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AVIAN WINDOW STRIKE MORTALITY AT AN URBAN OFFICE BUILDING

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Abstract—During 2005, NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight program led a citizen science project to study avian collisions at one of Manhattan's worst bird-collision sites. Over the course of that year, 251 birds were documented to have collided with the six-story office building, 90% of which were found dead. Most of these collisions occurred during daytime hours, and almost all involved passage-migrants during spring and fall migration. Higher strike rates were documented along the glass surfaces that reflected densely vegetated areas than along surfaces opposite less-vegetated areas. Because structures with similar glass and vegetation characteristics are numerous and widely distributed, it is likely that such structures collectively represent a threat to migratory bird populations, especially given that several species involved in collisions are also on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's list of Species of Management Concern. Possible solutions to this problem include netting and glass etching which can eliminate the reflectivity of windows. Other solutions include the development of a new type of glass that is transparent to people but visible to birds.

For more than a century, human-built structures have been known to pose hazards to migratory birds (Klem 1989). After habitat loss and fragmentation, collisions with such structures probably pose the greatest human-related threat to bird populations (Klem et al. 2004), including several species that are listed on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's *Species of Management Concern* and the Audubon Watchlist (Shire et al. 2000). Estimates of avian mortality from collisions with glass throughout the United States range from 100 million (Dunn 1993) to one billion (Klem et al. 2004) birds per year. To date, bird collision research has focused mostly on nocturnal collisions at non-urban sites, especially communications towers (e.g., Avery et al. 1976, Shire et al. 2000). Reflective and transparent glass surfaces have also been implicated in lethal daytime collisions by resident and migratory birds (Klem 1989, 1990). Although collision

data collected from urban sites such as Toronto, Chicago, and New York have not yet been published in scientific, peer-reviewed journals, substantial anecdotal evidence suggests that plate glass is involved in large numbers of daytime collisions in urban areas, especially during the periods of spring and fall migration.

NYC Audubon's *Project Safe Flight* (PSF) has been monitoring bird collisions in New York City since 1997. In 2005, PSF conducted a year-long study at the Morgan Processing and Distribution Center (Morgan Mail), a six-story office building in Manhattan known to kill large numbers of birds each year (Figure 1). The purpose of the study was to document the frequency, timing (especially day vs. night), and physical context of collisions at this site. Specifically, we sought to test two hypotheses: (a) that day-time collisions are responsible for most of the bird mortality observed at this site; and (b) that the frequency of daytime collisions is highest along those portions of the exterior glass surface that reflect large amounts of nearby vegetation.

METHODS

The Morgan Mail building is a six-story office building where relatively high numbers of bird collisions have been recorded since 2002. The building is located in Manhattan between 28th and 29th Streets and between 9th and 10th Avenues (40° 45' 02" N, 73° 00' 01" W). During 2005, when the present study was conducted, the building's exterior was made up of windowless concrete walls for the first two stories and 440 large, reflective glass panels (each 2.3 m by 1.3 m) covering approximately 75% of the remaining four stories (the "windows" actually mask an interior-concrete wall). All exterior walls ran straight from the base of the building to the rooftop, with no major outcrops or ledges that could prevent colliding birds from falling to the street level. The southern perimeter of this building (247 m) faced a row of short street trees that did not reach the building's window line. Opposite the building, on the south side of the street, was a row of large street trees (mostly London Plane trees, *Platanus x acerifolia*), many of which were over 20 m tall and reached to the top of the six-story structure. Beyond this row of trees extended a rectangular 1.42-hectare urban park (Chelsea Park) with more tall trees (again, mostly London Plane trees), some of which were also reflected in the building windows. The vegetation at this park was not uniformly distributed; whereas the eastern portion of the park included many large trees, the western portion of the park – amounting to slightly less than half of the entire park – was much less vegetated, partly due to the fact that most of the space was taken up by a large ball-field covered with artificial turf. The building's position in relation to its surroundings is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 1. Dead Golden-crowned Kinglet,
Morgan Processing and Distribution Center, Manhattan, New York.
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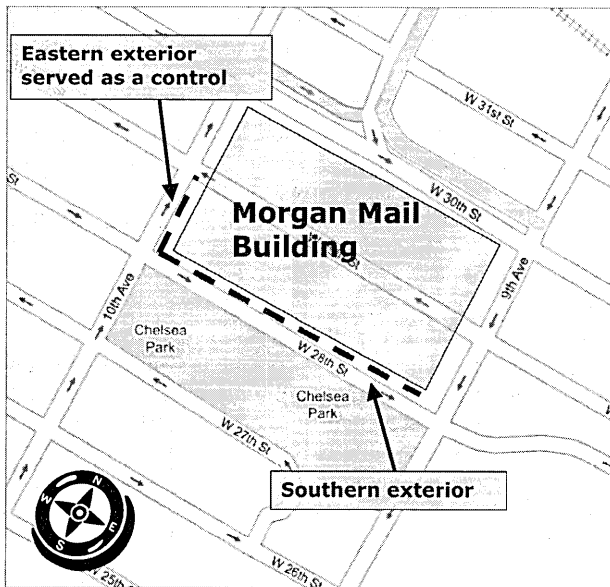


Figure 2. The Morgan Processing and Distribution Center, Manhattan, New York.

To quantify the number of collisions at the site, we relied on methodology developed by other researchers, in which a strike is registered when a dead or injured bird is found at the base of the building (Klem 1989, 1990; Dunn 1993; O'Connell 2001; Klem et al. 2004). The southern perimeter of the building was monitored throughout the spring (late March to early June) and fall (late August to early November) migration periods of 2005. Daily monitoring was discontinued after collision numbers dropped substantially at the end of each migration season. Periodic monitoring during the non-migratory season indicated that strike rates remained low during these periods. All study participants walked the route slowly, looking for dead or injured birds from the base of the building to the gutter at the street side. This study was overseen by Yigal Gelb, Program Director at NYC Audubon, with assistance from Nicole Delacrétaz, PSF Program Manager. Training orientations were conducted to ensure that all study participants followed the same methodology.

In order to determine as precisely as possible when collisions occurred over the course of a day, a three-day study was conducted from October 18th to October 20th, 2005, in which participants monitored the building exterior during the following time periods: 6:45-7:15, 9:00-9:30, 12:00-12:30, 15:00-15:30, and 19:00-19:30. For the purposes of this three-day study alone, the building's western perimeter, extending from 28th to 29th Street (58m), was also monitored. This perimeter, which had no tall trees adjacent to it, served as a qualitative control for the presence/absence of vegetation. Sunrise during this study was approximately at 7:10, with Civil Twilight at approximately 6:45, and sunset was approximately at 18:10 EDT. Weather conditions during the three-day study were generally favorable, with little to no cloud cover throughout the study period.

A more general test of whether the frequency of window strikes was associated with the amount of adjacent vegetation was performed during spring and fall 2005 by recording the locations of collision victims along the building's southern perimeter. As noted above, the eastern portion of the southern perimeter faced more tall trees than did the western portion. We divided the southern perimeter into approximately equal halves and counted the number of trees in each half that reached up to the fifth and sixth floors along the sidewalk opposite the building. There were 12 such trees along the eastern half (referred to as "vegetated" below) and four trees along the western half (referred to as "less-vegetated" below). The positions of dead and injured birds found at the base of the building were carefully noted and assigned to one or the other of these two sections. In some instances, especially during the spring, volunteers were not able to record the locations of dead and injured birds. Data from these days were not included in the statistical comparison of collisions along the vegetated vs. less-vegetated sections (Binomial goodness-of-fit, two-tailed; SPSS 12.0.0 for Windows, release Sep. 2003).

RESULTS

During 2005, 251 birds of 54 different species were documented to have collided with the Morgan Mail building, and 90% of these were found dead. Almost all birds were found during the periods of spring and fall migration, and 92% of all collisions involved species whose occurrence at this site consists exclusively of passage-migrants. The top five species found were Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) 27; Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) 24; Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) 23; White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) 11; and Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) 10. Complete data for 2005 are presented in Table 1.

During the three-day study, 28 birds of 13 different species were documented to have collided with the structure, 23 of which were found dead (82%). Dead and injured birds found during the three-day study were distributed among monitoring periods as follows: 6:45-7:15: 6 birds; 9:00-9:30: 13 birds; 12:00-12:30: 7 birds; 15:00-15:30: 2 birds; and 19:00-19:30: 0 birds. Of the total number found, 27 were found along the variably vegetated southern perimeter, and only one was found along the un-vegetated western perimeter that served as our control.

Among the 144 individuals whose collision locations were mapped during 2005, strike frequency differed significantly between the vegetated (105) and less-vegetated (39) halves of the southern perimeter (Binomial test, $Z = -5.42$, 2-tailed, $P < 0.0001$).

Table 1. Dead and injured birds observed at the Morgan Processing and Distribution Center, Manhattan, New York during 2005.

Species	Scientific Name	Number
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	24
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	23
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	11
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	10
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	9
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapilla</i>	8
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	7
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	7
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	6
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	6
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	6
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	5
Common yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	5
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	4

Species	Scientific Name	Number
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	4
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	4
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	4
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	3
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	3
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	3
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	3
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	2
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	2
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	2
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	2
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	2
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	2
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	2
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	2
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	2
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	2
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	2
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	1
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	1
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	1
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	1
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	1
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	1
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	1
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	1
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	1
Unidentified warbler		2
Unidentified bird		14
Total birds		251
Total species		54

DISCUSSION

The data from the three-day study provide important support for our hypothesis that daytime collisions occur at high frequency at this site. Although intensive monitoring was not conducted throughout the night, no collisions were found to occur during the 19:00-19:30 inspections, which were approximately one hour past sunset. Furthermore, fewer collisions were documented during the 6:45 inspections, which monitored the building at daybreak, compared with the daytime inspections of 9:00 and 12:00. Finally, because the 6:45 inspections were conducted at daybreak, some of the collisions detected then might best be considered daytime collisions, a conclusion also supported by the observation that birds found at this time were not more likely to show signs of desiccation or damage caused by scavengers than were those collected later. Although it remains possible that some nocturnal collisions were not detected because the victims were completely removed by scavengers, the three-day study conclusively demonstrates that daytime collisions occurred at a high frequency at this site. This result is not surprising because two of the factors usually involved in nighttime collisions were missing from this site: this was a low structure, compared with skyscrapers and communication towers which are usually involved in nighttime collisions (Avery et al. 1976, Ogden 1996, Shire et al. 2000, Gauthreaux and Belser 2003); and no light was emitted from this building (the glass surfaces were not really windows, but merely covered a concrete wall). The distribution of collisions across time periods observed during the three-day study, with most collisions occurring during morning and late morning hours, was consistent with findings at other low structures (Klem 1989).

The near-absence of collisions (only one of 28) along the completely un-vegetated western perimeter during the three-day study supports our hypothesis that the presence of vegetation near windows is an important factor influencing daytime collisions. Furthermore, our comparison of vegetated vs. less-vegetated sections of the southern perimeter throughout 2005 revealed a statistically significant disparity in collision rates of about five to two—very similar to the corresponding numbers of tall trees adjacent to each of these sections.

Our findings suggest that strike rates are much higher where glass surfaces reflect nearby vegetation than where they do not. Where nearby vegetation is limited in extent, even extensive glass surfaces may produce only a few collisions per year; but where this factor is prominent and “mirrored glass exteriors” face “forested patches” (O’Connell 2001), high collision rates, on the order of several hundred collisions per year, can be expected. In cases where reflective window panels face vegetated areas, we propose a two-step process that results in daytime collisions. First, vegetation attracts birds to the site (Klem 1989, 1990, Klem et al. 2004). Second, once there, the birds perceive reflected images of vegetation in the windows as continuous vegetation, leading them to collide with the solid glass barrier.

Most of the bird species involved in collisions at the Morgan Mail building occur at this site exclusively as passage-migrants. The large number of migrants

involved in collisions during spring and fall supports Klem's finding (1989) that the most numerous species involved in collisions are those present at the greatest numbers near the site at any specific season. It is no secret that the number of birds in New York City peaks during migration seasons, as demonstrated by the large quantities of migratory birds observed in many of the City's parks, such as Central Park and Prospect Park.

Given that many structures exhibit the characteristics documented in the building studied here, it is likely that such structures collectively pose a threat to migratory bird populations. This is especially true given the fact that several of the species involved in collisions are on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's list of *Species of Management Concern*. Sadly, this threat is only likely to increase as we continue to use more glass to construct our buildings, and as urban and suburban centers continue to expand into rural landscapes where many migratory birds can be found during spring and fall.

SOLUTIONS

There are several retrofitting options that can reduce bird collisions at existing structures that incorporate glass in proximity to vegetation: Window etching, also known as sandblasting, eliminates the reflections of habitat in the windows by reducing the reflective quality of the glass. This method can be used to create patterns that both reduce reflectivity and allow the birds to perceive the glass as a solid barrier. Unless the entire window surface is etched, patterns should take into account Klem's findings which recommend un-etched surfaces to be no larger than 2x4 inches in order to prevent birds from flying into the glass (Klem 1990). NYC Audubon is currently helping Morgan Mail find a long-term solution to their bird collision problem. Window netting is another option which reduces bird collisions by placing a tight net a few inches away from reflecting window panels. This net allows birds to bounce off the net, preventing them from colliding with the glass surface. Other retrofitting options include placing exterior sun-shades and blinds, placing non-reflective film over the windows, such as Toronto's Fatal Light Attraction Program's (FLAP) CollidEscape film, painting over the glass, or growing vines in front of it (Sloan 1997-2001). NYC Audubon is currently leading the *Bird-Safe Glass Working Group*, an initiative to create a new type of glass which would be visible to birds but not to the human eye.

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SPRING 2004 VISIBLE NIGHT MIGRATION OF BIRDS AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY

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In North America, reports of passage birds striking illuminated towers and other man-made structures date from the late 19th century (Coues 1876, Gastman 1886, Beebe 1954). Many studies have examined the composition and causes of large kills of night migrants at towers and buildings (e.g., Allen 1880, McAtee 1905, Aronoff 1949, Johnston and Haines 1957, Brewer and Ellis 1958, Kemper 1996, Morris et al 2003). Most nocturnal bird collisions occur on nights with inclement weather primarily from early August through late October at towers with fixed lights. Small nocturnally migrating songbirds, such as warblers and vireos, are the ones most likely to be killed. Here in New York State several studies have been published about night migrants colliding with tall towers (see Able 1963, Eaton 1967, Welles 1978, Clark et al. 2005). For North America, a summary of the extensive literature on the subject is provided by Avery et al. (1980), Trapp (1998) and Kerlinger (2000).

In New York City, ornithologists first reported the deaths of a few (< 25) nocturnal migrants from collisions with the Statue of Liberty beginning in May 1887, several weeks after the installation of electrical lights on that tower (see Anonymous 1889). Many more (~ 1500) were killed on the night of 22-23 August 1887, after the passage of the first autumn cold front that year (Anonymous 1889). Large numbers of birds (~ 750) killed during migration at the Empire State Building (ESB) on the foggy night of 11 September 1948 drew media attention to the problem (Anonymous 1948, Pough 1948, Aronoff 1949). In the mid-1950s, the National Audubon Society negotiated an agreement for night lights to be turned off on the ESB during spring and autumn migration (Anonymous 1957). Beginning in autumn 2001 through spring 2004, lights illuminating the upper floors of the ESB have sometimes remained on after midnight, and occasionally all night. While this situation has concerned birdwatchers, the effect(s) on nocturnal migrants passing the ESB have not been studied. Here we report a spring 2004 count of nocturnal migrants at the ESB, and some observations about the behavior of the birds in regard to the lights of the building.

METHODS

In spring 2004, from 19 April through 25 May (inclusive), a visual count of night migrating birds was made from the 86th floor outdoor observation deck (elevation ~ 325 meters/1050 feet above ground level) of the ESB in New York City. At ~ 450 m (1474 feet) above ground level, the ESB is the tallest structure in New York City, and provides an unobstructed view to the horizon in all directions. The majority of the night migrants were counted from the southwest corner of the observation deck since they primarily passed on the west side of the building. Birds were easily observed via the external metal halide spotlights used to illuminate the upper floors of the building, combined with the internal fluorescent lights of the tower that rises above the observation deck. The tower fluorescent lights were turned off at midnight, while the metal halide lights sometimes remained on all evening. On the observation deck, metal halide spotlights and fluorescent lights are used inside the gift shop to illuminate the store. These lights are easily seen through large, plate glass windows that surround the gift shop.

Migrating birds were counted by one observer using 8-10x binoculars and assisted at times by others who acted as spotters. Observations began at dusk (approximately 8:00 pm DST) nightly and usually ended at 11:45 pm DST when the observation deck was closed to all visitors. Weather conditions (wind speed, barometric pressure, temperature, humidity) were monitored hourly from the observation deck throughout the evening with a hand-held "weather station," the Kestrel 4000 (Nielsen-Kellerman Corporation, USA). Wind direction was determined with a compass. Time of sunset was obtained from data posted on the web site of the local weather service.

Observers scanned primarily south for approaching migrants. An individual was considered a migrant if it passed south-to-north across an imaginary east-west line at the watch site, and continued north out of sight. We were particularly interested in birds that "circled" the tower and/or observation deck. In circling behavior, birds were observed approaching the ESB and then making a complete, though loose, circle (oval) around the building. Sometimes the migrants would go out of sight as they dropped below eye-level or flew away (and out of the light) from the building. Because of the number of birds circling on big flight nights, on three occasions, it was necessary to estimate the actual number of migrants from 10:00 pm to 11:45 pm (DST). On these nights, we counted the number of migrants passing the ESB each hour, and then added to this total the highest number of migrants we observed circling the tower for that hour.

In order to determine if there was any relation between nights when large numbers of migrants were counted and the numbers of birds seen the following day in Central Park, we examined numbers of warbler species reported each day in the park in April-May 2004. Since there was no way to assess overall abundance of migrants in Central Park, we assumed that days when the greatest number of warbler species were reported likely indicated that a large number of individuals were migrating the previous evening over Manhattan. Conversely, we also wanted to know if nights when large numbers

of migrants were counted at the ESB were related to high numbers of warbler species seen the following day in Central Park.

RESULTS

In total, we counted 3,415 migrants in 117 observation hours (= 29.2 birds/hour; $sd = 52.9$) on 33 evenings (Figure 1). Migration was observed on 22 evenings (66% of observation nights), even on nights with rainy weather (e.g., 27 April and 5 May). The upward directed lights of the building as well as the internal tower lights provided enough illumination to detect migrants that flew within 50 m to our left (east) or right (west), and up to approximately 20 m above the top of the tower (1550 feet). Very few (161) migrants could be identified to species or even particular groups of birds. These were shorebirds (103), waterfowl (29), gulls (18), loons (4), as well as Black-crowned Night Heron (5) and Common Nighthawk (2). On two occasions (24 April; 2 May), lone Peregrine Falcons landed after dark on the tower above the observation deck. See DeCandido and Allen (2006) for detailed information regarding nocturnal activities of peregrines at the ESB. See DeCandido et al. (2006) for details about night migrating Ospreys at the ESB. Lone bats were observed migrating on four evenings.

On average, the first migrant was seen 65 minutes past sunset each evening (earliest = 45 min past sunset on 29 April; latest = 112 min past sunset on 27 April). Our data suggest that the number of migrants passing the ESB peaked after midnight (Figure 2). Significantly more migrants were seen when winds were from the south to west, than when winds were from other directions ($\chi^2 = 923.1$; $P < 0.05$). The majority of migrants (71%) were seen when winds were >10 mph. Significantly more migrants were observed with rising rather than falling or steady barometric pressure ($\chi^2 = 406.3$; $P < 0.05$). On flight nights when more than 50 migrants were seen, significantly more migrants were counted when skies were partly cloudy ($< 80\%$ cloud cover) or clear, than when it was mostly cloudy (80-100% cloud cover) or foggy ($\chi^2 = 6.3$; $P < 0.05$). Both the highest single hour count (319) and highest evening count of migrants (811) occurred on 6 May with west to southwest winds, rising barometric pressure and mostly cloudy sky conditions.

D. Allen (2004) reported for Central Park that observers found 15 or more warbler species in spring 2004 on six days (April 23; Apr. 29; May 4; May 9; May 20; May 26). According to Figure 1, on only one evening (April 28) that preceded these high warbler species counts, were ≥ 100 migrants counted at the ESB. However, following the night with the highest migration count in spring 2004 (May 6), large numbers of migrants were seen the next day in Central Park (pers. obs.).

On big flight nights, it was our impression that passerines typically arrived in waves or "loose associations" of 5-15 migrants throughout the evening, and neither randomly nor in tight flocks (see Balcomb 1977 for a similar observation). Migrant birds used "bounding" flight (*sensu* Kerlinger 1995). When winds were light (< 15 mph) migrants tended to fly at higher elevations, with many passing

Figure 1. Number of Migrants Counted from 19 April through 25 May 2004 at the Empire State Building, New York, NY.

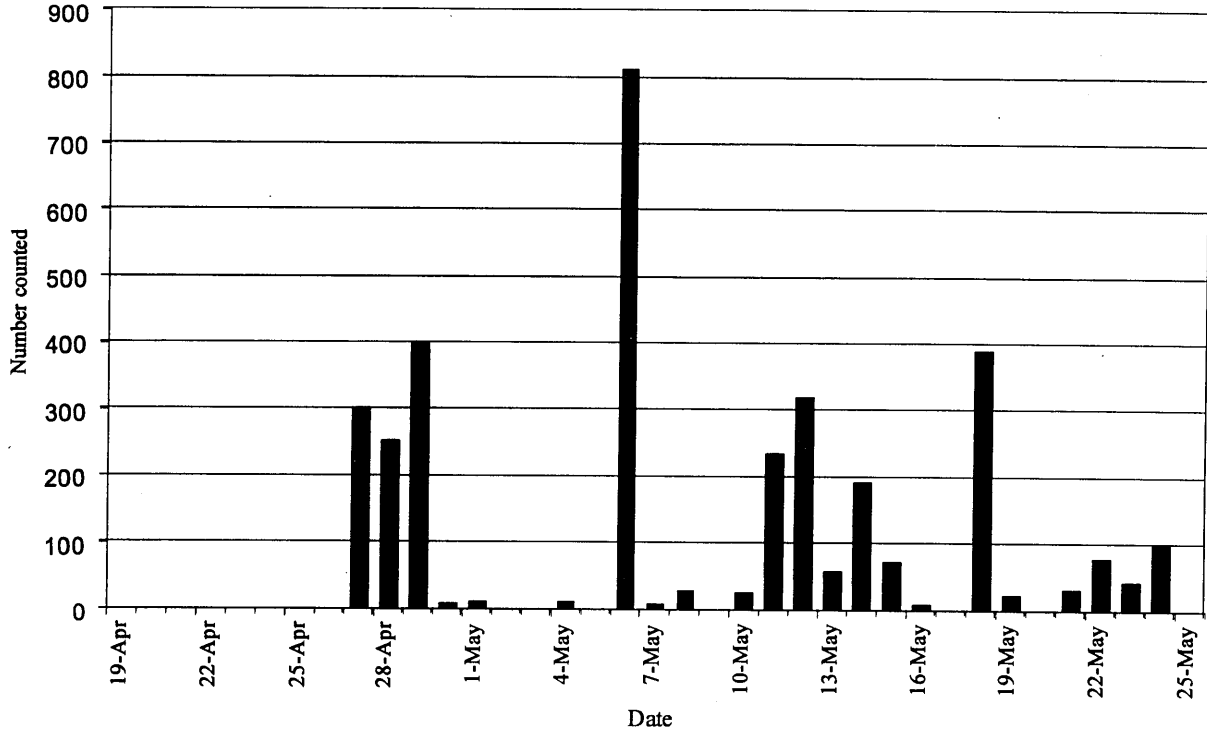
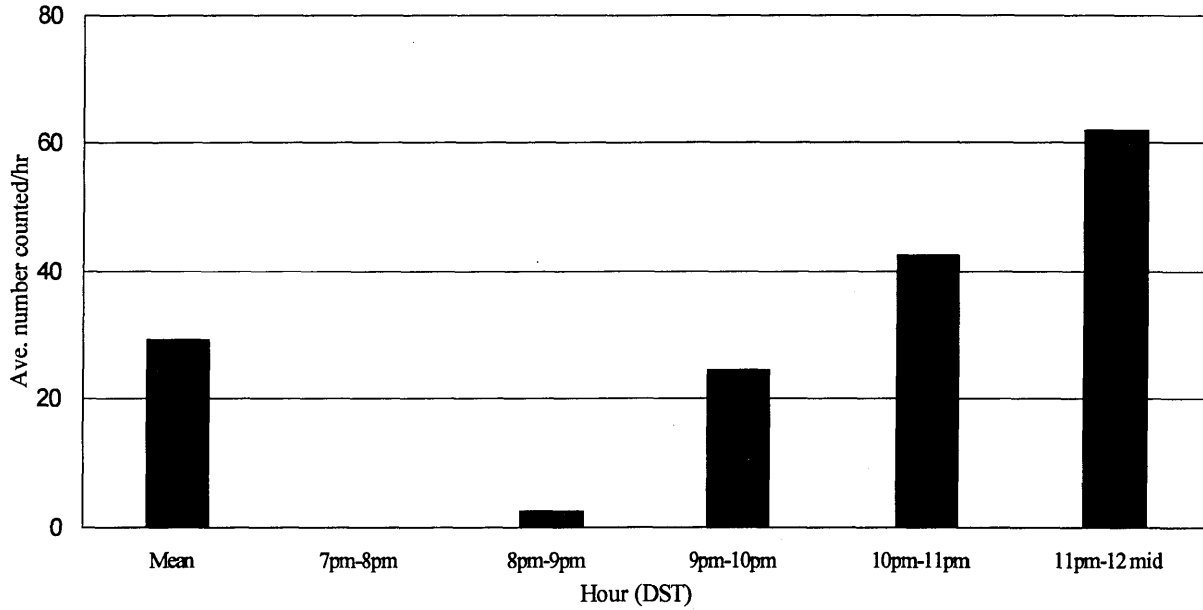


Figure 2. Average Number of Migrants Counted/hr at the Empire State Building, 19 April-25 May 2004, New York, NY.



near/above the top of the tower. When winds were stronger (at least 15-20 mph) migrants tended to fly at the level of the observation deck.

No migrants were observed striking the observation deck or the tower of the ESB during this study. Occasionally, until about 10 May 2004, up to 5% of the migrants on big flight nights were observed circling the tower of the ESB for 1-5 minutes before resuming migration. On one occasion, a migrant circled the tower for 25 minutes (8 May 2004). We were able to study this migrant (a small passerine) from ca. 10:35pm until 11:00pm since there were only 13 other migrants that hour. The bird remained above the observation deck and within sight for the entire time.

After 10 May, more migrants (up to 25% on big flight nights) circled the tower for longer time periods (≤ 15 minutes). On the evening of 12 May, the greatest number of birds (40) simultaneously circled the ESB after 10:00 pm (DST). Though we could not determine how long an individual bird may have circled the ESB on these big flight nights, it seemed as though the number of birds circling would increase, and then decrease, at intervals. On several occasions we saw birds that had been circling continue north and out of sight. We could not be completely certain if others landed or struck the building below the observation deck. Overall, light winds (< 15 mph) and cloudy skies ($> 50\%$ cloud cover) were associated with higher numbers of migrants circling the tower. On nights with strong winds (> 15 mph), some migrants attempted to circle the tower, but had difficulty flying back against the wind. Many of these remained aloft on the lee side of the tower, before resuming migration with strong, southerly tail winds.

DISCUSSION

According to early observations made by J. Dwight, Jr. and others at the Statue of Liberty (see Anonymous 1891), bird collisions with that structure at night were rare in spring and much more common during autumn migration: "Only on a few nights every autumn, however, is there a marked destruction of birds, while in the spring the loss of a feathered life is very rare. The principal sufferers against the hard sides of the Statue have been the little Maryland [Common] yellow throats, which have furnished about 75% of the dead fliers, except in the present year [autumn 1891], when the slate-colored junco outnumbers them on the record. A total of 345 birds was recorded in 1890. So far this year [Nov. 1891], the record is 386."

Studies of bird collisions at towers indicate that structures taller than 120-160 m kill many more birds than smaller ones (Kemper 1996; Kerlinger 2000). Illuminated towers with guy lines are particularly hazardous to nocturnal migrants. Since most small, night migrating birds travel with favorable tail winds primarily at altitudes between 200-800 m above ground level (Gauthreaux 1991; Moore et al. 1995; Gauthreaux and Belser 2003), the observation deck of the Empire State Building provides a unique opportunity to study this migration, and observe the behavior of the migrants as they approach the building lights.

Our results suggest that the ESB, a lone super-structure rising sharply above the surrounding buildings of mid-Manhattan, is not an important obstacle to nocturnal migrants in spring. We did not see a single bird strike either the building or the tower during this study. However, since we were not able to observe the migration after midnight, we do not know if the behavior of the migrants changed after this time due to fatigue or other (unknown) factors. We also do not know if the illuminated lower floors of the building proved to be hazardous to migrants throughout the night. On the other hand, no dead birds were reported or brought to us by building staff who monitored the observation deck and outdoor terraces on the lower floors during our spring 2004 survey. Though birds have been known to strike the ESB during migration seasons in the past, there have been no reports of large (>100) numbers of migrants striking the building at night since ca. 1980. Why fewer birds now strike the building than in the past may be due to (a) differences in the type of lighting used at the ESB now compared to the 1940-1960s; (b) fewer birds migrating at night in northeastern North America due to overall population declines that have occurred for a variety of reasons; (c) a greater number of illuminated tall structures in the metropolitan area today, so that migrants are not concentrated near one tower. Since 2000 or earlier, more migrant birds are killed each year in New York City after colliding with plate glass windows at or near ground level than are killed at the Empire State Building (Gelb and Delacretaz 2007; Seewagen, *in review*). Other long-term studies in New York State and elsewhere have also documented that since ca. 1990, fewer birds are now killed by colliding with towers and their associated support structures (guy lines) at night during migration (see Morris et al. 2003).

Migrants reacted differently to the building lights early vs. late in the season. Before 10 May, we rarely saw migrants circling the tower or building. After this date, especially on foggy nights or when skies were 100% overcast with light wind (< 15 mph), small birds were more likely to circle the ESB. It appeared to us that their migration was delayed by up to 15 minutes and not otherwise affected to any great degree. We were able to visually verify that some of the birds that circled the ESB were able to continue their migration. On several occasions, we observed migrants land on the building, especially in inclement weather (e.g., 13 May).

When south to west winds exceeded 15 mph, a few migrants occasionally started to circle the ESB. However, when these birds encountered a head wind on turning a corner of the ESB, they would usually hang in the oncoming wind for a few seconds, and then resume their northward migration with the wind at their backs again. For more information about the effect of strong wind upon halting the circling behavior of birds at the ESB, see DeCandido (2005). In both spring and fall, the vast majority (>99%) of circling birds did so in a counter-clockwise direction around the building (see DeCandido 2005). This is most readily observed from street level (east side of Fifth Avenue between 32nd and 35th streets) as one looks up toward the tower. On such nights, it is possible to see migrants moving slowly outside of the illuminated area near the tower and into the darkness, and then returning to the illuminated area again. Similar observations to ours about the behavior of small birds

circling illuminated towers at night have been made by Cochran and Graber (1958) and Larkin and Frase (1988).

Studies have also shown that birds collide with towers and buildings principally on foggy evenings or nights with low cloud cover, probably because the migrants are forced to lower elevations by inclement weather (Seets and Bohlen 1977). In Manhattan in spring, fog occurs with easterly winds that bring in cool, moist air, while most migration was observed when winds were from the south to west. Migrants such as gulls, waterfowl, shorebirds and even bats were not attracted to the lights of the ESB at any time in any weather conditions during this study. Other birds, such as Peregrine Falcons, used the light of the ESB to their advantage (DeCandido and Allen 2005). However, 19th century scientists occasionally found that waterfowl and shorebirds (but not gulls and bats) collided with Lighthouses in North America and Europe (see Dutcher 1889). Reports from other cities indicate that tall, illuminated structures can be hazardous to nocturnal migrants (Overing 1938; Evans Ogden 1996). It is likely that most North America cities, with their unique arrangement of tall buildings each with its own lighting scheme, pose different challenges to migrants. Site-specific studies are necessary to determine if, when and how particular skyscrapers pose hazards to birds migrating at night high above the city.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The observation deck of the Empire State Building offers a unique opportunity to observe and enjoy the night migration of birds during spring and autumn. Persons interested in seeing large numbers of night migrants in spring should visit the Empire State Building on nights when winds are from the south to west, during the last few days of April through the first half of May (see Figure 1). In autumn, the best nights to see the highest number of migrants is during the first two weeks of October, on nights when winds are from the west to northwest after the passage of a "cold front" (see DeCandido 2005; DeCandido and Allen 2006). Check weather forecasts for the New York City area: www.weatherunderground.com, and make advanced plans accordingly, including on-line purchase of tickets (\$20/person) to the observation deck of the ESB.

In the past, the management of the ESB kindly agreed to keep the building lights off each night during spring and fall migration seasons (see Anonymous 1957). The current policy is to turn the external, upward directed halogen lights off when significant numbers of birds are observed circling the ESB. We suggest a return to the previous policy of lights out from dusk to dawn on certain evenings during the migration: foggy and rainy nights from 20 April through 31 May, and again on nights with inclement weather from 1 August through 30 October (see recommendations in DeCandido 2005).

We suggest that a descriptive flyer (brochure) providing information about the night migration of birds over New York City be distributed to Security Guards and other personnel who work on the observation deck of the ESB. Readily available information would make these important observers aware of what to look for on potential problem nights. In this way, observers could

notify the ESB engineer in charge of lighting to turn off the lights if birds begin colliding with the ESB. The descriptive brochure could provide accurate information about the night migration, including: Why do birds migrate at night? Why do birds circle the tower of the ESB? Why are Peregrine Falcons seen at the ESB at night? What to look and listen for when studying night migration, etc. Such a brochure that emphasizes the interesting and unique observations that can be made at the ESB would also be of interest to the general public as well. The brochure could be developed by New York City Audubon, New York State Audubon, National Audubon, or the New York State Ornithological Association, or all four organizations in collaboration, and sold at the gift shop of the ESB.

Finally, future studies should be considered from midnight to dawn in order to determine if the number and behavior of migrating birds varies significantly from what we observed from dusk until 11:45 pm (DST).

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HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS OF BICKNELL'S THRUSH IN NEW YORK CITY AND A NEW RECORD FOR BRONX COUNTY

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Abstract—Bicknell's Thrush is a restricted-range Neotropical migrant whose migratory ecology and behavior are poorly understood. There have been several records of transient Bicknell's Thrushes in New York City; however the last documented occurrence was over sixty-five years ago. Here, we synthesize historical accounts of the species in New York City and report the first record for Bronx County since the late 19th century. Data collected from the bird of record in Bronx County are presented. This information, when compared with other available data, may prove useful in future studies of the species.

Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) is a long-distance Neotropical migrant first discovered in New York's Catskill Mountains by Eugene Bicknell in 1881 (Rimmer et al. 2001). Long considered a sub-species of the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*), Bicknell's Thrush was eventually recognized as a distinct species in 1995 (AOU 1995). The classification of Bicknell's Thrush as a separate species has resulted in increased interest in the species and concern over its conservation status. Yet, much remains to be learned about Bicknell's Thrush natural history, particularly its stopover ecology, migration routes, and migration timing (Rimmer et al. 2001). Rimmer et al. (2001) recommend a thorough study of available banding and specimen data to help establish migratory routes and timing, and to identify important stopover habitats.

In the field, Bicknell's Thrush cannot be reliably distinguished from Gray-cheeked Thrush visually (Beals and Nichols 1940, Pyle 1997, Wilson and Watts 1997, Rimmer et al. 2001, NYSARC 2002). This partially accounts for the dearth of information on the species relative to those migratory birds that can be readily identified by field marks. Identification of Bicknell's Thrush during migration requires examination of handheld birds or specimens so that morphological measurements can be taken (Pyle 1997, Wilson and Watts 1997, Rimmer et al. 2001). Information obtained from banding stations is therefore critical to better understand the migratory ecology and behavior of Bicknell's Thrush (Wilson and Watts 1997).

Here, we report our capture of a transient Bicknell's Thrush during Fall 2005 in Bronx County, New York. Although our data represent only one individual, the general lack of information on the species' migratory behavior, especially in urban areas such as New York City, warrants its presentation. Such information, when compared with other available data, may prove useful in future studies of the species.

HISTORY OF BICKNELL'S THRUSH IN NEW YORK CITY

New York State's Catskill and Adirondack Mountains represent a significant portion of the Bicknell's Thrush breeding range (24%; Lambert et al. 2005), but transient occurrences of the species in other parts of the state are less well-documented. Historically in New York City, Bicknell's Thrush has been recorded in Queens Co. (Howell 1893, Wallace 1939, Beals and Nichols 1940), Kings Co. (Howell 1893, 1899; Cherrie 1909, Wallace 1939), Liberty Island (Howell 1893, Wallace 1939), and Bronx Co. (Wallace 1939). In each case, the birds of record were either captured at a banding station or collected as specimens.

We presume these birds were identified as Bicknell's Thrush using morphological measurements, although some of the above authors did not specify their method of identification. The fact that morphological measurements are today considered the most reliable method of distinguishing Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's Thrush (aside from molecular techniques) (Pyle 1997, Wilson and Watts 1997, Rimmer et al. 2001) is in large part due to George Wallace's (1939) seminal study of the two species. Prior to 1939, the measurements presented by Ridgeway (1881) were universally used for identification of Bicknell's Thrush (Wallace 1939). However, Wallace (1939) concluded that Ridgeway's (1881) measurements were unsatisfactory and had led to numerous erroneous identifications of the species. Therefore, records of transient Bicknell's Thrush prior to the publication of Wallace's research may be considered less certain than any records post-1939.

Regardless of this uncertainty, if the historic accounts of Bicknell's Thrush in New York City are accepted as accurate, the last record for the city was nearly seven decades ago (Beals and Nichols 1940). The last record for Bronx Co. in particular was in the late 19th century (Wallace 1939).

A BICKNELL'S THRUSH CAPTURE IN BRONX COUNTY

In Spring 2004-06 and Fall 2004-05, we mist-netted and banded birds in Bronx Park (Bronx, New York) as part of an ongoing study of the stopover ecology of Neotropical migrants in urban habitats (Seewagen 2005). Bronx Park is a 565-acre park in the center of Bronx Co. that includes the campuses of the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden. Our study area was a 12-acre section of riparian and upland forest habitat on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo adjacent to the Bronx River. The site does not contain any animal exhibits and is not open to zoo visitors. The west edge of this area is a dry upland deciduous forest dominated by Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) and Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), with some White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Mockernut (*Carya tomentosa*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and American Elm (*Ulmus americana*). The upland forest transitions rapidly down a steep gradient to the east into a riparian zone with wet or seasonally wet soils. The most prevalent riparian species are willows (*Salix spp.*) and Swamp Dogwood (*Cornus foemina*) (Slayton, unpubl. data). Two invasive species, Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) and Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), are also prevalent.

Ten to twelve mist nets were operated five days per week from sunrise to approximately 1200. Fall mist-netting took place between the first week of September and the second week of October; spring mist-netting took place between the last week of April and first week of June. The nets were set in 10 locations throughout the study site. Six locations were close to the river's edge (<10m), while the remaining four locations were 20-30 m further away in the upland deciduous forest.

At approximately 0745 on 10 October 2005, a Bicknell's Thrush was captured in a mist net close to the river's edge (<5m). The bird was aged (Pyle 1997), measured to the nearest 1 mm (wing-chord, tail length, and the distance from p8 to p6), weighed to the nearest 0.1g (Ohaus 400g digital balance), examined for signs of wing and body molt, and banded with a federal serial numbered metal band. Visible subcutaneous fat in the furcular hollow was rated on a 6-point scale (Helms and Drury 1960, Moore and Kerlinger 1987). The data collected were:

Age: Hatching-year (HY)
Sex: Unknown
Wing-chord: 85 mm
Tail length: 64 mm
p8 - p6: 4 mm
Mass: 28.6 g
Fat score: 2
Body molt: None
Wing molt: None

The bird was identified as a Bicknell's Thrush and distinguished from Gray-cheeked Thrush using the wing feature criteria in Pyle (1997). The measurements of two parameters in particular (wing-chord; distance from primary 8 to primary 6) indicated that this bird was a Bicknell's Thrush.

Over the Spring 2004-06 banding seasons, a total of 8 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were captured and in the Fall 2004-05 banding seasons, 4 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were captured. On two occasions (20 May 2004 and 12 May 2005) we captured birds that could not be conclusively identified as either Bicknell's or Gray-cheeked Thrush. The measurements taken from these individuals fell within the overlapped portions of the size ranges of both species.

DISCUSSION

Previous reports of transient Bicknell's Thrushes captured at banding stations have indicated a significant age bias towards hatching-year birds (Rimmer et al. 2001). This is consistent with the age ratios for most passerine species captured at coastal banding sites along the Atlantic Flyway (e.g. Robbins et al. 1959, Murray 1966, Ralph 1981, Morris et al. 1996, but see Seewagen 2005). The Bicknell's Thrush we captured in Bronx Park was a hatching-year bird,

consistent with this trend. Banding stations have also regularly reported higher numbers of migrant Bicknell's Thrushes captured in fall than in spring (Beals and Nichols 1940, Rimmer et al. 2001). Our single capture occurred in fall.

A Suffolk Co., LI banding station found the mean fall passage date for Bicknell's Thrush through this geographic region to be 5 October \pm 8.6 d SD (Lanyon 1970, Rimmer et al. 2001). Beals and Nichols (1940) did not provide mean or median passage dates of Bicknell's Thrush through their Queens Co. station; rather they noted that their earliest capture occurred on 7 September and their latest capture on 8 November. Wilson and Watts (1997) identified 4-7 October as the median autumn passage dates for Bicknell's Thrush through Kiptopeke, VA. The 10 October date of our capture fits the expected fall passage dates of Bicknell's Thrush through the New York City area, based on these data from other banding stations.

The 1:4 ratio of Bicknell's: Gray-cheeked Thrush captures in fall at our banding station is comparable to that recorded by other stations, although considerable variability occurs (see Rimmer et al. 2001). At the Queens Co. banding station, Bicknell's Thrush constituted 42% ($n=117$) of the total fall Bicknell's and Gray-cheeked Thrush captures from 1932-39 (Beals and Nichols 1940). Beals and Nichols (1940) did not specify what measurements they used to distinguish the species, however. Considering the early date of their publication, and thus the likelihood that Ridgeway's (1881) inadequate measurement ranges were used for identification, the high proportion of Bicknell's Thrushes reported by Beals and Nichols (1940) is questionable.

CONCLUSION

The birds of New York City have been well-documented over the last 125 years (e.g., Bicknell 1878; Griscom 1923, 1926; Kuerzi 1926; Carleton 1947, 1958, 1970; Bull 1964). Virtually all knowledge of the area's birds can be attributed to consistent field observations made since the late 19th century by both amateur and professional ornithologists. Field observations, however, are limited in the variety of data they can provide. Bicknell's Thrush, due to its nearly identical appearance to Gray-cheeked Thrush, cannot adequately be studied during migration by visual observation alone.

Here, we present the first record of Bicknell's Thrush in New York City in sixty five years. We do not suggest that the species has been absent from New York City at other times during this period. Rather, we believe that banding stations can be a valuable means of reliably documenting and monitoring an area's avifauna, even in cities.

Records of Bicknell's Thrush in New York City show that the city's parks are used as stopover sites by even the most uncommon of migratory birds, underscoring the importance of conserving and properly managing these areas.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE CAVE SWALLOW INCURSION OF NOVEMBER 2005

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Since New York State's first fall record in November 1998 (Schiff and Wollin 1999), the appearance of Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) during late fall has become somewhat predictable (e.g., Griffith 2005, Mitra 2005, and discussion below). In the context of this emerging pattern of occurrence, November 2005's incursion to the Lake Ontario Plain was exceptional for several reasons. The first exception was of course the sheer volume of birds encountered, the second was the flight direction of the birds, and the third was the weather pattern, which was only partially similar to what has been linked to these events in the past.

The season's first Cave Swallows were observed in upstate New York on 3 November, when 28 birds were tallied at Hamlin Beach State Park (HBSP) by John Bounds, Judy Gurley, and Dave Tetlow. All of these birds were moving west *into* a southwest wind ranging from 10 – 20 mph. The high number of birds (highest ever encountered in this region) and the flight direction opposite the norm indicated something was different. On 4 November, with heavy cloud cover and a lake breeze early in the day, no birds appeared. When the weather finally cleared during the afternoon and the wind picked up out of the southwest again, Dave Tetlow returned to HBSP for some late observations. At 3:00 p.m. he observed flocks of five and seven birds pass flying *west* again. He alerted others, and Mike Davids arrived in time to observe another 100 birds pass between 3:30 and 4:45 p.m. On 5 November another 42 birds were tallied moving west between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. by several observers. Bob and Sue Spahn decided to check west of the lakewatch around old barns and under bridges based upon the fact that Cave Swallows had been found on 24 November 2004 after apparently roosting overnight in an old barn. This search failed to reveal any additional birds. On 6 November a potent cold front was forecast. Expected ahead of the front were unseasonably warm conditions, a high temperature of ca. 75° F, and southwest winds at 15 – 25 mph, with gusts over 40 mph. Dave Tetlow alerted several observers the night before to the following day's potential for a major flight of swallows.

6 November dawned as forecast, clear skies, warm, and breezy. Upon driving the Lake Ontario Parkway to HBSP at around 7:00 a.m., Dave Tetlow encountered two flocks of Cave Swallows totaling 46 birds. Noting their flight line was about ¼ - ½ mile off the lakeshore, he positioned himself on the parkway overpass outside of the HBSP. Several flocks were counted from this

location as they passed moving west. Over the course of the next hour or so just over 100 birds were tallied. At this point the wind shifted south southeast to south southwest, and the flight line shifted closer to the lakeshore, so Dave moved into the park to be closer to the line. As the wind strengthened from the south southwest so did the flight. Flocks of 10, 20, 30, even 40 or more birds at a time passed by. By the time the rains accompanying the front had shut off the flight, Dave Tetlow, with the help of Mike Davids and Kim Hartquist and occasionally others, had tallied an incredible 579 birds.

During this event, all of the birds were moving east to west, often into gale force winds. Despite a significant effort, no other swallow species were detected among the Cave Swallows. In fact only two sightings of a total of three Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) were noted during this four day event, and these were not seen moving with any of the Cave Swallows.

POSSIBLE STRAGGLERS

In spite of much searching, there were no other Cave Swallows observed locally for several days. On 7 November at 9:45 AM, three brown-backed swallows flew low in front of the lakewatch area, and one was clearly a Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*). On 8 November, Bill Symonds and Kathleen Dalton observed two more N. Rough-winged Swallows at the lakewatch, apparently coming in after crossing the lake from the north.

On 11 November after a slow morning, Mike Davids made one more check for passerines around the small pond at the east end of Parking Lot # 4 near the lakewatch and observed two Cave Swallows hawking insects over the pond. On the afternoon of 13 November at about 3:00 PM, Dave Tetlow found one, and later three, Cave Swallows while searching the cattail-surrounded ponds on the road out to Beatty Point in the Town of Greece. One passed overhead, remaining long enough to get some digital video images. They eventually moved off to the southwest. The next day just after 3:00 PM, he sighted another four birds there headed southwest. Other observers selecting different vantage points missed these. On returning home, at Hogan Point just inland from Braddock Bay and southwest of Beatty Point, at the back of his property adjacent to Berger Park he found a couple of Cave Swallows foraging over the pond. The number finally swelled to 11. At one point he was able to closely observe at least two different individuals hovering over the gray dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*) bushes near the pond and to see plucked berries in their bills, which were then apparently swallowed. This appears to be a new, previously undocumented foraging behavior for Cave Swallow. At dusk he observed the birds flying up over some pines to the north of the pond and apparently dropping toward the Lake Ontario Parkway bridge over Salmon Creek.

On 15 November, Bob Spahn was under the bridge at just before 7:00 AM. It was gray and chilly with showers threatening and quite dim even though sunrise was near at 7:04. There is a sheltered area to stand and walk while searching for swallows on the array of I-beams under the bridge. Just after

7:21 AM, the first chattering of Cave Swallows were heard over the water under the bridge to the east and dim shapes were seen flying about. Soon some of the shapes moved out into the open on the north side of the bridge. Many swallows were darting about over the water, up and down and back under the bridge. The count was seven. The birds were observed for the next 10 minutes. All had pale buffy throats and most appeared to have buffy rumps. One, which flew very close, had a rusty center to the rump with paler border. These fieldmarks were consistent with southwestern birds, though probably not ruling out young West Indian birds completely. Finally three birds flew out, then up and over the bridge headed toward the Berger Park area to the southeast. There were still shapes and sounds under the bridge for a short time, then silence. Either the others perched and stopped calling, or they flew out the south side and away. A quick drive to Berger Park did not result in locating any birds. After a short time at the lakewatch, Spahn rechecked the bridge with John Bounds at 11:30 and found three birds huddled together on the bottom shelf of one I-beam and another flying about, which then perched by itself a short distance away on another beam. It was still too dark for photos.

On the morning of 16 November Spahn and Dominic Sherony arrived under the bridge by 6:40 AM. It was already brighter than at anytime the previous morning. There was a stiff wind from the south and a front approaching. Three birds were huddled together not far from the position of the day before and another was flying about, then one was found perched separately on another beam. Several other observers arrived over the next 45 minutes and observed the birds through a telescope. Sherony tried to take photos, but it was too dim under the bridge and too far for use of a flash. About 7:35 the front arrived with very strong winds and rain. The winds swirling under the bridge blew the birds off their perches. They flew around a bit. One passed the observers very close at ankle height, then perched briefly on a pipe nearby and finally moved off, trying several other perches unsuccessfully. At least two were observed flying out to the north of the bridge and finally dropping into the cattails in the lee of the parkway. In the late afternoon, Tetlow and Davids found three Cave Swallows flying about at Round Pond Outlet, two at Long Pond Outlet, where one was observed entering a boat house but not exiting again, and later saw three flying under the Salmon Creek bridge.

On 17 November, Spahn arrived about 6:50 AM with Peter Debes. It had been a very cold night. There were no birds at the previous resting sites. However at about 6:55, as they were waiting toward the north side of the bridge, looking back they spotted three birds, two close together and the third inches away on a beam over the dry land area. Their position on the north side of the beam and near the western bridge footing gave the most shelter from the cold westerly wind. Spahn took several flash shots, some after the single bird shuffled behind and pushed between the other two. The observers then left to limit stress on the birds. Checking back briefly about 9:50, the birds were not visible. In the early afternoon, Dave Tetlow checked and one was back on the beam in approximately the same spot as the morning huddle. He was not sure it was alive, so went to a nearby house and borrowed

a fish net. It was alive and flew away, returning to the spot a couple of times before departing. About that time he looked down and saw a dead bird on the ground under the beam and retrieved it. It was subsequently delivered to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, hopefully for determination of subspecies and then retention as a specimen. Subsequent searches did not result in finding any more Cave Swallows in the Rochester area, dead or alive.

There is no way to determine precisely the number of individuals involved in this week of additional sightings or whether they were really stragglers from the main event or new arrivals accompanying later fronts. The total is somewhere between a very conservative low of 13 birds moving about searching for food over several of the lakeshore marshes and ponds over several days or possibly as high as 36 birds. It is highly likely that those under the Salmon Creek bridge from 15–17 November were the same small group trying to survive the sharp turn to cold weather.

ORIGINS OF THE CAVE SWALLOWS OF THIS EVENT

The presence of large numbers (1000+) of Cave Swallows in New York State in November is a genuine mystery that raises questions concerning their geographic origins and the possible causes underlying their long distance movements. The detailed sightings and some sense of timing may be garnered from Table 2, summarizing information pulled from postings on the internet at the time of the event and from the various regional reports in *North American Birds*, Vol. 60: No. 1, 2006. Hopefully the discussion below will help to pull the event together and lead to some conclusions relative to possible origins of the birds.

Historically, Cave Swallows have been observed in the East for many years beginning with birds found in Maritime Provinces of Canada as far back as 1968. The historical picture through 1999 is well summarized by Curry and McLaughlin (2000) and McNair and Post (2001). Through the 1990's and since, the species has been observed annually at least somewhere in the northeast, most often on the coast or Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Cave Swallow was first observed locally on the south shore of Lake Ontario on 23 November 1999 by Brett Ewald at Hamlin Beach State Park and subsequently by Dave Tetlow, having been called by Brett, at the East Spit of Braddock. They were on the alert for the possibility having heard of birds to our west in the vicinity of Point Pelee (Wormington, 1999). In the next five years, small numbers of Cave Swallows were seen each fall, except 2000, in the local area. Dates range from an early of 20 September 2003 to 27 November 2004. In all but one case, all the birds were headed east. In most cases, the weather pattern and/or news of birds to our west had observers on the lookout for the species. The total for this entire period is only 21 to 23 individuals (Table 1).

Table 1. Rochester, New York Cave Swallows 1999 – 2004.

Year	Date	Number	Headed	Location	Observers	Notes
1999	11/23	1	E	Hamlin Beach SP	Brett Ewald	
	11/23	1	E	East Spit, Braddock Bay	David Tetlow	same bird?
2000	none					
2001	10/8	2	feeding	Long Pond, Greece	David Tetlow; mob later	
	10/9	1	feeding	Buck Pond, Greece	David Tetlow, Dominic Sherony,	same bird?
2002	11/11	1	E	Hamlin Beach SP	David Tetlow, Mike Davids	
2003	9/20	3	E	Hamlin Beach SP	David Tetlow	
	11/6	1	E	Hamlin Beach SP	David Tetlow	
	11/24	5	E	Hamlin Beach SP	D. Tetlow, R. Spahn, John Bounds	
2004	10/31	3	W	Hamlin Beach SP	Dominic Sherony & field trip	
	11/21	1	E	Hogan Point, Greece	David Tetlow	
	1/27	4	feeding	Williamson	D. Tetlow, R. Spahn, Robert McKinney	

As noted above, this time the circumstances surrounding the event were different. The weather was interesting enough to push people to search, but there was no news of sightings elsewhere. After the start of the event locally, in contacting others and searching the internet, we learned of a small number of sightings on the east coast and just north of us near Toronto, Ontario, Canada in very late October. Tracking the postings on the internet at the time and looking at them carefully later, all of the reports from the lower Great Lakes to the west of us occurred with timing suggesting birds from the group passing here continuing west. Where noted, all birds were also moving west or feeding over ponds with no flight direction observable. Similarly, except for the very few late October birds, all of the reports from east and southeast of us are also consistent with a large group of Cave Swallows being displaced to a point near western to central New York, with most heading west from there and some smaller number wandering east to various points on the coast, with many scattered across the map in between.

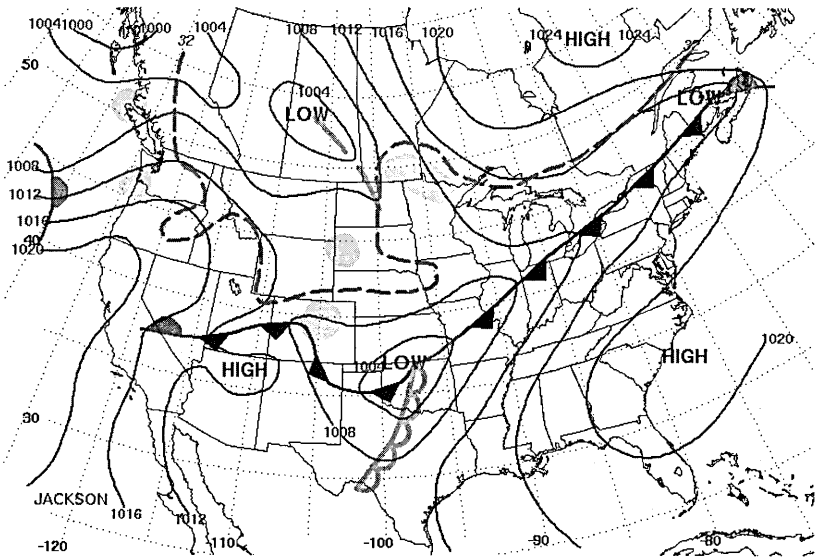
In attempting to analyze the event, it is interesting that in the fall summary in *North American Birds*, Vol. 60: No. 1, 2006 there are no reports from Quebec, only one from the north shore of Lake Ontario, other than the Toronto area birds, and a lone dying bird (ROM #102353) found in Algonquin Park in Ontario. Strangely, there are no reports from the New York portion of the south shore of Lake Erie. To the west, there are reports all the way to Indiana and Wisconsin, where they were first state records, and east to the coast where Maine recorded its first records. Birds were also noted in every state south to the Carolinas. Not knowing how to account for multiple sightings of the same individuals over such a large area and time span, it is difficult to arrive at an overall total number of individuals involved. Sightings alone add up to well over 1000 clearly different individuals. Given the few points actually covered by birders, the overall displaced number must be well above that.

Some have speculated about Hurricane Wilma as the origin of these birds. We can picture Wilma as the origin of the early birds along the east coast to Nova Scotia in late October, but not as the origin of the large group of birds in November. Wilma originated as a tropical storm in the southern Caribbean on 15 October and made hurricane status there on the 18th. Its path to the Yucatan was well south of the major islands. The storm reached the Yucatan on the 21st and departed on the 23rd. It is remotely possible that it picked up Yucatan Cave Swallows or intercepted a flock of Mexican/Texas birds moving south over the Gulf of Mexico the next day. It reached Florida on the morning of the 24th, swept across the state in hours, and was over the ocean off the Maritimes of Canada by the end of the 25th. The path from the Yucatan to Florida was north of any island source of Cave Swallows and the Florida population doesn't seem large enough to account for the numbers. It is hard to picture a large number of birds from either the Yucatan or the Gulf of Mexico being carried along until late on the 25th, escaping the storm as it dwindled out off the east coast, then not being seen until nine days later 700 – 1000 miles southwest and inland along Lake Ontario and subsequently dispersing both west and east from that approximate location.

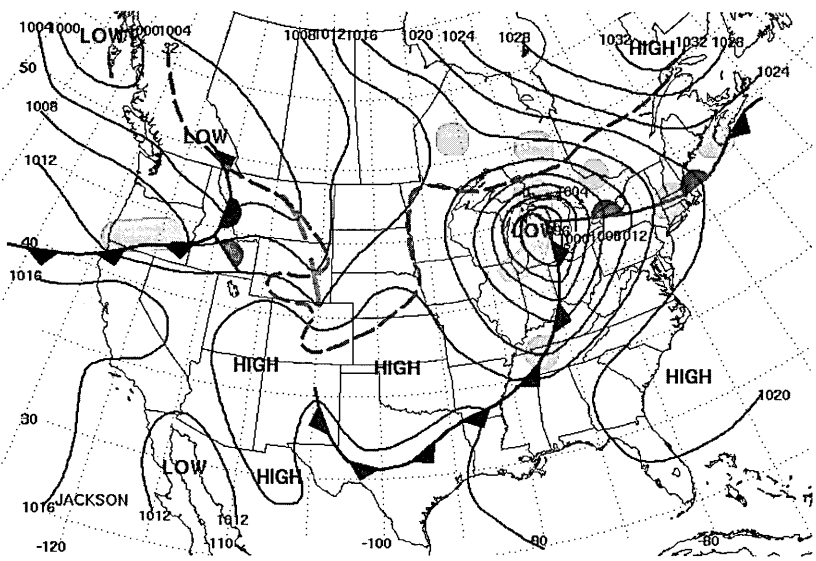
The most likely origin is the southwestern United States, with a large group of Cave Swallows swept to the northeast with and ahead of the storm system which arrived in western New York over the weekend of November 5-6. The archived national weather maps for 5-6 November 2005 look like a perfect setup for a fast track from Texas to the south shore of Lake Ontario, with a strong low following a track between a high to the southeast of that line, a low ahead to the north and west, and a frontal boundary just to the north (Figure 1). Hopefully DNA testing of the two upstate New York specimens and possibly the Algonquin Park specimen will establish the subspecies and the general geographic origin of these birds.

Why such a large number was displaced en masse to a relatively small area this year by a seemingly routine weather system remains an open question. Possibly it has to do with matching the timing of a particular population of Texas birds ready to head south. It is also possible that some degree of pre-migratory northward dispersal is a natural feature of North America's rapidly expanding breeding populations (see below), and that such movements might interact with even normal weather events to move large numbers of Cave Swallows to the north and east.

It is possible to form an hypothesis (or plausible speculation) attempting to explain the differences between numbers and flight direction this year relative to most years. Apart from weather, several intrinsic factors are known to influence the frequency of extralimital occurrence among birds in general. Two such factors that appear relevant to the case at hand are age-specific variation in dispersal tendencies and demographic trends in source populations. Compared to adults, hatching-year birds of most bird species disperse farther on average (Campbell and Lack 1985), take longer to re-orient following migratory displacements (Baird et al. 1959), and are much more apt to occur far out of range (DeSante and Ainle 1980). Populations experiencing favorable demographic trends, such as high reproductive success, increasing breeding densities, and expanding breeding distributions are more likely to produce vagrant individuals than are less successful populations (Veit 2000). As noted above, North American Cave Swallow populations have been growing and expanding at a phenomenal rate for several decades, following the adoption of artificial structures (culverts) as nesting substrates (West 1995, Grzybowski and Fazio 2004). This expansion, along with the typical flow of storm systems from southwest to northeast in the fall likely explains the regular occurrence of small numbers of Cave Swallows far to the north and east of breeding sites in recent fall seasons. In the case of the unusual November 2005 event, an unusually large contingent of Cave Swallows, possibly including a larger than usual proportion of adults, may have been displaced by a particularly effective weather system. If so, it would not be surprising if the bulk of the adults reoriented and headed back as soon as possible, even flying directly into the strong southwest winds. Under this view, the individuals that remained longer were likely young birds, or birds too exhausted to return immediately. This hypothesis can only be tested by carefully ageing the birds observed, often very difficult for this species under the conditions of observation, or by analyzing series of specimens as these accrue over time.



Surface Weather Map at 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.



Surface Weather Map at 7:00 A.M. E.S.T.

Figure 1. Synoptic weather maps for 5 & 6 November 2005 at 07:00 EST, courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center.

SPECIMENS

The bird found on a road in Algonquin Park, Ontario on November 7 by Ron Tozer and Dan Strickland has been preserved as ROM #102353 (skin and wing) and identified by measurements as *Petrochelidon fulva pallida*, the subspecies inhabiting the southwestern United States. Tissue samples have been saved for future DNA work (Mark Peck, Royal Ontario Museum, pers. com.).

The bird found under the Lake Ontario Parkway bridge over Salmon Creek at Braddock Bay, NY on 17 November was prepared as a specimen (CU #51730) at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. "The bird appeared to be an adult male with a fully ossified skull, no bursa, and well-developed testes. The bird had completed its prebasic molt and was emaciated as expected and nothing was found in the esophagus or stomach. We could not find any sign of injury or trauma and can only assume the bird was ill or froze to death." (Scott Haber, pers. com.). Morphologically, this bird was identified as *Pf. pallida*. Another bird was found on a window ledge near the public entry to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology on 19 November. This also was preserved as a specimen (CU#51713).

Two additional specimens, CU 50066 found in Bridgeport, Madison County and AMNH 836153 found in Westchester County and prepared as specimens in November 1999 and December 2004, respectively, also appear to be *Pf. pallida* from the southwest. Frozen tissue from these specimens is also available for DNA analysis at a later date.

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CHANGES TO THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN REVIEW LIST

At its Annual Meeting (9 September 2006), the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) agreed to the following revisions to the Review List. 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 locally unusual sightings of species that no longer require review, we encourage all NY observers to submit documentation to appropriate Kingbird Regional Editors. Several other species were discussed but the Committee felt that additional information was needed before additional changes could be made. It is worth emphasizing that the NYSARC Review List serves as a set of recommendations and the Committee will consider exceptional reports of species that are not listed (exotics, migrants significantly out of season etc). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are uncertain whether a sighting warrants a report.

REMOVED FROM REVIEW LIST

Yellow-throated Warbler *Dendroica dominica*

Since first nesting in NYS in 1984, Yellow-throated Warblers have been found regularly in the summer months along the Delaware River and in Allegany State Park. The species also wanders to Long Island and the New York City area, principally during the spring and late fall. In the past few years, NYSARC has accepted a series of excellent reports from elsewhere in the state, many supported by color photographs. It is clear that the species is now best categorized as a scarce migrant to many Kingbird Regions and an occasional breeder in some. Two subspecies (*dominica* and *albilora*) are candidates to occur and several observers have made valiant attempts to assign subspecies. It may be that birds on the edge of the core breeding range exhibit a mix of characters confounding identification without having the bird in hand or exceptional photographs. In view of the regular occurrence statewide, NYSARC no longer requires submission of documentation for sightings from Upstate.

REVIEW FROM DOWNSTATE ONLY

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

These large and distinctive birds have been reported with increasing regularity from western and central NYS. Since the 1980's, the continental population has undergone a steady increase of close to 4% per year. Better protection of breeding colonies and changes in usage of organochlorine pesticides are thought

to be major factors in this increase. Because the identification is relatively straightforward (although other pelican species should always be considered) and sightings are more than annual, the Committee does not seek reports except for the marine region where the species remains very uncommon. Thus the Checklist designation will change from (N) to (D).

REVIEW FROM UPSTATE ONLY

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

During the 1980's Brown Pelicans underwent a remarkable expansion along the mid-Atlantic coast, with small numbers of birds visiting NYS (Region 10) during the summer and fall months. Again, this may reflect the general recovery of the breeding population to the south of us after changes in pesticide use. Although NYSARC has received very few coastal reports, the Committee recognizes that the species is sufficiently regular and distinctive that documentation should not be required. With the exception of the 2002 incursion (see 2002 Annual Report), the species remains very rare away from maritime habitat and documentation should still be submitted. The Checklist designation will change from (N) to (U).

ADDED TO STATEWIDE REVIEW LIST

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Formerly a scarce migrant to NYS and eastern North America in general, there have been significantly fewer reports of Ruffs (or Reeves) in recent years compared to a decade or more ago. Reasons for this steep decline are uncertain. Careful documentation will help NYSARC to track patterns of occurrence, in particular the arrival of juveniles, which are quite rare on this side of the Atlantic. The Checklist designation will be (N)

Submitted on behalf of the
New York State Avian Records Committee
Angus Wilson (Chair), Jeanne Skelly (Secretary), Jeff Bolsinger,
Thomas W. Burke, Andy Guthrie, Steve Kelling,
Shaibal Mitra and Dominic Sherony.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The spring highlights essay was not received in time for inclusion in this issue. If possible, it will be included in the next issue.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The mild winter continued into March. The average temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 35.2° F, 0.9° above average. There was 2.14" of precipitation, 0.85" below average, along with 6.5" of snow, 5.9" less than average. An uncharacteristic warm spell occurred near the end of the month, reaching 77° F on the 31st. Lake Erie developed a fair amount of ice in late February, but all disappeared from Buffalo Harbor by the 16th, about a month earlier than normal. April was very mild, dry, and sunny. The average temperature was 48.0° F, 2.7° above average. Precipitation was 1.98", 1.06" below average, with only 0.1" of snow. A long, dry, sunny period occurred between the 9th and 20th, helping vegetation to be about a week ahead of schedule. The average temperature in May was 60.0° F, 3.0° above normal. The precipitation was 1.90", 1.45" below normal. The first half of the month was mild and warm, but then a deep upper low brought chilly and blustery conditions during the traditional peak migration period of mid-May. The conditions quickly changed, bringing a flood of migrants on the mornings of the 24th and 25th and record heat by the end of the month.

After the early arrivals of some waterfowl in the winter season, the migration returned to a more normal schedule in March. Movements of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and Tundra Swans were especially prevalent 8-11 March. There were single reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** (3) and **Ross's Goose** plus up to six **Cackling Geese**. Each of these species is now nearly annual in spring, with four consecutive springs and five out of six for Ross's Goose. A flooded field in the town of Sheridan attracted 175 Wood Ducks on 19 March, a record spring count from one location for the Region. A more dubious record was the new Regional maximum of 17 Mute Swans at Wilson, consisting of 15 adults flying west along Lake Ontario and 2 in Wilson Harbor, observed on May 10. **Eurasian Wigeon** made another good showing this spring, with two drakes found in separate locations in the Iroquois NWR complex on 18 March and presumably the same birds observed there for the next 10-14 days. Counts of Red-necked Grebes exceeded 100 along Lake Ontario in late March and early April for the second consecutive spring. An adult male **Harlequin Duck** found by Gerry Lazarczyk on the Niagara River at Buckhorn Island S.P. on the late date of 25 May was the biggest waterfowl surprise of the season.

Raptor migration at the local hawk watches (Hamburg and Ripley) were within the typical date ranges of mid-March to mid-May. The strong southwest

winds and unseasonable warmth brought very high counts of Turkey Vultures to the hawk watches on 31 March, and seasonal counts for this species continue to increase. Broad-winged Hawk counts peaked 20-23 April. The Ripley watch had a record count of 114 Bald Eagles. One **Black Vulture** was observed at the Hamburg watch on 6 April.

There was plenty of **Peregrine Falcon** news this spring. The female at the downtown Buffalo nest dispatched a female nest intruder in early March that had a falconer's band. Three chicks fledged from that nest this year. For the second year in a row, a pair of Peregrines was observed in potential territorial behavior near Millard Fillmore Hospital and the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. However, nesting has not been documented. On 4 April, the nesting pair in the gorge at Niagara Falls engaged a Red-tailed Hawk in a duel that resulted in the death of one falcon and probable desertion of the nest. **Merlins** returned to nest on the west side of Buffalo, where they became the first documented nesting pair for the Region last spring. Besides the now regular nesting locations, Bald Eagles returned to nest in last year's new locations including Navy Island on the Niagara River and Dayton and Machias in Cattaraugus County. Ospreys have expanded to five nests in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR.

As usual for spring, shorebirding was "hit or miss" each day and no notable fallouts occurred. The highlight of the season was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** found and photographed by Willie D'Anna in the town of Yates on 29 April. A first in spring for the Region, the bird was in transitional plumage which D'Anna noted is suggestive of Long-billed, instead of Short-billed Dowitcher, which usually has completed its molt into breeding plumage when observed in the Region during spring. Other shorebird highlights included an early Least Sandpiper on the 17th and two **Purple Sandpipers** at Niagara Falls in April. A **Whimbrel** and up to five **Red-necked Phalaropes** at Batavia WWTP were nice finds in late May.

A Little Gull flying west with three Bonaparte's Gulls at Iroquois NWR on 15 April was the first inland report for this species in the Region. Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls were well reported from several locations this spring.

With mild weather and some early arrivals, songbird migration appeared slightly ahead of schedule in April and early May. Surprisingly, double digit warbler species were tallied by several birders on 30 April, including an early **Prothonotary Warbler** at Amherst State Park. Passerine birding was favorable until mid-May when a cold snap delayed migration considerably. The lag was reversed with the big movements on the nights of the 23rd/24th and 24th/25th, when the later warbler and flycatcher migrants finally showed up in good numbers. Warbler highlights included two well-observed **Connecticut Warblers**, one **Worm-eating Warbler**, a window-killed **Kentucky Warbler**, and two **Yellow-breasted Chats**.

Highlighting the spring rarities was the winter season holdover **Northern Hawk-Owl** that lingered at the same location in Yates until 10 March. Four **American White Pelicans** appeared in Dunkirk Harbor 13-15 April following very strong westerly winds. Many birders saw the birds and photographs were featured in the *Dunkirk Observer*. Bruce Chilton found the Region's

sixth **Tricolored Heron** while walking along the Niagara River at Buckhorn Island S.P. on 12 May. The heron was relocated several times in the next ten days. Other rarities for the season included: **Eared Grebe**, **Cattle Egret**, and **Forster's Terns**.

The B.O.S. April Count on 9 April tallied 142 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. There were ten record high counts since the 1935 inception including many species that have had record counts in recent years: Northern Shoveler, Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, and Winter Wren. No record low counts were recorded, although Ring-necked Duck, American Coot, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Vesper Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird were notable for their lowest counts in a decade.

The B.O.S. May Count on 21 May was conducted on a cold, overcast day with occasional rain and strong winds. Despite the difficult observing conditions and weather more reminiscent of early spring or late winter birding, 198 species were recorded which is near average for the last 20 years. The count compilers were Bob and Donna DeLeon. Five species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935): Canada Goose, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Barn Swallow. Five species were also recorded at their lowest total in count history: Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, Chimney Swift, and Eastern Meadowlark. After appearing every year from 1945-2004, Common Nighthawk was not observed for the second straight year.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP – CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP – ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP – ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 9 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 21 May; BuSP

– Buckhorn Island SP – ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant – GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP – NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP – NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP – NIAG; GI – Goat Island, NF – NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch – ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR – GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP – ORLE; MI – Motor I NR ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area – GENE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch – CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary – ERIE; Tiftt NP – Tiftt Nature Preserve – ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve – ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area – GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP – NIAG.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

G. White-fronted Goose: 3 Yates ORLE 2 Apr (WD! BP), only report.

Snow Goose: arr 50 Amity ALLE, 16 Hamburg HW 9 Mar; max 130 Pomfret CHAU 10 Mar (TM); 103 Hamburg HW, 51 Buffalo NR, 38 Silver Creek CHAU 11 Mar; 75 INWR 12 Mar; 28 Somerset NIAG 20 Mar; Yates ORLE 4 Apr; last 5 BOSAC; good showing.

ROSS'S GOOSE: INWR 12 Mar (JP WW!), 7th spring record, 4th consecutive spring season with report.

CAACKLING GOOSE: 1,6,4 INWR 12,19,26 Mar (PY! JP), regular in spring at this location in recent years.

Mute Swan: INWR 13 Mar; 17 ad Wilson NIAG 10 May (BE), record count for Reg; 2 ad + 6 yg WTSP 29 May.

Tundra Swan: arr 122 Hanover CHAU 8 Mar (DN); 130 Hamburg HW 9 Mar; max 216 INWR & vicinity 13 Mar (M&SG); 203 Alexander GENE 19 Mar (DB); 158 Bethany GENE 24 Mar; 140 Hartland NIAG 25 Mar; 175 Conewango CATT 26 Mar (TB); 110 Dayton CATT 27 Mar; last 13 BOSAC.

Wood Duck: 25 Hamburg HW 11 Mar (MMo), one flock; max 114, 175 Sheridan CHAU 18,19 Mar (DN), record spring count.

Gadwall: 12 TBNP 11 Mar; max 15 INWR 13 Mar.

EURASIAN WIGEON: INWR 18, 27 Mar, 1 Apr (JP! RS); OOWMA 18-27 Mar (JP! mob); second consecutive spring with more than one.

Am. Wigeon: max 204 OOWMA 19 Mar (WW).

Blue-winged Teal: arr 4 INWR 11 Mar; max 22 BWWTP 17 Apr.

N. Shoveler: arr INWR 10 Mar; max 93 BWWTP 17 Apr.

N. Pintail: 81 Somerset NIAG 11 Mar; max 300 OOWMA 19 Mar (WW); 70 OOWMA 17 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: 30 Dayton CATT 12 Mar; max 31 BWWTP 17, 29 Apr.

Canvasback: arr 3 BWWTP 19 Mar; 3 Collins ERIE, Dayton CATT 2 Apr; 8 BOSAC; last NIAG BOSMC.

Redhead: arr 7 INWR 8 Mar; 56 BOSAC; 8 BWWTP 17 Apr.

Ring-necked Duck: 415 INWR & vicinity 13 Mar (ED); 240 Dayton CATT 21 Mar; 54 Tiftt NP 8 Apr; last 2 BWWTP, 1 INWR 26 May (WW).

Greater Scaup: last NR BOSMC.

Lesser Scaup: max 111 BWWTP 17 Apr.

Surf Scoter: 4 Wilson NIAG 5 Mar (BE); arr 3 Wellsville ALLE 17 Mar (HB,JH); Yates ORLE BOSAC; DH 14 Apr (DN); 2 BWWTP 17 Apr (WW), rare inland.

White-winged Scoter: 2 Buffalo NR 11 Mar; DH 8 Apr; 2 BWWTP 29 Apr (WW), uncommon away from L Ontario; last 4 BOSMC.

Black Scoter: no reports.

HARLEQUIN DUCK: male BuSP 25 May (JL! WW!), record late.

Long-tailed Duck: INWR 31 Mar; 2 Dayton CATT 2 Apr; BWWTP 17 Apr; last 5 BOSMC.

Bufflehead: 700 Buffalo NR 11 Mar; 94 BWWTP 17 Apr; last BWWTP 26 May.

Com. Goldeneye: 192 DH 4 Mar; max 300 Buffalo NR 11 Mar; arr INWR 11 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 62 N
Tonawanda NIAG 15 Mar; 53 TBNP
28 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 261 MI 1 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: DH 5 Mar, wintered; arr
OOWMA 18 Mar; max 352 BWWTP
17 Apr; 15 INWR 23 Apr; 28 BWWTP
26 May, lingering.
Red-throated Loon: arr Somerset NIAG
25 Mar; 13 Wilson NIAG 30 Mar (WD);
20 BOSAC; 2 FNSP 28 Apr.
Com. Loon: arr 4 Hamburg HW 21 Mar.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr Angelica ALLE
1 Mar.
Horned Grebe: Alma ALLE 11 Mar;
8 Bennington WYOM 14 Mar; 20 TBNP
16 Mar (CB); max 65 Dayton CATT
17 Mar (DN).
Red-necked Grebe: arr 2 Somerset
NIAG 11 Mar; 140 Somerset NIAG 25
Mar (WD); 41 Wilson NIAG 30 Mar
(WD); 160 GHSP 2 Apr (WD);
88 Somerset NIAG 4 Apr (WW);
248 BOSAC, good showing.
EARED GREBE: BWWTP BOSAC
(GS!), rare but regular in spring.
AM. WHITE PELICAN: 4 DH 13-15
Apr (DM, DN)
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 2
BuSP 30 Mar; 542 DH 14 Apr; 973
BOSAC; 460 Strawberry I NR 20 May;
2155 BOSMC.
Am. Bittern: arr 2 INWR, TWMA 23
Apr; Hamburg ERIE 29 Apr; 2 Machias
CATT 3 May (MD); Tift NP 28 May
(DD), second consecutive year with
late spring report from occasional
nesting location.
Least Bittern: Tift NP 28 May (DD),
only report.
Great Egret: arr MI 31 Mar (MG!);
DH 13 Apr; WTSP 23 Apr; Machias
CATT 28 Apr; 2 Hanover CHAU 6 May;
max 43 MI 14 May (WW); 2 SPNS
27 May.
TRICOLORED HERON: BuSP 12,13,
21 May (BC! mob), 6th regional
record.
CATTLE EGRET: BeSP 18 May (PHt),
rare but almost annual in spring.
Green Heron: arr 2 Lancaster ERIE
BOSAC (PF!).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max
28 Motor I NR 24 Apr.
BLACK VULTURE: Hamburg HW 6
Apr (WW!), rare but now annual
in spring.
Turkey Vulture: max 2208 Ripley
HW, 1569 Hamburg HW 31 Mar, big
movement for one day; record season
counts at hawk watches.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr AISP 27 Mar (TL); max
18 Hamburg HW 20 Apr; 5 nests INWR
& vicinity, an increase of two.
Bald Eagle: too numerous to report
all nesting locations; nested at Navy
I NR Ontario and Dayton CATT and
Machias CATT for second year in
a row; 22 BOSAC; 19 BOSMC;
season total 114 Ripley HW, record
count; ad Williamsville ERIE 24 May
(SP), unusual location.
N. Goshawk: Alfred ALLE 30 Mar
(EB); Ripley CHAU 8 Apr, 26 May
(MG); 2 Arkwright CHAU 9 Apr
thru (DN), territorial; Tift NP 19 Apr
(WW); Watts Flats WMA CHAU
28 May (JB); good showing.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr S. Wales
ERIE 9 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hamburg HW
11 Apr; max 767 Hamburg HW 20 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: white-plumaged
(leucistic) birds in Evans ERIE and at
nest Cambria NIAG Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: max 16 Dayton
CATT 23 Mar (DN).
Golden Eagle: arr 1,2 Hamburg HW
13,28 Apr (WW, JL); TWMA 17 Apr
(WW!); Wilson NIAG 21 Apr (WD!);
Tift NP 29 Apr (DD!).
Merlin: max 5 Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar, 2
continued at SUNY Buffalo thru
30 May; arr Silver Creek CHAU 25
Mar (DN); 2 Buffalo ERIE 5 Apr (AH),
returned to last year's nesting area;
BWWTP 17 Apr; 2 Hamburg HW 20
Apr; Alfred ALLE 21 Apr (EB);
E Aurora ERIE 30 Apr (LC).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 ad + 3 yg Buffalo
ERIE thru, from annual nest location
downtown; Buffalo NR 6 Mar; 2 Buffalo

ERIE, pair showing territorial behavior near Millard Fillmore Hospital; Pomfret CHAU 25 Apr (TM, JG); TWMA 26 Apr; INWR 29 Apr, 6,8,13 May; OOWMA 14 May; nesting abandoned at NF, see intro.
Virginia Rail: arr SPNS 10 Apr (LH).
Sora: arr 2 TWMA 26 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr Carrollton CATT 20 Apr (TB).
SANDHILL CRANE: arr 2 Silver Creek CHAU (DN); 2+ OOWMA 25 Mar (WD); 2,2 Hamburg HW 13,16 Apr (WW, JL); 3 Wilson NIAG 15 Apr (DD!); 3 Amherst ERIE 27 Apr; 2 INWR 11 May (M&SG, PHI).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BOSMC; 8 Porter NIAG 25 May; INWR 29 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 9 INWR 6 May.
Killdeer: arr Newstead ERIE 4 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Willing ALLE & Hartland NIAG 2 Apr; last Conewango CATT 17 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Lewiston NIAG 5 Apr; last 7 BOSMC.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Sherman CHAU 22 Apr; max 10 Hanover CHAU 5 May (DN); last 5 BOSMC.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Sherman CHAU 22 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: 3 Tillman WMA ERIE 30 May (MG, GR), only report.
Whimbrel: BWWTP 25 May (MMA; DB); rarely reported in spring.
Ruddy Turnstone: 15 BWWTP 29 May (PY), very good count for inland, only report.
Sanderling: 6 BOSMC, only report.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Hanover CHAU 5 May (DN), early; max 60 BWWTP 29 May (PY).
Least Sandpiper: arr INWR 17 Apr (WW!), early; max 81 Yates ORLE 16 May (WW).
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 NIAG BOSMC; 2 BWWTP 29 May (PY), only reports.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 16 BOSAC; max 50 INWR 15 Apr.
Purple Sandpiper: 2 NF 11,28 Apr (BB, PY), traditional location for spring reports.

Dunlin: arr 5 INWR 15 Apr; max 25 INWR 13 May (G&MC).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Hamburg HW 11 May (WW); 2 Yates ORLE 16 May; 8 BOSMC; only reports.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: Yates ORLE 29 Apr (WD! photo), first spring Reg record.
Wilson's Snipe: arr 20 Randolph CATT 18 Mar (TB, WW); max 31 Sherman CHAU 20 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr multiple locations 10 Mar.
Wilson's Phalarope: INWR 6 May (GR, MG, GS), rare in spring.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3,3,5 BWWTP 25,26,27 May (MMA, DB, BS), rare in spring.
Little Gull: 3 Lewiston NR 30 Mar; GHSP 2 Apr; BOSAC; INWR 15 Apr (JP), first inland report for Reg.
Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Cuba L ALLE 12 Mar; Collins ERIE 2 Apr; max 1000 DH 5 Apr; 39 Cuba L ALLE 11 Apr; 40 BWWTP 17 Apr, good inland count.
Iceland Gull: 4,2 Wilson NIAG 5,19 Mar; max 7,3 Buffalo NR 8,11 Mar (PY, MMo); 6 NF 30 Mar (JP); 4 BOSAC; 3 DH 14 Apr (TM); BeSP 27 Apr (PHI); last Olcott NIAG 17 May (WD!).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Wilson NIAG 4,5 Mar; 3 Buffalo NR 11 Mar; NF 30 Mar; 3 BOSAC; max 8 DH 14 Apr (JP, WW); im Wilson NIAG 10 May; last, im Olcott NIAG 14 May (WD!).
Glaucous Gull: GHSP 5 Mar; 3 Wilson NIAG 5 Mar; max 4 Buffalo NR 8 Mar (PY); Sturgeon Pt ERIE 22 Mar; 4 BOSAC; 2 NF 11 Apr; DH 14,19 Apr; Wilson NIAG 15 Apr.
Caspian Tern: arr 3 DH 5 Apr (DN); max 106 Hanover CHAU 28 Apr (DN); 39 DH 13 May.
Com. Tern: arr BOSAC; INWR 14 May, only inland record.
Forster's Tern: BWWTP 23 Apr (MMo!); BWWTP 26 May (WW!); rare but nearly annual in spring.
Black Tern: arr 4 INWR, BWWTP 29 Apr (WW); BeSP 6 May (DS); 30 INWR 6 May (JP); max 51 INWR & TWMA

12 May (WW), good count for recent years; 2 Alexander GENE 22 May (ED, DB), unusual location; 2 BWTP 26 May (WW).

PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr AISP 13 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Lancaster ERIE 11 May; INWR, Orchard Park ERIE 13 May; earlier than most years.

Snowy Owl: Amherst ERIE 16 Mar (NR), only report.

N. HAWK OWL: Yates ORLE thru 10 Mar (M&KG), continued from winter.

Long-eared Owl: GHSP 5 Mar; WTSP 11 Mar; AmSP 19 Mar (RS); only reports.

Short-eared Owl: Shelby ORLE 2 Apr (S&TO); 4,2 Porter NIAG 9, 28 Apr (WD, PY), possible breeding area.

N. Saw-whet Owl: AmSP 4 Mar; WTSP 11 Mar; Alfred ALLE 12, 13 Mar (EB); Lancaster ERIE 2 May (MMo, PF); juv Eagle WYOM 18 May (AF).

Com. Nighthawk: arr Wilson NIAG, Buffalo ERIE 25 May; Buffalo ERIE 27, 31 May; NF 29 May; 2 Porter NIAG, Olean CATT 30 May; only reports, 2nd consecutive year not reported on BOSMC.

Chimney Swift: arr 2 Hamburg HW 21 Apr (WD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Orchard Park ERIE 29 Apr (MZ).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Silver Creek CHAU, Williamsville ERIE 31 Mar.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Cambria NIAG 4 Mar (MG); 2 PG 14 Apr; Wilson NIAG 10 May; max 6 FNSP 13 May (WD); Hanover CHAU 13 May (DN); 8 BOSMC; 2 LBSP 27 May; only reports.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr WTSP 12 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr BOSMC; AmSP 25 May (PY); Tift NP 28 May (MMo); only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr AISP 12 May (TB); Pomfret CHAU 19 May (TM); only reports.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 BOSMC.

Willow Flycatcher: arr OOWMA 15 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Boston ERIE 3 May.

E. Phoebe: Hanover CHAU 8 Mar (DN), successfully overwintered?, possibly same bird that was observed in January; arr Hanover CHAU 26 Mar.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: arr TWMA 27 Apr.

E. Kingbird: arr Hamburg HW 30 Apr.

N. Shrike: last SPNS & Alabama GENE 24 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr FMCS 4 May (JW); TWMA 14, 16 May (MMo), only reports.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 3 OOWMA 12 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 2 Alfred ALLE 13 Apr (EB); 3 Harmony CHAU 15 Apr, slightly early.

Warbling Vireo: arr 2 BeSP 27 Apr (PHt).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Newstead ERIE 6 May (MG), early; four other reports.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Watts Flats WMA CHAU 3 May; Wilson NIAG 4 May; slightly early.

Com. Raven: 2 Royalton NIAG 4 Mar (JP), unusual location; Sardinia ERIE 4 Mar (JL); Darien GENE 18 Mar, 11 Apr (KF); 2 Arcade WYOM 18 Mar; Ripley CHAU 26 May (MG); only reports outside ALLE, CATT.

Purple Martin: arr 2 Tillman WMA ERIE 3 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr 5 INWR 12 Mar (JP, RS, PY), early.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Hamburg HW 6 Apr (WW!).

Bank Swallow: arr 2 Alma ALLE, 5 INWR 23 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr INWR 23 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr 16 BOSAC.

Carolina Wren: 28 BOSAC; 16 BOSMC.

House Wren: arr SPNS 16 Apr (LH).

Winter Wren: arr Wilson NIAG 30 Mar.

Marsh Wren: arr INWR 23 Apr (MMo!), slightly early.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Silver Creek CHAU, Wilson NIAG 31 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Tift NP 8 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr SPNS 10 Apr (LH), early.
Veery: arr Porter NIAG 3 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 2 Buffalo ERIE 10 May (LL).
Swainson's Thrush: arr TBNP 30 Apr (MG).
Hermit Thrush: Hanover CHAU 8 Mar, wintered; arr 9 BOSAC; max 15 Tift NP & TBNP 30 Apr (WW, JP).
Wood Thrush: arr Newstead ERIE 26 Apr (G&MC).
Gray Catbird: BeSP 13 Mar; BuSP 30 Mar, overwintered; 4 BOSAC; arr Tillman WMA ERIE 25 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: six reports away from NIAG, where fairly common.
Brown Thrasher: arr 5 BOSAC; PG 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr 60 Porter NIAG 2 Apr; last 15 Somerset NIAG 20 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU 30 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr AmSP 7 May (G&MC); 2,1 Wilson NIAG 10,15 May; Tift NP 11 May; GI 13 May; BOSMC.
"Brewster's" Warbler: INWR 14 May (MMo), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr AmSP 7 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 2,3 May (BP); Lancaster ERIE 11 May (MMo); FNSP 17 May (LL); 2 BOSMC; GI 23 May (DR); fair showing.
Nashville Warbler: arr BeSP 23 Apr (DS).
N. Parula: arr AISP 28 Apr (TL).
Yellow Warbler: arr BeSP 23 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Sheridan CHAU 30 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr FMCS 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr AmSP 30 Apr; eight other reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr AmSP, Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr GHSP 2 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr several locations 22 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr several locations 30 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Oramel ALLE 8 Apr (DBu); BOSAC; BeSP 13 Apr; max 5 Wilson NIAG 16 Apr; max 5 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 22 Apr; 3 BOSMC; INWR 23 May.
Prairie Warbler: arr Belmont ALLE 27 Apr (HB, JH), early; Pomfret CHAU 13 May (TM); Machias CATT 14 May; FMCS 21 May; 4 Yorkshire CATT 29 May; Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 30 May (DD!), unusual location for date.
Palm Warbler (*D.p. palmarum*): arr Sheridan CHAU 20 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 25 May (BP).
Palm Warbler (*D.p. hypochrysea*): AmSP 22 Apr (RS); Hamburg ERIE 29 Apr (RA); rare.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr AmSP 7 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr AmSP 7 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr BeSP, Buffalo ERIE 4 May (PHt, PY); Newstead ERIE 6 May; 4 AISP 12 May; Elba ORLE 15 May; 2 Yates ORLE 20 May; 2 Bethany GENE 20 May (DB).
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 2 Tift NP 23 Apr; max 5 Tift NP 3 May.
Am. Redstart: arr AmSP 2 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr AmSP 30 Apr (MZ, RS), early, rarely found in migration; 2 TWMA 29 May (PY), has bred in this area in recent years.
WORM-EATING WARBLER: BOSMC (MZ, DH), rare but near annual.
Ovenbird: arr several locations 30 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr Tift NP 28 Apr; max 4 Ashford CATT 30 Apr (MD); 3 Salamanca CATT 3 May (TB).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Hunter's Creek P ERIE 21 Apr (CB); 1,3 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 29 Apr, 7 May; Ripley CHAU 28 May.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Snyder ERIE 12 May (RK), found dead from window kill.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Wilson NIAG 25 May (BP!); Tift NP 26 May (DD!), both well observed.

Mourning Warbler: arr TWMA 14 May.
C. Yellowthroat: arr Tift NP, Watts Flats
WMA CHAU 4 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr TBNP 23 Apr
(RS!), record early.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Tift NP 11 May.
Canada Warbler: arr AmSP 11 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr INWR 14,
16 May (MMo); Tillman WMA ERIE
30 May (GR, MG); has summered at
both locations in recent years.

TANAGERS – WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Newstead ERIE
6 May.
E. Towhee: arr Portland CHAU 14 Mar;
max 5 EVSP 2 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 15 INWR
17 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Silver Creek
CHAU 1 Apr.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:
1,2 Andover ALLE 28,31 May (EB);
Yorkshire CATT 29 May (WW),
traditional breeding locations.
Field Sparrow: arr 2 Wilson NIAG
31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Dunkirk Airport
CHAU 5 Apr; 3 BOSAC; Shelby ORLE
13 May; Newfane NIAG 20 May.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Dunkirk Airport
CHAU 5 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Collins ERIE
7 May (TB); Clarence ERIE 15 May; 2
Tillman WMA 30 May; Andover ALLE
31 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr several locations
14 Mar; max 6 Wilson NIAG 4 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 2 Tift NP
2 May; last FNPS 24 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr 30 Mar;

83 BOSAC.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Silver
Creek CHAU 30 Apr.
Dark-eyed Junco: GI 26 May (DR), late
migrant.
Lapland Longspur: 2 Oakfield GENE
20 Mar; 25 Pomfret CHAU 31 Mar
(TM); 12 BOSAC; only reports.
Snow Bunting: 2 Hamburg HW 5 Mar;
last 4 BOSAC.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr several
locations 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Colden ERIE
2 May.
Bobolink: arr Bethany GENE 2 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Porter NIAG
2 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr 5 INWR 12 Mar;
max 130 Shelby ORLE 18 Mar (JP, RS);
38 Ransomville NIAG 19 Mar; last
2 BOSMC.
Orchard Oriole: arr Collins ERIE
25 Apr (GP), record early; Silver
Creek CHAU 1 May (DN); AmSP
6 May (G&MC); Ripley CHAU
10 May (TB); Somerset NIAG 20 May;
Bethany GENE 30 May.
Baltimore Oriole: Porter NIAG
8 Mar (EL!), resembled 1st fall male,
very rare in winter; arr multiple
locations 2 May.
Purple Finch: 140 BOSAC; 11 Wilson
NIAG 14 Apr; 133 BOSMC; moderate
numbers.
Com. Redpoll: 2 Wilson NIAG 5 Mar;
2 Oakfield GENE 20 Mar; Wilson NIAG
31 Mar, 1 Apr (BP); last ALLE BOSAC;
only reports.
Pine Siskin: max 10 Wilson NIAG Mar;
small numbers Mar, Apr; last 2 BOSMC.
Evening Grosbeak: 3,2 AISP 5,7 Mar;
16 ALLE BOSAC; only reports.

REGION 2 – GENESEE

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Spring 2006 was pretty nondescript; generally mild and dry. March followed the mild winter with above average temperatures and below average precipitation. The average temperature was 2.1° above normal at 36.0°F. Precipitation amounted to 1.8", which was 0.78" below normal. March quite often experiences significant snowfall, but this year a mere 4.2" was recorded compared to the average of 16.6". This finished off the 2nd lowest winter snowfall total in 50 years. March 31st brought a rush of migrants, as southwest winds dominated. The bulk of the month saw northerly breezes that hampered the hawk flights that usually materialize in March. April continued the trend, with a 2.7° above normal average temperature of 48.0° F. Total precipitation of 2.18" was 0.57" below normal. Snowfall was negligible. Sunshine dominated the month, but so did winds out of the east and north keeping decent concentrations of migrants off of the lakeshore. This was especially true for hawks. May produced much of the same. The average temperature of 59°F was 2.0° above normal, and the 1.77" of rainfall was 1.05" below normal. The only true weather oddity was the occurrence of a few snowflakes on the 21st and 22nd. The warmest May day was on the 30th, when temperatures climbed to 93°, the 3rd highest temperature ever for May. A record high for the 29th of 92° had preceded it. This brought a rush of migrants again, but there were few days where this was the case.

The lakewatch at Hamlin Beach was carried out on many days during the season. The banding operations at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory were also active after mid-April. Unfortunately, the hawkwatch at Braddock Bay was not manned for very long during the season. Coverage was sporadic after 1 April, and totals cannot be compared with those for years with the usual daily coverage. With generally good contributions from most areas, we experienced a species total that was well above the 10-year average.

The waterfowl picture was mixed. Numbers from the lakewatch were lower than usual, and the waterfowl generally present at Braddock Bay and the lakeshore ponds peaked and moved out early. There were some good counts away from the shore. Noteworthy records included Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, and record numbers of Eurasian Wigeon. A March King Eider was a good find. On the plus side were good counts of Snow Goose, record numbers of Tundra Swan, and good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers throughout the period. On the down side were Canvasback, Blue-winged Teal, Am. Black Duck, and migrating scoters. Canada Goose nesting attempts were reported in fewer locations, but Mute Swans again occupied just about every suitable location. Trumpeter Swans returned to their nesting sites in Wayne County. Peak counts for both Red-throated and Common loon were somewhat low. Red-necked Grebe peaked at 1000+ birds on 24 March, a bit early. Eared Grebe is always a good find in the Region, with a single bird reported from Braddock

Bay in March. It was the first since 2004. The nine Am. White Pelicans seen and photographed at Braddock Bay in May were a record high count for the Region. The typical herons were reported, with additional single reports of some of the uncommon ones. Bitterns were low, and only a single Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported. The only Black Vulture report was a single at Braddock Bay on 8 May. Turkey Vulture numbers were good throughout the season.

Without consistent coverage at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch, the raptor picture was difficult to evaluate. Both eagles were well reported, but hawk numbers were reported only sporadically. There were days with good flights, but they were few and not documented consistently. The Peregrine Falcons returned to Kodak Tower in downtown Rochester and 6 eggs were laid. An injury to the female resulted in the loss of three before fledging. Common Moorhen continues to be a bird of major concern; reports from the west lakeshore were scarce, while birds on the east lakeshore and in marshes south of Rochester seem to be faring better. Something is wrong with the marshes of the west lakeshore. Sandhill Crane reports were fewer this spring, most likely a result of the inconsistent coverage at Braddock Bay. Two colts with the pair in Savannah were observed by the end of May.

Shorebirds didn't do much this spring. Poor habitat is an ever-present problem, but even in suitable locations numbers were generally low. On a positive note, an American Golden-Plover report is always good in spring, Semipalmated Plover showed some decent numbers at times, and record early Solitary Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and Least Sandpiper were reported. The negative side included poor counts for both yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Upland Sandpiper. Gulls were pretty lackluster, with 8 Little Gulls at Hamlin Beach on 2 April, a Thayer's Gull in Perinton, and a smattering of reports of Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous gulls in April and May as the only real highlights. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were down, and observers felt that Great Black-backed Gull numbers were low early in the season. Terns fared much the same; numbers of reports were low for Caspian, Common, and Forster's terns. Only two Black Terns were reported continuing the recent trend.

It was a good spring for both cuckoos. This was especially true for Yellow-billed, which many observers felt outnumbered the Black-billed. The migration of Long-eared and N. Saw-whet owls was less than spectacular. Common Nighthawk totals were again low, as was true also for Whip-poor-will reports. Red-headed Woodpeckers put in a good showing along the lakeshore, with sightings in multiple locations. The Long Pond woods along Edgemere Drive in Greece played host to up to three individuals for a number of days. A Loggerhead Shrike found by Dave Tetlow was a real plus for this increasingly rare bird that had not reported since 2000. The only vireo of note was a single White-eyed seen near Maxwell Creek in Wayne County by Doug Daniels. Fish Crows were reported engaging in flight display at Riverside Cemetery in Rochester in early May. Traditional Cliff Swallow colony locations seemed to be inactive while new locations under numerous bridges along the lakeshore were active. April experienced some very good kinglet movements, with a peak of 391 tallied at Durand-Eastman Park on the 30th. Thrush totals reported by observers

and numbers banded were low. The wintering Varied Thrush in Webster Park was last reported on 8 March.

The warbler migration was fairly good, with all the 35 expected species reported and some decent totals amassed for the less common species like Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Connecticut. There were also multiple sightings of Orange-crowned, Prothonotary, and Yellow-breasted Chat. While numbers still do not approach historical totals, some species seemed to be in good supply this spring. These included Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Am. Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, and Wilson's. Wilson's was also recorded on record early date on 24 April. N. Parula and Cape May numbers were okay. On the negative side were Palm, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll. Tennessee Warbler was tough to assess for abundance because some observers encountered good numbers while others felt they were more scarce than usual.

Of note among the sparrows were multiple reports of Clay-colored. This continues a recent trend of the last 6-8 years. On the positive side were good numbers of Fox Sparrow, White-throated, and White-crowned sparrows. A spring Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a good find. Henslow's Sparrow was again located at only a single location in Livingston County. Two fly-over Dickcissels in May were good. The report of three male Yellow-headed Blackbirds flying together along the lake was a record high total for the Region. A single female was the only Brewer's Blackbird sighting this spring. Orioles were very good this spring, with excellent totals for both Orchard and Baltimore.

The wintering flock of Common Redpolls at Hamlin Beach lingered on into March, with 1-2 accompanying Hoary Redpolls often found and studied. That was about it for noteworthy finch reports. Typical Purple Finch and Pine Siskin numbers were noted.

The March species total was above the 10-year average at 139 species. April totaled 175 species, which was slightly below the 10-year average. May reached a total of 229 species for again a figure that was slightly below the 10-year average. 120 new species for the year brought the year's count to 275 species. This was significantly better than last year and noticeably above the 10-year average of 261.6 species.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BB- Braddock Bay, MONR; CB- Chimney Bluffs, WAYN; CH - Cobbs Hill, City of Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; CS – Conesus Swamp, LIVI; CU – T Cuylerville, LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park, MONR; EL – East Lakeshore, MONR, WAYN; G – T Greece, MONR; GE – T Geneseo, LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB –Hamlin Beach State Park, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; IB - Irondequoit Bay, MONR; ICW - Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K - T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth State Park, LIVI & WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MP - Mendon Ponds Park, MONR; NR- Nations Road area, LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PA- T Parma, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; R – T Rush, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; V – T Victor, MONR; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 700 WL 13 Mar;
last HB 2 Apr.
ROSS'S GOOSE: 1 H 11 Mar (DT);
1 K 13 Mar (RS).
Cackling Goose: 1,2 HB 8,11 Mar (WS);
1 G 27 Mar (KG).
Brant: 1 HB 17 May.
Tundra Swan: max 720 H 23 Mar;
last 6 BB 1 May.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 Atlantic Ave,
WAYN all May.
Gadwall: last 2 G 26 May.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 H 11 Mar (DT);
1 H 16 Mar (MD); 4 S 25 Mar (mob);
2 S 26 Mar (GC); 1 H 27 Mar (RS); 1
HB 27 Mar (WS); 1 BB 31 Mar (BM).
Am. Wigeon: max 400 H 13 Mar; last
G 26 May.
Blue-winged Teal: arr 3 BB 10 Mar.
N. Pintail: max 1400 H 13 Mar; last
HP 9 May.
Green-winged Teal: last 4 GE 7 May.
Ring-necked Duck: last 2 BB 4 May.

Canvasback: last CL 23 Apr.
Redhead: last 2 G 30 May.
Ring-necked Duck: max 1200 BB
13 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 1000+ IB
24 Mar, low.
Lesser Scaup: max 2000+ IB
24 Mar; last G 4 May.
King Eider: 1 BB 10 Mar (DD),
imm male.
Surf Scoter: last 2 HB 5 May, early.
White-winged Scoter: max 730 HB
8 Mar.
Long-tailed Duck: last 3 HB 25 May.
Bufflehead: last 2 DE 16 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last 16,4,1 HB,G,
BB 15 Apr.
Red-throated Loon: max 73 HB 2 Apr,
low max; last 2 HB 28 May.
Com. Loon: max 340 HB 4 May.
Horned Grebe: max 300+ WL 24 Mar;
last HB 31 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 1088 WL
24 Mar (DD,RS); last HB 7 May.

EARED GREBE: arr BB 20 Mar (DT).
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN:
9 BB 21 May (CB), record number.
Am. Bittern: arr DE 1 May.
Least Bittern: arr Williamson, WAYN
18 May.
Great Egret: arr CS 18 Mar (JK),
record early; max 6 PA 23 May.
Snowy Egret: 1 PA 23 May (DT);
1 T Ogden, MONR 29 May (WS).
Little Blue Heron: 1 BB 10 May (DT).
Cattle Egret: 1 G 19 May (CM).
Green Heron: arr R 27 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr
BB 11 Apr.
Turkey Vulture: max 3119 BB 31 Mar.
BLACK VULTURE: 1 BB 8 May (DT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2,1 S, BB 1 Apr.
N. Goshawk: 1 b BB 2 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr sev BB
12 Apr.
Golden Eagle: arr Clarendon, MONR
25 Mar; 1 BB 31 Mar; 1 Byron 31 Mar.
Peregrine Falcon: 5 (2ad, 3 yg)
Kodak Tower, Rochester all May,
6 eggs laid, but 3 lost due to injury
to female.
Sora: arr CU 29 Apr.
Com. Moorhen: arr CU 17 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: 3 BB 31 Mar; 1 BB
4 May; to 4 (2ad, 2yg) S all May.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 3 OB, HB
30 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: arr S15 Apr
(MV), early.
Semipalmated Plover: arr HB 8 May;
max 31 HB 26 May.
Killdeer: arr sev WL 7 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr S 25 Mar;
last PE 23 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HB 12 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB 4 Apr (DT,
JB), record early; 1 G 11 Apr (KG),
very early; last HP 22 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr WL 29 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: arr GE 6 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 1PA, DE 5 May
(MD,DT), ties record early; 1 DE
10 May (RS), very early; max 3 HB
26 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 HB 25 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 199 H
20 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr BB 31 Mar (DT),
record early.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr G 11 Apr.
Dunlin: arr HP, HB 10 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CU
12 May.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1 ad m HP
22 May.
Little Gull: 1 HB 30 Mar (WS,RS,DT);
3 ad HB 31 Mar (WS,RS); 8 (7ad, 1
imm) HB 2 Apr.
THAYER'S GULL: 1 imm PE
1 Mar (MV).
Iceland Gull: 1 imm PE 6 May; last HB
7 May.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 HB
7 Apr, ad; 1 G 11 May.
Glaucous Gull: HB 12 Apr; last HB
21 May.
Caspian Tern: arr HB 7 Apr.
Com. Tern: arr 14 HB 12 Apr; max
47 EL 26 Apr.
Forster's Tern: arr HB 13 Apr; 1 G
20 May.
Black Tern: arr 2 G 14 May (KG),
only report.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr GE 13 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr S 13 May.
Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 G 12 May; max
15 G 217 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr BB 11 Apr; last
Groveland, LIVI 1 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 14 T York 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1
W 2 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MP11
May; 1 M 29 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr BB 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr
Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 18 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr G 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr CU 14 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr DE 30 Apr;
max 14b M 22 May.
E. Phoebe: arr CS 23 Mar.

Great-crested Flycatcher: arr GE 30 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr NR 3 May.
N. Shrike: last S 26 Mar.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 1 PA 20 Mar (DT).
White-eyed Vireo: arr Maxwell Creek, WAYN 18 May (DD).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr CH 21 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 2 GE 6 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr WL 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr ICW 10 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr CH 8 May.
Fish Crow: 2 Rochester 9, 13 May (R&SS, DS).
Tree Swallow: arr 5 Groveland 14 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 HB 11 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr HB 12 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr 4 CL 6 May.
Barn Swallow: arr PA 19 Mar, (G&FL), early.
House Wren: arr 1b M 20 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr ICW 8 Apr; max 391 DE 30 Apr (LG, *et al*); last 1b M 29 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 2b M 27 Apr.
Veery: arr CH 5 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr 1b M 19 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr sev 10 May.
Wood Thrush: arr 1b M 1 May.
VARIED THRUSH: last report Webster Park 8 Mar.
Gray Catbird: arr G 30 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr 2b M 15 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr H 24 Mar; last 6 HB 18 May.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150+ GE 22 Mar.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr DE 1 May
Golden-winged Warbler: arr BB 2 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: 1b M 2 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr CH 9 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 5 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr 1b M 23 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 1 b M 6 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr CU 26 Apr.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr DE 30 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 3b M 4 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr DE 30 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CH 1 May; max 30b M 25 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 456 DE 30 Apr (LG, *et al*).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr sev 1 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr V 30 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr HB 7 Apr; max 24 DE 30 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr CH 12 May.
Palm Warbler: arr CL 30 Apr; max 24 DE 30 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1b, 1 M, ICW 10 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr DE 11 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr V 6 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr CH 23 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 2 CH 5 May; max 50+ WL 26 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr PA 10 May; 1 S 20-23 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr CH 13 May; 1b M 15 May.
Ovenbird: arr CH, R 1 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr 1b M 26 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr LW 20 Apr.
Kentucky Warbler: arr S 13 May; 1 CH 14 May.
Connecticut Warbler: arr M 26 May; 1 G 27 May.
Mourning Warbler: 1 V 8 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr ICW 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr V 6 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Highland Park, Rochester 24 Apr (KH), record early; max 20b M 29 May.
Canada Warbler: arr G 11 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 1 BB 2 May (DT, MD); 1 GE 13-31 May (JK, mob); 1b M 29 May (RMC).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr GE 7 May.
E. Towhee: arr Pittsford, MONR 11 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last BB 24 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 H 30 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1 BB 2 May; 1 H 20-31 May; 1 GE 30-31 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr CU 15 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr NR 1 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 3 GE 30 Apr.
Henslow's Sparrow: arr GE 7-31 May
(JK, mob).
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: 1b M
18 May.
Fox Sparrow: last 1b M 5 May
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr NR 30 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: last 2 G 26
May.
Snow Bunting: last HB 11 Mar.
Lapland Longspur: last 1 K 7 May
(DT), late.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Fairport,
MONR 30 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr sev 10 May.

Dickcissel: 1 BB 4 May (DT,MD); 1
ICW 10 May (RS).
Bobolink: arr 3 GE 30 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Honeoye Falls,
LIVI 6 Mar.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: 3 m HB 13
Apr (DT), Regional high count.
Rusty Blackbird: max 200 WL 13 Mar;
last 2 ICW 22 May.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: 1 f K 13
Mar (RS), only report.
Orchard Oriole: arr GE 2 May; 4 BB 4
May; max 7 GE 7 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr GE 2 May; max
248 BB 4 May (DT,MD).
Hoary Redpoll: 1-2 HB 12-19 Mar
Com. Redpoll: max 150 HB 1-19 Mar.

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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Spring 2006 was nearly normal for temperature and somewhat drier than usual in every month. A half foot of snow fell in early March, but disappeared by 9 March. No subsequent snowfalls produced even one inch of snow.

The highlights of the spring waterfowl migration through the Region were the four Greater White-fronted Geese which Gary Chapin found on the Savannah Mucklands and the ten Eurasian Wigeons that Jesse Ellis and Anya Illes found at various places on Cayuga Lake. Janet Akin and Gary Chapin submitted the only report of a Ross's Goose this spring. Cackling Geese continued to be recorded by several observers.

Bill and Joan Ostrander recorded Chemung County's second and third records of Black Vulture while walking their dog on the dike in West Elmira. The first of the two birds was sailing very high and heading due north. The second was soaring low with Turkey Vultures.

A few Broad-winged Hawk reports came in before the first one was spotted at Derby Hill. While this raised some questions, it may simply be that local breeders arrive before those migrating to Canada pass by the Lake Ontario hawk watches. Karen Allaben-Confer's report was the earliest and included a very detailed description of the bird. The most exciting raptor find of the season was the nesting pair of Merlins in the City of Ithaca. Paul Hurtado found them near his home. He and many visitors were able to document a great deal of the adults' activity around the nest.

Sandhill Crane reports were mostly of birds flying over, apparently migrating, though the first report and the last report were exactly two months apart. Chris Wood had close looks at a Whimbrel flying by Myers Point. Half a dozen Long-billed Dowitchers surprised visitors to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge and were not correctly identified until someone heard the distinctive calls of the birds.

The only unusual gull was a Laughing Gull at Stewart Park. More than 2000 Ring-billed Gulls and a few pairs of Herring Gulls were nesting on their island in the Chemung River in downtown Elmira.

Many observers reported Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, as well as many Eastern Tent and Gypsy Moth caterpillars for the cuckoos to eat. A Snowy Owl was in Fayette on the late date of 22 March. The report of one in mid-May in Genoa was appropriately met with some skepticism, but the bird stayed around for nearly two weeks and every skeptic had very satisfying views.

Seventeen Common Nighthawks over the Chemung River in West Elmira was a good spring count for this species that has essentially disappeared as a breeder in the Region. Whip-poor-will surveys in the Region did not turn up any birds, but Tim Lenz heard a probable migrant singing near his Dryden home as he left for work.

Both Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were passing through the Region at the end of the spring season. Mike Morgan found a Sedge Wren at Montezuma NWR. Wes Blauvelt counted 29 Common Ravens flying over South Danby, probably a new high count for Tompkins County.

A single Bohemian Waxwing was found on the Cornell University campus, where numerous fruit-bearing trees attract large numbers of Cedar Waxwings every year.

Chris Wood reported the only Golden-winged Warbler. Dick and Joan Clements spotted a Yellow-throated Warbler in a Pitch Pine snag where they were hoping to find the Red Crossbills that were reported in the same tree earlier that day. The warbler set up and maintained a territory in Harris Hill Park through the end of the season. Bill and Margaret Cady spent an entire day looking for warblers at the Newtown Battlefield Reservation State Park and discovered a probable Swainson's Warbler which twice ran out to an exposed mud puddle for a drink. Bill Ostrander recorded an unfamiliar song from an unseen singer in the Town of Erin and later matched it to a commercial recording of Kentucky Warbler.

Clay-colored Sparrow returned to its territory in Caroline for the fourth year in a row. A smattering of winter finches were in the Region. Harris Hill Park attracted Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills to an abundance of opening Pitch Pine cones. One Pine Siskin was seen feeding fledglings. A flock of Common Redpolls frequented a feeder in Dryden. Evening Grosbeaks were present at several feeders in the Region.

I have not attempted to compare bird populations of this season with that of the previous year's season, as is my custom. My extraction of data from listserve email was not as exhaustive as in years past. I also received a very large quantity of data from eBird. The two sources differ: the former tends to

be biased toward uncommon species and the latter toward common species. So comparing the two years was not advisable.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CU - Cornell University, CWMA - Cayuga L WMA CAYU, CygL - Cayuga L, DLP - Dryden L P TOMP, EIRW - East Ithaca Recreation Way TOMP, GRFF - George Road Flooded Field TOMP, HHP - Harris Hill Park CHEM, HHSF - Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP, LPBP - Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP, MNWR - Montezuma NWR, MtPI - Mt. Pleasant

TOMP, MuL - Mud Lock CAYU, MyPt - Myers Pt, NRPd - Neimi Road Ponds
TOMP, SaM - Savannah Mucklands SENE, SSF - Summerhill State Forest
CAYU, StP - Stewart P TOMP, SW - Sapsucker Woods TOMP, TCAH - The
Center At Horseheads CHEM.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES
GREATER WHITE-FRONTED**

GOOSE: arr & max 4 SaM 4 Mar (GC),
high; last Tyre 23 Mar (RD).

Snow Goose: max 110,000 SaM 4 Mar;
last 5 SW 9 May.

ROSS'S GOOSE: Phelps 26 Mar
(JA, GC).

Canada Goose: max 30,000 MtPI 28
Mar (eB), high.

Brant: arr 8 Ithaca 31 May; max &
last 8 MyPt 31 May.

CACKLING GOOSE: CygL 5 Mar
(MA, MiH, PHo, TL); max 2 Seneca
Falls 18 Mar (JE, AI); last Canoga
Marsh SENE 26 Mar (MeH).

Tundra Swan: max 500 CWMA
18 Mar; last 2 TCAH 1 Apr.

Trumpeter Swan: 3 Harris P CAYU 5
Mar, only report.

Gadwall: max 20 MNWR 8 Apr; last
6 MNWR 27 May.

EURASIAN WIGEON: arr 2 CygL
18 Mar (J&PM); arr & max 10 CygL
18 Mar (JE, AI), high; last MNWR
1 Apr (MA, MiH, TL).

Am. Wigeon: max 500 CygL 29 Mar
(JE), high; last 2 MNWR 13 May.

N. Shoveler: max 80 MNWR 8 Apr;
last MNWR 25 May.

N. Pintail: max 1000 MNWR
29 Mar; last 2 MNWR 8 May.

Green-winged Teal: max 50 GRFF
9 Apr; last 2 MNWR 25 May.

Canvasback: max 400 MNWR 26 Mar;
last MNWR 8 May.

Greater Scaup: max 25 MuL 8 Apr;
last TCAH 10 Apr, early.

Lesser Scaup: max 100 MuL 18 Mar;
last 2 StP 27 Apr.

Surf Scoter: arr & max 8 DLP 8 May
(BP), high; last DLP 10 May.

White-winged Scoter: arr 4 Horseheads
Gravel Pits CHEM 25 Mar; max 9
Ledyard 19 Apr; last MyPt 23 Apr.

Black Scoter: max Ledyard 14 Apr (eB),
only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 45 Aurora Bay
North Bluffs CAYU 22 Apr; last 4 T
Ovid P 7 May.

Bufflehead: max 26 MuL 31 Mar, low;
last Elmira Dam CHEM 16 May.

Com. Goldeneye: max 300 CWMA
18 Mar (eB), high; last Ledyard 19 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 15
CygL 29 Mar; last Elmira Dam
CHEM 25 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr 3 StP 12 Mar; max
12 CWMA 18 Mar; GRFF 26 May.

Wild Turkey: max 100 CygL Basin
29 Mar (JE), high.

Red-throated Loon: arr DLP 8 Apr;
last Ledyard 21 Apr.

PACIFIC LOON: T Ovid P SENE
thru 18 Mar (C&JSI).

Horned Grebe: max 8 CygL 29 Mar,
low; last Chemung Ri 26 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr CygL 26 Mar,
late; max 2 MyPt 6 Apr; last MNWR
2 May.

AM. WHITE PELICAN: 9 MNWR
24-30 May (BGU), high.

Am. Bittern: 1 SW 23 Mar, kiosk entry,
no details, reg record early; arr
1 Ithaca 11 Apr (SK), nocturnal flight
call recorded.

Great Egret: arr CWMA 18 Mar (eB),
early; max 15 MNWR 6 May (St&SuF),
high; last MNWR 26 May.

TRICOLORED HERON: MNWR
26 May (L&WU).

Green Heron: arr MNWR 29 Mar,
record early.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 StP
23 Mar (DN), early; max 4 MNWR 3
May; last 2 MNWR 27 May.

BLACK VULTURE: 2 West Elmira
Riverine Forest CHEM 9 May (B&JOs!).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Broad-winged Hawk: arr HHSF 30 Mar
(KCo!); max 7 CU 18 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 52 MtPI
28 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 MtPl 28 Mar; last DLP 11 Apr, early.
Golden Eagle: arr SW 8 Mar; max 3 MtPl 28 Mar; last Kestrel Haven Avian Migration Observatory SCHU 15 Apr.
Merlin: max 2 Ithaca 28 Apr thru (PHu), nesting.
Peregrine Falcon: last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 28 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr & max 4 SW 28 Mar (eB), high; last 2 Dryden 28 May (AF, LS).
Upland Sandpiper: arr Seneca Falls 16 Apr; max 9 Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE 7 May.
WHIMBREL: arr MyPt 30 May (CWo!).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr MNWR 20 May; GRFF 27 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 18 May; max 19 Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE 27 May (DL, TL), high.
Dunlin: arr 2 GRFF 9 Apr; max 200 MNWR 13 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 18 May; max 5 Montezuma Wetlands Complex SENE 25 May.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER: arr 2 MNWR 21 Apr (C&JSI); max 6 MNWR 22 Apr (MA, TL, BWi); 7 MNWR 23 Apr (DoS, GC, ph); last 2 MNWR 30 Apr (DRu, ph).
Wilson's Snipe: max 16 GRFF 9 Apr; last MNWR 6 May.
LAUGHING GULL: StP 12 Mar (eB).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Cayuga Heights 25 Mar; max 52 MyPt 28 Apr; last SW 22 May.
Iceland Gull: max & last 3 Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 5 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2 StP 19 Mar; last Aurora Bay CAYU 15 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: MyPt 5 Mar; last StP 20 Mar.
Caspian Tern: max 25 MyPt 12 Apr; last MNWR 13 May.
Com. Tern: max 10 MyPt 23 Apr; last Cameron Mills 12 May.
Black Tern: max 22 MNWR 7 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Caton 15 Apr; max 6 HHSF 28 May (RD), high.
SNOWY OWL: Fayette 22 Mar (DI); Genoa 7-19 May (fide CTH), late.
Long-eared Owl: HHSF 12 Mar.
Short-eared Owl: Horseheads 25 Mar (MPo), only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Dryden 6 Mar; max 2 Connecticut Hill TOMP 7 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: max 17 West Elmira Riverine Forest CHEM 27 May (B&JOs), high.
WHIP-POOR-WILL: Dryden 6 May (TL), only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 StP 3 May (eB), high.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 29 Apr (StF), high.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: SW 27 May; Dryden L Trail TOMP 28 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr MNWR 21 May; EIRW 24 May; last EIRW 28 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Lansing 25 May; max 2 Lansing 29 May (eB).
Alder Flycatcher: max 20 Dryden 27 May (KM), high.
E. Kingbird: arr Long Point SP 29 Apr.
N. Shrike: last Steele Pds CHEM 18 Mar, early.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Dryden 8 May; SW 20 May; last Italy 27 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 29 Caroline 20 May (SKe), high.
Com. Raven: max 29 South Danby 21 Apr (WB), high.
Tufted Titmouse: max 20 SW 29 Apr (eB), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 15 SW 27 Apr (eB), high.
Brown Creeper: max 10 Dryden 8 May (RD), high.
House Wren: 1 Cayuga heights 11 Mar (NS), state record early or overwinter?; arr Dryden 1 Apr (JM), reg record early; Cayuga Heights 11 Apr (SH), very early.

Winter Wren: arr Upper Buttermilk Falls SP 24 Mar; max 4 SSF 4 May.
SEDGE WREN: MNWR 24 May (MMn).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Park Station P CHEM 8 Apr, low.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 20 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 29 Apr (StF), high; last SW 22 May.
Gray-checked Thrush: arr & max 2 Etna 25 May; last Caroline 30 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 23 Caroline 29 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
Hermit Thrush: max 6 Caroline 30 Apr.
Wood Thrush: max 10 Ringwood Nature Preserve TOMP 14 May.
Am. Robin: max 350 Connecticut Hill TOMP 2 Apr (eB), high.
Gray Catbird: Burns Rr, Caroline (SF) and Cornell Plantations (GK) 28 Mar, reg record early or overwinter; arr DLP 16 Apr.
N. Mockingbird: max 10 TCAH 25 Mar (BOs), high.
Am. Pipit: arr 6 Genoa 18 Mar; max 50 MtPl 28 Mar; last 2 SaM 21 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING: CU 3-10 Apr (BWi, BWa).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Dryden 30 Apr; max 10 Bare Hill YATE 16 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Ithaca 17 May (CWol!), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: max 2 EIRW 12 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
N. Parula: max 3 NRPd 7 May; last EIRW 24 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr NRPd 7 May (eB); EIRW 12 May; last Asbury Cemetery TOMP 21 May (eB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 25 NRPd 7 May (eB), high.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: HHP 4 May thru (D&JCI).
Pine Warbler: 1 Ithaca 7 Mar (EM), likely local overwinter; arr Ithaca 24 Mar (eBird), very early; Ithaca 27 Mar (eBird), very early; Caroline 29 Mar (J&KC), very early.
Prairie Warbler: arr LPBP 28 Apr; max

8 Gleason Meadows CHEM 13 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Cornell Plantations 11 Apr (SH), ties reg record early; max 4 StP 8 May; last EIRW 17 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 2 CU 14 May; last Ithaca 31 May (eB), late.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 Dryden 27 May (KM), high.
Cerulean Warbler: arr StP 2 May; max 2 StP 8 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr 2 West Danby 8 May; max 3 LPBP 28 May.
SWAINSON'S WARBLER: Newtown Battlefield Reservation CHEM 13 May (B&MCA!).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 Baldwin Preserve TOMP 13 Apr; max 5 Buttermilk Falls SP 30 Apr.
KENTUCKY WARBLER: Erin 12 May (BOs, recording).
Hooded Warbler: arr 2 Dryden 6 May; max 6 West Danby 26 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 3 SW 25 May; last StP 28 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 26 Sugar Hill SCHU 22 Mar; last 9 Owasco Flats CAYU 29 Apr.
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: Caroline 6 May thru (AM&Tij).
Field Sparrow: arr DLP 23 Mar; max 20 SSF 2 May (MY), high.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Danby 6 May; max 2 TCAH 13 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Dryden 10 Mar; max 15 Caroline 10 Apr; last 2 Erin 24 Apr, early.
Lincoln's Sparrow: max 2 EIRW 12 May; last LPBP 16 May (eB).
White-crowned Sparrow: max 40 CygL Basin 7; last MuL 27 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 220 HHP 2 Apr (Dick Clements), high.
Lapland Longspur: 10 SaM 25 Mar (MA, MiH, DL, TL), only report.
Snow Bunting: max 6 SSF 5 Mar, low; last Union Springs 7 Mar, early.
Indigo Bunting: max 12 LPBP 16 May (eB), high.
E. Meadowlark: arr 2 Ledyard 11 Mar; max 20 GRFF 7 May.

Rusty Blackbird: arr & max 20 Caroline 9 Mar; last 3 SW 28 Apr, early.

Orchard Oriole: arr Ithaca Farmer's Market TOMP 2 May; max 3 Ledyard 26 May.

RED CROSSBILL: arr SSF 2 May (MY); max 12 HHP 4 May (BOs); last 5 HHP 13 May (BOs).

Com. Redpoll: max 8 Dryden 1 Mar; last SW 25 Mar.

Pine Siskin: max 20 HHP 2 Apr; last Elmira 27 May (eB), late.

Evening Grosbeak: max 28 Caroline 12 Mar; last 12 Summerhill 26 Apr.

House Sparrow: max 36 Elmira 1 Mar (BOs), high.

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

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The spring season in Binghamton area was drier than average, and temperatures were around normal with the expected lows and peaks. March began colder than average, and about 8" of snow fell on the 2nd, giving us the last significant snowfall of the winter season. A warm spell followed from the 9th to 14th with highs reaching 58° F, then temperatures remained below average to the end of the month. March's highest temperature of 73° F was on the 31st. Precipitation was at a low 1.85", 1.34" below normal. April started out warm and rainy, then turned cold with light snow 4th through the 6th. The rest of April was around average temperatures, with a few peaks reaching 70° F. Precipitation was at 2.61" for the month, 0.88" below average. May repeated the warm trend, dropping below average mid-month, but reached mid to upper 80's for the last 3 days. Precipitation was 1.18" below average, although rain was regular. A storm on 21 May contained sleet in some areas.

Large flights of geese occurred on 8-11 March, Snow Geese were well reported, and some also passed through 25, 26 Mar. Other waterfowl include Tundra Swan, White-winged Scoter, and Ruddy Duck. Reports of American Bittern and Least Bittern are great finds in our Region. Bald Eagles were regularly reported throughout the Region, and an active nest site was discovered in Tioga County. A third active nest has been found in Otsego County. The Merlin pair in Binghamton were seen mating and have not been seen since. Virginia Rails clearly were nesting at Boland Pond and likely at West Corners Marsh, but Sora was only discovered in Otsego County. Shorebird activity was excellent; highlights include Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in decent numbers, and a Great Black-backed Gull showed up at Dorchester Park for a day, otherwise Gull

reports were minimal. There were no tern reports for the season. Resident owls were regularly present, Saw-whet Owls made appearances, and a Short-eared Owl sighting was a welcome addition. Only a few nighthawks were reported, but both Black 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, which is a known nesting location for this regional rarity. There were 7 Northern Shrike reports, with the last being early April. Common Ravens continue to increase as breeders throughout the area. Numerous breeders were seen/heard in various state forests and parks. Additionally, a large group of 10-34 Common Ravens, presumed to be a group of youngsters, was seen through March and into April in W. Burlington. The birds were apparently feeding on many coyote carcasses.

The Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area/New Michigan State Forest and adjoining state forests in Chenango County continue to be a very underbirded but an incredibly exciting place to bird year round. It's an extensive area of state forest in western 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/Otselic 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 Region 4 where Swainson's Thrushes can be found nesting. Many northern breeding warblers can be heard in the area along with Pine Siskins, both crossbills, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, and other northern specialties such as White-throated Sparrows.

Compared with last year's nice crop of rarer breeding warblers, this year paled in comparison with Worm-eating Warbler the only rare for Region species noted. Additionally however, there were two Cape May Warbler and one Wilson's Warbler reports and Cerulean Warblers were again noted breeding in numbers at the south end of Skaneateles Lake.

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

Grasshopper Sparrows were noted breeding again at Long Pond State Forest. It is unknown if Henslow's Sparrows still nest at this location. Additionally, Vesper Sparrows were seen in Burlington.

Red Crossbills were seen in March and April at Chenango Valley State Park. These birds appeared to be medium billed type 1's. In April fledgling Red Crossbills were seen in Richford. These birds appeared to be large billed type 2's. Birds were seen associating with red pine. It is believed that type 2's are the only type in the east that can utilize red pine for nesting. The medium billed type 1's from Chenango Valley State Forest were also associating with

red pine, but no breeding behavior was noted. This is the same general area that Red Crossbills bred from February 2004-September 2005. Based on photos, 2 specimens, and hours in the field listening and noting tree associations, these birds were believed to be mostly medium billed type 1's. Since red pine was the only conifer to produce a good cone crop during winter 2005-2006 Red Crossbills were scarce. In late June/early July 2006 as this report was written, a "bumper crop" of spruce, larch, hemlock and to lesser degree red pine developed. In July and August numbers of Red Crossbills again moved into the state forested areas of Chenango, E. Cortland, and S. Madison and S. Onondaga counties. Based on numerous recordings and some video these birds are believed to be mostly large billed type 2's, with some medium billed birds mixed in (probably left over type 1's). These birds were observed nesting in and feeding on unripened green cones. Feeding of fledglings has also been witnessed. This is the best cone crop in many years, particularly for European larch. There was one flock of White-winged Crossbills reported from Greene on 1 March.

Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls were seen in small flocks of 2-10, with one larger redpoll flock of 10-35 birds noted from W. Burlington thru March. Medium sized flocks of 10-30 and 20-50 Evening Grosbeaks were reported from Northwest Corners and McDonough in Chenango County thru April. Smaller Evening Grosbeak flocks were also reported from Otsego, Delaware, and Cortland counties. This was the best showing for Evening Grosbeaks since the winter of 2001-02, but still nothing in comparison with the period of the mid 70's -early 90's.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqP – Aquaterra Park, BROO; BCC - Binghamton Country Club; BHL – Buck Horn Lake OTSE; BPd- Boland Pond; BUNP – Binghamton University Nature Preserve; CVSP - Chenango Valley State Park; FHNC – Finch Hollow Nature Center; GP - Greenwood Park, BROO; LHNC -- Lime Hollow Nature Center; ML – Mirror Lake, TIOG; NuH – Nuthatch Hollow, BROO; OtL – Otsego Lake, OTSE; PharsWMA – Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area; RivR – River Rd., Endwell BROO; SkanL - Skaneateles Lake; UL- Upper Lisle; WCM – West Corners Marsh BROO; WPR – Whitney Point Reservoir, BROO.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: 5 Pitcher CHEN 8 Mar; 90 W.Burlington OTSE 9 Mar; flights BROO 10, 11, 25, 26 Mar; 100 Plymouth CHEN 13 Mar; max 600 CVSP 25 Mar; 400 W.Burlington OTSE 25 Mar; last 90 WPR 26 Mar.

Canada Goose: max 250+ WPR 26 Mar.

Mute Swan: BPd 5 Mar, only report.

Tundra Swan: SusV 1 Mar (DW).

Wood Duck: 2 BPd 9 Mar; max 19+ RivR 11 Apr.

Gadwall: arr 3 UL 18 Mar; reports BPd 19 Mar thru 28 Apr; 2 Clarke Pond OTSE 30 Mar; 2 WPR 26 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: max 20+ WPR 26 Mar; last BROO 18 May.

Am. Black Duck: max 10 BHL 8 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: BPd 25 Mar; max 6 UL 12 Apr; 6 rep in Apr; 2 Weaver Lake OTSE 10 May.

N. Shoveler: max 6 SusV 8 Apr; 5 North Norwich CHEN 8 Apr; BPd 27, 28 Apr.

N. Pintail: arr & max 8 BPd 9 Mar; 4 BPd 26 Mar; 4 OTSE 7 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr BPd 9 Mar; max 30+ BPd 18 Mar; many reports in BROO Mar, Apr; 2 OTSE 3, 9 Apr; last BROO 3 May.

Canvasback: 2 WPR 8 Apr; rare in Region.

Redhead: 6 WPR 26 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: arr 5 BPd 8 Mar; max 56+ BPd 12 Mar; several reports BROO, OTSE 1-20 Apr; last UL 7 May.

Greater Scaup: 57+ HP 25 Mar; 20 WPR 26 Mar.

Lesser Scaup: arr WPR 26 Mar; BHL 29 Mar; max 10 BHL 8 Apr; 3 UL 15 Apr; last 8 BHL 15 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: 13 HP 25 Mar; 20 WPR 26 Mar; 5 Barker BROO 26 Mar.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 BHL 26 Mar; 3 WPR 26 Mar; 15 DorP 8 Apr; 4 BHL 8 Apr; 2 more rep BHL in Apr.

Bufflehead: arr UL 17 Mar; max 15+ HP 25 Mar; last Smithville CHEN 14 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: arr BPd 11 Mar; max 3 HP 25 Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 60+ WPR 26 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 450+ WPR 26 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 DorP 25 Mar; several DorP 8 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr & max 3 BPd 11 Mar; BHL 8, 25 Apr; BPd thru 17 Mar; 2 WPR 26 Mar.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Nanticoke BROO 28, 29 Mar, near Pheasant farm.

Ruffed Grouse: Maine BROO 8 Mar; Oakley Corners TIOG end of Mar; BHL

20 Apr, 12, 14, 16, 20 May; BROO 6, 18, 28 May; OTSE 8, 16 May.
Wild Turkey: max 35 Lisle BROO 5 Mar.
RED-THROATED LOON: 2 DorP 8 Apr; North Norwich CHEN 8 Apr; UL 28 Apr.
Com. Loon: WPR 26 Mar; SusV 1 Apr; 3 Otsego Lake OTSE 5 Apr; BHL 16 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 OTSE 18 Mar; BROO 22, 29 Mar; max 3 BPd 6 Apr, 7, 17 May; North Norwich CHEN 8 Apr; several BROO, OTSE rep Apr; UL 5 May.
Horned Grebe: RivR 21 Mar; 7 WPR 26 Mar; SusV 2 Apr; 2 RivR 20 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr 4 HP 31 Mar; max 17 RivR 8 Apr.
Am. Bittern: BPd 10 Apr; 2 Weaver Lake OTSE 10 May.
LEAST BITTERN: 2 BUNP 19 May(DA); rare sighting in Region.
Great Egret: BPd 4 Apr, 20 May.
Green Heron: arr BHL 17 Apr.
Turkey Vulture: arr 8-10 Vestal BROO 8 Mar; max 40-50 Otego OTSE 26 May.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BPd 12 Apr; Guilford CHEN 14 Apr; BHL 25-30 Apr; DELA 2, 4 May; 5 BROO rep in Apr, 3 rep in May.
Bald Eagle: several imm Whitney Point BROO 10 Mar; reports at BHL regularly thru; regular BROO rep thru; Cannonsville Reservoir DELA 30 Apr; active nest site Hiawatha Island TIOG 26 May; new active nest site OTSE 28 Mar.
N. Harrier: Lisle BROO 26 Mar; Sherburne CHEN 26 Mar; f W. Burlington OTSE 1 Apr; 3 BROO rep in Apr; Union BROO 14 May; Smithville CHEN 18 May.
N. Goshawk: Conklin BROO 6 May, only report.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Maine BROO 11 Mar, 5 May; Greenwood Park BROO 27 Apr, 5 May; 2 other BROO rep in May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Norwich 6 Mar.
Rough-legged Hawk: 4 Lisle BROO 1 Mar; last 3 Taylor, McDonough CHEN 5 Mar; last CORT 20 Apr
Golden Eagle: W.Burlington OTSE 30 Mar, 6 Apr; Harpersfield DELA 3 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: Unadilla OTSE 12 Mar; max 7 BROO 15 Mar.
Merlin: Bainbridge CHEN 18 Mar; Spring Forest Cemetery, Binghamton BROO 9, 19 Apr, pr copulating; Arnold Park, Vestal BROO 3 May; presumed breeders seen CORT 28 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton BROO 17 Apr; Binghamton BROO 3, 7, 16 May.
Virginia Rail: arr BPd 12 Mar, pair observed mutual preening, nest building, copulation in Apr; 2 West Corners Marsh BROO 8 Apr; 3 BROO reports in May.
Sora: Weaver Lake OTSE 10 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr Weaver Lake OTSE 10 May; BPd 28 May; 3 BPd 29 May.
Am. Coot: arr BPd 5 Apr; BUNP 19 Apr; BPd 20 May.
Black-bellied Plover: RivR 23 May (DW)
Semipalmated Plover: SusV 14 May; Bainbridge BROO 14, 25 May; 2 SusV 23 May.
Killdeer: arr 6 Chenango BROO 9 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr SusV 8 Apr; max 12 UL 15 Apr; 7 other rep.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 UL 20 Apr; SusV 2, 5, 14, 18 May; Bainbridge BROO 14 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Harold Moore Park, Vestal BROO 29 Apr; BPd 30 Apr; Cooperstown OTSE 14 May; 7 BROO rep in May; many regular rep.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr DorP 22 Apr; max 4 SusV 5 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: BROO 18 May.
Least Sandpiper: SusV 2, 14 May; BROO 18, 21 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: RivR 31 May.
Dunlin: RivR 21 May.

Short-billed Dowitcher: SusV
14 May(JS)
Wilson's Snipe: arr BPd 11 Mar; max
6 Barker BROO 18, 26 Mar; 3
Bainbridge BROO 3 Apr; OTSE 9 Apr;
W.Burlington OTSE 16 May.
Am. Woodcock: arr Maine BROO
11 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: Chenango BROO
25 Mar; 4 RivR 13, 24 Apr; UL 20 Apr;
6 DorP 28, 30 Apr.
Great Black-backed Gull: DorP 11 May.
Caspian Tern: Preblé, CORT 22Apr.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Johnson City
BROO 7 May; 16 other rep in May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Apalachin
TIOG 15 May.
E. Screech-Owl: Vestal BROO 10 Mar;
1 Apr; Cooperstown OTSE 21 May.
Great Horned Owl: Chenango BROO
26, 28 Mar; BUNP 12 Apr.
Barred Owl: 2 BHL 6, 11, 26 Apr;
Maine BROO 11 Apr; Hawkins Pond
BROO 5 May; Oakley Corners TIOG
8 May; OTSE 8 May; Chenango BROO
24 May.
Short-eared Owl: BHL 18 Mar; 2; E.
Springfield 20 March; uncommon
for Region.
LONG-EARED OWL: 1 E. Springfield
20 March, rare.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Barker BROO 9,
16 Mar; Sherburne CHEN 12 Mar;
Kirkwood BROO 29 Mar.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
TIOGA 2 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: numerous
reports along river valleys and towns
<1500'; perhaps increasing.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr
Cooperstown 1 Apr; increasing rep
after 5 Apr.
N. Flicker: scarce in Mar along river
valleys becoming increasingly common
throughout Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr UL 20 May;
increasing rep after May 25.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: S. end
SkanL mid May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Chen TIOG
24 May; increasing rep after 25 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Upper Lisle
26 May with increasing rep afterwards.
Least Flycatcher: arr 30 Apr Bing.
E. Phoebe: arr CVSP 18 Mar; many
rep 25 Mar.
Great-crested Flycatcher: arr. Maine
5 May (BG); increasing rep after 10 May.
E. Kingbird: arr Glen Aubrey 5 May;
increasing rep after 7 May.
N. Shrike: 7 scattered rep; last early
April.
Yellow-throated Vireo: early arr Bing
21 Apr; increasing rep after 15 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr UL 15 Apr ;
increasing rep after 25 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr Endwell 25 Apr;
increasing rep after 1 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr CVSP 13 May.
Fish Crow: rep of presumed breeders
from Endwell, Bing, Vestal & Union.
Com. Raven: 10-34 W. Burlington
thru Mar into early Apr; widespread
and increasing as a breeder and resident
throughout wilder forested high elevation
(> 1500') areas of Region, particularly
state forest conifer plantations; also
nesting on towers and cliffs in Region.
Horned Lark: arrival of singing
breeding subspecies flocks and flocks
breaking up in Mar; nesting May Newark
Valley; max 30 Cincinnatus 10 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr Union 13 May;
max 3 Endwell 5 May.
Tree Swallow: arr BP 12 Mar; max
100+ Hillcrest Pits 28 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr
Barker 22 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr BP 24 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr Kirkwood 6 May.
Barn Swallow: arr BP 24 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: increasing nester along
many river valleys of Region <1500'.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread
throughout high elevation state forests.
Brown Creeper: widespread scattered
rep; birds migrating and heard thru Apr.
Carolina Wren: 8 reports from different
locations in late Mar thru; nesting along

many of the major river valleys in Region and smaller ravines <1300ft; pair in Scott CORT thru year.

House Wren: arr BUNP 13 Apr.

Winter Wren: overwintered CVSP; fairly common after mid Apr in state forests.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce early Apr and increasing afterwards at high elevation spruce plantations.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr BUNP Apr 2; many rep after 17 Apr.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Oakley Corners 28 Apr; local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.

E. Bluebird: locally common before late Mar increasingly common afterwards.

Veery: arr UL 7 May.

Swainson's Thrush: breeders returned to Phars WMA 29 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr Maine 17 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr Nuthatch Hollow 1 May; widespread 8 May thru.

Am. Robin: max 12 FHNC, low.

Gray Catbird: arr Glen Aubrey 2 May, late arrival.

N. Mockingbird: scattered overwintering birds; migrants arrived April.

Brown Thrasher: arr Burlington 17 Apr; increasing rep late Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr UP 18 Mar.

Cedar Waxwing: decent numbers throughout Mar and slightly increasing afterwards.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Maine 3 May.
Tennessee Warbler: Bing 5 May, only report.

Nashville Warbler: arr Bing 30 Apr.

N. Parula: arr Bing 5 May; 6 rep.

Yellow Warbler: arr UL 30 Apr increasing after 3 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Conklin 30 Apr.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Oakley Corners last days of Apr.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: 1 Chen TIOG 5 May; 2 rep.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Barker 6 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 overwintered BROO; arr BUNP 12 Apr; increasing after 20 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Oakley Corners 23 Apr.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Barker 6 May.

Pine Warbler: arr CVSP 2 Apr; breeding locations increasing.

Prairie Warbler: arr Glen Aubrey 4 May; local breeder in many locations of southern part of Region.

Palm Warbler: arr Vestal 29 April; few rep.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Roundtop Park 14 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Kirkwood 6 May; 16 rep.

CERULEAN WARBLER: arr 9 May SkanL; max 6 SkanL May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr end Apr; 10 rep.

Am. Redstart: arr Conklin 6 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: Barker 6 May, rare for Region, breeding?.

Ovenbird: arr Chen 2 May, increasing numbers afterwards.

N. Waterthrush: arr 23 May Glen Aubrey

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Scott CORT 13 Apr; nests at Jones & Greenwood Park

Mourning Warbler: arr Bing 10 May; fairly widespread uncommon breeder in Region.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr Union 30 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: arr CORT early May; increasing breeding rep CORT & TIOG.

Wilson's Warbler: Glen Aubrey 15 May, only report.

Canada Warbler: arr CORT 15 May; more rep than recent years; max 4 Scott CORT.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Barker 6 May.

E. Towhee: arr Delhi 19 Apr; many rep 25 Apr thru.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 10 CORT 1 Mar; last approx 11 Apr.

Chipping Sparrow: arr Bing 11 Apr; max 20+ Bing 11 Apr.

Field Sparrow: arr UL 1 Apr; many rep 15 Apr thru.

Vesper Sparrow: CORT early Apr; 1 Burlington 17 Apr; uncommon.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Glen Aubrey 11 Apr.
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Conklin 25 Apr; few birds Long Pond State Forest.
Fox Sparrow: arr W. Burlington 16 Mar; sev rep late Mar & early Apr.
Song Sparrow: migrants arrived BROO & TIOG 11 Mar.
Swamp Sparrow: overwintered BP; arr UL 1 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: overwintered in small numbers at handful of locations; arr 22 Apr; commonly bred in cutover areas in most state forests >1500'.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr BUNP 19 Apr; last May 17.
Snow Bunting: max 150+ Preble 15 Mar; last seen 30 Mar CORT.
N. Cardinal: common primarily in river valleys with small numbers >1500'.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr OTSE 29 Apr; 20+ reports b/w 29 Apr -1 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Vestal 30 Apr, early; more common 15 May thru.
Bobolink: arr Conklin 6 May; more common mid May thru.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr in large number beginning of Mar; max 10000+ BP 8 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr CORT mid Mar; more arrived late Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr UL 25 Mar BP; many WPR early Apr.
Com. Grackle: arr in numbers beginning of Mar; max 1000+ BP 28 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: "many" arr TIOG mid Mar.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: arr UL 14 May; prob. 2 1st yr males Castle Garden Quarry TIOG 30 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr TIOG 30 Apr.
Purple Finch: arr in numbers mid Apr; max 20+ at feeders late Apr; widespread breeding behavior May above 1000'.
House Finch: small breeding number in towns, hamlets, and farms.
RED CROSSBILL: 6-8 medium billed birds (probably type 1) CVSP Mar-Apr; family group of large billed type 2's with fledglings Richford TIOG Apr; many nesting type 2's and some medium billed type 1s CHEN & CORT June-Sept; *intro*.
White-winged Crossbill: 25 Greene CHEN 1 Mar, only report.
Com. Redpoll: max 10-35 W. Burlington OTSE end Mar; last 29 Mar; ~10 Virgil mid Mar; few scattered rep of 1-4 throughout Region thru late Mar.
Pine Siskin: widespread small numbers of 2-8 throughout Region Mar-early May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 20-50 McDonough Mar-Apr; small flock of 6-12 Truxton CORT Mar-Apr (MY); 10-30 Northwest Corners CHEN Mar-Apr; small flocks of 5-10 scattered DELA & TIOG Mar-Apr; last early May; best showing since 2001-02 but nothing compared to 1970-1990.
Am. Goldfinch: good numbers of 20-40+ across Region Mar-Apr, at many area feeders.
House Sparrow: largely confined to villages, cities and rural farms; declining as a breeder?



REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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The monthly statistics show that the season was warmer and drier than normal but statistics alone don't give the complete picture because periods associated with peak flights in late April and the middle of May were colder than normal. Oneida Lake, which hadn't frozen solidly until late February, opened on 15 March as strong winds blew out the ice. Area wetlands started to open in early March but then partially refroze until the temperature moderated on 25 March. In March the average temperature was 34.0° F, 0.4° above normal, with 1.86 inches precipitation, 1.16 inches below normal. There was 16.3 inches of snow for the month. The average temperature for April was 47.8° F, 2.5° above normal, and there was 3.93" of precipitation, 0.54" above normal, with no snow. The May average temperature was 58.2° F, 1.1° above normal, with 2.25" of precipitation, 1.14" below normal.

Snow Geese, presumably taking off from the Montezuma NWR area, moved through in several large flights, with many of the flocks skirting Lake Ontario and flying over Derby Hill. Tundra Swans moved through rapidly in early March, and most dabblers moved through quickly in late March after being delayed by cold weather in the middle of the month. Low numbers of Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, and Ruddy Duck were reported. Unusual waterfowl included a Barnacle Goose of unknown origin, which was photographed in Madison County; Greater White-fronted Goose; Trumpeter Swan; and a flock of ten Black Scoters flying along Oneida Lake in May.

Great Egrets were seen across the Region, but none persisted. A flock of five Snowy Egrets, the most in the Region since 1965, stopped near Derby Hill for a few hours in May. There was only a single Black-crowned Night-Heron reported this season. There were no large concentrations of Common Loon, and Red-throated Loon was missed. A large group of Red-necked Grebes on Lake Ontario is somewhat unusual for the Region.

At Derby Hill hawk numbers were up over recent years aided by some milder weather. There was a new seasonal high for Turkey Vultures. Single day and season records were also set for Bald Eagle. Late April is usually when the largest Broad-winged Hawk flight occurs, and this year that period was colder than normal, with 1.26 inches of rain on the one day with strong south winds. Even so, on that day 2200 Broad-winged swirled past in thirty minutes through low clouds as the rain let up. There's no telling how many were missed in the clouds. That day also brought the only Black Vulture and Swainson's Hawk for the season. It appears that a pair of Bald Eagles in Onondaga County laid eggs and possibly hatched young before the nest was abandoned. One Golden Eagle and 2 Merlins were seen away from Derby Hill, and the pair of Peregrines in Syracuse hatched young again this year.

Migrant Sandhill Cranes continue to increase. It is possible that breeding has already been attempted in some remote corner of the Region. Both yellowleg species were scattered in low numbers, and there were only two reports of Pectoral Sandpiper. Only small flocks of later migrants such as Semipalmated Sandpipers and Dunlin were reported. Similarly, there was just a single Black-bellied Plover reported, and there were no Ruddy Turnstone or Short-billed Dowitcher reports.

Gulls frequently depart by early March, but this year many remained on the Oswego River until 24 March, probably due to the cold weather and a good food supply. Iceland and Glaucous Gull were consistently seen and there were at least five Lesser Black-backed Gulls, based on plumage descriptions. Derby Hill hawk counter John Van Dort switched to lake watching on a March afternoon with strong westerly winds and found and an adult Black-legged Kittiwake in Mexico Bay. A Laughing Gull was seen in May, Common Terns again attempted to nest in Phoenix, and Black Terns continue to decline.

Maumee Swamp and Weaver Lake are in extreme southeastern Herkimer County and have not been explored by most area birders. Bob Donnelly worked the Atlas blocks there in 2005 and, along with Tom Salo, did some intensive birding there in May this year. They found good populations of Virginia Rail, Sora, and Common Moorhen and several Least Bitterns, but the area can only be birded well by canoe or kayak. Regenerating marsh habitat in Three Rivers WMA attracted Common Moorhen and Marsh Wren.

Both species of cuckoo were very common, especially in areas infested by forest tent caterpillars. A Snowy Owl lingered well into March. A Saw-whet Owl in Happy Valley WMA was notable as either an early migrant or a bird that was fortunate to survive in an area that usually has several feet of snow on the ground. Only one report was received of Long-eared Owl and none of Short-eared Owl.

Flocks of Black-capped Chickadees along with some White-breasted Nuthatches were moving past Derby Hill in April. It is interesting to note that Red-breasted Nuthatches do not seem to join these daytime migrants. Late migrants were barely mentioned. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied flycatchers were not reported in May, and there were only a few reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush and a single report of Philadelphia Vireo. More common species, such as Eastern Wood-Pewee, Alder and Willow flycatchers, and Red-eyed Vireo, were scarce until 25 May. Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, and Orchard Oriole, all uncommon regional breeders, did return to known locations during the season.

The period from 14 to 24 May was chilly, as the temperature averaged 5.5° below normal with about 70% cloud cover and generally west winds. 14 May did follow several very warm days and was mentioned as a good day for migrants, as was 25 May when warm weather finally returned. In between, migration did continue but a very slow pace. Northern Parula was reported in good numbers along Lake Ontario, while maxima for most other warblers were not very remarkable. Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers were very scarce.

With a few exceptions, the sparrow migration passed by relatively unnoticed. Lincoln's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow numbers were particularly low, while Fox Sparrow was noted by most observers and Clay-colored Sparrow was found in three locations. The exotic of the season was European Goldfinch with sightings at two locations. Both were likely released or escaped birds, although there have been reports of breeding in the western Great Lakes area.

In a year with a very poor cone crop, White Crossbills remained in northern Oswego County into March taking advantage of what cones were available. Another small flock was found in the southern part of that county feeding in the few trees with cones in a large spruce grove. Pine Siskins dwindled through the season and departed by mid-May with no evidence of breeding. Purple Finch arrived in March, and there was a noticeable migration past Derby Hill in early April. Evening Grosbeaks were scattered through our southern highlands and the Tug Hill into early May.

For the season a total of 234 species, including 2 of unknown origin, were reported, on the low side for spring. Highlights were Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Swainson's Hawk, White-rumped Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Clay-colored Sparrow, and White-winged Crossbill along with Barnacle Goose and European Goldfinch, both of suspect origin.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Bville – Baldwinsville; CM - Clay Marsh; DH - Derby Hill; FH - Fair Haven; Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; GSC - Great Swamp Conservancy, n MADI; HIWMA – Howland Island WMA; HVWMA – Happy Valley WMA; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral; MW – Maumee Swamp and Weaver Lake, HERK; New Haven; NMP – Nine Mile Point, OSWE; OnonL - Onondaga Lake; SCH – T Schroepfel; SFNS - Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; Syr - Syracuse; TB – Threemile Bay, Oneida Lake; TRWMA - Three Rivers WMA; WM – West Monroe.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: 1 SCH 16 Mar (AVN).
Snow Goose: max 70,000+ LOL 11 Mar; 50,000 DH 25 Mar.
Brant: arr 9 OnonL 29 Apr; max 290 LOL 22 May.
BARNACLE GOOSE: 1 GSC 9-10 Apr (DL ph, BB, NYSARC).
Trumpeter Swan: 1 SSSP thru 11 Mar.
Tundra Swan: max 45 SPd 2 Mar.
Wood Duck: max 120 LOL 10 Mar.
Gadwall: max 27 Brewerton 16 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: max 26 Bvll 12 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: 5 GSC 8 Apr; max 6 CM 16 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 8 Utica Marsh 26 Mar.
N. Pintail: max 120 GSC 17 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: max 30 Skan & Bvll 12 Mar.
Canvasback: max 32 Brewerton 16 Mar.
Redhead: 20 SPd 12 Mar; Brewerton 12 Mar, only reports.
Ring-necked Duck: max 610 TB 25 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 800 LOL-Riker's Beach 2 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 120 TB 11 Apr.
Surf Scoter: 2 Oswego 5 Apr; 2 Scriba 7 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 26 LOL 4 Mar; 5 TB 20 May, spring migrants.
Black Scoter: 10 TB 20 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 120 LOL-Scriba 4 Mar; 53 DeR Res 8 Apr, notable away from LOL.
Bufflehead: max 130 TB 11 Apr.

Com. Goldeneye: max 130 Brewerton 12 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 67 OnonL 11 Mar.
Com. Merganser: max 495 OnonL 11 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 2000 SPd 2 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: GSC 12 Apr; FH 14 Mar, only reports.
Ring-necked Pheasant: 15-20 inds, survived mild winter.
Com. Loon: max 40 DH 12 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 3 OnonL 25 Mar; resident many OSWE beaver ponds.
Horned Grebe: arr 4 OnonL 25 Mar; max 9 TB 11 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: arr Brewerton 15 Mar; max 61 LOL-Scriba 7 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: 47 GSC 15 Apr, nests destroyed by USDA 15 May.
Am. Bittern: 2-4 per day WM & SCH after 1 May.
Least Bittern: arr Dewitt 11 May; SCH 12 May; 3 MW 13 May; CM 20 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr DH 10 Mar.
Great Egret: arr DH 5 Apr; max 4 Jordan 29 Apr; 8-10 other individuals.
SNOWY EGRET: 5 DH 11 May (JVD, mob).
Green Heron: max 6 CM 20 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: Dewitt 11 May, only report.
Black Vulture: DH 24 Apr, only report.
Turkey Vulture: DH total 11375, new season record.

HAWKS - ALCIDS**Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals**

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	8 Mar	1703	31 Mar	1375
Osprey	31 Mar	67	12 May	50
Bald Eagle	8 Mar	73	18 May	363
No. Harrier	8 Mar	38	11 Apr	474
Sharp-sh. Hawk	5 Mar	444	12 Apr	2706
Cooper's Hawk	10 Mar	79	31 Mar	349
No. Goshawk	8 Mar	3	23 Apr	29
Red-shld. Hawk	10 Mar	140	29 Mar	578
Broad-winged Hawk	11 Apr	3484	24 Apr	9442
Red-tailed Hawk	3 Mar	609	21 Apr	4859
Rough-iggd. Hawk	6 Mar	41	28 Mar	251
Golden Eagle	7 Mar	6	8 Mar	41
Am. Kestrel	10 Mar	39	3 Apr	216
Merlin	14 Mar	3	25 Mar, 18 May	33
Peregrine Falcon	11 Mar	2	4 & 12 May	11
Total incl. unidentified and rarities				31271

Osprey: arr TRWMA 30 Mar.
Bald Eagle: 73 DH 18 May, one day record; DH total 363, new season record.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Parish 7 Mar.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: DH 24 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last DH 19 May.
Golden Eagle: Verona 17 Mar.
Merlin: Lysander 27 Mar; Jordan 4 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: pr hatched 3 y Syr 7 May.
Virginia Rail: max 8 CM 2 May.
Sora: max 8 MW 27 May.
Com. Moorhen: max 20 MW 27 May.
Am. Coot: 2 Bville 8 Mar.
Sandhill Crane: 19 DH 21 Apr to 31 May; 2 Pulaski 29 Mar; TRWMA 29 Apr & 18 May; 2 WM 17 May.
Black-bellied Plover: OnonL 30 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 30 Apr, early; max 27 SPd 25 May.
Killdeer: max 28 DH 13 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 per day.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 3 per day.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 11 DH 11 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 10 NMP 23 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr 2 Fulton 11 Apr; 2 Verona 27 Apr; 2 W Winfield 27 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 7 SPd 25 May.
Least Sandpiper: max 38 SPd 25 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 SPd 25 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 7 Lenox 14 Apr.
Dunlin: arr Sullivan 14 Apr; max 8 SPd 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: max 8 SVB 8 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: max 7 TRWMA 11 Mar.
LAUGHING GULL: Fulton 15 May (MM, JB).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 3 SCH 1 Apr; max 47 Constantia 30 Apr.
Ring-billed Gull: max 2300 Oswego R & Harbor 8 Mar.
Herring Gull: 800 per day Oswego R thru 25 Mar.
Iceland Gull: 2 per day Oswego R thru 23 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: at least 5 different Oswego R and MADI thru 8 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: 2-3 Oswego R thru 23 Mar; last Phoenix 29 Mar.
"Nelson's Gull" Herring X Glaucous: Phoenix 21-23 Mar.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: ad DH 14 Mar (JVD!), sixth spring record.
Caspian Tern: max 88 SPd 24 May.
Com. Tern: max 55 SVB 26 May; pair attempting to nest Phoenix for third year.
Black Tern: max 4 per day.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: widespread after 14 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr ONEI 14 May; max 4 SFNS 31 May; widespread reports.
Snowy Owl: Fairfield thru 26 Mar.
Long-eared Owl: NMP 1 Apr.
N. Saw-whet Owl: HVWMA 11 Mar; Skan thru 13 Mar; Herkimer 18 Mar; DH 19 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: max 2 DH 25 Mar; 3 other reports.
Whip-poor-will: arr 2 Constantia 8 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 20 DH 18 May.
Red-headed Woodpecker: SVB 5 May; DH 12 May; Clinton 13 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Green Lakes SP 18 Mar, wintered; max 5 Labrador Pd 29 Apr.
N. Flicker: max 350 DH 12 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: max 5 DH 18 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Whiskey Hollow 15 May.
Willow Flycatcher: max 9 Cicero 29 May.
Least Flycatcher: max 10 DH 18 May.
E. Phoebe: max 22 DH 11 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: max 10 Cicero 30 May.
E. Kingbird: max 12 DH 18 May.
N. Shrike: approx 8-10 inds; 1 singing DH 12-25 Mar; last SCH 28 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Sterling 20 May.

Warbling Vireo: max 12 CM 20 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: NMP 27 May, only report.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 50 HVWMA 30 May.
Blue Jay: arr 3 DH 19 Apr; max 6000 DH 4 May.
Fish Crow: regular Liverpool, Syr.
Com. Raven: SSSP & DH thru, likely breeders.
Horned Lark: max 75 Clinton 17 Mar.
Cliff Swallow: max 15 Western 7 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 150 DH 12 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 NMP 19 Apr.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 20 DH 12 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 40 LOL 9 Apr.
Winter Wren: HVWMA 11 Mar, early.
Marsh Wren: arr 12 May, max 100+ MW 27 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: up to 40/day LOL 12-22 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 30 NMP 12 Apr; last Scriba 26 May.
Veery: max 9 NMP 25 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Scriba 26 May; 2 Scriba 31 May.
Swainson's Thrush: max 8 Scriba 25 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr NMP 7 Mar.
Wood Thrush: max 26 CM 20 May.
Gray Catbird: max 43 CM 20 May.
Am. Pipit: arr DH 26 Mar; max 120 SCH 6 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: max 1200 DH 25 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: max 6 Mexico 11 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: DH 4 May; SFNS after 7 May; Hannibal 9 May; NMP 16 May.
Tennessee Warbler: max 5 NMP 25 May.
Nashville Warbler: max 12 Mexico 11 May.
N. Parula: 2-5/day LOL to 7-25 May; max 10 NMP 11 May.
Yellow Warbler: max 120 Mexico 12 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 8 NMP 25 May.
Magnolia Warbler: max 11 NMP 25 May.
Cape May Warbler: NMP 7, 25 May, only reports.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 14 SFNS 14 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 200 DH 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: 6 NMP 18 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: 3 SFNS 14 May.
Pine Warbler: max 5 TRWMA 24 Apr & 7 HVWMA 28 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: DH 4 May; HVWMA after 14 May.
Palm Warbler: max 45 LOL 7 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: 1-2/day after 14 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 20 LOL 26-27 May.
Cerulean Warbler: max 6 HIWMA 14 May.
Am. Redstart: max 50 LOL 25 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr WM 16 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Cedarvale 12 Apr; CM 16 Apr, unexpected; 3 Western 13 May; 1 Salmon R Falls 15 May.
Mourning Warbler: max 2 per day late May.
Com. Yellowthroat: max 52 CM 20 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr LOL 7 May; max 7 NMP 18 May.
Wilson's Warbler: max 5 NMP 25 May.
Canada Warbler: max 4 TRWMA 25 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: max 15 DH 11 May.
E. Towhee: 1 SCH 23 Mar, wintered.
Am. Tree Sparrow: 20 DH 8 Mar; last DH 21 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: max 55 NMP 22 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Camillus after 1 May; Tully 14 May; Amboy Center 19-22 May.

Field Sparrow: arr 14 Apr; max 8 NMP
22 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: max 4 DH 7 Apr.

Savannah Sparrow: arr 2 DH
15 Mar, early.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 5 Fulton
after 7 May.

Fox Sparrow: arr 10 Mar; max 10
HVWMA 2 Apr; last 4 May, late.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max only 2 per day
in May.

White-throated Sparrow: max
40 Durhamville 12 May.

White-crowned Sparrow: Hannibal
16 Apr, early; max 8 DH 23 May.

Snow Bunting: max & last 12 Brewerton
12 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 24
CM 20 May.

Indigo Bunting: max 10 DH 11 May.

Bobolink: max 200 DH 11 May.

E. Meadowlark: arr DH 11 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: max 200 DH 11 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr TRWMA 1 May;
Tully & Warners 14 May.

Baltimore Oriole: 180 DH 10 May; max
220 DH 11 May.

Purple Finch: first migrants 15 Mar;
max 50 DH 12 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 20 SSSP thru
11 Mar; 11 SCH 16 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: max 120 Pulaski 3 Mar;
max 120 Hastings 11 Mar; last Pulaski
3 Apr.

Pine Siskin: max 20 SSSP 2 Mar; max
20 Constantia 3 Mar; last 2 Clinton
12 May.

Am. Goldfinch: max 125 Hastings
11 Mar.

Evening Grosbeak: max 24 Boylston
12 Mar; 5 Waterville 3 Apr; 2 Delphi
Falls 2 May.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH: Sterling
Nature Center 13 Mar (Jim D'Angelo,
ph) & Camillus 2 Apr (MV), both
presumed escapes/releases.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring began during the end of a cold snap, but temperatures warmed up quickly, and the season on the whole was slightly warmer and a bit drier than average. On 1 March the low temperature in Watertown was -8° F, 22 degrees colder than average. By 10 March the temperature had climbed to 57° , 19 degrees above average. This latter day was the second day in a week-long warm spell, with temperatures in the 50s and 60s each day, compared to normal highs of around 40° . Despite this warm spell, the mean temperature for March was within one-tenth of a degree of the historic norm. April and May were more consistently warmer than usual, with monthly mean departures from normal of 2.1 and 2.0° , respectively. For the season, Watertown received 6.2 inches of precipitation, 1.1 inches less than average; total precipitation for March was less than half the historic mean, accounting for virtually the season's entire deficit.

Many birders commented on two weather events that seemed to affect migration. The first was the March warm spell, during which migrants flooded into the Region, especially on 10 and 11 March, when many observers spotted large numbers of migrating Snow and Canada geese, Ring-billed Gulls, and

Red-winged Blackbirds. The second event was a lengthy stretch of damp, cloudy weather during the middle two weeks of May, which several birders blamed for slowing migration and delaying the return of many species that typically arrive during mid-May. The single most frequent comment I received was that migration was late this year, but most species actually arrived when expected or even a few days earlier than usual, although migration seemed prolonged, with individuals of many species still moving unusually late in the season.

The waterfowl migration was brief and intense. Most Snow Geese moved through the area in large waves during the second week of March, and many fewer were reported in late March and April than in most recent years. Notable congregations of ducks included 500 Green-winged Teal in the Black River Valley, 1000 or more Redhead at Point Peninsula, and 20,000 diving ducks, mostly Greater Scaup, on the St. Lawrence River. Few migrant ducks were reported after early April, but Brant were spotted flying over several locations in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties during the latter half of May.

Numbers of Northern Harriers and Rough-legged Hawks built to a peak in early April, with concentrations noted in the usual raptor wintering areas in northern Jefferson County and on Fort Drum. The last Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Pt. Peninsula and Cape Vincent in mid April, but small numbers remained on Fort Drum through the end of May. On 15 May an apparent adult Golden Eagle was on Fort Drum, where several observers have reported seeing adults during late spring and summer most years since 2000. These sightings have been very infrequent, however, and this year's bird was not seen again.

The **Whooping Crane** that spent the late summer and early fall of 2005 in Lewis County returned in April, accompanied by a juvenile crane. These birds are part of an effort to establish an eastern population of Whooping Cranes and are thus not "countable", but still had some local birders excited. Both Whooping Cranes were captured on 5 May and transported to Wisconsin, where they joined the rest of the introduced flock. Two **Sandhill Cranes** were briefly seen flying over Canton on 7 May.

Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper were the only species of migratory shorebird (excluding local breeders) reported this spring. The lack of shorebird reports probably reflects a combination of actual declines in shorebird numbers and reduced observer effort by birders, who, frustrated by finding few birds at traditional shorebird hotspots, seem to be visiting these locations much less frequently than in past years. Among our nesting species, Upland Sandpipers are becoming increasingly scarce in Region 6 and were reported from only four hayfields in Jefferson County.

A Glaucous Gull at Cape Vincent was the only gull reported other than Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed. Both Common and Black terns arrived a few days later than usual. NYSDEC personnel counted 1589 Caspian Tern nests on Little Galloo Island; 1789 nests were counted in 2005, and until now numbers had been increasing every year.

By the end of May it was apparent that the major tent caterpillar outbreak that had affected many areas in Region 6 during the past three years was going to be much less severe this year. Both cuckoos were conspicuous nonetheless,

with Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported from many locations. Several Snowy Owls continued in northern Jefferson County into March, and two were discovered during that month in the Black River Valley. Whip-poor-wills arrived early and were found in good numbers in southern St. Lawrence County and on Fort Drum. A Red-headed Woodpecker that Nick Leone found in Ellisburg was the only report away from known nesting sites in Cape Vincent and Fort Drum.

Sedge Wrens were reported from southern Jefferson County and Fort Drum, but overall were present in smaller numbers than during May of 2005. Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings continued in the Canton and Potsdam area; the largest flock was observed by Joan Collins and Tom and Eileen Wheeler on 21 March, when they watched more than 1000 fly out of a scrubby patch of woods. The highlight of the warbler migration was an Orange-crowned Warbler Nick Leone found at Snowshoe Point on 27 April.

Nick Leone found 5 Henslow's Sparrows in Pamelaia, including four along Dog Hill Road. The only other report came from Fort Drum, where repeated efforts to find Henslow's Sparrows at traditional nesting locations turned up only one male by the end of May. Clay-colored Sparrows were more plentiful on Fort Drum, with additional reports of territorial birds from Theresa and a migrant in Watertown. **Orchard Orioles** appear to be establishing themselves as breeders in Jefferson County. Les Hastings, a resident of Point Peninsula, reported a nest in his yard, and Chris Reidy found at least two territorial Orchard Orioles in Rutland for the second consecutive year. Gerry Smith found yet another in Adams in late May.

Red Crossbills appeared to nest in at least two locations in Region 6 this winter and spring. The crossbills that Joan Collins found in February in the northern Adirondacks were reported several times in April. During May, I found a group of at least 20 Red Crossbills on Fort Drum, including at least 8 fledglings being fed by adults. Both of these sites were in red pine plantations and appeared to represent Type 2 crossbills. Other finches included good numbers of Common Redpolls into late March and small numbers of Pine Siskins throughout the Region in late April and early May.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 205 species for the spring season. Highlights included Sandhill Crane, large numbers of Bohemian Waxwing, and nesting Orchard Oriole and Red Crossbill. The biggest disappointment was the near total absence of migrant shorebirds in the reports that I received.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BRV - Black River Valley LEWI; EB - Eel Bay Orleans JEFF; FD - Fort Drum Military Reservation; ICNC - Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton STLA; KC - Kelsey Creek Watertown JEFF; PilPt - Pillar Pt Brownville JEFF; PtPen - Pt Peninsula Lyme JEFF; PRGC - Partridge Run Golf Course Canton STLA; PRWMA - Perch River WMA Orleans JEFF; RMSP - Robert Moses State Park Massena STLA; SLR - Saint Lawrence River; StPt - Stony Pt Henderson JEFF; ULLWMA - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA Canton STLA; Snsh - Snowshoe Pt Henderson JEFF.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: 1000s Potsdam 11 Mar; 10,000-15,000 KC 12 Mar; last Orleans 15 May.
Brant: several reports JEFF and STLA 19 - 25 May.
Mute Swan: 15 PtPen 12 Mar; max 50 PRWMA 5 May.
Wood Duck: arr ULLWMA 31 Mar.
Gadwall: max 50 ULLWMA 2 Apr.
Am. Wigeon: 10 PtPen 12 Mar; 10 ULLWMA 31 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: 25 PtPen 12 Mar; 30 KC 17 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: arr ULLWMA 14 Apr.
Green-winged Teal: max 500 BRV late Mar.
Redhead: max 1000-1500 PtPen 8-15 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 105 PtPen 12 Mar; max 200 ULLWMA 2 Apr where 7-20 per day after late Apr.
Greater Scaup: 8,000-10,000 PtPen 8-15 Mar; 20,000 mostly Greater Scaup with smaller numbers Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, and Redhead EB 9 Apr; 4,000 - 5,000 PtPen 14 Apr; last ULLWMA 4 May.
Lesser Scaup: 2-6 per day ULLWMA 13 Mar - 14 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: 2 ULLWMA 2 Apr; EB 13 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: max 4,000-5,000 PtPen 15 Apr; 127 Cape Vincent 5 May.
Bufflehead: last Snsh 10 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 2000-3000 PtPen 8-15 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 30 PtPen 12 Mar.

Com. Merganser: max 325 RMSP 25 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 23 PtPen 15 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 14 EB 13 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: 3 EB 13 Apr; 1 Snsh 23 Apr.
Am. Bittern: arr ULLWMA 7 Apr, early.
Great Egret: West Stockholm 29 Mar.
Green Heron: arr ULLWMA 29 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 Hounsfield 13 May.
Turkey Vulture: arr Potsdam 14 Mar.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr ICNC 2 Apr.
N. Harrier: max 17 FD 10 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: 15 Cape Vincent early Apr where last 15 Apr; max 23 FD where 1 still present 27 May.
Golden Eagle: Potsdam 11 Mar (JC); ad FD 15 May (JB).
Merlin: 8 reports Mar and Apr.
Virginia Rail: ICNC 22 Apr.
Sora: ULLWMA 7 May.
Am. Coot: PtPen 15 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE: 2 Canton 7 May (JB).
WHOOPIING CRANE: 2 from Florida/Wisconsin reintroduction several locations JEFF and LEWI late Apr, captured by USFWS 5 May and returned to Wisconsin.
Killdeer: arr PRGC 10 Mar.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr FD 3 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr FD 2 May.
Upland Sandpiper: pairs or displaying males Evans Mills, Orleans, FD, and Rutland 15-27 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Potsdam 1 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr Potsdam 11 Mar;
max 28 on FD survey route 3 May; 14 on
Hermon survey route 15 May.
Ring-billed Gull: large numbers arr
throughout Region 10-11 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: Cape Vincent 1 May.
Caspian Tern: arr PtPen 15 Apr; 1589
nests Little Galloo Island 25 May.
Com. Tern: arr ULLWMA 29 Apr.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 5 May

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Snsh 1 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Snsh 6 May.
Snowy Owl: 2 (1 ad male, 1 imm)
Lowville 7 Mar; several Lyme and Cape
Vincent thru mid Mar.
Long-eared Owl: Potsdam 20 Apr.
Com. Nighthawk: booming FD 28 May.
Whip-poor-will: arr FD 28 Apr; 10 on
Hermon woodcock route 15 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
Potsdam 7 May.
Belted Kingfisher: arr KC 6 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr FD 5
May; Ellisburg 8 May; Cape Vincent
30 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: pair Snsh
21 Apr thru.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr KC 3 Apr.
N. Flicker: max 64 StPt 14 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Snsh
24 May.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr KC & Canton
26 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Potsdam 19 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr FD 22 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr Snsh 1 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Canton 31 Mar.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Snsh
4 May.
E. Kingbird: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
N. Shrike: 8 reports; last Potsdam 6 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr ULLWMA
7 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr FD 18 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr ULLWMA 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Potsdam 21 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Canton 7 May.

Gray Jay: Massawepie 31 Mar.
Com. Raven: pair building nest on
bridge to Barnhart Is SLR 3 Apr.
Purple Martin: arr Henderson &
Canton 14 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr FD 27 Mar.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr StPt
14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr FD 1 May.
Barn Swallow: arr StPt 14 Apr.
Boreal Chickadee: Massawepie
31 Mar.
Tufted Titmouse: 2 Snsh 1 May.
House Wren: arr KC 26 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr Theresa 12 Apr.
Sedge Wren: 2 arr FD 15 May; max 3
near S Sandy Pd Trail 25 May.
Marsh Wren: arr ULLWMA 5 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max outside
Adirondacks 8 Potsdam 5 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr KC & FD
12 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr StPt 30 Apr;
FD 1 May; Snsh 3 May.
E. Bluebird: arr FD 28 Mar.
Veery: arr Canton 7 May.
Swainson's Thrush: 2 near s Sandy Pd
Trail 25 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr FD 10 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr KC & Snsh 4 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Snsh and Potsdam
3 May.
N. Mockingbird: Cape Vincent
31 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr StPt 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr PRGC 10 Mar; 5-25+
per day in burned fields on FD 18 Apr
- 10 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: numerous reports
80-170 Canton and Potsdam thru Mar;
max 1000+ Potsdam 21 Mar (JC TW
& EW); last 27 Potsdam 6 Apr.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Potsdam,
FD and Westcott's Beach SP 9 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Snsh
4 May; Potsdam 5 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Potsdam
15 May; max 9 Snsh 24 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Snsh
27 Apr (NL), early.

Nashville Warbler: arr Snsh 1 May; max 16 Snsh 4 May.
N. Parula: arr Snsh 2 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr ULLWMA 1 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr FD 3 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr ULLWMA 7 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr Snsh 4 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Snsh 1 May.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr StPt 26 Mar; 250 Snsh 27 Apr; max 900-1000 Snsh 3 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr FD 28 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Snsh 1 May.
Pine Warbler: arr FD & Theresa 12 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: FD 18 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Massawepie 9 Apr, where 13 singing 12 Apr; migrants Snsh 27 Apr; ICNC & Henderson 29 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: Canton 23 May; Snsh 24 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Morristown 23 May; max 6 FD 30 May.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 Dekalb 8 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Snsh 27 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr Snsh 7 FD 8 May.
Ovenbird: arr FD 2 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr FD 28 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: arr FD 18 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Snsh 24 May; ICNC 29 May; FD 30 May.
Canada Warbler: arr FD 16 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr ICNC 5 May.
E. Towhee: arr FD 12 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last PRGC 23 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr FD 13 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Theresa 5 May (ES); arr FD 9 May, where 11 singing by 31 May; migrant Watertown 12 May (NL).
Field Sparrow: arr FD 11 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 10 Apr, where 30+ singing 13 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr FD 11 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Hounsfield 1 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: 5 in two locations Pamela 15 May; FD 22 May, late.
Song Sparrow: arr KC 10 Mar.
White-throated Sparrow: arr FD 11 Apr
White-crowned Sparrow: arr Potsdam 6 May; max 8 KC 8 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: last Canton 21 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr KC 2 May.
Indigo Bunting: max 11 Theresa 15 May.
Bobolink: arr PRWMA 2 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: hundreds migrating Canton & Potsdam 10 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr FD 29 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr ULLWMA 7 Apr; max 16 PtPen 15 Apr.
Com. Grackle: arr Canton and Potsdam 10 Mar.
ORCHARD ORIOLE: nest PtPen May (LH); ad m Adams late May (GS); two ad m Rutland several dates late May (CR).
Baltimore Oriole: arr Snsh 1 May.
Purple Finch: max 8 Snsh 3 May.
RED CROSSBILL: 2 Colton where found during winter 9 Apr (JC); 20+ including adults feeding at least 8 fledglings FD 18 May (JB).
Com. Redpoll: 60 Potsdam thru 19 Mar; last 27 Mar.
Pine Siskin: 1-3 many locations late Apr - late May.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 Potsdam 3 May; 3 KC 5 May.



REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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[Note: due to an editorial error, the winter season report for Region 7 was omitted from Volume 56, Number 2. It is presented here with apologies to John M. C. Peterson.]

Winter 2005-06 was the tenth warmest on record, with temperatures +4.4° F above average, but still saw several weather extremes, and Lake Champlain neared the 100-ft. flood stage several times. Early December was cold and clear, with Saranac Lake -10° F on the 8th, -17° F on the 13th, and -25° F by the 14th, followed by a snowstorm on 16 December that left a foot at Dannemora and 9" at Malone. Snow cover was a variable 6" to 15" during the Plattsburgh CBC on the 18th, and the Saranac Lake CBC had up to a foot on New Year's Day. January began cold but turned almost balmy. Even Saranac Lake reached 41 by the 11th, and a temperature inversion on 14 January pushed the thermometer to 50 at the summit of Spruce Hill, between Elizabethtown and Keene, on the morning of the 14th. Temperatures plunged the next day, and Saranac Lake was back to a more expected -9 on the 16th. Freezing rain, then rain with high winds, struck on 18-19 January, with flood warnings on the East Branch Ausable and Great Chazy rivers and gusts hitting 72 mph at Peru. Champlain quickly rose a foot to 98.06', and parts of Crown Point, Moriah, and Ticonderoga were evacuated. This was followed by more rain and snow, with a 7" snowfall at Malone on the 26th. Champlain stood at 99.48' the next day, compared with the record of 101.86' set at Burlington 27 April 1993, with the spring runoff and rains still to come. A snowstorm on 6 February dumped 9" at Tupper Lake but left only a dusting at Elizabethtown and lower elevations. Plattsburgh temperatures see-sawed between 0° on 11 February and a record 52 on the 15th then back down to near zero as the next storm hit on the 17th. With winds reaching 70+ mph, that storm left National Grid customers at Crown Point, Moriah, Ticonderoga, Westport, and Willsboro without power for days, downing trees and tearing off roofs. Chateaugay had 8" of snow on 24 February, but the ground remained bare elsewhere as high up as Elizabethtown. A more widespread storm the next day saw 9" of fluffy snow fall on Port Henry, 8" at Bloomingdale, and 7" at Elizabethtown, followed by a drop in temperature to -4 at Plattsburgh on 26 February. In the central Adirondacks, Inlet had snow on 44 days, but no more than 8" in any storm, and 12 days with rain. Cone and berry crops were judged poor. By season's end even lower elevations were finally covered with snow, and although Champlain had dropped back to 98', the lake was still a foot above December levels.

With much of Lake Champlain open throughout the winter, there were some large concentrations of waterfowl and numerous late reports of geese, ducks, mergansers, loons, grebes, and herons, with some species overwintering. Bald Eagle was virtually ubiquitous, especially in the lakeshore corridor, and the mostly snow free and bare Champlain Valley hosted lingering harriers and kestrels. The number of Belted Kingfishers that lingered into mid-January was exceptional.

The list of other species that normally winter farther south was almost unbelievable: **Turkey Vulture** in December and February; Red-bellied Woodpecker, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and Northern Flicker on three Christmas Counts; an *Empidonax* flycatcher and a **Fish Crow** in mid-December; a total of **89** Tufted Titmice on three CBCs; **9** reports of Carolina Wren; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and **Wood Thrush** in December; Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Fox Sparrow, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and **Baltimore Oriole** at feeders into January; plus other half-hardy sparrow and blackbird species. Such a winter assemblage is without precedent here.

There were still enough northern birds to provide at least a flavor of winter: about eight Barrow's Goldeneye, a Gyrfalcon, Iceland Gull, and a Snowy Owl. Perhaps the most dramatic, Bohemian Waxwing staged a major invasion into Clinton and Essex counties, with numerous reports of flocks numbering into the hundreds. Somewhat surprisingly, there was also a lighter invasion of Cedar Waxwing; usually these species are exclusive in winter here. A few Lapland Longspur were found, while Snow Buntings were relatively abundant. Winter finches were pretty much a bust, with only a smattering of Pine Grosbeak and the crossbills. Common Redpoll was found mostly at higher elevations, while siskins and goldfinches lingered lower. Evening Grosbeak remained scarce, with numbers now only a shadow of past winters.

Birds of Franklin County, New York (1st Ed., 2006, 44 pp.), and accompanying *Birding Trail Map* by John M.C. Peterson, are now available **free** upon request from Franklin County Tourism [**1-800-709-4895**]. Call for your copies of the book & map today! The book lists 280 species, while the detailed county map provides written directions on "Where to Find Birds" for a dozen noted birding sites. Copies of *Birds of Hamilton County, New York* (2004) and birding map by Peterson & Lee are still available **free** from Hamilton County Tourism [**1-800-648-5239**]. Also, a new *Adirondack North Country Region Road Map* with a Birding Guide for the region is available **free** by visiting: **FreeBirdingMap.com** (use caps as shown to find the website). Copies of this map are also available at local county tourism offices and Beekmantown Gateway Information Center, between southbound Exits 41 & 40 of the Adirondack Northway (I-87).

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP - Ausable Pt; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Pt SHS; CR - Chazy Rivers; ECBC - Elizabethtown CBC 31 Dec; FCBC - Ferrisburgh CBC 17 Dec; LL - Long L; MB - Monty Bay; NP - Noblewood Pk; PARC - former Plattsburgh AFB; PCBC - Plattsburgh CBC 18 Dec; PtR - Pt au Roche SP; SLCBC - Saranac L CBC 1 Jan; TL - Tupper L; WC - NYS Waterfowl Count 14-15 Jan; WD - Wilcox Dock; WM - Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1,427 PCBC; imm WD 25 Dec-6 Feb (BK,NO), overwintered.

Cackling Goose: 2 WD 11 Dec; CH 31 Dec (BK), late CLIN.

Canada Goose: 65 Raquette R 6 Dec (CD); Lower Ausable L 13 Dec (TDM), late inland; max 2,600 PtR 18 Dec (TM,SO); 12 CH 23 Feb (NO), migrating north.

Gadwall: pr Willsboro Pt 14 Jan (GL,JP,RW); 2 m Willsboro Bay 24 Jan (TDM,SO), late.

wigeon (sp.): Westport 27 Jan (RG), quite reddish brown head, neck, breast.

N. Pintail: m Westport 27 Jan (RG), late.

Canvasback: 2 m CP 21 Jan (TGM,AS), now rare ESSE.

Redhead: 5 m NP 19 Dec (L&PO); 4 m Essex 14 Jan (GL,JP,RW); 28 CP 22 Jan (TDM,AS); f Essex 1 Feb (TDM), also rare ESSE.

Ring-necked Duck: max 16 WC; 4 Westport 6 Feb (JP,ET); Essex 20 Feb (JN), quite late.

Surf Scoter: CH 2 Jan (BK,CM), late CLIN.

White-winged Scoter: 5 Pt Kent 8 Jan

(DR); 2 CP 21 Jan (TGM,AS); f NP & 4 Pt Kent 6 Feb (L&PO), a good showing.

Long-tailed Duck: CP 21 Jan (TGM,AS), late.

Bufflehead: max 88 WC.

Com. Goldeneye: max 5,787 WC.

Barrow's Goldeneye: ad m Westport 17 Dec (JH,MDM), possible hybrid there same day; m NP 7 Jan (MDM); f CP 22 Jan (TGM,SO); f Willsboro Bay 24 Jan (TM,SO); 3 m WM 14 Feb (L&PO,NW), excellent finds.

Red-breasted Merganser: f Whallon's Bay 14 Jan (GL,JP,RW); f Westport 6 Feb (JP,ET), good finds.

Wild Turkey: max 60 Westport 6 Dec (ET).

Com. Loon: 2 AP 4 Feb (BK,CM), late CLIN.

Pied-billed Grebe: Westport 17 Dec-14 Feb, overwintered; Heart Bay, L George 14 Jan (DC).

Great Blue Heron: max 4 FCBC, three other Dec reports.

TURKEY VULTURE: PARC 18 Dec (JC,NO), late; L Flower 26 Feb (CM,TDM), headed south in 3° F temp, early ESSE & FRAN.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: widely reported.

N. Harrier: pr CLIN 3 Dec; CR 5 Dec; CH 6 Dec; ECBC; Essex 22-24 Jan, rare in winter.

Am. Kestrel: Reber 26 Dec-8 Jan; ECBC; L Shore Rd, CLIN 22 Feb, similarly rare.

Peregrine Falcon: PCBC; Plattsburgh mall 17 Jan (DR); Moffit Rd 5 Feb; Exit 38 I-87 23 Feb (BK), late CLIN.

Gyrfalcon: gray-phase Keese Corners, Peru 15 Dec (CH), always an exciting find.

Am. Coot: WD 1-7 Dec (BK); Westport 17 Dec (JH,MDM); 3 CR 31 Dec (BK); 2 WC; CH 8-9 Jan & 8 Feb (BK), late CLIN and an exceptional showing.

Iceland Gull: 1st winter AP 6 Feb (L&PO), only white-winged gull reported.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Snowy Owl: CR 4 Dec (DL), only report.

Short-eared Owl: 2 CR 31 Dec (BK,CM), only report.

Belted Kingfisher: 11 reports from AP, FCBC, MB, PCBC, Pt Kent, Ticonderoga, WD, & Westport 1 Dec-14 Jan, unprecedented numbers.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ticonderoga ferry dock 17 Dec (C&JM), still a good find here.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: m Westport 4 Jan (J&PT), late ESSE by almost 4 mos.

Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 SLCBC; 2 Bigelow Rd 13 Jan (LM); m with *orange crown* Vermontville Jan (CD, photo); m LL 20 Feb (JC), usual sites.

N. Flicker: FCBC; PCBC; ECBC, a good showing.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

EMPIDONAX (sp.): Westport 17 Dec (J&PT), details to FCBC compiler.

N. Shrike: over 2 dozen reports, an exceptional showing.

Gray Jay: max record 12 SLCBC, also BB, Bigelow Rd, LL, & Sevey's Corner.

Blue Jay: max record 387 ECBC, numerous elsewhere.

FISH CROW: CH 18 Dec

(WF,BK,DK,DP,DR,RW), flew in search of recorded call.

Com. Raven: max 36 SLCBC; 12 in paired display flights TL 4 Feb (MY).

Horned Lark: max 335 FCBC, widespread CLIN & ESSE.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 1,062 SLCBC, numerous elsewhere.

Boreal Chickadee: max 23 SLCBC; 17 Inlet sump trail 18 Feb (GL), HAMI max; 2 Vermontville feeder late Dec (JK); usual sites Bigelow Rd, LL, & Marcy Dam.

Tufted Titmouse: max 38 ECBC; 27 FCBC; 24 PCBC, unprecedented numbers; also Elizabethtown, Essex, Keene, Lewis, Peru, Pt Kent, Westport, an explosive showing.

Carolina Wren: max 4 FCBC; 2 ECBC; PCBC; Ticonderoga 23 Dec (NC); banded wren returned Elizabethtown 5 Jan thru (JP).

Winter Wren: PtR 18 Dec (TDM,SO), rare here in winter, despite name.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: Hurricane Mt 31 Dec (J&PT), even more rare.

E. Bluebird: max 17 FCBC.

WOOD THRUSH: Plattsburgh 21 Dec (CM), well seen in bird bath.

Am. Robin: max 22 PCBC; six other sightings, relatively scarce.

N. Mockingbird: 2 PCBC; Plattsburgh 24 Feb (CM), nice finds.

Brown Thrasher: ECBC, a remarkable find.

Bohemian Waxwing: max ~700 in flocks of 20-200 Wadhams, Whallonsburg, & Willsboro 16 Feb (RG); at least 2 dozen other reports of flocks up to 400 in CLIN & ESSE.

Cedar Waxwing: max 160 FCBC; 64 PCBC; nine other sightings, all ESSE.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Fox Sparrow: Jay 7 Dec (PO), a rare winter bird.

Song Sparrow: 4 PCBC; 2 FCBC, only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: Chateaugay Dec (MH); 2 PCBC; PtR 18 Dec

(TM,SO); SLCBC; arr Saranac L feeder 22 Feb (TM), a good showing.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 219 PCBC; 7 wintered TL feeder (CD).

Lapland Longspur: max 4 PCBC; PtR 18 Dec (TDM,SO); Peru 1 Jan (BK,CM), good finds.

Snow Bunting: max 400+ Whallosnburg 14 Dec (JP,ET), widespread.

N. Cardinal: max 91 PCBC, reports from all 4 counties.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK: f Vermontville feeder 13 Jan (JK), late FRAN.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 9 SLCBC; also Chateaugay, Jay, Inlet, & Plattsburgh 18 Dec-10 Feb; arr TL 17 Feb (CD); later arr 20-22 Feb Franklin Falls, Mooers, & Newcomb.

Rusty Blackbird: Saranac L, FRAN 22 Dec-3 Jan (TD), rare in winter.

Com. Grackle: 10 SLCBC, only report.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 60 wintered Peru feeder (E&HF).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: L Placid 30 Dec-13 Jan (LM), another great feeder bird.

Pine Grosbeak: max 20 Plattsburgh 7 Feb (J&RH); others L Placid & Newcomb Dec-Feb.

Purple Finch: 14 PCBC, only report, if correct.

House Finch: max 147 PCBC; also 13 FCBC.

Red Crossbill: Newcomb 20 Dec (WR,MS); 1-3 Jay mid-Feb (PO); 2 Oregon Plains Rd 20 Feb (JN), scarce.

White-winged Crossbill: count wk SLCBC, only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 280 SLCBC, with 250 at a single feeder; only 43 ECBC; 32 PCBC; 6 FCBC, with most remaining at higher elevations.

Pine Siskin: max 50 FCBC; 38 PCBC; only 3 SCBC; ECBC, with most at lower elevations.

Am. Goldfinch: max 307 PCBC; 76 ECBC; 47 FCBC; 23 SLCBC, also found lower.

Evening Grosbeak: max 122 ECBC; 44 PCBC; 3 SLCBC, typical of recent years; 4 TL feeder 4 Jan (CD), chased away by Wild Turkeys; conjunctivitis Saranac L Jan (NS), to DEC Wildlife Pathology Lab for necropsy.

ADDENDUM:

WESTERN GREBE: Pt Kent 27 Nov 2005 (DR), believed the same 1st winter juv at nearby CH, CLIN 28 Nov, details to NYSARC; 1st ESSE record, if accepted.

REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Saranac Lake was 0°F on 1 March and dropped to -9° by 7 March. Inlet received 15" of snow between 15-16 March. The month finished with Plattsburgh a sunny 64° on the 30th. Most of April was sunny and cool, but with Plattsburgh receiving an inch of rain of the 23rd and Saranac Lake soaked by 1.79" the same day. Yet by 23 April Eastern Bluebirds also had young in some nest boxes, thanks to the earlier fair weather. Early May saw mostly sun, with Plattsburgh enjoying a high of 76° on the 4th. Lake Champlain dropped to 96.99' on 7 May, down from the 98-ft. level at the end of February. Then the rains arrived. Commencing on the morning of 12 May and lasting until

21 May, the Region was pelted by everything from sprinkles to downpours, as low pressure fronts settled over the Northeast. On 17 May a cold south wind began to bring the stalled migrants northward. At Crown Point, a heavy 5 a.m. shower on 18 May was followed by morning sun, a downpour with hail, and then more sun. By evening the banders had netted 220 birds of 28 species, including 15 warblers, in the best wave to hit the State Historic Site in a decade, since the great fallout of 20-21 May 1996. Despite southerly winds, the numbers of birds banded daily gradually declined as the sun finally reappeared. Newcomb and Saranac Lake had snow on 22 May. An afternoon deluge on 30 May drenched Newcomb with 2.3" of rain, dropped golf ball-sized hailstones on parts of the Region, and left 1,500 National Grid customers near Schroon Lake without power. The season ended with sun, followed by thunderstorms that pelted the Champlain Valley with 1" hailstones, breaking auto glass from Plattsburgh to Westport. From 96.80' on 13 May as the rains arrived, Champlain broke 97-ft. on the 17th, 98-ft. on the 21st, 99-ft. on the 23rd, and reached a high of 99.11' between 24-25 May, dropping back only to 98.83' at month's end. This was the wettest May on record.

Due to these record rains, nets at the banding station on the grounds of Crown Point State Historic Site were open two days fewer than planned, from 13-28 May, or a day less at either end. Operated by the Crown Point Banding Association through an agreement with OPR&HP and the Historic Site Manager, this was the 31st consecutive year of Crown Point banding and tied 1993 for the second best season for variety, with 63 species banded. Warbler variety was excellent. The 22 species, including Orange-crowned and Prairie warblers, tied for best with the great season of '96. The 870 individuals came in third, behind only 1996 and '97. There were returns of 16 birds of 13 different species, the oldest an American Goldfinch now at least seven years, 11 months old.

The CPBA proposal to clear green ash around the old Osprey platform was accepted and carried out by OPR&HP, and a pair constructed a nest for the first time ever. Much of the success of this year's banding is attributed not only to the weather, but also to the previous year's green ash thinning project in the hawthorn groves. Gov. Pataki is expected to unveil the birding kiosk and name the Historic Site a NYS Bird Conservation Area. Bobolinks were again found in the recently reclaimed "Bobolink Field" to the south, another CPBA habitat improvement proposal carried out by the staff. A Public Radio program recorded at the station, "Ring 'em & Fling 'em," can be heard on the Web at: www.lincolnpound.org. A second segment for a video of Audubon IBAs on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail was shot by Peregrine Productions. Since May 1976, a total of 13,442 birds of some 97 species (plus races, subspecies, color morphs, hybrids, and even a bilateral gynandromorph) have been banded on the grounds of the State Historic Site.

Other productive birding areas included Willsboro's Noblewood Park, the Saranac Lake high school, and the lakeshore farms between the Chazy Rivers, which hosted a number of notable species, including **Eurasian Wigeon** 18 April and **Laughing Gull** on 31 May. Elsewhere, there was a putative **Trumpeter Swan** at Tupper Lake from 13 March-1 April, four spring **Red-necked Phalaropes** north of Port Henry on 16 May, a **Northern Wheatear**

found by hikers above treeline on Mt. Haystack on 27 May, a serendipitous **Varied Thrush** accompanying a flock of American Robins in a Paradox yard on 25 May, a wayward **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Carpenter's Flats on 25 May, and an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** migrating with Common Grackles at Upper Jay on 20 April. If postings on Northern NY Birds chatline are to be believed, there were also a couple of pairs of eider (sp.?) at Tupper Lake on 2 April and a male Hooded Warbler at Lake Colby on 3 May. But with no details or even the names of observers, such postings are hard to consider as records. We're probably preaching to the choir here, but we urge that reports of regional rarities always be accompanied by full details. We also suggest that all observers print out a copy of the "List of Species to be Reported to NYSARC," available through a link on the NYSOA website, and submit reports as required.

Bill Krueger is congratulated on publication of his *Birds of Clinton County, 2nd Edition: First Supplement* (2006). The Supplement includes species reported since Mitchell & Krueger (1997) appeared, breeding status changes, races and subspecies, new birding areas, corrigenda to the 2nd edition, a list of species added since Warren (1979), and a table of extreme dates. Copies are available from William E. Krueger, 40 Colligan Point Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518-561-0917), and are *free* if picked up or \$5 by mail. All four counties in Region 7 now have reference works, three of them now in the current phylogenetic order and with the latest names of species. See above, at the end of the introduction of the winter season report, for details on how to order the recent *Birds of Franklin County, New York* (2006) and *Birds of Hamilton County, New York* (2004).

A total of 216 species was reported during Spring 2006, an improvement over last year's 207, but still short of the record 219 species located in 1997.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMR - Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP - Ausable Pt; BBay - Bulwagga Bay; BBog - Bloomingdale Bog; CF - Carpenter's Flats, Ausable R; CH - Cumberland Head; CP - Crown Pt SHS; CR - Chazy Rivers; FB - Ferd's Bog; LP - L Placid; NP - Noblewood Pk; PtF - Pt au Fer; PtR - Pt au Roche; SL - Saranac L; SLHS - Saranac L high school; TL - Tupper L; WD - Wilcox Dock, Plattsburgh; WM - Wickham Marsh.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: Saranac R mouth 5-11 Mar (BK,CM), overwintered; max ~5000 CR 30 Mar (BK); 3 with yell & black collars CR 11 Apr (BK), banded Bylot I, Nunavut Aug 1995 & near Mt Thule, Nunavut Aug 2005.

Cackling Goose: WD 30 Mar (J&RH); 2 CR 10 Apr (BK), nice finds.

Canada Goose: 2 with yell & black collars Coll Bay 27 Mar (JP,ET), banded near Pyramid Hills, Quebec Jul 1997.

Brant: 200+ CR 20 May (BK,CM), max CLIN; ~125 over Sabattis Bog 25 May (JN).

TRUMPETER SWAN: apparent 2nd yr TL 13 Mar (CD)-1 Apr (J&PT, also JC,TD,BF,JM, E&TW), origin unk, details to be submitted to NYSARC.

Gadwall: arr 8 AP 16 Mar (BK,CM); 5 CP 25 Mar (MDM), early ESSE; 2 AP 27 Mar (DCR); BB 2 Apr (J&PT), a good showing.

EURASIAN WIGEON: CR, Gravelle farm 18 Apr (BK).

Am. Wigeon: arr AP 14 Mar (E&HF)-31 Mar (JL); pr TL 29 Mar (TD), early FRAN; BBay 2 Apr (J&PT).

N. Shoveler: arr 4 WD 30 Mar (J&RH).

N. Pintail: arr 9 AP 19 Mar (ET); pr TL 29 Mar (TD).

Green-winged Teal: pr TL 29 Mar (TD), early FRAN, others AP, CP, SL.

Redhead: max 12 AP 16 Mar (BK,CM); 10 m CP 27 Mar (JP,EKT), ties ESSE max; also BBay & Essex.

Ring-necked Duck: max 400 BB 2 Apr (J&PT), record high ESSE.

Com. Goldeneye: m BBay 13 May (MDM); f & 2 y AP 29 May (C&JH).

Red-breasted Merganser: arr 10 Westport 17 Apr (EKT); 3 BBay 13 May

(MDM); pr NP 28 May (MDM).

Red-throated Loon: basic L Eaton 7 May (PG), first HAMI record since Eaton's day.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr AP 17 Mar (BK,CM), others SL & Westport.

Horned Grebe: CH 11 Apr (SJ,BK), only report.

Red-necked Grebe: arr BBay 2 Apr (J&PT); max 5 NP 9 Apr (J&PT); 3 Raquette L 27 Apr (LB).

Am. Bittern: arr AP 9 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN.

Least Bittern: CH 8 May (BK), always a good find.

Great Blue Heron: AP 12 Mar (J&PT), early CLIN.

Great Egret: arr WD 31 Mar; Saranac R, SL 28 Mar (DC); AP 18 Apr (GD,JL)-30 Apr (PJ), headed to Valcour I; NP 13 May (MDM), near Four Brothers.

Turkey Vulture: arr 4 Ticonderoga 14 Mar (MDM), six other Mar reports Coot Hill, Essex, LP, Peru, Plattsburgh, Westport.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Essex 16 Mar (EDT), record early ESSE; m sky-dancing & pr on newly-cleared nest platform CP May.

Bald Eagle: max 5 Coot Hill 31 Mar (JH,MDM); Inlet *feeder* 6-9 Mar (GL); widely reported.

Golden Eagle: 2 ads Jay 11 Mar (PO); Inlet *feeder* 19 Mar (GL); ad Jay 30 Mar (PO), headed NE; E Br Ausable R 16 Mar (DCR).

Merlin: LP 29 Mar; 3 LP 31 Mar (PO); AP 2 Apr (DCR); Jay 24 Apr (PO); AP 4 May (MM); TL 15 May (RM).

Peregrine Falcon: CF, CH, Coot Hill, CP, Jay, Lincoln Pd, New Russia, Plattsburgh, but no FRAN or HAMI reports.

Virginia Rail: L Alice 27 Apr (BK,CM); WM 20 May (EDT), only reports.

Sora: PtF 30 Apr (BK,CM); WM 21 May (EDT), only reports.

Com. Moorhen: 2 AP 27 Apr (GD); 2 calling PtF 27 Apr (BK,CM), both early CLIN; CR 28 May (BK,CM).

Am. Coot: arr AP 15 Mar (GD,E&HF)-27 Mar, only location.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CR 31 May (BK,SJ).

Am. Golden-Plover: arr Little CR 20 May (BK,CM).

Gr. Yellowlegs: arr CR 11 Apr; max 12 CR 12 Apr (BK); SLHS 6 May (TD); SL 13 May (BM); Rt 22B 20 May (C&JH); WD 20 May (NO).

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr CR 30 Apr (BK,CM).

Solitary Sandpiper: Keene 9 & 20 May (J&PT); SLHS 17 May (TD); Ingraham 20 May (BK,CM).

Upland Sandpiper: 2 CP 12 May (B&KM), on parade ground British fort.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 CR 19 May (BK), only report.

Least Sandpiper: arr max 21 CR 19 May (BK).

Dunlin: arr CR 28 Apr (BK,CM); max 7 CR 26 May (BK).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr N Farm Rd 21 May (BK,CM), responded to tape; max 7 CR 26 May (BK), vocalized; 3 alt Jones Pd 28 May (BM), 2nd FRAN record.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: 4 n Pt Henry 16 May (MBW), 1st ESSE & Reg spring record.

LAUGHING GULL: alt CR 31 Mat (MDM), 1st CLIN & 2nd Reg record.

Bonaparte's Gull: 83 CR 9 May (BK), only report.

Caspian Tern: arr NP 21 May (EDT); max 6 NP 28 May (MDM), near Four Brothers.

Com. Tern: arr NP 20 May (EDT); max 3 CR 9 May (BK).

Black Tern: arr PtF 19 May (J&RH); AMR 24 May (HW).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 14 May (GL,JP); CP 20 May (EDT); Chilson late May (LC).

E. Screech-Owl: calling CP 15 May (GL); Putnam Pd 23 May (DT).

Long-eared Owl: T Dickinson 20 Apr (MAM), rarely reported.

Whip-poor-will: Cook Mt 18 May (NC), only report.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Willsboro Pt 20 Apr (RL), early ESSE.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: calling CP 27 May (JP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr SL 3 Apr (BM), early FRAN; Keene 3 Apr (J&PT).

Am. Three-toed Woodpecker: f FB 13 May (SF)-17 May (SH), only site?

Black-backed Woodpecker: BBog, FB, Long L, usual sites.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Chilson 8 May (DMR), early ESSE.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr CP 18 May (JP); Jones Pd 27 May (BM); transient NP 28 May (MDM); Whiteface Mt 30 May L&PO).

Willow Flycatcher: arr NP 20 May (EDT); Banker Rd 28 May (BK,CM), only reports.

N. Shrike: Ellenburg Center 15 Apr (MM), late CLIN.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr SLHS 18 May (TD), a seemingly scarce bird.

Gray Jay: BBog, Moose R Plains, FB, Paul Smiths, usual locations; Cemetery Rd, Keene 11 Apr (J&PT), unexpected locale.

Am. Crow: 50 Inlet *feeder* 15 Mar (GL), on deer carcass.

Com. Raven: 6 same Inlet *feeder* 15 Mar; 2 CR 19 May (BK), bordering Champlain.

Horned Lark: 13 TL 31 Mar; 5 TL 20 Apr (CD).

Tree Swallow: arr Jay 29 Mar (PO); Rouses Pt 30 Mar (WF); Coot Hill 31 Mar (JH,MDM); max 100+ CH 17-24 Apr (NO); numbers down TL (CD).
Barn Swallow: arr SLHS 15 Apr (TD), early FRAN; numbers down TL (CD).
Boreal Chickadee: BBog, Brown's Tract Inlet, Harrietstown Marsh, Paul Smiths.
Tufted Titmouse: pr Elizabethtown 1-29 Mar (JP); pr Plattsburgh 7 Mar (BK); Ticonderoga 19 Mar-12 Apr (NC); AP 31 Mar (JL); New Russia (ET), all in valley & foothills.
Carolina Wren: Elizabethtown 1 Mar-7 Apr (JP), overwintered; Ticonderoga 19 Mar (NC), only reports.
House Wren: arr AP 9 Apr (J&PT), early CLIN by 2 wks; nesting in outgoing mail slot Wood Cliff, Plattsburgh (EF).
Sedge Wren: arr Peru 25 Apr (C&JH), early CLIN.
Marsh Wren: arr CLIN 5 May (J&RH); AP 24 May (NO).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr AP 4 May (MM); CP 17 May (JP); Ticonderoga 14 Apr (NC).
N. WHEATEAR: above treeline on 4960' Mt Haystack 27 May (G&MC, NYSARC), 2nd ESSE & 3rd Reg record, a superb find.
E. Bluebird: 36 eggs, 2 nestlings Essex nestbox trail 23 Apr (DL).
Bicknell's Thrush: each peak of Great Range 27 May (G&MC); 10 heard Whiteface Mt 30 May (L&PO).
Hermit Thrush: Jay 19 Mar (PO), 1st Mar record ESSE, perhaps also nearby on 8 Mar.
VARIED THRUSH: Paradox yard 25 May (LG-K, NYSARC), with flock of migrating robins, 1st ESSE & 2nd Reg record.
Gray Catbird: SLHS 16 Apr (TD), early FRAN.
N. Mockingbird: 3 Plattsburgh reports 7 Mar- 8 May; SLHS 21 May (TD), less expected site.
Brown Thrasher: arr Elizabethtown 30 Apr (JP); max 10 PtR 8 May (BK).
Bohemian Waxwing: max 80 CP village 27 Mar (JP,ET); at least 15 other reports of flocks of 20-50; 40 AMR 20 Mar

(HW), late FRAN.

Cedar Waxwing: max 20 CP & Jay, far less numerous than Bohemian.

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warbler: heard only E Br Ausable R 16 May (DCR).

Orange-crowned Warbler: SLHS 16 May (TD), 5th FRAN record; 2nd yr m banded CP 23 May (GH,JP,RW).

Nashville Warbler: Keene 21 Apr (J&PT), early ESSE.

Cape May Warbler: arr BBog 16 May (RM); 7 banded CP 18-23 May; Jay 24 May (PO); late migrant CF 27 May (BK,CM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 411 banded CP 13-24 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: CF 25 May (BK,CM), 1st CLIN & 3rd Reg record.

Pine Warbler: TL feeder 12 Apr (CD), early FRAN.

Prairie Warbler: m CP 25 May (JP), 7th banded there since 1988.

Palm Warbler: arr "Yellow" BBog 16 Apr (JC); others Jones Pd, Paul Smiths, Sabattis Bog.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 banded CP 18 May; NP 20 May (EDT); SLHS 20 May (TD), a narrow migratory window.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS

Chipping Sparrow: arr SL 3 Apr (BM), early FRAN.

Fox Sparrow: arr Elizabethtown 31 Mar (JP); max 8 TL 8 Apr (CD); ten other reports.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Speculator 4 May (PK), early HAMI.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 1000+ Long L 1-2 Apr (WL), ties HAMI max.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad m Upper Jay 20 Apr (PO), flying NE with flock of grackles, 4th ESSE record.

Orchard Oriole: imm & ad m CP 14-18 May (GL,JP,J&PT), both singing.

Pine Grosbeak: LP 4-25 Mar (LL), only report.

House Finch: leucistic finch with white head returned CH 6 May (NO) for 5th yr; max 5 banded CP 17-26 May.

Red Crossbill: pr Jay 24 Mar (PO), only report.

Com. Redpoll: max 170 New Russia 26 Mar (EKT); last Macomb SP 15 Apr (DCR).

Hoary Redpoll: 2 LP 28 Mar (LM), only report.

Pine Siskin: small numbers in all 4 counties.

Am. Goldfinch: only 39 banded CP; return 23 May now 7 yrs, 11 mo old.

Evening Grosbeak: max 100 Newcomb 13 Mar (ER).

EXOTIC:

Black Swan: free-flying imm Chapman Rd, Ft. Covington 24 May (HW).

ADDENDUM:

WOOD STORK: 2 Tarbell Rd, AMR c. early Jun 2001 (James Snyder, digital photo!), 1st FRAN record.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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Spring 2006 was warmer than average and moderately wet. The Hudson River was open throughout the period and ice cleared off the Mohawk River and most other bodies of water by the first week of March. At Albany International Airport, March was 1° warmer than average, relatively dry, and moderately windy. The last significant snow of 1.2 inches fell on 15 March amidst blustery wind and traces of rain. April began a seasonal warming trend, ending 2.9° warmer than average. The last frost occurred on 29 April. May was frequently foggy and 1.64 inches wetter than average. May's temperature seesawed between daily highs in the 50s and a high of 89° on the 30th, producing a median temperature close to historic averages.

Snow Geese failed to rest in large numbers this spring in traditional areas in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties. Rich Nord found several "Blue" Geese in a flock of 60 Snow Geese at Bells Pond in Livingston, Columbia County. Several observers reported "large flocks" of Brant on the Hudson River on 18 May, but none attempted to quantify the number of birds. Obviously, more information is preferable to less and I encourage observers to try to make estimates when specific counting is not possible.

Observers in the Region counted 7 Red-necked Grebes, a high number considering that the Great Lakes did not freeze this winter. Catherine Klatt spotted a **Glossy Ibis** at Vischer's Ferry in Saratoga County. Ibises are becoming increasingly frequent spring visitors to our Region.

Will Raup received a surprise when watching Bald Eagles circle over Stanton Pond in Coeymans, Albany County. He noticed that two adult Bald Eagles harassed what appeared to be an immature. Closer inspection revealed that the darker eagle was an adult Golden Eagle. The Bald Eagles eventually lost interest in their pursuit, and the Golden Eagle resumed its flight north.

Peter Lamboy in Scotia found what I believe is the first record of **Sandhill Crane** in Schenectady County. As cranes expand breeding opportunities at the margins of their range, we can probably expect to see an increasing number of overshoots into eastern New York and New England. A Whooping Crane was observed in adjacent Vermont this spring, but did not drift over the border despite the hopes of many eager Region 8 birders. Let's hope that this much rarer crane will someday enjoy a Sandhill-like expansion.

A single Upland Sandpiper was recorded in Stuyvesant, Columbia County, near County Route 21. Although Upland Sandpipers once bred in the county, they have not been observed in its shrinking grasslands for several years. The only other shorebird of note, a Pectoral Sandpiper, was seen regularly at Goeffroy's Pond, an unassuming splotch of mud in Columbia County that has yielded a diverse list of shorebirds in recent decades. It is precisely this type of locality most at risk that is most in need of the protection of motivated birders. Many upstate townships now have some measure of zoning laws. By casually monitoring land sale offerings and development proposals at the local level, we can better voice our concerns at planning board hearings when important habitat is at risk.

There were few surprises among this spring's passerine migrants. When you eliminate a handful of very early outliers, the bulk of neotropical migrants arrived within three days of historic average dates. Regional birders flocked mostly to traditional spring hotspots such as Black Creek Marsh in Albany County and Vischer's Ferry in Saratoga County to observe the season's first flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers, and orioles. Marsh Wren, Eastern Towhee, and White-crowned Sparrow were all remarkably early.

We had good reports of Hooded Warbler this spring. Sue Adair discovered a singing territorial male on Route 157 near Thatcher State Park. Observers also found this species at new locales in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** is the single rarity of the season, spotted by Melissa Koos on 15 April at her home in Comstock, Washington County. The bird was seen feeding on sunflower seeds in a small flock of Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird.

Alison Van Kueren reported a comparatively large flock of 65 Rusty Blackbirds at Black Creek Marsh. Such numbers, considered modest by many living birders, are uncommon now in Region 8. National Breeding Bird Survey data shows a significant decline of this species for reasons that are not clear.

Finally, the single Eurasian Collared-Dove seen by Carol & Owen Whitby deserves a few words. Every region in the state gets its share of exotics - an orange bishop here, a budgerigar there. We faithfully record these sightings in print, the readers smile, and we go on about our business of tracking New York's "real" avifauna. This species may be different, however. I predict - and mind you, predictions in ecology are notoriously shaky - that we will someday see a lot of Eurasian Collared-Doves. This species is currently leapfrogging around the southern United States. It already has a strong foothold in the Southeast. In 5 years it has colonized most of the counties between Texas and Los Angeles so that the Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America, published in 2002, does not currently describe even 50 percent of its actual range. There are

no reasons to suggest that it cannot colonize the north. It has all the makings of a European Starling or House Finch of the 21st Century. Its diet is general, its habitat requirements are unspecialized, it can breed multiple times a season, and, perhaps most importantly, it has a very high tolerance for humans and our habits. There is a grand and uncontrolled avian experiment at hand. Only time will reveal the result.

It is also my sad duty to report the loss of Kate Dunham, a dedicated contributor to the Alan Devoe Bird Club, one of this organization's oldest member clubs. Kate lost a hard-fought battle with cancer in May. She involved herself in local conservation issues too numerous to list here, and she will be missed by many in the birding community.

CONTRIBUTORS

Sue Adair, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Marcia Anderson, David Baim, Hope & Mary Batcheller, Ramona Bearor, Bob Carroll, Gerry Colborn, Bill Cook, David Diaz, Kate Dunham, Jessica Evans, Corey Finger, David Gibson, Jane Graves, Rich Guthrie, John Hershey, Hudson Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, Nancy Kern, Peter Lamboy, Jory Langner, Bill Lee, Mitzi Lobdell, Catherine Klatt, Melissa Koos, David & Sandy Martin, Andrew Mason, Steve Mesick, Frank Murphy, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Pemrick, Barbara Putnam, Will Raup, Susan Scheck, Jeff Schoonmaker, Laura Sommers, Joan Steiner, Vincent Sturn, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Alan Wirth, Tom Williams, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; BCM – Black Creek Marsh State Wildlife Management Area ALBA; BER – T Berne ALBA; CLA – T Claverack COLU; FtE – T Fort Edward WASH; GHE – T Ghent COLU; HR – Hudson Ri; JL – Jenny Lake SARA; MR – Mohawk Ri.; NBA – T New Baltimore GREE; VF – Vischer's Ferry NHP SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: arr Bells Pond COLU
13 Mar; 40 SCHE 13-28 Mar; 11 MR
12 Apr.
Brant: arr COLU 13 May; "Large flocks"
HR 18 May, no estimates of numbers
provided, *intro*.
Wood Duck: arr VF 7 Mar.
Gadwall: arr Collins L SCHE 15 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 50 VF 11-17 Mar; 14
Nassau L RENS 14 Mar; max 74 VF
19 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr VF 31 Mar.
N. Shoveler: arr VF 5 Apr.
N. Pintail: arr VF 11 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr Saratoga L 12
Mar.
Canvasback: last AUS 28 Mar.
Redhead: HR at FtE 19 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: arr HR 19 Mar.
White-winged Scoter: SARA L 20 May.
Bufflehead: max 20 Tomhannock Res
RENS 11 Apr.
Com. Goldeneye: max 11 MR 11 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 NBA
11 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: arr GHE 13 Apr; last
Collin L SCHE 24 May.

Com. Loon: max 6 SARA L 20 May.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr VF 19 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr HR at COX 5 Mar;
Saratoga L 19 Mar.

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Saratoga L
19 Mar; 4 Mile Pt GREE 10 Apr; max
4 COX 14 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr VF 6 Apr.

Least Bittern: VF 7 May; BCM 20 May.

Great Egret: 2 Bog Meadow Brook
SARA 8 May.

Green Heron: arr VF 26 Apr.

GLOSSY IBIS: VF 2 Apr (CK).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Vosburgh Marsh GREE
8 Apr.

N. Harrier: max 4 COX flats 11 Mar.

N. Goshawk: Thatcher SP 25 Apr,
only report.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Rexford SARA
7 Mar; Wilton SARA 13 Apr; 5 Rivers
ALBA 6 May; Blenheim SCHO 20 May.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr AUS 12 Apr.

Golden Eagle: Stanton Pd Coeymans
ALBA 18 May (WR).

Merlin: Troy RENS 12 Mar; Taghkanic
COLU 17 Mar; Saratoga NP 4 May thru.

Peregrine Falcon: Dunn Memorial
Bridge ALBA 1 Apr, on eggs.

Virginia Rail: arr BCM 2 Apr.

Sora: arr BCM 14 Apr.

Com. Moorhen: arr BCM 20 Apr.

Am. Coot: arr BCM 2 Apr; Vosburgh
Marsh GREE 8 Apr.

SANDHILL CRANE: Scotia SCHE
7 Apr (PL), county record.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 7 Papscanee
1 RENS 24 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr GHE 3 Apr.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr NBA 28 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Chatham
COLU 7 Apr.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr NBA 18 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: Stuyvesant COLU
4 May, unusual in COLU.

Least Sandpiper: arr Stillwater SARA
5 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Geoffroy's Pd
CLA 13 Apr (RN).

Am. Woodcock: arr CLA 11 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr CLA 10 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Niskayuna SCHE
15 Apr (RY), only report.

Caspian Tern: arr Peebles I SARA
5 May (CF).

Black Tern: 8 SARA L 20 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr BCM 6 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Landis
Arboretum SCHO 8 May.

Snowy Owl: GHE COLU Airport
10 Mar (MA).

Com. Nighthawk: arr CLA 18 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr Hillsdale COLU 13
May; Coeymans ALBA 28 May,
only reports.

Chimney Swift: arr Collins L SCHE
2 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr
Taghkanic COLU 2 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Petersburg
RENS 22 May.

E. Wood Pewee: arr Livingston COLU
23 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr COX 17 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Clermont COLU
13 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr NBA 29 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr AUS
2 May.

E. Kingbird: arr Schodack RENS 2 May.

N. Shrike: last New Lebanon COLU 27 Mar.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr VF 29 Apr.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Capital District
WMA ALBA 15 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr NBA 27 Apr.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Voorheesville
ALBA 6 May.

Blue Jay: West Sand L RENS
24 May, albino.

Horned Lark: max 26 Florida MONT 1
Mar; SARA County Airport
20 May, breeding.

Purple Martin: arr 6 Glen MONT
2 May, max 20 Kaydeross Ave SARA
5 May thru.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Lock 7 SCHE 15 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr VF 29 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr COLU 13 May.
Barn Swallow: arr NBA 16 Apr.
House Wren: arr Troy RENS 19 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr BCM 14 Apr, very early.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr NBA 12 Apr.
Veery: arr AUS 11 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Cole Hill Forest ALBA 11 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Rotterdam SCHE 19 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr Albany 4 May.
Gray Catbird: arr NBA 16 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr 5 Rivers ALBA 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 25 Middleburgh SCHO 18 Mar; 2 Peebles I SARA 7 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Guilderland ALBA 27 Apr.
"Lawrence's Warbler": New Lebanon COLU 24 May (JS)
Golden-winged Warbler: GHE 13 May (CW, OW), only report.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Taghkanic COLU 11 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Troy RENS 4 May.
N. Parula: arr Saratoga NP 4 May
Yellow Warbler: arr VF 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Taghkanic COLU 27 Apr (AW), early.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Voorheesville ALBA 6 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Albany 4 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Slingerlands ALBA 3 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Colonie ALBA 2 May.
Pine Warbler: arr BER 1 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 5 Rivers ALBA 5 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Greenport COLU 12 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Papscanee I RENS 20 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Clermont COLU 13 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr CLA 3 May.
Am. Redstart: arr VF 4 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr Coeymans ALBA 20 May.
Ovenbird: arr Saratoga NP 4 May.
N. Waterthrush: arr BCM 20 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Stanton Rd ALBA 14 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: AUS 30 May, only report.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Troy RENS 4 May.
Hooded Warbler: Rt 157 ALBA 9 May (SA); 2 Hold Preserve ALBA 25 May; New Salem RENS 27 May.
Canada Warbler: arr AUS 13 May.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr BCM 6 May.
E. Towhee: arr Albany 19 Mar, very early.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 18 Apr Gansevoort SARA.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Chatham COLU 26 Mar.
Field Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 8 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr New Scotland ALBA 14 Apr; Florida MONT 20 Apr; NBA 30 Apr; Saratoga National Cemetery 4 May thru, all reports.
Fox Sparrow: 2 arr BER 15 Mar; max 8 BER 2 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr AUS 8 May
White-crowned Sparrow: arr GHE 16 Mar, record early date.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Niskayuna SCHE 27 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Colonie ALBA 6 May.
Bobolink: arr Taghkanic COLU 6 May.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: m Comstock WASH 15 Apr. (MK), photographed.
Rusty Blackbird: 12 4 Mile Pt GREE 12 Mar; BCM 2-6 Apr; New Lebanon COLU 9 Apr; max 65 BCM 16 Apr (AVK); 4 BCM 20 Apr; 20 Castleton RENS 27 Apr, last BCM 7 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr Rennselaer Tech
Park RENS 26 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Rennselaer Tech
Park RENS 22 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: 30 BER 1-21 Mar;
Glenville SCHE 16 Mar;

Pine Siskin: numerous scattered reports
of flocks 1-10 individuals.

Evening Grosbeak: 3 BER 21 Mar;
6 W Fulton SCHO 2 Apr; Jefferson
SCHO 7 Apr; JL SARA 9 Apr thru;
Summit SCHO 20 May.

EXOTICS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Millbrook Rd CLA
13 May (CW, OW).

REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

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The season started out very dry. Only 0.6 inches of precipitation fell in White Plains in March, four inches short of normal. Poughkeepsie saw just over an inch. Fortunately this meant no late winter or spring blizzards. Poughkeepsie saw three inches of snow on 2 March followed by temperatures dropping to 6°F on the 3rd. A week later saw temperatures climb into the low seventies on the 10th, almost 30 degrees higher than the normal high. The warm temperatures remained for a week. The last half of the month remained normal but with little precipitation. April had normal precipitation but averaged two degrees warmer. There were no weather patterns to bring in early migrants. Most arrival dates were normal. May started out dry, but on 11 May a “cut off low”, a large low pressure system over the Great Lakes, got separated from the jet stream and with no upper level winds to push it along moved very slowly for 4 days. The counter-clockwise flow of air around the low drew copious amounts of moist oceanic air over New England. The result was major flooding in New England. White Plains was deluged by 3.4 inches of rain on the 12th, Poughkeepsie had just under an inch of rain. They fared much better than some parts of New England which had over 10 inches on the 14th and 15th. This system may have brought Dutchess County’s first county record for **Red Phalarope** on 13 May on the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club’s May census.

Another highlight of the season was the discovery of three new species to breed in Westchester County. James Vellozzi discovered breeding **N. Saw-whet Owls** in Armonk. First discovered in March, owlets were seen on 17 May. The nest hole was monitored by James, and, with the help of Trudy Batterly and Drew Panko, five young were banded.

Evan Mark reported a single **Great Blue Heron nest** on Tarrytown Reservoir. Kelli Jewell and I check on the nest in late May; no chicks were seen, but they appeared to be sitting on eggs. The nest eventually produced four young herons. The third was finally a **Bald Eagle nest** for Westchester County. As reported in the Hudson River Almanac by Steve Joule and Tom

Lake, this new Bald Eagle nest, designated NY124, is now the southernmost on the tidewater Hudson. Two chicks were banded in late May.

Valerie Freer located a Red-necked Grebe at Morningside Park between Hurllyville and Loch Sheldrake on 5 April. She decided to see what else may have come in at other lakes and found another Red-necked at Kiamesha Lake in Monticello and still another on Swan Lake near Liberty.

John Hass was observing a Bald Eagle at the Bashakill on 11 April when it suddenly dove into the marsh and put up a large bird. As the bird banked into the sunlight to out maneuver the eagle he saw bright chestnut with glossy green wings; a Glossy Ibis. He made several phone calls, and the bird remained and was viewed by others. This is the third record for Sullivan County.

In early May, an odd-looking warbler was reported from Doodletown Road at the first turn on the trail up from Route 9W. Lloyd Spitalnik reported that at times it would sing a typical American Redstart song but at other times would add an extra syllable or two. He was also able to photograph it and to place images on the web. The bird had two wing bars, lacked the orange patches on the sides of the breast, and the wings and tail were gray and the tail was short. It appears to be a hybrid of an American Redstart and an unknown other warbler.

Other notable species include: Sandhill Crane, Black Tern, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPP-Croton Point Park, EGR-Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, MC Marshlands Conservancy, RNC-Rye Nature Center.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: flock overhead Rhinebeck 29 Mar; 6 Neversink Res 24 April.
Brant: 1100 MC 7 May; 2500 flying overhead in evening, Mt Vernon 21 May.
Mute Swan: on nest Chadwick Lake, Newburgh 7 Mar.
Wood Duck: 463 Bashakill 18 Apr.
Gadwall: 80 Rockland L 22 Mar.
Am. Wigeon: 30 Saugerties 10 Mar.
Blue-winged Teal: Lake Walton 17 May.
N. Pintail: 3 Rhinebeck 5 Mar; 5 Tivoli Bay 10 Mar; 6 Pine Planes 11 Mar; Bashakill 17 Apr.
Redhead: 18 Rockland Lake 8 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: 100 Saugerties 10 Mar; 77 L Walton 17 Mar; 8 Livingston Manor 13 Apr; Millbrook 3 May; Ashokan Res 10 May; Kiamesha L 13 May.
Greater Scaup: 500 EGR 11 Mar; Dutchess May census 13 May.
Lesser Scaup: 100 EGR 11 Mar; 2 Swan Lake 20 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: 22 EGR 9 Apr.
Black Scoter: 6-10, 13 Sylvan Lake, Beekman 30 Mar; 3 EGR 2 Apr.
Long-tailed Duck: 80 EGR 26 Mar; 4 Morningside Park 1 Apr; 4 Neversink Reservoir 8 Apr; Kingston Point Beach 13 May.
Bufflehead: 60 Rockland L 29 Mar.
Com. Goldeneye: 10 EGR 26 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 30 Bowline Town Park 11 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: Beacon River Park 5 Mar; Rondout Res 8 Apr; Piermont Pier 19 May.
Ruddy Duck: 60 Rockland L 22 Mar.
Red-throated Loon: 6 EGR 26 Mar; 12 EGR 5 Apr.
Com. Loon: 8 EGR 26 Mar; Neversink Res 30 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: Lake Walton 17 May.
Horned Grebe: 7 EGR 26 Mar; Neversink Reservoir 1,2 Apr (JH); 24 EGR 2 Apr (TB).
Red-necked Grebe: Rye 1 Mar, 2,9 Apr (TB); Norrie Pt 18-19 Mar. (P&BJ); Morningside Park 5 Apr (VF); Kiamesha Lake 5 Apr (JH); Liberty 5 Apr (JH); diff birds

N. Gannet: 2 MC 6 Apr.
Am. Bittern: Bashakill 12 Apr; Nyack 15 Apr; sev Bashakill 13 May; 2 Dutchess May census 13 May.
Least Bittern: Piermont Pier 30 Apr (A&DW); Bashakill 24 May (JDi, TF).
Great Egret: EGR 1; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 18 Apr.
Snowy Egret: arr 8 Apr.
Little Blue Heron: EGR 9 May; Dutchess May census 13 May; Fishkill 27 May (ES).
Cattle Egret: Dutchess May census 13 May.
Green Heron: arr 10 Apr Pawling.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: EGR 24 Apr.
Glossy Ibis: EGR 2 Apr; Bashakill 11 Apr (JH, RD, AB, VF).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Bald Eagle: on nests in DUTC by March; 6 imm, 6 Bowline Town Park 11 Mar; 1 ad Pawling 11 Mar; first nest for WEST, see intro.
N. Goshawk: Hyde Park 15 Mar; Westbrookville 3 Apr; Doodletown 6 May; Neversink R 13 May.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 10 Apr; 12 Hook Mt 12 Apr; 530 Hook Mt 15 Apr; 320 Hook Mt 16 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Stissing Mt 8, 18 Mar (CV); 1 imm Pawling 11 Mar (BB, CP).
Merlin: Smithfield 1 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Poughkeepsie RR bridge 5 Mar, 28 Apr; 2 New Paltz 15 May.
Clapper Rail: MC 27 Apr.
Sora: Saugerties 15 Apr (SC); 4 Dutchess May census 13 May; Piermont Pier 19 May; East Fishkill 2,3 May.
Com. Moorhen: arr Bashakill 24 Apr.
Am. Coot: 40 Sylvan L 9 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: Walkkill River NWR 8-10, 13 May (RSt).
Black-bellied Plover: 2-6 MC 18, 24, 25, 30 May.
Am. Golden-Plover: Pine Plains 8, 9, 16 Apr (BB).
Semipalmated Plover: 24 Swinging Bridge Res 24, 25 May.

Am. Oystercatcher: EGR 20 Mar; 2 EGR 26 Mar; 6 EGR 2 Apr; 2 MC 20, 28 Apr; 3 EGR 19 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: 19 MC 24 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Orange County Airport 17 Apr; Blue Chip Farm 19 Apr; Blue Chip Farm 13 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: EGR 19 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 Swinging Bridge Res 25 May.
Least Sandpiper: 50 Swinging Bridge Res 13-25 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 4 Swinging Bridge Res 25-27 May (JH).
Pectoral sandpiper: Pine Plains 24 Apr.
Purple Sandpiper: 20 EGR 9 Mar; 2 EGR 19 May.
Dunlin: Woodbourne 14 May; 2 Swinging Bridge Res 23-25 May (JH).
Short-billed Dowitcher: MC 25 May.
Wilson's Snipe: 36 Montgomery 8 Apr (CM); 10 Rhinebeck 9 Apr; 14 Bashakill 18 Apr.
RED PHALAROPE: Dutchess May census 13 May, 1st DUTC record.
Laughing Gull: 4 EGR 5 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: 3 Neversink Res 13 Apr (LV).
Com. Tern: 30 Rye 7 May; 100 Rye 8 May.
Forster's Tern: 3 MC 9,27 Apr; 3 EGR 18 May; 2 MC 23 May.
Least Tern: 8 MC 18 May; MC 31 May.
Black Tern: Bashakill 17 May (KMc, JH, RD, VF).

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Black-billed Cuckoo: good numbers.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: good numbers.
Long-eared Owl: Dutchess May census 13 May.
Short-eared Owl: Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge 27 Mar.
N. Saw-whet Owl: Armonk 15 Mar (JV), breeding, see *intro*.
Whip-poor-will: Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 12 Apr; Tallman SP 26 Apr; 3 Westbrookville 28 Apr; Coldspring 13 May.
Chimney Swift: 50 Poughkeepsie 24 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Blue Chip Farm 16,19 Apr, 13 May; Saugerties 18 Apr; New Paltz 28 Apr; 2 New Paltz 16 May.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: RNC 18 May; Doodletown 23 May; Verbank 25 May; Baskakill 27 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Bashakill 19 May; MC 22 May; RNC 23 May; Yankee L 23 May; RNC 25 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 20 May; 5 Bashakill 28 May.
Alder Flycatcher: expected reports from Bashakill and Sterling Forrest; Verbank 25 May; Croton Point 26 May.
Willow Flycatcher: Doodletown 5 May.
E. Phoebe: arr 5 Mar, ties early date.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 28 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Onteora Lake State Park 11 May (HH); Dutchess May census 13 May; New Paltz 16 May (GN).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 22 Apr, early.
Am. Crow: roost of 8000-10,000 Poughkeepsie 5 Mar (CV).
Fish Crow: arr 5 Mar.
Horned Lark: 67 Plankenhorn Fm 3 Mar.
Bank Swallow: 200 Fishkill 4 May (ES).
Winter Wren: 6 Denning 10 May.
Marsh Wren: Thompson Pd 8 Mar, an early, well-seen bird (CV); MC 14 Apr; Saugerties 15 Apr; 3 Tivoli Bay 7 May; Pawling early May; Constitution Marsh 13, 26 May; Bashakill 13,17,22 May; 10 MC 25 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: 2 Dutchess May census 13 May; RNC May 24; 2 MC 26 May.
Bicknell's Thrush: singing and seen well RNC 22 May (TB).
Am. Robin: mostly white with orange breast Yonkers 12 Apr (BS).
Am. Pipit: 15 Blue Chip Farm 13 May; 2 Neversink Res 11 May.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 26 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: reports from Sterling Forrest, Mine Road and Linear Park.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Mine Road 26,31 May (BG,DG); Tivoli Bays 9 May (JC); Hopewell Jct 18 (PF).

"Brewster's" Warbler: Mohonk Preserve 5 May; Dutchess May census 13 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Pawling 10 Apr (SG).

Nashville Warbler: at feeder 12 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: Doodletown 5 May (BL); Bashakill 13 May (JD, SS); Wurtsboro 14 May; Amenia 21 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Dutchess May census 13 May.

Pine Warbler: arr 15 Mar, early.

Prairie Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Palm Warbler: 50 Rockland Lake SP 26 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Bashakill 13 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown 27 Apr; Ashokan Reservoir 16 May.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 9 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: Hastings-on-Hudson 12 May; Bashakill 13,24,27 May; Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 13 May; RNC 25,26 May; 2 MC 26 May; Sundown 29 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 27 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Port Orange Rd 17 May (KMc).

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 11 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: Montgomery 18 Apr (CM); Neversink 23 Apr (RD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Saugerties 13 May (PS).

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Croton Point 16 May (LB); MC 18 May; 3 MC 25,31 May.

Seaside Sparrow: MC 27 Apr, 5 May.

Savannah Sparrow: 15 Orange County Airport 17 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: numerous reports in May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 3 at feeder 14 Apr (S&PG).

Rusty Blackbird: 15 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 11 March; 18 Town of Washington 17 Mar, 2 HVRT 14 Mar CV; 28 New City 14 Mar; Buttercup West 29 Mar; still present Bashakill 4 May.

Orchard Oriole: arr 25 Apr.

Baltimore Oriole: Bronxville 21 Mar (ABI).

Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 Rockland L 22 Mar.

Com. Redpoll: 50 Loch Sheldrake, 7,9 Mar (RSh,KMc); 2 Parksville 5 Apr; Livingston Manor 5 Apr(LV).

Pine Siskin: Livingston Manor 1,17 Apr; Rhinebeck 12 Apr; Claryville 14 Apr; 10 Pleasant Valley all May; 5 Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 7 May.

Evening Grosbeak: 26 Parksville early Apr (SR).

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REGION 10-MARINE

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The average temperature in March was very close to average at 39.5°F, but this month was very dry. The total of 1.08" of precipitation fell 3.68" below average. In contrast April was warm, almost 2° F above average, and wet, 3.16" above average. The weather for the month of May was very close to average, with a mean temperature of 59.4° F and a precipitation total of 4.42".

The general consensus of active observers was that migration waves during May were very few and relatively small. Hugh McGuinness attributed the generally poor volume to a "low pressure system that parked itself over the Great lakes for the first 17 days of May and brought us almost continuous east winds." The first real wave of Neotropical migrants was observed on 4 May and continued through 7 May. Many localities throughout the Region recorded multiple new species arrivals on these dates. Although the abundance of migrants was fairly good during this period, it was certainly not spectacular. Species diversity was generally quite high, in part because various medium-distance migrants, which had already been passing through for some time, were also well represented in this flight. Also noteworthy were a number of reports of species whose status as spring migrants in our Region is poorly understood: Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Dickcissel.

As in spring 2005, many southeastern North American breeders made a good showing in our Region, including Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Swainson's (no details), Kentucky, and Hooded warblers and Summer Tanager. In contrast, migrant Blue Grosbeaks went completely unreported with the exception of one-two at Central Park, an atypical location, in May. Perhaps it is noteworthy that Indigo Buntings also produced almost no April overshoots this year; just two on eastern LI. Reports of the southern species listed above are provided in detail again this year, for purposes of comparison with the summaries published last year (*Kingbird* 55: 213-227).

Once again, a number of exceptionally early arrival dates were noted. Ken Allaire's singing Eastern Wood-Pewee at Inwood Hill Park on 19 April can only be described as astonishing. A Louisiana Waterthrush at Central Park on 17 March was the earliest ever in NYS. Beautifully photographed by Cal Vornberger, this bird remained at least through 28 March. Also very early were Yellow-throated Vireo at Napeague on 13 April; Purple Martin at the South Fork Natural History Museum, Bridgehampton, on 28 March; Wood Thrush at Forest Park on 8 April; Northern Parula at Hempstead Lake State Park on

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9 April; Prairie Warbler at Central Park on 4 April; and a well-described Lincoln's Sparrow at Willowbrook Park on the extraordinary date of 14 April. Observers are urged to treat exceptional seasonal records with the same care as vagrants and to strive to document such birds through careful field notes and photographs and by showing them to additional observers. Observers should also be aware that although some species show very variable arrival dates from year to year, e.g., Eastern Kingbird, Indigo Bunting, and Scarlet Tanager, many other species show remarkably stereotyped migration schedules and almost always arrive within a very narrow date range, regardless of the weather, e.g., Red-eyed Vireo, Veery, and Yellow Warbler. Unusually early reports of species in the latter category or of species such as pewee and Yellow-throated Vireo, which resemble common early migrants such as phoebe and Pine Warbler, will surely raise doubts unless the observers take pains to support the identifications.

A particularly complex example is afforded by the House Wren reported from Cunningham Park on 2 April. This could be interpreted in any of three ways. It could represent an extraordinarily early arrival; Fritz and Quinlan give the earliest NYS arrival as 9 April in *Bull's Birds of New York State*, 1998. This report could also represent an exceptional example of over-winter survival; Fritz and Quinlan knew of no such examples, but it is worth noting that well documented House Wrens were unusually numerous on CBCs in the Northeast this winter. Finally, although it seems unlikely in this case given the observers' experience, confusion with Winter Wren is a perennial problem afflicting unseasonal reports of House Wrens. Winter Wrens not only winter regularly in our Region and are on the move in early April, but they have been mistaken for House Wrens on Christmas Bird Counts forever. John Bull's discussion of this problem in *Birds of the New York Area*, pp. 44-46, is almost as relevant today as it was in 1964. In this age of climate change, either of the first two interpretations seems perfectly plausible. Even so, and although we understand that nobody enjoys having their reports questioned, we hope that our contributors understand that exceptional reports ought to be recognized and treated as such. They deserve documentation, which is the only basis for objective evaluation.

The peak of shorebird migration, as observed around Moriches and Shinnecock inlets, occurred from 21-29 May. Encouragingly, there were two counts of 500+ Red Knots, and a tally of 750 Ruddy Turnstones at Pike's Beach on 29 May is possibly the second highest count ever for the state.

Well documented and critically evaluated were Bicknell's Thrushes at Central Park and Prospect Park. This species is very difficult to identify, and we wish to commend Brian Hart, Lloyd Spitalnik, Rob Jett, Doug Gochfeld, and Steve Nanz for making the effort to evaluate vocal, structural, and plumage details, and for soliciting commentary from such authorities as David Sibley and P. A. Buckley.

The long list of documented rarities included **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**, **"Black" Brant**, **"Grey-bellied/Intermediate" Brant**, **Barnacle Goose**, **"Eurasian" Green-winged Teal**, **White-faced Ibis**, **King Rail**, **Wilson's Plover**, **Arctic Tern**, **White-winged Dove**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Species names in capitals are those requiring NYSARC review or, when followed by "R10," records unusual enough in Region 10 to warrant documentation.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pond P; BLSP – Belmont L SP; BNL – Brookhaven National Laboratory; BP – Breezy Pt; CCP – Cupsogue County P; CHP – Conference House P, SI; CLP – Clove Lakes P, SI; CP – Central P; CRSPP – Connetquot R SP Preserve; CSI – College of Staten I; CSP – Captree SP; DP – Democrat Pt; EEB – East End Birds email summary; EH – E Hampton; EP – Eisenhower P; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FP – Forest Park; FT – Fort Tilden; GA – Gabreski Airport; GKP – Great Kills P; HLSP Hempstead L SP; IHP - Inwood Hill P;

JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; LI – Long Island; Mass – Massapequa Preserve; MB – Mecox Bay; MLP – Mt Loretto P, SI; MP – Montauk Pt; MS – Maple Swamp; OP – Orient Pt; PB – Pike’s Beach, PL – Pt Lookout; PP – Prospect Park; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten I; SOFO – South Fork Natural History Museum, Bridgehampton, SSNC – South Shore Nature Center, E Islip; TRCP – Teddy Roosevelt CP, Montauk; VCP – Van Cortland P; VSSP – Valley Stream SP; WFE – William Floyd Estate; WP - Willowbrook P; WPP - Wolfe’s Pd P, SI.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: 3

Jam Bay 28 May thru (Joe O’Connell, Jr. & Joe O’Connell, Sr.; mob!).

Greater White-fronted Goose: BLSP 5 Mar (PL, SM).

Snow Goose: 100 Bridgehampton 14 Mar (EF); 800+ Jam Bay 25 Mar (TF).

Brant: 20,000 Jam Bay 5 May (PL, SM); fly-overs CP 20 & 25 May (TF), indicative of timing of northbound migration.

“BLACK” BRANT: 2 (ad, 1W) WPP-MLP 1-31 Mar (SMu!, RV).

“GREY-BELLIED/INTERMEDIATE” BRANT: WPP-MLP throughout Mar (SMu!).

BARNACLE GOOSE: EP 6 Mar, from winter.

Wood Duck: 8 Eastport Pd 14 May (PL, SM).

Eurasian Wigeon: 2 m East Moriches 4 Mar (JO), from winter; m FBF 4-16 Mar, from winter.

Blue-winged Teal: pr MLP 26 Mar (CH, MSh, RiM); pr E Quogue 12 Apr; 2 arr e LI TRCP 15 Apr (HM, BK).

N. Shoveler: CP 14 May, late; Jam Bay thru.

Green-winged Teal: 3 Greenwood Cemetery 13 Mar (MZ), unusual loc; 50 Water Mill 17 Mar (SB, RJ, DG), largest number reported from e LI this and last season; max 500 Tobay 25 Mar; 200 Terrell R 2 Apr (JK).

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10): m Tobay 25 Mar & 19 Apr (SM, PL); probable hybrid m also present 25 Mar.

Redhead: max 98 Capri Pd 5 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: m Sag Harbor 5 May (HM); f EP 13 & 14 May (AB, PL, SM).

Greater Scaup: 2 Sagg mid May (EEB).

Lesser Scaup: 100 Mill Pd, Watermill 24 Mar (VB).

Com. Eider: max 5000 n of L Montauk 17 Mar (SB, RJ); 155 Shinnecock Bay 29 Mar, cont from winter (BA); 5 OP 7 May (AJL); MP 14 May (JDi, SS); L Montauk In 14 May (VB).

Surf Scoter: 500 RMSP 1 Apr.

Black Scoter: 300 RMSP 1 Apr.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 m JBWE thru 26 May at least; pr Shinn 21 May.

Bufflehead: m CRSPP 18 May (JG), late.

Hooded Merganser: latest f Tobay 6 May; pr EP 21 May (HM, BK), poss nest site?

Com. Merganser: 21 Peconic R 4 Mar (BA).

Ruddy Duck: 400 Mill Pd, Watermill 24 Mar (VB); 157 Short’s Pd 2 Apr (AJL); 150 Jam Bay 14 May (PL, SM), some of these thru; 5 CP thru (TF).

Wild Turkey: 1-2 CP 26 Mar-7 Apr; Morningside P 23 Mar (fide DC), ph; Riverside P 14, 22 May; f Battery P 23 May (PGr); NYBG 25 May.

N. Bobwhite: pr Wading R 18 Mar (E&BG); 4 Southold 22 Mar (EL); f Eaton’s Neck yard 13 May, unusual loc; 2 Rt 51 Bike Path 22 May (TWB, GB); sev reports from Montauk mid May.

Pied-billed Grebe: pr CRSPP 19 Mar (K&SF), courting.

Horned Grebe: CP 5-13 May, rare here.

Red-necked Grebe: Culloden Pt 17 Mar (SB, RJ), from winter.

N. Fulmar: Shelter I 15 May (NH), freshly dead.

Sooty Shearwater: 2 arr RMSF 20 May (PL); small numbers from favorable vantages, eg. DP & Shinn, thru.

Manx Shearwater: 2 arr DP 28 May (PL, SM).

N. Gannet: 500 DP 17 May; 38 DP 28 May, late for so many.

Great Cormorant: alt Shinn 14 May (PL, SM, JDi).

Am. Bittern: Tobay 10 Mar (JF); PP 1 Apr (AxW), unusual loc; 2 Dune Rd 2 May (KF), late; CP 26 May (TF), very late

Least Bittern: Jam Bay 14 May (JDi et al); Shelter I 14 May (NH, TD); Jam Bay 29 May (K&SF).

Great Egret: 2 Dune Rd 11 Mar (JF), early; SI 19 Mar (SIW), early; CP 25 Mar (TF), early.

Snowy Egret: arr Amagansett 15 Mar (CS); arr GKP 21 Mar (JFI).

Little Blue Heron: arr Ponquogue Bridge 31 Mar (MH); Mass 2 Apr (JMa).

Tricolored Heron: CP 11 Apr (SQ et al), rare for loc; arr e LI Dune Rd 21 May (AJL, StB).

Cattle Egret: Flushing Airport 15 Apr (SP); 2 Patchogue sump 13 May (SM); 2 Jam Bay 17 May; Bridgehampton 20, 22 May (BK).

Green Heron: arr MLP 10 Apr (TF); CP 11 Apr (TF); arr e LI at CCP 16 Apr (AB).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr CP 15 Apr (TF); nest HLSP 30 Apr, known nest site; Quogue 21 May (JH), scarce on e LI.

Glossy Ibis: arr 6 Jam Bay 31 Mar (RJ, SB, SSi); arr e LI Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk 15 Apr (HM, BK).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 27, 29 Apr (SSi! et al.).

BLACK VULTURE (R10): 2 Greenbelt Visitor Center, SI 25 Mar (PB, NM); 3 Richmond Ave, SI 4 Apr (TBr!); South Ferry, Shelter I 30 Mar (NH, RA) and 19 Apr (RKi); Inlet Pd P, Greenport 5 Apr (TD); MLP 10 Apr (TF); Riverhead 6 May (AB).

Turkey Vulture: former Grumman property 6, 8 Mar, cont from winter; max 22 Shelter I 7 Mar (BB) &

22 Orient 6 Apr (GR), during peak migration; increasingly widespread and numerous reports from e LI thru.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr BNL 11 Mar, from webcam at nest site.

Bald Eagle: imm former Grumman property 1, 5 and 6 Mar, from winter (DH); ad Bronx 15 Mar (SKL); imm South Ferry, Shelter I 20 Apr (NH); 1+ imm CP 5, 18 & 26 May; imm Watermill 19 May (PBu); imm EH 20 May, poss same as imm reported Napeaugue earlier in day; imm Jam Bay 23 May (JT).

Cooper's Hawk: 2 Camp Hero 2 Apr (VB).

N. Goshawk: Brookhaven 21 Mar (JC); Aquebogue 22 Mar (BA).

Red-shouldered Hawk: PP 8 Mar (AxW) and 25 Mar (RJ); Kissena P 11 Mar (A&KO); MP 19 Mar (JG); CSI 10 Apr (TB et al).

Broad-winged Hawk: Montauk 2 Apr (AJL); Amagansett 8 Apr (LBe, BN); Riverhead 12 Apr (BA); E Lake Drive, Montauk 16 Apr (VB); Shelter I 30 Apr (K&BR).

Rough-legged Hawk: GKP 17 Mar (MSh).

Am. Kestrel: f Harlem 15 Mar (JPO); pr nesting 9th St, Manhattan 16 Mar (SK); 6 former Grumman property 21 Mar (DH); EH Airport 2 May (MW).

Merlin: CP 10 Mar (PPo et al); Camp Hero 15 May (VB), late.

Peregrine Falcon: NYC breeders present as usual; SUFF reports inc ad RMSF Causeway 11 Mar thru 26 May at least, suspected breeding site; near Ponquogue Bridge 14 May (JDi, SSi).

Clapper Rail: CHP 28 Apr (CB), unusual loc?; max 8 Dune Rd. 14 May.

KING RAIL: Tobay 16 Apr – 5 May (DK, mob!).

Virginia Rail: Dune Rd 4 Mar (AJL); PP 6 Apr (PD), unusual locs.

Sora: Jam Bay 11 May (TF et al).

Am. Coot: 2 Jam Bay 14 May, late.

Black-bellied Plover: 120 Rt 51 sod fields 14 May, a very large number away from coast.

WILSON'S PLOVER: RMSP 28 Apr (AMc!).
Semipalmated Plover: 50 JBWE 5 May, early for so many.
Piping Plover: arr 2 PL 13 Mar (SS); arr 4 PB 16 Mar (AM); max at least 15 PL 9 Apr (SS).
Killdeer: 2 arr Nickerson Beach 13 Mar (BBe).
Am. Oystercatcher: 2 Tobay 10 Mar (JF), does not winter at this site.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 40 Montauk Dude Ranch 4 May (VB).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr e LI 8 Apr (LBe, BN).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr e LI Calverton 29 Apr (MW); last CP 26 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 21 CP 26 May (TF), high count.
Upland Sandpiper: GA 3 May (KF); 2 "singing" GA 21 May (HM, BK).
Whimbrel: arr Ponquogue Bridge 14 May (JDi et al); 2 Ponquogue Bridge 21 May and later; BP 28 May (PSh).
Ruddy Turnstone: max 750 PB 29 May (PL, SM).
Red Knot: max 580 JBWE 10 May; 500 Dune Rd from CCP to Shinn 21 May (AJL).
Sanderling: max 1000 PB 26 May 9 PL, SM).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Shinn 27 Apr (RG); max 2000 PB 29 May (PL, SM).
Least Sandpiper: arr Hook P 2 May (MW).
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk 6 May (VB et al); max 4 PB 29 May; but see summer report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Rita's Horse Farm, Montauk 19 Apr (C&VB, KR).
Purple Sandpiper: last Shinn 23 May (PS).
Stilt Sandpiper: arr Sagg 22 May (BK, HM).
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr PB 13 May (PL, SM).
Wilson's Snipe: arr CP 3 Mar; max 8+ Saw Mill Creek, SI 31 Mar (PB, NM); TRCP 4 May (VB), last report.
Am. Woodcock: 5 Idlewilde P Preserve

(GD); 20 Montauk (VB) 11 Mar, displaying; Bryant P, Manhattan 18 Mar (BC) and 20 Mar, unusual loc.
Red-necked Phalarope: PB 22-29 May (AB et al).
Parasitic Jaeger: FT 11 May (TF et al).
Laughing Gull: arr Jam Bay 31 Mar (RJ, SB, SSI); arr e LI at Shelter I 11 May (NH).
Little Gull: MB 25 May (JA).
Black-headed Gull: PP 1-14 Mar (SB, mob); Hook Pd, EH 4 Mar (SB et al); imm Sagg 17 Mar (SB, RJ) and 19 Mar (JG); ad Eastport Pd 19 Mar (PL, SM); ad Center Moriches 25 Mar (JO), ph; 2 (ad, 1Y) Georgica P 21 May (BK, HM).
Bonaparte's Gull: 90-100 Sagg 17 Mar (SB, RJ); 20 Shinn 14 May, late for so many.
Iceland Gull: Shinn 1 Mar (VB); MP 11 Mar (VB); Bayville 11 Mar (JMa); Shinn 17 Mar (PG); ad Shinn 19 Mar (PL, SM); 1W OP 2 Apr (AJL); 1W MB 19 Apr (HM).
Glaucous Gull: 2W Shinn thru 20 Apr, cont from winter; 1W WPP 26 Mar (CH, MSh); 1W MP 1 Apr (RMc); imm JBWE 11 Apr (KF); 2W MB 14 May (JDi et al); imm Shinn 14 May (AB).
Gull-billed Tern: arr JBWE 16 Apr (J&GF) and Jam Bay 11 May; Shinn 21 May (HM, BK), rare e LI.
Caspian Tern: 3 arr MB 22 Apr, 4 MB 24, 30 Apr (HM) and 3 May (KF); WPP 6 May (RV).
Royal Tern: 2 RMSP 20 May (BBo).
Roseate Tern: arr Shinn 11 May (AB); also reported Moriches In and Fire I In.
Com. Tern: arr Nissequogue R 1 May (MW); max 1200 e of Ponquogue Bridge 14 May (PL, SM).
ARCTIC TERN: 2 CCP 29 May (SM!), ad alt & 2S, ph.
Forster's Tern: 2 arr MLP 10 Apr (TF); 1S CCP 29 May (SM, PL), e of breeding areas.
Least Tern: arr MB 30 Apr (AB).
Black Tern: arr Stony Brook Harbor 16 May (MW); 3 RMSP 20 May (PL); CCP 21 May (HM, BK).

Black Skimmer: arr BP & CCP 13 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: JBWE 5 May (AJL et al.).

Monk Parakeet: CP 17 Apr thru.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 3 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 5 May.

Barn Owl: MP 4 Mar (SB et al); perhaps the same bird found dead in area 12 Mar; Middle I, SUFF 26 Apr, heard vocalizing.

E. Screech-Owl: nestlings CP 4-5 Mar; FP early Mar.

Great Horned Owl: nest APP early Mar, fledged young seen on 28 Mar (JQ).

Snowy Owl: Calverton 3 Mar (AB);

Hicks I 5 Mar, cont from winter.

Long-eared Owl: PP 8 Mar (AxW), from winter; PP 17 Mar (MZ), same bird?; Rt 51 Bike Path 17 Mar (MWO); FP 10 Apr (EM, JL).

Com. Nighthawk: arr CP 12 May; arr e LI MS 17 May (AB, ES); max 5 WFE 26 May (MLL).

Chuck-will's-widow: arr 27 Apr Quogue (BA).

Whip-poor-will: arr Napeague 13 Apr (LB).

Chimney Swift: arr PP 17 Apr; arr e LI at North Sea 14 Apr (RH).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr e LI Camp Hero 20 Apr (PR); an injured hummingbird found in NYC 14 Apr was not identified to species.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Tobay 5 May (DK); Owl's Head P 6 May (AxW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: barrier beach migrants 6 May incl JBWE & 2 Tobay, *intro*.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Orient Mar 4-6, overwintered (RO); Mashomack 30 Mar (NH).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: up to 2 CP 14, 17, 18, 23 May; Jam Bay 17 May; Greenwood Cemetery 21 May (MZ); FP 22 May (JL); PP 24 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: IHP 19 Apr (KA), vocalizing, extremely early; arr CP 5 May and e LI MS 7 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CP 17 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: FP 18 May; CP 25 May; FP 27 May (DK); PP 31 May.

Alder Flycatcher: CP 29 May, singing.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Gardiner P 10 May (RG); arr e LI Remsenberg 21 May (HM, BK).

Least Flycatcher: arr CP 3 May; HLSP 5 May (JG); arr e LI Shelter I 11 May (NH).

E. Phoebe: arr JBWE 10 Mar (BBE); 15+ CP 14 Mar (TF); 18 Greenport 17 Mar (TC).

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr High Rock P, SI 15 Apr (DEI), very early.

E. Kingbird: arr CCP 16 Apr (AB), early.

White-eyed Vireo: arr FP 19 Apr (JL et al.); arr e LI Mashomack 28 Apr (TD).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Napeague 13 Apr (LB), very early; Calverton 13 May (MW), scarce on e LI this spring and absent from some of its regular breeding areas.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr HLSP 9 Apr (SS).

Warbling Vireo: arr PP 17 Apr, early; FP 25 Apr (PSh), a more typical arr date.

Philadelphia Vireo: CP 11 May (K.

Gale); CP 21 May; CP 26 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr CP 25 Apr, early.

Blue Jay: barrier beach migrants inc 3 CSP 6 May.

Fish Crow: arr eastern LI Barcelona Neck 18 Mar (JGi, K. Goldman).

Horned Lark: breeders reported from Sore Thumb (n Fire I In), GA, Grumman, PB.

Purple Martin: arr f SOFO 28 Mar (JA), very early; colony occupied Dune Rd 22 Apr (J&GF).

Tree Swallow: 30 arr Crooke's Pt, SI 11 Mar (RV); arr JBWE and Wading R (2) 14 Mar; 36 BP 25 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 29 Mar VCP (YG); arr e LI at Sag Harbor 8 Apr (HM).

Bank Swallow: arr Flushing Airport 16 Apr (GD); arr e LI at Sebonac 20 Apr (RG).

Cliff Swallow: arr PP 10 Apr (DD); 2 Shinn 21 May (StB); 2 CP 22 May.

Barn Swallow: arr RMSP 1 Apr (PL, SM); 20 arr e LI Sag Harbor 7 Apr (HM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 CRSPP 19 Mar; migrants inc Babylon 4 May, MS 13 May (JK), & Big Reed P 14 May (VB), *intro*.

White-breasted Nuthatch: JBWE 1 Apr (DF), rare on barrier beach.

Brown Creeper: CP 1 Mar, prob wintered; 3 arr HLSP 19 Mar (SS); last CP 5 May, late; pr MS 13 May (JK), prob breeders.

House Wren: Cunningham P 2 Apr (AGi), exceptionally early or late; *intro*.

Winter Wren: CP 13 May, very late.

Marsh Wren: 2 arr Flushing Airport 6 Apr (GD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr of migrants difficult to discern this year, owing to many Mar reports: VSSP 13 Mar (BBE); Shelter I 19 Mar (OB), cont from winter; Mass 26 Mar (JG); arr PP 31 Mar (MZ) and CP 31 Mar (TF); last CP 24 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr CP 1 Apr (fide TF); arr e LI at Calverton 11 Apr.

E. Bluebird: migrants inc f JBWE 1 Apr.

Veery: arr CP 25 Apr (D&LSp), unusually early; arr FP 2 May (PSh) and e LI Mashomack 5 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr CP & FP 17 May.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: CP 18-19 May (BH, LS ph); PP 24 May (DG, RJ ph); *intro*.

Swainson's Thrush: arr CP 5 May and e LI Shelter I 21 May (OB, StB).

Hermit Thrush: 8 Terel R CP 11 Mar (MW), prob wintered; CP 25 May, very late away from breeding areas.

Wood Thrush: FP 8 Apr (C&JM), record early; CP 25 Apr & FP 27 Apr, more typical arr dates.

VARIED THRUSH: ad m CP 15 Apr (DE).

Brown Thrasher: arr JBWE 11 Apr (KF).

Am. Pipit: Greenwood Cemetery 6 Apr (MZ); 2 Gardiner P 5 May (JG).

Cedar Waxwing: 120 Wave Hill, Bronx 15 Mar (YG).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr CP and FP 25 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: m MS 7 May (HM); Jam Bay 11 May (TF et al).

"Brewster's" Warbler: FP 7 May (JL et al.); CP 7 May (SSa).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Muttontown Preserve 29, 30 Apr, 7 May (JG et al); North Sea 30 Apr (WB); PP 11 -12 May (PP et al).

Tennessee Warbler: arr CP 4 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: Hunters Garden 26 Apr (AB); VSSP 10-11 May (BBE).

Nashville Warbler: arr CP 24 Apr & FP 25 Apr, early; Inwood Hill P 29 Apr (KA).

N. Parula: arr HLSP 9 Apr (DK), very early, 2 HLSP 10, 11 Apr (JGi); arr e LI Shelter I 30 Apr (NS).

Yellow Warbler: arr CP 21 Apr, early; arr e LI Hampshire Farm 25 Apr (TD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr CP 4 May; arr e LI Mashomack 5 May (TD, NH).

Magnolia Warbler: arr Greenport 26 Apr (GR).

Cape May Warbler: arr CP 4 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr CP 25 Apr, early; arr e LI EH 5 May (SH).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: last PB 26 May, CP 27 May, and FP 28 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr CP 13 Apr, very early; otherwise, arr CP & FP 25 Apr; arr e LI MS 29 Apr (AB).

Blackburnian Warbler: 2 arr HLSP 5 May (JGi); arr e LI Noyac 5 May (CG).

Yellow-throated Warbler: JBWE 12 Apr (R&BS) and 13 Apr (EM); PP 13 Apr (DG); Shelter I 19 Apr (NH); PP 18 Apr (ExS), 21- 23 Apr (EC, PP); VCP 23 Apr (JN); *albilora* WPP 26 Apr (RV); Fort Hill, SI 5 May (fide MSh); HLSP 22 May (KF et al); JBSP 25 May (SS, AW).

Pine Warbler: arr GKP 10 Mar (RV); arr eastern LI Sylvester Manor 31 Mar (NH); max 25 HLSP 10 Apr (JGi, SS), a very high count.

Prairie Warbler: arr CP 14 Apr and FP 16 Apr, early; arr e LI Sebonac 27 Apr (RG); CP 25 May.

"Western" Palm Warbler: CP 25 May (TF), very late and always rare in spring in Reg.

“Yellow” Palm Warbler: arr CP 31 Mar (fide TF); max 20 HLSP 10 Apr (JGi), a high count.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr CP 5 May & FP 7 May; arr e LI MS 13 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr CP 4 May.

Cerulean Warbler: Pleasure Dr, Flanders 10 May (AB); Jam Bay 13 May; PP 23 May (PP, EC); FP 24 May (RoC); rare on LI.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr CP 12 Apr and e LI at Hunters Garden 13 Apr (AB); arr HLSP 17 Apr (JG).

Am. Redstart: arr e LI Shelter I 4 May (NH).

Prothonotary Warbler: m HLSP 16-24 Apr (BK, mob); m PP 20-23 Apr (GS, mob); Fisher’s I 17 Apr (fide AJL); Westmoreland Farms 26 Apr (NH); m SSNC 4 May (LL); Bald Hill 7-13 May (J&SB); f CP 9 May; MS 10-14 May (ES); Hunters Garden 10 May; Gardiner P 15 May (RG); PP 20 May (MZ).

Worm-eating Warbler: arr PP 20 Apr and e LI Mashomack 14 May (NH); other e LI reports inc MS 16 May (BA, WB) and Hunters Garden 17 May (AB).

SWAINSON’S WARBLER: CLP 5 May (CN), no details.

Ovenbird: arr JBWE 15 Apr (JQ), very early; arr e LI EH and Flanders 29 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr CP 14 Apr, early; arr e LI Mashomack 5 May (TD, NH).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr CP 17 Mar (CV ph), record early, thru 28 Mar at least; PP 2 Apr (MZ); arr eastern LI Riverhead and Forge R 2 Apr (AB); APP 10 Apr; CLP 10 Apr (GBo); Harlem Meer 24 Apr (JPO); FP 5 May (BBE).

Kentucky Warbler: CP 5 May; FP 6 May; MS 7 May (HM); HLSP 10 May (BA); CLP 10 May (GBo), Riverside P 11 May (JN); CP 11 May (JD); FP 14 May; m Hunters Garden 18 May (AB); PP 19 May (RaC); CP 19 May; FP 20-21 May (PSh et al); FP 24 May (PS); CP 25 May.

Mourning Warbler: ad m PP 6 May (PD); PP 14 May (ExS et al); PP 18-24 May (PP); m CP 19 May; m FP 20 May

(PSh); CP 23 May (DSp) m CP 25 May; Southard’s P 24 May (RG); FP 24 May (PS); f NYBG 24 May (YG); 3 CP 25 May; 2 Riverside P 26 May; FP 27-28 May (DK) .

Com. Yellowthroat: arr e LI Mashomack 5 May (TD, NH).

Hooded Warbler: m JBSP 22 Apr (AG); FP 26 Apr (SP); CHP 27 Apr (RV); 27 Apr Hampton Bays (J&SBe); 2 m CP 3 May; HLSP 3 May (JGi); Cutchogue 4 May (PG); m PP 4 May (RJ); Bald Hill 5 May (AB); CLP 5 May (SIW); PP 6, 7 and two 8 May (PD); NYBG 6 May; CP 7 May; m VSSP 10 May (BBE); m MS 10, 11 May (ES); f MS 11 May (AB); VSSP 10-12 May (BBE); Mashomack 14 May (NH); Hunters Garden 17 May (AB); CP 19 May; f GKP 23 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr CP 3 May and FP 6 May; arr e LI Riverhead 14 May (KN).

Canada Warbler: arr CP 5 May; FP 6 May; PP 11 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: FBF 15 Apr (TP), must refer to winter survivor; arr Jam Bay 7 May (PL, SM); CP 18 & 25 May; only reports.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Summer Tanager: imm m WP 27 Apr (TBr); m FP 5-8 May (EM et al); 2 (m, f) PP 6 May (DD et al); CP 7 May; WP 8 May; f FP 10 May; FP 13-17 May (mob); ad m CP 14 May (TF); Jam Bay 14 May (DP, TB); APP 17 May (JL et al); m Riverside P 18 May; imm m CP 18-21 May; Greenwood Cemetery 21 May (MZ); f FP 21 May; f Outer Beach CP, Montauk 21 May (K&BRu); ad m PP 24 May (RJ, DG); CP 24 May; ad m CP 27 May .

Scarlet Tanager: arr E LI Yaphank 25 Apr (JR); CP 27 May.

Am. Tree Sparrow: latest 2 FT 28 Mar (AL) & JBWE 1 Apr (PL, SM).

Chipping Sparrow: arr FP 8 Apr (C&JM); at least 100 MP 4 May (VB).

Field Sparrow: 3 JBWE 2 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr FBF 9 Apr (SW); GA 21, 29 May (TWB, GB); Calverton (AB), breeding sites.

Savannah Sparrow: max 50 JBWE 5 May (BBE); poss breeders inc 3 Eastport 14 May; one singing PB 29 May (PL, SM).

"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow: Shinn 1 Apr (RMc), cont, one of several that wintered here.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Rt 51 Bike Path 13 May (AB), still hanging on in this known breeding area; 2 GA 21 May (HM,BK); Napeague 21 May (KR).

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Napeague 21 May (KR), singing.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow: arr Gardiner P 26 Apr (RG).

Seaside Sparrow: arr Gardiner P 25 Apr (RG).

Fox Sparrow: arr Kissena P 12 Mar (A&KO); 20 GKP 17 Mar (MSh); 5 FP 21 Mar (J&GF).

Lincoln's Sparrow: WP 14 Apr (TBr!), record early (winter survivor?); PP 7-8 May (PD et al); CP 8-11 May; Jam Bay 12 May (BBi).

White-throated Sparrow: last FP 30 May (PSh), late.

White-crowned Sparrow: Flushing Airport 2 Apr (GD, EM); CP 25-26 Apr; 2 Aquebogue 28 Apr (BA); Mashomack 5 May (NH); 3 JBWE 5 May (BBE); RMSP 6 May; 3 Captree SP 6 May; several others in May.

Dark-eyed Junco: last CP 11 May.

Lapland Longspur: f JBWE 11 Mar, cont from winter.

Snow Bunting: last 7 Orient Beach SP 23 Mar (AM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr f JBSP 23 Apr (J. Laver et al); arr e LI Cutchogue 5 May (PG); breeders inc MS 28 May.

Blue Grosbeak: f CP 8 May (BH) & 21 May (JD, TF), unusual loc; m Rt

51 Bike Path 21 May thru (TWB, GB) and Calverton 28 May (DF), known breeding areas.

Indigo Bunting: arr Sebonac 20 Apr (RG); RMSP 24 Apr; JBWE 26 Apr (MH); MP 27 Apr (VB); widespread reports from 8 May, *intro*; breeding at Rt 51 Bike Path, MS.

Dickcissel: JBWE 5 May (SM).
Bobolink: Wainscott 6 May (HM); MLP 6, 7 May (fide MSh); 5 VCP 11 May (TF et al).

E. Meadowlark: arr CP 14 Mar and e LI Calverton 17 Mar (MH).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): imm m Dude Ranch 11 Mar (K&BR); Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk 17 Mar (SB, RJ).

Rusty Blackbird: max 40 WP 13 Mar (EJ).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 25 Cow Meadow P 1 May (BBE), high for this loc.

Orchard Oriole: arr E Lake Drive 25 Apr (VB); 4 m arr on territory Sunken Meadow SP 30 Apr (KF); max 12 MP 6 May (HM), increasingly widespread and numerous in Region.

Baltimore Oriole: arr CP 21 Apr; arr e LI at Baiting Hollow 19 Apr (AB); max 45 MP 6 May.

Purple Finch: CP 19 Mar; CLP 1 Apr (HF et al); pr CP 23 May.

Pine Siskin: CP 10 Apr (mob); CP 10 May (JD).

EXOTICS

Red-headed Conure: 2 near FP 27 Apr (CM), third sighting in area since fall; poss same 2 Union Tpk 13 May.

Budgerigar: FP 14 May (PL, SM).

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.

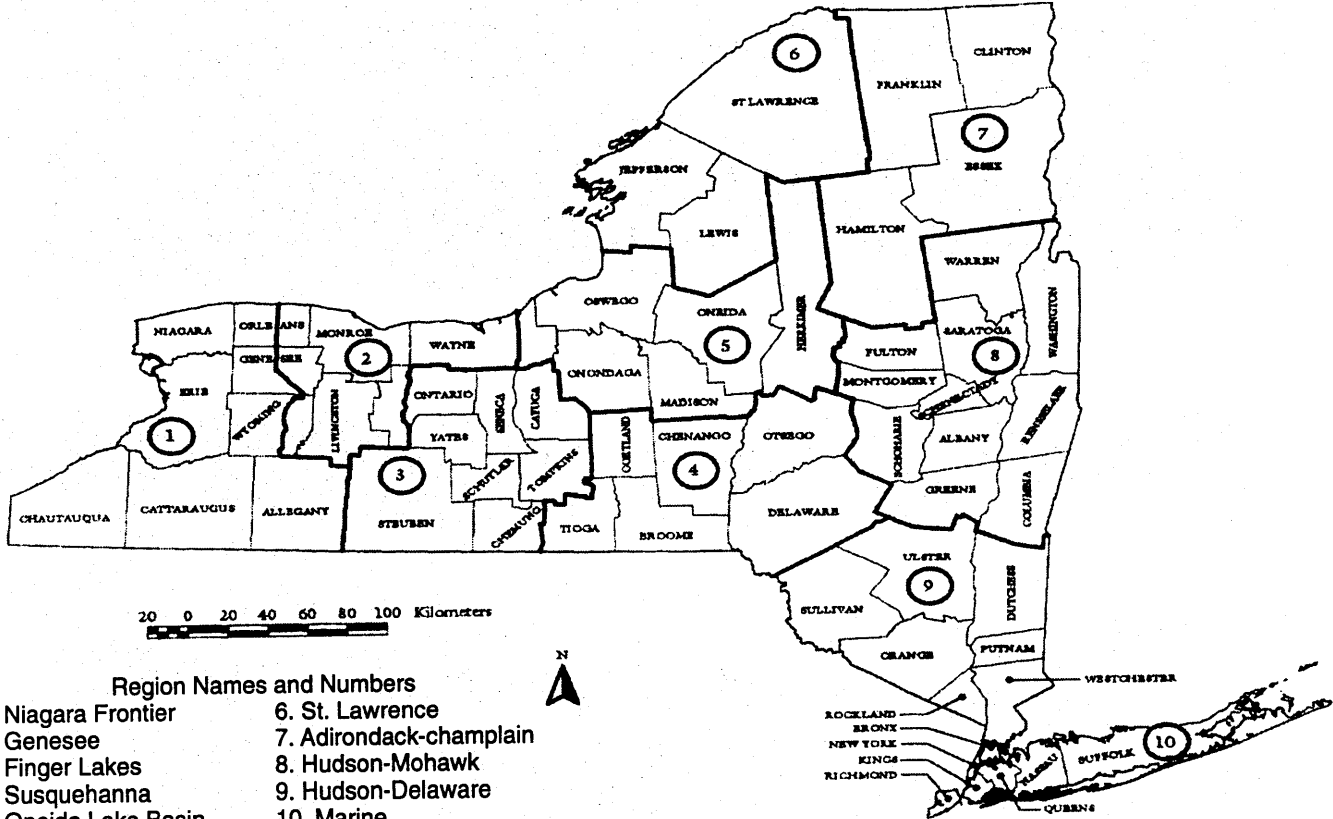
REPORTING DEADLINES

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



Region Names and Numbers

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Niagara Frontier | 6. St. Lawrence |
| 2. Genesee | 7. Adirondack-champlain |
| 3. Finger Lakes | 8. Hudson-Mohawk |
| 4. Susquehanna | 9. Hudson-Delaware |
| 5. Oneida Lake Basin | 10. Marine |

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