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A SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN FOREST PARK, QUEENS

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The 2005 spring season started early when Kelly Bossong phoned me on Wednesday 30 March just before 2:00 pm to tell me she and her husband Richard had just returned from Forest Park. Would I please post on the computer that they had seen a beautiful male Prothonotary Warbler at the waterhole? Would I! "Kelly, you're killing me. I'm on my way to work; I don't have time to run over to the waterhole. But of course I will post it for you." And so it began...

Even though I needed to get to work, I couldn't resist stopping in for "just 5-10 minutes" just to try. As I stood there looking around, I berated myself—what did I think I was doing? I didn't even have my bins with me, and I had to get going already! But I tried a little "pishing", and immediately, the Prothonotary came within a few feet of me, giving me great looks. I dashed off to get to work, making a quick phone call to pass along information about specifically where he was last seen. Al Ott, Eric Miller, and Lloyd and Sandy Spitalnik were all able to get there and locate it, but for some reason it was much more secretive in the afternoon, and they had to really work for their views.

Over the next few days, every spare second was spent running up to the "waterhole" area to marvel at this stunningly colorful bird in an otherwise dreary season. On Saturday 2 April it was raining steadily all morning, but even that wasn't enough to keep several hardy souls from trying for another look. Meeting fellow birder Karlo Mirth on my way in, I was greeted with astounding news: not only was the Prothonotary still there, but now there were also Swainson's and Bachman's warblers! As I stared in disbelief, I was then told that there had been a little "April Fool's Joke" the day before on the NYC RBA, which Karlo couldn't resist repeating. Little did we know at the time how this joke would play out as events unfolded!

Sunday 3 April brought another surprise: there were now TWO Prothonotary Warblers at the waterhole. At times, the two were perched on the same branch, and often extremely close to observers. Wednesday 6 April and Thursday 7 April brought Yellow-throated Warblers to Hempstead Lake State Park (on Long Island) and Central Park, respectively. All the previously mentioned birds continued for several days, and during this time things started to get really interesting. From that Wednesday, 6 April, and over the following few days, Prothonotary Warblers were reported in Jamaica Bay, Cunningham Park, Prospect Park, Central Park, Hempstead Lake and Robert Moses, in addition to at least one still in Forest Park. When yet another Yellow-throated Warbler was found in Prospect Park on Tuesday 12 April, it was obvious this year's spring season was a special one. This was proved again that very day by a totally unexpected discovery at Forest Park.

That morning I had gotten up early after a lousy night's sleep. It was a cool morning, about 38 degrees F, with variable cloud cover. It was a little after 9:00 am, and I had plans to go to Kissena Park about noon. But since I was up, I figured I would go check out "Kelly's Prothonotary" and kill a little time in Forest Park. The extremely cooperative bird was enjoyed long enough that I decided to

walk around and see if anything else had come in yet. Leaving the waterhole area, I saw movement on the ground up ahead, and went to investigate. What I saw was an absolutely plain, smallish bird, foraging around the leaf litter at the base of a tree.

Trying to identify it was quite a challenge: while the bird was totally ignoring me at very close range (sometimes just a few feet), I was completely stumped as to what it could be. I watched for a good twenty minutes, during which time I just kept trying to memorize as many field marks as possible. The back of the bird was a brownish-olive-ish color. Its solid cap seemed faintly rusty, but depending on lighting, this wasn't always apparent. It had a whitish line over the eye, but depending on the lighting, this wasn't always apparent. It had a blackish smudge line through the eye, but... you know what comes next. The underside was a grayish-white with no markings whatsoever that I could see. It was difficult to get a good look at either the legs or the bill because of the foraging behavior. Still no clue. It just wasn't behaving like anything that clicked with the kind of markings (or lack thereof) I was observing. After about 10 minutes of very active probing behavior, the bird all of a sudden started a very strange "shaking" behavior. This was repeated quite a few times, and then would stop and the bird would continue foraging. It being a very cool morning, I wondered if the bird was cold, especially since it had been feeding voraciously since I first observed it. During the few glimpses I had of the bill, I tried to see any color or shape distinctions, but I just couldn't get an adequate look to make a judgment. The same was true for the legs, although I could finally see they were lightish in color.

At this point I decided I had to move to take out my field guide. My movement flushed the bird, and I watched it go while I fished out my book. Paging back and forth, more paging back and forth, and the only thing I was able to do was eliminate the few possibilities I hadn't really thought it was in the first place. How many plain, smallish birds foraging on a forest floor could there be? None of the birds I might expect to encounter in the park, such as Orange-crowned Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Warbling Vireo, were close enough in behavior and markings to qualify. Book in hand, I relocated the bird, and repeated all of the paging back and forth, coming to the same conclusion. I still just couldn't figure it out. I finally gave up, chalking it up as an "LBJ" (little brown job).

Continuing my walk about a half-hour later, I saw Kelly and Richard Bossong back near the waterhole. I told them about this plain bird I had that I just couldn't identify, and brought them over to the last area I had seen the bird. I was able to relocate the bird fairly easily, and the three of us stared at it, going over all the field marks again. At that moment, the bird picked up its head, giving us a clear profile shot. Kelly took one look at the bill and said, "Jean, I think that's a Swainson's Warbler". Hearing a Swainson's Warbler mentioned the second time in a week and a half, I just told her, "Get out of here!" thinking she was continuing the joke. However, at the same time, I was looking at the bird in profile, and looking at the picture in the book, and I had the sudden realization that she could quite possibly be right!! The next few minutes were spent in a quick back and forth consideration of whether we were actually correct, and if so, what would be our next course of action.

Phone calls were placed to Al Ott and Eric Miller, two people we knew could get to Forest Park in a hurry and help with a positive identification. Al was able to get there in about 15 minutes, Eric shortly thereafter. As Al closely examined the bird, he concluded we did indeed have a Swainson's Warbler in front of us. Thanks to cell phones and the internet, word was spread quickly. I think the first group of people arrived within about an hour and a half. As the day went on, more people continued to arrive, and the bird remained in very visible areas, allowing close scrutiny for the entire day.

The next day I had other commitments and was not able to stop in the park at all. Apparently none of the many different birders looking were able to relocate the bird, although later in the week one person said they had seen the bird briefly at the end of the day on Wednesday, 13 April. At about 9:30 am on Thursday 14 April, I decided to recheck all the places I had observed the bird previously, just in case it was still in the area. At the waterhole, I met Bob Brooks, who had come in from Manhattan, and together we searched around. Within about 15 minutes, we were able to relocate the bird, and sent out word immediately that the bird was back! The bird remained in the area for the next few days, and was well seen by many, many people through Sunday 17 April.

Postscript. Additional Yellow-throated and Prothonotary warblers continued to be reported around New York City and vicinity through at least the middle of May, and there were as many as four additional Swainson's Warbler reports: Central Park 6-8 May, Hempstead Lake 1 May, Cutchogue 12 May, and Staten Island 27 May.

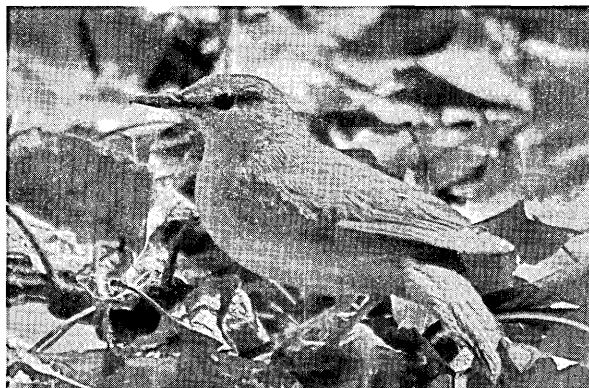


Figure 1.
Swainson's Warbler, Forest Park, Queens. 12 April 2005.
© Lloyd Spitalnik.

AN UNPRECEDENTED SPRING INCURSION OF SOUTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICAN LANDBIRDS TO COASTAL NEW YORK

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Abstract—Spring 2005 brought an extraordinary influx of southern-breeding landbirds to New York City and Long Island. Unprecedented numbers of Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Swainson's warblers were observed from Staten Island to Montauk. Unusually large numbers of Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks were also noted. No fewer than five Swainson's Warblers were reported, accompanied by varied levels of documentation, including Suffolk County's first in Paul Gillen's Cutchogue backyard on 12 May. This incursion was historically unique not only in terms of the total number of records, but also with respect to the number of species and the breadth of dates and localities involved. Analysis of data from throughout the Northeast yields qualified support for each of three scenarios proposed to explain spring incursions such as those observed during spring 2005.

New York City and Long Island (*Kingbird* Region 10) constitute an ecologically distinctive region within New York State, featuring many floral and faunal affinities with southeastern North America. The list of bird species whose geographic distributions within New York State show discontinuities at or near the limits of this region is impressive: Ruffed Grouse, Black Vulture, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Common Raven are but the most striking examples of species rare, absent, or extirpated from Region 10, but abundant and widespread immediately to the west and north; conversely, one could list dozens of species, especially those dependent on pelagic and maritime environments, that occur regularly in coastal New York, but which are very rare or absent upstate. Particularly interesting among the latter category is a list of landbirds not dependent on marine environments *per se*: Western Kingbird and Lark Sparrow en route from western breeding grounds, and southeastern-breeding species such as Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Kentucky warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Although several of these species breed elsewhere in New York State, it is in Region 10's urban parks, at its coastal vagrant traps, and, increasingly, within its remaining pine and oak woodlands, that these species are most often found in the state.

It should also be noted that Region 10 is large and heterogeneous enough to feature striking variation from site to site in the expected status of many species.

For example, despite Long Island's southeastern North American affinities, it is nevertheless a relatively poor place within New York State to see Hooded Warbler, a classic Carolinian Zone species. Although routine at migrant traps in New York City and numerous at breeding stations in nearby mainland portions of southern New York State and southern New England, this species is generally a very scarce passage migrant and rare breeder on Long Island, east of the city parks. Conversely, although Blue Grosbeaks appear to have established a regular breeding presence in central-eastern Long Island, this bird is still a good find on the outer beaches and remains very rare anywhere else.

Viewed in the context of these expectations, the events of spring 2005 were not only unusual, but also very informative. In terms of sheer magnitude, species diversity, geographic breadth, and temporal duration, this season's incursion was unique. It inspired lively debates—in the field, on the internet, and in other forums—regarding its possible causes. In our judgment, the various explanations could be divided into three categories: active dispersal by pioneering individuals deliberately prospecting new breeding areas (articulated by Dick Veit in the Hudson-Delaware Region report, in press in *North American Birds*); passive 'overshooting' of normal migration destinations, as a consequence of unusually favorable weather for migration; and passive dispersal arising from the over-water displacement of long-distance migrants by a discrete weather event (Bagg 1955). Although these hypotheses are not necessarily mutually exclusive, each generates unique predictions that can be tested against the data collected this spring by observers throughout New York and the Northeast.

Underlying the active dispersal mechanism are demographic trends within populations of a particular species. If, for instance, populations of Prothonotary Warblers in southern New Jersey produced unusually many young in 2004, one might expect a surge in records around the periphery of these populations the following year, reflecting pioneers searching for unoccupied breeding sites. Because this model is intimately tied to the population dynamics of particular species, one would not generally predict that the populations of multiple, ecologically disparate species would experience precisely the same trends, in the same places, during the same season—although this might be possible under some circumstances. Other predictions of this model are that the extralimital occurrences produced in this fashion should be spread over a broad range of dates and concentrated at sites resembling breeding stations for the species in question.

The notion that general trends in the weather can produce striking and diverse effects on spring migration is almost an axiom. Whereas sustained periods of cold temperatures and northerly winds tend to retard spring arrivals, warm temperatures and southwesterly airflow are often accompanied by waves of migrants, including both locally breeding species and passage-migrants destined for breeding sites to the north. It seems natural to infer that, in addition to these two categories of migrants, species at or just beyond the northern limits of their geographic ranges in New York might also be especially numerous or conspicuous here during periods of exceptionally favorable weather. The most obvious prediction of this model is that the unusual records it seeks to explain ought to be accompanied by a simultaneous wave of more ordinary records of species expected in terms of date and location. Other predictions of this explanation are that extralimital records ought to be clustered around at most a few particular

dates, and that the localities of these records ought to be biased toward suitable breeding sites, in keeping with the analogy that this model makes between 'overshooting' species and locally breeding species that often arrive en masse under favorable weather circumstances.

Even more than the warm-weather, 'overshoot' model just discussed, the displacement hypothesis is a passive process from the birds' point of view. First articulated by Aaron Bagg (1955) and restated by many successors, this model proposes that migrants en route from the tropics to Florida and the Gulf Coast are sometimes deflected to the east of their intended tracks by discrete weather events. Displaced over the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean, some might continue flying north until they make landfalls along the outer coasts of Long Island, Cape Cod, and Nova Scotia. Predictions of this model include unusually early dates for the species involved, the concentration of records on particular dates and at coastal vagrant traps, and a paucity of correlated arrivals by more expected migrant species.

To test the various predictions outlined above, we collected detailed data concerning records of eight southeastern-breeding Neotropical migrant landbirds in coastal New York State during spring 2005; we reviewed the historical occurrence of six of these species in Region 10; and we reviewed relevant spring 2005 migration data from elsewhere in New York State and the Northeast.

Records from Spring 2005 in Coastal New York State

This section presents a detailed accounting of spring 2005 records from Region 10 for several species of southeastern-breeding Neotropical migrant landbirds. Yellow-throated Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak were selected for analysis because of their general similarities in terms of geographical distribution and migratory phenology, and because it was possible to enumerate virtually all records of them in Region 10 during spring 2005. Worm-eating Warbler and Hooded Warbler were also considered, although, as noted below, it proved difficult to collect all records of these species from the western portion of Region 10. Even so, a reasonably complete summary was compiled for Hooded Warbler, and a summary restricted to Nassau and Suffolk Counties was compiled for Worm-eating Warbler.

A great deal of attention was paid to determining the actual number of individuals of all species. At relatively small sites that were scrutinized daily by multiple experienced observers, we relied in part on the judgement of these observers, and also on the principle that long-staying individuals were unlikely to go completely undetected for many days at a time. At larger sites, where coverage was less thorough and the likelihood of attempted breeding greater (e.g., the areas around Flanders and Shelter Island/Northwest Woods), we were more conservative in attributing well-spaced reports to multiple birds. Ambiguous cases are noted in the tables below through the use of question marks, e.g., '2nd bird?'

Table 1. **Yellow-throated Warbler.** At least 16 individuals were observed during spring 2005 in coastal NYS, the dates ranging from 6 April to 30 May. Records from Central Park were believed to reflect at least four individuals, including birds identified as belonging to both the coastal plain (*dominica*) and interior (*albilora*) subspecies. The record from Pleasure Drive on 30 May involved a male singing persistently in plausible breeding habitat near Flanders (pers. obs).

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	6-9 Apr	SS, mob	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	7-11 Apr	DG	2 birds 8 Apr
Wolfe's Pond Park, <i>Richmond</i>	9 Apr	EJ, ZJ	
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	11 Apr	ES-C	
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	11-12 Apr	PD	
Blue Heron Pond Park, <i>Richmond</i>	13-14 Apr	CH, SWo	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	21 Apr-2 May	AGe	3rd bird
Sag Harbor, <i>Suffolk</i>	23 Apr	HM	
Alley Pond Park, <i>Queens</i>	24 Apr	KOL	
Upper E Side, <i>New York</i>	25 Apr	PJ	
Bald Hill, <i>Suffolk</i>	9 May	S&JB	
Mashomack Preserve, <i>Suffolk</i>	10 May	MSch	
Cedar Point Park, <i>Suffolk</i>	15 May	LBe, BN	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	15-19 May	BM, mob	4th bird
Pleasure Drive, <i>Suffolk</i>	30 May	PL, SM	

Table 2. **Prothonotary Warbler.** At least 26, and probably more, individuals were observed during spring 2005 in coastal NYS, the dates ranging from 30 March into June. The latest record involved a male singing persistently in plausible breeding habitat near Flanders (T. Burke and H. McGuinness, pers. comm.).

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	30 Mar-17 Apr	K&RB, mob	2 birds 3-6 Apr
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	6-12 Apr	EM, mob	
Robert Moses SP, <i>Suffolk</i>	6-13 Apr	KF, mob	
Jamaica Bay WR, <i>Queens</i>	8 Apr		
Cunningham Park, <i>Queens</i>	9 Apr	AO	SY m
Wertheim NWR, <i>Suffolk</i>	9 Apr	NYSBirds	2 birds
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	13-15 Apr	MZ	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	14 Apr-1 May	mob	
Clove Lakes P, <i>Richmond</i>	21-25 Apr	MSh, mob	m
East Lake Drive, <i>Suffolk</i>	22 Apr	VB	
Blue Heron Pond P, <i>Rich.</i>	24 Apr	MSh, SWo, IG	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	25 Apr	mob	
Alley Pond Park, <i>Queens</i>	25 Apr	fide JL	
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	26 Apr	mob	

Clove Lakes P, <i>Richmond</i>	30 Apr	HF	2 birds
Mount Loretto P, <i>Richmond</i>	1 May	JS	
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	1 May	NYSBirds	
Conf. House P, <i>Richmond</i>	4 May	SWo	
Big Reed Pond, <i>Suffolk</i>	9 May	JGI	
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	10 May	JQ, mob	
Clove Lakes P, <i>Richmond</i>	11 May	ZJ, SWo	
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	15 May	fide AxW	
Maple Swamp, <i>Suffolk</i>	29 May-5 Jun	TB, mob	

Table 3. **Worm-eating Warbler.** This summary is restricted to Nassau and Suffolk Counties only, as the number of records from the New York City parks is unmanageable. At Central Park alone, Deborah Allen concluded that ‘several’ were present on 1 May, 10+ on 10 May, and ‘many’ on 12 May. It seems likely that several dozen individuals passed through the park between 21 Apr and 14 May. Region-wide dates ranged from 21 April to 31 May, the two late dates again representing territorial birds near Flanders (pers. obs.) and at Sunken Meadow SP (K. Feustel).

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	1 May	mob	
Jones Beach WE, <i>Nassau</i>	3 May	PL, JQ	
Maple Swamp, <i>Suffolk</i>	6, 14, 30 May	AB, PL, SM, mob	m, terr
Massapequa Pres., <i>Nassau</i>	9 May	SBi	
Hunter’s Garden, <i>Suffolk</i>	9 May	S&JBe	
Bald Hill, <i>Suffolk</i>	13 May	AB	
Culloden Woods, <i>Suffolk</i>	? May	VB	2 birds
Mashomack Pres., <i>Suffolk</i>	13, 20 May	JGI, mob	
Sunken Meadow SP, <i>Suffolk</i>	14-31 May	KF	m, terr
Rocky Pt. Pres., <i>Suffolk</i>	20 May	JH	

Table 4. **Swainson’s Warbler.** Five individuals were reported during spring 2005 in coastal New York State, including the first record ever for Suffolk County. Dates ranged from 12 April to 27 May.

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	12-17 Apr	JL, mob!	rep to nysarc
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	6-8 May	JD, mob	
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	1 May	MB, AW, mob!	rep to nysarc
Cutchogue, <i>Suffolk</i>	12 May	PG!	rep to nysarc
Great Kills Park, <i>Richmond</i>	27 May	DE	rep to nysarc

Table 5. **Kentucky Warbler.** 12-13 individuals were recorded during spring 2005 in coastal NYS, the dates ranging from 22 Apr-18 May.

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	22-30 Apr	EJ, mob	
Alley Pond Park, <i>Queens</i>	24 Apr	SA, KOL	
Jones Beach West End, <i>Nassau</i>	26 Apr		
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	3, 5, 9 & 10 May	RE, RJ	2 birds?
Jamaica Bay WR, <i>Queens</i>	8 May	StS	m
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	8 May	DE	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	10 May	JG, mob	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	10-14 May	JD, TF, mob	2nd bird
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	10 May	KF	
Hunter's Garden, <i>Suffolk</i>	10 May	AB	
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	18 May	DE, CN	
Jamaica Bay WR, <i>Queens</i>	18 May	MB, SS, AW	

Table 6. **Hooded Warbler.** This list of 26+ birds from 7 Apr-30 May is likely a major underestimate; Central Park alone hosted multiple, but uncounted, birds of both sexes. At least 9 were found in Suffolk County, including several from Maple Swamp and Mashomack Preserve suggestive of attempted breeding.

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Riverside Park, <i>New York</i>	7 Apr	BV	
Blue Heron Pond P, <i>Richmond</i>	9 & 22 Apr	MSh, CC	2 birds?
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	18 Apr-27 May	mob	mult m & f
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	20 Apr	ME	
Blue Heron Pond P, <i>Richmond</i>	30 Apr-4 May	RJ, SSi	
Jamaica Bay WR, <i>Queens</i>	3 May		
Conf. House Park, <i>Richmond</i>	4 May	RJ, SSi	
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	4 May	AO	
Hunter's Garden, <i>Suffolk</i>	4 May	CSt	
Alley Pond Park, <i>Queens</i>	5 May	DK	
Maple Swamp, <i>Suffolk</i>	6 May	AB	
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	8-9 & 18-19 May	AOB et al.	2 birds?
Bald Hill, <i>Suffolk</i>	9 May	S&JBe	
Conf. House Park, <i>Richmond</i>	9-10 May	AOB, JLeP, SWo	
Graniteville Swamp, <i>Rich.</i>	10 May	fide SWo	
Massapequa Pres., <i>Nassau</i>	10 May	DB m	
Barcelona Neck, <i>Suffolk</i>	10 May	BB	
Maple Swamp, <i>Suffolk</i>	12 & 30 May	AB, PL, SM	2+ birds terr
Mashomack Pres., <i>Suffolk</i>	12-27 May	TD, mob	
High Rock Park, <i>Richmond</i>	14 May	HF	
Hither Woods, <i>Suffolk</i>	15-16 May	PS	
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	19-20 May	MSh, AOB	
Owl's Head Park, <i>Kings</i>	23 May	AOB	

Table 7. **Summer Tanager.** At least 26, and possibly 29 or more, were recorded in coastal NYS, the dates ranging from 7 Apr-31 May.

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Hempstead Lake SP, <i>Nassau</i>	7-10 Apr	JG, mob	m
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	20-22 Apr	EJ	f
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	23 Apr	RJ	
Napeague, <i>Suffolk</i>	26 Apr	RKo	
Central Park, <i>New York</i>	2-31 May	mob	3+ birds
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	3-4 May	KH	SY m
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	5 May	PD	
Huntington, <i>Suffolk</i>	6 May	DS	m
Conf. House Park, <i>Richmond</i>	7 May	MSh, SWo	pair
Hunter's Garden, <i>Suffolk</i>	10 May	RA	
Jones Beach SP, <i>Nassau</i>	10 May	DK	
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	11 May	IG	
Orient, <i>Suffolk</i>	11 May	RO	
Bald Hill, <i>Suffolk</i>	11 May	AB	m, f
Montauk, <i>Suffolk</i>	12 May	VB	
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	14 May	DK	SY m
Riverside Park, <i>New York</i>	17 May	DA, RSi	SY m
Northwest Woods, <i>Suffolk</i>	18 May	J&MT	m
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	19 May	AP	f
Northwest Woods, <i>Suffolk</i>	20 May	J&MT	f
Maple Swamp, <i>Suffolk</i>	21-31 May	ESz, mob	2+ birds
Prospect Park, <i>Kings</i>	22 May	AxW	
Forest Park, <i>Queens</i>	23-24, 29 May	DK et al.	2 birds?

Table 8. **Blue Grosbeak.** At least 13 birds were recorded in coastal NYS, including at least 2 on Staten Island, the dates ranging from 23 Apr through the end of May. Territorial birds were recorded in central-eastern LI.

Location	Date	Observers	Notes
Great Kills Park, <i>Richmond</i>	23-30 Apr & 9 May	JFI, SWo	
Jones Beach SP, <i>Nassau</i>	24 Apr		
Jones Beach West End, <i>Nassau</i>	26 Apr-3 May	BB, mob	3 birds
Napeague, <i>Suffolk</i>	2-4 May	LB	
Shoreham, <i>Suffolk</i>	3-4 May	PhL	
Robert Moses SP, <i>Suffolk</i>	12 May	PL, SM	2 f
Fort Tilden, <i>Queens</i>	13 May	SBI SY	m
Clove Lakes Park, <i>Richmond</i>	19 May	AOB, MSh	f
Rte. 51 Bikepath, <i>Suffolk</i>	21 May thru Jul	TB, GB, mob	2 m, terr

Historical Overview

In summarizing historical records of the various focal species, we reviewed the following sources: Region 10 spring reports in *Kingbird*, Levine (1998), Bull (1974 & 1976), Bull (1964), Cruickshank (1942), Griscom (1923), Eaton (1910 & 1914), Dutcher (1888), and Giraud (1844). The earliest of these document an avifauna very different from the one we know today, in which Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Swainson's warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak ranged from "accidental" to unknown. Griscom (1923), Cruickshank (1942), and Bull (1964, 1974, & 1976) provided exhaustive, critical reviews of the changing statuses of these species (and also of Kentucky Warbler, the local history of which differed in interesting ways from the others), and as a consequence, we restricted our review of *Kingbird* spring reports to the period 1975-present.

Integrating the data gleaned from these varied sources is complicated by a number of difficulties, the most important of which involve differences in geographic coverage among the various books cited, a reduction in the geographic scope of Region 10 (to exclude coastal Westchester County) in 1987 (*Kingbird* 37:9-10); and variation from year to year in the degree of precision with which records of the various species were enumerated in the *Kingbird* reports. As far as was possible, we corrected for these variations in assembling a summary of records for the six species named above. For instance, it was generally possible to identify and exclude records from New Jersey and Orange County cited in some of our sources. Conversely, we found it much easier to identify, and to include in our summaries, post-1987 records from coastal Westchester County (now part of Region 9, but formerly part of Region 10) than to identify and exclude pre-1987 records of this kind. In our attempt to be as accurate as possible in presenting the sometimes imprecise records, we relate the Regional Editors' original comments in Table 9 where appropriate. In the text overview, the numbers in parentheses represent our best interpretation of the actual numbers of birds implied by those comments.

Our historical review demonstrates two features above all others concerning the status of these scarce species in our region: (a) a net increase in records over the past century and a half; and (b) extreme variability from year to year in the numbers of records of the various species. The latter incursive character is easily seen in records of each of these species, but curiously, there has been little co-occurrence of the various species in most flight years.

As noted above, Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, and Swainson's warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak were at best extremely rare in coastal New York through the time of Griscom's (1923) review. Kentucky Warbler differed from the others in that it was formerly a locally common breeder along the lower Hudson River Valley through ca. 1923 (including the Riverdale area through at least 1878), but by the middle 20th Century it was rare even in the Hudson Valley, and its status in what is now Region 10 was not much different from those of Prothonotary Warbler or Summer Tanager.

Cruickshank's *Birds Around New York City* (1942) describes a marked change in the status of several species, e.g., an increase in the numbers of Prothonotary Warblers reported and annual occurrence (one or two per spring) of Summer Tanager since 1926. Bull, in his *Birds of the New York Area* (1964), noted a further

increase since 1942 in four of the focal species, regarding these now as “rare but regular” spring migrants: Yellow-throated Warbler, with two to four per spring being reported as of 1951; Prothonotary Warbler, showing a “slight increase” with one to two birds being reported each spring; Summer Tanager, with one to three birds each spring and cited as more frequently reported in recent years; and Blue Grosbeak, with two to four reports per year 1948-1956. Also during this period, the state’s first Swainson’s Warbler was recorded in 1950.

Bull’s *Birds of New York State* (1974 & 1976) documented additional spring incursions for several species and finally described an increase in occurrence for Kentucky Warbler—now considered rare but regular, with a few reported each spring. The period 1973-2004 featured new maxima for all six species (see Table 9), and by 1998, Blue Grosbeak and Summer Tanager, no longer described as rare, were now called “uncommon” spring migrants (Levine 1998). Significantly, this period also featured breeding by Prothonotary (Wheat 1979) and Kentucky (Levine 1998) warblers, Summer Tanager (Schiff and Wollin 1990; J. Clinton *in litt.*, record currently under review by NYSARC), and Blue Grosbeak (Siebenheller and Siebenheller 1982; Birol 1999) in Region 10, and by Yellow-throated Warbler in nearby Region 9 (Levine 1998; almost annual reports in *Kingbird* thereafter). Although any of these species is still a great find by any standard, it would now be considered surprising if any of them, with the notable exception of Swainson’s Warbler, went unreported during a spring season

As noted above, the generally upward trends in the occurrence of these species has not been steady and regular. Instead, conspicuous flight years can be discerned for most species, although generally not in the same calendar years for multiple species. For instance, the largest flight of Prothonotary Warblers to New York prior to 2005 was observed in the spring of 1973 when 18 were recorded, and other big years included 2003 (15), 1985 (10), 1984 (10), 1983 (12), 1979 (11), 1970 (9), 1954 (7), and 1944 (6). With the exception of 1984, major flights of Yellow-throated Warblers prior to 2005 were recorded in a different set of years: 2004 (9), 1984 (10), 1977 (10), 1976 (7), 1959 (7), and 1956 (8). Swainson’s Warbler occupies a unique category, given the relatively low number of records and associated low annual maximum (two) prior to 2005. This species also appears to show a greater tendency to occur during the flight years of other species: two in 1977, two in 1973, and singles in 2004, 1981, and 1979 were all recorded in years in which other of these southern species exhibited major flights. However the majority of Swainson’s Warblers were recorded in otherwise non-notable years, e.g., singles in 2000, 1996, 1990, 1987, 1982, 1975, 1963, and 1950.

Numbers of Kentucky Warblers, Summer Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks have also varied greatly from year to year. Notable totals of Kentucky Warblers prior to 2005 were tallied in 1997 (12), 1981 (10), 1980 (15+), 1976 (9-11) and 1947 (6). Major spring flights of Summer Tanagers prior to 2005 were recorded in 2004 (14), 2001 (‘several dozen’ reports, number of individuals unclear), 1992 (12+), 1986 (11), 1984 (10), 1983 (30+), 1980 (10), 1979 (24), 1976 (14), 1959 (5), and 1955 (5). The largest pre-2005 flights of Blue Grosbeak occurred in 2003 (9+), 1999 (14+), 1995 (9), 1993 (15+), 1984 (12+), 1983 (11+), 1979 (8+), and 1961 (7). Although some of the totals from earlier years are not particularly large by today’s standards, they nevertheless stood in equally marked contrast to non-flight years during those periods. Note again the absence of any clear pattern of

synchrony among the flights of the various species. Although 2004 and 1984 stand out as generally good years for multiple species, neither of these years featured really exceptional totals for multiple species, as did 2005.

This overview of the historical occurrence of these six species underscores the unique character of spring 2005. Most striking is the unprecedented co-occurrence of major flights by all six of the focal species, along with large numbers of Hooded and Worm-eating warblers. New maxima were recorded for three of the six focal species, and near-maxima for the other three. In terms of number of species, volume of records, range of dates, and breadth of localities, the flights of spring 2005 constituted a truly unique event, witnessed and recorded by hundreds of New York area birders.

Table 9. Historical summary (1975-2005) of records of Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Swainson's and Kentucky warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks from New York City and Long Island (*Kingbird* Region 10).

Year	YTWA	PROW	SWWA	KEWA	SUTA	BLGR
1975		3-4	1	4	3	3
1976	7	6		9-11	14	6
1977	10	5	2	8	3	3
1978	2-3	4		3	6	4
1979	3	perhaps 11	1	8	24	8+
1980	3	3		15+	10	2
1981	5	5	1	about 10	6	3
1982	2	at least 7	1	3	at least 7	5
1983	6	about 12		sev; 3 e	at least 30	at least 11
1984	8-10	perhaps 10		6-7	approx 10	12+
1985	2-3	about 10		5	about 7	1
1986	1			6	11	
1987	3	5	1	3	6	3
1988			No Data			
1989	2	several		a few	a number	2
1990	1	4	1	1	unc/wdsp	1
1991					sev west	5
1992	1	6		sev; 1 e	at least 12	1
1993	5	6		4	9	at least 15
1994	7	6		at least 2	9	3
1995	4	8		recs e, w	4	at least 9
1996	4	6	1	8+	1	3
1997	4	6		up to 12	1	6
1998	1	at least 3			1	at least 5
1999	1	2		several	scattered	14+
2000	5	5	1	5	wdsp/incr	5
2001	4	4		4	sev dozen	2
2002	3	8		5	3	6
2003	at least 5	15		6	8	9
2004	9	6	1	at least 8	14	at least 5
2005	16	26+	5	12-13	26+	13

Explanation of abbreviations adapted from original sources: e = east of NYC parks; incr = increasing; recs = records; unc = uncommon; us = usual; w = west, e.g., NYC parks; wdsp = widespread.

Additional Data from Spring 2005

This section summarizes three additional kinds of data from spring 2005: records of the focal, southeastern-breeding species from elsewhere in New York State; a cluster of extremely early arrivals ca. 29 March, involving various species of Neotropical migrant landbirds, at coastal sites from New Jersey to Rhode Island; and the simultaneous arrival of many species of medium- and long-distance migrants at sites throughout New York State 6-8 April.

Yellow-throated Warblers were recorded at Chautauqua on 15 May (Region 1) and at Chenango Valley SP (two) on 20 April (Region 4). Away from known breeding stations in western New York, Prothonotary Warblers were recorded at Marshlands Conservancy on 23 April and 3 May (Region 9). Kentucky Warblers were found at Tift Nature Preserve on 11 May, Allegany SP on 15 May, and Wilson-Tuscarora SP on 21 May (Region 1); at Vestal on 13 May (Region 4); and at Blue Mountain



Figure 1.
Yellow-throated Warbler,
Central Park, Manhattan. 10 April 2005.
© Lloyd Spitalnik.

Reservoir on 14 May (Region 9). A Blue Grosbeak was considered very rare at Athens on 8 May (Region 8). Although widespread as a breeder in New York State, records of Worm-eating Warblers were bold-faced in Regions 1 and 5 this spring.

On 29 March and immediately thereafter, the following exceptional arrivals were recorded in coastal areas from New Jersey to southern New England: Eastern Kingbird on Aquidneck Island, RI on 1 April; Red-eyed Vireo at Higbee Beach, NJ on 29 March; Northern Rough-winged and Cliff swallows at Bergen County, NJ on 29 March; Barn Swallow at Pt. Judith, RI on 29 March; Northern Parula at Easthampton on 30 March; Prothonotary Warblers at Block Island, RI on 29 March, Forest Park on 30 March, and Aquidneck Island, RI on 31 March; and Indigo Buntings on Block Island, RI and elsewhere on 29 March.

Many species of medium- and long-distance migrants, including many examples of the southern-breeding species detailed above, arrived at sites throughout New York State during the period 6-8 April. Unlike the pulse at the end of March, the large and diverse flight of 6-8 April was not confined to the coast. The following is a summary of records documenting this heavy, diverse, and widespread wave (see Regional Reports elsewhere in this issue for more details).

Region 10: Common Nighthawk on Staten Island on 8 April, Whip-poor-will at Central Park on 6 April, Blue-headed Vireo at Central Park on 7 April, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Willowbrook Park and Central Park on 7 April, Brown Thrasher at Robert Moses SP on 6 April, Northern Parula at Central Park on 7 April, Myrtle Warbler at Central Park (where they do not winter) on 6 April, a

major push of Pine Warblers and Chipping Sparrows throughout southeastern New York 6-7 April, and Northern Waterthrush at Clove Lakes Park on 6 April.

Region 9: Snowy Egret arrival at Edith Read Wildlife Sanctuary on 6 April, Spotted Sandpiper at Bashakill on 7 Apr, Louisiana Waterthrush arrival on 6 April, two Vesper Sparrows at Sullivan Co. Landfill on 6 April,

Region 8: two Soras at Saratoga SP on 7 April, Pine Warbler arrival at Florida on 6 April, Chipping Sparrow arrival at Taghkanic on 6 April, Vesper Sparrow arrival at Fort Edward on 8 April, and Savannah Sparrow arrival at Fort Edward on 8 April.

Region 7: Regionally-early arrival of many waterfowl noted 6-7 April, Hermit Thrush at Long Lake on 7 April, Yellow Palm Warbler record-early at Elizabethtown on 8 Apr, Vesper Sparrow arrival 6 April, and Swamp Sparrow arrival at two sites 7 April.

Region 6: Yellow Palm Warbler arrival (11 singing males) at Massawepie Mire on 9 April.

Region 4: Greater Yellowlegs at Chenango on 8 April, Ruby-crowned Kinglet arrival at Lisle on 9 April, Eastern Towhee arrival at Nuthatch Hollow on 6 April, Chipping Sparrow arrival at Binghamton on 6 April, Field Sparrow arrival at Vestal on 6 April, Savannah Sparrow arrival at Edwards Hill Rd. on 9 April, and Swamp Sparrow arrival at Boland Pond on 6 April.

Region 1: Swamp Sparrow arrival on 7 April.

Discussion

As described in the Introduction, the three most popular explanations for this season's incursion were active dispersal by pioneering individuals from expanding populations; passive 'overshooting' of normal migration destinations in conjunction with favorable weather; and over-water displacement of long-distance migrants by a discrete weather event. As can be seen in the summary tables above, the incursion unfolded in such numbers and over such a broad range of dates that active dispersal was almost certainly a major factor for at least some of the species involved. This is the most reasonable interpretation for lists of records extending through late May and beyond, including territorial individuals in plausible breeding habitat. On the other hand, the very variety of species involved raises serious obstacles to the notion that all of them, simultaneously, could have been undergoing similar demographic expansions.

The earliest Prothonotary Warblers in 2005 arrived in the Northeast around 29 March, at exclusively coastal sites, together with a peculiar suite of seasonally atypical Neotropical migrant species. Many of these records were from three to five weeks early, and some of them represent really exceptional dates. It is difficult to imagine the mechanisms of purely active dispersal that could impel representatives of this ecologically and geographically disparate set of species on such a striking course of simultaneous seasonal vagrancy. Nor is it plausible to attribute these records to an exceptionally early onset of favorable conditions for northbound migration. Under the latter scenario, one would expect the earliest arrivals to appear at likely breeding sites, rather than at coastal vagrant traps, and one would also predict the correlated early arrival of various medium-distance

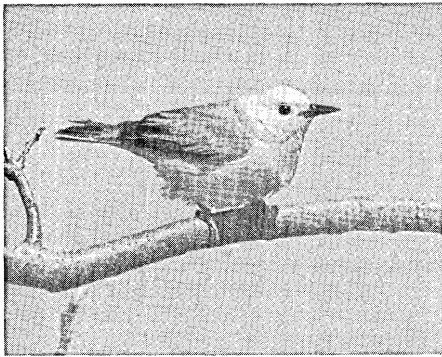


Figure 2.
Prothonotary Warbler, Central Park,
Manhattan. 18 April 2005.
© Lloyd Spitalnik.

migrants such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Brown Thrasher, and Yellow Palm Warbler. These species are actually expected to arrive locally in early April under favorable circumstances, but they did not appear this year until well after the end-March pulse. Instead, the one thing shared by this year's early-arriving Neotropical migrant species, but not by the medium-distance migrants that arrived later, is long-distance, over-water migration in late March, from tropical wintering areas to the southeastern United States. Thus, we suggest that the most parsimonious explanation for the exceptional series

of late March records is Bagg's (1955) displacement hypothesis: birds en route from the tropics to Florida and the Gulf Coast are sometimes deflected to the east by storms and continue flying north to landfalls in our region.

Much more consistent with the favorable weather/overshoot hypothesis was the second pulse of Prothonotary Warblers, and the initial pushes of Yellow-throated and Hooded warblers and Summer Tanagers, that occurred around 6-8 April. In contrast to the late March events, these records were accompanied by a staggering list of arrivals by medium- and long-distance migrants, some very early in their own right. Furthermore, this group of arrivals was observed in many kinds of breeding habitats at sites over a very large geographic area (most of New York State)—patterns strongly indicative of generally favorable conditions for migration around these dates.

In conclusion, we suggest that all three of the models discussed here can be supported by observations collected during spring 2005. Furthermore, we note that these models are not mutually exclusive, and that their combined influence was likely responsible for the unique character of this spring's events. It seems obvious that the processes of active and passive dispersal might interact, and we draw attention to the need for refined and explicit hypotheses capable of resolving these questions more clearly. Does active dispersal simply place more individual birds along trajectories where various weather-related processes might influence their destinations? Or do actively dispersing individuals deliberately take advantage of even unusual weather events to achieve novel destinations? Even if these questions must remain unanswered at present, we conclude that careful analysis of the dates, species composition, and geographic scope of migration events can provide clues regarding the relative importance of the various underlying processes, and that even the most remarkable incursions, such as the ones we witnessed this year, ought to be viewed not as mere accidents, but as potential windows into the biology of the species involved.

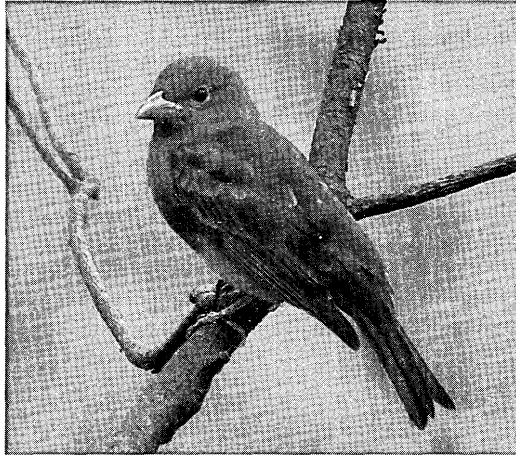


Figure 3.
Summer Tanager, Central Park,
Manhattan. April 2004.
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PEREGRINE FALCONS NESTING ON LONG ISLAND

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Abstract—In 2004 Peregrine Falcons nested and fledged two young from an Osprey platform in salt marsh habitat at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, Nassau County, Long Island, New York. The female of this pair was observed to be outfitted with a GPS receiver/transmitter and leg bands. Photographic analysis of the band number led to the identity and provenance of this individual (a reintroduction effort in Virginia), and these inquiries yielded additional insights regarding the origins of Peregrine Falcons appearing on Long Island, e.g., a second bird with attached transmitter derived from a reintroduction program in Pennsylvania. These records are noteworthy because the south shore of Long Island is an outwash plain and historically lacked topographic features appropriate for nesting Peregrines. The present article presents information concerning the Oceanside nest and three additional breeding sites on the Long Island coastal plain, all on tall, man-made structures.

The extirpation or severe population crises suffered by eastern North American raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Cooper's Hawks, and Red-shouldered Hawks as a consequence of pesticides, and the subsequent reintroduction and/or resurgence of these species constitute a dramatic and generally positive story of wildlife conservation that has been amply documented elsewhere (e.g., Canadian Peregrine Foundation 2005a). In the New York City area, the Peregrine reintroduction program has been unusually successful. Tall buildings and high bridges emulate the cliff substrates that Peregrine Falcons have used for millennium to nest and raise young. There are now more than a dozen active nest sites within the city (New York City Department of Environmental Protection 2005). Depending on one's point of view, this introduction program might just have become a tad too successful. Resourceful, skilled biologists have gone beyond the original vision and Peregrine Falcons now routinely breed in areas where they were absent historically. At the same time, the Peregrines have taken advantage of the situation by adapting to man-made structures that mirror traditional nesting sites—and even, as reported here, by moving into new and uncharacteristic settings (mid to low platforms in marshes).

The impetus for this story began with the discovery of a Peregrine nest atop an Osprey platform on a bay island off Oceanside, Nassau County, Long Island,

New York. The South Shore of Long Island is an outwash plain from the terminal moraine of the last ice age and hardly a place one would equate with lofty cliffs and soaring vistas. Average height above sea level is at best two feet at the bottom of the 20-foot pole holding the platform. The nest appeared to us, when it was found, to be an unprecedented breeding context for this species. We could not find reference to anything remotely like this.

Furthermore, the female of this pair was no ordinary bird. It had been fitted with a “backpack and antenna” (Fig. 1). In addition to the normal aluminum wildlife band on its right leg, the bird was color-banded on the left leg (black over red, showing the numerals 8 and 5, respectively; see Fig. 2). It seemed likely that this bird’s provenance differed from that of the many Peregrines that pass through Long Island each fall—had it strayed from a research project, or was it an escaped falconer’s pet?

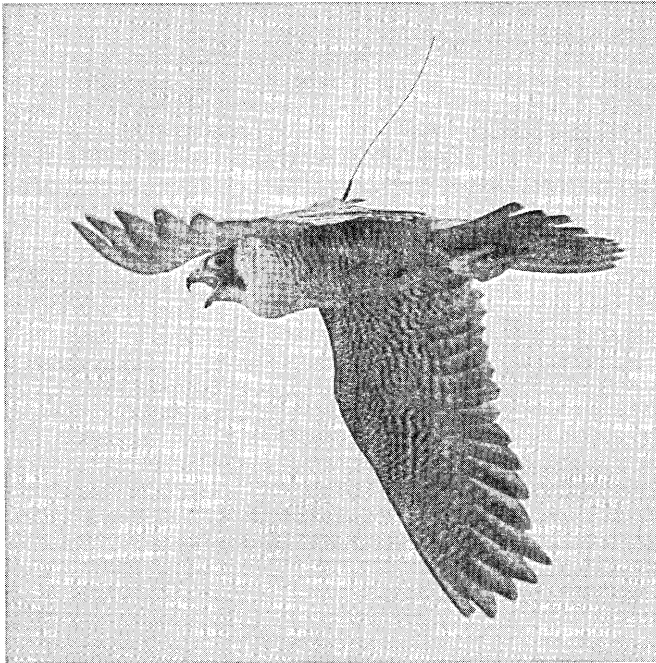


Figure 1.
Zoe, a female Peregrine Falcon
nesting near
Oceanside, Nassau Co., NY
© Michael Farina

Figure 2.
Close-up of
Zoe's legs,
showing
color bands.
© Michael Farina



With the band designations and the number, Mike started an internet search for a lost Peregrine Falcon. It soon became obvious that this bird was part of a satellite tracking study. But, from where and when? Peregrine Falcons have been observed carrying “backpacks” for a number of years on Long Island. No one here, as far as we know, had seriously addressed their origins until now. Nor did we know when we started the quest if more than one bird was involved.

The Peregrine Fund, in Boise, Idaho, widely recognized as leaders in the North American peregrine recovery efforts, has studied hundreds of peregrines via satellite over the years in central and western North America. The techniques used and their benign effects on the birds have been well established (Canadian Peregrine Foundation 2005b). These studies were in conjunction with the hacking of falcons throughout the West, in an effort to assess the results of the project and where the fledglings went.

In the East, The Canadian Peregrine Foundation (2005a, 2005b), responsible for reintroducing falcons into Canada, established “Project Track-’em” in 2001 to answer questions about their own efforts, to wit: “In Ontario, many of the territorial adults no longer migrate in the winter. Yet, each fall, the young of the year disappear from their home ranges, presumably to head south. Unfortunately, few of these young peregrines are ever reported again.” Thus, they became involved in their own ongoing satellite-tracking program.

These techniques and the increasing sophistication of new equipment had positive effects in other venues. The State of Virginia established “FalconTrak 2001” to monitor hacked birds (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries 2005). The Pennsylvania Game Commission (2005) joined shortly thereafter using solar-powered satellite transmitters obtained through The Canadian Peregrine Foundation. Long Island is literally surrounded to the north, west, and south by released birds being tracked by satellite.

Peregrines on Long Island

Peregrine Falcons can be found year-round on Long Island. As many as 150-200 migrants have been counted per season during the period September-November (Fire Island Raptor Enumerators 2005), and many birds seen in winter and summer are presumably wanderers from active breeding sites in and around New York City. The last Christmas Bird Count tallied a dozen birds on LI. Were they city birds wintering at the beach, fledglings from nearby reintroduction efforts, or winter residents from far northern populations? Determining the sub-specific identity of local Peregrines is often not feasible. The North American reintroduced stock was bred from a mixture of various North American and some European races (Canadian Peregrine Foundation 2005a), and their appearance often deviates from that of the familiar wild migrants of the race *tundrius*.

Our search of tracking records indicates that birds from Virginia and Pennsylvania spent considerable time along the east coast, not only from New Jersey south, but also on Long Island. The reasons for the Pennsylvania birds going to the coast are difficult to discern. A bird hacked from Harrisburg in 2002 wintered in the Delmarva Peninsula, traveled north to the New Jersey Shore, Long Island, New York City, Newburg, back to New Jersey, Delaware, New York, and finally Long Island again. In June 2004, when transmission ceased to show movement, a search was made and the transmitter, its bindings frayed, was found lodged on a piling in the marsh off the Wantagh Parkway. The Peregrine was gone and is presumably alive and well.

The Virginia birds have a different story. Breeding was established on platforms (towers) along the coast of Virginia. Newly hatched chicks from "wild" nesting pairs on coastal platforms were subsequently removed to a hacking site to the west in Shenandoah National Park. In the case of our local platform-breeding bird (with attached, but inoperable Virginia transmitter), the Virginia wildlife personnel speculate that they waited too long before removing the chick(s), which conceivably became imprinted on this marsh environment rather than the cliff where it was ultimately hacked. Many of their birds migrate to the east coastline. Thus, we have found that what we thought was a unique breeding situation had been firmly in place for a number of years elsewhere. Birds from this program have adapted to the new breeding environment (open marshes) in Virginia and now on Long Island.

Active Nests on Long Island

The first of these has been active for some years. The last three were all newly found this year (2004), some as a direct result of the ATLAS2000 program in New York.

1. Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow.

This huge 26-story building is the largest structure in Nassau County, and the tallest on the island. On 6 June 1997, Long Island *Newsday* reported in an



Figure 3. Peregrine Falcon nest
on the water tower at Jones Beach
State Park, Nassau Co., NY.

almost full-page story, complete with photos and sketches, the first successful nesting for Nassau Co. The nest was located on a 17th floor ledge of the building. An attempt in the prior year (1996) produced eggs, but they failed to hatch.

2. Jones Beach Water Tower, at 200 feet on the barrier beach.

For a number of years, 1-2 peregrines have roosted on the tower in winter and spring raising speculation that they would soon nest. As spring progressed, they usually disappeared. This year a workman complained of dive-bombing birds when he went to do maintenance at the top of the tower. A nest, not visible from the ground, was discovered in the northeast corner containing two eggs (Fig. 3). The eggs failed to hatch and the nest was abandoned.

3. Osprey Platform on Parsonage Island, in Middle Bay, South of Oceanside.

A pair of peregrines has visited this site for several prior years and were promptly driven off by Ospreys who bred on the platform for the past decade. This year the Ospreys did not show and the peregrines established residency (Figs. 4, 5). One member of this pair, coming to the platform for the last four years, has an attached radio antenna on its back. This is the female Peregrine whose band number stimulated our inquiries, and the Marine Nature Study Area (2005) provides considerable information regarding this bird.

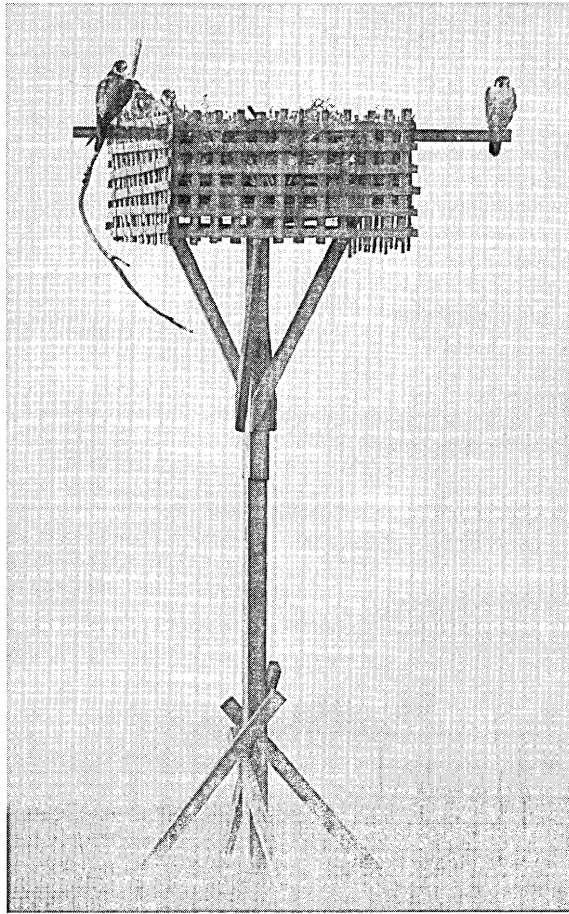


Figure 4.
Peregrine Falcon nest on
an Osprey platform near
Oceanside, Nassau Co., NY.
© Michael Farina

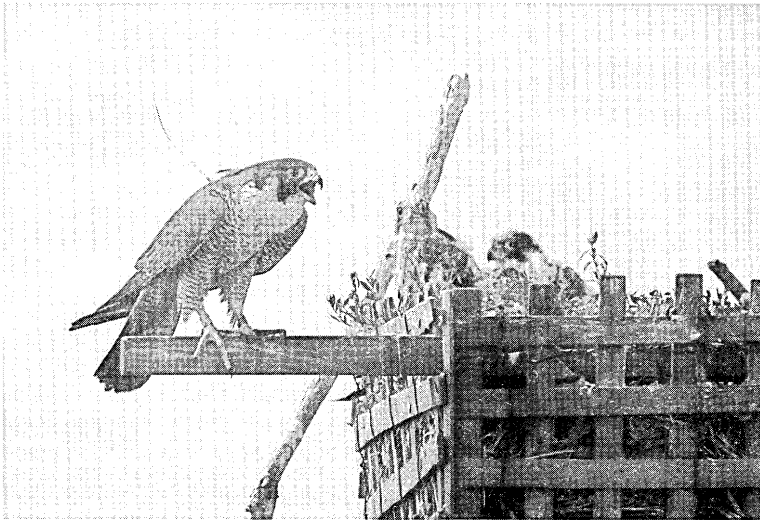


Figure 5.
Peregrine Falcon nest on an Osprey platform near
Oceanside, Nassau Co., NY.
© Michael Farina

Named Zoe, she hatched on Metompkin Island, Eastern Shore of Virginia in 2001. She was transferred to the Hawksbill Mountain hack site in Shenandoah National Park in June, and released. Zoe was one of the first Virginia falcon chicks fitted with a FalconTrak PTT (Platform Transmitter Terminal) in the project's inaugural year. She was tracked for about 6 months from Hawksbill Mountain along the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina to New York until her transmitter failed. Her last satellite-reported location, in late December 2001, was on Long Island in the general area of her current nest. Mike first saw a falcon fitted with a transmitter on November 16, 2001. She has spent each subsequent fall and winter in the area, including appearances on the Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count (although the Pennsylvania bird noted above may possibly have been the bird seen in some of these instances).

The smaller male of the pair was not banded or otherwise marked. Two fledglings were successfully produced and banded. After fledging, it was not unusual to see four birds on the platform in the early morning and late afternoon.

4. Great South Bay/Fire Island Inlet bridges

As was the case with the Jones Beach water tower, for years, the bridges and causeways across Great South Bay and Fire Island Inlet, from Bay Shore to Robert Moses State Park, have been a locus of year-round Peregrine activity. On 12 June 2004, while collecting Atlas data on Captree Island, Shai Mitra and Pat Lindsay observed two Peregrines hunting over

the marshes, returning with prey, and flying to a concealed site under the drawbridge between Captree Island and Captree State Park. They watched the birds circling under the bridge several times, sometimes calling and displaying, and frequently returning to the same concealed site.

Postscript. In addition to continuing Peregrine activity during 2005 at the Long Island sites described above, Mary Normandia has brought an additional breeding site to our attention. In recent years, Peregrine Falcons have frequented unused smokestacks at the LIPA power generating plant at Glenwood Landing, on the east side of Hempstead Harbor, on the north shore of Nassau County. Nesting occurred in 2004 and 2005. Both adults in 2005 showed metal bands on their right legs and red over black color bands on their left legs.

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**FIRST NESTING OF COOPER'S HAWK
(*Accipiter cooperii*)
IN NEW YORK CITY SINCE ca. 1955**

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Interest in urban nesting raptors in New York City has increased in the last 20 years with the successful re-introduction of the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and the project to restore the Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) to Central Park (DeCandido and Allen 2002). The publication of articles and books about urban raptors has also made people aware of these birds in cities (Herbert and Herbert 1964, Frank 1994, Bird et al. 1996, Uscher 2002). Similarly, there is growing interest in the New York City environment, especially historical and ongoing research in the area (see Bicknell 1878, Pouyat and McDonnell 1991, DeCandido and Allen, in press).

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a mid-sized diurnal raptor that preys primarily upon birds and occasionally on small mammals. In eastern North America, this species declined significantly in the 1940s through the 1960s due to a combination of shooting, pole-trapping, and pesticide contamination (Meng 1951, Henny and Wright 1972). As recently as the 1980s in the eastern United States, Cooper's Hawks were classified as being extirpated, endangered, threatened, or a species of special concern in 16 states (Tate 1986, Mosher 1989), and a rare breeder in Massachusetts in the early 1990s (Veit and Petersen 1993). Data from fall hawk migration counts in the northeastern United States suggest that this raptor is on the increase (Bednarz et al. 1990, Walter 1994, 1995). In New York State in the 1990s, Cooper's Hawks were found breeding in all parts of New York State except New York City, Long Island, and Rockland and Niagara Counties (Marsi and Kirch 1998). By summer 2002, the Cooper's Hawk was confirmed as a breeding species in at least three breeding bird census blocks on Suffolk County, Long Island (K. E. Feustel 2002, pers. comm.). In this paper, we present the first evidence of nesting Cooper's Hawks in New York City since ca. 1955.

Nesting records from New York City, 1999-2003

Since 1999, two pairs of nesting Cooper's Hawks have been found in New York City: Staten Island (Richmond County) in 1999 (Section of Natural History 2000), and in Bronx County in 2001-2003. The Cooper's Hawk nest on Staten

Island was discovered in a sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) tree approximately 11 m high in High Rock Park. The female was in adult plumage, while the male was in first-year (brown back) plumage. One young bird is believed to have fledged in July, and no Cooper's Hawks were seen in the nest area after 11 August 1999 (R. Matarazzo pers. comm.).

In the Bronx in 2001, the Cooper's Hawk nest was built approximately 11 m high in a non-native Tanyosho or Umbrella Pine (DBH = 36.5 cm), a cultivar of the Japanese Red Pine (*Pinus densiflora*). The female was in first-year (brown back) plumage and the male was in sub-adult plumage. The nest was located in a group of six conifers approximately 60 m from contiguous forest in Bronx Park. The habitat immediately surrounding the nest site was manicured lawn with well-spaced trees, interspersed with pedestrian pathways. Small, down-covered chicks were first seen on 5 June (A. Block pers. comm.), suggesting that the eggs were laid approximately 20-25 April 2001. (See nesting cycle details in Rosenfield and Bielefeldt 1993.) Fledging occurred on 6 July (see Fig. 1). The brood consisted of two females and a male. After the nesting cycle was completed, both adults remained on territory and did not migrate during the fall and mild winter of 2001-02.

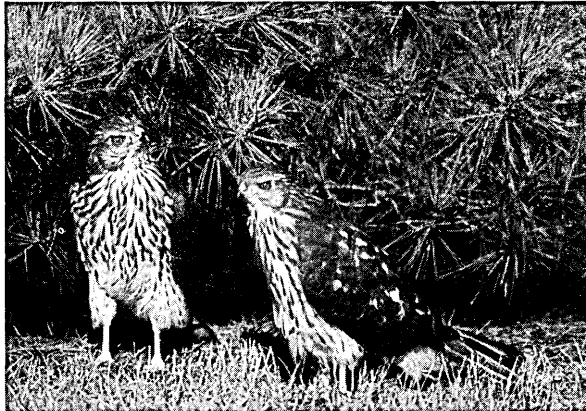


Figure 1.
Juvenile Cooper's Hawks 12 July 2001,
six days after fledging.
Bronx Park, Bronx Co., NY
© Deborah Allen.

In 2002 and 2003, Cooper's Hawks nested in a non-native Korean Pine (*Pinus koraiensis*), about 9.5 m high and 3.5 m below the canopy in Bronx Park. The nest tree (DBH = 42.5 cm) is part of a loose collection of native and non-native conifers approximately 125 m from any tract of contiguous forest. Spacing between the nest tree and other nearby pines ranged from 5 to 15 m. Compared to 2001, the nest site used in 2002 and 2003 was located in an area that received much less foot traffic by the public, and no tram passed nearby. In both 2002 (Fig. 2) and 2003, successful fledging was approximately one week earlier than

2001, and more young fledged (five in 2002; four in 2003) compared to 2001. We believe that the parent hawks were the same birds in all years.

In 2004 and 2005, no nesting or resident Cooper's Hawks could be found in Bronx Park. Several factors may have contributed to abandonment of the nest including (a) extensive construction of buildings approximately 50 meters from the nest site in 2003; (b) pruning the canopy of the nest tree in autumn 2003.



Figure 2.
Cooper's Hawk "brancher"
28 June 2002.
Bronx Park, Bronx Co., NY
© Deborah Allen.

Discussion

E. P. Bicknell provided the first record of nesting Cooper's Hawks in New York City (Riverdale, Bronx County) in 1883 (cited in Griscom 1926). In the 20th Century, Griscom (1923) wrote that the Cooper's Hawk was "no longer nesting [in the New York City region] except possibly in northern Westchester County." Kuerzi (1926), recording the observations of the members of Bronx County Bird Club, listed this species only as a fairly common fall migrant in the New York City area. Cruickshank (1942) documented two nests on Staten Island in the late 1930s and early 1940s. He considered this species a fairly common breeder in rural areas just outside of New York City. Siebenheller (1981) wrote that nesting Cooper's Hawks were first recorded on Staten Island in 1933, and found for at least eight years thereafter in the same locality; another nest was found the following year (1942) in a different location on Staten Island. P.A. Buckley (2001 pers. comm.) found several nests from 1951-55 in the Croton Aqueduct woods of Van Cortlandt Park in Bronx County. By the early 1960s, Bull (1964) wrote that the

Cooper's Hawk was "a fairly common breeder" in the metropolitan region, but provided no specific information on the location of nests in the New York City area.

In other areas of the United States, Cooper's Hawks have been recorded as a nesting species in urban areas (see Stahlecker and Beach 1979, Boal and Mannan 1998, Rosenfield and Gissibl 2000). According to researchers familiar with nesting Cooper's Hawks in the northeast, the use of an old crow or squirrel nest as a foundation is not uncommon, and brown plumage (first-year) females typically use an existing structure of some kind. First-year females are far less secretive than adult females, and more likely to nest in proximity to people in the northeastern United States (L.J. Fischer, Jr. 2002, pers. comm.). Information in published studies indicates that adult female Cooper's Hawks fledge more young several days earlier than first-year females (Boal 2001). In some populations of urban nesting Cooper's Hawks, pairs will nest closer together than their forest counterparts, and produce more offspring as well (Rosenfield and Gissibl 2000). In the New York City region, the population of this raptor seems to be on the increase: a sub-adult male Cooper's Hawk was a parent at the Staten Island nest in 1999; a sub-adult female was a parent at the Bronx nest in 2001; and in 1993, both parents at a Westchester County nest were in sub-adult plumage (Rothstein 1993).

Acknowledgments

We thank the following people for their assistance and advice: Andrew Block for alerting us to the existence of the Cooper's Hawk nest in 2001; Lawrence B. Fischer Jr. of the Northeast Hawk Watch for sharing his observations and experiences with nesting Cooper's Hawks gathered during the last 22 years; Ray Matarazzo of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences for information about nesting Cooper's Hawks in Richmond Co.; Laurie Goodrich, Senior Naturalist of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. For logistical support, we thank Kim Tripp and Todd Forrest of the New York Botanical Garden. Finally, we received many helpful suggestions from Dr. Heinz Meng of the State University of New York at New Paltz. Dr. Meng published his dissertation research in 1951 on the Cooper's Hawks of central New York State.

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REVISION OF OSPREY NESTLING DATES IN NEW YORK STATE

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Abstract—During the summer of 2003, a pair of Ospreys nested near the Lewiston Road Overlook at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. The last unfledged juvenile was first observed taking a short flight on August 30, and is assumed to have fledged between August 27 and August 30. During the spring of 1999, an adult Osprey at Iroquois NWR exhibited nestling feeding behavior on May 22, 1999, indicating the presence of an early hatched nestling on that date. Thus, it is proposed that the date range for unfledged juvenile Ospreys in New York State be expanded to May 22 to August 27 from the previously published period of June 18 to July 25 (Andrle and Carroll 1988).

Observations 1997-2001

From 1992 to 1994 an Osprey hacking project was conducted at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area of the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge-Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area wetlands complex. The project involved the release of 31 young Osprey taken from nests on Long Island, geographically imprinted at Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area in Genesee County, and then released (Burch 1994).

On August 15, 1997, two adult Ospreys were observed at an Osprey nest at Ring-neck Marsh in Iroquois NWR, Genesee County. During the next breeding season (1998) Ospreys nested successfully, producing one juvenile that was first observed on July 24. Because this young Osprey was still very small at that date (it could only be observed briefly when fed by an adult), it was obvious that it would fledge well after July 25, the latest widely available published date for unfledged juveniles in New York State (Andrle and Carroll 1988). Thus, this nest was monitored for a total of 239 minutes between July 24 and August 20.

By August 6, 1998 the nestling was flapping its wings as many as 24 consecutive times while hopping on the nest. During the morning of August 9 it was fed by the adult female, which carefully tore off small pieces of carp (about one-quarter the size of the adult's bill). At 11:17 am, it exercised its wings by taking ten flaps and hovering about two feet above the nest, but it made no attempt to take a circular test flight. By the morning of August 12, the now fledged Osprey was observed in a tree about 30 yards from the nest. It was still being fed by the adult Ospreys. In conclusion, this bird probably fledged between August 9 and 12.

The next year, on April 6, 1999, the two adult Ospreys were seen near the nest at Ring-neck Marsh. On April 28 and May 9 an adult Osprey was sitting low in the nest. During the afternoon of May 22, the adult was noticeably higher on the nest than on the previous visits, and nestling feeding behavior was observed from 2:02-2:06 pm. This distinctive behavior included head shakes, characteristic of an

Osprey tearing off bits of a fish, and movements indicative of feeding young. This feeding behavior was documented several weeks earlier than June 18, the earliest published date for a hatched nestling in New York State (Andrle and Carroll 1988). It was noticed that the Osprey was also sitting higher on the nest May 28 and June 10. On June 23 two nestlings were observed directly, and on July 7 three young Ospreys were banded. By July 19 all three Ospreys were observed hovering about five to ten feet above the nest; however none of the birds left the nest during the study period. When the nest was checked on July 29, it was empty, and the two adult Ospreys and two of the fledglings were in nearby trees at Ring-neck Marsh. It was concluded that the young Ospreys fledged shortly after July 19, and hatched on or before May 22. Since the nestling period for Ospreys is 51 to 59 days (Andrle and Carroll 1988), a hatching date of May 22 is consistent with a fledging date of July 19. An incubation period of 32-33 days (Andrle and Carroll 1988) suggests that eggs were probably laid about April 19-20, which is earlier than the earliest egg date record for New York, April 27 (Andrle and Carroll 1988).

The next year on April 27, 2000, a Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) was found on the Osprey nest, and the Ospreys, although present at Ring-neck Marsh, failed to reclaim their nest. In 2001 this scenario was repeated.

Observations 2003

On July 20, 2003, I observed two small nestlings on an Osprey nest platform at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. I was informed later that two nestlings were banded here on 28 July, at about three weeks old, and that a third nestling, much smaller than the other two, was also present (NYSDEC Senior Wildlife Technicians Floyd Knowlton and Mike Allen, pers. comm.). Not only was this banding date later than the published late date for Osprey nestlings in New York State (25 July), but it seemed likely from the nestlings' size and development that they would not fledge until after August 9, the late date established in my 1998 study. Thus, I decided to monitor this nest to determine late nestling dates.

Between August 9 and September 10 the unfledged juvenile Ospreys were studied on nine days for a total of 471 minutes. On August 9 all three nestlings and an adult were observed. When food was brought to the nest there was a clear pecking order, and the smallest bird was not observed eating newly procured food.

On August 16, one nestling hovered as much as about two feet above the nest, the second nestling exercised its wings with a little hop, and the smallest Osprey was inactive.

On August 20, one of the three juveniles was observed on top of the nest platform pole but came down to the nest to take a fish brought by an adult.

By August 26 and August 27, two of the young Ospreys had fledged and were observed making large circular flights from and back to the nest. At 1:51 pm August 26, the presumed oldest fledgling Osprey left and did not return to the nest until 1:56 pm. While the older two birds were taking practice flights, the youngest nestling ate, preened, exercised its wings, and at 1:31 pm on August 26, took a hop about one foot above the nest as it flapped its wings.

Finally, on August 30 (9:15-9:37 and 11:00-11:23 am), after watching its siblings land and take off from the nesting platform and unsuccessfully attempt to catch fish, the youngest Osprey left the nesting platform at 11:23 am, flew majestically in a wide circle, and returned to the nest. The entire flight probably took less than ten seconds.

On September 2 (1:25-2:18 pm) the youngest Osprey was on the nest. At 1:35 pm it could be seen and heard screaming. For the first 44 minutes of this study period the bird was mostly sitting or eating an orange-colored fish, but at 2:09 pm it flew from the nest. On September 13 none of the Ospreys could be found at the nesting platform or at Tonawanda WMA. One Osprey was found at Ring-neck Marsh on the Iroquois NWR, 5.4 miles east of the study nest.

Discussion

Since the last unfledged juvenile from the 2003 Tonawanda nest was first observed taking a short flight on August 30, it is inferred to have fledged between August 27 and August 30. However, it is possible that the youngest fledgling could have taken its first flight before August 27, and the flights could have occurred outside the 102 minute August 26 and 54 minute August 27 observation windows. On the other hand, it is important to note that this younger and smaller bird did not join its two siblings in their first observed flights on August 26. Also, since the youngest Osprey was still exercising its wings on August 26 and 27, was only capable of short hops about a foot above the nest, and did not demonstrate an ability to hover above the nest, it is very likely that it fledged after August 27 and on or shortly before August 30.

The study showed that, as with Bald Eagles, Osprey fledglings will return to a nest after their first flight; however, unlike Bald Eagles (Herrick 1933) this behavior was of short duration, and probably only persisted for a few days. This makes determining exact fledgling dates difficult. Determining egg dates by the Osprey's position on a nest is much more difficult, as I have found them to sit on the nest much longer than their 32 to 33 day incubation period. This is especially true where Ospreys are loosely colonial, such as at Allegany Reservoir, or where there is a threat of nest confiscation or nest material pilfering by other species. I have concluded that, like other species, Ospreys sit on the nest to protect their property, and that they are not always sitting on eggs.

Both the August 27, 2003, late nestling at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area and the August 9, 1998, late nestling at Iroquois NWR involved first nesting attempts at their respective locations. In contrast, the record-early hatching date of May 22, 1999 at Iroquois NWR involved a second nesting at that location. It is not unusual for first nestings at new locations to be late. This phenomena was also observed in Great Blue Herons (Watson 1990). Initial nest construction is time consuming, requires energy, and delays egg laying. However, if nests have been previously constructed, it is only necessary to make a few minor repairs before the nest is ready for eggs. Also, inexperienced birds may be less skilled at withholding food and assisting the nestlings to an early flight weight. Since the nest at Iroquois was constructed in 1997 and first used the next year in 1998, it seems likely that experience is an important factor determining early and late nesting. Inexperienced Ospreys nesting for the first time tend to lay their eggs

late, whereas more experienced Ospreys that are nesting for at least the second time generally lay their eggs earlier in the year.

Late nestling Ospreys (unfledged juveniles still on nest after the July 25 date found in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* and the *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook for Workers*) seem to be fairly common in New York State. In addition to the two late nestlings of August 9 and August 27 discussed in this study, there are several other studies in New York that have produced record late nestling dates. In studying the Quaker Lake Osprey nest at Allegany State Park on 45 days from March 29 to August 4, 1999, Tom LeBlanc determined a late nestling date of July 28. In the Town of Lysander, Onondaga County, Joe Brin found nestlings as late as August 25, 2003. In studying Adirondack Ospreys Nancy Clum found *all* Osprey nests in her study contained nestlings *after* the July 25 late date! In her Master's Thesis she states: "The nestling period lasts from the hatching of the first egg (1 June to 14 June) to the flight of the first young (28 July to 21 August). The average time on nest is 61 days" (Clum 1986, pp. 44-45).

In conclusion, based on my study at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area-Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge-Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area wetlands complex, I would suggest that the date for late nestlings be extended from July 25 to August 27, and the date of early hatchlings be changed from June 18 to May 22. In view of published incubation periods of 32 to 33 days (Andrle and Carroll 1988), and 34 to 39 days (Clum 1986), it is likely that attention directed to laying dates might be expected to yield egg dates earlier than 27 April, the date published in *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* and the *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook for Workers*.

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CHANGES TO THE NYSARC REVIEW LIST

At our last Annual Meeting (6 November 2004), the New York State Avian Records Committee agreed to the following revisions to the Review List, on the basis of changes in occurrence and better understanding of identification criteria. A complete listing of the species that should be submitted to NYSARC can be found on the New York State Ornithological Association website at <http://www.nybirds.org/> under the heading 'NYSARC.' For the species listed below that no longer require NYSARC review, we strongly encourage all NY birders to continue to submit documentation to the appropriate Kingbird Regional Editors.

Removed From Review List

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii*. Following a major population increase and general eastward range expansion, this species now occurs more than annually in several regions of the state.

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*. Now occurs more than annually along the shore of Lake Ontario and occasionally on Lake Erie. Remains abundant off Long Island.

American Avocet *Recurvirostra americana*. This easily recognizable species is now reported annually from inland sites as well as from traditional locations on the coast.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow *Ammodramus nelsoni*. Occurs as regular migrant in suitable habitat in several regions of the state.

Review From Downstate Only

Hoary Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. Improved understanding of redpoll identification and an increase in photo-documentation has convinced the committee that this species is a regular winter visitor in the northern half of the state. It remains extremely rare on the coast and all observations from downstate should be reported to NYSARC.

Added to Statewide Review List

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. This species is less than annual anywhere in the state, with a significant decline in reports from coastal areas.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*. This species has been recorded in the state more often than most species requiring statewide review, but the committee regards it as genuinely rare and unexpected at any particular site. The large historical tally is likely a consequence of the fact that, unlike most vagrants from western North America, records of this species are distributed relatively uniformly across the state.

Western Meadowlark *Sturnella neglecta*. This species is now significantly less frequent in the state than in the past (much less than annual) and furthermore presents a major identification challenge.

Submitted on behalf of the
New York State Avian Records Committee:
Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary),
Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Steve Kelling,
Shaibal S. Mitra, Gerard Phillips,
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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2005

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The Weather

The weather throughout spring was fairly consistent statewide. Most regions reported the same pattern: cool and dry in March, warmer and wetter in April, and cool and dry again in May. A number of Regional Editors lamented the persistent northerly winds that characterized the season. March arrivals and early May migrants seemed particularly affected. Waterfowl were either concentrated into available open water or moved on quickly. Upstate hawkwatches suffered from the poor conditions as well, with poor seasons at the long-standing watches at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill on Lake Ontario's south shore.

Spring Migration

The spring weather produced an odd pattern of migration, with long unproductive periods broken by bursts of migrants during brief windows of favorable weather. A number of regions commented on the late start to the spring migration due to the cold March conditions. Brief periods of decent conditions in early to mid April led to a number of early arrivals. The rest of April and early May continued to be poor, broken by good movements of migrants during 7-14 May. See the regional reports and the spring arrivals table for more details and analysis.

The most compelling event of the spring season was the tremendous incursion of southern-breeding birds into the state, including Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Swainson's, Kentucky, and Hooded warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks. These species were mostly noted in Region 10, although several of these species were also noted variously in Regions 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9. Please see the regional reports, particularly the Region 10 report, and the separate articles in this issue for further details and discussion.

Notable within this larger event were the high number of Swainson's Warbler reports in Region 10, where five reports were highlighted by a long-staying, cooperative, and well-documented individual at Forest Park in Queens from 12-17 April and a remarkably early Prothonotary Warbler on 30 Mar.

Other than consistent reports of good numbers of both species of cuckoos, there seemed to be little consensus on relative abundance of various migrants. Unusual migrants included Acadian Flycatcher in Region 1, Connecticut Warbler in Region 3, and apparent migrant Clay-colored Sparrows in Regions 2, 4, 5, and 7. An encouraging report from Region 5 noted increased numbers of Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks, although the news wasn't as positive in Region 1, where Common Nighthawk was missed on the Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count for the first time since 1945.

Waterfowl/Waterbirds

As mentioned above, waterfowl migration was affected by the weather in different ways in different regions. In Region 1, frozen inland lakes and ponds led to a buildup of waterfowl along Lake Ontario, where, for example, "staggering" numbers of Canada Geese were the highest in recent memory according to veteran observers. Region 2 experienced good numbers but most waterfowl passed through quickly, departing by early April. The story was similar in Region 4, where dabblers especially were prompted to move on due to excessive flooding in early April; in Region 5, where the early departures of many species were attributed to frozen water; and in Region 8. Both Region 5 and Region 8 noted higher numbers of Snow Geese than in years past. Despite effects of the varying conditions, there were a number of good sightings across the state. Eurasian Wigeon was particularly widespread, found in eight of the ten reporting regions. Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Regions 1, 2, 5 and 10, and both Cackling Goose and Ross's Goose were reported from Regions 1, 2, and 3. Other good ducks were Tufted Duck and Cinnamon Teal in Region 2; Barrow's Goldeneye in Regions 2, 6, 7, and 10; and Eurasian Green-winged Teal in Regions 9 and 10 (as well as an apparent hybrid Green-winged Teal in Region 10). The King Eider in Oswego Harbor remained from the winter season.

Eared Grebes appeared on Cayuga Lake in Region 3 for the fifth straight year. Red-necked Grebes staged a better than average showing on Lake Ontario in Region 1, but counts in excess of 100 in early April were still lower than in invasion years. Red-necked Grebes were also up in Region 3, as were Horned Grebes, both for the second consecutive year. Contrasting numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were reported from Region 2 and Region 8; the former reported a noteworthy lack this spring, while a dozen reports in Region 8 far exceeded the normal two or three. A recent trend of increasing Common Loon reports also continued in Region 8, with more reports in general and more from smaller bodies of water as opposed to larger lakes and rivers. American Coot numbers were noted down in Regions 2 and 3.

Sandhill Cranes continued their increase in the state; reports came from 7 of the 10 regions, with only southern and easterly Regions 8, 9 and 10 missing out. Notable reports included a migrating flock of 15 seen at two locations an hour apart in Region 1; a late May sighting in Region 1 suggestive of possible nesting; and the second Franklin County and sixth regional record in Region 7. Other notable waders included Glossy Ibis in Regions 2, 3 and 4.

Seabird reports from the South Shore of Long Island included mainly typical late spring species including Sooty and Manx shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and Parasitic Jaegers.

Raptors, etc.

Perhaps more so than any other single aspect of the migration, the spring hawk flight suffered from the season's weather. Along Lake Ontario, the totals at Braddock Bay in Region 2 were "far below normal" and in Region 5, Derby Hill recorded the lowest totals since standardized counting began in 1979. Farther west

in Region 1, the season started slowly but final totals were within normal ranges. Region 1's raptor highlight was a well-studied dark morph Swainson's Hawk, the third Regional record, observed in Wilson near Lake Ontario and tracked as it moved east. Two Black Vultures were also observed there during the spring. Black Vultures were also spring highlights in Regions 2, 3, and 5, and despite the overall poor season, Region 2 managed to tally three Swainson's Hawks—all light morphs, and therefore different birds than the one seen in Region 1. Along with a variety of other winter specialties (see below), Rough-legged Hawks lingered longer than normal this spring. Late sightings were reported from Regions 1, 3, 5 and 9, with several into May, the latest a 21 May record in Region 1.

Region 1 joined a lengthening list of regions with confirmed nesting of Merlin, with a pair nesting in a tall pine tree in a busy, residential area on the west side of Buffalo. Bald Eagles also continued to expand, with several new nests in the region, including the first on the Niagara River in more than fifty years. An Osprey nest on a platform at the Conewango Valley WMA in Cattaraugus County was the first nest in the region away from the Iroquois NWR or Alleghany Reservoir. The Binghamton Merlins in Region 4 had reportedly moved to a new nest site, although the status of this year's nesting isn't known. Elsewhere in the region, fledgling Merlins were discovered in the Cortland area in July. Peregrine Falcon nests were noted in Syracuse in Region 5 and Albany in Region 8, and the Binghamton pair in Region 4 was recorded in the same location but no reports of nesting were received.

Snowy Owls continued in low numbers from the winter season; there was a total of five reports from Regions 1 and 2. Long-eared Owls were reported only from Regions 1, 2, and 5, with a maximum count of 10 from Region 5 on 1 April. Region 1's reports included a nesting record in Amherst State Park, an unexpected location. There were scattered reports of Short-eared Owls. Regional maxima for the season included 26 in Region 1 and 7 in Region 3. Northern Saw-whet Owls were found in good numbers; reports from five regions included two in May on breeding grounds in Region 5 and a newly documented breeding location in Chautauqua County in Region 1. The only Barn Owl report statewide was of a bird being harassed by crows at Jones Beach in Region 10 on 1 May. Two rarities continued on from the winter season—Boreal Owl in Region 1 which departed on 18 Mar, and the long-staying Great Gray Owl on Cape Vincent in Region 6, which remained until the remarkable late date of 18 May.

Shorebirds

Overall, shorebird migration wasn't very impressive, as upstate areas in particular reported unfavorable conditions due to the dry weather. Even so, there were several good rarities found across the state. Whimbrels were highlights in Regions 1, 5 and 9, with birds appearing in the three widely scattered regions on 28 May or 29 May, possibly dropped down due to storm activity. Good numbers of Spotted Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers were reported from Region 2, and Semipalmated Plover numbers were up for the second consecutive year in Region 3. Region 5 also hosted an early May Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and good

numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers. The same weather conditions that grounded Region 9's Whimbrel also dropped a flock of 300 Dunlin. Highlight rarities included Region 7's third record of Ruff, a female present from 21-23 May. Another Ruff was present for a single day at Jamaica Bay in Region 10. A Wilson's Plover in Region 10 in early May continued a recent trend of spring occurrences in New York and the Northeast. Interestingly, at least two and possibly three Wilson's Plovers were also present in Massachusetts this spring and summer, one or two were in Rhode Island, and another was at Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Also in Region 10, a long-staying Black-necked Stilt in Montauk in May was enjoyed by many; three more were present for a couple of days at Jamaica Bay, at the other end of Long Island.

A late May storm led to a widespread fallout of Red and Red-necked phalaropes across the Northeast. The greatest numbers were found to our north in coastal Massachusetts, but the event did produce a scattering of land-based reports along Long Island's South Shore.

Gulls and Terns

The lingering cool weather was likely responsible for larger than normal concentrations of immature gulls through May along Lake Ontario in Region 1. Included were late sightings of Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed gulls (21 May, 22 May, and 28 May, respectively). A late Iceland Gull was also found in Region 2 on 18 May. Franklin's Gull and Little Gull were highlights in Region 3. Another intriguing gull from Region 3 was a subadult small gull at Montezuma. The discoverers felt it might have been an immature Ross's Gull, although observations were hampered by distance. A number of birders followed up the next day and identified what was presumably the same bird as an immature Little Gull. Photographs taken the second day, on the whole, seem to bear out the identification as Little Gull. A Thayer's Gull was reported from Region 4 and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were unusual finds in Region 5. Downstate, Glaucous Gulls lingered into March and Iceland Gull into April in Region 9; both species were unusually late in Region 10, occurring into early May. Bonaparte's Gulls were reported in unusually low numbers in Region 2 and Region 10. Point Lookout in Region 10, an historic staging area for Bonaparte's Gulls, hosted very few birds; daily maxima were often in low double digits and only occasionally exceeded one hundred birds. As such, it wasn't surprising that reports of Black-headed and Little Gulls were scarce in the region, with one and zero reports, respectively.

An Arctic Tern at Jamaica Bay in Region 10 was the best tern of the season. Forster's Terns seemed to be on the move this spring with good numbers in Region 2, unusual appearances in Regions 1, 5 and 9, and a wandering bird in Region 10 farther east than the species' normal breeding areas. Black Terns were reported from nine of the ten regions, with better than average numbers noted in several. The only region that missed out was Region 8, which, for the first time in 15 years, did not have any terns reported in the spring season.

Winter Finches

Low numbers of winter finches continued from the generally lackluster winter season. Several species were widespread, however; Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin were found statewide in generally low numbers, and Evening Grosbeak was reported in eight of the ten regions, with only downstate Regions 9 and 10 having no reports. Good numbers of Red Crossbills were reported from Region 7, and in late March and early April, Red Crossbills were on territory in Chenango County in Region 4. These birds were in the same general area where Red Crossbills bred in 2004, but appeared to be a different, smaller-billed subspecies. See the Region 4 report for more details. The only other crossbills reported were two Red Crossbills in Region 1; White-winged Crossbill was unreported for the season. Region 4 experienced an irruption of Purple Finches with higher than usual numbers. A number of other regions reported generally low numbers of Purple Finches, and the species was unreported in three upstate regions, although whether this was due to a lack of reports or just standard numbers isn't clear. One interesting note from the Region 7 report was the discovery of a Purple Finch banded in January 2004 in York, SC, unfortunately dead after striking a window. A Hoary Redpoll in Region 5 was the lone individual of the species reported for the season.

Other Winter Lingers

The cool March weather seemed to encourage a few species to linger later than normal. A very late American Tree Sparrow on April 29 in Region 8 was surpassed by a remarkable five in Region 1 in mid-May. Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs also tarried in Region 1 with flocks of 12 and 85 found in Somerset on May 5. Northern Shrikes were more on schedule, with the latest from the seven reporting regions departing in mid-April. Although there were no unusually high numbers reported, only three regions, 6, 9 and 10, were shrike-less.

Following the winter season trend, Bohemian Waxwings were generally scarce with one notable exception. Several regions reported individual or single digit sightings, including a second Chemung County record in Region 3. The most noteworthy report, however, was a flock of 600 in Peru in Region 7. This is the highest regional count and the second highest number recorded in the state.

Breeders

Interesting early reports of breeding or possible breeding species included Clay-colored Sparrows in Regions 1 and 3; in Region 4, Acadian Flycatcher and White-eyed Vireo, locally rare breeders; and territorial Palm Warblers in Herkimer County in Region 5. A Henslow's Sparrow was found in Region 3 on the Chemung Valley Audubon Society's annual spring census; no indication of potential breeding was reported. Other Henslow's were reported from Regions 2 and 6 but the species was missed in Regions 1 and 5. Sedge Wrens were found in

potential breeding locations in Region 1 and 6, but were unreported elsewhere aside from a very rare migrant in Forest Park, Queens in Region 10. The continued increase of Common Raven in the state was noted in several regions, including Regions 2, 4 and 8. Region 4 also noted a continued increase of historically southerly species such as Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, and Red-bellied Woodpecker, which, having become established in the region's valleys and lowlands, are beginning to colonize highlands. The same phenomenon may have led to two Red-bellied Woodpecker reports at the northern edge of their range in Region 7. Among waterbirds, reports included a returning pair of Trumpeter Swans in Region 6, which produced eight young, and from Region 3, a note on the benefit of May's dry weather there on nesting gulls in the Chemung River, where 800 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls and four pairs of Herring Gulls were nesting by the end of the month. Elsewhere, the effects of the season's odd weather won't be known until the summer reports are compiled. One early report from Region 7 was that Tree Swallows started nesting late and in reduced numbers in some areas.

Rarities

In addition to birds listed above, the spring season contained a number of good rarities on both a regional and statewide level. Region 1 hosted its first White-winged Dove, widely anticipated given the number of records in the state and the Northeast in recent years. On 12 April, Willie D'Anna's productive yard in the town of Wilson in Region 1 held a Townsend's Solitaire, the third regional record, and the first outside the winter months. Also in the region, the overwintering Lark Sparrow in Porter remained through 12 Mar. An American White Pelican first found on 16 May at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 was joined by a second bird on 30 May, possibly the same individual reported about a week earlier from Schuyler County. Region 3 also hosted its first Mountain Bluebird, an immature male found and photographed in Dryden 6-7 Mar. A second Regional Chuck-will's-widow lingered for about a week in Region 5. Also in Region 5, the Derby Hill feeders hosted a Harris's Sparrow and two Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows. Happily, all of these were photographed for documentation. Highlight rarities in Region 6 were a Gray Jay at a Watertown feeder on 7 Mar and two sightings of a white Gyrfalcon near Gouverneur on 20 Mar. The most interesting report from Region 7 was a sparrow described as consistent with Sooty Fox Sparrow visiting a feeder in Vermontville. Another feeder find was a male Blue Grosbeak reported by a birder visiting his parents in Athens in Region 8. Last season's overwintering Orange-crowned Warbler in Region 9 survived into the spring season. In Region 10, two White-faced Ibises made brief appearances at Jamaica Bay in May; an observer following up on the initial sighting of an adult bird didn't find it, but did locate a subadult in the same vicinity. Two inshore Common Murres were found, the first a dead bird on 28 Mar in Moriches and the second seen close to shore at Robert Moses State Park at the remarkable late date of 26 May. Also in Region 10 were two vagrant passerines more typical of late fall or winter – a Western Tanager at Forest Park on 12 May and a Townsend's Solitaire photographed at Jones Beach on 29 May.

Miscellaneous

The observers at the Ripley Hawk Watch were surely shocked by the sight of three Whooping Cranes flying past the watch on 6 April. These birds turned out to be lost individuals from the “experimental non-essential population” that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is attempting to establish on a Wisconsin-Florida migratory route. As such, this first documented New York occurrence of the species won't make it onto the official list, but it still must have been a real treat for the lucky observers.

As usual the Regional Reports contain a number of interesting comments on local events and locations. Region 4 editors Matt Young and Jon Weeks describe the exciting but underbirded Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area and nearby state forests. Region 7 editor John Peterson acknowledges the 30th consecutive banding season conducted by the Crown Point Banding Association at the Crown Point State Historic Site, and also discusses the habitat management conducted at the location which has benefited locally and statewide uncommon breeding species. Region 8 editor Will Yandik passes along a report that the region's expanding Common Raven population has begun to opportunistically prey on Rock Pigeons at a Schenectady County manufacturing plant. Will also discusses the ongoing balancing act between continued real estate development and habitat conservation and points out that birders have a vested interest in becoming involved at the local level where an accumulation of small decisions can have a major impact.

Finally, two European Goldfinches were reported this April, from Region 1 and Region 9. These presumed escapees are reminders that not all the birds that we run across have gotten here solely through their own efforts!

Bird of the Season

There were a number of good rarities across the state this season, including Cinnamon Teal, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Wilson's Plover, White-winged Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, and Boreal and Great Gray owls. In my opinion, the most interesting phenomenon this spring was the incursion of southern species into the state, the rarest of which was Swainson's Warbler. Most of these reports were similar to the bulk of previous sightings in the state—brief appearances observed by a limited number of people, with no opportunity for photographic documentation. My choice for Bird of the Season goes to the one record which stands out—the accommodating Swainson's Warbler which spent a week in Forest Park, Queens, in mid-April. Patient observers were able to get close views of this normally secretive bird as it foraged through the open leaf litter. Perhaps the only realistically chaseable Swainson's Warbler in the state in close to twenty years, it may have been seen by more individual birders than any prior New York occurrence.

Spring Arrival Dates 2005 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	19-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	10 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr	1 May	17 Apr	16 Apr	10 Apr	15 Apr	20 Mar	7 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr
Green Heron	19 Apr	30 Mar	7 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	12 May	16 Apr	20 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr
Wood Duck	18 Mar	7 Mar	10 Mar	20 Mar	12 Mar	12 Mar	7 Apr	27 Mar	5 Apr		20 Mar	13 Mar
Green-winged Teal	7 Mar	7 Mar	13 Mar	16 Mar	1 Apr	9 Mar	6 Apr	1 Apr			19 Mar	19 Mar
Northern Pintail	12 Mar	7 Feb	28 Feb	16 Feb	12 Mar	9 Mar	5 Apr	6 Mar			5 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	20 Mar	19 Mar	26 Mar		30 Mar	17 Apr	10 Apr	6 Mar	27 Mar		27 Mar	30 Mar
Osprey	28 Mar	31 Mar	28 Mar	7 Apr	27 Mar	11 Apr	3 Apr	8 Apr	20 Mar	12 Mar	29 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	10 Apr	19 Apr	8 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	9 May	23 Apr	17 Apr	9 Apr		16 Apr	19 Apr
Sora	10 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	8 May	27 Apr	25 May	1 May	7 Apr	6 May	14 May	28 Apr	29 Apr
Common Moorhen	10 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	23 May	21 Mar	6 May		21 Apr	27 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	27 May	31 May	18 May		9 May		21 May		19 May		20 May	11 May
Semipalmated Plover	8 May	10 May	13 May	14 May	6 May		11 May	21 May		24 Apr	9 May	11 May
Killdeer	16 Mar	7 Mar	7 Mar	18 Mar	19 Mar	24 Mar	24 Mar	14 Mar	17 Mar		16 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	30 Mar	31 Mar	5 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr	4 May	2 May	16 Apr	27 Mar		10 Apr	8 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	10 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	18 Mar	4 May	9 May	14 May	29 Apr	9 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	28 Apr	27 Apr	15 Apr		18 Apr	8 May	30 Apr	3 May	1 May	22 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	18 Apr	27 Apr	16 Apr	29 Apr	21 Apr	5 May	7 May	29 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr
Sanderling					1 Jun						1 Jun	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15 May	14 May	16 May	14 May	21 May	24 May	29 May		27 May	6 May	18 May	14 May
Least Sandpiper	14 May	2 Apr	13 May	17 May	4 May	23 May	14 May	14 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	6 May	5 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	10 Apr	31 Mar	9 Apr	18 May	10 Apr	15 Apr			3 May	14 May	21 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	31 Mar	31 Mar	23 Mar	27 Mar	1 Apr	19 Apr	1 Apr	11 Mar		9 Mar	27 Mar	24 Mar
American Woodcock	21 Mar	18 Mar	17 Mar	20 Mar	18 Mar	29 Mar	22 Mar	19 Mar	17 Feb		17 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	6 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	15 May	8 Apr		1 May			24 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	9 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	15 May	23 Apr	2 Apr	9 May			29 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	29 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	29 May	30 Apr	7 May	2 May		1 May	26 May	6 May	7 May
Marsh Wren	30 Apr	7 May	9 Apr	9 Apr	29 Apr		9 May	14 May	9 May		29 Apr	1 May

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2005 Landbirds													
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	19-Yr. Ave	
Black-billed Cuckoo	11 May	14 May	10 May	11 May	11 May	13 May	15 May	14 May	23 Apr	2 May	9 May	12 May	
Common Nighthawk	18 May	10 May	15 May	10 May	15 May		18 Apr	14 May	12 May	8 Apr	6 May	11 May	
Chimney Swift	19 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	18 Apr	1 May	6 May	3 May	1 May	18 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	8 May	9 May	5 May	6 May	6 May	13 May	4 May	28 Apr	11 May	27 Apr	5 May	4 May	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Apr	31 Mar	12 Mar	31 Mar	9 Apr	13 Apr	21 Mar				30 Mar	4 Apr	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1 Jun	2 Jun	16 May		21 May		20 May	29 May	16 May	15 May	22 May	18 May	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	14 May	10 May	10 May	16 May	7 May	18 May	21 May	14 May	9 May	5 May	12 May	9 May	
Alder Flycatcher	15 May	21 May	15 May	18 May	18 May	25 May	15 May	21 May	18 May		18 May	17 May	
Willow Flycatcher	15 May	14 May	14 May	18 May	11 May	29 May	31 May	14 May	12 May	14 May	17 May	16 May	
Least Flycatcher	6 May	6 May	6 May	29 Apr	5 May	17 May	9 May	6 May	22 Mar	18 Mar	31 Mar	22 Mar	
Eastern Phoebe	20 Mar	24 May	13 Mar	31 Mar	31 Mar	2 Apr	3 Apr	30 Mar	22 Mar	18 Mar	31 Mar	22 Mar	
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	3 May	8 May	28 Apr	11 May	6 May	8 May	11 May	28 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	4 May	1 May	
Eastern Kingbird	30 Apr	7 May	3 May	3 May	1 May	12 May	7 May	10 May	30 Apr	21 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	
Purple Martin	8 Apr	31 Mar	21 Apr		15 Apr	7 May	26 Apr	10 May	17 Apr	1 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	
Tree Swallow	20 Mar	21 Mar	19 Mar	20 Mar	24 Mar	5 May	5 Apr	20 Apr	30 Mar	30 Mar	31 Mar	22 Mar	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	5 Apr	4 Apr	2 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	5 May	15 Apr	2 Apr	8 Apr	3 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr	
Bank Swallow	24 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	8 May	27 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	
Cliff Swallow	24 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	8 May	10 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	5 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	
Barn Swallow	30 Mar	29 Mar	2 Apr	2 Apr	31 Mar	4 May	8 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	11 Apr	
House Wren	16 Apr	1 May	17 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	6 May	7 May	24 Apr	21 Apr	9 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7 Apr	16 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr	3 Apr	5 Apr	6 Apr		1 Apr	6 Apr	7 Apr	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	30 Apr	22 Apr		15 May	23 Apr	8 Apr	7 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	
Eastern Bluebird		17 Mar	5 Mar	20 Mar	13 Mar	10 Apr	23 Mar				19 Mar	9 Mar	
Veery	6 May	6 May	1 May	8 May	2 May	19 May	8 May	2 May	30 Apr	18 Apr	4 May	2 May	
Swanson's Thrush	10 May	11 May	13 May	20 May	13 May		1 May	12 May	11 May	2 May	10 May	8 May	
Hermit Thrush	6 Apr	2 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	31 Mar	2 May	7 Apr	5 Apr			8 Apr	8 Apr	
Wood Thrush	3 May	1 May	28 Apr	7 May	4 May	12 May	8 May	29 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	
Gray Catbird	2 May	6 May	5 May	2 May	6 May	13 May	20 Apr	5 May	13 Mar		27 Apr	26 Apr	
Brown Thrasher	1 Apr	16 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	6 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	
Blue-headed Vireo	10 Apr	12 Apr	9 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	30 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	9 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	
Yellow-throated Vireo	6 May	10 May	6 May	8 May	5 May	30 May	11 May	3 May	23 Apr	21 Apr	6 May	4 May	
Warbling Vireo	2 May	7 May	23 Apr	2 May	25 May	11 May	9 May	1 May	23 Apr	20 Apr	3 May	1 May	
Red-eyed Vireo	5 May	6 May	7 May	10 May	6 May	11 May	11 May	3 May	10 May	12 Apr	5 May	4 May	

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2005 Landbirds (cont'd)												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	19-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	10 May	10 May	10 May	16 May	10 May	6 May	21 May	18 May	10 May	8 May	11 May	9 May
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	3 May	7 May	30 Apr	10 May	23 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Northern Parula	12 May	10 May	11 May	18 May	30 Apr	6 May	7 May	14 May	26 Apr	7 Apr	5 May	3 May
Yellow Warbler	26 Apr	27 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	9 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3 May	7 May	6 May	5 May	6 May	6 May	9 May	6 May	8 May	30 Apr	5 May	3 May
Magnolia Warbler	5 May	7 May	6 May	14 May	8 May	6 May	10 May	3 May	23 Apr	4 May	5 May	5 May
Cape May Warbler	6 May	6 May	5 May		14 May	18 May	20 May		14 May	2 May	10 May	8 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	6 May	1 May	5 May	8 May	4 May	10 May	6 May	7 May	1 May	21 Apr	3 May	1 May
Black-thr Green Warbler	19 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	6 May	1 May	22 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	2 May	26 Apr	5 May	8 May	27 Apr	12 May	7 May	14 May	6 May	30 Apr	4 May	4 May
Pine Warbler	7 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	1 Apr	8 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	6 Apr	27 Mar	30 Mar	7 Apr	12 Apr
Palm Warbler	13 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr		18 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr	14 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	11 Apr	18 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 May	10 May	11 May	14 May	10 May	2 May	19 May	14 May	11 May	10 May	10 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	10 May	12 May	11 May	21 May	11 May	14 May	16 May	12 May	7 May	1 May	11 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	30 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	25 Apr	1 May	19 Apr	7 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr
American Redstart	5 May	6 May	27 Apr	8 May	6 May	10 May	7 May	3 May	1 May	25 Apr	3 May	3 May
Ovenbird	6 May	6 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	6 May	7 May	5 May	30 Apr	21 Apr	2 May	30 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	3 May	27 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	1 May	16 Apr	1 May	6 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	15 May	16 May	11 May	15 May	15 May	24 May	15 May	27 May	27 May	13 May	17 May	15 May
Common Yellowthroat	6 May	6 May	29 Apr	4 May	6 May	17 May	10 May	5 May	4 May	21 Apr	4 May	30 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	7 May	10 May	10 May	13 May	9 May	23 May	13 May	14 May	16 May	8 May	12 May	11 May
Canada Warbler	10 May	10 May	10 May	13 May	8 May	11 May	15 May	15 May	10 May	7 May	10 May	11 May
Scarlet Tanager	10 May	9 May	5 May	11 May	10 May	11 May	10 May	6 May	4 May	25 Apr	7 May	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4 May	5 May	27 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	4 May	6 May	24 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr
Indigo Bunting	10 May	10 May	29 Apr	10 May	10 May	8 May	15 May	30 Apr	3 Apr	3 Apr	30 Apr	4 May
Eastern Towhee	3 Apr	11 Apr	12 Mar	6 Apr	31 Mar	10 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr	9 Apr		6 Apr	11 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	9 Apr	21 Mar	21 Mar	7 Apr	1 Apr	15 Apr	3 Apr	6 Apr	1 Apr	18 Mar	31 Mar	5 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	31 Mar	23 Mar	6 Apr	13 Apr	10 Apr		6 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	11 Apr	5 Apr	11 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	3 Apr	6 Apr	23 Mar	9 Apr	13 Mar	2 May	31 Mar	8 Apr			4 Apr	9 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	6 May	10 May	18 Apr	14 Apr	6 May	15 May	10 May	27 May	16 May	10 May	7 May	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow	30 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	26 Apr	4 Apr	6 May	3 May	4 May		27 Apr	26 Apr
Bobolink	5 May	1 May	4 May	7 May	26 Apr	7 May	9 May	6 May	5 May	3 May	4 May	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	5 May	17 Apr	4 May	30 Apr	6 May	9 May	10 May	1 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	30 Apr
Overall Average	22 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	23 Apr

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

SEASONALITY AND ADVANCE

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality vs 1987-2005	Advance (Days)
1	91	0.97	-1.84
2	92	1.64	-2.4
3	92	-1.58	-4.77
4	85	-0.69	1.34
5	93	0.97	-0.94
6	85	1.16	7.3
7	91	-0.87	5.37
8	83	0.62	1.45
9	81	1.85	-0.63
10	73	-0.01	-4.88

With the lack of attempts to estimate arrivals in several Regions, seasonality for those Regions and advance for all Regions may mean little.

Possible number of species = 93. Minus = this year earlier than the 19-year average for the Region under Seasonality or this Region's average earlier than the 10-region average for this year under Advance.



REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

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March was much colder and drier than usual. The average temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 29.4° F, 4.9° below average. There was 1.38" of precipitation, 1.61" below average, along with 17.5" of snow, most of which fell in the first few days. There was a prolonged cold spell until the last few days of the month. The April average temperature was 46.8°, 1.5° above average. Precipitation was 4.50", 1.46" above average, with 9.3" of snow. Most of the precipitation fell during a severe storm on 2 and 3 April. Other than another heavy storm on 22-24 April, it was an extremely dry month. Lake Erie ice disappeared near the 8th, about 10 days earlier than normal. The average temperature in May was 53.5°, 3.5° below normal, with cooler weather during the last two weeks. The precipitation was only 0.6", 2.75" below normal. It was the driest May in modern history at Buffalo.

The effects of the prolonged cold spell in March could be seen in the delayed migrations of waterfowl and blackbirds in addition to a very slow start to the raptor migration season. The first migrants of Canada Goose, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle typically occur in February. However, this year, the first migrants were noted after the first week of March. Waterfowl migrants found most of the inland lakes and ponds frozen through most of March, which resulted in much higher numbers along Lake Ontario than usual. The numbers of Canada Geese along the Lake Ontario plain were especially staggering during the third week of March and were the highest in recent memory for veteran observers.

Rare geese included two reports of Greater White-fronted; one **Ross's Goose**, continued from late winter; and several groups of **Cackling Geese**. This "new" species is less frequent in spring than in fall. The highlight among duck species was a very good showing of **Eurasian Wigeon**, with three scattered reports of drakes. Counts of Red-necked Grebes exceeded 100 along Lake Ontario in early April, making it a better than average year for sightings of this species, but not near "event year" numbers. Construction at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant reduced the number of reports from that waterfowl hotspot this spring.

No unusual waders appeared this spring. Great Egrets continue to slowly increase at the Motor Island rookery. There were only a few reports of American Bittern and none for Least Bittern. However, this was likely a result of reduced observer effort.

There was exciting news of breeding for several raptor species. The most noteworthy was the first **Merlin** nest for the Region. A pair established a nest in a tall pine tree in a busy, residential area on the west side of Buffalo. Regional breeding for this species has been anticipated for the last few years because of an increase in late spring and summer reports. Bald Eagles continued their rapid recent expansion with several new nests, including the first on the Niagara River in more than fifty years. A pair established a nest on the north side of Navy Island, which is technically part of Ontario, but it was best viewed from the American

side. A pair of Bald Eagles demonstrated breeding behavior at Strawberry Island in the Niagara River, but a nest was never fully established. A new nest was also established in Dayton, Cattaraugus County. Ospreys nested on a platform at Conewango Valley WMA, Randolph, Cattaraugus County, marking the first nest away from Iroquois NWR or Allegheny Reservoir.

Raptor migration started slowly due to the cool March weather. However, the numbers at the local hawkwatches, Hamburg and Ripley, were within the typical ranges. The highlight of the migration season was a well-documented, dark morph **Swainson's Hawk** observed in Wilson and tracked as it flew east along the Lake Ontario plain. This is only the third documented report of this western rarity in the Region. Two **Black Vultures** were observed this spring.

Shorebirding was generally unimpressive. The most consistent locations were several traditional wet spots in Niagara County. The highlight of the season was a Whimbrel, a species that is infrequently observed in the Region in spring, at Tonawanda WMA. Several flocks of migrating shorebirds, including a probable flock of Whimbrels over Bennington in Wyoming County, were observed over land on 24 May. This was possibly connected with unusually cold, wet and cloudy conditions that day.

There was a large concentration of immature gulls lingering along Lake Ontario through May, much later than usual and likely tied to the cooler weather. There were several late sightings for Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Impressive numbers of Short-eared Owls were found at a traditional location in Porter through winter and into early April. The maximum count was 26 on 12 March. Richard Salembier found **Long-eared Owls** nesting at Amherst State Park, an unexpected location for this secretive species. Two young were observed at the nest; they fledged in late May.

Songbird migration was behind schedule in late April and early May. Migrants were noted in very high numbers on the mornings of 7 and 10 May. On the 10th, an Acadian Flycatcher was seen and heard in Wilson. This species is very rarely observed during migration in the Region. Despite the late start, migrant warblers were plentiful throughout the month. Warbler highlights included one **Yellow-throated Warbler**, two **Worm-eating Warblers**, three **Kentucky Warblers** and three **Yellow-breasted Chats**.

Similar to gulls, there were also some late and lingering passerines. Five American Tree Sparrows were tallied in mid-May. Flocks of 12 and 85 Lapland Longspurs were observed on 5 May in Somerset, very much on the late side for this species.

There were some very interesting rarities this season, including some first sightings for the Region. Marilyn O'Connell was treated with a **White-winged Dove** at her feeder in Silver Creek on Mother's Day morning. The bird was observed at close range but unfortunately departed before other birders arrived. There were second-hand reports of this species several days later in a nearby town. A first for the Region, birders have been anticipating its arrival, given the preponderance of sightings throughout the state in recent years.

While the first White-winged Dove was anticipated, the other first Regional sighting was entirely unexpected. Three **Whooping Cranes** were seen by seven observers at the Ripley Hawk Watch on 6 April. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service determined the cranes to be from the east coast "experimental non-essential population" as one of the birds is fitted with a radio transmitter tracking device. The birds were reported from Lake County, Ohio, on 3 April, in Grey County, Ontario, on 15 April, and subsequently at several locations throughout the northeast. The three birds had wandered off-course from the Florida-to-Wisconsin route. This is the first documented record for this species in New York State, although they will not become part of the official New York State list as they are introduced birds.

The Region's third **Townsend's Solitaire** was found and photographed by Betsy Potter and Willie D'Anna at their backyard in the Town of Wilson on 12 April. All three Regional sightings have been within the last five years; this is the first report outside of winter.

Other rarities for the season included: Forster's Tern, Sedge Wren and two holdovers from winter, **Boreal Owl** and **Lark Sparrow**.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count on 10 April tallied 143 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. There were seven record high counts since the 1935 inception: Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Raven, Winter Wren and White-throated Sparrows. No record low counts were recorded.

The B.O.S. May Count on 15 May recorded 206 species and a record high number of individuals, 119,287. The count compiler was Bob DeLeon. Seventeen species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935). Noteworthy highs included: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow. Vesper Sparrow had the only record low count. It was the first time since 1945 that no Common Nighthawks were tallied on the count.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center WYOM; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 10 Apr; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 15 May; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant GENE; CVWMA – Conewango Valley WMA CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP NIAG; GI – Goat I, NF; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP ORLE; LESP – Lake Erie SP CHAU; NPP – Niagara Power Project NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA GENE; PG – Pt Gratiot CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve ERIE; Times Beach NP – Times Beach Nature Preserve ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Buffalo ERIE 13 Mar (DAB); Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!).

Snow Goose: arr & max 165 Bethany GENE 7 Mar; 60 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 20, 27 Mar; 20 Oakfield GENE 22 Mar; last Somerset NIAG 27 May (MM!), very late.

ROSS'S GOOSE: DH thru 9 Mar (WD! DN), continued from Feb.

CACKLING GOOSE: arr 6 TWMA 19 Mar (JP); 7 Yates ORLE, 2 Somerset NIAG 26 Mar (WD! WW! NYSARC).

Canada Goose: 30,000-60,000 Yates ORLE 19 Mar (WD), estimated between Carmen and Marshall Rds, *intro*.

Mute Swan: 2 BeSP 15 Mar; 7 BOSAC; 2 Wilson NIAG 13 Apr.

Tundra Swan: arr 30 Marilla ERIE 13 Mar; 350 BeSP 17 Mar (DS), likely wintering birds supplemented with migrants; 148 Hamburg HW 17 Mar; 150 Wethersfield WYOM 17 Mar; last 6 BOSAC.

Wood Duck: arr Tonawanda ERIE 18 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: BuSP 31 Mar (EL); INWR 8 May (JP); Times Beach NP 14 May (MM!); all drakes, very good showing.

Am. Wigeon: arr 3 FMCSP 12 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: arr 4 LBSP 12 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr Yates ORLE 20 Mar.

N. Shoveler: arr 2 DH 17 Mar; max 134 BWWTP 16 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr 4 LBSP 12 Mar; max 350 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (WD), good count; 200 Hanover CHAU 20 Mar (DN); TWMA 29 May (JP).

Green-winged Teal: arr Wilson NIAG 7 Mar (BE).

Canvasback: 32 BOSAC, only report beyond Mar.

Redhead: arr 2 Olcott NIAG 17 Mar; max 12 TWMA 21 May, breeding location.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 13 Hanover CHAU 19 Mar (DN); max 73 TWMA 30 Mar; 2 INWR 21 May; 2 BWWTP 30 May, late date suggests lingering.

Greater Scaup: max 700 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 31 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: max 45 BWWTP 16 Apr.

Surf Scoter: 2 DH thru 20 Mar (TM, DN), continued from winter; 5 BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 19 Apr; AISP 20 Apr (TB), rare inland; 2 Tift NP 26 Apr (DS, AH), unusual location; last 4 Olcott NIAG 1 May (WD, DD).

White-winged Scoter: last 37 BOSMC.
Black Scoter: 3 DH thru 16 Mar (WD!, WW!), continued from winter; 2 Newfane NIAG 3 Apr (S&TO); Buffalo Harbor ERIE 9 Apr (MM); Porter NIAG BOSAC (WD); rare in spring.
Long-tailed Duck: BWWT 16 Apr; last 2 Somerset NIAG 21 May.
Bufflehead: last 12 BOSMC.
Com. Goldeneye: last 3 BOSMC.
Ruddy Duck: arr Buffalo Harbor ERIE 31 Mar; max 278 BWWT 16 Apr; 35 BWWT 30 May, lingering.
Red-throated Loon: DH 16 & 27 Mar (WW!, FR!); 3 NIAG BOSAC; Somerset NIAG 24 Apr; last 2 Somerset NIAG 21 May.
Com. Loon: arr Hamburg HW 30 Mar.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr SPNS 30 Mar; 16 Alabama GENE 16 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 7 Shadigee ORLE 22 Mar; Alfred ALLE 20 Apr (EB).
Red-necked Grebe: 4, 3 DH 16, 27 Mar; 2 BuSP 17 Mar; 12 Shadigee ORLE 26 Mar (WD); 61 Somerset NIAG 1 Apr (WD); max 135 Yates ORLE 5 Apr (S&TO); 237 BOSAC; last Somerset NIAG 21 May (WD! MM!), late.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 3 BuSP 31 Mar; 845 BOSAC; 352 Strawberry I NR 20 Apr; 2921 BOSMC.
Am. Bittern: arr BOSAC; INWR 16 Apr; AmSP 22 Apr (RS), unusual location; Tiff NP 21 May (K&JL), encouraging report from occasional nesting location.
Least Bittern: no reports.
Great Egret: arr BeSP 1 Apr (DS); max 41 with 21 nests Motor I NR 13-29 Apr (WW); few reports away from NR.
Green Heron: arr Salamanca CATT 19 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 27 Motor I NR 27 Mar.
BLACK VULTURE: Silver Creek CHAU 30 Mar (DN); Ripley HW 4 Apr; rare but now annual in spring.
Turkey Vulture: arr Lancaster ERIE, 3 Hamburg HW 7 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Osprey: arr AISP 28 Mar; 3 nests INWR & TWMA; nested at platform set up at CVWMA.
Bald Eagle: too numerous to report all; nesting attempted Strawberry I NR; nesting successful Navy I NR Ontario, first nesting on NR since 1946; new nest location Dayton CATT; 22 BOSAC; 17 BOSMC, record counts.
N. Goshawk: arr Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!); 1,1 Hamburg HW 28, 31 Mar (WW!, FR! MT!); AISP 9 Apr (TB); Leon CATT 12 Apr (RR); Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (DD!); Westfield CHAU Apr (LD, GR et al), display flight observed.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Hamburg HW 7 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr AISP 9 Apr (TL!); Bennington WYOM BOSAC (MM!); early.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (DD!), dark morph, third verified Reg record.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 10 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 26 Mar; last INWR 21 May (MM! WD), late.
Golden Eagle: 1,1,1 Hamburg HW 8,9,22 Apr (MH, MM!); Darien GENE 17 Apr (JP, RS); Somerset NIAG 5 May (WD!); 4 season total Ripley HW.
Merlin: max 5 Buffalo ERIE 4 Mar, last reported at SUNY Buffalo roost 28 Mar; AmSP 20 Mar; Hamburg HW 18 Apr; 2 at nest Buffalo ERIE 22 Apr (AH), first confirmed nesting for Reg; PG 25 Apr; Hartland NIAG 5 May; Somerset NIAG 7 May; Mina CHAU 14 May (JB).
Peregrine Falcon: DH 5 Mar (WD); Wilson NIAG 31 Mar (WD); 2 ad + yg Buffalo ERIE, from annual nest location; 2 Buffalo ERIE 11-17 Apr (AH), exhibiting territorial behavior near Millard Fillmore Hospital & Buffalo Psychiatric Center, no evidence of nesting found on search of hospital; N Tonawanda NIAG 29-30 Apr (SP).

Virginia Rail: arr 2 BOSAC.
Sora: arr BOSAC; Tift NP 14 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr TWMA BOSAC (PY!), early.
Am. Coot: max 47 INWR 16 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE: arr 2 Hamburg HW 18 Mar (RA); max 15 Silver Creek CHAU & Hamburg HW 30 Mar (DN, JL), same flock observed 21 miles away an hour later; 4,1 Somerset NIAG 6 Apr, 5 May (WD!); 3,1 Royalton NIAG 15 Apr, 2 May (MW, CR); GHSP 1 May (WD!); 2 Hartland NIAG 27 May (WD!), late date possibly suggestive of nesting; continued increase along migration routes, too numerous to report all.
WHOOPIING CRANE: 3 Ripley HW 6 Apr (GR et al), from Wisconsin breeding program, 1 with radio transmitter, *intro*.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 3 Somerset NIAG 27 May (MM); BWWTP 30 May (PY); only reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr TWMA 8 May; max 10 Yates ORLE 14 May.
Killdeer: arr several locations 16 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 INWR & 1 Wilson NIAG 30 Mar.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 17 BOSAC.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr AISP 28 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Tift NP 18 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Tillman WMA ERIE 15-31 May, only report.
Whimbrel: TWMA 29 May (JP, RS); rarely reported in spring.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 5 BOSMC; max 10 BWWTP 30 May (PY), good count for inland.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 Hartland NIAG BOSMC; 3 Squaw I NR 21 May (LL); only reports.
Least Sandpiper: arr 35 Yates ORLE 14 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Hartland NIAG BOSMC, only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 14 BOSAC; 24 Hartland NIAG 17 Apr (WD); 17 Tift NP 20 Apr; max 100 CVWMA 23 Apr (JRe); INWR 29 Apr; last 6 BOSMC.

Dunlin: arr CVWMA 23 Apr; max 60 BWWTP 30 May (PY).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 CVWMA 16 May (JRe); 5 Newstead ERIE 24 May (MM), only reports.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Lancaster ERIE 31 Mar; max 21 Dayton CATT 1 Apr (DN).
Am. Woodcock: arr 2 Ashford CATT 21 Mar (JRo).
Little Gull: 8 BOSAC, only reports.
Bonaparte's Gull: 1000 DH 6 Apr; max 1700 NPP 13 Apr (MT).
Iceland Gull: 5 Wilson NIAG 3 Mar (BE); NPP 17 Mar; Somerset NIAG 1 May (WD); Wilson NIAG 10 May (BP, WD); Olcott NIAG 21 May (WD! MM BP), late.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: NIAG BOSAC; FNSP 20 May (WD!); Olcott NIAG 28 May (WD!), late.
Glaucous Gull: 2 Wilson NIAG 3 Mar; 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 4 Mar; DH 5 Mar; Sheridan CHAU 4 May (DN); Olcott NIAG 21 May (WD, MM); Wilson NIAG 22 May (WD!), late.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 DH 6 Apr; 81 DH 1 May (DN).
Com. Tern: arr 20 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 9 Apr; 64, 104 DH 25 Apr, 1 May (DN).
Forster's Tern: 2 CHAU BOSMC, rare in spring.
Black Tern: arr 8 INWR 29 Apr (WW); max 15 TWMA 21 May (MM, WD).

PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Silver Creek CHAU 8 May (MO! NYSARC), 1st Reg report; second-hand report of same or different bird nearby in Portland several days later.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Tift NP 11 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Orchard P ERIE 28 May.
Snowy Owl: Stockton CHAU thru 7 Mar (DN); Yates ORLE thru 26 Mar (WD, et al), both continued from winter; Wilson NIAG 15 Apr (BB).

Long-eared Owl: 2 ad + 2 yg AmSP thru 28 May (RS), unexpected nesting location; Newfane NIAG 18 Mar (BP, WD); 2 Porter NIAG 31 Mar (S&TO).

Short-eared Owl: max 26 Porter NIAG 12 Mar (S&TO), very good count; 3, 4 Shelby ORLE 3, 17 Apr (S&TO); only reports.

BOREAL OWL: Wilson NIAG 10 Mar (BP!), lingered from winter until 18 Mar (MP).

N. Saw-whet Owl: 1, 2 WTSP 12, 31 Mar (BP); OOWMA 19 Mar (CR); GHSP 25, 26 Mar (BP); Wilson NIAG 1 Apr (BP, WD); Reinstein Preserve ERIE 2 Apr; Cherry Creek CHAU 27 May (WW), newly documented breeding location.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Lancaster ERIE 18 May; Hamburg HW 19 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 26 May; Tiftt NP 26 May; 2 TWMA 29 May; Olean CATT 30 May; only reports.

Chimney Swift: arr 3 Buffalo ERIE 19 Apr (AH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Eden ERIE 8 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Tonawanda ERIE 1 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Sturgeon Pt ERIE 8 May; BeSP 11 May; 4 PG 14 May; Times Beach NP 30 May; FNSP 31 May; pr LBSP May; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr LESP, PG 14 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Arkwright CHAU BOSMC (DN); AmSP 31 May (RS); only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Wilson NIAG 10 May (WD! BP), very rarely seen in migration; INWR 21 May; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 29 May; only reports.

Alder Flycatcher: arr BOSMC; 6 Eagle WYOM 26 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 20 BOSMC.

Least Flycatcher: arr Tiftt NP 6 May.

E. Phoebe: arr LESP 20 Mar (DN).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr GI 3 May.

E. Kingbird: arr INWR 30 Apr (JP).

N. Shrike: last, several 26 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr AISP 22 Apr (TB!), early; Hanover CHAU 11-22 May (DN); Tiftt NP 14,15 May (DS).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr FNSP 6 May (LL).

Blue-headed Vireo: arr AISP BOSAC (TL!), early.

Warbling Vireo: arr GI 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP 11 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Colden ERIE 5 May.

Com. Raven: INWR 19 Mar (JP, TH); Hamburg HW 12 Apr (MZ!); BMAC 17 Apr (MT!); Attica WYOM 21 Apr (RR); 2 Eagle WYOM 11 May (MM!); Bennington WYOM 24 May (MM!); only reports outside ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: arr 2 Lackawanna ERIE 8 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Ellicottville CATT 20 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr AISP 5 Apr (TL!), early.

Bank Swallow: arr Hamburg ERIE 24 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr Hamburg ERIE 24 Apr; 20 nests Buffalo ERIE 8 May, growing colony on waterfront.

Barn Swallow: arr Pt Breeze ORLE 30 Mar (JP); Hamburg HW 1 Apr (DD!); early.

Carolina Wren: 23 BOSAC; 22 BOSMC; down slightly from last year's count numbers.

House Wren: arr Tiftt NP 16 Apr (DD!); early.

Winter Wren: arr WTSP 7 Apr.

SEDGE WREN: arr Somerset NIAG 20, 27 May (MM!); 2 Tillman WMA 24 May thru (MZ, PY!).

Marsh Wren: arr 2 INWR 30 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr AmSP 7 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 3 BOSAC, early.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:

Wilson NIAG 12-14 Apr (BP! WD!); 3rd Reg report.

Veery: arr Tift NP 6 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Buffalo ERIE 10 May (PH).
Swainson's Thrush: arr Wilson NIAG 10 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Buffalo ERIE 6 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Wilson NIAG 3 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Tift NP 2 May.
N. Mockingbird: SPNS 10 Mar-5 Apr (LH); Amherst ERIE 15 Mar (JP); Somerset NIAG 9 Apr (WD); Alden ERIE 16 May (GC); unusual locations.
Brown Thrasher: Grand I ERIE 11 Mar, very rare in winter; arr Silver Creek CHAU 1 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr SPNS 31 Mar; last 2 Somerset NIAG 21 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr WTSP 6 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 5 BOSMC; Newfane NIAG 21 May; Shelby ORLE 22, 30 May; TWMA 30 May; only reports.
"Brewster's" Warbler: arr Lockport NIAG 22 May; Stockton CHAU 27 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr AmSP, Wilson NIAG 10 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Tift NP 7 May (DS); WTSP 8 May; Wilson NIAG 9, 10 May; 6 BOSMC; FMCS 16, 17 May; GI 18 May; WTSP 22 May; good showing.
Nashville Warbler: arr GI 27 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 12 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Tift NP 26 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AmSP 3 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU 5 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FNSP, Wilson NIAG 6 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FNSP, Wilson NIAG 6 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Orchard P ERIE 1-15 Mar (MZ); arr 7 BOSAC.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU, PG 19 Apr (DN), early.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Niagara NIAG 2 May.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: CHAU BOSMC (TM!), rare but possibly increasing.
Pine Warbler: arr Orchard P ERIE 7-10 Apr (NV!); 2 AISP 9, 10 Apr (TL!); Blasdell ERIE 12 Apr (MT!); Wilson NIAG 1-21 May (BP, WD); 26 BOSMC; Olcott NIAG 21 May (MM!); increasing reports beyond mid-May indicative of increase as breeder.
Prairie Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU 5 May (DN); Tift NP 6-10 May (DD, DS).
Palm Warbler: arr AmSP 13 Apr (RS); Wilson NIAG 22 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr GI 8 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 10 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Royalton NIAG, Tift NP 14 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Tift NP 30 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr Tift NP 5 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: 2 TWMA 15 May thru (WD, PY), has bred in this area in recent years.
WORM-EATING WARBLER: Wilson NIAG 6 May (BP! WD!); Salamanca CATT BOSMC (TB!), possible breeding location; rare but near annual migrant.
Ovenbird: arr WTSP, Tift NP 6 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr SPNS 3 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 3 AISP BOSAC, early.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Tift NP 11 May (DD! WW! AH); AISP BOSMC (TB!); WTSP 21 May (JW!); very good showing.
Mourning Warbler: arr 7 BOSMC.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Tift NP, WTSP 6 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Tift NP 29 Apr (RS).
Wilson's Warbler: arr Tift NP 7 May; last Tillman WMA 30 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 10 May.

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Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Tift NP 12 May (WW); Tillman WMA 28-31 May (MZ, PY); Wilson NIAG 30, 31 May (BP); good showing.

TANAGERS — WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr several locations 10 May.

E. Towhee: arr Pomfret CHAU 3 Apr.

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 5 BOSMC, late.

Chipping Sparrow: 3 Wilson NIAG 1-31 Mar (WP, BP), overwintered; arr Orchard P ERIE 9 Apr.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:

Wilson NIAG 8-31 May (WD! BP), m possibly paired with a Chipping; 3 ALLE BOSMC; Pomfret CHAU 21 May (DN).

Field Sparrow: arr 2 Tift NP 31 Mar.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Blasdel ERIE 31 Mar (MT); Hamburg HW 18 Apr; Yates ORLE 1 May (WD); Elma ERIE 8 May (LH); Wilson NIAG 10,17 May; Newfane NIAG 21 May; Ashford CATT 29 May (K&JL).

LARK SPARROW: Porter NIAG thru 12 Mar (VR, WW!), continued from winter.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Pomfret CHAU 3 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 7 BOSMC; 2 Somerset NIAG 27 May; 2 Tillman WMA 28, 30 May; Andover ALLE 31 May.

Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.

Fox Sparrow: arr Buffalo ERIE 30 Mar; max 13 Ashford CATT 3 Apr (JR); 8 Pomfret CHAU 3 Apr (TM); 8 AISP 4 Apr (TB); last 8 BOSMC, late.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr FMCS 6 May; max 4 Tift NP 14 May; last 2 Tift NP 21 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 7 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Silver Creek CHAU 30 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 1, 3 Yates ORLE 18,26 Mar; 7 Lackawanna ERIE 1 Apr (MM); last 85 Somerset NIAG (MM!) & 12 Hartland NIAG (WD!) 5 May, very late.

Snow Bunting: max 600 Yates ORLE 12 Mar (WW, JP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Tift NP, Eden ERIE 4 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr Eden ERIE 10 May.

Bobolink: arr 2 Somerset NIAG 5 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: arr 13 Hamburg HW 7 Mar, late for first arrival.

E. Meadowlark: arr Somerset NIAG 17 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 5 TWMA 26 Mar; last 5 BOSMC.

Com. Grackle: arr 2 Hamburg HW 7 Mar, late for first arrival.

Orchard Oriole: arr Times Beach NP 8 May (RA!); 2 Silver Creek CHAU 9-17 May (DN); 14 BOSMC; SPNS 19 May; max 4 Somerset NIAG 20 May (MM); more numerous than usual along L Ontario, too many to report here.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Colden ERIE, Wilson NIAG 5 May.

Purple Finch: regular at some feeders thru Apr; 247 BOSAC.

Red Crossbill: 2 Centerville ALLE 17 May (RR), only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 35 WTSP 12 Mar; last 4 Wilson NIAG 28 Mar (BP).

Pine Siskin: regular in small numbers; 2 Alden ERIE 28 May; last 2 Youngstown NIAG 31 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 ALLE BOSMC, only report.

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: Corfu GENE 4 Apr (DAB), origin unknown.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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March certainly followed the old adage: “In like a lion, out like a lamb.” We opened the month in the grip of a winter storm, but ended with a series of spring-like days. The average temperature was 4.2° below normal at 29.7°F. It was the coldest in nine years and the seventh coldest in the last 50 years. Near record cold temperatures were the norm for 24 of the first 26 days. The mild end to the month brought things closer to normal. It was a dry month, with a mere 1.11” of measurable precipitation. It was the driest in 24 years and the third driest in the last 50 years. The 17.4” of snowfall was pretty close to the average of 16.6”. April was a month of contrast. An extensive stretch of mild spring weather was sandwiched between two periods of major storm activity. The average temperature of 46.0° was 0.7° above normal. Precipitation totaled 4.42”, which was 1.68” above normal. The bulk of this fell during two storms on 2–3 and 22–24 April. Of note was the lack of snowfall; only a trace was recorded for the entire month.

May was cool and dry. The average temperature of 52.2° was 4.8° cooler than normal. It was the third coldest in the last 50 years. An unusually late freeze was recorded on 13 May. The rainfall total was 1.58” below normal at 1.24”. A blocking system kept the area in dry cool weather for the last half of the month, while an upper low was forced to the east of us and brought that area significant moisture. The unfortunate part of the spring season was persistent northeasterly winds. This made for some decent weather but not for a decent migration. The exceptions to this spring trend were 31 March and 10 May, when significant flights were experienced. The March date included some very high numbers of migrants counted and estimated by Dave Tetlow and William Symonds. The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay was affected significantly by the few days with favorable migration conditions. William Symonds and others continued the lakewatch at Hamlin Beach. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory continued the passerine banding operation at its Kaiser-Manitou Beach Station.

Waterfowl generally moved out of the Region early. Greater White-fronted Goose and Ross’s Goose continued to be reported and Cackling Goose was widely reported now that it is recognized as a full species. Waterfowl numbers were decent, but by early April the bulk of the birds had departed. Highlights included the Region’s second and third **Cinnamon Teal**, the now-expected Eurasian Wigeon, **Tufted Duck**, King Eider, and Barrow’s Goldeneye. Ruddy Duck numbers were poor. Red-throated Loon numbers were down this year and Common Loon was about average. Grebes were noteworthy only in the lack of Pied-billed. Of interest was the very few juvenile Double-crested Cormorants, with only a modest increase in late May. DEC control efforts seem to be effective. Not much of note, other than Glossy Ibis, was reported for the waders. The hawkwatch at Braddock Bay, conducted by Jason Starfire this year under the

direction of Braddock Bay Raptor Research, was far below normal due to the unfavorable conditions. Black Vulture and Swainson's Hawks were highlights. Observers commented that American Coot numbers were low and Common Moorhens almost nonexistent. Sandhill Crane reports continued the trend of increasing reports. Shorebirding was generally poor this spring. Habitat was scarce due to the dryness and the persistent northerly winds were poor for flights in our direction. Spotted Sandpipers were well reported and Least Sandpiper numbers were good over an extended period of time. Observers noted a lack of Wilson's Snipe. Not much of note occurred with gulls other than poor totals of Bonaparte's and a late Iceland Gull on 18 May. Caspian Tern numbers were good and Black Tern sightings, for some unknown reason, were better than in recent years. Forster's Tern numbers were also good.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos outnumbered Black-billed this spring. April/May arrivals were a bit on the late side even though we did have some record early arrivals. Flycatchers, vireos, House Wren, thrushes, mimids, warblers and Bobolink were all fairly late, although within the long-range arrival pattern. Whip-poor-will, Blue-headed Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Hooded Warbler and Baltimore Oriole all arrived at record early dates. Common Raven continued to be reported in increasing numbers. Thrushes in general were poor this spring. Brown Thrashers had a good spring. On the plus side for warblers were Northern Parula, Palm, Nashville, Blackburnian, American Redstart and Canada. Most of the others were about normal with Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white and Wilson's being okay or down slightly. Of note was the lack of southern overshoots into the Region.

The sparrow picture was mixed. There were good reports of Vesper away from the lakeshore. Grasshopper continues to be of concern and Henslow's is nearly gone. Clay-colored Sparrow continued its trend of spring sightings. White-throated and White-crowned sparrows seemed to drop off in numbers early. Overall, the former was just okay in numbers, while the later appeared to be down. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Baltimore Oriole numbers were up. A **Brewer's Blackbird** found by Dave Tetlow in Hamlin on 31 March was the only report of this nearly annual rarity.

The species total for March was 131. That was slightly above the 10-year average of 126.6. April's total of 169 species was more than 10 species below the 10-year average. May was also below the 10-year average with a total of 221, although it was only slightly behind last year's total of 225 species. The total for the year at the end of the season was about normal at 258 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; CB – Chimney Bluffs WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; CU – T Cuylerville LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman P MONR; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; IB – Irondequoit Bay MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; L – T Livonia LIVI; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; MZ – Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex WAYN; NR – Nations Rd area LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; PA – T Parma MONR; PE – T Perinton MONR; PO – Portageville LIVI; PU – T Pultneyville; R – T Rush MONR; S – T Savannah WAYN; SO – T Sodus WAYN; T – T Troutburg ORLE; W – T Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr P
21 Mar; max 2 H 26 Mar.

Snow Goose: arr 15 BB 7 Mar;
max 10,000 S 25 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE: arr 2 H 23-25 Mar
(DT, *et al*); P 25 Mar (DT).

Cackling Goose: total 17 sev 17-31 Mar;
WL 2 Apr (DT); WL 6 Apr (DT);
WL 17 Apr (DT).

Brant: arr 62 PE 14 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 WAYN all
May, nesting; MZ 18 May (RS,DS);
max 5 MZ (RS,KW,DD).

Tundra Swan: arr 35 WL 7 Mar;
last HB 7 May.

Eurasian Wigeon: BB 30-31 Mar (BMo);
BB 1 Apr; 2 (m & f) HB 6 Apr (WS).

Am. Wigeon: last GE 7 May.

Blue-winged Teal: last 2 GE 28 May.

CINNAMON TEAL: m BB 6,10
Apr (JS,DT); m H 6 Apr (DT).

N. Shoveler: arr 3 I 19 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: last 2 GE 28 May.

Ring-necked Duck: last f PE 27-30 May.

TUFTED DUCK: m BB 6 Apr (DT).

Greater Scaup: last 10 BB 5 May.

Lesser Scaup: last HB 15 May.

King Eider: 2 f HB 28 Mar (RS).

Surf Scoter: max 41 HB 4 May;
last HB 26 May (WS), very late.

Black Scoter: max 36 HB 27 Apr;
last HB 29 May.

Long-tailed Duck: last 2 HB 26 May
(WS,RS), late.

Bufflehead: last 2 HB 4 May.

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 HB 6 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: T 1-26 Mar
(DT, *et al*).

Ruddy Duck: arr BB 30 Mar.

Red-throated Loon: max 25 HB 4 May;
last HB 26 May.

Com. Loon: max 416 HB 26 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 BB 21 Mar.

Horned Grebe: last HB 25 May.

Red-necked Grebe: max 1200 WL
2 Apr; last HB 4 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 900
HB 26 Apr, only 9 immatures.

Least Bittern: arr S 25 May.

Great Egret: arr 2 Bergen 8 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr BB
27 Apr.

Glossy Ibis: H 8 May (DT).

Turkey Vulture: max 1238 BB 8 Apr.
BLACK VULTURE: BB 1 Apr (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 4 BB 31 Mar; max 15 BB 14 May.
Bald Eagle: total 53 BB Apr; max 22 BB 27 Apr.
N. Harrier: max 184 BB 31 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 249 BB 26 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 49 BB 31 Mar.
N. Goshawk: max 8 BB 17 Apr; 4 BB 3 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr HP 7 Mar; max 59 1 Apr, low.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 11 BB 17 Apr; max 9506 BB 20 Apr.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: ad lt morph HP 26 Apr (DT); juv lt morph BB 27 Apr (DT); imm lt morph BB 2 May (JS).
Red-tailed Hawk: *calurus* BB 15 Apr (JS); *calurus* BB 19 Apr (D&JS); *calurus* BB 20 Apr (DT,JS); Krider's BB ? Apr (DT); max 238 BB 1 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 61 BB 31 Mar.
Golden Eagle: arr BB 17 Mar; total 7 BB Mar; max 11 BB 27 Apr; total 21 BB Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 93 BB 31 Mar.
Merlin: total 7 BB Mar; total 13 BB Apr; max 4 31 Mar, 26 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: total 13 BB Apr; total 8 BB 1-16 May; max 3 BB 26 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr BB 17 Mar; max 17 BB 31 Mar (MD, mob); total 22 BB Apr; 2 S 5 Apr (D&VH); 4 (2 ad & 2 yg) S 17 Apr; HB 1 May; ICW 1 May; total 7 BB May.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 BB 28 Apr, rare in spring.
Semipalmated Plover: max 43 PE 27 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: last S 25 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last PE 29 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: last PE 27 May.
Willet: G 10 May (JSI).

Upland Sandpiper: arr BB 20 Apr.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 4 OB & HB 31 May.
Red Knot: arr 9 HB 29 May (DT,WS).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 80 HB 30 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 GE 2 Apr (JK), record early; max 185 PE 19 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr GE 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: last GE 28 May.
Dunlin: arr 2 GE 2 Apr (JK), record early; max 430 HB 27 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr GE 1 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 GE 5 May (JK); PE 14 May (MT), uncommon in spring.
Little Gull: 2 BB 31 Mar; HB 1 Apr; HB 6 Apr; HB 11 Apr; HB 28 Apr.
Thayer's Gull: HB 18 Mar (RS).
Iceland Gull: last PE 18 May.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 1 May; max 6 HB 15 May.
Black Tern: arr PE 1 May (R&SS,MT); 1-2 BB 13-21 May (JS); max 5 G14 May (KG); 3 HB 17 May (WS); GE 17 May (JK); G 23 May (KF).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CU 17 May.
Snowy Owl: L 7 Mar (L&FS); H 26 Mar (DT).
Long-eared Owl: arr 2 M 24 Mar; total 15 M Mar; Gates 31 May, found dead.
Short-eared Owl: last GE 24 May
N. Saw-whet Owl: arr M 18 Mar; total 23 M Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: max G 29 May (KG,KH).
Whip-poor-will: arr BB 5 Apr (DT), record early; last W 25 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: HB 28 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Acadian Flycatcher: arr ICW 20 May.
"Traill's" Flycatcher: b M 10 May; max 19 b M 28 May.

Least Flycatcher: max 30+ WL 10 May.
N. Shrike: total 16 WL Mar (DT).
White-eyed Vireo: arr BB 2 May (JS).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr b M 18 May.
Fish Crow: HP 19 Apr (DT).
Com. Raven: 2 Nunda LIVI 12 Apr; HP 21 Apr; Castille 11,16 May; 2-3 LW 17 May; 2 Castille 18 May; LW 22 May.
Horned Lark: max 2200+ BB 31 Mar (DT,WS).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 Brockport MONR 4 Apr (DT), record early.
Bank Swallow: arr 4 HB 14 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 40+ BB 31 Mar.
House Wren: max 30 WL 10 May.
Winter Wren: arr BB 31 Mar.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 180 BB 31 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 56 b M 6 May; last G 23 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr PE 12 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 ICW 20 May.
Am. Robin: max 42,000+ BB 31 Mar.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 T 14 Mar; max 3600+ BB 31 Mar; last 6 HB 17 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: HP 12 Mar (DT); HP 30 Mar (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CH 3 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Victor 9 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: 3 b M 10 May; Victor 29 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr M 26 Apr; ICW 6 May; ICW 10 May; b M 10 May; ICW 14 May; b M 19 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 30+ WL 10 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 BB 31 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr PO 5 May; Pittsford 7 May; ICW 10 May.
“Western” Palm Warbler: max 41 b M 14 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr GE 8 May.
Am. Redstart: max 80+ WL 30 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: M 9-10 May (MD,DT), only report.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LW 18 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr m BB 24 Apr (RS), record early.
Canada Warbler: max 16 b M 24 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 24 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 2-3 GE 2 May; b M 28 May.
Field Sparrow: arr R 5 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr GE 9 May.
Henslow’s Sparrow: arr GE 9 May thru, only individual reported.
Fox Sparrow: arr K 25 Mar; max 25+ BB 31 Mar; last HB 22 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 2 HB 30 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 30+ WL 10 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 HP 22 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 HP 30 Mar; max 600 BB 31 Mar; last G 12 May.
BREWER’S BLACKBIRD: m H 31 Mar (DT).
Orchard Oriole: arr GE 7 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr NR 17 Apr (JK), record early; max 50+ WL 14 May.
Com. Redpoll: total 40 HP 1-29 Mar; last 12 HP 1 Apr.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 G 31 May.

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

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March and May were both cooler and drier than normal, though March had nearly normal precipitation. Much of March's precipitation fell as snow. Snow covered the ground daily through 25 March. April was warmer and wetter than normal. In Ithaca, departures from normal temperature were -4.5°F in March, +2.4° in April and -4.7° in May. Precipitation was 96 percent of normal in March, 139 percent of normal in April and 42 percent of normal in May.

There were few surprises among the waterfowl. Observers again found Ross's Goose and Eurasian Wigeon. Both species have been regularly occurring spring migrants over the last several years. Observers also continued to find Cackling Geese among the migrating Canada Geese. Most of the duck species exhibited significantly greater numbers than last year. It was the second spring in a row with increased numbers of American Wigeon, Greater Scaup and Hooded Merganser. It was the third consecutive spring with gains for Canada Goose, Mallard, Redhead and Ring-necked Duck. Red-breasted Mergansers were scarce. It was the second consecutive year of decreased numbers for this species.

At least two Eared Grebes were present on Cayuga Lake. At least one has wintered on that lake each of the last five years. Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe numbers were both up for the second consecutive spring.

An American White Pelican appeared at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 16 May. A second one was at Lamoka Lake in Schuyler County on 22 May. It may have been the same bird that joined the first pelican at Montezuma on 30 May. Also coming from Montezuma NWR were sporadic Glossy Ibis sightings from late April to mid-May.

Many hawk numbers were up this year, primarily due to a concerted effort to count hawks at Mt. Pleasant in Dryden. There were five reports of Sandhill Crane: one from Montezuma NWR, three from scattered locations in Tompkins County and one from Steuben County. American Coot numbers were down for the second year in a row.

None of the season's shorebirds were unexpected. Semipalmated Plovers were up in numbers for the second straight year. The dry weather in May benefited the 800-pair Ring-billed Gull colony in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira as nesting began. The top of the nesting island was much lower than in past years due to the erosive effect of high water last fall. At least four pairs of Herring Gulls were also incubating eggs on the island at the end of the month. Julie Horton and Lyn Jacobs discovered a Franklin's Gull in Yates County. Mike Andersen, Mike Harvey, Tim Lenz and Colby Neuman found a Little Gull at Long Point State Park. An immature gull at Montezuma NWR 18-19 May was identified by the discoverers as Ross's Gull, but subsequent observers identified it as Little Gull. Most observers viewed it at quite a great distance, but later photographs support the final identification.

Most of the woodpecker and flycatcher species, except *Empidonax*, were reported in higher numbers this spring. Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees

and Tufted Titmice were all up for the second consecutive year. American Pipit numbers were down for the second straight year.

The bird of the season in the Finger Lakes Region was the Mountain Bluebird discovered by Brian Sullivan in Dryden. Photographs of the immature male sparked some online controversy, but consensus from experts in the west was that it was definitely a Mountain Bluebird. It was the first record for the heavily birded Cayuga Lake Basin. David Russell found a Bohemian Waxwing in his parents' yard in Horseheads. It was only the second ever reported in Chemung County.

The warm weather in April initiated warbler migration, but the cool weather in May prolonged the migration season. The best warblers of the season were Mark Chao's Golden-winged Warbler, which returned to its territory in the Edwards Lake Cliff Preserve, Dick Clements's Kentucky Warbler in Southport, John and Sue Gregoire's Connecticut Warbler in the Finger Lake National Forest and a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Several species of warblers were reported in higher numbers this spring, but Palm Warbler was down for the second consecutive year.

Clay-colored Sparrow returned for the third year to a Caroline site. The Chemung Valley Audubon Society reported a Henslow's Sparrow on the organization's annual spring census. Many sparrow and blackbird species were reported in higher numbers this spring. Only Northern Cardinal and Song Sparrow were up for the second year in a row. Winter finches were unanimously down in numbers.

The following species listing includes comparisons of observed bird populations in the Region between spring 2004 and spring 2005. A "+" at the end of the 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 in 2005. 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 that appeared in the December 1999 issue of *The Kingbird*. This spring, 89 species showed significant increases. Forty species declined.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABNB – Aurora Bay North Bluffs CAYU; BarH – Bare Hill YATE; BSSF – Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU; CanL – Canandaigua L; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CWMA – Cayuga L WMA CAYU; DLT – Dryden L Trail TOMP; EIRW – East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP; ELCP – Edwards L Cliff Preserve; GM – Gleason Meadows CHEM; GRPd – George Rd Pd TOMP; HHP – Harris Hill P CHEM; LPSP – Long Pt SP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtP – Mt Pleasant TOMP; MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex; MyPt – Myers Pt; SavM – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SaW – Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SML – Seneca Meadows Landfill SENE; StP – Stewart P TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 100,000 Union Springs 27 Mar; last 3 MWC 23 Apr, -.
ROSS'S GOOSE: arr Harris P CAYU 26 Mar (DA, BoM, DN); last blue morph Sherwood Rd East Pd CAYU 6 Apr (FBe), late.
Canada Goose: max 15,000 MtP 26 Mar, +.
ACKLING GOOSE: LPSP 5 Mar (MAAn, MiH, TLe, CMA, BW); max 4 Aurelius 26 Mar (MVIC); last MtP

27 Mar (JBau, MaCh), +.
Brant: 5 SaW 21 Mar (WH), only report and early arrival, -.
Tundra Swan: max 200 CWMA 13 Mar; last 5 MNWR 31 Mar, -.
Wood Duck: max 24 Harris P 26 Mar, +.
Gadwall: max 30 CLB 2 Apr, +.
EURASIAN WIGEON: Indian Pines P YATE 5 Mar (BG, LL); MWC 1 Apr (AMit C&JSI); last MNWR 29 Apr (C&JSI).

Am. Wigeon: max 200 Harris P 26 Mar, +.
Am. Black Duck: max 70 CLB 2 Apr, -.
Mallard: max 250 CLB 2 Apr (MiH, TLe), high, +.
N. Shoveler: arr 3 CWMA 20 Mar; max 25 CLB 2 Apr, +.
N. Pintail: max 1000 CanL 19 Mar, -.
Green-winged Teal: max 30 CLB 2 Apr, +.
Canvasback: max 2000 Cayuga L 25 Mar, +.
Redhead: max 2200 Harris P 26 Mar, +.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1100 CWMA 28 Mar; last MNWR 21 May, +.
Greater Scaup: max 333 CanL 19 Mar; last MNWR 21 May (MAn, MiH, TLe, CN), late, +.
Lesser Scaup: max 54 Chemung R 8 Mar; last MNWR 31 May (DGr), late, -.
Surf Scoter: arr 2 MNWR 17 Apr; max & last 3 ABNB 19 Apr, early.
White-winged Scoter: arr Ithaca 25 Mar; max 3 ABNB 26 Mar; last 2 MacKenzie-Childs Pottery CAYU 16 Apr, -.
Black Scoter: arr & max 10 Deans Cove State Marine P 19 Apr (St&SuF!), high; last CanL 4 May, +.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 MyPt 9 Apr, late; max 30 LPSP 23 Apr; last 4 Eldridge P CHEM 30 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 40 MyPt 12 Mar; last StP 22 Apr, -.
Hooded Merganser: max 90 East Shore P TOMP 19 Mar, +.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 10 MyPt 20 Apr, low; last 2 Kershaw P Beach YATE 19 May, -.
Ruddy Duck: max 42 MNWR 15 May, +.
Ruffed Grouse: max 2 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 10 May, low.
Wild Turkey: max 100 CLB 12 Mar (MeH), high, +.
Com. Loon: max 24 StP 23 Apr, +.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 25 CWMA 22 Mar (FG), high, +.

Horned Grebe: max 16 Aurora 26 Mar, low; last Geneva 29 May, -.
Red-necked Grebe: max 2 Dryden L P TOMP 18 Apr; last ABNB 1 May, -.
EARED GREBE: max 2 Wells College Boathouse CAYU, 5 Mar (MAn, MiH, TLe, CMa, BW), high; last Deans Cove State Marine P 23 Apr (MAn, MiH, TLe, CN), late.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: MNWR 16 May (MDe, ph); Lamoka L 22 May (CWa); last 2 MNWR 30 May (StF, BoM, AMit), late.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 12 Chemung R 17 Mar; max 77 MNWR 15 May, +.
Great Blue Heron: max 61 MNWR 4 May, +.
Great Egret: arr Kinneys Corners YATE 7 Apr; max 3 MNWR 7 May (FBe).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr StP 15 Apr; max 6 MNWR 19 May (BCa), high; last 2 MNWR 19 May, +.
GLOSSY IBIS: MNWR 23 Apr (J&KMc); max & last 2 MNWR 18 May (DLe, CTh).

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Cooper's Hawk: max 10 Union Springs 1 Mar (FBI), high, +.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 14 MtP 26 Mar (BS), high, +.
Red-tailed Hawk: StP 4 Mar; max 68 MtP 26 Mar (BS), high, +.
Rough-legged Hawk: MtP 5 Mar; max 2 Veteran 26 Mar; last Ledyard 6 May (LVB), late.
Golden Eagle: arr SaW 18 Mar; max 7 MtP 26 Mar; last StP 16 Apr, +.
Merlin: Elmira 14 Mar; last GRPd 31 May (StF).
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 StP 10 Mar (DN), high; last MNWR 7 May (FBe), late.
Com. Moorhen: max 20 MNWR 4 May (J&MJT), high.
Am. Coot: max 172 MyPt 26 Mar, -.

SANDHILL CRANE: arr MyPt 2 Apr (BS); max 3 EIRW 1 May (KRF); last STEU 24 May (SH).
Black-bellied Plover: arr & max 5 MNWR 18 May; last 2 MyPt 30 May, -.
Semipalmated Plover: max 40 GRPd 24 May (JMc), high; last MNWR 31 May, +.
Killdeer: max 15 MtP 26 Mar, +.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 MNWR 17 May; last MNWR 20 May, -.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 6 MNWR 20 May, +.
Ruddy Turnstone: GRPd 27 May (MY), only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 6 GRPd 27 May; last GRPd 31 May, -.
Least Sandpiper: max 180 GRPd 24 May (JMc), high; last 6 GRPd 31 May, +.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 3 MNWR 21 May; max & last 4 GRPd 27 May, +.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 25 SavM 13 Apr; last Dryden 22 May, +.
Dunlin: arr 13 SavM 10 Apr; max 110 MyPt 27 May; last MyPt 29 May, -.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 21 May; max 120 GRPd 24 May (JMc), high; last 4 GRPd 28 May, +.
Wilson's Snipe: max 25 MNWR 1 May; last Lick St Christmas Tree Plantation CAYU 21 May, +.
Am. Woodcock: max 6 Dryden 30 Mar, +.
FRANKLIN'S GULL: Kershaw P Beach YATE 18 May (JuHo, LJ), late.
LITTLE GULL: LPSP 23 Apr (J&KMc); imm MNWR 18-20 May ((DSh, BSp,BCa!,MiH!,DN!,JMc-ph,mob).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr StP 20 Mar; max 60 LPSP 23 Apr; last MNWR 21 May, +.
Ring-billed Gull: max 2000 SML 28 Mar, -.
Herring Gull: max 2000 SML 28 Mar, -.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 4 SML 28 Mar (JMc), high; last MNWR 17 May.
Glaucous Gull: max 2 Seneca L SP 13 Mar (BG, LL), high; last SML 26 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 30 CLB 2 Apr, -.
Caspian Tern: max 27 MNWR 8 May (MAn, MiH, TLe, CN), high.
Com. Tern: max 11 MNWR 17 May, +.
Black Tern: max 35 MNWR 18 May (StF), high, +.

PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: max 15 Mark Twain SP 19 Mar, -.
Black-billed Cuckoo: max 3 GM 28 May (BO), high.
Short-eared Owl: max 7 Ledyard 26 Mar (DA, BoM, DN), high; last 2 Ledyard 21 Apr, +.
Chimney Swift: max 28 Elmira 6 May, -.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Ontario Pathways Trail ONTA 10 May (CMc!), only report.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 SaW 14 May, +.
Downy Woodpecker: max 7 Catharine Valley Trail CHEM 7 May, +.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 3 HHP 5 Apr, low, +.
N. Flicker: max 15 MtP 17 Apr, +.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 3 HHP 5 Apr, +.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 6 SaW 19 May, +.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Ithaca 24 May, late; EIRW 25 May; last Caroline 28 May.
Alder Flycatcher: max 10 24 May (SH), high, +.
E. Phoebe: max 10 DLT 8 Apr, +.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 12 McIlroy Preserve CAYU 29 May (Finger Lakes Land Trust, MeH, MY), high, +.
N. Shrike: max 4 MtP 1 Mar; last MtP 30 Mar, +.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 SaW 1 May, +.
Philadelphia Vireo: max & last 4 EIRW 27 May, +.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 20 SaW 15 May (CTH), high.
Am. Crow: max 200 Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 6 Mar, -.
Fish Crow: max 16 Riverfront P CHEM 17 Mar, -.
Horned Lark: max 300 CLB 12 Mar, +.
Purple Martin: max 10 Canandaigua 7 May, +.
Tree Swallow: max 2200 CLB 2 Apr (MiH, TLe), high, +.
Bank Swallow: max 10 GRPd 24 Apr, -.
Barn Swallow: max 100 Thomas Rd Swamp TOMP 24 May, +.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 70 Van Etten 5 Mar, +.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 Dryden 7 Mar (CTH), high, +.
Carolina Wren: max 3 Ithaca 10 May, +.
Marsh Wren: max 2 MNWR 20 May, -.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 DLT 8 Apr, +.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 SaW 5 May (AMJ), high; last MNWR 15 May, +.
E. Bluebird: max 5 GM 28 May.
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: Quarry Rd Stone Quarry TOMP 6-7 Mar (TLe, ph, BS, mob).
Swainson's Thrush: max 3 SaW 18 May; last EIRW 28 May (JMc), late.
Am. Robin: max 75 HHP 5 Apr, +.
Gray Catbird: max 12 EIRW 15 May, -.
N. Mockingbird: max 8 ELCP 21 Mar, +.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 EIRW 6 May (DGo), high.
European Starling: max 2000 Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 19 Mar, +.
Am. Pipit: arr 5 MyPt 20 Mar; max 20 Herman Rd fields TOMP 5 Apr, low; last MNWR 17 May, -.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 2 Horseheads 2 Apr (DR).
Cedar Waxwing: max 200 Dryden 6 Mar, +.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Cornell U 25 Apr (SH), early; max 16 BarH 21 May.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: ELCP 7 May thru (MaCh).
Tennessee Warbler: max 5 BSSF 21 May; last Canisteo 30 May (BO), late, +.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SaW 15 May; last SaW 16 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 6 EIRW 13 May, -.
Yellow Warbler: max 20 EIRW 13 May, low.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 10 BarH 21 May.
Cape May Warbler: 15 May; last Ithaca 27 May (LHy), late.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr StP 12 Apr, late; max 20 SaW 12 May, -.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 10 BSSF 11 May (FBe), high, +.
Prairie Warbler: arr Portland Pt TOMP 1 May; max 13 GM 28 May (BO), high, +.
Palm Warbler: SaW 5 May, low; last SaW 18 May, -.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 SaW 14 May; last EIRW 27 May, +.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 15 CLB 21 May; last EIRW 28 May, -.
Am. Redstart: max 10 Ringwood Nature Preserve TOMP 10 May, +.
N. Waterthrush: max 8 McIlroy Preserve CAYU 14 May, +.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Southport 11 May (DC!!).
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Finger Lakes NF 9 May (J&SGrg).
Wilson's Warbler: max 2 SaW 24 May; last MyPt 27 May (JMc), late, +.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 25 May (fide MeH), only report.

TANAGERS — WEAVERS
Scarlet Tanager: max 20 BSSF 21 May, +.

N. Cardinal: max 20 Dryden
7 Mar, +.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 45 BSSF
21 May (LHFO, MY), high, +.
E. Towhee: max 15 ELCP 7 May, +.
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 25 Big Flats
Trail CHEM 26 Mar; last DLT
8 Apr, +.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:
Caroline 7 May thru (AM&TJ).
Field Sparrow: arr Riverfront P CHEM
31 Mar; max 11 GM 28 May, +.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 Snyder Rd
fields TOMP 7 Apr, +.
Savannah Sparrow: max 24 Cameron
30 May (BO), high.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr MNWR 14
Apr (DT), early; max 2 Ledyard 19 May.
HENSLOW'S SPARROW: CHEM 15
May (CVAS).
Fox Sparrow: arr SaW 20 Mar; max 6
DLT 8 Apr; last Dodge Rd bridge TOMP
27 May (CTH), late, +.
Song Sparrow: max 50 Dryden
20 Mar, +.
White-throated Sparrow: max 20 SaW
5 May, +.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 7
Ecology House TOMP 6 May; last BarH
21 May, -.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 Caroline
6 Apr, +.
Lapland Longspur: max & last 24 S
avM 30 Apr, +.
Snow Bunting: max 225 Genoa 6 Mar;
last 2 MtP 12 Mar, early, +.
Bobolink: max 22 Finger Lakes NF
29 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 3350
Seneca Falls 21 Mar, +.
E. Meadowlark: arr Lansing
19 Mar; max 36 Southworth Rd fields
25 Mar (J&PMc), high.
Rusty Blackbird: max 40 CLB 2 Apr;
last 4 Mark Twain SP 5 May, +.
Com. Grackle: max 2000 Ulysses
21 Mar, +.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 500
Ulysses 21 Mar (MeH), high, +.
Baltimore Oriole: max 20 SaW
20 May (LS), high.
Com. Redpoll: max & last 6 Dryden
8 Mar, early, -.
Pine Siskin: max 5 Dryden 20 Mar, -.
Am. Goldfinch: max 40 Dryden
12 May, -.
Evening Grosbeak: last Northeast Ithaca
2 Mar, early, -.
House Sparrow: max 20 Dryden
7 Mar, -.



REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

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March was typically cold, with an average temperature of 29° F, 3.7° below normal. Temperatures and regular snowfall kept a good depth, with an additional near 2" on the 28th. The end of March and early April brought higher temperatures and 1.76" of rain fell on 2-3 April, causing serious flooding. Many of our regular birding areas were completely flooded, and some damage was reported. April remained unseasonably warm. The average high was around 60° and the highest temperature was 77° on the 20th. May began cooler than normal, with a few harsh frosts occurring in the first two weeks. Temperatures averaged normal for the remainder of May, but precipitation was a low 2.74" below normal. Overall, spring migration was one of the most dismal in the past 10 years. This was due to an Omega blocking high-pressure system located to our north that kept cool northern winds over central New York for most of the migration period.

Waterfowl were in good numbers, but many, especially dabblers, moved on with the early April flooding. A **Eurasian Wigeon** accommodated many birders with a weeklong stay at Boland Pond in March. A Ruddy Duck, which has become quite uncommon in our Region, showed up in Broome County on 1 May. Long-tailed Duck almost pulled a no-show, with only one report from Otsego County. Missed species were Tundra Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback and scoters. Waders were well reported, with Great Egret and two Black-crowned Night-Heron sightings. Always great for our Region was a **Glossy Ibis** report from Springfield, Otsego County, on 6 May. In March, two uncommon **Black Vulture** reports in Broome County and a few great Golden Eagle sightings occurred in Otsego County. The Merlin pair in Binghamton reportedly moved to a new nest tree, but no status has been supplied. Additionally, Merlin reports continue to increase in the Cortland area, with sightings throughout the period. There was no status given on the Merlin pair from Endicott. Lastly, the Binghamton Peregrines remained at the same location, but no reports of nesting were provided.

Last year's Sora nest site at Tri-cities Airport was not reused, but several sightings in other locations were reported. An exciting May report of a **Sandhill Crane** in a Tioga County farm field was a brief event and good photos were taken to confirm identification. An immature Black-crowned Night-Heron from the Cortland Waterworks in April was an excellent sighting. Shorebirds were in good variety, but not in great numbers. Same story with gulls and terns, but a **Thayer's Gull** made an appearance along the Chenango River in Binghamton in March. [No details, no comment on this difficult NYSARC review species.] Cuckoo

numbers seemed to be up, but owl reports were low this season. A Great Horned Owl nestling found at Aquaterra Park in Broome County was taken to a rehabilitator after abandonment was assumed.

Throughout the Region, owls were reported in respectable numbers, but neither Northern Saw-whet nor Short-eared owl was reported. Only a few Common Nighthawks were reported, but both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos were reported in good numbers in response to this year's tent caterpillar outbreak.

An **Acadian Flycatcher** was heard at the southeast end of Skaneateles Lake. At this location, it was a probable nester, which is quite unusual for the Region. There were four Northern Shrike reports, with the last in early April. A **White-eyed Vireo**, another rare and possible nester in the Region, was seen during the first half of May at Nuthatch Hollow. During April, I witnessed dozens to hundreds of migrating Blue Jays moving through Chenango County. Others from adjacent Regions also have commented about the number of migrating Blue Jays this spring. This appears to be a fairly common phenomenon that is more than likely linked with oak acorn crops. Blue Jays are more "irruptive" than has been documented in our avian literature. Additionally, Common Ravens continue to increase as nesters throughout the area. Numerous breeders were seen/heard in various state forests and parks. Ravens seem to prefer nesting on cliffs or even towers, but in recent years they have nested in pine plantations at a number of state forests across the Region and State.

The Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area and surrounding state forests in Chenango County continue to be very underbirded but represent an incredibly exciting place to bird year round. It's an extensive area of state forest in southwestern Chenango County that is recognized as an Audubon IBA. The state forests are nearly continuous from McDonough/German in the south through Pitcher/Pharsalia to Lincklaen/Otselc in the north. The area offers some really great boreal-like birding in the many continuous tracts of coniferous and mixed forest types. Once again, Swainson's Thrushes were heard on nesting grounds in late May. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in the Region where **Swainson's Thrushes** can be found nesting. To the casual birder or birder who doesn't like climbing hills to see this bird, this is one unusual area where you can walk along the CCC Trucking Road off North Road and hear all four breeding thrushes without climbing in elevation. Lastly, the warblers one often associates with more northerly areas, e.g., Nashville, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Mourning and Canada, can be heard in the area along with Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, both crossbills, Pine Siskin and other typically more northern specialties.

There was a handful of warblers seen that are rare to uncommon in the Region: **Golden-winged, Yellow-throated, Cerulean and Kentucky**. In an area where they've been reported historically, I observed a few singing Cerulean Warblers along the ridge at the southeastern tip of Skanateles Lake. Three Golden-winged Warblers were observed during a fallout at Lime Hollow Nature Center in Cortland on 14 May. An exhausted Kentucky Warbler was found in a driveway in Vestal and in mid April two different singing Yellow-throated Warblers were seen, heard and recorded in Chenango Valley State Park and were still being heard mid May. The recordings were heard by me and by Cornell

ornithologists. Some warbler species, along with other usually observed species, were missed this spring migration. Again, this was due to an Omega blocking high-pressure system located to our north that kept cool northern winds over central New York for most of the migration period.

Birds with a more southern affinity, such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Northern Cardinal appear to be still increasing in the area. Although most reports are still from river valleys, more and more are coming from higher elevations. **Orchard Oriole**, another southern expansionist and a local rarity, was a good sighting from the Carigan Road, Triangle, area.

Sparrows were well represented, with **Clay-colored**, Grasshopper, Vesper and Lincoln's all being reported. Clay-colored, Grasshopper and Vesper were all observed at the Edwards Hill Road area in Lisle.

By the end of March and beginning of April, **Red Crossbills** were again heard singing on territory in Chenango County. This is the same general area where they nested in February-July 2004. In 2004, birds appeared to be smaller-billed to medium-billed types 3 or 1 and were nesting in white and Norway spruce. This past winter, red pine was the only conifer to produce a "bumper" cone crop. While it is possible that the red pine cone crop could have been enough for these smaller-billed birds to persist in the area, it appeared that the April singing crossbills were a different type (medium- or larger-billed subspecies), based on call and feeding behavior. Type 1s and 2s are more eclectic, thus utilizing everything from harder pines, like red pine, to softer spruce, like white spruce, for nesting. Either way, I'm fairly confident there's been more than one subspecies involved in the past two years' nesting events. Of course, this is all conjecture. In the next season, many birds were again witnessed singing on territory throughout June, July and into August. In late July and early August, juvenile Red Crossbills were seen in the Pharsalia area and heard in the Otselic areas of white spruce. These birds were observed nesting in and feeding on unripened green white spruce cones. Family groups with juveniles were seen feeding on green cones that were just starting to ripen in August. As the literature has stated, one of the fledgling crossbills exhibited a bill that was just starting to cross. Very few of the other finches were observed. There were scattered single Pine Siskins, one Common Redpoll and a few very small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks. One Evening Grosbeak flock of 6-12 was again seen at Morgan Hill State Forest in Truxton, Cortland County, the same location where a flock wintered last year. Higher than usual numbers of **Purple Finches** were seen in March in the same areas mentioned above in Chenango County. Overall, this was a rare irruption year in central New York for Purple Finches. It was not uncommon to see flocks of 20+ feeding on the "bumper" white ash samara crop.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqP – Aquaterra Park BROO; Barker – T Barker BROO; BCC – Binghamton Country Club; Bpd – Boland Pd [where?]; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; DorP – Dorchester P BROO; Ely Par ET – [undefined]; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; Geo – Georgetown MADI; GP – Greenwood P BROO; HP – [undefined]; LHNC – Lime Hollow Nature Center; ML – Mirror L TI0G; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow BROO; OtL – Otsego L OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia WMA; RivR – [undefined]; SkanL – Skaneateles L; UL – Upper Lisle BROO; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO; WPR – Whitney Point Res BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Snow Goose: BUNP 19 Mar; max 1000+ BROO 30 Mar; last 1 lakes in Preble/Homer area CORT 28 May (TF), very late.

Canada Goose: max 1200+ BROO 7 Mar.

Brant: 3 DorP 21 May; 2 DorP 22 May, dark morph?.

Mute Swan: Springfield OTSE 1 Apr, only report.

Wood Duck: arr Bpd/OtL 20 Mar; max 20 OTSE 21 Mar.

Gadwall: arr 2 HP 20 Mar; last Bpd 28 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Bpd 23-28 Mar (JW).

Am. Wigeon: arr Binghamton 11 Mar; last 4 HP 27 Mar.

Am. Black Duck: last Bpd 14 May; regular in BROO winter/early spring.

N. Pintail: 5 Bpd 18 Mar; last Bpd 27 Mar.

Green-winged Teal: BROO 16 Mar; max 12 Bpd 27 Mar; last 3 Chenango BROO 12 Apr.

Redhead: Cooperstown OTSE 6 Mar; RivR 12 Mar; only reports.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 2 Bpd 18 Mar; max 82 Bpd 2 Apr; last 11 UL 16 Apr.

Greater Scaup: 13 DorP 23 Apr, only report.

Lesser Scaup: arr 2 HP 25 Mar; last HP 30 Mar.

Long-tailed Duck: OTSE 29 Mar, only report.

Bufflehead: arr 6 HP 23 Mar; max 10 RivR 28 Mar; last UL 24 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: arr RivR 9 Mar; max and last 13 HP 29 Mar; numerous other reports.

Hooded Merganser: max 23 HP 27 Mar; many reports.

Red-breasted Merganser: BROO 23 Mar; UL 26 Mar; only reports.

Com. Merganser: very common CORT on ponds and streams thru Apr; continues increase as nester across Reg.

Ruddy Duck: Vestal BROO 1 May (MP, MF), uncommon.

Ring-necked Pheasant: TIOG Mar & Apr reports; Kirkwood BROO 20 Apr; Chenango BROO 30 Apr.

Ruffed Grouse: CHEN 12 Mar; several reports.

Wild Turkey: max 25 Owego TIOG 19 Mar; many reports of small flocks and singles Apr & May.

Com. Loon: 1 lakes in Preble/Homer CORT 6 Apr, only report.

Red-throated Loon: HP 25 May, only report.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Binghamton 14 Mar; good number of reports.

Horned Grebe: 2 HP 28 Mar; Vestal 21 Apr; only reports.

Red-necked Grebe: 1 small lake Guilford CHEN 17 May, only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Binghamton BROO 22 Mar; max 10 Vestal BROO 11 Apr; last 2 HP 29 Apr.

Great Blue Heron: arr BROO 2 Mar; max 9 BROO 23 Mar; many reports, but low numbers.

Great Egret: Clarke Pd OTSE 16 Apr, unusual for season.

Green Heron: arr UL 16 Apr; fewer reports than normal.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: imm 22 Apr CORT (SB); TIOG Apr, no date given.

GLOSSY IBIS: Springfield OTSE 6 May (MA).

BLACK VULTURE: Union BROO 12 Mar (JS); Dickinson BROO 21 Mar (BB); rare for Reg.

Turkey Vulture: arr Walton DELA 9 Mar; max 20 Union BROO 12 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Osprey: Bpd 7-13 Apr; regular at site in DELA May.

Bald Eagle: max 3 HP 28 Mar; on nest Masonville DELA 9 May; increased reports, most in Mar.

N. Harrier: arr Lisle BROO 18 Mar; 11 other sightings, low.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 Lisle BROO 14 Apr; 12 other reports.

Cooper's Hawk: Wolfe P BROO 6 May, only May report; good numbers in Mar & Apr.

N. Goshawk: Pittsfield OTSE 5 Apr; TIOG Apr, no date given; only reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Chenango BROO 13 Mar; 9 other reports.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Conklin BROO 15 Apr; good numbers, pairs and courtship reports.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Lisle BROO 23 Apr; 8 other reports.

Golden Eagle: W.Burlington OTSE 16 Mar, 21 Apr (T&JS); Hartwick OTSE 22 Mar (LH&FN); rare reports.

Am. Kestrel: arr HP 25 Mar; well reported.

MERLIN: pr & nest Binghamton 19 Apr, (JQ); 2 other reports, no nest status provided; several spring/summer reports pointing to evidence of nesting pair CORT (MY); *intro*.

Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton 2 Mar; many May reports of Binghamton pr, nesting attempt unsuccessful.

Virginia Rail: arr Bpd 9 Apr; 10 other reports.

Sora: UL 8 May; 5 other reports May.

Com. Moorhen: Spencer TIOG May, no date given.

SANDHILL CRANE: TIOG 14 May (AC&LB); Apalachin TIOG 28 May (LBI).

Semipalmated Plover: 4 Conklin BROO 14 May; max 6 Bainbridge CHEN 20- 25 May; 3 other reports.
Killdeer: arr HP 18 Mar; max 8 Lisle BROO 9 Apr; normal, good numbers.
Greater Yellowlegs: Chenango BROO 8 Apr; max 8 UL 24 Apr; 9 other reports, slightly above average.
Lesser Yellowlegs: UL 14 May; only report.
Solitary Sandpiper: TIOG Apr, no date given; 12 other reports May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr 5 RivR 29 Apr; regularly reported.
Semipalmated Sandpiper:
 Binghamton 14 May; Vestal BROO 18, 21 May; only reports.
Least Sandpiper: BROO 17 May; max 20 Bainbridge CHEN 20-25 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: Vestal BROO 18 May, only report.
Dunlin: Glen Aubrey BROO 15 May; Bainbridge CHEN 25 May; 1 other report.
Wilson's Snipe: arr HP 27 Mar; 6 reports, low.
Am. Woodcock: Maine BROO 23 Mar; 8 other reports, less than usual.
Bonaparte's Gull: 7 DorP 9 Apr; 5 HP 10 Apr; Lisle BROO 15 May.
Herring Gull: 4 Bpd 25 Mar; many Mar reports; no May reports.
THAYER'S GULL: Binghamton 14 Mar (D Windsor). [No details. NYSARC review required.]
Lesser Black-backed Gull: HP 28-29 Mar (DW).
Great Black-backed Gull:
 W Burlington OTSE 19 Mar; HP 25, 29 Mar; CVSP 27 Mar.
Caspian Tern: UL 15 May.
Com. Tern: 2 DorP 15 May.
Black Tern: 4 southern part of Tully Lakes CORT 29 May (TF), only report.

PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Maine BROO 11 May (JH); 9 reports; another good year!

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr UL 16 May (PB); 5 reports; mostly from lower elevations than Black-billed; others remarking they appear more common than even last year's good year.

E. Screech-Owl: 4 rep Apalachin TIOG Mar; TIOG Mar & May, scattered along river valleys and farm lands < 1200', occasionally higher.

Great Horned Owl: 2 BUNP 19 Mar; nestling AqP 10 Apr; 2 other reports from BROO.

Barred Owl: 2 Springfield Center OTSE 23 Mar; 8 reports, mainly from swamps 1000-1200' or wet woods >1500'.

Com. Nighthawk: arr Binghamton 10 May (BK); only 3 reports.

Chimney Swift: arr Glen Aubrey 2 May (JW); max 12 Whitney Pt BROO 8 May (JW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr CHEN 6 May (JW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous reports along river valleys and towns <1500'; increasing.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr CORT 31 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr Ely Par NT 16 May.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: High Vista Preserve s end SkanL 29 May (MY).

Alder Flycatcher: arr Maxiam Rd Binghamton 18 May (DW); increasing reports after 20 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr BROO 18 May (WW).

Least Flycatcher: arr Glen Aubrey BROO 29 Apr (WW).

E. Phoebe: arr Richford 31 Mar (DM).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Maine BROO 11 May (JH), very late.

E. Kingbird: arr Maine BROO 3 May (MP, EC, & SKr).

N. Shrike: 4 scattered reports; last Apr; low.

WHITE-EYED VIREO: NuH May 15 (Team BU).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Barker 8 May (JW).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Binghamton 17 Apr (ND).
Warbling Vireo: arr Oakley Corners TIOG 2 May (JH).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Vestal 13 May (GK); only 2 reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 10 May Vestal (EH), early.
Blue Jay: significant flight late Apr thru mid May; groups of 5-20 flying north on south winds not uncommon.
Am. Crow: early nesting Binghamton 13 Mar.
Fish Crow: UL 2 May (JH, JW); BROO 16 May; reports BPd, Hillcrest Pits, Vestal, Binghamton, Maine Apr.
Com. Raven: widespread and increasing nester throughout wilder forests in higher elevations (> 1500'), particularly state forest conifer plantations; also nesting on towers and cliffs.
Horned Lark: arr breeding ssp flocks Mar; nesting May BROO & Lisle (DW); max 36 BROO 9 Mar.
Purple Martin: 6 BCC 31 May (MP).
Tree Swallow: arr Hillcrest Pits BROO 20 Mar (JW); max 175+ CHEN 3 Apr (JW).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr BPd 10 Apr (JW).
Bank Swallow: arr & max Susquehanna R Vestal BROO 22 Apr (DW).
Cliff Swallow: arr Triangle 23 Apr (JW); max 4 Binghamton Plaza.
Barn Swallow: arr CORT 2 Apr (TF).
Tufted Titmouse: increasing nester along many river valleys <1500'.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: scarce to uncommon winter & breeding season compared with 2004, even in higher elevation state forests.
Brown Creeper: widespread thru Apr.
Carolina Wren: 19 different locations thruout lowland areas; nesting along many major river valleys; appears to be expanding range into CHEN and OTSE.

House Wren: arr CHEN 29 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr W Chenango Rd BROO 2 Apr (JW); fairly common after mid Apr.
Marsh Wren: BPd 9 Apr (JW, DW).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: uncommon before mid Apr; increasing afterwards at high elevation spruce plantations.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Lisle BROO Apr 9 (JW, DW).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CVSP 30 Apr (BK); local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.
E. Bluebird: locally common before late Mar; increasingly common afterwards.
Veery: arr UL 8 May (JW,DW).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: a few heard in night migration Otselic 20 May.
Swainson's Thrush: heard in night migration Otselic 20 May; breeders returned to PharsWMA 29 May (MY); *intro*.
Hermit Thrush: arr TIOG 10 Apr (DK).
Wood Thrush: arr Chenango BROO 7 May (VL); widespread 15 May thru.
Am. Robin: max 40 Chenango BROO 23 Apr; widespread in moderate numbers late Mar-Apr.
Gray Catbird: overwintering bird TIOG Mar (CB, JB); arr W Chenango Rd CHEN 2 May (JW).
N. Mockingbird: only 1 overwintering report 16 Mar BROO; arr BROO & TIOG late Apr; 1 at ~1500' Burlington early May.
Brown Thrasher: arr Spring Forest Cemetery 19 Apr (JQ, MP).
Am. Pipit: arr Smith Hill Rd Lisle BROO 30 Mar (BG); max 40 Page Brook Rd Triangle BROO 23 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: few flocks of 25-30 Mar; nearly absent Apr & May; increasing late May; max 30+ Chenango BROO 27 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Bainbridge 8 May (JH).
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: arr 3 LHNC 14 May (RB & JM), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Ely Park NT 16 May (DW); 2 reports.
Nashville Warbler: arr W Chenango Rd BROO 6 May.
N. Parula: 18 May Chenango BROO 18 May (JW); 2 reports.
Yellow Warbler: arr Parson Rd Barker 27 Apr (WW).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Endwell BROO 5 May (DW); max 6 BROO 28 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr UL 14 May (JW).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Barker 8 May (JW).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr CVSP 15 Apr (BK).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Chenango BROO 27 Apr (JW).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Barker 8 May (JW).
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 2 singing m CVSP 20 Apr (NF); at least one still seen and heard 15 May (BK).
Pine Warbler: arr Glenwood Rd Binghamton 1 Apr; nesting Roundtop & Jones parks (MP).
Prairie Warbler: arr TIOG 5 May; local to fairly common nester in southern part.
Palm Warbler: UL 5 May (BG), only report, late arr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CVSP 14 May (BG).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr LHNC 22 May (RB).
CERULEAN WARBLER: SkanL 29 May (MY).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Barker 27 Apr; low numbers and possibly declining.
Am. Redstart: arr UL BROO 8 May (JW).
Ovenbird: arr TIOG 30 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr CVSP 19 Apr (JW).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr mid Apr (DW); nests Jones & Greenwood parks BROO.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Vestal 13 May, exhausted bird found in driveway but flew away later.
Mourning Warbler: arr BROO 15 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Maine BROO 4 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr BROO 15 May, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Binghamton 13 May; 3 reports a good number.
Canada Warbler: arr Vestal 13 May (GK); 7 reports good numbers compared with recent years.

TANAGERS — WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Ely Park NT 11 May (WW).
E. Towhee: arr NuH 6 Apr (WW); early; the rest arrived after 19 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: moderate number Mar; last BROO 6 Apr (WW).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Binghamton 7 Apr (DW).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Edwards Hill Rd Lisle 14 May, very rare.
Field Sparrow: arr Vestal 6 Apr (MP); max 3 Greybark Lane 18 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr & max 3 Chenango BROO 13 Apr (WW); pr Edwards Hill Rd Lisle.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Edwards Hill Rd Lisle 9 Apr (JW, DW).
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Edwards Hill Rd Lisle 14 May (BG); Long Pd SF 29 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Vestal 20 Mar (DQ); 7 reports.
Song Sparrow: arr Endwell 13 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: UL 14 May (BG), only report.
Swamp Sparrow: arr BPd 6 Apr (BG); several West Corners Swamp 29 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: overwintered in small numbers; arr mid to late Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: possible overwintering or early migrant NuH 6 Apr; arr LHNC 2 May (RB).

Dark-eyed Junco: max 23+ Chenango BROO 31 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 20 BROO 9 Mar, surely more out there in this relatively unbirded Reg; last early Apr.

N. Cardinal: common primarily river valleys; small numbers >1500'.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TIOG 30 Apr; arr in numbers after 8 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr TIOG 10 May (LB).

Bobolink: arr Maine BROO 7 May (JW); "many" Twining Rd 26 May (JT).

Red-winged Blackbird: arr in numbers Mar; max 10,000+ BPd 30 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr BROO Mar 23 (JW,DW).

Rusty Blackbird: arr BPd 26 Mar; max 10+ Glen Aubrey 16 Apr.

Com. Grackle: arr in numbers mid Mar; max 60+ BROO 18 Mar (JW).

Brown-headed Cowbird: a few overwintered, as they do most years; arr BROO 27 Mar.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: ad m Carigan Rd Triangle 18 May (MP, SK, EH).

Baltimore Oriole: arr Spring Forest Cemetery 30 Apr (BK).

Purple Finch: higher than usual numbers CHEN Mar; a rare irruption year in central NY; not uncommon to see flocks of 20+ feeding on "bumper" white ash samara crop; widespread breeding behavior May at >1000'.

RED CROSSBILL: Possible/Probable breeding evidence Mar & Apr, same areas as 2004 nesting event; singing PharsWMA & Otselic Mar &

Apr (MY); some appeared to be a different type than in 2004 (medium to larger billed ssp) based on call and feeding behavior; a few feeding on "bumper" red pine cone crop; *intro.*

Com. Redpoll: seen & heard CHEN 1 Apr (MY).

Pine Siskin: a few scattered reports hills >1400' Apr, at feeders.

Am. Goldfinch: numbers moving thru Apr.

Evening Grosbeak: 6-12 Truxton CORT thru early May (MY); intermittent flock DELA Mar & Apr; 3 W Exeter mid Apr; not bad for a non-irruption year.

Addendum (from winter)

VARIED THRUSH: near ad m Homer CORT 6-8 Jan (MY, mob, ph).



REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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March was cool and dry with an average temperature of 30.7° F, 2.9° below normal. There was 1.39" of precipitation, 1.63" below normal, with 28.1" of snow. April was warm and wet, with an average temperature of 48.3°, 3.0° above normal, and 5.71" of rain, 2.32" above normal. May returned to cool and dry with an average temperature of 54.2°, 2.9° below normal, and only 0.6" of rain, 2.79" below normal.

Oneida Lake had started to open by 1 April, but the lake wasn't ice-free until 10 April. Most Adirondack lakes remained frozen until the last week of April. In years when winter hangs on through March, dabbling ducks move through quickly and low numbers are found, as was the case this season. Most diving duck maxima were of wintering birds that lingered into March. Snow Goose numbers were not low, and they were reported across the Region. This would have been very unusual 20 years ago. Uncommon spring waterfowl included a Greater White-fronted Goose at Derby Hill, a King Eider remaining in Oswego through the season and Surf Scoters on Oneida Lake. Ruddy Duck was scarce with only a single report. Several possible Cackling and Ross's geese were birds seen either flying over or in fields at great distances. Details other than size could not be documented, so they are not included in the species account. There were several Great Egrets for the period and a Snowy Egret.

A single Black Vulture was seen at Derby Hill, but otherwise the hawkwatch site recorded the lowest total since standardized counting began in 1979. The first good flight didn't occur until 31 March, and the warm April was plagued with a lack of frontal systems and strong south winds that bring the most hawks. A breeding success was Peregrine Falcons nesting for the second year in Syracuse and hatching four young. A pair of Bald Eagles were expected to nest in Onondaga County this year, but they got off to a slow start and apparently no eggs were laid.

Sandhill Cranes are expected to be seen moving along Lake Ontario, but two reports in good habitat in northwestern Madison County may be an indication that the species is continuing to expand its breeding range. The May shorebird flight was a bit of a disappointment with no rarities noted. Vernal ponds had dried up with the lack of rainfall, the flight at Sandy Pond was mixed and reports from the Oneida Lake islands were few. The birds may have overflowed us during the cool, calm nights and clear days with moderate north winds, or they may have been waiting for favorable weather in June to move northward. There were two Whimbrels, a Ruddy Turnstone and good numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers for the season, but Sanderling and Red Knot were missed and very few Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a Forster's Tern were the unusual larids for the season.

The Long-eared Owl migration reported consisted of one very good day and just a handful of other sightings. There was only one Short-eared Owl reported,

while four Northern Saw-whet Owls included two in May on breeding grounds. Chuck-will's-widow was found for a second Regional record and stayed for about a week. Both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will migrants were reported in higher numbers than most recent years. A tent caterpillar infestation drew good numbers of cuckoos despite the chilly May weather.

Lake breezes off Lake Ontario not only disperses the hawk flight but the land bird migration as well. Lower than usual numbers of many diurnal migrants such as Common Loon, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch and blackbirds were recorded at Derby Hill. Tom Salo found Palm Warblers on territory near Keepawa in Herkimer County. The species has not been recorded as a breeder in the Region, mostly due to the fact that possible nesting areas in northern Herkimer County are roadless and difficult to reach. A Bohemian Waxwing and two White-eyed Vireos were good finds for the season. There were several reports each of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireo and Gray-cheeked Thrush, the late migrants often missed by those who stop birding after the warblers peak.

Warm weather 6-7 April brought early Pine and Yellow-rumped warblers, but other April warblers arrived on schedule. May began slowly with chilly temperatures, and it was not until warm weather on 10 May that the first big wave of warblers arrived. That day also produced a huge flight at Derby Hill, with many warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles and others streaming by. The next warm-up on 14-15 May brought even more birds, including Cape May Warblers, which had been quite scarce in recent years. But the rest of the month was chilly and without remarkable passerine flights.

Gerard Phillips photographed a Harris's Sparrow, which was at Derby Hill feeders, where he also got photos of two of the Gambel's form of White-crowned Sparrow. Several Clay-colored Sparrows were all migrants. The more common sparrows were generally found in low numbers. Small flocks of Purple Finch and Common Redpoll were present through March, and one Hoary Redpoll was seen in Pompey. Pine Siskins were seen through the season, but most moved on quickly. A few Evening Grosbeaks could be found in the southern highlands.

For the season, a total of 242 species was found, about average. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, Snowy Egret, Black Vulture, Whimbrel, Forster's Tern, **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW**, White-eyed Vireo, Bohemian Waxwing, Cape May Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and **Harris's Sparrow**. Once again, no Sedge Wren or Henslow's Sparrow was reported. Other misses included Red-throated Loon, Black-crowned Night-Heron and the phalaropes.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllle – Baldwinsville; CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; Geo – Georgetown; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA; LOL – L Ontario Littoral; NMP – Nine Mile Pt, Scriba & New Haven; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; SCH – T Schroepfel; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SPd – Sandy Pd; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; StMC – St. Mary's Cemetery; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beaches; Syr – Syracuse; TRWMA – Three Rivers WMA; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: DH 29 Mar (GP).
Snow Goose: arr 3 DH 16 Mar; max 50,000 SVB 29 Mar; 25,000 DH 29 Mar; last W Winfield 20 May.
Canada Goose: max 9200 SCH 29 Mar.
Brant: arr & max 46 OneiL 13 May; flight mostly missed.
Mute Swan: pairs FH, SVB, Brewerton.
Tundra Swan: max 15 OneiL 20 Mar.
Wood Duck: max 30 CM 2 May.
Gadwall: max 6 OnonL 26 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: max 19 OnonL 26 Mar & GSC 19 Apr.
Am. Black Duck: max 76 Bridgeport 21 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: max 6 WM 14 Apr.
N. Shoveler: arr OnonL 26 Mar; max 4 SCH 13 Apr.
N. Pintail: max 38 DH 27 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 66 Sullivan 23 Apr.
Canvasback: max 11 OnonL 26 Mar.
Redhead: max 13 OnonL 26 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 220 SSSP 25 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 540 Oswego 12 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: max 20 Oswego 20 Mar.
King Eider: Oswego thru, record late.
Surf Scoter: Oswego 12 Mar; 3 OneiL 15 May.
White-winged Scoter: max 120 Oswego 12 Mar; 20 SPd 29 May.
Black Scoter: Oswego 20 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: max 280 Oswego 12 Mar.
Bufflehead: max 40 Scriba 24 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 350 FH 20 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 67 SCH 27 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 650 OnonL 13 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 80 LOL 6 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: 2 Beaver L 4 May, only report.
Wild Turkey: max 100 Geo 11 Mar.
Com. Loon: arr DH 31 Mar; max 23 OnonL 21 Apr; on eggs Gray L 12 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 per day.
Horned Grebe: arr LOL 31 Mar; max 3 DH 6 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 5 Apr; max 4 OnonL 9 Apr; last 2 OnonL 21 Apr.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr DH 31 Mar; 108 Bvllc 24 Apr, high away from lakes.

Am. Bittern: max 4 WM 9 May.

Least Bittern: arr 2 WM 9 May; Palermo 21 May; CM 21 May.

Great Blue Heron: arr DH 17 Mar.

Great Egret: arr Scriba 1 May; other singles Verona Marsh & GSC.

SNOWY EGRET: Syr 16-23 May (RD, mob).

Green Heron: max 11 CM 21 May.

Black Vulture: DH 26 Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals:

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	7 Mar	1025	29 Mar	6834
Osprey	27 Mar	45	6 May	278
Bald Eagle	5 Mar	15	6 May	137
N. Harrier	7 Mar	105	31 Mar	423
Sharp-shinned Hawk	17 Mar	381	26 Apr	1510
Cooper's Hawk	7 Mar	97	31 Mar	330
N. Goshawk	7 Mar	3	7, 31 Mar	26
Red-shouldered Hawk	17 Mar	88	30 Mar	501
Broad-winged Hawk	16 Apr	2005	25 Apr	8928
Red-tailed Hawk	5 Mar	676	29 Mar	4022
Rough-legged Hawk	7 Mar	79	31 Mar	369
Golden Eagle	7 Mar	11	31 Mar	49
Am. Kestrel	7 Mar	32	31 Mar	158
Merlin	18 Mar	8	26 Apr	29
Peregrine Falcon	9 Apr	1	4 dates	4

Total incl. unidentified and rarities

23,623

Bald Eagle: nest TRWMA started but apparently no eggs, inexperienced birds.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Richland 18 May.

Peregrine Falcon: pair Syr hatched 4 y 17-18 May; SPd 27 May.

Com. Moorhen: max 2 per day.

Am. Coot: Bvllc to 23 Mar, only report.

Sandhill Crane: arr DH 31 Mar; 3 DH 7 Apr; Canastota 19 Apr; 2 DH 26 Apr; 2 Chittenango 1 May; DH 11 May; SPd 13 May.

Black-bellied Plover: max 8 SPd 27 May.

Semipalmated Plover: max 42 SPd 27 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 12 SCH 8 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 Lysander 18 Mar, early; max 4 Sullivan 8 May & SCH 13 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 14 DH 14 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 13 LOL 14 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr Fulton 18 Apr.

Whimbrel: DH 7 May; OneiL 28 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: SPd 28 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2 SPd 23 May.

Least Sandpiper: max 38 SPd 27 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 3 SPd 28 May; max 15 SPd 29 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 15 Sullivan 13 Apr.

Dunlin: arr 6 SPd 9 May; max 42 SPd 27 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 SPd 19 May; max 19 E Syr 24 May.

Wilson's Snipe: max 29 Sullivan 7 Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 3 OnonL 6 Apr; max 20 DH 12 Apr.

Iceland Gull: last Oswego 5 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: DH 31 Mar (GP); Van Buren 13 Apr (BH).
Glaucous Gull: last Oswego 3 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 85 SPd 23 May.
Com. Tern: max 70 Oneil 21 May.
Forster's Tern: SPd 19 May (KM, BP).
Black Tern: max 18 SSSP 21 May.

PIGEONS — WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 7 CM 21 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Hannibal 13 May; 8 other reports after 20 May.
Long-eared Owl: arr NMP 31 Mar; max 10 NMP 1 Apr; about 4 other reports.
Short-eared Owl: Van Buren 22 Apr, only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Pompey 20 Mar; WH 22 Mar; HVWMA & Constantia 21 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr LOL 14 May; 10 other reports, more than usual.
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: WM 21 May thru (KM, BP, CS, mob), second Reg record.
Whip-poor-will: arr LOL 30 Apr; singles Marcellus 15 May & WM 21 May, migrants; max 7 Constantia 21 May, breeders.
Belted Kingfisher: arr DH 27 Mar; Old Forge 5 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Lysander 17 May; Fulton 18 May; Hastings 23 May; HIWMA 30 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: several reports W Winfield area as range extension continues.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 NMP 16 Apr.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Big Moose 4 Mar; Third L Creek 11 Mar.
N. Flicker: arr 2 DH 31 Mar; max 122 DH 10 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS — WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Marshall 21 May; SCH 27 May; Labrador Hollow 31 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: max 6 WH 28 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: StMC 18

May; 2 SPd 27 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 21 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 14 CM 21 May.
E. Kingbird: max 30 DH 10 May.
N. Shrike: 10 reports; last TRWMA 8 Apr.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: Sterling 21 May; HIWMA 26, 30 May.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Sterling 21 May.
Warbling Vireo: max 19 CM 21 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr LOL 7 May; WH 14 May; Marshall 21 May.
Gray Jay: 2 Keepawa 28 May (TS).
Blue Jay: max 2640 DH 10 May.
Am. Crow: max 1500 DH 7 Mar.
Fish Crow: pairs OnonL & Shop city Syr.
Com. Raven: max 3 DH 10 Apr; on territory SSSP in Apr.
Horned Lark: max 110 W Winfield 20 Mar.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: migrants 1 per day when found.
Brown Creeper: max 30 NMP 10 Apr.
House Wren: max 29 LOL 14 May.
Winter Wren: arr & max 4 NMP 6 May.
Marsh Wren: max 22 CM 21 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 21 NMP 17 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 24 NMP 17 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 10 NMP 14 May.
E. Bluebird: max 20 DH 31 Mar.
Veery: max 13 NMP 15 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr NMP 14 May; max 4 Oakwood Cemetery Syr 27 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 6 NMP 15 May.
Hermit Thrush: max 13 NMP 30 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 31 CM 21 May.
Gray Catbird: Syr 2 Mar (MR), wintered; max 50 CM 21 May.
Am. Pipit: arr 2 DH 21 Mar; max 60 Hastings 16 May; 50 Norway 14 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: Fayetteville 11-12 Mar (JB, mob).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: max 3 LOL 14 May; m paired with f Brewster's SFNS 24 May.
Tennessee Warbler: 3 NMP 15 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 15 NMP 15 May.
N. Parula: max 15 NMP 15 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 250 DH 10 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 25 NMP 15 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 14 NMP 15 May.
Cape May Warbler: max 8 NMP 15 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 47 LOL 14 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 DH 8 Apr; max 650 DH 10 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 20 NMP 15 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 25 NMP 15 May.
Pine Warbler: max 10 NMP 16 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: SFNS 11 May; 2 Camillus 15 May; LOL 15 May; HVWMA 17 May; NMP 19 May; Dewitt 25 May.
Palm Warbler: max 40 DH 10 May; 3 m Keepawa HERK 28 May, on territory.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 9 NMP 15 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 7 NMP 15 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 WH 8 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 13 NMP 15 May.
Am. Redstart: max 450 DH 10 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr Toad Harbor 10 May.
WORM-EATING WARBLER: SFNS 11 May (MP).
Ovenbird: max 25 LOL 14 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr T Onondaga 15 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: migrants 1-2/day.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 59 CM 21 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr StMC 8 May; max 6/day LOL 14 May thru.

Wilson's Warbler: max 8 NMP 15 May.
Canada Warbler: migrants 1-2/day.

TANAGERS — WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 25 DH 10 May.
E. Towhee: Bvllle to 6 Mar, winter holdover.
Am. Tree Sparrow: to 75 per day SFNS 1-14 Apr; last 2 SFNS 21 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: max 48 LOL 14 May.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Skaneateles May; DH 11 May; NMP 19 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Hastings, SFNS 9 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: max 7 LOL 10 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr DH 13 Mar; max 18 DH 10 Apr; Oakwood Cemetery Syr 27 May, late.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Hastings 10 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr widespread 31 Mar; max 16 TRWMA 3 Apr; 13 Durhamville 6 Apr; last 2 LOL 1 May & 1 SFNS 3 May, late.
Song Sparrow: max 60 Sullivan mucklands 3 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 8 DH 15 May; last TRWMA 30 May.
Swamp Sparrow: max 38 CM 21 May.
White-throated Sparrow: max 40 DH 27 Apr.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: DH 11 May, second spring record (GP, ph, mob).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 65 LOL 14 May; 2 *gambelli* DH 13 May (GP, ph).
Dark-eyed Junco: max 60 NMP 7 Apr.
Lapland Longspur: 5 singles 11 Mar to 5 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 25 Geo 11 Mar; last DH 31 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 160 DH 10 May.
Indigo Bunting: max 5/day after 15 May.
Bobolink: arr 26 Apr, record early; max 750 DH 10 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 3 Van Buren 20 Mar; max 5/day DH.

Rusty Blackbird: 2 Geo Mar, winter holdovers; max 250 DH 10 May; last 2 Bolivar 16 May.
Orchard Oriole: DH 10 May; Marshall 21 May; Cross L 31 May.
Baltimore Oriole: max 600 DH 10 May.
Purple Finch: max 25 Geo 27 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: to 35/day widespread; last 15 DH 31 Mar.
Hoary Redpoll: Pompey 7-13 Mar (DC, Mike Resch, NYSARC).
Pine Siskin: 1-4/day thru, but scattered.
Am. Goldfinch: max 800 DH 10 May.
Evening Grosbeak: to 6/day s. MADI & ONON thru Mar.

REGION 6 - ST. LAWRENCE

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March weather was dry and brutally cold. A large high pressure system had established itself in Eastern Canada, providing days of north and northeast winds with no precipitation. The coldest recorded temperature for the state was -18° F in Highmarket, Lewis County, on the 11th of the month. The precipitation deficit was 45 percent for the Region. There was very little evidence of migration for the first two weeks. American Woodcock, Eastern Phoebe and Tree Swallow were all two to three weeks late. A **GRAY JAY** at a feeder in Watertown on 7 March may have been another example as well. April was a pleasing 2-4° above normal, and precipitation was above average, allowing all the creeks and marsh to recover. Migration opened up and the trees and fields were teaming with birds. On 8 April, Jeff Bolsinger, while driving through the Towns of Stockholm and Brasher in St. Lawrence County, flushed 1000 or more Dark-eyed Juncos, mostly in flocks of 10 to 75, off sides of the roads. The first two weeks of May were cold and wet, causing some warblers to be late arriving. The last two weeks of May were warm and dry.

One of the more interesting reports was a white **GYRFALCON** seen flying north by both Dawn Walker and Mary Warburton at different times on the same day near Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County. Mary is an experienced hawk observer and has worked with Peter Nye on the DEC eagle program. The **GREAT GRAY OWL**, which was found in Cape Vincent by Gerry Smith in February, departed on 18 May. Jerry LeTendre, a resident of Cape Vincent, became the owl's guardian and found the bird each day throughout the entire time it was there. He showed it to hundreds of people and kept some people at a distance when they wanted to take pictures. He became friendly with the neighbors and had a chance to talk to them about the importance of the grasslands in the area during the winter time. A pair of **TRUMPETER SWANS** returned to Chippewa Creek, Town of Morristown, St. Lawrence County, with eight very tiny young on 31 May.

Rarities included: Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sandhill Crane, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker and Bohemian Waxwing.

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Carol Cady, Sheila Cerwonka, Joan Collins, Bill Gordon, Nick Leone, Jerry LeTendre, Ellen Long, Robert Long, Chris Reidy, Dawn Walker, Mary Beth Warburton.

ABBREVIATIONS

Barnes C – Barnes Corners, T Pinkney LEWI; B Falls – T Brasher Falls STLA; Can – T Canton STLA; Col – T Colton STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent JEFF; EB – Eel Bay, Orleans JEFF; Ev Mil – Evans Mills, T LeRay JEFF; FD – Fort Drum JEFF; Gouv – T Gouverneur STLA; GPSP – Grass Pt SP, T Orleans JEFF; Herm – T Hermon STLA; LMWMA – Lakeview Marsh WMA, T Ellisburg JEFF; Lou – T Louisville STLA; Mas – T Massena STLA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Colton STLA; Mor – T Morristown STLA; Pit – T Pitcarin STLA; Pot – T Potsdam STLA; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course, Canton STLA; PRWMA – Perch R WMA, T Orleans JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence R; Snsh – Snowshoe Pt, T Henderson JEFF; Stock – T Stockholm STLA; Th – T Theresa JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper and Lower L WMA, T Canton STLA; Wad – T Waddington STLA; Wat – T Watertown JEFF; WI – Wellesley I SP JEFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr 80 T Lou 27 Mar.

Canada Goose: arr T Pot 13 Mar; max 1000+ T Mas 20 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: pr + 8 very young cygnets Chippewa Bay T Mor 28 May (EL).

Wood Duck: arr T Pot 12 Mar.

Gadwall: 3 pr T Wad 22 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: EB (NL).

Am. Black Duck: arr pr Raquette R T Col 27 Mar; nest with 13 eggs FD 24 May.

Mallard: 100+ Robert Moses Power Dam 10 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 5 T Hounsfield 25 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr T Pot 30 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: 8 ULLWMA 26 May.

Com. Goldeneye: pr T Wad 24 Apr.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: last f GPSP 25 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: arr pr Raquette R T Col 27 Mar.

Com. Merganser: arr 12 m & 4 f Grass R T Mas 10 May.

Red-breasted Merganser: 7 PtPen 12 May.

Ruffed Grouse: 6 m drumming in 3 hr FD 29 May.

Com. Loon: arr T Mas 8 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr SLR T Mas 8 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr T Mor 30 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr B Falls 26 Apr; max 6 calling FD 30 Apr.

Great Blue Heron: arr Grass R Flow T Col 13 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr T Herm 6 May.

Turkey Vulture: arr T Wat 20 Mar,
nest + 4 y T Wad 31 May.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2 PRWMA 8 Apr.
Bald Eagle: ad soaring over PRGC 2
Apr; ad near Pleasant L STLA 30 Mar.
N. Harrier: arr T Gouv 30 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: arr T Lou 10 Mar.
Cooper's Hawk: arr T Mor 11 Apr.
N. Goshawk: arr T Lou, FD 10 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: ad MM 28 May.
Red-tailed Hawk: on nest T Gouv
4 May.
Am. Kestrel: arr T Can in numbers 24 Mar.
Merlin: ad m feeding on a Blue Jay
WI 26 Mar.
GYRFALCON: white ad flying north
near Gouverneur STLA 20 Mar (DW,
fide MW).
Virginia Rail: arr ULLWMA 7 May.
Sora: arr Brownie Rd T Mas 25 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr T B Falls 2 May.
SANDHILL CRANE: flying south over
Barnes C 31 May (CR).
Killdeer: arr T Wat 24 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 6 T Lou 4 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr T Lou 4 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Mas 8 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr T Can 5 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Ev Mil 19 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr T Lou
24 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Grass R T Lou
23 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Rt 37 T Lou
15 Apr, early.
Wilson's Snipe: arr 3 pr Rt 56 T Lou
19 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr PRGC T Lou
29 Mar, late.
Bonaparte's Gull: 8 imm Carry Res
T Col 4 May, in flock of 22
Ring-billed Gulls.
Ring-billed Gull: arr few T Pot 15 Mar.
Herring Gull: arr T Lou 30 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr T Wad 24 Apr; 2
performing courtship displays ULLWMA
7 May.

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Black Tern: 25+ foraging over Lower L,
ULLWMA 7 May.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

Mourning Dove: 4 Rt 56 T Lou 1 Apr.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr T Lou,
ULLWMA 13 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr T Pit 27 Apr;
max 5 FD 31 May.
E. Screech Owl: T Lou 15 Apr.
Barred Owl: T Lou 1 May.
GREAT GRAY OWL: dep CV 18 May.
Short-eared Owl: T Dekalb STLA 25
Apr.
N. SAW-WHET OWL: m calling MM
26 Mar (JC).
Whip-poor-will: arr B Falls 9 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 5 Grass R T Mas 11
May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr T
Mas 13 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr T CV 5 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: FD 25 Apr.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: T Lou 1 Apr.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: drumming
MM 13 Apr.
BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER: f
on railroad bed MM 13 Apr (JC).
N. Flicker: pr MM 13 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr T Lou 18 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 3 singing
MM 27 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr FD, T Lou 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr T Lou 29 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr T Lou 17 May.
E. Phoebe: arr T Can 2 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr T Mas
8 May.
E. Kingbird: arr PtPen 12 May.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr T Can
30 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr T Clare, T Lou
30 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr T Lou 11 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr MM 27 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr T Lou, T Can
11 May.

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GRAY JAY: 1 at a Watertown feeder
7 Mar only; pr MM 27 May.
Purple Martin: arr T Can 7 May, late.
Tree Swallow: arr T Lou 5 May, late.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr T Lou
5 May.
Bank Swallow: arr T Mas 7 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr T Mas 8 May.
Barn Swallow: arr T Lou 4 May, late.
Tufted Titmouse: T Mas 2 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: pr T Lou 1 Mar.
Brown Creeper: arr T Lou 10 Mar.
Carolina Wren: 1 at suet feeder T Pot
13-23 Mar; 1 calling T Mor 25 Apr;
1 calling T Can 18 May.
House Wren: arr PRGC & T Lou 6 May.
Winter Wren: arr Horseshoe L T
Piercefield STLA 9 Apr.
SEDGE WREN: 3 m singing near S
Sandy Pd Trail in fields east of LMWMA
27 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr MM
13 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr T Lou 3 Apr.
E. Bluebird: arr pr B Falls 10 Apr.
Veery: arr PRGC 19 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Lou 2 May.
Wood Thrush: arr T Lou 12 May.
Gray Catbird: arr T Lou, PRGC 13 May.
N. Mockingbird: arr T Lou 11 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr T Mas 7 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: 6 PRGC 3
Apr (JB), with Cedar Waxwings, late.
Cedar Waxwing: arr 20+ PRGC 3 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Snsh 11 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr T Gouv 11
May; max 14 FD 31 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr T Mor 6 May;
singles T Lou 17 & 18 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr T Lou 7 May.
N. Parula: arr T Mor 6 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr PGRC 1 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr T Stock
6 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr T Mas 6 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr T Can 18 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr T
Lou 10 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr T Mor
23 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr T
Lou 6 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr T Lou
12 May.
Pine Warbler: arr T Lou 21 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr 11 singing m MM
9 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr T Lou
20 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr T Mas 14 May;
max 8 T Mor 29 May.
Cerulean Warbler: Snsh 11 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr PRGC
1 May.
Am. Redstart: arr T Mas 10 May.
Ovenbird: arr T Stock 6 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr T Mor 2 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr Snsh 24 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr T Lou 17 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Snsh 23 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Snsh 23 May.
Canada Warbler: arr T Can 11 May.

TANAGERS — WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr T Can 11 May.
E. Towhee: arr T Lou 10 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last T Mas 15 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr T Lou 15 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr T Lou 17 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr T Lou 2 May.
Grasshopper Sparrow: 5 FD 17 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: FD 9 May; 4 Dano
Rd T Th 30 May.
Fox Sparrow: last CV 5 Apr.
Song Sparrow: arr T Lou 27 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr PRGC 15 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 12 PRWMA 9 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: arr T Lou
28 Mar.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr T Mor
4 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: arr T Can 15 Mar;
max 1000+ side roads Stock & B Fall
8 Apr.

Lapland Longspur: 5-10/day on Gosier and Fauvret rds CV.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr pr T Mor 4 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr T Mas 8 May.

Bobolink: arr T Can 7 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: large influx T Can 23-24 Mar.

E. Meadowlark: arr T Philadelphia JEFF 31 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 100+ PRGC 1 May; lg flock till warm spell mid-May.

Com. Grackle: arr 3 Ev Mil 4 Mar; few seen for next 3 weeks.

Brown-headed Cowbird: arr T Lou 17 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: Hannawa Falls STLA 19 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr T Lou 9 May.

Purple Finch: 10 T Lou 1 Mar.

House Finch: 2 T Lou 1 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: last T Lou 18 Mar.

Pine Siskin: 25+ T Lou 27 Mar; sev pr MM 13 Apr.

Am. Goldfinch: arr lg numbers T Lou 27 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 20 B Falls 1 Mar; pr T Mor 28 Apr.

REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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A Nor'easter on 1 March dumped 14" of snow on Ellenburg Depot and a foot on Malone. The cold spell that began 16 February finally broke on 5 March. Scattered snowstorms marked most of the month until a warming trend commenced on the 20th, with Elizabethtown still at 47°F during the evening of a sunny 24 March, and Plattsburgh enjoyed 61° at month's end. Inlet saw March temperatures below freezing on all but one day, with six days below 0°. April began with a flood warning in Hamilton County and similar watches in the other three northeastern counties, only to be followed by one of the loveliest stretches in memory. The sun shone from 7-20 April, when there was afternoon rain, followed by two more sunny, breezy days on 21-22 April. Rain began in the evening of the 22nd and continued over the next two days, leaving the Ausable River flooded. Another half-inch 27 April brought a flood warning to the East Branch Ausable River. May saw a series of cold fronts move across the Region and settle off the Atlantic coast, pumping back more rain. Inlet and the central Adirondacks awoke to eight mornings with frost, the last a 28° dawn on 19 May. After a final rainy spell, some sun shone on 30 April, and the last day of the season was sunny and warm.

On sunny, windy 21 May, Bill Krueger found a medium-sized shorebird on the Gravelle and Laurin farms at the Chazy Rivers. As large as a Lesser Yellowlegs in the vicinity, but browner, the bird exhibited upperparts that had a scalloped, rather than spotted, appearance. The dark gray bill, shorter and stouter than the Lesser's, was slightly decurved. The smallish head and upper neck were darker

than the back, with lower throat, breast and flanks splotched black on white. The bird's feathers were edged in buff or off-white; some of the feather centers were black, but those on the back were brown. In the one brief flight that Krueger observed with binoculars there were no conspicuous markings on the upperwings, the underwings were white and there was extensive white on the rump. Legs were orange. This **Reeve** fed quite actively by walking and pecking, up to its belly in water most of the time. On cloudy 23 May, Krueger found the rarity still on the Laurin farm. This provides a third Regional record, an immature Ruff having been seen on the Laurin farm in September 1994, and a bird with a white ruff was found at the mouth of the Ausable River in June 1995.

The spring bird banding station on the grounds of the Crown Point State Historic Site celebrated the 30th consecutive season of banding 6-23 May. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association, through an agreement with NYS OPR&HP and the Historic Site Manager, the station banded 536 birds of 51 species by the time the nets were closed, bringing the total since 1976 to 12,572 birds of some 96 species. The 30th anniversary was a "Champlain Connections" feature on Channel 5 WPTZ Plattsburgh as the first segment of a Vermont Audubon video on the Champlain Birding Trail, was recorded for a WRPI college radio and video production, and was described in articles in *Adirondack Life*, *Valley News* and *Times of Ti*. The Historic Site staff constructed a roofed framework of clear cedar to hold four colored panels describing the 30 years of banding and the birds of the Historic Site, and OPR&HP published a 2nd edition of the *Birds of Crown Point State Historic Site* checklist. The staff also reclaimed the old "Bobolink Field" to the south, where not only Bobolinks but also Eastern Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows were found in May. And the 2004 hawthorn reclamation at the banding station continues to encourage Brown Thrashers, Yellow Warblers, Field Sparrows and other birds of low thickets. Over 300 visitors included schoolchildren, who released nearly a hundred birds and received a Polaroid photo and certificate from the CPBA. The old record of 33 Blue Jays banded in 2000 was demolished by a heavy return flight that resulted in 89 banded. [See *The Kingbird* 55:1 for accounts of the heavy Fall 2004 southbound Blue Jay flights in Regions 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10.] A late "Yellow" Palm Warbler on 10 May was only the second in 30 years, the other 46 banded between 1976-2004 all the later-migrant "Western" Palm Warblers. Historic Site Manager Thomas Hughes and his fine staff are to be commended for their many efforts on behalf of the birds of Crown Point SHS.

In spite of the two-week stretch of fair weather in April, migration was generally accepted to be both late and light, affected largely by the series of cold fronts and rain that marked most of May. What impact those conditions might have upon nesting success remains to be seen, but observers noted that Tree Swallows were late in getting started and reduced in numbers in some areas. In spite of less than ideal conditions for both birds and birders, a total of 207 species was reported, short of the 1997 record of 219 but the same as 2004. In addition to the **Reeve**, notable rarities included a **Eurasian Wigeon** on the Gravelle farm at Chazy Rivers on 15 April, two **Sandhill Cranes** at Tupper Lake 17 May, **Red-bellied Woodpecker** reported from both Long Lake 26 April-13 May and Crown Point State Historic Site 22 May and a singing male **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Jay

27-30 May. Perhaps the most interesting was a bird at Joan Kogut's Vermontville feeder in Franklin County on 7 May believed to be a "Sooty" Fox Sparrow. The description is consistent with the *unalaschcensis* group: a large, dark gray/blackish brown sparrow with breast very heavily streaked, almost blotchy, otherwise similar in size and behavior to our usual "Red" Fox Sparrow. [See *Birding* 31:6, pp. 508-17, "Species Limits in the Fox Sparrow."]

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR – Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP – Ausable Pt WMA; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BTS – Browns Tract Stream; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt SHS; CR – Chazy Rivers; FB – Ferd's Bog; IL – Indian L; LA – L Alice WMA; LL – Long L; LP – L Placid; NP – Noblewood Pk; PtF – Pt au Fer; PtR – Pt au Roche SP; SL – Saranac L; SPB – Spring Pd Bog; TL – Tupper L; WM – Wickham Marsh GMA; WRS – Webb Royce Swamp.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Brant: arr 75+ CH 14 May (BK) and 40 Rouses Pt same date (DP); 100 FB 15 May (GL); max 200 CP 23 May (GL,JP,ET).

EURASIAN WIGEON: CR 15 Apr (BK,CM), 6th Reg record, all in CLIN.

Am. Wigeon: arr AMR 7 Apr (HW).

N. Shoveler: pr arr AMR 6 Apr (HW), early FRAN; 4 in a different pool AMR 7 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr 12 AMR 5 Apr (HW), only report.

Green-winged Teal: arr 6 Little TL 6 Apr (JC,RY), early HAMI; AMR 7 Apr (HW).

Ring-necked Duck: max 100+ AP 7 Apr (J&RH).

Greater Scaup: arr 6 AMR 6 Apr (HW); pr Westport 9-16 Apr (MDM); NP 16 Apr (J&PT).

Bufflehead: last CP 9 May (GL,JP,RW).

Com. Goldeneye: CP to 9 May (GL,JP,RW).

Barrow's Goldeneye: CH 10 Apr (BK,CM), always a good find.

Red-breasted Merganser: CH, CP, NP, Plattsburgh, Westport, WM, a good showing.
Spruce Grouse: m N Jay Rd 29 Mar (PO), new ESSE location; m Spring Pd Bog 20 May (GJ).
Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 NP 9 Apr; Pt Douglas 23 Apr; max 12 NP 1 May (MDM).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr ESSE 9 Apr (MDM); 225 with 6 nests CP 20 May (RP); yellow-color-banded from Four Brothers 2002-04 at NP 29 May (MDM).
Great Egret: arr Chapman Rd, Ft Covington 5 Apr (HW), early FRAN & Reg; 2 there 8 Apr; PtR 19 Apr (CoM); L Durant 21 Apr (M&WM), early HAMI; L Simond 8 May (CD,BF); NP 27 May (MDM); a fine showing.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr PtR 13 May (BK,CM).
Turkey Vulture: max 20 in kettle over His Majesty's Fort at CP 21 May (GL,JP).

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 4 Inlet feeder 14 Mar (GL), feeding on road-killed deer & beaver carcasses; blue-color-banded imm from NYS at CP 21 May (GL); numerous other reports.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: imm m banded CP 16 May (J&SP), netted while in pursuit of fortunate ad m Indigo Bunting.
Red-tailed Hawk: apparent "Krider's" Carpenter Flats CLIN 23 Apr (DR).
Golden Eagle: ad Jay 16&21 Mar; imm Jay 15 Apr (PO); LL 18 May (JC).
Merlin: Ausable Forks, Jay, LP, Newcomb, Osetah L, Wilcox Dock, now typical.
Peregrine Falcon: pr Willsboro eyrie 5 Mar (MDM); Elizabethtown eyrie early Mar (ET); pr Jay eyrie 15 Mar (PO); pr Keene eyrie 20 Mar (ET); CP 9 May (JP).
Virginia Rail: WM & WRS 23 Apr (MDM), early ESSE; LA 3 May (J&RH); CH 8 May (BK); Ray Brook 23 May

(TD); L Durant 29 May (M&WM); nice finds.
Sora: WRS 1 May (MDM), early ESSE; CH 9 May (BK); excellent finds.
Com. Moorhen: arr CR 29 May (BK,CM).
Am. Coot: arr CR 31 May (BK,CM).
SANDHILL CRANE: 2 TL 17 May (BJ, AR), 2nd FRAN & 6th Reg record.
Black-bellied Plover: CR 21 & 31 May (BK,CM), only reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 CR 11 May (BK,CM); NP 28 May (MDM); max 10 CR 29 May (BK).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr CR 2 May; max 10 CR 29 May (BK); 1-4 SL high school 22-24 May (TD).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 CR 9 May; max 5 CR 20 May (BK,CM); 5 SL high school 24 May (TD).
Solitary Sandpiper: SL 16-30 Apr (TD,RH); LA 13 May (KJ); NP 28 May (MDM).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 CR 29 May (BK).
Dunlin: arr 3 CR 15 May; max 15 CR 29 May (BK).
REEVE: CR on Gravelle & Laurin farms 21&23 May (BK); 3rd CLIN & Reg record.
Little Gull: imm CR 31 May (BK,CM), 2nd CLIN spring record.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 NP 1 May (MDM), early ESSE; max to 6 NP 7-30 May, suggests nesting on Four Brothers; 2 CR 11 May (BK,CM).
Com. Tern: arr CR 16 May (J&RH).
Black Tern: arr CR 2 May, early CLIN; max 5 PtF 10 May (BK); 4 Catfish Bay CLIN 14 May (DP); PtF 16 May (J&RH); encouraging.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: singing m arr CP 15 May (J&SP); Olano Rd CLIN 20 May (BK).
E. Screech-Owl: calling CP 7 May (GL), only report.

Com. Nighthawk: arr IL 28 May (M&WM); IL 31 May (DS).

Whip-poor-will: arr Pt Kent 30 Mar (DR), ties ESSE & Reg arrival; Pt Kent 16 Apr; CP 11-12 May (GL,J&SP).

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: LL 26 Apr-13 May (JM), 2nd HAMI record; CP 22 May (GL), 10th ESSE record.

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: FB 10-21 Apr (DD,RG,WL,JN), but other sites needed.

Black-backed Woodpecker: m Morrisonville 30 Apr (JM), unexpected; other reports from Constable Pd, FB, IL, LL, as expected.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Moose R Plains 11 May (BG), extremely early; other reports BB, FB, Giant Mt, SL.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Banker Rd CLIN 31 May (BK,CM).

N. Shrike: Raquette L 7 Mar (GL); Chateaugay daily to 23 Mar (MH); Wadhams 9 Apr (LL); last Raquette Pt FRAN 12 Apr (HW).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr PtF 11 May (BK,CM); singing m NP 15 May (MDM).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr PtF 25 May (J&RH), only report.

Gray Jay: BB, BTS, FB, SPB, usual areas.

Blue Jay: max 89 banded CP 9-23 May (GH,JP), old record 33 in 2000.

Am. Crow: 30 Inlet feeder early Mar (GL).

Com. Raven: 4 Inlet feeder early Mar (GL); nest Jay 16 Mar (PO); nest Mt Baker Apr (LL); pr gathering nesting materials Valcour I L Champlain 19 Mar (HD).

Horned Lark: max 50 Pardy Rd CLIN 13 Mar (BK).

Boreal Chickadee: BB, FB, Giant Mt, Helldiver Pd, Jay, LL, where expected.

Tufted Titmouse: max 5 Keeseville feeder Mar (JL); also Carpenters Flats, CP, Elizabethtown, Jay, New Russia, Pt

Kent, WM, and undoubtedly elsewhere as range expansion continues.

Carolina Wren: Plattsburgh feeder 1 Mar (CM); singing m remained New Russia feeder to late Mar (ET); singing m NP 15 May (MDM), as expansion also continues.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Jay 15 May (PO).

Hermit Thrush: LL 7 Apr (JC), early HAMI.

N. Mockingbird: Peru 22 Apr-1May (EF), only report.

European Starling: arr Inlet 19 Mar (GL) & Chilson 20 Mar (LC).

Am. Pipit: arr 75 SL high school 12 May (TD).

Bohemian Waxwing: max 600 Everett Orchards, Peru 8 Mar (ET), previously present for several wks (EF), 2nd highest NYS, new CLIN & Reg max; 50 Jay early Mar (NW); 100 daily Chateaugay to 23 Mar (MH), eating crabapples; excellent numbers.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 singing m Essex & Westport 28 May; singing m Willsboro 30 May (MDM); perhaps not so scarce if sought for.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Akey Rd 22 May (CM,CM Jr.), late CLIN & a great find.

Cape May Warbler: Plattsburgh yard 20 May (J&RH), only report.

Palm Warbler: “Yellow” Elizabethtown 8 Apr (LC), record early ESSE & Reg, breaking 51-yr arrival record; “Yellow” Sabattis Bog 17 Apr (JC), early HAMI; “Yellow” Barnum Bog, Paul Smiths 20 Apr (BM), early FRAN; “Yellow” BB 22 Apr (JN) & 16&26 May (BG); late transient “Yellow” CP 10 May (JP), 2nd banded in 30 yrs, other 46 banded all the later-migrant “Western” Palm; “Yellow” max 15 on small portion of 100A bog near Shingle Shanty Brook HAMI late May (TS).

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Blue Mt 16 May (JC); CP 20 May (RP); Plattsburgh 27&31 May (EF); Giant Mt 28 May (DD); NP 28 May (MDM); a mix of local nesters & transients.

N. Waterthrush: Silver L Bog 1 May (BK,CM), early CLIN.

Wilson's Warbler: arr SL 13 May (RH); Peru 31 May (E&HF).

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Pt Kent 18 Apr (DR); New Russia 7 May (ET).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: singing m Stickney Bridge Rd, Jay 27 May (L&PO, NW); still present 30 May (MDM).

Vesper Sparrow: arr Jay 6 Apr (PO); max 3 Peru 17 Apr (EF); IL 21 Apr (M&WM), rare in HAMI.

FOX SPARROW: “Red” arr Jay 7 Apr (PO); Sabattis 8 Apr (JC); Pt Kent 9 Apr (DR); Akey Rd CLIN 14 Apr (CM Jr); Lewis 18-24 Apr (SP); a strong Apr showing; apparent “Sooty” Vermontville feeder 7 May (JK), description consistent with *unalaschcensis* group.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 5 banded CP 16-20 May (GH,JP).

Swamp Sparrow: arr BTS & Raquette L 7 Apr (GL), early HAMI & Reg; Essex Station 16 Apr (MDM); Paul Smiths 19 Apr (BM), early FRAN.

Lapland Longspur: Pardy Rd CLIN 13 Mar (BK), only report.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 2 2nd-yr m with yellow breasts Newcomb early May (ED), apparent xanthochroism.

Rusty Blackbird: arr LL 31 Mar (JC); 2 Chubb R 11 Apr (BM); transient Peru 21 Apr (CH).

Pine Grosbeak: last AP 3 Apr (CM).

Purple Finch: banded York, SC, 9 Jan 2004, struck window & died Lewis 26 Apr (SP).

House Finch: arr Inlet 12-13 Mar (GL); leucistic bird with white head returned for 3rd yr CH 12 Mar (NO).

Red Crossbill: max 200+ Follensby Clear Pd 6 Mar (CD), feeding in pines; BB 12 Apr (JC); 2 IL 21 Apr (M&WM); NP 15 May (MDM); 3 BB 26 May (BG); promising.

Com. Redpoll: max 120 LP 25 Mar (LM); Inlet 4 Apr (GL); Jay 7 Apr (PO).

Pine Siskin: “green” morph LL 13 Mar; nesting LL 25 Mar (JC); feeding yg Inlet feeder (GL).

Am. Goldfinch: 100 Jay 20 Mar (PO) & LP 29 Mar (LM); max 173 banded CP 7-22 May (GH,JP).

Evening Grosbeak: max 16 New Russia 28 Mar (ET) as local nesters returned.



REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring seemed slow to come, ending somewhat cool and rainy. Significant snow accumulations occurred into the third week of March, and many areas saw ice-covered water a week or so past the official beginning of spring. A persistent upper level low over the northeast ushered in cold and rainy conditions in early spring, which seemed to delay many early migrants. April had some erratic outbreaks of sun, notably a high of 83°F on the 20th. April's total rainfall was below average, but this masks the fact that much of the month's last two weeks experienced clouds and drizzling rain. May was 3.6° cooler than average, with many small misting showers that may have interfered with early nesting insectivores such as swallows and wrens. The last frost occurred on 13 May. The waterfowl migration was unremarkable and ended abruptly in early April. There were no reports of unusual species, but the Region did stage large numbers of Snow Geese and there were several dozen reports of Pied-billed Grebe, compared to the usual spring reports of only two or three. Common Loon reports have curiously increased in our Region over the last few years, with more reports from smaller bodies of water and reports of lingering adults into May. Typical springs produce a handful of migrant sightings only on large bodies of water such as Lake George, Great Sacandaga Lake and the Hudson River.

Sora arrived in Saratoga County on 7 April, one day behind the earliest Regional arrival date. Shorebirds were either unnoticed, e.g. no reports of Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper or Pectoral Sandpiper, or late. This spring was the first since 1990 in which no observer reported a single species of migrating tern.

Many casual birders and office workers were treated this spring to the aerial predatory acrobatics of the pair of Peregrine Falcons that have successfully nested and reared young on the Dunn Memorial Bridge in Albany. Fortunately, there has only been praise and admiration for the adult falcons that routinely snatch and share a pigeon lunch near the sandwich-nibbling office workers in such urban parks as Albany's Corning Preserve.

Speaking of Rock Pigeons on the menu, Bob Yunick sent along the following interesting anecdote regarding the Region's expanding Common Raven population: "A very unusual story has been told to me independently by several employees at the Schenectady International chemical manufacturing plant in Lower Rotterdam Jct., Schenectady County, where Rock Pigeons have become a problem due to their nesting and roosting on plant equipment. They have witnessed on numerous occasions a Raven attack, kill and carry off adult Rock Pigeons!"

With lingering snowy conditions in March, some winter residents may have tarried a bit longer in the area. Rough-legged Hawks were common until the end of March, the last Northern Shrike was seen on 18 March and Snow Buntings

occurred regularly in small flocks until 23 March. The last American Tree Sparrow was observed on 29 April and Dark-eyed Juncos remained at low elevations (below 1000 feet) until about the same date.

The passerine migration was mixed, with most swallows, thrushes, vireos and emberizids arriving either close to historic averages or early. A Northern Waterthrush was seen at Visher Ferry, Saratoga County, on 16 April, a near record early date for the Region. Flycatchers as a group were late. The early species of warblers, Pine, Palm and Yellow, arrived early, and nearly all other species of warblers were late.

The rarest sighting of the spring was a male **Blue Grosbeak** spotted in Athens, Green County, by Jeremy Taylor, who was visiting his parents. He was encouraged to compile a NYSARC report, but the details of his sighting were convincing enough to include here. Despite their regular appearance in southern NY, this bird remains rare in Region 8. A Blue Grosbeak was first recorded in our Region in 1957, followed by a strange irruption of six additional birds in 1962-63. There exists only one other sighting between the 1960s and the present, a 1998 sighting in Rensselaer County. This 2005 bird is the third reliable report for Greene County. The observer's mother, who apparently also successfully identified the bird, had seen it visit her feeder off and on for a few days. She didn't report the bird to anyone, which illustrates, I believe, how much more work we have left to educate the general feeder-watching public about how and when to report rarities. What other fine birds have been spotted by grandmothers casually sipping their morning coffee?

Finally, a topic that is only tangentially related to birding: In response to a blitz of subdivisions and real estate development descending upon the Hudson Valley and parts of the Capital District, a growing number of town zoning boards are establishing moratoriums on major housing proposals. The hope is to delay the push in development until town governments can map out master plans that can accommodate some development while preserving some much-needed open space and habitat. In practice, only substantial wetlands enjoy limited protection when local zoning boards perform their environmental impact assessments. Clear cutting of mature woods and wholesale development of seasonally wet vernal pools, fields and woodlots are common. Let those of us who care about the welfare of birds encourage this intelligent review of land use. The annoyance and expense of such measures, I believe, will no doubt be compensated by a more diverse array of birds and other wildlife.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh WMA ALBA; CHA – T Chatham COLU; CL – Collins L, Scotia SCHE; FtE – T Fort Edward WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny L SARA; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; VF – Vischer Ferry NHP SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Bells Pd Livingston COLU 16 Mar; 5 FtE HR 21 Mar; max 5000 HR SARA 26 Mar; 1000 Schuylerville SARA 27 Mar; last HR COLU 3 Apr.
Tundra Swan: 2 CL 22 Apr; Brunswick RENS 1 May.
Wood Duck: arr Clarks Mills WASH 27 Mar.
Gadwall: 2 Ft Miller WASH 20 Mar; max 6 Hoosic R RENS 27 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: CL 23 Mar; max 100 FtE 24 Mar; last VF 9 Apr.
N. Shoveler: 2 VF 2-9 Apr, only report.
N. Pintail: arr HR COLU 6 Mar; 15 FtE HR 21 Mar; max 21 Schuylerville SARA 27 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 10 Vosburgh's Marsh GREE 1 Apr.
Canvasback: Cohoes ALBA 13 Mar; max 100 Cheviot Landing COLU 13 Mar; 7 CL 27 Mar-2 Apr.
Greater Scaup: Cocksackie GREE 6-9 Mar.
Bufflehead: last 8 VF 2 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: last FtE HR 8 Apr.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CL 1-2 Apr.
Com. Loon: Triangle L RENS 22 Apr; Alcove Res ALBA 21 May, ad pr Jenny L SARA 21 May, breeding?
Pied-billed Grebe: max 4 FtE HR 21 Mar-27 Mar, numerous other reports.
Horned Grebe: Ft Miller WASH 8 Apr, only report.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 NBA 21 Mar (RG).
Am. Bittern: arr VF 15 Apr; max 4 BCM 30 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr BCM 30 Apr.

Great Egret: Stockport Station COLU 4 May; Cohoes ALBA Century Run 21 May.
Green Heron: arr Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 16 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: VF 13 Apr; Middle Grove SARA.
Black Vulture: 2 Colaruso's Quarry Greenport COLU 4 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: max 8 Hudson COLU 10 Mar.
Osprey: arr Rexford Bridge SCHE 8 Apr; max 6 Thompson L ALBA 5 May.
N. Goshawk: Rensselaerville RENS 19 Mar; Stockport COLU 21 Mar; Austerlitz COLU 9 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Claverack COLU 20 Mar; 2 Middle Grove SARA 10 Apr; Queensbury WARR 16 Apr; VF 16 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Stillwater SARA 29 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last 2 Stone Bridge Rd SARA 29 Mar.
Merlin: SCHE 8 Mar, eating starling; Troy RENS 29 Apr; Rensselaerville RENS 19 May.
Peregrine Falcon: ALBA Corning Preserve 9 Mar thru; ALBA DEC Bldg 23 Mar; CL 3 May, taking pigeon.
Virginia Rail: arr BCM 17 Apr; max 5 BCM 30 Apr.
Sora: arr 2 Saratoga SP SARA 7 Apr, very early.
Com. Moorhen: ALBA Century Run 21 May, only report.
Am. Coot: FtE HR 27 Mar, only report.

Semipalmated Plover: ALBA Century Run 21 May, unspecified number.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr VF 16 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: CHA 14 May, late.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Claverack COLU 3 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr NBA 29 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Princetown Rd Florida MONT 19 Apr; FtE 21-28 May.
Dunlin: arr 7 Cohoes ALBA 23 Apr.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 24 Moreau SARA 22 May, only report.
Least Sandpiper: arr Gansevoort SARA 15 May.
Am. Woodcock: arr Livingston COLU 19 Mar, late.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Chatham Center COLU 11 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 7 Four-mile Pt GREE 1 Apr.
Iceland Gull: 3 Coxsackie 4 Mar; lower Mohawk 13 Apr; NBA 4 Mar-19 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Coxsackie 10-19 Mar (RG).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Five Rivers ALBA 14 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr East Greenbush RENS 11 May.
Short-eared Owl: 2 Coxsackie Flats 17 Mar; FtE 20 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Rensselaerville RENS 14 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Troy RENS 28 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: imm Ghent COLU 14 May (CW, OW).

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 2 southern ALBA 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr Stuyvesant COLU 14 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr JL 6 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Peebles I SARA 28 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr BCM 10 May.

N. Shrike: last Florida MONT 18 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Hannacroix P GREE 3 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr JL 18 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr VF 1 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: CHA 14 May (CW, OW), only report.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr NBA 3 May.
Horned Lark: max 100 Northumberland SARA 29 Mar; FtE 21 May, likely breeding.
Purple Martin: max 12 Saratoga L SARA 10 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Stockport COLU 20 Mar, early.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr NBA 2 Apr, early.
Bank Swallow: arr Coeymans ALBA 27 APR.
Cliff Swallow: arr Peebles I SARA 28 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr Saratoga Sod Farm SARA 14 Apr.
House Wren: arr New Salem ALBA 24 Apr.
SEDGE WREN: Sharon SCHO 18 May (PD).
Veery: arr VF 2 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Albany Pine Bush ALBA 12 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr RENS 5 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Vosburgh's Marsh GREE 29 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Ancram COLU 5 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Argyle WASH 21 May.
"Tennessee" Warbler: arr Schodack I RENS 18 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr BCM 10 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr VF 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Coeymans ALBA 6 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Taghkanic COLU 3 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Middle Grove SARA 7 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Jefferson SCHO 22 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 14 May.
Pine Warbler: arr Florida MONT 6 Apr.
Palm Warbler: arr VF 14 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr VF 12 May.
Cerulean Warbler: Schodack I 19 May, Beebe Hill Austerlitz COLU 28 May (JS), far from known breeding sites.
Worm-eating Warbler: 2 southern ALBA 29 May.
Ovenbird: arr Hannacroix P GREE 3 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr Middle Grove SARA 16 Apr, early.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr RENS 13 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: Hannacroix P GREE 27 May, only report.
Wilson's Warbler: COLU Century Run 14 May, only report.
Canada Warbler: Coeymans ALBA 15 May; ALBA Century Run 21 May; Hannacroix P GREE 27 May.

TANAGERS—WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr CHA 6 May.
E. Towhee: arr Hillsdale COLU 22 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Wilton SARA 29 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Feller Rd Taghkanic COLU 6 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Ghent COLU 2 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: FtE 8 Apr; SARA airport 18 May.
Savannah Sparrow: arr FtE 8 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Ghent 14 May thru.
Fox Sparrow: arr NBA 11 Mar; last Copake COLU 9 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: Manning Blvd ALBA 27 May, only report.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Taghkanic COLU 3 May.
Snow Bunting: 31 Northumberland SARA 5 Mar; last Stuyvesant COLU 23 Mar.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Lansingburgh RENS 24 Apr.
BLUE GROSBEAK: m Athens GREE 8 May, at feeder (JT).
E. Meadowlark: arr FtE 20 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: max 8 VF 9 Apr; 2 Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 16 Apr; max 8 Guilderland ALBA 19 Apr; last Greenport COLU 21 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: VF 10 May; Claverack COLU 15 May; ALBA 21 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr VF 1 May.
Com. Redpoll: last Guilderland ALBA 16 Mar.
Pine Siskin: Galway SARA 6 Apr; JL 6-20 May, Gansevoort SARA 21 May.
Evening Grosbeak: 3 Jefferson SCHO 30 Mar-13 Apr; Austerlitz COLU 29 Apr, locally uncommon; 26 banded JL 6-29 May (RY).



REGION 9 – HUDSON-DELAWARE

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March started with wintry weather as an ice and snowstorm, which dumped 9" of snow in Dutchess County and ice further south on 8 March. A deep freeze occurred 8-10 March, with lows reaching 13°F in White Plains on the 9th and 6° in Poughkeepsie on the 10th. The rest of March remained cool, with temperatures well below average. White Plains was 4.5° colder than normal and Poughkeepsie was 3.5° below normal. Most of the month was dry. Heavy rains of over 2" on 28 March brought Poughkeepsie to near normal precipitation for the month. Heavy rains on 2-3 April brought flooding to the entire area, with Claryville receiving a deluge of 3.4". White Plains and Poughkeepsie fared better, with a little over 2" of rain. The rest of the month was dry. Warm spells occurred, with temperatures reaching the mid 70s on 6 and 7 April and the mid 80s on 19 and 20 April. Poughkeepsie averaged 3.8° warmer than normal. May was very dry and cold. Many days had northerly winds, frequently above 20 mph. Migration was lackluster. Average temperatures were 3-5° below normal. Less than 2" of rain fell over the Region. White Plains was the driest and coldest. Only 1.4" of rain was recorded, compared with the norm of 4.6". Average temperature was 54.8°, 4.5° below normal.

A male Eurasian Wigeon, found in Mamaroneck 20 March, stayed until 15 April and was joined by a second male for one day on 3 April. The "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal continued in the Tuckahoe/Yonkers area until 19 March. A Long-tailed Duck was in the Bashakill on 8 April.

A number of species usually only reported from Long Island Sound made appearances inland. The Hudson River hosted a Surf Scoter at Port Ewen Beach in mid March, a Red-necked Grebe was at Kingston Point on 13 March and a Whimbrel, along with 300 Dunlin, was found at Piermont Pier on 28 May after a heavy downpour.

Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull continued at the Sullivan County Landfill in March, with an Iceland staying until 6 April. An additional Glaucous Gull was found at Kingston Point on 13-14 March. A Forster's Tern was up the river at Esopus Creek confluence in Saugerties 26 April and two Black Terns were found, one in Morningside Park 1 May and another in Fishkill 13 May.

The over-wintering Orange-crowned Warbler in Smithfield and a Pine Warbler in Yonkers survived, with an additional Pine Warbler found at a feeder in Mt. Vernon on 1 March. Two "Lawrence's" Warblers were found, one on Mine Road and the other in Rhinebeck, both on 21 May. There were singles of Kentucky Warbler and Prothonotary Warbler and a Yellow-breasted Chat reported, with the Kentucky from Saugerties, the Prothonotary at the Marshland Conservancy in Rye and the chat in the same location as last year in Sterling Forest.

Common Redpolls were in Ellenville and Pine Bush in March. A European Goldfinch, an assumed escapee, was coming to a feeder in Valhalla during April.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Snow Goose: 2 blue morph Pine Plains 22 Mar; Pine Plains 10 Apr; 300 Larchmont 16 May.
Brant: 2000 Ashokan Res 14 May; 600 Mamaroneck 14 May.
Wood Duck: 14 Pawling 5 Apr.
Gadwall: 50 Mamaroneck 20 Mar.
Eurasian Wigeon: Mamaroneck 20, 27 Mar, 10, 15 Apr (TB, SM), with 2nd m 3 Apr (TB,GB,BSh).
“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal: Tuckahoe/Yonkers 1-19 Ma (ABI,MB,KJ).
Canvasback: 34 EGR 2,5 Mar.
Redhead: Wurtsboro 7 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 85 Tarrytown 26 Mar; 115 L Walton 1 Apr; 175 Great Vly Saugerties 5 Apr & 6 May.
Greater Scaup: 40 EGR 7 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: 60 EGR 5 Mar; 30 EGR 7 Apr.
Surf Scoter: Port Ewen Beach 12,13,20 Mar (MD, LF).

White-winged Scoter: 1-2 EGR 7,19,20,25,29 Mar; 9 EGR 27 May; 3 MC 27 May.
Long-tailed Duck: Bashakill 8 Apr (JH).
Com. Merganser: 300 Sprain Res 24 Mar; 250 Tarrytown 26 Mar.
Com. Loon: 5 EGR 20 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: 8 EGR 18 Apr.
Horned Grebe: 28 EGR 7 Mar.
Red-necked Grebe: Hudson Ri at Kingston Pt 13 Mar (LF); 2 EGR 21 Mar.
N. Gannet: MC 22 Mar; 2 MC 6 Apr; 3 EGR 16 Apr.
Am. Bittern: Lew Beach 20-24 Mar; White Sulfur Spring 9 Apr; Hastings-on-Hudson 5 May.
Least Bittern: 2 Bashakill 21 Mar; Piermont Pier 29 May.
Great Blue Heron: 12 on nests New Paltz 18 Mar.
Great Egret: arr New Rochelle 26 Mar; 2 nests L DeForest.
Snowy Egret: arr 2 EGR 6 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 20 EGR
27 Mar.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: RNC
16 Apr.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: parents feeding 1 yg
DUTC May.

N. Goshawk: killed Red-bellied
Woodpecker at feeder Ellenville 1 Mar;
LaGrange 14 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: Pine Plains
30 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: Pine Plains 5 Mar;
5 SGNWR 15 Mar; Sullivan Co Airport
3 Apr.

Golden Eagle: 2-3 Stissing Mt
2,5,12,13,15 Mar (KM,BB), seen
copulating on 12-13 Mar; Coleman
Station 19 Mar.

Clapper Rail: 1-2 MC 19,23,27 May.

Black-bellied Plover: arr 19 May;
12 MC 23 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: 2 MC 22 Mar;
6 MC 6 Apr; 3 EGR 16 Apr.

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 EGR 27 Mar;
5 Pine Plains 29 Apr; Bashakill 1 May;
38 MC 29 Apr; 30 MC 9 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 MC 29 Apr.

Willet: MC 13 May.

Spotted Sandpiper: Bashakill 7 Apr.

Whimbrel: Piermont Pier 28 May (DC).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 20 Apr; 8 MC
23 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 15 MC
27 May.

Least Sandpiper: 3 MC 29 Apr; 230 MC
27 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Wappingers 3 May.

Purple Sandpiper: 21 EGR 25 Mar; last
15 EGR 20 Apr.

Dunlin: 300 EGR 27 May (TB); 300
Piermont Pier 28 May (DC).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 50 EGR
27 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 24 Mar.

Laughing Gull: arr 20 Apr.

Bonaparte's Gull: 5 EGR 20 Mar; 8

EGR 16 Apr; Saugerties 26 Apr (RGU); L
Huntington 1 May (JH).

Iceland Gull: 4 SULL Landfill 12 Mar
(JH); Kingston Pt 13-14 Mar (MD);
SULL Landfill 6 Apr (JH).

Glaucous Gull: SULL Landfill 12,
27 Mar (JH); Kingston Pt
13-14 Mar (MD).

Forster's Tern: Hudson Ri at Esopus
Creek confluence, Saugerties 26 Apr
(RGU); 6 MC 12 May.

Black Tern: Morningside P 1 May (JH);
Fishkill 13 May (ES,DP).

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 11 May.

Short-eared Owl: 4 CPP 1-28 Mar;
Esopus Lighthouse 26 Mar; SGNWR
17 Apr.

N. Saw-whet Owl: Ardsley 17 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: 8 Rockland L 12 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr SULL 6 May; upper
Pine Kill Rd; Harriman SP 14 May;
Sharparoon 13,14 May; Clinton Corners
20 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Billings
15 May; Humpo Marsh, New Paltz
18 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SULL

16 May; Sterling Forest 16 May;
Doodletown 21 May; 2-3 MC 27 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: RNC 24 Apr.

Acadian Flycatcher: 2 Peekamoose Rd
14 May.

Alder Flycatcher: Harcourt Wildlife
Sanctuary 18 May; Pawling 27 May.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 11 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: StonyKill
14 May; Hastings-on-Hudson
17 May.

Com. Raven: Staatsburg 23 Mar-4 Apr
(MR), failed nesting pr.

Horned Lark: 100 Swan L 3 Apr.

Purple Martin: 20 prs New Paltz
17 Apr; 8 EGR 26 Apr.

Tree Swallow: 2 Pine Plains 30 Mar.

HouseWren: arr 21 Apr; 3 extreme n
ULST Saugerties 30 Apr.
Winter Wren: 1-2 MC May.
Marsh Wren: 6 MC 27 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Gumaer Falls Rd
SULL 4 May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck
11 May; RNC 27,31 May.
Gray Catbird: arr n part of Reg 13 Mar.
Brown Thrasher: arr Tarrytown L
13 Apr.
Am. Pipit: Blue Chip Farm 14 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 2 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: Dover 14
May; MC 16 May; Mine Rd 21 May;
8 Sterling Forest 28 May.
“**Lawrence’s**” **Warbler:** Mine Rd 21
May (SB); Rhinebeck 21 May (RJo).
Orange-crowned Warbler: Smithfield
1 Mar-6 Apr (LL,BB).
Cape May Warbler: Onteora L 14 May;
DUTC 14 May.
Pine Warbler: Yonkers 1 Mar, over-
wintered; Mt Vernon 8 Mar (KJ);
Ellenville 27 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: Tarrytown L 18 Apr.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 3
May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 11 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: MC 23 Apr
(AG); MC 3 May (TB).
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Doodletown
3 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 6 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: Blue Mountain Res
Saugerties 14 May (LA, JBo, SC, FM).

Mourning Warbler: Pawling 27 May;
MC 27 May; Sterling Forest 28 May.
Hooded Warbler: RNC 26 Apr; arr
Doodletown 3 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Sterling Forest
28 May (MB,KJ).

TANAGERS — WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 6 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr 23 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: 2 SULL Landfill 6 Apr
(JH, RD, MG, ABo).
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 16 May.
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: MC
11,20 May; 3 MC 27 May; 2 MC
31 May.
Seaside Sparrow: MC 30 Apr,
5,9,11,13,27 May; 2 MC 12 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: 4 CPP
1-28 Mar; Red Hook 4 May;
Wappingers 6 May.
Indigo Bunting: Newburgh 3-4 Apr
(CPe); Ellenville 5 Apr (BSc).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr 5 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: 15 Bashakill
29 Mar; 100 Saugerties 30 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr 28 Apr.
Purple Finch: EGR 5 Mar; 2 Pine
Plains 30 Mar; few at many
feeders SULL & DUTC Apr.
Com. Redpoll: 3 Ellenville 29 Mar
(PM); 1-6 Pine Bush 8-27 Mar (DHi).

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: Valhalla
11-13 Apr (CF); 2 Valhalla 26 Apr (CF).



REGION 10 – MARINE

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March was exceptionally cool, with an average temperature 5.1°F below normal, and very dry, with total precipitation 2.58" below normal. April's average temperature was close to normal, and some of the previous month's precipitation deficit was redeemed (+0.82") during this month. May featured a return to the very cool, very dry conditions observed during March; 4.7° and 2.47" below normal.

The most striking ornithological event of the season was an unprecedented incursion of southern-breeding landbirds, involving exceptional numbers of Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Swainson's, Kentucky and Hooded warblers, Summer Tanagers and Blue Grosbeaks. No fewer than five Swainson's Warblers were reported, accompanied by varied levels of documentation, including Suffolk County's first in Paul Gillen's Cutchogue backyard on 12 May. The first Prothonotary Warbler, found by Kelly and Richard Bossong at Forest Park on the astonishing date of 30 March, conformed to a pattern of extraordinarily early arrivals of Neotropical migrants observed from coastal NJ through southern New England around 29 March, whereas some of the subsequent Prothonotary and Yellow-throated warblers and Summer Tanagers coincided with a more general influx involving both medium- and long-distance migrants 6-7 April. Please see the articles by Jean Loscalzo and the writers elsewhere in this issue for more details concerning this astonishing series of records.

Deb Allen's detailed report from Central Park noted that warbler migration peaked on 10 May and 14 May this year, with 26 species reported on each of those two days. In April, the best days at Central Park were 21 and 28 April, both with 17 species reported. On the barrier beach, the best day for visible migration was 12 May, when at least 1000 Barn Swallows and flocks of Eastern Kingbirds and locally scarce Blue Jays accompanied moderate to large numbers of other passerine migrants and such non-passerines as nine Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 41 Chimney Swifts and a Solitary Sandpiper, in a westward flight near Fire Island Lighthouse.

South Shore sea watches produced a number of reports of Sooty and Manx shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Parasitic Jaegers and Black Terns during the second half of May. Counts of eastbound Common Loons and Northern Gannets remained high through the end of the period. A northeast storm produced a number of shore-based reports of Red-necked and Red phalaropes

around 26 May, although the local event paled in comparison with reports in eastern Massachusetts.

In addition to the Swainson's Warblers noted above, there were several reports of rarities. A male "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal seen twice on the Forge River appeared typical of the subspecies *crecca* under close scrutiny. In contrast, another male teal at Tobay showed a mix of characters, suggestive not only of *crecca*, but also of the locally abundant subspecies *carolinensis*. Almost regular in Region 10 in recent years, White-faced Ibis is still a bona fide vagrant and likewise a genuine identification challenge. Two birds, an adult and an immature, were studied carefully at Jamaica Bay on 14 May. The adult was seen by many observers through 17 May. Wilson's Plover continues to occur more frequently on Long Island than previously, and its status, from the point of view of bird listing, has shifted from that of a nemesis species, never seen locally by many of the state's most active observers, to that of a keenly sought 'self-found' species. A bird on the flats at the south end of Sagaponack Pond on 6 May fulfilled the latter condition for veteran observer Hugh McGuinness and was seen by a number of other birders as well. Several Black-necked Stilts were well documented during May. Vicki Bustamante found a single bird at Little Reed Pond, near Montauk, at the start of the month, which remained for at least ten days. Three stilts at Jamaica Bay's West Pond on 19 May were discovered independently by several observers, some of whom were searching for the White-faced Ibis.

An Arctic Tern at Jamaica Bay on 21 May was an exceptional find by John Yrizarry and companions. Photos by Omar Raheem support the identification, and John's detailed description suggests that the bird's plumage was the 'second-summer type' that has been recorded on Long Island several times in recent years during the period late May-June. Although the big alcid story of winter 2004/05 involved Thick-billed Murres, Common Murres were also widely reported then from New England waters on 'our side' of Cape Cod. Thus it was not a complete surprise that our two inshore murrets this spring were identified as Commons: a dead bird on the beach opposite Moriches on 28 March and a live one close to shore at Robert Moses State Park on 26 May. Joan Quinlan's description of the latter was convincing, and it is worth noting that both species of murrets made unusual inshore, late spring appearances this year in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts (R. Farrell, R. Veit pers. comm.).

A Sedge Wren at Forest Park 12 May deserves documentation, as this species has been extremely rare in the Region for at least several decades. Rare birds from much farther afield included a Western Tanager at Forest Park on 12 May (for which details would also be very much appreciated) and a Townsend's Solitaire photographed at Jones Beach West End on 29 May by Dave Gardner and John Heidecker. Although conventional wisdom holds that late autumn is the best season to seek landbird vagrants from western North America to the East Coast, the number of records of such vagrants from late spring is surprisingly large; see next issue's summer column!

As in previous issues, the names of all species requiring NYSARC review are capitalized below, as are the names of additional species and subspecies worthy of documentation in Region 10, with "(R10)" appended immediately after the name. Documentation is also sought for records involving exceptional dates, localities or numbers in bold-face below.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Note: The names of Steve Finn and John Stewart, observers of Cave Swallows at Fire Island Lighthouse 26 November 2004, were inadvertently omitted from the list of contributors in the Fall Report (KB 55: 94), and as a consequence, this record was incorrectly attributed in the Hudson-Delaware report in *North American Birds* (59: 51).

ABBREVIATIONS

1st W – first winter plumage; alt – alternate plumage; APP – Alley Pond P; BH – Brookwood Hall, East Islip; BHP – Blue Heron Pd P, SI; BLSP – Belmont L SP; CB – Cedar Beach; CHP – Conference House P, SI; CLP – Clove Lakes P, SI; CP – Central Park; CRSP – Connetquot Ri SP; CSI – College Staten Island; CSP – Captree SP; CuP – Cunningham P; dm – dark morph; DP – Democrat Pt; DSP – David Sarnoff Pine Barrens Preserve; EH – East Hampton; EP – Eastport Pd; FA – Flushing Airport; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire Island; FP – Forest P; FR – Forge Ri; GA – Gabreski Airport; GE – Grace Estate; GKP – Great Kills P, SI; GP – Gardiner P; HG – Hunter's Garden; In – Inlet; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach West End; JBWR – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; KP – Kissena P; lm – light morph; LI – Long Island; LRP – Little Reed Pd, Montauk; Mass – Massapequa Preserve; MB – Mecox Bay; migr – migrating; MI – Moriches In; MLP – Mount Loretto P, SI; MP – Montauk Pt; MS – Maple Swamp; NWW – Northwest woods, East Hampton; OL – Oakland L; PB – Pike's Beach; PL – Pt Lookout; PP – Prospect P; QBS – Quogue Bird Sanctuary;

RMSP – Robert Moses SP; RP – Roslyn P; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd; SCP – Southaven County P; Shinn – Shinnecock In; SI – Staten Island; SL – Swan L; TRCP – Theodore Roosevelt County P, Montauk; WFE – William Floyd Estate; WPP – Wolfes Pd P, SI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS — VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose:

2 Rt 25 e of Edwards Av 9 thru 25 Mar.

Snow Goose: 2 Southold 2 Mar;

700 JBWR 19 Mar (RK); many.

“**BLACK**” **BRANT:** WPP 17 Mar (RV).

Wood Duck: arr CP 2 Mar.

Gadwall: 76 BH 6 Mar; 132 SL 6 Mar; 250 JBWR 19 Mar; 61 CRSP 25 Mar, all high single-site counts.

Eurasian Wigeon: Mattituck 25 Mar; JBWR 22 Apr; 2 JBWR 8 May (RK) & 15 May (PL), late; hybrid American x Eurasian Wigeon Mattituck 26 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: m Mass 13 Mar (KF), continuing from Feb; male JBWR 19 May, late.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED

TEAL (*crecca*) (R10): m FR 6 & 20 Mar (PL, SM!); hybrid *crecca* x *carolinensis* Tobay 13 Mar (PL, SM!).

Redhead: 40 Capri Pd 6 Mar; 31 BLSP 6 Mar.

Greater Scaup: better numbers than in some recent years (RK); JBWR 15 May thru, late; Coopers Neck Pd 29 May, late.

Lesser Scaup: 500 EP 5 Mar; 1300 Capri Pd 6 Mar; 650 Patchogue Pd 6 Mar.

Common Eider: 40 S Dumpling 1 25 May (GW), conditions did not permit boat landing.

Harlequin Duck: 3 PL, continuing from winter; 2 (m,f) Southold 13 Mar.

Bufflehead: 2 f lingering at Sore Thumb thru.

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m at traditional Bayville site through much of Mar; f WPP 14 Mar (RV), unusual location.

Ruddy Duck: PL 5 Mar, on ocean, unusual habitat; 500+ JBWR 19 Mar (RK).

N. Bobwhite: TRCP thru May (VB), calling daily; Shelter 1 7 May (HC, EKz) & 10 May (MSch); 3 Manorville 29 May (RK); only reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant: DP May 26 May, unusual habitat.

Wild Turkey: Sprain Parkway 22 Apr; several reports from mid and eastern LI.

Red-throated Loon: 2 RMSP 26 May, late.

Com. Loon: 90 Shinn 29 May (RK).

Pied-billed Grebe: CP 18 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: Shinn 5 & 22 Mar & 13 Apr; 2 FBF continuing from winter.

Sooty Shearwater: Shinn 18 May; DP 20 May (PL); 16 RMSP 24 May (JF, PL).

Manx Shearwater: 7 off Shinn 21 May; RMSP 24 May (PL) RMSP 26 May (JQ).

Wilson’s Storm-Petrel: first 4 off Shinn 22 May; 2 RMSP 26 May (PL, SM).

N. Gannet: 50 DP 24 May; 70 Shinn 30 May.

Double-crested Cormorant: 15 migr CB 31 Mar.

Am. Bittern: CP 7 Apr & 21 Apr

Least Bittern: Mashomack 15 May; JBWR 15 May; Dune Rd w of Shinn 22 May (AB).

Cattle Egret: Dude Ranch Montauk 4 Apr; JBSP 4–10 Apr (JF); Ponquogue bridge 3 May.

Green Heron: arr CP 7 Apr, nested.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: evidence of nesting again this year at HLSP; CP 17 May.

Glossy Ibis: CLP 25 Mar (fide MSh), early.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: ad JBWR 14-17 May (TB, mob); imm JBWR 14 May (AnW!).

Black Vulture: 2 CP 10 Apr, flyovers; High Rock P 14 May (fide HF), 3rd SI record.

Turkey Vulture: Patchogue 18 Mar (JQ); 2 CSI 4 Apr; FP 12 Apr; Greenport 30 Apr; OL 15 May; many, many reports from east end.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Watermill 12 Mar.

Bald Eagle: widespread reports throughout Reg.

N. Harrier: multiple individuals and breeding behavior reported from Tobay area.

Cooper's Hawk: nest Greenport.

N. Goshawk: imm Napeague 3 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: 3 reports CP; Barcelona Neck 29 Apr (JG); Swamp Rd EH 29 Apr (HM), the latter two locales near former nest site; Moriches mid May (AGr).

Red-tailed Hawk: CP famous Pale Male nest failed but another (theirs?) was found with fledglings (fide DA); increasing on LI?.

Rough-legged Hawk: dm Calverton 10 Mar (JQ); 2 lm Calverton 20 Mar; lm Tobay 10 & 19 Apr, late.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm Calverton 13 & 26 Mar (PL!); also reported 25 Mar and 2 & 11 Apr, and that it moved to the Brookhaven Lab area.

Am. Kestrel: Bronx 20 Apr; Manhattan 25 Apr; m PL 5 Mar; two nesting reports CP (fide DA); very few reports.

Merlin: Rt 51 Bikepath 22 May (BK, HM).

Peregrine Falcon: residents thru at several established breeding sites, including FI In.

Sora: JBWR 14-15 May.

Am. Coot: 105 Patchogue Pd 6 Mar; Aquebogue 14 May, breeding site.

Am. Golden-Plover: basic plumage e Shinn 1 & 5 May (AJL); 2nd bird w Ponquogue Bridge 14 May (AB); full alt Dune Rd 16 May (JF).

WILSON'S PLOVER: Sagg 6-9 May (HM, mob!).

Semipalmated Plover: arr MB 25 Apr.

Killdeer: RMSP 6 Mar (JQ).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Little Reed Pd 1-10 May (VB, mob!); 3 JBWR 19 May (mob!).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 FR 6 Mar, winter survivors?; 3 Tobay 13 Mar.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Shelter 1 9 Apr; 2 Sagg 6 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr CP 22 Apr; CB 28 Apr (JQ).

Willet: 2 PL continuing at least thru 10 Apr; 10 Shinn 8 May, arriving from ocean.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Alley Creek Marsh 7 Apr (AO); CP 9 Apr; GP 27 May, one of very few potential breeders reported.

Upland Sandpiper: no reports.

Whimbrel: 7 GKP 22 May; MB 24 Apr; 3 GKP 28 Mar.

Red Knot: max 200 PB 30 May, low.

Sanderling: max 1000 PB 30 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Sagg 6 May; max 600 PB 30 May.

Western Sandpiper: 2 Sagg 5 May; 1 Sagg 11 May; very unusual in spring.

Least Sandpiper: arr MB 25 Apr; max at least 300 Sagg 11 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: very few reports; northbound max occurred in Jun.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Aquebogue 14 May; Montauk 22 May; only reports.

Purple Sandpiper: Montauk L and PL jetties thru at least 26 May.

Dunlin: 400 PB 30 May.

Ruff: JBWR 17 May (B&RS).

Wilson's Snipe: Gilgo 9 Mar (JQ); 4 FR 10 Mar (JQ); last Montauk 9 May.

Red-necked Phalarope: alt f PB 21-30 May (GB, TB, AJL, mob!); 7 MI 26 May (MC); 7 DP 26 May (PL, SM); 6 PL 26 May (fide DF).

RED PHALAROPE (R10) land-based reports): DP 26 May (PL, SM!).

Parasitic Jaeger: off Shinn 21 May; several from inlets throughout May.

Laughing Gull: ad DP 2 Apr, early so far east.
Black-headed Gull: 1st W EP 5 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: scarce; 2 PL 5 Mar; max there <100 (RK), very low.
Ring-billed Gull: 400 EP 5 Mar; 400 FR 6 Mar; ad found dead RMSP 12 Mar, banded 9 Jun 2001 near Willsboro NY.
Iceland Gull: 2 1st W DP 2 Apr; DP 7 May, late; many reports from e LI.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: widely reported throughout South Shore.
Glaucous Gull: 1st W EP 5 Mar; imm MP 25 Mar; imm JBWE 9 Apr; 1st W PL 10 Apr thru early May (RK); Shinn 4 Apr; 1st W CP 3 Apr.
Black-legged Kittiwake: Amagansett 5 Mar.
Gull-billed Tern: arr 3 JBWE 12 May; JBWR 18 May and later.
Caspian Tern: 5 MB and 1 Sagg 24 Apr; JBWE 1 May.
Roseate Tern: arr 3 DP 7 May; 3 Shinn 8 May; PB 21 May.
Com. Tern: arr Dune Rd 29 Apr; 12 JBWE 1 May; 500 DP 7 May.
ARCTIC TERN: ad JBWR 21 May (JY!, OR!, et al.).
Forster's Tern: arr 3 PL 6 Apr; 1 FI In 7 May, suggests breeding e of historical limits on LI.
Black Tern: RMSP 26 May (PL, SM); 3 Shinn 27 May (AG).
Least Tern: arr MI 28 Apr (RK).
Dovekie: emaciated bird rescued from a Quogue beach 4 Apr.
COMMON MURRE: dead bird Moriches beach 28 Mar; RMSP 26 May (JQ!).
Razorbill: MI 5 Mar; dead bird Napeague 13 Mar; 20 MP 9 Apr.

PIGEONS—WOODPECKERS

Monk Parakeet: CP 4 thru 15 Apr; Whitestone 20 Apr.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 2 May; unusually conspicuous e LI due

to caterpillar infestation.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: unusually conspicuous e LI due to caterpillar infestation.

Barn Owl: JBWE 1 May, harassed by crows.

E. Screech-Owl: CP nest with 3 fl mid Mar at North End.

Snowy Owl: injured bird from Shinn is doing well at World Bird Sanctuary in St. Louis.

Short-eared Owl: 2 w of Ponquogue Bridge 4, 10, 13 Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: CP 5-6 Apr.

Com. Nighthawk: SI 8 Apr exceptionally early (TBR!); Park Slope 14 May; CP 14 May.

Chuck-will's-widow: QBS 14 May (HM); 30 May; at least 3 Rt 31 opposite GA 14 May (HM).

Whip-poor-will: CP 6 Apr, very early; CP 8 May; DSP 30 May; heard calling NWW 4 May after virtual absence there last year.

Chimney Swift: arr CP 18 Apr; 12 JBWE 1 May; 41 RMSP 12 May; 15 HLSP 13 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 ad Barcelona Neck 20 Mar; 7 Barcelona Neck 29 Apr, nesting.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 9 RMSP 12 May, exceptional count for barrier beach, one of many observations of visible migr on barrier beach during period.

N. Flicker: almost absent early in period; Tobay 3 Apr; 323 RMSP 6 Apr, many remained feeding on ground next day; 52 RMSP 20 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: several reports CP 15-30 May; HG 28 May.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr CP 5 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 14 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: Hither Hills 6 May (KR, VB), very early; JBWR 18 May

(PL, mob); CP 20 & 28 May; MS
30 May (PL, SM).
Willow Flycatcher: arr CP 14 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr CP 22 Apr.
E. Phoebe: 82 JBSP 31 Mar (high) (PL!),
all gone next day; 12 RMSP 31 Mar (JQ).
E. Kingbird: arr CP 21 Apr; 13 RMSP
11 May; 27 RMSP 12 May, migr.
White-eyed Vireo: HLSP 9 Apr (JQ).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr CP 7 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr CP 21 Apr
(TF), early; especially conspicuous
15 May at several city parks (RK); CP
"many more reports than last year" (DA);
several on territory Flanders and Sag
Harbor late May.
Warbling Vireo: arr CP 20 Apr
(fide DA), early.
Philadelphia Vireo: CP 10-11 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Alley Creek Marsh
12 Apr (AO), exceptionally early.
Blue Jay: 26 RMSP 12 May, high
count for barrier beach.
Horned Lark: at least 300 Riverhead
2 Mar; singing birds in usual breeding
locations: DP, GA, Calverton, JBWE.
Purple Martin: arr PP 1 Apr; Sag
Harbor 16 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr Calverton 30 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr CP
3 Apr; RP 18 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Sag Harbor 5 Apr
(HM); CP 4 reports 18 Apr-8 May.
Barn Swallow: arr CP & Sag Harbor
5 Apr; JBWE 9 Apr (JQ); 1000 RMSP
12 May, *intro*.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: JBWE 5 Mar;
2 RMSP 6 Apr; 2 JBWE 2 May.
White-breasted Nuthatch: RMSP
6 Apr; 2 JBWE 1 May, rare on
barrier beach.
Brown Creeper: MS 30 May, singing,
poss breeder (PL, SM).
House Wren: arr CP 9 Apr.
Winter Wren: 2 Shu Swamp 26 Mar.
SEDGE WREN (R10): FP 12 May
(EM).
Marsh Wren: CP 22 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CP 1 Apr;

MS 22 May (AB), late.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CP &
Willowbrook P 7 Apr.
E. Bluebird: CP 1, 6, 10 Apr.
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: JBWE 29
May (Dave Gardner, John Heidecker, ph).
Veery: arr CP 18 Apr (MS), very early.
Brown Thrasher: arr CP 6 Apr, RMSP
7 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: 50+ Westhampton
15 Mar; conspicuous all over LI late May.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: Pleasant
Valley Woods 8 May (fide SWo); CP
9 May; APP 16 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 2 CP 10 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: APP 9 May;
CP 14 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr PP 8 May
(AOB); several CP 9-21 May; APP
15 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: OL 3 &
9 Apr; CLP 27-28 Apr (HF).
Nashville Warbler: arr CP 21 Apr
(TF), very early.
N. Parula: arr NWW 30 Mar (CR),
exceptionally early; CP 7 Apr (TF),
very early; 3 Sag Harbor 23 Apr (HM),
early for e LI; Pleasure Dr 26 May;
MS 30 May, possible breeders.
Yellow Warbler: arr CP 18 Apr, early;
OL 27 Apr.
Cape May Warbler: sev rep CP 2-16
May; 3 JBWR 15 May; CLP 18 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CP
21 Apr; FP 1 May.
Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler:
CP 6 Apr (DA), noted as late arr date;
40 JBWE 5 Mar, many for barrier
beach after harsh weather and
low winter #s;
1 MS 26 May, late.
Yellow-throated Warbler: at least
16 records 6 Apr-30 May, *intro*.
Pine Warbler: CP 30 Mar (DA), noted
as late arr date; conspicuous push 6 Apr,
e.g., 5 RMSP (PL, SM) & 3 CHP (RV),

high counts for these localities.

Palm Warbler: all *hypochrysea*: arr Calverton 4 Apr (AB); CP, HLSP & 2 RMSP 6 Apr; last CP 14 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: 150 MS area 22 May.

Cerulean Warbler: CP 1 & 10 May; JBWR 15 May (JDi; RK).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr CP 7 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: at least 26 records 30 Mar-29 May, *intro*.

Worm-eating Warbler: many reports NYC parks; at least 11 reports NASS & SUFF, *intro*.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: FP 12-17 Apr (JL, mob!); CP 6-8 May; HLSP 1 May (MB, AW, mob!); Cutchogue 12 May (Paul Gillen!), 1st SUFF report; GKP 27 May (DE, report to NYSARC); unprecedented number of reports; *intro*.

Northern Waterthrush: arr CLP 6 Apr (SI Naturalist), exceptionally early.

Louisiana Waterthrush: CP 10 May (DA), noted as late departure date.

Kentucky Warbler: at least 12 reports 22 Apr-18 May, *intro*.

Mourning Warbler: arr CP 13 May; numerous reports throughout Reg.

Hooded Warbler: at least 26 reports 7 Apr-30 May, *intro*.

Wilson's Warbler: arr CP 8 May; FP 14 May; JBWR 15 May.

Canada Warbler: arr CP 7 May; 24 MS 27 May (AG), very high count; 3 MS 30 May, on territory?

Yellow-breasted Chat: RMSP 12 May; 2 JBWR 15 May; MLP 21 May.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: at least 26 reports 7 Apr-31 May, *intro*.

WESTERN TANAGER: FP 12 May (AO).

Chipping Sparrow: Calverton 18 Mar (JQ); big push 6 Apr, e.g., 7 RMSP (PL, SM) & 40 CHP (RV); 18 RMSP 20 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr CP 11 Apr; RMSP

21-22 Apr; again breeding GA.

Savannah Sparrow: 40 RMSP 20 Apr; breeding Calverton.

“Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow: Cupsogue 5 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 Rt 51 21 May; 2-3 Napeague Meadow Rd 21 May (K&BR); RK notes numbers down at Rt 51 but “holding on in better numbers at Calverton”.

Lincoln's Sparrow: probably 3 CP 10-28 May; 5 e LI 27 May (AG).

White-throated Sparrow: 100 JBWE & 50 Gilgo 1 May; 5 JBWR 15 May; last E. Quogue 27 May (OB).

White-crowned Sparrow: CSP 21 Apr (PL); JBWR 15 May, *gambelii*; TRCP 26 May, late.

Dark-eyed Junco: Deepwater Marina, Montauk 30 May, very late.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr CP 25 Apr; m MS 30 May, possible breeder.

Blue Grosbeak: at least 13 reports 23 Apr-31 May, *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: arr Calverton & WFE 3 Apr; 4 Gilgo 30 Apr-1 May; 4 JBWE 1 May; 3 JBSP 1 May; 2 RMSP 11 May; 3 RMSP 12 May; 5 w of MS 26 May; 6 MS 30 May; JBWE 30 May.

Bobolink: KP 3 May; RMSP 12 May; JBWE 16 May.

E. Meadowlark: MLP 25 Mar (fide SWo); CP 11 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: 6 Calverton 10 Mar (JQ); 14 APP 19 Apr.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 7 Dune Rd 5 Mar; FA 11 Apr; 3 JBSP 19 Apr; 6 CB 1 May; FA 18 May.

Orchard Oriole: JBWE 2 May; KP 3 May; 2 RMSP 11 May; 4 Rt 51 21 May; Pleasure Dr 26 & 30 May; widespread reports throughout Reg representing both migrants and, increasingly, breeders, including in city parks.

Baltimore Oriole: 32 RMSP 12 May; 20 MS 30 May; 10 Pleasure Dr 30 May.

Purple Finch: OL 21 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: JBWE 14 Mar (JF, JQ);
Wading R 25 Mar.

Pine Siskin: CP 2 Mar; Shelter I feeder
18 Mar-1 May; E Quogue feeder 31 Mar,
30 Apr.

ADDENDUM (from winter)
Baltimore Oriole: W. Hempstead
20 Feb (BBe).

EXOTICS

South African Shelduck: BLSP thru,
courting Canada Goose 6 Mar (PL,
SM, ph).



STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! - details seen by Regional Editor; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; Am. - American; arr - arrival or first of season; BBS - Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS - bird of the season; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CO - confirmed nesting; Com. - Common; E. - Eastern; FL - fledgling; FY - adult feeding young; I - Island; imm - immature; intro - see introduction to report; juv - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; N. - Northern; NYSDEC - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; Ri - River; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; thru - throughout period; Twn - township; W. - Western; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

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

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

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

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

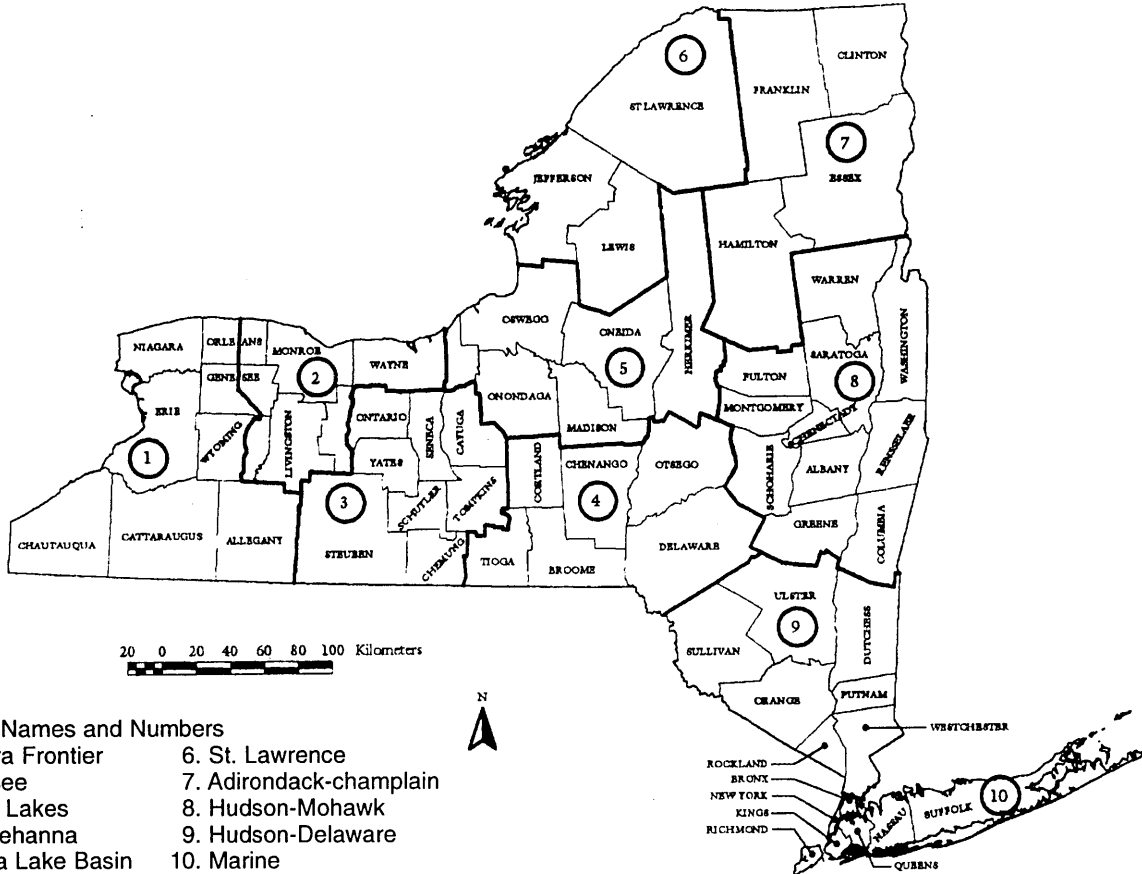
Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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