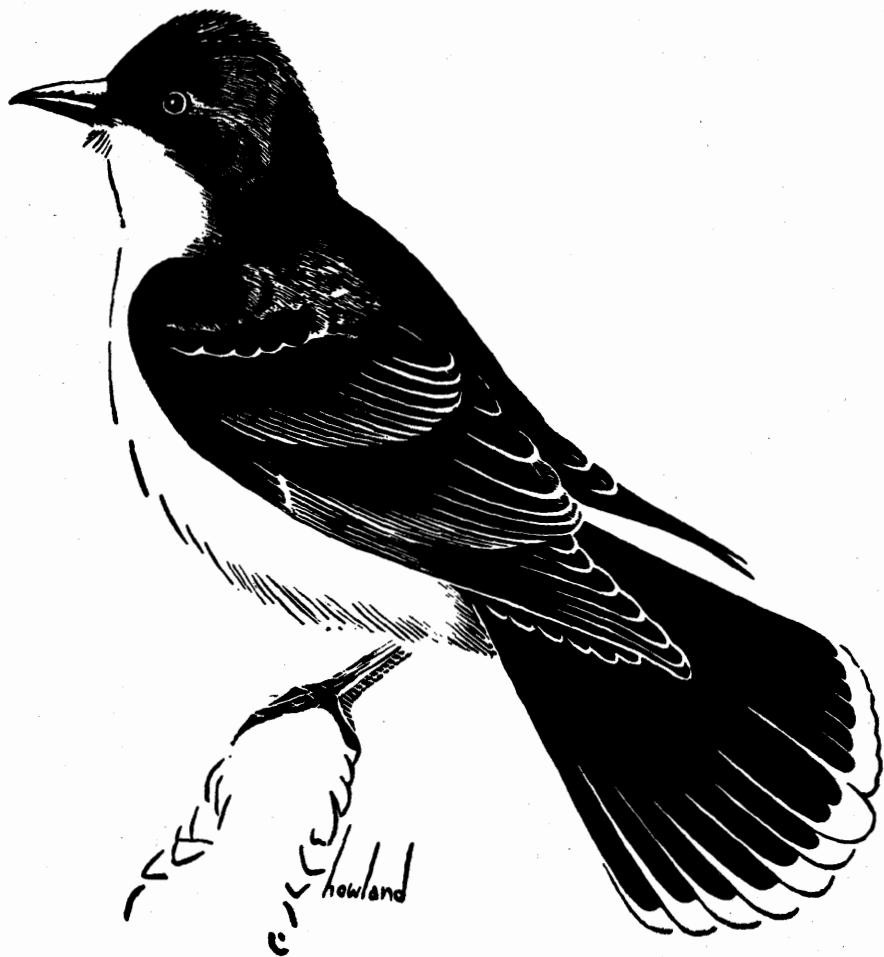


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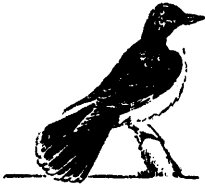
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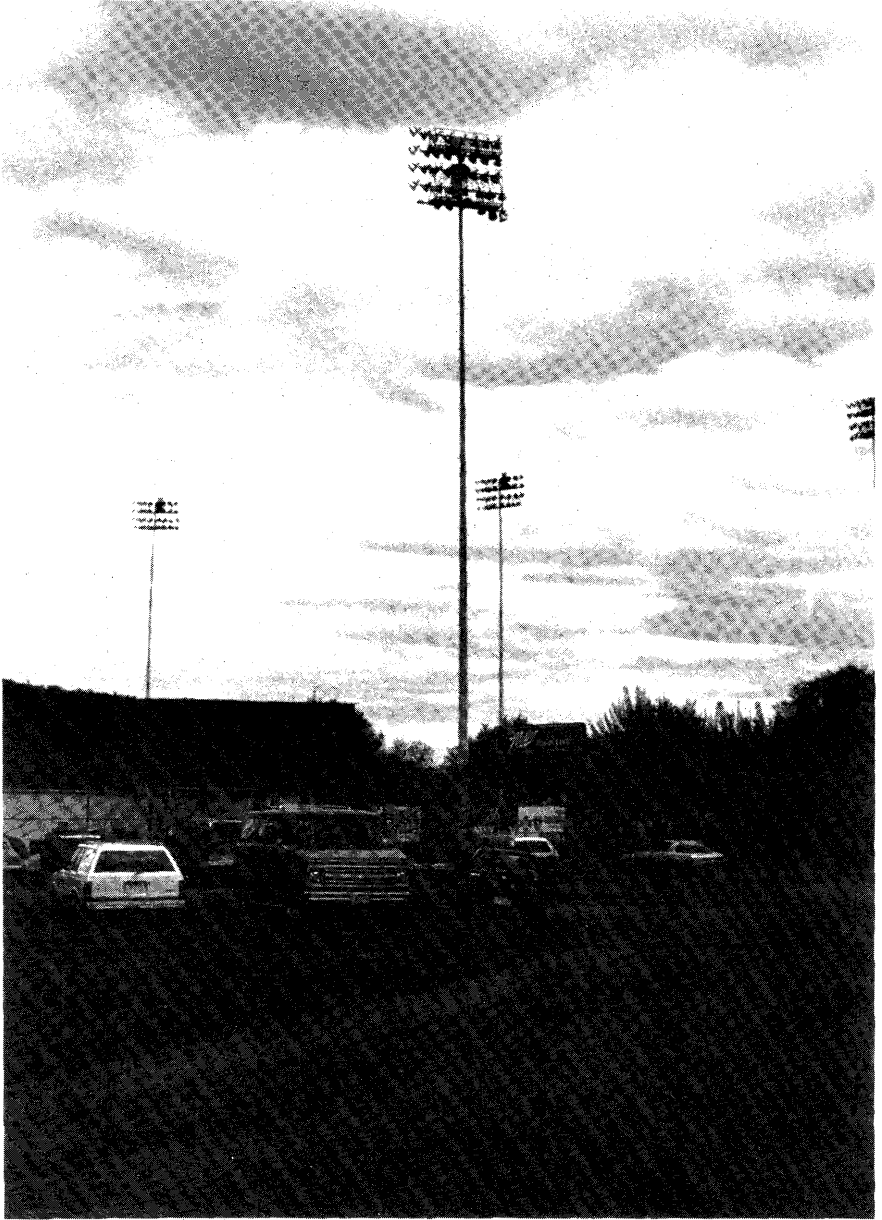
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Common Raven nest site at Elmira, New York. See Notes and Observations. Photograph by Richard Clements.

MOVEMENT OF THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE IN NEW YORK STATE ANALYZED THROUGH BANDING RE-ENCOUNTERS

ELIZABETH W. BROOKS

The status of the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) in New York State is described by Bull (1974) as sedentary and migratory, occasionally very abundant in fall irruptions. Studies by Butts (1931) and Yunick (1982) described fall and winter influxes of chickadees in New York. Chickadee irruptive years in the northeast are identified and summarized by Bagg (1969), DeBenedictis (1976, 1987, 1982, 1984, 1986) and Hall (1981). Fascinating accounts in Bull (1974) and Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) describe massive movements of chickadees along the Lake Ontario shore in October 1954 and 1961.

Banding re-encounters of Black-capped Chickadee provide fragmented but useful data that allow analysis of timing, duration, direction and extent of movement of this species. Between 1922 and 1986, nearly 46,000 Black-capped Chickadees were banded in New York. The Bird Banding Laboratory in Laurel, MD, supplied a computer printout listing 1378 chickadees which were banded in the state and re-encountered elsewhere. Most of these re-encounters involved retraps or deaths in the immediate vicinity of the banding location. Twenty-one involved movement less than ten miles from the banding site and were not included in my analysis. Thirty-two New York chickadees were re-encountered more than ten miles from the banding location. An additional 14 birds were banded outside New York and re-encountered within the state.

METHODS

I analyzed these re-encounters to determine timing, duration, direction and extent of movements. Timing of movement was organized by seasons. Fall was defined as any time between 15 July, when breeding and post-breeding dispersal should have been completed, and 12 January, the earliest date when spring movement is thought to be initiated (Brooks 1989, Yunick 1982). Spring was defined as any time between 13 January and 14 July, although this obviously includes the breeding season. Birds encountered between 1 June and 14 July would not have moved in any substantial distance away relative to their location at the onset of the breeding season.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows directions taken by 11 Black-capped Chickadee involved in fall movements in New York State. Table 1, part A, shows data on nine Black-capped Chickadee banded in New York and re-encountered the same fall. Four of these represent re-encounter distances over 200 miles. The Penn Yan, NY, to Monroeville, PA, record demonstrates the fastest rate of movement (11.6 miles/day). Especially noteworthy are the two birds, banded within 24 hours of each other at Braddock Bay, Town of Greece, that were retrapped three weeks later at Clarkson (14 miles SW) where one was recaptured 12 times between 22 November 1987 and 1 March 1988 and the other was recaptured ten times between 25 November and 28 April 1989 before both disappeared. Part B shows data on three chickadees banded out-of-state during fall and re-encountered in New York during the same or a subsequent fall. In the ten fall re-encounters during the same fall, the average distance moved was 135 miles, the average interval between banding and re-encounter was 45 days, and the average distance moved was 3 miles per day. Of the 12 chickadees involved in fall movements, five were hatching year (HY), three were after hatching year (AHY), and three were of unknown age (U). Seven of the 12 birds moved toward the southwest quadrant. All but two of the birds moved in years identified as irruptive years but it should be noted that 1987, when the two birds moved from Braddock Bay to Clarkson together, was designated as a locally heavy

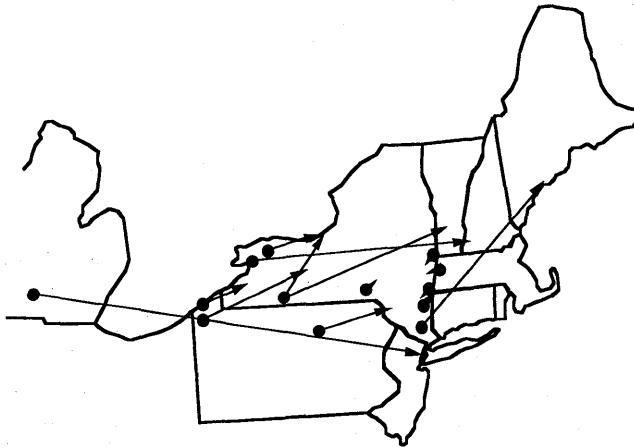


Figure 1. Direction taken by seventeen Black-capped Chickadee banded and/or re-encountered in New York during the spring.

Table 1. Re-encounters of Black-capped Chickadees banded in the fall
 Years identified as irruptive years are italicized

Age	Banding Location	Date	Re-encounter Location	Date	Distance & Direction	Days Elapsed
A) Banded in New York and re-encountered the same fall						
AHY	Meridian, NY	<i>6 Oct 61</i>	Longmeadow, MA	2 Dec 61	220 mi ESE	57
AHY	Kingston, NY	<i>12 Sep 61</i>	Buffalo, NY	19 Nov 61	260 mi WNW	68
U	Bronx, NY	<i>25 Sep 65</i>	Brookhaven, NY	9 Oct 65	50 mi E	14
HY	Ellenville, NY	<i>23 Sep 68</i>	Monaca, PA	4 Nov 68	318 mi WSW	42
U	Penn Yan, NY	<i>26 Oct 69</i>	Monroeville, PA	13 Nov 69	208 mi SW	18
AHY	Babylon, NY	<i>23 Jul 71</i>	St. James, NY	3 Dec 71	16 mi NE	133
U	Penn Yan, NY	<i>27 Sep 75</i>	Cortland, NY	26 Oct 75	47 mi E	29
HY	Braddock Bay, NY	1 Nov 87	Clarkson, NY	22 Nov 87	14 mi SW	21
HY	Braddock Bay, NY	2 Nov 87	Clarkson, NY	25 Nov 87	14 mi SW	23
B) Banded out-of-state and re-encountered in New York in the fall						
AHY	Martha's Vnyd, MA	<i>15 Nov 59</i>	White Plains, NY	21 Oct 60	166 mi WSW	
HY	Manomet, MA	<i>24 Sep 69</i>	Richmond Hill, NY	Dec 69	201 mi SW	
HY	Manomet, MA	<i>16 Oct 71</i>	Ardslay, NY	Aug 72	178 mi SW	
C) Banded in New York State and re-encountered in a subsequent spring						
U	Brookhaven, NY	<i>2 Oct 65</i>	Old Furnace, MA	9 Mar 67	115 mi NNE	
			Oakham, MA	30 Dec 68	120 mi NNE	
U	Penfield, NY	<i>25 Nov 65</i>	Mexico, NY	14 Apr 66	67 mi EME	
U	Ithaca, NY	<i>9 Nov 69</i>	W. Glover, VT	4 Apr 71	254 mi NE	
U	Binghamton, NY	<i>11 Oct 83</i>	Oswego, NY	5 May 84	99 mi NNW	
HY	Voorheesville, NY	<i>27 Oct 85</i>	Dummerston	11 Apr 86	75 mi EME	
D) Banded out-of-state and re-encountered in New York in a Subsequent Spring						
U	Rector, PA	<i>11 Oct 61</i>	Hancock, NY	Mar 63	239 mi NE	
U	Meadville, PA	<i>28 Dec 61</i>	Gloversville, NY	Feb 64	313 mi NE	
U	Morris Plains, NJ	<i>22 Sep 75</i>	Hopewell Jct., NY	5 Apr 76	75 mi NME	
U	Brush Valley, PA	<i>8 Nov 75</i>	Port Henry, NY	9 Jun 76	400 mi NE	

migration but was not identified as a generally occurring irruption. Part C shows data on five chickadees banded during the fall in New York and re-encountered during a subsequent spring. Part D shows data on four chickadees banded out-of-state in the fall and re-encountered in New York in the spring. Distances averaged 182 miles and all but one chickadee had moved toward the NE quadrant.

Figure 2 shows the direction of movement of 20 Black-capped Chickadee moving during the spring. Table 2, Part A, shows data on nine Black-capped Chickadee banded in New York that were banded and re-encountered in the same spring. The average distance moved was 74 miles; the average time elapsed was 50 days; and the average rate of movement was about 1 mile per day. Part B shows an additional three re-encounters involving chickadees banded in New York in the spring and re-encountered in a later spring. Part C shows five more chickadees banded out-of-state during spring and re-encountered in New York during the same or subsequent spring. Nine of the 17 spring chickadees had moved toward the NE quadrant. Part D, shows data on four Black-capped Chickadees banded during spring and re-encountered during fall, including the remarkable record of a chickadee banded in Pennsylvania that moved 225 miles NE and was recaptured four times in Phoenix, New York, on dates ranging from late fall to early spring from 1980 to 1984. What is noteworthy about these captures is that this bird never repeated at the banding site nor at the recapture site at any other time other than the dates noted.

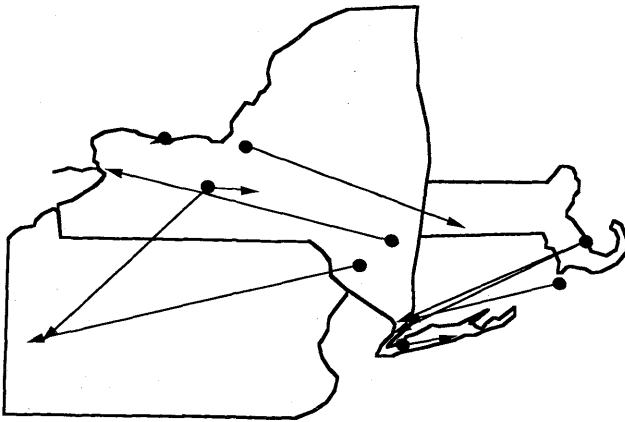


Figure 2. Direction taken by eleven Black-capped Chickadee banded and/or re-encountered in New York during the fall.

Table 2. Re-encounters of Black-capped Chickadees banded in the spring

Banding Location	Date	Re-encounter Location	Date	Distance & Direction	Days Elapsed
A) Banded in New York and re-encountered the same spring					
Arlington, NY	14 Jan 55	Clove, NY	13 Apr 55	17 mi E	89
E. Sydney, NY	13 Jan 60	Dreadwell, NY	1 Feb 60	21 mi NE	19
E. Aurora, NY	26 Jan 62	Marlborough, NH	Jul 62	320 mi E	
Amenia, NY	29 Jan 71	Verbank, NY	17 Apr 71	15 mi SW	78
Amenia, NY	3 Feb 71	Verbank, NY	19 Apr 71	15 mi SW	75
Alps, NY	20 Feb 77	Chatham Cntr., NY	23 Apr 77	15 mi SSW	62
Albion, NY	10 Apr 84	Nine Mile Pt., NY	17 May 84	87 mi ENE	37
Alfred, NY	16 Apr 84	Nine Mile Pt., NY	20 May 84	110 mi NE	34
Braddock Bay, NY	11 May 87	Nine Mile Pt., NY	16 May 87	70 mi E	5
B) Banded in New York and re-encountered in a subsequent spring					
Wingdale, NY	16 Jan 62	Ashley Falls, MA	3 Mar 63	25 mi NNE	
Mohegan L., NY	27 Feb 72	Topsham, ME	3 Mar 73	288 mi NE	
Alfred, NY	25 Apr 78	S. Londonderry, VT	31 Jan 79	275 mi ENE	
C) Banded out-of-state and re-encountered in New York					
Battle Creek, MI	26 Jan 47	Queens, NY	25 Apr 48	556 mi E	
Meadville, PA	8 Apr 62	Penn Yan, NY	24 Jun 62	172 mi ENE	
Proctor, PA	28 Feb 63	Monticello, NY	21 May 66	110 mi EME	
Lenox Dale, MA	1 Mar 63	Livingston, NY	5 May 64	30 mi SW	
Erie	2 May 82	N. Java, NY	16 Jan 83	94 mi NE	
D) Re-encountered during a variety of seasons					
Otto, NY	11 Apr 62	E. Eden, NY	2 Nov 62	21 mi N	
Amenia, NY	14 Feb 67	Verbank, NY	1 Nov 67	15 mi SW	
Millbrook, NY	11 Apr 69	Pelham, NH	16 Nov 69	130 mi NE	
Saegertown, PA	10 Apr 78	Phoenix, NY	20 Dec 80*	225 mi NE	

* Re-encountered at this site on 24 Jan 82, 18 Dec 83 and 5 Feb 84

Table 3. Miscellaneous Black-capped Chickadee re-encounters.

Banding Location	Date	Re-encounter Location	Date	Distance & Direction
Johnson, VT	29 Dec 36	Pawling, NY	Jan 40	206 mi S
Jamesville, NY	26 Oct 57	Virgil, NY	Jan 59	35 mi SSW
Dormansville, NY	1 Jan 70	Nassau, NY	3 Apr 70	20 mi ENE
S Rutland, NY	12 Jan 72	Vernon Ctr, NY	2 Oct 75	61 mi SSE

Table 3 shows data on four Black-capped Chickadee re-encounters during a variety of seasons. These recaptures are more difficult to interpret. Most interesting is the bird banded in Vermont in late December 1936 and re-encountered 206 miles S of the banding site in a subsequent winter. This indicated that the bird had remained on northern territory during one fall/winter period but had migrated south during a subsequent fall/winter when conditions had warranted.

DISCUSSION

Since New York is located in the center of the north-south range of Black-capped Chickadee, it is not surprising that so many interesting re-encounter records exist. The analysis of banding re-encounters of chickadees involved in fall movement in the state demonstrates long distance migration in a generally SW direction at a leisurely rate of three miles per day. These findings agree with those found in a similar study of chickadee movements in the northern states (Brooks 1991). Spring movement in New York is in a generally NE direction at a rate of about one mile per day, which is somewhat slower than the 2.6 mi/day average for the northern states in general (Brooks 1987; Stewart 1988). However, describing fall or spring movement as leisurely based on banding captures may be an oversimplification. Indeed, one fall re-encounter (Penn Yan, NY, to Monroeville, PA) averaged 11.6 miles/day and one spring re-encounter (Braddock Bay to Nine Mile Pt.) averaged 14 miles/day. Chickadee movements may be rapid at some stages of migration and leisurely at others. There is no evidence of long distance movement during winter (1 December to 12 January) in New York chickadees. Also in agreement with analyses of the general population of northern chickadees is the finding

that both HY and AHY chickadees are involved in migration. The records of the two chickadees banded at Braddock Bay and recaptured repeatedly in Clarkson provide evidence that birds migrating together during fall may winter together. Virtually all the fall re-encountered New York chickadees were moving in irruptive years, whereas in analyses of re-encounters throughout the northeast, a third of the re-encountered chickadees moved in non-irruptive years (Brooks 1991).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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GEOGRAPHIC VARIATION IN WING LENGTH OF THE ROSE-BREADED GROSBEEK

WILLIAM E. COOK

Numerous studies have suggested that a correlation exists between long, pointed wings and migratory behavior. Averill (1920) compared the wing length of 41 species of warblers and eight geographic groups of Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) to show that in any group those with longer wings make the longest migrations. Congeneric pairs of species, of which the migratory species possesses longer, more pointed wings than the sedentary species are documented by Kipp (1958) and Kuroda (1964). Species with long-winged migrant populations and short-winged resident populations have been identified by Behle (1973), Chapman (1940), Hogstad (1983), Lo Valvo *et al.* (1988), Mead (1983), and Scebba and Lovei (1986). Species in which certain populations have longer wings and apparently migrate farther are known from Norway (Rostad 1986) and elsewhere in Europe (Lovei 1983). Intraspecific wing-length variation, and a relationship between wing length and migration distance, has not been previously documented in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), which also may fit this pattern.

METHODS

Measurements of wing chord, tail, and tarsus (Baldwin *et al.* 1931) were taken from study skins with dial calipers and recorded to the nearest 0.1 mm. The 394 specimens included in the study were all adult males collected during the breeding season and showing no excessive feather wear. Twelve geographic groups ("populations") of specimens were defined, based on the availability of study skins currently in museums. Generally, the samples included specimens taken between 25 May and the end of July. To avoid including migrants in southern populations (*i.e.*, Nebraska and North Carolina samples), only June and July specimens were included. In some northern populations 15 May was used as the early date and these samples may include some migrants. There was no evidence that late May migrants introduced bias into the samples. Comparisons of late May (15-31 May) samples with June/July samples from the same area showed no significant difference in mean wing lengths (*e.g.*, for Connecticut, $F=1.13$, $df=33$, $P=0.349$).

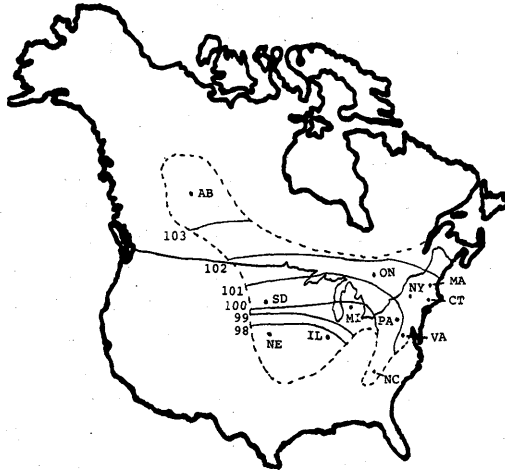


Figure 1. Isophenes for wing length in the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (data in table 1).

Data were analyzed on an IBM personal computer using Number Cruncher Statistical System (Hintze 1987). ANOVA F-ratios were used to suggest the degree of variation between populations. Student's t-tests were used to compare the means of two populations. Variances were equal in all comparisons.

RESULTS

The mean wing length for the twelve populations of Rose-breasted Grosbeak shows statistically significant geographic variation ($F=15.00$, $df=393$, $P<.001$, Table 1). The wing length data arranged into means for these twelve geographic areas show a clinal pattern increasing in size northwestward and northeastward from the central United States (Fig. 1). The contour lines of Figure 1 were fitted by eye using the mean wing length values of the twelve samples; so the figure provides a tentative graphic portrayal of the data. While the contour lines do not correspond to significant differences between separated populations, in general populations separated by two contour lines have average wing lengths that are significantly different. Statistical comparisons between average wing lengths of the twelve populations are in Table 2.



Figure 2. Representative banding and recovery records for Rose-breasted Grosbeak from Table 3.

Banding and recovery data (Table 3) indicate that birds which breed in the northeastern United States migrate a longer distance than those which breed in the central United States. Figure 2 illustrates the migratory pattern by mapping representative records from Table 3. All 25 records are not shown because many are similar and, although they might emphasize the pattern, they add clutter without adding information.

DISCUSSION

Rose-breasted Grosbeak breeds in North America east of the Rocky Mountains roughly from central Canada to central United States (Fig. 1, area within dashed line), winters from central Mexico to northern South America, and migrates through the West Indies, northeastern Mexico, and the southern United States east of the Rockies (A.O.U. 1983). Figure 1 illustrates the clinal pattern discovered for the wing length of Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Bergmann's rule, which predicts larger size with increasing latitude in warm-blooded vertebrates, does not explain this phenomenon because tail ($F=1.67$, $df=349$, $P=0.14$), and tarsus ($F=1.55$, $df=348$, $P=0.17$) lengths do not show clines corresponding to the wing length. Furthermore, the wing-length cline has a west-to-east aspect as well as a south-to-north aspect.

Table 1. Wing length (mm) of several populations of adult male breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Population	Sample Size	Range	Mean \pm SE	SD
Alberta+	23	98.8-112.0	103.3 \pm 0.6	2.78
Mass., New Hampshire, and Maine*	15	97.6-105.4	101.9 \pm 0.7	2.92
Connecticut*	35	96.0-107.3	101.6 \pm 0.5	2.72
New York*	53	94.0-107.0	101.5 \pm 0.4	2.78
Ontario*	10	96.4-105.8	101.4 \pm 0.8	2.68
Virginia, Delaware, Maryland*	14	99.3-103.4	101.2 \pm 0.4	2.55
Pennsylvania and New Jersey*	54	94.5-107.6	100.8 \pm 0.4	2.65
North Carolina#	6	99.3-103.4	100.5 \pm 0.7	1.66
South Dakota+	31	94.7-107.1	100.1 \pm 0.5	2.98
Michigan+	41	93.6-105.8	99.4 \pm 0.4	2.90
Nebraska#	106	90.5-105.6	97.6 \pm 0.3	2.72
Illinois+	5	94.0-100.1	97.1 \pm 1.2	2.58
All	394	90.5-112.0	100.1	

June and July specimens

+ 25 May - July specimens

* 15 May - July specimens

Rose-breasted Grosbeak which breed in New York State have an average wing length that is intermediate between other populations. Those which breed in Alberta have a greater average wing length and those breeding in the central United States have a smaller average wing length. Banding data provide an incomplete picture of where breeding populations winter. They do suggest, however, that while New York breeders generally migrate to southern Central America and northern South America, grosbeaks that breed in the central United States, which have shorter wings, only migrate as far as Mexico and central Central America. There are no banding and recovery records from breeding populations that have longer wings than those which breed in New York State.

The question arises whether or not the farthest distance from the winter range can be equated to the longest distance of migration. Between the years 1923 and 1988 the Bird Banding Laboratory has collected records of 1,333 banded and recovered Rose-breasted

Grosbeaks, 25 of which link the possible breeding and wintering location of specific individuals (Table 3). The pattern that emerges from these records (Fig. 2) indicates that Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that breed in New York and New England have longer wings and migrate a greater distance than those that breed in the central United States.

The straight-line, point-to-point, distance covered by populations in the vicinity of New York traveling to South America is about 2400 miles compared to about 2000 miles for birds traveling from the vicinity of Michigan and Minnesota to Central America. This implies that the New York birds, which have an average wing length about 2 mm greater than midwestern U.S. birds (Table 1), are flying about 20% farther.

Table 2. Comparison of mean wing length of adult male Rosebreasted Grosbeak from several populations. Entries are P-value of t-tests, with statistically significant values in boldface.

	MA	CT	NY	ON	VA	PA
AB	.144	.025	.012	.080	.006	<.001
MA		.713	.612	.662	.405	.146
CT			.869	.842	.521	.158
NY				.921	.596	.169
ON					.830	.491
VA						.442
	NC	SD	MI	NE	IL	
AB	.028	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	
MA	.288	.047	.005	<.001	.004	
CT	.354	.251	.001	<.001	.001	
NY	.402	.027	<.001	<.001	.001	
ON	.480	.208	.050	<.001	.011	
VA	.389	.096	.005	<.001	<.001	
PA	.820	.251	.018	<.001	.005	
NC		.712	.359	.013	.027	
SD			.353	<.001	.046	
MI				<.001	.097	
NE					.667	

Based upon the observation that longer-winged grosbeaks seem to migrate further south, a reverse clinal pattern should exist in the winter range with short-winged populations wintering in Mexico and long-winged populations wintering in northern South America.

Lincoln (1952) implies that the migration distance of the birds breeding in the New England area is even greater by asserting that all Rose-breasted Grosbeak cross the Gulf of Mexico through a window between Vera Cruz and the Yucatan Peninsula. Thus, for example, birds wintering in Venezuela and headed for New York would travel in a curved course northwest through Central America, north across the Gulf of Mexico and then northeast to their breeding range. A record of a bird banded in New York (22 Aug 75, Lat. 41.4°N Long. 74.2°W) and recovered in Honduras in May (11 May 81, Lat. 15.0°N Long. 87.0°W), probably during migration, supports Lincoln's view. However, the fact that Rose-breasted Grosbeak is commonly found throughout the West Indies during migration (Bond 1980) argues that some, including the eastern populations, may migrate along fairly direct north-south routes.

The banding data leave some questions still unanswered. For example, the winter range of the Alberta breeding population is not known. These long-winged individuals presumably migrate farther than any other group of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The winter range of the North Carolina population is also not known. The small sample of six from North Carolina suggests a rather long-winged population nests in a southern state. If this sample is representative, it poses an interesting problem because, even if North Carolina grosbeaks migrate to northern South America, they would not necessarily have to migrate farther than do Michigan birds which migrate to El Salvador (about 2000 miles).

That the clinal pattern observed in Rose-breasted Grosbeak wing lengths is due solely to migration distance is not certain. James (1970) found similar clines in twelve other North American bird species, many of which are not migratory. James documents a high degree of concordance between mean wing length and climatic gradients which would also account for the longer-winged population in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. Further, sedentary Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis carolinensis*), also of the Appalachian region, have longer wings than their migratory counterparts (*J. h. hyemalis*) (Mulvihill and Chandler 1991).

Table 3. Rose-breasted Grosbeak banding and recovery data

BANDED			RECOVERED		
Location	Lat-Long	Date	Location	Lat-Long	Date
Mass.	422-0711	30 Jul 47	Panama		23 Jan 48*
New York	424-0735	24 Jul 75	Panama	074-0814	22 Oct 75
New York	424-0770	29 Aug 75	Venezuela	102-0714	Jan 76*
Pennsylvania	400-0791	22 May 71	Columbia	062-0761	7 Feb 72*
W. Virginia	393-0795	14 May 73	Honduras	154-0860	9 Mar 75
Illinois	422-0891	7 Aug 82	El Salvador	131-9880	23 Nov 82*
Indiana	395-0860	20 Sep 70	El Salvador	142-0892	27 Oct 71
Iowa	410-0922	6 May 81	El Salvador	133-0880	27 Feb 82*
Michigan	430-0822	8 May 68	El Salvador	131-0883	29 Jan 71
Michigan	422-0853	18 Sep 74	Guatemala	141-0894	9 Nov 75
Michigan	422-0853	27 Sep 82	Honduras	141-0874	30 Nov 82
Michigan	444-0843	13 May 84	El Salvador	135-0892	31 Dec 86*
Minnesota	441-0915	24 Jul 60	Guatemala	143-0910	Oct 64
Minnesota	450-0930	5 Aug 63	Guatemala	143-0895	4 Feb 65*
Minnesota	450-0925	23 Jul 65	Guatemala	144-0893	Dec 66
Minnesota	450-0925	8 Jul 70	Honduras	152-0875	5 Feb 73*
Minnesota	450-0925	26 Jun 81	Guatemala	141-0905	22 Oct 82
Minnesota	441-0931	19 May 86	El Salvador	313-0883	21 Dec 86
Missouri	403-0952	16 May 84	Guatemala	142-0895	2 Nov 87
Wisconsin	444-0881	20 May 72	Honduras	134-0874	30 Nov 72
N. Dakota	484-1020	21 Aug 69	Mexico		Jan 71*
Ontario	423-0801	18 May 66	Columbia	084-0755	11 Nov 70*
Ontario	423-0801	7 Sep 78	El Salvador		Jan 80
Ontario	435-0812	21 Aug 81	Honduras	143-0885	1 Feb 82*
Ontario	435-0782	5 Sep 81	Honduras	134-0874	17 Jan 86

* These records are illustrated in figure 2 to provide a general picture of the migratory pattern between breeding and winter ranges of Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

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**SPECIMENS OF THE SUBARCTIC NESTING POPULATION OF
GREAT HORNED OWL FROM
NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT**

ROBERT W. DICKERMAN

Occasionally individual birds that vary beyond the morphological limits of a local population are found. Such individuals probably occur more often than we realize. When possible (more and more it is not possible), these individuals should be collected to permit direct comparisons with specimens representing known populations. I here report three such specimens of Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). One (AMNH 144845) from New York City, 15 February 1910, was presented by the New York Zoological Society (Bronx Zoo); the second (AMNH 753970) is from Durham, Connecticut, 10 January 1910. The most recent (AMNH 825984) was found dead along Interstate Highway 80 in Warren County, New Jersey, on 3 July 1988. It was received from The Raptor Trust of New Jersey, and was recognized by the author as being something other than the local subspecies *B. v. virginianus*.

The New York specimen was discussed in the literature by Cruickshank (1942) and was reevaluated by Parkes in his unpublished Ph.D. thesis (1952). It is the basis for the inclusion of New York in the winter range of "*wapacuthu*" (= *subarcticus*; see below) in the AOU Check-list (1957). The Connecticut specimen, originally in the L. C. Sanford Collection, is labeled *B. v. subarcticus*, but apparently has not been previously reported in the literature. The New Jersey specimen needs some explanation. It was found at the "wrong" time of the year. However, it had an infected and unhealed wing injury. I postulate that this bird was a migrant from the fall and winter of 1987. Before it started north it was severely injured and could not fly; but it was able to feed and, thus, began the annual molt at the appropriate time. When killed on the highway in July, it had nearly finished that molt and is in clean, fresh plumage. It is the first specimen of the northern subspecies from New Jersey. The two 1910 specimens are quite similar to each other in color, although both are rather soiled, grayish where they should be white, probably from coal soot; they suggest that 1910 was an invasion year. This notwithstanding, all three are pale birds that are somewhat more heavily barred with black than more "typical" specimens, but all fall well within the range of variation found in the subarctic nesting subspecies.

The range of the subarctic nesting population was given as "...tree limit in Mackenzie Valley to Hudson Bay, and in northeastern British Columbia (Peace River) south to Central Alberta, Saskatchewan, central Manitoba and northern Ontario" (AOU 1957). On its western and southern borders it intergrades with three subspecies: dark heavily barred *lagophonus* on the west, pale lightly barred *pallescens* in the prairie region, and dark, heavily barred, deeply ochraceous *virginianus* in the east. Thus, specimens from the perimeter of the range of this subspecies show a spectrum of characters. Fortunately, in the east specimens of the northern population differ so greatly from *virginianus* that they are easy to recognize, and probably could be identified in the field were they at all common outside their breeding range.

There has been a snarl of nomenclature problems relating to these birds, which hopefully are now corrected. In the Fifth Edition of the AOU Check-list (1957) the subspecific name *wapacuthu* was used for them, while in the late 1800s *Bubo arcticus* Swainson was used for the subarctic populations (Browning and Banks 1991). However, both of those names are invalid. The first was based on a description of the Snowy Owl, and the second was an unfortunate reuse of *Bubo arcticus*, which previously also had been used for the Snowy Owl. Fortunately, both of those names are younger than *Nyctea scandiaca*, the name used for the Snowy Owl, so they fall into the waste bin of synonyms.

In 1896, Stone realized that the name *subarcticus*, then in use for the pale birds of the great plains, really applied to the northern nesting populations (although he then considered it to be a synonym of *B. arcticus* Swainson). He therefore coined the name *B. v. occidentalis* for "western" pale Great Horned Owl. He used a winter bird from Iowa for his type specimen. Within a year, however, he realized that his type specimen was really a migrant of the northern population. Accordingly, he suggested that the name *occidentalis* be treated as a synonym of *arcticus* (i.e., *subarcticus*), and he renamed the pale, and smaller, western birds *pallescens*, a good name that stands today (Stone 1897). Unfortunately Oberholser's (1904) revision of the species, which is still followed today, ignored Stone's placement of *occidentalis* in the synonymy of *subarcticus*. Oberholser found other similar specimens from western Minnesota to Oregon and south to Kansas (probably mostly winter birds), and recognized them as a large, pale northern prairie population! The range assigned to *occidentalis* by Oberholser transects the

ranges of the same three subspecies mentioned above that lie to the south of *subarcticus*. Oberholser explained the great variation in color which one would expect in migrants from intergrading populations by invoking "color phases". Thus, since 1904 taxonomists have attempted to identify specimens as *occidentalis*, a subspecies with neither characters nor a range of its own (Dickerman 1991). The northern nesting subspecies of Great Horned Owl now is correctly, and appropriately, recognized as *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*.

I here reconfirm the occurrence of *B. v. subarcticus* in New York and record the first specimens of the subspecies from New Jersey and Connecticut.

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WINTER ROOSTING AND FOOD HABITS OF A NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL IN COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

KARL E. PARKER

The Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) has been described as a fairly common breeder in New York's Adirondack region, though rarely found elsewhere in the state (Levine 1988). Bull (1974) indicates that this smallest of New York's breeding owls is a rare to fairly common migrant and winter visitant. Both sedentary and migratory in habit, individuals winter throughout much of their breeding range. North American Christmas Bird Count data indicate that this owl winters primarily between 35° and 50° latitude (Root 1988). In the Mohawk-Hudson reporting region of New York, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was found dead in December 1988 in the southern Catskill Park (*Kingbird* 32(2):127), while during the winter of 1989-90 a total of six individuals was observed at three separate locations: Coxsackie, Berne and Loudonville (*Kingbird* 40(2):119). No details, however, were given concerning the specific habitats used by these individuals. This note describes a recent sighting of a Northern Saw-whet owl in the Town of Greenport, Columbia County.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

In the early afternoon of 8 Feb 1991 a group of Department of Environmental Conservation wildlife biologists and wildlife technicians were conducting a deer wintering survey on Blue Hill, located in the Town of Greenport. Due to recent weather conditions, there was virtually no snow on the ground. We had stopped to evaluate deer browsing activity on a portion of a northerly-facing, wooded hillside situated adjacent to a large apple orchard. The plot was about 7 meters (20 feet) in from the orchard/woodland edge. The area was at approximately 107 meters (350 feet) elevation with vegetation consisting of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*), Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), Rock Oak (*Quercus prinus*), and Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*). Understory vegetation consisted of Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and dogwood (*Cornus* sp.). A gravel road was located approximately 60 meters from the site, while an irrigation pond was about 100 meters away.

While scanning the vegetation for evidence of deer browsing, one of our group noticed a large number of raptor pellets on the forest floor. A conspicuous amount of whitewash was evident on the ground and upon the foliage of an adjacent tree, a 8 cm (3 inch) diameter (at breast height) Eastern Hemlock. Upon closer inspection, we found a Northern Saw-whet Owl roosting about 2 meters (6 feet) up in a branch of this tree. In its talons was the posterior half of a Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina brevicauda*). We observed the owl for approximately five minutes before it flew off into the woods, leaving the remains of the shrew on the hemlock branch.

Eleven of the 17 pellets scattered beneath the hemlock were collected. In the office they were weighed to the nearest gram and measured at the major axes with a Vernier caliper. After being allowed to air-dry at room temperature for 10 days, the pellets were again weighed, this time to the nearest hundredth-gram, and measured. Pellets were immersed in warm water, and teased apart to separate skeletal remains from hair and skin, which were discarded. Taxonomic identification of the bones found in each pellet was performed by staff of the New York State Museum Science Service.

RESULTS

The capsule-shaped pellets were grayish black in coloration, though some of the pellets had been splattered with whitewash. The exterior surface of many of the pellets was covered with vibrissae. One vibrissa measured 3.8 cm total length. The initial 0.1 cm (its root) was white, the next 1.3 cm was black, while the remainder was white, finely tapering to the end. Ten pellets were 2 or 3 (mean 2.5, s.d. 0.5) g wet weight, while the dry weight of these same pellets was 0.50 to 1.47 g (mean 1.17, s.d. 0.297). Wet length of the pellets was 19 to 39 (mean 27.5, s.d. 3.78) mm; dry length was slightly less, averaging 27.1 mm. Pellets were somewhat flattened in cross section - the larger diameter of dry pellets averaged 15.3 mm, while the smaller averaged 12.5 mm.

One pellet opened in the field contained the remains of a single Short-tailed Shrew. Of the 11 pellets opened in the office, 7 contained field mice (*Peromyscus* sp.), 3 contained Short-tailed Shrew, and 1 contained a Meadow Vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). Because of similarity between the congeneric Deer Mouse and White-footed Mouse, it was not possible

to identify the skeletal remains to species (P. Steblein, pers. comm.). One of the pellets containing field mouse bones was also thought to contain a pelvis resembling that of a Woodland Jumping Mouse (*Napaeozapus insignis*).

One pellet contained the remains of at least 2 individuals, though duplication of only posterior bones (pelvis, femur, tibia, and tarsus) was found. Two pellets, both containing Short-tailed Shrew remains, likely contained the posterior and anterior halves of the same individual. Of the pellets containing field mice, one contained the posterior half only while two contained the anterior half only. Although the actual number of prey represented in the 11 pellets examined in the office cannot be determined, it could be as low as 9 if all the anterior and posterior prey halves matched up. If each of these halves was from a different individual, the count would be 12 prey. Our mid-afternoon observations of this nocturnal predator with half a shrew in its talons, and the evidence from the pellets themselves, suggests that a single prey item may be divided and the segments consumed at intervals far enough apart to allow the remains to be formed into two separate pellets.

DISCUSSION

Saw-whet owls consume small mammals including mice, voles, shrews, as well as chipmunks and young squirrels (DeGraaf and Rudis 1986). Eaton (1914) described its food habits as consisting exclusively of mice and insects, while Bent (1938) recorded an account of a N. Saw-whet Owl that, upon dissection, proved to have a flying squirrel in its stomach.

According to Connor (1960) the Short-tailed Shrew is one of the most abundant small mammals, occurring in virtually all habitats. In a study of the small mammals of Otsego and Schoharie counties, he found that this mammal typically comprised 20-50% of the total small mammal catch. Overall, more of this species were trapped than any other, and only the two *Peromyscus* species combined were trapped as frequently. However, trapping in upland grazed pastures produced the fewest shrews of any habitat, probably due to a lack of cover and poor tunneling conditions. In those situations, *Peromyscus* was found to be the most common species.

The prevalence of *Peromyscus* rather than *Blarina* in the pellets collected can probably be best explained by habitat conditions. The carefully maintained and mowed apple orchard, which probably constituted the primary foraging site for the owl, may closely duplicate the conditions in the "upland grazed pastures" which Connor (1960) found favored *Peromyscus* over *Blarina*.

While it is impossible to determine the length of time the Blue Hill roost was utilized by the owl, an estimate can be made from information contained in the literature. Marti (1973) studied food consumption in four owl species kept in outdoor aviaries for a period of a year. The smallest of these owls, the Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*), averaged 166 g in weight and consumed an average of 26.4 g of mice (15.9% of body weight) per day. The Northern Saw-whet Owl weighs considerably less than the Burrowing Owl. Johnsgard (1988) reported that 27 male N. Saw-whet Owls averaged 74.9 g, while 18 females averaged 90.8 g.

Adult Deer Mice taken from Otsego and Schoharie counties weighed approximately 20 g, adult White-footed Mice approximately 21 g and adult female Short-tailed Shrews about 19 g (Connor 1960). A single prey item weighing 20 g would therefore make up 26.6% of an average male N. Saw-whet Owl's body weight and 22% of an average female's body weight. Based on these figures and analysis of the pellets, a wintering N. Saw-whet Owl might be expected to consume 1.0 to 1.5 prey items per day. The cache of 17 pellets found under the hemlock suggests usage of that roost by this owl for a period of from 9 days, calculated as $17 \text{ pellets} \times (9 \text{ prey}/11 \text{ pellets})/1.5 \text{ prey per day}$, to 18 days, calculated as $17 \text{ pellets} \times (12 \text{ prey}/11 \text{ pellets})/1.0 \text{ prey per day}$.

Observations of a N. Saw-whet Owl roost similar to that reported here were described by Miller (in Bent 1938). Near Philadelphia, he found a bird roosting about 5 feet off the ground in a dense canopy of honeysuckle vines. A total of 66 pellets were found in two adjacent piles, suggesting that the bird had wintered there.

The association of the N. Saw-whet Owl with water (a nearby irrigation pond) and conifers (roost in a hemlock) has been noted previously: Eaton (1914) described the N. Saw-whet Owl as a forest inhabitant that preferred swampy woods where it remained hidden during the day in a tree cavity or among dense evergreens. In migration, he said, it could be found in wet areas among alders and tangles of vines.

Bendire (in Bent 1938) stated that in winter, N. Saw-whet Owl was fond of dense evergreen thickets in swampy places or near water courses.

The most exceptional characteristic of this bird was its fearlessness. Eaton (1914), Bent (1938), Bull (1974), and virtually every other writer dealing with this bird have described the N. Saw-whet Owl's tame and unsuspecting, or "stupid" behavior. The owl observed in Columbia County was no exception. A group of 6 persons approached and stood around the bird, watching it for almost 5 minutes. Had we desired, we could have easily captured the bird.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual Common Raven nest in Elmira: Astonished would be the word to describe our feelings when a non-birder discovered a pair of Common Raven building a nest on a light standard at Dunn Field Stadium in Elmira (photo p. 136). The ravens were first noticed building the nest on 14 March by a local resident, who called Tanglewood Nature Center. By 3 April, the nest was complete and the female raven had assumed an incubating position. Dunn Field Stadium is used for minor league baseball and high school events. It is surrounded on three sides by houses and the stadium parking lot. The remaining side is bordered by the Chemung River with wooded hills nearby. The nest was located on a transformer in the midst of a light standard (see photo, page 136). Employees of the stadium were afraid that if the lights were turned on, they would ignite the nest or that a short-circuit would occur. A decision was made not to use the standard with the nest, but to use the remaining light standards as needed. This arrangement would work for the spring, but if the nesting went into June and the minor league season started, then something else would have to be done. On 3 April a high school baseball game ran late. All the lights were turned on except for the lights at the ravens' nest. The ravens flew from the nest. They kept returning, flying toward the nest but veering away. We assumed it was due to the lights and commotion. Even thirty minutes after the lights were turned off, the birds had not returned. That night the temperature dropped into the middle twenties. The following morning the birds had returned. For almost the next two weeks there were no late games. The female could be seen regularly sitting on the nest. On 16 April, an exhibition double header ran well into the night, again causing the birds to flee. They made one appearance at the nest the following day. They were also seen in Elmira about four miles from the nest that afternoon. Those were the last sightings. The nest was abandoned, much to the dismay of many residents near Dunn Field, whose neighborhood received a lot of media attention because of the ravens.

A local resident would put raw chicken on a tree stump. The ravens would swoop down and snatch the food, carrying it elsewhere to be eaten. On one occasion while the female was sitting on the nest, the male came along, grabbed the chicken off the stump and flew to the roof of the stadium. He called to her. She came off the nest and flew to him. When she reached him, he let her have the chicken.

About a month after the nest was abandoned, a local electric company retrieved the nest intact and gave it to Tanglewood for public display. Mysteriously, there were no eggs or traces of eggs found. The nest was made largely of sticks, probably from cottonwoods. On top of the nest rim was a layer of grass, covered in turn with a layer of skunk and deer hair. This layer covered the inner layer as well, and appeared ample enough for the birds to be able to cover the eggs or young while the adults were away from the nest. The floor of the nest was covered with earth. Other interesting materials in the layer of fur were a clump of moss, a disintegrating portion of a green rug and a Great Horned Owl pellet.

Ravens have been seen on occasion in our area the last few years, especially on the wooded hills just a short distance "as the crow flies" from Dunn Field. Prior to this year, raven nestings outside the Adirondack-Catskill area have been confirmed only once. We are hoping they will nest here again, but not in the same spot!

Richard Clements, 989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, New York 14871 and William Ostrander, Tanglewood Nature Center, P.O. Box 117, Elmira, New York

A Common Raven nesting in Oneida County, New York: A Common Raven was first seen on the north shore of Oneida Lake near Cleveland, New York, in mid December 1990. One or two birds were seen throughout the winter and spring 1991. They concentrated their activities in a mature Red Pine and larch plantation. While I was walking in a part of this plantation in mid April, a raven flew as close as 100 yards from me and began to scold vigorously. After a short search, I found their nest about 45-50 feet up in a tall larch, surrounded by Red Pine. I notified Dorothy W. Crumb, who along with several others, observed the birds during late April and May. Young birds were evident in the nest in May and fledged a week before Memorial Day. I heard ravens in the area a week later, but have not seen or heard them since. This appears to have been the first Common Raven nesting in Region 5 away from the Adirondacks, and in Oneida County, since at least the early 19th Century.

Patrick Burns, Hall Road, Box 114M, Cleveland, New York 13042

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

General impressions of the spring 1991 were quite uniform across the state. The season was early, both for birds and plants. Vegetation was about two weeks ahead of normal in most Regions in May. The peak migration period, typically in the period 8 to 12 May, was early and remarkably uniform among the Regions. Where noted, Regional species totals were very good but every Region had at least some comments related to paucity of numbers among a wide range of avian families.

As usual, the weather certainly drove many of the noteworthy events, "trends," and observations of the season. March was warm across the state, wet in the west and in Region 10 but average elsewhere. March saw little snowfall, but a major ice storm 3 to 4 Mar devastated forests in parts of Regions 1, 2 and 3 and extended into Regions 6 and 7. Ice out dates were very early in Region 1 and Lake Erie temperatures were the warmest ever by the season's end. The warm temperatures continued through April, which saw precipitation at average to about 30% above average amounts Region to Region. At hawk watches, winds were wrong most of the month and dramatically curtailed the expected flights. The warm burst near the end of April brought many early arrivals scattered across the state. The weather escalated to **hot** in May, with temperatures averaging 4° to 8° above normal. The eight month period ending in May was the warmest period of that length in 91 years of record keeping in Region 3, and May was the twelfth consecutive month of above average temperatures in Region 8, where 10 of the last 11 days of May topped 80° this year. Precipitation ran average to about 25% below normal across the state. Land bird migration peaked early and dropped to a trickle well before the month's end. Foliage and blossoms abounded, including the successful blooming of some tree species at the northern edges of their ranges. Late May birding by eye was difficult. The early plant growth led to reports of record early first haying, with potentially serious impact on our grassland ground nesters already in trouble. Hopefully, later drought conditions will have delayed the next hay cutting sufficiently to allow successful second nestings for some of these species.

The major highlights of this season are the early season, as reflected in arrival dates, and the impressive lists of rarities. By almost any measure, the season was early. The arrival dates summary table shows seasonality

as early for nearly all Regions, though this trend is statistically significant (more than 2 standard deviations) relative to the baseline only for Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8. For sheer numbers of very early arrivals, this season did not match the spring 1990 but relative to last year, arrivals in all Regions except 2 and 3 averaged earlier.

Over all Regions, both water birds and land birds arrived early, with the difference somewhat larger for water birds. Among the water birds, 2/3 of this year's arrival dates were early relative to the baseline 25 year data, but the difference was statistically significant only for Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, and Caspian Tern. No water bird arrival dates were statistically significantly late, though it is interesting that 5 of the 8 late dates recorded were for shorebirds and the other 3 were for birds for which there is concern over perceived numerical declines. Among the land birds, 80% of species were noted at dates averaging early relative to the baseline data, with nine species statistically significantly early: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Alder Flycatcher, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Solitary Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, and Ovenbird. Only 13 of the 66 land bird arrivals averaged later than their baseline dates, but only Purple Martin was statistically significantly late. It is still interesting that among the other tardy species we had 3 swallows, 3 warblers, and 2 sparrows. The only late departure of note was a very late Snowy Owl to 10 May in Region 6.

Among the Regional reports and the arrival tables are at least 19 state record early dates (relative to Bull, *Birds of New York State*) including Solitary Sandpiper in Region 8, Willet in Region 10, Whip-poor-will in Region 7, Veery and Wood Thrush in Region 4, Swainson's Thrush in Region 5, Cape May Warbler in Region 8, Black-throated Green Warbler in Regions 2, 4 and 5, Bay-breasted Warbler in Region 6, Ovenbird in Region 8, Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Regions 7 and 8, and Lincoln's Sparrow in Regions 2, 5, 7, 8 and 10. The average arrival date for Lincoln's Sparrow over all ten Regions matched the record early date in Bull! In fact, there has been a trend for earlier Lincoln's Sparrow passage in recent years. Formerly it was not often recorded until mid May and often was still present in good numbers over Memorial Day, while recently it is commonly noted in early May and is gone before the end of month. In addition to the species above, there are several other dates withinland or coastal records or are very near to old record dates.

Waterbird Arrivals 1991

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

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

Spring Arrivals 1991

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

Region 1 **Region 2** **Region 3** **Region 4** **Region 5** **Region 6** **Region 7** **Region 8** **Region 9** **Region 10** **Average**

Also isolated earlier report(s).

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	89	-1.1	-1.9
Region 2	92	0.0	-3.0
Region 3	90	-0.5	0.3
Region 4	81	-1.8	1.8
Region 5	92	-5.4	-3.9
Region 6	86	-2.6	7.5
Region 7	83	-5.3	5.2
Region 8	80	-5.2	-1.3
Region 9	87	-0.1	-0.7
Region 10	86	0.3	-3.2

In addition to arrivals, observers noted record early Great Blue Heron nest with eggs in Region 1, Hooded Merganser nest with eggs in Region 4, and American Oystercatcher with chick in Region 10. It was also interesting that quite a few arrivals in Regions 6 and 7 were earlier than arrivals of the same species in Regions far to the south or west.

If you missed your favorite early or late arrival date in this discussion or think you noticed another hot date in the tables, I have somewhat arbitrarily ignored about 15 dates as being too outlandish for inclusion in this summary without some special comment or more details in the Regional report; all such records should be documented by the observer as well. Eight of these dates are so late relative to the season and neighboring Regions that I suspect "coverage" problems are responsible. Three very early dates almost certainly are of overwintering birds (always a judgment call with room for differences in opinion), and the others deserve more comment and/or documentation than is available.

In a season with really unusual weather, one might expect a good portfolio of rarities. While this was true this spring, in many cases observations were made by only one birder or group of birders, as is typical of spring vagrants. Most of us will not have been among the few who personally saw this season's rarities. In addition, if you study the rarity listings carefully, you will find little relationship between the weather and the various rarities which were located. Many records continue changing patterns of the past decade or so. Others are holdovers from winter. A few are just plain unexpected, but none seem

so unlikely that they might never occur again. As usual, one Region's rarity may be a regular visitor in another, and we have the special case of Region 10 where typically 30 or so species regularly found there would be cause for celebration in any other Region.

After this long preface, a listing of the best rarities, and their status relative to *Birds of New York State*, begins with the pelagics observed off Region 10. Northern Fulmar was formerly listed as Casual and Manx Shearwater as Accidental; both are now found regularly on pelagic trips at this season. Also, 63 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found nearly at the record early arrival date for the species. The Great Cormorant in Region 6 adds to a handful of inland records, where it was unrecorded prior to 1970. Herons have varied erratically. This season Cattle Egret, which formerly bred in several Regions, was noted only in Region 2 (although doubtlessly present and breeding in Region 10); Snowy Egret made a good showing upstate, with reports from Regions 2, 3, 4 and 5; Little Blue Heron appeared in Regions 5 and 8; a *Plegadis* ibis was in Region 8; a still accidental **White-faced Ibis**; and a first state record for **Reddish Egret** graced Region 10. Among the waterfowl, Greater White-fronted Goose, which has increased from Very Rare to Rare but regular, was noted in Regions 1, 2, 8 and 9; and Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye made notable appearances in Region 6. The status of **Sandhill Crane** has changed significantly from Very Rare anywhere in the state to uncommon in spring in Region 2 (10+ birds this year), and it is now recorded at least somewhere else, with sightings this spring in Regions 1, 3, 8 and 10. The observation of an escaped Common Crane in Region 9 may lead some skeptics to question all of the Sandhill Crane sightings not documented in great detail, but this species now breeds not far north and west of the western parts of our state. For shorebird rarities, we have only **Black-necked Stilt** in Region 10; a single Ruff from Region 1; and the first **Northern Lapwing** in the state since 1966 in Region 8. Among the gulls, Laughing Gull is now reported inland annually in small numbers, with records in Regions 2 and 8 this season; Lesser Black-backed Gull is Rare but hardly even rates a highlight anymore; while a spring Black-legged Kittiwake on Lake Ontario in Region 5 was the premiere gull of the season. A Gull-billed Tern and the state's first **White-winged Tern** record, both in Region 10, were the most unusual terns found this spring.

Moving to upland species, **Black Vulture** is apparently established in

Region 9 (though few reports are well documented), nearly annual at the hawk watch in Region 2, sporadic in Region 5, and was new to Region 3 this season; **Mississippi Kite** has gone from unrecorded to Rare but regular, with sightings this season in Regions 2 and 10; **Swainson's Hawk** is now seen annually in Region 2 and nearly so in Region 5; and **Gyr Falcon**, while still Very Rare, has been found somewhere in the state in each of the past five years and was logged in Regions 3 and 6 (2 birds) this spring. Barn Owl in Regions 3, 8 and 10 provided more records than typical of recent years. Both **Northern Hawk Owl** and **Great Gray Owl** in Region 7 are fine rarities, though recent years have brought nearly annual sightings somewhere in New York. A late May Black-backed Woodpecker in Region 2 was exceptional for date and location. The **Black-billed Magpie** in Region 10 is still subject to questions of origin. The formerly scarce Common Raven was noted in all but Region 10, with an incredible maximum of 150 in the vicinity of a large suet feeding operation in Region 7, and new nesting records outside the Adirondacks in Regions 3 and 5. Fish Crow continues to increase inland, with sightings from Regions 3, 4, 8 and 9. The **Northern Wheatear** in Region 10 is particularly rare at this season. Loggerhead Shrike is nearly extirpated from the state, so singles noted this spring in Regions 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 were encouraging. None of the vireo and warbler records rank as anything but local rarities, but among those cited are White-eyed Vireo highlighted in Regions 5 and 8 (and noted in three other regions); Orange-crowned Warbler banded in Region 7; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 1 and 10; Worm-eating Warbler in Region 1; and Yellow-breasted Chat reported only in Region 9. Blue Grosbeak was something of a surprise, with at least five reports above average in Region 10 and upstate sightings in Regions 2 and 3. Dickcissel in Region 2 and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Region 3 remain Very Rare inland spring sightings. Finally, with numbers of **Brewer's Blackbird** noted over extended periods in both Regions 1 and 2, it seems only a matter of time before it will be found breeding here.

Some of the other events and trends of the spring deserve mention here. Peak Common Loon counts were fair to good, but grebe counts generally were low. Double-crested Cormorant continues to spread and increase to nuisance levels. Great Blue Heron colonies are generally doing well, though Region 4 reports the slaughter of 11 birds in one rookery there. There were many comments on waterfowl in March and

through early April. Waterfowl were generally in and out early, with relatively low numbers the rule, although Region 4 specifically notes good rafts of diving ducks. Interesting notes include continued increases for Mute Swan, widespread good counts for Snow Goose, generally poor numbers of Brant, Redhead and scaup particularly scarce, and Ring-necked Duck counts very good nearly everywhere. Shorebird numbers were simply poor despite mention of good habitat in at least some Regions. Species worthy of close monitoring include Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, and Common Snipe. There were no gull notes of special interest beyond the rarities, but Region 6 observers turned up two very high upstate tern counts for recent years, with 350 Common Tern and 250-350 Black Tern.

Raptor totals at major spring hawk watches were at below average numbers as might be expected from the season's weather. Nesting Osprey and general observations of Bald Eagle continue encouraging. Accipiters (especially N. Goshawk), show continued signs of problems, should be monitored carefully at all seasons. Region 10 notes 9 pairs of Peregrine Falcon in the New York City area. Raptor aficionados will find note of two new watches in Region 1. Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will reports continue bleak, except Whip-poor-will numbers are holding constant in Regions 6, 9 and 10. There were many mentions of low flycatcher numbers. Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers received special attention, although the latter was found in good numbers in Region 6. Among the swallows, Purple Martin and the other colonial nesters bear careful monitoring in most Regions. Sedge Wren continues very scarce, being noted only in Regions 3, 5 and 7. There are notes of concern for kinglets in some Regions and for *Catharus* thrushes in most Regions. Among the vireos and warblers, there were scattered notes of concern, but typically there are too few comments for any serious analysis of most species. Most species were mentioned in just 2 to 4 Regional reports, with comments mostly relating to arrival dates, peak counts, or subjective descriptors such as "low." Species appearing to generate the most concern were Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler. The grassland sparrows generally continue to be of major concern. Certainly, a good deal of this is simply due to the maturing of abandoned fields to brush and woodland. I suspect that management of specific sites will be required to increase the numbers of some of these species, or just to retain

some of them in New York's avifauna over the long term. All finch species except Hoary Redpoll were noted but, except for resident species, numbers of both reports and individuals were low everywhere.

Besides all this you will find the usual spring banding summary from Crown Point and announcement of a reptile and amphibian atlas project in the Region 7 report, and notes of species extending breeding ranges beyond their Atlas limits in Region 10, as well as note of abandonment of a Common Tern colony there.

As you may have concluded from the summary of rarities above, picking the recipient of the BOTS Award for this season was very difficult. This time I'll ignore the flashy one day wonders and give the Award to the **Reddish Egret** in Region which stayed around for over a week of sporadic viewing.

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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 — nesting 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 was warm, wet, and cloudy. Temperatures were almost 5° above normal and it was the second wettest ever recorded at Buffalo. Nearly 6 inches of precipitation fell and snowfall was almost limited to one storm, 3 and 4 Mar, which left 8.5 inches at Buffalo and brought the season's total to 57.3 inches, about 30 inches below normal. In the Southern Tier counties, these snows turned to freezing rain and an ice storm which hit Allegany County hardest. The Pitzricks were without power for 3 1/2 days but carried on life the pioneer way. The ice cleared off Amity Lake on 18 Mar, two weeks early and Eaton's Pond opened on 23 Mar, one week early. On 28 Mar wind gusts at Buffalo were up to 68 mph and 80 mph in Albion. Except in the snow belt the ground was bare most of the month. April was the second wettest and fourth warmest on record at Buffalo. The average temperature for the month was 50.5°, the warmest since 1955, with seven days in the 70s, most during the last week of the month and bringing in many early migrants. The month's precipitation was about twice normal, 5.83 inches at Buffalo, and only a trace of snow fell. The last overnight freeze occurred on 12 Apr at Buffalo and by month's end Lake Erie had warmed to 43°. High winds occurred on 7, 10 and 15 Apr. May's temperature averaged 8.2° above normal at 64.3° in Buffalo, making the spring 1991 "the warmest spring ever", according to TV Channel 2, Buffalo. Precipitation at Buffalo totaled 3.1 inches, a little above normal but it was very dry at Amity Lake and in southern Cattaraugus County. Shallow Lake Erie warmed to 66° in Buffalo Harbor by 30 May, the warmest ever for that date. The last frost in Southern Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties occurred 5 May which allowed Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) to blossom in areas where usually they are frost-burned. By 20 May leaves were fully out on maples, beech, and birch and about two-thirds out on the oaks. This made warbler watching difficult. Most never seemed to make landfall in western New York. Woods flowers "were beautiful from early shad (*Amelanchier*), bloodroot and dogwood to wild cherry and apple", according to Vivian Pitzrick. Flowering was also abundant and almost two weeks early in Cattaraugus County, where blueberries, red raspberries and blackberries flowered 25 May. Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension said, "corn was planted earlier than

usual. Hay was ready to be harvested a week to ten days earlier than normal... This will be the earliest this Agent can remember hay harvest being done in this area." Under Vineyard Notes Extension also noted, "Cluster counts [*i.e.*, blossoms] are up at least 30%.... and one wise old grower has predicted that this will be the mother of all [grape] crops."

According to *Noteworthy Records* of BOS, two vireo species and fifteen warbler species arrived before the end of April, and perhaps a couple more were present, reflecting the unusually warm spring. The main flood of nearctic migrants peaked early, about 11-12 May, and as Terry Mosher wrote they went "over the top" with nothing approaching a "fall out".

The hawk watch near Ripley, in extreme southwestern New York, has started to produce some interesting counts, as are other points along the raptor migration routes. Hamburg, nearer Buffalo, and the Town of Yates, along the Lake Plain in Orleans County windward of Braddocks Bay, both have added counts.

Some interesting early nestings were noted by William Watson (*Prothonotary* 57(4):47-48); a Great Horned Owl apparently incubating 17 Feb in the Town of Tonawanda (earliest egg set from Region, 5 Feb 1933 at Cuba, Allegany County (*Kingbird* 11(2):88); a Great Blue Heron egg observed in nest, three feet off the ground, on Navy Island in the middle of Niagara River on 16 Mar (earliest egg date NYSBBA 15 Apr); Bald Eagle at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge was seen in incubating posture on its nest 16 March (earliest egg date NYSBBA 16 March). Two pairs of Osprey are nesting again at the Allegheny Reservoir.

No great surge of rarities, as we saw last year, were reported during the period but Golden Eagle, a Ruff, a probable Hudsonian Godwit (not accepted by statisticians) and a Yellow-throated Warbler were exciting observations.

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Abbreviations: ARes - Allegheny Reservoir; ASP - Allegany State Park; BOS - Buffalo Ornithological Society; ChauL - Chautauqua Lake; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; PDBA - previously documented breeding area; PTwn - Pomfret Township CHAU; RHW - Ripley Hawk Watch CHAU; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area; WTSP - Wilson-Tuscarora State Park; YTwn - Yates Township ORLE.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Lake Ontario off YTwn 5 Apr; one off GHSP 25 Apr. Com. Loon: arr Bear L CHAU 24 Mar; max 119 Somerset TwN NIAG 25 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: two DH 2-30 Mar; arr two Dunkirk 17 Mar; max four E Aurora 22 Mar. Horned Grebe: arr eight Celeron 3 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: arr YTwn 1 Mar. Double-crested Cormorant: arr Amity L 10 Apr; max 98 DH 24 Apr. Am. Bittern: 7 Apr; one Sheridan TwN CHAU 18 Apr; two PTwn 19 Apr; one Hanover TwN CHAU 23 Apr; three TNP 8 May; three INWR 25 May, first real sign of increase. Least Bittern: arr TNP 21 May. Great Blue Heron: many wintered; migration max 36 RHW 27 Mar; first noted sitting on nest Motor I NR 15 Mar, *intro*. Great Egret: arr INWR 31 Mar; max three TWMA 2 Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 100 NF (Ontario P) 6 May. Tundra Swan: max 350 Oakfield TwN GENE 9 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one TWMA 16 Mar; two YTwn 16 Mar (WD, mob). Snow Goose: arr 12 YTwn 3 Mar; max 55 YTwn 27 Mar. Canada Goose: max 35,000 Oakfield TwN 9 Mar. N. Shoveler: max 67 INWR 31 Mar. Gadwall: arr eight Celeron 3 Mar. Am. Wigeon: max 60 Oakfield 9 Mar. Canvasback: *none*! Redhead: max six TWMA 3 Mar; two TNP 17 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: max 350 TWMA, INWR 8 Apr. Surf Scoter: one YTwn 27 Apr. White-winged Scoter: 38 Shadagee NIAG 4 Apr. Hooded Merganser: one-two ad, 4-6 y Ward TwN ALLE 27-31 May. Com. Merganser: max 250 DH 16 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: max 650 off YTwn.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Eden TwN ERIE Mar; max 442 RHW 4 Apr. Osprey: max 24 RHW 23 Apr; *intro*. Bald Eagle: max four RHW 29 Apr; four reports away from nesting site and RHW Mar; five reports Apr; *intro*. N. Harrier: max 24 RHW 26 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 314 RHW 23 Apr; 237 Hamburg TwN 25 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: five RHW 26 Mar; max over YTwn 7 Pr. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 127 RHW 21 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: max 2,655 RHW 23 Apr; max 2,554 Hamburg 25 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: max 250 RHW 26 Mar; 178 over YTwn 7 Apr. Rough-legged Hawk: one RHW 1 Mar; 12 YTwn 10 Mar; max 18 YTwn and Somerset 21 Apr. Golden Eagle: one Hamburg 18 Apr (RA, mob); two other reports Ripley and Pt Gratiot CHAU. Am. Kestrel: max 58 RHW 6 Apr; 37 over Carlton 6 Apr; 45 over YTwn 7 Apr. Merlin: one Buffalo 7-8 Mar, rare in winter; one TNP 14, 23 Apr; one Sheridan TwN CHAU 25 Apr. **Sandhill Crane**: four over RHW 17 Mar (JL, mob; no details). Upland Sandpiper: *none*. Whimbrel: 25 INWR 25 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr INWR 18 May. Purple Sandpiper: seven Goat I NF 7 May, late. Dunlin: seven INWR 25 May. Ruff: one Porter TwN NIAG 4 May (WD, WW). Wilson's Phalarope: one Porter TwN NIAG 4

May (WW, WD). Little Gull: 13 mouth NR 28 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: max 2,800 mouth NR 28 Mar. Iceland Gull one Motor I NR 2 Apr. Black Tern: two INWR 10 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr INWR 18 May; one Amity L 22 May. E. Screech-Owl: one Carrollton 9-31 Mar, 1-7 Apr, unusual locality. Snowy Owl: last Wheatfield Twn NIAG 2 Mar. Long-eared Owl: max three WTSP 27 Mar. Short-eared Owl: max ten Wheatfield Twn NIAG 25 Mar. N. Saw-whet Owl: max four WTSP 27 Mar; one Carrollton 7 Apr, 8 May; one TNP 7 Apr; one Charlotte 10 May. Whip-poor-will: two Sheridan Twn CHAU 27 Apr; one PTwn 16, 19 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr TNP 28 Apr, max four Pt. Gratiot CHAU 12 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one INWR 24 Mar; one Wales 31 Mar; vocal male Salamanca Twn 14 Apr, not regular Allegheny Valley; one Amity L. ALLE 12, 20 Apr; one Sheridan 13 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Acadian Flycatcher: arr INWR and Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 18 May (both PDBA); three PTwn 22 May (PDBA). Purple Martin: two INWR 20 Apr; one Somerset 21 Apr; no reports ALLE or e CATT; any Allegheny Plateau reports needed. Cliff Swallow: flock of 15 Salamanca 10 Apr (TB), very early; population along Allegheny River increasing with use of Rt 17 bridges crossing Allegheny River. **Com. Raven:** one Amity Twn ALLE 2, 5, 6 Apr; one Ward Twn ALLE 5, 8 Apr (PDBA); one ASP 12, 19 Apr. Tufted Titmouse: seven reports BOS Mar, eight reports Apr, 62 record max BOS 14 Apr count, 11 reports May, recovery from winter 1976 seems complete. Carolina Wren: four reports Mar BOS; five reports Apr, six reports May plus one Salamanca 6 May; 14 BOS 14 April count. Marsh Wren: one TNP four May, only other report TWMA 10 May. E. Bluebird: wintered several areas; 27 pairs nesting Amity L trail by 31 May (VP). Grey-cheeked Thrush: arr two Tonawanda Twn 10 May. N. Mockingbird: one Canadaway Creek NS 24 Mar; two Lewiston 27 Mar; one DH 30 Mar; one Salamanca 12 May. Am. Pipit: arr five Hamburg 19 Mar; max 150-200 PTwn 11 May.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one-two TNP 5,8 May. Philadelphia Vireo: one Williamsville Glen 8 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one GH SP 11 May. N. Parula: one TNP 5, 13 May; seven other reports Lake Plains, Alfred and ASP. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: one "Lawrence's" banded Farmersville Twn CATT 1 May (DC); one Buffalo 6 May (AH). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one Jamestown 23 Apr (RS). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Williamsville Glen 10 May (GR). Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Carrollton 7 Apr (SE). Hooded Warbler: arr Carrollton Twn 5 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: one PTwn 19 May; one Sheridan Twn CHAU 19 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last Four Mile Creek SP 21 Apr, late. Field Sparrow: arr Amity Twn ALLE 2 Apr. Vesper Sparrow: one Somerset Twn NIAG 21 Mar; one Springville 1 May; one Newstead Twn ERIE 29 May. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Cambria Twn NIAG 4 May; two PTwn 11 May. Henslow's Sparrow: two INWR 21 May; one Alfred Twn ALLE 26 May, only

reports. Lincoln's Sparrow: one banded ASP 31 May (RM), very late. White-throated Sparrow: eight E Aurora 15 Mar; one Tonawanda 1 Apr; one-two Amity L 1-29 Apr, migration very light in southern tier counties. Red-winged Blackbird: 8153 BOS 14 Apr count, 37 year low (RC). **Brewer's Blackbird**: two Eden Twn ERIE 12 Apr (RA, mob); max six 13 Apr (WW, WD); two Eden Twn 28 Apr (GR, MG). Orchard Oriole: two Porter Twn NIAG 21 May, only report. Purple Finch: three reports BOS Mar, four reports Apr, nine reports May, all e and s Buffalo. Pine Siskin: two E Aurora 17 Apr; one PTwn 18 Apr; one Sheridan Twn CHAU 27 Apr. Evening Grosbeak: two-32 Amity L during Mar; 30-72 Wales during Mar; 28 Sheridan Twn CHAU 3 Mar; 72 on Mar; six reports e and s of Buffalo during Apr; six GHSP 4 May; two Sheridan Twn CHAU 16 May, late. House Sparrow: 1,665 on BOS 14 Apr count, 39 year low (RC).

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[This is the penultimate Regional report prepared by Steve Eaton, who will be stepping down after the summer season's report. On behalf of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, I am pleased to extend sincere thanks to Steve for the hard work he has done and the informative reports he has contributed to The Kingbird. Effective the fall season, 1991, the new Region 1 editor will be: Mr. Gerald R. Rising, 295 Robinhill Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221 — The Editor]

REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

This spring season began with one of the most memorable events of recent years, the great ice storm of 3 and 4 Mar. Trees, wires, the works came down around the Rochester area. The complexion of many of our woodlands and forested areas was changed drastically. What effect this will have on the bird populations remains to be seen. The rest of the month was fairly typical. The migration in general was slow at best. There were few good days for migration. While March is not usually an intense month for passerine flights, movements were down compared to other years and to last year in particular. April was warm and wet. The average temperature was 4° warmer than usual at 50°. There was a high of 80° on 8 Apr. Precipitation totaled 4.07 inches, which was 1.43 inches above normal. Snow amounted to a scant 1.1 inches. A warm period in early April was followed by a cold burst mid month. A warm spell at the end of the month brought a good number of arrivals. These included a number of record early dates. Conditions were not good for the hawk flights and, as a result, fewer were seen than in recent years. May turned out to be the fourth hottest in 160 years of recording Rochester weather data. The resulting average temperature of 62.8° was almost 6° above normal. Precipitation was just below the average with a total of 2.43 inches.

The general consensus was that birds moved through quickly. There were few good days for flights of passerines, the best days after periods of showers when observers remarked about the large numbers of individuals present. However, on most days there were few birds to observe. The overall pattern pointed to a weak migration. Was this the result of a reduction in numbers of birds or an indication of unfavorable conditions?

Loons and grebes were generally late in arriving. There were some good counts of Common Loon, but grebe numbers, particularly of Horned Grebe, were down. Concentrations of Red-necked Grebe never materialized. An **Eared Grebe** was a seasonal highlight. Early in the season herons were fairly scarce. Few Great Egret were found. Late in the month both Snowy Egret and Cattle Egret were reported. American Bittern seemed to be on the increase while Black-crowned Night-Heron was definitely on the down side. The usual species of waterfowl were

sighted but numbers of individuals were down. Redhead were very scarce. Hooded Merganser numbers didn't match those of recent years. Ring-necked Duck were fairly abundant along the west lakeshore for a brief period. Canada Goose peaked at about 40,000 during March, and a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was noteworthy. This species continues to be reported in small numbers yearly. **Eurasian Wigeon** also continued this trend. A bird was discovered at Braddock Bay on 7 Mar by Mike Lanzone and was seen again on the 9 Mar. Another individual was found at Point Breeze by Richard O'Hara on 18 Mar and possibly the same individual was reported again at Point Breeze on 31 Mar by J. Poland and J. Slack. **Sandhill Crane** were reported again during the spring flights. As many as four were sighted on a single day. These birds have become regulars in the spring migration.

Shorebird habitat was good at times during the season. Unfortunately, shorebirding was not. The early shorebird flights were poor. Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper were particularly scarce. It wasn't until late in May that the shorebirding improved. The usual species were reported but the totals of individuals was down. Common Snipe seemed to have disappeared from some of their traditional nesting locations along the west shore of Lake Ontario. Gulls and terns were lackluster. White-winged gulls were reported only twice and Forster's Tern was represented by a single sighting. Gull highlights included a Laughing Gull and late Little Gull. Caspian and Common Terns were found in expected numbers. Other than a flight of 56 that passed Braddock Bay on 12 May, Black Tern counts continued to decline.

There were few good hawk flight days during the season. A 2 Mar flight of 185 birds was good so early in the season and hinted towards better things to come, but flight conditions just weren't favorable and totals were down. The peak day of 14,000 birds was a far cry from of recent years. Final hawk flight information will be presented in the next report. Eagle totals, 79 Bald Eagle and 12 Golden Eagle, continued to show recovery. Reports of these two species away from the hawk watch also were good. Raptor highlights for the season included **Mississippi Kite**, **Swainson's Hawk** and **Black Vulture**. The last two species are now expected at the hawk watch station.

On a more positive note was the owl migration. Good numbers of Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owl were reported. Of particular interest were the two Barred Owl banded at the Braddock Bay Owl Banding

Project. This location is not known for Barred Owl, but these reports follow the report of Barred Owl along the lake shore on last winter's Christmas Bird Count. Caprimulgid reports were mixed. Common Nighthawk numbers were generally down with a top total of 30 being only average, and Whip-poor-will continued to be scarce although there were at least four reported at various times and locations.

The passerine fight was categorized by many observers as poor, but some observers indicated that there were days when the number of individual birds was quite high. As stated earlier, these days corresponded with rain showers that apparently grounded the birds. These periods were very brief and on many days the bird life was scarce. Some days were just too nice. Concern grows for the decline in some passerines, in particular, the vireos, warblers and thrushes. This year's evidence is not conclusive. Was the lack of birds attributed to the unfavorable grounding conditions or to a decline in individuals? The birds moved through quickly this year and date range of passage was relatively short for most species. Some species exhibited concentrations in good numbers. These included kinglets, Wood Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Others were generally scarce, notably Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Tennessee Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird and Indigo Bunting. Loggerhead Shrike went unreported and marked the continued demise of this once locally breeding species. Other birds of concern included Sedge Wren, Vesper Sparrow and Henslow's Sparrow. Yellow-breasted Chat seems much scarcer these years as well. Finch numbers were quite depressed. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were in short supply. The only noteworthy reports were two sightings of Common Redpoll.

Passerine banding at Braddock Bay was once again carried out under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks with Lauren Parmalee and Sharon Skelly providing much of the staffing time. Black-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker and Savannah Sparrow were new spring records at the station.

One of the birds of the season was an adult male **Black-backed Woodpecker** discovered at Highland Park in Rochester by Sue Boettger and Bill Gruenbaum on 27 May. It stayed in the general vicinity of its discovery for a short period of time but was seen by many observers.

White-eyed Vireo was sighted at two separate locations this spring. These overshoot birds have made a number of appearances in the Region in recent years. The only warbler highlight of the season was a Kentucky Warbler. More unusual were reports of **Blue Grosbeak** and **Dickcissel**. **Brewer's Blackbird** once again hinted towards the possibility of breeding. A number were reported at a single location in Hamlin from 19 April throughout much of May. As many as three females and a single male were sighted on a single day. Follow-up on this activity might produce confirmation of their breeding.

Contributors: Richard Ashworth, David Atwater, Peg Beckman, Sue Boettger, Elizabeth Brooks, Jean Browning, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletta, Jim & Ruth Chatfield, Julie Claffey, Tomma Lisa Clark, Anne Clarridge, Jack Conway, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Jean Dingerson, Frank Dobson, Jeff Dodge, Jim Doherty, Jack & Barb Duvall, Bret Ewald, Ralph Faull, June Feder, Kevin Griffith, Roy Grau, Bill Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Diane Henderson, Bob & Jean Izard, Harold Jacobus, Bob & Jane Kesselring, Allan Klofick, Gary Klue, Mike Lanzone, Gerry Leubner, Walt Listman, Don & Hyde Lown, Robert Marcotte, Pat Martin, Jane & Max Mason, Robert McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Dave Miller, Nancy Miller, Brian Mongi, Joan Myers, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Lauren Parmalee, Charlie & Betty Peer, J. Poland, Bill & Betty Powell, Martha Reinhardt, Marty Robinson, Ray Robinson, Rick Sawicki, Pat & Wayne Scheible, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Sharon Skelly, J. Slack, Robert, Susan, Cathy & Kristin Spahn; Paul, Jeff, Roseanne & Terry Spindler; Allison Stewart, Harriet Stride, David and Allen Strong, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Bill Symonds, Mike Tetlow, Bill & Marion Thompson, Sylvia Thomson, Don & Donna Traver, Kinsley Whittum, and Alice Wood.

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

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: arr Greece 25 Mar, last Manitou 2 May. Com. Loon: max 223 WL 25 Apr (PS). Horned Grebe: last Greece 8 May. **Eared Grebe**: one Walworth 5 May (HJ, RF, ph). Red-necked Grebe: arr two WL 9 Mar, max 40 WL 4 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: max 400 BB 23 May (CC). Am. Bittern: max four Sodus 19 May. Least Bittern: arr Greece 4 May. Great Egret: one WL 17-19 Apr (BS). Snowy Egret: one Sweden 12-14 May (CC,BS). Cattle Egret: on HPt 26-27 Apr (MD), two HPt 1 May (PB, B&BP). **White-fronted Goose**: one PtB 17 May (MD, CC). **Eurasian Wigeon**: *intro*. Ring-necked Duck: max 450 WL 23 Mar. Oldsquaw: last Manitou 30 May, late. Surf Scoter: two Manitou 8 May (CC), late. Red-breasted Merganser: max 3000 PtB 8 Apr (WL).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: one BB 13 Mar (BE). **Mississippi Kite**: one BB 14-20 May (JD, mob). Bald Eagle: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk. arr BB 17 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: arr four BB 16 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one BB 17 May (JD).

Golden Eagle: ad Greece 24 Mar (RMa); subad Webster 24 Mar (D&DT); two Webster 5 Apr (JCz); six Webster 30 Apr (JCz); *intro*, excellent total. Merlin: one WL 27 Apr. Peregrine Falcon: max four BB 12 May (BE), one LSP 18 May (DS), unusual location. **Sandhill Crane**: four BB 19 Mar (BE), two BB 7 Apr (BE), four BB 8 Apr (BE, CC, BS), one BB 23 Apr (CC). Lesser Golden-Plover: arr two WL 27 May. Semipalmated Plover: max 36 WL 17 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr WL 26 Apr. Ruddy Turnstone: arr Hamlin 17 May. W. Sandpiper: arr WL 18 May, last Hamlin 28 May [details? - *The Editor*]. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Hamlin 24 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 50 WL 8 Apr. Dunlin: arr Kendall 13 Apr. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 13 Perinton 12 May, max 43 Hamlin 17 May. Wilson's Phalarope: one Hamlin 17 May (CC). **Laughing Gull**: one Manitou 25 May (RO'H). Little Gull: max six Greece 16 Mar (mob), last Greece 22 Mar (RMa). Iceland Gull: one Fairport 2 Mar (DSh), unusual location. Glaucous Gull: one Greece 28 Apr (KG), one BB 1 May (BS). Forster's Tern: one WL 27 May (CC), only report. Black Tern: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: N. Saw-whet Owl: arr ICW 8 Mar. Com. Nighthawk: arr Springwater 7 Apr (HH), record early [?details - *The Editor*]. Whip-poor-will: one Manitou 29 Apr (RO'H), other undocumented reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Penfield 4-31 Mar, new location. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Greece 13 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr two LSP 16 May. Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Manitou 25 Apr (RO'H), record early. Com. Raven: one Webster 10 Apr (JCz), one Parma 19 Apr (JD), one Greece 23 Apr (KG), good total for the season. Winter Wren: arr Penfield 24 Mar. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Manitou 24 May (EB), late. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr ICW 7 Apr (AC), record early. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Highland P 15 May. Gray Catbird: one 17 Mar may have overwintered locally. N. Shrike: last Greece 29-31 Mar (RMa).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: one ICW 6 May (CC, RMc), one Manitou 23 May (RO'H). Philadelphia Vireo: arr Manitou 6 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr ICW 30 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: arr BB, Penfield 10 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: arr one Manitou 9 May (RMc), uncommon in spring. Prairie Warbler: one ICW 10-11 May (BC, PS), one Greece 24 May (KG). Palm Warbler: last Manitou 18 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Oatka Creek, Mumford, 30 Apr (PM), ties record early. Prothonotary Warbler: one ICW 30 Apr (RSp). Louisiana Waterthrush: arr one ICW 25 Apr. Com. Yellowthroat: arr Fairport 20 Apr (DS), record early. Kentucky Warbler: one N Chili 28 May (ML). Connecticut Warbler: one Greece 18 May (RMA, RSp), one Lyons 27 May (RSp). Hooded Warbler: arr Greece 8 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Blue Grosbeak**: one Hamlin 11 May (R&CS), flew from a wire and worked its way across a field by flying from one old cornstalk to another. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: one N. Chili 17 Mar (ML), very early, wintering bird or migrant? **Dickcissel**: one along Jacobs Road Hamlin 27 May

(RO). Am. Tree Sparrow: last Penfield 24 Apr. Clay-colored Sparrow: one BB 11 May (JC), being found more regularly. Field Sparrow: arr one Greece 7 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Mumford 5 May. Henslow's sparrow: arr LSP 26 May. Fox Sparrow: arr BB 1 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: last BB 29 May, late. Lapland Longspur: last two BB 4 Apr. Snow Bunting: last 20 BB 2 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr two WL 17 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr 10 ICW 27 Mar, last 5-7 Elba 25 May (GK). **Brewer's Blackbird**: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: arr PtB 18 May. Com. Redpoll: three HPt 9 Mar (MD), one Greece 23 Mar (KG).

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN AND C. R. SMITH

Another record warm spring saw temperatures ranging from 3° to 7° above normal for the Finger Lakes Region, while precipitation was normal to slightly above normal for the period. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, the period from October 1990 through May 1991 has "averaged nearly 4 degrees above normal, making it the warmest such 8-month period in 96 years of record." March was characterized by the typical tug of war between winter and spring, with alternating periods of cold and warm weather. Near record high temperatures in the 60s and 70s occurred the first week of March throughout the Region. The first week of March also brought a strong storm front from the southeast, with the most noteworthy movement of waterfowl of the season occurring ahead of that front. An estimated 47,000 Canada Goose was the seasonal maximum at Montezuma NWR on 6 Mar, along with 10,000 Snow Geese. Snow Goose peaked at Montezuma on 10 Apr with an estimated 15,000 birds. The bulk of the small land bird migration occurred over a ten-day period from 25 Apr through 5 May, with nearly 35 arrivals recorded during that time. This movement coincided with a period of record warm temperatures the last week of April and a storm front that swept through the area from the southwest the first week of May. Many observers commented that the variety of vireos and warblers was good but that abundances seemed low compared to past years.

In spite of the record warm temperatures, most spring migrants occurred within normally expected arrival dates, based on a review of

the "Calendar Graph" from *Enjoying Birds in Upstate New York* (Pettingill and Hoyt 1968). There were some notable early arrivals however: **Great Egret** nearly 1.5 months early on 28 Mar at Sapsucker Woods (C. Smith *et al.*) and **Broad-winged Hawk** nearly 1.5 months early on 1 Mar in the Ithaca area (Ned Brinkley, Adam Byrne), both coincident with periods of record warm temperatures and storms from the south; Upland Sandpiper two weeks early on 19 Apr, Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 28 Apr, Northern Rough-winged Swallow on 10 Apr, Bank Swallow one month early on 11 Apr, Cliff Swallow two weeks early on 24 Apr, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** nearly a month early on 7 Apr, and **Indigo Bunting** nearly a month early on 25 Apr near Ithaca (Ned Brinkley).

Shorebirds reported from Montezuma NWR by Ned Brinkley and Tracy Gingrich included Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitcher, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, and American Woodcock.

Other noteworthy species from the Region included **Red-necked Grebe**, and both **Sandhill Crane** (Herb Keating) and **Snowy Egret** at Montezuma NWR in mid April, ahead of a storm front from the SW that brought very strong winds, rain, and warmer temperatures). A **Gyrfalcon** at any time is exciting, but the observation of a late migrant on 13 May near Mecklenburg by John Gregoire, is especially worth noting (report submitted to NYSARC). A single **Black Vulture** on 13 Apr, also near Mecklenburg (John Gregoire), marks the second spring in a row this species has passed through the Region. An unsuccessful April nesting attempt by **Common Raven** (Dick Clements, Chemung Valley Audubon Society), at an athletic stadium, provides further evidence of the establishment and spread of this rare species in our region (see Notes and Observations). The list of unusual observations is rounded out by reports of **Eared Grebe**, **Barn Owl**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Blue Grosbeak**, and **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**.

Contributors: Ned Brinkley, Adam Byrne, Jack Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick Clements, Karl David, Eaton Birding Society, Bill Evans, Tracy Gingrich, Bernice Hilfiker, Dorothy McIlroy, Schuyler County Bird Club.

Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CWMA - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; SL - Seneca Lake; StP - Stewart Park (Ithaca); SSW - Sapsucker Woods; YBSF - Yellow Barn State Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: CL through mid-May, max 47 on 14 May. Pied-billed Grebe: several reports MNWR, CL, SL. Double-crested Cormorant: several reports CL, SL, MNWR; max 16 MNWR Apr. Horned Grebe: several reports CL and SL, max 17 CL 10 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe**: five Sullivanville Dam 22 Apr (DC, mob). **Eared Grebe**: one SL 3-6 Mar (JB, mob). Great Blue Heron: several active nesting colonies, largest 300 birds MNWR. **Great Egret**: *intro*; one MNWR May. **Snowy Egret**: *intro*. Tundra Swan: max 20 MNWR 6 Mar. Snow Goose: *intro*. Canada Goose: *intro*. Wood Duck: max 550 MNWR 31 May. Green-winged Teal: max 400 MNWR 18 Apr. Am. Black Duck: max 130 MNWR 6 Mar. Mallard: max 880 MNWR 31 May. Gadwall: max 10 MNWR 24 Apr and 16 May. N. Pintail: max 50 MNWR 24 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: max 110 MNWR 24 Apr. Am. Wigeon: max 130 MNWR 10 Apr. N. Shoveler: max 80 MNWR 10 Apr. Redhead: max 40 MNWR 2 Apr. Ring-necked Duck: max 150 MNWR 24 Apr. Canvasback: max 300 MNWR 2 Apr. Lesser Scaup: max 80 MNWR 18 Apr. Oldsquaw: max 167 CL 10 Apr; singles Elmira 27 Mar and 7 Eldridge L (Elmira) 7 Apr. White-winged Scoter: max 13 males MNWR 27 Apr; one Eldridge L (Elmira) 27 Mar, one Sullivanville Dam (Elmira) 22 Apr. Bufflehead: max 70 MNWR 18 Apr. Hooded Merganser: max ten MNWR 13 Mar and 24 Apr. Com. Merganser: max 190 MNWR 6 Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: two Eldridge L (Elmira) 25 Mar; singles CL, SL, and Waneta L. Ruddy Duck: max 50 MNWR 18 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture**: *intro*. Bald Eagle: one near Corning 29 Mar; imm FLNF 19 Apr; three ad nesting at MNWR, with 2 y banded by NYSDEC biologists 3 Jun. Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting near Monterey in May. **Broad-winged Hawk**: *intro*; carrying nesting material CWMA 15 May. Rough-legged Hawk: last Burdett 11 May. Merlin: one near Ithaca 25 Apr, one MNWR 14 May. Peregrine Falcon: one MNWR 18 May. **Gyrfalcon**: *intro*. Virginia Rail: max 10 MNWR May, reported from Big Flats Marsh and Holding Pt Marsh near Horseheads, and several reports from Cayuga Marsh. Sora: Big Flats Marsh and Holding Pt Marsh near Horseheads and several reports from Cayuga Marsh. Wild Turkey: max 50 near Elmira 2 Apr. **Sandhill Crane**: *intro*. Ruddy Turnstone: one Meyers Pt CL 17 May. Willet: one MNWR and near Phelps 19 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: one near Ithaca 8 May. Am. Woodcock: displaying near Ithaca since 24 Feb. Bonaparte's Gull: max 235 CL 10 Apr, late flock of 8 SL 19 May. Ring-billed Gull: 75-100 nesting on breakwater at Watkins Glen SL. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: at least two (slightly different plumages) StP 13-28 Mar (NB, AB, mob). Black Tern: ten MNWR 5 May, only report.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Barn Owl**: one Aurelius 23 Apr (Bruce Lader). E. Screech-Owl: one calling Ithaca 13 Apr. Great Horned Owl: two FL 18 May. Short-eared Owl: 12 near Watkins Glen 4 Mar; six T Veteran through early Apr. Whip-poor-will: one Ithaca 9 May, one West Elmira 18 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: only one, Ithaca 10 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Ithaca and two CWMA 18 May, one near Slaterville Springs 21 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: CWMA

23 May (BE, NB). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded near Mecklenburg 11 May (JG). Horned Lark: max 110 near Ithaca 2 Apr. Tree Swallow: max 2000 MNWR 28 Apr. Fish Crow: Ithaca throughout period, one nearly 6 miles n on CL at Salmon Creek (Meyers Pt) 10 Apr. **Com. Raven:** *intro*; near Slaterville Springs 13 May, Shindagin Hollow State Forest 28 May. Sedge Wren: one near Ithaca 23 May. Marsh Wren: one Cayuga Marsh 28 Apr, one MNWR 5 and 18 May, probably nesting Big Flats Marsh. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** *intro*. E. Bluebird: several reports, widespread. Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles CWMA 20 May and (singing) FLNF 23 May, only reports. Brown Thrasher: continued scarcity noted by several observers. Am. Pipit: several Apr reports, max 84 King Ferry 10 Apr. N. Shrike: last near Ithaca 23 Mar, only report. **Loggerhead Shrike:** one near Brooktondale 19 May (Alan de Queiroz).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: CWMA 7 and 20 May, near Elmira 11 May, near Slaterville Springs 24 May. Blue-winged Warbler: 12 near Ithaca 7 May. Golden-winged Warbler: near Elmira 11 May, Ithaca 13 May, only reports; appears to be extirpated as a breeding species in the Region. Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler: several reports of hybrids identifiable as either "Brewster's" or "Lawrence's" forms, many singing Blue-winged type songs (NB); because of the overlap of song types among hybrids, identification of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers by song alone, without seeing the birds, is risky. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one banded near Mecklenburg 17 May (JG). N. Parula: none. Pine Warbler: three singing males present in red pine plantation near Ithaca 7-16 May, possible breeders? Prairie Warbler: near Elmira 4 May, one CWMA 23 May, one near Slaterville Springs 24 May. Cerulean Warbler: seven MNWR 14 May; total of 17 from northern Cayuga Lake Basin 18 May (NB). Worm-eating Warbler: one near Elmira 18 May (DC). Kentucky Warbler: one singing (not seen) Shindagin Hollow State Forest 28 May (DMcI, Margaret Shepherd). Hooded Warbler: several reports from managed forests in the region, including FLNF, Hammond Hill and YBSF. Yellow-breasted Chat: one singing near Slaterville Springs 22 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVER: **Blue Grosbeak:** one Myers Pt CL 1 May (Alan de Queiroz, mob). **Indigo Bunting:** *intro*. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two heard singing (not seen) 9:15-9:40 PM Cayuga Marsh CL 28 Apr (NB, mob) one seen Hog Hole CL 18 May (Barbara Morse, Robb Reavill). Lincoln's Sparrow: near Ithaca 13 Apr, three additional Ithaca area locations (CWMA, StP, McLean Bog) 4-6 May, one Horseheads 14 May. Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 Queen Catharine Marsh (Watkins Glen) 3 Mar, same date as large waterfowl movements. Orchard Oriole: one Hog Hole CL 6 May, pair Sheldrake CL 14 May. Pine Grosbeak: one singing near Dryden 8 Apr (KD). Red Crossbill: flock of 25 CWMA 30 May (BE).

449 Irish Settlement Road, Freeville, New York 13068

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

All three months of the spring 1991 were warmer than normal, and not just a little warmer, either! May was the hottest on record!! High temperatures March and April averaged about five degrees above normal. May's highs shattered records of nearly forty years at the National Weather Service Station at Link Field, Binghamton. March entered like a lion with record high readings on three of the first six days. Afternoon temperatures hovered close to 80° each day from 6 to 9 April, as much as 29° above normal. Early May had a few cold days but, after 10 May a large high pressure system over the eastern part of the nation blocked colder weather from moving in and the mercury climbed to 80° almost every day. Precipitation was about 0.05 inches above normal in March, occurring mostly as rain, and about an inch over normal in April. At Oneonta, 8.00 inches of snow in March and 2.5 inches in April brought the year's total snowfall to 35.00 inches, more than 20.00 inches below the usual. May rainfall was not only more than an inch below the normal 3.19 inches, but it all fell the early part of the month. Except for light morning showers on 14 May, there was no rain the last three weeks of May.

The growing season was up to two weeks ahead of normal all season. Both wild and cultivated flowers and shrubs bloomed early and in great clusters. The promise of abundant seeds and berries with the accompanying bugs and worms had to look encouraging to woodland birds building their nests. Not so fortunate were meadowlarks, Bobolinks and some grassland sparrows. Farmers started cutting hay in mid May, probably the earliest ever. One has to hope the birds started over in their nesting efforts or had chosen an abandoned field to raise their young. Corn was planted so early it looked as if it would be "knee-high by the Fourth of June!"

The most sickening episode of the season was the 4 May shotgun slaughter of 11 Great Blue Herons at a rookery in the town of Greene. A 50-year-old man and his 35-year-old brother have since pleaded guilty to the crime and were fined \$250 each.

It was an outstanding season for finding denizens of the marsh. In addition to the Great Blue and Green-backed Heron, our alert observers spotted a fantastic seven rare to uncommon species: Am. Bittern, **Snowy**

Egret (especially rare in spring), Black-crowned Night-Heron, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen and Am. Coot. Following a mild winter with scant snowfall, March began with rivers open and free of ice or spring runoff. Lakes and reservoirs thawed quickly. Larger than usual rafts of diving ducks fared well in these conditions. Puddle ducks, however, didn't linger. Since rivers didn't overflow, there were no floodplain pools to attract them. The only exceptions were Am. Wigeon, spotted at many sites from 15 Mar to 1 Apr, and the ubiquitous Mallard, of course.

Good counts were reported for most hawks. Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos and Gail Kirch noted 8 Mar as "a good hawk day." They counted nine Red-tailed Hawk, seven Rough-legged Hawk, maxima for the season, plus a N. Harrier and an Am. Kestrel.

May arrived to find excited birders full of anticipation. Hah! What a fizzle! There were no strong weather fronts. There was hardly any variation - just sun and heat. Some birds arrived early, but there was nothing to delay them, nothing to drive them off course. If their nesting destination was not Region 4, they sped onward. Robert Miller coordinated the annual Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society spring bird count 18 May. He reported, "The only strictly transient warblers were Pine and Blackpoll Warblers. The migrants had pretty much passed through." He was content that the 10 parties out found a total of 126 species, one of their better counts. The Region's seasonal count of 190 species was one of the highest. Unfortunate misses were Horned and Red-necked Grebe, Merlin, Upland Sandpiper, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, Philadelphia and White-eyed Vireo, N. Parula and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Alan Holconde observed a Red-headed Woodpecker at a Morris feeder on 7 May both eating sunflower seeds and flying with them to a nearby maple tree, where he deposited seeds in the trunk, "behavior noted in material I have read about the bird." At least 30 Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo started moving into the Region by 16 May, probably drawn by the infestation of Gypsy Moths in Broome County. This is the second successive year for the destructive caterpillars.

Contributors: Cutler & Jeanette Baldwin, Les Bemont (LeB), Lois Bingley, Reynolds Bennett, Don & Judy Bell, Bruce Bozdos, Mildred Clark, George Chiu, Chad Covey, Marilyn Davis (MDv), Sadie Dorber, Rick Dorber, Carl Eastwood, John Fritz, M. Ferranti, John Gustafson, Elva Hawkin, Nancy Hawkin, Lynn Kalis, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Jay Lehman, Andy Mason, Harriet Marsi,

Rick Marsi (RMA), Robert Miller, Jean Miller, Dave Messineo, Marie Petuh, Halladay Pierce, Steve Rice, Ivex Rowe, Roger & Marnie Schrader, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Weed Walkers of Broome Naturalist Club, Don Windsor, Jane Young.

Abbreviations: Bpd - Boland Pond, Chenango Bridge; CRes - Cannonsville Reservoir; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; ChenF - Chenango Forks; ChenBr - Chenango Bridge; DOASSBC - Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Spring Bird Count, 18 May; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; JC - Johnson City; NNM - North Norwich Marsh; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; SUNYNP - SUNY at Binghamton Nature Preserve; WPres - Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr WPres 2 Apr; max and last six Otsego Lake 21 May, excellent count; 11 other reports. Pied-billed Grebe: arr WPres 24 Mar, eight other reports, last 19 Apr, good. Double-crested Cormorant: arr three WPres 24 Apr; five May reports, range expansion continues. Great Blue Heron: *intro*. **Snowy Egret**: one Apalachin Marsh 12 Apr (MP, JY), first spring since 1979. Green-backed Heron: 10 scattered reports, scarce. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Bpd 18 Apr (MP, ML, JY), first since 1982. Tundra Swan: three reports of up to six birds CHEN 4 -8 Mar; singles TIOG, BROO; last six CRes 19 Mar. Snow Goose: five flocks BROO (JS), 200 over Norwich (CE), 80+ CORT, three WPres, all 17 Mar, big migration day. Canada Goose: arr and max 1,000 FHNC 1 Mar; five reports of goslings BROO, CHEN, TIOG. Wood Duck: four arr BROO 15 Mar; hen with nine chicks OPM 18 May. Green-winged Teal: arr BROO 29 Mar; max four OPM 3 Apr; only five other reports until 19 Apr, low. Am. Black Duck: max 25 ChenF 2 Mar (T&NT). N. Pintail: single BROO 2 Mar (T&NT), only report. Blue-winged Teal: arr BROO 29 Mar; max and last of six reports three 16 Apr, low. Gadwall: arr five BROO 2 Mar (T&NT); one CHEN report, often missed. Am. Wigeon: *intro*. Canvasback: only one TIOG Mar (RB). Ring-necked Duck: three arr CORT 6 Mar; 20 BROO 22 Mar; 26 OTSE 26 Mar, high count. Lesser Scaup: arr 20 CRes 19 Apr (HP). Oldsquaw: arr four OnRes 17 Apr (MD); max 34 Upper Lisle 29 Apr (MDv), high count. White-winged Scoter: five Upper Lisle 29 Apr (MDv), only report. Bufflehead: one WPR 24 Mar, first of 14 reports through 3 May. Com. Goldeneye: arr ChenBr 12 Mar; eight other BROO, CORT, TIOG sites Mar, good count. Hooded Merganser: arr BROO 1 Mar; max 30 BROO 29 Mar (T&NT); 10 eggs found in Wood Duck box S. Otselic 16 Apr, hatched and gone by 19 May (DM). Com. Merganser: max 120 WPres 24 Mar (MP); 50 BROO 22 Mar (HM, mob); ten OPM 3 Apr, very high counts; hens at three CHEN sites 20 - 23 believed breeding (DM). Red-breasted Merganser: arr WPres 17 Mar (MDv); max 20 there 29 Mar (T&NT), excellent count.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr OPM 13 Mar; max nine OPM 8 Apr, many sites through period. Osprey: 22 reports of up to four birds all areas until 20 May. Bald Eagle: five singles through Region Mar and Apr, good distribution. N. Harrier: arr BROO 2 Mar(JS); good counts until 3 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk:

arr BROO 5 Mar; 18 reports through 11 May, high count. Cooper's Hawk: several singles through period; one "beside road eating rabbit" 31 Mar OPM (IW). Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BROO 18 Mar (FHNC staff); one OPM 26 Mar; one BROO 12 May (GK), good count. N. Goshawk: one McGraw week of 7 Apr, one CHEN, only reports. Broad-winged Hawk: singles at 17 sites through period. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: *intro*. Am. Kestrel: arr FHNC 1 Mar; pair mating CORT week of 7 Apr. Ring-necked Pheasant: only one TIOG 1 Apr (D&JR). Ruffed Grouse: only three Mar reports but common BROO Apr and May (JS). Wild Turkey: max 200 Harpersfield DELA 25 Mar (AM); 45 BROO 17 Mar (JS). Virginia Rail: one SUNY Binghamton Swamp 30 Apr (RMA). Sora: four NNM 4 May (DW, JL, CC), exceptional count. Com. Moorhen: three NNM 4 May; two Bpd 13 May (MP), excellent count. Am. Coot: one TIOG Apr (RB), one Bpd 13 May (MP). Killdeer: arr two BROO sites 3 Mar (SR, JS). Greater Yellowlegs: two OPM 21 May, only report. Solitary Sandpiper: last three OPM 16 May. Spotted Sandpiper: max six OnRes 5 May. Least Sandpiper: only two reports, last OPM 21-22 May. **Sanderling**: only one BROO 8 May (MP). Am. Woodcock: max four 21 Mar, more reports than usual of singles BROO, CORT, TIOG Mar and Apr. Bonaparte's Gull: arr CORT week of 24 Mar (JG); two sites TIOG Apr. Ring-billed Gull: arr BROO 2 Mar. Herring Gull: arr BROO 8 Mar.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: *intro*. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *intro*. Great Horned Owl: one on nest N Colesville 2 Mar (JS); nests with owlets three other BROO sites Apr. E. Screech-Owl: a "disoriented" owl rescued from Oneonta park road 1 May and later released, only report. Barred Owl: one BROO 21 Mar (T&NT); two BROO 11 & 19 May (JS), only reports. Com. Nighthawk: seven BROO and two OTSE sites, good numbers. Whip-poor-will: one DOASSBC 18 May; one Vestal Center 28 May (NH), previous report 1987 was first in many years. Chimney Swift: scattered reports of up to four birds through period. Red-headed Woodpecker: *intro*; one CHEN (*vide* JL). Red-bellied Woodpecker: at least five at BROO, TIOG sites. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: widespread late Apr-May. N. Flicker: arr BROO 28 Mar. Pileated Woodpecker: two courting OPM 16 Mar; six-eight sites/month through period, good numbers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: arr BROO 4 May (SR), early. Acadian Flycatcher: Upper Lisle 28 May (MDv), only report. Alder Flycatcher: max four sites OTSE 23 May. Willow Flycatcher: only four reports. Least Flycatcher: widespread arr 4 May. E. Phoebe: widespread after 25 Mar. E. Kingbird: six-seven sites a week after 1 May. Horned Lark: four reports of one to a few birds BROO, CHEN, CORT all Mar, scarce. Purple Martin: three BROO, one TIOG reports; ad with one FL behind Northgate Plaza 28 May (T&NT). Tree Swallow: mass arrival 28 Mar; reports of up to 125 birds 29 Mar; max 300 OTSE 11 Apr "bucking winds of up to 30 mph with utmost ease" (MD). Bank Swallow: small colonies (10 to 20 holes) Windsor & Lisle 29 and 31 May; one of 80 holes 15 May TIOG. Barn Swallow: 12 max 21 May; widespread. **Fish Crow**: one TIOG Mar

(C&JB); two Owego's Burger King 17 Mar (MP), one Chenango R BROO 24 Apr (MP). **Com. Raven:** single TIOG 28 Mar (C&JB); one "same area near Lapeer [CORT] as one heard all last summer by Joyce Tice" 13-15 Apr (BT). Tufted Titmouse: five DELA sites Mar, latest area of range expansion. Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread Apr; pair nesting 24 Apr (R&JM). Brown Creeper: arr 8 Mar; max 10 BROO 13 Apr, unusually high numbers through period. Carolina Wren: two-three sites/month BROO, CHEN, TIOG, good numbers! House Wren: max six OPM 11 May. Winter Wren: seven sites OTSE and one CHEN after 4 May, limited area. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr BROO 31 Mar; 20 reports of up to four birds Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: seven sites OPM 16 and 25 Apr, last BROO and OPM 13 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: five CVSP 11 May (GC); three DOASSBC 18 May; nine other reports, very high. E. Bluebird: arr BROO 2 Mar, early. Veery: arr BROO 4 Apr, early; one other Apr, common in May. Swainson's Thrush: several there until 23 May (JS). Hermit Thrush: arr BROO 19 Apr. N. Mockingbird: seven Mar reports increasing to 20 May. Brown Thrasher: arr BROO 15 Apr; max three OPM 29 Apr & 11 May; on nest Windsor 19 May (JS). Am. Pipit: two OPM 4 May, only report. Cedar Waxwing: max and earliest 14 OTSE 18 Mar. Shrike sp.: two dates late Mar OPM, "probably a Northern but late dates raised our hopes for Loggerhead" (R&JM)

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Solitary Vireo: max 6 OTSE 10 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Apalachin 30 Apr, early; at 17 sites May, good count. Warbling Vireo: at four widespread sites 4 May. Red-eyed Vireo: max six OTSE 28 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr BROO 27 Apr; usual high numbers May, mostly BROO. Golden-winged Warbler: arr DOASSBC 18 May; one IBM Glen 29 May (WW); one T Fenton 23 May (JS). Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" on territory Morris 11, 12, 13, 27 May (JF); one BROO 28 May (GC). Tennessee Warbler: four reports BROO; last OTSE 24 May. Nashville Warbler: last 27 May. Yellow Warbler: max eight 11 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 11 OTSE 28 May. Magnolia Warbler: only 12 reports, low. Cape May Warbler: five reports, last 27 May, low. Black-throated Blue Warbler: widespread after 1 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BROO 13 Apr; max 20 CVSP 2 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 9 Apr (HM, mob), record early. Blackburnian Warbler: five reports, low. Pine Warbler: singles BROO 13, 14, 15 Apr (T&NT), CORT 5 May; DOASSBC, good count. Prairie Warbler: singles BROO 5, 7, 12 May; one OTSE 28 May "same site last seven years" (MD). Palm Warbler: singles BROO 1 and 11 May (T&NT), only reports. Bay-breasted Warbler: two SUNYNP 12 May (GC), low. Blackpoll Warbler: one TIOG and three BROO reports, last 26 May, low. Black-and-white Warbler: widespread after 19 Apr. Am. Redstart: arr early. Worm-eating Warbler: only two DOASSBC, often missed. Ovenbird: arr early. N. Waterthrush: widespread after 29 Apr. Louisiana Waterthrush: very early reports 10, 11 Apr (LeB). **Com.** Yellowthroat widespread after 28 Apr, early. Hooded Warbler: two DOASSBC 18 May, often missed. Wilson's Warbler: only one report. Canada Warbler: arr and max four OTSE 11 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max five 16 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Vestal Center 24 Apr (SD), record early; widespread after 1 May. Indigo Bunting: reports scant. Rufous-sided Towhee: arr late. Am. Tree Sparrow: last two 18 Apr, scarce all season. Vesper Sparrow: arr two OPM 13 Apr; singles BROO, CHEN, very low. Savannah Sparrow: arr OPM 4 Apr; two CORT 7 Apr; widespread in May. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr BROO, CHEN 4 May; two other BROO reports, good. Henslow's Sparrow: two BROO sites 11, 21 May (ML), good. Fox Sparrow: arr BROO 22 Mar; three other sites CORT, TIOG, last 8 Apr. Swamp Sparrow: arr OPM 8 Apr; max five BROO 24 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: arr TIOG 3 Apr; widespread but numbers low. White-crowned Sparrow: max eight BROO 9 May; "very high count by DELA teams" DOASSBC. Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 BROO 14 Apr. Snow Bunting: last CORT 3 Mar. Red-winged Blackbird: max 1,000 BROO 11 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr CORT 7 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr CHEN 31 Mar (DW); three TIOG 8 Apr, only ones. Com. Grackle: large flocks widespread after 1 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 30 CORT 1 and 3 Apr. N. Oriole: one Apr report with no date; max eight OTSE 16 May. Pine Grosbeak: singles at Oneonta feeder 2 Apr (MD) and Vestal Center feeder 27, 28 Apr (RD), only ones of the winter 1990-91. Purple Finch: widespread after 13 Apr. Red Crossbill: 20 OPM 29 Apr; six DOASSBC, only ones since three Dec reports. Pine Siskin: one JC 1 Apr; two other singles until last TIOG 30 May, rare all winter. Am. Goldfinch: max 80 Oneonta 3 Mar, declining Apr. European Goldfinch: at least one by Franklin observers mid March; several escapes seen there and other DELA areas winter 86-87 but have since disappeared. Evening Grosbeak: increasing in Mar, max 45 mid Apr, last DOASSBC, late.

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Weather conditions this spring were warmer and wetter than normal. Along with average monthly temperatures combined with several record one day highs came early arrivals for many species. The average temperature from March to the end of May was 5° above the norm, 45.5°. On 1 Mar, the thermometer rose to 60° at Derby Hill, marking the arrival of both Bald Eagle and Cooper's Hawk. The next day, temperatures were even higher, when a record high of 69° was set simultaneously with the arrival of three more raptors. It's amazing, but six days later in the central Adirondacks it was only 2° at one point in the early morning. Record high temperatures continued on into April with an 85° reading on 7 Apr and 79° the following day. May similarly was characterized by warmer than normal conditions especially the second half of the month when the thermometer rose to 89° on three separate days. Precipitation for the three month period averaged 0.75 inches above the norm. In the Adirondacks on the Memorial Day weekend it rained every day, with 3.5 inches falling on 26 May and washing out the South Shore Road between Old Forge and Inlet. A trace of snow on 23 Apr marked the end of a very mild winter for the entire Region. With the concern about the onset of global warming, one observer had no doubt that it had already arrived in central New York.

The highlight of this season's migration was the record early arrival of fourteen species. Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Caspian Tern and Palm Warbler each arrived on the Lake Ontario littoral before 18 Apr. Olive-sided Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart and Vesper Sparrow had arrived either in Dewitt ONON or the southern highlands before 8 May. A Virginia Rail observed in the marshes near Weedsport on 17 Mar may have overwintered there.

With the unseasonably mild temperatures, some water birds arrived early and had moved on within a short period of time. An unusually high number of Common Loon were reported inland, but were gone the following day. **Snowy Egret** and **Little Blue Heron** were reported for one day only. Canada Geese dominated the wetlands and cornfields through out the western part of the Region with less than a thousand at

any one given site after mid April. Northern Pintail were found in moderate numbers, with sizable flocks reported from Howlands Island, the Seneca River and Cross Lake. Quarry ponds can often be good sites for finding waterfowl. Such was the case when Marge Rusk found 460 Ring-necked Duck at one location on 30 Mar. Unfortunately Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler and Redhead were alarmingly scarce, with daily maxima of no more than fifteen.

The raptor flight from Derby Hill was mixed. Northern Harrier, all three accipiters, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks were below average in total numbers. Among falcons, Am. Kestrel continues to show a steady decline in total individuals from the thirteen year average of 483. On a more positive note and for the second consecutive year Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon each showed record high seasonal counts. The Region's first **Black Vulture** since 1984 and a **Swainson's Hawk** rounded out this spring's observations. A pair of Osprey was again at Dinglehole Swamp in northern Onondaga Co., but no reports were forthcoming from the Salmon River Reservoir this year. After last summer's inactivity, Osprey were seen once again at their nest near Moss Lake in the Adirondacks.

The shorebird flight was generally poor both in numbers and variety. Fifteen species appeared primarily along the banks of flooded creeks in the Town of Lysander ONON and the Town of Schroepel OSWE. The high count of Common Snipe and the one day appearance of a Wilson's Phalarope, the first spring observation in four years, accounted for the more notable sightings. Other unusual records included a Black-legged Kittiwake and a Forster's Tern.

With respect to land birds, all species that annually occur in the Region were reported, but numbers were low. Only Black-capped Chickadee and Golden-crowned Kinglet demonstrated a marked return flight in mid April. Especially disturbing were the one to five per day totals for the following species: Winter Wren, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Brown Thrasher and Solitary Vireo. Equally scarce warblers were N. Parula, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada Warblers. Admittedly, it was hard to find positives, but Yellow-billed Cuckoo was more in evidence than in previous years, especially near Martisco Station in the Camillus Valley ONON. A pair of Common Raven with young in the nest was located just east of Cleveland on the north shore of Oneida Lake during May. It

marked the first time that these birds had nested in the Region beyond the perimeter of the Adirondacks. **Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow and Orchard Oriole** helped to elevate the sagging spirits of most birders.

Observers reported a total of 228 species plus one color morph and one hybrid. The most unusual of these were **Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike and White-eyed Vireo**. Other notable species included Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Wilson's Phalarope, Black-legged Kittiwake, Forster's Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sedge Wren, Prairie Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow and Orchard Oriole.

A special thanks to Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

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Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondacks, HERK; BR- Region 5 Big Run 11 May; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; StMC - St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, ONON; SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, ONEI; TRWMA - Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area, ONON.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: Adk arr Limekiln L 9 Apr; max 86 s MADI 21 Apr; last Erieville 29 May. Pied-billed Grebe: eleven in nine reports. Horned Grebe: arr SSSP 9 Mar; max five Toad Harbor 21 Apr; last Woodman's Pd MADI 23 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: one Toad H 11 Apr, two Beaver L 20 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 6 Apr; max 800 LOL 3 May; up to 50 Wantry I, Oneida L nesting in May. Am. Bittern: 13 reports. Least Bittern: arr Woodman's Pd, Snake Swamp 17 Apr, record early. Great Egret: singles DH 28 Apr, Peter Scott Swamp 10 May, Pd One Hundred 11-12 May, Dewitt and W. Monroe 27 May, Dewitt 30 May. **Snowy Egret**: one bait ponds FH 10 May (MSR). **Little Blue Heron**: one Sage Creek DH 24 May (GS). Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Snake Swamp 8 Apr, record early. Tundra Swan: seven reports 7 Mar to 23 Apr, max 11 Lysander 19 Mar. Snow Goose: reported 3-25 Mar; max 500 Oneida L 25 Mar. Brant: max 450 LOL 11 May; last Onondaga L 22 May. Canada Goose: max 20,000 Howlands I and vicinity 10 Mar. Wood Duck: max 30 Delta L 20 Mar. Green-winged Teal: Adk arr Limekiln L 9 Apr; max 50 LOL 14 Apr. N. Pintail: arr Cross L 2 Mar; max 320 Howlands I and vicinity 10 Mar; last Snake Swamp 14 Apr. N. Shoveler: Adk arr 28 Mar; max seven Snake Swamp, last Biddicum 23 Apr. Am. Wigeon: max 60 CAYU and ONON 24 Mar; last Clay Marsh 24 April. Canvasback: max 110 FH 8 Mar; last Toad H 21 Apr. Redhead: last 14 Brewerton and SSSP 9 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: last Beaver L 5 May; *intro*. Greater Scaup: last Toad H 14 May. Lesser Scaup: last Clay 23 Apr. Oldsquaw: last Toad H 14 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: one Toad H 15 May, unusual. Com. Goldeneye: last DH 11 May. Bufflehead: last Toad H 14 May. Hooded Merganser: last migrants 17 Apr. Com. Merganser: last Beaver L 5 May. Red-breasted Merganser: last SPd 15 May. Ruddy Duck: Beaver L 14 Mar to 22 Apr; max 20 on 13 Apr; four Woodman's Pd 17 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Derby Hill Hawk migration totals:

Species	Arrival	Max-Date	Last	90%	Date Range	Total
Turkey Vulture	2 Mar	525- 6 Apr	29 May	27	Mar-30 Apr	3210
Osprey	31 Mar	99-29 Apr	29 May	19	Apr-11 May	517
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	5-2 dates	29 May	2	Mar-16 May	48
Northern Harrier	21 Feb	57-27 May	29 May	2	Mar-11 May	711
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6 Mar	688-29 Apr	29 May	4	Apr-11 May	4006
Cooper 's Hawk	1 Mar	36-26 Mar	23 May	16	Mar- 6 May	373
Northern Goshawk	21 Feb	5-19 Mar	19 May	2	Mar- 1 May	39
Red-shouldered Hawk	2 Mar	131-26 Mar	11 May	17	Mar-17 Apr	561
Broad-winged Hawk	7 Apr	7731-30 Apr	29 May	23	Apr- 1 May	18564
Red-tailed Hawk	18 Feb	656-14 Apr	29 May	6	Mar-30 Apr	5256
Rough-legged Hawk	21 Feb	80- 6 Mar	15 May	6	Mar- 1 May	418
Golden Eagle	17 Mar	6-26 Mar	1 May	26	Mar-29 Apr	34
American Kestrel	2 Mar	47-27 Mar	23 May	18	Mar- 6 May	304
Merlin	17 Mar	2	9 May			14
Peregrine Falcon	28 Apr	2	12 May			8
Total (including unidentified)						34151

Black Vulture: one DH 3 Apr, fifth Regional record. **Osprey:** pair nesting at TRWMA 17 May and Moss L Adk's. **Bald Eagle:** four ad Big Moose L and Dart L 4 Mar-7 Apr, singles Little Falls and Bouckville 23 Mar; single imm Big Moose L and Dart L 4 Mar-7 Apr, Erieville 21 Mar, Mexico 14 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk:** one DH 16 May. **Merlin:** two Onondaga P, Syracuse, 8 Mar-12 Apr, one StMC 7 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon:** one Shackelton Pt 7 Apr, *intro*. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** ten reports. **Wild Turkey:** nine overwintered at deer feeding stations Old Forge. **Virginia Rail:** *intro*. **Am. Coot:** four reports, scarce. **Semipalmated Plover:** one Jordan 11 May, last SPd 24 May. **Greater Yellowlegs:** eight Biddlecum 28 Apr, last SPd 15 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** nine Jordan and Lysander 11 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** four Biddlecum 28 Apr, last Erieville 15 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr near Bridgeport 16 Apr; two W Monroe 27 Apr, three Holland Patent 28 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: one Lysander 16 May, only report. Least Sandpiper: max 18 BR; last SPd 24 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 11 Lysander 10 Apr, last there 22 Apr. Dunlin: arr Lysander 15 Apr; max three there 23 Apr; last SPd 24 May. Com. Snipe: max 50 near Phoenix 4 Apr. Am. Woodcock: max 12 Rome 17 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: female Lysander 16 May. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 14 Apr. Iceland Gull: last imm Baldwinsville 2 Mar. Black-legged Kittiwake: one near Mexico 7 Mar. Caspian Tern: arr DH 7 Apr (mob), record early; max 89 SPd 18 Apr. Com. Tern: max 50 Oswego 11 May. Forster's Tern: one SPd 18 Apr (BP). Black Tern: scarce, reported from four sites.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: seven reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr StMC 17 May, max four Camillus Valley 26 May. Banded Owl: two Beaver L 3 Apr, singles Cleveland 2 May, W Monroe 11 May. Com. Nighthawk: two Syracuse 29 May, one Redfield 27 May, scarce. Whip-poor-will: arr Cleveland 10 May, max three there. Chimney Swift: max 50 Oswego 12 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Adk arr Old Forge 8 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: two reports. Black-backed Woodpecker: one Wheeler Bog near Old Forge 31 May. N. Flicker: arr *ca* 7 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Erieville 7 May (EH, JS), record early; four reports. E. Wood-Pewee: max 12 SPd 24 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr StMC 16 May, three reports. Alder Flycatcher: six SVB 27 May. Willow Flycatcher: max 16 Clay Marsh 29 May. Least Flycatcher: max 15 LOL 11 May. E. Phoebe: max 18 s highlands 7 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: max 15 BR 11 May. E. Kingbird: max 13 ONON and OSWE 27 May. Tree Swallow: max 120 DH 28 Apr. Bank Swallow: max 150 Phoenix 9 May. Barn Swallow: max 150 BR. Gray Jay: one Wheeler Bog near Old Forge 31 May. Am. Crow: max 500 w part of Region 24 Mar. Com. Raven: four Old Forge 9 Mar, *intro*. Black-capped Chickadee: max 185 ONON and OSWE 7 Apr. Boreal Chickadee: singles Limekiln Swamp 12, 14 Mar, Horn L Adk 12 May. Carolina Wren: eight reports. Winter Wren: migrants 30 Mar to 11 May. Sedge Wren: arr Clay 23 May. Marsh Wren: arr Toad H 18 Apr, max 19 Clay Marsh 29 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 130 OSWE 14 Apr. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Adk arr Limekiln Swamp 26 Apr; max 30 DH 26 Apr; last Sterling 14 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Pompey 6 Apr (DWC, mob), record early. E. Bluebird: Adk arr 27 Apr. Veery: max eight FH 11 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Besaw Road 11 May, one StMC 22 May. Swainson's Thrush: one-two per day, last StMC 25 May. Hermit Thrush: max eight StMC 27 Apr, last SPd 15 May. Brown Thrasher: arr StMC 13 Apr (PDeB), record early. Am. Pipit: arr Biddicum 31 Mar, max 12 there 7 Apr, last StMC 7 May. Cedar Waxwing: max 56 Erieville 20 Mar. N. Shrike: last TRWMA 1 Apr. **Loggerhead Shrike**: one Snake Swamp 24 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: one StMC 15 May (J.Hanyak), first since 1988. Solitary Vireo: arr Erieville 16 Apr (EH), record early; Adk arr 8 May; scarce. Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Labrador Hollow 27 Apr (DWC), record early; scarce. Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 15 May, last Syracuse 27 May. Red-eyed

Vireo: Adk arr 26 Apr. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Toad H 30 Apr. Golden-winged Warbler: arr StMC 8 May four reports for the season. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: "Brewster's" Baldwinsville, two Camillus 12, 13 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr 30 Apr StMC (DWC, mob), record early. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles Erieville 9 May, StMC 9-11 May. N. Parula: Adk arr 6 May, 17 reports. Yellow Warbler: max 66 LOL 14 May. Magnolia Warbler: Adk arr 8 May. Cape May Warbler: three reports, very scarce. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Adk arr 5 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 31 Mar, max 65 there 6 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: male StMC 16 Apr (J. Thurber, PDeB), record early. Pine Warbler: max three Noyes Sanctuary 13 Apr and SSSP 14 Apr, singles Erieville 12 Apr, 4 May, Highland Forest ONON 14 May. Prairie Warbler: male Camillus 11 May. Palm Warbler: arr DH 14 Apr (GS), record early; max 18 LOL 11 May; last SPd 15 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: one to four per day, last StMC 19 May. Blackpoll Warbler: arr Erieville 4 May (JS), record early; last SPd 31 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Whiskey Hollow 5 May, 12 reports. Black-and-white Warbler: Adk arr 8 May. Am. Redstart: arr StMC 26 Apr (PDeB), record early. Ovenbird: Adk arr 5 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 8 Apr, early. Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 11 May. Wilson's Warbler: one per day, 11-14 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max eight BR. Rufous-sided Towhee: max 13 Camillus and Phoenix 9 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Toad H 27 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr Erieville 23 Mar, max ten BR 11 May. Vesper Sparrow: arr Baldwinsville 25 Mar (Tom Shuman *vide* DWC), record early, 12 reports for the season. Savannah Sparrow: max four W. Monroe 27 Apr, very scarce. Grasshopper Sparrow: one to three Pompey 11, 19 May, one French Road OSWE 11 May, one Henneberry Road 27 May. Henslow's Sparrow: two+ W Monroe after 30 Apr, one Pompey 17 May. Fox Sparrow: migrants 24 Mar to 28 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: six reports. Swamp Sparrow: arr Clay Marsh 31 Mar, max 44 there 28 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: Adk arr 8 May, last StMc 16 May. White-crowned Sparrow: Adk arr 8 May, last Holland Patent 19 May. Lapland Longspur: three N. Victory 3 Mar. Red-winged Blackbird: max 25,000 w part of Region 24 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr Port Byron 3 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr Scott Swamp 13 Mar; max 55 FH 10 May, last there 11 May. Orchard Oriole: pair Lafayette 9-10 May. N. Oriole: max 40 BR. Purple Finch: max 30 Erieville 29 Apr. Pine Siskin: one to six at feeders 18 Mar-15 May. Am. Goldfinch: max 100 BR. Evening Grosbeak: max 51 Erieville 26 Mar, last Labrador Pd 14 May.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Another mild season! Temperatures for March and April were 2°-3° and 3°-5° above normal, respectively, and May also was balmy. Precipitation for March was about normal, but even on the Tug Hill, snowfall was only half the usual amount. April rainfall was about 30% higher than average. Heavy rainfalls occurred on 8-9 and 22 Apr. The most severe period followed the ice storm of 3-4 Mar, when a heavy coat of ice made three days of slim pickings for birds, although no one commented on any observed effects. Lee Chamberlaine predicts that the long term effects of so much damage to trees will be high tree mortality and more woodpecker habitat in coming years.

In response to the early spring, resident species and short distance migrants seemed to nest early. Late warblers, such as Bay-breasted and Blackpoll, were found well ahead of schedule. More impressive than any effect of the early spring was the low numbers of migrant insectivores. The Walkers report "warblers, kinglets, and thrushes were very hard to find. We did not observe any 'waves' and could find only one or two individuals of several warbler species." Lee Chamberlaine wrote, "The woods grow more silent as I put on years. Some (species) I no longer hear because they are not there. Others, although they are few, I cannot hear but I can see. The rate of loss accelerates (and) the warblers become rarer gems each year. Many species are way down, but only birders of the 1950's and 1960's would realize it: ducks, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, and tanagers." In addition to species mentioned above, Com. Raven, E. Bluebird, and Bobolink reports were up, while Green-backed Heron, E. Wood-Pewee, both kinglets and Warbling Vireo were thought to be down.

In spite of the dearth of numbers, an extraordinary number of species was recorded, 192. This included three species of grebe, five herons, 25 waterfowl, 14 diurnal raptors, 19 shorebirds, five owls, eight woodpeckers, eight flycatchers including all but the Yellow-bellied, all five swallows; four wrens lacking only Sedge Wren, eight thrushes, five vireos, 22 warblers; 13 sparrows, 7 blackbirds and six finches. The Region is finally obtaining depth of coverage with regular reports from most areas including Lewis Co. Particularly welcome is Bob and June Walker's thorough reporting of Three Mile Bay and the Limmerick Cedars-Chaumont Barrens area.

Waterfowl were well-reported. There were five reports of Snow Goose. Green-winged Teal was way up with eight sightings. Low numbers were indicated for Am. Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler and Wood Duck. There was only one report for Redhead. The imm male **Harlequin Duck** seen at Moses-Saunders Dam since 9 Dec was last seen 3 Mar, and a Barrow's Goldeneye was found in early March. Among the rarities were an adult **Great Cormorant** well-described by Bruce Di Labio (first Regional record) and a first spring record of adult Little Gull, both at Moses-Saunders Dam on 3 May.

To summarize the raptor sightings, all three accipiters were reported. Paul Kelly had a Sharp-shinned Hawk "pretty much daily, feeding on Mourning Doves. In late winter I had about about 50 doves in my yard, but by the end of May they were down to twenty. I had several sightings of captures." Among the buteos, Broad-winged Hawk was scarce, and there were but two reports of Red-shouldered. However, Peter O'Shea thinks the latter have increased in s St. Lawrence Co, and wonders whether the decline in Broad-winged Hawk could be due to increasing numbers of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk. There were been several Bald Eagle sightings, and a Golden Eagle was reported. Osprey reports are up. Lee Henderson had a Merlin in his Henderson yard on 29 Apr carrying a small bird. Bob Walker photographed an imm dark morph **Gyrfalcon** at Pt. Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF, on 2 Mar; unfortunately it did not linger. Bob also reports that "a few weeks later an injured Gyrfalcon was found a few miles north of here (T Lyme) and a DEC officer turned it over to a wildlife rehabilitator. We examined it and believe it to be a different bird." As for owls, Mary Wood missed her E. Screech-Owl in May after seeing it regularly through March and most of April, until it appeared 31 May with three fledglings. There was a spat of late Snowy Owl sightings. Three Barred Owl were reported. Short-eared Owl remain numerous.

Among species expanding ranges, there were three reports of Great Egret, one in each county. Mallard continues to increase in numbers. Bob Hendrickson reported several waterfowl hybrids from LEWI, including Mallard X Black, Mallard X Wigeon, and an apparent Mallard X Shoveler; all were photographed or video-taped. Willow Flycatcher is well-established in STLA. The **Carolina Wren** present in Canton at the Sheards' feeder since January sang through March and was last seen 2 April, just before a severe wind storm. Three persons reported six

sightings of N. Mockingbird. Golden-winged Warbler was well reported, and the Walkers found a "Brewster's" hybrid singing a Golden-winged Warbler type song near Washington Park, T Lorraine, on 10 May, probably a Regional first.

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Abbreviations: CV - T Cape Vincent; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; PRWMA - Perch River WMA; PtP - Point Peninsula; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TMP - Three Mile Pt, T Lyme; ULL — Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WB - Wilson's Bay, Cape Vincent.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr pair ULL 18 Apr. Horned Grebe: one Massena 7 Apr. Red-necked Grebe: one TMP 21 Apr. **Great Cormorant**: *intro*. Great Egret: singles Russell 9 Apr, Turin 29 Apr. WB 15 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: two WB, 23 Apr; one Southwick Beach 31 May. Mute Swan: five PRWMA 5 May, increasing? Snow Goose: 700 Henderson 17 Mar, early; four blue morphs in a flock of eight Ellisburg 20 Mar. Brant: one MSD 28 May (BMD), only report. Canada Goose: max 8000 vicinity of Henderson Pd, 16,000 Henderson-Ellisburg area 17 Mar; 3000 MSD 20 Mar. Mallard and hybrids: *intro*. Gadwall: max 42 MSD 28 May. Redhead: PtP 10 Mar. Canvasback: 24 TMP 16 Mar; two PRWMA 13 May, unusual here and late. Greater Scaup: max 18 WB 29 Mar; last one WB 8 May. Lesser Scaup: arr MSD 3 Mar, last 28 May. **Harlequin Duck**: *intro*. Barrow's Goldeneye: male off Three Mile Bay 2 Mar (B&JW). Oldsquaw: 66 displaying SLR at CV 26 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: late max 12 MSD 3 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: pair at PRWMA nest 4 Apr; one carrying sticks at L Massawiepe, T Piercefield 20 May. Bald Eagle: ad, two imm near Hermon 7 Apr; one Cranberry L 22 May; pair on Raquette R in S Colton, where they have nested in recent years. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 14 total reported, max six Chaumont Barrens 7 May; *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: total seven in four reports. N. Goshawk: total four in three reports. Rough-legged Hawk: last, both dark-phase, Hopkinton 4 May and CV 6 May. Golden Eagle: imm MSD 7 Apr (J&NA). Merlin: *intro*. **Gyr Falcon**: *intro* (NYSARC). Ring-necked Pheasant: clutch of 13 eggs Massena 19 May. Wild Turkey: nesting mid-April T Louisville increasing LEWI. Am. Coot: one CV 1 May, only report. Bonaparte's Gull: arr and max 16 MAD 3 May. Little Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: last seven MSD 20 Mar. Com. Tern: max MSD 350 3 May. Black Tern : max 250-300 WB 5 May; 24 PRWMA 5 May. Solitary Sandpiper: only two or three T Lyme after 7 May. Upland Sandpiper: seven sightings by four observers, mostly JEFF. Short-billed Dowitcher: one CV 19 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: three singles after 19 May. E. Screech-Owl: *intro*. Snowy Owl: one Canton 9 Apr, one Madrid 23 Apr, ad male CV from March until 10 May. Barred Owl: reported from Colton, Piercefield, and

Louisville. Short-eared Owl: 14 near CV until late March. Com. Nighthawk: four reports; arr Ogdensburg 15 Apr, daily thereafter, record early. Whip-poor-will: max five Limerick Cedars and six Chaumont Barrens 29 May. Chimney Swift: arr early; max 50 Watertown 29 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr very early. Red-headed Woodpecker: one T Lorraine, Tug Hill, 8 May (D&SL), very unusual site.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Canton 29 May; abundant southern StLaw (POS). Willow Flycatcher: arr Brownville 21 May; two or three regularly ULL. Horned Lark: three CV "seen flying from road to grass with food in their beaks" 28 May, apparently feeding young (MW). Purple Martin: 40 pair breeding Massena 10 Apr; few elsewhere. Com. Raven: ad at nest with three y about to fledge, Whetstone Gulf, Lowville 28 May "No doubt same pair as reported last year" (RJW). Brown Creeper: only singles reported mid Apr to early May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Louisville 28 Mar; max 10 Eldorado Beach Preserve, T Adams 13 Apr. N. Mockingbird: one in Massena, five others n JEFF. Am. Pipit: none. Bohemian Waxwing: three reports; 40 Potsdam 6 Mar "gorging on crabapples as brilliant sun melted the thick coat of ice which had been present since 4 March"; max 54 MSD 3 Mar. N. Shrike: max seven vicinity of CV 30 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: two Thompson P, JEFF 16 May. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. N. Parula: one T Louisville 16 May, only report. Palm Warbler: singles T Louisville 29 Apr and Piercesfield 18 May, latter possible breeder? Bay-breasted Warbler: three reports, arr Watertown 25 Apr is early; max 5 T Louisville 15 May. Blackpoll Warbler: several reports; max three ULL 22 May. Prairie Warbler: two Limerick Cedars, three Chaumont Barrens (RJW), probably regular breeders here. Louisiana Waterthrush: one Washington Pk, T Watertown 22 May, first report in several years. Mourning Warbler: max six Little John WMA and other areas T Worth 22 May; also in suitable habitat in s StLA.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: mixed reports; three resident Pierrepont; max three CV 14 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last T Louisville 24 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr CV 29 Mar; plentiful in abandoned fields in Pierrepont. Vesper Sparrow: one CV 6 May only report. Fox Sparrow: max four T Louisville 25 Apr. White-throated Sparrow: arr T Louisville 16 Apr, numbers low; breeding Chaumont Barrens. White-crowned Sparrow: arr six T Louisville 15 Apr, early; max 12 Lorraine 12 May, last 13 May. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Canton 27 Mar, abundant mid Apr; heavy movement Henderson 13 Apr, last 29 Apr. Purple Finch: good numbers after Apr 24, max 20 Ogdensburg 30 Apr; more nesting in Henderson; LBC "heard and saw male mimic other bird calls (Jay, etc)." White-winged Crossbill: female at feeder Lorraine 2-10 Mar. Pine Siskin: four at feeder CV 3 Mar and 14 May. Evening Grosbeak: max 40 Henderson 6 Mar, last 20 May.

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REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

A few northern rarities, good species variety, and a relatively early migration marked the spring 1991, with a total of 185 species noted across the four northeastern counties. Although the season began on a warm note, reality returned in the form of an ice storm on 4 Mar. By mid month, there had only been 40 inches of seasonal snowfall at lower elevations, and the month closed with wind gusts of 50+ mph on 28 Mar. April began clear and cool with a warming trend that kept pushing Plattsburgh thermometers upward to a balmy 61° on 4 Apr, an unseasonal 68° on 6 Apr, and a downright hot 81° on 7 Apr, bringing in the first waves of early arrivals. Mid April returned to cool, rainy, and often windy days, with the end of the month clear and warm. For the second year, nine warbler species arrived during April. Early May was marked by showers, but the rest of the month was an exceedingly pleasant contrast to last year, marred only by a cold front that hit like a freight at 3 PM on the afternoon of 17 May. Within moments, the temperature at the Crown Point bird banding station plunged from 79° to 38°, as winds shifted abruptly from the south to north. Except for an inch of rain overnight 26-27 May and afternoon thunderstorms on 30 May, the month was quite dry.

The bird banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 11 days between 10 and 20 May. A total of 310 individual birds of 47 species were banded and released. This was the third best year for variety since 1976, just behind 49 species banded last year and the record 53 species in 1989. Two new species were banded, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and Scarlet Tanager, bringing the all time list for the past 16 years to 82 species. Migrants pushed through early and rapidly, with the greatest numbers on 12 May (70 birds) and 13 May (76 birds). There were returns of 17 individuals of ten different species banded on Crown Point peninsula in previous years. Other avian highlights at Crown Point included small flocks of migrating Double-crested Cormorant, 17 Great Blue Heron thermalling together over the tip of the peninsula about 7 PM on 13 May, Bald and Golden Eagles, two Peregrine Falcon (one cruising right up the net lane), and at least *three* singing male Golden-winged Warbler, certainly a Regional maximum, on 12 May, the same hot morning that the aforementioned **Orange-crowned Warbler** was banded and released.

Northern owls made brief, yet exciting, appearances. On 18 Mar, Charlcie Delehanty spotted a **Northern Hawk Owl** perched on the topmost branch of a small tree in the Tupper Marsh. Charlcie reports, "It was crow-sized, had a slender barred tail, white on the sides of the head, yellow beak, and wagged its tail." A crow harassed it briefly and the owl-like head could be seen as it turned. Later, as she searched for the bird on the flow with Bob Hagar, a high, clear whistle was repeated twice, but the bird had flown. This hawk owl was in the same area of the marsh where Charlcie watched one for several days around 29 March 1979. Meanwhile, the **Great Gray Owl** that appeared at the feeder of Henry and Sylvia Kurtenbach north of Elizabethtown on 29 Jan continued to make sporadic visits through 1 Mar.

Another productive feeding station was one kept stocked with copious amounts of suet by Ray Fadden at the Six Nations Indian Museum near Onchiota, FRAN, where Ray reports his visitors included Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and 150 Common Raven.

On a non-avian note, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has begun work on an atlas of reptiles and amphibians in the state, and the help of volunteers is sought. Instead of a 5-km block system like that used in the breeding birds atlas, the "herptile" atlas will simply record species by County, Town, and Year. Mapping is being done by Town. Instructions and survey forms are available Regionally from this editor, or elsewhere from Alvin Breisch [Wildlife Resource Center, NYS DEC, Delmar, NY 12054]. We encourage your participation in this project to map our salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, lizards, and snakes.

Observers: Merry Baker, Dirck & Mary Benson, John Brown, Dean Cook, Charlcie Delehanty, William Endicott, Elizabeth & Holland Fitts, Greg Furness, Robert Hagar, Candy & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Mary Humiston, Anne Hungerford, Selma Isil, Elsbeth Johnson, Henry & Sylvia Kurtenbach, Karl Krauss, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Mark Manske, Ray Master, Mary Lou Morgan, Fon & Joan Mullady, Bryce, Keith & Megan Murphy, John & Susan Peterson, David Rutkowski, Sylvia Siarkowski, Les Schmardeer, Don Spada, Hollis White.

Abbreviations: BB - Bulwagga Bay; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; MRRA - Moose River Recreation Area; MVL - Mountain View Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: arr Ausable Pt 30 Mar; Saranac L 18 Apr (RH), unexpected. Red-necked Grebe: arr four BB 13 Apr to two BB 2 May. Double-crested Cormorant: *intro*. Great Blue Heron: *intro*; 29 nests Schroon L

heronry, four nests Webb Royce Swamp heronry (D&JM). **Tundra Swan:** migrating n with Canada Geese n L George ESSE 11 Mar (DS). Snow Goose: arr Inlet 16 Mar, max 200+ Owls Head 17 Mar, 200 Tupper L 28 Mar. Mallard: wild pair feeding on corn on ground under feeding station above Tupper Marsh 20 Apr-6 May. Gadwall: one BB 18 Apr. Am. Wigeon: arr Ausable Pt 27 Mar. Canvasback: arr Ausable Pt 27 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: 12 arr Tupper L 25 Mar, max 50 Ausable Pt 30 Mar. Gr. Scaup: arr eight Ausable Pt 30 Mar. Lesser Scaup: arr Ausable Pt 27 Mar. White-winged Scoter: Heart Bay, L George, 26 May (DC), uncommon in spring. Com. Goldeneye: CPP 19 May, late unless nesting.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: *intro*, arr Wickham Marsh 27 Mar. Osprey: nesting Ausable Pt platform and on power pole at Abnake L near Indian L. Bald Eagle: ad Rt 458 Paul Smiths 2 Mar; ad Cheever 7 Mar; *seven* upper Saranac L 12 Mar; one Raquette Pd 16-17 Mar; two ad Tupper Marsh 18 Mar; ad Raquette Pd 19 Mar; ad & subad wheeling and touching in the sky, ad chasing gulls, Tupper L; ad Cheever 20 Mar; two ad & imm Tupper L 25 Mar; *five* ad FRAN nest sites 28 Mar; two other ad Paul Smiths 28 Mar; ad Raquette R, Axton 31 Mar; ad Rt 458 Paul Smiths early Apr; ad BB 1 Apr; ad Tupper L 1-2 Apr; imm Tupper L 3-4 Apr; ad Deer R Flow 3 Apr; two ad Schroon L 28 Apr; imm CPP 19 May; a spectacular showing! N. Harrier: arr Owls Head 20 Mar. Sharp-shinned Hawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*. Cooper's Hawk: ad Elizabethtown feeder 10 Apr. N. Goshawk: *intro*. Red-shouldered Hawk: *intro*, copulating MVL 19 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: *intro*. Golden Eagle: *intro*, two Mt Aetna CLIN 16 Apr (CH); subad T Moira FRAN 11 May (MM). Am. Kestrel: arr four ESSE 30 Mar. Peregrine Falcon: arr pair Wilmington Notch 15 Mar (RH), pair copulating there 30 Mar (JB, TM); three apparent transients near Elizabethtown 9 Apr (LS); migrants CPP 11 and 18 May, *intro*. Wild Turkey: two hens feeding on corn in Tupper L yard 1-26 Mar. Bonaparte's Gull: BB 8-19 May. Great Black-backed Gull: only one sighted between Essex-Ausable Pt 30 Mar, but max 20 Port Henry 25 Mar (GC), high count.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: N. Hawk Owl: *intro*. Great Gray Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: tooting New Russia 30 Mar (SI). Whip-poor-will: arr New Russia 30 Mar; late arr Heart Bay, L George, 7 May. Three-toed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 31 May. Black-backed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 31 May, only reports of these boreal species.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Wakely Pd 20 May. Gray Jay: four MRRA 6 Mar; Browns Tract Pds 8 May; two Osgood R 18 May; Ferd's Bog 24 May; a good showing. Com. Raven: *intro*. Boreal Chickadee: Brown's Tract 20 May; MRRA 23 May, Ferd's Bog 24 May, representative. Tufted Titmouse: banded Elizabethtown 8 Apr; max two singing males CPP 14 May; New Russia 18 May, an unexpected location. **Carolina Wren:** arr Port Henry 29 Apr (GC), early record. Winter Wren: arr Limekiln L HAMI 31 Mar, early. **Sedge Wren:** wet part of Peru CLIN field after 24 May (E&HF), rarely reported. N. Mockingbird: CPP usual, but Chateaugay suet feeder 24 Apr-3 May unusual. Bohemian Waxwing: last flock Wickham Marsh 27 Mar (RH). Cedar Waxwing: arr CPP 19 May. N. Shrike: last chasing chickadee Elizabethtown-Wadhams Road 30 Mar. Shrike (sp.): CLIN 6 Apr. **Loggerhead Shrike:** migrant Mineville 7 Apr (GF).

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: banded CPP 12 May. Golden-winged Warbler: *intro*. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** *intro*. Palm Warbler: "Yellow" arr New Russia 5 May (SI); "Western" six banded CPP 11-12 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: Ironville 19 May only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: eating sunflower seed Tupper L feeder 16-17 May. Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 7 Apr; last Tupper L 11 Apr. Lincoln's Sparrow: max five banded CPP 12-17 May; singing male Peru after 27 May (E&HF). Swamp Sparrow: arr Ausable Pt 30 Mar. Dark-eyed Junco: arr Elizabethtown 26 Mar; max 75 Tupper L 11 Apr. Snow Bunting: northbound Inlet 2-3 Mar. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Newcomb 5 Mar (RM). Rusty Blackbird: migrant Chateaugay 27 Mar; resident Center Pd ESSE 13 May. Brown-headed Cowbird: record 21 banded CPP. N. Oriole: record 14 banded CPP 11-18 May. Purple Finch: first migrant Paul Smiths 30 Mar. House Finch: migrant males Elizabethtown 2 Mar, 27 Mar, 5 Apr; transient Owls Head 9 Apr suggestive of northbound movement. Red Crossbill: four fresh roadkills Bombay FRAN 15 Mar (HW); pair feeding on Scotch and White Pine and Norway Spruce cones MVL 18 Apr, heard since. Com. Redpoll: one Hogansburg 12 Mar only report. Pine Siskin: Saranac L 25 Apr, only report. Evening Grosbeak: max 32 Elizabethtown 5 Apr; two migrating CPP 5:45 AM 14 May; a few breeding birds at feeders and in hamlets.

Exotics: Cockatiel: frequenting tall evergreens and flying about in Owls Head FRAN all afternoon 6 Apr; next and last sighting was over fields on Teboville Road, 3 mi n Owls Head 24 Apr (JT).

Corrigenda: Gray-cheeked Thrush and Pine Warbler in fall '90 report (*Kingbird* 41(1):55) were at Moriah, a/k/a Cheever, not Chilson.

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REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

KENNETH P. ABLE

From the ground observer's point of view, it was another very lackluster spring migration. The breeders showed up on or ahead of schedule. Interestingly, some species were noted on breeding areas in the Adirondacks earlier than they were reported in the Capital District and other places in the southern part of the Region. This suggests that, given the ideal weather conditions for migration that prevailed, many birds shot directly to breeding areas instead of dribbling northward more slowly. Such behavior could at least partly explain the scarcity of

transient passerines, many of which were virtually absent. Usually common species like Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers could have been missed entirely; Yunick banded only one Swainson's Thrush and other active observers failed to record it during the spring.

At least some of this can be attributed to the weather, which was overall unseasonably fair, warm and free of precipitation throughout the period. March continued the trend begun last winter. Temperatures in Albany averaged nearly 4° above normal and precipitation was light. Only 3.3 inches of snow fell, leaving the season total nearly three feet below normal. April and May were the eleventh and twelfth consecutive months with above normal temperatures (4.6° and 5.7° above average, respectively). In Albany, the last freezing temperature was recorded on 14 Apr and there was no snowfall. Rainfall was 1.2 inches above normal in April. Water bodies opened up incredibly early. May was the warmest since 1944. The temperature reached or exceeded 80° on 16 days, including 10 of the last 11 days of the month. These warm temperatures were accompanied by fair weather and southerly winds. No wonder migrants passed through rapidly and without noticeable concentrations. As one would expect, there were a number of early arrivals, but nothing like last spring.

One of the rarest birds ever recorded in this Region was spotted by Bob Boehm and Kate Beale while driving home from work on the rainy late afternoon of 22 March. Standing on a residential lawn in the Town of New Scotland ALBA with some Killdeer was a male **Northern Lapwing**. Unfortunately for searchers over the next few days, the bird was not seen again. Other rarities reported were *Plegadis ibis*, **Sandhill Crane**, **Laughing Gull**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, and **White-eyed Vireo**.

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Abbreviations: BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; BICrM - Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; HudR - Hudson R; SaraL - Saratoga L.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one HudR at Ft. Edward 5 Mar (BP), early. Pied-billed Grebe: 11 reports. Horned Grebe: arr BCRes 10 Apr (BBu). Double-crested Cormorant: 45 Catskill 26 Mar (PFC), large number. Am. Bittern: max 10+ BICrM 12 May (BBu), large number. Great Blue Heron: arr Kinderhook L 21 Mar (RLH). Great Egret: singles Hudson 6 Apr (AL), Greenfield 9 Apr (CF), Castleton 1 May

(PFC), rare in spring. Black-crowned Night-Heron: three New Baltimore 6 May (RPG). *Plegadis* sp.: 8 flying up HudR at New Baltimore 6 May (RPG). Tundra Swan: fly-over FiveR 13 Apr (AM). Snow Goose: max 2000 Ft Miller (BP); one BCRes 7 May (RLH), late. Greater White-fronted Goose: 1,2 Ft. Miller 9,25 Mar (BP), annual in Region recently. Canada Goose: max 5000 Ft. Miller 5 Mar (BP). Wood Duck: arr 3 Mar, record early. Blue-winged Teal: two Livingston COLU 8 Mar (BC), early. Canvasback: 300+ Greendale COLU (PFC), large number. Redhead: three reports; two BCRes 7 May (RLH), late. Ring-necked Duck: 95 TomR 31 Mar (PFC), large number. Oldsquaw: two BCRes 6 Apr (BBu); two Ft. Edward 9 Apr (BP); migrants passing over Thirteenth L WARR midnight 26-27 Apr (KPA). Hooded Merganser: nested Goeffrey's Pd COLU; female with brood 8 May (BC). Com. Merganser: two females Alcove Res ALBA 17 May (KPA), late if migrants.

HAWK-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Kinderhook 1 Mar (AL), early. Osprey: early arr COLU 16 Mar (JC), 24 Mar (WS). Bald Eagle: 12 reports. N. Harrier: probable breeding Stuyvesant (RLH, AL). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 15 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 14 reports. N. Goshawk: nest Battenville (JS), pair Thacher Pk 10 May (BB, KB). Red-shouldered Hawk: suspected nesting Greenfield (CF); nesting Jenny L (RPY). Rough-legged Hawk: one Stockport Station COLU 26 Apr (BC), late. Merlin: three reports. Ring-necked Pheasant: several WASH (JS) and one Cossackie 7 Apr (AR), only reports; continues very scarce. **Sandhill Crane:** singles Altamont 24 May (BS), Fonda 26 May (SP). Com. Moorhen: only reports from BICrM and Carter L WASH. Am. Coot: one BCRes 17 May (KPA), only report. **N. Lapwing:** *intro* (BB, KB; ph KPA; NYSARC). Solitary Sandpiper: one Slingerlands 25 Mar (BBu), record early. Upland Sandpiper: four reports SARA, WASH, MONT. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr sod farm Bemis Heights 30 Mar (BP), record early. Am. Woodcock: arr E Schodack 1 Mar (PFC), early. **Laughing Gull:** one Cohoes 18 May (CG, mob). Caspian Tern: two Stockport Station COLU 20 Apr (fide BC). Com. Tern: one BICrM 8 May (KPA, mob). Black Tern: one BCRes 17,19 May (KPA,AM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: few reports. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr mid May, very few reports. Barn Owl: one Stuyvesant 30 Mar, 2 Apr (RLH), only report. Snowy Owl: Clark Rd, Moreau SARA to 1 Mar (BP). Long-eared Owl: one FiveR 26 Apr-5 May (BBu, AM). Short-eared Owl: last WASH 25 Mar (PS). Chimney Swift: arr Niskayuna 25 Apr (RPY), early. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Glenville, Hague (DH) 1 May, early. Red-headed Woodpecker: singles after 10 Apr COLU (JC), Edenburg SARA 18 May (BP). Red-bellied Woodpecker: male near Amsterdam to 29 Mar (RPY).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one banded Vischer Ferry 18 May (RPY), rarely detected in spring. Purple Martin: two Kinderhook 23 Apr (AL), only report. Fish Crow: continues to increase; 17 Slingerlands 29 Mar (WS). Com. Raven: Thacher Pk all season, carrying nesting material 31 Mar (BB, KB); nest with three young New Lebanon 18 May (KD, EG); two Cherry

Plain 27 Apr (PFC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: minor irruption Schenectady (RPY), attempted nesting FiveR (AM). Carolina Wren: seems to be expanding northward and doing well; Stillwater 2,3 Mar (BP); Eagleville WASH (JS). House Wren: arr Schodack Center 16 Apr (PFC), very early. Marsh Wren: arr BICrM 20 Apr (BBu), early. Veery: one Cherry Plain 27 Apr (PFC), early. Gray-cheeked Thrush: no reports. Swainson's Thrush: generally very scarce; only one banded Vischer Ferry (RPY), but noted frequently Schodack Center (PFC). Cedar Waxwing: max 50 Greenfield 1 Mar (CF). N. Shrike: four reports, last Raymertown 24 Mar (PFC). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one New Baltimore 23 Mar (BC), first local report in years.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: single males BICrM 11 May (BBu), L Taghkanic SP 18 May (KS). Yellow-throated Vireo: arr SARA 29 Apr (BP), early. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Berne 28 Apr (KPA), early. Tennessee Warbler: scarce. Nashville Warbler: arr Hillsdale 27 Apr (BC), early. Cape May Warbler: one Hillsdale 25 Apr (BC), record early. Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Cherry Plain 27 Apr (PFC), early. Black-throated Green Warbler: one Greenfield 19,20 Apr (CF), very early. Blackpoll Warbler: scarce. Cerulean Warbler: singles Copake 27 May (BC), Cranesville MONT 30 May (TP), first since 1978 in latter area where formerly bred. Black-and-white Warbler: Thirteenth L WARR 27 Apr (KPA), early so far north.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: male Berne 7 May (KPA), early. Am. Tree Sparrow: various localities to 19 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: two-five Saratoga Battlefield Nat Hist P 5 May on; Saratoga Airport 15 May (AM). Henslow's Sparrow: arr Altamont 3 May (BJ). Lincoln's Sparrow: one Carter L 14 Apr (JS), early, only report. Dark-eyed Junco: good migration Schenectady with 30 Apr early last date; continues scarce Jenny L SARA where formerly bred commonly (RPY). Orchard Oriole: male Stuyvesant 23 Apr on (PFC, RLH); others Poestenkill 9 May, Battenville WASH 10 May (JS), Vischer Ferry 11 May. House Finch: numbers continue way down Schenectady; where RPY could band hundreds several years ago, he banded six in Mar, seven in Apr, none in May. Red Crossbill: nine Austerlitz 3 Apr (*vide* BC) and eight dead on road near Corinth 6 Apr suggest brief passage. Com. Redpoll: four Greenfield 14 Apr (CF), only report. Pine Siskin: scattered small numbers Mar-Apr, last 6 May. Evening Grosbeak: small numbers, max 70 Greenfield 15 Mar (CF), last 18 May.

Addendum: **N. Hawk Owl**: Warrensburg 27 Jan (JCB *vide* JCMP).

Erratum: In the fall, 1990, report (*Kingbird*, 41:57) the 10,000 Snow Geese were in fact Canada Geese.

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REGION 9 - HUDSON-DELAWARE

HELEN C. MANSON

The weather for March was mostly cloudy, cool but not cold. Little rain and three or four inches of snow, which did not last, fell. The Hudson River was fully open in February and by 1 Mar all the ponds were open. Ducks passed through quickly. April was cool and rainy and spring seemed slow. However, many migrants had returned on schedule by the month's end. The warmest May in half a century brought average rainfall and early blooms for apples, lilacs, maples and, especially, Black Locust, which covered the valley with a white cloud of blossoms. Trees leafed out early and by mid month, when the census runs were scheduled, it was nearly impossible to see the warblers we had awaited so long. Due to the early spring and early haying, we were concerned about fledging success of field-nesting birds. One young farmer noted a male Bobolink on a weed stalk and the female dropping down into the grass. The farmer mowed a large swath around the area. Then up flew the female followed by her newly fledged young, much to the farmer's delight.

Returning from shopping on 20 Apr, Tom and Ann Gilbert of Red Hook saw what appeared to be a Great Blue Heron in a field in a nearby farm. On second look they saw that it was actually an unidentified heron or crane. After calling several persons and consulting the field guides the bird was identified as a Common Crane. The word went out and people came from all over. The bird was most obliging as it fed in the field, and the farmer was also obliging as the cars lined the road. Unfortunately, the crane proved to be an escape from a game farm 75 miles away in Delaware County. The bird lingered till 2 May. As far as we know it was never captured and returned to its Crane Ranch home.

Ed Treacy found an albino Red-tailed Hawk on a fence post along Upper Wisner Road, Warwick, on 5 Mar. It had a streaked crown, a few dark feathers across the belly, a few dark feathers in its wings, and a salmon-colored tail with 4-5 evenly spaced white feathers.

Mary and Jim Key, who live on a wooded ridge south of Poughkeepsie, were alerted by a neighbor on 4 April that a pair of large hawks were nesting in their back yard. They observed a pair of Red-shouldered Hawk at the nest site. On 12 April a pair of Broad-winged Hawk returned and tried to claim their nest but the Red-shouldered

Hawk pair stood firm and continued to nest. The Keys, their neighbors and other interested people watched as the hawks raised three young, feeding them Red Squirrels and chipmunks. The birds fledged in mid June. There are very few nestings of Red-shouldered Hawk in Dutchess County and even fewer that can be watched from the back yard of a neighbors home.

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Abbreviations: ARes - Ashokan Res; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch; MPHW - Mount Peter Hawk Watch; WMC - Waterman Bird Club Census, 11 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Hudson R DUTC 27 Mar, peak passage 11-14 Apr (JPT). Pied-Billed Grebe: one 22 Apr Bashakill, one PUTN 5 Mar, eight DUTC Mar. Horned Grebe: one ARes 1 Apr (DH). Double-crested Cormorant: six WMC; three Tamarack 29 May, unusual inland sighting; pair courting 26 Apr (FB). Am. Bittern: one Tivoli Bay 7 Apr, two 6 May (AJ); virtually unrecorded SULL-ORAN. Least Bittern: two seen, another heard Moodra Marsh Cornwall Bay 27 May (ET); two WMC. Great Blue Heron: six active heronries DUTC. Great Egret: one Green Fly Swamp, Fishkill 19 May. Green-backed Heron: more noted but still uncommon SULL-ORAN; 12 WMC. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one WMC, one Bangall-Amenia area 3 May. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: one Wiccopee 25 Apr (JMK OW). Glossy Ibis: one passed Bashakill 17 May, two flying over Apr (AJ). Snow Goose: 30 on 7 Mar, few other small flocks, 25 SULL 26 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Mud Pd 10-17 Mar, one Round Pd 2-15 Mar. Brant: ten WMC, 300 over Mine Road USMA early May (ET); max 100 going due n over Pleasant Valley 29 May (EP). Wood Duck: 72 WMC, normal most areas; seven y Cruger I 12 May (SJ). Green-winged Teal: nine Tivoli Bay 7 Apr, 30 Bashakill 22 Apr. Am. Black Duck: seems normal most areas. N. Pintail: 45 around DUTC Mar; local max 30 Round Pd 2 Mar (SK), high. Blue-winged Teal: six Craft Pd 5 Apr; two Tivoli Bay 6 May; five Fishkill 6 May (ROM). Am. Wigeon: one WMC, four Dietrich L 5-6 Apr, two Craft Pd 9 Apr; four Kays Pd 21-29 Apr. Canvasback: max 600 Hudson R 6 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: 300 throughout DUTC Mar; 16 Kenozia L 9 Mar, few through Apr. Lesser Scaup: four L Carmel 25 Mar; few noted DUTC; six ARes 26 Apr. Oldsquaw: ten Hudson R 27 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: 13 DUTC Mar. Bufflehead: one L Carmel 13 Mar; seven Kenozia L 3 Mar, 14 on 1 Apr. Hooded Merganser: 15 around DUTC Mar; pair nesting in Wood Duck box Stissing Apr (TH); three Dover Furnace 3 Mar (SK). Com. Merganser: 60 Dietrich L 3 Mar, many there through Apr; two Kenozia L through 16 Apr; 300 E Branch Res 7 Mar

(FB). Red-breasted Merganser: pair Bog Brook Res 3 Apr (FB). Ruddy Duck: two L Carmel 25 Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Black Vulture: four feeding and flying over field Warwick 10 Mar (ET); five roosting with Turkey Vultures 3 Mar; two HMHW 28 Apr; two MPHWS 13 & 28 Apr, probably not migrants (JPT); one WMC, a first. Turkey Vulture: max 115 roost Stony Pt (D Metraux). Osprey: total 81 HMHW, two WMC, peak 31 MPHWS 19 Apr. Bald Eagle: total five HMHW; four ad, one imm Rio Res 3 Mar; two second year imm Bashakill 11 May; two Vanderburg Cove 5 Mar; one Stissing Mt 18 Apr. N. Harrier: total 43 HMHW; one ARes 1 Apr; pair Waterbury Hill 30 Mar (HM); two WMC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 281 HMHW, max 34 on 23 Apr; max 53 MPHWS 19 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: total 35 HMHW, ten MPHWS 19 Apr, pair nesting Bangall Road and Dogwood Hill DUTC; six WMC. N. Goshawk: one HMHW; one MPHWS 13 Apr; one Bashakill 11 May; one Sheafe Road 5 Mar; two Hunns L 31 Mar. Red-shouldered Hawk: max four MPHWS 19 Apr; total 60 HMHW; two pair nesting DUTC; *intro*. Broad-winged Hawk: total 1853 HMHW, max 547 MPHWS 19 Apr, good flights 10-12 Apr ULST (SS). Red-tailed Hawk: 53 HMHW; *intro*. Rough-legged Hawk: light morph flying and hovering over field Warwick 19 Apr (ET), late. Golden Eagle: one HMHW 25 Mar. Am. Kestrel: total 185 HMHW, excellent number; 36 MPHWS 13-28 Apr; settling into nesting areas DUTC. Merlin: one 20 Mar Bard College (WBC); one 10 Apr one 19 Apr (MVW), total 25 HMHW. Peregrine Falcon: singles HMHW 4, 16 and 23 Apr; one MPHWS 15 May. Ring-necked Pheasant: continues scarce except near Game Farms and Hunting Preserves. Ruffed Grouse: 16 WMC; often seen with young. Wild Turkey: two 6-10 Apr; one unexpectedly exploded out of bushes Hook Mt (PF), three Faunstock Pk 14 Apr, doing well DUTC, SULL, ORAN. N. Bobwhite: six WMC. Virginia Rail: five WMC, continues good numbers (JPT). Sora: heard Humpo Marsh (SS), continues good numbers (JPT), three WMC. Com. Moorhen: two WMC. Am Coot: max 20 L Walton 8 Apr. Com. Crane: *intro*. Semipalmated Plover: one WMC, five Vanderburg Cove Apr. Greater Yellowlegs: two WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: one McEnroe's Farm 22-28 Apr; two Bashakill 22 Apr; also at Humpo Marsh. Solitary Sandpiper: max 25 WMC, four Rhinebeck 12 May (SJ). Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 WMC. Least Sandpiper: max eight WMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: one 10 yards off Lime Kiln Road, Slate Hill 24 Mar (ET), very early; two WMC. Dunlin: one 16 Apr (DF). Com. Snipe: max five Red Hook 21 Apr. Am Woodcock: four WMC; still displaying 10 May along Mine Road (ET). Bonaparte's Gull: one standing on shore Conn's Hook, then flew up the Hudson R 12 May (ET). Ring-billed Gull: peak passage Mar with thousands around landfills, malls *etc.*, numbers continue to rise (JPT). Herring Gull: few linger Cornwall Bay to 18 May. Glaucous Gull: one Bashakill 3 Mar (D.J. Bradley). Com. Tern: one flying up Hudson R at Cornwall Bay 18 May. **Forster's Tern:** one Bashakill 22 Apr (DH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four WMC, few noted

(JPT). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one WMC, several reports (WBC); few SULL-ORAN. E. Screech-Owl: two ad, one y Rhinebeck 30 May (SJ). Great Horned Owl: two WMC. Barred Owl: two Valkill 31 May, three WMC. Short-eared Owl: one flew over and into trees HMHW 25 Mar (H. Martin). N. Saw-whet Owl: one found dead along Rt 9 Fishkill 20 Mar (ROM). Com. Nighthawk: five WMC. Whip-poor-will: three WMC; common Bashakill 17-18 May, locally in Hudson Highlands. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr one 14 Apr on red azaleas Dover Plains, early; good numbers late Apr and May. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: two Dennings Pt (ROM). Pileated Woodpecker: good numbers.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: five in four reports, last Thompson Pd 22 May (WBC). E. Wood-Pewee: eight WMC. Acadian Flycatcher: arr WMC, four Deep Hollow 17 May (JPT), where they nest, very local. Alder Flycatcher: scarce due to declining habitat (JPT), one Bog Hollow 19 May (DF), one Vassar Farm (SK). Horned Lark: four WMC, one feeding streaked juv Greig Farm, Red Hook (MVW EP). Purple Martin: barely holding their own, only three colonies left, one with two pair (JPT); two Milewood Road 25 Apr, then four pair, less than last year (HM); two other small colonies DUTC. Tree Swallow: arr nine 31 Mar, slow in coming. N. Rough-winged Swallow: 16 WMC, nesting under bridges in drain holes. Bank Swallows: seem to be nesting well. Cliff Swallow: very scarce DUTC, noted ARES 15 & 16 Apr, nest in SULL, ORAN. Barn Swallow: 50 on 29 Apr, late arriving but plentiful. Fish Crow: continue their outpost away from the Hudson R SULL, ORAN. Com. Raven: one quartering the wind HMHW 18 Mar, straight line flight, silent (PF); none for DUTC. Black-capped Chickadee: one with pure white tail at a feeder 10 Mar into Apr (ET). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nest building and FY Millbrook, observed putting pitch all around the outside of the nest hole. Brown Creeper: five WMC, no nest building activity even though they breed here. Carolina Wren: nesting in a two quart pitcher on a garden fence, fledged y 24 May (FG). Winter Wren: one Fishkill 31 Mar; breeding Deep Hollow DUTC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: five WMC. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 23 WMC. E. Bluebird: so many wintered that it's hard to tell when the migrants return, nesting well. 75 WMC. Gray-cheeked Thrush: one Bashakill 12 May, one New Paltz 15 May. Swainson's Thrush: four WMC; one Deep Hollow 9 May. Hermit Thrush: one singing Brockway Road 18 Apr (HM). Am. Robin: scarce and late arr, plentiful after 19 Mar. Cedar Waxwing: good numbers.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: two Bashakill 12 May; three WMC, several singing DUTC. Solitary Vireo: two Bashakill 11 May; 16 WMC, breeds DUTC; one 24 May Faunstock Pk. Philadelphia Vireo: one WMC, one Bashakill 12 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Dover Plains 2 May; one WMC; one Olive, ULST 26 May. Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: single "Brewster's" Cruger I 12 May (SJ), singing Mine Road 10 May and at a different location 19 May (EY). Tennessee Warbler: seemed scarce DUTC. Nashville Warbler: few noted (JPT). N. Parula Warbler: 11 WMC. Yellow Warbler: arr Bowdoin P 24 Apr, early. Magnolia Warbler: few through May, two Bashakill 12 May. Cape May Warbler: scarce most

areas. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 19 WMC. Palm Warbler: one Tivoli Bay 29 Apr, one WMC. Bay-breasted Warbler: max four Milan 13 May (SJ). Blackpoll Warbler: three WMC, excellent passage 11-19 May (JPT); not so DUTC, max two 14-26 May. Cerulean Warbler: singing in five different localities Doodletown 7 May, still singing 25 May (ET); observed Ferncliff where they are known to breed. Worm-eating Warbler: several localities DUTC, one on territory Bashakill 18 May. N. Waterthrush: nine WMC. Louisiana Waterthrush: arrived on target DUTC 10-11 Apr. Mourning Warbler: one Thompson Pd 22 May. Hooded Warbler: singing in four localities Doodletown May (ET); pair observed nest building and feeding young L Ellis Road, Dover Plains (MY, OW); pair on territory W Clove Mt Road (HM); male singing Nellie Hill Nature Conservancy area. Wilson's Warbler: one WMC, very scarce. Canada Warbler: best numbers in recent years (JPT); scarce DUTC. Yellow-breasted Chat: singing male 21-24 May (OW, mob), a rare find for this Region.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: good numbers all over. Indigo Bunting: most arr late; 12 WMC. Am. Tree Sparrow: last two Fishkill 3 Apr (ROM). Vesper Sparrow: none! Savannah Sparrow: few reported. Grasshopper Sparrow: one Hopewell Junction 19 Apr (PF), two 5 May Milan only reports. Henslow's Sparrow: none! Fox Sparrow: ten reported 9-31 Mar, one 1-7 Apr DUTC. Lincoln's Sparrow: three reported 9-11 May. Swamp Sparrow: seems to be doing well in suitable habitat. White-throated Sparrow: lingered past mid May. White-crowned Sparrow: 19 WMC; last 19 May. Dark-eyed Junco: migrants left early May, pair with y in nest W Clove Mt Road (HM). Bobolink: arr a bit late. Orchard Oriole: pair Dover Plains 19 May, no nest noted; also reported Stissing and Vassar Farm. Purple Finch: very scarce at feeders. Pine Siskin: last flock SULL early Mar; 12 at feeder 18-29 Apr (JMK). European Goldfinch: one at feeder Campbell Hall 29 Mar. Evening Grosbeak: last at feeder Poughkeepsie 30 Apr.

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[This is the penultimate Regional report prepared by Helen Manson, who so graciously has accepted the task of keeping the Region 9 report going for the past four years. On behalf of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, I am pleased to extend sincere thanks to Helen for the hard work she has done and for the informative reports she has contributed to The Kingbird. Effective the fall season, 1991, the new Region 9 editor will be:

*Mr. John Askildsen, 202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506 —
The Editor]*

REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

There have been years when the winter weather extended through spring into the summer. Then there was no spring because it was cold. This year also was a year without a normal spring, but this time it was hot and summer came early. March and April were both a mere 3°+ above normal. April was the fifth warmest on record, but May was the all time warmest at 6.2° above the norm. Precipitation was above normal in March, average for April and slightly below normal in May. On the whole it was not too much different from most years, just *warm*. The milder weather may or may not have affected the migrants. However, with the exception of very early Pine Warbler on 3, 8 and 9 Mar, land birds did not appear to be moving early in the Region this spring. Possibly the early migrants had overflowed the Region and, hence, had not been seen. Many observers reported few birds, so this is not out of the question. As usual, the peak of the migration appeared to be 8-9 May. There were satisfactory, but not extraordinary lists, for those out on "big days," but total numbers of many species were low. The question remains: Did the warm weather move the birds through our area quickly and at night, are the birds migrating further inland this year for the same reason, or are there just progressively fewer birds each spring?

All was not negative. We are seeing a change in distribution patterns for some birds and some spectacular overshoots of migrants. For starters there was the first New York state record of a **Reddish Egret**. This bird was seen at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 18 May by Steve Walter, Bob Kurtz, Drew Panko, Tom Burke, *et al.*, on 22 May by John Bull, and on 26 May by Rich Kelly, John Ruscica, *et al.* For those who went to search for the egret, there was the consolation prize of a **White-faced Ibis** which also appeared on the refuge at the same time. This latter bird was seen on May 13 by Arthur Morris, on May 18 by Guy Tudor, and May 31 by John Fritz and numerous others.

Another great find was a **White-winged Tern** in a group of terns seen about 6:00 PM off Cedar Beach on 12 May by Tony Lauro. This is also a first report for New York State. Other notable finds included a **Mississippi Kite** in first Alternate plumage found by Joseph DeConstanzo and Timothy Male at Great Gull Island on 25 May. This bird was being mobbed by the island's nesting terns. It flew off to the

north before more observers could be notified. To this list we can add a **Sandhill Crane** seen on eastern Long Island by Tony Tierno on 26 Apr; the wintering **Black-billed Magpie** at Montauk which stayed at least till 3 Mar; two **Black-necked Stilt** found at Mecox Bay on 16 May by Tony Lauro and seen 18 May by Rich Kelly, John Fritz and others; and a **Northern Wheatear** at Montauk seen 4 May by Gloria Kuhn. Only a few birders saw any of the above. For the majority of us who didn't connect, the spring was at best just average.

The consensus of contributor reports is that the warbler migration was best on 8 May. As noted above, quantities were low. There was the usual scattering of the rarer species, seen mostly in New York City parks and Jamaica Bay, including Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Raptors are the bright spots in the Region. Both Osprey and Peregrine Falcon continue to flourish. George Rowsom sent a note on Osprey arrivals at Orient, part of which is quoted here. "They have arrived in Orient on March 16th for the past 10 years. [This year] March 7—one seen at Silver Lake, Greenport... March 13—Two adult males on nests on causeway in Orient." To the west on the south shore, Osprey are again at the nests occupied last year. There are nine pairs of Peregrine Falcon within the confines of New York city per NYCAERIES (Saul Frank, Ed.). As of the end of the reporting period, eggs had been laid in six nests, hatched in five and fledged in three. Peregrines were seen throughout the Region during the period. The phenomenon of predators living on New York buildings and eating the pigeons was sufficiently newsworthy to rate space in at least two articles in the *New York Times*. The "misbegotten nature lovers" have been complaining about the poor pigeons.

There were several reports of possible breeding for species at localities beyond the boundaries listed in the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State*. Mary Laura Lamont noted a singing Least Flycatcher on her property in Riverhead from 21 May through 11 Jun; nesting was not confirmed as of this report. This is east of any block where nesting was confirmed. A Warbling Vireo nested at Hempstead Lake State Park this year and another was reported from Queens, both west of previously reported Long Island blocks where nesting was confirmed.

The large Common Tern colony in front of the Jones Beach West End #1 parking lot was abandoned this year. The significance of this move is not yet known, as we don't know whether the birds moved to the West End, to bay islands or just left the area. However, apparently they did not move to the colony at Cedar Beach nor to other areas to the east.

On 23 May there were very strong onshore winds all day at Staten Island. Henry Flamm reported seeing an unidentified shearwater from Midland Beach, where any such species is unusual. The Federation/Great South Bay Audubon sponsored pelagic trip out of Montauk on 19 May yielded 29 Common Loon, 9 Northern Fulmar, one Sooty Shearwater, one Manx Shearwater, 63 Wilson's Storm-Petrel, 44 Northern Gannet, 2 Red-necked Phalarope, 5 Red Phalarope, 4 Black-legged Kittiwake, 3 Roseate Tern and about 100 Common Tern (NYRBA).

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Howard Bolston, John Bull, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, James Clinton, Sr., Richard DePietio, Henry F. Flamm, John Fritz, Ken Fuestel; Paul H. Gillen, Robert Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin, Arthur Morris, Herbert H. Roth, George H. Rowsom, John J. Ruscica, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Alvin Wollin.

Abbreviations: CP - Central Park; CB - Cedar Beach; FP - Forest Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBch - Jones Beach; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; MPt - Montauk Point; Mutn - Muttontown Preserve; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: Sooty Shearwater: *intro*. Manx Shearwater: *intro*. Wilson's Storm-Petrel: *intro*. Northern Gannet: good numbers in w LI Sound. Am. Bittern: one CP 24 Mar (NYRBA). Least Bittern: pair E Pd JBWR 21 May (JR, Bob Hines, Elsa L/Hommedien). **Reddish Egret**: *intro* (NYSARC). Glossy Ibis: 250 W Pd JBWR 12 Apr (JR). **White-faced Ibis**: *intro*. Canada Goose: pair nested on an Osprey platform at Caumsett SP. Wood Duck: male landed in the water by the W End JBch Coast Guard Station before flying off to the west 24 Mar (MOB), unusual in salt water. Green-winged Teal: one (Eurasian Race) JFKWS 16 Apr (Bob Hines) and 28 Apr JBWR (Bob Kurtz). Eurasian Wigeon: male Deep Hole Creek, Mattituck 5 Mar (JR). King Eider: 18 MPt 1 Mar (NYRBA). Harlequin Duck: two LI sound at E Marion 7 Mar (PG), three male, five female PL 9 Mar (JR), two Orient Pt early Mar (NYRBA). Com. Merganser: female W Pd JBWR for the month of May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: singles Westhampton Beach 4 Mar (PG), JBch 8 Mar (Steve Dempsey), Center Moriches 25 Mar (Julius & Celia Hastings), Jamesport 3 Apr (PG), Mutn 8 Apr (Allen Lindberg), SI 12 May (HF); increasing on LI. **Mississippi Kite**: *intro*. Sharp-shinned Hawk: a few reported during the

migration period. Cooper's Hawk: a few reported during the migration period. N. Goshawk: one PP late Mar (NYRBA). Merlin: a few reported during the migration period. Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: along Rt 104, Quogue 6 May (BA, JR). Virginia Rail: one eastern LI 11 May (JC). Sora: one landed on a third floor balcony, stayed four hours, Park Slope, Brooklyn 5 May (NYRBA). **Sandhill Crane**: *intro*. Lesser Golden-Plover: ad Alt JBWR 6 May (BA, JR), one JBWR 13-18 May (NYRBA). Am. Oystercatcher: chick at W End JBCh 18 May (PM). **Black-necked Stilt**: *intro*. Willet: a number calling JBCh 24 Mar, early by about three weeks (SS, AW). Upland Sandpiper: one Van Cortlandt P, Bronx 7 May (NYRBA). Whimbrel: one JBWR 11 May, two ShIn 16 May (NYRBA). Com. Black-headed Gull: one in Alt plumage MeB 23 Apr (PG), one Princess Bay, SI (Paul Buckley). Iceland Gull: ad ShIn 7 Mar (JR), one first year imm ShIn 16-17 Mar JR), one Totten Pd 30 Apr (Sam Yeaton). Lesser Black-backed Gull: one Glen Cove to 22 Apr (RC). Glaucous Gull: one Breezy Pt 16 Mar (NYRBA). Gull-billed Tern: one CB 12 May (AL). Caspian Tern: one MeB 4 Apr (PG), 10 Apr, two MeB 23 Apr (PG), one Oak Beach 18 May (NYRBA), one MeB 18 (mob) and 30 May (JR). Com. Tern: first report JFKWS 4 Apr (PM); *intro*. Forster's Tern: one MeB 16 May, one JBWR 18 May (NYRBA). **White-winged Tern**: *intro* (NYSARC). Black Tern: one 12 May, two Fire I Inlet 13 May (NYRBA). Razorbill: two MPt 3 Mar (NYRBA).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Barn Owl: one in ZB area 30 Apr (PM). Great Horned Owl: reported Mutn and Wellwyn; a nest with one y Peconic 10 Mar (JR). Snowy Owl: one Overlook Beach 9 Mar (JR). Long-eared Owl: one CP to 20 Mar (NYRBA). Short-eared Owl: one Floyd Bennett Field 16 Mar, JBWR 6 Apr (NYRBA). N. Saw-whet Owl: one JFKWS 1 Apr (PM), one Mutn 8 Apr (Bill Paterson). Chuck-will's-widow: one Riverhead 30 Apr (JR), 11 May (JC). Whip-poor-will: 13 North fork LI 11 May (JC). Red-headed Woodpecker: two CP to 24 Mar (NYRBA), one FP 12 May (NYRBA). Red-bellied Woodpecker: a pair built a nest in PP 20-21 May, only to be evicted by European Starlings (RD).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Acadian Flycatcher: one FP 18 May, one CP 23 May (NYRBA). Willow Flycatcher: reported more than usual this year, either more pairs breeding or being reported more. Least Flycatcher: *intro*. Bank Swallow: a colony of 40 birds in a bank along the sound in Shoreham Beach (JR). **Black-billed Magpie**: *intro*. N. **Wheatear**: *intro*. E. Bluebird: four pair Mutn late Mar through Apr (Allen Lindberg, mob). N. Shrike: one Hither Hills SP to 31 Mar (NYRBA). Loggerhead Shrike: one W End JBCh 31 Mar (SW).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one CP 13 May (NYRBA). Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: one "Brewster's" singing Blue-winged Warbler song Hempstead L SP 4 May (EL, SS, AW, mob). Mourning Warbler: fewer reported this Spring.

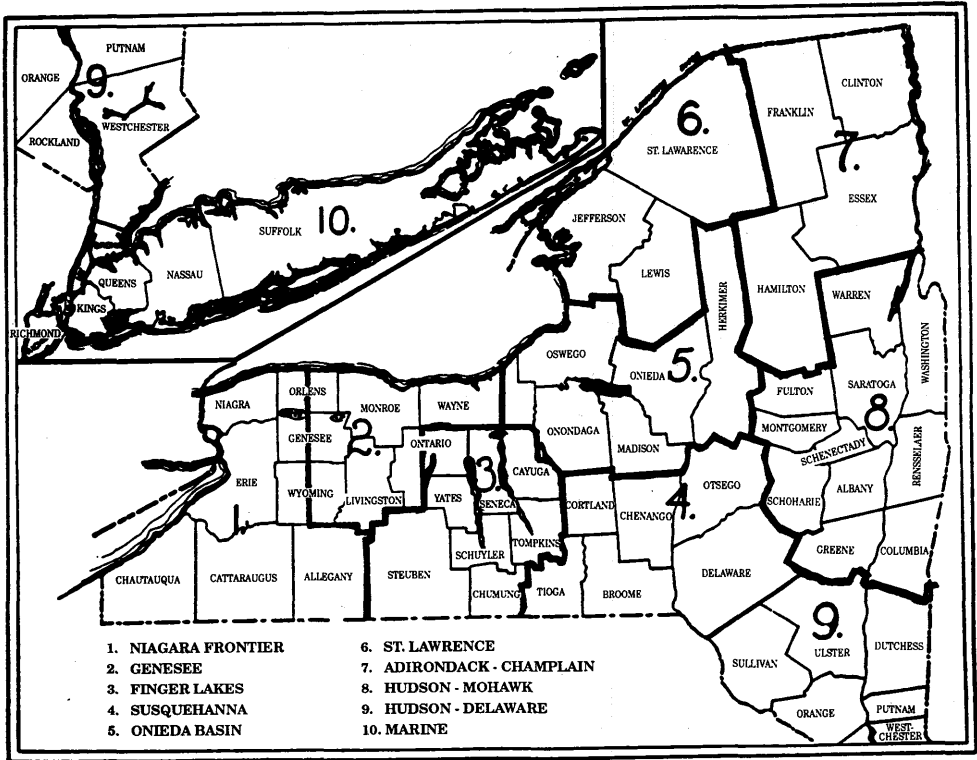
TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: one W End JBCh 26 Apr (EL); other reports from parks in all New York boroughs except SI (NYRBA). Blue Grosbeak: 2 RMSF 27 Apr to 2 May; one W End JBCh 28 Apr to 7 May; one CP 11

May; one FP 18 May; (MOB); more reports than usual. Grasshopper Sparrow: one E Hampton Airport 29 May (JF), others out east north shore, none at the Hempstead Plains Preserve. Fox Sparrow: few seen and fewer reported. Bobolink: several e LI, one W End JBch 24 May (PM), 26 e LI 11 May (JC). Rusty Blackbird: 25 Shu Swamp 7 Apr (NYRBA), other reports to mid Apr. Boat-tailed Grackle: concentrations continue at JBWR (65 seen on 10 Apr), CB, along the Meadowbrook Parkway; four seen at Cow Meadow, Freeport 19 Apr. Orchard Oriole: pair nesting near Crab Meadow (HB). Purple Finch: few reports. Evening Grosbeak: one CP 29 Apr (NYRBA).

EXOTICS: Black-hooded Parakeet: 20 Beechurst 20 Mar (Carol Waters). Monk Parakeet: 14 Rockville Centre 17 Apr (AW)

603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, New York 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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