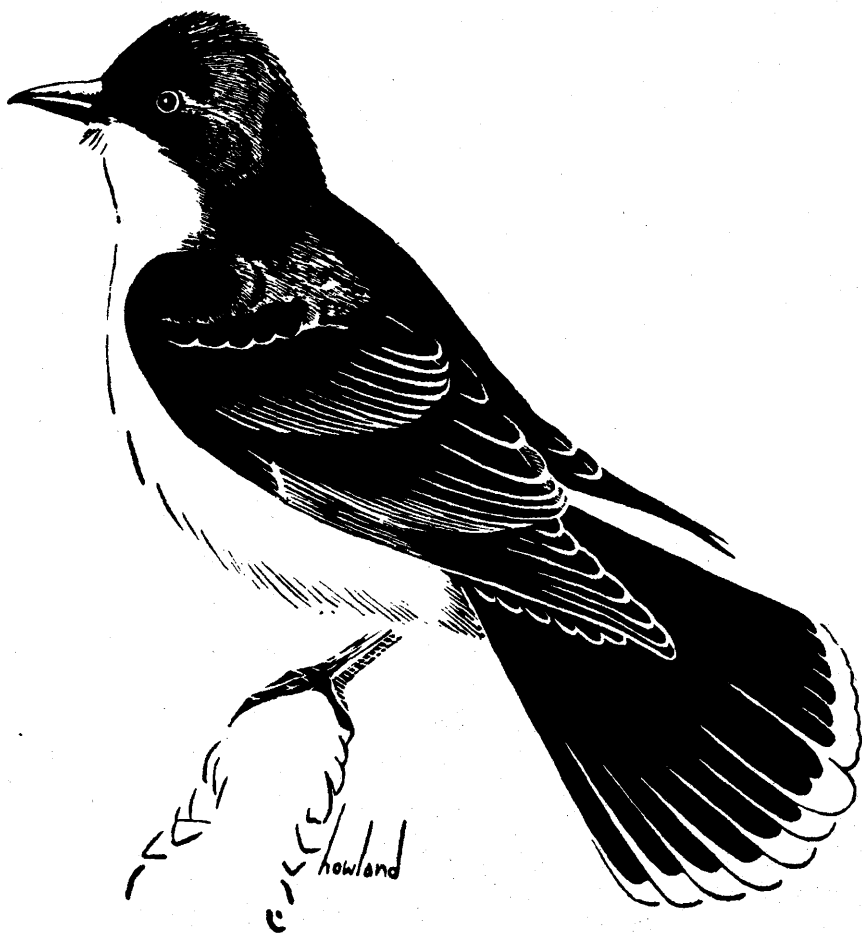


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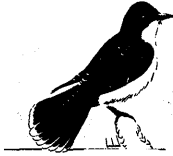
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Figure 1. Ancient Murrelet at mouth of the Genesee River, Rochester, New York, 4 November 1994. Photograph by Robert Marcotte.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES 63:
ANCIENT MURRELET

ROBERT MARCOTTE

The morning of 31 October 1994, dead calm on Lake Ontario in a lingering warm fall, looked like a dull day for birding as I started the half mile walk out the Charlotte pier at the mouth of the Genesee River in Rochester. This impression changed abruptly when I spotted a murrelet just off the tip of the Summerville pier on the far side of the river. I began to sketch my impressions, then held my breath as two Coast Guard vessels churned by precariously close to the bird. However, it remained unconcerned by either the boats or a fisherman seated at the end of the pier only a few feet away.

Sensing the bird was not leaving immediately, I headed for the nearest pay phone to call Carolyn Cass and to alert the local birding grapevine, then home to pick up camera and field guides, and back to the Summerville pier. Recalling the previous fall's visit to the Moses Saunders power dam pool by a Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*; Boyle *et al.*, 1994), I at first thought this might be another one. Close examination from the end of the Summerville Pier showed this bird was different. The bill was light, there was a pronounced contrast between the dark crown, upper face, and nape and a lighter gray back, and there were no white markings on the scapulars. It was an Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*), a first for New York State! A later search through Harrison (1983) revealed the Crested Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*) from waters off Japan as the only other possible confusing species in winter. However, that species is shown with yellow legs and feet, and this bird's definitely were black.

Through the rest of the day, in spite of a rising chop on the lake and afternoon rains, local birders arrived to study and photograph the bird. It seemed to settle into a pattern of approaching to within a few feet of the end of the pier, frequently diving for small minnows, then drifting out to the northeast with less diving and more resting on the surface, preening, and stretching of raised wings. It would sometimes drift a hundred yards or more out and be lost to view. However, within every 15-20 minute period it would reappear from off the river mouth headed for the pier, again actively diving for 10-20 sec., and often resurfacing for only a few seconds. Behavioral observations included its total unconcern for fishing boats passing close by trailing lines and floats, an apparent aversion for the patchy areas of very muddy, brown water, and an

interesting habit of lying on the water with wings out flat and partially open, with head down, apparently looking for prey much as a Common Loon does. At times when it was diving a bit farther off the pier, Bonaparte's Gulls feeding in the area were seen to harass the murrelet when it popped to the surface. It easily avoided them with quick dives. In the approaching dusk around 4:45 PM, the bird swam out a final time. By that time about fifty birders had added a tick to their New York lists.

Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 and 2 November, brought rain and winds increasing to gale force from the north. Waves washed over the pier, closed to foot traffic. There were no sightings those days.

Thursday morning dawned bright and clear, with southwest winds and a low chop on the lake. In a quick check before work, Bob Spahn spotted a small bird of the right general size and shape a couple of hundred yards out, lit up in hues of orange by the rising sun. Back on lunch hour with Sue Spahn, they learned from fishermen that neither they nor a few visiting birders had found the bird during the morning. Yet, on arriving at the end of the pier, the Spahns observed the bird 50 yards or so away, heading straight for them. This time it was very actively feeding and finally worked its way a hundred yards or so in toward shore along the east side of the pier. In the relatively clear water, it was possible to observe some of its feeding behavior. It was pursuing minnows which would ball up, much like starlings with a hawk present. The murrelet, essentially flying under water, was seen to use its wings to make rapid twists and turns through the balls of minnows. After feeding inward along the pier, the bird would move off 50 yards or so and head back out, spending more time on the surface. While close in, it was so active that catching it on the surface for photos was difficult, but a half roll of film was shot by Spahn.

Again the word was passed and a few more birders were able to observe the bird through the afternoon. By this time more mud and debris were issuing from the river mouth. The next group arriving did not immediately find the bird, but observed it flying in from beyond the brown waters to again take up the feeding loop along the east side of the pier, now feeding nearly in to shore at times. The bird departed just before 4:00 PM after only another ten or so observers having viewed it.

On Friday, 4 November, the bird was present when the first observer arrived around 6:30 AM and put on quite a show for the many observers arriving from near and far. It followed the pattern of the previous day. The birders became a part of the show, surging up and down the pier, trying to get in position for good views or closeup photographs when the bird would pop up. Some of the fishermen were quite entertained by

the antics of both the bird, which some fishermen now called the "Ancient Mariner," and the birders. At times, photographers could focus by noting minnows leaping from the surface just before the bird would appear, minnow in bill. By early afternoon, the water, even along the pier, was becoming murkier. The bird drifted out of sight into the open lake just after 1:30 PM after being seen by about 50 more observers. The accompanying photograph was taken by the author between noon and 1:30 PM period this day.

On Saturday morning birders from all across the state arrived early, but muddy water surrounded the east pier and a heavy chop covered the lake to the west and out beyond the river's mud plume. The murrelet was not seen. Perhaps the muddy water eliminated its ability to sight prey. The bird was not observed again until presumably the same individual was seen flying past the observers manning a watch for migrating water birds at the Hamlin Beach State Park about 18 miles west of Rochester at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, 8 November. It landed to the west, but could not be located in the rough waters. On Sunday, 13 November, Willie D'Anna relocated presumably the same bird feeding around the piers extending into Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Welland Canal near St. Catherine's, Ontario, about 85 miles west of Rochester and 8 miles west of the mouth of the Niagara River. This provides a first record of a live bird for Ontario and a first there since a bird was found dead on the north shore of Lake Erie on 15 November, 1908 (Godfrey 1966:201). As many as another 100 birders were able to view the bird that day.

The Ancient Murrelet is generally a bird of the North Pacific, breeding in North America from the Aleutian Islands to southern British Columbia and casually to Carroll Island, Washington. It winters from the breeding grounds and coastal Alaska to small numbers along the central and even southern California and Baja coasts, often far at sea (AOU 1983:245). There have now been sightings from 22 states, seven of these east of the Mississippi, and six Canadian provinces, two of these eastern (White 1990). Only two reports have been from farther east than this current sighting, a 13 April 1913 record from Montreal (Godfrey 1966:201) and a 29 November 1992 flyby at Rockport, Mass. (Ellison and Martin 1993). The observations of this bird chasing and eating minnows seems to be a departure from their normal diet of marine invertebrates (Bent 1963:138).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Robert Spahn for his contributions of personal observations on the murrelet's behavior, research of the historical information, and review of the manuscript.

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UTILIZATION OF WILD APPLES BY WINTER BIRDS

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The winter of 1993-94 was one of the most severe in the Northeast in recent times, with more cold weather than even the winter of 1992-93 with its blizzard. The impact of extreme temperatures and high snowfall on birds that attempted to winter and on winter visitors was clear. It was very apparent that a food supply that goes unused by birds until the late spring in many years was used heavily and early by many species of birds under these severe condition. This food supply is the fruit of old fashioned wild apple trees (*Malus* sp.) and, in particular, those varieties which retain fruit throughout the winter months. Usually these are wild trees that have small fruits, 1/2 to 1/4 inch or smaller diameter, and are not the ornamental and colorful flowering varieties.

I observed several species eating the pulp or the seeds from the trees and from fallen fruits on the ground. Species which ate the pulp were Red-bellied Woodpecker, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch and Evening Grosbeak. The species which ate the seeds and at times rejected the pulp, especially as it dries out, were Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak. Red-bellied Woodpecker and House Finch eat apple fruits in the fall and I have seen them completely consume numbers of whole apples as large as three inches in diameter. Red-bellied Woodpecker forages individually while the House Finch devour apples as a flock. The action by these birds while feeding dislodges the fruits and makes this food supply available to other wildlife species such as cottontail rabbits, Ring-necked Pheasant, White-tailed Deer and various small mammals above and below the snow pack.

In years when the weather is not as severe, this frozen food supply is available to early returning American Robin and Cedar Waxwing. The apples remain frozen and fairly fresh in the cold months, thawing as temperatures moderate. This cold storage food supply is very important to the American Robin. Robins stay on a tree daily until the fruit supply is exhausted. Later they may go to the ground to eat the dried, fallen fruit during early spring snowstorms.

There is much activity at the base of these apple trees as other returning migrants take their turn on the seeds, dried pulp and green sprouts that later emerge from the missed apple seeds. None of these sprouts under the tree will grow for long, because apple trees secrete

chemicals that kill the new seedlings (allelopathy) before the seedlings grow very much. This is a way that many tree species protect themselves from competition by seedlings.

If you are looking for an ideal wildlife food tree or shrub, it would be hard to beat an old fashioned common apple tree. Upkeep is minimal and they are almost impossible to kill when fully established. Cut them back and they sprout profusely the following year. Most die from old age and heart rot if left to themselves untrimmed or maintained. In addition they serve Ruby-throated Hummingbird, House Wren, Eastern Kingbird, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Oriole and House Finch as a food source while in flower or leaf. Cedar Waxwing often eat the flowers. Bark of young trees is a favored food of voles (*Microtus* sp.) and cottontails, so precautions must be made until the bark hardens with age. In deer habitat, fencing is a must for a few years at least. In addition when the apple trees bloom in May they provide a visual beauty and a fragrance akin to perfume.

These trees are not without negatives. The falling apples can create a mess and make late fall lawn mowing a difficult task. Old small dead branches drop off over the winter months and must be picked up every spring. The fallen apples left to rot and ferment in the fall attract large numbers of small yellow jackets, which can inflict a painful sting if provoked as by lawn mowing.

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BREEDING BIRD CENSUS OF GOOSE CREEK MARSH, PELHAM BAY PARK, THE BRONX, NEW YORK

DAVID S. KÜNSTLER

Goose Creek Marsh is one of the largest salt marshes remaining in Bronx County, but its breeding birds have not been surveyed in 30 years. A brief breeding bird census of Goose Creek Marsh, a 65 acre (26.3 hectare) salt marsh to the east of the Hutchinson River and the Hutchinson River Parkway in Pelham Bay Park, northeast Bronx County, New York (lat. 40°52'N, long. 73°49'W) was conducted during mid June 1994.

METHODS

I censused Goose Creek Marsh on three dates. On 13 June, approximately one hour was spent in the northwest section of the marsh; on 16 June, about three and one-quarter hours were spent for the remainder of the marsh. This totaled about four and one-quarter hours for the entire marsh. However, due to a desire to get more detailed data from the northwest section, a second trip of 40 minutes duration was made there on 17 June. For the most part, the *Phragmites* was not entered for this count but many fewer birds could be expected there. Visits were made during low tide. Nikon Travelite III 9x25 binoculars were used. Weather was suitable throughout.

HABITAT

The various habitats of Goose Creek Marsh (Fig. 1) were broken down by the entitation carried out in 1986 (City of New York Parks and Recreation 1988; Sisinni and O'Hea Anderson 1993), from the lowest part of the marsh to the highest (Table 1). Botanical names follow Gleason and Cronquist (1991). The low marsh generally is flooded at each high tide and is dominated by Saltmarsh Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*), with minor amounts of Slender Glasswort (*Salicornia europaea*). The tidal creek is another community, according to Reschke (1990), but it has been combined with the low marsh for purposes of this census. The open high marsh usually is flooded only once a month and is dominated by Salt Meadow Cordgrass or Salt Hay (*Spartina patens*) with Spike Grass (*Distichlis spicata*) and Sea-lavender (*Limonium*

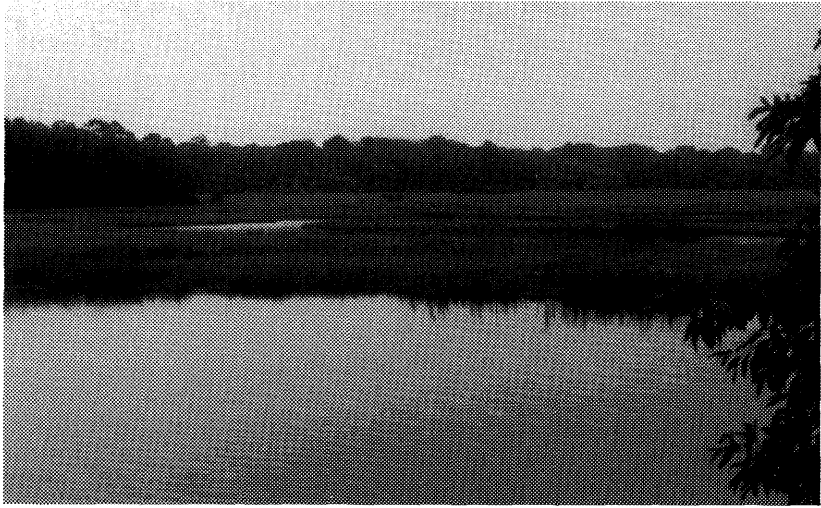


Figure 1. Goose Creek Marsh. Photograph by David S. Künstler.

carolinianum), occasional patches of Black Grass (*Juncus gerardii*) and small amounts of Orache or Spearscale (*Atriplex patula*), the latter considered non-native by Gleason and Cronquist (1991) but native by Mitchell (1986). The salt shrub is dominated by the Marsh Elder (*Iva frutescens*) and Salt Meadow Cordgrass. This zone has low salinity. Higher up in the marsh is some occasional Groundsel-tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*). The highest part of the marsh receives little tidal flushing and is almost entirely dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The uplands surrounding much of the marsh support good quality oak-hickory forest, perhaps a combination of Appalachian oak-hickory forest and oak-tulip tree forest (Reschke 1990). There are also several New York State listed rare plants in and around the marsh. *Phragmites* has expanded inward into slightly lower areas of the marsh and the other ecological zones have shifted in the same direction. Thus, the net result may be that the acreage of *Phragmites* expanded, and the high marsh contracted with little change to the shrub acreage. This likely is because there is insufficient tidal flow through the culvert under the Hutchinson River Parkway. Another contributing factor could be the gradual sedimentation of the mosquito ditches which may previously have distributed more water to the marsh. The low marsh is probably little affected because most is along the tidal creeks with some vanishing remnants along the mosquito ditches.

Table 1. Community composition of Goose Creek Marsh

Community	Entitation Unit	Acres	Hectares
Low salt marsh	Unit 300	12.3	4.98
High salt marsh	Unit 301	26.2	10.61
Salt shrub	Unit 302	10.4	4.21
<i>Phragmites</i>	Unit 303	16.1	6.52
Total		65.0	26.32

Table 2. Breeding birds of Goose Creek Marsh

Species	No. pairs	Pairs/acre	Pairs/ha
Clapper Rail	1	-	-
Marsh Wren	20	1.92	4.75
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	6	0.58	1.43
Swamp Sparrow	15	1.44	3.56

RESULTS

The density of nesting pairs or territorial males of all but the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) was based on the area of prime habitat, salt shrub (Table 2). Additionally, there were two sightings of Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) in the creek, perhaps the same bird nesting in forest close to the marsh. Also, about four male Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) were seen. They may have had at least that many nests and females, but seemed only to be making temporary forays into the marsh. Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) was also heard, probably near the railroad tracks but outside the marsh.

DISCUSSION

Although only one Clapper Rail was heard, more were probably present. Clapper Rail is secretive and does not always make itself known. Also one was seen a few years ago at the Bartow-Pell Mansion vernal pond, where there is much less habitat. However, a regional decline has probably occurred, as exemplified by counts taken in the marshes of the Town of Hempstead. A 37-acre (14.6-ha) plot there supported 13 breeding pairs in 1966 held only four pairs in 1979 (Peterson 1988).

Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) and both sparrows were almost exclusively seen in the salt shrub community. The Marsh Wren was the most commonly recorded marsh bird. They often made themselves obvious by virtue of their frequent singing and distinctive flight, low

with a significant rise and descent at the end as they broke into song. The domed brood nests built by females and dummy nests mostly built by males in the Marsh Elder sometimes were evident.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) was never observed singing. One or two birds in a restricted area were assumed to represent a breeding pair. The nesting of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow seems to be synchronized with the spring tides so that the young are out of the nest before the monthly flooding of the high marsh (Lent 1988). Young (1958) found 121 pairs in the Pelham Bay Park area in 1955, and he considered this a likely underestimate. Though he also must have searched extensive marshes where Co-op City now stands, his number of birds, if more or less evenly distributed within the appropriate habitat, implies that the current density for Goose Creek Marsh is low.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) was surprisingly common here. Bull (1964) stated that the Swamp Sparrow breeds in various types of freshwater wetlands and "more rarely in coastal brackish meadows." Arbib (1988) listed its habitat as "margins of freshwater marshes, grassy streambanks, reedbeds, large and small riverine areas, and less frequently the edges of salt marsh or salt meadow." As Bull (1964) observed, "Ordinarily only a few pairs are found nesting at a given locality...". However, he reported that 120 pairs had been found at Troy Meadows and 20 pairs at Idlewild. The Goose Creek population, therefore, may be among the larger ones in the New York metropolitan area, especially since the Idlewild population has long been extirpated.

In a large salt marsh such as Goose Creek Marsh, one might expect to find Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*). Young (1958) found four pairs on the east side of the Hutchinson River in 1955. However, this species requires salt pannes for feeding, according to Jon S. Greenlaw (pers. comm.). Salt panne is a habitat that is essentially lacking in the high marsh and the low marsh, where these sparrows would be found. However, Carl Alderson (pers. comm.) has found only one of seven pairs using a third-acre salt panne in the Chelsea or Saw Mill Marsh in Chelsea, Staten Island.

Goose Creek is an important feeding ground for many birds that do not nest in the marsh itself. Many of these species do not feed in the marsh to any great extent during low tide when the census was conducted. Some of these species include Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), and American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*). Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and, formerly, Snowy Egret probably come from nesting populations on Huckleberry Island in New Rochelle (Künstler and Capainolo 1987).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks, Administrator's Office, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Bronx, New York 10462

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CERULEAN WARBLER AND NORTHERN PARULA TENDING THE SAME NEST

PATRICIA LINDSAY AND TOM VEZO

A small isolated population of Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) has occupied a section of the Northwest Woods in East Hampton, Long Island, during the breeding season for the past several years (Lindsay and Vezo 1992, 1994). In 1992, season long observations suggested probable breeding of three pairs of these warblers, and in 1993, two pairs were confirmed breeding when they were seen feeding young. The birds have remained generally faithful to a few specific territories in this area, with the two main territories being a little over a quarter of a mile apart. The warblers were found again in 1994, with sightings of an individual male near the more northern territory recorded on 23, 28 and 29 May by multiple observers. Later both a male and a female were seen there.

In the territory to the south, one sighting of a male was recorded by Jim Ash around 28 May, but subsequent visits produced no sign of a bird in this area. A visit by Lindsay on 4 June produced no observations of Cerulean Warbler at either location, but, curiously, a male Northern Parula (*Parula americana*) sang throughout the day from the southernmost territory. On the morning of 10 June, the Northern Parula still present and singing at this site. Here the authors observed a female Cerulean Warbler carrying small caterpillars and other insects to a fairly exposed nest nearby. One very young chick was visible in the nest. The female visited it with food every few minutes for the next three hours. During this time, the Northern Parula also visited the nest twice with food, with a long interval between visits. The last visit resulted in an apparent skirmish with the female Cerulean Warbler, which chased and displayed aggressively toward the Northern Parula. At 11:00 AM the Cerulean Warbler stopped feeding the chick and began brooding the nest, with the Northern Parula still singing a short distance away.

On 14 June it was discovered that the nestling was a Brown-headed Cowbird chick; a second, much smaller chick now visible in the nest had the coloring and supercilium of a young Cerulean. On this brief visit only the female Cerulean Warbler was observed feeding the young. The Northern Parula continued to sing nearby. On 18 June the nest was empty, and on this and several later visits, there was no sign of either adult bird nor of any young in the area.

The nest resembled that of the Cerulean Warbler shown in Harrison (1975:188). It was placed in the fork of a vertical branch of an oak tree

about 25 feet high over an open area. The female, after depositing food at the nest, would pull in its wings and drop like a stone through the open area to the understory below. No male Cerulean or female Northern Parula was observed in the territory during the course of these observations.

Although there was almost no evidence to suggest hybridization of these species in this particular case, the possibility is intriguing. Sibley (1994) illustrates many unusual combinations that have been recorded, two involving Northern Parula and one involving Cerulean Warbler. Northern Parula X Yellow-throated Warbler (Sutton's Warbler) is cited as an example of occasional cross-breeding, and Northern Parula X American Redstart and Cerulean Warbler X Black-and-white Warbler are listed in a sampling of "bizarre and unique" pairings recorded only once or twice. The possibility of hybridization notwithstanding, it may be that the absence of the Cerulean Warbler's original mate or the absence of a female Northern Parula, or the presence of the cowbird chick triggered an innate response in the Northern Parula to bring food to the nest. The fact that the Northern Parula was still present so late in the breeding season is noteworthy in itself. Bull (1974:477-480) notes that, though once common breeders on eastern Long Island, the Northern Parula was considered extirpated by the early 1950s, probably as a result of the disappearance of its favored nesting material, the *Usnea* lichen, there.

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1995

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1995 winter Waterfowl Count from 14 through 22 January, with 15 January as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

THE WEATHER

An overly warm fall and early winter period continued into January 1995. Temperatures during the count period averaged about 8°F warmer than normal (20°). Precipitation averaged around 28% above normal (2.5 inches). Snowfall was very light, about 50% of normal accumulation, notwithstanding the heavy snowfalls usually received downwind of Lakes Erie and Ontario. A warming trend around 16 January prompted flood watches. On 20 January, flooding problems hit part of Region 1, with reports of rural road closures and flooding in the town of Albion, Orleans County. Water levels were above normal at practically all locations monitored by weather bureau observers.

THE COUNT

The grand total of 291,989 (Table I) was up 14.6% from 1994, and 14.3% above the 22-year (1973-1994) average of 250,234. Except for Brant, Redhead and the scoters, all species listed in Table II showed gains over 1994. It is disheartening to note a substantial decrease in Redhead. The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count echoed this decrease as well. With the exception of two or three species, the downward trends of 1994 were reversed in 1995.

Comparing 1995 to 1994 count figures (Table II), the commoner species showed a 14-3 split heavily in favor of increases. Both Redhead and the scoters counts reversed themselves, showing decreases over 1994. When comparing 1995 count figures with the 22-year (1973-1994) average (Table III), there is a 7-6 split in favor of decreases. The overall total in Table III showed an 11.5% increase in 1995 over the 22-year average, up moderately from 1994.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) increased by 8.5% from 1994, mostly the result of a 61.0% increase in

Snow Geese. Brant and Canada Geese had decreases of 5.6% and 5.0% respectively. The dabbling ducks showed a decrease of 5.2% from 1994, after a 20.2% increase recorded last year. All species were down, with the exception of American Black Duck, which was up 1.6%. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 12.8% compared to 1994. A few bright spots here were 60.0% increases for scaup over 1994, 40.0% for goldeneye, 39.9% for Bufflehead, 83.2% for Ruddy Duck, and 53.4% for mergansers. American Coot showed a 14.0% decrease from 1994, and a 22.3% decrease from the most recent ten-year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway were up 5.3% from 1994, and 22.2% above the 1985-1994 average.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1995 aerial survey was conducted from 4 to 29 January 1995. The results are presented in Table IV. Table V compares the 1994 to 1995 aerial survey results. As in most years, the 1995 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not, in a general sense, resemble the Federation's ground count.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participated this year. A special thanks to the Regional Compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The Regional Compilers were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Region 1. Joseph DiDomenico | Region 6. Lee Chamberlaine |
| 2. Thomas Smith | 7. John Peterson |
| 3. Eric Donohue | 8. Paul Grattan |
| 4. Leslie Bemont | 9. Michael Usai |
| 5. Marge Rusk | 10. Stephen Dempsey |

The 1996 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 13 through 21 January, with Sunday, 14 January, the target date.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159-0044.

Table I. Regional totals for 1995 Waterfowl Count

Species / Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated			1						3	84	88
Common	2		6	1	1	2	2	1	2	256	273
Grebe, Pied-billed	4	3	4		2			1	3	30	47
Horned	6	2	17				20		14	336	395
Red-necked									1	1	2
Cormorant, Great									36	298	334
Double-crested	13			1						288	302
Swan, Tundra	61	60	41		8	6				23	199
Mute		12	2		3			133	399	1,045	1,594
Goose, Snow			36		20		11	5	23	615	710
Brant									285	15,408	15,693
Goose, Canada	1,780	2,964	41,379	673	3,985	1,205	61	8,595	14,590	20,399	95,631
Duck, Wood	4	2	1					2	2	11	22
Teal, Green-winged			1	3	5			4	5	561	579
Duck, American Black	155	714	2,223	89	411	388	206	314	861	14,807	20,168
Mallard	3,188	5,858	12,439	361	3,713	3,132	1,550	664	3,748	10,274	44,927
Mallard X Black Duck		34	2	1				1	5	49	92
Pintail, Northern	2	4	10		7		2		7	230	262
Shoveler, Northern	1	5							3	262	271
Gadwall	73	21	40		22				63	1,249	1,468
Wigeon, Eurasian										6	6
American	12	12			2				116	1,777	1,919

SEPTEMBER 1995

Canvasback	1,262	99	255		1			375	383	3,686	6,061
Redhead	171	757	1,652		69	14	2	7	16	55	2,743
Duck, Ring-necked	10	25	65		19	5		1	559	285	969
Scaup, Greater	3,773	13,410	14		796		50		1,457	20,018	39,518
Lesser	42	738	67		22		20		380	2,342	3,611
species	15	3,205	29				450	64		539	4,302
Eider, Common										485	485
Duck, Harlequin	1				1					13	15
Oldsquaw	153	150					1		381	918	1,603
Scoter, Black		8								101	109
Surf	1	2								134	137
White-winged		19	1		1					2,157	2,178
species		774								100	874
Goldeneye, Common	2,464	2,484	631	5	832	970	512	114	176	1,651	9,839
Bufflehead	468	335	284	2	107	40	30	17	300	6,260	7,843
Merganser, Hooded	25	5	14	2	9			3	100	754	912
Common	5,193	84	105	101	1,276	569	348	191	1,000	192	9,059
Red-breasted	21	549	39		65	8	1	1	205	5,067	5,956
Duck, Ruddy	1								125	4,532	4,658
Coot, American	272	799	1,293	116	125		1	1	690	874	4,171
duck, unidentified	670	21	1,035			7	69		2	160	1,964
TOTAL	19,843	33,155	61,686	1,355	11,502	6,346	3,336	10,494	25,940	118,332	291,989

Table II. Comparison of 1995 with 1994 count for all species totalling over 1000 individuals in 1995.

Species	1994	1995	% change from 1994
Mute Swan	1,410	1,594	13.0
Brant	17,778	15,693	-11.8
Canada Goose	72,587	95,631	31.7
American Black Duck	16,956	20,168	18.9
Mallard	44,663	44,927	0.6
Gadwall	1,233	1,468	19.1
American Wigeon	726	1,919	164.3
Canvasback	5,964	6,061	1.0
Redhead	11,376	2,743	-75.9
scaup (both species)	25,481	47,431	86.1
Oldsquaw	1,364	1,603	17.5
scoter (all species)	25,322	3,298	-87.0
goldeneye (both species)	8,130	9,839	21.0
Bufflehead	7,352	7,843	6.7
Common Merganser	4,806	9,059	88.5
Red-breasted Merganser	4,046	5,956	47.2
Ruddy Duck	1,792	4,658	159.9
Total	250,986	279,891	11.5

Table III. Comparison of 1995 count with 1973-1994 average for all species totalling over 1000 individuals in 1995.

Species	1995	Average	% change
Brant	15,693	14,274	10
Canada Goose	95,631	56,965	67.9
American Black Duck	20,168	20,071	-0.5
Mallard	44,927	29,098	54.4
Canvasback	6,061	10,546	-42.5
Redhead	2,743	6,775	-59.5
scaup (both species)	47,431	53,833	-11.9
Oldsquaw	1,603	4,039	-60.3
scoter (all species)	3,298	13,641	-75.8
Common Goldeneye	9,839	11,897	-17.3
Bufflehead	7,843	5,550	41.3
Common Merganser	9,059	12,268	-26.2
Red-breasted Merganser	5,956	3,364	77.1
Total	270,252	242,321	11.5

Table IV. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Aerial Count, 4-29 January 1994, for all species of 1,000 individuals or more.

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	94	1,182	1,276
Brant		22,659	22,659
Canada Goose	59,835	11,352	71,187
American Black Duck	5,420	12,093	17,513
Mallard	23,798	3,863	27,761
Canvasback	6,125	2,355	8,480
Redhead	1,200		1,200
scaup (both species)	20,840	16,599	37,439
goldeneye (both species)	4,673	1,038	5,711
Bufflehead	391	2,332	2,723
merganser (all species)	19,386	2,188	21,574
Total	141,762	75,661	217,423

Table V. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1994 and 1995 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1994 for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1995.

Species	1994	1995	% change
Mute Swan	1,443	1,276	-11.6
Brant	12,919	22,659	75.4
Canada Goose	64,283	71,187	10.7
American Black Duck	16,160	17,513	8.4
Mallard	16,059	27,661	72.3
Canvasback	8,967	8,480	-5.4
Redhead	10,197	1,200	-88.2
scaup (both species)	65,191	37,439	-42.6
Bufflehead	1,369	2,723	98.9
goldeneye (both species)	4,211	5,711	35.6
merganser (all species)	17,132	21,574	25.9
Total	239,968	217,423	-9.4

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

First successful nesting of Double-crested Cormorant in the Niagara Frontier Region: During the 1994 breeding season Double-crested Cormorant produced nestlings at two different colonies in the Niagara Frontier Region. This represents the first documented nestlings of this species in this area. Although the colony at Buckhorn Island State Park was studied weekly from 14 April to 10 July and on 29 May as many as 38 adults were observed sitting on 38 of the 46 nests studied, no evidence of any young was observed and weekly observations were terminated by the author when the colony appeared to be abandoned on 10 July. On 16 June, Senior Wildlife Biologist Mark Kandel of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation investigated the contents in ten of 52 nests. Although two of the nests were empty, the other eight nests contained twelve eggs and eleven chicks. The author believes that none of the chicks lived beyond 10 July, and that further study is needed to determine why a colony of this size did not produce viable offspring. The NYS DEC recorded 3,436 pairs of Ring-billed Gull nesting on the same water diversion weir as the cormorants. At the Reef Lighthouse, between Lake Erie and the source of the Niagara River, an adult Double-crested Cormorant was observed in incubating position on one of two nests on 11 August and 22 August. Each of these nests was located at the intersection of three steel beams of this manmade structure. On 31 August and 5 September, three nestlings were observed on the nest. Food begging rituals were observed on or near the nest 18 September and 1, 8, and (briefly) 18 October. The most interesting performance was noted on 8 October, when, after an adult landed near the nest, a young cormorant approached it and prodded its bill back and forth across the pouch of the adult. The adult typically evaded the young cormorant's prodding with a sinuous winding snake like action of its neck. This time, however, the adult stretched its neck as far to the right as possible to avoid the advances of the tenacious young, which powered itself with its wings up the back of the adult and continued to poke at the pouch of the adult. After about two minutes of this activity, the young finally turned the adult around and thrust its head down the adult's throat for food. The young cormorant then returned the nest where it met another young cormorant on the nest. The young cormorant on the nest then poked back and forth across the pouch of its sibling, but did not appear to be successful in obtaining food. The author believes that these birds fledged successfully. These observations represent the first documented successful nesting of Double-crested Cormorant in the Niagara Frontier Region. The Reef Lighthouse nesting is extraordinary in that it was very late. Dates for unfledged juveniles in New York State should be extended to June 16 and October 8 based on the observations at Buckhorn Island State Park and the Reef Lighthouse.

William Watson, 771 Fletcher Street, Tonawanda, New York 14150.

Boat-tailed Grackle at Shinnecock, Long Island: A young Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) was seen being fed by an adult female on 3 July on Dune Road near the Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock Bay. Since the young bird was already flying, it is not absolutely certain that the species bred in the area. However, this area is a considerable distance northeast of the nearest known breeding grounds in Nassau County, and there is ample evidence that the species is in the process of colonizing Shinnecock Bay. A single male was seen nearby area in May by Hugh McGuinness in almost the same location. A small flock of at least nine female or immature plumaged birds was active by the bridge all summer. This flock seemed to consist entirely of molting juveniles, with noticeably larger males showing areas of flat black plumage mixed with the brown by the middle of September. Young males are brown before they assume the black first Basic plumage shown in the field guides and incorrectly labeled "juvenile". The Prebasic molt was complete by the end of September and an adult female as well as juveniles of both sexes were still present in the area well into October. The appearance of this flock and the predominance of young birds appears to be typical of the pattern of the range expansion northward shown by this species in other areas.

Eric Salzman, Box 775, East Quogue, New York 11942

Cedar Waxwing flock composition at Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, Schuyler County: During our fall migration banding in 1994, we were visited by two flocks of approximately 100 Cedar Waxwing each. Both flocks remained for several weeks, providing many opportunities to count and age the birds on the wing. In addition, a high percentage were banded. The waxwings were attracted to an abundant supply of pokeberry and mountain ash berries, showing a distinct preference for the former. We noted several Hatching Year birds with orange tail bands, which may be indicative of nestling diet, four adult females with the normal yellow tail band and one Hatching Year bird that was molting from orange to yellow tail band color. The flock composition was 98% Hatching Year birds, accompanied by two adult females. Both flocks were of equal size and composition, which suggests that young birds may congregate under the tutelage of a few adult females. The waxwings remained at our site until they denuded the available pokeberry. Subsequently, a large wintering flock of 250 adults appeared and remained in this area through February 1995. It will be interesting to learn whether flocks primarily of juvenile waxwings form during the fall in other years and at other localities.

John and Sue Gregoire, Kestrel Haven Farm Migration Observatory, 5373 Fitzgerald Road, Burdett, New York 14818-9626

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

The spring of 1995 brought very interesting birding all across the State. It was generally dry to near drought everywhere, with April in Region 4 the only month that specifically indicated even slightly above average precipitation. Most reports showed rainfall 1/3 to 2/3 the norm. This generally produced easy conditions for birding. March started the season on a warm note, following on the heels of a very warm winter. That combination brought a scattering of record early arrival dates across the State. April was cold, most nearly average in Region 10, with north winds much of the time over most of the State delaying some migrants and damping hawk flights in the western part of the State. May warmed to nearly average temperatures over most of the State, a bit cooler in Regions 6, 7, 8, and 9, with the little rain that fell coming in bursts after cool spells which had dammed the flow of migrants for days. Storms crossing the State 10 through 13 May after a long cool spell produced some of the best migrant fallout in many years, and many high counts for a wide variety of species were obtained. Lesser, more local, but still impressive birding days were noted 17, 19-21, and 24 May.

This season is the most difficult I have had to summarize. The lists of high counts and early arrivals to be checked relative to published extremes and the many rarities are the most in nearly 20 years. This season's records will drive many of the authors of the next *Bull's Birds of New York* back to their manuscripts to add extreme dates and maxima. In this limited space, it is impossible to list all here without simply repeating the Regional Reports. Thus, I am forced to attempt an analysis plus provide a quick taste of some of the wealth of information contained in the Regional reports. The reader should remember several cautions. First, we are now 20 years past the publication of John Bull's *Birds of New York State* and there is not sufficient time to check all *Kingbird* issues for the extreme dates and counts, so my comments will be relative to Bull's information and my fallible memory of the intervening years' data. Next, there is variation in the degree of experience, interest, and screening applied to records among the Regional Reports. This summary is an additional, informal filter evident in my commentary or the lack thereof. Finally, high counts are difficult to compare both between Regions and with historical reports, because the effort expended and the area covered usually are not indicated. I generally refer the reader to the specific Regional Reports for comparisons over time by that Regional Editor. In most cases, it may be assumed that high counts are from individuals or single parties at one place, but not all single site tallies are distinguished from totals obtained by a group covering many sites in a Region. *It is relatively hard to gather*

numerical data about to bird populations that are both comparable and useful over time and space. We perhaps should treat these reports as much as fun and an aid to knowing when and where to enjoy birds as an attempt to gather scientific data.

Starting with the water birds, and at sea at that, the Region 10 report summarizes a fantastic, late winter pelagic trip. Highlights include State record highs for Northern Fulmar, *Common Murre*, and *Atlantic Puffin* and large numbers for other species plus an encounter with *Great Skua*. Otherwise, loon and grebe counts were not particularly good, but Region 2 did record a *Pacific Loon* and Regions 5 and 10 noted Eared Grebe, in the latter case in the company of both Horned and Red-necked Grebes. Inland, numbers of Double-crested Cormorant eclipse those in Bull's book, 3120 the peak this year found in Region 5. The warm winter and early March saw open water at early dates in many Regions. Waterfowl responded well, with many species returning early and also on their breeding areas early. Inland regions noted better variety and numbers than for many springs. Highlights include the continued appearance of Greater White-fronted Goose, with birds in Regions 1, 2, 5, and 9; a *Ross' s Goose* in Region 7; *Barnacle Goose* in Region 2; Snow Goose in every Region, with particularly good counts in Regions 3, 4, 5, and 6; a first nesting of N. Shoveler in Region 9; Eurasian Wigeon in seven Regions, lingering to late May in Region 3; Harlequin Duck upstate in Regions 2 and 3; unusual many inland reports of Surf and Black Scoters for spring; and a Common Goldeneye with a brood on the water by May in Region 7. Negatives included low counts in multiple Regions for Brant, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Redhead.

Wading birds were well represented. Herons and egrets continued the flow of interesting records, with the best a first confirmed upstate nesting of Great Egret in Region 1; Snowy Egret in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4; Little Blue Heron in Region 5; *Tricolored Heron* in Region 3; Cattle Egret in five regions; and Green Heron at a State record early date in Region 4. *King Rail* was found in Regions 2 and 9; and *Sandhill Crane* produced records from Regions 1, 2, 5, and 10. Shorebirds had mixed reviews. The dry spring brought habitat to some Regions usually lacking it, with many very early arrivals and many species not reported in years. In other Regions, habitat was reduced to dried field puddles. Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3 and the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge complex in Region 1 contained drawn down pools that attracted excellent concentrations at times. Still the overall picture was not very good for many species, such as Short-billed Dowitcher. Hitting only the cream of the highlights, we find the *Northern Lapwing* present to mid Mar in Region 10; record early dates for Upland Sandpiper in Region 7 and for Least Sandpiper in Region 9; over 2000 Dunlin in Region 3; and a

Curlew Sandpiper in Region 10. Jaegers, gulls, and terns provided several interesting notes, with a very rare *Long-tailed Jaeger* in Region 10; Laughing Gull upstate in Regions 1 and 2; several great spring counts for Little Gull in Region 1; Common Black-headed Gull in Regions 1 and 9; *Ross's Gull* in Regions 2 and 10, the former a Regional first; Lesser Black-backed Gull in Regions 2, 3, 8, and 9; Iceland Gull through late May in several Regions; Caspian Tern early in Regions 1, 2, and 5; record early inland arrivals for Forster's Tern in Region 2 and for Black Tern in Region 1, with very high counts for recent years of Black Tern in Regions 1 and 6. The latter counts may be anomalies. The species remains in serious trouble in the Northeast in general and New York in particular.

The cold north winds of late March and April reduced the numbers of raptors reported, particularly at the hawk watches in western New York, yet Derby Hill set high counts for many species and many other excellent records flowed in across the state. The most interesting were the peak Turkey Vulture count in Region 2; record early Osprey at Derby Hill in Region 5 and a high May count in Region 2; high counts for Northern Harrier along the south shore of Lake Ontario; a continued drop in Sharp-shinned Hawk totals; a good peak Cooper's Hawk at Derby Hill; *Swainson's Hawk* at both Derby Hill and Braddock's Bay; State record high totals both for one day and the season for Red-tailed Hawk at Derby Hill; a very high Golden Eagle count in Region 3; an inland record high total of 53 Merlin at Derby Hill; and *Gyr Falcon* persisting to March in Regions 1 and 7. There were more owl reports than typical, with Barn Owl in Regions 1 and 9, a lone Snowy Owl from Region 5, Short-eared Owl noted in nine Regions, and N. Saw-whet Owl in seven Regions.

Ring-necked Pheasant reports were all negative, but Wild turkey populations are still expanding. Spruce Grouse was located at a historic site in Region 6. Another notable game bird was a *White-winged Dove* in Region 10. Cuckoo numbers, especially Yellow-billed, were good in most Regions. Goatsuckers continue their declines. There were generally few comments about woodpeckers.

As usual, the huge passerine order produced a wide variation in impressions from across the State. There were a very large number of early dates, very high counts, and some spectacular fallout, of warblers in particular, in April in Region 10 and during the 10-13 May period nearly everywhere as a major frontal system passed after a period of weather unfavorable to migration. These are not reasons for great optimism! Apart from the moments of great excitement, often highly local, the season featured many days with nearly empty woods and fields.

Arrival Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	92	1.2	-0.9
Region 2	93	2.4	-1.5
Region 3	92	-2.3	-3.3
Region 4	87	0.3	2.3
Region 5	93	-2.4	-2.6
Region 6	89	-2.0	5.9
Region 7	89	-4.6	4.2
Region 8	92	-2.8	-0.7
Region 9	61	0.5	-0.7
Region 10	73	2.2	-2.8

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.

The arrival date tables barely reflect these trends. After deleting the dates likely to be overwintering birds and the incredible dates reported without details in the Regional reports [*Editor's note* —the final tables were not available to the Highlights Editor, but the preliminary results closely resemble those in final version], we find arrivals very close to our recent 8-year averages for both water birds and land birds. Only the average date for land birds is significantly later this year than last year's. Among the individual species, only Solitary Sandpiper, Great Crested Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, and Cape May Warbler were statistically significantly late, and only Eastern Wood-Pewee, Solitary Vireo, and Northern Waterthrush were early.

As usual, many families and species received too few reports to indicate trends, so we can move along to a few of the best, including mixed reviews for flycatchers and swallows, but Yellow-bellied Flycatcher noted scarce everywhere reported; several Regionally early swallow arrivals; Fish Crow continuing to expand inland in Regions 3, 4, 5, and 8; Common Raven increasing, noted in seven Regions; Carolina Wren numbers remain down; Sedge Wren in Regions 4 and 6, the former the first report in over 15 years; record early Swainson's Thrush in Region 7; a record high for Wood Thrush in Region 5; the peak American

Spring Arrivals 1995

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

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

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

Waterbird Arrivals

1995

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

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

Robin count past Derby Hill in Region 5; a Varied Thrush in Region 10; and *Loggerhead Shrike* reported only in Region 8.

There are so many special vireo and warbler records that only rarities and extremes for the State can be noted here. White-eyed Vireo appeared in five Regions; Solitary Vireo set a high in Region 1, but an amazingly early bird in Region 7 was unaccompanied by details. Also early were Yellow-throated Vireo in Region 10; Warbling Vireo in Region 3, while Philadelphia Vireo set a spring high in Region 5. Good Yellow Warbler counts came from Region 3 and Region 5, and a late March Yellow Warbler report from Region 4 was a month ahead of the next record, which also broke the former Regional record. Also early was Cerulean Warbler in Region 1. The 252 Magnolia Warbler banded on one day in Region 2 must have keep workers busy. Other exceptional counts were obtained for Black-and-white Warbler in Region 2 and for Hooded Warbler in Region 1. Unexpected were Orange-crowned Warbler in six Regions, an *Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler* in Region 3, *Yellow-throated Warbler* in Regions 7, 8, and 10; Kentucky Warbler in six Regions; and Connecticut Warbler in five Regions. Again, there were too many other very high counts and early dates to do justice to all. Nearly every warbler was noteworthy somewhere. Very low Tennessee and Cape May Warbler counts produced concern in many Regions.

A record high for Scarlet Tanager came from Region 5. Early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted in Region 6, but an extremely early Indigo Bunting in Region 3 could have overwintered at a feeder. Unexpected were Regional firsts for Clay-colored and *LeConte's Sparrow* in Region 4; *Blue Grosbeak* and Dickcissel in Region 5; Western Meadowlark in Region 1. White-crowned Sparrow set a record high in Region 5, which had huge two day mid March counts for Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird at Derby Hill. Yellow-headed Blackbird was noted in Regions 1 and 3 and *Brewer's Blackbird* in Regions 2 and 3. The winter finches were scarce except for crossbills in the northern Regions, with Region 7 noting breeding and a mix of Red Crossbill subspecies identified from specimens gathered from roadkills.

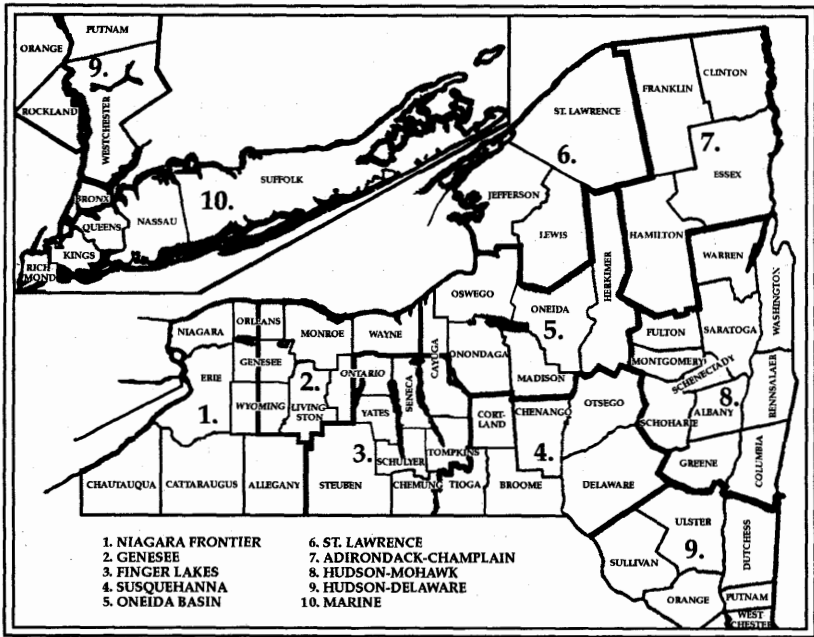
The tally of Peregrine Falcon nest sites around NYC appears in the Region 10 report. In the Region 1 report, find note of successful foster brooding of a nest of Eastern Bluebird. In Region 6, lots of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were found on night surveys. A ground nesting American Robin is described in Region 7.

With so many notable reports, no single species stands out as the highlight of this season, but the flashback provided by many species on at least a few days at a few locales in all Regions this spring brought happy remembrance of their former abundance.

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Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; 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; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; 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 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.

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

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

March was mild, dry, and sunny. Temperatures averaged 4°F above normal while precipitation was half of normal. Notably, there was only one significant weather event, a cold front on the night of 6-7 Mar which lowered the temperature 32° and brought rain, sleet, and wet snow. A very mild period from 11 to 16 Mar helped to thaw shallow pools and to bring many waterfowl into the Region. Steve Eaton stated that this was the worst year for foods of woody plants on the Allegheny Plateau in 45 years of observations. He noted that birds flocked to feeders in March, especially American Goldfinch and Purple Finch. The latter was noted in unusually good numbers by other observers as well. Often under the influence of high pressure, April was 3° cooler than normal and also dry, with half the normal amount of precipitation. The migration progressed at a trickle until late in the month. Significant movements were noted on 22 and 27 Apr. May temperatures averaged normal and precipitation was 0.75 inches below normal. By early in May nearly all of the ponds in fields had dried, giving shorebirds few locations to rest and refuel. The warbler migration began slowly but strong migration was noted on 10, 18, 21, and 24 May. For the three month period temperatures averaged nearly normal but it was the driest spring in 24 years. In spite of the general lack of severe weather, conditions for migration were often unfavorable due mainly to northerly winds or low pressure systems to the south of our Region. This delayed arrivals and peak movements of many species, which in turn contributed to some high maxima when conditions became more conducive to flight.

The waterfowl migration was generally uneventful, with average to below average numbers. However, on the Buffalo Ornithological Society's April Count, which also includes part of Ontario, Wood Duck was at an all time high while Oldsquaw and Bufflehead were well above average. The hawk migration produced few good days and no significant flights of Broad-winged Hawk. Single day high counts were made for Osprey and Turkey Vulture in the Town of Hamburg ERIE, however. As mentioned, the migration of many passerines and some water birds was delayed. Yellow-rumped Warbler was relatively scarce until the last few days of April, when several observers noted high numbers including a record count. A record count also was tallied for Palm Warbler late in April. Shorebirds, held back by weather and with few places to feed, were impressively concentrated at Wood Marsh on

the Tonawanda WMA. This pool, and Goose Pond on the Oak Orchard WMA, were drained at the right time by NYSDEC personnel to provide what were almost the only good mudflats known in the Region.

The Bald Eagle success story continues, though fitfully. In 1994 a pair showed interest in an Osprey nest on the Allegany Reservoir but abandoned the attempt. This year they tried to nest. Birders watched the pair with high hopes. By the end of the period, however, they were still incubating and it appears that their eggs may have been infertile. Another pair on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation near Gowanda apparently was successful in fledging young last year. Reports on their status this year were not received. The Region's original nest in the post-DDT era at Iroquois NWR had two nestlings by the end of the period. In this tenth straight year of activity at this site, a camera was installed directly over the nest enabling thousands to enjoy an intimate view of the eagles' activities.

Another species on the rebound, Common Raven, also continues to do well. A fledged juvenile was reported and a phenomenal 17 were unofficially tallied on the Buffalo Ornithological Society's May Count, all in ALLE and CATT. It seems only a matter of time before they will also be found in WYOM, where habitat is plentiful but observers are few.

Bill Watson continues to monitor the water bird colonies of the Niagara River and elsewhere in the Region. This spring, while observing the Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron colony on Motor Island, he noted the presence of Great Egret. From his vantage point a half mile away, Bill determined that two pairs probably were nesting on the island. Although he could not see a nest through the woody vegetation, the consistent location of the birds as well as other behavior makes it very likely that at least an attempt has been made. If confirmed, which Bill hopes to do during the summer season, this would represent the first breeding record away from coastal areas in the state.

Vivian Pitzrick, who tends a bluebird trail in ALLE, found five nestling Eastern Bluebird, apparently unattended and near death. She moved the birds to a nearby box on top of four eggs, later found to be infertile. The next day the nestling bluebirds were noisy and active and the adopted parents acted aggressively at her approach. They had readily accepted their new charges!

Among a long list of rarities the following were seen on only one day: Snowy Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Sandhill Crane**, **Western Sandpiper**, Red-necked Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Kentucky Warbler, and Connecticut Warbler. The two warblers were at Goat Island NIAG on the same day. Among the few cooperative rarities

were an overwintering **Gyr Falcon**, Common Black-headed Gull, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Finally, Betsy Potter has spent countless hours over the years scouring the pine plantations of the state parks along Lake Ontario in our Region for N. Saw-whet Owl. She is aware that her efforts would be rewarded more frequently in Braddock Bay SP, outside the Region. Still, she persists here and this spring she was rewarded with a **Barn Owl**, the first presumed migrant in the Region since 1986.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Gordon Bellerby, Paul Benham, Donald Brasure, Robert Brock (RBr), Elizabeth Brooks, Thomas Burke, Roberta Byron, Bruce Chilton, Arthur Clark, David Cooper, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis, Marion Dornhoffer (MDo), Steven Eaton, John Filor, Tom Harper, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Morgan Jones, Jeromy Keller, Hans Kunze, Walt Listman, Alice McKale, Michael Morgante, Terry Mosher, Catherine Mueller, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Jean and Lauren Rachlin, Karen Rader, Nancilu Rankin, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Olga Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, Mae Ruhl, Mary Saville, Arthur Schaffner, Ellen Schopp, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, David & Debra Suggs, Robert Sundell, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Michael Turisk, Robert Wagner, William Watson, William & Diane Weikert, Peter Yoerg, Eugene Zielinski

Abbreviations: BSL- Batavia Sewage Lagoons; BOSAC - Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 9 Apr; BOSMC - Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 21 May; EA - East Aurora, ERIE; GHSP - Golden Hill SP; GI - Goat Island, NIAG; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; OOWMA - Oak Orchard WMA; TNP - Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda WMA; NR - Niagara River; WG - Williamsville Glen ERIE; WTSP - Wilson-Tuscarora SP

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** Dunkirk Harbor 4 Mar (LH), rare on L ERIE; max of five sightings from L Ontario 54 T Wilson 3 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Celoron CHAU, GHSP 12 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** arr Randolph T Yates CATT 12 Mar. **Red-necked Grebe:** 15 T Somerset, 47 T Yates 1 Apr (WD), excellent counts but none away from L Ontario. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 51 Cayuga Pool INWR 15 May, increasing even away from Great Lakes. **Am. Bittern:** arr TNP 15 Apr; max six TWMA 20 May (MM, ST). **Least Bittern:** arr Buckhorn I SP 13 May (CR, TB), possible breeding location. **Great Egret:** arr GHSP 19 Apr; T Freedom 22 Apr; TWMA 29 Apr; T Hartland 29 May; 2-4 Motor I NR 13-29 May, apparently nesting; a good showing. **Snowy Egret:** Oak Orchard WMA 20 May (KG, RS); T Hartland 29 May (WD!), not quite annual. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Buffalo 6 Mar in backyard spruce tree,

reported many times here previous years (RBr); EA 22-23 Apr (LH), rare away from vicinity of NR. **Tundra Swan**: max 303 over T Hamburg 11 Mar, 400 Buckhorn I SP 12 Mar, 450 T Conewango 12 Mar; BSL 26 May, late. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: INWR 11 Mar (TH!, AM); six T Yates 12 Mar (D&DS!), highest count ever, believed to be of the race *flavirostris*. **Snow Goose**: arr three T Porter 5 Mar; max only 12 T Somerset 1 Apr. **Wood Duck**: max 104 INWR 29 May (WW), includes several broods but still impressive count. **Green-winged Teal**: 37 OOWMA 25 Mar; 13 T Stockton 26 Mar; 16 T Yates 1 Apr; 37 TWMA 29 Apr; good totals. **N. Shoveler**: arr two T Somerset 12 Mar; max 70 BSL 30 Apr (DR). **Gadwall**: arr Chautauqua L 12 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: OOWMA 2,17 Apr (BH!, PY, WW!). **Am. Wigeon**: arr 10 Beaver I SP 9 Mar. **Canvasback**: max 1100 Grand I NR 12 Mar (MD). **Ring-necked Duck**: two INWR 27 May (WS), late. **Oldsquaw**: arr inland BSL 20 Mar. **Black Scoter**: two Dunkirk Harbor 4 Mar (LH), unusual date. **Surf Scoter**: two Buffalo Harbor 25 Mar (WD!), early. **White-winged Scoter**: two Amity L, ALLE 7 Apr (VP); three INWR 22 Apr (WW, AS), rare inland; last two BOSMC. **Ruddy Duck**: arr seven BSL 21 Mar; max 21 BSL 17 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: max 864 T Hamburg (FR), possible record count. **Osprey**: record max 38 T Hamburg 11 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: arr away from NR wintering area INWR 11 Mar; several reports; *intro*. **N. Goshawk**: T Hamburg 19 Mar (FR!); imm Forest Lawn Cemetery Buffalo 14 May (MD!), late. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr EA 5 Mar; max only 46 T Hamburg 15 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr T Amity, two T Hamburg 16 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk**: max only 91 T Hamburg 16 Mar. **Merlin**: TNP (D&DS!), WTSP (WD!, BP) 22 Apr; only reports. **Peregrine Falcon**: T Hamburg 19 Mar (FR!); ad TWMA 7 May (WD!, MM); ad TNP 10 May (WD!); TWMA 15 May (WD!). **Gyr Falcon**: wintering bird at Buffalo last seen 5 Mar (PY, BH). **Wild Turkey**: T Tonawanda 15 May (WW), odd urban location; 88 BOSMC record for this count. **Am. Coot**: arr five INWR 5 Mar. **Sandhill Crane**: T Hamburg 16 Apr (FR!, RA!). **Black-bellied Plover**: arr TWMA 29 Apr (WW!), third earliest ever. **Semipalmated Plover**: 70 TWMA 15 May (WD), good count. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 30 TWMA 7 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: record max 150 TWMA 7 May (WD). **Upland Sandpiper**: arr two CATT BOSMC, only report. **Whimbrel**: six BSL 21 May (WD), rare. **Ruddy Turnstone**: 16 BOSMC, only report. **Sanderling**: 12 BSL 21 May, only report. **W. Sandpiper**: EA 30 May (LH!), rare in spring. **Least Sandpiper**: 400 TWMA 15 May (WD), highest count ever. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr TWMA 15 May (WD!); four TWMA 26 May (CM); only reports. **Dunlin**: arr T Hartland 23 Apr (WD). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr TWMA 7 May

(WD!, MM!), early; 23 BOSMC; only reports. **Red-necked Phalarope:** OOWMA 28 May (RW!, JF), seventh spring record. **Laughing Gull:** imm T Yates 21 May (WW!, RBr!), perhaps first Regional L Ontario record. **Little Gull:** record max 36 at mouth of NR 26 Mar, 29 on 31 Mar and 10 Apr, 37 on 7 Apr (GB, WD); last two Lewiston NR 6 May, late. **Com. Black-headed Gull:** ad NR mouth 26 Mar, 7,10,17 Apr (GB, WD!); Lewiston NR 3, 9 Apr (WD!); probably one bird involved, second year in a row and second ever Apr sightings. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 8000 NR mouth 28 Mar (GB); 5500 Buffalo 15 Apr; great numbers on NR and L Ontario. **Iceland Gull:** T Porter 15 May (WD!), late. **Caspian Tern:** 69 L Ontario plain 22 Apr (WW, AS), excellent count. **Black Tern:** record early arr 22 Apr INWR (HK!); 40+ INWR 15 May (WD), most since early 1960s.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr five BOSMC. **Barn Owl:** WTSP 29 Mar (BP, WD, ES). **Long-eared Owl:** none away from L Ontario plain. **Short-eared Owl:** eight T Royalton 5 Mar; five BOSAC; only reports. **N. Sawwhet Owl:** Four Mile Creek SP 20 Mar; WTSP 29 Mar; one ALLE BOSMC; only reports. **Com. Nighthawk:** 35 BOSMC, more than usual. **Whip-poor-will:** Blasdell ERIE 10 May (MT); T Tonawanda 12 May (PH); one BOSMC; more than usual for recent years. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 71 BOSMC, record for that count, 40 were in ALLE. **Pileated Woodpecker:** 34 BOSMC, record for that count.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr three BOSMC; Buckhorn I SP 27 May; EA 30 May; only reports. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr WG 20 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR 20 May; Allegany SP 27 May, Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 31 May, known breeding sites. **E. Kingbird:** max 30 T Somerset 20 May (MM,ST), good count. **Com. Raven:** ad with FL T Carrollton 13 May (SE); 17± BOSMC. **Carolina Wren:** six locations, appears to be recovering. **Tufted Titmouse:** 93 BOSMC, record for this count. **Winter Wren:** WG 10 Mar, early arrival or overwintering. **Marsh Wren:** arr TWMA 23 Apr, unverified, second earliest ever if correct. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 27 BOSMC, record for this count. **E. Bluebird:** *intro*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr T Tonawanda 10 May. **N. Mockingbird:** T Allegany 31 May (SE), rare away from L Ontario plain. **Brown Thrasher:** max six TNP 22 Apr. **Am. Pipit:** arr two T Dayton 26 Mar; 42 BOSAC; two T Newstead 20 May; Oak Orchard WMA 29 May (MD!, WD!), late; only reports, scarce. **N. Shrike:** last INWR 18 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: TNP 29 Apr (LH!), third earliest ever. **Solitary Vireo:** 49 BOSMC, record for this count. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr T Orchard Park 11 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr TNP 29 Apr. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr four Tonawanda Indian Reservation Gene 20 May.

Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler: Brewster's type EA 10 May (LH), GI 11 May (BP); Lawrence's type Crick's Run ALLEGANY SP late May, back for third straight year. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** EA 11 May (LH), only report. **N. Parula:** arr GI 20 Apr (DR!), record early. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** INWR 11 Mar and Buckhorn I SP 12 Mar, probably overwintered; arr three GI 15 Mar; 75-100 T Alfred 25 Apr (EB); 465 T Somerset including 400 at GHSP 27 Apr (WD!), highest count ever. **Pine Warbler:** arr Lakeview T Hamburg 16 Apr (MT!), early; two Bush Hill State Forest CATT 21 May, one Boyce Hill State Forest CATT 25 May, and one Allegany SP 27 May, all late and possibly breeding. **Prairie Warbler:** arr T Amity 9 May (VP); two T Machias 13 May (BC); T Ellicottville 25 May (BC). **Palm Warbler:** record max 19 Youngstown to Wilson NIAG Apr (WD). **Cerulean Warbler:** arr EA 23 Apr (LH!), record early. **Prothonotary Warbler:** two locations INWR 20-29 May, only reports. **Kentucky Warbler:** GI 24 May (WD!, BP). **Connecticut Warbler:** TNP 14 May (JR!, LR); GI 24 May (BP!, WD!). **Hooded Warbler:** arr EA 10 May; 86 BOSMC, record for this count.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last T Wheatfield 26 Apr. **Field Sparrow:** arr TNP 20 Mar. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr T Clarence 20 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** T Clarence 17 May (MM), only report. **Fox Sparrow:** arr two EA 27 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** eight TNP 10 May (WD), one short of record max set 18 Sep 1960. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr T Lewiston 2 Apr. **Dark-eyed Junco:** 219 BOSMC record for this count. **Snow Bunting:** one BOSAC, only report. **Red-winged Blackbird:** arr away from wintering areas several locations 4 Mar. **E. Meadowlark:** arr T Otto, T Randolph 13 Mar. **W. Meadowlark:** arr two T Lancaster and two T Clarence 11 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird:** TNP 30 Apr-2 May (WW!, RA!, mob); Orchard P ERIE 25 May (NR, RB). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr EA 19 Mar; last BOSMC. **Purple Finch:** max 12 T Wales in Apr; several reports, unusually numerous. **Pine Siskin:** nine ALLE BOSAC; Lakeside Beach SP 27 Apr; Sanborn NIAG 30 Apr; T Porter 6 May; last four BOSMC; only reports. **Evening Grosbeak:** one BOSMC, only report.

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REGION 2 — GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

It was a varied and interesting spring season. For the most part the season was dry. March's precipitation of 1.15 inches was barely half the norm, and April's precipitation at 1.18 inches was 45% the norm. May was a little better with a reading of 1.75 inches, almost an inch below normal. The many precipitation free days were good for birding but hard on crops and vegetation. Temperatures were variable but close to normal overall. March was warm at 38.5°F, 4.2° above normal. April's 41.6°F average was the opposite, 4.3° below normal. May was nearly average at 57.2°F. March and April winds were predominantly northerly. This didn't seem to alter the migration drastically, and arrival dates were average or a little early relative to long term averages. May was a very interesting month. The month began as a near disaster in terms of passerine migration. North winds prevailed and nothing seemed to be moving. On 10 May, things changed dramatically. It seemed as though the early days had caused a backup of birds and when conditions improved, everything moved at once. A light overnight rain caused the birds to be grounded. Numbers were reminiscent of years past. There were good numbers of species and good total numbers for individual species at many locations.

Elizabeth Brooks again directed the passerine banding operations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station. As was consistent with the migration, there were some very good banding days. A single day record was set as well as a number of daily highs for individual species.

Rob Clemens manned the hawk watch at Braddock Bay this year. He stated that, if weather conditions might have been more favorable, this probably would have been a record breaking year. The hawk watch suffered somewhat because the flights were somewhat dispersed by unfavorable winds. Lake effect winds also contributed to this condition. The total of 42,207 hawks was 12% below average. There were good totals for Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon. Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawks were especially scarce. Broad-winged Hawk totals were 38% below average, which contributed to the low total count.

The season had many highlights and low points. There were some good loon flights this spring, but in general totals were not very high. A *Pacific Loon* was a highlight. Grebe arrivals were about normal, but once again the totals were low. Of interest were the low counts of

Double-crested Cormorant. Except for a couple of days with counts of 200, counts were off a bit. This species has been gradually increasing in the Region. Herons and egrets were very scarce. American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Green Heron were very hard to find. There were few wandering egrets to be found, with only one Snowy Egret and a few Great Egret. The only other highlight was Glossy Ibis.

Waterfowl were most interesting. While the regular species seemed to depart a bit early this year, there were some very unusual sightings. Greater White-fronted Goose has become somewhat regular in spring. A *Barnacle Goose*, as is always the case, is of uncertain origin, though it appeared to be wild. Also spotted were Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck. Scoters and Oldsquaw were reported on Lake Ontario through the season.

The usual few reports of *Sandhill Crane* came from the hawk watch. Sora and Virginia Rail numbers seemed about normal, and a *King Rail* was reported. The variety of shorebird species reported was about average, but numbers were down. There was some suitable habitat in May, but no major flights materialized. Dowitchers were scarce. Dunlin totals appeared to be good. Gulls and tern picture were mostly lackluster. The highlight was the Region's first *Ross's Gull*. Also of interest were Lesser Black-backed Gull and Laughing Gull. The local populations of Black Terns seemed to be down.

Wild Turkey continued to be well reported, but Ring-necked Pheasant was very scarce. It was a good spring for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, even though it arrived late. Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in Bergen Swamp in May. Whip-poor-will reports were up this year, but it was still absent from former breeding locations. Common Nighthawk numbers were down.

Reports of passerines were quite varied. There was a slight increase in Olive-sided and Least Flycatcher reports, but Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seemed to be scarce. The last building at the west spit of Braddock Bay where the Cliff Swallow nested burned this spring. Attempts by Cliff Swallow to nest on other buildings were met with apparent displeasure by the homeowners and their nesting attempts were thwarted. Sedge Wren was not reported. Kinglet reports were about average. Thrush totals were only fair, but Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes appeared well into the season. Brown Thrasher reports were good. Loggerhead Shrike was not reported, but there was a late Northern Shrike.

Vireo reports, with the exception of Philadelphia Vireo, were generally good. There was a single White-eyed Vireo report. Warblers

were very interesting. There were few late April reports but things were very good during a 10-15 day period in mid May, especially 10, 11t and 17 May. The usual uncommon species were reported. Most observers commented on the high numbers of Blue-winged, Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, and Black-throated Green Warblers, and Ovenbird. Good numbers of other species were also noted. However, numbers still are as high or consistent as were totals in the 1970s and earlier. The flight days this season were more concentrated in the past. Yellow-breasted Chat went unreported.

There were good reports of tanagers, grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Sparrows had no real highlights but numbers of some species were noteworthy. Vesper, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continued to be scarce. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were common only on a few days. Lincoln's Sparrow was noted in good numbers over a wide range of dates. A single male *Brewer's Blackbird* was observed at a site that was frequented by a pair in past years. The usual number of Orchard Oriole reports came from the west lakeshore and Northern Oriole was well reported. Purple Finch was quite scarce and virtually no other winter finches were reported. There were a few Pine Siskin and only a couple of Evening Grosbeak.

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Abbreviations: BP - Badgerow Park, Greece; BB - Braddock Bay; CH - Cobb's Hill Park; DEP - Durand-Eastman Park, Rochester; HBSP - Hamlin Beach State Park; IB - Irondequoit Bay; ICW - Island Cottage Woods; WL - shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester (west lakeshore).

Spring Reports: Red-throated Loon: max 62 HBSP 18 Apr; last two HBSP 3 May. *Pacific Loon*: one HBSP 14 Apr (WS). Horned Grebe: last

HBSP 18 May. **Red-necked Grebe**: arr 29 HBSP 23 Mar, max five HBSP 29 Mar, last Greece 15 Apr, early departure. **Double-crested Cormorant**: arr six BB 3 Apr, max 200 BB 23-24 May. 14 **Least Bittern**: arr Mendon Ponds P 8 May. **Great Egret**: one BB 23 Apr, scarce. **Snowy Egret**: one East Avon 13 May (KF), only report. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: max two Manitou 13 Apr, scarce. **Glossy Ibis**: one Greece 14 May (CD-G, KG, RO). **Tundra Swan**: max 150 BB 13 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: one Hamlin 10 Mar (RM). **Barnacle Goose**: one with Canada Goose Hamlin 12 Mar (RM). **Snow Goose**: max ten BB 15 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Hamlin 15 Mar (RM). **Harlequin Duck**: female Genesee R 24 May (RM, RO'H, RS), very out of character for the Region. **Oldsquaw**: max 1200 HBSP 23 Mar. **Black Scoter**: one HBSP 23 Mar (WS), last two HBSP 26 May, unusual in spring. **Surf Scoter**: two HBSP 26 Mar (DH), max 133 HBSP 27 Apr, unusual in spring. **Com. Goldeneye**: last Pt Breeze 20 May. **Bufflehead**: last three Manitou 22 May. **Com. Merganser**: last three HBSP 5 May.

Turkey Vulture: max 1853 BB 20 Mar. **Osprey**: max 79 BB 14 May. **Bald Eagle**: max 13 BB 29 Apr. **N. Harrier**: max 204 BB 12 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: max 872 BB 14 May. **Cooper's Hawk**: max 119 BB 20 Mar. **N. Goshawk**: max six BB 20 Mar. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr eight BB 12 Mar, max 453 BB 20 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr BB 18 Apr, max 2923 BB 28 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one BB 23 Apr (RC). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 816 BB 13 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 31 BB 20 Mar, last Greece 17 May. **Golden Eagle**: arr BB 12 Mar, max six BB 14 May. **Am. Kestrel**: max 135 BB 11 Apr. **Merlin**: arr Greece 18 Mar, max four BB 27 Apr, 14 May, 17 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: max four BB 27 Apr. **King Rail**: one Brush Creek, Hamlin 20 May (RS, RO, KG). **Sandhill Crane**: max three Manitou 21 Mar (RO'H). **Com. Moorhen**: arr one, three Greece, BB 16 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last East Avon 29 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr HBSP 12 Apr. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr HBSP 19 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 385 HBSP 24 May. **Least Sandpiper**: arr two-three WL, East Avon 6 May. **Dunlin**: arr WL 22 Apr. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: two four HBSP, East Avon 17 May. **Com. Snipe**: max 23 West Sweden Road Bergen 17 Apr (WS), good total for this spring. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one Hamlin 12 - 13 May (D&HL), only report. **Laughing Gull**: one Charlotte 28 May (DS, MT). **Little Gull**: arr BB 23 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr HBSP 23 Mar. **Iceland Gull**: one HBSP 28 Apr, one 21 May, only reports. **Glaucous Gull**: one BB 15 Mar, one IB 23 Mar, scarce. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad IB 2 Mar (RM). **Ross' s Gull**: one off DEP 23 Apr (RS, NYSARC). **Forster's Tern**: arr HBSP 12 Apr.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one-two CH 28 May, late. **Short-eared Owl:** max 11 Lima 12 Apr. **Whip-poor-will:** arr Manitou 28 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Manitou 17 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Letchworth SP 20 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 121 Manitou 10 May, banded. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Webster 15 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr BB 7 Mar, last HBSP 21 May. **N. Shrike:** one Pt Breeze 17 Apr (KG, CD-G), late.

White-eyed Vireo: one ICW 7 May (PW). **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr BP 14 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BP 3 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr several sites 10 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Lawrence's type ICW 21 May (CC). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Manitou 26 Apr (EB). **Nashville Warbler:** max 20 BP 10 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** max 252 Manitou 17 May, banded. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 50 several sites 10 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 500 ICW 10 May. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Manitou 7 May, two other reports, uncommon. **Palm Warbler:** last ICW 27 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 24 Manitou 17 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Manitou, Webster 11 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max 50 several sites 10 May. **Am. Redstart:** max 80 ICW 17 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one ICW 17 May (KD), one banded Manitou 26 May (EB). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one CH 12 May (D&DT), one Webster 17 May (D&DT), one Greece 24 May (KG), good total. **Ovenbird:** max 30 Webster 10 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr ICW 19 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler:** one ICW 15 May (BT, PD), one Webster 17 May (D&DT), one Murray 21 May (R&SS). **Connecticut Warbler:** one banded Manitou 25 May (EB). **Hooded Warbler:** arr one-three several sites 11 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 40 several sites 10 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last ICW 7 May. **Chipping Sparrow:** one Webster 1 Mar (BC), wintering bird? **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Hamlin 14 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr Letchworth SP 20 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last Manitou 30 May. **Lapland Longspur:** last three Hamlin 11 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** last 12 BB 14 Mar. **Eastern Meadowlark:** arr BB 15 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr three HBSP, ICW 29 Mar; last Webster 21 May. **Brewer's Blackbird:** male Hamlin 21 May (TH, AK, KW). **Orchard Oriole:** arr BB 12 May. **Pine Siskin:** max six DEP 13 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** max two Manitou 12 May.

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REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

Weather in the Finger Lakes Region from March through May continued a trend of little precipitation that produced near drought conditions. Unlike the previous two years, there was no significant snowfall in March. Only between 3 and 7 inches of snow fell, and total precipitation was 1 inch below normal. Water levels in rivers and creeks throughout the Region, in particular the Chemung River, were already beginning to be abnormally low. A high pressure ridge situated over the entire eastern United States from 12 to 18 Mar was the most significant weather factor for the month. Precipitation levels in April were 1 to 2 inches below normal, and river and stream water levels were now significantly below normal. The month was unseasonably cool, averaging 3 to 6°F below normal. While winter weather conditions prevailed during the first week of the month, there were no significant frontal passages through the Region. Temperatures in May continued on the cooler side but not nearly as cool as April. Precipitation was between 1 and 3 inches below normal. A major weather disturbance on 10 May, when a series of thunderstorms passed through the Region, was the most significant weather event for the month.

The dry, cool weather conditions appeared to have influenced bird migration into and through the Finger Lakes Region. Herons, egrets, and shorebirds arrived earlier than their usual, while flycatchers, thrushes, and warblers tended to arrive on their average date, and swallows arrived later. Water levels were low, due to the light snow melt, lack of precipitation, and low water levels that were maintained at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and at Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. Consequently habitat used by herons, egrets, and shorebirds was available early. The cooler than average temperatures in April may have prevented the early arrival of passerines. For example, in 1995 daily point counts at the Cornell University Plantations and the Laboratory of Ornithology at Sapsucker Woods recorded few species and low numbers of passerines until the second week in May. Counts made last year in the same areas recorded large numbers of both species and individuals in the last week in April and first week in May.

Several weather related events initiated exciting bird activity. The arrival of a high pressure ridge over the eastern portion of the United States in mid March brought an unprecedented number of Golden Eagle over the Mt. Pleasant hawk watch near Ithaca. The other significant

weather event occurred 10 through 13 May. The aforementioned line of thunderstorms and southerly winds created fog conditions throughout the Region. The consequence of this was a large fallout of migrating passerines and an influx of southern birds. Point counts at the Cornell Plantations recorded only 5 or 6 warbler species until 10 May. Afterward over a dozen species and numerous individuals were observed. This weather event also brought several bird species that are more commonly associated with more southern areas, including *Tricolored Heron*, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Whip-poor-will, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

The managers of the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge can be credited with producing excellent habitat during the late spring shorebird migration period. Beginning the first week of May, water levels in Tsache Pool were lowered. This created a huge mudflat that by the end of May held shorebirds in numbers and variety that have not been seen in some time. A total of 21 species of shorebirds were reported from the drained pool. The most numerous species was Dunlin. Several uncommon species were also observed, most notably American Golden-Plover, *Western Sandpiper*, and *Willet*. It is hoped that the managers of MNWR are pleased with these totals, and will continue to provide crucial shorebird habitat.

A total of 232 species of birds were observed this season. In addition to the aforementioned reports, other highlights were Eurasian Wigeon, *Harlequin Duck*, Iceland Gull, Lesser-black Backed Gull, Little Gull, Short-eared Owl, *Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler*, *Brewer's Blackbird*, Henslow's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. A very early Indigo Bunting was reported from Geneva.

Observers: Fred Bertram, Jack Brubaker, Dick Clements, Carl David, Bill Evans, John Gregoire, Kevin Griffith, Chris Hymes, Steve Kelling, Kevin McGowan, Tom Nix, Bard Prentiss, Ken Rosenberg, Dave Russell, Robert Spahn, Laura Stenzler, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Bird Club, Eaton Bird Club, Schuyler Co. Bird Club. Many reports were gleaned from the computer internet CAYUGABIRDS and NEWYORKBIRDS listserves as well as the Ithaca RBA.

Abbreviations: CL - Cayuga Lake; CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin; CV - Chemung Valley; KHMO - Kestrel Haven Migration Observatory, Burdette; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MPt - Myers Point, Lansing; QCM - Queen Catherine Marsh, Montour Falls; SCMC - Schuyler County Migration Count, 13 May; SL - Seneca Lake; SW - Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods; TCMC - Tompkins County Migration Count, 13 May;

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** numbers down, max third week of Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr CV 15 Mar; entire period MNWR. **Horned Grebe:** scattered SL, CL Mar; max 42 CV 4 Apr; five Geneva 31 May, late. **Red-necked Grebe:** only reports one Aurora 3 Apr (CD), two Dryden L 4 Apr (BP). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr two Dryden L 4 Apr; max eight CL 8 Apr; one TCMC. **Am. Bittern:** singles QCM 15 Apr, MNWR 29 May. **Least Bittern:** one SCMC. **Great Blue Heron:** scattered Mar, arr CV 12 Apr; max. 23 SCMC. **Great Egret:** singles CV 22 Apr, 20 May. **Snowy Egret:** one MNWR 14 May (FB). **Tricolored Heron:** one MPt 13-16 May (TN, mob). **Cattle Egret:** one MPt 12 May (CD). **Green Heron:** one WG 21 Apr; max three SCMC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Brooktondale 18 Apr; two Ithaca 25 Apr; two CV 12 May. **Mute Swan:** one SCMC. **Tundra Swan:** arr six Geneva 5 Mar; max 14 CV 17 Mar; last 12 MNWR 24 Apr. **Snow Goose:** arr SL 12 Mar; max 5000-10000 MNWR 21 Apr, 90% blue morph; last MNWR 20 May. **Brant:** one MNWR 15 May. **Wood Duck:** arr QCM 8 Mar; max 34 SCMC. **Green-winged Teal:** arr QCM 8 Mar; max 53 QCM 20 Mar; scattered reports through mid-May. **Am. Black Duck:** scattered but numbers low. **Blue-winged Teal:** scattered through Region. **N. Shoveler:** arr QCM 22 Mar; numerous MNWR early Apr. **Gadwall:** 14 WG 14 Mar; scattered through Region. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one-three MNWR 6-29 May (mob). **Am. Wigeon:** CL entire period; arr CV 14 Mar. **Canvasback:** MNWR entire period. **Redhead:** scattered reports through Region; last MNWR 7 May. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 100 MNWR early Apr; last CV 13 May. **Greater Scaup:** one WG 5 Mar; numerous MNWR Apr; 40 CV 4 Apr. **Lesser Scaup:** one WG 5 Mar; 10 CV 4 Apr; numerous MNWR Apr. **Harlequin Duck:** one Union Springs 24 Mar (BP, NYSARC). **Oldsquaw:** max 52 CV 4 Apr; last 10 SL 20 May; more numerous than usual. **Surf Scoter:** two CL 7 May; one CV 13 May. **White-winged Scoter:** one Geneva 11 Mar; one MNWR 25 Mar, two on 1 May; two SL 20 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 100 CLB 4 Mar; last Aurora 21 Apr. **Bufflehead:** numerous CL; max 91 CV 4 Apr; last CV 13 May. **Hooded Merganser:** scattered reports. **Red-breasted Merganser:** good numbers. **Com. Merganser:** good numbers. **Ruddy Duck:** arr CL 25 Mar; last MNWR 7 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr Aurora 7 Mar; increased numbers reported throughout Region. **Osprey:** arr CV 4 Apr; scattered through Region. **Bald Eagle:** one CV 2 Mar; one Mt Pleasant 12 Mar; nesting MNWR. **N. Goshawk:** scarce; two doing courtship displays Mt Pleasant 19 Mar; one Freeville 22 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one Shindaigin Hollow 16 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Mt Pleasant 17 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** scattered, last CV 13 May, very late. **Golden Eagle:** total 30 Mt Pleasant

week of 10 Mar, 14 on 12 Mar (TN), 12 on 13 Mar (AF); last MNWR 2 May. **Merlin**: one CV 13 Mar; one Ithaca 21 Apr. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: scattered through Region. **Ruffed Grouse**: good numbers CV; eight SCMC; five TCMC. **Virginia Rail**: max three Dryden L 22 Apr; five SCMC. **Sora**: four SCMC. **Com. Moorhen**: three QCM 28 Apr; six CV 13 May. **Am. Coot**: 241 SL 15 Apr; 100 MNWR 21 Apr; last SCMC. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr MNWR 22 Apr, max 20 on 22 May. **Am. Golden-Plover**: one MNWR 26 May, sixth Regional spring record. **Semipalmated Plover**: numerous MNWR through period. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 21 Savannah mucklands 21 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: regular MNWR through period. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max eight CV 12 May; 3 TCMC. **Willet**: two MNWR 21-22 May (BE), third Regional spring record. **Spotted Sandpiper**: numerous CV; two SCMC; four TCMC. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr CV 29 Apr; max six CV 13 May; two Aurora 26 May. **Whimbrel**: seven MNWR 21 May; 20 Canandaigua 22 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr MNWR 6 May; three MPt 24 May. **Red Knot**: nine MNWR 29 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: ten MNWR 22 May. **W. Sandpiper**: one MNWR 29 May, third Regional spring record. **Least Sandpiper**: one SCMC. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr MNWR 20 May; max 25 MNWR 26 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr MNWR 22 Apr. **Dunlin**: arr MNWR 15 Apr; max 2000+ MNWR 21 May; 650 Geneva 22 May; 650 Canandaigua 22 May. **Com. Snipe**: arr CL 20 Mar; eight MNWR 21 Apr; one TCMC. **Wilson's Phalarope**: one MNWR 26 May. **Red-necked Phalarope**: Alt plumaged female Dryden L 13 Apr (BP, CH; NYSARC), very early; one MNWR 30 May. **Little Gull**: two MNWR 29 Apr-1 May (SK, mob). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 24 CV 8 Apr; 140 SL 12 Apr; 50 MNWR 29 Apr. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 800 CLB 20 Mar; 430 SCMC; 138 TCMC. **Herring Gull**: max 300 CLB 20 Mar; three SCMC; three TCMC. **Iceland Gull**: one WG 9 Mar (JB). **Lesser black-backed Gull**: one MNWR 15-27 Apr; one CL 30 Apr. **Great black-backed Gull**: max 20 CLB 5 Mar; one TCMC. **Caspian Tern**: arr ties record early; scattered MNWR. **Com. Tern**: scattered reports MNWR. **Black Tern**: six MNWR 20 May.

Mourning Dove: 23 SCMC; 29 TCMC. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: one TCMC; 21 SCMC; three Geneva 21 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: one CV 13 May; one QCM 29 May. **Barred Owl**: two SW entire period; one Connecticut Hill 25 May. **Short-eared Owl**: 14 Kings Ferry 19 Mar; last Kings Ferry 26 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk**: only reports CV 17 May; Lansing 22 and 27 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Shindaigin Hollow 14 May. **Chimney Swift**: arr CV 18 Apr; 35 SCMC; one TCMC. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: three SCMC; two TCMC. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: one Ringwood Nature Preserve 5 May; one CV 13 May. **Red-bellied**

Woodpecker: seven SCMC; three TCMC. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Newfield 2 Apr; eight Arnot Forest 30 Apr; two SCMC; 11 TCMC. **Downy Woodpecker:** 14 SCMC; 22 TCMC. **Hairy Woodpecker:** five SCMC; eight TCMC; scattered CV. **N. Flicker:** 12 SCMC; 19 TCMC. **Pileated Woodpecker:** max three TCMC; three SCMC.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: three Phelps 14 May; one Ithaca 24 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Ithaca 19 May; one SW 22 May; one KHMO 23 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** one KHMO 10 May. **Least Flycatcher:** 23 SCMC; 13 TCMC. **E. Phoebe:** 14 SCMC; 21 TCMC. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** five SCMC; nine TCMC. **E. Kingbird:** five SCMC; nine TCMC. **Horned Lark:** 50 Kings Ferry 4 Mar; two SCMC. **Purple Martin:** two CV 5 May; 14 SCMC. **Tree Swallow:** 28 SCMC; 66 TCMC. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 10 SCMC; 17 TCMC. **Bank Swallow:** 22 SCMC; 34 TCMC. **Cliff Swallow:** arr Elmira 10 May. **Barn Swallow:** 22 SCMC; 34 TCMC. **Am. Crow:** poor nesting year due to dry conditions (KM). **Fish Crow:** three CV 15 Mar; one KHMO 29 Mar; four TCMC. **Com. Raven:** two Mt Pleasant 19 Mar; one Hammond Hill 1 Apr; two Ithaca 29 Apr; three CV period; four SCMC. **Black-capped Chickadee:** 57 SCMC; 100 TCMC. **Tufted Titmouse:** 13 SCMC; 16 TCMC. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** five SCMC; eight TCMC. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** four SCMC; 14 TCMC. **Brown Creeper:** 15 TCMC. **Carolina Wren:** several CV; three SCMC; one TCMC. **House Wren:** 23 SCMC; 25 TCMC. **Winter Wren:** arr Ithaca 1 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 12 SW 19 Apr; numerous through Region. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** abundant through Region Apr; 12 SSMC; 30 TCMC. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 20 SCMC; three TCMC. **Veery:** 10 SCMC; 20 TCMC. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr SW 17 May. **Hermit Thrush:** arr CV 16 Apr; three SCMC; 12 TCMC. **Wood Thrush:** 34 SCMC; 59 TCMC. **Am. Robin:** 134 SCMC; 151 TCMC. **Gray Catbird:** arr Lansing 13 Apr; 40 SCMC; 40 TCMC; numbers down CV. **N. Mockingbird:** scattered through Region. **Brown Thrasher:** numbers declining CV; ten reports CLB, numbers increasing. **Am. Pipit:** 200 CV 18 Apr; last Lansing 8 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing:** 250 Ithaca 14 Apr. **N. Shrike:** last Schu 11 Mar. **European Starling:** 102 SCMC; 108 TCMC.

Yellow-throated Vireo: six SCMC; four TCMC. **Warbling Vireo:** arr MPt 23 Apr, record early; four SCMC; 21 TCMC. **Philadelphia Vireo:** one KHMO 17 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** five SCMC; five TCMC. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr CV 9 May; 16 SCMC; 16 TCMC. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr CV 10 May; one Brooktondale 16 May; one Geneva 22 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** Brewster's type CV 13 May, Danby 20 May; Lawrence's type CV 13 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** scattered reports through May. **Nashville Warbler:** ten SCMC; ten

TCMC; one Dryden 30 May. **N. Parula**: arr Ithaca 10 May; one SCMC; one CV 16 May. **Yellow Warbler**: 150 SCMC; 92 TCMC. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 15 SCMC; 18 TCMC. **Magnolia Warbler**: five SCMC; nine TCMC. **Cape May Warbler**: one SCMC. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: eight SCMC; 31 TCMC. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: overwintered, numerous through early May; eight SCMC; 71 TCMC; *Audubon's* type Ithaca 3-5 May (SK, NYSARC). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 26 SCMC; 48 TCMC. **Blackburnian Warbler**: five SCMC; 17 TCMC. **Pine Warbler**: overwintered Freeville through 17 Mar; three Ithaca after 17 Mar, early; one CV 22 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: arr CV 6 May; four SCMC; five Caroline 23 May. **Palm Warbler**: arr Dryden L 15 Apr, record early; scattered reports until 9 May, all thought to be eastern Yellow subspecies. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr CV 13 May; three TCMC. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 21 SCMC; eight TCMC. **Am. Redstart**: 17 SCMC; 40 TCMC. **Prothonotary Warbler**: arr MNWR 13 May. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one CV 9 May. **Ovenbird**: 50 SCMC; 44 TCMC. **N. Waterthrush**: two SCMC; six TCMC. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Enfield 13 Apr; three SCMC; four TCMC. **Mourning Warbler**: arr KHMO 13 May. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 162 SCMC; 81 TCMC. **Hooded Warbler**: arr SW 9 May; three Naples 22 May; scattered reports through Region. **Wilson's Warbler**: scattered singles. **Canada Warbler**: five Connecticut Hill 21 May; five SCMC. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Michigan Hollow 13 May (JC).

Scarlet Tanager: nine SCMC; eight TCMC. **N. Cardinal**: 31 SCMC; 44 TCMC. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: arr MNWR 22 Apr, record early; 30 SCMC; 43 TCMC. **Indigo Bunting**: arr Geneva 22 Mar (FB), record early; one Ulysses 23 Apr, very early. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: present CV entire period; 21 SCMC; 19 TCMC. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last Dryden L 22 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: 63 SCMC; 90 TCMC. **Field Sparrow**: arr Caroline 16 Apr; 4 SCMC; 27 TCMC. **Vesper Sparrow**: only two reports. **Savannah Sparrow**: one SCMC, very scarce; 32 TCMC. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Aurora 3 May; one SCMC; two TCMC. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr Ellis Hollow 30 Apr; four Freeville 20 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr CV 12 Mar; last Shindaigin Hollow 21 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: 89 SCMC; 82 TCMC. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one SCMC 13 May. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr MNWR 8 Apr; 60 SCMC; 19 TCMC. **White-throated Sparrow**: 32 SCMC; 13 TCMC. **Dark-eyed Junco**: seven SCMC; 59 TCMC. **Lapland Longspur**: one CV 20 Mar. **Bobolink**: 101 SCMC; 89 TCMC. **Brewer's Blackbird**: female KHMO 2 May (JG, NYSARC). **E. Meadowlark**: arr CV 21 Mar; ten SCMC; 18 TCMC. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: one KHMO 25 Mar (JG); one MNWR 29-30 Apr (mob). **Rusty Blackbird**: scattered, last CV 6

May. **Com. Grackle:** 54 SCMC; 66 TCMC. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 22 SCMC; 63 TCMC. **Orchard Oriole:** one Sheldrake 25 May. **N. Oriole:** arr Aurora 3 May; 31 SCMC; 39 TCMC. **Purple Finch:** 16 SCMC; eight TCMC. **Pine Siskin:** one KHMO 3 May, only report. **Am. Goldfinch:** 265 SCMC; 153 TCMC. **Evening Grosbeak:** one Caroline 16 Mar-4 Apr; small flock CV through mid-May.

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REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

Birders had few complaints about 1995's spring weather. Following a mild winter with minimum snow, March entered, stayed and left like the proverbial lamb. According to Harold Hollis, U.S. National Weather Service observer at Cooperstown, the month was 3.5°F warmer and 1.38 inches dryer than normal. Not so April, which was 3.0° colder than average. Binghamton posted a record low temperature reading of 14°F on 5 Apr after overnight snow squalls. Another storm on 8 Apr dropped four inches of slushy snow on the city. Precipitation for the month, however, was only a half inch over average. Clouds prevailed at least part of many days in May, but 5 May was the only rainy day and 29 May had the only damaging storm. Temperatures for the month were a hair below average. However, May rainfall was down 1.47 inches from normal. It all added up to a three month precipitation deficit of 3.37 inches at Cooperstown. "We just missed listing in the top ten driest springs of the century," said Hollis.

Negative effects of the aridity may appear in the summer report, but for spring migration, the weather was perfect. Rivers and streams were mostly open from the beginning of the season. Runoff was light and flooding was minimal. Lakes and ponds opened early. With such excellent conditions for water birds, it is not surprising that we had high counts, record early arrivals for Green Heron and American Bittern, and late departures for Redhead and Surf Scoter. Record numbers of Snow Goose were reported as well as the first Brant in 11 years. The 22 species of duck ties our best record and includes above average numbers of

Redhead and Lesser Scaup. Few migrating raptors were seen, but several Rough-legged Hawk remained until mid April. Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Goshawk were among the species reported nesting. Excellent numbers of Common Moorhen and American Coot were a surprise, as was the total of nine shorebird species.

Passerine migration continued the excitement as some very early arrivals introduced a long, leisurely season. Yellow Warbler arrived a month ahead of normal. In all, 14 species of warblers were found in the Region during April. For other families, notable early arrivals included Eastern Kingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Solitary Vireo and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We hit a lull in early May. Storms in the south may have stalled migration. But by 12 May, the latecomers began appearing in force. This set up spectacular conditions for BROO, OTSE and TIOG North American Migration Counts the next day. Some of the high maxima in the species accounts may be attributed to this explosion of new arrivals. Marie Petuh, at Greenwood Park for the BROO count, noted, "Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were everywhere. They must have just arrived." Multiple Northern Parula were found; one a season has been good in recent years. The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society ran their 27th annual May Big Day Count a week later and achieved a new record of 136 species. This mass effort is also reflected in the species accounts. Migration excitement persisted to the end of the period, concluding with a rare *Kentucky Warbler*. Other spring rarities were two Regional firsts, *Clay-colored Sparrow* and *LeConte's Sparrow*, plus Sedge Wren, White-eyed Vireo and Orange-crowned Sparrow. Also rare, at least in recent years, were Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Common Tern, Black Tern and Yellow-breasted Chat. Missed species included Red-necked Grebe, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills, and Com. Redpoll. All expected species of grassland sparrows were scarce but reported. Our record spring total of 204 species tied last year's tally.

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Abbreviations: BoPd - Boland Pond, BROO; CVSP - Chenango Valley

State Park; DOASMBDC - Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society May Big Day Count, May 20. DP - Dorchester Park, BROO; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center; HCPLC - Hartwick College Pine Lake Campus, DELA; NAMC - North American Migration Count, May 13; OPM - Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; OtsL - Otsego Lake; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, Norwich; UL - Upper Lisle; WPt - Whitney Point (and Reservoir).

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr three OnRes 4 Apr (CV); max 11 OtsL 21 May (MM); 10 DP 8 Apr (T&NT); nine Echo L Greene 20 Apr (DS), high counts. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr TIOG and BROO 18 Mar; 12 reports Apr, max six UL 8 Apr; three reports May; record high count. **Horned Grebe:** arr OnRes 4 Apr; four BROO 17 Apr (HM, BB, GK), only reports. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 20 WPt 23 Apr (AL); eight other reports 10 Apr-21 May, record high count. **Am. Bittern:** singles UL 26 Mar (JH) and 19 May (JSh), possibly same bird; BoPd 15 Apr (BG); Greene 15 May (BB); DOASMBDC 20 May, best count since 1983. **Great Blue Heron:** max 24 Otego rookery 28 Mar; one at BROO nest site 13 Mar (HM); 24 flying together over FHNC 4 Apr. **Great Egret:** Vestal 19 May (JSh), unusual. **Snowy Egret:** Endicott 10 May (*vide* JS), only third spring report since 1979. **Green Heron:** record early arr W Burlington OTSE 23 Mar (TS); four scattered reports Apr, nine in May, high count. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** WPR 26 May (AL), often missed. **Snow Goose:** max 1600 flying in continuous flocks for about 15 minutes UL 27 Mar (ES); 350 W Burlington same day; six other reports 15 Mar-4 Apr, record high numbers. **Brant:** 80-100 Knapp Road BROO 19 Mar (JH), first spring since 1984. **Canada Goose:** max 1800 BROO 12 Mar; many nesting pairs. **Wood Duck:** max 18 UL 1 Apr; hen with nine y OPM 7 May, first of three successful breeding reports. **Green-winged Teal:** 15 reports, max eight 16 Mar-20 May, high count. **Am. Black Duck:** max 120 BoPd 1 Apr; good counts to 20 May. **N. Pintail:** five reports, max two 19 Mar-8 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal:** max: seven UL 8 Apr and BoPd 15 Apr; six other reports, last three on NAMCs. **N. Shoveler:** pair REEC several days mid Apr; one T Preston 13 Apr, only reports. **Gadwall:** arr three Binghamton 19 Mar (TS); three reports UL 20 Mar-15 Apr, max two, always scarce. **Am. Wigeon:** max ten at two BROO sites 17, 20 Mar; seven other reports to 29 Apr. **Canvasback:** pair BROO 8 Mar (JH); one TIOG 18 Mar (MP), only reports. **Redhead:** arr pair BoPd 12 Apr (WW); two Route 12 BROO 13, 20 Apr (T&NT); one Long Pd Chen 15 Apr (EH); last two BROO NAMC, high count, late. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 40 BROO 24 Mar; 34 Mirror L Owego for two weeks Apr; last two BROO 13 May. **Greater Scaup:** UL 29 Mar, 1 Apr, possibly same bird. **Lesser Scaup:** arr

four DELA 7 Apr (AM); max 17 Crum L 23 Apr (IW), one still there 7 May, missed some years. **Oldsquaw**: ten OnRes 4 Apr (CV), only report. **Surf Scoter**: Susquehanna R Portlandville DOASMBDC, only report, record late. **Com. Goldeneye**: one BROO, several TIOG Mar, scarce. **Bufflehead**: max 20 BROO 17 Apr 16 reports to 4 May. **Hooded Merganser**: arr two BROO 3 Mar; max 20 each three BROO sites 19 Mar; female HCPLC 19 May, probable nester. **Com. Merganser**: max 150 BROO 17 Mar (HM, BB, GK). **Ruddy Duck**: OnRes 4 Apr (CV), first spring since 1982.

Turkey Vulture: arr 1 Mar, record early; many reports, max 12. **Osprey**: max six at three BROO sites 30 Apr (MP); last six on two NAMCs, early departure. **Bald Eagle**: max ten Delaware R Hancock 3 Mar (BG); singles TIOG 10 Mar, BROO 18 Mar. **N. Harrier**: max five TIOG NAMC. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: twenty widespread reports, max two. **Cooper's Hawk**: "pair all year and nesting" Greene (BB); pair in display flight Endicott March (JS). **N. Goshawk**: singles T Preston 4 Mar, 5-6 Apr (EH); CVSP 15 Mar (JH): pair Crum L May, probably nesting. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr Johnson City 4 Mar; pair with three y TIOG (JB), same nest as last year. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr Norwich and Johnson City 16 Apr. **Am. Kestrel**: max 14 on three NAMCs. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: five March, four Apr reports, max two, good count. **Ruffed Grouse**: max 11 TIOG NAMC. **Wild Turkey**: max 137 W Burlington 2 Mar; many sizable flocks to late Apr. **N. Bobwhite**: Long Pd 15 May. **Virginia Rail**: UL 19 May (JSh), only one. **Com. Moorhen**: max four BoPd 13 May (JH, MP); singles UL 19 May (JSh); Andrews Reserve Bainbridge 21 May (DW); TIOG NAMC, excellent count. **Am. Coot**: OtsL docks to 17 Mar, max 46 (CV, TS); UL 19 Mar-8 Apr (JH, T&NT, MP), first spring since 1991. **Semipalmated Plover**: North Norwich marsh 15 May (EH), first spring since 1987. **Killdeer**: max 49 on three NAMC's. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max five TIOG 19 Apr (C&JB); five May reports to 23 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: five reports max two 23 Apr to 26 May, second spring since 1985. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr CHEN 27 Apr; max eight on two NAMCs. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 30 Chenango R from Sherburne south 18 May (TS). **Least Sandpiper**: Binghamton 19 May; three Portlandville 23 May, only reports. **Com. Snipe**: four sites, max two, scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: female, three y crossing road Long Pd 26 May (HM). **Bonaparte's Gull**: DP 19 May; DOASMBDC, only reports. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 48 BROO 11 Mar. **Herring Gull**: max six BROO 13 Mar. **Com. Tern**: DP 19 May (JSh), first since 1984. **Black Tern**: singles DP and Murphy's Sand 19 May (JSh), first since 1986.

Black-billed Cuckoo: nine sites after 16 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** singles BROO 22 May; TIOG 23 May, only reports. **E. Screech-Owl:** singles two BROO sites May. **Great Horned Owl:** max three TIOG NAMC. **Barred Owl:** Triangle and T Preston Mar, Apr; five sightings May, good count. **Long-eared Owl:** found injured BROO, being rehabilitated. **Com. Nighthawk:** singles five sites, scarce. **Chimney Swift:** max 15 on three NAMCs. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** singles Oneonta feeder 19, 20 May (MD), Cush Hill CHEN 20 May, TIOG NAMC, best count since 1985. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** two BROO reports Mar; four TIOG Apr, May; one CHEN May, good count. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 36 on OTSE, TIOG NAMC. **Pileated Woodpecker:** max eight TIOG NAMC, reports increasing.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Adams Farm CHEN 20 May (EH); Crumhorn Mt 28 May, often missed. **E. Wood-Pewee:** 12 reports after 13 May, max three. **Acadian Flycatcher:** one TIOG NAMC, often missed. **Alder Flycatcher:** seven reports after 15 May, max five. **Least Flycatcher:** max 42 on two NAMCs. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max five OPM 20 May. **Horned Lark:** two OTSE reports Mar, max ten; one Binghamton Airport 19 May, scarce. **Purple Martin:** max 70 Delhi Bird Club 20 May; only three others. **Tree Swallow:** very early arr on nesting site Greene 27 Feb, joined by female more than a month later, and nested (BB). **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** 14 reports, max five CHEN 20 May. **Bank Swallow:** max 97 DOASNAMC. **Cliff Swallow:** max 46 DOAS NAMC. **Barn Swallow:** max 201 on two NAMCs. **Fish Crow:** max six CVSP 13 Mar (HM, BB, GK); two other BROO sites, two TIOG, one CHEN, high count. **Sedge Wren:** UL on 19 May (JSh), last sighting predates 1979, perhaps record early. **Carolina Wren:** eight sites, slow recovery. **Marsh Wren:** arr DOT marsh Vestal 19 May (JSh); one Greene 30 May (BB), often missed. **E. Bluebird:** max 14 each DOAS, TIOG NAMC. **Swainson's Thrush:** two DOASMBDC, only report. **Wood Thrush:** max 74 on two NAMCs. **N. Mockingbird:** max six TIOG NAMC. **Brown Thrasher:** max six TIOG NAMC, continues scarce. **Am. Pipit:** WPt 8 Apr (AL), only report.

White-eyed Vireo: Nuthatch Hollow Vestal 7, 8 May (PB, MP, ES), first spring report since 1980. **Solitary Vireo:** max 14 DOASNAMC. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** ten reports after 4 May, max two. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max 20 TIOG NAMC. **Golden-winged Warbler:** three sites BROO May, two TIOG, high count. **Tennessee Warbler:** two BROO sites, one OTSE, max two, scarce and late arr. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** DOASMBDC, third spring report since 1985. **Nashville Warbler:** max 20 on two NAMCs; six Crumhorn Mt 12 May, high counts. **N. Parula:** four reports 10 birds, max six BoPd (MP JH), best since 1982. **Yellow Warbler:**

two Binghamton area 26 Mar, three others found before 25 Apr, former record early arr. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 56 on three NAMCs. **Magnolia Warbler**: only 11 reports, mostly singles, scarce. **Cape May Warbler**: singles TIOG NAMC and DOASMBDC, scarce. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 39 on two NAMCs. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 116 on three NAMCs. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 50 on three NAMCs. **Blackburnian Warbler**: eleven reports after 12 May, max three, good count. **Pine Warbler**: at CHEN feeder 22-26 Apr (EH); singles two BROO sites, good count. **Prairie Warbler**: eight reports after 28 Apr, max five on NAMCs. **Palm Warbler**: only one CHEN 5 May (EH). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: six reports, max two, best since 1988. **Blackpoll Warbler**: seven reports, max three, good numbers. **Cerulean Warbler**: Johnson City 15-31 May (JH), often missed. **Am. Redstart**: max 37 on NAMCs. **N. Waterthrush**: max seven DOASNAMC. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max five each DOAS, BROO NAMCs. **Kentucky Warbler**: T Preston 29, 30 May (EH), second successive spring but only third in 13 years. **Hooded Warbler**: only one TIOG NAMC. **Wilson's Warbler**: three reports, max three 13-20 May, best since 1986. **Canada Warbler**: max nine on three NAMCs. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: Johnson City 13, 14 May (MP), same area as last fall, first spring reports since 1983.

Scarlet Tanager: max 24 TIOG NAMC, later arr n sector of Region. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 80 on three NAMCs. **Indigo Bunting**: good numbers after 11 May, four at niger seed feeders. **Rufous-sided Towhee**: max 43 TIOG NAMC. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: at feeder T Preston 15, 16 Apr (EH, DW), first Regional spring report. **Vesper Sparrow**: two singles OTSE, one CHEN, scarce. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: singles TIOG NAMC, DOAS MBDC. **Henslow's Sparrow**: only one Long Pd Forest 26 May, "area managed by DEC for grassland species" (MP). **LeConte's Sparrow**: "singing on a weed stalk back of our barn in alfalfa field" Owego 7 May (JB, NYSARC). **Fox Sparrow**: 18 sites 17 Mar-12 May, max eight, high count. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: only one Johnson City 8 May (JH). **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 35 TIOG NAMC; nine other reports 1-13 May. **E. Meadowlark**: max 36 on NAMCs. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 42 two Broo sites 28 Mar (ES); 14 W Corners Marsh 5 Apr (WW); three singles May, record high count. **Purple Finch**: max 67 on NAMCs. **Pine Siskin**: only one HCPLC 29 Apr (JSm). **Am. Goldfinch** max 340 on NAMCs, high feeder counts through Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: only two DOASMBDC.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DOROTHY W. CRUMB AND JAMES THROCKMORTON

Too much or too little. Central New York weather can never decide which to burden us with. The winter brought very little snow and there were no late spring storms. The average maximum temperature was 48.1°F and the average minimum was 26.7°F. The average temperature in March of 37.4°F was 3.5° below normal. The minus 1° tied the record as the lowest temperature ever on 10 Mar. The total precipitation was 1.31 inches, less than half normal. Moreover, snow total was only 6.9 inches, 10.6 inches below normal. This combination tied the record for the sixth driest March. April followed suit with only 1.88 inches of precipitation, which is 1.45 inches below normal. This made it the tenth driest April on record. It was also the eleventh coldest. Temperatures averaged 42.4°F, 3.3° below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 75°F on 27 Apr. It didn't warm up much in May with the 56.9°F average still 0.2° below normal. The highest temperature for the month was 82°F. A total of 1.31 inches of precipitation was again less than half normal. Below normal precipitation of 4.5 inches for the three months produced a poor collection of ground water. The combination of lack of water and cooler weather slowed vegetation down somewhat. But, as usual, there were leaves on the trees to obscure the warblers from view when migration began.

Unusual waterfowl or wading birds created quite a splash this spring. An Eared Grebe was the first since 1986 and is the first Regional spring record. Two Glossy Ibis and a Little Blue Heron flew past Derby Hill. Two Great Egret were seen many times in a large Great Blue Heron colony after mid May, sometimes in a nest and sometimes just feeding at the base of the flooded trees. Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and Barrow's Goldeneye were unexpected waterfowl.

It is amazing to look back in the old records and see maxima of one to ten Double-crested Cormorant in the 1960s, ten to twenty in the 1970s, up to a thousand in the 1980s. Now, half way through the 1990s, the daily maximum already is in the thousands.

Although there were long, dull stretches of north winds at Derby Hill during the entire season, the few days of south winds helped to make up for many boring days of searching the skies. Ten of the 14 species

normally seen at Derby Hill came through in record numbers. This included Turkey Vulture, both eagles and Merlin. The Bald Eagle total is up 32 from last year. The Golden Eagle totals included 28 adults. Good weather during March and consistent flights on off-wind days both contributed to a record totals for Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks. But to quote Brian Sullivan, the Derby Hill observer, "1995 will be remembered as the year of the Red-tailed Hawk." Huge flights of this species through the entire season added up to a record shattering total of 19,531. This season total is the highest anywhere in the world. Stranger still, is the fact that such a huge flight occurred in the spring, when the bulk of the birds are adults. The peak flight was 4,591 on 11 April, an astonishing record. These numbers are well above average, reflecting the excellent weather in early March as well as this species' solid foothold in the Northeast. A large number of western Red-tailed Hawks was observed, including 10 dark morphs, 2 rufous morphs and 5 Krider's Red-tailed. One *Swainson's Hawk* added to the total of western species identified. Merlin set a record late date for the species, after the official count ended.

Five each of *Sandhill Crane* and Short-eared Owl were unusual at Derby Hill. The two observers at Derby Hill attempted to estimate the magnitude of some of the passerine flights for the month of March. The peak days were 19 and 20 March with over one million birds. Totals for Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Starling and American Robin appear below. The estimate of Red-winged Blackbird for the month was 1,650,150, and American Crow totaled 70,679 for the month. Needless to say, this census is a difficult task when you are trying to count, age and sex the raptors that are also flying overhead.

Cooper's Hawk seem to be moving closer to habitation (or is it the other way around?) A pair moved into an evergreen grove in a Pompey back yard to lay five eggs in a newly constructed nest. A pair of Cooper's Hawk also nested in a more secluded, but new location at Sandy Pond OSWE. There were two unusual sightings of Merlin, including one in the Adirondacks at the end of May. Nesting of Merlin in the Adirondacks has already been documented and we hope this bird foretells nesting in this Region.

There were the normal few shorebirds on the normal dates. However, as is also usual in the spring, there had to be a few exceptions.

Sanderling, seldom seen here in the spring, appeared three weeks earlier than the earliest prior date. White-rumped Sandpiper and a small flock of Whimbrel, only the third spring record since 1970, were also unusual spring sightings. However, the previous report of Whimbrel in May 1992 was also of a small flock.

There were only two reports of Eastern Screech-Owl. This species may be having serious recovery problems from the severe winter of 1993-94. Red-headed Woodpecker, few as they are, returned to their normal locations plus a new location in Jamesville. Acadian Flycatcher was seen in two new places this spring. Many thrushes were heard flying overhead at night during migration, but sightings of birds on the ground were rather few. Three Fish Crow were found at a shopping center on the north side of the city of Syracuse. There was some obvious courtship activity and there is good nesting habitat in a nearby cemetery. They were also heard two different times at Schiller Park, which is only a mile from the shopping center as the crow flies. Fish Crow has not been seen regularly in Region 5 since 1990. A White-eyed Vireo was the first spring sighting since 1991, and Philadelphia Vireo set a Regional record max. Northern Parula was more numerous than usual. A Prairie Warbler returned to its nesting site north of Parish after a year's absence. Cerulean Warbler seems to be on the increase. Warbler rarities found this spring were Connecticut, the first spring sighting since 1986, and Kentucky. A *Blue Grosbeak* with many Indigo Bunting may be the first verified sighting in Region 5. A Dickcissel appeared very briefly at a feeder in April. Henslow's Sparrow returned to a nesting location at West Monroe and stayed through the period for the first report in Region 5 since 1991. Lincoln's Sparrow was observed more than usual in migration, and White-crowned Sparrow produced the second highest spring count for the Region.

There were many rarities or overshoots for the season. The large numbers of hawks of various species is certainly encouraging. The possibility of first Regional nesting by Merlin, Great Egret, and Fish Crow were also hopeful pluses. *Blue Grosbeak* was probably the most unusual bird of the season. On the down side is the slow recovery from our severe winters of Eastern Screech-Owl and Carolina Wren, and grassland species continue to be scarce.

Our thanks to Craig Fosdick, who has been a great help for the four years that he was at Oswego College. We wish him luck and good birding in the future.

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Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks; DH - Derby Hill, OSWE. CIM - Clay Marsh, ONON; HIGMA - Howland Island Game Management Area, Cayu; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, OSWE; LSB - Little Sodus Bay, Fair Haven, and vicinity, CAYU; NPT - northern Pompey Township, ONON; OneiL - Oneida Lake; ONONL - Onondaga Lake; SPd - Sandy Pond, OSWE; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, OSWE; StM - St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, ONON; UM - Utica Marsh.

Spring reports: **Red-throated Loon:** last OneiL 18 May, late. **Com. Loon:** max 110 LOL 26 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** three calling W Monroe through May. **Eared Grebe:** one OneiL 2-7 Apr (MR). **Red-necked Grebe:** max six Toad Harbor OneiL 26 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** record spring max 3120 Oswego Lake 13 May. **Great Egret:** two seen near and around Great Blue Heron colony Toad Harbor mid May through period, nesting status unclear. **Little Blue Heron:** one DH 22 May. **Glossy Ibis:** one DH 22 Apr (SK), one DH 29 Apr (BS). **Tundra Swan:** max nine T Scriba 8 Mar. **Snow Goose:** max 1000+ W Winfield 17 Mar (KZ). **Brant:** max 40 SSSP 20 May. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** singles Biddlecum 14 Mar, DH 20 Mar, the same individual flying 10 miles due north a week later? **N. Pintail:** max 103 Peter Scott Swamp 25 Mar. **Gadwall:** max 50 ONONL 4 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one Constantia 8 Apr, one Toad Harbor OneiL 18 Apr. **Greater Scaup:** max 1300 LOL 5 Mar (PD). **Oldsquaw:** max 245 Toad Harbor 4 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** three OneiL early May (fide BP), one Oswego Harbor 5 Mar. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** pair SPd 26 Mar (BP). **Ruddy Duck:** max four Toad Harbor OneiL 4 Apr.

Derby Hill summary (*=record):

Species	arrival	max	date	last	total
Turkey Vulture	3 Mar	1048	13 Apr	23 May	*7,537
Osprey	29 Mar	68	28 Apr	23 May	520
Bald Eagle	4 Mar	*13	28 Apr	23 May	*101
Northern Harrier	4 Mar	145	11 Apr	23 May	*1,554
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3 Mar	1024	11 Apr	23 May	6145
Cooper's Hawk	1 Mar	153	11 Apr	21 May	*1,176
Northern Goshawk	22 Feb	12	13 Mar	16 May	79
Red-shouldered Hawk	7 Mar	362	19 Mar	26 Apr	*1,805
Broad-winged Hawk	16 Apr	8604	28 Apr	23 May	23426
<i>Swainson's Hawk</i>		1	21 May		1
Red-tailed Hawk	18 Feb	*4,591	11 Apr	23 May	*19,531
Rough-legged Hawk	18 Feb	154	13 Mar	13 May	*656
Golden Eagle	3 Mar	7	11 Apr	28 Apr	*55
American Kestrel	5 Mar	158	21 Apr	21 May	*931
Merlin	3 Apr	*10	21 Apr	14 May	*53
Peregrine Falcon	31 Mar	1		12 May	6
Totals-15 Feb-23 May					63576

Osprey: arr Cazenovia 21 Mar (JR), record early. **Bald Eagle:** five reports away from DH. **Cooper's Hawk:** active nest with 5 eggs near housing NPT after 15 May, new nest location SPd. **Golden Eagle:** one Peter Scott Swamp 16 Mar, one Leonardsville 18 Mar. **Merlin:** four reports away from DH, one in a chimney in Marcellus on 7 Apr, taken to a rehabilitator, one chasing a gull on Big Moose L Adks late May; last DH 29 May (GS), record late. **Sandhill Crane:** four sightings, max two, DH 29 Mar -29 May. **Ruddy Turnstone:** one SPd 28 May, only report. **Whimbrel:** max 10+ Phillips Pt on Oneil 24 May (WP), unusual in spring. **Sanderling:** ad Basic plumage LSB 23 Apr (PD), record early. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** one SPd 28 May (BP), unusual in spring. **Com. Snipe:** max 29 T Lysander 11 Apr. **Am. Woodcock:** arr Baldwinsville 4 Mar (JB), record early. **Black Tern:** max 14 SSSP 20 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one Whiskey Hollow 26 May. **Short-eared Owl:** only two reports, max two DH 20 May. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** max three Forestport 22 Mar (SK), one Whiskey Hollow 16 Mar-1 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** new location Jamesville 29 May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: only report one StM 16 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Whiskey Hollow 21 May, StM 23 May, new location, T. Manlius 25 May, new location. **Least Flycatcher:** max 21 HIGMA 13 May, highest count since 1979. **E. Phoebe:** arr Syracuse 4 Mar (BH), record

early. **Tree Swallow**: arr DH 12 Mar, ties record early. **Am. Crow**: max 11,000 DH 13 Mar. **Fish Crow**: three Syracuse after 12 Mar, possibly nesting. **Com. Raven**: two reports outside Adks, one DH 2 Mar, one Orwell 20 May. **Carolina Wren**: only two reports. **Wood Thrush**: max 46 HIGMA 13 May, most since May 1971. **Am. Robin**: max 11,000 DH 19-20 Mar. **N. Shrike**: three reports, one DH 12 Mar, one LOL 19 Mar, one Syr 22 Mar. **European Starling**: max 50,000 DH 19-20 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: one T Camillus 13 May (JH). **Philadelphia Vireo**: record max ten Nine Mile Pt Visitors Center LOL 24 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: five reports of Brewster's type; one Lawrence's type DH 16 May (DD). **Nashville Warbler**: max 22 LOL 13 May (SA). **Yellow Warbler**: max 180 LOL 13 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 222 DH 11 May. **Prairie Warbler**: three locations one T Camillus 16 May, one T Parish 20 May, one T Scriba 5 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: max 31 HIGMA 13 May, 14 Whiskey Hollow 21 May. **Kentucky Warbler**: one T Camillus 27 May (JH). **Connecticut Warbler**: one T Ohio HERK 20 May (DD, NYSARC). **Hooded Warbler**: two new nesting sites T Orwell 20 May, still expanding.

Scarlet Tanager: max 35 Oneil 20 May. **Blue Grosbeak**: one DH 21 May (NYSARC), probably Regional first. **Dickcissel**: one New Hartford 26 Apr (FM, ph). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 20 Rome 13 Mar. **Chipping Sparrow**: one NPT 4 Apr, record early. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr and max two W Monroe 13 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max seven LOL 17 May. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 80 StM 27 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 682 LOL 13 May (SA), second highest spring max; one T Ira CAYU 11 Mar probably overwintered nearby. **Bobolink**: arr DH 27 Apr, ties record early. **Red-winged Blackbird**: max 750,000 DH 19-20 Mar. **Com. Grackle**: max 200,000 DH 19-20 Mar. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: max 90,000 19-20 Mar. **Red Crossbill**: three sightings. **Pine Siskin**: max 200-300 Big Moose 22 Mar. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 75 Big Moose 22 Mar.

Exotic: Mute Swan: two ONONL through period, six LSB 19-21 May.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

The spring of 1995 was not normal by any means. With the winter of 1994-95 being the second warmest in 100 years in the US and the twentieth mildest in New York in 100 years, what else would one expect? However, an early and warm spring was not to be. March was sunny but cold, many days with north winds in the 10 to 15 mph range. Snowfall was minimal for March. The highest temperature was 60°F at 3 AM on 9 Mar, followed by freezing rain and snow. April was characterized by lots of NW, N, or NE winds, with highs in the 50s during the days and night time lows below freezing. There were almost no April showers and heavy frost occurred into early May. The April showers came in May. The warmest weather started on 29 May when it hit 80°F in Ogdensburg. Rainfall for the period was about two inches below normal and boaters were experiencing problems on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River before the end of the period due to low water. With Lake Ontario water remaining cold, northerly winds, and the lack of any southerly wind flow, the vegetation was farther behind than even last year. Some trees were still not in full leaf at the end of the period and many flowers were considerably behind schedule.

The weather delayed many species of birds but we did set new record early dates for Caspian Tern, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole. Waterfowl put on some pretty impressive numbers, with two Eurasian Wigeon and the first Regional *Tufted Duck*. Raptors were scarce, as expected from the winter period. Dean DiTomasso found a displaying *Spruce Grouse* at the Massawepie Mire in the Town of Piercefield in StLA. Woodpeckers were impressive. Black-backed Woodpecker was found in the Adirondacks as well as the boreal flycatchers, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee. Swallow numbers generally were low. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was again present in impressive numbers. Bluebird counts are still improving and Northern Mockingbird reports just about covered the Region. Warblers and vireos were fantastic as to variety and numbers with Leone, Hughes, and Emery working the migrant trap at Snowshoe Road, Stony Point, and DiTomasso finding nesting birds at Adirondack locations in StLA. Leone located two new breeding locations for Prairie Warblers on Fort Drum and an alvar grassland-limestone woodland area in the Town of Clayton in JEFF. He also found high numbers of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows by surveying possible habitats and known habitats late at

night and early in the morning. Winter finches were very disappointing but better than the winter period at many locations. Crossbills and Pine Siskin appeared at several Adirondack locations.

Negatives for the period included low numbers of loons, raptors, Common Moorhen, owls, flycatchers, swallows, and some sparrow species.

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Abbreviations: CPWF - Chandler Pond Wild Forest, T Colton, StLA; CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; EDP - Eldorado Beach Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral JEFF; LOTW - Lake Of The Woods T Theresa JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire, T Piercefield, StLA; PRWMA - Perch River WMA, T Brownville, Orleans & Pamela, JEFF; PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; SLR - St. Lawrence River; ULLWMA - Upper & Lower Lakes WMA T Canton, StLA; StPt - Stony Point, T Henderson, JEFF; TP - Thompson Park, Watertown; WBSP - Wescotts Beach State Park, T Henderson, JEFF.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** three PtPen 3 May; nesting LOTW 21 May (BH,TH); numbers down. **Pied-billed Grebe:** five Crystal L T Henderson 8 Apr; two pair PRWMA 30 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** two PtPen 8 Apr; three Sawyer's Bay T Henderson 29 Apr; pair Grass R StLA 7 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr PtPen 17 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** max five PRWMA 29 Apr; two Wilson Bay Marsh T CV 2 May. **Least Bittern:** one Route 37 Massena (MB). **Great Blue Heron:** 50-60 Sulphur Springs rookery 18 Mar; 920 nests Ironsides I StLA (*fide* GS). **Cattle Egret:** one Henderson Bay 25 May (JF). **Green Heron:** record early arr StLA 28 Apr (KC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one T Hounsfield 2 May; one Watertown 12 May; 44 nests Gull I Henderson Bay 25 May (JF). **Tundra Swan:** max six PRWMA 14 Mar; one PtPen 19 Mar; two PRWMA 7 Apr; two imm Barnes Corners 22 Apr (GS). **Mute Swan:** max nine PRWMA 26 Mar. **Snow Goose:** arr ten Lakeview WMA 12 Mar; max 3000 Castorland LEWI 3 Apr (RH); last 40 Ellisburg 18 Apr; 35 Blue morph Castorland LEWI 24 Mar (RH). **Brant:** 150+ Tug Hill T Lorraine JEFF 20 May (DSL), only report. **Canada Goose:** heavy movement through 26-29 Mar; max 6000+ near Henderson Pd in Mar; last migrants 7 May; three goslings T CV 3 May (MBW), StLA 6 May. **Wood Duck:** pair checking cottonwood tree for nesting Henderson 29 Mar; 15 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Green-winged Teal:** max 30 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** 200 near Woodville 12 Mar; female on nest, seven eggs MM StLA

27 May (DD). **Mallard**: max 500+ Woodville 12 Mar. **N. Pintail**: 30 PtPen 13 Mar; max 500+ Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **N. Shoveler**: numbers down LEWI (RH); four PRWMA 7 Apr; max 30 on 30 Apr. **Gadwall**: nine PtPen 19 Mar; 60 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one Oswegatchie R near ULLWMA Canton 13 Mar (KC); drake near Castorland LEWI 27 Mar, 14 Apr (RH). **Am. Wigeon**: 40 near Henderson Pd 8 Apr; 10 PRWMA 30 Apr. **Canvasback**: 12 PtPen 18 Mar; 69 PtPen 20 Mar (BH&TE). **Redhead**: four PtPen 18 (MBW), 20 Mar (BH, TE). **Ring-necked Duck**: 39 EDP 13 Mar; max 212 Castorland LEWI 18 Mar (RH); 100+ PtPen 18 Mar (MBW); 175+ PRWMA 24 Mar, 12 on 1 May. **Tufted Duck**: male with raft of scaup Long Pt SP PtPen 1 Apr (NL, NYSARC), Regional first. **Greater Scaup**: max 5000+ SLR T CV 7 Apr; 2500+ Eel Bay SLR 7 Apr; 2000 PtPen 29 Apr (RB). **Lesser Scaup**: about 60 PtPen 1 May (MBW); eight SLR Grass Pt SP JEFF 4 May. **Oldsquaw**: max 94 Henderson Harbor 8 Apr; pair Wilson Bay 15 May (MBW), late. **Com. Goldeneye**: 100 PtPen 13 Mar; many PtPen 18 Mar (MBW); 40 WBSP 28 Mar. **Bufflehead**: eight Henderson Harbor 27 Apr; 36 around PtPen 1 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max ten PtPen 13 Mar, ten PRWMA 14 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: ten PtPen 13 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 17 Pillar Pt 10 Apr; six Wilson Bay 27 Apr-10 May.

Turkey Vulture: two PtPen 26 Mar. **Osprey**: one Payne L T Antwerp JEFF 18 May; one MM 27 May; four pairs, females on nests, PRWMA 30 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: six reports of 14 birds, max five imm SLR, Eel Bay 25 Mar (BH&TE). **N. Harrier**: eight and pair in nuptial display T CV 15 Apr (MBW); pair mating StLA 18 Apr (KC); eight PtPen 26 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: about 12 observations, down from last year; daily visitor to feeders Adams (PK). **Cooper's Hawk**: reports down from last year; imm CV after 5 Mar. **N. Goshawk**: ad Clifton StLa 25 Mar (DD); one EDP Road 18 Apr (BH&TE). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair Horseshoe Pd T Piercefield StLA 20 May (KC). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 18 over CV 12 May (MBW). **Red-tailed Hawk**: numbers down. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last dark morph heading n 3 May (MBW). **Am. Kestrel**: pair mating Wilson Bay 27 Apr; numbers down (LC). **Merlin**: female WBSP 12 May (mob), only report. **Gray Partridge**: three reports T CV, max six, already in pairs, on 12 Mar (MBW). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: all reports released birds. **Spruce Grouse**: displaying male MM T Piercefield StLA 27 May (DD), a known location. **Ruffed Grouse**: one Black Pd WMA T Ellisburg JEFF 20 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: three EDP 27 Mar (PK), unusual location; reported CV area Apr & May (MBW), not in normal habitat; four near Sand Bay Road 10 May (MBW); numbers higher than usual LEWI (RH). **Virginia Rail**: widespread StLA early May, harder to find later (KC).

Sora: arr Massena 30 Apr. **Com. Moorhen:** one Wilson Bay Marsh 23-24 Apr, three there by 29 Apr, numbers down. **Am. Coot:** two PRWMA 24 Mar; one Mud Creek T CV 2 Apr; several PRWMA 30 Apr, numbers low. **Semipalmated Plover:** five EDP 20 May (RB). **Killdeer:** a wave of migrants 29 Mar; pair with three y 12 May. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max four T CV 28, 30 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** three Grass R Massena 1 May; three EDP 12 May (PK). **Solitary Sandpiper:** two Chase Mills StLA 13 May; one Watertown City 20 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** four Sackets Harbor area 9 May; two EDP 12 May; five EDP 20 May; numbers low compared to a few years ago. **Upland Sandpiper:** max two near PRWMA 4 May; five other singles reported after 1 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** three EDP 20 May. **Least Sandpiper:** one Red L T Theresa 18 May; one T Henderson 20 May; four EDP 20 May (RB). **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one near Alcoa Plant Massena 16 Apr (MB); one T CV 16 May (MBW). **Dunlin:** two Red L T Theresa JEFF 18 May. **Com. Snipe:** flights StPt 27 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull:** one Sawyer's Bay LOL 22 Apr (GM), only report. **Ring-billed Gull:** arr seven Henderson 10 Mar; thousands JEFF 13 Mar; very high numbers in May. **Herring Gull:** numbers decreasing. **Glaucous Gull:** one Moses-Sanders Power Dam 7 May (MB), late. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 24 PtPen 19 Mar. **Caspian Tern:** record early arr two Southwick Beach SP 17 Apr (NL); bird carrying bullhead from Henderson to Little Galloo Is 19 Apr (LC). **Com. Tern:** two Fishers Landing SLR 4 May; two Henderson Harbor 12 May (GM); max 14 Wilson Hill WMA StLA 27 May. **Black Tern:** max 50 Wilson Bay Marsh T CV 20 May (MBW); two Beaver Meadow T Watertown 21 May.

Mourning Dove: pair fledged two y from two year old Am. Robin nest Henderson on 20 May (LC); Wanakena StLA 28 Mar (PO), increasing in Adirondacks. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Massena 21 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Massena 25 May, only report. **E. Screech-Owl:** seen regularly at CV nesting site (MBW). **Great Horned Owl:** one EDP 18 Apr. **Snowy Owl:** one T CV 6-11 Mar (MBW); one T Lowville LEWI 11 Mar (BH&TE), only reports. **Barred Owl:** one Canton 1 Mar & 15 May; two T Rodman JEFF 17 Apr (*fide* Dave Larrabee). **Short-eared Owl:** 12 seen flying and sitting on ice SLR off Stony Pt Road T CV, then departing to hunt, 12 Mar (MBW); one T CV 12 May (MBW). **N. Saw-whet Owl:** calling Cranberry L, Inlet, Star L, Peavine Swamp and T Clare StLA through Apr (PO). **Com. Nighthawk:** arr mid May (PK), numbers very low. **Whip-poor-will:** three StPt 16 May, five on 20 May. **Chimney Swift:** numbers low Henderson. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** numbers high LOL, most homes have feeders now.

Belted Kingfisher: arr 24 Mar near Clayton; numbers up LOL. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** three singles after 19 May; two Fort Drum 29 May (NL). **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** two Henderson regularly through; one WBSP 8 Apr (mob); female at feeder CV 4-15 May, then male at feeder other end of village 15 May and female there 16 May (MBW). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** fewer migrants LOL (LC). **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one CPWF 9 Apr, 21 May (DD). **N. Flicker:** one wintered Massena (MB); migrants numerous LOL 20 Apr, heavy movement 23-27 Apr. **Pileated Woodpecker:** nine reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one LOTW 21 May (NL); one Streeter L T Fine StLA 28 May (DD). **E. Wood-Pewee:** late, numbers down. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** three MM 27 May; one Streeter L Bog T Fine StLA 28 May; max five CPWF 28 May (all DD). **Alder Flycatcher:** one Fort Drum 25 May; two Black R 26 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** one Black R 26 May; two Massena 26 May. **Least Flycatcher:** two Lakeview WMA 13 May; numbers down in Adirondacks (PO). **E. Phoebe:** numbers down. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** numbers up LOL. **E. Kingbird:** numbers down in Adirondacks (PO); numbers down LOL (LC). **Horned Lark:** max 50 T CV 2 Mar. **Tree Swallow:** numerous Henderson 2 Apr. **Cliff Swallow:** max 80 Long Sault Power Dam SLR StLA 7 May (MB). **Gray Jay:** four ad, two juv CPWF 21 May; two ad MM 27 May; two ad, two juv CPWF 28 May (DD). **Blue Jay:** no movement along LOL. **Am. Crow:** carrying nesting material 16 Apr. **Com. Raven:** one T CV 31 Mar (FM); one near Plessis 7 Apr (BH&TE); one Massena 11, 12 & 29 Apr (DD); one Black L StLA 21 & 29 Apr; one T Theresa JEFF 30 Apr. **Black-capped Chickadee:** one observed twice in two weeks to pick up cat hairs from lawn and carry them to and place in a bush (MW). **Boreal Chickadee:** one Peavine Swamp T Clifton StLA 9 Apr; max 11 CPWF 15, 23 Apr, two on 21 May (DD). **Tufted Titmouse:** one T CV 27 Mar (MBW); one StPt 19 May (NL). **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** two Lakeview WMA 13 May; migrants uncommon LOL. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** numbers low. **Brown Creeper:** numbers lower than usual Henderson, max four on 19 Apr; seven T Clayton 29 Apr. **Carolina Wren:** none. **House Wren:** pair CV 30 Apr; high numbers at Limerick Cedars Preserve T Brownville JEFF. **Sedge Wren:** one Perch L Road T Brownville JEFF 30-31 May (NL). **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** scarce LOL **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 60+ Wood Road T Clayton 29 Apr; two CPWF 28 May (DD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** pair WBSP 1 May (NL); one StPt 2 May (NL); pair near Rodman 13 May (NL); one LOTW 21 May (NL). **Veery:** numbers very low. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** none. **Swainson's Thrush:** record early arr StPt 29 Apr (NL); two CV 23 May. **Hermit Thrush:** one wintered in a

wetland area StPt through 1 Mar (LC). **Wood Thrush**: still decreasing. **Gray Catbird**: numbers down in Henderson. **N. Mockingbird**: singles Massena 13 Apr (MB), Pierrepont 28 Apr (MG), Canton 6 May, T CV 15 May, ULLWMA 19 May (DD), Brantingham LEWI 17 May (RH); good numbers. **Brown Thrasher**: numbers down. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 75+ T Watertown 3 Apr. **N. Shrike**: last of three singles near CV 12 Mar. **European Starling**: more than usual, mild winter?

Solitary Vireo: one T CV 2 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one WBSP 13 May; one CV 18 May; three Black L Road StLA 29 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one CV 16, 23 May (MBW); one T Henderson 18 May (mob). **Red-eyed Vireo**: arr late, numbers somewhat lowered. **Blue-winged Warbler**: two WBSP 12 May (NL); one WBSP 19 May (mob). **Golden-winged Warbler**: max eight LOTW 21 May (NL), six males T Macomb StLA 29 May (DD). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type near Rodman 13 May (NL); Lawrence's type Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 13 May (GM). **Tennessee Warbler**: max four T Henderson 16 May (NL). **Nashville Warbler**: max 24 Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 13 May (GM). **N. Parula**: max four T Henderson 16 May (NL), three CV 16 May (MBW). **Yellow Warbler**: numbers down. **Magnolia Warbler**: three CV 16, 23 May. **Cape May Warbler**: one CV 20 May; singing male CPWF 28 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: four CV 23 May; scarce. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: small flocks CV 29 Apr; max 50+ Wilson Bay Marsh 2 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight T Henderson 16 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max eight T Henderson 16 May; three CV 23 May. **Pine Warbler**: two TP 2 May; max 16 Massena 13 May; two LOTW 21 May. **Prairie Warbler**: five Limerick Cedars Preserve 15 May; two Fort Drum 19 May, six at another site on 27 May (NL), probably a new nesting area; four Three Mile Creek alvar T Clayton 30 May (NL), probably a new nesting area. **Palm Warbler**: five or six singing males MM 27 May, late. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max three CV village 16, 23 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: two StPt 24 May; two Limerick Cedars Preserve 27 May (LC). **Cerulean Warbler**: one T Henderson 16 May (NL); max five Hart Flats Road LOTW 21 May (NL); one Black L Road T Macomb StLA 29 May (DD). **Black-and-white Warbler**: max eight Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 21 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 34 Massena 13 May. **Ovenbird**: numbers normal but late. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: one LOTW area 22 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler**: number up in Adirondacks (PO).

Scarlet Tanager: max eight Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 21 May; numbers variable locally. **N. Cardinal**: at Fish Creek WMA and ULLWMA StLA (PO); about four pairs near CV village. **Rose-breasted**

Grosbeak: record early arr StLA 22 Apr (KC). **Indigo Bunting:** numbers down. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** numbers seemed down at some locations. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** 20 Henderson 8 Mar, last 15 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** large numbers StPt 27 Apr. **Field Sparrow:** numbers reduced at some locations. **Vesper Sparrow:** three Fort Drum 19 May; six at another site 25 May, max 16 at third site 29 May (NL). **Savannah Sparrow:** numbers down LOL (LC). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** seven reports, max 20 n Wheeler-Sack Field Fort Drum 29 May (NL). **Henslow's Sparrow:** five reports, max 12 between 11:30 PM-12:30 AM T Clayton, only four singing by day; 18 in night survey T Brownville 30-31 May, again many more than day time survey (NL). **Fox Sparrow:** one Barnes Corners 18 Apr (GS); one CPWF 23 Apr (DD), seldom reported. **Song Sparrow:** numbers down Henderson, LOL. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one CPWF 21 May (DD); max eight singing males MM 27 May (DD). **Swamp Sparrow:** arr T CV 29 Mar; numbers may be reduced in some ares. **White-throated Sparrow:** 30 Old Swamp Road T CV 27 Apr; numbers down StPt. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr T Henderson 10 May; last CV 20 May. **Dark-eyed Junco:** migrants numerous Henderson 16-19, 27 Apr. **Lapland Longspur:** two T CV 2 Mar; three T CV 12 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** 1200+ in four large flocks T CV 2 Mar (LC); max about 1500 almost in breeding plumage in three flocks there 11 & 12 Mar (MBW). **Bobolink:** five PRWMA 30 Apr; numbers up. **E. Meadowlark:** numbers up LOL. **Rusty Blackbird:** max 150 Dump Road T CV 9 May. **Com. Grackle:** nesting at CV village by 10 May. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr CV 19 Mar; numbers up Henderson area, max 45 at feeder 6 Apr;. **N. Oriole:** wintering bird taken inside house Henderson mid Feb to 17 Mar, when released, fed oranges and suet (*vide* Linda & Dick Esden); record early arr PRWMA 21 Apr (BH&TE); female feeding on black oil sunflower seed feeders regularly at Henderson (LC). **Purple Finch:** moving in numbers on StPt 27 Apr. **House Finch:** in low numbers Adams daily (PK); noticeable movement along LOL in Mar & Apr; nesting started 18 Apr with four y on 26 May; eye infection may have reduced their numbers - infections still seen only in this species so far; not as many as usual CV village (MBW). **Red Crossbill:** 25 NY Route 3 T Fine, T Clifton StLA 25 Mar (DD); MM 27 May, CPWF 28 May; max 30 Brantingham LEWI to 16 Apr (RH). **White-winged Crossbill:** six CPWF 23 Apr, one CPWF 21 May (DD). **Pine Siskin:** good numbers Brantingham LEWI Feb to early May (RH); one Canton 23 Mar; two Alder Acres T Lorraine Tug Hill JEFF 5 Apr (DSL); one Pierrepont StLA 8 Apr; one Adams 17-18 May; six CV village 19 May; max nine CPWF 28 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** 100+ at feeders Adams 30 Mar (PK); 60+ Henderson

feeder early May; 50 CV feeder to mid May. **Evening Grosbeak:** pair CV feeder 28 Mar; female Adams 28 Mar; two males Henderson feeder 21 Apr; male feeder CV 26 Apr; 139 StLA 13 May; one CPWF 21 May; one MM 27 May; pair Brantingham 30 May (RH). **House Sparrow:** y being fed on 29 May.

EXOTICS: Com. Shelduck: one with Canada Goose Belleville 25-27 Mar (*fide* Verna Docteur); one with Snow Goose Ellisburg 14 Apr (*fide* Irene Dillon, DEC), same 15 Apr (mob, ph).

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REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

After the relatively mild winter, March appeared to promise an early spring, with temperatures about 50°F on 13 Mar and about 60°F the next day. But the month closed with snow at Paradox on 30 Mar, and early April was cold. A cold front on 4 Apr caused thermometers at Saranac Lake to drop from 40°F to 25°F in just four hours. The next two days it was 13°F at Elizabethtown, warming only to the 30°s on 7 Apr. A clear, cool stretch continued to the end of the month, although Plattsburgh reached 54°F on 13 Apr and 52°F on 17 Apr, and the mercury finally touched the 70°s briefly on 19 Apr. A warming trend began in May, with Plattsburgh at 62°F on 1 May and 70°F on 9 May. The last frost at Inlet was on 20 May. It remained an extremely dry spring, although a storm the evening of 28 May managed to blow out the wall of a tent at the Crown Point banding station. Observers agreed that this seemed to be a wonderful spring for birds, yet only 192 species were reported, down from 205 last year and 216 in 1993.

In spite of the weather setback in April, there were a number of early arrivals, and nesting began early for a wide range of species. Waterfowl especially seemed to hatch young at a record pace. Early nesting Canada Goose had hatched young by mid May, when they could be seen while skeins were still migrating north. An American Black Duck was also early, and most remarkable was a hen Common Goldeneye that set an early New York State nesting record.

A pair of Osprey at Webb Royce Swamp built the first non-platform nest in the Champlain Valley. The New York State DEC reported Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon on eggs during May. A pair of Merlin was reported at a new site in early May, where a displaying Spruce Grouse was seen at the month's end. A pair of Wilson's Phalarope returned to the Chazy Rivers breeding grounds. Winter Wren was nest building a month ahead of the prior New York State early date, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher wasted no time nesting either. American Robin built two *ground nests* at Ticonderoga, and (Yellow) Palm Warbler was again on territory at Spring Pond Bog.

Meanwhile, the bumper cone crop continued to attract breeding winter finches into spring. Purple Finch banded near Elizabethtown 10 May had developed brood patches and cloacal protuberances. Red Crossbill was widespread, with reports from Bloomingdale Bog, Copperas Pond, Ferd's Bog, Macomb, and Sabattis Road Bog. Bob Yunick spent two days in March salvaging roadkills in Hami. The specimens were an interesting mix, mostly of the small race *Loxia curvirostra minor* but several in the size range of *L. c. neogaea*. White-winged Crossbill was similarly abundant, and Yunick found a dead juvenile male in late March. Pine Siskin banded Elizabethtown in April and May included birds in breeding condition.

The bird-banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site was in operation for 18 days, from 12-29 May. During this 20th anniversary season, a total of 740 birds of 57 different species were banded and released, with Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and House Finch new to the station. Flycatcher and thrush banding was especially good this spring. The height of warbler migration was 25 May, when ten species were banded. There were returns of 35 individuals of 16 species banded at Crown Point in previous years. The oldest returns were a Great Crested Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler, both aged at least six years, 11 months. A female Red-winged Blackbird banded at Crown Point 14 May 1993 was found dead near Summerville, SC, 23 Feb 1995 when she was at least three years, eight months old.

There were a number of interesting migrants and visitants. A *Ross's Goose* was found among Snow Goose in early April. A *Gyr Falcon* barely persisted into March. *Connecticut Warbler* and *Yellow-throated Warbler* were unexpected visitors to the Region.

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Abbreviations: AFR - Altona Flat Rocks; APt - Ausable Point; ChR - Chazy Rivers; CuH - Cumberland Head; CPTP - Crown Point peninsula; FB - Ferd's Bog, HAMI; TL - Tupper Lake; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr TL 12 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 10 Peru 29 Apr (C&JH); WRS 1-20 May. **Horned Grebe:** arr Peru 13 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr two Whallon's Bay 15 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr CuH 9 Apr. **Great Blue Heron:** nesting WRS 2 Apr, with 21 nests by 15 Apr. **Cattle Egret:** one Sunmount, TL, 28 Apr (WJ); two there 30 Apr (RH), second FRAN record. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two WRS 21 May (RM, JP); four WRS 20 May (MG); CPTP 27 May (DN). **Snow Goose:** first two flocks Saranac Inn 14 Mar, but 25 still heading n CPTP 28 May. **Ross's Goose:** one in thousand Snow Goose feeding between the ChR 3 Apr (BK!). **Canada Goose:** pair with six goslings TL 11 May; pair with five goslings WRS 15 May, early; five skeins migrating n CPTP 28 May. **Wood Duck:** eight ducklings WRS 20 May. **Am. Black Duck:** hen with six ducklings TL 13 May, early. **Green-winged Teal:** arr pair Wadhams 9 Apr (JP, DS); pair WRS 22 Apr-20 May. **N. Pintail:** ChR 18 Mar; pair Wadhams 9 Apr; three WRS 15 Apr-1 May. **N. Shoveler:** two pair Moody Pd 17 Apr (RH); pair Peru 29 Apr (C&JH). **Gadwall:** WRS 16 Apr (MG). **Am. Wigeon:** pair WRS 22 Apr-20 May (JP, MG). **Ring-necked Duck:** max 38 TL 1 Apr; also Bartlett Pd, Upper Saranac L, WRS. **Com. Goldeneye:** hen with brood at Willsboro Point 1 May, New York State record early brood. **Bufflehead:** two arr TL 1 Apr; pair WRS 1 May. **Hooded Merganser:** eight downy y WRS 13 May; six y there 20 May. **Red-breasted Merganser:** three CuH 10 Apr; two pair Peru 29 Apr, 15 Willsboro Pt 2 May, a good showing.

Turkey Vulture: five eating roadkill porcupines at Elizabethtown feeder 16 Apr-4 May (J&SP). **Osprey:** pair WRS 22 Apr, nest building 25 Apr, tree nest located 1 May (MG); five CPTP 23 Apr, 9 May, but did not use platform. **Bald Eagle:** ad Port Kent 13 Mar; ad Whallon's Bay 18 Mar; max four TL, where regular 1 Mar-14 Apr; imm Split Rock Mt 16 Apr; imm CPTP 23 Apr-10 May; imm Owls Head 29 Apr; one FRAN pair hatched a chick 30 May. **Merlin:** pair Spring Pd Bog 7 May (BH), new

site. **Peregrine Falcon**: new nest site, three eggs, Moriah; CPTP 20 Apr; Wilmington 27 Apr; Ft. Ticonderoga 13 May, also seen by Mt Defiance caretaker; apparent local headed s CPTP 21 May. **Gyr Falcon**: last feeding on ice at mouth of Saranac R Plattsburgh 3 Mar (Hal Klein). **Spruce Grouse**: displaying cock with a hen Spring Pd Bog 23 May (DS). **Wild Turkey**: Mountain House, Keene 3 May; tom CPTP 14 May, rather unexpected locations. **Virginia Rail**: L Alice 24 Apr (BK), early; max five there 1 May. **Sora**: arr CLIN 2 May. **Com. Moorhen**: arr CLIN 13 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: Wilmington 27 Apr; Union Falls Pd 28 Apr; two Bombay 3 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: CuH 20 Apr (BK), early; Westport 21 May (RM, MP). **Spotted Sandpiper**: nest with two eggs Westport 21 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Dickinson Center FRAN 13 Mar (HW), record early; ChR 27 Apr (BK). **Least Sandpiper**: two-three Westport 15-21 May. **Dunlin**: arr ChR 23 May (HK, BK, CM), max six there 26 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr and max 17 ChR 22 May (HK, BK, CM); last 23 May. **Wilson's Phalarope**: male arr ChR breeding grounds 23 May, joined by female 26 May (BK).

Rock Dove: AU banded racing pigeon released on 1-mile training flight North Bay ONEI 14 Mar (NL) killed and eaten by hawks Paradox ESSE the same day (LG-K)! **Black-billed Cuckoo**: pair CPTP 17-29 May (JP). **Short-eared Owl**: max eight ChR 3 Mar, where present 8 Feb-8 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: West Mt Trail 6 May; Inlet 12 May, only reports. **Com. Nighthawk**: Elizabethtown 4 May (MG); AFR 22 May DSt); 6-8 Bulwagga Bay 26 May (DN, JP); ESSE 25 May (J&PT), a good showing. **Whip-poor-will**: AFR 22 May (DSt); Peru 25 May (J&CH); CPTP 27 May (DN), also encouraging. **Chimney Swift**: max cloud of 225 wheeling over edge of TL village and marsh 8:15 PM 13 May (C&MD); FRAN and Regional record is 500, but this count impressive. **Three-toed Woodpecker**: sharing same tree with Black-backed Woodpecker FB 22 Mar (SK). **Black-backed Woodpecker**: max 3-4 FB 30 Apr; L Placid, Lower Sargent's Pd, and on nest Raquette L; pair at a nest hole Chubb R Swamp 28 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: banded CPTP 24 May (JP). **Willow Flycatcher**: arr APT 29 May (LS). **"Traill's" Flycatcher**: 14 banded CPTP. **Least Flycatcher**: 16 banded CPTP. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: five banded CPTP. **E. Kingbird**: three banded CPTP. **Horned Lark**: six TL 18 Apr, only report. **Gray Jay**: Saranac Inn feeder 14-15 Mar; other reports from Bloomingdale Bog, Cedar L, FB, Helldiver Pd, Sabattis Road Bog, and Spring Pd Bog. **Com. Raven**: three at cottontail rabbit roadkill provided at Elizabethtown feeder 19 Mar (JP); nest in a hole in the chimney of a Raquette Lake camp fledged three young. **Boreal**

Chickadee: reports from Cedar L, FB, and summit of Phelps Mt. **Tufted Titmouse:** Elizabethtown 17 Apr; APt 7 May. **Brown Creeper:** singing Bloomingdale Bog by 18 Mar. **Winter Wren:** nest building at Lower Sargent's Pd 23 Apr, earliest egg date is 22 May. **Carolina Wren:** Saranac L 20 May (RH), only report. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** overwintered Clinton Comm. College, singing there 3 Apr (DSt). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Clinton Comm. College 29 Apr (DSt); WRS 1 May, Bulwagga Bay 9 May; pair finishing a nest CPTP 12 May, banded there 29 May; Ticonderoga 13 May; strong showing. **Veery:** early arr Split Rock 25 Apr (MG). **Swainson's Thrush:** heard vocalizing Keene 15 Apr (RM), compared to "Wild Sounds of the Northwoods" cassette; seven banded CPTP, high total. **Wood Thrush:** 17 banded CPTP, high total. **Am. Robin:** dozen feeding on insect hatch on ice of St. Regis R. 7 Mar (HW); 32 banded CPTP, high total; two ground nests "snuggled into the lawn" and "under the picnic table" Ticonderoga during April and May, third nest "on an old table, next to the cellar door which is under our deck" (JC). **Gray Catbird:** 66 banded CPTP. **N. Mockingbird:** arr Inlet 1 May (GL), where unexpected; CPTP 16 May less surprising. **Am. Pipit:** max 55 TL 13 May (CD), more than usual. **Cedar Waxwing:** record 77 banded CPTP, one with orange tail tip banded there 18 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr AFR 19 May (DSt); Carpenter Flats 29 May (LS). **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr AFR 20 May DSt). **N. Parula:** two-three singing males Silver L Bog CLIN 25 May (BK, CM). **Yellow Warbler:** 44 banded CPTP ties previous record. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one CPTP in hawthorn close to gnatcatcher nest near Bulwagga Bay 14 May (GL), first ever here. **Prairie Warbler:** banded CPTP 14 May (JP); AFR 20 May (DSt), rare here. **Palm Warbler:** migrant CLIN 5 May; on territory Spring Pond Bog in the Boreal Heritage Preserve 23 May (DS). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr CPTP 15 May (JP, DS). **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CPTP 21 May (J&SP); record 25 banded there 21-27 May. **Mourning Warbler:** three banded CPTP 22-25 May. **Connecticut Warbler** one Wadhams 18 May (DS). **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Wadhams 18 May (DS); five banded CPTP 21-28 May.

N. Cardinal: four banded CPTP, including FL 25 May. **Indigo Bunting:** TL feeder 7 May. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** Inlet feeder 28 Apr (GL); two pair Mt Defiance 18 May (MG); AFR 19 May (DSt); summit Rattlesnake Mt. 27 May (LS), an excellent showing here. **Field Sparrow:** arr Elizabethtown 14 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** Plattsburgh AFB 8 May (BK), future plans for base are still uncertain. **Lapland Longspur:** last two Reynolds Road CLIN 10 Mar (BK). **E. Meadowlark:** arr ChR 18 Mar (JP). **Rusty Blackbird:** three migrants APt 25 Apr (BK); on territory

Chubb R Swamp 29 Apr (L&PO). **N. Oriole:** 16 banded CPtP, where ad male attacked ad Red-tailed Hawk in flight 28 May. **House Finch:** Inlet 17 Mar (GL), where scarce; *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* conjunctivitis first documented in this Region in bird banded and photographed at Elizabethtown 29 Apr (JP), although a television report suggests it may have appeared earlier in Plattsburgh (JH). **Red Crossbill:** male roadkill with cloacal protuberance, female with brood patch along Routes 8, 10, 28N, and 30 HAMI 4 Mar, max 47 (41 plus six roadkills) there 26 Mar (RY), two size classes present; pair copulating FB 22 Mar (SK); last two s Tupper L 13 May. **White-winged Crossbill:** sightings at Bloomingdale Bog, Forestdale Road CLIN, Hurricane Mt., Lower Sargent's Pd, Sabattis Road, Split Rock Mt.; last at Chubb R Swamp 29 Apr; roadkilled juv (hatchling) male just beginning first prebasic molt along Route 10 T Arietta HAMI 26 Mar (RY). **Com. Redpoll:** one Standish 4 Mar (HK, BK), unexpected, only report of the winter. **Pine Siskin:** 31 banded near Elizabethtown 16 Apr-10 May; max 30 Marcy Dam 20 May (DR). **Am. Goldfinch:** one with right eye diseased banded Elizabethtown 22 Apr (JP); 584 banded Elizabethtown 16 Apr-11 May; 142 banded CPtP 12-28 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** paired at Elizabethtown feeder by 19 Apr; max 30 TL 13 May; two summit Phelps Mt. 20 May (DR), a high elevation at 4,161 ft.

Exotics: Mute Swan: last seen APt 9 Mar (BK). **European Goldfinch:** CuH feeder 19 May (RE, BK).

Addendum: Sharp-shinned Hawk: second-year female banded near Elizabethtown 8 May 1992 was found dead at Copeland, FL, 16 Dec 1994, aged three years, six months.

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REGION 8 — HUDSON MOHAWK

JANE E. GRAVES

The mild weather experienced since early winter continued during March. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature was 40°F, 5.7° warmer than average, with 53% sunshine. The 2.20 inches of precipitation was 0.73 inches below normal, with only 4.6 inches of snow, far less than the norm of 10.7 inches. By contrast, April was generally cool, averaging 43.9°F, 2.5° below average, with the temperature going above 70° only on 27 Apr. Sunshine averaged 59%, 6% greater than normal. Rainfall was again sparse, with 1.94 inches being 1.05 inches below normal. May averaged 56.9°F, 0.9 degrees cooler than normal, with 54% possible sunshine. Rainfall was 2.06 inches below the norm of 3.41 inches. May was the ninth consecutive month with below normal precipitation.

Migration this spring was notable mainly for the large number of early arrivals. American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Chimney Swift, Tree, Rough-winged and Bank Swallows, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and Pine and Palm Warblers were at least one to two weeks earlier than usual. Paul Connor noted a big warbler wave in his front yard on 13 May, with nine species observed, including an Orange-crowned Warbler, both heard and seen well. 17 May brought another wave of migrants, with Black-billed Cuckoo, E. Wood-Pewee, Veery, and Scarlet Tanager being widely reported.

Regional observers reported a healthy total of 221 species. Included were 14 diurnal and six nocturnal raptor species, 14 shorebird species, and 29 warbler species. There were many sightings of both species of cuckoos and Blackpoll Warbler.

The most notable rarity of the season was *King Eider*. Other rarities sighted during the period included *Cattle Egret*, *Loggerhead Shrike*, and *Orange-crowned Warbler*.

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Abbreviations: ACA - Albany County Airport; BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCRes - Basic Creek Res, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonaugh State Forest, SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; NRP - Nott Road Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SARAL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SBNHP - Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNHP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; WRes - Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** arr two Hudson R RENS 16 Mar (BEN); one Thirteenth L WARR 14 Apr (KA), day after partial ice-out; max eight TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM); last SaraL 14 May (BP); three pairs reported L George 27 Apr-21 May (*vide* LM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Collins L SCHE 24 Mar (RP); 13 reports. **Horned Grebe:** arr Ft Miller 26 Mar (WL). **Red-necked Grebe:** singles Hudson R RENS 16 Mar, SaraL 30 Apr, Mohawk R SCHE 4 May; 14 TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM). **Great Cormorant:** imm New Baltimore 9 Mar, ad 27 Apr, two 9 May (RG to BEN). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC); max 100 PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN). **Am. Bittern:** arr BCWMA 9 Apr (W. Brooks to BEN), early; max three BCWMA 13 May (WE, NM). **Least Bittern:** one BCWMA 20 May (WL), only report. **Great Blue Heron:** max 17 BCRes 25 May (WE, NM). **Cattle Egret:** one Duanesburg 27 Apr (BEN), first report since 1990. **Green Heron:** pair building nest SUNY at Albany 8 May (WE, NM). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** ad Glens Falls feeder canal WARR 13 May (Martha Connor *vide* PC); one Glenmont 16 May (AAM to BEN). **Mute Swan:** max seven Coxsackie 1 Apr (WL), numbers lower than usual. **Canada Goose:** two JL 27-28 May (RY), unusual, first observed there in May. **Snow Goose:** arr 37 Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC); approx 100 over Meco 14 Mar (LF); 300 SCHE 20 May (M. Woythal to BEN). **Brant:** two flocks heard over Berne night of 17 Apr (KA), early; 100 over Pine Bush ALBA 14 May (WE, NM). **Wood Duck:** arr pair Schodack Landing RENS 8 Mar (PC), early; max 13 Hudson R Schodack to Stockport 1 Apr (WL). **Green-winged Teal:** max 50 Meadowdale 14 Apr (WE, NM), late; two BCWMA 13 May (WE to BEN); two pairs seen Carter L WASH during May; male in dense marsh flora 28 May (JS), suspected nesting s of normal breeding range. **N. Pintail:** max 30 Castleton 13 Mar (PC). **Blue-winged Teal:** very few reports. **Am. Wigeon:** arr seven Coxsackie 12 Mar (BC). **Canvasback:** 16 Coxsackie 3 Mar (RB, JG). **Redhead:** no reports. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 200 Bell's Pd COLU 11 Mar (BC). **Greater Scaup:** arr Ft Miller 11 Mar (BP to BEN). **Lesser Scaup:** five reports. **King Eider:**

second winter male Lock 8 Mohawk R T Glenville SCHE 7-9 May (RP, mob). **Oldsquaw**: two reports. **Black Scoter**: one Alcove Res ALBA 20 May (S. Stoner to BEN), only report. **Surf Scoter**: one Alcove Res ALBA 20 May (K. George to BEN), only report. **White-winged Scoter**: no reports. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 35 SaraL 8 Apr (WE, NM). **Bufflehead**: max 45 TomRes 16 Apr (WE, NM); last Collins L SCHE 10 May (RP). **Hooded Merganser**: arr eight Schodack Landing RENS 8 Mar (PC); female with seven chicks W Cambridge WASH 11 May (JS). **Com. Merganser**: max 105 WRes 19 Mar (WE, NM). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max five SARAL 29 Apr (JG). **Ruddy Duck**: one New Salem Res ALBA 9 Apr (BEN); one T Northumberland SARA 30 Apr, 11 May (BP), unusual in spring.

Turkey Vulture: arr Ravena 4 Mar (W. Raup to BEN). **Osprey**: 19 reports; two Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Bald Eagle**: 17 reports, 13 ad, six imm, six unspecified. **N. Goshawk**: six reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: pair present throughout period Grapeville (PC); seven reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN); performing courtship behavior Meco 28 Apr (LF); heard calling several times in May at JL (RY), probably breeding. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last two FtE 26 Mar (WL). **Merlin**: female ACA 27 Apr (WE), only report. **Peregrine Falcon**: six reports, one Catskill 1 Mar (BEN); one Hague 11 Mar (F. La Pann *vide* LM); pair Route 87 Hudson R bridge ALBA 2 Apr (J./S. Gregoire); one Ravena 16 Apr (W. Raup to BEN); one SARAL 16 Apr (BEN); one Putnam Station WASH 20 May (R. Wotton *vide* LM); Hague-Putnam Station sightings possibly same individual. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: two females Brookview 4 Mar (PC). **Wild Turkey**: widely reported; high count 74 ALBA 4 Mar (RB, JG). **Virginia Rail**: arr BCWMA 2 Apr (BEN), record early; max 13 BCWMA 13 May (WE); at least six Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Com. Moorhen**: arr VFNHP 9 Apr (BEN), early; three BCWMA 7 May (WL); two VFNHP 13 May (BEN); at least eight Carter L WASH 14 May (JS). **Am. Coot**: two reports. **Black-bellied Plover**: two Ft. Miller WASH 20 May (BP), only report. **Semipalmated Plover**: four reports, max 13 BCRes 24-25 May (WE, NM, mob). **Greater Yellowlegs**: five reports, max six BCRes 20 Apr (RB). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr BCRes 22 Apr (KA), early; four reports. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 11 BCRes 24 May (WE, NM). **Upland Sandpiper**: four reports. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: three reports, max five VFNHP 20 May (JG, RH). **Least Sandpiper**: six reports, max 12 BCRes 24-25 May (WE, NM). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr ALBA 9 Apr (BEN), early; max five BCRes 20 Apr (RB). **Dunlin**: two reports. **Com. Snipe**: max six WRes 9 Apr (M. Woythal to BEN), widely reported. **Am. Woodcock**: arr FiveR 6 Mar (RB, JG), early; max 13 Guilderland 13

May (WE). **Bonaparte's Gull**: four reports; max 20 BCRes 22 Apr (KA), 20 SARAL 14 May (BP). **Iceland Gull**: four reports; last Cohoes 20 May (WL), late. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: second-year imm SI 22 Apr, 13 May (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 400 SI 20 May (WL). **Caspian Tern**: three ad SI/PISP 22 Apr (WE, NM). **Com. Tern**: six-eight SARAL 20 May (WL). **Black Tern**: three reports.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Schodack Center RENS 17 May (PC), late; seven reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr Leeds 13 May (BEN); three reports. **E. Screech-Owl**; six reports. **Great Horned Owl**: three nests with young observed, ALBA and SCHE. **Barred Owl**: ten reports include four pairs. **Long-eared Owl**: one Niskayuna SCHE 5 May (WL), mobbed by crows. **Short-eared Owl**: two Knox 5 Mar (BEN); 18 FtE/T Kingsbury 11 Mar (BP); last four FtE 29 Mar (BP). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one Tower Road SARA 6 Apr (RB, JG); at least two Capital District WMA RENS 11 Apr (PC), also heard 24 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk**: four reports of singles. **Whip-poor-will**: one T Galway SARA 20 May (JG, RH); approx six T Stillwater SARA 20 May (WL). **Chimney Swift**: arr Ravena 19 Apr (W. Raup to BEN), early; max 50 SI/PISP 22 Apr (WE, NM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: six banded JL May (RY), down from last year's 12, one return of a 1994 bird. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: eight reports; one Berne 15 May (KA), unusual. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 14 reports.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: six reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: arr FtE 4 May (BP), early. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr NRP 19 May (WE); one Blackhead Mt GREE 25 May (WE mob). **Alder Flycatcher**: max six FiveR 22 May (RB). **Purple Martin**: max 20 SaraL 20 May (WL). **Tree Swallow**: arr FiveR 8 Mar (RB), record early; max 280 Stillwater SARA 8 Apr, 500 Guilderland 14 Apr (WE, NM). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: nesting PISP (FM). **Bank Swallow**: arr New Baltimore 12 Apr (RG to BEN), record early; first excavations for annual colony T Jackson garage sand pile WASH 22 Apr (JS); "scores" in colony Poolsburg COLU 9 May (PC). **Cliff Swallow**: nesting Chatham (BC), unusual; seven pairs nesting T Wilton SARA (BP). **Am. Crow**: max 1000 Cohoes 6 Mar (W. Raup to BEN). **Fish Crow**: 12 reports; believed nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region; max seven SBNHP 18 Mar (WL); three nestlings White Creek WASH 18 Apr (Doug Reed *vide* JS). **Black-capped Chickadee**: non-invasion year JL (RY). **Carolina Wren**: three reports, generally scarce. **Winter Wren**: six singles during Apr; one FSF 20 May (RP); one Crane Mt WARR 30 May (DR). **Marsh Wren**: arr three BCWMA 11 May (M. Woythal to BEN), late. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr SBNHP 5 Mar (JG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max twelve NRP 23 Apr

(WE); one SUNYA 13 May (WE), late. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max 11 Guilderland 13 May (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird**: widely reported, many overwintered; max ten FtE 4 Mar (BP); one nestbox of five banded near Amsterdam 22 May (RY). **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: six Bicknell's Blackhead Mt, two Bicknell's Black Dome GREE 25 May (WE mob), three banded. **Swainson's Thrush**: seven reports; nocturnal migrants heard Schodack night of 25 May (PC). **Wood Thrush**: max 13 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Gray Catbird**: arr PISP 19 Apr (RG to BEN), early; max 42 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Am. Pipit**: one BCRes 2 May (WE, NM). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 70 Half Moon SARA 8 Apr (WE, NM). **Loggerhead Shrike**: one ACA 27 Apr (WE, NM, mob), first local report since 1991.

Philadelphia Vireo: one Guy Bartlett Century Run 13 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr Ravena 30 Apr (W. Raup to BEN); max 11 SBNHP 6 May (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Averill P RENS 30 Apr (BEN); three reports. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: male Brewster's type Center Cambridge WASH 22 May (JS), observed with Blue-winged Warbler carrying nesting materials. **Tennessee Warbler**: six reports, max five NRP 19 May (WE). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one Schodack Center RENS 13 May (PC); one T Berlin RENS 20 May (WL, mob). **Nashville Warbler**: six reports of singles. **N. Parula**: nine reports. **Yellow Warbler**: max 40 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 16 reports. **Magnolia Warbler**: max five NRP 19 May (WE). **Cape May Warbler**: three reports, last T Thurman WARR 31 May (DR). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max six T Hague WARR 13 May (R. Wotton *vide* LM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 30 NRP 19 May (WE). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight Guilderland 13 May (WE). **Blackburnian Warbler**: 14 reports. **Pine Warbler**: arr Austerlitz 5 Apr (ADBC), early; eight reports. **Prairie Warbler**: arr SBNHP 30 Apr (JG, BL). **Palm Warbler**: arr FiveR 6 Apr (RP), early. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 16 NRP 19 May (WE). **Blackpoll Warbler**: max six BCWMA 23 May (RB, JG), 15+ Blackhead Mt/Black Dome GREE (WE, mob). **Cerulean Warbler**: no reports. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Copake 13 May (ADBC), only report. **Ovenbird**: max nine Skidmore 16 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush**: arr one White Creek WASH 23 Apr (JS), early; max three NRP 19 May (WE). **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr NRP 9 Apr; max three NRP 23 Apr (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: five reports of singles. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr VFNHP 17 May (JG), late; four reports. **Canada Warbler**: max six Blackhead Mt/Black Dome GREE 25 May (WE, mob).

Scarlet Tanager: 14 reports of singles; three Hague WARR 13 May (LM); four Skidmore SARA 18 May (JG); five NRP 19 May (WE); four Lishakill 29 May (WL). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 11 reports; max nine Guilderland 13 May (WE); six VFNHP 7 May (WL); two banded JL May,

three returns captured (RY). **Indigo Bunting:** nine reports. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Ghent 24 Apr (ADBC); 33 banded at Tom Palmer's feeder near Amsterdam 11 Mar (RY), numbers above normal. **Field Sparrow:** arr SBNHP 1 Apr (JG)). **Vesper Sparrow:** one Brookview 14 Apr (PC), singing on breeding area; one Ghent 9 May (ADBC) one Kinderhook 20 May (ADBC). **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one T Kingsbury WASH 13 May (BP), only report. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr one SBNHP 30 Apr (JG). **Fox Sparrow:** arr FiveR 10 Mar (AAM to BEN); eight reports of singles. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Burgoyne Road SARA 18 May (CF), late; four reports. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr BCWMA 9 Apr (BEN); max 44 Guilderland 13 May (WE). **White-crowned Sparrow:** last six VFNHP 17 May (JG). **Lapland Longspur:** last four FtE 10 Mar (BP). **Snow Bunting:** last four T Northumberland 12 Mar (BP). **Red-winged Blackbird:** singing began Livingston 6 Mar (BC). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Muitzeskill 8 Mar (PC); max 30 VFNHP 23 Mar (BEN); last Jonesville 9 May (L. Alden to BEN). **Com. Grackle:** arr 100+ Latham 6 Mar (JG). **Orchard Oriole:** one Greenport 13 May (ADBC); one BCWMA 20 May (BL). **N. Oriole:** max 39 SARA 20 May (JG, RH). **Purple Finch:** 12 reports; low numbers JL (RY). **Red Crossbill:** max 47 JL 26 Mar (RY); three Apr reports. **White-winged Crossbill:** eight T Thurman 4 Mar (DR); five JL 18 Mar, four 14 Apr, four 20 May (RY). **Pine Siskin:** 15 E Jewett GREE 1 Mar (BEN); **Evening Grosbeak:** 14 reports; max 30 T Thurman 4 Mar (DR).

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REGION 9 — HUDSON-DELAWARE

MICHAEL L. USAI

The above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation from the winter persisted during March. The farther south in the Region, the less was the precipitation; in lower WEST precipitation was three inches lower than normal. However in ULST precipitation was normal or close to it. The Region received no snowfall during the March. Temperatures ranged from 3-4°F above normal throughout the Region. The lack of precipitation throughout the Region intensified in April. Most of the southern parts of the Region experienced mild drought conditions, but parts of SULL received near normal rainfall. Temperatures in April were slightly below normal. The beginning of the month was more like winter than spring, with two very strong cold fronts plowing through the area. Temperatures moderated towards the end of the month but still remained cool. May began with colder than normal temperatures and with over a week of relentless northwest winds. The middle and end of the month, however, brought warmer than normal temperatures balancing the cool temperatures in the beginning of the month bringing the average temperature to within 1° of normal.

The cool temperatures in the early spring delayed the migration by about a week. During April and the first week of May, migrants trickled through. A week of northwest winds in early May finally broke during the night of 11 May with a warm front and a day of rain. This brought a fantastic fallout of migrants throughout the entire Region. Reports of over 23 species of warblers were not uncommon. From then on southern winds transformed what started out as a lackluster migration to a very exciting spring migration.

Many unusual species were reported. Notable waterfowl reports include the first Regional breeding record of Northern Shoveler, and sightings of Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon and Black Scoter. The Region's first and second *Common Black-headed Gull* outdid an unexpected Glaucous Gull. Both Caspian and Black Terns were found in the Region. A *Mississippi Kite* was reported. The bumper crop of tent caterpillars has resulted in good numbers of both cuckoo species being reported throughout the Region. A Barn Owl was an excellent find. An overwintering *Boreal Chickadee* barely persisted into April. Doodletown Road ROCK had a banner year. Hooded and Cerulean Warblers arrived there on 28 Apr, a week behind last year, but their numbers exceeded those of last year. A Kentucky Warbler and up to two

Golden-winged Warbler spent the month of May in the area of the reservoir. One of the Golden-winged Warbler was observed fighting with a "Brewster's" Warbler. The best of many warbler reports elsewhere were Orange-crowned Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, *Yellow-throated Warbler*, and the rarest warbler was a *Connecticut Warbler*. However, neither Purple Finch nor Evening Grosbeak was reported.

Other highlights included Red-necked Grebe, Northern Gannet, Least Bittern, *Black Vulture*, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Clapper Rail, White-rumped Sandpiper, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Raven, Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Blue Grosbeak* and Seaside Sparrow.

Observers: John Askildsen, Frank Bonanno, Diatha Bradley, Thomas W. Burke, Valerie Freer, Sibyll Gilbert, Dawn Hannay, Tom Harten, David Matsushita, Helen Manson, Gail Mihocko, Christopher A. Nadaseski, Vincent Plogtar, Ed Treacy, John Burroughs Natural History Society, Ken Soltesz, Selden Spencer, John Suggs, John Tramontaro, Michael Usai, Joe Wallace, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Gene Weinstein, Chet Vincent.

Abbreviations: EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye, WEST; JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society; KRes - Kensico Reservoir, WEST; LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line; MC - Marshlands Conservancy, Rye; RNC - Rye Nature Center, WEST; RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, DUTC.

Spring reports: **Com. Loon:** 44 Ashokan Res 13 Apr, 42 Ashokan after 20 Apr (CN). **Red-throated Loon:** one EGR 15 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** 23 EGR 15 Mar; nine Ashokan 6 Apr; one KRes 25 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** two EGR 15 Mar, one EGR 26 Mar (TB), three EGR 3 May (MU). **N. Gannet:** two EGR 11 Mar, one EGR 2 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant;** arr EGR 13 Mar, max 40 EGR 20 May, colony of nine at WEST Branch Res WEST (MU), up from last year. **Am. Bittern:** one DUTC 13 May; one Fishkill 16 May. **Least Bittern:** two Kingston Pt Lagoon 13 May; one Constitution Marsh ROCK 14 May. **Great Egret:** arr two EGR 26 Mar. **Snowy Egret:** arr MC 30 Mar; max 25 MC 11 May. **Cattle Egret:** 20 Verplank DUTC 21 May (RTWBC). **Green Heron;** one EGR 23 Apr, y scattered; **Black-crowned Night-Heron;** two EGR 28 Mar, one KRes 29 Mar; **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** up to five MC after 21 May. **Glossy Ibis:** 13 MC 23 Apr, one MC 21 May. **Tundra Swan:** four Round Pd DUTC 15 Mar (LHVBL). **Snow Goose:** one MC 26 May (TB). **Greater White-fronted Goose;** one N Manursing I Rye 2-4 Mar (TB). **Green-winged Teal:** max 17 MC 20 Apr, four MC 4 May. **N. Pintail:** last EGR 9 Apr. **N. Shoveler:** pair with a chick Rockland L SP 20 May (FB,

DH, TH VP), first Regional breeding; one Bashakill SULL 11 Apr. **Am. Wigeon**: one Ashokan Res 31 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon**: male MC 16 Mar (MU). **Redhead**: one Rockland L SP 13 Mar (FB). **Greater Scaup**: six Ashokan Res 20 Apr (CN); last EGR 20 May. **Lesser Scaup**: 200 EGR 16 Apr; one Ashokan 20 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: 50 EGR 2 Apr. **Black Scoter**: two EGR 21 Mar (TB). **White-winged Scoter**: ten EGR 3 May (MU); four EGR 11 May (TB); one Ashokan Res 18 May (CN). **Bufflehead**: last EGR 14 May. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 22 Ashokan Res 28 Apr, one EGR 3 May. **Com. Merganser**; two EGR 8 May.

Black Vulture: one Bear Mt and Dootletown Rd after 24 Mar, many observations Shawunquks ULST through period, breeding suspected. **Mississippi Kite**: subad Pleasantville WEST 27 May (JW, NYSARC). **Bald Eagle**: ten Rio-Mangaup Res SULL, four migrating by Hook Mt Rock 7 Mar; two Bashakill SULL 11-25 Apr. **N. Harrier**: one KRes 11 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: one MC 16 Apr. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr 7 Apr. **Golden Eagle**: one Stissing Mt 13 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: two Newburgh-Beacon Bridge area through period, nest with four young Tappan Zee Bridge (CN, MU, NYSDEC). **Clapper Rail**: three MC 18 May (TB). **Virginia Rail**: one MC 23 May; one Iona I 26 May. **Sora**: one Iona I 26 May. **Com. Moorhen**: one Dietrich 21 May, two Stissing L DUTC 21 May (RTWBC). **Black-bellied Plover**: max eight MC 19, 23 May. **Semipalmated Plover**: max 15 MC 23 May. **Am. Oystercatcher**: two Milton Harbor, one EGR 3 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: max 12 MC 17 Apr, ten MC 11, 20, 23 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max three MC 20 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last RNC 18 May. **Willet**: two MC 12 May (MC). **Spotted Sandpiper**: one MC 11 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr Galeville 4 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: three EGR 8 Mar. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 20 MC 13 May. **Least Sandpiper**: arr MC 4 Apr, early, max 30 MC 12 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: two MC 25 May, one MC 26 May, max four. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: arr MC 4 Mar, early; four MC 8-20 Apr, last MC 18 May. **Purple Sandpiper**: 25 EGR 20 May. **Dunlin**: four MC 23 May, one MC 11 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: six MC 26 May, five MC 25 May. **Com. Snipe**: three calling ULST 24 Mar, one irregular MC 9 Apr-12 May. **Am. Woodcock**: six MC 13 Mar. **Laughing Gull**: one Playland Rye 11 May, two MC 11 May. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: one Moodna Creek, ORAN on 5-27 Mar (DB), first for Region; one Kiamesha L SULL 15 Mar (VF). **Bonaparte's Gull**: six EGR 9 Apr, nine Kiamesha L SULL 24 Apr (VF). **Ring-billed Gull**: 2200 Ashokan Res 16 Mar, 2000 Ashokan Res 13 Apr (CN). **Herring Gull**: 1000 Ashokan Res 13 Apr, 500 Ashokan Res 16 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one EGR 21 Mar. **Glaucous Gull**: imm with 50 Herring Gull on factory roof Stoney Pt Rock 31 Mar (MU), later seen feeding at Haverstraw Landfill. **Great Black-backed Gull**: 200

Ashokan Res 6, 13 Apr. **Caspian Tern**: one Kingston Pt Lagoon 13 May. **Forster's Tern**: five MC 21 May, two MC 11 and 30 May. **Least Tern**: two MC 21 May. **Black Tern**: three ad in large flock of migrant Com. Tern EGR 12 May (MU); one Great Valley ULST 13 May (JBNHS).

Black-billed Cuckoo; good numbers after mid May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: good numbers. **Barn Owl**: Claryville SULL 24 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: max nine Galeville 3 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one SULL 12 May (VF). **Com. Nighthawk**: two MC 19, 23 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Bashakill SULL 14 May. **Chimney Swift**: big movement MC 12 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Bluechip Farms ULST after 11 Apr. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: two RNC 9 Apr, one Ashokan 13 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: four singles, last Muscoot Farm WEST 21 May (MU). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**; one EGR 13 May (KS). **Acadian Flycatcher**; one Blauvelt 22 May (FB). **E. Phoebe**: one MC 25 Mar; one Rye 18 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: one RNC 11 May. **Purple Martin**: one MC 4 and 20 May. **Tree Swallow**: 16 KRes 28 Mar. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: one MC 12 Apr, two Cross R Res 16 Apr. **Cliff Swallow**; arr KRes 17 Apr, 44 Cross R Res 12 May. **Com. Raven**: one Doodletown Road 21 May; one Bear Mt 26 Apr, ten nests Shawunquks ULST (GM). **Fish Crow**: arr MC 2 Mar, nest KRes. **Boreal Chickadee**: remained at feeder Patterson PUTN to 1 Apr (HP). **Brown Creeper**: three RNC 9 Apr. **Carolina Wren**: scarce throughout Region. **House Wren**: one RNC 28 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr KRes 4 Apr; two KRes 3 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: two RNC 18 Apr. **Veery**: many RNC 12 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: several Rye 12 May. **Hermit Thrush**: one RNC 28 Apr, movement 9 May. **Wood Thrush**: four MC 31 May.

White-eyed Vireo: one MC 28 Apr, one Doodletown Road thru period. **Solitary Vireo**: four RNC 12 Apr, two RNC 20 Apr, one MC 28 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: one RNC 12 May. **Warbling Vireo**: one EGR 12 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one Rockefeller SP 13 May (DM). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one RNC 28 Apr. **Tennessee Warbler**: max 12 Doodletown 19 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr (MU); singing male Bashakill SULL 12 May (JT); one Doodletown 21 May (LHVBL). **Nashville Warbler**: one RNC 12, 18 May. **Yellow Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: several Rye 11, 12, 18, 17 and 20 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: several Rye early May; **Cape May Warbler**: one Rye 12 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: several RNC after 12 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**; arr 4 Mar, last 20 May (RTWBC). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: several Rye 12 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max five RNC 18 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler** one Pocantico Hills WEST 12 May. **Pine Warbler**: several KRes 26 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: one MC 28 Apr, two RNC 12 May. **Palm Warbler**: one KRes 11 Apr, one

Cross R Res 16 Apr; three RNC 18 Apr. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: many RNC 18 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr Doodletown 28 Apr. **Black-and-white Warbler**: one RNC 20 Apr. **Am. Redstart**: a few Rye 12 May. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr 3 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one Bashakill SULL 12 May (JS). **N. Waterthrush**: one Rye 11, 19 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr 7 Apr; one PR 16 Apr, one Doodletown 19 May. **Kentucky Warbler**: one Doodletown after 4 May. **Mourning Warbler**: one Doodletown 19, 24 May; one Grandview ROCK 19-21 May; one RNC 23, 24, 26, 31 May; many reports 26 May. **Connecticut Warbler**: one RTWBC May Census DUTC (Chet Vincent). **Hooded Warbler**: arr Doodletown 28 Apr. **Canada Warbler**: several Rye 12 May, many reports 21 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Iona I 31 May (FB), one Doodletown 14 May.

Scarlet Tanager: six RNC 17, 20 May, four 12 May. **Blue Grosbeak**: imm Monticello 13 May (GW). **Indigo Bunting**: one RNC 11-12 May, two EGR 25 May. **Field Sparrow**: three ULST 1 Apr, three MC 3 May; **Vesper Sparrow**: ULST 26 May. **Savannah Sparrow**: five MC 21 Apr; several Rye 12 May, two singing males Muscoot Farm WEST 21 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Oil City Road ORAN 4 May. **Sharp-tailed Sparrow**: one MC 4 May, two on 18 May. **Seaside Sparrow**: one MC 19 May. **Fox Sparrow**: one ULST 10 Mar (JBNHS). **Swamp Sparrow**: one MC 7 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: 30 RNC 9 Apr, 20 RNC 5 May. **Bobolink**: max 200 DUTC 13 May (RTWBC). **E. Meadowlark**: two KRes 29 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: 20 Kakiat P 1 Apr. **Orchard Oriole**: one Rye 13 May. **N. Oriole**: five MC 18 May.

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REGION 10 — MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF AND ALVIN WOLLIN

The average monthly temperatures for the spring period were close to normal for all three months. However, the overall feeling was that the season was late and cold despite the statistics. Actually, it was mostly bland because of the lack of rain. March did have wide temperature swings with the low reaching 20°F on the night of 10 Mar, but rising to a high of 70°F three days later. April and May on the other hand closely followed their norms. Precipitation was a different matter. March's rainfall was 1.26 inches against a norm of 4.08; April's 2.29 against 4.20 and May's 2.84 against 4.42. With no April showers, the season had 6.31 inches of rain less than normal. The rain, when it came, was mostly in mid week. On the weekends when most birders were out, the weather was not conducive for grounding migrants.

John P. Askildsen summarized an extraordinary pelagic trip he led to Block Canyon on 4 Mar. These notes are printed with his permission. His words tell it all. "Fifty birders in all participated in this trip. The weather was cooperative. We experienced temperatures ranging from the upper 30s to the low 40s. The water temperature ranged from 37 to 43°F as well. Seas were 3 to 5 feet. Winds were out of the ese at 15 mph. Skies were generally overcast with some broken sunshine. The bird list follows: Northern Fulmar - 58 (all light morph); Northern Gannet - 75; *Great Skua* - 1 (adult 63 miles out at north end of Block Canyon); Black-legged Kittiwake - 110; Dovekie - 300 (largest flock 45-50 individuals); *Common Murre* - 13 (a new one day record); Thick-billed Murre - 2; unidentified murre - 4; Razorbill - 71; *Atlantic Puffin* - 58 (54 imm, 4 ad, a new west Atlantic one day record high count outside the breeding grounds); large alcid unidentified to species - 5. The *Great Skua* was found amongst hundreds of *Great Black backed Gull*, lesser numbers of *Herring Gull* and approximately 15 *Northern Fulmar* that were loitering around a commercial trawler. After 'stealing' the birds from the trawler, we watched the beast for about one half hour and then finally left it."

On 19 Mar Steve Walter came up to the eager birders hoping to see a *Ross's Gull*, which appeared for the consecutive second year (details under species accounts), and informed the watchful group that an Eared Grebe was in the surf west of the Pt. Lookout beaches. A horde of birders immediately departed for the site. They came, they saw, and ran back. When the stragglers arrived (your editors among them), they also

found the bird in a large group of Horned Grebe. Being more patient, this later group had the added pleasure of finding a Red-necked Grebe that the first group overlooked in their haste. We know of no instance when all three grebes have occurred in the Northeast together in the same flock. The three species offered an unprecedented opportunity to study and compare field marks. In addition large numbers of Piping Plover were all but overlooked by the throngs looking for the Ross's Gull.

On the evening of 21 Apr the fog rolled in with SW winds. Pat Lindsay, birding with Andy Baldelli, reported from Robert Moses SP on the following morning that from 7:00 AM until about noon, the air was literally filled with warblers, sparrows and other songbirds zipping by overhead. The large majority did not land but, apparently because of the fog, flew low along the median at or below tree level, at times barely missing their heads. At about 10:30 the fog began to lift and a few of the birds began to land. Among the birds then seen were Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, several Indigo Bunting, and two Orchard Oriole. This phenomenon was restricted to the one location. At both Captree SP just across Fire Island Inlet and at Jones Beach SP 20 miles to the west, it was just foggy and no birds were moving. The same situation existed at Pt Lookout further west across the Jones Beach Inlet. But there in the fog, Bob Kurtz reported 47 Purple Sandpiper on one jetty that held a scant half-dozen just a few days before. His unexpected land birds finds were a Cerulean Warbler on one jetty, a Worm-eating Warbler on another, but almost no other birds.

Reports and our own observations indicate that Cape May Warbler and Tennessee Warbler continue to be scarce.

The DEC has begun to introduce Wild Turkey into this Region again. This latest experiment started two years ago with the release of 30 birds to Hither Hills SP, 20 to South Haven County Park and an additional 20 the following year. The birds are alive and well at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge. Others are at Connetquot SP. The last experiment, in NASS, required massive feeding. The birds became tame, a nuisance to the surrounding communities, and they were subsequently removed.

Rarities for the season include Eared Grebe, Northern Fulmar, *Mississippi Kite*, *Sandhill Crane*, *Northern Lapwing*, Curlew Sandpiper, *Long-tailed Jaeger*, *Great Skua*, *Ross's Gull*, Dovekie, *Common Murre*, Thick-billed Murre, *Atlantic Puffin*, *White-winged Dove*, *Pileated Woodpecker* and Varied Thrush.

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Abbreviations: CB - Cedar Beach; CP - Central Park; CLP - Clove Lake Park, Staten Island; CRSP - Connetquot River State Park; DEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; GKP - Great Kills Park, Staten Island; FI - Fire Island; HLSP - Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JFKWS - John F. Kennedy Wildlife Sanctuary (Tobay); JBWE - Jones Beach WEST End; LI - Long Island; NYRBA - New York Rare Bird Alert; PtL - Pt Lookout side of Jones Inlet; PP - Prospect Park; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park; ShIn - Shinnecock Inlet; SI - Staten Island; VCP - Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

Spring reports: **Red-necked Grebe:** one PtL 19 Mar. **Eared Grebe:** one PtL 19 Mar. **N. Fulmar:** *intro.* **Sooty Shearwater:** large numbers migrating close to shore 28 May, from east to west 60+ 200 yards off ShIn (RK), 100+ FI Lighthouse where wind s at 15 mph (PM), 40+ in one hour flying east CB (KF); others from shore Mecox, ShIn, Democrat Pt 21-24 May. **Brown Pelican:** three Jones Inlet 30 Apr (NYRBA), record early, first for spring season. **Wood Duck:** nine ducklings Crocheron Pd Bayside Queens (SW), new site since the Atlas project. **Green-winged Teal:** Eurasian race Amityville 3 Mar (NYRBA), JFKWS 26 Mar (Bob Hines). **Eurasian Wigeon:** Mill Dam Pd Huntington through period (HB), a few others. **Tufted Duck:** E. Islip 26 Mar-2 Apr (Peter Murphy). **Harlequin Duck:** eight wintered at PtL, last Apr 26. **Oldsquaw:** 2000 PtL to Nassau Beach 25 Mar (KF).

Turkey Vulture: VCP 26 Mar (CJ), two Montauk Pt 26 Mar (JF), Shoreham 11 Apr, Calverton 16 Apr (BP), GKP 17 Apr (HF). **Osprey:** at least three active nests s shore NASS, one at JBWR; widespread and numerous early sightings. **Mississippi Kite:** Hampton Bays 20 May (Hugh McGuinness). **Bald Eagle:** ShIn 6 May (NYRBA), Heckscher P Huntington 19 May (KF). **Broad-winged Hawk:** Riverhead 29 Apr (PM), Orient Pt 22 May (PB). **Peregrine Falcon:** 11 active pairs (not all in our Region), four attempting to nest on buildings and seven on bridges in greater New York City area. **Wild Turkey:** *intro.* **Sora:** VCP 16-18 Apr (CJ). **Sandhill Crane:** wintered Mecox to 18 Mar (NYRBA). **N. Lapwing:** wintered Bridgehampton to 18 Mar (NYRBA). **Am. Golden-Plover:** JBWR 15 May (NYRBA). **Piping Plover:** 31 on the sand bar at PtL 22 Mar (EL), 29 on 25 Mar, large numbers for one site. **Upland Sandpiper:** CP 22 May (NYRBA). **Whimbrel:** three ShIn 6 and 21 May, CP 12 May

(NYRBA). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: max 42 Mecox Bay 22 May (PA), good numbers, others reported. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: JBWR 1 Apr (Sylvia & David Deifik). **Curlew Sandpiper**: JBWR 13 May (Steve Golladay). **Stilt Sandpiper**: ShIn 21 May (NYRBA). **Ruff**: ShIn 6-9 May (AL, mob). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: four Massapequa Preserve 25 Mar (RK). **Parasitic Jaeger**: w ShIn 20 May (NYRBA). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: w ShIn 21 May (AL, mob). **Great Skua**: intro. **Little Gull**: max five ad, one imm PtL 18 Mar (RK); ad, imm seen through Mar, others in mid Apr. **Com. Black-headed Gull**: PtL 1 Mar (JQ) to 13 Apr (mob). **Iceland Gull**: last 11 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: last Smithtown 9 Apr (NYRBA). **Glaucous Gull**: ShIn 17 Mar (NYRBA). **Ross's Gull**: ad PtL 12, 13, 18, 22, 29 Mar, 6, 13 Apr (RK, NYSARC); one, presumably the same bird, FI Inlet 16 Apr (Angus Wilson). **Gull-billed Tern**: two JBWR after mid May (mob), two Oak Beach 23 May (PB). **Dovekie**: intro. **Com. Murre**: intro. **Thick-billed Murre**: intro. **Atlantic Puffin**: intro.

White-winged Dove: Long Beach feeder 20-26 May (Edward & Loretta Eaton *vide* AL). **Long-eared Owl**: CP 10 Apr (NYRBA). **Short-eared Owl**: JFKWS 16 Mar (PM), Sunken Meadow SP 11 Apr (NYRBA). **Chuck-will's-widow**: Riverhead 29 Apr (NYRBA), Oak Beach 13 May (RK). **Whip-poor-will**: ten Caumsett SP 13 May (RK). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: CP 8 May (NYRBA). **Pileated Woodpecker**: VCP 31 Mar (CJ), first Regional report since 1982.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 12 and 17 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: CP 12 and 23 May (NYRBA), Forest P 20 May (NYRBA). **Acadian Flycatcher**: CP and HLSP 18 May, others after (NYRBA). **Purple Martin**: returned to Lemon Creek SI 9 Apr (*vide* HF). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: virtually absent this winter, few migrants; Bayside 7 Mar, Jones Beach 30 Apr. **Wood Thrush**: wintered Manhattan to 15 Mar (NYRBA). **Varied Thrush**: wintered Brooklyn to 24 Mar (NYRBA). **Am. Pipit**: two PtL 22 Mar (EL).

Yellow-throated Vireo: RMSP 9 Apr (NYRBA), early. **Philadelphia Vireo**: CP 15 May, PP 20 May JBWR 20 May (NYRBA). **Golden-winged Warbler**: CP 12 May (NYRBA). **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: Brewster's type CLP 4 May (Ann Purcell *vide* HF). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: PP 13 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: CP 21 Apr; High Rock SI 27 Apr (Howie Fisher); HLSP 4 May. **Pine Warbler**: max seven CRSP 1 Apr, ten HLSP 9 Apr, most reports of more than one per day, more than usual. **Cerulean Warbler**: PtL 21 Apr, ALLEY Pd P 29 Apr, Seatuck NWR 4 May (JF), a few others. **Prothonotary Warbler**: RMSP 29 Apr, Wolfe's Pd P 30 Apr (HF), JBWR 4 May (Larry Plotnick), two JBWR 7 May (KF), VCP 6 May (CJ), CP 12 May;

increasing. **Worm-eating Warbler:** PtL 21 Apr, scattered reports. **Kentucky Warbler:** CP to RMSP 29 Apr-27 May (NYRBA). **Yellow-breasted Chat:** a few reports.

Summer Tanager: CP 8 May, PP 13 May, Wading River 16 May (PG), Forest P 20 May. **Blue Grosbeak:** JBWE 30 Apr (KF), CLP 8 May (Gloria Deppe *fide* HF), RMSP 10 May (JF), Heckscher SP 14 May (PM), two RMSP 22 May (PB, Randy Moore), others. **Vesper Sparrow:** VCP 12 Mar (CJ). **White-crowned Sparrow:** six at feeder Jamesport 26 Mar (BP), either very early or wintered; Gambel's race Orient Pt 25 Mar (AL). **Lapland Longspur:** GKP 19 mar (HF). **Bobolink:** VCP 12 May (CJ), others from various LI locations in May. **Rusty Blackbird:** two Alley Pd P 30 Apr (KF), late. **Boat-tailed Grackle:** several near Ponquogue bridge (PG), perhaps a potential breeding nucleus; good numbers at JBWR.

Corrigenda: *Kingbird* 44:251; 1994: **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one Clover L P 20 Apr 94 (Ray Matarazzo *fide* HF) should read **Prothonotary Warbler.** Add **Yellow-throated Warbler:** High Rock SI 14 Apr (John Flynn).

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, New York 11550

WINTER REPORT
REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

The winter 1994-95 averaged warmer and slightly drier than normal. December had maximum temperatures in the high 50s 23-24 Dec and minima below zero 12-13 Dec. Major snowfalls occurred in various locations on 8, 11 and 17 Dec. Total snowfall was 2-3 feet in the Tug Hill but less than a foot in the lowlands. January also was several degrees warmer as well as wetter than usual. From minimum temperatures about -20°F on 11 Jan, the mercury climbed to the high 60s 15-16 Jan. During this unusual January thaw, ice in streams broke up and Spring Peeper was reported calling. Winter closed in again and February temperatures were below normal. The lowlands from Watertown to Massena received two to three times their normal snowfall. The month ended with sleet and above freezing temperatures.

With open water prevailing, waterfowl lingered late but some species were dispersed, resulting in low counts. Visiting raptors were generally scarce. There was a *Gyr Falcon* but only one Snowy Owl. It was a good season for wintering accipiters and Short-eared Owl. Numbers and diversity of visiting gull species were low. Blue Jay numbers were high and Black-capped Chickadee numbers moderate. Good numbers of American Robin overwintered, and high numbers of Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Brown-headed Cowbird and American Goldfinch were reported at feeders. There was only one report of Bohemian Waxwing, and it was another low year for most winter finches, with only one sighting of Common Redpoll and one unconfirmed report of Pine Grosbeak. Evening Grosbeak numbers generally were down, but Pine Siskin was well reported both on CBCs and in s StLA. Both crossbills and both Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported.

The biggest headline maker was an adult *Ross's Gull*. Scarcely less noteworthy were two *Northern Fulmar* and two *Northern Gannet*, and let's not overlook a *Great Gray Owl*. Half-hardy species included *Double-crested Cormorant*, Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, *Savannah Sparrow* and Northern Oriole.

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Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent, JEFF; HH - Henderson Harbor, JEFF; HPd - Head Pond, Massena, STLA; MCCBC - Massena-Cornwall CBC; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam, Massena; PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park, T Massena, STLA; RP - Reynolds Plant, below Polly's Gut, SLR, Massena; MCCBC - Massena-Cornwall CBC, 17 Dec; NBCBC - New Boston CBC; SLR - St. Lawrence River; Wilson Bay - Wilson Bay.

Winter reports: **Com. Loon:** max seven HH 10 Dec; last two Massena 16 Dec. **Horned Grebe:** max three Wilson Bay 4 Dec; last HPd 30 Dec. **Red-necked Grebe:** four HPd 17 Dec, late. **N. Gannet:** two MSD 15 Dec (BDiL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** injured bird HPd 6 Jan, very late. **N. Fulmar:** one, with a build up of ice on its back, sitting on the water HPd 15 Dec (BDiL, spm to Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa), picked up dead the next day; another there 15 and 17 Dec. **Great Blue Heron:** last HH 24 Dec. **Tundra Swan:** many reports, max 20 PtPen 4 Dec, six Black R Bly T Brownville 15 Jan; three Grasse R Chase Mills 9 Jan. **Snow Goose:** five Southwick Beach SP 24 Jan; five Sand Bay 8 Feb, late. **Wood Duck:** male RP 15 Dec-9 Jan. **Am. Black Duck:** 200 Woodville 8 Jan. **Mallard:** 500 Woodville 8 Jan. **Gadwall:** 12 MSD 22 Jan, late. **Canvasback:** two males, one female RP 14 Jan; two females, one male RP 22 Jan; three females RP 16 Feb. **Redhead:** 14 Wellesley I 15 Jan. **Greater Scaup:** max 5000 Sackets Harbor 10 Dec, 1000 HH 19 Dec; pair Massena SLR 15 Dec-13 Feb. **Lesser Scaup:** male SLR Massena 9 Dec-2 Feb. **White-winged Scoter:** one HPd 15 Dec; two MCCBC. **Com. Goldeneye:** <100 MSD through Jan, max 775 RP 26 Feb. **Barrow's Goldeneye:** male RP 17 Dec, 9 and 29 Jan, scarce. **Com. X Barrow's Goldeneye:** male RP 29 Dec (BDiL). **Bufflehead:** max five RP 6 Dec. **Hooded Merganser:** max 58 Wilson Hill WMA 1 Dec. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max five HPd 9 Jan.

Bald Eagle: few sightings, especially s STLA where birds dispersed due to low snow cover; max two ad, six imm Wellesley I; three singles SLR. **N. Harrier:** max four CV 7 Dec; female harassing Short-eared Owl and stealing a mouse left by the owl on a hay bale CV 12 Feb (M&BW). **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 15 reports of 9+ individuals. **Cooper's Hawk:** nine reports. **N. Goshawk:** six reports. **Rough-legged Hawk:** numbers down; max eight Canton 31 Dec. **Gyr Falcon:** dark imm Three Mile Pt Road T Brownsville JEFF 26 Feb. **Gray Partridge:** max four CV 15 Feb, scarcer than usual. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** max six Perch R WMA 18 Jan; a few other singles. **Am. Coot:** max six HH 23 Dec. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max four CV 13 Jan. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 480 MSD 5 Dec. **Herring Gull** max 3512 MSD 22 Dec. **Iceland Gull:** max 14 MSD 15 Dec.

Glaucous Gull: max 24 MSD 9 Jan. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 2450 MSD 9 Jan. **Ross's Gull:** winter ad PtPen 4 Jan (TD, NYSARC), a similar bird in Montreal 12 Dec could have been the same bird.

Mourning Dove: max 39 Watertown feeder 11 Feb. **Short-eared Owl:** max 33 Cape Vincent-Brownville area (M&BW). **Great Gray Owl:** one Hammond 4 Jan (PK), details not yet available. **Snowy Owl:** one Hammond 22 Jan. **E. Screech-Owl:** three RMSP 22 Feb. **Belted Kingfisher:** one HH 10 Dec. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one Henderson during season; one PtPen 4 Jan, new location. **Three-toed Woodpecker:** one NBCBC. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one NBCBC; one Peavine Swamp T Clifton 22 Jan. **N. Flicker:** ten reports, more than usual.

Horned Lark: max 300 Woodville 8 Jan. **Blue Jay:** max 33 Lorraine 4 Feb. **Com. Raven:** two RMSP 31 Jan, unusual location. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max of 91 NBCBC. **E. Bluebird:** four reports, max four Hammond 1 Feb. **Am. Robin:** max 142 RMSP 15 Jan, many small flock all winter. **Bohemian Waxwing:** 14 Louisville 17 Jan, only report. **N. Shrike:** Five NBCBC plus a total of seven other individuals, scarce. **European Starling:** overwintered even in Tug Hill.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 500 PtPen 13 Dec. **Savannah Sparrow:** one PtPen 13 Dec (BH), very late. **Song Sparrow:** five singles. **White-throated Sparrow:** three singles. **Dark-eyed Junco:** many overwintered, even on Tug Hill; *Oregon-type* NBCBC. **Lapland Longspur:** max 21 CV 11 Jan, three other reports, more than usual. **Snow Bunting:** max 200-400 in L Ontario lowlands. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 80 T Adams feeder 7 Feb. **N. Oriole:** one at several Henderson feeders during to mid Jan. **Purple Finch:** six reports, max 20 CV 3 Dec. **House Finch:** max 70 HH before storm 6 Jan. **Red Crossbill:** eight Clifton 22 Jan, only report. **White-winged Crossbill:** 32 NBCBC; one RMSP 29 Dec. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 33 Adams 3 Feb.

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