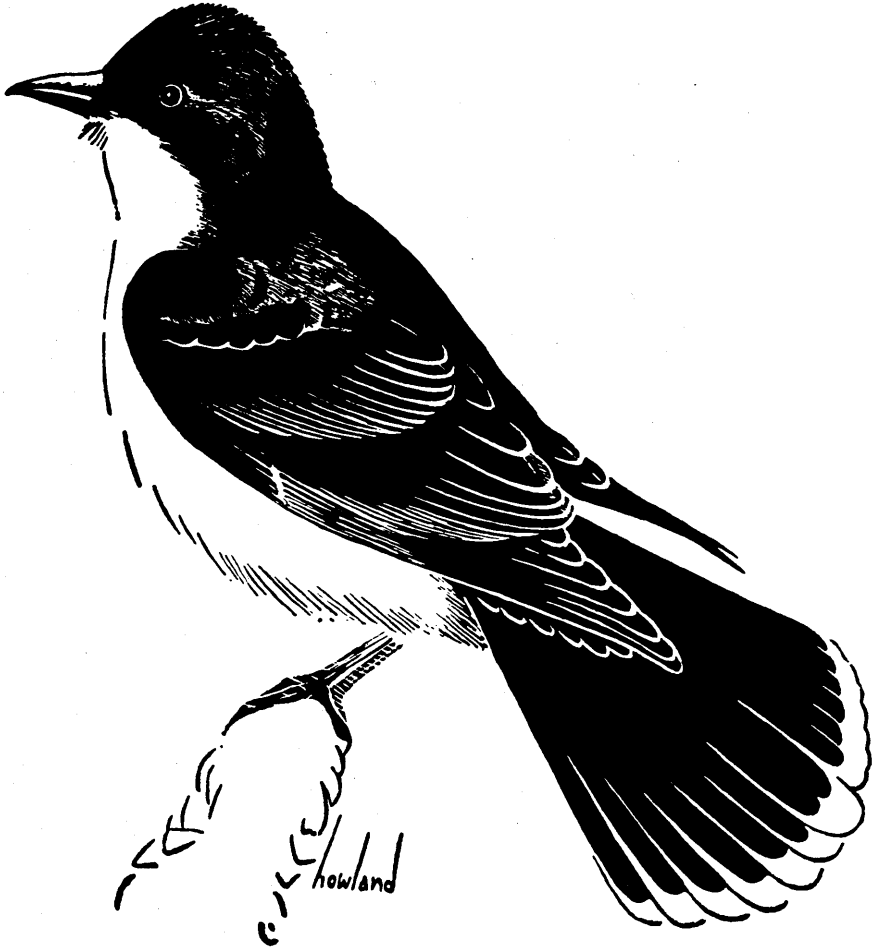


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GULLS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER: AN UPDATE

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304a

INTRODUCTION

Twenty-three years ago, Robert F. Andrle's paper, *Gull's on the Niagara Frontier* appeared in *The Kingbird* (Andrle 1977a). The Niagara Frontier is synonymous with Kingbird Region One (Fig. 1). This excellent piece summarized the status of gull species known to have occurred. In addition, Andrle discussed reasons why the Niagara Frontier is so attractive to gulls, fluctuations in numbers and factors influencing them, movements within and through the Region, concentration areas and places to observe gulls. Much has changed since his paper. New species of gulls have been added, some populations have increased, while others have declined. Environmental changes, both natural and man-made, have affected the populations of gulls and where they concentrate. This paper addresses some of the changes that have taken place during the more than two decades since Andrle's publication.

Central to any work on gulls on the Niagara Frontier is the role of the Niagara River (Fig. 2), one of the premier sites in North America, if not the world, for these birds. The Niagara R. was recently proclaimed an Important Bird Area (IBA), in part because of the significant numbers of Bonaparte's and Herring gulls that occur. All nineteen species of gulls that have been recorded in the Region have also been found on the Niagara R.

Fourteen species in one day, the new standard for the river, was reached on 25 Nov 1995. The "blizzard" of gulls spectacle that Andrle mentioned still occurs. While estimating and especially counting gulls on the river remains difficult, some strides have been made in that regard. For example, Gordon Bellerby of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, has made several dozen careful counts of Bonaparte's Gulls at the mouth of the river.

SPECIES LIST

There has been a total of 19 species of gulls identified. Each has been seen on the Niagara R. at least once. The status of the four most common species has not changed since 1977. They are Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) and Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*). The other species recorded are Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*),

Franklin's Gull (*L. pipixcan*), Little Gull (*L. minutus*), Black-headed Gull (*L. ridibundus*), Mew Gull (*L. canus*), California Gull (*L. californicus*), Thayer's Gull (*L. thayeri*), Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), Slaty-backed Gull (*L. schistisagus*), Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*), Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) and Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). Mew, California, Slaty-backed and Ross's gulls are new additions since 1977, and remarkably, these three species were discovered by gull enthusiasts from Michigan, Rod and Marlene Planck, in a period of less than one week in 1992!

Andrle and others (e.g. Bull 1974 and Beardslee and Mitchell 1965) considered that two subspecies of Iceland Gull had occurred, both the nominate *glaucoides*, and the form *kumlieni*. However, Brinkley (1998) claimed that there was no hard evidence, such as a specimen, to support the occurrence of *glaucoides*. D'Anna (1997) mentioned a specimen at the Buffalo Museum of Science that showed characteristics more typical of the nominate. Further examination and measurements of the specimen are necessary, which still may not prove conclusive given that data on the bare parts are missing and that there is extensive overlap of the two forms.

POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

It is difficult to know if annual populations of the four most common species of gulls in the Niagara Frontier have changed much in recent years. From year to year, however, undoubtedly the number and distribution of gulls varies considerably, due to the same factors elucidated by Andrle such as "fish abundance and distribution, weather conditions, water levels, icing of water bodies, and human-induced changes involving breeding sites, power generating stations, refuse disposal and ice boom." However, hard data on these fluctuations are difficult to obtain, mostly for the reason that gulls move about constantly on the Niagara R. as well as fly back and forth to the two power reservoirs adjacent to the river and Lakes Erie and Ontario. They do this not only from day to day but at times from hour to hour. The Niagara R.'s status as an IBA may provide impetus to develop the methods and recruit the volunteers needed to properly census the gulls. In 1998 and 1999, after the IBA designation, D. V. Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service conducted such a census of Bonaparte's Gulls on the river with the aid of many volunteers.

Though peak numbers visible from shore on the Great Lakes are much lower than on the Niagara R., the gulls are somewhat more easily counted there. The Hamlin Beach Lake Watch, 25 miles west of Rochester on Lake Ontario in the Genesee Region, conducts daily waterbird counts in the fall, including Bonaparte's Gulls. These gulls are almost invariably flying toward the Niagara

R., 60 miles to the west. Although many are believed to turn into the river, this has not been proven. Still, the counts at Hamlin Beach are probably at least indicative of the numbers found along Lake Ontario in the Niagara Frontier Region.

There have been some major environmental changes since Andrie. For one, the Niagara R. and the Great Lakes are much less toxic, due in large part to anti-pollution agreements between Canada and the United States. Knapton and Weseloh (1999) summarized trends in PCBs found in Herring Gull eggs, showing a dramatic drop during the last two decades. In addition they compared the level of PCBs in the eggs of Herring Gulls breeding on the Niagara R. with that of Herring Gulls breeding on each of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence R. in 1998. Birds on the Niagara showed the lowest level of PCBs.

A major recent impact on the ecology of the region has been the accidental introduction of an alien species, the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*). More recently another alien mussel, the Quagga (*Dreissena bugensis*) has also been accidentally introduced. The Zebra mussel has spread throughout the Great Lakes ecosystem and has caused problems for business and utility owners because of its habit of attaching to pipe inlets in dense clusters. These organisms filter particulates from the water, clarifying Regional waters to a degree that has never been seen before in modern times. The mussels may compete for food with forage fish, thus reducing their numbers and in turn, reducing the amount of prey available to gulls. In addition they may also be competing with the caddisflies (family Hydropsychidae) on the Niagara R. Local residents believe that these insects occur in greatly reduced numbers than formerly. Possibly as a result, the late summer and early fall concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara R. seem to be much reduced in recent years.

A potential environmental change involves the power plant in Dunkirk. Warm water discharged from the plant keeps Dunkirk Harbor open through the winter, serving to attract large numbers of gulls and waterfowl. The new owners of the plant have discussed discontinuing this practice, which would effectively eliminate the site for gulls when Lake Erie ices over, as it does most winters.

There have been few changes in the manner, extent and locations of ice formation. Dunkirk Harbor, Lake Ontario and much of the Niagara R. normally remain ice-free all winter. The numbers of gulls found during a typical winter at these locations is highly variable from year to year. Whereas garbage dumps have attracted large numbers of gulls including several rare species, the viability of those sites is limited. As Andrie pointed out, landfills are fewer than in the past and more controlled, reducing food availability to gulls. In addition access for

birders to landfill sites is usually not permitted. Still, sizeable concentrations do occur at times and one recent addition to the list, the Slaty-backed Gull, was first found at the landfill in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

An abundance of gulls has been a feature of the Niagara R. throughout its recorded history. There have been many man-made changes but if anything these have served to increase the number of gulls here. Were the power plants and the ice boom to be removed, numbers would be reduced but it seems certain that, barring an environmental disaster, gulls will remain a permanent feature of the Niagara R. landscape.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). This species is very rare though it has been recorded in almost every month of the year. Most records are from the Lake Erie shoreline. However, it has also been seen on the Niagara R., Lake Ontario and inland in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. On only two occasions were more than two birds observed. On 10-15 Oct 1977 up to six were at Dunkirk Harbor (Andrle 1977b) and following the passage of the remains of Hurricane Fran in Sep 1996, five were found at the south end of the Niagara R. (D'Anna 1996).

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). At the time of Andrle's paper in 1977, this gull was considered to be increasing. However, since then it has become rare again with only one or two sightings in some years. The great majority of sightings are from the Niagara R. with a few from Lake Erie and only one or two from Lake Ontario. Most records are between mid August and late November. The maximum is still 11 on the Niagara R. 1 Nov 1967, as cited by Andrle. After the passage of the Veteran's Day storm of 1998, Franklin's Gulls were blown into several midwestern and eastern states. A half-dozen or so of these birds were found, most on the Niagara R., and some were in the rarely observed adult plumage. The one day maximum for this event was only three (D'Anna 1998a, Morgante 1998) but this is the second highest count in the nineties with the maximum of four occurring in Nov 1990 (Planck 1990).

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). The Little Gull has an interesting history in the Niagara Frontier. It was increasing in 1977 and is still doing so if maximum counts are an indication. Whereas the highest counts formerly occurred in late summer and fall, far greater numbers now are found in late winter and early spring. The maximum recorded in one day was 85 on 19 Mar 1999 (Bellerby 1999). These birds were counted at the mouth of the Niagara R. as they flew to their evening roost on Lake Ontario. Little Gulls have been found every month

of the year except June. Adults greatly outnumber immatures though a few of the latter are found most years. This species is almost always with Bonaparte's Gulls and most sightings are on the river with the Lewiston-Queenston area a favored site. However, sightings from Lakes Erie and Ontario are recorded annually.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). There are slightly fewer sightings of this species than in the seventies and eighties. It is rare but found most years on the Niagara R. from late fall through spring, occurring with Bonaparte's Gulls. Nearly all sightings involve adults. The 1971 record of two birds at Dunkirk Harbor, mentioned by Andrle, remains the only sighting away from the Niagara R. On only one other occasion were two birds observed. These were at the mouth of the river on 20 Apr 1994 (Bellerby 1994).

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). At times in the fall and spring this species is the most abundant gull on the Niagara R. Less often it is the most numerous gull on Lakes Erie and Ontario, this occurring on days when they are migrating. The maximum one-day count at Hamlin Beach on Lake Ontario was 5750 on 2 Dec 1997 and the maximum seasonal count (Sep through Dec) was 32,081 in 1997 (Braddock Bay Raptor Research, unpublished data). Bonaparte's Gulls are uncommon to rare migrants on other area water bodies, with few counts over 100 (BOS Database). The highest estimates of 100,000 and 75,000 on the Niagara R. mentioned by Andrle have not been reported since. However, Gordon Bellerby of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario has conducted several dozen counts from 1986 to the present. These counts are done at the mouth of the Niagara R. at dusk as the gulls fly to their nighttime roost on Lake Ontario. Bellerby's highest fall or winter count was 40,000 on 8 Dec 1990 and again on the same date in 1991. The highest spring count was 50,000 on 21 Apr 1997 (Bellerby, unpublished data). Bellerby's highest counts may suggest that this species is just as common in spring as in fall, unlike what had been previously supposed. The great majority of Bonaparte's Gulls occurring on the Niagara R. are adults and it is assumed that many of the same individuals migrate through in fall and spring.

Weseloh conducted a census of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Niagara R. in 1998. Many observers, each covering a short stretch of the river at the same time, counted all individuals at 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon on four dates in late Nov and mid Dec. The maximum count for each day was compared to the sum of the "fly-by" counts conducted at dusk on the same dates at the source and the mouth of the river. The agreement between the daytime and dusk counts was very good, suggesting that most of the Bonaparte's Gulls using the river were tallied during the daytime survey. Although the maximum daytime count was only 6858 on 12 Dec (Weseloh, unpublished data), the species was considerably less numerous in 1998 than during an average year and its numbers peaked after the census.

Beardslee (1944) described the dichotomous fall migration of this species with large influxes into the Niagara R. and eastern Lake Erie in August and September, a decrease in Oct, and another large influx in Nov and Dec. This two part migration was an obvious feature until the 1990s, when a marked decrease in the late summer movement was noted (personal observation). Generally, at least a few of this species overwinter on the Niagara R. or at Dunkirk Harbor. During mild winters they may stay in the low thousands. Several other species of gulls are searched for within flocks of Bonaparte's, including Franklin's, Little, Black-headed, Sabine's, Black-legged, Kittiwake, and Ross's.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*). Andrlé listed this gull since it had been found just a few miles west in Ontario and considered it a likely addition. The actual initial record involved an adult found by Rod Planck 25 Nov 1992 on the Queenston, Ontario Reservoir and subsequently observed at the power plants on the Niagara R. 4 Dec (Bain 1993). On 3 Dec of the same year another adult was found at Dunkirk Harbor (Sundell 1993). Both individuals were identified as the North American race, *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. An immature of this form was discovered below Niagara Falls 10 Nov 1996 (NYSARC 1999). One week later an immature was at the power plants on the Niagara R. (NYSARC 1999) and another immature was found in Jamestown 21 Dec 1997 (Sundell, pers. comm.). The Mew Gull should be looked for among Ring-billed Gulls although at least one of the birds at the power plants on the river was among a large group of predominantly Herring Gulls.

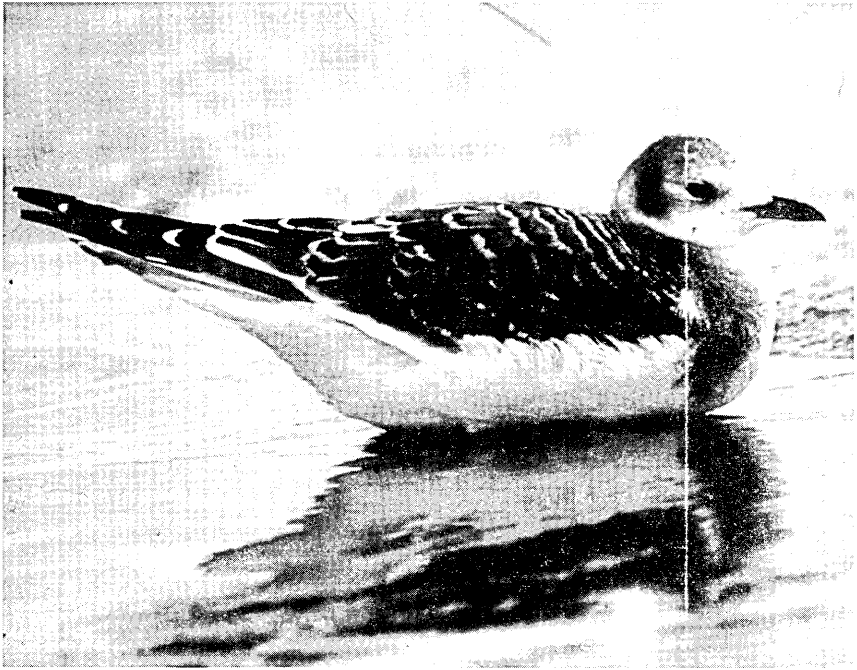
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*). This gull was increasing in 1977. It ranges widely inland where it is locally common and occurs abundantly on the Great Lakes and Niagara R. It is the most common gull during the summer as well as much of the spring and fall. Less abundant than the Herring Gull in winter, it is still numerous then. It breeds along the Niagara R., perhaps in greater numbers than formerly. Nesting colonies may be monitored more closely now which could account for an apparent increase. In 1997, 5024 nesting pairs were found on the Niagara R. and Buffalo Harbor (DEC 1997). This census did not even include the largest colony which in previous years held over 3000 pairs.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*). The first record of this species, an adult, was discovered by Marlene and Rod Planck at the power plants on the Niagara R. on 29 Nov 1992 (Planck 1992). Incredibly, since that time it has been found in the same locality every year, as well as upriver above Niagara Falls. In 1996 two individuals were in view at the power plants at the same time (D'Anna *et al* 1996) and again in 1999, two were found practically together just upriver (D'Anna, Klick 2000). All sightings on the Niagara R. except two have been of

adults. There is one September record, an adult found with many Ring-billed Gulls and a few Herring Gulls (D'Anna, Potter 1997), but all other sightings have been between early Nov and late Jan. There is one sighting away from the Niagara R., a second-winter bird found 22 Dec 1998 by Robert Sundell in Jamestown (pers.comm.). This species should be looked for with Herring Gull flocks though the Sep sighting suggests that it may occasionally join Ring-billed Gulls, especially earlier in the fall when Herring Gulls are not yet very common. Since this species is very difficult to pick out among the abundant Herring Gulls, its recent change in status may be due in part to increased birder awareness and better identification skills. Jehl (1987) proposed that there are two subspecies of California Gull. Most birds recorded on the Niagara R. appear to be the larger and paler northern race, *L. c. albertainensis*.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). This abundant species has not changed appreciably during the period. The highest estimate of 50,000 at Niagara Falls was made on 3 Dec 1979 (Schaffner, Clark 1980). The highest regional Christmas Bird Count total was 32,000 at Buffalo in 1965 (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Bird Source on the Internet). The North American race, *smithsonianus*, is the only subspecies positively identified in the region. The Herring Gull breeds on the Niagara R. In 1997, the DEC counted 115 nests in Buffalo Harbor (DEC 1997), more than the total at all sites mentioned by Andrlé. In addition this gull still nests on the cliff and talus slope of Goat Island, adjacent to the falls on the Niagara R. (personal observation), as well as on small islands above the Canadian Falls (Knapton and Weseloh 1999). The favored feeding sites for the Herring Gull are on the river at the power plants and around Niagara Falls. Large numbers also occasionally occur on Lakes Erie and Ontario, especially when they are migrating.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Andrlé (1969) established the presence of this species. Improved identification skills and greater awareness account for much of its apparent increase. It is an uncommon visitor on the Niagara R. in the late fall and early winter, usually becoming rare later in the winter into early spring. Formerly considered a subspecies of the Herring Gull, this taxonomically controversial gull now is thought by some to be a subspecies of the Iceland Gull. Individual gulls have been observed that indicate there is no clean break in morphological and plumage characters between a typical Thayer's Gull and a nominate race Iceland Gull. The Niagara R. is a great place to observe the full range of variation within this complex, from the darkest Thayer's to the palest Iceland. Identifying a bird as a typical Thayer's Gull, that is at the dark extreme of the continuum of variation, requires careful observation as well as great caution and patience. This makes it very difficult to determine a maximum number at any one time on the Niagara R. where the gulls are often not close enough to discern the



Sabine's Gull, juvenile - Niagara River - November 1988
Brian & Eileen Keelan

necessary details. Thayer's usually associates with Herring Gulls. There are a few reports of this species within the Region on Lakes Erie and Ontario .

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). This species has increased and is now much more frequently observed than the Glaucous Gull. The maximum number recorded is 20 at the power plants on the Niagara R. on 18 Jan 1998 (D'Anna 1998b). Most reports are from the Niagara R. but it occurs regularly on the Great Lakes. Inland reports are very rare with one record from Chautauqua Lake 25 & 28 Feb 1993 (Sundell 1993) and one from the Allegheny Reservoir 24 Mar 1996 (Schweigert et al 1996). Andrlé noted that most Iceland Gulls sighted were in first-winter plumage and that second-winter birds were rather rare. Today many adults as well as all ages are regularly observed. Although individuals showing the characters of the nominate subspecies are occasionally reported, as yet there are no accepted records other than *kumlieni*.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). In 1977 this species was not yet known as a regularly occurring visitor . In fact the records mentioned by Andrlé during the winter of 1976-77 were the first . since the initial discovery in 1949. However, the species has been recorded every year since. During the nineties it

has increased even more rapidly with several counts of ten or more on the Niagara R. Although the great majority of reports are from the river, it is probably now regular on Lakes Erie and Ontario and has occurred inland on Chautauqua Lake and at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. There are records from every month except Jul though it is most numerous from early Nov through early Jan. A few remain through the winter. Recent reports, such as three on 23 May 1999 (D'Anna 1999) and six on 29 Sep 1998 (D'Anna 1998c) indicate that the species may be lengthening its stay within the Region.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). On 24 Nov 1992 Rod Planck found an adult of this Asian species at the Niagara Falls, Ontario landfill. On 28 Nov he rediscovered the bird above the falls on the Niagara R. where it was seen sporadically until 29 Dec (Planck 1992, Brock 1998). This remarkable sighting represents only the third in eastern North America.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). The closing of landfills may have had the most noticeable effect upon this species. Increasing slowly until it reached maxima during the 1970s, it is now reverting to its former uncommon status. There has been one significant count since 1977 when 28 were seen at the outlet of Lake Erie on 17 Feb 1985 (W&M Barber 1985). During the nineties, there were no counts greater than five (BOS Database). The Niagara R. remains the best



Sabine's Gull, juvenile- Niagara Falls - November 1998
Dominic Sherony

place to see this gull but it is regular on Lakes Erie and Ontario and there are a few reports from Chautauqua Lake.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). This gull, the largest in the world, has seemingly been unaffected by the closing of landfills. It has continued to increase in the Northeast and in the Region with a daily maximum of 950 established on the Niagara R. 14 Dec 1997 (Bellerby 1998). Small numbers breed on the Great Lakes but it has not increased as a breeder as expected. The first and only breeding record occurred on the Niagara R. in 1994 when a nest with three eggs was located (Leuchner and Roblee 1996). It is now a year round resident on the river and the Great Lakes with small numbers, most immatures, being found throughout the summer.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). Although not quite annual, this species has increased slightly since 1977. The great majority of records involve juveniles seen in the fall with dates ranging from 8 Sep (D'Anna 1996) following the passage of the remains of Hurricane Fran, to 17 Dec (Andrle 1996). The only spring record is from Mar 1901 (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965). There are only three

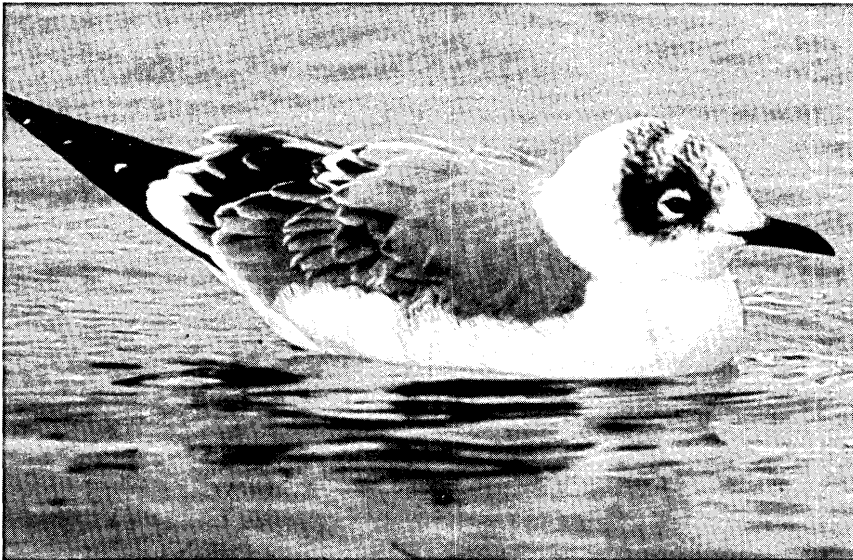


Little Gull, Adult Winter - Lake Ontario - August 1997
Dominic Sherony

Nov 1995 (Mosher, Rew 1995), another reported there on the Chautauqua County Hotline in 1999 and our only inland record, an adult in Dayton, Cattaraugus County 8 Sep 1996 (Schweigert 1998). The latter record is incorrectly given in the reference as 8 Sep 1997 (Schweigert, pers. comm.). The maximum in one day is four at the south end of the river in Oct 1988 (D'Anna 1988, Yoerg 1988).

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Larus tridactyla*). Sightings from the Niagara R. account for the majority of records of this species although it may be just as frequent on Lakes Erie and Ontario. Its status has changed little since 1977. Increased sightings on the Great Lakes are probably due to greater observer awareness. Sightings of one or two birds are the norm with the maximum of six occurring at Athol Springs on Lake Erie 25 Nov 1990 (Andrle 1990). This species is usually found with Bonaparte's Gulls with the vast majority of records involving immatures.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). This high arctic gull is one of the birder's most desired species. The Niagara R. hosted an adult in the fall and early winter of 1995, first discovered by Toronto birder Glenn Coady at Fort Erie on 12 Nov. This very mobile bird was subsequently seen along the Niagara R., includ



Franklin's Gull, first-winter - Niagara River - November 1988
Brian & Eileen Keelan

ing the river mouth, as well as ten miles west of the river in Port Weller, Ontario on Lake Ontario, only to last appear back in Fort Erie on 1 Jan 1996 (Dobos 1997). It was seen on the New York side of the international boundary line on several occasions.

Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). This species holds the present distinction of being the gull with the longest absence from the region. The last record and the only one since 1977 was an immature at Niagara Falls on 1 Jan 1981 (Andrle, Axtell et al 1981). This represents the fourth record for the Region, all at Niagara Falls .

HYBRIDS, SUBSPECIES AND OTHER FORMS

Gulls, especially the larger ones, are extremely variable. With the great numbers that occur on the Niagara R., a variety of unusual individuals has been observed. These include leucistic and melanistic individuals as well as probable hybrids and birds that have not been positively identified as belonging to any known form. Two probable hybrids occur nearly annually on the Niagara R.(personal observation). They are Great Black-backed x Herring Gull and Glaucous x Herring Gull, the latter often referred to as "Nelson's"Gull . Andrle documented the occurrence of both of these forms in the Region (Andrle 1972, 1973 and 1980).

In recent years there has been an increase in sightings of odd Herring Gull-type birds on the Niagara R.. These birds are usually just slightly darker than a *smithsonianus* Herring Gull though there is variation in the tone of dark. While the legs are usually pink, on at least three occasions yellow-legged individuals have been observed. The total characters of each of these birds do not add up to any known species of North American gull. It is suspected that some of these birds are hybrids or backcrosses of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls or Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Some individuals have shown characters that appear to fit one or the other of the Herring Gull subspecies of Europe and Asia. For some of these subspecies, little has been published about identification. On one occasion, the author observed a bird at the power plants on the river that showed the characters of the nominate form of Herring Gull from Scandinavia, which has been documented in Newfoundland (Mactavish 1995). However, as with many unusual gulls on the Niagara R.the great distance made obtaining adequate documentation too difficult.

SUMMARY

Due principally to the great numbers of gulls including rare species attracted to the Niagara R. these birds have generated much interest and study here since the late 1940s (Andrle 1977a). Interest in this fascinating group of birds is increasing, not only regionally but also across the continent, in Europe, Hong Kong, and many other places. Armed with better identification information and the knowledge of patterns of occurrence throughout North America, birders are looking hard in anticipation of the next new species of gull on the Niagara. Some possibilities include Black-tailed Gull (*L. crassirostris*), Yellow-legged Gull (*L. cachinnans*), Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*) and Heermann's Gull (*L. heermanni*), one of the latter being recently discovered in Toronto, Ontario, just across Lake Ontario from the mouth of the river. Even without the lure of adding a new species to the Regional list, birders will still make the pilgrimage in order to study species that are rare in most other locations of the east, as well as to see the great gull spectacle unique to Niagara Frontier Region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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migration with numerous sightings of multiple individuals. A group of neck banded individuals from the Canadian introduction project spent a few days feeding along the lakeshore, preceded by sightings near Montezuma NWR in March and near Iroquois NWR later in April. Shorebirds were very low, with an interesting Whimbrel flight and our third spring record of Hudsonian Godwit the only surprises. It was a generally poor spring for gulls, with few large concentrations and few lingering white-winged gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gull continued to be reported regularly. We can now expect this species at almost any time during the year. Terns arrived fairly early, but numbers were low.

Cuckoos arrived early this spring and were found in good numbers. The owl migration was okay. Long-eared Owl numbers were up this spring. N. Sawwhets were about average, with a juvenile found dead at Hogan Point in May near where birds were heard calling beginning in mid-February. Common Nighthawk continued its downward trend, but Whip-poor-will reports seemed slightly up. Amazing numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported at the banding stations.

The passerine migration experienced highs and lows as usual. Overall it was a moderate migration. While some species came early, the numbers continued to be less than spectacular. Flycatchers were low, with only a single report of Olive-sided Flycatcher. Acadian continued to be found at the traditional sites. A Loggerhead Shrike in Wayne County may prove to be interesting for the breeding season. White-eyed Vireos continued to be reported from the banding stations, as has been the case in recent years. Other vireos were down. There was only a single report of Common Raven this spring. Sedge Wren was unreported. Kinglet numbers were okay but not great. Thrushes seemed particularly low this spring.

Warbler numbers were moderate, with no reports of Prothonotary or Connecticut. All of the usual sparrows were reported, but there were no reports of large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. Some observers reported excellent numbers of Fox Sparrows. An American Tree Sparrow in May was late. Clay-colored Sparrow has returned Mendon Ponds Park for the third year in the last five. Orchard Oriole was again in residence in Geneseo, and Baltimore Oriole was well-reported. Accompanying good numbers of Common Redpoll, it was one of the best seasons on record for Hoary. Pine Siskins lingered on through the season and were widely reported.

The season ended up with a total of 250 species. Rarities for the season included Eared Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Hudsonian Godwit, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

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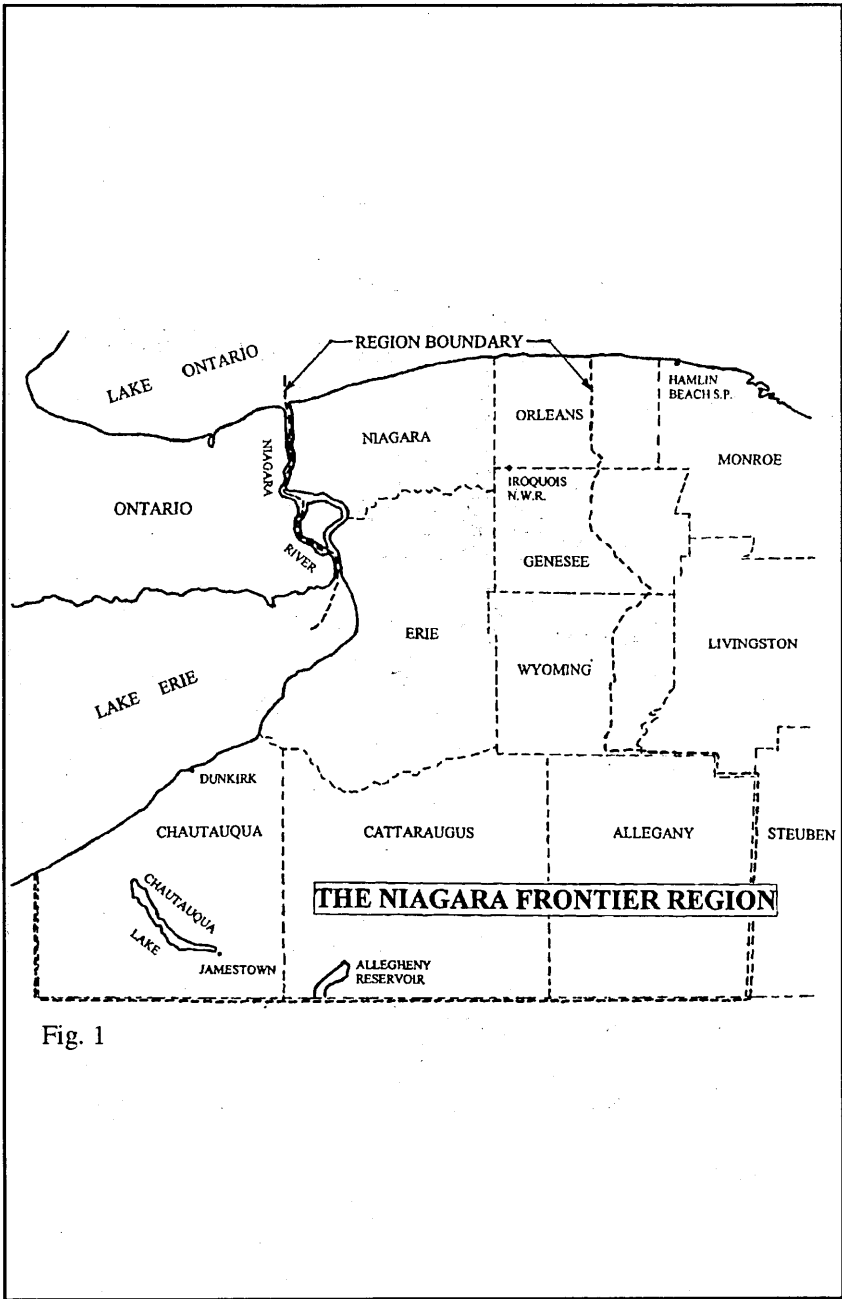


Fig. 1

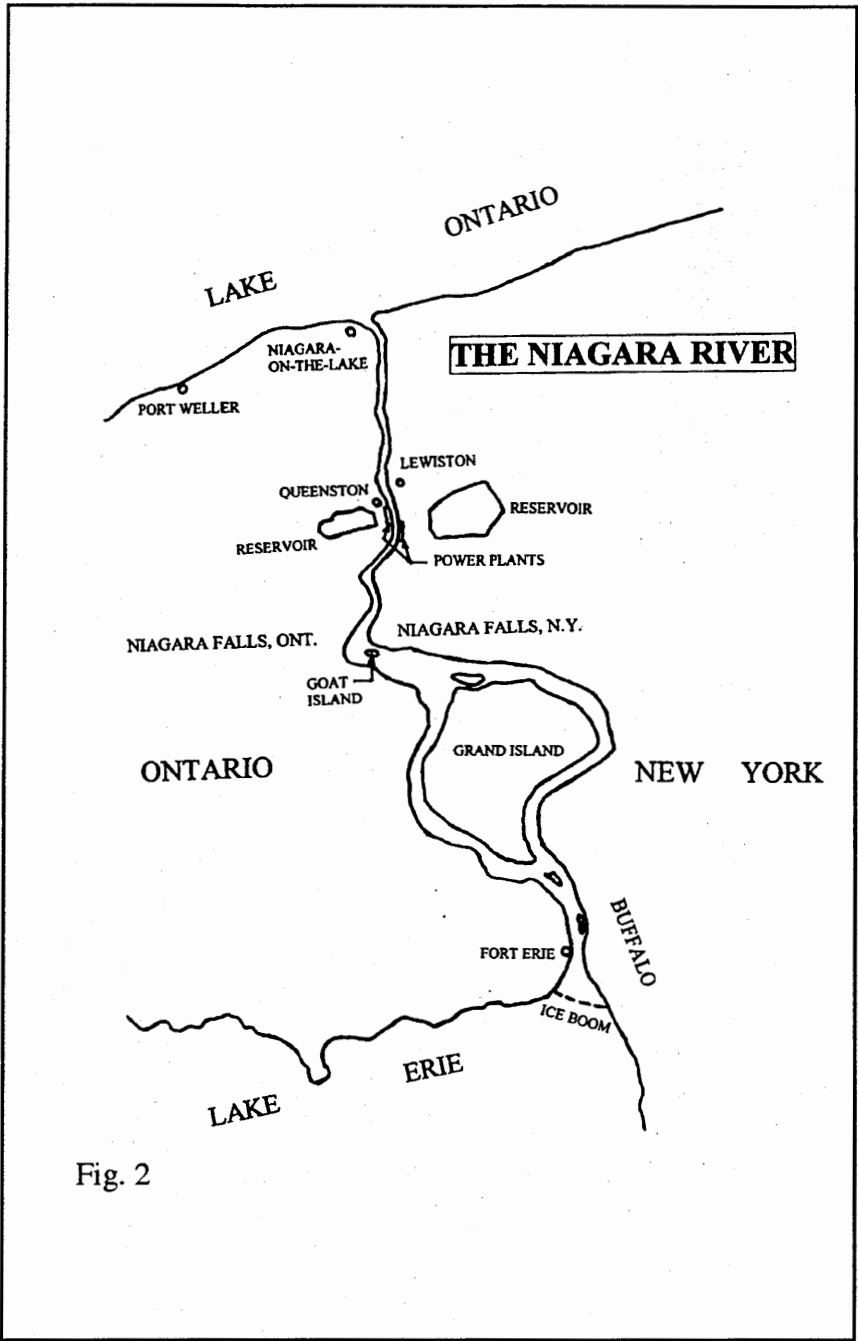


Fig. 2

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS ON FIRE ISLAND, LI, NY

P.A. Buckley¹ and Garrett Schairer²

¹US Geological Survey-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Box 8 @ Graduate School of Oceanography
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett RI 02882
<pabuckley@gsosun1.gso.uri>

²Conservation Management Institute
Virginia Tech University
Blacksburg, VA 24061
<gschaire@vt.edu>

ABSTRACT

In May 2000 an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross came ashore on Fire Island, Long Island, Suffolk Co. That same day another was seen in the Elizabeth Islands in MA, and then over a five week period between 9 May and 18 Jun, Yellow-nosed Albatrosses were found in NJ, RI, and MA. Details of each occurrence are provided, as well as a complete history of all previous credible albatross reports from NYS, including several overlooked in previous papers chronicling Southern Hemisphere albatrosses in North America.

THE SPRING 2000 ALBATROSS 'EVENT'

At 1730h on 9 May 2000, several Virginia Tech University scientists and students preparing a vegetative cover map for Fire Island National Seashore were driving along the oceanfront beach at Robbin's Rest, Suffolk Co., about 7 km (4 mi) east of Fire Island Lighthouse when they came upon an enormous bird standing on the beach among some summering Herring (*Larus argentatus*) and Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) gulls. Not quite believing their eyes, they recognized that it was an albatross. Aware that this was a truly unusual occurrence and with great presence of mind, they immediately took several images with their digital camera (Figs. 1-2). In addition to the photos, they made the following notes:

*Attention was immediately drawn by its great size, approximately twice that of the gulls it was with. The gulls appeared undisturbed and displayed neither aggression toward nor fear of the albatross when it walked among them or took off and flew, relanding with

them. The albatross was easily studied through binoculars while on the ground and in flight, at times as close as 7-8 m (25 ft).

'We noted its black bill with yellow ridge, a unique 'dip' in the bill between the head and tip; white underwing with a narrow black fringe (in flight); black upperwing; white body; light grayish head; long narrow wings we estimated to be about 2 m (7 ft) across, short, dark tail (in relation to the wings and body) and of course its enormous size, as it towered over the Great Black-backs, the largest gulls in North America.

'In flight it repeatedly made laps over the same section of beach, during which one of its wingtips often touched the sand in mid-turn. After multiple passes, it would return to the beach where it would mill around among the gulls. While on the ground, it walked about actively, all the while seeming keenly observant of its surroundings, constantly scanning the beach in all directions. All told, we watched it for about 15 minutes, and when we left the area at 1735h, it was still on the beach among the gulls.'

The plumage details and photos prove it was an albatross, and that it could only have been a Yellow-nosed (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*). The yellow culmen (=culminicorn) confirmed its age, and the description and photos showing the bill and underwing eliminated the other two possible candidates—Gray-headed (*T. chrysostoma*) and Buller's (*T. bulleri*). Apart from the fact that neither has ever occurred in the North Atlantic (and Buller's not even in the South Atlantic), this bird's bill was too small and slender for Buller's, and lacked the yellow/orange ramicorn (=a horny plate on the side of the lower mandible), while its very light gray head, largely white underwing narrowly edged with black, and absence of yellow on the ramicorn were all incorrect for Buller's.

Amazingly, at 1145h the same day the Fire Island bird showed up, an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross appeared over land in a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) colony on Penikese Island, in the Elizabeth Islands, Buzzards Bay, Dukes Co., MA (B. Blodget *et al.*). Penikese Island is about 215 km (135 mi) almost directly northeast of Robbin's Rest. If the Penikese albatross left immediately after its 1145h observation, it could easily have reached Robbin's Rest just before its 1730h Fire Island discovery by maintaining an average speed of only 32 km/hr (20 mi/hr), not excessive for an albatross on the move. But did it? We are unaware of any photos of the Penikese bird which could be matched with those from Fire Island, so we cannot say.

Twelve days later, Sunday 21 May, an adult albatross believed to be, but not certainly identified as, a Yellow-nosed, flew over Shawneen Finnegan's car while she was driving along the Garden State Parkway southern end in Cape May, NJ. This was a most unsatisfactory first NJ record, and the next day scores of observers scoured Cape May Co. shores, but to no avail. Then, on Tuesday 23



Fig. 1 Yellow-nosed Albatross 9 May 2000 Note wingspan Fire Island, LI, NY

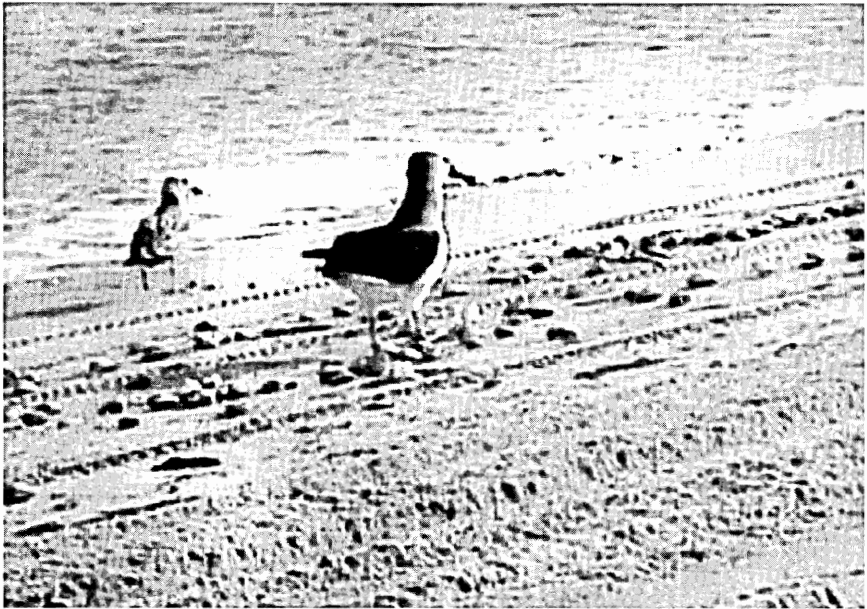


Fig. 2 Yellow-nosed Albatross 9 May 2000 Note size comparison to gull
Fire Island, LI, NY Digital Photos courtesy of Scott Klopfer

May, what was doubtless the same individual was relocated some 15 km (9.5 mi) northwest of Finnegan's encounter, along the shore of Delaware Bay at Reed's Beach. It spent the better part of the day flying over the beach, and walking around on mudflats in among gulls, at times flying to within 3-4 m (10-15 ft) of astonished observers. By the next morning it had vanished again. This time, its identification as a Yellow-nosed Albatross was firmly established.

At 1500h on Saturday 27 May, Larry Moniz and several amazed nonbirders watched an albatross almost sail over their heads, again on land, at Manasquan Inlet, Ocean Co., northern NJ. They all described its wingspan as 'about seven feet,' but no detailed description has yet been received. Curiously, NJ's first accepted Black-browed Albatross (*T. melanophris*) was also found at Manasquan Inlet, and under similar conditions, on 24 Oct 1989.

Another eight days later, on Sunday 4 Jun, at 1430h, a Yellow-nosed Albatross (whose culmen could not be seen with certainty and thus it could not be aged) appeared again over land, being pursued by crows, at Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge, Washington Co., along RI's south coast. Scott Tsagarakis's careful description of its underwing pattern confirmed the identification as Yellow-nosed.

At 1100h the very next day, Monday 5 Jun, an unequivocal adult albatross again firmly identified as a Yellow-nosed was also seen over land, this time by Daniel Sutherland at Tom Nevers Head, on the extreme southeastern corner of Nantucket Island, MA, some 145 km (90 mi) from Trustom Pond.

Thirteen days after that, on Sunday 18 Jun, at 1530h, an unaged albatross not identified to species but described as '50% larger than accompanying Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*)' was reported by Charles Witek as it cruised past his chumming fishing boat in the Atlantic Ocean 29 km (18 mi) southeast of Fire Island Inlet—almost within sight of where the May Fire Island bird had come ashore. As of this writing (30 Jun) there have been no further plausible reports of albatrosses anywhere in the northeast. (It should be noted that no state records committees have yet considered any of the above reports.)

The big question of course is how many different albatrosses might have been involved in the multiple occurrences described above (fortunately all seen by experienced birders), over a period of five weeks along a coastline almost 650 km (400 mi) long. Could only one bird have been ranging over such a vast area, or did a small group invade the Northeast? Absent unequivocally simultaneous observations in two locations, or more than one bird together, or identifiably different individuals in photos, the question remains unanswerable.

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED NEW YORK STATE ALBATROSS REPORTS

- adult Yellow-nosed, sitting on the water 3 km (2 mi) south of Jones Beach State Park, Nassau Co., 29 May 1960 (Bull 1961);
- adult Yellow-nosed, sitting on beach, Gardiner's Island, Suffolk Co., 8 Jun 1971 (R. Hernandez; Davis and Morgan 1971);
- unaged albatross not identified to species, flying across the Belt Parkway at the Narrows, Brooklyn, NY, 21 May 1973 (E.J. Daly; Buckley and Davis 1973);
- adult Yellow-nosed, Croton Pt., Hudson River, Westchester Co., 10 Aug 1976, the morning after passage of Tropical Storm *Belle* the previous night (B. Weismann and W. Howe; Paxton *et al.* 1977);
- unaged Yellow-nosed, flying over land, Crown Pt. Peninsula, Lake Champlain, Essex Co., 8 May 1994 (J.M. Peterson and D. Spaulding; Peterson 1994).

Most astonishing at the time was the Brooklyn over land report. Still, Daly, well known personally to PAB and T.H. Davis, had described and sketched his albatross in meticulous detail at the time of its observation. He was also questioned at length by PAB and Davis, neither of whom had any doubt he had seen an albatross of some species. At the time, many summarily dismissed the notion of an albatross over land in the Northeast as patently absurd, even some who knew and respected the observer. Yet in the intervening years, both Black-browed (in MA and in NJ) and Yellow-nosed (in ME, MA, NY, NJ, FL, LA, and TX at least) have been recorded over or nearly over land, and in spring 2000 alone, Yellow-nosed Albatrosses were seen over/on land in MA (twice), RI, NY, and NJ (twice). We now know that Yellow-nosed is the more likely May-June species, although this information obviously cannot *ex post facto* identify the Brooklyn bird to species.

The Gardiner's Island bird was described in detail to PAB and Dennis Puleston, neither of whom had any doubt as to the correctness of the identification and ageing. The Lake Champlain bird was unequivocally identified as a Yellow-nosed Albatross at the time of observation, and even though NYSARC accepted it only as 'albatross sp.,' Peterson (pers. comm.) had no doubts then or now that it was a Yellow-nosed. The Gardiner's Island and Brooklyn reports were probably never submitted to NYSARC.

In addition, at least two different Yellow-nosed Albatrosses have been found at Cox's Ledge, a submarine plateau and fishing ground ca. 65 km (40 mi) east-southeast of Montauk Point, LI, NY, and partly in MA and partly in RI waters:

- 'subadult,' 21 Aug 1976, only 11 days after Tropical Storm *Belle* dropped the adult noted above on the Hudson River (C. Wood, A. Jarmin; Paxton *et al.* 1977; Conway 1992);
- 'immature,' 21 Aug 1979, photographed by T.H. Davis (Vickery 1980).

Overlooked by almost all previous North American albatross chroniclers was an albatross primary feather picked up at Jones Beach, Nassau Co., LI, NY on 7 Nov 1948 by D.G. Nichols, who had been attracted by its strong, oily smell. The feather gave no indication of having been in the water, a conclusion reinforced by retention of its characteristic tubenose odor. It was examined by R.C. Murphy, who stated that 'I doubt whether the quill is positively identifiable to species [but] it most closely resembles *Diomedea chlororhynchos*... appears to have been not long molted...and was in all probability a naturally molted feather' (Nichols 1950). Its condition and its location high on the beach suggest that it might even have been dropped at that spot by a preening albatross that had come ashore. Even if not, it is a more than reasonable supposition that its owner lost it not far away, somewhere within NYS.

An adult Black-browed Albatross reported seen from shore at Tobay Beach, Jones Beach, Nassau Co., LI, 27 May 1996 was voted 'not accepted' by NYSARC (NYSARC 1999). We are aware of the following credible Black-browed Albatross reports elsewhere in the northeastern US: one in VA (Patteson *et al.* 1999), one in NJ (Walsh *et al.* 1999), and 4-6 (perhaps involving 5-7 individuals) in MA (Veit and Petersen 1993; Ellison and Martin 1997), so its occurrence in NYS would not be unexpected.

Both Yellow-nosed and Black-browed albatrosses were reported on several occasions in the early 1970s from the New York Bight, especially at or near Hudson Canyon. This occurred before the USA 200 nm (370 km) territorial limit was declared, and when many factory-ship fishing fleets were working continental shelf-break and submarine canyon waters in the New York Bight and attracting unprecedented seabird numbers. Nonetheless, all efforts to obtain written descriptions and other supporting details for every single one of these albatross reports have failed. As a result, none should be accepted without reservation until this situation changes.

Yellow-nosed Albatross has now established a genuine pattern of appearance in the NJ-NY-RI-MA area, with most records in May-June, plus a handful in August (at least two were probably hurricane related, as were several others from northern New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces). It is presumed that all North Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses belong to the nominate form, *chlororhynchos*, which breeds in islands in the South Atlantic (A.O.U. 1998). Adults' (often pale) grey heads, usually much lighter than Gray-headed or Buller's, differ strikingly from the white heads of *bassi*, the southern Indian Ocean breeding form. Nonetheless, while none of the half-dozen Yellow-nosed Albatross specimens from North America has ever been subspecifically identified, most adults seen or photographed here have had gray heads to varying degrees, which should eliminate *bassi* from consideration. Petersen (1999) published photos (p. 445) of a particularly dark-headed individual in the Gulf of Maine on 6 July 1999.

Assessments of Yellow-nosed Albatross reports in NY and the Northeast were done by Post (1968), for USA East Coast Black-broweds by DuMont (1973), for Yellow-nosed and Black-browed in the western North Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico by McDaniel (1973), and for all Southern Hemisphere albatrosses in North America by Mlodinow (1999). All are excellent sources of information.

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**STATUS OF THE TRUMPETER SWAN
IN NEW YORK STATE ¹**

Dan Carroll

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Sub-Office
Casey Road, PO Box 422
Alabama, NY 14003

Bryan L. Swift

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Wildlife Resources Center
108 Game Farm Road
Delmar, NY 12054

For several years now, Trumpeter Swans have been listed in Regions 2 and 6, and now in Region 3. The species is not on the official New York State Checklist and the report usually carries the cautionary note "origin unknown." Since such a large and imposing bird is difficult to ignore, it was decided to ask Dan Carroll and Bryan Swift of the NYSDEC to bring us up to date on the species in NY, as somewhere down the line, probably within a decade, it may be added to the official avifauna of the state.

The Editor

The Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*) is the largest native waterfowl in North America. It was once common throughout the northern United States, Alaska, and Canada. The historic breeding range extended in a wide band from the Bering Sea east to the Atlantic Coast and south to northern Kentucky, northern West Virginia, northern Maryland and northern Delaware. Since it disappeared very early in the period of European colonization, this breeding range is based on limited evidence from fossil and archeological records, scarce museum collection specimens, colonial literary accounts and the records of colonial trading companies. In New York State, prehistoric fossil evidence was recovered from an Orange County site (Steadman 1998), but in historic times there is unfortunately no specimen or substantiated record before those in this report.

At one time there were an estimated 100,000 wintering along the Atlantic Coast of North America. This bird was extirpated from the Atlantic Flyway by the early settlers almost 200 years ago. Despite dwindling numbers in the remaining portions of its range, the species did not receive federal protection until the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed in 1918. Even with this protection it continued to decline. In 1932, when the Trumpeter Swan was first considered (but not formally declared) an endangered species, there were only 69 known individuals left in the United States.



Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)

Currently there are three populations. The Pacific Coast population is the most naturally functioning with approximately 16,000 birds that breed in Alaska and winter along the Pacific Coast. The other two populations are the Rocky Mountain population of approximately 3,000 birds and the Interior population of approximately 1,000 birds. These populations contain migratory and nonmigratory individuals.

Surveys have been conducted every five years since initial surveys in 1968 and 1975. Based on these surveys, the overall population in North America has increased by 26% since 1990 and over 400% since 1968. Although the species is increasing, all three populations are still considered vulnerable to various threats. The primary risk factors include lead poisoning, loss of winter habitat, habitat degradation and lack of migratory traditions.

In 1996 wild Trumpeter Swans were confirmed breeding in New York State for the first time in recent history. One pair nested at Perch River Wildlife Management Area in Jefferson County (Region 6), and another nested in a privately owned wetland north of Newark in Wayne County (Region 2). Both pairs raised 3-4 young cygnets that year. For the next 3 years, these pairs (presumably the same birds, although none was marked) returned to the same locations to nest, and were successful in most years. Two additional pairs were reported in New York in 2000, a second pair at Perch River, and a new pair at Lake Como in southern Cayuga County (Region 3). Nesting by the latter pair was not confirmed at the time of this writing.

New York's first two nesting pairs are believed to have come from private collections, the most likely source being a private game bird breeder, located just north of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, who has had Trumpeter Swans in his possession since 1990. The breeding pair is pinioned, but cygnets produced are free-flying and able to come and go from the property. The first breeding season sighting of a free-flying Trumpeter Swan in New York State occurred near there in April 1993 (NYSARC 1995). Most trumpeters begin nesting by 4-6 years of age, so that bird, and any others released at the same time, would have been sexually mature by 1996. The second pair at Perch River may be progeny of the first pair, while origin of the pair at Lake Como is anyone's guess.

It is unlikely that trumpeters nesting in New York came from southern Ontario, where an active restoration program has been ongoing since 1982. More than 100 swans have been released there, and nearly all were wing-tagged before release. The first wild breeding pair in Ontario was confirmed in 1993, and by 1998, there were 16 wild nesting pairs. The release sites closest to New York

were just east of Toronto (>100 miles from New York's nest sites), whereas the Wayne County breeder is only 20 miles from Newark and 60 miles from Perch River. Some of the Ontario birds have been seen in western New York during fall and winter, but to date, none have been seen in New York during summer.

In addition to nesting birds, reports of other unmarked trumpeters in New York are becoming more common. These include four swans at Montezuma in July-August 1996, two swans on Cayuga Lake near Lansing (Tompkins County) in February 1997, and a family group (no young from that year) at Montezuma in June 1998 (K. McGowan, Cornell Univ., pers. comm.). In summer 1999, we counted a total of 14 trumpeters in New York (2 adult pairs, 6 cygnets, plus 4 non-breeding subadults). Thus it appears that the local population is growing and expanding its range.

Seasonal movements of New York's nesting trumpeters are largely unknown. The Newark family group stayed near the nesting area through the winter of 1996-97 and may have in other years too. The Perch River birds may go to eastern Lake Ontario, where swans are some times seen, but sightings have not been documented. Trumpeter Swans have not been recorded in that area during Federation Waterfowl Counts, except in 1999, when a single bird was reported.

Both the Mississippi and Central flyways have approved restoration plans for the Trumpeter Swan and several states including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa and Ohio have initiated restoration programs. These efforts are producing largely resident, non-migratory populations of trumpeters. In the Atlantic Flyway no restoration plan has been approved and only Ontario has initiated a swan restoration program.

Atlantic Flyway states, including New York, are more interested in establishing a migratory population of trumpeters. Therefore, the future of a restoration project in the flyway depends in part on results of ongoing experiments using ultralight aircraft to teach young swans to migrate. A 1998 experiment using cygnets hatched from the eggs of non-migratory captive swans and imprinted on humans was unsuccessful. In 2000, a second experiment is planned using cygnets taken from, and imprinted on, wild migratory trumpeters in Alaska. Both of these experiments have been conducted by Environmental Studies at Airlie from Warrenton, Virginia and involve an attempt to teach swans to follow a predetermined migration route from western New York (near Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge) to Chesapeake Bay, Maryland. For information about that project, visit the website: www.trumpeterswans.org.

DEC currently has a "wait and see" policy towards restoration of Trumpeter

Swans in New York State. We will continue to monitor nesting and productivity of wild pairs, but have not yet decided whether to encourage an active restoration program. Trumpeters may be desirable because they can displace Mute Swans (*C. olor*), which are not native to North America and sometimes displace other waterfowl species and attack people. Where trumpeter populations have been established, the birds generally seem to be more wary of people, have larger nesting territories, and have caused relatively few conflicts with other wildlife or human activities. Before any restoration is allowed, however, we will need to assess biological feasibility as well as public support.

In the meantime, it appears that our non-migratory nesting population is growing, so we may need to address this issue in the near future. We invite readers to offer their views about whether an active restoration program would be desirable. Reports of any sightings in New York State would also be appreciated.

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E.Levine ed. p.68
Cornell University Press



**GREAT BLUE HERON NESTING POPULATION ON IRONSIDES
ISLAND
IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER FROM 1964 - 1998**

George R. Maxwell
Dept. of Biology, Oswego State University, NY 13126
Gerald A. Smith
The Nature Conservancy, 339 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14604
Lee Harper
St. Lawrence Bird Observatory, 58 River Rd., Massena, NY 13662
Ken Karwowski
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 3817 Luker Rd., Cortland, NY 13045

ABSTRACT

Numbers of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) active nests have been counted during 30 breeding seasons from 1964 through 1998 on Ironsides Island (St. Lawrence River), Jefferson Co., NY. The lowest nest count occurred in 1966 with 85 active nests and the highest count was in 1990 with 1040 active nests. Nest numbers have declined to 506 active nests during the 1998 breeding season. Heron nesting populations are lower because of the loss of the nest support trees probably due to high nitrate levels from the bird's excrement. The island's ownership and natural history are also discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Ironsides Island (a.k.a. Brown's Island or Berkshire Island) is an 8 ha (20 acre) island located in the St. Lawrence River on the Jefferson - St. Lawrence Co. line in New York State and just one km from the Leeds Co., Ontario, Canada boundary. In New York, surveys have been performed to locate Great Blue Heron colonies in NY (Andrle *et al.* 1988; McCrimmon 1981, 1982; Benning 1968, 1969; Watson 1991), but there are limited data on changes in colony size over an extended period of time. Ironsides Island is ideal for long term studies, because the island is a protected reserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and therefore has little or no human disturbance. The study was initiated in 1964 by Benning (1969) and continued by the authors in 1968 for 30 breeding seasons in a 35 year time span. The authors believe it is important to document the heron population as well as the natural history of Ironsides Island as a benchmark for future studies on this island. See Figs. 1 - 2 for aerial view and nesting habitat.

HISTORY

The island was conveyed by deed from Maurice Teich to William E. Browning III on 25 Jan 1965 and recorded in the Jefferson Co. Clerk's Office 27 Jan 1965 in Liber 763 of Deeds on page 246. William Browning conveyed the island by deed to The Nature Conservancy on 28 May 1965 and recorded in the Jefferson Co. Clerk's Office 13 Jul 1965 in Liber 770 of Deeds on page 194. Since 1965 Ironsides Island has been managed by the Central / Western New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. In 1967 Ironsides Island was designated by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior's National Park Service as the 56th site in their Registered Natural Landmark program. A bronze plaque indicating the Natural Landmark status is mounted on a granite boulder on the island's south-east side.

GEOLOGY, SOILS AND WETLANDS

Ironsides Island is a part of the Grenville Province, which consists of highly deformed rocks of Precambrian age. The island is composed of Alaskitic gneisses and granite with minor amounts of other metamorphic rocks. During the Pleistocene, two directions of glacier movement occurred during the late Wisconsin glaciation to produce the present topography. The glaciers eroded the island surface into smooth elongate ridges with pronounced grooves, two of which can be traced the entire length of the island. Deposition of glacial till was limited and rarely exceeds 60 cm (two feet) in thickness. The soil cover is very thin with large areas being exposed bedrock. The perimeter of the island consists of steep sides between 3 and 10 meters (10 and 32 feet) high. (Schneider in Maxwell *et al.* 1975)

The soil complex is made of Hollis soils, which are shallow, excessively drained, moderately coarse textured, acidic and formed in a thin mantle of glacial till that is from 10 to 50 cm (4 to 20 inches) thick over rock. Two small fresh water wetland areas were found at each end of the island, with water levels being determined by rainfall and the river's water level, which is controlled by hydroelectric dams downriver. (McDowell in Maxwell *et al.* 1975). Soil chemistry was determined on 20 May 1974 at sites under nests and at non-nest sites. There were differences in soil nitrate nitrogen and phosphorus between the two sites. In the nest site area nitrate levels were 45 kg/ ha (40 lbs/acre) and in the non-nest site area it was less than 11 kg/ha (10 lbs/acre). Phosphorus in the nest site area was 224 kg/ha (200 lbs/acre) and the non-nest site area was 168 kg/ha (150 lbs/acre). Soil acidity varied from a pH of 4.2 in the soils under nests to 5.8 in non-nest site areas. (Schneider in Maxwell *et al.* 1975).

Water chemistry and biology at the two wetland sites was determined from samples taken on 20 May 1974. The north wetland was located under trees

supporting heron nests and the south wetland was located under trees with no heron nests. In the wetlands under nests the nitrate level was 1.88 ppm¹, while in the wetland without heron nests was 0.66 ppm. The sulfate levels were 30 ppm in the wetland with nests and 7 ppm in the non-nest wetland. Conductivity was 132 umhos² @ 18o C in the nest areas and 52 umhos@ 18o C in the nest free area. Invertebrates in the wetland under the heron nests were the Isopoda - *Asellus militaris*, Nematoda - *Dorylaimus* sp., Cladocera - *Daphnia* sp., Ostracoda - *Limnocythera* sp., Copepoda - *Cyclops* sp. and Diptera - *Aedes vexans*, *Aedes riparius* (Shearer in Maxwell et al., 1975).

PLANT ANALYSIS

The vegetation on Ironsides Island was sampled by D. Cox in May, 1974 (see Table 1) and by P. Ruta in July, 1978 (see Table 2). These two reports are combined here to give an overview of the island's botany. The studies utilized the 1/40 acre circular quadrats³ and the dbh⁴ of each tree within the quadrat was measured. The data were used to calculate the relative frequency, relative density, and the importance value index. Ruta (1978) compiled a species list of plants for Ironsides Island as part of a St. Lawrence River winter navigation environmental impact study (Geis *et al.* 1977). The botanical nomenclature follows Gleason *et al.* (1963) and Fernald (1950).

Ironsides Island was so named because of the presence of rust colored rocks on the steep rock sides of the island. It was assumed the color came from iron deposits in the rock. However, Martha Sherwood, a graduate student at the herbarium of Cornell University discovered that the color was due to the rust colored lichen (*Xanthoria paratina*). Two other lichens were also present on the rocks, the green-tufted lichen (*Ramalina intermedia*) and the leathery white and black lichen (*Umbilicaria vellea*) (Killian, 1974).

VERTEBRATE ANALYSIS (EXCEPT BIRDS)

A survey of vertebrates was conducted in May, 1974. The lack of a vertebrate population of any size is due to the islands isolation from the mainland, except in winter when travel across the ice is possible. The only amphibian noted was an unidentified frog in the tadpole stage located in the pool at the south end

¹ ppm- parts per million

² umhos -micromho-measure of electrical conductivity, reciprocal of the ohm

³ quadrat - measured plots used to count species in an area

⁴ dbh - diameter of trunk at breast height

of the island. Reptiles were found near the central part of the island and along the shoreline. One garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) and two water snakes (*Natrix sipedon*) were observed.

A total of 110 Sherman small mammal traps was set at eight different sites on the island and baited with rolled oats. The catch from this overnight trapping session yielded one meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*). There were no deer mice (*Peromyscus* sp.), which is surprising since they are common on the mainland (Lackey in Maxwell *et al.*, 1975). Evidence of the presence of beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) doe and fawn have been seen on at least two trips in the mid-1990's.

BIRD POPULATIONS

During the St. Lawrence River winter navigation environmental impact study in 1978, a breeding bird study was completed on the island (Maxwell *et al.*, 1979). No other studies on the bird's breeding populations have been completed, except for the heron population. This breeding bird survey recorded 383 territorial males of 39 species (Table 3). Other birds observed on the island but not nesting were the Common Loon, Green Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, E. Phoebe, E. Kingbird, American Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Scarlet Tanager and Chipping Sparrow.

The main avian attraction on Ironsides Island is the Great Blue Heron colony. The authors have been studying the herons since 1968 and the main purpose of this paper is to summarize the population change in the heron colony over the past 35 years. The Great Blue Heron's 10 - 20 meter (33 to 66 feet) high nests were difficult to reach, so a formula was derived to estimate the number of active nests. A count of all nests that looked complete and not degraded by winter storms was made and 25% of those were estimated to be non-active and so subtracted from the total nest count. These data in this paper reflect that correction. See Fig. 3 and Table 4.

The change in nesting population size from the low count of 85 active nests in 1966 to the high count of 1040 active nests in 1990, followed by a gradual decline to the present implies a slow but steady change in colony size and therefore some stability in the colony over time. The authors were very sensitive to the possibility of losing the colony due to investigator disturbance. The senior author lost a Black-crowned Night-Heron colony on N. Bass Island in Lake Erie in 1963 while studying their behavior (Maxwell *et al.*, 1968). The Ironsides

Island colony has been protected by New York State Environmental Conservation Laws, which prohibits entry on the island from April 1 to August 1.

The increase in the heron colony from 1964 to 1990 was due to the utilization of trees for nest sites located on the central and south end of the island as the colony expanded from the original nest trees at the north end of the island. The increasing numbers of adult herons and their nestlings contributed to the high nitrate levels in the soil with their excrement. The trees and shrubs could not tolerate the new soil conditions and many of them died. In March 1991 and in January 1998, ice storms in the region damaged the trees and contributed to the die-off. The loss of suitable nesting trees has resulted in a gradual decline in the number of herons nesting on the island.

The only other major environmental disruption during the study period that might have affected the heron population was a 308,000 gallon oil spill from a tanker carrying number 6 crude oil on 23 Jun 1976. The oil slick traveled downriver for more than 60 miles and Ironsides Island was in the path of the oil slick. The island itself suffered little damage, except for some oil coatings on the shoreline rocks. The heron's feeding areas in nearby marshes did suffer extensive damage and reduced the food supply for the young herons that were in the nests or on the ground at the time of the oil spill. It was estimated that there was a loss of 40 adult herons and 15 young herons. The loss of young would have been greater had not the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation brought small fish to Ironsides for the herons to eat. The Nature Conservancy received \$4000 as settlement of a suit brought by The Nature Conservancy against the Oswego Barge Company for damages to the island and the herons. The heron nesting population did increase in the years following the oil spill in 1976 and the long-term damage to the number of nesting herons was apparently minimal (Table 4).

The future changes in the Great Blue Heron population on the island are hard to predict. We suspect that the population will continue to decline as the nesting trees die. It is hoped that a small colony will remain on the island and reforestation will eventually permit the heron colony to increase in size again. We encourage the continued study of the vegetational and bird population changes on Ironsides Island into the next century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There have been so many people and organizations that have helped the authors continue this study for so many years that it would be difficult to list them all, and we are grateful for their support. Some, however, must be mentioned. We wish to thank the Central / Western Chapter of The Nature

Conservancy for their permission to study the herons and for their generous financial and personnel support over the years. Similarly, we thank Oswego State University , Rice Creek Biological Field Station and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Services, Cortland for their financial, equipment and personnel support.

Table 1. Canopy vegetation of Ironsides Island, Jefferson Co., NY in May, 1974

Species	Relative Frequency	Relative Density	Importance Value Index
White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	15.9	21.3	57.5
Red & White Oak <i>Quercus rubra & alba</i>	11.6	12.5	51.5
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	13.0	11.3	37.3
White Ash <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	11.6	13.8	31.6
Basswood <i>Tilia americana</i>	7.2	6.3	30.2
Ironwood <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	8.7	8.8	20.1
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	8.7	5.0	19.6
Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	8.7	8.8	19.1
N. White Cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	7.2	9.4	19.0
Red Pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	2.9	1.2	7.3
Hickory <i>Carya</i> sp.	2.9	1.2	4.2
Gray Birch <i>Betula populifolia</i>	1.4	0.6	2.5



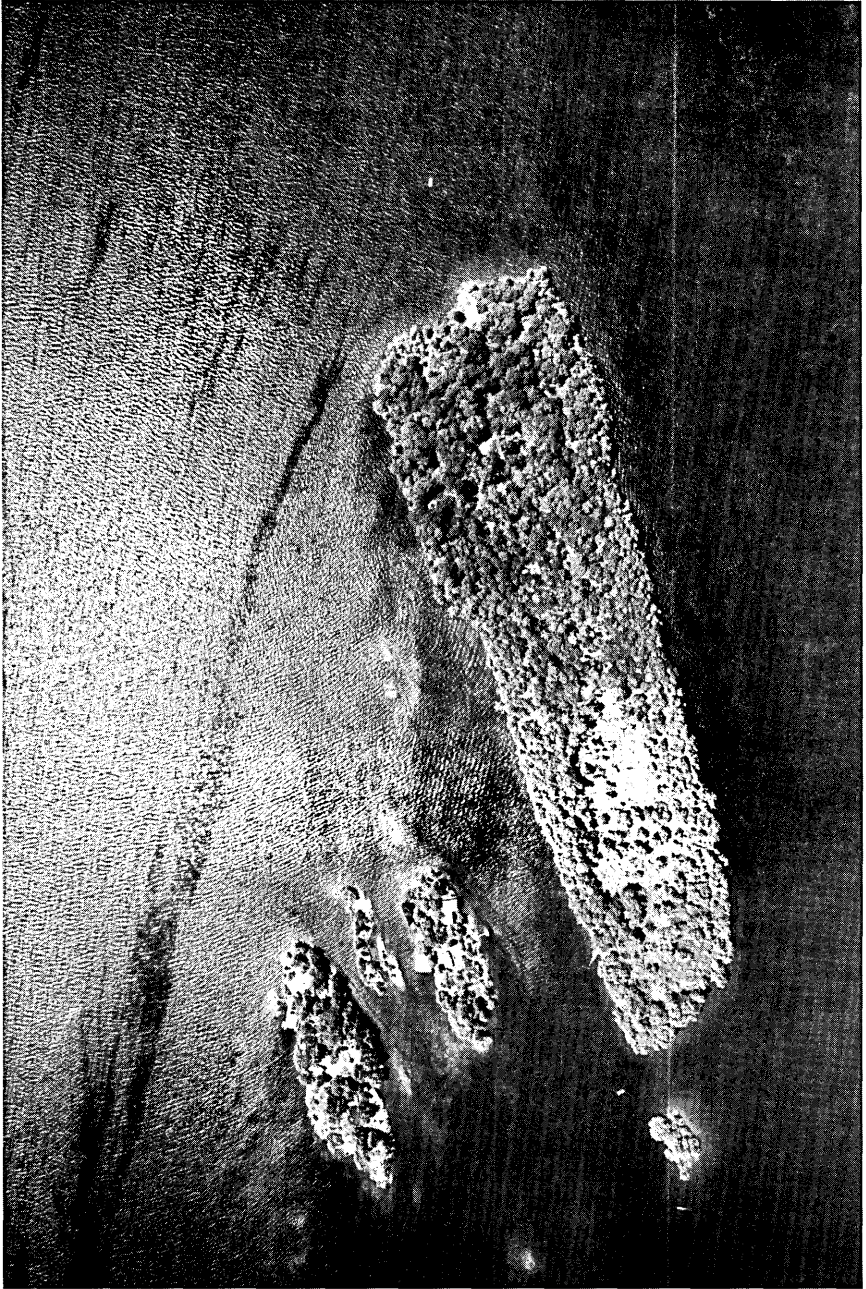


Fig. 1 Aerial view of Ironsides Island, St. Lawrence River, NY



Fig 2 Nesting habitat on Ironsides Island, St. Lawrence River, NY 18 June 1997

Fig 3. Great Blue Heron active nests on Ironsides Island, NY - 1964-98.

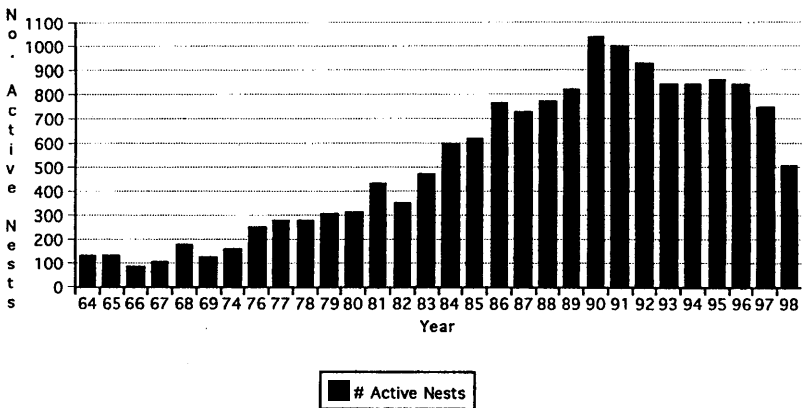


Table 2. Plant species list for Ironsides Island, Jefferson Co., NY compiled in July, 1978.

<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> - marginal shield fern	Polypodiaceae	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i> - rock polypody
<i>Dryopteris spinulosa</i> - spinulose wood fern		<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> - bracken fern
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> - sensitive fern		
<i>Taxus canadensis</i> - Canada yew	Taxaceae	
	Pinaceae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> - white cedar
<i>Juniperus communis</i> - common juniper		<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> - eastern hemlock
<i>Pinus resinosa</i> - red pine		
<i>Pinus strobus</i> - white pine	Liliaceae	
<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> - Canada mayflower		<i>Smilacina racemosa</i> - false solomon's seal
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> - Solomon's seal	Salicaceae	
<i>Populus grandidentata</i> - bigtooth aspen	Juglandaceae	
<i>Carya cordiformis</i> - bitternut hickory		<i>Carya ovata</i> - shagbark hickory
	Corylaceae	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> - hornbeam
<i>Betula lutea</i> - yellow birch		<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> - hop hornbeam
<i>Betula papyrifera</i> - paper birch	Fagaceae	
<i>Quercus alba</i> - white oak	Ulmaceae	<i>Quercus rubra</i> - red oak
<i>Ulmus americana</i> - American elm	Urticaceae	
<i>Urtica dioica</i> - stinging nettle	Polygonaceae	
<i>Polygonum</i> spp. - knotweed	Chenopodiaceae	
<i>Chenopodium gigantospermum</i> - goosefoot	Phytolaccaceae	
<i>Phytolacca americana</i> - pokeweed	Saxifragaceae	
<i>Ribes glandulosum</i> - skunk currant	Rosaceae	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i> - blackberry
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> - juneberry		<i>Rubus idaeus</i> - red raspberry
<i>Prunus serotina</i> - black cherry		<i>Rubus odoratus</i> - flowering raspberry
<i>Pyrus melanocarpa</i> - black chokeberry	Geraniaceae	
<i>Geranium robertianum</i> - herb robert	Anacardiaceae	
<i>Rhus typhina</i> - staghorn sumac	Aquifoliaceae	
	Aceraceae	<i>Acer saccharum</i> - sugar maple
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> - winterberry	Balsaminaceae	
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> - striped maple	Vitaceae	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> - red maple	Tiliaceae	
<i>Impatiens capensis</i> - jewelweed	Cornaceae	
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> - Virginia creeper	Ericaceae	
<i>Tilia americana</i> - basswood	Oleaceae	
<i>Cornus amomum</i> - silky dogwood	Convolvulaceae	
<i>Gaylussacia buccata</i> - huckleberry	Solanaceae	
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> - white ash	Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Convolvulus</i> spp. - bindweed	Rubiaceae	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> - bittersweet nightshade	Caprifoliaceae	
<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i> - figwort	Compositae	<i>Solidago</i> spp. - goldenrod
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> - buttonbush		
<i>Lonicera</i> spp. - honeysuckle		
<i>Aster</i> spp. - aster		
<i>Lactuca canadensis</i> - lettuce		

Table 3. Ground counts of breeding birds on 8 hectare (20 acres) Ironsides Island, Jefferson Co. NY during May - June, 1978. The species are listed in order of abundance.

Species	No. territorial males/ 8 ha	Species	No. territorial males/ 8 ha
Great Blue Heron	280	Blue Jay	2
American Robin	7	Black-capped Chickadee	2
House Wren	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Song Sparrow	6	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2
Starling	5	Pine Warbler	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	4	Common Yellowthroat	2
Tree Swallow	4	Red-winged Blackbird	2
Rough-winged Swallow	4	Northern Cardinal	2
Wood Thrush	4	Eastern Towhee	2
Red-eyed Vireo	4	American Woodcock	1
Yellow Warbler	4	Northern Flicker	1
Baltimore Oriole	4	Pileated Woodpecker	1
Common Grackle	4	Hairy Woodpecker	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	Veery	1
Gray Catbird	3	Solitary Vireo	1
Warbling Vireo	3	Black-and-white Warbler	1
American Redstart	3	Nashville Warbler	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	Ovenbird	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	White-throated Sparrow	1
Least Flycatcher	2		

Table 4. Ground counts of Great Blue Heron active nests on 8 hectare (20 acres) Ironsides Island, Jefferson Co., NY from 1964 - 1998.

Date	No. active nests	Source	Date	No. active nests	Source
07 - 09 - 64	135	Benning (1965)	06 - 19 - 84	601	Authors
00 - 00 - 65	135	Benning (1966)	06 - 18 - 85	620	Authors
00 - 00 - 66	85	Benning (1967)	06 - 18 - 86	766	Authors
07 - 01 - 67	110	Benning (1968)	07 - 01 - 87	725	Authors
06 - 00 - 68	180	Parker (1969)	06 - 17 - 88	774	Authors
06 - 00 - 69	130	McAllister (1971)	06 - 14 - 89	817	Authors
05 - 20 - 74	160	Authors	06 - 13 - 90	1040	Authors
06 - 09 - 76	256	Authors	06 - 06 - 91	1001	Authors
05 - 24 - 77	279	Authors	06 - 10 - 92	930	Authors
05 - 23 - 78	280	Authors	06 - 16 - 93	838	Authors
05 - 22 - 79	306	Authors	06 - 09 - 94	839	Authors
06 - 25 - 80	312	Authors	06 - 09 - 95	860	Authors
06 - 12 - 81	432	Authors	06 - 13 - 96	837	Authors
05 - 24 - 82	352	Authors	06 - 18 - 97	750	Authors
06 - 07 - 83	472	Authors	07 - 10 - 98	506	Authors

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**FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
52ND ANNUAL MEETING
ELMIRA, NY SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1999**

Linda D. Parr
22B Ellsworth Ave., Delmar NY 12054

At 9:12 a.m., Saturday, September 18, 1999, President Valerie Freer called to order the meeting of the Council of Delegates. This meeting in Elmira was the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. and was hosted by the Chemung Valley Audubon Society.

A roll call of member clubs conducted by Recording Secretary Linda Parr showed a quorum of authorized delegates was present. 24 of 46 member clubs were represented by 34 delegates. After minor revisions from the floor, the minutes of the 51st Annual Meeting were approved (motion, Manny Levine; second, Norm Stotz). Barbara Butler agreed to prepare any resolutions to be read at the evening banquet.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1999

Valerie Freer presented the following President's Report:

I am pleased to report that the Federation continues to be healthy and vigorous and a leader among state bird organizations. Since the publication of *Bull's Birds of New York State* and the celebration of our 50th anniversary at the annual meeting last year, we have moved ahead with plans for Atlas 2000, and we fully expect to be the first state to complete and publish a second Atlas.

During the past year the Federation:

- Brought in 2 new clubs and reactivated four clubs for a total paid-up club membership of 46
- Used book offers to bring in new members in a membership recruitment drive led by Dave Junkin, resulting in many new members, including 30 at the Kingbird Club level (\$100)
- Developed a new data base of membership and club officer records, including e-mail addresses for most member clubs
- Published two new 1999 editions of the *Checklist of Birds of New York State*, the latest includes 455 species
- Authorized an increase in the number of members of our avian records committee (NYSARC), and appointed two new members including a new chair, with the intent of expanding support for NYSARC among birders of the state
- Implemented the 1998 By-Laws as ratified by member clubs last fall
- Took the new Federation exhibit to the Association of Field Ornithologist's annual meet-

ing in Cape Cod, the Lake Ontario Bird festival, and the American Ornithologists Union (AOU) annual meeting at Cornell. (The Federation donated about 900 *Checklists of Birds of New York State* to the AOU for inclusion in registration packets.

--Continued expansion of the Federation web site, including more frequent updates

Other Federation activities continued, led by our excellent state journal, *The Kingbird*, edited (and made more current) by Manny Levine; and our high quality newsletter, *NY Birders*, edited by Phyllis Jones. Thanks go to both editors, and to Bob Spahn, who as Regional Reports Editor continues to do an outstanding job. Thanks also to the ten Regional editors whose efforts are so critical to the documentation of bird life in the state.

Field Trips, County Listing and the Speaker's Bureau continued to be thriving projects, and our active Conservation Committee continued to represent us on many fronts during the year. Federation leadership continued to participate in statewide conservation efforts in cooperation with other agencies, including the Important Bird Areas (IBA) and the Bird Conservation Area (BCA) projects.

ELECTION OF NEW CLUBS

Delegates unanimously approved the membership applications of the West 11th Street Bird Club, NYC; and the Eagle Institute, Sullivan County. The motion to do so was made by Dick Sloss and seconded by Bill Reeves. This brings the number of paid up clubs to 46.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sue Adair presented the Treasurer's Report, distributing a detailed 1998 Annual Financial Report. As of December 31, 1998, the total assets of the Federation were \$121,409.71 and there were no liabilities.

Specific fund balances were:

Unrestricted Fund

General Operating	\$22,755.09
General Memorial	48,454.11
Member Clubs Awards	5,000.00

Temporarily Restricted Fund

John J. Elliott Fund	1,260.20
Lillian C. Stoner	9,031.31
Atlas 2000	4,726.73
Bull's Birds of New York State	11,842.77
Life Member	18,339.50

In the General Operating Fund, income was \$18,337.37 and expenses were \$14,984.18 for the year ending 12/31/98. The 1998 year-end total for this fund was \$22,755.09. The excess of income over expenses was \$3,353.19.

A letter has gone out to club and individual donors to the *Bull's Birds of New York State*

fund. A large surplus exists because after fund raising was completed, we received a large DEC grant. Because the donors gave specifically for this project and because the fund is restricted, the Federation is offering donors two alternatives: a prorated refund to the donor, or giving permission to the Federation to retain a prorated share of the contribution in unrestricted funds.

Dick Sloss reported for the Auditing Committee, comprised of Irving Cantor, Norm Stotz, and Dick Sloss. The committee's report stated that, upon examination of the financial statements of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. as of December 31, 1998, ..."the financial statements...are presented fairly in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles."

MEMBERSHIP

Valerie Freer reviewed membership in the last year. It is increasing. The major membership drive conducted by Dave Junkin resulted in many members transferring from basic membership to higher levels. There are 730 individual annual members, 46 member clubs, and 74 life members. 71 members chose not to renew.

After reviewing the small number of student memberships, the delegates brainstormed about how to increase this membership category. Dave Junkin took note of several promising ideas for future membership drives. We approved a motion to donate gift Federation student memberships to the youth team members in the Montezuma Muckrace Race. This motion was made by Sunny Gooding and seconded by Tim Baird.

ATLAS 2000 COMMITTEE

Valerie Freer reported that the committee is off to a good start. Its first major accomplishment is the selection of all 10 regional coordinators. The coordinators are: Region 1, Richard C. Rosche; Region 2, Robert Spahn and Dominic Sherony; Region 3, Bard Prentiss; Region 4, Chad Covey; Region 5, Dorothy W. Crumb and Bill Purcell; Region 6, Bob Long; Region 7, Mike Peterson; Region 8, Jane Graves; Region 9, Michael Bochnik; and Region 10, Ken Feustel. The full-time project coordinator is expected to be hired within the next few weeks. Valerie noted DEC's generous support of the Atlas, which includes funds from Return A Gift to Wildlife over the 6-7 year life of the project.

Work will begin on January 1, 2000. We will be the first state to complete a second atlas. Speakers about Atlas 2000 are available to member clubs by contacting regional coordinators or Valerie Freer.

PUBLICATIONS

Kingbird editor Manny Levine reported the publication is in good shape. He noted that expenses are going up because of rising printing and mailing costs. The December issue will feature the 1997 NYSARC report.

Manny commended Phyllis Jones, editor of *NY Birders*, as her editorship comes to an end. Phyllis announced a just-decided-upon plan for the transition of the editor's post to Sue Adair. Phyllis will continue to edit two more issues, then Sue will take over. (This means we must find a new treasurer in 2000.) The second revision of *Checklist of Birds of New York State*, is available. It brings the *Checklist* completely up to date..

CONSERVATION

Committee Chair Mary Alice Koeneke gave the following report:

--Double-crested Cormorants: This issue continues to consume more Conservation Committee time than any other issue. NYSDEC released a report, "To Assess the Impact of Double-crested Cormorant Predation on Smallmouth Bass and Other Fishes of the Eastern Basin of Lake Ontario" in March. The report was authored by both DEC's Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife and the US Geological Survey Biological Resources Division. DEC presented its plans for using the report at a n earlier Federation board meeting. Copies of the report are available from DEC.

Permit applications to allow DEC to kill 300 adult cormorants for further research were refused. DEC was given permits to oil eggs at Little Galloo Island this summer and to continue harassment of fall-gathering cormorants on Oneida Lake.

In August, the FNYSBC and National Audubon Society attended a meeting at Sacketts Harbor, where findings from some of the studies being conducted by various agencies were reported. Input was requested to assist with management efforts and achieving Double-crested Cormorant objectives while minimizing "undesirable outcomes". Interested parties from various state, federal, local, and Canadian organizations were also represented.

Also in August, fines and home confinement sentences were given to the ten North Country fishermen responsible for the cormorant slaughter on Little Galloo Island in July, 1998.

--**Teaming With Wildlife (TWW):** The initiative has taken on new life and is closer than ever to becoming law. Two bipartisan bills have been introduced and are now being worked into a compromise bill. The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA)) provides dedicated funds from offshore oil and gas lease revenues for land and wildlife based conservation, education programs, and coastal impact assistance. The Permanent Protection for America's Resources-2000 is another bill and would guarantee about \$2.3 billion every year for the acquisition of public lands by federal and state governments, restoration of national and urban parks, preservation of farmland and open space, preservation of historic buildings, and restoration of depleted fish and wildlife resources. Co-sponsors are making progress toward having a joint bill by September 22. The Senate is

moving more slowly on their versions of these bills. It would be helpful if Federation members ask their congresspeople to support this legislation.. More information is on the TWW website: www.teaming.com

--**Galeville:** The property formerly known as the Galeville Airport and belonging to the US Military Academy (West Point) has been transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It will be dedicated during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. Galeville has grassland specialties as well as such species as Short-eared Owl.. It is an NYS IBA. Incidentally, grassland bird surveys were conducted throughout the state this summer to assess grassland bird populations and habitats. They were conducted through the auspices of Massachusetts Audubon. Survey results may be published in a future issue of *The Kingbird*.

--**Jamaica Bay Bike Path:** A workshop was held in August by the National Park Service to bring together proponents of the bike path and others to work out a compromise. However, neither Audubon nor local bird clubs were invited. The only "antis" were Al Ott, Shawn Andres, and Bill Neider. The feeling is that the bike path will go forward due to local interests. Apparently there are plans to build a major sports complex in Rockaway and it is felt that locals would not give up one lane of Cross Bay Boulevard for the bike path.

--**IBAs:** Ferd's Bog will be the next IBA to be dedicated.(on September 25).

--**Bird Conservation Program:** The National Audubon office in Albany was instrumental in adding \$200,000 to the state budget to initiate an integrated bird conservation program. Hopefully two ornithologists will be added to the DEC staff because of this funding.

NYSARC REPORT AND CHANGES IN NYSARC

Valerie Freer gave the following report for committee chair Bob Andrie. Bob Andrie will complete his term as chair at the end of 1999 and will continue to be a member of the committee. The board has already approved an increase in the size of the committee from 5 to 7 members. The new members are Kevin McGowan and Angus Wilson, who will be the new chair. Goals for NYSARC include making decisions more timely, doing more with the reports as an education and learning tool as well as increasing the number of reports of sightings.

WEB SITE

Barbara Butler told us that a web site counter shows visits at a steady level of 4-10 per day. Site updates include information on *Bull's Birds of New York State*, an up-to-date checklist, links to the NY rare bird alert web sites, field trip announcements, and information about developments on conservation issues, including the conservation resolutions from last year's annual meeting. Barbara encourages reports from field trip leaders.

Future developments included featured bird sites and Atlas 2000 information, with a link to DEC's Atlas site. Barbara and others involved are considering adding the capacity for online reports to the regional *Kingbird* compilers.

Valerie Freer thanked and congratulated Barbara for tremendous accomplishments with the web site. She stressed that the site has been set up and maintained at no cost to the club. Valerie described a proposal to list member club officers on the web site and invited opinion from the delegates. After discussion, Valerie agreed that officers will not be listed on the site, but we will list any club representatives that have given their permission to be the e-mail contact for a member club.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee chair Mary Alice Koeneke reviewed the list of awards to be presented at the evening program: the Eaton Memorial, Lillian C. Stoner, John Elliott, and Gordon Meade awards. Also to be presented are Member Club Grants, Certificates of Appreciation, and a new category, achievement in club newsletters. Scott Stoner will chair this committee in 1999-2000.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Bill Reeves announced the following slate of officers and board members for 1999-2000:

President: Mary Alice Koeneke

Vice President: Scott Stoner

Recording Secretary: Barbara Butler

Corresponding Secretary: Bill Reeves

Treasurer: Susan Adair

Board Members - term expiring in 2000: Valerie Freer

Board Members - terms expiring in 2001: Sara Kinch, Emanuel Levine, and Richard Miga

There were no nominations from the floor.

Valerie Freer thanked the three members of the committee, Bill Reeves, Mike Peterson, and Dominic Sherony for their work. A motion to cast one vote to adopt the slate as presented was made by Norm Stotz and seconded by Ellie Long. It passed unanimously.

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Bill Lee, committee chair, described the 14 field trips which have been held or are scheduled. Since the last Annual Meeting, (month, location and leaders are identified): 1998 -November, Franklin Mountain, Chris Vreedenburgh; December, Niagara River, joint trip with Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Bill Lee and Willie D'Anna; 1999 - January, Cape Vincent/Point Peninsula, Brian and Mary Wood; February, Montauk Point, John

Fritz; March, Stissing Mt., Barbara Butler; April, no trip; May, North American Migration; June (2 trips), Sterling Forest, John Confer, and Adirondack sites, John Ozard and Rich McDonald; July, Ferd's Bog, joint trip with High Peaks Audubon Society, Gary Lee; August, Jamaica NWR, September, Annual Meeting; October, Montezuma NWR, joint trip with Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Doug Steele; November and December, no trips scheduled; 2000 - February: Fort Edward grasslands (Washington County); Galeville to be scheduled.

Bill thanks all those who led trips and invites member ideas and assistance in scheduling and conducting these and future trips. He will continue as committee chair.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair Charlie Smith announced two research grants will be awarded at the evening banquet.

COUNTY AND STATE LISTING

Berna Lincoln reported that the 1998 report will appear in the next issue of NY Birders. There are 92 participants, and that number is growing. Valerie Freer noted the importance of tying in listing with the Atlas project. This is a good way to cover more remote parts of the state..

ARCHIVES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEES

Phyllis Jones, chair of both committees, states maintaining the archives is ongoing and invites material. Phyllis and the other members of the Bibliography Committee, Barbara Butler, Valerie Freer, Walt Sabin, and Don Windsor have compiled the citations which will appear in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Valerie Freer told us that updating the list of those willing to give programs has become an annual project. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact her, Mary Alice Koeneke, or Phyllis Jones.

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Valerie Freer reviewed the list of previously announced future annual meetings: 2000, Eaton Birding Society (Geneva), September 8-10, Holiday Inn, Waterloo; 2001, Onondaga Audubon Society (Syracuse), September 14-16, site to be determined.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING AND AUDITING COMMITTEES

A motion to elect the following nominating committee for the 1999-2000 year was made by Kevin McGowan and seconded by Manny Levine. The nominees were Valerie Freer, chair; Bob Spahn, and John Fritz. The motion passed unanimously. A motion by Dorothy Crumb to elect Norm Stotz, Irving Cantor, and Dick Sloss to the Auditing Committee was seconded by Kevin McGowan and approved by the delegates.

NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION REPORT

In the absence of Bob Miller, DEC's representative to the Federation, Laura Somers and Peter Nye gave the report from DEC. Key points are:

--Double-crested Cormorants: Following oiling of eggs at Little Galloo Island, DEC was sued by Atlantic States Legal Foundation because "proper procedures were not followed." That suit is pending.

--Bird Conservation: \$200,000 was added for bird conservation initiatives due to the efforts of National Audubon Society and must be spent before March 31, 2000. The agency is developing a spending plan, which calls for hiring 2 permanent biologists who will conduct research and manage the Bird Conservation Areas program, as well as hiring four seasonal/temporary employees.

--Black Terns: data from this year's surveys is being compiled. Contact Laura Somers for further information.

--Grassland Species: Massachusetts Audubon Society conducted a survey of these species in NYS. Results are available from Massachusetts Audubon's website.

--Endangered Species: there will be a new list in November, 1999. Ten percent of all the species in this state are considered rare. Peregrine Falcons continue to breed successfully. This year there were a record 42 pairs, with 79 young. Bald Eagles mirror that success, with 45 pairs and 62 young. There is special concern about the Osprey. The Eastern Bluebird is now off the state list. The Peregrine Falcon has been delisted at the federal level and it is proposed that the Bald Eagle be delisted by July, 2000.

--Habitat Maintenance: Development remains the largest threat to habitat, especially for grassland species.

--DEC's website is now linked with that of the Federation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Berna Lincoln expressed concern at the lack of participation at board and Annual meetings by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and by National Audubon. President Valerie Freer agreed that we should encourage their involvement.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion from the floor, the meeting of the Council of Delegates was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

WORKSHOPS

The following workshops were held on Friday evening, September 17, Bill Evans, *The New York State Towerkill Survey*; Kevin McGowan, *Challenging Identification Problems: Using Specimens to Assist (or Confuse)*; NYS Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee, *The Second New York State Breeding Bird Atlas*.

PAPER SESSION

These papers were presented on Saturday afternoon, September 18: David Pindel -- "Call Variation Among Adult Male Barred Owls"; John Confer, Wilmer Fauz, Alison Wright and Shelagh Tupper, "*Managing for the Future of Golden-winged Warblers and Other Shrubland Birds*"; John Van Niel, "*Bird Banding Using the MAPS Protocol*"; and Maxwell C. Wheat, "*Imperiled Birds Need Forceful Poetic Language in the 21st Century*".

BANQUET AND EVENING PROGRAM

Barbara Butler presented a resolution expressing thanks and deep appreciation to the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, the host of this 51st Annual meeting of the Federation. Valerie Freer then introduced club officers and board members and the Atlas 2000 regional coordinators.

During the awards ceremony portion, Certificates of Appreciation were given to Estelle Peterman for hospitality to birders who came to see the Yellow-headed Blackbird, and to Bernice and Don Greenmun, hosts for those seeking the Anna's Hummingbird.

The Lillian C. Stoner Award went to college students Shelagh Tupper and Alison Wright, sponsored by Cayuga Bird Club. Allegany County Bird Club and Buffalo Audubon Society each received a \$100 Member Club Grant Award to develop checklists for their respective areas.

The John J. Elliott Award for best *Kingbird* article was presented to Stan Lincoln for his history of the Federation which was written to celebrate the Federation's 50th anniversary. A new award category for excellence in club newsletters considers size of club membership. From smallest club to largest, the winners were Eaton Birding Society, Naturalists Club of Broome County, Alan Devoe Bird Club, Rochester Birding Association, High Peaks Audubon Society, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, and Onondaga Audubon Society.

The Eaton Memorial Award was given to Peter Nye for his contributions to birding and conservation as head of DEC's Endangered Species Unit, especially for the Bald Eagle hacking and Peregrine Falcon reintroduction projects. Bob Andrie received the Gordon Meade award in recognition for his work as chair of NYSARC.

The evening was capped by an excellent program by Scott Sutcliffe ,associate director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology -- *Birding In The 21st Century*. He described tools of the trade as he envisions them; birding past the year 2000; and the new building at the Cornell Lab..

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda D. Parr, Recording Secretary

10/15/99



Correction

Vol.50 ,No.2 July 2000

**The Wild Turkey in the Bronx and Lower Westchester County,
New York**

Pg. 118 – The author's name , which is spelled correctly in the Table of Contents, is spelled incorrectly in the article. It should read "Künstler."

Pg. 126 – The last sentence in the second paragraph of this page begins with the word "Like". It should begin with the word "Unlike."

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Unusual Close Encounter

On 19 Feb , a fairly warm day, I was pruning an apple tree in my garden. The garden faces north, with a six-foot wooden fence on the east side where I was pruning. The north side is bounded by a line of arbor vitae in front of the wire fence which borders the reservoir for Northport, Suffolk Co., which has many large Norway and Sugar maples. The west boundary is a post and rail fence, with the complete property measuring 60 x 120 feet.

I was pruning the lower branches of the tree, using a pruning saw that is five feet long but can be extended much farther.

I heard a swooshing sound to my right and turned my head to the right to see a Sharp-shinned Hawk sitting on the fence directly in front of me. It seemed completely at ease, wings folded , and no body movement, with its head slightly cocked to the left. I waited quietly to see what it would do next. It did not move, and as I talked to it, it looked directly at me. In about a minute, it lifted off, flew over my right shoulder and on to the back bird feeder, where it began to rustle through the bushes, and then flew over the arbor vitae and back again, and after another minute or so , it left.

I resumed pruning, again heard that swooshing noise , as the hawk again flew right over my shoulder and on to the same back feeder. At this point, I went into the house for my camera and took some photos.

This was probably the "sharpie" that had been a regular visitor to my garden that winter, but I have not seen it since.

Kerrin B. Polaski
221 Scudder Ave.
Northport, NY 11768

Ed.note: Of all our local birds of prey, this species is undoubtedly the least likely to approach a human this closely. A search of the literature reveals no like occurrences. Hopefully, this curious trait did not lead to an unhappy end for this individual .

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS



Common Snipe 29 October 1970 Onondaga County
Dorothy W. Crumb

Another Cable Death

Page 144 of the July 2000 *Kingbird* shows a photograph by Gerard Phillips of a juvenile European Starling that met an unusual demise . It reminded me of a photograph that I took some thirty (30) years ago.

On 29 Oct 1970 , I received a call from Todd Farnham advising that he had found a Common Snipe dangling by its bill from an overhead cable high above the road. I drove to Tully in southern Onondaga County and photographed the bird. Close examination shows the lower mandible caught between the main cable and some exposed wire components.

If only death from house cats, poisons, towers, car strikes and other manmade causes could be so rare .

Dorothy W. Crumb
3983 Gates Rd.
Jamesville, NY 13078

CHANGES IN THE 7th EDITION OF THE AOU CHECK-LIST RELEVANT TO NEW YORK STATE

Volume 117 No. 3 July 2000(pg. 847-858) of *The Auk* contains the 42nd Supplement to *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds*. It includes some changes which apply to the official New York State checklist. As *The Kingbird* follows taxonomic and English name designations established by the AOU , those changes applicable to New York birders are shown below.

English name change:

Oldsquaw is now Long-tailed Duck

The explanation of what has proven to be a controversial change is as follows:

"The Committee was petitioned by a group of biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska to change the English name of *Clangula hyemalis* from Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck, the name used for the species outside of North America. The basis for the petition was that the species is declining in numbers in Alaska and conservation management plans require the help and cooperation of Native Americans. The biologists were concerned that the name Oldsquaw would offend Native Americans. Requests to change the name had been made to the Committee in past years by some who consider the word 'squaw' to be offensive. The Committee declines to consider political correctness alone in changing long-standing English names but is willing in this instance to adopt an alternative name that is in use in much of the world."

Taxonomic Name Changes (with no change in English name)

OLD	NEW
<i>Catharacta skua</i>	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>
<i>Pica pica</i>	<i>Pica hudsonia</i> *
<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>
<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>

*The change of the specific designation of Black-billed Magpie from *P. pica* to *P. hudsonia* deserves a word of explanation. Previous to this change, the magpie on the NYS Checklist was considered to be the subspecies *P.p. hudsonia*, which has now been raised to full species status. This may give pause to some serious listers who have seen this bird in NYS as probably a number of NY sightings are escaped cage birds , the Eurasian *P. pica*.

The Editor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 2000

WILLIE D'ANNA

2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Weather Effects

The winter season ended mildly with this pattern continuing well into March throughout the state. Several species averaged over a week early statewide including Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Chipping Sparrow. April reversed the trend with wet weather and below average temperatures. A nor'easter on 8 Apr hit hardest in Regions 4, 5, 7, 8, & 9 dumping several inches of snow. Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Fox Sparrows and Juncos congregated at feeding stations while American Robins and Hermit Thrushes sought food along road shoulders, producing a notable count of 60 of the latter species in Region 9.

Like so many Aprils of recent years, adverse winds reduced raptor totals at the Great Lakes hawkwatches this spring.

The first half of May was mild allowing neotropical migrants to pour in and producing birder ecstasy. Species that are often not recorded until the second, third or even fourth week of May, were found within the first ten days. Good migrant flight days were noted for 30 April, 2 & 5 May in both Regions 9 and 10. May was also very wet which raised water levels and reduced edge habitat for shorebirds.

Arrival Date Tables

Okay, advocates of the global warming theory, here is more ammunition; for the second consecutive year, first arrivals averaged early in every Region and perhaps more extraordinary, they were even earlier than last year in all but Region 9! An amazing 42 of the 93 species tabulated (45%) were significantly early (greater than two standard deviations) versus the statewide 14-year average. More than half, 50 species were record early in at least one Region. Interestingly, however, only one species, Tree Swallow, was record early in more than two Regions. This reflects the growing database which should make record-setters harder to come by over time. Ten species of waterbirds and eight species of landbirds were more than a week early. Indicative of the weather which was conducive to migration in March and the first half of May, seven species were significantly early in the former month and 19 in the latter. Only two species arrived

significantly late in those two months. Despite April's weather being less friendly to migrants, significantly early arrivals bested latecomers 15 to 6. I attribute this, in part, to the weather in March, which allowed our April arrivals to get much closer to the state than they normally would have by that time.

The date tables are loaded with fantastically early dates. Unfortunately, few are indicated as being documented. Given that caveat, the following reports were compared to *Birds of New York State* and to *Bull's Birds of New York State*.

A Great Crested Flycatcher on 16 April tied the state inland record and a 21st April Yellow-throated Vireo was the earliest ever inland, both in Region 3. A Pectoral Sandpiper 27 February in Region 2 was a state record as was a Solitary Sandpiper 18 March in Region 3. The Solitary was record early by nine days!

Waterfowl

This group was considered unremarkable in Regions 1, 2, & 5, due in part to ice-free conditions reducing concentrations and the very mild weather with open water further north allowing birds to quickly move on. Contrarily, Region 4 noted that variety and numbers were up and Region 3 remarked on heavy concentrations of divers and dabblers at Montezuma N.W.R. Although Snow Goose numbers were considered lower in some Regions, they reached a high maxima of 20,000 in Region 7. Another goose increasing of late, the Greater White-fronted, was a much tougher find this season except in Region 1 where it occurred in no fewer than five locations. Ross's Goose continued its annual trend with one in Region 3 and two in Region 5. A count of 13,600 migrating Canada Geese in Region 4 is one of the highest recent counts made by an individual that I know of. Brant showed well in several Regions while a count of 32 Black Scoters in Region 1 was very unusual for an inland location. Ruddy Duck numbers were generally unimpressive but the species continued its upward trend at opposite ends of the state, in Regions 1 & 10.

Raptors

Results from two of the three Great Lakes hawkwatches continued the general trend of lower numbers for several species. The highest one-day Broad-winged Hawk count was only 5405 at Ripley on Lake Erie. 1358 Broad-wings at Region 9's Hook Mountain, a traditional fall lookout, was intriguing. Record seasonal counts for Ripley included 11 Northern Goshawks, 38 Merlins, and 30 Peregrine Falcons. They also had a record one-day count of 2215 Turkey Vultures. Derby Hill on Lake Ontario reported a record one-day count of 25 Golden Eagles. Except for the N. Goshawk, all of the record-setting species are continuing previously noted trends. Formerly a great rarity away from the hawkwatches, multiple Golden Eagles were found in six Regions and singles in two others. Though

not setting any hawkwatch records this season, the Osprey is still doing well as evidenced by early arrivals in Regions 1, 5, 7, & 10.

While not a raptor, Sandhill Cranes are more frequently encountered at hawk-watches than elsewhere. This year they were found in Regions 1, 2, 3, & 5 including a record 15 at Ripley. Conspicuously banded birds included four in Regions 1, 2, & 3 and three in Region 5. A little digging has revealed that the four cranes in Regions 1 & 3 and possibly the birds in Region 2 also, were the same individuals and were part of Operation Migration (OM). OM is an attempt to see if the species can be taught to follow a new migration route with the hope that lessons learned can be applied to Whooping Cranes. If successful, OM plans to "reintroduce" Whooping Cranes in Wisconsin and teach them to migrate to Florida.

Sparrows

The first ten days of April saw some remarkable sparrow counts in Region 5. These included 32 Vespers, 250 Savannahs, 400 Songs, 23 Fox and 125 White-crowns. Fox Sparrow also had a count of 12 in Region 3, at least 30 individuals in Region 7, and was cited for high counts in Region 2 and for being widely reported and having a protracted migration in Region 8. After a strong winter showing Lapland Longspurs continued with high counts of 90 in Region 1, 75 in Region 3, and 25 in Region 2.

The Rest

A Least Bittern was record early in Region 2 and it showed well with five individuals in Region 1 and a remarkable 15 in Region 8, encouraging news for this marsh-dweller. With their eggs destroyed in Region 6 last summer, Double-crested Cormorants may be planning to exact revenge in other Regions. Large numbers were in Regions 1 & 3 and a new colony has developed in Region 7. The presence again this spring of multiple Snowy Egrets at the Motor Island rookery in Region 1 has lead to speculation that this species may soon join the Great Egret there as a new inland breeder in the state. The Wild Turkey is not only in New York City now (see *The Kingbird*, Vol. 50, No. 2, pp. 118-130) but also well out on Long Island. It was a poor season for shorebirds with Pectoral Sandpipers singled out as being particularly scarce. The occurrence of shorebirds depends on habitat availability and weather conditions as these strong fliers are capable of flying right over the state. 25 Solitary Sandpipers in Region 8 is a high count and one of the few highlights in that group. Caspian Terns continue to prosper with a record April census count of 107 in Region 1, a high count of 136 in Region 5, and a record early individual in Region 2. Record numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were caught by banders in Region 2. There were also high numbers at a Region 8 banding station and record early individuals in Region 3 and

three counties in Region 7. A dead juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owl in Region 2 was evidence of very early breeding. Olive-sided Flycatchers have shown declines in the last two decades so their good showing in most Regions this spring was encouraging. Of concern in recent years has been the low numbers of Cape May Warblers which continued to be scarce this season. Formerly very rare, six "Lawrence's" Warblers were found in five Regions as Blue-winged Warbler genes continue to swamp Golden-wingeds. American Tree Sparrows lingered into May in Regions 1 through 5 and 8. After a strong winter showing, numbers of Common Redpolls were again found this spring, accompanied by Hoaries in Regions 1, 2, 5 & 7.

Rarities

As usual Region 10 had several stellar finds but this season inland Regions also tallied some scintillating birds. White-faced Ibis, Wilson's Plover, Swainson's Warbler and Painted Bunting were the big thrills in Region 10. Region 9 added American White Pelican, Mississippi Kite, Black Skimmer and White-winged Dove. The dove's origin was questioned but the species has been expanding its range with numerous records in the Midwest and East, including New York, in recent years. A third Regional Least Tern, a Loggerhead Shrike, and the first White-eyed Vireo since 1991 were Region 8's highlights. Region 7's rarities gave the Adirondack-Champlain Region a southern flavor with Fish Crow, Carolina Wren, and Blue-winged Warbler. Rarely found in migration, a Sedge Wren was a highlight in Region 5 along with Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, and Barnacle Goose. As with most occurrences of the latter species, its origin is unknown and subject to question. A fifth Regional Cattle Egret, Cerulean Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler were in Region 4. A Little Blue Heron, American White Pelican and singing Bicknell's Thrush and Western Meadowlark were in Region 3. A briefly seen Sprague's Pipit at the Western Meadowlark site in Region 3, has been reported to NYSARC and would be a state first if accepted. In Region 2, birders found a Glossy Ibis, Hudsonian Godwit, Loggerhead Shrike, and "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler. Region 1 provided a rufous-morph Red-tailed Hawk, even rarer for not having been seen at a hawkwatch, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite and Swainson's Hawk, the latter three all at the hawkwatch at Ripley. In addition, a Lark Bunting in Region 1 was the second ever there and only the fourth upstate record. Although pretty much annual, Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Regions 1 & 2 and two in Region 10 were more than usual. Due to the great number of rarities found this season, only the most unusual have been mentioned here. Read the Regional reports to hear about more birds that will get your pulse racing.

My choice for Bird Of The Season (BOTS) goes to the Yellow-nosed Albatross found in Region 10 by out-of-staters, and non-birders at that! If accepted by

NYSARC this will be the third accepted record for the state. See the Comprehensive article in this issue, page 223.

Every Region has a favorite birding hotspot. Some are fortunate enough to have several. A few birders I know cover their favorites on a near daily basis during the peak periods of migration. That strategy would have worked well this spring at the Energy Information Center's (EIC) grounds of Region 5's Nine Mile Point nuclear plant on Lake Ontario. A remarkable collection of rarities was assembled there. They included Long-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, several Clay-colored Sparrows, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (third Regional spring record), a Harris's Sparrow (first Regional spring record), a Blue Grosbeak (third Regional record), and an Orchard Oriole. The EIC is the hands-down winner of the Hotspot Of The Season (HOTS) award this spring.

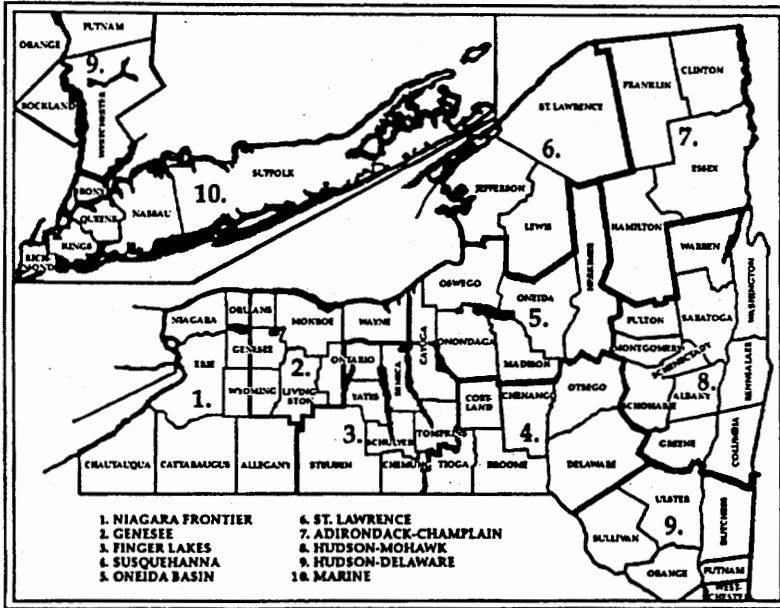


Spring Arrival Dates 2000 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	14-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	07-Apr	09-Apr	01-Apr	14-Apr	06-Apr		07-May	24-Mar			8 Apr	17 Apr
Green Heron	09-Apr	29-Apr	17-Apr	28-Apr	21-Apr		05-May	29-Apr	29-Apr	08-Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	26-Feb	22-Feb	05-Mar	10-Mar	23-Feb		16-Mar	12-Mar			3 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	05-Mar	27-Feb	28-Feb	11-Mar	25-Feb		15-Mar	08-Mar			4 Mar	18 Mar
Northern Pintail	26-Feb	23-Feb	27-Feb	02-Mar	25-Feb		09-Mar	08-Mar	07-Mar		1 Mar	6 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	25-Mar	08-Mar	01-Mar	01-Apr	28-Mar		26-Apr	04-Mar	11-Apr		24 Mar	30 Mar
Osprey	20-Mar	31-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	27-Mar		19-Mar	14-Apr	26-Mar	01-Mar	25 Mar	27 Mar
Virginia Rail	05-Apr	01-Apr	01-Apr	11-May	06-Apr		04-May	03-May			17 Apr	18 Apr
Sora	28-Apr	27-Apr	22-Apr		16-Apr			06-May	15-May	11-Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr
Common Moorhen	23-Apr	18-Apr	21-Apr	11-May	23-Apr			16-Mar		20-Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	17-May	29-Apr	21-Apr								2 May	10 May
Semipalmated Plover	05-May	02-May	13-May		08-May			17-May		25-Apr	6 May	9 May
Killdeer	23-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	27-Feb	23-Feb		09-Mar	04-Mar			27 Feb	3 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	23-Mar	24-Mar	07-Apr	19-Apr	25-Mar		30-Apr	08-Apr	22-Apr		8 Apr	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	09-Apr	15-Mar	15-Apr	28-Apr	02-Apr		30-Apr	29-Apr	07-May	02-Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	24-Apr	22-Apr	18-Mar	28-Apr	07-Apr		11-May	28-Apr	30-Apr	01-Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	22-Apr	22-Apr	08-Apr	22-Apr	06-Apr		07-May	30-Apr	28-Apr	08-Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling		25-May			07-Jun				05-May		22 May	16 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	20-May	11-May	11-May		07-Jun			04-May		29-Apr	13 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	05-May	01-May	01-May		08-May		16-May	02-May		23-Apr	3 May	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	08-Apr	27-Feb	13-May		24-Mar				09-Apr	16-Apr	6 Apr	19 Apr
Common Nipe	20-Mar	08-Mar	12-Mar	29-Feb	08-Mar		31-Mar	08-Mar	28-Mar		14 Mar	22 Mar
American Woodcock	26-Feb	27-Feb	04-Mar	27-Feb	27-Feb		31-Mar	10-Mar	22-Jan		28 Feb	10 Mar
Caspian Tern	08-Apr	01-Apr	08-Apr		05-Apr					15-Apr	7 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	08-Apr	14-Apr	18-Apr		28-Apr		11-May	25-May	06-May	30-Mar	24 Apr	28 Apr
Black Tern	29-Apr	06-May	26-Apr		02-May		23-May	02-May		21-May	7 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	27-Apr	04-May	02-Apr	11-May	04-May		07-May	08-May	07-May	01-Apr	27 Apr	1 May

Spring Arrival Dates 2000 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	14-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	20-May	13-May	11-May	14-May	09-May		05-Jun	13-May	11-May	05-May	14 May	13 May
Common Nighthawk	17-May	09-May	09-May	11-May	10-May			18-May	09-May	01-May	10 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	15-Apr	30-Apr	17-Apr	30-Apr	25-Apr		11-May	02-May	02-May	15-Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	03-May	02-May	16-Apr	01-May	05-May		04-May	03-May	01-May	01-May	30 Apr	4 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	28-Mar	02-Apr	01-Apr	02-Apr	02-Apr		15-Apr	18-Mar		02-May	4 Apr	3 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15-May	28-May	10-May	28-May	08-May		21-May	11-May	06-May	11-May	15 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	07-May	02-May	22-Apr	29-Apr	07-May		09-May	08-May	12-May	05-May	4 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	11-May	14-May	13-May	17-May	13-May		14-May	13-May	13-May	20-May	14 May	17 May
Willow Flycatcher	09-May	07-May	12-May	19-May	06-May		29-May	13-May	16-May	14-May	13 May	18 May
Least Flycatcher	30-Apr	02-May	29-Apr	02-May	29-Apr		04-May	04-May	03-May	29-Apr	1 May	2 May
Eastern Phoebe	13-Mar	27-Feb	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar		23-Mar	09-Mar	08-Mar	09-Mar	12 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	30-Apr	30-Apr	16-Apr	04-May	02-May		06-May	03-May	03-May	30-Apr	30 Apr	1 May
Eastern Kingbird	04-May	28-Apr	24-Apr	17-Mar	28-Apr		04-May	04-May	01-May	15-Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr
Purple Martin	09-Apr	29-Mar	14-Apr	09-May	15-Apr		06-May	06-Apr	13-May	06-Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr
Tree Swallow	08-Mar	22-Mar	09-Mar	08-Mar	09-Mar		27-Mar	06-Mar	02-Mar	09-Mar	11 Mar	21 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	09-Apr	16-Apr	08-Apr	19-Apr	06-Apr		05-May	15-Apr	26-Apr	04-Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	27-Apr	24-Apr	22-Apr	11-May	22-Apr		14-May	24-Apr	04-May	19-Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	26-Apr	28-Apr	22-Apr		28-Apr		15-Apr	20-May	06-Apr	19-May	28 Apr	27 Apr
Barn Swallow	09-Apr	06-Apr	30-Mar	14-Apr	05-Apr		06-Apr	16-Apr	01-Apr	19-May	11 Apr	11 Apr
House Wren	19-Apr	19-Apr	15-Apr	06-Apr	01-May		07-May	23-Apr	02-May	27-Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	02-Apr	09-Apr	08-Apr	14-Apr	08-Apr		22-Apr	08-Apr			10 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	29-Apr	19-Apr	24-Apr	24-Apr	19-May		12-May	22-Apr	16-Apr	02-Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		04-Mar	21-Feb	28-Feb	27-Feb		10-Mar				28 Feb	7 Mar
Veery	04-May	04-May	25-Apr	30-Apr	21-Apr		26-Apr	30-Apr	05-May	25-Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	06-May	04-May	02-May	07-May	08-May		17-May	03-May	07-May	01-May	6 May	8 May
Harris Thrush	24-Mar	03-Apr	03-Apr	01-Mar	02-Apr		14-Apr	03-Apr			29 Mar	5 Apr
Wood Thrush	03-May	04-May	03-May	04-May	02-May		06-May	25-Apr	02-May	25-Apr	1 May	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	03-May	04-May	29-Apr	04-May	04-May		07-May	02-May			1 May	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	09-Apr	16-Apr	14-Apr	28-Apr	05-Apr		01-May	18-Apr			17 Apr	18 Apr
Solitary Vireo	16-Apr	20-Apr	15-Apr	26-Apr	23-Apr		29-Apr	15-Apr	24-Apr	01-Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	05-May	03-May	21-Apr	07-May	04-May		13-May	06-May	29-Apr	08-Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Warbling Vireo	01-May	03-May	29-Apr	17-Apr	29-Apr		07-May	04-May	02-May	02-May	30 Apr	1 May
Red-eyed Vireo	05-May	03-May	03-May	07-May	04-May		08-May	06-May	03-May	02-May	4 May	4 May

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2000					Landbirds (cont'd)					Average	14-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10		
Tennessee Warbler	05-May	06-May	05-May	13-May	05-May		12-May	01-May	08-May	23-Apr	5 May	9 May
Nashville Warbler	01-May	30-Apr	01-May	06-May	01-May		04-May	05-May	30-Apr	25-Apr	1 May	30 Apr
Northern Parula	05-May	04-May	23-Apr	11-May	02-May		04-May	30-Apr	30-Apr	08-Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Yellow Warbler	25-Apr	24-Apr	21-Apr	05-May	28-Apr		05-May	29-Apr	29-Apr	25-Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	04-May	04-May	29-Apr	29-Apr	04-May		07-May	03-May	01-May	30-Apr	2 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	04-May	04-May	03-May	07-May	04-May		06-May	03-May	05-May	13-Apr	2 May	5 May
Cape May Warbler	04-May	06-May	05-May	13-May	04-May		14-May	06-May	07-May	04-May	7 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	01-May	01-May	29-Apr	01-May	03-May		04-May	27-Apr	29-Apr	28-Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	18-Apr	28-Apr	28-Apr	25-Apr	27-Apr		04-May	29-Apr	28-Apr	08-Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	02-May	01-May	02-May	02-May	04-May		05-May	03-May	02-May	26-Apr	1 May	3 May
Pine Warbler	10-Apr	14-Apr	12-Apr	26-Mar	14-Apr		15-Apr	09-Apr	02-May	26-Mar	08-Apr	8 Apr
Palm Warbler	25-Apr	20-Apr	08-Apr	13-Apr	08-Apr		15-Apr	08-Apr	07-Apr	02-Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	07-May	04-May	05-May	11-May	07-May		15-May	03-May	07-May	05-May	7 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	12-May	09-May	05-May	12-May	04-May		27-May	18-May	07-May	01-May	10 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	29-Apr	27-Apr	22-Apr	01-May	30-Apr		04-May	28-Apr	28-Apr	29-Mar	25 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	03-May	03-May	30-Apr	04-May	03-May		07-May	03-May	29-Apr	24-Apr	1 May	2 May
Overbird	01-May	04-May	30-Apr	01-May	03-May		05-May	30-Apr	02-May	14-Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	22-Apr	21-Apr	20-Apr	01-May	27-Apr		06-May	20-Apr	28-Apr	20-Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	12-May	08-May	07-May	07-May	07-May		22-May	27-May	15-May	10-May	12 May	14 May
Common Yellowthroat	03-May	26-Apr	02-May	04-May	03-May		02-May	30-Apr	03-May	08-Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	06-May	07-May	06-May	12-May	08-May		11-May	09-May	07-May	04-May	7 May	11 May
Canada Warbler	05-May	05-May	06-May	12-May	04-May		11-May	03-May	07-May	30-Apr	5 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	06-May	06-May	04-May	07-May	04-May		11-May	04-May	03-May	30-Apr	5 May	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	02-May	30-Apr	01-May	29-Apr	30-Apr		01-May	29-Apr	05-Apr	20-Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	04-May	01-May	04-May	04-May	05-May		07-May	04-May	09-Apr	01-Apr	27 Apr	4 May
Eastern Towhee	18-Mar	02-Apr	08-Apr	25-Mar	08-Apr			09-Apr	09-Apr	02-Apr	2 Apr	10 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	24-Mar	23-Mar	09-Mar	03-Apr	01-Apr		15-Apr	27-Mar	04-Apr	14-Mar	27 Mar	5 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	09-Apr	07-Mar	08-Apr		02-Apr		02-Apr	25-Apr	01-Apr	05-Mar	30 Mar	10 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	23-Mar	02-Apr	30-Mar	09-Apr	02-Apr		18-Apr	29-Apr			7 Apr	8 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	05-May	01-May	06-May		03-May		05-May	05-May	05-May	02-May	4 May	4 May
White-crowned Sparrow	09-Apr	22-Apr	11-Apr	06-Apr	21-Apr		29-Apr	10-Apr			15 Apr	25 Apr
Bobolink	29-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr	07-May	29-Apr		06-May	02-May		10-May	2 May	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	01-May	03-May	29-Apr	04-May	29-Apr		01-May	30-Apr	02-May	24-Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Overall Average	19 Apr	18 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr		29 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr
Ave 2000	109.54	108.38	106.54	111.59	109.66		119.36	112.69	113.78	108.99	111.17	114.22
2000-ave all	-0.36	-1.04	-2.18	-1.07	-1.05	-4.39	-2.51	-1.85	-3.73	-0.18		
2000-ave new(13)	-0.70	-1.30	-1.82	-0.79	-0.07	-3.17	-0.53	-1.45	-4.17	-0.85		
Ave 1999	111.36	108.99	110.36	115.82	112.48	118.99	119.85	113.80	108.09	110.01	112.74	114.29
vs 1999	-1.82	-0.61	-3.82	-4.03	-2.82	-118.99	-0.49	-0.90	5.69	-1.03	-1.57	-0.07

REPORTING REGIONS



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

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

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

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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

MIKE MORGANTE

16 Lakeside Crescent
Lancaster, NY 14086

The record warmth of the last week of February 2000 carried into March as spring-like weather arrived a few weeks early. With an average temperature of 40.0 °F, 6.2° above normal, Buffalo experienced its warmest March in 27 years and second warmest in the last 50 years, while Allegany County was even warmer at 9.5° above normal. Precipitation of 2.12 inches was below normal by 0.56 inches and snowfall at 10.7 inches was about normal, with most of it falling between the 9th and 16th. Lake Erie temperatures increased to 39 °F by the end of March, which tied 1998 as the warmest on record. This was the third consecutive March ending with open water on the lake.

April was a very cloudy and cool month. It was the first month since October 1999 with below average temperatures, 44.2 °F, 1.2° below normal. April was also considerably wetter than usual, with 4.07 inches of precipitation, 1.20 inches above normal. Clouds dominated the sky, with only 38% possible sun for the month. Winds were predominantly from the north. A high of only 33 °F and 2.4 inches of snow on the 11th made many wonder if March and April had been switched this year.

The beginning of May was very warm with mostly southwest winds. The average temperature for the month was 57.1 °F, only 0.5° above normal. Precipitation was 4.38 inches, nearly 2 inches greater than normal. Uncharacteristically, the first two weeks were warmer and drier than the last two weeks.

Migration generally followed the weather patterns. There were numerous early arrivals in March including Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, American Pipit, and unverified reports of extremely early Lesser Yellowlegs and Louisiana Waterthrush. Overall, April migrants were more gradual and typical for the month. However April also had its share of early-arriving individuals including Green Heron, Virginia Rail, Chimney Swift, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, and a well-seen but unverified Black-throated Green Warbler nearly two weeks early. May migration was considered very good in Western New York this year, especially the first two weeks.

Bill Watson reported that Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets nested extraordinarily early at the Motor Island rookery. Snowy Egrets and a Tricolored Heron also made appearances there. The observation of two snowies together, showing breeding plumage near the end of May, is intriguing. A sign of things to come in future years?

Waterfowl migration was generally ahead of schedule. At least six different Greater White-fronted Geese observed in March were a very good showing. A Brant on March 6 was exceptionally early. Ruddy Duck numbers were high throughout the season.

The Golden Eagles wintering in the vicinity of Allegheny Reservoir remained at least through 18.Mar. Osprey returned to traditional nesting locations there a week later. Merlins were more numerous than usual. Peregrine Falcons again nested in downtown Buffalo.

Sandhill Crane reports continue to increase in the Region. Fifteen were tallied flying past the Ripley Hawkwatch and up to 9 other cranes were seen elsewhere. Four cranes with yellow leg bands observed at Iroquois NWR were being tracked as part of the Operation Migration project.

One to two Black-headed Gulls were seen on the Niagara River through mid-April. Spring Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings continue to increase. Four Glaucous Gulls on 20 May were somewhat late. Warbler migration was very good this year, and there were more reports than usual for Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Cape May and Pine. Rarities were fewer, with singles for "Yellow" Palm Warbler, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Common Redpolls were widespread on their return north during March, and a **Hoary Redpoll** returned to Jim Wojewodzki's feeder in Colden on 21 Mar. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak reports were scattered throughout the season, but there was only one report of Red Crossbill and no reports for White-winged.

The season brought two exceptional rarities, both recorded for only the second time in the Region. Aron Kehlenbeck found a breeding-plumaged male **Lark Bunting** on a farm in the town of Alabama on 19 Apr. Many birders were able to enjoy this attractive bird and its musical song during the next two weeks. It was the first report for this species in the Region since a bird spent over five months in Belmont at a feeder in 1967. Aron last saw the bird on 5 May. On 7 May, Ripley hawkwatchers Sally & Melvin Freeborough, Martha Neel, and Leonard & Celia DeFrancisco recorded the Region's first **Swallow-tailed Kite** since a young Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Beal observed one in 1926. A few Swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites also occurred west of the Region in Ontario during the first week of May. Several days of continuous warm weather with strong southwesterly winds likely brought about this occurrence.

Other rarities for the period included: Eared Grebe, Cattle Egret, Black Vulture, Eurasian Wigeon, Swainson's Hawk, Forster's Tern, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) April count conducted on 9 Apr established a remarkable nineteen maxima for the last 22 years of the count. Most notable were Caspian Tern, Black Scoter and Ruddy Duck. Very low counts were tallied for Ruffed Grouse, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird,

and Common Grackle. Count compilers were Ed Fuchs, Mike Hamilton, and Terry Yonker. The May count on 21 May produced sixteen 10-year maxima, most notably Ruddy Duck and Great Black-backed Gull. Jim Landau was the count compiler.

Following table is the spring report from the Ripley Hawkwatch. The site is located along the Lake Erie shore just north of the Pennsylvania border. Hawk-watchers spread out and communicate with radios provided by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The coordinator is Len DeFrancisco.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Peak Flight Day</u>	<u>Range of Dates</u>
Black Vulture	1	1 on 4 Mar	4 Mar
Turkey Vulture	5,669	2215 * on 25 Mar	24 Feb to 17 May
Osprey	190	48 on 23 Apr	20 Mar to 17 May
Swallow-tailed Kite	1 *	1 on 7 May	7 May
Bald Eagle	41	4 on 27 Apr	26 Feb to 16 May
Northern Harrier	232	30 on 27 Apr	22 Feb to 17 May
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,194	173 on 14 Apr	22 Feb to 17 May
Cooper's Hawk	120	13 on 27 Apr	26 Feb to 12 May
Northern Goshawk	11 *	3 on 23 Apr	14 Mar to 27 Apr
Red-shouldered Hawk	289	39 on 8 Mar	26 Feb to 10 May
Broad-winged Hawk	13,026	5405 on 23 Apr	13 Apr to 17 May
Swainson's Hawk	1	1 on 27 Apr	27 Apr
Red-tailed Hawk	1,038	100 on 27 Apr	21 Feb to 17 May
Rough-legged Hawk	80	10 on 26 Feb	21 Feb to 9 May
Golden Eagle	8	2 on 27 Apr, 9 May	14 Mar to 11 May
American Kestrel	281	41 on 27 Apr	22 Feb to 13 May
Merlin	38 *	5 on 27 Apr, 4 May	27 Feb to 13 May
Peregrine Falcon	30 *	4 on 23 Apr, 4 May	1 Apr to 13 May
unidentified raptor	173		

* = Record total for a year

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Gordon Bellerby, Chris Betrus, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Willie D'Anna, Leonard DeFrancisco, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrmann, Mike Galas, Linda Holmes, Aron Kehlenbeck, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Tom LeBlanc, David Mark, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Vivian Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Don Roberson, Richard & Dorothy Rosche, Kayo Roy, Gail Seamans, Jack Skalicky, Richard Sowinski, David Suggs (Buffalo RBA), Bob Sundell, Mike Turisk, Kirk Vanstrom, William Watson, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP - ALlegany State Par - CATT; AmSP - Amherst State Park ("Williamsville Glen" now a state park) - ERIE; BOSAC - Buffalo Ornithological Society April

Count - 9 April; BOSMC - Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count - 21 May; BuSP - Buckhorn Island State Park - ERIE; BWWTP - Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant - GENE; GHSP - Golden Hill State Park - NIAG; GI - Goat Island - NIAG; Hamburg HW - Hamburg Hawk Watch - ERIE; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge - GENE/ORLE; NR - Niagara River; OOWMA - Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area - GENE; Ripley HW - Ripley Hawk Watch - CHAU; SPNS - Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, East Aurora - ERIE; Tifft NP - Tifft Nature Preserve, Buffalo - ERIE; TWMA - Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area - GENE/NIAG; WTSP - Wilson-Tuscarora State Park - NIAG.

LOONS - DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 2 Somerset NIAG 15 Apr; 8 Yates ORLE 16 Apr; 1 BWWTP 29 Apr (MM!); 1 Attica Res WYOM 14-25 May (KF! et al); last 2 sightings inland where rare.
Com. Loon: arr 5 along Lake Erie 25 Mar.

Horned Grebe: max 108 Yates ORLE 6 Mar; last 6 BOSMC.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 4 Yates ORLE 5 Mar (PY); last 3 OOWMA 24 Apr (BC).

Eared Grebe: 1 BWWTP 29,30 Apr (MM! et al), rare.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 1 INWR 25 Mar; max 1114 BuSP 22 May (WW); continued nesting in Buffalo Harbor, Strawberry & Motor Islands - NR.

Am. Bittern: arr 1 INWR 7 Apr; 2 Hamburg HW 29 Apr (RA), unusual location.

Least Bittern: 1 TWMA 20 May (KF); 3 Tifft NP 22 May (BK); 1 SPNS 28 May (LH); good showing.

Great Blue Heron: 62 ad, 1 hatchling Motor Island NR 18 Apr (WW), record early hatching date.

Great Egret: arr 1 Motor Island NR 1 Apr May (WW), max 12 ad (4 nests) Motor Island NR 24 May (WW); 5 INWR 23 May.

SNOWY EGRET: 1 Motor Island NR 26-28 Apr (WW! S&TO!); 1 Tifft NP 20 May (WW!); max 2 Motor Island - NR 28 May (WW!); 2 ads in breeding plumage on Canadian side NR 29 May (KR!).

TRICOLORED HERON: 1 Somerset NIAG 20 May (KF!); 1 Motor Island NR 26 May (BK!).

CATTLE EGRET: 1 Machias CATT 21,22 May (PY!, JL! JW!), very rare in spring.

Green Heron: arr 1 Porter NIAG 9 Apr (BP!), early.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 82 Motor Island NR (WW).

BLACK VULTURE: 1 Ripley HW 4 Mar; unverified, very rare.

Turkey Vulture: 2215 Ripley HW 25 Mar (LD et al), record day count.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: 1 Somerset NIAG 5 Mar (PY!); 1 TWMA 6 Mar (RS!, BK!); 2 Hartland NIAG 19 Mar (WD!); 1 Carlton ORLE 20 Mar (BK!); 2 INWR 28 Mar (MG!), good showing.

Snow Goose: max 50 (white) Shadigee ORLE (WD); last 1 Otto CATT 16 Apr (WD).

Canada Goose (*B.c. hutchinsii*): 2 INWR 10 Mar (PY!); 1 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (BK!), rarely reported.

Brant: 1 TWMA 6 Mar (RS!, BK!)

only report, extremely early.

Mute Swan: 1 Bird Swamp CATT 16 Apr (RR); 2 adults, nest Olcott NIAG 20 May (WD); 1 Point Breeze ORLE 20 May.

Tundra Swan: 1-350 various sites thru Apr; last 1 INWR 17 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: 1 OOWMA 28 Apr (BRBA), unverified.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 INWR 25 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 12 BWWTP 11 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 650 INWR 19 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: max 207 Times Beach ERIE 24 Apr.

Surf Scoter: 2 Amity Lake ALLE 2 Apr (VP), rare inland; 1 NR 20 May (WD, et al), only reports.

Black Scoter: 32 ALLE BOSAC; 22-year high for count, unusual in spring and away from Great Lakes.

Ruddy Duck: 2 Oakfield GENE 5 Mar (BK!); 47 BWWTP 11 Mar (WW!); arriving earlier in recent years; 947 BOSAC, record high for count.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 1 Ripley HW 20 Mar; 1 AISP 25 Mar (MG!); 1 INWR 26 Mar (MG!); 48 Ripley HW 28 Apr; 23 Hamburg HW 28 Apr (RA, et al).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: 1 Ripley HW 7 May (LD, et al); second Regional report, submitted to NYSARC.

Bald Eagle: 2 at nest INWR 4 Mar (WD, BP); 2 ad + 5 im Allegheny Res ALLE 18 Mar (WD, BP); increased sightings at hawk watches and elsewhere; 1 ad Attica Res WYOM 22 May (PF), adults seen here in recent years, NYSDEC helicopter survey did not find a nest.

N. Goshawk: 1 Ridgeway NIAG 19 Mar (BK!); 1 Hamburg HW 14 Apr

(FR!); 1 AISP 26 Apr (TL); 1 at nest Eagle WYOM 7 May (PY); 11 total Ripley HW, record count.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Tonawanda Ind Res 17 May (MM), recently very rare breeder in vicinity of INWR.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 22 Ripley HW 13 Apr; max 5405 Ripley HW 23 Apr.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 Ripley HW 27 Apr, very rare, unverified.

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 rufous morph INWR 18 Mar (BE), very rare.

Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 Ripley HW 9 May.

Golden Eagle: 1 subad AISP 18 Mar (WD!); 1 imm Allegheny Res ALLE 18 Mar (WD!), continued wintering birds; 1 Carlton ORLE 20 Mar (BK!); 8 total Ripley HW.

Merlin: increased reports; 38 total Ripley HW, record count.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 Somerset NIAG 7 May (BK!); 30 total Ripley HW, record count; continued nesting on Statler Tower in Buffalo ERIE; suspected nesting in Niagara Falls gorge NR.

Virginia Rail: arr 1 OOWMA 5 Apr (PY!), early.

Sora: arr 1 Tiffit NP 28 Apr; less reports than usual.

Com. Moorhen: arr 1 TWMA 23 Apr.

SANDHILL CRANE: 4 Irving CHAU 25 Mar (TM!); 4 Alabama GENE 22 Apr (AK! GS!), leg banded birds part of Operation Migration; 4 Hamburg HW 27 Apr (FR!); 2 TWMA 27 Apr (MG! WW!); 15 total Ripley HW, record count.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 1 Times Beach ERIE 17 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 3 Yates

ORLE 5 May.

Killdeer: 4 eggs Hamburg HW 31 Mar (RA, CB), record early egg date.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 Kiantone CHAU 23 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 Randolph CATT 1 Mar (KV), extremely early, unverified; 2 Yates ORLE 9 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 1 Como Park ERIE 24 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 AmSP 22 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 Tillman WMA ERIE 3 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 BWWTP 17 May (MM); 1 BOSMC CHAU, only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 1 TWMA 20 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 4 Yates ORLE 5 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 1 Hartland NIAG 20 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Kiantone CHAU 8 Apr, surprisingly only report.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Niagara Falls NR 23 Mar (PY), follows no winter sightings.

Dunlin: arr 3 Hartland NIAG 6 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 13 May.

Com. Snipe: arr 9 Dunkirk CHAU 20 Mar.

Little Gull: max 51 Lewiston NR 27 Mar (MG).

BLACK-HEADED GULL: 1 Lewiston NR thru 18 Apr (GB, PY!, BK!); 2 Lewiston NR 25 Mar (BRBA).

Bonaparte's Gull: 23,000 mouth of NR 9 Apr (GB).

Iceland Gull: last 1 Buffalo ERIE 15 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 GI 5 May (BK!); 1 NR 16 May (WD!); 1

Somerset NIAG 20 May (MM! KF!); 2 Somerset NIAG 28 May (WW! BK!); Apr, May records increasing.

Glaucous Gull: 5 Buffalo ERIE 5 Apr (WW); 2 Somerset NIAG 20 May (MM et al); 1 Lakeside Beach SP 20 May (KF); 1 Yates ORLE 20 May (KF).

Caspian Tern: arr 33 Dunkirk CHAU 8 Apr (DN); 107 BOSAC, 22-year high.

Com. Tern: arr 1 Dunkirk CHAU 8 Apr.

FORSTER'S TERN: 1 Chautauqua Lake CHAU 9 Apr (RS!); rare, but likely under reported in spring.

Black Tern: arr 1 INWR 29 Apr; 23 INWR 6 May (S&TO).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 3 TWMA 20 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 Marilla ERIE 13 May.

Long-eared Owl: 1,1 WTSP 3,14 Apr (BP); 1 GHSP 20 May (KF).

Short-eared Owl: max 6 S. Dayton CHAU 14 Mar (DN); last 3 Oakfield GENE 23 Apr (AK).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 at 4 NIAG locations thru Mar; last 1 WTSP 7 Apr (BP).

Com. Nighthawk: 1-4 Lancaster ERIE 17-29 May (MM); only 3 other reports.

Whip-poor-will: no reports.

Chimney Swift: arr 1 Tonawanda ERIE 15 Apr (MG!), early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 Amity Lake ALLE 3 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 1 Hamburg HW 1 May; 7 other reports May, good showing.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 1 TWMA 28 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr 1 AmSP 15 May; 5 other reports May.**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr 1 GHSP 7 May.**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1 AmSP 13 May.**Acadian Flycatcher:** 4 INWR 20 May (KF); 4 Collins ERIE 29 May (WD, BP).**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 1 Amity ALLE 11 May (VP!), early.**Willow Flycatcher:** arr 1 BuSP 9 May (WD! BP!), early.**Least Flycatcher:** arr 1 AmSP 30 Apr.**E. Phoebe:** arr 1 Ripley HW and 1 Mayville CHAU 13 Mar, early.**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 1 AmSP 30 Apr.**E. Kingbird:** arr 1 Snyder ERIE 4 May.**N. Shrike:** last 5 BOSAC.**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 Tifft NP 6-14 May (DM, et al) only report.**Blue-headed Vireo:** 2 East Otto SF CATT 16 Apr (WD!); 3 Portville CATT 16 Apr (TL), early.**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr 1 Fort Niagara SP 5 May.**Warbling Vireo:** arr 2 AmSP 1 May.**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1 AmSP 9 May.**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Bond Lake Park NIAG 5 May.**Com. Raven:** continued regular reports from ALLE and CATT.**Purple Martin:** arr 31 BOSAC.**Tree Swallow:** arr 2 Hamburg HW 8 Mar (JS!); 2 Amity ALLE 9 Mar (VP!), early.**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 35 BOSAC.**Bank Swallow:** arr 2 TWMA 27 Apr.**Cliff Swallow:** arr 2 Hamburg HW 26 Apr.**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** very common in migration.**Carolina Wren:** 9 BOSAC; 6 BOSMC; 8 other reports.**House Wren:** arr 1 Lancaster ERIE 19 Apr.**Winter Wren:** arr 1 WTSP 27 Mar.**Marsh Wren:** arr 1 TWMA 27 Apr.**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 4 Hamburg ERIE 25 Mar.**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 4 Tifft NP 2 Apr.**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 5 INWR 29 Apr.**Veery:** arr 1 AmSP 4 May.**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 1 GI 13 May.**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 2 Tifft NP 6 May.**Hermit Thrush:** arr 1 Ellington CHAU 24 Mar.**Wood Thrush:** arr 2 Como Park ERIE 3 May.**Gray Catbird:** arr 2 Tifft NP 3 May.**Brown Thrasher:** arr 2 ALLE BOSAC.**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 Eden ERIE 12 Mar (RA) early; last 3 Somerset NIAG 20 May.**WARBLERS****Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 3 Tifft NP 3 May.**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr 1 Tifft NP 3 May; 3 Tuscarora Ind Res NIAG 26 May (DR); 2 Shelby ORLE 28 May (WW); 8 other reports of singles, good showing.**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 Lancaster ERIE 5 May (MM!); 1 BOSMC; 3 Tuscarora Ind Res NIAG 26 May (DR).**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 Newstead ERIE 22 May (LH).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 GI 5 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 Niagara Falls NIAG 3 May (SO); 2 AmSP 6 May (PY); 1 Buffalo ERIE 6 May (JS); 2 GI 13 May (BP, WD); 1 Snyder ERIE 12 May (BK); more than usual.
Nashville Warbler: arr 4 AmSP 1 May.
N. Parula: arr 3 Forest Lawn Cem ERIE 5 May; more reports than usual thru 21 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr 1 Snyder ERIE 25 Apr; 1 Randolph CATT 25 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 Lancaster ERIE 4 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 4 May; more reports than last few years.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 AmSP 1 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 Silver Creek CHAU 7 Apr; 253 Fort Niagara SP NIAG 5 May (SO).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 Sheridan CHAU 7,10 Apr (DN), record early by 11 days.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 Tift NP 2 May.
Pine Warbler: 2 Pomfret CHAU wintering thru 22 Mar; arr 1 Sheridan CHAU 10 Apr (DN), early; max 5 Clarence ERIE 23 Apr; 2 Olcott NIAG 20 May (MM! et al); 1 East Otto S.F. CATT 29 May (WD!); more reports than usual in migration and potential breeders.
Prairie Warbler: arr 2 Amity ALLE 4 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 AmSP 25 Apr; 13 GHSP 5 May (WW), high count.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. hypochrysea*): 1 AmSP 28 Apr (BK!); very rare, but likely under reported. [RREd: Many very yellow Palm Warblers are NOT *D. p. hypochrysea*. It is not an easy call. They may be over reported.]
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 GI 7 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 Snyder ERIE 12 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 Pomfret CHAU 6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 Lancaster ERIE 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 1 Tift NP 3 May.
Ovenbird: arr 1 Attica WYOM 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 2 AmSP 22 Apr (PY!), early.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 N. Harmony CHAU 28 Mar (KV), record early, unverified; max 3 Attica WYOM 7 May.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: 1 Lancaster ERIE 28 May (MM!), less than annual in spring.
Mourning Warbler: arr 1 GI 12 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 1 Wheatfield NIAG 3 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 Hamburg ERIE 6 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 1 Tift NP (MM!) 6 May; 1 Hamburg ERIE 6 May (MT), early.
Canada Warbler: arr 1 GI 5 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 GHSP 20 May (KF).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS
Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 Tift NP 6 May.
E. Towhee: arr 1 SPNS ERIE 18 Mar.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 3 Amity Lake ALLE 2 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 Colden ERIE 24 Mar; early.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 1 Tift NP 5 May (WD! BP!); 2

Somerset NIAG 20 May (KF!); 1 Carlton ORLE 20 May (KF!); 2 singing males New Hudson ALLE 28 May (R&DR); record number of reports.

Field Sparrow: arr 1 Eden Valley ERIE 12 Mar (RA), early.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 18 BOSAC; 8 Pomfret CHAU 21 Apr (TM).

LARK BUNTING: 1 Alabama GENE 19 Apr thru 5 May (AK! mob); second sighting in Region (first 1967).

Savannah Sparrow: arr 1 Amity ALLE 23 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM 7 May; 3 BOSMC; 1 Tillman WMA ERIE 28 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 INWR 20 May (KF); 1 TWMA 29 May (BK); 1 Clarence ERIE 29 May (WW).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 AISP 10 Mar; many reports thru 23 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 Tift NP 5 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 SPNS ERIE 23 Mar.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 12 BOSAC.

Lapland Longspur: 90 Oakfield GENE 12 Mar (BK), high count; last 1 Yates ORLE 5 May (WW!), late.

Snow Bunting: last 1 Oakfield GENE 5 Apr (AK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 2 Amity ALLE 2 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr 1 Lancaster ERIE 4 May.

Bobolink: arr 1 TWMA 29 Apr.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 Amity Lake ALLE 11,12 Apr (VP!).

Rusty Blackbird: last 2 BOSMC.

Orchard Oriole: arr 1 GI 6 May (BP); 1 Somerset NIAG 7 May (BK); 1 Tift NP 7 May (JS!); 1 Newfane NIAG 9 May (S&TO); 1 Yates ORLE 20 May (KF).

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 Beaver Island S.P. ERIE 1 May.

Red Crossbill: 2 WTSP 23 Mar (BP).
Com. Redpoll: last 2 Colden ERIE 15 Apr; many Mar reports.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Colden ERIE 21 Mar (JW!); suspected same bird as winter record.

Pine Siskin: max 25 Amity Lake ALLE 5 May; scattered reports thru 24 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Ward ALLE 7 Apr (EB); scattered reports thru 21 May, mostly Southern Tier counties.

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REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

61 Grandview Lane
Rochester, NY 14612

The season started out rather mild and dry but finished off wet. March was described as "lamblike". It was Rochester's warmest March in 27 years with an average of 41.2 °F. This was nearly 7° higher than normal. Only six days during the month were cooler than normal. Precipitation was 2.04", a departure from normal of - 0.24". Snowfall was about normal due to two moderate snowfalls.

April was cool and wet. The final week of the month was called "perfect" and helped salvage the month. The average temperature of 45.1°F was almost a degree below normal. Precipitation was often and heavy. The total of 4.35" was 1.74" on the plus side. Three periods of rain tallied over an inch and kept things pretty soggy. Snowfall was nearly normal at 5.6", but it melted soon after falling.

May continued the soggy, overcast trend. It turned out to be the cloudiest May since 1973. The average temperature was 59.5°F, 2.4° above normal. The first two weeks were warm, but the last two averaged quite cool. Rainfall was just under 2" above normal at 4.70". It was the 10th wettest May in the last 100 years. The majority of the rain fell between the 9th and the 18th and included some very heavy downpours.

The spring migration was characterized by spurts and stalls. There were periods of high activity followed by the usual lulls. The Hamlin Beach Lakewatch again provided the Region with consistent coverage of the lake. The banding stations at Kaiser-Manitou Beach and Yanty Creek at Hamlin Beach State Park gave us a good picture of the movement of some passerine species. There were some high counts of Red-throated Loons, but Common Loons were about average. Horned Grebe numbers were also good, but Red-necked Grebes were down from recent annual totals, There were fewer reports of Greater White-fronted Goose this year, buy Snow Goose reports were good. Puddle duck numbers were very poor this spring. They apparently just kept moving through the Region after early arrivals in February. Divers were okay, with some good spring counts of scoters from the lakewatch. A record early Least Bittern was observed in Cuylerville in April. Black-crowned Night-Herons seemed down.

The hawk flight was about average. There were some good days as usual, but a large number of days with light north winds which kept totals down. Counts of eagles, especially Golden, continued to be promising. The local nesting Peregrine Falcons once again took up residence on Kodak Tower and produced four offspring. Sandhill Cranes continued their showing during the spring

migration with numerous sightings of multiple individuals. A group of neck banded individuals from the Canadian introduction project spent a few days feeding along the lakeshore, preceded by sightings near Montezuma NWR in March and near Iroquois NWR later in April. Shorebirds were very low, with an interesting Whimbrel flight and our third spring record of Hudsonian Godwit the only surprises. It was a generally poor spring for gulls, with few large concentrations and few lingering white-winged gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gull continued to be reported regularly. We can now expect this species at almost any time during the year. Terns arrived fairly early, but numbers were low.

Cuckoos arrived early this spring and were found in good numbers. The owl migration was okay. Long-eared Owl numbers were up this spring. N. Sawwhets were about average, with a juvenile found dead at Hogan Point in May near where birds were heard calling beginning in mid-February. Common Nighthawk continued its downward trend, but Whip-poor-will reports seemed slightly up. Amazing numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported at the banding stations.

The passerine migration experienced highs and lows as usual. Overall it was a moderate migration. While some species came early, the numbers continued to be less than spectacular. Flycatchers were low, with only a single report of Olive-sided Flycatcher. Acadian continued to be found at the traditional sites. A Loggerhead Shrike in Wayne County may prove to be interesting for the breeding season. White-eyed Vireos continued to be reported from the banding stations, as has been the case in recent years. Other vireos were down. There was only a single report of Common Raven this spring. Sedge Wren was unreported. Kinglet numbers were okay but not great. Thrushes seemed particularly low this spring.

Warbler numbers were moderate, with no reports of Prothonotary or Connecticut. All of the usual sparrows were reported, but there were no reports of large numbers of White-throated and White-crowned sparrows. Some observers reported excellent numbers of Fox Sparrows. An American Tree Sparrow in May was late. Clay-colored Sparrow has returned Mendon Ponds Park for the third year in the last five. Orchard Oriole was again in residence in Geneseo, and Baltimore Oriole was well-reported. Accompanying good numbers of Common Redpoll, it was one of the best seasons on record for Hoary. Pine Siskins lingered on through the season and were widely reported.

The season ended up with a total of 250 species. Rarities for the season included Eared Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Hudsonian Godwit, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Ashworth, Lillian Baehren, Joan & Jack Barlett, David Bonter, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Gary Chapin, Anne Clarridge, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Brett Ewald, Kurt & Jeannine Fox, Mary & Ralph Gerner, Bill Gillette, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Jason Guerard, Helen Haller, Tom Hampson, Jim Kimball, Hans Kunze, Kevin Leffler, John Lehr, Max & Jane Mason, Robert & Chita McKinney, Janet Miles, Richard O'Hara, Elinor Osborne, Tom Painting, Bill & Betty Powell, Richard Rosche, Ed & Kim Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Sharon Skelly, Douglas Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Paul, Jeff & Suzanne Spindler, Dave & Grace Strong, William Symonds, Dave & Kathy Tetlow, Mike, Justin, & Glenn Tetlow, Don & Donna Traver, Carolyn & Pete Vandenberg, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Martha Zettel, Brian Zollner.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB - Braddock Bay, C - Charlotte (Ontario Beach), CH - Cobbs Hill, CU - Cuylerville, G - Greece, H - Hamlin, HB - Hamlin Beach State Park, HP - Hogan Point (Greece), IC - Island Cottage Woods, M - Manitou, MP- Mendon Ponds Park, NR- Nations Road (Avon), P - Perinton, PA -Parma, R - Rochester, S - Savannah (Wayne Co.), W - Webster, WL - West Lakeshore, YC- Yanty Creek (Hamlin Beach State Park).

LOONS - WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loon: max 220 HB 26 Mar; last 2 HB 16 May.

Com. Loon: max 1424 HB 7 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 163 HB 14 Apr; last 1 HB 17 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 51 HB 30 Mar; 7 P 8 Apr (DS), unusual location; 7 MP 20 Apr (CC,AC), unusual location

EARED GREBE: 1 HB 14-15 Apr (WS).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 HB 4 Mar.

Least Bittern: arr 1 NR 22 Apr (JK), record early.

Great Egret: arr 1 BB 6 Apr.

Snowy Egret: 1 Henrietta 25 May

(KG), only report.

Cattle Egret: 1 BB 16 May (RO'H), only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 1 BB 15 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: 1 BB 18 May (RO'H), only report.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 1 H 4 Mar (SSk).

Snow Goose: max 330 HB 19 Mar. Brant: max 80 HB 31 May (WS), excellent spring total

Trumpeter Swan: 1 MP 4 Mar (AC); 5 South Butler (WAYN) 22 Apr (RS).

Tundra Swan: max 172 Medina 14 Mar; last 1 HB 24 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: 1 BB 9 Mar.

Canvasback: max 21 HB 1 Apr, low

this year.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: 1 Parma 23 Mar (RS), imm male; 1 HB 24 Apr (WS), imm male.

Surf Scoter: max 65 HB 30 Apr; last 17 HB 2 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 534 HB 14 Apr.

Black Scoter: max 6 HB 30 Apr; last 2 HB 28 May

Bufflehead: last 2 HB 13 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 WL 2 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr 1 BB 23 Mar; max 29 BB 21 Apr.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

N. Goshawk: arr 1 BB 8 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 25 BB 14 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 G 4 May.

Golden Eagle: arr 1 P 8 Mar (DT).

Merlin: last 1 HB 16 May.

Peregrine Falcon: 6 R 1-31 May, 2ad, 4yg nesting on Kodak Tower.

Sandhill Crane: arr 1 BB 7 mar; 4 BB 22 Mar; 4 BB 25 Mar; 3 HB 7 Apr; 1 MP 13 Apr, unusual location; 5 S 22 Apr; 4 BB 6 May; 1 HB 24 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr BB 15 Apr.

Whimbrel: max 15 HB 25 May (WS), large spring total.

Hudsonian Godwit: arr 2 HB 26 May (WS), unusual in spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 C 13 May.

Dunlin: arr 15 S 22 Apr; max 90 HB 25 May.

Little Gull: max 7 HB 31 Mar; 1 P 18 Apr, 2nd summer (DS)

Iceland Gull: 3 1st yr P 9 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 P 9 Apr (DS), ad; 1 HB 24 Apr (WS), imm; 2 ad C May (RS).

Glaucous Gull: last 11st yr P 11 Apr.

Caspian Tern: arr 2 HB 1 Apr (JL,WS), record early.

Forster's Tern: arr 2 BB 14 Apr; max 4 HB 24 May.

DOVES - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 CH 6 May.

Barred Owl: 1 CU 24 Mar.

Long-eared Owl: arr 1 M 9 Mar; last 1 BB 5 May.

N. Saw-whet: 1juv HP 17 May (DT), dead, suggests breeding locally.

Whip-poor-will: arr 1 HP 15 Apr; 1 M 25 May, late migrant.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: total 417 netted at Yanty Creek and Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding stations thru season.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 Greece 28 May (KD), only report

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 1 Letchworth 21 May.

N. Shrike: last 1 NR 2 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: 1 YC 20 May (DB); 1 M 31 May (RMc).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 M 8 May.

Com. Raven: 1 G 3 May (KG), only report.

Winter Wren: arr 2 W 29 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last 1 M 31 May, quite late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 IC 18 May.

Am. Pipit: arr 2 CU 12 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 IC 4 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 YC 3 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 25 CH 11 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 M 6 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 21 M 1 May.
N. Parula: max 5 CH 15 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 CH 11 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 37 M 8 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 19 CH 14 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 3 W 11 Apr.
Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler: 1 HB 12 Apr (TH).
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 M 4 May.
Palm Warbler: max 39 M 8 May; last 1 M 16 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 29 CH 17 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 14 CH 29 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr, max 15 NR 7 May (JK)
Am. Redstart: max 29 M 22 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 Webster 13 May (RS), only report.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 NR 16 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: arr 1 CH 8 May (AW,DS); 1 IC 13 May (RS).

Hooded Warbler: arr 1 IC 5 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 22 M 22 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr 1 M 8 May; 1 NR 14 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 1 Penfield 15 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 MP 11-31 May (RA), site where present last summer.
Field Sparrow: arr 1 NR 12 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 NR 29 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 NR 29 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 HP 8 Mar; last 1 M 5 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 BB 25 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 1 G 26 May.
Lapland Longspur: max 25 H 25 Mar (DS, GC).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr 1 BB 8 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1 H 7-8 Mar (SSk, DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 Geneseo 2 May.
Baltimore Oriole: max 25 WL 13 May.
White-winged Crossbill: max 2 HP 9 Mar.
Hoary Redpoll: 2 G 7 Mar (KG), 1 W 8 Mar (D&DT).
 ckgrif@localnet.com



REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

BILL OSTRANDER

80 Westmont Avenue
Elmira, NY 14905

March was mostly a lamb, with mild temperatures and precipitation more than an inch below normal. Only 18 Mar could have been called cold, with a low of 6°F, the only low in the month which was under 20°F. The high that day was 39°F, the last high in the month to be below 40°F. April temperatures were just a slightly cooler than normal and precipitation was a half inch above normal. May was slightly warmer than normal and precipitation was barely more than normal.

Wind and rain kept banding operations at Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory under wraps. John Gregoire described the banding as "atrocious", but point counts on the property indicated the best bird density since 1996-97.

The following account includes comparisons of bird populations in the Region between spring 1999, with occasional reference to a species' status in spring 1998. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons show statistically significant changes ($x^2 > 3.84; P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report that appeared in the December 1999 *Kingbird* (49:335).

Region 3 birders reported Double-crested Cormorants in higher numbers for the second consecutive spring. This was in spite of the NYSDEC's efforts to decrease their numbers on Lake Ontario last summer. Meena Haribal observed an American White Pelican soaring over the Town of Dryden on 28 May. Heron numbers were unchanged, but Sandy Podulka's Little Blue Heron in a Caroline pond and a Cattle Egret at Montezuma were highlights.

The mild March temperatures allowed an early thaw at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Large numbers of diving ducks were recorded there 5 Mar. Large numbers of dabbling ducks were also present. In spite of the freezing 18 Mar, about 3,000 N. Pintails huddled on the ice on the Main Pool. For the season, most dabbling duck and *Aythya* species were up over last spring. In fact, this was the second consecutive spring in which Tundra Swan, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, N. Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup were reported in greater numbers than in the prior spring.

White-winged Scoter, Com. Goldeneye, Com. Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser were scarcer this spring. Snow Goose was the only waterfowl species to see its second consecutive significant decline. Perhaps this is a good sign for this overpopulated species, but it also causes one to wonder if the tun-

dra habitat destruction attributed to the species is now so extensive that the area remaining can no longer support them and other wildlife species. The staff at Montezuma reported a Greater White-fronted Goose, and Matt Victoria found a Ross's Goose in the Savannah Mucklands.

Mild early spring temperatures may have also led to the early departure of Rough-legged Hawks. Although there has been no change in winter reports of this species the last two years, it was reported in lower numbers this spring. The only other species of raptor to demonstrate a definite change in numbers was the Broad-winged Hawk which birders reported in higher numbers for the second consecutive spring. The best migration day for the species was 25 Apr, the day after a cold front passed through the Region. George Kloppel reported several kettles over West Danby and Chris Tessaglia-Hymes reported about 45 birds at Sapsucker Woods.

For the second consecutive spring lower numbers of Wild Turkeys were reported. They were down in numbers each of the last two winters as well, indicating that the numbers may be decreasing through the winter. Persistent snow cover through the last half of winter may have been responsible.

The only rail to change numbers was the American Coot, with its second straight increase. The above normal rainfall in April and normal rainfall in May raised water levels in streams and eliminated some of the shorebird spots of last spring. Shorebirding was apparently poor in Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, as well. Most Region 3 birders traveled several miles into Region 2 to add species of plovers and sandpipers to their lists. Spotted Sandpiper and American Woodcock were the only species with increases. The best shorebird of the season, was the Whimbrel that George Kloppel discovered at Myers Point.

Among gulls, Ring-billed Gull was down and Herring Gull was up. Rare species were more so than usual, with only 2 Little Gulls showing up at Stewart Park, one Iceland Gull at Myers Point, and three Lesser Black-backed Gull reports from scattered locations.

Both dove species were down, as were European Starlings and House Sparrows. Since I am about the only observer who actually tracks these species, I will attribute these declines, for now, to the change in my daily commute.

Enthusiasm for getting started on the Breeding Bird Atlas is probably responsible for the significant increase in Great Horned Owl reports, with several entire families reported. Short-eared Owls may have followed the Rough-legged Hawks in departing early, since their numbers were also down from a year ago, in spite of slightly higher winter numbers.

A marked increase in Common Nighthawk numbers was especially welcome. Joan Scrocarelli and Anne Thurber found 16 hawking insects over the Chemung River near Elmira 27 May. Chimney Swifts were also up.

Widespread availability of fruit through the winter may have bolstered woodpecker numbers this spring. All species were up, Red-bellied, Downy, and

Pileated significantly. Two migratory species, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and N. Flicker were up as well. John Gregoire commented on finding more sapsuckers than ever before while doing the Breeding Bird Atlas and that was my own impression as well.

E. Wood-Pewee, E. Phoebe, and E. Kingbird were all up. Willow Flycatcher was down. Warbling Vireo decreased for the second straight year. Red-eyed Vireos increased this spring. Reported numbers of Tree, Bank, and Barn swallows were all up, but Cliff Swallow was down.

Blue Jays were the only corvids reported in changing numbers. Ken Rosenberg reported 300 migrants over Mt. Pleasant 7 May and Meena Haribal estimated 50 over City Cemetery in Ithaca three days later. Black-capped Chickadees were up also, probably bolstered by the return of the last fall's notable migration. Tufted Titmouse and White-breasted Nuthatch were up and Golden-crowned Kinglet, whose absence during the past winter was quite noticeable, returned in higher numbers than last spring.

Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, and American Robin, which were all down a year ago, were all up this year. Ken Rosenberg and Bruce Robertson discovered a Bicknell's Thrush in Sapsucker Woods, and it was Steve Kelling who finally heard its distinctive and confirming song.

Cedar Waxwing had the second consecutive significant increase in reported numbers. While the incredible Bohemian Waxwing invasion did not quite penetrate to Region 3, Meena Haribal found one among hundreds of Cedar Waxwings at Cornell University and the distinctive call of one wafted through my open window as I sped through Fayette after a trip to Montezuma.

Spring warbler migration was quite good and tended to be somewhat early as well. Tennessee, Nashville, Yellow, Bay-breasted, Worm-eating, and Wilson's warblers, Ovenbird and Com. Yellowthroat were all up. Dick Clements and Dave Russell spotted an Orange-crowned Warbler at Harris Hill Park in Big Flats.

Reports of bright red birds, both Scarlet Tanager and N. Cardinal, increased over last spring and sparrows were almost all up. White-crowned Sparrow was unique in having a second consecutive increase. Swamp Sparrow was the only species to go down this spring. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were both down. The Snow Bunting decrease corresponds to the lower number reported through the winter. Lapland Longspurs, however, were up during the winter. Lack of snow cover this spring may have kept birders from locating as many this spring. Last individuals of both longspurs and Snow Buntings departed relatively late compared to recent years.

Icterids were generally all up this spring, except for orioles. There was even a **Western Meadowlark** that set up territory in Dryden as discovered by Ken Rosenberg. The bird stayed on territory through the end of the spring and was

rumored to have an Eastern girlfriend. Probably all of the Tompkins County birders got to see this bird, and Kevin McGowan posted wonderful photographs zeroed in on each of the field marks on his web site. None of the local birders were present, however, on the day that Patricia Lindsay and Bob Kurtz came from Long Island to successfully see the Western Meadowlark and discovered a bird they identified as a **Sprague's Pipit** in the same field. A report has been made to NYSARC. If accepted, this occurrence would be a first for New York State. To quote the 7th Ed. of The AOU Check-list on this species, "casual in Illinois, Michigan, western Ontario, Ohio, Massachusetts, and the Gulf and southern Atlantic states (Mississippi east and north to South Carolina); sight reports from Guerrero, Maine, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina."

Some winter finch numbers were up this spring. Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins lingered well into the spring. Evening Grosbeaks appeared at feeders as they passed back through the Region. Purple Finch numbers were also up. Am. Goldfinch was down from last year.

CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Aliperti, Mike Amer, Paula Amols, Bob Anderson, Carol Anne Anderson, Mike Armer, John Askildsen, Jeanne & Joel Baines, Jai Balakrishnan, Eric Banford, Susan Barnett, Lauryn Benedict, Laurie Bennett, Brenda Best, Gladys Birdsall, Orhan Birol, Howard Bolston, Steve Bonta, Laurie Buck, Chris & Kristie Butler, Linda Buttel, Campus Club Bird Group, Chris Caudill, Cayuga Bird Club, Jackie Cerretani, Lois Chaplin, Russ Charif, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Dick & Joan Clements, Jim Clinton, Linda Clougherty, John & Karen Confer, Dianne & Steve Cooper, Cornell Birdwatching Club, Cornell Conservation Of Birds Class, Cornell Spring Field Ornithology Class, Nathan Cote, Kay Crane, Nancy Cusumano, Donna Jean Darling, , Joe & Sandy DiCinti, Nancy Dickinson, Rachel Dickinson, Lenore & Vern Durkee, Karen Edelstein, Ben Fambrough, Walter Farrell, Paul Feeny, Martha Fisher, Tom Fredericks, Tim Gallagher, Marva Gingrich, Jon Glase, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, David & Kevin Griffith, Leila & Randal Hans, Meena & Ngampit Haribal, Erin Harrington, Kristie Hawley, Maura Henry, Philip Herold, Elizabeth & Ellen Hibbard, Wesley Hochachka, Pete Hosner, George Houghton, Jim & Jodi Houghton, Sara Jane Hymes, Tony Ingraham, Anne Marie Johnson, Martin Jorgenson, Laura & Paul Kammermeier, Steve Kelling, Nancy Kelly, Anne Kendall, Elizabeth King, Aaron & Cynthia & Jon & Rachel Kloppel, Geo Kloppel, Helen Knapp, Karena Kosco, Meade Krosby, Robert J. Kurtz, Jessica Lane, Jason Law, Scott Lawhead, Jim Leet, Barbara LeGendre, Tim Lenz, Pat Lia, Patricia Lindsay, Ellen Luce, Judy Lutes, Ross & Terry MacIntyre, James Manley, Curtis Marantz, Harold Marmor, Ann Mathieson, Bill Mauck, Kevin McGann, Jay & Kevin & Perry McGowan, Matthew McKown, Marie McRae, Matt Medler, John Merriman, Harold Mills, Nari Mistry, MNWR Staff,

Montezuma Once-A-Month Count Volunteers, Michael Murphy, The Nature Club of Central New York, David Nicola, Tom Nix, Brendan & Dave Nutter, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Mary Passage, Liz Pearson, Gerard Phillips, Mike Pitzrick, Ernie Plaisted, Sandy Podulka, Bard & Gina Prentiss, David Prosser, Laurie Ray, Marilyn Ray, Marie Read, Michelle Reidy, Van Remsen, Bruce Robertson, Ken Rosenberg, Bob Russell, Cindy Russell, Dave & Mark & Matt Russell, Bruce & Cheryl Rzegota, Maria Sandell, Matt Sarver, Judy Saul, Ton Schat Laura Stenzler, Karen Schaufler, Marty Schlabach, Mickey Scilingo, Scott Lawhead, Joan Scrocarelli, Sandy Sharp, Laura Shaver, Dr. Shelling, Mrs. Sindelar, Carol Sisler, Joe & Carol Slattery, Charlie Smith, David & Joe Smith, Jennifer Smith, Ken Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Karen Steffy, Laura Stenzler, Dale & Dianne Storch, John Stiles, Matt Stillerman, Ben Taft, Dianna Taylor, Jenifer Taylor, Chris & Diane Tessaglia-Hymes, Diana Teta, Mary Jane Thomas, Anne Thurber, Bruce Tracey, Melanie & Mitch Uhlir, Matt Victoria, Philip Von Platen, Jake Walker, Gil Weakland, Watt Webb, Allison & Jeff Wells, Dan Wells, Anne Marie Whelan, Matt Williams, June Wood, Matt Young, Ruth Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

Car - Caroline, CayH - Cayuga Heights, CayL - Cayuga Lake, ChR - Chemung River, CLB - Cayuga Lake Basin, CorU - Cornell University, Dry- Dryden, DryL - Dryden Lake TOMP, EIHO - East Ithaca Hawthorn Orchard TOMP, EldP - Eldridge Park CHEM, Elm - Elmira, Elmd - Elmira Dam CHEM, ERF - Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM, GIMe - Gleason Meadows CHEM, GMFB - Gleason Meadows/Frenchman's Bluff CHEM, HGP - Horseheads Gravel Pits CHEM, HHP - Harris Hill Park CHEM, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP, KH - Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU, Lan - Lansing, LoPd - Lowe Pond, LPBP - Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP, MNWR - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, MtPl - Mount Pleasant TOMP, MyPt - Myers Point TOMP, NeCr - Newtown Creek CHEM, Newf - Newfield, PSt - Park Station CHEM, SaMu - Savannah Mucklands SENE, SapW - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, SCPr - Salmon Creek Preserve TOMP, SLSP - Seneca Lake State Park, Sou - Southport, StP - Stewart Park TOMP, SuSF - Summerhill State Forest CAYU, TCAH - The Center At Horseheads CHEM.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 1 MyPt 11 Mar, early; 1 StP 18-20 Apr; last 1 MyPt 22 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr 1 Wilawana Gravel Pit CHEM 10 Mar, early; max 15 Dry 10 Apr; last 2 MyPt 25 May.

Horned Grebe: arr 5 EldP 10 Mar; 2 Sullivan Street Park CHEM 10 Mar; 1 Sou 10 Mar; max 20 MyPt 8 Apr; last 1 ElmD 13 May; 1 SLSP 13 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 StP 12 Mar; max 11 CayL 8 Apr; last 1 HGP 13 May, late.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 1 Dry 27 May (MH), only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 EldP 2 Apr; max 100 MNWR 17 May, high; last 4 ChR 27 May.

Am. Bittern: max 3 TCAH 22 Apr, high.

Least Bittern: 1 TCAH 24-25 May, only report.

Great Egret: arr 1 MNWR 2 Apr; 1 Dennison Park STEU 7 Apr; max and last 2 Alpine Wetlands SCHU 28 Apr; only reports.

LITTLE BLUE HERON: 1 Car 6 May (SP).

CATTLE EGRET: 1 MNWR 3 Apr (MNWR Staff), only report.

Green Heron: max 7 TCAH 25 May, high.

Black-crowned Night-heron: arr 1 CLB 25 Apr; 1 ElmD 26 Apr; 1 TCAH 12-13 May; last 1 MNWR 15 May; only reports.

Turkey Vulture: max 61 MyPt 14 Mar, high.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE: 1 MNWR 8 Mar (MNWR Staff).

Snow Goose: max 10000 MNWR 9 Mar; last 2 Cutler Creek STEU 26 Apr.

ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 SaMu 6 Mar (MV), only report.

Brant: arr 1 SLSP 13 May; max & last 20 Danby 30 May late.

Mute Swan: arr & max 2 Mud Lock CAYU 18 Mar; last 1 CayL 8 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 213 Elm 6 Mar; last 10 CLB 7 Apr.

Gadwall: max 50 MNWR 18 Mar, high; last 2 MNWR 29 May.

Am. Wigeon: arr 22 MNWR 5 Mar; max 400 CayL 18 Mar, high; last 1 MNWR 1 May.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 1 LoPd 1 Mar (DR), record early; max 36 CLB 7 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 MNWR 5 Mar, early; max 93 MNWR 2 Apr, high; last 10 MNWR 29 May.

N. Pintail: max 3000 MNWR 18 Mar, high; last 1 MNWR 1 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 200 MNWR 30 Mar, high; last 1 TCAH 20 May.

Canvasback: max 2768 MNWR 5 Mar, high; last 4 MNWR 22 Apr.

Redhead: max 1908 MNWR 5 Mar; last 4 MNWR 29 May, late.

Ring-necked Duck: max 909 MNWR 5 Mar; last 1 MNWR 29 May, late.

Greater Scaup: max 101 CayL 8 Apr; last 1 MNWR 22 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 400 CayL 18 Mar, high; last 12 SLSP 13 May.

Surf Scoter: 1 StP 4&6 Mar, early; 1 MyPt 14-16 Mar; 1 HGP 13 May; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 2 LoPd 12 Mar; last 1 DryL 2 May.

Oldsquaw: arr 2 ChR 11 Mar; max 8 LoPd 11 Mar; last 1 MNWR 8 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 51 CLB 7 Apr; last 1 EldP 6 May, late.

Com. Goldeneye: max 26 MyPt 18 Mar, low; last 1 CayL 11 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 12 MyPt 6 Apr, low; last 1 MyPt 18 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Cooper's Hawk: max 6 Pine City 26 Mar, high.

N. Goshawk: individuals at 8 locations.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 1 Van Etten 5 Mar, early; max 2 Orange 9, 29 Mar, 29 Apr; 2 PSt 8 Apr; 2 KH 24 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 Dry 29 Mar;

max 45 SapW 25 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 Mark Twain SP 1 Mar; 2 MNWR 5 Mar; 2 SaMu 19 Mar; last 2 SaMu 19 Apr.

Golden Eagle: arr 1 CorU Harford Experimental Farm TOMP 4 Mar; max & last 2 KH 24 May, late.

Merlin: individuals in 8 locations; last 1 NeCr 1 May.

Peregrine Falcon: 1 MNWR 5 Mar, early; 1 Car 9&14 Mar; 1 MNWR 6 Apr; 1 SapW 25 Apr; only reports.

Ruffed Grouse: max 7 Danby 25 Mar, high.

Wild Turkey: max 27 Erwin 24 Mar, low.

Am. Coot: max 400 Seneca L 18 Mar, high.

SANDHILL CRANE: arr 4 SaMu 26 Mar (CAA), early, high and only report.

Black-bellied Plover: 1 MNWR 21-24 Apr; 1 MyPt 11, 25 May, only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 5 Tyre 16 Apr; 5 MNWR 25 Apr; last 1 Chemung Valley CHEM 13 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 1 George Road Pd TOMP 15 Apr; 1 MNWR 25 Apr; 1 Elmd 30 Apr; last 1 LoPd 6,10, & 13 May; only reports.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 KH 18 Mar (J&SG), record early; max 6 TCAH 12 May; 6 Cayuga Heights 13 May; last 1 KH 22 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 30 StP 16 May, high.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 Dry 10 Apr, early; max 10 Seneca Falls Airport SENE 29 May, high.

WHIMBREL arr 1 MyPt 24 May (GK, mob), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr & max 6 MyPt 9 May, early.

Least Sandpiper: max 6 Elmd 8 May; last 1 MyPt 24 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 1 East Shore Sailing Club TOMP 13 May, only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: last 1 LoPd 13 May, only report.

Dunlin: arr 1 TCAH 13 May; 1 MyPt 13 May; max 2 Elmd 22 May; last 1 MyPt 31 May.

Com. Snipe: max 18 MNWR 2 Apr, high.

Am. Woodcock: max 20 KH 1 Apr, high.

LITTLE GULL: arr 1 StP 5 Apr (SK); max 2 StP 5 Apr (CT-H); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 DryL 9 Mar; max 20 MyPt 8 Apr, low; last 2 MyPt 20 May.

Iceland Gull: max 1 MyPt 26 Mar (TN), only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 EldP 2 Mar; 1 DryL 17 Mar; 1 Seneca Meadows Landfill SENE 19 Mar; only reports.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 44 MNWR 5 Mar; last 1 SLSP 13 May.

Caspian Tern: max 5 CayL 1 May; last 1 MyPt 13 May.

Com. Tern: 2 StP 18 Apr; 1 DryL 2 May; 4 MyPt 25 May; only reports.

Forster's Tern: 3 StP 18 Apr; 1 StP 19 Apr; last 1 MyPt 24-25 May; only reports.

Black Tern: max 3 MNWR 29 Apr, low.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 11 locations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 1 Horseheads 25 May; individuals at 4 other locations.

E. Screech-Owl: 5 locations.

Great Horned Owl: max 5 KH 7 Mar, high.

Barred Owl: max 3 Finger Lakes National Forest 12 May, high.

Long-eared Owl: 1 Personius Woods CHEM 7 Mar (DR); 1 Summerhill CAYU 7 Apr (MY); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: 1 Hopewell 6 Mar (SS); 1 SaMu 30 Mar, 7, 11 & 12 Apr; last 1 Dry 23 Apr, late; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Red Jacket Yacht Club SENE 2 Mar; 1 MNWR 5 Mar; 1 Car 14 Mar; only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: max 16 ChR 27 May, high.

Whip-poor-will: arr 1 CayH 29 Apr, early; 1 Dry 8 May; only reports.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 Dry 16 Apr (NM!), record early; max 6 HHSF 30 May, high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 1 Elm 3 Apr; 1 Cayuga Inlet TOMP 10 May; 1 Brooktondale 23, 25 May; only reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 West ERF 6 May, high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 8 SapW 16 Apr, high.

Downy Woodpecker: max 9 West ERF 6 May, high.

N. Flicker: max 10 Car 8 Apr, high.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 SapW 10&26 May; 1 Sou 13 May; 1 SLSP 13 May; 1 Hurd Road Swamp TOMP 26 May; only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: max 7 GMFB 13 May, high.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1 Dry 19 May; 1 Jennings Pd TOMP 20 May; 1 MNWR 22 May; 1 SapW 26 May; last 1 HHSF 30 May; only reports.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 7 GMFB 13 May, high.

N. Shrike: max 5 MNWR 14 Mar, high; last 2 MNWR 15 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 13 Cameron 29 Apr, high.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 KH 21 Apr (J&SG), record early; max 2 West ERF 6 May; 2 SCPr 8 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 TCAH 28 Apr, early; max & last 7 EIHO 16 May, high.

Blue Jay: max 300 MtPI 7 May, high.

Purple Martin: max 6 Shelrake 14 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 20 StP 2 May, high.

Bank Swallow: max 200 MyPt 2 May, high.

Barn Swallow: max 400 SENE 22-23 Apr, high.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 24 Canandaigua 9 Apr, high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 10 West ERF 6 May, high.

Brown Creeper: max 7 SuSF 7 May, high.

Winter Wren: arr 1 DryL 13 Mar; max 7 SuSF 9 May, high.

Marsh Wren: arr 1 SaMu 2 Apr (Montezuma Once-a-Month Count Volunteers), record early; max 8 MNWR 20 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 201 KH 10 Apr, high.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 14 West ERF 25 Apr; last 1 KH 14 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 West ERF 13 May, early; 1 KH 13 May; max 3 Savannah Park TOMP 22 May; only reports.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: 1 SapW 17 May (SK,MM,BR,KR, mob!), only report.

Swainson's Thrush: max & last 100 Savannah Park TOMP 22 May, high.

Wood Thrush: max 9 SuSF 9 May, high.

N. Mockingbird: max 6 Ithaca 13 May, high.

Brown Thrasher: 2 Lan 17 Apr; 2 Newf 1 May; 2 LoPd 6 May; low.

Am. Pipit: max 101 Genoa 8 Apr; last 20 MtPI 7 May.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: 1 Dry 22 Apr (Lindsay & Kurtz !) a first record for NYS if accepted.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 1 CorU 11 Mar; 1 SENE Fayette 18 Mar; only reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 600 CorU 11 Mar, high.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 Lan 29 Apr; max 8 LPBP 13 May, high.

"Brewster's" Warbler : arr 1 Green Hill Cemetery TOMP 6 May; 1 Newf 8 May; 1 LPBP 30 May; only reports.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Cameron 29 May, only report.
Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Danby 8 May, only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 12 GMFB 13 May, high; last 1 KH 23 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: 1 HHP 6 May (DC, DR), only report.
N. Parula: arr 1 CayH 23 Apr (EK!), record early; last 1 Lan 22 May.
Cape May Warbler: max 5 EIHO 16 May; last 5 EIHO 17 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 PSt 8 Apr; max 51 EIHO 16 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 Dry 26 Apr, early; max 8 Dry 5 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 Car 8 Apr (John Confer), record early; max 3 SapW 3 May; 3 CorU 4 May; last 1 Frenchman's Bluff Preserve CHEM 13 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 17 EIHO 16 May, high; last 1 EIHO 18 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 11 EIHO 16 May, high; last 1 KH 30 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 71 Hog Hole TOMP 2 May (JK); max 6 SCPr 12 May.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1 Newf 13 May (DJD).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 1 Frenchman's Bluff Preserve CHEM 13 May; max 3 LPBP 30 May, high.
Ovenbird: max 22 SLSP 13 May, high.
N. Waterthrush: max 13 SuSF 9 May, high.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Sou 14 Apr; 2 Erwin WMA STEU 14 Apr; max 6 Beech Hill Brook Unique Natural Area TOMP 3 May.
Mourning Warbler: max 5 LPBP 15 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 Cayuga Nature Center Property TOMP 7 May; max 10 LPBP 15 May, high.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 LoPd 6 May; 3 GIme 13 May; 3 SapW 17 May; last 1 SapW 24 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 8 Eldridge Wilderness TOMP 12 May, low.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 31 SaMu 16 Apr; last 1 Dry 3 May, late.
Chipping Sparrow: max 21 Dry 5 May, high.
Field Sparrow: arr 1 Hector 30 Mar; max 20 Dry 5 May, high.
Vesper Sparrow: max 5 Lodi Point Marine SP SENE 14 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 Danby 3 May; max 10 TCAH 12 May, high.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr 1 Lan 7 May; max 5 Danby 17 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 Groton 3 Mar; max 12 Dry 10 Mar; last 1 Hog Hole TOMP 2 May, late.
Song Sparrow: max 80 MNWR 2 Apr, high.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 3 GIme 13 May, high; last 1 TCAH 19 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 DryL 9 Mar; max 31 TCAH 22 Apr, high.
White-throated Sparrow: max 50 SapW 25 Apr, high.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 7 NeCr 7 May; 7 GIme 9 May; 7 Ithaca 12 May; last 1 KH 17 May.
Lapland Longspur: max 75 SaMu 30 Mar; last 50 SaMu 1 May, late.
Snow Bunting: max 30 Genoa 18 Mar; last 1 SaMu 2 Apr, late.
Bobolink: max 30 SLSP 13 May, high.
E. Meadowlark: arr 1 Dry 6 Mar; max 13 TCAH 22 Apr.
WESTERN MEADOWLARK: 1 Dry 8 Apr thru (KR, mob, ph).
Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 MNWR 5 Mar; max 50 Tyre 22 Apr, high; last 1 SapW 3 May.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 2 KH 2 Mar; max 34 MNWR 2 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 CorU 6 May; 1 MyPt 7-10 May; only reports.

Purple Finch: max 24 SapW 28 Apr, high. **Evening Grosbeak:** max 50 Dry 25 Apr;
House Finch: max 16 TCAH 15 Mar, high. last 2 Lodi Point Marine SP 14 May.
Com. Redpoll: max 301 Car 9 Mar; last 1 brown_creeper@sg23.com
KH 29 Apr, late.
Pine Siskin: max 24 CayH 13-14 May,
high; last 2 Jennings Pd TOMP 20 May. ===

Region 4-Susquehanna

PEG BURNETT

2 Ayers St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

ERIC SULLIVAN

42 Patricia St
Binghamton, NY 13905
Oldcards@juno.com

Weather data is as recorded by the National Weather Service Station at the Binghamton Regional Airport in the town of Maine, Broome County. This year's mild winter temperatures continued into March, with a monthly average of 39.4°F, nearly 7° higher than the average. A high of 70°F was reached on 8 and 9 Mar, while the lowest of 10°F occurred on the 18th. Total rainfall of 3.25" was about a half-inch more than average. There was 5.5" of snowfall for the month. Most of this melted quickly. The greatest depth of 2" was measured on 17 Mar.

April's temperatures were closer to normal with a monthly average of 43.1°F, about 1° cooler than average. The lowest temperature was 22°F on 9 Apr. The highest temperature of 72°F occurred in the middle of the month on the 15th. Total precipitation of 6.47" was double the normal amount. Adding to the already wet month was 8.3" of snow. The largest amount of 7.2" fell on 8-9 Apr. This storm had left 5" of standing snow on the ground by the 9th.

The slightly warmer temperatures in May averaged 57.2°F. This was 1.4°F higher than normal. The low of 35°F was recorded on the 3rd and the high of 87°F occurred on the 9th. Rainfall was again about double the normal amount. A total of 7.04" fell for the month. The greatest amount came over 9-10 May, with 1.57".

Waterfowl numbers were good, but most impressive was the number of species. Twenty-one duck species included the less common Gadwall, Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Oldsquaw, and Red-breasted Merganser. The only ones missing were Redhead and Black Scoter.

A **Cattle Egret** in Vestal, Broome County on 10 Apr was certainly the most unusual sighting this season. Hats off to Bill Howard for spotting this adult in full breeding plumage in an abandoned field near a quarrying operation along Old Vestal Road near the Sycamore Road intersection. Marie Petuh also confirmed this sighting at 2:30 pm, but the bird was gone by 3:30 pm when others tried to locate it. This is the fifth Regional report and only the second ever sighted in Broome County. The first was on 22 May 1960 in Nineveh. The other reports for Region 4 are as follows: fall 1980 in Milford, two in the spring of 1987 at Deans Pond in Willet and in Cortland, and in the summer of 1999 in the town of Preston.

Geese were on the move the first week of March, with winds over 20 mph for five of those days. A very high count of 13,600 Canada Geese and 210 Snow Geese in 119 flocks on 7 Mar were noted by Jon Weeks in Glen Aubrey, Broome County. Elva Hawkin in the town of Preston also noted high numbers on the 7th, perhaps some of the same birds.

Raptors had average counts. Only a single N. Goshawk was reported from West Burlington. Three Golden Eagle reports were impressive, and last summer's resident Peregrine Falcons returned to Binghamton. The nest box erected on the Security Mutual Building in downtown Binghamton did not seem to appeal to the pair. However they may have found another location on the same building for a nest.

High water levels kept shorebirds away from their usual haunts and nothing unusual was sighted. A single Virginia Rail was seen at Boland Pond in Chenango Bridge 11 May.

Tom Salo reported habitat destruction due to the heavy rains. "This sand bank (in Edmeston) annually hosts a pair of kingfishers and a colony of Bank Swallows. The kingfishers began excavating the bank on 26 Apr. The bank collapsed three times following very heavy rains, twice after the swallows had arrived. The kingfishers were not seen again after the first collapse and are presumed dead."

The songbirds provided some nice surprises this migration. Olive-sided Flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo were uncommon sightings. Rare in our Region, reports of **Cerulean Warbler** and **Kentucky Warbler** from Broome County were exciting. Other less common warblers reported were the Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Mourning, and Hooded warblers.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elliot Adams, Derek Alcott, Marilyn Bailey, Chris Barnes, Peg Burnett, Susan Cowing, The Daniels, John Davis, Marilyn Davis, Bob Donnelly, Sadie Dorber, Margaret Ferranti, Ila Finch, Willard Harmon, Finch Hollow Nature Center Staff, John Fritz, Gaynelle Gavin, Esther Graves, Robert Grosek, Elva Hawken, Erin

Hewett, Marion Karl, T & D Kibbe, Sara Kinch, Gail Kirch, Nancy Kirch, Diane Krein, Virginia Long, Rick Marsi, Andy Mason, Naturalists' Club of Broome County, North American Migration Count (May 13), Marie Petuh, Chic Reeves, Tom Salo, N & L Seeton, A & D Su, Eric Sullivan, The Tasbers, Betty Titus, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins, Joel & Jon (JnW) Weeks, Don Windsor, Tim Whitens, Irene Wright

ABBREVIATIONS

ATP - Aqua Terra Park, BROO; BUNP - Binghamton University Nature Preserve, BROO; BPd - Boland Pond, BROO; BrPd - Brick Pond, TIOG; CoP - Nathaniel Cole Park, BROO; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park, BROO; FHNC - Finch Hollow Nature Center, BROO; GP - Greenwood Park, BROO; HPd - Hawkins Pond, BROO; RTP - Round Top Park, BROO; UL - Upper Lisle, BROO; WeB - West Burlington, OTSE; WPR - Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

LOONS-DUCKS

Com. Loon: Susquehanna R. Vestal 11 Mar; Hillcrest BROO 3 Apr; TIOG Apr; 3 WPR 23 Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr Endwell 10 Mar; TIOG Apr.
Horned Grebe: 5 Endwell 10 Mar, max 8 there 11 Mar.
Red-necked Grebe: WPR 25 Apr; 3 Chenango R. Binghamton 19 Apr (RG).
Double-crested Cormorant: Endwell 3 Apr; WPR area Apr and May.
Am. Bittern: UL 14 Apr; scarce.
Great Blue Heron: BROO and TIOG thru; 64 birds and about 25 nests occupied at Owego rookery 2 Apr (ES); arr Norwich 15 Apr; 2 Cooperstown Junction 22 Apr.
Great Egret: arr BrPd 6 Apr (SK).
CATTLE EGRET: Vestal BROO 10 Apr (BH), 5th Regional and 2nd BROO report, intro.
Green Heron: arr UL 28 Apr; arr Norwich 7 May; a few scattered reports.
Turkey Vulture: arr Johnson City 5 Mar; WeB 9 Mar; 2 Oneonta 15 Mar; max 12 GyL 5 Apr.
Mute Swan: BPd 8 Mar.
Tundra Swan: about 100 along route 7 near Afton 1 Mar (S&MH); 60 still there 2

Mar; 26 along route 12 in two flooded farm fields Greene and Oxford 4 Mar (ES); good numbers!
Snow Goose: 100+ WPR 5 Mar; 210 over Glen Aubrey BROO 7 Mar (JW); hundreds T Preston 7, 8 Mar (EH); 228 over Johnson City 14 Mar (T&NT); last one UL 7 May; good numbers.
Canada Goose: "thousands" T Preston 4, 7, 8 Mar; 300 Norwich 6 Mar; 119 flocks totaling 13,600 Glen Aubrey 7 Mar (JW); thousands over T Binghamton 9 Mar.
Wood Duck: Endwell 10 Mar; "investigating cavity" WeB 23 Mar; arr Triangle 25 Mar; arr Norwich 29 Apr; TIOG thru; max 11 CHEN NAMC.
Green-winged Teal: arr 4 WPR 11 Mar; TIOG Apr.
Am. Black Duck: max 27 BPd 11 Mar.
Mallard: average numbers.
N. Pintail: Chenango Bridge BROO 2 Mar; Otsego L 5 or 6 Mar; max 3 BPd 11 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: BPd 1 Apr; TIOG Apr and May.
N. Shoveler: BPd 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP); pair UL 14 Apr (JW); scarce.

Gadwall: 4 BPd 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP), (T&NT); again on 24 Mar; often missed.

Am. Wigeon: UL 4 Mar; max 9 BPd 11 Mar; TIOG Apr.

Canvasback: Susquehanna R Vestal 11 Mar (SK,GK,MP), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 36 BPd 10 Mar; TIOG Apr.

Greater Scaup: 4 BPd 11 Mar (T&NT).

Lesser Scaup: BPd 10 Mar (DWt); Hillcrest 3 Apr (RG).

Oldsquaw: Westover BROO 12 Mar (MC), only report.

White-winged Scoter: UL 14 Apr (JW), not seen every year.

Com. Goldeneye: UL 18 Mar (MD); TIOG Apr; last 3 T Preston 2 May (EH), very late.

Bufflehead: max 36 Susquehanna R. Vestal 11 Mar; TIOG Apr, May.

Hooded Merganser: 20+ WPR 5 Mar; "visiting nest box" Maryland 11 Mar (D&TK); TIOG thru.

Com. Merganser: max 50 WPR 5 Mar; "pair visiting nest box" Maryland 12 Mar (D&TK).

Red-breasted Merganser: WPR 12 Mar (J&JW); 2 Apr WPR, max 3 on 1 Apr; BrPd 19 Apr; good numbers.

Ruddy Duck: 1 Allen P T Morris OTSE 11 Apr (JF); Owego 19 Apr; WPR 25 Apr (MD,BT).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Johnson City 3 Apr (GG); 2 other BROO reports Apr, May; TIOG Apr, May.

Bald Eagle: WPR 5 Mar (JW); Port Dickinson 8 Mar; "one feeding on deer carcass on Otsego L" 7 Mar (BD); max 3 Otsego L 9 Mar (WH); Cannonsville Res 7 Apr (MP); UL 14 May; 3 reports TIOG May.

N. Harrier: arr Pitcher and Pharsalia CHEN 15 Mar (DW); TIOG thru; 2 WeB 14 Apr; New Berlin 13 May; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: at nest south Binghamton 17 Apr (SC); few other reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 2 BROO reports Mar; 26 Apr Norwich; TIOG thru.

N. Goshawk: 1 WeB 27 Mar, flew in between two fighting Kestrels (TS), only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Triangle 25 Mar; TIOG thru; max 3 Pharsalia 26 Apr: 1 CHEN NAMC.

Broad-winged Hawk: T Binghamton 26 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: 9 CHEN NAMC.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Preston 8 Mar; Binghamton 9 Mar.

Golden Eagle: imm West Exeter OTSE 5 Mar; BPd 29 Mar (NCBC); imm WeB 8 Apr headed north (TS).

Am. Kestrel: Norwich 6 Mar; good numbers after mid-Apr; 5 T Preston 23 Apr; max 16 CHEN NAMC.

Merlin: Johnson City 26 Mar (MP), often missed.

Peregrine Falcon: arr downtown Binghamton 8 Mar (NK); 2 ad there May, intro.

Ruffed Grouse: widespread; max 6 after 10" snowfall T Morris 9-11 Apr; "on nest with 11 eggs" HPd 20 May (TT).

Wild Turkey: good numbers; max 200+ Schenevus 11 Mar (DK).

Virginia Rail: BPd 11 May (MP,SK), only report.

Com. Moorhen: BPd 11 May (MP,SK); TIOG May.

Am. Coot: 7 BrPd 6 Apr; Apalachin Marsh 7 Apr; UL 12 May.

Killdeer: BROO, CHEN, TIOG Feb thru; arr Oneonta 23 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: Mirror L Owego 19 Apr (NCBC); 2 CHEN NAMC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: UL 28 Apr, 7 May (JW).

Solitary Sandpiper: UL 28 Apr, 7 May

(JW); TIOG Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Spotted Sandpiper: WPR 22 Apr; arr Norwich 29 Apr; TIOG May.

Com. Snipe: UL 1 Apr and 7 May; 2 BROO reports 12 Apr; T Preston 14, 20 Apr; WeB 15 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: 3 Maryland 19 Mar; Vestal Center 28 Mar; WeB 15 Apr; max 4 T Preston 17 Apr; TIOG thru.

Bonaparte's Gull: 10 Susquehanna R Endwell 12 Mar (RG); Hillcrest 28 Mar; WPR 16 Apr (JW); 3 Norwich 12 May (DW), not seen every year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: 135 CHEN NAMC.

Mourning Dove: 75 CHEN NAMC.

Black-billed Cuckoo: UL 14 May (J&JW); WeB 26 May (TS); TIOG May.

E. Screech-Owl: T Dickinson 19 Apr.

Great Horned Owl: Chenango Forks all Mar; TIOG May.

Barred Owl: pair Triangle Mar; pair Burlington Flats Mar; TIOG May.

Com. Nighthawk: Johnson City 11 May (MP); TIOG May; few reports, scarce

Chimney Swift: Susquehanna R Johnson City and Hillcrest 30 Apr; TIOG May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Oneonta 1 May (MB,IW); Glen Aubrey 3 May; arr WeB 6 May; "good numbers" TIOG May.

Belted Kingfisher: intro; average reports; 4 CHEN NAMC.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: TIOG thru; Chenango Forks 14 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr. Endicott 2 Apr; WeB and 3 T. Morris both 8 Apr; TIOG Apr, May.

Downy Woodpecker: 7 CHEN NAMC.

Hairy Woodpecker: 3 CHEN NAMC.

Northern Flicker: 10 CHEN NAMC.

Pileated Woodpecker: 1 CHEN NAMC; average reports from most areas.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 BROO 28 May

(TT); 1 BROO 29 May (J&JW).

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 2 CHEN NAMC.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 1 BROO 17 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 1 CHEN 19 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 1 CHEN 2 May; max 26 CHEN NAMC.

E. Phoebe: arr 1 FHNC 16 Mar; max 20 CHEN NAMC.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 BROO 4 May; max 5 CHEN NAMC.

E. Kingbird: arr 1 BROO 17 Mar; 9 CHEN NAMC.

N. Shrike: 2 BROO 5 Mar; 1 CHEN 18 Mar last.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 ATP/ 1 CHEN 26 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr 1 BROO 17 Apr; 9 CHEN NAMC.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 1 CHEN 7 May; 6 CHEN NAMC.

Blue Jay: 51 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Crow: 154 CHEN NAMC.

Fish Crow: 1 BROO 9 Mar; 2 CVSP 1 May.

Com. Raven: 2 CHEN 19 Mar.

Horned Lark: 1 CHEN NAMC.

Purple Martin: arr 6 BROO 9 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 1 BROO 8 Mar; max 243 CHEN NAMC.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BrPd 19 Apr; 13 CHEN NAMC.

Bank Swallow: arr 1 BPd 11 May.

Cliff Swallow: 1 WPR 31 May (MD), no details.

Barn Swallow: arr 3 BrPd 14 Apr; max 54 CHEN NAMC.

Black-capped Chickadee: 65 CHEN NAMC.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 CHEN NAMC.

Carolina Wren: 1 BROO 29 Apr.

House Wren: arr 1 BROO 6 Apr; 8

CHEN NAMC.

Winter Wren: arr 1 BROO 26 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr 1 BPd 11 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 2 ATP 26 Apr; 1 BROO 7 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr several WPR 14 Apr; 1 CHEN NAMC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 1 BROO 24 Apr.

E. Bluebird: max 15 CHEN NAMC.

Veery: arr 1 BROO 30 Apr, max 8 CHEN NAMC.

Swainson's Thrush: 1 BROO 7 May, only report.

Hermit Thrush: 1 BROO 1 Mar; 4 CHEN NAMC.

Wood Thrush: arr 1 BROO 4 May thru; max 22 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Robin: 177 CHEN NAMC.

Gray Catbird: arr 1 CHEN 4 May; 62 CHEN NAMC.

N. Mockingbird: 1 BROO 3 Mar.

Brown Thrasher: arr 1 GP 28 Apr.

European Starling: 209 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Pipit: BROO 23 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 BROO 4 May 00; 4 CHEN NAMC.

"Brewster's" Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 2 BROO 13 May; 1 WPR 14 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 BROO 13 May, only report.

Nashville Warbler: arr 1 BROO 6 May; 6 CHEN NAMC.

N. Parula: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 1 BROO 5 May; 60 CHEN NAMC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 40 CHEN NAMC.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 BROO 13 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May; 5 NAMC.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 BROO 9 Apr; 29 NAMC.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 BROO 25 Apr; 18 NAMC.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 2 May.

Pine Warbler: arr 1 RTP 26 Mar.

Prairie Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Palm Warbler: arr 1 BROO 13 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 BROO 11 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May.

CERULEAN WARBLER: 1 BROO 14 May (RG).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Am. Redstart: arr 3 BROO 4 May.

Ovenbird: arr 1 BROO 1 May; 55 CHEN NAMC.

N. Waterthrush: arr 1 BROO 1 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 BROO 25 Apr.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: arr 1 BROO 13 May (TT).

Mourning Warbler: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 86 CHEN NAMC.

Hooded Warbler: 1 BROO 10 May (RG); 1 BROO 13 May (JnW).

Wilson's Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May; 1 CHEN NAMC.

Canada Warbler: arr 1 BROO 12 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 CHEN 7 May.

Eastern Towhee: arr 1 BROO 12 Apr; 16 CHEN NAMC.

Am. Tree Sparrow: 6 CHEN 2 May last.

Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 BROO 3 Apr; 38 CHEN NAMC.

Field Sparrow: arr. BROO 5 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr 1 Web 9 Apr; 10 CHEN NAMC.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 BROO 18 May, only report.

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 OTSE 1 Mar; last

BROO 14 Apr.
Song Sparrow: 69 CHEN NAMC.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 2 BrPd 19 Mar.
White-throated Sparrow: 14 CHEN NAMC.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr few BROO 6 Apr; 7 CHEN NAMC.
Dark-eyed Junco: 18 CHEN NAMC.
N. Cardinal: 30 CHEN NAMC.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 1 BROO 29 Apr; 14 CHEN NAMC.
Indigo Bunting: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 13 CHEN NAMC.
Bobolink: arr 1 BROO 7 May; 53 CHEN NAMC.
Red-winged Blackbird: 236 CHEN NAMC.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr 1 CHEN 15 Mar; 8 CHEN NAMC.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 BROO 12 Mar; 9 BrPd 2 Apr; max 20 TIOG 7 Apr.
Com. Grackle: 102 CHEN NAMC.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 1 CHEN 11 Mar; 15 CHEN NAMC.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 BROO 4 May; 33 CHEN NAMC.
Purple Finch: 1 GP 28 Apr; 32 CHEN NAMC.
House Finch: 16 CHEN NAMC.
Com. Redpoll: max 18 CHEN 13 Mar; last WeB 28 Apr.
Pine Siskin: UL 1 Apr; 9 CHEN NAMC, at feeder.
Am. Goldfinch: 135 CHEN NAMC.
Evening Grosbeak: TIOG 10 May, last.

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REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

BILL PURCELL

281 Baum Road
 Hastings, New York, 13076

March was very warm, with an average temperature of 40.1°F, 6.2° above normal, and with precipitation 0.53 inches below average at 2.23 inches. There was only 7.4 inches of snow. April was cool, with an average temperature of 44.3°F, 1.4° below average, and there was 4.24 inches of precipitation, 0.91 inches above normal. There was 1.9 inches of snow, the first recorded April snow since 1997. The May temperature averaged 59.1°F, 2° above normal, and the month was wet, with 4.75 inches of rain, 1.47 inches above normal.

Early March was a continuation of the last week in February, with above average temperatures and migrants moving into the Region. The ice went out on Oneida Lake on 8 Mar, one of the earliest dates ever. With all the open water so early in the season, waterfowl were not concentrated in just a few places and numbers were generally unremarkable. The month returned to more seasonable weather on the 10th, but there was another warm-up on the 20th lasting nearly a week.

March sightings at Derby Hill included Black Vulture, Ross's Goose, two Sandhill Cranes, and a White-winged Crossbill. Another Black Vulture was seen

in Baldwinsville for several days, the first spring sighting away from Derby Hill. Snow Goose numbers were not particularly high, but another Ross's Goose was found with Snows in the Six Mile Creek flood lands in Schroepel.

An Osprey was seen in a breeding area near Baldwinsville on 8 Mar, a record early arrival, but it retreated with the return of winter and there were no further sightings until the end of the month. The winter Bohemian Waxwing invasion lingered onto March, with large numbers found in Oneida County. There was also a strong Common Redpoll return flight, with two Hoary Redpolls among the flocks stopping at the feeders at Derby Hill. A Brewer's Blackbird was found in a small flock of blackbirds at an industrial site in Syracuse.

April weather was moderate through the 8th, and arrivals included several species of shorebirds, including very early Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers and a record early Palm Warbler. There was also a considerable sparrow migration along the roadsides and open areas in the vicinity of the Scriba nuclear plants in early April. Snow and cold over the next few days brought many birds to feeders, especially up to 23 Fox Sparrows and a number of Dark-eyed Juncos at a single feeder.

A Barnacle Goose turned up during the middle of April and remained for a week, but there was no way to determine the origins of the goose.

The hawk flight at Derby Hill suffered through many stretches of unfavorable north and northwest winds, and the peak flight period of the last 10 days of April was no exception as light to moderate northerly winds pushed many hawks away from Lake Ontario. There was however, a record flight of 25 Golden Eagles on 25 Apr and two good Merlin flights.

Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, scarce in most areas during the winter, started moving through in mid April and peaked in early May. The first 10 days of May were characterized by southerly winds and generally great passerine migration weather. All of the regularly occurring warblers arrived before the 10th as did most of the flycatchers and vireos. Observers concentrated on our best migrant trap, the Energy Information Center grounds at the Nine Mile Point nuclear plants in Oswego County, and they were rewarded with many rarities. Highlights were **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**, **Harris's Sparrow**, and **Blue Grosbeak** as well as a Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, and several Clay-colored Sparrows. Orchard Orioles were found at several locations, and away from Lake Ontario a Prothonotary Warbler was briefly seen near Baldwinsville.

During 10-13 May over 2.5 inches of rain fell in Syracuse with more to the east, resulting in some flooding. At Utica Marsh water 3-4 feet above normal covered marsh breeders' nests. As the rain drained into Oneida Lake, high water washed over the island used by the Common Tern colony and may have been the direct cause of some terns attempting to nest in Oswego Harbor towards the end of the month. The damp and chilly weather also slowed the pace of migration,

but Kentucky and Connecticut warblers were found during the middle of the month and Sedge Wrens established territory near Derby Hill.

The month ended with a Great Cormorant seen with a flock of Double-crested Cormorants on Lake Ontario. Other than winter sightings over the past three years, there were several other sightings of a large cormorant in flocks of Double-crested, but this was the first time identification was certain. The biggest miss of the season was the late shorebird migration which peaks towards the end of May along Lake Ontario but went unreported this year.

A total of 246 species was reported for the season, one of the best Spring Regional totals ever.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, Lee Chamberlaine, Dorothy Crumb, Bill Gruenbaum, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Mary Alice Koeneke, Gary Lee, John Moore, David Nash, Kevin McGann, Margaret Napoleon, Matt Perry, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Matt Victoria, Judy Wright, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle - Baldwinsville, 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, LOL - Lake Ontario Littoral, OneiL - Oneida Lake, OnonL - Onondaga Lake, RSP - Rome Sand Plains, SFWS - Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland, SPd - Sandy Pond, StMC - Saint Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt, SVB - Sylvan and Verona Beach, Syr - Syracuse, UM - Utica Marsh, WH - Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren, WPd - Woodman Pond, Eaton.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: one WPd 2-3 May, only report.

Com. Loon: max 292 DH 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr UM 14 March; max 10 UM 23 April.

Horned Grebe: arr and max 12 WPd 18 April; last Sterling 20 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Iris Pd Sauquoit 28 Mar; max 4 Toad Harbor

23 Apr; 1 Sangerfield 20 Apr, unusual.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr OnonL 5 Apr.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1 L Ontario seen from EIC 26 May (GP).

Am. Bittern: arr UM 6 Apr; max 4 W Monroe May.

Least Bittern: arr UM 24 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr UM 10 Mar.

Great Egret: arr 1 Schroepel 26 Mar;

singles DL 3 Apr, DH 6, 27 Apr, W Winfield 2 May & Bville 17 May.

Cattle Egret: 1 DH 17 Apr; 1 Scriba 11 May; 1 Dempster Beach 13 May.

Green Heron: arr UM 21 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 UM 24 Apr; 1 W Monroe 27 May, only reports.

BLACK VULTURE: singles DH 19 Mar and 26 Apr (GP, mob); 1 Van Buren 18-19 Mar (JW), still present when DH sighting occurred on 19th.

Turkey Vulture: 9 T Sullivan 28 Mar, feeding on a skunk.

Snow Goose: max 2000 ONEI 22 Mar; last 1 Schroepfel 25 Apr; Blue Goose: max 11 Schroepfel 11 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 DH 9 Mar, by size in flock of Snow Geese (GP, mob); 1 Schroepfel 11 Mar (BP, MV, NYSARC), 4th & 5th Regional records.

Canada Goose: max 8000 Schroepfel 8 Mar.

BARNACLE GOOSE: 1 Lysander 16 Apr (BP, mob, NYSARC), present for about 8 days, origin unknown.

Brant: 20 OneiL 30 Apr, early; max 400 DH 10 May; 300 Kirkland 16 May; still moving end of season.

Mute Swan: 3 scattered singles and usual 2 WPd thru.

Tundra Swan: max 15 Pennellville 4 Mar; last Brewerton 12 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 25 DL 7 Apr.

Gadwall: arr SVB 8 Mar; max 18 UM 30 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: max 43 CM 5 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 18 Schroepfel 2 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 15 UM 21 Apr; fem + y Scriba 16 May.

N. Shoveler: max 13 DH 15 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr 18 Feb; max 250 Verona 18 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: arr DH 25 Feb; max 67 CM 19 Mar; 1 W Monroe 30 May.

Canvasback: max 10 OnonL 5 Mar.

Redhead: max 18 FH 4 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 252 Great Swamp Conservancy, Canastota 18 Mar.

Greater Scaup: 5000 scaup species Toad Harbor 23 Apr, mostly Greater.

Lesser Scaup: max 70 Toad Harbor 13 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: max 27 Toad Harbor 13 May.

Black Scoter: 2 DH 27 Apr.

Oldsquaw: max 60 LOL 6 May.

Bufflehead: max 70 Toad Harbor 23 Apr; last 7 May DH, early dep.

Com. Goldeneye: max 350 FH 4 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max only 6-8 per day.

Com. Merganser: max 250 SVB 22 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 200 Oswego 27 Apr; last OnonL 29 May.

Ruddy Duck: max 8 Toad Harbor 23 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 8 Mar Bville (BH), record early.

Bald Eagle: 8 reports away from DH.

Rough-legged Hawk: many dep winter territory by late Feb.

Golden Eagle: record max 25 DH 25 Apr; total for season 92; singles Kirkland 6, 25 Apr.

Am. Kestrel: 30 ONEI 30 Mar, good total away from DH.

Merlin: max 13 DH 25 Apr, in addition to the official count.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Syr 29 Apr, circling MONY Tower at dusk.
Virginia Rail: arr UM 6 Apr; max 4 W Monroe 27 May.
Sora: arr UM 16 Apr; 1-2/day after mid April.
Com. Moorhen: arr 23 Apr; max 6 W Monroe 20 May.
Am. Coot: max 25 UM 11 Apr; 2 still UM 29 May.
Sandhill Crane: 1 DH 9 Mar, record early; 3 DH 8, 21 Apr; 1 DH 14-16 Mar; 3 Bville 6 Apr, with bands, believed captive bred.
Semipalmated Plover: arr and max 4 Schroepel 8 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr DH 25 Mar; max 7 Schroepel 25 Apr; last Schroepel 20 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 Apr; max 10 Schroepel 8 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Schroepel 7 Apr, early; widespread 8-18 May; max 12 Hastings 13 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Schroepel 6 Apr, record early; max 24 LOL 13 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Pompey 17 Apr; max 3 DH 23 Apr and 3 Syr Airport 28 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 8 May; max 50 Lysander 13 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 2 Schroepel 24 Mar, early and only one other report.
Dunlin: arr SPd 12 May; max 40 DH 22 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 Toad Harbor 13 May, flying with Brant, only report.

Com. Snipe: arr 8 Mar; max 48 Bolivar 19 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr 27 Feb; 4 fl 9 Apr T Sullivan, very early.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 29 Mar; max 150 Schroepel 8 Apr.
Iceland Gull: max 3 Phoenix 1 Mar; last 1 Fulton 12 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr DH 5 Apr; max 136 SPd 14 May.
Com. Tern: arr Oneil 28 Apr; max 35 SPd 14 May; nesting Oswego 26 May.
Black Tern: arr Oneida 2 May; max 6 Salmon R 14 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 9 May; max 3 Camillus and 3 W Monroe 13 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Cato 6 May, early; 5 other reports after 20 May.
Snowy Owl: 1 Remsen 4 Apr (Dick Hill).
Barred Owl: pairs reported 7 sites; ad + 3 y New Hartford 31 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: 3 Canastota roost 10 Mar; 1 EIC 15 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: singles DH 21 Mar, 15 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: singles WH 2 May; Cato 27 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr 10 May; max 7 Fulton 28 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr StMC 5 May; singles Marcellus and Boonville 7 May; 2 Constantia 9 May; 1 Gayville 16, 20 May, where not heard in several years.
Chimney Swift: arr Waterville 25 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr LOL 5 May.

Belted Kingfisher: arr CM 7 Apr;
max 5 DH 14 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 6 migrants
LOL 6-17 May; 1 W Winfield 22 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr and
max 12 EIC 2 Apr.

Black-backed Woodpecker: 1 Old
Forge 27 Apr.

N. Flicker: max 46 DH 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Camillus
8 May, early; max 2 RSP 26 May; 6
singles after 8 May, a very good year.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 7 May, early; 10
LOL 13 May, early for so many.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6 singles
reported.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 14 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 13 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 6 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 29 Apr; max 9
W Monroe 13 May.

E. Phoebe: arr DH 17 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 2 May;
max 9 W Monroe 13 May.

E. Kingbird: arr 23 Apr; max 7
Pompey 25 May.

N. Shrike: 7 reports to 19 Mar; last
Snake Swamp 5 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 23 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 4 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr 29 Apr; max 12
Pompey 25 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr StMC 10
May; 6-8 individuals reported.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 4 May; 23 LOL
13 May, early for so many; max 32
Pompey 25 May.

Fish Crow: 2 Liverpool thru; 1 Scriba
21 Apr.

Com. Raven: 2 Happy Valley WMA
13 May.

Horned Lark: max 100 W Winfield 28
Mar.

Purple Martin: arr DH 15 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr DH 9 Mar; max
2000 EIC 5 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 6 Apr;
max 20 EIC 31 May.

Bank Swallow: arr 22 Apr; max 50
Palermo 1 May.

Barn Swallow: arr 5 Apr; max 67 CM
20 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr DH 28 Apr, late.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 81 past
DH 15 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: to 5 per day
along LOL 1-20 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 53 past DH
14 -15 Apr.

Carolina Wren: 1 New Haven thru
May; 1 Camillus 14 Mar; several LOL
after 10 May, possibly a small migra-
tion.

House Wren: arr 1 May; max 19
Pompey 25 May.

Winter Wren: arr 25 Mar, early.

Sedge Wren: 1 EIC 10 May; 4 near
DH 20 May, on territory.

Marsh Wren: arr 2 EIC 4 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 60 EIC
19 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 8 Apr;
max 100 EIC 28 Apr; last 22 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr EIC 19
Apr; 6 EIC 13 May; 10 CM 20 May.

Veery: arr UM 21 Apr; max 10 EIC 13
May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: singles Happy
Valley WMA 15 May; Kirkland 28
May.

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max -	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	27 Feb	882	1 Apr	6012
Osprey	27 Mar	48	29 Apr	363
Bald Eagle	26 Feb	14	25 Mar	115
No. Harrier	26 Feb	34	6, 14 Apr	536
Sharp-sh Hawk	27 Feb	259	14 Apr	2782
Cooper's Hawk	23 Feb	48	19 Mar	369
No. Goshawk	23 Feb	8	28 Apr	39
Red-shld. Hawk	1 Mar	144	25 Mar	853
Broad-wingd. Hawk	13 Apr	2672	29 Apr	13652
Red-tailed Hawk	23 Feb	678	25 Mar	5281
Rough-iggd. Hawk	23 Feb	121	27 Feb	475
Golden Eagle	8 Mar	25	25 Apr	92
Am. Kestrel	1 Mar	27	21 Apr	283
Merlin	19 Mar	11	21 Apr	46
Peregrine Falcon	25 Mar	3	25 Mar	7
Total incl. unidentified and rarities				30,964

Swainson's Thrush: arr Camillus 8 May; max 9 LOL 13 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr 6 Scriba 2 Apr; max 14 WH 23 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr 23 Apr; max 24 CM 20 May.

Gray Catbird: arr 24 Apr; max 37 CM 20 May.

N. Mockingbird: pairs Mallory and SFWS late May, unusual sites.

Brown Thrasher: arr LOL 5 Apr, early; max 7 EIC 13 May.

Am. Pipit: max 65 DH 25 Apr.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 300 SFWS 14-15 Mar; last 200 Kirkland 29 Mar.

Cedar Waxwing: max 80 Fulton 11 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 May; max 7 SFWS 9 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIC 4 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 LOL 13 May; 1 Brookfield 20 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Schroepel 18 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr 5 May; max 11 W Monroe 13 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 1 EIC 6 May (KM, BP).

Nashville Warbler: arr 1 May; max 22 RSP 5 May.

N. Parula: arr 2 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 28 Apr; max 90 LOL 13 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 4 May; max 5 SFWS 14 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 4 May; max 9 LOL 13 May.

Cape May Warbler: only 3 singles 15-20 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 3 May; max 13 LOL 13 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 25 Mar; max 65 DH 1 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 27 Apr; max 13 LOL 13 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 4 May; max 3 per day.
Pine Warbler: arr LOL 14 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: 2-3 males Dewitt after 7 May; 1 EIC 10 May, only migrant.
Palm Warbler: arr 8 Apr (BB), record early; max 25 EIC 8 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 7 May, early; max 4 EIC 18 May, but usually 2-3 per day LOL.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 4 May, early; max 15 EIC 31 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr breeding sites 4 May; 2 migrants noted LOL 5-6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 30 Apr; max 13 LOL 13 May.
Am. Redstart: arr 3 Apr; max 64 LOL 13 May.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1 Van Buren 9 May (JB), 1st spring record since 1988.
Ovenbird: arr widespread 3 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 27 Apr; max 9 LOL 13 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 16 Apr; 1 Sangerfield 13 May, unusual; breeding confirmed Kirkland 28 May.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: 1 Scriba 20 May (TS), very rare along L Ontario.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: 1 Verona 17 May (BB).
Mourning Warbler: arr 7 May, early; max 3 Rice Creek Field Station 13 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr 3 May; max 47 CM 20 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 8 May; max 12 LOL 13 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 8 May; max 20 EIC 24 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 4 May; max only 3 LOL 13 May.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 EIC 5 May (MAK, MV).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS
Scarlet Tanager: arr 4 May; max 9 LOL 13 May.
E. Towhee: arr 8 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 30 T Western 15 Mar; last EIC 4 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr LOL 3 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 LOL 5-20 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Durhamville 28 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr LOL 1 Apr; max 32 Scriba 9 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr LOL 2 Apr; max 250 Scriba 8 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr LOL 29 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr Mexico 3 May; only one location.
NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 1 EIC 4 May (MV, MAK, NYSARC), third spring record for the Region.
Fox Sparrow: arr 10 Mar; max 23 Parish 10 Apr; last 6 May.
Song Sparrow: max 400 Nine Mile Pt 1 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr LOL 3 May; max 10 EIC 9 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 30 Mar; max 46 CM 4 May.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: 1 EIC 9 May (MV, MAK, BP, ph, NYSARC)

first spring and fourth Regional record.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr 21 Apr; max 125 EIC 8 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 170 Nine Mile Pt 1 Apr; many at feeders during early Apr snow.

Lapland Longspur: 4 Cato 12 Mar; 7 DH 26 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 150 Deansboro 3 Mar; last 40 Van Buren 18 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 30 Apr; max 21 LOL 13 May.

BLUE GROSBEAK: female EIC 7 May (BP, KM, MV, mob, NYSARC), pending acceptance, only the third verified Regional record.

Indigo Bunting: arr 5 May; max 6 LOL 13 May.

Bobolink: arr Syr 29 Apr.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 6000 Schroepel 12 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: max 17 T Sullivan 17 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Kirkland 8 Mar; max 215 CM 24 Apr.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (KM, NYSARC): 1 Syr 27 Mar, fifth Regional record.

Orchard Oriole: arr Van Buren 3 May;

singles EIC 8 May, N Syr 9 May, and DH 29 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 29 Apr; max 30 EIC 9 May.

Purple Finch: max 10 DH 25 Apr; most observers indicate late Apr peak.

White-winged Crossbill: 1 DH 8 Mar, only report.

Hoary Redpoll: singles DH 7, 9 Mar (GP, BP, NYSARC).

Com. Redpoll: max 200 DH 8 Mar and Fulton 11 Mar; last 18 Apr.

Pine Siskin: max 165 DH 1 May; small numbers at feeders Apr to mid May.

Am. Goldfinch: max 170 LOL 13 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 180 DH 1 May; small numbers away from LOL end of Apr to mid May.

Exotic: Great Tit (*Parus major*) at a feeder near Ava 17-18 Apr (MSt, ph, NYSARC), surely an escape since the species is essentially sedentary.

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

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No Region 6 Report was received for the Spring 2000 season

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

Discovery Farm

RR 1, Box 230

Elizabethtown, NY 12932-9721

The first week of March was mostly sunny, with daytime highs in the 40's. Temperatures then soared to a record 58°F at Saranac Lake on 8 March and then to another record of 66° at Plattsburgh the next day before thunderstorms crashed across the Region. Ellenburg saw 6" of wet sugar snow 12 March, but another warming trend pushed thermometers to 60° at Lake Placid and Ticonderoga by the 22nd. With the barometer falling to 28.95" on 28 March, heavy rains brought the Ausable River to flood stage.

April also began unseasonably warm, reaching 64°F by the 8th, but a cold front arrived late in the day. Winds reached 40 mph and rain gave way to snow. By 9 April the Nor'easter had dumped 18" atop Spruce Hill and 21" on Malone, forcing large flocks of juncos into feeders and robins onto road shoulders. The rain and melting snow pushed the Champlain lake level to 99.66' (just short of the 100-ft. flood stage) by the 10th. More snow on the 11th made this the 2nd snowiest April (~20") on record, with normal just under 5 inches. Saranac Lake dropped to 3° on the 13th, but two days later saw Plattsburgh at 77°, and snowmelt pushed Champlain above the 100-ft. flood stage on the 16th. Newcomb rocked to a 3.7 Richter earthquake on the 20th. By 23 April, following three days of rain, Champlain had pushed over its banks, cresting that day at 101.4'. This wound up as the 4th wettest April on record, with over 5" of precipitation.

The last light snow fell at Keene Valley 2 May, then temperatures soared to a record 88°F at Plattsburgh on 7 May, and the lake dropped below flood level, to 99.97', by the next day. After 1/2" rain on 8 May, thunderstorms brought 3" on 9 May, followed by another 2" on the 10th, and again the lake was above flood stage at 100.16'. The month saw 13 days with rain, which helped ground a good variety of species at the Crown Point banding station, but no major waves of migrants. May precipitation totaled a soggy 6.13", some 3.01" above the normal 3.12", or nearly double the amount expected in a normally rainy month. This brought yearly precipitation to 17.74" or 6.18" above the normal 11.56", as the fourth wettest April was followed by the second wettest May. At season's end, Lake Champlain remained high at 99.86'.

Some winter birds were reluctant to leave. A Northern Shrike at Essex on **26 April** provided a new Essex Co. late departure date. Bohemian Waxwings

tarried until 6 April, when there were flocks of **300** at Cliff Haven and 100 south of Plattsburgh. The last large flock of 110 Common Redpolls was at Keene 20 March, and only 4 Hoary Redpolls were reported during that month from Elizabethtown and Keene. As the invasion waned, the last Common Redpolls were at Elizabethtown 22 April and Tupper Lake 28 April, but one lingered at the Turner feeder in Keene until **15 May**, a new late record for the Region.

Many observers commented on the large numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos during March-April and Fox and White-crowned sparrows during April-May. Junco flocks of 125+ at Tupper Lake on 16 April and 135 at Mineville in late April were reported. Between 1 April-10 May, a total of **535 juncos were banded** at Elizabethtown, with 113 of those done on 16 April. Fox Sparrow arrived at Elizabethtown 1 April and remained at Saranac Lake until 2 May, and reports of 30 individuals at 9 locations only hints at the fall-out. Owls Head had the first White-crowned Sparrow 29 April and Indian Lake the last on 25 May, with reports of 26+ individuals.

The Crown Point banding station on the grounds of the Historic Site was opened for its 25th season from May 12-29. Although individual numbers were low, with 402 birds banded, the rains managed to ground a fair variety of 55 species. Most numerous was Gray Catbird, with 43 banded, and a heavy return flight produced a record 33 Blue Jays. Warbler variety was good, with 15 species netted, including Golden-winged Warbler and **Orange-crowned Warbler** on 22 May. There were 33 returns of 15 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest an American Goldfinch now seven years 11 months old.

Banders and visitors also assisted Susan Peterson with early Atlas coverage of Block 6287A, in which the only land in NYS is, conveniently, the 360-acre grounds of the State Historic Site and the neighboring DEC campground. A total of 81 breeding species was recorded there during May, with 19 of those Confirmed, including a new colony of Double-crested Cormorants which were on 33 *mainland* nests by month's end. Other noteworthy Atlas birds included American Bittern, Northern Harrier, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Whip-poor-will, Golden-winged Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Banders helped Confirm Warbling Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, and Common Grackle using the CO-FE code (female with egg in the oviduct).

Regionally, a total of just 181 species was reported, under 200 for the first time in several years, and far short of the record 219 in 1997. Blame it on the rains, which probably kept many observers indoors, especially during the downpours of 8-10 May following the record temperatures on the 7th. Early arrivals included Red-throated Loon at Moriah *31 March*, Pied-billed Grebe on Lincoln Pond *9 March*, an Osprey at Bulwagga Bay *19 March*, and Barn Swallow at Peru *8 April*. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were exceptionally

early, arriving at Speculator and Hoel Pond 4 May, a new early arrival for Hamilton Co., but a day later than the Franklin Co. record. Other record-early hummingbirds showed up at Elizabethtown 5 May (breaking the old Essex Co. arrival date of 7 May) and at Plattsburgh 6 May (breaking the old Clinton Co. record of 8 May). Three out of 4 counties isn't bad.

Other noteworthy sightings included a hybrid Green-winged Teal x "Eurasian" Teal, showing the field marks of both subspecies, at Ingraham, Golden Eagle at Keene, Merlin at Elizabethtown, **Fish Crow** reported in downtown Plattsburgh by Judy & Roger Heintz, the previously reported pair of **Carolina Wrens** remaining in the same Plattsburgh neighborhood through May, a Blue-winged Warbler on Nashville Road, and another Golden-winged Warbler on Nephew Road (both Clinton Co.). A migrant "Western" Palm Warbler was banded 12 May at Crown Point, while a "Yellow" Palm Warbler was on territory at Spring Pond Bog on 19 May.

CONTRIBUTORS

Thomas Barber, Robin Brown, J.C. Cribbs, Charlcie Delehanty, Agnes Denton, Susie Dubay, Elizabeth Fitts, Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Judy & Roger Heintz, David Hoag, Gordon Howard, Mary Humiston, Anne Hungerford, Kimberley Hunsinger, Paul Kelly, Bill Krueger, Linda LaPan, Gary Lee, Randy Leydon, Mark Manske, Brian McAllister, Ann Messer, Theodore G. Murin, Keith Murphy, Northern NY Birds, Nancy Olsen, John & Susan Peterson, Mary Purcell, Carole Slatkin, Marilyn Smith, Dean Spaulding, John & Patricia Thaxton, Al & Susan Turner, Mary Beth Warburton, Denise & Hollis White, Bud & Sandy Ziolkowski.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP - Ausable Point WMA; BB - Bloomingdale Bog; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Point State Historic Site; CR - Chazy Riverlands; FB - Ferd's Bog; SPB - Spring Pond Bog; TL - Tupper Lake.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: Moriah 31 Mar (TGM), record early Reg. 7.

Pied-billed Grebe: Lincoln Pd 9 Mar (MG), record early Reg. 7.

Horned Grebe: 2 Mud Pd Block 6093C 22 May (EF).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 27 Mar (MH); 5 nests CP 14 May

(GL,JP); 20 nests 20 May (J&SP); 33 nests 27 May (JP), 1st mainland colony L Champlain.

Great Blue Heron: small colony n. Speculator 2 Apr (PK).

Great Egret: Hogsburg 10 Apr (HW).

Snow Goose: arr Chateaugay 5 Mar (MH); max 20,000 CLIN 16 Mar

(DH); many flocks over Spruce Hill
24-25 Mar (J&PT).

Canada Goose: arr CH & CR 9 Mar;
max 2,000 CR 21 Mar (DH); goslings
CP 12 May (GL).

Gadwall: 2 CR 4 Apr (NO)-7 Apr
(MH).

Am. Wigeon: CR 9-29 Mar
(DH,MH,NO).

N. Shoveler: arr Monty Bay 4 Apr
(NO); 2 pr L Alice 24 Apr (EF).

N. Pintail: 14 CR 9 Mar; 35 CR 21
Mar (DH).

**Green-winged Teal x "Eurasian"
Teal** [*carolinensis x crecca*]:

Ingraham, CLIN, 16 Mar (DH), wide
white vertical bar, also white horizon-
tal stripe.

Lesser Scaup: arr 18 Raquette Pd 25
Apr; 10 there 28 Apr (CD).

Oldsquaw: CP Bridge 19 May (VT
RBA).

Bufflehead: last TL 28 Apr (CD).

Com. Goldeneye: 46 TL 8 Apr (CD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: Bulwagga Bay 19 Mar (JP),
record early ESSE.

Bald Eagle: 5 ads TL 5 Mar (CD), on
deer carcass on ice; 1-5 TL to 6 Apr
and regular along L Champlain to late
May; on FRAN nest 7 Apr (CD); imm
Elizabethtown 10 Apr (JP); nest built
Harrietstown, FRAN, 1999 active Apr
2000 (LL,MBW).

Golden Eagle: Keene 28 May
(J&PT).

Merlin: Elizabethtown 29 Apr
(J&SP); female CP 23 May
(GH,KH,KM,JP).

Peregrine Falcon: 3 Willsboro eyrie 9
Mar (JCC,RL); CP 21 May

(JP,DS,J&PT).

Greater Yellowlegs: Keene 5 May
(J&PT).

Lesser Yellowlegs: TL 5 & 17 May
(CD).

Least Sandpiper: 6 TL 16 May; max
25 there 17 May (CD).

Bonaparte's Gull: CR 26 Apr (MH).

Com. Tern: CLIN 11 May (BK).

Black Tern: CLIN 23 May (J&RH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Great Horned Owl: nest FRAN Apr
(MM); calling yg CP from 20 May.

Short-eared Owl: Essex Mar (CS).

Whip-poor-will: CP 24 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
Speculator & Hoel Pd 4 May

(PK;CD), record early HAMI and a
day after FRAN record date;

Elizabethtown 5 May (AD), record
early ESSE; Plattsburgh 6 May

(J&RH), record early CLIN.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 banded
CP 22-28 May (JP).

"Traill's" Flycatcher: 21 banded CP
16-28 May (JP).

N. Shrike: Essex 26 Apr (RB,CS),
record late ESSE.

Blue Jay: 33 banded CP 13-27 May.

FISH CROW: Plattsburgh 2nd wk
Apr-1st wk May (J&RH).

Boreal Chickadee: Bigelow Rd,
FRAN & SPB 19 May (RM).

Tufted Titmouse: male Elizabethtown
1 Mar-May (JP); male Westport 10
Mar (JP,J&PT); Speculator 4 Apr
(PK); TL 3-10 May (CD).

CAROLINA WREN: pr Plattsburgh

thru May (J&RH,AM,NO,MS).
Winter Wren: arr Inlet 31 Mar (GL), ties HAMI record.

E. Bluebird: female 1,600' Keene 9 Apr (A&ST), in snowstorm.

Am. Robin: many Essex-Westport 10 Mar.

Gray Catbird: 43 banded CP.

Am. Pipit: 4 Lake Placid, 1 Rainbow Lake 29 Apr (TM); 3 TL 16 May (CD).

Bohemian Waxwing: max 300 Cliff Haven, Plattsburgh 6 Apr; 100 Rt 22 s. Plattsburgh same day (EF).

WARBLERS

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:

Nashville Rd, CLIN 21 May (J&RH), an excellent find here.

Golden-winged Warbler: singing 2nd yr male banded CP 22 May (GH,JP); Nephew Rd, CLIN 27 May (J&RH).

Tennessee Warbler: 10 banded CP 12-17 May (JP), a good season.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:

AP 15 Apr (J&RH), record early Region 7; 2nd yr female banded CP 22 May (GH, JP), a day short of ESSE and Regional late spring record, an astoundingly long passage.

Cape May Warbler: transients CP 18-27 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Inlet 20 Mar (GL); only 20 banded CP, where as many as 694 have been banded in a season.

Palm Warbler: nominate "Western" banded CP 12 May; "Yellow" on territory SPB 19 May.

N. Waterthrush: 7 banded CP 18-27 May.

Mourning Warbler: 2 banded CP 27-28 May (JP).

Wilson's Warbler: CP 25 May (JP,GH,JP), 1 banded same day.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 1 Apr (JP) to Saranac Lake 2 May (TM), with at least 30 birds reported, including 6 Lewis & TL and 6 banded Elizabethtown, a strong migration here.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Owls Head 29 Apr (AH) to Indian Lake 25 May (PK), with at least 26 birds reported, including 10 Keene and 12 banded Elizabethtown & CP.

Snow Bunting: 3 Lake Pleasant 9 Mar (PK); max 30 Ingraham 16 Mar (DH).

Red-winged Blackbird: arr Chateaugay & TL 1 Mar, a welcome harbinger.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 2 Keene 9 Apr (A&ST); 6 Keene Valley 5 May (J&PT), good finds.

Orchard Oriole: subad male CP 14 May (JP).

House Finch: nest CP 13 May behind historic plaque on 19th Cent. limekiln held Brown-headed Cowbird eggs long enough for a Confirmed-NE record; 4 finch nestlings banded 27 May.

White-winged Crossbill: L Clear fish hatchery 19 May (RM), only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 110 Keene 20 Mar (J&PT); Elizabethtown to 22 Apr and TL to 28 Apr; last Keene 15 May (ST), late Regional record.

Hoary Redpoll: 3 Keene feeder Mar

(J&PT); Elizabethtown feeder 13 Mar (JP).	ADDENDA
Pine Siskin: returned Elizabethtown 13 Apr; Speculator 3 May; TL 10 May.	Double-crested Cormorant: 7 nests No-name Island, Ticonderoga, ESSE, 1998 (NYS DEC, <i>fide</i> Robert Inslerman).
Am. Goldfinch: returned Elizabethtown 14 Apr; bird banded Guelph, ON, 9 Apr 99 mist-netted Elizabethtown 7 May (JP).	Snowy Owl: Keene 29 Feb 2000 (Harry Schweitzer).
Evening Grosbeak: max 50 TL 5 Mar (CD).	===

REGION 8 - HUDSON MOHAWK

JANE DENKER GRAVES

133 York Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-2533

As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 40.2° F, 5.9° above normal, with 51% sunshine. It was a wet month, with 3.80" of precipitation, 0.37" above normal, with only 3.9" of snow. April's temperatures averaged a slightly-below normal 45.3°F, with only 35% sunshine. There was 4.24" of precipitation, 1.25" above normal, with 13.3" of snow on the 8th and 9th, making it the third snowiest April on record. May averaged 59.4°F, 1.8° above normal, with 46% sunshine. Rainfall averaged 4.94", 1.54" above normal.

The warm weather in March, which boasted six days with temperatures over 60°, brought in some notably early migrants, with American Bittern seen (heard?) at Vischer Ferry on the 24th by Bob Budliger, Common Snipe on the 8th, Blue-winged Teal on the 4th, Common Moorhen on the Hudson River, Town of Easton, on the 16th by Bill Lee, and Tree Swallow on the 6th. One must wonder about the fate of these birds, along with other early arrivals, such as Eastern Phoebe and Hermit Thrush, when a classic nor'easter dumped twelve to thirteen inches of snow on the Albany area the weekend of April 8. During this storm, there were many reports of large numbers of juncos and sparrows, including Chipping and Field, congregating at feeders. Thrushes were noted in low wet areas near bodies of water searching for worms. A few days after the storm, I observed phoebes picking up worms off paved road sur

faces. Weather after the snowstorm was generally cool, cloudy, and rainy. It was difficult to establish any pattern for the remainder of the migration. There were no notable fallout days. General impressions were of arrivals either on schedule or a little late. Water levels were high everywhere and few shorebirds were observed.

Regional observers reported a total of 216 species. Included were 30 waterfowl, 14 hawks, 7 gulls, 27 warblers, and 13 sparrows. Rarities sighted during the period included Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Tundra Swan, Golden Eagle, Least Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed Vireo, Bohemian Waxwing, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Able; Sue Adair; Elliott Adams; Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports; Robert Budliger; Greg Capobianco; Joan Cipriani; Paul Connor; Bill Cook; Walter Ellison; Mark Fitzsimmons; Jane Graves; Rich Guthrie; Ron Harrower; Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN); Ruth Lamb; William Lee; Alan Mapes; Andy Mason; Nancy Martin; Laura Meade; Frank Murphy; Tom Palmer; Barbara Putnam; Sheila Tuttle; Alison Van Keuren; Owen & Carol Whitby; Robert & Betty Wotton; Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AR – Alcove Reservoir, ALBA; BCM - Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area, ALBA; BCR - Basic Creek Reservoir, ALBA; CL - Collins Lake SCHE; CSR - Cold Spring Road, T Saratoga, SARA; FR - Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, ALBA; FtE - Fort Edward, WASH; FtM - Fort Miller, WASH; 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; NL – Nassau, L, RENS; NR - Niskayuna Railroad Station, SCHE; NRP - Nott Rd. Park, Guilderland, ALBA; PB - Pine Bush Preserve, ALBA; PP – Papscanee Preserve, RENS; RL – Round Lake, SARA; SCR – Stony Creek Reservoir, SARA; SISP – Schodack Island SP, RENS (formerly Castleton Island SP); 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, WR – Watervliet Reservoir, ALBA.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 1 SL 6 Apr.

Com. Loon: arr 2 WR 9 Apr; max 24 SL 20 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 1 FtM 2 Mar; max 6 BCR 11 Apr; 16 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 SL 6 Apr; max 12 WR 9 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 1 SL 6 Apr; max 15 WR 9 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 1 PP 20 May (RG).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 1 Hillsdale 3 Mar; max 66 West Flats GREE 22 May.

Am. Bittern: max 5 BCM 8 May; also reported from FtE, TRd, VF, T Root MONT.

Least Bittern: 1 Embough Bay 19 May; 1 BCM 21 May; 3 West Flats 22 May; 3 Stockport Station 26 May; 5 Hudson 27 May; 2 Athens marsh 28 May (all BC).

Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported only from Bemis Heights.

Great Egret: 1 Chatham 22 Apr; only report.

Cattle Egret: 1 Stuyvesant 9 May (BC).

Green Heron: 18 reports; max 3 Logtown Rd. T Root MONT 6 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1 BCM 15 May; 1 VF 20 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr 1 FtE 4 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 800 FtM 19 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 3000 HR Castleton 7 Mar; c. 2200 FtM 13 Mar.

Brant: widely reported, incl. several flocks of 100-200 over NB 12 May, 300-400 15 May; 100 over Gallupville 28 May; 120 over WR 28 May.

Mute Swan: 30 Coxsackie 26 Mar; 2 NL 16 Mar.

Tundra Swan: 3 Geoffroy's Pd T Claverack COLU 2-9 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 20 VF 19 Mar; 13 FtE 20 Mar; 20 Hudson 27 May; reported in good numbers.

Gadwall: arr 1 VF 14 Mar; max 18 lower MR Colonie 30 Apr.

Am. Wigeon: arr 1 FtM 4 Mar; max 14 VF 19 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: max 46 VF 19 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 13 VF 8 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr 3 NR 28 Mar; last 2 BCM 20 May.

N. Pintail: max 75 StFl 12 Mar (SA).

Green-winged Teal: max 170 VF 19 Mar; 50 T Claverack 21 Mar.

Canvasback: 2 MR SCHE 8, 9 Mar; 1 Coxsackie 26 Mar; only reports.

Redhead: 1 Stillwater 16 Mar; 1 Gilboa 2 Apr; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 4 FtM 4 Mar; max 250-300 VF 9 Mar; 200+ SL 6 Apr.

Greater Scaup: arr 2 FtM 4 Mar; few reports.

Lesser Scaup: arr Chatham 4 Mar; max 180-299 SL 6 Apr.

Oldsquaw: 4 prs L7 28 Mar; 1 Jefferson 4 Apr; 4 WR 9 Apr; 1 Chatham 28 Apr; only reports.

Bufflehead: arr 1 FtM 4 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: max 150-200 SL 6 Apr.

Hooded Merganser: arr 5 TR 1 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 500+ MR Crescent 1 Mar; 600 RL 6 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1 pr. SL 6 Apr; 1 MR Half Moon 8 Apr; 1 SL 20 May; only reports.

Ruddy Duck: 6 Bell's Pd. 9 Mar; 2 MR Blatnick Pk. SCHE 12 Mar; 1 lower MR Colonie 19 Mar; 4 Oom's Pd. 25 Mar; 4 BCR 11 Apr; only reports.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: 17 Apr, 9 May reports of singles; max 3 PP 7 May.

Bald Eagle: 10 Mar reports - 4 ad, 1 imm, 5 unspecified; 5 April reports, all imm; 10 May reports - 2 ad, 1 imm, 7 unspecified; nesting records will appear in summer report.

N. Harrier: max 6 FtE 4 Mar; 29 reports of singles.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 27 reports of singles.

Cooper's Hawk: max 5 Olana 27 Apr; 20 reports of singles.

N. Goshawk: 1 T Taghkanic 10 Mar; 1 Jefferson 11 Mar; 1 ad Berne 24 Mar; 1 Gallupville 25 Mar; 1 Claverack 15 Apr, 1 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: nesting VF; pr near JL 28 May, probable breeders; 7 reports of singles.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1 Claverack 15 Apr; max 4 Olana 27 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 24 FtE 4 Mar; 18 T Northumberland 19 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Amsterdam 3 Mar, 16 Apr; 25 FtE 4 Mar; 1 Cossackie 9 Mar; 1 Chatham 27 Apr.

Golden Eagle: 2 T Taghkanic 10 Mar ((WL)).

Am. Kestrel: max 6 FtE 30 Mar; 6 Meadowdale Rd. 1 Apr; 5 Jefferson 8 Apr.

Merlin: 1 Amsterdam 15 Mar (TP); 1 Hague Beach 1 Apr (LM); 1 Schenectady 4 May (RY).

Peregrine Falcon: 2 over downtown Schenectady 9 Mar (SA); present Roger's Rock Mt.; nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge, Albany.

Ruffed Grouse: first drumming SNHP 5 Apr.

Wild Turkey: continues in good numbers; max 73 FtE 4 Mar.

Virginia Rail: max 7 BCM 8 May.

Sora: 1 BCM 8, 15 May; 3 VF 19 May; 1 Amsterdam 20 May; only reports.

Com. Moorhen: 1 River Rd. T Easton 16 Mar; 2 VF 23 Mar; 1 Schodack 5 May; 1 Hudson 27 May; 1 Athens Marsh 28 May.

Am. Coot: 1 SCR 16 Mar; 5 MR Half Moon 8 Apr; only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: no reports.

Semipalmated Plover: no reports.

Killdeer: arr 6 Wemple Rd T Bethlehem 4 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: 12 reports of singles.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 reports of singles.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 25 PP 7 May; 11 reports of singles.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 PP 7 May; 16 reports of singles.

Upland Sandpiper: 1 Hines Rd. FtE 6 May; 2 Kobor Rd. T Northumberland 13, 20 May; 1 Denice Rd. T Florida MONT 20 May; 2 FtE 20 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 Airline Drive ALBA 4 May, only report.

Least Sandpiper: 2 Ferry Rd 2 May; 6 E. Greenbush 7 May; 4 PP 7 May; 1 Ghent 13 May; only reports.

Dunlin: 5 Moreau L SP SARA 21 May.

Am. Woodcock: arr 1 Amsterdam 6

Mar; max 9 in courtship flight SNHP 23 Mar.

Com. Snipe: max 18 Gansevoort 9 Mar; 16 Meadowdale Rd. Guilderland 1 Apr; good numbers.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 NB 4 Apr; 5 SL 6 Apr; 2 NB 20 Apr; 2 SL 25 May.

Ring-billed Gull: max 146 L7 2 Mar; 100 Colonie 5 Mar.

Herring Gull: max c.1800 MR Crescent 1 Mar, 450-500 RL 6 Apr.

Iceland Gull: 1 MR Colonie 5 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 ad Colonie 5 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 200 MR Crescent 1 Mar.

Com. Tern: 5 SL 25 May, only report.

Least Tern: 1 CL 4 May (SA, WL), 3rd Regional record, 1st spring record, & 1st since 1989.

Black Tern: 2 Log Town Rd. T Root MONT 2 May; 1 mouth of Catskill Creek GREE 14 May; 4 SL 20 May; 1 RL 25 May; 1 SL 25 May.

DOVES-WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 6 reports of singles.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Claverack 15, 21 May; 1 NB 15 May; 1 BCM 20 May, only reports.

E. Screech-Owl: 1 T Northampton 21 Apr; 1 Guilderland 20 May, only reports.

Barred Owl: 10 reports of singles.

Short-eared Owl: last 12 FtE 20 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1 Hague 2 Mar (LM); 1 JL 1 Apr (RY); 1 Galway 13 May (RH).

Com. Nighthawk: 1 S. Rensselaer 18 May; 10 Stuyvesant 29 May, only reports.

Whip-poor-will: 1 Schodack 1-6 May; 1 T Hague 8-12 May; 1 CSR 20 May, only reports.

Chimney Swift: max 75 Amsterdam 25 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 30 banded JL May; 13 returns JL (RY).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 NRP 8 Apr; 6 SNHP 15 Apr; 25 reports of singles.

N. Flicker: max 11 Gilboa 2 Apr; 9 NRP 8 Apr.

Pileated Woodpecker: 29 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 L7 11 May; 1 Claverack 13 May; 1 Livingston 14 May; 1 Eddy Rd. SARA 29 May.

E. Wood Pewee: 16 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: no reports.

Alder Flycatcher: max 6 TRd 29 May.

Willow Flycatcher: max 4 BCM 21 May; 15 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: max 12 Gilboa 2 Apr; 6 WR 9 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 4 SNHP 8 May.

E. Kingbird: max 6 Amsterdam 20 May.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 Meadowdale Rd. T Guilderland 20 Mar (Sheila Tuttle), NYSARC report requested, first since 1995.

N. Shrike: 1 FtE 4 Mar; 1 Amsterdam 17, 18 Mar; 1 VF 20 Mar; 2 Galway 21 Mar; 1 Taghkanic 1 Apr; 1 Gilboa 2 Apr; 1 Amsterdam 12 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 Greenport 9 May (George Rodenhausen/Joan Steiner), first report since 1991.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 Olana 30 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 22 reports of singles.

Warbling Vireo: max 4 PP 7 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 8 T Hague 13 May.

Fish Crow: 24 reports.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Region.

Horned Lark: max 150 T Canajoharie, T Sharon 9 Apr.

Purple Martin: 5 SL 20 May, only report.

Tree Swallow: 2000 Moreau L SP 12 Apr, high count.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: 7 VF 30 Apr.

Bank Swallow: max 400 Stockport Sta. 26 May.

Cliff Swallow: 30 Schodack Valley 8 May at colony; 30 BCM 20 May.

Tufted Titmouse: max 12 NRP 8 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 15 banded JL Apr.

Brown Creeper: first 2 singing SNHP 8 Mar; max 4 NRP 16 Apr.

Carolina Wren: 9 reports of singles; 1 overwintered at feeder Guilderland.

House Wren: max 9 SNHP 31 May.

Winter Wren: 2 Mar, 5 Apr, 9 May reports; 1 Delmar 15 Apr thru.

Marsh Wren: max 30 West Flats 8 Apr; 30 Stockport Station 26 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6 Moreau L SP 6 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Olana 30 Apr; widespread GREE, RENS 29, 30 Apr (PC).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1 VF 30 Apr; max 4 PP 7 May; 3-4 BCM 20 May.

E. Bluebird: good numbers reported

generally.

Veery: max 6 PP 7 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.

Swainson's Thrush: 4 reports of singles; 2 singing Schodack Ctr RENS 22 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 12 WR 9 Apr, hunting earthworms in low wet spot during snowstorm.

Gray Catbird: max 20 PP 7 May; 1 overwintering Guilderland thru 27 Apr.

N. Mockingbird: max 3 Oom's Pd. 25 Mar; 10 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: max 2 BCM 20 May; 13 reports of singles.

Am. Pipit: 10 Amsterdam 29 Apr.

Bohemian Waxwing: 50 Warrensburg 7 Mar (Donna DiPietro).

Cedar Waxwing: 50 Goeffroy's Pd 13 Mar; 40 Stillwater 16 Mar; 50+ near Central Pk, Schenectady 24 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 Feller Rd. COLU, SNHP 4 May; max 16 singing males SNHP 31 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: 1 Claverack 27 May.

Tennessee Warbler: 1 Cobleskill Hills 1 May; 1 VF 10 May; 1 PP 20 May, only reports.

Nashville Warbler: 8 reports 6-29 May.; max 6 TRd 29 May.

N. Parula: 10 reports 30 Apr-26 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 15 PP 7 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 16 reports 3-28 May.

Cape May Warbler: 1 Albany 5

May; 2 Schenectady 6 May, only reports.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 reports 27 Apr-28 May; max 3-4 TP 20 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 Claverack 2 Mar; max 28 Guilderland 6 May; numerous Grapeville Creek area GREE 28 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 28 reports 29 Apr-28 May; max 10 T Hague 13 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: 12 reports 3-28 May.

Pine Warbler: 16 reports of singles; at feeder Guilderland 16-27Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr. Claverack 14 Apr.

Palm Warbler: 8 reports 8 Apr-12 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 6 reports 3-13 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: 8 reports 18-29 May; max 4 BCM 20 May.

Cerulean Warbler: present Max V. Shaul SP 14 May (GC); no reports from SISP.

Am. Redstart: 18 reports 3-26 May; max 15 PP 7 May.

Ovenbird: max 19 T Hague 13 May.

N. Waterthrush: 11 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 Livingston 12 Apr; max 3 Amsterdam 29 Apr; 21 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: 1 Claverack 27 May, only report.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 10 BCM 15 May.

Wilson's Warbler: only 3 reports.

Canada Warbler: 13 reports 3-29 May; max 4 TP 13 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 T Ancram 18 May; 32 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 20 PB 11 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 10 VF 19 Mar; last 1 Hillsdale 5 May, late.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 1 Gansevoort 28 May (BP), first since 1997.

Field Sparrow: arr 1 Hillsdale 7 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Sharon Spring 9 Apr; 1 Canajoharie 9 Apr; 1 Stevens

Farm, Albany 25 Apr; 1 Gurn Spring Rd., T Northumberland 13, 27 May; 1

Denice Rd, T Florida 20 May; 1

Palmer Ridge Rd. T Wilton 29 May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Swamp Rd FtE 29 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: 2 Dowmont Rd. FtE 14, 19, 29 May; not present SNHP.

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 Cossayuna 10 Mar; max and last 8 Ramshorn Creek Preserve GREE 26 May; widely reported over protracted migration period.

Song Sparrow: max 35 VF 19 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 VF 5 May; 1 PB 11 May; 1 VF 17 May, only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 1 Schenectady 2 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: first migrants Slingerlands 23 Mar; high count 9 Guilderland 21 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 5 Guilderland 6 May; last 1 Randall MONT 20 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 100+ Hague 9-10 Apr; 127 banded JL Mar-May.

N. Cardinal: max 16 Niskayuna 1 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 13 banded & 2 returns JL May.

Indigo Bunting: 21 reports of singles.

Bobolink: numerous FtE, farm fields ALBA, COLU, MONT, SNHP after 5 May; max 16 Gansevoort 5 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 4700 Cohoes 5 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Amsterdam 18 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 1 Niskayuna 4; max 125 VF 8 Apr; last 40 BCM 8 May.

Com. Grackle: max 7000 Cohoes 5 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: 1 Glenmont 2 May; 1 Hillsdale 4, 6 May; 1 FR 7 May; 1 FtE 14 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 6 Ghent 13

May.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 Greenfield Center SARA 10 Apr (J. de la Torre); 2 Wardsboro T Hague 17 Apr (RL).

Purple Finch: 56 banded & 45 returns JL Mar-May.

Red Crossbill: 7-9 Guilderland 9-29 Apr; 8 Guilderland 9-24 May.

Com. Redpoll: max 100+ Hague 10 Mar; 75-100 Saratoga 10 Mar; 100 Gansevoort 11 Mar; last 1 Saratoga 29 Apr.

Pine Siskin: max 10 Ghent 30 Apr; widely reported in small numbers.

Evening Grosbeak: 18 JL 28 Mar; 20 Wardsboro T Hague 23 Apr; 24 Guilderland 28 Apr; widely reported.
e-mail: jgraves@skidmore.edu

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REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

MICHAEL BOCHNIK

86 Empire Street
Yonkers, NY 10704

March precipitation and temperature were near average although no snow fell. Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, Evening Grosbeaks and a few Northern Shrikes lingered into March, mainly in Sullivan and Dutchess Counties.

A late snowstorm on April 9 brought 2 to 12 inches of snow, but it quickly melted and had little affect on wildlife. By mid April, flora seemed to be sprouting two weeks early, but a rainy, colder than average spell the last two weeks of the month put spring back on track. It quickly warmed during the last day of April and the first part of May.

Temperatures were well above normal 4 - 10 May, reaching the low 90's in some locales. Not surprising, this brought in many spring arrivals. Good migrant flights occurred on April 30, 2 May, 5 May. Mid to late May was cool and rainy.

An American White Pelican, found by Peter Berger, visited the Fallsview Hotel

in Ellenville from 26 March till 7 April. It may have been there as much as a week earlier. The bird had a damaged left eye. The same bird, identified by its left eye eventually made it to Tyngsboro Massachusetts 15 April and may be the same individual that was there in 1997.

The other major highlight was an immature Mississippi Kite found over the Bashakill by the Queens County Bird Club 27 May. A report to NYSARC will be submitted.

Spring hawk migration hit its peak on 24 April atop Hook Mountain in Rockland County. Steve Walter and Carl Jaslowitz recorded 1475 hawks for the day, including 1358 Broad-winged Hawks. It is the Hook's second highest one-day spring total. Other impressive numbers for the day included 73 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 7 Merlins.

An injured Black Skimmer captured at Piermont Pier 18 May was Rockland's second record, and seven Whimbrels at Piermont Pier 21 May was also Rockland's second record.

While hiking Schunemunk Mountain in Orange County 28 May, Jonathan Rosenthal found a Summer Tanager. This was certainly an unusual place to find this species.

Notable warblers include two Yellow-throated Warbler sightings, one from the Rye Nature Center on 12 May, the other from Neversink Preserve 13 May. A Prothonotary Warbler was at Piermont Pier 5 May. There were good numbers of both Kentucky Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat around., but Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were harder to find this year.

Other highlights include a Blue Grosbeak in Dutchess 14 May reported by Barbara Butler, details submitted to NYSARC, and a White-winged Dove of unknown origin reported from Piermont Pier 11 May by Gene Herskovics.

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Bochnik, Judy Atwood, Susan Bell, Peter Berger, Larry Bickford, Frank Bonanno, Howard Boltson, Gene Brown, Paul Buckley, Tom Burke, Agnes Busing, Robert Busing, Barbara Butler, Bill Case, John Collins, Kris Conklin, Lea Cullen, Renee Davis, Bill Drackert, Peggy Fasciani, Tom Fiore, Valerie Freer, Richard Gershon, Tom Gilbert, Scott Graber, Andrew Guthrie, Bart Hall, Dawn Hannay, Lois Hansen, Rob Hartshorne, Lois Head, Gene Herskovics, David Hultgren, Karen Jaquith, Carl Jaslowitz, Bob Klose, Robert Lewis, Pat Lown, Pat Lutter, Chris Luchini, Liz Martens, Ken McDermott, Phil Meisner, Al Merritt, Allan Michelin, Barbara Michelin, Ellen O'Connell, Joe O'Connell, Alan Peterson, Jan Peterson, Adam Pitkin, Jim Previdi, Peter Relson, Jonathan Rosenthal, Steve Shursky, Gary Soucie, Martina Soucie, Pamela Sullivan, Paul Sutera, Diane Teta, Marion Van Wagner, Bill Van Wart, Alan Wells, Chet Vincent, Steve Walter, Joe Weise, Carol Weiss.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, SG-Shawangunk Grassland National Wildlife Refuge, formerly Galeville Airport, JBNHS-John Burroughs Natural History Society, KP-Kakiat Park, NYCRBA – New York City Rare Bird Alert, PP-Piermont Pier, QCBC – Queens County Bird Club, RNC-Rye Nature Center, RTWFT-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club Field Trip, RTWMC-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club May Census.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 5 EGR 4 Mar.

Com. Loon: good numbers of inland and Long Island Sound reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: 10 Lake Walton 21 Mar; 27 Bashakill 1 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 12 EGR 4 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 EGR 24 Apr.

N. Gannet: 1 EGR 30 Mar; 1 EGR 1 Apr; 1 EGR 23 May.

Am. White Pelican: 1 Ellenville 26 Mar – 7 Apr (PBe, mob), intro.

Great Cormorant: 10 EGR 4 Mar; 10 Peekskill 10 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr Cape Pond, SULL 21 Apr; 1-5 Bashakill May; 2 RTWMC 13 May.

Least Bittern: 2 RTWMC 13 May.

Great Blue Heron: 10 at nests Hurleyville, SULL 38 Mar; 42 RTWMC 13 May.

Great Egret: early reports: 1 Rye 30 Mar; 2 DUTC 23 Apr.

Snowy Egret: arr 1 MC 27 Mar; 25 EGR 2 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: 1 EGR 15 Apr.

Green Heron: arr 1 Doodletown 29 Apr; 1 Buttercup 30 Apr; 11 RTWMC 13 May.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Cape Pond 1 Apr, early for SULL.

Black Vulture: 1 Hastings 5 Mar; 4 Thompson Pond 8 Mar; 2 Pawling; 1-3 Doodletown thru; 2 Hook Mt thru.

Snow Goose: 1 blue morph Round Pond, DUTC 7 Mar; 75 SULL early Mar.

Brant: few PP 5 May; 140 EGR 6 May.

Mute Swan: 20 Newburgh 25 Apr; 44 RTWMC 13 May.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 1 Arborios DUTC 11 Apr; 7 Bashakill 12 Apr; 8 Hurleyville 16 Apr; 4 Newburgh 25 Apr; 3 RTWMC 13 May.

N. Pintail: 10 Round Pond, DUTC 7 Mar; 12 Bashakill 7 Mar; 2 Bashakill 13 May.

Green-winged Teal: 10 Pine Plains 30 Apr; 1 RTWMC 13 May.

Redhead: 2 Teatown Lake 18 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: 100 Bashakill 12 Mar; 100 Round Pond, DUTC 27 Mar; 84 Traver Pond, DUTC 23 Mar; 100 Thompson Pond 4 Apr; 50 Bashakill 12 Apr.

Greater Scaup: 600 EGR 19 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: 900 EGR 30 Mar.

Surf Scoter: 11 EGR 22,23 Apr (TB); 2 Buttercup 28 Apr (AM,BM).

White-winged Scoter: 44 EGR 24 Apr (TB); 120 EGR 6 May (TB); 1 RTWMC 13 May.

Oldsquaw: 2 Stissing Lake 4 Apr; 30 EGR 4 Apr.

Bufflehead: dep 2 Rockland Lake 4 May.

Hooded Merganser: 1 Bashakill 13 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: 15 EGR 9 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 1 MC 26 Mar; 2 nest building, Bashakill 16 Apr; 15 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 Bashakill 27 May (JC, QCBC)

Bald Eagle: 1 Bashakill 12 Apr, 29 Apr; scattered sightings DUTC Mar, May

N. Harrier: 1 SG 13 – 27 May; 1 CPP 20 May.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 73 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: 6 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

N. Goshawk: 5 reports SULL, Mar, Apr; 1 MC 10 Mar; 2 Clinton Corners 8 Mar.

Red-shouldered Hawk: flyng in DUTC May.

Broad-winged Hawk: 1358 Hook Mt 24 Apr, second best spring total for Hook.

Red-tailed Hawk: 5 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: 1 Youngsville, SULL 18 Mar; 1 Willowemoc 22 Mar.

Golden Eagle: 1 Claryville, SULL 2 Mar; 1 Thompson Pond 8 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: 10 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

Merlin: 7 Hook Mt 24 Apr (SW).

Peregrine Falcon: 1 Poughkeepsie RR Bridge 6, 7, 30 Mar; 1 Swan Lake, SULL 14 Apr; 2 fledglings Tappan Zee Bridge 29 May.

Clapper Rail: 1 MC 7 May.

Sora: 1 Ferncliff, DUTC 15 May; 2 RTWMC 13 May.

Am. Coot: 30 Abel's Pond Mar; 74 Bashakill 12 Apr.

Semipalmated Plover: 28 MC 15 May.

Black-bellied Plover: 8 MC 15 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 Rye 25 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: inland records 2 Pine Plains 22 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 MC 7 May; 1 RTWMC 13 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: first 30 Apr; 6 Didell Rd, DUTC 3 May; 8 RTWMC 13 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 Bashakill 28 Apr; 22 RTWMC 13 May.

Upland Sandpiper: 1 Blue Chip Farm 14 May; 3 Blue Chip Farm 27 May.

Whimbrel: 1 PP 20 May (JPr,PL); 7 PP 21 May (CW).

Sanderling: 1 PP 5 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 1 EGR 9 Apr; 1 CPP 8 May; 1 Bronx River, Yonkers 12 May; 5 RTWMC 13 May; 6 Didell Rd, DUTC 17 May; 1 PP 18 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 30 EGR 16 Apr.

Dunlin: 3 PP 18 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 PP 18 May; 23 PP 19 May.

Com. Snipe: 20 Secors Farm, DUTC 28-29 Mar; 7 Cape Pond, SULL 1 Apr; 6 Pine Plains 16 Apr; 9 Newburgh.

Laughing Gull: arr 1 EGR 9 Apr.

Glaucous Gull: 1 EGR 2 Apr (TB).

Com. Tern: arr EGR 6 May

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 22 Apr.

Black Skimmer: 1 PP 18 May (BK, BH).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: 1 PP 11 May (GH), origin unknown.

Monk Parakeet: confirmed breeding Bloomingburg, SULL

Black-billed Cuckoo: 1 Doodletown 11, 28 May(DH); 1 Bashakill 13 May; 6 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Thompson Pond 17 May; 1 Separate Rd, DUTC 18 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 Mine Torne Rd, West Point 12 Apr; 1 Bashakill 13 May; 1 Yonkers 13 May; 1 RNC 16 May; 1 Doodletown 28 May;

Great Horned Owl: 3 nests found in DUTC.

Short-eared Owl: 1 CPP 18 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Swan Lake, SULL Mar- early Apr; 1 Callicoon Center, SULL 15 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 9 May; 14 Congers 24 May.

Whip-poor-will: 1 Bashakill 12 May; 2 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Yankee Lake SULL 17 May.

Chimney Swift: arr 2 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 Horns Park Rd, DUTC 13 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6 RTWMC 13 May

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1-5 Doodletown 6,7,11,14, & 17 May; 1 Port Orange Rd 13,16 May; 1 Sterling Forest 14 May; 1 Kakiat Park 20 May; 3 RTWMC 13 May; 1 DUTC 24 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arrived 12 May
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 1 Doodletown 11, 26 May; 1 Sterling Forest 14 May; 1 Ashokan Reservoir 30 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: 3 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Pawling Nature Preserve 20 May; 2 Deep Hollow, DUTC 24 May; 1 Doodletown 26 May; 1 Mack Rd, DUTC 31 May.

Alder Flycatcher: 4 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Rickes Rd, DUTC 30 May; 1 Shaughnessy Rd, DUTC 30 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 16 May

Least Flycatcher: arr 3 May.

E. Phoebe: arr 8 Mar.

E. Kingbird: arr 1 May.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 May. N. Shrike: 1 Sharon Station, DUTC 7 Mar (CV); 1 Poughkeepsie 9 Mar (CV); 1 Cape Pond, SULL 21 Mar (PM); 1 Swan Lake, SULL 28 Mar, 13 Apr (KC); 1 DUTC 7 Apr (JA, KJ).

White-eyed Vireo: arr 8 May; reports from DUTC, WEST.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 24 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 Doodletown 29 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: 1 Bashakill 7 May (RTWFT); 1 Doodletown 17 May (MB).

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 3 May.

Fish Crow: 1 Ashokan Reservoir 25 Mar

Com. Raven: 2 Thompson Pond 8 Mar; 3 Stissing Mountain 24 Mar, may be nesting; 1 Buttercup 28 Apr; 1-2 Doodletown thru; nest & 2 yng central SULL.

Purple Martin: 3 RTWMC 13 May; 8 Doodletown 29 April
 Bedell Rd, DUTC 18 May.

Tree Swallow: early reports: 1 Pleasant Valley 2 Mar; 4 Bashakill 8 Mar; 1 Kakiat Park 30 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 26 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr MC 4 May; 125 RTWMC 13 May.

Barn Swallow: arr 1 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: 16 Cross River 6 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: scattered reports, 2 in Mar, May, DUTC; 1 Yonkers thru end of May.

House Wren: arr 2 May.

Marsh Wren: arr 7 May; 5 Cruger Island 27 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: peak movement 14 – 19 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 16 Apr.

Veery: arr 4 Tamarack, DUTC 5 Apr, early.

Bicknell's Thrush: 1 singing Hastings 25 May (MB), unusual to be singing in migration.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Ferncliff, DUTC 9 May (PSut); 1 RNC 26,27 May (TB).

Swainson's Thrush: arr 7 May.

Hermit Thrush: 60 SULL 9 Apr, after snowstorm along roadsides.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 May.

Am. Pipit: 3-5 Poughkeepsie 14, 28 Mar; 2 EGR 9 Apr; 12 Montgomery 12 May.

Cedar Waxwing: 60 Tivoli Bay 5 Mar; 97 Pleasant Valley 26 Mar; abundant migrant in Region 28-31 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: first 1

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 Bashakill 7 May; 1 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Port Orange Road 20 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 1 Mine Road ORAN 7 May (NYCRBA); 1 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Bashakill 17-20 May (MB).

Tennessee Warbler: arrived 8 May; 4 Doodletown 9 May.

Nashville Warbler: arrived 30 Apr.

N. Parula: arrived 30 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: arrived 29 Apr; 15 Tamarack, DUTC 31 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arrived 1 May, uncommon this spring.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 5 May.

Cape May Warbler: 1 Doodletown 7 May; very scarce this year.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 Doodletown 29 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 28 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 2 May

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1 RNC 12 May (TB); 1 Neversink TNC Preserve 13 May (PBU).

Pine Warbler: arr 26 Mar.

Prairie Warbler: arr 3 May.

Palm Warbler: 6 Kakiat Park 7 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 7 May; very few reports

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 Bashakill 7 May.

Cerulean Warbler: 8 Doodletown 9 May; 7 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mt. 13 May; usual numbers Doodletown & Bashakill.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 28 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr 1 Doodletown 29 Apr; 12 Doodletown 9 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1 PP 5 May (GS,MS).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 4 May.

Ovenbird: arr 2 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr 28 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2 Kakiat Park 7 Apr (FB,DH).

Kentucky Warbler: 1 Bashakill 7 May; 1 ROCK 7 May; 2 Rockefeller State Park 10 May; 1 RTWMC 13 May; 1 Rockland Lake 14 May; 1 Doodletown 20 May; 1 Vassar Farm 7-31 May; 1 Tarrytown 15-31 May.

Mourning Warbler: 1 Hastings-on-Hudson 15,16 May; 1 Newburgh 15 May; 1 Doodletown 16 May; 1 RNC 17,26,27 May; 2 Doodletown 28 May; 1 DUTC 24, 28 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 3 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 3 May; 15 Doodletown 9 May; 2 Rockefeller State Park 10 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr early 3 Bashakill 7 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 7 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 PP 5 May; 1 Doodletown 7 May; 1-2 Mine Road ORAN 7-14 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: 1

Schunemunk Mountain 28 May (JR).

Scarlet Tanager: 6 Doodletown 9 May.

E. Towhee: arr N. Region 9 9 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: 1 ULST 4 Apr.

Field Sparrow: 1 DUTC 1 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: 1 Swan Lake, SULL 7-10 Apr; 1 EGR 9,10 Apr.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1 MC 4 May; 2 MC 15 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 PP 5 May; 1 Tallman State Park 18 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 30 at feeders, Claryville 28 Apr; 1 PP 16 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: 1 Deep Hollow, DUTC 24 May, late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr ORAN 5 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: 1 DUTC 14 May (BB, NYSARC).

Indigo Bunting: 1 RNC 9 Apr.

Bobolink: good numbers at SG.

Rusty Blackbird: 1 Buttercup Sanctuary 22 Mar; 5 Myers Corners 23 Mar; 1 Kakiat Park 30 Mar; 3 Ellenville 1 Apr; 30 Pruyn Sanctuary 28 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: 4 Rockland Lake 4 May; 1-2 MC 4-26 May; 2 Yonkers 8-31 May; 1 Crestwood Rd, DUTC 9,30 May; 2 RTWMC 13 May; 1 PP 16 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 2 May; 10 Doodletown 9 May.

Purple Finch: few DUTC & SULL Mar; good numbers DUTC May; 18 DUTC 8 Apr; 2 Doodletown 9 May.

Com. Redpoll: 55 Greig's Farm, DUTC 5 Mar (CV); few at feeders DUTC Mar; common SULL; 1 report ORAN; 92 Swan Lake early Mar (KC); 62 Ellenville early Mar (PM); 50 Liberty early Mar; 30 Monticello early Mar.

Pine Siskin: 12 Pleasant Valley 1 Mar (AP,JP); 11 Liberty early Mar (LHa); 6 RNC 29 Mar; 2 Irvington 11 Apr (PSul); 2 DUTC 28 Apr; 6 South Nyack 29 Apr (DH); 4 Congers 3-4 May; 2-4 DUTC 21-22, 28 May (AB,BM, BC).

Evening Grosbeak: 71 Swan Lake, SULL early Mar (KC); 1 DUTC 30

Apr (JA,KJ); 1 Hastings-on-Hudson 3 Phone: (914) 785-3840 (work), (914)
Apr (LC,BV). 237-9331 (home)
EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: 1 PP 5 E-mail: BochnikM@cs.com
May (GS,MS), unknown origin. ===

REGION 10-MARINE

SEYMOUR SCHIFF

603 Mead Terrace
S. Hempstead, NY 11550

ALVIN WOLLIN

4 Meadow Lane
Rockville, Centre, NY 11570

The season started with an exceptionally warm month, although there were few extremes. March averaged 4.8°F above normal, with only one day above 70°. April averaged 1.5° above normal, with one day at 76° and two more barely above 70°. May averaged slightly above normal, with three days at or over 90°F. The overall effect was not so much of warmth, but of not being cold. There was less than normal precipitation the first two months and more the last, with the rains falling mainly mid-week.

As was to be expected, the warm March brought a number of early migrants in the first part of April. Then uncooperative winds slowed the migration to a trickle. However, the weekend of 29-30 April produced good flights, followed by a major flight on 2 May and lesser one on 5 May. These movements occurred throughout the Region, from the New York City parks to the East End.

The flight of 2 May was especially noteworthy for the huge numbers of first sightings in the city parks for thrushes, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks and orioles. Normally early migrants arrived late this year and late ones arrived early.

In early May a **Yellow-nosed Albatross**, a rare visitor to the eastern seaboard, appeared off the coast of Massachusetts. On 15 May, it (or, perhaps, another) was found on the beach on Fire Island in a flock of Herring Gulls. . It ultimately flew out to sea. On 21 May an albatross of this species was seen flying along the Garden State Parkway. Then on 23 May one was seen on the bay shore in New Jersey. Our local sighting made the New York Times. There are two accepted previous records for NYS, the first in Region 10 on 29 May, 1960 and the second, a hurricane-related record in Region 9 on 10 August, 1976 at Croton Pt, 25 miles up the Hudson River. For full coverage of this occurrence and the status of all sightings away from the Niagara R. since Andrie's paper – one at Dunkirk Harbor

albatross reports in NY see the article in this issue.

On 30 April Andy Baldelli and Hugh McGuinness saw a lone Manx Shearwater flying east about 500 feet offshore at Georgica. Another was reported by Louis DeMarco off the Rockaway Inlet jetty on 20 May.

A **White-faced Ibis** was found at Jones Beach State Park 27 May by Andy Guthrie. The bird was seen sporadically afterwards.

A **Black Vulture**, present in the Montauk area since last season, was observed circling there on 4 March and later was seen feeding on raccoon road-kill along the Montauk Highway 1/4 to 1/2 miles from the Point. It was seen in the area until 12 March. On 30 March a bird was observed at Gilgo

The less common wintering geese and ducks in the Region remained long enough to be counted in this season. The Greater White-fronted Goose in a huge flock of Canada Geese north of Riverhead was still present on 4 March. Eurasian Wigeons were found at Prospect Park 4 March, Patchogue 12 March, and Coram 12 March. On 5 March, a "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was on the West Pond at JBWR.

A drake Tufted Duck was found 4 March on Cooper's Neck Pond in Southampton. Cooper's Neck Pond is along Dune Road on the eastern side of Shinnecock Inlet. It is the middle of the three ponds, with Agawam to its east and Halsey Neck Pond to the west.

Hugh McGuinness compiled a summary of East End's recent Wild Turkey sightings by local birders, including: from Jim Clinton up to 20 birds Brookhaven National Lab present for the past 6-7 years; from Bev Prentice 6 in her neighborhood in Jamesport since January; a few reports of 2-3 birds along Sunrise Highway in the vicinity of Hampton Bay over the past two years; and a male was seen on 21 March this year on Wading River Road south of the intersection with Grumman Blvd.

A **Wilson's Plover** was found west of the inlet at Shinnecock by Gene Arpino on 19 May. It remained until the 24 May.

A **Black-necked Stilt** was found by Hugh McGuinness and Andy Baldelli at Sagaponack on 29 April. It proved to be a one-day wonder. A second was present at JBWR from 9-17 May. This species was widely reported throughout the Northeast this spring as far north as Canada.

The **Dovekie** reported last season in Jones Inlet was last seen on 9 March. Other sightings of singles occurred at Montauk Point on 11 and 14 March.

A **Black Guillemot** was found at Montauk Pt. on 5 March off the Point and then relocated directly off the restaurant pavilion later in the afternoon. Two Black Guillemots, one in breeding plumage, were seen at the Point on 11 March. Three were off Moriches Inlet 26 March.

A **Swainson's Warbler** was found in Central Park on 7 May by Ed Lam and Nick Wagerik. It was also seen and heard singing at the same location the next day by Tom Fiore.

On 24 May Sharon Bart, a Huntington Audubon field trip leader, reported a male **Painted Bunting** found singing near the picnic area at Bethpage State Park. Found in the morning, it was seen there by others until evening. The bunting was not relocated the next day.

A junco with dark lores, was banded, photographed, and released by Shai Mitra at the banding station on Fire Island on 2 May. It was believed to be a **Dark-eyed "Pink-sided" Junco** (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*). A review of skins at the American Museum of Natural History is planned. Separation of rare western juncos of the "pink-sided" and "Oregon" types should be pursued. On 16 March, your editors saw a Dark-eyed Junco at Jones Beach with a black sharply defined hood but a pale gray rather than brownish back. The bird was probably an inter-grade of western races.

Two and perhaps more rare blackbirds visited our Region in the early spring. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found by Paul Buckley on 16 March in a large flock of starlings and cowbirds at the Dude Ranch about a half mile west of Montauk Pt. Another of the same species was photographed as it sang in a tree near the blackbird roost in Van Cortlandt Park in The Bronx on 9 March. It remained to 16 March.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gene Arpino, Andy Baldelli, Bill Benner, Steven Biasetti, P. A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Elizabeth Carrozza, James Clinton, Sr., John J. Collins, Mike Cooper, Louis DeMarco, David Diaz, Bob DiCandido, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, Lester Feldman, Tom Fiore, Henry F. Flamm, John J. Fritz, Isaac Grant, Andrew Guthrie, Patrick Hanly, Mike Higgiston, Rob Jett, Greg Kunkel, Robert J. Kurtz, Ed Lam (EL), Anthony J. Lauro, Emanuel Levine (EmL), Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Hugh McGuinness, Shai Mitra, Todd Olson, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Eric Salzman, Starr Saphir, Seymour Schiff, Lore J. Schore, Marty Sohmer, John Suggs, Nick Wagerik, Steve Walter, Angus Wilson (AnW), Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP-Alley Pond Park; BNL-Brookhaven National Laboratory; CB-Cedar Beach; CM-Cow Meadow, Freeport; CP-Central Park; CLP-Clove Lake Park, SI; DP-Democrat Pt., FI; FI-Fire Island; FBF-Floyd Bennett Field; FP-Forest Park; FTT-Fort Tilden, Queens; GKP-Great Kills Park, SI; HLSP-Hempstead Lake State Park; HC-Hart's Cove, East Moriches; JBWR---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBCH-Jones Beach; JBWE-Jones Beach West End; LI-Long Island; MP-Montauk Point; PBP- Pelham Bay Park; PL-Point Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP-Prospect Park; SG-Sagaponack SHIN-Shinnecock Inlet; SI-Staten Island; VCP-Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.

LOONS-DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: PL 5 Mar; MP 12 Mar.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: 1 FI 15 May, on the beach in a flock of Gulls.

Sooty Shearwater: 15 DP 31 May (SM).

Manx Shearwater: Georgica Pond 30 Apr; off the Rockaway Inlet Jetty 20 May.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 76 DP 31 May (SM).

Little Blue Heron: East Quogue on 6 Apr. **Tricolored Heron:** SH 16 Apr.

Cattle Egret: 2 SI 20 Apr; JBWR 18 Apr; CP 25 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: arr 2 Ridge 18Mar.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: JBCH 27 May (AG).

BLACK VULTURE: near MP 4-5 Mar; near MP and also at the Dude Ranch 12 Mar; Gilgo 30 Mar.

Turkey Vulture: small numbers throughout Region early Mar - late May.

Greater White-fronted Goose: north of Riverhead thru 4 Mar, with Canada Geese.

Snow Goose: 500+ (3 blue morph) JBWR 5-9 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: PP 4 Mar; Patchogue 12 Mar; Coram 12 Mar.

"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal: FBF 3 Mar; JBWR 5-14 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: 800 Tobay 15 Apr.

Tufted Duck: male Cooper's Neck Pond, Southampton 4 Mar, with 6 Redhead.

King Eider: MP thru mid Mar; off Cupsogue SP thru late May.

Harlequin Duck: Fort Pond Bay 5 Mar; 2 m, 2 fem Horton Pt.; MP thru mid Mar; 12 PL thru late Mar; Great Kills Park 25 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 800 JBWR 15 Apr (PAB, JF, SM).

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Osprey: Wainscott 1 Mar; Mecox Bay 2 Mar; Water Mill 5 Mar; East Hampton in 3 or 4 locations 12 Mar.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: APP 10 May (EC et al).

Bald Eagle: PP 6, 11 May; imm CP 15 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: Sag Harbor 14 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: nested in CP again.

Rough-legged Hawk: many wintering, some into early May.

Wild Turkey: see intro for a summary of recent years' sightings.

WILSON'S PLOVER: SHIN 19-24 May (GA).

Semipalmated Plover: arr Hempstead High School baseball field 25 Apr.

Piping Plover: 3 PL 12 Mar; Clearwater Beach, Springs East Hampton 12 Mar.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: SG 29 Apr (AB, HMG); JBWR 9-17 May (KF).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 Georgica Pond 2 Apr.

Whimbrel: bayside PL 18 Mar, possibly bird that wintered in the area; Dune Road, Shinnecock 29 Apr.

Least Sandpiper: Georgica Pond 23Apr.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 6 Mecox Bay 9 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 2 Rockaway Inlet Jetty 29 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Georgica Pond 23 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: JBWR 5 May.

Laughing Gull: CP 9 Mar; PP 12 Mar;

Little Gull: Quogue 1 Mar; 2 PL 12-26 Mar; 2 CB 19 Mar.

Black-headed Gull: PL 5 Mar; 2 PL 12 Mar; 3 PL 19 Mar.

Iceland Gull: thru late Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: thru 28 May

Glaucous Gull: SHIN to mid Mar; JBCH, Field #6 1 Apr; SG 25 Apr.

Black-legged Kittiwake: PL 3 Mar; MP mid Mar.

Gull-billed Tern: 2 JBWR 6 May; 2-4 JBWE early May thru.

Caspian Tern: HLSP 18 Apr; 2-4 regularly Mecox Bay to Hook Pond 15 Apr-9 May.

Roseate Tern: SHIN 8 May.

Com. Tern: JBWE 30 Mar (AW); on sandbar inlet PL 2 Apr (SS, AW); both records extremely early, may be the same bird.

Least Tern: JBWR 26 Apr; 2 PP 10 May, an unlikely place.

Black Tern: JBWR 21 May.

Black Skimmer: 85 Plum Beach, Brooklyn 11 May (PD).

Dovekie: Jones Inlet to 4 Mar; MP 11, 14 Mar.

Razorbill: 2 PL 5 Mar; 12 MP 5 Mar.

Black Guillemot: MP 5 Mar; 2 (1 alt plumage) MP 11 Mar; 3 off Moriches Inlet 26 Mar (AL).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 4 Kings Plaza shop-

ping center 5 Mar; PP 8 Mar; Green-Wood Cemetery 1 Apr.

Long-eared Owl: CP thru 18 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: FBF thru early Apr; others.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CP 2-7 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: Riverhead early May.

Chimney Swift: PP 15 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Shelter Island 13 Mar; Amagansett early May; MP 5 May; FP 6 May; Springs, East Hampton 11 May; JBWE 11 May.

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 High Rock Park, SI 20 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-WAXWINGS

E. Phoebe: 3 JBCH to FI 8 Mar; CP 9 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 4 Apr.

E. Kingbird: BNL 15 Apr; 75 MP 5 May (PAB).

N. Shrike: SI 11 Mar; BNL 10-19 Mar; CP 18-25 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: PP 8 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: CP 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 5, 22 May; PP 8 May; Riverhead 7 May.

Purple Martin: HC 6 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: CP 8 Apr.

Bank Swallow: CP 19 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: JBWR 23 Apr.

Barn Swallow: HC 19 Mar.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: PP 2 Apr; CP 4 Apr.

Wood Thrush: CP 25 Apr.

Am. Pipit: 2 East Drive opposite the Mount Sinai Medical Center 26 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: CP 27 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Rockville Centre yard 2 May; FI 2 May, banded; CP 3, 13 May; APP 3 May.

"BREWSTER'S " WARBLER: PP 6 May; FIT 27 May.

"LAWRENCE'S" WARBLER: CP 29 Apr-1 May (TF, et al). FI 2 May (SM), banded.

Tennessee Warbler: CP 25 Apr.

Orange-crowned Warbler: HLSP 10 Apr; CP 25-27 Apr; 2 CP 7 May; CP 13 May.

Nashville Warbler: CP 25 Apr; PP 29 Apr.

N. Parula: PP 8 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: PP 29 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: CP 30 Apr.

Magnolia Warbler: PP 13 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: CP 4 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: PP 8 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: CP 26 Apr.

Yellow-throated Warbler: CP 2-7 Apr (Roger Pasquier et al *fide* TF), record early date; SI 22 Apr; CP 20, 26 Apr; PP 29 Apr, 6 May.

Prairie Warbler: CP 12 Apr (TF), early date.

Bay-breasted Warbler: CP 6 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: CP 1 May.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 1-2 May; PP 11-12, 16 May; FP 13 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: CP 29 Mar (JDC).

Am. Redstart: Line Road Calverton/Manorville 24 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 22, 30 Apr, 5, 6 May; Kissena Park 4 May; PP 5 May; JBCH 5 May; Greenport 7 May; Southard Park, Babylon 6 May thru.

Worm-eating Warbler: CP 29 Apr; HLSP 3 May; 2 Riverhead 6 May, 1 Riverhead 7 May; PP 7 May; Sag Harbor 8 May; 2 CP 10 May.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: CP 7 May (EL, NW); singing and seen CP 8 May (TF).

Ovenbird: PP 14 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: PP Apr 27; CP 1 May; PP 3 May; CP 5 May; PP 22, 29 May.

Mourning Warbler: 10 May thru.

Hooded Warbler: CP 8, 15, 28 Apr, 2 May; HLSP 13, 16 Apr; SI 22 Apr; FP 25 Apr; PP 29 Apr, 2-7, 11-12 May; unusually large numbers this year.

Wilson's Warbler: CP 4 May.

Canada Warbler: CP 30 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: mid to late May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: widespread and in increasing numbers; reports from all parts of the Region - CP, FP, PP, 4 HLSP, FI, & eastern LI thru.

Scarlet Tanager: CP 30 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: PL 5 Mar; FBF and PP 2 Apr

Lark Sparrow: 18 Mar; MP 5 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 2 May; PP 5 May; CP 24 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 9 (1 ad "GAMBEL'S") David's Lane Water Mill 18 Mar.

Dark-eyed Junco: "possible western race hybrid" JBWE 16 Mar (SS, AW);

"PINK-SIDED" JUNCO FI Bird Banding Station 2 May (SM).

Lapland Longspur: 1 along Horton Avenue just south of Sound Avenue 5 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: feeder

Springs, East Hampton 17 Apr.

Blue Grosbeak: CP 3 May; PP 18 May; East Quogue 20 May; FP 21 May; JBWE 20-24 May.

Indigo Bunting: CP wintering bird present into spring.

PAINTED BUNTING: Bethpage State Park 24 May (SB).

Dickcissel: FI 9 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

west of MP 16 Mar (PAB); VCP 9-16 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: 67 APP 19 Mar.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 6-12 west of the Ponquogue Bridge; CM 13 Apr; JBCH strip May.

Red Crossbill: 14 west of Tiana Beach along Dune Road 1 Mar; 3 FI 20 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 20 PL 1 Mar; feeder Quogue thru early Apr; feeder East Hampton early Apr; a few others.

Com. Redpoll: CP 17 Mar

Pine Siskin: a few at feeders to May.

Evening Grosbeak: East Quogue feeder 15 Apr; 4 PP 5-6 May; CP 8 May.

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: CP 19 May.

ADDENDA from Winter Season

Monk Parakeet: 16 JBWR 28 Feb.

Dickcissel: Bridgehampton 27 Feb.

syschiff@ascensionet.com

===



Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Sue Adair, 107 Fox Run Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303

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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Wildlife Resources Center

108 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054

Web Site: Barbara A. Butler

RD 2 Box 161, Verbank, NY 12585

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P.O. Box 440
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