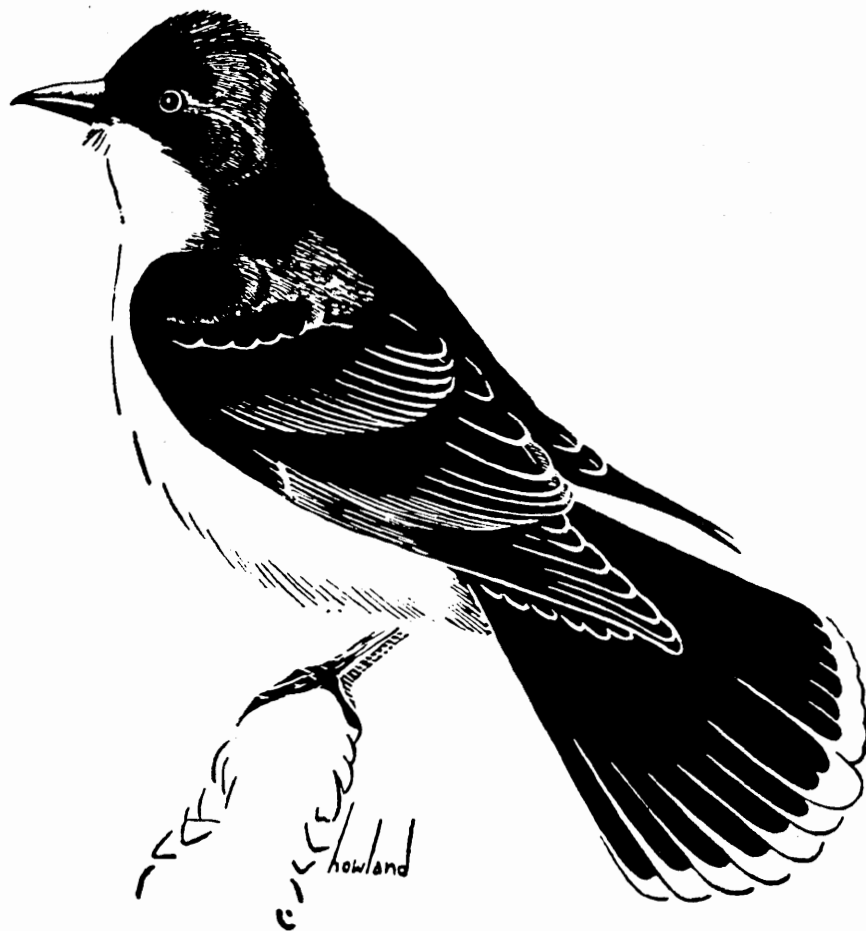


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The KINGBIRD

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181 - 272

CONTENTS

Broad-billed Sandpiper — First Record for Lower 48 States.		
	William Benner	182
New York State Waterfowl Count, January 1998		
	Walton B. Sabin	186
Neckbanded Canada Geese Observed at a Migratory Stopover		
	Robert E. Marcotte	192
New Nesting Site of Great Black-backed Gull on Lake Champlain, New York	Harold G. Klein	199
Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. History of the First Fifty Years 1948-1998. Corrections.	Stanley R. Lincoln	206
Letter — Possible Disturbance of Nesting Birds.	Paul M. Brown	207
Response — Disturbance for Research Was Minimal.		
	David A. Seyler	207
Photo of Yellow-billed Loon Reprinted.		208
Highlights of the Spring Season 1997-98.	Willie D'Anna	209
Regional Reports.		214
Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance		269
Spring Arrival Tables		270

Editor – Donald A. Windsor
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BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER — FIRST RECORD FOR LOWER 48 STATES

William Benner

113 Shore Road, Glen Cove NY 11542

ABSTRACT — A Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) was seen at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens County, NY, from 27 August through 4 September 1998. The sighting of this species is not only a first for New York State, but a first for the Lower 48 States.

INTRODUCTION

The Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) is listed in 7th Edition (1998) of the A.O.U. Check-list followed by the letter (A) which indicates "Accidental/Casual" occurrence. The species has only previously been reliably reported from the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, with a sight record in Nova Scotia. Therefore, the sighting of this species at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Queens County, NY, is not only a first for New York State, but a first for the Lower 48.

There are two subspecies, the nominate *falcinellus*, which breeds in Scandinavia, and *sibirica* which breeds in Siberia. There is no way to determine which form this individual was, nor by which route it reached there.

OBSERVATIONS

I first saw the bird at the northeast end of the East Pond at approximately 11:15 AM 27 August. I observed it for several minutes, probably about 5 minutes total, starting at about 100 yards distance and closing down finally to about 30 feet, using Minolta 10 x 50 binoculars. The sky was overcast but the light conditions were good to excellent.

It was feeding in the mud as well as along the edge of the water, picking at or just below surface. It kept to itself despite numerous other peep in the vicinity, and it did not feed or associate with them, though it did flush when they flushed. All shorebirds in this area were "flighty", flushing and resettling several times. It flushed once and returned to the same spot; flushed again and settled at the mouth of the outlet stream several hundred yards away, flushed again and was lost. It did not wheel and circle synchronously with the other peep it flew with, at least not consistently.

Following are my initial field notes as written (written immediately after initial sighting, before looking at any field guides, etc.):

"Sl. larger than semipalmated (size of White-rumped? but not as long-winged). Immediate impression is contrast – very white upper-part feather

edgings, very dark centers. Underparts white, breast area at bend of wing, esp., sl. buffy. Prominent buffy-white eyebrow with second thinner eyebrow line above! (Head almost looks longitudinally streaked, except no central crown stripe.) Legs slightly pale but not yellow, also not black. Bill long, longer than Western even, black, straight, with sharp droop at very tip."

IDENTIFICATION

After quickly writing these field notes, I looked in my copy of *Shorebirds: An identification guide to the waders of the world*, by Peter Hayman, John Marchant, and Tony Prater, which I had with me at the time. I knew immediately, when I looked at the plate of Broad-billed Sandpiper, that this was what I had seen. I also knew that it was incredibly rare. I had looked up and down the pond, in vain, for other birders to share this with while the bird was still in view. But I was alone, and so my elation was tempered with some anxiety that the bird would not be relocated. However, I reported it immediately to the refuge staff and to the New York Rare Bird Alert, and soon had several excellent local birders helping me to search for the bird again.

Despite extensive searching that day and the next morning, the bird was not relocated until that next afternoon, August 28. A refuge volunteer named Don Davis spotted the sandpiper along the south shore of the freshwater West Pond about 2 PM and recorded it in the log book. Several of us searched the area later in the afternoon, and about 4:30 PM, I found the bird again in the southwest corner of the West Pond. I alerted Christopher Olijnyk and Lenny Lampel of the refuge staff, and also several nearby birders (Paul Castle of Wiltshire, UK, Kevin Jones of Mineola, NY, and several others whose names I never learned). For about an hour, we all watched the bird feed along the south shore of the West Pond. It tended to feed at water's edge, neither in the water (*e.g.*, as a Western Sandpiper might) nor up on the dryer land (*e.g.*, like Baird's Sandpiper). The sky was mostly cloudy, and we observed the bird from an (estimated) distance of 30 to 100 yards. I had prolonged looks at the bird through my binoculars as well as through three different telescopes. At about 5:30 PM, the bird flushed one final time from the shoreline and flew out to the southwest with a mixed flock of shorebirds.

The extended observations by myself and others during this second sighting confirmed what I had already known from the day before — the bird was, indeed, a Broad-billed Sandpiper. The British birder, Paul Castle, had actually seen the species twice before in Great Britain, and agreed immediately with the identification. But truly, in my opinion, the bird was unmistakable. When seen this well, it would be difficult to identify it as anything other than a Broad-billed Sandpiper. Indeed, the only question remaining was the bird's age. It exhibited virtually none of the rufous feather edgings that are supposed to be typical of

juvenile plumage, being instead a blackish-and-white bird with a small amount of buff on the breast. However, because of the crisp feather edges and the lack of dark streaking on the breast and flanks, it was eventually decided that the bird was indeed a juvenile.

CONCLUSIONS

As incredible as this sighting was, even more incredible was the bird's "cooperation". It was relocated on the morning of the August 29 on the shoreline of the northwest corner of the West Pond, and it remained there for the next six days! It was observed by hundreds of birders from throughout North America. The bird was written up in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. The Birdchat discussion group on the Internet featured daily updates on the sandpiper. It became, for that week, a celebrity. Finally, and most importantly to me, it helped to focus attention on Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a wonderful birding location which deserves its recognition as a globally important refuge for migratory shorebirds.



Figure 1. Broad-billed Sandpiper. (Arthur Morris / Birds as Art.)

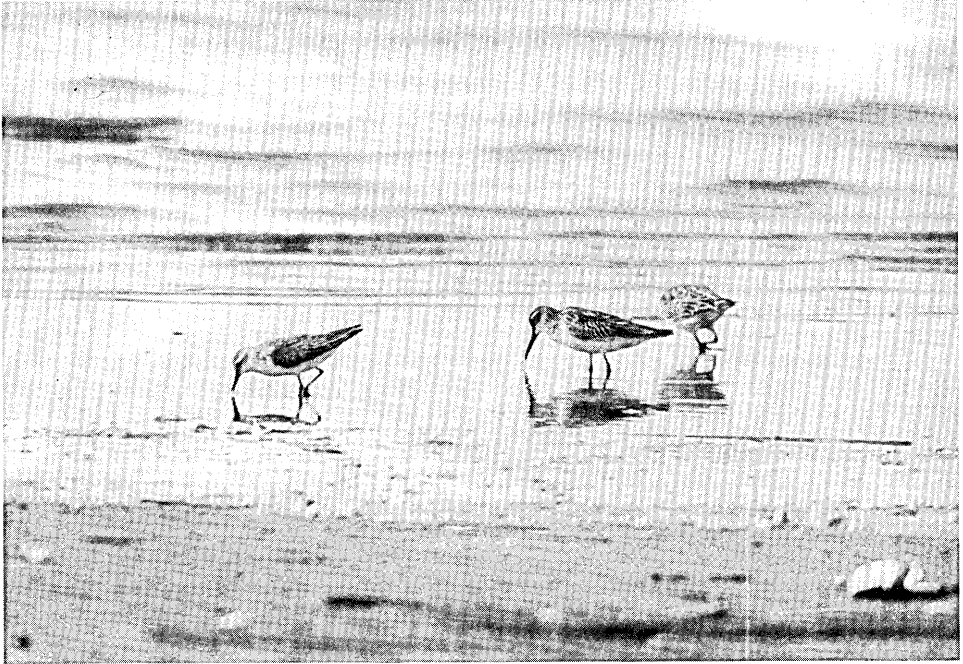


Figure 2. Broad-billed Sandpiper, with Semipalmated Sandpiper on the left.
(Arthur Morris / Birds as Art.)

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NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1998

Walton B. Sabin

652 Kenwood Ave, Slingerlands NY 12159-0044

ABSTRACT — The Federation of New York State Bird Club's annual midwinter waterfowl count was held 10-18 January 1998. The entire state was covered by about 130 observers. Of the 43 species counted, 21 exceeded 1,000 individuals, and 8 of these exceeded 10,000 each. Those top 8 species, in order of abundance, were: Canada Goose, Mallard, Brant, Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, and Redhead. Of those 8, 3 decreased and 5 increased since 1997. The grand total of 338,063 individuals was down 1.4% from 1997, but 30.1% above the 25-year (1973-1997) average of 259,759.

INTRODUCTION

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held its 1998 midwinter Waterfowl Count from 10 through 18 January, with 11 January as the target date. Nine Regions completed their counts by 18 January. One party of 6 birders in Region 3 ran its count of Cayuga Lake on January 24, but it is included here because it represents 40.8% of the statewide total of Canada Geese and 64.1% of the statewide total of Tundra Swans. Excluding it for being 6 days late would be a greater distortion of reality than including it. Chances are good that those birds were there a week earlier.

THE WEATHER

Early January was remarkable for one thing primarily. It was much warmer than usual. Eight maximum daily temperatures were broken during the January 3 through 9 period in Binghamton, Central Park (NYC) and Rochester. Concomitant with this warm spell was a devastating ice storm resulting from freezing rain falling on below freezing ground, trees, buildings, power lines, roads, etc., in the St. Lawrence River valley and the Canadian border areas of Franklin and Clinton Counties. The icy conditions did cause some changes in the timing of coverage but no areas were not covered. The damage from this one storm, the worst in anyone's memory or weather records, amounted to many millions of dollars.

THE COUNT

The grand total of 338,063 (Table 1) was down 1.4% from 1997, but still 30.1% above the 25-year (1973-1997) average of 259,759. Counts of all species listed in Table 2 showed gains versus losses over 1997 to be 14 to 6.

Comparing 1998 to 1997 count figures (Table 2), the top 8 species showed a 5 to 3 split in favor of increases. Canada Goose, Mallard, and scaup ducks showed decreases and, except for Mallard, showed a reversal in trend from 1996-7. Apparently more Brant and Common Goldeneye than in 1997 decided to remain here rather than going farther south along the Atlantic coast. When comparing 1998 count figures with the 25-year (1973-1997) average (Table 3), there is a 9 to 4 split in favor of increases, a reversal from 1997 figures. The overall total in Table 3 had a similar percent increase over the long-term average, as in 1997. Canada Goose and Brant contributed substantially to this. However, it is cause for concern when noting scaup and scoter numbers falling off again, as in 1997. It is encouraging to note the continued increase in numbers of Canvasback, Redhead, and Bufflehead.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service midwinter waterfowl inventory report (Serie and Vecchio 1998) showed Brant and Snow Goose numbers in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) increased respectively by 13.6% and 11.7% from 1997, with a 0.5% decrease in Canada Goose numbers. The dabbling ducks showed a continued decrease of 2.6% from 1997, after a 6.6% decrease the year before. American Black Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, and Wood Duck were all down, while Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Pintail numbers were up. Diving ducks, including mergansers and sea ducks, showed an overall increase of 7.2% compared to 1997. Not so bright spots were 65.9%, 12.9% and 13.9% decreases over 1997 for Redhead, Canvasback, and Common Eider respectively. American Coot showed an 8.7% decrease from 1997. Most American Coot again were wintering in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. In summary, waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway was up 2.7% from 1997, and 2.2% above the 10-year (1988-1997) average.

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 1998 Waterfowl Count

Species \ Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Loon, Red-throated	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	112	124
Common	5	1	13	-	2	-	2	1	3	337	364
Grebe, Pied-billed	6	6	15	1	1	-	-	-	4	79	112
Horned	13	13	2	-	4	-	2	-	8	273	315
Red-necked	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	11
Cormorant, Double-crested	14	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	259	279
Great	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	151	189
Goose, Snow	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	9	801	817
Canada	3,603	2,269	58,838	3,352	4,039	877	210	6,087	15,084	34,782	129,141
Brant	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	92	31,497	31,592
Swan, Mute	-	86	3	-	5	-	-	106	168	1,269	1,637
Tundra	8	-	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	39
Wood Duck	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	16
Gadwall	53	66	50	-	9	3	-	-	59	1,227	1,467
Wigeon, Eurasian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
American	35	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	235	1,344	1,621
American Black Duck	131	225	1,143	105	244	156	45	973	871	14,604	18,497
Mallard	4,528	3,770	6,432	771	2,709	104	1,766	1,231	2,046	10,452	33,809
Mallard X Black	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	53	41	99
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	440	440

Northern Pintail	4	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	79	91
Green-winged Teal	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	4	441	449
Canvasback	8,786	377	321	-	8	-	-	3,001	74	3,428	15,995
Redhead	278	4,672	5,287	-	402	500	-	-	-	43	11,182
Ring-necked Duck	32	32	13	-	1	-	3	2	157	460	700
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Scaup, Greater	1,266	6,798	44	-	305	7	18	5	3,324	11,103	22,870
Lesser	17	37	83	-	2	-	-	-	126	865	1,130
scaup sp.	125	-	125	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	265
Eider, King	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Common	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,884	1,884
Harlequin Duck	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
Scoter, Surf	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	278	282
White-winged	45	157	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1,872	2,077
Black	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	430	432
scoter sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	732	732
Oldsquaw	1,344	150	47	-	10	5	-	-	26	3,090	4,672
Bufflehead	347	269	257	-	72	49	13	-	282	6,176	7,465
Goldeneye, Common	2,475	3,700	586	19	3,204	1,540	4,428	232	248	1,787	18,219
Barrow's	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merganser, Hooded	20	6	5	7	8	2	13	6	78	1,073	1,218
Common	818	706	201	147	1,779	107	2,027	380	699	89	6,953
Red-breasted	84	292	8	-	55	3	-	-	109	6,613	7,164
Ruddy Duck	10	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	191	7,880	8,090
American Coot	89	1,209	1,495	76	10	-	-	-	235	1,292	4,406
UNKNOWN	1,154	*38	-	-	**1	-	-	-	***1	****3	1,197
TOTAL	25,299	24,902	75,016	4,479	12,881	3,354	8,542	12,026	24,237	147,327	338,063

*Includes 7 Trumpeter Swans **1 Yellow-Billed Loon ***1 Eared Grebe ****Includes 2 Greater White-fronted Geese

NEXT YEAR

The 1999 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 16 through 24 January, with Sunday, 17 January, as the target date.

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Table 2. Comparison of 1998 count with 1997 count for all species totaling over 1,000 individuals in 1997 or 1998, or both.

SPECIES	1997	1998	Percent Change from 1997
Canada Goose	137,646	129,141	- 6.2
Brant	12,936	31,592	147.0
Mute Swan	1,454	1,637	12.6
Gadwall	1,174	1,467	25.0
American Wigeon	1,612	1,621	0.6
American Black Duck	17,867	18,497	3.5
Mallard	45,110	33,809	- 25.1
Canvasback	11,216	15,995	42.6
Redhead	9,750	11,182	14.7
scaup (both species)	39,490	24,265	- 38.6
Common Eider	18,095	1,884	- 89.6
scoter (all species)	5,680	3,523	- 38.0
Oldsquaw	1,900	4,672	145.9
Bufflehead	6,339	7,465	17.8
goldeneye (both species)	10,988	18,220	65.8
Hooded Merganser	1,090	1,218	11.7
Common Merganser	9,138	6,953	- 23.9
Red-breasted Merganser	3,358	7,164	113.3
Ruddy Duck	2,026	8,090	299.3
American Coot	2,648	4,406	66.4
TOTAL	339,517	332,801	- 2.0

Table 3. Comparison of 1998 count with 1973-1997 average for all species consistently totaling over 1,000 individuals annually.

Species	Average	1998	Percent Change
Canada Goose	59,943	129,141	115.4
Brant	14,224	31,592	122.1
American Black Duck	19,941	18,497	- 7.2
Mallard	30,990	33,809	9.1
Canvasback	10,493	15,995	52.4
Redhead	7,194	11,182	55.4
scaup (both species)	51,079	24,265	- 52.5
scoter (all species)	12,843	3,523	- 72.6
Oldsquaw	4,072	4,672	1.5
Bufflehead	5,813	7,465	28.4
Common Goldeneye	11,872	18,220	53.5
Common Merganser	11,737	6,953	- 40.8
Red-breasted Merganser	3,594	7,164	99.3
TOTAL	243,450	312,478	28.4

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NECKBANDED CANADA GEESE OBSERVED AT A MIGRATORY STOPOVER

Robert E. Marcotte

4533 Dewey Ave, Rochester NY 14612

ABSTRACT — The banding of thousands of Canada Geese in the Atlantic Flyway with highly visible neck collars provided an opportunity to observe these birds at migratory stopovers on the shore of Lake Ontario west of Rochester, NY. A total of 861 neckbanded geese was observed along a section of the lake shore from 1992 to 1998. Some showed remarkable fidelity, returning to the same fields year after year, often for weeks at a time before resuming their migration. Because sightings have been entered on a NY State DEC computer, it was possible to determine age, banding location and prior sightings for many of the birds observed. These observations suggest that different geese sighted along this particular section of lake shore use it differently — some as an annual, extended stopover place, and some for an occasional or even one-time visit.

INTRODUCTION

My most exciting moment each spring occurs when the weather breaks in late February or early March, and V formations of Canada Geese fly west along the south shore of Lake Ontario.

In recent years, there has been an added incentive to observe these birds. When thousands of Canada Geese were banded, by biologists in about 20 states and provinces all along the Atlantic Flyway, with highly visible neck collars starting in 1983, a unique opportunity was created. Individual birds could be easily identified, even at a distance. And their movements could be tracked over both distance and time since the collars are designed to last the life of the goose.

During the first phase, 29,831 adult and subadult migrant geese in the Atlantic Flyway were neckbanded from October to March, 1983-1987, with yellow, tube shaped collars (designated YB below). These are thick plastic collars, fastened with glue. Each collar bears its own combination of four black numbers and letters.

During the second phase, 14,822 adult and subadult migrant geese were neckbanded from December to March, 1991-1994, and another 26,205 adult, subadult (second-third year) and immature (first year) resident geese were neckbanded from late June to early August during the same years. This second phase used white, cone shaped collars (WB). These are more flexible, polyurethane plastic, also fastened with glue, that were developed to reduce the risk of mortality due to ice accumulating on the collars during periods of severe weather. A small minority of geese have also had problems catching their lower

mandibles on collars immediately after banding, but adjust to them after about 24 hours. (Hestbeck 1995)

Each WB collar bears its own combination of three black numbers, letters or other characters, such as ?, =, and +. Some YB collars, however, continued to be put on geese through at least 1994.

The objectives of the project, sponsored by the Atlantic Flyway Council, were to study the changing distribution of wintering geese in the flyway, and to see whether the increase in wintering geese in the Mid Atlantic states, in particular, was caused by increasing numbers of resident, as opposed to migratory geese. Migrant populations of Canada Geese breed in the subarctic regions of Canada and always migrate. Resident geese breed in southern Canada and the U.S.; only the northern populations of these geese migrate (Hestbeck 1995).

Local spotters who participated in reporting these birds could also gain some insights into the nature of the migration in their own areas — especially along migration corridors where the geese gather in large numbers.

One such area is the south shore of Lake Ontario, west of Rochester, NY, where thousands of migrating Canada Geese congregate each spring. Fields of corn stubble provide spilt corn from the previous year's harvest for the geese to feed upon; wide open pastures with shallow streams or ponds provide safe areas for loafing and bathing; nearby larger bodies of water, including Lake Ontario and Braddock Bay, offer additional protected sites for roosting.

Geese arrive with the first major warm fronts at the end of February or early March. Numbers peak in March, when geese literally carpet the fields. Numbers begin to dwindle in April as the weather moderates. Isolated pockets of geese can remain as late as May, but finally depart when farmers plow under the last of the corn stubble.

METHODS

From 1992 to 1998, a total of 861 different neckbanded geese were observed in a 9.5 mile long, approximately 2 mile wide, section in Monroe County, extending from the town of Parma into the town of Hamlin. A total of 391 of these geese, or about 45 percent, were spotted again on at least one subsequent day, and several returned to the same fields year after year. These repeaters, as a percentage of all geese seen, increased from 10.3 percent in 1993 to 13.5, 25.7, 35.5, and 42.3 percent in each subsequent year, before slipping back to 37.6 percent in 1998. That, in turn, was a major incentive for this observer to return to those fields as well. How many of these geese would come back again? How long would they stay?

The most systematic efforts began in 1993, when a change in hours at work allowed me to devote anywhere from 22 to 36 mornings per season searching for collars. Geese were observed by driving along roads, starting about 9 am when

geese begin moving inland to feed. Coverage averaged about 2.5 hours per trip. Flocks were examined using a window mounted Kowa spotting scope with 20x60 zoom lens. I remained in the car to avoid spooking the birds.

Sampling was at random. Only some of the geese present could be observed on any given day. Many of the geese, for example, would be on interior properties, too distant from the road for observation, or hidden on the far side of a rise.

Weather conditions also influenced the ability to detect, then read collars accurately. A stiff wind, for example, might force geese in some fields to face away from the observer. By April, sunlit days produce heat shimmers at the surface that can greatly reduce the distance at which collars can be read.

In addition, the conclusion of banding in 1994 made it more difficult to find collars in subsequent years, in part because of attrition and reduction of banding effort. In 1994, for example, 229 different neckbanded geese were found during 26 days of observation; in 1998, only 117 were found on 25 days.

OBSERVATIONS

Despite these limitations, observations of collars provided some interesting insights into these birds and their migration:

1. Fidelity. Some of these geese showed remarkable fidelity to specific sites. A total of 155 neckbanded geese returned to the area in at least one subsequent year (see Chart A); nearly half of these repeaters — 72 neckbanded geese — returned to the exact same fields in at least one of those years.

A handful of geese returned to the same fields year after year. WB S8U, for example, banded on Feb. 10, 1992 in Maryland, was an almost daily fixture in the same section of a pasture during extended stopovers for six straight years.

2. Stay Length. Several other geese made their stopover an extended one, stretching into several weeks. WB 9CR, for example, was observed over a 55 day period in 1997; WB JOG for 52 days in 1995; YB P8K9 for 50 days the same year.

Chart B summarizes the length of time that individual collared geese were observed in the area during any given year. These are probably conservative; a goose spotted during a week long span might have been in the area even longer, and simply escaped detection.

3. Longevity. Sixteen of the geese sighted during the last year of observation were at least 10 years old. YB P52M, banded in 1983, was at least 15 years old; three other birds, banded in 1984, were at least 14. The average life span of Canada Geese is about 7 to 9 years, but it is not uncommon to find banded birds in the field 12 to 18 years old (Purdy & Malecki 1984), so it is likely that there will be opportunities to observe these birds for years to come.

4. Social Structure. It was not unusual to find small groups of collared geese side by side in the same fields, often with collars bearing closely related

sequences of numbers and letters. Young Canada Geese often remain with their family unit for two or more years before going their own way. Such may have been the case with WB A5Y, A5=, M?U, M?R and M?1, which were seen side by side on two different dates in 1992. A5Y, M?U, M?R and probably M?1 (last digit obscured) were spotted again together the following year. In 1994, however, only M?1 and M?U were spotted together; A5= was spotted alone. M?1 and M?U were spotted alone in subsequent years.

Several pairs of neckbanded geese were observed together. WB ==7 and ==X, for example, were spotted in the same field in 1994, -95, -97, and -98. The observer assumed that this was an example of Canada Geese mating for life — until a computer check revealed that both birds were males! However, sexing of geese while banding can be difficult, so it is possible that these two geese are indeed a mated male and female.

5. Tracking. Because neckband observations have been entered on the DEC computer, it was possible to obtain records on many of these birds to see where they were banded, and where else they might have been sighted in the months immediately prior to their arrival along the lakefront. This was done for geese sighted in the lakeshore study area during two time periods. First: 1994, when banding was still being done, and when a peak number of sightings was made in the study area and in New York State as a whole. Second: 1997-98, on the assumption that geese sighted during the last two years would have been wearing neckbands longest, and might have more a extensive record of prior sightings.

Of the 420 of these birds for which banding information was available, 267 had been banded in Maryland, the rest in these states: North Carolina (49), Virginia (38), New York (33), New Jersey (14), Pennsylvania (8), Delaware (7), South Carolina (2) and Ontario (2). The Ontario birds had orange tubular collars with white digits. In virtually all cases banding had been in winter or early spring. Only four had been banded in summer.

In 76 instances, neckbanded geese had been observed elsewhere in a given year, between 1 January and their arrival along the lake shore later that spring. These prior sightings were in Maryland (55), the Finger Lakes region of New York (8), North Carolina (4), New Jersey (4), Pennsylvania (3), Virginia (2).

The best returns were for 1994. Of 212 birds seen that year for which information was available, 43 had been seen elsewhere just prior to arrival on the lake shore. This included 35 birds that had just been banded in Maryland; of which, WB ?17 and WB ?1V, banded on 28 Feb, were spotted along the lake shore on 15 Mar, the first of this group to arrive.

For some birds, the computer search revealed an interesting pattern of multiple sightings. WB UU?, for instance, was sighted 19 Oct 1993 on the Delmarva Peninsula. On 11 Jan 1994 it was north of Philadelphia, and then on the lake shore west of Rochester on 14 Apr.

WB YVY spent 11-17 Oct 1993 in eastern Connecticut, showed up on 28 Feb 1994 on the Delmarva Peninsula, and then arrived west of Rochester on 2 Apr .

Chart A. Of the 861 different Canada Geese sighted during 1992-1998, this chart shows how many were seen in only 1 year, in 2 years, in 3 years, etc. Collar types are indicated. OW is an orange tubular collar with white numbers and letters, banded in Canada. WB is a white conical collar. YB is a yellow tubular collar.

Years	WB	YB	OW	Total
1	517	179	10	706
2	74	19		93
3	21	14	1	36
4	9	4		13
5	6	2		8
6	3			3
7	2			2

Chart B. Duration of stay. Days elapsed between initial and last sighting of neckbanded Canada Geese. Once a collared goose was sighted, how long did it linger? This chart shows how many geese were seen on only 1 day in a given year, how many over 2-6 days, 7-13 days, etc. Because some geese were sighted in 2 or more different years, the total can exceed the 861 studied.

Days	WB	YB	OW	Total
1	454	178	10	642
2-6	118	29	3	150
7-13	85	36		121
14-20	71	20		91
21-27	37	8		45
28-34	39	9		48
35-41	8	2		10
42-48	10	2		12
49-55	4	1		5

DISCUSSION

One of the more baffling aspects of this study was trying to find a consistent pattern to the sightings in this particular section of lake shore, but there appeared to be none.

At one extreme is the majority of sightings: geese that were seen in one year — most for a single day — and never again. At the other extreme is the handful of geese that returned to the same fields, year after year, for weeks at a time. In between were sightings that covered every other scenario: geese that made regular, briefer appearances, for example, or showed up sporadically in some years but not in others.

Perhaps too many geese using the study area simply eluded detection. However, it is also possible that different geese were using this section of their migration corridor in different ways.

It is known, for example, that the spring migrations of Canada Geese "are not direct flights to the breeding grounds ... Rather, their movements are intermittent, stopping in agricultural areas along the migration route to feed on waste grains, grasses and forbes in final preparation of the breeding season." (Purdy and Malecki 1984)

Weather, obviously, can influence how far geese progress at each stage. "Just as the alternate cold and warm fronts battle over the unsteady progress of spring, the first northward movements of Canada Geese are equally unsteady. A heavy snowfall, or a blast of cold air stops the migrants in their tracks and, occasionally, sends them into retreat." (Bellrose 1976).

Some geese wait longer to start their migration than others, and seem to rapidly adapt their migration patterns to changing agricultural practices. Any number of variables could affect the pace and progress of the migration by any particular flock of geese.

It would not be surprising if the geese sighted at any given spot along the lake shore represent a mix of birds. Some, as demonstrated by repeated, extended stays, use it as a yearly, long-term stopover.

Others may be one time, temporary visitors, using this section of the lake shore because it happened to be a convenient stopping place for that year's migration, given the conditions unique to that year's flight.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to thank Paul Hess, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Northern Montezuma Wetlands Project, for allowing me access to his computer — and in the process letting me monopolize his desk — during two mornings to track down prior sightings of geese.

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NEW NESTING SITE OF GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN, NEW YORK

Harold G. Klein

5 Haynes Road, Plattsburgh NY 12901

ABSTRACT -- Confirmed breeding of Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) occurred in Clinton County, in northeastern New York, in June 1996. A single, young gull, attended by an adult, was seen twice on Garden Island, Lake Champlain. This is only the fifth inland location for confirmed breeding of this species in New York and the third location on Lake Champlain. No other water birds were nesting on the island; this circumstance is compared with Great Black-backed Gull nesting habits in other parts of New York State and is put into historical perspective of the species' past nesting habits in its original geographic range. Also, Great Black-backed Gull's historically wary behavior relative to humans is described and compared to the present.

INTRODUCTION

A modest breeding range extension of Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) occurred in June 1996 with the sighting of a single, young gull on Garden Island in Lake Champlain. This is a new nesting record for Clinton County, NY and only the fifth inland location for confirmed breeding in New York, based on records in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (Meade 1988). See Table 1. Also, it is only the third location for Great Black-backed Gull breeding within the Lake Champlain basin (two in New York and one in Vermont). Garden Island is a tiny island (75 by 35 yards), 0.4 mile south of Valcour Island and 1.3 miles east of the mainland; both are in the town of Peru.

OBSERVATIONS OF YOUNG AND ADULTS

Evidence for breeding was first acquired accidentally; I was boating past Garden Island at noon on 16 June and observed (without binoculars, at a distance of about 50 yards) an adult Great Black-backed Gull attending a downy, young gull. They were only a few feet apart, on a rock outcrop on the north edge of the island. On 28 June I returned for another survey and found one half-grown, young gull standing on a rock outcrop on the eastern edge of the island. An adult Great Black-backed Gull was standing on a rock promontory at the south end of the island. The distance between the two was about 25 yards. From my boat, I examined both birds at a distance of about 35 yards with 10 x 50 binoculars. I confirmed the identification of the adult by its flesh-colored legs. The young gull also had flesh-colored legs, a large bill, and its plumage

(feathers, not down) was light gray, with dark spots on the head and neck. These two sightings of the same (presumably) young gull were the only ones I made. I boated around the island on subsequent dates (1, 3, 22, 26, and 30 July and 2 August) and saw no young gull. However, the entire edge of the island is composed of slabs of broken limestone, creating many crevices and caves in which the young gull could have been resting, out of my sight.

Table 1. The five inland nesting sites of the Great Black-backed Gull in New York State.

	Location	County	First Nesting	Reference
1	Four Brothers Island, Lake Champlain (Successful breeding, continuous to present)	Essex	1975	Meade 1988
2	Eagles Wing Islands, St. Lawrence River (1 nest, 2 eggs; did not hatch)	Jefferson	1980-83 (Atlas)	Meade 1988
3	Little Galloo Island, Lake Ontario (3 of 4 nests probably successful; others successful in 1984, 1985)	Jefferson	1981	Bloekpoll & Weseloh 1982
4	Long Island, Oneida Lake (1 nest, unsuccessful)	Oswego	1983	DeBenedictis 1983
5	Garden Island, Lake Champlain (1 nest, 1 young; no nests in 1997 or in 1998)	Clinton	1996	This article

An adult Great Black-backed Gull was seen on 1 July, floating on the water about 25 yards from the south tip of the island; this bird may have been attending to the young gull, which was not visible to me. Adult Great Black-backed Gulls were seen on subsequent dates in July and August; these occurrences were probably not related to the presence of a young gull.

On 6 August, a ground inspection of the island was done to look for a gull nest. Only one nest was found, near the edge of a rock outcrop on the northwest tip of the island. The nest was in low vegetation, but there was a view outward to the water. Its placement protected it from the prevailing south wind. The nest location was about 15 yards from the rock ledge upon which I first saw the downy, young gull. The nest was a slight depression in the ground, about one foot in diameter. The nesting material consisted of about ten fragments of aquatic plant stems of the round bulrush type. There were some small (0.5 inch)

fragments of eggshell, light olive-brown in color. The number was consistent with only one egg having been hatched. The only other object was a flat fish bone.

GARDEN ISLAND NATURAL HISTORY

Garden Island is a slab of limestone, whose flat top is about 20 feet above the lake surface. There were six small basswood trees and one white cedar tree, all less than 25 feet in height. The ground was mostly covered by thistle, plus some stinging nettle, milkweed, ragweed, and a few giant mullein plants. There were a few, small patches of grassy vegetation. In addition, there were a few shrubs of honeysuckle and red osier dogwood, both in fruit. Another feature, felt underfoot, were numerous ant hills. Transportation to the island was supplied by Anthony Tyrell, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

There was no indication that other water birds were nesting on the island, except the sighting, on several occasions, of Spotted Sandpipers flying about the periphery of the island. Six male American Goldfinches were seen, and this species may have been nesting there; the thistle was in flower and forming fruit, with abundant down. A few Barn Swallows flew about and seemed to disappear into caves along the periphery of the island; there may have been nests present, but would not have been easily observable. Several Cedar Waxwings were seen, apparently attracted by the fruiting shrubs. Other species seen on or near the island during boating surveys were small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Ring-billed Gulls, and Common Crows.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN

The discovery of this breeding by Great Black-backed Gull is the first known use of Garden Island by any gulls in many years. Mark Gretch and I surveyed the island in 1986 and found no evidence of gulls nesting there (Gretch 1987). Although I have not systematically looked for such nesting since then, none has come to my attention. I have often sailed close to the island each year and would have noticed gull breeding activity. Gretch (1987) cited a 1925 visit to Garden Island by Lewis Fifield, during which 34 active Herring Gull nests were counted. Since that time the island ceased being a gull nesting site; when and why this occurred is not known.

Garden Island is about 13 miles north of Four Brothers Islands, one of only two previously known Great Black-backed Gull nesting locations on Lake Champlain. This species has nested on Four Brothers Islands (which are in New York waters) since 1975, and the number of pairs nesting in recent years has been estimated at six to ten (Richard MacDonald, personal communication) and Peterson (1995). In Vermont waters, Young Island, about 10 miles northeast of Garden Island, has had nesting Great Black-backed Gulls since about 1984. In recent years there have been several pairs nesting there (Richard LaValley,

personal communication). The only other nearby Great Black-backed Gull nesting area is in Quebec, on St. Lawrence River islands extending northeastward from Montreal (Pierre Bannon, personal communication). This area begins 70 miles north of Garden Island.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN THE COMMUNITY OF WATER BIRDS

Of interest is the fact that this solitary nesting by Great Black-backed Gull appears to be unusual, at least relative to the nesting habits of the species on Long Island and other places. Meade (1988) summarized reports on Long Island nesting and concluded that Great Black-backed Gull usually nests near or among Herring Gulls. Of 23 colonies, 22 had nests of both species and only one colony contained only Great Black-backed Gull nests. Also, Great Black-backed Gull was nesting in large colonies of its own species (6948 pairs in these 23 colonies (Peterson and others 1985)). Bent (1921) cites observers in Nova Scotia who reported large colonies, some with 600 to 800 adults, on islands in lakes near the seacoast.

On the other hand, Bent (1921) studied Great Black-backed Gull along the coasts of Labrador in the early 1900s and frequently found single pairs nesting on each of many "low rocky islands". Apparently, Great Black-backed Gull can adjust its nesting habits to the available habitats and to the population pressures exerted by numbers of its own species and those of other colonial water birds.

On Four Brothers Islands, there are large numbers of Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, and Double-crested Cormorants nesting, as well as other colonial nesting water birds (Peterson 1995). The same is true of Young Island (Richard LaValley, personal communication). The Garden Island breeding indicates that Great Black-backed Gull does not require the presence of an established water bird colony in order to colonize a new nesting island.

Perhaps the variation in Great Black-backed Gull's nesting habits and habitats has been influenced by its varying relationships to humans, resulting in degrees of wariness. In Labrador, Bent (1921) found Great Black-backed Gull to be "exceedingly shy and would never come within gunshot unless outwitted by strategy, which was no easy task". Persecution by humans probably had an effect on the behavior of these birds; egg collectors raided the nesting islands to obtain eider duck eggs. Bent also stated that young gulls "are considered to be very good eating and are often kept in confinement by the residents of Labrador and fattened for the table". Brewster (1883) unsuccessfully attempted to collect Great Black-backed Gull specimens with a gun among the islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and commented that "it is by far the wariest bird".

I have not seen this great degree of wariness. Presumably, Great Black-backed Gull has habituated to the human presence, as long as it is not persecuted. Forbush and May (1939) concur.

PATTERN OF BREEDING RANGE EXTENSIONS

Although this breeding range extension of Great Black-backed Gull is a modest one, in distance and young produced, it may portend greater increases for the Lake Champlain population. The Plattsburgh Christmas Bird Count (PCBC) has documented a great increase in wintering Great Black-backed Gull in recent years. The first PCBC occurred in 1969 and recorded three. In the 1970s, counts had fewer than ten, some with none. In the 1980s, they were present on every count, with numbers between 12 and 32. In the 1990s, numbers ranged from 27 to 235; four counts had almost 100 or more. Although there are no systematic records for summering Great Black-backed Gulls, active birders agree that there has been a definite increase.

This pattern is similar to the sequence of population increases that occurred in other areas of New York State, culminating in breeding. First there was an increase in the winter, then in the summer, then a nesting attempt.

Peakall (1967) summarized available information on the buildup of winter and summer populations in various parts of the state from 1920 to 1966. His objective was to alert birders to watch for breeding of Great Black-backed Gull away from the Atlantic coast, where breeding populations were already well established. His article was written prior to any inland breeding in New York State, but after nesting had occurred in Canada on Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, and on the St. Lawrence River.

Peakall (1967) cited CBC records that indicated increases in the New York City and Long Island areas, as well as in the Great Lakes and Hudson River regions. Summer increases apparently followed. The first breeding record for the state was on Long Island in 1942. Increased breeding was slow at first, with 50 pairs in 1958. By 1966 there were 320 to 480 pairs just on Gardiners Island (Peakall 1967). It appears that Peakall's intimation was correct.

Both the Ring-billed Gull and Double-crested Cormorant have invaded Lake Champlain in recent decades and now have huge breeding populations. Relative to the population dynamics of all these species of various predatory levels is the statement made by Richard H. Pough (1951), (referring to the Atlantic Coast increases in Herring Gull and Double-crested Cormorant populations), "In this case it seems likely that the presence of the highly predatory black-back will tend to keep down the populations of the herring gulls and cormorants." Applying this idea to Lake Champlain, efforts should be made to protect potential nesting sites of Great Black-backed Gull. Preferred places appear to be small, isolated islands (Meade 1988). Lake Champlain contains 71 islands of less than 1000 acres (Gretch 1987), and some of these should be declared bird nesting sanctuaries. Even if Great Black-backed Gull does not ever exert measurable control over the other abundant water birds on the lake, it is a magnificent addition to the avifauna of the region. An increase in its breeding population

would make it an appropriate constituent of the community of birds dependent upon the natural resources of Lake Champlain.

1997 BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATIONS

In order to ascertain whether Great Black-backed Gulls would nest again on Garden Island in 1997, I made observations from the mainland and from a boat. Early in the season I used a 60X telescope, looking from the mainland. Two viewpoints were used: one that scanned the north and west sides of the island (at 1.4 miles) and one that scanned the south and east sides (at 2.3 miles). Starting at the beginning of May and continuing through July, I scanned the island and surrounding waters at about weekly intervals. During this period I saw no evidence of nesting by Great Black-backed Gull; in fact I saw none on or near the island.

However, on two separate days at the beginning of May there was a Canada Goose apparently sitting on a nest on the same northwest outcrop on which Great Black-backed Gull had nested the previous year. Another goose floated in the water nearby. On 20 May, four cormorants were sitting on the same northwest outcrop; excrement whitewash on the face of the outcrop indicated that they had been there before. No geese were then visible and the cormorants soon left. After about ten minutes two Canada Geese came into view from the other side of the island, accompanied by two small, downy goslings. A crow that had been sitting on a dead tree swooped down toward the goslings and one goose charged the crow, which then left the island. The other goose went to the northwest outcrop and settled down on the nest site. No further activity of the geese and goslings ensued for 30 minutes and the observations were ended.

I speculate that early nesting by the Canada Geese on the very same spot on which Great Black-backed Gull had nested in 1996 may have preempted nesting on Garden Island by the same Great Black-backed Gull pair in 1997. Back calculating the hatching, incubation, and nest building schedules of the two species indicates that the Canada Geese started their breeding activities in early April, 1997, whereas the Great Black-backed Gull pair did not start their breeding activities until early May in 1996. This presumes that the Great Black-backed Gull pair, if still present and attempting to nest on Garden Island, maintained the same breeding timetable in 1997 that they had followed in 1996.

On 27 May, observation of the island through the telescope failed to detect the geese or any other birds nesting; the same was true of observations made into August.

Observations of Garden Island from a boat commenced on June 10, using 7 x 35 binoculars at a distance of about 35 yards. There was no evidence of nesting birds, except that the goose down of the northwest outcrop nest could be seen blowing in the wind. During June, July, and August, observations were made

several times a week, but no indication of nesting by Great Black-backed Gull or other water birds was seen.

1998 BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATIONS

Approximately the same system of surveillance of Garden Island done in 1997 was repeated in 1998, from 22 April through 5 August. In April and May, weekly observations were made from the mainland with a 60X telescope. From 27 May through June and July, several observations per week were made from either the mainland (telescope) or from a sailboat (7 x 35 binoculars).

None of these observations detected any definite nesting activity by Great Black-backed Gull or other gull species (Herring Gull or Ring-billed Gull), by Canada Goose, or by Double-crested Cormorant. All of these species were seen occasionally on the island. On 26 May, 2 Canada Geese were seen grazing on the island, the only sighting.

The final information for the 1998 season was obtained during a land visit to Garden Island on 5 August. No nests of any kind were seen, although the island was thoroughly searched. The only species seen were 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 1 Song Sparrow, and 2 pair of American Goldfinches.

Thus, after an initial successful nesting by Great Black-backed Gull on Garden Island in 1996, the next 2 years did not produce a continuation of breeding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due my wife, Carole, for assistance in writing this article. The following provided information on the distribution and ecology of the Great Black-backed Gull in New York, Vermont, and Quebec: Pierre Bannon, Judy Heintz, William Krueger, Richard LaValley, Richard MacDonald, and Jeffrey Wells. Library services were provided by Plattsburgh College of Arts and Science, State University of New York.

DEDICATION

With this article I wish to pay homage to Richard H. Pough for writing his Audubon Land Bird and Water Bird Guides. For me, these books were always a reliable source of interesting information about the ecology and behavior of birds; they satisfied my curiosity about what I was seeing in the field.

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Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. History of the First Fifty Years 1948-1998. Corrections.

Stanley R. Lincoln

These corrections are for the above named monograph in *The Kingbird* 1998 September; 48(Supplement).

Page 8 – Under **President**: The last line of the account on page 9 should end with 1974 and 1975. (Instead of 1975 and 1976.)

Page 31 – The date in the last line of the **Note**, at the end of the introductory comments should be March 1998. (Instead of March 1988.)

Page 35 – Under the Annual Meeting Minutes Section: The 1997 entry should be KB 48 (2): 120

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LETTER — POSSIBLE DISTURBANCE OF NESTING BIRDS

Paul M. Brown

1012 Norwood Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15202

I found the report, "Nesting Least Bitterns at the Tonawanda/Iroquois/Oak Orchard Wetland Complex" (Seyler 1998) to be quite interesting. However, I was troubled by the author's techniques, which included walking right up to bittern nests, lifting the adult off the nest, and physically handling the nestlings. The author also advocates "foot searches through apparently suitable habitat on a weekly basis during the nesting period". These techniques are very invasive and the handling of nestlings is probably illegal without a permit. I would be surprised if such techniques do not reduce the rate of successful nesting of bitterns as well as degrade the nesting habitat.

LITERATURE CITED

Seyler DA. Nesting Least Bitterns at the Tonawanda/Iroquois/Oak Orchard wetland complex. *The Kingbird* 1998 Jun; 48(2): 108-115.

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RESPONSE — DISTURBANCE FOR RESEARCH WAS MINIMAL

David A. Seyler

1889 Colvin Blvd, Tonawanda NY 14150

I appreciate Paul M. Brown's concerns over the intrusions to the nesting Least Bittern, but what my article does not convey is that the work reported was part of a research project. I am a wildlife biologist by profession and at the time I was working for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the Bureau of Wildlife.

I was conducting research on marsh birds to assess the populations of several species and to analyze their nesting habitat. In order to maintain or create suitable habitats for certain species, intensive field work needs to be done right in the habitat. Such nest site investigations have helped us understand what Black Terns find desirable as nesting habitat. Many professionally acceptable field techniques may seem invasive but all are good for the population and the species in the long run.

The adult bittern was lifted off the nest to reveal the eggs for both data collection and to make them visible to a video camera. An educational documentary is being made from the footage obtained. I have worked on nesting studies since 1991 and I have never found a nest to have been lost due to my data collection or monitoring. As a result of the bittern work, we have a better understanding of how to manage emergent marshes to benefit a wide diversity of species far beyond just waterfowl.

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Photo of Yellow-billed Loon Reprinted

The photo in our previous issue, page 99, turned out so bad that the bird was not recognizable. Consequently, we are reprinting it below using a different technique. The article is: Phillips G. Yellow-Billed Loon In Oswego Harbor. Second State Record. First Live Sighting! *The Kingbird* 1998 Jun; 48(2): 98-102. We regret this episode.



Figure 1. Yellow-billed Loon. Photographed on 29 December 1997 in Oswego harbor, NY, by Tim Capone (Syracuse, NY) using a Nikon 6006 camera with a Sigma 400 mm APO lens, at 1/125 speed F5.6 exposure, on Fuji Sensa 100 ASA film. This is the same photo that appeared in Weiner 1998.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 1998

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls NY 14304

Weather Effects

It was the second consecutive season of well above-average warmth, which in turn had a tremendous impact upon the birds. Unfortunately, unlike the winter, the effect was one that most birders would rather forget about.

Often, in a given season, it is difficult to get a sense that the weather and/or the birds showed much correlation across the state. This spring, like the winter before it, the opposite was true. The consistent emphasis of the Regional editors was that it was very warm, vegetation was two weeks early, and there were no concentrations of birds. While in most Regions, birders struggled to see warblers and other late season migrants through the dense foliage, in Region 6 it was easier because of the winter's ice storm which knocked down tree branches and tree tops, opening up the canopy.

March continued the mild pattern of February, allowing waterfowl to move into the state and then right on through as open conditions were prevalent farther north as well. No concentrations were noted. March cooled considerably and, as a result, many Regions had their snowiest month of the winter. The snow was short-lived, however, as record warmth lifted temperatures into the 80s by month's end throughout most of the state. Several record and near record early arrivals were reported during and shortly after this period. Two of the best of these were an Eastern Kingbird on 31 March in Region 3 and a Palm Warbler on 27 March in Region 9.

April was unusual in that there was no snow. A few more record early arrivals were reported but weather systems over the state and to the south conspired to keep the neotropical migrants from making an early push before month's end. Despite a warm start to May, it was not until the 13th that conditions allowed for unhindered migration. Unfortunately, there was nothing now to stop the birds and produce the fallouts birders crave. Clear weather, tail winds, lush foliage and insect food farther north kept the birds right on moving. The only concentrations noted were brief and very localized.

Arrival Date Tables

Can the data in the tables be explained by the weather? To a large degree, I believe that it can be. Starting with the March waterbird arrivals, of which there are eight species, note that five arrived significantly early (greater than two standard deviations) and that all of these arrived during the mild weather before the 21-22 March snowstorm. This storm may be what kept the other three species, which have 11-year average arrival dates after 22 March, from also being early.

In all, 15 species with average arrival dates before 27 April were significantly early and none were late. Incredibly, after that date, there was only one significantly early arrival and 11 species were late. On the face of it, with May being the warmest of the three months relative to averages, this division seems peculiar. However, weather systems to the south probably are what kept the May birds from pushing northward sooner.

One species was early in every Region and exceptionally early on average – Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Two species were late in every Region and exceptionally late on average – Bay-breasted and Canada warblers.

Trends

Counts of 1000 or more Snow Geese were made in Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8. In a remarkable turnaround, this species now approaches Canada Goose in number in some Regions. Other species still on the increase include Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, with new breeding locations added for both. Black Vulture was found in Regions 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, & 10 including a return to last year's nest site in Region 9. [Documentation of Black Vulture breeding in Region 9 last year has been reported to NYSARC. If accepted by NYSARC the species will be added to the breeding birds of NY State. E. Levine] Turkey Vulture set a seasonal record for the Ripley hawkwatch in Region 1 while Osprey shattered the record at Derby Hill in Region 5. Sandhill Cranes are not only regular now but many more individuals are being sighted, including a record single flock count of 11 in Region 2. It was also found in Regions 1, 5, & 6. Increasing at about the same rate, though from a very different source, the introduced Trumpeter Swan was found in groups of nine and eight in Regions 2 & 6, respectively. Other species, mentioned in at least two Regions for continuing upward trends, were Wild Turkey (now even in New York City), Fish Crow, and Common Raven.

American Kestrel has been a source of concern, expressed again by a record low total at Derby Hill. Contradictorily, Ripley had a record high count, though the history of this watch is much shorter. Black Tern numbers continue discouragingly low. Of the troubled neotropical migrant species, the spot-breasted thrushes (Veery, Wood, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's thrushes) continue to elicit the most worrisome comments. House Finch numbers remain low as it attempts to rebound from conjunctivitis.

Winter Finches

After their strong winter showing, the winter finches were widespread again this season, providing one of the few highlights. Pine Grosbeaks were found in Regions 2, 4, & 5. Common Redpolls were located in all Regions except Region 10, Pine Siskin in all but Regions 2 & 10, and Evening Grosbeak in all but Region 2. The rare Hoary Redpoll was found in Regions 2, 5, & 7. The stars,

though, were the crossbills. Red was found in every Region except 4 & 6 while White-winged showed up in every Region.

[RegRepEd: This paragraph highlights a problem faced by all Season's Highlights editors. Their comments are merely analyses of the Regional Reports, which are themselves only highlights. Usually the problem lies with species which are common, thus not highlights in Region 10, but of special interest over the rest of the state. It may look like they were missed in Region 10. Here Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak are typical along the Lake Ontario shore in late May, thus not highlights in Region 2 and appear as misses to a regional report summary. There is no simple solution to this problem. RS]

Rarities

As in any spring, some exciting birds were found. Multiple Region rarities included Eared Grebe in Regions 1, 3, 5, & 9; American White Pelican in Regions 1 & 6; Great Cormorant in Regions 2, 7, 8, & 9; Cattle Egret in Regions 6 & 9; Greater White-fronted Goose in Regions 2, 5, & 8; Eurasian Wigeon in Regions 1, 2, & 3; Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 3, 5, & 10; Swainson's Hawk in Regions 1, 2, & 5, all at or near established hawkwatches; Thayer's Gull in Regions 2 & 10; Yellow-throated Warbler in Regions 1 and 10 and returning to last summer's site in Region 9; Summer Tanager in Regions 1 & 9 and a first for Region 6; Blue Grosbeak in Regions 8, 9, & 10; and Yellow-headed Blackbird in Regions 1 & 7.

Other good finds were: in Region 2, Tricolored Heron, a first Regional Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow; in Region 3, two California Gulls, probably continuing from winter, and a very late Gyrfalcon; in Region 5, Harlequin Duck, Laughing Gull, and a Black-legged Kittiwake, which possibly over-wintered on Lake Ontario; in Region 7, Ross's Goose; in Region 8, Laughing Gull and Harris's Sparrow; in Region 9, King Rail; and in Region 10, Leach's Storm-Petrel, "Black" Brant continuing from winter, "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal, Purple Gallinule (later died), American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, "Pink-sided" Junco, and Dickcissel.

Virtually all of these sightings warrant verification, especially some of the more difficult to identify species and subspecies. I have made no attempt to "weed out" sightings, since most reports are included by the Regional Editors without indicating whether or not adequate documentation was provided.

Sometimes, all it takes is one good bird to make the most forgettable of seasons memorable. This spring, that one bird was a male Lazuli Bunting, delighting many at a feeding station in Region 1 to become the first record of the species for New York State.

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Standard abbreviations: Regional rarities appear in *bold italics*; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. **In species accounts:** number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! — details seen by Regional Editor; ad — adult; Alt — Alternate plumage; Am. — American; arr — arrival or first of season; BBS — Breeding Bird Survey; 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

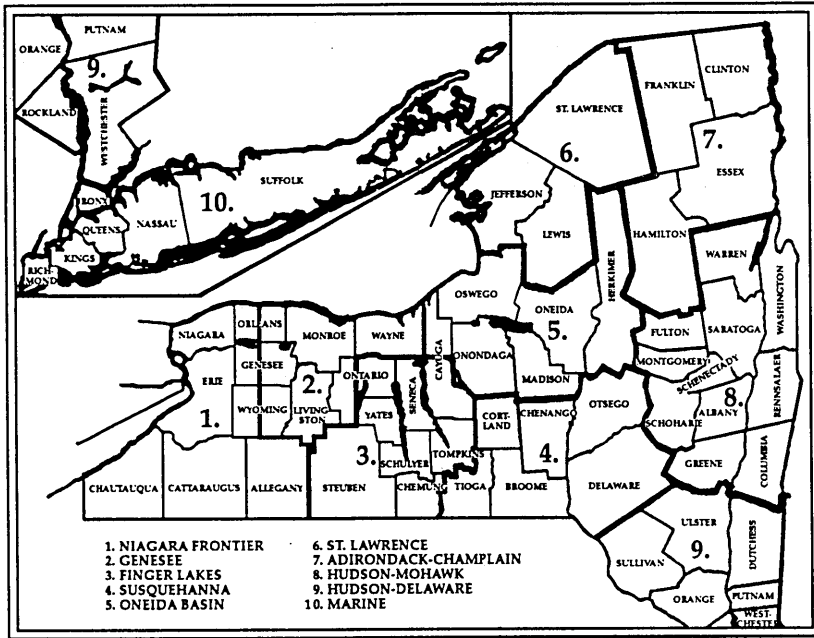
Summer Season: June, July, August

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

Dick Miga

38 Elm St, Fredonia NY 14063-1937

The spring report for the Niagara Frontier would not be complete without a passing farewell to one of the most unusual winters on record. The winter of 1997-98 was a rather remarkable one for western and central New York. If one were to look at the snowfall totals, it would appear the winter was close to normal. However, that does not tell the whole story.

The very strong El Niño pattern energized the subtropical jet stream and kept an active storm track from the Gulf states up into the northeast. This resulted in an unusually high frequency of synoptic storms for our Region, with many of them being in the form of rain. The typical lake effect machine virtually shut down after mid December. Buffalo had its mildest winter in 66 years.

March began with a continuation of the mild pattern for the first two weeks, but winter made an encore the latter two weeks. Two significant snowfalls occurred, the first, an Alberta Clipper on the 14th, dropped 6-10" across much of the Region, and the second, a synoptic storm on the 21st-22nd, dropped up to a foot from Buffalo to Rochester. This storm also dropped unusually heavy amounts from Niagara County west across the Niagara Peninsula. Some lake effect dropped several inches on Chautauqua County during this period as well. By the end of the month the snow had melted and record temperatures reached the area. Highs of 76°, 77° and 78° were recorded in Buffalo on the 30th, 28th, and 31st. Also, a record 84° was recorded at Dunkirk on the 28th. Vivian Pitzrick reported unusually early large insect activity and swarms from the Allegany county area on the 31st.

April was an unusually pleasant month. Temperatures averaged just above normal, and rainfall was a bit below normal. "This was the first April without snow at Buffalo in 17 years," to quote Steve McLaughlin, Chief Meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Buffalo. The average temperature for the month was 46.8°F, 0.6 degrees above normal. Precipitation was 2.54 inches, 0.33 inches below normal. Sunshine was present 57% of the month's possible daylight hours.

May was similar to its two predecessor months, being the third warmest May in Buffalo history. The month's main feature was a long spell of warm, dry, and sunny days from the 12th to the 30th. The average temperature was 62.8°, more than 6 degrees above normal. While 27 days recorded higher than usual temperatures, no records were set. Sunshine was logged 58% of the daylight hours. The 31st, however, produced one of the most violent storms in recent years. The day was marked with lightning, tremendous squalls accompanied by hail, and a confirmed tornado in the village of Brocton in Chautauqua County. To conclude this weather section, the Lake Erie temperature of 70° on May 31st,

was the third warmest for that date in the history of local meteorological record keeping.

One effect of the abnormal weather conditions was unusual avian activity in the Region during the period. This was accompanied by earlier than usual foliage which presented a challenge to visual identification of the passerines for many of the contributors. Many of the local ornithologists and local bird experts offered possible explanations for the unusual sightings reported during this period, ranging from the possible loss of avian life during the severe storms of 1997 to possible gradual diurnal and nocturnal flyovers that prevented any of the really good, typical fallouts which commonly occur during this time of year. In any event, as the period continued the arrivals eventually occurred.

The bird of the period and possibly for the year is the **Lazuli Bunting**, (*Passerina amoena*). The bird first appeared at a feeder near the home of Don and Virginia Tiede on Silver Road in the Town of Bethany in Genesee County on 16 March, disappeared the next day and returned on the 21st after a heavy snowfall. The homeowners contacted Gail Seamans, who upon a careful scrutiny properly identified the bird as an immature male of that species. The report immediately brought hundreds of visitors to the Tiede farm, including this reporter who was lucky to see the bird. A conversation with the owner indicated that this western species (which normally winters in Mexico) appeared to have arrived with a flock of Am. Tree Sparrows. It was last observed by David and Debbie Suggs on 4 April, although RBA reports have it around until 13 April. This is a first sighting for the Niagara Frontier and for New York State.

Other notable records for the period included: the sighting of an American White Pelican, reports of Sandhill Cranes, a new location for Lesser Black-backed Gull, a first nesting record for Peregrine Falcon, and appearances of uncommon visitors such as: **Eared Grebe**, Northern Goshawk, **Summer Tanager**, "Lawrence's" Warbler, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, Clay-colored Sparrow, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

The American White Pelican appeared at the Oak Orchard Game Management Area in Orleans County on 28 March. The bird was discovered flying over Ring-Neck Marsh. A pelican (presumably the same one) was observed in the Region through 20 April. Sandhill Cranes were identified in the Town of Somerset in Niagara County on 18 April, and again at the Oak Orchard area on the 24th and 25th. These birds are becoming more frequently sighted at the local hawk-watches (Hamburg and Ripley) as the number of observers continues to increase. A Lesser-Black-backed Gull was sighted with Ring-billed Gulls on Lake Ontario at Krull Park in the village of Olcott In Niagara County. This is a new location for the sighting of this species. On April 18th a local resident of Niagara Falls, Ontario sighted a Peregrine Falcon pair nesting in a scrape (containing four eggs) on a ledge in the Niagara Gorge approximately 300 yards north of the Canadian Falls. This nesting is considered to be a first record for that species in this locality.

Sightings of the following birds were also considered significant to the Region: an **Eared Grebe** on an artificial lake on the grounds of the State University of New York at Buffalo (Amherst Campus) on 13 May; a **Northern Goshawk** observed on 25 May in the Town of Wethersfield, Wyoming County, with another bird spotted in the same area a few days later giving birders Dick and Dorothy Rosche cause to speculate that there might be a possible nesting in the area; a first year **Summer Tanager** observed in the company of two Scarlet Tanagers at Point Gratiot (a recently declared IBA) near Dunkirk NY on 26 May; and three reports of the recessive "Lawrence's" Warbler on 16, 17, & 26 May from Cattaraugus and Wyoming counties. These latter birds were reported to be giving the two note call of the Blue-winged Warbler. A male **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on 18 April at the Tiffit Nature Preserve in Buffalo, and a Clay-colored Sparrow was spotted at the same area on 26 April. Finally, on 2 May a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was moving with a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds at a feeding station on the grounds of the Beaver Meadow Nature Center in the Town of Java in Wyoming County.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) conducts two Spring Bird Counts, one in April and one in May. The April count was held earlier than normal this year on the 5th. The weather on the count day was cool and rainless with light to moderate winds from the North to Northwest. Skies were generally clear. A comparison of the past twenty years of data identified the following significant recordings: new low counts for that period were noted for Blue-winged Teal, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, American Robin, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, (most icterids were down), and House Sparrow. New highs were recorded for: White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and White-winged Crossbill (4). A new observation for the period was a single Solitary Sandpiper. Compilers for this report were Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, and Terry Yonker.

Jim Landau, compiler for the BOS May Bird Count (on the 17th), reports, that despite all the ominous talk regarding poor flights, the numbers weren't actually too far off. The expected drop in warblers did not materialize. In fact, after analyzing the total list, the only noteworthy low figures were for Spotted and Semipalmated sandpipers, Nashville Warbler, and House Finch. Relative to groups, finches in general were notably low. The only significant highs were for Turkey Vulture, Short-billed Dowitcher, Herring Gull, and Common Yellowthroat. Even these highs and lows were not dramatic.

Following is the spring report from the Ripley Hawkwatch. This site is located along the southern shore of Lake Erie approximately 60 miles west of Buffalo and 20 miles east of Erie, PA. It is located on a lake plain with a glacial terminal moraine approximately 2 miles from the lake edge. This geologic formation provides an excellent viewing area for the many passing raptors and vultures. Coordinator for the watch is Leonard Defrancisco from Falconer, NY.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight Day</u>	<u>Range of Dates</u>
Turkey Vulture	**6,737	1270 on 26 Mar	2 Mar to 28 May
Osprey	247	34 on 5 May	26 Mar to 27 May
Bald Eagle	31	5 on 1 May	17 Mar to 28 May
Northern Harrier	196	33 on 1 May	11 Feb to 23 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2,113	268 on 1 May	7 Mar to 28 May
Cooper's Hawk	57	8 on 26 Mar	23 Mar to 20 May
Northern Goshawk	3	1 on several days	25 Mar to 15 Apr
Red-shouldered Hawk	248	125 on 25 Mar	7 Mar to 17 Apr
Broad-winged Hawk	10,969	*6,174 on 1 May	11 Apr to 28 May
Swainson's Hawk	1	1 on 1 May	1 May
Red-tailed Hawk	1,440	239 on 3 Feb	10 Feb to 28 May
Rough-legged Hawk	14	2 on several days	10 Feb to 21 Apr
Golden Eagle	7	*3 on 25 Mar	25 Mar to 21 May
American Kestrel	** 409	47 on 1 May	27 Feb to 28 May
Merlin	18	2 on several days	16 Mar to 17 May
Peregrine Falcon	** 23	*4 on 25 Mar, 12 May	25 Mar to 15 May
Unidentified Raptors	89	-	-

** = Record total for a year

* = Record one day high total

Contributors: Robert Andrie, Alan Baczkiewicz, Frank Baczkiewicz, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Mike Davis, Henry Forbes, Kurt Fox, Ike Gillette, Nancy Gillette, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Audrey Horbett, Morgan Jones, Dave Junkin, Aron Kehlenbeck, Brenda Klick, Jim Landau, Louis Lisi, Mike Morgante, Tom O'Donnell, Susan O'Donnell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Ed Ratajczak, Frances Rew, Gerald Rising, Donald Roberson (DonR), Richard Rosche, Dorothy Rosche, Olga Rosche, Gail Seamans, Jack Skalicky, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Debra Suggs, Joe Thill (weather data, too), John Thill, Michael Turisk, Anne Vogt, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

Abbreviations: AL - Amity Lake - ALLE; BWWTWP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park - Grand Island; BRBA - Buffalo Rare Bird Alert; FMSCP - Four Mile Creek State Park - NIAG; FNNSP - Fort Niagara State Park - NIAG; GHFSF - Golden Hills State Forest - NIAG; GI - Goat Island - Niagara Falls; HH - Hamburg Hawkwatch - Hamburg NY ERIE; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge - GENE/ORLE; NF - Niagara Falls; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area - GENE; Tiff NP - Tiff Nature Preserve, Buffalo; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area - WYOM; WTSP - Wilson Tuscarora State Park - NIAG; WB - Woodlawn Beach - ERIE.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-Throated Loon: 1 T Somerset NIAG 18 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: 1 OOWMA 23 Mar (PY).
Horned Grebe: max 1209 BWWTP 15,29 Mar (GS,AV); various other sightings thru Mar.
Red-Necked Grebe: 1 GHSE 7 Mar (WD); max 74 T Shadigee ORLE 11 Apr (WD); last 7 Niagara Falls 7 May (MM et al).
Eared Grebe: 1 Lake LaSalle University of Buffalo Campus 13 May (TO!).
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 1 INWR 28 Mar - 20 Apr (JL,mob).
Double-crested Cormorant: 116 & 30 nests Reef Lighthouse ERIE 24 May (WW); max 209 BuSP 26 May (WW).
Am. Bittern: 1 TWMA & Tift NP 11 Apr.
Great Egret: 1 INWR 8 Apr; 7 (4 nests) Motor Island NR 26 Apr (WW).
Green Heron: arr 1 Tift NP 23 Mar (WW), early.
Black-Crowned Night-Heron: 7,8 Motor Island NR 7,29 Mar (T&SO,WW).
Turkey Vulture: max 696 HH 28 Mar (FR, et al).
Snow Goose: 1-63 various sites thru Mar.
Tundra Swan: 1-400 various sites thru Apr; last 3 TWMA 22 May (MM,WW).
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 OOWMA 12 Apr (PY!).
Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 BWWTP 29 Mar.
N. Shoveler: 3 BWWTP 1 Mar (GS!).
Canvasback: last 1 Niagara Falls 16 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: 100 BWWTP 29 Mar.
Surf Scoter: arr 2 T Somerset NIAG 18 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: 3,42 BWWTP 1,8 Mar (GS!); max 353 BWWTP 22 Apr (WW!).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 1 AL 16 Mar (IG,NG); 1 HH 25 Mar (FR!).
Bald Eagle: max 2 INWR on nest 6 Mar - 10 May.
N. Goshawk: arr 1 T Hamburg ERIE 25 Apr; 2 T Wethersfield WYOM 25,27 May (R&DR!).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 T Hamburg ERIE 11 Apr (FR).
Rough-Legged Hawk: last 1 T Lancaster ERIE 4 May.

Golden Eagle: arr 1 T Hamburg ERIE 18 Apr (JnT!).
Merlin: arr 1 T Yates ORLE 28 Mar (WD!, et al).
Peregrine Falcon: 1 T Hamburg ERIE 12 Apr (BA!); 2 NR nesting in a scrape in gorge 18 Apr (LL).
Sora: arr 2 TWMA 11 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr 1 OOWMA 14 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE: 1 T Somerset NIAG 18 Apr (WD!, et al); 1 OOWMA & INWR 24,25 Apr (BC,MM).
Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 INWR 3 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: 1 INWR 3 May (WD!PY!BH!), rare in spring.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 3 INWR 6 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 BWWTP 3 Apr; max 45 T Hartland NIAG 18 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 T Somerset NIAG.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 Williamsville Glen ERIE 5 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 BWWTP 22 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 T Hartland NIAG 9 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 INWR 15 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 1 T Porter 25 Apr.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1 INWR 15 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 12 GHSE 28 Mar.
Purple Sandpiper: several 5-6 observed thru period (mob); last 1 GI 12 May (BP!).
Dunlin: arr 1 GI 15 Mar (WD!BP!), very early.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 IWNR 15 May.
Com. Snipe: arr 1 T Somerset NIAG 28 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr T Lancaster ERIE 6 Mar (MM).
Little Gull: 1-6 various sightings from NR & Lake Ontario Plain thru Mar (mob); 1 T Somerset NIAG 18 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 4250 NR 31 Mar (GB).
Iceland Gull: max 10 NR 22 Mar (MM,WD mob).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 GI 15 Mar (WD!,BP!); last 1 V Olcott NIAG 22 Apr (BC!).
Glaucous Gull: 1 V Olcott T Newfane NIAG 17 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr 1 INWR 8 Apr (KF).

Com. Tern: arr 6 Fort Erie ONTARIO 11 Apr.
Black Tern: arr 1 TWMA 3 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 T Colden ERIE 12 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 TWMA 16 May.
Snowy Owl: 1 T Sheldon WYOM 17,22 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: 4,1 FMSCP, Evangola SP 17,29 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: max 12 T Yates ORLE 15 Mar; 1 T Sheldon WYOM 22 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 1-4 WTSP various dates thru Mar; 1 Tift NP 28 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr 1 T Tonawanda ERIE 14 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr 2 V Blasdell ERIE 6 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 1 Niagara Falls 17 Apr (DonR)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 T Colden ERIE 7 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 1 FNPS 8 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 1 Tift NP 12 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1 Evangola SP ERIE 21 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 1 INWR 22 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr 1 T Alfred ALLE 24 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 1 WB 15 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 1 BuSP 5 May.
E. Phoebe: arr 1 T Wheatfield NIAG 25 Mar; max 5 T Hamburg ERIE.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 T Alfred ALLE 3 May.
E. Kingbird: arr 1 T Hamburg ERIE 1 May (FR).
White-eyed Vireo: arr 1 TWMA 25 Apr thru (MM!).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 Chestnut Ridge Park ERIE 25 Apr; 1 T Ward ALLE 25 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 TWMA 5 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr 2 OOWMA 3 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 Tift NP 12 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 1 BuSP 5 May.

Com. Raven: 1 T Alfred ALLE 13,16 Mar (EB); 2 T Ward ALLE 26 Mar (EB); 1 AL 31 Mar (VP).

Purple Martin: arr 1 INWR 14 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr 10 Tift NP 27 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 Tift NP 11 Apr (JS).

Barn Swallow: arr 2 Tift NP 11 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 BWWT 9 May, late.

House Wren: arr 1 WTSP 29 Apr.

Winter Wren: 4 T Hamburg ERIE 27 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr 2 TWMA 11, 25 Apr (WD!,MM!).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 15 T Hamburg ERIE & Tift NP 27 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 WTSP 17,24 Mar (BC!), very early.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 2 OOWMA 14 Apr (BC!), early.

E. Bluebird: 11 pairs nesting T of Amity ALLE as of 31 May (VP), decrease from prior years.

Veery: arr 1 T Wheatfield NIAG 7 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 GI 17 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 T Tonawanda 5 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr 1 Buffalo 28 Mar.

Wood Thrush: arr 1 Eden Valley ERIE 1 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr 1 Tillman WMA ERIE 11 Apr (MM).

Am. Pipit: arr 1 T Lancaster ERIE 27 Mar; max 75 T Somerset NIAG 28 Mar; last 1 T Alabama 24 May (AK).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 Beaver Meadow WYOM 3 May (PY).

Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 Tillman WMA ERIE 10 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 INWR 9 May.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: 1 Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM 16 May (AB, FB); 1 T Famersville CATT 26 May (BC).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 1 Eden Valley ERIE 10 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr 3 Tift NP 30 Apr.

N. Parula: arr 4 Buffalo 10 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 2 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 Tift NP 7 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1 GI 10 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1 TWMA 13 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 T Lancaster 6 May, late arrival.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 TWMA 29 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 INWR 6 May.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 Tift NP 18 Apr (ER!).
Pine Warbler: arr 2 V Olcott NIAG 22 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 T Colden ERIE 21 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 2 BuSP 26 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 6 WTSP 14 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 2 T Lancaster ERIE 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 INWR 6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 WTSP 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 1 Tift NP 7 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1 INWR 22 May.
Ovenbird: arr 1 Point Gratiot CHAU 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 1 Tift NP 30 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Tift NP 18 Apr; max 6 Chestnut Ridge Park ERIE 25 Apr.
Connecticut Warbler: 1 Tift NP 28 May (MD!).
Mourning Warbler: arr 1 Lancaster 14 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Point Gratiot CHAU 1 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 T Wilson 14 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 1 GHSF 15 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: 1 Point Gratiot CHAU 26 May (WW!).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 Chestnut Ridge ERIE 6 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 IWNR 1 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Tift NP 29 Apr (WW!).
Field Sparrow: arr 1 GHSP 28 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM 9 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 3 Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM 9 May.
Fox Sparrow: 2 T Porter NIAG 7 Mar (SO).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 Tift NP 2 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 4 T Wales ERIE 1 May.
LAZULI BUNTING: 1 T Bethany GENE 22 Mar thru 4 Apr (GS!mob), reports continued thru 13th Apr BRBA.
Indigo Bunting: arr 1 Eden Valley ERIE 6 May.
Bobolink: arr 2 T Wales ERIE 3 May.
E. Meadowlark: 1 T Java WYOM 15 Mar (KF).
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Beaver Meadow NC WYOM 2 May (DJ!).
Rusty Blackbird: 5 T Pike 17 Mar; last 1 Tift NP 23 May (WW!).
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 Delaware Park C Buffalo 13 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 T Colden ERIE 5 May.
Red Crossbill: 11 T Colden ERIE 23-30 Apr (JW); max 25 Bush Hill State Forest CATT 30 Apr (BC).
White-winged Crossbill: 2, 1 T Ward ALLE 28, 29 Mar (EB); 2 T Ward 25 Apr (EB); last 6 T West Almond ALLE 24 May (EB).
Com. Redpoll: max 45 V Olcott NIAG 17 Mar; last 1 Beaver Meadow NC 3 May.
Pine Siskin: max 9 T Colden ERIE 1 - 30 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: max 60 T Colden 1 thru 30 Apr.

remelm2463@aol.com

REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

This was one of the most bizarre springs on record. Climatic conditions were strange and the migration was odd. March set the tone for the season. The first ten days of the month averaged 7°F above normal while the next 15 days were 6° below normal and the final 6 days were a whopping 23° on the plus side. The next surprise for the month was a snowfall total that reached 27.9 inches, making it the snowiest month of this winter. Overall precipitation totaled 3.5 inches, 1.22 inches above normal.

April saw an average temperature that was 1.8°F above the normal 47.7°. Everything seemed to be on an even keel for the month. The low was only 28° and the high 72°. Precipitation was less than an inch below normal at 1.81 inches. The major story for April though was the vegetation. Everything bloomed early. Everything seemed to grow in profusion and to last longer than usual. One observer commented that it reflected the biggest year-to-year change that they had ever experienced.

The word for May was "warm". The 62.9°F average was 6.2° above normal. Precipitation for May was 2.4 inches, just 0.31 inches below normal, thus not a particularly significant factor in the month's assessment.

The overall migration was strange, but didn't seem to match the local environmental conditions. The warm spells in March didn't create any strong, early movements of migrants. A few early arrivals occurred, but the overall arrival pattern did not seem to be particularly early. Numbers for species traditionally arriving in that time period didn't match expectations. This was even more apparent for April. Frontal systems seemed to pass south of us on the national map, and when they did reach us, they often met a NW flow which seemed to shut things down.

Bill Symonds once again manned the watch at Hamlin Beach and contributed the bulk of the loon and grebe reports. Decent numbers of loons were a highlight, with a very good spring Red-throated Loon total. Waterfowl appeared to move in and then out again in rapid fashion. Highlights included good numbers of Greater White-fronted Goose and excellent totals for Snow Goose, white morphs predominant. Symonds also noted good movements of scoters along the lake shore. Trumpeter Swans continued to be reported raising the question of origin once again. Also of note were two Eurasian Wigeon reports and two King Eider reports.

The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, under the direction of Braddock Bay Raptor Research, was manned by Shawn Hawks. Good hawk flight conditions basically did not occur this spring. As a result, numbers were down for most species. Eagle counts, however, continued to be encouraging. The only

relatively rare hawk report was a Swainson's Hawk at Braddock Bay on 14 April. It was a good spring for Sandhill Crane.

Shorebirds were generally poor, mainly due to a lack of habitat. Gull and tern reports were also in general poor. A few highlights though included Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and 19 Iceland Gulls at Hamlin Beach during a span of two weeks in April.

Cuckoos seemed up, while owls seemed scarce. Of special interest was a N. Saw-whet Owl observed by Fred Bertram and a group from the Finger Lakes Land Trust at the end of Canadice Lake on 30 May. This is most likely a breeding bird. Common Nighthawks were generally scarce, and Whip-poor-wills continued even harder to find.

The passerine migration was generally lacking in numbers. The Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, under the direction of Betsy Brooks and the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, experienced a slow spring with no days even approaching the maximum single-day totals of recent springs past. Flycatchers and vireos were notably down, with Yellow-throated Vireo especially low. Thrushes were poor, as were the warblers. This was also true for White-crowned and White-throated sparrows, two typically very numerous migrant species.

On the plus side, Carolina Wren continued its recovery, as did the N. Mockingbirds, and kinglets seemed pretty good. Waxwings were present in good numbers late in the season. There were also good reports of finches during the season, certainly rebounding from the southward movements of the past fall and winter.

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed along Nations Road in Avon on 26 May by Jon Dombrowski. This represents the first documented record for the Region. Other seasonal rarities included **Great Cormorant** at Irondequoit Bay outlet from 1-17 Mar, a **Tricolored Heron** at Round Pond in Greece on 2,5-6 May, a **Black Vulture** at Braddock Bay on 27 Mar, and a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Island Cottage Woods on 17 May.

Contributors: Doug Bassett, Fred Bertram, John Boettcher, Dave Bonter, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Gary Chapin, Anne Clarridge, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Bill & Jean Dingerson, Robert Dobson, Jon Dombrowski, Robert Dows, Kurt & Jeannine Fox, Bill Gillette, David Griffith, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Helen Haller, Tom Hampson, Greg Hartenstein, Jack Hartwig, Shawn Hawks, Diane Henderson, Jean Iazard, Jim Kimball, Allan Klonick, John Lehr, Gerry Leubner, Bob Marcotte, Pat Martin, Robert & Chita McKinney, Richard O'Hara, John Olson, Steve Oresman, Tom Painting, Norma Platt, Betty & Bill Powell, Richard Rosche, Dominic Sherony, Robert & Susan Spahn, Cathy Spahn, Paul & Suzanne Spindler, Dave Strong, Jerry Sullivan,

William Symonds, Mike Tetlow, Ann Watson, N. Watson, Paul Weld, Kinsley Whittum.

Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, BP - Badgerow Park, CH - Ontario Beach (Charlotte), CO - Cobb's Hill, G - Geneseo, GR - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, IB - Irondequoit Bay, IC - Island Cottage Woods, M - Manitou, NR - Nations Road (Avon), P - Parma, PE - Perinton, RP - Round Pond (Greece), SB - Sodus Bay, W - Webster, WC - Wayne County, WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loon: max 211 HB 19 Apr, good spring total; last 3 Hemlock L 21 May.

Com. Loon: max 532 HB 25 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 279 HB 29 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: max 36 HB 31 Mar; last 2 HB 12 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 IB 17 Mar (CC, KD), continued presence.

Least Bittern: arr 1 HB 12 May.

Great Egret: 1 Spencerport 1 May, very late arrival.

TRICOLORED HERON: 1 Round Pond, GR 2, 5-6 May (DS,GC,RS).

Glossy Ibis: arr 1 HB 30 May (RS), uncommon in spring.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 M 25 Mar.

BLACK VULTURE: 1 BB 27 Mar (SH,CC), rare but increasing sightings.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 H 7 Mar, 2ad, 1imm; 1 ad P 7 Mar; 4 ad H 20 Mar; 1 ad P 29 Mar; 1 H 9 Apr; good year.

Brant: arr 7 H 7 May (RS), early.

Snow Goose: max 15,000+ WC 7 Mar (RDob, BG), very high for Region; last three G 16 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 338 WC 7 Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 ad, 7imm WC 7 Mar (RDob, BG); 2 PE 4 Apr (DS,MT), origins?

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 HB 8 Mar (WS), first; 1 Silver Lake 24 Mar (J&KF,RR), first WYOM record; 1 Huron 29 Mar.

N. Pintail: last 4 G 18 May.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 H 24 Mar.

Greater Scaup: last 1 BB 17 May.

King Eider: 1 ad male HB 19 Apr (WS); 2 fem HB 26 Apr (WS), unusual in spring.

Surf Scoter: max 57 HB 26 Apr, good spring count.

Black Scoter: max 16 HB 26 Apr, good in spring.

Oldsquaw: last 8 HB 17 May.

Bufflehead: last 1 GR 23 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 BB 15 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 1 BB 25 Mar; 1 Rattlesnake Hill WMA 30 May, breeding?

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 R 6 Apr (PS), early.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 ad, dark morph BB 14 Apr (SH).

Golden Eagle: arr 1 M 24 Mar.

Merlin: arr 1 BB 27 Mar; last 1 G 17 May.

Peregrine Falcon: arr 1M 29 Mar; 1 BB 18 Apr; 1 Hemlock L 21 May.

Sandhill Crane: arr 11 BB 28 Mar (SH), very high total; 2 BB 29 Mar; 4 P 15 May; 1 MP 17 May; one Brockport 23 May; 2 BB 28 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 1 PE 27 May.

WILLET: 1 PE 22-23 May (DS,GC,KF), rare.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 NR 12 Apr.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 CH 30 May.

Red Knot: arr 1 CH 30 May.

Western Sandpiper: arr 1 H 18 Mar (RO'H), uncommon, only report.

Least Sandpiper: max 75 G 15 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 H 16 May; max 12 G 24-26 May.

Dunlin: 1 HB 3 Apr (RMC,RO'H), record early.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6-9 H 16 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 H 19 May.

Little Gull: 3ad, 1imm CH 12,27-28 Mar; 1-2 HB thru Mar; 5 ad, 2 imm HB 3 Apr; 10, 5, 1 HB,CH,BB all Apr.

THAYER'S GULL: 1 1st yr G 10 Mar (KG); 1 imm HB 18 Apr (WS); 1 BB 17 May (KG), late.
Iceland Gull: max 7 HB 17 Apr, good spring total; last 1 HB 12 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 PE 14 Mar (JB); 1 PE 22 Mar (DS), 1 imm HB 17 Apr (WS); 1 ad PE 20 Apr (DS), rare but regular.
Glaucous Gull: last 2 HB 17 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 G 14 Apr.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr one NR 9 May.
Barred Owl: 2 Castille 22 Mar (JK), new loc; 1 SB 23 May, unusual location.
Long-eared Owl: arr 2 M 27 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: 1 Honeoye Falls 20 May, breeding?
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr 1 M 27 Mar; 1 Canadice L 30 May (FB), breeding?
Whip-poor-will: 1 W 4 May (JC); 1 M 5-13 May (EB,CS), only reports.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M 24 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 LW 23 May.
SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: 1 NR 26 May (JD), first Region 2 verified report.
N. Shrike: last 1 CH 28 Mar.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 M, IC 15 May.
Winter Wren: arr 1-2 G 27 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 1 M 23 May.
Veery (*Catharus fuscescens salicolus*): 1 M 7 May (RS).
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: arr 1 CO 13 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 27 CO 30 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 NR 22 Mar; last 1 G 26 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr one Pittsford 4 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr M 12 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr 1 M 13 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 300+ sev 23 May (RS, KW).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 IC 30 Mar.
Pine Warbler: 1 pair HB 30 May, nesting?
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 IC 13 May; 1 GR 14 May, uncommon.
Palm Warbler: last 1 IC 16 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 Murray, CH 9 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr 1 WAYN 22-23 May, known breeding site near Montezuma NWR.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 NR 10 May, late.
Connecticut Warbler: arr 1 M 5 May (EB,RS), uncommon.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 CO 8 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 IC 17 May; 1 M 28 May, banded.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 3 IC 18 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr 1 NR 28 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 4 NR 2 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 NR 9 May.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 IC 17 May (MDe, DH), rare in spring.
Fox Sparrow: last 1 IC 2 May.
White-throated Sparrow: last 1 M 28 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 1 M 29 May; max 200+ IC and R 12 May.
Snow Bunting: max 3000+ Fowlerville 25 Mar, good total in a poor year.
E. Meadowlark: arr 1 BB 4 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 100 WC 7 Mar; last one IC 16 May.
Orchard Oriole: arr 3 G 3 May.
Pine Grosbeak: 1 G 22 Apr (JK); last 1 Rush 24 Apr (JK).
Red Crossbill: 17 Thousand Acre Swamp 27 Apr (JB), very good number.
White-winged Crossbill: 13 BP 24 May (BM), good number for late in season.
Com. Redpoll: max 1000 H 7 Mar; last 1 G 30 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: 1 G 28 Mar (KG).

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

BILL OSTRANDER

872 Harris Hill Road, Elmira NY 14903

The El Niño affected mild temperatures of winter carried on into spring, with all three monthly temperature averages above normal. March temperatures averaged 3.2°F above normal; April was 2.5°F above normal, and May was 6.1°F above normal. Precipitation varied throughout the Finger Lakes Region. Ithaca experienced well above average precipitation in March and April, but slightly below average in May. Elmira also received above average precipitation in April, but well below average precipitation in March and May. Snow cover was minimal throughout the period. Ithaca received a 6 inch snowfall on 22 March and added an inch the following day, but by 26 March, it was gone. No more snow fell after that. Few warm fronts passed through the Region.

Early spring migrants, those which tend to arrive before 1 May, were generally much earlier than average for the Region, though not quite as early as they were last year. Late migrants, primarily neotropical migrants, were generally within a day or two of their species' average arrival dates. It seems likely that the warmer than usual temperatures had some influence on the migration of birds which overwintered in the southern part of the United States. Birds overwintering in the tropics would not have been stimulated by North American weather to begin their migrations early.

Though temperatures were warm, the scarcity of strong warm fronts resulted in few observations of migratory movements. Stephen Davies, George Kloppel, and Steve Kelling noted migrations of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks 24-27 March. This coincided with a passing warm front and a warming trend that took daily average temperatures from below freezing on 24 March to 72°F on 1 April.

The lack of sudden changes in weather was responsible for a rather uneventful duck migration. There were no major fallouts of ducks on the Region's rivers, gravel pits, and smaller lakes. Shorebirds were scarce, with only small numbers reported. Even Solitary Sandpipers were more solitary than usual, with only six individuals reported from the whole Region.

Dave Ross, Curtis Marantz, and Matt Medler observed an apparent migration of Blue Jays at Arnot Forest. Dave Nutter independently made and reported the same observation. That day was the second of three consecutive days with temperatures reaching the 80s.

Allison and Jeff Wells and Casey Sutton reported hearing many migrants passing over after midnight 17 May, "Mostly Swainson's, followed by Veerys, Wood Thrushes, and a few **Gray-checks**... Also exciting to hear was a flock of **Least Sandpipers**... Also Spotted and Solitary sandpipers, lots of Bobolinks, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and several Grasshopper-Henslow's sparrow-type notes. Both Common Yellowthroat and Ovenbird broke into full song while

passing overhead.” This was the only report of Gray-cheeked Thrush and one of just two reports of Swainson’s Thrush. This same group of birders found the only other Swainson’s Thrushes, two in Sapsucker Woods the same day, after the sun rose.

The variety of warblers found in the Region was normal, but there were few reports of large numbers. George Kloppel reported “tons” (in a figurative sense) of Black-throated Blue Warblers in West Danby on 7 May. Jim Goodson and Nari Mistry independently observed, estimated, and reported at least 20 singing male Black-throated Green Warblers at Shindagin Hollow on the same day.

With the exception of Tennessee, Palm, and Blackpoll warblers, the warbler species which normally breed north of the Finger Lakes Region were very scarce. Season totals for each were: Golden-winged Warbler, 5; Northern Parula, 3; Cape May Warbler, 5; Bay-breasted Warbler, 7; and Wilson’s Warbler, 3. Most of these apparently passed through quickly, with all reports for each species coming in 3 or 4 day windows. Only the three common species and the Cape May were observed in the Region over more prolonged periods.

At the Kestrel Haven Farm Avian Migration Observatory in Burdett, John Gregoire reported banding only one tenth as many birds as a year ago. He wrote, “Except for arrivals of more common nesting species, migration did not happen here.” Other than Common Yellowthroats and Yellow Warblers, only 6 warblers were banded.

Regional rarities included individual Eared Grebes on Cayuga and Seneca lakes, two Eurasian Wigeons in the Cayuga Lake Basin, a Black Vulture at Ithaca, a gray morph Gyrfalcon for three days at the Savannah Mucklands, two singing Yellow-breasted Chats at Gleason Meadows, Big Flats, and several reports of Orchard Orioles. The Barrow’s Goldeneye, seen by many observers in Geneva during the winter, lingered until 4 March. The two winter reports of California Gull were followed by two more reports in late March on Cayuga Lake. While none of the observers claimed any prior experience with the species, all four observers submitted detailed reports. Both winter reports were submitted to NYSARC for review.

Not included in the species summaries are several reports of very rare or very early birds without adequate details accompanying the reports. These included a Least Bittern at Sapsucker Woods on 2 May and a Black Rail at Lowe Pond on 22 April. A detailed report of the latter was submitted to NYSARC, but was not seen by this writer. Very early reports for some species were submitted, mostly by very active birders: Least Sandpiper on 6 April and 7 April by two different observers at the Savannah Mucklands; Eastern Kingbird on 31 Mar and 2 reports 12 April; Veery on 16 April; Gray Catbird on 1 April (also 16 April included in the summary); Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 31 March, 15 April, and 17 April; and Henslow’s Sparrow on 31 April. It is very interesting to note that four of these observations were from 31 March to 1 April when the Region was experiencing summer like temperatures in the 80s, and four are from 15 to 17 April, when the temperatures were peaking near 70° F from a warming trend that

began 12 April when two of the observations were made. So, "Hey! You never know!"

"Winter" finches were present and numerous through most of the spring. Observers reported seeing many crossbills of both species flying over, but after a few of their regular haunts were located, the crossbills saw equally numerous birders. Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks occurred in large flocks, but were not as ubiquitous as the crossbills. Pine Siskins were also present at a few feeders in the Region.

Contributors: Paula Amols, Carol Anderson, Susann Argetsinger, Ryan Bakelaar, Margaret Barker, Kristie Gould-Beierlie, Gladys Birdsall, Dianne Black, Carol Anne Bloomgarden, Rick Bonney, Steve Bonta, Chuck Bordonaro, John Bower, Bernard Brennan, Tabatha Bruce, Greg Budney, Laurie Buck, Chris Butler, Linda Buttel, Campus Club Bird Study Group, Tim Capone, Anne Casella, Cayuga Bird Club, Gary Chapin, Lois Chaplin, Russ Charif, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Art Clark, Linda Clougherty, Joan & Rich Clements, John & Karen Confer, Becky Cooper, Cornell Field Ornithology Class, Jodi & Michael Crane, Nicki Dardinger, Betsy Darlington, Karl David, Katherine & Stephen Davies, Marty DeHart, Joe & Sandy DiCinti, Nancy Dickinson, Lina DiGregorio, Karen Edelstein, Harry Ellsworth, Bill Evans, Christina Fenn, Annette Finney, Martha Fischer, Maureen Fisher, John Fitzpatrick, Adam Frankel, Tom Fredericks, Tim Gallagher, Jim Goodson, Jay Greenberg, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Bob Grosek, Bill Grow, Cullen Hanks, Meena & Ngampit Haribal, Niall Hatch, Kristie Hawley, Elizabeth Hibbard, George & Jo Houghton, Jim Houghton, Larry Hymes, Sara Hymes, Laura Kammermeier, Steve Kelling, Nancy Kelly, Anne Kendall, Larry & Sue Kershaw, Elizabeth King, Marcy Kingsbury, George & Pat Kloppel, Cynthia, Jon & Rachel Kloppel, Debbie Koslowski, Alan Krakauer, Mark Landon, George Lyke, James Manley, Curtis Marantz, Scott Mardis, Harold Marmor, Anne Mathieson, Dave McDermitt, Jay, Kevin & Perri McGowan, Marie McRae, Matt Medler, Tom Metcalf, Betty Miller, Harold Mills, Nari Mistry, Mary Moon, Darlene Morabito, Troy Murphy, Van Niejj, Tom Nix, Dave Nutter, David Olmstead, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Steve Pantle, Mary Passage, Josh Pincus, Bill & Sandy Podulka, Mary Potts, Bard Prentiss, Laurie Ray, Marie Read, Michelle Reidy, Barlow Rhodes, Bill Roberts, Ken Rosenberg, Charles Rouse, Dave Ross, Bob Russell, Dave, Mark & Matthew Russell, S&S Tree Service, Matt Sarver, Judy Saul, Dan Scheiman, Marty Schlabach, Carol Schmitt, Joan Scrocarelli, Margaret Shepherd, Dominic Sherony, Carol Sisler, Ken Smith, Mary Smith, Shane Smith, Debbie Sokernyk, Laura Stenzler, Scott Sutcliffe, Casey Sutton, Ben Taft, Chris & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Mary Jane Thomas, Cyndy & Richard Tkachuck, John Trimber, Robin Tuttle, Yasuko Uemura, Van Niej, Howie Waldman, Betty & Dick Walker, Gil Weakland, Page & Watt Webb, Allison & Jeff Wells, Amanda Westervelt, Kim Whittaker, Caissa Willmer, Debbie Wood, Matt Young.

Abbreviations: Beam Hill - BeHi TOMP, Broo - Brooktondale, CayH - Cayuga Heights, CaL - Cayuga Lake, CaLB - Cayuga Lake Basin, ChR - Chemung River, CLSP - Cayuga Lake State Park, CoHi - Connecticut Hill TOMP, CorU - Cornell University, DryL - Dryden Lake TOMP, DuHi - Dutch Hill CHEM, EIDa - Elmira Dam CHEM, EldP - Eldridge Park CHEM, Enfi - Enfield, Faye - Fayette, FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest, GAWS - Gleason Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary STEU, GIMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM, HaHi - Harris Hill CHEM, HGP - Horseheads Gravel Pits, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest, HoHo - Hog Hole TOMP, LoPd - Lowe Pond CHEM, LPBP - Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP, Meck - Mecklenburg, MiPd - Minier's Pond CHEM; MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MWG - Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP, MyPt - Myer's Point TOMP, NRPd - Niemi Road Ponds TOMP, OBH - Old Baldy Hill CHEM, PiCi - Pine City; PSt - Park Station CHEM, SaCr - Salmon Creek TOMP, SaWo - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, SFA - Seneca Falls Airport; Shel - Sheldrake, ShHo - Shindagin Hollow TOMP, SNC - Spencercrest Nature Center STEU, Sout - Southport, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, SuDa - Sullivanville Dam CHEM, TCA - Tompkins County Airport, TCAH - The Center at Horseheads, TCor - Town of Corning, Tlth - Town of Ithaca, Vete - Veteran, WERF - West Elmira Riverine Forest.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 Enfi 24 Apr; max 2 Shel 11 May; 1 CaL 14 May (GK).
Com. Loon: arr 1 HGP 1 Apr; 1 Aurora Bay CAYU 13 Mar (AKe); max 51 Shel 11 May; CaL entire period.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 1 EldP 28 Mar (DRu); 1 StP 28 Mar (BE).
Horned Grebe: arr 1 EldP 9 Mar (BO); max 20 MiPd 9 Apr; last 29 Apr DryL.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 MyPt 2 Mar (Sda); last 29 Apr DrL.
EARED GREBE: arr 1 CaL 25 Mar (G&JH); 1 Geneva 30 Mar (VN,mob).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 TCor & 2 MiPd 9 Apr (BO); max 15 Tlth 13 Apr.
Am. Bittern: 1 MNWR 20 Apr; max 2 MNWR 30 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr MNWR 28 May.
Great Blue Heron: max 21 MtPl heronry 27 Mar.
Great Egret: arr 1 SaWo 9 Apr (Dwo,KW fide MarF).
Green Heron: 1 DryL 21 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr MNWR 30 Apr (MH); max 3 MNWR 24 May.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 Ithaca 15 Mar (DN).
Turkey Vulture: max 22 RoGl 4 Apr.

Snow Goose: max 7000 Canoga Marsh 12 Mar (SDa); 5000 CLSP 27 Mar (KMc); 5000+ MNWR 27 Mar (KMc).
Canada Goose: max 500 DryL 1 Mar.
Brant: 3 Village Marina SCHU 26 Mar (BRh); max 75 MtPl 16 Apr (KR).
Mute Swan: arr MyPt 2 Mar (SDa); max 4 PSt 15 May (DRu), first Chemung Valley Spring Census record.
Tundra Swan: max 35 DryL 1 Mar; last 21 Apr.
Wood Duck: 2 DryL 1 Mar (KR); max 25 LoPd 28 Mar; 18 Danby 27 Mar.
Gadwall: max 20 Canoga Marsh 12 Mar.
EURASIAN WIGEON: 1 SaMu 22 Mar (SDa); 1 Canoga Marsh SENE 22 Mar (SDa), only reports.
Am. Wigeon: max 30 SaMu 22 Mar; 20 Newman Municipal Golf Course TOMP 13 Mar; 4 EIDa 9 May (B&JO), late.
Am. Black Duck: max 7 LoPd 21 Mar.
Mallard: max 40 LoPd 21 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: 1 LoPd 21 Mar; max 20 MNWR 27 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr MNWR 8 Mar (A&JWel); max 31 MNWR 6 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: 2 SaWo 10 Mar (TG); max 30 Tyre 30 Mar; last 1 EIDa 26 May (BO), late.
Canvasback: max "hundreds" MNWR 2 Mar; last 1 HGP 29 Mar.
Redhead: max 10 Canoga Marsh 12 Mar, low; last 1 MNWR 3 May.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 1 DryL 2 Mar (KR); max 18 PSt 11 Apr; last 1 LoPd 20 Apr.
Greater Scaup: arr 4 EldP 21 Mar; max 11 ChR 21 Mar; last 1 EIDa 5 May.
Lesser Scaup: arr 4 EldP 9 Mar; max 10 Canoga Marsh 12 Mar; last 1 MNWR 23 May.
Surf Scoter: arr 1 MyPt 30 Mar; max 3 DryL 28 Apr; last 1 CaL 14 May (GK).
White-winged Scoter: arr 1 StP 29 Mar; max 3 MNWR 4 May; last 1 MNWR 14 May.
Oldsquaw: arr 1 TCA 28 Mar; max 7 ChR 4 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 30 EIDa 9 Apr; 27 EldP 9 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 2 DryL 1 Mar, low; last 1 MNWR 21 Apr.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 Seneca Lake SP 1-4 Mar (SSu,CR,CA).
Hooded Merganser: arr 3 EldP 1 Mar (DRu); max 12 StP 13 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 14 MiPd 9 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 30 CaL 15 Mar; last 1 CaL 24 May (AK).
Ruddy Duck: arr MNWR 27 Mar; max 64 MNWR 20 Apr (GK).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 Mud Lock CAYU 27 Mar (KMc).
Bald Eagle: max 3 MNWR 21 Apr; 1 EIDa 26 Mar; 1 Watkins Glen 12 Apr (JB); 1 Howard 17 Apr (JD); 1 Ithaca 24 May (MB,AF); 1 DrL 28 May (BPr).
N. Harrier: max 8 SeFa 25 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 MtPl 27 Mar.
Cooper's Hawk: max 2 Dodge Road Spruce Plantation TOMP 12 Apr & 2 MWG 29 Apr.
N. Goshawk: 2 HHSF 7 Mar; max 4 Cath 26 May (fide CTH).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Enfi 8 Mar (JB); max 8 MtPl 24 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 2 Meck 5 Apr (JB); 2 Catlin 30 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 15 MtPl 27 Mar; 13 Thatcher Pinnacle TOMP 25 Mar; 10 MtPl 26 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 MtPl 27 Mar; last 1 Vete 5 Apr.
Golden Eagle: arr PSt 1 Mar (DRu); 1 CayH 7 Mar (A&JWel); 1 Newfield 20 Mar (RCh); 1 MtPl 27 Mar (SDa); 1 Etna 29 Mar (C&DTH); 1 StP 2 Apr (NiH); 1 Covert 4 Apr (JK).
Am. Kestrel: max 5 SENE 15 Mar.
Merlin: 1 MtPl 26 Mar; 1 GIMe 27 Mar; 1 Danby 29 Mar; 1 PiCi 14 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: arr Meck 6 Apr (fide CTH); 1 Horseheads 10 Apr (fide DRu); 1 Ulysses 19 Apr (MDH).
GYRFALCON: 1 SaMu 4-6 Apr (JWel,StK,KR mob).
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 Vete 1 Mar & 2 Faye 30 Apr (MH).
Wild Turkey: max 50 Ithaca 1 Mar.
Virginia Rail: 1 LoPd 8 Apr (RC); max 3 LoPd 4 May.
Sora: 1 Queen Catherine's Marsh SCHU 20 Apr; max 3 LoPd 5 May.
Com. Moorhen: 1 MNWR 21 Apr; max 4 MNWR 2 May.
Am. Coot: max 50 CaL 13 Mar.
Black-bellied Plover: 4 MNWR 23 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: 1 TCAH 17 May; max 15 MyPt 23 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 1 CaL Basin 28 Mar; max 6 MNWR 28 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 MNWR 19 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: 1 LPBPr 18 Apr (GK); 1 Dryden 18 Apr, scarce.
Spotted Sandpiper: 1 HoHo 17 Apr; max 6 Newtown Creek 23 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 Ledyard 2 May; 1 Faye 24 May; 1 SFA 28 May; 1 Danby 30 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: 8 MyPt 30 May, only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 MNWR 22 May; max 6 MNWR 30 May.
Least Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 30 Apr; max 14 LoPd 19 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 22 May; max 3 MNWR 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 19 Apr; max 17 MNWR 20 Apr.
Dunlin: arr 6 MyPt 16 Apr; max 43 MNWR 28 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 3 MyPt 18 May, only report.

Com. Snipe: arr 1 MNWR 27 Mar; max 3 Caton Swamp 3 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: max 12 Higman Hill 1 Apr; 10 TCA 28 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 1 May (CBu); 1 MNWR 22-30 May (AKe, AKr, MH, G&PK).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 14 MyPt 26 Mar; max 83 MiPd 4 Apr; 54 EldP 9 Apr; 50 ElDa 8 Apr.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 1 CaL 22 Mar (JKI); 1 StP 24 Mar (LR1).

Iceland Gull: 1 StP 15 Mar (J,K&PMc); last 1 MNWR (MDH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 StP 13 Mar (JWel); last 1 StP 27 Apr (CBu).

Glaucous Gull: 1 MyPt 11 Mar (SDa); 1 Seneca Falls Landfill 12 Mar (SDa).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 6 MyPt 11 Mar; last 1 MNWR 30 Apr.

Caspian Tern: 2 CayH 14 Apr; max 3 ElDa 16 Apr.

Com. Tern: arr CaL 11 May; max 2 MNWR 23 May; 1 MyPt 27 May, only reports.

Forster's Tern: arr DryL 20 Apr (GK); max 5 MyPt 26 Apr (A&JWel, CM); 2 StP 26 Apr.

Black Tern: arr MNWR 2 May; max 7 MNWR 14 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 11 TCAH 3 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Hector 7 May; max 3 HHSF 30 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr GIMe 15 May.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 GAWeS 17 Apr; 1 Union Springs 21 Apr; 1 MWG 4 May.

Great Horned Owl: max 3 SuDa 3 May.

Barred Owl: max 2 Danby 1 Apr; 2 SaWo 15 Apr; 2 Ithaca 9 May; 2 Caroline 15 May.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Caroline 8 Apr (JGo), only report.

Short-eared Owl: max 6 Vete 3 Mar (DRu); 3 SFA 3 Mar; 1 Dryden 11 Mar; last 2 Vete 29 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Broo 3 Mar (Bill Podulka), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 Caroline 19 May, few reports.

Whip-poor-will: arr 1 Sout 6 May; 1 Danby 12 May; 1 Addison 19 May.

Chimney Swift: 1 TCA 24 Apr; max 20 Etna 28 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 NRPd 7 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Covert 12 Apr (BG); 1 Kidders 20 May (JK).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 SaWo 2 Mar (KrD); 1 Treman Marina SP 2 Mar (JK); max 5 Danby 16 Apr.

N. Flicker: max 6 HoHo 29 Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 PSt 11 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 BeHi 16 May; 1 FLNF 16 May; 1 Danby 24 May (DN!).

E. Wood-Pewee: 1 ShHo 7 May; max 4 GIMe 24 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 1 SaWo 6 May (CBu); 1 ArFo 15 May.

Alder Flycatcher: 1 GIMe 16 May (DRu); max 6 Dryden 20 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr LoPd 16 May; max 14 LoPd 27 May; 10 MNWR 24 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr MNWR 1 May; max 5 ChR 24 May.

E. Phoebe: 1 NRPd 26 Mar; max 6 Danby 12 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: 1 Dryden 4 May; max 4 GIMe 24 May.

E. Kingbird: 1 DrL 2 May; 1 DuHi 2 May; max 5 STEU 16 May.

N. Shrike: 1 Dryden 26 Mar; 1 Dryden 5 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: 1 Danby 12 Apr (GK); max 11 ShHo 7 May; 7 GAWeS 2 May; 6 Danby 3 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 1 SaCr 5 May; max 6 ChR 24 May.

Warbling Vireo: 1 Dryden 1 May; max 40 ChR 24 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Hector 7 May; 1 GIMe 16 May; 1 Danby 20 May; 1 HHSP 20 May; 1 Beam Hill 25 May, only reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: 1 Tlth 4 May; max 14 ChR 24 May; 11 GIMe 24 May.

Am. Crow: max 65 Erwin 14 Mar.

Fish Crow: individuals Elmira 3 Mar-17 Apr (CVAS); 2 Coming (JMa); max "several" StP 2 Apr (NiH).

Com. Raven: 1 HHSF 6 Mar (GK); 1 Danby 30 Mar (GK); 1 Dryden 4 Apr (MSA CTH); 1 PSt 5 Apr (DR); 1 ShHo 26 May (CCBSG); max 19 Halderman Hollow

CHEM 3 Apr (BO).

Horned Lark: 2 SaMu 8 Mar; max 50 Lansing 22 Mar; 50 MtPl 27 Mar.
Purple Martin: 1 MyPt 11 Apr.
Tree Swallow: 1 MtPl 26 Mar (StK); max "Hitchcockian numbers" CaL 26 Apr (JK).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 LoPd 10 Apr (B&JO); max 6 MyPt 26 Apr & 6 ChR 9 May.
Bank Swallow: 1 CorU 16 Apr; large colonies at Sennett (CA), Freeville (GB), and SaCr (A&JWel).
Barn Swallow: 1 Springport 7 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: 1 Elmira 24 Apr; max 12 EIDa 27 May.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max "numerous" DSF 18 May; 6 City Cemetery TOMP 23 Apr.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 BFSP 4 Mar.
Brown Creeper: max 3 BFSP 4 Mar & 3 Danby 6 May.
Carolina Wren: max 2 TaFo 14 Mar & 2 ShHo 12 May.
House Wren: 1 ShHo 18 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr 1 Trumansburg 28 Mar.
Marsh Wren: arr Queen Cath's Marsh 20 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 41 RoGl 4 Apr; 21 CoHi TOMP 27 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 3 RoGl 4 Apr; max 14 Ithaca 28 Apr; last 1 Danby 18 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr LoPd 16 Apr (MPa); max 15 SaCr 11 May (CTH).
E. Bluebird: max 10 ShHo 2 Mar.
Veery: 1 SaWo 30 Apr; max 11 SaCr 11 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: "a few" CayH 17 May (A&JWel,CSu), only report.
Swainson's Thrush: 2 SaWo 17 May; max >12 CayH 17 May (A&JWel,CSu), only reports.
Hermit Thrush: 2 SuDa 26 Mar; max 6 ShHo 7 May.
Wood Thrush: 1 Danby 30 Apr; max 7 WERF 9 May.
Am. Robin: max "many hundreds" Danby 20 Mar.
Gray Catbird: 2 CayH 16 Apr (PW).
N. Mockingbird: max 3 TCAH 3 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr 1 DuHi 13 Apr (DRu); max 3 GiMe 29 Apr, HaHo 2 May, Lansing 3 May

Am. Pipit: arr 2 MyPt 11 Mar (SDa); max and last >300 Faye 30 Apr (MH).
Cedar Waxwing: max 120 Lansing 15 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 Dryden 2 May; max 4 Danby 6 May, GiMe 16 May, SNC 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 Shel 14 May; 1 SaCr 15 May; 1 SNC 16 May; max 2 GiMe 16 May, only reports.
Tennessee Warbler: 1 SaWo 14 May; 2 SaWo 14 May.
Nashville Warbler: 1 SaWo 2 May; max 3 Danby 7 May.
N. Parula: 1 CoHi 16 May; 1 SaWo 16 May; 1 Danby 18 May, only reports.
Yellow Warbler: 1 Groton 1 May; TOMP 1 May; max 21 SaCr 11 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 1 Danby 3 May; max 3 GiMe 16 May.
Magnolia Warbler: 1 Danby 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: 1 PiCi 9 May; 1 PiCi 12 May; 1 SaWo 16 May; 1 Personius Woods CHEM 16 May; 1 Danby 26 May, only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 Danby 29 Apr (GK).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 1 Hector 14 Mar (NDI); max 50-75 SaWo 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 DryL 24 Apr; max >20 ShHo 7 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: 1 SaWo 6 May; max 3 Dryden 12 May.
Pine Warbler: 1 Caroline 29 Mar (J&KC); max 6 CayH 1 Apr (CTH).
Prairie Warbler: arr 3 GiMe 2 May; max 8 GiMe 24 May (DRu).
Palm Warbler: 1 LoPd 11 Apr (DRu); max 3 SaWo 2 May, LoPd 4 May; last SaWo 7 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 1 Danby 15 May; max 2 GiMe 16 May, HaHi 16 May; last 1 18 May Danby.
Blackpoll Warbler: 1 15 May; max 3 WERF 16 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 Hector 7 May; max 10 SaCr 18 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: 1 Danby 29 Apr; 2 SaWo 29 Apr; max 5 Danby 3 May, Danby 7 May.
Am. Redstart: 1 CorU 1 May; max 36 ChR 24 May (J&RC).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 1 OBH 16 May (B&JO); max 2 LPBPr 29 May (GK).
Ovenbird: 1 Dryden 29 Apr; max 9 GIMe 24 May.
N. Waterthrush: 1 SaWo 28 Apr; max 3 SaWo 1 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Enfi 8 Apr; max 2 CayH 23 Apr, Danby 29-30 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: 1 BeHi 14 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: 1 SaWo 1 May; 1 LoPd 1 May; 2 Dryden 1 May; max 11 Mark Twain SP 15 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 ShHo 12 May; max 3 BeHi 16 May.
Wilson's Warbler: 1 Hector 13 May; 1 Ithaca 14 May; 1 Caroline 16 May, only reports.
Canada Warbler: 2 Dryden 13 May; 1 Danby 13 May; max 3 ShHo 30 May.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: arr 2 GIMe 16 May (B&JO,DRu); 1 GIMe thru, only reports.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 1 Dryden 7 May; max 3 OBH 16 May, HaHi 16 May, GIMe 24 May.
E. Towhee: 1 Sout 23 Mar, since Dec; arr 1 T Chemung 4 Apr; max 13 GIMe 2 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 20 Vete 1 Mar; last 5 LoPd 28 Mar, early departure.
Chipping Sparrow: 1 Riverfront Park CHEM 31 Mar; max 19 HaHi 6 May.
Field Sparrow: 1 Sout 7 Mar (RC); 1 Auburn 8 Mar (DMo); arr 1 Danby 31 Mar; max 11 GIMe 2 May.
Vesper Sparrow: 1 Lansing 29 Mar; max 3 DuHi 9 Apr, MtPl 14 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: 1 Dryden 28 Mar; max 18 TCAH 3 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 MtPl 14 Apr (AKr); max "lots" Ledyard 15 May (AKe).
Henslow's Sparrow: arr and max 3 Ledyard 6 May (MMe,DRo); individuals Ledyard 15-23 May, only reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 BFSP 2 Mar (MarF); max 12 Pst 11 Apr (CVAS); last 3 GIMe 29 Apr.
Song Sparrow: max 31 LoPd 28 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 13 May; 1 WERF 17 May; 1 Dryden 27 May, only reports.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 TCAH 5 Apr; max 23 TCAH 3 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 29 HaHi 30 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: 1 SaWo 30 Apr; last 1 HaHi 19 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max "hundreds" CayH 1 Apr; 27 Pst 11 Apr.
Lapland Longspur: 1 King Ferry 15 Mar; 1 Fayette 22 Mar; 1 Lansing 23 Mar, only reports.
Snow Bunting: "large flock" King Ferry 15 Mar; 24-36 Lansing 22 Mar; last 1 MtPl 27 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 Tith 29 Apr; max 9 WERF 16 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Caroline 1 May; max 2 GIMe 15 May, HaHi 16 May.
Bobolink: 6 Ledyard 2 May; max 8 Big Flats 28 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 480 LoPd 26 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr 4 Cornell Animal Science Education & Research Center TOMP 13 Mar; max 30 Dryden 25 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 Broo 5 Mar; max 15 DryL 25 Mar.
Com. Grackle: max 325 Big Flats 24 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 30 Chemung 3 May.
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 CaL 11 May (Jo&SG); several reports of individuals.
Baltimore Oriole: 1 CayH 1 May; 2 Interlaken 1 May; max 6 WERF 17 May.
Purple Finch: arr 1 Dryden 1 Mar; max 18 Caroline 24 Apr.
House Finch: max 15 HaHi 21 Mar, declining.
Red Crossbill: max 50 CayH 14 Apr (KMc); "several flocks" Dryden 27 May (KMc).
White-winged Crossbill: max 25 Community Corners 6 Mar (Bill Evans); 6 Caroline 21 May (StK).
Com. Redpoll: max 150 Danby 18 Mar; 150 LPBPr 25 Mar; last 2 Big Flats 26 Apr.
Pine Siskin: max 20 Dryden 3 May; last 1 Caroline 21 May.
Am. Goldfinch: max 14 Sout 28 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: max >100 CoHi 4 May; last 1 Corning 13 May.

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

MARY DOBINSKY

7 Spencer Drive, Oneonta NY 13820

Weatherwise, it was the best spring of the last six years. Precipitation each month was near average and temperatures, especially in the northern sector of the Region, were well above normal. At Cooperstown, May readings averaged five degrees warmer than usual. Flowers and shrubs started blooming in March about two weeks ahead of schedule, and the accelerated greening in fields and woods continued all season.

For the Region's birders, however, it was not a great migration season. Our good weather was not nationwide. Heavy rains in the South certainly stalled and impeded the birds' normal northward movement. Most birds arrived late and in limited numbers and moved out quickly. No fallouts of warblers or other songbirds were reported. Further handicapping birders by mid May was the early leafing out of trees. The dense foliage made it very difficult to locate and identify the birds that were present. However, birders persisted and, as usual, had good finds and interesting experiences but no great rarities.

Water birds highlighted the early season. A Regionally rare Red-throated Loon was sighted, as well as less common Great Egret and Tundra Swan. Only 16 species of ducks were reported, none in great numbers, but this included uncommon White-winged Scoters. Bald Eagle reports, which continue to increase, included a possible nesting pair at McDonough, CHEN. Although the weather didn't favor hawk flights, a record number of four Merlins were seen. Semipalmated Plover was the best of the few shorebird migrants, and both N. Saw-whet Owl and Short-eared Owl sparked interest in that family.

"Late" and "scarce" were the adjectives describing the season for most flycatchers and other songbirds. However, two species posted record early arrival dates: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on 12 March and Blue-headed Vireo on 14 Apr. For Veery, first seen 18 April, it was the second earliest arrival of record. Only 23 species of warblers were reported. Eleven were judged "scarce" and the best rating for the other twelve was "average". The winter finch list for this spring, however, was better than in most winters. Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll were among those which lingered.

Special May counts reported included North American Migration Counts 9 May in CHEN and DELA-OTSE; the annual Big Day May Count 16 May in DELA - OTSE, and a mini Big Day Count 13 May in BROO.

Contributors: Cutler & Jeannette Baldwin, Chris Barnes, Les Bemont, BROO Naturalists Club, Eleanor Carson, Kay Crane, Marilyn Davis, Ed Debelevue, Mary Dobinsky, Helen Eno, Dick & Ila Finch, Sue Gaynor, Bob Grosek, Elva Hawken, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Andy Leahy, Harriet Marsi, Andy Mason, Bob & Jean Miller, H. & S. O'Connell, R. & R. Pantle, Marie

Petuh, Tom Salo, Julie Smith, Eric Sullivan, Tom & Norene Tasber, Bill Toner, Fred von Mechow, Chris Vredenburg, George Wade, Don Weber (DWb), Nancy Weissflog, Anne Whitaker, Don Windsor, Irene Wright, Jane Young.

Abbreviations: BpD-Boland Pond, BROO; BBDC - BROO Big Day Count, 13 May; DO MBDC - DELA-OTSE May Big Day Count, 16 May; GyL - Goodyear Lake, OTSE; LL - Lake Ludlow, McDonough, CHEN, "private lake, very wild" (DW); MSP - Murphy's Sand Pits, BROO; Ots L - Otsego Lake; NAMC - North American Migration Count, 9 May; PM - Portlandville Marsh, OTSE; REEC - Rogers Environmental Education Center, CHEN; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; WB - West Burlington, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir and nearby areas.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: WPR 6 Apr (ES), first spring since 1994.

Com. Loon: pair LL 2 May "defending area from boats" (D&IF); 7 other reports 6 Apr to 16 May; max 13 UL 4 May, high count.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr MSP 1 Mar, early; 4 other reports to 23 Apr, max 3.

Horned Grebe: max 16 WPR 27 Mar (MDv); 8 there 25 Apr, good count.

Red-necked Grebe: WPR 25 Apr (BNC); TIOG 29 Apr, missed some years.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 10 WPR 6 Apr; 3 Oneonta 17 APR; 2 May reports, average.

Am. Bittern: no reports.

Great Blue Heron: max 12 on 2 NAMC's.

Great Egret: REEC 20, 21 APR (FvM);

UL 2 May (AL), often missed.

Green Heron: 7 reports after 10 Apr, max 2; early arrival, average count.

Turkey Vulture: 10 Walton 1 Mar; max 12 GyL 26 Mar: early arrivals but season counts down.

Snow Goose: 600 WPR 7 March; several hundred Ots L 21 Mar; high spring counts continue.

Canada Goose: large March migration flights; 244 on CHEN NAMC; pair with 6 goslings Oneonta 29 APR.

Tundra Swan: 2 WPR 2 Mar (GK, HM), often missed.

Wood Duck: only 15 on NAMC's; 2 hens with 14 yng Cooperstown 23 May (TS).

Am. Wigeon: max 3 pair TIOG 24 Mar; 3 reports BROO 7 Mar-6 APR.

Am. Black Duck: max 24 BpD 17 Mar, average.

Blue-winged Teal: 4 Westover BROO 24 Mar; pair UL 25 Apr, scarce.

N. Shoveler: DELA 1 Apr (ED); pair MSP 23 May, "resting in

small pool, very cold, windy day" (MP, SK).

N. Pintail: max 25 BpD 16 Mar (T&NT);

good counts Mar.

Green-winged Teal: pair arr MSP 1 Mar, early; four other reports to 13 Apr, max 6; average.

Ring-necked Duck: 13 reports 2 Mar-11 Apr, max 49; one TIOG May, good count.

scaup (sp): UL 16 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: WPR 6 Apr (BG), scarce.

White-winged Scoter: 2 males Oneonta Res 4 Apr (mob); 3 WPR 25 Apr (mob), often missed.

Oldsquaw: in winter plumage Oneonta Res 4 Apr (mob), scarce.

Bufflehead: 3 reports each Mar & Apr, max 7, scarce.

Com. Goldeneye: 7 reports 2 Mar - 11 Apr, max 6, average.

Hooded Merganser: max 28 WPR 19, 25 Mar, average.

Com. Merganser: max 700 WPR 2 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 males WPR 25 Mar; UL 26, 27 Mar; 3 WPR 6 Apr; 2 DOMBDC, good count.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: TIOG Mar no date; widespread singles 2 Apr thru 2 on NAMC's, big drop from 28 last year.

Bald Eagle: adult LL 13 Mar feeding on fresh deer carcass (coyote kill); pair there 19 Mar, 29 Apr, 2 May (D&IF fide DW), possible nesting; adult near MSP 18 Mar

(ES); Ots L 24 Mar; WPR 6, 9 Apr; Pittsfield, OTSE 12 Apr (TS); Vestal 18 Apr (GK); CHEN NAMC; DOMBDC; TIOG May, increasing presence.

N. Harrier: 6 reports, max 3 Mar, Apr; 5 singles May, average.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 4 - 6 singles a month, below average.

Cooper's Hawk: 10 singles mostly Apr, scarce.

N. Goshawk: Cooperstown 24 Mar (JD), usually scarce.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CHEN 29, 31 Mar (EH); CHEN NAMC; BROO 21 May (MP), average.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 14 Apr; 7 on 2 NAMC's; 4 other singles, low count.

Red-tailed Hawk: "thru period, but not a lot" (TS).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 5 Lisle 7 Mar; last CORT 4 Apr.

Am. Kestrel: 5 adults near nest boxes McGraw 27 Mar (BT); 17 on NAMC's.

Merlin: female Binghamton 8 Mar (ES); 2 Homer 26 Mar (BT); DELA 27 Mar (ED), record count.

Peregrine Falcon: Franklin Mt. 7 Apr (CV), first spring in 4 years.

Ring-necked Pheasant: WB thru; CORT 15 Mar, 4 Apr; TIOG Apr; DOMBDC, average.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 on NAMC's.

Wild Turkey: max 100 Laurens 1 Mar; 43 on NAMC's, average.

Virginia Rail: PM 16 May (B&JM); W Corners Marsh BROO 13 May (mob), often missed.

Sora: BOCES, Milford 16 May, often missed.

Am. Coot: 2 U Lisle 2 May.

Semipalmated Plover: MSP 22 May (MP,SK), missed some years.

Killdeer: 37 on NAMC's, average.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 UL 2 May; PM 7 May; DOMBDC, scarce.

Least Sandpiper: no reports!

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 OTSE 8, 16 May, 5 on NAMC's, scarce.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 11 CHEN NAMC; arr Norwich 14 Apr, early.

Com. Snipe: T Preston, "winnowing 4:55 a.m. 3 Apr" and there occasionally to 26 Apr (EH); max 6 BPd 20 Apr; DO NAMC & MBDC.

Am. Woodcock: Preston most days 4 Mar to 26 Apr; 10 other widespread reports max 3.

Bonaparte's Gull: WPR 25 Apr; LL 28 Apr.

Ring-billed Gull: max 120 WPR 13 Mar.

Herring Gull: max 20 WPR 13 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: WPR 5 Apr (MDv).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 107 on NAMC's.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Plymouth Res 16 May; WB 20 May; 2 TIOG reports May, average.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: DELA 14 May; DOMBDC; BROO 21 May, average.

Great Horned Owl: Preston 7 Mar; DELA 13 Apr; Chenango R 17 May.

Barred Owl: 2 DOAS Sanctuary 2 Mar; max 3 Triangle 3 Apr; Preston occasionally thru; DELA 6 May; 4 DOMBDC, good count.

Short-eared Owl: BROO 28 Mar "exact place where pair seen by many last month" (MP).

N. Saw-whet Owl: Preston 1 - 7 Mar (EH); Cooperstown 1 Mar (JD); Milford 3 Mar (AM), good count.

Com. Nighthawk: no report, first spring of record with none.

Chimney Swift: max 20 Binghamton 23 Apr; 17 on NAMC's, average.

Red-headed Woodpecker: TIOG feeder May (AW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair BROO Apr; 3 widespread singles Mar, May, average.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: record early arr Oneonta feeder 12 Mar (previous record 13 Mar, 1978); max 20 on NAMC's.

N. Flicker: arr 3 Mar; max 22 on NAMC's.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 Vestal 22 May "one picking bugs off sumac" (MP,SK).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood Pewee: max 3 DO MBDC; arr BROO 13 May; only three others, scarce.

Alder Flycatcher: 3 singles 17 - 31 May, average.

Willow Flycatcher: singles 22, 23 May.

Least Flycatcher: max 5 on NAMC's, scarce.

E. Phoebe: max 23 on NAMC's.

Great Crested Flycatcher: good numbers after 6 May.
E. Kingbird: max 13 DO NAMC, generally scarce.
N. Shrike: DELA 4 Mar (SG); DO MBDC 16 May, very late.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 26 on NAMC's, good count; record early arr 14 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: early arr BROO 27 Apr; 7 on NAMC's, only reports.
Warbling Vireo: max 5 DO NAMC; 7 other May reports, max 4, average
Philadelphia Vireo: DO NAMC, missed some years.
Fish Crow: at different BROO sites 20, 23 Mar (ES), 4 Apr (BG), 13 May (mob); OTSE 27 Apr (CV).
Com. Raven: TIOG Mar (SH); DELA 12 Apr (AM); Binghamton 16 Apr (ES); TIOG Apr (RP); DO MBDC, increasing number of areas.
Horned Lark: max 19 at 2 CORT sites 24 Mar (BT); 12 T Lisle 7 Mar; MSP 22 May.
Purple Martin: TIOG Apr, May; 2 MSP 22 May, scarce.
Tree Swallow: max 513 on NAMC's.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 4 BROO 13 May, late arr and scarce.
Bank Swallow: TIOG colony of 50+ May; 28 DONAMC; 10 BR00 13 May, continue scarce.
Barn Swallow: "fewer again on our farm" (NW), typical report.
Cliff Swallow: 14 nests WPR site again this year 23 May (AL); 4 DO NAMC, scarce.
Brown Creeper: max 11 DO NAMC; often Triangle thru.
Carolina Wren: 2 BROO reports; 2 TIOG.
House Wren: 21 on NAMC's.
Winter Wren: 10 reports 1 Apr to 17 May.
Marsh Wren: only one DO NAMC.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 4 reports to 18 Apr, max 5.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: well reported 5 Apr to 7 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 9 DO MBDC; 3 BROO sites 28 Apr to 13 May, max 2, average.
E. Bluebird: 2 bluebird houses Hartwick with total of 9 y "about to fledge" 9 May.
Veery: arr Triangle 18 Apr, second earliest arr of record; 10 May reports, max 9, generally scarce.
Swainson's Thrush: no reports.

Hermit Thrush: 8 on NAMC's.
Wood Thrush: 42 on NAMC's, average.
Gray Catbird: max 47 on NAMC's, average.
N. Mockingbird: 2 Binghamton feeder 29 Apr; WB 24 Apr to 2 May; CHEN NAMC; 2 BBDC, average.
European Starling: "have never seen so many baby starlings as this May in Norwich" (DW).
Cedar Waxwing: max 30 Binghamton 3 Apr, few reports.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 10 reports after 7 May, max 4, near average.
Golden-winged Warbler: 2 DO MBDC, scarce.
Tennessee Warbler: DO MBDC, only one.
Nashville Warbler: 8 reports 6 to 21 May, max 2, near average.
N. Parula: OTSE 9 May, DO MBDC, scarce.
Yellow Warbler: max 43 on NAMC's, rather low.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: 33 on NAMC's, average.
Magnolia Warbler: 4 on NAMC's; a few DO BDC, scarce.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6 arr WB 7 May; 12 on NAMC's; 3 CHEN 27 May, near average.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: early arr BROO 27 Mar; 100 on NAMC's.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 23 on NAMC's; only 8 other May reports, low count.
Blackburnian Warbler: 3 widespread singles May; 2 Do NAMC, scarce.
Pine Warbler: 6 singles 24 Apr to 16 May, average.
Prairie Warbler: TIOG Apr; 2 on 3 widespread May reports, low count.
Palm Warbler: Triangle 18, 20 Apr, only report.
Bay-breasted Warbler: only DO MBDC.
Blackpoll Warbler: 4 singles 16 to 20 May, scarce.
Black-and-white Warbler: late arr and only 8 reports, max 2, scarce.
Am. Redstart: 10 on NAMC's, same as last year's poor count.
N. Waterthrush: max 6 DO NAMC.

Louisiana Waterthrush: only 6 singles after 25 APR.
Mourning Warbler: only 2 DO MBDC.
Wilson's Warbler: no reports, first spring since 1991.
Canada Warbler: three reports after 16 May, max 2, scarce.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 OTSE 14 May, generally scarce and late.
E. Towhee: 10 on NAMC's, near average.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 26 CORT 8 Mar; last 14 BROO 28 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: 86 on NAMC's, fewer.
Field Sparrow: 21 on NAMC's, one more than last year.
Vesper Sparrow: no reports.
Savannah Sparrow: only 7 on NAMC's, continues scarce.
Grasshopper Sparrow: only DELA 17 May (AM), often missed.
Fox Sparrow: 16 reports 26 Mar - 3 Apr, average.
Lincoln's Sparrow: only TIOG 7 May (DWa), sometimes missed.
White-throated Sparrow: max 15 Vestal 22 Mar, numbers down especially May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3 reports Apr, 5 May, max 2, scarce.
Snow Bunting: 2 OTSE sites 21, 22 Mar, max 50; 3 Homer 23 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 on DO NAMC.
Indigo Bunting: at Vestal feeder from 13 May; 7 other reports, max 4, rather low.
Bobolink: 4 flocks BROO BDC, scarce.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 3,000 WB 7 May; good counts after mid Feb thru.
E. Meadowlark: 17 on NAMC's, generally scarce.
Rusty Blackbird: Triangle 3 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: fewer than last year.
Pine Grosbeak: T Burlington 2 Mar (NW).
Purple Finch: arr Vestal 8 Mar after winter absence; widespread and numerous Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 Jefferson 21 Mar (AM); 5 or 6 Endwell yard 31 Mar "feeding on cones in 80 ft tall Norway Spruce" (HE fide mob)
Com. Redpoll: many Mar reports, max 75+; last 2 on 21 Apr.
Pine Siskin: arr 6 Mar; many reports to 16 May, max 5.
Evening Grosbeak: max 35 loc? 1, 7 Mar; dwindling numbers to 14 May.

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This is Mary Dobinsky's last Region 4 report. We have not yet found a replacement for her. Observers are urged to store their data and to continue recording their sightings, so that when a replacement is found, the continuity of these reports can be maintained. Anyone interested in becoming the Region 4 editor is encouraged to call me at 607 336-4628. Donald A. Windsor

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Mary Alice Koeneke

362 Nine Mile Point Road, Oswego NY 13126

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings NY 13076

The spring season was warm and relatively snow free. The average temperature in March was 38.1°F, 4.2° above normal, and there was 19.9 inches of snow, most of it from the 10th - 15th when open ponds refroze and ground that had been bare for a month was covered with a foot of snow. It quickly melted. April had an average temperature of 48.1°F, 2.4° above normal. For the first time since weather statistics have been kept for Syracuse, there was no recorded snowfall, not even a trace, for the month! May was one of the warmest ever, with an average of 62.9°F, +5.8°. There many days with south winds through the 16th. Both April and May were dryer than usual, with about two thirds of the normal rainfall.

The mild winter and spring resulted in an early thaw. Indeed, there was one large thaw and much flooding in early January and a resultant lack of flooded lands during waterfowl migration. Most waterfowl did not linger as there was not much habitat in the Region and they had to know that conditions were moderate enough to keep advancing. May waterfowl were mixed, with a good Brant flight along Oneida Lake but with two species which migrate at the same time, Common Loon and White-winged Scoter, seen in low numbers. Despite the overall brief migration, several uncommon species moved through the Region. An Eared Grebe put in an appearance for the third straight spring, and a Greater White-fronted Goose, fortunately very close to the roadside, was found in a large flock of Canada Geese. An immature King Eider stayed around Oswego Harbor for over a month, and there were two sightings of Harlequin Duck for the season. The pair at Mexico Point in May represent only the second record of two birds.

The late March hawk flight at Derby Hill was good, with south winds bringing Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks as well as the first of two **Black Vultures**. North winds were nearly constant over the last ten days of April, which resulted in a poor Broad-winged Hawk flight. South winds did pick up in May, with record numbers of Bald Eagles and Ospreys. In fact, the Osprey total of 1063 shattered the previous high of 693. Record low numbers were recorded for Rough-legged Hawk and Am. Kestrel. While the Rough-legged scarcity can be attributed to the fact that not many got this far south during the winter, the kestrel population has become a source of concern. Rarities at Derby included the two Black Vultures, a Swainson's Hawk, seven Sandhill Cranes on four dates and a Short-eared Owl.

Early shorebirds were low in number and recorded at few locations, most likely due to the lack of flooded fields. No Pectoral Sandpipers were reported

for the first time since 1978. The late May migration was better but was mostly observed at two sites, Sandy Pond and the small islands on Oneida Lake. There was one Whimbrel, for which any spring record is good, while Ruddy Turnstones, put down by northwest winds, had the best showing since May 1975. Laughing Gull was seen at two sites. No Iceland Gull or Glaucous Gull for the season is unusual, but the winter gulls had departed early this year. A Black-legged Kittiwake in Oswego Harbor in late March was unusual and there was speculation as to whether the sighting was related to the late December record for this species. The two cuckoos were noteworthy, with many sightings of both beginning 16 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo sightings were the highest since the mid 1970s.

The passerine migration started off fine, with record early Pine Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush and many early April sightings of Yellow-rumped Warbler. It looked like migration was running nearly two weeks ahead of normal, but 23 days of north winds in April and a lot of rain to our south slowed the pace and put arrivals back on schedule. As we entered May the weather was nice, even great. That's what gave the Region a record Osprey flight, but it also allowed many birds to fly right through. There was little of the weather that often concentrates birds, for example a huge warm front sweeping in followed by a quick cold front and those wet, chilly days with northwest winds where one might find hundreds of swallows low over a river or a dozen kingbirds facing the wind hovering over a field. There was also the early leaf-out which gave insects a head start so there was plenty of food for the warblers when they arrived and they did not have to linger to refuel. Most warblers were seen (and heard) in small numbers. The only migrant trap that seemed to attract many birds was the Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point on Lake Ontario. Many observers noted that for some species no migrants were seen; they were first found on the breeding grounds. Of course, a dull migration for birders probably means a good migration for warblers. Theoretically, more should reach the breeding grounds in better shape and produce more young which we'll see in the fall. Even with the generally poorly observed migration, good passerine arrival dates were noted on 26 April and 5 May and also 14 May for the late warblers. A Prothonotary Warbler was found in proper breeding habitat in New Hartford on 19 May and was still present at the end of the season.

There were no record arrivals for the early April sparrows although they were found in good numbers earlier than most years. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, and they are now anticipated each spring. The 20 Grasshopper Sparrows at the old Dewitt landfill show that these landfill caps could become important habitat if managed properly. The May contingent, Lincoln's, White-throated and White-crowned, were seen in much smaller numbers than recent years. Common Redpoll was the only irruptive finch widely reported, and three **Hoary Redpolls** were also found. Both Red and White-winged crossbills lingered into May, while Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were seen in small numbers, mostly at higher elevations.

A total of 237 species plus one form and one hybrid was seen during the season, with the highlights being **Eared Grebe**, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Harlequin Duck**, Black Vulture, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, **Laughing Gull**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, Clay-colored Sparrow and Hoary Redpoll.

Contributors: Connie Adams, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Pat Burns, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy Crumb, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Andy Leahy, Gary Lee, Robert Long, Niels Maumenee, David Nash, Gerard Phillips, Matt Perry, Betsy Potter, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Judy Thurber, Jim Tietz, Ken Zoller.

Abbreviations: CM - Clay Marsh, DH - Derby Hill, DL - Delta Lake, EIC - Niagara Mohawk Energy Information Center at Nine Mile Point, FH - Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity, HVWMA - Happy Valley WMA, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, PSS - Peter Scott Swamp, Schroepfel, RSP - Rome Sand Plains, SPD - Sandy Pond, SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park, StMC - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, Syr - Syracuse, TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA, UM - Utica Marsh, WPd - Woodman Pond, Eaton.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr 28 Mar; max 40 Nine Mile Point 19 Apr; on eggs Grey L Adks 8 May, earliest by 4 days.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr West Monroe 3 Apr; max WPd 8 Apr.

Horned Grebe: arr WPd 29 Mar; max 4 several sites; 1 Biddlecum 27-30 Mar, unusual location.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Fulton 24 Mar; max 19 Toad Harbor 11 Apr.

Eared Grebe: 1 OnonL 10 Apr, molting from bas to alt (MR!).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 28 Mar; max 330 Nine Mile Point 22 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr PSS 19 Apr; max 5 West Monroe 9 May.

Least Bittern: 1 found dead HVWMA 9 May; singles West Monroe & CM 16 May and UM 18 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr DH 17 Mar; max 46 West Monroe 9 May.

Great Egret: 1 DH 24 Apr, only report.

Green Heron: max 4 West Monroe 14 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 Oswego 27 Mar, only report.

BLACK VULTURE: singles DH 27 Mar & 27 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: arr Utica 17 Mar.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 Cato 5 Mar (GP).

Snow Goose: max 8000 Cato 5 Mar; "blue phase" max 2000 Cato 5 Mar; 3 other Mar flocks of 1500+ noted; 70 LOL 16 May, late for a large flock.

Canada Goose: max 8000 Cato 5 Mar.

Brant: arr Toad Harbor 13 May; max 1800 Toad Harbor 16 May, none elsewhere.

Mute Swan: 5 past DH 22 Apr.

Tundra Swan: 3 CM 29 Mar, only report.

Wood Duck: max 42 West Monroe 9 May.

Gadwall: max 22 OnonL 17 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: arr 10 Schroepfel 6 Mar; max 20 Verona 27 Mar; male West Monroe thru 16 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 50 Chittenango 25 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr UM 4 Apr; max 7 UM 26 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr Scriba 27 Mar; max 18 OnonL 15 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 250 UM 22 Mar; last UM 5 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 31 CM 27 Apr; last CM 16 May.

Canvasback: max 30 TRWMA 28 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Verona 27 Mar; last WPd 27 Apr.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: first-year male DH 6 Mar (GP); ad male & female Mexico Pt 3 May (Chris Vredenburgh, mob), 3rd and 4th spring records.

Greater Scaup: max 1200 Toad Harbor 4 Apr; 1 SW Oswego 9 May in small pond, possibly injured.

Lesser Scaup: max 250 Toad Harbor 4 Apr; last Constantia 28 Apr.

KING EIDER: 1 first winter male Oswego 7 Mar to 25 Apr, first spring record since 1980 (Gar Owens, BiP).

White-winged Scoter: max 20 West Monroe 16 May.

Oldsquaw: max 35 Toad Harbor 11 Apr; last 23 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 85 Toad Harbor 4 Apr; last LOL 16 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 300 FH 5 Mar; last LOL 22 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 male FH to 5 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: arr Verona 16 Mar; max 24 TRWMA 28 Mar; May females noted Cazenovia, L Julia, and HVWMA.

Com. Merganser: max 765 OnonL 16 Mar; 3 OnonL 18 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 34 Toad Harbor 11 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr WPd 8 Apr; max 16 OnonL 12 Apr; 11 Toad Harbor 9 May and 12 OnonL 15 May, late.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Derby Hill Migration Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight/Date</u>	<u>Date Range</u>
Turkey Vulture	5,772	729 on 30 Mar	2 Mar - 20 May
Osprey	1,063	194 on 5 May	31 Mar - 31 May
Bald Eagle	129	16 on 16 May	1 Mar - 31 May
Northern Harrier	575	101 on 26 Mar	2 Mar - 30 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4,743	432 on 5 May	7 Mar - 31 May
Cooper's Hawk	563	99 on 26 Mar	1 Mar - 25 May
Northern Goshawk	69	8 on 13 Apr	7 Mar - 25 May
Red-shouldered Hawk	766	232 on 27 Mar	6 Mar - 15 May
Broad-winged Hawk	16,155	2,548 on 30 Apr	12 Apr - 31 May
Red-tailed Hawk	6,279	820 on 14 Apr	1 Mar - 29 May
Rough-legged Hawk	140	17 on 27 Mar	1 Mar - 14 May
Golden Eagle	32	7 on 5 May	7 Mar - 13 May
American Kestrel	219	20 on 28 Mar	9 Mar - 23 May
Merlin	35	5 on 24 Apr	26 Mar - 17 May
Peregrine Falcon	10	2 on 7 May	10 Apr - 15 May
Total	36,550	-	-

Osprey: pair TRWMA refurbishing nest 29 Mar.

Bald Eagle: 1 DH 8 Mar being mobbed by Mallards; 3 Verona 20 Mar.

N. Goshawk: singles CM & Tully, only reports away from DH.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 pairs RSP, 4 pairs Constantia-Vienna.

Swainson's Hawk: 1 DH 30 Mar (JT, GS).

Rough-legged Hawk: 5 Verona to 11 Mar; last there 27 Mar.

Golden Eagle: 1 ad DH 11 Mar, flying through heavy snowstorm.

Merlin: 1 WPd 20 Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: only 2 reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 HVWMA 16 May, many reports.

Wild Turkey: max 120 DL 9 Mar, widespread Apr-May when 5 years ago rarely noted after snow melted.

Virginia Rail: max 6 UM 18 May.

Sora: max 3 PSS 16 May; also 2 sites West Monroe, UM and T Onondaga.

Com. Moorhen: max 6 West Monroe 9 May; affected by high water of L Ontario and scarce UM.
Am. Coot: 3 Oswego in Mar wintered; arr WPd 27 Mar; max 4 per day.
SANDHILL CRANE: 3 DH 28 Mar; 1 DH 24 Apr; 1 DH 27 Apr; and 2 DH 29 May.
Black-bellied Plover: 1 SPd 30 May.
Semipalmated Plover: singles Fabius 16 May & SPd 29 May.
Killdeer: max 22 DH 26 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Six Mile Creek 20 Apr; last 2 DH 29 Apr, early dep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 Lysander 3 May; last 16 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 West Monroe 9 May; last 18 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 SPd 29 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Remsen 23 Apr; max 5 Stueben 21 May.
Whimbrel: 1 SPd 30 May (GS).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 65 SPd 30 May.
Red Knot: 1 SPd 30 May.
Sanderling: max 110 SPd 30 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 4 SPd 30 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 12 Lysander 17 May; last Verona 25 May.
Dunlin: max 50 Oneil 29 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 14 Oneil 24 May, only report.
Com. Snipe: max 16 Sangerfield 13 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 26 West Monroe 26 Apr, along just 7 miles of road.
LAUGHING GULL: 1 ad OnonL 29 Apr to 5 May (C Spagnoli, mob); 1 ad West Monroe 9 May (MR); possibly the same bird at both sites, the 6th & 7th record for the 90's.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr DH 11 Apr; max 80 LOL 13 Apr.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: 1 2nd year Oswego 27-28 Mar, third spring record of a live bird (GP, JT!).
Caspian Tern: max 140 SPd 29 May.
Com. Tern: max 30 Constantia 6 May.
Black Tern: arr SSSP 11 May; max 5 SSSP 16 May, not encouraging.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 4 Pompey 16 May; widespread after the 16th.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 16 May, earlier than usual; about 12 reports in all.

E. Screech-Owl: reported from Scriba, West Monroe, Kirkland & Schroepfel.
Great Horned Owl: Lafayette nest with young 1 May; nest Kirkland 2 Mar abandoned 29 Mar; New Hartford nest with 2 imm 15 Apr, fledged 5 May.
Snowy Owl: max 3 Fairfield 7 Mar; 2 imm Fairfield 17 Mar; 1 TRWMA 17 Apr, very late (AL).
Barred Owl: reports from HVWMA, Labrador Hollow, Parish, Sangerfield, West Monroe, Whiskey Hollow and New Hartford where 1 young found.
Long-eared Owl: 1 Noyes Sanctuary 16 May.
Short-eared Owl: 1 EIC 22 Mar; 1 DH 11 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Whiskey Hollow 7 Mar; 4 Noyes Sanctuary 27 Mar (BeP).
Com. Nighthawk: max 4 Sangerfield 25 May.
Whip-poor-will: 1 Marcy 7 May, unusual site; max 3 Constantia after 9 May; 1 Schroepfel from 14 May at old site.
Chimney Swift: max 22 New Hartford 12 May.
Belted Kingfisher: max 3 West Monroe 9 May & 10 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: wintering bird FH continued thru season; singles EIC 15 May; Paris 16 May and DH 17 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair Parish thru season, continues expansion on edge of Tug Hill.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 New Hartford 24 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: max 8 CM 20 Apr.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 5 Pratt's Falls 29 May.
N. Flicker: max 40 DH 5 May.
Pileated Woodpecker: nests reported New Hartford, SSSP & West Monroe.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: singles Paris 15 May; DL 18 May; RSP 19 May; Stink Lake 29 May; & New Hartford 30 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 9 Pompey 24 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles Mexico 15 May; RSP & Stink Lake 29 May; New Hartford 30 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: 1 FH 16 May; max 4 Whiskey Hollow 23 May.

Alder Flycatcher: max 5 New Hartford 29 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 7 CM 16 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 6 New Hartford 31 May.
E. Phoebe: max 15 Constantia 9 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10 Constantia 9 May.
E. Kingbird: max 7 Steuben 28 May.
N. Shrike: 6 reported; last Scriba 27 Mar.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Remsen 8 May.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 6 Whiskey Hollow 9 May.
Warbling Vireo: max 13 Constantia 9 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 HVWMA 9 May, only report.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 26 Pratt's Falls 29 May.
Blue Jay: max 2300 DH 20 May.
Fish Crow: 2-4 Liverpool Apr-May; 2 Shop City Syr thru.
Com. Raven: singles DH 8 Mar, 9, 16 Apr; max 6 Penn Mtn 28 May.
Horned Lark: max 23 Fabius 15 Mar; May reports from DL, Pompey, Williamstown.
Purple Martin: max 20 Cleveland 10 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Adks 12 Apr; max 58 CM 16 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 2 North Syr last week of May, unusual site.
Bank Swallow: max 200 OnonL 9 May.
Barn Swallow: max 40 DH 25 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: max 18 Williamstown 13 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 25 Toad Harbor 4 Mar.
Tufted Titmouse: max 6 WH 9 May; and 6 New Hartford 1 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 14 RSP 24 Mar; 4 migrants DH 28 Mar; 1 Syr 29 May, late.
White-breasted Nuthatch: small movement past DH 28-29 Mar.
Brown Creeper: max 6 StMC 8 Apr.
Carolina Wren: pair West Monroe after 3 Apr, only report.
House Wren: max 12 Bolivar 26 May.
Winter Wren: max 4 StMC 4 Apr.
Marsh Wren: max 16 CM 16 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr DH 27 Mar; max 11 both Kirkland and CM 1 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 EIC 21 Apr; last LOL 16 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 6 CM 16 May; nesting UM 28 Apr.
E. Bluebird: max 22 West Monroe 9 May.
Veery: arr Parish 11 April, record early (MS); max 10 West Monroe 27 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: 2 Schiller Park Syr 25 May; 1 Pratt's Falls 29 May, only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: 1 DH 14 May; 4 Syr 25 May; 4 Scriba 26 May, only migrants.
Hermit Thrush: max 17 Constantia 9 May.
Wood Thrush: max 10 Constantia 9 May.
Am. Robin: max 160 DH 26 Mar.
Gray Catbird: 1 West Winfield 3 Mar, survivor of mild winter (KZ); max 59 CM 16 May.
N. Mockingbird: max 3 StMC 28 Mar.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 EIC 2 May.
Am. Pipit: max 80 EIC 3 May; last 2 Williamstown 16 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 450 Kirkland 9 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr New Hartford 8 May; max 6 New Hartford 29 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIC 7 May; max 3 EIC 25 May.
Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid: 1 Brewster's Paris 23 May, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 20 LOL 16 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 15 Rome 20 May.
N. Parula: only 10 reported.
Yellow Warbler: max 74 CM 16 May; nesting UM 18 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: migrants scarce; max 5 several breeding locations.
Magnolia Warbler: migrants only 1-2 per day; max 20 Sangerfield 27 May.
Cape May Warbler: 1 EIC 8 May; 2 EIC 15 May, only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 7 EIC 19 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 240 DH 5 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 10 Constantia 9 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 22 Penn Mtn 29 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 31 Mar, record early; many early Apr reports; max 10 LOL 1 May.
Prairie Warbler: 1 New Hartford 12 May; not found Parish where present 5 of last 6 years.

Palm Warbler: max 16 EIC 11 May; last 19 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 EIC 15 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Nine Mile Point 28 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Whiskey Hollow 9 May with max 8 there 23 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 11 Constantia 9 May.

Am. Redstart: max 19 Constantia 9 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: one New Hartford after 19 May, first spring record since 1988 (MP).

Ovenbird: max 142 Constantia 9 May.

N. Waterthrush: max 23 Constantia 9 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr New Hartford 1 Apr, record early (MP); "rediscovered" in Orwell & Boylston at sites not visited since 80's.

Mourning Warbler: 1 EIC 16 May, only report away from breeding sites; max 12 Penn Mtn 28 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 20 FH 15 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 14 May; max 7 Nine Mile Point 15 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 5 Nine Mile Point 25 May.

Canada Warbler: max 4 West Monroe 27 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 8 Whiskey Hollow 9 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 75 Paris 15 Mar; last DH 22 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: max 60 Nine Mile Point 3 May.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 ad Oswego 16 May (GP); singing male T Onondaga from 25 May (Georgette Guernsey, JB).

Field Sparrow: arr widespread 2 Apr; max 8 LOL 1 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr LOL 4 Apr; max 4 LOL several early April dates.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 EIC 3 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Hastings 5 May; max 20 Dewitt Landfill cap 16 May (AL).

Fox Sparrow: arr DL 23 Mar; max 7 Parish 5 Apr; last Dewitt 26 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 EIC 16 May; last EIC 28 May; 1 Kirkland 15 May, only other site; very scarce.

Swamp Sparrow: arr West Monroe 31 Mar; max 59 CM 25 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: max 25 EIC 1 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1 imm Paris 13 Mar; max 17 Scriba 7 May, low numbers.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 250 Old Forge 4 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 2 Cato 15 Mar, only report.

Snow Bunting: max 500 Kirkland 23 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 CM 16 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 9 Pompey 26 May.

Bobolink: despite mild weather 6 May arr is late and the same as the cold 1997 arr date.

Red-winged Blackbird: large numbers at feeders during early March lake effect snow.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Sullivan 24 Mar; max 18 West Monroe 6 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr CM 1 Apr; max 250 CM 20 Apr; last 9 Bolivar 6 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 45 DH 13 May.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 Kirkland 2 Mar, only report.

Purple Finch: max 10 Rome 23 Apr.

House Finch: continued low numbers regionwide, maxima of 8-10 per day.

Red Crossbill: one RSP 17 Mar; pair at feeder T Vienna 5 May; 20 Fulton 9 May.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 Verona 16 Mar; 1 DH 25 Mar; 30 HVVMA 15 May.

Com. Redpoll: max 50 Cato 23 Mar; 20 DH 20 Apr.

HOARY REDPOLL: 2 Hastings 3 Mar (BP, Ph, NYSARC); 1 Cato 23 Mar (GP!).

Pine Siskin: 4 DH 2 Mar; small numbers at feeders and past DH 28 Mar to 5 May; max 15 Utica 27 Apr; last Rome 20 May.

Am. Goldfinch: max 62 Fulton 9 May.

Evening Grosbeak: at feeders OSWE, ONEI Mar & Apr; return flight DH 20 Apr-5 May; max 250 DH 5 May.

Mary Alice Koeneke, mkoeneke@aol.com 315-342-3402

Bill Purcell, wpurcell@dreamscape.com 315-668-2871

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

Lee B. Chamberlaine

PO Box 139, Henderson NY 13650-0139

The spring of 1998, as usual in the North Country, was a mix of weather conditions. March started out wet, overcast, and foggy with temperatures in the 30s for the first week. On 7 March the temperature was in the 40s and it was sunny, with the next day being sunny in AM and rainy in the PM. A total of 0.69 inches of rain fell in Watertown on the 9th of March, with a sunny afternoon and rain again in the evening. Snow fell on the 11th, and a very cold 12 March had wind chills of -20 degrees. The rest of the month until 20 March saw rain, overcast, fog, and some sleet farther north. On 21 March Watertown received about 12 inches of snow, followed by light snow on the 22nd and 23rd. This would be the last of the snow, and on 28 March Watertown had temperatures in the 50's with the following day, the 29th reaching 70 degrees. This temperature brought out Wood Frogs, Spring Peepers, and Am. Woodcock flights at Barnes Corners on Tug Hill in Lewis County. On the last day of the month it was 82°F at Watertown. The last 80 degree temperature near that date was in 1905 on 30 March. Spring was here! - or was it?

April started out with a low temp of 38° at noon on the 1st and the weather was wet and overcast for much of the month. March had been a teaser and spring would not be as early as the warm temperatures would suggest. May on the other hand was the warmest May on record in northern New York, with an average at Watertown of 60.2°F, about 6° above the normal for that month. On 17 May a record high of 89° at Watertown was recorded. This record high for the month was amazing even though 27 May was 37° at Watertown and 44° next to Lake Ontario at Henderson on 30 May. Although Lake Ontario lake levels were high from the relatively mild winter and early runoff of snow as well as the 1998 ice storm, we were behind in rainfall at the end of the period.

The migration was drawn out, and many species returned record early while others seemed to arrive at about their regular time. Winter visitors departed on about their normal schedule. Visibility of many species was made easier by the lack of and/or loss of tree branches and tree tops from the January 1998 ice storm which ravaged trees in parts of Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. The long-range effects of this storm on nesting birds and feeding habitats is unknown, but suspected to be very significant as many injured trees die over the next 3 to 5 years and ground cover plants such as seedling trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants receive more sunlight.

Indications of a bumper cone crop were noted on White Spruce, Balsam Fir, Red Spruce, Black Spruce, and White Pine. Production of mast and fruit on species of trees and shrubs is expected to very high with the heavy storm damage and the resultant stress on these species from branch loss and ice damage in Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties. Plants under this type of extensive damage

usually produce a bumper crop of seeds to insure the species continues. Perhaps we can look forward to a winter finch year ahead.

Highlights for the season included the following: **Am. White Pelican**; a **Cattle Egret**; increasing **Trumpeter Swans** provenance unknown; poor concentrations of waterfowl; numerous Bald Eagle sightings - adult and immatures; low numbers of Am. Kestrel; a pair of **Sandhill Cranes**; poor shorebird habitat and low reporting rate due to lack of mudflats; low numbers of Spotted Sandpiper - a species which continues declining; very low numbers of Black Tern at Lakeview WMA; increasing Com. Raven locations; very low numbers of spot breasted thrushes; Bohemian Waxwings. And Leone found a good variety of warblers but in lower numbers than last year at Snowshoe Point in the Town of Henderson; Wood found a **Summer Tanager** at Cape Vincent, which, if accepted by NYSARC, would be a new species for Region 6; grassland sparrows were more encouraging and some winter finches obliged by staying around.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, Shelia Cerwonka, Lee Chamberlaine, John Fritz, Bettye Hughes, Nick Leone, Deborah Litwhiler, Robert Long, Gerry Smith, Bob and June Walker, Mary and Brian Wood.

Abbreviations: GrPtSP - Grass Point State Park, Twn of Orleans, JEFF; PiPt - Pillar Point, Twn of Brownville, JEFF; PtPen- Pt Peninsula, Twn of Lyme JEFF; SnPt - Snowshoe Pt, Twn of Henderson, JEFF; SP - State Park; WISP - Wellesley Island State Park, Twn of Alexandria, JEFF; WBSP- Wescott Beach State Park, Twn of Henderson, JEFF.

LOONS - DUCKS

Com. Loon: 1 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May; hard to find on Lake Ontario due to the open water conditions.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Potsdam 29 Mar.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 1 ad Mud L, Twn Depeyster, STLA 31 May, originally reported by NYSDEC Conservation Officer Gary Jackson (NL, NYSARC).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Stony Creek Boat Launch 24 Mar.

Great Blue Heron: 12 arr Sulfur Springs at rookery 28 Mar (fide DL).

CATTLE EGRET: 1 PtPen 1 May (Rich & Jean Barry fide DL).

Green Heron: arr SnPt 5 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Beaver Meadow 23 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: arr Potsdam 28 Mar.

Snow Goose: 80 Henderson 4 Mar; 100 Woodville 19 Mar; 1000+ Woodville 24 Mar.

Mute Swan: numbers at Perch River WMA are still increasing; control of numbers is

very much needed at this time (LC).

TRUMPETER SWAN: 8 Perch River WMA 6 Apr (Irene Mazzochi, NYSDEC fide DL); 6 imm Perch River WMA 19 Apr.

Tundra Swan: 2 in field with Snow Geese Woodville 24 Mar.

Wood Duck: arr 3 on 28 Mar.

N. Shoveler: 19 Perch River WMA 19 Apr.

N. Pintail: 15 Woodville 24 Mar.

Canvasback: 2 GrPt SP 12 Mar; 8 Eel Bay, WISP 4 Apr.

Redhead: max 50 GrPt SP 12 Mar; 30 Eel Bay WISP 4 Apr.

Ring-necked Duck: arr Black Pond at ElDorado Beach 3 Mar (GS); 35 GrPt SP 12 Mar; 3 NY Rt 126 Twn Wilna 4 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 5-6000 Eel Bay WISP 4 Apr (NL).

Oldsquaw: 25 Montario Pt Rd 24 Mar; max 400+ SnPt 31 Mar; last 3 SnPt 15 May.

Com. Goldeneye: 50 Montario Pt Rd 24 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: 20 Stony Creek 24 Mar.

Com. Merganser: 8 Stony Creek 24 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 11 WBSF 31 Mar.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 3 Perch River WMA 6 Apr; 5 Perch River WMA 19 Apr; 1 SnPt 15 May.

Bald Eagle: numerous reports (7) from all parts of the Region, a regular occurring species again.

N. Harrier: 6 PtPen 23 Mar, in reduced numbers.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr GrPt SP 28 Mar; 4 Redwood JEFF 30 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 25 PtPen 23 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: in lower numbers than last year, which was also low.

Gray Partridge: 1 Co Rt 8 TwN Cape Vincent 27 May, only report.

SANDHILL CRANE: 2 flying overhead Lakeview WMA, Pierrepont Place Rd 7 May (GS); becoming a regular in the Region each spring.

Solitary Sandpiper: 1 Potsdam 30 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: 2 Henderson 7 May; this species is in very low numbers compared with 10-15 years ago.

Upland Sandpiper: 1 Potsdam 31 May.

Com. Snipe: 2 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May.

Am. Woodcock: arr Barnes Corners on Tug Hill LEWI 29 Mar (GS).

Bonaparte's Gull: 8 Ray's Bay TwN Henderson 12 Apr.

Ring-billed Gull: 1000+ Ray's Bay feeding on Rainbow Smelt eggs and fish 12 Apr.

Com. Tern: arr Perch River WMA 5 May.

Black Tern: 4 Lakeview WMA 29 May (fide NYSDEC, Irene Mazzocchi); 13 Perch River WMA 5 May; 60+ Perch River WMA 29 May (fide Irene Mazzocchi, NYSDEC), this species continues its decline in the Region.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr SnPt 17 May; 1 Henderson 28 May.

Great Horned Owl: 1 heard calling Henderson 7 May.

Snowy Owl: 1 ad male Merchant Rd and Stoney Pt Rd near Cape Vincent 6, 8 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: 4 Hard Scrabble Rd PtPen 17 Mar; 2 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 Potsdam 20 May, not there in years (SC).

Whip-poor-will: arr Stony Pt Henderson 6 May.

Chimney Swift: arr Potsdam 7 May; numbers in Henderson very low.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Henderson 14 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Cape Vincent 17 May (MW); 2 SnPt 19 May (NL).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 1 Thompson Pk Watertown 7 Apr (Rich & Jean Barry fide DL); 1 Beaver Meadow Watertown 6 May; 1 Cape Vincent village 15, 18 & 22 Apr (MW); 2 birds in Henderson thru.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 Washinton Park County Forest 28 Apr.

N. Flicker: not in normal numbers during the spring migration.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr SnPt 14 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Tug Hill 6 May; 6 SnPt 13 May.

E. Phoebe: 2 GrPt SP 28 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr SnPt 5 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Barnes Corners on Tug Hill LEWI 14 Apr (GS), record early.

N. Shrike: 1 PtPen 8 Mar (David Prosser fide DL); 1 Alder Acres TwN Lorraine 10 Mar.

Blue-headed Vireo: 4 arr SnPt 7 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Tug Hill 6 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr Tug Hill 6 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 arr SnPt 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Tug Hill 6 May.

Gray Jay: 2 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May (JF).

Blue Jay: moving in large numbers along Lake Ontario shore SnPt 14 May.

Com. Raven: 2 Eel Bay WISP 4 Apr; 1 Limerick Cedars 19 Apr; 1 near Diamond TwN Worth Tug Hill 5 May; 1 SnPt 12 May; 1 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).

Purple Martin: arr 3 Mile Pt 13 Apr (JW); 2 SnPt 23 Apr.

Tree Swallow: 3 GrPt SP 28 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr SnPt 30 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Tug Hill 28 Apr; numbers down on Lake Plain.

Tufted Titmouse: 1 Cape Vincent 8 Mar (J. LeTendre fide DL).

Carolina Wren: 1 SnPt 31 Mar, 23 Apr (NL); 1 Cape Vincent 23 Apr, 17 May (MW); 1 Eldorado Beach 4 May (GS).
House Wren: arr SnPt 27 Apr; in high numbers in most areas.
Winter Wren: 1 SnPt 27 Apr; 2 Horace Forward Truck Trail JEFF & LEWI 29 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 10 SnPt 31 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: many Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May (JF).
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: 1 SnPt 5 May (NL).
E. Bluebird: 1 Stony Pt 18 Mar; arr Barnes Corners LEWI 29 Mar; 2 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May; numbers are increasing in the Region, no doubt due to the nestbox program.
Veery: in low numbers on the Lake Ontario Plain Ecozone; **this species is in real trouble and numbers are the lowest I have ever seen (LC).**
Wood Thrush: arr SnPt 5 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Watertown 4 May; numbers low in Henderson; in low numbers on the Lake Plain.
Brown Thrasher: in low numbers in many areas of the Lake Plain.
Bohemian Waxwing: 16 Thompson Pk, Watertown 1 Apr (Rich & Jean Barry fide DL), only report.
Cedar Waxwing: 11 Henderson 1 Apr; 15 Limerick Cedars 19 Apr; increasing thru.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr WBSP 12 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr SnPt 7 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 4 SnPt 13 May; max 12 SnPt 14 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: wintering bird at Richard Brouse feeder in Watertown last seen 22 Mar; arr SnPt 18 May (NL), only sighting for the migration period.
Nashville Warbler: 8 arr SnPt 7 May; 1 Chaumont Barrens 9 May; many Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May (JF).
N. Parula: 3 arr SnPt 7 May; max 10 SnPt 14 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr SnPt 4 May; numbers down in most areas.
Chestnut-side Warbler: arr Tug Hill 6 May; max 8 SnPt 15 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr SnPt 7 May; max 7 SnPt 15 May; in lower numbers.

Cape May Warbler: arr Tug Hill 1 May; 1 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SnPt 6 May; max 7 SnPt 15 May; 6 Horace Forward Truck Trail JEFF & LEWI 29 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Henderson 6 Apr; 25 SnPt 23 Apr; 200+ SnPt 13 May; 300+ SnPt 14 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr SnPt 5 May; max SnPt 21 15 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr SnPt 13 May; max 14 SnPt 19 May.
Pine Warbler: arr SnPt 23 Apr; 5 Jacques Cartier SP, Twn Morristown STLA 4 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr Limerick Cedars 9 May; 2 Chaumont Barrens 9 May.
Palm Warbler: arr SnPt 30 Apr; 6 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May (JF).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SnPt 15 May; 1 Horace Forward Truck Trail JEFF & LEWI 29 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr SnPt 13 May; max 15 SnPt 19 May; 15 Holmes Pt, St. Lawrence River, STLA 23 May.
Cerulean Warbler: trip to Indian River Lakes area mid - May did not yield any sightings - perhaps too early a visit for this species; tree damage very extensive from 1998 ice storm in this area of JEFF.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr SnPt 5 May; max 14 SnPt 15 May; numbers down in all areas.
Am. Redstart: arr SnPt 7 May; max 28 SnPt 18 May.
Ovenbird: arr SnPt 5 May; numbers on Lake Plain down.
N. Waterthrush: arr Twn Ellisburg 28 Apr; 3 Forward Truck Trail JEFF & LEWI 29 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Brown Rd (formerly Winona Rd on older County maps), on Bear Creek, Winona State Forest, Twn Lorraine JEFF 6 May (BH&LC), a new location for this species.
Mourning Warbler: arr SnPt 16 May; 8 Horace Forward Truck Trail JEFF & LEWI 29 May; numbers on Tug Hill increasing, aftermath of 1995 microburst creating habitat.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr SnPt 7 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr SnPt 17 May; max 5 SnPt 20 May.
Canada Warbler: arr SnPt 18 May; very hard to find on breeding grounds.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: 1 a first year bird, Cape Vincent 16 May (MW, NYSARC).
Scarlet Tanager: arr Henderson 7 May; 4 SnPt 13 May; max 60+ SnPt 14 May.
E. Towhee: arr Watertown 30 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).
Field Sparrow: arr PiPt 1 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr PiPt 1 Apr; 6 near Woodville 14 May; 5 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).
Savannah Sparrow: numbers have increased from two years ago.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Smithville Rd Tw n Hounsfie ld 14 May; 5 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).
Henslow's Sparrow: arr early on Dog Hill Rd Tw n Orleans & Bonney Rd Tw n Brownville JEFF 23 Apr; 3 Fort Drum 30 May (mob).
Fox Sparrow: 1 Cape Vincent village 2 Apr (MW).
Song Sparrow: arr GrPt SP 13 Mar; in low numbers thru.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 6 Massawepie Mire STLA 9 May (JF).
Swamp Sparrow: arr WISP 4 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr Henderson 15 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Tug Hill 4 May; arr Henderson 6 May; moved through Region very rapidly.
Dark-eyed Junco: 300+ PiPt 1 Apr; 1000+

seen while driving on Old Erie Canal Rd LEWI 4 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr SnPt 6 May; 20+ SnPt 13 May; 30+ SnPt 14 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr SnPt 13 May.
Bobolink: arr Henderson 6 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: 8 Alder Acres feeder Tw n Lorraine 1 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: 1 Henderson 24 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: 4 SnPt 7 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Henderson 5 May.
House Finch: numbers down from previous years and even last years (LC).
White-winged Crossbill: 1 at feeder Lorraine JEFF 1 Mar (Tom Voss fide DL); 3 at feeder Alder Acres, Tug Hill, Tw n Lorraine 2 May (DL).
Com. Redpoll: 150 Alder Acres Tw n Lorraine 1 Mar; 1 Henderson 3 Apr; 1 Cape Vincent village 13 Apr.
Pine Siskin: 3 Alder Acres Tw n Lorraine 14 Apr; 4 SnPt 14 May.
Evening Grosbeak: pair Cape Vincent village 11 Apr; 5 Carthage area 4 Apr; 1 Chaumont Barrens 9 May; 4 SnPt 12 May.

EXOTICS

Bar-headed Goose: nesting with a Canada Goose on Little Galloo Is in late May (NYSDEC & GS), outcome of nest attempt unknown.

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

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

Even after the Great Ice Storm of '98, there were a few more meteorological surprises. The early season was warm, with Plattsburgh reaching 44° F on 2 March and 53° on 9 March, before dropping abruptly from 49° to 21° with snow on the 10th. Up to 8 inches of wet sugar snow fell on 14 March, but the big storm came on 21-22 March with the arrival of Spring. Ellenburg Depot got 18 inches, Malone a foot, and Keene Valley 10 inches. In a swift turnaround, a southerly warm flow pushed Plattsburgh to 51° just four days later, 65° the day after, 80° on 30 March with 1.5 inches of rain along the Quebec border, and 84° on the last day of the month. Then a cold front moved down, dropping temperatures 40 degrees in an hour and down to 36° by 11 p.m. The quick thaw led to massive flooding along the Great Chazy, Salmon, Saranac, Schroon, and Trout rivers, and by month's end Lake Champlain was at 100.22 feet and rising. March snowfall was 21.5 inches, 9 inches above normal, and rainfall was 3.61 inches, an inch and a half above average.

April Fool's Day brought another 0.5 inch of rain, and we saw the lake rise 3 feet in a week, to over the 100-ft. mark. Champlain finally crested at 101.82 ft. on 5 April, just inches below the all-time record of 101.89 set 23 April 1993. Except for late showers 16 April, the rest of the month was sunny and warm, and the lengthy drought allowed the lake to fall back below 100 ft. by month's end. April sunshine was 61% (49% is normal) and the temperature was 2° milder than usual.

Badly needed rain finally arrived 2-5 May, bringing an early rush of foliage. The Crown Point banding station opened 8 May to a rainy weekend, but then the sun came out for three weeks. With a full moon 11 May, this also meant three weeks of moon and stars for night migrants. Rain only returned with severe thunderstorms 31 May that set the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and other dry forests ablaze, the first time Forest Ranger Gary Lee remembers lightning starting fires in May.

Gordon Howard, veteran of a dozen seasons at the Crown Point banding station, termed this "an aberrant year." Bob Hagar, witness to 40 or more spring migrations in Saranac Lake, added: "I get the same comments from local birders and feeder-watchers and acquaintances ... 'Where are the birds this spring?' I concur - my feeder and yard observations have hit an all-time low. El Niño? Mexican fires and smoke over the Gulf? Any ideas?" Foliage and insects were two weeks ahead of normal, while migration lagged by as much as two weeks - an unprecedented spread of 3-4 weeks.

The bird-banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site, now in its 23rd year, was in operation for 18 days, from 8-25 May. A total of just 228 birds of

41 species was banded and released. Virtually the same effort saw 1,706 individuals of 70 species banded in 1996 (admittedly, a record spring) and 1,239 birds of 62 species in the "late" spring of '97.

Where were the birds? Of the early migrants, Geoffrey Carleton has seen Black-and-white Warbler in Essex Co. as early as 22 April (1976), yet Crown Point visitor Keith Murphy reported seeing some still in the Dominican Republic 15 April this year, and Bill Krueger saw the first here on 1 May. Among the later migrants, we only saw and heard single Blackpoll Warblers 22 and 25 May at Crown Point and banded none. Perhaps because, as bander Bob Wei later reported, the waves of Blackpolls had only reached Central Park by 31 May, a week after we folded the nets. Aberrant indeed. If the Essex Co. late date for transient Blackpolls, set by Jeff Carleton at Elizabethtown on 4 June 1926, is ever to be challenged, this may be the year.

We did manage to band some fine birds, though. Since 1976, we'd banded a total of 28 "Western" Palm Warblers [nominat *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*] at Crown Point. We never expected to band the earlier "Yellow" Palm Warbler [*D. palmarum hypochrysea*] that moves through in April and had never been seen later than 4 May in the county. A bonus of the late passage was our first "Yellow" Palm, banded **11 May!** Susan Peterson radioed back that the wing nets to the north were full on 18 May, and one of the birds was a female **Blue-winged Warbler**, a species, banded only once before, back on 9 May 1981, when an unbanded bird was also seen and heard the next day. The same productive wing net yielded Pat Thaxton a subadult male Orchard Oriole on 10 May, and one sang near the picnic pavilion 13-16 May. This was only the fourth Orchard Oriole banded. Our eighth-ever Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was banded 9 May.

Other noteworthy species seen or heard (but not banded) include Blackbilled Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, and a transient Red-breasted Nuthatch added to the Historic Site checklist on 19 May. There were 28 returns of seven species banded at Crown Point in past years, the oldest a Gray Catbird now six years, 11 months old.

Regionally, a total of 206 species was reported, down from last spring's record 219. In spite of the generally late arrivals, some species took advantage of the mild spring: Killdeer at Westport 1 March was record early for Essex County. Both common species and birds less frequently reported here put on some strong showings. There were seven sightings of Fox Sparrow, many more than usual, between 29 March-21 April. Dark-eyed Juncos invaded about the same time, returning to Speculator 28 March, where Paul Kelly tallied 1,000+ on 4 April, speculating, "I would not be surprised to learn that as many as 100,000 or more were around."

In addition to the Blue-winged Warbler banded at Crown Point, there were several other Regional rarities. Hal Klein spotted a **Great Cormorant** at Point

au Roche. Bill Krueger located an adult **Ross's Goose** along the Lake Shore Road in Clinton County. Mark Gretch heard a **Cerulean Warbler** in Elizabethtown. And John and Pat Thaxton picked out an immature male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** amidst large, mixed blackbird flocks in Westport. All in all, a most interesting spring, but one we're not eager to repeat anytime soon.

Contributors: John Askildsen, Ethel & Tom Baker, Thomas Barber, Kathy Bedore, Gail Benson, Marvin Bissell, Helen & Robert Booth, Bill Brown, Mary Buehler, Paul Buehler, Tom Burke, Sharon Cheney, Ralph Clark, Jessica Darney, Charlcie Delehanty, Janet Downs, Thomas Dudones, Greg Duquette, Bill Frenette, Joseph Gentles, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Judy & Roger Heintz, Paul Kelly, Gail Kemp, John Kopp, Bill Krueger, Fuat Latif, William Lenhart, Gary & Karen Lee, Richard MacDonald, Lisa MacDougal, Theodore Mack, George Mayfield, Matt Medler, Charles Mitchell, Edith Mitchell, Carl Nigh, Emile Novello, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, John & Susan Peterson, Nancy Pierce, Gerald Putnam, Atea Ring, David Roos, Jr., Nina & William Schoch, Dorothy Schroeder, Mike Sheridan, George Sipes, Lee Smith, Dean Spaulding, John & Patricia Thaxton, Mary Thill, Robert Wei, Ken Williams, Gary Worthington.

Abbreviations: AP - Ausable Point WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Point State Historic Site; CR - between the Chazy & Little Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; MRRA - Moose River Recreational Area; PtR - Point au Roche SP; SL - Saranac Lake; SPB - Spring Pond Bog; TL - Tupper Lake; WRS - Webb Royce Swamp.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr SL 29 Mar (TD), early FRAN.
Pied-bill Grebe: arr AP 28 Mar (J&RH); five reports.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 arr Westport 20 Apr (TB,JP), only report.
GREAT CORMORANT: PtR 30 May (HK), 2nd CLIN record.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 28 Mar (J&PT), early CLIN by 6 days; Port Henry 4 Apr (RM,JP), early ESSE by a day; 3 Raquette L 15 May (GL) and Rock Pd, FRAN, 30 May (MM, RM, DR), both unusual inland sightings.
Great Blue Heron: 2 nests Lake Pleasant 21 Apr (PK).
Great Egret: Wells 21-22 May (PK), 2nd HAMI record.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Willsboro Bay 24 May (MM).

Turkey Vulture: arr 6 Wells 25 Mar (PK); Essex & L Flower 27 Mar; PtR 28 Mar; Elizabethtown & Keene Valley 30 Mar, all early; max 20 CP 4 Apr.
Snow Goose: arr 2 flocks L Eaton 25 Mar (GL); est 4 -5,000 over BB 28 Mar (TD), included a few "Blues"; 1000's CR same day (J&PT); 35 TL Marsh 14 Apr; 15 TL park 16 Apr (CD); lingered Cumberland Bay to 24-26 May (NO).
ROSS'S GOOSE: ad Lake Shore Rd, CLIN, 27 Mar (BK). Brant: 50+ CH 17 May (BK), only report.
Gadwall: CR 6 Apr (BK), a good find.
Am. Wigeon: pr WRS 28 Mar (MG); CR 6 Apr (BK), locally rare.
N. Shoveler: arr CR 2 Apr (BK); TL 27 May (CD), an excellent find.
Green-winged Teal: 5 arr WRS 28 Mar (MG).
Ring-necked Duck: arr AP 5 Mar (BK, CM), early CLIN by 5 days; max 75 TL

31 Mar (CD); pr CP and 3 WRS 4 Apr; 10 AP 26 Apr; MRRRA & Muskrat Pd 17 May (GL).

Greater Scaup: 20 AP 28 Mar (J&PT), only report.

Lesser Scaup: 6 Westport 4 Apr (RM,JP), only report.

Hooded Merganser: 5 Essex 1 Mar, where present from 14 Feb; 4 other reports.

Ruddy Duck: pr beaver pd Rts. 9N-73 Keene 2 Apr (PB,RM), 5th ESSE record.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: arr WRS 28 Mar; one nest there 25 Apr (MG); AP 30 Mar (H&RB). **Bald Eagle:** max 12 (4 ad, 8 imm) Westport 13 Mar (JP,PT); new nest Cedar R Mar-Apr (GL); 2 working on Great Blue Heron nest Lake Pleasant 19-20 Apr, but abandoned with herons' return (PK); 2 ads attacked by pr of small falcons on the wing Forest Home Rd, SL (KW); reports of at least 6 others.

Rough-legged Hawk: last 4 Essex 27 Mar (J&PT).

Golden Eagle: ad TL 4 Mar (TD), feeding on deer carcass on ice.

Merlin: pr nesting Moody Pd, ESSE, 23 Apr thru (RH); pr at nest Lower Saranac L 26 Apr thru (WK); Blue Mountain Lake 25 May (JA,GB,TB), a good start for the breeding season.

Peregrine Falcon: arr pr Wilmington Notch 28 Mar (TD); pr CP Bridge early May (JK,GP), but not seen thereafter.

Wild Turkey: max 20 Lake Pleasant yard as snow began to melt (PK); henon 13 eggs Cedar R Rd 18 May (GL); four other reports.

Killdeer: arr Westport 1 Mar (AR), early ESSE; North Farm Rd 8 Mar (BK,CM), early CLIN by 2 days.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Riley Brook 16 Apr (BK), early CLIN by 4 days.

Upland Sandpiper: SLHS 2 May (TD, RH), highly unexpected; 2 CLIN 18 May (BK, CM).

Ruddy Turnstone: 7 CR 24 May (CM), only report. **Least Sandpiper:** 6 TL 25 May (JA,GB,TB), unusual inland. **Dunlin:** 4 CR 30 May (CM), a good find.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 30+ CR 18 May (BK,CM), identified by call & plumage.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 TL park 18 Apr (TD), a good interior gull.

Ring-billed Gull: 13,583 nests Island "C" Four Brothers 16 May (RM), down nearly 10% from 15,033 last year. **Herring Gull:** 141 nests Four Brothers 16 May (RM).

Great Black-backed Gull: 4 nests Four Brothers 16 May (RM), census results to Great Lakes Region Colonial Waterbird Survey.

Black Tern: TL Marsh 25 May (JA,GB,TB), first in many years at this historic nesting area.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: CP 13-18 May; 2 there 17 May (TB,J&SP,RW).

E. Screech-Owl: CP 8-23 May (JP,DS,JT), locally rare.

Snowy Owl: killed tom Wild Turkey

Limekiln Rd 21 Mar (G&KL).

Barred Owl: on dead Wild Turkey Limekiln Rd 23 Mar (GL); rehab banded Ray Brook Feb retrapped Federal prison there 27 Mar (NS). **Long-eared Owl:** calling Upper Jay 18 Mar (RM).

N. Saw-whet Owl: tooting Elizabethtown 14 Mar (JP); CP 21-23 May (JP,DS); SPB 25 May (JA,GB,TB).

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 Wells 2 May (PK); CP 19-24 May (JP,DS). **Whip-poor-will:** arr Moriah 7 May (TB); Westport 19 May (AR); Willsboro 23-24 May (MM), always good to hear.

Red-headed Woodpecker: L Alice 15 May (GD), an excellent find.

Three-toed Woodpecker: 3 Old Mr. Van Trail, Adirondak Loj 11 Apr (MB,RM).

Black-backed Woodpecker: headwaters Red R 4 Mar (GL); at 1,700 ft Rand Hill, Dannemora 24 Mar (GK,NO); Bug L trail 1 Apr (GL); SPB 2 May (RM,SO); FB 9 May (WL).

FLYCATCHERS-PIPITS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: on territory Helldriver Pd and SPB 30 May.

N. Shrike: WRS 8 Mar; singing Upper Jay 30 Mar, last reports.

Gray Jay: BB, FB, SPB May (m.obs.), where expected.

Com. Raven: CH 7 Mar (BK), unusual; probably nesting CP May, unusual.

Bank Swallow: new colony SL village sand & gravel operation Pine Ridge esker.

Boreal Chickadee: FB & MRRA.

Tufted Titmouse: pr wintered Elizabethtown to 4 Apr; Plattsburgh Apr-May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: transient CP 19 May (GL,JP), first for site.

Carolina Wren: confirmed nesting City Beach, Plattsburgh 8-15 May (CM); Scomotion Cr 11 May (J&RH).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: male banded 9 May (GH,JP), pair seen. Gray Catbird: banded CP 14 May 93 (JP), found dead Baltimore, MD, 3 May 98 (GS), aged 5 yrs, 11 mos.

N. Mockingbird: 3 Plattsburgh reports May-15-17.

Am. Pipit: arr 35 Plattsburgh 13 Mar; 20 Plattsburgh 24 Mar (CM); 2 SL 29 Mar (TD).

Bohemian Waxwing: 8 Westport 13 Mar (JP,J&PT); also Ticonderoga Mar (DC).

Cedar Waxwing: 155 Westport 13 Mar (JP,J&PT), continued most numerous waxwing.

WARBLERS

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: female banded CP 18 May (GH,J&SP), last recorded 1981.

Tennessee Warbler: 2 singing males SPB 30 May (MM,RM,DR).

Cape May Warbler: singing male SPB 30 May (MM,RM,DR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Peru 22 Mar (JD); only 29 banded CP.

Pine Warbler: arr Speculator 16 Apr (PK), early HAMI record.

"Yellow" Palm Warbler: singing SPB 2 May (FL,TM), on territory; late migrant banded CP 11 May (GH,JP,J&PT), late ESSE by a week; max 4 singing males SPB 30 May (MM,RM,DR).

CERULEAN WARBLER: singing male Elizabethtown 30 May (MG), heard only.

Am. Redstart: 2nd yr male CP giving single-pitch zweet-zweet-zweetsong, responded vigorously to Borror & Gunn "Warbler" tape of Prothonotary Warbler song; ad redstart singing standard alternating songs nearby!

Louisiana Waterthrush: singing male Moriah 21 Apr (TB), early ESSE; present thru 8 May (TB, RM).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

E. Towhee: Peru to 6 Apr (JD), overwintered from 27 Nov 97.

Savannah Sparrow: SPB 30 May (MM,RM,DR), on bog.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 12 former Plattsburgh AFB 17 May (BK,CM,GW).

Fox Sparrow: arr Keene 29 Mar, also Elizabethtown, Inlet, SL, Speculator, TL, and Upper Jay, a strong showing.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Clinton CC 7 Apr (J&RH), early CLIN by 4 days.

Swamp Sparrow: arr AP 28 Mar (J&PT), early CLIN.

Dark-eyed Junco: arr Speculator 28 Mar; 1,000+ there 4 Apr, many other reports of flocks numbering 50-75.

Snow Bunting: alternate plumage CH 25 Mar (BK); earlier reports of basic birds from Lake Pleasant, Wadhams, and Westport.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: imm male Westport 11 Mar (J&PT), with large mixed blackbird flocks.

Orchard Oriole: subad male banded CP 10 May (JP,J&PT); singing subad male CP 13-16 May (JP).

Pine Grosbeak: 6 BB 7 Mar (MB,RM,N&WS); last Bloomingdale 28 Mar (TD).

Purple Finch: singing Keene 29 Mar; Speculator 30 Mar; 3 ad males Elizabethtown 1 Apr, increasingly common thereafter.

House Finch: Elizabethtown Apr; Speculator 2 May.

Red Crossbill: 3 SPB 2 May; 1 SPB 25 May, only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Plattsburgh 1-8 Mar; few Baxter Mt 27 Mar; 10 flying over SLHS 23 May, only reports in wake of winter invasion.

Com. Redpoll: orange cap Plattsburgh Mar (RC); Keene 30 Mar; max 30 TL 1 Apr; last Elizabethtown 13 & 20 Apr.

Hoary Redpoll: Plattsburgh 12 Mar (RC); banded Upper Jay 4 Apr (RM).

Pine Siskin: banded Newland, NC, 16 Feb 98 (GM) netted & released Elizabethtown 17 Apr (JP); 104 banded Elizabethtown 5

Apr-7 May, where in breeding condition by mid-Apr.

Am. Goldfinch: numbers increased Apr, but only 36 banded CP (376 in '97).

Evening Grosbeak: max 50 TL 12 Mar; many breeding prs feeders from Apr onward.

House Sparrow: 1 Lake Pleasant 10 Mar (PK), a good find: nesting Westport 23 Mar (JP).

Double-crested Cormorant: banded as nestling Four Brothers 23 Jun 96(JP) found dead St. Johns R, FL, 11 Feb 98 (CN), 2nd Florida recovery.

Snow Goose: Chazy 27 Feb 98 (H&RB), early CLIN by 8 days.

Parasitic Jaeger: Indian L, HAMI, 28 Sep 97 (LS), 2nd county record; Eaton cites a record of 22 Aug 1886.

ADDENDA

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Ave, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-2533

Spring 1998 was one of the warmest in many years. As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 38.4° F, 4.1° above normal, with 37% sunshine. The last week of the month was exceptionally warm, with an all-time record high of 89° on the 31st. The 2.88 inches of precipitation was slightly below normal, with only 6.3 inches of snow. April's temperatures averaged 48.8° F, 2.4° above normal, with 46% sunshine. There was a slightly above-normal 3.49 inches of precipitation. May was very warm and wet, averaging 62.8° F, 5.2° above normal, with 53% sunshine. Rainfall totaled 5.87 inches, 2.46 inches above normal.

The migration seemed to be both early and late. Waterfowl moved through quickly and early breeders arrived generally earlier than usual. Rainy weather in the mid-Atlantic states during the first half of May slowed migration; excellent weather during the second half allowed migrants to slip through relatively unnoticed. Early leaf-out made it difficult to spot birds in the shrubs and trees. Peak migration days were 28 March, 30 April, and 15-16 May. There were a number of very early migrants, with Virginia Rail heard at Black Creek Marsh on 25 March, Barn Swallow in Hillsdale on 28 March, House Wren in southern Rensselaer Co. on 30 March, Brown Thrasher at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center on 4 April, Blue-Headed Vireo at Chestertown on 11 April, and Veery at Carter Pond on 18 April. Early nesting American Robins, European Starlings, and Common Grackles produced some possible record early fledging dates. Walter Ellison observed a fledged juvenile American Robin on Meadowdale Road, Albany Co., on 14 May, 11 days earlier than the earliest dates listed in Bull and the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Two **Black Vultures** were spotted by Larry Federman near Exit 21 of the Thruway on 27 April, a probable first record for Greene Co. The northward spread of this species is becoming increasingly evident. Pete Nye reported that 5 pairs of Bald Eagles were nesting in the Region. Peregrine Falcon nested on the Dunn Memorial Bridge between Albany and Rensselaer, successfully fledging 1 chick. This is the first post-DDT-era nesting record for this species in the Capital Region. There was little shorebird habitat due to continued high water levels. Reports were mainly from the Stillwater Flats, sandbars on the Mohawk River, and the Schodack Marshes, with 16 species observed. Winter finch reports continued through the period, with Common Redpolls still being reported in early May.

Regional observers reported a total of 220 species. Included were 26 waterfowl, 13 hawks, 5 owls, 29 warblers, and 12 sparrows. Rarities sighted during the period included **Black Vulture**, Greater White-fronted Goose,

Golden Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, Bohemian Waxwing, Hooded Warbler, **Harris's Sparrow**, and **Blue Grosbeak**.

Contributors: Ken Able; Elliott Adams; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC); Kate Beale; Bob Boehm; Robert Budliger; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Craig Fosdick; 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; Craig Thompson; Alison Van Keuren; Chris Winters; Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; BS - Bear Swamp, ALBA; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CP - Carter Pond, WASH; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; GI - Green Island, ALBA; HPR - W. M. Holt Preserve, T New Scotland, ALBA; HR - Hudson River; JL - Jenny Lake, SARA; L7 - Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7, SCHE; 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; SCA - Schenectady County Airport; SI - Simmons Island, Cohoes, ALBA; SkW - Skidmore Woods, SARA; SL - Saratoga Lake, SARA; SNHP - Saratoga National Historical Park, 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-DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr 1 SL 5 Apr; max 45 Sacandaga Res 20 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 1 Copake 23 Mar.
Horned Grebe: arr 3 CL 27 Mar; max 9 SL 8 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 Niska Isle 6 Mar; max 10 NB 3 May.
Great Cormorant: one Coxsackie 27 May (C. Lamere to BEN); NYSARC requested.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 1 SI 28 Mar; max 14 Lock 4 Stillwater 25 Apr.
Am. Bittern: max 5 BCM 16 May; also reported from Glenville, FtE, Hague, TRd, VF.
Least Bittern: 1 calling BCM 5 May (BBo); also 16, 28 May; 1 COLU 16 May; 1 CP 20 May (JS).
Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported from Bemis Heights (21 nests 18 Apr), T Ballston (32 nests w 19 ad, 29 y 25 May).

Great Egret: 1 Cohoes ALBA 7 May (WL to BEN); 1 CL 18 May (RP), unusual in spring.

Green Heron: 8 reports; max 6 NAMC MONT.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 CL 20 Apr; 1 VF 8 May; 1 WR 19 Apr; 1 S. Rensselaer 20 May.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 exit 21 Thruway 27 Apr (L. Federman to BEN); NYSARC requested.

Turkey Vulture: max 48 MONT 9 May.

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 T Easton WASH 4 Mar (B. Corbett); 3 FtM 3 Mar (F. Murphy/G. Goodness to BEN).

Snow Goose: arr 200 FtM 11 Mar; up to 1000 FtM 20-28 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 3000+ FtM 7 Mar.

Brant: 1 CL 1 Mar-12 May; 2 in flight over Berne 18 May.

Mute Swan: 1 StP thru; 4 Catskill 7 Mar; 3 PISP 9 May.

Wood Duck: 11 Stockport Sta 6, 15 Mar; max 18 NRP 28 Mar; reported in good numbers.

Gadwall: arr 2 VF 4 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: arr 6 Alcove Res 2 Mar; last 1 VF 5 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: max 10 VF 5 Apr.

N. Shoveler: 1 pr NR 12 Apr, only report.

N. Pintail: 3 Bemis Heights 8 Mar; 5 VF 28 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 7 VF 28 Mar; 36 Guilderland 5 Apr.

Canvasback: 1000 Cementon GREE 7 Mar (WE, NM).

Ring-necked Duck: arr HR CRt 113 WASH 4 Mar; max 100 TR 21 Mar; 50 still present BCR 3 May.

Greater Scaup: arr MR Colonie/Half Moon 28 Mar; max & last 100 SL 9 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: arr 1 NB 7 Mar; 1 FtM 20 Mar; 2 Round L 25 Apr, only reports.

Surf Scoter: 1 LG 15, 16 Mar; 6 BCR 3 May; 2 SL 16 May.

White-winged Scoter: 7 Alcove Res 16 May; 4 SL 16 May.

Bufflehead: arr 1 FtM 1 Mar; last SL 16 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 73 HR FtM 20 Mar; not reported after 9 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: arr pr FR 1 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 53 L7 1 Mar; 40 T Moreau 6 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 SL 18 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: one Copake 23 Mar, Livingston 28 Mar; 3 BCR 9 May, unusual in spring.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 15 Apr, 9 May reports of singles; 5 observed in migration ALBA 18 May.

Bald Eagle: 19 Mar reports, 10 ad, 5 imm, 4 unspecified; 1 April report, unspecified; 17 May reports, 4 ad, 4 imm, 9 unspecified; nesting: 1 pr ALBA; 1 pr COLU; 1 pr GREE; 2 pr SCHO (pers comm - P. Nye).

N. Harrier: max 7 FtE 12 Mar; 19 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 25 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: 11 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: pr in courtship TP 8 Mar (KA); 1 Gallupville 2 Apr (KB, Bbo); 1 Ghent 11 May (ADBC).

Red-shouldered Hawk: 9 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr one NB 16 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: 11 SBR 19 Mar; 14 migrating over NRP 28 Mar; 17 MONT 9 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Jefferson 6 Mar; 2 FtE 27 Mar.

Golden Eagle: 1 imm Gallupville 24 Mar (KB, BBo); 1 subad migrating over SNHP 15 Mar (CF).

Am. Kestrel: max 8 FtE 4 Apr; 13 MONT 9 May; nesting Amsterdam 10 Apr - nest box w. 5 eggs 20 May.

Merlin: no reports.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 FtE 7, 16 Mar; 1 NB 7 Mar; 1 Roger's Rock Mt 14 May; 1 VF 23 May; 1 Schenectady 31 May; pr. nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany.

Ruffed Grouse: first drumming SNHP 31 Mar.

Wild Turkey: max 68 Guilderland 15 Mar; 65 FtE 8 Apr, continuing good numbers.

Virginia Rail: max 5 BCM 3, 14, 16 May; up to 6+ CP 23 May.

Sora: pr Putnam Sta WASH 26 May; 1 BCM 27 May, only reports.

Com. Moorhen: 2 VF 12 May; 6-8 BCM 18 May; 8 CP 23 May.

Am. Coot: 1 Livingston 27 Mar; 1 BCR 9, 16 May.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 MR Half Moon 16 May.

Semipalmated Plover: max 22 MR Half Moon 16 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: only 3 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: only 2 reports of singles.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 3 VF 13 May; 12 reports of singles.

Spotted Sandpiper: only 4 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 SCA 27 Apr; 1 Amsterdam 3 May; 1 SNHP 7 May; 1 Cary Rd FtE 16 May; last SCA 16 May; 1 Downmont Rd FtE 26 May; 4 CRt 42 FtE 29 May.

Least Sandpiper: 15+ MR Half Moon 16 May; 6 BCR 16 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 Schodack Marshes 16 May (WL).

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 StFl 16 May.

Dunlin: 1 MR Half Moon 16, 18 May.

dowitcher sp.: 6 Blenheim SCHO 24 May (AM).

Com. Snipe: max 4 Meadowdale 16 Mar; 5 Gansevoort 2 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr 5 R 2 Mar; max 4 Meadowdale 16 May; numbers up from last year.

Laughing Gull: 2 MR Colonie 16 May (WL).

Bonaparte's Gull: no reports.

Iceland Gull: 1 Albany 3 Mar; 1 NR 14 Mar.

Caspian Tern: 1 CL 15 May (RP).

Com. Tern: 1 SL 14 May, only report.

Forster's Tern: 1 Niskayuna 21 May (RG to BEN).

Black Tern: 1 BCR 10 May; 4 SL 18 May; only reports.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 3 reports of singles; 3 SNHP 15 May; 4 BCM 16 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Claverack 3 May; 1 CISP 25 May; 1 Gallupville 26 May; 1 Mill Creek 29 May, only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 on nest FR 10 Mar; 1 road kill Amsterdam 14 Mar; 2 Tygert Marsh 18 May; 1 Stuyvesant 28 May; no other reports.

Great Horned Owl: 9 reports; 1 ad 2 yg in nest SL 28 Apr; nest at FR discovered 2 Mar-1 y fledged 13 May; nesting pr Gallupville fledged 2 y 17 May.

Barred Owl: 8 reports of singles.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Kinderhook 15, 17 May (A. Long to AD BC); 1 Claverack 16 May (AD BC).

Short-eared Owl: 1 FtE 16 Mar, only report.

Com. Nighthawk: 1 Hillsdale 17 May; 1 Saratoga 19 May; 1 Schenectady 20 May; 15 Stuyvesant 24 May.

Whip-poor-will: 2 Stanton Rd. Coeymans 15 May; 2 CSR 16 May; 1 Hague 14, 15 May; present Gulf Hill Rd. T Alcove (*fide* CT).

Chimney Swift: max 12 NAMC MONT.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 4 banded JL 16-31 May, incl 2 returns, one from 1995 (RY).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 18 reports; max 5 CISP 8 Mar.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several Rensselaer Plateau 12 May; max 3 TRd 16 May; 21 reports of singles.

Downy Woodpecker: max 18 NRP 28 Mar. **N. Flicker:** max 8 SUNYA 30 Apr; 22 NAMC MONT.

Pileated Woodpecker: 24 reports of singles; max 5 NRP 20 Apr; 1 at nest NRP 23 May.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: one BS 16 May (WL), only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: 18 reports of singles; max 10 SkW 27 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Schodack Ctr. 25 May (PC); 2 SUNYA 25 May (WE).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: 1 Mill Creek 29 May (BC).

Alder Flycatcher: only 3 reports of singles.

Willow Flycatcher: 8 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: max 4 BCM 14 May.

E. Phoebe: max 5 SNHP 31 Mar, 12 16 May; 23 reports of singles.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 SNHP 16 May; 23 reports of singles.

E. Kingbird: 16 reports of singles; max 11 MONT 9 May.

N. Shrike: 1 Gansevoort 26 Mar (BP), only report.

Blue-headed Vireo: 21 reports of singles 11 Apr - 21 May; max 4 SUNYA 30 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 23 reports of singles; max 3 BCM 16 May.

Warbling Vireo: 23 reports of singles; max 15 CISP 25 May, Guilderland 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 9 SkW 27 May.

Fish Crow: 15 reports; max 4 MR Cohoes/Crescent Dam area 16 May; poss. nesting SUNYA (WE).

Com. Raven: reported throughout Region; nesting TP, juvs heard 15 May.

Horned Lark: max 15 FtE 25 Mar; 4 Saratoga Cty Airport 3, 16 May, incl displaying m; 8 Waterford 23 May.

Purple Martin: at least 7 prs SL 1 May.

Tree Swallow: high counts 400 Round L & 300 Lock 4 Stillwater 25 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 40-50 FR 28 Apr.

Bank Swallow: no colonies reported.

Cliff Swallow: low numbers.

Barn Swallow: max 45 MONT 9 May.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 28 PB 26 Apr; 89 banded JL 1 Mar-31 May (RY), predominately ad.
Tufted Titmouse: max 15 PB 26 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 4 NRP 15 Mar; 8 MONT 9 May.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 7 NRP 15 Mar; 7 SUNYA 6 May.
Brown Creeper: first singing SNHP 7 Mar; 3 BCM 14 May.
Carolina Wren: 7 reports of singles.
House Wren: 1 Delmar 14 Apr, early; max 12 SNHP 6 May.
Winter Wren: 11 Apr reports; 1 Rensselaer Plateau 12 May; 2 Lishakill 3 May; 3 TP 15 May.
Marsh Wren: max 6 BCM 14 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Warrensburg 5 Apr; 14 Meadowdale 5 Apr; 1 territorial TP 16 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last one COLU 16 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 7 BCM 3 May.
Veery: max 15 CISP 25 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 SUNYA 28 May (WE).
Swainson's Thrush: 3 reports of singles; nocturnal migrants heard over Berne 18 May, Schodack Ctr RENS 30 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 4 SNHP 13 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 16 CISP 25 May; 7 SkW 27 May.
Am. Robin: fledged juv Meadowdale Rd 14 May (WE), 11 days earlier than early dates in Bull & Atlas.
Gray Catbird: max 20 Guilderland 14 May; 33 MONT 9 May.
N. Mockingbird: 9 reports of singles.
Brown Thrasher: 12 reports of singles; max 3 SNHP 15 May; 3 FtE 25 May.
European Starling: fledglings Schenectady 23 May, early.
Am. Pipit: 1 Amsterdam 6 Apr, 3 May; 7⁺ C Rt 68 SARA 24 Mar.
Cedar Waxwing: max 75 SUNYA 10 Apr; 200+ Salem 8 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Livingston 5 May; max 25 singing males SNHP 11 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Ann Lee Pd. 13 May (G. Colburn to BEN); 1 Valatie 29 May (CW).

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: 1 T Rotterdam 7 May (P Feinberg to BEN); 1 SNHP 16 May (BP).

Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 Salem 8 May; 1 Gallupville 26 May; 1 SNHP 22 May.

Tennessee Warbler: only 2 reports.

Nashville Warbler: 10 reports 3 -16 May. N. Parula: 8 reports 8 -16 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 31 CISP 25 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 17 reports 15 -30 May.

Cape May Warbler: 1 Gallupville 15 May; 1 HPR 18 May, only reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 19 reports 30 Apr-18 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 35 SUNYA 30 Apr; last 1 TP 18 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 18 reports 30 Apr-18 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: 11 reports 30 Apr-23 May; max 3 TP 15 May.

Pine Warbler: 18 reports of singles; max 2 PB 25 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr. Gallupville 30 Apr; 7 reports; max 8 SNHP 15 May.

Palm Warbler: 7 reports 1-30 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 4 reports 16-24 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: 13 reports 16-24 May.

Cerulean Warbler: 15 CISP 25 May (RG), only report.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 HPR 9 May.

Am. Redstart: 18 reports 3-30 May; max 27 CISP 25 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 BCM 16 May; 1 HPR 17-18 May; no reports from usual location on Blossom Hill Rd.

Ovenbird: max 11 SNHP 25 May; 28 MONT 9 May.

N. Waterthrush: max 13 MONT 9 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr. Indian Kill 6 Apr; max 3 Vly Creek 12 Apr 18.

Mourning Warbler: no reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 16 SNHP 22 May.

Hooded Warbler: 1 HPR 17 May (WE, NM); 1 Valatie 25 May (CW).

Wilson's Warbler: 1 Greenport 16 May; 1 BCM 16 May; 1 Amsterdam 20 May; 1 FR 24 May, only reports.

Canada Warbler: 6 reports 15-28 May; max 4 Bear Swamp 28 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Greenport 24 Apr (ADBC).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: 22 reports of singles; 2 Guilderland 14 May; 4 TP 15 May; 3 singing m SkW 27 May.
E. Towhee: max 12 Guilderland 14 May; 12 SNHP 25 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 14 Ramshorn Creek Preserve 7 Mar; last 1 Amsterdam 12 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr 1 Austerlitz 27 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: 4 Saratoga Cty Airport 3, 16, 18 May; 1 COLU 16 May.
Savannah Sparrow: max 11 MONT 9 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 SNHP 6, 16 May; 1 Altamont 18 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 2 SNHP 6 May, did not remain; 1 Cary Rd FtE 16 May; 2 Dowmont Rd FtE 24 May.
Fox Sparrow: max 4 Gallupville 1st wk Apr; last Saratoga 16 May, very late.
Song Sparrow: arr Amsterdam 17 Mar; max 48 NRP 28 Mar.
Swamp Sparrow: 1 Ramshorn Creek Preserve 7 Mar, prob overwintered; arr 1 BCM 5 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: first migrants Saratoga 30 Mar; max 36 SUNYA 30 Apr.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: 1 T Galway c. 26 Apr-4 May (JG, AV, mob); 1st since 1975 (NYSARC).
White-crowned Sparrow: last 1 SNHP 16 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 70 SUNYA 17 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 100 FtE 1 Mar, only report.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 5 TP 15 May.

BLUE GROSBEAK: 1 T Nassau RENS 16 May (K. Dunham, E. Grace/ADBC); first since 1963 (NYSARC requested).

Indigo Bunting: max 3 SkW 21 May, generally low number.

Bobolink: numerous FtE, farm fields ALBA, MONT, SNHP after 1 May; max 46 singing m SNHP 25 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1000+ FtE 1 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr 3 Amsterdam 13 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 NRP 28 Mar; max 12 VF 1 Apr; last 2 Guilderland 26 Apr.

Com. Grackle: 1 fledged juv Meadowdale RD 14 May, four days earlier than early fl. date in Bull & Atlas.

Orchard Oriole: 1 FR 12 May; 1 Stuyvesant 16 May; 1 BCM 16, 18 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 14 CISP 25 May.

Purple Finch: numbers low.

Red Crossbill: widely reported; max 12 5R 17 Apr (RB).

White-winged Crossbill: up to 12 Gallupville 1-30 Mar; 40 Hudson F 21 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: widely reported; 50 Gansevoort 25-26 Mar; max 60 Schodack Ctr 3 May.

Pine Siskin: widespread in small numbers thru.

Evening Grosbeak: widespread; max 18 Grapeville 29 Mar; 25 Jefferson 31 Mar.

Internet: jgraves@skidmore.edu

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

After one of the warmest winters on record, many birders were itching for spring. All were disappointed when May arrived. It was a migration of low numbers and few rarities.

Average temperatures were just about a degree above normal for each month. Rainfall was well above normal. Each month had over 5 inches of rain, combining for just over 16.5 inches of rain for the period. Average rainfall for the three month is 11.2 inches.

March had only one late winter rarity, an Eared Grebe was still off Larchmont on 6 March.

A late snow of 5 to 8 inches fell on the Region on 22 March. Five days later we were in the low 80s and had a spring heat wave from 27-31 March. The early warm weather brought in the first Palm Warbler on 27 March. This was a new spring arrival record for Region 9.

Many expected an early migration since the vegetation was a full two weeks ahead. A few individuals did show up to set more spring arrival records. Individual birds that set them included: Eastern Wood-Pewee on 11 April, Yellow-throated Vireo on 18 April, Bobolink on 22 April, Black-billed Cuckoo and Warbling Vireo on 25 April, and Red-eyed Vireo on 27 April. Other early birds were notable this spring. A Green Heron was found in Wappingers Creek on 24 March. Louisiana Waterthrush was found in Bashakill 1 April, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher the next day at Kakiat Park, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Teatown Reservation 4 April.

The bulk of birds kept on their normal schedules or were a bit late. Many birders commented on the poor numbers of migrants, especially thrushes. A stalled low to the west stayed for over a week, making the end of April and the first 12 days of May quite wet. This, along with the advanced vegetation, may have spurred many migrants to hurry to their breeding grounds and skip many of the migration hot spots.

Black Vultures reportedly nested last year in the Shawangunks. The same site was apparently occupied again this year. The observer is being asked to submit the details, including his photographs, to NYSARC. Peregrine Falcons are nesting on Millbrook Mountain after a 40 year absence (JBNHS).

Certain species are expected along Long Island Sound in Westchester, but a few of these birds found their way inland. A Glossy Ibis was found in Montgomery on 12 April, a nice find for Orange County. A Dunlin was reported from Dutchess on 18 April.

Other noteworthy birds include: Caspian Tern found at Piermont Pier on 15 May and Blue Grosbeaks - one in Katonah 25 April and one in Dutchess 16

May. The Dutchess bird was the first county record of an adult male. A Yellow-throated Warbler returned to the same location on the Mongaup River, and another, possibly two, were seen at Doddletown on 30 April and 15 May.

Winter finches continued into the late winter and spring. Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were well reported.

Other highlights included: King Rail, Iceland Gull, Northern Shrike, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager.

Contributors: Elaine Anderson, Helen Andrews, Judy Atwood, Michael Bochnik, Frank Bonano, Tom Burke, Barbara Butler, Carol Capobianco, Ruth Carson, Mary Collier, Kris Conklin, Bill Cook, Renee Davis, Audrey Fishburne, Tom Fiore, Dot Fleury, Valerie Freer, Ann Frey, Pat Gabel, Linda Gette, Sibyll Gilbert, Tom Gilbert, Marge Gorton, Issac Grant Al Gutsche, Flora Gutsche, Dawn Haney, Tom Hartman, Lois Head, Bernie Heyman, Fran Heyman, Mary Key, Bill Lenhart, Donna Lenhart, Chris Lyons, Barbara Mansell, Allan Michelin, Barara Michelin, Drew Panko, Stephanie Paradise, Gerhard Patsch, Vince Plogar, Carena Pooth, Jim Previdi, Barry Rosen, Edith Rosen, Selden Spencer, Bob Senerchia, Lee Shaffer, Ruth Shursky, Joan Totten, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Henry Turner, Alison Van Keuren, Chet Vincent, Steve Walter, Carol Weiss, Allan Wells, Della Wells.

Abbreviations: CPP - Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, GA - Galeville Airport, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP - Kakiat Park, LHVBL-Lower Hudson Valley Bird Line, PP-Piermont Pier, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWBC - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, SCAS - Sullivan County Audubon Society.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: a few scattered reports on inland lakes Apr and early May.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 EGR 12 Apr (TB); 1 MC 12 Apr (LHVBL); 1 EGR 2 May (TB).

Eared Grebe: 1 Larchmont 6 Mar(TB).

N. Gannet: 1-3 EGR 5,20,22 Mar (TB); 1 Larchmont 10 Mar (LHVBL); 3-18 EGR 3-12 Apr (TB).

Great Cormorant: 1 Port Ewen 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Am. Bittern: 3 Bashakill 15 May.

Great Blue Heron: 8 nests Sandanona May.

Great Egret: 2 EGR 5 Apr.

Snowy Egret: 1 PP 12 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: 1 MC 19 May (TB).

Cattle Egret: 1 EGR 2-10 May (TB,LHVBL); 1 PP 2 May (LHVBL).

Green Heron: 1 Wappingers Creek 24 March (MK), early.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 1 MC 4,26 May (LHVBL,TB)

Glossy Ibis: 1 Montgomery 12 Apr (LHVBL).

Black Vulture: 11 GA 1 Mar, flying north (JT); reports from each county.

Snow Goose: scattered reports from each county in Mar and Apr; 1 blue morph DUTC 21 Apr.

Wood Duck: 170 Bashakill 15 Mar (VF,RD).

Blue-winged Teal: 3 Bashakill 4 Apr.

Redhead: 2 CPP 4 Apr.

Ring-necked Duck: many reports, quite common this year; 156 Bashakill 15 Mar; 200 Pound Pond 16 Mar; 140 Ellenville 13 Apr; 200 Round Pond, DUTC 11 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: fly-bys EGR 12 Apr; 10 EGR 27 Apr; 30 CPP 16 May.

Oldsquaw: 30 EGR 4 Apr, other scattered reports at EGR Apr; 1 EGR 20 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: common along Sound; few reported from the Hudson (unusual); 1 CPP 27 Mar (LHVBL); 2 PP 3 Apr (CW); 1PP 12 Apr (CW).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 1 MC 21 Mar; 2 MC 12 Apr, engaged in courtship behavior; 2 nesting at Bashakill.

Bald Eagle: 2 SULL., standing on a nest in a White Pine (LHVBL); 1 Roundout 14 Mar; 1 MC 18 Apr.

N. Harrier: 1 GA 1-7, 14 Mar.

N. Goshawk: 1 Doodletown 28 Mar (BS,GP); 1 Pound Ridge 9 May (TB).

Broad-winged Hawk: 1 Hook Mt. 3 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 DUTC 14 Mar (AFr).

Golden Eagle: 3 Stissing Mt. 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Am. Kestrel: 8 CPP 4 Apr.

Merlin: 1 EGR 9 Mar (LHVBL); 1 MC 10 Mar (TB); other sightings in Apr.

Peregrine Falcon: 2 Millbrook Mt 1 May (JBNHS); 1 DUTC 13 May; 1 Bear Mt Bridge 15 May (ET).

N. Bobwhite: 6 Pawling 15 May (SG); 1 Ward Pound Ridge 30 May (SW).

Clapper Rail: arr 18 Apr.

Virginia Rail: 1 Ellenville 13 Apr; good numbers and well reported from usual spots.

King Rail: 1 MC 29 Apr.

Sora: 1 CPP 2-6 May (LHVBL).

Am. Oystercatcher: 1 EGR 10, 22 Mar (TB).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 21 Mar.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 9 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 May.

Willet: 2 MC 4 May (TB).

Spotted Sandpiper: 1 Rombout Road 23 Apr (CV).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 pair Orange Co Airport 16 May; 1 Blue Chip Farm 16 May (ET)

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 PP 16 May (FB,TH,VP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: few CPP 16 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 17 Apr.

Purple Sandpiper: 1 PP 15 May (CW,AW,DW,JT).

Dunlin: 1 DUTC 18 Apr (DF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 18 Apr; 1 PP 16 May (FB,TH,VP).

Com. Snipe: 1 PP 31 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Port Ewen 22 Apr (LHVBL); 1 Cornwall 16 May (JT).

Iceland Gull: 1 Napanoch 11 Apr (VF); 1 Ashokan 16 Apr (LHVBL); 3 Woodbourne 23 Apr (VF,RD,RS,LH).

Caspian Tern: 2 PP 15 May (JP, RC).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 1 Yonkers 30 May (MB).

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 25 Apr, new spring arrival record.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 16 May.

Barn Owl: 1 Charles Wells Rd, Ulster Heights 1 May (HT).

Long-eared Owl: 1 DUTC 5, 13 May (JA).

Short-eared Owl: 6 GA 1-7 Mar (LHVBL).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 WEST 2 May.

Whip-poor-will: 2 Piermont 15 May

(FB,TH,VP); 1 Bashakill 16 May; 2

Mohonk Preserve 30 May (JBNHS).

Chimney Swift: arr 16 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Doodletown 14 May; 1 Blue Chip Farm 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 Rombout Rd 23 Mar; 1 DUTC 28 Mar; 1 Cape Pond 1 Apr; 1 Red Hook 3,7,8 Apr; 1 KP 4 Apr; 1 RNC 11 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Wurtsboro 16 May (SCAS); 1 Westchester Community College 22 May (DP); 1 Doodletown 23 May (CL); 1 Pawling 25 May (CP).

E. Wood-Pewee: 1 Woodstock 11 Apr (BC,AF), new spring arrival record.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Rye Nature Preserve 23 May (LHVBL); 1 Harriman SP 22 May; 1 DUTC 31 May (MV).

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 Bashakill 16 May; 1 Doodletown 23 May; 1 Harriman SP 26

May; 2 DUTC 27 May; 1 Pawling 31 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 16 May

Least Flycatcher: arr 9 May

E. Phoebe: arr 26 Mar.

E. Kingbird: arr 25 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 30 Apr.

N. Shrike: 1 GA 1-7 Mar (ET,LHVBL).

White-eyed Vireo: arr 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 17 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 18 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Warbling Vireo: arr 25 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Pawling 16 May (SG).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 27 Apr, new spring arrival record.
Com. Raven: 2 Stissing Mt. 7 Mar; 1 DUTC 31 Apr; 1 Woodstock 7 Apr; 1 Thompson Pd 13, 20 May.
Purple Martin: arr 18 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr 13 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Teatown Reservation 4 Apr (LHVBL), early.
Bank Swallow: arr 27 Apr; 100 Route 119 & 50, Pine Plains, nesting
Barn Swallow: arr 18 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 18 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: stayed to beginning of May.
House Wren: arr 18 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 29 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 27 Mar.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 KP 2 Apr (LHVBL), early.
Veery: arr 2 May
Gray-checked/Bicknell's Thrush: 1 Doodletown 16 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 16 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr 9 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr 29 Apr.
E. Bluebird: 1 GA 1-7 Mar.
Am. Pipit: 1 Stringham Road, DUTC 1 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: very common this spring,

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: 1 ORAN 31 Mar (LHVBL), early.
Golden-winged Wabler: Port Orange Road 16 May (LHVBL); 1 Stissing Mt 21 May; 1 Tarrytown Lakes 21 May (DP).
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Doodletown 16 May (LHVBL).
Tennessee Warbler: arr 16 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 1 May
N. Parula: arr 29 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 9 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 25 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 9 May
Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 Doodletown 30 Apr, 15 May (LHVBL, IG); 1 Mongaup R, SULL/ORAN Border 16 May (JT,SCAS), same location as last year.
Pine Warbler: arr 27 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr 25 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr 27 Mar, new spring arrival record.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 16 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: 5 Doodletown 9 May (LHVBL); 5 DUTC 16 May (RTWBC); 1 Bashakill 24 May (LHVBL).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 18 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 30 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: 1 Great Swamp 21 May (LHVBL).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 May.
Ovenbird: arr 25 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 6 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Bashakill 1 Apr (LG), early.
Kentucky Warbler: 1 Pawling 15,16 May(SG).
Mourning Warbler: 1 Port Orange Road 16 May (LHVBL); 1 Doodletown 23 May (LHVBL); 1 Bashakill 24 May (LHVBL); 1 Harriman SP 26 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr. 30 Apr; 12 Doodletown 14 May (TF,DH).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 16 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 16 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 Vassar Farm 16-26 May (RTWBC,HVRBA), probably nesting.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: 1 RNC 22 May (TB).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 May.
E. Towhee: arr 14 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 27 Mar.
Field Sparrow: arr 26 Mar.
Savannah Sparrow: arr 6 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 7 Galeville 24 May (LHVBL).
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 2 MC 18 May
Seaside Sparrow: 1 MC 3 May (TB).

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Tivoli 1 May (CC).

Dark-eyed Junco: 1 "Pink-sided morph" no details Putnam Valley 15 Mar (LHVBL); 1-2 Thompson Pd 13-16 May, nesting (MV).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 25 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 Katonah 25 Apr (LHVBL); 1 DUTC 16 May, 1st county record of adult male (BH, FH, RTWBC).

Indigo Bunting: arr 2 May.

Bobolink: arr 22 Apr, new spring arrival record.

E. Meadowlark: few GA 14 Mar (LHVBL).

Rusty Blackbird: many reports Mar and Apr.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 1 MC 11 Apr (LHVBL).

Orchard Oriole: many scattered reports, numbers increasing.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 30 Apr.

Purple Finch: few at feeders in DUTC (RTWBC); 15 KP 8 Mar (LHVBL); 1 RNC 1 May.

Red Crossbill: reported only from SULL feeders; 4 Roscoe 20 Mar and 20 Apr (MG); 2 Neversink 9 Apr; 4 Neversink 14 Apr

(SP); 4 Summitville 15 Mar - 15 Apr (AG, FG).

White-winged Crossbill: 15 Vassar Campus 19-20 Mar (LS); 6 Cape Pond 10 Apr (MC, VF); 5 Pound Ridge 13-21 Apr (LHVBL); 2 Poughkeepsie 26 April; 2 present through May; 6 Ellenville 13 Apr (LHVBL).

Com. Redpolls: numerous reports in Mar, Apr; 100 Clinton early Mar (LHVBL); 600 Thompson Pond Preserve 7 Mar (LHVBL).

Pine Siskin: scattered reports from ULST in Mar; 5 Roscoe 16 Mar; 1 Hilldale Rd SULL 13 Apr; 2 ORAN 19-20 Apr; 2 DUTC 20 Apr; 1-3 Woodstock 4 -26 May; 1 RNC 13 May.

Evening Grosbeak: many reports in early March, especially in SULL, including 130 Swan Lake (KC); 3 Katonah 19 Apr (LHVBL); 15 ORAN feeder, mid Apr; few at feeders DUTC 22-26 Apr.; 1 New Paltz 8 May.

(914) 785-3840 (work) (914) 237-9331 (home)

E-mail: 76652.3224@compuserve.com



REGION 10 - MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

ALVIN WOLLIN

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

We will start by summing up the Spring migration in two short sentences. The vegetation was very early. The birds arrived late, hidden in dense foliage.

Spring continued the trend of the unusually warm winter. The first six months of 1998 were the warmest on record. Rainfall for the six months was almost enough for a full year. There were 12 consecutive days of rain in the first half of May at the height of the migration. We would have thought the warm weather would bring early bugs and early migrants. Instead we had a late and sparse migration in the Region.

We did see a very few extraordinary fallouts of birds, but only in a remarkably localized pattern. If you were in the wrong place or stayed home because of the prolific rain, you easily missed the migration. Warblers were late; sparrows were few and far between, and shorebirds were erratic. In a number of areas where shorebirds normally stop, high water flooded the edge areas leaving the birds no place to rest.

Many birds were seen well beyond their usual dates. Either more birders were out later in the spring to catch up for the rainy period or there really was a late migration. In any event, we'll have more to say about late migrants in the summer report.

Both Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle sightings continue to increase. While still uncommon, both are now regularly seen in migration. Also, some of the less common warblers were seen in greater than usual numbers, for example, Cerulean and Hooded warblers.

Very interesting spring reports were: Leach's Storm-Petrel from the Staten Island Ferry crossing New York Bay from Staten Island to lower Manhattan (no details submitted); a female Barrow's Goldeneye in the bay opposite the Fire Island light house; increased sightings of Bald Eagle; Wild Turkey in both Van Cortland Park, Bronx and Central Park; **Purple Gallinule** found in a yard at Breezy Pt.; **American Avocet** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; **Black-necked Stilt** in Lawrence; Red Phalarope at Shinnecock; **Thayer's Gull** at Point Lookout; Sedge Wren at Jamaica Bay; **White-winged Dove** at Gilgo; Pileated Woodpecker in Van Cortland Park, Bronx; Northern Shrike on the east end of Fire Island; a Golden-Winged Warbler in Central Park; and a Clay-Colored Sparrow at Quogue, perhaps the one that wintered, and also one at Jones Beach.

Contributors: Bob Adamo, Andy Baldelli, Steven Biasetti, Howard Boltson, Paul A. Buckley, Phillip Brown, Thomas W. Burke, Lester Feldman, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Douglas Futuyma, Paul H. Gillen, Andrew

Guthrie Chris Hagen, Dave Kunstler, Robert J. Kurtz, Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Peter Shen, Steve Walter, Richard Veit, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

Abbreviations: CB-Cedar Beach; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MEB-Mecox Bay; MP-Montauk Point; MOR-Moriches; NYRBA-New York Rare Bird Alert; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; SH-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; VCP-Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx; WP-Wellwyn Preserve, Glen Cove.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: wintering birds lingered into the spring.
Sooty Shearwater: S. of Block Island 11 Apr (DF); Georgia 17 May (NYRBA).
LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: from Staten Island Ferry 12 May (RV). (details??)
Double-crested Cormorant: 37 nests Stony Brook 7 May, 53 by 3 Jun (DF).
Turkey Vulture: 8 Shelter Island 3 Apr; VCP 12 May; SI 16 May; others Eastern LI.
"Black" Brant: *Branta bernicula niger*, the western subspecies Riis Park to 12 Apr.
Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: *Anas c. crecca*, the nominate subspecies JBWR 5 Apr.
Tufted Duck: Patchogue to 15 Mar.
Barrow's Goldeneye: FI bay side opposite the lighthouse first week Mar.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: WP 12 Mar SI 1 May (CH); PP 24 May; Whitestone 19 May; others.
Wild Turkey: VCP 17 Mar; CP 10 May.
PURPLE GALLINULE: imm found in yard in Breezy Pt approx 22 Mar, died in rehab, specimen to Don Reipe of JBWR.
Piping Plover: first report PL 12 Mar.
BLACK-NECKED STILT: Lawrence 21 May.
AMERICAN AVOCET: JBWR 7-13 May.
Marbled Godwit: JBWR 26 Apr; SH 26 Apr, 9, 31 May.
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 Sore Thumb 24 May; Riverhead 25 May; 2 there 26 May.
Red Phalarope: female alt plumage SH 15 May (ES).

Little Gull: Agwam Pond 7 Mar; Breezy Pt 8 Mar; PL 26 Mar.
Black-headed Gull: SH 6 Mar to May; PL through Mar.
THAYER'S GULL: ad PL 22 Mar (AG, AnW).
Iceland Gull: 6 SH 15 Mar; other single sightings.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: several.
Glaucous Gull: SH to 13 May.
Gull-billed Tern: 3-8 JBWE mid Mar thru.
Caspian Tern: JBWR 18 Apr; MEB 21 Apr; FI 5 May; CP 5 May.
Royal Tern: SH 21 May.
Razorbill: 258 large alcids counted in a 45 minute period moving past Agwam Pond 8 Mar (TB) - 25 of these were close enough to identify as this species. The balance were probably Razorbills as well; 30 large alcids S. of Block Island 11 Apr (DF) - 16 this species with balance probably the same.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Gilgo 17 May (AL).
Long-eared Owl: CP 1 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: FBF 15 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Wading River calling 3:00 AM 16 May (BA).
Chuck-will's-widow: Long Pond, SI 26 Apr (PB, CH); also CB and Riverhead as in prior years.
Red-headed Woodpecker: 5 CP to 12 Apr, fewer later; Zachs Bay 30 Apr to 3 May.
Pileated Woodpecker: VCP 13 May (DK).

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: Riverhead 9 May (BA).
Northern Shrike: Short Beach, Smithtown 1-8 Mar.
Philadelphia Vireo: late May.
Sedge Wren: JBWR 16 May (P. Joost et al).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 29 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 2 Lido Beach 1 Mar; PP 14-18 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: Inwood Hill Park 2 Mar, may have wintered.
Yellow-throated Warbler: JBWR 16 May.
Cerulean Warbler: PP 25 Apr; CP 30 Apr; HLSP 30 Apr; others.
Prothonotary Warbler: SI 24 Apr; others.

Clay-colored Sparrow: East Quogue 13 May (ES); JBWE 25 May (AG).
Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco: (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*) JBWE 8 Mar (SS), NYSARC report in preparation.
Lapland Longspur: 6 JBWE to 15 Mar.
Blue Grosbeak: CB 2 May; JBCH 2 May; JBWR 16 and 24 May; others.
Dickcissel: CP 12 May.
Bobolink: singing HLSP 7 May.
Rusty Blackbird: 45 Shu Swamp 1 Mar; 600 Van Cortland swamp 25 Mar (DK).
Red Crossbill: 20 Quogue 7 Mar; 8 JBWE 22 Mar; 10 MEC early May.
White-winged Crossbill: scattered reports of large numbers thru Mar.
European Goldfinch: Peconic feeder 19 May (LF).
Evening Grosbeak: scattered reports of single birds visiting feeders thru.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS:

syschiff@ascensionet.com



Departure Dates Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality vs 1987-1998	Advance (Days)
1	81	2.86	0.94
2	93	-0.40	-4.08
3	92	-0.34	-2.07
4	74	-3.48	-1.05
5	92	0.28	-1.29
6	79	-0.57	5.76
7	66	-2.20	4.07
8	89	-2.03	-0.92
9	79	-2.36	-3.79
10	50	5.27	2.41

It is obvious from even a casual glance at this table, that attempts to detect arrivals of birds which may also winter in some Regions renders attempts at comparisons futile. Robert Spahn.

Spring Arrival Dates 1998 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	11 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr		19 Apr	20 Apr	29 Apr	11 Apr	15 May		21 Apr	18 Apr
Green Heron	23 Apr	26 Apr	21 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	5 May	3 May	26 Apr	24 Mar	4 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr
Wood Duck		27 Feb	1 Mar	14 Mar	8 Mar	28 Mar	26 Mar	6 Mar	14 Feb		8 Mar	15 Mar
Green-winged Teal		2 Mar	10 Mar	10 Feb	16 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	15 Mar			11 Mar	20 Mar
Northern Pintail		4 Feb	1 Mar	10 Feb	27 Feb	24 Mar	28 Mar	28 Feb			1 Mar	9 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	29 Mar	24 Mar	21 Mar	24 Mar	4 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	28 Mar			29 Mar	30 Mar
Osprey	16 Mar	29 Mar	27 Mar		29 Mar	19 Apr	28 Mar	13 Apr	21 Mar	17 Mar	29 Mar	29 Mar
Virginia Rail		6 Apr	8 Apr	22 Apr	5 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	25 Mar	13 Apr		13 Apr	21 Apr
Sora	11 Apr	8 Apr	20 Apr	16 May	15 Apr	23 May	28 Apr	9 May	2 May	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr
Common Moorhen	14 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr		19 Apr			24 Apr			18 Apr	27 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	3 May	23 Apr	23 May		30 May		18 May	16 May			13 May	10 May
Semipalmated Plover	6 May	24 Apr	17 May	22 May	16 May		18 May	16 May	16 May	3 May	12 May	10 May
Killdeer		11 Feb	27 Feb	27 Feb	27 Feb	26 Mar	1 Mar	1 Mar	13 Feb		27 Feb	6 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	3 Apr	30 Mar	28 Mar	2 May	27 Mar		13 Apr	9 May	21 Mar		8 Apr	8 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	28 Mar	7 Mar	19 Apr		14 Apr		16 Apr	9 May	9 May		14 Apr	20 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	5 May	28 Apr	18 Apr	8 May	19 Apr	30 May	6 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		29 Apr	27 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	22 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	5 May	23 Mar	23 Apr	30 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr
Sanderling	27 May	3 Jun			30 May						30 May	14 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15 May	3 May	22 May		18 May	14 May	15 May	16 May	16 May	14 May	14 May	14 May
Least Sandpiper	25 Apr	3 May	30 Apr		5 May	23 May	3 May	11 May	17 Apr	14 May	4 May	5 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	28 Mar	30 Mar	19 Apr					16 May			15 Apr	19 Apr
Common Snipe	28 Mar	27 Mar	27 Mar	3 Apr	29 Mar	5 Apr	11 Apr	2 Mar	31 Mar		28 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	6 Mar	28 Feb	22 Feb	20 Feb	6 Mar	29 Mar	31 Mar	1 Mar	25 Jan		2 Mar	13 Mar
Caspian Tern	8 Apr	8 Apr	14 Apr		14 Apr			15 May	15 May		22 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	11 Apr	14 Apr	11 May		1 May	5 May	7 May	14 May		9 May	1 May	28 Apr
Black Tern	3 May	3 May	2 May		11 May		18 May	10 May			7 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	11 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr	9 May	26 Apr	18 May	9 May	8 May	29 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	3 May

Spring Arrival Dates 1998 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	12 May	13 May	7 May	16 May	15 May	17 May	16 May	15 May	25 Apr		11 May	14 May
Common Nighthawk	14 May	14 May	19 May		16 May	20 May	2 May	17 May	2 May		13 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	17 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	7 May	1 May	22 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	7 May	2 May	7 May	6 May	7 May	14 May	4 May	6 May	4 May		6 May	5 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	24 Mar	30 Mar	1 Apr	12 Mar	28 Mar	28 Apr		30 Mar	23 Mar		29 Mar	5 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher		24 May	16 May		15 May		30 May	16 May	16 May	16 May	19 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 May	10 May	7 May	16 May	9 May	14 May	17 May	11 May	11 Apr	8 May	8 May	10 May
Alder Flycatcher	24 May	15 May	16 May	17 May	16 May	27 May	20 May	16 May			18 May	18 May
Willow Flycatcher	15 May	16 May	16 May	22 May	16 May	27 May		16 May	16 May		18 May	17 May
Least Flycatcher	5 May	5 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	6 May	7 May	1 May	9 May		4 May	2 May
Eastern Phoebe	25 Mar	27 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	12 Mar	26 Mar	28 Mar	25 Mar	22 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	3 May	5 May	4 May	6 May	6 May	5 May	6 May	24 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	3 May	1 May
Eastern Kingbird	1 May	4 May	2 May	5 May	1 May	14 Apr	7 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	4 May	30 Apr	29 Apr
Purple Martin	14 Apr	30 Mar	2 May		14 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr		16 Apr	19 Apr
Tree Swallow	27 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar	20 Mar	3 Mar	28 Mar	27 Mar	25 Mar	13 Mar		21 Mar	23 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	11 Apr	18 Apr	10 Apr	3 May	16 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	12 Apr	4 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr
Bank Swallow		18 Apr	16 Apr		30 Apr		13 May	25 Apr	27 Apr		26 Apr	25 Apr
Cliff Swallow	9 May	30 Apr	24 Apr	2 May	18 Apr		3 May	30 Apr	18 Apr		28 Apr	28 Apr
Barn Swallow	11 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	11 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr	28 Mar	18 Apr	3 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	29 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	30 Mar	18 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	17 Mar	28 Mar	4 Apr	5 Apr	30 Mar	31 Mar	3 Apr	4 Apr	27 Mar	5 Apr	30 Mar	7 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr	5 May	8 May	4 Apr	2 Apr	8 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		7 Mar	23 Feb	7 Mar	28 Mar	18 Mar	10 Feb		1 Mar		5 Mar	10 Mar
Veery	7 May	1 May	30 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	15 May	11 May	18 Apr	2 May	14 May	30 Apr	2 May
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	5 May	17 May		14 May		3 May	16 May	16 May	16 May	11 May	8 May
Hermit Thrush	28 Mar	31 Mar	26 Mar	11 Apr	1 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	2 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	4 Apr	8 Apr
Wood Thrush	1 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	5 May	6 May	1 May	29 Apr	1 May	1 May	28 Apr
Gray Catbird		30 Apr	2 May	18 Apr	2 May	4 May	13 May	1 May			1 May	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	11 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	2 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	4 Apr		7 Mar	8 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Vireo	25 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr	14 Apr	8 Apr	7 May	19 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	5 May	2 May	5 May	27 Apr	3 May	6 May	15 May	3 May	18 Apr	16 May	4 May	4 May
Warbling Vireo	3 May	5 May	1 May	17 Apr	4 May	6 May	7 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	2 May
Red-eyed Vireo	5 May	5 May	4 May	1 May	3 May	6 May	12 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	7 May	3 May	4 May

Spring Arrival Dates 1998 Landbirds (cont'd)

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

Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Donald A. Windsor, PO Box 604, Norwich NY 13815

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Phyllis R. Jones, 9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy NY 12770

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