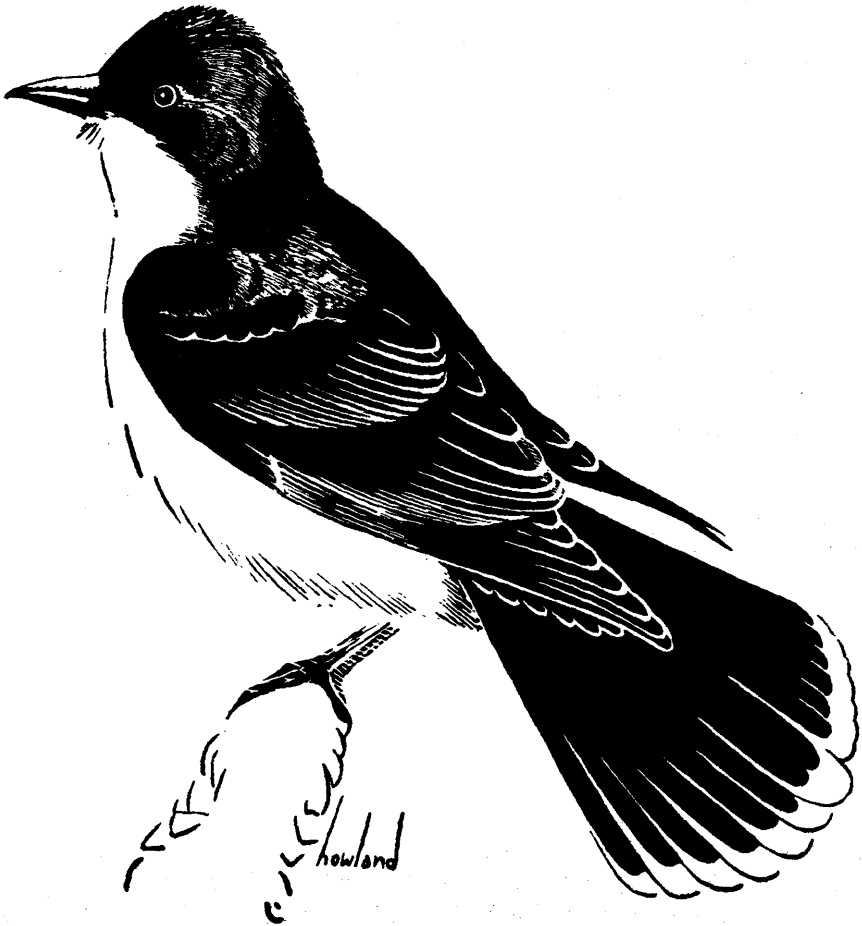


# *The* **KINGBIRD**



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*continued on inside back cover*



# *The* KINGBIRD

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Editor — Donald A. Windsor  
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## A REFERENCE BOOK ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN

Feedback is an enlightening experience and here's hoping it continues. Several comments seemed to appraise *The Kingbird* as an uninteresting magazine. The problem is that *The Kingbird* is a journal, not a magazine. OK, so what's the difference? The distinctions are many, but the most important is captured in the title above. A journal is a reference book which is published in periodical installments (Unwin and others 1994).

A magazine, on the other hand, does not have such commitments. It is free to cater to reader demands. In fact, it has to or it becomes extinct. As such, a magazine can run any format it wants; whatever works.

A journal, because it is an ongoing reference, is obligated to package its information so that it can be referred to readily, that is, without having to read entire articles. Standard journal format has evolved over the decades to be: Informative Title, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion / Conclusion, References (Huth and others 1994).

Because journal articles are updating previous information, references to that information is mandatory. Magazines, because they are more ephemeral, can be devoid of references. This single characteristic is a good diagnostic field mark for differentiating magazines and journals. Perhaps a few examples will clarify this distinction. These are journals: *The Auk*, *The Condor*, *The Wilson Bulletin*. These are magazines: *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Wild Bird*. *Birding* is a dandy hybrid with features of both.

During my stint as Editor, I have been pushing authors to write in standard journal format and to cite previous literature. Many of the manuscripts I receive come in with no structure and no references. At first I was bewildered, then perplexed. However, thanks to the feedback, I now know why. Most of our readers and authors think *The Kingbird* is a magazine and I think it is a journal. Different mindsets leading to a cognitive dissonance.

Should the Federation publish a magazine? That is up to the membership. Perhaps *The Kingbird* can incorporate some features of magazines. Writing magazine articles is much more difficult. They must be interesting and the rejection rates are very high. Oh, one other distinction, magazines pay their authors; journals do not.

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## WHY CALL THIS *THE KINGBIRD*?

Have you ever wondered why this journal is called *The Kingbird*? Our namesake is hardly a good representative of New York State. For most of the year, it is somewhere else. If we were to adhere to the spirit of truth in packaging, the Eastern Kingbird would appear on the covers of only the June and September issues. December and March would have blank spaces, or perhaps a note proclaiming "gone south" or "abdicated".

Gordon Meade, one of the founders of the Federation and its first President, tells us how this species was chosen. At the Third Annual Meeting in Watkins Glen in 1950, it was decided that since New York is the Empire State, and since a king is the head of an Empire, they would call this journal *The Kingbird* (Meade 1988). Actually, an emperor is the head of an empire, not a king. We should be glad that this reasoning did not bring us *The Emperor Penguin* or, better yet, *The Empire-donix Flycatcher*. So, right from the very beginning, we have been stuck with a misnomer. Although perhaps not quite, because we have been subscribing to its tyranny ever since. This tyrant flycatcher will certainly rule in spite of the following argument.

Foremost, a true New Yorker stays here in the winter! Any bird that represents New York must be a year around resident. It must also be known to every citizen. Every New Yorker has seen a starling. Our representative bird must echo our collective stereotypic behavior. The starling is street smart, a superb survivor, an overall in-your-face bird, a perfect fit. Of course, all of these characteristics could also apply to the American Crow or to the Blue Jay, except for the real kicker. The European Starling is an immigrant, just like most of us. Although, because New York was covered by ice, as recently as twelve thousand years ago (Titus 1996), any discussion of who is a native and who is not is merely quibbling over when.

Championing the starling for State Bird has been a project of mine for over a decade (Windsor 1986). I bring it up again, using this bully pulpit, because I resent naming our journal after the Eastern Kingbird. Therefore, I would like to change the name of this publication from *The Kingbird* to *The Starling*. I would like to, but I am a realist and know it will not happen. Besides being rejected by the membership, changing a journal's name, no matter how noble the reason, leads to bibliographic confusion. But, stern as vulgar is, the tyrant rules, at least on paper.

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## BELL'S VIREO IN NEW YORK

Eric Salzman

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**ABSTRACT** — The observation of a probable Bell's Vireo and an examination of specimens and the literature concerning this bird in New York suggest that the variability of this species and the publication of a misleading early photograph have led to this species being underreported or ignored in New York.

### INTRODUCTION

No sight record of Bell's Vireo has ever been accepted in New York and its place in the state avifauna is based on a somewhat dubious photograph by Wilcox in 1959 (Figure 1) and a single undoubted specimen. This species is one of the most controversial and argued over birds in New York (see, for example, Carleton 1958, 1970; Buckley and Post 1970; also Buckley 1974). The key to this problem is the undoubted variability of this species which has not yet been sufficiently analyzed or understood; it appears to be both subspecific and individual.

### FIELD OBSERVATION

A probable Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) was observed with sparrows and kinglets in a black pine near Ponquogue Bridge, Shinnecock (Suffolk), at about 9 am on the morning of 26 October 1996 (Schiff & Wollin 1997). The bird was refound a few minutes later in a scrubby red cedar next to the road where it was observed from a distance of 20 feet at, or slightly above, eye level. Light conditions were excellent and the many dead branches of the tree afforded clear views into its interior where the bird could be seen feeding actively for about 20 minutes until it dove into nearby grassy scrub where it vanished from sight and could not be further relocated. It was about the same size as the numerous Chipping Sparrows in the immediate area and displayed the following field marks:

- Uniform, olive-colored upper parts, more brownish than greenish compared with the Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the area.
- Dark eye with a distinct, narrow, circular, complete eye-ring.
- Small, darkish loreal area.
- Smallish, rather straight bill thickened at the base (color not noted); also dark legs.
- Two white wingbars, the lower one more prominent than the upper.
- Thin light edging on the flight feathers barely noticeable on folded wing.

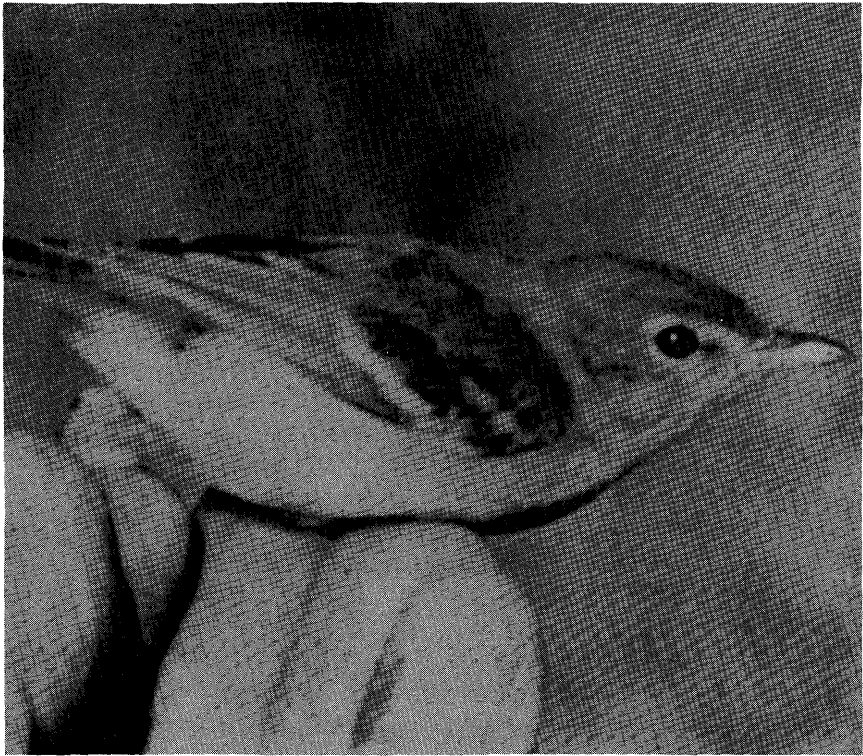


Figure 1: Photo by LeRoy Wilcox taken at Tiana Beach, Shinnecock Bay, Suffolk County on 25 Sep 1959. Published in Buckley and Post 1970 *Kingbird* 20(2):57-60.

- White underparts from the chin to the undertail coverts with yellowish wash on the flanks.
- Distinctive jizz: rounded head, longish-appearing tail with wings extending approximately to the base of the tail only.
- Extremely active with a lot of characteristic tail flicking.

In spite of the lack of an effect of spectacles (invariably shown in field guide illustrations) and the missing observation of bill color (most museum specimens show one or both mandibles as light-colored). I believe this was a Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) of the nominate eastern or 'inland' subspecies.

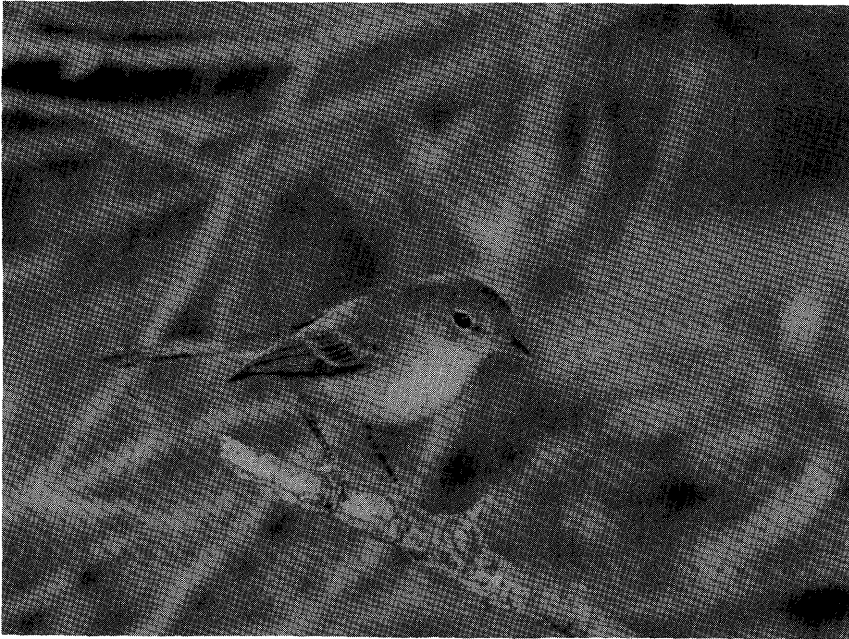


Figure 2: Photo of Bell's Vireo taken by Herbert Clarke, reproduced with his permission. It appears in *Terres Encyclopedia*, 1980, page 913.



## SPECIMEN REVIEW

There is an undated photograph of Bell's Vireo, subspecies not indicated (Figure 2), in the John Terres *Encyclopedia*, which closely resembles the bird I described above except in color (in any case, color registration varies greatly in different reproductions). At least one well-known biologist/birder, familiar with western forms in particular, says that "if the bird looks like the pictures in any of the standard field guides then it is most certainly NOT a Bell's Vireo"! (Kimball Garrett, personal communication). Several experienced field observers and the series of specimens at the American Museum of Natural History testify to the fact that Bell's Vireo often lacks a clearly demarcated supraloral, supercilium or both, and virtually never shows the definite spectacles commonly found on some other vireos.

There are four subspecies generally recognized, the nominate *bellii* which breeds in central and southern USA, herein referred to the "eastern" subspecies; *arizonae* breeding in the southwest and referred to below as the "western" form. The two additional are *medius*, which is essentially Mexican, and *pusillus*, known as Least Bell's Vireo, which according to the literature is confined to southern California and Baja California.

The appearance of the specimens also suggests that much of this variability is individual rather than geographic. *Bellii* differs from the western subspecies mainly in color; the upper plumage is olive rather than gray and there is much more yellow underneath. The facial markings and wing bars are rather more difficult to correlate with geographical origin and may be due to age, condition or individual variation. Feather wear and molt may be factors; the molts of the eastern subspecies appear to be little studied; most of the published information about this bird seems to pertain to the western forms. The bill is also variable. The light color on either mandible, although obvious on the specimens, is rarely mentioned in field descriptions, has been overlooked in almost all the painted portraits of the bird, and is often not visible on photographs. This lack may be due to variability, some quirk of field conditions or a difference between the bill color of living birds and specimens. Many birds also lack the characteristic hook at the end of the bill, possibly due to wear or individual differences.

When dealing with such a range of variability, it is necessary to consider alternatives. The thickish bill was wrong for a wood warbler or any "Old World" warbler (including kinglets) and no North American species of either group has the right combination of field marks in any known plumage. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*), active in the immediate area at the time, are somewhat similar but much smaller with a tiny bill, a tear-drop eye-ring, a different wing pattern, and a very different jizz; other muscavid or sylvid warblers from Eurasia are even less similar. Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) immature has a much smaller, thinner bill and a

very different tone to the upperparts. Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), like Warbling Vireo, is an "eye-striper" not an "eye-ringer" and, like all warbler candidates, has a very different bill. The most likely confusion species are other vireos: Warbling (*Vireo gilvus*), Philadelphia (*V. philadelphicus*), immature White-eyed (*V. griseus*) and Solitary (*V. solitarius*). The eyestripe or supercilium of the first two, and the wide, well-marked spectacles on the other two would rule them out. A white or whitish superloral is common on Bell's Vireo and a faint eye stripe is visible on some individuals but the bird in question showed very little of the one and nothing of the other. This degree of variability is characteristic of Bell's Vireo but not of the other species.

October 26 is a late date but not exceptionally so. An unusually late bird was present at Cape May from early December, 1996, well into the new year and birds have been reliably reported from Cape May and other eastern locations in late October and early November.

A good deal of mystery surrounds this species in New York State. This bird's place in the New York State avifauna is securely based on the specimen taken by D. Ford and Paul A. Buckley at the Fire Island lighthouse, 26 Sep, 1970 (USNM #566493). Another specimen (AMNH #708118) was taken at Island Beach, New Jersey, just south of the New York metropolitan area by Joseph R. Jehl, Jr., on 15 Sep 1959.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

No sight record of this species has ever been accepted in New York State. The only record accepted in Bull's 1964 *Birds of New York City* was the bird that Leroy Wilcox mistnetted and color photographed on September 25, 1959, at Tiana Beach, less than a mile down the beach from the bird I observed and only ten days after Jehl's specimen was taken in New Jersey. The photograph, said to have been deposited at the American Museum of Natural History, cannot be found at present and only the black and white reproduction in the 1970 *Kingbird* article (Figure 1) seems to survive. In addition to this record Bull (1974) also lists the specimen taken at Fire Island 26 Sep 1970. No other records are given credence by that author.

It is my opinion that this picture, together with Bull's remarks in both 1964 and 1974, caused a great deal of confusion about the field identification of this species in New York State. Judging by the printed photograph, the field marks appear to be at the edge of or even beyond the limits of what a Bell's Vireo ought to look like and only the wing and tail dimensions given in the accompanying article fall comfortably with its range. Bull reports that this photograph was identified by himself and Eugene Eisenmann by comparison with specimens at the AMNH, but the bird in the photograph does not closely resemble any specimen of this species currently in the museum trays. The

comparatively heavy bill, prominent white spectacles, substantial white wingbars, broad light-colored edging on the flight feathers, and grayish throat and upper breast, all appear to exceed the range of even a very variable species. If the measurements are correct, immature White-eyed Vireo is a possible alternative. "Cassin's" Solitary Vireo (*V. s. cassinii*) is strongly suggested by the appearance of the photograph but the given measurements are too small. The disappearance of the original color photograph only deepens the mystery. If this is a Bell's Vireo, it is at the far extreme of variability for this species and one must additionally consider the possibility that it is a hybrid.

In the article accompanying the reproduction of the photograph, Buckley and Post argue that many of sightings of this species in the state are undoubtedly correct and list a number of these. Since the appearance of this article, however, the species has only been recorded in the *Kingbird* on only one occasion: a singing bird on 12 Sep 1977 at the Wellwyn Estate in Glen Cove, Long Island, Nassau (Lauro 1978). There have, in fact, been other sight records by reliable observers in the interim but, in spite of the plea by Buckley and Post, they have apparently not been submitted or been rejected by editors. No sight records have ever been accepted by Bull or by NYSARC. The account of this species for the forthcoming revision of the *Birds of New York State* essentially continues to repeat the previously accepted New York information and a *de facto* moratorium on published field reports of this bird seems to prevail.

### RANGE OF VARIABILITY

Published descriptions and portraits of Bell's Vireo have contributed to the confusion surrounding this species. For example, Bull (1964) states categorically that Bell's Vireo does not have a conspicuous eye-ring but "merely a trace." The eye-ring is described in some sources as broken and in others as complete. In fact, the presence of some kind of eye-ring may be the single most dependable field mark! Already mentioned is the tendency of most field guide paintings to show the bird with marked spectacles. A more or less whitish supraloral, rarely prominent and sometimes quite obscure, is all that most birds show, and some do not even show much of that.

An examination of the series of specimens at the AMNH of both eastern and western subspecies reveals the extremes of variability. Most specimens show a dark loreal spot which often extends to the eye, interrupting the white eye ring; the whitish supraloral is often defined most clearly by contrast with the dark loreal. On many birds the dark loreal does not reach the eye, leaving the eye-ring complete. There is often little or no white on the supralorals. Some birds also show a supercilium, generally fairly faint. Any combination of one or more of these features seems to be possible with the eye-ring, broken or complete, as the most consistent feature, the other elements appearing in varying degrees of distinctness. It should be mentioned that many specimens have suffered from

poor handling in the area around the eye during preparation. However, much the same kind of variability shows in photographs of living birds.

Other features vary as well. Some birds show a relatively strong pair of wing bars, others show almost nothing. Generally, the lower bar is wider and strongly than the upper. The color of these bars is always white. The flight feathers show, at best, a thin, whitish (rarely yellowish) edging. One or both mandibles of the bill are light-colored on the specimens and the bill is often, but not invariably, strongly hooked; these bill features appear to be often overlooked in field descriptions for reasons already discussed.

### CONCLUSIONS

Evidently the confusion surrounding this species and Bull's strong doubts on the subject have inhibited observers and editors in New York from publishing observations of this bird. However, Bell's Vireo continues to be reported in New York by experienced observers. In 1996, likely individuals of this species were seen in New York City in Prospect Park (Gochfeld 1996) and Central Park (Starr Saphir, personal communication). These inhibitions, moreover, do not apply to New Jersey where the 1994 Cape May bird was accepted by the New Jersey state records committee (Larson 1996) and the 1996/97 bird has also been accepted (P. Lehman, personal communication).

As already suggested by Buckley and Post, *V. bellii* should not be a difficult species to recognize under the right circumstances, especially if its variability and the limits of this variability are better understood. Bull's descriptions of the status of the bird as "accidental" or "casual" may turn out to be overly cautious. In any case, it is time that the *de facto* moratorium on reporting this bird should be reconsidered.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Paul Sweet at the American Museum of Natural History, Paul Lehman, Kinball Garrett, Paul Buckley, and Emanuel Levine.

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[Editorial note: A Bell's Vireo was reported by Robert Spahn on 14 May 1997. See Region 2 report in this issue.]

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# NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1997

Walton B. Sabin

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**ABSTRACT** — The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs' annual midwinter waterfowl count was held 11-19 January 1997. The entire state was covered by about 130 observers. Of the 43 species counted, 22 exceeded 1,000 individuals, and 8 of these exceeded 10,000 each. Those top 8 species, in order of abundance, were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, Common Eider, Brant, Canvasback and Common Goldeneye. Of those 8, 3 declined and 5 increased since 1996. The grand total of 342,837 individuals was up 38.7% from 1996 and 33.8% above the 24-year (1973-1996) average of 256,297.

## INTRODUCTION

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1997 midwinter Waterfowl Count from 11 through 19 January, with 12 January as the target date. All Regions completed their counts by 19 January. Counts from Jamaica Bay and Keuka Lake were conducted after the official count period, so could not be included.

## THE WEATHER

After a warm December, almost 7 degrees above normal, January came in like the proverbial lamb! Most areas were ice and snow free except for the areas downwind of the Great Lakes and in higher terrain. This respite was short-lived, however. A record setting lake effect snow battered the Great Lakes region from 10 January through 14 January. Lewis County set a national record measuring 77 inches of snowfall in a 24-hour period from Saturday night through Sunday morning, 11-12 January. These areas obviously held off counting until the storm had passed and roads became passable once again. The rest of the state had very few problems. A statewide cold snap occurred 17-19 January, but apparently did not impact on the count inasmuch as there was no significant precipitation.

## THE COUNT

The grand total of 342,837 (Table 1) was up 38.7% from 1996, and 33.8% above the 24-year (1973-1996) average of 256,297. Counts of all species listed in Table 2 showed gains versus losses over 1996 to be 11 to 9. Some diving ducks accounted for most of the losses.

Comparing 1997 to 1996 count figures (Table 2), excluding Common Eider, the top 7 species showed a 4 to 3 split in favor of increases. Canvasback

continued to increase over 1996, while Redhead decreased, reversing the 1996 trend. When comparing 1997 count figures with the 24-year (1973-1996) average (Table 3), there is an 8 to 5 split in favor of decreases. The overall total in Table 3 showed a 26.8% increase in 1997 over the 24-year average, up significantly from 1996. A large part of this is because of the explosion of Canada Goose numbers. Common Eider are also up significantly.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory (Serie 1997) showed all geese in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) increased by 15.8% from 1996, with 14.7%, 44.4%, and 6.6% increases in Brant, Snow Goose and Canada Goose numbers, respectively. The dabbling ducks showed a continued decrease of 6.6% from 1996, after a 14.1% decrease recorded last year. American Black Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon and Teal were all down, while Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Wood Duck numbers were up. Diving ducks, including mergansers and sea ducks, showed an overall decrease of 5.9% compared to 1996. Two bright spots here were 54.6% and 19.8% increases over 1996 for Redhead and Ruddy Duck respectively. American Coot showed a 4.5% decrease from 1996. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway was up 1.6% from 1996, but 2.0% below the 10-year (1987-1996) average.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) did not conduct its traditional aerial survey this year, so the usual comparisons were not possible. DEC hopes to discontinue that survey and use the Federation counts as their official count in the future. Although there have often been large differences on a year-to-year basis, mean annual Federation counts for most species are similar to or higher than DEC's (because of more extensive coverage) and long-term trends for most species are similar on the two surveys. DEC will be working with the Federation in the coming years to help compile counts in a timely manner and ensure consistent coverage of all areas.

### 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. The Regional Compilers were:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Compiler</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Compiler</u>
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

Table 1. Regional totals for 1997 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Loon, Red-throated	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	41	43
Common	-	-	4	-	-	1	5	-	-	83	93
Grebe, Pied-billed	5	3	4	1	6	-	-	-	3	72	94
Horned	-	2	1	-	-	-	52	-	7	65	127
Red-necked	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	7
Cormorant, Great	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	90	120
Double-crested	7	2	1	-	33	-	1	-	2	146	192
Swan, Tundra	24	40	30	-	17	-	-	-	-	3	114
Mute	-	58	2	-	4	-	-	77	245	1,068	1,454
Goose, Snow	1	28	26	-	-	-	-	2	154	26	237
Brant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	12,922	12,936
Goose, Canada	3,608	5,201	49,333	5,230	5,389	298	1,666	4,934	19,787	42,200	137,646
Duck, Wood	14	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	2	23
Teal, Green-winged	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	5	391
Duck, American Black	127	426	2,038	77	365	83	197	883	815	12,856	17,867
Mallard	5,580	9,649	10,614	862	2,344	518	2,121	1,250	2,015	10,157	45,110
Mallard X Black Duck	1	14	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	25	45
Pintail, Northern	7	11	17	-	1	-	-	-	6	121	163
Teal, Blue-winged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Shoveler, Northern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	169	171
Gadwall	21	35	11	-	30	43	-	-	38	996	1,174
Wigeon, Eurasian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
American	1	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	73	1,522	1,612



Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Canvasback	5,974	447	1,029	9	9	-	4	144	117	3,483	11,216
Redhead	178	2,769	6,384	-	360	-	1	-	3	55	9,750
Duck, Ring-necked	-	14	9	4	6	-	3	-	224	482	742
Tufted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Scaup, Greater	4,520	11,458	178	2	108	26	480	7	1,608	18,539	36,926
Lesser	29	144	101	1	3	-	22	-	3	519	822
scaup sp.	4	636	61	-	421	-	-	-	-	620	1,742
Eider, Common	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,095	18,095
King	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Duck, Harlequin	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8
Oldsquaw	459	37	-	-	38	-	6	2	35	1,323	1,900
Scoter, Black	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,086	1,087
Surf	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,917	1,920
White-winged	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,601	2,658
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15
Goldeneye, Common	1,969	2,759	264	3	613	1,063	2,207	193	148	1,762	10,981
Barrow's	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	7
Bufflehead	160	256	203	1	87	38	66	1	246	5,281	6,339
Merganser, Hooded	15	42	32	48	10	3	35	7	89	809	1,090
Common	1,154	751	126	266	4,945	497	542	324	376	157	9,138
Red-breasted	133	102	41	6	9	19	2	-	75	2,971	3,358
Duck, Ruddy	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	110	1,912	2,026
Coot, American	91	557	696	46	2	-	-	-	229	1,027	2,648
Unknown	110	20	504	7	3	-	-	-	-	95	739
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,194</b>	<b>35,538</b>	<b>71,717</b>	<b>6,566</b>	<b>14,815</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>7,826</b>	<b>26,466</b>	<b>145,706</b>	<b>342,837</b>

Table 2. Comparison of 1997 count with 1996 count for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1996 or 1997 or both.

Species	1996	1997	% change from 1996
Mute Swan	1,353	1,454	7.5
Brant	12,791	12,936	1.1
Canada Goose	58,162	137,646	136.7
American Black Duck	19,141	17,867	- 6.7
Mallard	45,528	45,110	- 0.9
Gadwall	941	1,174	24.8
American Wigeon	484	1,612	233.1
Canvasback	9,584	11,216	17.0
Redhead	10,670	9,750	- 8.6
scaup (both species)	25,932	39,490	52.3
Common Eider	7,071	18,095	155.9
Oldsquaw	5,386	1,900	- 64.7
scoter (all species)	7,239	5,680	- 21.5
goldeneye (both species)	11,995	10,988	- 8.4
Bufflehead	8,468	6,339	- 25.1
Hooded Merganser	892	1,090	22.2
Common Merganser	7,056	9,138	29.5
Red-breasted Merganser	6,231	3,358	- 46.1
Ruddy Duck	2,782	2,026	- 27.2
American Coot	1,945	2,648	36.1
Total	242,759	339,517	39.9

### NEXT YEAR

The 1998 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 10 through 18 January, with Sunday, 11 January, as the target date.

### LITERATURE CITED

Serie JR 1997. Atlantic Flyway Midwinter Waterfowl Survey - 1997. Final Report. US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20708. p 1-6.

Table 3. Comparison of 1997 count with 1973-1996 average for all species consistently totalling over 1,000 individuals annually.

Species	Average	1997	% change
Brant	14,272	12,936	- 9.4
Canada Goose	57,065	137,646	141.2
American Black Duck	19,994	17,867	- 10.6
Mallard	30,467	45,110	48.1
Canvasback	10,466	11,216	7.2
Redhead	7,099	9,750	37.3
scaup (both species)	51,508	39,490	- 23.3
Oldsquaw	4,152	1,900	- 54.2
scoter (all species)	13,108	5,680	- 56.7
Common Goldeneye	11,905	10,981	- 23.3
Bufflehead	5,793	6,339	9.4
Common Merganser	11,833	9,138	- 22.8
Red-breasted Merganser	3,603	3,358	- 6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,143</b>	<b>305,731</b>	<b>26.8</b>

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**LEWIS' WOODPECKER  
IN RICHFIELD SPRINGS, OTSEGO COUNTY**

**Dorothy W. Crumb**

3983 Gates Rd, Jamesville NY 13078

**David J. Cesari**

5667 Brown Hoag Rd, Rome NY 13440

Around 10 June 1997, James Kurkowski spotted a strange bird eating seeds at his feeder at 12½ Church Street, Richfield Springs. With the help of his daughter, Patsy Beebe, he was able to identify it as a Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). Kurkowski knew no one who was involved with birding, so was unable to notify anyone of his discovery. Beebe mentioned it to a delivery man on 19 June and he notified his cousin, Steve Hall, a birder. Hall identified the bird early in the morning on 20 June and quickly spread the word. David Cesari and his wife Candis immediately drove over with camera equipment. He photographed the bird (Figure 1) and watched it on the ground picking up seed that had dropped from the feeder. It also drank from the birdbath and sat around on the fence and in a birch tree. The Cesaris and four members of the Kurkowski family watched the bird from 10:00 to 11:30 am when the Cesaris left. The bird was still in the yard, not the least bit wary of the people or the car entering or leaving the yard. David Cesari submitted a photo of the woodpecker to NYSARC.

Later in the afternoon, other birders began to arrive until at least 25 people were present. They showed up again the following morning, but the bird never returned.

This is the first photographed record of Lewis' Woodpecker in New York State. Bull declared this species "hypothetical", citing one seen and described, but not photographed, at the Swope feeding station, Ossining, Westchester County from 27 October to 6 November 1954. It was this record that was eventually accepted by NYSARC in 1996.

**LITERATURE CITED**

- Bull J. 1974. [Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). In: *Birds of New York State*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. p 355-356.
- NYSARC. 1996 Dec. Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee 1994. *Kingbird* 46(4): 296-302.

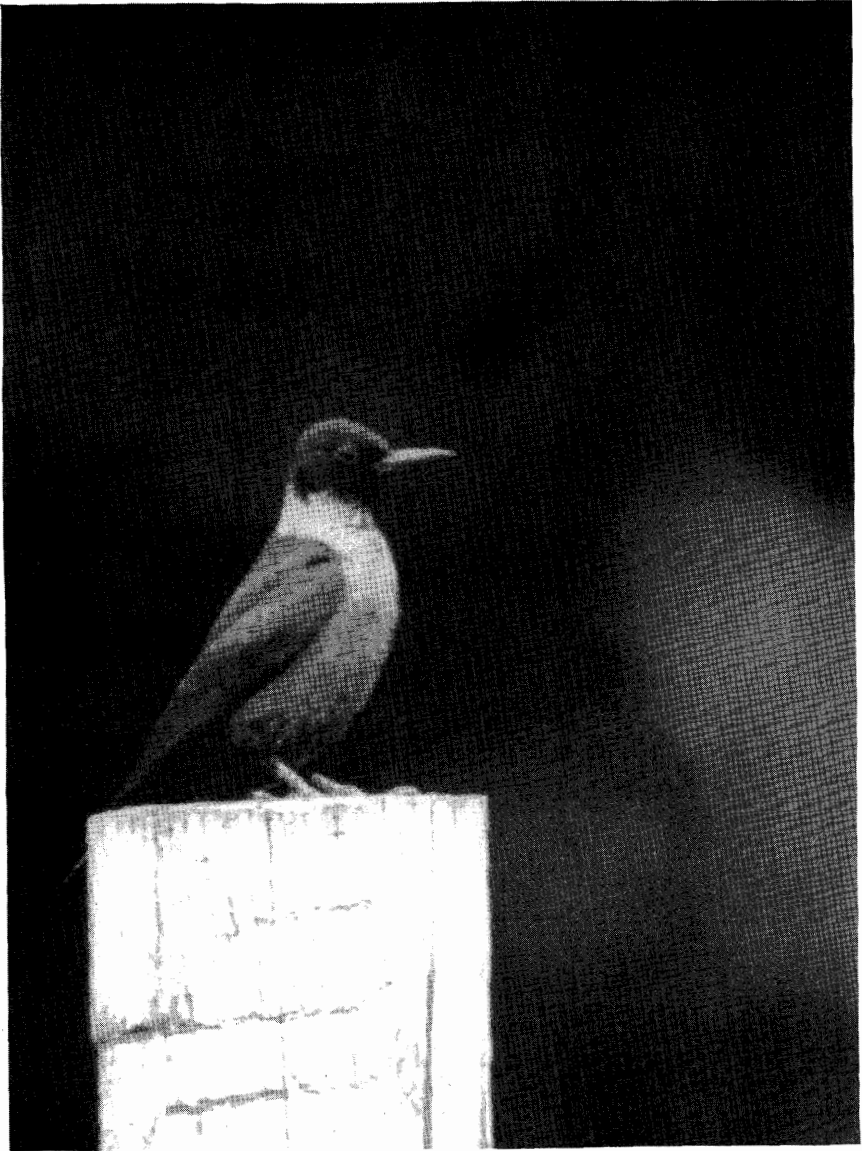


Figure 1. Lewis' Woodpecker photographed by David Cesari on 20 June 1997 in Richfield Springs. The photo was taken from 30 feet with a Nikon F4S camera, through a 500 mm lens, using Fujichrome Sensia film at f-4.

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## LETTER — MORE INDEPENDENCE FOR REGIONAL EDITORS

**Margaret Rusk**

242 W Calthrop Ave, Syracuse NY 13205

As a former Region 5 coeditor, I have strong opinions about Regional reports format, and you've invited their written expression. So, for the first time, I'm explaining a major reason why my coeditor and I quit about 24 years ago: we were spending more time trying to fit the report into an editor-directed Procrustean bed (re format and length) than on soliciting and evaluating observers' data.

This was just too frustrating! Let each Regional editor use her/his preferred format, within flexible, jointly decided, parameters.

A frequent researcher of Regional reports, I find my tasks far easier if all species are in checklist order and, if "special" enough to be in the introduction also, with a clear reference from the main body of the report. The introduction, I think, should be used mostly for reporting on meteorological trends and (their effect on) families or habitat groups of birds.

Thanks for asking!

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 1997

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304-4522

It was another delayed spring across the state. The effect was most noticeable on the May passerines, which some editors stated were up to two weeks late. The average temperature each month in every Region was below normal except perhaps Region 9, which had "near normal" temperatures. It was, indeed, a cold cold spring prompting Region 10 editor Sy Schiff to remark that there was "no spring to speak of". Precipitation was up in all Regions in March with more snow than normal in several, especially Regions 7 & 8. April followed with even colder temperatures, relative to averages, but was drier than normal everywhere except Region 4. May was exceptionally cold, as much as six degrees below average, with frequently adverse winds. Like last year, the migrants stayed bottled up to our south for long periods. When they finally made a push, numbers were not nearly as impressive as last year, which was, after all, exceptional. Some Regions experienced only minor concentrations but most had at least a couple of good days, notably 3-4 May in Region 9; 19, 24, and 31 May in Region 1; and the week of 19-26 May in Region 5.

Starting at the top of the checklist, the Red-throated Loon migration began early in Region 1 with reports from six Regions and good numbers in Region 5. Though short of last year's records, Red-necked Grebes again reached high numbers in Regions 1 & 2 and were also found in every other Region. A very rare Pacific Loon in Region 2 and Eared Grebe in Regions 2 & 10 were the best finds of the loon/grebe group. Two very successful pelagic trips bookended the season in Region 10. Among the many highlights were numbers of Northern Fulmar, Dovekie, Razorbill, and Atlantic Puffin as well as two South Polar Skuas, two Manx Shearwaters, an Arctic Tern, and all three jaegers. American White Pelican appears to be regular now with reports from Regions 1, 5, & 10. The Double-crested Cormorant expansion continues with a high count in Region 5 and early individuals in Region 7. In Region 1 the cormorants moved from an unsuccessful colony to a more productive site where they pose a threat to an important heronry. A Great Cormorant in Region 8 was a good find and a Magnificent Frigatebird in Region 10 must have been exhilarating to see. Down more than up of late, it was nice to see Least Bittern in seven Regions and more reports of American Bittern as well. A Great Blue Heron nestling in Region 1 was probably a record early date and, at the same colony, Great Egrets nested for the third straight year. All the "rare but regular" herons put in an appearance away from the coast this spring with a Little Blue Heron in Region 2, Cattle Egret in Regions 2 & 3, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Regions 7 & 9, Glossy Ibis in Regions 5, 7, & 9, a *Plegadis* ibis species in Region 1, and a Tricolored Heron providing the second record for Region 5. Mute Swan has

spread from its Long Island stronghold to a record count for Region 1. A pair of Trumpeter Swans, undoubtedly spillovers from stock introduced into the province of Ontario in recent years, returned to their nest site in Region 6. One of the biggest stories this spring was the unprecedented numbers of Snow Geese in central New York, with counts of up to 100,000 in Regions 3 & 5 and lesser but still high numbers in Regions 4, 6, 7, & 8. Recent articles on the damage the exponentially increasing numbers of this species can do to the fragile arctic tundra presaged this event. Greater White-fronted Goose continued the recent trend of being regular with sightings in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 8. Is Ross' Goose next? They were found in Regions 3, 5, & 8 including an exceedingly rare blue morph reported in Region 8. Canvasback and Redhead eased recent concerns. Numbers of the former were up in Regions 1, 3, 4, & 5; the latter had high counts in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 5. Ring-necked Duck and Greater Scaup were also in good numbers with an impressive 15,000 of the latter in Region 6. The Common Eider concentration off Long Island continued through March and the state's only King Eiders were also in Region 10. Hooded Merganser was noted as abundant in Region 7, though average elsewhere. Other waterfowl highlights were Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 5, 7, & 9. Tufted Duck in Region 10, and Harlequin Duck in Region 2. A Barnacle Goose in Region 7 was found on too late a date to inspire confidence that it was a wild bird.

The hawkwatches on Lakes Ontario and Erie had dismal seasons. Turkey Vulture was an exception at the hawkwatches and on Long Island where an increase in spring sightings has taken place. The much rarer, but also increasing, Black Vulture was noted in Regions 2, 3, and 9, where a flock of six in Region 3 is unprecedented upstate. The other big black birds, Bald and Golden eagles, received favorable comments in several Regions with Golden's showing up in seven of them. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon continued the pace of recent years with multiple sightings in many Regions but note the nest failure for Peregrine in Region 1. Unusual hawks included Swainson's Hawk in Region 2 and Gyrfalcon in Regions 6 and, to a late date, in Region 1. Like Wood Ducks, female Wild Turkeys will sometimes "dump" their eggs in the nest of their own kind. In Region 4 one very confused bird chose the nest of a Ruffed Grouse instead. Speaking of confused, or maybe a better word is opportunistic, how about a Sandhill Crane at a feeder in Region 2! Now regular in spring, it was found in four Regions with the possibility of breeding raised in Region 2. The idea is not so far-fetched as they have bred in Ontario forty miles west of New York. Among the secretive rail family, a King Rail in Region 9 and a Black Rail in Region 10 were good finds. For those Regions with the habitat, it was an excellent season for shorebirds. There were high counts of both yellowlegs in Region 1, Short-billed Dowitcher and Common Snipe in Region 2, and at least 21 Wilson's Phalaropes statewide, most noted in Regions 1 & 2 and a pair returning to nesting territory in Region 7. Rare in spring were American Golden-Plover in Regions 1 & 2, Stilt Sandpiper in



Region 1. and Western Sandpiper in Region 2. Rare at anytime were Ruff in Region 1, Hudsonian Godwit in Region 7, Wilson's Plover in Region 10, and an amazing Spotted Redshank in Region 2. Gulls also made positive news with high counts in Regions 1 & 10 and an excellent variety in Regions 2 & 10. Thayer's Gull was reported in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 10. Iceland in seven Regions, Glaucous Gull in eight, and Little Gull in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 10. A Black-headed Gull in Region 2 and Laughing Gulls in Regions 2 & 3 were rare but a Lesser Black-backed Gull of the *Larus fuscus intermedius* subspecies in Region 10 was exceptional. The expected *L. f. graellsii*, was found in Regions 1, 2, 3, 8, and, with a probable state record count, in Region 10. Among the terns, Caspian Tern continues to surge with high counts in Regions 1, 2, & 5.

Most birders felt the migration was late to very late. However, the Region 3 & 8 editors, considering the date table for their own Regions, stated that it was average and early, respectively. Read editor Steve Kelling's suggestion for what may be a better indicator of the migration than arrival dates. Considering the state as a whole, the date table did fit the expectations, at least for the late April and May migrants. Among this subgroup there were 19 species that were significantly late, statistically ( $> 2$  standard deviations), and none that were early. On the other hand, those birds that migrate in March and the first three weeks of April had eight species that were significantly early and only three that were late. Of interest are the species which were recorded early in three or more Regions. These were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Chipping Sparrow, all early to mid-April migrants. A few species reportedly arrived earlier than the state record or nearly so. Without details, however, these data only serve to pollute the entire database. Details for these "less exciting" reports are just as important as for a rarity.

Except for the regular Snowy Owl, none of the northern owls were found this spring. Short-eared Owls staged what was termed "an invasion" in Region 6, with nesting there and possibly also in Regions 2 & 7. Common Nighthawk continued scarce but high numbers of Chimney Swift were found in Regions 1, 2, & 4 and an exceptionally early migrant in Region 5. Few trends were noted for the woodpeckers but a Three-toed Woodpecker in northernmost New York in Region 7 is always a great find.

Like the other May migrants, most of the flycatchers were late. Upstate, there was a big push of *Empidonax* species near the end of the month resulting in a spectacular 31 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded on 29 May in Region 2, possibly a state record. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Region 1 and another in Region 9 were the rarest of this group. Among the swallows there were high counts of Bank and Barn swallows in Region 1, Tree in Region 5, and Cliff Swallow in Regions 6 & 8. Common Raven continues to gain ground in the state with sightings in every Region except Region 10. The only sighting of Fish Crow away from breeding areas was in Region 2. Among a couple of

southern species. Tufted Titmouse was holding its own or increasing but Carolina Wren was still down in most Regions with a positive note only from Region 3. A Sedge Wren in Region 5 was a rarely found migrant but another on territory was early, especially considering the late season. Eastern Bluebird was up in Regions 3, 6, & 8 and down in Region 4. In most Regions this species hardly elicits comment anymore, possibly because it has such a solid footing now. Among the thrushes, Wood Thrush was of concern again in Regions 4 & 6 and, with fewer numbers in the state, a migrant Bicknell's Thrush was found in Region 5. Much easier to identify, a Varied Thrush was a highlight in Region 2. A high count of Cedar Waxwing was made in Region 3 and a late but strong movement of Bohemian Waxwings was noted in Region 7. One Loggerhead Shrike in Region 7 is about average now for spring. Another shrike in Region 8 could not be identified to species though the date suggests Loggerhead.

A count of 120 Warbling Vireos in Region 6 is a phenomenal indicator of how adverse weather can lead to spectacular concentrations. A Bell's Vireo in Region 2 was one of very few ever for the state. The impression of the eagerly anticipated warbler migration was mixed across the state. Regions 2, 7, & 10 felt it was good. Regions 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 9 had disappointing seasons. However, when it was over, species diversity had been quite good. Most agreed, the bulk of the warblers arrived very late. The following uncommon warblers were found in better than average numbers: "Brewster's", "Lawrence's", Orange-crowned, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Connecticut, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded, and Cerulean. Prairie, Palm, and Yellow-rumped warblers were up this spring in several Regions but Tennessee Warbler was of concern in Regions 1, 2, & 4. Rare possible breeders, staying late in appropriate habitat, included Wilson's Warbler in Region 7 and Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 9. A Worm-eating Warbler on 5 April in Region 2 was state-record early.

With the cold May reducing insect activity, many birds utilized feeding stations with impressive counts of Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Region 1. Other uncommon feeder birds this spring included Baltimore and Orchard orioles, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. The Indigo Bunting that overwintered in Region 9 was followed by another in that Region on 15 Mar, truly remarkable. Impressive numbers of Scarlet Tanagers were noted in Region 10, with Summer Tanagers in Regions 2 & 9. Dickcissels in Regions 1 & 10 were unusual. Vesper Sparrow was scarce in Regions 2, 4, & 6 but two other grassland sparrows, Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows, were found in numbers at Fort Drum in Region 6. High sparrow counts included Chipping Sparrow and Song Sparrow in Region 5, White-crowned Sparrow in Regions 2 & 5, and an incredible 60 Lincoln's Sparrows in Region 2. Rare were Clay-colored Sparrow in Regions 2 & 8, LeConte's Sparrow in Region 5, and "Oregon" Junco in Regions 1, 5, & 6 but

the most bizarre sparrow sighting would have to be the hybrid White-throated Sparrow X Dark-eyed Junco found in Region 7. While quite rare, that hybrid combination is not unprecedented. Among the rare blackbirds, there was only one Brewer's Blackbird and no Yellow-headed Blackbirds this spring. Orchard Orioles were widespread with one in Region 7 the most unusual. Purple Finch continued in high numbers following the winter and Red Crossbills were noted in six Regions with two subspecies reported in Region 7. White-winged Crossbills were found in four Regions but only a single Common Redpoll, in Region 6, was noted. Outside the Adirondacks, Evening Grosbeak was very scarce and Pine Siskin only slightly more numerous, bringing to a close another disappointing finch season.

The many rarities of this spring have been sprinkled throughout the text above. My choice for the Bird of the Season is a toss-up between the Spotted Redshank in Region 2, only the fourth state record with the first two records almost certainly involving the same individual, and the *L. f. intermedius* subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Region 10. I wonder if anyone guessed I might choose a gull?

As always, interesting behavior was noted in several Regions. Among the items that caught my eye were a Northern Shrike carrying a prey species, Red Crossbill, which is rare in most of the state, the near-death experience of a Red-winged Blackbird in Region 6, and the unusual tastes of a Baltimore Oriole in Region 4 and several species in Region 1. Read on to get the full stories.

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<b>Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance</b>			
	<b>Species</b>	<b>Seasonality</b>	<b>Advance</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>Reported</b>	<b>vs 1987-1997</b>	<b>(Days)</b>
1	92	1.08	-1.59
2	93	0.04	-4.50
3	89	0.49	-2.11
4	87	1.38	3.02
5	92	-0.10	-2.61
6	88	-0.65	4.77
7	90	2.25	7.75
8	89	-2.45	-2.08
9	82	2.21	0.15
10	79	1.23	-2.79

**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 DEADLINES

**Winter Season:** December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

**Spring Season:** March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

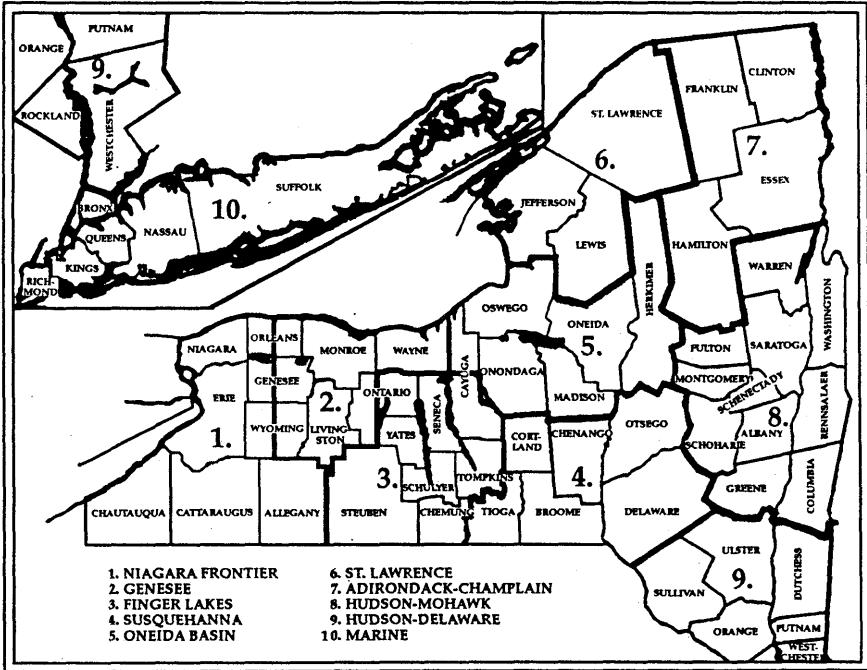
**Summer Season:** June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

**Fall Season:** September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

## REPORTING REGIONS



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

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

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

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

## REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304-4522

It was a cold spring, reinforcing the popular belief that there are really only two seasons in Buffalo - summer and winter. However, the birds provided evidence that migration still occurs in spite of the weather. But this spring - with the warblers at least - if you blinked, you missed it.

March was cool and very wet. Precipitation, often in the form of snow, fell on all but six days. The total of 4.47 inches was well above the average of 2.68 inches. Snowfall measured 3.6 inches above the norm of 10.3 inches and the temperature was 0.7 degrees below the average of 33.8°F. The waterfowl migration was generally on time, but despite weather which might have kept them here, large concentrations were not reported.

It was another cool April, with the temperature average of 42.3°F being nearly 3 degrees below normal. At least it was not unpleasant birding as it was quite dry - precipitation was only 1.65 inches versus the average of 2.87. With few strong warm fronts, though, there was nothing to really spur the migration. The last snow of the season fell in April, pushing the winter total to 97.6 inches, four inches above normal. Ice jams caused problems below Niagara Falls on the Niagara River. Thus, the ice boom on Lake Erie was left in place longer than usual. When high winds pushed vast quantities of lake ice under the boom, it produced an unusual spring concentration of gulls at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo.

At long last, it was May! Unfortunately, May was very much like April, which this year was like March, which in Region 1 is still winter! The bright spot was that there was no snow. The temperature average of 50.6°F was an impressive six degrees below normal. Rainfall totaled 3.61 inches, somewhat above the norm of 3.14 inches. May was marked by a streak of 29 consecutive days of below normal temps. Birders, in the Buffalo area at least, bemoaned the lack of warblers until a good push was finally enjoyed on the 19th, a Monday. This writer is left to wonder if the birds were being held back in our Southern Tier - again we received very few reports from CHAU and CATT. One report from that area after the breakthrough on the 19th, however, was from Chautauqua Lake. Thirteen species of warblers there on the 22nd, with four additional species the next day, was a fairly good total for inland in the Southern Tier. With such weather in May, it is not surprising that there were several late sightings and peak counts up to two weeks late.

The cold weather retarded vegetation growth and insect hatches, pressing many birds to sample different food sources. Vivian Pitzrick reported that at least one American Robin was eating her fine cracked corn in March and April, a most unusual observation. Masses of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks befuddled the

many feeder monitors who are only casual bird watchers (BRBA). Baltimore Orioles fought with Scarlet Tanagers over orange slices in the Town of Clarence while Black-throated Blue Warblers sipped at hummingbird feeders (BRBA) and nectared at barberry (personal observation). Orchard Orioles were also reported eating oranges while Baltimores were observed eating suet (BRBA).

The Buffalo Ornithological Society held its April Bird Count on the 13th. It was compiled by Gail Seamans, Gerry Rising, and Terry Yonker. The comments below refer to the entire count region which includes the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, about ten percent of the total area. Light rain, cool temperatures, and wind in the afternoon probably had as great an effect upon the birders as the birds and may help to explain the many low counts. Twelve-year highs for species averaging over 100 were recorded by Red-breasted Merganser and Am. Coot, while Bufflehead was at a 19-year high. The 101 Ruddy Ducks may have been an all-time high - large numbers continue to frequent the Batavia Sewage Lagoons. Twelve-year lows included Killdeer\*, Rock Dove\*\*, Mourning Dove\*\*, N. Cardinal, and House Finch\*\* while 19-year lows included Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck\*, Red-tailed Hawk\*, Am. Kestrel\*\*, Ring-necked Pheasant\*\*, White-breasted Nuthatch\*, and Song Sparrow\*. A single asterisk indicates species which I have flagged for a low count once previously in this column and a double asterisk indicates those which were flagged at least twice.

The presence of a Great Horned Owl nest at the Buckhorn Island SP cormorant colony in the Niagara River would certainly explain their complete abandonment of the site this year. It is also highly suggestive as to why they failed every previous year there. The cormorants, instead, moved to Motor Island in the river where they may be nesting directly over the heronry. (The herons use the shorter bushes and trees, not the tall trees.) Less than a decade ago, cormorants in Hamilton, Ontario completely wiped out one heronry when their guano eventually killed the nesting trees used mainly by Black-crowned Night-Herons. At Motor Island the vulnerable species include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret. The latter has returned for its third season with at least four nesting pairs.

Greater White-fronted Goose, regular in recent years, put in its best showing ever with at least four reports involving nine individuals. In addition, reports of five in the Town of Sherman CHAU (BRBA) and one in Batavia (BRBA) were unverified and thus not included.

Osprey continue to do well at Allegheny Reservoir but have not been found nesting anywhere else in the Region. Peregrine Falcons nested again on City Hall in Buffalo. Unfortunately, the attempt was unsuccessful. It was an excellent spring for shorebirds. Good numbers were found at Tonawanda WMA, Lake Ontario plain, Batavia Sewage Lagoons, and Countryside Sand and Gravel Pits CATT (CSGP). Unfortunately, one of the best reports was

unverified - 42 Willets at Cheney's Point on L. Chautauqua 6 May (BRBA). It was only last spring that there was a record smashing count of 55 Willets at Goat Island in the Niagara River. Another report of four Willets at CSGP 19 May was also unverified (BRBA).

As previously mentioned gull numbers were impressive near the Peace Bridge in April. Ring-billed, Herring, and Bonaparte's gulls were in high numbers there. On the lower Niagara River Bonaparte's Gulls were in record numbers and they lingered with several Little Gulls well into May. The eight gull species reported in the Region are possibly a May record.

The peak days for warbler migration occurred 19 and 24 May in the northern counties. The last weekend of the month, 31 May and 1 Jun, produced great numbers of flycatchers in the Buffalo area and Allegheny County and an excellent "May day" for so late in the season. With May's weather holding and holding up the migrants, however, such an occurrence was more expected than not.

Rarities which enlivened the spring were **Am. White Pelican**, Snowy Egret, *Plegadis ibis* species, Greater White-fronted Goose, Golden Eagle, **Gyr Falcon**, Am. Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Ruff, Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel, and Orchard Oriole.

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**Abbreviations:** Batavia SL-Batavia Sewage Lagoons; BOSAC-Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 13 Apr; BOSMC-Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 18 May; BRBA-Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; CSGP-Countryside Sand and Gravel Pits, Town of Dayton CATT; FLC-Forest Lawn Cemetery Buffalo; GHSP-Golden Hill SP; GI-Goat Island NIAG; INWR-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NR-Niagara River; OOWMA-Oak Orchard WMA; TNP-Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA-Tonawanda WMA; NR-Niagara River; WG-Williamsville Glen ERIE; WTSP-Wilson-Tuscarora SP



**LOONS-WATERFOWL:** **Red-throated Loon:** six T Somerset & T Yates 9 Mar (WD,DD), early movement; max 29 BOSAC; last BOSMC. **Com. Loon:** arr six inland ERIE & WYOM 29 Mar, usually found on Great Lakes first. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr TNP 19 Mar. **Red-necked Grebe:** max 367 Shadigee ORLE 20 Apr, high count though well short of last years's record; one, two INWR 6, 29 Apr and last two Buckhorn I SP 2 May, only inland reports. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** Strawberry I - NR 24, 25 May (AW,MM!,WD!), same location as last spring; about the 12th record. **Double-crested Cormorant:** abandoned colony at Buckhorn I SP-NR, probably due to Great Horned Owl nest; new colony at Motor I-NR is over the heronry there. **Great Blue Heron:** two y in nest Motor I-NR 24 Apr (WW), very early. **Great Egret:** max 14 Motor I-NR 21 May, at least four nests here. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** seven Buffalo back yard where seen previous years 1 Mar, possibly overwintered. **Plegadis ibis species:** TWMA 26 Apr (AB!), reported as Glossy but White-faced not ruled out. **Tundra Swan:** max 750 Olean CATT and 400 Chautauqua L part of big movement 6-13 Mar; last Attica Res. WYOM 17 May. **Mute Swan:** Attica Res WYOM 10 Mar; record max six INWR 27 Apr-11 May (WW!); T Freedom 26 Apr; reports increasing. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** T Yates 2 Mar (TH!), earliest ever; six INWR 9 Mar (PY!,MD!); T Newstead 13 Apr (PY!); reports of five others were unverified. **Snow Goose:** arr two T Yates 2 Mar; 44 T Angelica 8 Mar, high inland count; max 47 T Yates 9 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** arr T Newstead 9 Mar. **Eurasian Wigeon:** no verified reports. **Canvasback:** 550 Chautauqua L circa 13 Mar, high spring count. **Redhead:** Belmont ALLE 1-9 Mar, unusual location; 170 Chautauqua L circa 13 Mar, high spring count. **Surf Scoter:** T Somerset 9 Mar (WD!,DD), early; two BSL 28 Mar (WW!), early and rare inland; Lewiston Res. 13 Apr; five 20 Apr and one 11 May T Somerset; Delaware Park Buffalo circa 15 May; increasing. **White-winged Scoter:** Attica Res WYOM 10 Mar; three TWMA 22 Mar; very uncommon inland. **Bufflehead:** INWR 31 May (WW!,DW), late. **Ruddy Duck:** arr Amity L ALLE 11 Mar (VP!), early; max 81 Batavia WWTP 23 Apr, regular in large numbers here.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** 788 T Hamburg Hawkwatch 27 Mar (FR); 971 Silver Creek CHAU 3 Apr (MO), record count. **Osprey:** several nests Allegheny Res but no other locations. **Bald Eagle:** at least two nest sites INWR and Allegheny Res; no report from Cattaraugus Indian Reservation site; many reports - doing well. **N. Goshawk:** T Hamburg Hawkwatch 21,24 Apr (FR), only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr T Lewiston 19 Mar; max only 36 T Hamburg Hawkwatch 24 Mar and WTSP 27 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr L Erie shore 15 Apr; max 872 Hamburg Hawkwatch 27 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk:** last two Hamburg Hawkwatch 5 May. **Golden Eagle:** ad Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge WYOM 16 Mar (DJ!); subadult Hamburg Hawkwatch

4 May (FR). **Merlin**: TNP 2 May (BC!); usually more. **Peregrine Falcon**: unsuccessful nesting Buffalo City Hall (mob); INWR 17 May (MM!); only verified reports. **GYRFALCON**: Point Gratiot Dunkirk 5 Apr (MO!); very rare and the latest ever. **Virginia Rail**: two TWMA 5 Apr (DBr!); earliest since 1949. **Am. Coot**: arr away from wintering areas INWR 1 Mar. **Sandhill Crane**: no verified reports. **Am. Golden-Plover**: 1.2 TWMA 28.30 Apr (PY); first spring record since 1977 - earlier than Black-bellied Plover when it does occur. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 90 TWMA 29 Apr (WW); second highest count ever. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 80 TWMA 23 Apr (WW); record spring count. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr three Tillman WMA Erie 27 Apr. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr CSGP 15 May; 1.4 Batavia SL 19.26 May; Woodlawn Beach SP 24 May; more than usual. **Sanderling**: Batavia SL 26 May; only report. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr T Carlton 10 May (MM!); a week early; TWMA 16 May; four T Somerset 18 May; three Batavia SL 26 May; a good showing. **Purple Sandpiper**: up to five Goat I until 9 May; last one 25 May (WD!.MT); second latest ever. **Dunlin**: arr ten INWR 11 Apr; third earliest ever. **STILT SANDPIPER**: T Carlton 18 May (MM!.WD!); third spring record. **Ruff**: male TWMA 27 Apr (WW!); about the sixth spring record. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: arr TWMA 10 May; 19 T Clarence & 20 CSGP 19 May; good counts; 28 T Yates 19 May (WW); record count. **Dowitcher species**: TWMA 30 Apr (PY!); very early. **Wilson's Phalarope**: 1.2.2-5 Batavia SL 5.18.26 May (WW!.PY,KF); four T Carlton 17 May (RS); record count; TWMA 17 May; best showing ever. **Red-necked Phalarope**: TWMA 14 May (JW!); Batavia SL 18 May (MM!.WD!); seventh and eighth spring records. **Little Gull**: 61 mouth of NR 17 Apr; short of last year's record of 78 here; Buffalo-NR 19.25 Apr; unusual here in spring; last two mouth of NR 16 May; late. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 50,000 mouth of NR 21 Apr (GB); record count. **Iceland Gull**: two Point Breeze ORLE 10 May (MM!); Niagara Falls 24 May (MM!); both late. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: ad Lewiston-NR 21 Apr (PY!.BH); two imm T Somerset 11 May (WD!); spring sightings increasing. **Glaucous Gull**: last Point Breeze ORLE 10 May. **Caspian Tern**: 210 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 23 Apr (BRBA); record count; 34 Point Breeze ORLE 18 May; high count for so late; increasing.

**DOVES-WOODPECKERS**: **Snowy Owl**: Buffalo-NR circa 24 Apr; only report. **Long-eared Owl**: last Four Mile Creek SP 6 Apr; no reports away from L Ontario plain. **Short-eared Owl**: three T Java 5 Apr; T Porter 13 Apr; only reports. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: WTSP 25.27 Mar; Greenwood ALLE 28 Mar; only reports. **Whip-poor-will**: Blasdell ERIE 10-19 May (MT); third year in a row at this site; Forest Lawn Cemetery Buffalo 15 May; only reports. **Chimney Swift**: 1500 Buffalo 14 May (MH); record count. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: arr Buckhorn I SP 2 May; six other reports in May - more than recent years.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr two FLC 15 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** arr nine T Amity 28 May. **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** corn stubble and manured field T Darien GENE 21.22 May (CL!,WD!,TH!,GS!); only previous record was T Ellicott CHAU 4 Jun 1988. **Bank Swallow:** 600 Batavia SL 16 May (MM), record count. **Barn Swallow:** 500 Batavia SL 16 May (MM), record count. **Com. Raven:** max 11 BOSAC. all in CATT & ALLE; nine T Amity 30 Apr (VP), record count for one locality. **Carolina Wren:** two locations, Lake Erie plain, still down. **Winter Wren:** arr two T Hamburg 28 Mar. **Marsh Wren:** arr two TWMA 28 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Buckhorn I SP 20 Mar (BC!), overwintered. **Gray-checked Thrush:** arr GI 14 May. **N. Mockingbird:** 2.3 T Hamburg 27.28 Apr. uncommon here. **Am. Pipit:** arr three Belvidere ALLE 31 Mar; last T Darien 22 May. **N. Shrike:** last T Somerset 16 Mar.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** **White-eyed Vireo:** WG 5.8 May; one ALLE BOSMC; only reports. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr FLC 15 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Evangola SP 11 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr WG 12 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** GI 19 May. **"Lawrence's" Warbler:** two Crick's Run Allegany SP 30 May, fifth straight year here. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** TNP 4-14 May; T Lewiston 16 May; Four Mile Creek SP 17 May; T Caneadea 21 May, unusual away from lake plains; more than usual. **N. Parula:** arr INWR 4 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 200 20 May. **Pine Warbler:** arr WTSP 6 Apr (WD!), third earliest ever; second arr three locations not until 26 Apr. **Prairie Warbler:** arr three T Amity 22 May, breeding area; no migrants noted. **Palm Warbler:** max 20 T Porter & T Wilson 10 May, well short of last year's record of 79; last two T Somerset 26 May (MM!), late. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Forest Lawn Cemetery Buffalo 14 May. **Prothonotary Warbler:** arr 4 May Oak Orchard (RS). **WORM-EATING WARBLER:** TNP 3 May (WW!,MM!); GI 9 May (LL,WW!), rare. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr T Orangeville 20 Apr, breeding area. **Kentucky Warbler:** TNP 23 May (BC!); rare but regular. **Connecticut Warbler:** TNP 31 May (MM!,AB), rare. **Hooded Warbler:** arr Point Gratiot CHAU 4 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one CHAU BOSMC; Evangola SP 24 May (MT), rare.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 40 TNP 12 May (BRBA); 25 at Feeders T Clarence; both sightings remarkable. **Dickcissel:** feeder T Evans ERIE 20.21 Apr (MW!,videotape), very rare. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** last T Lancaster 28 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow:** arr 31 Mar, early. **Field Sparrow:** arr Greenwood ALLE 28 Mar. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1.3 T Lockport 4.18 May, only report. **Henslow's Sparrow:** two T Lockport 2-18 May (CR), only report. **Fox Sparrow:** arr Evangola SP 29 Mar; last BOSMC, late. **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** INWR 13.16 Mar (WW!,MD!), good

description, rarely verified. **Lapland Longspur**: 8.3 T Yates 9.16 Mar. only report. **Snow Bunting**: last 100 T Yates 9 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr Fredonia CHAU 28 Feb. **Rusty Blackbird**: last TNP 24 May (MM!). late. **Orchard Oriole**: T Porter 18 May (DR!); feeding on orange slices Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge WYOM circa 20 May; T Eden also at oranges 21 May (RA!). rare but regular. **Baltimore Oriole**: 12 at feeders Lakeview ERIE mid-May, impressive. **Purple Finch**: widespread entire period. **Red Crossbill**: Bush Hill State Forest 12 max 23 Mar to 18 May, present here for several months: 6+ T Ward 24 Apr: only reports. **Pine Siskin**: no reports. **Evening Grosbeak**: four ALLE BOSMC, only report.

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## REGION 2 - GENESEE

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The spring season turned out to be one of great interest. It was one of the coldest in many years. Dominant fronts and winds emanated from the north and provided the Region with relatively few warm days and many days below average during the period. March experienced only a single day where temperatures eclipsed the 70° mark. There were also only one or two days in April above 70°, and May didn't do much better until late in the month. It was on track to be the coldest May ever until some high temperatures late in the month boosted the average. As it was, it turned out to be the fifth coldest May on record.

The cold weather did have an effect on the migration. Foliage was a full two weeks behind schedule. This helped in locating birds in the trees and bushes, but birds were behind schedule for the most part. Coverage at Cobbs Hill Park and in the nesting areas south of the city did manage to keep some of the arrivals on time, but numbers in general were sparse in the early going. Some days, particularly late in May were quite good. Mid May experienced a couple of decent days with large totals of primarily warblers at Cobb's Hill and sparrows along the lakeshore, but they didn't linger and were gone by the next day.

Loons were about average with a **Pacific Loon** in breeding plumage found by Susan and Robert Spahn off Durand-Eastman Park on 27 April a highlight. The usual few Common Loons lingered into June. Grebes were highlighted

only by a good March total of Red-necked Grebe and an Eared Grebe discovered by Kurt and Jeannine Fox on Conesus Lake on 28 March. Horned Grebe numbers were a bit low. The wader picture was generally poor, with few pluses except that there seemed to be a few more American Bitterns around than in other recent years. Least Bittern, Green Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron were scarce. The Little Blue Heron discovered in Mendon Ponds Park by Robert Cooper on 17 May was a very good find.

Waterfowl were pretty typical. Greater White-fronted Goose was once again located in Hamlin, and a male Harlequin Duck at Hamlin Beach in May was the only real surprise. The hawk flight totals at Braddock Bay were down. Poor weather conditions were certainly a contributing factor in these poor totals. Only Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagles seemed to be counted at recent levels or slightly above, all others were down. A Black Vulture at Braddock Bay in May continued that recent trend in sightings.

Ring-necked Pheasants continued their scarcity, with minimal sightings. Some observers believe that the Ruffed Grouse is in the low portion of its population cycle, as sightings were few. Wild Turkeys, on the other hand, seem to be everywhere.

Sandhill Cranes created quite a stir. The usual numbers were reported at the hawkwatch, but a single bird frequented a feeder in Williamson and a pair was located near the end of the season at Taylor Marsh just north of Honeoye Lake in suitable breeding habitat.

Shorebirds for the most part were less than spectacular, but there were a couple of dates that brought some interesting reports. An Am. Golden-Plover at the Geneseo Airport was unusual for spring, but the standout for this group had to be the well described **Spotted Redshank** seen by Frank and Robert Dobson, Richard O'Hara and Robert Dows on 7 May in Bergen. This was a first record for the Region [and only the fourth for the state. The other three recorded in Region 10. E. Levine]. Observers also reported good numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes this year. Recent trends have been in a downward direction and this year broke that trend. On the down side were Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Red Knot (no reports), and Pectoral Sandpiper.

Gull highlights included two Black-headed Gull reports from William Symonds at Hamlin Beach, continued sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull, Laughing Gull at Manitou, and good numbers of Little Gulls. Iceland and Glaucous gulls were also well reported through the season. The Perinton landfill continues to be an attractant and the local ponds and fields a Regional gull hotspot. Tern numbers were pretty typical, with Black Tern continuing to be of concern.

The spring owl flights were dismal compared with recent years. Both Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls found in regularly monitored locations were much fewer in number. The lingering Short-eared Owls, probably nesting in the Lima area and being monitored by Kurt Fox, are of interest. A N. Saw-

whet Owl in Island Cottage Woods in late May was either a very late migrant or local nesting bird.

Common Nighthawks continued their downward trend, with few reports of any numbers. This was also true for Whip-poor-will, which seems to have disappeared as a breeder in the Region.

Flycatchers arrived late, but in typical numbers. Acadian seemed down, but they also seem to resurface in new locations from time to time. Bank Swallow colonies are dwindling. The usual few Cliff Swallow nesting locations were reported. A Fish Crow report in April was good, and Common Ravens seem to be increasing in the hills south of Rochester, but breeding has yet to be confirmed.

Once again there were no Sedge Wren reports, but House and Winter wrens were reported in good numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported late into the season. A real surprise was the **Varied Thrush** studied by Paul Weld on Roots Tavern Road in Avon on 22 April. The White-eyed Vireo on 20 May was a good find, and Robert Spahn documented the Region's first **Bell's Vireo** in Island Cottage Woods on 14 May. Good numbers of Orange-crowned, Nashville, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, American Redstart and Wilson's warblers were reported. On the down side were Tennessee, Golden-winged and Blackpoll warblers. Worm-eating and Prairie warblers were also reported in good numbers with some interesting breeding locations found for the latter south of Rochester.

Scarlet Tanagers were again down, but the **Summer Tanager** that stayed around for ten days in May was a highlight. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were well reported at feeders early in the migration and numbers continued to be good.

The grassland sparrows were mixed this season. Jim Kimball and Kurt Fox have found decent numbers of both Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows in Livingston County, but Vesper Sparrow continues to be generally low. There were a couple of excellent days for Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows. Fox Sparrows were about average, as were White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. The number of Clay-colored Sparrow reports was up a bit.

**Western Meadowlark** and **Brewer's Blackbird** round out the highlights for the season. Both were formerly reported in better numbers, but now are rarely reported. Orchard Orioles have again been reported from locations south of Rochester adding to the traditional Point Breeze location. They were once again also found on Cook Road at the western edge of Monroe County.

The season saw very little finch activity. Pine Siskin reports were limited to a single group of three and Evening Grosbeaks were few and scattered.

In spite of the cold weather and the complaints of few birds, observers tallied the highest monthly species total ever in May, with 250 species for just that month.

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**Abbreviations:** BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Charlotte, CL - Conesus Lake, CN - Clarkson, CO - Cobb's Hill, DE - Durand-Eastman Park, G - Greece, GE - Geneseo, GR - Groveland, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, HP - Highland Park, IC - Island Cottage Woods, L - Lima, LW - Letchworth State Park, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road, P - Perinton, R - Rochester, SB - Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WL - West Lakeshore.

**LOONS - DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** arr two HB 22 Mar; last one HB 17 May. **Com. Loon:** arr one G 20 Mar. **PACIFIC LOON:** one off DE 27 Apr (S&RS!). **Horned Grebe:** last one Hemlock Lake 30 May. **Eared Grebe:** one CL 28 Mar (J&KF). **Red-necked Grebe:** max 372 WL 28 Mar (RS); last one CL 24 Apr. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr one CL 1 Apr. **Least Bittern:** one HB 1 May (WS). **Great Egret:** arr one HB 1 May, late. **Cattle Egret:** one Carlton 10 Apr, only report. **LITTLE BLUE HERON:** one Mendon Ponds Park 17 May (RC!), uncommon. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr one DE 3 May. **Tundra Swan:** max 828 GR 22 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** one H 3 Mar (BM). **Snow Goose:** max 75 PB 23 Mar; last two imm LW 25 May. **Am. Wigeon:** last five H 17 May. **Redhead:** max 1200-1600 CL 1-31 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** max 800 CL 28- 29 Mar. **Greater Scaup:** last 60+ Troutsburg 24 May, good total for late in season. **Harlequin Duck:** one ad male SB 20 Apr (MT); one ad male HB 16 May (WS). **Oldsquaw:** last one WL 25 May. **Black Scoter:** arr 27 HB 18 Apr; last one HB 10 May. **Surf Scoter:** arr 32 HB 18 Apr; last two HB 14 May. **White-winged Scoter:** last one PB 25 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** last two Troutsburg 24 May. **Bufflehead:** last two CL 11 May.

**HAWKS - ALCIDS:** **Black Vulture:** one BB 5 May (JB!), nearly annual now. **Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr one BB 10 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr one

BB 6 Apr. **Swainson's Hawk**: one ad HB 1 Apr (WS). now an annual occurrence. **Golden Eagle**: arr one imm WL 27 Mar (BM). **Peregrine Falcon**: six reports Apr; six individuals in May. **Merlin**: one BB 22 Mar: one W 28 Mar: last one M 29 May.

**Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Summary - Spring 1997**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak</u>	<u>Peak Date</u>	<u>Date Range</u>
Turkey Vulture	8,774	1,373	3 Apr	1 Mar - 31 May
Black Vulture	1	1	5 May	5 May
Osprey	141	13	5 May	3 Apr - 29 May
Bald Eagle	124	21	28 Apr	18 Feb - 28 May
Northern Harrier	704	72	3 Apr	2 Mar - 29 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,066	548	16 Apr	10 Mar - 29 May
Cooper's Hawk	595	62	29 Mar	26 Feb - 26 May
Northern Goshawk	36	4	29 Apr	8 Mar - 16 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	717	465	27 Mar	10 Mar - 30 Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	14,495	4,766	29 Apr	6 Apr - 29 May
Red-tailed Hawk	3,182	403	29 Apr	18 Feb - 29 May
Rough-legged Hawk	238	26	28 Feb, 6 Apr	18 Feb - 13 May
Golden Eagle	18	3	16 Apr, 29 Apr	27 Mar - 11 May
American Kestrel	472	78	29 Mar	10 Mar - 24 May
Merlin	22	2	4 dates	23 Mar - 29 May
Peregrine Falcon	14	3	13 May	24 Apr - 13 May
Unidentified	5	-	-	-
Total	33,604	-	-	-

**Wild Turkey**: max 92 CN 13 Mar. **Sandhill Crane**: arr two BB 27 Mar; one BB 25 Apr; three BB 26 Apr; one Carlton 26-30 Apr; one Williamson 31 May; two ONTA 31 May, possible nesting?. **Am. Golden-Plover**: arr one GE 11 Apr. **Greater Yellowlegs**: last one P 28 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: last one WL 25 May. **SPOTTED REDSHANK**: one Bergen GENE 7 May (FD!, RD, RO'H, RD), 1st Regional record. **Solitary Sandpiper**: last one IC 25 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: arr one HB 24 Apr. **Whimbrel**: max six M 25 May. **Ruddy Turnstone**: arr one CH 4 May, record early; max 12 CH 30 May. **Sanderling**: arr 11 CH 19 May; last three CH 30 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: max 60+ CH 30 May. **Western Sandpiper**: arr one H 29 May (R'OH, RD), only report. **Least Sandpiper**: max 100 H 14,19 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: arr three.six CH.H 19 May. **Dunlin**: arr one GE 11 Apr (JK), record early. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: max 140 H 19 May. **Com. Snipe**: max 82 H 19 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope**: nine reports from various locations in May. **Laughing Gull**: one ad M 12 May (R'OH). **Little Gull**: one G 12 Apr; two ad HB 18 Apr; one ad HB 29-30; max four HB 16 May; one imm BB 24 May. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**: one ad HB 16 Apr (WS); one imm HB 20 Apr (WS). **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr one CL 22 Mar. **Thayer's Gull**: one 1st winter P 10 Mar (RMc). **Iceland Gull**: one imm P 22 Mar; three imm P 12



Apr; one HB 29 Apr; five imm HB 30 Apr; one - four HB 1-23 May; three CH 3 May. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**: three (ad & two imm) P 12 Apr (MT); one ad P 21 Apr (MT); one imm HB 1 May (WS); one sub ad HB 10 May (WS,RS!); one HB 19 May (WW!). **Glaucous Gull**: 1-3 P 12-20 Apr; one imm HB 1 May; one imm CH 3 May. **Caspian Tern**: max 218 SB 27 Apr. **Com. Tern**: max 78 HB 1 May. **Forster's Tern**: arr one HB 16 Apr.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: arr one M 29 May, late. **Barn Owl**: one CN 4 Apr (WS), only report. **Short-eared Owl**: max 13 L 10 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: arr one M 22 Mar; last IC 28 May. **Whip-poor-will**: arr one M 1 May, poor again. **Chimney Swift**: max 400 CO 22-23 May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS**: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: arr one IC.M 24 May; max 31 M 29 May. **Fish Crow**: one M 29 Apr (RMc). **Com. Raven**: one Rattlesnake Hill 5 Apr (J&KF); one G 6 Apr (MT); one W 24 Apr (JC); one Portageville 26 May (AW). **House Wren**: arr one GE 27 Apr. **Winter Wren**: arr one IC.M 28 Mar. **VARIED THRUSH**: one Avon 22 Apr (PW!). **N. Mockingbird**: max nine GR 15 Apr. **Am. Pipit**: arr one Elba 28 Mar; last two WL 24 May. **N. Shrike**: last one G 4 Apr.

**WARBLERS-VIREOS**: **White-eyed Vireo**: one Rochester 20 May (RS!). **BELL'S VIREO**: one IC 14 May (RS!), Region's first. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr one CO 14 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: arr one M 1 May. **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr one BP 11 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: one HP 7 May. **"Lawrence's" Warbler**: one LW 21 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: arr one CL 2 May; ten other reports in May. **Nashville Warbler**: max 52 M 12 May. **N. Parula**: max six CO 25 May. **Yellow Warbler**: max 200+ several locations 17 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max 30 CH 25 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: max 60 M 29 May. **Cape May Warbler**: last one G 27 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 50 sev 25 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max 26 CO 13 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one G 31 May (JB!). **Pine Warbler**: max four IC 27 Apr. **Prairie Warbler**: one M 12 May; one LW 17 May; two LW 21-25 May; two Springwater 31 May. **Palm Warbler**: last two IC 26 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max 41 CO 25 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: arr one GE 10 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max 38 CO 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 50+ M 29 May. **Prothonotary Warbler**: one CL 26 May (JK), new location. **Worm-eating Warbler**: arr one Seneca Park 5 Apr (V&HH!), state record early; one-two CO 10-13 May; one W 12 May. **Ovenbird**: max 20 BP 12 May. **Kentucky Warbler**: one M 13 May; one BP 14.18 May. **Connecticut Warbler**: one Bayview Park 12 May; one M 29 May. **Mourning Warbler**: max 20 M 12 May. **Hooded Warbler**: arr one CO 3

May. **Canada Warbler**: max 17 M 29 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: one M 14 May (EB). only report.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS: SUMMER TANAGER**: one Irondequoit 12-18 May (BT, *et al.* sev verifications, photos). **Am. Tree Sparrow**: last one sev loc 29 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: one Brockport May (CN!); one-two W 10-11 May (JC!); one N 24 May (RMc!). good spring total. **Field Sparrow**: arr one CN 28 Mar. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr one NR 26 Apr. **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr one Retsof 3 May; max 12 sites Livingston County 13-31 May. **Fox Sparrow**: arr one W 27 Mar; last one IC 25 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max 60+ ICW.R 12 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 200+ IC.R 12 May. **Snow Bunting**: last six H 15 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr one M 1 Mar. **WESTERN MEADOWLARK**: one H 8 May (RO'H!), first record in recent years. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr 1-75 various 28 Mar; last one IC 20 May. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one fem M 6 May (RO). **Orchard Oriole**: max three GE 14-31 May; one Cook Rd 24 May. **Pine Siskin**: three HB 23 May, only report.

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### REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

STEVE KELLING

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The mild winter we had in the Finger Lakes did not carry through the Spring of 1997. Through March, April and May the average temperature was several degrees below normal. The average temperature for March was around 1 degree below normal, while precipitation (mostly in the form of rain) was an inch above normal. Both precipitation and temperature were below normal for April. The average temperature was 2-3 degrees below normal across the Region. May continued in the same vein, but only more extreme. The average temperature across the Region was 3-5 degrees below normal and precipitation was between 1 and 2 inches below normal.

The weather conditions for the spring season led to many complaints that the migration was late through the Finger Lakes Region. One reporter even commented that he had the fewest warbler species ever on his year list by 1 May. In order to determine whether the actual arrival of spring migrants was late, I compared, for 40 passerine migrants, this year's first arrival date, with the average arrival date for that species over 70 years in the Cayuga Lake Basin. What I found was that the first arrival date for 17 species was late this

year, 17 species arrived early, and 6 arrived on their average arrival date. With this information one might conclude that was that this was an average year for the return of spring passerine migrants. The next thing I did was determine what the first date was when two or more individuals of one of the 40 passerine species was reported. I compared this to the first date I received multiple reports of that species in 1994, 1995, and 1996. What I found was that for 21 species the first date two or more of a species was observed was over one week later than the past three years, for 12 species the date was later but by less than a week, and for 7 species the first multiple report date was early. So first arrival dates were not the indicator that this was a late year. A better index might be first date of multiple reports or reports of multiple individuals of a species.

The main highlight of March in the Cayuga Lake Basin was the huge numbers (up to 100,000) of Snow Geese which spent several weeks on the north end of Cayuga Lake. The numbers were unprecedented and this may not bode well for Snow Geese, as they are over populating their fragile and diminishing breeding areas. Other highlights throughout the Region were: Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Black Vulture, Sandhill Crane, Laughing Gull, Thayers' Gull, White-eyed Vireo, and Kentucky Warbler.

**Contributors:** Fred Bertram, John Bower, Ann Cassella, Gary Chapin, Herb Cooley, Karl David, Stephen Davies, Andy Farnsworth, Martha Fischer, John Fitzpatrick, Tracey Gingrich, Kevin & Jay McGowan, Dick McNiel, Paul Hess, Sue Pearce-Kelling, Steve Kelling, Barb Lyons, Tom Nix, Bard Prentiss, Marie Read Ken Rosenberg, Dave Russel, John Smith, Robert Spahn, Steve Tribbeck, Allison & Jeff Wells.

**Abbreviations:** CL- Cayuga Lake; CLB- Cayuga Lake Basin; Cay- Village of Cayuga; CV- Chemung Valley; DL- Dryden Lake; EI- Elmira; Ge- Geneva; GM- Gleason Meadows, Chemung Valley; It- Ithaca; HP- Holding Pond, Chemung Valley; LP- Lowe Pond, Chemung Valley; MNWR- Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; MP- Myer's Point, Lansing, Cayuga Lake; SL- Seneca Lake; SP- Stewart Park Ithaca; and SW- Sapsucker Woods.

#### **LOONS-WATERFOWL:**

**Com. Loon:** entire period CL: max 18 Kashong Pt SL 11 Apr: max 15 CL 12 Apr.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** entire period CLB: max four Park Station CV 12 Apr: max 20 CL 12 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** 45 Newtown Crk CV 22 Mar: 36 Eldridge Park CV 4 Apr: 50 CL 12 Apr: six SL Ge 31 May (FB!).

**Red-necked Grebe:** three Keuka Lake 1 Mar: one CL It 19 Mar: two Park Station CV 12 Apr: one Niemi Rd Lansing 22 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** entire period CL: 29 Personius Woods CV 10 May: ten DL 16 May.

**Am. Bittern:** arr SW 7 Apr (MF!): one LP 17 Apr: one Ge 12 May: two MNWR 20 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr MNWR 20 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** 2 MNWR 3 Mar: 50 Pine City CV 21 Mar: 50 CL 12 Apr.

**Great Egret:** one Rorick's Glen CV 7 Apr: one DL 13 May.

**SNOWY EGRET:** one MNWR 24-25 May (mob). 3rd record in 90'. in 50's through 70's reported more commonly.

**CATTLE EGRET:** one MNWR 26 May (TG).

**Green Heron:** arr SW 15 Apr; max three Mark Twain SP CV 17 May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** two MNWR 31 May.

**Tundra Swan:** 50 SL Ge 9 Mar; 150 CL Cay 16 Mar; 82 Newtown Creek CV 22 Mar.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE:** one CL Cay 9 Mar (TN!), reported annually since 1994.

**Snow Goose:** arr CL 3 Mar; max ~80,000 CL near Cay 16 Mar; unprecedented numbers north end of Cayuga Lake March; two MNWR 25 May.

**ROSS' GOOSE:** one Throop 8 Mar (PH!). 3rd basin record and now reported two consecutive years in spring.

**Brant:** 100 SL Ge 18 May; several small flocks CL 19 May.

**Canada Goose:** max ~5000 CL early March.

**Wood Duck:** 12 LP 3 April; 25 DL 22 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** 100 CLB 5 Apr; 17 LP 16 Apr; one LP 17 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** 40 DL 22 Mar; 12 EI 24 Mar; last CLB 12 Apr.

**Mallard:** 64 M. Twain SP CV 17 Mar; 200 CLB 5 Apr.

**N. Pintail:** max 300 CLB 16 Mar; 50 SL State Park 14 Mar; two LP 27 May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Canoga 21 Mar; max 25 CLB 17 Apr; two LP 19 Apr; one MP 31 May.

**N. Shoveler:** arr DL 22 Mar; two Eldridge Pk CV 31 Mar; 30 CL 12 Apr.

**Gadwall:** two Big Flats CV 8 Mar; 25 CL 16 Mar; two DL 25 May.

**Am. Wigeon:** 25 CLB 16 Mar; five Middle Rd CV 19 Apr; one SP 21 Apr.

**Canvasback:** 800 Cayuga SP 3 Mar; three CLB 12 Apr; one SL Ge 25 May.

**Redhead:** 2000 CLB 16 Mar; 20 CLB 12 Apr; one SL Ge 25 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 500 CLB 16 Mar; 107 Big Flats 22 Mar; 160 DL 29 Mar; ten Lansing 25 Apr.

**Greater Scaup:** 1000 CLB 16 Mar; one SP 25 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** 100 CLB 16 Mar; seven Newtown Crk CV 22 Mar; one SP 19 May.

**Oldsquaw:** six Park Station CV 22 Mar; 18 DL 22 Mar; 16 CLB 12 Apr.

**Surf Scoter:** two LP 17 Apr.

**White-winged Scoter:** two Newtown Crk CV 22 Mar; four DL 22 Mar; two SP 19 May.

**Common Goldeneye:** five Park Station CV 22 Mar; 50 CLB 16 Mar; 12 CLB 12 Apr.

**Bufflehead:** 21 Newtown Crk CV 22 Mar; 100 CLB 16 Mar; 30 DL 22 Mar; one Union Springs 16 May.

**Hooded Merganser:** ten Sullivan Dam 22 Mar; 150 DL 22 Mar; local breeders thereafter.

**Common Merganser:** 300 CLB 16 Mar; 12 Big Flats CV 22 Mar; two SP 30 Apr.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 50 CLB 16 Mar; five EI 22 Mar; bred on Cayuga Lake. [ED: no details for a new breeding location and a location where Com. Merganser was found breeding during the Atlas project??]

**Ruddy Duck:** 25 CLB 12 Apr; 11 SP 21 Apr.

#### **HAWKS-ALCIDS:**

**BLACK VULTURE:** six Ithaca 22 Apr (JB!). excellent description. highest tally in Region and upstate NY.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 22 CLB 5 Apr; seven EI 16 Apr.

**Osprey:** arr Caroline 10 Mar; scattered thereafter; nesting at MNWR.

**Bald Eagle:** singles, ad & imm. reported throughout Region; two nests at MNWR.

**N. Harrier:** max 15 CLB 16 Mar; thru.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** regular thru early May CV CLB; max four DL 29 Mar.

**Cooper's Hawk:** four CL 9 Mar; regular thru mid May CV.

**N. Goshawk:** two J & M Smiths CV 21 Mar; one Mt Pleasant 14 Mar; one Slaterville Springs 25 May.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** four CL 9 Mar; one EI 21 Mar; four Mt Pleasant 25 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr EI 22 Apr; max six EI 21 Apr; scattered singles CLB.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 54 CL 9 Mar; 46 Mt Pleasant 14 Mar.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** scattered CLB until 23 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** arr Mt Pleasant 9 Mar; two Caroline 5 Apr; last High Banks SL 13 May.

**Am. Kestrel:** three Mt Zoar CV 3 Apr; five CLB 5 Apr.  
**Merlin:** several reports CV 5-23 Mar; several CLB 19 Mar-1 Apr; one SL Ge 10 Apr; last SW 20 May.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** arr Mt Pleasant 5 Apr; one SW 14 Apr; one EI 11 Apr.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** scattered singles CV 1 Apr- 17 May; local and uncommon CLB 12 Apr- 18 May.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** local CV 11 Apr-17 May; scattered CLB entire period.  
**Wild Turkey:** 45 Dryden 8 Mar; 15 GM 21 Mar; singles entire Region thru.  
**N. Bobwhite:** one Beans Hill Ge 4 Apr; probable escape or release.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr LP 17 May; late; fairly numerous MNWR; uncommon DL.  
**Sora:** one DL 22 Apr; one LP and HP 17 May.  
**Com. Moorhen:** arr CLB 5 Apr; scattered MNWR; one LP 17 May.  
**Am. Coot:** 100 CLB 12 Apr; last CV 29 Apr; last MP 31 May.  
**SANDHILL CRANE:** one Barns Hill Chemung Co. 12 May (ST!), first Regional report since 1994; annual the six years prior to 1994.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** six LP 17 May; two MP 31 May.  
**Killdeer:** 30 DL 1 Apr.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr MP 22 Mar; two EI 17 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr two LP 16 Apr; one DL 2 May; last Newtown Crk CV 17 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr DL 29 Apr; five HP 16 May; last DL 18 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr SP 27 May; four Newtown Crk 30 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** one Mt. Pleasant 27 Apr; two HP 11 May; one Etna 30 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 12 Dryden 27 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one MP 31 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** one HP 17 May; 31 LP 17 May; one DL 25 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** one MP 11 Apr; one Middle Rd CV 15 Apr.  
**Dunlin:** one LP 17 May; one SP 19 May.  
**Com. Snipe:** one MNWR 20 Mar; one Caton Swp CV 17 May; three Middlesex 18 May; one Lansing 27 May.  
**Am. Woodcock:** one Caroline 1 Mar; one Harris Hill CV 20 Mar.  
**LAUGHING GULL:** one SP 20 Apr (DM!), excel. descrip. earliest Regional report.  
**Little Gull:** one Long Pt SP CL 4 May (KD!), annual spring migrant.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 55 17 Apr; 28 Chemung 17 Apr; two EI 19 May; five SP 19 May.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** 200 Eldridge Pk CV 18 Mar; 2000 CL SP 23 Mar.  
**Herring Gull:** 3000 CL 16 Mar; 50 Eldridge CV 17 Mar.  
**THAYER'S GULL:** one 2nd win SP 22 Mar (KM!, m.ob. NYSARC), 3rd basin report, all in the 90's.  
**Iceland Gull:** one Union Springs 4 Mar; three CLB 16 Mar; one SP 28 Mar.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one SP 8 Mar; three CLB 16 Mar; one SP 19 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** one Union Springs 9 Mar; one CL SP 23 Mar.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** one EI 15 Mar; 100 CLB 16 Mar; two SP 25 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** two SP 17 Apr; one SP 2 May.  
**Com. Tern:** one Newtown Crk 22 Mar [Ed: no details?]; one SP 2 May; three EI 19 May; 18 SP 25 May.  
**Forster's Tern:** three SP 19 May; four SP 25 May.  
**Black Tern:** one Dryden 3 May; nine MNWR 23 May.

**DOVES-WOODPECKERS:**  
**Rock Dove:** 100 It 10 Mar; 28 EI 17 May.  
**Mourning Dove:** 20 DL 29 Mar.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** one It 12 May; one Etna 31 May; few reports.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one MNWR 25 May; one Dryden 28 May.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** one CLB 1 Mar; four GM 21 Mar; five Cornell Plantations 13 May.  
**Great Horned Owl:** one It 1 Mar; four Montour Falls 10 May; one Roricks Glen EI 17 May; one MNWR 23 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** one imm SL SP 1 Mar-23 Mar.

**Barred Owl:** one Southport CV 12 Mar; one Mt Pleasant 22 May.  
**Short-eared Owl:** three King Ferry 19 Mar.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** one Brooktondale 8 Mar; one Newfield 19 Mar; one Hammond Hill 4 Apr.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** one MNWR 20 May; four MNWR 23 May; three SP 26 May.  
**Whip-poor-will:** one Enfield 18 May; one Lansing 26 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** one Cornell Campus 29 Apr; one El 29 Apr; 40 SP 26 May.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** one Personius Woods CV 10 May; one It 18 May; six Salmon Crk Lansing 23 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** one El 8 Mar; two SW 1 Apr.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** one Cayuga 1-16 Mar; one Ringwood Nature Preserve 30 Apr; one DL 3 May; one It 4 May; one Maclean Bog 24 May.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** one It 2 Mar; two El 21 Mar.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** one SW 1 Apr; six Beam Hill Dryden; scattered S CLB.  
**Dowry Woodpecker:** five GM 12 May; six Enfield 14 Apr.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** one Newtown Crk CV 9 Mar; three El 27 Mar; four It 18 May.  
**N. Flicker:** one It 2 Mar; five Mt Zoar CV 16 Apr.  
**Pileated Woodpecker:** two Harris Hill CV 3 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one It 27 May.  
**E. Wood Pewee:** one It 14 May; one Mark Twain SP CV 17 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one Pine City CV 20 May; one It 22 May; two Ellis Hollow 25 May; one SW 30 May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** one Lansing 24 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** one Caroline 31 May; six Etna 31 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** one SW 16 May; one HP 16 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** one It 1 May; five Newtown Crk CV 13 May; six It 18 May; six Lansing 20 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** one SP 23 Mar; one Wellsburg CV 24 Mar.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** one 1 It 2 May; one Kelly Hill CV 17 May; numerous throughout Region.  
**E. Kingbird:** one LP 29 Apr; one It 12 May.  
**Horned Lark:** four HP 16 May; local breeders in the CLB.  
**Purple Martin:** five DL 20 Apr; one Chemung 17 May.  
**Tree Swallow:** two DL 25 Mar; one Newtown Crk CV 28 Mar; 200 LP 17 Apr; 100 DL 3 May.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** two CLB 12 Apr; one SL 13 Apr; two El 17 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** one It 30 Apr; one El 4 May; 50 It 16 May.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Freeville 30 Apr; five SP 16 May; three El 17 May; 20 DL 18 May.  
**Barn Swallow:** one CL 6 Apr; one El 26 Apr.  
**Fish Crow:** two SP entire period; one Harris Hill CV 24 Mar; one GM 10 May; two Phelps 14 May; one El 17 May.  
**Com. Raven:** up to five El area 15 Mar-27 May; 1-2 DL/ Hammond Hill 4 Mar-27 Apr.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** local throughout Region; number of reports down.  
**Carolina Wren:** numbers up It thru; local CV thru. more reports than past year.  
**House Wren:** one Roricks Glen CV 15 Apr; one SW 23 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** scattered throughout Region; increased reports of local breeders.  
**Marsh Wren:** one DL 18 May; five MNWR 31 May.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** numerous throughout Region; last reports 24 May.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** two Cayuta Lake 5 Apr; three Park Station CV 12 Apr; last DL 18 May.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one CL 5 Apr; one Roricks Glen CV 29 Apr.  
**E. Bluebird:** numerous throughout Region; numbers up from past years.  
**Veery:** one Gleason Mds CV 12 May; two Cornell Campus 13 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** one It 18 May; one Dryden 20 May; one Connecticut Hill 25 May; one Dryden 28 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** one Chemung 17 May; one Etna 18 May; three It 24 May; one It 27 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** one SW 7 Apr; one LP 15 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** one Mt Zoar CV 4 May; one Mecklenburg 9 May.

**Am. Robin:** 150 DL 1 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** one MWNR 2 Mar; one CLB 12 Apr; one EI 3 May.  
**N. Mockingbird:** relatively uncommon local breeder.  
**Brown Thrasher:** Enfield 14 Apr; two DL 23 Apr; two It 26 Apr; one EI 27 Apr; three Bowman Hill CV 17 May.  
**Am. Pipit:** one SP 8 Mar; 160 Enfield 20 Mar; 100 Dutch Hill CV 5 Apr; five Enfield 14 Apr.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 300 Cornell Campus 4 Mar; 500 Cornell Campus 17 Apr.  
**N. Shrike:** one Naples 18-31 Mar.

#### **WARBLERS-VIREOS:**

**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** one Ellis Hollow 23 May (JF!).  
**Solitary Vireo:** one SW 14 Apr; one Mt Zoar CV 23 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** one Varna 3 May; one Chemung 17 May.  
**Warbling Vireo:** one Newtown Crk CV 11 May; two Dryden 16 May.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** singles Slaterville Springs, Ellis Hollow, DL 25 May; one Arnot Forest 26 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** one Caroline 17 May; one Park Station CV 24 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** one It 1 May; one LP 3 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** one Cornell Campus 12-19 May; two GM12 May; two Bowman Hill CV 17 May.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** one SW 16 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** one It 12 May; two Bowman Hill CV 17 May; eight It 27 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** one It 1 May; one Newtown Crk CV 11 May; one Cornell Campus 27 May.  
**N. Parula:** one Roricks Glen CV 3 May; one It 12 May; eight Elmira Riv 17 May; one Cornell Campus 27 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** one It 30 Apr; one LP 3 May; 36 Newtown Crk 13 May.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** one Varna 3 May; one Roricks Glen CV 3 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** one Dryden 2 May; two Newtown Crk CV 13 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** one It 3 May; four It 13 May; one Dryden 23 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** one It 1 May; one Roricks Glen 3 May; six Dryden 15 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** one Aurora 12 Mar; one SP2 LP 16 Apr; 75 DL 3 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** one SW 28 Apr; one Personius Wds 10 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** one DL 3 May; three Roricks Glen CV 3 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** one MNWR 30 Mar; one It 2 Apr; two Corning 2 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** one SW 4 May; seven GM 12 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** one 1 EI 15 Apr; one It 1 May; four SP 18 May; one SP 19 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** one SP 19 May; three Park Station CV 24 May; one It 26 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** one DL 20 May; eight Newtown Crk CV 25 May; one MP 31 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** three Lansing 12 May; ten Lansing 23 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** one It 1 May; one Roricks Glen CV 3 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** one SW 10 May; one Personius Wds CV 10 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** two MNWR 17 May.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** one Dryden 15 May; one Horseheads 17 May; one West Danby 30 May.  
**Ovenbird:** one Texas Hollow CLB 1 May; one Chemung 2 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** one DL 3 May; one HP 4 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** one Enfield 14 Apr.  
**KENTUCKY WARBLER:** one It 26 April, specimen at Cornell; one EI 17 May.  
**Mourning Warbler:** one Dryden 14 May; one Chemung 17 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** one MNWR 1 May; one Lowe Pd 3 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** one Lansing 3 May; four Dryden 15 May; one Roricks Glen CV 17 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** one Corning 5 May; one Cornell Campus 13 May; three It 27 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** one Newtown Crk 13 May; one SW 15 May; three Shindiagin Hollow 31 May.

#### **TANAGERS-WEAVERS:**

**Scarlet Tanager:** one It 6 May; three Park Station CV 24 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** one Newfield 1 May; one Rorick's Glen CV 6 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** one Newfield 1 May; two Smith Rd CV 17 May.  
**E. Towhee:** one SW 1 Apr; one GM16 Apr; 15 Gleason Mdws 12 May.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** 20 Lyons 16 Mar; one Chemung 11 Apr; five Groton 20 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** one Dryden 29 Mar; one Chemung 8 Apr; 22 Enfield 26 Apr; 12 Big Flats 17 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** one Caroline 29 Mar; three Gleason Mdws 16 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** three DL 1 Apr; one Dutch Hill CV 5 Apr; three It 17 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** one Brooktondale 4 Apr; one Park Station CV 12 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** one Aurora 14 May; two HP 17 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** one Etna 17 Mar; two Chemung 18 Mar; one Enfield 26 Apr; one GM29 Apr.  
**Song Sparrow:** 40 DL 4 Apr; 26 Enfield 26 Apr; 15 Mark Twain SP 17 May.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** one Varna 3 May; one Mt Pleasant 22 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** two DL 2 Apr; one Lowe Pd 16 Apr.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** one It 2 Mar; two Gleason Mdw CV 22 Mar; 11 Gleason Mdw CV 11 May; two It 20 May.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** one Horseheads 17 Apr; one SW 11 May; ten SW 14 May; six Big Flats 17 May; one Caroline 31 May.  
**Lapland Longspur:** one King Ferry 8 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** 200 King Ferry 8 Mar; 50 Mt Pleasant 1 Apr.  
**Bobolink:** one It 1 May; one LP 3 May; 12 Horseheads 17 May; 15 It 18 May; 25 Dryden 25 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 10,000 MNWR 3 Mar; 75,000 NCL 16 Mar.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** two It 5 Mar; two Southport 15 Mar; five Dundee 15 Mar; six DL 3 May.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** two It 10 Mar; 25 LP 15 Apr; one DL 3 May.  
**Com. Grackle:** one It 1 Mar; 20 Big Flats 1 Mar; 5000 NCL 16 Mar.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 25 NCL 16 Mar; eight LP 18 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** one It 19 May; two Lansing 23 May; one MP 29 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** one Etna 2 Apr; one Freeville 2 May; four Newtown Crk CV 4 May.  
**Purple Finch:** two Big Flats 17 May; six Caroline 31 May.  
**House Finch:** three Newtown Crk CV 9 Mar; ten SW 1 Apr. numbers decreasing?.  
**Pine Siskin:** 20 Kinner Hill CV 16 May.

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## REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

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Weather this Spring, especially May, was mostly cloudy, cold, windy and wet. For March, the daily mean temperature of 30.7°F at Cooperstown was only 1.6° below normal and precipitation of 4.2 inches was hardly more than an inch above normal. However, 75% sunshine on 13 March was a rare exception to the succession of cloudy days. The big weather event was a Nor'easter 31 March which dumped a record six to twelve inches of snow across the Region, followed by an April Fool's Day of blowing snow and white-outs from strong NW winds. Sun the next few days melted the snow quickly. Water levels in the rivers rose with the runoff causing some minor flooding. April



temperatures, like March, averaged 1.6° below normal, while precipitation was half an inch over average. The month had more sunshine, but also many windy showery days. May was most disappointing. Although precipitation was slightly below normal, temperatures averaged four degrees colder than usual, and strong winds, usually from the northwest, dominated weather most days 7 to 28 May. Trees were slow to leaf out, insect species were limited, and the growing season was about two weeks behind schedule by late May.

Except for waterfowl, migration was mostly late to very late. So it was that in the warmer southern sector of the Region, BROO birders were out early in March checking any open water. Nor were they disappointed! Hundreds of Snow Geese, unprecedented numbers, first excited spotters at Windsor 9 March. The numbers increased to thousands and spread to areas across the Region during the next two weeks. (Stories of the overpopulation of the species and their threat to life of the Arctic tundra came later!). Other waterfowl highlights included good counts of grebes, sightings of both American and Least bitterns, a dozen Tundra Swans (the first in 10 years), and 21 species of ducks, including excellent numbers of Canvasback but a scarcity of Green-winged Teal.

Spring hawk movement was slow, particularly Broad-winged Hawk. Bill Toner was surprised to find an American Kestrel box with five eggs at the early date of 30 April. Special sightings by Tom Salo in OTSE included a very late departure for Rough-legged Hawk (8 May) and an unexpected incidence of nest parasitism by Wild Turkey. He came upon a Ruffed Grouse sitting on her nest containing 11 grouse eggs and three turkey eggs on 11 May. Eleven species of sandpipers was the best record in nearly twenty years. Included were Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper, all Regional rarities. Other good finds included both Virginia Rail and Sora, good numbers of Bonaparte's Gull, both Common and Black terns for the third successive year, N. Saw-whet Owl, a repeat of last year's excellent Chimney Swift presence, and a Red-headed Woodpecker. Also special was discovery of a Common Raven nest with three large fledglings 12 April on a cliff above Otsego Lake. John Davis and Elliott Adams believe theirs is the second such find in that general area.

North American Migration Counts were conducted 10 May in BROO, CHEN, and DELA - OTSE. The counts have coincided with the start of the big May migration push for the previous two years with big fallouts of warblers. With so many late arrivals, it was a different scene this year. Many flycatcher species hadn't arrived yet. The first Alder Flycatcher was a record late 28 May. In his commentary, Bob Miller, who compiled both the DELA-OTSE NAMC and the DOAS May Big Day Count a week later, reported: "On the 17th there still were very small numbers of Least and Great Crested flycatchers, House Wren, Veery, Warbling and Red-eyed vireos, American Redstart, Canada

Warbler and Indigo Bunting. Warblers missing from both counts were Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, Mourning and Wilson's."

Despite the late migration, the Region had record early arrivals for Brown Thrasher and Pine Warbler. Encouraging also were good reports of Yellow-throated Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Wilson's Warbler. Wood Thrush continued scarce as did most grassland species. Missed species included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow. However, a total of 208 species plus one hybrid set a new Spring record, two more than last year's record setting 206.

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**Abbreviations:** Bpd-Boland Pond, BROO; ChF-Chenango Forks, BROO; CVSP-Chenango Valley State Park, BROO; CRes- Cannonsville Reservoir; DOMBDC- Delaware-Otsego May Big Day Count; FHNC- Finch Hollow Nature Center; MSP-Murphy's Sand, Vestal; NAMC-North American Migration Count; OPM-Otsego, Portlandville, Milford; OtsL-Otsego Lake; RTPk- Round Top Park, Endicott; OtPk-Otsiningo Pk, BROO; RRd-River Rd, Endicott; SUNYNP- State University Nature Preserve, Binghamton; WPR Whitney Point Reservoir and surrounding areas, and WB- West Burlington, OTSE.

**LOONS - DUCKS: Com. Loon:** arr and max three WPR 19 Apr; four reports OTSE max two to 10 May, lowest count since 1993. **Pied-billed Grebe:** ten reports all BROO - max three 17 Mar; one TIOG May, good count. **Horned Grebe:** max 39 WPR 29 Apr (ES); seven other reports 22 Mar to 12 May, best count since 1988. **Red-necked Grebe:** max nine WPR 21 Apr (ES); two RRd same date (MP), missed some years. **Double-crested Cormorant:** max five BROO NAMC and Vestal 27 May, fewer than recent years. **Am. Bittern:** Triangle 13 Apr (T&NT), often missed. **Least Bittern:** BUNP 26 May (MP,MF), only fourth report since 1979. **Great Blue Heron:** 28 on three NAMC's, average. **Green Heron:** max three Bainbridge 24 May; seven other reports after 2 May. **Tundra Swan:** ten ad, two imm WPR 10 Mar: "took flight north 9:45 a.m. 11 Mar" (mob), first since 1986. **Snow Goose:** arr Windsor 9

Mar: estimated 4,000 WPR 10 Mar: hundreds also at CHEN, CORT, OTSE, TIOG sites to 25 Mar, unprecedented numbers. **Canada Goose**: usual good numbers of nesting pairs. **Wood Duck**: max 20 SUNYNP 27 Mar: 29 on three NAMC's, low count. **Green-winged Teal**: two reports each Mar, Apr, max two, scarce. **Am. Black Duck**: max 12 BPd 19 Mar: none Apr: four on two NAMC's, low count. **Mallard**: max 56 DOAS NAMC, no reports of young. **N. Pintail**: five reports max 12 to 28 Mar, average. **Blue-winged Teal**: five reports, max five, low count. **N. Shoveler**: arr OPk 2 Apr: three Greene 12 Apr, never common. **Gadwall**: WPR 29 Mar: BPd 3 Apr: DOMBDC, average. **Am. Wigeon**: seven reports max eight, BROO, TIOG 9 to 31 Mar, excellent. **Canvasback**: arr and max seven WPR 10 Mar (T&NT): two nearby area 11 Mar (EP); TIOG 18 Mar (C&JB), highest count in at least 20 years. **Redhead**: max 45 OtsL 13 Mar, winter holdovers, often missed. **Ring-necked Duck**: good numbers from 9 Mar thru Apr; last seven CHEN NAMC. **Greater Scaup**: Mirror L TIOG 3, 14 Mar max seven; two WPR 21 Apr, good numbers. **Lesser Scaup**: two reports BPd max four, one OPM, all mid Mar, near average. **Oldsquaw**: max 11 RRd 22 Mar (MP); nine WPR 21 Mar (ES); one other, good count. **White-winged Scoter**: two OnRes 15 Apr (CV); one Binghamton 17 Apr (BG), often missed. **Com. Goldeneye**: max seven WPR 10 Mar; four other Mar reports; two each BROO NAMC and DOMBDC, late departure. **Bufflehead**: arr WPR 5 Mar; max 12 BROO 19 and 23 Apr; last Norwich 20 APR, good counts. **Hooded Merganser**: max 16 Oneonta and 12 MSP 23 Mar, average. **Com. Merganser**: max 484 WPR 5 Mar (ES), high count; female with nine y Canasawacta Creek CHEN 17 May (DW). **Red-breasted Merganser**: max three MSP 15 Mar DOAS NAMC, late departure.

**HAWKS - ALCIDS**: **Turkey Vulture**: max Delhi 1 May; many all areas after 10 Mar. **Osprey**: max 28 on NAMC's; high counts mid Apr to 17 May. **Bald Eagle**: frequent singles WPR, not necessarily different birds except one three-year old; banded imm seen Cincinnatus L; ad CORT, Can Res, DOMBDC, good range. **N. Harrier**: max six on NAMC's, generally scarce. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: average numbers. **Cooper's Hawk**: scarce after Mar. **N. Goshawk**: two DOAS NAMC, only report. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: Triangle occasionally after 11 Mar; two CHEN reports, one TIOG, average. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr BROO 1 Apr, generally scarce. **Red-tailed Hawk**: nesting pairs Endwell and TIOG; max 15 DOAS NAMC. **Rough-legged Hawk**: eight reports max three Mar; last OTSE 8 May "Yes I stopped and went back" (TS), very late departure. **Am. Kestrel**: nest with five eggs on CORT nest trail 30 Apr, "quite early" (BT). **Ring-necked Pheasant**: female DELA feeder Mar, Apr; five other reports max two, good count. **Ruffed Grouse**: female on nest of 11 grouse eggs and three turkey eggs WB 11 May (TS); two ad with 17 y Vestal Center 29 May (SD). **Wild Turkey**: max 120 Harpersville DELA 11 Mar; two reports of

displaying males APR. **Virginia Rail**: SUNYNP 31 May (class group), often missed. **Sora**: two DOAS NAMC, first since 1991. **Com. Moorhen**: TIOG May and SUNYNP 31 May, missed some years. **Am. Coot**: max 35 OtsL 13 Mar; two BROO reports, high count of winter laggards. **Semipalmated Plover**: max two MSP 16, 27 May, third report since 1986. **Killdeer**: max 49 on NAMC's, good count. **Greater Yellowlegs**: only four singles. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: max four CHEN NAMC; four other reports, not seen every year. **Solitary Sandpiper**: six each on CHEN and DOAS NAMC's, rather scarce. **Spotted Sandpiper**: max eight CHEN NAMC; four WPR 3 May, fewer than last two years. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: eight BROO NAMC; two DOMBDC; last six MSP 27 May, only fifth report in 18 years. **Least Sandpiper**: two singles BROO early May; DOMBDC, average. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: three CHEN NAMC; DOMBDC, first since 1992. **Com. Snipe**: five singles 29 Apr to 19 May, continues scarce. **Am. Woodcock**: max six Triangle 22 May, average. **Bonaparte's Gull**: max 29 WPR (AL), excellent. **Ring-billed Gull**: max 20 on two BROO reports Mar. **Herring Gull**: max 40 CRes 19 Mar. **Com. Tern**: WPR (ES) and MSP (BG) 3 May, often missed. **Black Tern**: BPd 13 May (EC fide MP), third successive year.

**PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS**: **Mourning Dove**: 122 on NAMC's. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: Vestal Center 31 May (SD), late and only report. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: Vestal Center 31 May, only one. **E. Screech-Owl**: only CVSP 5 Mar. **Great Horned Owl**: max three BROO NAMC. **Barred Owl**: two singles Apr, three May, good number. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: Candor Mar, only report. **Com. Nighthawk**: two Binghamton 13 -31 May; two other BROO sites; one TIOG, scarce. **Chimney Swift**: max 100-150 BROO 7 May; 31 DOMBDC; 17 CHEN NAMC; 28 Bainbridge 17 May, excellent counts from May 1. **Belted Kingfisher**: 18 on NAMC's. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: WB 2 May (TS), often missed. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: TIOG thru; OTSE Apr; two BROO sites May, scarce. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: max 28 DONAMC, high count. **Pileated Woodpecker**: eight on NAMC's; good numbers APR, May.

**FLYCATCHERS - STARLINGS**: **E. Wood-Pewee**: early bird BROO NAMC; next arr 20 Mar; scarce thru. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: s Oxford 21 May (DW), not every spring. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr 28 May, record late; BROO 29 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: six reports after 23 May, late arr. **Least Flycatcher**: four on NAMC's compares with 60 last year. **E. Phoebe**: max 32 on NAMC's. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: nine reports after 12 May, max three, average. **E. Kingbird**: max 15 on NAMC's, generally scarce. **Horned Lark**: five reports, max six CORT Mar; two each CHEN and DOAS NAMC's, low count. **Purple Martin**: TIOG May, only report. **Tree Swallow**: good numbers after 26 Apr, "late nesting - wrens and House Sparrows have been giving them

a hard time: five eggs in one nest destroyed." (JB.Owego). **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: max 22 CHEN NAMC. **Bank Swallow**: max 51 on NAMC'S; no large colonies located. **Cliff Swallow**: 14 active nests WPR 24 May (AL); 51 on NAMC's. **Barn Swallow**: max 52 "mostly perched on plants" s Norwich 10 May (DW). **Am. Crow**: max 665 DOAS NAMC. abundant. **Fish Crow**: max two CVSP 5 Mar. 27 Apr: TIOG 9 Mar: two reports in May: Vestal 4 Apr: one RTPk 5, 19 Apr. small population continues. **Com. Raven**: active nest (two ad. three large fledglings) OtsL 12 Apr (JD,EA). first Regional nesting record. **Tufted Titmouse**: good numbers continue all areas. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: average number of feeder reports. **Carolina Wren**: only three sites. still scarce. **Winter Wren**: seven reports Apr. max three: five May. average. **Marsh Wren**: two DOAS NAMC. scarce. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: max 10 CVSP 28 Mar: two other BROO sites Apr. scarce. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: max 30 SUNYNP 14 Apr. average. **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher**: nine reports May. max five. good count. **E. Bluebird**: nest with three eggs CORT 29 Apr: max 30 on two NAMC's. not as widespread. **Veery**: max five Bainbridge 17 May: only one NAMC. late arr. **Swainson's Thrush**: five reports 11-24 May. high count. **Hermit Thrush**: max 10 NAMC's: six RTPk 15 Apr. average. **Wood Thrush**: max 37 DOMBDC. generally scarce. **Gray Catbird**: max 42 Bainbridge 17 May. good numbers. **N. Mockingbird**: max four BROO NAMC. average. **Brown Thrasher**: max 13 on NAMC's. numbers up slightly. **Am. Pipit**: OtsPk 1 Apr: TIOG May: two CHEN NAMC. often missed. **Cedar Waxwing**: max 20 Endicott & J Cty 26 Mar. an off year.

**VIREOS - WARBLERS**: **Solitary Vireo**: max 23 DOAS NAMC. average. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: max four DOAS NAMC; three ChF 29 May: nest building WPR 24 May: two TIOG. excellent. **Warbling Vireo**: max six DOMBDC; ChF 29 May. scarce. **Philadelphia Vireo**: Triangle 24 May: SUNYNP 31 May. often missed. **Red-eyed Vireo**: max four CHEN NAMC. scarce. **Blue-winged Warbler**: eleven reports after 6 May. max three. average. **Golden-winged Warbler**: n OTSE 5 May: three RTPk 6 May: J Cty 12 May: DOMBDC. second best count since 1992. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: singles BROO. CHEN. OTSE. **Tennessee Warbler**: two CHEN. TIOG. continue scarce. **Nashville Warbler**: twelve singles after 25 Apr. good count. **N. Parula**: five May reports. max two. often have but a single bird. **Yellow Warbler**: max 53 on NAMC's. low. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: max nine Bainbridge 17 May: only five on NAMC's. poor count. **Magnolia Warbler**: eleven reports. max four: generally scarce after late arr. **Cape May Warbler**: TIOG May. only report. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: sixteen reports max eight. good count. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: "by the hundreds Brick Pd two weeks in May" (C&JB). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: fewer reports. lower maxima. **Blackburnian Warbler**: ten reports. max three: three on NAMC's compares

with 28 in '96. **Pine Warbler**: nine reports 12 Apr to 28 May, max four, mostly BROO, high count. **Prairie Warbler**: four BROO after 3 May; TIOG; two DOMBDC, near average. **Palm Warbler**: seven singles after 25 Apr, above average. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: seven reports, max two, all BROO, average. **Blackpoll Warbler**: seven reports, max three, good numbers. **Cerulean Warbler**: DOMBDC, usual single report. **Black-and-white Warbler**: eleven on NAMC's, sub par counts. **Am. Redstart**: ten on NAMC's, far below three previous years. **N. Waterthrush**: slightly lower counts. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: max four DOMBDC. **Mourning Warbler**: six reports max two after 14 May, average. **Hooded Warbler**: Bainbridge 16, 24 May (DA), often missed. **Wilson's Warbler**: Triangle and Bainbridge 24 May; SUNYNP 31 May, TIOG, excellent after late arr. **Canada Warbler**: seven reports, max three, good numbers.

**TANAGERS - WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: max seven IBM Woods JCTy; "four in one tree" 20 May (MP); good counts after 18 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 27 on NAMC's, down from record highs past two years. **Indigo Bunting**: a lone early bird 2 May; eight reports after 13 May, max two, fewer. **E. Towhee**: max 16 JCTy 12 May and DOAS NAMC, average. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 30 McGraw 22 Mar; last there 19 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: 144 on NAMC's. **Field Sparrow**: max 20 on NAMC's. **Vesper Sparrow**: CHEN NAMC, only one. **Savannah Sparrow**: average to good in limited areas, generally scarce. **Fox Sparrow**: arr three Vestal 23 Mar; good numbers to 19 Apr. **Swamp Sparrow**: max seven DOAS NAMC; no reports TIOG (JB), scarce. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 15 CHEN 8 Apr, fewer. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 31 NAMC's; most reports 8 - 21 May, average. **Snow Bunting**: max and last 300+ CORT 23 Mar (BT). **Bobolink**: max 58 DOMBDC, scarce. **Rusty Blackbird**: ten Greene 12 Apr (TS), very high count. **Baltimore Oriole**: multiple birds in many yards for extended stays, feeding on suet, apples, oranges, watermelon, peanut butter and nectar (mob). **Orchard Oriole**: New Berlin 17 May, third successive year on DOBDMC, excellent. **Purple Finch**: winter influx hung on thru mid Apr; 67 on NAMC's. **Pine Siskin**: max 15 OTSE 12 Mar; last two CHEN 29 May. **Evening Grosbeak**: two Triangle 22 May.

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## REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Birders in Region 5 had to be extremely patient to catch the spring migration given the vagaries of the weather this season. The spring weather could be described as cold and gray, with the wind from nearly every direction but south - the direction that brings migrants and the winds we dream of all winter long. March had an average temperature of 33.6° F - just a little below normal. The low of 7° F occurred on 9 March, and the high of 73° on 28 March gave optimism for the beginning of spring. Precipitation was above normal with 23.4 inches of snow (6 inches above normal) and 3.57 inches of rain just slightly above normal. April's average temperature of 44.2° F was nearly 1.5° F below normal. The low temperature of 15° F occurred on 9 April, and the high of 76° F came on 30 April giving rise to more optimism that May would indeed warm up. Precipitation was below normal for the month, with 1.78 inches of rain and 2.8 inches of snow. May did not warm up appreciably, with an average temperature of 52.2° F - 4.9 degrees below normal and the eighth coldest May on record. The high of 76° F on 1 May was followed by a low of 34° F on 8 May. Precipitation was just slightly below normal, with 2.43 inches of rain.

There were two passerine fallouts along Lake Ontario on 1 and 12 May, but generally the birding during May was disappointing until the last 12 days of the month when many migrants passed through. The fallouts on 1 and 12 May each brought some early arrivals which would remain scarce for another 7-10 days. Species such as Veery, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green warblers and Lincoln's Sparrow all arrived on the 1st and virtually disappeared afterwards while Willow and Alder flycatchers, Wilson's and Canada warblers, and Scarlet Tanager all gamely showed up 12-13 May, but few of their kind quickly followed.

Hawkwatcher Jim Tietz observed a **Tricolored Heron** flying over the South Lookout at Derby Hill on 25 May and was doubly fortunate to see the bird land in a marsh less than a mile away where it remained for the rest of the day, allowing many observers the privilege of viewing the second documented record for the species in the Region. Sandhill Cranes put in a good showing, with a total of 6 flying past Derby Hill for the season. Glossy Ibis was found in McGraw Swamp on 2 April by Glenn Wolford.

Other publications have recently noted the Snow Goose population explosion and large numbers used the Finger Lakes as a staging area in March. Snow Geese like other birds ignore Regional boundaries so many of Region 5's

geese were undoubtedly shared with Region 3. Ben Burtt estimated 100,000 on Skaneateles Lake on 13 March and several days before that Jim Anderson recorded the same number in fields overlapping Regions 3 and 5 south and west of Skaneateles. Thousands of Snow Geese were also seen flying over Pompey on 22 Mar and they probably became the 10,000+ recorded at Lakeport on Oneida Lake the following day. Interestingly, only a handful of these thousands were of the blue morph. These peaked the last week of March with daily maxima of 40-50. Ten years ago 500 Snow Geese reported in Region 5 would have been a great count. A **Ross' Goose** accompanying a large flock of Canadas was found by a lucky observer at Howland Island WMA on 9 March. The spring hawk count at Derby Hill had the third lowest total since daily counts began in 1979. There were too many days of north or west winds which scattered the flight inland away from Lake Ontario, even the daily high count for Broad-winged Hawk came on a day with northwest winds. Certain species, notably N. Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk, had not come south in large numbers the previous winter. One highlight of the spring hawk flight was the **Am. White Pelican** seen by many observers on 27 April as it soared over the hill with a small kettle of hawks.

Conditions are often unfavorable for shorebirds here in the spring and at two of the better sites, McGraw Road in Chittenango and Biddlecum Pond, the former flooded late and the latter never drained to reveal mudflats. A man-made wetland on the Hastings-Schroepel town line provided many sightings this year but this site may become too overgrown in a few years for shorebird observation. Two reports of Wilson's Phalarope enlivened the birding when a female was found at the Pony Farm in Baldwinsville on 10 May and a male was found in Hastings on 15 May. Neither bird stayed around for more than a few hours.

Common Raven seems to be doing well, with six migrants past Derby Hill. They are now frequently encountered in the Tug Hill and seem to be establishing a presence on the Appalachian Plateau in southern Onondaga and Madison counties. Fish Crow seems to be consolidating its foothold in the Region with continued sightings at the Shop City site in Syracuse and with at least two birds in Liverpool along Onondaga Lake.

Sedge Wren, in its ever mysterious manner, was one bird that went against the trend of the season with an early migrant at Derby Hill on 8 May and two singing birds found at an old breeding site on 17 May. They are often not found until the end of May or even June in the years when they are found at all.

Birders who stopped birding after the usual mid-May warbler peak missed most of the late warbler flight, which was at its best from 19 to 26 May and continued through the end of the season. On the 24th, Thurber found 20 species of warblers, mostly migrants, in a brief stop at Toad Harbor and added four more species at Nine Mile Point. Although arrival dates for many of the



mid to late May migrants were consistent with other years. it was not until 25 May that they were actually around in any number.

A **LeConte's Sparrow** was found at the Nine Mile Point Energy Information Center on 12 May, which continues the pattern of this species being a rare migrant over the past five years. Purple Finch numbers remained good after their winter irruption and Pine Siskins increased slightly over the season, while crossbills and Evening Grosbeak stayed in the Adirondacks in small numbers.

For the season, a total of 238 species plus three forms were reported with Am. White Pelican, Tricolored Heron, Ross' Goose and LeConte's Sparrow the best of the rarities. Other notable species included Snowy Egret, Glossy Ibis, Sandhill Crane and Bicknell's Thrush.

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**Abbreviations:** Adks - Adirondacks; Bvll - Baldwinsville; CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill; EIC - Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point; FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; HIWMA - Howland Island WMA; LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral; NH - New Hartford; OneiL - Oneida Lake; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; StM - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt; Syr - Syracuse; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; UM - Utica Marsh; and WM - West Monroe.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** six at five locations 20 Apr-14 May, good Spring flight. **Com. Loon:** arr DH 27 Mar; max 147 OneiL 13 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Schroepfel 28 Mar; max six UM 10 Apr. **Horned Grebe:** arr OnonL 18 Mar; max 17 Minoa 17 Apr; two WP 30 May, late. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr one WP 8 Apr; total of nine reported, last 17 May. **AM. WHITE PELICAN:** one DH 27 Apr (mob). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr DH 4 Apr; daily maxima of 1200-1600 LOL and 200-300 OneiL. **Am. Bittern:** arr Kirkville 5 Apr; max three FH, Toad Harbor and UM in May. **Least Bittern:** one PSS 17 May; one Dewitt Marsh 23 May; two UM 25 May, only reports. **Great Blue Heron:** arr CM & DH 9 Mar. **TRICOLORED HERON:** one Derby Hill 26 May (JiT, mob, NYSARC), second Regional record. **Great Egret:** four singles 6 Apr-29 May. **Snowy Egret:** one WM 17 May (JB, PB). **Green Heron:** max six CM 21 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Snake Swamp 20 Apr; one WM and one Oswego 17 May, only other reports. **Glossy Ibis:** one McGraw Swamp Jordan 2 Apr (GW). **Tundra Swan:** max eight Pennelville 8-10 Mar; last Brewerton 23 Mar. **Mute Swan:** one WP 4 Apr thru 28 May.

**Snow Goose:** 100,000 Skaneateles L 20 Mar (Ben Burtt); 10,000+ Oneil 23 Mar: singles Biddlecum and Sangerfield 17 May. **ROSS' GOOSE:** one HIWMA 9 Mar (SA!, NYSARC). **Brant:** max 490 Oneil 13 May. **Canada Goose:** max 8300 ONON 23 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 26 HIWMA 20 Apr. **Green-winged Teal:** max 25 UM 17 Apr. **Am. Black Duck:** max 64 Sterling 20 Mar. **Mallard:** max 450 Verona 22 Mar. **N. Pintail:** max 82 CM 9 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal:** max 25 UM and 10 Chittenango 17 Apr. **N. Shoveler:** arr and max 25 PSS 30 Mar. **Gadwall:** max 14 UM 18 Apr. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one UM 25-27 Apr (MP). **Am. Wigeon:** arr two OnonL 13 Mar; max 30 UM 18 Apr. **Canvasback:** max 130 FH 20 Mar. **Redhead:** max 140 FH 20 Mar. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr four Brewerton 9 Mar; max 225 Salmon R 23 Mar; pair WP thru 31 May. **Greater Scaup:** "winter" max 2720 FH 20 Mar; "spring" max 2500 Toad Harbor 20 Apr. **Lesser Scaup:** max 600 Oneil 25 Apr; 2 m WP 28 May. **Oldsquaw:** max 30 Oswego 16 Mar; last Minoa 17 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** three Oneil 25 Apr; two Oneil 13 May; four WP 25 May, often missed in spring. **White-winged Scoter:** max 83 Oneil 13 May. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 1200 FH 1 Mar; last Oneil 10 May. **Bufflehead:** max 85 FH 20 Mar. **Hooded Merganser:** max 98 LOL 23 Mar. **Com. Merganser:** max 400 OnonL 18 Mar; one m Happy Valley WMA 17 May. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max 257 Oswego 10 May. **Ruddy Duck:** arr Brewerton 30 Mar; max 20 Beaver L 14 Apr.

#### HAWKS-ALCIDS:

Derby Hill migration totals:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight</u>	<u>Range</u>
Turkey Vulture	6,680	991 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 30 May
Osprey	295	33 - 1 May	28 Mar - 30 May
Bald Eagle	55	7 - 13 May	2 Mar - 30 May
Northern Harrier	471	77 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 31 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,295	590 - 6 Apr	2 Mar - 30 May
Cooper's Hawk	446	93 - 28 Mar	1 Mar - 30 May
Northern Goshawk	34	4 - 27 Mar	1 Mar - 5 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	523	164 - 28 Mar	1 Mar - 29 Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	12,864	3,809 - 29 Apr	5 Apr - 30 May
Red-tailed Hawk	5,013	961 - 6 Apr	27 Feb - 30 May
Rough-legged Hawk	212	44 - 6 Apr	1 Mar - 29 May
Golden Eagle	22	5 - 29 Apr	17 Mar - 4 May
American Kestrel	399	71 - 28 Mar	Mar - 24 May
Merlin	23	9 - 3 May	4 Apr - 5 May
Peregrine Falcon	6	max 1/day	27 Apr - 23 May

**Bald Eagle:** several Oswego R and OnonL in Mar; one Fourth L 28 Mar. **Cooper's Hawk:** four nests reported. **N. Goshawk:** three nests reported.

**Golden Eagle:** one Big Moose Lake 28 Mar. **Peregrine Falcon:** imm Syr 21 Mar. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** only three reported. **Wild Turkey:** max 90 DL 3 Mar; continues to increase. **Virginia Rail:** max six UM 18 May. **Sora:** max four UM 6 May; one DH 12 May, in a hedgerow. **Com. Moorhen:** max six UM 18 May; scarce in L Ontario marshes due to high water. **Am. Coot:** max five UM 6 May; two still present on 25 May. **Sandhill Crane:** six past DH on three dates, max three 26 Apr. **Black-bellied Plover:** four DH 19 May; one UM 26 May, only reports. **Semipalmated Plover:** max eight Hastings 25 May; three T Marshall 17 May, only other site. **Greater Yellowlegs:** max seven Schroepfel 30 Apr; last two Dead Creek 24 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 31 Chittenango 13 May; last Hastings 25 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max 10 Bville 3 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** four SVB 25 Mar, record early (MP!); max 18 SVB 3 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** arr Phoenix 23 Apr; max five Holland Patent 27 Apr. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** one Bville 6 May, early; max six Hastings 25 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 16 Hastings 20 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** max six Schroepfel 30 Apr. **Dunlin:** max nine Hastings 21 May. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr one Hastings 15 May; max 13 SPd 19 May. **Com. Snipe:** max 14 Hastings 4 May. **Am. Woodcock:** max six TRWMA 2 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope:** one f Bville 10 May; one m Hastings 15 May, two reports are a good season. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 30 DL 12 May; last two SPd 25 May. **Herring Gull:** max 600 Oswego 4 May. **Iceland Gull:** one Bville 6 Mar; one Oswego 10 May, only reports. **Glaucous Gull:** two Oswego 4 May, one a late adult. **Great Black-backed Gull:** max 40 Oswego 4 May. **Caspian Tern:** max 205 FH 4 May. **Com. Tern:** max 70 OneiL 14 May. **Black Tern:** max four SPd 25 May; one Sangerfield Marsh 17 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 25 May, second latest; only four reported. **E. Screech-Owl:** reports from Beaver Lake, Bville and StM only. **Great Horned Owl:** four nests with young reported. **Snowy Owl:** last imm f Brewerton 16 Mar. **Barred Owl:** reports from Beaver L, Morgan Hill, New Hartford, Parish and Whiskey Hollow. **Short-eared Owl:** singles DH 17 Mar, 5 May; Verona 22 Mar. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** reports from Noyes Sanctuary and Whiskey Hollow. **Com. Nighthawk:** singles Fayetteville and NH 25 May. **Whip-poor-will:** max three Constantia 17 May. **Chimney Swift:** one DH 5 Apr, record early; max 60 Oswego 10 May. **Belted Kingfisher:** max four CM 16 Apr. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr LOL 13 May; max two FH 16 May, reports from Holland Patent and Waterville. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** no reports of range extension birds. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max six LOL 6 Apr. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** one Third Lake Creek 27 May, only report. **Pileated Woodpecker:** many reports.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** singles Hastings 27 May and Adks 30 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** max seven Whiskey Hollow 24 May; numbers low thru. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr StM 24 May; three other reports. **Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Whiskey Hollow 31 May. **Alder Flycatcher:** few reports, only one/day. **Willow Flycatcher:** max three/day after 24 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max seven NH 20 May. **E. Phoebe:** max nine DH 6 Apr. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max six StM 14 May. **E. Kingbird:** max 10 Kirkland 22 May. **Horned Lark:** max 100 Kirkland 1 Apr. **Purple Martin:** max 36 SW Oneil 26 May. **Tree Swallow:** max 2000 Oswego 29 Apr. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max six DH 27 Apr. **Bank Swallow:** max 60 Oswego 10 May. **Cliff Swallow:** max 30 Orwell 13 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 120 Nine Mile Pt 14 May. **Fish Crow:** two-three OnonL to 8 May; five Shop City Syr 29 May. **Com. Raven:** six migrants DH, max three 9 Mar; two reports S ONON; ten reports Tug Hill to Adk foothills. **Black-capped Chickadee:** max 24 Beaver L 25 Apr. **Tufted Titmouse:** doing well at edge of present range. **Brown Creeper:** max five Kirkland 14 Apr. **Carolina Wren:** one HIWMA 20 Apr, only report. **House Wren:** max 16 Camillus 13 May. **Winter Wren:** arr LOL 29 Mar; max five NH 6 Apr, low numbers. **Sedge Wren:** one DH 8 May; two Toad Harbor 17 May. **Marsh Wren:** max 11 CM 21 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 15 NH 16 Apr. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 30 DH 23 Apr; last DH 20 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** one EIC 5 Apr, record early; max six CM 7 May. **Veery:** max 16 EIC 12 May. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** max 3 DH 25 May. **Bicknell's Thrush:** one Labrador Pond 24 May (DC!), only report. **Swainson's Thrush:** max 12 LOL 25 May. **Hermit Thrush:** max 12 Sithe Independence Park 23 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** max 21 EIC 12 May. **Gray Catbird:** max 22 Camillus 13 May. **Brown Thrasher:** max six EIC 1 May. **Am. Pipit:** arr one Camillus 16 Mar; max 90 Mexico 1 May; last DH 19 May. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 86 Kirkland 15 Mar. **N. Shrike:** last Warren 19 Mar; one Stink Lake Outlet 2 Mar carrying a Red Crossbill; three other reports.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** **Solitary Vireo:** max 15 StM 2 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** max five Whiskey Hollow 24 May. **Warbling Vireo:** max eight UM 25 May; peak counts from last week of May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** arr NH 17 May; singles Kirkland and WM 28 May, only other reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** scarce until last week of May; low max 20 NH 28 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Pratt's Falls 13 May; max seven Pompey 14 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr LOL 17 May; max three Mexico 26 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** six reports. **Tennessee Warbler:** max 12 WM 25 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** one Happy Valley WMA 17 May; one WM 24 May, only reports. **Nashville Warbler:** max 12 Rome 31 May. **N. Parula:** max 4 NH 12 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 50 UM 21 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 11 StM 17 May. **Cape May Warbler:** four DH 12-16 May; singles WM and

SPd 24 May, only reports. **Magnolia Warbler**: max eight UM 20 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: max 12 StM 21 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: a few wintering birds eating Poison Ivy berries ONEI Mar & Apr; max 220 DH 1 May; 130 Kirkland 7 May, a good count away from LOL. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: max eight NH 13 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: max 10 UM 21 May; still moving along LOL 31 May. **Prairie Warbler**: two singing near Parish after 13 May; one NH 20-25 May. **Palm Warbler**: max 31 LOL 10 May; protracted migration with sightings still 24-25 May. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: max four LOL 24 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: max 59 LOL 25 May. **Cerulean Warbler**: three migrants SPd 19 May, unusual; max six Toad Harbor 25 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: max six EIC 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: max 20 UM 21 May. **Ovenbird**: max 30 EIC 12 May. **N. Waterthrush**: max 14 WM 10 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: arr Pompey and NH 18 Apr; max four NH 29 Apr. **Mourning Warbler**: max six Kirkland 24 May. **Com. Yellowthroat**: max 30 NH 21 May. **Hooded Warbler**: max 12 LOL 25 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: max 10 NH 20 May. **Canada Warbler**: max nine LOL 25 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: max 12 NH 26 May. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: max 12 Kirkland 14 May. **Indigo Bunting**: max six EIC 12 May. **E. Towhee**: max five Noyes Sanctuary 23 Apr. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 31 NH 31 Mar; last Paris 25 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: one Paris 3 Mar, wintered; max 118 LOL 10 May. **Field Sparrow**: arr DH 2 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: few migrants noted; at many breeding locations after 25 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow**: max 35 EIC 13 Apr & 1 May. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: single migrants LOL 9-12 May. **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**: one EIC 12 May (BP, NYSARC). **Fox Sparrow**: arr NH 31 Mar; max 10 NH 15 Apr; last 24 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: max 165 EIC 29 Mar; arr Old Forge 26 Mar. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: max 12 EIC 12 May; ten LOL 25 May, late for so many. **Swamp Sparrow**: max 42 CM 27 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: arr Adks 29 Apr; max 67 LOL 10 May. **White-crowned Sparrow**: max 180 EIC 12 May; last Holland Patent 28 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: max 56 LOL 5 Apr; one m **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco**: Pompey 4-8 Apr. **Lapland Longspur**: max five DH 7-17 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 650 Kirkland 22 Mar; last Limekiln L 29 Mar. **Bobolink**: max 60 EIC 12 May. **Red-winged Blackbird**: arr Adks 7 Mar. **E. Meadowlark**: arr one Apulia 17 Mar; max 18 DH 28 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: two Camillus 16 Mar; max 230 HIWMA 20 Apr; last LOL 16 May. **Orchard Oriole**: one HIWMA 17 May; one UM after 20 May; one Kayuta L 24-25 May, unusual location. **Baltimore Oriole**: max 15 NH 17 May. **Purple Finch**: common throughout in small flocks at feeders. **Red Crossbill**: scattered Adk reports; max five Remsen 21 Mar including one with nesting material. **White-winged Crossbill**: one North L 9 May, only report. **Pine Siskin**: max 30

Remsen 3 Apr and pair completing nest there 28 Apr; found throughout Adks and Tug Hill, scattered at other high elevations. **Evening Grosbeak:** small numbers Adks.

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## REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring 1997 was not cool but cold. All types of weather were experienced, including sleet, rain, snow, heavy snow, and threats of Nor'easters. When the sun did appear, it was under north - northwest winds or west off cold Lake Ontario. On 9 April it was down to 10° F in Henderson. On 4 May we hit the 50 degree mark and had trouble getting out of the 50's thru the rest of the period. On 8 May it was 30 degrees in Watertown. It was probably the third coldest May since weather records have been kept by the weather service.

Vegetation was very late and the later leafing species such as Black Locust, Black Walnut, some of the oaks, and many shrub species showed little signs of leafing out at the end of the period. Apples and black cherries bloomed very late and hummingbirds and orioles were quick to come to feeders, as were many other species such as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings for black oil seed.

Although there was not a concentrated migration, as last year, species sort of dribbled through at about their regular times. Some excellent field work by devoted birders provided some good numbers and species diversity. Although weather conditions were adverse much of the time, the cold weather was of some help since blackflies which normally start biting at warbler migration peak were in lowered numbers or nonexistent, making birding a bit more bearable.

Leone and Hughes, with others at various times, found the Snowshoe Point area in the Town of Henderson again most rewarding for vireos, warblers and other species. Leone and Scilingo found grassland sparrows in good numbers around Perch River WMA and at Fort Drum. Badger and Cerwonka provided the arrivals and migration peaks in St. Lawrence County. Mueller and the Woods provided good information on the Cape Vincent area and vicinity. The

Brouses provided good sightings from the Watertown area as usual. DiTomasso found Adirondack specials at the Massawepie Mire - even Boreal Chickadees, which can be a real challenge. He also found Palm Warblers and a few winter finches on the breeding grounds. The other contributors filled in the blanks for many species. This editor only puts the field records together, the people in the field are the ones who write this report. I thank them for the time they take to write and summarize their reports.

Highlights for the period include: some excellent long-legged wader observations; good waterfowl variety, although numbers of dabbling ducks were down; a **Gyr Falcon** on Stony Point, which was not an easy find due to its location - downhill from the road in a wooded area at the edge of Henderson Bay; excellent shorebird numbers and variety for spring time; an invasion of Short-eared Owls, with nesting birds at various locations; and excellent vireo and warbler variety. Negatives for the period are as follows: low numbers of Com. Moorhen and Am. Coot, low numbers of Barn Swallow, and low numbers of the spot-breasted thrushes.

**Contributors:** Marilyn Badger, Tom & Carol Budd, Richard & Marion Brouse, Sheila Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, Dean DiTomasso, Lee Ellsworth, Steve Guy, Bettye Hughes, Nick Leone, Debbie Litwhiler, Robert Long, Gene & Pearl McGory, Kermit Morgan, Frank Mueller, Mickey Scilingo, Michael & Sue Sheard, Gerry Smith, Judy Thurber, Mary and Brian Wood.

**Abbreviations:** CV - Cape Vincent; Hen - Henderson JEFF; MM - Massawepie Mire, Twns Colton - Piercefield STLA; PRWMA - Perch River Wildlife Management Area JEFF, Twns Brownville and Orleans; PtPen - Point Peninsula JEFF, Twn Lyme; SBSP- Southwick Beach State Park JEFF, Twn Ellisburg; SLR - St. Lawrence River; SnPt -Snowshoe Point JEFF, Twn Henderson; T - Town or Township; WBSP - Wescott Beach State Park JEFF, Twn Henderson; WISP -Wellesley Island State Park JEFF, Twn Orleans & Alexandria.

**LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon:** one SBSP 15 Apr. **Com. Loon:** arr PtPen 10 Apr, in lower numbers than usual. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PtPen 28 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** arr PtPen 10 Mar (NL). **Red-necked Grebe:** one SnPt 19 Apr (NL); one WISP 20 Apr; one Black Lake STLA 22 Apr; last SnPt 17 May (NL). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Hen Harbor 6 Apr; arr PtPen 9 Apr; max est. 700 SnPt 26 Apr; numbers inland to Hen Pd and Crystal Lk in T of Hen for fish as Lake Ontario waters stayed cold and bait fish stayed in deeper waters. **Am. Bittern:** arr PRWMA 17 Apr; numbers are up in many locations. **Great Blue Heron:** arr Stony Pt T Hen 17 Mar; abundant this year. **Great Egret:** one Black Pond JEFF T Ellisburg 1 May (GS); one NYS Route 3 T Hen 6 May; one PRWMA 24 May (RB). **Snowy Egret:** imm SBSP 22 May (GS);

imm Lakeview WMA 25 May (GS). **Green Heron**: arr Hen 5 May. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: arr Beaver Meadow, JEFF T Watertown 15 Apr. probably nesting there; one T Hen 18 May. **Tundra Swan**: one Lakeview WMA 1 Apr. **TRUMPETER SWAN**: two arr PRWMA 1 Mar, left when it refroze and then returned. **Mute Swan**: two PtPen 12 Mar: PRWMA birds also present thru. **Snow Goose**: 600 Ellisburg 13 Mar; 4000+ over Hen 19 Mar; heavy movement thru area 24 - 26 Mar; 1600 Ellisburg 1 Apr; in very large numbers. **Canada Goose**: 6000 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **Wood Duck**: arr 20 PtPen 28 Mar. **Green-winged Teal**: arr 12 PtPen 28 Mar; max 40 T Hen 24 Apr. **Am. Black Duck**: 200 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **N. Pintail**: arr 110 PtPen 28 Mar; 170 Ellisburg 1 Apr. **Blue-winged Teal**: arr Sulphur Springs JEFF 26 Mar. **N. Shoveler**: arr one male PtPen 28 Mar; pair PRWMA 28 Apr - seen several times and may be nesting? **Gadwall**: arr PtPen 28 Mar. **Am. Wigeon**: arr 14 PtPen 28 Mar. **Canvasback**: five PtPen 28 Mar; max 50 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr. **Redhead**: four PtPen 28 Mar; max 50 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck**: max 75 PtPen 28 Mar; 28 PRWMA 12 Apr. **Greater Scaup**: max est. 15,000 WISP Eel Bay 14 Apr; 2000+ PtPen 4 May. **Lesser Scaup**: one Long Pt SP PtPen 6 Apr. **Oldsquaw**: max 500+ Hen Harbor 4 Apr; last 10 SnPt 20 May. **White-winged Scoter**: three (1 male, 3 female) PtPen 28 Mar. **Bufflehead**: 25 PtPen 20 Apr; 35 CV 4 May. **Hooded Merganser**: arr four m PtPen 10 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser**: arr PtPen 28 Mar.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **Turkey Vulture**: arr two T Hendrson 19 Mar. **Osprey**: arr WISP 11 Apr; two nests Massawepie Lake STLA 20 Apr (DD). **Bald Eagle**: one ad PtPen 14 Mar; five imm WISP Eel Bay 20 Apr; imm Colwell Pd Lakeview WMA 22 Apr. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: one Hen caught a male Red-winged Blackbird and was actively plucking feathers when the blackbird got loose, was pursued, but finally escaped. I have never seen a bird escape after so many talon strikes and feathers removed (LC, ph). **Cooper's Hawk**: in good numbers in CV - low in other areas of Region. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: arr four PtPen 28 Mar. **Broad-winged Hawk**: arr PtPen 21 Apr. **Rough-legged Hawk**: max 40 PtPen 11 Mar; 1 JEFF T Hounsfield 11 Mar (LE); three Hen 19 Mar; last JEFF T LeRay 6 May. **Am. Kestrel**: in lower numbers than usual; more numerous in CV. **Merlin**: one SnPt 7 May (NL). **Peregrine Falcon**: one over Hen moving north 8 May (LC); one PRWMA circling and screaming in small kettle of other hawks 22 May (LC). **GYRFALCON**: one SnPt 16 Mar (NL, Dave Prosser, Robt Walker, ph, NYSARC). **Gray Partridge**: ten Favret Rd T CV 16 Mar; five Fix Creek Rd T CV 16 Mar; two Stoney Pt Rd T CV 18 Mar(NL); max 12 Millens Bay Rd T CV 19 Mar. **Wild Turkey**: five Lakeview WMA 6 Apr; can now be seen anywhere in the Region. **Virginia Rail**: arr JEFF T LeRay 16 Apr. **Sora**: arr Massena 20 Apr. **Com. Moorhen**: arr PRWMA 22 Apr. numbers down for the period. **Am. Coot**: arr one Wilson's



Bay T CV. in very low numbers from a few years ago. **Sandhill Crane**: pair flying low over Hen village heading north 29 May. late (LC). **Killdeer**: arr PtPen 23 Mar. **Greater Yellowlegs**: arr PRWMA 22 Apr. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: arr Mill Creek JEFF T Hounsfield 7 May; 15 Town Barn Rd Hen 15 May. **Solitary Sandpiper**: arr Hen 9 May; one Hen Boat Launch 20 May. **Spotted Sandpiper**: arr Mill Creek JEFF T Hounsfield 7 May. **Upland Sandpiper**: two Bonney Rd JEFF T Brownville 29 Apr; two NY Route 180 1 May; two Star School Rd JEFF 7 May; max three Fort Drum near airfield 31 May (mob). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: seven Hen Boat Launch 20 May. **Least Sandpiper**: 14 Hen 14 May; four Stony Creek Rd T Hen 19 May; max 40 Hen 20 May; 10 Town Barn Rd 20 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: one Old Rome State Rd T Hounsfield 10 Apr. a good find in spring. **Dunlin**: 14 Stony Creek Rd T Hen 19 May. **Com. Snipe**: arr PRWMA 1 Apr; very abundant at Fort Drum. **Am. Woodcock**: seven flushed Limerick Cedars 22 May after heavy rain the day before. **Bonaparte's Gull**: arr T CV 10 Apr. **Glaucous Gull**: one Moses-Saunders Dam STLA 2 Mar (MB). **Caspian Tern**: arr PRWMA 8 Apr. **Com. Tern**: two SLR CV 23 May. **Black Tern**: 20+ PRWMA 22 May; max 30 Wilson Bay Marsh 6 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS**: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: arr SnPt 29 May. **Great Horned Owl**: pair calling Hen 19 Mar; nest PtPen 28 Mar. **Snowy Owl**: imm fem Montario Pt Rd JEFF T Ellisburg 27 Mar; last one ad male Three Mile Bay JEFF 21 Apr. **Barred Owl**: two Massena 14 Mar; two answering each other Massena 10 May. **Short-eared Owl**: nine T Hounsfield 11 Mar (LE); two Pillar Pt JEFF 15 Apr; three PtPen 21 Apr; two Pt Salubrious 29 Apr; one Hen being harrassed by male N. Harrier 15 May; one near Bagg's Corner JEFF T Hounsfield 18 May - a possible nesting location; one Hardscrabble Rd PtPen 18 May; one JEFF T Pamela 20 & 29 May; one Fort Drum 26-29 May; nest with nine eggs T CV in May. **N. Saw-whet Owl**: heard Massena 29 Mar; seen Massena 31 Apr (MB) **Com. Nighthawk**: one SnPt 24 May; one Hen Harbor 30 May; day time courtship flight Fort Drum 31 May (mob), numbers may be improving. **Whip-poor-will**: one calling Hen village 18 May; good numbers at Limerick Cedars. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: two Mixer Rd Ellisburg 20 May (GM); one Fort Drum near airport 31 May (mob). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: one at Canton STLA at feeder till Apr. unusual in STLA; pair Hen 18 Apr; one Fort Drum 21 May; one PRWMA 22 May. **Black-backed Woodpecker**: calling male Irish Settlement Rd T Canton STLA 20 Apr (DD), not normal range.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING**: **E. Wood-Pewee**: arr SnPt 25 May. **Alder Flycatcher**: arr six Massena 2 May. **Willow Flycatcher**: arr PRWMA 27 May; three Fort Drum 29 May. **Least Flycatcher**: arr SnPt 7 May. **E. Phoebe**: arr

PtPen 28 Mar. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: above normal numbers. **E. Kingbird**: arr SnPt 12 May. **Horned Lark**: max 66 CV 8 Mar: one Fort Drum 31 May. **Purple Martin**: max 25 Hen Harbor 11 May. **Tree Swallow**: arr 15 PtPen 28 Mar. **N. Rough-winged Swallow**: arr SnPt 30 Apr. **Bank Swallow**: arr SnPt 6 May. **Cliff Swallow**: 200+ Moses-Saunders Dam STLA 8 May. **Barn Swallow**: arr Renshaw Bay JEFF T Hen 5 May; in low numbers at Fort Drum (MS). **Gray Jay**: two MM T Piercefield STLA 20 Apr (DD); three MM 25 May (DD). **Com. Raven**: one in village of Potsdam 7 Mar: one Fort Drum 23 May; four at High Rocks (Wehle Property - Hen Shores Unique Area) on Stony Pt JEFF T of Hen along Lake Ontario shoreline 31 May (GM). high cliffs of 40+ feet and possibility of a nesting site will be investigated; three Wilson Hill STLA 31 May (MB). **Boreal Chickadee**: two pairs MM 20 Apr STLA (DD). **Tufted Titmouse**: two Massena 1 Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: below normal numbers. **House Wren**: arr SnPt 26 Apr. **Winter Wren**: a pair MM 20 Apr: one CV village 29-30 Apr. **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: in fair numbers depending on location. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 20 Apr; lower numbers than last years flight. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: one SnPt 7 May; two SnPt 12 May. **E. Bluebird**: in excellent numbers particularly in CV and vicinity. **Veery**: arr Washinton Park JEFF T Lorraine 22 May; in low numbers. **Gray-checked Thrush**: one Massena 28 May. **Swainson's Thrush**: one Massena 28 May. **Hermit Thrush**: arr SBSP 15 Apr. **Wood Thrush**: arr SnPt 8 May; in low numbers. **Gray Catbird**: arr SnPt 5 May. **N. Mockingbird**: one Deferno Rd JEFF T Clayton 18 May (GS); one Rt 56 near Massena 29 May; one Massena 31 May (MB). **Brown Thrasher**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 23 Apr. **Am. Pipit**: four Rome State Rd T Hounsfield 10 Apr. **Cedar Waxwing**: low numbers in Mar. increasing thru. **N. Shrike**: three (2 singing males) MM 20 Apr.

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS**: **Solitary Vireo**: arr Washington Park JEFF T Lorraine 26 Apr; more common than usual. **Warbling Vireo**: arr Hen 9 May; max 120 SnPt 12 May. **Philadelphia Vireo**: arr two SnPt 25 May (mob); one SnPt 27 May; one Morristown STLA 31 May. **Red-eyed Vireo**: arr SnPt 15 May; max 14 SnPt 25, 27 May. **Blue-winged Warbler**: one SnPt 13 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: one singing a Blue-Winged song WBSP 13 May (NL.BH). **Golden-winged Warbler**: arr SnPt 23 May; max two SnPt 25 May. **Tennessee Warbler**: arr two males SnPt 18 May (NL). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: one SnPt 23 May (NL.BH. R. Walker). **Nashville Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 30 SnPt 13 May; two Chaumont Barrens 24 May. **N. Parula**: arr SnPt 13 May; max 12 SnPt 15 May; six SnPt 18 May; eight Eldorado Shores 19 May. **Yellow Warbler**: arr SnPt 6 May; numbers up from last year in Hen. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: arr SnPt 12 May; max 11 SnPt 27 May. **Magnolia Warbler**: arr SnPt 12 May; max STLA eight May 19 near Massena; max JEFF

three SnPt 27 May. **Cape May Warbler**: arr SnPt 13 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: arr SnPt 2 May. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: arr SnPt 22 Apr; max 700 SnPt 12 May (NL.BH); 200+ SnPt 15 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 40 SnPt 12 May. **Blackburnian Warbler**: arr and max 10 SnPt 12 May. **Pine Warbler**: arr SnPt 24 Apr; max five m SnPt 26 Apr; three Fort Drum 31 May. **Prairie Warbler**: arr Limerick Cedars Preserve JEFF T Lyme 18 May; max nine Limerick Cedars 25 May; max two Chaumont Barrens Preserve JEFF T Clayton 24 May; two Fort Drum near NYS Route 3A (mob); locally abundant at Fort Drum (MS). **Palm Warbler**: one singing MM 20 Apr; 10 MM 20 Apr; four SnPt 1 May; max migrants 18 SnPt 12 May; max breeders 15 (12 singing males) MM May 24-25 (DD). **Bay-breasted Warbler**: arr SnPt 18 May; two Morristown STLA 31 May. **Blackpoll Warbler**: arr ten SnPt 25 May, very abundant; max 10 Morristown 31 May (RL). **Cerulean Warbler**: arr one SnPt 24 May; one SnPt 29 May. **Black-and-white Warbler**: arr SnPt 1 May; max 12 SnPt 12 May. **Am. Redstart**: arr SnPt 6 May; max 30 SnPt 25 May. **Ovenbird**: arr SnPt 3 May. **N. Waterthrush**: arr JEFF T Hen 30 Apr. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: one Washington Park JEFF T Lorraine 22 May (NL). **Mourning Warbler**: one male SnPt 25 May (mob). **Com. Yellowthroat**: arr WBSP 8 May. **Wilson's Warbler**: arr and max three (2 males & 1 fem ) SnPt 12 May; last SnPt 25 May. **Canada Warbler**: arr SnPt 23 May.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Scarlet Tanager**: arr SnPt 13 May; max 12 SnPt 25 May. **E. Towhee**: arr Limerick Cedars Preserve JEFF T Lyme 22 Apr. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: max 75 Fox Creek Rd T CV 16 Mar; last Watertown 25 Apr. **Chipping Sparrow**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 21 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow**: two Fort Drum 31 May (mob). **Field Sparrow**: arr Stony Pt T Hen 21 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow**: arr PtPen 9 Apr; one Millens Bay Rd T CV 13 May; in low numbers. **Savannah Sparrow**: arr Chaumont 9 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: arr Smithville Rd JEFF T Hounsfield 2 May; max seven (four Dog Hill Rd, three Vaadi Rd) JEFF T Orleans 31 May (NL.BH); two Fort Drum 31 May where locally abundant (mob). **Henslow's Sparrow**: arr three Bonney Rd JEFF T Brownville 29 Apr; two Dog Hill Rd JEFF T Orleans 19 May; max five Dog Hill Rd one mile farther east 19 May (NL); three Fort Drum 31 May where very abundant locally. **Fox Sparrow**: one Watertown 31 Mar; one Waterown 17 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: arr Hen 25 Mar; not in normal numbers (LC). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: one CV 24 May. **Swamp Sparrow**: arr SBSP 16 Apr. **White-throated Sparrow**: max 60 SnPT 30 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow**: arr Hen 1 May; last Hen 27 May. **Dark-eyed Junco**: one "Oregon" type SnPt 21 Apr (NL.BH); max 150 SnPt 24 Apr. **Lapland Longspur**: 18 Favret Rd JEFF T CV 18 Mar. **Snow Bunting**: max 300 PtPen 7 Mar; last PtPen 23 Mar. **Bobolink**: arr PRWMA 4 May; in large numbers. **E. Meadowlark**: arr PtPen 12 Mar. **Rusty Blackbird**: arr four WBSP 5 Apr; max 75 PRWMA 29 Apr.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Hen 1 May; at Hen feeder 6 May. **Purple Finch:** 30+ Hen feeder 14 Mar; no doubt nesting this year in Hen. **House Finch:** numbers down from the eye disease: Crowell had none at his home in Pierrepont STLA. **Com. Redpoll:** one Massena 5 Mar, only report. **Red Crossbill:** one fly-by Chandler Pond Wild Forest T Colton STLA 12 Apr (DD). **White-winged Crossbill:** three (one singing male) MM 4 Apr (DD); max 12 MM 25 May (DD). **Pine Siskin:** max six T Louisville STLA 13 Mar; one SnPt 22 May; two Hen feeder 19 May. **Evening Grosbeak:** five T Louisville STLA 2 Mar; two Alder Acres T Lorraine JEFF on Tug Hill 19 Mar (DD); one SnPt 24 Apr; one or two MM 4 Apr; max six Conifer STLA 25 May (DD).

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## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Most of the winter of 1996-97 managed to squeeze into the spring season. The biggest storm of the season to date hit on 6 March, leaving a foot of snow blowing in 18 mph winds. March winds reached gusts of 33 mph on the 1st and 37 mph on the 12th. Clinton County even enjoyed a thunderstorm on St. Patrick's Day, in spite of  $-1^{\circ}$  temperatures. Monthly snowfall was 27", more than twice the lower-elevation average of a foot. In spite of only 47% of possible sunshine, there was enough starshine and moonglow to provide great views of comet Hale-Bopp and the partial lunar eclipse 23 March, with Mars on the moon's shoulder. Two early April snowstorms were followed by a thaw that saw Plattsburgh reach  $63^{\circ}$  on 6 April, before a drop to  $14^{\circ}$  on 9 April (and a daily high of  $26^{\circ}$ , the lowest for that date). Another brief thaw, then serious snow on 18 April: 18" at Ellenburg Depot, 17" in Keene Valley, and 11" at Lake Placid, the heaviest 24-hour snowfall this late in the season. But the remainder of the month was relatively sunny, with  $70^{\circ}$  at Plattsburgh on the 30th. A cool, wet, and even snowy May followed, with snow at Inlet on May 2nd, 4th, and 22nd, plus 16 days with showers or rain. After opening on 9 May, the Crown Point banding station experienced a solid two weeks of adverse north and west winds. A southerly flow finally arrived on Saturday, 24 May. Then a return to adverse winds on Sunday and Memorial Day served to ground the mixed waves of migrants who had finally decided to make the final push to Canada. Elsewhere on Memorial Day, the Thaxtons found Boreal Chickadee

and singing Winter Wren on the Big Slide side of Third Brother (3,500'), where there was still four feet of snow.

Despite the late spring, a record 219 species were reported, exceeding the 216 found in spring 1993. This includes a **Barnacle Goose**, whose final status is left to NYSARC. N. Bobwhite, an obvious release, subspecies or morphs ("Blue" Snow Goose, both Horned Larks, both Palm Warblers, and differing Red Crossbills), and an apparent hybrid (White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed Junco). Whatever the actual count, the weather had anything but an adverse effect on final numbers. This was the second most productive season in 22 consecutive years of Crown Point banding, with 1,238 birds of 62 species banded and released. Regional rarities included a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Ausable Point, a **Glossy Ibis** headed to Four Brothers Islands, the **Barnacle Goose** at Lake Flower, a **Eurasian Wigeon** and Hudsonian Godwit at Chazy Landing, **Short-eared Owls** near Essex, a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Saranac Lake, and an apparent singing male **Kentucky Warbler** at Carpenter Flats. **Wilson's Phalaropes** were again found at their Chazy Rivers nesting grounds, and there were several reports of **Wilson's Warbler** from habitats and on dates suggestive of nesting, albeit difficult to assess with such a late migration.

The return passage of waterfowl was exceptionally good. Bill Krueger resumed reading neck collars on "Greater" Snow Geese at Champlain, the Chazy Rivers, Point au Roche, and Rouses Point, noting several radio collars in the course of his search. In addition to increased numbers of normally uncommon species of ducks, this was an exceptional spring for Hooded Mergansers, found in "every wet spot along the road," as Tom Barber put it, and with reports from Ausable Point, Barber Pond, Bulwagga Bay, Chazy Rivers, Chilson Marsh, Cumberland Head, Lewey Lake, Penfield Pond, Port Douglas, and Westport only suggestive of their invasion.

Two pairs of Osprey may have nested in the used Great Blue Heron nests at Webb Royce Swamp this year, joined in the old treetop colony by nesting Canada Goose, Mallard, and Great Horned Owl. Bald Eagles continued their increase, with the largest concentration of six reported from Tupper Lake in early April. In an ironic twist, John D. Delehanty found an immature Bald Eagle feeding on a Turkey Vulture carcass at Bog River Falls on 19 April. Merlins at Fish Creek 19 April, Saranac Lake high school pond 10 May, Raquette Lake 26 May, and a pair at Moody Pond 31 May were likely nesters, with others at Rugar Woods and Wadhams in late April probably birds of passage.

Krueger and Charlie Mitchell found two female **Wilson's Phalaropes** on the Gravelle Farm at Chazy Rivers 27 May, where Hal Klein saw a pair the same day and where the Booths also located a pair two days later. The census of Ring-billed Gulls nesting on Island "C" of the Four Brothers Islands was conducted for the first time in a decade on 11 May. A total of 15,033 nests was

counted, down less than 1% from the 15,184 nests tallied back on 19 May 1987. Four Black Terns on the Laurin Farm, Chazy Rivers, 27 May were noteworthy. Similarly encouraging were the four **Short-eared Owls** that Dean and Trisha Spaulding found near Essex the evening of 21 April, where a displaying pair remained into early May. Bohemian Waxwings finally put in a late, but strong, appearance, with 250 arriving at Peru 22 March and flocks remaining in the Essex-Westport area to 22 April and on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus to 23 April, some mixed with Cedar Waxwings, which is quite atypical here. Tom Dudones had a close look at a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Saranac Lake High School on the early date of 29 March. Bob Yunick made three last trips to Hamilton County in March to look for crossbills and other winter finches. All Red Crossbill roadkills in this Region measured as *Loxia curvirostra minor* of the Pacific Northwest and had *minor*-shaped bills (specimens to Columbia-Greene Community College). White-winged Crossbills were more abundant than Reds, especially along Uncas Road near Inlet. By the same month, Pine Siskins banded near Elizabethtown and Keene began to show brood patches and cloacal protuberances as proof of nesting.

As mentioned, the banding at Crown Point State Historic Site was rewarding. Moreover, there were 61 returns of 16 different species banded at Crown Point in previous years, with the oldest a N. Flicker now at least 7 years, 11 months old. Obviously these thickets are critical to local nesters who return year-after-year, as well as long-distance migrants headed to Canada. Species new to the station included Pileated Woodpecker and House Sparrow, bringing the list of species banded since 1976 to 90. A bird captured and photographed 25 May was an apparent **White-throated Sparrow x Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco** hybrid. Above, it appeared to be a dull, tan-striped morph white-throat, with normal yellow lores. It had the gray upper breast and white belly typical of a junco, but no trace of white in the throat. The three most abundant species were American Goldfinch (376, eclipsing the previous high of 187 set in '93), Yellow-rumped Warbler (264, but down from last year's incredible 694), and Common Yellowthroat (102, beating last year's record of 65). Nineteen warbler species were banded, compared with 17 in 1995 and 22 in 1996.

As always, the birding on Crown Point Peninsula was as good as the banding: 4-6 Red-necked Grebes 10-11 May, daily Ospreys, three Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcon 24 May, a Black-billed Cuckoo from 25 May, calling Eastern Screech-Owl 20-21 May, Common Nighthawk 25 May, late American Tree Sparrow 24 May, Grasshopper Sparrow 20 May, and immature male Orchard Oriole 17-18 May a few of the highlights. All in all, a memorable spring season, even if much of it did seem like winter.

**Contributors:** Ethel & Tom Baker, Thomas Barber, William Barber, Helen & Robert Booth, Rick Bruce, John Ciaccio, Dean Cook, Charlie Delehanty, John D. Delehanty, Marian Delehanty, Janet Downs, Tom Dudones, Bill

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**Abbreviations:** AP-Ausable Point WMA; BB-Bloomington Bog; CP-Crown Point peninsula; CR-between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; TL-Tupper Lake; TLP-Tupper Lake municipal parks; and WRS-Webb Royce Swamp.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Com. Loon:** Whallon's Bay **2 Mar** (RM,J&SP,DS), early. **Horned Grebe:** TL 20-22 Apr (CD), unusual inland. **Red-necked Grebe:** max 26 Westport 6 Apr (TB,JP); Whallon's Bay and CP to 11 May. **Double-crested Cormorant:** AP **3 Apr** (WK) and Westport **5 Apr** (TB,JP), record early for CLIN & ESSE; three FRAN 10 May (JT), unusual for that county. **Great Blue Heron:** arr 12 AP **30 Mar** (TD, TM), walking on ice; CP **30 Mar** (TB); two CR **30 Mar** (NO), all CLIN-ESSE and Regional records. **Great Egret:** CR 31 May (WK). **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Westport 9 Apr (TB,JP), record early ESSE & Region. **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON:** AP 30 Mar (DK, *fide* RH, BK), first Regional record, but without details. **GLOSSY IBIS:** one frequenting Shelburne Farms, VT, seen flying to apparent roost Four Brothers 24 May (SM, TM). **Snow Goose:** max 1,000+ Pt au Roche 29 Mar; "**Blue**": CR 13 Apr (NO). **Brant:** Raquette L 25 May (ES). **BARNACLE GOOSE:** Lake Flower FRAN 8 May (TD, RH, TM, photo!). **Canada Goose:** tree nest Webb Royce Swamp Apr; on nest Essex Station 22 Apr (JP, DS), new location. **Green-winged Teal:** 20 Whallonsburg 16 Apr (TB, JP), new ESSE max. although higher numbers present CR in CLIN. **Am. Black Duck:** max 96 CR 13 Apr (NO). **N. Shoveler:** CR 13 Apr (NO); WRS Apr (MG), uncommon here. **Gadwall:** three drakes AP 30 Mar (TD, TM); two drakes Essex **3 Apr** (TB, JP), ESSE record; also Westport 5-12 Apr. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** CR 5 May (HK, BK). **Am. Wigeon:** arr six AP 30 Mar (TD, TM); pair there 13 Apr; four Beekmantown 17 Apr; CP 4-6 Apr; drake WRS 16 Apr (TB, JP) and pair there 22 Apr (JP, DS), suggestive of nesting. **Lesser Scaup:** four Coll Bay **31 Mar** (TB), early. **Oldsquaw:** arr CP 6 Apr (TB, RM, JP), early. **Black Scoter:** four Westport 6 Apr (TB, JP), early. **White-winged Scoter:** 22 Whallon's Bay 22 Apr (JP, DS). **Com. Goldeneye:** St. Germaine Pd FRAN 3 May (TM), possible nester. **Hooded Merganser:** pr Westport 9 Mar (JP, DS); abundant thereafter. **Red-breasted Merganser:** four drakes Willsboro Pt 3 Apr (TB, JP); displaying pr AP 15 Apr (BK); six Beekmantown 29 Apr (NO).

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** arr Pt au Roche 19 Mar (HK), followed by four more Mar sightings. **Osprey:** on nests WRS mid-Apr; on nest Scotion Cr 28 Apr. **Bald Eagle:** max six TL 5-6 Apr (CD), numerous reports from all four counties. **N. Harrier:** arr Essex 3 Apr; many ad males sighted throughout that month. **Rough-legged Hawk:** last Ticonderoga 12 Apr (DC). **Golden Eagle:** Westport 22 Mar and early Apr. **Merlin:** Fish Cr 19 Apr; Wadhams 22 Apr; Rugar Woods 23 Apr; SLHS pd 10 May; Raquette L 26 May; pr Moody Pd 31 May, prob nesting again. **Peregrine Falcon:** CP, CR, Keene, Plattsburgh, Wilmington, includes nesting pairs. **Gray Partridge:** Barber Rd. CLIN, 31 May (BK). **Spruce Grouse:** Shallow Lk trail 15 May (GL). **Sora:** Essex Station Marsh 25 May (WB). **Com. Moorhen:** TL, Moody's 8 May (TD). **Black-bellied Plover:** CR 29 May (H&RB), scarce in spring. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 20 CR 27 May (BK,CM), a good number. **Upland Sandpiper:** Stetson Rd. CLIN, 31 May (BK), only report. **HUDSONIAN GODWIT:** CR 27 May (BK,CM) to 29 May (H&RB), on Laurin Farm. **Least Sandpiper:** 15 CR 27 May (BK,CM), good spring number. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** CR 3 May (BK), in stubble field. **Dunlin:** CR 5 May (HK,BK), early CLIN on Laurin Farm. **Short-billed Dowitcher:** CR 27 May (BK,CM), on Gravelle Farm. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** two females CR 27 May (BK,CM), on Gravelle Farm; pr there same day (HK) to 29 May (H&RB). **Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Port Henry & Westport 6 Apr (TB,JP); CR 16 Apr, TLP 6-10 May (CD,TD). **Com. Tern:** max 8 Gilbert Cr Marina CLIN 4 May; copulating pr CR 11 May, on Laurin Farm.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Black-billed Cuckoo:** CP 25 May (KM,JP,DS,RW), only report. **E. Screech-Owl:** calling CP 20-21 May (GL,JP). **Great Horned Owl:** on nest in old heronry WRS 22 Apr (JP,DS). **SHORT-EARED OWL:** four Essex 21 Apr (DS,TS); displaying pair present at dusk through 10 May (DS), strong evidence of probable nesting. **Com. Nighthawk:** CP 25-26 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** Siarkowski feeder, Lake Shore Rd ESSE 20-25 May (DS,TS). **Three-toed Woodpecker:** The Gulf CLIN 21 May (J&RH), northernmost known location in NYS along Quebec border. **Black-backed Woodpecker:** Shallow Lk trail 15 May; Floodwood Rd 28 May; BB & Ferd's Bog 31 May, usual locales, but a good showing.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Whiteface Mt 29 May. **Horned Lark:** 50 "Northern" Westport 9 Mar (JP,DS); "Prairie" arr Westport 22 Mar (TM,SO,JP); last "Northern" Westport 9 Apr (TB), late departure and early arrival for ESSE. **Gray Jay:** Whiteface Mt 22 Mar (NO), rare in High Peaks; three Raquette L feeder to 6 Apr; Raquette L 6 May; Marion R May, more expected. **Am. Crow:** took, plucked, and consumed Pine Siskin Speculator 12 Apr (PK). **Boreal Chickadee:** Big Slide, BB, MRR, and



Vermontville, expected locations. **Tufted Titmouse**: Carpenter's Flats, Ticonderoga, and Westport, similarly expected. **Marsh Wren**: arr WRS 20 Apr (DS); Wickham Marsh 14 May (J&RH). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: pr CP 17 May (JC,GH,JP,DS), only encounter. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: two banded CP 24-25 May (JP), the first "warm" brownish, the second "cold" grayish. **Bicknell's Thrush**: arr Dannemora 24 May (J&RH). **Hermit Thrush**: arr Rugar Woods 9 Apr (BK), early CLIN. **N. Mockingbird**: arr Elizabethtown-Keene 5 Apr, unusually high elevation; CP from 21 Apr, more expected. **Brown Thrasher**: arr Inlet feeder 1 Apr (GL), exceptionally early and unusual in interior Adks. **Am. Pipit**: Ridge Rd CLIN 20 Apr (J&RH); 6-15 TLP 6-10 May (CD,TD), good finds in spring. **Bohemian Waxwing**: arr 250 Peru 22 Mar (JD) to 27 Mar (RH); six BB 1 Apr; 5-25 in mixed waxwing flocks SUNY Plattsburgh 30 Mar-23 Apr (BK); 75 Westport 3 Apr; 30 WRS 5 Apr; 150+ in three flocks Westport 13 Apr (all TB,JP); 50 Essex 22 Apr (JP,DS), obviously a month long return flight, but from whence? **Cedar Waxwing**: max 200+ SUNY 7 Mar, after being numerous all winter. **N. Shrike**: banded Keene 6 Mar; Wadhams 9 Mar; Keene 11, 28 Mar, only sightings. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: SLHS 29 Mar (TD), close look.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS**: **Yellow-throated Vireo**: arr Keene 12 May (J&PT). **Philadelphia Vireo**: banded CP 26 May (JP). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 264 banded CP 9-26 May. **Palm Warbler**: arr Cumberland Head 2 May (NO); three "Western" banded CP 12-14 May (GH,JP), narrow migratory window. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: singing male Westport 25 Apr (TB), only report, but from known brook. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: heard only Carpenter's Flats CLIN 29 May (BK,CM). **Mourning Warbler**: Heart Lake Rd 25-29 May (WB), on territory; banded CP 25 May. **Com. Yellowthroat**: 102 banded CP 12-26 May. **WILSON'S WARBLER**: arr Cumberland Head 15 May (NO); seven banded CP 19-26 May (JP); SLHS pd 25 May (TD), likely transient; BB 26 May (WB); Tahawus Lake Sanford Rd 27 May (WB), quite possibly breeders.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS**: **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: again widely reported from Regional feeding stations during May, as in '96. **Indigo Bunting**: also frequent at feeders from mid-May, as in the cold spring of '96. **E. Towhee**: arr Hogansburg 27 May (HW), only report. **Am. Tree Sparrow**: CP 24 May (DS,TS), late ESSE by ten days. **Vesper Sparrow**: Cross Rd ESSE 22 Mar (TM,SO,JP), early ESSE by four days. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: singing male CP 20 May (GL,JP). **Fox Sparrow**: Speculator & TL 8 Apr to Wadhams 21 Apr. **Song Sparrow**: major movement Essex-Willsboro 3 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: arr Little TL 30 Apr (CD); 15 banded CP 13-26 May. **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** x **DARK-EYED JUNCO**: apparent hybrid CP 24

May (JP et al.), banded & photographed; *intro*. **Lapland Longspur**: last Reynolds Rd CLIN 22 Mar (DK). **Snow Bunting**: max 200+ Westport 9-22 Mar; last Inlet 29 Mar (GL). **Rusty Blackbird**: WRS 20 Apr (DS); FB 9 May (GL); Pt au Fer 11 May (HK,BK); Ray Brook 19 May (TD), a strong showing. **Orchard Oriole**: imm male CP 17 May (JC,GH,JP,DS); imm male banded CP 17 May (JP), rare spring transient and summer resident here. **Red Crossbill**: one Hurricane Mt 2 Mar; three HAMI roadkill specimens 16, 23 Mar, measured as *L.c. minor* (RY); roadkill Paul Smiths 22 Mar; pr Westport same day darker, large-billed (TM,SO,JP); max 10 Westport 29 Mar; pr Westport 18 Apr; regular HAMI thru, breeding; *intro*. **White-winged Crossbill**: two males The Glen 2 Mar; 11 HAMI 16 Mar; 13 HAMI 23 Mar, where regular thru; Paul Smiths 22-23 Mar; two AP 28 Mar (HK,BK), unusual location; 30 BB 3-6 May; max 70 Lost Pd FRAN 3 May (TM), as nesting apparently concluded. **Pine Siskin**: large flocks at feeders, especially, during snowstorms, into early May. **Am. Goldfinch**: increasingly outnumbered previous species as season advanced; record 376 banded CP 9-26 May, plus 30 returns. **House Sparrow**: pr banded CP 13 May, first in 22 years to venture from nearby barnyard into hawthorn thickets.

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## REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

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After a warm and dry winter, spring was generally cool and wet. As reported from the Albany County Airport, the mean temperature in March was 33.1(F, 1.2( below normal, with 53% sunshine. The 4.41" of precipitation was 1.48" above normal. 23.6" of snow fell, most of it on the 31st, totaling 12.6" above normal. April temperatures were also below normal, averaging 44.2(, with 66% sunshine. It was a dry month, with 2.30" of precipitation, 0.69" below normal. There was a major snowfall on the 18th and 19th. May was generally cold, miserable, and cloudy. Temperatures averaged 53.6°, 4.0° below normal, making it the 8th coldest May on record and the coldest since 1956. There was only 47% of the possible sunshine. Precipitation totaled 2.60", 0.81" below normal.

Area birders were made aware of the Snow Goose population explosion when thousands rather than the usual hundreds of these birds appeared in late March. There were a number of very early migrants, with Tree Swallow in Ft.

Plain on 3 March. Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the Saratoga National Historical Park on 4 March. Chipping Sparrow in two locations on 17 March. American Bittern at Vischer Ferry on 6 April, and Barn Swallow on 11 April. Ken Able had a male Pine Warbler at his Berne feeder on 30 and 31 March. It was not seen after the morning of the 31st, when heavy, wet snow began. Jim Sotis observed an extremely early Olive-sided Flycatcher in a seasonal wetland in southern Rensselaer County on 22 April. Craig Fosdick had an interesting shrike sighting in late April. The confusing immature plumage prevented specific identification, but the late date leads to speculation that the bird may have been a Loggerhead Shrike.

Birding conditions during May were generally not good. General perceptions were of a delayed migration, particularly for flycatchers. Actually, many species arrived somewhat earlier than usual (4-8 days), but the cool temperatures reduced activity and singing, making them hard to locate. There were no major fallouts. Birds seemed to dribble through in small numbers. Century Run teams on 16 and 17 May had to cope with high temperatures in the lower 50s with clouds and wind. Birds were often observed foraging near or on the ground.

There was little shorebird habitat due to high water levels. Reports were mainly from flooded fields in the Stillwater Flats, with only 11 species observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 221 species. Included were 26 waterfowl, 14 hawks, five owls, and 31 warblers. Unusual birds sighted during the period included Tundra Swan, Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross' Goose, Golden Eagle, Hooded Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

**Contributors:** Ken Able, Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Kate Beale, Bob Boehm, Carol Budliger, Robert Budliger, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Walter Ellison, Lou Esch, Larry Federman, Craig Fosdick, Laurie Freeman, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Ron Harrower, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), William Lee, Andy Mason, Nancy Martin, Laura Meade, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, Jim Sotis, Doug Steele, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Jeff Wells, and Robert Yunick.

**Abbreviations:** BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BS - Bear Swamp, ALBA; CBL - Cossackie Boat Launch, GREE; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FSF - Featherstonough State Forest, SCHE; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; LG - Lake George, WARR; MR - Mohawk River; NB - New Baltimore, GREE; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PISP - Peebles Island State Park, SARA; SL -

Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, SARA; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore Woods, SARA; StFl - Stillwater Flats, SARA (includes Saratoga Sod Farm); TP - John Boyd Thacher SP, ALBA; TR - Tomhannock Reservoir, RENS; TRd - Tower Road, SARA; VF - Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve, SARA.

**LOONS-WATERFOWL:** **Red-throated Loon:** no reports. **Com. Loon:** arr three FtM 22 Mar; max 30 SL 17 May. **Pied-billed Grebe:** arr one MR Schenectady 15 Mar. **Horned Grebe:** arr one CL 16 Mar; only small numbers reported. **Red-necked Grebe:** arr one CL 27 Mar; only three reports of singles. **Great Cormorant:** one Cossackie 9, 13 May (RG to BEN). **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr two NB 28 Mar. **Am. Bittern:** max six BCM 17 May; also reported from BCR, TRd, Snyders Corners, ALBA, VF. **Least Bittern:** one Schodack Marshes RENS 17 May, only report. **Great Blue Heron:** arr CL, Kingston 11 Mar; rookeries reported from Bemis Heights, T Ballston. **Great Egret:** four reports of singles; three VF 25 May, unusual in spring. **Green Heron:** few reports. **Black-crowned Night-Heron:** one Catskill 30 Apr; one Ann Lee Pd 13, 15 May. **Tundra Swan:** one ad CL 10-19 Mar (WE, RP, mob). **Mute Swan:** max 30 CBL 17 Mar. **Greater White-fronted Goose:** three StFl 3 Mar (Bill Corbett). **Snow Goose:** arr ten FtM 3 Mar; large numbers present through 13 Apr; max c.10,000 Ft. Plain area 29 Mar (EA); 10,000 FtM/StFl 29 Mar. **Ross' Goose:** one *blue morph* FtM 30 Mar (WE, NM); one white morph FtM 30 Mar (BP), NYSARC reports filed for both. **Brant:** in flight over NB 25 May; 24 over T Gallupville 31 May. **Canada Goose:** max 9000+ StFl 24 Mar. **Wood Duck:** max 20 NR 10 Mar, reported in good numbers. **Green-winged Teal:** max eight VF 6 Apr; one m still at VF 17 May. **N. Pintail:** 29 River Rd WASH 22 Mar. **Blue-winged Teal:** max six VF 24 Mar. **N. Shoveler:** arr two FR 3 Mar. **Gadwall:** arr four MR Cohoes 20 Mar. **Am. Wigeon:** arr 15 Vosburgh Marsh ALBA 2 Mar; last six VF 6 Apr. **Canvasback:** arr four FtM 4 Mar; max 20 CBL 9 Mar. **Redhead:** five reports of singles 3 Mar-3 Apr; three BCM 13 Apr. **Ring-necked Duck:** arr HR Livingston 1 Mar; max 200+ VF 27 Mar; four still present BCR 22 May. **Greater Scaup:** arr seven NRRS 3 Mar; last two TR 10 May. **Lesser Scaup:** arr ten CBL 8 Mar; max 14 MR Crescent 6 Apr. **Oldsquaw:** arr one CL 27 Mar; max six MR Half Moon 6 Apr. **Surf Scoter:** one imm VF 13 Apr, only report. **White-winged Scoter:** no reports. **Com. Goldeneye:** max 90 HR Stillwater-FtM 13 Mar; not reported after 30 Mar. **Bufflehead:** arr 12 River Rd WASH 4 Mar; last one BCR 23 May. **Hooded Merganser:** arr ten FtM 3 Mar. **Com. Merganser:** max 100 MR Half Moon Cove SARA 7 Mar; 240 Kinderhook L 28 Mar. **Red-breasted Merganser:** max eight SL 17 May. **Ruddy Duck:** one Copake 4, 6 Apr; five SL 6 Apr, unusual in spring.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Turkey Vulture:** max 18 TP 17 May. **Osprey:** 13 Apr and ten May reports of singles; seven Catskill Creek 3 May. **Bald Eagle:** 30 reports in March: seven ad, six imm, 17 unspecified; two April reports: one imm, one unspecified; eight May reports: five ad, two imm, one unspecified. **N. Harrier:** max ten FtE 28 Mar; 17 reports of singles. **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 27 reports of singles. **Cooper's Hawk:** seven reports of singles. **N. Goshawk:** one Austerlitz 27 Mar; one WR 5 Apr; one TP 16 May carrying food; one BS 23 May; one Windham 23 May; poss. two pairs T. Edinburg 29 May on (RY). **Red-shouldered Hawk:** 15 reports of singles. **Broad-winged Hawk:** arr one Greenport 11 Apr. **Red-tailed Hawk:** max five FtE 7 Mar; no aggregations as last year. **Rough-legged Hawk:** six still present FtE 23 Mar; last one T Sharon 8 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** one imm T Sharon 16 Mar (*vide* EA); one imm migrating over Berne 6 Apr (KA). **Am. Kestrel:** max 20 Duaneburg 29 Mar. **Merlin:** one roadkilled f T. Guilderland 27 Apr (WE); one Clermont SP 10 May (ADBC). **Peregrine Falcon:** one FtE 7 Mar; one Rensselaer 7 Mar; one ad Dunn Memorial Bridge 10 Mar; one Saratoga Springs 12 Mar; one StFl 26 Mar; one Gallupville 3 Apr; one Roger's Rock Mt 4, 15, 16 Apr; one Meco 6 Apr; two Catskill 10 Apr; two Anthony's Nose Mt. 14-16 Apr; one StFl 11 May; one S. Rensselaer 12 May; one Cocksackie 13 May; one SI 22 May. **Ring-necked Pheasant:** one Hague 10 May, only report. **Ruffed Grouse:** first drumming SNHP 24 Mar; Meco 4 Apr. **Wild Turkey:** continues in moderate numbers; max 42 Cocksackie 8 Mar; 80 Duaneburg 29 Mar. **Virginia Rail:** max 13 BCM 17 May. **Sora:** one Cropseyville Marshes 7 May; one HR COLU 10 May; two BCM 17 May, only reports. **Com. Moorhen:** one BCM 16 May; five VF 28 May; one Claverack 28 May. **Am. Coot:** one GI 16 Mar; one Livingston 23 Mar, 3 Apr; one VF 11-20 Apr, 2 May; **Semipalmated Plover:** five-seven StFl 15-20 May, only report. **Greater Yellowlegs:** four reports; max eight StFl 7 May. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** only two reports; max 24 StFl 12 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** max ten VF 17 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** max nine PISP 11 May. **Upland Sandpiper:** one Stuyvesant 18 Apr; one SCA 27 Apr-17 May; one NAMC MONT; one FtE 17 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 75 StFl 17 May. **Least Sandpiper:** max 50 StFl 17 May. **Pectoral Sandpiper:** one FR 2 May; one StFl 17 May. **Com. Snipe:** max four BCM 5 Apr. **Am. Woodcock:** max eight Guilderland ALBA 17 May, numbers low. **Bonaparte's Gull:** max 50 SL 22 May (WE, NM). **Iceland Gull:** two-three CBL 17, 18 Mar; one PISP 27 Apr. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** one CBL 18 Mar. **Glaucous Gull:** one SI 11 May. **Com. Tern:** one SL 17 May, only report. **Black Tern:** five reports; max 13 SL 22 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Black-billed Cuckoo:** three reports of singles; two FR 13 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** one Greenport 10 May; one Powell Sanctuary 26 May. **E. Screech-Owl:** five reports of singles. **Great Horned**

**Owl:** 15 reports: one on nest Cherry Valley 11 Mar; one at nest Indian Kill Preserve SCHE 27 Apr. two young observed 24 May; ad. young Colonie Public Golf Course 25 May. **Snowy Owl:** one Jonesville 11 Mar; one Ft. Ann 25 Mar; one Claverack 9 Apr; one SNHP 13 Apr; one Clermont SP 13 Apr. **Barred Owl:** nine reports incl pair CSR 11 May, Hunter Mt. 26 May. **Short-eared Owl:** three FtE 3 Mar; two FtE 28 Mar; five T Sharon 6 Apr. **N. Saw-whet Owl:** one Amsterdam 7-19 Mar; one Poestenkill 11 Mar; one Glenville 29 Mar; one Hague 25, 27 Mar. **Com. Nighthawk:** two Albany 14 May; one dead on road Alcove Res 17 May; one FR 24 May; "flock" going up river NB 25 May (RG to BEN); one Stuyvesant 26 May; three Schenectady 28 May. **Whip-poor-will:** one Coeymans 10-31 May; one Amsterdam 12 May; two CSR 17 May; one Hague 24 May. **Chimney Swift:** max 60 SI 11 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** four banded JL May incl two returns, one from 1995 (RY). **Red-headed Woodpecker:** one T Wilton 10-14 May; one SNHP 11 May; one Coxsackie 13 May. **Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 11 reports. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max six FSF 3 May; nine Windham 23 May; 15 reports of singles.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one T S. Cambridge 22 Apr (JS!); six reports of singles 24-28 May. **E. Wood-Pewee:** ten reports of singles. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** no reports. **Alder Flycatcher:** four reports; max four FR 24 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** five reports; max three FR 24 May. **Least Flycatcher:** max five BCM 16 May. **E. Phoebe:** four pairs nesting FR (DS). **Great Crested Flycatcher:** max three SNHP 29 May; 14 reports of singles. **E. Kingbird:** 13 reports of singles. **Horned Lark:** max 75 FtE 9 Mar. **Purple Martin:** at least 12 pairs SL 4 May. **Tree Swallow:** 600+ SI/PISP 19 Apr; 1000 BCR 3 May, high counts. **N. Rough-winged Swallow:** max 20 BCR 3 May. **Bank Swallow:** 50 nests T Gilboa 23 May; other colonies not reported. **Cliff Swallow:** max 100 BCR 3 May. **Barn Swallow:** max 200 BCR 3 May. **Am. Crow:** max 1000+ GI 16 Mar. **Fish Crow:** 14 reports; max three Central Pk Schenectady 30 Apr. 5 May. **Com. Raven:** reported throughout Region; high count seven Conklinville Dam 18 Mar. **Red-breasted Nuthatch:** scarce at JL. **White-breasted Nuthatch:** max six NRP 5 Apr. **Brown Creeper:** first singing FtE 9 Mar; JL 28 Mar; four BCM 29 Mar. **Carolina Wren:** six reports of singles. **House Wren:** max eight SNHP 20 May. **Winter Wren:** one Mar and five Apr reports; one NRP 4, 18 May; one Stuyvesant 10 May; three TP 16 May; one Schenectady Museum Preserve 17 May. **Marsh Wren:** max 15 BCM 17 May. **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** overwintered in Region. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** early arrivals SNHP 4, 8 Mar; last one TP 16 May. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max five BCM 3 May. **E. Bluebird:** five pairs nesting FR; 20 Rt. 20 bluebird trail SCHE 8 May; numbers throughout Region up from last year. **Veery:** max 11 CSR 30 May. **Bicknell's Thrush:** no reports from breeding areas in Catskills. **Gray-cheeked**

**Thrush:** one banded NB 24 May (RG). **Swainson's Thrush:** 12 reports of singles. **Hermit Thrush:** max four Palenville 11 Apr; six Ann Lee Pd. 20 Apr. **Wood Thrush:** max seven CSR 30 May. **Gray Catbird:** max five Guilderland 3 May. **N. Mockingbird:** low numbers. **Brown Thrasher:** 15 reports of singles. **Am. Pipit:** one NAMC MONT; ten Stanton Pd ALBA 16-17 May. **Cedar Waxwing:** max 50 NB 7 Mar. **Shrike sp.:** one imm T Schuylerville 22 Apr (CF). **N. Shrike:** six reports of singles.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** **Solitary Vireo:** 19 reports of singles 17 Apr-24 May; max five Guilderland 3 May; nine Windham 23 May. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** ten reports of singles; max five Ten Mile Creek ALBA 23 May; nest-building observed NRP 18 May. **Warbling Vireo:** 17 reports of singles; max four VF 28 May. **Philadelphia Vireo:** no reports. **Red-eyed Vireo:** max ten SkW 27 May; 12 SNHP 29 May. **Blue-winged Warbler:** arr seven Guilderland 1 May; max 17 singing males SNHP 15 May. **"Brewster's" Warbler:** one m Berne 13 May, singing Blue-winged song; one TP 17 May; one Indian Meadows SCHE 18 May; one FR 20 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr one Guilderland 17 May; one Kenrose Preserve ALBA 26 May; two SNHP 31 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** five reports 12-24 May. **Nashville Warbler:** 16 reports 2-24 May. **N. Parula:** 15 reports 2-24 May. **Yellow Warbler:** max 15 VF 23 May. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 12+ Ten Mile Creek ALBA 23 May. **Magnolia Warbler:** 19 reports 4-24 May. **Cape May Warbler:** five reports 12-29 May. **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 23 reports 21 Apr-24 May; max ten Hunter Mt. 24 May (WE, NM). **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 40 NRP 18 May; 25 FSF 3 May; last two BCR 23 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** 30 reports 16 Apr-28 May; max 12 Windham 23 May. **Blackburnian Warbler:** 12 reports 30 Apr-23 May; max ten Cocksackie 13 May; seven Windham 23 May. **Pine Warbler:** 13 reports of singles; max three CSR 30 May. **Prairie Warbler:** arr Taghkanic 16 Apr; 12 reports. **Palm Warbler:** 14 reports 10 Apr -17 May; max three FR 17 Apr. **Bay-breasted Warbler:** 11 reports 10-24 May; max 15 PB 20 May. **Blackpoll Warbler:** 15 reports 13-30 May; max 15 VF 28 May. **Cerulean Warbler:** two CISP 14 May; one NB 23 May. **Black-and-white Warbler:** max eight Hunter Mt 24 May. **Am. Redstart:** 18 reports 3-31 May; max five Olana 3 May. **Worm-eating Warbler:** one Blossom Hill Rd. ALBA 17 May, only report. **Ovenbird:** max 14 CSR 30 May. **N. Waterthrush:** 16 reports 20 Apr-29 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr New Scotland 12 Apr; 11 reports of singles; max four NRP 18 May; two Windham 21 May above 2000'. **Mourning Warbler:** four reports of singles. **Com. Yellowthroat:** max ten SNHP 20 May. **Hooded Warbler:** one PB 7 May (K. Weiskotten to BEN), first report since 1990. **Wilson's Warbler:** 18 reports 7-24 May; max four Cocksackie 13 May. **Canada Warbler:** eight reports 10-28 May; max three VF 21 May (WE, NM).

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Scarlet Tanager:** 18 reports of singles; two pairs FR 13 May; three NRP 18 May. **N. Cardinal:** max 16 Guilderland 16 Mar. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 12 Guilderland/NRP 18 May, six at feeder. **Indigo Bunting:** widely reported throughout Region in suburban yards. **E. Towhee:** max six SNHP 15 May. **Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 49 T Florida MONT 1 Mar; last two VF 25 Apr. **Clay-colored Sparrow:** one at feeder T Wilton SARA 13 Mar (BP!). **Field Sparrow:** arr one SNHP 5 Apr. **Vesper Sparrow:** one FR 7 Apr. **Savannah Sparrow:** max ten SCA 27 Apr. **Grasshopper Sparrow:** one FtE 18, 26 May, only report. **Henslow's Sparrow:** arr one SNHP 7 May; one FR 24 May (CB, RB), first since 1982. **Fox Sparrow:** arr one Guilderland 22 Mar; last Guilderland 20 Apr. **Song Sparrow:** arr Cohoes 13 Mar; max 14 singing males SNHP 5 Apr. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** four reports 13-24 May; one singing BCM 16 May. **Swamp Sparrow:** arr and max 30 BCM 20 Apr (WE). **White-throated Sparrow:** first migrants Jefferson SCHO 9 Apr; 42 SUNYA 30 Apr and 41 Guilderland 3 May, high counts; singing began Broadalbin 14 Apr. **White-crowned Sparrow:** max 18 FR 12 May; last E. Glenville SCHE 23 May (RP). **Dark-eyed Junco:** max 33 T Florida MONT 3 Mar. **Snow Bunting:** max 400 Poestenkill 14 Mar; 200 Knickerbocker Rd. RENS 15 Mar; not reported after that date. **Bobolink:** numerous FtE, farm fields MONT, SNHP after 5 May (JG). **Red-winged Blackbird:** max 5000+ Menands 20 Mar. **E. Meadowlark:** arr Greenport 15 Apr. **Rusty Blackbird:** arr Austerlitz, Swyer Preserve 25 Mar; last one BCM 7 May. **Com. Grackle:** max 15,000+ Selkirk 8 Mar (WE, NM). **Brown-headed Cowbird:** 200+ T Florida MONT 1 Mar. **Orchard Oriole:** one Stockport 8 May (RG); one Troy 10 May (H. Klimowski to BEN); one Blatnick Pk. Schenectady 15 May (RP). **Baltimore Oriole:** max 19 NRP 18 May. **Purple Finch:** max 30 Conesville SCHO 3 Mar; 35 Jefferson 11 Mar; one banded Apr, sic May JL (RY), numbers low. **Red Crossbill:** six Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar. **White-winged Crossbill:** six Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar. **Pine Siskin:** max 20 Harrisburg Rd WARR 27 Mar; 40 Warrensburg 3 May. **Am. Goldfinch:** max 60 T Hague 6 Mar; 100+ 133 York Ave Saratoga Springs Mar-Apr. **Evening Grosbeak:** small numbers appeared in N. part of Region after 3 May; max 12 Warrensburg 25 May; breeding pair banded JL 24 May.

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## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

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Few reports were received this spring. This is probably due to no Region 9 report appearing in the March issue of the Kingbird. Unfortunately there was a gap between when the last editor resigned and when I took over. I encourage everyone to send in their reports.

This spring can be categorized as cooler and wetter than average, with cold front after cold front dominating the weather pattern. Each month's precipitation was slightly above average, with a combined 11.75 inches, compared with the average of 11.18 inches. March and April's average temperatures were near normal but May was 4.9 degrees cooler than average. The only significant winter weather event occurred from 31 March to 1 April, when the Region recorded 6 to 30 inches of snow. Prior to this event, the male Indigo Bunting that remained at a Cold Spring feeder all winter continued at this site. Surprisingly, a second Indigo Bunting was found at a Lake Carmel feeder on 15 March and remained until 1 April.

There were numerous interesting reports through the season. A Least Bittern at Marshland Conservancy on 27 May was a nice find, as was a King Rail on 29 May. Waterfowl on the Hudson River included eleven Red-necked Grebes, 34 White-winged Scoters and 28 Oldsquaw on the evening of 28 April in Cornwall Bay. An impressive spring fight of hawks occurred over Hook Mountain on 26 April with 1745 Broad-winged Hawks counted. A female Wilson's Phalarope was found 19 May near Woodburne Prison in Sullivan County, providing a first county record for this species. A Glaucous Gull and up to three Iceland Gulls lingered in Ellenville behind the Fallsview Hotel well into the spring. The Iceland Gulls were last reported 23 March while the Glaucous Gull stayed until 4 May. A Common Nighthawk returned early on 14 April at Cruger's Island during a Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club trip.

The only decent fallout occurred on the weekend of 3-4 May, when the Region reported 24 warbler species. This included the arrival of Cerulean and Hooded warblers at Doodletown Road and a Cerulean Warbler at the Rye Nature Center, which is unusual for this side of the Hudson. A Yellow-throated Warbler was found on 18 May on Route 97 next to the Mongaup River on the border between Sullivan and Orange counties. The bird was singing in a grove of old sycamores and continued through the period. A second singing individual joined him there in early June. This species has been extending its range up the Delaware Valley in recent years. Mourning Warblers were well reported at the end of May.

Five birders found a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** on Iona Island 26 May. Other highlights included: Northern Gannet, Eurasian Wigeon, Golden Eagle, Summer Tanager, Ipswich Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak.

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**Abbreviations:** EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, RTWBC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, MP-Milton Point, Rye, MC-Marshlands Conservancy, RN-Rye Nature Center, SRP-Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-throated Loon:** four EGR 5 Apr; one EGR 19 Apr. **Red-necked Grebe:** one MP 8 Mar; eleven Cornwall Bay 28 Apr (JP). **N. Gannet:** three MP 23 Mar; seven MC 24 Mar. **Double-crested Cormorant:** arr MC 2 Mar. **Am. Bittern:** one Piermont Marsh 10 May; three Bashakill 12 May. **Least Bittern:** one MC 27 May (TB). **Great Egret:** arr Rye 3 Apr. **Snowy Egret:** arr MC 30 Mar. **Green Heron:** one DUTCH 21 April. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** one RN 12 May. **Glossy Ibis:** one MC 13 May. **Blue-winged Teal:** several MC 24 May. **Eurasian Wigeon:** one MP 1-8 Mar. **Oldquaw:** 30 Cornwall Bay 28 Apr. **White-winged Scoter:** 34 Cornwall Bay 28 Apr.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS:** **Black Vulture:** increasingly common in ROCK and ORAN. **Osprey:** arr MC 23 May. **Broad-winged Hawk:** one Eastview 7 Apr, early; 1745 Hook Mt 26 Apr. **Golden Eagle:** one Bear Mt 10 Apr. **Clapper Rail:** one MC 30 Mar. **King Rail:** one MC 29 May (TB). **Virginia Rail:** Bashakill 10 May. **Sora:** Bashakill 10 May. **Black-bellied Plover:** arr MC 21 May. **Am. Oystercatcher:** two MP 8 Mar. **Greater Yellowlegs:** two MC 27 Mar. **Lesser Yellowlegs:** one MC 6 May. **Solitary Sandpiper:** five Yonkers 5 May. **Spotted Sandpiper:** arr MC 4 May. **Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr MC 10 May. **Least Sandpiper:** arr MC 6 May. **Com. Snipe:** one Fishkill 6 Apr. **Wilson's Phalarope:** one Woodburne Prison 19 May, first for Sullivan County. **Iceland Gull:** three Ellensville till 23 Mar. **Glaucous Gull:** one Ellensville thru 4 May. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Hastings 10 May. **Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr RN 8 May.

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Barn Owl:** one MC 15 Mar. **Snowy Owl:** one Dutchess to 12 Mar. **Com. Nighthawk:** one Cruger's I 14 Apr (RTWBC), early. **Chuck-will's-widow:** one Fahnstock SP 20 May. **Whip-poor-will:** five Bashakill 11 May. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 4 May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS:** **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** one SRP 19 May; one MC 21 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** one RN 20 May; one MC 21 May. **Willow Flycatcher:** arr MC 15. **E. Phoebe:** arr MC 22 Mar. **Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr RN 5 May. **E. Kingbird:** arr DUTCH 27 Apr. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** one Iona Island 26 May (MR, NB, PM, JF, SB). **Purple Martin:** twelve DUTCH 30 Apr; ten MP 10 May. **Tree Swallow:** arr EGR 30 Mar. **N. Rough-winged Swallow** arr Croton Point 12 Apr. **Com. Raven:** two Stissing Mt. 5 Mar. **House Wren:** arr Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers 22 Apr. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr MC 6 Apr. **Swainson's Thrush:** arr 4 May. **Am. Pipit:** one MC 18, 27 Mar.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** **White-eyed Vireo:** arr 3 May. **Solitary Vireo:** arr MC 12 Apr. **Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr 4 May. **Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Doodletown 3 May; one Katonah 21 May. **Tennessee Warbler:** arr 3 May. **N. Parula:** one SRP 15 Apr, early. **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr DUTCH 30 Apr. **Cape May Warbler** arr 3 May. **Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 21 Apr. **Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 3 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** one Route 97, SULL/ORAN line 18 May (LHVBL); later two singing in early June. **Pine Warbler:** arr RN 29 Mar. **Palm Warbler:** arr Croton 5 Apr. **Cerulean Warbler:** arr Doodletown 3 May; one RN 4 May, unusual this side of Hudson. **Black-and-white Warbler:** arr 23 Apr. **Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 3 May. **Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Kakiat CP 3 Apr, early. **Kentucky Warbler:** one Doodletown 17 May thru.; one Kakiat CP 27 May. **Mourning Warbler:** numerous sightings; arr RN 19 May. **Hooded Warbler:** arr 3 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** one MC 20 May thru.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Summer Tanager:** one RN 8 May (TB). **Blue Grosbeak:** one SRP 10 May; one Fort Montgomery 29 May. **Indigo Bunting:** *intro*; one Cold Spring Mar; one Lake Carmel 15 Mar-1 Apr. **Savannah "Ipswich" Sparrow:** one Croton 12 Apr, unusual for this subspecies. **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** arr one MC 13 May. **Seaside Sparrow:** arr MC 11 May. **Lincoln's Sparrow:** one MC 15 May. **Snow Bunting:** one MC 18 Mar. **Bobolink:** arr MC 6 May.

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## REGION 10 - MARINE

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March reached 69° for one day, April 74° one day, and May 84°. Only one single day exceeded the eighty degree mark. One could hardly call this a spring. Although it was far from warm, it also wasn't excessively cold. To go with the low temperatures, March was wet and April and May were dry. We can characterize this spring as a season of northwest winds, a bad jet stream, and, as the statistics show, no spring to speak of.

The winds blew steadily from the wrong quarter all May and produced a decidedly uneven birding experience. As a general rule, spring "dicky" birds thin out as one goes toward Montauk. In the western part of our Region the migrant birding is better, in the east it is slow. It was even more noticeable this year. This season, the New York city parks in the Region's west were again the strong points. The birds were late there also, but at least they had good species counts. All of the uncommon warblers were seen this year in somewhat larger numbers than usual. This includes Orange-crowned, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers.

There were two outstanding pelagic trips which bracketed the season, one on 1 March at the beginning and the other on 31 May at the end. In both cases the results were posted to the internet, the first by Ted Floyd and the second by Greg Kunkel as a transcription of Tom Burke's NYRBA report. [In case you'd rather read than hear the NYRBA, you can find it at (<http://magneto.cybersmith.com/vbirder/realbirds/rbas/NY.html>). We should thank Greg for performing this valuable service.] Both trips were out of Montauk, NY and proceeded to Block Canyon. The 1 March trip was highlighted by **24 Atlantic Puffins**; excellent chances to study **Northern Fulmar**, with **55** sighted; and swarms of scoters and eiders where Long Island Sound opens to the Atlantic Ocean. Other birds of special note included **Dovekie**, **Common Murre**, and **Razorbill**. On 31 May, observers were treated to good views of **all three jaeger species**, two **South Polar Skuas**, **Manx Shearwater**, **Northern Fulmar**, **Arctic Tern**, **Atlantic Puffin**, and about 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, as well as most of the more common species expected at this date. Hugh McGuinness sent a separate report of this trip.

Just as serious birders started to carefully look at shorebirds some years ago, to determine age and sex in addition to species, gulls are getting this attention today. Reports of European forms of our more uncommon gulls are surfacing. [If you can identify any morphs or subspecies of any bird, do so for your records. The splitters are at work and you may get a free, painless Lifer.] The

dump at Staten Island has produced the latest record, a very dark Lesser Black-backed Gull. Robert H. Lewis posted a report on the internet of a trip there on 12 April accompanied by Peter Post, Star Saphir, and Richard Veit. Their finds included an adult **Lesser Black-Backed Gull** of the subspecies *Larus fuscus intermedius* (very rare in North America), adult and first winter **Thayer's Gulls**, at least two Iceland Gulls, two Glaucous Gulls, and 16 Lesser Black-backed Gulls - including one third winter, one second winter, and two first winter, one well on the way to first summer - from among the fraction of the 15,000 gulls present which they were able to study.

After the large wintering Common Eider flocks at Montauk, the East End produced large flocks of scoters. Hugh McGuinness reported 5,000+ on the ocean from Georgica Pond to Main Beach, Easthampton on the late date of 17 to 18 May plus some lingering Common and King eiders. (Details under species accounts).

The parks in Nassau Co produced the largest grouping of **Scarlet Tanagers** seen in a very long time. It's quite possible that the previous daily highs for this species were exceeded during mid-May. The tanagers were late, as were most birds, and then seemed to arrive in torrents. What was also unusual was that few were singing, perhaps suggesting that this was a late surge of migrants passing through.

The best of the season for the Region becomes a toss between the pelagic and gull trips reported above. Other highlighted birds were an **American White Pelican** at Jamaica Bay in May, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** over Great Gull Island, **Wilson's Plover**, and the large influx of Turkey Vultures.

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**Abbreviations:** BNL-Brookhaven National Laboratory; CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park. SI: EST-ocean off Easthampton FP-Forest Park; GKL-Great Kills Landfill (Staten Island Dump); SI: HJSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MOB-Many Observers; MEC-Mecox; MP-Montauk Point; MOR-Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; PT-pelagic trip, aboard the Friendship V from Montauk to Block Canyon and environs; RMSP-Robert Moses State Park; SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; ZB-Zachs Bay.

**LOONS-DUCKS:** **Red-necked Grebe:** PL 2-15 Mar. **Eared Grebe:** off RMSP 9 Mar (S. Mitra *fide* NYRBA). **NORTHERN FULMAR:** 55 PT 1 Mar

(TF): 11, all light phase. PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **Cory's Shearwater**: two PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMc). **Greater Shearwater**: 22 PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **Sooty Shearwater**: two MEC 18 May (SB): Dune Rd. East Quogue 20 May (SB); 45 PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **MANX SHEARWATER**: MP 27 Mar (WE); two PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**: 300 PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **N. Gannet**: 220 PT 1 Mar: six PT 31 May. **AM. WHITE PELICAN**: Tobay 9:00 AM (RP), JBWR 2:00 PM 11 May (KF, SF, DF). **Great Cormorant**: five breeding plumage MEC 10 Mar. **MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD**: over Great Gull Island 17 May (HH). **Least Bittern**: Hook Pond 17 May. **Cattle Egret**: ZB 7 Apr. **Tufted Duck**: female Calverton 2 Mar: pair same 12 Mar: male to 18 Mar: male Linne's Pond, Manorville 3-18 Mar (MOB). **Com. Eider**: 5000 MP 26 Mar: 100+ MP thru 18 May: 40+ EST 17-18 May: two PT 31 May. **King Eider**: one at JBWR 9 Mar thru; four EST 17-18 May. **Harlequin Duck**: seven wintered PL: two thru 22 Apr. **Black Scoter**: 300 EST 17-18 May. **Surf Scoter**: 3200 off EST 17-18 May. **White-winged Scoter**: 1500 EST 17-18 May.

**HAWKS-ALCIDS**: **Turkey Vulture**: two Orient Pt 23 Mar: two Bayville 23 Mar. the same?: seven Oyster Bay 28 Mar (J. & M. Madden): four Peconic 10 Apr(LF): Southampton vicinity mid Mar to early Apr: two JBWR 11 May: two MP area through: others, a substantial steady increase in Spring numbers, speculation raised by several correspondents *re* breeding on LI. **Bald Eagle**: PP 12 May; SHIN 18 May (SB). **Broad-winged Hawk**: Peconic 26 Apr: East Hampton 18-27 May. **Peregrine Falcon**: nesting on bridges and buildings. **Ruffed Grouse**: Hunter's Garden, Eastport 19 May (HMcG). **Black Rail**: three 10 May plus calling Oak Beach Marsh 20-24 May (MOB). **Sora**: MP 31 May. **WILSON'S PLOVER**: Westhampton Dunes 9-14 May (Ken Meskill, JF *et al*). **Piping Plover**: arr four PL 9 Mar. **Willet**: 11 overwintered into this period JBCH. **Upland Sandpiper**: two Eastport 19 May. **Whimbrel**: eight JBWR 19 May; SHIN from 1-25 May. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: while uncommon in Spring, more reports this season. **Purple Sandpiper**: max 62 PL 24 Mar (CV). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: Massapequa Preserve wintering bird to 1 Mar. **POMARINE JAEGER**: PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **Parasitic Jaeger**: dark morph ad PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**: sub ad PT 31 May. **Jaeger species**: two PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**: two dark morph ad PT 31 May (NYRBA, HMcG). **Little Gull**: PL mid to late Mar. **Black-headed Gull**: PL mid to late Mar. **Ring-billed Gull**: essentially pure white gull! Southold 27 Mar (WE). **THAYER'S GULL**: ad plus 1st year GKL 12 Apr (RL! *et al.*, RV!). **Iceland Gull**: two GKL 12 Apr (RL *et al.*), others. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 16, all plumages, GKL 12 Apr (found by Peter Post, RL *et al.*, RV!), included one *L.f. intermedius*. **Glaucous**

**Gull:** two GKL 12 Apr (RL *et al*). **Black-legged Kittiwake:** nine PT 1 Mar (TF). **Gull-billed Tern:** two JBWE 4 May increasing to five JBWE 11 May when last seen there. **Caspian Tern:** MEC 23-28 Apr. **Royal Tern:** three JBWR 28 Apr-1 May; two SHIN at tern colony 20 May. **Roseate Tern:** no longer nesting on JBCH strip. **Com. Tern:** PT 31 May. **ARCTIC TERN:** sub ad PT (well out on the ocean) 31 May. **Forster's Tern:** PT 31 May. **Dovekie:** 40 PT 1 Mar (TF). **COMMON MURRE:** PT 1 Mar (TF). **Razorbill:** 20 PT 1 Mar (TF). **ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 24 PT 1 Mar (TF); PT 31 May, first NY May record (NYRBA, HMcG). **Alcid, Species:** 50+ PT 1 Mar (TF).

**PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS:** **Black-billed Cuckoo:** more numerous this year than usual. **Snowy Owl:** Long Beach 8 Mar; JBWE 9 Mar-5 Apr. **Short-eared Owl:** JBWR 11 Mar; CB 22 Mar. **Chuck-will's-widow:** Riverhead 18 May; Oak Beach Marsh 18, 20 May; CB 10, 24 May; three north of Amagansett 31 May; is this an increase in numbers? **Whip-poor-will:** Manorville 24 May. **Red-headed Woodpecker:** two ad JBWE 9-12 May.

**FLYCATCHERS-STARLING:** **Olive-sided Flycatcher:** several from 15 May. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** five FP 21 May. **Acadian Flycatcher:** a few from 6 May. **E. Kingbird:** JBWE 10 Apr (SS, AW), very early date. **Cliff Swallow:** numerous reports from all over this year. **Carolina Wren:** numbers still not recovered from severe winter of several years ago. **Marsh Wren:** arr one JBWR 29 Mar (DF). **Am. Pipit:** a few fly overs. **N. Shrike:** Cupsogue Co Pk 1 Mar (AL).

**VIREOS-WARBLEDERS:** **Philadelphia Vireo:** a few in NY city parks. **Golden-winged Warbler:** PP 2 May; CP 12 May. **Orange-crowned Warbler:** HLSP 28 Apr; CP 29 Apr-10 May. **Yellow-throated Warbler:** PP 13 Apr; HLSP 24-27 Apr, 10 May; BNL 21 Apr; CP 4 May. **Palm Warbler:** two migrants JBWE 9 Mar. **Cerulean Warbler:** half dozen NY city parks JBWE and HLSP. **Prothonotary Warbler:** half dozen NY city parks and HLSP. **Kentucky Warbler:** up to a dozen widely scattered reports. **Hooded Warbler:** more reports this year including five CP 10 May. **Yellow-breasted Chat:** NY city parks mid May; resident at JBWR.

**TANAGERS-WEAVERS:** **Scarlet Tanager:** The parks in Nassau Co produced the largest grouping seen in a very long time. **Blue Grosbeak:** JBWR 4 May; FI 6-7 May; JBWE 8-12 May; PP 10-11 May; CP 15 May. **Dickcissel:** Barcelona Neck, East Hampton 20 May (HMcG). **Bobolink:** reports of migrating birds. **Rusty Blackbird:** 40+ Shu Swamp 2 Mar, wintering population, but may include migrants on this date (DF). **Boat-tailed Grackle:** six males SHIN 12, 20 May, colony firmly established; SI 10 May; JBWR colony.

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## Spring Arrival Dates 1997 Waterbirds

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



Spring Arrival Dates 1997 Landbirds

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

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 1997										Average	11-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		
Tennessee Warbler	10 May	6 May	12 May	23 May	13 May	18 May	21 May	12 May	<b>3 May</b>	18 May	13 May	9 May
Nashville Warbler	2 May	27 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	2 May	1 May	10 May	2 May	3 May	11 May	2 May	30 Apr
Northern Parula	4 May	3 May	3 May	6 May	7 May	13 May	11 May	2 May	15 Apr	4 May	3 May	4 May
Yellow Warbler	1 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	6 May	2 May	6 May	9 May	1 May	30 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	1 May	12 May	12 May	1 May	30 Apr	4 May	3 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	9 May	1 May	2 May	12 May	10 May	12 May	10 May	4 May	5 May	7 May	7 May	5 May
Cape May Warbler	9 May	12 May	3 May	12 May	18 May	13 May	19 May	12 May	3 May	10 May	11 May	8 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	2 May	2 May	1 May	30 Apr	1 May	1 May	9 May	<b>13 Apr</b>	5 May	4 May	30 Apr	1 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	2 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	1 May	3 May	16 Apr	<b>21 Apr</b>	27 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	1 May	2 May	3 May	2 May	3 May	12 May	13 May	30 Apr	3 May	10 May	4 May	4 May
Pine Warbler	6 Apr	5 Apr	30 Mar	<b>12 Apr</b>	<b>6 Apr</b>	<b>16 Apr</b>	18 Apr	9 Apr	29 Mar	23 Mar	6 Apr	14 Apr
Palm Warbler	28 Apr	30 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	25 Apr	<b>13 Apr</b>	<b>20 Apr</b>	2 May	10 Apr	<b>5 Apr</b>	<b>9 Mar</b>	15 Apr	21 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	14 May	13 May	19 May	13 May	12 May	18 May	22 May	10 May	12 May	10 May	14 May	11 May
Blackpoll Warbler	12 May	18 May	20 May	17 May	21 May	15 May	21 May	13 May	8 May	10 May	15 May	13 May
Black-and-White Warbler	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	5 May	30 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr
American Redstart	3 May	4 May	10 May	1 May	1 May	6 May	13 May	3 May	6 May	<b>2 May</b>	4 May	3 May
Ovenbird	2 May	30 Apr	1 May	1 May	4 May	3 May	6 May	1 May	5 May	4 May	2 May	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	6 May	30 Apr	10 May	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	16 May	12 May	14 May	14 May	14 May	25 May	24 May	23 May	19 May	2 May	16 May	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	3 May	1 May	1 May	5 May	2 May	8 May	9 May	3 May	5 May	4 May	4 May	1 May
Wilson's Warbler	9 May	12 May	5 May	24 May	13 May	12 May	15 May	7 May	12 May	27 Apr	10 May	12 May
Canada Warbler	12 May	12 May	13 May	13 May	13 May	23 May	14 May	10 May	12 May	12 May	13 May	11 May
Scarlet Tanager	14 May	12 May	6 May	6 May	12 May	13 May	13 May	10 May	4 May	2 May	9 May	5 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	12 May	1 May	28 Apr	4 May	1 May	2 May	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	12 May	12 May	1 May	2 May	13 May	15 May	14 May	7 May	3 May	10 May	8 May	6 May
Eastern Towhee	28 Mar	3 Apr	1 Apr	11 Apr	<b>14 Mar</b>	<b>2 Apr</b>	27 May	1 Apr	16 Apr		7 Apr	12 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	31 Mar	29 Mar	29 Mar	5 Apr	<b>31 Mar</b>	<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>12 Mar</b>	29 Mar	31 Mar	7 Apr	29 Mar	8 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	13 Apr	20 Apr	1 Apr		15 Apr	9 Apr	<b>22 Mar</b>	7 Apr	3 Apr		7 Apr	12 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	5 Apr	5 Apr	4 Apr	20 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	29 Apr	3 May	3 May		1 May	24 May	30 Apr	13 May	15 May	10 May	7 May	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow	13 Apr	24 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	2 May	24 Apr		10 May	24 Apr	26 Apr
Bobolink	2 May	30 Apr	1 May	8 May	6 May	4 May	10 May	3 May	6 May	10 May	5 May	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	1 May	1 May	<b>2 Apr</b>	2 May	1 May	1 May	10 May	3 May	4 May	2 May	29 Apr	30 Apr
Overall Average	23 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	22 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr

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