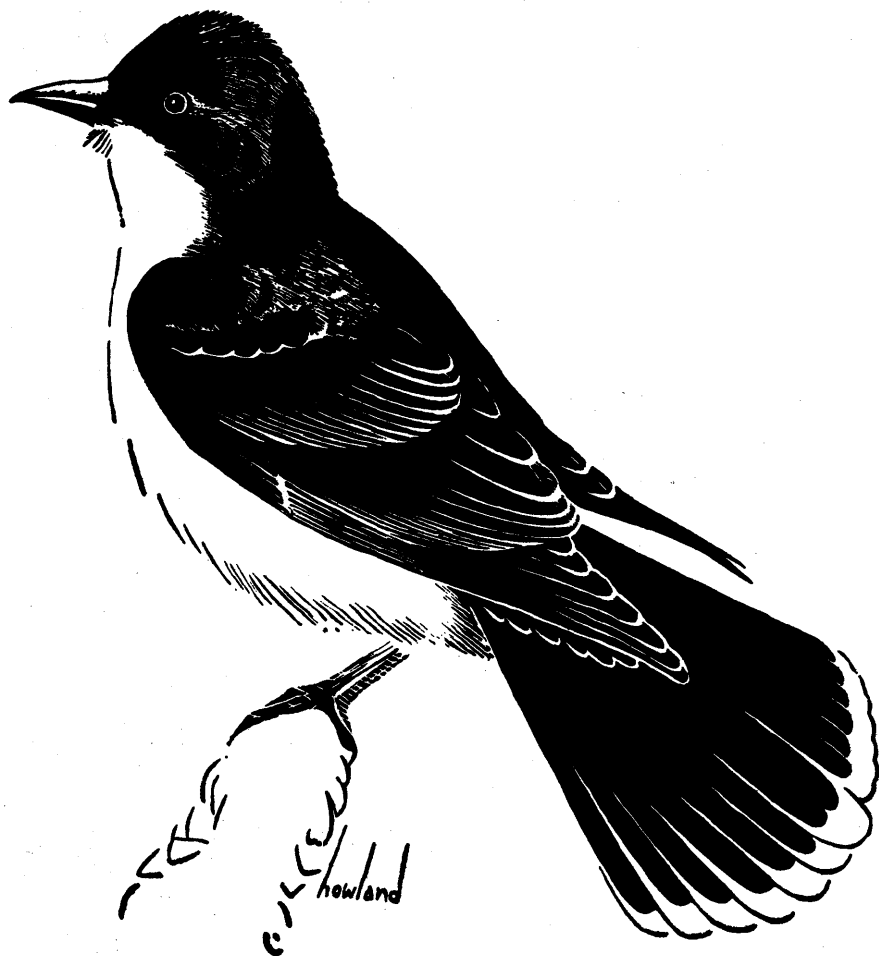


The **KINGBIRD**



VOL. 43, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER • 1993

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

THE KINGBIRD (ISSN 0023-1606), published quarterly (March, June, September, December), is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need for conserving natural resources, and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas.

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INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE KINGBIRD* are \$18 to US addresses, \$23 to all others, annually on a calendar year basis only. Send orders to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

Send CHANGES OF ADDRESS, or orders for SINGLE COPIES, BACK NUMBERS or REPLACEMENT COPIES (\$5 each) to: Berna B. Lincoln, Circulation Manager, P.O. Box 296, Somers, NY 10589.

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THE KINGBIRD, P.O. BOX 296, SOMERS, NY 10589



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

Vol. 43 No. 3

September 1993

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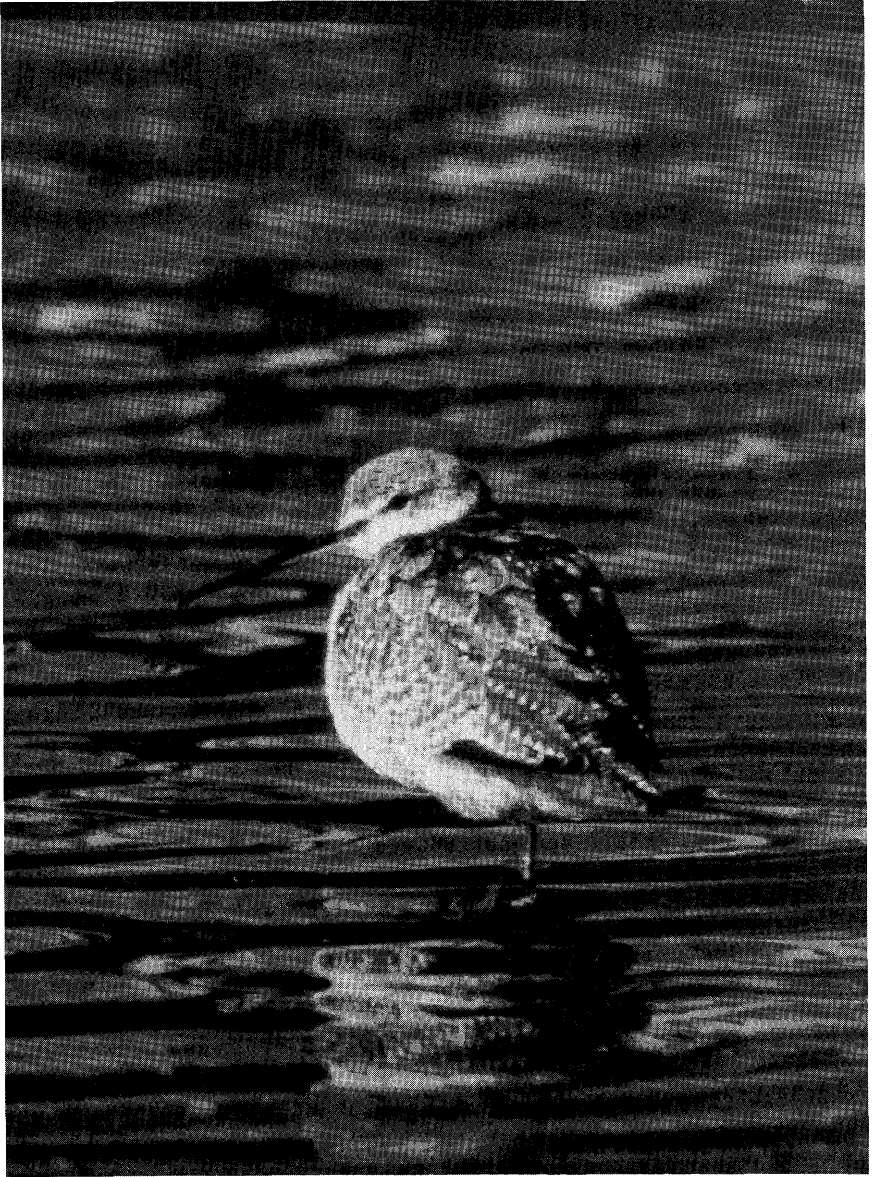


Figure 1. Spotted Redshank at Brooklyn, New York, 30 Jan 1993.
Photograph by Michael P. Gage.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK RARITIES 58: A SPOTTED REDSHANK WINTERS IN BROOKLYN

JOHN C. YRIZARRY

At approximately 3 PM on 6 December 1992, I stopped at an occasionally visited birding spot located at the northwestern corner of a rather grubby tidal estuary named Little Shell Creek near the junction of Avenue X and Knapp Street in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York. There, my wife and I discovered a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) with a group of five Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), all resting on a secured floating raft some twenty-five feet from shore. We were standing on a fifteen foot embankment at street level looking down and viewed the bird through a 30 power telescope for some ten minutes.

It was the leg coloring, a very intense orange-red that contrasted vividly with its yellow-legged cousins, that first caught my attention. The legs, which were in full view, appeared longer in proportion to its body than those of its neighbors, although this may have been an illusion due to what appeared to be a more compact body. Its head was tucked in when first viewed, its bill buried beneath back feathers. The part of the head that was not hidden showed the characteristic whitish extension of the eye-line past the eye, made more obvious by the deep, non-streaked gray crown, similar to a winter plumaged dowitcher. Looking at the yellowlegs for comparison, I noted that the white eye line on the latter ended in a white eye-ring, unlike the extended white line on this bird. These marks, together with the whitish underparts featuring varying amounts of dusky feather edging, made me speculate that we might be viewing a bird of some significance. Adding to my suspicion was its smaller size compared the yellowlegs, positioned as it was between a large female and smaller accompanying males. But it wasn't until some five minutes of studying the bird that it finally roused itself, opened its eyes fully and, suddenly alert, raised its head to give us our first full view of its diagnostic bill shape and color. The orange color at the base of the thin, dark bill with a sudden droop at the end confirmed its identity (Figs. 1, 2). A Spotted Redshank indeed!

We continued observing the bird for another 5 minutes, confirming the various characteristics that were apparent. Once it decided to return to its slumbering position, we raced for home — it was just about 3:15 p.m. We did not observe its final field mark, the all white back, because

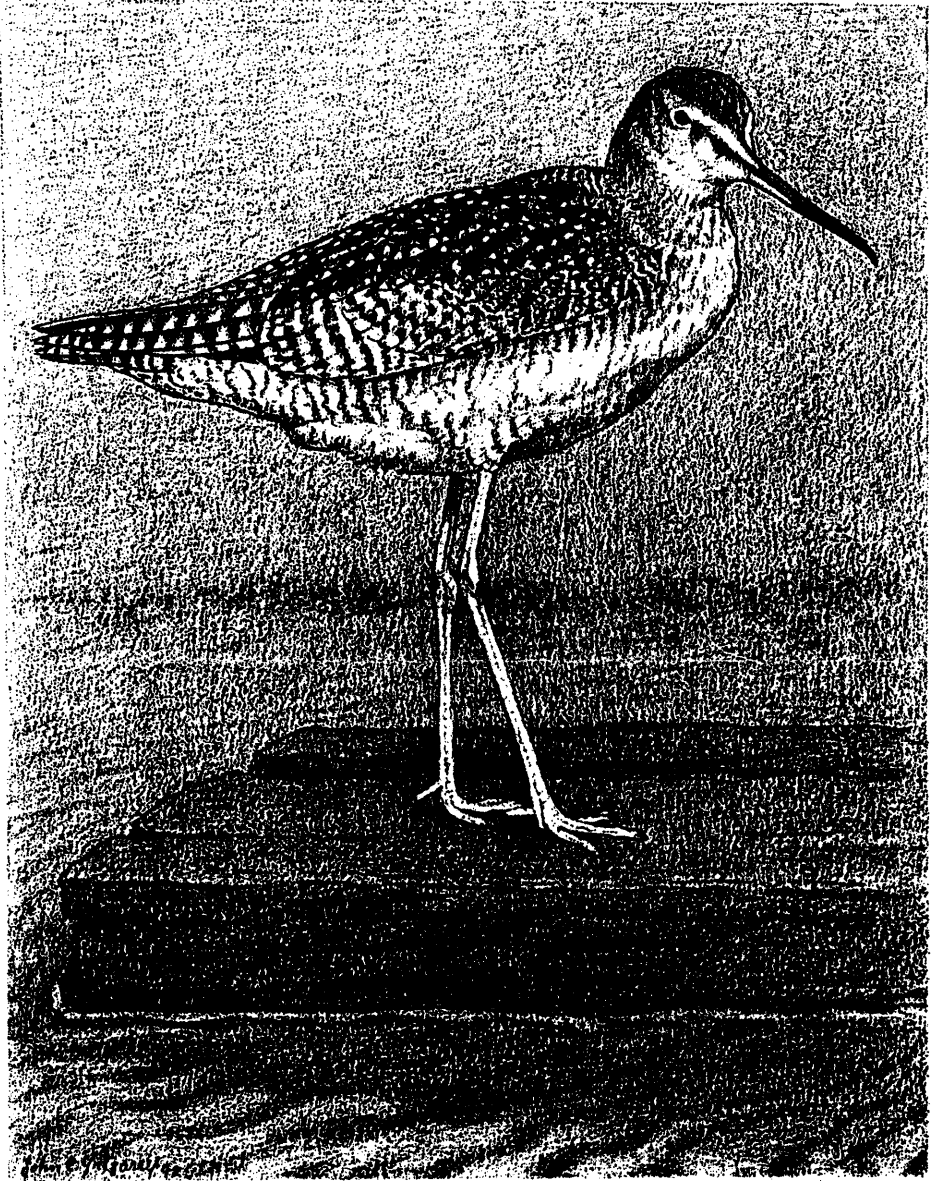


Figure 2. Spotted Redshank at Brooklyn, New York. Sketch by the author.

we felt that to disturb it and perhaps cause it to fly away before anyone else got to see it would be irresponsible, and what we had seen was diagnostic enough. Our telephone line buzzed as soon as we got home and by 3:45 PM or so, other birders were able to reach the scene before the winter light failed. Rick Cech raced out of the house with his camera but not his binoculars (his photos were good for the record but not too clear). Fortunately, when he got to the site, Howard Plimack was already there with his telescope and together they pin-pointed the bird. Louise Vaccoli and Paul Cohen were also able to get there before dark and saw it as well. Phone calls to others and the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge failed to reach anyone else that day.

The Spotted Redshank was seen briefly the following Tuesday, but further searching that week failed to turn up the bird. The following weekend was the great storm of 10 and 11 December and, at that point, it was assumed the bird had gone. Then, on a scouting expedition on the day before the Brooklyn Christmas Bird Count (which took place on 18 December 1992), Starr Saphir, ever hopeful, got the shock of her life when she spotted the Spotted Redshank at its original stomping grounds at Avenue X and Knapp Street. It was found again on the Count Day feeding on a mud flat at Plum Beach in Jamaica Bay. Brooklyn truly had a memorable rarity to report for the count! The bird has been accommodating, showing up at various feeding sites throughout Jamaica Bay and often roosting where it was first found, providing birders from all over the U.S. with a real goodie for their life and year lists. It was last reported on 18 March 1993.

This appears to be the first record of the Spotted Redshank from New York State. It is a shorebird of the Eastern Hemisphere, where it is found chiefly in marshy habitats. It breeds across northern Europe and Asia and winters in the Mediterranean countries and in southern Asia, rarely going south of the equator. It is a casual or very rare migrant in the Western Hemisphere, with observations clustered mainly in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada and on the Pacific coast, but scattered reports come from much of the interior of the United States and Canada. It has been many years since our last encounter with the Spotted Redshank. That occurred in the fall of 1974 while studying and photographing shorebirds in the Minsmere Reserve in England. No doubt as time goes on and the number of birders increases, this shorebird will be found more frequently. But that wonderful feeling of having discovered the unusual will always be with us and be long remembered.

22 Chester Court, Brooklyn, New York 11225

AN EPHEMERAL SHOREBIRD HABITAT AT CEDAR OVERLOOK BEACH, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

KEN FEUSTEL

Birders have long been accustomed to visiting the traditional areas on Long Island where shorebirds concentrate during fall migration. These locations include Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, the Line Islands in South Oyster Bay, the mud flats around Moriches Inlet, and the sod farms north of Riverhead. The late 1980's saw the emergence of Cedar Overlook Beach as a shorebirding area comparable to any of the established Long Island shorebirding localities. In the four year period 1989-1992, thirty-six (pending approval of Rufous-necked Stint by the New York State Avian Records Committee) species of shorebirds were recorded by birders at Cedar Overlook Beach. This article examines shoreline changes in the vicinity of Cedar Overlook Beach that resulted in the creation of ephemeral shorebird habitat, reviews the status of various shorebird species found at this location, and discusses the trends in beach erosion and accretion at Cedar Overlook Beach and how these trends impact shorebird populations.

Cedar Overlook Beach (hereafter "Overlook") and Cedar Beach are two ocean beach facilities owned by the Town of Babylon. They are located on the Jones Beach barrier strip between Jones and Fire Island Inlets (Fig. 1). Overlook consists of a pavilion and a 700 car parking lot. Cedar Beach lies west of Overlook and consists of a pavilion, marina, recreational facilities and a 500 car parking lot. A significant portion of the productive shorebird habitat lies east of Overlook on property owned by New York State and under the control of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). State and Town boundary lines are depicted in Figure 1.

If conditions are favorable and temporary pools of water are present at Overlook, shorebirds may be found roughly from a point halfway between Cedar and Overlook Beaches east to the Sore Thumb, a distance of about 1.4 miles. Additional details on the condition which are advantageous to birding this area are presented later in this article.

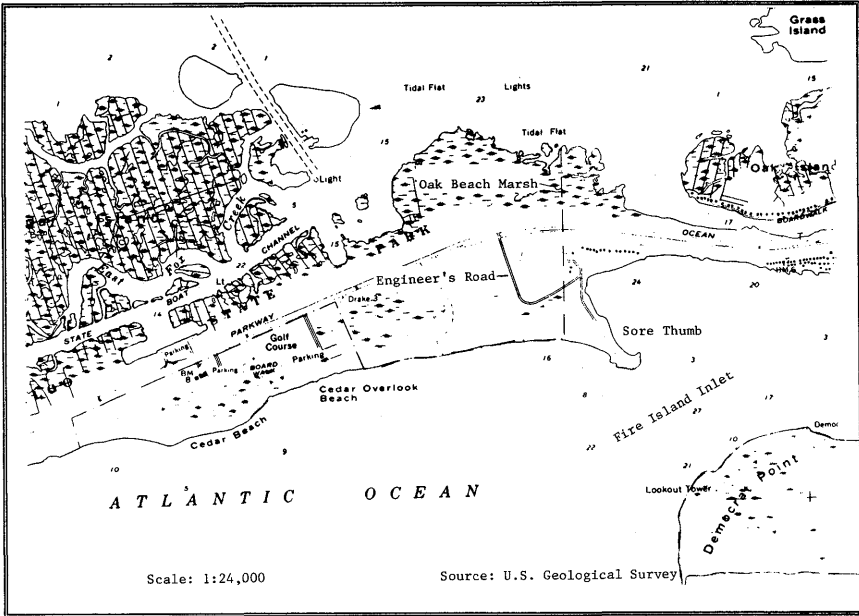


Figure 1. Location map of Cedar Overlook Beach and vicinity. Dashed lines indicate boundaries of New York State and Town of Babylon properties.

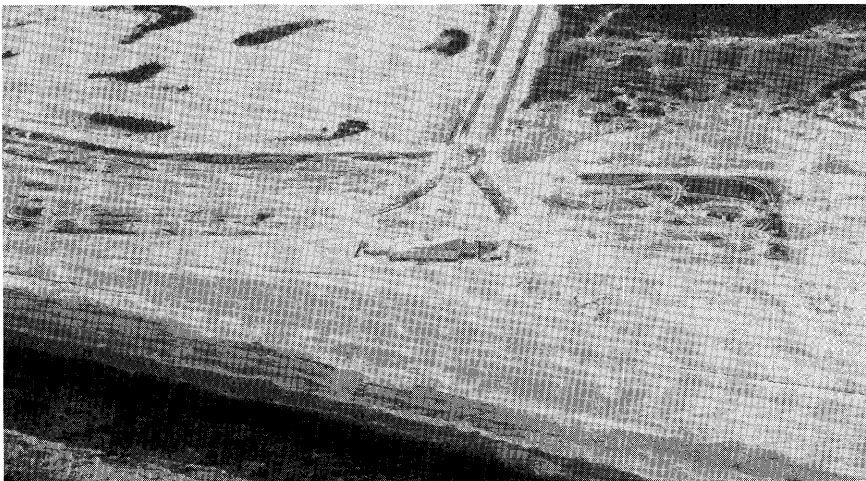


Figure 2. Erosion at Overlook Beach, looking north towards Ocean Parkway, January, 1977.

COASTAL PROCESSES IN THE VICINITY OF OVERLOOK BEACH

On the south shore of Long Island sand transport is generally from east to west. The four major inlets (Shinnecock, Moriches, Fire Island and Jones) act as sediment traps to moving sand. The entrance to Fire Island Inlet is marked by two federally built structures, the Democrat Point jetty and the Sore Thumb, which were constructed in an attempt to stabilize the Fire Island Inlet navigation channel. Between 1969 and 1977, Cedar Beach receded about 370 feet (Greenman-Pederson Assoc., 1979). This phenomenon was related to the presence of the Cedar Beach shoal, which formed a natural offshore breakwater protecting the beach immediately behind the shoal, but caused downdrift erosion. Figure 2 is a photograph of Overlook Beach taken in January of 1977. The high water mark in the photograph is some 100 feet from the Overlook pavilion and nearly reaches the southwest corner of the Overlook parking lot.

The Democrat Point jetty was completed in 1941 and the spur dike called the Sore Thumb was completed in 1959. While the Cedar and Overlook Beaches were experiencing localized erosion associated with the Cedar Beach shoal, the shoreline immediately west of the Sore Thumb was expanding. Sand that has bypassed Fire Island Inlet is fed to a nodal point to the west of the Inlet, which distributes the sand both east and west, with appreciable quantities arriving at the Sore Thumb (Greenman-Pederson Assoc., undated). In the period 1961-1980 the average low water datum shoreline change was +17 feet per year from the Sore Thumb to Cedar Beach (See Figure 3). Galvin (1984) noted that the right angle made by the axis of the Sore Thumb with the adjacent shoreline provided a relatively calm area where large volumes of sand accumulated. Galvin observed three factors contributing to sand accretion at Cedar Beach:

1. Westward movement of sand along the Atlantic Ocean shore bypassing Fire island Inlet.
2. Eastward transport of existing beach sand and beach fill from Fire Island Inlet dredging projects.
3. Sand trapping efficiency of the Sore Thumb.

This continual accumulation of sand during the period 1961-1980 did not result in creation of shorebird habitat. This would come a few years later during a period of rapid shoreline expansion.

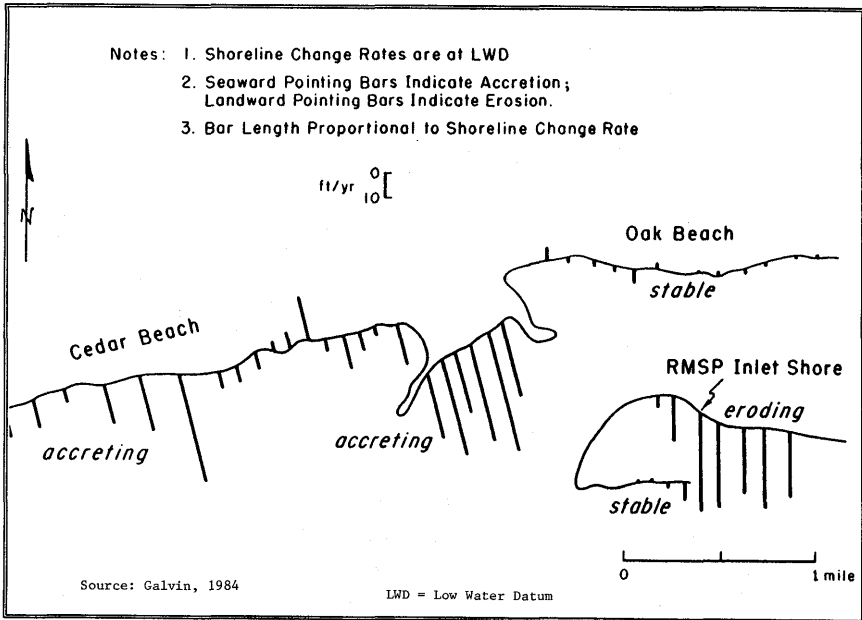


Figure 3. Shoreline change rates at Fire Island Inlet, 1961-1980.



Figure 4. Aerial photograph of Overlook Beach and vicinity showing the beginning of the formation of a second pond, September 1985.

In the early 1980's Fire Island Inlet's outer bar welded itself to the beach just west of the Sore Thumb. This bar rotated north and attached itself to the beach enclosing a fairly large pond (Greenman-Pederson Assoc., 1988). Subsequently, at least one additional bar formed and attached itself to the beach. The formation of the second bar in 1984 is illustrated in Figure 4. Note the pond to the east that was enclosed by the attachment of the first bar.

These events represented a substantial change in the sediment budget for the area and, in combination with sand moving easterly from Cedar Beach, caused a rapid prograding of the beach. A report issued in 1988 described Cedar Beach as probably having the distinction of "being the most rapidly accreting beach on the U.S. Atlantic ocean coast" (Greenman-Pederson Assoc., 1988).

POND FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The formation of the two coastal ponds between the Sore Thumb and Overlook in the period 1980-1985 marked the beginning of the development of mud flat and short grass tidal marsh that attracted concentrations of shorebirds. As the outer bars of Fire Island Inlet were pushed north towards the shoreline, they trapped ocean waters that were at a lower elevation than the beach face. These ponds and other associated depressions are flooded by overwash from the ocean during spring tides and coastal storms. Significant rainfall may also contribute water to the ponds. Depending on the frequency of flooding, the two main ponds swell or shrink, although even during periods of negligible overwash from the ocean the two ponds are never completely dry, suggesting that the ponds may be groundwater fed.

During stretches of frequent tidal inundation, the mud flats and ephemeral ponds were conducive to the growth of various species of algae. The evaporation of the shallow waters would expose the algal communities, attracting clouds of insects that would feed on the algae. The presence of these insects would, in turn, attract shorebirds. The growth and decay of the algal communities, in combination with development and exposure of benthic populations, contributed organic matter to the sand resulting in the creation of rich mud flats. Colonizing tidal wetlands vegetation, such as *Spartina alterniflora*, invaded the flats.

In terms of the age of the system, the oldest ponds and flats lie just west of the Sore Thumb. Unlike the two permanent ponds east of Overlook created by attachment to the shoreline of Fire Island Inlet's outer bars, the ephemeral ponds directly south and west of Overlook

were created by overwash from the ocean and represent more recent formations. Figure 4 depicts the establishment of mud flats (seen as dark areas) just north of the enclosed pond, which was the location where the first significant number and variety of shorebirds were noted by the author in 1988.

An additional pond was created north of the Sore Thumb in 1980 unrelated to sediment transport processes. At that time, the Town of Babylon was constructing the Cedar Beach pavilion. In order to elevate the structure above the reach of flooding from coastal storms and provide a firm foundation a source of beach sand was needed. An area just north of the Sore Thumb was excavated to below groundwater and the sand was used for the foundation of the Cedar Beach pavilion. The resulting permanent pond, locally called the Babylon Pond, has proven to be attractive to shorebirds, waders and waterfowl.

WEATHER

Weather is an important factor in the formation and continuing evolution of Overlook Beach. Daily high tides are generally not sufficient to cause overwash and filling of the swale behind the beach. Likewise, precipitation unaccompanied by high tides or coastal storms often fails to produce flooding of the swale, so what little water that does gather percolates so rapidly into the porous quartz sand that the flats often dry up a few hours after the rain ends. The best time to visit Overlook in terms of numbers of shorebirds is when the permanent and temporary ponds are full following a spring tide (when the sun and moon's gravitational pull are in alignment, near the time of the new and full moons) or after a coastal storm.

To what extent does inundation of the ephemeral ponds and other low-lying areas at Overlook increase the variety of shorebirds? In an attempt to answer this question the author reviewed data gathered for the International Shorebird Survey (ISS) from 1990 to 1992. The ISS data sheets request that the observer record the water level at the time of his or her visit. Since Overlook is not impacted by the daily tides the water level criteria for non-tidal sites was used. The four designations consisted of "Normal" (N), "Higher Than Normal" (H), "Lower Than Normal" (L) and "not observed" (X). For the purposes of consistency, "normal" was defined as the two permanent ponds being full, while "higher than normal" indicates that most the ephemeral ponds had water in them. "Lower than normal" signifies that the ephemeral ponds and mud flats were dry, and the two permanent ponds were diminished in size. In general, the same area was covered on each trip.

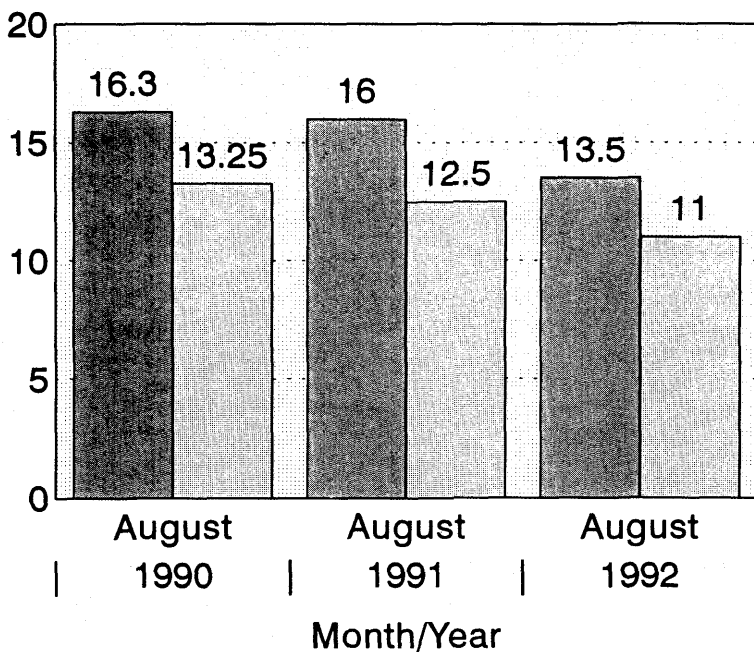


Figure 5. Water levels versus number of shorebird species at Overlook Beach, 1990-1992. Darker bars indicate years with higher than average water levels. Lighter bars indicate years with lower than average water levels.

Figure 5 illustrates three years of shorebird data recorded in August of 1990, 1991, and 1992 at Overlook Beach. These data compare the number of shorebird species recorded during visits when water levels in the ponds were both higher than normal and lower than normal. These data indicate that when the swale areas are full, the number of shorebird species has been higher by an average of three species over the three year period. This finding does not guarantee that birding Overlook when the ponds are full will result in the sighting of unusual shorebird species. As frequent visitors to Overlook can attest, the variety of shorebirds observed does not necessarily translate to rarity. One of Overlook's main attractions for birders is the variety of shorebirds that can be observed even when the overall numbers of shorebirds are low.

TIDES

Tidal movements in Great South Bay appear to play a role in determining shorebird abundance at Overlook Beach. Although it has not been thoroughly documented, many of the shorebirds arriving and departing Overlook appear to be flying to or from the Oak Beach marsh. The Oak Beach marsh lies north of Overlook just north of the Ocean Parkway (Fig. 1). The experience of many individuals who bird Overlook Beach suggests that when it is low tide in the Oak Beach marsh, shorebird numbers are generally low at Overlook. However, this phenomenon may not hold true if the ponds at Overlook are full. Therefore, if the ponds are full it is worthwhile birding the area anytime during the day. If the ponds and mud flats are dry it is best to come when it is high tide in the Oak Beach marsh. High tide in the Oak Beach marsh is approximately 2.5 hours after the high tide in Fire Island Inlet.

WIND

The development of the Overlook ponds and mud flats is also wind influenced. Winds deposit sand from the beaches into the tidal marshes and mud flats, covering shorebird feeding areas. Sand also builds up behind scattered pieces of beach debris, forming embryonic dunes. Once these dunes are colonized by beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), they tend to build upward and outward, channelizing the flow of flood waters into the remaining low-lying areas.

VEGETATION

The encroachment of tidal marsh vegetation on the mud flats and ephemeral pond edges has provided a variety of habitats for shorebirds. The common salt marsh plants in the low lying areas are Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), salt hay (*Spartina patens*), spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*), Chair-maker's Rush (*Scirpus pungens*), and Salt Marsh Fleabane (*Pluchea purpurascens*). In areas that have been disturbed by use of heavy equipment, such as directly in front of Overlook Beach, the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) has taken hold. The common flora found in the emerging dunes are dune grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) and Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*).

As wetland vegetation colonizes the mud flats, these areas become more attractive to certain species of shorebirds and less attractive to others. For example, Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper appear to favor open ponds with little or no vegetated edge. As plant communities became established around the edges of the ephemeral ponds at Overlook these two species have declined. In contrast, if the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is present, it often feeds in the short grass along the pond edges.



Figure 6. Red Phalarope in partial alternate plumage at Overlook Beach, June, 1992. Photograph by Tom Vezo.

SHOREBIRD STATUS

Overlook Beach offers good shorebirding from late May through October. June can be a productive time to visit Overlook following a coastal storm. In June of 1992 Ruff, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes (Fig. 6) were recorded at Overlook after passage of a storm front. In terms of numbers and variety of shorebirds, August seems to be the best month. September is the most reliable month for the "grasspipers", Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, which occur at Overlook in small numbers. Figures 7 and 8 are photographs of Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, respectively, taken at Overlook in August of 1992. Table 1 lists the status of shorebirds at Overlook Beach over the last four years. Birders should be aware that habitat modification can occur so rapidly at Overlook that certain species common in one year may be far less common the next if their preferred habitat has been altered or destroyed.

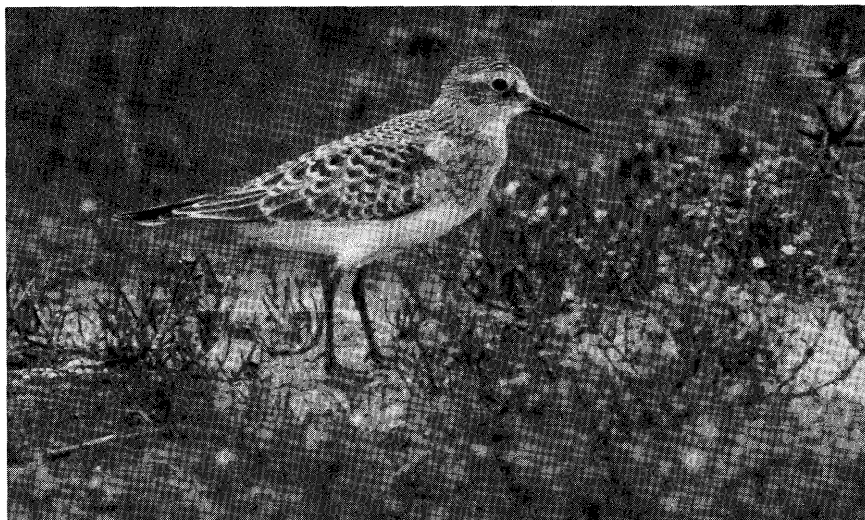


Figure 7. Baird's Sandpiper at Overlook Beach, August 1992.
Photograph by Tom Vezo.

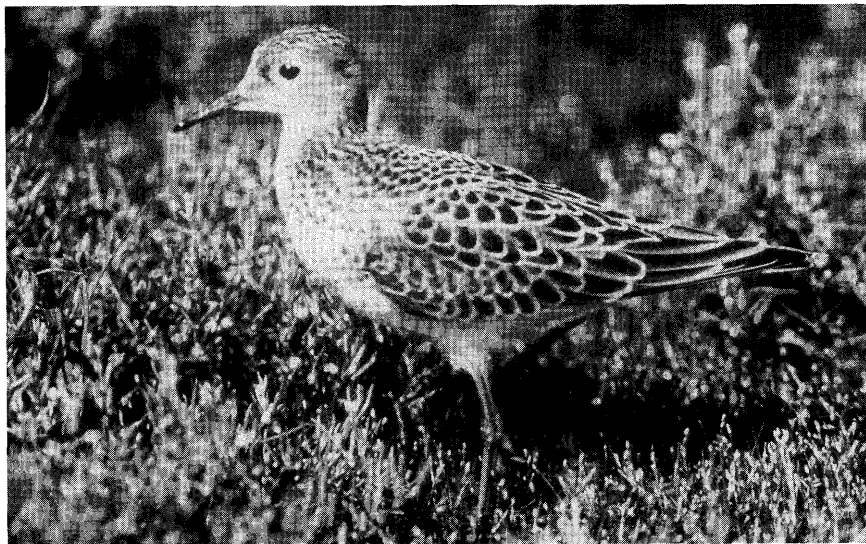


Figure 8. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Overlook Beach, August 1992.
Photograph by Tom Vezo.

TABLE 1. STATUS OF THE SHOREBIRDS OF OVERLOOK BEACH

Records were compiled from 1988 to 1992. Species nesting at Cedar Beach are indicated by an asterisk(*). Symbols for monthly abundance of each species are: C - Common = seen on most trips; U - Uncommon = seen on 50% of trips or less; O - Occasional = one or two records per month; R - Rare = one or two records.

SPECIES	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
American Oystercatcher*	C	C	C	U	
American Avocet		R	R		
Lesser Golden-Plover		O	O	O	U
Black-bellied Plover	O	U	C	C	C
Semipalmated Plover	O	C	C	C	C
Killdeer*	C	U	U	U	U
Piping Plover*	C	C	C	U	
Hudsonian Godwit		O	O	O	O
Marbled Godwit		R	R		
Whimbrel		U	U	U	O
Upland Sandpiper			R		
Greater Yellowlegs	O	U	C	C	U
Lesser Yellowlegs		C	C	C	U
Solitary Sandpiper			R		
Willet*		C	C	U	U
Spotted Sandpiper*	U	U	C	U	
Ruddy Turnstone		U	C	U	
Wilson's Phalarope		O	U		
Red-necked Phalarope	R		O		
Red Phalarope	R				
Common Snipe					U
Short-billed Dowitcher		C	C	C	U
Long-billed Dowitcher				U	U
Red Knot		U	U	U	U
Sanderling		U	C	C	C
Semipalmated Sandpiper		C	C	C	C
Western Sandpiper		C	C	C	C
Rufous-necked Stint			R		
Least Sandpiper	O	C	C	C	C
White-rumped Sandpiper		O	U	C	U
Baird's Sandpiper			U	U	R
Pectoral Sandpiper		U	U	C	C
Dunlin			O	U	C
Stilt Sandpiper		U	U	O	R
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			O	U	O
Ruff	R	R			

For visiting birders, it is best to combine a visit to Overlook with birding along the entire Jones barrier beach. If passage of a cold front occurs, a visit to the Jones "strip" in September may yield numerous passerines. Additionally, entrance to Overlook Beach is easier after Labor Day. There have not been sufficient records of the rarer shorebird species at Overlook Beach to discern a pattern. The two records for Ruff were on 11 June 1992 and 1 July 1990. A Rufous-necked Stint in high breeding plumage was observed on 9 August 1992. A second or possibly the same individual was observed from approximately 24 to 29 August 1992. American Avocet was observed at Overlook from 15 to 21 July 1990 and again on 12 August 1990.

Although the focus of this article is on shorebirds, other unusual avian species have been observed at Overlook Beach in the past four years. They include Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican, Little Gull, White-winged Tern, Sandwich Tern, Yellow Rail, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Kingbird, and Blue Grosbeak. Snowy Owl, Lapland Longspur and Water Pipit occur most years in October, November and December. Clearly, birding at Overlook Beach can be worthwhile regardless of the presence of shorebirds.

TRENDS

In the last two years the shoreline between Overlook Beach and the Sore Thumb has been rapidly eroding. Town of Babylon officials have indicated a loss of 800 feet of beach at Overlook from March 1991 to September 1991. What procedures, if any, were used to arrive at these figures are unknown. However, it is clear from even a simple visual inspection of the area that the ponds and tidal flats are narrowing as the shoreline moves north.

The factors responsible for this sudden reversal of beach building are the pressing of the Fire Island Inlet navigation channel against the Sore Thumb, causing the undermining and eroding of the structure. The deterioration of the Sore Thumb in turn causes the sand that had built up on the west side of the Thumb to be exposed to strong tidal currents. Erosion of the Sore Thumb is not a recent phenomenon. Galvin (1984) observed that the Sore Thumb had lost 193 feet of its southern tip by the early 1980's. Maintenance responsibility for the Sore Thumb lies with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The State has given no indication that it intends to repair the structure anytime in the near future, so that erosion of the Sore Thumb/Overlook area should be expected to continue.

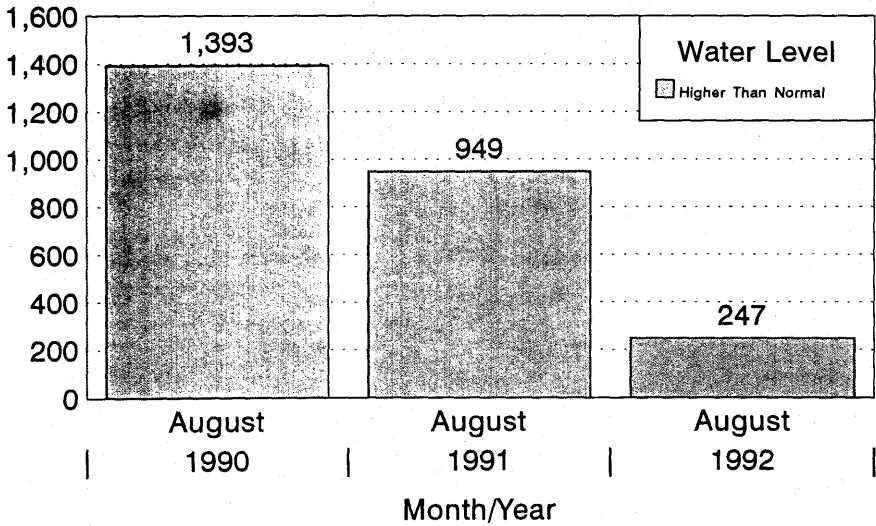


Figure 9. Numbers of shorebirds at Overlook Beach during August, 1990-1992

If shorebird habitat is being lost to shoreline recession, is this causing a decline in the number of shorebirds that are stopping at Overlook? In an attempt to answer this question the author once again reviewed three years of shorebird data submitted to the ISS. Figure 9 represents shorebird data recorded in August of 1990, 1991 and 1992 when water levels were higher than normal. The data for 1990 represents four trips taken during flooded conditions, while the 1991 and 1992 data represent 3 and 4 trips, respectively. These data indicate a clear decline in shorebird numbers at Overlook in the past three years. It is the author's observation that this decline is largely due to habitat loss caused by shoreline recession.

ACCESS

Overlook Beach is owned and operated by the Town of Babylon, and is open to Town residents only. After Labor Day Overlook Beach is normally closed. At that time, non-residents as well as residents can access Overlook by parking in the Cedar Beach parking lot and walking east on the boardwalk which connects the two facilities. The toll booth at Cedar Beach is not manned after Labor Day and this facility usually remains open (no parking fee) throughout the winter and into the late spring.

Access for birders wishing to visit Overlook Beach in the spring can still be gained through Cedar Beach until the Memorial Day weekend. During the months of June, July and August access to Overlook is usually denied to non-residents, although non-residents can enter Cedar Beach by paying a substantial parking fee. If birders are going to make a trip of any distance to visit Overlook Beach, it would be wise to consult local birders about the latest Town of Babylon access policies.

The Town of Babylon, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, recently set aside an area of approximately fifty acres between Cedar and Overlook Beaches to protect nesting sites of the Piping Plover. It is unclear at this time whether this will result in an easing of the Town's access policy toward non-resident birders.

The Jones strip, and Overlook Beach, can be accessed by any of the major north-south State parkways such as Meadowbrook and Wantagh Parkways and the Robert Moses Causeway via the Sunken Meadow (Sagtikos) Parkway.

Overlook and the Sore Thumb area is also accessible by four wheel drive vehicle by entering the "Engineer's" Road, which lies north of the Sore Thumb and directly south of the Ocean Parkway. Since the majority of property in this area is owned by New York State, a four wheel drive permit must be obtained from the OPRHP. For further information on obtaining a four wheel drive permit contact the OPRHP regional headquarters at Belmont Lake State Park (516-669-1000).

CONCLUSION

The current trends in coastal processes at Overlook Beach and vicinity do not bode well for its continued ability to attract shorebirds. Due in part to man's attempts to stabilize the Jones and Fire Island barrier

beaches, opportunities to observe the creation (and possible demise) of shorebird habitat are rare. At the same time, however, stabilization of these barrier beaches has given recreationists (including birders) easy access to this habitat. In the final analysis, birders should be thankful that, at least in this instance, man's coastal activities may have unwittingly played a positive role in the creation of shorebird habitat.

POSTSCRIPT

The winter of 1992-1993 was noteworthy for the number of storms that battered Long Island's coastal areas. Cedar Beach was on of the areas that was significantly impacted, to the detriment of birds and birders. The storms of December and March deposited large quantities of sand in the low lying areas behind the beach, limiting the ability of these areas to hold the water from storm induced high tides and rainfall. Additionally, the Town of Babylon filled the swale areas in front of Cedar Overlook Beach to discourage the formation of temporary ponds. These two factors, in combination with the lack of rainfall during the spring and summer of 1993, severely reduced the number and variety of shorebirds found at Cedar Beach. Nevertheless, it is still worthwhile to visit the area after the passage of a coastal storm that is accompanied by high tides and rainfall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to extend special thanks to Tom Vezo for his excellent slides of some of the more uncommon shorebirds seen at Overlook Beach. Thanks also go to Sue Feustel, Anne Ducey-Ortiz and Bob Grover for their review of the draft of this article and their helpful suggestions and comments.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE GULLS OF THE CAPITAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ERIC M. BLAIS AND CARL J. GEORGE

The Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), the Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), and the Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) are nearly perennial avian features of the Tri-City Region of New York. All depend to some degree on the dozen or so landfills of the region, the annual migrations of the Blue-backed Herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), and open waters maintained by hydropower dams and water falls in deep winter. But changes are underway: the landfills are closing; the Mohawk Barge Canal is shifting from commercial to recreational use, potentially impacting the movement of herring; greenhouse gases are increasing, with possible influence on climate; the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) appeared in the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers during 1990-1991; the construction of a major coal-burning power facility is planned for the region; and gulls are assuming the more sensitive role as disease vectors (Benton *et al.*, 1983; Butterfield *et al.*, 1983; Fenlon, 1983; Girdwood *et al.*, 1985). Coupled with the fascination inherent to the Laridae and the paucity of published accounts of this group in the Tri-City Region, this two-year study is both a comparative baseline and a contribution to the more general ornithology of the three species involved.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nineteen sites along the lower reaches of the Mohawk River and at its confluence with the Hudson River were surveyed (usually weekdays) fortnightly from January 1991 to January 1993: Rexford Bridge, Mohawk River Overview, Vischer Ferry Dam/Lock 7, the river view from Ferry Drive, Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, Wager's Bay, the bays at Clam Steam Marina, Crescent Boat Club, Mohawk River Reach west of the Route 9 bridge north of Long Island, Colonie Landfill, Crescent Pool, Crescent Dam-School Street Power Station Pool, Cohoes Falls, Cohoes Commons, 'The Waterfield' below the dam at Route 32, Waterford Flight, Champlain Barge Canal Locks 1 and 2, and the north end of Tomhannock Reservoir as viewed from the Troy Water Works. Tomhannock Reservoir serves more than one hundred thousand people of Troy and vicinity. These sites cover about sixty percent of the total surface of the the Mohawk River from Schenectady to the confluence with the Hudson River at Cohoes and Waterford, providing a reasonable sample of the daytime gull populations present in the lower Mohawk

River Valley. Surveys of Tomhannock Reservoir, as will be seen, allows estimation of Ring-billed Gull and Herring Gull numbers present overnight during the ice-free months.

At each site a standard form was used to list species, numbers, movements, interactions, and other behavior. Air and water temperature, percent cloud cover, visibility, wind direction and speed, precipitation, river levels, day length, time of sunset, and water surface action were also recorded. Binoculars (both 8x40 and 10x50), and spotting scopes (Bushnell Spacemaster 15-45x50 mm and Kowa 20-60x60 mm) were routinely used. The formal beginning of the survey followed a one year preliminary period during which we established the sites and methods.

With practice, the observers developed skill in counting by fives, greatly expediting estimation of large flocks. Regardless, an error of about ten percent was evident for larger numbers as based on a comparison of counts made independently by different members of the team. Counts at Tomhannock Reservoir were a composite of a flock estimate on arrival and direct counting of birds which mostly flew over the observation site. Arrival at Tomhannock Reservoir occurred from one half hour before to one half hour after sunset. Observation was concluded at last light as marked by the appearance of Jupiter and Venus. On cloudy evenings the corresponding time was estimated. Most arrivals were complete at these times.

Small numbers of Glaucous (*Larus hyperboreus*), Iceland (*L. glaucooides*), Lesser Black-backed (*L. fuscus*), Laughing (*L. atricilla*), and Bonaparte's gulls (*L. philadelphia*) were also found during the study period. They are not reported in this study.

This survey was done in conjunction with an ongoing daily survey of Collins Lake, Scotia, New York, located west of the study area.

RESULTS

Two complete years of data are presented. Site totals for all gulls, exclusive of Tomhannock Reservoir, provide a pattern for seasonal use of the rivers by gulls (Fig. 1A). Counts of gulls arriving at Tomhannock Reservoir for each survey date measure the size of populations present overnight during the warmer months (Fig. 1B). The two data sets complement each other and illustrate the same trends: There are few birds in January and early February (A), followed by a peak of more than nine thousand birds in late February and early March on the river sites (B). April through July are marked by a sharp decline (C) and then there is a steady buildup of birds to a peak in October for the river sites (D). Data for Tomhannock Reservoir corresponds but with smaller numbers overall, and gulls are absent during periods of ice cover and from mid May through early June.

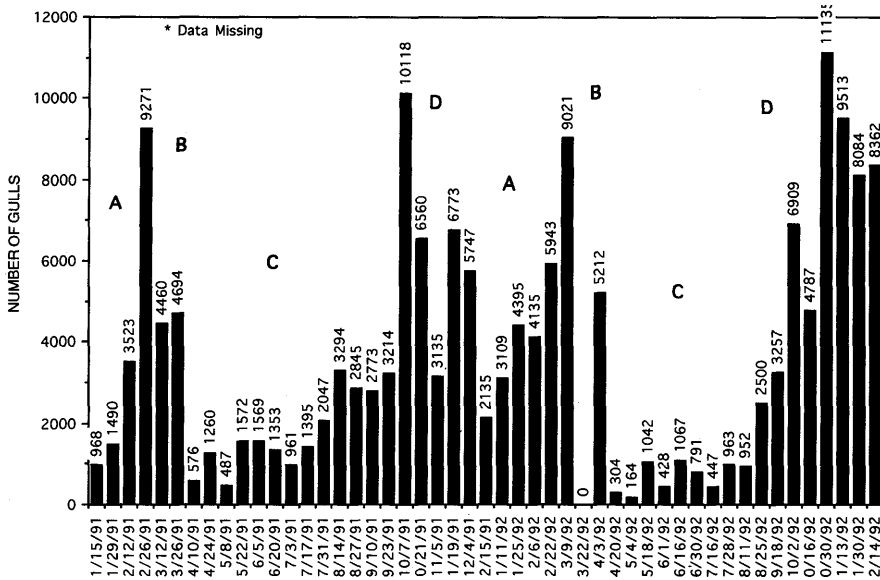


Figure 1A. Total number of gulls surveyed on the lower Mohawk River, Capital Region, New York, 1991-1992.

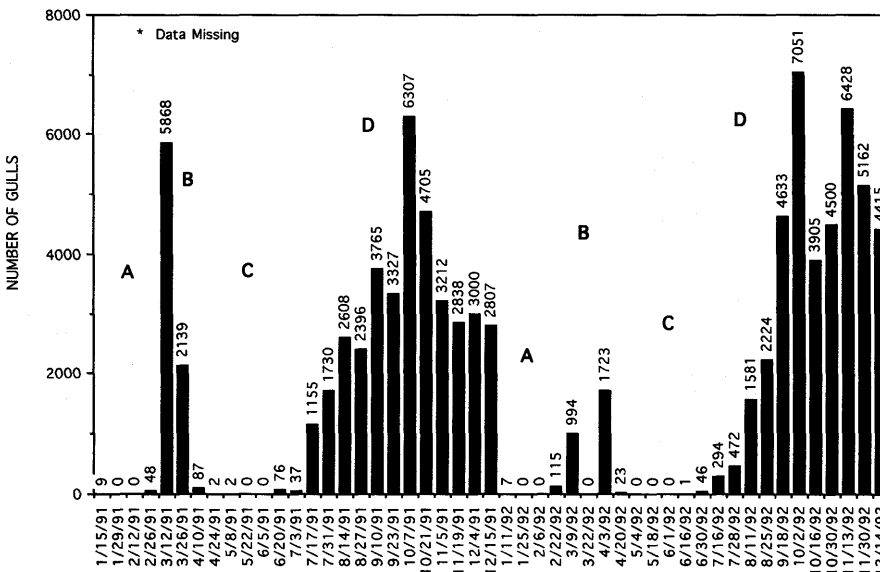


Figure 1B. Total number of gulls surveyed at Tomhannock Reservoir, Rensselaer Co., New York, 1991-1992.

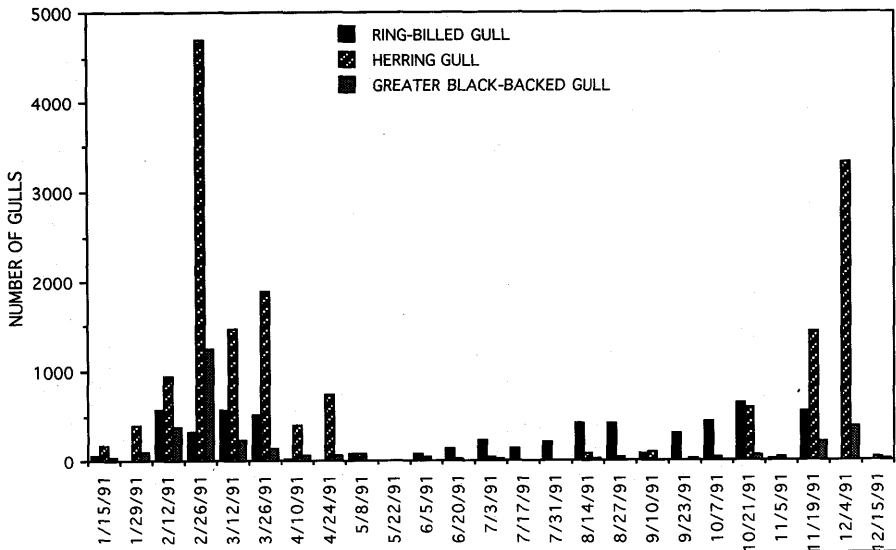


Figure 2A. Incidence of gulls at Crescent Pool-Colonie Landfill, Albany and Saratoga Cos., New York, during 1991.

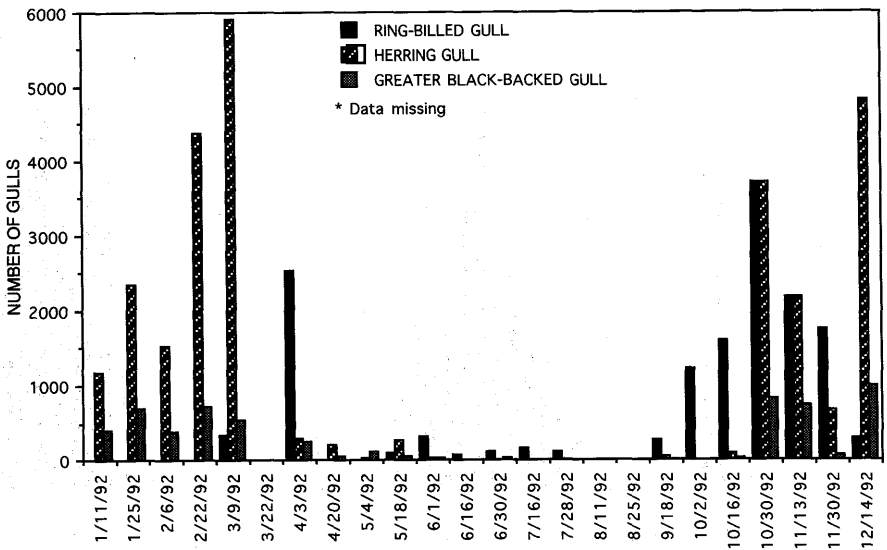


Figure 2B. Incidence of gulls at Crescent Pool-Colonie Landfill, Albany and Saratoga Cos., New York, during 1992.

Of the nineteen survey sites, we chose three to best describe seasonal trends. These have a large number of gulls and varied greatly over the year. Colonie Landfill and Crescent Pool, are combined to constitute a single data set because of their proximity and the continual movement of gulls between them. The third site, the 'Waterfield,' lies at the base of a power dam and often has many exposed perches. The two data sets differ greatly.

There are a large number of Herring Gulls at the Crescent Pool-Colonie Landfill from late January through early April with a peak occurring in late February. This is followed by a long summer hiatus. In early October there is a great influx, which persists until December. Most of the birds are Ring-billed (including juvenile birds) and Herring Gulls (Fig. 2A, 2B).

From January to early May there are relatively fewer gulls at the 'Waterfield.' During May and June there is a marked increase in the number of Great Black-backed Gull, followed by a large influx of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls from mid July until mid October. Herring Gull persists through November and December, while there is a sharp decline in the number of Ring-billed Gull (Fig. 3A, 3B).

In early May adult Blue-backed Herring begin to move up the Hudson and into the Mohawk River by lockage through the Waterford Flight and other locks. By the end of July juvenile herring, along with returning adults, begin their migration back to the Atlantic Ocean. The downriver movements continue into early October. The locks are closed for the winter in early December. As the Blue-backed Herring move down river, many of them pass through turbines of power dams where they are stunned and killed, providing the gulls with an easy meal.

Consistently, gulls of all three species depart eastwards from Collins Lake and other staging areas in the upper Mohawk Valley in the late afternoon to reassemble in staging areas in the lower reaches of the river. At sunset most gulls depart these sites northeastward towards Tomhannock Reservoir, where they arrive at the north end from the southwest and west. Inspection of our survey sites on the rivers at night using binoculars and spotting scopes usually reveal no gulls. The exceptions consist of Great Black-backed Gull perched on gravel piles and areas of base rock emerging from the water at 'The Waterfield' and the docks at the marina southeast of the Rt. 9 bridge. Very few Great Black-backed Gull spend the night at Tomhannock Reservoir.

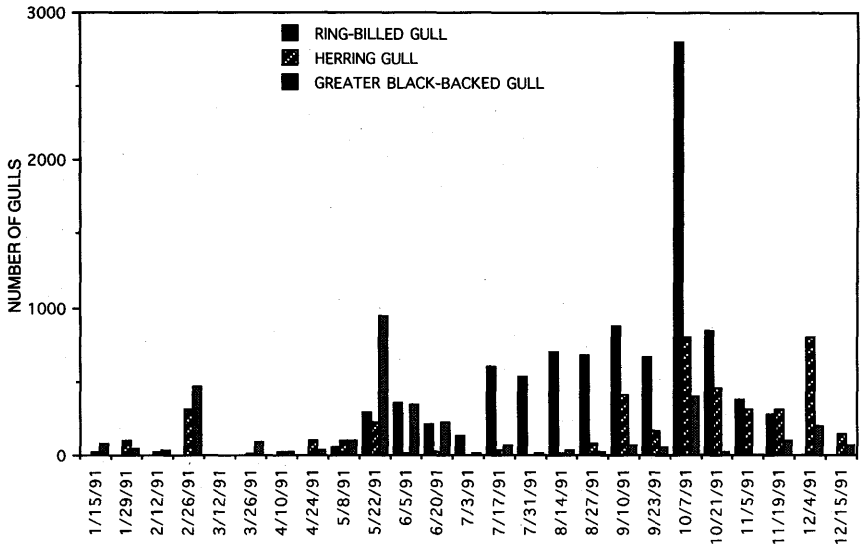


Figure 3A. Incidence of gulls at 'The Waterfield,' Albany and Saratoga Cos., New York, during 1991.

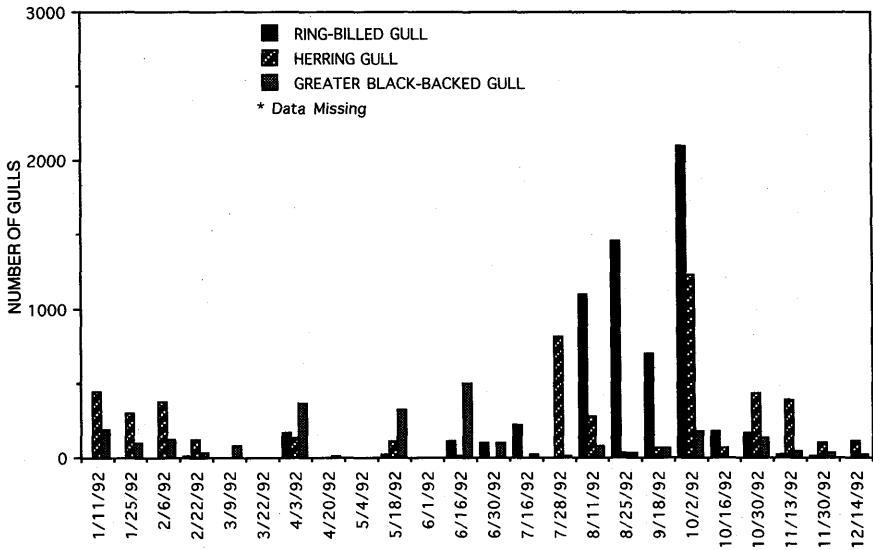


Figure 3B. Incidence of gulls at 'The Waterfield,' Albany and Saratoga Cos., New York, during 1992.

Gulls use the same flight corridor to arrive at the northwest end of the reservoir on an easterly bearing. In 1992 we noticed that there was also a loose column of gulls arriving low over the water from the northwest, and on two occasions we observed a third group of birds which drifted in from the northwest to join the primary group of birds. In any event, the gulls arriving from the west usually comprise at least ninety per cent of the gulls present.

Gulls arrive using either flapping or gliding flight. On days with little to no wind (except on very cold days) the gulls arrive in a high glide, apparently taking advantage of thermals at various staging areas in order to attain a height allowing them to glide to the reservoir. At 'The Waterfield', in particular, we observed the gulls thermalling upwards to several thousand feet and departing west-northwest, taking them directly to the reservoir; on windy days and cold days, regardless of direction, gulls arrive at the reservoir in a low flapping flight.

As the gulls arrive many flip and roll or make a series of quick, sharp banking turns, called *whiffling*, resulting in a dramatic flashing of the white undersides and a loss of altitude, and often followed by a return to their previous altitude. On windy days gulls at the downwind end of the raft lift and stream to windward, maintaining the position of the raft; *caterpillaring* is a descriptive term. *Snowflaking* occurs when the birds become tightly packed within the raft and explode upwards, at times to several thousand feet, swirling and wheeling, to resettle more loosely. Snowflaking is more frequent during warmer days early in their residency, when the gull raft is being reestablished (as if the birds are imprinting on the site).

DISCUSSION

There is an annual cycle of gull activity in the eastern Mohawk and northern Hudson valleys of New York State. Several factors contribute to the seasonal transitions of populations of the three numerically dominant species: passage to and from nesting areas, food, and weather, including ice cover.

January and February are marked by a near absence of gulls at Tomhannock Reservoir, yet there are 1,000 to 9,000 gulls in the region during this period. The rivers are ice-bound, except for a few places in the vicinity of power dams (e.g., Vischer Ferry, Crescent, School Street and Adirondack) which provide fairly large areas of open water. Tomhannock Reservoir is frozen except for one small opening maintained by waterfowl, and the gulls concentrate at the landfills and the open waters of the adjacent river: Niskayuna landfill-Vischer Ferry dam and Colonie landfill-Crescent Pool

The Colonie Landfill is near Crescent Pool and there normally is a great number of gulls moving between them. The landfill is an important feeding area for the Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls during the winter months. The smaller Ring-billed Gull apparently are unable to withstand the harsh winter conditions and to compete with their larger congeners, and they move to milder coastal areas along the seaboard.

During March and April there is a dramatic increase in the number of gulls at Tomhannock Reservoir, the result of two important factors: the reservoir thaws providing open water for overnight roosting, and Ring-billed Gull begins its spring migration from coastal areas to breeding grounds in the St. Lawrence Valley and the Great Lakes. This is illustrated at both 'The Waterfield' and Colonie Landfill-Crescent Pool. Ring-billed Gull numbers increase and fall off sharply as they move through the region.

Following passage of the Ring-billed Gull, there is period during late spring and early summer when few, if any, are found at Tomhannock Reservoir, although a significant number of immature Herring and Great Black-Backed Gulls remain in the region. This supports our vespertine observations in that a majority of the gulls that spend the night at the reservoir are Ring-billed Gull. The small number of Ring-billed Gull that do remain in the river valleys are immature birds.

During late May and early June there is an increase in the number of Great Black-backed Gull at 'The Waterfield'. This corresponds to the opening of the locks along the Mohawk River, which allows for the spring spawning migration of adult Blue-backed Herring. The closed locks cause the herring to pile up in these areas, making them easy prey for the Great Black-backed Gull and, to a lesser extent, the Herring Gull. There is a subsequent decline in the number of gulls found at the Landfill-Crescent Pool. The use of landfills as feeding sites is primarily a winter or cold-weather phenomenon.

From mid July to early October, there is a notable influx of gulls at Tomhannock Reservoir and the two river valleys. Most of the incoming birds are Ring-billed Gull returning from their breeding grounds, accompanied by juvenile birds. The presence of the newly fledged young probably accounts for the higher total number of Ring-billed Gull than earlier in the year.

Ring-billed Gull, as well as Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, tend to gather at the Waterfield and similar sites such as Cohoes Falls

and Crescent Dam/School Street Power Station, rather than at the Colonie Landfill-Crescent Pool, attracted by the fall migration of the young-of-the-year Blue-backed Herring. On their way back to the Atlantic Ocean the young herring must pass through the turbines of power dams where they are stunned or killed to benefit the gulls. We have observed the gulls feeding on herring on many occasions.

Late summer and fall is the time of year when upwards of 7,000 gulls arrive at Tomhannock Reservoir to roost overnight. A majority of these are Ring-billed Gull, but recently we have noted that a small percentage of the birds are immature Herring Gull. The resulting flocks congregate in tight rafts well away from shore. The presence of the immature Herring Gull may be dependent on the presence of older, more experienced Ring-billed Gull.

With the onset of winter the number of gulls in the river valley and overnight roosts at Tomhannock Reservoir declines. Decreasing temperatures push Ring-billed Gull to the milder coastal areas; the Mohawk River migration of the young Blue-backed Herring subsides and many of Great Black-backed and Herring gulls follow the fish southwards in the Hudson Valley (Smith 1985).

The majority of the gulls that remain in this region at the end of the calendar year, mostly Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, shift from areas providing access to Blue-backed Herring, and move to the landfills to join thousands of starlings and crows. With the freezing of Tomhannock Reservoir the remaining gulls are excluded and shift to the open waters of the Adirondack, Crescent, Vischer Ferry, and School Street Power Stations, and the cycle continues.

A central observation is that the gulls leave their feeding and resting sites along the rivers in mid to late afternoon and concentrate overnight in large rafts at Tomhannock Reservoir and the upper reaches of the Hudson estuary. Typically the daily regime involves a westwardly morning flight bringing them to feeding sites soon after dawn and an eastwardly flight in the afternoon back to regional overnight roosts. We wonder if other 'gullsheds,' such as those centering on Wachusett Reservoir and Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts experience a similar pattern of gull movements.

CONCLUSION

Two years of data characterize the cyclical movements of three gull species in the Capital Region in response to the seasons and the availability of food in landfills and the migrations of the Blue-backed

Herring. Featured is the diel movements of gulls between landfills and a major public water supply reservoir, conservatively nine thousand birds in 1991 and eleven thousand in 1992. Populations of the three species have grown dramatically from the time of W. W. Judd (1907), and it will be fascinating to follow the changes from this baseline inevitably linked to the closing of landfills and regional development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks are extended to Richard W. Casey, Commissioner of the Troy Water Authority, for permission to observe at the inlet area at Tomhannock Reservoir. We also extend appreciation to the manager and staff of the Colonie Landfill for their continued cooperation. Thanks are extended to Paul Lyons and Brad Blodget of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife for guidance on their gull populations. We are pleased to affirm the important observational assistance of John Torgan, Jeffrey Nield, David Wachtel, Cory Wheeler, Denis Blais, Jody Stollmack, Mark Bienstalk, Cheryl Bonica, Chris Kopach, Andrew Joachim, Carolyn Parker, Anne Moore, and many others. Without their help the surveys would have been impossible. Finally, we extend appreciation to Phu Lee and all others who helped with data processing.

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NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Figure 1. Vinaceous Morph Barn Owl at Pelham Bay Park. Photograph by Ellen Valle.

Wintering Vinaceous (Dark) Morph Barn Owl: The Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) is the third most common breeding owl in the New York City-Long Island region (Region 10). During the breeding season, it frequents and nests in abandoned buildings, old hollowed out trees and in salt marshes. During the winter months the Barn Owl commonly can be found in dense evergreen stands, vine entangled areas and abandoned or seasonal buildings in parks and residential areas. It is a year round resident at

Pelham Bay Park in The Bronx, New York City, where it has been recorded breeding in every season. During December 1991, a dark morph Barn Owl was discovered roosting in large evergreens behind the Pell Mansion. This dark morph is described by Johnsgard (1988. *North American Owls; Biology and Natural History*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.) as the vineaceous, ochraceous or orange-breasted phase. A description of this bird is:

The ventral side (underwing, chest, belly and throat) was rich orange-tan mottled with dusky spots. The face was a rich russet-wine color. The border of the facial disk formed an extremely dark brown ring. The dorsal side of the bird was rich brown on the back. The scapulars, tertials, primaries, and secondaries were almost completely gray, peppered with white spots.

Its sex could not be determined. Even though females sometimes are darker than males, even under normal circumstances plumage is an unreliable indicator of a Barn Owl's gender. This vineaceous Barn Owl was not seen after late March 1992. However, the following winter a dark Barn Owl was seen at Pelham Bay Park. This bird was not as dark as its predecessor. Did the vineaceous bird stay in the park and raise young, passing on the melanistic traits? Perhaps. However, in all the years I have been studying the Barn Owl, I have never seen, or heard of anyone seeing, one as dark as the individual reported here.

The Barn Owl is a cosmopolitan species with 47 races worldwide. The continental North American race, *T. a. pratincola*, is extremely variable in color but leucistic or melanistic extremes are quite rare and are not associated with geography or climate as in many other raptors (J. DeLatorre, pers. comm.). *T. a. pratincola*'s northern range limit extends from southern British Columbia in the west, east to extreme northeastern New York State, and along the coast to Massachusetts. The southern boundary is in eastern Guatemala. One of the darkest races, *T. a. guttata*, inhabits Scandinavia and western Russia and is very close in coloration to the individual here described from Pelham Bay Park. I do not suggest that this Barn Owl made a transatlantic flight, but ship assisted transport is not an impossibility. One of the busiest ports in the world is just a few miles away.

I would like to thank Mr. Julio De LaTorre for his discussion and comments on the sighting and the species which contributed greatly to this article.

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Northern Rough-winged Swallow nests in unused Purple Martin house: Our neighbor, A. M. Seymour, Jr., maintains a 12 hole martin house 16 km south of Canandaigua, N.Y., along the west shore of Canandaigua Lake in Ontario County. He notified me that a small strange brownish swallow was occupying their martin house, which had failed to attract martins for two years. When I examined the box from a canoe in the lake on 7 July 1992, I observed a Northern Rough-winged Swallow entering and leaving the center hole of three in the lower tier of openings. Another bird, obviously the other member of the pair, was annoyed at my presence as I paddled within 10 meters of the box. This behavior indicated that the birds were feeding small young. I returned to the area on 14 July. There was no activity around the martin house. On 3 October 1992 I helped Seymour lower the martin house. I collected the nest and observed that adjacent nest openings held smaller amounts of dried leaves and small sticks. The upper tier of openings also contained even smaller amounts of leaves. The main nest was 180 mm X 160 mm X 150 mm, loosely constructed and bulky. The base was made of Red and White Oak (*Quercus rubra* and *Q. alba*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) leaves; the outside bowl consisted of small twigs and leaf petioles, the inside bowl of grass culms and smaller twigs; pieces of bark and snail shells were worked into the mass. Small bird droppings were left at the edge of the nest bowl but no egg fragments or feather scales were present. There was a small amount of mammalian fecal matter in the nest bowl. The composition of the nest and the adjacent unfinished nests are similar to those previously described (Lunk, W.A. 1962. *The Rough-winged Swallow: a study based on its breeding biology in Michigan. Publication of the Nuttall Ornithological Club No. 4, Cambridge, MA*). In former years, this swallow has nested in fissures of loose shale cliffs not more than 30 m from the martin house. With the loss of Purple Martin from the area, apparently this pair decided to use the martin house instead of a shale fissure for nesting. Although Lunk describes many nest sites and describes an artificial tube to facilitate study of its life history, he wrote that, "no previously published accounts of Rough-wings nesting in any sort of deliberately placed artificial container..." were known to him. The possibility of enticing Rough-winged Swallows into man-made boxes, even somewhat removed from banks and cliffs seems to be worth further experimentation.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Relative to recent years, this was a strange, erratic spring. I thought that it resembled more springs of the early 1970s. The season's weather was about as uniform in pattern across the state as we can see. March began with a brief warm spell, followed by the Blizzard of '93 from 11 to 15 Mar, depending on location. The Blizzard brought heavy snows to all but Region 9, which experienced very heavy rains. This was followed by harsh cold which left most bodies of water frozen into April. April temperatures averaged normal to a bit below and precipitation totals were average in western Regions and very high in the southern and eastern Regions. May brought everyone generally warm, dry weather, with precipitation running a third to half the long-term averages. Superimposed on this general pattern were weather events, some very local, which brought bursts of migrants to some Regions in unusual numbers or at very early dates.

From the Arrival Date tables and the Regional reports, one can glean that migration patterns generally fit with these weather patterns as well as one might expect. Compared with either the baseline 25-year averages or the averages from the most recent six years of arrival date compilations, birds expected in March, particularly water birds, were late in arriving. One would expect also that many of the few birds which arrived in early in March or which had overwintered perished in the latter half of March. Much of April did not seem conducive to migration or to birding in many locales. Nonetheless, weather events brought a phenomenal burst of migrants to Long Island beaches on 10 and 11 Apr, a shot of early arrivals to Region 3 around 16 Apr, and a more widespread rash of very early arrivals between 20 and 24 Apr. Water bird arrivals for April generally were late, though less than half as late as in March, and land birds were on time in the first half of the month and early in the second half. May started warm, with many species arriving all at once. Several Regions reported a long period of clear, warm weather with most migrants simply passing overhead. In most Regions the migration petered out quickly and early. Relative to the date baselines, water bird arrivals averaged only very slightly late and land bird arrivals expected in the first half of the month were very early while those for the second half were about average. More of this date stuff later.

Waterbird Arrivals 1993

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

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

Spring Arrivals 1993

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

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
Tennessee Warbler	4 May	5 May	13 May	14 May	3 May	11 May	5 May	2 May	12 May	5 May	7 May
Nashville Warbler	28 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	1 May	1 May	1 May	2 May	1 May	30 Apr
Northern Parula	1 May	3 May	9 May	3 May	3 May	9 May	8 May	7 May	3 May	25 Apr	4 May
Yellow Warbler	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3 May	3 May	1 May	3 May	3 May	6 May	6 May	3 May	8 May	2 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	25 Apr	3 May	15 May	5 May	7 May	6 May	9 May	3 May	6 May	22 Apr	4 May
Cape May Warbler	3 May	3 May	1 May	9 May	5 May	14 May	11 May	2 May	5 May	30 Apr	5 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	29 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	1 May	1 May	17 May	26 Apr	2 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	29 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	24 Apr	27 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	3 May	30 Apr	26 May	7 May	3 May	2 May	3 May	30 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	4 May
Pine Warbler	15 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	5 May	16 Apr	24 Apr	12 Apr	29 Apr	17 Apr	6 Mar	16 Apr
Palm Warbler	24 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	17 Apr	20 Apr	1 May	3 May	18 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr	20 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 May	4 May	8 May	10 May	6 May	12 May	15 May	10 May	8 May	6 May	8 May
Blackpoll Warbler	30 Apr	11 May	14 May	20 May	8 May	6 May	1 May	10 May	7 May	6 May	8 May
Black-and-white Warbler	25 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	17 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	30 Apr	5 May	30 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	6 May	6 May	2 May	5 May	28 Apr	2 May
Ovenbird	3 May	30 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	1 May	1 May	30 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	24 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	6 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	20 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	8 May	11 May	31 May	22 May	9 May	22 May	21 May	15 May	15 May	23 May	17 May
Common Yellowthroat	2 May	2 May	16 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	3 May	5 May	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	29 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	11 May	3 May	1 May	26 May	10 May	12 May	13 May	9 May	7 May	6 May	9 May
Canada Warbler	5 May	7 May	15 May	8 May	8 May	14 May	2 May	11 May	8 May	2 May	8 May
Scarlet Tanager	5 May	5 May	8 May	3 May	3 May	7 May	3 May	6 May	3 May	11 Apr	2 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	4 May	1 May	3 May	25 Apr	12 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	4 May	8 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	9 May	6 May	22 Apr	23 Apr	3 May	11 Apr	29 Apr
Rufous-sided Towhee	16 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	15 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	4 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	9 Apr	14 Apr	8 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	26 Mar	8 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	4 Apr	7 Apr	24 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr	6 May		15 Apr	14 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	20 Mar	8 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	9 Apr	27 Apr	10 Apr		7 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	8 May	25 Apr	23 Apr	7 May	8 May		7 May			7 May	3 May
White-crowned Sparrow	28 Apr	24 Apr	2 May		24 Apr	1 May	11 Apr	4 May	12 May	24 Apr	27 Apr
Bobolink	30 Apr	5 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	6 May	1 May	28 Apr	7 May	1 May
Northern Oriole	1 May	2 May	3 May	25 Apr	3 May	3 May	4 May	3 May	26 Apr	1 May	1 May

Bold Regional Record Early

Italics Also isolated earlier report(s).

Let's now look in more detail at the major groups of migrants. Loons and grebes in general were noted in only average to low numbers. Red-necked Grebe was more widely reported than in most years, with observations from all Regions. The herons and other large waders produced few records of special note, with **Wood Stork** in Region 7 and **White Ibis** in Region 10 the most exceptional and Little Blue Heron in Regions 1, 3, 5, and 9 and Glossy Ibis in Regions 3, 7, 8, and 9 the most widespread of the rarer visitors. Many of the regularly breeding herons received comments on their scarcity. Waterfowl generally arrived late, mainly due to late opening of bodies of water, moved on quickly, and were noted in relatively low peak numbers. Diving ducks generally fared better than did the puddle ducks, though Canvasback and Redhead numbers continued **very low**. A major waterfowl event of the season was the exceptional numbers of Snow Goose west of their normal track in late March and early April, presumably due to frozen ponds and or flooding at their normal assembly points. However, the peak at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3 finally reached a credible 7000. Reports of Trumpeter Swan from Region 3, Greater White-fronted Goose in Regions 1 and 2, Eurasian Wigeon in five Regions, 300 Common Eiders at Montauk; and Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 5, 7, 9 and 10 were other waterfowl highlights. The Region 1 report applies the eraser to many life lists, as a Garganey seen there appears to be an escape from a nearby exotic waterfowl collection.

Weather timing left the major hawk watches at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill with modest totals, just over 40,000 with Derby Hill's total slightly higher, reminiscent of a 1970s pattern. The Mount Pleasant watch near Ithaca and the Coot Hill watch in the Adirondacks enjoyed very good seasons. Raptor notes of interest included record high counts for Turkey Vulture, Osprey nesting increasing in several Regions, Bald Eagle counts up, especially in Region 2, Northern Goshawk up a bit at the watches; **Swainson's Hawk** in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9; Rough-legged Hawk totals low and departing early; many Golden Eagle in Region 3. This was the year for listers to see their once-in-a-lifetime **Gyr Falcon**, with at least two in Region 1, three in Region 2, two in Region 6, and two in Region 7.

Both shorebird species totals and individual counts were generally low as cold set back early arrivals, high water erased most of the lake and river margin habitat, and a dry May evaporated the field puddles early. You will find "low" and "scarce" applied to these birds in all the

Regional reports. There were highlights: a very early **Piping Plover** in Region 2, accompanied by an equally early Sanderling, usually found there in late May; Lesser Golden-Plover in Regions 2 and 7; good counts for Semipalmated Plover; Willet in Region 2; Hudsonian Godwit in Region 10; Ruff in Region 2; and Wilson's Phalarope in Region 7. In addition, May ended with a very large fallout of Dunlin, Red Knot, and Ruddy Turnstone in Region 3. There are several previous, very high late May counts for these species Upstate. This was the best spring showing of Little Gull in years, with records in six Regions, but Common Black-headed Gull appeared only in Region 10. Ring-billed Gull nesting is increasing in Region 3. Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in seven Regions, Iceland Gull in five, but Glaucous Gull in only two. Caspian Tern arrived early, with fair counts in seven Regions. Common Tern reports generally went as expected in seven Regions; Forster's Tern was noted only Regions 2 and 3. Black Tern continues as a species in jeopardy, with even Region 6 reporting colony size reductions.

Passerine observations again had a preponderance of negatives, but most species received too little, or inconsistent, attention to deduce general trends. Many species received opposite assessments from neighboring Regions. Note particularly the comments in the Region 10 report on substantial differences between migration in the New York City area and on the eastern reaches of Long Island.

Among the flycatchers, arrival dates were typical to early, Eastern Wood-Pewee very scarce in Region 6, but Least Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird particularly high there. Yet Eastern Kingbird was flagged as low in Region 2. Purple Martin warranted serious concern in no less than seven Regions! The wren family usually receives little attention. There was little comment on Carolina Wren, at high levels last year, and Sedge Wren was a bit up with a total of four birds noted in Regions 3, 7, and 9. Thrushes elicited much concern, with Veery, Gray-cheeked, and Wood Thrush the scarcest, Swainson's Thrush mixed, and only Hermit Thrush more or less ok.

Vireos received little attention. Warblers received lots of attention and generated many negative comments. There were notes of local good migration mornings. Based on my own observations, I think that **local** should be strongly emphasized. Regions 4 and 9, particularly, noted the how continual sunny skies reduced avian fallout, yet Region 7 workers just to their north banded record numbers at the Crown Point banding station. The warbler species most generally called "low" were Nashville,

Northern Parula, Cape May and Palm Warblers, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Pine and Prairie warblers were noted in good numbers and Connecticut Warbler appeared in Regions 2, 3, and 6. Interesting contrasts included Magnolia Warbler up in Region 2, down in Region 6; Black-throated Blue Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4 and 6; Bay-breasted Warbler up in Regions 2, 6, 7, and 8, down in Regions 4 and 9; Blackpoll Warbler up in Regions 2 and 4, down in Regions 5 and 6; American Redstart really up in Region 2, down in Region 4; Ovenbird up in Region 6, down in Region 2; Wilson's Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4, 5, 6, and 8; and Canada Warbler up in Region 2, down in Regions 4 and 6. We have much to learn about local distribution patterns in migration. The Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler complex continued to show a pattern of swamping of the latter, and Brewster's type hybrids were noted in six Regions and the rarer Lawrence's type in four Regions.

Grassland sparrows continued their downward patterns of recent years. There was a large contrast in numbers between Regions 2 and 4 for Lincoln's Sparrow. Seven Regions expressed concern over the low counts for White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. Among the blackbirds, we find Western Meadowlark in Region 2; Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 4 and *four* in Region 5; **Brewer's Blackbird** in Region 9, but none reported in Region 2 for one of the few times since 1980 and just following an apparent nesting attempt in 1992; and red flags for Northern Oriole in several Regions. Few winter finches were noted anywhere, but all species except Hoary Redpoll were sighted. Red Crossbill nested in Region 1 and Pine Grosbeak was seen in Regions 2, 3, and 4, with apparent courtship behavior in Region 3.

Recognizing that these major groups aren't the whole story, let's now wander back through the checklist for additional notes of interest. The water bird list include Sooty Shearwater and **Brown Pelican** in Region 10 and **American White Pelican** in Regions 4, 5, 9, and 10. The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continues all over the State, with Region 6 noting the high count exceeding 10,000 and nesting extending to the Perch River Wildlife Management Area. Pheasants remain in trouble in most Regions, due to habitat loss and weather effects; Wild Turkey populations grow; Ruffed Grouse appears to be at a cyclical low in many areas; and Northern Bobwhite (most escapes, as usual) popped up in at least four Regions. As usual, rail comments were few, though **King Rail** was noted in Regions 2 and 9. Sandhill Crane observations

continue to increase, with reports spanning the date range late March through the season from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 6, and all these Regions reported multiple birds on at least one date. Cuckoo reports were generally low, particularly for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with the best counts for Black-billed Cuckoo in Regions 1 and 5. Owl aficionados will find good banding totals from Region 2, Northern Saw-whet Owl more widespread than usual, with reports from seven Regions; Snowy Owl departure dates from six Regions; and a **Northern Hawk Owl** tarrying to a record late date in Region 7. Both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will populations warrant continuing and increased monitoring. Chimney Swift should also move onto the level-of-concern gauge. Common Raven and Fish Crow continue to be found in their usual locales and to increase in numbers. We should keep watching Brown Thrasher carefully, but treat **Loggerhead Shrike** as a rare gem with only two noted this spring, in Regions 4 and 10.

As noted earlier, this was an erratic season, with burst of migrants at unusual times producing a sizable collection of record early dates and record high counts. The statewide record early dates include: Pectoral Sandpiper in Region 2; Barn Swallow in Region 10; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Region 4; and Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager, all in Region 10. There are many very early, near record dates and Regional early dates scattered through the Regional reports. Record high counts included: the Double-crested Cormorant (inland high) and Common Eider counts noted above; Sanderling (inland spring high) in Region 2; and Razorbill and Blue Grosbeak in Region 10.

As promised earlier, the arrival dates tables deserve a bit of commentary. Back at the beginning of the arrival date study and at intervals since, I have worried in these pages about biases in the original 25-year baseline data, caused by varied interpretation of editorial "mandates" which led to variable and inconsistent reporting. In my home Region 2, these concerns are well founded. The data gathered over the recent seven years differs significantly from the baseline numbers. However, looking at the averages over the ten Regions for the six years (1987-1992) species by species, overall for water birds, land birds, and all birds, there are only six of the 93 species

Arrival Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	90	0.0	-2.5
Region 2	93	1.1	-2.9
Region 3	90	1.9	0.8
Region 4	79	-0.7	1.7
Region 5	91	-0.7	-1.3
Region 6	88	-3.2	4.5
Region 7	92	-4.4	4.7
Region 8	80	0.4	2.3
Region 9	81	-0.3	-2.5
Region 10	82	-0.4	-4.8

Seasonality measures the average difference (in days) between this year's arrival dates and the long term average dates for the *same* Region. *Advance* measures the average difference between this year's arrivals dates in one Region and the arrival dates averaged over all ten Regions. Negative values mean early.

tracked for which the recent six-year baseline differs by more than 2 standard deviations (as derived from the six-year data) from the comparable number in the 25-year-baseline table. There remain all sorts of concerns and biases, such as missing data, species or whole Regions; varying Regional editors' decisions relative to deciding whether a bird had overwintered or just arrived; and whether obviously very late apparent "arrivals" are meaningful data. Apparently averaging over all ten Regions smooths out these difficulties. In addition to the general comments on early and late periods for arrival this year, there were a large number of species at dates at least 2 standard deviations different from the six-year averages, of which 15 were early and 6 were late. All six late arrivals were water birds. Two of the early arrivals were water birds, the rest were land birds, scattered across families. I encourage the reader to browse the date tables and note things like the tight arrival date period for many species, such as Eastern Wood-Pewee arriving in six Regions with on 8 May, five Regions each with the first Nashville Warbler on 1 May and Chestnut-sided Warbler on 3 May. In contrast, many species have wildly erratic dates across Regions and even between adjacent Regions. What do these data tell us? Are there bits of

useful information here, or is this all just a for-fun compilation? Even a cooperative project as simple as this one takes thought and care on the part of *all* contributors and participants.

After this attempt at a serious analysis, a review of the best of the rarities provides a fun conclusion. There are many this season. By region we have **Gyr Falcon**, **Least Tern**, and **Harris's Sparrow** in Region 1; **Ruff**, **Gyr Falcon**, **King Rail**, **Piping Plover**, and **Western Tanager** in Region 2; **Little Blue Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Swainson's Hawk**, and **Swainson's Warbler** in Region 3; **American White Pelican**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Region 4; **Black Vulture**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, **LeConte's Sparrow**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in Region 5; **Gyr Falcon**, **Varied Thrush**, and **White-eyed Vireo** in Region 6; **Glossy Ibis**, **Wood Stork**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Little Gull**, **Northern Hawk Owl**, and **Worm-eating Warbler** in Region 7; **Glossy Ibis** and **American Swallow-tailed Kite** in Region 8; **American White Pelican**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **King Rail**, **Summer Tanager**, and **Brewer's Blackbird** in Region 9; and **Magnificent Frigatebird**, **White Ibis**, **American Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Wilson's Plover**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Townsend's Warbler**, and **Painted Bunting** in Region 10. As outstanding as many of these rarities are, the B.O.T.S Award could only go to the **White-tailed Eagle** observed by many over **Derby Hill** in Region 5.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in **boldface** in the introduction to each report and in **UPPER CASE boldface** type in the species accounts; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in **UPPER CASE** letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr — arrival or first of season; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; *intro* — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. - Northern; 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; W. - Western; WMA — Wildlife Management Area; y — young.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

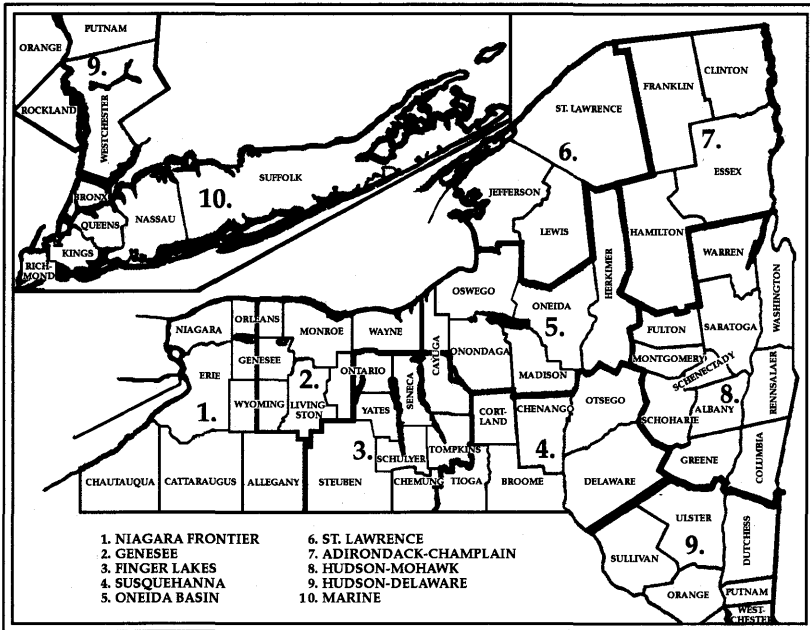
Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

REPORTING REGIONS



Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, *except at:*

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties: the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia, NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County: the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County: the boundary is NY Route 31.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

GERALD R. RISING

This was more like it: a "real winter" March followed by an up and down transition through April and a very pleasant May. Temperature means with departures from historic averages provided by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo are: March 31° F (-3°), April 47° F (+2°), and May 57° F (+1°). Similar figures for precipitation are 3.0 inches (0), 2.6 inches (-3), and 1.8 inches (-1.4). Locals called March the first winter month in years, and although we were only on the western edge of the Blizzard of '93 on 13 and 14 Mar, Buffalo and Jamestown still received over 17 inches of snow to help make the month's total of 29 inches third deepest in March history. Mid March was also bitter cold, the temperature dropping below 0°F on 12 and 19 Mar, rare events here despite Buffalo's generally unwarranted reputation. Then, on 20 Mar the temperature rose to remain above freezing through most of April. In one upward burst it even reached 81°F on 15 Apr. This would have been good news except that it produced widespread flooding along Tonawanda Creek, including the wildlife refuges. Although the temperature fell to freezing levels on several nights in April, the only deep dip was on 27 Apr, when it dropped to 25°F, a record low and the season's last frost. Dry weather that commenced the last week of April continued through the whole month of May. Even the deluge on the last day of May and which tripled the month's precipitation total brought it up to only a little more than half of average.

This weather was a mixed blessing for birders. The blizzard may have forced the over 700 Snow Goose (predominantly blue morphs) seen visiting fields in the Town of Somerset near Lake Ontario from 28 Mar to 3 Apr westward from their normal flight line between Chesapeake Bay and the St. Lawrence River and on north. But, on the other hand, the poor weather set back March arrival dates an average of five days. Probably only part of this represents a retarded migration. Birders simply didn't venture out. April arrivals averaged on target and the fine weather of May pushed average arrivals ahead a day.

As always the Region-wide Buffalo Ornithological Society counts on 4 Apr and 16 May (each with over 200 participants) produced many arrival dates and maxima that may not represent true migration highs. These counts do give a snapshot of the entire Region. Only results of the

May count have been separated from the overall count, which extends into Canada, and then for just four years. Therefore, no definitive conclusions may be drawn about population trends. Even so, the totals suggest concern about declines among flycatchers, thrushes and vireos. In addition to the continuing counts in Williamsville Glen, this year 20 minicensus routes in western New York were covered by individual birders who recorded birds in their own chosen area many times during the migration season. An overall total of 279 approximately hour long censuses were taken. While these counts do not provide many records for this report, they are helping us to see how birds are distributed across the Region rather than just at birding hot spots. Among other things they suggest that a passerine migration peak occurred here on 7-9 May. In general, however, the migration was flat with birds never bunching up. I have never seen so many singletons in species counts. (Interested readers may contact me for detailed results and procedures.)

Records of note include the **Harris's Sparrow** that wintered in the Town of Yates and lingered through at least 20 Mar. A **Little Blue Heron** visited the Tiff Nature Preserve 19-22 Apr, the only spring record I can find of this species that occasionally wanders to this area in the fall. A Garganey, a beautiful European teal, appeared in the Tonawanda Game Management Area in mid April, but apparently this bird (and a Whooper Swan seen nearby) escaped from an area collector during the March blizzard. The **Gyr Falcon** continued in the Town of Yates until 6 Mar when it was last seen by Michael Davis, Michael Galas and Chuck Rosenberg (!), establishing another season first. The drowning of Golden-winged Warbler genes by Blue-winged Warbler continues, as suggested by the May Count results. Almost as many hybrids (four: three Brewster's type, including one back-cross identified by Bert Schweigert as WwSpp, and one Lawrence's type) as Golden-winged Warbler (5) on the count against 106 Blue-winged Warbler. It is hard to believe that in the 1930s and 1940s Golden-winged Warblers outnumbered Blue-wings in this Region. On 19 Mar Elizabeth Brooks snowshoed into the State Forest Land in the Town of Ward to look for the Red Crossbills that had been attempting to nest there. Taking up her account: "In an area of red pines approximately 150 yards from the nest, I discovered a young Red Crossbill calling and begging for food. About five minutes later an adult crossbill flew in, silenced the young bird, and flew off. I believe this is the first confirmed evidence of breeding in Allegany County."

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Abbreviations: BHSF – Bryant Hill SF; BISP – Buckhorn Island SP; BOS – Buffalo Ornithological Society; BOSAC – BOS April Count, 4 Apr; BOSMC – BOS May Count, 16 May; BS – Burgeson Sanctuary; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; GINF – Goat Island NF; GHSP – Golden Hills SP; INWR – Iroquois NWR; McCHSF – McCarty Hills SF; NF – Niagara Falls; NR – Niagara River; PtB – Point Breeze; TNP – Tiff Nature Preserve; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA.

Spring reports: Com. Loon: arr T Celoron 26 Mar (TS, LOB, SM);

max 68 BOSMC. **Horned Grebe:** arr 29 Celoron 8 Mar (RSu). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr E Aurora 1 Apr (LH); max 29 GHSP and Shadigee 8 Apr (WDA, BP, mob); one BOSMC, late. **Eared Grebe:** one DH to 6 Mar (BEJ, BJJ). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 113 BISP 13 May (WW). **Am. Bittern:** max eight BOSMC 16 May. **Least Bittern:** arr one TNP 1 May (RBr). **Great Blue Heron:** max 374 BOSAC. **Great Egret:** arr TWMA 17 Apr (WW); max five BOSMC. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** *intro*. **Green-backed Heron:** max 34 BOSMC.. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr two DH 27 Mar (JG); max 90 NF 10 Apr (WW). **Tundra Swan:** arr 15 Lackawanna 7 Mar (DD); max 50 Jamestown 9 Mar (CB). **Mute Swan:** only records one TNP 29 Apr-6 May (WW) and five PtB 3 May (WL). **Greater White-fronted Goose:** only record one BS 15 Apr (KJ), third record for CHAU. **Snow Goose:** *intro*. **Brant:** one T Kiantone 20 Mar (BSe, PJ); three NF 12 May (WDA), recorded in only three of the previous seven springs. **Canada Goose:** max 32663 BOSAC. **Wood Duck:** max 351 BOSAC. **Green-winged Teal:** max 59 BOSAC. **N. Pintail:** max 518 BOSAC. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 69 BOSMC. **N. Shoveler:** arr three BISP 20 Mar (BC); max 14 BOSAC 4 Apr. **Am. Wigeon:** arr Celoron 2 Mar (RSu); max 164 BOSAC 4 Apr. **Canvasback:** max 430 BOSAC. **Redhead:** max 22 Celoron 8 Mar (RSu). **Ring-necked Duck:** arr seven Celoron 8 Mar (RSu); max 815 BOSAC. **Greater Scaup:** max 342 BOSAC. **Lesser Scaup:** max 237 BOSAC, an additional 946 unspecified scaup recorded on that day. **Oldsquaw:** max 159 BOSAC. **Black Scoter:** only record two ORLE BOSAC. **Surf Scoter:** only record three DH 13-27 Mar (mob). **White-winged Scoter:** max 211 BOSMC. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 594 BOSAC. **Bufflehead:** max 517 BOSAC. **Hooded Merganser:** arr T Stockton 20 Mar (FR, ABu); max 548 BOSAC. **Com. Merganser:** max 3277 BOSAC. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 976 BOSAC. **Ruddy Duck:** arr and max seven Oak Orchard WMA 9 Apr (WW).

Turkey Vulture: arr E Aurora 16 Mar (LH); max 1989 BOSAC. **Osprey:** max 11 BOSMC 16 May. **Bald Eagle:** max migrating three T Hamburg 24 Mar (FR). **N. Harrier:** max 28 BOSAC. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 93 BOSAC. **Cooper's Hawk:** max 28 BOSAC. **N. Goshawk:** max two T Ward 1 May (EB), other reports from their Southern Tier breeding range through the period. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr T Carrollton 1 Mar (SE); max 431 T Hamburg 30 Mar (FR, mob). **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr T Hamburg 13 Apr (RA, mob); max 810 T Carlton 30 Apr (WL). **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** one T Westfield 2 May (LDF, JL, JS), details still being reviewed. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 595 BOSAC. **Rough-legged Hawk:**

max 49 BOSAC; last T Somerset 8 May (WW, WDA). **Golden Eagle**: first of three reports T Ripley 22 Mar (JL); last T Hamburg 7 Apr (RA!, mob). **Am. Kestrel**: max 193 BOSAC. **Merlin**: last one overwintering Buffalo 17 Mar (DS); arr T Yates 3 Apr (WDA, mob); max two BOSAC. **Peregrine Falcon**: arr T Yates Apr 8 (WDA!, mob); last T Wilson 6 May (DR!). **GYRFALCON**: *intro*. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: max 34 BOSAC. **Ruffed Grouse**: max 28 BOSAC. **Wild Turkey**: max 155 BOSAC. **Com. Moorhen**: max 14 BOSMC. **Am. Coot**: max 64 BOSAC 4 Apr. **SANDHILL CRANE**: arr three T Ripley 30 Mar (JL, LDF, LP); last five T Westfield 16 Apr (JL, LDF, LP, HN). **Semipalmated Plover**: max 31 BOSMC. **Killdeer**: max 504 BOSAC. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max eight BOSMC. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max seven BOSMC. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max 12 BOSMC. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 84 BOSMC. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr three T Pomfret 22 Apr (TM). **Whimbrel**: only record Bemus Pt 23 May (RSu). **Ruddy Turnstone**: only record three BOSMC. **Red Knot**: only record 35 PtB 28 May (WL). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 20 BOSMC. **Least Sandpiper**: max 72 TWMA and T Yates 15 May (WW, WDA). **Purple Sandpiper**: four NF until 17 May WDA). **Dunlin**: arr six TWMA, T Yates and T Porter 15 May (WDA); max 33 BOSMC. **Stilt Sandpiper**: only record one BOSMC. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr 51 TWMA and T Yates 15 May (WDA); max 64 BOSMC. **Com Snipe**: max 40 Jamestown 13 Apr (TM). **Am. Woodcock**: max 14 BOSMC. **Little Gull**: last NR 14 Apr (GB), max four. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr two Celoron 27 Mar (RSu); max 4400 NR 12 Apr (GB). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: last Celoron 28 Mar (RSu). **Glaucous Gull**: one PtB to 28 May (WL). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 177 Celoron 4 Mar (RSu). **Caspian Tern**: max 40 Barcelona Harbor 24 Apr (TM). **Com. Tern**: max 106 BOSMC. **LEAST TERN**: one L Erie near Irving 18 May (JG!). **Black Tern**: max 16 BOSMC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 21 BOSMC. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr two BOSMC. **Snowy Owl**: last two BOSAC. **Com. Nighthawk**: arr T Sheridan 6 May (C&RBu). **Whip-poor-will**: only report one T Elma 12 May (RC). **Chimney Swift**: arr three Amity L 18 Apr (VP), early; max 305 BOSMC. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 193 BOSMC. **Belted Kingfisher**: max 64 BOSMC. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr two T Conewango and GHSP 8 May (BSc, WW, WDA), earlier wintering birds also recorded; max 12 BOSMC. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: max 13 BOSMC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 82 BOSMC. **Downy Woodpecker**: max 394 BOSAC. **Hairy Woodpecker**: max 110 BOSAC. **N. Flicker**: max 200 BOSMC. **Pileated Woodpecker**: max 27 BOSMC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr T Cold Spring 15 May (RSc, TBa). **E. Wood-Pewee:** arr two T Hamburg 8 May (MT), early; max 27 BOSMC. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr two BOSMC. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR 15 May (WW). **Willow Flycatcher:** max 14 BOSMC. **Least Flycatcher:** max 72 BOSMC. **E. Phoebe:** max 229 BOSMC. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 97 BOSMC. **E. Kingbird:** max 233 BOSMC. **Horned Lark:** max 200 T Lockport 6 Mar (MG, CR) and 200 T Kiantone 20 Mar (BEJ, BJJ, JO). **Purple Martin:** max 488 BOSMC. **Tree Swallow:** max 1712 BOSMC. **N Rough-winged Swallow:** max 459 BOSMC. **Bank Swallow:** max 498 BOSMC. **Cliff Swallow:** max 101 BOSMC. **Barn Swallow:** max 2127 BOSMC. **Blue Jay:** max 1376 BOSAC. **Com. Raven:** max six BOSAC and BOSMC. **Black-capped Chickadee:** max 1708 BOSAC. **Tufted Titmouse:** max 72 BOSAC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 54 BOSAC. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 275 BOSAC. **Brown Creeper:** max 24 BOSAC. **Carolina Wren:** max 15 BOSAC. **House Wren:** max 244 BOSMC. **Winter Wren:** arr one T Hamburg 8 Apr (LH, MRu); max five BOSMC. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 40 BS 10 Apr (TM); last migrant GINF 13 May (WDA). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr T Machias 11. Apr (BSC), no peak counts reported. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max eight BOSMC. **E. Bluebird:** max 124 BOSMC. **Veery:** max 64 BOSMC. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr two BOSMC. **Swainson's Thrush:** max 11 BOSMC. **Hermit Thrush:** max 24 BOSMC; last migrant TNP 22 May (WW). **Wood Thrush:** arr one TNP 18 Apr (MD!), very early; max 209 BOSMC. **Am. Robin:** max 8691 BOSAC. **Gray Catbird:** max 669 BOSMC. **N. Mockingbird:** max four BOSMC. **Brown Thrasher:** max 31 BOSMC. **Am. Pipit:** arr T Yates 20 Mar (WDA, mob); max 181 BOSAC. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 2500 PtB 24 May (WL). **N. Shrike:** last Orchard P 20 Mar (MZ).

White-eyed Vireo: arr GINF 5 May (WDA, BP), only two other singles seen. **Solitary Vireo:** max 39 BOSMC; last migrant GINF 21 May (DR). **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max 10 BOSMC. **Warbling Vireo:** max 91 BOSMC. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr GINF 10 May; max eight BOSMC 16 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 228 BOSMC. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr T Sheridan 2 May (C&RBu), *intro*. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr two GHSP, T Great Valley 9 May (WDA, BP, BSc), *intro*. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type arr T Busti 3 May (S&SA), three other Southern Tier records, *intro*. Lawrence's type Allegany SP 9-30 May (BSc, mob). **Tennessee Warbler:** arr one Jamestown 4 May (RSu); max 39 BOSMC; last T Tonawanda 29 May (PH). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** only one TNP 15-16 May (BP, DDT). **Nashville Warbler:** max 18 BOSMC 16

May. **N. Parula**: max three GINF 6 May (WDA, BP, mob). **Yellow Warbler**: max 927 BOSMC. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 178 BOSMC. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr six BS 25 April (AR), very early; max 86 BOSMC. **Cape May Warbler**: max 17 BOSMC. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr one Buffalo 29 Apr (LSc, DH); max 32 BOSMC; last migrants nine GINF 27 May (DR). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr two TNP 15 Apr (WW); max 201 BOSMC. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 69 BOSMC. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 50 BOSMC. **Pine Warbler**: max three TNP and T Pomfret 21 Apr (LH, MSa, TM); last T Cold Spring 13 May (RSu, BW). **Prairie Warbler**: arr E Aurora 27 Apr (LH!); max six BOSMC. **Palm Warbler**: max 12 BOSMC. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 64 BOSMC. **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr TNP 30 Apr (CS, PB!), two weeks early; possibly the same one GINR 4 May (WDA); max 11 BOSMC. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr one GINF 3 May (WDA, DR); max 12 BOSMC. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 20 BOSMC. **Am. Redstart**: max 223 BOSMC 16 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: arr Pt Gratiot 15 May (C&RBu). **Ovenbird**: max 200 BOSMC. **N. Waterthrush**: max 21 BOSMC. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr T Carrollton 16 Apr (SE); max eight BOSMC. **Mourning Warbler**: arr one BHSF 8 May (BC), early; max 18 BOSMC. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 600 BOSMC. **Hooded Warbler**: arr three T Sheridan and GINF (C&RBu, DR); max 79 BOSMC. **Wilson's Warbler**: max five BOSMC; last three NF 29 May (DR). **Canada Warbler**: max eight BOSMC; last BISP 29 May (WW).

Scarlet Tanager: max 91 BOSMC. **N. Cardinal**: max 649 BOSAC. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 369 BOSMC 16 May. **Indigo Bunting**: max 122 BOSMC. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max 109 BOSMC 16 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 446 BOSAC; two BOSMC, late. **Chipping Sparrow**: arr 26 BOSAC; max 687 BOSMC. **Field Sparrow**: arr GHSP 8 Apr (WDA, mob), earlier single wintering bird; max 84 BOSMC. **Vesper Sparrow**: max three T Wilson 11 Apr (WDA, mob), increasingly rare. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 81 BOSMC. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr T Clarence 14 May (MG, CR, mob); max six BOSMC. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr and max two T Clarence 14 May (MG, CR, mob). **Fox Sparrow**: arr T Pomfret 27 Mar (TM); max 24 BOSAC; three BOSMC, late. **Song Sparrow**: max 1228 BOSAC. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max two TNP and Times Beach 9 May (WW, MG, mob). **Swamp Sparrow**: arr five BOSAC, two earlier wintering birds; max 84 BOSMC. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 61 BOSAC; last migrant PtB 27 May (WL). **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 141 BOSMC. **HARRIS'S SPARROW**: *intro*. **Dark-eyed Junco**:

max 1332 BOSAC. **Lapland Longspur:** max 11 T Porter and T Yates (WDA, MT, WG, mob); last four T Somerset 20 Mar (WDA, mob). **Snow Bunting:** max 475 T Yates and T Wilson 6 Mar (MG, WDA, mob); last 118 T Freedom 21 Mar (BSc). **Bobolink:** max 757 BOSMC. **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 10801 BOSAC. **E. Meadowlark:** arr two T Hamburg 25 Mar (WDA, mob); max 144 BOSMC. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr ten E Aurora and T Westfield 26 Mar (LH, WDA, mob); max 228 BOSAC. **Com. Grackle:** arr two Lackawanna 7 Mar (DDT); max 7568 BOSAC. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 1915 BOSAC. **Orchard Oriole:** arr T Somerset 8 May (WDA, WW); max three BOSMC 16 May and T Yates and T Somerset 23 May (WDA). **N. Oriole:** max 508 BOSMC. **Purple Finch:** banded 175 T Alfred 1-31 Mar (EB); max 264 BOSAC. **House Finch:** max 3236 BOSAC. **Red Crossbill:** *intro*; last three McCHSF and T Ward 16 May (EB, BSc). **Pine Siskin:** max 97 BOSAC. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 1861 BOSMC. **Evening Grosbeak:** max seven BOSAC, continuing very low numbers. **House Sparrow:** max 1976 BOSAC.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

Some residents may have expected a mild start to the spring season. Such was not the case. In fact, the early part of the season was fairly difficult on the birds present here. March temperatures were more than 4° below average at 30°F. Temperatures fluctuated throughout the month with low temperatures in the middle of the month and higher temperatures coming at the end of March. Snowfall early in the month caused the closing of area schools and businesses. Totals for March were nearly three times normal. This made birding rather difficult at times, but did cause birds to congregate at area feeders. Measurable precipitation for the month was only slightly above normal at 2.44 inches. April reversed the trend. The average temperature was a degree above normal at 46°F. The middle of the month produced some very unseasonable temperatures when readings reached 80°F. Precipitation was less than half an inch above normal at 3.07 inches. May's mean temperature was about average at 56.6°F. Some warm days early in the month produced some good birding days. May was dry with precipitation totaling 1.24 inches, nearly an inch and a half below normal.

The migration got off to a slow start with the cold and snow at the beginning of March. Many days saw wintry blasts of cold air from the north. Some of the early migrants were delayed. The migration continued to be slow in the first days of April as the cold conditions seemed to persist. Migrants pushed through anyway. By mid month things had picked up a bit. The May migration took an interesting twist this year. The lakeshore, which normally hosts the good early concentrations of May migrants, struggled a bit. Inland locations, within a 2 to 3 miles of the lake, seemed to be more productive. Isolated lakeshore locations had good numbers of migrants, but they were not widespread. Some observers felt that it was one of the better migrations in recent years. This again seemed to depend on the location. As is always the case, there was much variation in abundance and distribution of species during the season.

Loon and grebe totals were off a bit, and Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe were very scarce. Red-necked Grebe did not appear in as high numbers as they have recently. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were good, but not much higher than last year. High waters around their roosting trees may have had some affect on their abundance or visibility. Herons and egrets were unremarkable. Bitterns,

Green-backed Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron were scarce, although the latter seemed to arrive early. There were few wanderers, with only scattered reports of Great and Cattle Egret. It was a good spring for Snow Goose, which was reported along Lake Ontario in unprecedented numbers. Observers speculated that the high waters in the Finger Lakes may have driven them in our direction. Spring Brant reports, in May as usual, were normal. Duck numbers were average to below average. The local fishing derbies also seem to push waterfowl farther out on the lake. Diving ducks, such as Oldsquaw and scoters, seemed to stay away from the shore and were spotted by birders who also went fishing. Waterfowl highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose and Eurasian Wigeon.

The highlight of the raptor season was the multiple reports of **Gyr Falcon**, with at least three separate individuals found. The Braddock Bay hawk watch was once again under the direction of Brett Ewald. The total number of raptors recorded for the season was 40,816. Three species had record high counts for the season, including a few birds from June. Turkey Vulture totaled 6585 individuals and Bald Eagle totaled 106. The single **Gyr Falcon** there was a first, so it also set a record high. Bald Eagle also had a record high single day count with 13 on 30 Apr. A **Swainson's Hawk**, a dark morph immature Broad-winged Hawk on 12 May, four "Kriider's" Red-tailed Hawk, and an albino Red-tailed Hawk on 5 Apr, a partial albino on 9 Apr, and a dark morph Red-tailed Hawk on 7 Apr were other highlights at the hawk watch. Owl numbers were fairly typical. Good numbers of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls were recorded at Braddock Bay. The Braddock Bay Owl Banding Project under the direction of Jason Franz banded a site record 72 Long-eared Owl this season. Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls were found presumably nesting in Bergen Swamp late in the season.

Rails seemed typical even with the high waters, but coot and moorhen numbers appeared to be low. A major surprise was the **King Rail** seen and heard at Brush Creek in Hamlin on 31 May. Sandhill Crane reports were back to recent levels this spring with multiple sightings. Shorebird habitat was only marginal. Hogan Point had some good standing waters late in the season and North Hamlin Road also had some habitat, but these were exceptions to the rule. Good totals were recorded for Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot. Black-bellied Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Upland Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher were scarce. In low but fairly typical numbers were Whimbrel and Western Sandpiper.

Highlights included **Willet**, **Ruff** and early Sanderling and Pectoral Sandpiper. The best shorebird of the season was a **Piping Plover**. Little Gull numbers were good. There were few reports of late white-winged gulls. The only rarity was a Lesser Black-backed Gull. The usual early Caspian and Forster's Terns were seen but numbers were mediocre for most species. Black Terns may have difficulty with the high water levels.

The Wild Turkey success story continues, with good numbers and new sighting locations. Ring-necked Pheasant and Ruffed Grouse totals were down. Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will numbers were quite low. Red-headed Woodpecker continues to be of concern. It now seems to go unrecorded as a migrant along the Lake Ontario shore these days. The only reports for the Region come from a few scattered individuals. Cuckoo numbers were low, with Yellow-billed being very scarce. Flycatcher numbers for the most part were stable.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher numbers seemed to be up a bit and Eastern Kingbird seemed to be down. Acadian Flycatcher was reported from scattered locations around the Region. Purple Martin was late and low in numbers, but the other swallows seemed typical. Kinglet totals seemed good, as did Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Brown Creeper appeared to be down just a bit. The thrushes were represented by good numbers of Swainson's and Hermit Thrush, but the others continued in low totals. Gray Catbird was reported in good numbers, but Brown Thrasher reports were sparse. Loggerhead Shrike was not reported, but a very late Northern Shrike was a highlight.

White-eyed Vireo reports were up and Philadelphia Vireo reports seemed down. Area observers generally commented that warbler numbers were better this year than last year, but totals continue to be alarmingly low. Species on the down side included Golden-winged, Cape May, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Most other warbler totals seemed good, with Pine Warbler more abundant than usual. Recorded in very good numbers were Blue-winged, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, and Bay-breasted Warblers, and American Redstart. Highlight species included Yellow-throated, Prairie, Prothonotary, Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers.

A **Western Tanager** was a highlight. Scarlet Tanager numbers remained low and Rose-breasted Grosbeak numbers also seemed a bit off. Sparrows received a mixed report card. Vesper and Grasshopper

Sparrow reports were only fair. Henslow's Sparrow was scarce. Fox Sparrow arrived late and numbers were down somewhat. Lincoln's Sparrow was numerous and it seemed to persist longer. The general consensus was that both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were fewer in number this season. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was another highlight. A Western Meadowlark at Braddock Bay was a good find. Brewer's Blackbird went unreported for the first time in recent years. Northern Oriole seemed to be down in numbers, while the Orchard Oriole remained very local in distribution. There was no real finch movement, with only a scattering of Pine Siskin reports and one Pine Grosbeak sighting. Where are the Evening Grosbeaks?

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay; CHP - Cobb's Hill Park; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; DLP - Dewey-Latta Park; HB - Hamlin Beach; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; PtB Point Breeze, RS - Russell Station; WL - West Lakeshore (Lake Ontario w Rochester).

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** last three off DEP 12 May. **Com. Loon:** arr Greece 8 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** last two HB 9 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Webster 28 Mar, max 35 Hamlin 4 Apr (BS). **Least Bittern:** arr WL 15 May. **Great Egret:** arr BB 8 Apr. **Cattle Egret:** one-two PtB 10, 11, 20 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr RS 17 Mar (BM), early. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one Hamlin 3-4 Apr (MD), one Hamlin 11 Apr (BM). **Snow Goose:** max 715 WL 27 Mar (MD), last PtB 28 May (RMc, FS), late. **N. Pintail:** last BB 29 May. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Hamlin 6 Apr (MD, SH). **Oldsquaw:** max 300 WL 6 May (PS), good late total. **White-winged Scoter:** max 150 WL 6 May (PS), good late total, last BB 24 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last K 23 May. **Bufflehead:** last Manitou 20 May. **Ruddy Duck:** arr BB 30 Mar.

Turkey Vulture: max 1542 BB 16 Apr; *intro.* **Osprey:** max 64 BB 4 May. **Bald Eagle:** max 13 BB 30 Apr; *intro.* **N. Harrier:** max 143 BB 16 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 749 BB 30 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk:** max 94 BB 7 Apr. **N. Goshawk:** max 7 BB 19 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr three Manitou 26 Mar, max 196 BB 7 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk:** max 8092 BB 30 Apr; *intro.* **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** one BB 20 Apr (BE), now almost annual there. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 404 BB 9 Apr; *intro.* **Rough-legged Hawk:** max 56 BB 28 Apr, last there 11 May. **Golden Eagle:** arr Greece 28 Mar (BM), max seven BB 9 Apr. **Am. Kestrel:** max 305 BB 16 Apr, good total. **Merlin:** max three BB 20, 30 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon:** max two BB 6 May. **GYRFALCON:** gray imm BB 9 Mar (BE); gray ad Hamlin 25 Mar - 5 Apr (mob). **SANDHILL CRANE:** max three BB 19 Apr (JD, EE), other singles in Apr and May. **KING RAIL:** *intro.* **PIPING PLOVER:** one IB 21 Apr (BM, mob). **Lesser Golden-Plover:** two Hamlin 25 Apr (CC), uncommon in spring. **WILLET:** one Hogan Pt 23-24 May (MD, JS, DT, mob). **Upland Sandpiper:** arr three BB 16 Apr. **Whimbrel:** max six Hogan Pt 24 May (RMc, RO'H), unusual in spring. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr two CH 15 May, max 40 Charlotte 31 May. **Red Knot:** arr Charlotte 31 May, unusual in spring. **Sanderling:** one IB 21 Apr (BM), early and unusual in spring; max 30 Charlotte 31 May (BM), more than usual. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 125 Perinton 29 May, good total. **Western Sandpiper:** arr two Hamlin 12 May; one Hamlin 20-27 May, max four Hamlin 29 May, uncommon in spring. **Least Sandpiper:** max 51 Perinton 27 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** max two Hamlin 24 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 46 Hamlin 16 Apr. **Dunlin:** max 80 Perinton 29 May. **RUFF:** Reeve Perinton 22-23 May (DS, mob). **Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 12 Hamlin 15 May, last one Hamlin 26 May. **Little Gull:** two off DEP 18 Apr (R&SS), several Hamlin Apr, unusual in spring. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr BB 26 Mar. **Iceland Gull:** one HB 6 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one Ontario Beach Charlotte 20 Apr (BM). **Caspian Tern:** max 60 Sodus Bay 22 May.

Com. Nighthawk. max 28 Greece 28 May. **Whip-poor-will:** arr Webster 30 Apr (JC). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** wintering bird Irondequoit 13-14, 18 Mar (GL); max ten Greece 16 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 16 Manitou 28 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Letchworth SP 23 May. **Horned Lark:** max 500 Mar. **Tree Swallow:** one Greece 12 Mar may have overwintered. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Greece 10 May; max 11 Manitou 28 May. **Gray Catbird:** wintering bird Mendon 1 Mar. **Am. Pipit:** arr two Greece 23 Mar; max

230 BB 16 Apr (MD), good total; last Charlotte 29 May, late. **N. Shrike:** one WL 6 May (PS), very late.

White-eyed Vireo: singles DLP 14 May (BM), BB 18 May (BE), more than usual. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr one-two several sites 10 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr several sites 3 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr DLP 3 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type ICW 3 May (JL), Oatka P 10 May (CC AC); Lawrence's type Mumford 30 May (RS). **Magnolia Warbler:** max 123 Manitou 24 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max 25 Manitou 24 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one Seneca P 10 May (RS). **Pine Warbler:** wintering bird Pittsford to 22 Mar (T & PS). **Prairie Warbler:** singles Manitou 18, 27-28 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max 25 WL 3 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one ICW 10 May (JL), another 15 May (mob), uncommon along lakeshore. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr ICW 30 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler:** one ICW 8 May (B & BP), uncommon. **Connecticut Warbler:** singles Manitou 23-24 May (mob) and 28 May (EB), Cobb's Hill P 24 May (AW); good spring total. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr DLP 22 May.

W. Tanager: one Cobbs Hill P 9 May (JB). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Greece 24 Apr. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Manitou 25 May (KG), uncommon but regular. **Snow Bunting:** one Hamlin 3 Apr (CC), late. **E. Meadowlark:** arr BB 29 Mar. **W. Meadowlark:** one Manitou 6 May (RO'H). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Webster 24 Mar. **Pine Grosbeak** one Parma 25 Mar (RMc, RO'H), only report. **Pine Siskin:** one Springwater 23 Mar; one Greece 30 Mar. **Evening Grosbeak:** one Webster 28 Apr (D&DT), only report.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

C.R. SMITH AND C.K. MELIN

The 1993 spring season brought both exceptional weather and exceptional birds to our Region. The spring's weather was dominated by the "Blizzard of '93," which brought two to three feet of snow across the Region on 13 and 14 Mar. Snow fell at a rate of 2–3 inches per hour during the height of the storm. It also was the coldest March for the past 7 years, with -17°F recorded at Ithaca on 19 Mar. April was the third wettest April on record, with precipitation 3 to 6 inches above normal for the month. April temperatures were near normal, however. The heavy rains of April flooded traditional shorebirding spots like Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and probably dispersed shorebirds across a wide front, since many fields and meadows had standing water. As a result, shorebird counts were generally low, though variety was good for the region. May proved to be another extreme month, the sixth driest May since 1895 and the driest since 1980. Total precipitation averaged 2 to 3 inches below normal, with temperatures 1 to 2°F above average for the Region.

Many spring migrants arrived earlier than average this year. Of the 92 species being monitored, 44 (48%) arrived earlier than average for the Region. An apparent "fall-out" of shorebirds occurred on the lakefront at Geneva on 31 May, where Fred Bertram reported 2500 to 3000 birds (85% Dunlin, 10% Red Knot, and 5% Ruddy Turnstone). Other shorebirds reported from the Region in small numbers included Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Snipe, and American Woodcock. Ring-billed Gull has expanded its nesting range to include Watkins Glen for the second year and, for the first time, near Elmira, where D. Russell found at least 49 possible nests on 29 May.

Common Raven now is reported frequently from Elmira to Watkins Glen and Ithaca. Several Carolina Wren were reported throughout the Region. Both Olive-sided Flycatcher and Gray-cheeked Thrush were missed this season. There were single crossbill and redpoll reports, Pine Siskin was scattered throughout the period and Region, and there were very few reports of Evening Grosbeak.

Golden Eagle was a highlight of the season, seen by multiple observers throughout the Region, with as many as 8–10 in one day at the Mount Pleasant Hawk Observatory near Ithaca. In general the spring hawk migration over Mount Pleasant was exceptional with a total of 2811 individuals representing 16 species reported for 1667 hours of observation from 23 Mar through 8 May. Other outstanding observations and rarities reported from the region included **Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Trumpeter Swan**, **Swainson's Hawk**, and **Swainson's Warbler**.

Contributors: F. Bertram, N. Brinkley, J. Brubaker, A. Byrne, D. Clements, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, K. David, Eaton Birding Society, A. Farnsworth, J. & S. Gregoire, B. Guirey, S. Kahl, G.M. McHugh, D. Russell, R. Silberman.

Abbreviations: CHWMA — Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area; FLNF — Finger Lakes National Forest; KHF — Kestrel Haven Farm banding station (J&SG); MNWR — Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MtP — Mount Pleasant, TOMP; MPt — Myers Point, east shore of Cayuga L; PS — Park Station, Erin; QCM — Queen Catharine Marsh, s end of Seneca L; WG — Watkins Glen.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** last 22 May. **Red-throated Loon:** injured bird found 17 Apr, treated and released Dryden L, last seen 20 Apr; one Cayuga L 16–25 Apr, 10 PS 23 Apr, one Elmira 1–8 May. **Horned Grebe:** four still present Seneca L 31 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** one Cayuga L 11 Apr, three MNWR 16 Apr, one Dryden L 24–26 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** small numbers Cayuga and Seneca L throughout period, total of 245 MtP 4–31 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** singles QCM 24 Apr, MNWR 16 May. **Great Blue Heron:** several active nesting colonies of 8 to 35 nests. **Great Egret:** one Taughannock Falls SP 2 Apr. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one Ithaca 16 Apr and 2 May (J. Yntema, S. Coester). **CATTLE EGRET:** one Horseheads 8 May. **GLOSSY IBIS:** one MNWR 15 and 23 May (KD, M. Smith). **TRUMPETER SWAN:** one Savannah Mucklands n of MNWR 23 Apr (NB, mob, NYSARC). **Tundra Swan:** seven Seneca L 18 Mar, nine Seneca L 21 Mar. **Snow Goose:** max 7000 MNWR 17 Apr. **Brant:** 30 Seneca L 15 May, four Seneca L 30 May. **Canada Goose:** 12,000+ Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 42 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Am. Black Duck:** max 277 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Canvasback:** max 190 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Redhead:** max 550 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** max 490 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** max 123 Cayuga L 7 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** four still present Seneca L 30 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 160 Cayuga L 7 Mar, three still

present Seneca L 31 May. **Bufflehead**: max 146 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: nine Sheldrake Cayuga L 3 Apr, two Horseheads 4 Apr, 12 Dryden 7 Apr, seven PS 16 Apr and three on 23 Apr, two Elmira 16 Apr and four 21 Apr. **White-winged Scoter**: one Eldridge L 16 Apr. **Com. Merganser**: max 119 Cayuga L 27 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 37 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Ruddy Duck**: five MNWR 27 May.

Turkey Vulture: max 94 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Osprey**: max 62 MtP week of 25 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: one Dryden L 25 Apr, two-five MNWR throughout period. **N. Harrier**: max 70 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 123 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk**: max 33 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Red-shouldered hawk**: max 150 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 345 MtP week of 25 Apr. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: pale morph KHF 7 Apr (J&SG), pale morph MtP 20 Apr (NB, NYSARC). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 197 MtP week of 28 Mar, 30-40 over Seneca L 30 Mar. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 17 MtP week of 23 Mar. **Golden Eagle**: one MNWR 27 Mar, two Horseheads 27 Mar, one KHF 7 Apr, one Wellsburg 12 Apr, max 18 MtP week of 28 Mar. **Am. Kestrel**: max 30 MtP week of 4 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon**: six total MtP, 23 Mar-8 May. **Merlin**: one Elmira 6 Mar, one Horseheads 4 Apr, one Elmira 4 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: reported at bird feeders. **Virginia Rail**: one-four Horseheads (Holding Point marsh) 15-30 May. **Sandhill Crane**: one near WG 8 May, "several" over MNWR 16 May [details? - *The Editor*]. **Killdeer**: max 36 Cayuga L 5 Apr. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Horseheads 21 Apr. **Whimbrel**: one Myers Point Cayuga L 1 Jun. **Ruddy Turnstone**: *intro*. **Red Knot**: *intro*. **Dunlin**: *intro*. **Bonaparte's Gull**: one WG 23 Apr, four Cayuga L 15 May. **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one MNWR 12-20 Apr. **Caspian Tern**: max 16 Eldridge L 26 Apr. **Forster's Tern**: one Stewart P at s end Cayuga L 11 Apr. **Black Tern**: one Elmira 5 May.

E. Screech-Owl: one Union Springs 22 Mar, one Ithaca 28 May, one Ovid throughout period. **Snowy Owl**: one WG to 2 May, one Savannah Mucklands n of MNWR 5-25 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: three Romulus 21 Mar, five Dresden 21 Mar, eight Levanna 25 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Tanglewood 15 May. **Com. Nighthawk**: several reports, max five Ithaca 29 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Ithaca 29-30 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: several May reports, nesting Benton Center.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Geneva 9 May. **Acadian Flycatcher**: one KHF 22 May, one CHWMA 26 May. **Horned Lark**: max 500+ Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Com. Raven**: four KHF 19 Apr, two Wellsburg 7 Apr,

one Big Flats 8 May, three Elmira area Spring Count 15 May, one CHWMA 30 May. **Fish Crow**: two Chemung 14 Apr, 11 Big Flats 8 May. **Sedge Wren**: one singing FLNF 20 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: only two reports, last Venice 21 May. **Am. Pipit**: 15 Southport 2 May. **N. Shrike**: one Veteran 18 and 24 Mar, one Catlin 20 Mar.

Philadelphia Vireo: one KHF 20 Apr. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Elmira 8 May, only report. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**: one Elmira 29 Apr (NYSARC). **Golden-winged Warbler**: three Elmira 15 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr 5 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr MNWR 16 May. **Prairie Warbler**: arr 8 May, increasing. **Connecticut Warbler**: one SENE 16 May (!), two near Himrod 7 May (J. Corcoran!). **Hooded Warbler**: arr 15 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 12 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr three Dryden 15 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr 18 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: last 17 May. **Lapland Longspur**: one King Ferry 7 Mar, three Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 500+ Pine Valley 20 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: one WG 3 Apr, two-three Canandaigua 2 May. **Orchard Oriole**: two Myer's Pt Cayuga L 15 May. **Purple Finch**: max 42 Big Flats 20 Mar. **Red Crossbill**: one Ithaca 1 May. **Com. Redpoll**: 45 Southport 3 Apr.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

The Blizzard of '93 and the record rains of April were the weather villains of the spring season. A record one-day snowfall on 13 Mar ranged from 19 inches at Binghamton to 28 inches at Cooperstown, according to National Weather Observers in those communities. The storm boosted Binghamton's total snowfall for the month to 37.9 inches, twice the normal accumulation. In addition to snow, rainfall in March was 3.68 inches, an inch above normal. After this came "the wettest April in a century" according to Weather Service records at Cooperstown. Rainfall totaled 7.1 inches, more than double the usual amount. March temperatures averaged 28.8°F, 4° colder than usual. Very cold weather mid month offset milder temperatures early and late in the month. The mean temperature for April was 45°F, slightly above average. By contrast, May temperatures were pretty average, but rainfall of 1.99 inches was an inch and a half under normal. However, the first 12 days were generally sunny and warm, inducing no fallout of passerines. The rest of the month was mostly cloudy with strong northwest winds and unusually cold nights, not conditions to tempt migrant birds to linger.

Migration of water birds was late, generally scant, and over quickly. This was to be expected. Rivers and creeks were mostly frozen until late March. They thawed almost overnight. This triggered serious flooding that persisted off and on through much of April. Many ducks seen were in flooded fields 500 feet or more from the river bed. Exceptions and surprises brightened the season. Common Loon were even more numerous than last spring, which had been exceptional. An **American White Pelican** was the most amazing rarity of the season. It was spotted by Irene Tomek on a small island in the Susquehanna River near Binghamton the morning of 10 April. She alerted Rick Marsi, who arrived at the scene quickly. They noted not only identifying size and color but that the distinctive bill was bright orange with a large, striking protuberance, the determining feature of a breeding adult. Although most of our usual species of migrating ducks were seen, few arrived before April. Numbers were very low and, except for two stragglers, they were all gone by 20 Apr, a very early early departure date.

There were good counts of raptors, but the only suggestion of migration movement was at an old Tioga Center hawk watch site, tested in the 70's. In two hours on 24 Apr, Marie Petuh sighted five species including four Osprey, two Red-Shouldered and nine Broad-winged Hawks, all moving on a southwest wind.

Shorebirds were scarce and most transient species were missed. Good news was the first CORT record of Upland Sandpiper since 1982. The only other found in Region 4 in those 11 years is a nesting pair in BROO, present now for the seventh year. Harriet Marsi, Bruce Bozdos and Gail Kirch were excited by a white-winged gull at IBM Pond, Owego, on 12 Apr which they identified as a first year Iceland Gull. "We had a good view for three to five minutes and noted definitely the light look, white wing tips and black bill. Size was about that of a Herring Gull." The three hoped others had seen the bird to confirm their identification.

While high water level was a problem in the valleys, snow cover persisted at higher elevations. This delayed April arrival dates for some of the ground nesters, but most passerines were pretty much on time. An exception was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher which arrived early at Tom and Norene Tasber's home in Triangle on 1 May. He must have realized he was ahead of schedule for he lingered until 18 May before resuming his flight north. Continued concern for Veery and Wood Thrush was expressed by Bob Miller, whose careful bird records date back nearly 40 years. "We have had one to three pairs of each species every year since 1954 along our road" (referring to about a half-mile of highway near Portlandville). "This year we have none," he wrote. Dave Messineo questioned whether Hermit Thrush were moving to lower elevations. "Many Otselic River Valley areas of Wood Thrush domain are now shared by Hermit Thrush," he wrote. Warbler migration was early and most birds are believed to have overshot the Region. Of the transient warblers, only Cape May, Pine and Blackpoll were listed on the 25th annual Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count on 22 May, and there was only one bird of each species. Tennessee Warbler was the one transient that usually figured high in Region 4's spring report. On the 1981 DOAS count, 37 were reported. Their 1982 count yielded 38. That same year, 102 Tennessee Warbler were banded in BROO. In 1985 a record 600 were banded in TI0G. This year the Region had only three singles! Last year there were but five! Other warbler species were never seen here in such high numbers, at least in the last decade, so their decline, if any, is not too noticeable. Grassland sparrows continued to be scarce. Among

winter finches who were late returning to their northern homes was a pair of courting Pine Grosbeak. They were observed at a CORT Feeder April 12, 13 and 15. Ned Brinkley reported the sighting as submitted by Robert Silberman, an older student in his Field Ornithology Class at Cornell. "His excellent field notes," wrote Ned, "described the pair engaged in feeding, display and even courtship ritual (with fluttering wings, ritual feeding)." There are no known nesting records in New York for Pine Grosbeak. The winter influx of Purple Finch continued through 2 April when the last flock of 50 birds was seen at Morris.

Rarities for the season included **Am. White Pelican**, Peregrine Falcon, Iceland Gull, **Black-headed Grosbeak** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. Species missed were Canvasback, Redhead, Black Scoter, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. The total of 193 species plus one hybrid was a record high count, at least since 1979. The previous high was 191 species in 1992 and 1979. Some counts from regionally conducted North American Migration Counts, held 8 May, are included in this report. This editor regrets that space limits prevent using all the informative comments found in observers' reports. These notes are still most helpful in assessing a season. Thanks!

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Abbreviations: ChBr - Chenango Bridge; ChFk - Chenango Forks; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; DOASSC - Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Spring Count, 22 May; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; NAMC - North American Migration Count, 8 May; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir.

Spring reports: **Pied-billed Grebe:** one OTSE 22 Mar; one CHEN 24 Mar; one TIOG Apr, scarce. **Horned Grebe:** only one Binghamton 5 Apr (MDv). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr Mead Pd CHEN 18 Apr; last seen 15 May

(DW), only report. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 24 Dean's Pd 24 Apr (MDv), record high. **Am. Bittern:** one CORT 2 May (BT); one CHEN 20 May (DM), often missed. **Great Blue Heron:** max 27 at rookery Route 17 west of Owego TIOG (G&EM). **Green-backed Heron:** 12 widespread reports, good count. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** four Otselic 15 Apr (DM), "first in this area." **Tundra Swan:** only one TIOG 7 Mar (C&JB). **Mute Swan:** arr two BROO 21 May (HM, mob); one ChBr 23 to 26 May (MDv); one TIOG. **Snow Goose:** only reports Tiog Mar/Apr, scarce. **Canada Goose:** "pairs breeding on most local ponds CHEN one pair with five y 25 May" (DM). **Wood Duck:** max six BROO 8 Apr and CHEN 26 May; hen with five y BROO 30 May. **Green-winged Teal:** two BROO sites 5 Apr (ML); max seven WPR 18 Apr (DM). **Am. Black Duck:** max 11 DELA 30 Mar (ML). **Mallard:** hen on 10 eggs CORT 2 May; hen 10 y Otego 20 May. **N. Pintail:** two Oneonta 20 Mar; two BROO 8 Apr, only reports. **Blue-winged Teal:** max eight WPR 18 Apr; seven ChBr 6 Apr; three singles, scarce. **N. Shoveler:** only report BROO 5 Apr, sometimes missed. **Gadwall:** pair Oneonta 13 Apr, only report. **Am. Wigeon:** max and last four WPR 18 Apr; three earlier Apr reports. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 30 ChFk 5 Apr and OPM 9 Apr. **Greater Scaup:** max 12 Binghamton 30 Mar; one TIOG 3 Apr. **scaup, species:** singles two BROO sites 2 Mar (WW). **Oldsquaw:** pair Plymouth Res 25 Apr (DM) only report. **Bufflehead:** arr BROO 2 Mar (WW); seven Apr reports, one May. **Hooded Merganser:** max 14 OPM and 12 BROO 6 Apr. **Com. Merganser:** max 15 Otselic R 1 Mar; one entering probable nest hole in dead elm tree several mornings May (DM). **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr CHEN 21 Mar (DW); three BROO 5 Apr (T&NT); four CORT 24 Apr (NT); two others, high count.

Turkey Vulture: widespread after 23 Mar, max ten. **Osprey:** 17 widespread through 22 May, max four, good numbers. **Bald Eagle:** max six Deposit to Walton 30 Mar (ML, AC, CF); one 3 and 5 Mar Susquehanna R OPM (IW); two feeding on dead deer Bovina 28 Mar (SMcP); one Susquehanna R BROO, TIOG early Mar, unusual at so many locations. **N. Harrier:** arr BROO 8 Mar. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 22 widespread reports through 15 May, high count. **Cooper's Hawk:** at Binghamton feeder to 11 Mar (SR); ten reports afield to 15 May. **N. Goshawk:** one McGraw perched in tree near feeder 13 Mar. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr OPM 23 Mar; one Morris 4 Apr; two at three BROO sites Apr, high count. **Broad-winged Hawk:** *intro*. **Rough-legged Hawk:** six March reports, last CHEN 29 Mar. **Golden Eagle:** only one DOASSC 22 May. **Am. Kestrel:** max 14 CORT 8 May. **Peregrine Falcon:** TIOG 25 Apr

(C&JB), rare in spring. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: max three CORT 5 May (BT); nine other reports, high count. **Ruffed Grouse**: good counts late Apr, May. **Wild Turkey**: max 120 Harpersfield DELA 7 Mar (AM). **N. Bobwhite**: singles FHNC 21 Apr; BROO 3 May (HM); two TIOG sites May (LBi, G&EM), a treat even if escapees. **Com. Moorhen**: only one SUNY Nature Preserve Binghamton. **Killdeer**: max 20 BROO 26 Mar; ad and four y OPM 22 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: only one BROO 30 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: four widespread singles 15 May; eight others last 26 May, scarce. **Upland Sandpiper**: one McGraw 2 May (BT), *intro*. **Least Sandpiper**: only one CHEN 15 May (DW). **Com. Snipe**: singles two OTSE sites, one CORT, one TIOG Apr; one 22 May, scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: max four displaying Morris 5 Apr (JF). **Bonaparte's Gull**: one Owego 11 Apr (C&JB); one Homer 21 Apr (JG); three 22 May DOASSC, high count. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 100 in flooded field IBM P 30 Mar. **Herring Gull**: max 25 CHEN 8 May. **Iceland Gull**: *intro*.

Black-billed Cuckoo: two BROO sites 11 May; one OPM 22 May; one TIOG, low. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: two DOASSC; one BROO 30 May, Gypsy Moth infestation of last two years ended. **E. Screech-Owl**: one OPM 14 Apr; one TIOG May, only reports. **Great Horned Owl**: one or two/week Franklin Mt (CV); six others. **Barred Owl**: one BROO Apr; five widespread reports May, max two. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Candor Mar/Apr (R&RP); one found dead Owego (G&EM). **Com. Nighthawk**: two Binghamton singles; one Tioga, scarce. **Chimney Swift**: three Apr reports, widespread May, max a scant two. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: two TIOG Mar; one TIOG and one Vestal, May, low. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 10 TIOG 8 May (JS). **Pileated Woodpecker**: well reported through period.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one DOASSC; one Otselic 26 May, often missed. **Acadian Flycatcher**: only one Hawkins Pd Windsor 7 May (WW), not seen every spring. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: *intro*. **Purple Martin**: three TIOG reports from 24 Apr; two DOASSC, scarce. **Horned Lark**: ten widespread reports, max 50; last CORT 15 May. **Fish Crow**: two building nest second year in a row Hickories P TIOG 8 Apr (C&JB). **Carolina Wren**: pair fledged five y Owego May (C&JB); fewer winter survivors. **Marsh Wren**: only one CHEN 15 May (DW). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max eight CHEN Mar (DM). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 25 BROO 1 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: pair building nest BROO 10 May (HM, mob); max four DOASSC; three CVSP 8 May; two singles, very high count. **E. Bluebird**: good nesting season anticipated from early

reports. **Swainson's Thrush**: pair Franklin Mt 11 May (CV); several BROO 12 May (JS); last one DOASSC, numbers low. **N. Mockingbird**: only seven May reports, population decline indicated. **Am. Pipit**: at least six near Sherburne 6 May (DW), only report. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 130 feeding on Viburnum fruits McGraw 16 Apr (BT). **N. Shrike**: last Marathon feeder (Cort) 7 Mar (RR).

Solitary Vireo: max ten OPM 10 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: two BROO 9 May (MP), often missed. **Warbling Vireo**: pair building nest BROO 8 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 21 widespread reports, max three, compares well to 20 reports 1983. **Golden-winged Warbler**: max two DOASSC, low. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type "interacting with Golden-winged" T Union 16 May (MP); one Triangle 30 May (T&NT). **Tennessee Warbler**: *intro*. **Nashville Warbler**: eight reports, max two, scarce. **N. Parula**: one Franklin Mt 5 and 10 May, uncommon last few years. **Yellow Warbler**: max 17 CORT NAMC. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 14 OPM and Otselic 14 May. **Cape May Warbler**: max three BROO where "discovered new site for good migration" (MP). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max five Otselic and four BROO 9 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 35 Arnold L OTSE 3 May. **Pine Warbler**: singles Otselic 5 May; DOASSC. **Prairie Warbler**: max six on two of eight reports, good numbers. **Palm Warbler**: three singles 17 to 24 Apr. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one Franklin Mt 10 May; one T Union 16 May, scarce. **Blackpoll Warbler**: "several" Otselic 20 to 27 May max six, good count. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 22 reports after 20 Apr max two, some decline. **Am. Redstart**: max four BROO 9 May, scarce. **Wilson's Warbler**: only one Otselic 27 May. **Canada Warbler**: max seven OPM 22 May.

Scarlet Tanager: max eight OPM 22 May. **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**: female TIOG feeder 19 to 31 May (H&SO'C, mob, NYSARC), Regional first. **Indigo Bunting**: record early arr Oneonta feeder 26 and 28 Apr (EC). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max ten BROO 29 Apr, declining numbers. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last 24 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: max four DOASSC; one BROO 27 May, scarce. **Field Sparrow**: max 20 Otselic 23 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 12 Otselic 16 Apr; several BROO May, scant elsewhere. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: only one Binghamton 25 Apr through period (SR). **Fox Sparrow**: six widespread reports 27 Mar to 14 Apr max three. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: only two Otselic 7 and 11 May. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 12 Franklin Mt 21 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: one TIOG Apr; max and last four DOASSC, scarce. **Lapland Longspur**: one Owego 7 Mar (C&JB), uncommon. **Snow Bunting**: last Oneonta 2 Mar. **Bobolink**: max nine CORT

NAMC; "fewer birds in a flock" (MD). **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**: imm SUNY Nature Preserve 13 May "perched on a cattail about 12 feet away and remained quite a long time" (I&RT); first since 1984, third report in 14 years. **N. Oriole**: max 10 two BROO sites 8 May. **Pine Grosbeak**: *intro*. **Purple Finch**: *intro*. **Red Crossbill**: max 25 near Preston CHEN 24 May (DW); singles Otselic 18 Mar and Pharsalia 20 Mar "very orange subspecies" (DM). **Pine Siskin**: five widespread reports, very scarce all year. **Am. Goldfinch**: large flocks to mid April, max 80. **Evening Grosbeak**: five Otselic 16 Mar, only report, scarce all year.

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta, New York 13820

REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

It was a very eventful spring, with one of the worst blizzards of the century and widespread flooding in the Region. In mid March, the Blizzard of '93 brought 42.9 inches of snow over a three day period to the Syracuse area. Snow accumulation for the entire season was 191.1 inches, enabling Syracuse to establish a record for the second year in a row. The last snowfall to occur was on 23 Apr, with 1.5 inches in Syracuse and 18 inches in Old Forge. Populations of Tree Swallow, Song Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco were hard hit by the latter storm, especially in the Adirondacks. Total precipitation for the period was 3.19 inches above normal, with April the fourth wettest on record. A combination of excessive rainfall and melt from the March blizzard produced floods throughout the Region. At the end of April, access to Scott Swamp and the western shore of Oneida Lake was completely cutoff by flooded roads. The beach at Sandy Pond was inundated by the rising waters of Lake Ontario. Fortunately, the month of May brought back fairly normal weather patterns to dry out the area and let observers know that spring was truly here.

The persistence of winter delayed the beginning of the waterfowl migration for almost a month. In fact, the Blizzard of '93 may have curtailed the movement of Horned Grebe through the Region, considering only two were reported. Despite a slow start, record high

seasonal counts were noted for both Snow Goose and Brant and a Regional maximum was set for Bufflehead. In mid May a substantial number of White-winged Scoter were sighted on Oneida Lake by Bill Purcell. Unfortunately, population levels for Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal and American Wigeon were down markedly, with no more than 35 per day. Other highlights include Common Loon using a man-made platform on Grey Lake to lay its eggs on 22 May and a Barrow's Goldeneye for the first spring record in 16 years.

This was a memorable season for raptors at Derby Hill. A strange immature sea eagle at Derby Hill on 24 Apr was thought to be New York's first **White-tailed Eagle**. It was an exciting day for over one hundred observers to see it and compare notes. Other interesting observations include **Black Vulture** and a record high seasonal count for both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Two reports of **Swainson's Hawk** at the end of April rounded out this spring's observations. Osprey resumed their nesting activity at Moss Lake and at the Salmon River Reservoir. Despite continued nest construction at Clay Marsh, no further attempts at nesting were observed from this site, established a year ago.

Extensive flooding along major waterways provided no habitat for early shorebirds. At the end of the season, twelve species were seen along smaller creeks and farm ponds in the Towns of Lysander ONON and Schroepfel OSWE. Moderate numbers of Semipalmated Sandpiper and Dunlin were noted along Six Mile Creek near Biddlecum Road on 29 May. The Region's second spring report for Little Gull was accompanied by two reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull, the latter having been seen for the second consecutive year. Several pairs of Caspian Terns were observed on the gravel roof of the Hewitt Union Building, SUNY at Oswego, actively involved in courtship display with the possibility of nesting nearby. A similar assemblage of Ring-billed Gull on a warehouse roof in urban Syracuse, where they were also present last summer, did not lead to nesting.

Members of the flycatcher family continue to be scarce, with E. Phoebe showing the highest maximum of 21 per day. Few Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noted, with the latter species still migrating at Labrador Pond on 28 May. Daily maxima of Tree Swallow and Barn Swallow were up slightly from the previous spring, but Purple Martin showed a further decline of no more than 30 along the shore of Oneida Lake. A very poor flight of both kinglets suggested a high mortality from the effects of the March blizzard further south. Thrushes

fared no better, with only Wood Thrush indicating populations above 30 a day. Observers in the Region reported 31 species of warblers along with two hybrids. The more unusual of the Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler was Lawrence's type found in two separate localities in ONON. A Kentucky Warbler found in St. Mary's Cemetery was the first Regional record in three years. Good flight days were 30 Apr to 6 May, with an excellent migration along the Lake Ontario littoral 15 May. Especially disturbing were the one to five per day maxima for Northern Parula, Cape May, Blackpoll and Wilson's Warblers. Moderate populations of 100-300 birds were found for Yellow, Yellow-rumped Warblers and American Redstart. In early April, a significant number of Song Sparrows were noted in the Town of Scriba, along with daily highs for both Vesper and Fox Sparrows. Later, a Clay-colored Sparrow and a **Le Conte's Sparrow** were located. Both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were way down with no more than 35 per day. At least four separate sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbird were noted, with three in one day, all possibly of a single bird migrating north. The severe winter conditions of early March essentially precluded any major movement of Rusty Blackbird. Among finches, White-winged Crossbill persisted until late March at Boylston and there were widely scattered reports of Pine Siskin.

A total of 229 species plus one color morph and two hybrids were reported with **Black Vulture, White-tailed Eagle, Swainson's Hawk, Lesser Black-Backed Gull, Le Conte's Sparrow** and Yellow-headed Blackbird the best of the great rarities. Other notable species included Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Barrow's Goldeneye, Little Gull, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat and Clay-colored Sparrow. A special thanks to Dorothy Crumb, Gary Lee and Marge Rusk for their contributions to the introduction of this report. This is my last Region 5 report. The new Region 5 Editors are Dorothy Crumb and Jim Throckmorton. Reports should be submitted to Dorothy at 3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York 13078.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Ned Brinkley, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Dorothy W. Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Bob Dorrance, Robert L. Evans, Craig Fosdick, William T. Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Betty Hughes, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, Robert Long, David Nash, Bill Purcell, Margaret S. Rusk, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Jim Throckmorton, Ken Zoller.

Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE; LSB -

Little Sodus Bay, Fairhaven, and vicinity, CAYU; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; 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:** one Oswego H 12 May. **Com. Loon:** arr LOL 4 Apr; max 58 there 8 May; last OnonL 26 May, *intro*. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Minetto OSWE 21 Mar; max five DH 10 Apr; 17 reports. **Horned Grebe:** one in Alt plumage Toad H 9 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** max 12 Beaver L 26 Apr, three Toad H 25 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Oswego H 4 Apr; max 2600 LOL 16 May. **Am. Bittern:** max five Toad H 15 May; 14 reports. **Least Bittern:** one Clay Marsh 8-26 May, only report. **Great Blue Heron:** max 30 CAYU, OSWE 4 Apr. **Great Egret:** one DH 7 Apr. **Snowy Egret:** singles Oswego 6 May, T Schroeppel 9 May. **Little Blue Heron:** ad W Monroe OSWE 17-18 Apr. **Green-backed Heron:** max six Clay Marsh 5 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr DH 8 Apr; max 14 LOL 30 Apr; one Rome 24 May. **Tundra Swan:** one OnonL 24 Mar. **Snow Goose:** arr DH, Howland's I 27 Mar; max 3265 LOL 4 Apr; last Beaver L 18 Apr; 12 reports of blue morph. **Brant:** arr T Schroeppel 26 Apr; max and last 2400 Toad H 15 May. **Canada Goose:** max 8000 CAYU and OSWE 4 Apr. **Wood Duck:** max 50 W Winfield 15 May. **Green-winged Teal:** max 24 Toad H 25 Apr; last there 30 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** max 97 LOL 28 Mar. **N. Pintail:** max 32 LOL 27 Mar; last Cicero 27 May. **Blue-winged Teal:** max ten Toad H 25 Apr; last OSWE 15 May. **N. Shoveler:** arr OnonL 20 Mar; max five Clay 14 Apr; last Toad H 30 Apr. **Gadwall:** max 18 OnonL 20 Mar. **Am. Wigeon:** arr Phoenix 21 Mar; max 31 LOL 28 Mar; last two TRWMA 15 May. **Canvasback:** arr Oswego H 3 Mar; max and last 12 Brewerton 4 Apr; 31 reports. **Redhead:** arr Oswego H 1 Mar; max 12 LSB 4 Apr; last SSSP 18 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr Phoenix 21 Mar; max 502 LOL 28 Mar; last Toad H 30 Apr. **Greater Scaup:** max 800 LOL 4 Apr; last Beaver L 26 Apr. **Lesser Scaup:** max 100 LSB 4 Apr; last Oneida L 27 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** max 29 Toad H, SSSP 18 Apr; last LOL 8 May. **White-winged Scoter:** arr Brewerton 2 Apr; max and last 180 Toad H 15 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 300 LOL 4 Apr; last Toad H 27 Apr. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** male LSB 26 Apr (BH, ph). **Bufflehead:** record max 762 Oneida L 27 Apr (MSR); last SSSP 15 May. **Hooded Merganser:** arr LOL 27 Mar; max 49 there 28 Mar. **Com. Merganser:** max 241 Oswego R and harbor 6 Mar; last DH 26 May. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 203 LOL 12 May; last SSSP 15 May. **Ruddy Duck:** two Beaver L 10-18 Apr, two SSSP 28 Apr.

Derby Hill Hawk migration totals:

Species	Arrival	Max- Date	Last 90%	Date Range	Total
Turkey Vulture	19 Mar	762- 4 Apr	5 May	4 Apr-28 Apr	4784
Osprey	5 Apr	93- 3 May	22 May	15 Apr-10 May	528
Bald Eagle	19 Mar	7-29 Apr	21 May	25 Mar-10 May	46
Northern Harrier	7 Mar	53- 9 Apr	22 May	31 Mar- 3 May	520
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7 Mar	416- 3 May	25 May	7 Apr- 5 May	3744
Cooper ' s Hawk	10 Mar	83- 5 Apr1	1 May	25 Mar- 1 May	411
Northern Goshawk	7 Mar	7-2 dates	4 May	21 Mar-28 Apr	73
Red-shouldered Hawk	19 Mar	722- 5 Apr	3 May	30 Mar- 9Apr	1523
Broad-winged Hawk	15 Apr	4377-29 Apr	22 May	20 Apr- 1 May	20941
Red-tailed Hawk	4 Mar	1068- 5 Apr	22 May	22 Mar-29 Apr	9672
Rough-legged Hawk	4 Mar	48- 9 Apr1	1 May	28 Mar-28 Apr	257
Golden Eagle	18 Mar	4- 3 Mar	5 May	22 Mar- 1 May	32
American Kestrel	16 Mar	63-15 Apr	21 May	1 Apr-11 May	296
Merlin	31 Mar	2-3 dates	5 May		13
Peregrine Falcon	1 May		3 May		2
Total(including unidentified)					42906

BLACK VULTURE: single DH 26, 28-30 Mar (mob). **Turkey Vulture:** arr W Winfield 11 Mar, Moss L Adks 24 Apr. **Osprey:** *intro*. **Bald Eagle:** three Phoenix 1-21 Mar; singles Oswego 19 Mar, Holland Patent 20 Apr, Big Moose L 2 1 May. **WHITE-TAILED EAGLE:** *intro* (NB, GS, ph, NYSARC). **N. Harrier:** one carrying nesting material Toad H 18 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** nine T Sterling 3 Apr, three T Boylston 30 May; two T New Haven 27 Mar; singles T Hannibal 8 May, Wood's L Adks 23 May; *intro*. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** two DH 28 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** *intro*. **Merlin:** two SUNY Oswego 1 May; singles Onondaga P Syracuse 5 Mar, SUNY Oswego 15, 20 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon:** singles T Hannibal 3 Apr, T Richland 6 Apr. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** 14 reports. **Wild Turkey:** max 63 s HERK 5 Mar. **Virginia Rail:** three Clay Marsh 11 May. **Sora:** three Clay Marsh 1 2 May, five reports. **Com. Moorhen:** max seven T Richland 8 May. **Am. Coot:** five reports. **Semipalmated Plover:** ten Biddlecum Road OSWE 24 May; last there 29 May. **Killdeer:** max 100 LOL 27 Mar. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 27 Biddlecum Road 18 Apr; last W Winfield 22 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** five Biddlecum Road 25 Apr; last there 16 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max two per day, last Biddlecum Road 24 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max eight OSWE 15 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr Holland Patent 30 Apr; three T Schroepfel

1 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: two Biddlecum Road 29 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max and last 56 Biddlecum Road 29 May. **Least Sandpiper**: seven Lysander 10 May; last Fabius 30 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Lysander 11,12 Apr; max and last three Biddlecum Road 18 Apr. **Dunlin**: arr Rome 17 May; max and last 210 Biddlecum Road 29 May. **Com. Snipe**: arr Elbridge 7 Mar, record early (JT). **Am. Woodcock**: max four Constantia 10 May. **Little Gull**: two ad LSB 18 Apr (PDeB!). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr LOL 17 Apr; max 150 there 18 Apr; last Oswego H 23 Apr. **Ring-billed Gull**: *intro*. **Lesser Black-Backed Gull**: singles SUNY Oswego 23 Apr (CF), OnonL 5 May (DN). **Caspian Tern**: max 22 LOL 16 May, *intro*. **Com. Tern**: max 26 Oneida L 2 May. **Black Tern**: eight reports.

Mourning Dove; max 50 LOL 27 Mar. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: six reports. **E. Screech-Owl**: singles Lafayette 12 Mar, OSWE 15 May. **Snowy Owl**: last DH 5 Apr. **Barred Owl**: six reports. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one T Webb Adks 23 May. **Com. Nighthawk**: max three Syracuse 21 May, eight reports. **Whip-poor-will**: arr Hinckley 7 May; max six T Constantia 10 May. **Chimney Swift**: max 35 Oswego 7 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: arr Fourth L Adks 1 May; five Labrador Hollow 30 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Shore Oaks Road OSWE 8 May. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: seven T Webb 23 May. **N. Flicker**: max 71 migrating DH 24 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: two T Webb 23 May, three reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max 11 Pratt's Falls 22 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr StMC 8 May, six reports. **Willow Flycatcher**: max 15 Clay Marsh 26 May. **Least Flycatcher**: max 18 T Sandy Creek 8 May. **E. Phoebe**: max 21 T Sandy Creek 8 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: ten OSWE 15 May. **E. Kingbird**: ten OSWE 15 May. **Purple Martin**: max 27 Toad H 15 May. **Tree Swallow**: max 610 Clay Marsh 3 May. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max 24 Clay Marsh 8 May. **Bank Swallow**: max 100 Rome 9 May. **Cliff Swallow**: max 35 OSWE 15 May. **Barn Swallow**: max 200 OSWE 15 May. **Blue Jay**: max 211 LOL 8 May. **Am. Crow**: max 800 LOL 27 Mar. **Carolina Wren**: eight widespread reports. **House Wren**: max 18 T Sandy Creek 8 May. **Winter Wren**: arr Labrador Pd ONON 9 Apr, Adks 25 Apr. **Marsh Wren**: max 25 Clay Marsh 11 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 50 StMC 19 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 42 LOL 1 May; last SSSP 26 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: four OSWE 15 May. **E. Bluebird**: seven LOL 8 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: two Rome 17 May, one StMC 19 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: max two per day, last StMC 28 May. **Hermit Thrush**: max 30

SUNY Oswego 16 Apr. **Wood Thrush**: max 35 OSWE 15 May. **Gray Catbird**: max 50 OSWE 15 May. **Brown Thrasher**: five SPd 5 May. **Am. Pipit**: arr DH 25 Mar; max and last five Sterling 15 May. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 140 ONON, OSWE 20 Mar. **N. Shrike**: last T Clay 24 Mar.

Solitary Vireo: arr Adks 8 May; max 14 T Webb 23 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: max 15 OSWE 15 May. **Warbling Vireo**: max 35 T Sandy Creek 8 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr StMC 3 May; last there 24 May; nine reports. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 34 Pratt's Falls 22 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr T Richland and Labrador Pd 8 May; max seven Pompey Hollow 30 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr T Scriba 8 May; 12 reports. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: three reports Brewster's type; Lawrence's type Clay Marsh 7 May, TRWMA 11, 18 May. **Tennessee Warbler**: max 35 OSWE 15 May; last StMC 28 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: singles DH 1 May, LOL 8 May, Oswego 9 May, Toad H 9 May. **Nashville Warbler**: max 11 Little John 8 May, last LOL 15 May. **N. Parula**: five OSWE 15 May. **Yellow Warbler**: max 180 T Sandy Creek 8 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 21 T Webb 23 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: max 40 LOL 15 May. **Cape May Warbler**: max three LOL 8, 15 May; last DH 16 May; 14 reports. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 25 OSWE 15 May; last StMC 28 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr Snake Swamp 17 Apr; max 300 OSWE 15 May; last StMC 18 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 16 T Parish 8 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 15 OSWE 15 May. **Pine Warbler**: max five OSWE 15 May; 21 reports. **Prairie Warbler**: arr StMC 29 Apr, seven reports. **Palm Warbler**: max 13 SUNY at Oswego 3 May; last LOL 15 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 15 OSWE 15 May; last StMC 28 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: three SPd 19 May; last Syracuse 30 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Toad H 4 May; four Fairdale OSWE 8 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 15 OSWE 15 May. **Am. Redstart**: arr Adks 9 May; max 100 OSWE 15 May. **Ovenbird**: max 44 Happy Valley OSWE 8 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Pompey 27 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler**: one StMC 11 May. **Hooded Warbler**: arr Oren Gulf ONON 3 May; max eight OSWE 15 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: five OSWE 15 May; last DH 29 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one SUNY Oswego 20, 21 May.

Scarlet Tanager: max 15 OSWE 15 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: arr Adks 6 May; max 30 OSWE 15 May. **Indigo Bunting**: nine Pompey 23 May. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max 14 OSWE 15 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last T Onondaga 2 May, late. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 85 OSWE 15 May. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one T Scriba 1 May (SA!), eleventh Regional record. **Field Sparrow**: arr Tully 10 Apr; max 15 OSWE 15 May. **Vesper Sparrow**: max 25 T Scriba 10 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 18 OSWE 15

May. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Hastings 4 May; max three Pompey 9 May; 13 reports. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**: one SUNY at Oswego 28 Apr (CF!), second Regional record. **Fox Sparrow**: arr Pompey 3 Apr; eight T Scriba 10 Apr; last StMC 25 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: max 230 Nine Mile Pt 10 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max eight T Webb 23 May. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr Clay Marsh 31 Mar; max 38 there 12 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 26 LOL 9 May; last Holland Patent 28 May. **Lapland Longspur**: last T Fenner MADI 7 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: last LOL 4 May. **Bobolink**: max 75 OSWE 15 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: arr T Camillus 4 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr Delphi Falls ONON 24 Mar; max 35 LOL 8 May. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: singles Delphi Falls 24 Mar, Baldwinsville 27 Mar, T Schroepfel 27 Mar, *intro*. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr Clay Marsh 31 Mar; max 67 Nine Mile Pt 10 Apr; last Clay Marsh 5 May. **Com. Grackle**: arr Holland Patent 9 Mar. **N. Oriole**: max 18 LOL 8 May. **Purple Finch**: max 40 Beaver L 23 Mar. **White-winged Crossbill**: max 100 Boylston OSWE 10 Mar; last there 25 Mar. **Pine Siskin**: arr Pompey 29 Mar; max six SUNY Oswego 1 May; last StMC 9 May. **Am. Goldfinch**: max 124 Pompey and Jamesville 20 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 12 Boylston 20 Mar, 18 reports.

Corrigendum: Vol 42(2): the following line was omitted from the bottom of p 109:

Meadowlark: ten reports. **Rusty Blackbird**: one Dewitt 14 Dec to 3 Jan.

Com. Grackle:

1065 Westmoreland Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The spring of 1993 was far from normal even compared to the previous year, which was cold and wet. The winter was a good old fashioned one reminiscent of the late 1960s and early 1970s and the snow carried on into the spring. Total snowfall for Watertown was 141.4 inches on 22 Mar and it still kept coming into late April. Frost occurred on Tug Hill and Adirondack sections of the Region well into May. Perhaps the weather highlight, if we can call it that, was the Blizzard of 1993 which occurred on 13 March. The low temperature for the season was -23°F on 18 Mar and the high was 79°F on 3 May at Watertown. The spring melt

caused high water to be everywhere, although unlike last spring only the waterways and Lake Ontario and not fields were flooded. It will be well into the summer before Lake Ontario water levels go down to near normal levels, and summer rainfall could keep it high even then.

The cold weather retarded vegetation growth and some tree species were not fully leafed out by the end of May. Due to the cold and frosts some mortality of in maples and ash trees was noted as well as frost damage to herbaceous vegetation and shrubs at higher elevations. Species such as Black Walnut, Honey Locust and Black Locust were way behind their normal phenology. This late spring leafing was an advantage to birders, since many warbler observations were enhanced with the more open canopy conditions. Also, the biting insect season was a little later than normal and field trips were not as unpleasant as usual. In addition, this retardation was responsible for many visits to feeding stations by species we do not associate with feeders. Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Savannah Sparrow were record at feeders through the period. There were few winter finches other than Purple Finch to visit feeders, with only Evening Grosbeak or Pine Siskin showing up now and then as late as 30 May.

The cold temperatures and late snows retarded insects, vegetation and flowering of trees and other plants, resulting in losses of swallows and early flycatchers such as Eastern Phoebe. Tree Swallow were found dead, no doubt starved, in nest boxes and Eastern Phoebe disappeared for about a week after their return date. It is suspected that hummingbirds also were lost but this is difficult to verify. Effects on nesting success will have to be evaluated in the summer report, and with lowered populations of many neotropical species, this may be a difficult task.

There is some continuing concern for the reduction in grassland species and the rapid reduction in farming activity in the Region. There was further reduction in Gray Partridge numbers even in the best habitat left, and decreases in Upland Sandpiper and Horned Lark numbers and their habitat. More farms have sold out and quit farming this spring due to today's economic climate. However, it must be remembered that our eastern grasslands are for the most part manmade and must be maintained by farming activities. Natural grasslands are rare in New York and most that did exist have been developed.

Migration timing was noticeably advanced for many species and much behind for others. Water birds and warblers showed up earlier

than normal, while many other passerines were later than normal, the opposite of what the weather conditions would indicated. Perhaps this is a result of more field time over a wider area by the contributors to this report.

Positives of the season includes record numbers of Snow Goose, better raptor numbers in southern JEFF as they head north and east from Derby Hill in Region 5, expansion of Wild Turkey on the Lake Ontario Plain, an expanding Red-bellied Woodpecker population, more Common Raven on the Tug Hill, some excellent, both in variety and numbers, vireo and warbler observations relative to the few past years; increases in Chipping and Henslow's Sparrows and Bobolink (due to the increase in abandoned farm lands and lack of hay harvest?) numbers. High numbers of Purple Finch displaced the normally ever present House Finch at several sites, at least temporarily. This year there was no doubt about a House Finch migration, due either to competition, lack of food or the hard winter conditions. Ring-billed Gull numbers this year are up again, and they were seen far into Tug Hill and Black River Valley. At the same time there are fewer and fewer Herring Gull, the result of competition with Ring-billed Gull and Double-crested Cormorant for nest sites? The Walkers had never seen so many Brown Creeper at Cape Vincent as they did this year. Yellow Warbler numbers were up if anything, and they were heard almost everywhere. Common Yellowthroat is the most common warbler in the Region but may be decreasing on the Lake Ontario Plain; it remains very common on the Tug Hill. Notable species reported included an Eurasian Wigeon, increased Merlin, two **Gyr Falcon**, three **Sandhill Crane**, Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker; successful wintering of Carolina Wren and Northern Mockingbird; the second Regional record for a wintering or early migrant Hermit Thrush, the fifth Regional record of **Varied Thrush**, and an "Oregon" type Dark-eyed Junco.

Negatives for the season are low numbers of Black-crowned Night-Heron, all ducks, American Kestrel, Chimney Swift, swallows, all thrushes except Eastern Bluebird and American Robin, most vireo and warbler species, and Northern Oriole. Observers found a further reduction in Black Tern colony size and colonies may be in jeopardy due to the lowered numbers of individuals in the colony. Very low numbers of Eastern Wood-Pewee and Purple Martin, an almost nonexistent nighthawk population, and a steep dive in Scarlet Tanager numbers, probably fewer than last year, which was a dismal year, were alarming.

A "negative" positive is an increase in cowbird numbers. It was a tough spring for Wild Turkey and starvation resulting from deep snows and the absence of field spread manure. They are still expanding into new range, but game farm birds released by sportsmen confuse the issue.

Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase, with a new nesting site being established in the Region. One was observed diving for sunken sticks on the bottom of Sawyer's Bay, Town of Henderson, presumably to be used for nesting material in May (*vide* Pearl McGory). An immature Red-tailed Hawk was watched attempting to kill a gray squirrel on the Point Peninsula on 7 Mar; the squirrel escaped.

The Forest Tent Caterpillar outbreak continues in the Towns of Osceola and Lewis LEWI as well as the Towns of Lorraine and Worth JEFF. The area of infestation has increased and covers an estimated 110,000 acres, with defoliation heavier in some areas than last year. Fungus disease has appeared in some populations of caterpillars but it does not appear that a population crash will occur very soon. The impact on birds and on nestlings in particular is expected to be severe, with such heavy removal of forest canopy cover.

As can be seen by the observations, many hours were spent afield in the large three county area comprising Region 6. All contributors had rewarding and interesting observations to report for the period. The more reports a Regional Editor receives, the more work it is to analyze and put together a seasonal summary. However, the more reports, the better it is for them to reach informed conclusions as to long term trends in population numbers and short term phenomena such as food supply and weather conditions that may effect bird numbers for a season. I would rather have too many reports to write this report. Every time I do a Regional Report, I wonder what was out there that we did not see or was seen and did not get reported. All reports are of use to this editor and are welcome. If species numbers decrease as they have for the past 30+ years, it becomes more and more important that the field observer take notes and contribute observations for inclusion into the information stream. With this information we can better understand the changing dynamics of bird populations, expansions, reductions and invasion by new species.

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Abbreviations: CH - Colwell Hill at s end LWMA on Montario Pt Road T Ellisburg, JEFF; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; HUSA - Henderson Shores Unique Area (at Stony Pt) T Henderson JEFF; LWMA - Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, T Ellisburg, JEFF; MSD - Moses Saunders Power Dam, Massena StLA; NRd - n end of Nash Road, ne of Cowell Hill, T Ellisburg, JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area, T Brownville & Orleans, JEFF; PtPen - Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; SLR - St Lawrence River, JEFF and StLA; TH - Tug Hill, JEFF and LEWI; THSF - Tug Hill State Forest, T Rodman, JEFF & T Pinckney, LEWI; TMiPt - Three Mile Pt, T Lyme, JEFF; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area, T Canton, StLA; WHWMA - Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area, T Louisville, StLA; WBM - Wilson Bay Marsh, T Cape Vincent, JEFF.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr 11 Apr; three ULLWMA 29 Apr; one over Chaumont Barrens 11 May; imm Stone Mills Pool PRWMA 30 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PRWMA 15 Apr; max ten+ PRWMA 4 May. **Horned Grebe:** one ULLWMA 20 Apr; six WBM 24 Apr; four Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 28 Apr; two in Alt plumage SLR 28 Apr; one Chaumont Bay 1 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** three TMiPt 9 Apr (B&JW), seldom reported. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr 8 Apr; 600-800 Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 15 Apr; 30 over Henderson village heading e 18 Apr; at ULLWMA 20 Apr; 100 MSD 24 Apr; max 10,000 Little Galoo Is 10 May (DP); three to four building three nests at PRWMA 20 May; *intro*. **Am. Bittern:** four PRWMA 4 May; three PRWMA 20 May. **Least Bittern:** one Hermon StLA 15 May (KC). **Great Blue Heron:** arr 9 Apr; max 11 in flock over HSUA 1 Apr; eight feeding in snow covered pools HSUA 4 Apr. **Green-backed Heron:** pair TH carrying nesting sticks 14 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** singles WBM 6 Apr and 30 May, Stony Pt 30 May, scarce. **Tundra Swan:** two Sawyer's Bay T Henderson JEFF 8 Apr (GM). **Mute Swan:** two PRWMA 30 Mar; six, two on nests, PRWMA 15 Apr; five ad, no y PRWMA 30 May. **Snow Goose:** 1900 total in four flocks CH 27 Mar; 1400 with 20 blue morph near Woodville 27 Mar; 125 at Diamond Road T Lorraine over TH 27 Mar; max 2500 with two blue morph near Woodville 30 Mar; flock of 30 Diamond Road T Lorraine JEFF on TH 1 Apr; 2200+ with 45 blue morph near Woodville 5 Apr; departed Woodville 7 Apr; max of eight blue morph variants Martinsburg LEWI 12 Apr (BH). **Brant:** two flocks about 100 total around 20 Apr (*fide* Larry Ambeau), only report. **Canada Goose:** heavy movement 28-30 Mar; 14,000 near Ellisburg 2 Apr; max 24,000+ around Ellisburg 4 Apr; on nest PRWMA 15 Apr; four very small goslings PRWMA 20 May. **Wood Duck:**

eight Ellisburg 7 Apr; female with 16 y St. Lawrence University campus 31 May. **Green-winged Teal**: eight Ellisburg 11 Apr; in Black R LEWI (BH), more than usual. **Am. Black Duck**: eight feeding in Sandy Creek near Adams 10 Mar; 40 in Ellisburg 26 Mar; max 65 near Ellisburg 6 Apr. **Mallard**: pair in every spring pd end of Apr to end of May. **N. Pintail**: 40 Woodville 30 Mar; max four on Black R LEWI (BH); max 50 Ellisburg 6 Apr, numbers way down. **Blue-winged Teal**: six pairs WBW 14 Apr; six PRWMA 20 May, some improvement in nesters. **N. Shoveler**: three Ellisburg 11 Apr; max eight Ellisburg 19 Apr; pair WBM 24 Apr. **Gadwall**: arr 4 Apr; seven WHWMA 18 Apr; six PRWMA 20 May. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Ellisburg 4 Apr (EK), an annual location. **Am. Wigeon**: six Ellisburg 4 Apr; max 25 Ellisburg 7 Apr; 20 Ellisburg 11 Apr. **Canvasback**: two pair SLR CV 28 Mar; two TMiPt 3 Apr; two WHWMA 24 Apr; two WHWMA 2 May; three MSD 9 May, only reports. **Redhead**: one WHWMA 25 Apr (MB), only reports. **Ring-necked Duck**: eight Ellisburg 31 Mar; 11 ULLWMA 12 Apr; 30 PRWMA 15 Apr, very low count; max 191 Black R LEWI 9 Apr (BH), high numbers all spring; 63 MSD 24 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: 12 on ice edge SLR at ice-out 28 Mar; max 36 SLR 5 Apr; one ULLWMA 11 Apr. **Lesser Scaup**: 12 SLR 6 Apr; 12 TMiPt 13 Apr; max 33 SLR 20 May. **Oldsquaw**: ten Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 7 Apr; max 200-300 SLR 9 Apr; at ULLWMA 20 Apr, unusual at this location; eight Sawyer's Bay 8 May; 60 Wilson's Bay 15 May; pair SLR 23 May. **Surf Scoter**: 18 flying toward SLR near Wilson's Bay 28 Mar (M&BW). **Com. Goldeneye**: max 65 Stony Pt 8 Mar; 55 MSD 20 Mar; 24 SLR 28 Mar. **Bufflehead**: max 75 Sawyer's Bay 7 Apr; 15 Stony Pt 19 Apr. **Hooded Merganser**: one Adams 12 Mar; four Adams 28 Mar; ten TMiPt 9 Apr. **Com. Merganser**: 40 TMiPt 3 Apr; max 230 MSD 11 Apr; 30-40 MSD 7 May; six PRWMA 20 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: four SLR 9 Apr; max 12 TMiPt 9 Apr; three Sawyer's Bay 13 Apr; three pairs SLR 2 May; pair MSD 20 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 30 Mar; max 450+ in 45 min near Woodville 4 Apr, this day not a good hawk migration day but birds came through anyway; 186 in one hour NRd 6 Apr. **Osprey**: four PRWMA 15 Apr, two on nests; five, one nesting just above water in goose nesting tub, PRWMA 4 May. **Bald Eagle**: ad s of Chaumont 30 Mar; imm HSUA 1 Apr; ad & imm on ice at deer carcass Henderson H 1 Apr; one Brownville 1 Apr; imm Dead Creek deer wintering area STLA T Clifton 12 Apr; one Louisville STLA 20 Apr; imm ULLWMA 20 Apr; one TMiPt 22 Apr; imm HSUA landing in Silver Maple Swamp to over night 26

Apr; two CH 28 Apr; ad PRWMA 30 May coming in from Lake Ontario. **N. Harrier**: five CH 27 Mar; six Woodville 4 Apr; max 15 CH 28 Apr; pair over Henderson in courtship flight 28 Apr; two, one male carrying food, CH 29 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 13 CH 28 Apr; ten CH 29 Apr; 30+ additional sightings, encouraging from the past few years; regular visitor to Henderson feeder in May and Ogdensburg feeder daily all season. **Cooper's Hawk**: seven NRd 5 Apr; five NRd 6 Apr; max 21 CH 28 Apr; one THSF 14 May; one over Henderson 22 May. **N. Goshawk**: imm CH 26 Mar and 28 Mar; imm Ellisburg 2 Apr; imm Woodville 4 Apr; two in aerial fight over CH 28 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: one Chaumont 30 Mar; 12 CH 31 Mar; max 49 Woodville 4 Apr; 43 NRd 5 Apr; 25 NRd 6 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk**: max 72 CH 28 Apr, they must head inland after rounding the e end of Lake Ontario at Derby Hill (LC). **Red-tailed Hawk**: *intro*; max 500 in 45 min Woodville 31 Mar; 131 in 1 hour NRd 5 Apr, many additional birds further east of this location and uncounted on this day (LC); 30 NRd 6 Apr; 11 CH 28 Apr; numbers have definitely increased in past decade in T Clifton, Fine, Colton and Piercefield STLA (PO). **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 20 PtPen 2 Mar; last three - two CH and one Canton 28 Mar. Golden Eagle: imm Woodville in hawk flight 4 Apr (LC). **Am. Kestrel**: max six Massena 28 Apr; five CH 28 Apr; decreasing into May and very few local birds this year. **Merlin**: six birds seen in JEFF; first 4 Apr, last 28 Apr, exceptional year. **Peregrine Falcon**: one Ellisburg 30 Mar (LC&DP). **GYRFALCON**: imm light morph PtPen 12 Mar (AS! & CS fide DC); light phase near Woodville 24 Mar (LC, mob, ph, NYSARC). **Gray Partridge**: three on road Sand Bay to Clayton 1 Apr (M&BW); two Fox Creek Road T CV 10 Apr (DP). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: home grown birds in JEFF and STLA; max ten Ogdensburg. **Ruffed Grouse**: numbers somewhat down, hard winter? **Wild Turkey**: two CV 31 Mar; bird heard calling LWMA 29 Apr; max 20 T Louisville STLA 30 Apr; one Stony Pt T Henderson 17 May (GM); one NRd 29 May. **N. Bobwhite**: released birds T Henderson JEFF. **Virginia Rail**: two Massena 8 May. **Sora**: 12 PRWMA 4 May. **Com. Moorhen**: max ten PRWMA 20 May. **Am. Coot**: one PRWMA 15 May, only report. **SANDHILL CRANE**: three T Henderson JEFF flying n e 10:50 hours 5 Apr (LC, ph, NYSARC) were seen again near Alexandria Bay at about 12:00 hours by Len Ollivett on the same day; the first sighting above is not far from the location that single bird seen last year at CH 7 Apr (LC). **Semipalmated Plover**: max eight WBM 21 May. **Killdeer**: max 63 NRd 5 Apr. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 12 Baggs Corner 19 Apr; one PRWMA 15 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: one WBM 24 Apr; one Watertown 8 May; one PRWMA 9 May; max five WBM 15 May. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr is only

report. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max four Massena 15 May; three T CV 16 May; one THSF 22 May; breeders scarce. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr 25 Apr; max five Route 180 near PRWMA 20 May (LC&GM); one Burnt Rock Road T CV 21 May (RB); one near WBM 22 & 30 May (M&BW), a declining population. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** two Massena 23 May. **Least Sandpiper:** three WBM 15 & 21 May; two CV 15 May (M&BW); one Red Lake T Theresa 23 May (RB). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one near WBM 15 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** one WBM 3 May (M&BW), seldom reported. **Com. Snipe:** widespread in suitable habitat by 20 Apr. **Am. Woodcock:** max 15+ Limerick Cedars T Brownville JEFF 9 May. **Little Gull:** one MSD 11 Apr (MB). **Bonaparte's Gull:** six Southwick Beach SP 18 Apr; 120 in mixed plumages feeding in beach debris from heavy wind and high water 19 Apr (LC); four TMiPt 22 Apr (B&JW). **Ring-billed Gull:** three Henderson 7 Mar; thousands in s JEFF 24 Mar; 80,000 Little Galoo Is, Lake Ontario, T Hounsfeld JEFF 10 May (DP). **Iceland Gull:** three Ogdensburg 21 Mar (PK). **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 60 to 70 MSD 11 Apr; five SLR 24 Apr. **Caspian Tern:** max ten PRWMA capturing small bullheads 10 May; seen inland in T Henderson carrying food and heading for Little Galoo I about 12+ mi away, where they nest. **Com. Tern:** max 50+ Raquette R StLA 2 May; one Clayton 3 May; one PRWMA 15&20 May. **Black Tern:** 40 WBM 3 May; 20 ULLWMA May; pair PRWMA 4 May; 40+ PRWMA 20 May; eight with three on nests Dablon Bay 16 May (RB).

Rock Dove: one over THSF 14 May, unexpected in heavily forested area. **Mourning Dove:** max 56 at Ogdensburg feeder 20 Mar; heard calling 8 Apr StLA T Fine, not common in the Adirondacks; numbers increasing LEWI (BH). **Black-billed Cuckoo:** two Louisville StLA 27 May (MB), none in JEFF. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one Massena 9 May and 14 May (MB). **E. Screech-Owl:** two in roost hole 2 Mar, seen daily to 19 May (M&BW), nesting?; one Louisville StLA 7 Mar. **Great Horned Owl:** two Massena 1 Mar; heard calling CV 20 Mar; two calling HSUA 14 May. **Snowy Owl:** about 13 T Lyme & T CV JEFF in Mar; last T CV 25 Mar. **Barred Owl:** one Pierrepont StLA May 1; one heard calling in daytime THSF 14 May (LC&GM). **Short-eared Owl:** one T CV 6 & 9 Apr (M&BW). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one heard calling nightly Pierrepont StLA 1-8 May (KC). **Com. Nighthawk:** one Massena 10 May; one Massena 15 May; returned Ogdensburg 23 May, only reports, very scarce. **Whip-poor-will:** three HSUA 6 May; five Limerick Cedars T Brownville JEFF 9 May; 16 HSUA 30 May. **Chimney Swift:** max JEFF 12 on 22 May; max

Massena seven 29 May; max LEWI eight THSF 14 May. **Belted Kingfisher**: arr 6 Apr; one Star L and Streeter L in late Apr, uncommon in the Adirondacks (PO). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Mixer Road near Belleville T Ellisburg JEFF 25 May (LC), three there 26 May (GM), pair copulating same location 27 May (GM); one at feeder Clayton for three days in early May. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: seen regularly Henderson; one TmiPt 4 & 15 Mar (B&JW) and 2 Apr; male NRd s end in Apr. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr TH Diamond Road T Lorraine 14 Apr; seen less frequently this spring for unknown reasons. **Downy Woodpecker**: female fed regularly from hummingbird feeder after 16 May. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: one Peavine Swamp T Fine StLA 4 Mar (PO). **N. Flicker**: singles Stony Pt 2 Mar, PtPen 7 Mar, CH 27 Mar, wintering birds? **Pileated Woodpecker**: ten birds reported, increasing?

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one CV 23 May. **Alder Flycatcher**: max 14 Massena 26 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: max four PRWMA 30 May. **Least Flycatcher**: high numbers THSF 14 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max 21 Massena 14 May. **E. Kingbird**: high numbers in CV and Henderson on the Lake Ontario Plain eco-zone. **Horned Lark**: five small flocks PtPen 7 Mar; increasing at all roadsides 19 Mar; max 30 T CV 30 Mar; one PRWMA 20 May; one Henderson 28 May, in low numbers as a nester. **Blue Jay**: 30 Diamond Road T Lorraine JEFF TH 17 Mar; also in high numbers in Massena area. **Am. Crow**: a very noticeable movement into TH from the w & s 10 Mar. **Com. Raven**: one calling Canton 27 Mar (MG), unusual location; one calling THSF 14 May, may nest at Inman Gulf; three pairs in one day in breeding season TH T Montague (*vide* Gerry Smith); being harrassed by crows T Clifton StLA 20 May. **Black-capped Chickadee**: 40+ at feeder Diamond Road T Lorraine JEFF TH 10 Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: two at feeder Diamond Road TH 10 Mar; seven THSF 14 May; almost no migrants along the Lake Ontario Plain this year. **Brown Creeper**: one at Watertown feeder 16 Mar (RB); many in CV 19 Apr; five CV 24 Apr (M&BW). **Carolina Wren**: two at feeder in Watertown daily all season (RB). **House Wren**: in high numbers at HSUA and Limerick Cedars. **Winter Wren**: two Stony Pt 2 May; five THSF 14 May. **Marsh Wren**: eight PRWMA 20 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: heavy movement 16-19 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 12 CV 3 May; two THSF 14 May. **E. Bluebird**: max ten+ overhead NRd 6 Apr; fewer than last year at Diamond Road TH (S&DL); pair with y hatching Black River 22 May. **Veery**: max 25 Massena 14 May; in low numbers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Massena 31 May (MB), only report. **Swainson's Thrush**: one

CV 25 Apr (M&BW); didn't start calling in Adirondacks until May (PO). **Hermit Thrush**: one Windmill Road T Henderson JEFF with flock of Robins 3 Mar (DP); began singing in the Adirondacks in mid Apr (PO). **Wood Thrush**: max 35 Massena 14 May; six CV by 20 May; fair numbers THSF 14 May, still decreasing? **Am. Robin**: 14 Stony Pt 2 Mar; 60 Stony Pt 3 Mar; heavy movement 26-28 Mar. **VARIED THRUSH**: one eating seed at feeder Coon Bridges Road T Theresa JEFF Feb to late Mar (*fide* DP & KC!, ph). **N. Mockingbird**: one reappeared Henderson 23 Mar; one Pierrepont StLA 4 May; two WBM 16 May; one PRWMA 20 May; five other reports, increasing and able to overwinter. **Brown Thrasher**: one attempted to winter at feeder Cobbville Swamp T Adams found dead (*fide* Jim Farquhar); numbers some what improved from a few years ago. **Am. Pipit**: six Ellisburg 27 Mar; 30 overhead NRd 6 Apr, numbers down from last years. **Cedar Waxwing**: two flocks 45 and 48 Stony Pt 2 Mar; 200 Massena 31 Mar-5 Apr; small flocks of less than six at end of May. **N. Shrike**: one PtPen 7 Mar; one Henderson H 8 Mar; one at Henderson feeder attempting to catch Cedar Waxwings and House Finches 21 Mar; last Henderson H 6 Apr. **European Starling**: one Diamond Road T Lorraine TH 10 Mar, unusual location in winter.

White-eyed Vireo: one Massena 18 May (MB), unconfirmed but well described; the previous Regional report at Cole's Creek T Louisville StLA 6 Jun 1976 (George Maxwell). **Solitary Vireo**: in high numbers THSF 14 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one T Clare StLA 9 May (EK); one Massena 11 May (MB), seldom seen. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one Massena 16 May (MB); one MSD 16 May (MB); one WBM 18 May (M&BW); one Massena 20 May (MB). **Red-eyed Vireo**: max 52/day (MB). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one Diamond Road T Lorraine TH 7 May (S&DL), seldom reported. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Pierrepont StLA 8 & 15 May (KC). **Tennessee Warbler**: five Massena 15 May (MB); max ten Massena 20 May (MB), few reports. **Nashville Warbler**: three observers reported nine sightings, three on TH. **N. Parula**: only two observers reported them; heard singing Forest Preserve Lands along Grasse, Oswegatchie and Raquette R third week of May (PO). **Chestnut-side Warbler**: in every Black Cherry tree THSF 14 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: four Massena 11 May; three CV 11 May; two THSF 14 May. **Cape May Warbler**: four THSF 14 May; one Massena 18 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: three Massena 9 May; four CV 11 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr 6 Apr; max 60+ Henderson 30 Apr; movement through heavily 1-3 May; 35+ THSF 14 May; 36 WBM 20 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: seven THSF 14 May; increasing breeder on Lake

Ontario Plain as farms go back to forest. **Blackburnian Warbler**: five Massena 9 May; four THSF 14 May. **Pine Warbler**: max ten Massena 1 May (MB); nesting 27 May (MB). **Prairie Warbler**: arr Limerick Cedars T Brownville JEFF 4 May (LC); max five Chaumont Barrens T Clayton & Lyme JEFF 11 May (LC). **Palm Warbler**: one CV along SLR 1 May (M&BW); two Massena 14 May (MB). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: six Massena 12 May; max 20+ THSF 14 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: two Massena 6 May, only report. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 20+ Henderson 3 May. **Am. Redstart**: eight THSF 14 May; 20 Massena 28 May. **Ovenbird**: many Chaumont Barrens T Clayton 11 May; many THSF 14 May; 18 Massena 27 May. **N. Waterthrush**: max five THSF wetland 22 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: at Turin Gulf LEWI 20 May (BH). **Connecticut Warbler**: one Henderson 3 May (LC). **Mourning Warbler**: one THSF 14 May (GM). **Wilson's Warbler**: two Massena 12 May (MB); one WBM 23 May (M&BW). **Canada Warbler**: two Massena 18 May; one THSF 14 May; two CV 23 May.

Scarlet Tanager: a red-orange variant Massena 21 May (MB). **N. Cardinal**: expanding and increasing at PtPen, Stony Pt, LWMA, TMiPt and CV JEFF. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: high numbers at Limerick Cedars T Brownville, Chaumont Barrens T Lyme and HSUA. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: eight Henderson 13 Mar before 1993 Blizzard; last Henderson 28 Apr, Massena 2 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr 11 Apr; in fairly high numbers HSUA & Chaumont Barrens. **Vesper Sparrow**: eight Stony Pt 16 Apr (GM); six Stony Pt 21 Apr; more than usual LEWI (BH); three Mixer Road T Ellisburg JEFF 25 May, almost gone as a breeder. **Savannah Sparrow**: one at Watertown feeder 4 Apr (DP); numbers down on the Lake Ontario Plain. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr 2 May; three sites in T CV. **Henslow's Sparrow**: eight heard singing Vaadi Road PRWMA (M&BW); heard at Burnt Rock Road T CV 16 May (RB); one CV 29 May (M&BW). **Fox Sparrow**: one Diamond Road T Lorraine JEFF TH 28 & 29 Mar (S&DL); three Massena 19 Apr (MB). **Song Sparrow**: arr 28 Mar. **Swamp Sparrow**: many PRWMA 15 Apr; 30+ PRWMA 20 May. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr Henderson 15 Apr; a big push of migrants began 25 Apr and ended 6 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: five wintered in Massena (MB); max 15 Henderson 9 May; last 31 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: arr Diamond Road TH 26 Mar; 50 Diamond Road TH 12 Apr; "Oregon" type Ogdensburg 27 Apr (PK). **Snow Bunting**: 50 at feeder TMiPt Apr; max 300 CV 7 Mar; last 30 Woodville being hunted by a Merlin 4 Apr (LC). **Bobolink**: male on territory PRWMA 4 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: 15 males Henderson 10 Mar; 75 males LWMA 19 Mar; hundreds 24-28 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: two Henderson 28 Mar; singing everywhere 15 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr 8 Apr; 15 Stony Pt 11 Apr; max 30-40 Kelsey Creek T Watertown 26 Apr (RB). **Com. Grackle:** arr 24 Mar; large influx 28-30 Mar; first FL 30 May. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** five Henderson 24 Mar; heavy migration 27-28 Mar. **N. Oriole:** in numbers 10 May; population down from last year which was also low from a few years ago. **Purple Finch:** 300+ Ogdensburg at feeders as storm began 9 Mar, major migration out of area 9 Apr (PK); 70-80 at feeder daily and most other feeders village of CV 15 Mar-30 Apr (M&BW); appearing with every storm and replacing House Finch in Pierrepont StLA (KC); male mimicking Am Robin and E Starling Henderson 24 Mar (LC). **House Finch:** 120 at feeder Henderson before blizzard 13 Mar; large numbers displaced by Purple Finches Ogdensburg feeders 9 Mar (PK); many overhead NRd 6 Apr; nest building Henderson 9 Apr; female with red and cream leg bands Ogdensburg to 6 Mar (PK); pink headed individual CV off and on to 5 May (M&BW); at Diamond Road TH 25 May with Purple Finch, unusual at this location; FL begging food 28 May. **Pine Siskin:** max 20-25 Massena 1 Mar (MB); three Ogdensburg, 17 others Massena, two CV all season; two Diamond Road TH, one in Mar the other in May; two Pierrepont 20 Mar; one Henderson on 28 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** 70+ Ogdensburg 9 Mar; six Henderson 13 Mar; 20 Henderson 1 Apr; at least 7 dozen CV village feeders after 1 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** eight Diamond Road TH 17 Mar (S&DL); max 30 Diamond Road TH 10 Apr (S&DL); a total of 15 other individuals, the most interesting one Ogdensburg 25 May (PK) and two Henderson 30 May (LC); several at feeders near Fowlerville LEWI at end of period (BH). **House Sparrow:** max 50+ Ogdensburg 9 Mar.

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

Although March began with a sunny, warming trend, it was only the lull before the storms. The month was the snowiest March ever, with 39.9 inches in the Champlain Valley (where 12.9 inches is normal). Although winter temperatures averaged normal, March was 4% colder than expected. The highlight was the Mother of All Storms, which began at noontime on 13 Mar. By 9:30 PM Crown Point had 14 inches of snow, winds were 45 mph, and drifts four feet high, all to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning. The storm left 26 inches of snow at Plattsburgh and up to 30 inches across the Adirondacks, making it the heaviest March snowfall on record, and third on the all-time list. As if to atone, the month ended with temperatures into the 70°F during the last weekend. April began with three days of wet snow that left 6 inches in northern CLIN on April Fool's Day, adding to the more than a foot of snow already covering the ground. Just as the ground was finally appearing, Inlet and much of the Region received 18 inches of fresh snow on 23 Apr. May was slightly warmer and drier than expected, with monthly precipitation exactly average. There was 32% of possible sunshine, with a high of 83°F on 9 May, several nights of frost, and a half-inch of rain on 24 May.

Arctic visitors continued a good showing into spring. Bill Krueger and others found a hen **Barrow's Goldeneye** at Cumberland Head 4-10 Apr. Krueger, Judy & Roger Heintz, Hal Klein, and Charlie Mitchell kept track of two **Gyr Falcon** at the mouth of the Saranac River: a gray-phase present from 7-25 Mar and a darker, brown bird there 8-29 Mar. Mark Gretch located a **Little Gull** amongst a flock of Bonaparte's Gull at Chazy Landing 12 May. A Snowy Owl was on the ice at Cumberland Head 4-6 Mar. The **Northern Hawk Owl** that arrived on the Heart Lake Road, Lake Placid, back on 18 Nov 1992 remained there until 4 Apr according to Bob Hagar, who notes that this provides a new late date for New York State. Hagar also had a flock of 14 Bohemian Waxwing there on 4 Apr, sharing the same quaking aspen with the Hawk Owl.

In spite of the heavy and late snowfalls, a total of 216 species was reported by Regional observers, a healthy gain over the 194 species reported last spring and notably higher than the 185 species recorded in the much earlier migration of 1991. Contributing to the totals were 594

individuals of 16 raptor species at Coot Hill hawk watch between 14 Apr and 6 May, including a **Mississippi Kite**. There were 19 shorebird species reported, most from CLIN, including a probable nesting pair of **Wilson's Phalarope** being closely watched as summer began. The Crown Point station banded 22 warbler species, and a **Worm-eating Warbler** was found just 32 miles east of where the first for the Region was banded on 10 May 1979.

The bird-banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 18 days, from 7-24 May. A record 854 birds of 62 different species were banded and released, breaking the old records of 603 individuals of 53 species set back in 1979. There were returns of 26 individuals of 13 species banded at Crown Point peninsula in previous years. The oldest return was a Field Sparrow banded 13 May 1988, and now aged at least 5 years, 11 months. A strongly melanistic Eastern Bluebird was banded on the evening of 10 May, and three (of the 42) Cedar Waxwings that were banded had orange, rather than yellow, tail tips. Prairie Warbler arrived at Crown Point 11 May, with birds banded 12-13 May. New to the station were Gray-cheeked Thrush (n nominate *C. m. minimus*) banded 23 May and Northern Parula on 11 May. Noteworthy observations included several Bonaparte's Gull, singing Black-billed Cuckoo, and an immature Orchard Oriole. Features on the banding station appeared on WCAX, Burlington, evening news and in the Plattsburgh *Press-Republican*.

The American Goldfinch invasion continued, with another 610 banded near Elizabethtown in Mar and Apr, and another 188 banded at Crown Point during May, for a total of 1,773 banded in 1993. Previously banded birds retrapped near Elizabethtown originated in Ontario (1); Quebec (2 color-banded); Garland, NY (1); and Maryland (1). A female banded near Elizabethtown on 17 Mar and last retrapped there on 4 Apr was trapped and released by Donald Clark at Farmersville Station CATT on 9 May.

Finally, there were several other noteworthy wanderers. Bill Krueger and Charlie Mitchell had a **Glossy Ibis** in *Clin* 21-23 Apr. While she was crossing Lake Champlain on the Grand Isle-Cumberland Head ferry in the rain on 15 May, Pat Taber saw a large wader heading south in CLIN waters exhibiting, "large patches of black and white wings with large dark head and trailing feet and legs. It was a **Wood Stork!**" A Northern Flicker showing some traits of the Red-shafted races, probably a hybrid, was banded and photographed by Mike Peterson at Crown Point on 9

May. The Chipping Sparrow that wintered in Alt plumage at the Peru feeder of Candy and John Hess remained until 14 Mar. All in all, it was quite a memorable spring.

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Abbreviations: CPP - Crown Point peninsula; CHHW - Coot Hill hawk watch; CHd - Cumberland Head; GF - Gravelle Farm, CLIN; TB - Treadwell Bay; TL - Tupper Lake.

Spring reports: **Pied-billed Grebe:** six locations CLIN 10 Apr-26 May, a good showing. **Red-necked Grebe:** CHd 4-10 Apr; max seven there 7 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr CLIN 14 Apr; max 40 migrants CHHW 25 Apr; 8-10 frequenting Monty Bay for several months; 25-35 frequenting CPP May, but no nesting noted. **Great Egret:** HAMI 15 Apr (GL), first county record; King's Bay WMA 4 May (MG); CLIN 19-21 May (J&RH, BK, HK, CM); increasingly regular. **GLOSSY IBIS:** *intro*. **WOOD STORK:** *intro* (NYSARC). **Snow Goose:** widespread, but short-lived migration noted 27-31 Mar. **Wood Duck:** drake overwintered CHd ferry dock 7 Mar (LA, RB, B K, CM). **N. Pintail:** melanistic bird Lake Shore Road CLIN 25 Apr (BK,CM). **N. Shoveler:** pair Monty Bay appeared to be nesting. **Gadwall:** two pairs Chazy Landing, pair Monty Bay from Apr (MG) suggest nesting. **Am. Wigeon:** drake arr Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM); five Chazy Landing 16 Apr; one TL 26 Apr, a good showing. **Redhead:** eight Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM), only report. **Oldsquaw:** HAMI 1 May (GL), rare inland. **White-winged Scoter:** four Ausable Pt 15 May (MG), only report. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** *intro*. **Red-breasted Merganser:** Plattsburgh and CHd 31 Mar-13 Apr; pair. L. Flower FRAN, 31 Mar-1 Apr, rare inland. **Ruddy Duck:** Chazy Landing 24 Apr (MG), rarely found.

Turkey Vulture: arr Clintonville 28 Mar (CM), early CLIN date.

Osprey: max 40 CHHW. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** one CHHW 28 Apr (GC, EJ,!). **Bald Eagle:** max four CHHW; other reports from CHd and TL. **N. Harrier:** max 16 migrants CHHW and 15+ apparently nesting n CLIN Apr-May. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 44 CHHW "took a dive!" (EJ); could the decline in their spruce budworm specialist prey, from warblers to Evening Grosbeaks, be linked? **Broad-winged Hawk:** dark morph CHHW 24 Apr (EJ); late migrant ad CPP 17 May (JP). **Rough-legged Hawk:** last CLIN 24 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** three CHHW 14-24 Apr; imm Saranac L ESSE, 23 Apr (RH). **Merlin:** two CHHW 15 and 24 Apr, only reports. **Peregrine Falcon:** active near two nest sites Mar; pair in display flight CHHW 28 Apr (EJ, JP,D S), where six migrants were counted. **GYRFALCON:** *intro*. **Wild Turkey:** calling CHHW 14 Apr (EJ); max three feeder near TL golf course (CD); displaying tom Elizabethtown 17 Apr (J&SP); hen CPP 28 May (JP,WP). **Virginia Rail:** six CLIN wetlands a good showing. **Com. Moorhen:** Chazy Landing 21 May (MG), only report. **Am. Coot:** arr mouth Saranac R 4 Apr (BK), early CLIN date; Chazy Landing 30 Apr (MG). **Black-bellied Plover:** GF 18-31 May; max 10 there 30 May. **Lesser Golden-Plover:** GF 30 May, first CLIN spring record. **Semipalmated Plover:** GF 16-31 May; max 32 there 30 May. **Killdeer:** two eating stone flies on ice mouth Saranac R 27 Mar (TM). **Greater Yellowlegs:** GF 19 Apr-21 May; max 10 there 18 May; last 2 McBride Road 26 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** TB 15-21 May; max 12 there 17 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** TB 11 & 16 May; max three McBride Road 26 May. **Ruddy Turnstone:** GF 23-30 May (HK, CM), rare. **Red Knot:** GF 30 May (BK), rare. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** GF 18-31 May; max 25 McBride Road 26 May, good numbers. **Least Sandpiper:** GF 16-30 May; max 32 there 30 May similarly good. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** GF 27, 31 May; max two there 31 May, late CLIN date. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** GF 18-31 May late CLIN date; max two there 18 May. **Dunlin:** TB 20-30 May, late CLIN date; max seven there 21 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** 19 GF 18 May; max 50 Chazy Landing 21 May (MG). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** arr GF 18 May early CLIN date; pair there 18-31 May (Krueger!, mob). **LITTLE GULL:** *intro*. **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr four CLIN 21 Apr; several CPP 9-10 May; last CLIN 31 May (BK). **Great Black-backed Gull:** 20 on ice Port Henry 14 Apr (J&SP); GF 23 Apr-27 May, first CLIN spring record. **Caspian Tern:** CLIN 31 May (BK). **Com. Tern:** max 12 Chazy Landing 7 May. **Black Tern:** max eight Chazy Landing May; territorial s GF 23-31 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: singing CPP 22 May. **Snowy Owl:** *intro*.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: *intro.* **Short-eared Owl:** Chazy Landing alfalfa fields 30 Apr (MG). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** Moody Pd, Paradox, Terry Mt in Mar. **Com. Nighthawk:** on tree limb s bank of Ausable R CLIN 30 May; Ticonderoga same date. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** CHd 10 May (BK), early CLIN record. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** male excavating nest Vermontville Burn 8 May; female Silver L Bog 20 May; female Ferd's Bog 26 May; nest there 31 May. **N. Flicker:** *intro.*

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three-five per day Henderson L from 26 May (TB). **Alder Flycatcher:** Ellenburg 17 May (BK,CM), early CLIN arr. **Horned Lark:** many Pt au Roche 27 Mar; 12 L Placid 3-4 Apr; HAMI 1 Apr. **Gray Jay:** Moose R Plains deer feeding station Mar; Madawaska 6 May. **Com. Raven:** 12 Elizabethtown 1 Mar; eight there 20 Mar; 19 displaying in pairs there morning of 17 Apr; max 35 doing same 7:30 AM 5 May (J& SP, ph); see Fall '92 report for similar paired aerobatics over Mt Discovery and other sites. **Boreal Chickadee:** Golden L, Madawaska, Onchiota. **Tufted Titmouse:** four reports. **Sedge Wren:** arr Pt au Roche 10 May (BK), early CLIN; Bulrush 26 May (MG). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CPP 6-13 May. **E. Bluebird:** still at CPP 3 Mar, where they overwintered; at nest box there 25 Mar; *intro.* **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** *intro.* **N. Mockingbird:** reports from Ticonderoga expected, TL somewhat unexpected, but Calkin's Clearing (1,800' elev.) FRAN 31 May (TB) was a complete wilderness shocker. **Bohemian Waxwing:** *intro.* **Cedar Waxwing:** *intro.* **N. Shrike:** Plattsburgh 28 Mar (TM) only report.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr CLIN 2 May (J&RH). **Cape May Warbler:** in flock with Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers Duck Hole 28 May (TB). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** male arr Paul Smiths 29 Mar (TM). **Pine Warbler:** arr Ausable Pt 19 Apr (CM), early CLIN date. **Prairie Warbler:** *intro;* also near Silver L Bog 20 May (BK,CM), first CLIN record; a good showing for this locally scarce warbler. **Palm Warbler:** arr CLIN 3 May; two Western race banded CPP 11-13 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** abundant migrant above 1,800' elev. Duck Hole area from 26 May (TB). **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one Wadhams 11-12 May (DS), second Regional record. **N. Waterthrush:** arr L Alice 2 May (HK, BK, CM), early CLIN date. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Scofield Creek ESSE 8 May (MB), only report. **Mourning Warbler:** banded CPP 21 May (JP), where an uncommon migrant.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: eating suet Elizabethtown feeder 28 May (JP). **Chipping Sparrow:** *intro.* **Field Sparrow:** *intro.* **Fox Sparrow** six reports from 29 Mar-20 Apr, a strong migration here. **Lincoln's Sparrow:**

16 banded CPP, last 24 May, a late ESSE transient. **Snow Bunting**: last L Placid 3 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 20 Ausable Pt 13 Apr (D&JC); pair on territory Shattuck Clearing ESSE late May. **Orchard Oriole**: imm CPP 16 May (DS, RW). **Purple Finch**: max 35 Paradox 7 Mar. **House Finch**: two transient males Elizabethtown feeder 3 Apr. **Red Crossbill**: Elizabethtown 15 Mar; five Miner Institute 1 Apr; max 12 Crown Pt Center 20 Apr, only reports. **Pine Siskin**: female banded Elizabethtown 17 Apr 1992 found dead Humphrey Twp (Georgian Bay), Ontario, 23 Mar (JP); 350 banded Elizabethtown Jan-Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 15-20 TL feeder 28 Mar; 35 banded Elizabethtown Jan-Apr; pair TL feeder 31 May.

Addenda: Canada Goose: neck-collared goose Pt au Roche 4 Dec 92 banded Maryland 14 Feb 85 (BK). **NORTHERN HAWK OWL**: Chasm Falls FRAN winter of 1929-30 (John Helms) is mounted specimen in Harrietstown Road residence of Richard & Carol Trudeau (daughter of J. Helms) of Saranac L (*vide* Robert Hagar).

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REGION 8 — HUDSON-MOHAWK

ALAN MAPES

It was generally a disappointing spring for migrants as well as winter finches. The weather was on a roller coaster, with March colder than normal, April and May warmer than normal. March was the fourth snowiest on record, with the Blizzard of '93 giving us 22 inches at Albany on 13 Mar. The storm did not seem to unduly stress wintering birds, however. No mortality from the storm was reported. A high temperature of 65°F was recorded there on 27 Mar.

The Snowy Owl present last winter at Fort Edward Wash remained through 30 Mar. One other sighting was reported to the Birdline of Eastern New York (formerly Dial-a-Bird) on 1 Apr at Mariaville L SCHE.

Early migrants were delayed by the late winter weather, with Red-winged Blackbird appearing at Delmar on 8 Mar, the second latest return in 17 years of records at that site. In contrast, some late migrants were early. Warmer than usual temperatures and clear weather during the first 12 days of May might be responsible for some migrants skipping by some favorite birding areas. Cape May Warbler was especially scarce at Five Rivers Center, where they are usually plentiful in the Norway Spruce trees. Willow and Alder Flycatchers were more than a week earlier than average at Delmar.

Red-breasted Nuthatch is nesting at lower elevation than previously noted at Five Rivers Center in Delmar and at Lisha Kill Preserve in Niskayuna. A male Winter Wren attempted nesting at Five Rivers Center, a first for the location (elevation 200 feet). The bird was observed carrying nesting material into an area of overhanging roots along a stream. He apparently did not attract a mate and was not seen after early May. A male lingered at this location until late May in 1992. A pair of Orchard Oriole nested at Five Rivers Center this season, and the male was observed feeding three fledglings. The pair was present at the site during nesting season in 1992, but nesting was not confirmed for that year.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not reported at all. Several reporters noted a scarcity of House Finch at feeders. This was true at Five Rivers Center in Delmar, with only 6 to 8 birds feeding where there are normally 25 to 30. Robert Yunick reported them very scarce at his feeder in Schenectady, where there were no more than 4-5 at a time.

The rarity of the season was a **American Swallow-tailed Kite** seen soaring over Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar on 10 May by Bob Budliger and Jean Wigen. The bird was moving rapidly to the north, and no other sightings of it were confirmed. A Glossy Ibis was found on 16 Apr at Bemis Heights SARA by Barb Putnam. A male Eurasian Wigeon was reported at that location on 4 Apr by Bill Graham, and another Eurasian Wigeon, possibly the same individual, was seen at Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve 1-3 Apr. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen and heard on the SUNY Albany campus on 19 May by Dr. Ken Able and Nancy Martin, who provided a detailed description.

Contributors: Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports; reports to Birdline of Eastern New York; Ken Able, Bob Boehm, John Colborn, Tim Colborn, Paul Connor, Walter Ellison, Craig Fosdick, Bill Graham, Jane Graves, Richard Guthrie, Bill Lee, Alan A. Mapes (AAM), Andrew Mason (AM); Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Barb Putnam, Alice Ross, Paul Saffold, Jim Sotis, Scott Stoner, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA – Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; FREEC – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; SaraL – Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP – Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; VFNP – Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve, SARA.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr Stillwater 21 Mar (NM), last three SaraL 15 May (BL). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr VFNP 10 Apr (NM), max four Basic Creek 15 May (NM). **Horned Grebe:** six SaraL 24 Apr (BP) only report, scarce. **Red-necked Grebe:** only two reports, four Northumberland 14 Apr (BP), five Ft Miller 14 Apr (BP). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Lock 7 SCHE 10 Apr (NM), max 20 Hudson R COLU 17 Apr (BC). **Am. Bittern:** max four BCWMA 27 Apr (NM). **Least Bittern:** one Carter L after 11 May (JS), only report. **Great Egret:** one Hudson R at Moreau 18 Apr (BP) only report, unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** two reports, two Livingston 17 Apr (BC), three Hudson R COLU 28 May (BC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Denton Preserve WASH 19 Apr (BP) only report. **Glossy Ibis:** *intro*. **Mute Swan:** max 100 Hudson R at Germantown 20 Mar (BC). **Tundra Swan:** ad Ft Miller 26-31 Mar (BP) only report. **Snow Goose:** arr 65 Ft Edward 27 Mar (NM). **Wood Duck:** max 22 Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (PC). **Green-winged Teal:** arr Hudson R RENS, SARA and WASH 27 Mar, max eight Ft Edward (NM). **N. Pintail:** max 15 Ft Edward 27 Mar. **Gadwall:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (NM), max five Bemis Heights 4 Apr

(BP). **Eurasian Wigeon:** *intro*. **Am. Wigeon:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (BC), last two 25 Apr VFNP (TC). **Canvasback:** arr and max 30 Hudson R COLU 20 Mar (BC), last two Ft Miller 4 Apr (JG). **Ring-necked Duck:** max 28 VFNP 17 Apr (NM), last VFNP 25 Apr (TC). **Greater Scaup:** three reports, four Hudson R RENS 27 Mar–10 Apr (BC), two Hudson R WASH 27 Mar (BP&NM), one Hudson R SARA 27 Mar (NM). **Lesser Scaup:** two reports, two Hudson R WASH 27 Mar (NM), one Hudson R RENS 3–10 Apr (BC). **Oldsquaw:** arr and max 16 Northumberland 3 Apr (BP). **White-winged Scoter:** two reports, three Hudson R WASH 3 Apr (BP), three Alcove Res ALBA 15 May (NM). **Com. Goldeneye:** last 10 Hudson R COLU 18 Apr (BC). **Bufflehead:** arr two Mohawk R SARA 21 Mar (NM), last two Basic Creek Res ALBA 1 May (NM). **Hooded Merganser:** arr Ft Miller 20 Mar (BP), max 19 Greenwich 27 Mar (NM), last BCWMA 15 May (NM). **Com. Merganser:** two pair Jenny L SARA 22 May (RY), nesting?. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr two Hudson R RENS 27 Mar (BC), last Mohawk R SCHE 10 Apr (NM).

Turkey Vulture: continues to increase in many parts of Region. **Bald Eagle:** 15 reports, max three Conklinville Dam SARA 1 Mar (PS). **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** *intro* (NYSARC). **N. Harrier:** scarce at FREEC during the period where it is usually seen daily, only three reports from other locations. **N. Goshawk:** three reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** three reports, arr Moreau 26 Mar (BP). **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Guilderland 18 Apr (NM), max 16 migrants FREEC 19 Apr (RB). **Rough-legged Hawk:** nine reports, max two Ft Edward 3 Apr (JG), last there 4 Apr (BP). **Merlin:** one Gansevoort 5 Apr (BLENY) only report. **Peregrine Falcon:** four reports, female Albany 16 Apr (NM), ad male Jenny L SARA 8 May (RY), one Watervliet 16 May, pair Friend's Pt near Hague 26 May (LM). **Virginia Rail:** max nine BCWMA 27 Apr (NM). **Com. Moorhen:** five reports. **Greater Yellowlegs:** first and max six Bemis Heights 16 Apr (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** nine Bemis Heights 8 May (BP) only report. **Upland Sandpiper:** three reports, one Saratoga Battlefield NHP after 12 May (BP), one Knox after 21 May (KA), one Moreau 29 May (NM). **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one Bemis Heights 22 May (BP) only report. **Least Sandpiper:** two reports, max seven Bemis Heights 7 May (BP), two BCWMA 15 May (NM). **Am. Woodcock:** arr at four scattered locations. **Bonaparte's Gull:** two reports, two Mohawk R SCHE 11 Apr (RY), one SaraL 15 May (NM). **Iceland Gull:** three reports, one Hudson R COLU 6 Mar (NM), one Mohawk R SCHE 21 Mar (NM), one Hudson R GREE 28 Mar (RG). **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one Hudson R

GREE 28 Mar (RG), only report. **Caspian Tern**: one Hudson R COLU 3 May (BC).

Black-billed Cuckoo: very scarce, reported by four of nine Big Day teams 15 May (RY&AAM). **Snowy Owl**: *intro*. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Petersburg 7 and 22 Mar (AR), one Thirteenth L WARR 5 May (KA), only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: reported by two of nine teams on Century Run 15 May, no other reports. **Whip-poor-will**: reported by two of nine teams 15 May, no other reports. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two reports, male Florida 22 May (BL), two Kingsbury WASH 30 May (BG). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: numerous reports from lower elevations around the region. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: arr Hague 20 Apr (LM), arr Petersburg 22 Apr (AR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one SARA 27 May (JG) only report. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER**: *intro*. **Horned Lark**: max 22 Saratoga 21 Mar (NM). **Purple Martin**: reports from only two locations, Hague after 4 May (LM), number not stated; five SaraL 15 May (NM). **Fish Crow**: max six Guilderland 19 Apr (NM). **Com. Raven**: nine reports, two nesting Thatcher SP ALBA 1 May (NM). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: *intro*. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 14 Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **Winter Wren**: *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: none. **Swainson's Thrush**: seven reports total. **N. Shrike**: last BCWMA 14 Apr (BB), late.

Yellow-throated Vireo: five reports. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one Guilderland 11 May (NM) only report. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr Guilderland 30 Apr (NM). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Berne 4 May (KA), three reports total. **Tennessee Warbler**: much reduced numbers at FREEC (AAM). **N. Parula**: only two reports, one Guilderland 7 May, one Thatcher SP ALBA 15 May, both (NM). **Yellow Warbler**: max 20 VFNP 8 May (BLENY). **Prairie Warbler**: arr FREEC 5 May (AAM). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: more numerous at FREEC than usual this year. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr three Olana 15 May (BC), max six Castleton I RENS 22 May (BC). **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Bash Bish Falls SP COLU 8 May (BC), only report. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr FREEC 16 Apr (AAM), max six Guilderland 5, 10 May (NM). **Mourning Warbler**: three Hadley 15 May (BP) only report. **Wilson's Warbler**: one VFNP 9 May (SS), only report. **Canada Warbler**: max eight Jefferson 14 May (AM). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one FREEC 15 May (JC), only report.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: scarce at Jenny L (RY) and at FREEC (AAM). **Indigo Bunting**: arr male at feeder Berne 23-25 Apr (KA). **Rufous-sided Towhee**: one Gallupville 7 Apr (BB) first, very early; max

four Albany 24 Apr (NM). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** good numbers wintering near Amsterdam (RY), last Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **Chipping Sparrow:** max 25 Albany 23 Apr (NM). **Field Sparrow:** arr L Taghkanic COLU 10 Apr (BC). **Vesper Sparrow:** arr Guilderland 6 May (NM), male Glen MONT 22 May (BL), only reports. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr SBNHP 12 May (BP), max three there 29 May (BL). **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr SBNHP 3 May (JG), max two there after 8 May (BP), only location reported. **Fox Sparrow:** max two Livingston 13 Mar (BC), scarce at FREEC (AAM), only two other reports, last Guilderland 24 Apr (NM). **White-crowned Sparrow:** one wintering Stockport 6 Mar (NM). **Snow Bunting:** max 300 Schuylerville 6 Mar (BP), last 30 Ft Edward 3 Apr (NM). **Red-winged Blackbird:** arr male Stockport 6 Mar (NM). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr 24 n SCHO 17 Apr (BB), max 500 SaraL 24 Apr (BP). **Orchard Oriole:** arr FREEC 4 May (AAM), pairs reported from FREEC and Kingsbury 22 May (RG), *intro*. **N. Oriole:** arr three males, one female Guilderland 3 May (NM). **House Finch:** *intro*. **Purple Finch:** frequent at Guilderland feeder through 24 May, low numbers Jenny L SARA. **Red Crossbill:** two reports, two E Berne 20 Mar (KA), two Gilboa 18 Apr (BB). **Pine Siskin:** very scarce throughout Region, only three reports; last Berne 28 Apr (KA), max nine Hunter (NM). **Evening Grosbeak:** very scarce, regular at feeders only at Petersburg with 30 through 20 Mar (AR) and Jenny L with max 50 on 8 May (RY) and five ad in breeding condition banded 23 May.

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

REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

JOHN P. ASKILDSEN

Spring 1993 was a season of meteorological extremes. It was the wettest March since 1980, with 6 inches of precipitation by month's end, and significantly colder as well, a -3.5°F departure from the norm. The Blizzard of '93, 12-14 Mar, dumped as much as 2.5 inches of precipitation in some areas of the Region. In the northern portion of the Region, this converted into large amounts of snow. April's continued wet spell swelled streams and rivers over their banks, closing many roads. The snow melt from the previous months blizzard only compounded matters. Then came May, dry and hot! Only 27% of the normal rainfall was reported. The temperature reached the 90°F mark by 11 May. By bird standards the weather was glorious. By birders' standards it was abysmal. Nothing but day after day of clear blue skies and 80 and 90°F temperatures the entire month. There were very few if any weather fronts to interrupt the birds' migration and bring them down to satisfy our birding needs and desires. This spring migration was definitely for the birds only.

Much attention was paid to an area of the Bear Mountain SP in Rock for its bounty of resident nesters. The area, known by birders as "Doodletown Road," is a forested hillside on the eastern boundary of the park with a paved path leading through it. This area was a private community earlier this century and is now abandoned. Starting in late April, this area was particularly productive, with the primary attractors being up to 25 Hooded, two Kentucky, 15 Cerulean, and several Golden-winged Warblers. Black Vulture was found soaring overhead frequently. Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were abundant. Good numbers of grosbeaks, tanagers, buntings, orioles, vireos, and hummingbirds could be found as well. As the migration progressed, this location proved to be a good migration spot, sometimes providing over 20 species of warbler in one morning. Just a few miles away, at the West Point Military Reservation, both Brewster's and Lawrence's types of Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrids could be found with some effort, along with more Hooded, Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers. To top things off, the sanitary landfill at the adjacent Harriman SP hosted resident pairs of both Common Raven (probably the most southerly location in the state)

and Black Vulture. The potential that both species breed in the vicinity is very high.

Several contributors have noticed an increase in the Wood Duck population in the Region. Perhaps this is an after effect of the advancing rabies epidemic in the Raccoon population. Many observers reported an impressive Yellow-rumped, Pine and Palm Warbler migration in April from throughout the Region. Both Cuckoos were once again reported in minimal numbers. Orchard Oriole made a good showing with numerous reports coming from all counties.

Rarities for the season included some winter holdovers. The last of the previously reported **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen last in Rye on 21 Mar, and the previously reported **Barrow's Goldeneye** in Rye stayed until 14 Mar. Several southern spring overshoots, more or less expected to occur in the Region were reported. **Black Vulture**, of which conservatively no less than 13 individuals were reported, was found most often at the ROCK-ORAN border. Reports of singles and small groups were also received from ULST, DUTC, PUTN and interestingly, one from coastal WEST on 18 Apr, where this species rarely strays. A **Prothonotary Warbler** stayed at the Rockefeller SP in WEST. 24-28 Apr and a female **Summer Tanager** was found at the Rye Nature Center on 30 Apr. But the real surprises came from the west. An **American White Pelican** was found at Cornwall Bay ORAN on the evening of 21 May by two fisherman. The following morning it delighted a handful of local birders doing an annual spring big day. Probably one of the most well traveled pelicans in the States' ornithological history, it was undoubtedly the same individual which spent the previous week in the Adirondacks, passing through Region 9 on 21 May only to visit New York City and Long Island beginning on 23 May! A **Brewer's Blackbird** was found on 29 Apr in Pine Plains DUTC by two experienced observers. If accepted, this sighting would be a new DUTC record. A dark morph **Swainson's Hawk** was reported from Hook Mountain on 18 Apr. It is a red letter day when this species is recorded in New York. What is particularly interesting about this sighting is that it is a spring record and of a dark morph. Steve and Linda Taft found a brightly marked male **Dickcissel** at the Stoney Kill Environmental Center DUTC on 1 May, where it remained through 21 May. Finally, two species that may be considered rare or historical nesters in the Region were reported. A **Sedge Wren** was heard calling by several observers at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye on 28 May, as was a probable **King Rail**, which also was seen there

several times briefly by several different observers for a period in early May. The report stands as probable because of the great difficulty in separating brown Clapper Rail from King Rail when the subject is as uncooperative as this one was. Other interesting species reported included Great Cormorant inland, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red Crossbill and Common Redpoll.

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Abbreviations: Bash - Bashkill Marsh, SULL; BCF - Blue Chip Horse Farm, ULST; HMHW - Hook Mountain Hawk Watch, season total; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, WEST.

Spring reports: **Horned Grebe:** eight Bash 4 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** low numbers on Long I Sound; one Rye 6 Mar; four Bash 5 Apr; one DUTC 17 Apr. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** *intro* (The McDermotts, mob). **Great Cormorant:** 14 Hudson R WEST 19 Mar, two on Hudson R ORAN 30 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** one DUTC 15 May, decreasing in numbers. **Least Bittern:** three DUTC 15 May. **Little Blue Heron:** one Bash 14 May. **Cattle Egret:** one DUTC 15 May. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC during May. **Snow Goose:** blue morph DUTC 3 Apr. **Brant:** bulk of birds migrated 14 and 21 May, 1800 flew up Hudson R ROCK 14 May. **Blue-winged Teal:** arr DUTC 24 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** four DUTC 5 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon:** drake Bash 4 Apr (AG, JPA, VE, MC), first SULL record; one Rye through mid Mar. **Redhead:** drake MC until 16 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** six Bash and nine Mongaup Res SULL 4 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** two Mongaup Res 4 Apr; 39 Rye 25 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** one Sylvan I DUTC 11 Apr (CP); one Rye 21 Mar. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** *intro* (TWB, mob). **Hooded Merganser:** nesting confirmed at US Military Academy at West Pt, unprecedented there.

BLACK VULTURE: *intro*. **Turkey Vulture:** 73 HMHW. **Osprey:** two nests Bash; 77 HMHW. **Bald Eagle:** four HMHW. **N. Harrier:** 32 HMHW. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 236 HMHW. **Cooper's Hawk:** 25 HMHW. **N. Goshawk:** three HMHW. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 22 Mar Rock (PF), very early; 1609 HMHW. **Red-tailed Hawk:** 16 HMHW. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** *intro* (PF). **Rough-legged Hawk:** max six at Galeville Airport, ULST 2 Mar. **Golden Eagle:** pair DUTC to 7 Mar. **Am. Kestrel:** 392 HMHW. **Merlin:** four HMHW. **Peregrine Falcon:** two HMHW. **N.**

Bobwhite: one MC after 24 May, origin unknown, historical records there only. **Clapper Rail:** max five MC 12 May. **KING RAIL:** *intro* (TWB, AG). **Virginia Rail:** one MC 8 Apr. **Sora:** max two MC 29 May. **Com. Moorhen:** reports from Bash only. **Am. Coot:** one Bash 30 May, late. **Am. Oystercatcher:** arr MC 30 Mar. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Rye 16 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max 26 DUTC 15 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** arr across Region 25 Apr. **Upland Sandpiper:** two 16 BCF May. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** max two MC 29-31 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one DUTC 15 May. **Purple Sandpiper:** last Rye 8 May. **Dunlin:** two ROCK Apr 28. **Com. Snipe:** max nine Dutc 19 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** 30 MC 21 Mar. **Laughing Gull:** arr two Rye 8 Apr. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** *intro* (TWB). **Com. Tern:** arr MC 3 May. **Least Tern:** arr MC 8 May.

Barn Owl: one flew over Taconic Parkway DUTC 15 May. **Long-eared Owl:** two DUTC 21 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one calling SULL 3 Mar; two DUTC 27 Mar. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr early n WEST 18 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** singles in yard Amenia DUTC 25 Mar, ROCK 12 Apr, BCF all Spring; pair Poughkeepsie yard in May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report two DUTC 13 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** several reports as n as DUTC. **E. Phoebe:** arr DUTC 9 Mar. **Purple Martin:** arr ROCK 6 Apr; max 12 at colony DUTC May, another colony with 5 pair reported in DUTC. **Tree Swallow:** arr late SULL 31 Mar, WEST 6 Apr. **Barn Swallow:** arr Bash 4 Apr. **Com. Raven:** *intro*. **SEDGE WREN:** *intro* (AG). **Marsh Wren:** arr MC 2 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: several reports DUTC in May; one-two Doodletown Road all season. **Philadelphia Vireo:** only report one DUTC 21 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** numerous reports from ROCK, ORAN and SULL. **Cape May Warbler:** low numbers reported. **Blackburnian Warbler:** one on territory again Arden Valley Road, Harriman SP. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** depressed numbers reported. **Cerulean Warbler:** two DUTC 15 May; *intro*. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER:** *intro* (mob). **N. Waterthrush:** one on territory at Pt Orange Road ORAN during May. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Yonkers 15 May; *intro*. **Mourning Warbler:** arr 20 May across Region. **Hooded Warbler:** reported from all counties except SULL; *intro*. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one 13 May; pair MC after late May.

SUMMER TANAGER: *intro* (TWB). **DICKCISSEL:** *intro*. **Snow Bunting:** max 40 DUTC 3 Mar; last DUTC 16 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** good numbers reported from Bash 15 Apr. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** *intro* (EDT!, Jack Focht, NYSARC). **Red Crossbill:** singles DUTC 14 Mar, ULST 15 May. **Com. Redpoll:** one DUTC 16 Mar (SG). **Pine Siskin:** one DUTC all month.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

This season's early weather was dominated by the "Blizzard of the Century." It dumped heavy snow on our Region and was accompanied by high winds. The storm began on 11 Mar. It undid any and all attempts to repair the beach damage from the disastrous storm of last 11 Dec. While the "blizzard" did not live up to its forecast, nevertheless, it did do substantial additional damage. Each successive full moon high tide contributed to the problems. At the end of the period much work still needs to be done, although repairs have been made to open most beaches for the coming summer. The loss of sand and dunes significantly increases the threat of damage to the shore from the upcoming fall hurricane season. Officials are still coping with the questions of what to do and how to spend the limited public funds available.

March was cold and wet (39.7°F. against a norm of 42.4°, and 6.64 inches of rain against a norm of 4.08 inches). The blizzard contributed much of the cold and precipitation. April had about normal weather. May was warm and virtually without precipitation (65.7°F. against a norm of 62.7°, and 1.56 inches of rain against a norm of 4.42). Much of this meager rainfall came on May 31 in heavy thunder storms before midnight). The lack of any rain or accompanying fronts in May virtually insured that the migration on Long Island fizzled before it started. By 10 May it was mostly over.

The migration started with a number of reports of early Eastern Phoebe. However, because so many wintered this past season, it proved difficult to separate wintering birds from new arrivals. Otherwise, things were more normal for some weeks. Then, there was a flood of birds. On the night of 10 Apr, a front with heavy rain and wind went through the Region. The rain had just stopped by morning. It brought with it a major influx of very early migrants and new early dates on 11 Apr. There were a dozen early records for the spring including record early dates for Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Blue Grosbeak; Indigo Bunting was almost so as well. Scarlet Tanager and Blue Grosbeak not only appeared early but were in unprecedented numbers along the beaches. On 11 Apr there were 5 of the former and 13 of the latter along the Jones Beach strip. Blue Grosbeak were seen at the beach as late as 6 May. A few days later on 15 Apr there was a major flight of scoters on the ocean along with other waterfowl.

The auspicious April start of the Spring migration came to nought in May. Before discussing this, some comments on birding in the area might be of interest. We receive a lot of birding information. Although much material presented to us does not appear in these reports, it is still useful and at times we wish there was more of it. The "early arrival" reports from our correspondents are another source of data. Here we get to see notes on common species that are not usually reported. When coupled with the birding habits of our correspondents, stretching from Staten Island to the west and SUFF to the east, we begin to get a glimmer of the big picture. All of this is of particular interest this season. The breadth of the Region, 150 miles, has always resulted in disparities in the migration pattern with location. The absence of weather movements in May made this increasingly apparent. This year the distribution phenomenon appeared more pronounced than usual. There were fewer birds; and the bird numbers peaked earlier in the migration. As one moves east from New York City, the quantity and number of small birds decreased. The dates when peak numbers were found also came earlier, and the migration ended earlier to the east than to the west. Warblers and other migrants became scarce as one moved east from the City. There were virtually no reports of Tennessee Warbler or Cape May Warbler from Long Island this spring. The few exceptions were mostly from the New York City parks in Queens. Many correspondents also omitted early dates for Gray-cheeked Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. Except for breeding birds, *Empidonax* flycatchers were also noticeably absent from reports this spring. If one sees one bird, that becomes the early date, even if it is the only date. We usually don't know how many birds that birders observed when listing an early report date. But complete misses are obvious and ominous, and there were more than we like to see.

Henry Flamm reported on the range expansion of the Osprey to Staten Island. There was nesting activity for the first time since 1921. After a lapse of 72 years a pair of birds was observed by Bernie Paul, Jr., putting sticks on a pole in Princess Bay. Two other nests were constructed on adjacent poles. The Osprey were still adding sticks at the season's end.

Part of the Common Tern and Black Skimmer colony at Cedar Beach has moved from behind the first dune line to the beach side. The old tern nesting area is quite overgrown and this could account for the movement. The beach has been roped off to deter bathers from disturbing the colonies.

A request had been made for information on Purple Martin colonies in the Region since there recent reports had been negative. Much of the Long Island data comes from Robert Laskowski. He points out that this

species needs "management help on nesting competition from House Sparrows and starlings and predators such as Raccoons." Present sites include colonies at Bayshore, Islip, Bohemia, Oakdale, Bayport and Patchogue. This year a large colony at Babylon was invaded by starlings. There are three colonies on Staten Island. The Lemon Creek colony was severely devastated last year by Raccoons, dropping to a third of their 1991 numbers. This year about 30 individuals are present.

A number of exceptional rarities were found this season. The **Spotted Redshank** which wintered in Brooklyn remained until March 18. When last seen it was still in its drab Basic plumage. The new rarities began with a **Magnificent Frigatebird** found alive in a field at Bergen Point in W Babylon on 14 Mar. It died on 17 Mar, and the specimen is now in the American Museum of Natural History. An adult **American White Pelican** was reported in widely scattered locations and is presumed to be the same individual. This was followed by an adult **White Ibis** in late March, and an **American Swallow-tailed Kite** in mid April. May featured **Wilson's Plover**, **Townsend's Warbler**, and a pair of **Painted Bunting**, the second occurrence in Central Park.

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Abbreviations: BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; JBWR–Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; LI – Long Island; MeB – Mecox Bay; MPt – Montauk Point; NYRBA – New York Rare Bird Alert; PBP – Pelham Bay Park; RMSP – Robert Moses State Park; ShIn – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island.

Spring reports: **Red-necked Grebe:** two MPt 3 Mar (NYRBA), one Moriches 21 Mar (JR, Myrna Hemmerick), three Democrat Pt 16 Apr (NYRBA). **Sooty Shearwater:** two ShIn 22 May, four Democrat Pt 26 May (JF), one ShIn 30 May (NYRBA). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Cornwall Bay 21-22 May (Ken McDermott); JBWR 23 May (JF, Hugh Martin), 24 May (TB); Mill Neck 26 May (Rich Kelly), May 27 (Larry Plotnick, HR). **BROWN PELICAN:** one on Hudson R 23 May (John & Ellen Caspars), two later in the day (Bob Machover). **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** *intro*. **Least Bittern:** one Big Reed Pd, MPt 18 May (NYRBA). **WHITE IBIS:** E

Moriches 21-28 Mar (Jay Kuklman). **Tundra Swan**: one Hook Pd 3 Mar (NYRBA). **Eurasian Wigeon**: three W Sayville Golf Course 1-5 Mar, one Mastic 1-28 Mar, one Hook Pd 4 Apr (NYRBA). **Tufted Duck**: one Calverton 5 Mar, one Hook Pd 5 & 20 Mar (*vide* AL). **Com. Eider**: last MPt early May, 300 there 7 Mar. **King Eider**: last MPt late Mar. **Harlequin Duck**: two MPt 7 Mar, one Throgs Neck Bridge 12 Mar, 11 PL 3-5 Apr, two Democrat Pt 16 Apr (NYRBA). **Barrow's Goldeneye**: one Harbor Ave off Dune Rd 19-28 Mar (AB, JR).

Turkey Vulture: one BNL 20 Mar (Mel Cowgill), three Tiffany Creek Reserve, Oyster Bay 3 Apr (Allan & Lois Lindberg), one Northville 4 Apr (Mary Laura Lamont), one Stony Brook 6 Apr (James Griffin), one Hempstead H 9 Apr, one JBWE 13 Apr (PL), one Tiffany Creek Reserve, Oyster Bay 24 Apr (Allan & Lois Lindberg), one Garvies Pt Preserve 25 Apr (RC), two Forest P 8 May (JR, mob), one Clove L P, SI 15 May (HF). **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**: JBWR 17 Apr (Mildred Penzer). **Bald Eagle**: ad Reed's Valley, SI mid May (*vide* HF). **Peregrine Falcon**: pair displaying at JBch water tower, where there has been a roost for the last two winters. **Sora**: two Big Reed Pd, MPt 18 May. **WILSON'S PLOVER**: Napeague Inlet May 28, (Tom Vezo, PL, AL). **SPOTTED REDSHANK**: *intro*. **Upland Sandpiper**: St Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale 16 Apr (PL). **Hudsonian Godwit**: one Georgica Pd 11 May (NYRBA). **Purple Sandpiper**: 40+ Atlantic Beach 13 May (JF). **Wilson's Phalarope**: one JBWR 10 May (NYRBA), one CM 13 May (PM, SS). **Red Phalarope**: one Captree SP 14 Mar (Peter Murphy, mob). **Little Gull**: one Tobay 18 Mar (AL); one ad, one imm Oak Beach 4 Apr (TB). **Com. Black-headed Gull**: one Bridgehampton 1-15 Mar (mob), one Sagg Pd 27 Mar (AL). **Iceland Gull**: one MPt 1-7 Mar (mob), one Tobay 18 Mar, one MPt 20 Mar, one Sagg Pd 27 Mar, one JBWE 4 Apr (EL, SS, AW). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one-two MPt 7-20 Mar, one Tobay 19 Mar (NYRBA). **Glaucous Gull**: one JBWE 20 Mar (NYRBA). **Caspian Tern**: one Hauppauge 17 Apr, one HLSF 24 Apr, two Sagg Pd 29 Apr (NYRBA), one MeB 28 Apr (PG). **Com. Tern**: *intro*. **Black Tern**: one Dune Rd 7 May (JR). **Black Skimmer**: *intro*. **Dovekie**: three MPt 7 Mar (AL). **Razorbill**: one MPt 2 Mar, 125 MPt 7 Mar (NYRBA), 30 MPt 8 Mar (JR), 60 MPt 11 Mar (JF), two MPt 4 Apr (NYRBA); one RMSP 3-16 Apr (NYRBA).

Snowy Owl: one Central P 6 Mar, one JBWR 11 Mar, one JBWE 11 Mar, two JBWE 20 Mar (NYRBA). **Long-eared Owl**: eight PBP 1 Mar, some stayed several days (NYRBA). **Chuck-will's-widow**: one Riverhead 29 Apr and 15 May (JR), two Oak Beach 22 May, five Amagansett 24 May (NYRBA). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Central P 1-15 May NYRBA), a few others reported.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: a few after mid May. **E. Kingbird:** RMSP 11 Apr (JQ), JBch 12 Apr (JR), quite early. **Purple Martin:** *intro*. **Barn Swallow:** arr 14 Mar (NYRBA), early. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one on nest BNL 1 May (JR). **Wood Thrush:** one Central P 8 Mar (NYRBA), early. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** one Prospect P 11 May (Tom Fiore).

Yellow-throated Vireo: *intro* (SS, AW). **Philadelphia Vireo:** one Prospect P 10 May, one Welwyn Preserve 9 May (RC), one Central P 11 & 15 May (NYRBA), one High Rock SI 15 May (Nancy Zawada). **Red-eyed Vireo:** *intro*. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** "Brewster's" type Old Westbury 6 May (RC). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one BNL 1 May (BA, JR), one JBWR 16 May (NYRBA). **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:** Alley Pd P 9 May (Andy Baldelli). **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one RMSP 18 Apr, one Central P 20 Apr-1 May, one JBWE 8 May, one Westhampton 8 May, one JBWR 22-23 May (NYRBA). **Pine Warbler:** 8-10 HLSP 11 Apr (mob). **Cerulean Warbler:** one Prospect P 28-29 Apr & 22 May (NYRBA), one Westhampton 2 May (NYRBA) one HLSP 6 May (MB). **Prothonotary Warbler:** a half dozen reports 4 Apr to 8 May (NYRBA). **Worm-eating Warbler:** several reports. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Central P 2 May, one Westhampton 8 May, one Yaphank 15 May, one Eastport 16 May (NYRBA). **Hooded Warbler:** one Prospect P 18 Apr, last 23 May; reported as far east as Westhampton.

Summer Tanager: *intro*, one JBch 4 Apr, one Central P 8-9 May, one Forest P 9 May, three Prospect P 10 May, two Central P 12 May. **Scarlet Tanager:** one RMSP 12 and 14 Apr (JR). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** *intro* (MB, mob). **Blue Grosbeak:** *intro*, a few others reported. **Indigo Bunting:** one RMSP 12 Apr (JR), early. **PAINTED BUNTING:** pair Central P 23 May (Brenda Renshaw, W. Baumann, David Etheridge), one stayed to May 26. **Dickcissel:** one at feeder Long Beach 24-25 Apr (NYRBA). **Vesper Sparrow:** three SI 14 Apr, one Central P 18 Apr (NYRBA). **Dark-eyed Junco:** Oregon type Rockville Center 10 Mar (Lester Feldman). **Lapland Longspur:** two wintered JBWE to 7 Mar (mob). **Boat-tailed Grackle:** one Cedar Beach 12 Apr (JR); reported at JBch May, two Great Kills Park, SI (HF), and JBWR. **Orchard Oriole:** one Wading River 20 May (JR), three pair appear to be nesting in Sunken Meadow SP (HB), others reported.

Exotics: Whooper Swan: three Hook Pd and points west to RMSP after 11 Mar, origin uncertain. **Barnacle Goose:** five Eastport Pd 20 Mar (PG, Aline Dove), probable escapes.

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