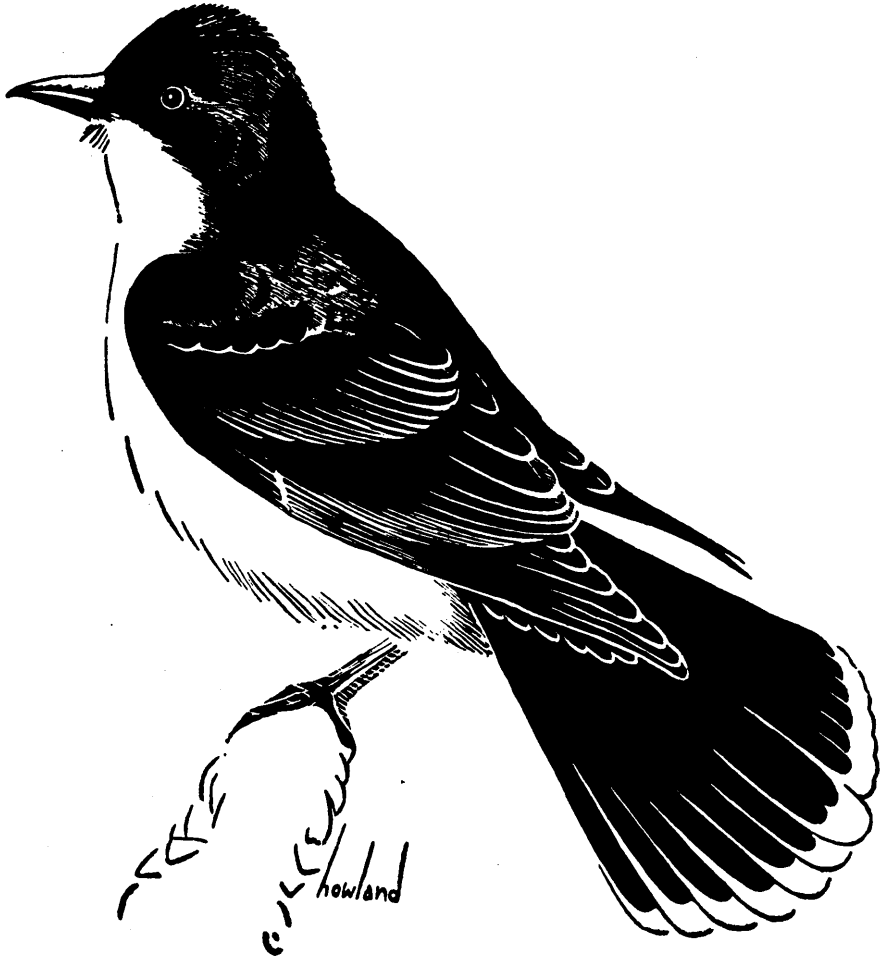


The **KINGBIRD**



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The KINGBIRD

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Editor — Paul A. DeBenedictis
Highlights of the Season Editor — Robert Spahn
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LeConte's Sparrow in Town of New Haven, Oswego Co.,
New York, 7 May 1992. Photograph by Mary Alice Koenke.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 55: LECONTE'S SPARROW

MARY ALICE KOENEKE

I discovered a LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) on the evening of 7 May 1992 at Nine Mile Point, Town of New Haven, Oswego County. The bird was first observed as it flew up from the edge of Nine Mile Point Road and landed in a thicket of grape vines approximately 5 meters (15 feet) from the observer. From the first glance, the bright orange/ocher coloration on the face and the short, slender, narrow tail were clues that it was not an ordinary sparrow; my immediate thought was of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, due to the short, narrow shape of the tail. Without a field guide, an exact identification was not possible so I quickly ran for home, the phone, and a field guide. Consulting a field guide made two obvious choices apparent: Sharp-tailed and LeConte's Sparrows (that it was not a Grasshopper Sparrow was immediately apparent due to the shape of the head and the bill; this bird lacked the flat-headed, thick-billed shape and overall dusty coloration of the Grasshopper Sparrow). Several calls were made (including the Syracuse Rare Bird Alert) and within the hour, three other observers arrived to verify the identification. I returned to the location 30 minutes later, this time with camera and field guide. It took only moments to verify the bird's identification as a LeConte's Sparrow. The orange-ocher color on the face and a paler shade of the same color on the breast, the fine streaking along the sides, its gray nape and cheek patches, black-striped crown with a whitish median stripe that became slightly orange near the bill, bluish gray bill, its short pointed, narrow tail were all easily seen. Its appearance is summed up by what Dorothy Crumb had just told me on the phone, "The LeConte's is a pretty little sparrow". The bird was still in place in the thicket, periodically making a soft *chupping* sound as a chip note and occasionally flicking its tail. Several opportunities were taken to photograph the bird when it came into view. At times it moved to the ground under the vines and thicket to feed with a group of White-throated Sparrows and a Song Sparrow. Sue and John Adair, and Gerry Smith arrived and confirmed the identity of this sparrow as a LeConte's. The bird became more elusive and secretive, spending most of its time in the center of the thicket, barely visible, just off the ground, or flying short distances in the shrubbery just off the roadside. The bird stayed in the area (as did the observers) until darkness fell. The following morning,

many birders came to the spot but the bird was not seen again. It was reported singing during the morning by two observers.

The range of LeConte's Sparrow, according to Bull (1974), is chiefly central North America, breeding east locally to southeastern Ontario north of Toronto; rarely to the Saglley River in south central Quebec. It winters mainly in southeastern United States, north along the Atlantic coast to South Carolina.

John Bull (1974, 1976) notes two proven reports, a specimen found dead along Cayuga Lake near Ithaca, 1897 and one mistnetted and banded in Nassau County in 1970, as well as two probably valid reports, Forest Lawn Park, Buffalo, 1971, and Belvidere, Allegany County, 1975. Since then only two reports, both from the Finger Lakes, have been reviewed by the New York State Avian Record Committee (NYSARC), but neither report was accepted. Additional reports of LeConte's Sparrow in *Kingbird* Regional Reports since 1975 — Montauk Point, Region 10, in 1978; Town of Carlton, Region 2, in 1983; and Town of Hanover, Region 1, in 1991 — either were not submitted to or have not yet been reviewed by the NYSARC.

RD 1, Box 41, Oswego, New York 13126-9728

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NOTES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN GOSHAWK

ROBERT SPEISER

During most of the twentieth century, only a few sporadic studies of Northern Goshawk natural history were accomplished. Most of these were qualitative piecemeal accounts and descriptions of prey items, nests, and behavioral notes. However, the mid 1970's to late 1980's witnessed a virtual renaissance during which numerous investigations were completed by field workers and scientists alike. Most of these studies were conducted in the western United States. The driving force behind them was widespread concern over loss of nesting habitat as old-growth forests shrank dramatically before armies of loggers and bulldozers. Along the New York-New Jersey border region, urbanization rather than clearcutting, has been the major problem. Habitat loss continues at a frightening pace, spurred by a land and economic boom. Yet a meager population of Northern Goshawk continues to persist there, and in some areas, may be expanding into new territory. Goshawks have nested here for almost three decades but research has been hampered by their very low nesting density, the large amounts of land in private ownership, and the lack of sufficient project interest and support by government agencies. Studies of nest site habitat and selection (Speiser and Bosakowski 1987), nest tree parameters and selection (Speiser and Bosakowski 1989), and nesting phenology and behavior (Speiser and Bosakowski 1991) have been reported. Much more remains to be elucidated. A worthwhile project would be to document quality of nest site habitats and prey levels with productivity, especially in regards to yearly climate extremes. We also need more data on Northern Goshawk interactions with other raptors, especially Cooper's Hawk, which may be displaced from some areas by it's larger congener. In this paper, I report on productivity and provide miscellaneous observations of note.

Behavior

The late Walter Lehnes pointed out to me the presence of "gentle" Northern Goshawk in our woodlands. Indeed, one occasionally can meet individual hens that are somewhat more curious than fierce regarding human interlopers near nest sites. They seem to require provocation to

swoop or attack, and are more at ease in just protesting and setting off on circling flights about the treetops. However, Northern Goshawk normally do not adapt to human disturbances near nests or to the proximity of human habitations. It should be emphasized here that the most aggressive responses and assaults I have encountered have been at nests which were unfortunately located along well-used hiking trails. Clearly, the nesting pairs at these localities were extremely agitated by excessive disturbances and responded by increased, almost fanatical aggression. The only times (twice) I have been actually struck by a Northern Goshawk occurred at these nests. Male Northern Goshawk rarely joined in nest site defense against human intruders. Only twice have males swooped me so vigorously that I was forced to flee or defend myself with a stick.

Northern Goshawk are adept at measuring a human opponent and become bolder with each swoop. I once visited a nest with chicks present and the hen swooped at me, passing perhaps one meter over my head. On the next pass, she came within half a meter, and on the next maybe a quarter of a meter. On her fourth pass, she came so close to my cheek I could feel the wind rushing past the hawk's body. I quickly got the message that on her next sortie I would be struck in the face, so I promptly retreated. Goshawks are keenly aware of their nest site environment and it is almost impossible to sneak up on a nest undetected. However, I once walked quietly below a nest unobserved while an adult was busy feeding and attending young. I watched for several minutes before I was detected.

As noted by other field workers, aggression by the adults drops considerably by the time the chicks are four weeks of age.

Productivity

Table 1 summarizes data gleaned from numerous years of field work on the New York-New Jersey border and represents a good percentage of the entire population there. As in other studies, I have considered a nest active if eggs were laid or one of the adults was observed in incubating posture. This would also equal a "nest attempt". Some nests, which were known to be active but which could not be rechecked for data on numbers of young, have been included in a separate column. A nebulous four, perhaps five, year breeding cycle is exhibited by the data. In other words, there seems to be a peak in nesting activity every fourth year. The cause of this periodicity in the study area is unknown. However, the year of maximum breeding

Table 1. Goshawk productivity in NY-NJ border region, 1976-90.

Year	Total Nests	Active Nests no data	Active Nests data	#Nests Fledging Young	% Nest Success	# Young Fledged	Fledged Per Nest Attempt
76*	2	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
77	5	1	4	4	100	8	2.0
78	3	0	3	2	66	4	1.3
79	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
80	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
81	3	2	1	1	100	2	2.0
82	4	2	2	2	100	4	2.0
83	1	0	1	1	100	1	1.0
84	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
85	4	1	3	3	100	4	—
86	4	1	3	1	33	3	1.0
87	2	0	2	2	100	3	1.5
88	2	0	2	2	100	3	1.5
89	3	1	2	2	100	3	1.5
90*	2	2	0				
Totals	36	11	25	20	80	35	1.4

* denotes year with only partial field data.

activity (1977) coincided with the highest abundance in numbers of sciurids, notably Eastern Chipmunk and Gray Squirrel. Perhaps cycles in beech and oak mast production are also a factor, effecting prey levels. Nagy (1977) and Angelstam *et al.* (1985) reported four-year goshawk cycles also.

These nests produced 1.4 young fledged per nesting attempt (N=25), which is considerably lower than most published findings. Repeated visits to nests made during the nestling stage negated the need for tree climbing in all but extreme cases. The first Northern Goshawk nest in the study area was observed for eight consecutive breeding seasons (1964-71), and nest produced three young only once (P. Both, pers. comm.).

The low productivity seen in Table 1 is the result of many causes. Two nests failed during incubation as a direct result of human disturbances by campers near the nests. Another nest suffered the loss of a complete brood (two young) by a falconer; this loss was not included in the final productivity figures.

Table 2. Northern Goshawk Productivity.

Locality	Nests	Productivity	Years	Source
Alaska	33	2.0	3	McGowan 1975
Connecticut	65	1.9	6	Root and DeSimone 1980
Minnesota	9	2.2	?	Gullion 1981
Nevada	88	2.2	6	Herron <i>et al.</i> 1985
NJ/NY	36	1.4	13+	this study
Oregon 1978	48	1.7	6	Reynolds and Wight
Finland	28	1.5	4	Hakila <i>in</i> Jones 1979
Great Britain	50	2.6-3.3	22	Newton 1982
Sweden	6	2.7	15	Widen 1985
Switzerland	73	2.5	7	Buhler <i>et al.</i> 1987

Productivity = young fledged per nest

It is obvious that Northern Goshawk nesting on the New York-New Jersey border area are having difficulty maintaining a viable population. This is not surprising considering the species is at the southeast margin of its North American nesting range here. Immigrants from surrounding regions such as northwest Connecticut and eastern Pennsylvania probably play an important role in maintaining the breeding populations.

Results are most similar to those of Hakila (1969, in Jones 1979) in Finland (Table 2). Additionally, Northern Goshawk in Michigan produced 1.6-1.9 downy young per occupied nest, in a three year study by Serg Postupalsky (pers. comm.). Productivity of new nests was similar to that of "traditional" older nests, and if nesting activity began, a good (80%) success rate followed. "Late" nesters, those birds beginning egg-laying and incubation in late April or even the first week of May, appeared to have poorer productivity than goshawks which began nesting in early to mid April. These late birds at least "salvaged" something out of the breeding year.

These results argue for strict protection of nesting Northern Goshawk in southeastern New York and northern New Jersey. Appropriation of chicks for use in falconry is an unnecessary burden on an already stressed population.

403 Third St. NW, #3, Rochester, Minnesota 55901

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LILLIAN STONER RECIPIENTS, 1975-1990

JOHN L. CONFER AND GORDON M. MEADE

One of the most significant events of the 1974 Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was the announcement of a \$1,000 gift from Mrs. Dayton (Lillian) Stoner, of St. Petersburg, Florida, to fund an annual Lillian Stoner Award. The Lillian Stoner Award provides funds for a high school senior or college student to attend the Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. Recipients must be nominated by a member club of the Federation. The fund has been supplemented by several donors. Twenty-six recipients have been selected during the 15 year history of the award. This report lists them all and describes the subsequent activities of some of these recipients; additional material would be welcomed for perhaps some later update.

Adam Byrne 1990 Cayuga Bird Club

Adam was unable to attend due to a medical emergency. Adam continues as a student in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell, where he worked as a field assistant with Dr. Tom Gavin on a study of nesting Bobolink and Red-winged Blackbird.

Andrew Spahr 1989 Saw Mill River Audubon Society

James Velozzi 1989 Saw Mill River Audubon Society

Andrew Wheelock 1989 Lake Erie Bird Club

Unfortunately, Andy, too, was unable to attend due a death in the family. Andy did his undergraduate work at Ithaca College, including a research project on Downy Woodpeckers under Confer's supervision. He began graduate studies at SUNY in Fredonia in animal behavior, where he became known to the Lake Erie Bird Club, especially for his proficiency in leading owl prowls. Andy has now transferred his graduate work to studies in education with a particular interest in natural science.

Donald J. Smith 1988 Lyman Langdon Audubon Society

Nicholas Bailey 1987 High Peaks Audubon

Nick served as High Peaks Audubon warden at the Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain for four years. Nick now plays in a blues band with his brothers and works as a contractor. Charles Smith and Mike Peterson took Mike to the Manhattan Brewing Company for a

band performance during the Federation meeting at NYC, which may have inspired Nick's present avocation.

Eric VanderWerf 1987 Genesee Ornithological Society

Eric is in the midst of establishing a career in ornithology. He has done field studies in Venezuela, Kenya, Australia, and (most importantly) Ithaca, New York. The latter was done while a student at Cornell University. He is working towards his masters degree at the University of Florida, Gainesville on habitat use by Elepaio in Hawaii. In between all this time at airports, Eric has written three papers related to bird nesting, describing the Great Potoo's nest, communal nest care in the Hoatzin, and statistical analyses of Lack's theory on clutch size.

Gregory P. Winter 1986 Alan Devoe Bird Club

Peter Hunt 1985 Cayuga Bird Club

Pete obtained his masters degree studying birds in Wyoming and is now working towards his doctorate degree under Dick Holmes at Dartmouth College. Pete is fascinated by warblers and both his current studies and his previous work have been concerned with population regulation in this group. Pete has done considerable work in the tropics, where he has assisted in teaching a tropical biology course. Pete was one of the New York Atlas blockbusters and continues to be a very active birder. It was Pete who found North America's first Little Egret.

Christine Brothers 1984 Rochester Birding Association

David Krauss 1984 Linnaean Society of New York

Lois Chapman 1983 Allegany County Bird Club

David Gagne 1983 Jamestown Audubon Society

Daniel Niven 1982 Sullivan County Audubon Society

Dan has retained his serious interest in birds, and is now a candidate for his doctorate degree in Ornithology at the University of Illinois. His course work and oral exams are complete, and he is now doing field work in Mexico. His thesis, comparing the behavior of Hooded Warblers on their breeding and wintering grounds, was supported by a grant from the Smithsonian Institution.

Michael J. Peter 1982 Genesee Ornithological Society

Mike has remained in the Rochester area, for which the Genesee club is most grateful. He is a frequent participant in field trips and recently worked with the leader of the area banding station.

William T. Benning	1981	Eaton Bird Club
Wilhelm J. Goebel	1981	Cayuga Bird Club

Wilhelm was Confer's advisee during undergraduate school at Ithaca College. Recognition of Wilhelm's bird art work, the basis for his Stoner Award, continues to increase. Wilhelm is one of the few artists sponsored by Mill Pond Press, which indeed places him in very select company. Wilhelm has won several state waterfowl stamp contests and consistently placed very well in the national contest. His picture of Am. Black Duck placed second in 1990, after a tie in the supposedly final vote, to the national duck stamp winner.

Mackenzie Stewart	1981	Oneida Bird Club
Frederick Davis	1980	Genesee Ornithological Society

Fred received his masters degree from Harvard with a thesis on "Louis Agassiz and the Galapagos Islands". Mike was an ornithological instructor at the Maine Audubon Camp for one summer and has participated in birding and banding in Great Britain. Mike also contributed to the maps for Dr. Raymond Paynter's Ornithological Gazetteer Series for South America, published by the Nuttall Ornithological Club. He continues active birding in the Washington, D.C., and Cape May areas.

Alexander R. Brash	1979	Linnaean Society of New York
Steven Scannell	1979	Alan Devoe Bird Club
Matthew Paul Drennan	1978	Linnaean Society of New York
Brad Semel	1978	Moriches Bay Audubon Society
Jean Schiller	1977	Kirkland Bird Club
Jeffery Walters	1976	Eaton Bird Club
Mary McKittrick	1975	Linnaean Society of New York

In every case, the Lillian Stoner Award has supported a very nice young person. The support has served as an award for the work that these students had already done. Perhaps it has also served as a stimulus for continuing an active, lifelong involvement with birds.

Nominations for this year's award should be sent to John Confer. Nominations must be made by member clubs of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and accompanied by a descriptive letter from the club. Nominations must be received by 15 July for appropriate consideration. It is very helpful if nominees would include a self-describing letter. Please send nominations to:

Dr. John Confer
 Dept. Biology
 Ithaca College
 Ithaca, New York 14850

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Bobolink at Dewitt, New York, 2 February 1992. Photograph by Kate Radway.

Bobolink Wintering near Syracuse, New York: On 16 January 1992, a Bobolink appeared at a feeder maintained by Kate Radway in Dewitt, Onondaga County. The bird was well described when submitted for the January feeder survey conducted by Benjamin Burtt in a local newspaper. The bird appeared with a group of House Sparrow and House Finch. It fed on the ground. It appeared to have an injured left wing that was held in an abnormal position, with the wingtip sticking up over the back. It could fly at least short distances. Because of the cedar hedges around the property, the bird disappeared from view quickly when it flew. The Bobolink was not seen again until 2 February, when it was photographed at a distance, and was not seen thereafter. This is the second winter record for Onondaga County. One died at a feeder in Liverpool during the winter of 1971-72 (Bull, John. 1976. *Supplement to Birds of New York State*, p 41). The bird found in 1971-72 may have been the first North American winter specimen.

Dorothy Crumb, 3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York 13078

Prairie Warbler Colonization of a Right-of-way in Lewis County, New York: The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) is generally a southern species and breeds primarily in the southern portion of New York (Bonney, R. E., Jr. 1988. Prairie Warbler *Dendroica discolor*. pages 388-389 in R.F. Andrle and J.R. Carroll, (eds.), *The Atlas Of Breeding Birds In New York State*. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca. 551 pp.). There have been no confirmed breeding records of this species in the northern portion of the state prior to 1988. G. A. Smith (1988. Prairie Warbler as a regular breeder at Alvar sites in Jefferson County. *Kingbird*. 38:247-248.) recorded a minimum of 10 pairs of Prairie Warbler at the Chaumont Barrens and singing males at three Alvar sites in northwestern Jefferson County. In addition, a singing male was recorded at El Dorado Beach in southwestern Jefferson County (Smith *idem*). A probable breeding record also has been recorded in Essex County and a possible breeding record was reported in northern Lewis County (Bonney *op. cit.*). We recorded five singing male Prairie Warbler along a 14.5 km (9 mi.) section of power line right-of-way in northern Lewis County from 3 June to 19 June 1991. This section of right-of-way is located in the Black River Valley Ecozone (Will, G. B., R. D. Stumvoll, R. F. Gotie, and E. S. Smith. 1982. The ecological zones of northern New York. *NY Fish and Game J.* 29:20-23). The right-of-way consists of two adjacent power lines, 70 m and 50 m wide, respectively, with a 10 m strip of trees between them. Both power lines were constructed during the 1930's, and the right-of-ways are regularly maintained on an 8-year cycle using a combination of selective herbicide treatments (K. Finch, pers. comm.). The topography of the area is rolling hills, with the edge of the right-of-way dominated by trees of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*), Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), and Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The right-of-way is generally open, interspersed with shrubs of Meadowsweet (*Spiraea latifolia*) and Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), and saplings of White Pine, Trembling Aspen, and Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*). The majority of sightings occurred where softwoods were prevalent on the edge of the right-of-ways. Although we walked only a small portion of the right-of-way, we suspect that Prairie Warbler has colonized much of this and other right-of-way of similar size and habitat in northern New York. Regularly maintained right-of-ways of sufficient width probably provide suitable breeding habitat for Prairie Warbler. These sightings indicate that right-of-ways in the northern portion of New York need to be examined more closely in order to accurately estimate the breeding distribution of Prairie Warbler in this region.

*C. Reed Rossell, Jr., 6508 Winchell Road, Warners, New York 13164, and
Dean J. DiTomasso, 73 Norfred Drive, Lackawanna, New York 14218*

Yellow-throated Warbler in Dutchess County: Right after lunch, 7 May 1992, I went out to check bluebird boxes. It was such a nice day that I decided to keep going, first to check the road where the Hooded Warbler returns each spring. I stood by my car while he sang in a tree right overhead. When he moved off into the woods I continued slowly down into Clove Valley. As I usually do, I started in the main gate to the Clove Valley Cemetery but the road was blocked. Going on I went in the back entrance and parked my car on the grass. As I worked my way along the grove of evergreens that separates the cemetery from Christie Pond on the private property of the Clove Valley Rod and Gun Club, I found many birds: Common Yellowthroat, Warbling Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, etc. Then a little flock of Yellow-rumped Warbler came working over the tops of the tall trees. I watched them casually, thinking there might be other warblers with them, when a yellow throat caught my eye. I followed the bird but could not see it well enough. Certainly not a Canada, or Magnolia. I was nearly ready to give up after twenty minutes or so, when the bird began to work its way downward. Then I saw the dark patch around the eye, white superciliary, bright yellow throat and wing bars. Its back was gray and the top of the head darker. It came down to a branch of a wild cherry nearly at eye level and about 20 to 30 feet from me. It was 1:30 PM, sunny and excellent light with the sun at my back. After a few more minutes the bird flew to a cedar tree behind me. I made a dash for my car, which seemed far away, and got my Peterson Guide and sure enough it was a Yellow-throated Warbler. I had seen the bird once before in Dutchess County and several times in Maryland. I went to a friend's house in the valley but no one was home, so I made the ten minute trip home to call Mary Key and the Hot Line. No one was home, in fact no one was home anywhere. Back I went and watched the bird for another fifteen to twenty minutes. Returning home again, I got Mary and we put it on our Rare Bird Relay. Late in the afternoon Mary and Jim Key got down and had a good observation. No one else could try, and when they did get there the next day, the warbler was gone. Like so many good finds it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Seen only seven times in Dutchess County since 1961, it was a good bird. Another was found in a different area on the 16 May census by Russ O'Malley.

Helen Manson, 2317 Route 82, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569

To the Editor:

This letter is to call attention to a minor error in the otherwise excellent "Movement of Black-capped Chickadee in New York State analyzed through banding re-encounters", by Elizabeth W. Brooks, which appeared in the Summer 1991 issue of *The Kingbird* (41:3), and to add a few comments on one of those encounters.

Table 1, part D (p. 139) lists the four chickadees banded out-of-state and re-encountered in New York in a subsequent spring. The last of these, banded at Brush Valley, PA, 8 Nov 75 is listed as having been re-encountered at Port Henry, NY, on 9 Jun 76. This latter date is incorrect and the location a bit imprecise. My own banding records and the "Certificate of Appreciation" I received from the Bird Banding Laboratory give a banding location "near Indiana, PA" (which may well be Brush Valley), with a recovery location "2 miles SE Port Henry, NY" (the nearest post office) and the recovery date of 9 May 1976. Interestingly, this was among the first birds I netted and released at what has since become an annual May banding station at the Crown Point State Historic Site, near the tip of Crown Point peninsula (2 linear miles SE of Port Henry). During the first day of operation, a band of Black-capped Chickadees were heard approaching from the south and soon reached the nets. The first bird removed was wearing band #1340-82870.

In his report of Fall 1975 Niagara-Champlain Region migration in *American Birds* (30:1), Douglas P. Kibbe noted, "A large scale movement of both chickadees was reported (e.g. 500-2000 Black-capped per day Oct 15-28 at Pt. Breeze on L. Ontario-J.&W. Listman) and by December virtually every portion of the region had reported Boreal Chickadees." In the same issue, George A. Hall reported of the Appalachian Region: "There was a very heavy southward invasion of Black-capped Chickadees... The bulk of the flight was in the second half of October and early November. Hall added that these birds were much larger than the Regional population of Black-capped Chickadees and that along with these visitors from the north came a few Boreal Chickadees. In his subsequent report of Winter 1975-76 in the Appalachian Region for *American Birds* (30:3), Hall added, "The fall invasion of Black-capped Chickadees produced some high winter counts...," noting also, "Boreal Chickadees were reported from five Pennsylvania localities: two at Indiana, Pa. from mid-December to February..."

The hawthorn thickets that covered the foundations of the 18th century French village, in the midst of which this chickadee was netted back in 1976, have since been cleared, and the area is today an open grassy field.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The spring of 1992 was a season of sharp contrast with last year. The season was generally cool, wet, and late, with the usual local variations in the details. Where last year's growing season seemed a couple of weeks advanced to many observers, this year's was about two weeks behind "normal" in most Regions. The warmth of the winter we were experiencing ended abruptly in the western two-thirds of the State with a heavy snow storm 11-12 Mar, after which water, open early, refroze. Cool to cold, wet weather persisted with few breaks through April. As noted in the Region 1 and 10 reports, overall averages were relatively benign, but the timing of events, especially the prevalence of particularly cold and wet weekends, resulted in much relatively poor birding. From the data provided, only Regions 7, 10, and possibly 9 seemed to fair a bit better than the rest. A final blow came in a very cold last week of May, with frost in many areas and a severe impact on insect eaters. Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow were especially hard hit. In spite of all this negative impact, many Regions noted good species variety and many very early migrant arrival dates. Once again, however, the general feeling was that numbers of long distance migrants were **down**.

Sharpening our focus a bit and assessing overall views of the season in more detail, we find many contrasts. Region 8 notes most local breeders arriving on time, many purely transients late and low in numbers. Region 4 notes many passerines so scarce that surely (or should that be hopefully?) they simply must have overflowed the Region. The overall averages of the arrival date tables show water birds early (mostly from the many February and early March arrivals), but land birds late. The combined average is essentially identical with that of the past five years over which we have specifically sought these data. In Region 10, the migration was over by Memorial Day, while Region 2 experienced the best showing of late migrants in recent years, with many birds moving well into June.

Waterfowl reports seemed a bit improved in many Regions, perhaps because birds were delayed and concentrated by the return to winter weather in mid March. The wet weather meant good shorebird habitat in most Regions, with good variety in several and quite a few good records for the spring noted, e.g., Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 2, 3, and 9;

Hudsonian Godwit in Region 1; Sanderling in Regions 1 and 5; and Baird's and Stilt Sandpipers and Ruff in Region 3. However, numbers of individuals reported again were less than outstanding.

Hawk flights showed great contrast. In Region 2, in spite of the generally poor winds, the total was above average, but mainly due to 17,000+ counts on both 20 and 22 Apr, with about 15,000 Broad-winged Hawk each day. At Derby Hill to the east, the count total was down considerably, with Broad-winged Hawk at a record low. The two large pulses at Braddock Bay simply didn't pass Derby Hill. Their Broad-wing peak was 3367 on 20 Apr. Contrarily, a **Swainson's Hawk** at Braddock Bay on 20 Apr probably was the same as the bird over Derby Hill on 21 Apr. Elsewhere, a record high count, in spite of brief coverage, was set at Coot Hill in Region 7; a new site at Mt. Pleasant east of Ithaca is described in the Region 3 report; and a very high (1000+) Red-tailed Hawk day appears in the Region 9 report.

Among the passerines, special concern was noted in several Regions for flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, warblers, and the grassland sparrows, but again there was much contrast between Regions over the status of particular species within a family. For example, Great Crested Flycatcher was called very scarce in Region 5 and particularly numerous in neighboring Region 6; House Wren was scarce in Region 2 and abundant in Region 6; and Regions 2 and 4 were on opposite poles for Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, and Wilson's Warblers, with the plus and minus sides flip flopping with species.

Focussing even closer, we can look for trends and interesting observations for individual species. From the top of the list, Red-throated Loon records were few, whereas Common Loon counts were good, with above normal numbers of Alternate plumaged birds seen in Region 10. Regions 1, 3, and 8 noted good Horned Grebe counts, Region 6 low counts. Red-necked Grebe were more widely reported than usual, with good counts in Regions 3 and 9. Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase inland, with an apparent first breeding attempt noted in Region 2. Perhaps similarly, Great Cormorant records increased in Regions 8, 9, and 10. Great Egret put in a rare showing in Region 7, while only one Region noted Cattle Egret; is it too common elsewhere or is it now scarce? This was a good year for wandering ibises, with Glossy in five Regions where it is unusual and a **White-faced Ibis** recorded in Region 10. Greater White-fronted Goose continued its move to regular status, with appearances in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 9. Snow Goose counts continue at elevated levels in the eastern two-

thirds of the State. Most of the other waterfowl maintained trends highlighted numerous times before. Special notes included a group of 200+ scoters headed from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence valley and some very good Common Goldeneye counts from Regions 1, 5, 6, and 7.

Turkey Vulture continued its trend of widespread early arrival dates and good counts, while **Black Vulture** put in token appearances in Regions 2 and 3 and increased their presence in Region 9. Osprey reports continue to improve, with new nesting sites noted from Regions 5 and 9. Osprey arrived at a record early date of 15 Mar in Region 2 and beat the old inland early arrival date in Regions 2, 4, and 5. Bald Eagle was reported by all Regions, with Region 8 noting two new pairs nest building, though no eggs were laid. Additional raptor notes include very serious concern over plummeting Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers; few Northern Goshawk reports except in Regions 3 and 5; record high Rough-legged Hawk totals; Golden Eagles in eight of ten Regions; and notes on the nesting "urban" Peregrine Falcon from Region 10. Wild Turkey continues its increase all over the state. **Sandhill Crane** reports were down a bit, to only four, in Region 2, but birds were also noted in Regions 1, 5, and 6. Shorebirds of note included a very early Solitary Sandpiper in Region 9, record early White-rumped Sandpiper in Region 6, and 17 presumed wandering, wintering Ruddy Turnstones on 1 Mar in Region 9. Inland appearances of Laughing Gull and scattered Little Gull records were noted in four Regions. Common Black-headed Gull was only reported from Regions 3 and 10. Bonaparte's Gull counts were high in Regions 1, 2, and 3, off a bit in most other Regions. Thayer's Gull was identified only in Regions 6 and 8. Lesser Black-backed Gull is certainly regular now, reported in six Regions this season. The "white-winged" gulls put on a good March showing and lingered into May in some Regions. Tern reports of interest included widespread, very early arrivals of Caspian Tern, with both an inland record high (away from the nesting colony on Little Galloo Island) in Region 5 and a possible first Regional occurrence in Region 4. There was continued concern over the failing status of Black Tern across the State. An oil spill off Long Island on 8 Mar brought surprising numbers of **Common Murre** and **Razorbill** among the birds picked up for attempted rehabilitation.

Owl records generally were typical few in number, but of note were Snowy Owl reports from eight of ten Regions, persisting into May in two of these; **Northern Hawk Owl** persisting into March in Regions 6 and 8 and **Great Gray Owl** into March in Region 1; and note of 291 Northern Saw-whet Owl banded in Region 2. Goatsuckers generally remained scarce. It is

Waterbird Arrivals 1992

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

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

Spring Arrivals 1992

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

Bold Regional Record Early

Italics Also isolated earlier report(s).

a sad comment that 100+ Chimney Swifts at a roost in Region 4 is now exceptional for that species. Hummingbirds drew no notice aside from the entries in the arrival dates table, even though I personally heard a fair amount of lament over their absence. Among the woodpeckers, most noteworthy were the continued range expansion notes for Red-bellied Woodpecker, including a first for Clin in Region 7.

Many of the passerines already have been noted above, and generally individual species receive note from too few Regions to pick out trends. However, some observations of interest include continuing inland expansion of Fish Crow's range; Common Raven also expanding, with a first nesting record noted for Dutc in Region 9; Carolina Wren persisting in very high numbers; Sedge Wren in only Regions 3 and 8; very late Marsh Wren arrival dates for Regions 3, 4, and 8 — why?; a rare Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nesting record for Region 7; low Veery and **very low** Swainson's Thrush counts; a rare plus for Brown Thrasher from Region 6; Northern Shrike departure dates to March and early April in all Regions; good counts for Solitary Vireo in Regions 4, 5, and 6 and for Yellow-throated Vireo in Region 7; poor totals for Philadelphia Vireo everywhere noted; Cerulean Warbler up a bit in eastern Regions and Golden-winged, Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers and Northern Parula all noted down significantly in several Regions each; record early inland arrival dates for Black-throated Blue Warbler and American Redstart and a statewide record early date for Ovenbird in Region 9 and, additionally, arrival dates for American Redstart which beat the old inland early date in Regions 3, 5, 8, and 9 and the coastal date in Region 10; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 3, 9, and 10; Prairie Warbler expanding, with reports from six Regions; Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting receiving comments of concern; Fox Sparrow counts good, most arrivals about 11 Mar and departures from late April to early May; Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows red flagged in a few Regions each; White-crowned Sparrow with mixed reviews; Orchard Oriole noted in seven of ten Regions; and transient finches generally a scattered few, with a Region 6 **Hoary Redpoll** the best, and potential breeding of Pine Siskin in Regions 2 and 7 and of Evening Grosbeak in Regions 7 and 9 of interest.

As usual, the introductory paragraphs of Regional reports contain a wealth of information for the interested reader. Among those, I would call to your attention to the Buffalo Ornithological Society's Spring Count summary in Region 1; the new hawk watch summary and a tagged eagle report from Region 3; the good sense of importance or perspective for

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	93	0.5	-2.3
Region 2	93	1.5	-3.2
Region 3	90	-1.0	-2.4
Region 4	78	0.1	1.8
Region 5	93	-2.2	-2.8
Region 6	86	-2.1	5.8
Region 7	88	-4.2	4.8
Region 8	87	0.2	1.8
Region 9	83	0.2	-2.2
Region 10	76	4.8	-0.7

records generally in Region 4; the Derby Hill Hawk Watch Table in Region 5; notes relating observers to covered areas, a newly recognized migrant staging area, and comments on the trade-offs for birds and birders in a heavy tent caterpillar infestation in Region 6; the Crown Point banding summary, special Four Brothers Islands records woven in, and a call for help in the 1993 Bicknell's Gray-cheeked Thrush survey from Region 7; and information in the Region 10 report as to where to send reports of color-banded or dyed birds and recommendations of articles on how to properly document records, especially of rarities.

Looking at the arrival date tables, there are about 30 dates I would question, change, or discard, calling them overwintering dates, potential identification problems, or reflections of poor coverage. After adjusting for these, comparing this year's data with the averages of the past 5 years we find waterfowl early, land birds late, and the combination right on average. Only seven species, not much more than randomly expected from 93 tests at the 95% confidence level, tested statistically significantly early or late: Green-winged Teal, Osprey, and Spotted Sandpiper were early and Common Snipe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Blackpoll Warbler, and Rufous-sided Towhee were late. Compared to their long term averages, as indicated by "Seasonality", we find Regions 5, 6, and 7 early, whereas Region 10 was late. For the relative arrivals this year, as indicated by "Advance", all excepting possibly Region 10 appear relatively normal. Not yet having a separate table dates for each Region (other than Region 2), I'll leave it to others to decide

why the Region 10 average is not the earliest. My cursory look suggests that a few anomalously late dates plus a large number of species that arrive early but go without included dates due to difficulty in separating overwintering birds from arrivals (a real challenge for downstate birders) tend to bias Region 10's arrival dates relative to the other Regions.

For most Regions, rarities were exciting this Spring, providing a good close to a somewhat confusing and discouraging summary. The best of the rarities not woven into earlier parts of this account are an Alternate plumaged **Pacific Loon** in Region 10; **Eared Grebe** in Region 3; Northern Gannet in Region 9; **American White Pelican** in Regions 1, 2, and 3 and **Brown Pelican** in Region 10; Snowy Egret in Region 5 and Little Blue Heron in Region 2; **Barnacle Goose** in Regions 5 and 6; Eurasian Wigeon in seven regions; Tufted Duck in Region 9; Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 6 and 8; **Gyr Falcon** in Region 3; King Rail in Region 5; **Western Kingbird** in Region 3; **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Region 10; Kentucky Warbler in Regions 1, 2, and 3; Clay-colored Sparrow in Region 6; Lark Sparrow in Region 9; **LeConte's Sparrow** in Region 5; **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** in Region 2; Western Meadowlark in Regions 1 and 2; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 7 and 8; **Brewer's Blackbird** in Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5. As good as many of these were, the B.O.T.S. Award goes easily to the **Anhinga** soaring over a birding group in Central Park on 28 April.

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Standard abbreviations: Species names in SMALL CAPS are Regional rarities; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in Upper Case letters; months are shortened to their first three letters;! — details seen by Regional editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; arr — arrival or first of season; CO — confirmed; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; j — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; NWR — National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC — report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P — Park; Pd — Pond; ph — photographed; Pt — Point; Res — Reservoir; SP — State Park; spm — specimen; subad — subadult; T — Town of; Twn — township; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

March, April, and May provided a roller coaster of weather conditions, most of them disguised by rather benign averages. According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo, the March temperature average was 31.6°F, down 1.5° from the norm; April was 43.8°F, down 1.6°; and May was 57.2°F, up 1.2°. Precipitation totals were: 2.9 inches, the norm, in March; 4.7 inches, up 1.6, in April; and 3.5 inches, up 0.6, in May. Not bad, but those records hide wide fluctuations between hot and cold, dry and wet. The balmy weather of the late winter extended until 10 Mar, the temperature for those first ten days 11° above average. The next two weeks were 10° below average. On 11 Mar, 15 inches of snow fell, leaving the ground covered for the rest of the month. Vivian Pitzrick reports that Amity Lake was clear of ice on 10 Mar, refrozen by 13 Mar, and still frozen until 10 Apr! Five inches of snow in the first week of April provided a final taste of that element and, except for a brief window from the night of 18 to 22 Apr, the month was unseasonably cold. The temperature never topped 60°F on any other day and the highs for the month were 3° below the norm. Then May continued the ride: the first nine days with seasonal temperatures, the next two weeks 8° above normal and very dry, the last week 9° below and equally wet. There were killing frosts during that last week of May, and Steve Eaton noted damage to several fern species as well as to Black Locust, White Ash, Black Walnut, American Chestnut (suckers), and Staghorn Sumac.

Because people like Rich Wells keep close tabs on so many of their nests (in his case 125 boxes), bluebirds may be considered an indicator species for nesting success in general. Consider what Rich has to say about them: "No factor has as much effect on nesting success of bluebirds as the weather. Cold wet weather makes it extremely difficult for the adults to feed (insects) and brood their young. This spring from 24 to 31 May (southern Erie and northern Cattaraugus counties) we had some unusually cold weather. 24 May started off with rain and damp cold: the daytime high was in the 40s. As the skies cleared, frost was reported on 25, 26, and 27 May; reports of 22°F on 25 May were common. During this time period I had 18 nests of bluebirds with young ranging from one day to two weeks of age. Thirteen of these nests were completely lost (all nestlings) totaling 53 young. Five nests were at least partially successful, losing ten young but fledging eleven. This is

about a 30% success rate which is well below my seven year total of 69%. Tree Swallow which did not have young at this time were nevertheless hit hard by the extreme cold. Sixteen nests and a total of 82 eggs were frozen out of 70 nests." As readers are too well aware already, Rich's sad tale will carry over into the next season.

Although that is the worst of the news, the migration itself wasn't all that great either. It seemed never to develop. Conditions were not right for passerine visits. The poor weather of late April with few southerly winds delayed some migrants, but the bland early May allowed them to pass over or trickle through in small groups. The Williamsville Glen spring coverage, now in its fourth year, attests to this with warbler peaks for both species and individuals well down from earlier years. Not all the news was bad, however. The Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, mounted on 12 Apr this year and provided above average numbers and species counts, with 23 record highs for individual species, almost all nonpasserines. At least two good hawk flights did occur on favorable winds 19-20 Apr and 17 May, the unusual late flight coinciding with the B.O.S. May Count and providing a 56 year high raptor total for that survey.

Among the good records this spring, three are worth special note. On 22 Apr, Bob Andrie and others observed an **American White Pelican** over the Town of Hamburg. Don Endres later found two beautiful adult birds of this species in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area where they were seen by many others from 9-24 May. These were not the same birds found in nearby Canada through January; at least one of the Canadian birds was found dead. Eric Derleth and Cindy House turned up a **Hudsonian Godwit** in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area on 23 May. This is the first spring record for many years. Dean DiTommaso and Bill Watson heard the distinctive call of a **Laughing Gull** and saw this stray from the Atlantic coast over Times Beach in Buffalo on 9 May.

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Abbreviations: BH – Barcelona Harbor; BISP – Beaver Island State Park; BOS – Buffalo Ornithological Society; BOSAC – BOS April Count, 12 Apr; BOSMC – BOS May Count, 17 May; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP; GI – Goat Island, NF; INWR – Iroquois NWR; LESP – Lake Erie State Park; NF – Niagara Falls; NR – Niagara River; TNP – Tiff Nature Preserve; TIR – Tonawanda Indian Reservation; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA; WG – Williamsville Glen; WTSP – Wilson Tuscarora State Park.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** only one Cuba L 19 May (MP!). **Com. Loon:** max 45 T Hamburg 9 Apr (RA, mob). **Horned Grebe:** max 300 Celoron 1 Apr (RS). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr seven T Olcott and T Wilson 4 Apr (WD, mob); max 11 T Yates 7 Apr (WD, BP). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 253 BOSAC, continuing their rapid increase. **Least Bittern:** arr one INWR 11 May (RC). **Great Egret:** arr two Chau 12 Apr. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** unusual city record one South Park L Buffalo 7 Mar (LS). **Tundra Swan:** max 292 TWMA 29 Mar (DH,WW,mob); last INWR 24 May (BB, DT). **Mute Swan:** arr two BISP 29 Mar (BC!), the local resident having died in a crash into power lines early in the period. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** only record two T Westfield 27 Mar (RS!, mob). **Snow Goose:** last Gene 17 May, late. **Wood Duck:** arr T E Aurora 5 Mar (LH), early; max 423 BOSAC. **Green-winged Teal:** max 340 BOSAC. **N. Pintail:** max 868 Oak Orchard WMA 7 Mar (MG, WW). **Blue-winged Teal:** arr one Waterport 21 Mar (WD, mob); max 330 BOSAC. **N. Shoveler:** arr one Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary 29 Mar (RS, mob); max 155 BOSAC. **Gadwall:** arr three INWR 8 Mar (WD, DD); max 31 BOSAC. **Eurasian Wigeon:** only record one INWR 12 Apr (RC, MG, GR!). **Am. Wigeon:** arr three DH 1 Mar (JF); max 505 BOSAC. **Canvasback:** max for season 200 Celoron 1 Apr (RS). **Redhead:** max 24 BOSAC; last 23 INWR 17 May. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 1564 BOSAC; last 12 TNP 1 May (D&DS). **Greater Scaup:** max 1100 Celoron 1 Apr (RS); last two TNP 16 May (D&DS).

Lesser Scaup: max 1800 Celoron 1 Apr (RS); last T Cuba 22 May (MP). **Oldsquaw:** max 426 BOSAC; last 250 T Carlton 16 May (WD). **Black Scoter:** only report six Shadigee and T Somerset 29 Mar (DR). **Surf Scoter:** only report three Celoron 31 Mar (RS!). **White-winged Scoter:** max 78 T Somerset 21 Mar (WD, WW, mob), few reports. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 232 BOSAC; last two NF 15 May (WD). **Bufflehead:** max 869 BOSAC; last T Cold Spring 28 May (RS). **Ruddy Duck:** first six Celoron 1 Apr (RS); max 13 Bear Lake 25 Apr (LB, FR); last two INWR 17 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 17 T Hamburg 3 Mar (RM, FR); max 583 T Hamburg 7 Apr (RM, FR). **Osprey:** early arr two Lackawanna 31 Mar (WD, DD!); max 52 BOSAC. **Bald Eagle:** max ten Cloverbank and T Hamburg 20 Apr (RA, RM, FR, mob). **N. Harrier:** max 120 BOSAC. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 352 T Hamburg 19 Apr (RM, FR). **Cooper's Hawk:** max 17 BOSAC. **N. Goshawk:** only records one T Hamburg 18 Mar (FR!); one T Hamburg 14 Apr (RA!). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 57 Lackawanna 31 Mar (WD, DD). **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr one WYOM 12 Apr; max 4882 T Eden, T Evans, E. Aurora, T Portland and T Hamburg 19 Apr (C&RB, mob). **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 256 BOSAC. **Rough-legged Hawk:** max 52 BOSAC; last eight BOSMC. **Golden Eagle:** only records one T Stockton 18 Apr (LB, FR); one T Hamburg 20 Apr (RM, SS). **Am. Kestrel:** max 364 BOSAC. **Merlin:** one wintering Buffalo to 23 Mar (ES); arr one T Hamburg 6 Apr (FR); last E Aurora 29 Apr (LH); three other April records. **Wild Turkey:** max 120 BOSAC. **Com. Moorhen:** arr one TNP 17 Apr (MG). **Sandhill Crane:** only records one T Alfred 10 Apr (EB!); one T Wilson 21-22 Apr (BB, ES!). **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 57 BOSAC. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr one NIAG 12 Apr. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** *intro.* **Ruddy Turnstone:** only record one LESP 24 May (JF). **Sanderling:** one LESP 24 May (JF), six there 31 May; "irregular uncommon" spring transient (Beardslee and Mitchell, *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*) and not recorded in spring for over twenty years. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** only record one NIAG 17 May. **Purple Sandpiper:** two NF to 12 May (WD, WW), exceptionally late. **Dunlin:** four NF 7 Mar (DC), out of season; arr 14 BOSMC. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr seven TWMA 24 May (RW). **Com. Snipe:** max 100 T Eden 11 Apr (D&DS). **Am. Woodcock:** max 27 BOSAC. **Wilson's Phalarope:** only record two TWMA 31 May (WL, D&DS). **LAUGHING GULL:** *intro.* **Little Gull:** max 26 NR 13 Apr (GB); last BH 5 May (RS). **Bonaparte's Gull:** season max 4500 BH 30 Apr (RS); second high 4400 NR 13 Apr (GB). **Iceland Gull:** last Buffalo Harbor 9 Apr (RA). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** late one BISP to 17 Apr (BC!, mob). **Glaucous**

Gull: max five BOSAC; last three BH 30 Apr (RS). **Caspian Tern:** max 41 BOSAC. **Forster's Tern:** only record one BH 30 Apr (RS!).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr three BOSMC. **Snowy Owl:** last Buffalo 15 May (M&SG). **GREAT GRAY OWL:** continued in the Town of Ellicott to 9 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** last WTSP 6 Apr (BP). **Whip-poor-will:** arr T Sheridan 3 May (C&RB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr TNP 12 May (DD). **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR 22 May (DR). **Tree Swallow:** max 2552 BOSAC, additional 4000 in nearby Canada. **Com. Raven:** family group in nesting area used several years ago WYOM 17 May (EB). **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr two BOSMC. **Am. Pipit:** max 175 T Eden 11 Apr (D&DS); only other date ten BOSMC. **N. Shrike:** last two BOSAC.

White-eyed Vireo: arr GI 13 May (BP). **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr WG 13 May (D&DS). **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr E Aurora 3 May (LH). **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr three TIR, one WTSP, one FMCSP 9 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type TIR 22 May (DR), in the same spot for three years; only other one Allegany Res 28 May (BC, RS). **Pine Warbler:** one T Somerset 8 Mar (WD, DD!), possibly overwintered. **Prairie Warbler:** arr T Amity 12 May (M&VP). **Cerulean Warbler:** arr WG 11 May (GR). **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr INWR 23 May (WW). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** only date six BOSMC. **Kentucky Warbler:** only report one GI 10 May (WD, DD!). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** only report one INWR 16 May (RC, DD!).

Field Sparrow: arr 15 BOSAC. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr T Pembroke 10 May (WD, DD). **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr three CHAU 17 May. **Fox Sparrow:** arr one T Carrollton 11 May (SE); last one TNP 26 Apr (WW). **Lapland Longspur:** last two T Porter 22 Mar (WD, D&DS). **Snow Bunting:** last 15 T Sheldon 17 Mar (OR). **E. Meadowlark:** arr T Warsaw 4 Mar (HK). **W. Meadowlark:** only record one T Pembroke 9-12 May (GS, mob!). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr E Aurora 3 Mar (LH); last T Clarence 16 May (WW). **Orchard Oriole:** arr T South Valley 17 May (BOSMC!), later nested in this area. **Red Crossbill:** only record one WYOM 17 May. **Com. Redpoll:** max 75 T Porter 1 Mar (WD, DD); last FMCSP 3 May (DC). **Evening Grosbeak:** last T Wales 9 May (OR).

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

March didn't feel much like spring. Besides being the snowiest month of the usually snowy months, the average temperature was over three degrees below normal at 30.2°F. Precipitation was a full inch above the norm at 3.43 inches. April brought the Region a host of cloudy days with days, a total of nineteen without any sun. The temperature was nearly two degrees below the norm of 42.2°F, and precipitation was below normal at 2.64 inches. Snowfall though was slightly above average. May weather showed little deviation from average.

The spring migration was late. Weather conditions may have contributed to the lateness. All the expected species did arrive, but the general feeling was that the season on the whole was a couple of weeks behind schedule. There were few really good migration days and, on the days that were good, birds were concentrated along Lake Ontario. This was documented by the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, which experienced some good days at its lakeshore site while its inland location seemed nearly devoid of bird life. There were days where the lakeshore held good numbers of birds, but short trips inland, in some cases was only a mile or two inland, produced mediocre results at best.

Loons appeared to be a bit late. Common Loon was noted in good numbers, but Red-throated Loon seemed scarce. Grebes were only fair. Observers noted the scarcity of Horned Grebe and the poor concentrations of Red-necked Grebe relative to past years. One observer noted a decline in Pied-billed Grebe numbers. On the upswing, though, were the increased numbers of Double-crested Cormorant, whose effect on the sport fishing industry of Lake Ontario is becoming increasingly controversial. By late May, as many as 13 nests in various stages of completion were visible in one tree in Braddock Bay. Waterfowl numbers were fairly good early in the season. Many observers noted high concentrations of Ring-necked Duck.

Wandering long-legged waders were reported this season. Highlights included Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis. The near lack of **Sandhill Crane** reports was a great contrast to recent years. Shorebird habitat appeared early in the season, but dryness quickly reduced the available habitat. Most species were found but numbers were low. Observers noted a lack of Spotted Sandpiper but spoke about the good numbers of Red Knot and Ruddy Turnstone. A late influx of "white-

winged" gulls produced some good sightings early in the season and a few late in the season. Bonaparte's Gull staged a tremendous migration along the Lake Ontario shore in late April. Great Black-backed Gull continued in higher numbers this season. Terns arrived early, but numbers generally were low. Black Tern continues to be of major concern.

The raptor migration was above average, with a total of 55,223 birds for the three month period despite suboptimal migration conditions. April was the usual peak month, with a total of 41,879 raptors counted. Rough-legged Hawk set a new record high count, and a record single day total of 117 individuals. Golden Eagle numbers were good with a total of 41 and a single day record of 11. On the down side were American Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk, the latter continuing a precipitous drop in numbers. The Braddock Bay Owl Banding Project once again gave us our best indication of the magnitude of the owl movement. A total of 350 owls were banded during the reporting period, with the bulk of them being Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Once again the passerine migration was noted as being down. Recent migrations have seemed but a fraction of those of the past. On the plus side were Least Flycatcher, kinglets, Yellow-breasted Chat, Field, Savannah, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, and Purple Finch. Negatives were flycatchers, House Wren, thrushes, Loggerhead Shrike, Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, grassland sparrows, and winter finches. Warblers were mixed. Some species, including Yellow, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Cerulean, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada and American Redstart, seemed to be present in good numbers, whereas others, including Golden-winged, Tennessee, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, and Ovenbird, continued to show a decline.

Rarities were generally good this season. An **American White Pelican** spotted at Braddock Bay on April 23 by Brett Ewald heads the list. Raptor highlights included **Black Vulture** and **Swainson's Hawk**. Other notable reports include Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Laughing Gull**, Lesser Black-backed Gull, **Fish Crow**, Common Raven and **Western Meadowlark**. The warbler highlights included Worm-eating, Connecticut and Kentucky Warblers.

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; C - Charlotte (Ontario Beach); CH - Cobb's Hill, Rochester; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; EL - East Lakeshore (Lake Ontario littoral east of Rochester); HPt - Hogan Pt; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; MPd - Mendon Ponds; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario littoral west of Rochester).

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** max one Manitou 18 Apr. **Com. Loon:** max 1000+ Webster 19 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** last two Parma 8 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Manitou 25 Mar (RMc). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr two BB 3 Apr; *intro*. **Least Bittern:** arr ICW 18 May. **Great Egret:** arr BB 4 Apr (T&PS, CC). **Snowy Egret:** one BB 23 May (RO'H, RMc, MD). **Cattle Egret:** one BB 3 May (MD), one HPt 4 May (D&DT). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr two Greece 18 Apr. **Glossy Ibis:** one Sweden 29 May (PSe). **Mute Swan:** max seven BB 5 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one-three Hamlin 11-20 Apr (BM, mob). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Greece 14-16 Mar (BM). **Ring-necked Duck:** max 630 WL 30 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** last six Hamlin 8 May. **Oldsquaw:** last Hamlin 8 May. **Black Scoter:** max 60 EL 19 Apr, good spring total. **White-winged Scoter:** last four Hamlin 16 May.

BLACK VULTURE: one BB 3 Apr (BE), uncommon but increasingly regular. **Turkey Vulture:** max 679 BB 22 Apr. **Osprey:** max 40 BB 20 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** max eight BB 17 May. **N. Harrier:** max 118 BB 20 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 750 BB 20 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk:** max 63 BB 22 Apr. **N. Goshawk:** max four BB 25 Mar and 20 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 191 BB 7 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 15,597 BB 20 Apr. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** imm light morph BB 20 Apr (BE); one BB 29 Apr (BE). **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 908 BB 22 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** max 117 BB 22 Apr, record max; 661 season total BB, record max. **Golden Eagle:** max 11 BB 20

Apr. **Am. Kestrel**: max 55 BB 19 Apr. **Merlin**: max two BB 2 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: max two BB 2 and 13 May. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Webster 9 Apr (DS), two Hamlin 4 Apr (MD), one Greece 2 May (RO'H), poor total. **Lesser Golden-Plover**: arr two Hamlin 30 Mar (JB, CC, DT). **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Rochester International Airport 1 Apr, early. **Whimbrel**: max 35 Pt Breeze 24 May (WL), good spring total. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr one C 25 May. **W. Sandpiper**: max ten Hamlin 19, 21 May (WL), good spring total [details? White-rumped Sandpiper more likely at this time - *The Editor*]. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max 97 Hamlin 1 May. **Dunlin**: arr WL 13 Apr. **LAUGHING GULL**: one BB 23 May (D&AS). **Little Gull**: max four BB 10 May (MD), good May total. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 3000+ Hamlin 26 Apr. **Iceland Gull**: two IB 1 Mar, one IB 9 Mar, last BB 1-3 May. **Glaucous Gull**: last HPT 1 May. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Salmon Creek 12 Apr (PSe, MD). **Caspian Tern**: max 106 Sodus 29 Apr. **Forster's Tern**: arr Manitou 16 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Norway Road 23 May. **Barred Owl**: max two Bergen Swamp 20 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: total 291 banded BB; two Bergen swamp 23 May, breeding again. **Com. Nighthawk**: max 39 Greece 29 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Manitou 20 Apr, continues scarce.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Greece 18 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr Manitou 22 May. **FISH CROW**: one BB 12 May (BE). **Com. Raven**: one Webster 10 Mar (DT), one Canandaigua L 13 Apr (RMc). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr ICW 15 May. **Am. Pipit**: arr MPd 16 Mar; last Perinton 30 May, late. **N. Shrike**: last WL 30 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Greece 12 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr two MPd 4 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Webster 2 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: singles DEP 2 May; Greece 2 May, Webster 3 May, ICW 3 and 4 May, good spring total. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Manitou 12 May (RO'H), one Manitou 25 May (BB). **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Manitou, IB 13 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: arr DEP 2 May. **Worm-eating Warbler**: singles CH 3-4 May (AW), Greece 16 May (BM), ICW 27 May (CC, MR, DT). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Letchworth SP 19 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler**: one ICW 11-14 May (JL, mob). **Connecticut Warbler**: one Henrietta 3 May (GH). **Hooded Warbler**: arr CH 2 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last two MPd 6 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr two Hamlin 11 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Greece 24 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: max 12 Mt Morris 23 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr Greece 11 Mar, last Parma 1 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: last three Manitou 19 May. **Lapland Longspur**: max 30 Hamlin 8 Mar (BM, SSk). **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one Pt Breeze 16

May (DS), near site where one present for six years. **Rusty Blackbird**: last 12 ICW 18 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one Hamlin 11 Apr, two there 8 May, one on 23 May, returned to last year's location, breeding suspected. **Orchard Oriole**: arr Greece 13 May (BM), new location. **Com. Redpoll**: last two ICW 12 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: last two DEP 2 May.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.K. MELIN AND C.R. SMITH

March and April in the Finger Lakes were colder and wetter than normal, with precipitation about 20 percent above average. Although the first week of March was warm and spring-like, and flocks of geese and swans moved into the Region, a series of cold fronts from 11–16 Mar and 26–30 Mar brought snow and most of the precipitation for the month. An interlude between these fronts, from 15–23 Mar, was a period of many observations of Turkey Vulture in the Region, as well as the third spring **Black Vulture** record in as many years. The persistent cold and snowy conditions caused many Snow Bunting and Lapland Longspur to linger in the Region until late March. American Pipit, by comparison, were scarce and difficult to find this season. Several reports of Fox Sparrow (1–8 individuals) from area feeders followed the 11 Mar snow storm, birds persisting until 30 Apr; D. Clements noted, "Every observant feeder watcher in the county saw Fox Sparrows this year, and again no one can ever remember a Fox Sparrow influx like this before."

At the beginning of April, a stalled low pressure front pushed the temperatures 10 to 15°F below normal, with snow, fog, and freezing temperatures until 5 Apr, when skies cleared and temperatures were more seasonable with highs near 40°F. By 7 Apr, daytime highs in Ithaca and Elmira were 66°F. A low front crossing the Great Lakes brought heavy rains and northwest winds gusting up to 30 mph on 11–12 Apr, following by a large high pressure system through 15 Apr. A migration "pulse" occurred between 12–15 Apr, when numbers of Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, Common Snipe, and hundreds of Snow Geese were observed throughout

the Finger Lakes. Despite lots of sunshine, temperatures remained below normal and nighttime lows were well below freezing. On 14 Apr, a minimum temperature record, which had stood since 1885, was broken when Ithaca cooled to 20°F. Rains, fog, and below-normal temperatures were pervasive from 16–19 Apr, followed by warmer and sunnier conditions from 19–21 Apr with temperatures near 70°F. Waterfowl migration accelerated during this warmer period, but a series of low fronts, cooler temperatures, and rainy weather patterns followed through 26 Apr. During this brief reversal in warming trends, migrating waterfowl stalled northward migration and rested in the Seneca Lake/Cayuga Lake/Montezuma areas. Highlights from 23–24 Apr were a **Glossy Ibis** and numbers of **Common** and **Red-throated Loon**, **Horned** and **Red-necked Grebe**, and **White-winged Scoter**.

May temperature and precipitation were at normal levels. May started with warm temperatures as high as 80°F, followed by a powerful cold front on 2 May which brought severe thunderstorms and hail to the Finger Lakes. Cool temperatures followed this front, and stayed below normal through 5 May. By 8 May, skies were sunny and temperatures up to 70°F, conditions which persisted with warming temperatures until a cold front on 13 May brought heavy thunderstorms and more hail. Warming conditions continued interspersed with rainstorms through 23 May. During this warming trend, numbers of shorebirds were observed at May's Point Pool at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge including a **Ruff**. A strong cold front on 24 May dropped temperatures into the 20's and 30's and set new low temperatures about 15°F below normal until the end of May. The cold periods in May resulted in nestling mortality for Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird, unable to find sufficient insect food for their young.

As expected, the Region's lakes and waterways provided an abundance of waterfowl during the migration periods of March and April. The Cayuga Marsh area at the north end of Cayuga Lake was especially abundant and varied in waterfowl this season while nearby Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge remained frozen over. In mid May, numbers of shorebirds were present the Chemung River near the NYSEG dam in Elmira, and a few at the Big Flats Marsh and Corning Pond as well as at May's Point Pool. On 18 May **Black-bellied Plover**, **Semipalmated Plover**, **Killdeer**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, **White-rumped Sandpiper**, **Dunlin**, **Short-billed Dowitcher**, **Common Snipe**,

and American Woodcock were seen at Montezuma NWR. In these areas, both waterfowl and shorebirds attracted Peregrine Falcon. Also present all season were numbers of Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk. Owls were widespread throughout the Region although not common as expected; six species were reported.

N. Brinkley, A. Byrne, and B. Guirey made a special effort to document hawk migration over Mt. Pleasant (1750 ft elevation), east of Ithaca, for 19 days from 5 Mar through 9 May, amassing 76 hours of observation time. Species and totals for the period included 165 Turkey Vulture, 12 Osprey, 2 Bald Eagle, 39 Northern Harrier, 103 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 40 Cooper's Hawk, 24 Northern Goshawk, 53 Red-shouldered Hawk, 35 Broad-winged Hawk, 358 Red-tailed Hawk, 31 Rough-legged Hawk, 6 Golden Eagle, 47 American Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 3 Peregrine Falcon, and 95 unidentified raptors. The potential for spring hawk migration over Mt. Pleasant was first noted on 29 April 1989 by C. R. Smith, when 23 raptors, representing eight species were seen in less than 20 minutes with favorable southerly winds. During 1988, Steve Sibley kept track of spring hawk migration over Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, northwest of Mt. Pleasant, counting 103 raptors, representing eight species (*Kingbird* 38:199). While these counts are quite modest compared to Braddock Bay or Derby Hill, they do carefully document observable spring movements of raptors through our Region for the first time. Perhaps efforts by other observers from additional high hills in the Region would produce similar results in 1993. The Mt. Pleasant location is surrounded by pastures and cultivated fields and provides an unobstructed 360-degree view to the horizon.

Perhaps because of the varied weather patterns for the period, it also was a season for rarities. Highlights for the spring season included **Gyr Falcon, Black Vulture, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Kingbird, American White Pelican, Eared Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Ruff, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Black Tern, Sedge Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler.** In spite of the unseasonably cool spring, several migrants set new early arrival records, with 46 of 93 regularly occurring migrants appearing earlier than the average dates reported historically (*Kingbird* 37: 9-24).

Three area bird clubs and one independent team reported results of Big Day Counts: Cayuga Bird Club, 16 May, 172 species; Chemung Valley Audubon, 9 May, 117 species; Eaton Birding Society, 17 May, 97 species; and a team which included N. Brinkley, A. Byrne, A. Farnsworth, and C. Smith

on 18 May, 168 species (a new team record for the Cayuga Lake Basin).

Contributors: F. Bertram, N. Brinkley, A. Byrne, J. Brubaker, D. Clements, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, K. David, Eaton Birding Society, A. Farnsworth, B. Guirey, B. Hilfiker, A. Robinson, D. Russell, Schuyler County Bird Club.

Abbreviations: CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; CL - Cayuga Lake, CLSP - Cayuga Lake State Park; CM - Cayuga Marsh at north end of Cayuga Lake; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtP - Mt. Pleasant, near Ithaca, QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, south end of Seneca Lake; SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

Spring reports: **RED-THROATED LOON:** max three CL 24-25 Apr. **Com. Loon:** present throughout; max 410 CL 30 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** present throughout; max 65 MNWR 24 Apr. **EARED GREBE:** one MNWR 5-8 May (B. Beal). **Red-necked Grebe:** max 46 CL 24 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** present after mid-Apr. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** ad MNWR 23-26 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** singles present throughout Region. **Least Bittern:** one Seneca Falls late Apr (BH). **GLOSSY IBIS:** one MNWR 23-29 Apr. **Tundra Swan:** max 156 CM 21 Mar. **Snow Goose:** 4100± MNWR 19-28 Apr. **Brant:** 283 flying over MNWR 18 May, three MNWR 23 May. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** up to three males CL 20 Mar through 5 Apr. **Black Scoter:** one male MNWR 24 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** 51 CL 23-24 Apr (NB). **Surf Scoter:** two CLSP 24 Apr.

BLACK VULTURE: one over Cayuga Village 23 Mar (NB, NYSARC). **Bald Eagle:** up to four present MNWR all season; two Tobehana L 11 Apr including one adult with yellow tag. **Golden Eagle:** *intro*, one Sene 18 Mar. **GYRFALCON:** one CM 1-29 Mar (mob). **Virginia Rail:** six MNWR 21 Apr; present Caton Swamp 16 May. **Sora:** three CM 19 Apr, present Caton Swamp 16 May. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** seven MtP 7 Apr. **RUFF:** ad MNWR 15-16 May. **W. Sandpiper:** one 17 May MNWR [?details - *The Editor*]. **Baird's Sandpiper:** one 17 May MNWR [?details - *The Editor*]. **Stilt Sandpiper:** one 17 May MNWR [?details - *The Editor*]. **Wilson's Phalarope:** one MNWR 25 May. **Red-necked Phalarope:** one MNWR 10 and 17 May [?details - *The Editor*]. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 150 CL 25 Apr. **LITTLE GULL:** one Long Pt CL 25 Apr (NB). **COM. BLACK-HEADED GULL:** one 10 May Sheldrake CL (NB, AB). **Glaucous Gull:** one CL 20-24 Mar. **Iceland Gull:** three CLSP 21-28 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one CL 10 Mar, 23 Mar. **Forster's Tern:** one Ithaca 19, 26 Apr. **Black Tern:** up to 14 Benning Pool MNWR 10 May; two Elmira and one Corning Pd 16 May.

Whip-poor-will: one near Ithaca 19 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker:**

three singles 2 to 16 May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one near Ithaca 18 and 20 May. **W. KINGBIRD:** one MtP 13 Apr (NB, AB, SI, NYSARC). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one near Aurora 12 May. **Purple Martin:** three CL Basin 24 Apr, and on 16 and 18 May, only reports. **Bank Swallow:** colony of 50 Southport (Clements). **Cliff Swallow:** nesting on bridges in Southport and Elmira (Clements). **Fish Crow:** present Ithaca; two identified by call Elmira 30 Mar. **Com. Raven:** one Spencer Landfill 4 Apr, three Big Flats 11 Apr. **Sedge Wren:** single report MNWR 21 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one Bicknell's form Ithaca 20 May (KMcG). **Swainson's Thrush:** one 4 May, only report. **Cedar Waxwing:** hundreds present Penn Yan and Rts. 89/90 early to mid-Mar; few other reports. **N. Shrike:** one singing QCM 23 Mar (JB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: one near Aurora 25-26 Apr (NB, AB, AF). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Horseheads 16 May (DC). **Kentucky Warbler:** one near Aurora 22 May (KD). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one MNWR 8 and 20 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: many reports from feeders last three weeks of Mar; last four SWS 28 Apr. **Fox Sparrow:** *intro*. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** three males near CM 23-24 Mar. **Orchard Oriole:** pair Elmira 13 May, pair Sheldrake CL 16 May, one 18 May. **Red Crossbill:** one CH 18 May. **Pine Siskin:** scattered reports of one to 12 birds throughout the Region and period.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

The Spring 1992 was cold and wet, ending almost a year of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. March made a deceptively soothing entry. Ten days of above average temperatures included a 60°F high 5 Mar. Then the ill winds blew! A cold wave settled in 11 Mar for two solid weeks of wintry weather. Binghamton ended up with 14.1 inches of snow, more than in any other month of the winter. The daily highs seldom reached 30°F and lows were in the teens or lower. April's 52.1°F average temperature was colder than the normal 53.5°F. Snow showers and squalls hit the Region's northern areas the first three days of

the month. Rainfall was above normal both April and May. In April 3.51 inches were recorded, most of it the last half of the month. More than half of May's excessive rain fell the last day. Total precipitation for the month was 6.37 inches, more than double the average. Thermometer readings in May were barely above normal at 55.4°F. The figures deceive, however. High daytime temperatures were offset by very cold nights, even frost. By the end of May, the season's cold, wet weather had slowed the growing season by as much as two weeks, according to area farmers. Trees and shrubs leafed out much later than usual, affording scant cover to birds, either residents hoping to start nesting or migrants stopping to feed.

It was a mostly "thumbs up" birding season with several rare and uncommon species for the Region. Even the bad weather worked well for us. There were record numbers of Common Loon, and the best of the water birds was a **Red-throated Loon**. In winter plumage, it was spotted on a large pond near Whitney Point Reservoir on 20 Apr by Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos and Gail Kirch. "We had a long and excellent look, quite close, approximately 100 feet... a similar bird, probably the same one, was there the next day." There were 12 Pied-billed Grebe plus several reports of Horned Grebe, a species missed in some years. Another good find was a **Red-necked Grebe**. Reported quite regularly in the early 1980's, this species was last reported in 1984. A near perfect score of 22 species of ducks was achieved this season. Only Black Scoter and Ruddy Duck were missed. The total of nine species of shorebirds was high. Fields of grassy pools created by April rains provided good feeding areas. A **Caspian Tern**, believed a Regional first, was sighted at Mead's Pond (Chen) 12 Apr by Don Windsor and Susan Moran. Severe storms in the area may have forced the bird down.

The two-year infestation of gypsy moths eased in Broome County, reducing the count of both cuckoo species to a third of last year's. A Short-eared Owl, last reported in 1984, was seen "coursing the upper field at Waterman Conservation Center" (TiOG) 9 May by Marie Petuh.

Migration was late for many passerines, especially flycatchers and warblers. Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Black-and-white Warblers were well reported after 1 May, but some migrating warblers were so scarce one has to assume that they overshot the Region. However, appearance of some uncommon species compensated. Marilyn Davis spotted a rare "**Lawrence's**" Warbler 17 May in the bird bath by her front porch in Chenango Forks. It was only the third report in 13 years for this Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrid. Reported for only the

second time in 13 years was a well-described Orange-crowned Warbler. John Fritz, his wife and a friend identified the bird at his Morris home (Otse). "It was in the upper branches of a budding maple tree maybe 30 feet up," noted John, "feeding slowly, not flitting around as many warblers do. It was there about 45 minutes." Apparently, Bob and Jean Miller and I had the season's only warbler "wave" at Crumhorn Lake on 14 May. The first **Cerulean Warbler** reported since 1984 was among at least 60 warblers of 12 species. They fed for more than an hour, 20 feet away, at eye level, in trees that had barely started to leaf out, the sun at our backs. A birder's dream! In the bad dream department is the plight of the ever declining grassland sparrows. There were good Rose-breasted Grosbeak counts after 1 May, but Indigo Bunting was scarce. American Tree Sparrow continued scarce, whereas White-throated Sparrow was widespread and reported in good numbers. It was a banner season for Fox Sparrow from 11 Mar to 16 Apr, with 30 plus at widespread sites, as many as six at a sighting. Bobolink was similarly widespread but in lower numbers. Two unusual species of the blackbird family rounded out the season specials. A male **Brewer's Blackbird** appeared at one of Gloria Wiener's feeders in Andes (Dela) on 11 March as light snow was falling. He returned twice that day and then, to confirm Gloria's identification, reappeared 15 March while she had a Rusty Blackbird and a Red-winged Blackbird in her binoculars for easy comparison. An interesting aside to her report read: "A flock of Wild Turkeys emerged from the woods nearby (scaring away the Brewer) and one hen jumped on top of the feeder to help disperse seed for her kin below." On the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society spring count, a male **Orchard Oriole** was reported for the first DOAS and the fifth Regional record.

The total of 191 species plus two hybrids is the highest since 1979. Thanks to the many faithful and enthusiastic observers who made it possible. Misses included American Bittern, American Coot, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Northern Parula, and both Grasshopper and Lincoln's Sparrows.

Observers: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Joan Behrer, Don and Judy Bell, Les Bemont, Lois Bingley, Bruce Bozdos, Peg Burnett, Broome Naturalists Club, Anna Casselberry, Marilyn Davis, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, John Pritz, Polly & Earl Getkin, Gail Kirch, Margaret Layton, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Susan Moran, Robert Pantle, Marie Petuh, Steve Rice, Roger & Marne Schrader, Joe Sedlacek, Ken Stalter, Tom & Norene Tasber, Anne Whitaker, Gloria Wiener, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: BMM - Bud Marshall Marsh, Bainbridge; CRes -

Cannonsville Reservoir; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; ChFk - Chenango Forks; DOASSC - Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count, 19 May; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; TBC - Tioga Bird Club; WNC - Waterman Nature Center.

Spring reports: **RED-THROATED LOON:** *intro.* **Com. Loon:** arr ten Afton L 1 Apr (SM); three CRes 15 Apr; three Tiog sites 23 Apr; eight singles BROO, CHEN; last four Otsego L until mid May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Whitney Pt 2 Apr; 12 reports through 3 May. **Horned Grebe:** arr BROO 10 Apr, three later reports; one Meads Pd 12 Apr; four Otsego L mid May. **RED-NECKED GREBE:** one Upper Lisle 23 Apr (MD). **Great Blue Heron:** pair nesting BROO 28 Mar (HN, BB) and OTSE 23 Apr (JF). **Great Egret:** TIOG Apr (C&JB), often missed. **Green-backed Heron:** only five reports, scarce. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** only one TIOG May (LB), not reported annually. **Mute Swan:** single Broo farmer's pond 8 May (HM, BB), wild or tame they question. **Snow Goose:** flock of 20 DELA 14 Mar; max 100 Afton 31 Mar; last OTSE 23 Apr, excellent count. **Canada Goose:** nesting pair Schenevus Creek OTSE 14 Apr present with four y 7 May and 1/4 mi upstream 8 May; also nesting TIOG. **Wood Duck:** max 15 OPN 24 Apr. **Green-winged Teal:** eleven reports through 17 Apr, max five; good count. **Am. Black Duck:** max 50 BROO 16 Mar. **N. Pintail:** 33 Upper Lisle 9 Mar and 40 ChFk 15 Mar (T&NT); 25 BROO 16 and 21 Mar (HM, BB); last five CRes 19 Apr (HP), extraordinary total. **Blue-winged Teal:** only six reports to 6 May, scarce. **N. Shoveler:** two Conner 19 Apr (HP) only report. **Gadwall:** only one ChFk 17 Mar (T&NT). **Am. Wigeon:** max 17 ChFk 17 Mar, good counts through 12 Apr. **Canvasback:** one Port Crane 20 Mar; two there 21 Mar, only reports. **Redhead:** only one Port Crane 25 Mar (MDv). **Ring-necked Duck:** arr BROO 8 Mar; max 25 OPM 4 Apr; last two Otsego L 23 May (AM), late. **Greater Scaup:** singles CHEN 18 Mar and 12 Apr (SN), only reports. **Lesser Scaup:** three reports BROO, DELA, OTSE 11 to 15 Apr, max two. **Oldsquaw:** max 15 CRes 26 Apr; three other Apr reports. **White-winged Scoter:** one CVSP 12 Apr (NDv). **Com. Goldeneye:** max 13 BROO 13 Mar; last Upper Lisle 11 Apr. **Bufflehead:** arr BROO 16 Mar; last of 12 reports 1 May. **Hooded Merganser:** arr BROO 2 Mar; max 20 OPN 4 Apr; last OTSE 12 May, good numbers. **Com. Merganser:** max 100 Upper Lisle 9 Mar (T&NT). **Red-breasted Merganser:** six BROO reports 10 Mar to 11 Apr, good count.

Turkey Vulture: arr TIOG 4 Mar; resident through period Susquehanna R valley OTSE, max 16 on 24 Apr, one pair seen copulating (MD). **Osprey:** good count through 13 May. **Bald Eagle:** five reports BROO, TIOG through period, possibly same bird more than once. **N. Harrier:** arr BROO 5 Mar;

through period BROO (SR) and OTSE (MD), probable nesters. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 11 widespread reports, good count. **Cooper's Hawk**: hunted three BROO, CHEN feeder areas through 14 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr ChFk 21 Mar; singles BROO 30 Mar, OTSE 23 Apr, CHEN 12 May, good count. **Broad-winged Hawk**: singles 12 sites 27 Apr to 16 May. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max three BROO 29 and 30 Mar (T&NT); last DELA 13 Apr (AM). **Golden Eagle**: two below CRes 18 Apr (HP) unusual. **Am. Kestrel**: one eating small bird and a pair copulating OPM 6 Apr (MD). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: one CHEN, two TIOG, three BROO reports, good count. **Ruffed Grouse**: common BROO, TIOG mid Apr (JS). **Wild Turkey**: several flocks max 100 Mar; FL Windsor 31 May (JS); *intro*. **Com. Moorhen**: singles Upper Lisle 18 Apr and BNM 22 Apr, early; two Boland's Pd 20 May, excellent count. **Greater Yellowlegs**: three BROO, one TIOG reports, all Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max nine OTSE 8 May; last CHEN, OTSE 16 May. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max three BROO 2 May and OTSE 20 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: two same Upper Lisle site since 1986, 19 and 22 May (MP, AC). **Least Sandpiper**: two OTSE reports 13 and 16 May, only ones. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one OPN 21 Apr, uncommon in spring. **Com. Snipe**: max seven OPN 14 Apr. **Am. Woodcock**: 12 widespread reports mostly Mar; one near Binghamton through period (SR). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr BROO 8 Apr; max three Conner 18 Apr. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 100 BROO 1 Mar (HM, BB, GK). **Herring Gull**: max 50 BROO 1 Mar. **CASPIAN TERN**: *intro*.

E. Screech-Owl: only one TIOG Apr. **Great Horned Owl**: pair ON T Fenton BROO 5 Apr (JS); FL Windsor 16 May (JS). **Barred Owl**: one Colesville 8 Mar and FL there 10 May (JS). **Short-eared Owl**: *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: only one TIOG 2 Mar (RP), several banded there winter 1991. **Com. Nighthawk**: two singles BROO 17 and 28 May, scarce. **Chimney Swift**: roost of 100 Walton DELA 3 May (AM) excellent. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: daily ChFk to 28 Mar (MDv); two reports/month TIOG; range expansion stalled? **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: several BROO, TIOG 25 Apr and 1 and 2 May (JS). **Pileated Woodpecker**: max four BROO 30 May.

Horned Lark: max 20 Chen 2 Mar; four BROO reports through 29 Apr. **Purple Martin**: minimum eight martin house IBM Golf Course 13 May; seven other widespread reports, excellent. **Tree Swallow**: max 300 Otse 13 Apr. **Fish Crow**: arr BROO 30 Mar; pair building nest in tall maple trees Bickories P Owego Apr (C&JB). **Com. Raven**: one Franklin (Dela) early May (KS), uncommon. **Tufted Titmouse**: several nesting reports. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max four 12 May. **Carolina Wren**: ten widespread reports Mar, good winter survival. **Marsh Wren**: two ChBr 20 May (MP), missed some springs. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 1 and 2 May. **Ruby-**

crowned Kinglet: max 25 OPM 27 Apr. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max three CHEN and DOASSC 16 May. **E. Bluebird:** max 11 "eight males Windsor and three feeding in sumac at home" 21 Mar (JS). **Veery:** widespread after 6 May. **Swainson's Thrush:** singles BROO, OTSE, TIOG all after 15 May, late and low numbers. **N. Mockingbird:** three Mar reports increasing to 22 May. **Water Pipit:** four CVSP 13 Mar "feeding in grass in front of our car" (HM, BB); max six Cort 16 Mar (NP). **N. Shrike:** last of five BROO, OTSE reports 30 Mar, late departure and high count.

Solitary Vireo: max seven OTSE 12 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** six May reports, scarce. **Warbling Vireo:** only seven singles, scarce. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max three BROO 7 and 17 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** five singles mostly TIOG, encouraging. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Lawrence's type *intro*; Brewster's type singles Johnson City 11 May, SUNY Preserve 12 May, WNC 17 May, high count. **Tennessee Warbler:** max of five reports two BROO, DOASSC, TIOG, scarce. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** *intro*. **Nashville Warbler:** max three BROO 12 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 24 TIOG 15 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 14 OPN 21 May. **Cape May Warbler:** two OTSE, one BROO 14-29 May, scarce. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 100 Morris 23 Apr. **Blackburnian Warbler:** at 10 sites May, max three, good count. **Pine Warbler:** DOASSC, only report. **Palm Warbler:** four widespread reports 1 to 4 May. **Prairie Warbler:** at 10 BROO, one OTSE sites, max two, good numbers. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** singles DOASSC 16 May and BROO 18 May, scarce. **Blackpoll Warbler:** only one Otsinigo Pk 26 May, scarce and late. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** *intro*. **Am. Redstart:** max six OTSE 14 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr BROO 21 Apr (LBe), next 9 Apr, scarce. **Mourning Warbler:** only six reports after late arr. **Wilson's Warbler:** only one WNC 13 May, scarce. **Canada Warbler:** max seven OPM 16 May.

Scarlet Tanager: max eight OPM 20 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 20. **Am Tree Sparrow:** last 18 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow:** two sites OTSE, one TIOG scarce. **Savannah Sparrow:** five May reports BROO (JS), scarce elsewhere. **Henslow's Sparrow:** only one Endwell 17 May (ML). **Swamp Sparrow:** arr BROO 14 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow:** seven reports, scarce. **Snow Bunting:** last Upper Lisle 9 Mar; flock Broo 13 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** *intro*. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** *intro* (NYSARC). **Orchard Oriole:** one Bovina Center DELA 16 May (JB). **N. Oriole:** max six ChFk 20 May. **Purple Finch:** "dozens" Norris 23 Apr (JF). **Com. Redpoll:** singles Afton and Oneonta 11 Mar, three Hamden 21 Apr; only ones since CBC's. **Pine Siskin:** widespread Mar, max 25; last Afton 10 May. **Am Goldfinch:** max 60 OTSE 4 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** last 18 two OTSE sites 21 Apr.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

The most unusual feature of this spring was the March weather, starting warm with south winds and then abruptly becoming winter again. The winter storm of 10 and 11 Mar set the stage for an atypical season of cool temperatures and above average snowfall. Both March and April were cold, with the average temperature 2.9°F below the norm of 39.7°F. Snowfall accumulation was 41.3 inches for March, enabling Syracuse to establish its snowiest winter ever at 162.7 inches. The last snowfall to occur in the Region was on 16 Apr, with four inches at Old Forge and two inches near Brookfield. Precipitation for the first two months was near normal, but May became the seventh wettest on record with over 5 inches of rain.

The severe early March storm grounded many early migrants. American Robin, Fox and Song Sparrows along with innumerable icterids crowded local feeders. At one such feeder, Dorothy Crumb had the unique opportunity to compare a male **Brewer's Blackbird** with four Rusty Blackbird. Undoubtedly, there was some mortality, but nothing to indicate a major loss when the storm subsided.

The persistence of winter and the above normal precipitation at the close of the period combined to make this a slow season for most migrants. In general, the waterfowl migration was briefly delayed by the sudden return of winter. Areas such as Peter Scott Swamp were just opening when the 11 March storm started, and remained frozen for most of the month. As a result ducks did not feed and rest locally in their usual numbers. As area waters opened, ducks passed right through. Noteworthy was the record total number of Snow Goose, 2727 observed across the Region. Obviously, the cold weather of March was a contributing factor for inducing many of these birds to linger. In addition, large numbers of Canada Goose remained late, with well over 700 noted in OSWE until late April. With wintry conditions prevailing during March, large concentrations of 8000 Greater Scaup and 5000 Common Goldeneye were seen along the Lake Ontario littoral. Further south, the Oneida River became a temporary stopover for an unusually high count of Hooded Merganser. Other positive notes among water birds include the nesting of Common Loon at Gray and Big Moose Lakes in the Adirondacks.

Six species which are considered to be unusual to rare in our Region were reported. They include **Snowy Egret**, **Glossy Ibis** and a **Sandhill Crane** from the Lake Ontario littoral. Completing this already impressive list were **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Barnacle Goose**, as always of uncertain origin, and a **King Rail**, the first reported in eleven years.

The raptor flight at Derby Hill was a great disappointment to many veteran observers. Aside from winter's tenacious hold on the area, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk were at record low levels. In fact, the total number of Sharp-shinned Hawk was below what would normally be seen in one day from previous years. A **Swainson's Hawk** was the only unusual bird of prey to help alleviate the gloom of this season's migration. A pair of Osprey continued their nesting activity at Dinglehole Swamp and a new nest site was established at Clay Marsh, both in ONON. After last spring's inactivity, Osprey were once again at the Salmon River Reservoir. The one nest to go unreported was at Moss Lake in the Adirondacks.

At the end of the period with several days of continuous precipitation, eleven species of shorebirds were put down along the shoreline of Oneida Lake and Lake Ontario. A **Willet** in Alternate plumage and **Whimbrel** were among the more notable records.

Members of the flycatcher family were very scarce, with an average of no more than eight per day. Few Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported, with the latter species still migrating at St. Mary's Cemetery in DeWitt on 25 May. A maximum of only six Great Crested Flycatchers on the Lake Ontario littoral was a surprise. One reason may have been the above average rainfall for May, accounting for virtually no flying insects to feed upon. Likewise, swallows fared no better with daily maxima of no more than 300 for Tree Swallow and 100 for Bank and Barn Swallows. Low numbers of Purple Martin were observed with 35 the maximum per day. In what traditionally has been a stronghold for Purple Martin, the shoreline of Oneida Lake, excessive rainfall and fewer man-made houses may now account for their scarcity. Thrushes, particularly Swainson's with no more than two per day, were way down. On a more positive note, Common Raven is now becoming more evident in northern OSWE.

Observers in the Region reported 30 species of warblers, with Orange-crowned and Prairie Warbler among the more notable records. The best flight days were 25 Apr, 2, 10, 11 and 19 May, usually after an early morning of fog and drizzle. Warblers were again decreased in numbers with Tennessee, N. Parula, Cape May and Wilson's Warbler averaging no more

than three per day. Only Yellow-rumped Warbler showed moderate populations, especially along the Lake Ontario littoral. On one early May evening, the Region's very first **LeConte's Sparrow** was sighted near the shoreline of Lake Ontario. Although two people believe they heard the bird the next day, it was never seen again. Among finches, Common Redpoll persisted until late April with Pine Siskin still evident at higher elevations to the end of the period.

A total of 239 species plus one color morph and a hybrid was reported with **Barnacle Goose**, **King Rail** and **LeConte's Sparrow** the best of the great rarities. Other notable species included **Snowy Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Sandhill Crane** and **Brewer's Blackbird**. A special thanks to Gary Lee, Bill Purcell and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report.

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Abbreviations: Adk - Adirondack; 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; TRWMA - Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area, ONON.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** two Onondaga L 8, 29 Apr, two Torpy Pd T Nelson MADI 24 Apr. **Com. Loon:** Adk arr Limekiln L 24 Apr; max 100 LOL 26 Apr; last in basic plumage Noyes Sanctuary 31 May, *intro*. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max five Clay Marsh 6 May. **Horned Grebe:** arr Oswego H 22 Mar; max 21 Beaver L 24 Apr; last Oswego H 11 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** one-four Beaver L 10-24 Apr, one Toad H 1325 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr DH 7 Apr; 800-1500 feeding in Oswego H during May; up to 50 Wantry I, Oneida L, nesting in May, colony being discouraged by NYDEC to preserve nesting Com. Tern there. **Am. Bittern:** 12 reports. **Least Bittern:** arr SSSP 7 May; 5 reports. **Great Blue Heron:** Adk arr Limekiln L 19 Apr. **Great Egret:** three Baldwinsville 23-27 May; singles FH 19 Apr, SSSP 12,16 May. **SNOWY EGRET:** one DH 26 May (G Smith). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Colosse OSWE 5 Apr(BP), record early. **GLOSSY IBIS:** one DH 22 Apr (mob). **Tundra Swan:** fifteen reports 1-30 Mar; six Seneca River 29 Mar. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Seneca R Twn of Brutus 23 Mar (GW). **Snow Goose:** reported 2 Mar to 9 May; max 1000 Phoenix 31

Mar; "blue morph" 32 reports. **Brant**: max 53 LOL 24 May; last SPd 25 May. **BARNACLE GOOSE**: one near Phoenix 11-26 Apr (GH, mob; NYSARC). **Canada Goose**: max 18500 Seneca R flats 7 Mar, *intro*. **Wood Duck**: max 32 SSSP 15 Apr. **Green-winged Teal**: max 70 Oswe 12, 17 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: max 72 Pumpkin Hollow and vicinity 26 Mar. **N. Pintail**: max 200 CAYU 29 Mar; last Toad H 1 May. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 50 Utica Marsh 13 Apr. **N. Shoveler**: arr DH 7 Mar ; eight SSSP 9 Apr, last there 28 Apr. **Gadwall**: max 15 Oswe 12 Apr. **Am. Wigeon**: max 50 CAYU and OSWE 5 Apr; last Utica Marsh 20 Apr. **Canvasback**: max 100 CAYU and OSWE Z9 Mar; last Scott Swamp 10 Apr. **Redhead**: last FH 5 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: Adk arr 28 Apr; max 207 SSSP 19 Mar; last SPd 9 May. **Greater Scaup**: last Toad H 1 May. **Lesser Scaup**: last FH 5 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: last LOL 16 May. **Surf Scoter**: one Torpy Pd MADI 12 Apr. **White-winged Scoter**: four Beaver L 24 Apr; singles Toad H 1 May, FH 27 May. **Com. Goldeneye**: last Toad H 12 Apr. **Bufflehead**: Adk arr 28 Apr; last LOL 16 May. **Hooded Merganser**: Adk arr 28 Apr; max 120 Oneida R 22 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: last Delta L 25 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: last SSSP 19 May. **Ruddy Duck**: two Onondaga L 26 Apr, singles Beaver L 23 Apr, Toad H 25 Apr, Onondaga L 2 9 Apr.

Derby Hill Hawk migration totals:

Species	Arrival	Max - Date	Last	90% Date Range	Total
Turkey Vulture	4 Mar	525 - 7 Apr	23 May	30 Mar-13 May	3156
Osprey	31 Mar	67-12 May	28 May	14 Apr-13 May	392
Bald Eagle	28 Feb	16-10 Mar	17 May	4 Mar-17 May	39
Northern Harrier	28 Feb	118-19 Apr	21 May	9 Mar-12 May	595
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8 Mar	559-20 Apr	28 May	9 Apr-13 May	2925
Cooper 's Hawk	19 Feb	61- 7 Apr	17 May	10 Mar- 1 May	313
Northern Goshawk	22 Feb	9-20 Apr	12 May	4 Mar-23 May	47
Red-shouldered Hawk	4 Mar	113- 7 Apr	8 May	10 Mar-20 Apr	676
Broad-winged Hawk	15 Apr	3362-20 Apr	28 May	20 Apr- 3 May	10718
Red-tailed Hawk	18 Feb	1288-19 Apr	28 May	4 Apr- 9 May	7407
Rough-legged Hawk	18 Feb	78-20 Apr	17 May	9 Mar-11 May	445
Golden Eagle	4 Mar	3-4 dates	12 May	4 Mar- 7 May	26
American Kestrel	5 Mar	44-19 Apr	12 May	10 Mar- 1 May	221
Merlin	17 Apr	2-27 Apr	12 May		6
Total (including unidentified)					27290

Turkey Vulture: arr Baldwinsville 1 Mar. **Osprey**: *intro*; nesting TRWMA 13 May and Salmon R Res 16 May. **Bald Eagle**: ad Brewerton 29 Mar, imm Cleveland 16 May; singles Fulton 4 Mar, Clay Marsh 11 Apr, SSSP 16 May. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one DH 21 Apr. **Golden Eagle**: one T Nelson MADI 23 Apr. **Merlin**: Adk arr 28 Apr; singles Tully 17 Mar, Erieville 31 Mar, Nine

Mile Pt OSWE 26 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Erieville 6 Apr; one DH 4 May. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: 19 reports. **Wild Turkey**: fourteen over-wintered at deer feeding stations Old Forge. **KING RAIL**: one Clay Marsh 10 May. **Virginia Rail**: four Clay Marsh 6 May. **Sora**: three Toad H and Scott Swamp 1 May. **Com. Moorhen**: 16 reports. **Am. Coot**: ten reports; last Delta L 25 May. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one Noyes Sanctuary 4 Apr (RS). **Black-bellied Plover**: one FH 25 May. **Semipalmated Plover**: max and last 16 FH, Oneida Shores and SPd 27 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 22 Phoenix 18 Apr; last there 16 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 17 Phoenix 27 Apr; last there 16 May. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last Phoenix 16 May. **Willet**: one Oneida Shores 27 May (GH). **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Phoenix 18 Apr; eight reports. **Whimbrel**: max 15 SPd 27 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr FH and SPd 27 May; max and last sixteen FH 31 May. **Red Knot**: two SPd 27-30 May. **Sanderling**: max 53 SPd 27 May; last FH 31 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 150 FH 27 May. **Least Sandpiper**: max 16 W Monroe 16 May; last SPd 30 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: singles Phoenix 20 Apr, Warners 22 Apr. **Dunlin**: arr Phoenix 3 May; max 40 SPd 25 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: three FH 27 May. **Com. Snipe**: max 15 Pennellville and vicinity 26 Apr. **Am. Woodcock**: ten SUNY Oswego 7 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr Jamesville 8 Apr; max five Toad H 13 Apr; last SPd 31 May. **Iceland Gull**: last two (one ad *kumlieni*) Phoenix 8 Mar. **Glaucous Gull**: last five Phoenix 1 Mar. **Caspian Tern**: max 250 SPd 9 May. **Com. Tern**: max 20 LOL 16 May, scarce. **Black Tern**: eight SSSP 12 May, 12 reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: eight reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr Camillus Valley 16 May; one FH 24 May. **Snowy Owl**: last Holland Patent 18 Apr. **Barred Owl**: seven reports. **Long-eared Owl**: one Pompey 30 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: singles DH 7 Mar, T Schroepel 5 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Syr 26 Mar; one found dead SUNY Oswego 30 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk**: two reports, scarce. **Whip-poor-will**: arr Holland Patent 8 May; singles Cleveland 14 May, Constantia 16 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: Adk arr Old Forge 12 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: singles SSSP 9, 12 May, Cleveland 11 May, Mexico 9-16 May, LOL 16 & 31 May. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max four per day; last migrant StMC 10 May. **N. Flicker**: arr 15 Apr..

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Adk arr 29 May; three reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: Adk arr 15 May; max 10 Pratt's Falls 22 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr StMC 13 May, four reports. **Alder Flycatcher**: max five Labrador Pd 29 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: max 13 Clay Marsh 27 May. **Least Flycatcher**: max 12 StMC 2 May. **E. Phoebe**: ten SPd 9 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: six LOL 31 May. **E. Kingbird**: Adk arr 28 Apr. **Horned Lark**: max 120 Mexico 1 Mar.

Purple Martin: max 35 Oneida L 25 May. **Tree Swallow:** max 300 OSWE 12 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 14 Twn of Brutus 25 May. **Bank Swallow:** max 100 Sangerfield 16 May. **Cliff Swallow:** max seven LOL 2 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 100 LOL 26 Apr. **Com. Raven:** singles Cleveland 6 Apr, Pompey 12 May, Happy Valley WMA OSWE 15 May, Orwell 16 May, Labrador Pd 28 May. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max six SSSP 12 Apr, scarce. **Carolina Wren:** 16 reports. **Winter Wren:** arr StMC 2 Apr. **Marsh Wren:** max 23 Clay Marsh 27 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 110 Green Lakes SP 19 Apr; last StMC 21 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 125 LOL 26 Apr; last Erieville 25 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** six Noyes Sanctuary 2 May. **E. Bluebird:** seven DH 9 Mar. **Veery:** max 13 Happy Valley 15 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** five StMC 18 May, last two there 25 May; four+ birds all sang *minimus*-type songs. **Swainson's Thrush:** two StMC 14 May; 11 reports, scarce. **Hermit Thrush:** last LOL 11 May. **Wood Thrush:** max 20 Clay Marsh 13 May. **Gray Catbird:** max 40 LOL 31 May. **Brown Thrasher:** six SPd 9 May. **Am. Pipit:** max 50 Phoenix 29 Apr. **Bohemian Waxwing:** two Tully 12, 13 Mar. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 82 N Syracuse 13 Apr. **N. Shrike:** last three Mexico S Apr.

Solitary Vireo: Adk arr 28 Apr; max 15 StMC 2 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** seven Sterling 16 May. **Warbling Vireo:** max 21 W Monroe 9 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr StMC 12 May; last Elbridge 20 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 30 LOL 31 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr LOL 1 May; eight Camillus Valley 23 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr LOL 11 May; four Sterling 16 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type five reports. **Tennessee Warbler:** max five StMC 18 May, last SPd 27 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** singles Nine Mile Pt 6, 8 May, SSSP 14 May. **Nashville Warbler:** max 17 LOL 2 May; last StMC 20 May. **N. Parula:** max and last two StMC 20 May; nine reports. **Yellow Warbler:** max 63 Clay Marsh 13 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 16 Happy Valley 15 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 15 SUNY Oswego 14 May. **Cape May Warbler:** max three Oakwood Cemetery 15 May; last SSSP 19 May, scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr StMC 24 Apr (PDeB), record early. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 175 LOL 26 Apr. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 12 LOL 2 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max ten SUNY Oswego 10 May; last Syr 22 May. **Pine Warbler:** max 11 LOL 26 Apr. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Snake Swamp 26 Apr; singles Oswego 3 May, DH 8 May, Cleveland 16 May, Parish 26 May. **Palm Warbler:** max 23 LOL 2 May; last there 16 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 17 Oakwood Cemetery 15 May; last StMC 30 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:**

max 12 SPd 27 May; last LOL 31 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Nine Mile Pt 9 May; 12 reports. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 25 StMC 2 May. **Am. Redstart**: arr StMC 24 Apr (PDeB), early. **Ovenbird**: max 38 Happy Valley 15 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Pompey 20 Apr. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 27 Clay Marsh 27 May. **Hooded Warbler**: arr Scriba 11 May; eight LOL 16 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: one to three per day, 6-31 May.

Scarlet Tanager: max eight Whiskey Hollow 24 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 15 LOL 12 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last Nine Mile Pt 2 May. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 40 Noyes Sanctuary 2 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr Tully 15 Mar. **Vesper Sparrow**: three LOL 26 Apr, 19 reports. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 13 LOL 26 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Hastings 30 Apr; 10 reports. **LECONTE'S SPARROW**: one Nine Mile Pt OSWE 7-8 May (GS, MAK, SA; NYSARC). **Fox Sparrow**: migrants 9 Mar to 29 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: last SUNY Oswego 24 May; 11 reports. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr Phoenix 7 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 400 StMC 25 Apr; last migrant StMC 15 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 18 LOL 11 May; last Erieville 19 May. **Lapland Longspur**: max 11 Mexico 1 Mar; last Paris uplands 16 Apr. **Snow Bunting**: max 645 Mexico 1 Mar; last Holland Patent 20 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr DH 5 Mar; max 18 W Monroe 9 May. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr Seneca R flats 6 Mar; max 75 LOL 26 Apr; last Clay Marsh 9 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: male Pompey 11-14 Mar (DWC), one Phoenix 25 Apr (JT). **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 230 Twn of Schroepel 3 Mar. **Orchard Oriole**: male DH 2 May. **N. Oriole**: max 71 LOL 12 May. **Purple Finch**: max 55 Erieville 11 Mar. **Com. Redpoll**: max 30 Parish 5 Apr; last Holland Patent 26 Apr. **Pine Siskin**: max 27 Erieville 1 Apr. **Am. Goldfinch**: max 57 Erieville 5 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 31 Erieville 1 Apr; last Hastings 16 May.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* 42(1):44 — **Red-breasted Merganser**: "arr SPd 17 SPd" should read "arr SPd 17 Sep"; p 45, **Am. Pipit**: delete arr SPd 14 Sep, it had already arrived at SPd 25 Aug, see *Kingbird* Vol.41 No.4, p 274.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The spring of 1992 cannot be called a normal one. It seems as though winter didn't really start until March, when snow fell on 11 and 15-17 Mar. On 11 Apr, Ogdensburg got a 6 inch snow fall and on 17 Apr Tug Hill sections got up to 4 inches of snow. Frost occurred as late as 25 May, and strong winds from either the north or west across a cold Lake Ontario made it a very cool spring. Lack of good strong south winds slowed many migrants and made hawk watching a challenge. Rainfall was above normal since we had some downpours of 1 plus inch in March and April, while on 9 May Watertown recorded 2 plus inches of rain in four hours time. High temperature for the period was 81°F on 23 May at Watertown and the low was 0°F on 13 Mar at Canton.

Highlights of the season were spread across all groups. The small number of observers submitted some excellent reports resulting from intensive time afield. Bruce DiLabio, as usual, provided some excellent waterfowl, gull, tern and land bird observations at and around the Moses-Saunders Power Dam. He reported Red-necked Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, **Thayer's Gull**, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, and **Bohemian Waxwing** at that location as well as a Golden Eagle in the Adirondacks. Peter O'Shea covered the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in the Adirondacks Forest Preserve and found Bald Eagle, Black-backed Woodpecker, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee and Eastern Bluebird. Mary and Brian Wood further demonstrated the importance for migrants of Cape Vincent, where the St. Lawrence River begins and Lake Ontario ends. It appears that at this location many of the species, which are not seen elsewhere or are using the Lake Ontario Plain as a migration route, regroup to move on northward. Mary saw 2000+ scoters flying north approximately 8 PM, first very high, then flying over Wilson Bay in the Town of Cape Vincent, they dropped down and skimmed the top of water. Their species list included Gray Partridge, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Mockingbird, Prairie Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and Lincoln's Sparrow. By spending considerable time in the field in and around Massena, Marilyn Badger reported 154 species including 22 species of warblers, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Pine, Palm, Northern Waterthrush and Wilson's among them. In Lewis County, Bob Henrickson found Horned Grebe,

Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, **Barnacle Goose**, Bald Eagle, White-rumped Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull and excellent numbers of waterfowl along the Black River in an Lewis County area that he basically has to himself.

The Colwell Hill observation tower site at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area provided some excellent raptor as well as migrant land bird observations such as Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, and a **Sandhill Crane** as well as a variety of other raptors. The peak passage of Red-tailed Hawk came on a date when many other buteos were seen passing east of this location toward then Tug Hill. The maximum of two Broad-winged Hawk at Colwell Hill on 7 May makes it very evident that these birds move into Tug Hill as they depart OSWE and Derby Hill Observatory. This area deserves more attention in Spring as well as Fall. Waterfowl flights were the best in some time. The weather held the birds here, as ice did not go out till later than usual. The large wetland system at Lakeview Wildlife Management Area produced an **Eurasian Wigeon** and numbers of other waterfowl species. Raptors were held back by lack of strong south winds and at times dribbled through daily. Land birds, on the other hand, waited and then pushed through in good variety.

Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers were down, whereas American Bittern numbers are up from a few years ago. Wild Turkey is showing up in new locations, such as sightings in the Fine-Clifton area, Sevey's Corners in T Colton, and one near Big Otter L T of Greig LEWI - all Adirondack locations; a nest was found at Trout L State Forest T Hermon StLA but succumbed to an unknown predator. Mourning Dove is expanding its range into low elevations of the Adirondacks. Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow made good showings. House Wren, Brown Thrasher and Chipping Sparrow numbers were very high at Henderson Shores Unique Area and Limerick Cedars, but where the first of these species nests at these locations is unknown since nest cavities are very limited due to absence of larger trees with cavities. Eastern Bluebird seems to be increasing greatly, with many reports from all parts of Region. It was seen at four locations deep in the Forest Preserve StLA in wooded beaver ponds. Is this historical activity or new areas occupied to escape starlings? American Robin was reported in normal numbers if not up somewhat. Gray Catbird arrived in substantial numbers much later than normal. However, the numbers of some species remain low. Species scarcer than usual this season include Common

Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Eastern Wood-Pewee, all of the swallows, Marsh Wren, Veery, Wood Thrush, all of the warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Vesper Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. Brown Creeper did not show up in normal numbers in the Town of Henderson. Swamp Sparrow numbers were down even on the Tug Hill where they are very common. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Field Sparrow came to feeders in early part of period, Indigo Bunting came to feeders in May, and American Goldfinch appeared in large numbers at feeders through the period.

The spring of 1992 was most rewarding even with the low numbers of many species. An outbreak of Forest Tent Caterpillar in southeastern Lewis County and heavy defoliation there may provide some opportunity for cuckoo and warbler observations this summer, but may also drastically reduce reproductive success as a result of increased predation and reduced food supply.

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Abbreviations: CH - Colwell Hill at s end LWMA on Montario Pt Rd; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; DOR - Dead On Road; HSUA - Henderson Shores Unique Area (Stony Pt), T Henderson JEFF; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral zone; LWMA - Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, T Brownville, JEFF; RMPD - Robert Moses Power Dam and vicinity; SF - State Forest; SLR - St. Lawrence River; TH - Tug Hill; THWMA -Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Montague, LEWI; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr three 3 Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF 13 Apr; pair Streeter L T Fine. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr ULLWMA 8 Apr, where known nesters. **Horned Grebe:** one 3 Mile Pt 14 Apr; six Ridge Rd LEWI 24 Apr; one Grasse R STLA 20 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe;** two RMPD 27 Apr (BD). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr LWMA 8 Apr; max 500+ LWMA 19 Apr. **Great Blue Heron:** in groups of five to six CH Mar. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ULLWMA 15 Apr; one WBM 28 May. **Tundra Swan:** two n of Glenfield T Martinsburg 24 Mar(BH); one LWMA 8 Apr (GM); one at Glenfield 16 Apr(BH). **Mute Swan:** two PRWMA 4 Apr; one Henderson H 10 Apr. **Snow Goose:** 2500 (18 Blue morph) along Black R LEWI 9 Apr; 1000 T Henderson 18 Mar; other smaller flocks reported. **Brant:** one LWMA 27 May (SDL). **BARNACLE GOOSE:** one Rt 12 near East Martinsburg 7 Apr (BH); perhaps an escapee. **Canada Goose:** 6000+ T Ellisburg 10 Mar; 20,000 on or around

Henderson Pd T Henderson 2 Apr. **Wood Duck**: ten 3 Mile Pt 1 Apr; 15 males WBM 18 May. **Green-winged Teal**: arr Henderson Pd T Henderson 10 Mar; max 67 Ridge Rd T Lowville 8 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: 200+ T Ellisburg 18 Mar; 200+ T Henderson 3 Apr; 70 Henderson Pd 6 Apr. **N. Pintail**: 40 T Henderson 5 Mar; max 200 T Henderson 10 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal**: arr LWMA 6 on 29 Mar. **N. Shoveler**: three Henderson Pd T Henderson 6 Apr; eight Southwick Beach SP 21 Apr. **Gadwall**: four Southwick Beach SP T Ellisburg 21 Apr. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: one LWMA 8 Apr (BJW & GM). **Am. Wigeon**: 10 T Ellisburg 10 Mar; 30 LWMA 8 Apr. **Canvasback**: six 3 Mile Pt 11 Mar; three 3 Mile Pt 30 Mar; 14 RMPD 27 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr 3 Mile Pt 5 Mar; max 20 LWMA 9 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: 60 Henderson H 12 Apr. **Lesser Scaup**: 12 Mud Bay T CV 8 Apr; eight 3 Mile Pt 8 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: 150 CV 1 May; 204 SLR T CV to Tibbets Pt on 2 May, most in breeding plumage and calling (MBW). **Com. Goldeneye**: 740 RMPD 4 Mar; 130 Mud Bay T CV 8 Apr. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: two males, one female RMPD 1 Mar (BD); male RMPD 4 Mar (BD). **Bufflehead**: max 40 Pt Peninsula 1 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max 100 Grasse R Canton 10 Mar; 30+ PRWMA 4 Apr. **Com. Merganser**: 380 RMPD 1 Mar; 60 Henderson H 13 Apr; pair PRWMA 31 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max nine RMPD 27 Apr; six 3 Mile Pt 1 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr Sackets H 16 Mar; max 83 CH 7 Apr. **Osprey**: three CH 7 May. **Bald Eagle**: ad LWMA barrier beach 4 Mar (LC); ad 15 Mar LOL (MBW); two n of Glenfield, one on 24 Mar other 26 Mar (BH); two ad, two imm Cranberry L feeding on roadkilled and coyote killed deer thru Mar (PO); four ad, four imm feeding on dead deer on ice Blake Res T Parishville (KC); two imm LOL mid Apr (MBW). **N. Harrier**: max 17 CH 7 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 21 CH 20 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk**: max eight CH 7 Apr; one at T Henderson feeder regularly killing finches and sparrows Apr & May. **N. Goshawk**: one CH 25 Mar; one killed Mourning Dove in Ogdensburg 8 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 15 Mar; max 20 CH 7 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk**: *intro*. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 26 CH 7 Apr; one attempting to catch Mallards on water T Henderson 1 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max five CH 20 Apr; last 20 May. **Golden Eagle**: imm near S Colton 18 Mar (BD); imm CH 7 Apr (LC). **Am. Kestrel**: max seven CH 20 Apr; many migrants 21-28 Apr (KC); increased predation at T Henderson feeder by them this year. **Merlin**: one T Ellisburg along S Sandy Creek 25 Mar (LC); one CH 7 Apr (LC). **Peregrine Falcon**: one CH 7 Apr (LC). **Gray Partridge**: five to six T Louisville StLA 10 May ;

pair T CV 15 May. **Wild Turkey**: *intro*; one Rosiere T CV 12 Apr. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one CH at 1522 hrs flying from ice on S Colwell Pd flying s and dropping into Cranberry Pd vicinity T Ellisburg 7 Apr (LC, ph, NYSARC). **Black-bellied Plover**: E Martinsburg T Martinsburg 21 Apr. **Killdeer**: 100+ T Henderson 13 Apr. **Upland Sandpiper**: two Chaumont Barrens T Lyme JEFF 11 May; one Sackets H 11 May; two near PRWMA 11 May (LC) and 31 May. **Least Sandpiper**: three Stone Quarry Rd T CV 20 May (MBW). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: E. Martinsburg T Martinsburg 23 Apr (BH). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Wilson Hill Rd T Louisville 28 Apr; two Grasse R StLA 13-14 May(MB). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: seven Potsdam 3 May (M. Mansky). **Am. Woodcock**: five doing courtship flight HSUA 19 May , late. **Bonaparte's Gull**: seven at Dadville T Lowville 16 Apr - unusual location; ad in Alt plumage SLR 20 Apr. **Ring-billed Gull**: 15,000+ T Henderson 10 Mar; 10,000 RMPD 27 Apr. **THAYER'S GULL**: ad RMPD 8 Mar (BD). **Iceland Gull**: max seven RMPD 1 Mar and RMPD 8 Mar (BD). **Glaucous Gull**: two RMPD 1 Mar (BD); one Reynolds Metals T Massena 4 Mar (BD); one Dadville T Lowville 16 Apr (BH). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 190 RMPD 8 Mar. **Caspian Tern**: max 12 PRWMA 31 May. **Com. Tern**: max 27 RMPD 27 Apr. **Black Tern**: 30-40 WBM 21 May (GM); 50 WBM 28 May (BJW); 24 PRWMA 31 May (BJW).

E. Screech-Owl: one T CV seen off and on at roosting site entrance Apr and May (MBW). **Snowy Owl**: one taking gulls near Alexandria Bay mid May (LH); last near Canton 10 May (BW). **N. Hawk Owl**: one of the birds at DePeyster was seen on 10 Mar and departed on or around 23 Mar (BJW). **Barred Owl**: heard calling Leonard Pd T Colton 20 Apr (PO); another High Falls T Fine 4 May (PO). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one DOR Potsdam 4 Apr (KC). **Com. Nighthawk**: a pair probably nesting on roof of St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, Ogdensburg 21 May (PK). **Whip-poor-will**: one heard calling HSUA 13 May (GM); two Limerick Cedars T Brownville 28 May (BJW). **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: one 3 Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF 14 Mar (BJW); at least two pairs in T Henderson thru period (LC). **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one near Leonard Pd - Chandler Pd Wild Forest T Colton May (PO). **N. Flicker**: five over-wintered RMPD (BD); there were indications of a second wave of migrants in mid May much later than the first migrants. **Pileated Woodpecker**: pair flying over T Henderson 14 Apr; numerous reports around Region.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one heard Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May (BJW). **Alder Flycatcher**: 18 Massena 27 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: one Massena 20 May; one ULLWMA 22 May; one PRWMA 31 May; one 3 Mile Pt 31 May.

Least Flycatcher: many TH T Montague LEWI 15 May. **Horned Lark:** 300+ near Henderson 14 Mar. **Cliff Swallow:** 100+ Long Sault Dam SLR T Massena (MB). **Gray Jay:** four near Oswegatchie Plains T Fine 6 May (PO). **Blue Jay:** many moving thru T Henderson on 6 May. **Com. Raven:** feeding on deer carcasses Cranberry L, competing with Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and chickadee in Mar (PO); pair circling and calling Trout Lake SF T Hermon (PO); one Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May (BJW). **Boreal Chickadee:** one heard Buck Pd T Fine 14 May (PO). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** bird which wintered at T CV feeder still present 17 Apr. **CAROLINA WREN:** one Canton 4 May (KC). **Winter Wren:** one near Massena 21 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 20 near Massena 30 Apr; not many seen along e L Ontario where they are usually numerous in migration. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 15 near Massena 22 Apr; heavy migration in Canton in late Apr; low numbers along e L Ontario. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one with Yellow-rumped Warbler T Henderson 2 May (LC), seldom reported. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one THWMA 15 May (LC&GM). **Swainson's Thrush:** one T CV 6 May; 1 found dead CV under window 28 May (MBW). **Hermit Thrush:** one Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May; one heard T CV 23 May. **N. Mockingbird:** one singing 2 mi s Canton 4-5 May (Jeff Thayer & John Van de Water) ; one at feeder on Valley Road near T CV 23 Apr (MBW). **Bohemian Waxwing:** three RMPD 4 Mar (BD) ; 90 RMPD 8 Mar (MB); 42 RMPD 8 Mar with 70 Cedar Waxwing (BD). **Cedar Waxwing:** few early in period then increasing - a few in small early flocks seen in Henderson had red wax tips on tail feathers as well as wings; 30 T Henderson feeding on crab apples left from last fall 6 Apr. **N. Shrike:** last 8 Apr.

Solitary Vireo: 30+ THWMA 15 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one Potsdam 10 May (SC); one near Massena 22 May (MB). **Blue-winged Warbler:** two Fort Drum (KC). **Tennessee Warbler:** eight near Massena in May (MB). **Nashville Warbler:** three CV 2 May; one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 6 May; two T CV 12 May (MBW). **N. Parula:** one near Massena 20 May; one heard High Falls Truck Trail T Fine May (PO). **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 20 THWMA 15 Apr. **Magnolia Warbler:** two CV 12 May ; two near Massena 26 May; harder to find each year. **Cape May Warbler:** one CV 12 May; two Massena 19 May; one Massena 23 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** five CV 12 May three Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 100+ T Henderson 2 May (LC). **Black-throated Green Warbler:** six Whetstone Gulf SP 22 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** three THWMA 15 May. **Pine Warbler:** 10 near Massena 21 Apr (MB); one FY near Massena 26 May (MB);

one Sand Bay Rd T CV 27 May (MBW). **Prairie Warbler**: four-six Limerick Cedars T Brownville 18 May (MBW), two on 25 May (BJW); three to four Chaumont Barrens T Clayton 11 May (LC). **Palm Warbler**: two CV 2 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one THWMA 15 May (LC); two near Massena 20 May (MB). **Blackpoll Warbler**: one Massena 23 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 12 near Massena 5 May. **Am. Redstart**: 20 near Massena 12 May. **Ovenbird**: ten 29 May. **N. Waterthrush**: three in narrow wetland TH SF T Pinckney 15 May (LC&GM); two Louisville 29 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: one near Massena 18 May (MB); one WBM 20 May (MBW). **Canada Warbler**: 11 near Massena 26 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last StLA 5 May. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: one seen and heard near WBM 18 May (MBW). **Vesper Sparrow**: one Paterson Rd T Louisville 30 Apr (MB), only report. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one n of T Chaumont T Lyme JEFF 26 May (MBW). **Fox Sparrow**: one to two at feeder T CV 31 Mar-8 Apr (MBW); one TH near Diamond T Lorraine 13 Apr (SDL); one Canton 18 Apr; last near Massena 2 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: five to six in yard T CV 12 May (MBW). **White-throated Sparrow**: small flocks in T CV 2-18 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: migration was fairly rapid, last 16 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: heavy movement through Region 13 -20 Apr; one "Oregon" type T CV 14 Apr (MBW). **Lapland Longspur**: 55+ Ayles Rd T Henderson 14 Mar, 28 there 18 Mar, gone 19 Mar (LC). **Snow Bunting**: 10 at feeder in snow storm TH near Diamond T Lorraine 12 Mar (SDL); 500+ Ayles Rd T Henderson 18 Mar, gone 19 Mar (LC). **Rusty Blackbird**: two T CV 6 May (MBW). **Purple Finch**: 30+ T Henderson 6 Mar; 50+ T Henderson 7 Mar; 50 Massena 3 May ; numbers in T Henderson in late May indicate local nesting may be up. **House Finch**: max Ogdensburg 320 1 Mar (PK); first ever at feeders TH near Diamond T Lorraine 27 Mar (SDL); nest with eggs T CV 11 May hatched on 26 May (MBW). **White-winged Crossbill**: one female with Evening Grosbeak Ogdensburg 8-15 Mar (PK). **Com. Redpoll**: max 100 RMPD 1 Mar ; 30 near Massena 1 Mar; five to eight Massena feeders 14 Apr; individual birds T CV and T Henderson in Mar and Apr. **HOARY REDPOLL**: one Ogdensburg feeder 13-14 Mar (PK). **Pine Siskin**: max 14 near Massena 13 Apr; scattered groups and individuals at feeders thru period. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 40 near Massena 30 Apr ; other smaller flocks and individuals all season.

P. O. Box 139 , Henderson , New York 13650

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

This was a generally cold season, with spring arriving quite late. On 16 Mar, temperatures dropped to -4°F at Ellenburg Depot. A warming trend began 5 Apr with highs in the 30's and reaching into the 50's by 9 Apr, but this was followed by 4 to 6 inches of snow on 11 Apr. The last significant snowfall came on 16 Apr, when 4 inches blanketed the Moose River Recreational Area. Temperatures rebounded to the 60's on 19 Apr and rose to 76°F at Elizabethtown on 21 Apr, a hot, muggy day. Rain and cooler weather followed 25-26 Apr, and the month closed cool and sunny, highs in the 50's. By 1 May, Lake Champlain stood at 98.8 ft. Air temperatures gradually rose during the first week of the month, from the 40's on 1 May to the 60's on 7 May. Hawthorns were still bare when the Crown Point banding station opened on 8 May, but leafed out over the next quite pleasant week, and by the time the station was closing on 18 May, the "little green caterpillars" had reached 1/2 inch in length. A cold front from the north that day brought a morning squall that grounded waves of warblers and other migrants. There was a 60°F drop in temperature at Inlet, from 85°F on 23 May to 25°F on 24 May. After the subsequent cold spell from 24-27 May and rain, hail and even sun on 28 May, the month closed with several lovely days, yet with a frost at Moose River Recreation Area on 30 May.

In spite of the delayed spring and delayed migration, a total of 194 species was reported by Regional observers, up from the 185 species noted in the much earlier spring migration of 1991. High Peaks Audubon hawk watcher Elisabeth Johnson was on Coot Hill for a shorter period of time than usual during April, yet she recorded an all-time record number of individual raptors at this site since coverage began in 1976. In 78 hours of coverage between 13-29 April she saw a total of 713 raptors of all 15 expected species.

The bird banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 11 days between 8 and 18 May. A total of 241 individual birds of 39 species was banded and released, the fifth best year for variety since 1976, helped perhaps by the new mistnets provided by a Club Grant from the Federation. As a reflection of the delayed migration, only nine warbler species were netted, and the most numerous bird was American Goldfinch,

with a record 90 banded. There were returns of 19 individuals of eight different species banded on Crown Point peninsula in previous years. The oldest was an American Goldfinch banded there in 1987, now at least five years, 11 months old. A highlight was a foreign retrap Yellow-rumped Warbler netted 18 May as the squall passed. Other avian highlights at Crown Point included a **Caspian Tern**, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, **Prairie Warbler** and Wilson's Warbler. Osprey were present almost daily, but the platform on Bulwagga Bay remained unoccupied.

Many more observers are sending in reports from the Ausable Point Wildlife Management Area, just south of Plattsburgh. Ted Mack had a number of good waterfowl there on 21 Mar, including Gadwall. On 14 May, Bill Krueger found a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, a first record for CLIN. Krueger and Mitchell had an unprecedented Regional maximum of seven Yellow-throated Vireo there 17 May. Judy & Roger Heintz heard a singing male **Cerulean Warbler** at the Ausable River delta on 26 May; this is apparently the second Regional and Adirondack Park record, and the first for CLIN, but not unexpected in light of nearby nesting at Sandbar Refuge, VT, and Montgomery Sanctuary, Quebec. Finally, on the ridge just west of Ausable Point WMA, Dorothy and Ignatius Lacombe had a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appear at their Peru feeder with 20-30 Red-winged Blackbird at 8:45 AM on 13 Mar, another CLIN first. Other notable observations included Great Egret, late Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, early Red-shouldered Hawk, an infrequently reported American Coot, early Willow Flycatcher and American Pipit. We look forward to continued coverage of this obviously productive birding area.

At season's end, over two dozen observers were prepared to set out for higher elevations of not only the Adirondacks, but also (with the invaluable help of Hudson-Delaware editor John Askildsen) the Catskills to search for Bicknell's "race" of Gray-cheeked Thrush. Each hiker was provided with taped songs and calls, protocols, and field survey forms. The survey of this mountaintop thrush in New York and New England is a project of the Manomet Bird Observatory and Vermont Institute of Natural Science; the New York Coordinator is Mike Peterson of Elizabethtown. Those wishing to assist in learning more about what may become a "new" species in New York, and willing to climb to the summit of a mountain in 1993 (should the survey continue) are asked to contact this Regional editor in the coming months.

Contributors: Merry Baker, Sharon Bennet, Dirck & Mary Benson, Geoffrey Carleton, Dewey & Joan Clark, Dean Cook, Charlcie Delehanty, William Endicott, Greg Furness, Steve Gagnon, Robert Hagar, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hess, Cordon Howard, Mary Humiston, Selma Isil, Elsbeth Johnson, Hal Klein, William Krueger, Wesley Lanyon, Gary Lee, Dorothy & Ignatius Lacombe, Theodore Mack, Helen Manson, Norman Mason, Nancy Miller, Charles Mitchell, Bryce & Keith Murphy, David Murphy, Megan Murphy, Russ O'malley, John Parke, John & Susan Peterson, Dean Spaulding, John & Pat Thaxton, Hollis White, Lynne Willard.

Abbreviations: APt - Ausable Point WMA; CH - Coot Hill hawk watch; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; MRRRA - Moose River Recreation Area; TL - Tupper Lake.

Spring reports: **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr APt 1 Apr (RH) max three Peru 13 Apr (C&JH). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr APt 25 Apr. **GREAT EGRET:** one APt 14 May (BK); two Hogansburg 30 May (RH), probably from Nickerson I, Que, colony on L St. Francis. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two Hogansburg 30 May, unusual away from Champlain. **Snow Goose:** arr 12 Frontiertown 5 Mar; max 92 CH 15 Apr. **Canada Goose:** three nests Four Bros. I 13 May. **Green-winged Teal:** CPP 12 May, first record for site. **Mallard:** 35 active nests Four Brothers I 13 May, semicolonial nests on 6.2-acre Island "D" alone! **Gadwall:** two APt 21 Mar (TM). **Canvasback:** four APt 21 Mar, unusual in spring. **Oldsquaw:** pair Plattsburgh mudflats 11-12 Apr, rare in spring. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 1,000+ Port Kent late Mar. **Bufflehead:** one APt 6 May (SB), late; two TL 28 Apr, unexpected inland. **Red-breasted Merganser:** three APt 12 Apr, only report.

Osprey: on platform APt 7 Apr; 38 CH 14-29 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** pair Blue Mt L 11 Mar; pair Beaver L, MRRRA, 17 Mar; imm APt 15-18 Mar; two FRAN 23-30 May; ad TL 28 Mar; ad and imm TL from 30 Mar, last 11 Apr; Saranac L 7 Apr; ad Chateaugay Narrows 12 Apr; three CH 14-21 Apr; imm wearing metal band (right leg) and green color band (left leg) may have been banded in NJ or PA. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one APt 18 Mar (BH), early. **Broad-winged Hawk:** 308 CH 29 Apr, max 183 on 28 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** 190 CH 14-29 Apr, max 86 on 14 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** leucistic bird Cumberland Head 24 Mar; last CH 14 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** FRAN 30 Mar; feeding on deer carcass with several Bald Eagle Follensby Pd late Mar; same Big Tupper L; two migrants past CH together 14 Apr. **Merlin:** Plattsburgh to 18 Mar; CH 15 Apr; Saranac Lake 22 May (D&MB),

late. **Peregrine Falcon**: at Wilmington Notch site by 9 Mar; four CH 14-29 Apr. **Spruce Grouse**: n side Big Moose L 9-11 May (HM, RO); MRRRA 23 May and scat later found in vicinity (GL) suggests presence in areas of HAMI where unrecorded during the 1980-85 Atlas period. **Wild Turkey**: MRRRA all spring. **Com. Moorhen**: Plattsburgh 20 Apr (J&RH); pond near Exit 28 I-87 15 May (LW); n FRAN 30 May (RH) an extremely good showing in this Region. **Am. Coot**: one APt 4 Apr (J&RH). **Black-bellied Plover**: on raft Moody Pd, Saranac Lake village, 24 May (D&MB), highly unusual. **Solitary Sandpiper**: Carpenter Flats and CPP 13 May; Elk L 27 May, good finds here in spring. **CASPIAN TERN**: one CPP 9-10 May (GH, MP). **Com. Tern**: n. FRAN 30 May, good find. **Black Tern**: n. FRAN 30 May, good find these days.

Black-billed Cuckoo: singing male CPP 15-18 May, new to site. **Snowy Owl**: last at Plattsburgh 26 Mar (WK); female TL village rooftop 27 Apr (CD, RH) only FRAN report from invasion; one on utility pole Spruce Hill between Elizabethtown and Keene 28 Apr (SG), only ESSE report of the invasion. **Barred Owl**: several TL feeders mid Mar; courting commenced Paradox 30 Mar. **Short-eared Owl**: two gatehouse Point au Roche SP 18-19 Apr (J&RH, HK, WK, CM), rarely reported here. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: calling Paradox by 11 Mar. **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**: *intro*. **Three-toed Woodpecker**: Ferd's Bog 30 May (GL) **Black-backed Woodpecker**: male Ferd's Bog 9-11 May, female Brown's Tract campground 9-11 May (HM); Brown's Tract Stream 24 May (GL).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Ferd's Bog 28 May (CL). **Willow Flycatcher**: arr APt 8 May (J&RH), early, unusual in Region. **Gray Jay**: Keese Mill Rd 9 Apr (WK); Ferd's Bog 28 May (GL). **Com. Raven**: eating hamburger thrown out of Keene Valley house 16 Apr; nesting upper dam Miner Institute, Chazy. **Boreal Chickadee**: reports from Brown's Tract Stream, Elk L, Keese Mill Rd., and N Meadow fairly representative. **Tufted Titmouse**: Ausable Chasm feeder after 4 May, only report. **Carolina Wren**: TL feeders 1-29 Feb, 22 Mar, rare in central Adirondacks. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: Plattsburgh 26 Apr; Wickham Marsh 30 Apr-9 May, max four there 8 May; pair nest-building CPP May; others APt and Carpenter's Flats, an outstanding showing. **N. Mockingbird**: left Chateaugay L 11 Mar; CPP 11 Mar, clearly unhappy at removal of thickets by OPR&HP staff apparently dictated by "Master Plan for Crown Point State Historic Site"; L Placid 30 May, a good find in interior Adirondacks. **Am. Pipit**: one APt 15 Mar (HK, WK, CM), a very early CLIN date. **Bohemian Waxwing**: 12 Peru 7 Mar (C&JH); max 24 Saranac L 31 Mar, last there 18 Apr (RH); last CH 23-27 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing**: flock of 12 Whallon's Bay ESSE 17 Apr, one with orange tail tip

(RH). **N. Shrike**: singing ESSE early Mar (JPa). **European Starling**: transient arr Elizabethtown 8 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro*. **Philadelphia Vireo**: Lookout Mt 25 May (J&PT), only report and probably breeding. **Cape May Warbler**: N Meadow late May (WL), probably breeding. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: *intro.*; arr Wilson Pd HAMI 14 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: a singing male CPP 13 May (MP, mob); singing male Paradox 13 May (MB). **CERULEAN WARBLER**: *intro*. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Paradox 8 May (MB). **Wilson's Warbler**: feeding on little green worms CPP 18 May.

N. Cardinal: singles Paul Smiths 2 Apr, Elizabethtown 7 Apr, apparently wandering birds. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last three Elizabethtown feeder 18 Apt. **Field Sparrow**: arr Peru 22 Apr. **Fox Sparrow**: arr Indian L HAMI 12 Mar; last Plattsburgh 26 Apr. **Snow Bunting**: last two MRRA 6 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: *intro*. **Rusty Blackbird**: pair Center Pd ESSE 14 May (MB) may have been breeding birds. **Purple Finch**: max 30 Paradox feeder 12 Mar. **Red Crossbill**: Dannemora 21 Mar (J&RH), only report. **White-winged Crossbill**: Ferd's Bog 30 May (GL), only report. **Com. Redpoll**: max 15 Keene 18 Mar, continued scattered reports, the last Inlet and Paradox 19 Apr. **Pine Siskin**: winter invasion continued, max 214 banded Elizabethtown 17 Apr, and a total of 384 banded there 20 Mar-6 May, many with cloacal protuberances and brood patches by mid Apr; gathering nest material Paradox 17 May. **Am. Goldfinch**: *intro*; similarly abundant, with 320 banded Elizabethtown 9 Apr-8 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: remained present through end of season, female with brood patch Elizabethtown by 25 Apr, undoubtedly breeding.

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 - HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN A. MAPES

It was a cold, late spring in eastern New York. Much of March and the first half of April were cold and cloudy. However, observers reported that most local breeding birds arrived on average schedules and in typical numbers. Ken Able reported that he found migrants essentially absent in

Berne. Others reported average (that is, low) numbers for many species of transients as in recent years. A warm spell 15 Apr was ended with snow on 16 Apr. Bob Yunick reports that the snow grounded migrating Dark-eyed Junco, producing large numbers at feeders in Schenectady.

Three nesting pairs of Bald Eagles were present in the Region, two of them new. Both of the new pairs included a four year old bird, the age when they start coming into breeding condition. Nests were built but no eggs were laid by those new pairs. Locations of the nests are, of course, being kept quiet, but we can report that the new nests were in Albany and Columbia counties. The third nest, in Schoharie County, has been active for two years and fledged one chick this year.

A pair of **Cerulean Warblers** were seen from 14 May through the end of June on Spier Falls Road, SARA, and are listed as probable breeders. **Orchard Oriole** provided increased sightings this season, with an adult male present at Five Rivers Center in Delmar from 15 May through the end of the period (probably nesting). A female was seen with the male on two occasions, and an immature male seen nearby on one occasion. This species was also reported on 6 May in Niskayuna in GREE on 9, 20 and 26 May in WASH (possibly the same bird), and on 27 May at Vischer Ferry.

There were a number of reports of rarities this season, including **Great Cormorant**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Caspian Tern**, **Northern Hawk Owl**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. An **European Goldfinch** of unknown origin was present at a Guilderland, ALBA, feeder from late December to mid March. Word of this bird was received from the feeder operator shortly after the bird disappeared, but the occurrence was substantiated by a clear photograph.

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Abbreviations: BCWMA – Black Creek Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; FiveR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake, SARA; VFNHP – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** arr Four-mile Pt GREE 26 Apr; one Upper Blenheim-Gilboa Res 11 May (DC), late. **Com. Loon:** last 18 Alcove Res ALBA 18 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max. 81 Lock 7 Mohawk R SCHE 26 Apr (RY). **GREAT CORMORANT:** two Hudson R GREE 9 May (RG), has become almost annual. **Horned Grebe:** arr SaraL 4 Apr; max 75 SaraL 12 Apr (JG). **Red-necked Grebe:** max eight SaraL 12 Apr. **Great Egret:** one

Basic Creek Res 9 Apr (LP), unusual in spring. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: one Hudson R GREE 26 Apr; two Hudson R GREE 29 Apr, only two reports. **GLOSSY IBIS**: two at a Saratoga sod farm 3 May; one in a wet area along Rt. 5 between Scotia and Amsterdam 12-14 Apr. **Mute Swan**: pair nesting at new location Round L SARA; two L George 26-30 May (LM); northward expansion. **Snow Goose**: arr 75 Fort Miller 13 Mar (BP); max 1,200 Amsterdam 15 Mar (TP), six blue morph. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: male SaraL 7 Apr, Visher Ferry 19 Apr. **Canvasback**: max 1,000 Hudson R 18 Mar. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: female Fort Miller 15 Mar; male SaraL 30 Mar.

Turkey Vulture: arr six Catskill 10 Mar. **Osprey**: max 13 Hudson R GREE 4 May (RG), 16 Hudson R GREE 9 May. **Bald Eagle**: *intro*; max four Hudson R 17 Mar; 31 reports for the period. **Cooper's Hawk**: max five Berne 23 Apr to 1 May (KA) seemed numerous. **Wild Turkey**: reports continue to increase from many locations; max 50 Gallupville 14 Mar (RB) in backyard. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last two WASH 15 Mar and three RENS 15 Mar. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr one SARA 3 May; one W River Road SARA 7 May on; three Knox Airport ALBA 23 May. **Laughing Gull**: one Hudson R ALBA 30 May (TC), rare. **Bonaparte's Gull**: only two reports, one Fort Miller 12 Apr, one SaraL 16 May. **THAYER'S GULL**: one Colonie Landfill 5 Mar (RG), only report. **Iceland Gull**: only two locations, one 4-15 Mar Fort Miller; one 2nd winter plumage Colonie Landfill ALBA through early May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: one Colonie Landfill 13 Mar (PF) only report. **Glaucous Gull**: one Colonie Landfill ALBA 13 Mar (PF) only report. **CASPIAN TERN**: one VFNHP 11 Apr (GR), only report. **Com. Tern**: arr four Hudson R GREE 9 May. **Black Tern**: one Alcove Res ALBA 18 May; one Thirteenth L WARR 27 May; one Tomhannock Res 10 May, scarce.

Black-billed Cuckoo: six reports, scarce. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: two reports, scarce. **Snowy Owl**: last Fort Edward 8 Mar. **N. HAWK OWL**: one remained near Fort Ann through 4 Mar. **Short-eared Owl**: last eight Fort Edward 6 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Petersburg 3 Mar (AR) only report. **Whip-poor-will**: arr Hague 9 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one N Hampton 30 May, only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: 46 reported, 30 from COLU, greatest concentration GREE and COLU, increasing.

Fish Crow: one Saratoga SP 19 Apr; one Collin's L SCHE 17 Mar, extending range. **Com. Raven**: pair again nesting at Thatcher SP. **Carolina Wren**: numerous reports, increasing and extending range; one L George Village 15 Mar. **Sedge Wren**: one FiveR 3 May (DW), first record for site,

seen once only. **Marsh Wren:** arr BCWMA 16 May, late. **E. Bluebird:** overwintered in Region. **Swainson's Thrush:** only sightings, one Berne 24 May (KA); one FiveR 20 May; one L Desolation SARA 23 May. **Wood Thrush:** arr Saratoga State Park 23 Apr. **N. Shrike:** lingered Moreau to 1 Mar, Black Creek Marsh to 14 Mar, Delmar to 18 Mar, near Saratoga Springs to 29 Mar and near Fort Ann to 12 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr one VFNHP; one FiveR 13 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Coxsackie 2 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** only three reports ALBA and SCHE, no dates. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr FiveR 16 May. **Cape May Warbler:** arr Basic Creek Res 27 Apr. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** usual high numbers. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Hague 30 Apr. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** *intro*. **Am. Redstart:** arr two Coxsackie 25 Apr. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr FiveR 16 Apr. **Mourning Warbler:** Spier Falls SARA 27 May only report. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one FiveR 10 June only report, called for only two days, not seen again.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Gallupville 3 May (RB), very early. **Vesper Sparrow:** overwintered WASH (RG). **Fox Sparrow:** arr Rotterdam 12 Mar, very numerous and lingered longer than usual, nine at a feeder at one time FiveR 12 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one FiveR 13 May only report. **White-crowned Sparrow:** one Hague 20 Mar, wintering bird? **Snow Bunting:** ten Jefferson 22 Mar. **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** male Latham 14 Apr, remained several days with a flock of Red-winged Blackbird. **Rusty Blackbird:** two SARA 7 May, only report, unusually scarce. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** *intro*. **Purple Finch:** more numerous than usual Mar and Apr. **House Finch:** absent from several feeders where usually common ALBA Mar. **Pine Siskin:** good numbers FiveR all season, lingering later than usual. **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH:** *intro*. **Evening Grosbeak:** seen daily through end of period Petersburg, male observed feeding female, courting behavior?

Five Rivers Center, Game Farm Road, Delmar, New York 12054

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN ASKILDSEN

This spring's weather was almost the exact opposite of last spring's. Last year we had a warm, dry season with many blue sky days, allowing many birds to migrate over us nonstop. This year we experienced prolonged periods of clouds, rain and mist accompanied often by easterly and sometimes by northerly winds, and cool temperatures. Away from the south shore of Region 10, this type of spring weather spells disaster, and it was, in some respects. Towns on Long Island Sound such as Rye, where this editor does quite a bit of his spring birding, probably had the worst spring migration ever on modern record. Migrants were in severe shortage. Locations such as the Rye Nature Center, which should be teeming with birds were void of them, save one occasion. Where did the birds go, one asks? When fronts from the north arrived in the Region in early May, many migrants naturally shifted their migration south of Region 9. In early May, when the Rye Nature Center yielded exactly three species of warbler, parks on the south shore of Long Island and in New York City were enjoying up to 25 species of warbler. Later in May we experienced prolonged periods of east winds which pushed the migration away from the coastal areas of Region 9 into the interior. Impressive reports were received from counties such as DUTC, where both a good migration as well as seasonal rarities were found.

The Red-necked Grebe migration in Long Island Sound commenced on 12 Apr with two individuals noted by Tom Burke that evening from Rye's Edith G. Read Sanctuary. The migration peaked at the same location, with 23 on 26 Apr and 124 on 28 Apr. Several individuals were reported at sites such as DUTC away from Long Island Sound this spring.

Of special interest is the continued range expansion of several species. Valerie Freer reports the return of Osprey to Region 9 as a breeding species. A pair has successfully nested at Bashakill Marsh in SULL, and another nest was discovered in ULST. This species has spent too many years *in absentia*. Perhaps it is time we pay closer attention to the summering birds along the Hudson River. Common Raven established a nest site near the Appalachian Trail in DUTC. This first breeding record for DUTC extends its breeding range in Region 9 east of the Hudson River for the first time in modern history. Once again there were numerous (12) reports of **Black**

Vulture west of the Hudson River, with a heavy concentration along the New York-New Jersey border. One bird was reported from Cold Spring PUTN in May. Wild Turkey is expanding its range southward in WEST seemingly at a rapid rate. Sightings were noted from from as far south as Yonkers! Pretty soon the Yankees won't be the only turkeys in the Bronx!

Notable rarities for the spring season include some holdovers from winter. An adult **Northern Gannet** was observed off Rye Playland on 19 Apr by Tom Burke. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was found in northern Dutchess Co. on 4 Mar by Dot Fleury. The **Tufted Duck** previously reported at Rye Playland Lake departed in very late February for Greenwich (Conn) Harbor. It was later rediscovered by Tom Burke at Rye Playland Lake on 16-20 Apr. The previously reported **Eurasian Wigeon** in Rye remained at the Marshlands Conservancy until 1 Apr according to Tom Burke. Five **Whimbrel** were seen flying north over the Bashakill Marsh SULL on 16 May, much to the surprise of numerous observers including Ed Treacy, John P. Tramontano and the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club. A breeding plumaged Black Tern was seen flying past Rye Playland on 25 Apr by Tom Burke. This observation is the only record for the entire Region this spring for this imperiled species. Two **Yellow-throated Warbler** were seen in DUTC, with one being seen on 7 May by Helen Manson and another individual was well observed on 17 May by Russ O'Malley. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was seen at the Rye Nature Center on 22 May by Tom Burke. Finally the much celebrated **Lark Sparrow** at SUNY Purchase WEST was last seen on 5 Mar (*vide* Dr. James Utter).

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Abbreviations: Bash - Bashakill Marsh; EGRS - Edith G. Read Sanctuary; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch; MC - Rye Marshlands Conservancy; RNC - Rye Nature Center; RPI - Rye Playland; USMA - United States Military Academy (West Point), ORAN.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** max 13 Kensico Res WEST 11 Apr (JPA). **Red-necked Grebe:** *intro.* **N. GANNET:** *intro.* **Great Cormorant:** one ROCK, 6 May (EDT), rare away from Long Island Sound; last Rye 10 May. **Am. Bittern:** only five reported. **Least Bittern:** scarce, only reported from Hudson R marshes PUTN. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC 3 May (TWB). **Glossy Ibis:** arr MC 25 Apr. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** *intro.* **Snow Goose:** max several flocks of 500 n part of Region late Mar. **Brant:** max several thousand Hudson R 15-16 May (EAMBC); 400 MC 19 May. **Canada Goose:** max 5000 in DUTC 5 Mar. **Green-winged Teal:** arr MC 5 Mar; male EURASIAN race MC 30-31 Mar (TWB, LB), another 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN 15 Mar (KM, MB). **EURASIAN WIGEON:** *intro.* **Redhead:** one 12 DUTC Mar; one WEST 23 Apr (DP, TB). **TUFTED DUCK:** *intro.* **Greater Scaup:** max 2000 RPI 8 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** max 200 RPI 8 Apr. **Black Scoter:** two RPI 27 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** six Bash 16 May (JPT, EAMBC), one DUTC 25 Apr (CP). max 125 RPI 26 Apr (TWB). **Hooded Merganser:** Bash throughout period, thought to be nesting in Wood Duck boxes. **Com. Merganser:** established territories Delaware R drainage basin area SULL.

BLACK VULTURE: *intro.* **Turkey Vulture:** 19 migrating past HMHW 23 Feb. **Osprey:** arr n WEST 15 Mar; max 20 HMHW on 13 Mar. **N. Goshawk:** total three HMHW. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr DUTC 31 Mar (ROM), early; arr HMHW 13 Apr, max 1010 on 23 Apr, season total 1679. **Rough-legged Hawk:** last SULL 18 May (VP). **Golden Eagle:** pair last seen Stissing Mtn DUTC 5 Mar; subad BASH 10 May (JPT), late. **Am. Kestrel:** better than average numbers; total 244 HMHW. **Merlin:** total 21 HMHW; one Bash 17 May. **Peregrine Falcon:** ad took Mourning Dove EGR 21 Apr (KS); total five HMHW. **Wild Turkey:** *intro.* **Virginia Rail:** max eight Bash early May. **Sora:** regular at 6 1/2 Station Sanctuary ORAN (JPT, VE); max two MC during May (TWB). **Am. Oystercatcher:** pair RPI 11 Apr (JPA). **Solitary Sandpiper:** one RPI 11 Apr (JPA), early. **Willet:** one RPI 16 May (TWB). **Upland Sandpiper:** ten Blue Chip Farms ULST 23 Apr (EDT). **WHIMBREL:** *intro.* **Ruddy Turnstone:** 17 MC 1 Mar. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** two MC 18-24 May (TWB). **Purple Sandpiper:** last RPI 9 May (TWB). **Dunlin:** last two MC 23 May (TWB). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** seven MC 18 May (TWB). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 150 MC 19 May (TWB). **Laughing Gull:** arr RPI 11 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** last eight Rye 26 Apr; ten Hudson R ORAN 27 Apr- (EDT). **Ice1and Gull:** imm RPI 25-28 Apr (TWB). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** two Rye departed by 8 Apr (TWB); ad Rockland L SP 7 Mar (MS, MF, EDT). **Com. Tern:** arr RPI 3 May. **Least Tern:** arr MC 25 Apr.

Black-billed Cuckoo: scarce, but singles widespread. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** widespread in low numbers. **Barn Owl:** one EGR all season (KS, TWB); one reportedly hit by car DUTC 29 Apr (SH) apparently recovered and flew away. **Barred Owl:** strong numbers reported from n sections of Region. **Long-eared Owl:** one Thompson Pd Preserve DUTC 8-27 Apr (BC, EDT, mob); two wintered ORAN through 15 Mar (JPT). **Short-eared Owl:** one Bash 25 Apr (SCAS), rare there in spring. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one at Thompson Pd DUTC remained through 4 Mar (EDT, DK). **Whip-poor-will:** arr MC 22 Apr, early. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** ad Norrie Pt SP, DUTC during Mar; one Blue Chip Farms ULST 23 May (TWB). **Pileated Woodpecker:** one MC 1 May (TWB), rare on coast.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: small numbers mid to late May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Rye 18-19 May (TWB), one Newburgh 19 May (KM). **Acadian Flycatcher:** one DUTC 28 May, one Rye 26 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** max three Bash late May (JPA, TWB). **Least Flycatcher:** arr ORAN 15 Apr (JPT), early. **Horned Lark:** 300 Warren Sod Farm ORAN 22 Mar (JPT). **Tree Swallow:** arr ORAN late Mar. **Fish Crow:** arr at inland locations in ORAN and n WEST late Mar; pair arr n WEST 25 Mar, presumed nesting (JPA). **Com. Raven:** *intro*. **Carolina Wren:** continues in unprecedented numbers (JPA). **Marsh Wren:** populations stable in Hudson R marshes. **Veery:** arr Bash 28 Apr, early; low numbers reported along coast in May. **Swainson's Thrush:** numbers low. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** several s WEST late May (TWB). **Hermit Thrush:** two singing USMA on 20 May (EDT), no previous breeding records at this site; two singing Bash 23 May (JPT), presumed to be breeders. **Wood Thrush:** widespread in healthy numbers.

White-eyed Vireo: arr Rye 3 May; one Newburgh 6 May, uncommon away from coast. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one DUTC 4 May (JMK). **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Rye 26 Apr. **Golden-winged Warbler:** four Bash 15 May (TWB). one USMA 10 May (JPA, AG). **Cape May Warbler:** very scarce. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** *intro*. **Cerulean Warbler:** one n WEST 9 May (THM), unusual site; normal numbers USMA. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** *intro*. **Ovenbird:** one n WEST 5 Apr (JJ, JB), very early. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Bear Mtn SP 9-31 May (JK, mob). **Mourning Warbler:** one Bear Mtn SP 28 May (EDT, mob), one DUTC 26 May (HM). **Hooded Warbler:** reported in good numbers from entire Region except SULL and ULST. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one RPI 1 Mar (TWB); one Bash 20 May (AB, HMcG).

Scarlet Tanager: low numbers reported from coast. **Blue Grosbeak:** one seen well Rockefeller SP s WEST 24 Apr (EE). **Chipping Sparrow:** arr DUTC 21 Mar, ORAN 22 Mar, **Vesper Sparrow:** two central WEST 12 Mar and 25 Apr (DP, TB), two Blue Chip Farms ULST 15 May (TWB). **LARK SPARROW:** *intro*.

Grasshopper Sparrow: one Galeville Airport 23 May (TWB), one DUTC 16 May (SK). **Henslow's Sparrow:** none. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** two MC 13 May (TWB). **Seaside Sparrow:** one MC 14-22 May (TWB), declining. **Fox Sparrow:** 30 foraging on plowed road edge at USMA 22 Mar (EDT); good numbers reported from many locations. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one USMA 18 May (EDT). **White-throated Sparrow:** three on territory ULST by 13 May (VE). **White-crowned Sparrow:** widespread scattered reports. **Bobolink:** scarce. **Rusty Blackbird:** small numbers reported from Bash through late Apr. **Orchard Oriole:** widespread singles; "colony" Bash (JPT). **Pine Siskin:** flocks of five to 30 widespread until early Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** small groups in n part of Region through early Apr; pair SULL Catskills 15 May may be nesting.

Exotics: Chukar: one Valhalla WEST 15-22 Apr (DP, TB).

Addendum: LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: one DUTC 15 Feb (Susan Joseph).
202 Millertown Road, Bedford, New York 10506

REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

This is the first reporting period in some time when the temperature approached some degree of normalcy. March averaged 1.4°F below normal, April 1.9°F below normal and May 1.5°F below normal. As for April showers, they were two inches short of normal, while precipitation was close to the norm for the other two months in the period. These comparisons are useful, but don't tell of the cool (make that cold) or wet weekends (following dry weekdays) during this season, when most of us were out birding. Therefore, it is not too surprising that we received mixed reports of the spring migration from our contributors. Most observers thought that the migration was poor and the birds few. Some did see more than the usual number of the not so common birds; for these observers, it was a good spring.

In spite of the cool weather, this year's spring migration seemed to peak earlier than in recent years. "Big days" were earlier in May this year and the migration just petered out afterwards. On the whole, the migration was over by the Memorial Day weekend, even though that legal holiday was

very early this year. Some "big day" results are of note. The Moriches Bay Audubon Society held a Birdathon on May 16. Twenty-two observers in five parties covered a diversity of habitats from woods to ocean. At the height of the migration, they found a group total of 175 species, quite a respectable number. While the total number of species is impressive, and the waterfowl were appropriately represented in the totals, there was a relative paucity of land birds - no *Empidonax*, only 18 species of warblers, few thrushes which were not local nesting birds and not many sparrow species or individuals. Our own findings in the field this spring produced similar results.

An oil spill in the Mecox/East Hampton area on or about 8 Mar produced a considerable number of oiled and dead birds. The Okeanos Foundation made a great effort to rehabilitate those birds which were picked up. Tony Lauro supplied totals of birds picked up alive (via Tom Burke of the NYRBA) and are as follows: Red-throated Loon 1, Common Loon 2, Horned Grebe 1 (died), Northern Gannet 3 (died), Dovekie 1, **Common Murre 23**, Thick-billed Murre 6, Razorbill 39 and **Black Guillemot 1** (died).

The exceptionally large numbers of full Alternate plumaged Common Loon and Horned Grebe in our area was notable this season. It is not uncommon to see an occasional Alternate plumaged Common Loon, but it is unusual to have to search through a dozen birds in Jones Inlet to find a Common Loon in Basic plumage during the mid to late April period. Ralph Cioffi saw a pair of Alternate plumaged Great Cormorant on the north shore at Morgan Beach on 30 Mar. While all three species linger through the spring season, they typically remain in their dull winter garb. To round out these anomalies, a Scarlet Tanager with the usual scarlet replaced by an iridescent cadmium yellow (this plumage is described in Bent) was seen in early May at Hempstead Lake SP and sent a few birders looking for bird books from exotic places (eds.).

The Peregrine Falcon continues to thrive on the artificial cliffs of the New York city area. Our Region now has nine potential nest sites, seven of which were used. Nineteen chicks were produced and as of mid June, 14 had fledged, half from the bridge sites (details summarized from NYCAERIES, Saul Frank, editor). The pair which roosted on the water tower at Jones Beach this winter departed prior to the breeding season.

We often are asked who to notify in the case of sightings of dyed and/or color-banded shorebirds and waterfowl. The address is: International Shorebird Surveys, % Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345.

The most common reason for NYSARC dismissal of reports, such as a potential first breeding record of Summer Tanager in the Region and the State, is due to insufficient details. The merits of this example itself are of secondary importance, and we suggest that birders familiarize themselves with some of the recent articles on preparing reports of unusual birds, such as the one which appeared in the June issue of *Birding* (24(3):145-160; 1992).

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Abbreviations: DPt - Democrat Point; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE - Jones Beach West End; LI - Long Island; MeB - Mecox Bay; MPt - Montauk Point; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; SPtCP - Smith Point County Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet.

Spring reports: **PACIFIC LOON:** one Alt picked up in a field nw Riverhead and released LI Sound 23 Apr (ph, NYRBA). **Red-necked Grebe:** one MPt 4 Mar (JR) and 9 Mar (JF); two Sea Cliff 24 Mar (Barbara Spencer); one JBWE 29 Mar; two PL 12 Apr. **Greater Shearwater:** one from Okeanos boat 24 May. **Sooty Shearwater:** 30+ ShIn 18 May (HMG); 250± SUFF s shore 24 May (NYRBA), five Jones Beach and one Cedar Beach 25 May, eight feeding in Fire I In 27 May (JF), two Fire I In 31 May; numbers close to shore unprecedented in recent years. **Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** several from Okeanos boat 24 May. **BROWN PELICAN:** 15 Jones Inlet 23 May, six there 24 May (NYRBA). **Great Cormorant:** *intro*, some to end of season. **ANHINGA:** a soaring bird Central P 28 Apr (Joseph DiCostanzo, NYSARC), first for New York if accepted. **Am. Bittern:** one HLSP in a tree overlooking a wooded stream 12 Apr (mob). **Least Bittern:** one Clover Lake P, Staten I 9 May (HF). **WHITE-FACED IBIS:** one JBWR 10 May (Jim Clinton, Jr.). **Tundra Swan:** up to four Hook Pd, E Hampton 1-21 Mar (JR); six MeB 8 Mar (NYRBA). **Snow Goose:** blue morph Scuttlehole 21 Mar (JR). **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Silver L, Baldwin 22-23 Mar (BB); two Elda Pd, N Babylon 1 Mar-11 Apr; one Mastic 1 Mar- 11 Apr; one Fort Salonga 29 Mar. **Tufted Duck:** single Patchogue 8-14 Mar; Peconic R, Riverhead 26 Mar; E Hampton 21 Mar-4 Apr (NYRBA). **Com. Eider:** 6-20 MPt 1-15 Mar, one DPt 25-26 Apr (NYRBA). **King Eider:** one PL 4 Apr (NYRBA). **Harlequin Duck:** one-two MPt 1-7 Mar, twelve PL 1 Mar (SS, AW), nine PL 5 Apr (NYRBA).

Turkey Vulture: one Northville 12 and 22 Mar (Mary Laura Lamont), one HLSP 15 Mar (S Shore Audubon Field Trip), three Orient 3 Apr (JF), one New Hyde P 6 Apr (BB), three Shinnecock Hills 7 Apr (HMG), one Port Washington Sand Pits 14 Apr (Betty Forquer). **Red-tailed Hawk:** nest found in Central P, bird incubating 29 Mar (JB). **Bald Eagle:** one HLSP 15 Mar (S Shore Audubon Field Trip), one Three Mile Harbor 9 Apr, one Calverton 30 May (PM). **Peregrine Falcon:** *intro*. **Ruffed Grouse:** male heard drumming at Hunter's Garden, Eastport 5 May (HMG). **Clapper Rail:** arr 21 Mar. **Black Rail:** breeding in the marshes on the south shore Suff (mob). **Lesser Golden-Plover:** one E Quogue 30-31 Mar (Carl Starace), others various sites in May. **Semipalmated Plover:** three wintered at Dosoris Pd, Glen Cove (RC). **Am. Oystercatcher:** arr 11 Mar; 25 ShIn 30 Mar, increasingly arriving in large numbers early in the season. **Upland Sandpiper:** two JBWE 21 Apr, one Fire I 3 May. **Whimbrel:** one Dune Road 9 May (JR), one DPt 10 May, two ShIn 11 May, others later. **Hudsonian Godwit:** one JBWR 7 May (SS, AW, mob). **Marbled Godwit:** one ShIn 6-26 Apr (mob), one JBWR 8-18 May (NYRBA). **White-rumped Sandpiper:** several after 12 May. **Stilt Sandpiper:** one MeB 12 May (NYRBA). **Wilson's Phalarope:** JBWR mid to late May. **Parasitic Jaeger:** one DPt 9 May (NYRBA). **Little Gull:** one Amagansett 14-29 Mar (NYRBA). **Com. Black-headed Gull:** imm ShIn 1 Mar-11 May, ad ShIn 1 Mar-4 Apr, one Jones Inlet 29 Mar-5 Apr, one Captree 4 Apr. **Iceland Gull:** six Queens to MPt early Mar to mid April, last ShIn to mid May (PG, mob). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad Welwyn Preserve 11 Mar (RC), Jones Inlet Mar (mob), the latter bird had a pink blush on its breast. **Glaucous Gull:** singles MPt 4 Mar (JR) and 9 Mar (JF); 2 year Tobay 7 Mar (DT, BH), one Fort Tiden 28 Mar (SW), one Bridgehampton 11 Apr, one GKP 24 May. **Caspian Tern:** one MeB 21 Apr (PG), 29 Apr (JR) to 12 May; one ShIn 13 May (BA); one Twin Lakes Preserve, Massapequa 23 Apr (PM), one HLSP 26 Apr (Ken Fuestel), the latter two records away from the ocean. **Forster's Tern:** JBWR early May. **Black Tern:** singles JBWR to Southampton in May. **Dovekie:** *intro*. **COM. MURRE:** *intro*; oiled bird Fort Pd, Montauk 24 May. **Thick-billed Murre:** *intro*. **Razorbill:** *intro*; 30 MPt 7 Mar, last there 20 Mar. **BLACK GUILLEMOT:** *intro*, two off Breezy Pt 28 Mar.

Black-billed Cuckoo: very few. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** very few after arr 23 May. **Snowy Owl:** one Cedar Beach to 2 Mar, a pair lingered Atlantic Beach to 6 Mar, one Eastport 10 Mar (JR), one College Pt, Queens 30 Mar (NYRBA). **Chuck-will's-widow:** one Riverhead 29 Apr (JR), one calling there 18 May (HMG), one GKP 18 May (NYRBA). **Whip-poor-will:** six north

of Amagansett 18 May (HMG). **Chimney Swift**: one Hampton Bays 1 Apr (HMG), record early. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Central P 3-7 May.

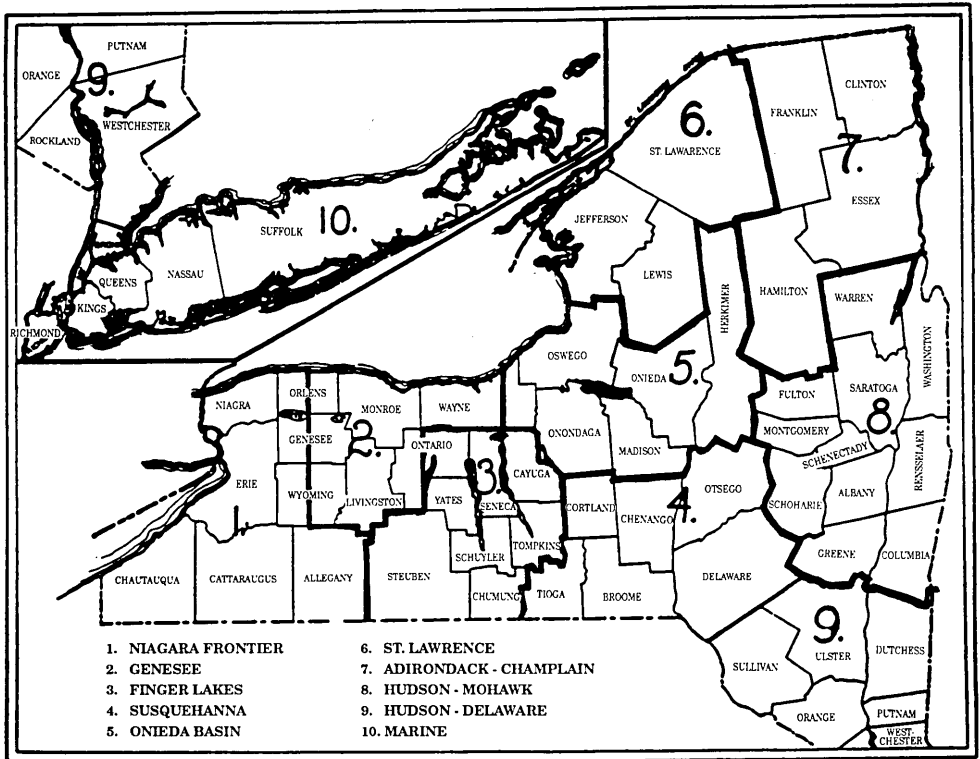
Olive-sided Flycatcher: a few from 14 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: some from 18-29 May (NYRBA). **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr 18 May. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER**: one along dunes at Gilgo 21 May (David Mizrahi). **Am. Crow**: earliest egg date 30 Mar (JB). **Am. Pipit**: 50 Cox Lane, Cutchogue 6 Mar (PG). **Veery**: one HLSP 18 Apr (EL), early. **N. Shrike**: Northville 2 Mar (Mary Laura Lamont *vide* JR).

Philadelphia Vireo: one Central P 14-15 May, one JBWR 24 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Central P 1 May, a few others in parks to 9 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: one Brewster's type JBWR 7 May (SS, mob); one Lawrence's type APP 2 May (JR). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: one Central P 1-3 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: one AUDUBON's race Jones Beach 15 Mar (EL). **Cerulean Warbler**: singles from Central P to JBWE from 1 May to 17 May (NYRBA). **Prothonotary Warbler**: singles from 27 Apr Staten I, Central P, Bronx, Queens, NASS. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr 24 Apr, increased numbers reported from Staten I 9-19 May (HF). **Kentucky Warbler**: arr 23 Apr in New York city parks, also Sunken Meadow on Fire I. **Hooded Warbler**: arr 23 Apr. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: a few.

Summer Tanager: at least a dozen records from 22 Apr. **Scarlet Tanager**: *intro*. **Blue Grosbeak**: one Gilgo Beach 26 Apr (AL). **Vesper Sparrow**: a few. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: a few. **Lapland Longspur**: two SPtCP to 8 Mar (JR). **Boat-tailed Grackle**: JBWR, Jones Beach, Cedar Beach, SPtCP, regular in small numbers, but no increase noticed this year.

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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