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continued on inside back cover



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Editor — Donald A. Windsor
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EDITORIAL -- BIRD PARASITES

Donald A. Windsor

PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

Birders tend to ignore bird parasites. (Birds do not!) In fact, with the exception of brood parasitism, most birders will wonder why I am even bringing it up. However, much of what birds do and how they look is the result of many millennia of coevolution with their parasites. The literature abounds with articles on this fascinating subject.

Perhaps the most important, and controversial, paper is the hypothesis proposed by Hamilton and Zuk in 1982. They postulated that bright coloration in birds is correlated with susceptibility to blood parasites. Ponder this, the next time you focus on a Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, or a Blackburnian Warbler. How can this be? Consider trying to use a table cloth for more than one meal. What color cloth would be more apt to show stains, a dull drab dark one or a brightly colored one? According to Hamilton and Zuk, bright coloration in some birds evolved because the parasitic damage is more easily detected during mate selection.

Sex itself, in all animals, can be attributed to (or blamed on) parasites. Sexual reproduction is a way of avoiding parasites by creating a different genome each generation (Wertheim 1986). Mating rituals reflect this. When a magnificent tom turkey struts his stuff, he is really advertising his superior health and fitness, an important component of which is being relatively free from parasites. A ratty looking gobbler plagued by feather lice might be less likely to attract hens. Many bird accouterments are used as parasite signals, most notably being elaborate feathers on the heads and tails, but even air sacs.

Nesting is another avian activity influenced by parasites. Nests are constructed not only to withstand the vicissitudes of the weather and to protect against the raids of predators, but also to ward off parasites. Decorating nests with sprigs of plants to ward off pests has long been noticed by birders and, indeed, there is a basis for it (Clark 1991). Many birds return to the area where they were fledged, but usually build new nests rather than reuse old ones. However, some will use the nests of other species, capitalizing on species specificity of parasites. In colonial nesters the size and location of the colonies are often dependent on the population densities of the parasites (Brown and Brown 1986). Clutch size has been influenced by parasites (Oppliger and others 1996).

Seabirds often, by necessity, have to use the same sites year after year under extremely crowded conditions, but parasites may be kept under control by insects living in or on the ground beneath the nests (Duffy 1991), an excellent example of a complex symbiotic relationship.

Virtually every bird, like every other animal and plant, in the wild is host to parasites, yet most people have difficulty appreciating this natural situation. We tend to think that parasites and the diseases they cause are evil plagues that must be treated or eradicated. Yet, parasites are the most numerous group of organisms on our planet and, as such, represent our greatest chunk of biodiversity. Equal rights for parasites is a cause I champion (Windsor 1995).

But biodiversity goes beyond parasites, into the larger category of symbiosis. A parasite benefits at the expense of the host whereas in other symbiotic (living together) relationships the symbiont benefits but the host is not affected (commensalism) or both the symbiont and its host each benefit (mutualism). When symbiosis is considered, each free living creature you see is in reality an assemblage of several species, perhaps 50 or more. The next bird you see is not just the single species you tick off on your checklist. It could be hosting dozens of other species in its gut, blood, air sacs, skin, feathers, and feet. These organs are teaming with bacteria, fungi, worms, mites, lice, and fleas. The European Starling plays host to 126 species of helminths (parasitic worms) (Cooper and Crites 1976a) and the American Robin has 46 species (Cooper and Crites 1976b). These are just the worms! Enumerating all the parasites would produce too long a reference list. Many of these symbionts are species specific. Therefore, when a host species goes extinct, biodiversity suffers a multiple hit. We did not just lose Bachman's Warbler; we lost many of its symbionts as well. So what? You may ask. Good riddance! You may exclaim. Not so fast. Many of these symbionts spend other parts of their life cycles outside of their avian hosts. Every species is involved in a vast complicated web of interactions with other species. At one extinction, we also lose many of these interrelations (Windsor 1995-96).

The Kingbird is not a total stranger to parasitism; witness articles by Benton and Shatrau in 1960 and by Post in 1964. The most recent is by Blake Klauber in the previous issue. My purpose in this editorial is to stimulate interest on these matters and to encourage the submission of more articles on bird parasites. Bird banders are in an ideal position to recognize ectoparasites but finders of dead birds can also participate. Just to leave you with some idea of the enormity of the subject, there is a series of nine papers by Pence (1973) in which 73 species of nasal mites

were found in 93 species of birds in Louisiana. Perhaps New York could also be a gracious host.

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1996

Walton B. Sabin

652 Kenwood Ave, Slingerlands NY 12159-0044

ABSTRACT — The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs annual winter waterfowl count was held 13-21 Jan 96. The entire state was covered by 130 observers. Of the 41 species counted, 19 exceeded 1000 individuals. Of those 19, 10 declined and 9 increased since last year. The top 5 species were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, and Brant. The grand total of 247,116 individual birds was down 15.4% from 1995 and 2.0% below the 23-year average of 252,049.

INTRODUCTION

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1996 winter Waterfowl Count from 13 through 21 January, with 14 January as the target date. All Regions completed their counts by January 21st.

THE WEATHER

The first half of January brought a continuation of the colder than normal temperatures that had prevailed during November and December. Temperatures for the first two weeks in January averaged 8 to 12 degrees below normal. Below zero was noted everywhere except extreme southeastern New York, where temperatures dropped only into the single digits. Snowfall was below normal across parts of northern and western New York. A large portion of the month's snow fell during a one week period from January 7 to 13. During this period, New York experienced the "Blizzard of '96" that left 10 to 20 inches of snow across most of New York State, except for southeastern New York and St. Lawrence County, which generally saw less than 3 inches. This was followed a few days later by the "Alberta Clipper", a fast moving storm that brought up to 3 inches of lighter, drier snow. Some parts of western and central New York, however, received from 4 to 10 inches.

Unfortunately for New Yorkers, all this snow, up to 3 feet or more in places, became a liability when unseasonably warm air accompanying heavy rains resulted in very severe and extensive flood damage. Fortunately, a major part of the waterfowl count was done before this sudden turn in the weather.

THE COUNT

The grand total of 247,116 (Table 1) was down 15.4% from 1995, and 2.0% below the 23-year (1973-1995) average of 252,049. Counts of all species listed in Table 2 showed losses versus gains over 1995 to be 10 to 9. It is heartening to note a positive reversal in Redhead numbers. The Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count echoed this as well.

Comparing 1996 to 1995 count figures (Table 2), the commoner species (excluding Common Eider and American Coot) showed a 9 - 8 split slightly in favor of decreases. Both Redhead and the scoters reversed themselves yet again, this year showing increases over 1995. When comparing 1996 count figures with the 23-year (1973-1995) average (Table 3), there is a 7-6 split in favor of increases. The overall total in Table 3 showed a 5.6% decrease in 1996 over the 23-year average, down slightly from 1995.

A new species of sea duck, the Common Eider, has been added to Table 2. In recent years, numbers of Common Eider have been quite small, less than the 1000 needed to get included. This year, a few more than 7000 were reported from the south fork of Long Island, reminiscent of the large numbers there years ago. Paxton et al. (1996) report that some unexplained change has resulted in a large number of Common Eider in late fall at Montauk Point and vicinity, and obviously attempting to winter there. Late November estimates were between 5 and 10 thousand.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory (Serle 1996) showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) decreased by 12.7% from 1995, mostly from 36.9% and 28.4% decreases in Snow Goose and Brant numbers, respectively. Canada Goose had a slight 3.9% increase. The dabbling ducks showed a continued decrease of 14.1% from 1995, after a 5.2% decrease recorded last year. All species were down, with the exception of Gadwall, which was up 52.7%. Diving ducks, including sea ducks, showed an overall decrease of 39.4% compared to 1995. A few bright spots here were 63.2%, 6.0%, 36.2%, 79.2% and 3.7% increases over 1995 for Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, scoters, and Oldsquaw, respectively. American Coot showed a 43.8% increase from 1995 and a 13.5% increase from the most recent 10-year average. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway was down 18.6% from 1995 and 2.7% below the 1986-1995 average.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1996 aerial survey was conducted from 30 December 1995 through 23 February 1996 (Cozzolino 1996). Their survey was delayed this year due to the late western zone duck season, equipment breakdown and unfavorable flying conditions (many snow storms and too windy). The results are presented in Table 4. Table 5 compares the 1995 to 1996 aerial results. As in most years, the 1996 Department of Environmental Conservation aerial count did not, in a general sense, resemble the Federation's ground count.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank the upwards of 130 observers who participated this year. A special thanks to the Regional Compilers who coordinated all those volunteers, and welcome to Bill Burch and Greg Hartenstein, the new compilers for Regions 1 and 2 respectively. The Regional Compilers were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	William Burch	6	Lee Chamberlaine
2	Gregory Hartenstein	7	John Peterson
3	Eric Donohue	8	Paul Grattan
4	Leslie Bemont	9	Michael Usai
5	Marge Rusk	10	Stephen Dempsey

NEXT YEAR

The 1997 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 11 through 19 January, with Sunday, 12 January as the target date.

Table 1. Regional totals for 1996 Waterfowl Count

Species / Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated		3							6	17	26
Common		1	5	1			1			132	140
Grebe, Pied-billed	7	2	34		1				2	75	121
Horned		3	17		2		1		5	395	423
Red-necked			1					2		8	11
Eared									1		1
Cormorant, Great									34	207	241
Double-crested	7				4					153	164
Swan, Tundra	18		33								51
Mute		18	2		2			15	354	962	1,353
Goose, Snow			2		1				1	510	514
Brant									3	12,788	12,791
Goose, Canada	1,193	429	14,252	519	2,205	100		303	6,719	32,442	58,162
Duck, Wood	5	3	1	2	1				2	19	33
Teal, Green-winged		2			7				1	159	169
Duck, American Black	200	298	1,492	133	415	75	122	688	881	14,837	19,141
Mallard	6,484	6,418	5,333	819	4,491	72	1,539	1,146	7,873	11,353	45,528
Mallard X Black Duck	1	7	2	1			8	1		16	36
Pintail, Northern		2	3								
Shoveler, Northern					1			1	9	55	71
Gadwall										186	186
Wigeon, Eurasian	60	13	48		24	4			15	777	941
American	2	1	6							2	2
									48	427	484

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Canvasback	6,349	21	569		1		1	1	525	2,117	9,584
Redhead	188	1,509	8,524	1	299	76			14	59	10,670
Duck, Ring-necked	8	2	39		10				146	325	530
Tufted		1								1	2
Scaup, Greater	2,391	1,889	386		238	20			1,497	17,242	23,663
Lesser species	24	185	110		4			1	204	239	767
		38	120	3			17			1,324	1,502
										7,071	7,071
Eider, Common										5	10
Duck, Harlequin	1	3	1								
Oldsquaw	3,434	83			31				14	1,824	5,386
Scoter, Black										209	209
Surf			2							3,526	3,528
White-winged species	1	95								3,406	3,502
Goldeneye, Common	1,714	2,666	1,282	48	629	1,433	918	167	295	2,842	11,994
Barrow's										1	1
Bufflehead	416	177	450		186	40	3	1	410	6,785	8,468
Merganser, Hooded	53	10	41	19	16	4		10	64	675	892
Common	434	1,227	157	226	2,362	1,416	232	273	427	302	7,056
Red-breasted	376	240	19		31	6		1	138	5,420	6,231
Duck, Ruddy									45	2,737	2,782
Coot, American	165	21	1,123	55	3				114	464	1,945
duck, unidentified	405	17	41				55			206	724
TOTAL	23,936	15,384	34,095	1,827	10,964	3,246	2,897	2,610	19,847	132,310	247,116

Table 2. Comparison of 1996 count with 1995 count for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1995 or 1996 or both.

Species	1995	1996	% change from 1995
Mute Swan	1,594	1,353	- 15.1
Brant	15,693	12,791	- 18.5
Canada Goose	95,631	58,162	- 39.2
American Black Duck	20,168	19,141	- 5.1
Mallard	44,927	45,528	1.3
Gadwall	1,468	941	- 35.9
American Wigeon	1,919	484	- 74.8
Canvasback	6,061	9,584	58.1
Redhead	2,743	10,670	296.3
scaup (both species)	47,431	25,932	- 45.3
Common Eider	485	7,071	1357.9
Oldsquaw	1,603	5,386	236.0
scoter (all species)	3,298	7,239	119.5
goldeneye (both species)	9,839	11,995	21.9
Bufflehead	7,843	8,468	8.0
Common Merganser	9,059	7,056	- 22.1
Red-breasted Merganser	5,956	6,231	4.6
Ruddy Duck	4,658	2,782	- 40.3
American Coot	4,171	1,945	- 53.4
Total	284,547	242,759	- 14.9

Table 3. Comparison of 1996 count with 1973-1995 average for all species consistently totalling over 1,000 individuals annually.

Species	1996	Average	% change
Brant	12,791	14,336	- 10.8
Canada Goose	58,162	57,017	2.0
American Black Duck	19,141	20,031	- 4.4
Mallard	45,528	29,812	52.7
Canvasback	9,584	10,504	- 8.8
Redhead	10,670	6,944	53.7
scaup (both species)	25,932	52,620	- 50.7
Oldsquaw	5,386	4,098	31.4
scoter (all species)	7,239	13,363	- 45.8
Common Goldeneye	11,994	11,901	0.8
Bufflehead	8,468	5,677	49.2
Common Merganser	7,056	12,041	- 41.4
Red-breasted Merganser	6,231	3,489	78.6
Total	228,182	241,706	- 5.6

Table 4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Aerial Count, 30 December 1995 - 23 February 1996, for all species of about 1,000 individuals or more

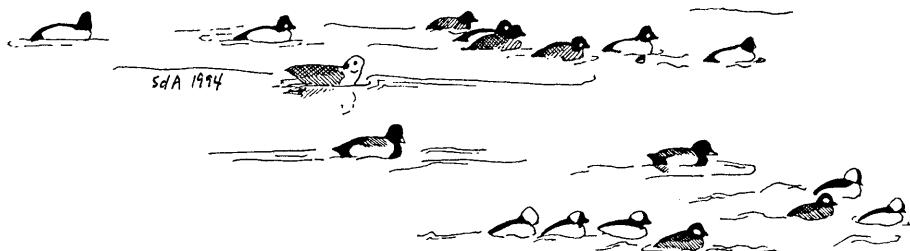
Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	50	788	838
Brant	0	13,941	13,941
Canada Goose	52,370	19,677	72,047
American Black Duck	5,801	13,576	19,377
Mallard	17,942	2,976	20,918
Canvasback	7,170	1,807	8,977
Redhead	9,815	0	9,815
scaup (both species)	9,279	18,349	27,628
scoter (all species)	18	4,371	4,389
Common Goldeneye	1,715	1,460	3,175
Bufflehead	218	1,630	1,848
merganser (all species)	11,164	5,296	16,460
Ruddy Duck	0	1,614	1,614
Total	115,542	85,485	201,027

Table 5. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation 1995 and 1996 Aerial Counts compared, with percent change from 1995 for all species with 1,000 individuals or more in 1995 or 1996 or both.

Species	1995	1996	% change
Mute Swan	1,276	838	- 34.3
Brant	22,659	13,941	- 38.5
Canada Goose	71,187	72,047	1.2
American Black Duck	17,513	19,377	10.6
Mallard	27,661	20,918	- 24.4
Canvasback	8,480	8,977	5.9
Redhead	1,200	9,815	717.9
scaup (both species)	37,439	27,628	- 26.2
scoter (all species)	336	4,389	1206.3
Common Goldeneye	5,711	3,175	- 44.4
Bufflehead	2,723	1,848	- 32.1
merganser (all species)	21,574	16,460	- 23.7
Ruddy Duck	686	1,614	135.3
Total	218,445	201,027	- 8.0

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HAIRY AND RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS USE BARK CREVICE TO BREAK OPEN SEEDS

Kelly M. Erlwein

Sullivan County Community College
1000 Leroy Road, Loch Sheldrake NY 12759

The Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) is known to have a diet that consists of more than 75% insects, but will come to feeding stations for suet, fruits, nuts, and sunflower seeds (Terres, 1991). On several dates during a snowy March 1996 I observed a male Hairy Woodpecker at a hanging feeder containing black oil sunflower seeds. The bird removed a seed, flew to a nearby tree trunk (a distance of about 3 feet) and inserted the seed into a small niche in the bark. He then proceeded to pound open the shell and eat the contents. The bird returned to the feeder and the entire process was repeated up to 11 times in one feeding session. The Hairy Woodpecker frequented this particular feeder on the Sullivan County Community College campus in Loch Sheldrake, New York so

often that the crevice he used as his vise is clearly visible on the tree trunk. Similarly, a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) was observed in early May at this feeder using the same technique and the same niche to hold its seed.

Seeds are mostly taken by the Hairy Woodpecker in the fall and winter months, while the Red-bellied Woodpecker is more likely to eat vegetable matter and is rather easily attracted to feeding stations (Bent 1964). Perrins (1985) noted that Great Spotted Woodpeckers (*Picoides major*) make so-called "anvils" into which they wedge cones in order to peck out the seeds. He suggested that the ability to manage seeds in anvils is a significant aid in regions of cold temperatures and resulting scarcity of insects. Kilham (1983) records that Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) have the expertise to place an insect in an anvil in order to peck it into manageable pieces, but that the Hairy Woodpecker possesses none of these talents. Winkler (1995) cites the fact that practically all woodpeckers carry items they cannot ingest easily to a crevice which allows the item to be held firm, where it is prepared for eating. Such sites are most often used only once, although some woodpeckers may use a site repeatedly. Perhaps the severe Sullivan County winter contributed to the birds' ingenuity in using a tree niche as a vise to enable them to obtain food.

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SNOWY OWL PREYS ON A BONAPARTE'S GULL

Peter J. Martin

2079 Hillside Ave, Bellmore NY 11710

Late afternoon on a winter weekend is often a good time to observe Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) behavior in the Jones Beach area. There is minimal human disturbance and you can observe an undistracted bird's behavior from a distance over a period of time.

On 10 February 1992, I was observing a bird sitting on the primary dune about 50 yards from the ocean and Jones Inlet. For a half hour the bird had been perched, preening and surveying its surroundings. It defecated once and endured the fairly persistent harassment of two Great Black-backed Gulls for a few minutes, then, just at sunset the bird took flight, heading low out over the ocean. I was a little surprised as I had noticed no disturbance and had never previously seen a Snowy Owl fly far out over the ocean, although I've seen them cross the inlet to Point Lookout, usually attracting the attention of some gulls. This bird proceeded just out of sight, but returned within two minutes to once again perch on the same dune. There were numerous Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) feeding on the ocean and inlet and they did seem to casually give way as the owl passed, but the owl never seemed to deliberately approach or actively pursue a bird. Also, on another occasion I saw a single Bonaparte's Gull adroitly avoid over a dozen passes by a Peregrine Falcon over the ocean, so it did not occur to me that the owl might be hunting. However, after a few minutes on the dune, the owl again flew out low, directly over the ocean. Just after it passed out of sight, I saw it returning, but now it was carrying the limp body of a Bonaparte's Gull in its talons. It landed on the same dune, briefly mantled its prey and began to eat the gull. I watched this until dark and then left without disturbing the owl. The next day I didn't see the owl at this site, but did examine the remains of a Bonaparte's Gull there. Over the next few weeks I observed this same bird in the general vicinity but did not witness any similar behavior. I also did not witness as heavy a concentration of gulls feeding at dusk either. I did find one Bonaparte's Gull carcass on another dune without any mammalian tracks visible.

During the winter of 1992-93 there was a similarly plumaged bird present and I did find two Bonaparte's Gull carcasses on dune crests, but I did not see any hunting behavior.

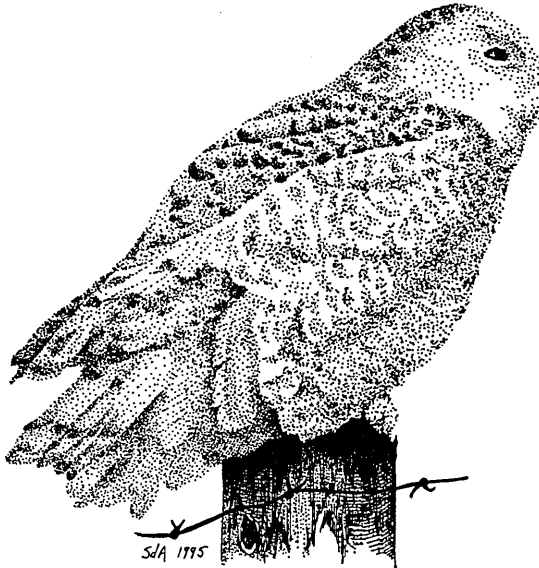
In this area, I have seen a Snowy Owl actively pursue a rabbit and one

with a rat, but I have never seen one pursue birds. I have never examined their pellets closely and have rarely found a pellet that I thought was from a Snowy Owl. Snowy Owls feed on rabbits and rodents on their winter ground, but do feed on ducks and geese on the tundra breeding grounds (Walker 1974) where I imagine the prey is more concentrated and vulnerable. Bent (1938) states that food items vary and that birds are an important food source. My feeling is that this owl was opportunistically taking advantage of the high concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls engaged in feeding in a low light situation, and that by staying low was able to surprise and capture a bird. The owl's behavior seemed too deliberate for me to believe it was going for a sunset flight and happened upon a floating gull carcass.

Terres (1980) mentions small gulls among the prey items of the Snowy Owl, but does not give the species.

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GREAT GRAY OWL IN THE ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Dorothy Crumb¹ and David J. Cesari²

1 3983 Gates Rd, Jamesville NY 13078

2 5667 Brown Hoag Rd, Rome NY 13440

Matt Perry was birding in the New Hartford Town Park, Oneida County, on 22 February 1996. Crows mobbing an owl perched on a mound on the edge of a mixed hemlock woods drew his attention. On closer approach, he identified the owl as a Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*). It flew off into the woods. He contacted David Cesari from Rome, who arrived shortly after with camera equipment. The owl, contrary to actions of Great Gray Owls seen before, was very elusive. It took some hiking and searching to locate the bird, whereupon, Cesari was able to take several photographs (Figure 1). This bird apparently stayed in the vicinity, though it was only seen fleetingly once or twice more. On 18 March, unfortunately, it flew in front of a car. It was taken to a rehabilitator, but did not survive. The specimen is now at Syracuse University, Utica branch.

Great Gray Owl is an extremely rare species in the Oneida Lake Basin, Region 5. The first confirmation of one was reported in *The Kingbird* in 1962 by Bulger, who saw one at Pulaski, Oswego County. Spofford (1962) describes a photograph of one that was shot and displayed in a window in Canastota, Madison County, during the winter of 1926-27, which was part of a large flight of Snowy Owls. He also attributes one to a sighting by David Corse in Sandy Pond, Oswego County, in March 1962.

In spring of 1979, a number of Great Gray Owls were reported from the Watertown area, just north of Region 5 in Jefferson County. On 17 February, two made their way south to Oswego. They were seen in the same vicinity through 1 March. In that same year, an owl was photographed in Fayetteville, Onondaga County. The photo was eventually shown to a reliable birder who identified the photo as that of a Great Gray Owl. However, this was long after the fact and was never officially reported. Also in 1979 David Cesari photographed a Great Gray Owl in the Town of Whitestown, just west of the Village of Oriskany, Oneida County, on 10 February. The bird was not found again. This was prior to the time Cesari submitted his observations to *The Kingbird*.

On 10 April 1980, a Great Gray Owl was seen perched beside Route 3, about 4 miles north of Mexico, Oswego County. The bird was struck by a truck that same day and turned over to a rehabilitator. The owl was

very emaciated, but survived and was later returned to Canada.

In 1996, a late migrant was found in Brewerton, Oswego County, on 23 April. This bird was observed by many birders and has been written up for NYSARC. It was located late in the afternoon and was seen briefly the next morning being chased by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. There were no further sightings.

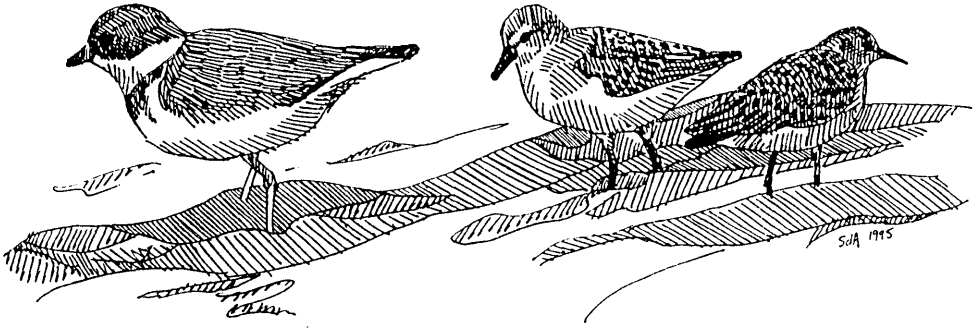
In conclusion, there are now 10 sightings of Great Gray Owl in the Oneida Lake Basin, Region 5.



Figure 1. Great Gray Owl photographed by David Cesari on 22 Feb 96 in New Hartford. The photo was taken from 25-30 feet with a Nikon F4S camera, through a Nikon 500 mm f-4 lens, using Fujichrome 100, 1/125 sec at f-4.

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CANADA WARBLER NESTING ON LONG ISLAND

Eric Salzman

PO Box 775, East Quogue NY 11942

The second confirmed Long Island nesting of Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*), the first in twenty-five years, was noted at Maple Swamp, Southampton Town, Suffolk County, on June 27, 1996.

On that date, a pair of Canada Warblers was observed carrying food and in an extreme state of agitation. Young birds, apparently the fledglings, were heard and briefly glimpsed in the dense swamp undergrowth just beyond. At least one adult bird was seen on June 29 again carrying food and in a similar state of agitation. This is a "Confirmed" nesting by the standards of *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*.

On June 21, 1971, Robert Geffen found a nest with five young in a swampy area of what is now Connetquot River State Park; that nest was collected and is in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History (Geffen 1971; Bull 1974). Singing Canadas were subsequently found on several occasions in suitable wetlands in central and eastern Long Island during the 1970s and early '80s (Bull 1976:41; pers. obs.; Bonney 1988). The species seemed to be about to colonize Long Island in much the same way that the Brown Creeper, another northern species at the southern edge of its range in the coastal plain, had done so a decade

or two earlier (Levine 1988). However, the relative handful of Atlas observations (four "Possibles" and one "Probable") were not followed by any subsequent reports and a search of *Kingbird* Region 10 accounts since the early 1980s found only listings of arrival and departure dates.

In spite of the fact that it is generally recorded as arriving in late April or early May in the New York City parks, Canada Warbler is one of the latest birds of passage on Long Island and migrants can often be found well into June. This was a notably big year for this species with large numbers moving through eastern Long Island in the last week of May and the early part of June. Canada Warblers sing extensively and can appear to be territorial in spring migration, especially when found in wooded swampy habitat. (All of the above based on personal observation and conversations with other observers).

Ironically enough, the breeding birds were located on the territory of a male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) which had been active in the immediate vicinity since May 26. Most Long Island records of this latter species have been confined to singing males in May and June and this was no exception. To my knowledge, hybridization is not known to occur in *Wilsonia* and is highly unlikely in this case as both males were observed.

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BONAPARTE'S GULL CAUGHT BY SNAPPING TURTLE

Gregory S. Pryor

RD 8 Box 194, Oswego NY 13126

While working as a Dune Naturalist at The Nature Conservancy's El Dorado Beach Preserve in Jefferson County, New York, I have observed common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) predation of migratory shorebirds before; in August 1994, two Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) and one Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) were captured by Snapping Turtles within six days of each other (Pryor 1996). More surprising to me, however, was the capture of an immature Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) in July 1995, at the same site and under the same circumstances.

During the summer months at El Dorado Beach, green algae (*Cladophora glomerata*) washes in from eastern Lake Ontario and forms thick algal mats offshore. These mats entrap invertebrates and small fish, and thus attract a variety of predators including shorebirds, songbirds, and gulls. The algal mats also attract Northern Water Snake (*Nerodia sipedon*), Eastern Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) as well as Snapping Turtle. Large Snapping Turtles frequently are seen around these mats, and will submerge themselves under the algal suspension to ambush the shorebirds feeding above.

On 21 July, 1995 at 3:00 PM EST, a large Snapping Turtle captured an immature Bonaparte's Gull from beneath the algae. From shore, the gull appeared merely to be sitting on the mat with outstretched wings (Figure 1). After walking into the algae and disturbing the bird, though, I observed a Snapping Turtle pulling the gull into the mat by its right leg. I dug into the algae below the gull and revealed the turtle's head, whereupon it released the bird. The gull swiftly flew away and was not observed again. The turtle was buried under 13 cm of algae and could not move. The algae had hardened in the summer heat, and the turtle's head maintained an opening to the surface for breathing. Upon extricating the turtle, I estimated its weight to be approximately 9-11 kg, and measured its carapace at 27 cm in length. I believe the capture of the Bonaparte's Gull was a desperate predatory attempt by the hungry turtle, firmly fixed in solidifying algae.

Although gulls are known to be preyed upon by Snapping Turtles from underwater (Alexander 1921), observations of predation from under the algal mats are unique and intriguing. The Snapping Turtles adopt this

unusual hunting tactic seasonally, in response to a transitory environmental condition. Some older turtles presumably repeat these learned behaviors annually. Perhaps these ubiquitous opportunists play a much greater role in the lives of birds than we currently realize.



Figure 1. Immature Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) captured by Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) in eastern Lake Ontario on 21 July 1995 at El Dorado Beach Preserve, Jefferson County, NY. Photograph by G. S. Pryor.

LITERATURE CITED

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ABUNDANCE OF APPARENT AVIAN DUSTING BEDS ON ALVAR GRASSLANDS

Lee B. Chamberlaine
PO. Box 139, Henderson NY 13650

In the Western portion of Jefferson County are some rare grassland communities. "Alvar" is a Swedish term describing barrens and grassland vegetation that grows on thin soils over level outcrops of limestone bedrock. These areas are very wet in early spring but very dry in summer, resulting in many rare plants and communities. There is also an abundance of what appear to be avian dusting beds. Dusting beds are uncommon and we usually associate them with the House Sparrow and the gallinaceous species such as grouse and turkey. The most dusting sites are at The Henderson Shores Unique Area, a New York State land and the Limerick Cedars Preserve, a Nature Conservancy preserve. A few have been seen at Chaumont Barrens, another Conservancy preserve.

These dusting sites seem to be used annually and are even recognizable in the fall, when use has ceased, and in the spring before the summer residents return. They are found in fairly open situations, usually with very shallow or no soil, but organic detritus from dried algal mats which form on the bare limestone. Sometimes an old roadway through the area is used for this activity. In most instances the locations provide good visibility in all directions. In some locations multiple beds are found in clumped configurations. Most of the dusting sites are fairly open with few or no shrubs nearby. They are usually found more in the centers of the open area and, in time with practice, can be recognized. Although I have not yet seen any few birds in the act of using these dusting beds, I suspect the following species use them on a regular basis: Northern Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Mourning Dove, American Robin and Ruffed Grouse. It is not unusual to see in a day afield on one of these areas as many as seven or eight different dusting "stations." The later into the summer months and in the occasional very dry weather periods, additional or as I call them "temporary" dusting areas develop on these sites. These temporary dusting beds may or may not be at the same locations as in past years under the same conditions as I have never fully kept track of these temporary stations for any length of time. Based on my experience, these sites get used very often and must serve an important role for the birds of these areas. These beds are not made by mammals as I have found

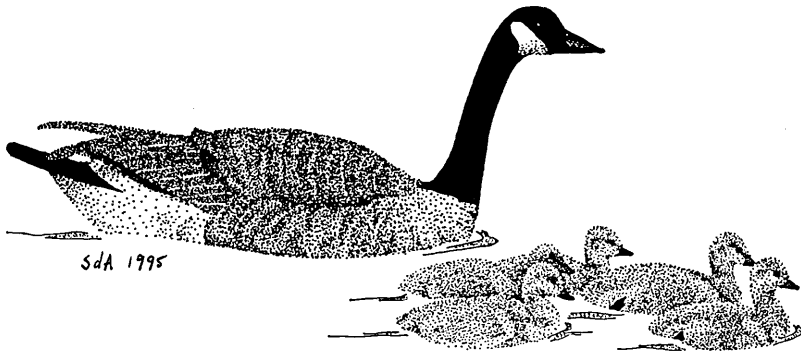
unidentified bird tracks and feathers.

The role of the dusting act itself is not fully understood (Terres 1980) although it is known to provide a method of removing oil from the feathers and a way of realigning feather shafts (Ehrlich and others 1988). An excellent study would be to monitor some of these sites from a blind with a video camera setup to record the use and bird behavior on the beds and if competition or antagonism occurs in their use.

I would appreciate any information or comments on these dusting beds from other birders who have seen this type of activity, whether at rare communities or not. Please share your comments with others by submitting them to *The Kingbird*.

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LETTER – WHAT IS BIRDING?

Robert Marcotte

4533 Dewey Ave, Rochester NY 14612-3903

Right on! Your editorial introduction (March 1996) goes right to the heart of several issues that birders must confront. Specifically, what is birding? Is it something more than listing? How can the observations of birders be more relevant and constructive? Ultimately, how can we, as

birders, work to ensure the protection of habitat so that all species might flourish?

I especially applaud the observation that "rare birds may be important to listers, but common birds may be more important to biology." I am often struck by the overwhelming and, I believe misplaced, importance that birders and their publications place on the birds that SHOULDN'T be in a given area, as opposed to those that should be. Yes, I realize that variety is the spice of life; I enjoy as much as anyone stumbling upon a rarity (Marcotte 1995). But surely we can learn more about the state of the environment, and contribute more to our understanding of it, by paying at least as much attention to our commonplace species.

To the extent that our publications overemphasize the exotic and the bizarre, they fail to give a true picture.

There is another danger. If birding is perceived to be primarily the domain of hardcore listers, in which the greatest glory goes to the longest lifelist and the rarest sighting, we risk turning off people who are interested in sharing the results of more serious attempts to monitor birds and preserve their habitat.

Please do encourage the study and documentation of even our commonplace species. Please do give at least equal coverage to these efforts, so that *The Kingbird* can indeed be a meaningful record of all New York bird life.

LITERATURE CITED:

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LETTER - WHAT ARE CONVENTIONAL BIRDERS?

Vincent Ferrer

1632 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest NY 14975

I am sorry to hear about your handicap of not being a conventional birder (March 1996). Allow me to enlighten you. We conventional birders pride ourselves in being very good at identifying birds in the field, either by sight or sound. Our long lifelists reflect this skill.

If you have tried hard to become one of us, but failed, and you are more

interested in bird biology, then why don't you just work with chickens? A lot of ornithologists do, you know. I can't see anyone with a lifelist below 500 editing a birding journal. Although, perhaps being chained to a computer is a good place for you. You can stay inside, hunched over your boring manuscripts and obscure references, so that we real birders can spend more time in the field telling you paper pushers what is going on out here.

LETTER - SINGLE SPECIES ENTRIES COVERING ALL REGIONAL REPORTS

Angus Wilson

New York University School of Medicine,
NYU Medical Center, 550 First Avenue,
New York NY 10016

I applaud your call to increase the quality and quantity of data reported in *The Kingbird* (March 1996), and I would like to platform two suggestions that might promote useful debate. The first concerns *The Kingbird* as a comprehensive and yet practical/viable archive of New York State birds and birding. Although radical, I would like to suggest that "the meat" of all ten Regional reports be combined as a systematic account, with the records cited in a standard order such as Region 1 followed by Region 2 and so on. Here is an example:

Lesser Black-backed Gull: (1) Three reports, probably four birds, NR Jan and Feb, more than usual for after Dec. (2) One ad IB 8,13,14, Jan (sev); One ad P11 Jan (MP) (5) One ad Baldwinsville 23 Dec-30 Jan (8) One ad, one first w Crescent ALBA 2 Dec (KA, WE, et al.); one TCBC; one HR Troy Dam 25 Dec (RG to BEN) (9) one PL thru, sporadic; one Hudson R, Haverstraw 23 Feb (10) half a dozen reports SI to MP.

There are several advantages to this arrangement, the most important being that it saves space, allowing more records to be cited. After all, the species name needs only to be mentioned once in the whole publication. In addition, the format is much easier for those interested in a particular species or group of birds, as ALL the records for the state are together - something that I am sure "Bull book revision" authors can appreciate.

This provides a better picture of the species across the state as a whole, without losing the fine detail. Of course, *The Kingbird's* Regional commentaries should remain as they are. Although more editorial effort is required, this systematic format has been adopted by the majority of Regional and national bird reports worldwide.

My second point concerns how readers are to judge the reliability of reports published in the Regional accounts. This is an important issue because these entries function as the most accessible, up-to-date account of New York birds. For one thing, the scale of the state presents difficulties; while the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) covers birds that are rare throughout the state, things seem less clear for species that are unusual on a Regional level, and I suspect many observers submit records without fully appreciating the significance of their observations. The use of a symbol (here an exclamation mark) to indicate that a written description was received, and presumably deemed acceptable, by the Regional Editor(s) is helpful in principle. Unfortunately, this convention is adhered to very inconsistently, at least in recent issues, and this weakens its value. Also, the choice of symbol seems a little bizarre, and perhaps something more confidence inspiring could be adopted!

References to species considered by NYSARC should always indicate whether descriptions have been submitted to (or better, approved by) NYSARC. If it is unclear when going to press whether a description has been filed, then the records should be withheld from the seasonal account or at least this fact indicated, again by a simple symbol. My concern is for future researchers who must cross-check past records to figure out whether they were actually accepted after review, an impractical task. An increased number of short notes describing the circumstances of lesser rarity discoveries would also be valuable and fun. These notes would provide a published context to interesting records. Maybe the editor could add a line or two mentioning key identification details that helped satisfy NYSARC members.

I hope these suggestions stimulate fruitful discussion leading to ever better documentation of the fascinating birdlife of this complex and diverse state.

wilsoa02@popmail.med.nyu.edu

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 1996

Robert Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster NY 14580

The spring season and migration were delayed, as much as a couple of weeks, in all Regions, a bit less in Region 10. Leafout and the flowering of trees and shrubs were well behind normal to at least mid May in most Regions, through the season in some. All but the southeastern Regions experienced a Mother's Day snow storm, accompanying a frontal system which brought one of the best passerine fallouts in years to all Regions in the 10-13 May period. Another great wave of migrants arrived between 18 and 21 May in most Regions. This also brought a heat wave and record temperatures in the 90s in Region 10. The overall temperature pattern was quite similar all across the state, below average in all months, though Regions 2, 7, 8, 10 saw some relief in the April average. Precipitation fell well above average in all three months in western and northern Regions, with Regions 4, 7, 8, & 10 varying from this a bit in below normal March totals and average to a bit below for May. A persistent weather pattern across the central continent which drove this weather also blocked migration for long periods, with short breakdowns sending bursts of migrants northward. Generally, the weather was poor for birding and thoughts turned to "Silent Spring." Then the fallouts in May brought memories of days past to older birders and numbers not experienced before for many newer birders. In addition to the two major pushes noted above, Region 8 added 24 April, Region 10 added 29 April to 1 May, and Region 6 added 14 May. Major bonuses were the coincidence of the first May peak and the North American Migration Count and then the second peak also occurring on a weekend. Lest we become too excited over the big counts, read the Region 6 note relative to the rapid falloff in numbers in moving away from the immediate Lake Ontario shore, a note I have echoed in many recent years for Region 2. Continuing with the general, waterfowl were mediocre in most Regions, good in Regions 4 & 5, and shorebirds were poor in Regions 1, 5, & 8, but good in Regions 4 & 7. Rarities were swept into most Regions with the bursts of migrants.

Given the comments relative to the late spring, it seemed interesting to see whether these would be reflected in the arrival date tables, printed ahead. From Seasonality, note that the overall averages of the 93 species dates for 1996 compared with the 10-year averages (for the years since we have been specifically gathering these data) were late for all Regions

except Region 10, which was essentially on average. Region 4, to the south and east central was the next closest to average, the rest very late. There were 17 species whose average arrival date over all Regions was statistically significantly ($> 2s$) late, with Blue-winged Teal, Virginia Rail, Common Snipe, Am. Woodcock, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Savannah Sparrow all averaging more than five days late. One can spend hours sifting through the table data looking for interesting comparisons, e.g. nearly all of the species with 10-year averages in March or early April averaged late this spring, but there was a good mix of early and late averages among those species expected in late April and early May. The search could continue across families or any other grouping of personal interest. However, I begin to wonder about the utility of stretching the exercise, especially given the limited sample size.

Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (vs 1987-1996, Days)	Advance (Days)
Region 1	92	2.23	-1.94
Region 2	92	3.60	-2.21
Region 3	83	2.96	-0.92
Region 4	85	0.18	0.35
Region 5	92	2.44	-1.36
Region 6	90	1.70	5.84
Region 7	90	2.50	6.45
Region 8	89	0.81	0.23
Region 9	77	2.71	-0.87
Region 10	80	-0.23	-5.57

Seasonality measures the average difference (in days) between this year's departure and the long-term average dates for the same Region. This season two values are given, one versus the average over all data going back through the 1961 issue of *The Kingbird*, the other relative to just the data gathered over the past ten years of compiling this table. *Advance* measures the average difference between this year's departure dates in a given Region and the departure dates averaged over all ten Regions. Negative values mean this year's number is early compared with the overall number.

In a careful reading of the Regional reports, there is so much interesting

data this season that it cannot all be covered adequately here. I urge you to read all of the reports in detail. Here we will first look at some of the major groups, then record numbers and dates, and finally rarities. Among the families or groups tracked in spring, we start with the loons and grebes, generally both reported in low numbers. However, note a good Com. Loon count of 1260 past the Hamlin Beach SP lakewatch in Region 2 and Red-necked Grebe in average or above numbers in all Regions, with peaks of 912 in Region 1 and a new state high of 2759 on 4 April past the Region 2 lakewatch. After many years of surging numbers, Double-crested Cormorant seems to have leveled off or dropped a bit in most Regions. Bittern, heron, and egret counts were generally low, though all of the rarer species were reported in at least one Region other than Regions 9 & 10. Among the waterfowl, special notes include: breeding of Trumpeter Swan in Regions 2 & 6 [Ed: Replace last year's breeding record for Tundra with Trumpeter in Region 6.]; Greater White-fronted Goose now regular, this year in four Regions; concern continuing over low numbers of Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Redhead; good numbers for Eurasian Wigeon - six Regions, Ring-necked Duck, scaup, and scoters. The raptor picture is one of great contrast, the best spring recorded in 20 years of daily counts at Braddock Bay, with many daily and seasonal totals at record highs, and an average to a bit below year at Derby Hill. For most species the totals and peaks differ by more than a factor of two between these hawkwatches separated by only about 100 miles. Yet Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk passed each location in roughly equivalent numbers with the Red-tailed peak actually higher at Derby Hill. Please see the individual Regional reports for the details. Among the breeding raptors in trouble, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon showed at least some gains; N. Goshawk brought no such good news. The trend to regularity of occurrence continues for Sandhill Crane, with 25+ birds reported from Regions 1, 2, 5, & 6. Shorebirds were generally poor, but there was a record high inland and spring count of 55 Willets in Region 1 and generally good variety in several inland Regions. Especially low numbers were noted for peeps, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and the phalaropes. Owls produced another big story, with Great Gray Owl found in Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, & 8, totaling at least 18 birds and with the latest at a state late date of 19 May in Region 1; two to three Boreal Owls were also noted by the owl banders at Braddock Bay in Region 2 and Long-eared, Short-eared, and N. Saw-whet owl reports were all up a bit and more widespread than usual. Common Nighthawk continues very

low statewide. Similarly for Whip-poor-will, except for a survey count of 42 in Region 6. For most passerine families, the comments are too few and scattered to assemble a picture of trends. Variable levels of aggregation among the counts reported also complicates attempts at comparison. Still, of special interest are: *many high counts* tallied in Region 5; Carolina Wren still low everywhere and Sedge Wren only reported from Region 6; thrushes generally poor, with the exception of Veery in Region 5 and Swainson's Thrush in Regions 1, 4, & 7 and a report of migrant Bicknell's Thrush from Region 2; Bohemian Waxwing late in several Regions and to a state late date of 19 May in Region 3 and abundant, including a high of 1500+ in Region 6 on 13 April; warblers, with some great counts, but often contrasting with lows in neighboring Regions, and with the rarer species widespread and nearly all found in multiple Regions; many reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting at feeders in the 10-12 May period; Am. Tree Sparrow and Fox Sparrow to May departure dates in four Regions each and Lincoln's Sparrow state record early in Region 4; big counts for Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, and Baltimore Oriole, all in Region 5; and finches in good variety, but generally low numbers, and both redpolls to late dates - Common Redpoll state late on 18 May in Region 4 and Hoary Redpoll, present in four Regions, to 17 April in Region 7. Once again, these notes only scratch the surface of this season's reports.

In addition to the record highs and special dates woven into the comments above, others include state record highs: Swainson's Hawk - three on 26 April in Region 2 and 15 there for the season; 78 Little Gulls on 5 April in Region 1 and 67 there two days later; 110 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds tallied in Region 5 on 18 May; 113 Hooded Warblers in Region 1 on 19 May; 50 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2000 Baltimore Orioles in Region 5 on 18 May; and 1,000,000 Red-winged Blackbirds estimated in Region 3 on 24 March. State record early dates were tallied for House Wren on 31 March in Region 3 and E. Wood-Pewee on 22 April, White-eyed Vireo on 28 March in Region 10, and Lincoln's Sparrow on 24 April in Region 4. Note that all of these early records represent some potential for identification error to the point of being excluded from consideration from John Bull's analysis for *Birds of New York State*, so are hopefully carefully documented in these cases. Record late dates include: Barrow's Goldeneye to 18 May in Region 5 and the Great Gray Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, and Com. Redpoll dates noted earlier. You will see from the bold dates highlighted in the arrival date tables that even this late spring provided a good number of record early arrivals relative to our ten years of tracking for these 93 species.

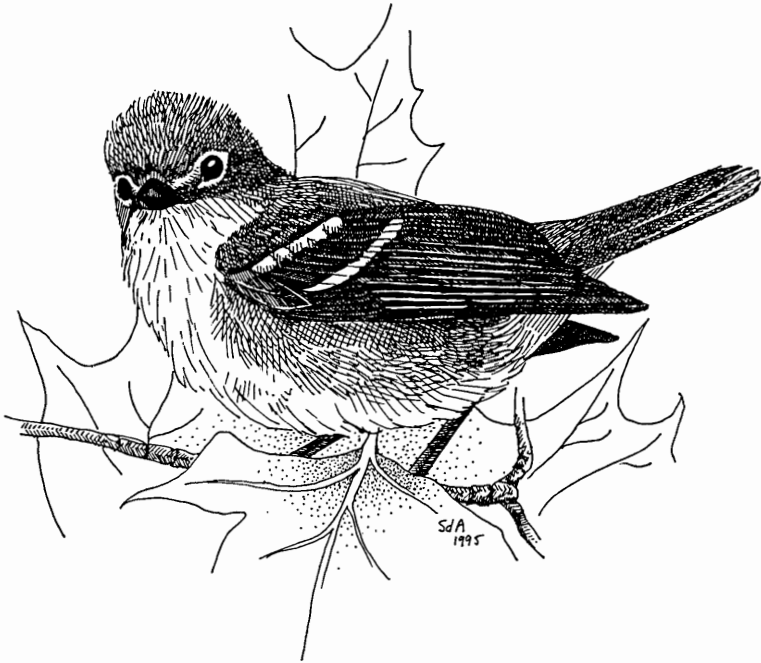
Finally, the number and variety of rarities across all Regions is the best in many years. Based on my criteria for selection, the total comes to 68 species, with over 175 total reports, some of multiple individuals. This is far too many to list all here, but nearly all should be in bold italics in the Regional reports. A selection of the best is: Western Grebe for two weeks in Region 5; a grebe identified as Clark's Grebe in Region 7, if approved by NYSARC, would be an addition to the NY State checklist; N. Fulmar in Region 10; Anhinga in Region 10; Tricolored Heron in Region 1; the nesting Trumpeter Swans in Regions 2 & 6; a Regional first Black Vulture in Region 6 (also reported, not as firsts, in Regions 2, 9 & 10; Am. Swallow-tailed Kite in Region 10; three Mississippi Kites in Region 2; Swainson's Hawks in Regions 2 & 5; a state first Eurasian Hobby in Region 10; Gyrfalcon in Regions 4 & 10; Wilson's Plover in Region 10; Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Region 10; Long-tailed Jaeger in Region 10; Thayer's Gull in Region 7; three Arctic Terns in Region 2; four Common Murres in Region 10; Black Guillemot in Region 10; the many Great Gray Owls; the 2-3 Boreal Owls in Region 2; Varied Thrush in Region 1; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, & 10; Swainson's Warbler in Region 10; Summer Tanager in Regions 5 & 10; Western Tanager in Region 5; Painted Bunting in Region 5; Baird's Sparrow in Region 1; Le Conte's Sparrow in Regions 7 & 10; and Bullock's Oriole in Region 4. Even from a list like this, Eurasian Hobby stands out as the Bird of the Season, but not really far above the Clark's Grebe or the challenge of noticing and identifying a Baird's Sparrow this far out of range.

Yet another time I exhort you to read the Regional reports carefully. In addition to all the data, you can find interesting notes such as: Purple Finch calling like a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Region 6 - ID by ear is far from foolproof; a heronry abandoned because an Osprey moved into a central nest in Region 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker defending its sap wells against Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Pileated Woodpecker, certainly size extremes, in Region 7; an excellent banding summary from Crown Point in Region 7; and a pelagic trip summary in Region 10.

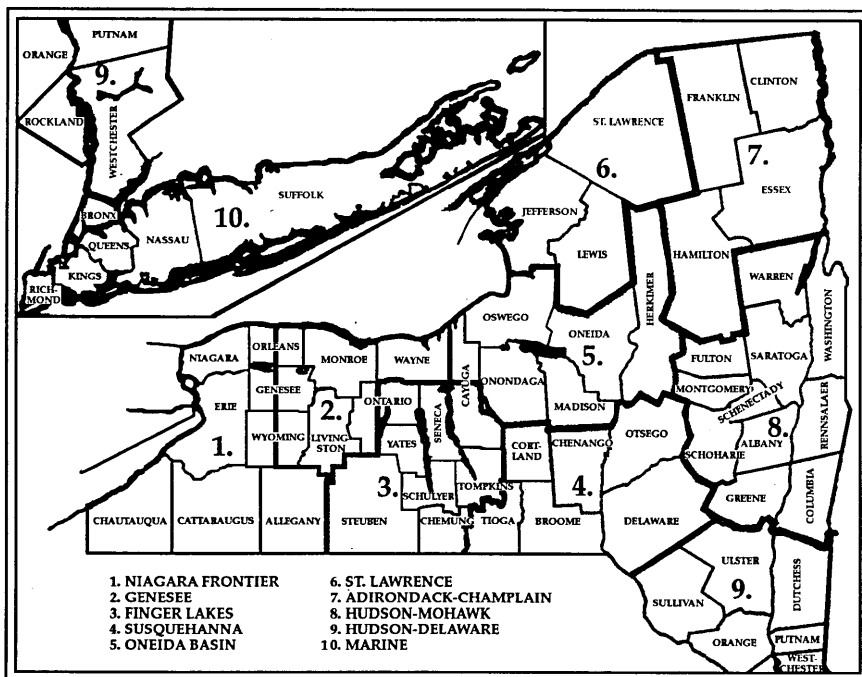
khvm75a@prodigy.com

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;

CBC — Christmas Bird Count; CO — confirmed nesting; Com. — Common; E. — Eastern; FL — fledgling; FY — adult feeding young; I — Island; imm — immature; intro — see introduction to report; juv — juvenile; L — Lake; max — maximum; mob — multiple observers; N. — Northern; NYSDEC — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; 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

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304-4522

Weatherwise, this was one of the most dismal springs in memory. Birdingwise, one had to be patient but there were occasions when it was well worth the wait. March brought more than twice the normal snowfall at 24.1 inches and temperatures averaged nearly five degrees below normal at 29.0 degrees. By the end of the month, migration was two weeks behind, and the birds never really caught up until June. Vivian Pitzrick reported small birds turning to less desirable fare, such as sumac, buckthorn, and tree buds.

Whereas March is the month when residents yearn for spring, April is the time they expect it. However, April was a cruel introduction to spring. With 5.63 inches, precipitation was twice normal and the third most in a century. It was also the fourth cloudiest April in 100 years and cold, with the average temperature 3.0 degrees below normal. April ended the third snowiest winter on record with 141.1 inches in total at Buffalo.

May continued the cloudy wet pattern for the first two weeks. The remainder of the month was mostly dry and pleasant although some cold nights during the last week caused mortality of several nestling Eastern Bluebirds in Allegany County. The temperature average of 54.5°F was two degrees below normal and marked the seventh consecutive month with colder than normal temperatures. Precipitation was less than an inch above normal, but it was enough to keep persistent flood threats on the Allegheny and Genesee rivers. Lake Erie was three weeks late in rising above 32 degrees on 3 May when the last ice disappeared, the latest date since 1982.

With all the cold wet weather the birds were as much as two weeks late across the board, from the waterfowl and short distance passerines in March to the neotropical warblers and flycatchers in May. Predictably, when birds had a chance to migrate, concentrations were often impressive, with very high and even record counts for several species. Red-necked Grebe numbers shattered the high of two springs ago. This was most likely due to good breeding conditions on the prairie potholes in recent years more than to a migration block. Waterfowl were slow to build but there were high counts of Tundra Swan and N. Pintail and record counts of Green-winged Teal and Ring-necked Duck, the ducks

also benefitting from the wet prairies. Southern herons put in what was, perhaps, an unprecedented showing which included Great and Snowy egrets, Little Blue Heron and **Tricolored Heron**. Though not verified as yet, Cattle Egret and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were also reported. Great Egret nested again at Motor Is. on the Niagara River for the second straight year.

Hawk flights at Lakeside Cemetery in the Town of Hamburg were poor this season. More sporadic coverage near Lake Ontario was actually more productive though there were few significant counts. One exception was a record count of **Sandhill Crane**. Raptor highlights included: a Region total of over 30 Bald Eagles with a one day count of eight on the Allegheny Res.; at least seven Merlin, with one chasing a flock of 150 Lapland Longspurs; and the Region's first nesting of Peregrine Falcon. The first egg was found 24 Apr and the first of three young 26 May. The nest site was a ledge on Buffalo's City Hall outside the Bureau of Statistics, which promptly issued birth certificates. The falcons received much positive publicity in newspapers and on television. Shorebirds were not impressive with numbers only in traditional locations despite abundant habitat. One incredible anomaly was a possible state record high count for Willet.

A **Great Gray Owl** was found in the Town of Somerset NIAG on an exceptionally late date. Probably the same bird was relocated in the Town of Yates ORLE about 20 miles further east. [Ed: I think it is at least as likely that these were different birds in the light of observations in neighboring Region 2.] Around the same time a Barn Owl put in an appearance at Buffalo. Short-eared and N. Saw-whet owls were found well into May suggesting breeding. Com. Nighthawk was scarce.

Com. Raven continues to increase in the Region. Carolina Wren, however, may have taken another hit this past winter with their numbers down further. Warbler variety was excellent and, on a few days, numbers were outstanding. A record count of over 1300 warblers on 12 May on the Lake Ontario Plain in NIAG included record highs for Yellow-rumped, Pine, and Palm warblers.

The B.O.S. April Count was conducted on 14 April and compiled by Richard Collins. Species with ten-year highs were: Green-winged Teal, Am. Coot, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse (probably a count record high), Am. Pipit, Am. Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Ten-year lows were counted for: Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Great Horned Owl, Blue Jay, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and House Finch.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society's 60th May Bird Count was held on

19 May and compiled by Michael Galas, Gerald Rising, Gail Seamans, and Terry Yonker. The unofficial tally included 214 species (subject to reduction) and nearly 87,000 individuals, near the ten-year average. Count record highs were tallied for Herring Gull, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Yellow Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Considering the length of time over which this count has been carried on, these records may be significant. Ten-year highs were recorded for Bald Eagle, Am. Coot, Alder Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole. Ten year lows were tallied for Com. Loon, Hooded Merganser, Am. Kestrel, Ring-necked Pheasant, Com. Moorhen, Solitary Sandpiper, Com. Snipe, Chimney Swift, E. Phoebe, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Am. Robin, N. Mockingbird, European Starling, E. Towhee, Com. Grackle, and House Finch. Note that Am. Coot, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Tufted Titmouse were high on both counts while Ring-necked Pheasant and House Finch were low on both. None of the trends for these five species should come as a surprise - Am. Coot is a prairie pothole breeder, the House Finch has been hit hard by an eye disease, and Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ring-necked Pheasant are continuing recent trends. Other species in these lists which are continuing trends suggested by past counts include: Green-winged Teal, Bald Eagle, Am. Kestrel, Great Horned Owl, Com. Raven, White-throated Sparrow, and Com. Grackle.

This was a memorable season, rich in rarities and exceptional counts, too many to enumerate in this introduction. One sighting deserves mention here - a **Baird's Sparrow**, a possible first Regional record and, if accepted by NYSARC, only the second state record. The reader is encouraged to read over the records carefully. The many rarities include: Greater White-fronted Goose, **Barnacle Goose**, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Whip-poor-will, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and **Harris' Sparrow**.

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Gordon Bellerby, Paul Benham, Allen Benton, Robert Brock (RBr), William Broderick, Elizabeth Brooks, Ray and Chris Budniewski, Bruce Chilton, Ken Cohen, David Cooper, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davids (MDd), Michael Davis (MD), Dean DiTommaso, Steven Eaton, John Filor, Tom Harper, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess,

Hans Kunze, Michael Morgante, Terry Mosher, Judy Mosher, Gary Mason, Catherine Mueller, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Edward Ratajczak, Blake Reeves, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson, Olga Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, Paul Schnell, Bert Schweigert, Gail Seamans, Steve Soule, Robert Spahn, David (BRBA) & Debra Suggs, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, David Tetlow (DTe), Joe Thill, Don Tiller (DT), Michael Turisk, Robert Wagner, William Watson, Peter Yoerg

Abbreviations: Batavia SL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons; BOSAC-Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 14 Apr; BOSMC-Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 19 May; BRBA-Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; GHSP-Golden Hill SP; GI-Goat Island NIAG; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NR-Niagara River; OOWMA-Oak Orchard WMA; Tift NP-Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA-Tonawanda WMA; NR-Niagara River; WG-Williamsville Glen ERIE; WTSP-Wilson-Tuscarora SP.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: Red-throated Loon: arr T Somerset 23 Mar; max 11 BOSAC, with six Lewiston Reservoir and two T Dayton CATT, unusual away from L Ontario. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr T Porter 25 Mar, late. **Horned Grebe:** arr six T Somerset 2 Mar. **Red-necked Grebe:** record max 912 L Ontario (409 off GHSP NIAG and 503 off Shadigee ORLE) 11 Apr (WD), previous high 235 in 1994; last GHSP 16 May, late; widespread multiple sightings from every county except WYOM & ALLE, unprecedented. **Least Bittern:** no reports. **Great Egret:** arr TNP 6 Apr; Greenwood ALLE 21 Apr, rare away from lake plains; good numbers NR and L Ontario; three nesting pairs Motor I NR (WW), where vandalized last year. **Snowy Egret:** Dunkirk Harbor 21 Apr (KC!,WB), third earliest ever; Motor I NR 5-7 May (WW!,RBr!); rare but nearly annual. **Little Blue Heron:** ad non-breeding plumage T Porter 21 Apr (MM!,WD!,MT!), second earliest ever. **TRICOLORED HERON:** Tift NP 13-19 May (PB!,D&DS!,mob), second here in three years and third record for Region. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr six Motor I NR 30 Mar, late. **Tundra Swan:** 450 T Pembroke 26 Mar; 320 Buckhorn I SP 27 Mar; 300 INWR 27 Mar; good counts. **Mute Swan:** NF NR 9 Mar (WD!); three mouth NR 10 Mar (WD!,PO); TWMA 25 Apr - 24 May (FR!,mob); two Beaver I SP 26,27 Apr (WD!,PY!); continues the late winter influx. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** INWR 15,16 Mar (TH!,PY,MM); nearly annual. **Snow Goose:** arr and max 46 INWR 15 Mar; ad white morph acting as if mated with Canada Goose TWMA thru period. **Brant:** INWR 27 Mar (DT!); T

Somerset 21 Apr (PY!,BH); both exceptionally early - same bird? **BARNACLE GOOSE**: BSL 17 May (MM!); this species is possible escape any date but especially so late. **Green-winged Teal**: 50+ Cuba Marsh ALLE 6 Apr, high count for locale; 342 BOSAC; 340 OOWMA 27 Apr (WW), record count; excellent numbers. **N Pintail**: 3600 OOWMA 31 Mar, high count. **N Shoveler**: arr TWMA 24 Mar, late. **Eurasian Wigeon**: INWR 29 Mar (DT); T Dayton 18 Apr (BS!,GM,SE); TWMA 18-25 May (MM!,WD!,RS); good showing. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr nine INWR 2 Mar; 762 BSL 5 Apr, record max. **Harlequin Duck**: Buffalo-NR wintering bird last seen 10 Mar (WW). **Black Scoter**: two Shadigee ORLE 14 Mar (WD!), early and only report. **Surf Scoter**: Buckhorn I SP 11,16 May; BSL 17-19 May; only reports. **Ruddy Duck**: arr Buffalo 20 Mar; max 18 INWR 25 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Bald Eagle**: about 33 individuals reported, probably a record, many not at hawkwatches; max eight Allegheny Res. 24 Mar; three nest sites INWR, Allegheny Res., Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. **Northern Goshawk**: T Alfred 6 Apr (EB), only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr T Hanover 2 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr three T Hamburg 15 Apr; max only 432 Lakeside Beach SP 20 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last T Yates 18 May, late. **Golden Eagle**: T Yates 16 Mar (DD,WD!,BP), only report. **Merlin**: T Ward ALLE 13 Apr (VP!,MP!), unusual location; six on lake plains 19 Mar - 10 May, a good total. **Peregrine Falcon**: first record of pair nesting, on City Hall Buffalo, with eggs 24 Apr and young 26 May (mob); T Hamburg 31 Mar (PB!); Times Beach-Buffalo 5 May (mob); INWR 12 May (WW!). **Am. Coot**: arr away from wintering areas INWR 2 Mar. **SANDHILL CRANE**: six over WTSP 18 Apr (PO,WD! ph,BP), record with previous high of two; T Porter 22 Apr (DD,WD!). **Black-bellied or Am. Golden-Plover**: T Yates 14 Apr (PB!,BR), reported unconvincingly as former but date much more likely for latter. **Willet**: 55 Goat Island-NR 2 May (WD!,BP), record Regional count by far and possible state record. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr GHSP and T Dayton 21 Apr. **Whimbrel**: T Wheatfield 21 May (Watt, Meyers), rare. **Ruddy Turnstone**: T Dayton mid-May (BRBA), only report. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: two TWMA 20 May; only report. **Purple Sandpiper**: last three Goat Island-NR 8 Apr (WW!). **Dunlin**: arr T Yates 21 Apr. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr six T Somerset 18 May; T Dayton mid-May (BRBA), rare away from lake plains. **Little Gull**: mouth of NR 78 on 5 Apr (GB), 67 on 7 Apr (WD,BP), both counts shatter last years record of 37; three T Somerset 28 Apr, rare away from NR. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 16270 mouth of NR (GB), excellent

count though numbers before and after were not impressive. **Iceland Gull**: Allegheny Res. CATT 24 Mar (BS,WD,BP), first CATT record and, incredibly, may be first inland record in Region; last DH 21 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad NF-NR 9 Mar (WD!); ad DH 10 Mar (PY!,BH); spring records are increasing. B: last Tiffit NP 21 Apr.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr three BOSMC. **Barn Owl**: Tiffit NP 19 May (BP,DD,SS), migrant? **Great Gray Owl**: T Somerset Power Plant 5-6 May (PS! ph); 20 miles east in T Yates 17-19 May (DTe,MDD,RS!,WD!), possibly state record late; probably the same bird.[Ed: I would not add the final note.] **Long-eared Owl**: T Lockport 7 Mar, only report away from L Ontario plain. **Short-eared Owl**: T Cherry Creek CHAU 7 Apr (R&CB), unusual location; T Yates to 19 May, possibly breeding. **N Saw-whet Owl**: WTSP 12 Apr; two Four Mile Creek 14 Apr; T Amity 14 Apr, bred here last year; southern ERIE BOSMC, breeding? **Whip-poor-will**: T Sheridan 8 May (RB); two Blasdell ERIE 9,10 May (MT); T Lockport 19,24 May (CR); second straight year with more reports than usual. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr five 5 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr four BOSMC. **Acadian Flycatcher**: arr three BOSMC 19 May, only report. **Com. Raven**: two T New Albion 6 Apr and two McCarty Hill State Forest CATT 28 Apr, new possible breeding locations; over T Hamburg 15 Apr (FR!), first Erie record since 1975. **Carolina Wren**: three locations, Lake Erie plain, down more from last two years. **Winter Wren**: arr Tiffit NP 6 Apr. **Marsh Wren**: arr three Tiffit NP 5 May, late. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: arr GI 12 May; max five T Tonawanda 20 May. **Hermit Thrush**: arr Allegheny SP 6 Apr. **Varied Thrush**: male Point Gratiot CHAU present about one week to 18 Apr (BRBA), *unverified*. **Am. Pipit**: arr four T Amity and five Allegheny Res. 24 Mar; 571 BOSAC; 200 T Somerset 16 May; high counts. **N. Shrike**: high numbers continued through Mar; last two BOSAC.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: arr T Tonawanda 5 May (PH); T Pomfret 18,24 May (TM!,BC) where it has bred; Blasdell ERIE 19 May (MT). **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr four Erie and Ontario plains 18 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr Evangola SP 5 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr four Erie and Ontario plains 10 May. **Blue-Winged X Golden-Winged Warbler**: "Brewster's" T Kiantone and T Lancaster mid-May (BRBA), T Newfane 23 May, Allegheny SP late May (BRBA); "Lawrence's" Evangola

SP 10 May (MT!). **Orange-crowned Warbler:** GI 11 May (DR); Tift NP 18 May (PB); two BOSMC; T Great Valley (BS); more than usual. **N. Parula:** arr GI 20 Apr (DR!), beats last year's early record by nine days. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr away from wintering areas Amity Lake ALLE 28 Mar; *record max 1000* T Porter & T Wilson 12 May (WD,BP,MT), eclipses last year's record of 400. **Pine Warbler:** arr GHSP 20 Apr; T Alfred 27 Apr (EB), where rare; record max eight T Wilson and five T Porter 12 May (WD,BP,MT). **Prairie Warbler:** arr T Yates 11 May (WD,DC); Tift NP 17 May (MT,DD); T Orchard Park mid-May (BRBA), more migrants than usual; breeding locales T Ellicottville 18 May, T Machias 18 May, T Amity 30 May. **Palm Warbler:** arr T Ashford 27 Apr; 15 WG 10 May, high count; 20 T Somerset to T Carlton 11 May, short-lived record; 46 T Wilson and 33 T Porter 12 May (WD,BP,MT), new record max. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr T Wilson 12 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** Delaware Park-Buffalo 9 May (AH), rare migrant; INWR 18,23,25 May, breeding locale. **Worm-eating Warbler:** Delaware Park-Buffalo 9 May (AH,WD!). **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr GHSP 20 Apr (MT,WD), a rare find away from breeding areas. **Kentucky Warbler:** Tift NP 10 May (MD!,ER); Forest Lawn-Buffalo 12 May (RBr!). **Hooded Warbler:** arr INWR 3 May; 113 BOSMC beats last year's record of 88 for this count. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** Tift NP 13 May (D&DS); GHSP 18 May (MM,MT,ST); T Kiantone mid-May (BRBA); more than usual.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last T Eden and GHSP 5 May. **Field Sparrow:** arr T Somerset 11 Apr, late. **BAIRD'S SPARROW:** Point Gratiot CHAU 15 May (RB!,AB!,NYSARC), first Regional record if accepted by NYSARC. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr four BOSMC. **Henslow's Sparrow:** two T Lockport 2,25 May (CR), only report. **Fox Sparrow:** arr Greenwood ALLE 20 Mar; widespread and more numerous than usual. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr 30 Buckhorn I SP 9 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow:** *intro*. **White-crowned Sparrow:** successfully overwintered Belmont ALLE and T Porter NIAG. **HARRIS' SPARROW:** T Pomfret feeder 11-13 May (TM!,JM,RB). **Lapland Longspur:** T Porter 10 Mar; 150-200 T Ward ALLE 13 Apr, highest count in years. **Snow Bunting:** max 150 T Freedom 10 Mar. **E. Meadowlark:** arr two T Wilson 10 Mar. **Com. Grackle:** *intro*. **Orchard Oriole:** T Somerset 18,19 May (MM!,MT!,WW!), breeding locale, only report. **Pine Grosbeak:** one CATT 14 Apr, only report. **House Finch:** *intro*. **Red Crossbill:** five McCarty Hill State Forest CATT 25 May (BS), only report. **Com. Redpoll:** last 24 Apr. **Pine Siskin:** last 30 BOSMC. **Evening Grosbeak:** last T Wales 24 May.

REGION 2 - GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

It was indeed an interesting spring season. The weather seemed to dominate the patterns, as is often the case. March was typical with a variety of conditions. While precipitation was about normal, the snowfall total was twice the usual amount at 28". April was a generally cool month with temperatures slightly below average and with only a couple of warm spells. Twice the average amount of rainfall was recorded providing for a wet and dark month. May was a month of ups and downs, with some very cold periods and some record high temperatures. Snow fell on Mother's Day and within a week the temperature reached 89.

The migration was on the late side in general. March started a seesaw battle of the seasons. Snow was certainly a factor, as most weekends, when most observers can get out, presented less than optimum conditions. The species count for the month was low and expected new arrivals were late or missing. April's conditions weren't a whole lot better for birding, as spring was still delayed. In contrast to March though, April turned out to be a very productive month. As the end of the month arrived the species total was high, and there were a number of rarities. May was another month of contrasts. Days alternated between the very quiet and the extremely active. There were few really good birding days and "bursts" of activity were short in duration. While the species count was high, the number of individuals, with notable exceptions, continued to be down.

A lakewatch was manned again by William Symonds early in the season and produced some good totals. Loons were generally about average as were the grebes, with the exception of the super Red-necked Grebe flight. Eared Grebe and Am. White Pelican were highlights for the season. The cormorant picture has changed somewhat with reduced numbers although still higher than historical counts. The waders were a highlight this spring with Cattle Egret and Snowy Egret being more consistently seen than in recent years. Both bitterns and Black-crowned Night-Heron continued to be scarce.

The waterfowl picture was marked by scattered reports of Greater White-fronted Goose and reports of the winter's Tufted Duck into March. It was also a very good spring for Harlequin Duck, with even a May report. Forty Black Scoters in May at Hamlin Beach were unexpected. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal seemed very low and are of

concern in the Region. Eurasian Wigeon was reported again from several locations. A late surprise was a newspaper report of *Trumpeter Swans* with cygnets on private property in Wayne County, confirmed by the DEC.

It was a fantastic year at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch! Weather patterns set up and broke down in just the right ways to push over 144,000 raptors past the hawkwatch, nearly 40% above the previous high in 20 years of daily spring counts there. After a slow start in March and early April, five days were logged with over 10,000 raptors counted: 19 April - 15,827, 25 April - 13,983, 26 April - 33,044, 19 May - 14,699, and 20 May - 10,128; and two of these fell during the annual Braddock Bay Raptor Week to the delight of the many visitors. Unsurprisingly, given these totals, record season's totals were recorded for nine species: Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle (nearly 300!), Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk (a species of concern over serious declines in recent years), Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk (an incredible 13!, with two more nearby, but not in the watch total), Rough-legged Hawk (nearly 3 times the previous high!), Golden Eagle, and Merlin. Record single day highs were recorded for Bald eagle on four days, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk on four days, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Only Red-shouldered Hawk and American Kestrel were reported in below average numbers, the former at least partly due to very poor weather in its peak migration period in late March and early April. The hawkwatchers try to age and sex birds and note morphs and subspecies when possible and were rewarded with dark morph Broad-winged Hawks on 14 April and 19 May, dark morph Swainson's Hawk on 31 Mar, and all morphs of Red-tailed Hawk plus Krider's and Harlan's subspecies. Additional rarities logged at or near the hawkwatch included: two Black Vultures, 13 Sandhill Cranes, three Am. White Pelicans, five Common Ravens, Tricolored Heron and Little Blue Heron. [Ed: It remains a problem that verification reports are not received for most of these rarities. From personal experience, the hawk counters are highly skilled birders and I have no reason to doubt the validity of the observations. On that basis they will be noted here and I will leave it to others to sort out their acceptability. Locally, our records committee chooses to ignore rarities for which written documentation is not received.]

Ring-necked Pheasants continued to be reported only sporadically while turkeys continued their increase. Water levels in the marshes were high, and this may have contributed to a reduced number of reports of

marsh species, particularly Common Moorhen. Sandhill Crane reports were typical with the usual dozen or so noted. Shorebird totals were very poor in spite of the presence of decent habitat. The species count was good but the numbers of individuals were low. Peeps, Dunlin and Short-billed Dowitcher were of serious concern due to their low totals. There were no phalarope reports.

The gull and tern picture was somewhat better, with Franklin's, Little, Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed, all relative rarities in spring, sighted. Both Iceland and Glaucous gulls were also reported during the season, a continuation of a good winter for reporting of these species. The terns were highlighted by three **Arctic Terns** reported in Greece and subsequently at Braddock Bay. There were also good numbers of Common and Forster's terns through the end of the season.

The owl picture was even better, with the presence of **Great Gray Owls** and **Boreal Owls**. Both were reported at the Braddock Bay Raptor Research owl banding station, the Great Gray on 2 April and Boreal found dead on 3 March. Another Boreal Owl was netted and banded on 9 April, and heard calling on 20 April. Great Gray was also sighted in Rush (photographed) on 28 March and again on 12-13 April and in the Hamlin Beach State Park area. Determining the number of Great Gray Owls is difficult, but there may have been as many as seven or eight birds. Area observers feel that these birds were attempting to work their way back north but were blocked by the lake. The chances are they won't survive. Common Nighthawk was good only in scattered locations along the lake. Whip-poor-will continued to be scarce.

The passerine flight, for the most part late, was characterized by generally typical numbers of flycatchers, swallows, and thrushes. Wrens were of concern, with low numbers of Carolina and even House, with Sedge Wren unreported. **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported this spring. [Ed: While one may question the sight record, given the reservations in recent publications, there is a record of a netted, measured, and banded individual from June.] The usual good flights of Blue Jay and Black-capped Chickadee were noted. Fish Crow and Common Raven were also both reported.

The expected vireo and warbler species were found but numbers again seemed not to reach historical levels for many species. White-eyed Vireo and Yellow-throated Warbler were two highlights. The usually uncommon Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Connecticut warblers were also sighted. There was a slight increase in the number of Yellow-breasted Chat reports.

Scarlet Tanagers continued to be in short supply. The same old story continues for sparrows, with mediocre counts for the grassland species. In addition, Vesper Sparrow was very late. Other species seemed to be about typical to just below average. Two Dickcissel reports were a highlight. Eastern Meadowlark continues to be of concern. Other icterid numbers were rather typical, with the usual counts for Rusty Blackbird and two reports of Brewer's Blackbird. Orchard Oriole seemed more widespread than usual, and Baltimore Oriole was quite good.

Finches were interesting, with some of the winter finches hanging on into the season including Red Crossbill into March, Hoary Redpoll into April, and Common Redpoll into May.

Contributors: Peg Beckman, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Pat DeFabio, Bill Dingerson, Chita Easton, Kurt & Jeanine Fox, Roy Grau, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Tom Hampson, Gary Hopkins, Greg Jones, Jim Kimball, Allan & Sandy Klonick, Mike Lanzone, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Bob Marcotte, Robert McKinney, Richard O'Hara, Robert Oswald, Tom Painting, Bill & Betty Powell, Pat Seager, Dominic & Monica Sherony, Bob & Ruth Shone, Sharon Skelly, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Kristin & Cathy Spahn, Paul & David Spindler, William Symonds, Don & Donna Traver, Barb Tydings, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum.

Abbreviations: B - Bergen, BB - Braddock Bay, CB - Chimney Bluffs, CH - Charlotte, CL - Conesus Lake, DE - Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, IC - Island Cottage Woods, M - Manitou, SB - Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** last one CL 5 Apr. **Com. Loon:** max 1260 HB 25 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr one CL,WL 22 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** last one CL 24 May. **Red-necked Grebe:** max 2754 HB 4 Apr (WS),twice the previous high; last one HB 2 May, late. **EARED GREBE:** one IB 26 Apr (RS,SS,KS). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** three BB 26 Apr (WS,CC). **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 100 BB 25 Mar. **Least Bittern:** arr one BB 25 May. **Great Egret:** max 6 G 24 Apr. **Snowy Egret:** one G 28-30 Apr, 2-5 May (CC,mob). **Cattle Egret:** one Parma 21 May. **Tundra Swan:** max 225 Byron 27 Mar. **TRUMPETER SWAN:** pr with nest and four cygnets WAYN thru. **Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland Race):** one H 28-31 Mar (BM,DS); two H 2-12 Apr (BM,RO); one Parma 22-

23 Apr (CC,PS), continues to be rare but regular. **Snow Goose**: max 265 H 19 Mar; last Kendall 12 Apr. **Brant**: arr one CH 31 May, late. **Eurasian Wigeon**: one-two Carlton 3-12 Apr (BM); one H 18-25 Apr (KG). **TUFTED DUCK**: one CH 2 Mar (KG); one Russell Station 4 Mar (BM); one BB 29 Mar (RMC). **Harlequin Duck**: two SB 18 May (MT,DS), very late. **Black Scoter**: 40 HB 3 May (WS), unusual. **Surf Scoter**; two HB 2 May, uncommon in spring.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Braddock Bay Hawkwatch summary table, with record highs and dates in bold italics (Details to be published in a summary report by Braddock Bay Raptor Research and in *Hawk Migration Studies*, February, 1997):

Species	Total	Peak Flight-Date	Range of Occurrence
Turkey Vulture	12,001	1092 - 19 Apr	24 Feb - 10 Jun
Osprey	364	56 - 19 May	7 Apr - 6 Jun
Mississippi Kite	3	1 - 19,20 May, 1 -	3 Jun
Bald Eagle	289	36 - 2 Jun	24 Feb - 10 Jun
Northern Harrier	3179	440 - 16 Apr	15 Feb - 10 Jun
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19,420	5103 - 26 Apr	26 Feb - 5 Jun
Cooper's Hawk	1406	283 - 19 Apr	26 Feb - 10 Jun
Northern Goshawk	117	16 - 14 Mar	24 Feb - 10 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	971	229 - 25 Mar	1 Mar - 2 Jun
Broad-winged Hawk	93,778	25,929 - 26 Apr	4 Apr - 10 Jun
Swainson's Hawk	13	3 - 26 Apr	18 Mar - 6 Jun
Red-tailed Hawk	9,477	1063 - 19 Apr	15 Feb - 10 Jun
Rough-legged Hawk	1815	189 - 14 Mar	11 Feb - 22 May
Golden Eagle	53	170 - 19 Apr	1 Mar - 5 Jun
Merlin	115	32 - 10 May	25 Mar - 31 May
Peregrine Falcon	36	8 - 19 May	1 Apr - 6 Jun

Bald Eagle: 14 BB 16 Apr; 15 BB 19 Apr; 28 BB 14 May; all surpassing previous record daily high. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr two BB 1 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr two G 14 Apr; one BB 14 Apr (BBRR) and one M 19 May (SS), dark morph. **SWAINSON'S HAWK**: one dark morph BB 31 Mar (BBRR); three BB 26 Apr (WS,CC,mob),imm; one BB 27 Apr (BBRR,RS), light morph adult. **Rough-legged Hawk**: 133 BB 25 Mar; 120 BB 16 Apr; 171 BB 19 Apr, all surpassing previous record daily high.

Merlin: arr one W 7 Mar. **Wild Turkey:** max 60 Dansville 6 Mar. **Sandhill Crane:** max three H 8 Apr (JC,BM), reported on five separate days in May. **WILLET:** one DE 16 May (SSk,mob). **Upland Sandpiper:** arr one HB 25 Apr. **Ruddy Turnstone:** arr one IB 9 May. **Red Knot:** arr one H 26 May. **Western Sandpiper:** one K 19 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 50 WL 11 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr one K 18 May. **Dunlin:** arr one H 25 Apr, early. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr two K 18 May. **LAUGHING GULL:** one BB 29 May (BT), adult. **FRANKLIN'S GULL:** one HB 21 Apr (WS). **Little Gull:** arr one HB 24 Mar (WS), adult; last one CH 5 May. **BLACK-HEADED GULL:** one HB 21 Apr (WS). **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 1000+ G 28 Apr. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:** one IB 7 Mar (D&DT); one HB 13 Mar (WS); one Parma 25 Apr (CC,PS), rare but regular. **Caspian Tern:** max 60 W 6 May. **Forster's Tern:** arr two HB 21 Apr. **ARCTIC TERN:** three G,BB 16 Apr (KG, mob), first observed flying along the lake shore, spent some time at BB.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr one Avon 25 May. **Short-eared Owl:** max 16 Retsoff & Avon 11 Mar; last one CB 18 May, late. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** arr two M 25 Mar. **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one Rush 28-29 Mar; 12-13 Apr (fide T&PS), photo; one M 2 Apr (BBRR); one HB 13-14,16 Apr (park personnel, fide WS), photo; one Kendall 27 Apr (MD,WS). **BOREAL OWL:** one M 3 Mar (BBRR), dead and partially eaten; one M 9 Apr (BBRR), banded; one M 20 Apr (BBRR), calling. **Com. Nighthawk:** max 40 G 21 May. **Whip-poor-will:** one M 14 May; one W 20-21 May, continued poor.

FLYCATCHER-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr one M 21 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr one CB 18 May. **Blue Jay:** max 2000+ WL 18 May. **FISH CROW:** one CB 18 May (MT, DS), only report. **Com. Raven:** one W 18 Mar (JC); two W 1 May (D&DT); one BB 17 May (ML); one M 20 May (EB). **Marsh Wren:** arr one IC 9 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 36 10 May, banded; last one IC 24 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr one M,W 10 May. **BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** one IC 22 May (RS). **Am. Pipit:** arr six BB 25 Mar; max 30+ WL 18 May. **N. Shrike:** last one BB 21 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** one M 16 May (RMc); one M 23 May (EB), both banded. **Warbling Vireo:** max 60 sev 25 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr one CH,W 18 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 40+ sev 25 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr one DE 4 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr one M,CH 9 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** one W 12 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: one W 10 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** ten records from several locations. **Yellow Warbler:** max 200+ sev 25 May (KG,RS). **Cape May Warbler:** last one G 27 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 24 W 10 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 500+ CB 18 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one W 5 May (D&DT). **Prairie Warbler :** arr one IC 10 May. **Palm Warbler:** max 23 M 10 May, banded. **American Redstart:** max 60+ sev 25 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr one DE 28 Apr; one Honeoye Lake 5 May, unusual location. **Worm-eating Warbler:** arr one DE 2 May; two W 5 May; one DE 21 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr one M 21 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler:** one W 20 May (SSp), uncommon. **Connecticut Warbler:** arr one Rochester 15 May (RS); one IC 22 May (CC); one CH 24 May (AW), uncommon. **Common Yellowthroat:** max 27 M 15 May, banded. **Hooded Warbler:** arr one DE 4 May. **Canada Warbler:** max 20 IC 23 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one M 16 May (EB), banded; one G 18 May (ROs), banded; one M 19 May (SS), banded; one M 21 May (RMc), banded; good total this year.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** max 20 sev 25 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 30 WL 18 May. **DICKCISSEL:** one Geneseo 1-2 May (JK); one A 24-31 May (KF). **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last one 10 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** max eight Nunda 27 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr one G 26 Apr. **Fox Sparrow:** arr one G 31 Mar, last one G 5 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 18 IC 18 May. **White-throated Sparrow:** max 75 10 May, poor total. **White-crowned Sparrow:** last one-two M, Retsoff 28 May, late. **Snow Bunting:** last three WL 4 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr one Penfield 6 Mar, last two IC 18 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** one M 14 Mar (RO); one Kendall 15 Apr (DonnaT), only reports. **Orchard Oriole:** one DE 6 May; one BB 16 May; one PB 16-31 May; two Retsoff 28 May, good year. **Baltimore Oriole:** max 30 CB 18 May. **Purple Finch:** arr one W 13 Apr. **Red Crossbill:** three HB 24 Mar (WS), only report. **Com. Redpoll:** last two G 11 May, late. **Hoary Redpoll:** one G 1,5 Mar (KG,CD-G); one W 21,23-24 Mar, 1-10 Apr (D&DT), winter holdovers. **Pine Siskin:** last two G 24 May, late. **Evening Grosbeak:** last one-three CH,G 21 May.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

Steve Kelling

732 Old 76 Rd, Berkshire NY 13736

Many wondered if there was a Spring in 1996. While maple syrup producers reveled in their extended season, 3 inches of snow on Mother's Day made the rest of us realize that the season was a long, snowy haul. Winter weather's frigid grip continued through March in the Finger Lakes Region. Average temperatures were 4 degrees below and monthly snowfall was 5 -10 inches above normal, with several significant fronts passing on the 5th, 19th-20th, and the 25th. April 1996 was one of the wettest Aprils ever. The average monthly precipitation was exceeded by 3 inches. Furthermore, temperatures continued their below normal trend. An Easter nor'easter and another significant storm on the 9th and 10th blanketed the area with snow, while flooding and high winds were the main themes throughout the rest of the month. In May temperatures continued below normal and precipitation above normal, but there was a brief glimpse of the warm weather to come from the 19th-21st. This trend continued through the end of the month. Heavy rains brought flooding to areas in the Region on the 9-11th, but the May 12 snowfall of 4 inches was the last straw for many. Fortunately, IT WAS the last snow of a long snow season which began on November 11.

Several patterns of winter bird movements through the Region are becoming evident. This winter brought the biennial influx of winter finches into and through the Region. Specifically, Common Redpoll numbers were only slightly less than those tallied during the invasion year of 1994. Also, substantial numbers of Evening Grosbeak were observed all winter. There were no reports of either species last winter and spring. Interestingly, the last observation dates were similar between 1994 and 1996, with Common Redpoll being April 20 and Evening Grosbeak May 20. There is also some evidence that Red-necked Grebe may be following this same biennial pattern. Although numbers of Red-necked Grebe were not as high as 1994, they were significantly higher than last year.

For the second consecutive year the Mount Pleasant Hawkwatch recorded a substantial flight of Golden Eagles during the second week in March. Also, significant numbers of waterfowl returned to the Region at this time. Large concentrations of diving ducks, specifically Redhead, Canvasback, and both species of scaup, gathered from mid-March until

the end of March on the north end of Cayuga Lake. One observer estimated up to 50,000 diving ducks had congregated on the north end of the lake by the last week in March.

The cold and wet April slowed the annual migration of passerines into the Region. While individual species were recorded at or near their normal arrival dates, numbers were down. It was not until the second week in May that substantial numbers of migrants were recorded. Beginning on May 10, large numbers of passerines were tallied throughout the Region, with numbers of migrants remaining high through the end of the month.

There were numerous rarities observed in the Region. Credit must be given to the observers of these, with almost all rarities being independently confirmed and NYSARC reports written. It is outstanding that individuals make such an effort to inform others for confirmation. It makes the job of this editor much easier. These Regional rarities include: Eared Grebe (biennial), Eurasian Wigeon (annual in Spring), Marbled Godwit (one every 10 years), Laughing Gull (biennial), Little Gull (annual), Bohemian Waxwing (biennial), White-eyed Vireo (one every 5 years), Yellow-throated Warbler (biennial), Yellow-breasted Chat (biennial), Henslow's Sparrow (yearly), Yellow-headed Blackbird (annual) and Hoary Redpoll (every 10 years).

Abbreviations: AB - Aurora and Aurora Bay Cayuga Lake Cayuga Co., BD - Brooktondale Tompkins Co., BH - Bowman Hill, Horseheads Chemung Co., CL - Cayuga Lake, CSP - Cayuga Lake State Park Seneca Co., CV - Chemung Valley, DL - Dryden and Dryden Lake Tompkins Co., EL - Elmira, ENP - Etna Nature Preserve Tompkins Co., GE - Geneva, HH - Horseheads Chemung Co., ICC - Ithaca City Cemetery, IT - Ithaca, KP - Kashong Point Seneca Lake, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MWG - Mundy Wildflower Garden, Cornell Plantations, Mt. P - Mount Pleasant, Tompkins Co., MP - Myer's Point Lansing Tompkins Co., NC - Newtown Creek Chemung Co, SP - Stewart Park and Newman Golf Course Ithaca, SW - Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, TCA - Tompkins Co. Airport, Lansing, TH - Texas Hollow Schuyler Co, QCM - Queen Catharine Marsh, Schuyler Co, WG - Watkins Glen.

Contributors: John Bower, Gladys Birdsall, Jack Brubaker, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Herb and Chris Cooley, John Confer, Dennis Crouse, Karl David, Stephen Davies, Bill Evans, Eaton Birding Society, Annette Finney, John Fitzpatrick, John Greenley, Chis Hymes, Steve Kelling, George Kloppel, Heather and Scott Mardis, Curtis Marantz, David McDermitt, Kevin McGowan, Tom Nix, Ralph Paonessa, Sandy

Podulka, Ken Rosenberg, Mike Runge, Dave Russel, Marty Schlabach, Sharon Skelly, Robert Snyder, Laura Stenzler, David Suggs, Meena Haribal, Allison and Jeff Wells.

LOONS-WATERFOWL: **Com. Loon:** max 50 MP 13 Apr; 2 KP 31 May. **Horned Grebe:** max 23 MNWR 13 Apr; last SP 26 Apr. **Eared Grebe:** WG 26 Apr (JB). **Red-necked Grebe:** max 24 MP 10 Mar; 5 WG 13 Mar; last DL 24 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** 21 WG 14 Apr; 16 SP 29 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** arr Southport CHEM 21 Apr; one MNWR 27 Apr; 1 QCM 27 Apr. **Least Bittern:** one SW 14 May; one QCM 19 May. **Great Egret:** one SP 20 May. **Green Heron:** arr. DL 20 Apr; scattered over Region after. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one QCM 13 Apr; one GE 4 May; one imm. SP 26 May; one Freeville 27 May. **Tundra Swan:** 15 SP 10 Mar; 25 EL 14 Mar. **Snow Goose:** max 5000 (3500 blue morph) MNWR 24 Mar. **Brant:** arr AB 23 May; max 25 MP 24 May. **Canada Goose:** 15,000 Mt.P 14 Mar; 4800 EL 14 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 55 QCM 29 Mar. **Green-winged Teal:** one SW 15 Mar; max 30 CSP 17 Mar; last SP 8 Apr. **N. Pintail:** max 50 CSP 2 Mar; last DL 4 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal:** arr CL 23 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** last MNWR 18 May. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one (drake) CSP 5-12 Apr (SK, m.ob). **Am. Wigeon:** 100 CL 31 Mar; last MNWR 18 May. **Canvasback:** last CL 31 Mar. **Redhead:** last MNWR 18 May. **Ring-necked Duck:** last SP 29 Apr. **Greater Scaup:** last CL 31 Mar. **Lesser Scaup:** last MNWR 18 May. **Oldsquaw:** arr AB 11 Mar; max 54 DL 14 Apr; last AB 18 May. **Surf Scoter:** one CL 23 Mar; seven WG 30 Apr; last DL 4 May. **B:** arr DL 7 Apr; last DL 12 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** 200 CL 31 Mar. **Bufflehead:** last Eldridge Lake, CV 14 Apr. **Hooded Merganser:** thru; with young SP 29 May. **Com. Merganser:** thru; with young 17 May MP and Lodi. **Red-breasted Merganser:** thru. **Ruddy Duck:** arr MNWR 31 Mar; max 35 SP 14 Apr; last MNWR 18 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture:** max 30 MP 14 Apr. **Osprey:** arr MNWR 5 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** one WG 22 Mar; one WG 14 Apr; one Mt. P 15 Apr; one EL 21 Apr; one DL 25 Apr; one EL 2 May; one DL 12 May; two nesting pairs MNWR. **N. Harrier:** one SW 5 Apr; three QCM 13 Apr; two Mt. P 15 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max nine Mt. P 15 Apr. **Cooper's Hawk:** max five Mt. P 15 Apr. **N. Goshawk:** one Ludlowville 9 Apr; one Mt. P 15 Apr; one Enfield 26 Apr. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** one EL 12 Mar; three Mt. P 14 Mar; one Enfield 20 Mar; one Hammond Hill 24 Mar; one Yellow Barn State Forest 30 Mar; one NC 18 May. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Mt. P 15 Apr; max 21 Mt. P 21 Apr; 12 EL 22 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:**

one (rufous morph) Reynolds Game Farm Dryden, 10 Mar (see winter report); one (all white) Danby 28 Mar- 17 May; max 42 Mt. P 15 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: last Mt. P 21 Apr. **Golden Eagle**: max 11 Mt. P 14 Mar; scattered Mt. P until 21 Apr; one EL 22 April. **Merlin**: one Mt. P 14 Mar; one EL 14 Mar; one downtown IT 20-29 Mar; one EL 20 Apr; one EL 24 Apr; last Hammond Hill TOMP 5 May. **Wild Turkey**: max 70 BD 6 March. **Virginia Rail**: arr DL 21 Apr; one QCM 19 May. **Sora**: arr 29 Apr Lansing; one QCM 19 May. **Com. Moorhen**: arr MNWR 18 Apr. **Am. Coot**: last DL 17 Apr. **Black-bellied Plover**: arr 18 May Savannah Mucklands SENE **Semipalmated Plover**: arr ten MP 10 May; max four MP 24 May. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr DL 26 Mar. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr BD 27 Apr. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr SW 22 Apr. **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr SP 24 Apr; max 11 MP 9 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: three HH 10 May; one TCA 18 May. **Whimbrel**: one Long Point State Park 22 May (KR). **MAR-BLED GODWIT**: one SP 17-20 May (KM, m.ob., NYSARC). **Ruddy Turnstone**: one MP 10 May; max six MP 28 May. **Sanderling**: arr TCA 18 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: arr MP 25 May; max seven AB 27 May. **Least Sandpiper**: arr MP 5 May. **Dunlin**: arr MP 10 May; eight MNWR 18 May; 150 GE 24 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 MNWR 30 May; four (griseus) MP 31 May. **Com. Snipe**: arr SW 31 Mar. **Am. Woodcock**: arr. 16 Mar IT. **Laughing Gull**: one (adult) MP 10-11 May (A. Wells, m.ob., NYSARC). **Little Gull**: one Long Point State Park 24 Apr; one Varick SENE 24-27 Apr; one MP 9 May. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr MP 13 Apr; max 1200 Varick SENE 26 Apr; last MP 30 May. **Herring Gull**: max 300 SP 20 Mar. **Iceland Gull**: one MNWR 24 Mar; one King Ferry 31 Mar. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one (adult) CSP 17 Mar; one MNWR 23 Mar; two (adults) CSP 5 Apr; last MP 13 May. **Glaucous Gull**: one (adult) IT 10 Mar. **Caspian Tern**: arr MP 13 Apr; last MP 24 May. **Com. Tern**: arr MNWR 3 May; max 75 AB 11 May. **Forster's Tern**: two DL 14 Apr; four SP 30 Apr; last AB 11 May. **Black Tern**: arr Canoga 20 Apr; four MNWR 18 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: arr AB 18 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr W. Danby 24 May. **Long-eared Owl**: one HH CHEM 14 Mar. **Short-eared Owl**: seven Seneca Falls Airport 13 Mar; five King Ferry CAYU 14Mar; last Canoga 30 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one IT 12 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk**: arr SW 14 May; two EL 23 May; max five SP 25 May. **Whip-poor-will**: one Caroline 31 May. **Chimney Swift**: arr EL 20 Apr; arr IT 2 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: arr IT 8 May. **Belted Kingfisher**: arr DL 17 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr Ringwood Nature Preserve TOMP 15 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr DL 19 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** arr BD 1 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one MWG 15 May; one GE 18 May; last SW 24 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** arr Etna 19 May; max six Connecticut Hill TOMP 23 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** arr TCA 19 May. **Least Flycatcher:** arr IT 30 Apr; max 20 NC 18 May. **E. Phoebe:** arr DL 26 Mar. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Lansing 1 May. **E. Kingbird:** arr DL 21 Apr; max 30 Mark Twain State Park CHEM 11 May. **Horned Lark:** 400 King Ferry 5 Mar; nine Savannah Mucklands SENE 30 May max 200 MP 14 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr MP 14 Apr. **Cliff Swallow:** arr Canoga 20 Apr; arr EL 11 May. **Barn Swallow:** arr BD 12 Apr. **Fish Crow:** entire period IT; two EL 29 Mar - 14 May (DR). **Com. Raven:** 1 Buttermilk Falls State Park TOMP 2 Mar; one Mt. P 24 Mar; one Caroline 6 Apr; one EL 19-27 Apr; one Gleason Meadows CHEM 5 May; one EL 10 May. **Carolina Wren:** one Buttermilk Falls State Park TOMP 25 Mar; two NC 3 Apr; one SW 26 Apr; one HH 11 May, low numbers. **House Wren:** one Ellis Hollow 31 Mar, early but good description; one Ludlowville 20 Apr. **Winter Wren:** one Mundy Wildflower Garden 2 Mar; one Enfield 26 Apr; one Caroline 20 May; one Buttermilk Falls State Park 30 May; one EL 4 May. **Marsh Wren:** arr MNWR 3 May. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Hammond Hill 6 Apr; peak reports 29 Apr; last Etna 8 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr SP 20 Apr. **Veery:** arr Cornell U 2 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr SW 27 May. **Swainson's Thrush:** arr ICC 10 May; peak reports 15-18 May; last SW 27 May. **Hermit Thrush:** one Enfield 1 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** arr DL 29 Apr. **Gray Catbird:** arr IT 29 Apr. **Brown Thrasher:** arr Cayuga Heights 19 Apr; five Newfield TOMP 2 May; two Gleason Meadows CV 5 May; one TH 11 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr Mt. P 17 Mar; max 100 Enfield TOMP 20 Mar; last Mt. P 19 May. **Bohemian Waxwing:** one Phelps 19 May (HC), fair details. **N. Shrike:** last Caroline 10 Apr. **European Starling:** 1,000,000 Tyre 24 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** one BD 15 May (SP, NYSARC). **Solitary Vireo:** arr Krum's Corners 19 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr SP 30 Apr. **Warbling Vireo:** arr DL 3 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr SW 15 May; last Etna 21 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** arr ICC 10 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr ICC 30 Apr. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr ICC 8 May; one MWG 10- 13 May; one DL 14 May. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** one GE 20 May; one Ludlowville 30 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr SW 11 May; max five BH 11 May; last SW 24 May, few reports. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** two CV 11 May. **Nashville Warbler:** arr ICC 30 Apr; max 20 BH 20 May. **N. Parula:** arr IT 30 Apr; one TH 11 May; last ENP 22 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr IT 26 Apr. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr IT 30 Apr; ten SW 11 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** arr ICC 2 May. **Cape May Warbler:** arr ICC 4 May; last MWF 15 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr DL 26 Apr; three TH 11 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr AB 24 Apr; max ten ICC 3 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr SW 22 Apr; max eight SW 11 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** arr DL 26 Apr; three TH 11 May; max six BH 11 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one NC 18 May (DR, NYSARC); one Thomas Rd. Caroline 22 May (JB, NYSARC). **Pine Warbler:** arr IT 11 Apr. **Prairie Warbler:** one QCM 27 Apr; one ICC 30 Apr; three Montour Falls SCHU 27 May. **Palm Warbler:** arr SW 26 Apr; last Cornell U. 15 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SW 11 May; last AB 31 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:** arr ENP TOMP 18 May; max eight SP 24 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Ludlowville TOMP 11 May; one EL 17 May; four Ludlowville 18 May; four MNWR 18 May; one Montour Falls SCHU 19 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Dryden 26 Apr. **Am. Redstart:** arr SW 30 Apr. **Prothonotary Warbler:** one QCM 23-28 May (DC); one SP 26-31 May (J&A W). **Worm-eating Warbler:** one IT 12 May; one SW 14 May; one West Danby 30 May. **Ovenbird:** arr IT 26 Apr. **Northern Waterthrush:** arr BD 23 Apr. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Enfield 26 Apr. **Mourning Warbler:** arr MWG 19 May. **Com. Yellowthroat:** arr IT 26 Apr. **Hooded Warbler:** arr MNWR 18 May; scattered through Region. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Varna 14 May; last MNWR 25 May. **Canada Warbler:** arr ICC 7 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one Lansing 1 May; one ENP 20 May; one Dryden 20 May; one Howland's Island 19 May; one Seneca Army Depot 29 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** arr ICC 10 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Danby 28 Apr; 20 SW 11 May. **Indigo Bunting:** arr BD 1 May. **E. Towhee:** arr IT 5 Apr. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 22 SW 9 Mar; last SW 25 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** arr Danby 23 Apr. **Field Sparrow:** arr IT 2 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow:** arr IT 10 Apr; max four TCA 13 Apr; 12 Big Flats CHEM 14 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 20 TCA 12 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr AB 6 May; max eight Southport CHEM 11 May. **Henslow's Sparrow:** four Caswell Rd Lansing 19 May; max six Southport CHEM 11 May. **Fox Sparrow:** arr IT 26 March; max six Caroline Tompkins Co. 16 Apr; last Lansing TOMP 22 Apr. **Song Sparrow:** max 40 DL 36 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr EL 4 May; one SW 11 May; last MWG 18 May. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr MNWR 30 Mar; max six Alan Treman Marina IT 29 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr Danby 21 Apr; max 20 SW 11 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Trumansburg

TOMP 25 Mar; max 12 and last SW 11 May. **Lapland Longspur**: max five Kings Ferry 5 Mar; last KF 24 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 200 Kings Ferry 5 Mar; last KF 9 March. **Bobolink**: arr Interlaken 1 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: 1,000,000 Tyre SENE 24 Mar (SS). **E. Meadowlark**: arr Mt. P 10 Mar. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: one Tyre SENE 24 Mar (SS). **Rusty Blackbird**: arr MNWR 17 Mar; max 15 SW 23 Apr; last IT 12 May. **Com. Grackle**: 250,000 Tyre Seneca Co 24 Mar (SS). **Brown-headed Cowbird**: 45,000 Tyre SENE 24 Mar (SS). **Orchard Oriole**: one EL 8 May; one ICC 9 May; two AB 25 May; two Ludlowville TOMP 27 May. **Baltimore Oriole**: arr Caroline TOMP 22 Apr. **Purple Finch**: max ten DL. **Red Crossbill**: 15 Dodge Rd Dryden 21 Mar; seven Summerhill Cayuga Co. 20 Apr. **Common Redpoll**: max 200 Mt. P 1 Mar; last Ellis Hollow TOMP 21 Apr. **Hoary Redpoll**: one Ellis Hollow 17-20 Mar (JF, JC, NYSARC). **Pine Siskin**: arr SW 21 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 80 Ellis Hollow TOMP; last ENP 20 May. **House Sparrow**: continue to exist.
stk2@cornell.edu

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

Mary Dobinsky

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta NY 13820

Spring was one of the coldest and wettest on record, and it advanced at a snail's pace. Needless to say, migration was late and slow. But despite all the seemingly endless lousy weather, Region 4 experienced the most exciting May migration seen in many years. First though there had been winter-like March, when temperatures averaged four degrees below normal. Precipitation for the month was nearly an inch below normal but included a major snowstorm on 7 and 8 March. Rivers were mostly open, but lakes and ponds remained frozen most of the month, especially in northern sectors. April was soggy. An Easter snowstorm dumped 5.8 inches of snow at Binghamton Airport. Then a three-day period of rain and snow showers marked 15-17 April. Heavy rains also dominated 29-30 April. Creeks were flowing like rivers, and the ground was so saturated that woods looked like swamps. Fortunately, there was little severe flooding. April's average mean temperature was three degrees below normal. May's precipitation was only slightly over average but the cold persisted. The average mean temperature for the month was 52.6°F, three degrees below normal.

Such a cold, wet spring didn't portend a good migration season, but waterfowl liked it fine. Common Loon and grebes were well represented. Least Bittern, rare here, was seen. Twenty-one species of ducks, only one less than the record, were reported at BROO and TIOG sites after 5 March. Waterfowl fallouts of 13 and 14 species were reported at Whitney Point Reservoir by Gail Kirch and Bruce Bozdos 8 April and by Eric Sullivan 13 April, with such record numbers as 70 Lesser Scaup. Boland Pond was a productive site 10 April for the Weed Walkers. Spring hawk reports pale in comparison with Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch's Fall numbers. However, a Gyrfalcon was seen hunting over a Goodyear Lake field 4 March by Bob Miller. Bald Eagle reports in April and May suggest range expansion. Courtship displays by Northern Harrier and Red-shouldered Hawk gave promise of nesters, but American Kestrel was the only "Confirmed" breeder. Highlighting shorebird activity were two Black-bellied Plovers, first since 1981. They boosted the shorebird species total to an excellent 10. More woodcock than usual were seen. Joe Sedlacek disturbed one at Marathon 1 May and shot a nice photograph of her nest with four eggs. Sightings of both Common Tern and Black Tern for the second successive year were good finds, as were Northern Saw-whet Owl, Whip-poor-will and a good increase in numbers of Chimney Swift. Record early arrivals of Eastern Wood-Pewee and Willow Flycatcher were the exceptions; most passerines were five to ten days late and only a few birds of a species straggled in. Observers began to mention the "Silent Spring".

Then on 11 May, as if they had been backed up behind a dam that suddenly gave way, the birds started flying in, especially in CHEN and OTSE. It was the day of the North American Migration Count so many birders were in the field despite the rainy day. Elva Hawken at Long Pond and Chris Vredenburg at Gilbert Lake State Park were best situated and had the best individual reports. Elva was most excited at finding "Blue-winged, "Lawrence's" and "Brewster's" warblers all together!" But 34 Black-throated Green Warblers was remarkable. Chris, with 14 warbler species including 160 Yellow-rumped Warblers, concluded, "And now I've finally seen a warbler fallout." Nor was it just a one-day stand. The show continued most of the week as birds took over suburbia. This was despite unseasonably cold weather with frost, even snow, 12-15 May. "Many birds were in my yard which, in 24 years, I had never seen here," said Don Windsor in Norwich. "Flycatchers and warblers were on the ground poking in the leaf litter like sparrows, looking for insects," he added. Bob and Jean Miller marvelled at Blue-winged Warbler, Northern

Parula, and Cerulean Warbler in their yard. Most abundant were Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and White-crowned Sparrow. Fallouts were still common for Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society's May Big Day Count 18 May. One fine week does not a recovery make, and bird populations are still a big problem, but Region 4 can avoid gloomy comparisons for many species this spring. Grassland species are still down. Brown Thrasher and Eastern Towhee were scarce. Grasshopper Sparrow was missing. Wet weather delayed farmers' first hay cutting which probably spared some Bobolink and E. Meadowlark nests. The late migration worked both ways delaying northward movement for some winter birds, such as Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting, all here to late March. Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were well reported to mid May.

Rarities were Least Bittern, Gyrfalcon, Black-bellied Plover, Bohemian Waxwing, Connecticut Warbler, Orchard Oriole, and Bullock's Oriole, plus such uncommon species as White-winged Scoter, Common Tern, Black Tern, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo. The Region set a new record spring total of 206 species plus three hybrids to beat the old record of 204 set last year and the year before. Missed species included: Redhead, Black Scoter, Common Moorhen, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Hooded Warbler.

Contributors: Elliott Adams, Cutler and Jeannette Baldwin, Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Peg Burnett, Broome County Naturalists Club, Eleanor Carson, Mary Ann and Marty Cuff, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society May Big Day Count, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, Dolores Elliott, Elva Hawken, Jim Hoteling, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Andy Leahy, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Michelle and William McNiven, George and Evelyn Mead, Bob and Jean Miller, North American Migration Count, Robert and Rita Pantle, Marie Petuh, Halladay Pierce, Phyllis and Robert Phillips, Tom Salo, Joe Sedlacek, Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan, Tioga Bird Club, Bill Toner, Jan Trzeciak, Chris Vredenburg, Weed Walkers, Nancy and Donald Weissflog, Don Windsor, Paul Worden, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: B Pd - Boland Pond, BROO. BL - Bowman Lake CHEN; ChFk - Chenango Forks, BROO; CrL or Mt - Crumhorn Lake, OTSE; GyL - Goodyear Lake, OTSE; JCy - Johnson City, BROO; LPd - Long Pond, CHEN; ML - Mirror Lake, Owego; MPd - Mead Pond CHEN; NAMC - North American Migration Count; OnRes - Oneonta Reservoir; PW - Paukett Wetland, CHEN; PLHCEC - Pine Lake Hartwick College Environmental Campus, DELA; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

LOONS - DUCKS: **Com. Loon:** arr L Pd 13 Apr; max eight BROO NAMC; last Gy L 21 May, good count. **Pied-billed Grebe:** max 11 WPR 13 Apr (ES); record numbers 19 Mar to 30 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** max five WPR 8-28 Apr (mob); two M Pd 15 Apr; one Chenango R 14 Apr, high count. **Red-necked Grebe:** max two Cr L 11 May (BM); WPR 13 Apr (ES), not reported every year. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max 50 ML 14 Apr and over Susquehanna R Endwell 5 May (MP), record numbers. **Least Bittern:** REEC during mid May (Fred von Mechow - fide DW), first in nine years. **Great Blue Heron:** arr BROO 13 Mar; 27 nests Heronry w Owego Apr; 25 WPR 13 Apr. **Great Egret:** two BPd 11 May; one WPR 12 May, often missed. **Green Heron:** arr two PLHCEC 27 Apr; max nine CHEN NAMC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** TIOG 14 Apr (C&JB), often missed. **Mute Swan:** BPd 21 Marmid Apr. **Snow Goose:** 1,000+, including 15 "Blues," over Vestal Center 24 Mar (SD); three other BROO reports; one OTSE 19-26 Mar, excellent count. **Canada Goose:** migration max 1400 CORT and 300 BROO 14 Mar; many ad with y May. **Wood Duck:** arr BROO 17 Mar; max 84 OTSE NAMC. **Green-winged Teal:** max 16+ PW 9 Apr (JH); last 11 chBr 16 Apr, high count. **Am. Black Duck:** max 40 BPd 23 Mar. **Mallard:** only two reports of ad with Y. **N. Pintail:** max 14 UL 17 Mar; last 24 Mar, good count, early departure. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 14 ML 20 Apr (MP). **N. Shoveler:** arr Endwell 14 Mar; pair BPd 27 Mar-16 Apr, always scarce. **Gadwall:** max seven BPd 5-10 Apr, better than average. **Am. Wigeon:** max 30 LPd 13 Apr; 13 reports to 20 Apr, excellent count. **Canvasback:** arr BPd 17 Mar; WPR 8 Apr; Loral Pd Owego Apr, good count. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 120 LPd 6 Apr; high counts BPd and ML Apr; last four OTSE 5 May, best in many years. **Greater Scaup:** arr Chenango R 1 Apr; BPd 8 Apr; max three OTSE NAMC, good count. **Lesser Scaup:** record max 70 WPR 3 APR; two BPd 10 Apr; five TIOG 4 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** max 22 WPR 13 Apr (ES), high. **White-winged Scoter:** from opposite shores Susquehanna R at Vestal And Endicott 27 APR (MOB), first in four years. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 17 WPR 13 Apr; four reports each March, April; last CHEN NAMC, high count, late departure. **Bufflehead:** max 13 WPR and LPd 13 Apr; last two CHEN NAMC, good counts. **Hooded Merganser:** arr Pair CORT 6 Mar; max 16 LPd 13 Apr; 14 OTSE NAMC, average. **Com. Merganser:** max 150 WPR 31 Mar (JH), high count. **Red-breasted Merganser:** arr WPR 24 Mar; max eight there 13 Apr; three others, good count. **Ruddy Duck:** Brick Pd Owego 14 Apr, only report, only third spring since 1982.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 22 reports, average. **Cooper's**

Hawk: ten reports Mar; still taking prey at feeders Apr. **N. Goshawk:** three widespread reports May, average. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 30 Mar BROO; "male circling and calling" On Res 1 Apr. display flight?" (CV); five widespread reports May, good count. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr two CHEN 8 Apr; four Apr and 1 May reports, scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max 14 OTSE NAMC. **Rough-legged Hawk:** last of five reports CHEN 23 Apr (EH), late departure. **Golden Eagle:** ad W Burlington 25 Mar "shallow dive into evergreen trees, came up empty" (TS). **Am. Kestrel:** nest with three eggs CORT week of 6 May (BT). **Merlin:** Pharsalia Game Lands CHEN 23 Apr (EH); Bpd "eye level across pond and through swallows" 11 May (MP,JH), often missed. **GYRFALCON:** gray morph GyL area "flying four to five feet off ground over field that had been planted to alfalfa last summer" (BM), last seen 1980. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** JCy feeder 6-9 Apr (JH); three widespread singles Mar, scarce. **Wild Turkey:** max 112 CORT 5 Mar. **Virginia Rail:** GyL Marsh 18 May, only report. **Am. Coot:** max two on eight widespread reports 14 Mar to 21 Apr. **Black-bellied Plover:** two WPR 11 May (MP,JH), first since 1981. **Semipalmated Plover:** Endwell 22 May (BG), often missed. **Killdeer:** arr six Mar; max 15 OTSE NAMC, counts down. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max 10 UL 27 Apr (AL). **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max six UL 27 Apr; four CHEN NAMC, only reports. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max 19 CHEN NAMC, otherwise scarce. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max 10 DOAS MBDC. **Least Sandpiper:** three OTSE NAMC, only report. **Com. Snipe:** five widespread singles 10 Mar to 18 May, scarce. **Am. Woodcock:** *intro*; max four W. Corners Marsh BROO 14 and 18 Mar; 18 widespread reports, excellent count. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max nine UL 28 Apr; three CHEN 21 APR and Endwell 28 Apr; one OTSE NAMC, good count. **Ring-billed Gull:** max 57 OTSE NAMC. **Great Black-backed Gull:** only one Cortland 1 Mar, rare in spring. **Com. Tern:** three circling pond Burlington Flats 10 May (N&DW); two CHEN NAMC; third spring since 1984. **Black Tern:** two WPR 11 May (MP,JH), only third report since 1986.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo;** four reports late May, average count. **E. Screech-Owl:** only one DOAS MBDC. **Great Horned Owl:** max two, five widespread reports. **Barred Owl:** max two T Preston Apr & May; one TIOG Mar, Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** only one TIOG Mar (RP), first spring in three years. **Whip-poor-will:** T Davenport DELA two successive nights mid May (JSm), last reported 1991. **Com. Nighthawk:** four singles Binghamton area, scarce. **Chimney Swift:** max 42 BROO NAMC; "Ours that nest in our (Owego) silo arr 18 May, about

10 days late" (C&JB), good numbers. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: TIOG May (PW), only report. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: singles in five counties, limited population. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 16 OTSE NAMC. **N. Flicker**: arr 5 Mar. **Pileated Woodpecker**: good numbers thru.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **E. Wood-Pewee**: record early arr 22 Apr; max five CHEN NAMC, generally scarce. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: singles Gilbert L 11 May (CV), DOAS MBDC, first since 1993. **Alder Flycatcher**: max four BROO 27 May (MP). **Willow Flycatcher**: record early arr 11 May; max five OTSE NAMC. **Least Flycatcher**: max 60 on three NAMC's. **E. Phoebe**: arr 30 Mar BROO and CORT, late. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max seven CHEN NAMC, scarce other areas until late May. **E. Kingbird**: generally scarce. **Horned Lark**: max 56 Sherburne 8 Mar (DW); 50 Stamford 15 Mar (AM); Burlington Flats 25 May, last of five other reports, good count. **Purple Martin**: three Owego 20 Apr, (MP); Murphy's Vestal 27 Apr; two Candor May, scarce. **Tree Swallow**: max 1,023 on three NAMC's. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: 163 on three NAMC's, best numbers since 1981. **Bank Swallow**: small colony nesting Owego creek bank, generally scarce. **Cliff Swallow**: colony of six nests Agway WPt 25 May, scarce. **Barn Swallow**: max 275 on three NAMC's, otherwise scarce. **Fish Crow**: singles: Binghamton 13 Apr; Franklin Mt 21 Apr; Owego May; BROO NAMC, good count. **Com. Raven**: two CHEN NAMC, only report. **Carolina Wren**: continues scarce. **Winter Wren**: max four CHEN NAMC; two CHEN NAMC, scarce. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max three CHEN NAMC. **Swainson's Thrush**: max 14 Bowman L 12 May (EH): five other reports to 25 May, record high count. **Wood Thrush**: arr 4 May, late; max 72 OTSE NAMC. **N. Mockingbird**: good distribution but only eight reports. **Bohemian Waxwing**: max 27 Cooperstown 13 Mar (JD), winter holdover; two Binghamton 31 Mar (EH), rare. **N. Shrike**: three BROO late Mar; last T Preston 23 Apr, late departure.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **Yellow-throated Vireo**: max four OTSE NAMC: three ChFk 24 May, scarce. **Philadelphia Vireo**: singles OTSE NAMC; Franklin Mt 13 May (CV); W. Burlington 21 May (TS), first since 1993. **Blue-winged Warbler**: max six BROO NAMC; four Bowman L 12 May, high counts through May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: two BROO May (JS), only report. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler**: "Brewster's": LPd 11 May; "Lawrence's" LPd 11 May. **Tennessee Warbler**: max three CHEN NAMC; Pair Franklin Mt 23 May; singles DOAS MBDC; LPd 26 May, best count in six years. **Nashville Warbler**: max four BL 12 May; 13

reports of one to three birds to 31 May, good numbers after late arr. N. **Parula**: max three BL 12 May; three OTSE sites 11, 12 May, good count. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 65 on three NAMC's. **Magnolia Warbler**: max 19 CHEN NAMC, good increases over last two years. **Cape May Warbler**: max 11 on three NAMC's; three Endwell yard 17 May (JT), last; excellent numbers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 40 on three NAMC's; two to six birds on 12 May reports, very high counts. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: record numbers through mid May; max 160 Gilbert L SP 11 May (CV). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: record max 101 on three NAMC's; 34 L Pd 11 May (EH), otherwise scarce. **Pine Warbler**: very late arr, but five reports is high. **Prairie Warbler**: max three, only BROO sites. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max six JCy 19 May; nine other birds to 28 May, best since 1980. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max five; four reports 19-25 May, good count. **Cerulean Warbler**: only one Gy L 11 May, often missed. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max six BL 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 56 on three NAMC's. **N. Waterthrush**: max eight OTSE NAMC. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**: two Franklin Mt 12 May (CV,EA), first spring in 20+ years. **Mourning Warbler**: arr and max two L Pd 11 May; only two others. **Wilson's Warbler**: max two in six reports 11-18 May. **Canada Warbler**: arr and max three WPR 12 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: DOAS MBDC, third spring since 1983.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: max 27 on three NAMC's. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: record numbers at feeder areas from 9 May; 25 in one tree Guilford CHEN 12 May (*fide* DW). **E. Towhee**: max 13 BROO 7 May, generally scarce. **Vesper Sparrow**: max three CORT 18 Apr (BT); two singles BROO; one TIOG, continues scarce. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 11 CHEN NAMC. **Fox Sparrow**: max eight, excellent counts 17 Mar-20 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: only one JCy 24 Apr (JH). **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 164 CHEN NAMC; 101 OTSE NAMC; record high numbers at feeders to 18 May. **Snow Bunting**: DELA 10 Mar, only report. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr Norwich 24 Mar; three other singles, scarce. **Orchard Oriole**: Peaks Brook area DELA 18 May (M&WMcV), first in four years. **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**: T Milford OTSE two days mid May (P&RP). **Baltimore Oriole X Bullock's Oriole**: pair Endwell yard from 19 May, well described and compared to illustrations in National Geographic Field Guide (JT). **Com. Redpoll**: max 120+ T Preston 10 Apr; last OTSE 18 May, late. **Pine Siskin**: max 15 Oneonta 13 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: max 50 Mar; last 15 May.

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Mary Alice Koeneke¹ & Bill Purcell²

1. 362 Nine Mile Point Road, Oswego NY 13126
2. 281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The spring of 1996 was notable primarily for the persistence of winter conditions well into May. Temperatures recorded at Syracuse were below normal for March, April, and May with above normal precipitation in each month. March had an average temperature of 29.8°F (4.1°F below normal) and 32.2 inches of snow for the month made it the tenth snowiest March on record. The average temperature in April was 43.2°F (2.5°F below normal) and 4.28 inches of rain for the month made it the seventh wettest April on record; 4.8 inches of snow also fell during the month. May had an average temperature of 55.0°F (2.1°F below normal). The last snowfall occurred on 12 May when 2.1 inches of snow fell pushing the seasonal snowfall record to 170.9 inches and making it the second snowiest winter ever and the second snowiest May on record.

The snowstorm on 12 May brought many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings and Baltimore Orioles into feeders throughout the Region. Dorothy Crumb reported 15 Baltimore Orioles on 12 May eating oranges, peanut butter-suet combination, and hummingbird nectar at her feeders in Jamesville. Her feeders were also visited by ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, four Indigo Buntings, Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. Many others reported a similar scenario and many birds stayed around feeders for up to 7-10 days after the snowfall. The snowstorm and subsequent cold weather on May 12 & 13 also grounded most warblers and thrushes. Large numbers of warblers (dozens to 100's) could be found over these two days within three feet of the ground, sheltering from the wind and gleaning the only insects available, those on the ground. Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes were recorded, though not in large numbers. However, there were more reports of these normally shy species and at times they were found feeding in very open areas.

The reluctance of winter to release its grip on the Region slowed northward migration and caused wintering birds to linger. Late dates were recorded for Snow Goose, Iceland Gull, Great Gray Owl, Fox Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and Common Redpoll.

Waterfowl migration through Region 5 was exceptional in the number of rarities reported. An Eared Grebe found on Oneida Lake stayed for 9

days. A Western Grebe, found by Molly Thompson at Beaver Lake Nature Center stayed for 14 days. A first Regional record, the length of its stay allowed many distant birders to enjoy the sighting! Three American White Pelicans were initially reported from Onondaga Lake and later from Oneida Lake marking the second year in a row for this species in Region 5. Greater White-fronted Goose and Eurasian Wigeon were reported singly and appear to be occurring more regularly in the Region. All three scoter species were reported during the period. A male Barrow's Goldeneye put in an appearance off Mexico Point for a lucky Birdathon team on 18 May!

Hawks and other raptors migrated over Derby Hill Bird Observatory in between interruptions of bad weather. Hawk numbers at Derby were lower than average due to a March with only 3 days of consistent, moderate south winds and bad timing in April. Large flights of raptors that developed along the Lake Ontario shoreline on 21 and 26 April were blown inland by the passage of cold fronts and resulting NW winds before they reached the eastern end of the lake. Two Swainson's Hawks provided a highlight in the seasonal totals. The two Peregrine Falcons continuing in downtown Syracuse were presented with a nest box complete with video camera by the NYSDEC. The birds declined to use the nest box and no attempt at nesting was documented. Two Great Gray Owls were reported during the period: one, seen infrequently, was hit by a car; the other - a record late bird, was present in Brewerton, Onondaga County for two days before leaving.

Shorebirds were found in most of the usual locations, though numbers seem to be low. Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone were each reported only once. A Willet was found during the North American Migration Count on 11 May and stayed through 12 May.

Although arrival dates may not support this, the bulk of passerine migration seemed to be a week to ten days behind schedule, not getting into high gear until mid-May. When the winds and weather favored migration, as they did on 11 and 18 May, birds were everywhere and birders were elated - particularly as the days coincided with the Migration Day Count (11 May) and the Onondaga Audubon Birdathon (18 May). This coincidence provided lots of coverage of popular areas at a time when many birds were present and the results are reflected in the spring species accounts. One of the best spring migration days in years occurred on 18 May. Veteran observers in the Region called it the best day in the past ten years! The annual Birdathon had an unprecedented 198 species cumulatively recorded during the 24-hr. period. Derby Hill Bird

Observatory recorded more than 100 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 4000 Blue Jays, 1000 Bobolinks, and 2000 Baltimore Orioles flying over on that single day!

The flight of 18 May was incredible and many observers remarked that it was the best in years! After strong south winds during the night and early morning thunderstorms, the sky on the morning of 18 May was filled with birds! Most birds hardly stopped to rest or feed continuing to stream over head until midday. Circumstances on 11 May were similar but of a far less magnitude though good numbers of some species were recorded - particularly Veery, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Black-and-white Warbler. On 18 May good numbers of Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler were noted.

Carolina Wren, however, continue to show the species in Region 5 has not recovered from the severe winter of a couple of years ago. Only three reports of Carolina Wren were submitted. Bohemian Waxwing and Northern Shrike were still present into April in several locations.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was the next rarity to be found at Beaver Lake. Located on 22 May, it was still present through the end of the spring reporting period. On the same day the Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered, Marge Rusk found a female **Painted Bunting** in the same vicinity while observing the Clay-colored Sparrow. The Painted Bunting was not as cooperative however, it did not stay long enough to be observed by others. Added to the Western Grebe record, it is safe to say that Beaver Lake Nature Center has the record for the most rarities in one report period!

Proving that luck has much to do with finding rarities while birding, a female tanager was found on 4 May by three observers. However, before it could be identified with certainty as a female **Western Tanager** it disappeared into a thicket and was lost to view. Despite a thorough search for several hours the bird could not be relocated. By an incredible stroke of luck it was relocated again by two of the original observers on the following morning, as it called from the roadside. It was positively identified, photographed and eventually seen by a number of observers. Additional western and southern passerine species reported around Region 5 were: **Black-billed Magpie**, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, and Orchard Oriole. The weather certainly played a tremendous role in the reporting results for Region 5 - influencing migration and challenging not only the birds but the birders.

Contributors: Sue Adair, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, David Cesari, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert Evans, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Andy Leahy, Gary Lee, Robert Long, David Nash, Matt Perry, Wayne Powell, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Jean Ryan, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerry Smith, Zach Smith, Maureen Staloff, Molly Thompson, Judy Thurber, Ken Zoller.

Abbreviations: DH - Derby Hill, EIC - Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, StM - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, UM - Utica Marsh.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** one OnonL 14 Apr, only report. Com. **Loon:** arr LOL 8 Apr; arr Moss lake Adirondacks 30 Apr. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr New Hartford 31 Mar; max six OnonL 18 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** max 17 Toad Harbor 28 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** max 21 OnonL 18 Apr; four Woodman Pond 13 Apr, where two remained through 29 Apr; last Toad Harbor 27 May. **EARED GREBE:** one Toad Harbor 28 Apr-7 May (MR). **WESTERN GREBE:** one Beaver Lake 25 Apr-9 May, first Regional record, NYSARC (MT). **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** three OnonL 29 Apr; one remained on OneiL through 18 May (AL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr LOL 4 Apr. **Am. Bittern:** max three Toad Harbor 18 May. **Least Bittern:** two New Hartford 23 May; one Dewitt Marsh 26 May, only reports. **Great Blue Heron:** max 33 DH 25 Mar. **Great Egret:** max three West Monroe 27 Apr; two on nests in Hastings Great Blue Heronry 24 May but breeding still not confirmed. **Cattle Egret:** one West Monroe 22 May, only report (DC). **Green Heron:** max six UM 8 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max five Oswego 18 May; one Fayetteville 5 May, only report away from Oswego. **Tundra Swan:** six Brewerton 11-14 Mar, only location. **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one Biddlecum 24 Mar, only report (SA). **Snow Goose:** max 800 Fish Creek, Vienna Mar 26; large numbers in ONEI & MADI; one ad and one imm Sangerfield 18 May, unusually late. **Brant:** arr 70 OneiL 18 May; max 500 OneiL and 1700 DH 23 May. **Canada Goose:** max 4500 Schroepel 23 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 100 UM 29 Mar. **Green-winged Teal:** max 60 Clay Marsh 10 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** max 99 OnonL 10 Mar. **N. Pintail:** max 280 Six Mile Creek floodlands 28 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal:** max nine UM 28 Apr. **N. Shoveler:** arr Schroepel 28 Mar; max ten UM 5 Apr; last UM 6 May. **Gadwall:** max 12 UM 29 Mar. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** one OneiL 29 Mar-7 Apr (TS). **Am. Wigeon:** arr DH 2 Mar; max 50 UM 29 Mar. **Canvasback:** arr Syracuse 17 Mar; max 22 OSWE 9 Apr. **Redhead:** max 31 OnonL & 30 LSB 2 Mar; last

17 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck**: max 213 OneiL 1 Apr; last Labrador Pond 13 May. **Greater Scaup**: max 1800 Toad Harbor 27 Apr. **Lesser Scaup**: max 260 Toad Harbor 27 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: max six OsweH 17 Mar; few spring migrants noted. **Black Scoter**: three Oswego 2 Mar, rare in spring. **Surf Scoter**: two OneiL 15-17 May, rare in spring. **White-winged Scoter**: max 62 Toad Harbor 18 May. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 450 Brewerton 13 Apr. **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE**: one male Mexico Pt. 18 May (TS, JT). **Bufflehead**: max 125 OnonL 21 Apr; last five Toad Harbor 14 May. **Hooded Merganser**: max 28 Brewerton 17 Mar. **Com. Merganser**: max 1167 OnonL 2 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 80 LOL 17 Mar. **Ruddy Duck**: max ten OnonL 30 Apr, only two other reports of five total.

HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Derby Hill hawk migration totals:

Species	Total	Peak Flight/Date	Range of Occurrence
Turkey Vulture	5,148	1002 - 15 Apr	2 Mar - 28 May
Osprey	327	33 - 19 May	6 Apr - 28 May
Bald Eagle	68	5 - 21 Apr	23 Feb - 23 May
Northern Harrier	460	65 - 15 Apr	2 Mar - 23 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,356	761 - 15 Apr	2 Mar - 23 May
Cooper's Hawk	478	110 - 15 Apr	2 Mar - 28 May
Northern Goshawk	62	9 - 25 Mar	26 Feb - 10 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	811	197 - 25 Mar	2 Mar - 7 May
Broad-winged Hawk	15,327	3,359 - 21 Apr	18 Apr - 28 May
Red-tailed Hawk	7,751	1,650 - 15 Apr	24 Feb - 28 May
Rough-legged Hawk	345	45 - 25 Mar	23 Feb - 19 May
Golden Eagle	27	9 - 19 Apr	13 Mar - 15 May
American Kestrel	474	107 - 15 Apr	14 Mar - 23 May
Merlin	47	14 - 20 Apr	14 Mar - 18 May
Peregrine Falcon	9	5 - 10 May	19 Apr - 20 May

Osprey: arr Baldwinsville 27 Mar. **Bald Eagle**: one Beaver Lake 22 Mar & 27 Apr. **N. Goshawk**: one Clay Marsh 27 Apr, only report away from DH. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: two Parish 11 May. **Broad-winged Hawk**: one New Hartford 25 Mar, second earliest Regional report (MP). **Merlin**: singles Syracuse Airport 11 Apr and New Hartford 28 Apr, only reports away from DH. **Peregrine Falcon**: pair Syracuse throughout, no nesting or attempt failed; two other singles reported away from DH. **Ruffed Grouse**: max six Happy Valley WMA 11 May; low numbers away from

Tug Hill. **Wild Turkey**: max 60 West Winfield 20 Mar; flocks of 10-30 common throughout Region first half of season. **Virginia Rail**: max 5 UM 14 Apr. **Sora**: one Sangerfield 18 May, possible new breeding site; max two at several sites. **Com. Moorhen**: max 25 UM 14 May. **Am. Coot**: two Peter Scott Swamp 28 Mar; singles OnonL 18 Apr & UM 23 May, only reports. **SANDHILL CRANE**: two DH 3 Apr & 20 May; one DH 1 May. **Black-Bellied Plover**: one Sandy Pond 26 May, only report. **Semipalmated Plover**: arr LOL 11 May. **Killdeer**: arr DH 14 Mar. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr DH 18 Mar, ties record early; max 27 Biddlecum 1 May; last Biddlecum 18 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max 28 Mexico 11 May; last two Fabius 27 May. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max 11 LOL 11 May. **WILLET**: one New Haven 11-12 May (SA). **Spotted Sandpiper**: max 37 LOL 11 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr DH 20 Apr; max five Syracuse Airport 10 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: one Delta Lake 13 May, only report. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 3 Schroepfel 8 May. **Least Sandpiper**: max 18 West Monroe 18 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: max nine Baldwinsville 6 Apr. **Dunlin**: max 55 Biddlecum 24 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max three Mexico 12 May; three Biddlecum 18 May. **Com. Snipe**: max ten south shore Oneil 1 Apr. **Am. Woodcock**: max 18 Clay Marsh 10 Apr. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 12 Otisco Lake 24 Apr; last OnonL 18 May. **Iceland Gull**: last one Oswego Harbor 16 May, late. **Caspian Tern**: one OnonL 24 & 30 Apr, only reports away from LOL. **Com. Tern**: max 50 LOL 18 May. **Black Tern**: three UM 14 May; max five Selkirk Shores SP after 8 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: few reported. **E. Screech-Owl**: max three Noyes Sanctuary 30 Mar; one Sangerfield 26 Apr. **Barred Owl**: nine reported from six locations. **GREAT GRAY OWL**: one New Hartford (MP) sporadically to 18 Mar when struck by car; one Brewerton 23-24 Apr, record late. **Long-eared Owl**: max two Noyes Sanctuary 18 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: one-two Syracuse Airport 7 Mar through 1 Apr; one EIC 20 Apr, only migrant. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one New Hartford 19-21 Apr, only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: max two DH 10 Apr. **Whip-poor-will**: single migrants Sterling and Oswego 18 May ; DH 22 May; max three Constantia breeding site 25 May. **Chimney Swift**: max 19 Skaneateles 21 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: max 110 past DH 18 May. **Belted Kingfisher**: max seven LOL 11 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: max four LOL 19 May; migrant at Pompey feeder 9-12 May. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max five EIC 13 Apr. **N. Flicker**: max 42 DH 26 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one Labrador Pond 26-27 May, only report. **E. Wood-Pewee:** max eight New Hartford 21 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max four St. Mary's 22 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Whiskey Hollow 25 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** max five Labrador pond 27 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** max eight UM 27 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max 13 LOL 11 May. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 11 Cicero 27 May. **E. Kingbird:** max 22 LOL 14 May. **Horned Lark:** max 90 New Hartford 19 Apr. **Purple Martin:** max 43 SW shore Oneil 27 May; many old sites unoccupied. **Tree Swallow:** max 1000 LOL 27 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 35 LOL 18 May. **Bank Swallow:** max 25 **Cliff Swallow:** max 20 West Monroe 11 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 200 LOL 18 May. **Blue Jay:** max 4000 DH 18 May. **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** one Tully early May; one Cazenovia 30 May (fide DC). **Fish Crow:** two-four Syracuse throughout; one LOL 16 May. **Com. Raven:** five singles past DH 16 Mar to 18 May; one Manlius 4 May. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** return migration LOL began 20 Apr; few noted in breeding areas before May. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 100 past DH afternoon of 22 Apr. **Brown Creeper:** max eight New Hartford 19 Apr. **Carolina Wren:** two Apr & May Syracuse; one DH 10 May, only reports. **House Wren:** max 12 Camillus 7 May. **Winter Wren:** arr New Hartford 4 Apr. **Marsh Wren:** max 16 Clay Marsh 30 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 40 StM 19 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 50 LOL 4 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max nine Clay Marsh 16 May. **E. Bluebird:** max 32 DH 25 Mar. **Veery:** max 72 LOL 11 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max six EIC 18 May. **Swainson's Thrush:** max six LOL 11 May; migrants more frequent than usual. **Hermit Thrush:** max 11 New Hartford 25 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** max 30 LOL 18 May. **Gray Catbird:** max 50 LOL 18 May. **N. Mockingbird:** single migrants LOL 11-18 May. **Brown Thrasher:** arr New Hartford 20 Apr; max 5 West Monroe 9 May. **Am. Pipit:** max 100 Fabius 27 Apr. **Bohemian Waxwing:** max and last 150 Paris 12 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 75 LOL 18 May. **N. Shrike:** max three LOL 3 May; last Rome 8 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo:** one Toad Harbor 18 May, only report. **Solitary Vireo:** max five Fabius 11 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max four West Monroe 27 May. **Warbling Vireo:** max 17 Cicero 27 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr and max three OSWE 18 May. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max 31 Pratts Falls 25 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** max six New Hartford 28 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** max five LOL 11 May. **Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler:** "Brewster's" three New Hartford 16-20; one Labrador Pond 26 May; "Lawrence's" one Pompey 25 May.

Tennessee Warbler: max four New Hartford 19 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** 5 individuals 5-19 May, good numbers. **Nashville Warbler:** max 20 New Hartford 15 May. **N. Parula:** max 11 LOL 11 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 400 OSWE 18 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 19 EIC 11 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** max six StM 20 May; EIC 24 May. **Cape May Warbler:** max three LOL 11 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 45 LOL 11 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 500 LOL 18 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** max 32 LOL 11 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** max 41 LOL 11 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** one Camillus 10 May, fourth Spring record, (NYSARC, SA). **Pine Warbler:** few noted away from breeding sites. **Prairie Warbler:** five different migrants noted 11-27 May, good numbers; two singing at (presumed) breeding site in Parish after 13 May. **Palm Warbler:** max 26 LOL 11 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 25 New Hartford 19 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:** max 12 New Hartford 26 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** max five Toad Harbor after 13 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max 63 LOL 11 May. **Am. Redstart:** max 11 LOL 11 May. **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** one StM 14 May, only report (RL). **Ovenbird:** max 35 LOL 11 May. **N. Waterthrush:** max 14 OSWE 11 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** max seven New Hartford 25 Apr. **Kentucky Warbler:** one StM 18 May, only report. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max 25 LOL 11 May. **Hooded Warbler:** max seven LOL 19 May. **Wilson's Warbler:** max nine LOL 18 May. **Canada Warbler:** max four Labrador Pond 27 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one Syracuse 19-20 May, only report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **SUMMER TANAGER:** one Labrador Pond 11 May, fifth spring record (NG). **Scarlet Tanager:** max 35 LOL 18 May. **WESTERN TANAGER:** one Nine Mile Pt. 4-5 May, first Regional record, ph (NYSARC, SA, MAK). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 50 LOL 18 May. **Indigo Bunting:** max 20 DH 18 May. **PAINTED BUNTING:** one female Beaver Lake 22 May, first spring record (NYSARC,MR). **E. Towhee:** max 12 Hastings 11 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last 28 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** max 66 LOL 11 May. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** one Beaver Lake 22 May thru period; one Camillus 23 May. **Field Sparrow:** arr DH 15 Apr; max ten OSWE 11 May. **Vesper Sparrow:** max five EIC 13 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow:** max 21 Syracuse Airport 10 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** migrants Nine Mile Point 20 Apr & 18 May, rare away from breeding sites; max seven Syracuse Airport 10 May. **Fox Sparrow:** max five Hastings 1 Apr; last Rome 12 May, late. **Song Sparrow:** max 90 LOL 20 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 15 LOL 18 May, good numbers; last UM 27

May. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 38 Cicero 3 May. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 40 Fabius 13 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 280 LOL 11 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 50 New Hartford 19 Apr. **Lapland Longspur**: one adult male Pompey 18 May, late. **Snow Bunting**: max 180 New Hartford 17 Mar; last New Hartford 28 Mar. **Bobolink**: max 1000 DH 18 May. E. **Meadowlark**: max 30 DH 25 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: max 250 Beaver Lake 1 May; 12 DH 18 May, late for such numbers. **Orchard Oriole**: two New Hartford 28 May, only report. **Baltimore Oriole**: large numbers grounded by 12 May snow; many at many feeders thru 22 May; 2000 DH 18 May. **Pine Grosbeak**: five New Hartford 11 May; two Nelson MADI 17 Mar. **Purple Finch**: max 50 OSWE 18 May. **Red Crossbill**: at Fabius thru season, max 19 there 26 Apr. **Com. Redpoll**: max 120 Hastings 26 Mar; one DH 15 May, late. **Pine Siskin**: return flight 15 Apr-20 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: return flight 100-400 day past DH 22 Apr-19 May.
Mkoeneke@aol.com & wpurcell@dreamscape.com

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

Lee B. Chamberlaine

P. O. Box 139, Henderson NY 13650-0139

The spring of 1996 was a mix of extremes except as concerns high temperatures and dry conditions. March brought snow, rain and cold. April was one of the soggiest in recent years. Six inches of rain fell at Beaver River Station in the Adirondacks as well as 14 inches of snow. Watertown had 4.88 inches of rain and two inches of snow for April. May was not much better to say the least, with more rain and very cool temperatures. On 12 May, Mother's Day, about five inches of snow fell on Tug Hill at Montague in Lewis Co, and Adams in Jefferson Co had about two inches of snow. Lake Ontario water levels, as well as those of other bodies of water, were at high levels at the end of the period. Temperatures for May could not get out of the 60 degree range and vegetation was severely retarded with respect to both leafing out and flowering. Many late-leafing species of trees had not even started to leaf out at the end of the period. Black Locust, American Walnut, Black Cherry, all apple species and Honey Locust were way behind at the end of May, just to name a few.

Bird migration was slowed greatly by the late coming of spring, and the migration period was restricted into a few hectic days when everything

seemed to come through all at once. May 14th and 18th were spectacular days for passerine bird migration, as can be seen by looking through this report at those species. The 18th of May was probably the better, when birds came through the Region by the hundreds of thousands, everything from warblers in numbers and variety to Evening Grosbeaks along the Lake Ontario shoreline. If you were out birding on the 18th, consider yourself lucky to have seen numbers and varieties of birds the like of which many newer birders had never seen before. Even "oldtimers" commented: "It was the best warbler migration in 10 to 15 years or more." The importance of monitoring the Lake Ontario shoreline for migrants was again brought out this year. The birds stay so close to the shoreline that at only 1/8th mile inland many species can be missed as they move through the Region.

Cone crops, seen developing during the spring flowering period, should be excellent for winter finches should they appear this fall. Berry and mast production, based on flowering volume, should also see a bumper crops this fall.

Highlights for the period included: low waterfowl (ducks) numbers, with the exception of geese; some good shorebird observations, even with high water levels; improvement in **Red-headed Woodpecker** numbers; martin and swift numbers still low; some excellent thrush observations; warblers in spectacular array, as already noted; grassland sparrows showing great improvement; and the neotropical blackbirds also improving. In addition, the winter species carryovers such as **GREAT GRAY OWL** showing up late, **Bohemian Waxwings** in very high numbers, Common Redpoll in large flocks, and the single **Hoary Redpoll** were all impressive. Many wintering species stayed late.

Three new species were added to the Region 6 list, which has increased by 15 to 16 new species since the most recent Regional Checklist was done in 1993. These are the **Trumpeter Swan** as a breeder, new for the state and also changing the way we all look at any black-billed swan; [Ed: This species is not on the NY State checklist. The decision to include it will be based on appropriate data.] **Black Vulture**; and **Yellow-throated Warbler**. Spring 1996 will be long remembered as a most productive one for those who spent time in the field. The weather is best forgotten.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Richard Brouse, Carol Budd, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Willie D' Anna, Dean DiTommaso, Tom Dudones, Thelma Emery, Michael Greenwald, Bettye Hughes, Paul Kelly, Nick Leone, Steve & Debbie Litwhiler, Gene & Pearl McGory, Betsy Potter, David Prosser, Susan & Michael Sheard, Gerry

Smith, Judy Thurber, Brian & Mary Wood and Bob & June Walker.

Abbreviations: CV - Cape Vincent JEFF; Hen - Henderson, JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire T Colton-Piercefield STLA; NAMC - North American Migratory Count JEFF on 11 May; PtPen - Point Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; PRWMA - Perch River WMA, JEFF; StPt - Stony Point T Henderson, JEFF; SnPt - Snowshoe Pt T Henderson JEFF; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA T Canton STLA; W BSP - Wescott Beach State Park T Henderson JEFF; STLR - St. Lawrence River; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

LOON - DUCKS: Com. Loon: one PtPen 3 Apr; three Pillar Pt 20 April; not as many sightings as usual for this species? **Pied-billed Grebe:** five PtPen 3 Apr; three PRWMA NAMC 11 May. **Horned Grebe:** three PtPen 30 Mar; three PRWMA 22 Apr; one Black River Flats LEWI 25 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** three PtPen 30 Mar (NL); two PtPen 3 Apr; one PtPen Apr 28; one ULLWMA 21 May (DD). **Am. White Pelican:** one reported to DEC personnel, a single crossing the STLR at CV vicinity into Ontario in May (fide Steve La Pan). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Hen village 23 Apr; 600+ SnPt 11 May; numbers are up in all areas. **Am. Bittern:** one Lakeview WMA 18 Apr; one Wilson Bay Marsh 27 May; two Beaver Meadow Marsh near Watertown 28 May. **Least Bittern:** one Canton 19 May (fide KC). **Great Blue Heron:** one near Canton 21 Mar; 21 Sulphur Springs 26 Mar; ten PtPen 13 Apr; numbers in Region are higher than last year. **Great Egret:** one Wilson Hill WMA, STLA 15 Apr (NL). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** four W BSP 15 May. **GLOSSY IBIS:** one El Dorado Beach Preseve at Black Pd 11 May (GS). **Tundra Swan:** one flying over CV 26 Mar; one PtPen 30 Mar; two flying n from CV to Canada 4 May. **TRUMPETER SWAN:** birds nesting at PRWMA - not Tundras as originally thought, report to NYSARC to be prepared by DEC (fide Irene Mazzocchi); two adults and two imm PRWMA 15 Mar; courtship display on 13 Apr (BH&TE). **Mute Swan:** pair PRWMA 18 Mar; 11 PRWMA 31 Mar; two Wilson Hill WMA 9 May. **Snow Goose:** arr 800+ s JEFF 20 Mar; 600 Lakeview WMA 20 Mar; max 2000 near Woodville JEFF 26 Mar. **Brant:** moved through the Region on 23 and 24 May but not reported - likely out over Lake Ontario where they cannot be seen. **Canada Goose:** large flocks Hen 13 Mar; heavy movement through are all day 20 Mar; birds still in Hen area thru; nesting at many locations along Lake Ontario. **Wood Duck:** three pair CV vicinity 27 Mar; in excellent numbers this year. **Green-winged Teal:** 15 Beaver Meadow T Watertown 27 Mar; max LEWI 87 on Black River Flats 6 Apr; max JEFF 150+ PtPen 13 Apr; three

pair PRWMA 4 May. **Am. Black Duck**: max 30 Ellisburg 20 Mar; numbers may be down for this species? **Mallard**: max 200 Ellisburg 20 Mar; literally nesting everywhere in the Region. **N. Pintail**: max 100 Ellisburg 20 Mar; 51 Black River Flats LEWI 6 Apr; not in normal numbers. **Blue-winged Teal**: max 10 PtPen 18 Apr. **N. Shoveler**: five Black River Flats LEWI 25 Apr; eight PRWMA 4 May; may be nesting at PRWMA this year?; pair Stoney Pt Pd T CV 22 & 25 May; pair Merchant Rd Pd T CV 25 May. **Gadwall**: six pairs PRWMA 4 May; pair Lower Pool PRWMA 30 May. **Am. Wigeon**: three males PRWMA 30 May. **Canvasback**: 24 PtPen 30 Mar; one PtPen 5 Apr. **Redhead**: 46 Wellesley Is 28 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: 56 PtPen 4 Apr; max 136 PtPen 14 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: max 5000+ Wellesley I 28 Apr; last three PtPen 6 May. **Oldsquaw**: max 50+ Wilson Bay Marsh 3 May; eight SnPt 17 May. **Com. Goldeneye**: 45 PtPen 18 Mar. **Bufflehead**: 30 Wilson Bay Marsh 25 Apr. **Hooded Merganser**: 21 PRWMA 5 May. **Com. Merganser**: pair PtPen 23 & 27 Mar; two Wilson Bay 25 Apr. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 11 STLR at CV 15 Apr; four Wilson Bay Marsh 4 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: one Ogdensburg 16 Apr (KC fide Richard Dillenbeck!, NYSARC) first Regional and STLA Record - not unexpected as sightings have increased in other parts of the state. **Turkey Vulture**: arr Hen 19 Mar. **Osprey**: 12 on Lower Pool PRWMA 30 May (TD). **Bald Eagle**: pair Sand Bay Marsh STLR 30 Mar; two (1 ad & 1 imm) PRWMA 27 May. **N. Harrier**: arr Hen 16 Mar; decreasing after mid May. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: visits to feeders common; almost hit by bird flying around house corner to pursue birds at feeder 9 Mar (LC). **Cooper's Hawk**: visits to feeders also common; bird attempted to capture grackle Hen 12 Apr. **N. Goshawk**: imm CV 31 Mar; imm PtPen 28 Apr; imm Hen 10 May. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: two Sand Bay STLR 9 & 19 Apr; one Cottage Hill Rd T Theresa JEFF 7 May, known nesting location. **Red-tailed Hawk**: one on cow carcass in field Hen 23 Mar, lack of *Microtus*. **Rough-legged Hawk**: one Number 3 Rd LEWI 12 Mar; max four CV 24 Mar; last a dark morph at CV 15 Apr. **Golden Eagle**: imm harassed by two ravens Barnes Corners LEWI 13 May (GS). **Am. Kestrel**: max 11 PtPen 28 Apr, not in normal numbers. **Merlin**: one Hell St T CV 5 Mar; one Limerick Cedars mid Apr (GS); one Hen 23 Apr. **Peregrine Falcon**: one PtPen 20 Mar. **Gray Partridge**: eight Hell St T CV 8 Mar; two Millens Bay Rd T CV 29 Mar. **Ring-necked Pheasant**: one at feeder near CV 12, 13 & 27 Mar. **Spruce Grouse**: adult m MM 2 May (DD). **Ruffed Grouse**: in normal numbers on Lake Plain down on Tug Hill. **Wild Turkey**: eight

Deerlick Rd T CV 19 Apr; one female StPt 21 Apr; three PRWMA 15 May, can be found anywhere in Region. **Com. Moorhen:** 12 PRWMA 22 Apr. **Am. Coot:** three PRWMA 28 Mar, low numbers. **Sandhill Crane:** two near Ellisburg in cornfield with Canada Geese 15 Apr (GS); one PRWMA 4 May (MBW), now a regular thru the Region. **Greater Yellowlegs:** six PRWMA 22 Apr; eight near Chaumont NAMC 11 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** 16 near Chaumont NAMC 11 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** one near Chaumont NAMC 11 May; three Limerick Cedars Preserve 21 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** in low numbers. **Upland Sandpiper:** four Mason Rd T CV 5 May; pair near Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 3 May; one Sackets Harbor 28 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 35 Black River Flats LEWI 25 May. **Least Sandpiper:** five PRWMA 12 May. **Com. Snipe:** flying over Hen 31 Mar. **Am. Woodcock:** over Hen 29 Apr; four still peenting Limerick Cedars 26 May. **Caspian Tern:** arr PRWMA 21 Apr; 28 PRWMA 28 Apr; six Mud Bay T CV 28 Apr; about 20 Lakeview WMA 14 May. **Com. Tern:** arr Moses - Saunders Power Dam record early 2 Apr (MB); feeding at PRWMA 30 May. **Black Tern:** arr Wilson Bay Marsh 3 May; 75-80 Wilson Bay Marsh by end of period.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** one PRWMA 30 May. **E. Screech-Owl:** pair seen mating Cape CV 13 Mar (MBW); another pair heard east of village CV 13 Mar; pair heard Bates Rd T CV 17&18 Mar; one spent winter in wood duck box Kelsey Cr Watertown (RB). **Great Horned Owl:** pair calling Hen 26 Mar; nest with two y near Chaumont NAMC 11 May. **GREAT GRAY OWL:** one Rt 131 1/2 mi w of Robert Moses State Park T Massena 13 Mar (Lee Harper); one St Lawrence Rd T CV 29 Mar (NL); one Chaumont Barrens 29 Mar (GS); a total of at least three individuals seen on McKeever Rd T CV in Apr; one Favret Rd T CV 2 Apr (MBW); one Barnes Corners LEWI 20 Apr (GS), an excellent year. **Short-eared Owl:** one Sand Bay Rd 16 & 17 Mar; six McKeever Rd 31 Mar; three McKeever Rd 1 Apr; one McKeever Rd 6, 7, and 22 Apr all T CV. **Com. Nighthawk:** one heard Adams 11 May; one SnPt 22 May; in Potsdam 30 May, absent for 4 to 5 years (SC). **Whip-poor-will:** six Hen Shores Unique Area T Hen 25 May (GM); eight Limerick Cedars 26 May; an *unprecedented 42 birds* in 8.2 miles of road survey along alvar grasslands at Chaumont Barrens and Three Mile Cr in nw JEFF (GS). **Chimney Swift:** still in lowered numbers in much of the Region. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr early, male Adams 9 May; one 12 May Kelsey Cr Watertown. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one T Theresa JEFF 16 May (NL); one at Hen feeder for cracked corn 17 May; one chas-

ing Red-bellied Woodpecker Hen 20 May; one CV village 20-23 May; one Sand Bay SLR 20 May; one w of CV near STLR 24 May, encouraging for this species. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one CV village 17 & 30 Mar; one male feeder CV 9-26 Apr; two SnPt 17 May; one fem Kelsey Cr Watertown all winter; Hen birds were regularly seen thru. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** two Wilson Pt Rd T CV 19 Apr; one WBSP 20 Apr. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one MM 25 May (DD, WD & BP).

FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one SnPt 25 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** increase in numbers from last year. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Massena 27 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** one PRWMA 30 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** one PRWMA 26 May. **Least Flycatcher:** increase in numbers. **E. Phoebe:** arr 14 Apr. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 2 May, record early; numbers up from last year. **E. Kingbird:** increased from last year's numbers. **Horned Lark:** two Merchant Rd T CV 6 May. **Purple Martin:** very low numbers even in good habitat. **Tree Swallow:** 10 Pillar Pt over ice 5 Apr; 20 PtPen 5 Apr; arr Tug Hill 11 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Hen 5 May. **Bank Swallow:** 100+ nesting in sandpile Limerick 18 May. **Cliff Swallow:** arr 2 May. **Barn Swallow:** arr Hen 4 May. **Gray Jay:** two adult pairs MM 25 May (DD, WD&BP). **Blue Jay:** large numbers moving along Lake Ontario shore line SnPt in May. **Com. Raven:** one Barnes Corners 13 Mar (GS); two harassing imm Golden Eagle Barnes Corners 13 May (GS); one StPt 15 May and another SnPt 16 May (mob). **Tufted Titmouse:** one Pillar Pt feeder singing 6 & 12 Mar; one Sawyer's Bay T Hen 28 Apr 5 & 9 May; one Wilson Hill WMA 10 May. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** six Adams 2 Apr, in lower numbers than last year. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** in lower numbers. **Brown Creeper:** 10 SnPt 29 Apr. **House Wren:** one CV 30 Apr. **Winter Wren:** one CV village 31 Mar; one Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF 25 May. **Sedge Wren:** one Jones Rd T Lisbon STLA 21 May; another at different location on Jones Rd 26 May (DD). **Marsh Wren:** in normal numbers. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** in low numbers compared with last year's flight. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 21 Wellesley Is 28 Apr; three singing males MM 25 May (DD, WD & BP); down from last year's flight. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher:** one WBSP 10 May; four others SnPt 14-17 May. **E. Bluebird:** arr 31 Mar. **Veery:** numbers still low. **Swainson's Thrush:** one Thompson P Watertown 2 May; one near Rodman NAMC 11 May; one SnPt 22 May. **Hermit Thrush:** singing at Alder Acres T Lorraine Tug Hill 1 May. **Wood Thrush:** a little improvement in numbers. **Am. Robin:** leucistic individual, all except head, back of neck and wings white Old Rome St Rd T

Hounsfield JEFF 30 Apr, (ph,BH&TE). **N. Mockingbird**: pair near Woodville 7 May (GM); one Watertown 23 May. **Brown Thrasher**: improvement in numbers. **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**: 38 Alder Acres Tug Hill T Lorraine JEFF 5 Mar; 200+ Ridge Rd T Watertown 15 Mar; 60 Hen 23 Mar; max 1500+ Kelsey Cr Watertown 13 Apr (RB); a super year for this species, more common than Cedar. **Cedar Waxwing**: one with orange rather than yellow band on tail Southwick Beach State Park 2 Mar (BH&TE); 35 Limerick Cedars in Apr; numbers increasing thru; indicates a possible heavy nesting along the Ontario Lake Plain this year as a few years ago. **N. Shrike**: two T Hen 11 Mar; one Hen 5 Apr.

VIREOS - WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: a possible in Massena 10 May (MB), records from near here in past years. **Solitary Vireo**: arr 29 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: max 15 L Of The Woods area JEFF 23 May (BH&TE); six Black L Rd T Macomb - Rossie, STLA 27 May (DD); three Tug Hill WMA LEWI NAMC 11 May. **Warbling Vireo**: in increased numbers in Hen. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one StPt T Hen 21 May (GPM). **Blue-winged Warbler**: one WBSP 8 May; one Three Mile Cr alvar mid May (GS fide George Couch); one m SnPt 13 May; one WBSP 20 May; one Mannsville Rd JEFF 25 May; one Bailey Settlement Rd JEFF 27 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: one Lakeview WMA JEFF 12 May (GPM); one Red Lake JEFF 26 May; five singing males Black L Rd T Macomb - Rossie STLA 27 May (DD); four singing males Co Rt 8 T Macomb - Rossie, STLA 27 May (DD); nine L Of The Woods area T Theresa JEFF 28 May; one Chaumont Barrens 30 May (GS). **"Brewster's" Warbler**: one WBSP 17 May (NL). **Tennessee Warbler**: one SnPt 15 May; one Thompson P Watertown 18 May; one StPt 22 May (GPM). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one SnPt 14 May (mob); one Canton 20 May. **Nashville Warbler**: six SnPt 14 May (mob). **N. Parula**: max nine SnPt 14 May (mob). **Yellow Warbler**: arr Hen 5 May; four SnPt 14 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: five SnPt 14 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr 11 May; in low numbers. **Cape May Warbler**: three SnPt 14 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr 30 Apr, record early. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: many Hen 23 Apr; 400+ SnPt 14 May, lifting off of Pt and crossing Hen Bay to mainland at unknown point, possibly Pillar Pt or PtPen? **Black-throated Green Warbler**: seven SnPt 14 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max seven SnPt 14 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one SnPt 18 May (NL, NYSARC), a good find and a new species for Region 6. **Pine Warbler**: four Wellesley I 28 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: one Limerick Cedars NAMC 11 May (JT); at least five at Limerick Cedars thru. **Palm Warbler**: three singing males MM 2 May

(DD, WD & BP); eight SnPt 14 May; max seven singing males MM 25 & 26 May (DD, WD & BP). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 15 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:** one StPt 22 May; one El Dorado Preserve 23 May; two SnPt 28 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** two singing in Black L Rd T Macomb - Rossie STLA 27 May (DD). **Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Canton vicinity 27 Apr; eight SnPt 14 May. **Am. Redstart:** two SnPt 14 May. **Ovenbird:** five Tug Hill State Forest T Rodman JEFF NAMC 11 May; four SnPt 14 May. **N. Waterthrush:** two PRWMA NAMC 11 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** two Washington P T Lorraine JEFF 3 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler:** two Alder Acres, Tug Hill T Lorraine JEFF 27 May (SDL). **Wilson's Warbler:** one Lakeview WMA 19 May; two SnPt 22 May. **Canada Warbler:** one El Dorado Preserve 23 May, in low numbers.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager:** numbers up from last year. **N. Cardinal:** ten NAMC 11 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Hen 10 May; many reports of pairs at black oil sunflower seed feeders this year into May. **Indigo Bunting:** numbers are up from the previous two years in all areas; also visiting feeders for black oil seed. **E. Towhee:** ten Limerick Cedars NAMC 11 May; numerous reports at feeders. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** six Adams 18 Apr; last Hen 4 May. **Chipping Sparrow:** arr Hen 2 May; numbers in all areas are up. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one in young Scotch Pine planting in old field Dog Hill Rd T Orleans JEFF 31 May (NL & BW). **Field Sparrow:** arr 21 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow:** arr StPt 21 Apr; in low numbers. **Savannah Sparrow:** two arr StPt 21 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Fort Drum JEFF 10 May (NL). **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr 6 May at night-singing location, Bonney Rd T Brownville JEFF; max four Dog Hill Rd near PRWMA 24 May (NL); other locations Hart Rd T Clayton and Dog Hill Rd T Orleans JEFF. **Fox Sparrow:** one e of CV village 27 Mar; arr Tug Hill 1 Apr; one Watertown 5 Apr; two Alder Acres 12 & 13 Apr; one StPt Lighthouse Rd 8 May, late. **Song Sparrow:** arr Hen 4 Mar; arr Tug Hill, Alder Acres T Lorraine 26 Mar; numbers are down, although still a common species. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Fort Drum 10 May; one Lakeview WMA 12 May (GPM). **Swamp Sparrow:** three PRWMA 3 May. **White-throated Sparrow:** arr CV 20 Apr; arr Canton 22 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Canton 22 Apr; night singing noted Hen 11 May (LC); 40 max for Tug Hill, Alder Acres 13 May; last 25 May, late. **Dark-eyed Junco:** arr Hen 1 Apr; heavy fallout in Hen and vicinity 19 Apr. **Lapland Longspur:** one Pleasant Valley Rd T CV 6 Mar (BH&TE). **Snow Bunting:** 16 near Hen 9 Mar; gone 11 Mar. **Bobolink:** arr Hen 4 May; large flocks along Lake Ontario littoral, SnPt 14 May. **Red-winged**

Blackbird: arr Hen 2 Mar. **E. Meadowlark:** arr three CV 27 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr CV 25 Apr; max and last, 50 SnPt 11 May. **Com. Grackle:** arr CV 17 Mar; eight birds Hen 26 Mar. **Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr CV 13 Mar. **ORCHARD ORIOLE:** the pair returned to near The Carrying Place T Lyme JEFF for the third year to nest (DP). **Baltimore Oriole:** numbers through out Region are up. **Pine Grosbeak:** 10 Favret and Mason Rd T CV 13 Mar. **Purple Finch:** arr Hen 18 Mar; *male observed doing Ruby-crowned Kinglet call* Hen 23 Apr (LC). **House Finch:** returning in numbers to Hen 2 Mar; one Alder Acres, Tug Hill 28 Mar & 29 May, unusual at this location; feeding of young not noted during the period, nesting later this year due to cold weather (LC). **Red Crossbill:** one MM 2 May (DD). **Com. Redpoll:** max for Tug Hill 250 at Alder Acres T Lorraine JEFF 25 Mar; one leucistic individual Alder Acres Tug Hill 16 Apr (DSL); 100+ Adams 1 Mar; max 300 Adams 4 Mar (PK); 60 max for Lake Plain near Woodville 22 Mar; last three Canton 13 May, very late (Michael Greenwald). **HOARY REDPOLL:** one CV feeder 17 Mar and 14 Apr (MBW). **Pine Siskin:** max four Hen 12 May; last 24 May, low numbers. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 70-100 daily CV feeder thru. **Evening Grosbeak:** two Hen 7 Mar; heavy flights close to Lake Ontario shoreline noted SnPt May 14; last one CV 27 May. **House Sparrow:** numbers up in Hen and CV vicinity.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

Discovery Farm, RR 1, Box 230, Elizabethtown NY 12932-9721

Snow, rain, and a late spring combined for a season of grounded migrants and a host of Regional rarities. A 5"-10" snowstorm on 8 March was the first meaningful accumulation in two months. The second half of the month was generally fair and cool, marred only by light wet snow, drizzle, and rain 20-21 March. Temperatures reached the 60's on 25 March, accompanied by thunderstorms across Clinton Co., but a series of clear nights provided striking views of Comet Hyakutake, with the added bonus of a lunar eclipse 3 April. Easter snows began 7 Apr, with 7" at Loon Lake 8 Apr, and continued through 10 April. After a 10" snowfall on Whiteface Mountain 17 Apr, a spring thaw began the next day, with Plattsburgh reaching 71°F on the 19th and Inlet in the 70's by Earth Day.

The melting snowpack and spring rains added to lake levels already high from the January thaw and flood. By 6 May, Lake Champlain stood at a near-record 100.12'. The Crown Point banding station opened 10 May on a weekend marked by rain and even snow on Mother's Day, with Inlet receiving 6" from the storm! Continued adverse conditions and the late spring contributed to some spectacular migrant fall-outs in the Champlain Valley. The season closed with Champlain at an even 100 feet, flurries at Lyon Mt. and the Champlain Valley on 29 May, and the last inch of snow falling on Long Lake 30 May! A total of 207 species was reported, up from 192 in '95, but short of the 216 in spring 1993.

Regional rarities included a grebe at Raquette Lake identified as **Clark's Grebe**, which, if approved by NYSARC, would be an addition to the NY State checklist, a Glossy Ibis and **Eurasian Wigeon** at Chazy River landing, **Little Gull** at Crown Point and **Thayer's Gull** at Lake Flower, **White-eyed Vireo** at Ray Brook, Connecticut Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow at Crown Point, and **LeConte's Sparrow** at Inlet. Birds like Great and Snowy egrets, Barrow's Goldeneye, Western and White-rumped sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope, Caspian and Black terns, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Hoary Redpoll had to be content with spots on the second team in this remarkable season.

Winter visitants were in no rush to leave. Bohemian Waxwing lingered at Beekmantown to 20 Apr and Wadhams to 21 April. The last Northern Shrike reported was at Point au Roche 6 April. Common Redpoll stayed even later: Keene 2 May, Everton Falls 6 May, Inlet 8 May, Newcomb 11 May, and the last seen by Hollis White at Hogansburg and Charlcie Delehanty at Tupper Lake on **13 May**. The last Hoary Redpoll was near Elizabethtown on 17 April.

The banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site, open from 10-27 May, managed to double the 20-year record of 853 individuals set in 1993 with an overwhelming **1,706** birds banded, including 22 different warbler species. The cold rains and snow of the first weekend grounded the 173 mostly adult male Yellow-rumped Warblers banded on Mother's Day and another 128 the next day. The second weekend began slowly, with warm south winds 18 May, followed by a major evening storm. Sunday the 19th was a lovely, hot day with a dozen warbler species banded fun in the sun. NOAA weather radio issued a special bulletin at 3 a.m. on the 20th of severe thunderstorms to the north, headed east across Clinton County, although Crown Point saw only heat lightning, strong winds, and warm (70's) temperatures. Despite a hazy, hot morning and sunny, hotter afternoon, Mike Peterson and Bob Wei banded 326 birds, including

16 species of warblers. A group of visiting British birders also spotted a **Connecticut Warbler** at midday. But the really BIG DAY was Tuesday, 21 May. With some of the 18 nets never opened and others furled early, Bob and Mike banded 349 birds (18 warbler species), with migrants dripping from the hawthorns. By the next day there were far fewer catches due to sunny, breezy conditions and many departed migrants, but still lots of female Yellow-rumped Warblers in the thickets. A singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** found by Dan Nickerson was soon banded and released. By the final weekend, days were hot and banding had slowed. An adult male Sharp-shinned Hawk on 26 May was species # 70 for the season. Not only did some 30 species manage to break 20-year records, but many did so resoundingly. Other species of interest seen, but not banded, at Crown Point included Brant, late Greater and Lesser scaup, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, **Little Gull**, Black Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warbler type songs were heard.

Other noteworthy spring hotspots included the Chazy River landing area of eastern Clinton Co. and the Tupper Lake municipal park in southern Franklin County. These featured wading birds, waterfowl, and shorebirds for the most part, and passerines may have largely followed the Champlain Valley, since Delehanty had only eight warbler species at Tupper Lake by the end of May. The 20-21 May fallout also arrived on Monday-Tuesday, weekdays, which may explain why the event was noticed only near Crown Point peninsula. Heading the all-star line-up of spring birds was the lovely **Clark's Grebe** on Raquette Lake, first spotted by Derek and Pam Trivill of London, England on 13 May and located independently by Tom Dudones on 14 May at the outlet just north of the Route 28 bridge. [Ed: This congener of the Western Grebe is not on the NY State checklist and such status depends on NYSARC action.]

High Peaks Audubon, in cooperation with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, has color-banded 500 young Ring-billed Gulls from the Four Brothers Islands colony as part of a filtration avoidance plan for reservoirs serving the City and Westchester County. The gulls wear a numbered yellow plastic band on the right tarsus and metal USF&WS band on the left. Please report sightings, with the black-on-yellow band number, if possible, to wildlife manager John M.C. Peterson (address above, or telephone 518-873-2052). Note that the gulls are presently in immature, 1st-winter plumage.

Contributors: Clarence Anderson, Ethel & Tom Baker, Helen & Robert Booth, Beverly Brown, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Joan Clark, Charlcie

Delehanty, John D. & Sue Delehanty, Marian Delehanty, Tom Dudones, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candy & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Pam Jackson, Suzy Johnson, Hal Klein, Anne Korths, William Krueger, Gary Lee, Richard MacDonald, Theodore Mack, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Jr., Edith Mitchell, Derek Moore, Daniel Nickerson, Lydia & Paul Osenbaugh, John & Susan Peterson, Mary Purcell, George Roberts, Shaun Robson, David Russell, Dean Spaulding, Trisha Spaulding, Gen Sutter, John & Pat Thaxton, Derek and Pam Trivill, Frances & Newman Tryon, Jan Trzeciak, Mary Ward, Robert Wei, Hollis White, Dave & Jan Winchell.

Abbreviations: AP-Ausable Point WMA; CP-Crown Point peninsula; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FB-Ferd's Bog; MRRA-Moose River Recreational Area; RB-Ray Brook; TL-Tupper Lake; TLP-Tupper Lake municipal park.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Horned Grebe:** TL 16 & 26 Apr (CD), unusual inland. **Red-necked Grebe:** record max 32 Port Henry 18 Apr (RM,JP); TL same day and Raquette Pd 11 May (CD), highly unusual inland. **CLARK'S GREBE:** 13 May Raquette L (D&PT, TD!, NYSARC), *intro*. **Double-crested Cormorant:** six flying over Raquette Pd 26 Apr (CD); six TLP 13 May (TD), unexpected inland. **Great Blue Heron:** Webb Royce Swamp heronry abandoned after Osprey pr usurped nest in middle of colony after their old nest tree came down. **Great Egret:** CR 29 Apr (Mr. & Mrs. Gravelle). **Snowy Egret:** CR & Riley Ck 4 - 31 May (WK, CM,GR); one CLIN 11 May (BB,AK), probably same bird. **GLOSSY IBIS:** CR 24 May (WK). **Tundra Swan:** imm CR 2 May (WK), a good find. **Mute Swan:** two Raquette R open water 3 Apr, later seen TL marsh (CD), may not be feral escapes from L. Champlain, although one at CP was probably from the three that wintered at McNeil Cove, VT, and these could be the missing two. **Snow Goose:** max 5,000 CR 1 Apr (WK). **Brant:** max 300 flying under CP bridge 20 May (DM); 200 Limekiln Rd 24 May (GL), also high; last among Canada Geese over CP 27 May (GL,JP). **Green-winged Teal:** L Durant and Seventh L 11 May (GL), a good inland find. **N. Pintail:** TL 18 Apr (CD), only report. **Blue-winged Teal:** pr TLP 29 May (TD). **Gadwall:** two TL 6 Apr (CD), a good find. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** CR 7 and 13 May (J&RH), the first in many years. **Am. Wigeon:** CLIN 22 Mar and pr AP 25 Apr, rather expected; but TL 16 Apr (TD) and 22 Apr (CD) a real prize. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 150 TL 3 Apr (TD), with 118 still there on Raquette R 6 Apr (CD). **Greater Scaup:** three Port Henry 18 Apr and nearby CP from 10 May, with record late drake last seen 24 May

(DN,RW); also inland at TL 7 Apr (TD) - 26 Apr (CD). **Lesser Scaup**: CP 11 May, with Greaters. **Oldsquaw**: late drake CP swimming under CP bridge 16 May (SR). **Surf Scoter**: hen Cumberland Head 8 May (WK), only spring CLIN record. **White-winged Scoter**: TLP 23 Apr (CD); Cumberland Head ferry 11 May (H& RB); 13 headed s. CP 10 May; one CP 11 May (JP); last 25 headed n. CP 24 May (DN,JP,RW), an extremely good spring showing. **Com. Goldeneye**: max 400 Bulwagga Bay 18 Apr; Sunday Pd. FRAN 15 May (TD), late. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: drake AP 9 Mar (TM) 11 Mar (WK), now almost annual on L Champlain. **Red-breasted Merganser**: pr Moriah 18 Apr (RM,JP); drake and three hens Cumberland Head 26 May (WK), late CLIN by four days.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Osprey**: pr arr Webb Royce Swamp 6 Apr. in used Great Blue Heron nest by 13 Apr. female incubating to 28 Apr. **Bald Eagle**: at least three ads. & one imm TL area 11 Mar-26 Apr; AP 28 Mar; imm Wadhams 5 Apr harrassed by ravens; migrant Paul Smiths 1 May; late migrant immatures over CP 22 & 24 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: Apr-May reports from vicinity of known eyries in Chesterfield, Elizabethtown, Keene, Moriah, Westport, Willsboro, and Wilmington. **Wild Turkey**: reports from CP, Keene, TL, and Westport. **Virginia Rail**: TL marsh 11 May; RB marsh 19 May. Sora: L Alice 23 Apr (WK), early. **Com. Moorhen**: CLIN 5 May (WK). **Black-bellied Plover**: CR 24 - 31 May (H&RB, WK,CM); record max 30 on 24 May. **Am. Golden-Plover**: CR 26 May (WK,CM). **Semipalmated Plover**: CR 24-27 May, with record max 40+ on 26 May (WK,CM); four TLP 29 May (TD), rare inland. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr AP 13-14 Apr (RM); two TLP 6 May, one 11 May (CD). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: TLP 27 Apr & 6 May (CD). **Solitary Sandpiper**: CP 11 & 14 May; 2 NCCC pond 18 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: TLP 17 May, with max 30 there 29 May (TD). **Western Sandpiper**: three TLP 29 May, an outstanding find. **Least Sandpiper**: two TL 5 May; max five TL 15 May (CD). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: TLP 29 May (TD), another great park bird. **Dunlin**: CR 24-31 May, with max 19 on 27 May (WK,CM); two TLP 29 May (TD). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: CR 24-31 May; max 34 there on 24 May (H&RB,WK,CM). **Com. Snipe**: arr L Alice 27 Mar (H&RB), early CLIN by 8 days. **Wilson's Phalarope**: male arr CR breeding grounds 8 May (WK), early by two days; two birds present on 26-27 May (WK,CM). **LITTLE GULL**: one with five Bonaparte's CP 15 May (GH,JP), first spring record. **Bonaparte's Gull**: TLP 23 Apr (TD) and 6 May (CD); max 15 CP 18 May (JP). **THAYER'S GULL**: 2nd yr L Flower, ESSE & FRAN, 26 Mar-1 Apr (TD, D&JW!); last seen 6 p.m. in snow squall on ice at boat launch;

if accepted by NYSARC this would be the first accepted Regional record. **Caspian Tern:** CR 2 May (WK), seven days early CLIN record and an excellent find. **Com. Tern:** max 9 CR 21 May (WK,CM). **Black Tern:** three flying s. Bulwagga Bay 11 May (JP); CR 20-31 May provides hope of nesting.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo:** CP 23-27 May (JPRW). **Barred Owl:** frequented TL feeder 12 Mar - 8 Apr. **Com. Nighthawk:** CP 21 May (DN), only report. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** chasing Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Pileated Woodpecker from its Keene sap wells 27 May!

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 2 banded CP 20-21 May; on territory MRRA 26 May. "**Traill's**" **Flycatcher:** 25 banded CP 16-25 May. **Least Flycatcher:** 40 banded CP 16-25 May. **E. Kingbird:** max 14 CP 11 May (J&PT). **Purple Martin:** two TL 11 May (CD), first ever seen there by experienced observer. **Tree Swallow:** 75 Raquette Pd 11 May, but only one TL nestbox active. **Bank Swallow:** Rugar Woods 1 May (WK), early. **Gray Jay:** one Baker feeder Saranac Inn 16 Mar (CD); FB 28 May (GL). **Com. Raven:** nesting in abandoned open pit iron mine Mineville with three yg end of May; new nest site Coon Mt May (MG). **Boreal Chickadee:** two Giant Mt 25 May. **Tufted Titmouse:** transient Elizabethtown feeder 17 Mar; Port Henry 18 Apr & 11 May; Elizabethtown 20 Apr. **House Wren:** 7 banded CP, high. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Fish Cr campground 15 May (TD), unusual; CP 26-27 May, late. **Swainson's Thrush:** 17 banded CP 19-27 May. **N. Mockingbird:** banded CP 20 May; Saranac Lake 25 May; Port Henry 30 May. **Am. Pipit:** TLP 5-22 May: max 12 there 11 May (CD). **Bohemian Waxwing:** intro; max 100 Essex 3 Mar (RM,JP); Beekmantown 20 Apr (HK); Wadhams 21 Apr (DS). **N. Shrike:** intro.; max 3 Essex 3 Mar (RM,JP); last Pt au Roche 6 Apr (HK).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **WHITE-EYED VIREO:** singing male along RR tracks at edge of RB Swamp 25 May (TD), an exceptional find. **Blue-winged Warbler:** song type CP 19 May (G& MC,JP). **Golden-winged Warbler:** song type CP 20 May (JPRW). **Tennessee Warbler:** CP 19-22 May, narrow window. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** Round-top Mt. Keene, 28 Apr (J&PT), early. **Nashville Warbler:** 18 banded CF 13-21 May. **N. Parula:** 4 banded CP 20-22 May. **Yellow Warbler:** 83 banded CP 11-26 May, remarkable. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 9 banded CP 19-21 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 51 banded CP 12-25 May. **Cape May Warbler:** CP 12-23 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 7 banded CP 20-21 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** incredible 694 banded CP 8-26 May, only hints at the numbers grounded there. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 7 banded CP 12-21 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 4 banded CP 11-21 May. **Palm Warbler:** "Yellow" Elizabethtown 20 Apr (RM,JP); "Western" CP 12-15 May (JP). **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 22 banded CP 20-21 May, extremely narrow window, but excellent numbers. **Blackpoll Warbler:** 34 banded CP 21-26 May, still present 27 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** 4 banded CP 16-23 May. **Am. Redstart:** 36 banded CP 16-22 May. **Ovenbird:** 3 banded CP 16-19 May. **N. Waterthrush:** 25 banded CP 18-24 May, extremely high. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER:** CP 20 May (DM,JP et mult. al.), a first for the State Historic Site. **Mourning Warbler:** 2 banded CP 21 May, still a new record. **Com. Yellowthroat:** 65 banded CP 15-27 May, tested the skill and patience of banders. **Wilson's Warbler:** arr Fish Cr 15 May (TD); 24 banded CP 18-27 May; Keene 27 May (RM,MP), a strong and long showing. **Canada Warbler:** 5 banded CP 20-21 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 10 males and two females TL feeder 16 May (CD), but widely reported from Regional feeding stations this spring. **Indigo Bunting:** 4 banded CP 18-21 May; also widely reported at feeders during May. **E. Towhee:** TL 4 May (CD); banded CP 18 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Hogansburg 4 May (HW). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** singing male banded CP 22 May (DN,JP,RW), where one was present 2-10 June 1995. **LECONTE'S SPARROW:** Limekiln, HAMI, 21 Apr (GL), an extraordinary find. **Fox Sparrow:** Wadhams 5 Apr (DS) to Morrisonville 4 May (PJ), with other reports from Elizabethtown, Keene, Plattsburgh, and TL. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** TL 7 May; 12 migrants banded CP 19-24 May; on territory FB 28 May. **White-crowned Sparrow:** 24 banded CP 11-20 May, an exceptional showing. **Rusty Blackbird:** FB 28 May (GL). **Baltimore Oriole:** 31 banded CF 15-26 May; feeding on orange halves TL 15 May. **Pine Grosbeak:** Corey's 6 Mar; Keene 12 Mar; TL 14 Mar; last ten Indian Lake, HAMI, 18 Mar (GL). **Purple Finch:** arr Keene 22 Apr. **Com. Redpoll:** intro.; max 150 Elizabethtown 1 Mar-18 Apr; similar max 150 Inlet 14 Mar; last Hogansburg 13 May (HW) and TL 13 May (CD), with other May feeder reports. **Hoary Redpoll:** one - two Elizabethtown 1 Mar - 17 Apr (JP); Inlet 14 Mar (GL). **Pine Siskin:** only reports from Elizabethtown, Inlet, Keene, Saranac Lake, and TL. **Am. Goldfinch:** Wadhams thru, but arr nearby Elizabethtown 5 Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** Wadhams thru, but first banded Elizabethtown 23 Apr as breeding birds began to return.

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

Jane E. Graves

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

The cold, wet weather experienced since early winter continued during March. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature was 31°F, 3.3° colder than average, with 65% sunshine. The 2.10" of precipitation was 0.83" below normal, but most it was snow, with 20.3" falling, 9.6" above normal. April's temperatures were slightly below normal, averaging 46.2°, with 54% sunshine. A warm spell from the 18th through the 23rd brought the first over 80° reading for the year. It was the fourth wettest April on record, with 6.34" of rain, 3.35" above normal. May averaged 55.2°F, 2.4° cooler than normal, with 64% possible sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.24", 0.83" above normal.

Impressions from several observers are indicative of a later than normal spring migration. The late April warm spell brought in the first wave of migrants, with nine first arrivals on April 24. After that things were slow for a couple of weeks. Although there were sightings of individual warblers more or less on the expected arrival dates, the big push came with the huge warm front moving through the night of May 10. An indication of the how slow things were prior to that date is a description of a May 9 Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club evening walk at Ann Lee Pond ALBA, a spot usually productive for migrants. Not only were no migrants located, but very few resident birds were observed, leading the trip leader to speculate about the advent of the "silent spring." How that changed the following night with a major fallout! The morning of May 11 was described by many as the best warbler wave seen in the area in many years, with 17 species of warblers were reported from the Niskayuna Bike Path. There were 15 first arrivals on that date as well. The grounding lasted for the next three days; swallows, flycatchers, vireos and warblers were forced to feed near the ground or just over the water (in the case of the swallows), because of the cool wet weather.

There was little shorebird habitat due to high water levels. Reports were mainly from flooded fields in the Stillwater Flats and the Schodack Marshes, with 14 species observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 219 species. Included were 26 waterfowl, 14 hawks, five owls, and 30 warblers. Unusual birds sighted during the period included Snowy Egret, Short-billed Dowitcher, Prothonotary Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Contributors: Ken Able; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Craig Fosdick; Laurie Freeman; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Ron Harrower; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Cliff Lamere; William Lee; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Karl Parker; Barbara Putnam; David Russell; Jim Sotis; Doug Steele; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCWMA - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CoLL - Collins Lake SCHE; FiveR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; MR - Mohawk River; NewB - NewBaltimore, ALBA; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SaraL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, WARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TomRes - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; VFNHP - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA; VFPS/L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr HR Hillsdale COLU 27 Mar (ADBC); pair Thirteenth L WARR 26 Apr (KA), day last ice went out; max 40 SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr FtE, NewB 22 Mar (BP, RG); one-two breeding pairs CL 13-20 Apr (JS). **Horned Grebe:** arr three FtM 26 Mar (JS); max 28 HR Coxsackie GREE 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Red-necked Grebe:** arr two GI 11 Mar (DS); high counts ten GI and 13 HR Coxsackie 14 Apr (WE, RG to BEN). **Great Cormorant:** no reports. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr one NewB 24 Mar (RG to BEN); max 72 GI 14 Apr (WE). **Am. Bittern:** max four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM); breeding BCWMA, VFNHP; also reported from Smith's Flats Wetlands, Hague WARR 9 May (LM). **Least Bittern:** one Hudson GREE 11 May (BC); one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL); five CP 21 May (JS). **Great Blue Heron:** arr Ghent COLU 11 Mar (ADBC); rookeries reported from BCWMA, Bemis Heights SARA, Saratoga Spa SP, Hague WARR. **Great Egret:** one StFl 18 May (WE), unusual in spring. **Snowy Egret:** three CoLL 12 May (RP), infrequent in Region. **Green Heron:** max four FiveR 2 May (DS). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two ad CoLL 18-23 Apr (RP); one imm BCWMA 18 May (WL). **Mute Swan:** max 15 Catskill GREE 17 May (BC). **Snow Goose:** arr 3 HR Coxsackie 17 Mar (BC); hundreds in flight over Meco FULT 24 Mar (LF); max 350 over NRP 4 Apr (WE). **Brant:** no

reports. **Canada Goose**: max 1200 HR Coxsackie 17 Mar (DS). **Green-winged Teal**: max 30 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); one m CP 26, 29 May (JS), breeding suspected. **Am. Black Duck**: max 300 StFl 16 Mar (WE, NM). **Mallard**: max 1200+ StFl 16 Mar (WE, NM). **N. Pintail**: max 100+ HR StFl 22 Mar (JG). **Blue-winged Teal**: widely reported; max 20 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **N. Shoveler**: arr two VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **Gadwall**: arr three VFNHP 28 Mar (DS). **Am. Wigeon**: arr three HR River Rd SARA 14 Mar (CF); max 50 VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); last four VFNHP 6 Apr (WE). **Canvasback**: arr HR Clermont GREE 16 Mar (BC); max 20 HR Coxsackie 28 Mar (DS). **Redhead**: one FtM 15 Mar (BP, JS), only report. **Ring-necked Duck**: arr HR nr Schuylerville WASH 2 Mar (BP); max 193 TomRes 7 Apr (WE, NM); last two MR Colonie 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Greater Scaup**: arr two VFNHP 28 Mar (DS); max 93 SaraL 14 Apr (BP). **Lesser Scaup**: arr one FtM 16 Mar (BP); max ten TomRes 7 Apr (WE, NM). **Oldsquaw**: arr three HR FtE 14 Apr (BP); max 12 NewB 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Surf Scoter**: one imm GI 27 Apr (WE); two VFPS/L7 18 May (RP). **White-winged Scoter**: max six GI 14 Apr (WE, NM); eight FtM 14 Apr (BP). **Com. Goldeneye**: max 80 SaraL 9 Apr (CF); last four GI 14 Apr (WE, NM). **Bufflehead**: arr Germantown COLU 2 Mar (ADBC); max 55 SaraL 14 Apr (BP); last one SaraL 18 May (WE). **Hooded Merganser**: arr seven HR Castleton RENS 1 Mar (PC); ten eggs in Wood Duck box CP 6 May (JS). **Com. Merganser**: max 160 Schodack Creek Poolsburg COLU 17 Mar (PC). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max 19 HR Coxsackie 14 Apr (RG to BEN). **Ruddy Duck**: one FtM 5 Apr (D. Beeler to BEN); three Nassau L RENS 17 Apr (PC), unusual in spring.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Turkey Vulture**: arr Rensselaer 1 Mar (DS); max five Hague WARR 26 May (*fide* LM). **Osprey**: seven Apr, eight May reports; two CP 8 May (JS). **Bald Eagle**: 19 reports, seven ad, eight imm, four unspecified. **N. Harrier**: max three m FtE 27 Mar (BP); 11 reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: arr SNHP 31 Mar (JG); max six+ GREE 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **Cooper's Hawk**: arr NRP 17 Mar (WE); max six+ COLU 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **N. Goshawk**: five reports. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: eight reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr two NRP 19 Apr (WE). **Red-tailed Hawk**: max 17 Colonie Landfill ALBA 31 Mar (WE); 22 Stone Bridge Rd SARA 20 Mar (BP); pair in courtship flight Meco FULT 7 May (LF). **Rough-legged Hawk**: last one Poolsburg 17 Mar (PC). **Am. Kestrel**: arr Rensselaer 14 Mar (DS); max five pairs SNHP area 27 Apr (JG). **Merlin**: one PISP 17 Apr (WE); one T Greenfield SARA 19 May (*fide* LM). **Peregrine Falcon**: one Wolf Rd ALBA 15 Mar (WL to BEN); pr Anthony's

Nose Mt. WASH 28 Mar-9 Apr (*vide* LM); pr Rogers Rock Mt. T Hague WARR 22 Apr; one Galway SARA 5 May (RH); one T Moreau 28 Apr (B/B Bidwell *vide* BP). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: one Livingston COLU 16 Apr (ADBC). **Ruffed Grouse**: first drumming NRP 13 Apr; Meco 18 Apr. **Wild Turkey**: continues in good numbers even after harsh winter. **Virginia Rail**: max four CP 16 May (JS); four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Sora**: four reports of singles. **Com. Moorhen**: one BCWMA 18 May (WE, WL); 12-15 CP as of 31 May (JS); not reported from VFNHP. **Am. Coot**: one FiveR 18 Apr (CT), only report. **Black-bellied Plover**: no reports. **Semipalmated Plover**: three StFl 19 May (JG), only report. **Greater Yellowlegs**: six reports; max 12 StFl 10 May (BP). **Lesser Yellowlegs**: four reports. **Solitary Sandpiper**: max eight StFl 18 May (WE, NM). **Spotted Sandpiper**: max eight Hague WARR 11 May (LM). **Upland Sandpiper**: one FtE (BP); two SNHP 14 May (JG). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: no reports. **Least Sandpiper**: max 33 StFl 10 May (BP). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: two StFl 10 May (BP). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL). **Dunlin**: one Schodack Marshes RENS 18 May (WL); three StFl 19 May (JG). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 FiveR 24 May (CT). **Com. Snipe**: max seven T Moreau SARA 6 May (BP); widely reported. **Am. Woodcock**: max eight Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE); many reports but of lower numbers than last year. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 13 ColL 23 Apr-15 May (RP); 15 SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Ring-billed Gull**: max 700 MR Colonie 16 Mar (WE, NM); few adults remained by 5 May. **Herring Gull**: max 2000 Colonie Landfill ALBA 9 Mar (WE, NM); few adults after late April. **Iceland Gull**: one Colonie Landfill 16 Mar, 6 Apr (WE, NM); one Cocksackie Boat Launch 4 Apr (RG to BEN). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one Colonie Landfill 19 Mar (RG to BEN). **Glaucous Gull**: one ad SI 9 Mar; one imm Colonie Landfill 27-28 Apr (WE, NM). **Great Black-backed Gull**: max 340 Colonie Landfill 9 Mar (WE). **Caspian Tern**: one ColL 12 May (RP). **Com. Tern**: three SaraL 18 May (WE, NM). **Forster's Tern**: oneBCRes 17 Apr (KA), unusual in spring. **Black Tern**: four reports; max four SaraL 18 May (WE, NM).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: eight reports. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: no reports. **E. Screech-Owl**: seven reports. **Great Horned Owl**: three reports, no nesting observed. **Barred Owl**: nine reports, incl. one pair Meco FULT 25 May (LF). **GREAT GRAY OWL**: one T Fort Ann WASH 27 Feb-23 Mar (M.B. Butler *vide* BP!); one Lawyerville SCHO 29 Mar (*vide* WL!). **N. Saw-whet Owl**: one dead on rd Claverack COLU 12 Mar (BC), only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: two+ Albany mid-late

May (R. Crawford *vide* PC); one Schenectady 18 May (RP) three FiveR 22 May (JG, AVK). **Whip-poor-will**: one-two T Stillwater SARA 18 May (WL); one Meco 24 May (LF). **Chimney Swift**: max 135 Cohoes/PISP 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: three banded JL May; three returns from 1994-1995 bandings (RY), numbers down from recent years. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: no reports. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: eight reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max four White Creek WASH 22 Apr (JS); 13 reports of singles. **Downy Woodpecker**: max 11 PISP 5 May (WE); scarce at JL (RY). **Hairy Woodpecker**: scarce at JL (RY). **N. Flicker**: arr Silver Bay WARR 27 Mar (LM); max 27 NRP 19 Apr (WE). **Pileated Woodpecker**: max four NRP 19 Apr (WE); scarce at JL (RY).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: no reports. **E. Wood-Pewee**: max seven NRP 29 May (WE). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: one Schodack Ctr. RENS 19 May (PC), only report. **Alder Flycatcher**: only three reports. **Willow Flycatcher**: max four BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Least Flycatcher**: max 13 T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *vide* LM). **E. Phoebe**: max six FiveR 18 Apr (DS). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: max five NRP 26 May (WE, NM). **E. Kingbird**: max four FiveR 30 May (DS). **Horned Lark**: max 30 Colonie Landfill 9 Mar (WE); 50 Brookview RENS 10 Mar (PC). **Purple Martin**: max 14 prs SaraL 18 May (JG). **Tree Swallow**: 350 GI-Colonie ALBA 14 Apr; 400 Cohoes-Colonie 27 Apr (WE, NM), high counts. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max 33 Cohoes-PISP ALBA/SARA 27 Apr (WE, NM). **Bank Swallow**: active colony Union Mills Rd. Broadalbin FULT (LF); first excavations for annual colony T Jackson garage sandpile WASH 25 Apr (JS); 40+ excavations in contractor's dirt pile Slingerlands ALBA (AVK). **Cliff Swallow**: max 12 Silver Bay WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *vide* LM); 12 VFNHP 12 May (JG). **Barn Swallow**; max 24 Hague WARR 11 May B/B Wotton *vide* LM). **Blue Jay**: courtship feeding Meco FULT 14 May (LF); max 21 Hague WARR 19 May (*vide* LM). **Am. Crow**: continues to increase in Schenectady (RY). **Fish Crow**: ten reports; max four Poolsburg 17 Mar (PC); possible nesting Schenectady (RY). **Com. Raven**: reported throughout Region; max four L George Vil 21 Apr (KA). **Black-capped Chickadee**: 5-26 banded each period JL; max 26 2 Mar (RY). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: max six Pine Bush Preserve ALBA 21 Apr (WE); four banded JL thru (RY). **White-breasted Nuthatch**: two banded JL thru (RY), normally absent. **Brown Creeper**: first singing Meco 19 Mar (LF); three Skidmore 25 Mar (JG). **Carolina Wren**: six reports of singles. **House Wren**: max ten SNHP 9 May (JG). **Winter Wren**: eight Apr reports; one Thacher Pk ALBA 18 May (WL); one

Meadowdale ALBA 18 May (WE, NM). **Marsh Wren**: max three BCWMA 18 May (WE, NM). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: arr two SNHP 12 Apr (JG). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max eight+ SNHP 28 Apr (JG); last one Guilderland ALBA 19 May (WE), late. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: max six BCWMA 4 May (WE, NM). **E. Bluebird**: max five NRP 4 Apr (WE); numbers down from last year. **Bicknell's Thrush**: no reports; *breeding areas in Catskills not checked; given development pressures this needs attention*. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: one Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE). **Swainson's Thrush**: two singing Schodack Ctr RENS 24 May (PC); six reports of singles. **Hermit Thrush**: max nine T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *vide* LM). **Wood Thrush**: max five T Hague 11 May (B/B Wotton *vide* LM). **Gray Catbird**: max 14 NRP 29 May (WE). **N. Mocking**

bird: low numbers **Brown Thrasher**: max four Guilderland 4 May (WE, NM). **Am. Pipit**: max 20 Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *vide* LM). **Cedar Waxwing**: max 50 NRP 26 Apr (WE); most arrived after 25 May. **N. Shrike**: eight reports of singles.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **Solitary Vireo**: 11 reports 19 Apr-18 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 12 reports of singles. **Warbling Vireo**: ten reports of singles. **Philadelphia Vireo**: two reports of singles 15 May, one 18 May. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max six NRP 18 May (WE, NM). **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr SNHP 2 May; max 14 9 May (JG). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr Greenport COLU 11 May (ADBC); one SNHP 16 May (D. Hayes). **Tennessee Warbler**: seven reports 11-19 May. **Nashville Warbler**: twelve reports 4-24 May. **N. Parula Warbler**: nine reports 2-18 May. **Yellow Warbler**: max 20 VFNHP 11 May (JG); 20 Hague Beach WARR 11 May (LM). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max eight Guilderland ALBA 18 May (WE, NM). **Magnolia Warbler**: 11 reports 11-19 May; max six Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Cape May Warbler**: five reports 11-18 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: eleven reports 25 Apr-18 May; max six Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: max 42 Guilderland 4 May (WE, NM); last two NRP 26 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 13 reports 23 Apr-18 May; max 11 Skidmore woods 13 May (JG). **Blackburnian Warbler**: 12 reports 3-18 May. **Pine Warbler**: eleven reports. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Schodack Ctr. RENS 26 Apr (PC); four SNHP 9 May (JG); max six BCWMA 18 May (WL). **Palm Warbler**: twelve reports 22 Apr-11 May; max ten FiveR 22 Apr (DS). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: five reports 11-19 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: six reports 11-26 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: no reports. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max three

FiveR 3 May (DS); widely reported. **Am. Redstart**: nine reports 7-31 May. **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER**: one Ballston L SARA 29-31 May (G/K Hanson), first since 1989, 3rd record for SARA. **Worm-eating Warbler**: one Blossom Hill Rd. ALBA 18 May (WL), only report. **Ovenbird**: max 12 T Hague 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM); nine Skidmore woods 21 May (JG). **N. Waterthrush**: seven reports 13-26 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr FiveR 12 Apr (CT); max three NRP 29 May (WE). **Mourning Warbler**: two reports of singles. **Wilson's Warbler**: four reports 11-19 May; one m Fox Lair WARR 24 My (DR). **Canada Warbler**: max three Guilderland 18 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one Cambridge WASH 13 May (JS), first report since 1992.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Scarlet Tanager**: 13 reports of singles; six T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM); seven E. Greenbush RENS 13 May (DS); four NRP 18 May (WE, NM). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max nine Guilderland ALBA 14 May (WE); widely reported in suburban yards in 11-14 May fallout. **Indigo Bunting**: widely reported throughout Region. **E. Towhee**: max ten Guilderland 4 May (WE); seven SNHP 9 May (JG). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last FiveR 25 Apr (DS); 23 banded at Tom Palmer's feeder near Amsterdam 6 Apr (RY), good numbers. **Chipping Sparrow**: max 48 T Hague WARR 11 May (B/B Wotton *fide* LM). **Field Sparrow**: arr Guilderland 19 Apr (WE), late. **Vesper Sparrow**: one Tygert Rd ALBA 18 May WL). **Savannah Sparrow**: max five Hague Beach WARR 11 May (LM). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: one SNHP 14-31 May (JG); one Meadowdale RD. ALBA 18 May (WL); only two reports. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr one SNHP 1 May (JG). **Fox Sparrow**: arr FiveR 15 Mar (DS); 11 Guilderland bt 25 Mar-14 Apr (WE, NM); last Saratoga 15 Apr (JG). **Song Sparrow**: arr Guilderland 9 Mar; 32 VFNHP 6 Apr; 30 NRP 19 Apr (WE), high counts. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one Fox Lair WARR 24 May (DR). **Swamp Sparrow**: arr and max 30 BCWMA 20 Apr (WE). **White-throated Sparrow**; migrants Schodack RENS 12, 25 Apr (PC); first migrants ALBA 19 Apr; 35 Guilderland 29 Apr (WE), high count; singing began Broadalbin FULT 21 Apr (LF). **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 35 Bolton Landing WARR 14 May (P. Shephard *fide* LM); last Niskayuna SCHE 18 May (RP). **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 64 NRP 19 Apr (WE); singing began Meco 31 Mar (LF); last FiveR 4 May (DS). **Lapland Longspur**: last Greenwich WASH 13 Mar (JS). **Snow Bunting**: last 20 Brookview RENS 10 Mar (PC); five FtE 10 Mar (D. Beeler to BEN). **Bobolink**: two colonies Schodack RENS 11 May (PC); numerous SNHP after 1 May (JG); FiveR after 4 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: singing began SARA 2 Mar (JG). E.

Meadowlark: arr FiveR 23 Apr (CT). **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Schodack Landing RENS 17 Mar (PC); last one Guilderland 14 May (WE). **Com. Grackle:** max 1500+ Brookview RENS 15 Mar (PC). **Orchard Oriole:** one NewB 5 May (RG to BEN); one Guilderland 13 May (L. Samuelson to BEN). **Baltimore Oriole:** max 15 NRP 29 May (WE). **Purple Finch:** arr Guilderland 14 Apr; max ten 26 Apr (WE); three banded Apr, 22 May JL (RY), numbers up from last year. **House Finch:** numbers slowly rebuilding after crash. **Com. Redpoll:** widely reported throughout Region; max 170+ Garnet L WARR 29 Mar(JG); 141 banded JL Mar (RY); last five FtM 16 May (BP). **Pine Siskin:** present in small numbers throughout period; 11 Guilderland 5 May (WE); max 17 Saratoga 12 May (JG). **Am. Goldfinch:** 17 banded JL May (RY); common throughout Region at feeders where House Finch numbers have declined. **Evening Grosbeak:** widely reported throughout Region; max 100+ Stewart Dam area SARA 29 Mar (JG).

email: jgraves@skidmore.edu

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Usai

70 Virginia Road Apartment 18A, North White Plains NY 10603

Despite the lack of warm fronts and the cool weather this spring the migration was a good one. A front and the resultant fog and rain on the night of 18 May produced a tremendous fallout of migrants on the 19th. Several areas scattered around the Region reported 20+ warbler species. Large numbers of migrants were reported everywhere. Among the more interesting reports from that day are scattered Kentucky, Hooded, and Cerulean warblers. Large numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos and Tennessee Warblers were also reported that day. A Tricolored Heron at Piermont Pier, ROCK on 10 May is an excellent find inland (ET). This was followed by a White-winged Scoter there on 19 May. A Sedge Wren was at the Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, WEST from 29 Apr through 1 May. Several Blue Grosbeaks were reported this spring from ULST and DUTC. Vagrant sparrows had a good showing, with a singing Lark Sparrow at Bashakill SULL on 17 May (TB,GB) and a singing Clay-colored Sparrow at the newly capped Croton Point Landfill, WEST during the last week of May (JJ,JB). The landfill also produced Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and

Bobolink among other species migrating through.

Other highlights included: Northern Gannet, Least Bittern, Black Vulture, Golden Eagle, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Alison Beall, Gail Benson, Jackie Bruskin, Thomas Burke, Jeff Daley, Andrew Farnsworth, Valerie Freer, Dave Kunstler, Jackie Jones, Helen Manson, Heinz Meing, Christopher Nadareski, Frank Nicoletti, Selden Spencer, Ed Treacy, Mike Usai, Hans Weber.

Abbreviations: EGR - Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, LHVBL - Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, JBNHS - John Burroughs Natural History Society, RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, M P- Milton Point, Rye, MC - Marshlands Conservancy, RLSP - Rockland Lake State Park, WB - West Branch Reservoir, Ash - Ashokan Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-throated Loon:** one MC 17 Mar; one Hillview Res 24 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** one MC 21 Mar; one WB 12 Mar. **N. Gannet:** MC 23 Mar; eight EGR 24 Mar. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr MC 2 Mar; 593 nests Huckleberry, down from 830 in 1995; 17 nests WB, up from four in 1995. **Am. Bittern:** one DUTC 22 Apr (RTWBC); two Crugers Is 24 Apr; two Constitution Is 20 Apr. **Least Bittern:** one MC 29 Apr (TB); one MC 23 May (TB). **Great Egret:** arr MC 31 Mar; 46 nests Huckleberry Is, up from 39 in 1995; one Cruger's Is 24 Apr. **Snowy Egret:** arr MC 31 Mar. **Cattle Egret:** one MC 4 May (TB); one RNC 5 May, first for locality (TB,MU). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr MC 14 Apr; four nests Huckleberry Is, down from 64 in 1995. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one MC 19 May. **Tricolored Heron:** one Piermont Pier 10 May, excellent record away from coast (ET). **Glossy Ibis:** MC 4 May. **Blue-winged Teal:** several MC 24 May. **White-winged Scoter:** one MC 22 May; one Piermont Pier 19 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** up to five Doodletown thr. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one MC 13 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** to late Mar Stissing Mt. **Merlin:** one MC 1 May. **Peregrine Falcon:** one ad fem Davids Is, New Rochelle, WEST 7 May (DK, AB, MU); nest with four yg Tappan Zee Br, WEST (CN, MU, NYSDEC). **Clapper Rail:** arr MC 29 Apr. **Virginia Rail:** MC 22 Apr. **Sora:** one MC 1 May. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr MC 10 May. **Semipalmated Plover:** first MC 1 May. **Am. Oystercatcher:** two MC 30 Mar; up to three MC thru; one nest Huckleberry Is, with three adults on island. **Greater Yellowlegs:** several MC 18 Mar; one ULST 16 Apr, early.

Willet: one MC 10 May; two Piermont 16 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: first MC 3 May. **Least Sandpiper**: first MC 26 Apr. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: one MC 22 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: first MC 22 Apr. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: first MC 11 May. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: one MC 2 Mar (TB). **Laughing Gull**: arr 15 MC 20 Apr. **Iceland Gull**: one Naponoch Flats 22 Mar; one 1W WB 9 Apr (MU); one 1W Gate of Heaven Cemetary, WEST 16 Apr (MU). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: one ad WB 27 and 28 Mar (MU). **Glaucous Gull**: one W EGR 11 Mar (TB). **Com. Tern**: first MC 4 May. **Least Tern**: first MC 5 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: widespread after mid May. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: widespread after mid May; good flight in Region 19 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Barred Owl**: three MC to April. **Whip-poor-will**: one Standfordville, DUTC 30 April; one MC 19 May (TB). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: first MC 12 April.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: two Doodletown 16 May thru. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: widespread, particularly mid-May. **Willow Flycatcher**: first MC 22 May; late this year at breeding sites. **E. Phoebe**: first mid Mar. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: first MC 4 May. **E. Kingbird**: first MC 4 May. **Purple Martin**: 10 Milewood Rd, DUTC 30 April; sev MC 5 May; several pair breeding on Milton Pt, Rye, WEST. **Tree Swallow**: first MC 1 Apr, late. **House Wren**: first MC 21 Apr. **Sedge Wren**: one MC 29 Apr - 1 May (TB). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: first MC 20 Apr; widespread elsewhere. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: first MC 19 May; sev RNC 19 May. **Bicknell's Thrush**: sev RNC 19 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: first 12 May; many 19 May.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: first 29 Apr. **Solitary Vireo**: first 12 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: first 29 Apr. **Philadelphia Vireo**: one 14 May, ULST. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr 3 May; two Doodletown thru. **Tennessee Warbler**: large flight 19 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one Tibbets Brook Pk, Yonkers, WEST 26 Apr. **Magnolia Warbler**: first 23 Apr. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: first 12 Apr. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: first 23 Apr. **Blackburnian Warbler**: first 3 May. **Pine Warbler**: first 12 Apr; bulk came in late. **Palm Warbler**: first 12 Apr. **Black-and-white Warbler**: first 12 Apr. **Worm-eating Warbler**: first 3 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: first 12 Apr. **Hooded Warbler**: first 29 Apr; sev Doodletown thru. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one RNC 19,20 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Blue Grosbeak:** one Krumville, ULST mid-May (Morton Miller); female Rosendale, ULST 12 May (SS); female Fishkill 18 May. **Indigo Bunting:** first MC 4 May. **Dickcissel:** one with House Sparrows at Mt. Kisco, WEST feeder week of 16 May; Bashakill male 19 May. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one singing Croton Pt Park, WEST last week May (JJ, JB). **Lark Sparrow:** singing Bashakill 17 May (TB, GB). **Savannah Sparrow:** first MC 12 Apr. **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** first one MC May. **Seaside Sparrow:** first MC 1 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** several in MC in May. **Bobolink:** first MC 30 Apr; sev Croton Pt Pk in May; a few Glaeville 12 May. **Rusty Blackbird:** one 1 May, ULST (JBNHS); one 11 May Cary Arb, Millbrook, DUTC (RTWBC).

[Ed: This report was received too late for the information to be included in the seasons highlights analysis except for the table data.]

REGION 10 - MARINE

Seymour Schiff¹ & Alvin Wollin²

1. 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead NY 11550
2. 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

Snow and cold dominated the early part of the season, the last of the white stuff lasting to early April which is very late date for this area. It just didn't want to be spring! March temperatures were 3.5 ° below normal with a new daily low of 11° F on the ninth. April monthly temperatures were a few tenths degree below normal. On the thirteenth of April it reached 80° and on 24 April there was a new high of 85°. This would appear to end the winter we were having, but May was still 1.6°F below normal. The end of winter and the beginning of summer came with a sustained four day heat spell, with temperatures over 90° and new daily highs of 96° and 93° on May 20 and 21. Precipitation was about normal for the reporting season, but greater than normal in April and less in March and May.

In step with the weather, the *Forsythia* was a week late in blooming, missing its usual April 1st date. However, by the first week of May the dogwoods were in bloom and the oaks were leafing out. The movement of birds matched the cooler weather and the plant cycle. Our usual early (March and April) migrants were slow in arriving, and, if on time, were much fewer in numbers

than usual until later in the season. By mid-May the migration had caught up.

There were three major movements of note this spring. The first came 29 Apr-1 May, and brought a rush of migrants. The second was an extraordinary flight of swallows on 12 May. Large numbers of all species of this group were observed throughout the Region. In particular Ken Feustel reported in two hours at Jones Beach: 300+ Bank Swallows, 200 Barn Swallows, 15 N. Rough-winged Swallows, 150 Tree Swallows and five Cliff Swallows. Neither brown backed swallow is seen very often at the beach. On the same day Steve Walter highlighted hundreds of Barn Swallows, a few Tree Swallows, 300 Bank Swallows, several dozen Cliff Swallows, a few Purple Martins, and 100 Chimney Swifts in the mix of species at Fort Tilden. This flight carried over into the next day when all the swallows and Purple Martins were seen in Central Park.

The third flight was the best. A unique, unusual, weather pattern occurred in Mid-May. Two separate fronts formed, bracketing the Middle Atlantic Eastern Seaboard producing the heat spell mentioned above. A major migration was trapped between these fronts and produced an impressive, widespread fallout of birds. The morning of Sunday, 19 May saw a day reminiscent of the "good old days." The breadth of the phenomenon was noted throughout the entire Region 10 area, from Staten Island to Orient Pt., and extended well to the north. A search of internet sites indicated that the entire state from New York City to Buffalo saw great birding that day. To the south little unusual activity was reported from this new information source.

What may be considered the "Bird of the Year", an immature *EURASIAN HOBBY* (*Falco subbuteo*), was found and identified by Andy Guthrie and Tony Lauro, with Bob Kurtz arriving on the scene a few minutes later, on 7 April at the entrance to the Cedar Beach Overlook parking lot (Suffolk Co.). Guthrie happened to have with him a European guide which aided in identifying the unusual raptor they had discovered. Prior to this sighting there have been six records for Alaska, none in the lower 48. Based on a detailed report and photographs, NYSARC added this species to the *Checklist of the Birds of New York State* in August in time for the printing of a new list for the FNYSBC annual meeting.

A **Swallow-tailed Kite**, another rare raptor, but from the south, was seen at Carmen's River, Brookhaven on 26 May by Jim Clinton. The Central Park Hawkwatch (Sharon Freedman) recorded a **Black Vulture** on 22 April.

Two rare species are being reported with increasing frequency, records which are difficult to evaluate because of possible confusion with other

birds. Because many of the prior reports over the years have not withstood scrutiny, we have commented with caution on the recent reports as they have been brought to our attention. This spring, again, there were reported sightings of **Anhinga** (from Staten Island) and **Arctic Tern** (from Shinnecock) [Ed: Actually a summer season bird, 16 June.]. Both species were reported by skilled observers and some of these reports included details. With the usual caution, it appears they probably are good records. All require NYSARC scrutiny.

A pelagic trip from Montauk to Block Canyon on 10 March produced the following list: Northern Fulmar, 75 Northern Gannets, Iceland Gull, 13 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 220 Dovekies, four **Common Murres**, nine Razorbills and 35 large alcid, species.

There were two **Wilson's Plover** reports, possibly of the same bird; from Westhampton Dunes on 15 May by Bob Kurtz and from Jones Beach West End on 19 May by A. Bendinger. This is a southern species which rarely makes its way so far north.

To date, the only form of Iceland Gull recorded in New York is the subspecies *kumlieni*. We are receiving an increasing number of reports of Iceland Gulls with "all white" wings, presumably of the nominate subspecies *glaucoides*. Either birders are now more alert or a change in the relative abundance of these two is occurring here. We would like to report on these and other variations from the norm. Please send us written details on observations of Iceland Gulls with pure white primaries. [RE Note: With the ascendancy of the splitters of today over the lumpers of yesterday, it behooves us to keep records of identifiable subspecies.]

Tom Fiore reported the sighting of a **Swainson's Warbler** which was seen by Alan and Sandra Levine on 20 Apr. The bird hit a building on Roosevelt Island, fell to the ground, and was carefully observed by them while it lay stunned. A **LeConte's Sparrow** was found in the Hope Rose Garden, Castle Clinton, Battery Park, Manhattan on 15 Mar by Paul Osenbaugh. A photo was received by Tom Burke for evaluation; it looked good.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Howard Boltson, Steven Biasetti, Thomas W. Burke, James Clinton, Sr., Lester Feldman, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Paul H. Gillen, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Peter Martin, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Steve Walter, Angus Wilson, Alvin Wollin. **Abbreviations:** APP-Alley Pond Park; CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; DP-Democrat Pt, FI; FI-Fire Island; FP-Forest Park; GKP-Great Kills park, SI; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; JIN-Jones Inlet; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PP-Prospect Park; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island.

LOONS-DUCKS: **Red-necked Grebe:** considerably more sightings this spring than usual; a number wintered in Jones Inlet and other locations along the South Shore of LI, to 5 May at FI. **Eared Grebe:** JIN to 23 Mar. **N. Fulmars:** one Montauk to Block Canyon 10 March. **Sooty Shearwater:** small numbers off South Shore of LI 16-17 May; two at Southampton 18 May; ten at the mouth of Sagg Pond. **N. Gannet:** 75 Montauk to Block Canyon 10 Mar. **ANHINGA:** Saw Mill Creek, SI (Chris Aquila) and Wolf Pond Park, SI 5 May (Phillip Brown, Scotty Jenkins), reports *fide* HF, [both sightings were flying birds]. **Little Blue Heron:** arr Riverhead cranberry bogs 4 Apr. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** Hook Pond 23 Mar (AL). **Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal:** Massapequa Preserve 17-22 Mar; male Poxabogue Pond, Southampton 12 Apr (SB). **Eurasian Wigeon:** Deep Hole Creek, Mattituck mid to late Mar. **Tufted Duck:** Water Mill 14 Apr (Rex Stanford). **Com. Eider** 250 MP 30 Mar; SHIN 19 May-1 Jun. **Harlequin Duck:** 7-8 wintered PL, some to 21 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** 200 FI inlet 30 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: **Black Vulture:** CP 22 Apr (Sharon Freedman *fide* TF). **Turkey Vulture:** sightings on North Shore LI from Mill Neck to Peconic 19 Mar-30 Apr; an increasing number of reports during the spring migration, 23 May over Weesuck Creek on the South Shore. **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Carmen's River, Brookhaven 26 May (JC). **Bald Eagle:** SI big day 11 May. **Rough-legged Hawk:** eastern Jones strip to 21 Apr. **EURASIAN HOBBY:** a new state and lower 48 bird, imm CB 7 Apr, photographs and NYSARC reports (AL, Andy Guthrie, Bob Kurtz, *et al.*). **GYRFALCON:** near Tobay 18 Mar; CB 7 Apr (D. Futuyma). **Wild Turkey:** Wading River 29 Apr, increasing. **Black Rail:** three Oak Beach Marshes 17 May (H. McGuinness, A. Baldelli); heard only 20 May (BA, SB *et al.*). **Com. Moorhen:** HLSP Apr; Sunken Meadow 20 May, rarely seen at either location. **Am. Golden-Plover:** scattered May reports. **WILSON'S PLOVER:** Westhampton Dunes 15 May (R. Kurtz); JBWE 19 May (A. Bendinger). **Piping Plover:** JBWE 2 Mar, first report. **Am. Oystercatcher:** 50 Hampton Bays 14 Apr. **Whimbrel:** Southampton 3 May; one to two birds SHIN 21 Apr to 17 May. **Marbled Godwit:** JBWR 26 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper:** two MEB 14 May; two JBWR 19 May. **Purple Sandpiper:** 25

JBWE 21 Apr; seven GKP 23 May. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**: west of Dune Rd. 25 May (Jim Ash). **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: on mud flat at Sagg Pond, Southampton 14 May, (NYSARC,SB) no details to Regional Editor. If accepted by NYSARC, only the second record in NY. **Ruff**: Sagg Pond 26 Apr (Jim Ash). **Wilson's Phalarope**: Montauk dude ranch 5 May. **Parasitic Jaeger**: DP 30 Apr. **Long-tailed Jaeger**: ad + two imm FI inlet 30 Apr (A. Wilson, AL). **Laughing Gull**: Montauk to Block Canyon on 10 March. **Little Gull**: SHIN 3 & 9 Mar. **Black-headed Gull**: PL 3 Mar. **Bonaparte's Gull**: JBWE thru. **Iceland Gull**: reports including some with "no dark in the primaries". **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: PL 3 Mar; MEB 4 May, DP 5 May. **Glaucous Gull**:GKP 20 Mar; JBCH 28 May. **Black-legged Kittiwake**: 13 Montauk to Block Canyon 10 March. **Caspian Tern**: MEB 3-17 May. **Royal Tern**: RMSP 27 Apr; MEB 19 May. **Roseate Tern**: arr Oak Beach 30 Apr. **Dovekie**: 220 Montauk to Block Canyon on 10 March. **Com. Murre**: four Montauk to Block Canyon 10 March. **Razorbill**: nine Montauk to Block Canyon 10 March. **BLACK GUILLEMOT**: Great Kills Harbor, SI 18 May thru (Howard Snyder *fide* HF). **Alcid species**: 35 large sized (unidentified) Montauk to Block Canyon 10 March.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: **Long-eared Owl**: CP 14 Apr. **Short-eared Owl**: JBWE 10-16 Mar; a few others. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: CP 21 Mar, last report. **Chuck-will's-widow**: calling Riverhead 24 Apr; Amagansett 17 May; three power lines south of Peconic River 19 May (SB); Oak Beach Marshes 20 May (BA et al), heard only. **Chimney Swift**: 100 Fort Tilden 12 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: CP to 4 May; HLSP 27 Apr-2 May; APP 5 May.

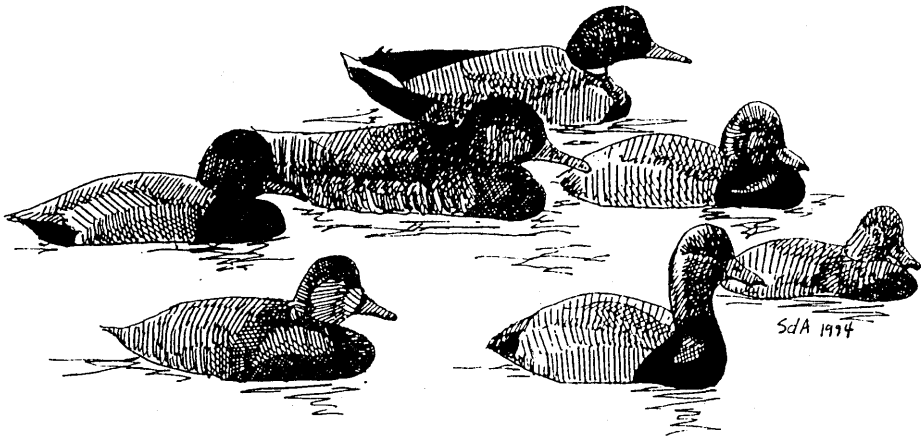
FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: **Purple Martin**: 12 May Fort Tilden. **Tree Swallow**: 150 JBWE 12 May. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: 15 JBWE 12 May. **Bank Swallow**: 300+ JBWE 12 May; 300 Fort Tilden 12 May. **Cliff Swallow**: five JBWE 12 May. **Barn Swallow**: 200 JBWE 12 May. **N. Shrike**: still lingering from the great invasion, over a dozen widely scattered records; last date 27 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: **White-eyed Vireo**: Miller Place 28 Mar JQ earliest state date. **Philadelphia Vireo**: seven FI 19 May, the big flight day; others. **Golden-winged Warbler**: APP 30 Apr; two CP 30 Apr, 2 May; four CP 1 May; JBWR 11 May; a few others. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: CP 29 Apr. **"Lawrence's" Warbler**: CP 1 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: CP 22, 24 Apr; two PP 26 Apr; PP 27 Apr; Sands Pt 28 Apr; CP 26 Apr and 2 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: PP 13-14 Apr; three CP 24 Apr. **Cerulean Warbler:** HLSP 27 Apr; CP 1 May; PP 1 May; FP 1 May; a few others. **Prothonotary Warbler:** half dozen records from NYC parks including SI. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Roosevelt Island, NYC 20 Apr (Alan and Sandra Levine). **Kentucky Warbler:** half dozen records from NYC parks; others. **Hooded Warbler:** CP 14 Apr; others later.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: **Summer Tanager:** Far Rockaway 1 Apr (John Bull). **Blue Grosbeak:** CP from 5 May to 17 May; JBCH 6 May; JBCH fishing station 17 May. **Dickcissel:** two JBWE 12-13 May; JBWE 15 May; RMSP 19 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** CP 11 May. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW:** Hope Rose Garden, Castle Clinton, Battery Park, Manhattan 15 Mar (Paul Osenbaugh *vide* TB of NYRBA who received photo). **Pine Siskin:** small numbers early May. **Evening Grosbeak:** many reports in Apr of birds at feeders, SI to eastern LI, late Apr to mid May.

syschiff@ascensionet.com



CORRECTION FOR FALL 1995 DEPARTURE DATES

Every date in the Fall 1995 Departure Dates table [*Kingbird* 1996 Mar;46(1):98-99] is one day earlier than it should be. That is, October 31 should be November 1 and so on. This was due to an error introduced when an Excel file was composed on one computer and printed on another. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused and have taken steps to avoid such incidents.

Spring Arrival Dates 1996 Waterbirds

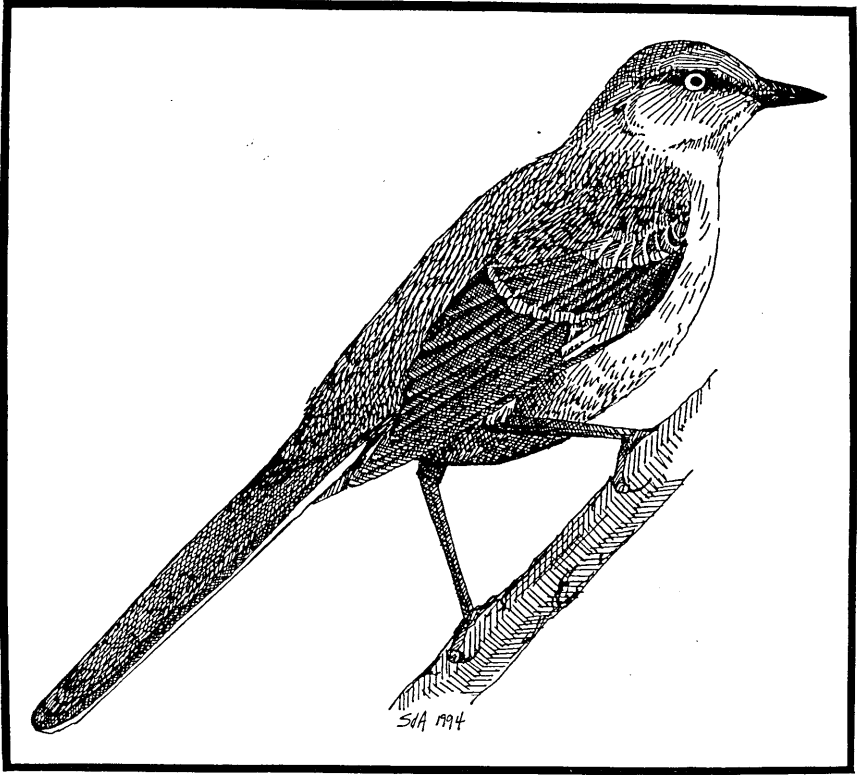
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	10-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	8 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr		26 Apr	18 Apr	20 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr		18 Apr	18 Apr
Green Heron	14 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	8 May	3 May	22 Apr	4 May	23 Mar	22 Apr	24 Apr
Wood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

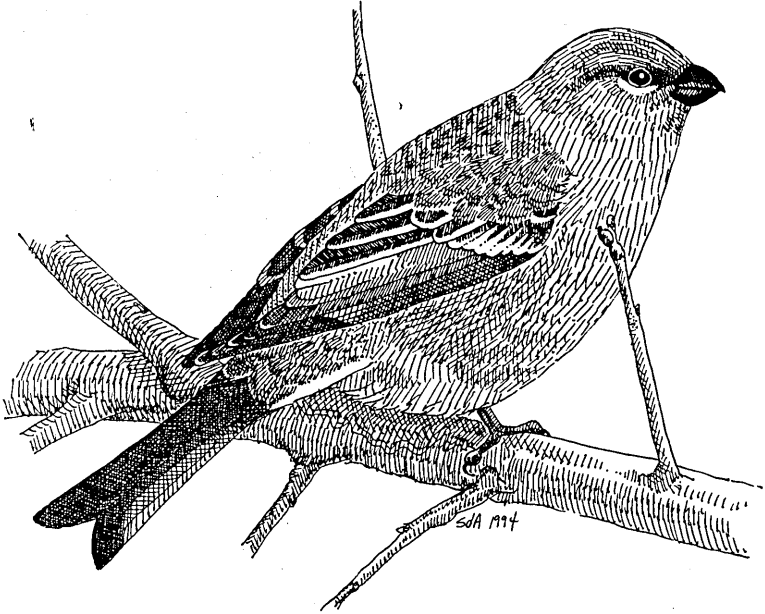
Spring Arrival Dates 1996 Landbirds

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

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 1996										Average	10-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		
Tennessee Warbler	11 May	10 May	11 May	11 May	11 May	15 May	15 May	11 May		4 May	11 May	9 May
Nashville Warbler	4 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	11 May	1 May	8 May	4 May	4 May	4 May	25 Apr	3 May	30 Apr
Northern Parula	30 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	11 May	4 May	8 May	2 May	2 May		21 Apr	2 May	4 May
Yellow Warbler	27 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	4 May	4 May	26 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	8 May	5 May	30 Apr	7 May	4 May	9 May	10 May	26 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	4 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	9 May	10 May	2 May	11 May	5 May	11 May	12 May	11 May	23 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	5 May
Cape May Warbler	4 May	10 May	4 May	11 May	5 May	8 May	12 May	11 May	19 May	29 Apr	8 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	5 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	10 May	25 Apr	30 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	1 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	28 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	9 May	23 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	4 May	4 May	26 Apr	5 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	11 May	3 May	3 May	29 Apr	2 May	4 May
Pine Warbler	20 Apr	6 Apr	11 Apr	11 May	19 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr	18 Mar	16 Apr	15 Apr
Palm Warbler	27 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	11 May	19 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	11 May	10 May	11 May	11 May	11 May	15 May	20 May	11 May	19 May	10 May	12 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	18 May	10 May	18 May	19 May	18 May	17 May	21 May	11 May	4 May	28 Apr	13 May	13 May
Black-and-White Warbler	30 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	12 Apr	30 Mar	22 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	2 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	5 May	2 May	7 May	14 May	7 May	30 Apr	21 Apr	2 May	3 May
Ovenbird	30 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	4 May	5 May	2 May	1 May	21 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	13 May	13 May	13 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Mourning Warbler	18 May	10 May	19 May	11 May	12 May	25 May	21 May	11 May	19 May	11 May	15 May	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	1 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	2 May	4 May	13 May	2 May	23 Apr	19 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	11 May	10 May	14 May	11 May	11 May	18 May	15 May	11 May	15 May	4 May	12 May	12 May
Canada Warbler	12 May	11 May	7 May	12 May	10 May	20 May	19 May	11 May	6 May	4 May	11 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	10 May	9 May	10 May	5 May	11 May	14 May	18 May	3 May	4 May	13 Apr	6 May	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	4 May	8 May	2 May	30 Apr	3 May	27 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	4 May	26 Apr	1 May	8 May	23 Apr	15 May	16 May	30 Apr	4 May	22 Apr	2 May	6 May
Eastern Towhee	14 Apr	16 Apr	5 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	4 May	19 Mar	21 Apr	20 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	13 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr	20 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	11 Apr	10 May	10 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	18 May		29 Apr	23 Apr	13 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	13 Apr	28 Apr		13 Apr	4 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	7 Apr	12 Apr		14 Apr	9 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	9 May	9 May	4 May	24 Apr	27 Apr	10 May	7 May	24 May	11 May	24 Apr	5 May	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow	14 Apr	27 Apr	26 Mar	30 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	2 May	4 May	4 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr
Bobolink	1 May	4 May	1 May	8 May	30 Apr	6 May	9 May	1 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	8 May	30 Apr	22 Apr	5 May	28 Apr	11 May	10 May	2 May	3 May	16 Apr	1 May	1 May
Overall Average	23 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	1 May	25 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr

Bold = Regional Record Early





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