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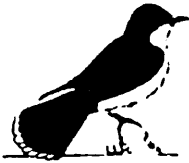
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pgs. 181 - 276

CONTENTS

A Possible Black-chinned Hummingbird in New York State Michael D. Stubblefield	182
Archilochus Hummingbird at Lenoir Preserve (Westchester Co.) NY Dec 2001 – Andrew Guthrie	189
Pied-billed Grebe Densities in a Western New York Wetland Impoundment David A. Seyler	195
Merlin Breeds in Broome County- First Historic Nesting South of the Adirondacks – Marie N. Petuh	203
MacGillivray’s Warbler Banded at Rochester- 4 Jun 2003- Second NYS Record – Cindy Marino	205
Caching of Prey by Northern Hawk Owl Jay G. Lehman	207
What to Do When The Peregrine Visits: A Marbled Godwit’s Stealth Defense – Rex G. Stanford	209
Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. – Minutes of 55th Annual Meeting	211
Corrigendum	213
Highlights of the Spring Season 2003 - Guest Editor Kurt J. Fox	214
Changes in the AOU Checklist Relevant to New York State	218
Spring Arrival Date Tables	219
Regional Reports	222
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations and Reporting Deadlines	275
Map of Reporting Regions	276

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A POSSIBLE BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD IN NEW YORK STATE

Michael D. Stubblefield

134 Haven Ave., Apt. 2B, New York City 10032

On 7 Dec, 2001 at the Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, (Westchester Co.) New York, Hugh Martin noticed a "second hummingbird" in a patch of *Salvia* that had been used by a first year male Rufous Hummingbird since 17 Nov 2001. Observation and identification of this second bird was hampered by "aggressive interactions" between the two birds. The second bird was ultimately identified as an *Archilochus* species hummingbird based largely on the lack of rufous in the tail. This would make the bird either a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) or a Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*). The bird was observed again the following day by several observers. This time Andrew Guthrie obtained digital photographs of the bird. Guthrie's photographs and an excellent discussion of the bird in question can be accessed at: http://home.earthlink.net/~andyguthrie/ny_archilochus.htm

Although no one has claimed to have positively identified the mystery *Archilochus*, the general consensus among several experienced birders is that the bird was probably a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

On 18 Dec 2001 Ben Cacace, Phil Jeffrey and I saw the mystery *Archilochus*. We observed the bird for more than an hour as it fed low in the *Salvia* and perched deep within it. It seemed tired and was frequently chased by the aggressive first-year male Rufous Hummingbird. Phil Jeffrey and I were able to obtain several photographs of the bird in question. Jeffrey's equipment consisted of a tripod mounted Canon 500mm f4.0 IS telephoto lens with a 2X tele-converter, a Canon EOS 3 camera, a Canon 550 EX flash, and a flash extender. My equipment was similar and consisted of a tripod mounted Canon 600mm f4.0 IS telephoto lens with a 1.4X tele-converter, a Canon EOS 1V camera, a Canon 550 EX flash, and a flash extender.

My field impression of the bird was that it exhibited many of the characteristics of Black-chinned Hummingbird. The major reason for this determination were the very wide outer primary feathers, easily viewed as the bird sat low in the *Salvia*. The relatively gray head, gray nape, dull overall color, and tail movement while feeding, also impressed me. I was able to view and photograph the underside of the primaries from a vantage point about eighteen (18) inches off the ground. Inspection of the images and further study on the Black-chinned/Ruby-throated species duo helped to confirm and enforce my initial impression. Not only do I think the mystery *Archilochus* is a Black-chinned Hummingbird, it is most likely a first-year female based on the lack of gorget feathers and the distinctive primary shape.

I present several images here (Figs. 1-4) as well as a discussion of my reasoning for claiming that the mystery *Archilochus* is a Black-chinned Hummingbird. I will be extensively referencing Steve N.G. Howell's *Hummingbirds of North America: The Photographic Guide* (Academic Press 2002),

and Peter Pyle's *Identification Guide to North American Birds* (Slate Creek Press 1997). Also, I reference several web sites on the subject.

My opinion that the Lenoir *Archilochus* is most likely a Black-chinned Hummingbird is based on two major and several minor field marks:

Outer Primary Shape: This is probably the best single field mark for separating female/immature Black-chinned and Ruby-throated. Howell notes (on page 137) that the "Best feature is wing shape, especially the shape of P10: Ruby-throated has relatively narrower and more tapered primaries throughout, often most noticeable on P8-P10 such that wing tip appears relatively narrow and tapered on Ruby-throated, broad and blunt-tipped on Black-chinned." Pyle echoes the importance of the outer primary shape in separating female/immature Black-chinned from Ruby-throated. Pyle's "Figure 97" and "Table 2" (pages 134-135) demonstrate the variation in the width and shape of the outer primaries by species, age, and sex.

The quality of images I obtained of the Lenoir *Archilochus* as it perched deep within the *Salvia* suffer from the low light conditions and obstructions present there (Figs. 3, 4). Despite these shortcomings, the images clearly demonstrate the broad and blunt-tipped shape of the outer primary feathers. The feather shape is not only consistent with that expected on Black-chinned, but is also most consistent with a first-year female Black-chinned, which demonstrates the broadest and most blunt-tipped outer primaries.

It should be noted that the primaries are not seen as well on Andy Guthrie's images for a number of reasons, the most important being perspective. I was photographing the bird from below as it held its wings below its tail. Guthrie probably photographed it from near eye-level. The importance of the perspective from which one views the primaries of an *Archilochus* hummingbird is illustrated in Figs. 5 & 6. These are images of an adult female Black-chinned Hummingbird taken in December 2000 at the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Texas. In Fig. 5 the outer primaries are edge-on and give the impression that they are narrow and tapered as would be expected in a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. In Fig. 6 the primaries show more aspect and one can see that they are very broad and blunt-tipped. I e-mailed Fig.5 of the Bentsen Black-chinned Hummingbird to several of the birders who saw the Lenoir *Archilochus*. Interestingly, two of the birders suggested that I had misidentified the Bentsen bird based on the outer primaries...they had not seen Fig. 6!!

Additional information on primary shape can be found at:

http://www.losbird.org/188_99nov_fig5.htm

Tail Length: Black-chinned has a much shorter tail than Ruby-throated. This is a relatively invariable characteristic. Bob Sargent <<http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org/black.html>> notes that "When Black-chinned is perched and the wings are folded, the tips of the folded wing will almost always extend beyond the tip of the tail. Occasionally

they will appear to be the same length. Unless the tail feathers are just emerging and do not have their full length, the tail of Ruby-throated will always extend well beyond the folded wing. “

In the Lenoir *Archilochus* the tail is short (Figs. 1 & 2) and the primaries clearly project well beyond the folded tail (Figs. 3 & 4). This is very suggestive of, if not diagnostic for, Black-chinned Hummingbird. Note in Figs. 5 and 6 of the Texas Black-chinned that the wings do not quite extend to the tail. Examination of the photos of Black-chinned in Howell's book demonstrate that this degree of extension is well within range for this species.

Bill Shape: Black-chinned tends to have a longer and more decurved bill than Ruby-throated. This tendency is not invariable and there is much overlap, especially in young birds where the bill may not be fully grown (Pyle p.138). The curvature of the bill is probably more important than length. Though not overly long, the bill of the Lenoir *Archilochus* is very decurved and most consistent with Black-chinned (Fig. 2). Careful attention to the many photographs of Ruby-throated and Black-chinned in Howell illustrates this point. My images of a Black-chinned Hummingbird in Texas (Figs. 5 & 6) show a bill typical of this species.

Coloration: While both Black-chinned and Ruby-throated are described as having “emerald-green backs,” Black-chinned tends to be duller and flatter in overall back color. In addition, Black-chinned tends to be dingier below than Ruby-throated. This duller back coloration combined with a dingy belly makes the Black-chinned appear less contrasted than Ruby-throated. (Howell p. 125; see also the Sargent web site). Characteristics of plumage coloration, however, are subject to great variation within a species. Moreover, our perception of color is strongly influenced by the viewing conditions. Again, a close inspection of the new Howell book will illustrate this point. Compare the images of Ruby-throated on pages 130-133 and the Black-chinned photos on pages 142-145 to get a sense of the variation within the species. Compare also image 16.11 of an immature female Ruby-throated with image 17.11 of a probable female immature Black-chinned; now review the image of the Lenoir *Archilochus* (Figs 1-4) which is very dull above and dingy, almost buffy, below. The overall plumage is most consistent with Black-chinned Hummingbird.

Head color: Ruby-throated tends to have a greener head, crown, and nape than Black-chinned. Green on the forehead may be diagnostic of Ruby-throated. As with back color, however, this is a highly variable characteristic (review the same images suggested above in Howell). The Lenoir *Archilochus* clearly has a significant amount of gray on the forehead, crown, and nape. The pollen staining on the forehead is also quite obvious but there is no green there. The head color is not particularly helpful here but is very consistent with Black-chinned Hummingbird.

Head pattern: Ruby-throated may tend to have a somewhat bolder facial pattern with more and darker blackish coloration below and behind the eye. Again, this is a markedly variable characteristic and is not diagnostic or particularly useful for either species. (Compare Howell 17.7, 17.8, and 17.9 with images 17.6 and 17.11). The Lenoir *Archilochus* clearly has some blackish coloration below and behind the eye but no more than the immature male Black-chinned illustrated in Howell (17.7) and considerably more than shown in several of the Ruby-throated photos (16.4, 16.5, and 16.6) The facial pattern, while not overly helpful, is consistent with Black-chinned Hummingbird.

Tail-bobbing: Black-chinned tend to bob their tails while feeding. This is a helpful characteristic when it is quite obvious. The lack of tail-bobbing, however, does not rule out Black-chinned Howell (p. 136) notes that "Male Black-chinned often wags its tail strongly, while Ruby-throated's tail is usually held more stiffly and quivered rather than wagged or pumped, but this is not diagnostic." Behavioral traits are subject to tremendous variability.

The Lenoir *Archilochus* definitely moved its tail while feeding (note the blurred tail in Figs. 1 & 2). I am not sure if it was bobbing the tail as aggressively as I have seen in other Black-chinned. It may be that the presence of a very aggressive, dominant, and territorial Rufous Hummingbird defending the only good flower patch in the vicinity, or other factors, blunted the tail-bobbing behavior.

In summary, the photographs taken on 18 Dec 2001 at the Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers, New York suggest that the *Archilochus* hummingbird present was a Black-chinned Hummingbird. This conclusion is based on the diagnostic shape of the outer primaries and the diagnostic primary extension relative to the tail. Other supportive field marks noted such as the bill shape, bill length, back color, under-part color, head color, nape color, facial pattern, and tail-bobbing behavior are all consistent with my diagnosis of Black-chinned Hummingbird.

If accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC), this will be the first New York State record for Black-chinned Hummingbird.

NOTE: *The photographs referred to in this article, which are here reproduced in black-and-white because of budgetary restrictions, may be viewed in full color on the Federation website: www.fnysbc.org*

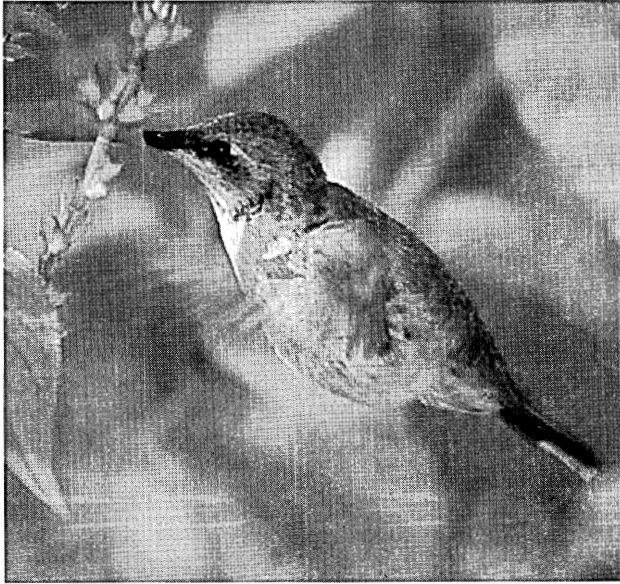


Fig. 1 – *Archilochus* feeding in *Salvia*
18 Dec 2001 ©Stubblefield

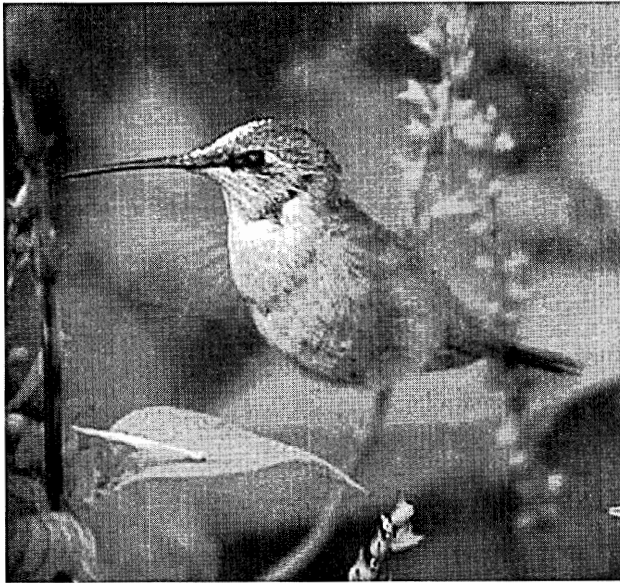


Fig. 2 – *Archilochus* hovering Lenoir Preserve
18 Dec 2001 ©Jeffrey



Fig. 3 – *Archilochus* perched Lenoir Preserve
18 Dec 2001
Note primary extension
©Stubblefield



Fig. 4 – Close-up of tail showing primary extension
©Stubblefield

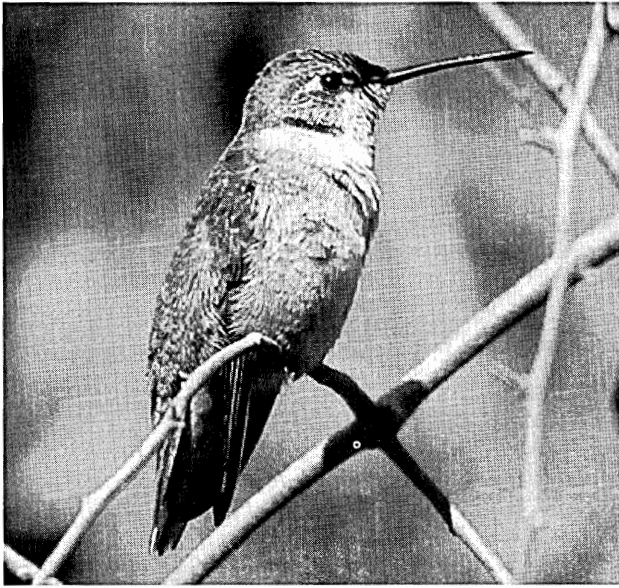


Fig. 5 – Black-chinned Dec 2000 Texas
Note outer primaries appear narrow and tapered.
©Stubblefield

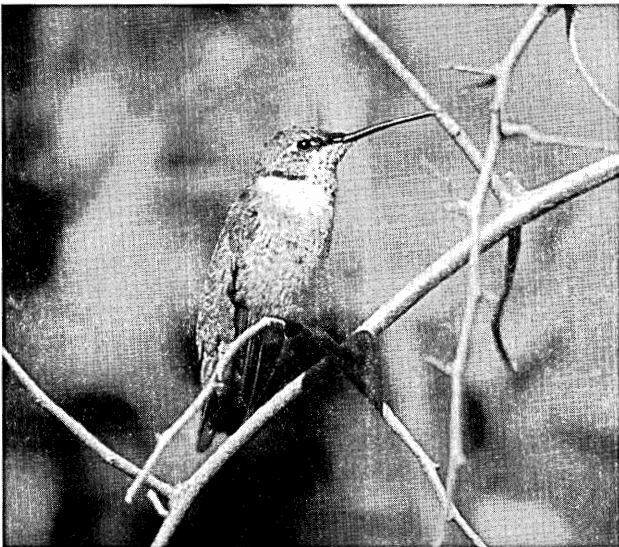


Fig. 6 – Same individual as Fig. 5
Note change of angle causes outer primaries
to appear much broader.
©Stubblefield

ARCHILOCHUS HUMMINGBIRD AT LENOIR PRESERVE (WESTCHESTER CO.) NY DEC 2001

Andrew Guthrie

60 Gold St., Greenwich, CT 06830

andyguthrie@earthlink.net

The Lenoir Preserve hummingbird first seen on 7 Dec 2001 can be identified as an *Archilochus* hummingbird by its size, about the same size as the Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) present during the same time period, its medium length bill, its overall greenish upperparts and grayish underparts, with an obvious but not bright buffy wash to the flanks, and its green, black and white tail with no rufous color.

Separation of Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*A. colubris*) is notoriously difficult. Even with recent advances in field identification, observers are cautioned that some birds *cannot* be safely identified in the field without close, extended views in ideal conditions or photographs showing all critical marks, ideally in a variety of positions.

The first step in identification is to determine the likely age and sex of the bird. The Lenoir bird did not have a gorget, ruling out adult male. Immatures in the fall should show buff tips to the upperparts and secondaries as well as less dull green upperparts, as compared to adult females, which in late fall/early winter would show faded, browner primaries and often duller green upperparts. Unfortunately, the presence or absence of buff tips to the secondaries was not noted in the field perhaps due to the fact that the perched bird habitually fluffed out its body feathers, covering the upper part of the folded wing, as seen in Guthrie's photographs. Likewise, buff tips were not noted on the upperparts. Stubblefield's Fig. 1, however, appears to show distinct paler edging on the lower back feathers. An open question is what the effects of wear may be on these buff edgings by December. The appearance of the throat is an additional clue as immature males of both species typically show lines of distinct dark flecks, and some gorget color, often attaining one or more gorget feathers by August. The throats of immature and adult females range from unmarked whitish to showing lines of indistinct dusky flecks, allowing for separation from immature males. The combination of the lightly marked throat and apparent buff fringes visible on the upperparts make this bird most likely an immature female. This age determination is supported by the relatively dark, blackish primaries, indicating less wear than to be expected on an adult, and by the fairly extensive buffy wash on the underparts.

I'll address next the identification criteria discussed by Stubblefield in his article, keeping in mind that the presumed age and sex of the bird has an impact on how the criteria are evaluated.

- 1. Primary shape:** Given sufficiently close views or sharp enough photographs, this is the most important diagnostic feature. Especially critical is the shape of the outer primary (P10), with the caveat that it is dependent on a proper determination of the age and

sex of the bird and that there is some overlap between the two species. In both Ruby-throated and Black-chinned, the wing tip shapes range from narrowest in adult males to widest and most blunt-tipped in immature females. The wing tip shape in immature female Ruby-throated Hummingbird can be as similarly wide and relatively blunt-tipped as that of immature male Black-chinned (Pyle 1997). Dittman and Cardiff (Web Site 1999) also state that Ruby-throats, especially immature females, can show wide tips which are more “Black-chinned” with regard to this feature. The key point to look for is a more even curve throughout the length of the folded primary on Ruby-throated, as opposed to the more exaggerated curve shown at the tip of the primaries on Black-chinned (described by some as “scimitar- shaped”). In my opinion, the blown up wingtip visible in Stubblefield Fig. 4 shows a more even curve than should occur on an immature female Black-chinned and is more consistent with immature female Ruby-throated. Dittman and Cardiff caution, “It is possible that some individuals (e.g., immature male Black-chinned without gorget feathers versus immature female Ruby-throated) may not be safely identified in the field based on plumage alone.” Howell (Howell 2000)also cautions that the primary tips on birds in mid to late winter can be so worn and frayed that it is not possible to determine shape . The apparently translucent outer primary visible in Stubblefield Fig.4 suggests that this may be a real concern here. Given the somewhat soft focus, apparent interference by out-of-focus vegetation in the foreground, and the low light conditions involved, it is also difficult to be certain that the apparent shape of the wingtip is not due to photographic effect or influenced partly by movement of the bird.

2. **Tail length:** Here again it is important to note that this features varies by sex. Males have proportionately longer tails than females, so while the wingtips usually fall well short of the tail tip on male Ruby-throats, this will not necessarily hold for females. On the Lenoir bird, the apparent length of the tail visible in the pictures may be influenced by posture and the relative position of the bird to the photographers. Contrary to Stubblefield’s speculation, most of my pictures were taken from below the bird. Certain angles suggest that the tail may in fact be slightly longer than the wings (Guthrie Fig. 1). This feature should be best viewed as inconclusive. Howell does not even list this feature as a useful mark for separating females.
3. **Bill length:** Females of both species are longer-billed than males, and there is considerable overlap in both the overall measurements and the measurements for females. Howell discusses this feature with the caveat that “while bill measurements overlap, the longest-

billed Black-chinned and the shortest-billed Ruby-throateds may sometimes be distinguishable with experience.” The bill on the Lenoir bird does not appear overly long or decurved compared to, for example, the Ruby-throated in Howell Fig. 16.10 and the Black-chinned in Howell Fig. 17.4. Contrary to Stubblefield’s statement, there is no evidence that “the curvature/shape of the bill is probably more important than length”. In fact, the reverse is probably true – that length, when measurable or obviously extreme on the short or long end of the scale, is the most important feature of the bill. Neither Howell nor Pyle, for example, mention curvature in their discussions of the separation of the two species. This feature should be viewed at best inconclusive in the case of the Lenoir bird, and possibly more supportive of Ruby-throated.

4. Coloration: While both Ruby-throated and Black-chinned Hummingbirds are green above, there are average differences between the two. Ruby-throated is described as deeper, more golden-green above, while Black-chinned is duller, more bronzy-green or bluish-green above. These color evaluations on a lone bird can be difficult to determine. However, observers at the time noted the color as “bright, iridescent green”, and on certain images (Guthrie Fig.2, Stubblefield Fig. 2) there appears to be a golden-green sheen to the upperparts. This is more consistent with Ruby-throated. Howell states that “In general, Ruby-throated is deeper green above and whiter below, and typically appears more contrasting overall than Black-chinned, which is duller green above and dingier below” On the Lenoir bird, some of this contrast is obscured by the buffy wash on the underparts, which is present on immatures of both species. I believe that the bird is consistent with Ruby-throated; compare, for example, Stubblefield Fig.2 with Howell Figs. 16.9 and 16.11. Contrary to Stubblefield’s statement, I am not aware that characteristics of plumage coloration are subject to great variation within a species outside of regularly occurring color morphs, molt-related influences, or oddities such as leucism, or that one should expect significant color variation within either Black-chinned or Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. This issue is not raised in Howell, Pyle or Dittman/Cardiff. I agree that color perception is vastly influenced by light conditions and in photographs, by flash lighting, film variation, scanning etc., and visible variation in upperparts color among these hummingbirds, including that shown among species in the photographs in Howell, is most likely a result of these factors.

5. Head color: As stated, Ruby-throateds tend to have a greener head, crown and nape than Black-chinned. However, on Ruby-throateds this feature is variable: Pyle indicates that “some Ruby-throateds may have duller foreheads” and Dittman/Cardiff state that “the

forehead of immatures, especially females, is often dull brown and contrasts with a greener top of head”, as opposed to Black-chinned which have “*entirely* [emphasis the authors] dull brownish-gray crown (often extending down onto the nape)”. The Lenoir birds forehead is apparently stained with pollen, obscuring the true color. The rest of the head does appear brownish in some images, but the nape is clearly the same greenish color as the rest of the upperparts, and a number of photographs also appear to show this green extending up to the crown (Guthrie Fig.3). I disagree with the statement that the Lenoir bird “clearly has a significant amount of gray on the forehead, crown and nape”. The forehead is most likely brown but obscured by apparent pollen staining, the crown is possibly green, and the nape is certainly green. This feature is best left as equivocal, and certainly not strongly supportive of Black-chinned.

6. **Head pattern:** I agree that this feature is not particularly helpful. and should not be used as a factor in identifying the Lenoir bird. It is not listed as a criteria for separating the two species by Howell, Pyle, or Dittman/Cardiff.
7. **Tail- bobbing:** I believe that the phrase that Black-chinned “tends” to bob the tail while feeding is understating the usefulness of this characteristic tail-wagging behavior as an identification point. Howell states that “Black-chinned often wags and spreads its tail frequently and at times persistently while hovering and feeding.” Dittman/Cardiff list “vigorous “tail-pumping” behavior *while in the act of drinking nectar*”(emphasis the authors) as one of the best distinguishing features for Black-chinned. For Ruby-throated, Howell indicates “Ruby-throated usually holds its tail rigid, quivering or flashing it only slightly” and Dittman/Cardiff state “Ruby-throated usually do not “pump” or “wag” their tails *while in the act of drinking nectar while hovering* (emphasis the authors) but be very cautious with this character because they do pump their tails while maneuvering into feeding position”. The behavior of the Lenoir bird was entirely consistent with the typical behavior of Ruby-throated Hummingbird and inconsistent with the typical behavior of Black-chinned. My notes taken while observing the bird read: “Approaches and departures from flowers marked by tail flicking and flaring. While feeding tail was consistently held horizontally still with rapid quivering from side to side. Seemed to pump tail once on each departure from a flower on which it had fed.” I also disagree with Stubblefield’s statement that “The lack of a pronounced form of this behavior cannot be used as a strong argument against the Lenoir *Archilochus* being a Black-chinned Hummingbird.” The display of behavior which is typical for one of a species pair and atypical for the other must be considered strong

evidence in the identification process. How typical is this behavior of Black-chinned? On one of the websites cited by Stubblefield, hummingbird bander Bob Sargent states: "I have never observed a Black-chinned for any length of time that it didn't put on a display of 'tail-pumping' as it hovered".

The identification of the female hummingbird photographed by Stubblefield in Texas may also need further review. It appears to be a well-worn adult, and the features exhibited such as the long tail relative to wingtips, the greenish-gray flanks, the relatively short bill, and the relatively pointed shape of both the inner primaries and the outer primaries, are in my mind all more supportive of an identification of Ruby-throated than Black-chinned.

Caution is always advised when attempting to identify an out-of-range bird. Ideally, the identification should be unequivocal, and all relevant field marks should be noted (both in the field and if possible with physical or photographic evidence). Many would argue that a first state record should be held to an even higher standard. In the case of the Lenoir Archilochus, we are dealing with an extremely difficult field identification, one where caution is advised even by the leading authorities, who warn that in many instances field identification may not be safely possible. Without in-hand measurements of the best field marks, such as the relative primary widths, rectrix length and bill length, which could confirm the identification, we are left with attempting to establish the identification by the overwhelming support of a more subjective review of the criteria. In my opinion, as outlined above, the weight of the evidence is more supportive of an identification of Ruby-throated Hummingbird than of Black-chinned, and falls short of the accumulation of evidence desired for establishing a certain identification of Black-chinned. This may be best left as the most difficult of calls to make: a fairly well studied, but in the end, unidentified bird.

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NOTE: The photographs referred to in this article, which are here reproduced in black-and-white because of budgetary restrictions, may be viewed in full color on the Federation website: www.fnysbc.org



Fig.1 - Note the golden-green on the upperparts with the green color extending up the nape to the crown. In this pose the wing appear to be at or slightly short of the tail.

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Fig. 2 - A rear pose showing the even color on the upperparts. Here again the nape and crown are green.

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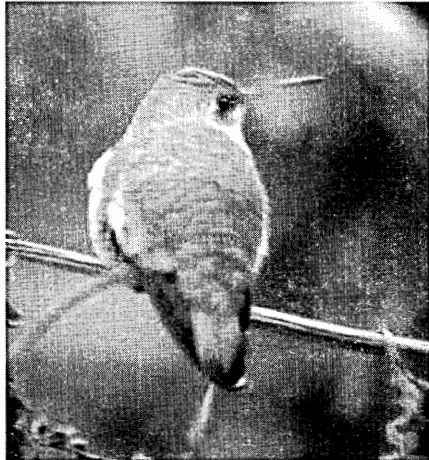
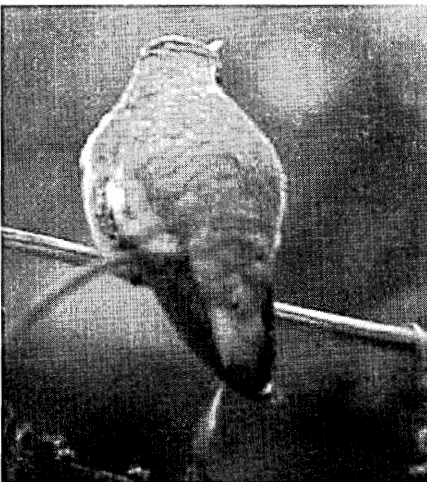


Fig. 3 - another back view – this time the wingtips appear to be slightly beyond the tail tip, which may be due to their positioning relative to the tail.

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**PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*)
DENSITIES IN A
WESTERN NEW YORK WETLAND IMPOUNDMENT**

David A. Seyler

1889 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda, NY 14150

Abstract

Pied-billed Grebes are considered to be widespread, but uncommon breeders in New York (Andrle and Carroll 1988). They were reported on only 3% of the survey blocks of New York State's Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-1985) with most reports coming from managed state or federal wildlife areas. Forty-one active Pied-billed Grebe nests were located in May 2002 in a 64.8 hectare emergent wetland-impoundment. Studying habitat use at managed wetlands utilized by grebes-could help perpetuate the species in New York.

Introduction

The Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) has an extensive breeding range in the western hemisphere from Hawaii and central and northeastern British Columbia east to Nova Scotia and south through North America, Central America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and into South America as far as central Chile and southern Argentina (A.O.U. Checklist 1998, Muller and Storer 1999). In New York State, Bull (1974) reports the species to be fairly well-distributed across the state, but least plentiful in the higher mountain areas of the Adirondacks and the Catskills. Marcotte (1998) summarizing 1988 Breeding Bird Atlas data essentially confirmed the same findings as Bull stating no evidence of the birds in the Adirondack High Peaks, the Catskills or the Allegany Hills, and listed most occurrences to be on state and federal wildlife areas.

The Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area (TWMA) has long been known to be used by Pied-billed Grebes for breeding. The TWMA is the westernmost portion of the wetland complex consisting of the federal Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (INWR) and the state owned Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area (OOWMA) located in Genesee and Orleans counties. The three properties are collectively known as the Alabama swamps after the local township. Situated on the Tonawanda Creek floodplain, the TWMA is largely shallow emergent wetland with limited areas of flooded timber and upland grass areas.

Research and data collection on the Pied-billed Grebe population at the Alabama swamps began in 1994. Surveys were conducted from mid-August through the first week of October and resulted in counts as high as 108 birds as late as 7 Oct (Seyler 1994). Nesting data were collected for several years on numbers of nests, egg rotation during incubation and the development of a field technique to determine the stage of incubation in grebe nests. The research however; has yet to be completed for publication (Seyler unpublished data).

Based partly on the nesting data collected by Seyler over the years on both Pied-billed Grebes and Least Bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*), the need for more

research was obvious. In 1997 a graduate student, S. Lor, began nesting ecology studies on several marsh bird species including Pied-billed Grebes. The study area was select marshes from the three wetland areas (TWMA,, INWR ,OOWMA) constituting the Alabama swamps. In the second season of Lor's study, nest searches were conducted on 574 ha. of emergent marsh revealing 160 Pied-billed Grebe nests, 93 of which contained eggs or chicks (Lor 2000). The impoundment area of this paper, Ruddy Marsh, was included in Lor's study. Lor calculated Pied-billed Grebe nests to be at densities of 1 / 3.59 ha. of emergent marsh. In 2001 the nesting population of grebes in West Ruddy marsh was estimated to be 25 pairs (Seyler 2001).

Purpose

Pied-billed Grebes have long been known to breed on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area in western New York. Although past nesting studies have been done, the breeding population size has not been well-documented. By obtaining an accurate count of nests within a single impoundment, the entire population could be better estimated.

Methods

Foot searches were conducted in West Ruddy marsh. Two to three people waded in line about 10 meters apart through suitable nesting areas. Very dense cattail (*Typha spp*) stands were not searched. A small area consisting largely of standing and fallen dead timber was also omitted. Moderately dense to sparse areas of cattail, bur-reed (*Sparganium spp.*) and bull rush (*Scirpus spp*) were thoroughly covered. Nests were visibly marked with bright pink vinyl flagging tied to dry cattail stalks or narrow wooden stakes carried by the searcher. Care was taken to ensure that second nestings were not tallied as an additional nesting pair of birds.

Results

Nest searching began 8 May 2002 in West Ruddy Marsh on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. All first nesting attempts were well underway and most eggs were hatching or very close to it. The solid islands of cattail and the few areas of very dense stands were not searched since such areas were not suitable for grebe nesting. Nest searching continued on 15 and 17 May. Nine days elapsed from the start of the searches until the entire impoundment was searched. Forty-one nests with eggs or chicks were located resulting in a nesting density of 1/1.58 ha. of emergent habitat.

Discussion

West Ruddy marsh was selected for intensive nest searching because of its high use by Pied-billed Grebes, its large size and easy access. West Ruddy marsh was constructed in 1970 and originally was a 139.7 ha. impoundment

bounded on three sides by earthen dikes and tapering into grasslands and green timber to the north. In 1997 the marsh was divided roughly in half with the construction of a north south dike creating East Ruddy and West Ruddy. East Ruddy is primarily flooded timber and presents only marginal habitat for Pied-billed Grebes.

West Ruddy is completely an emergent wetland. Only a few struggling live trees and a small remnant group of dead standing snags disrupts the emergent vegetation. The 64.8 ha. impoundment contains an estimated 52.6 ha. of emergent vegetation with the remaining 12.1 ha. as open water.(NYSDEC unpublished data). A borrow ditch, approximately 2 m. deep by 3 m. wide, created by the construction of the dike, runs the length of the western side providing about 1.7 kilometers of deep water. Water depth throughout the remainder of the marsh is much shallower. Nine water depth measurements were taken along a north/south transect at regularly spaced intervals in mid-June. The average depth was calculated at 51 cm. Cattail, both narrow-leaf (*Typhus augustifolia*) and broad-leaf (*T. latifolia*) is the dominant cover type with a visual estimation of about 80%. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) constitutes about 10%, with bur-reed occupying roughly 8% and bull rush covering a small 2%.

West Ruddy marsh is high quality Pied-billed Grebe habitat and is likely the best site for the species in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. It is attractive to the species because of it's large size, water depth and vegetative structure. At 64.8 ha. the marsh is well beyond the minimum size utilized by the species. Nudds (1982) found grebes to utilize wetlands as small as 0.3 ha. in Manitoba. In the state of Washington, 80% of Pied billed Grebe broods were observed on potholes ranging from 0.4 to 2.0 ha. (Yocum et al.1958). Faaborg (1976) surveyed over 500 ponds and lakes and only observed grebes on 44 seasonal or semi-permanent wetlands. He reported grebes to use wetlands of 0.6-7.0 ha. and that the birds appeared to avoid wetlands that were smaller or larger. Lor (2000) reported that more than 50% of the 160 Pied-billed Grebe nests were located in Ruddy Marsh. In contrast to reports of small scale habitats being used, Brown and Dinsmore (1986) reported grebes regularly use wetlands greater than 5 ha.

Pied-billed Grebes have been observed in all water bodies on the TWMA (pers. observ.) There is a great variability in the structure and size of impoundments from large open emergent marshes to green timber impoundments to small potholes with only vegetated borders. In some of the more obscure areas birds were observed feeding and loafing only and likely did not nest there.

Water control structures allow for water level management and the average depth of about 50 cm. is ideal for nesting. Researchers have listed the range of water depths at nest sites to be 0.14 m. to 0.90 m. (Andrle and Carroll 1988, Chabreck 1963, Lor 2000, Provost 1947, Sealy 1978). Sealy (1978) reported the average water depth at 31 nests to be 35.5 cm. with 4 nests in water between 14 and 24 cm. At one nest it was necessary for the adult bird to skitter across the surface for 2.1m. until it reached deeper water.

Habitat interspersation of vegetation to water in West Ruddy is close to the hemi-marsh as described by Weller and Spatcher (1965). Cattail, the dominant vegetation, is found in a wide range of densities from sparse to extremely dense

and from extensive swaths to very small clumps. There are few very dense stands. Most of the cattail areas have been perforated into various sized patches creating perfect habitat for several important marsh bird species. Purple loosestrife dominated the southwest corner over an area about 4.5 ha. in size to the exclusion of other plant species. Bur-reed and bull rush grew sporadically in small areas mostly toward the center of the impoundment.

Pied-billed Grebes avoid dense emergent vegetation. This was found to be true by Fredrickson and Reid (1986) who reported that grebes did not use areas of "dense" or "rank" emergent vegetative cover. Saunders (1926) reported that Pied-billed Grebes preferred areas with considerable open water and in the vicinity of floating water weeds. Shallow potholes surrounded by homogeneous stands of *Sciurus* were found by Nudds (1982) to be preferred over deeper potholes that were utilized by Horned Grebes (*P. auritus*). Dense emergent vegetation is an impediment to Pied-billed Grebes and greatly reduces the suitability of an area to their nesting. They are stocky, swimming birds that move through emergent vegetation only when a waterway passage is possible. With legs placed far back on the body for life in the water, the birds are unable to climb through dense vegetation. High stem densities and accumulations of previous season growth act as barriers to birds that have evolved for swimming. Dense vegetation impedes movement, lowers visibility, decreases foraging areas and provides avenues for predators to reach grebe nests.

The species will tolerate dense emergent growth only if well infiltrated with water channels. They actually only occupy the water areas around the vegetation. Least Bitterns thrive in the same type of habitat by remaining in the vegetation. Flight and evasion is the survival method employed by both species. This is most often accomplished by silently slipping away without detection; grebes underwater and Least Bitterns through the vegetation. For this survival tactic to be successful for grebes two things are necessary; visibility to see approaching danger and an open water escape route. Dense emergent vegetation limits both, although some protection is provided through concealment. Areas with high stem densities and accumulations of old growth also provide a means for terrestrial predators to more readily gain access to floating grebe nests. Open water and sparsely vegetated areas are less often scoured by predators such as mink (*Mustela vison*) or raccoons (*Procyon lotor*).

Despite some reports that grebes prefer dense emergent vegetation (Provost 1947, Nudds 1982, Deusing 1939), the best nesting habitat structure for the grebes is sparse to moderate emergent vegetation and large areas of open water. Reports of such habitat use are not uncommon (Lor 2000, Abbott 1907, Chabreck 1963, Muller and Storer 1999, Saunders 1926). Some authors have offered possible reasons for such selections. When nests were found in emergent vegetation, Muller and Storer (1999) proposed that there are two overriding factors that determine whether a site is suitable: 1. water depth > 25 cm; 2. emergent vegetation basal stem density of at least 10 square cm. per square meter. Chabreck (1963) reported 52 % of 107 nests to be in the open water averaging 60 m. from the nearest stand of vegetation. Nearly all of the remaining nests were in small stands of wiregrass 1 to 5 ft. in diameter. Chabreck believed that site selection was based on the availability of widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) to be used for nesting. Unobstructed visibility while on the nest was

also thought to be important.

At the Tonawanda/ Iroquois/ Oak Orchard wetland complex they avoid nesting in very dense cattail. Areas densely grown to cattail provide nesting opportunities only outside the vegetation along its edges or between clumps. In 1995 over thirty nests were located in the open water of a 300 acre impoundment on the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Bur-reed grew very sparingly around the nests. A much denser stand of bur-reed existed a short distance away yet contained no grebe nests. Extensive growths of cattail were also present less than 100 m. from the area of nests (Seyler unpublished data)

Cattail marshes are most valuable to nesting grebes after the vegetation has been opened by muskrat activity. Feeding and lodge building activities of muskrats (*Ondatra zibethica*) permeate into dense stands effectively thinning them resulting in openings that allow for ease of movement by the aquatic grebes. Visibility is also greatly increased, which likely is a factor in site selection for a species that very actively defends a nesting territory.

Musk rats are primarily responsible for thinning the cattails and creating the 50/50 interspersions favorable to numerous species including the Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) (Seyler 1991, 93 Hickey and Malecki 1997) In addition to opening up the vegetation, the cut stalks left from their eating habits are used for nest construction.

Pied-billed Grebes are highly territorial and they will aggressively defend a territory against other grebes and even other bird species (Kilham 1954, Muller and Storer 1999).

Distances between nests were not recorded during this study with the exception of two nests fairly close in purple loosestrife. Those nests were found to be 34.8 m. apart. Lor (2000) reported the average distance between nests to be 114.4 m.

The summation of 41 active grebe nests in West Ruddy, found in the study described in this paper, resulted in a nesting density of 1 pair per 1.58 ha. of emergent marsh, a density more than twice the 3.59 pair per ha. found for the area by Lor. Lor's density was based upon the 1998 findings of 160 grebe nests over 574 ha. of emergent marsh searched. 67 of those nests were without eggs or chicks. No mention is made as to why these nests were considered in the calculations nor is the time frame stated over which the data was collected. The method used fails to take into consideration that grebes will make dummy nests and that they are very early nesters that often raise two broods in a season. Grebe nests remain intact long after their use. It would therefore be highly possible that some nesting pairs were counted twice. If the 67 empty nests contained eggshells then the data could be useful for documenting nesting attempts. Recalculating Lor's data using just nests with eggs or chicks yielded a density of 1 pair per 6.17 ha.

Greater densities have been reported; 1 pair per 1.4 ha where $n = 13$ (Provost 1947) and 1 pair per 1.09 ha., $n = 64$ (Otto 1983b). Perhaps the greatest density came from an 81 ha. Louisiana impoundment where 107 nests were reported by Chabreck (1963) for a density of 0.75 ha. per pair. Glover (1953) stated nesting territories to be < 2 ha. The number of breeding pairs in West Ruddy Marsh in this study was also much higher than the conservative estimate.

of 25 pairs presented by Seyler the previous year (Seyler 2001). This is likely in large part due to the fact that the adjacent 53.4 ha. Wood Marsh was in draw down. Wood Marsh is part of the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area and lies south of West Ruddy Marsh. It contained 49 ha. of emergent marsh and had supported a sizable number of grebe pairs. The removal of such a large area of nesting immediately adjacent to West Ruddy would naturally cause a direct increase in the nesting density in West Ruddy. Nesting grebe pairs establish a home range and within that range is a smaller area that is highly defended, especially against other grebes. The defended territory has been defined as an arc of about 45 m. around the nest (Glover 1953). Outside this nest territory, the home range will extend to include foraging and loafing areas. Grebes are able to exist peaceably with other grebes without incident within the home range so long as they remain outside the highly protected nest site area. Home ranges of neighboring pairs will often overlap significantly.

As with most species, the size of a territory is a function of the quality of the habitat. Birds in larger habitats were found to hold larger territories. Once territories are established, their boundaries are somewhat flexible if more birds move into the area. Muller (1995) recorded this situation as an established territory shrank from 0.4 ha. to 0.15 ha. as more birds moved in. The home range did not change however.

Grebe nests were not equally distributed throughout the impoundment. Large areas of seemingly suitable habitat did not contain grebe nests. There are a few possible reasons for this, the first being that there were micro habitats whose differences were not readily apparent. Secondly, there was more available habitat than there were birds to occupy it. Nesting habitat does not appear to be a limiting factor at the wetland site for the species. The last possibility is that grebes are semi-colonial nesters. During the breeding season, grebes appear almost social in large open areas and in the fall they are frequently found in small groups.

Conclusion

This report supports the habitat preference of Pied-billed Grebes to prefer the hemi-marsh situation with roughly 50% open water areas interspersed with emergent vegetation. It presents a better nesting population density factor from which the population of the Alabama swamps can be better estimated and it portrays the wetland complex to have a healthy and large breeding population.

Acknowledgements

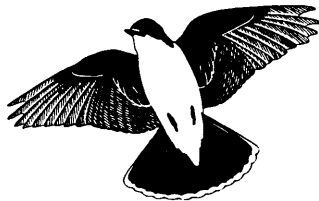
I wish to thank New York State Fish and Wildlife Technicians Denise Elam-Appleby and Floyd (Sonny) Knowlton for their assistance in locating nests.

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MERLIN BREEDS IN BROOME COUNTY FIRST HISTORIC NESTING SOUTH OF THE ADIRONDACKS

Marie N. Petuh

1108 Reynolds Rd. Johnson City, NY 13790

On the morning of 5 May 2003, with the goal of spotting some warblers in migration, Ruth and Arthur Levy, members of The Naturalists Club of Broome County, went to Spring Forest Cemetery. in the city of Binghamton about one-half mile from busy NYS Route 17. It covers approximately fifty quite heavily wooded acres, and many of the old trees, both deciduous and conifer, are from 75 ft. to 100 ft. tall.

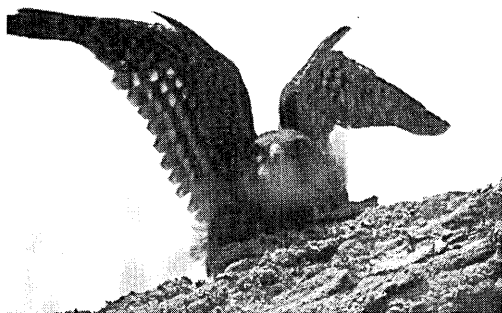
As the Levys searched the trees for warblers, Ruth called Art's attention to a small hawk perched in a tall dead oak. Looking at it through his binoculars Art made a tentative i.d. of "Merlin". However, a Merlin here at this time of year didn't fit the breeding locale parameters. Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) are found worldwide, breeding in northern forests, including the Adirondacks, but certainly not in central New York State. To be sure he was not off base, Art drove home picked up his telescope and rushed back to the cemetery. The hawk was still perched where it had been. With the improved view through the 'scope, Art felt confident of his original identification - that the bird was indeed a Merlin!.

Art then promptly called me and I immediately went over. Arriving, I saw two Merlins perched on the dead oak. The birds were calling to each other repeatedly and then copulated. Several members of our club again saw the pair the next day when Tom Tasber located the nest about 75 ft. up in a white pine tree, approximately 60 ft. from the "perching" tree. On 6 May, copulation was again observed by Peg Burnett and later that day the head of an adult, presumably the female, was seen above the edge of the nest.. The large substantial nest consisted of sticks, possibly a crow's nest previously, and was situated in a crotch of the north-leaning trunk of the white pine.

At this point, realizing the uniqueness of the situation, I decided to seek an expert opinion, and called Gerry Smith, whom I have known since his years as head counter at Derby Hill Hawkwatch. Gerry advised me that this was, indeed, an exciting development since to his knowledge this was the first possible nesting of a Merlin in an urban area in New York State. He recommended advising NYSDEC, which I then did. Frequent monitoring was begun by Dan Watkins, whose Breeding Bird Atlas block includes the cemetery.

Throughout May and June, one or both of the parent birds were observed by various members of The Naturalists Club, sometimes pursuing birds or flying in and out of the nest site, but because of the height of the nest and the deep bowl construction no definite confirmation of egg laying, or chick hatching, could be made. Then on 1 Jul, Art Levy spotted a fuzzy white chick in the nest, and on 2 Jul, a club group saw two chicks with the adult female in attendance. From their size and activity it was estimated they were two to three weeks old at this point.

On 8 Jul, Dan Watkins 'scoped four nestlings, all close to the same size, and observed the adult female feeding them. The same day John Baumlin with a digital camera and Swarovski telescope photographed two of the young perched



Juvenile Merlin - Broome County - Jul 2003
© J.P. Baumlin

in the nest. Many bird feathers now littered the ground under the “perching” tree, some appearing to be from chickadees, and a wing from a Cedar Waxwing. From here on, adults and young were seen by different observers on various days. On 11 Jul, one fledgling moved out of the nest to perch on branches above and below it. This behavior was seen with some of the fledglings on subsequent days, although on other trips to the cemetery no birds, either adult or fledgling, were seen.

Finally on 22 Jul, the day after a violent thunderstorm the evening before, I visited the site and saw four Merlins, two adults and two immatures, sitting high in the “perching” tree while a third immature flew about, vocalizing loudly. The storm had taken down two large deciduous trees but had not affected either one of the Merlin trees. The fourth fledgling was not definitely spotted. However, in a conversation with John Quain, the cemetery manager, he told me he had seen all six birds on 18 Jul and also had seen them all “a few days ago” at the corner of Mygatt and Prospect Streets (about an eighth of a mile from the nesting site). Other observers also reported spotting some of the Merlins here.

The adults and three immatures were again seen on 23 Jul, but in more distant trees. On 25 Jul, Dan Watkins observed the female and one immature moving among trees with the immature calling repeatedly - possibly a begging action. After that sightings started to become more unreliable with only two or one immatures being seen through 29 Jul. Presumably the family was roving farther afield in search of prey. When they will depart on migration is still to be determined at this writing and whether they will return next season to nest here again is an interesting possibility. The entire scenario has presented local birders with a wonderful and exciting event.

Editor’s Note: All previous breeding in NYS has taken place in the Adirondacks with the first confirmed nesting occurring in Franklin Co. in 1992. Since then that county has been joined by Lewis, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, Clinton, and Essex as historic and current active nesting locales.



Fledgling Merlins - Broome County - Jul 2003
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**MacGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER BANDED
AT ROCHESTER- 4 JUN 2003
SECOND NEW YORK STATE RECORD**

Cindy Marino

10 Parkview Drive, Rochester, NY 14625

On 4 Jun 2003 a MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) was captured and banded at Kaiser-Manitou Beach banding station. The Kaiser-Manitou banding station is a migration research facility of Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) which is located 14 miles NW of Rochester, on the shore of Lake Ontario. A written report and digital photos have been submitted to NYSARC and if accepted, will be only the second record for NYS. The only previously accepted record of MacGillivray's Warbler in New York was a bird photographed on Staten Island, Richmond Co., on 15 Dec 1999, which lingered until 26 Dec (*The Kingbird* 50:2).

The morning of 4 Jun was cool and cloudy, as had been many days at BBBO this past Spring and we were not banding very many birds. We had decided to keep the station open for one more week after the official close of the Spring banding season, because the poor weather conditions of the previous weeks had delayed migration and we hoped to more fully cover the entire migration. I was assisted that morning by Judy Engermann, scribe, Coby Klein and Laurie Zagmester, who are recent graduates of BBBO's bander training class.

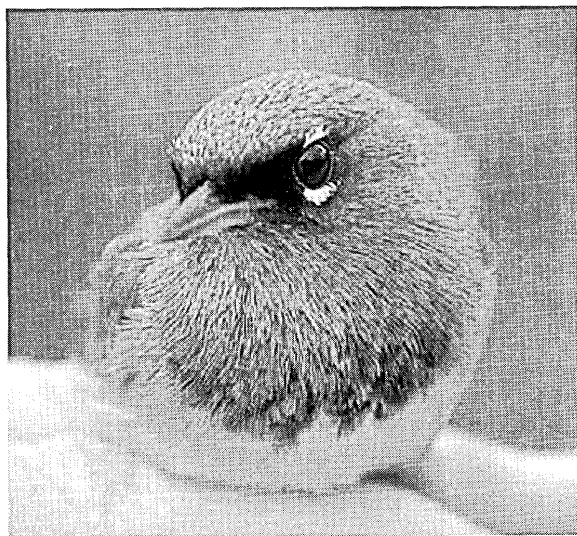
At the second hour after sunrise, I went to do a net check and was feeling a bit discouraged that net after net was empty and I was probably going to come back with empty bird bags. I came to the number 90 aerial net, and in the bottom, just inches off the ground I glimpsed a spot of yellow. "Probably just a leaf", I thought, but better check it out. "All right! A beautiful male Mourning Warbler", was my next thought, but as I carefully untangled and removed the bird from the net, I was thinking, "I don't remember ever seeing such a strange white eye-ring on a Mourning Warbler". I headed back to the boathouse, with the bird securely in the bag, a half-formed thought in the back of my mind. "Hadn't I just recently seen something in the Sibley Guide about a western warbler species that was similar to Mourning Warbler?"

I went into the banding area and said to Laurie, "I think I have an interesting bird here. I need to see the warbler book" referring to the Dunn/Garrett *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America*. With bird in hand, we opened to page 88. There on the same page as Mourning Warbler was MacGillivray's. The illustration of the spring adult male MacGillivray's looked just like the bird in my hand. My heart was beating faster! Could this really be? The text said "western counterpart of Mourning Warbler", but how far west? Next we went to page 507 to check out the range map, which shows the usual area for this bird to be west of the Rockies! "Okay, I had better call Betsy on this one" I said. Betsy is Elizabeth Brooks, the Master Bander responsible for the BBBO Station Permit. Excitedly, I told Betsy that I thought we had a MacGillivray's. I described this bird's beautiful, thick, split white eye-ring, velvety black lores and dark gray

hood. We discussed other possibilities as to the ID. of this bird, but nothing else came close except that some first Spring female Mourning Warblers sometimes have indistinct, incomplete white eye-rings. This bird's eye-ring was very white, thick and abruptly broken on both sides of the eye, not indistinct at all. I took the usual measurements , wing, tarsus, fat score, and mass which were :

: wing = 60 mm, tarsus = 22.4 mm., fat score =0, mass = 12.1 grams.

The bird was banded (2280-20747) and photographed. By this time we had a backlog of birds to band and I released this wonderful bird, wishing it the best of luck in finding its way "home"! What an amazing morning!



MacGillivray's Warbler - 4 Jun 2003
© Laurie Zagmaster

CACHING OF PREY BY NORTHERN HAWK OWL

Jay G. Lehman
7064 Shawnee Run Road
Cincinnati, OH 45243
lehman.jg@pg.com

On 8 Mar 2003 I drove 659 miles from Cincinnati, Ohio just to see the spectacular Northern Hawk Owl in Montgomery County, Town of Root. Sounds like a long trip, you say? Any day spent at close range with a Northern Hawk Owl is a special day, justifying a long trip. This observation on 8 Mar 2003 was an extra special one. The last time I saw Northern Hawk Owl was a long-time ago in 1991 along Route 5 halfway between Chittenango and Canastota (Region 5), while I was living in Norwich, NY (Region 4). Although I live out of state, I'm still a member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and am interested in New York birds. After a whole winter (2002-2003) of severe winter of 2002-2003 weather on weekends that eliminated any long-distance attempt to see this bird, good weather prevailed on Saturday, 8 Mar, as predicted.

I arrived at the Corbin Hill Road location in the Town of Root at about 5:00 pm. The sun was getting low in the sky and the beginnings of a high thin cloud cover indicated a weather change, but there was still enough good light for observation. The owl was on location at the top of the maple trees in front of the farmhouse at the top of the hill surveying its territory, swiveling its head from side to side as is typical when hunting. As I watched from the road edge, the owl flew down to a lower perch, pulled out some prey from its cache, which was in dead hollow branch, and proceeded to eat. From my roadside view, the prey looked like a rodent, as I could see a long thin tail dangling below the owl's perch. I walked up the road and into the driveway to get the light at my back for a better view. As I watched from the new location the bird took another bite of the headless dead rat. After a few minutes, the owl flew to the hollow dead branch returning the rat to its cache, and then flew up to the treetop to continue scanning and surveying the area.

The eating behavior observed for this Hawk Owl is consistent with that reported in the literature. Northern Hawk Owl is known to be "a less ravenous eater than most owls, (and) it does not swallow whole any prey larger than a mouse. Bigger prey is eaten piecemeal much in the manner of a hawk eating its prey." (Eckert & Karalus 1987)

Caching of prey is known for several species of raptors and has been previously reported for Northern Hawk Owl in New York. "Caching of the parts of the remains of uneaten prey is a well-known habit of the American Kestrel, and has also been reported for the peregrine, goshawk and several owls. (Brown & Amadon 1968) A No. Hawk Owl in 1962 in Keene was observed caching mammalian prey. "Various observers reported seeing the Hawk-Owl drop down from his perch to capture prey that included shrews, voles, meadow mice, deer mice and red squirrels. The only avian prey reported was a Pine Grosbeak that was eaten on the spot, but most of the mammalian prey was cached in the top of nearby broken elm stubs." (Crowell 1982)

It is not surprising that the Root Northern Hawk Owl cached prey. In early March during my visit, approximately two to three feet of packed snow still covered the area, the remnant of at least six feet of snow that fell throughout the winter. Severe weather conditions, high wind and blowing snow, reported on bird listserves on the internet throughout the winter forced this bird to change its habits and move from this high perch. Perhaps this may have made hunting conditions difficult at times.

I stayed with this bird for another 45 minutes, just enjoying it, but left at about 5:50 pm. Wish I could have arrived sooner and stayed longer! What a great bird! I've seen Northern Hawk Owl at least four times in the past 30+ years, and each time is special. Three of those times required very long distance trips, luck and the favor of the good weather gods as did this one. I do feel privileged to have succeeded in this long distance adventure and sharing some time with this magnificent, impressive bird.

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WHAT TO DO WHEN THE PEREGRINE VISITS: A MARBLED GODWIT'S STEALTH DEFENSE

Rex G. Stanford

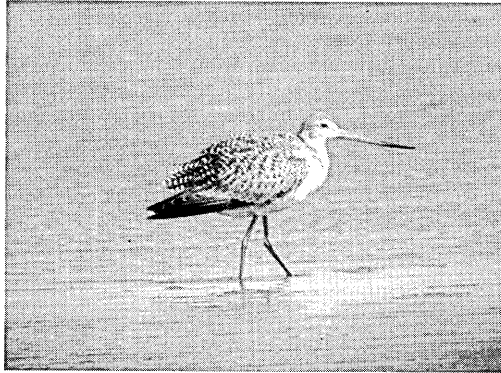
43 So. Grand St., Westbury, NY 11590

On 14 Sep 1995 my wife, Birgit, and I, observed a notable instance of defensive behavior by a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) in response to a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). Using a spotting scope and binoculars, we studied this behavior from the parking lot immediately east of the south end the Ponquoque Bridge, near Shinnecock, Suffolk Co., NY. The drama took place on an islet a short distance east of that bridge and in the waters of the bay immediately west of that islet. The wind was northwest, which can be propitious for raptors at that time of year, and on this occasion we observed 3 Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) and 1 Peregrine Falcon (but not simultaneously). The Marbled Godwit was present when the Peregrine appeared, and it was the odd behavior of the godwit at this time that alerted us to the approach of this particular raptor.

The Marbled Godwit was initially spotted relaxing on the upper shore on the southwest side of the islet. At one point some of the smaller shorebird species appeared to become restless, and we noticed some very peculiar behavior from the godwit. It was moving relatively slowly and very stealthily, with apparent deliberation, directly toward the nearest water, all the while keeping a very low profile. Having noticed this seemingly stealth behavior, we began a scan for a raptor. Almost immediately we spotted a Peregrine some distance to the east, near the marina on the east end of the barrier island, heading west-northwest, apparently for a menu reading of the birds on the islet. What follows are our field notes made right after this incident, unedited but for the addition of one comma and the correction of one misspelling:

“When Peregrine appeared, Godwit moved slowly and deliberately from beach into water. Then, while Peregrine was almost directly overhead, Godwit hunkered down in water until only its back, top of head, and base of bill remained unsubmerged. It looked like a rock in the water. Occasionally it would cock its head sideways, bringing most of its bill out of the water, and would scan sky for Peregrine. It was perhaps about 4-5 min. after the Peregrine left before Godwit began to stand erect. It then cautiously left water and went onto the beach.”

The godwit's body was, as it hid in the water, oriented east-west, with head toward the west. For most of the time when the Peregrine was essentially over the island, the godwit kept its bill largely submerged in the water, almost up to the nostrils. When, briefly, it cocked its head to get a better view of the



Marbled Godwit - 8 Sep 2000 - Mecox Bay
© Rex Stanford

Peregrine as the raptor passed very close at hand (and at the highest angle of elevation), substantially more of its bill would emerge above water. Those were the only times when it looked like much other than a large elongated rock or tiny island (its back) close behind a small rock (its head and bill base). The godwit appeared to crouch, unmoving, in this position (except for the head cocking) until the Peregrine departed. This entire episode was unparalleled in our experience and left us admiring the proactive and highly effective defensive strategy of this Marbled Godwit. This was one outing in which we both deeply regretted not having a video camera at hand! Perhaps some readers have encountered this or similar defensive behaviors on the part of Marbled or other godwit species.

A. C. Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds* (Part I), quoted Hamilton M. Laing's 1913 account of having observed a flying Marbled Godwit that, being virtually exhausted from repeated pursuit by a Peregrine, then splashed into the water, thereby narrowly escaping capture (Bent, 1927, p. 284). Due to obscuring vegetation, Laing was unable to know whether the godwit actually had dived beneath the water to escape. The water-seeking behavior of the Marbled Godwit that we observed in September 1995 seemed more proactive in character. Its behavior seemed intended to avoid detection rather than representing an escape strategy.

The Shinnecock Marbled Godwit probably was fortunate to have initiated an effective stealth strategy immediately upon detecting the approach of the Peregrine, rather than taking flight. The latter can be risky business when the interloper is this very speedy raptor. This godwit had the good wits to know just what to do!

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- Bent, A. C. (1962). *Life Histories of North American Shore Birds* (Part I). New York: Dover. (Original work published 1927 as Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum *Bulletin 142*.)

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC. 55TH ANNUAL MEETING

Owego, New York
September 21, 2002

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Federation, hosted by the Naturalists Club of Broome County and the Tioga Bird Club, was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Roll call of member clubs revealed there were 39 delegates representing 30 member clubs; therefore, a quorum was present. After corrections were made to the 2001 Annual Meeting minutes, Bill Watson moved, and Dave Strong seconded, that the corrected minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report by Tim Baird

"Thanks to the hosts of this year's Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, The Naturalists Club of Broome County with assistance by the Tioga Bird Club. I thank also the Federation Officers for 2001-2002, the Directors, and the committee chairs for their hard work and dedication. Robert Schumann owner of Nuthatch Hollow Nature Preserve and the caretaker, Richard Zeccola have extended a welcome to the Federation as a site for our Board meetings this past year, and I thank them.

Our publications, *The Kingbird* and *NY Birders*, are a credit to this organization and their editors, Manny Levine and Sue Adair, respectively. The Federation's Web site has been improved immensely in appearance and utility through the efforts and expertise of Carena Pooth, Barbara Butler, and Kevin McGowan. Atlas 2000 is going strong with three years already completed. The cooperation of a number of groups and individuals in this major Federation project is appreciated.

The Federation now includes 50 member clubs and another will be added at this meeting. Our individual membership continues to rise with over 700 members. Our dues structure was changed this year with a slight increase in most categories to help us keep our budget in balance. Brenda Best has taken over the management of publications and membership from Phyllis Jones and Valerie Freer.

New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) is working hard and has brought their records up to date. Bob Paxton's term expired at the end of 2001, and Shai Mitra was appointed to succeed him. The Federation continues to have a strong relationship with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Following Bob Miller's retirement, Bryan Swift has been our link to the NYSDEC. Robert Budliger and John Fritz have been working on conservation issues of interest to the Federation."

Reports and Elections

One new club has applied for membership. Tom Lehr made a motion to accept the application of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary of Oyster Bay, which was seconded by Bill Lee. Approval was unanimous.

Bryan Swift gave a very informative report from NYSDEC, including updates on funding, personnel, and the status of various species and special projects in the state.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Bill Reeves who advised the Federation is in good financial shape. The Auditing Report confirming this was presented by Manny Levine.

Sue Adair advises articles for *New York Birders* are welcome. Manny Levine reports there were 17 photos in the September issue of *The Kingbird*, but that color photos are too expensive. Don Windsor has compiled a ten-year index to *The Kingbird* Volumes 41-50 which will be published soon.

Kevin McGowan advises that NYSARC is making very good progress and that the number of submissions has gone up. The 2000 report will be in the December issue of *The Kingbird*.

The Federation's redesigned Web site includes member club information, and Barb Butler asks that she be advised of any updates. Future plans include adding links to member club field trip schedules.

Member clubs were asked to contact the Federation regarding any local conservation issues they may have.

The awards presented during the banquet were:

Certificate of Appreciation to Linda and Burt Goodnough, owners of the Green Point Marina in Sandy Pond, for hosting birders who came to see the Brown Pelican

Elon Howard Eaton Award to Carl George

Lillian Stoner Award to Jessie Barry (nominated by both the Rochester Birding Association and the Genesee Ornithological Society) and Mike Andersen (nominated by the Cayuga Bird Club)

John J. Elliott Award to Angus Wilson for his article on Curlew Sandpiper

Gordon M. Meade Award to Valerie Freer

Stanley Lincoln presented the report from the Nominating Committee. All current officers have agreed to serve another year and are therefore nominated. Directors nominated for the year 2004 are Barbara Butler, Gail Kirch, and Andrew Mason. There were no nominations from the floor. Dorothy Crumb moved that the secretary cast one vote to accept the entire slate; Marty Borko seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Phyllis Jones advises that an index of the archives will be going online. Jamestown Audubon Society, Lake Erie Bird Club, and Roger Tory Peterson Institute Ornithological Club will host the 2003 Annual Meeting at the Athenaeum Hotel at the Chautauqua Institution, October 31-November 2.

Marty Borko presented a resolution and background information regarding building a Visitor Center at Upper Delaware Park and asked for

Federation support. Andy Mason motioned to accept the resolution; Phyllis Jones seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

The slate for the Nominating Committee consisted of Stanley Lincoln, Kevin McGowan, and Phyllis Jones. Motion to accept the slate was made by Dick Miga, and Berna Lincoln seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

The slate for the Auditing Committee consisted of Manny Levine, Irving Cantor, and Peter Capainolo. Barb Butler made a motion to accept the slate, and Sue Adair seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

A proposal to change the name of the Federation was presented by Kevin McGowan, who explained the pros and cons and advised there was information at the Federation booth. Articles will be put both on the Federation Web site and in *New York Birders*. Official notification will be sent to member clubs as required by the By-laws, and delegates will vote on this issue at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

There was no new business from the floor. Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Lehr and seconded by Elaine Anderson. Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Best
Recording Secretary

Corrigendum

**Please note error made in KB 2003 June; 53:123
In Memoriam Sally Hoyt Spofford**

**The year of her death was erroneously entered
as 2003 instead of 2002**

The Editor apologizes for this mistake

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2003

Kurt A. Fox

10115 Brookville Road, Alexander, NY 14009

kfox@eznet.net

The weather in Spring 2003 was unusual in that it was quite consistent throughout all ten Regions. The brutal winter refused to release its grasp for the first half of March, with temperatures below average; Saranac Lake reached -20 F. A warm latter half of March resulted in monthly temperatures near average. The first half of April was cold for all Regions, especially the first week, with a widespread ice storm striking many Regions. It paralyzed Region 2 with loss of power for several days. The average monthly temperatures were below normal for the month in most Regions due to the cold first week. The precipitation for March and April was below average, with Regions 1 and 2 being the driest in 68 and 100 years, respectively. For all of the state, May was colder and, for much of the state, wetter than usual.

The weather delayed snow-melt, ice-out, shrub- blooming, and leaf-out. Often the weather, marked by northerly winds or cold temperatures, hampered weekend outings leading to few days of excellent birding opportunities, fewer observers, and few birds to observe. The arrival table had an unprecedented number of species, 38, nearly half, with > 2 standard deviation. Of these, 24 species were late, about one-third of the total. Still, 14 species were early by > 2 standard deviation, with 25 Regional record early dates. All Regions were consistently late compared with last year.

In the Winter 2002-2003 Highlights, DiCostanzo (KB 53:2) reported the start of a Red-necked Grebe invasion. As winter continued so did the invasion, excepting in northern New York. Birds seemed to find open water. 206 Red-necked Grebes found Dunkirk Harbor in early March. Region 9 reported an "incredible influx". Region 10 indicates numbers did not reach historic maxima but the editor was unequivocally impressed with the large numbers and especially with many fresh water sightings. A return flight was bound to occur, and it did. The BOS April Count coincided with a traditional time frame of the species' return and the Niagara Region reported a local record high of 1384 on 13 Apr. Region 1 compiler Mike Morgante remarked, "the sudden appearance of this species in March was related to the freezing of Lakes Huron and Superior, similar to 1994." This occurrence ought to be watched for in the future. Interestingly, the variance in Regional expectations our state is remarkable: Region 9 was content with 45, but the count of 175 on Cayuga Lake was just "high", and 726 and 976 on Lake Ontario were just part of a "few good days." Region 7 made no mention of Red-necked Grebes, but had the consolation of Western Grebe. Region 10 had both.

Double-crested Cormorant breeding increases. Great Egret was reported early in Region 1 and 3 and saw its earliest return to rookery in Region 1. The nest count there reached a new high. Glossy Ibis was reported in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. The one in Region 8 was "exciting", the one in Region 9 was the first in Dutchess County in over a decade, and the five that lingered north of

Montezuma NWR on Armitage Road had several, raising hopes that they would remain to breed.

A fierce winter held back the waterfowl. When warmer weather and the right conditions came, waterfowl did not linger but moved on quickly to the breeding grounds. Region 1 reports a major movement of Tundra Swans, and Regions 1 and 3 noted massive movements of Canada Geese in short time spans. Region 5 reports large flocks of Snow Geese, including many in the eastern parts of the Region, but numbers were significantly down in Region 6, perhaps due to the wind conditions. Trumpeter Swans continue in central and western NY. It is now a seemingly well-established breeding species and regular winter visitant. Region 1 and 3 had decent counts of N. Pintail.

Region 10 notes a surprising gathering of over 10,000 Black Scoters off Montauk. It reminds me of the unexplained Black Scoter movement of 11,635 past Hamlin Beach on 7 Nov 1997 as documented by Ewald and Sherony in *Braddock Bay Raptor Research* of Nov 2000. Several Regions indicated odd locations or counts of scoters this season. Long-tailed Duck put in a good showing in many Regions, including smaller lakes in Region 5 and 7. Perhaps they were also being pushed out of traditional overwintering locales on the Great Lakes along with the Red-necked Grebes. The BOS April Count in Region 1 produced a Region-wide total of 15805 Long-tailed Ducks, a record high for NYS, but with the bulk of the count, 15,200, tallied across many miles of Lake Ontario shoreline rather than at a single locale.

On the hawkwatching front, Ripley seems to be contending with Braddock Bay and Derby Hill for variety and rarities. Ripley produced Black Vulture, as did Braddock Bay and Derby Hill, and two Mississippi Kites in late May. Derby Hill added Swainson's Hawk. It also produced a new season high for Turkey Vulture, which also put in good showings at the other two hawkwatches. Derby Hill, Braddock Bay, Hamburg, and Ripley all had good totals for both eagles. There was also a fair number of Bald Eagle sightings in Region 10. A Region 3 backyard had a single day tally of 12 Golden Eagles, and Ripley reported a subadult Golden Eagle on 30 May. The hawk flight at Derby Hill was the best since 1995 but had a poor volume of Broad-winged Hawks, especially considering that Braddock Bay had 12,450 in one day. Regions 8 and 9 concur with Derby Hill's low Broad-winged count.

Regions 8 and 9 reported low numbers of Common Moorhen. Sandhill Crane was well reported at the local hawkwatches and elsewhere in central and western NY. Regions 1 and 2 each had nine reports. Region 3 is now only reporting the first, last and maxima. Region 5 had seven reports, including one that lingered for two weeks adding to the hope it would remain to breed. The species was not recorded in the eastern part of the state.

Perhaps the most noteworthy family for the spring migration was the shorebirds, or should I say the lack of them. It is easily summed up in John M.C. Peterson's comment, "Shorebirds were scarce and late." Even common species were scant. This is reflected in the arrival table, which also shows a patchy shorebird picture. It however does not show the often times shockingly small numbers of shorebirds; one must read the Regional reports to get an idea. Regional comments again illustrate the varied Regional expectations across the

State. Morgante states, “notably few shorebirds reported in the Region this spring,” yet Region 1 reported the highest number of species, 18. Likewise, Griffith writes “Shorebirdwise it was a horrible spring” yet Region 2 reported 16 species. The reasons for the lateness of shorebirds are unclear. Reasons for the low counts might include a few factors, but particularly relatively few mudflats. Snow cover remained late, ponds retained ice-cover, and streams and rivers were flooded and remained elevated in this rainy May. This produced flooded fields for habitat, which yielded the largest shorebird counts in Region 1 and 5. Peterson describes the problems shorebirds face when looking for flooded fields, including changing agricultural practices increasing numbers of tiled and drained fields.

A variety of scarcer gulls was tallied., Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls were widely reported. Region 2 had four Black-headed Gulls. Region 3 had both Franklin’s Gull and Little Gull. Region 7 also reported a Black-headed Gull, its first. Region 8 had adult Franklin’s Gull. Region 10 tallied adult Black-headed Gull, adult California Gull and an Iceland/Thayer’s type., among others. It is amazing to wonder how birds seem to discover and communicate information about erratic food sources. Be sure to read of the immense concentration of gulls attracted to a starfish kill and a clam wash-up in Region 10. An apparent overpopulation of shad in Dunkirk Harbor in Region 1 provided the food venue for impressive numbers of waterbirds, including gulls.

Caspian Terns were record early in Regions 1 and 2. Morgante suggests the reason for the arrival and numbers might be due to expanding numbers breeding in Ontario on Lake Erie. A Region 7 statement that four Black Terns is “encouraging” does not sound entirely convincing.

The Monk Parakeet population is expanding northward in Region 9; but the first ones since 1975 in Region 1 might not be Bronx/Westchester overshoots. Barn Owl was reported in Region 1, 3 and 10. However, the ones in Region 1 both ended the season as specimens. Short-eared Owl was confirmed breeding. N. Saw-whet Owl reports are encouraging, and they might be confirmed more often as a breeder if FNYSSBC were to coordinate “toot routes” to survey for this owl. The Northern Hawk Owl lingered to establish a NYS late date. The decades-old trend of declining Com. Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will continue.

Despite the West Nile Virus, Fish Crows seem to be doing well in Region 3, a high count of 18, and Region 5, where the “population seems to be maintaining itself”. Purple Martin was record early in Region 2, though the birds are likely to have perished in first week of April. Region 5 has an alarming comment about declining numbers of occupied martin houses. Region 8 recorded “new breeding colonies of Cliff Swallow” and Region 6 estimated over 100 at the Massena power dam.

The Region 3 counts of Gray-Cheeked and Swainson’s thrushes suggest that the peak arrival for many thrushes was late May. Incredible counts of Gray-Cheeked and Swainson’s thrushes were made using the acoustic monitoring of avian night flight calls provided by OldBird Software (www.oldbird.org). It would be interesting to coordinate point counts in all ten Regions using this software. Few reports were received of Tennessee Warbler in Region 5 and none in Regions 7 or 8. Nashville Warbler was widespread, with good counts in Regions 3, 5 and 6. Pine Warbler was early, with decent counts attracting comments in several

Regions. Cape May Warbler was in “very low numbers” in Region 2, reported just once in Region 5, and unreported in Regions 8 and 9. Similarly, Bay-breasted Warbler was low in Regions 2, 7 and 8. Prothonotary was found in Regions 1, 5 and 10. Region 10 had a large number of very early warblers, which skewed some of the arrival table data in the landbird section, e.g. Ovenbird, which might have been an overwintering bird.

Clay-colored Sparrow was recorded in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9; a great showing this season. Perhaps foreshadowing breeding expansion in NYS?

Forced indoors by the April ice storms and general bad weather, many birders watched their feeders and found Fox Sparrows. Given that it was a statewide storm, it was not surprising to find excellent numbers in most Regions, though it was not mentioned in Regions 9 and 10. It is pleasant to see so many of these birds. In this case, a good day for Fox Sparrow watchers was probably a bad day for Fox Sparrows. At least feeders provided food. Other early migrants, such as Am. Woodcock, E. Phoebe, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, E. Bluebird, and Am. Robin and must have been especially hard hit by the same ice storm.

“Winter finch” reports were sparse, but this is not surprising given the few winter reports. In view of this, the scattered May reports of Pine Siskin in Regions 1, 2, and 8, despite the fact that they were not reported in March or April, is surprising. Regions 3, 5, and 8 reported high counts of American Goldfinch.

Best of the Rest

Pacific Loon was recorded in Regions 2, 3, and 10. Great Cormorant was found in Region 2. Snowy Egret appeared in Region 3, Cattle Egret in Regions 3 and 5, and Little Blue Heron in Region 9. Ross’s Goose was found in Regions 1, 2 and 3, where it is now almost expected annually; Barrow’s Goldeneye in Regions 6, 7 and 10; a hybrid male Common Merganser x Common Goldeneye in Region 6; and a Tufted Duck in Region 5. Gyrfalcon overwintered in Region 3. King Rail and Ruff were located in Region 10, Willet in Regions 1 and 3, and Sanderling and Western Sandpiper in Region 7. South Polar Skua, Dovekie and Atlantic Puffin were noted in Region 10. Eurasian Collared-Dove came back to last year’s site in Region 2. There was an Eastern Kingbird longevity record plus sightings of Loggerhead Shrike and Sedge Wren in Region 1. Common Raven, singing Bicknell’s Thrush, and Varied Thrush were found in Region 10. Bohemian Waxwing and Yellow-breasted Chat were noted in Region 3. And finally, 2 Blue Grosbeaks in Region 1, a Dickcissel in Region 5, an aberrant, “spectacled” Dark-eyed Junco in Region 7, and a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Region 5 round out this list.

A large number of ‘minor’ rarities were recorded this spring, but no bird jumps out as an exceptional Bird of the Season (BOTS). Candidates would include: Region 1’s Monk Parakeets, Region 2’s Roseate Tern, Region 5’s first Chuck-will’s-widow, Region 7’s first Regional record of Black-headed Gull, Region 8’s lingering Northern Hawk Owl, Region 9’s Manx Shearwater or Region 10’s White Ibis. If forced on the issue, I’d give the nod to the **Chuck-will’s-widow** in Region 5, a bird found in the backyard by one of our youngest birders and enjoyed by many, thanks to her welcoming family.

CHANGES IN THE AOU CHECKLIST RELEVANT TO NEW YORK STATE

The July 2003 issue of *The Auk* contained the 44th Supplement to *The American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds*. There were several changes which apply to the current official New York State checklist, one of which is dramatic and which will take a lot of "getting used to." The, shall we say, "routine" changes are:

Change the English name of Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon

Change the genus of Eastern Screech-Owl from *Otus* to *Megascops*

Change the Latin name of Snowy Owl from *Nyctea scandiaca* to *Bubo scandiacus*

Delete entirely- Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus*
Replace with - American Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides dorsalis*

Change the Latin specific name of Black-capped Chickadee - *Poecile atricapilla* to *Poecile atricapillus*

Change the Latin specific name of Ovenbird - *Seiurus aurocapillus* to *Seiurus aurocapilla*

And last, but certainly not least, the Order *Anseriformes* and the Order *Galliformes* will now be placed BEFORE the Order *Gaviiformes*.

The December issue of *The Kingbird* will carry a full discussion on these changes and their rationale as put forth in the 44th Supplement of *The Auk*.

For those of you who would like to know more and now, we refer you to:

The Auk 120 (3) : 923—931, 2003

The Editor

Spring Arrival Dates 2003 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	17-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	12 Apr	17 Apr	28 Mar		15 Apr	27 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	9 Apr		14 Apr	16 Apr
Green Heron	25 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr		25 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	15 Mar	15 Mar	4 Mar		14 Mar	26 Mar	16 Mar	7 Mar			13 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal		4 Mar	9 Mar		19 Mar	22 Apr	1 Apr	22 Mar			23 Mar	18 Mar
Northern Pintail		7 Mar	22 Mar		15 Mar	18 Mar	4 Apr	17 Mar			19 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	22 Mar	14 Mar	8 Mar		20 Mar	23 Apr	27 Mar	18 Apr	3 Apr	26 Mar	28 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	24 Mar	21 Mar	20 Mar		23 Mar	23 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	12 Apr	11 Mar	31 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	12 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr		19 Apr	30 Apr	16 May	25 Apr	11 Apr		23 Apr	17 Apr
Sora	24 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr		1 May	18 May	27 May	20 May	1 May	9 May	7 May	27 Apr
Common Moorhen	25 Apr	2 May	13 Apr		27 Apr	14 May	27 May	20 May	7 May	11 May	6 May	25 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	12 May	19 May	27 Apr		20 May		29 May				15 May	10 May
Semipalmated Plover	10 May	4 May	20 May		14 May	24 May	29 May		23 May	3 May	15 May	9 May
Killdeer	5 Mar	7 Mar	2 Mar		11 Mar	16 Mar	16 Mar	5 Mar	4 Mar		8 Mar	3 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	30 Mar	28 Mar	27 Mar		3 Apr		1 May	29 Apr			9 Apr	5 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	12 Apr	13 Apr	26 Apr		11 Apr		15 May	19 May		5 Apr	23 Apr	16 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	26 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr		13 Apr	21 May	11 May	4 May	1 May	26 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	18 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr		15 Apr	10 May	4 May	1 May	16 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling	13 May		25 May				30 May				22 May	16 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	14 May	27 May	17 May			24 May	29 May			1 May	18 May	12 May
Least Sandpiper	3 May	4 May	28 Apr		15 Apr		29 May	19 May	18 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	3 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	14 Mar	7 Mar	23 Mar		3 Apr		30 May		3 Apr	14 Apr	4 Apr	18 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	19 Mar	21 Mar	26 Mar		25 Mar	10 May	12 Apr	23 Mar			1 Apr	22 Mar
American Woodcock	18 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar		16 Mar	14 May	14 Mar	14 Mar	13 Mar		22 Mar	10 Mar
Caspian Tern	2 Apr	27 Mar	4 Apr		6 Apr					20 Apr	5 Apr	21 Apr
Common Tern	12 Apr	14 Apr	28 Mar		1 May	27 Apr	3 May	6 May		12 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr
Black Tern	3 May	12 May	30 Apr		7 May		20 May		8 May	11 May	8 May	6 May
Marsh Wren	26 Apr	8 May	27 Apr		1 May		19 Apr	10 May	1 May	29 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.

Spring Arrival Dates 2003 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	17-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	8 May	9 May	17 May		1 May	18 May	22 May	2 May	11 May	6 May	10 May	12 May
Common Nighthawk	26 Apr	15 May	21 May		10 May		1 May	18 May		9 May	10 May	10 May
Chimney Swift	22 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr		30 Apr	4 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	30 Apr	2 May	28 Apr		2 May	3 May	28 Apr	1 May	18 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	21 Mar	13 Apr	28 Mar		26 Mar	29 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr			6 Apr	3 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	27 May	13 May	16 May			18 May	10 May		10 May	3 May	13 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	12 May	14 May	4 May		10 May	18 May	21 May	14 May	11 May	29 Apr	11 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	19 May	3 May		10 May	24 May	20 May	21 May	1 May	14 May	14 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	13 May	15 May	2 May		14 May	19 May	15 May	23 May	14 May		14 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	30 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr		30 Apr	6 May	8 May	30 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	15 Mar	23 Mar	15 Mar		20 Mar	16 Mar	27 Mar	14 Mar	15 Mar	15 Mar	17 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		29 Apr	4 May	9 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr	30 Apr	9 Apr		30 Apr	13 May	6 May	27 Apr	1 May	16 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr
Purple Martin	5 Apr	15 Mar	4 Apr		20 Apr	7 May	7 Apr	16 May	15 Apr	20 Mar	11 Apr	15 Apr
Tree Swallow	20 Mar	15 Mar	14 Mar		15 Mar	19 Apr	22 Mar	22 Mar	12 Mar		21 Mar	21 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	12 Apr	14 Apr	24 Mar		15 Apr	29 Apr	21 May	19 Apr	12 Apr	27 Mar	15 Apr	15 Apr
Bank Swallow	25 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr		19 Apr	8 May	19 May	2 May	17 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	26 Apr	2 May	28 Apr		19 Apr	6 May	20 May	1 May	17 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr
Barn Swallow	28 Mar	13 Apr	2 Apr		10 Apr	23 Apr	29 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	3 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr
House Wren	12 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr		19 Apr	18 Apr	4 May	26 Apr	27 Apr	15 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12 Apr	14 Apr	24 Mar		15 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr			11 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	25 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr		16 Apr	4 May		16 Apr	15 Apr	3 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		20 Feb			14 Mar	30 Mar	3 Mar				9 Mar	8 Mar
Veery	1 May	30 Apr	2 May		29 Apr	5 May	28 Apr	1 May	15 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Swainson's Thrush	14 May	10 May	10 May		2 May	16 May	15 May	11 May	23 Apr	26 Apr	7 May	7 May
Hermit Thrush	19 Apr	14 Apr	22 Mar		29 Mar	26 Apr	19 Apr	16 Apr			11 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		1 May	4 May	11 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	30 Apr	2 May	18 Apr		30 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	29 Apr			28 Apr	25 Apr
Brown Thrasher	17 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr		20 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr		20 Apr	15 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	14 Apr	26 Apr	15 Apr		25 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	30 Apr	3 May	30 Apr		30 Apr	10 May	2 Jun	8 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	3 May
Warbling Vireo	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		29 Apr	9 May	6 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	7 May	30 Apr	2 May		2 May	4 May	14 May	3 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	3 May

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2003								Landbirds (cont'd)				
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	17-Yr. Ave	
Tennessee Warbler	1 May	5 May	2 May		10 May	10 May			3 May	28 Apr	4 May	7 May	
Nashville Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr		29 Apr	3 May	27 Apr	6 May	1 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	
Northern Parula	30 Apr	4 May	29 Apr		2 May	10 May	3 May	9 May	24 Apr	14 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	
Yellow Warbler	29 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr		28 Apr	5 May	6 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		30 Apr	6 May	9 May	2 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	2 May	
Magnolia Warbler	28 Apr	2 May	30 Apr		27 Apr	10 May	11 May	29 Apr	1 May	26 Apr	1 May	4 May	
Cape May Warbler	5 May	6 May	2 May		30 Apr	18 May	13 May			5 May	7 May	6 May	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	30 Apr	28 May	28 Apr		30 Apr	5 May	2 May	2 May	16 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	
Black-thr Green Warbler	18 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr		19 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		30 Apr	10 May	2 May	9 May	2 May	30 Apr	2 May	3 May	
Pine Warbler	24 Apr	5 Apr	14 Apr		14 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr	26 Apr	12 Apr	8 Mar	10 Apr	10 Apr	
Palm Warbler	20 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr		20 Apr	10 May	26 Apr	18 Apr	11 Apr	24 Mar	19 Apr	17 Apr	
Bay-breasted Warbler	7 May	10 May	7 May		10 May	15 May	18 May	16 May	3 May	6 May	10 May	9 May	
Blackpoll Warbler	10 May	17 May	11 May		10 May	14 May	20 May	23 May	11 May	28 Apr	12 May	11 May	
Black-and-white Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr		29 Apr	17 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	15 Apr	5 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr	
American Redstart	30 Apr	3 May	1 May		30 Apr	5 May	18 May	29 Apr	1 May	20 Apr	1 May	2 May	
Ovenbird	30 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		30 Apr	3 May	3 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Mar	26 Apr	29 Apr	
Northern Waterthrush	27 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr		26 Apr	7 May	6 May	3 May	3 May	21 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	
Mourning Warbler	9 May	6 May	10 May		12 May	23 May	24 May		8 May	13 May	13 May	14 May	
Common Yellowthroat	30 Apr	30 Apr	14 Apr		30 Apr	9 May	28 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	
Wilson's Warbler	13 May	10 May	11 May		10 May	16 May	11 May	9 May	8 May	4 May	10 May	10 May	
Canada Warbler	9 May	3 May	7 May		6 May	17 May	20 May	11 May	9 May	1 May	9 May	10 May	
Scarlet Tanager	30 Apr	30 Apr	11 Apr		2 May	15 May	12 May	9 May	1 May	28 Apr	2 May	3 May	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28 Apr	28 Apr	14 Apr		28 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	
Indigo Bunting	6 May	7 May	2 May		30 Apr	15 May	4 May	5 May	1 May	11 Apr	2 May	4 May	
Eastern Towhee	31 Mar	8 Apr	4 Apr		10 Apr	19 Apr	11 May	18 Apr	20 Apr		15 Apr	10 Apr	
Chipping Sparrow	26 Mar	5 Apr	22 Mar		10 Apr	18 Apr	3 Apr	25 Mar	12 Mar		30 Mar	4 Apr	
Vesper Sparrow	28 Mar	28 Mar	14 Apr		14 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	7 May	21 Apr		3 Apr	12 Apr	
Savannah Sparrow	28 Mar	28 Mar	22 Mar		5 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	2 May			8 Apr	7 Apr	
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 May	30 Apr	1 May		30 Apr		29 Apr		11 May	6 May	2 May	4 May	
White-crowned Sparrow	24 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		28 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	6 May		30 Apr	25 Apr	
Bobolink	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		29 Apr	11 May	10 May	9 May	3 May	26 Apr	2 May	1 May	
Baltimore Oriole	30 Apr	1 May	28 Apr		2 May	5 May	4 May	29 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	
Overall Average	21 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr		20 Apr	2 May	1 May	26 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

45 Olney Drive, Amherst NY 14226

The cold winter continued during the first two weeks of March. However, the last two weeks were much warmer than usual. The average temperature was 33.5°F, 0.8° below average, spanning from -3° on 3 March to 73° on the 28th. There was 2.81" of precipitation, 0.18" below average, along with 6.6" of snow. The April average temperature of 43.0° was 2.3° below average, mostly due to a cold first week. Precipitation was a paltry 0.90", 2.14" below average, with 3.1" of snow. It was the driest April since 1935. Lake Erie was free of ice by 15 April, a normal date. The average temperature in May was 55.4°, 1.6° below normal, including a normal start through mid-month with a cool finish. The precipitation was 5.43", 2.08" above normal, with rainfall occurring on 15 days.

Red-necked Grebes appeared in the Region in their highest numbers since 1994. On 1 March, 206 were found at Dunkirk Harbor, and the species was well reported through April, including a record 1384 on the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) April Count on 13 April. Local birders speculated that the sudden appearance of this species in March was related to the freezing of Lakes Huron and Superior, similar to 1994.

Returning waterfowl found less open water than usual in March. A major movement of Tundra Swans was widely reported on 16-17 March and a massive movement of Canada Geese was noted on 19 March. Rarities included two documented reports of Greater White-fronted Goose and the Region's fourth spring **Ross's Goose**, found by Bill Watson in the Town of Hartland on 22 April.

A NYSDEC survey of the Motor Island Rookery on 7 May found 15 Great Egret nests, another record high; 56 Great Blue Heron nests; 95 Black-crowned Night- Heron nests; and 57 Double-crested Cormorant nests. The only rare wader species observed this spring was **Glossy Ibis**, with two sightings at or near Iroquois NWR in April and May.

The Broad-winged Hawk migration peaked 19-21 April. High numbers of Bald and Golden eagles were reported at the Ripley and Hamburg hawkwatches and Bald Eagle was well reported throughout the Region. Raptor rarities included **Mississippi Kite** at the Ripley site on 20 May and 30 May, both observed by Len DeFrancisco, and **Black Vulture** at Ripley and Iroquois NWR. 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 Tonawanda WMA, a new location, and the second in the Iroquois NWR area. Those were the only nests for this species in the Region away from Cattaraugus County. **Sandhill Crane** sightings are increasing every year. They were well reported at the local hawkwatches and elsewhere in the Region. There were notably few shorebirds reported in the Region this spring and they were often absent or in small numbers at traditional locations. One exception was the Elba Mucklands, where in mid-

April one large flooded field produced high numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers, Dunlins and Greater Yellowlegs, plus an encouraging count of Northern Pintail. **Willetts** are rare in spring, but two early May reports were consistent with increased sightings in Ontario this year. A **Red-necked Phalarope** observed in Eden was another spring rarity.

Tremendous numbers of gulls, terns, cormorants and mergansers were attracted to Dunkirk Harbor in April and May because of a seeming overpopulation of shad. It was an amazing sight to see big numbers of these small fish constantly jumping out of the water. It must have seemed like a buffet for the birds. Caspian Terns were seen there in very high numbers, even late in the season. Their numbers at breeding colonies on the Canadian side of Lake Erie are increasing and these birds likely came across the lake on feeding forays.

The most unusual report this spring was of two **Monk Parakeets** in a yard in Hamburg on 4 May. Stephen McCabe sent two excellent digital photos of these colorful birds to me to confirm his sighting. The birds were eating buds from a Norway Maple. They could not be relocated in subsequent days. This was the fourth record for the Region and the first since 1975. The date and proximity to Lake Erie would normally suggest a vagrant, but this species is not known to migrate.

Jim Berry received two specimens of **Barn Owl** in March at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The first had been observed frequently at a barn in Villanova in the winter. The second was found at a dairy farm in North Harmony less than a week later. A bird of this species had been observed near the barn in December 2002. This news, while obviously unfortunate for the birds, lends evidence that there could be a small population of Barn Owls in Chautauqua County.

There were noticeable migrant pushes in early and mid May, most noticeably on 1 May when migrants, especially new arrivals, were widely reported. Birders seemed happy about the numbers and variety of warblers to watch in May. Rare finds included "Yellow" Palm, Worm-eating and Connecticut warblers, and a Yellow-breasted Chat. A Prothonotary Warbler at French Creek in late May was an encouraging possible breeder.

Two **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported this spring. This species is a very rare spring visitor. Bob Andrie had a male at his feeder in Eden Valley on 5 May and Bob Sundell saw another male at a feeder in Ellery on 10 May. Reports to NYSARC are encouraged.

Other rarities for the season included: **Eared Grebe**, **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Sedge Wren** and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

The BOS April Count on 13 April tallied 139 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. Record high counts (since its 1935 inception) were noted for Red-necked Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Eastern Screech-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker (second consecutive record April count) and Common Raven. No record low counts were recorded. The BOS May Count on 18 May tallied 212 species. The count compiler was Bob DeLeon. Fourteen

species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935): Great Blue Heron, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Caspian Tern, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Clay-colored Sparrow and Northern Cardinal. There were no record low counts although Veery, Swainson's Thrush and Eastern Meadowlark were notably lower than usual.

CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Andrie, Alan Backiewicz, Paul Baglia, Doug Beattie, Gordon Bellerby, Jim Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Ray Budniewski, Buffalo Rare Bird Alert, William Burch, Anna Colvin, William Cook, Willie D'Anna, Michael Davis (MDa), Len DeFrancisco, Michael DeSha (MDe), Kurt Fox, Marilyn Gleason, Joanne Goetz, Don Harris, Paul Hess, Linda Holmes, Dave Junkin, Brendan Klick, Jim Landau, Lynn Landon, Tom LeBlanc, Steve McCabe, Dick Miga, Miley Miller (MMi), Mike Morgante (MMo), Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Marilyn O'Connell, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Sean Phelan, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Don Roberson, Richard Rosche, Chuck Rosenburg, Debbie Sharon, Bob Sundell, Mike Turisk, William Watson, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 13 April Count; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society 18 May Count; BuSP – Buckhorn Island 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; FMCSPP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat Island, NF, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary CHAU; JDSP – Joseph Davis SP NIAG; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; LESP – L Erie SP CHAU; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; PG – Pt Gratiot CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch CHAU; RTPI – Roger Tory Peterson Institute CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr 12 Yates ORLE & 3 FMCSPP 23 Mar; Farmersville CATT 3 Apr (MDe); DH 6 Apr-6 May (WD!,TM!,DM); Oakfield GENE 7 Apr

(BK!), rare inland; last GHSP 17 May.

Com. Loon: ChauL 3 Mar; 2 Yates ORLE 23 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr WTSP 23 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr 5 Lyndon CATT & 2

SPNS 26 Mar; 10 Freedom CATT 3 Apr; 24 Lime L CATT 3 Apr, max inland count; last 2 BOSMC.

Red-necked Grebe: max 206 DH 1 Mar (DH, DM), very high count, 118 remained 3 Mar; Wilson NIAG 8 Mar; 3 BuSP 24 Mar; 2 Tift NP 26-28 Mar; 29 Yates ORLE 29 Mar (WD); 3 Bear L CHAU 5-6 Apr; 1384 BOSAC, record high for count; last 3 Yates ORLE 27 Apr; well reported, highest numbers since 1994 invasion.

EARED GREBE: Lewiston Res NIAG 3 May (MMo!), more rare in spring, 4th May record.

Double-crested Cormorant: 150 DH 16 Mar; arr 7 Lime L CATT 3 Apr (MDe); 1072 BOSAC, record high for count; 404 Buffalo ERIE 15 Apr (WW); 800 DH 1 May (MMo); 205; 57 nests Motor I NR 7 May.

Am. Bittern: arr Sheridan CHAU 13 Apr (RB); 2 BOSAC; Tift NP 26 Apr; Westfield CHAU 4 May (JG); max 8 TWMA 9 May (BK); Newfane NIAG 10 May (MMo), unusual migrant location.

Least Bittern: arr TWMA 10 May (KF); SPNS 11 May (LH); 2 TWMA 17 May (MMo); INWR 31 May (WC); only reports.

Great Blue Heron: 679 BOSAC, record high for count; 106 at 56 nests Motor I NR 8 May.

Great Egret: arr 3 Motor I NR 27 Mar (WB), earliest return to rookery; max 16 Motor I NR 20 Apr & 2 May (WW), 15 nests May, a new high; Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; Wellsville ALLE 14 Apr; Freedom CATT, JDSP 16 Apr; Tift NP 26 Apr & 12, 17 May; 2 Sheridan CHAU 9 May; TWMA 17 May.

Green Heron: arr FMCSF 26 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 111 Motor I NR 27 Mar, 95 nests there 7 May; 2 Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; 2 Sheridan CHAU 9 Apr; 8 DH 28 Apr; TWMA 17 May.

GLOSSY IBIS: INWR 27 Apr (MMo!), only 3rd documented in Apr; TWMA 18 May (BK!), possibly same bird; 3rd

consecutive spring for Reg.

BLACK VULTURE: Ripley HW 17 Mar (MMo!), 4th record at HW; INWR 26 Apr (JP), not documented.

Turkey Vulture: arr Farnham ERIE 8 Mar.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Oakfield GENE 6 Apr (PY!); Yates ORLE 13 Apr (MC!); only documented reports.

Snow Goose: DH 2 Mar; arr 2 INWR 15 Mar; max 21 Yates ORLE 23 Mar (BK); 7 other Mar & Apr reports in single digits; last Barre ORLE 27 Apr.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Hartland NIAG 22 Apr (WW!); 4th spring record for Reg.

Canada Goose (*B. c. hutchinsii*): 3 Oakfield GENE & 5 OOWMA 6 Apr (PY!), more rare in spring.

Brant: 10 Tonawanda ERIE 25 May (PH), only report.

Mute Swan: max 5 Grand I ERIE 27 Mar; WTSP 26 Apr; 2 TWMA 4 May; 2 Olcott NIAG 17 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 DH 2 Mar (DM); Freedom CATT 27 Mar (RR), yellow wing tags; 2 TWMA 17 May (MMo).

Tundra Swan: 232 BeSP 7 Mar (WB); 900 ChauL 11 Mar (JB); max 1045 Hamburg HW 16 Mar (BK); widely reported 16-17 Mar; last 2 OOWMA 4 May.

Wood Duck: arr 7 GHSP 16 Mar.

Gadwall: 3 INWR 30 May, possible breeders.

Am. Black Duck: 4TWMA 17 May, only May report.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 6 Dayton CATT 23 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 DH 16 Mar; max 250 BWWT 19 Apr; INWR 31 May.

N. Pintail: 2966 BOSAC, remarkable since there were 0 on last year's count, most observed at Elba Mucklands GENE (BK).

Green-winged Teal: 62 INWR 9 May, good count for date.

Canvasback: max 3645 Grand I ERIE 7 Mar (WB).

Redhead: 6 TWMA 17 May, breeding location.
Ring-necked Duck: max 102 INWR 31 Mar; last 3 BOSMC.
Greater Scaup: last 34 BOSMC.
Lesser Scaup: arr Newstead ERIE 23 Mar; last 17 BOSMC.
Surf Scoter: 2 DH 18 Mar; WTSP 23 Mar; 23 BOSAC, record high for count; 6 Olcott NIAG 26 Apr; 6 Oakfield GENE 28 Apr (KF); 2 SPNS 28 Apr (LH), unusual inland locations.
White-winged Scoter: 2552 BOSAC, record high for count.
Black Scoter: DH 1 Mar; Olcott NIAG 16 Mar (WD); Oakfield GENE 7 Apr (BK), very rare inland; Porter NIAG 13 Apr; only reports.
Long-tailed Duck: 41 DH 16 Mar; 30 BWWTWP 29 Mar; 6 AISP 29 Mar; Machias CATT 30 Mar; **15,805** BOSAC, record high for count and state; 1300 FMCSPP 10 May; last BOSMC.
Bufflehead: last 21 BOSMC.
Com. Goldeneye: last 4 BOSMC.
Hooded Merganser: 642 BOSAC, record high for count.
Com. Merganser: 4 NF 17 May, probable breeders at this location.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2500 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 24 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr 2 Newstead ERIE 16 Mar; 13 Bear L CHAU 11 Apr; max 530 BWWTWP 19 Apr (KF); 48 INWR 4 May; 63 BWWTWP 15 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr AISP 25 Mar (TL); 2 nests INWR & TWMA, nest at TWMA is new location; continuing nesting Allegheny Res.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1, 1 Ripley HW 20, 30 May (LD! NYSARC), 3rd & 4th documented reports for Reg.
Bald Eagle: excellent showing at hawkwatches and elsewhere; 15 BOSAC, record high for count.
N. Goshawk: Yates ORLE 22 Mar

(WD!); GHSP 22 Mar (WD!); Jamestown CHAU 31 Mar (JB!); BWWTWP 6 Apr (PY!); 2 at nest Panama CHAU 12 May (MMi); French Creek CHAU 26 May (JB), possible nest location.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Hamburg HW 15 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr BOSAC; peak of migration 18-19 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 15 S. Dayton CATT 23 Mar (DN); last Yates ORLE 18 May (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE: Hamburg HW 19 Mar; Panama CHAU 30 Mar (PB); 3 Ripley HW 19 Apr (WD!); Hamburg HW 19 Apr (JL!); 2 INWR 4 May (JP), reportedly harassed by nesting Balds; Ripley HW 30 May (LD!), subadult, latest spring report for Reg.
Merlin: arr Hamburg HW 16 Mar (BK); 3 Buffalo ERIE thru 9 Apr (PY!); last reported at SUNY Buffalo roost 10 Apr; Ellery CHAU 13 Apr (MO); TWMA 4 May (MMo); Lewiston NIAG 17 May (MT MMo!), only reports away from hawkwatches.
Peregrine Falcon: yg Buffalo ERIE, from annual nest location; nesting suspected NF as well; Buffalo ERIE 3 Apr-8 May (PY!), coming to night roost at SUNY Buffalo campus; Fredonia CHAU 2 Apr (JG); Hamburg HW 6 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr SPNS 13 Apr.
Sora: arr Tift NP & SPNS 25 Apr; W Almond ALLE 9 May (EB), unusual location.
Com. Moorhen: arr Alexander GENE 26 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE: NF 23 Mar (BK!); 6 Hamburg HW 24 Mar (BRBA); 2 Hamburg HW 2 Apr (FR!); 2 Cambria NIAG 5 Apr (BRBA); Alexander GENE 12 Apr (KF); 5 BOSMC; 4 Hamburg HW 19 May (WW!); OOWMA 25 May (S&TO); Alden ERIE 27 May (BRBA); good showing.
Black-bellied Plover: DH 13 May; 3 BOSMC; only reports.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 5 French Creek CHAU 11 May; only 3 other reports.

Killdeer: arr Fredonia CHAU 6 Mar.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 5 INWR 31 Mar; max 137 Elba GENE 19 Apr (BK); 68 Ridgeway NIAG 22 Apr; last 7 BOSMC.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 3 BOSAC; 71 Elba GENE 19 Apr; 47 Yates ORLE 14 May; 21 OOWMA 15 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Porter NIAG 27 Apr; max 11 OOWMA 15 May.

WILLET: 2 Olcott NIAG 1 May (S&TO!); DH 5 May (DM); very rare in spring, coincides with higher than usual reports in Ontario.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr BWWT 19 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr INWR 27 Apr; 4 Sheldon WYOM 4 May; Tillman WMA ERIE 18 May; 2 Shelby ORLE 27 May.

Sanderling: 2 Somerset NIAG 14 May (BK!), slightly early, only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 5 OOWMA 15 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr 3 Yates ORLE 4 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Times Beach NP ERIE 24 May (BK); Somerset NIAG 25 May (BK); only reports.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Pomfret CHAU 15 Mar (TM!), early; 25 Yates ORLE 29 Mar; 11 Randolph CATT 19 Apr; 52 Eden ERIE 19 Apr; max 366 Elba GENE 19 Apr (BK); last 2 French Creek CHAU 25 May (JB).

Dunlin: arr 30 JAS 16 Apr; 19 Elba GENE 19 Apr; Wilson NIAG 26 Apr; last French Creek CHAU 31 May, only 4 other May reports.

Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Pomfret CHAU 20 Mar; max 38 Somerset NIAG 27 Apr.

Am. Woodcock: arr PG, LESP 19 Mar.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: Eden ERIE 24 May (RA!), rare in spring.

Little Gull: max 33 Lewiston NR 23 Mar (BK); last 6 BOSAC.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2680 NR 26 Mar (GB); 24 Attica Res WYOM 29 Mar,

good count for location; 250 Barcelona Harbor CHAU 24 Apr; 511 Olcott NIAG 27 Apr; 25 NF 13 May.

Iceland Gull: DH 3 Apr; NF 5 Apr; Wilson NIAG 13 Apr; DH 13 May; last BOSMC.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: NF 23 Mar; Wilson NIAG 13 Apr; DH 23 Apr-1 May (JG PY! MMo!); last NF 18 May (BK!).

Glaucous Gull: NF 23 Mar; last DH 6-28 Apr; Wilson NIAG 13 Apr.

Caspian Tern: arr 6 DH, Ripley CHAU 3 Apr, record early; max 210 DH 22 May (DM), 57 DH 30 May, very high count for date.

Com. Tern: arr BOSAC; 72 DH 12 May (DM); INWR 30 May, likely late migrant.

Black Tern: arr 8 TWMA 4 May; max 15 INWR 9 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

MONK PARAKEET: 2 Hamburg ERIE 4 May (SM!, NYSARC), 4th Reg record and first since 1975.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr TWMA 9 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Dunkirk CHAU 12 May.

BARN OWL: dead Villanova CHAU 19 Mar (AC), observed ~15 times Jan-Mar near barn; dead N Harmony CHAU 24 Mar (MG), observed by Ryan Smith at this dairy farm on 12 Dec 2002; both birds to RTP1 as specimens (JB).

Snowy Owl: Shelby ORLE 2 Mar (CR), only report.

Long-eared Owl: INWR 2 Mar (CR); BOSMC; only reports.

Short-eared Owl: INWR 23 Mar; 2 TWMA 1, 23 Mar; only reports.

N. Saw-whet Owl: max 7 INWR 1 Mar (BK), responding to tapes, impressive count; 2, 3, 1 WTSP 8, 16, 23 Mar (BP); GHSP 8 Mar (BP); Ridgeway NIAG 15 Mar; Oakfield GENE 23 Mar; FMCS 27 Apr (BK); INWR 18 May (BK).

Com. Nighthawk: arr Porter NIAG 27 Apr (BK!), early; Hunters Creek ERIE 10 May; INWR 17 May; 2 BOSMC; only

reports.

Whip-poor-will: Blasdell ERIE 3 May (MT), only report.

Chimney Swift: arr Buffalo ERIE 23 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Westfield CHAU 1 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: BeSP 2 Mar; Hamburg ERIE 2 Mar-3 May; arr 4 CHAU 1 May; 4 PG, Tiftt NP 4 May; Youngstown NIAG 6-31 May; LBSP 14 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Westfield CHAU 22 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr BeSP 28 May (DS), only report.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr JDSP 13 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Tillman WMA 17 May (BRBA); BOSMC; only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 6 BOSMC; Ridgeway NIAG 21 May; Ripley CHAU 22 May; 2 French Creek CHAU 26 May; INWR 30 May; 2 Carlton Hill MUA 31 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr BOSMC.

Willow Flycatcher: arr INWR 14 May (BK!).

Least Flycatcher: arr PG 1 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Pomfret CHAU, Tiftt NP 16 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Westfield CHAU, AmSP 1 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Westfield CHAU, PG 1 May.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: Shadigee ORLE 15 Apr (KF!, NYSARC), 1st Apr report since 1988.

N. Shrike: 6 Mar and 1 Apr reports.

White-eyed Vireo: Tiftt NP 3-6 May (KF!); 1, 1, 2 Westfield CHAU 8 May thru (MMo WD), 2 competing males singing 30 May; Hamburg ERIE 18 May (MO); 2 BOSMC.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr AmSP 1 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Alfred, Ward ALLE 15 Apr (EB); max 15 Tiftt NP 6

May (MDa).

Warbling Vireo: arr Westfield CHAU, AmSP 1 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr FNSP 16 May; 3 other May reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Ripley CHAU 8 May.

Com. Raven: 3 AISP 8 Mar; 2 Alfred ALLE 18 Mar; 15 BOSAC, record high for count; Attica Res WYOM 19 Apr, 15 May (BK!); 2 Ward ALLE 25 Apr; 2 Charlotte CHAU 27 Apr (RB); 2 Panama CHAU 11 May (MMi); Carlton Hill MUA 15 May (BK!); 2 Gerry CHAU 22 May; increasing CHAU reports.

Purple Martin: arr Hamburg HW 6 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr INWR 21 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BOSAC.

Bank Swallow: arr Alexander GENE 26 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 13 BuSP 27 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Somerset NIAG 29 Mar (WD!), early.

Carolina Wren: 17 BOSAC; 24 BOSMC; well reported thru.

House Wren: arr Bethany GENE 13 Apr (DB!), record early by a day.

Winter Wren: arr 2 Tiftt NP 28 Mar.

SEDGE WREN: INWR 26 May (S&TO), has bred in vicinity in recent years.

Marsh Wren: arr 3 TWMA 27 Apr.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr WTSP 27 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 4 BOSAC.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr FMCSF 26 Apr.

Veery: arr Tiftt NP 2 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Fredonia CHAU 17 May; 5 BOSMC; FNSP 24 May; 5 Buffalo ERIE 30 May, nocturnal migrants.

Swainson's Thrush: arr OOWMA 15 May, later than usual.

Hermit Thrush: arr Tiftt NP 20 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr Ripley CHAU, 2 AmSP, Bethany GENE 1 May.

Gray Catbird: Ripley CHAU 12 Apr, wintered; BOSAC; arr 2 Westfield CHAU,

2 AmSP 1 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr Hamburg ERIE 18 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr Hartland NIAG 8 Mar (WD!), early; max 85 Westfield CHAU 17 Mar; last BOSMC.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Westfield CHAU, AmSP, SPNS 1 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 3 May; Newfane NIAG 10 May; Somerset NIAG 11, 17 May; Sheridan CHAU 11 May; Medina ORLE 26 May; Shelby ORLE 27 May; INWR 28 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr Tift NP 8 May; TWMA 11, 17 May; Carlton Hill MUA 18, 31 May.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Yorkshire CATT 18 May (JL!).

Tennessee Warbler: arr Tift NP 2 May (BP!), early.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr FNSP 2,8 May (LL); PG 4 May; GI 7,13 May; FMCS 17 May (BP); 3 BOSMC.

Nashville Warbler: arr 2 AmSP, Tift NP 29 Apr; Carlton Hill MUA 31 May, likely breeder.

N. Parula: arr SPNS, AmSP 1 May; last INWR 31 May; well reported.

Yellow Warbler: arr 2 GI 30 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 Westfield CHAU, 2 AmSP, GI, SPNS 1 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Pomfret CHAU 29 Apr (TM!), early.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 6 May; max 6 GI 25 May (DR).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr GI, Buffalo ERIE 1 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Pomfret CHAU 19 Mar; 4 Somerset NIAG 29 Mar; arr Alfred ALLE 21 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr GI 19 Apr (MMO!); Ripley CHAU 24 Apr; early.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr GI, SPNS, AmSP 1 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Tift NP 25 Apr; Knox

SP ERIE 25 May (LH); 2 Barre ORLE 28 May (BK!); AISP 29 May (JP); widely increasing as breeder.

Prairie Warbler: arr Eagle WYOM 15 May; 14 ALLE BOSMC; 2 Alfred ALLE 25 May; Ashford CATT 30 May.

Palm Warbler (*D. p. palmarum*): arr SPNS 21 Apr (LH), early; last 7 BOSMC.

Palm Warbler (*D. p. hypochrysea*): Newfane NIAG 8 May (BK!), seen with “Western Palms,” rarely found in Reg.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr GI 8 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr AmSP, Sheridan CHAU 11 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr 4 OOWMA, Newstead ERIE 9 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 2 AmSP 29 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr Westfield CHAU 1 May (WD).

Prothonotary Warbler: TWMA 18 May (BK); French Creek CHAU 25 May (JB!), new location for possible breeder.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: Tift NP 15, 16 May (DS, LH), rare.

Ovenbird: arr GI, PG, Westfield CHAU, AmSP 1 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr Chaul 28 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Bennington WYOM 13 Apr (AB), early; Pomfret CHAU 20 Apr; Ripley CHAU 24 Apr; French Creek CHAU 4, 26 May;

Chautauqua CHAU 4 May; 3 Attica WYOM 4 May; Hunters Creek ERIE 10 May; Humphrey CATT 14 May; 2

Allegany Indian Reservation 25 May; Carlton Hill MUA 31 May; well reported.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Yates ORLE 18 May (BK!), rare in spring.

Mourning Warbler: arr Portland CHAU 10 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 2 Westfield CHAU, PG, SPNS 1 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Westfield CHAU 1 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr SPNS 14 May; last Salamanca CATT 26 May.

Canada Warbler: arr TWMA 10 May.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Ripley CHAU 8 May (MMo), only report.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr GI, Buffalo ERIE. AmSP 1 May.

E. Towhee: arr Alfred ALLE 1 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Belmont ALLE 26 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Eden Valley ERIE 27 Mar.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 3 Yorkshire CATT BOSMC (MDe!), previously documented breeding location.

Field Sparrow: arr Eden Valley ERIE 1 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 2 Yates ORLE. OOWMA 29 Mar; Westfield CHAU 3 Apr; 2 Hanover CHAU 9 Apr; 2 Barre ORLE 4 May; Wethersfield WYOM 15 May; Newfane NIAG 17 May; Andover ALLE 25 May; Humphrey CATT 30 May; more reports than usual.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Somerset NIAG 29 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Newfane NIAG 27 Apr, 10, 17 May; Alexander GENE 15 May; Carlton Hill MUA 15, 31 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: arr Canaseraga ALLE 4 May (SP); Carlton Hill MUA 18 May; max 11 Lancaster ERIE 27 May (MMo), previously documented breeding colony.

Fox Sparrow: arr Franklinville CATT 18 Mar; widely reported early Apr; last Tift NP 3 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tift NP 2 May; last 3 BOSMC.

Swamp Sparrow: arr 105 BOSAC.

White-throated Sparrow: last Tift NP 23 May; Ashford CATT 30 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Tift NP 25 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 4 Yates ORLE 8 Mar; 2 S. Dayton CATT 15 Mar; Westfield CHAU 17 Mar; max 10 Oakfield GENE 6 Apr; 6 BOSAC; last Ripley CHAU 24 Apr (MMo).

Snow Bunting: max 300 Yates ORLE 8 Mar (WD); last 2 S. Dayton CATT 15 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Alfred, Amity L ALLE 29 Apr.

BLUE GROSBEAK: Eden Valley ERIE 5 May (RA!), only 3rd documented report for Reg; Ellery CHAU 10 May (BS), unverified; neither submitted to NYSARC yet.

Indigo Bunting: arr 2 Persia CHAU 7 May.

Bobolink: arr 22 Westfield, Ripley CHAU 1 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr S. Dayton CHAU 15 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: last 24 BOSMC.

Orchard Oriole: arr Wethersfield WYOM 5 May (DJ); m Eden Valley ERIE 5-14 May (RA!), also f 9 May; SPNS 5 May (LH); 2 Somerset NIAG 11, 17, 26 May; Silver Creek CHAU 13 May (DN).

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 May widespread locations.

Purple Finch: fewer migrant reports than usual.

Red Crossbill: Alfred ALLE 23, 26 Mar (EB), only report.

Pine Siskin: 2 FMCSB BOSMC, only report.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

Kevin C. Griffith

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester NY 14612

ckgrif@localnet.com

It was a cool wet spring. The National Weather Service described March as a “Jekyll and Hyde” month in western New York. The cold of winter lingered on into the first half of March, with 3 March recording the coldest daytime high temperature in 118 years. But then the second half of the month brought a spring-like warmth that balanced out to a near perfect month relative to the norm. The monthly temperature of 34.1°F was 0.2° above normal. The 1.95” of precipitation was 0.63” below normal. Snowfall finally was below normal with a meager 5.6”. This was 11” below normal. The most significant meteorological event for April was the ice storm that paralyzed the area on the 3rd and 4th. It was many days before all power was restored to all area residents. The average temperature for the month was 43.3°, which was 2.0° below normal. Precipitation ended up 1.48” below normal at 1.27” for the driest April in 100 years. Snowfall was 1.2” above normal with a total of 6.3”. Unfortunately, the winds were often out of the northeast, which did not bode well for migration. May was cool again and also wet. The average temperature was 55.2°. This was 1.8° below normal. Precipitation was 1.75” above normal at 4.57”. Rainfall occurred on 15 days during the month, with 0.93” falling on the 11th and 12th.

It was indeed an interesting spring season. While there were indeed some decent migration days, for the most part it was uneventful. There were some good days at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch and the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station, but overall the concentrations were few and far between. Many days saw winds out of the north and east with few birds to observe. Passerine arrivals were set back by the ice storm and the cool temperatures often kept the migration at bay. Few days presented excellent birding opportunities.

For the most part, lakewatch birding was mediocre. Loon movements were okay but not really noteworthy. The same was true for the grebes, with the exception of a few good days for Red-necked. The Pacific Loon in alternate plumage observed by Bob Spahn at Hamlin Beach was a continuation of an increase in sightings of the species in the east. Waders were scarce, with even few Great Egret reports. The **Glossy Ibis** in May at Fishers was a plus. Canada Goose and Mute Swan continued their widespread successes, much to the dismay of the local birding community. Greater White-fronted Goose was finally reported but it wasn’t until May; how unusual! Waterfowl dropped off rather quickly, as has been typical in recent years. Canvasback and Redhead numbers seemed low. Highlights included a neck-banded Ross’s Goose and Eurasian Wigeon.

Josh Lawrey manned the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch this season. Despite April’s often uncooperative winds, there were some very good flights, particularly on 15 and 20 April and 1 and 6 May. The 15 April flight produced over 1000 Sharp-shinned Hawks. On 20 April, 27 Bald Eagles were recorded; 1 May saw a Broad-winged Hawk total of 12,450; and 36 Ospreys were counted on 6 May. The Peregrine Falcons nesting on the Kodak Building in downtown Rochester were

again successful, with five young fledged.

Sandhill Cranes continued their trend of reports at the Hawk Watch. This annual occurrence has heightened the experience at Braddock Bay. Shorebird-wise it was a horrible spring. Many species went unreported. This fact contributed significantly to the low species total for the season and the year to date. Many of the species had arrival dates in June, which is part of the summer reporting period. Gull highlights for the season included three immature **Black-headed Gulls** and the ever-increasing Lesser Black-backed Gull reports. Caspian Tern was record early in March at Braddock Bay. The **Roseate Tern** observed at Hamlin Beach by Mike Davids and Bill Symonds was probably the bird of the season in Region 2. It was the third Regional report of this species. Black Tern continued its disheartening decline in the Region.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove discovered in Hamlin in 2002 was reported again, but the sighting frequency decreased considerably after April. The spring migration for Long-eared Owls was on the plus side, with 14 sighted on 15 April. Northern Saw-whet Owl seemed on the down side. Again, Whip-poor-will was reported only sparingly and Common Nighthawk continued its downward trend.

The passerine migration was quite slow. Early migrants such as Eastern Phoebe, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird seemed especially hard hit by the ice storm. Purple Martin put in a record early appearance at Hamlin on 16 March. Most early arrivals were few in numbers of individuals and at somewhat late dates. A few warm days with favorable conditions produced some good pockets of birds, but the overall picture was certainly lacking. A number of traditionally reported warblers went unreported. These included Prothonotary, Connecticut and Yellow-breasted Chat. Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow went unreported, also. I'm not sure if these misses were due to the fact that they weren't here, just weren't reported, or there was a lack of observers in the field. Highlights included a Clay-colored Sparrow visiting a feeder in Greece and Pine Siskins in May, the latter being a highlight based on the fact that there weren't any reported in March or April. Late May Pine Siskins, and even Evening Grosbeaks, were expected in times past.

The species totals for March, April and May were 129, 163 and 224 respectively. All were below the ten-year averages. The total for the season was 238. The total for the year, at a meager 250 species, was well below the ten-year average of 261.7.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jessie Barry, A.Betancourt, Elizabeth Brooks, Carolyn Cass, Gary Chapin, Greg Coniglio, Carol Cottrone, Jerry Czech, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Mike Davids, Peter Debes, Bob Dobson, Jon & Sandy Dombrowski, Colleen Dox-Griffith, Kurt Fox, Kenny Frisch, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith, Lucretia Grosshans, Helen Haller, Tom Hampson, Greg Hartenstein, Diane Henderson, Bernie Kester, Jim Kimball, Pat Kocinski, Josh Lawrey, John Lehr,

Gerhard Leubner, Dorothy Mauser, Chita & Robert McKinney, Richard Millhouse, Tim Niver, Richard O'Hara, Elinor & Joe Osborne, Betty & Bill Powell, Al Price, Ed Scheidlower, Dominic Sherony, Doug Smith, Pat & Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Jeff & Paul Spindler, David & Grace Strong, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Dave Tetlow, Mike Tetlow, Bill Thompson, Don & Donna Traver, Chris Villone, Ann Watson, Kinsley Whittum, Martha Zettel.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Amy's Pd, T Ontario WAYN; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; C – T Carlton ORLE; CB – Chimney Bluffs WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester MONR; CI – Conesus L Inlet LIVI; CL – Canadice L LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HF – Honeoye Falls MONR; I – T Irondequoit MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; PU – T Pultneyville; RH – Rattlesnake Hill WMA LIVI; S – T Savannah WAYN; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 21 Mar;
max 64 HB 12 Apr.

PACIFIC LOON: HB 14 Apr (RS,
NYSARC).

Com. Loon: arr 2 HB 24 Mar; max 163
HB 23 Apr.

Horned Grebe: max 250 HB 11 Apr; last
PB 26 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 726 WL 11 Apr;
max 976 WL 14 Apr; last HB 12 May.

GREAT CORMORANT: HB 30 May
(WS).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr 3 HB 26
Mar; max 250 BB 28 May.

Am. Bittern: arr BB 18 Apr.

Great Egret: arr HB 16 Apr.

Green Heron: arr HB 15 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr AP 11
May.

GLOSSY IBIS: Fishers 1 May (PSm).

Turkey Vulture: max 1837 BB 12 Apr.

BLACK VULTURE: BB 15 Apr (JB,
JLa, mob).

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr BB 4
May (JLa), late for a first.

Snow Goose: arr BB 16 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE: C 10 Apr (R&SS),
with a neckband.

Trumpeter Swan: on nest 21 May just
east of WAYN/MONR line.

Tundra Swan: arr 5 G 1 Mar; max 326 S
20 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr BB 26-27 Mar;
last C 8 May (R&SS).

Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 BB 15 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr G 1 Mar.

N. Pintail: 50 C 8 May, good total for
May; last C 22 May.

Surf Scoter: max 62 HB 26 Apr; last 2
BB 20 May.

Black Scoter: last HB 20 May.

Bufflehead: last 2 PB 19 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr Charlotte 15 Mar; max
20+ BB 16 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BB 22 Mar; max 36 BB 6
May.

Bald Eagle: max 27 BB 20 Apr.

N. Harrier: max 218 BB 15 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1017 BB 15
Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: max 55 BB 12 Apr.

N. Goshawk: max 13 BB 20 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 9 BB 16 Mar; max 90 BB 25 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr BB 14 Apr; max 12,540 BB 1 May.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 888 BB 15 Apr; dark phase HB, BB 14 May (RS,AT, JLa).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 25 BB 12 Apr; last BB 18 May.
Golden Eagle: arr BB 14 Mar; max 2 BB sev dates.
Am. Kestrel: max 92 BB 15 Apr.
Merlin: max 3 BB 11 May; last BB 30 May.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad at nest Rochester 20 Mar thru, 5 yg fledged; max 3 migrants BB 6, 11 May.
Virginia Rail: arr CI 19 Apr.
Sora: 2 NR 26 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr CB 3 May.
Sandhill Crane: arr BB 26 Mar (JLa); 4 Victor 24 Mar (PS); 3 BB 28 Mar; 3 W 28 Mar (mob, CV); 2 S 30 Mar (GC); 2 HB 18 Apr (WS); BB 21 Apr (JLa); ICW 26 Apr (DS, GC, ST); 4 BB 20 May (JLa); max 5 BB 23 May (JLa).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB 20 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr PE 5 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr H 29 Mar.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HB 14 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 21 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr PE 26 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr BB 6 May.
Sanderling: Russell Station (G) 1-3 Mar, last report of this wintering bird.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 6 PE 28 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 6 PE 5 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr PE 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr H 8 Mar.
Dunlin: arr HB 8 Mar.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 3 PE 13 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Bergen 22 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr GE 16 Mar.
Little Gull: arr 2 ad HB 25 Mar; ad HB 29 Mar; ad HB 23 Apr; ad HB 24 Apr;

imm DE 24 Apr; ad HB 26 Apr.
BLACK-HEADED GULL: imm HB 29 Mar (mob); 3 imm HB 16 Apr (WS).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr HB 17 Mar; max 500 PU 21 Apr (DD), duration of observation 1 hr.
Iceland Gull: Bergen GENE resting with other gulls in field near Riga MONR landfill 12 Mar, 1st GENE report (KF); last HB 13 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad PE 21 Apr (DS); PE 1 May (DS); max 4 HB 13 May (WS); HB 21 May (WS).
Glaucous Gull: last HB 18 Mar, ad.
Caspian Tern: arr BB 28 Mar (DT), record early.
ROSEATE TERN: HB 27 Apr (WS, MD), 3rd Reg report.
Com. Tern: arr 4 HB 15 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr 2 HB 15 Apr.
Black Tern: arr HB 13 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: first relocated 16 Mar H thru Apr.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr NR 10 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr W 20 May.
Barred Owl: first report of year 1 Bergen Swamp 20 May.
Long-eared Owl: max 14 M 15 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: GE 21 May (R&CM), nesting?
Whip-poor-will: arr M 21 Apr; max 2 ICW 7 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr G 16 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 4 York 25 Apr.
hummingbird sp.: HB 21 Apr (RS), early.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr DE 3 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr HB 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Sodus 14 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 3 ICW 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr G 20 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 4 banded M 20 May (BBBO), only ones banded there in May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr Bergen Swamp 20 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 6 Cuylerville LIVI 16 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr ICW 29 Apr; max 12 G 15 May.

E. Phoebe: arr HB 24 Mar.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr ICW 1 May.

N. Shrike: last PU 1 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: arr Genesee Valley P 1 May (AB).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CI 4 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr ICW, RH 27 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr sev 1 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr PU 15 May; 3 ICW 15 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr ICW 1 May.

Com. Raven: CL 3 May T Nunda LIVI, not often reported in that area.

Purple Martin: arr H 16 Mar (DT), record early.

Tree Swallow: arr BB 16 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3-5 HB 15 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 6 HB, BB 21 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr Sandy Creek MONR 3 May.

Barn Swallow: arr G 14 Apr.

Brown Creeper: max 21 banded M 15 Apr.

House Wren: arr M 27 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr sev 15 Apr; last ICW 22 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr M 21 Apr.

Veery: arr ICW 1 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr ICW 23 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr ICW 11 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr M 15 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr ICW 1 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr M 18 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr sev 16 Mar; max 100 HB 4 May; last 3 HB 22 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Rush 30 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr ICW 6 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: GE 10, 20 May.

Tennessee Warbler: arr DE 6 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1 banded M 7 May; total 5 banded M 7-19 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr W 29 Apr.

N. Parula: arr CH 5 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr NR 29 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr ICW 1 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr CL 3 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Sodus 7 May; very low numbers.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CH 29 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr RH 27 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr CH 1 May.

Pine Warbler: arr W 6 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr CL 1 May; ICW 7-10 May.

Palm Warbler: arr East Lakeshore, M 28 Apr; max 50 DE 5 May (LG, DH); last 2 ICW 19 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr sev 11 May; very low numbers.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr CB, I 18 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr ICW 7 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr ICW 29 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr CH 4 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 3 May.

Ovenbird: arr ICW 1 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr ICW 29 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr RH 29 Apr.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: banded M 11 May, rare but annual.

Mourning Warbler: arr ICW 7 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr M, G 5 May; max 20 Letchworth SP 10 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Ontario, ICW 11 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Ontario, CI 4 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr ICW 1 May.

E. Towhee: arr HF 9 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last HF 20 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Rochester 6 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr G 9, 11 May
(KG, JB, MD, RS).

Field Sparrow: arr Rush 27 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: arr 2 GE 29 Mar;

Retsof 29 Mar.

Savannah Sparrow: arr H 29 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 16 NR 10
May.

Fox Sparrow: arr Crusoe L WAYN 22
Mar; max 21 W 8 Apr (JC), great total;

last 2 1 19 Apr; 6 Mendon Pds 19 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 banded M 1
May.

White-crowned Sparrow: last G 27 May.

Snow Bunting: last HB 16 Apr.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr HF 29 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr CH 8 May.

Bobolink: arr sev 1 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr HB, BB 15 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 50 Crusoe L

WAYN 22 Mar; last WL 8 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr GE 7 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 2 May.

Pine Siskin: HB 4 May; 3 HB 18 May.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

80 Westmont Avenue, Elmira NY 14905

brown_creeper@sg23.com

The extreme cold of winter continued on into early March, with nighttime temperatures falling below zero four times in the first eight days. This kept much of the Great Lakes frozen as well as the shallower portions of the Finger Lakes and the Region's rivers, ponds and streams. In spite of the cold start, March managed to be about normal in temperature. Snow cover was not a significant problem, with only one storm dropping as much as a half foot on 31 March. Warm fronts through the season were infrequent and not particularly strong. Mid-March, mid-April and very late April to very early May saw some pushes through. Both April and May were cooler than normal. All three months were drier than normal.

Loons and grebes were all up in numbers this spring. The Red-necked Grebe invasion, which began in late February when the Great Lakes froze, continued to be in evidence through most of the season. From one spot on the shore of Cayuga Lake, Sam and Steve Kelling and Ken Rosenberg were able to count 175 individuals. Other individuals appeared on all kinds of bodies of water throughout the Region. The total of maximum counts from all locations in the Region was 502. The highest previous total in the six years that I have generated that statistic was 28 in 2000. Perhaps the big freeze was also responsible for the high counts of other species of loons and grebes in the Region, as well as for the Region's first **Pacific Loon**. The total of maximum counts, with previous highs in parentheses, were: Red-throated Loon 41 (11), Common Loon 188 (110), Pied-billed Grebe 70 (60), Horned Grebe 200 (179). It was the second consecutive year that Pied-billed

and Horned grebes increased significantly over the previous year.

Double-crested Cormorants migrating through the Region increased for the second consecutive year, in spite of control efforts on Lake Ontario. The five cooperative Glossy Ibises that showed up in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex in Seneca County were the highlight among wading birds, though there were also single reports of Snowy and Cattle egrets. Heron numbers were generally stable in the Region.

Geese seemed to move through the Region very quickly this spring. Unlike the loons and grebes, they may have been more influenced by the lack of snow cover than by the frozen water and were able to push northward quickly. Numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow and Canada geese were average, but all up significantly from last year. Most duck species showed increases over last year. Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck had their second consecutive increases. Many species had significant fallouts on some of the Region's smaller lakes and larger ponds. Meena Haribal's **Ross's Goose** was the most outstanding find, though even this species has become regular in recent years.

Unusual was the significant increase in four raptors: three *Buteo* species and Golden Eagle. Steve Kelling counted a remarkable 12 Golden Eagles passing over his property in Caroline 15 March. The Gyrfalcon sightings of winter continued into March, basically in the same area on the east side of Cayuga Lake, but the final sighting was at the north end of Seneca Lake.

Several observers caught glimpses of Sandhill Cranes passing over the Region. American Coots increased for the second year in a row. Most shorebird numbers were unchanged from last year, but Dunlin increased for the third year running. Meena Haribal's sighting of a Willet at Stewart Park in Ithaca was the season's shorebird highlight. There was little habitat available for shorebirds. The melt of winter's snows made for high water levels, and there was enough rain through the spring to keep the levels up.

The total of maximum numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls from all sites around the Region was 649, compared to the second highest total in six years of 361. The Ring-billed Gull colony that started last year on a pile of gravel in the Chemung River next to the Main Street Bridge in downtown Elmira, returned again this year. I had predicted that the vegetation that appeared on the pile in late summer last year would keep them away. Instead, the colony grew to about 1000 adults this spring. Myers Point hosted two rare gulls: Franklin's and Little. Matt Medler, who was among those who found the Franklin's Gull there on 13 May, found the bird again at Aurora Bay the following day. Larry Hymes found the Little Gull at Myers Point in April. Gary Chapin also found one at the Knox-Marsellus Marsh in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex in March.

Owl populations remained unchanged. Bob Thomas heard the calls of a **Barn Owl** as it flew about his property. Common Nighthawks did not appear until late May and then in small numbers. The Addison Whip-poor-wills did not show up at all this spring. The species had been there for many years.

Numbers of woodpeckers, flycatchers and vireos remained stable for the most

part, even though single site highs were recorded for most of the woodpeckers. All corvid species except Fish Crow suffered significant declines, perhaps resulting from the effects of West Nile Virus. Mourning Doves and Horned Larks both had their second consecutive years of decline.

End-of-April, beginning-of-May temperatures indicated that a warm front passed through about then and so did large numbers of neotropical migrants. Jay McGowan found dozens of Wood Thrushes on Beam Hill in Dryden. Nevertheless, temperatures soon cooled and remained cool throughout the rest of the month. Leaves were slow to emerge on the trees, flowers were slow to blossom on the hawthorns, and neotropical bird migration slowed down and stretched out. Large numbers of migrants were still passing through in late May. Steve Kelling and Ken Rosenberg both noted large nocturnal movements of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes on 26 and 27 May.

The late blossoming prevented the Hawthorn Orchard along the East Ithaca Recreation Way from attracting the large numbers of migrants that it has in the past. Regionally, however, many warbler species demonstrated significant increases over last year. Nashville Warblers seemed to be everywhere through the whole month of May, rather than just the first week, and quadrupled last year's numbers.

Many sparrow species also increased significantly. Fox and Swamp sparrows both posted their second consecutive increases. The snowfall at the end of March drove Fox Sparrows to feeders in large numbers. February's severe weather kept blackbirds from arriving in the Region until after the beginning of March. Most species increased over last year. Bobolinks increased for the second straight year.

Passerine highlights were: a single Bohemian Waxwing that Kevin McGowan discovered at Sapsucker Woods, possibly the same bird found the following day by Allison and Jeff Wells at a not-too-distant location; a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Dorothy McIlroy Preserve in Summerhill, found by Mike Andersen and Pete Hosner and still present 10 days later; and two Clay-colored Sparrows that established territories in the Region, one in Caroline and one in Erin. The latter was the first live member of this species to be recorded in Chemung County.

The species list includes comparisons of observed populations in the Region between spring 2002 and spring 2003. A "+" at the end of a species account indicates an increase; a "-" indicates a decrease. Accounts with neither symbol indicate that the species did not demonstrate a significant change in reported numbers. Unless otherwise noted, the cited comparisons showed statistically significant changes ($X^2 > 3.84$; $P = 0.05$). A discussion of my methodology and its limitations can be found in the Region 3 report in *The Kingbird* 49(4).

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Andersen, Bob Anderson, Sylvia Anglin, John Ascher, Jeanne & Joel Baines, Ryan Bakelaar, Eric Banford, Maureen Barger, Susan Barnett, Sarah Benson-Amram, Fred Bertram, Gladys Birdsall, Ken Blackman, Lisa Blackman, Victoria Bond, David Bonter, Bill Brown, Karen Burns, Margaret Cady, Cayuga Bird Club,

Adam Chandler, Mark Chao, Gary Chapin, Lois Chaplin, Russ Charif, Danielle Cholewiak, Miyoko Chu, Robin Cisne, Dick Clements, Benjamin Clock, Bil & Marg Comstock, John Confer, William Cook, Cornell Campus Club Bird Group, Candace Cornell, Cornell Conservation of Birds Class, Cornell Spring Field Ornithology Class, Nancy Cusumano, Nicki Dardinger, Donna Jean Darling, Betsy Darlington, Victoria Del Bond, Greg Delisle, Mark Dettling, Nancy Dickinson, Rachel Dickinson, Lynn Donaldson, Lenore Durkee, Linda & Michael Duttweiler, Karen Edelstein, Barbara Eden, H. Ellsworth, Jennifer Fais, Camile Faraday, Steve & Susan Fast, David Ferro, Annette Finney, Martha Fischer, Andrew Fish, Tom Fredericks, Jim Gaffney, Kathy Garcia, Jeff Gerbracht, Sue Gigliotti, David Gooding, Dan Graybeal, John Greenly, John & Sue Gregoire, Melissa Groo, Bob Guthrie, Patricia Haines, Meena Haribal, Barbara Herrgesell, Jody Hildreth, Wes Hochachka, Asher Hockett, Brett Hoffman, Jeff Holbrook, Norma Hood, Julie Horton, Lanse Hoskins, Pete Hosner, George & Jo Houghton, Otis & Willy Hutcheson, Larry Hymes, Carolyn Jacobs, D. Jagadheep, Anne Marie & Tim Johnson, Sam & Steve Kelling, Elizabeth King, Geo Kloppel, Jon Kloppel, Mindy LaBranche, Vanessa Lane, Paul Larrabee, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Dan Lebbin, Jim Leet, Tim Lenz, Susanne Lorbeer, Jim Lowe, Ellen Luce, Judy Lutes, James Manley, Fred Manzella, Bill & Shirley McAneny, Elaina McCartney, David McDermitt, Jay & Kevin McGowan, Cathy & Pat McGrath, Bob & Judy McGuire, Deborah McNaughton, Marie McRae, Matt Medler, Andrew Miller, Ginny & Nari Mistry, Mike Morgante, Tom Morse, Colby Neuman, David Neveu, Sue Norvell, Dave Nutter, David Olmstead, Linda Orkin, Bill & Joan Ostrander, Brian & Dolores Perkins, Alicia Plotkin, Sandy Podulka, Mike Powers, Bard Prentiss, Laurie Ray, Marie Read, Mark Reaves, Michelle Reidy, Tom Riemers, Glen Robertson, Rochester Rare Bird Hotline, Ken Rosenberg, Betty Rowley, Dave Russell, Lena Samsonenko, Catherine Sandell, Matt Sarver, Carol Schmitt, Donna Scott, Sean Serrell, Carla Shafer, Carol & Joe Slattery, Ken Smith, Shelagh Smith, Bob Spahn, Karen Steffy, Sarah Fern Striffer, Regi Teasley, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Bob Thomas, Julian & Mary Jane Thomas, Anne Thurber, Cyndy & Richard Tkachuck, Bruce Tracey, Robin Tuttle, John VanNiel, Matt Victoria, Watt Webb, Allison & Jeff Wells, Fred Werner, David Wheeler, Chris White, Margaret Wilcox, Mary Wilcox, Caissa Willmer, Chad Witko, Carl Wood, Lisa Wood, John Yerger, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

AurB – Aurora Bay CAYU; Cana – Canandaigua; CayL – Cayuga L; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CorU – Cornell University; DLP – Dryden L P; DryL – Dryden L; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way; ESP – East Shore P TOMP; GCC – Geneva Chamber of Commerce ONTA; IGF – Ithaca Game Farm; KH – Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory; LPBP – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP; LPd – Lowe Pd CHEM; LPSP – Long Pt SP; MIP – Mcllroy Preserve CAYU; ML – Mud Lock CAYU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MWC –

Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt TOMP; OPT – Ontario Pathways Trail ONTA; PSP – Pinnacle SP; SapW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SavM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SenL – Seneca L; StP – Stewart P TOMP; TCAH – The Center at Horseheads CHEM; US – Union Springs.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: arr MyPt 21 Mar; max & last 31 CayL 28 Apr, high, +.

PACIFIC LOON: CayL 28 Apr (JaMc!, BPr).

Com. Loon: max 73 CayL 3 Apr; last MyPt 28 May, +.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 20 MNWR 1 May (C&JSI), high, +.

Horned Grebe: max 60 Cana L 23 Mar; last DLP 2 May, +.

Red-necked Grebe: max 175 Ithaca Yacht Club TOMP 2 Mar (S&SK, KR), high; last Park Station P CHEM 17 May (B&JO), late, +.

EARED GREBE: AurB 1 Mar (J&KMc); max 2 AurB 8 Mar-5 Apr (CSFO, MY).

Double-crested Cormorant: arr SenL 15 Mar; max 60 A&PPd CHEM 6 Apr; last 3 MyPt 28 May, +.

Least Bittern: arr TCAH 16 May; MNWR 31 May.

Great Blue Heron: max 20 MNWR 1 May, +.

Great Egret: arr MNWR 21 Mar (S&SK), early; max 2 DLP 3 Apr.

SNOWY EGRET: CorU 21 May (SL!), only report.

CATTLE EGRET: Ledyard 2 Apr (MV), only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr MyPt 13 Apr; max 2 Cana 27 Apr; last StP 1 May, early.

GLOSSY IBIS: arr & max 5 MWC 30 Apr-1 May (JHi ph, C&JS); last MNWR 17 May (NDa, MS), late.

Turkey Vulture: arr Cayuga Heights 5 Mar; max 61 Southport 27 Mar (DCI), high.

Snow Goose: max 20,000 US 21 Mar; last 2 Dryden 29 May (MMc), late, +.

ROSS'S GOOSE: SavM 23 Mar (MH), only report.

Canada Goose: max 8000 KH 17 Mar, +.

Tundra Swan: arr & max 300 ML 9 Mar; last 7 SavM 24 Mar, +.

Trumpeter Swan: max 3 MyPt 9 Mar.

Mute Swan: max 3 Enfield 30 Mar, +.

Wood Duck: max 20 Dryden 23 Mar, low.

Gadwall: max 31 MNWR 6 Apr, -.

Am. Wigeon: max 32 MyPt 9 Mar; last MNWR 26 May (DW), late, -.

Am. Black Duck: max 20 MNWR 7 Apr, +.

Mallard: max 58 Lindley 9 Apr, low, +.

N. Shoveler: arr ML 9 Mar; max 35 MNWR 13 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 1000 SavM 24 Mar (BHe), high; last George Rd Pd TOMP 12 Apr, +.

Green-winged Teal: max 60 Lpd 8 Apr; last 3 MNWR 14 May, +.

Canvasback: max 3000 Twin Oaks Campground CAYU 5 Apr (CSFO, PHo), high; last 103 MNWR 13 Apr, +.

Redhead: max 2000 CayL 1 Mar, +.

Ring-necked Duck: max 100 StP 4 Apr, +.

Greater Scaup: max 20 GCC 1 Mar; last 6 MNWR 11 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 600 StP 4 Apr (KR), high; last DLP 2 May, +.

Surf Scoter: arr ESP 2 Apr; max & last 2 DLP 2 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 11 StP 5 Apr; last 2 ESP 13 May, +.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 6 Chemung Ri 25 Mar; max 17 ESP 4 Apr; last 7 SenL 3 May, +.

Bufflehead: max 200 TCAH 4 Apr (DR), high; last StP 3 May, +.

Com. Goldeneye: max 81 AurB 1 Mar; last 11 MyPt 6 Apr, +.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 29 MyPt 6 Apr; last MNWR 25 May, +.

Ruddy Duck: arr ESP 19 Mar; max 30 StP 4 Apr, +.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 Covert 14 Apr, low.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 6 SapW 16 Apr; max 10 SapW 25 Apr, +.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 10 CLB 9 Mar (CBC, Ja&KMc), high; last Coy Glen 27 Apr, +.

Golden Eagle: arr 4 Mt Pleasant TOMP 8 Mar; max 12 Caroline 15 Mar (StK), high; last Caroline 3 May, +.

Am. Kestrel: max 6 CLB 7 Apr, -.

Merlin: Dryden 9 Mar; last PSP 3 May.

GYRFALCON: US Marina CAYU 1 Mar (Ja&KMc!); LPSP 7 Mar (A&TJ); last SenL SP 11 Mar (C&JSI).

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 10 Romulus 18 May, high, +.

Am. Coot: max 600 SenL pull-off 29 Mar (TM, BO), high, +.

SANDHILL CRANE: arr SPCA TOMP 15 Mar (LO!), early; max 3 SapW 14 Apr (SBA, AF, JGe, MH); last MNWR 14 May (KBu).

Semipalmated Plover: max 2 MNWR 23 May, low.

Killdeer: max 10 Dryden 21 Mar, low.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 3 Seybolt Rd Bait Pds SENE 11 May; last 2 Cranberry Marsh SENE 21 May (TL), late.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 EIRW 13 May; last KH 31 May (J&SGg), late.

WILLET: StP 30 Apr (MH), only report.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 Seneca Falls 27 Apr; max 7 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 28 Apr.

Ruddy Turnstone: 2 MyPt 21-22 May, only reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 30 MNWR 26 May, +.

White-rumped Sandpiper: MNWR 24 May (RRBH), only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 5 SavM 24 Mar; last 2 MNWR 23 May, +.

Dunlin: arr MyPt 29 Mar (Ja&KMc),

early; max 100 MNWR 26 May (DW), high, +.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 May; max 2 Cranberry Marsh SENE 21 May; last MNWR 22 May, -.

Com. Snipe: max 17 TCAH 8 Apr; last L Como Rd fens CAYU 30 May, late.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: MNWR 23 May (A&TJ), only report.

FRANKLIN'S GULL: MyPt 13 May (MH, PHo, DL, Ja&KMc, MMe ph!); AurB 14 May (MMe).

LITTLE GULL: arr MWC 30 Mar (GC), early; last MyPt 10 Apr (LHy).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 9 ESP 26 Mar; max 250 Corning Sewage Treatment Plant STEU 29 Mar; last MyPt 31 May (DGr, MH, BTr!), late, +.

Ring-billed Gull: max 1200 KH 17 Mar, +.

Herring Gull: max 1500 MWC 21 Mar, +.

Iceland Gull: max 3 GCC 1 Mar (LDo, BG, JuHo, LL, C&PMc), high; last CayL 4 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CayL 2 Mar; max 2 MWC 21 Mar; last Elmira Dam CHEM 5 Apr.

GLAUCOUS GULL: GCC 1 Mar (LDo, BG, JuHo, LL, C&PMc); last MNWR 30 Mar (GC).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 10 ESP 2 Mar; last 4 MyPt 28 May (StF), late.

Caspian Tern: max 6 MNWR 11 May; last 2 MyPt 14 May.

Com. Tern: max 5 StP 1 May; last MyPt 21 May.

Forster's Tern: StP 1 May (TL), only report, -.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Rock Dove: max 201 IGF 1 Mar, high, +.

Mourning Dove: max 20 Romulus 10 Mar, -.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr & max 2 LPBP 17 May.

BARN OWL: Ulysses 26 May (BTh!), only report.

Short-eared Owl: max & last 7 Benton 26 Mar (BG), high.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Horseheads 15 Mar; last Horseheads 23 Mar.
Chimney Swift: max 200 Belle Sherman School TOMP 28 May, +.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 8 KH 27 May, +.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Ulysses 10 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 SapW 4 May (CSFO, DNu), high, +.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 Dryden 16 Apr (JaMc), high.
N. Flicker: max 10 21 Apr, high.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 KH 2 Mar (J&SG), high.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr LPBP 20 May; max 3 EIRW 25 May (LHy), high.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr KH 23 May; Texas Hollow SCHU 25 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 6 DryL Trail TOMP 25 May (StF), high.
E. Phoebe: max 7 SapW 29 Mar, high.
N. Shrike: Covenant Love Church TOMP 9 Mar; last Caroline 8 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr MNWR 11 May; last 2 Bayberry Program Center SENE 31 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 20 Star Stanton Hill TOMP 26 May (StF), high.
Blue Jay: max 11 Old River Rd Trail CHEM 1 Mar, -.
Am. Crow: max 130 IGF 1 Mar, -.
Fish Crow: max 18 Cayuga Heights 2 Apr (A&JW), high, +.
Com. Raven: max 7 Newfield State Forest TOMP 30 Apr, -.
Bank Swallow: max 80 MyPt 12 May, +.
Cliff Swallow: max 2 StP 4 May, low, -.
Barn Swallow: max 40 MNWR 14 May, -.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 16 SapW 29 Mar, low, -.
Tufted Titmouse: max 6 SapW 29 Mar, low.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: Harris Hill P

CHEM 8 Mar, -.

Brown Creeper: max 4 Danby 27 Apr, low.
Winter Wren: arr SapW 10 Apr, late; max 2 MIP 14 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr 3 MNWR 28 Apr; max 20 MNWR 13 May (MMe), high.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 16 Spencer Crest Nat Center STEU 8 Mar, -.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 Shindagin Hollow TOMP 29 Apr; last OPT 24 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 20 StP 2 May (JaMc, BPr), high.
E. Bluebird: max 20 MNWR 30 Mar (GC), high, +.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Caroline 26 May; max & last 27 Ithaca 27 May (KR), high, +.
Swainson's Thrush: max & last 120 Ithaca 27 May (KR), high, +.
Wood Thrush: max 24 Beam Hill TOMP 2 May (JaMc), high, +.
Am. Robin: max 100 Covert 25 Mar (Bi&SMc), high, -.
N. Mockingbird: max 6 Goff Rd School STEU 29 Apr (JeHo), high.
European Starling: max 2001 IGF 1 Mar, +.
Am. Pipit: arr Caroline 16 Mar; max 101 Ithaca 30 Mar; last 6 Lansing 7 May, +.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: SapW 19 Mar (KM); last Ithaca 26 Mar (A&JW), -.
Cedar Waxwing: max 600 SapW 21 Mar, -.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr StP 28 Apr; max 6 EIRW 6 May, +.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr EIRW 7 May; max 2 OPT 10 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Corning, Inc. Erwin Plant STEU 2 May; Southport 20 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 10 EIRW 14 May; last DLP 23 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr OPT 5 May; max 4 OPT 6 May (C&JSI), high;

last EIRW 15 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 31 EIRW 7 May (MDe), high, +.
N. Parula: max 2 EIRW 16 May; last L Summerhill 27 May (MMe), late, -.
Yellow Warbler: max 30 StP 12 May, +.
Cape May Warbler: SapW 9 May; last Hector 15 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 Southport 27 Mar; max 81 StP 30 Apr, +.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 11 PSP 3 May, +.
Prairie Warbler: arr StP 2 May; max 6 LPBP 19 May, +.
Palm Warbler: max 21 Lansing 3 May (BTr), high; last 2 StP 15 May, +.
Bay-breasted Warbler: SapW 19 May; last EIRW 30 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 10 MNWR 26 May, +.
Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May; max 2 MNWR 26 May, low.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 7 Catharine Valley Trail SCHU 3 May (B&JO), high.
Am. Redstart: max 10 SapW 19 May, +.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr LPBP 17 May, late; LPBP 19 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Ecology House TOMP 17 Apr; max 3 Lansing 7 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 20 Dryden 21 May, +.
Hooded Warbler: arr CorU 10 May; max 10 Beam Hill TOMP 11 May (JaMc), high.
Wilson's Warbler: max 6 EIRW 14 May; last MIP 22 May.
Canada Warbler: max 6 Shindagin Hollow TOMP 15 May (G&NM), high.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: MIP 20-30 May (MA, PHo, MY).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: max 10 EIRW 6 May, +.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 50 KH 1 Mar, high; last EIRW 5 May, +.
Chipping Sparrow: max 16 KH 6 May, -

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: arr Caroline 10 May thru (A&TJ).
Field Sparrow: arr KH 28 Mar, early; max 10 NYSEG property Ford Hill 7 May, +.
Savannah Sparrow: max 10 LPd 8 Apr, +.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 3 Danby 8 May, late; max 3 Ledyard 31 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Corning 15 Mar; max 30 Dryden 1 Apr, high; last 2 Lansing 17 May, late, +.
Lincoln's Sparrow: CorU 15 May; last KH 29 May, late.
Swamp Sparrow: arr MNWR 15 Mar; max 20 Hile School Rd Swamp TOMP 30 Apr, +.
White-throated Sparrow: max 26 PSP 3 May, -.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 12 Pine City 15 May; last Caroline 31 May (AJ!), late, +.
Lapland Longspur: max 6 SavM 2 Mar; last 2 SavM 30 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 101 Farleys Pt CAYU 9 Mar; last 10 SavM 17 Mar, +.
N. Cardinal: max 12 KH 7 Apr, low.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 20 Lansing 3 May, +.
Indigo Bunting: max 10 EIRW 12 May, +.
Bobolink: max 30 Genex Bull Stud TOMP 3 May, high, +.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr 25 MNWR 4 Mar, late; max 8000 CLB 23 Mar, +.
E. Meadowlark: arr Dryden 21 Mar; max 6 George Republic Jr HS TOMP 12 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: arr SapW 24 Mar; max 102 MNWR 13 Apr, high; last StP 12 May, +.
Com. Grackle: arr 4 MWC 15 Mar, late; max 8000 CLB 23 Mar, +.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 2 MNWR 8 Mar, late; max 65 Caroline 16 Mar, +.
Orchard Oriole: arr DryL Trail TOMP 8 May; max 5 LPSP 14 May, high.
House Finch: max 18 Lindley 9 Apr, high.

Am. Goldfinch: max 130 KH 6 May,
high, +.
Evening Grosbeak: max 2 Big Flats 11

May (MCA), only report, -.
House Sparrow: max 18 Eldridge P
CHEM 5 Apr, low, -.

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

Reg4sightings@mail.com

No Report

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Bill Purcell

281 Baum Road, Hastings New York 13076
wpurcell@twcny.rr.com

March had an average temperature of 34.2°F, 0.6° above normal, and 2.89" precipitation, 0.13" below normal. The first 14 days of the month averaged 6° below normal and migration got off to a slow start. The next 15 days, 15-29 March, averaged 10° above normal. Oneida Lake was mostly ice-free by 23 March and most other lakes and ponds at lower elevations had opened up by the end of the month. April's average temperature of 43.8° was 1.5° below normal, and the 2.61" of precipitation was 0.78" below normal. The period from 30 March through 13 April averaged 8.23° below normal, slowing the pace of migration. Despite the cold start to the month, Adirondack lakes were mostly ice-free by 12 April. May was cool and wet, with an average temperature of 56.0°, 1.1° below normal. The 5.27" of precipitation was 1.88" above normal. Heavy rain on several weekend days certainly contributed to the low numbers of some neotropical migrant species reported. There were 14.3" of snow for the season.

The late winter Red-necked Grebe invasion peaked in early March on the Oswego River in Phoenix; as a result, few observers looked for April migrants. There were no concentrations of Horned or Pied-billed grebes, and Common Loon numbers were low as well. There were single reports of Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis and Black-crowned Night-Heron and several Great Egrets, two of which spent time near a heronry in West Monroe with no evidence of breeding.

Three Trumpeter Swans were in Fair Haven on 2 March and these birds were heard calling as they flew east over Oswego Harbor. Large flocks of Snow Geese continued to move through this spring. Many flying past Derby Hill come from the southwest and are thought to have moved through Montezuma NWR, a traditional stopover. However, many more are reported from the eastern parts of

the Region where they were almost unknown as recently as 10 years ago. The handful of reports of Brant on Oneida Lake or Lake Ontario can be attributed to the lack of observers, while the generally low numbers of dabbling ducks seen may have had more to do with the weather. As is often the case with a cold early March, the dabblers don't linger once the water does open but instead move on quickly to the breeding grounds. The only waterfowl rarity was a **Tufted Duck** in Oswego in company with many scaup and White-winged Scoters. Many diving duck maxima were holdovers from winter, but Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup and Hooded Merganser were well reported spring migrants, while Canvasback continued to be scarce and Ruddy Duck was seen infrequently this year.

The hawk flight at Derby Hill was the best since 1995, helped by late April weather that, if not ideal, was at least not as adverse as in recent years. Four Black Vultures was a new season high, but the expansion of this species into our area continues to be very slow. There was a new season high for Turkey Vulture and good totals for Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle, but Sharp-shinned Hawk and American Kestrel numbers remain low. Other than the Black Vultures, a lone Swainson's Hawk rounded out the unusual raptors. Elsewhere, there were several reports of Northern Goshawks on territory, a Red-shouldered Hawk on territory in northern Cayuga County, where they have been rare breeders in the past, and two reports of Golden Eagles.

Sandhill Cranes are now expected along Lake Ontario, but three reports elsewhere, including a bird that remained near West Winfield for two weeks, can lead us to hope that birds are looking for breeding territory. There were few late season shorebird reports, including none from Sandy Pond, but in West Winfield large numbers of Semipalmated Plovers, along with Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlins, put down in a flooded field. Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed gulls lingered into March, as did Iceland, for which there were several May sightings as well.

A Snowy Owl in Sauquoit lingered well into April, Long-eared Owls were found in Noyes Sanctuary, one of the two Northern Saw-whet Owls reported was dead and no Short-eared Owls were noted.

The Region's first **Chuck-will's-widow** spent a week in the town of Schroepel behind Robert Fisk's house in an area that until 2001 had hosted Whip-poor-will. Robert's daughter, Kayla, thought she heard a Whip-poor-will from inside the house and when her father went out to listen, the Chuck-will's-widow was calling insistently. The bird was recorded by several observers over the next week and it was seen flying on several brief occasions, but the bird was not harassed by playing recorded calls. The Whip-poor-will population in the area has most likely been crowded out by the encroaching suburbs.

Our small Fish Crow population seems to be maintaining itself. Swallow arrivals were somewhat late, especially for Purple Martin, and there is a noticeable decline in the number of occupied houses by that species as many formerly open lakeside sites now have trees growing above the houses.

The cold weather in early April did not produce any migrant waves. As a

result, numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets and several sparrows were reduced. Late migrants that were barely reported were Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo and Gray-cheeked Thrush, while Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were scarcely mentioned for the season.

This was the second spring that the area around the Oswego County nuclear plants, which includes the Energy Information Center grounds, was closed to public access. However, warbler waves can be found anywhere along Lake Ontario and some good numbers were seen this season. Sixteen species of warblers were reported on 1 May in Scriba and movement continued through the early part of the month, with especially fine numbers of Nashville, Yellow-rumped and Palm warblers. Later migrants such as Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Canada had all arrived by 11 May but wet and chilly weather over the next week slowed the pace, or at least resulted in less observer activity. Later in May, tiny Schiller Park in Syracuse had 16 species of warblers on 25 May and seven species on 31 May. There were several reports of Orange-crowned Warblers as well as single migrant Prairie and Prothonotary warblers. The latter two species returned to breeding areas as well. There was only one report of a Cape May Warbler, Tennessee Warbler reports were very few, and both Mourning and Canada warblers were barely mentioned as migrants, although both were numerous in breeding locations by late May.

The lawns and thickets around the nuclear plants mentioned above are favored by sparrows, but the closing of the area has reduced early reports and overall numbers for species such as Chipping, Vesper and Savannah sparrows. An ice storm on 4-5 April grounded large numbers of Fox Sparrows in Oswego County, with many birds at feeders and others along the scraped roadsides. A Dickcissel spent a few days in Madison County and a Yellow-headed Blackbird put in a two hour appearance at Derby Hill.

In many years, mixed flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds are widespread in early March. This year, early March was marked by cold weather and deep snow, so it wasn't until the big warm-up on 16 March that icterids finally started to move through in large flocks. Purple Finches did show up in early March, but in this non-irruption year there were no Pine Siskins, White-winged Crossbills or redpolls and only single reports of Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak.

For the season, 234 species were reported, an average year without finches and shorebirds. Highlights were Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Black Vulture, Trumpeter Swan, **Tufted Duck**, Swainson's Hawk, **Chuck-will's-widow**, Orange-crowned Warbler, Dickcissel and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Armbruster, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Bernie Carr, William Cook, Dorothy Crumb, Greg Dashnau, Bill Gruenbaum, Kayla Fisk,

Robert Fisk, Barbara Herrgesell, Gene Huggins, Kevin McGann, Yvonne Merriam, David Nash, David Neveu, Matt Perry, Gerard Phillips, Bill Purcell, Marge Rusk, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, Maureen Staloff, Andrew Van Norstrand, Noah Van Norstrand, Matt Victoria, David Wheeler, Matt Young, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; CS – Cicero Swamp; DH – Derby Hill; DL – Delta L; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NS – Noyes Sanctuary, New Haven; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SCH – T Schroepfel; SenR – Seneca Ri; SFWS – Spring Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Kirkland; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WPd – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: 4 Brewerton 30 Mar, only report.

Com. Loon: arr 3 OnonL 30 Mar; max 38 OnonL 2 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: migrants only 1-2 per day.

Horned Grebe: arr 1 Bolivar 31 Mar; max 3 per day.

Red-necked Grebe: to 20 per day Phoenix thru 15 Mar, from late winter invasion; arr UM 29 Mar; max 8 Brewerton 20 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 6 Apr.

Am. Bittern: max 3 Sangerfield 17 May.

Least Bittern: arr SCH 4 May; 3 CM & WM after 17 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr 6 Fulton 11 Mar; max 20 DH 28 Mar.

Great Egret: Baldwinsville 10 Apr; 2 WM after 25 Apr.

CATTLE EGRET: 1 OnonL 13 May (YM).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: SenR 17 May.

GLOSSY IBIS: 1 Sangerfield 19-22 Apr (BB, mob).

BLACK VULTURE: 3 DH 25 Mar, before cold front; 1 DH 10 Apr; total of 4

new high.

Snow Goose: max 15,000 DL 25 Mar; 21,000 past DH 21-24 Mar; counts of 200-500 from many locations 20 Mar-9 Apr.

Brant: arr OneiL 15 May; max 150 DH 16 May; 130 Florence 30 May.

Mute Swan: max 5 FH 17 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 FH & 3 Oswego 2 Mar, same birds approx 1 hour apart (BP, NYSARC).

Tundra Swan: arr 1 Brewerton 1 Mar; max 19 SenR floodplain 23 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: arr Oswego 2 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 9 OSWE 16 Apr.

N. Shoveler: max 10 SCH 13 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 130 SCH 23 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: max 100 W. Winfield 5 Apr.

Canvasback: max 3 WPd 10 Apr.

Redhead: max 70 FH 2 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 380 SSSP 17 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 2600 OneiL 22 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 30 FH 2 Mar.

TUFTED DUCK: 1 male Oswego 1-13 Mar (DW, mob).

White-winged Scoter: max 93 Oswego 19 Mar.

Long-tailed Duck: max 540 Oswego 19

Mar; 95 Toad Harbor 22 Apr; 5 WPd 4 Apr, unusual on smaller lakes.
Bufflehead: max 80 FH 2 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: max 920 FH 2 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 182 SSSP 17 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 420 OnonL 2 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 48 OnonL 2 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr 1 UM 29 Mar; max 7 OnonL 5 Apr; few reports.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: first nesting birds noted 24 Mar.
N. Goshawk: on territory Highland Forest & Georgetown in Apr; 1 Jamesville 16 Mar.
Red-shouldered Hawk: ad Ira beaver swamp 25 May, unusual breeding location.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 light morph DH 19 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Georgetown 7-9 Mar; Mohawk 15 Mar.
Peregrine Falcon: SFWS 14 May

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Dat	Total
Turkey Vulture	1 Mar	1295	12 Apr	8559
Osprey	24 Mar	38	1 May	435
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	20	20 Apr	201
Northern Harrier	8 Mar	59	28 Mar	552
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5 Mar	347	18 Apr	3820
Cooper's Hawk	4 Mar	60	28 Mar	430
Northern Goshawk	4 Mar	7	8 Mar	58
Red-shouldered Hawk	15 Mar	149	25 Mar	721
Broad-winged Hawk	14 Apr	4384	20 Apr	19121
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mar	1006	14 Apr	6760
Rough-legged Hawk	7 Mar	39	28 Mar	303
Golden Eagle	7 Mar	7	4 dates	75
American Kestrel	8 Mar	37	28 Mar	216
Merlin	8 Mar	4	11 May	39
Peregrine Falcon	10 May			2
Total including unidentified and rarities				41,354

Am. Coot: Phoenix 13 Mar; SCH 13 Apr; only reports.
Sandhill Crane: 4 DH 28 Mar; 2 DH 12 Apr; 1 DH 27 Apr; 2 DH 28 Apr; 1 W. Winfield 28 Mar-15 Apr; 2 SCH 25 Apr; Van Buren 14 May.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 W. Winfield 21 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: max 40 W.

Winfield 21 May (KZ).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 Lysander 5 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max only 3-5 per day.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 7 Sangerfield 17 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr SCH 16 Apr, early.
Upland Sandpiper: 4 Fulton 11 May; 2

SCH 27 Apr.

Least Sandpiper: arr SCH 16 Apr, early.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 18 TRWMA 26 Apr.

Dunlin: max 4 W. Winfield 21 May.

Wilson's Snipe: max 43 SCH 30 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 4 DH 2 Apr; 2 WPd 4 Apr; max 12 OnonL 25 Apr.

Iceland Gull: 3 SenR Liverpool 1 Mar; late were 1 Phoenix 11 May, 1 SSSP 13 May & 1 OnonL 14 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SenR Liverpool 4, 9 Mar.

Glaucous Gull: SenR Liverpool 7 Mar.

Caspian Tern: arr DH 7 Apr; max 36 FH 16 May.

Black Tern: arr OnonL 8 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 May, early, but scarce until 24 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CM & TRWMA 17 May; max 3 SFWS 27 May; 4 other reports.

Snowy Owl: 1-2 Fenner to 7 Mar; Sauquoit to 12 Apr.

Long-eared Owl: max 3 NS 29 Mar; about 10 overall NS 24 Mar-18 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Cato 27 May; dead SFWS 4 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: max 3 DH 27 May; 3 other reports.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: SCH 20-28 May (KF, RF, mob, NYSARC), first Reg record.

Whip-poor-will: arr 3 Constantia 10 May; max 7 Constantia 17 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 25 DH 11 May.

Belted Kingfisher: max 7 DH 15 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: on territory CS 10 May; Ira 18 May; New Haven in beaver floodland 29 May; migrant Pompey 10 May; 1 DH after 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 2 per day.

N. Flicker: 3 Knoxboro 8 Mar, hardy winterers; max 239 DH 15 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 DL area after 26 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 3 reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 17 May.

Alder Flycatcher: max 2 per day.

Willow Flycatcher: max 4 CM 27 May.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 WM 17 May.

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 25 central OSWE 17 May.

E. Kingbird: max 40 DH 11 May.

N. Shrike: 1 MADI 7 Mar; singles New Haven & Mexico 13 Mar, still on winter territory; last 13 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 9 FH 17 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: migrants only 1-2 per day.

Warbling Vireo: max 9 CM 17 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: LOL 17 May; Syr 26 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 16 WH 28 May.

Blue Jay: first migrants DH 28 Apr.

Am. Crow: max 6950 DH 16 Mar.

Fish Crow: 2-4 Shop City Syr thru; 2 Syr Univ 17 Apr; max 7 Liverpool 6 May.

Com. Raven: courtship Fabius & Parish early Mar; pair on territory near DH in Apr.

Horned Lark: max 500 SCH 8 Apr, put down by snowfall.

Purple Martin: arr 21 Apr, late; number of inhabited houses on decrease.

Bank Swallow: 265 fresh nest holes WM sand pit 11 May.

Winter Wren: arr 19 Apr, late; max 2 per day.

Sedge Wren: 3 WM 17 May, did not persist.

Marsh Wren: max 30 CM 17 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 20 LOL 26 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 60 DH 8 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 6 CS 5 May.

E. Bluebird: max 6 per day DH.

Veery: max 8 CM 17 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 2 per day thru May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Scriba 11 May, only report
Hermit Thrush: max 12 NS 21 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 28 CM 17 May.
Gray Catbird: max 46 CM 17 May.
N. Mockingbird: migrant over Georgetown 15 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 LOL 3 May.
Am. Pipit: arr 4 DH 15 Mar; max 70 DH 27 Mar; last 17 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 181 Pompey 1 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Scriba 1 May; max 6 Baltimore Woods 6 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Scriba 1 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 1-2 per day; few reports.
Orange-crowned Warbler: LOL 5, 6 May; Clinton 11 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 50+ Scriba 7 May.
N. Parula: max 3-5 per day LOL 1-8 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 250 DH 11 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 5 per day.
Magnolia Warbler: max 9 Schiller P 25 May.
Cape May Warbler: Scriba 1 May, only report.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 2-3 per day.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr DH 27 Mar; 200-300 per day LOL 1-4 May; max 350 DH 11 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Georgetown 20 Apr, early; max 20 Scriba 1 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 4 Schiller P 25 May.
Pine Warbler: max 6 LOL 27 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr Scriba 5 May; return to Dewitt 9 May.

Palm Warbler: max 75 DH 4 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 Schiller P 25 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 8 SFWS 23 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 4 Howland I WMA 3 May; 3 Scriba 7 May, good migrant count.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 6 DH 1 May.
Am. Redstart: max 11 Cicero 20 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: Scriba 1 May (MV), only 2nd report from LOL; up to 3 singing males Three Mile Bay WMA after 12 May.
Ovenbird: max 11 WH 21 May.
N. Waterthrush: max 9 CS 9 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pompey 15 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: migrants 1 per day.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 58 CM 17 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr WH 7 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 15 DH 27 May.
Canada Warbler: migrants 1 per day.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 6 WM 17 May.
E. Towhee: max 6 Ram's Gulch Dewitt 21 May.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 50 Williamstown 8 Apr; last DH & Williamstown 19 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: max 28 Clay 17 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: DH 8-13 May.
Field Sparrow: arr TRWMA 30 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 1 Van Buren 16 Apr, usually arr early Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 2 Richland 10 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Utica 18 Mar; max 40 one site Parish 1 Apr; 90 central OSWE 5 Apr after ice storm; 22 Durhamville 7 Apr; last 17 Apr.
Song Sparrow: max 59 Clay 17 May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: 1-3 per day LOL 1-27 May.
Swamp Sparrow: max 46 CM 17 May.
White-throated Sparrow: max 35

Mexico 8 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 45 DH 7 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 90 WM 30 Mar.

Lapland Longspur: max 10 Chittenango 13 Apr; 1 Fabius 8 Mar; 3 DH 24 Mar; 3 SCH 8 Apr.

Snow Bunting: max 80 Fabius 7 Mar; last DH 15 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 DH 11 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 6 DH 18 May.

DICKCISSEL: Stockbridge 12-13 May (BB).

Bobolink: max 250 DH 11 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 16 Mar; max 30 DH 28 Mar.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:

male DH 26 Apr (GP, mob).

Rusty Blackbird: max 116 CM 28 Apr.

blackbird sp.: peak DH flight 160,000 25 Mar.

Orchard Oriole: Clay after 17 May; Cross L 18 May.

Baltimore Oriole: max 190 DH 11 May.

Purple Finch: arr widespread 5-7 Mar.

House Finch: max 60 migrants DH 16 Mar.

Red Crossbill: MADI 17 May (Jeanne Ryan).

Am. Goldfinch: max 600 DH 11 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 1 Georgetown 4 May, only report.

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

Robert E. Long

2807 Citation Drive, Box 206, Pompey NY 13138-0206

rlongmd@a-znet.com

March began as a continuation of February. Winter conditions, with temperatures below 32°F and snow storms, dominated the first two weeks. In addition to frozen ponds and small lakes, the St. Lawrence River had an ice cover of 3' and few rapids were open. As the Lake Ontario bays froze, most of the wintering diving ducks, swans and Canada Geese left the area. A major change in the jet stream at mid month allowed south winds to enter the east and real spring began. Temperatures in the 50°s and 60°s for seven days opened many bays in Lake Ontario as well as the St. Lawrence River. Almost all of the species of ducks arrived during the last ten days of March. Cold weather returned for the first two weeks of April, with temperatures averaging in the middle 40°s. A surge of warm weather in mid April drove temperatures into the 70°s and 80°s, producing another flurry of migration. Most migrants in the first six weeks of spring were five to ten days late. Warblers, arriving in late April and early May, were on time. May was cool and cloudy but with no disruption of the late migration. Precipitation was within the normal range for the Region.

Weather conditions brought many changes in the spring migration of waterfowl. Only 200 to 300 Snow Geese showed up, down from the thousands in recent years. Since the winds were predominately from the northwest, perhaps the geese stayed

along the eastern sea shore. The delay of duck migration may have allowed larger groups to move once the conditions were right. Among the more numerous migrant groups were 700 Ring-necked Ducks and 150 Long-tailed Ducks at Fishers Landing on the St. Lawrence near the International bridge and 3000 Greater Scaup at Grass Point State Park, one mile south of the bridge, all on 26 March. During the north winds in April, large numbers of Fox Sparrows were recorded in Kelsey Creek (21) and on Point Peninsula (41 on 6 April), apparently held up by the bad weather.

This year, two new locations for watching migrants proved to be very fruitful during the few good south wind days in May. The first, Snowshoe Point, is a spit of land located just south and west of Henderson Harbor on the shore of Lake Ontario. Migrants following the shore turn east here and round the point to travel across the harbor or follow the shoreline. Nick Leone reported some interesting rarities from the point last year. This year, with more strong south wind days in May, Leone recorded large numbers of many species of spring warblers for the first time in the Region. Most notable were 100 Nashville, 5 Northern Parula, 1500 Yellow-rumped and 8 Blackburnian on 7 May. Altogether, 15 species of warblers and two of vireos were seen at Snowshoe Point on south winds in May.

The second location, Lonesome Bay Wild Forest, is in the Town of Hammond, St. Lawrence County, at the southern tip of Black Lake. Leone has checked the area in the past for Golden-winged Warblers and this year he found 14 on 14 May, along with 14 Cerulean Warblers and a Louisiana Waterthrush, which is very rare for the county.

Rarities: **Barrow's Goldeneye, Common Merganser x Common Goldeneye hybrid, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, "Lawrence's" Warbler.**

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick Brouse, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Denis Falkenham, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, Deb Litwhiler, Robert Long, Ginny McKay, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, Matt Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLP – Black Pd WMA T Ellisburg; Chaumont – T Lyme JEFF; CI – Collins Landing SLR at Thousand Islands bridge T Orleans JEFF; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; ED – Eldorado Beach T El/T Hen JEFF; T El – T Ellisburg JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; FI – Fishers Landing T Orleans JEFF; GPSP – Grass Pt SP T Orleans JEFF; T Hen – T Henderson JEFF; KC – Kelsey Creek T Watertown JEFF; LBWF – Lonesome Bay Wild Forest T Hammond STLA; LC – Limeric Cedars T Brownville JEFF; LMWMA – Lakeview Marsh WMA T El JEFF; T Lou – T Louisville STLA; T Mor – T Morristown STLA; T Phil – T Philadelphia JEFF; PIPt – Pillar Pt T Hounsfield JEFF; T Pot – T Potsdam STLA; PRWMA – Perch Ri WMA T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula T Lyme JEFF; SH – Sackets

Harbor T Hounsfield JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; SNP – Snowshoe Pt L Ontario T Hen; T Th – T Theresa JEFF; TMP – Three Mile Pt T Lyme JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower L WMA T Canton STLA; WATN – T Watertown JEFF; WB – Wilson Bay L Ontario CV; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA TLou STLA; WI – Wellesley I T Orleans JEFF; WISP – Wellesley I SP T Orleans JEFF.

LOONS – DUCKS

Com. Loon: arr PtPen 6 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 8 ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Horned Grebe: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Am. Bittern: arr ULLWMA 20 Apr.
Great Blue Heron: arr T Pot 23 Mar.
Great Egret: arr T Lou 25 May.
Green Heron: arr T Lou.13 May.
Turkey Vulture: arr T Clayton JEFF 18 Mar.
Snow Goose: arr 100 T Lou 23 Mar; 50 Canton STLA 17 Apr; numbers down.
Mute Swan: 1 WB 28 Apr.
Wood Duck: arr T Lou 27 Mar.
Gadwall: arr TMP 7 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: arr CV 23 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: arr 40 T Hounsfield JEFF 13 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr CV 23 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr CV 23 Apr.
N. Pintail: arr T El 19 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr CV 23 Apr.
Canvasback: arr 1 Fl 26 Mar; last 2 PtPen 6 Apr.
Redhead: arr Fl 26 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 700 Fl 26 Mar.
Greater Scaup: 3000 GPSP 31 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: 20 TMP 7 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 150 Fl 26 Mar; last 9 SNP 14 May.
Bufflehead: arr 8 TMP 11 Apr.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: 1 Tibbets Pt CV 6 Apr (NL, RB).
COM. MERGANSER X COM. GOLDENEYE: single ad male Fl 1 Apr (NL).
Com. Merganser: 2 TMP 8 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr Fl 23 Mar; max 46 Fl 6 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: arr PRWMA 23 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr T Potsdam 24 Apr.
Bald Eagle: reports of singles and pairs between WI and Kring Pt SP SLR thru Mar.
N. Harrier: arr Chaumont 1 Mar.
Cooper's Hawk: nest T Canton 27 Apr.
N. Goshawk: imm WI 26 Mar, ad T Lou 26 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 3 T Th 19 May.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Chaumont 15 Mar.
Golden Eagle: FD 30 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: T Lou 20 Apr.
Virginia Rail: arr ULLWMA 30 Apr.
Sora: arr T Alex 19 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr T Lou 15 May.
Killdeer: arr CV 16 Mar.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Lou 25 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr CV 29 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr T Lou 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr T Lou 17 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr Chaumont 23 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr TMP 1 May.
Com. Tern: arr T Mas 28 Apr.
Black Tern: arr 2 WB 1 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Th, T Lou 19 May.
E. Screech-Owl: Canton 15 Apr.
Barred Owl: T Lou 11 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: T Lou 29 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: arr T Brownville JEFF 18 Mar.
Snowy Owl: T Brownville JEFF 18 Mar.
Whip-poor-will: arr T Th 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr T Lou 5 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T Mas 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 FD 22 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr KC 18 Apr.
N. Flicker: arr KC 24 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr T Th 19 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr SNP 16 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr T Lou 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr T Lou 25 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr T Lou 8 May.
E. Phoebe: arr T Hen 26 Mar, late.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr T Lou 5 May.
E. Kingbird: arr SNP 14 May.
N. Shrike: ad T Lorraine 2 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr T Lou 10 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr T Lou 7 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr T Th 7 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr SNP 8 May; T Lou 15 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr SNP 8 May.
Com. Raven: nest with yg FD 22 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr ULLWMA 27 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr T Canton 3 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr WI 30 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr T Mas 9 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr 100+ at the dam intake T Mas 7 May.
Barn Swallow: arr T Lou 24 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: 1 SNP 19 Mar.
Brown Creeper: arr T Lou 7 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 1 SNP 11 Apr.
House Wren: arr T Canton 19 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr T Th 17 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 4 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr SNP 19 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Lou, T Th 20 Apr.
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: arr LMWMA 14 May.
E. Bluebird: arr T Canton 16 Mar.
Veery: arr T Lou 12 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr T Lou 22 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Th 26 Mar.

Wood Thrush: arr T Th 5 May.
Gray Catbird: arr T Mas 5 May.
N. Mockingbird: 1 T Mas 11 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr T Th 30 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: arr T Lou 10 Apr.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: arr SNP 7 May; max 14 LBWF 14 May.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: T Th 19 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr T Lou 16 May; SNP 19 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 100 SNP 7 May; 51 SNP 8 May.
N. Parula: arr 5 SNP 7 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr T Lou 7 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr SNP 7 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr SNP 7 May; max 14 SNP 20 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr SNP 5 May; max 5 SNP 8 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 5 T Th 24 Apr; max 1500 SNP 7 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr T Th 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 8 SNP 7 May.
Pine Warbler: arr 3 WISP 19 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr T Lou 24 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SNP 12 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr SNP 20 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr T Th 19 May; max 14 LBWF 14 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr WI 30 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr T Lou 5 May.
Ovenbird: arr T Lou 4 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr SNP 8 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: LBWF 14 May, rare in STLA.
Mourning Warbler: arr T Lou 25 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr SNP 8 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr 3 SNP 20 May.
Canada Warbler: arr SNP 14 May

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr T Lou 10 May.
E. Towhee: arr TMP 8 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 17 KC 7 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 2 KC 29 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr STPT 8 May;
 1 m T Hen 20 May.
Field Sparrow: arr KC 6 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr T Lou 10 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr T Lou 5 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 7 T Hen 20 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr T Orleans JEFF
 11 May.
Fox Sparrow: 21 KC 4 Apr; 17 KC 7 Apr;
 max 41 PtPen 6 Apr, held up by bad
 weather.
Song Sparrow: arr SNP 19 Mar
Swamp Sparrow: arr WI, T Lou 30 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr PtPen 6

Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Mas 10
 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr T Lou 30 Mar.
Snow Bunting: last 200 SH 14 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr T Mas 4
 May; max 15 SNP 7 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr T Lou 26 May.
Bobolink: arr Pyrites STLA 1 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr T Lou 18 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr T Th 23 Mar.
Com. Grackle: arr Chaumont 16 Mar.
Baltimore Oriole: arr T Lou 6 May.
Purple Finch: arr T Lou 3 Mar.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 4 T Lou 7 May

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

John M.C. Peterson

477 County Route 8, Elizabethtown NY 12932

Early March was cold, with Saranac Lake -20°F on the 3rd. The first vernal rains arrived on the 20th and 22nd, and by 24 March Plattsburgh reached a sunny 55° . At month's end there was a 6" snowfall at Peru by 11 p.m. on the 30th, and Inlet had 6" by the following day. On April Fool's Day, Inlet was -2° and added another 2" of snow. Plattsburgh had warmed to 53° on the 10th and Elizabethtown and Ticonderoga soared to 82° on 15 April. Ellenburg Depot and Malone received 3" of wet snow on the 24th, but by 28 April Plattsburgh was back up to a sunny 80° . May began with two days of rain, a harbinger of much of the weather throughout the remainder of the month. There was rain on eight of the 18 days that the Crown Point banding station was open, between 9-26 May, and by the 19th there had already been 2.61" of monthly rainfall.

Both foliage and birds were late, due to the prevailing cool weather in May. Shorebirds were scarce and late. Not until 30 May did Glen Drapeau and Bill Krueger find seven species at the Chazy riverlands before a Merlin cleared the area. Next day, Krueger and Charlie Mitchell found three more species, most notably a **Sanderling** in basic plumage, the first spring record for the Region and for Clinton County. Krueger reported that farming practices in the area have destroyed more valuable habitat. The fields where he and Mitchell relocated Wilson's Phalarope last summer have been tilled and plowed. "They will no longer be flooded in the spring, nor will they be suitable for phalaropes," Krueger reported, adding, "While

they may not become an avian desert, they won't be home to anything like the variety that we have always found there.”

An unexpected delight was the **Western Grebe** that frequented the shoreline north of Westport, between the Palisades and Split Rock on 26-27 May, viewed from a canoe by Betsy & David Tisdale. Equally delightful was the first Regional and Franklin County record of **Black-headed Gull** that Charlcie Delehanty saw resting with ~25 Ring-billed Gulls in the Tupper Lake municipal park on 29 April. She returned the next day and found the gull bathing in a puddle along with the Ring-billeds, and she noted the black head, light mantle, and red bill and legs. On 6 May the same park had two Bonaparte's Gulls, also with black head and reddish legs, but black bills.

Among breeding birds, it is encouraging to learn that **Short-eared Owl** has been confirmed in Clinton County. One, sometimes two, of these owls was observed hunting over an unused pasture on Cumberland Head from 27 March to 27 April by Suzy Johnson and Bill Krueger. On 12 April and again on 19 April, an owl caught prey and delivered it to the same spot in the grass. No attempt was made to view the nest. The thick mat over the entire field was riddled with small holes, presumably leading to countless meadow vole passageways, tunnels, burrows and nests. The area also served as a daytime diner for a pair of Northern Harriers (confirmed on 7 May by two field workers from Dr. Neil Buckley's SUNY Plattsburgh study of grassland birds, who found a nest with two eggs), and Sharp-shinned, Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks.

Mark Gretch reported an aberrant (spectacled) Dark-eyed Junco at his Elizabethtown feeder on 18 April. There was a white ring around each eye, but the rings were not bilaterally symmetrical. Around the left eye there was white feathering that narrowly circled the eye and broadened both anterior and posterior to the eye into a more extensive band. Around the right eye there was white feathering that narrowly circled the eye, and only anteriorly did it broaden into a more extensive band. Dean Spaulding (*The Kingbird* 45:1, pp. 14-15) reported a similar aberrant junco, but with a more extensive white cheek patch. Spaulding's sighting occurred 15 miles from Gretch's observation, but temporally there were nine years between the two sightings.

This marked the 28th consecutive year of operation of the bird-banding station on the Crown Point State Historic Site, open 9-26 May. Three days of northerly winds when the station opened were followed by heavy rain and showers and a south wind that brought a fallout of 81 birds of 15 species on 12 May. Rain followed by clearing on the 14th produced another fallout of 66 birds, but numbers declined thereafter, although the best day for variety came on 22 May, with 18 species banded. By the time the station closed on Memorial Day, 504 individuals of 43 species had been banded. There were 33 returns of 13 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest an Eastern Kingbird at least nine years, 11 months old, which ties the North American longevity record for the species. The permitting process for the green ash thinning project is now complete, and we appreciate the support of staff at the Historic Site, NYS OPR&HP, NYS DEC and

NY Natural Heritage Program. The High Peaks Audubon bird banding was featured in a digital video broadcast by the "Journey North" program on migration to over 10,000 school classrooms in North American, reaching perhaps a million or more children.

Having served as wildlife manager of the Four Brothers islands in Lake Champlain since 1982, I'm saddened to report that the Board of Directors of High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc., meeting in Plattsburgh on 18 May, declined to renew their Management Agreement with The Nature Conservancy of Arlington, Virginia, the owner of the islands, for another five years. The 20 consecutive years of data are now broken, and there are no plans at present to continue the annual banding, census and patrols to protect the nine species of colonial waterbirds and five species of waterfowl that nest on Four Brothers. I wish to extend my warmest thanks to our dozen High Peaks Audubon Wardens who served with me over the decades, to the 150+ volunteers who helped with the banding and census teams and to the thousand or so donors to the Four Brothers Fund, whose generosity kept the dream alive. To the researchers from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and University of Vermont, whose ongoing color-banding projects under Master-Station Permit 21553 issued to HPAS were interrupted, apologies are extended.

A total of 193 species was reported, short of last spring's 210 and the 1997 record of 219, but still a good 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 Monday, 15 September.

CONTRIBUTORS

Ethel Baker, Thomas Barber, Ricky Bruce, Erika Burkowski, Brendan Collins, Joan Collins, William Cook, Kimberley Corwin, Charlcie Delehanty, John & Susan Delehanty, Glen Drapeau, William Ehmann, James & Pricilla Elliot, Elizabeth Fitts, Bill Frenette, Susie Frenette, Gregory Furness, Bob Gilles, Mark Gretch, Judy & Roger Heintz, Candace & John Hess, Gordon Howard, Mary Humiston, Anne Hungerford, Suzy Johnson, Bill Krueger, Linda LaPan, Gary Lee, Brian McAllister, Jim McGraw, Charles Mitchell, Charles Mitchell Jr., Michael & Wanda Moccio, Daniel Nickerson, Nancy Olsen, Loren Parker, Daniel Peters, John & Susan Peterson, Dana Rohleder, Sally Smith, Dean Spaulding, John & Patricia Thaxton, Betsy & David Tisdale, Susan Turner, Vince Walsh.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bulwagga Bay; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Point SHS; CR – Chazy Ri; IL – Indian L; KB – Kings Bay; LL – Long L; PS – Paul Smiths VIC; PtF – Point au Fer; PtR – Point au Roche SP; WM – Wickham Marsh WMA.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-necked Grebe: 7 L Abanakee 19 Apr (J&PE, M&WM).

WESTERN GREBE: n Westport 26-27 May (B&DT); observers considered and rejected Clark's Grebe, based upon head pattern.

Double-crested Cormorant: 2 IL 20 Apr (DS); 200 CP 14-17 May (JP), with 16 active mainland nests; northbound skein Keene 31 May (J&PT), unusual inland.

Snow Goose: Seventh L 11 Apr (GL), uncommon in HAMI.

Gadwall: 2 CP 21 Mar (DN), only report.

N. Shoveler: arr AP 16 Apr; KB 17 Apr.

N. Pintail: max 200 CR 8 Apr (DP).

Green-winged Teal: L Abanakee 19 Apr (J&PE, M&WM), scarce in HAMI.

Ring-necked Duck: max 60+ TL 5 Apr.

Greater Scaup: 2 drakes and hen BB 18 May (TB, JP), late.

White-winged Scoter: L Abanakee 19 Apr (J&PE, M&WM), excellent HAMI find.

Long-tailed Duck: pr L Abanakee 20 Apr (J&PE, M&WM), excellent HAMI find.

Bufflehead: IL 20 Apr (J&PE, M&WM), another good HAMI duck.

Barrow's Goldeneye: pr Essex harbor 16 Mar (DR); CH 28 Mar (BK, CM); CH 2 Apr (NO).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Merlin: CR, IL, Limekiln L, LL, Malone, Rouses Pt; reflective of widespread increases.

Peregrine Falcon: Peru 8 Apr; ad CP 15 May, driven off blackbird prey by Am. Crows.

Sora: PtR 22 May (SJ, BK), always a good find.

Com. Moorhen: PtR 28 May, only report.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 30 May, late.

Semipalmated Plover: arr CR 30 May, late.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 2 Wadhams 2 May; CR 4 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 3 CR 16 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr PtR 12 May.

SANDERLING: CR 31 May (BK, CM),

1st spring record CLIN & Reg.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 20+ CR 30 May.

Western Sandpiper: arr CR 31 May (BK, CM).

Least Sandpiper: max 30+ CR 30 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 CR 31 May (BK, CM), late.

Dunlin: arr CR 30 May (GD, BK), late.

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 50+ CR 30 May (GD, BK), excellent number.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: TL municipal p 19-20 Apr (CD), 1st FRAN & Reg record.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Oseetah L 20 Apr, on a piece of floating ice; max 24 CH 27 Apr; 2 TL municipal p 6 May.

Com. Tern: arr CR 4 May.

Black Tern: 4+ PtF 21 May, encouraging.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 23 May; PtR 27 May; only reports.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 17 May (GF, JP), excellent find.

E. Screech-Owl: Willsboro Bay 15 Mar (GL); CP 11-15 May (GL).

Long-eared Owl: calling Elizabethtown 14 Apr (JP), only report.

SHORT-EARED OWL: CH 27 Mar-27 Apr (SJ, BK), 1st confirmed breeding CLIN; Mannix Rd Peru 5 Apr (C&JH), also encouraging.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: calling CP 18 May (TB, JP); seen across BB in downtown Port Henry 19 May (GH); 5th & 6th ESSE records since 1984.
Black-backed Woodpecker: LL & PS, where expected.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Willow Flycatcher: Banker Rd 16 May (CM), early CLIN.

Horned Lark: Chateaugay early Mar; Wadhams 16 Mar; 2 nominate race LL 28 Mar (JC).

Purple Martin: Plattsburgh 8 Apr (CM), early CLIN.

Black-capped Chickadee: Keene 31 May,

nest in light pole fixture.

Boreal Chickadee: LL, Opalescent R, PS, expected locales.

Tufted Titmouse: AP, Elizabethtown, Keene Valley, Ti, a good showing.

Carolina Wren: Clinton Comm. College 29 May (EF), present from Dec & Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr Oseetah L 20 Apr.

E. Bluebird: arr IL 17 Mar, early HAMI.

N. Mockingbird: Chazy 21 Apr (DR), only report.

Am. Pipit: arr LL 31 Mar (JC); Cedar R golf course 19 Apr (J&PE, M&WM), good in HAMI.

WARBLERS

Cape May Warbler: arr CP 14 May; CH 29 May.

Palm Warbler: 2 singing Upper Dam Trail Bog HAMI 27-28 Apr; singing N-P Trail Bog HAMI 28 Apr; 2 singing PS 28 Apr; singing PS 1 May; all presumed "Yellow" Palms; transient Clayburg 11 May; 2 "Western" banded CP 12 & 14 May (JP).

Bay-breasted Warbler: banded CP 19 May, only report.

Blackpoll Warbler: 3 banded CP 21-22 May, only report.

Wilson's Warbler: 2 migrants banded CP 12 May; singing m True Brook Rd CLIN "in a wet area of willow and alder and responded to a taped call by coming in and flitting around in search of the intruder" 22 May (BK, CM).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr PtR 12 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 32 Inlet 6-8 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Cedar R Rd 20 Apr; 2 CH 7 May; only reports.

Fox Sparrow: arr AP 30 Mar (BK, CM), early CLIN; reports to 27 Apr from Cadyville, Elizabethtown, Inlet, Keene, L Placid, TL, Rand Hill, CLIN, a strong showing.

Song Sparrow: overwintered IL (DS).

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr PS 1 May; 4 transients banded CP 12-22 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Peru 1 May; 11 banded CP 11-20 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: aberrant "spectacled" bird Elizabethtown feeder 18 Apr (MG), *intro*.

Snow Bunting: max 130 Peru 1 Mar; Chateaugay early Mar; Gabriels feeder 4 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: AP feeder 5 Mar (DR), present from Feb.

Rusty/Brewer's Blackbird: West Chazy feeder 24 Mar-2 Apr (LP), experienced observers could not concur on an identification, perhaps because at times there seemed to be as many as 3 "mystery blackbirds" frequenting the Parker feeder, but separate parties saw only 1.

Com. Grackle: record 14 banded CP 16-26 May (JP), thanks to new "Polish net."

White-winged Crossbill: L Colden 7 Mar (J&PT), only report of either crossbill.

Am. Goldfinch: 136 banded CP 9-25 May, abundant at feeders.

Evening Grosbeak: 30+ LL Mar; 12 TL feeder 20 Mar; 3 West Chazy 29 Mar; max 34 Inlet 1 Apr; pr West Chazy 6 Apr as local nesters returned.

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534

wyandik@hotmail.com

Spring was relatively cool and damp with lingering small winter storms of snow and ice. As reported from the Albany International Airport, the mean temperature in March was 34.4°F, 0.6° below normal. Precipitation totaled 2.26", with 5.2" of snow and ice, although portions of the Hudson Valley had nearly twice that amount in regular doses of wet snow. April's temperature averaged 44.5°, 2.1° below normal. April contributed another 5.6" of snow, with a significant ice storm occurring on the 3rd. Things remained cool into May, which averaged 56.8°, 1.3° below normal. Rainfall totaled 5.08", 1.41" above normal, delivered in a steady march of drizzly low-pressure systems.

Cool temperatures, rainy weather and ice storms certainly delayed some migrants, particularly hawks, which searched for thermals in vain. The 3 April ice storm created large fallouts of American Robins; as many as 100 birds per acre were observed feeding and resting on grassy lawns and parks in some suburban areas. Three different observers reported dead Tree Swallows and Eastern Phoebes after the storm, as well as fewer displaying American Woodcock. While the weather discouraged early migrants, it likely helped many grassland nesters. The rain made grasses grow tall and early, providing good nesting habitat; observers reported Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks, for example, busy feeding nestlings by late May in Greene County. The wet fields also delayed haymaking until mid-summer, granting most icterids and sparrows time to fledge before the onslaught of mowers and tractors.

The **Northern Hawk Owl** in Root, Montgomery County, remained near its farmhouse perch until 12 April, a record late date for this species in New York State. It is unclear whether the cool weather, or more likely the high vole population, encouraged the bird to stay. Other winter birds seemed to linger in the Region as well. The Rough-legged Hawk spotted in Rensselaer County on 25 May represented an unusually late example, although observers also reported this species in Montgomery County and near Saratoga throughout April. Birders in Columbia County discovered a pair of Surf Scoters and large flocks of Brant in late May. Dark-eyed Juncos were commonly seen at lower elevations until the last week of April, and Northern Harriers also seemed to migrate later than usual.

Observers discovered few shorebirds this season, a problem complicated by the relatively few mudflats in our Region. The feeding habitats that exist along the Hudson River are difficult to access and tend to flood during rainy springs. This year, even common species, such as Spotted, Least and Solitary sandpipers, seemed very scarce.

May warbler migration was also quiet, with some remarkable gaps in the list, including no reports of Tennessee, Cape May or Mourning warblers and only one report of Bay-breasted. It is difficult to determine if there is an actual decrease in these species or simply too few observers out in the field on rainy weekends.

Rich Guthrie, who scans the Hudson River regularly for rare gulls, discovered an adult **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage on 1 April at Coeymans Boat Launch in Albany County. A new record for the county, this species has been spotted only

once before in the Region in spring (Saratoga County, 1990). A few miles south of Coeymans, a **Glossy Ibis** appeared in a cornfield in the Town of Cocksackie. Although they are now found occasionally as far north as Maine and Canada, an ibis is still an exciting find on the upper Hudson and another new county record, this time for Greene.

Early Atlas work uncovered some interesting finds. Northern Saw-whet Owls were discovered in several blocks where they were suspected, but previously unrecorded. New breeding colonies of Cliff Swallows and Grasshopper Sparrows have also entered the state's records. Pine Siskins were found in small numbers displaying in the Catskills. Early evidence also suggested good breeding opportunities for both species of cuckoo this summer due to an explosion of tent caterpillars in our area.

Finally, an addendum to this report lists a record erroneously omitted from the previous fall's synopsis, describing two female Connecticut Warblers banded by Robert Yunick in September 2002.

Observers discovered 203 species this season, roughly on par with previous springs.

CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports (ADBC), Paul Connor, Bill Cook, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York (BEN), William Lee, Andrew Mason, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Barbara Putnam, William Raup, Alison Van Keuren, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA ALBA; BMT – Bog Meadow Trail, Saratoga Springs SARA; CAT – T Catskill GREE; CLA – T Claverack COLU; COX – T Cocksackie GREE; FLO – T Florida MONT; FR – Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edward WASH; GAN – T Gansevoort SARA; GER – T Germantown COLU; GRE – T Greenport COLU; HEB – T Hebron WASH; HP – Hannacroix Preserve ALBA; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; L7 – Vischer Ferry Power Station/Lock 7 SCHE; LIV – T Livingston COLU; NB – T New Baltimore GREE; NL – Nassau L RENS; PP – Papsancee Preserve RENS; QS – Quaker Springs Rd SARA; SISP – Schodack I SP RENS; TR – Tomhannock Res RENS; VM – Vosburgh's Marsh GREE.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: HR at Albany 1 Mar; max 4 HR at Cohoes 12 Mar; COX 1 Apr.
Com. Loon: 2 TR 9 Apr; CAT 9 Apr; NL

11 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: NB 9-10 Apr; NL 7-14 Apr.

Horned Grebe: HR at Albany 12 Mar; NL 7 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: max 3 Albany 8 Mar; other scattered reports in early Mar.
Great Cormorant: max 3 COX 5-11 May, late and widespread.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr NB 2 Apr.
Am. Bittern: 3 arr BCM 26 Apr.
Great Egret: VM 11 May, only report.
Green Heron: arr Gallupville SCHO 22 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: BMT 15 May, only report.
GLOSSY IBIS: COX 22-24 Mar.
Turkey Vulture: commonly reported after 15 Apr.
Snow Goose: max 2000 SCHO 10 Apr.
Brant: max 1000+ NB 27 May, late migration.
Mute Swan: 3 Goeffroys Pd COLU, only report away from HR.
Wood Duck: arr LIV 8 Mar.
Gadwall: HR at Waterford 8 Mar; L7 2 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: 2 Athens GREE 23 Mar; max 4 SCHO 10 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: max 5 QS 19 Apr.
N. Shoveler: L7 13 Apr; 2 QS 19 Apr.
N. Pintail: arr PP 18 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 388 Niskayuna SCHE 20 Apr.
Canvasback: HR RENS 7 May.
Ring-necked Duck: max 250 L7 2 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 4 COX 5 Apr.
Surf Scoter: pr ALBA 9 Apr; pr Stuyvesant COLU 22 May, late.
White-winged Scoter: L7 4 Mar; ALBA 9 Apr.
Bufflehead: last COX 4 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 130 HR at Stillwater 1 Mar; last L7 13 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: max 22 NL 7 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 6 HR at Half Moon 2 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: COX 23 Mar; 2 TR 9 Apr.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr SISP 15 Apr.
N. Harrier: 28 reported; scarce in Mar due to extensive snow cover.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 21 reported, numbers thinning out after 20 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: 22 reported, no change from previous season.
N. Goshawk: FLO 25 Apr; Bucks Corner RENS 4 May; Niskayuna SCHE 12 May; only reports.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Palenville GREE 4 Mar; Grapeville GREE 14 Mar; SARA 22 Mar, 16 Apr; Taborton RENS 27 Apr; 2 NB 17 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr RENS 27 Apr; 11 others reported; few observed compared with last fall's migration of several thousand.
Rough-legged Hawk: last RENS 25 May, very late.
Merlin: CAT 23 Apr, only confirmed report.
Peregrine Falcon: pr at Dunn Memorial Bridge ALBA, 4 eggs 24 Apr.
Virginia Rail: 5 (calling) BCM 26 Apr; HEB 27 May, only reports.
Sora: SCHE 21 May, only report.
Com. Moorhen: BCM 21 May, only report.
Am. Coot: BCM 21 May, only report.
Killdeer: arr Brookview RENS 6 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr BMT 30 Apr; scarce.
Lesser Yellowlegs: GAN 20 May, only report.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr N. Greenbush 5 May.; max 14 CLA 17 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr SISP 2 May.
Upland Sandpiper: QS 19 Apr, only report.
Least Sandpiper: CLA 12 May; 13 GAN 20 May; few reported.
Wilson's Snipe: arr FLO 24 Mar; max 13 COX 6 Apr.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 10 NB 3 Apr.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: ad Coeymans ALBA 1 Apr (RG), 1st county record.
Iceland Gull: last 2 (imm & 3rd yr) COX 23 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: HR at Albany 1 Mar; last 2 imm COX 23 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: last COX 5 May.
Com. Tern: HR at Castleton RENS 7 May, only report.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr E. Greenbush RENS 3 May, early.
Short-eared Owl: Plum Rd FtE 11 Apr, only report.
Great Horned Owl: max 6 Bear Swamp ALBA 1 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Durham GREE 24 Mar; Greenville GREE 24 Mar; Schodack RENS 19 May; all probable breeders.
N. HAWK OWL: Root MONT 18 Jan-12 Apr, new late record for NYS; see also KB:53(2).
Com. Nighthawk: arr Albany 19 May; last migrant LIV 2 Jun; all reported flocks consisted of 4 birds or fewer, relatively scarce.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr AUS 2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr GREE 13 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr SISP 15 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr BMT 22 May; max 6 Ashland GREE 31 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr COX 24 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr LIV 1 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr SCHO 1 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Hoosick Falls RENS 29 Apr.
N. Shrike: last PP 9 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr SISP 9 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr LIV 30 Apr; max 4 HEB 27 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr GRE 4 May.
Purple Martin: arr 17 May to breeding colonies at Saratoga L and Racetrack.
Tree Swallow: arr COX 23 Mar.
Bank Swallow: arr JL 3 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr GER 2 May; breeding colonies in GREE active by 15 May.

Marsh Wren: arr VM 11 May.
Veery: arr Chatham COLU 2 May; max 11 BMT 22 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr AUS 12 May.
Wood Thrush: arr LIV 29 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 6 COX 5 Apr; L7 6 Apr; 2 FLO 11 Apr; GER 5 May; more widespread than previous spring seasons.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr LIV 25 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: NB 11 May; New Lebanon COLU 15 May; FR 24 May; only reports.
"Brewster's" Warbler: AUS 17 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr NB 7 May; 2 HP 10 May; 2 BMT 20 May.
N. Parula: arr HP 10 May; 2 BMT 15 May; last migrant Prattsville GREE 28 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr LIV 29 Apr; max 18 HEB 27 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr HP 3 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr BMT 30 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr JL 3 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BMT 30 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr HP 10 May.
Pine Warbler: arr FR 27 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr L7 19 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: GER 17 May, only report.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr NB 24 May.
Cerulean Warbler: max 7 SISP 19 May.
Ovenbird: max 11 NB 11 May.
Wilson's Warbler: GRE 10 May; BMT 23 May; only reports.
Canada Warbler: arr AUS 12 May; 2 BMT 22 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr FR 10 May.
E. Towhee: arr LIV 19 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last GAN 14 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr LIV 29 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Brookview RENS 8 May; 4 SARA Airport 16 May; GAN 18

May.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Prattsville

GREE 27-28 May, nest building.

Fox Sparrow: max 22 (all banded)

Amsterdam MONT 10 Apr.

Swamp Sparrow: arr PP 9 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Taghanic

COLU 30 Apr; somewhat scarce.

Snow Bunting: 150 Glen MONT 1 Mar,
last flock.

E. Meadowlark: arr GER 11 Mar;

Ashland GREE 28 May, early nesting
record.

Rusty Blackbird: last migrants 4 GREE
19 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: Saratoga NP 18 Apr:

CLA 4 May; 2 VM 11 May; RENS 24
May.

Purple Finch: max 31 Stratford FULT 21
Mar.

Pine Siskin: scattered reports of small
flocks in the Catskills, all in late May.

Evening Grosbeak: 3 JL 31 Mar, 30 Apr,
3 May (same flock); 2 (banded) JL 23
May.

ADDENDUM

The following record was erroneously
omitted from the fall 2002 report *The
Kingbird* 53(1):

Connecticut Warbler: 2 fem (banded)
Amsterdam MONT 24 Sep 2002 (RY).

REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

86 Empire Street, Yonkers NY 10704

BochnikM@cs.com

March temperatures were near normal, but winter refused to go quietly. A snowstorm on 26 March brought back birds around the feeders. Snow finally melted away in Dutchess County by the end of March, but was followed by some snow in early April. Ulster County snow persisted in protected high elevation ravines until 15 April. The snow finally met its end when temperatures reached into the eighties on 15 and 16 April. May was 2°F to 3° cooler than average, mainly due to a cold snap at the normal peak of migration. Liberty had lows in the 30°s between 15 and 20 May. This led to a generally lackluster migration. Precipitation was slightly below average.

There was an incredible influx of Red-necked Grebes inland on 1 March. Forty-five were on Peekskill Bay and 12 were present off the bathing beach at Croton Point, with two quite a way up the Croton River, just below the Croton Dam. This was followed by many single digit reports throughout March and April, with the last sighting on 4 May.

Dutchess County had its first **Glossy Ibis** since 1991 when Carena Pooth found one in Pleasant Valley at a farm pond on 25 March. An adult Little Blue Heron made an unusual and early appearance in Rockland County on 5 April at Piermont Pier. Two made a more typical appearance at Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary on 3 May.

The hawkwatch at Hook Mountain had a great showing of 1063 hawks consisting of 13 species on 27 April. Later that evening, Long Island Sound's spring scoter count off Rye counted 85 White-winged Scoters moving north and 11 Red-necked Grebes.

Double-crested Cormorants are now breeding inland, away from the known sites in Long Island Sound. Carol Weiss reported 50-60 nests on Lake DeForest in Rockland County, and eight nests were found by Berna and Stan Lincoln in Muscoot Reservoir in Westchester.

Andy Guthrie found a **Manx Shearwater** heading south off Rye Beach on 26 May. Forty-five minutes later it was seen heading north by Guthrie, Tom Burke and Gail Benson. This will be the first record for Westchester County. A Manx/Audubon's type shearwater was reported from the Hudson River on 11 April 1990, but no NYSARC report was ever submitted.

The wintering Clay-colored Sparrow in Rhinebeck continued through 20 April. Jane Vecchione found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Spring Farm at Mohonk Preserve on 30 May. This species is becoming a very rare but regular breeder in the Region.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, David Arner, John Askildsen, Gail Benson, Andrew Block, Frank Bonanno, Tom Burke, Steve Chorvas, Judy Cinquina, Renee Davis, Lin Fagan, Larry Federman, Tom Fiore, Carol & Ken Fredericks, Misha Fredericks, Valerie Freer, Scott Graber, Andy Guthrie, Mary Harrington, John Haas, Barry Haydasz, Barbara Herrgesell, Kevin Holcomb, Brian Houser, Kelli Jewell, Tait Johansson, Rodney Johnson, Steve Kahl, Bob Kendall, Mary Key, David Klauber, Kelly Liao, Berna & Stan Lincoln, Jeff Lucas, Bob May, Richard Nelson, Carena Pooth, Peter Relson, Kristen Smith, Selden Spencer, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, John Tramonano, Jim Utter, Jane Vecchione, Chet Vincent, Bill Wallace, Steve Walter, Carol Weiss, Matt Young, John & Mary Yrizarry.

ABBREVIATIONS

CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy Rye; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; WRNWR – Wallkill Ri NWR.

LOONS – DUCKS

Red-throated Loon: max 34 EGR 20 Apr; last MC 23 May.

Horned Grebe: Putnam L 2, 3 Apr; max 18 EGR 13 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: 45 Peekskill Bay 1 Mar (JA, TJ, MY); 12 CPP 1 Mar; Norrie Pt 28-29 Mar & 1-23 Apr (JL, C&KF);

11 moving north EGR 27 Apr (TB); last 4 EGR 4 May (TB).

MANX SHEARWATER: Rye Beach 26 May (AG, TB, GB).

N. Gannet: EGR 28 Mar (BW); max 4 EGR 13 Apr (TB).

Double-crested Cormorant: 50-60 nests L DeForest 2 May (CW); 8 nests Muscoot

Res WEST (B&SL).

Am. Bittern: arr Bashakill 10 Apr;
Crugers 1 30 Apr.

Least Bittern: Bashakill 14 May.

Great Egret: arr New Rochelle 24 Mar; 4
nests L DeForest 2 May (CW).

Snowy Egret: arr MC 13 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: Piermont Pier 5 Apr
(CW), early; 2 EGR 3 May.

Green Heron: arr Larchmont Res 16 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: nest L
DeForest 2 May.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: MC 27
May (TB).

Glossy Ibis: Pleasant Valley 25 Mar (CP).

Black Vulture: Ward Pound Ridge 26
Mar, 3, 16 Apr; Great Swamp 26 Apr.

Snow Goose: 50 Great Swamp 26 Mar.

Canada Goose: first goslings 28 Apr.

Brant: max 1000 Hudson Ri 27 May.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Arboris Swamp
DUTC 4 Apr.

Canvasback: 114 Hudson Ri 12 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: 22 EGR 22 Mar; 55
L Walton DUTC 26 Mar; 52 Stissing L 1
Apr; 75 WRNWR 4 Apr.

Greater Scaup: last EGR 4 May

Lesser Scaup: 40 EGR 22 Mar.

White-winged Scoter: 85 EGR 27 Apr
(TB); 64 EGR 4 May (TB).

Long-tailed Duck: max 300 EGR 13 Apr
(TB).

Bufflehead: ORAN 16 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 Crugers I 26
Mar; sev Cedar L DUTC 29 Mar; last
EGR 3 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr inland DUTC 25 Mar; arr
MC 13 Apr; 18 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

Bald Eagle: 3 Hook Mt 24 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 10 Hook Mt 24
Apr; 24 Hook Mt 27 Apr.

N. Goshawk: Ward Pound Ridge 3 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hook Mt 15
Apr; 500 + Hook Mt 24 Apr; 974 Hook
Mt 27 Apr (SW).

Golden Eagle: Stissing Mt 16 Mar (CV).

Am. Kestrel: 12 Hook Mt 27 Apr.

Merlin: Millbrook 9 Mar; EGR 28 Mar;
10 Hook Mt 27 Apr.

Clapper Rail: 1-3 MC 12, 15, 27 May.

Virginia Rail: arr Bashakill 12 Apr.

Sora: arr Bashakill 2 May.

Com. Moorhen: arr Bashakill 8 May;
low numbers.

Black-bellied Plover: max 12 MC 27
May.

Semipalmated Plover: Mamakating
Transfer Station SULL 24 May (JH).

Killdeer: arr WRNWR 5 Mar.

Am. Oystercatcher: arr MC 2 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: 6 WRNWR 15 May;
max 22 MC 15 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 MC 23 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MC & Bashakill
2 May; 5 WRNWR 15 May.

Upland Sandpiper: MC 2 May (TB); arr
SGNWR 4 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 5 MC 27 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr Thompson Pd 19
Apr.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 WRNWR 4 Apr
(SK); 15 WRNWR 8 Apr (J&MY).

Purple Sandpiper: max 45 Rye 27 Apr;
last 5 Rye 27 May.

Dunlin: WRNWR 8 Apr (J&MY); MC
30 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 MC 27 May.

Wilson's Snipe: 45 WRNWR 4 Apr
(SK); 28 Buttercup West Sanctuary 10
Apr (LFe).

Am. Woodcock: first displays Yonkers 14
Mar, late.

Laughing Gull: arr MC 30 Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: Poughkeepsie 3 Apr
(CV); max 25 EGR 13 Apr.

Forster's Tern: 2 MC 30 Apr; 5 MC 2
May; 4 MC 27 May.

Least Tern: 3 MC 2 May; 2 MC 27 May.

Black Tern: SULL 9-11 May (JH).

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: 5 Glen I 17 Mar (AB);
6 MC 21 Apr; Bronx population
expanding north along sound shore.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 3 Doodletown Rd 10 May.

Long-eared Owl: rescued from deer netting LaGrange 6 Mar (BK).

Whip-poor-will: arr Bashakill 3 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: pr New Paltz 22 April (BHo); Pawling 23 May (KL).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Doodletown Rd 11, 15, 18 May; Bashakill 22 May; Ellenville 27 May; Amenia 28 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Bashakill 14 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: RNC 27 May; Amenia 28 May; MC 29 May; Pawling Nature Preserve 30-31 May.

Alder Flycatcher: RNC 27 May; 2 Rockefeller U Field Station 29 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Bashakill 2 May.

E. Phoebe: arr Kakiat P 16 Mar; arr DUTC 21 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 13 May.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 27 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr Rockefeller Preserve 30 Apr.

Purple Martin: Brewster 16 Apr; 2 Verbank 30 Apr; Bashakill 8 May; MC 27 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 13 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Bashakill & MC 13 Apr.

Brown Creeper: 12 Bashakill 13 Apr.

House Wren: arr MC 28 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr MC 2 May; max 5 MC 27 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr RNC 16 Apr.

Veery: arr 16 Apr.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Rhinebeck 7 May; RNC 27 May.

Bicknell's Thrush: 1 singing MC 21-25 May (TB).

Cedar Waxwing: flocks moving north 30 Mar-5 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Sprain Ridge P 29 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Sterling Forest 4 May; Bashakill 25 May; Ellenville 27 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: many Bashakill 3 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: RNC 15 May.

Pine Warbler: Katoah 17 Mar, early (JA); arr Bashakill 13 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr Bashakill 2 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Bashakill 12 Apr.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 28 Apr.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr RNC 16 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr Bashakill 2 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 May.

N. Waterthrush: arr New Paltz 22 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr New Paltz 15 Apr.

Kentucky Warbler: Vassar Farm 4, 23 May (PR, C&KF).

Mourning Warbler: arr SULL 9-11 May; Ellenville 27 May ; MC 28-29 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr MC 30 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr RNC 16 Apr; 8 Doodletown 4 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 10 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Ellenville 27 May (JH, RD, VF).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 13 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Congers 13 Mar.

Clay-colored Sparrow: continued in Rhinebeck thru 20 Apr (KS); Spring Farm Mohonk Preserve 30 May (JV).

Vesper Sparrow: New Paltz 22 April (BHo).

Grasshopper Sparrow: SGNWR 15 May (KH).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC 15, 27 May.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 30 Apr, 5 May (TB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Brewster 12 May (BW); Bashakill 14 May (JC).

White-crowned Sparrow: Doodletown 7

May; Bashakill 8 May; Brewster 9-16
May.

Bobolink: arr SGNWR 4 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr 30 Apr; numerous
reports May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Rockefeller

Preserve 28 Apr.

Purple Finch: Brewster thru.

(914) 785-3840 (work)

(914) 237-9331 (home)

REGION 10 – MARINE

Seymour Schiff

603 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead NY 11550

syschiff@optonline.net

Alvin Wollin

4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Centre NY 11570

March was slightly warmer and slightly wetter than normal, followed by a cold, dry, “snowy” April, 2.7°F cooler than normal. On 7 April, there was precipitation consisting of rain, sleet and 4” of snow. May continued cool, 3.9° cooler than normal, with rain unevenly distributed. New York City’s Central Park had 1.26” of rain less than normal. At Islip, Suffolk County, rain during the month was almost normal.

The cold April, shrubs blooming 10 to 14 days late and a cool May produced a rather uneven and late migration. To the Region’s west, the dam broke on 10 May and a few days later further east. From Tom Burke, the voice of the NY Rare Bird Alert: “One of the extraordinary features of spring migration is the occasional spectacular fallout of birds, especially along the coast, when ideal conditions come together. Such was the case Monday [12 May], when hundreds of birds dropped in along the Jones Beach strip and out to Robert Moses Park on western Fire Island. Among the individual counts were: six species of flycatchers, including 60 Eastern Kingbirds; 125 Gray Catbirds; at least 21 species of warblers, topped by 72 Magnolia Warblers; 40 Scarlet Tanagers; 30 White-crowned Sparrows; 52 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks; 13 Indigo Buntings; seven Bobolinks; 125 Baltimore Orioles and 15 Orchard Orioles.”

This fallout was not confined to the coast, but was widespread throughout the Region and the Northeast as well. Otherwise, as always, notwithstanding the generally uneventful spring, we did have our share of rarities.

Dave Klauber reported on a pelagic trip into the Hudson Canyon, 95 miles out. Seen in NY waters on 26 May were: Northern Fulmar, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson’s Storm-Petrels, Northern Gannets, 3 to 5 South Polar Skuas [NY and NJ], 4 to 6 Pomarine Jaegers, Common Terns, Arctic Terns, 1 breeding plumaged plus 1 or 2 other Dovekies, Atlantic Puffin, 2 unidentified alcids and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo 90 miles out. Other species seen in NJ waters were reported

but are not included here.

On 1 March, a **Pacific Loon** was discovered by Dale Dyer at Captree State Park. It was last reported 16 March. As if that was not enough, on 1 May, a different **Pacific Loon** was found by Anne Lazarus in the East River, Manhattan, between E 21 St. and E 16th St. This bird was also seen 2 May.

While historic maxima for Red-necked Grebes in the Region have numbered in the hundreds, they have been relatively scarce the last several decades. When quantities have been recorded in recent years, they have been widely dispersed along large stretches of ocean waters. This year has been different both in the quantities at a single locale and the total numbers overall. On 16 March, 59 Red-necked Grebes there were seen from Shinnecock Inlet to Moriches Inlet, with most birds inside the bay. More notable, however, were the numerous sightings on fresh water ponds throughout the Region, some in places for the first time ever.

On 23 March, Andy Guthrie and Angus Wilson found a **Western Grebe** on the ocean off Riis Park. It was not relocated until a week later, on 29 March, by Pete Shen, Dorothy Poole and Starr Saphir and again on 30 March by Paul Buckley. On 10 May, Ernie Lewis found an adult **White Ibis** along the Peconic River in Calverton. The bird was present most of the day and had a metal leg band. Other banded White Ibises were reported this spring on Cape Cod and at Hammonasset Beach State Park, CT, but not on the same dates. These may represent one or more birds.

Birders are increasingly finding and reporting various recognizable subspecies (speculative candidates for splits?) and NYSARC has been requesting reports of these. Regional reports on Brant included: "Black" adult at Floyd Bennett Field on 25 March, an intermediate type adult at Floyd Bennett Field and an hour later at Riis Park on 30 March, and another intermediate type adult Captree Island on 29 April.

Generally considered the least common of the scoters off our coast, 10,000+ Black Scoters were observed by Paul Gillen at Montauk on 28 March. Surf Scoters were also plentiful, but in much lower numbers. He saw no White-winged Scoters, usually our most common scoter. While the large numbers probably represented migrating birds, the mix is representative of this past season's wintering birds, when the latter species was also in much reduced numbers. The drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** wintering off Ransom Beach in Bayville continued to 12 March.

On 4 May, Eric Salzman flushed a large, colorful and well-marked rail out of a stand of phragmites fringing the marsh on his property in East Quogue. He believed the bird to be a King Rail. Then, on 10 May, Jim Clinton found a **King Rail** along Dune Road at Shinnecock Bay. Jim's description made it clear that the bird was not a ruddy Clapper Rail or a hybrid as he carefully noted several marks, including the rufous edgings to the coverts. All large reddish rails seen in saltmarshes should not be assumed to be King Rails. The next day Orhan Birol saw a reddish rail copulating with a less reddish one at the same location. He noted, "Both rails had strongly contrasting black and white on the flanks and bold black marks on the back. I did see some black streaks on the tail as well, although

all these observations were in extremely foggy conditions and at a distance? I would appreciate if experts checked the area, and confirmed this unlikely event [breeding].” Birol’s concern is well founded. There are almost no recent sight records and King Rails are considered rare or absent from the Region. Breeding here and now would be unprecedented. As of this writing, no additional sightings have been reported.

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No discussion of gulls can be complete without mention of Thayer’s Gull. On 15 March, Seth Ausubel took pictures of a dark Iceland/Thayer’s type at Point Lookout. The pictures and description were circulated for comment and review and posted on the Internet. Because of the present murky status of this species pair, the identification bar has been raised recently. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to satisfy the requirements for a Thayer’s Gull sighting without comprehensive and complete descriptions of feather tracts in addition to the usual field marks. [Please take note for future write-ups]. The status of the Ausubel bird remains in doubt, but with leanings toward dark Iceland Gull.

On 1 April, a Northern Shrike was found at Rocky Point by Dan Heglund. It was present to 13 April. On 20 April, at Connetquot State Park, John Gluth spotted a pair of **Common Ravens** soaring high overhead among some gulls. On 15 March, Al Wollin found an elusive **Varied Thrush** in Hempstead Lake State Park. The bird was subsequently heard singing, but not seen, in the same place 17, 19 and 20 March.

In spite of the winter snow and cool spring, some warblers set wintering and early spring records. A wintering Pine Warbler in Manorville was last seen on 23 March. Tom Fiore found one on 9 March at the north end of Central Park, where it remained to the 11th. On 29 March, Pam and Jim Ash found an Ovenbird in East Hampton. The date is extraordinarily early. It is possible that this was a wintering bird. On 23 March, a Louisiana Waterthrush was found in Central Park, a very early date for this early migrant. The prior earliest record (unpublished) was one captured near the Fire Island Lighthouse on 25 March 1998 by Shai Mitra.

On 14 May, the pale western subspecies of Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*) was found by John Fritz by the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station. Bent’s “Life Histories” lists this form as “casual in migration to eastern Iowa and western Tennessee.” If and when this western race had been found previously in the east, it generally was either not recognized or not reported.

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all these observations were in extremely foggy conditions and at a distance?I would appreciate if experts checked the area, and confirmed this unlikely event [breeding]." Birol's concern is well founded. There are almost no recent sight records and King Rails are considered rare or absent from the Region. Breeding here and now would be unprecedented. As of this writing, no additional sightings have been reported.

On 1 March, Tony Lauro discovered a starfish kill at Montauk that had attracted 5000-10,000 gulls. Among the birds present were at least five Iceland Gulls, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and an adult **California Gull**. About 100 miles west on the same day, Seth Ausubel conservatively estimated there were 25,000 gulls between Fort Tilden and Breezy Point, attracted by an impressive clam wash-up. Nine species were seen, including a first-year Glaucous Gull, two or three Iceland gulls (including adult and first-winter), four or five adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, one adult Little Gull, one adult Black-headed Gull and the usual Herring, Ring-billed, Great Black-backed and Bonaparte's gulls.

No discussion of gulls can be complete without mention of Thayer's Gull. On 15 March, Seth Ausubel took pictures of a dark Iceland/Thayer's type at Point Lookout. The pictures and description were circulated for comment and review and posted on the Internet. Because of the present murky status of this species pair, the identification bar has been raised recently. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to satisfy the requirements for a Thayer's Gull sighting without comprehensive and complete descriptions of feather tracts in addition to the usual field marks. [Please take note for future write-ups]. The status of the Ausubel bird remains in doubt, but with leanings toward dark Iceland Gull.

On 1 April, a Northern Shrike was found at Rocky Point by Dan Heglund. It was present to 13 April. On 20 April, at Connetquot State Park, John Gluth spotted a pair of **Common Ravens** soaring high overhead among some gulls. On 15 March, Al Wollin found an elusive **Varied Thrush** in Hempstead Lake State Park. The bird was subsequently heard singing, but not seen, in the same place 17, 19 and 20 March.

In spite of the winter snow and cool spring, some warblers set wintering and early spring records. A wintering Pine Warbler in Manorville was last seen on 23 March. Tom Fiore found one on 9 March at the north end of Central Park, where it remained to the 11th. On 29 March, Pam and Jim Ash found an Ovenbird in East Hampton. The date is extraordinarily early. It is possible that this was a wintering bird. On 23 March, a Louisiana Waterthrush was found in Central Park, a very early date for this early migrant. The prior earliest record (unpublished) was one captured near the Fire Island Lighthouse on 25 March 1998 by Shai Mitra.

On 14 May, the pale western subspecies of Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*) was found by John Fritz by the Jones Beach Coast Guard Station. Bent's "Life Histories" lists this form as "casual in migration to eastern Iowa and western Tennessee." If and when this western race had been found previously in the east, it generally was either not recognized or not reported.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim & Pam Ash, John P. Askildsen, Seth Ausubel, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Berlingeri, Steven Biasetti, Orhan Birol, Andrew v. F. Block, Howard Boltson, Jean & Ron Bourque, P. A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, James Clinton Sr., John J. Collins, David Diaz, Joe DiCostanzo, Peter Dorosh, George Dremeaux, Dale Dyer, Ron Ellard, Michael Farina, Lester Feldman, Ken Feustel, Tom Fiore, Howard Fischer, John J. Fritz, Paul H. Gillen, Isaac Grant, Joe Giunta, Andrew Guthrie, Brian Hart, Dan Heglund, Mike Higgiston, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Susan Jones, David W. Klauber, Greg Kunkel, Dave Kunstler, Robert J. Kurtz, Ed Lam (EL), Anthony J. Lauro (AJL), Anne Lazarus (AnL), Emanuel Levine (EmL), Joan Levine, Ernie Lewis (ErL), Patricia Lindsay, Christopher Lyons, Joe Manzione, Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Lauren Miller, Shai Mitra, Steve Nanz, Chris & Lauren Nuzzi, Todd Olson, Al Ott, Dorothy Poole, Beverly Prentice, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Herbert H. Roth, Eric Salzman, Patrick Santinello, Starr Saphir (SSa), Seymour Schiff, Peter Shen, Marty Sohmer, Lloyd Spitalnik, Rex Stanford, MaryJane Syvertsen, Richard R. Veit, Steve Walter, Christina Wilkinson, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson (AnW), Cindy Wodinsky, Alvin Wollin (AW).

ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P; BBG – Brooklyn Botanic Garden; BP – Breezy Pt QUEE; CLP – Clove L P, SI; CM – Cow Meadow, Freeport; CP – Central P; CSP – Captree SP; DP – Democrat Pt, FI; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire I; FP – Forest P; HLSP – Hempstead L SP; In – Inlet; JBCH – Jones Beach; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; MEB – Mecox Bay; ML – Mount Loretto, SI; MOR – Moriches; MP – Montauk Pt; MShI – Mashomack, Shelter Island; NYBG – NY Botanical Garden BRON; PBP – Pelham Bay P; PEL – Pelagic trip to Hudson canyon; PL – Pt Lookout side Jones In; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP – Riis P; SG – Sagaponack; SHIN – Shinnecock In; SI – Staten I; VCP – Van Cortlandt P BRON.

LOONS – DUCKS

PACIFIC LOON: CSP 1-16 Mar (DD *et al*); East Ri Manhattan between E 16th & 21st St 1-2 May (AnL).

Red-necked Grebe: large numbers almost everywhere including fresh water ponds in CP, PP, HLSP and the South Fork of LI.

Eared Grebe: PL to 14 Mar.

WESTERN GREBE: off RP 23 Mar (AG, AnW), 29 Mar; somewhat to east of

RP 30 Mar.

N. Fulmar: PEL 26 May.

Greater Shearwater: PEL 26 May.

Sooty Shearwater: SHIN 18 May; 2 DP 18 May; 5 SHIN 24 May; off Mor 25 May; DP 25, 26 May; PEL 26 May.

Manx Shearwater: Cupsogue 24 May; SHIN 24 May.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: Cupsogue 24 May; 3 SHIN 24 May; PEL 26 May.

Least Bittern: MShI 18 May.

Little Blue Heron: JBWR & CM 29 Mar.

Tricolored Heron: arr JBWR 23 Mar

Cattle Egret: 3 flying over Eastport 29 Mar; in middle of Hauppauge industrial park 16 Apr; 3 flew by Westhampton 25 Apr.

Green Heron: arr 16 Apr.

WHITE IBIS: Peconic Ri Calverton all day 10 May (ErL).

Turkey Vulture: throughout Reg mid Mar-end Apr, some into mid-May.

Brant: "Black" ad FBF 25 Mar (PAB); "intermediate" ad FBF 30 Mar (PAB) and 1 hr later at RP (RRV); "intermediate" ad CSP 29 Apr (PAB).

Eurasian Wigeon: PP 1 Mar; FBF to 9 Mar; Deep Hole Creek Mattituck to 24 Mar; Hook Pd to 27 Mar; CM 28 Mar.

Green-winged "Eurasian" Teal: Massapequa Preserve 8 Mar; Tobay 5 Apr; SI 10 May.

King Eider: f West Pd JBWR thru.

Harlequin Duck: PL thru 6 Apr.

Black Scoter: 10,000+ MP 28 Mar (PG), very high count.

scoter, species: see *intro*.

Barrow's Goldeneye: off Ransom Beach Bayville to 12 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr MEB & Riverhead 8 Mar.

Bald Eagle: Wolfes Pd P SI 9 Mar; JBWE 10 Mar; CP 4, 10, 14 May; Riverdale P 10 May. The following may represent 2 birds moving around the east end of LI: imm Wertheim Refuge Shirley almost daily to 14 Mar; imm CP 19 Mar; SHIN 12 Apr; Center Moriches 19 Apr; MShI 10, 18 May; ad + 2nd-yr 25 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: CP 7, 29 Apr; PP 7, 24-25, 27 Apr; VCP 9 Apr; ML 13 Apr; MP 20 Apr; NYBG 10 May.

Wild Turkey: e LI & n edges of Bronx.

KING RAIL: East Quogue 4 May (ES,NYSARC); Dune Rd 10 May (JC); probably that bird copulating with a paler

bird at same location 11 May (OB); sp. now rare or absent from Reg, breeding would be unprecedented.

Virginia Rail: calling Arthur Kill 7 Apr; Swan L Calverton 1 May; Weesuck Creek East Quogue 1, 7 May; Swan L GC Calverton 12 May.

Sora: PBP 10 May; Aquebogue 14 May.

Am. Golden-Plover: Plum Beach KING 10 May.

Piping Plover: arr 3 PL 16 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: FBF 19 Apr; pr Gabreski Airport Westhampton 11 May thru.

Whimbrel: 3 JBWR 27 Apr; 1-3 near Ponquogue Bridge 2-24 May.

Ruff: m with white ruff near Ponquogue Bridge SHIN 27 Apr (AB).

Red-necked Phalarope: JBWR 24 May; DP 26 May; SG 29-30 May.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: PEL 26 May.

Pomarine Jaeger: 4-6 light morph PEL 26 May.

Parasitic Jaeger: MP 18 May; DP 18 May; Cupsogue 24 May; 5 SHIN 24 May. **jaeger sp.:** off SHIN 18 May; SHIN 24 May.

Little Gull: BP 1 Mar; PL 14-16 Mar; Ditch Plains 15 Mar; RP 23 Mar; PL 1-2 Apr; RP 8-9 Apr; 2 PL 5 Apr; FI In 6 Apr; PL 1 May; JBWE 12 May.

Black-headed Gull: BP 1 Mar; PL 8, 16 Mar; VCP 20, 22 Mar; RP 23 Mar; 2 PL 1-2 Apr; SG 3, 29 May; SHIN 31 May.

CALIFORNIA GULL: MP at starfish kill among 5-10,000 gulls 1 Mar (AJL).

Iceland Gull: 2-3 BP 1 Mar; 5 (3 ad, 2 1st yr) MP 1 Mar; PL 1 Mar; Montauk harbor 2 Mar; 3 BP 8 Mar; 4 BP 9 Mar; CP 11-12 Mar; SHIN 9 Mar; 3 PL 15-16 Mar; BP 24 Mar; CP 6 Apr; Iron Pier Beach Northville 6 Apr; Stuyvesant Cove Manhattan 7 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: sev ocean beaches thru; uncommon.

Glaucous Gull: BP 1 Mar; MP 9 Mar; Old Town Pd Southampton 8-9 Mar; PL

15 Mar; RP 23 Mar; Dune Rd 16 May;
near SHIN 16-17 May.

Gull-billed Tern: 4 JBWE 29 Apr;
others.

Caspian Tern: MEB 21 Apr; max 13
MEB 27 Apr; 5 MEB 2 May; last 3 May.

Roseate Tern: Peconic Bay 8 May thru.

Arctic Tern: sev PEL 26 May.

Forster's Tern: arr 2 Apr.

Black Tern: RMSP 12 May; SHIN 10-13
May; East Moriches 25 May; 5 SHIN 29
May.

Black Skimmer: arr JBCH 13 Apr.

Dovekie: MP 2 Mar; 1 breeding plumage
+ 1 or 2 others PEL 26 May.

Razorbill: 6 MP 2 Mar; SHIN 16 Mar, 4
East Hampton 13 Apr.

Atlantic Puffin: flying PEL 26 May.

alcid sp.: 2 PEL 26 May.

DOVES – WOODPECKERS

Barn Owl: resident PBP.

Snowy Owl: JBWE early Mar.

Short-eared Owl: JBWE 1 Mar; FBF 9
Mar; MShl 15 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: PBP 17 Mar.

Chuck-will's-widow: arr East Quogue 9
May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr FP 4 May.

N. Shrike: Rocky Pt 1-13 Apr (DH).

COM. RAVEN: 2 Connetquot SP 20 Apr
(JG).

N. Rough-winged Swallow: CP 28 Mar
(MS, JM), very early.

Cliff Swallow: PP 30 Mar, very early.

Marsh Wren: arr 30 Apr.

Bicknell's Thrush: singing & seen CP 8
May (TF), only unequivocal report.

VARIED THRUSH: HLSP 15-16 Mar,
heard singing 17,19, 20 Mar (AW, *et al*).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: CP 5, 9 May;
Woodlawn Cemetery 10 May; PP 11 May.

"Brewster's" Warbler: PP 10, 16 May.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: CP 5 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: PP 14 Apr;
CP 4, 9 May; Hunter's Gardens SUFF 11
May; Springs backyard 12 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Farmingville
backyard 30 Mar-16 Apr (JM), record
early, typically doesn't linger; PP 18-27
Apr; several others.

Pine Warbler: CP 9-11 Mar (TF), very
early; Manorville thru 23 Mar; probable
both overwintered; quite numerous this
spring.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 6, 8, 10 May; PP
10 May; 2 CP 12 May; Inwood Hill P 14
May; FP 15 May; HLSP 15-16 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: Roslyn P 28
Apr; PP 29 Apr; Bronx Ri at Bronx Zoo
30 Apr; David Well Preserve St. James 30
Apr; SI 30 Apr; CLP 2 May; Shelter I 30
Apr-2 May; APP 3-6 May; Massapequa
Preserve 8 May; CP 10, 12 May; SI 10
May; PP 11 May; NYBG 11 May; JBWR
12 May; Bronx Ri 23 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 12 Apr.

Ovenbird: East Hampton 29 Mar
(J&PA), extraordinarily early, possibly
wintered.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 23 Mar
(mob), record early; one banded near FI
Lighthouse 25 Mar 1998 was prior
earliest.

Kentucky Warbler: BBG 13 Apr (SJ,
JL), record early; FP 3, 13 May; VCP 10
May; Hunter's Gardens SUFF 12 May;
CP 13-14 May; Mshl 28 May.

Hooded Warbler: city parks mid Apr
thru; LI early-mid May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: m VCP 3 May; CP 9,
20 May; FP 10-15 May; JBCH 13 May;
MShl 29 May; up to 3 Brookhaven
National Lab 11 May (JC), same general
area where nested last yr.

Field Sparrow: *Spizella pusilla arenacea*,
paler western race, JBWE 14 May (JF *et al*);
Bent's "Life Histories" lists this form

“casual in migration to eastern Iowa and western Tennessee.”

Vesper Sparrow: arr CP 4 Apr.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: phragmites at West Isle Cove PP 18 Mar.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr mid-May.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Watermill 1 Mar; FBF 9-12 Mar; St. Charles Cemetery 14 Mar.

Snow Bunting: thru 30 Mar.

Blue Grosbeak: m PP 3-4 May; m CP 4 May; f CP 9 May; m PBP 10 May; RMSP 12 May; JBCH 13 May, joined by a second 14 May; f CM 14 May; m

Eastport 31 May.

Dickcissel: Watermill 21-25 Apr.

Bobolink: RMSP 27 Apr; Norman Levy P Merrick 27 Apr; JBWE 7 May; 4 singing Marine P saltmarsh KING 10 May; ML 10-11 May; 3 CM (2 m, 1 f) 12 May; 7 Baiting Hollow 9 May; CM 15 May; JBCH 12 May; MP 5 May.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 2 m feeding on shoreline of Hart I NE of City I BRON, may breed there; feeding in backyards City I (PAB).

Pine Siskin: CP 6 Mar, with Am. Goldfinch at thistle feeders.



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

Editor of *THE KINGBIRD*

Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Editor of *NEW YORK BIRDERS*

Sue Adair, 107 Fox Run Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303

Appointed Committees

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Phyllis R. Jones, Chair
9 Hallock Road, Pond Eddy, NY 12770

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New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair
Send reports to:
Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

Publications:

Emanuel Levine, Chair
585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

Waterfowl Count:

Bryan L. Swift
NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

Web Site:

Barbara A. Butler
55 Old Camby Rd., Verbank, NY 12585

Elected Committees

Nominating:

Phyllis Jones, Stanley Lincoln, Kevin McGowan

Auditing:

Irving Cantor, Peter Capainolo, Emanuel Levine

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