope there's a "flight day" when we're out birding. This spring flight days were reported to us as 26 Apr, 8 and 18-20 May.

The most spectacular bird of the season was a **Cave Swallow** of Caribbean race seen with many Cliff Swallows at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary on 23 May by Kenn Kaufman, Geoff LeBaron and Susan Drennan. This will be a new NY State record, if accepted by the NYSARC.

Henry Flamm's report from Staten Island included an increasingly interesting list of birds including Glaucous Gull, Chuck-will's-widow at Blue Heron Pond, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager and nesting Boat-tailed Grackles. The oil spills in the channel were not mentioned. The ultimate effect on the wildlife will probably not be known for some time, although the immediate negative aspects have already appeared in the local press. (To be watched and commented upon).

The Moriches Bay Audubon Society had a big day on 12 May. Four parties saw an aggregate total of 171 species of 15,654 individuals. All groups broke 100 with the highest party count 132. Highlights of the day included King Eider, Black-necked Stilt, local nesting owls consisting of Barn, Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned, Red-headed Woodpecker, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Hooded Warbler, Vesper Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow.

The wintering pair of Turkey Vulture reported from eastern Long Island were seen throughout the spring, although mostly as solitary birds after mid March. The last sighting reported to us was 24 May by Gail Ruscica. Others were seen in Nassau Co. in May. Osprey continues its western expansion on Long Island with a new nest at Cow Meadow Park in Freeport. All active Nassau Co. nests known by us appear to be on poles placed in the marshes by town and county conservation personnel. Their efforts have been rewarded and they are to be commended. Peregrine Falcon continues its steady increase, substituting man-made cliffs for natural ones. Within the five boroughs of New York City nine pairs have been noted this spring, four in Manhattan, one in Queens, and two each in Staten Island and Brooklyn. Four nests were active with young at the end of the period, half on bridges and half on office buildings. Although eagles have been reported during all months in the past, most either have been fall wanderers or wintering birds. This

spring there were several scattered sightings of immature Bald Eagle, including one resting in the dunes at Jones Beach.

Notes from JBWR shorebird survey, courtesy of Arthur Morris and Dave Mizrahi, indicate that total shorebirds were slightly below the seven year maximum average. Some individual species comparisons follow: Semipalmated Plover down by half, 1601 Ruddy Turnstone is four times the previous maxima, Semipalmated Sandpiper 69% below the 7-year average maximum. Elsewhere, **Black-necked Stilt** made its appearance with two sightings, one out east at Wainscott Pond on 13 May by John J. Ruscica and the other 31 May from Cow Meadow Park in Freeport by Peter Martin.

On 2 Mar, Paul Gillen reported seeing a feeding melee in Shinnecock Inlet of 1000+ Bonaparte's Gull, 100+ Herring Gull, an adult Basic plumaged Common Black-headed Gull and an Iceland Gull. Patience and some luck are needed to find these rarer gulls attracted to the Bonaparte's Gull flocks. Similar flocks at Jones Inlet contained both Little Gull and Common Black-headed Gull this spring. One of the latter species frequented the West 12th piers in Manhattan in March.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Matt Bayer, John Bull, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Steve Dempsey, Henry F. Flamm, Paul H. Gillen, Thomas Hook, William J. Kolodnicki, Dave Kunstler, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin; David Mizrahi, Arthur Morris, Michael O'Brien, John J. Ruscica, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: APP - Alley Pd Park; BNL - Brookhaven National Laboratory; CRSP - Connetquot River SP; LI - Long Island; HLSP - Hempstead Lake SP; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; JoIn - Jones Inlet; LI - Long Island; MPt - Montauk Point; NB - Napeague Bay; StCh - St. Charles Cemetery; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: one MPt 24 Mar. Eared Grebe: one off Pt Lookout 11 Mar (SW). Sooty Shearwater: seen from shore near Wainscott 13 May. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 7 nests Hewlett area (JB). Greater White-fronted Goose: imm near Watermill 3 Mar (TB), ad there 10 Mar (SW). **Ross' Goose**: one near Watermill to 18 Mar (mob). Eurasian Wigeon: one Deep Hole Creek, Mattituck 10 Mar (JR), one JBWR 17 Mar. King Eider: one MPt 13 May. Harlequin Duck: one to two MPt late Mar, max of 24 JoIn 18-20 Mar with at least 20 seen throughout March; 14 still present 14 Apr. Ruffed Grouse: BNL 5 May (James Osterlung).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*. Osprey: *intro*. Bald Eagle: imm JBWR 18 Mar, imm Battery P, N.Y.C 6 Apr (SW), imm Whitestone 20 Apr (Art Scopec), imm Floyd Bennet Field 11 May, imm JBch W End 24 May (SS,AW). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. **Black-necked Stilt**: *intro*. Whimbrel: isolated birds reported along entire s shore LI. Curlew Sandpiper: one in bright Alt plumage and one



changing plumage Sagg Pd 22-26 May (A. Baldelli, mob). Am. Woodcock: 10 displaying along Wantagh Parkway from s Merrick Road to JBch after dusk 4 Apr (PM). Wilson's Phalarope: one 27-28 Apr JBWR. Com. Black-headed Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: *intro*, one JBch 14 Apr. Lesser Black-backed Gull: one NB 11 Mar. Glaucous Gull: singles NB to 30 Mar, JFKWS 31 Mar, Far Rockaway 11 May. Caspian Tern: one Orient Beach SP 1 Apr, five Moriches Inlet 18 Apr and 24-26 May, ShIn 28 Apr, JoIn 21 May. Black Tern: two JBch W End 30 Apr (PM), one JBWR 13 May. Razorbill: off Tobay 21 Mar (B. Hines).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Snowy Owl: singles NB 3 Mar, ShIn to early Mar, JBch to early Mar, Orient Pt 1 Apr (PG). Short-eared Owl: last wintering bird JBch W End 1 Apr (PM). Chuck-will's-widow: *intro*; one 1 May Riverhead (JR). Whip-poor-will: CRSP. Red-headed Woodpecker: one BNL 1-12 May (Trina & Henry Halma, JR), one Forest P 12 May, one Pelham Bay P 14 May (DK), one Prospect P 12-19 May.

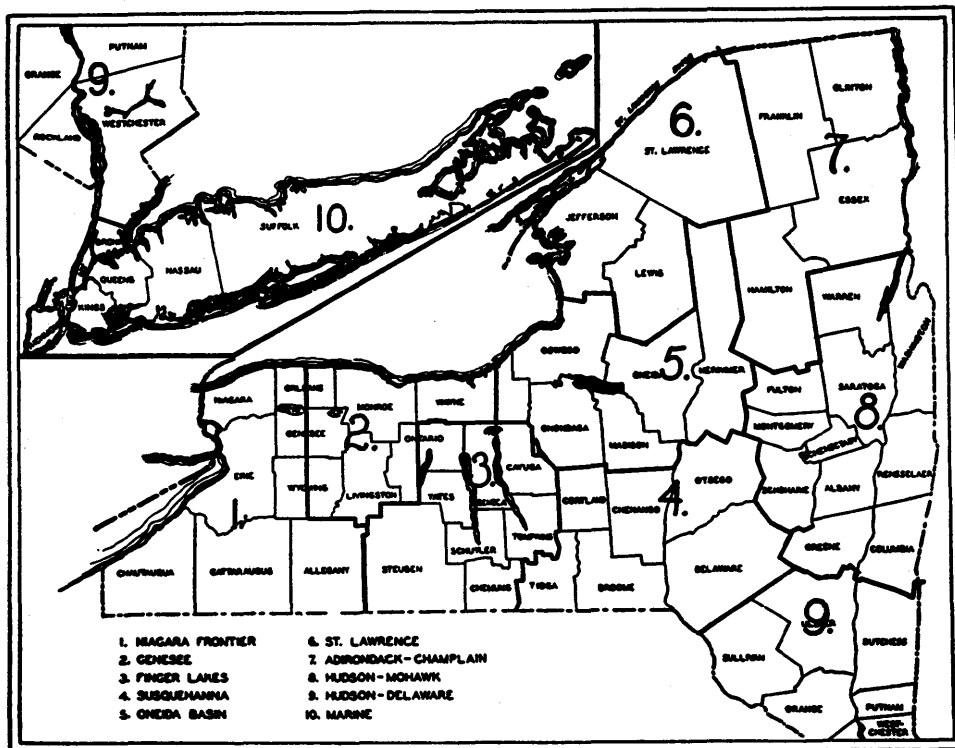
FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one HLSP 19 May, one Forest P 24 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: four Forest P 24 May. Acadian Flycatcher: one Forest P 26 May. **Cave Swallow**: *intro*. Carolina Wren: increased numbers reported by several observers. E. Bluebird: a dozen wintered at CRSP, nesting uncertain as this writing.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Prospect P, one Forest P 12 May, one Yaphank 20 May. Golden-winged Warbler: one APP 7 May. Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" type at birdbath in Baldwin 28 Apr (EL). Orange-crowned Warbler: one Central P 8 May. Yellow-throated Warbler: one Prospect P 7 Apr (M.Sohmer). Cerulean Warbler: a few including one Central P 29 Apr. Prothonotary Warbler: one APP 2-3 May, one Prospect P 4 May, HLSP 6-8 May (MB, mob), Belmont SP 23 May (JR). Worm-eating Warbler: widespread. **Swainson's Warbler**: one Central P 28 Apr-1 May (Jerry Fiore, mob). Kentucky Warbler: one Forest P 12 May. Mourning Warbler: one Riverdale P 8 May, others 17 May till end of period, Hooded Warbler: several from 28 Apr. Yellow-breasted Chat: several reports.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: uncommon but widespread. Blue Grosbeak: male HLSP 6 May (MB, mob). Lapland Longspur: 22 StCh 11 Mar. Bobolink: two Cow Meadow Park, Freeport 6 May, three JBch W End 14 May (PM), also 18 same date Riverhead. Boat-tailed Grackle: two male and three female in Great Kills P 22 Apr (John Stonick) to the end of May (HF), nest found 1 June; other reports from JBWR and JFKWS. Purple Finch: a male at HLSP 26 Apr one of few reported; more detail needed on this species for the Region in the spring. Red Crossbill: two StCh 10 Mar. Pine Siskin: one at thistle feeder 27 Apr (BA).

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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