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Review of Eastern and Spotted Towhee Taxa Based on Possible Spotted Towhee in Central Park, NYC 29 April 2001

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While birding the Tanner Spring area of Central Park in New York City on Sunday 22 Apr 2001 at about 1:00 PM, Michael Stubblefield (MS) noticed a male towhee with very marked white spotting on the wings and mantle. He quickly pointed the bird out to his birding partners Jeff Novick and Ann Aukward. The towhee exhibited considerable tameness and soon came in to bathe not 15 feet from where they were. As luck would have it, MS was armed with a Canon EOS 1v Camera mounted to a Canon 600mm f4.0 image stabilized auto-focus lens and a 1.4x teleconverter, and several frames of the towhee bathing were exposed. The bird then flew to a tree ten feet behind the spring and preened for about five minutes before flying off to the north. This extraordinary cooperation on the part of the towhee allowed the taking of nearly three 36-exposure rolls of film!!!

The bird was observed again at about 5:00 PM the same day by Sandy and Lloyd Spitalnik, and Deborah Allen. Deborah Allen obtained several more excellent images of the bird. The towhee could not be relocated thereafter.

MS' initial impression of this bird was that it exhibited many characteristics of the Spotted Towhees (*Pipilo maculatus*) he had observed hundreds of times in California. Several Spotted Towhees had also been seen by MS in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas just four months earlier. The singular rarity of such a find in New York State called for caution, but hopefully at least a few good and diagnostic images of the bird had been captured on film.

A few of these images are presented here (Figures 1-3).. Color images can be found on the Internet at www.linnaeansociety.org. Note that the bird is a male towhee. Note the marked white spotting on the mantle, scapulars, tertials, and tips of both the median and greater coverts. The spotting on the median and greater coverts forms a pair of somewhat broken wing bars. It is a first year bird as evidenced by molt limits on the tail and wings. The outer rectrices are adult-type while the inner rectrices are brownish and worn. A molt limit, a retained brown greater covert, is visible on the wing. These worn brown feathers are remnants of the juvenile plumage the towhee had held the previous summer (Pyle 1997, Greenlaw 1996). Rusty-brown feathers are visible on the rump, and the edges of some of the secondaries, tertials, and scapulars. The overall color of the rump is grayish-black with a slight olive tinge. The eye is bright red. Other notable characteristics include the extensive white visible on the outer rectrix and, importantly, at the base of the primaries.

We would like to say unequivocally that this bird is a Spotted Towhee. Unfortunately, reference to multiple contemporary field guides precludes making such a statement with certainty. The third edition of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America (NGS3 1999), for instance, comments that



Figure 1

Figure 2



Figs. 1, 2 and 3

*22 Apr 2001, Tanner Springs,
Central Park ,NYC*

*Figs. 1 &2 show white spotting
on mantle, scapulars, tertials,
median coverts and greater coverts,
and extensive white patch at the
base of the primaries.*

*Fig. 3 shows extensive white
on outer rectrices.*

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Figure 3

the Spotted Towhee is distinguished from the similar Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (Figure 4) “by white spotting on the back and scapulars; also on tips of median and greater coverts, which forms white wing bars.” No mention is made under the Spotted Towhee treatment of white at the base of the primaries. NGS3 also notes that the Eastern Towhee has a distinct white patch at the base of the primaries as well as distinct white tertial edges. The white tertial edges are not only illustrated on the Eastern Towhee but on each of the Spotted Towhee subspecies (though reduced in *oregonus*) as well and seem to be of little importance in separating the two species. Treatment of Eastern Towhee, Rising (1996) notes, “Spotted Towhee lacks the white bases to the primaries.” Sibley (2000) similarly states that Spotted Towhees should have primaries that are black to the base while Eastern Towhees should have a white patch at the base of the primaries. Sibley also notes that hybrids occur regularly in a limited area of range overlap and that it is “possible for apparently pure Eastern birds to show white spots on scapulars and for Spotted to show limited white at base of primaries.” This confusing statement does not clarify whether or not a bird showing characteristics of both Eastern and Spotted Towhee should be considered a hybrid or if it is simply exhibiting the natural range of variation inherent in the species.

The question of hybridization in the “Rufous-sided” Towhee complex has been subject to discussion for some years. Both the Eastern Towhee and the Spotted Towhee were originally described as full species. Linnaeus named what is now the Eastern Towhee, *Fringilla erythrophthalma*, in his 10th edition of *Systema Naturae*, on the basis of Mark Catesby’s description of the “towhee-bird” in his *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands*. The British ornithologist, William Swainson named the Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculata* in 1827 on basis of specimens sent to him from Hidalgo, Mexico, by William Bullock and his son.

These two towhees were considered to be separate species until the 5th Edition of The A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds (1957) in which the two were “lumped” into a single species (*P. erythrophthalmus*), because of putative widespread hybridization between the two in the Great Plains as documented by Charles Sibley and his students (29th Supplement of The A.O.U Check-List of North American Birds, Auk 71:310-312, 1954). In 1995, the A.O.U. changed its

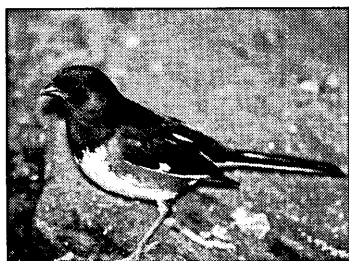


Fig. 4 – Oct 2000 - male Eastern Towhee- note lack of spotting on back and wings and white patch at the base of the primaries.
©M. Stubblefield

opinion, writing “These two wide-ranging forms [*P. erythrophthalmus* and *P. maculatus*] differ conspicuously in vocalizations, dorsal plumage pattern, and nature and degree of sexual dimorphism. Along a narrow hybrid zone in the central Great Plains, 56% of individuals were of one or the other pure parental types (Sibley and West 1959). The percentage of pure parents at 28 localities in the hybrid zone averaged 60%. Even in the short stretch of the Platte River where hybrids dominate, 20% of individuals were pure parental types. These data strongly suggest assortative mating. Moreover, Ball and Avise (1992) [Auk 109:626-636]

found no shared mitochondrial haplotypes between populations of *maculatus* and *erythrophthalmus*. The mean sequence divergence between these two forms was much higher than that among conspecific populations of other birds, and even exceeded that between several known species pairs."

It seems clear that the bird photographed in Central Park is either an Eastern Towhee, a Spotted Towhee, or a hybrid. An accurate description and analysis of the bird would be incomplete without an attempt to classify it to the subspecific level. The subspecies recognized in the Eastern and particularly the Spotted Towhees are very complex and poorly understood. Fortunately the photographs of the Central Park Towhee clearly show the underside of the tail as well as the upper tail coverts. The white patch on outer tail feather (r6 or sixth rectrix) is one of the major characteristics used by banders to classify both Eastern Towhees and Spotted Towhees to subspecies. Among Eastern Towhees, the subspecies breakdown includes: *Pe. erythrophthalmus* (27-53mm long at r6), *Pe. canaster* (19-41mm long at r6), *Pe. rileyi* (18-35mm long at r6), *Pe. alleni* (7-24mm long at r6). Among Spotted Towhees this character is most prominent in *Pm. montanus* (25-40mm long at r6), *Pm. arcticus* (27-42mm long at r6), and *Pm. gaigei* (24-40mm long at r6) (Pyle 1997). A good illustration of this character can be found on p. 399 of NGS3.

While there is much overlap in the linear measurement of the amount of white at r6 on the various subspecies of Eastern Towhees and Spotted Towhees, it is useful when at an extreme. In the Central Park towhee the photographs clearly show this characteristic to be extensive. In fact, the white extends the entire length of r6 at least to where it meets the tail coverts. A side view measured with calipers on an original image of the bird bathing shows this character to be 11mm. An estimate of the bird's length on the same image is 35mm. The white on the base of r6, therefore is roughly 30% of the birds length. If one assumes a length of 170-205 mm for Eastern Towhees (Rising, 1996) with males being slightly larger than females, the white at the base of r6 on the Central Park towhee would be 51 to 61.5mm in linear extent.

This estimate places the amount of white on r6 to be just outside the published limits for both species. It seems likely, therefore, that it is one of the subspecies with the tendency to show this character most extensively which would be *erythrophthalmus* for the Eastern Towhees, and *arcticus* for the Spotted Towhees. The greenish tinge on the rump is also useful since it is consistent with the *arcticus* subspecies of Spotted Towhee (Pyle, 1997)

Buckley after examining the only NJ specimen, an immature female, collected in Metuchen, Somerset Co. on 23 Dec. 1952 by James Baird (USFWS 421001) and published as *montanus* (Baird 1957), determined that specimen, as well as the two New York specimens he collected, to be *arcticus* (Buckley 1959), which is the only subspecies ever taken anywhere in eastern North America. Apart from the 1957 and 1958 specimens, the age and subspecies of the other New York Spotted Towhees are unknown, although it is most likely all were immature *arcticus*.

Based on the extent of white on r6, the green tinge to the rump, the history of Spotted Towhees in New York State, and, as discussed later, the fact that hybridization between Eastern Towhees and Spotted Towhees is between the

erythrophthalmus and *arcticus* races, it is likely that the Central Park towhee, is a Spotted Towhee of the *arcticus* subspecies. If it is an Eastern Towhee, it is of the *erythrophthalmus* subspecies.

Confusion about exactly what constitutes an Eastern versus a Spotted Towhee stems from a large zone of hybridization in the North American central Great Plains. This zone includes southeastern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba, eastern Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, western Minnesota, western Iowa, and northeastern Colorado. Rivers and their associated riparian habitat that run generally east-west through this region form natural bridges of vegetation from the Rockies to the Missouri River. In addition, roads, towns, parks, and other human innovations provide additional breaks to the usual prairie and grassland habitat of this region. It is along these corridors that towhees, and many other species that had been reproductively isolated by the great glaciers of the Pleistocene era which began some 1.8 million years ago, began to come into contact again as the glaciers receded about 12,000 years ago. It is believed that species that did not diverge sufficiently in some character or characters that would preclude their interbreeding during this several thousand years of isolation can form hybrids within the hybrid zone. Moreover, the stability of such a hybrid zone, i.e. whether it contracts, is stable, or expands, is determined by selective pressure on the hybrids relative to the parent-types (Rising, 1983).

The major work on the hybridization issue for Eastern and Spotted members of the Rufous-sided Towhee complex was done by Sibley and West between 1953 and 1957 (Sibley and West, 1959). During this period they collected 515 adult specimens of what they considered to be the *erythrophthalmus* and *arcticus* races of Rufous-sided Towhee within the Great Plains hybrid zone. For each of the specimens they assigned a number from "0" to "4" based on the characteristics of the bird:

- "0"=unspotted coverts, scapulars and interscapulars, but with a large white patch at base of primaries as in typical *P. e. erythrophthalmus*.
- "1"=trace of spotting on feathers mentioned above; white patch as base of primaries reduced.
- "2"=spotting abundant; white in primary bases about half of maximum.
- "3"=only slightly less spotted than typical *P. e. arcticus*; white in primary bases only a trace.
- "4"=fully spotted as *P. e. arcticus*; no white at base of primaries.

For females an additional score for head and back color was given.

Sibley and West concluded that there was a gradient in the amount of spotting (and female color characteristics) from east to west. They called this situation "one of normal geographic variation in which the area of contact between the eastern and western groups of races is restricted to the narrow riparian strips of habitat. Selection against alien genes helps to prevent marked introgression in both directions." They noted that the degree of white dorsal spotting appears to be an adaptive trait; the western spotted race, which is spotted dorsally and tends to live in more arid areas, occupies "chaparral" type vegetation. This spotting allows

the bird to remain cryptic in the “sun-dappled” light that reaches the ground where the bird forages and nests. The eastern race, however, tends to occupy the understory of the eastern deciduous woodlands which is generally thick shrubbery that does not allow light to reach the ground. In this situation the lack of spotting would help protect against predation. A reevaluation of the Sibley and West data from the Great Plains hybrid zone led to the elevation of Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee populations to species rank by the A.O.U. in 1995 (Greenlaw 1996).

What is interesting in the Sibley and West data is that 223 of the 515 specimens taken or 43% were scored as a “1”, “2”, or “3”. That is, they had, as in the Central Park bird, a mixture of dorsal spotting and white at the base of the primaries.

To further clarify this issue MS examined the 61 specimens of *arcticus* Spotted Towhees available at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Of the 61 specimens, 3 were juveniles, and one was labeled “hybrid” between *arcticus* and *erythrophthalmus* (Figures 5-8). One of the specimens, a female, was a rare New York State specimen collected by P. A. Buckley in the Bronx Zoological Gardens, NYC 23 Dec 1958 (Figure 9). The earliest specimen was collected by J. J. Audubon, 22 Jun 1843. The majority of specimens were collected by J. Dwight, Jr. in Texas during winter and early spring. All the information available on individual specimen labels was recorded in a computer spreadsheet and three types of measurement were taken.

- 1) A linear measurement of the extent of visible white at the base of the primaries to either its termination or where it was thought to narrow significantly. It was measured on the primary that would produce the longest measurement. In many of the birds the white narrowed and then extended as a thin line along the length of the entire primary. This measurement was made from both wings with calipers to the nearest millimeter.
- 2) A “Sibley” score as described above.
- 3) A mantle score as follows:
 - “0” no spotting on the mantle
 - “1” minimal spotting or streaking on the mantle
 - “2” moderate spotting on the mantle
 - “3” extensive spotting on the mantle

One had to be careful to ignore the extent of spotting on the scapulars as this can give a false impression of a more heavily spotted mantle. It should be noted that in addition to the linear extent of visible white at the base of the primaries, the width of the white mark at the base of the primaries contributed significantly to one’s perception of the extent of the bird’s “wing patch”. The width varied from 0 to about 2 mm. and included one to several of the primary feathers but was not formally recorded in this study due to limitations of time and equipment.

The tabular results from the skins at the American Museum of Natural

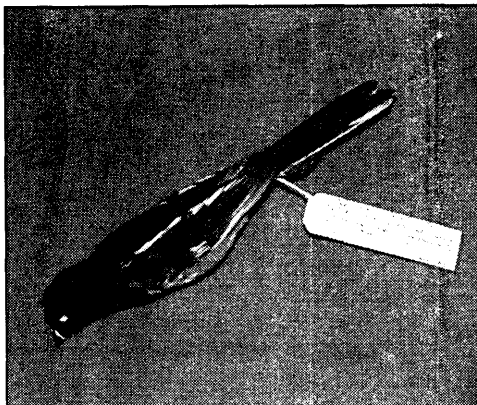


Fig. 5

Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrid from AMNH collection, taken by L.L. Short, Jr., near the Platte R., Logan Co., CO. Note white patch at base of primaries and white on scapulars and tertials. White is lacking on mantle, median coverts and greater coverts.

Fig. 6
Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrid (second from left) with Spotted Towhees from AMNH collection. Note lack of spotting on the mantle of the hybrid compared to the other towhees.

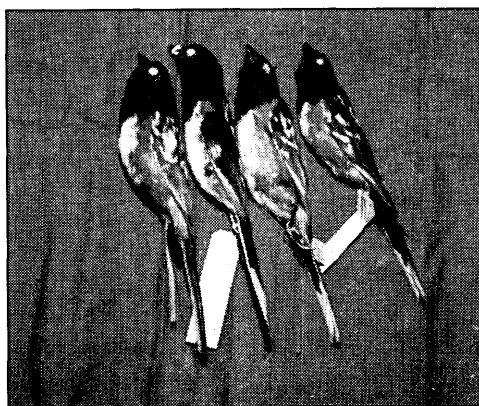
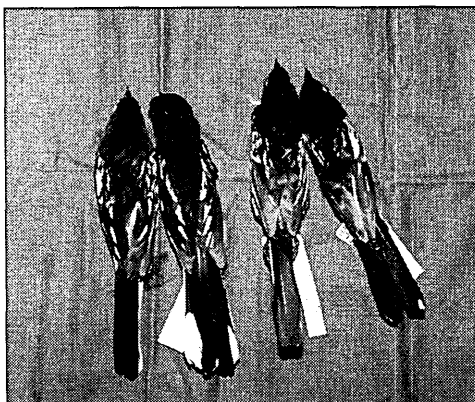


Fig. 7

Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrid (second from left) with Spotted Towhees from the AMNH collection. Note white at base of primaries in all these specimens. The Spotted Towhees show white on the mantle, scapulars, tertials, median coverts and greater coverts, while the hybrid shows white only on the scapulars and tertials.

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Fig. 8
A collection of Spotted Towhee skins from the AMNH collection, showing the range of mantle spotting possible, with the three birds on the right showing extensive spotting, those in the middle showing moderate spotting, and the three birds on the left exhibit minimal spotting. The specimen at the bottom is an Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrid which has no mantle spotting.

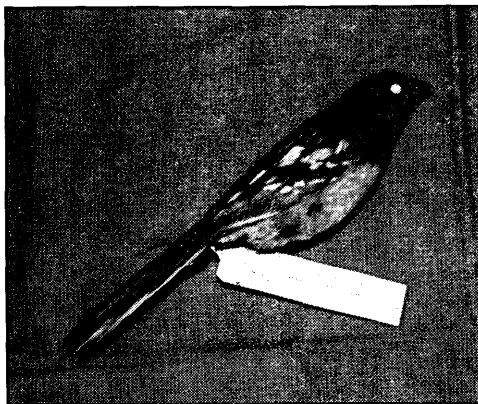
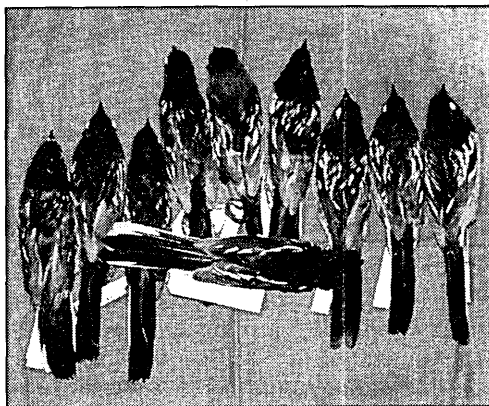
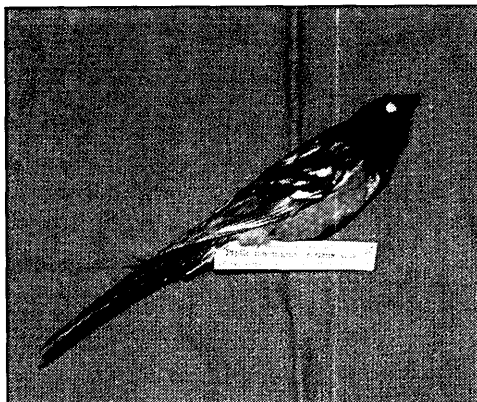


Fig. 9
Female Spotted Towhee collected by P.A. Buckley 23 Dec 1958 at Bronx Zoological Gardens, NYC. Note white spotting on coverts and the lack of white at the base of the primaries.

Fig. 10
Eastern x Spotted Towhee hybrid. This skin is from a tray of Eastern Towhee skins and is labeled *Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. Note the combination of the white patch at the base of the primaries and the spotting on the coverts.



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History are presented (Table 1). Of the 58 adult towhees labeled "*arcticus*" (including the "hybrid") 22 (or 38%) demonstrated at least some white at the base of the primaries. The white was most extensive on an adult "hybrid" taken 21 Jun 1963 by L. L. Short Jr. in Logan County, Colorado. This bird had a 8mm long white patch on the left and a 10mm long white patch on the right. Interestingly, the most extensive white patch, 11mm on the left and 10mm on the right, was found on a juvenile taken at Fort Union, Montana (an area thought to be west of the hybrid zone) and not counted in the above figures. The four adult birds taken at the Fort Union, Montana locale also had extensive white at the base of the primaries and low mantle scores. Several of the birds with extensive white at the base of the primaries were taken in Texas in winter. The three birds taken from Walsh, Alberta, a region that should be well out of the hybrid zone but firmly *arcticus*, demonstrated considerable white at the base of the primaries and marked dorsal spotting.

Seven of the skins were taken in summer in regions of Arizona or New Mexico that are populated not by *arcticus* but rather by the *montanus* subspecies of Spotted Towhee (Greenlaw, 1996), and possibly incorrectly identified as to subspecies. Interestingly one of these skins, a male taken 12 Jun 1893 in the Huachuca Mts. of Arizona had 5mm of white on the left and 2mm of white on the right primary bases. It's mantle scored a "2". Were these birds excluded from the *arcticus* Spotted Towhees, the percentage of *arcticus* with white at the base of the primaries would increase to 41%.

Importantly it should be noted that while there was a tendency for birds with the most white at the base of the primaries to exhibit low mantle scores and for the birds with the least white at the base of the primaries to exhibit the highest mantle scores, these associations were not universally present. In fact, when an attempt was made to assign a Sibley score to each bird, it was quickly apparent that this was not feasible for all skins and so I included a "?" for that category. For a bird to have a Sibley score of "4" it should have a mantle score of "3". Conversely, for a bird to have a Sibley score of "0" it should have an extensive white patch at the base of the primaries and a mantle score of "0". There were many instances where a skin had both generous spotting on the scapulars and an extensive white patch at the base of the primaries. There were also several birds with both minimal white at the base of the primaries and minimal spotting on the mantle.

By the above scoring system the Central Park towhee would demonstrate a very extensive white patch at the base of the primaries estimated to measure about 15mm in linear extent. It's mantle, however, would grade at least a "2". It could not be assigned a Sibley score.

While the degree of mantle spotting and extent of white at the base of the primaries seem to vary widely among the 58 adult *arcticus* Spotted Towhee skins examined, each of them, with the exception of the individual labeled "hybrid" was easily recognized as a Spotted Towhee. Why is this? The spotting on the "hybrid" was confined to the scapulars. It did not involve either the mantle or the coverts and so did not form wing bars. All of the other skins did have varying amounts of usually extensive spotting on the coverts as well as well as the scapulars even if absent from the mantle.

The junior author (JR) examined the 46 adult skins of *arcticus* Spotted Towhees available at the University of Ontario. The majority of these skins were half skins originally collected in May and June of 1970. They were scored according to the same parameters MS used for the skins at the AMNH. The tabular results are presented (Table 2). Of the 46 birds available, 16 (or 35%) demonstrated at least some white at the base of the primaries. The white was most extensive, 19mm, on the left primary base, on a male collected 13 Jun 1970 at Estuary Saskatchewan by JR. The tendency for birds with most white at the base of the primaries to demonstrate a low mantle score and, conversely, for birds with the least white at the base of the primaries to demonstrate the highest mantle score seems to hold. There are still many exceptions to this tendency. While many of the Sibley scores given to these birds do not seem consistent for the reasons discussed above, no effort was made to "correct" them and assign a "?" to the ambiguous birds as done for the AMNH specimens.

In addition to the *arcticus* Spotted Towhees, MS also examined each of the 305 skins labeled as *erythrophthalmus* from the AMNH collection. While the amount of white at the base of the primaries on these birds tended to be considerably more extensive than on *arcticus*, the mantle, scapulars, and coverts were, with one exception, always completely unspotted. The only exception to this was a singular bird taken 28 Dec 1887 at Giddings Texas (Figure 10). While it was labeled *erythrophthalmus*, "?arcticus" was handwritten on the label. This bird had reduced but noticeable spotting on the scapulars and coverts. It also had some white-fringed feathers on the crown and chest which were not noticed on any of the other specimens and which raises the question of genetic aberrancy.

It would seem from the skins examined and the available literature that the Central Park towhee is a Spotted Towhee of the *arcticus* subspecies. This conclusion is based on the extensive spotting on the mantle, scapulars and coverts. The white at the base of the primaries is present to some degree in 41% of the *arcticus* Spotted Towhee skins in the American Museum of Natural History as well as 35% of the *arcticus* Spotted Towhee skins in the University of Ontario and does not seem to preclude assignment of a bird to the Spotted Towhee species. While the sample size is small, the skins are varied both temporally and geographically. The Central Park towhee seems to have more extensive white at the base of the primaries (estimated to be 15mm) than the other birds in the AMNH collection, but has less than the 19mm measured from a bird in the University of Ontario collection. It is likely that both the Central Park and University of Ontario birds simply represent one extreme of the natural variation possible in *arcticus* Spotted Towhees. White at the base of the primaries does not seem to be a good characteristic for differentiating Spotted from Eastern towhees although the patch is generally more extensive in Eastern Towhees. White spotting on the scapulars and coverts may be sufficient to call a bird a Spotted Towhee. Mantle spotting does not seem to occur on Eastern Towhees.

It should be noted that while Sibley and West shot and collected towhees within the Great Plains hybrid zone, they did not comment on their mating behavior. When the AOU chose to split the Rufous-sided Towhee into Spotted Towhee and Eastern Towhee, their decision was based largely on the fact that "widespread occurrence of pure parental types of one species or the other in hybrid zone, even

along the Platte River where hybrids dominate, suggests assortative mating (Greenlaw, 1996)." "Assortative mating," means that Eastern Towhees mate with Eastern Towhees and Spotted Towhees mate with Spotted Towhees. There is, to our knowledge, no published literature or accounts describing a nest or young tended by an Eastern Towhee and a Spotted Towhee parent.

The authors are submitting this paper to the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) to support their identification of this Central Park towhee as a Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*). If accepted by that committee, the record will be the eighth for the state and the first for a spring season.

Acknowledgment

We thank Tony Leukering for his comments upon critical reading of this paper.

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Table 1 - American Museum of Natural History Spotted Towhee Specimens

Museum Number	Date Collected	Location Collected	Collector	Sex	Left/Right Primary Patch Length	Sibley Score	Mantle Score
41660	6/22/1843	Fort Union, Montana	J.J. Audubon	M	5/6	2	2
41662	?	Fort Union, Montana	Lawrence	?	6/5	2	1
41663	6/18/1835	Fort Union, Montana	Lawrence	M	5/3	2	1
41664	?	Fort Union, Montana	Lawrence	M	5/5	2	1
41666	?	Fort Union, Montana	Lawrence	Juv.	11/10	N/A	N/A
61281	5/27/1894	Corral Draw, So. Dakota	W.W. Granger	M	9/6	2	1
69206	12/27/1892	Fort Clark, Texas	Dr. E.A. Mearns	M	0/0	?	2
69207	2/25/1893	Fort Clark, Texas	Dr. E.A. Mearns	F	0/0	?	1
69208	12/27/1892	Fort Clark, Texas	Dr. E.A. Mearns	M	8/8	2	2
69209	11/17/1892	Fort Clark, Texas	Dr. E.A. Mearns	M	3/2	3	1
69210	1/9/1893	Fort Clark, Texas	Dr. E.A. Mearns	F	0/0	?	1
84185	3/30/1886	Giddings, Texas	G.B. Sennett	M	5/7	2	1
84186	2/18/1885	Dallas, Texas G.B.	Sennett	M	5/3	2	1
84187	4/5/1880	Rio Grande City, Texas	G.B. Sennett	F	5/2	2	2
368157	6/12/1893	Huachuca Mts., Arizona	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	5/2	3	2
368158	6/11/1904	Huachuca Mts., Arizona	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	4	3
368166	6/11/1907	Whetstone Mts., Arizona	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	1
368172	12/3/1892	Morrison, Colorado	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	2
368176	5/7/1919	Cloudcroft, New Mexico	Austin Paul Smith	F	0/0	4	3
368181	4/29/1918	Menard, Texas	Austin Paul Smith	F	0/0	4	3
368182	5/2/1918	Menard, Texas	Austin Paul Smith	F	0/0	?	2
368184	12/5/1914	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	9/6	2	2
368185	12/6/1914	Ingram, Texas J.	Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	4	3
368186	1/28/1915	Ingram, Texas J.	Dwight, Jr.	M	6/6	?	3
368187	1/30/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	5/5	3	1
368188	2/2/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	1
368189	2/2/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	4	3
368191	3/25/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	1
368192	3/28/1915	Ingram, Texas J.	Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	4	3
368193	4/20/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	2/2	?	3
368194	12/2/1914	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368195	12/10/1914	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368196	1/20/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	2
368197	2/2/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368198	2/2/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	2
368199	2/7/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1

Table 1 - American Museum of Natural History Spotted Towhee Specimens (cont.)

Museum Number	Date Collected	Location Collected	Collector	Sex	Left/Right Primary Patch Length	Sibley Score	Mantle Score
368200	3/17/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368202	4/6/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368204	4/30/1915	Ingram, Texas	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	2
368205	5/31/1904	Brook Co., Wyoming	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	/0	?	1
368206	5/3/1891	Douglas, Wyoming	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	3/5	2	2
368207	9/14/1893	Douglas, Wyoming	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	2/2	?	0
368208	5/18/1894	Douglas, Wyoming	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	2
368209	7/11/1906	Walsh, Alberta	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	3/8	?	3
368210	7/11/1906	Walsh, Alberta	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	7/4	2	1
368211	7/12/1906	Walsh, Alberta	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	6/8	2	2
368212	5/7/1898	Okanagan, B.C.	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	2
368220	7/5/1906	Maple Creek, Saskatchewan	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	7/9	2	2
368221	7/5/1905	Maple Creek, Saskatchewan	J. Dwight, Jr.	M	0/0	?	1
368223	4/29/1918	Menard, Texas	Austin Paul Smith	M	0/0	?	2
368226	6/4/1918	Taos, New Mexico	Austin Paul Smith	M	0/0	?	2
368227	7/5/1906	Maple Creek, Saskatchewan	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	1
368228	6/4/1918	Taos, New Mexico	Austin Paul Smith	M	0/0	?	2
368278	7/19/1917	Okanagan, B.C.	J. Dwight, Jr.	F	0/0	?	2
519495	12/3/1895	Huachuca Mts., Arizona	H. Kimball	F	0/0	?	2
707778	12/23/58	Bronx Zoo, NYC, NY	P.A. Buckley	F	0/0	?	2
761869	2/2/1915	Kerrville, Texas	Dr. L.C. Sanford	M	0/0	?	2
768791	6/21/1963	Crook, Colorado	L.L. Short, Jr.	M	8/10	1	0

Table 2 - Royal Museum of Toronto, Canada Spotted Towhee Specimens

Museum Number	Date Collected	Location Collected	Collector	Sex	Left/Right Primary Patch Length	Sibley Score	Mantle Score
33144	7/30/1939	Ft. Carlton, Saskatchewan	F. Mowat	F	4/0	2	1
33264	6/5/1939	White Mud, Dollard, SK	P.M. Holmes	M	0/6	3	3
58873	5/28/1917	Eastend, SK	H.H. Mitchell	M	2/2	3	1
58881	5/10/1905	Crook Co., Wyoming	P.B. Peabody	M	0/0	3	1
58882	5/13/1902	Ft. Logan, Colorado	A.H. Felger	M	0/0	4	3
58883	5/19/1929	Cherry Co., New Brunswick	F.M. Dille	M	9/5	3	2
58885	7/11/1922	Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan	H.H. Mitchell	M	0/0	3	3
70827	6/19/1906	High River, Alberta	W.E. Saunders	M	4/5	3	1
75307	5/25/1937	Dundurn, Saskatchewan	F. Mowat	M	0/0	2	0
101454	6/15/1968	Walsh, Alberta	J.A. Dick	M	0/0	4	3
104211	6/5/1970	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	4	3

Table 2 - Royal Museum of Toronto, Canada Spotted Towhee Specimens (cont.)

Museum Number	Date Collected	Location Collected	Collector	Sex	Left/Right Primary Patch Length	Sibley Score	Mantle Score
106781	6/11/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/2	3	2
106782	6/5/1970	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	M	-/2	4	2
106783	6/10/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	-/2	3	3
106784	6/10/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/0	3	1
106785	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	F	-/0	4	3
106786	6/11/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/5	2	1
106787	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/0	4	3
106788	6/4/1970	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	4	2
106789	6/14/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	P.L. McLaren	M	0/-	4	3
106790	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	0/-	2	1
106791	6/27/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	-/4	2	1
106792	6/8/1970	Lancer Fy., Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	4	3
106793	6/2/1070	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	4	3
106794	6/4/1970	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	F	-/0	2	0
106795	5/31/1970	Writing-on-Stone Prov. Pk., AB	P.L. McLaren	M	5/-	3	1
106796	6/11/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/0	2	1
106797	5/21/1970	River Hurst, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	1/-	4	3
106798	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	-/0	4	2
106799	6/14/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	P.L. McLaren	M	4/-	3	3
106800	6/27/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	F	0/-	4	3
106801	6/10/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	4	3
106802	6/10/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	-/3	2	2
106803	6/27/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	3	3
107190	6/10/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	F	-/0	4	1
107191	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	19/-	2	1
107192	6/3/1970	Shelby, Montana	F.W. Schueler	M	-/0	4	1
107193	6/14/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	P.L. McLaren	M	-/0	4	3
107194	5/28/1970	Writing-on-Stone Prov. Pk., AB	J. Rising	M	-/0	3	1
107212	6/9/1970	Eston, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	0/-	4	2
107214	6/27/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	-/9	3	1
107215	6/12/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan P.L.	McLaren	F	0/-	3	1
107216	6/14/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	F.W. Schueler	M	0/-	3	2
107217	5/29/1070	Writing-on-Stone Prov. Pk., AB	F.W. Schueler	M	-/0	4	3
107218	6/13/1970	Estuary, Saskatchewan	J. Rising	M	0/-	3	0
143392	7/8/1958	Buffalo, Alberta	J.D. Soper	F	0/0	4	3

Slaty-backed Gull at Seneca Falls, Seneca Co., 23 February 2002.

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and

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A contingent of Ithaca birders made a trip to Sullivan County on 22 Feb 2002 in search of a reported Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*), a very rare visitor from Siberia. Seen the previous day, this sighting represented the second state record for the species (see Freer et al. 2002). A day-long search by a large number of birders produced nothing, and we went home somewhat disappointed. It turned out, though, that our adventure was not over.

On Saturday 23 Feb 2002, Steve Kelling, his passion for gulls heightened rather than quenched by the fruitless search of the previous day, decided to visit Seneca Meadows landfill, just north of Seneca Falls in Seneca County, NY. The landfill attracts a large number of winter gulls of numerous species, and already that season had produced multiple sightings of Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*), Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides*), and Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*). At approximately 11:00 Steve located a dark-backed gull with pink legs, and he called us to say that he thought he might have a Slaty-backed Gull, perhaps the same bird we had searched for the day before. We dropped what we were doing and headed directly to the landfill, arriving at 12:20, when we immediately found the bird in question. Steve had been studying and photographing the gull the entire hour we were en route, and he was confident in his identification by then.

The Slaty-backed Gull was in a loafing area just south of the main landfill, on a cleared area in a field with a small, deep pit of open water. Somewhere in the vicinity of 500 gulls were using the loafing area, including hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), several dozen Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*), two or more adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, one or more immature Iceland Gulls, and one immature Glaucous Gull. We were able to make direct comparisons of the Slaty-backed Gull with Great Black-backed Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

We watched the bird continuously until all of the gulls were flushed at 13:33 by a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). At that point we lost the bird in the mass of flying gulls. Most of the birds that had been loafing near the landfill left the area and did not return within the next half hour. During the time we watched the gull we took numerous digital photographs through our spotting scope and took video of it with a Sony DCR-TRV830 digital-8 video camera. The gull spent most of the time loafing and preening, and only flew twice during that period. We did manage to capture some images of the spread wings that confirmed the requisite white and light gray mirrors on the primaries (the "string of pearls" Goetz et al. 1986). See Fig.1.



Fig. 1
Slaty-backed Gull
 Note "string of pearls"
 23 Feb 2002
 ©Jay W. McGowan

A group of birders may have spotted the gull on the frozen north end of Cayuga Lake later in the afternoon, but opinions of the viewers differ. Subsequent attempts to relocate the gull the following day were unsuccessful.

The description of the bird is as follows:

It was a large gull in adult winter plumage. See Fig.2 . It was as big or slightly larger than the male Herring Gulls and substantially smaller than Great Black-backed Gulls. It had a dark mantle that was about the same shade as the Lesser Black-backed Gulls present and lighter than Great Black-backed Gulls.

The head profile was flat. The head and neck were streaked with dirty brownish-gray that was somewhat less extensive than shown by the two Lesser Black-backed Gulls present. The dark smudging around the light-irised eye was conspicuous and was arranged in a flat triangle. The streaked head and mantle color made it confusable with Lesser Black-backed Gulls, not Great Black-backed Gulls. The color of the orbital ring was not noted.

The bill was sturdy, but not too large, yellow with a large red spot on the lower mandible. It had a moderate angle at the gonys. It did not have a huge bill like a Great Black-backed or a Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*), but it was larger than that of a Lesser Black-backed. The bill was thick and long, did not appear greatly different from a Herring Gull bill, but in the photos it was obviously thicker and longer.

The legs were a bright deep pink and were quite striking. They were nearly purple-pink and distinctively different from any other gull there. The legs of Great Black-backed were the color of dead flesh, while these were vibrant bubble gum. They were very apparently red to KJM, despite his deficiency in red cones. Leg color of gulls is not a character he notices without thinking about it, but these were like no color he had ever seen. The overall appearance was dark, not light like those of the other gulls.

The wings on the perched bird had large white tips to the outer primaries, with the 5th or 6th primary mostly white with a transverse black line. The white on the secondaries and tertials was very broad, broader than the Great Black-backed near it, and much broader than the Lessers. It showed a very large tertial crescent.

The bird was the least active of all the gulls present. They were all preening and stretching, but this bird refused to do anything for long periods of

times. Eventually it flew, and we managed to get some video images. The “string of pearls” (Goetz et al. 1986), pale gray/white subterminal spots (or “tongue tips” Goetz et al. 1986), were apparent from both above and below. From the video captures it appears that p10 had a completely white tip, p9 had a very large white subterminal spot proximal to the subterminal black line that blends into the white tip of p10. P8 showed a dingy white or light gray mark on the inner vane. The obvious subterminal spot was nearly white on p7 and p6, and p5 looked like it had only a thin black line dividing a white tip. Goetz et al. (1986) considered the presence of a tongue on p8 to be diagnostic of Slaty-backed Gull and tongues on p6 and p7 as suggestive of the species. Other species, however, can show similar white spots on p6 and p7, although only rarely on p8 (Gustafson and Peterjohn 1994).

None of the observers had experience with Slaty-backed Gull before this sighting. We compared our bird with descriptions in all available field guides, but no field guide can give a sense of the variability within one species. Fortunately the Japanese Gull Site <<http://isweb15.infoseek.co.jp/animal/larus/slayty.html>> has a superb series of photos of this species taken in Japan in winter. Our comments are based largely on comparisons with these photos.

The bill showed a rather large gonys bulge, not impossible for Slaty-backed, but perhaps not typical. The Japanese photos show that Slaty-backs typically have a very wide (shallow) angle at the gonys, but that a great deal of variability exists. The steeper angle of the Seneca Falls bird matched that shown on many photos (e.g., the 3rd winter bird at http://isweb15.infoseek.co.jp/animal/larus/slayty_ad.htm; the first two adult shots at http://203.174.72.111/vegae/SbG01_03_13/SbG010313.html). The first photo at http://isweb15.infoseek.co.jp/animal/larus/Slat11_6ad/slaty116ad.html shows a drastic difference in angle of the two photos on that page, with one matching the Seneca Falls bird.

Usually winter Slaty-backed have the basal two-thirds of their bill pink-flesh colored and the distal third yellowish. The bill changes to all-yellow by breeding. The Seneca Falls bird seemed to have a greenish and yellowish bill base. All the November and December Japanese photos have the two-toned bill. But the February and March photos show the bills all-yellow, so the change must occur around that time. One photograph was taken on 23 Feb, and its bill matches the Seneca Falls bird.

Slaty-backed tend to have a round-headed look. Our bird was rather flat-headed. We can match the profile with some of the Japanese photos, but it does look flatter than most.

Other species of dark-backed gull can be ruled out. Great Black-backed Gulls have a much darker mantle, are significantly larger, have paler legs, a thicker bill with a steeper angle at the gonys, and a different wingtip pattern. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are similar in overall appearance to this bird, but have yellow legs. The sturdier bill shape, heavier neck and body, and extensive white in the wingtip also works against Lesser Black-backed. Western Gull is ruled out by the streaked head (virtually unstreaked in Western) and wingtip pattern (more black in outer primaries and no subterminal spots), as well as by the lighter eye and darker legs. Kelp Gull (*L. dominicanus*) has a darker mantle, less white in the wingtips, yellow legs, and virtually no streaking on the head in winter. A hybrid of Herring and Great Black-backed gulls is a possibility. Although rare, these



Fig. 2 - Slaty-backed Gull
23 Feb 2002 ©S. Kelling

hybrids do occur (Foxall 1979). Such a bird would be about the same size and similar mantle color of the Seneca Falls bird, but all known specimens show the leg color to be whitish or very pale flesh color, the head streaking to be less extensive than that shown by typical Herring Gulls, the mantle to be lighter than Slaty-backed, and the wingtip pattern to be different (Foxall 1979).

Was this the same bird as was seen in Sullivan County two days before? It certainly shares the overall appearance of the plumage and head streaking, although several characters might differ between the two (P. A. Buckley, pers.comm.). Seneca Falls is 134 miles (216 km) northwest of the Neversink Reservoir, where the first gull was seen. Gulls are known to move large distances in central New York in the winter. Gulls using the Nanticoke Landfill in Broome County were shown to roost on Cayuga Lake, 40 miles (64 km) distant (Curtis et al. 1995). One Herring Gull marked in Broome County appeared at the Seneca Meadows Landfill within a week of being marked (Curtis et al. 1995), showing that the populations of gulls at those landfills mixed. If gulls move 40 miles from a roost to a feeding location and back, then they could easily move 80 miles in one day. We believe it would have been possible for the Slaty-backed Gull to leave Sullivan County on Friday 23 Feb, perhaps joining gulls at the Whitney Point Reservoir in Broome County, almost exactly mid-way between Neversink Reservoir and Seneca Falls on a straight line. It then could have made the trip of the same distance the next day to Seneca Falls.

Regardless of whether this was the same gull as seen in Sullivan County, it, together with the Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) seen the previous December (Kelling and Kelling 2002), and the large flights of nearly all species of winter finches added to the Siberian atmosphere of the winter in the

Cayuga Lake Basin.

Images of this bird may be viewed at:

<http://birds.cornell.edu/dic/slbgu/index.htm>

Thanks go to Steve Kelling for finding the bird, and to Robert H. Lewis for his stimulating criticisms of our identification. We learned a lot by researching the answers to them, and those answers strengthened our conviction in our identification.

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EVENING GROSBEAK BREEDING IN CHENANGO COUNTY-JUNE 2002

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A pair of Evening Grosbeaks was present all spring in the Town of Plymouth, Chenango County, NY (Atlas block 4471C). When they persisted into June, possible breeding was suspected. Nevertheless, the odds were against it because their normal breeding range is in the Adirondacks and Canada (Peterson 1988, D'Anna 1998).

However, when the male appeared at the Dennis' sunflower seed feeders with a fledgling on 29 Jun 2002, Erica Dennis snapped the accompanying photos and breeding was confirmed! At least two fledglings were seen that day. Both the adults and fledglings often perched on the house roof. The female was not seen feeding the young, and no Evening Grosbeaks were seen after 30 Jun.

The house is about 100 yards from the nearest tall tree. The area is mainly open grassland with two houses and some conifers and hardwoods several hundred yards distant. Close beyond is the large New Michigan State Forest (9120 acres) with many Norway spruce and red pine plantations.

A prior record of confirmed breeding in Chenango County is reported in the Atlas (Peterson 1988). The printout from the DEC has it in block 4571B as FY (adults with food for young or feeding young) in 1983. This block is in the Town of North Norwich, about 9 miles from our Plymouth site. Nearby are the Whaupanaucan and Skinner Hill state forests (1093 and 1666 acres).

A breeding-plumaged Evening Grosbeak was seen in the hamlet of South Otselic by Dave Messineo through late July 1988 (Lehman 1989), about 10 miles from this Plymouth site. That same year Windsor had a male on 29 May in the Town of Pharsalia, about 5 miles away. The elevation at Plymouth is 1880 feet. South Otselic is only 1224 feet, but is surrounded by hills exceeding 1700 feet. The Pharsalia site is 1780 feet. The North Norwich site (Jay G. Lehman, pers. comm.) is 1380 feet, but nearby are hills over 1800 feet.

We never saw the female feeding the young or in view when the male was doing the feeding. Because young Evening Grosbeaks resemble adult females and because males feed females as part of their courtship ritual, as well as on the nest (Speirs 1968), we considered the possibility that we saw the male feeding an adult female. The adult female "assumes a posture similar to that of the young begging to be fed (crest raised, body crouched slightly and wings fluttering)" is Downs' description quoted by Speirs (p. 210). Nevertheless, when one chick fledges before its siblings, the male will feed it while the female stays on the nest (Speirs, p. 217). However, visible on the prints, just discernible on Fig.1, but prominent on Fig.2, is the "birthmark", the "small yellowish patch composed of the four inner secondary coverts", which persists until the postjuvenile molt almost a month later (Speirs, p. 218). This characteristic dispelled any doubts about whether the bird being fed was an adult female or a juvenile.

In Chenango County we see some Evening Grosbeaks just about every winter. In 1983 and 2002, the preceding winters had low counts of Evening Grosbeaks (Marsi 1983, Salo 2002). However, the winter of 1987-88 had fairly high numbers (Lehman 1988). Therefore there is no indication that breeding here this year is a result of some birds remaining after a heavy incursion. We do not have many active field birders in this county and that may be an important reason why we do not pick up more breeding of this species.

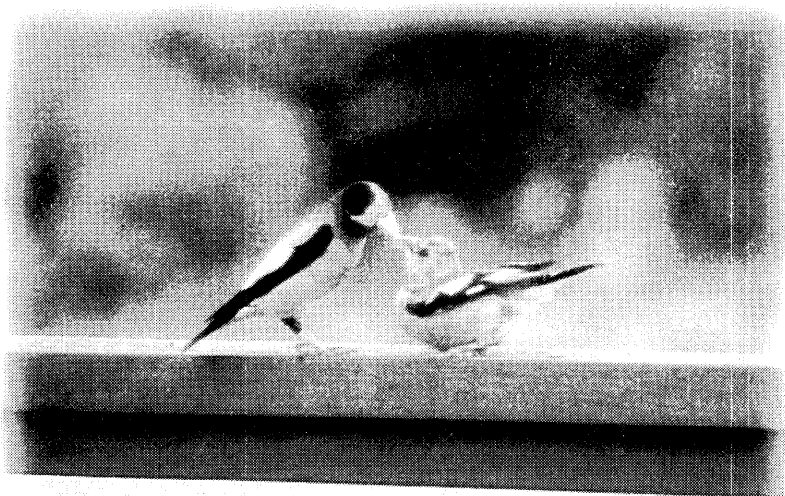


Fig. 1
Adult male Evening Grosbeak
feeding a fledged female
on 29 June 2002 in Chenango County.

©Erica L. Dennis.

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Fig.2

Juvenile female Evening Grosbeak 29 Jun 2002 in Chenango Co..

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LATE FALL RECORDS OF YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER ON LONG ISLAND

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Not all late fall *Empidonax* flycatchers are western strays. On three different occasions I have encountered Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in November on Long Island. These birds showed little or no yellow below, and could be identified only in the hand..

On 2 Nov 1980, Anthony J. Lauro and I captured an *Empidonax* flycatcher while we were banding birds at Tobay Pond (John F. Kennedy Sanctuary), Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County. It was identified in the Department of Ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History as a juvenile Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, sex undetermined, and is now # 824664 in that collection. It was the first November record of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher for New York State (Am. Birds 35(2):165).

Sarah Plimpton and I trapped, banded, and released New York's second November Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on 12 Nov, 1988 at Gilgo Beach, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County (Am. Birds 43(1):74). We identified this bird using the criteria of wing formula combined with measurements of wing chord and bill breadth set out in Allan R. Phillips, Marshall A. Howe, and Wesley E. Lanyon, "Identification of the Flycatchers of Eastern North America, with Special Emphasis on the Genus *Empidonax*," (Bird Banding 37(3): 153-171). We photographed it and sent the pictures to Lanyon, who found the photos "too overexposed to be helpful," but concurred in the identification based on our measurements (letter to the author dated 8 Jan 1989.). We did not examine this bird's skull ossification to determine age, but Lanyon thought it "probably an immature male." This is still the latest observation on record of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in New York State.

Sarah Plimpton and I banded and released the third bird, also at Gilgo Beach, on 4 Nov 2001 We identified it in the hand by the same criteria. We did not determine its age and there was no way to determine sex. We took a series of photographs.(Fig.1) After release, this bird was seen in the same general area through 11 Nov by A. J. Lauro and other observers (N. Am. Birds, in press).

Although the first two of these records were published at the time in American Birds, none were published in The Kingbird and therefore not noted in Bull's Birds of New York State (1998 E. Levine ed., Cornell University Press, Ithaca , NY) The next time someone decides to do a later version of this work, no doubt most published records will be available in an electronic database and therefore be included.

In light of these three records, it is likely that Yellow-bellied Flycatchers showing little or no yellow are regular in small numbers on Long Island in November. This possibility needs to be kept in mind when attempting to identify late fall *Empidonax* flycatchers in the field in northeastern North America.



*Yellow-bellied
Flycatcher
(Empidonax flaviventris)
Gilgo Beach
4 Nov 2001
©Sarah Plimpton*



An Unintentional Common Raven “Experiment”

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Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) have often been observed at our family's Long Lake home feasting on unwanted rodent kills deposited on the lawn by our resident cat. In March of 2001, Common Ravens nested at the top of a large white pine tree close to our home, and the rodent cleanup became a regular observation. The question of whether ravens utilize scent, in addition to their keen sight, to find carrion, is one that I've pondered for a year. The answer came unexpectedly this winter.

A pair of Common Ravens arrived in mid February 2002. They were frequently observed outside our home keenly watching the ground around our house. On 3 Mar 2002 the temperature hit 50 degrees, and two old cat kills surfaced from the snow on our back porch. They were tossed into the backyard of our home, and taken away by the ravens a few hours later. Early the next morning, on 4 Mar, a Common Raven was spotted digging with its bill in hard icy snow at the edge of our back porch. It dug down about three to four inches. Since a feeder hangs above this spot on the porch, it was hard to know if it was interested in seed, or was seeking another cat kill. The raven was then observed venturing UNDER the porch, where the cat often leaves dead rodents. Its partner was up in a tree about 20 feet away. The raven in the tree was turning its head side to side, appearing to be on the “lookout”, which gave this observer a feeling that a bank robbery was under way! A short time after this seemingly cooperative behavior, the raven in the tree flew off. I was not able to observe the raven under the porch fly off to know if it had retrieved anything.

On 6 Mar, near the area where the ravens had taken the two cat kills on 3 Mar, a Pine Marten was observed intently digging in the snow. It dug down a foot, and uncovered an old cat kill! The question of why the ravens had not discovered this old kill first, and again the issue of whether they can utilize scent came to mind. Maybe digging down a foot in snow would prove too difficult for ravens? Bernd Heinrich's *Mind of the Raven*, was consulted on the issue of scent, and his experiments shed light on this area. He had used a skunk carcass buried in snow to discover if Common Ravens could indeed utilize scent to find carrion. After many experiments, Heinrich's conclusion was that there is not a shred of evidence to support that Common Ravens use scent to locate food. Instead, his conclusions indicated they use complex visual cues, looking for bumps in the snow, or any type of disruption to the snow surface to find carrion. If carrion was buried in snow, with no visual cue to aid in finding it, the ravens were unable to locate the food.

Having read that Pine Martens are fond of peanut butter, a piece of bread spread with peanut butter was placed in our backyard the day my family and I had watched the marten. The next day, 7 Mar, a raven enjoyed the bread! On 8 Mar, six Common Ravens were spotted outside our home. On 9 Mar, thirteen Common Ravens were outside! Two more pieces of bread with peanut butter were placed

in the backyard, and were eaten while our family was away hiking. On the morning of 10 Mar, thirteen Common Ravens were observed in a tree outside our home. Three pieces of bread with peanut butter were tossed outside. One raven flew down to a piece of bread, and proceeded to take it a few feet away. The raven stood on the bread, and ate a few pieces. It appeared skittish, and picked up the piece of bread, and flew off with it. The other two pieces of bread quickly became covered by snow in the over sixty mph winds, and blizzard conditions that day.

The next morning, on 11 Mar, there was no indication of where the other two pieces of bread with peanut butter were, the new wind swept snow leaving no bump or trace of the bread. At noon, raven tracks were observed in the snow. The raven had landed near the back porch, and walked to two bumps in the snow near a rock wall that was not far from where the bread was actually left. The bumps were slight drifts in the snow. The tracks then led closer to where the bread had actually been left. The raven had dug holes in three different locations, but had not found the bread! It evidently remembered the vicinity of the where the bread was, but without any visual cue, seemed unable to find the exact spot. Later in the day, the spot where the raven had dug was more closely observed. At the third dig spot the bread was only about one to two inches away under about two to three inches of snow – seemingly close enough for the raven to have discovered it, but the bread was untouched – maybe the raven had been frightened off for some reason, or simply gave up. It did not return that day, and the bread was eaten overnight by an unidentified mammal (tracks covered a bit by new snow). Knowledge of the general area where the bread was located, but with no visual cue to help, evidently left the raven with a missed opportunity for a meal.

In the process of an initial intent to feed a Pine Marten bread with peanut butter, it was discovered that Common Ravens also enjoy this food. In a further attempt to keep observing Common Ravens, the three pieces of bread were left out on 10 Mar. The weather conditions unexpectedly set up a similar situation to Heinrich's skunk experiments in burying the bread under snow without a visual trace of where. In line with Heinrich's experience, a Common Raven with knowledge that an area holds a potential snow-buried food source was unable to use scent to discover exactly where. The answer to the question of whether Common Ravens utilize scent to find food appears negative both in Heinrich's experiments, and in my own backyard!

Literature Cited

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON 2002

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Weather Effects

After an exceptionally mild winter, March was more seasonable though still with above average temperatures. Coolest relative to averages were Regions 1 & 10, at opposite ends of the state. Windy conditions were noted in three Regions, resulting in the loss of power in Region 7 and the loss of two eagle nests in Region 1. Goose and dabbling migration peaked two to three weeks ahead of schedule.

The middle third of April was summer-like in most Regions, prompting early arrivals of several species. Then the weather turned much cooler, virtually ruining chances for a large Broad-winged Hawk flight at the Great Lakes watches though Braddock Bay had a respectable, if below average total.

As mild as the previous winter had been, May was just as cold and wet. Big Day participants in Regions 1, 2, 5 & 8 during the third week of May had to endure cold, damp, and even a few inches of snow! Even balmy Region 10 suffered a record low of 43 degrees F on the 19th. The May migration, the highlight of the year to so many birders, was generally disappointing, though Regions 1 & 7 noted some good concentrations of birds. Region 10 had what could be called a genuine "fallout". The reader is urged to check out Schiff and Wollin's account of this event.

The Early Migration

On the surface, it would appear from studying the Spring Arrival Dates tables that it was an exceptionally early migration across the board, that is waterbirds and landbirds, March, April and May migrants. An amazing 44 species were record early in one or more of the nine reporting Regions but there were also five species that arrived significantly late statewide with > 2 standard deviations. The five late species have average arrival dates in late April and May, when the weather this year was unseasonably cold. Thus, their lateness cannot be considered surprising. What is surprising, however, was the number of other late April and May migrants that arrived significantly early despite the weather.

No doubt, many of the late April migrants were already on our doorstep to the south of us, brought north by the summer-like warm spell in mid month. However, with continued adverse conditions, one would have thought the May migrants would be tardy, if anything, but such was not the case. Of course, simply because the first individual of a species arrives early, does not mean the rest will follow on its heels. Indeed, many birders noted a scarcity of neotropical migrant breeders in the latter half of May. Internet posts to various list services in New York heralded the early returns of some species such as Ruby-throated

Hummingbird and Indigo Bunting. Yet, birders hoping to see members of those species in their own neighborhoods usually had a considerable wait.

Miscellaneous

Inland shorebirding is usually hit or miss in New York. At Montezuma NWR, active management creates attractive habitat and provides a consistent source of shorebirds in the fall. Such efforts are sporadic in the spring and when they do occur, the benefits to shorebirds are secondary to the main purpose of invigorating the marsh. This is not meant to criticize the refuge system since managing water levels is not simply a matter of opening and closing a valve! Birders at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 were treated to a draw-down of Cayuga Pool this spring, resulting in fine shorebirding and the desire of this writer for consistent management to attract these birds every spring.

More details about the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker survey in Region 2 would be interesting. An unspecified number of observers found 432 individuals over two days there. That high number suggests that the survey occurred during the peak of their migration and possibly in an exceptionally good spring for them.

Region 5's Derby Hill is not only a great place for raptors, as many other migrants also whiz by. High counts of Eastern Phoebe and Baltimore Orioles among others have been tallied there in the past. Interesting this spring were the significant counts of so-called "resident" species Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, and House Finch which counts obviously included many migrants. Such data helps us to challenge those long-held assumptions.

Three southerners, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Mockingbird, and Carolina Wren, have been found in increasing numbers for many years and they now appear to be consolidating their foothold in northerly Region 6. Will they eventually become as common as another species of southern origin, Northern Cardinal, which many years ago slowly started moving north into New York? In southeastern New York, while not as numerous as the cardinal, the mockingbird is a solidly entrenched and decidedly common breeder.

Banding station highlights were provided in the Region 7 report. Region 9 had their first spring 1000+ Broad-winged Hawk flight. Is there a correlation with the low counts of this species on the Great Lakes this spring? Pelagic trip summaries were provided for Region 10. In addition, Big Day efforts confined within the borders of New York City tallied an impressive number of species. I guess it just seems like it is all concrete and asphalt!

Rarities

Except for western New York, the list of rarities was not as stellar as it has been in recent years. Waterfowl continued as a major source of excitement and discussion, especially in Region 10. It was there that yet another "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was found but there was also one in Region 2 this spring. Barnacle Geese found in Regions 1 & 10 this spring have been reported numerous times in recent years. At what point do we consider them most likely to be

naturally occurring and not escapes? That is the question that NYSARC must deal with when (and if!) they receive reports of this species. The western race of *Branta bernicla*, known as "Black" Brant, was reported again in Region 10. Another subspecies, the "Richardson's" Canada Goose, produced a likely New York record count for spring in Region 1. Closing out the waterfowl discussion, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at a pond on Long Island would constitute a state-first, if accepted by NYSARC. Like the Barnacle Goose, this duck's population is growing so there may be some argument to counter the captive origin sentiment. A Western Grebe on Staten Island is very rare in New York with only six records accepted by NYSARC. However, if one assumes that all Western/Clark type grebe reports in the state are Westerns, which is not an unreasonable assumption, then Townsend's Warbler is even rarer than the grebe. Remarkably, Townsend's Warblers were found in both Regions 2 & 10 this spring. A Bicknell's Thrush, seen and more importantly heard in Region 10, is a species that usually slips through undetected during migration. A Tricolored Heron, only the second Dunlin for Sullivan County and a Yellow-headed Blackbird were highlights in Region 9, as was a Black-headed Gull, the latter also reported in Regions 1 & 10 where it is less unusual. In Region 8, Glossy Ibis, Wilson's Phalarope, and Yellow-throated Warbler provided the excitement while in Region 7, it was a first Franklin County Eurasian Wigeon, a Sandhill Crane, and a pair of Gray Partridges, the latter a Regional first for Atlas 2000. Region 6 countered with their own Eurasian Wigeon and Sandhill Crane and added an Orange-crowned Warbler and a rare outside the Adirondacks Black-backed Woodpecker. Laughing Gull, a very rare Franklin's Gull, three Sedge Wrens and Hoary Redpoll, were highlights in Region 5. The only Ross's Geese in the state were the two found in Region 3. In addition that Region had Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, and Marbled Godwit. A group of three American White Pelicans ranged widely in both Regions 1 & 2. Willet, Marbled Godwit, Laughing Gull, a very rare Franklin's Gull, a Sedge Wren, Summer Tanager and Brewer's Blackbird is a great list of discoveries in Region 2 that does not even include their best finds. Glossy Ibis, a first spring record of Pomarine Jaeger, a possible first Regional Fish Crow and three "Oregon" Juncos were the lesser highlights in Region 1. Two rare warblers, Region 1's second ever "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler and Region 2's first Black-throated Gray Warbler were most unusual. There are only about ten records of the latter in New York. Two Arctic Terns and another Regional first, a female Painted Bunting were additional booty enjoyed by Region 2 birders. Although the Great Lakes hawkwatching was not as productive in quantity this spring, the quality was exceptional. Both Regions 1 & 2 had reports of Swainson's Hawk and Mississippi Kite and Region 1 added a Black Vulture, oddly missing from the Lake Ontario watches.

The highlight at the watches this spring though, and my choice for the Bird of the Season, is Region 1's Ferruginous Hawk. This bird passed over the Ripley hawkwatch on Lake Erie 11 Apr and, if accepted by NYSARC, will constitute a first record for New York.

Spring Arrival Dates 2002 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	16-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	5 Apr	9 Apr	12 Apr		25 Mar	10 Apr	16 Apr	12 Apr	14 Apr		9 Apr	16 Apr
Green Heron	13 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr		16 Apr	29 Apr	24 May	20 Apr	7 May	20 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	28 Feb	25 Feb	5 Mar		28 Feb	26 Mar	17 Mar	28 Feb			6 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	14 Mar	24 Feb	1 Mar		29 Mar	8 Mar	8 Mar	8 Mar			9 Mar	18 Mar
Northern Pintail	23 Feb	24 Feb	28 Feb		26 Feb	10 Mar	4 Mar	1 Mar			28 Feb	6 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	27 Feb	18 Mar	16 Mar		16 Mar	13 Apr	13 Apr	14 Mar			21 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	18 Mar	29 Mar	22 Mar		29 Mar	7 Apr	28 Mar	28 Mar	23 Mar	3 Mar	24 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	29 Mar	15 Apr	12 Apr		12 Apr	23 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	26 Apr	10 May	17 Apr	16 Apr
Sora	6 May	11 Apr	2 May		24 Apr		20 May	13 May	29 Apr	14 May	3 May	27 Apr
Common Moorhen	2 May	8 Apr	6 Apr		13 Apr	19 Apr	20 May	29 Mar	29 Apr		19 Apr	24 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	3 May	9 May	27 Apr		20 May		31 May		19 May		13 May	10 May
Semipalmated Plover	10 May	30 Apr	11 May		17 May		11 May	13 May	19 May	26 Mar	5 May	8 May
Killdeer	8 Feb	24 Feb	1 Mar		21 Feb	8 Mar	17 Mar	28 Feb		6 Mar	28 Feb	3 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	21 Mar	29 Mar	29 Mar		3 Apr	26 Apr	13 Apr	23 Apr	12 Mar		4 Apr	5 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	13 Apr	6 Apr	29 Mar		12 Apr	6 May	19 Apr	23 Apr	12 Mar	15 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	15 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr		12 Apr	6 May	10 May	5 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	14 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr		14 Apr	26 Apr	5 May	26 Apr	27 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling	15 May										15 May	16 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10 May	15 May	1 May		23 May	6 May	19 May	11 May	19 May	6 May	12 May	12 May
Least Sandpiper	3 May	3 May	26 Apr		9 May	6 May	11 May	10 May	9 May	15 Apr	3 May	3 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	3 May	29 Mar	11 Apr		2 May					15 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr
Common Snipe	14 Mar	5 Apr	25 Mar		22 Mar	13 Apr	5 Apr	16 Mar	6 Mar		24 Mar	22 Mar
American Woodcock	7 Mar	24 Feb	25 Feb		14 Mar	27 Mar	11 Mar	13 Mar			9 Mar	9 Mar
Caspian Tern	11 Apr	8 Apr	19 Apr		11 Apr	19 Apr	2 May	28 Apr		13 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Common Tern	13 Apr	9 Apr	11 Apr		18 Apr	30 Apr	11 May	14 Apr	19 Apr	26 Mar	16 Apr	25 Apr
Black Tern	19 Apr	6 May	30 Apr		9 May	16 May	20 May	14 May	19 Apr		5 May	6 May
Marsh Wren	2 May	10 Apr	30 Mar		30 Apr	17 May	6 May	7 May	23 Mar	23 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr

Spring Arrival Dates 2002 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	16-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	18 May	18 May	8 May		10 May	18 May	11 May	30 Apr	10 May	4 May	10 May	12 May
Common Nighthawk	18 May	21 Apr	16 May		17 May	20 May	17 Apr	17 May	18 May	27 Apr	9 May	11 May
Chimney Swift	16 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr		2 May	12 May	26 Apr	30 Apr	19 Apr	8 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	4 May	4 May	30 Apr		26 Apr	9 May	2 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8 Apr	5 Apr	6 Mar		3 Apr	9 Apr	5 Apr	20 Mar			30 Mar	3 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	21 May	29 May	16 May		29 May		22 May		10 May	9 May	19 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11 May	4 May	30 Apr		15 May	15 May	9 May	10 May	10 May	20 Apr	7 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	18 May	24 May	20 May		20 May	21 May	24 May	7 May			19 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	8 May	5 May	9 May		17 May	24 May	22 May	10 May	3 May	6 May	11 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	24 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr		2 May	5 May	5 May	3 May	5 May	3 May	1 May	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	27 Mar	8 Mar	15 Mar		28 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar	23 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	19 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	26 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr		21 Apr	5 May	8 May	3 May	18 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	26 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr		18 Apr	6 May	6 May	6 May	20 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr
Purple Martin	6 Apr	28 Mar	6 Apr		11 Apr	29 Mar	7 May		16 Apr	29 Mar	8 Apr	15 Apr
Tree Swallow	8 Mar	8 Mar	7 Mar		7 Mar	2 Apr	8 May	13 Mar	15 Mar	2 Apr	21 Mar	21 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	9 Apr	7 Apr	6 Apr		8 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	26 Mar	6 Apr	3 Apr	8 Apr	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	13 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr		26 Apr	5 May	10 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr
Cliff Swallow	13 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr		12 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr	16 May	25 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr
Barn Swallow	8 Apr	31 Mar	30 Mar		29 Mar	5 May	16 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	2 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr
House Wren	13 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr		17 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr	8 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29 Mar	7 Apr	3 Apr		12 Apr	12 Apr	16 Apr	6 Apr			7 Apr	5 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr		15 Apr	4 May	9 May	18 Apr	29 Mar	30 Mar	15 Apr	19 Apr
Eastern Bluebird			1 Mar		12 Mar	30 Mar	27 Feb				10 Mar	8 Mar
Veery	4 May	4 May	30 Apr		1 May	5 May	14 May	4 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	2 May	29 Apr		11 May	16 May	15 May	5 May	9 May	3 May	7 May	6 May
Hermit Thrush	1 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr		10 Apr	26 Apr	15 Apr	5 Apr			9 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	27 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr		3 May	4 May	7 May	23 Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	4 May	26 Apr	3 Apr		29 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	26 Apr	16 Apr		25 Apr	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	13 Apr	13 Apr	4 Apr		12 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	22 Mar	12 Apr	15 Apr
Solitary Vireo	10 Apr	15 Apr	8 Apr		19 Apr	23 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	8 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	10 May	4 May	3 May		30 Apr	10 May	27 May	20 Apr	19 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	3 May
Warbling Vireo	24 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		18 Apr	9 May	6 May	19 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	5 May	26 Apr	1 May		26 Apr	4 May	13 May	18 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr	3 May

	Spring Arrival Dates				2002	Landbirds (cont'd)						
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	16-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	5 May	30 Apr	6 May		7 May	10 May	15 May	16 May	7 May	20 Apr	6 May	7 May
Nashville Warbler	29 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr		3 May	3 May	3 May	4 May	4 May	25 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Parula	6 May	4 May	17 Apr		1 May	10 May	10 May	10 May	18 Apr	4 Apr	28 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	19 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr		18 Apr	5 May	9 May	22 Apr	17 Apr	15 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5 May	4 May	1 May		26 Apr	6 May	5 May	6 May	3 May	20 Apr	1 May	2 May
Magnolia Warbler	4 May	4 May	3 May		4 May	10 May	9 May	4 May	26 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	4 May
Cape May Warbler	4 May	4 May	2 May		6 May	18 May	10 May	10 May		3 May	7 May	6 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	27 Apr	1 May	24 Apr		26 Apr	5 May	20 Apr	3 May	3 May	20 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	26 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr		19 Apr	4 May	10 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	29 Apr	4 May	30 Apr		4 May	10 May	4 May	10 May	3 May	3 May	4 May	3 May
Pine Warbler	12 Apr	9 Apr	30 Mar		5 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	29 Mar	15 Mar	4 Apr	10 Apr
Palm Warbler	13 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr		15 Apr	10 May	17 Apr	6 Apr	29 Mar	22 Mar	11 Apr	17 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	6 May	5 May	10 May		10 May	15 May	23 May	16 May	12 May	6 May	11 May	9 May
Blackpoll Warbler	11 May	16 May	10 May		17 May	14 May	17 May	15 May	6 May	7 May	12 May	11 May
Black-and-white Warbler	29 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr		24 Apr	17 Apr	3 May	25 Apr	16 Apr	8 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr
American Redstart	6 May	4 May	30 Apr		4 May	5 May	12 May	4 May	28 Apr	17 Apr	2 May	2 May
Ovenbird	2 May	26 Apr	26 Apr		3 May	3 May	5 May	15 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	20 Apr	26 Apr	13 Apr		16 Apr	7 May	5 May	13 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr
Mourning Warbler	9 May	6 May	11 May		10 May	23 May	23 May	21 May	13 May	10 May	14 May	14 May
Common Yellowthroat	5 May	26 Apr	27 Apr		3 May	9 May	9 May	10 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	6 May	6 May	6 May		10 May	16 May	16 May	4 May	7 May	5 May	8 May	10 May
Canada Warbler	9 May	6 May	6 May		9 May	17 May	21 May	12 May	9 May	2 May	10 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	5 May	5 May	3 May		5 May	15 May	4 May	3 May	18 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28 Apr	19 Apr	20 Apr		1 May	3 May	2 May	13 Apr	4 May	20 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	9 May	26 Apr	17 Apr		9 May	15 May	14 May	15 May	2 May	20 Apr	4 May	4 May
Eastern Towhee	26 Mar	7 Apr	4 Apr		3 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	4 Apr			6 Apr	10 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	8 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr		3 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	5 Apr	17 Mar	23 Mar	3 Apr	5 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	6 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr		29 Mar	10 Apr	9 May	26 Apr	20 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	4 Apr	8 Apr	30 Mar		9 Apr	19 Apr	24 Mar	3 Apr	17 Mar		2 Apr	7 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	4 May	4 May	3 May		4 May		13 May	14 Apr	23 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	4 May
White-crowned Sparrow	2 May	1 May	30 Apr		30 Apr	7 May	24 Apr	4 May	3 May		1 May	25 Apr
Bobolink	2 May	3 May	2 May		3 May	11 May	26 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	9 May	2 May	1 May
Baltimore Oriole	29 Apr	4 May	25 Apr		1 May	5 May	9 May	24 Apr	24 Apr	29 Mar	26 Apr	29 Apr
Overall Average	19 Apr	18 Apr	15 Apr		20 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr
Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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March saw a return to more normal weather conditions after a warm winter. The average temperature was 34.2° F, 0.1° below average. There was 3.28" of precipitation, 0.29" above average, with 5.6" of snow. Very strong winds were present on several days, with regular gusts above 50 mph on the 3rd, 10th and 23rd. Gusts of 60–70 mph occurred on the 9th, and two Bald Eagle nests at Iroquois NWR succumbed to the wind.

The April average temperature was near normal at 46.2°, 0.9° above average. However, that is not indicative of the month's weather. Half the days were either 10° warmer or cooler than average. A very warm period occurred from the 8th through 19th, with temperatures in the 80°s from the 15th through 18th. During this period, many migrants arrived early. However, a cold spell followed and brought migration back on schedule. Precipitation included 4.38" of rain, 1.34" above average, and 2.6" of snow during the first week. Heavy rain occurred on the 2nd, 13–14th and on the 28th, when tornadoes touched down in Allegany and southern Erie counties.

May was the fourth coolest and fourth wettest in 60 years at Buffalo. The average temperature was 51.8°, a significant 5.2° below average. Temperatures were below normal every day during the period of the 10th through 27th, including several days at mid-month with highs only in the 40°s. Wearing winter hat and gloves while searching for warblers was disconcerting to many. The precipitation was 5.23", 1.88" above normal, and snowflakes fell on the 19th–21st! The rain and cool weather grounded many migrants and also noticeably delayed the migration.

Goose migration peaked in early March this year, slightly earlier than usual. One **Greater White-fronted Goose** and eight "**Richardson's**" **Canada Geese** were reported at Iroquois NWR during this time. Snow Geese were recorded much less frequently than during last year's breakout season. A **Barnacle Goose** was observed with Canada Geese at Iroquois NWR 1–3 March. The bird was seen by several observers but documented by none. While the date and location are consistent with previous records of this species in the Region, this bird must be considered of unknown origin because of the species' prominence in waterfowl collections.

Jim Berry made significant counts of waterfowl at Chautauqua Lake in early April, including an exceptional inland total of 2500 Lesser Scaup. The waterfowl were likely held up due to the cold start to the month. The very warm period in mid-April brought numerous early reports of migrants, including Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow and Palm warblers, and Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes.

There were some incredible concentrations of warblers and other spring migrants put down by the inclement weather in May. Birders who donned raincoats were able to witness some fallouts. Passerines merely trickled in during mid-May's

March-like weather. Many breeders that typically return by mid-May were noticeably absent or present in very small numbers. Rare warbler species in May included Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky and several Yellow-breasted Chats.

Every five to six years, water levels at Iroquois NWR's Cayuga Pool are drawn down in May for maintenance purposes. This typically creates excellent shorebird habitat and this year was a bonanza for rare sightings and high counts. A record early Ruddy Turnstone was found on 4 May. Red Knots, uncommon in spring and rare inland, were record early on 15 May and in some high numbers on the 24th. Higher than normal counts of Short-billed Dowitcher and Dunlin occurred and 1–2 Wilson's Phalaropes turned up late in the month.

The 2002 spring summary letter from the Ripley Hawk Watch lamented that the weather was not conducive for seeing the bulk of the Broad-winged Hawks during migration. However, this was hardly a letdown given the four rarities that turned up! Most notable was a **Ferruginous Hawk** on 11 April, seen by Len DeFrancisco, Tom Simmons, William Dietz and Jack Sherwood. The light-morph immature bird, observed in direct comparison with Red-tailed Hawk and Turkey Vultures, was well described by three of the observers. This will constitute a state first if accepted by NYSARC. A **Swainson's Hawk** on 18 April, **Mississippi Kite** on 5 May and **Black Vulture** on 6 May were also exceptional finds in this Region.

The following totals are from the spring report from Ripley Hawk Watch. They are provided on the condition that watch site coordinators retain the right to publish the data they collected. For permission to reprint or make other use of this report, contact Leonard DeFrancisco. Black Vulture (1), Turkey Vulture (3773), Osprey (106), Mississippi Kite (1), Bald Eagle (27), Northern Harrier (190), Sharp-shinned Hawk (782), Cooper's Hawk (39), Northern Goshawk (4), Red-shouldered Hawk (138), Broad-winged Hawk (5132), Swainson's Hawk (1), Ferruginous Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (613), Rough-legged Hawk (10), Golden Eagle (4), American Kestrel (238), Merlin (21), Peregrine Falcon (24), unidentified raptors (29).

Peregrine Falcons again nested at the Statler Tower in downtown Buffalo and were suspected of nesting again at the gorge in Niagara Falls. Ospreys nested at Ring-neck Marsh at Iroquois NWR, the only nesting location in the Region away from Cattaraugus County. There were two Bald Eagle nests at Iroquois NWR this spring and a new nest at Windmill Marsh at Oak Orchard WMA.

A NYSDEC survey of the Motor Island rookery on 5 May found nine Great Egret nests, a record high, 18 Great Blue Heron nests, significantly down from last year's 108, and 142 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests. **Sandhill Crane** sightings were consistent with the increase during the last few years. A pair was observed in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR several times in mid-May and a pair was seen flying over Wyoming County on 24 May. Birders are encouraged to search for signs of breeding.

There were some good, non-raptor rarities found this season, too. Sightings of a group of three **American White Pelicans** were made at several locations over the course of two and a half weeks. These were likely the same individuals wandering the Region and Region 2 to the east.

A **Pomarine Jaeger** off Fort Niagara State Park at the end of March provided a first spring record of this species in the Region. Spring jaeger records are exceptionally rare and it is possible that this bird wintered on Lake Ontario.

An **"Audubon's" Warbler**, photographed at Goat Island by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter, represents only the second sighting of this western form of Yellow-rumped Warbler in the Region.

Other rarities for the season included: Eared Grebe, Glossy Ibis, Black-headed Gull, possible Fish Crow and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco.

The B.O.S. April Count on 14 April tallied 148 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. Record high counts were noted for Great Egret, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Virginia Rail, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Northern Cardinal. Notable low counts were for American Black Duck and Northern Pintail (none!).

Despite record low temperatures, the B.O.S. May Count on 19 May tallied an impressive 207 species. The count compiler was Bob DeLeon. Fifteen species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935): Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird and Pine Warbler. Record low counts included Ring-necked Pheasant, Cerulean Warbler and Vesper Sparrow. Other notable low counts included Killdeer, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Field Sparrow and Bobolink.

The B.O.S. counts, especially the May count, have considerable variables that can make year-to-year comparisons difficult. However, it is clear that record totals on both the April and May counts for Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren are evidence that these species are doing well and increasing in the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 14 April Count; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 19 May Count; Bush Hill SF – Bush Hill State Forest CATT; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; Carlton Hill MUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM; ChauL – Chautauqua L CHAU; DH – Dunkirk Harbor CHAU; EVSP – Evangola SP ERIE; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary CHAU; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; LESP – L Erie SP CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NPP – Niagara Power Project NIAG; NR – Niagara Ri; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tifft NP – Tifft Nature Preserve ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr GHSP 15 Mar; max 23 FMCSP 7 Apr (WD); last 4 Somerset NIAG 18 May.

Com. Loon: arr AISP 25 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr Buffalo ERIE & 5 OOWMA 16 Mar; 28 AISP 25 Mar (TL); 100 ChauL 4 Apr (JB); last Pt Breeze ORLE 26 May (KF).

Red-necked Grebe: 14 FMCSP 7 Apr (WD); 12 BOSAC; only reports.

EARED GREBE: OOWMA 16 Mar (BK!), first Mar report since 1988.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 3 GHSP 29 Apr (AM); 3 Lewiston Res NIAG 11 May (BRBA); 3 NF 14 May (WD! ph); 3 over NF 16 May; likely same birds wandering the Region.

Double-crested Cormorant: Wilson NIAG 29 Mar; arr 13 Machias CATT & 2 ChauL 4 Apr; max 521 Motor I NR 24 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr Machias CATT 6 Apr (MD); 2 BOSAC; Tifft NP 21 Apr–4 May; SPNS 12 May; TWMA 18 May; Clay Pd WMA CHAU 19 May (JB).

Least Bittern: arr TWMA 24 May (BK, DH), only report.

Great Blue Heron: 99 Motor I NR 18 Apr; 18 nests Motor I NR 5 May (NYSDEC); max 150 INWR 11 May (KF).

Great Egret: arr Motor I NR 31 Mar (STO), early; JAS 4 Apr; Farmersville CATT 9 Apr; Sheridan CHAU 4 May; max 21 + 9 nests Motor I NR 5 May (NYSDEC); Wales ERIE 16 May; 3 Tifft NP 25, 27 May; 5 INWR 26 May.

Green Heron: arr BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 142 nests Motor I NR 5 May (NYSDEC); 2 INWR 15 May.

GLOSSY IBIS: Hartland NIAG 19, 21 May (WW!), second consecutive spring report.

BLACK VULTURE: Ripley HW 6 May (LD!).

Greater White-fronted Goose: INWR 12 Mar (BB), with numerous Canadas.

Snow Goose: max 71 Kuckville ORLE 1 Mar (BE); 14 Yates ORLE 9 Mar; eight other Mar reports in single digits; last JAS 28 Apr.

Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): 8 INWR 3 Mar (MM!), record spring count.

Brant: 2 NF 16–20 May (WD, BP), only

report.

BARNACLE GOOSE: Royalton NIAG 1, 3 Mar (CM, MG), origin unknown; most reports in Reg were in same general vicinity in Mar.

Mute Swan: 2 ad at nest Olcott NIAG 11-18 May; 2 INWR 12-26 May; Pt Breeze ORLE 24 May; only reports.

Trumpeter Swan: SPNS 10 Apr (LH); Porter NIAG 14 Apr (WD!); N Harmony CHAU 24 Apr (PB); 2 BWWTP May; origins unknown.

Tundra Swan: max 326 INWR 11 Mar (MG); 276 TWMA 11 Mar; 145 Farmersville CATT 24 Mar (MD); 2 Wales ERIE 25 Apr; last 4 INWR 17 May. **Am. Wigeon:** max 300 OOWMA 2 Mar (KF).

Blue-winged Teal: arr N Collins ERIE 28 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 6 TWMA 9 Mar; 15 BWWTP 26 May.

N. Pintail: max 1100 OOWMA 2 Mar (KF), impressive count; BOSAC, remarkably none reported; 2 Hartland NIAG 15 May.

Green-winged Teal: 3 BWWTP 26 May, bred at this location in recent years.

Canvasback: last 2 BWWTP 26 May (KF), late.

Redhead: 13 Allegany ALLE 1 Apr; 10 ChauL 4 Apr; max 14 INWR 4 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 387 AISP 31 Mar; 500 ChauL 4 Apr (JB); last INWR 26 May (MM, KF), late.

Greater Scaup: BWWTP 11 May (KF); NF 16, 24 May (WD, BK).

Lesser Scaup: max 2500 ChauL 4 Apr (JB), record spring count from one location; 8439 BOSAC, count record; New Hudson ALLE 24 May (RC); last 4 Attica Res WYOM 26 May.

Surf Scoter: 2 Silver Creek CHAU 27 Mar; Times Beach ERIE 12 Apr; 2 TWMA 16 Apr (MG, GR), unusual inland.

White-winged Scoter: Amity L ALLE 2 May (VP), unusual inland; last 2 Somerset

NIAG 21 May.

Black Scoter: 2 Buffalo NR 11 Mar (PY); 2 Silver Creek CHAU 7, 8 Apr (MO, JG), only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 56 AISP 25 Mar (TL); 19 Amity L ALLE 25 Mar (VP); impressive inland counts; last 14 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 21 May.

Bufflehead: 500 ChauL 4 Apr (JB), good inland count; 6712 BOSAC, count record; last Pt Breeze ORLE 26 May (KF).

Com. Goldeneye: NF 24 May; Pt Breeze ORLE 26 May; on the late side.

Com. Merganser: 2 INWR 21 May; 3 NF 21 May; unusual locations for date.

Ruddy Duck: arr 16 BWWTP 3 Mar, 996 BOSAC, count record; 81 INWR 16 Apr; 200 BWWTP 4 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Forestville CHAU 19 Mar (DM), early; 3 Allegheny Res CATT 29 Mar (TL); 2 at nest INWR mid-May after displacing geese from nest; Amity L ALLE 21 May (VP).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: imm Ripley HW 5 May (LD! MF! SF!), 2nd documented report for Reg, submitted to NYSARC.

Bald Eagle: 2 nests INWR, both knocked down in wind storm 9-10 Mar, one rebuilt; nest OOWMA, new location; good showing at hawkwatches and elsewhere.

N. Goshawk: 2 ALLE BOSAC; Tift NP 27 Apr (DH!); BOSMC; Ripley CHAU 26 May (MG), possible nest location.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Cowlesville WYOM 8 Mar; nest with yg Bush Hill SF 5 May (PY); Darien GENE 27 May, at Great Lakes Plain edge of known breeding range.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hamburg HW 12 Apr (MH), early; Bennington WYOM 27 May, at Great Lakes Plain edge of breeding range.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: Ripley HW 18 Apr (LD!); 2nd documented report for Reg, submitted to NYSARC.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: light morph

imm Ripley HW 11 Apr (LD! WDi! TS!) submitted to NYSARC; state first if accepted.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 15 Yates ORLE 24 Mar (WD).

GOLDEN EAGLE: AISP 19 Mar (TL); 2, 2 Ripley HW Apr. May (LD).

Merlin: 5 SUNY Buffalo campus ERIE thru 31 Mar (PY!), last 1 there 9 Apr; arr DH 9 Apr; Hamburg HW 12 Apr; 2 BOSAC; Chaffee ERIE 5 May (PY); Olcott NIAG 18 May (MT! MM! WD!); late migrant.

Peregrine Falcon: arr Hamburg HW 7 Apr (BK!); 3 surviving yg Buffalo ERIE from now annual nest location; nesting suspected at NF as well; GHSP 16 May (MM); Clarence ERIE 19 May (D&RD!); Yates ORLE 23 May (BK!); late migrant.

Virginia Rail: arr SPNS 30 Mar (LH). very early, possibly over- wintered?

Sora: arr Tifft NP 7 May, late arrival.

Com. Moorhen: arr Pomfret CHAU 3 May.

Am. Coot: max 250 ChauL 4 Apr (JB); 4 BuSP 30 May, possible breeding location.

SANDHILL CRANE: Hamburg HW 24 Mar (RA!); Ripley HW 7 Apr (PY); Hamburg HW 5 May (BK!); 1-2 INWR 11, 16, 18 May (MJ!, GL), several sightings at this location thru; 2 over Java WYOM 24 May (DJ!).

Black-bellied Plover: arr INWR 4 May (MM!), slightly early; singles at this location thru 26 May; Kiantone CHAU 11 May, only other report.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 4 Kiantone CHAU 11 May; 35 INWR 12 May, 38 INWR 24 May, high counts for spring.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Somerset NIAG 22 Mar; max 40 INWR 12 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 BOSAC; max 100 INWR 4 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Langford ERIE 16 Apr (DH), early, no details; last Yates 24 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Times Beach ERIE 15 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Hartland NIAG 30 Apr; 2 Tillman WMA 24 May; regular breeding locations.

Whimbrel: 17 Clarence ERIE 24 May (BK, DH), observed in flight, rarely reported in such numbers.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr INWR 4 May (MM!), record early by 5 days; max 8 INWR 26 May; several others in May at Cayuga Pool.

Red Knot: arr 2 INWR 15 May (WD!), record early; max 19 INWR 24 May (BK, DH); 7 TWMA 24 May; impressive showing.

Sanderling: 12 GHSP 16 May (MM), migrating along L Ontario.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Kiantone CHAU 11 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR 4 May; max 100 INWR 12 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr INWR 15 May (WD!); 2 INWR 26 May; only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Somerset NIAG 4 May; 4 INWR 17 May; INWR 24 May.

Dunlin: arr 2 BOSAC; 23 Yates ORLE 21 May; max 250 INWR 25 May (KF), impressive count.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 32 INWR 12 May; 2 Hartland NIAG 15 May; 21 Yates ORLE 16 May; max 40 INWR 17 May (MM); BWWTP 18 May; last INWR 25 May; good showing.

Com. Snipe: arr Grand I ERIE 15 Mar.

Am. Woodcock: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 8 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: 2 INWR 24 May; INWR 26 May (BK, MM); few spring reports in recent years.

POMARINE JAEGER: FNSP 30 Mar (WD!), first spring report, possibly wintered on L Ontario.

Little Gull: 5 Lewiston NR 2 Mar; 6 Buffalo NR 11 Mar; max 10 FNSP 10 Apr.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: ad in breeding plumage NR 14, 15 Apr (GB!); continues trend of spring sightings on NR.

Bonaparte's Gull: AISP 10 Mar; 10 Chaul 4 Apr; max 4980 NR 14 Apr (GB); imm INWR 26 May, unusual location for late season report.

Iceland Gull: max 7 NPP 17 Mar; 2 WBSP 27 Mar; GI 6 Apr; BOSAC; Lewiston NR 21 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: NPP 17 Mar; 3 GI 6 Apr; BOSAC; Somerset NIAG 30 Apr (WW!); Olcott NIAG 1 May (BE); last Wilson NIAG 18 May (WD!).

Glaucous Gull: 2 NPP 11, 16 Mar; 2 BOSAC; DH 14 May (JG); last Olcott NIAG 16 May (MM).

Caspian Tern: arr 3 Times Beach ERIE 12 Apr; max 56 DH 10 May.

Com. Tern: arr 28 BOSAC; 3 BWWTP 26 May.

Forster's Tern: BWWTP 18 May (MM! MT! WD!); Chaul 20 May (BS); BWWTP 26 May (KF!); rarely documented in spring.

Black Tern: arr 2 INWR 20 Apr, very early, undocumented; 2 INWR 4 May; Yates ORLE 16 May; Chaul 20 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 6 BOSMC.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr BOSMC; TWMA 24 May; only reports.

Long-eared Owl: 2 GHSP 24 Mar; 2 WTSP 2, 8 Apr; traditional migrant locations.

Short-eared Owl: Barre ORLE 1 Mar; 5, 7 Porter NIAG 1, 9 Mar (STO); traditional wintering locations; Hamburg HW 29 Mar (MT).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 7 reports from WTSP, GHSP, FMCS 9 Mar-9 Apr; ALLE BOSAC.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 4 BOSMC; SPNS 23 May; TWMA 24 May; 2 Blasdel ERIE 29-31 May; Buffalo ERIE 30, 31 May; 2 Orchard P ERIE 30 May; late arrivals.

Whip-poor-will: INWR 5 May (PH); Tift NP 7 May (MT); GI 12 May (WD, BP); more than usual.

Chimney Swift: arr Eden ERIE 17 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Eden Valley ERIE 5 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: FNSP thru; Porter 11 Mar, 2 Apr; max 6 Pt Gratiot 11 May; 2 INWR 25 May; 3 EVSP 28 May; plus 8 reports of likely migrants in May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: SPNS 13 Mar, possibly wintered; arr Buffalo ERIE 9 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Jamestown CHAU 22 May (JB), only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr INWR 12 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr GI 12 May; 9 other reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Watts Flats WMA CHAU 12 May (JB); 3 BOSMC; Attica WYOM 22, 26 May (KF); only reports.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Harmony CHAU and OOWMA 19 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Carlton ORLE 9 May (KF!), record early.

Least Flycatcher: arr Tift NP 25 Apr (ER!), early.

E. Phoebe: arr Hamburg ERIE 28 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Tift NP 27 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr Times Beach ERIE 27 Apr.

N. Shrike: 8 Mar reports.

White-eyed Vireo: LESP 19 May (JG), only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Hartland NIAG 11 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Ward ALLE 11 Apr (EB), early; 3 BOSAC; Pomfret CHAU 16 Apr (TM).

Warbling Vireo: arr Tift NP 25 Apr (WW!), early.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Tift NP 7 May (WD!), early; 10 other May reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Silver Creek CHAU 6 May.

Blue Jay: max 1500 LBSP 9 May (KF).

FISH CROW: possible 2 Jamestown CHAU 1 May (BS), tentatively identified

at same location where a pair was believed to have nested last year, observer is awaiting confirmation via identification of the collected remains of one bird (wing); there are no accepted records of this species in Reg 1.

Com. Raven: Carlton Hill MUA 8 Mar (KF!); 2 N Harmony CHAU 5 May; 2 Attica WYOM 11, 18, 26 May (KF! MM! MT! WD!); 7 reports from ALLE. CATT.

Purple Martin: arr 2 Ripley HW 7 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr INWR 9 Mar (GL), very early, undocumented; 3 Yates ORLE 15 Mar (WD!), early.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 Youngstown NIAG 10 Apr; 283 BOSAC, count record.

Bank Swallow: arr 2 BOSAC.

Cliff Swallow: arr BOSAC; 40 + 44 nests BuSP 9 May (WW), growing colony under N Grand I Bridge.

Barn Swallow: arr Eden Valley ERIE 9 Apr.

Carolina Wren: 44 BOSAC; 39 BOSMC, record counts; well reported thru.

House Wren: arr Clarence ERIE 14 Apr (DD!); S Dayton CATT 17 Apr (RR); Lancaster ERIE 18 Apr (MM!); all early.

Marsh Wren: arr Pomfret CHAU 3 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Bush Hill SF 30 Mar; last Carlton ORLE 24 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 3 BOSAC.

Veery: arr Tift NP 5 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr AmSP 12 May; max 9 nocturnal migrants Buffalo ERIE 30 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 6 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 15 LBSP 9 May (KF); INWR 18, 26 May probable breeder.

Wood Thrush: arr SPNS 28 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr 23 BOSAC, count record.

Am. Pipit: arr Hamburg ERIE 9 Mar (BK!); early; 2 Randolph CHAU 10 Mar (TL); last Newfane NIAG 24 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr GI 5 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Tift NP 18 May; BOSMC; Yates ORLE 24 May; 3 OOWMA 25 May (KF); poor showing.

"Brewster's" Warbler: arr GI 5 May (KF! et al); LESP 6 May (DN); Somerset NIAG 11 May (WD, BP).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 3 GI 6 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP 25 Apr (ER!), early; Lancaster ERIE 6 May; Tift NP 7 May; GI 8, 12 May; AmSP 8-17 May; Sheldon CHAU 25 May; good showing.

Nashville Warbler: arr Tift NP 30 Apr; Attica WYOM 27 May; Orangeville WYOM 27 May; WYOM reports likely breeders.

N. Parula: arr GI 7 May; max 4 GI 17, 21 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr SPNS 20 Apr (LH); Tift NP 21 Apr (MM!); early.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr GI and Silver Creek CHAU 6 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Tift NP and AmSP 5 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Tift NP 5 May; max 3 GHSP 11 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Buffalo ERIE 28 Apr.

Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler (*D. c. auduboni*): GI 27 Apr (WD! BP! ph); 2nd record for Reg.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr AmSP 27 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Tift NP 30 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr Krull P NIAG 13 Apr; 9 BOSAC, count record; Krull P 16-24 May (MM, BK!); EVSP 28 May (MT!); breeders.

Prairie Warbler: arr Silver Creek CHAU 6 May; Pike WYOM 22, 26 May (KF); New Hudson ALLE 25 May (RC).

Palm Warbler: arr 2 SPNS 14 Apr (LH), very early; GI 20 Apr (WD!), early; max 15 Silver Creek CHAU 11 May; last GI 23 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Tift NP and GI 7 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Silver Creek CHAU and Hamburg ERIE 12 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr GI 7 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Tift NP 30 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr GI 7 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Lancaster ERIE 8 May (MM!; rarely recorded as migrant.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: GI 5 May (KF! et al); BOSMC; rare migrant.

Ovenbird: arr GI 3 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr Tift NP 21 Apr (MM!), early.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 3 BOSAC (MD! et al), early; Attica WYOM 16 May; AISP 24 May (RC).

KENTUCKY WARBLER: GHSP 15 May (WD! BP); rare migrant.

Mourning Warbler: arr GI 10 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Lancaster ERIE 6 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Hamburg ERIE 5 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Tift NP 7 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Sherman CHAU 10 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Somerset NIAG 16 May (MM); INWR 26 May (MM); Tift NP 23-26 May (RA); good showing.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Silver Creek CHAU 6 May.

E. Towhee: arr NF 27 Mar.

Am. Tree Sparrow: Yates ORLE 24 May (BK! DH), record late.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Eden Valley ERIE 9 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr Colden ERIE 10 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 3 Busti CHAU 7 Apr; Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; 5 Chautauqua CHAU 14 Apr (TM); Bethany GENE 17 May.

Savannah Sparrow: arr SPNS 5 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Bethany

GENE and Middlebury WYOM 17 May; max 3 Tillman WMA 24 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr 4 Lancaster ERIE 7 May (MM), only report.

Fox Sparrow: 10 Ashford ALLE 4 Apr (BRBA); 5 Jamestown CHAU 11 Apr; last 22 BOSAC.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tift NP 5 May; last SPNS and LBSP 24 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 3 TWMA 10 Apr.

White-throated Sparrow: max 350 Tift NP 7 May; Reinstein Preserve ERIE 28 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 15 BOSAC; arr Eden ERIE 3 May.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*J. h. oreganus*): Eden ERIE 1 Mar-3 Apr (RA!) departed one day earlier than last year at same location; Ashville CHAU 17 Mar (JJ!); Colden 24-25 Mar (KL!).

Snow Bunting: 30 BOSAC, only report, on the late side.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Franklinville CATT and 2 Jamestown CHAU 29 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Eden Valley ERIE 10 May.

Bobolink: arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 3 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr Stockton CHAU 6 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: last TWMA 26 May (KF!), late.

Orchard Oriole: arr 3 Somerset NIAG and GHSP 11 May (WD, BP); 3 Silver Creek CHAU 13 May (DN); Carlton ORLE 24 May; 2 Eden Valley ERIE 26-31 May (RA).

Baltimore Oriole: arr Tift NP 30 Apr.

Purple Finch: passed through in average numbers.

Red Crossbill: Colden ERIE 22-23 Mar and 2-5 Apr (JW), only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Porter NIAG 4 Mar; GHSP 9 Mar; 3 Yates ORLE 9 Mar; Brocton CHAU 24 Apr; Lockport NIAG 6 May; 3 S Wales ERIE thru 23 May; mostly feeder reports.

Com. Redpoll: last 2 BOSAC.

Pine Siskin: max 19 Amity L ALLE 20 Apr; widespread migrant in low numbers thru mid May; 102 BOSMC.

Am. Goldfinch: 300 Krull P NIAG 16 May, part of impressive migration day along L Ontario.

Evening Grosbeak: max 35 Franklinville

CATT thru 13 May (MD); Krull P NIAG 18 May; 40 BOSMC.

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: at feeder Snyder ERIE 12 Apr.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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It was indeed a spring of contrasts both meteorologically and ornithologically. March continued the trend started in the winter by averaging 1.2°F above normal temperature at 35.1°. However, this was not really indicative of the contrasts of the month. The temperature reached 70° on the 9th, but was followed on the 10th by a high of 33°. There seemed to be an ongoing battle between air masses that represented winter and spring. This produced a mix of precipitation. The total for the month was 0.49" below normal at 2.09". Snowfall reached a total of 13.8", which was just slightly above normal, but still left the Region well below the average for the year. These changes in weather were accompanied by strong winds. Gusts of over 50 mph were recorded on four days during the month. In many places, large trees were blown over.

April weather was also a roller coaster ride. Two cold snaps bookended a summer-like warm spell. Half of the days of the month experienced temperatures that were either 10° above or below normal. The final average temperature was 2.9° above normal at 48.2°. Record highs were set on the 16th and 17th. Unfortunately, these warm days were not accompanied by strong, southerly winds and good hawk flights did not materialize. Precipitation totaled 3.44", which was 0.69" above normal. Snowfall once again was above average at 6.5", still leaving us well below normal for the year.

May could be best described as wet and cool. The unseasonably cool and wet trend carried over from late April, and if not for a warm stretch at the end of the month, we would have recorded a record chill. It was the third wettest and 14th coolest May in the last 100 years. The average temperature was nearly 4° below normal at 53.4°. From the 10th through the 27th there were 16 days with below normal temperatures. Fortunately, the last week of the month experienced muggy, summer-like conditions. Precipitation was more than double the usual amount at 5.87". A good deal of the rain fell during thunderstorms on the 29th.

The season was also a contrast, as is often the case, ornithologically. Bill Symonds, Dave Tetlow and others put in much time at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch and contributed to the data on waterbirds. The Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, under the direction of Elizabeth Brooks, carried out their banding operations at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station and produced some interesting birds and numbers. A Big Day run by Dave Tetlow, Kurt Fox and Jessie Barry on 26 May tallied over 200 species, topping the previous high of 195 species.

The loon totals for the spring season were about average, with no significant daily totals. Horned and Red-necked grebes, on the other hand, produced some very good counts during the end of March. The **American White Pelicans** along the west lakeshore in May were a good find. Waterfowl pluses included good numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads and Red-breasted Mergansers, as well as some excellent Brant reports. Surf Scoters also had a good spring. Greater White-fronted Goose reports were down this year, perhaps due to a decrease in observers scouring the Canada Goose flocks. Species highlights included the 4th Regional, and first since 1967, **Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal** and a Eurasian Wigeon. Numbers of locally breeding Canada Geese continued high, as was the case with the Mute Swan.

The hawkwatch flights were monitored by Braddock Bay Raptor Research; the official counter again this year was Jason Guerard. The count was for the most part lackluster. The total of 49,395 individuals was lower than the long-term average. Highlights included 72 Osprey, a May **Mississippi Kite**, 72 Bald Eagles and 23 Golden Eagles. Peregrine Falcons again took up residence on the Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester and produced two young from four eggs. The male of the last several years was driven off or killed by a new male.

For a change, there seemed to be ample shorebird habitat, but it didn't seem to matter. Shorebirds in general were only fair. There were a couple of days with good totals of both yellowlegs and most expected species were noted, but numbers in general were only so-so until the end of May, when the 26th brought a good influx of migrants. Highlights included Willet, Marbled Godwit and more Wilson's Phalarope reports than in recent years. Whimbrel went unreported.

Gulls and terns were about normal, with only a few surprises. The season started out slowly, with the now expected Lesser Black-backed Gulls and three Little Gulls as highlights. May highlights included the reporting of an adult **Laughing Gull** at Braddock Bay and two **Arctic Terns** at Hamlin Beach. The traditional late season Iceland and Glaucous gulls were reported. The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls was slow this season and Black Terns continued their precipitous decline.

Long-eared Owl totals were fairly good this spring, while Northern Saw-whet Owls seemed down a bit. Decent numbers of Whip-poor-wills were noted, but Common Nighthawk numbers once again were dismal compared with historical totals. An all-out group search for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was initiated on 10 and 11 April with a result of 432 individuals tallied in woodlots over a 20 mile stretch of lakeshore.

The passerine migration pretty much began as expected, with mostly typical arrival dates and a few early ones. The warm spell in April brought a good influx of migrants, which then slowed to a trickle by the end of the month. May was not a banner month, due in part to the cool and wet conditions. Cuckoos, flycatchers and thrushes were down in numbers and late arriving this spring. Warblers on the negative side included Tennessee, Cape May and Blackpoll. The season was not without its passerine highlights, though. A first for the Region was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** banded and photographed by BBBO on the last day of April; it stayed in the vicinity until 3 May. An immature female **Townsend's Warbler** was reported in April. Also falling in the first Regional category was a female **Painted Bunting** that frequented a Greece feeder for 5 days in May. **Summer Tanager** and **Brewer's Blackbird** rounded out the highlights. There was a huge influx of Baltimore Orioles in early May. Of note also was a very late Pine Grosbeak observed in Penfield in late May.

March's species total was 131, April's was 182 and May's was 241. The total for the year reached 270 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

B – T Byron GENE; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CH – Cobbs Hill, City of Rochester MONR; DE – Durand-Eastman County P MONR; G – Greece MONR; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt T Greece MONR; IC – Island Cottage Woods T Greece MONR; K – T Kendall ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI; M – Manitou MONR; P – T Parma MONR; PB – Pt Breeze ORLE; PE – T Penfield MONR; PN – T Perinton MONR; SA – Shore Acres T Hamlin MONR; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore along south shore of L Ontario MONR/ORLE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: last HB, PB 26 May.
Horned Grebe: last PB 26 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 100 HB 29 Mar; last HB 11 May.
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 3 WL 3-9 May (CR, mob).
Am. Bittern: arr G 10 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr IC 11 May.
Great Egret: arr HB 29 Mar.
Snowy Egret: arr BB 14 May (DTe, MD, JG), only report.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr W 31 Mar.
Turkey Vulture: max 2529 BB 30 Mar; total 8907 for the season BB.
Greater White-fronted Goose: B 1 Mar (WS); BB 8 Mar (DTe).
Snow Goose: last HB 3 May.
Brant: max 425 HB 27 Apr (WS); good spring total.
Trumpeter Swan: HB 4 May, wingtag #601; HB 19 May, no wingtag.
Wood Duck: B 25 Mar, late.
Eurasian Wigeon: H 31 Mar-1 Apr (SD).
Blue-winged Teal: arr H 19 Mar.
N. Pintail: last HB 5 May.
GREEN-WINGED "EURASIAN" TEAL: H 17 Apr (MD, mob), ph, 5th Reg record.
Redhead: last 2 BB 15 May.
Surf Scoter: max 35 HB 20 Apr (WS); good spring total; last HB 23 May.
Black Scoter: last 2 HB 4 May.
Bufflehead: last PB 26 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last PB 26 May.
Ruddy Duck: max 24 K 19 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BB 30 Mar; season total 160 BB.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: imm BB 30 May (JG).
Bald Eagle: season total 132 BB.
N. Harrier: season total 470 BB.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: season total 3168 BB.
Cooper's Hawk: season total 509 BB.

N. Goshawk: season total 82 BB.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BB 9 Mar; season total 765 BB.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 1, 9 HB, BB 12 Apr; season total 36,376 BB.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: light morph ad P 12 Apr (RS).
Red-tailed Hawk: season total 3249 BB.
Rough-legged Hawk: season total 194 BB; last 2 BB 6 May.
Golden Eagle: arr BB 11 Mar; last BB 10 May; season total 23 BB.
Am. Kestrel: season total 264 BB.
Merlin: season total 31 BB.
Peregrine Falcon: arr Rochester 20 Mar; season total 16 BB; max 4 BB 9 May.
N. Bobwhite: H 15-16 May; 2 Canandaigua 31 May; origin?
King Rail: H 23, 26 May (JeB, MD, KFo, DTe), calling, traditional location.
Virginia Rail: arr BB 16 Apr.
Sora: arr SA 12 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr BB 9 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr BB 30 Mar; 2 H 8-9 Apr; BB 10 May; H 15-16 May; SA 16 May; 2 BB 16 May; BB 17 May.
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 10 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr BB 30 Mar; max 51 H 16 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 1 K & 2 HB 7 Apr; max 120 H 15 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Mendon 8 Apr (DTe), record early.
Willet: arr 2 BB 9 May (JG, CC); western subspecies H 30 May (BE).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr PN 25 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: BB 17 Apr.
Marbled Godwit: BB 15-16 May (JG, MD, WS, CC).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr HB 11 May (WS), record early.
Red Knot: arr HB 23 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr HP 16 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr HB 4 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 HB & 2 HP 30 Mar.
Dunlin: arr 3 H 9 Apr (RS), record early;

max 208 HB 23 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr PN 12 May.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr P 24 May (BE);
PN 28-29 May (DSH, KD).

Laughing Gull: BB 30 May (JG).

Little Gull: 3 HB 10 Apr.

Iceland Gull: PN 29 Apr; last G 19 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 PN 29 Apr.

Glaucous Gull: last 1 ad HB 17 May.

Caspian Tern: arr 2-4 several sites 9 Apr;
max 48 HB 30 Apr.

Com. Tern: arr HB, BB 10 Apr.

ARCTIC TERN: 2 HB 5 May (WS,
MD).

Forster's Tern: arr 2 BB 9 Apr.

Black Tern: arr BB 7 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 WL 19 May.

Barred Owl: Victor 15 Apr (RMc), new
location.

Long-eared Owl: Mar total 15 M; max 19
M 10 Apr; Apr total 77 M.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Mar total 14 M; max 5
M 9 Apr; Apr total 17 M.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Rush 22 Apr; max
30 BB 30 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M 16 Apr; max 8
M 5 May.

Chimney Swift: arr BB 19 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
Pittsford 5 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 3 IC 6
Apr; total 432 WL lakeshore woodlot
search 10-11 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr M 30 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr CH 5 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr M 16
May; max 13 M 31 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 M 31 May,
late.

Alder Flycatcher: arr IC 25 May, late.

Willow Flycatcher: arr IC 6 May.

"Traill's" Flycatcher: max 59 M 31
May, banded.

Least Flycatcher: arr G 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr HP 9 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 IC 27
Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr Chili 20 Apr; BB 26
Apr; very early for 2 records.

N. Shrike: last BB 7 May (JG), record
late.

White-eyed Vireo: arr Geneseo 28 Apr
(JK); G 15 May (GC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr M, Powder
Mill P 5 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr LW 16 Apr (RS),
record early.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr M 16 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr IC 27 Apr.

Purple Martin: arr HP 29 Mar.

Tree Swallow: arr HB & BB 9 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr WL 8
Apr (ST), ties early record.

Bank Swallow: arr HB & BB 17 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 HB 17 Apr; scarce.

Barn Swallow: arr BB 1 Apr.

House Wren: arr BB 18 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr P 30 Mar.

SEDGE WREN: K mid May, implied
arrival from DTe finding colony and
adults feeding yg in early Jun; very scarce
in recent years.

Marsh Wren: arr DE 11 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BB 8 Apr;
max 96 5 May; last P 27 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr G & IC 16
Apr.

Veery: arr G 5 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr M 16 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr IC 3 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr IC 9 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr Pittsford 16 Apr
(P&TS), record early.

Gray Catbird: arr M 27 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr M 14 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr HB 31 Mar; max 200 Elba
26 Apr; last 2 HB 23 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr BB 5 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr IC 6 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: M 5 May; LW

19 May; M 30 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr IC 1 May (DSh), record early.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 30 Apr.
Nashville Warbler: arr M 26 Apr.
N. Parula: arr M 5 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr IC 27 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr BB 5 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr several sites 5 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr DE 5 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr M & IC 2 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 HB 8 Apr.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: M 30 Apr–3 May (BBBO, MD), banded, ph, 1st Reg record.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr M 17 Apr.
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER: imm fem BB 13 Apr (BE).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1-4 several sites 5 May.
Pine Warbler: arr HB 10 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr IC 6 May.
Palm Warbler: arr BB 12 Apr; max 17 M 6 May, banded; last G 26 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr IC 6 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr IC 17 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr CH & B 7 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr M 26 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr several sites 5 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr M 1 May; IC 6 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr M 6 May (BBBO); IC 7 May (SD, RS).
Ovenbird: arr CH 27 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr IC & M 27 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LW 16 Apr.
Connecticut Warbler: G 24 May (DSh,

JG); M 26 May (BBBO).
Mourning Warbler: arr IC 7 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr IC 27 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 M & G 5 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr IC 7 May.
Canada Warbler: arr CH 7 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr M 6 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

SUMMER TANAGER: M 23 May (BBBO), banded.
Scarlet Tanager: arr IC 6 May.
E. Towhee: arr HB 8 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Clarkson & G 8 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Honeoye Falls 10 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr H 7 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr H 9 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr H 10 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr Nations Rd Geneseo 19 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr HP 5 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 2 HB 29 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr W & Brighton 20 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Irondequoit 27 Apr.
PAINTED BUNTING: G 11-15 May (Chris Gates, DSh, mob); 1st Reg record.
Bobolink: arr IC 4 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 3 HB 3 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: last 7 HP 22 May, late.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: H 8 Apr (ST, RS); 2 H 14-17 Apr (mob).
Orchard Oriole: arr BB 6 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr several sites 5 May; max 150+ BB 6 May (BE, CC).
Pine Grosbeak: last PE 21 May (FB), very late.
Com. Redpoll: last Fairport 17 Apr.
Pine Siskin: max 100 HB 29 Mar.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

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The weather seemed rather strange this spring and all of its oddities seemed to have pronounced effects on the birds. March was 2.2°F warmer than normal, with an average temperature of 34.6°. Twice the temperature reached 67° – on the 8th and the 15th. Precipitation was 82% of normal, with the amount nearly the same in Ithaca and Elmira. Most importantly, little of it fell as snow. Two inches accumulated on the 22nd and persisted to the 23rd. Three more accumulated on the 26th, but quickly melted. April temperatures averaged 2.7° warmer than normal, bolstered by a four-day period with temperatures reaching the high 80's, 16–19 April. Precipitation was 91% of normal. Less than one inch of snow accumulated on 5 April. May was 3.7° cooler than normal. High temperatures reached the 70°s on 6–8, 17, 24, 25 and 28–31 May. From the 19th to 21st, the temperature never reached 50°, and lows those days were in the upper 20°s. The Chemung Valley Audubon Society held its annual Big Day on 18 May. Participants who began the day in the lower elevations were drenched with heavy rain most of the morning. Those who began at slightly higher elevations dealt with accumulating snow, the latest snowfall in anyone's recollection.

A few individual Red-throated Loons occurred at scattered locations. Common Loon numbers were the lowest in the five years that I have written the Regional report. Using an index generated by totaling the highest counts in the season from each site where the birds were reported yielded only 69. The total for Common Loons is usually around 100. Normalized for birder effort, as determined by the number of database records generated for all species (20,345 for spring 2002), the 69 was reduced to 40. In contrast, Horned Grebes were reported in their highest numbers in the five years, with 105 for the normalized index, up from last year's five-year low of 36. The reason for the low numbers might be related to the narrow windows of opportunity to migrate with a tail wind during their usual peak time of late April and early May. Mike Andersen and Pete Hosner found the annual Eared Grebe at Aurora Bay still lingering, with a second individual, on 13 March..

Least Bitterns were reported from scattered locations, leading to a five-year high of 6 (3.5 normalized). Fred Bertram found the season's only **Cattle Egret** at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. A **Glossy Ibis** was also at Montezuma for a few days in early May.

While Tundra Swan numbers were at their highest in five years, Canada Geese were at their lowest. Last year, the widespread and lasting snow cover kept migrant Canadas in the region in unusually high numbers. This year, the lack of snow allowed them to move through quickly and early. The high Tundra Swan numbers were undoubtedly related to the high number which overwintered in the Region. Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser and Long-tailed Duck all

hit five-year lows, though the last made a decent showing in Chemung County. Hooded Merganser numbers were at their highest. Interestingly, numbers of the two nest competitors, Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser, have been generally going in opposite directions over the last five years. Single **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported occasionally at Montezuma NWR in March and April. Reports of single **Black Scoters** came from Aurora Bay on Cayuga Lake and from Montezuma NWR.

Among the raptors, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk and American Kestrel achieved their highest numbers in five years. Sharp-shinned Hawk was at its lowest level. Reporting of Sharp-shinned Hawks may be more dependent upon the noting of migrant birds than for the other species of raptors, so the lack of south winds may help to explain their low numbers. Among game birds, Ruffed Grouse was at a five-year low. If the species follows its usual cyclic population pattern, an upswing can be anticipated as predators turn their attention to more abundant prey items.

Virginia Rail was reported in its highest numbers, while Sora was at its lowest. John Fitzpatrick reported the season's only **Sandhill Crane**, flying over his Dryden home in late May.

Relatively high water levels through the season may have contributed to the relatively low numbers of Killdeer reported. American Woodcock was also reported in its lowest numbers in five years. In contrast, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher and Common Snipe were all at their highest levels. In Chemung County, all three of these species appeared in a location where muskrat numbers were high. The removal of cattails by the muskrats exposed more than the usual amount of mud flats, particularly in the marsh in Horseheads. For the Dunlin, it was the second consecutive year with significant gains. This was also true for Least Sandpiper, which enjoyed the same mud flats. Shorebirding excitement peaked 12 May when both **Marbled Godwit** and **Purple Sandpiper** were found at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake. Neither had been reported in spring migration in several years.

Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and Lesser Black-backed gulls all hit their five-year lows this spring. Certainly, the high river levels contributed to fewer Bonaparte's, and to some extent Ring-billed, gulls being counted. Only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, making it truly a rarity this year. The rejuvenating of water supplies in wetlands may have contributed to Common, Forster's and Black terns all occurring in their highest numbers in five years. The most unusual larid of the season was the **Little Gull** at the south end of Cayuga Lake on 4 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in their highest numbers in five years. I did see some evidence of increasing gypsy moth caterpillar activity this spring, so that may help to account for the cuckoo increase. Barred, Long-eared and Short-eared owls were all scarce. The rare spring report of a **Snowy Owl**, made especially interesting by its following a non-invasion winter, came from Hobart William Smith College. Unfortunately, it was found dead there two days after its initial appearance.

Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift were both reported in their lowest numbers in five years. The cold May may have simply delayed the arrival of some of the nighthawks. This may have also affected the Chimney Swifts, but I also

suspect that the alteration of chimneys with current furnace designs is reducing the number of available nest sites. Allison and Jeff Wells made the very rare discovery of a roosting Whip-poor-will while visiting the hawthorn orchard along the East Ithaca Recreation Way. Other birders relocated the bird the following day and enjoyed both it and an equally rare Worm-eating Warbler. The warbler sat on a perch just inches above the Whip-poor-will and scolded the owl-like insectivore.

Red-headed Woodpecker, though still very rare in the Region, did reach a five-year high. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are becoming increasingly common. This is probably due to the maturing of forests. The transient Yellow-bellied Flycatcher occurred in its highest numbers in five years, thanks to the three that Wes Hochachka found near Sapsucker Woods. The Hymes family, on an outing at Fillmore Glen State Park, pushed Acadian Flycatchers to peak numbers. Many observers contributed to the high number of Eastern Phoebe reported. Willow and Least flycatchers were both at their lowest level in five years.

The frequently cold temperatures forced swallows to forage over bodies of water where they were still able to find insects. This resulted in high numbers of Tree, Northern Rough-winged and Barn swallows being reported. Cliff Swallow had its second consecutive spring of significant increase. Ken Rosenberg found a **White-eyed Vireo** at Dryden Lake Park. Blue Jay had its second consecutive spring of significant decrease. For those wondering how Common Raven is doing in the Region, the index was 81 before being normalized, the highest number in the last five years. Normalized for birder effort, however, the index was only 48, compared to 56 in 1998.

Mild winters have allowed Carolina Wren and Northern Mockingbird to attain their highest numbers in five years. Marsh Wrens, always somewhat fickle in their choice of nesting grounds, were at their highest numbers also. The Lowe Pond area in Big Flats was the hot spot for them in Chemung County this spring. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also noted in high numbers.

Waxwings were the highlight in early April. Cedar Waxwings increased significantly for the fourth consecutive year and with them came Bohemians. As many as 40 **Bohemian Waxwings** were found on the Cornell University campus, where they were reported for several days.

The East Ithaca Recreation Way hawthorn orchard was the focal point for warbler-watching in the Ithaca area and contributed greatly to five-year highs for several species: **Orange-crowned**, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian and Palm warblers and Northern Parula. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes's tally of 15 Northern Parulas in the hawthorn orchard was particularly remarkable, but the high numbers were not limited to that spot. The high counts from other sites added another 34 to the index. Even when normalized for birder effort, the index was more than four times the next highest in the last five years. The cold weather in mid May may have caused this and other warbler species to accumulate in the Region before proceeding northward. Several species also had their lowest numbers in five years: Tennessee, Yellow-rumped and Cerulean warblers, Ovenbird and Louisiana Waterthrush.

The snowless landscape of March either allowed the American Tree Sparrows, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings to disappear into the landscape or to exit early for their northern breeding grounds. In either case, all were in their lowest numbers in five years. For the longspur, it was the third consecutive year of significant declines. Eastern Towhees may have slowed their return to breeding grounds because of the weather, though succession of their habitat is certainly a factor in their low numbers. The rare Henslow's Sparrow was rarer than usual. Lincoln's and White-throated sparrows both hit five-year highs.

Red-winged Blackbirds had their second consecutive year of significant decline. Brown-headed Cowbirds were at their lowest level in five years. The **Pine Grosbeaks** wintering in Dryden lingered until 12 March. White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks all lingered for a time as well. Purple Finches were lower in numbers than in other recent years.

The Region 3 co-birds-of-the-season were undoubtedly the Purple Sandpiper, discovered by Anne Marie and Tim Johnson and confirmed by Matt Medler, and the Marbled Godwit, which Matt found standing next to the sandpiper when he arrived at Myers Point.

The species accounts include comparisons of observed populations between spring 2001 and spring 2002. A "+" at the end of an account indicates an increase; a "-" indicates a decrease. Neither symbol in an account indicates the species did not demonstrate a significant change in reported numbers. Unless otherwise noted, the comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($\chi^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations is in the Region 3 report in the December 1999 *The Kingbird*.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB – Aurora Bay CAYU; CayL – Cayuga L; ChR – Chemung Ri; CU – Cornell University; DLP – Dryden L P TOMP; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP; Eld – Eldridge P CHEM; FH – Ford Hill; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory; LoPd – Lowe Pd CHEM; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtPl – Mt Pleasant TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; PSt – Park Station CHEM; SF – State Forest; SSF – Summerhill SF CAYU; StP – Stewart P TOMP; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads; WERF – West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr AB 17 Mar; PSt 25 Apr; last DLP 19 May (L&TS), late.
Com. Loon: max 12 AB 21 Apr; last DLP 19 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr MyPt 16 Mar; max 11 MNWR 7 Apr, high; +.
Horned Grebe: arr 3 ChR 16 Mar; max 45 EldP 26 Mar; last Horseheads Gravel Pits CHEM 23 Apr; +.
Red-necked Grebe: max & last 3 Long Pt

SP 6 Apr.

EARED GREBE: max & last 2 AB 13 Mar (Mand, PH), high.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 6 ChR 3 Apr; max 50 MNWR 4 May; last StP 19 May; +.

Least Bittern: arr 2 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 16 May; max 2 Erie Railroad Marsh STEU 21 May.

Great Egret: arr Wayland 6 Apr; last Ellis Hollow Swamp TOMP 30 Apr.

CATTLE EGRET: MNWR 4 May (FB).
Green Heron: max 7 Erie Railroad Marsh STEU 21 May (JHo), high.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr StP 23 Apr; DLP 8 May; last MNWR 28 May.
GLOSSY IBIS: arr MNWR 1-4 May (CAA, JMc, BP); -.
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: last Fayette 3 Mar (MAnd, PH, KRF).
Snow Goose: max 10,000 CayL 2 Mar; last MWC 19 May; -.
ROSS'S GOOSE: max 2 CayL 2 Mar (JE, MMe), early & only report; -.
Canada Goose: max 1620 MNWR 3 Mar; -.
Brant: arr 100 StP 28 Apr; max 200 Ithaca 12 May; last CayL SP 26 May; +.
Mute Swan: arr MNWR 7 Apr; last MNWR 12 May; -.
Tundra Swan: max 700 Mud Lock TOMP 17 Mar (JMc), high; last MNWR 11 May (S&Sfa), late; +.
Wood Duck: max 29 MNWR 7 Apr; -.
Gadwall: max 200 MNWR 1 Mar (MHa), high; MNWR 19 May; +.
EURASIAN WIGEON: arr MNWR 3 Mar, early; last MNWR 23 Apr (MNWR SV&V).
Am. Wigeon: max 300 MNWR 7 Mar; TCAH 4 May; +.
Am. Black Duck: max 26 MNWR 3 Mar; -.
Mallard: max 113 MWC 3 Mar; -.
N. Shoveler: arr 12 MNWR 2 Mar, early; max 102 MNWR 7 Apr, high; MNWR 19 May.
N. Pintail: max 300 MNWR 7 Mar, high; 2 MNWR 14 Apr; +.
Green-winged Teal: max 40 MNWR 7 Apr; MNWR 19 May.
Canvasback: max 2000 CayL 25 Mar; MNWR 19 May; -.
Redhead: max 1000 CayL 25 Mar; MNWR 19 May; -.
Ring-necked Duck: max 622 MNWR 7 Apr; last DLP 19 May; -.
Greater Scaup: max 100 CayL 25 Mar;

last StP 19 May; -.
Lesser Scaup: max 28 MNWR 7 Apr; last StP 19 May; +.
White-winged Scoter: max 3 AB 9 Mar; last 3 AB 14 Apr.
BLACK SCOTER: arr AB 13 Apr (RB, JE, BFo, MMe, MWi); last MNWR 3 May (MAnd).
Long-tailed Duck: arr ChR 16 Mar; max 10 Minier's Pd CHEM 25 Mar; last 8 EldP 27 Mar; -.
Bufflehead: max 36 Long Pt SP 30 Mar; last 21 CayL 4 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 101 AB 2 Mar; last 5 AB 14 Apr; -.
Com. Merganser: max 27 MNWR 3 Mar; -.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 24 EldP 21 Mar; last AB 4 May; -.
Ruddy Duck: max 21 StP 15 Apr; +.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 14 MNWR 22 May (J&SG), high.
Bald Eagle: max 7 MNWR 4 May (FB), high.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2 Orange 5 Mar (EL), early; max 5 MtPl 24 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Ithaca 15 Apr; max 2 MtPl 16 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 SSF 2 Apr; last The Rock TOMP 4 May (MHa), late; -
Golden Eagle: arr & max 3 MtPl 8 Mar; last Dryden 14 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 14 SSF 2 Apr (MY), high; +.
Merlin: StP 28 Apr; last MyPt 12 May.
Peregrine Falcon: arr Tyre 3 Mar (MAnd, PH), early; MWC 23 Mar; last MNWR 3 May.
Virginia Rail: max 6 Dryden L 6 May (KR), high.
Am. Coot: max 400 Clute Memorial P SCHU 5 Apr (DR), high; +.
SANDHILL CRANE: Dryden 27 May (JF), late & only report.
Killdeer: max 12 LoPd 30 Mar; -.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 11 MNWR 18

Apr; last MNWR 5 May; +.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 5 TCAH 4 May; last TCAH 13 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 20 Coming STEU 30 Apr; last 7 EIRW 19 May; +.

Upland Sandpiper: arr & max 6 Seneca Falls 21 Apr.

MARBLED GODWIT: MyPt 12 May (MMe).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 18 MNWR 13 May; last 10 MNWR 27 May.

Least Sandpiper: max 39 TCAH 18 May; last MNWR 24 May; +.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 2 MyPt 13 May (JE, PH), early & only report.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: MyPt 12-15 May (AM&TJl, mob).

Dunlin: arr MyPt 5 Apr; max 50 MNWR 24 May; last 3 MNWR 30 May; +.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr TCAH 14 May; max & last 50 Savannah Mucklands 18 May, high; +.

Com. Snipe: max 32 Dryden 14 Apr (KR), high; +.

LITTLE GULL: StP 4 May (KR).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr MyPt 16 Mar; max 40 StP 11 Apr; last MNWR 22 May; -.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1000 StP 5 Mar; -.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Mud Lock TOMP 7 Mar; last StP 16 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 12 StP 5 Mar; last StP 4 May; +.

Caspian Tern: max 10 MNWR 4 May, high; last StP 19 May; +.

Com. Tern: max 15 MNWR 13 May; last MNWR 31 May; +.

Forster's Tern: arr 2 MyPt 29 Apr; max & last 9 MNWR 19 May, high; +.

Black Tern: max 25 MNWR 5 May (RB), high; +.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 50 Veteran 23 Mar; -.

Mourning Dove: max 16 TCAH 4 May; -.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr EIRW 10 May; max 3 FH 27 May.

SNOWY OWL: Hobart William Smith College 13-15 Mar (fide MSc), late.

Long-eared Owl: Ledyard 30 Mar (C&KSt), only report.

Short-eared Owl: Dryden 21 Mar; -.

N. Saw-whet Owl: SSF 19 Mar (MY), only report.

Whip-poor-will: arr EIRW 13 May.

Chimney Swift: max 25 Ithaca 24 Apr; -.

Belted Kingfisher: max 4 Dryden 31 Mar.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr 2 Middaugh Rd Cemetery TOMP 6 May; max 2 Ledyard 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 Ellis Hollow Preserve 11 May (CBC, LSt), high; +.

Downy Woodpecker: max 14 Dryden L Trail 13 Apr, high.

N. Flicker: max 8 Danby 7 Apr; +.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 WERF 25 May, high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last LPBP 26 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CU 17 May; max 3 Ithaca 21 May (WH), high; last EIRW 28 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr KH 23 May; max 5 Fillmore Glen SP 27 May, high.

N. Shrike: Dryden 1 Apr; last Dryden 10 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: DLP 14 May (KR, mob); DLP 15 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 2 Middaugh Rd Cemetery TOMP 5 May; max 3 EIRW 10 May; last EIRW 20 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 16 CU 13 May, high; +.

Blue Jay: max 20 Elmira 19 Mar; -.

Am. Crow: max 150 Veteran 23 Mar; -.

Horned Lark: max 200 Lansing 25 Mar; -.

Purple Martin: max 20 MNWR 27 Apr, high; +.

Tree Swallow: max 2000 ChR 6 Apr; +.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 CU 14 May (MHa), high; +.

Cliff Swallow: max 60 ChR 23 Apr; +.

Barn Swallow: max 200 Elmira Dam

CHEM 14 May; +.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 4 WERF 25 May, low.
Carolina Wren: max 7 Ovid 18 May (AP), high; +.
Winter Wren: arr StP 9 Mar; max 3 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 31 Mar.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 36 Lick Brook Gorge TOMP 7 Apr; +.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 CU 2 May; last SSF 19 May.
Veery: max 21 CU 10 May, high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr EIRW 22 May; last Ithaca 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 3 EIRW 15 May; last KH 28 May (J&SG), late; +.
Wood Thrush: max 12 FH 27 May, high.
Am. Robin: max 225 PSt 6 Apr; +.
Gray Catbird: max 25 EIRW 12 May.
N. Mockingbird: max 10 EIRW 4 Apr, high.
European Starling: max 63 Big Flats 22 May; -.
Am. Pipit: arr MNWR 10 Mar; max & last 300 Fayette 19 May; +.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: arr EIRW 27 Mar (JE!); max 40 CU 7 Apr (JWa), high; last 2 CU 12 Apr (DWO); +.
Cedar Waxwing: max 2010 CU 7 Apr (CSFO, MY), high; +.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Dryden 30 Apr; max 6 LPBP 17 May; -.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIRW 9 May; last KH 14 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Ulysses 27 May (SSu), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 8 EIRW 20 May; last 2 EIRW 23 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: arr CU 7 May (MHa); max 2 EIRW 14 May (CT); last EIRW 20 May (CT), late.
N. Parula: max 15 EIRW 14 May, high; last 2 MNWR 23 May; +.
Yellow Warbler: max 42 MNWR 5 May, high.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 12 EIRW

14 May, high.
Magnolia Warbler: max 15 CU 14 May; +.
Cape May Warbler: max 3 CU 14 May; last Veteran 21 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 20 EIRW 15 May, high; +.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 Danby 5 Apr; max 60 CU 13 May; -.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 10 EIRW 14 May, high.
Pine Warbler: max 6 Dryden 31 Mar, high.
Prairie Warbler: arr WERF 27 Apr; max 3 Gleason Meadows CHEM 18 May; -.
Palm Warbler: max 6 StP 2 May; last EIRW 21 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 EIRW 15 May; last Tanglewood Forest CHEM 22 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 5 WERF 25 May; last KH 31 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr CU 1 May; max 8 MNWR 5 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 MNWR 23 May, high.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr EIRW 13 May; max 6 LPBP 26 May, high.
Ovenbird: arr Buttermilk Falls SP 27 Apr; max 20 EIRW 14 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 10 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 6 May, high.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Lick Brook Gorge TOMP 7 Apr; max 2 FH 23 May; -.
Hooded Warbler: arr KH 4 May; max 6 Shindagin Hollow SF TOMP 28 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 10 EIRW 10 May, high; last Dryden 22 May.
Canada Warbler: max 6 Fillmore Glen SP 27 May, high.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: arr Buttermilk Falls SP 9 May (FM); EIRW 31 May (BFo).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 21 CU 13 May, high.
E. Towhee: max 6 Gleason Meadows

CHEM 18 May, low; -.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 13 Queen Catharine's Marsh SCHU 5 Apr, low; last KH 7 May, late; -.

Chipping Sparrow: max 31 Ithaca 25 Apr, high; +.

Field Sparrow: arr Ithaca 30 Mar; max 6 Lansing 21 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Seneca Co. Fairgrounds 5 May; max 8 TCAH 7 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr Seneca Falls 27 Apr (GC. DSh), early.

Fox Sparrow: max 12 Dryden 5 Apr, high; last Dryden 5 May, late; +.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 KH 11 May; last KH 25 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr MNWR 3 Mar, early; max 11 LoPd 27 Apr; +.

White-throated Sparrow: max 50 Ithaca 25 Apr, high; +.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 15 CU 14 May, high; last KH 25 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 130 Danby 5 Apr; +

Lapland Longspur: last MtPl 18 Apr; -.

Snow Bunting: max 20 MtPl 1 Mar, low; last 4 Veteran 22 Mar; -.

N. Cardinal: max 13 MNWR 3 Mar, high.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 21 CU 13 May, high.

Bobolink: max 20 Ledyard 23 May; +.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 6000 Fayette 2 Mar; -.

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Dryden 15 Mar; max 20 Lansing 1 May.

Rusty Blackbird: arr PSt 17 Mar; max 50 CayL WMA SENE 4 May, high; last 5 LoPd 17 May, late.

Com. Grackle: max 770 Dryden 16 Mar; -.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 12 Dryden 6 Apr, low; -.

Orchard Oriole: arr MNWR 5 May; Danby 31 May.

PINE GROSBEEK: max 8 Dryden 2 Mar (GB), high; last 3 Dryden 12 Mar (TL); +.

Purple Finch: max 10 Caroline 17 Apr; -.

White-winged Crossbill: max 8 Dryden 5 Apr; last 2 Etna 19 May; +.

Com. Redpoll: max 50 Dryden 7 Mar; last 3 Dryden 13 Apr; +.

Pine Siskin: max 29 Slaterville Springs 26 Mar, high; last CU 15 May; +.

Am. Goldfinch: max 36 Dryden 20 Apr; -.

Evening Grosbeak: max 30 Van Etten 1 Mar; last Dryden 12 May; +.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

No report

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The first half of the season was quite mild, much the same as the preceding winter. Ice-out on many lakes occurred by 8 March. The period of 8–19 April was especially warm, and migrants were arriving about 10–12 days ahead of schedule.

However, after a cold front on the 19th, the winds were mostly out of the north or west through 24 May. That period covered what is normally the peak hawk flight at Derby Hill and much of the May songbird migration.

The average temperature in March was 36.3° F, 2.7° above normal. There was 2.75" of precipitation, which was 0.27" less than average, and 14.1" of snow. The average April temperature was 48.3°, 3° above the average. There was 4.38" of precipitation, 0.99" above normal, and only 2.6" of snow. May was wet and chilly, with 5.77" of rain, 2.38" above normal, and an average temperature of 54.0°, which was 3.1° below average. There was no snow recorded in Syracuse, but as late as 18 May, 5" fell at elevations over 1400 feet. In northern Herkimer County, 2" of snow on 18 May was followed by flurries over the next three days, most likely forcing early-nesting swallows and warblers to desert their nests.

Both American Bittern and Least Bittern arrived early and there were several reports of Great Egret, but none persisted. There was a large flock of Tundra Swans, Snow Goose numbers were again high, Brant arrived earlier than usual and Ring-necked Ducks were reported in good numbers. Eurasian Wigeon was the only uncommon duck and the rest of the waterfowl flight was routine.

Totals for the hawk flight at Derby Hill were the lowest since daily counts started in 1979, as unfavorable winds in late April pushed many raptors south of Lake Ontario. Broad-winged Hawks were a few days ahead of schedule, with the peak flight on 17 April on light northerly winds. Species most affected by the offwinds were Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle. A good flight of mostly immature Northern Goshawks gave observers reason to believe that the spring of 2003 will be the peak year of the 9–11 year cycle. Sandhill Crane was another highlight at Derby Hill, with a single flock of 13 and a total of 22 for the season.

The Great Swamp Conservancy land in northern Madison County shows promise as a shorebird stopover, although that may change as the swampland matures. There was only one report from Sandy Pond, traditionally the Region's best late spring shorebird location, and many shorebird species were missed.

In a season with few rarities, gulls were the exception. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** is still uncommon in the Region and one on the Seneca River in March was a good find. On consecutive days in May, there were adult **Laughing** and **Franklin's gulls** at different locations; both gulls were carefully described, ruling out a single individual. A late Snowy Owl spent part of a day in downtown Syracuse, Long-eared Owl was found in greater numbers than most years and, in Verona, the Short-eared Owls lingered into April.

Some highlights were Sedge Wren at three locations and notable Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch and House Finch flights at Derby Hill. The warbler numbers reported were very low. Readers will notice that many are not cited in the species account since maxima were rarely above 2–3 per day. May 5 was mentioned as a good flight day, and although there was some talk of birds put down in the rain and chill of 12–13 May, no numbers were reported. **Prothonotary Warbler** returned to Big Bay Swamp in West Monroe, while an

overshoot made it to Thendara. Prairie Warblers were again found in Georgetown and Dewitt.

Many of the later migrants, such as Ruby-throated Hummingbird, cuckoos, flycatchers, Scarlet Tanager and Indigo Bunting were very scarce until the last week of May and numbers were low. Matt Perry noted a lack of migrant Winter Wrens and other reports tend to confirm that. Most sparrow numbers were also down, although that is due in large part to the closing of the access road to the Nine Mile Point nuclear plants, where the open grounds attract sparrows. Fox Sparrow was one species which arrived early and lingered at many feeding stations, with a record spring count in Parish.

Many of the winter irruptive species stayed into March. Bohemian Waxwings remained in southeastern Herkimer and southern Oneida counties into April, but Pine Grosbeaks departed by the middle of March. Common Redpolls stayed into April, with one May report. Small numbers of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks lingered through May. White-winged Crossbills were present in small numbers, but no Red-winged Crossbills were reported.

For the season, a total of 235 species and three forms was reported. That total is lower than most recent years and reflects the lack of unusual species. Highlights were **Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler** and Hoary Redpoll.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Adks – Adirondacks; Bvllc – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n MADI; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; Noyes – Noyes Sanctuary T New Haven; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: DH 5 May, only report.

Com. Loon: max 97 DH 19 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 3 DeRuyter Res 25 Mar; max 5 Beaver L 2 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 29 southern MADI 5 Apr; last DH 25 May.

Red-necked Grebe: arr Hatch L 25 Mar; max 22 Brewerton 6 Apr; 8 OnonL 14 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 30 DH 7 Apr; 8 Fourth L Adks 15 May.

Am. Bittern: arr Eaton Res 26 Mar, early.

Least Bittern: arr Schroepfel 16 Apr (BC), record early; W Monroe after 17 May; West Dead Creek Bvile 25 May.

Great Blue Heron: max 15 DH 7 Apr.

Great Egret: arr CM 13 Apr; max 4 W Monroe 18 May.

Snow Goose: max 18,000 DH 29 Mar; 6000 Durhamville 31 Mar; 5000 Van Buren 12 Apr.

Brant: 2 Oswego 24 Mar (GP), wintering or arr with Canada Geese?; 40 Woodman Pd 27 Apr, early for large flock; max 900 OneiL/LOL 25 May.

Mute Swan: 2 migrants DH 17 Mar.

Tundra Swan: max 72 OneiL 14-17 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 28 CM 5 Apr.

Gadwall: max 36 W Monroe 24 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: Maple Bay OneiL to 7 Mar; W Monroe 17 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: max 70 W Monroe 24 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: possible breeding 6-7

sites GSC.

N. Shoveler: max 14 Cato 6 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 60 DH 9 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 61 CM 31 Mar; 35 DH 18 Apr.

Canvasback: max 8 Toad Harbor 8 Apr.

Redhead: max 40 Toad Harbor 12 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1264 Toad Harbor 8 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 600 Toad Harbor 6 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 820 Toad Harbor 8 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: max 33 Toad Harbor 14 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 300 Oswego 12 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: max 430 Toad Harbor 12 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 225 W Monroe 25 Mar.

Com. Merganser: 210 W Monroe 16 Mar.

Ruddy Duck: max 10 Woodman Pd 25 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals				
Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	25 Feb	1136	30 Mar	4948
Osprey	30 Mar	61	30 Apr	293
Bald Eagle	24 Feb	9	9 Mar	93
Northern Harrier	25 Feb	63	8 Apr	499
Sharp-shinned Hawk	24 Feb	388	12 Apr	2510
Cooper's Hawk	25 Feb	32	29 Mar	338
Northern Goshawk	25 Feb	11	12 Apr	56
Red-shouldered Hawk	8 Mar	98	29 Mar	678
Broad-winged Hawk	12 Apr	2521	17 Apr	9922
Red-tailed Hawk	24 Feb	981	11 Apr	5805
Rough-legged Hawk	25 Feb	41	9 Mar	254
Golden Eagle	26 Feb	16	9 Mar	67
American Kestrel	8 Mar	30	12 Apr	238
Merlin	9 Mar	5	11 Apr	26
Peregrine Falcon	28 Mar	3	30 Apr	9
Total (including unidentified and rarities)				25,746

Bald Eagle: successful nests Fulton and Altmar.
Merlin: Oneida 23 Apr; TRWMA 4 May.
Virginia Rail: max 8 CM 18 May.
Sora: max 7 CM 18 May.
Com. Moorhen: max 6 W Monroe 18 May.
Am. Coot: 3-4 GSC thru.
Sandhill Crane: 13 DH 30 Mar, new Reg high; 2 DH 19 Apr; 1 DH 4 May; 2 DH 22 May; 4 DH 23 May.
Black-bellied Plover: arr W Monroe 21 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: max 9 DL 23 May.
Killdeer: max 90 DH 15 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 6 Schroepfel 21 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 Schroepfel 27 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 10 GSC 22 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr DH 20 Apr.
Ruddy Turnstone: OnonL 17 May, only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 10 DL 23 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 60 GSC 22 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 2 Lysander 29 Apr.
Dunlin: New Haven 18 May, only report.
Com. Snipe: max 7 W Monroe 14 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 23 Cicero Swamp 23 May; 10 Green Lakes SP 18 Apr.
LAUGHING GULL: Liverpool 17 May (DW!), 5th spring record.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: SVB 18 May (MY!), 5th spring record.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 7 Apr; max 30 DH 11 Apr; 8 Utica Marsh 14 Apr, unusual site.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Bville 24 Mar (GD).
Glaucous Gull: last Oswego 4 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 50 Sandy Pd 27 May.
Com. Tern: 16 OnonL 19 Apr, early for such numbers; max 57 FH 19 May.
Black Tern: only 2-3 per day Salmon R

and Deer Creek WMA after 16 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 9 reports with only 2 before 23 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr TRWMA 11 May; 3 other reports after 28 May.
Great Horned Owl: ad & 2 y in Great Blue Heron nest Hannibal 27 Apr.
Snowy Owl: downtown Syr 18 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: max 4 Noyes 13 Apr; 12 LOL for season, more than usual.
Short-eared Owl: last 1 from winter roost SVB 4 Apr; DH 12 Apr; Oswego 12 Apr; TRWMA 15 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Syr 4 Apr, only report.
Com. Nighthawk: max 5 Oswego 23 May; about 8 other reports.
Whip-poor-will: arr Constantia 5 May; migrant Fulton 18 May.
Chimney Swift: max 60 DH 18 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 20 DH 30 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr DH 27 Mar.
Red-headed Woodpecker: GSC 4 Apr; arr LOL 10 May; max 2 FH 18 May; birds on territory were 2 Cicero Swamp 12 May and singles Ira & Lysander 25 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: Thendara 24 May (GL), Adks colonization on the horizon?
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 13 Pompey 24 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Windfall Pd 8 Mar; West Pd 17 Mar.
N. Flicker: max 75 DH 11 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 SFWS 30 May, only report.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 4 reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 Whiskey Hollow 27 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Big Moose 4 Apr.
E. Kingbird: max 40 DH 16 May.
N. Shrike: DL 15 Mar; DH 5 Apr.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: Proctor P Utica

after 23 May (BA, CA, mob).

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Georgetown 27 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: singles Noyes and HVWMA 18 May

Blue Jay: arr 150 DH 16 Apr, early; max 9777 DH 7 May.

Am. Crow: max 5600 DH 9 Mar.

Fish Crow: max 5 DH 6 May; 2 Liverpool - OnonL thru.

Com. Raven: Ram's Gulch Dewitt 24 May.

Horned Lark: max 80 DH 14 Mar; 40 DH 25 Mar.

Barn Swallow: arr DH 30 Mar, early.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 200 DH 5 May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 DH 11 Apr.

Carolina Wren: despite mild winters few found north of Oneil.

Winter Wren: max only 2-3 per day when reported.

Sedge Wren: W Monroe after 18 May; Pulaski after 22 May; Deer Creek WMA 28 May; a great spring!

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 35 Noyes 13 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 25 Pompey 4 Apr.

E. Bluebird: max 60 DH 9 Mar.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Scriba 12 May; HVWMA 18 May; Kirkland 24 May; SFWS 28 May.

Swainson's Thrush: max only 2 per day after 12 May.

Hermit Thrush: max 5 Noyes 13 Apr.

Am. Robin: 1000 Frankfort 8 Mar with both waxwing sp; max 2000 DH 8 Apr.

Gray Catbird: max 39 CM 18 May.

N. Mockingbird: arr DH 17 Apr; handful of migrants LOL 4-18 May.

Brown Thrasher: max 4 Split Rock 11 May.

Am. Pipit: 200 Cato 6 Apr, large early flock; max 300 DH 17 May.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 250 Frankfort to 15 Mar; other highs were 20 Hamilton

11 Mar; 80 SFWS 29 Mar; last 8 Frankfort 16 Apr.

Cedar Waxwing: 350 Frankfort 8 Mar; max 400 DH 24 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr SFWS 5 May; max 4 SFWS 8 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Cicero 8 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: SFWS 22 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Schroepel after 8 May.

Tennessee Warbler: max 5 SFWS 27 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: LOL 18 May.

Cape May Warbler: 5 reports.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 14 Apr; max 60 DH 6 May.

Prairie Warbler: 2 Georgetown after 15 May; max 3 Dewitt after 22 May.

Palm Warbler: max 15 DH 2 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 HVWMA 11 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 17 OnonL 25 May.

Cerulean Warbler: Bolivar 8 May; Scriba 16 May; only reports away from breeding sites.

Prothonotary Warbler: pair W Monroe after 11 May; Thendara 21 May (GL).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr New Hartford 13 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr Whiskey Hollow 7 May.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 CM 18 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 8 Split Rock 11 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 23 Durhamville 20 Mar; last Cicero 11 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Dewitt 25-26 May.

Field Sparrow: arr 10 Apr; max 9 Pompey 26 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: max 5 Pompey 21 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr DH 16 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr 9 Mar, early; 2-6 per

day at many feeders; max 35 Parish 8 Apr (MSc), new spring high.

Song Sparrow: max 65 Nine Mile Pt 13 Apr.

Swamp Sparrow: max 27 CM 5 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 140 Nine Mile Pt 13 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 5 Pompey 24 Mar. only report.

Snow Bunting: max 140 DH 24 Mar.

Bobolink: max 200 DH 9 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 9 Mar; max 15 DH 7 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 5 TRWMA 13 Mar; max 150 DH 17 Apr.

Com. Grackle: max 9000 DH 15 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 5000 DH 8 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: Frankfort 28 May; Jordan 30 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 30 DH 6 May.

Pine Grosbeak: max 60 Frankfort 2 Mar; last DH 15 Mar.

Purple Finch: arr 12 Apr; max 30 Georgetown 29 Apr.

House Finch: max 150 DH 9 Mar.

White-winged Crossbill: 6 DH 30 Mar; 2 Lysander to 6 Apr; 2 Marcy 25 May.

Com. Redpoll: max 175 Georgetown 1 Mar; 100 DH 29 Mar; flocks lingering to 15 Apr with last 1 SSSP 18 May.

Hoary Redpoll: last DeRuyter 14 Mar. only report.

Pine Siskin: max 60 DH 9 May; 2-3 per day sporadic at feeders thru.

Am. Goldfinch: max 1500 DH 7 May.

Evening Grosbeak: max 150 Georgetown 1 Mar, where some lingered thru; small flight DH early May.

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

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March 2002 was mild with temperatures 1°–2° F above normal. April was 1°–2° above normal as well, including a two day hot spell in the middle of the month with temperatures in the low 80°s throughout the area. In May a reversal of temperatures occurred, with a prolonged cold spell which did not break until the last few days of the month. May was actually the coldest of the three months and averaged 4°–6° below the norm. The coldest two day period for the season was 21–22 May, with the temperature below 29° throughout the Region. Rainfall in the area was 2"–4" above the norm in each month, with the greatest deviation from normal in May with 4"–6" above the norm. Migration was mixed because of the strange patterns of very warm fronts in March and April and the cold wave in May. Warm fronts in March brought numbers of sparrows somewhat early. The same occurred for some migrants in April. In general, despite the weather, most species were on time. By late May, rivers and marshes were flooded and the appearance

of pairs of American Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teals and Northern Shovelers in the flooded lowlands of the Black River suggested that nesting failures had occurred.

The departure of Great Blue Herons from Ironsides Island on the St. Lawrence River was completed this year as none attempted nesting. The dispersal of the herons was throughout the Region, with no other new large nesting areas identified. However, there were several reports of one to three nests of the species on small islands in the river. The avian vacuum on Ironsides was quickly filled by a pair of Ospreys that built a nest and had two young by the end of the period. This is the result of an explosion of the Osprey population in the St. Lawrence River Valley in the past ten years. Within a radius of six miles around Ironsides, there are now 12 to 14 active Osprey nests, including those in Canada. In fact, the departure of the herons may be due in part to the presence of Ospreys landing near the colony in early spring. This was recently reported by year-round residents who have homes with a view of Ironsides Island. [Interesting speculation, but I have an Atlas Block with an Osprey nest in the middle of a heron colony, in the same tree with heron nests, for the past two years. RREditor]

Snow Geese made another big show in Jefferson County, with 15,000–20,000 landing in the fields of the Town of Hounsfield on 9 March and another flock of 15,000 further south in the Town of Adams on 13 March. They were landing on old corn fields and grassy areas to feed for a few days. The geese form a white carpet on the field as they pull up everything green in a day. On the plus side, when they take off the aerial formation is spectacular. On the negative side, the observer gets a good idea of what happens to a field when too many Snow Geese are pulling up all the vegetation.

With no other major birding events occurring and terrible weather in May (when everyone hopes for large migratory concentrations), the intrepid birders of the north country tried to make the best of it. On a positive note, two areas on Lake Ontario, which are not always checked, turned out to be good spots for migrants. Black Pond WMA, in the Town of Ellisburg, just south of El Dorado, proved to be a good area for terns, swallows and warblers such as Palm and Blackburnian, which were hard to find. Snowshoe Point, located in the Town of Henderson, north of Stony Point and along the approach to Henderson Bay, had a very interesting group of migrants, including Philadelphia Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and Bay-breasted Warbler. With all the warm weather (May excepted), "southern" species seem to be gaining in numbers and locations. This season there were reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker from six areas, including Brasher Falls in northern St. Lawrence County. Northern Mockingbird was found in four locations and Carolina Wren at three sites. Lingering winter species were also present this spring. Their final dates were: Snow Bunting, 24 March; Common Redpoll, 11 April; Pine Grosbeak, not until 3 May.

Rarities included: Red-necked Grebe, Great Egret, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Black-backed Woodpecker and **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, John Barthelme, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Doris Gibson, Mike Jesiorski, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Robert Long, Nita & Tom Lord, Jean Miller, Mickey Scilingo, Gerry Smith, Tony Zappia.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Blackstone Bay TMor; BKS – Blake Sanctuary T Rutland JEFF; BLP – Black Pd WMA TEL; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FL – Fisher's Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; PRWMA – Perch R WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; SNP – Snowshoe Pt L Ontario T Hen; THEN – T Henderson JEFF; THoun – T Hounsfield JEFF; TLou – T Louisville STLA; TMas – T Massena STLA; TMor – T Morristown STLA; TPot – T Potsdam STLA; TTh – T Theresa JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay L Ontario CV; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou; WISP – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr PtPen 11 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr PRWMA 8 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 ULLWMA 5 May (JB).
Am. Bittern: PRWMA 6 May.
Least Bittern: arr TMas 6 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr TPot 24 Mar; no attempt to nest on Ironsides I.
Great Egret: arr Stony Pt THEN 17 May; Rosiere CV 18 Mar.
Green Heron: arr KC 30 Apr.
Snow Goose: 15,000-20,000 Old Rome St THoun 9 Mar; 15,000 T Adams JEFF 13 Mar.
Tundra Swan: last PRWMA 6 May.
Wood Duck: arr PRWMA 27 Mar.
Gadwall: arr TMas 14 Apr.
EURASION WIGEON: ad m FL 12 Mar; located again GPSP 16 Mar (MJ, fide NL).
Am. Wigeon: arr PRWMA 27 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: arr T Adams JEFF 13 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr SLR TLou 14 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr PRWMA 1 May.
N. Pintail: arr THoun 11 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr FL 9 Mar.
Redhead: arr TPot 29 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: arr FL 9 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 5000 WISP 17 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: 20 SLR TMas 29 Mar.
Red-Breasted Merganser: arr BB 8 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: 2 TMas 29 Mar (TZ).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr ULLWMA 8 Apr.
Bald Eagle: pr ad n border FD 27 Mar; 2 ad PRWMA.
N. Harrier: many ad on grasslands of CV all winter into spring.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: KC 8 Apr, taking a robin; BKS 7 Apr, chasing a Pine Warbler.
Cooper's Hawk: ad KC 22 Mar, taking a Tree Sparrow.
N. Goshawk: ad TTh 15 May; ad TMas 22 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Eel Bay WISP 16 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr ULLWMA 14 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Weaver Rd T Lyme JEFF 24 Mar.

Am. Kestrel: several thru into spring in JEFF grasslands.

Virginia Rail: arr WATN 24 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr TLou 20 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr TMas 27 Apr.

SANDHILL CRANE: Kaiser Rd T Brownville 17 Apr (DG).

Killdeer: arr WATN 24 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 27 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Rutland JEFF 7 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr WATN 7 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr CV 18 May.

Com. Snipe: arr TLou 14 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr 40+ w and n edge of FD 28 Mar.

Caspian Tern: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Com. Tern: arr WHWMA 1 May.

Black Tern: arr 33 WB 17 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr TTh 19 May.

E. Screech-Owl: T Champion JEFF 21 Apr.

Great-Horned Owl: pr in duet near FD T Antwerp 22 Apr; TLou 14 Mar.

Barred Owl: TLou 21 May.

Long-eared Owl: near Evans Mills T LeRay JEFF 28 Mar-5 Apr (JB).

Com. Nighthawk: arr TMas 21 May; LC 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr TTh 15 May.

Chimney Swift: arr KC 13 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr KC 10 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 CV 31 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: reports from KC, BLP, WISP, Brasher Falls STLA, Black Ri JEFF.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: reports from

KC, PtPen, Red L JEFF, TLou.

Black-backed Woodpecker: fem TLou 21 Apr (MB, to NYSARC).

N. Flicker: TTh 21 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr SNP 16 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr TLou 24 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr TLou 25 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr TLou 6 May.

E. Phoebe: arr TLou 31 Mar, late.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr TMas 6 May.

E. Kingbird: arr PRWMA 7 May.

N. Shrike: WISP 17 Mar; last PRWMA 2 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr TTh 11 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr TLou, BKS 27 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr TPot, TTh 10 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr SNP 16 May; TLou 19 May; TPot 25 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr TTh 5 May.

Horned Lark: arr THoun 13 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr TPot 30 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BLP 20 Apr.

Bank swallow: arr LC 6 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr TMas 15 May.

Barn Swallow: arr TLou 6 May.

Tufted Titmouse: TLou 12 Apr.

Carolina Wren: arr BB 10 Mar; w edge FD 26 Apr; TTh 7 May.

House Wren: arr T Pitcairn STLA 19 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr TTh 2 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr ULLWMA 8 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr TLou 11 Apr.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: arr T Rossie STLA 5 May; SNP 16 May.

E. Bluebird: arr BB 10 Mar.

Veery: arr T Pitcairn STLA 19 Apr.

Swainson's Thrush: arr SNP 17 May (NL).

Hermit Thrush: arr BKS 27 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr TTh 5 May.
N. Mockingbird: reports from Chaumont
 JEFF, CV, FD, TTh.
Brown Thrasher: arr TLou 26 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr TMor 10 May.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr TTh 11
 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr TTh 11 May.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER:
 SNP 16 May (NL).
Nashville Warbler: arr TLou 4 May.
N. Parula: arr PRWMA 11 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr TTh 5 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr TLou 7
 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr TLou 12 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr TLou 19 May,
 only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TLou
 9 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TTh 21
 Mar.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TTh
 5 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr BLP 11 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Felts Mills T LeRay 7
 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr TMas 21 May
Palm Warbler: arr BLP 11 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SNP 16 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr TTh 24 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Hard Flats Rd
 TTh 19 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr FD 18
 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr TLou 6 May.
Ovenbird: arr TLou 4 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr TLou 24 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr TMas 8 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr TTh 10 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr T Antwerp 17
 May.
Canada Warbler: arr TLou 18 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr TLou 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr BLP 20 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 12 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr TLou 14 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr TTh 19 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr PtPen 11 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr TLou 20 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr T Orleans JEFF
 7 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr LC 5 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr BB, KC 10 Mar.
Swamp Sparrow: arr TLou 14 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr TLou 14
 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr TMas 7
 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr TLou 26 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 52 PtPen 24 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TMas 4
 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr SNP 16 May.
Bobolink: arr TLou 8 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr T Philadelphia JEFF
 28 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr TLou 31 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr KC 3 Mar.
Baltimore Oriole: arr TLou 6 May.
Purple Finch: arr TLou 8 Apr.
Pine Grosbeak: last 6 TMas 3 May.
Pine Siskin: arr TLou 26 Apr.
Com. Redpoll: last 30 11 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 4 TLou 18 Apr.



REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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March pranced in like a lamb, with Plattsburgh reaching a record high 59° F on the 3rd, a day of rain and winds to 60 mph that caused a 20-hour power outage in Westport. Lake Champlain stood at a relatively low 94.78'. Lake Placid received 4" of snow on 10 March, but lower elevations saw only flurries and the ground remained bare. Crown Point got 4" on the 20th, but the major snowfall of the year came on 27 March, with 7" at Plattsburgh and 6–12" elsewhere. The month ended with a high of 60° on Easter Sunday. April was warm, with Plattsburgh 67° on the 9th; normal is 50°. At 6:50 a.m. on 20 April, a 5.1 earthquake shook the North Country, with the epicenter near Schuyler Falls, Clinton County. Peru received 5" of snow on 22 April, but by the 25th temperatures were back up to 58° and Lake Champlain had risen to 98.12', due to melting snowpack in the High Peaks and Green Mountains. Plattsburgh reached 80° by 6 May, but most of the month was colder than average, and rains finally brought the drought to an end, with 2" of snow at Inlet on the 18th and sleet/hail falling along Lake Champlain as late as 20 May. Inlet was a nippy 26° on 25 May. Memorial Day, however, was sunny and 80°, and the month ended on a balmy 75° day, with the lake at 97.72'.

Winter birds always provide a strong component of the spring season, and this year was no exception. The previous extreme late date for **Bohemian Waxwing** in NYS was 28 April (Feustel. 1998. in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, pg 450). That was pushed ahead by some three weeks in Plattsburgh in 2002. Charles Mitchell had ~50 on Park Avenue West 14–15 May, but the last were reported by Rick Mikkelsen from Sandra Avenue on **18 May**. The waxwings were eating apple blossom petals, certainly not a dietary staple of this species.

Although a **Wilson's Phalarope** pair was found near the Chazy Rivers in May 1981 (*The Kingbird*, 31:182), breeding was not confirmed there until 1993, so the species was not included in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* (1988). The phalaropes either nested successfully, or attempted to do so, annually 1993–1997, but between 1990 and 2001 there were no sightings at Chazy Rivers, although there was a 4 May 2001 report from the nearby Riley Brook potholes in Clinton County. On 29 May 2002, Bill Krueger and Charles Mitchell found them back at the Chazy Rivers site. According to Krueger, "Three adult birds, one female and two males, in breeding plumage were found on the Laurin farm in the traditional field. One male was observed to jump into the air on fluttering wings and to lift a wing on landing. This appeared to us to be courtship display; however, Sibley and others state that it is the female and not the male which displays."

We call attention to the two "Common-type" **terns** (sp.) flying north over the Mohawk casino at Hogsburg, headed toward the St. Lawrence River, seen by Hollis White on **13 March**. The early arrival date of Common Tern is 2 April,

“exceptionally on the coast as early as 20 Mar.” (Hays. 1998. in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, pg 302). Interestingly, Geoffrey Carleton accepted a record of Common Tern in his *Birds of Essex County, New York*, of “Two floating on a piece of driftwood, Essex, on the remarkable date of March 30, 1975.” None of the other smaller terns seem to arrive in NYS until after March, although there are a few December-February records of Forster's, and Common Terns nest on the St. Lawrence River, as they do on Lake Champlain.

This marked the 27th consecutive year of operation of the bird-banding station on the Crown Point State Historic Site, open 10–27 May. Three days of rain and cold shortly after the station opened were followed by a clearing trend that saw 142 birds banded on the 16th and 134 birds the following day. Numbers declined daily thereafter as the weather generally improved (despite sleet/hail on the 20th), until an afternoon shower on 24 May grounded migrants and pushed the day's catch to 52 birds. By the time the station closed on Memorial Day, we had enjoyed the third best year ever for numbers, with 852 birds banded, and the fourth best for variety, with 61 species recorded. Warbler variety was excellent, and the 22 species tied with the record season of 1996. Best days for warbler variety were 16 and 24 May, with a dozen species banded on both days. The highlight was the third-ever Orange-crowned Warbler on 19 May. Also noteworthy were the first-ever Bank Swallow and Tufted Titmouse, second-ever Dark-eyed Junco and third-ever Philadelphia Vireo and Gray-cheeked Thrush. There were 24 returns of ten species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest an American Goldfinch at least five years, 11 months old. Heavy return flights of Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees were noted, and record numbers of the latter were banded. The permitting process for the green ash thinning project is nearing completion, and we appreciate the support of staff at the Historic Site, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and NYS DEC.

A total of 210 species, including **Eurasian Wigeon** and **Sandhill Crane**, was reported, short of the all-time spring season of 1997 when 219 species were found, but still an excellent showing.

Atlas observers are reminded that all of their Annual Summary Forms should be submitted to the Regional Coordinator *no later than* the deadline of **15 September**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Baker, Thomas Barber, Helen & Robert Booth, James Cayea, Joan Collins, William Cook, Daniel Crane, Charcie Delehanty, Walter Favro, Elizabeth Fitts, Donna Fletcher, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candace Hess, Gordon Howard, Mary Huniston, Anne Hungerford, Suzy Johnson, Harold Klein, Steve Krieg, Bill Krueger, Linda LaPan, Julie Lattrell, Gary Lee, William Lenhart, Mark Manske, Larry Master, Melanie McCormack, Janet Mihuc, Rick Mikkelson, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell Jr., Keith Murphy, Daniel Nickerson, Sean O'Brien, Nancy Olsen, Dan Peters, John & Susan Peterson, Emily Pugsley, Steve Reed, Dana

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LA – L Alice WMA; LL – Long L; LP – L Placid; PtF – Pt au Fer; PtR – Pt au Roche; RPt – Rouses Pt; TL – Tupper L; WB – Whallons Bay; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

LOONS – DUCKS

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Coopersville 30 Mar (WC); IL 31 Mar (DS), early HAMI; also AP, CR, WM, WRS; a strong showing.

Red-necked Grebe: max 25 off WM 14 Apr (DCR); CH 22 Apr (SJ, BK).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 30 Mar (WC, DCR); only ~ 3 nests CP May (J&SP).

Great Egret: arr CR 17 Apr (KM, JP) thru 30 May (BK); max 4 CR 27 May (BK, CM); also Helena, n FRAN 26 May (JC, DN, SR).

Turkey Vulture: Rt 374 5 Mar (J&RH), early CLIN; TL 28 Mar (CD), early FRAN; 4 other Mar reports exceptional here.

Snow Goose: max 50,000 CR 24 Mar (DP, DCR), "The dense mass of geese was about a mile long and 30-80 yards wide, mostly on the south side of the [Great Chazy] river," according to Rohleder; 20,000 CR 25 Mar (DCR); miles & thousands seen from Amtrak in fields CR to RPt and beyond to Cantic, Québec, 28 Mar (JP); 2 "Blues" in flock of 1000 CR 17-18 Apr (KM, JP).

Canada Goose: max 5080 CR 30 Mar.

Brant: ~150 CH 20 May (BK), only report.

Mute Swan: imm AP lingered to 11 Mar (JC, DCR).

Tundra Swan: 5 AP lingered to 4 Mar.

Gadwall: max 16 AP 18 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Brasher 28 Apr

(MM), 1st FRAN & 5th Reg record.

Am. Wigeon: max 25 AP 16 Mar.

N. Shoveler: max 7 AP 16 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 120 CR 25 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 16 AP 30 Mar.

Redhead: pr CR 9 May (BK, CM), only report.

Ring-necked Duck: max 65 AP 31 Mar; numerous reports.

Bufflehead: pr CP 11 May (TB, DC), fairly late.

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 m, 3 f PtR 17-24 Apr (HK), hens remained to 30 May; 3 pr CH 19 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: molting m AP 14 Apr (DCR).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: Essex nest moved 28 Mar from power pole to platform by NYSDEC & NYSEG.

Bald Eagle: pr Oseetah L 3 Mar (LL), copulating & breaking off birch twigs for nest; pr nest-building new site TL 5 Mar (CD); max 18 CP 15 Mar, 12 there 21 Mar (Amtrak crew), ESSE record high; imm CR 25 Mar (DCR), eating Snow Goose on ice.

Merlin: AP 18 Mar (DCR); LL 5 May (JC); Raquette L 20 May (GL); a good showing.

Peregrine Falcon: Westport 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); Keene 7 Apr (J&PT); CR 20 Apr (BK, CM); CP 22 & 25 May (GH, KM, JP); good number.

Gray Partridge: pr e. of Burke FRAN 25

May (DN, SR), 1st Reg Atlas report.

Wild Turkey: max 30 Inlet feeder 24 Mar (GL), record number HAMI.

Virginia Rail: arr Ray Brook 15 Apr (LL), record early ESSE.

Sora: Clinton Forest 18 May (JC); PtF 21 May (BK, CM); good finds.

Com. Moorhen: PtF 21 May (BK, CM); scarce here.

Am. Coot: 2 Westport 8 Mar; 4 AP 11 Mar; AP 7 Apr; pr CLIN pine barrens pd 4 May (JL); scarce here.

SANDHILL CRANE: singles Wadhams 13 & 14 Apr (SS), seen & heard overhead, headed north.

Semipalmated Plover: arr CR 12 May; max 13 CR 21 May; 2 Malone 25 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 AP 11 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Moffitt Rd CLIN 14 Apr (J&RH), early.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr CLIN 11 May; CP 14-16 May; Clinton Forest 18 May; scarce here in spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr CR 16 May (BK), a good find.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 CR 20 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 15 CR 12 May; max 33 CR 21 May (BK); 17 Malone 25 May (JC, DN, SR), new FRAN high; Ft Covington 28 May (DN, SR), late FRAN.

Dunlin: arr 2 CR 12 May; max 16 CR 16 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 5 CR 20 May; max 53 CR 21 May (BK, CM); 8 CR 30 May.

Com. Snipe: arr 3 CP peninsula 6 Apr (JP, J&PT), early ESSE.

Am. Woodcock: 4 yg LL 11 May.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 2 m, 1 f CR 29 May (BK, CM), a welcome find!

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 AP 18 May (CH), only report.

Glaucous Gull: 2 1st winter AP 22 Apr (SK, DCR), one a possible Herring x Glaucous hybrid.

Caspian Tern: Westport 3 May (JP, J&PT); CR 23 May (BK, CM); always a

good find here.

Com. Tern: 4 CR 12 May.

TERN (sp.): 2 "Common-type" flying n. Hogansburg 13 Mar (HW), a "remarkable date" for any smaller tern, as Carleton might say.

Black Tern: 8 PtF 21 May (BK, CM), an excellent find.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 12 May (GL, JP), only report.

Barred Owl: killed & ate Am. Crow TL yard (SB, ph).

N. Saw-whet Owl: LL 5 May; CP 12 May; only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Miner 20 Apr (NO, MS); CP 26 May (PT), uncommon.

Whip-poor-will: arr Miner 20 Apr; Wadhams 5 May; CP 17 May; spotty.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr LL 6 Apr (JC), early HAMI.

Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 20 May (GL).

Black-backed Woodpecker: FB 4-20 May.

N. Flicker: intergrade yellow-shafted x red-shafted AP 14 Apr (DCR). "being hassled by 2 yellow-shafted."

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

N. Shrike: last WRS 8 Apr (DCR).

Philadelphia Vireo: banded CP 24 May (JP).

Gray Jay: 2 FB 4 May.

Com. Raven: Keene 10 Mar (J&PT), carrying lg strips of birchbark; CR 25 Mar and AP 31 Mar (DCR), both low lakeshore elevations.

Black-capped Chickadee: 55 banded CP May.

Boreal Chickadee: LL 6 Apr (JC); FB 4 May (WL).

Tufted Titmouse: CP, Elizabethtown, Port Kent, Westport; a decline from winter reports.

Carolina Wren: singing m Westport 9 Mar (MM, SO); CH 31 Mar (JW); s

Westport 6 Apr (JP, J&PT); promising for Atlas.

Sedge Wren: Stillwater Swamp CLIN 27 May (J&RH), a great find.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 12 banded CP.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CP 10 May (GL); breeding-condition pr banded CP 26 May (JP).

Hermit Thrush: Keene 22 Apr, puffed up and shaking on 21° – 31° a.m., while scratching in leaf litter for food; max 15 Loon L same day (SK, DCR), getting grit on road during snowstorm.

N. Mockingbird: Rpt 8 Apr (WF); CP 25-27 May (GL, JP); scarce here.

Bohemian Waxwing: 40 Keene 9 Mar (J&PT); mixed flock Port Kent 21 Mar; 2 PtR 25 Mar (DCR); ~50 Plattsburgh 14-15 May (CM) & 18 May (RM), record late NYS.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: PtR 31 May (BK), still relatively rare here.

Golden-winged Warbler: Reardon Rd Bombay FRAN 25 May (DN, SR), where found Jul 2000.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Keene 19-20 Apr (J&PT); m banded CP 19 May (GH, JP).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Port Kent 11 Apr (DCR), early ESSE.

Prairie Warbler: m banded CP 26 May.

“Western” Palm Warbler: 8 banded CP 11-18 May (JP).

Ovenbird: arr LL 7 May (JC), early HAMI.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Savannah Sparrow: arr Port Kent 25 Mar

(DCR), fairly early.

Fox Sparrow: arr LP 24 Mar;

Elizabethtown 5 Apr; Wadhams 6 Apr; Plattsburgh 22-23 Apr; a fair showing.

White-throated Sparrow: 23 banded CP 11-23 May, high there.

Lapland Longspur: CR 27 Mar (H&RB), only report.

Snow Bunting: max 500+ CR 24 Mar (WF); 4 Inlet 24 Mar (GL) far less expected.

Bobolink: arr AP 14 Apr (DCR), record early Reg & CLIN.

E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Peru 9 Mar (EF), early CLIN.

Baltimore Oriole: m Peru 14 May (EF), eating suet daily during cold spell; 36 banded CP 11-26 May.

Pine Grosbeak: 2 Whitney area 2 Mar, last of winter.

Purple Finch: numbers began to return Apr.

Red Crossbill: 5 IL 20 Apr, only report.

White-winged Crossbill: Akey Rd 17 Apr-24 May (BK, CM, CMJr.), pr with fledged yg 24 Apr, 1st CLIN Confirmed.

Hoary Redpoll: LL 10 Mar (JC); LP 24 Mar (LM); Elizabethtown 4 Apr (JP); 2 LP 7 Apr (LM); 2 TL 19 Apr (CD); many more undoubtedly present among flocks of Com. Redpoll.

Evening Grosbeak: max 62 Inlet 24 Mar (GL); pairs at feeders by May.

EXOTICS

Budgerigar: Ft. Covington 28 May (DN, SR), yellow & green with bluish tail, skittish.



REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The weather for spring 2002 was characterized by weirdness, with early high temperatures, a drought, an ice storm and a very late snowstorm. As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 36.3° F, 2° above normal, with 39% sunshine. Precipitation totaled a slightly above normal 3.56", with 8.7" of snow and ice, much of it falling in a crippling ice storm on 26 March. April's mean temperature was 48.9°, 2.5° above normal, with 49% sunshine. There was only 2.51" of precipitation, 0.74" below normal. There was a heat wave beginning on the 11th, which peaked 15–17 April, with highs of 80°–85°, resulting in early leaf-out and budding of vegetation. Things cooled down significantly in late April, and May was cool, cloudy and rainy, averaging 55.0°, 3.1° below normal, with 49% sunshine. Rainfall totaled 4.55", 0.88" above normal.

Local birders participating in Century Runs on 18 May were demoralized by an unforecasted snow storm, which dropped 2.2" of snow at Albany and greater amounts at higher elevations. The snow began early in the morning and lasted virtually the entire day. This is the latest measurable snowfall since record keeping began in 1795. As might be expected, feeders were heavily used by both resident birds and newly-arrived migrants, but finding singing birds was a real challenge. I suspect that few birds were negatively impacted by the bad weather, since the following day was warm and clear.

As with last year, it is difficult to say whether these weather extremes had any real effect on migration. Large raptors were in short supply, reflecting the reduced vole population, but high numbers of kestrels were noted in several locations. Arrival dates in general were about as usual. As with the past few years, there were no notable fallout days.

Speaking of the one that got away.....Bob Yunick reported a conversation with a non-birding acquaintance who had an unusual hummingbird at his feeder in Corinth in May. The bird appeared on two different days and was described as at least half again the size of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, several of which were frequenting the same feeder. It had an exceptionally long, straight bill compared with the Ruby-throats. The bird appeared all green, darker on the back than a Ruby-throat, and lime green on the underside. Since the bird was not photographed or collected, one can only speculate about what species it was, other than something other than a Ruby-throat.

Regional observers reported a total of 211 species, down from last year's 221. This total included 24 waterfowl, 12 hawks, 14 shorebirds, four gulls, 28 warblers, 12 sparrows and seven finches. Rarities sighted during the period included **Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Wilson's Phalarope**, probable **Barn Owl, White-eyed Vireo**, probable **Varied Thrush** and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elliott Adams, Alan Devoe Bird Club (ADBC) monthly sighting reports, Robert Budliger, Marty Connor, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Dennis Dempsey, 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, Tom Palmer, Ray Perry, Barbara Putnam, Cedar Stanistreet, Alison Van Keuren, Owen Whitby, Carol Whitby, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh State WMA ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs SARA; CL – Collins L SCHE; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – Fort Edward WASH; FtM – Fort Miller WASH; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; NB – New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; NR – Niskayuna Railroad Station SCHE; PP – Papscanee Preserve RENS; RL – Round L SARA; ScCA – Schenectady Co. Airport; SISP – Schodack I SP RENS (formerly Castleton I SP); SL – Saratoga L SARA; SNHP – Saratoga National Historical P SARA; TP – John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VF – Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve SARA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr 6 Sacandaga Res 12 Mar; 4 over BMT 13 Apr; 9 reports of singles.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Stockport 10 Mar; 11 reports of singles.

Horned Grebe: arr 2 NB 5 Mar; max 24 CL 15 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr and max 3 CL 8 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Chatham 15 Apr; max 20 RL 30 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: 1-2 Coxsackie 29 Mar-11 May.

Am. Bittern: only 6 reports of singles.

Least Bittern: Schodack Marshes 11 May; VF 26 May; not reported from BCM.

Great Blue Heron: rookeries reported only from Bemis Heights and Tongue Mt.

Great Egret: Hillsdale 21 Apr; Stillwater 2 May; Jefferson 28 May.

Green Heron: 17 reports of singles.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Sparrowbush Rd Latham 6 May.

GLOSSY IBIS: RL 18 May (RH); first since 1997.

BLACK VULTURE: TP 25 May (Mike Crevier *fide* RG).

Turkey Vulture: arr 14 Ravena 7 Mar; max 20-30 Latham 29 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 3000+ Durkeetown Rd FtE 27 Mar; 1000 Fisher Rd T Glen MONT 27 Mar.

Canada Goose: no large numbers reported.

Brant: 300+ over NB 21 May; only report.

Mute Swan: 4 NL 29 Mar; 10 Bell's Pd COLU 16 Apr.

Wood Duck: max 20+ FtM 7 Apr; 20+ Sharon Springs 7 Apr; reported in good numbers.

Gadwall: arr CL 27 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: arr NR 3 Mar; max 20 Vosburgh Marsh 15 Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 100+ Schodack Creek 14 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 4 VF 12 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 36 VF 3 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 33 NR 24 Mar;
 30 Vosburgh Marsh 15 Apr.
Canvasback: Cossackie 4 Apr; only
 report.
Redhead: no reports.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 50 Queechy L T
 Canaan COLU 5 Mar.
Greater Scaup: arr 4 Catskill 10 Mar; few
 reports.
Lesser Scaup: arr 6 NB 4 Apr; 5 NL 6
 Apr; 2 CL 15 Apr; only reports.
White-winged Scoter: NB 1 Apr.
Bufflehead: arr L7 3 Mar.
Common Goldeneye: max 60 Stillwater
 14 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: arr Papsweeney Creek
 1 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CL 28 Mar;
 only report.
Ruddy Duck: 18 NL 15 Mar; 20 NL 6
 Apr; 10 TR 27 Apr; only reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: max 4 Geoffrey's Pd COLU 29
 Apr; 12 Apr, 18 May reports of singles.
N. Harrier: max 3-4 T Florida MONT 1
 Mar; 3 FtE 6 Apr; 17 reports of singles.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 3 MONT 21
 Mar; 26 reports of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: 17 reports of singles.
N. Goshawk: W Glenville 13 Mar; JL 19
 Mar; T Florida MONT 21 Mar; T Glen
 MONT 27 Mar; Pack Forest WARR 16
 Apr; Austerlitz 22 May; only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 9 reports of
 singles.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Palenville 13
 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 12-16 T Florida
 MONT 1 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: S Rensselaer 1
 Mar; only report.
Am. Kestrel: max 17 banded MONT 10
 Apr (RY); 40 reports of singles.
Merlin: no reports.
Peregrine Falcon: Rogers I COLU 3 Mar;
 near Minaville 11 Apr; Valatie 1 May;

Clifton Park 30 May; nesting Dunn
 Memorial Bridge ALBA and Castleton
 Bridge.
Wild Turkey: max 50 W Taghkanic 9
 Mar.
Virginia Rail: max 4 BCM 18 Apr.
Sora: VF 14 May; NR 18 May; BCM 21
 May; only reports.
Com. Moorhen: Knickerbocker Rd T
 Schaghticoke RENS 30 Mar; VF 18 May;
 3 VF 28 May; only reports.
Am. Coot: NL 17 Mar; only report.
Semipalmated Plover: present VF 14
 May; Glenville 16 May; only reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Canajoharie
 24 Apr; only 5 reports of singles.
Lesser Yellowlegs: only 3 reports of
 singles.
Solitary Sandpiper: 11 reports of singles.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 4 NR 1 May; 13
 reports of singles.
Upland Sandpiper: Ames SCHO 13 Apr;
 3 ScCA 29 Apr; only reports.
Red Knot: NB 21 May (RG).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 BMT 12
 May; only report.
Least Sandpiper: Ghent 1 May; 2-3
 Schodack Marshes 11 May; 15+ CL 20
 May; only reports.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 25 Schodack I
 21 May (Will Yandik).
Com. Snipe: max 24 Canajoharie 24 Apr.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE: fem CL 19
 May (Kurt Weiskotten).
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 NR 4 Apr; CL 15
 Apr. 1 May; 3 Catskill Creek 1 May.
Ring-billed Gull: max 600 Catskill 10
 Mar.
Caspian Tern: 2 CL 29 Apr; NB 12 May.
Common Tern: 3 NB 15 Apr; Ooms Pd
 COLU 11 May.
Black Tern: VF 15 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 5 reports of singles.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Taghkanic 11
 May; Claverack 23 May; SISP 29 May;
 only reports.

BARN OWL: suspected pr FtE based on second-hand report (*fide* RY).

E. Screech-Owl: only 8 reports.

Barred Owl: 13 reports of singles.

Short-eared Owl: FtE 24 Mar; Clapper Rd ALBA 25 Mar; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Com. Nighthawk: CL 18 May; 2 NB 23 May; VF 26 May; 2 E Taghkanic 26 May; only reports.

Whip-poor-will: Cairo Round Top GREE 19 May; only report.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 17 at feeders Wardsboro T Hague 29 May (RL); 35 banded JL plus 28 returns May (RY).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 31 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Austerlitz 21 May; 27 reports of singles.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 Austerlitz 15 May; 26 reports of singles.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 19 SISP 28 May; 12 reports of singles.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Taghkanic 27 May.

Alder Flycatcher: max 4 BMT 27 May.

Willow Flycatcher: only 7 reports of singles.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 Austerlitz 14 May; 7 Ghent 28 May; 17 reports of singles.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 6 Austerlitz 14 May; 24 reports of singles.

E. Kingbird: 22 reports of singles.

N. Shrike: Jefferson 1 Mar; T Glen MONT 21 Mar-4 Apr.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: Claverack 24 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 15 reports of singles.

Blue-headed Vireo: 21 reports of singles.

Warbling Vireo: max 8 SISP 29 May; 20 reports of singles.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 10 Austerlitz 21 May.

Com. Raven: reported throughout Reg.

Purple Martin: 8-10 SL 30 May; only report.

Tree Swallow: max 100+ TR 27 Apr.

Bank Swallow: 30+ nest holes Rensselaer 22 May.

Cliff Swallow: CL 1 May; Gansevoort 17 May; only reports.

Brown Creeper: first singing BMT 13 Mar.

Carolina Wren: 17 reports of singles.

Winter Wren: 1 report in Mar; 7 in Apr; 3 in May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Schenectady 3 Apr.

Veery: max 33 SISP 29 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Austerlitz 16 May (BC).

Bicknell's Thrush: no reports from breeding areas in Catskills.

Swainson's Thrush: max 3 Schodack 17 May; 4 reports of singles.

Wood Thrush: max 21 Austerlitz 29 May.

VARIED THRUSH: 1 probable Greenwich 25 Mar, coming to feeder for several days (*fide* BP).

Gray Catbird: max 20 SISP 29 May.

N. Mockingbird: 14 reports of singles.

Brown Thrasher: 19 reports of singles.

Cedar Waxwing: max c 90 Ghent 9 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr PP 5 May; 6 singing SNHP 16 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: SNHP 28 May (G/K Hanson).

Lawrence's Warbler: Thompson L SP 24 May (RB).

Brewster's Warbler: SNHP 16 May.

Tennessee Warbler: 2 Saratoga Spa SP 20 May; SISP 25 May; Ghent 27 May; only reports.

Nashville Warbler: only 8 reports 5-18 May.

N. Parula: 13 reports 11-23 May.

Yellow Warbler: max 13 Austerlitz 16 May.

Magnolia Warbler: 13 reports 5-21 May.

Cape May Warbler: ADBC Birdathon COLU 11 May; VF 23 May; only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 22 reports 4-31 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: 29 reports 28 Apr-31 May; max 8 Austerlitz 14 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: NB 16 May (RG); NYSARC requested.

Blackburnian Warbler: 10 reports 11-28 May; max 3 Pack Forest WARR 19 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 Austerlitz 21 May.

Pine Warbler: 11 reports of singles.

Prairie Warbler: arr Greenport 4 May; max 5 SNHP 16 May.

Palm Warbler: 8 reports Apr-4 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Gansevoort 17 May; 11 L7 18 May; Nutten Hook 19 May; T Schodack P 20 May; only reports.

Blackpoll Warbler: 17 reports 16-30 May; max 5 Ghent 27 May.

Cerulean Warbler: T Schodack P 28 May; 5 SISP 29 May.

Black-and-White Warbler: 18 reports of singles.

Am. Redstart: 22 reports 15 Apr-31 May; max 17 Austerlitz 30 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Blossom Hill Rd T Coeymans ALBA 18 May; Austerlitz 21 May; 2 NB 23 May; 2 Ghent 27 May.

Ovenbird: max 14 Ghent 28 May.

N. Waterthrush: 15 reports of singles.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Indian Kill 13 Apr; max 5 Vly Creek 6 May; 19 reports of singles.

Mourning Warbler: NB 22 May; Ramshorn Creek Preserve 22 May; Jefferson 24 May; only reports.

Com. Yellowthroat: max 12 Austerlitz 16 May.

Hooded Warbler: FR 17 May; Beaver Dam Rd T New Scotland ALBA 18 May.

Wilson's Warbler: 11 reports 5-21 May.

Canada Warbler: only 4 singles.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Ghent 28 May;

23 reports of singles.

E. Towhee: max 17 Austerlitz 17 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 23 Wardsboro Rd T Hague WARR 17 Mar; last RENS 27 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: max 12 Austerlitz 16 May.

Field Sparrow: arr Ghent 6 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Brookview 14 May; Gansevoort 27 Apr; 2 SCA 15 May; Rt 13 WASH 18 May; only reports.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Austerlitz 7 May; only report.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

Fox Sparrow: arr 2 NB 15 Mar; max 9 Grapeville 4 Apr; 26 reports of singles.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Taghkanic 4 May; 2 SHNP 16 May; only reports.

Swamp Sparrow: arr BMT 9 Apr; max 10 Vosburgh Marsh 14 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 10-12 Schodack Marshes 11 May; last Austerlitz 19 May.

Lapland Longspur: no reports.

Snow Bunting: no reports.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr New Salem 14 Apr.

Bobolink: numerous farm fields ALBA COLU MONT RENS WARR WASH after 4 May; max 15 Austerlitz 15 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: c 4000 T Florida MONT 1 Mar; 1000+ Papscahee area 14 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Florida MONT 21 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 Knickerbocker Rd T Schaghticoke RENS 30 Mar; max 65 BMT 13 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: Waterford 22 May; ad and 1st yr m VF 19-31 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 8 Austerlitz 15 May.

Pine Grosbeak: heard Poolsburg 24 Mar (PC).

Purple Finch: max 72 Wardsboro Rd T Hague WARR 25 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: m Delmar 4-5 Mar; 3 Riparius 14 Apr.

Common Redpoll: c 80 Papscanee Creek
RENS 14 Mar; 500 Denice Rd T Florida
MONT 21 Mar (TP).
Pine Siskin: max 12 Thurman 17 Apr;

widely reported in small numbers.
Evening Grosbeak: max c 35 Riparius 10
Mar; 15-20 Jefferson 12 Mar.

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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After a very warm winter, an early spring was expected. There were no significant snowfalls in March, and the temperatures were 1.5°F above average. Precipitation was near normal. An unusually warm spell arrived mid April, with temperatures 20° above average. White Plains reached 92° on 17 April, and Poughkeepsie and Yorktown reached 95° on 18 April. It was not so surprising that a few pairs of Mute Swan, Canada Goose and Mallard had young by 29 April. The first hatchlings for these species get earlier every year. Some flora were reportedly flowering very early. The end of April saw temperatures well below normal and seemed to put spring back on the right schedule. May was cooler and wetter than average, thanks to a cold spell that saw freezing temperatures 19–22 May, with Poughkeepsie cooling to 30° and Liberty to 26° on 20 May.

Lisa Cutten and Mark DeDea found a Tricolored Heron in Kingston on 4 May, a very unusual record for Ulster County.

Hook Mt. had two 1000+ Broad-winged Hawk days in the spring, on 23 and 24 April, for the first time ever, according to Steve Walter. Albino Red-tailed Hawks were found in Orange, Dutchess and Rockland counties.

A Dunlin was found 5 May in Sullivan, for the county's second record.

John Haas had four different Iceland Gulls in Sullivan County on a single day on 9 March. Tom Burke had an impressive 10 Black Terns on the scoter watch off Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Rye on the evening of 20 April. The watch also featured 13 Red-necked Grebes on 14 April and all three scoter species on 20 April. Black Terns and Red-necked Grebes were also reported from Sullivan County, with six grebes on Black Lake on 15 April and two more at the Bashakill Marsh 3 May. Three Black Terns were at the Bashakill on 18 May.

Tree Swallows arrived in large numbers quite early this year, with 50 seen at Piermont on 18 March. Meredith Hudes and Bruce Lowder found a partial albino Eastern Phoebe on territory with a normally colored mate in Newburgh on 18 April.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was observed by four members of the Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club of Orange County in a field off Route 209 in Westbrookville on 18 May. Another Clay-colored was heard in Sullivan County in Ellenville 19–20 May.

Renee Davis and Lois Head found an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the Bashakill Marsh on 10 March.

Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were well reported in Sullivan County in March. There were single reports for both in Dutchess County but no reports further south. Sullivan County had the only White-winged Crossbill report.

Other notable species included: Black-headed Gull, Northern Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler and Snow Bunting

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; NSW – Nature Study Woods New Rochelle WEST; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; TLP – Twin Lakes P Eastchester WEST; WBCMC – Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club May Census DUTC; WRNWR – Wallkill Ri NWR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 40 EGR 24 Mar.

Com. Loon: 4 EGR 21, 24 Mar.

Horned Grebe: 7 EGR 24 Mar; 5

Kiamesha L 25 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: 3 ERG 8, 14, 24 Mar; 2 Bashakill 15 Apr (JH); 6 Black L SULL 15 Apr; 13 EGR 14 Apr (TB); 7 EGR 20 Apr; 2 Bashakill 3 May (JH).

N. Gannet: 18 EGR 28 Mar; 8 EGR 14 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 10 EGR 4 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr Bashakill 15 Apr; max 4

Bashakill 25 Apr (JH).

Least Bittern: Oscawana Nature Preserve 3 May (MB); WBCMC 11 May; 1-2 Bashakill 16, 18 May (MB, JH); MC 21 May (TB).

Great Blue Heron: 25 nests Hurleyville 25 Apr; 40 nests Red Hook May.

Great Egret: arr Rye 20 Mar.

Snowy Egret: arr MC 5 Apr.

Tricolored Heron: Kingston 4 May (LC, MD).

Green Heron: arr 8 May.

Black Vulture: 3 Pawling 1 Mar; Stissing

Mt 4 Apr; Tamarack DUTC 23 Apr; 14 Warwick 15 May.
Snow Goose: 200 Horseshoe L SULL 15 Mar; 30 Poughkeepsie 22 Mar; 75 Bashakill 18 Apr; 3 Millbrook 5 May.
Mute Swan: 18 Wappingers L 1-31 Mar; 40 WBCMC 11 May.
Wood Duck: 20 Wappingers L 19-21 Mar.
Gadwall: max 24 Neversink Res 26 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 26 Kiamesha L 21 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: 6 Bashakill 5 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 16 Bashakill 23 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 24 Bashakill 11 Mar.
Canvasback: last 2 EGR 24 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 125 Round Pd DUTC 7 Mar; 34 Bashakill 7 Mar; 20 Kiamesha L 21 Mar; 150 Swan L SULL 24 Mar; 230 Round Pd 5 Apr; 238 Yankee L SULL 18 Apr.
Greater Scaup: 210 Rye 11 Mar; Stissing L 5 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: 160 EGR 4 Mar; 5 EGR 14 Apr.
Surf Scoter: 3 EGR 20 Apr (TB).
White-winged Scoter: Kiamesha L 25-31 Mar (JH); 18 EGR 14 Apr (TB); 7 Black L SULL 18 Apr; 37 EGR 20 Apr (TB); SULL 11 May.
Black Scoter: 2 EGR 20 Apr (TB)
Long-tailed Duck: 330 EGR 24 Mar; 530 EGR 2 Apr.
Bufflehead: 25 EGR 14 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: last 2 EGR 13 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 150 Round Pd DUTC 7 Mar; 218 Kiamesha L 21 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 40 EGR 14 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: 120 EGR 24 Mar; 60 EGR 6 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: MC 24 Mar; Bashakill 29 Mar; 4 Hook Mt 21 Apr; 18 Hook Mt 23 Apr; 14 Hook Mt 24 Apr.
Bald Eagle: scattered reports of 1-2 thru; 2 on nest at Bashakill.

N. Harrier: 4-7 SGNWR 3 Mar-11 Apr; 1-3 SGNWR 12 Apr thru; 3-10 WRNWR 1 Mar-5 Apr; 1-3 WRNWR 6 Apr thru.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 23 Hook Mt 21 Apr; 21 Hook Mt 23 Apr; 27 Hook Mt 14 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: 2 in courtship display flight Katonah 5 Apr (JA).
N. Goshawk: WRNWR 6 Mar; Hook Mt 30 Mar; Hook Mt 14 Apr; Doodletown 18 Apr; Bashakill 11 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: Piermont 3 Mar; Lenoir Nature Preserve 17 Mar; 304 Hook Mt 21 Apr; 1026 Hook Mt 23 Apr; 1227 Hook Mt 24 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: albino Clinton DUTC 10, 28 Mar (JD, BM); albino South Mt P ROCK 30 Mar (TF, BG); albino Rosendale ULST 31 Mar (AC); 10 Hook Mt 21 Apr (SW).
Rough-legged Hawk: WRNWR 1 Mar-26 Apr (SK, KH); Bloomingburg early Mar (M&SM).
Golden Eagle: Stissing Mt 14 Mar (CV); Cohecton mid Mar (MG, RG); Bashakill 18 May.
Merlin: 2 Hook Mt 14 Apr; 3 Hook Mt 23 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: nest on Mid Hudson Bridge, hatched mid May.
Wild Turkey: 60 Green Haven DUTC 5 Mar.
N. Bobwhite: 5 DUTC 11 May.
Virginia Rail: 4 Bashakill 27 Apr.
King Rail: MC 10, 30 May.
Sora: 2 Bashakill 30 Apr; Sharon Station Rd DUTC 27 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr Bashakill 30 Apr.
Am. Coot: 20 Abels Pd DUTC thru Mar; 125 Sylvan L 24 Mar.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 MC 20, 30 May.
Semipalmated Plover: 2 MC 20, 21 May.
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 EGR 2, 14, 20 Apr; 2 New Rochelle 4 May; 2 EGR 4 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 6 EGR 13 Mar; 17 MC 1 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: EGR 13, 16, 24, 28

Mar; MC 1 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: Bronx Ri 27 Apr; 2 Bashakill 30 Apr; 5 Marcy P WEST 10 May; 6 Bronx Ri Yonkers 10 May; 26 WBCMC 11 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Bashakill 28 Apr; 3 Bronx Ri Yonkers 10 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr SGNWR 25 Apr.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 MC 20 May.

Least Sandpiper: 14 Bronx Ri 10 May; 3 Pulvers Corners 18 May; 100 MC 20 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 24 EGR 28 Mar; 4 EGR 21 Apr, 7 May.

Dunlin: SULL 5 May (JH) 2nd county record; 15 MC 20 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 MC 21 May; MC 30 May.

Com. Snipe: arr WRNWR 7 Mar; 3 Harlem Valley Rail Trail 21 Mar.

Laughing Gull: Hook Mt 30 Mar, early (TF, BG).

Black-headed Gull: Sullivan Co Landfill 13, 25 Mar (JH).

Bonaparte's Gull: 35 EGR 26 Mar; 5 Rondout Res 11 Apr; Bashakill 5 May.

Iceland Gull: 1-2 Sullivan Co Landfill 9-30 Mar (JH); ad & imm Woodbourne Flats 9 Mar (JH); ad Woodbourne Flats 10, 23 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Piermont 3 Mar; Sullivan Co Landfill 23-30 Mar (JH).

Glaucous Gull: Sullivan Co Landfill 7, 13 Mar (JH).

Com. Tern: arr EGR 20 Apr; SULL 11 May.

Least Tern: 2 New Rochelle 4 May; 4 MC 10 May; 3 MC 30 May.

Black Tern: 10 EGR 20 Apr (TB); 3 Bashakill 18 May (JH).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: few Bloomingburg thru.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Bashakill 11 May; 5 Doodletown 22 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Bashakill 6 May.

Barn Owl: m rescued from chimney near SRNWR 2 Apr, was banded as a fledgling near Thornville Ohio 7 Jun 2000 (SK, KH).

Short-eared Owl: 8 SGNWR 1-28 Mar; 2-7 WRNWR 1 Mar-5 Apr (SK, KH).

N. Saw-whet Owl: calling Horseshoe L SULL 3 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: 20 MC 19 May.

Whip-poor-will: Bashakill 27 Apr; 2 WBCMC 11 May.

Chimney Swift: arr Kakiat P 20 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Verbank 26 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Milan 12 Apr (BB); Red Hook 23 May (BB, A&BM).

N. Flicker: 50 Hook Mt 30 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: DUTC 11 May; Doodletown 13, 19, 22 May; Bashakill 16-18 May; Buttercup Sanctuary 25 May; Pleasant Valley DUTC 27 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 11 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Amenia 16 May; Pawling Nature Reserve 25 May..

Willow Flycatcher: arr 4 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 6 May.

E. Phoebe: Bashakill 7 Mar, overwintered; arr TLP 12 Mar; partial albino on territory with mate Newburgh 18 Apr (MH, BL).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 19 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr Mt Kisco 21 Apr.

N. Shrike: 4 SULL reports: Beechwood Rd mid Mar (MG); Geiger Rd 15 Mar (PM); Old Tracy Rd 24 Mar (KC); Hunter Rd 28 Mar, 3 Apr (JW).

White-eyed Vireo: arr Rye 17 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Kakiat P 20 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Black L SULL 16 Apr; Doodletown 17 Apr; Rye 17 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: 5 Larchmont Res 25 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: 2 Doodletown 18 May; Bashakill 19 May (JH).

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Sprain Ridge 27 Apr.

Com. Raven: 3 Stissing Mt 14 Mar; Hook Mt 14 Mar, 2 Apr; many other scattered sightings.

Horned Lark: WBCMC 11 May

Purple Martin: Verbank 17 Apr; TLP 29 Apr; 6 DUTC 11 May.

Tree Swallow: 50 Piermont Marsh 16 Mar (DC); 30 Forrest L White Plains 24 Mar; 7 Lenoir Nature Preserve 28 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr NSW 7 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Bashakill 26 Apr; 80 Bashakill 16 May.

Cliff Swallow: 12 Bashakill 26 Apr; 36 Bashakill 16 May.

Barn Swallow: arr Bashakill 15 Apr.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: at feeders Mar, few still Apr; at traditional spots May.

House Wren: arr 17 Apr.

Marsh Wren: 2 MC 24 Mar; 2 Cruger I 4 May; 2 Madem Bretts P 5 May; 2 EGR 24 May; 8 MC 30 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Norrie Pt 6 Mar.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 Tree Tops DUTC 30 Mar (MK), early; NSW 7 Apr; 6 Bashakill 17 Apr.

Veery: arr TLP 29 Apr.

Bicknell's Thrush: Mt Kisco 21 May (GD).

Swainson's Thrush: arr RNC 10 May.

Wood Thrush: arr 2 NSW 26 Apr.

Am. Robin: 1000 Hook Mt 30 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr n part of Reg 17 Apr.

Brown Thrasher: arr Poughkeepsie 18 Apr.

Am. Pipit: Bashakill 22 Mar (JH).

Cedar Waxwing: 100+ Doodletown 22 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Kakiat P 20 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: Bashakill 5-6 May; Vassar Farms 11 May; New Paltz 25-31 May.

"Lawrences's" Warbler: Harriman SP early May (AL).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 8 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr Sprain Ridge P Yonkers 5 May.

N. Parula: arr Rye 19 Apr.

Yellow Warbler: arr TLP 18 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Hastings-on-Hudson 4 May.

Magnolia Warbler: Bashakill 27 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: no reports!

Black-throated Blue Warbler: at suet feeder Piermont late Feb thru March (CW); arr 4 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr TLP 29 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Hastings-on-Hudson 4 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Hook Mt 30 Mar.

Prairie Warbler: arr Sprain Ridge P 26 Apr.

Palm Warbler: 2 Horseshoe L SULL 30 Mar; Tamarack 3 Apr; 2 Bashakill 5 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Doodletown 13 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 7 May.

Cerulean Warbler: 4 Doodletown 3 May; 10 Doodletown 11 May (GD); 3 WBCMC 11 May; 2 Bashakill 16 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: early reports: Wappinger Falls 17 Apr; Black L 17 Apr; 2 Kakiat P 20 Apr; Rye 20 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr TLP 29 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: Sprain Ridge P Yonkers 24 Apr (MB).

Worm-eating Warbler: 5 Teatown L Reservation 17 May.

Ovenbird: arr Rye 18 Apr; Sprain Ridge 27 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr MC 17 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Katonah 5 Apr; 5 Kakiat P 20 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: Teatown L Reservation 17 May (AB); Vassar Farms 22, 24, 30 May (PR, BM).

Mourning Warbler: RNC 14 May; 2 Bashakill 16, 17 May; Buttercup Sanctuary 19 May; MC 28 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: 2 Tarrytown 11 Mar, overwintered (LB); arr Millbrook 13 Apr;

Rye 18 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: 4 Doodletown 3 May;
15 Doodletown 5, 11 May (GD).

Wilson's Warbler: arr 8 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 10 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Salt Pt 19 May
(BMa).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: Black L SULL 19 Apr
(LD), early; Bashakill 3 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 25 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: Poughquag 1, 5 Mar
(CPo). overwintered; Mt Kisco 18 Mar.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Westbrookville ORAN 18 May (AMe);
White L 19-20 Apr (LD).

Field Sparrow: arr 3 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Poughkeepsie 21 Apr
(CV).

Savannah Sparrow: 20 MC 18 Mar; 2
Vassar Farm 21 Apr.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 1
May (TB); 2 MC 10 May.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr
MC 1 May (TB); 4 MC 30 May.

Seaside Sparrow: 1 MC 10 May; 2 MC
30 May.

Fox Sparrow: WBCMC 11 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: Horseshoe L SULL
24 Apr; Bashakill 6 May; Lenoir Nature
Preserve 12 May; Teatown L Reservation
17 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: 1-3 Red Hook
4-22 May; Bashakill 6, 16 May;
Doodletown 11 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: last wintering/migrant
4 May.

Lapland Longspur: Poughkeepsie 2 Apr
(CV).

Snow Bunting: 2 EGR 2 Mar (TB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Sprain
Ridge P Yonkers 5 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr 3 May.

Bobolink: arr SGNWR 2 May; 13
Warwick 15 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: 1000 Hook Mt
30 Apr.

E. Meadowlark: arr SGNWR 14 Mar;
Clove Valley thru Apr; Hook Mt 30 Apr.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

Bashakill 10 Mar (RD ,LH).

Rusty Blackbird: 6 Kakiat P 14 Mar; 120
Bashakill 16 Mar; 60 Buttercup Sanc 31
Mar; 12 Poughkeepsie 2 Apr; 3 Buttercup
Sanc 20 Apr; Bashakill 27 Apr.

Com. Grackle: 1000 Rye 18 Mar; 1000
Hook Mt 30 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: 2 TLP 29 Apr; 4
Woodlands L Ardsley 4 May; few
Bashakill 6 May; Bronx Ri Yonkers 10
May; 3 Iona I 11 May; 6 DUTC 11 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Hilldale Rd SULL
25 Apr; several Sprain Ridge 27 Apr.

Purple Finch: 4 Hook Mt 30 Apr; 2 NSW
7 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: Horseshoe L
SULL 15 Mar (KC).

Com. Redpoll: 40 Bashakill 7 Mar (JH);
Verbank 7-31 Mar (BB); 61 Ellenville 18
Mar (PM).

Pine Siskin: few at feeder Mt Kisco 1-18
Mar; 2 Verbank 29 Mar, 3-7Apr; 17
Hilldale Rd SULL 12 Mar; 42 Horseshoe
L early Apr; 2 Mt Kisco 21 Apr; Pound
Ridge 27 Apr; 6 Poughquag 2 May; 3
Irvington 3-12 May; 4 Salt Pt 4 May; 2 Mt
Kisco 4 May; 2 DUTC 11 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 64 Liberty 1 Mar; 48
Claryville early Mar; 68 Horseshoe L
early Apr; 2 Salt Pt DUTC 18 Apr (BM).

ADDENDUM

N. Parula: at feeder Ellenville 5-9 Jan
(PB, RD, FH, PD).

REGION 10 – MARINE

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March started cold, with the temperature below 20°F on the 5th, but by the 29th it was above 70°. Overall, it was 0.6° warmer than normal. This was followed by a very warm April, 3.6° warmer than normal. May was cooler than normal, with a tie for record low on the 19th of 43°. It gradually warmed and was in the high 80's by month's end. Precipitation remained below normal, although significant rain fell. Still, each month reported a deficit of almost an inch, amounting to a 2.71" deficit for the season. The drought continued!

This spring represented a more satisfactory birding experience than we have seen in a number of years, both as to species and numbers of birds. Looking at rare bird alerts from neighboring states, the phenomenon appears to have been widespread in the East. The first large wave in the New York City parks was on the weekend of 20–21 April. Then came an extraordinary wave starting 10 May. It included the Region and much of the Northeast. One correspondent described the flight as “awesome.” This 10 May flight was first reported as a fallout at Robert Moses State Park. From around 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Pat Lindsay, Tony Lauro and Shai Mitra estimated over 2000 passerines coming in from the ocean and heading westward along the beach. They and the NYRBA reported the movement there as: Yellow-billed Cuckoo; two Eastern Wood-Pewees; about 15 *Empidonax* flycatchers; two Yellow-throated Vireos; two Cliff Swallows; numerous thrushes, including 19 Veerys, Gray-cheeked and nine Swainson's; 23 species of warblers, including 360 Magnolia Warblers, Cerulean Warbler, 320 American Redstarts and two Kentucky Warblers; 275 Scarlet Tanagers; five Lincoln's Sparrows; several White-crowned Sparrows, including a Gambel's type; 200 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; eight Indigo Buntings; 90 Bobolinks; four Orchard Orioles; and 450 Baltimore Orioles.

This movement of migrants continued over the weekend of 11–12 May. Almost all the birdathons and Big Days in our area and neighboring states were held then, and everywhere there were reports of large lists. The migration, overall, this year was notable for being substantially more vibrant and extensive than in recent years and included good numbers of all groups. In addition, there were at least a dozen species in half a dozen families that were significantly early as reported in the “spring arrival tables.”

Dick Gershon informed us that the New York City Audubon Society has been holding a birdathon within the city borders for the past four years in competition with other large US cities. This year's event, on 11 May, a fortuitous date, as noted

above, included over 100 participants and recorded 205 species. He reported these statistics by borough for this year and last: Staten Island 171/160; Brooklyn 158/151; Queens 145/131; Manhattan 108/100; The Bronx 76/71; total species 205/188. All this within New York City limits! In New Jersey, also on 11 May, "The World Series of Birding" had five teams see over 200 species this year, with the top team tallying 224 and a cumulative total for all groups of 266. Of course, each group covered the entire state, a huge area compared to New York City. It would be interesting to see what a single dedicated group operating under similar rules could turn up within the city.

On 1 April, Lauren and Chris Nuzzi spotted a **Western Grebe** off of the beach at Wolfe's Pond Park, Staten Island. It remained until 9 April and was seen by many observers.

David Klauber reported on a pelagic trip taken 91 miles into the Hudson Canyon on 19 May. The following were seen: 50 Northern Fulmars, one Greater Shearwater, 30 Sooty Shearwaters, one Manx Shearwater, 300 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, four intermediate and dark morph **South Polar Skuas** at the same time and six light morph Pomarine Jaegers.

On 27 May, a pelagic trip from Point Pleasant, NJ, out to Hudson Canyon recorded 22 Manx Shearwaters, a Leach's Storm-Petrel, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger and Long-tailed Jaeger among the species seen. Hudson Canyon, which is approximately 100 miles offshore to our south, is in New York State waters in accordance with Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 1108.

Sooty Shearwaters were reported from the Shinnecock Inlet area on 16, 18, 23 and 26 May. On the last of those days, Tom Burke *et al* saw well over 100 Sooty Shearwaters and 25 or more Wilson's Storm-Petrels, as well as a dark and two light phase Parasitic Jaegers. A Manx Shearwater was seen from Robert Moses State Park Field 2 on 27 May, along with a number of Sooty Shearwaters.

On 8 May, a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was found by P. A. Buckley on a pond at Cook's Lane, just north of Scuttlehole Road, north of Bridgehampton. It remained in the area until 12 May. The species, not on the New York State Checklist, has also been reported in recent years from NS, MA, MD, DE, SC, GA and FL. Hopefully, this observation will be reported to NYSARC.

"Black" and "Gray-bellied" Brant were reported in the Brant flocks wintering along the South Shore this season. All were photographed. We can best describe the status of these birds by quoting from Tom Burke on the NYRBA of 22 March: "For those who enjoy the debates over the various races of Brant, on 7 March a "Black" Brant was found at Jones Inlet off Point Lookout. It remained to at least 24 March. Unlike some "Black" Brant, this bird does show some demarcation between its black breast and a very dark brown belly. Its thick necklace does meet in front.

"But somewhat like this bird is another Brant seen at Riis Park on 17 March, this time on the golf course. This bird also exhibits a complete necklace, but has a much more noticeable demarcation between the breast and belly, prompting some to refer to this as a "Gray-bellied" Brant, a not yet recognized subspecies thought

to be the link between "Black" Brant and our regular "Pale-bellied" or Atlantic Brant.

"To add more variety to this mix, another adult Brant at the Riis Park golf course the same day featured notable gray underparts, with a crisp breast demarcation line and a break in front of its thick white necklace. This bird very much resembles the "Dark-bellied" Brant, the Eurasian race as pictured in the Mullarney Birds of Europe Field Guide. Of course, intergrades and hybrids between these races also need to be considered, and perhaps we should all be thankful that these are all considered to be one species."

One or more **Barnacle Geese**, provenance unknown, remained in the New York City area at Floyd Bennett Field to 31 March, Marine Park Golf Course to 31 March and on Oakland Lake, Queens to 9 March.

A Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal (*A. c. crecca*) was on Pond X in Lawrence in early March.

On 11 May, two **Black-necked Stilts** were found at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, where they remained to 25 May. Another was found at Cow Meadow Park in Freeport 12–27 May. Since the publication of *Bull's Birds of New York State*, this rare species has appeared on South Shore wetlands in the springs of 1998, 1999 and 2000. It is notable that three Black-necked Stilts were found at Brigantine, NJ, a few days later, on 30 May. The same birds?

A beautifully-plumaged female Red-necked Phalarope was found on 17 May by Andy Murphy on the bay flats at Pikes Beach in Westhampton Dunes. It was relocated 20 May and was present to at least 26 May.

On 30 March, several observers, including Shai Mitra, saw an adult Great Black-backed Gull with obviously greenish-yellow legs at Jones Inlet. He reported, "This individual appears typical for the species in every other respect, even to the extent that it is clearly paired with a male, the latter with dull pink legs and normal vocalizations. Yellow color tones on the tibia and tarsi are consistently visible under a wide range of lighting conditions. Pink is visible on the webbing between the toes. I recall several similar birds reported from southern New England and Long Island in recent years."

A Bicknell's Thrush spent part of 18 May singing and calling in Forest Park. It also provided some good viewing. In general, we tend to look at sight records for this species as difficult. Early articles, after the split, on separation of Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's thrushes, were quite definitive, but lately there seems to be an overlap in identification criteria and, in our view, further clarification is needed. The separation of thrushes is not quite as simple as it appears. Contrary to popular opinion, they can be a difficult group. One only has to look at the recent series of "thrush identification" articles in *Birding* to appreciate this.

On 14 April, Pat Jones found an adult male **Townsend's Warbler** at Massapequa Preserve. It was seen by a small group that day, by many on 15 April, by Ann Marie Pozzini on 17 April and by Irv Kleiman on 19 April.

Phil Jeffrey reported a possible junco X White-throated Sparrow hybrid in Central Park on 7 May. His pictures of the bird were posted on the Internet and

tend to support the hypothesis.

A comment: After a relatively productive migration (the first in a number of years), it seems appropriate to append here some general remarks about the status of both birding and the “new technology.” At present, a number of computer literate aficionados bird the New York City parks and the Region. Their daily results are duly recorded and show up each day on the Internet. As an aside, it is also amazing how quickly photos of rarities from all over appear. What is interesting to some of us long-time birders is not what is seen and how fast the information is distributed, but how few birds there are. The species lists are just as long, or longer, and the birders are better. They also have the newest binoculars and vastly improved field guides and song CDS. But, for example, a report from Prospect Park may have a list of 20 warbler species, but only 50–60 warblers in total; similarly for Central Park. Our problem when we started birding was often not how to identify a bird, even though a harder task then, but where to look first. Today, one sees 100 warblers on a really good day and identifies most. In the good old days, no one could identify more than a fraction of the birds in the flocks moving through. One caught only a portion. There were just too many to see.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; CLP – Clove L P, SI; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; CP – Central P; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI– Fire I; FP – Forest P; FTT – Fort Tilden QUEE; HG – Hunter's Garden Eastport SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; HP – Hook Pd Southampton; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside; MP – Montauk Pt; PB – Pikes Beach, Westhampton; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PEL1 – pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon 19

May; PEL2 – pelagic trip to Hudson Canyon 27 May; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones Inlet; PP – Prospect P; RB – Ransom Beach, Bayville; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SHIN – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Island; VCP – Van Cortlandt P BRON; WPP – Wolfes Pd P, SI.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: off SI to 14 Apr.
WESTERN GREBE: off the beach WPP 1-9 Apr (C&LN, mob).
N. Fulmar: 50 PEL1 19 May (DK).
Greater Shearwater: PEL1 (DK).
Sooty Shearwater: 30 PEL1 (DK); SHIN 16, 18, 23 May; 100+ SHIN 26 May; RMSP 27 May.
Manx Shearwater: PEL1 (DK); 22 PEL2; RMSP 27 May.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 300 PEL1 (DK); 25+ SHIN 26 May.
Leach's Storm-Petrel: PEL2.
Brown Pelican: 5 Democrat Pt 17 May.
Little Blue Heron: arr 7 Apr.
Tricolored Heron: arr 6 Apr.
Cattle Egret: E. Quogue 19 May (ES); JBWR 19 May thru.
Green Heron: arr 21 Apr.
Glossy Ibis: arr 24 Mar.
Turkey Vulture: 18 Riverhead 1 Apr; others to the east early Mar on; sporadically all season throughout.
BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: not on NYS Checklist; pd north of Bridgehampton 8-12 May (PAB *et al*); reported in recent years from NS, MA, MD, DE, SC, GA, FL.
Snow Goose: still 300+ JBWR 14 Mar; a few lingered to mid May.
Brant: "Black" and "Gray-bellied" races to late Mar; see *intro* for discussion of these birds.
BARNACLE GOOSE: provenance unknown; 1+ FBF to 31 Mar; Marine P Golf Course to 31 Mar; Oakland L QUEE to 9 Mar.
Wood Duck: 18 PP 16 Mar, a large spring congregation.
Eurasian Wigeon: FBF 2 Mar; RB 2 Mar; HP to 9 Mar.
Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: Pond X

Lawrence early Mar; with hybrid Tobay 31 Mar.

Tufted Duck X scaup sp. hybrid: still present Massapequa L 2 Mar.

King Eider: MP to late Mar.

Com. Eider: MP to late May.

Harlequin Duck: to mid Apr; numbers lower than recent years.

scoter sp.: 10,000+ (mostly Surf) MP 24 Mar; still thousands 7 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: RB thru 27 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 4 Mar.

Bald Eagle: Bayard Cutting Arboretum 17 Mar; CP 3 Apr; MNSA 6 Apr; east of Eastport 27 Apr; imm Mashomack Preserve Shelter I 3 May; ad Mashomack 5-15 May; FTT 11 May; Sears Bellow P Hampton Bays 16 May.

Wild Turkey: 5 Riverhead-Southold town line 30 Mar; HG 1 May; 3 PBP 15 May; Grumman property Calverton 15-17 May.

N. Bobwhite: Jamesport 24 Apr; Hempstead Plains 16 May; Jamesport 11 May; Cupsogue County P 24 May; fields at Cty Rd 51 19 May; Camp Hero 19 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 27 Mar.

Piping Plover: arr 9 Mar.

Killdeer: arr 7 Mar.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: 2 MNSA 11-25 May; CM 12-27 May (AnW. *et al*); rare, but single birds have appeared on South Shore wetlands in springs of 1998, 1999, 2000.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 19 Apr.

Willet: arr mid Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 15 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: 2 Mount Loretto P SI 14 Apr; Shoreham sod fields 30 Apr; Grumman property Calverton 11 May; Gabreski Airport Westhampton 26 May.

Whimbrel: 1-4 along Dune Rd E. Quogue

to Ponquogue Bridge 10-24 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 9 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 16 Apr.
Purple Sandpiper: last 3 L Montauk inlet jetties 16 May.
Red-necked Phalarope: PB 17-26 May (AM); rare in spring.
SOUTH POLAR SKUA: 4 PEL1 (DK).
Pomarine Jaeger: PEL2.
Parasitic Jaeger: PEL2; 3 SHIN 26 May.
Long-tailed Jaeger: PEL2.
Laughing Gull: arr 24 Mar.
Little Gull: 2 imm & 3 ad, not all at any one time, PL 2 Mar sporadically thru 21 Apr; SI 26, 28 May.
Black-headed Gull: up to 4 PL to 21 Apr; Sagg Pd 14 Apr.
Iceland Gull: MP 3, 10 Mar; East Hampton 10 Mar; WPP 9 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: imm MP 2, 10 Mar; Agawam Pd Southampton 2 Mar; imm CP reservoir 26 Mar.
Great Black-backed Gull: bird with greenish-yellow legs JBWE 30 Mar (SM), *intro*.
Black-legged Kittiwake: MP thru late Mar.
Gull-billed Tern: apparently nesting on bay islands off JBWR, MNSA, JBWE; seen flying over these sites since arriving in area.
Caspian Tern: 2 MEB 14 Apr, 1 thru 21 Apr; PP 15, 19 May.
Royal Tern: 2 WPP 4 Apr; 2 JBWE 4 May.
Com. Tern: arr 27 Mar, early.
Forster's Tern: 3 Amityville Beach 29 Mar.
Dovekie: feeding in a 40' wide creek at south side of Shinnecock Bay just west of Triton Ln 2 Mar (TWB *et al*).
Razorbill: MP 2, 10 Mar.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: Green-Wood Cemetery; others.
N. Saw-whet Owl: PBP 2 Mar; CP 25 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 28 Apr.
Chuck-will's-widow: FP 5 May; still persists at Cedar Beach Japanese black pine stand; other South Shore sites.
Chimney Swift: arr 9 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 21 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: a few migrants and some lingering winter birds.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 10 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 21 Apr, early.
E. Phoebe: arr 11 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 11 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr 21 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 3 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 21 Apr.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 9 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 25 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr 10 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 21 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr 30 Mar.
Tree Swallow: Shinnecock 2 Mar; MP 3 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr SI 4 Apr, very early.
Bank Swallow: arr 25 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 29 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr 3 Apr.
House Wren: arr 9 Apr, early.
Winter Wren: arr 9 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 24 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 31 Mar.
Bicknell's Thrush: singing and calling FP 18 May.
Swainson's Thrush: 35 RMSP 11 May.
Hermit Thrush: exceptionally large numbers of migrants reported.
Wood Thrush: arr 21 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr 23 Mar.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 2 May; Riverside P Manhattan 9 May; CP 12 May; HLSP 16 May; Sands Pt Preserve 24 May.
"Brewster" Warbler: PP 3-4 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FP 11 May; Stillwell Woods Syosset 22 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Tobay 30-31 Mar; PP 14, 25-27 Apr; FP 3 May; 2 FP 5 May; APP 10 May; CP 16-23 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 26 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 5 Apr, early.
Yellow Warbler: arr 16 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 21 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 27 Apr; 360 RMSP 10 May, large number.
Cape May Warbler: arr 4 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 21 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 17 Apr.
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER:
 Massapequa Preserve 14, 15, 17, 19 Apr (PJ, *et al*); earliest date.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 4 May.
Yellow-throated Warbler: Quaker Cemetery KING 1 May; Conference House P SI 5 May; Green-Wood Cemetery 11 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Shelter I 9 Mar.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 7 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 8 May.
Cerulean Warbler: FP 20 Apr; CP 5-6 May; HG 5 May; PP 8 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 9 May.
Am. Redstart: arr 18 Apr; 320 RMSP 10 May, large number.
Prothonotary Warbler: CP 22 Apr; FP 2-5 May; WPP 3-4 May; CP 11-12 May; Riverside P Manhattan 16 May; PP 20-22 May; CLP 23 May.
Ovenbird: arr 13 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr 16 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: CP 21, 27 Apr, 2, 12 May; VCP 27 Apr; 2 RMSP 10 May; Muttontown Preserve 14 May; 2 PP 12, 25 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr 10 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr 16 Apr.
Wilson's Warbler: arr 6 May.

Canada Warbler: arr 3 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: most reports from NYC parks; a few out east mid May thru.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: CP 8, 12 May; Eastport 15-16 May; Gardiners I 15 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr 28 Apr; 275 RMSP 10 May (PL, SM), an extraordinary number.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Gilgo 16 May (NL), very rare in spring along the coast.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 7 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 May; 5 RMSP 10 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 21 Apr; 200 RMSP 10 May, large number.
Blue Grosbeak: Gilgo 21 Apr; Jamesport 24 Apr; CP 5 May; Inwood Hill P upper Manhattan 11 May; PP 11 May; CP 12, 16, 19-23 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr 21 Apr.
Bobolink: SI 5 May; 2 m & 1 f Hempstead Plains Nature Preserve 10 May; 90 FI 10 May; Grumman property Calverton 11 May; CP 12 May; Stillwell Woods Syosset 22 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 30 Mar, early; 450 RMSP 10 May, largest number away from Great Lakes.
Red Crossbill: 2 in pines 5th Ave at E 100 St, Manhattan 26 Mar; 2 HG 24 Apr, 10 there on 30 Mar, 1 on 13 May.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 The Bronx Zoo 13 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: 3 JBWR 7 Mar; CP 15, 17 Mar.
Pine Siskin: Glenwood Landing feeder 17 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: CP 16, 21 Apr; Amagansett 18Apr.

ADDENDUM

Tennessee Warbler: CP 21 Feb, another amazing winter record.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY -adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P -park; Pd- Pond; ph - photographed; Pt -Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad -subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

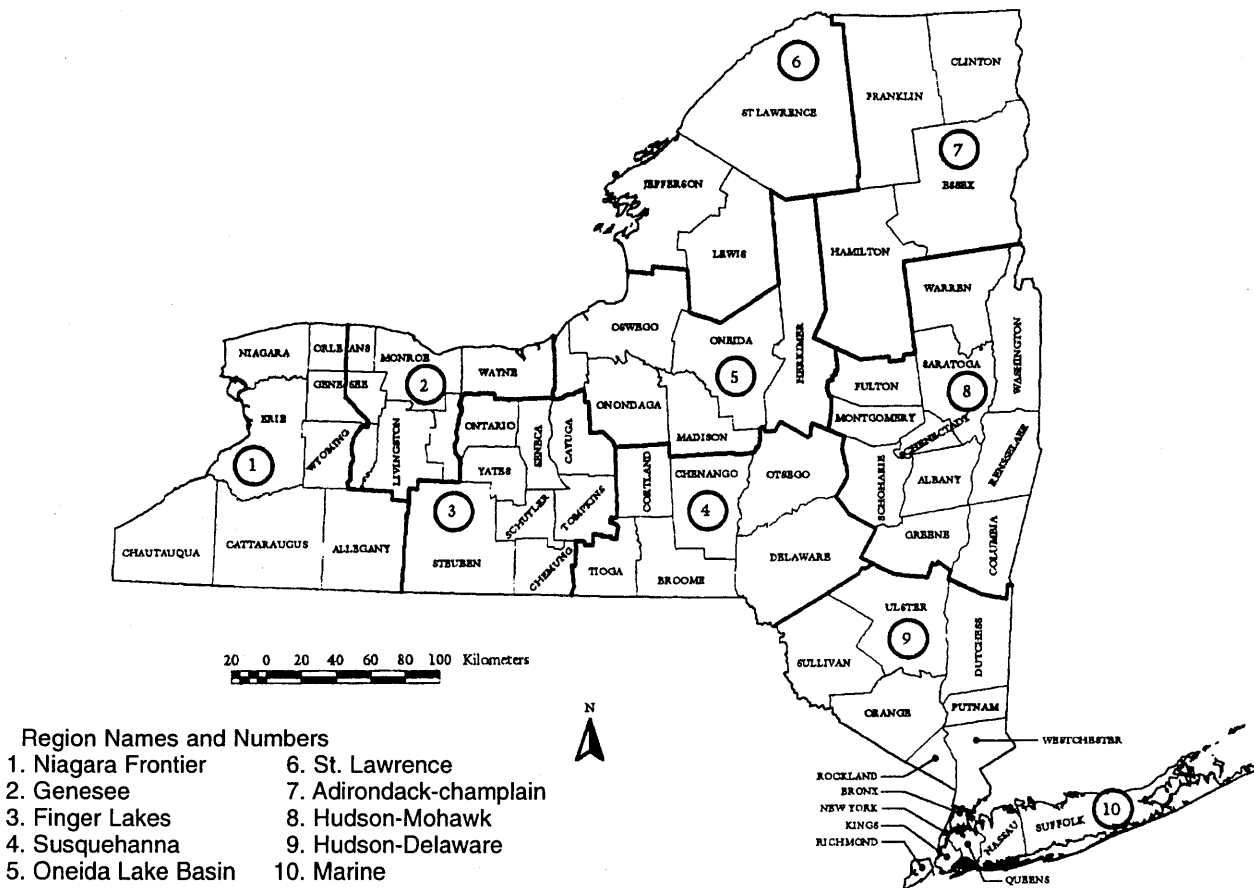
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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