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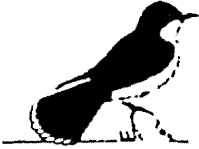
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# JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNTS, 2005-2007, AND SOME OBSERVATIONS ON LONG-TERM TRENDS

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The New York State Ornithological Association (formerly Federation of New York State Bird Clubs) has conducted a January Waterfowl Count (JWC or "Count") almost every year since 1955 (Rising 1955). Following a hiatus in 1968-1972 (Jones 1980), the count has been conducted for 35 consecutive years. I have helped compile the counts since 1997, but fell behind in publishing results in *The Kingbird*. To compensate for my late reporting, I have added some additional analysis of long-term trends observed over the past several decades.

## METHODS

No formal, standardized protocol has been established for the JWC. Each January, regional coordinators ask local clubs and individual volunteers to visit lakes, rivers, shorelines, and other water bodies throughout New York State to count waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and associated water birds (e.g., loons, grebes, cormorants and coots). All counts were to be conducted during a 9-day period beginning on the second Saturday after New Year's Day, with a target date of the first Sunday in that period. Most counts are conducted during the first several days of the period, but in some cases additional time is needed to complete the counts. There are no other time constraints for completing the counts, since they are intended to be as complete as possible, while providing an enjoyable day in the field for all involved.

Counts are made during a single visit to each area, and include only birds actually seen and counted (or estimated for large flocks). Survey coverage is generally consistent from year to year, with most areas surveyed by the same participants from one year to the next. This provides a fair amount of consistency, but changing observers and occasional unsurveyed areas are always a concern. No attempt is made to estimate or account for birds in those areas. Weather conditions in January are highly variable, and count participants are simply advised to do the counts when weather conditions are favorable for bird observation. Leaders of each count report their results back to the regional compiler along with information on number of participants, amount of time spent doing the counts, and weather conditions. Regional compilers review and provide their data to the statewide coordinator as soon as possible. Results are

then tabulated and published in the Kingbird. Statewide and regional totals are also posted on the NYSOA website at:

<http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

## COUNT DATES AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Count dates were determined by the formula mentioned above. Weather data from National Weather Service stations in Buffalo, Watertown, Albany, and Islip were reviewed and combined with anecdotal reports from regional compilers to characterize weather conditions as they may have affected waterfowl abundance, distribution or observation.

The 2005 Count was held during January 15-23. January began with two solid weeks of balmy weather, with high temperatures reaching well above 50° in the days just prior to the count. However, winter arrived in full force at the start of the count period, as temperatures remained at or below freezing across the state for the duration. Low temperatures were in the single digits or lower for much of the count period, resulting in rapid freezing of waters that were open a week earlier. Lake effect snows accompanied the sharp change in temperatures, but elsewhere snowfall was relatively light. As a result of this weather pattern, most shallow inland waters froze over quickly, but some streams remained open with high water until later in the week, when larger bays and lakes also began to freeze over. Consequently, the count conditions are difficult to characterize, since the early mild weather allowed many birds to linger into January (but they were widely dispersed), but the sudden cold snap likely forced some birds south and concentrated others in remaining open waters.

The 2006 Count was held during January 14-22. As reported by Guthrie (2006), “the most compelling aspect of this winter’s weather was the extraordinary warm weather that persisted throughout the state from the last week of December through January.” He noted that January 2006 was the fifth warmest January since 1895. National Weather Service data showed high temperatures in the 40s and 50s on most days during the count period, with only one or two days when the temperature did not break the freezing mark everywhere in the state. The coldest days tended to be on the first weekend, accompanied by strong winds and mixed precipitation, which made for some unpleasant counting conditions. Overall, there was little snowfall or snow on the ground during the 2006 Count, and heavy rains and strong winds prevailed in the middle of the week. The mild weather resulted in lots of open water, including flooding of open fields, allowing many waterfowl to remain in New York, but with fewer birds concentrated at the usual open water locations.

The 2007 Count was held during January 13-21. For the third year in a row, the first half of January was unusually mild, with high temperatures mostly in

the 40s and 50s and almost no snowfall across the state. A record high of 71° was set in Albany on January 6, and even the St. Lawrence River was ice free. Temperatures dropped sharply during the first weekend of the count, and were lower but variable during the rest of the count period. Upstate, average temperatures were at or below freezing, with daytime highs in the high teens to upper 30s. Lows were in the teens and 20s in Buffalo, to below zero on several days in Watertown. Milder weather prevailed on Long Island, where highs close to 50° continued for several days into the count. Precipitation was highly variable, from light snow to freezing rain and showers, but no prolonged or heavy amounts recorded. Recorded wind speeds seemed generally lower than in previous years, but a few regions reported having to brave strong winds and mixed precipitation to complete the counts. As in the previous two years, waterfowl were able to remain well into January, but they were not concentrated in any numbers.

## RESULTS

The January 2005 Count yielded a total of 287,713 birds (Table 1), 17% fewer than in 2004. This was the lowest total count since 1996, but was close to the long-term (1973-2007) average. The Am. Black Duck count (8,727) and total scaup counts (15,224) were both record lows, while the Black Scoter count (4,940) was a record high. Counts of many dabbling ducks and several other diving ducks such as Redhead and Bufflehead were below levels observed in recent years. This may have been due in part to many dabbling ducks being dispersed on countless areas of open water in the state this year. Lower diving duck numbers may have been due to birds remaining farther north or west of New York due to the mild weather. Notable exceptions were Canvasback, with the second highest count (17,989) since 1976, and Barrow's Goldeneye, a rare treat even though it equaled its previous high count of 8 birds.

The January 2006 Count yielded a total of 321,823 birds (Table 2), 12% more than in 2005 and about 10% above the long-term average. The Am. Black Duck (8,889) and total scaup (23,472) counts both increased slightly from 2005, but were the still the second lowest since 1973, whereas the Black Scoter count (3,746) declined slightly but was still the second highest to date. The Snow Goose (2,937) and Tundra Swan (1,773) counts were both new record highs. In general, counts of most other species were not unusually high or low compared to recent counts or long-term averages.

The January 2007 Count yielded an all-time high of 584,389 birds (Table 3), 82% higher than the year before, and nearly double the long-term average. Contributing to the overall record were new high counts for Snow Goose (107,683), Canada Goose (236,741), Hooded Merganser (2,448); the second highest count for Long-tailed Duck (12,040); and the third highest total count of

scoters (27,961). The total scaup count (54,702) rebounded from its recent low levels, including a record number reported as Lesser Scaup (7,778). On a smaller scale, even the Red-throated Loon (927), Double-crested Cormorant (401) and Trumpeter Swan counts (14) set new records. On the other hand, no Harlequin Ducks were reported for only the second time in the past 35 years, and the Am. Black Duck count (8,912) was essentially unchanged from the previous two years, remaining near its record low. Counts of most other duck species were near or above their long-term averages. For the most part, these counts suggest an extreme northward shift of wintering waterfowl in 2007. Although the mild weather in January 2007 was similar to the previous two years, it was preceded by an exceptionally warm and snow-free December 2006.

## LONG-TERM TRENDS

Winter waterfowl counts are of limited value for year-to-year population monitoring because they are influenced to a great extent by weather conditions prior to and during the counts. However, inspection of long-term trends allows one to see underlying population changes that may be of interest. Following are some general overviews of trends for major species' groups. Long-term (1973-2007) averages are provided in Table 4, and the most-recent 10-year averages can be found at <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>. I hope to include some analysis of long-term trends for individual species and some analysis of regional trends in future reports. I invite others to do the same, using any of the data available at the NYSOA website.

**Total Birds** The total number of waterfowl counted statewide increased steadily from 1973-2007 (Fig. 1). Total counts have ranged from a low of 129,907 in 1978 to a high of 584,389 in 2007, a nearly four-fold difference. The long term average is now approximately 290,000 birds (Table 4), while the most recent 10-year average is approximately 380,000 birds.

**Geese** Total counts of geese have increased dramatically over the past 35 years (Fig. 2) and are largely responsible for the higher total waterfowl counts in recent years. Total goose counts were typically below 25,000 in the 1970s (with a low count of 15,553 in 1977), and were generally between 100,000 and 200,000 since 1997 until a new high of 361,685 was reached in 2007. The long-term average for geese is now approximately 102,500 birds (35% of the total waterfowl count), while the most recent 10-year average is approximately 180,000 birds (47% of the total count). Not surprisingly, Canada Geese (including what are now classified as Cackling Geese) comprised about 85% of all geese counted. Atlantic Brant (15%) accounted for most of the remainder.

However, the record high count of Snow Geese in 2007 may signal the beginning of a trend towards more “white geese” (including Greater Snows, Lesser Snows, Blue phase and Ross’ geese) wintering in New York State.

**Swans** Total counts of swans have also increased over time (Fig. 3), but on a much smaller scale than for geese. Total swan counts have ranged from a low of 418 in 1978 to a high of 3,373 in 2006. The long term average for swans is now approximately 1,500 birds, while the most recent 10-year average is more than 2,300 birds. Mute Swans comprised more than 85% of the long-term average, but in the last ten years, Tundra Swans increased to about 25% of all swans counted, similar to the trend in white geese noted above.

**Ducks** Unlike geese and swans, total counts of ducks have remained relatively stable over the past 35 years, averaging approximately 180,000 birds (Fig. 4). Ducks accounted for more than 60% of all waterfowl counted since 1973, but that proportion has fallen to about 50% during the past 10 years. The relative numbers of dabbling ducks and diving ducks (including sea ducks and mergansers) has also been remarkably stable with dabblers accounting for about 31% of the short- and long-term average total duck counts, and diving ducks accounting for 69% (Fig. 5).

**Other Waterbirds** “Other waterbirds” includes a variety of species typically associated with waterfowl, including loons, grebes, cormorants and coots (gulls are not counted in this survey). Total counts have ranged from a low of 1,117 in 1981 to a high of 6,295 in 2007. The long term average is approximately 3,100 birds, while the most recent 10-year average was close to 4,400 birds. In general, the increase in total counts of birds in this group appears more abrupt than the gradual increase that occurred for geese and swans (Fig. 6).

## FUTURE COUNTS

The JWC is a valuable long-term population monitoring program for waterfowl and other waterbirds wintering in New York State. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has discontinued aerial surveys of waterfowl wintering in New York, so they now rely on the JWC as the standard survey. It is important that member clubs and individuals maintain complete and consistent coverage of areas surveyed in the past to help ensure that results are comparable from year to year and over the long-term.

As this report went to press, the 2008 count had been completed during January 12-20, with a target date of Sunday, January 13. For those who like to plan ahead, the dates for future years will differ slightly from the formula we have been following in recent years. After consulting with the regional compilers, we have decided to schedule the counts to begin on the Saturday



prior to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in January. This should make it easy to remember, and allow some observers an extra day to complete the counts if necessary. So, the dates for the next two counts are as follows:

- 2009 - January 17-25 (target date - Sunday, January 18)
- 2010 - January 16-24 (target date - Sunday, January 17)

For more information about the JWC, visit the NYSOA web site at:

<http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank all of the observers who have participated in the January Waterfowl Count during the past 35 years, especially for enduring harsh winter weather that is typical of this time of year. A special thanks to the following Regional Compilers who coordinated the efforts of all those volunteers during the past three years:

Reg.	Compiler	Reg.	Compiler
1	Bill Burch & Jim Landau	6	Jerry LeTendre
2	Greg Hartenstein	7	John M. C. Peterson
3	Eric Donohue	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Michael Usai & Tracey Shimer
5	Marge Rusk	10	Ronald & Jean Bourque

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contributions of the late Walt Sabin, a co-worker and friend who coordinated and compiled the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs' January Waterfowl Count for 25 years, from 1976-2000. This report would not have been possible without his many years of dedication and service counting birds in New York State.

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2005 January Waterfowl Count.

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, White-fronted										3	3
Snow		1	1		1		2		4	2	11
Canada	3,429	8,869	47,740	1,682	15,288	2,764	543	3,013	11,602	29,231	124,161
Brant									211	14,327	14,538
Swan, Mute		270	1	2	5			3	188	1093	1,562
Trumpeter		2			4						6
Tundra	126	1	369		30	53					579
Wood Duck	9		35				1		16	3	64
Gadwall	17	36	44		1	8			100	785	991
Wigeon, Eurasian										1	1
American	14		3						150	717	884
Am. Black Duck	54	127	1,094	52	326	197	106	127	994	5,650	8,727
Mallard	5086	4,355	7,608	627	3,251	840	1,077	653	4,342	8,819	36,658
Mallard X Black	1	5	2	2	2				11	356	379
Blue-winged Teal										1	1
Northern Shoveler										277	277
Northern Pintail			8	4	10	1		1	2	75	101
Green-winged Teal					2				1	110	113
Canvasback	15,749		36		3			87	1348	766	17,989
Redhead	92	3,853	1,554		106	55			0	31	5,691
Ring-necked Duck	2	8	130		8		2		74	450	674
Tufted Duck									0		0
Scaup, Greater	6,262	1,274	16		197	300	1		4,192	2,162	14,404
Lesser	5	120	42	2		26	2		220	87	504
not to species	1				8					307	316
Eider, King	1										1
Common										1,852	1,852

Harlequin Duck										6	6
Scoter, Surf	1									3,277	3,278
White-winged	313	646	1		181		1		1	1,355	2,498
Black					1		1			4,938	4,940
not to species		1								1,382	1,383
Long-tailed Duck	1,526	1,122			1,875	113			19	1,343	5,998
Bufflehead	2,107	149	234		207	224	199		238	1,735	5,093
Goldeneye, Common	856	2,315	780		1,830	2,319	2409	49	441	787	11,786
Barrow's						1	4			3	8
Merganser, Hooded	47	158	15	12	10	7	82	4	111	1,125	1,571
Common	1,598	351	42	130	1,724	1,004	1,044	100	2,253	841	9,087
Red-breasted	371	821	27		272	23	3		95	2,826	4,438
Ruddy Duck	3		2						161	3,046	3,212
Loon, Red-throated		3							5	103	111
Common		4	7	4	8		2		4	137	166
Grebe, Pied-billed	8		17		1					40	66
Horned	3	79	4		15		52		4	122	279
Red-necked		2			1				1		4
Eared			2								2
Cormorant, D.-crest.	54	3			22	1	1		8	70	159
Great									52	54	106
American Coot	34	164	619	24	1				22	159	1,023
UNIDENTIFIED	340	64	1,000		2	230			291	85	2,012
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>38,109</b>	<b>24,803</b>	<b>61,433</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>25,392</b>	<b>8,166</b>	<b>5,532</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>27,161</b>	<b>90,539</b>	<b>287,713</b>

Table 2. Regional totals for the 2006 January Waterfowl Count.

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, White-fronted	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Snow	0	1200	1501		6	0	1	1	7	221	2937
Canada	3,561	32,324	42,237	1,807	4,117	2,942	223	4,622	14,602	31,279	137,714
Brant	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	8	24,066	24,074
Swan, Mute	4	189	1	2	2	117	0	1	168	1108	1,592
Trumpeter	2	2	1		3	0	0	0	0	0	8
Tundra	170	511	750		4	335	0	0	0	3	1773
Wood Duck	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	3	1	16	25
Gadwall	39	154	28		3	19	2	0	65	965	1275
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	2	2
American	10	3	19		0	0	0	0	69	778	879
Am. Black Duck	239	118	351	183	104	378	74	176	796	6,470	8,889
Mallard	6328	5,013	4,135	491	1,692	1665	873	821	4,092	9,071	34,181
Mallard X Black	0	7	0		22	0	0	0	0	30	59
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Shoveler	0	0	1		2	0	0	0	2	525	530
Northern Pintail	1	5	0		1	1	0	0	11	86	105
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0		4	0	0	0	1	183	188
Canvasback	3,081	6	192		0	0	2	200	1231	996	5,708
Redhead	166	6,427	2,828	6	98	600	32	1	29	52	10,239
Ring-necked Duck	3	25	132	1	1	1	16	6	103	562	850
Tufted Duck	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	8,245	2,330	128		393	1627	274	1	412	7,802	21,212
Lesser	425	138	125		0	5	250	0	14	764	1721
not to species	10	118	3		1	1	0	0	0	406	539
Eider, King	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Common	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	2,698	2,698

Harlequin Duck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Scoter, Surf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,185	4,185
White-winged	51	1182	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	420	1,658
Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,746	3,746
not to species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,297	1,297
Long-tailed Duck	330	1,243	1	51	122	2	0	6	1,833	3,588	
Bufflehead	1,078	84	149	5	55	79	88	0	315	2,547	4,400
Goldeneye, Common	2021	2,806	1098	10	1,292	1,910	5787	103	2204	1138	18,369
Barrow's	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Merganser, Hooded	72	23	33	49	26	8	40	23	152	1,094	1,520
Common	440	237	197	213	940	1,108	844	570	2,282	110	6,941
Red-breasted	343	2802	0	118	9	1	0	50	3,673	6,996	
Ruddy Duck	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	104	5,889	5,996	
Loon, Red-throated	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	117	
Common	0	10	7	1	0	3	0	4	497	522	
Grebe, Pied-billed	11	2	16	0	0	2	0	2	27	60	
Horned	0	91	10	5	0	14	0	6	365	491	
Red-necked	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Eared	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Cormorant, D.-crested	96	3	9	39	2	0	0	3	125	277	
Great	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	43	64	
American Coot	8	300	941	28	2	0	2	108	485	1,874	
UNIDENTIFIED	0	159	32	0	35	0	0	1	2287	2,514	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>26,737</b>	<b>57,518</b>	<b>54,927</b>	<b>2,799</b>	<b>8,984</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>8,533</b>	<b>6,529</b>	<b>26,869</b>	<b>117,963</b>	<b>321,823</b>

Table 3. Regional totals for the 2007 January Waterfowl Count.

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, White-fronted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	26
Snow	0	7,000	78,895	216	1,001	20,034	20	1	0	516	107,683
Canada/Cackling	6,766	13,562	91,751	10,213	19,784	51,570	780	5,461	14,056	22,798	236,741
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17,235	17,235
Swan, Mute	4	337	2	1	17	4	0	29	170	1,415	1,979
Trumpeter	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Tundra	312	0	610	0	125	113	0	0	0	0	1,160
Wood Duck	0	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	13	7	28
Gadwall	41	60	82	0	2	31	1	0	158	1,332	1,707
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
American	50	0	16	0	0	0	0	1	17	1,558	1,642
Am. Black Duck	40	180	1,219	197	166	393	176	295	212	6,034	8,912
Mallard	3,263	3,206	6,284	847	2,767	2,240	1,342	816	2,430	8,200	31,395
Mallard X Black	0	2	5	0	0	1	0	0	7	26	41
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	35	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	22	686	756
Northern Pintail	1	0	13	1	4	0	0	0	20	34	73
Green-winged Teal	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	47	449	501
Canvasback	11,820	0	1,530	0	23	0	0	250	71	409	14,103
Redhead	635	4,018	841	0	10	12	0	0	0	50	5,566
Ring-necked Duck	170	164	345	2	103	3	3	25	64	559	1,438
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup, Greater	1,535	1,730	8	0	1,072	3,224	3	0	4	36,243	43,819
Lesser	6	539	103	0	2,041	0	0	2	4	5,083	7,778
not to species	150	0	10	9	570	0	0	37	1,500	829	3,105
Eider, King	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,680	2,680

Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scoter, Surf	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6,966	6,968	
White-winged	164	1,853	2	0	53	0	1	0	0	1,865	3,938	
Black	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	4,586	4,592	
not to species	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	12,448	12,463	
Long-tailed Duck	612	350	0	0	1,817	96	0	0	1	9,164	12,040	
Bufflehead	3,161	121	160	3	231	301	213	0	164	4,065	8,419	
Goldeneye, Common	2,169	2,705	981	17	2,862	2,435	2,140	174	96	1,320	14,899	
Barrow's	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	
Merganser, Hooded	403	36	118	51	96	3	44	6	277	1,414	2,448	
Common	1,513	346	238	797	1,096	1,371	461	680	2,229	32	8,763	
Red-breasted	743	1,490	12	0	298	76	2	3	86	4,058	6,768	
Ruddy Duck	193	1	30	0	21	0	0	1	1,000	4,626	5,872	
Loon, Red-throated	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	910	927	
Common	1	9	8	3	25	13	9	0	0	290	358	
Grebe, Pied-billed	13	2	17	2	7	1	0	0	7	43	92	
Horned	6	25	2	0	8	4	2	0	12	177	236	
Red-necked	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	10	
Eared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Cormorant, D.-crested	136	20	0	0	37	6	2	0	45	155	401	
Great	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	46	50	
American Coot	1,202	1,208	544	3	1	0	6	5	499	752	4,220	
UNIDENTIFIED	195	59	0	0	0	118	0	0	2,098	63	2,533	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>35,344</b>	<b>39,066</b>	<b>183,842</b>	<b>12,362</b>	<b>34,256</b>	<b>82,050</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>25,316</b>	<b>159,160</b>	<b>584,389</b>	

Table 4. Long-term (1973-2007) averages of January waterfowl counts in New York State, by region.

SPECIES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Goose, White-fronted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Snow/Ross'	0	235	2,305	6	29	572	19	21	8	229	3,424
Canada/Cackling	1,876	2,660	34,973	1,041	3,941	2,296	510	4,117	8,810	26,798	87,022
Brant	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	15,134	15,169
Swan, Mute	1	51	1	0	2	4	0	41	197	1,027	1,324
Trumpeter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tundra	58	23	88	0	7	19	0	0	0	3	198
Wood Duck	4	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	3	18	37
Gadwall	36	23	53	0	15	8	0	1	35	864	1,035
Wigeon, Eurasian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
American	35	2	10	1	1	1	0	0	51	1,499	1,600
Am. Black Duck	309	353	1,694	137	330	163	159	648	649	13,882	18,324
Mallard	4,598	4,256	7,095	600	2,778	540	995	1,114	2,385	9,537	33,898
Mallard X Black	1	7	5	0	4	0	1	0	4	40	62
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Northern Shoveler	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	277	285
Northern Pintail	6	1	4	1	2	0	0	3	4	179	200
Green-winged Teal	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	269	277
Canvasback	4,827	79	1,058	0	45	21	180	286	725	3,897	11,118
Redhead	204	1,270	6,772	2	141	52	4	1	17	80	8,543
Ring-necked Duck	15	14	68	0	55	1	5	3	137	275	573
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Scaup, Greater	4,397	3,020	155	0	915	312	71	1	817	18,043	27,731
Lesser	43	114	105	0	69	1	11	0	106	858	1,307
not to species	603	708	676	0	483	48	72	4	53	15,674	18,321
Eider, King	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	5
Common	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,117	1,117



Harlequin Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Scoter, Surf	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,172	3,173
White-winged	163	735	1	0	25	1	0	0	0	6,482	7,407
Black	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1,016	1,020
not to species	0	26	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2,357	2,392
Long-tailed Duck	1,857	775	9	0	238	123	1	0	23	1,622	4,648
Bufflehead	918	195	251	2	127	63	52	2	168	4,645	6,423
Goldeneye, Common	3,224	2,693	720	30	1,325	1,150	1,306	99	157	1,995	12,699
Barrow's	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Merganser, Hooded	35	14	31	8	16	8	14	17	104	580	827
Common	4,169	665	283	128	1,464	1,813	632	223	1,405	110	10,892
Red-breasted	361	337	36	1	70	65	2	1	54	3,733	4,660
Ruddy Duck	7	1	2	0	3	1	0	0	159	2,147	2,320
Loon, Red-throated	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	76	81
Common	1	2	7	0	4	1	2	0	1	178	196
Grebe, Pied-billed	6	2	15	0	2	0	0	0	6	49	80
Horned	4	24	34	0	10	0	10	0	4	274	360
Red-necked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Eared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant, D.-crested	21	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	113	146
Great	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	151	165
American Coot	95	179	879	20	11	0	1	0	154	717	2,056
UNIDENTIFIED	203	261	212	2	4	45	4	55	158	324	1,268
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>28,080</b>	<b>18,746</b>	<b>57,548</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>12,130</b>	<b>7,317</b>	<b>4,053</b>	<b>6,637</b>	<b>16,451</b>	<b>139,460</b>	<b>292,401</b>

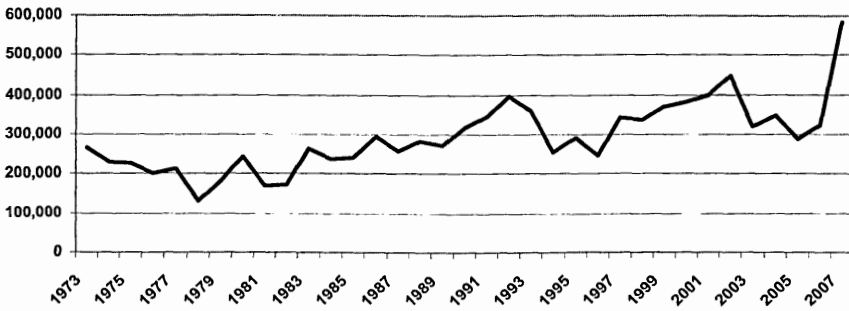


Figure 1. Total counts of waterfowl and associated waterbirds during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

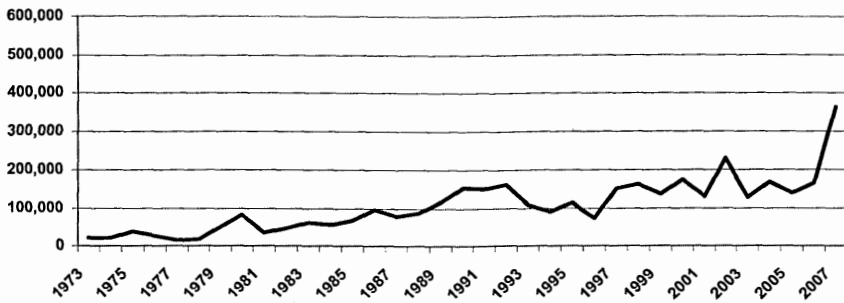


Figure 2. Total counts of geese during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

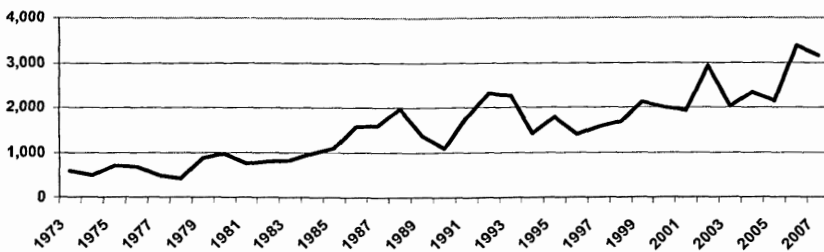


Figure 3. Total counts of swans during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

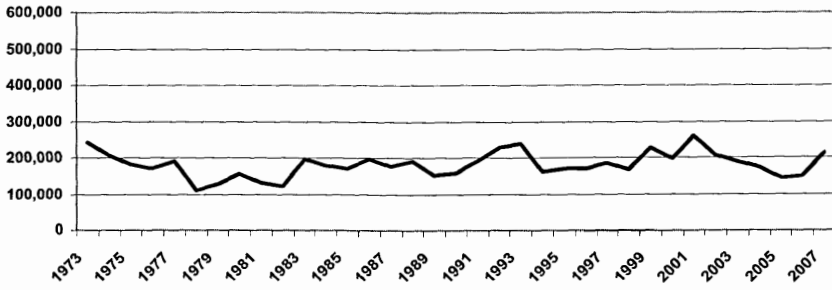


Figure 4. Total counts of all ducks during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

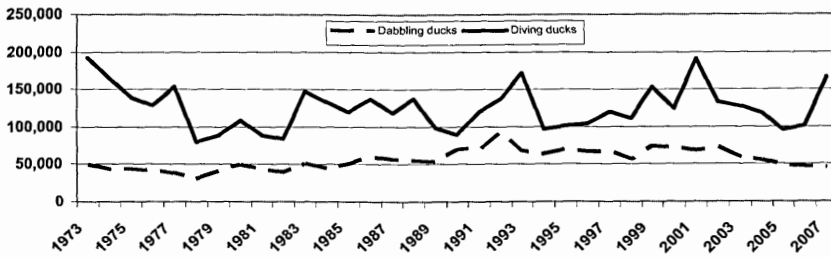


Figure 5. Total counts of dabbling ducks (dashed line) and diving ducks (solid line; includes sea ducks and mergansers) during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

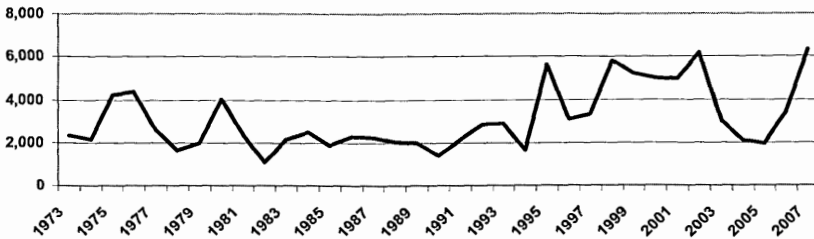


Figure 6. Total counts of other waterbirds (loons, grebes, cormorants and coots) during January in New York State, 1973-2007.

# CONNECTIONS: COINCIDENCE—CORRELATION— CAUSATION

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In *The Kingbird Decennial Index 1991-2000* Donald A. Windsor (2003) helps us to distinguish the difference between data, information and knowledge. In the present article, I would like to apply and extend his discussion. Using an article I wrote in 2004, I will illustrate the connection between these terms, and explore further the meaning of the phrase “correlation does not imply causation.” I would also like to echo former *Kingbird* editor Windsor’s suggestion that whenever possible we try to move “data to information to knowledge,” in other words, to higher levels on the “Wisdom Ladder” (Schuler 2007).

Let’s look at the article “Northbound Migratory Phenology of Northern Flicker in the Adirondacks” (Gretch 2004) to see what level on the “wisdom ladder” it rises to. I collected data on the emergence of ants from their subterranean winter dormancy, and on the arrival of the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and that satisfies the first level, the raw data level. Then I gave the data meaning by connecting the dates of emergence of ants with the arrival dates of Northern Flicker over a number of years. I was able to show a correlation between the two phenomena, that they were synchronous, and that satisfies the information level. I then spent some time interpreting the correlation to show that the 42° F temperature isotherm seemed to predict both phenomena, and that satisfies the knowledge level.

I showed correlation, but had I shown causation? Let’s break it down a little further to find out. According to Feldman (2007), “The most common way to argue for a general causal claim is by establishing a correlation.” But Feldman points out that **correlation without causation** is possible via no fewer than four mechanisms:

- 1.) By **reverse causation**. This would be like saying that the migration of the Northern Flicker is the cause of the 42° temperature isotherm—absurd in this case, but reverse causation must always be eliminated as a factor.
- 2.) By **coincidence (chance)** or **accident**. In my article I really only correlated three years of data. I suggested that this limited data set needed to be expanded before my hypothesis could be confirmed with more certainty. It is possible that with such limited data, it is merely by chance that the two phenomena appear to be closely associated/correlated.

- 3.) By “**tag along**” factor. Suppose there is another factor that tags along with the 42° isotherm that is actually the cause of this correlation. Factors as diverse as humidity levels, cloud cover, wind velocity, or air quality could conceivably be correlated with the isotherm and have unanticipated effects on flicker migration.
- 4.) By **common cause**. Rather than temperature and ant emergence directly influencing flicker arrival, it is possible that each is independently influenced by some other factor, for example, length of day. The last paragraph of the article, suggested by *The Kingbird* editor Shaibal S. Mitra, speaks to that possibility. It states, “Still the data I have presented so far do not prove that temperature itself is the factor that determines flicker migration. What is needed is a series of years in which the arrival of flickers corresponds more closely to the temperature (and the emergence of ants) than to the average date of 19 April.”

The inclusion of that final paragraph is an example of the next and highest level of human processing beyond data, information and knowledge—wisdom. I relied on the wisdom of the editor, Dr. Mitra, who has extensive expertise in phenology, to make my 2004 article more objective and complete.

Of course there is also the possibility that a number of factors (confounding factors) could be collectively responsible for the northbound migration of the Northern Flicker, for example the availability of food (ants etc.), temperature, and length of the day combined.

Another thing that we must be aware of is that the human brain has evolved to detect patterns, even where they may not exist. We automatically, and often unconsciously, look for an explanation for why things happen (Henig 2007). We must be careful, and realize that 7 in 10 of us, for example, believe in angels, even though there is no proof that they exist. We can very easily believe in what we want to believe. There is even a name for it: **apophenia** - the experience of seeing patterns or connections in random or meaningless data (Wikipedia 2007). How many people do you know who place special significance or meaning on various numbers like 7, or 6, or 666? Or who may not admit they believe in numerology or magical thinking, but nonetheless find themselves unconsciously being influenced by an entertaining movie like “The Number 23” starring Jim Carry. Humans are very suggestible, after all.

A critical look at the narrative of “Northbound Migratory Phenology of Northern Flicker in the Adirondacks” shows that I did in fact come close to validating what I wanted to see: that the 42° isotherm was the main indicator for emergence of ants and also the arrival of the flickers. I wrote, “It seemed logical that this connection would be a strong one, since the diet of the flicker is high in ants (Gretch 2004).” This is what is called hindsight **bias** or, sometimes, the **I-knew-it-all-along-effect** (Wikipedia 2007). Others call it **confirmation bias**. Confirmation bias is selectively highlighting evidence that supports what you

expect to find (Grimes 2007). After critiquing my own article I now realize how faulty logic and expectation can unconsciously creep into one's thinking.

To conclude, let us be cautioned by a bit of sage philosophy from Alexander Pope (1688-1744) in his "Essay On Man."

With too much knowledge for the Skeptic side, ....  
Born but to die, and reas'ning but to err;  
Alike in ignorance, his reason such,  
Whether he thinks too little, or too much:  
Chaos of Thought and Passion, all confus'd;  
Still by himself abus'd, or disabus'd;  
Created half to rise, and half to fall; ....  
Sole judge of Truth, in endless error hurl'd;  
The glory, jest, and riddle of the world!

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – SPRING 2007

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As is often the case, weather was widely regarded as a potent factor affecting bird life during early spring. Cold, rainy, and snowy weather during this period caused considerable mortality among Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, and Eastern Phoebes. Heavy snowfalls in March and April in some Regions forced birds to roadsides to forage, causing yet more mortality, but also providing a rare chance to count large numbers of early migrants, including 600+ Wilson's Snipe in in Region 5's Oswego County 7-9 April! Although mid April's inclement weather retarded the normal progression of spring migration in many areas, the powerful northeast storm of 15-16 April also contributed to some spectacularly early arrivals. Foremost among these were Long Island's first ever April records of **Sooty Tern** (2!), and a classic barrier beach fallout of buntings grosbeaks, tanagers, and others (Figure A, p. 240).

References to southeastern-breeding landbirds were far too many, and too widely distributed in space and time, to attribute solely to the chance effects of weather. In Region 1, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Yellow-throated Warbler made news, as did Worm-eating Warbler and Summer Tanager in Region 2, Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers in Region 5, and Orchard Orioles in far northern Regions 6 & 7. Other southerners attracting attention in Region 7 included Black Vulture, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Blue-winged and Prairie warblers. Two **Anhingas** soaring over the Hudson River in Region 8 on 2 May were presumably even more shocking! Unusual reports of southern species from Region 9 included a **Mississippi Kite** over Doodletown, Rockland County, on 12 May, and Orange County's first documented record of Blue Grosbeak on 18 May. Even with some undocumented precedents, the latter record underscores how abruptly the occurrence of this and many other species diminishes away from the outer coast. Well represented in Region 10 were Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak.

The continuing northward range expansion of the Black Vulture was evidenced by reports from Regions 1, 3, 5, and 7, the last representing Region 7's second and Clinton County's first record. Black Vultures also raised attention in Region 8, where six reports involving seven birds came from four

different counties, and in Region 10's Long Island, where the species is still a rare find. Finally, a probable new nesting site was found in Region 9, the species' stronghold in NYS.

The shorebird migration had a mid-continental flavor in many parts of the state. Bill Watson's Marbled Godwit on Ruddy Marsh was Region 1's second spring record, and four Willets on a farm pond in Potsdam were truly inland—i.e., not only far from New York's tidewater breeding populations, but also away from the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence shore, where most of Region 6's records have occurred. Like all upstate Willets, these birds were almost certainly migrants of the western subspecies *inornatus*. Willie D'Anna's Stilt Sandpiper in Region 1 was unique in the state this spring, but there were multiple reports of American Golden-Plover (Regions 1, 2, 9, and 10) and Wilson's Phalarope (Regions 1, 2, and 10).

The frequency of vagrancy is usually lower during spring than fall migration, but the number of nominal spring vagrants is augmented when overwintering fall vagrants linger into March and beyond. In this category were at least one of Region 2's two **Harris's Sparrows** and a **Varied Thrush**, Region 3's venerable **Pacific Loon** and Eared Grebe, Region 9's **Slaty-backed Gull** and **Bullock's Oriole**, and Region 10's **Smith's Longspur** and **Western Tanager**.

More authentically vernal were the following records from Region 1: **Western Meadowlark**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, and **Lark Bunting**. Region 2 hosted two Dickcissels (rare in spring), **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and a first spring male **Bullock's Oriole**. Region 5's highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Am. White Pelican, Great Cormorant, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, and Loggerhead Shrike, in addition to the southern warblers mentioned above. Region 7 recorded its third, and Clinton County its first, **Tufted Duck**. Region 7 also hosted a Eurasian Wigeon. A crisp male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was one of Region 8's unusual finds. Among four reports of Greater White-fronted Goose from Region 10 was a very unusual pink-billed bird at Water Mill. Almost all Long Island birds are believed to derive from the Greenland populations. Region 10 also reported four "Richardson's" Cackling Geese, five Eurasian Wigeon, and five "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal**. Other vagrants there included a **White-faced Ibis**, a nominate **Mew Gull**, a potential first Long Island **Slaty-backed Gull**, and a **Painted Bunting**. A *Passerina* bunting at Fire Island on 16 April showed bold wingbars recalling **Lazuli Bunting**, and probably descended at least in part from that species. Sadly, this bird did not allow prolonged study, but a few photos were obtained before the bird vanished, and these may be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tixbirdz/>.

A Ruddy Shelduck among migrating waterfowl on 17 March in Region 1 raised intriguing questions. The individual in question evidently showed no indications of captive origins, and the possibility of natural occurrence should not be dismissed uncritically. Indeed, the species has wandered to Iceland and Greenland (ABA Checklist Committee. 2004. 2003 Annual Report. *Birding* 36: 38-41)—and very likely to North America as well (Allard, K., McKay, K. and McKinnon, L. 2001. Sighting of Ruddy Shelducks at East Bay, Southampton



Island, Nunavut. *Birders Journal* 10: 86-89). The ABA Checklist Committee's decision to designate the latter record (a flock of six in Nunavut!) as "origin hypothetical" strains this writer's credulity, but ultimately, the ornithological record ought to preserve facts, not opinions. Dennis Russell and Mike Morgante are to be commended for keeping records like this under scrutiny.

### BIRD OF THE SEASON

Among the many memorable birds from spring 2007, some would seem to be disqualified from the BOTS award because of the grim circumstances surrounding their occurrence. Among these are the astonishing April records of Sooty Tern, which sadly succumbed to the storm on which they arrived. Likewise, several other examples of remarkable fallouts and local concentrations of birds bespoke distress for the birds involved. Others, such as the Anhinga and the Mississippi Kite delighted their observers in a much less conflicted fashion—but these birds were seen by only a few people. After due consideration, I think that the nominate Mew Gull found by Angus Wilson in Brooklyn on 8 April stands out as the most exceptional rarity that was seen by many observers. Only the second documented record from Long Island, this second winter individual was studied and photographed by many observers over a two day period (Figure B, p. 241).



Spring Arrival Dates 2007 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	21-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	1 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr		5 Apr	21 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr		11 Apr	15 Apr
Green Heron	15 Apr	28 Apr	22 Apr		22 Apr	6 May	8 May	27 Apr	24 Apr	14 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	14 Mar	22 Mar	3 Mar		14 Mar	16 Mar	21 Mar	18 Apr	13 Mar		19 Mar	13 Mar
Green-winged Teal	10 Mar	12 Mar	3 Mar		22 Mar	29 Mar	19 Mar	3 Apr			18 Mar	17 Mar
Northern Pintail	7 Mar	9 Mar	3 Mar		13 Mar		14 Mar	14 Mar			10 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	19 Mar	16 Mar	24 Mar		15 Mar	17 Apr	24 Mar	1 Apr	12 Apr	3 Mar	24 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	24 Mar	26 Mar	23 Mar		19 Mar	2 Apr	22 Mar	3 Apr	30 Mar	3 Mar	23 Mar	28 Mar
Virginia Rail	6 Apr	29 Apr	13 Apr		11 Apr	4 May	6 May	1 Apr	13 Apr		17 Apr	19 Apr
Sora	15 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr		23 Apr		19 May	23 Apr	4 May	14 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr
Common Moorhen	7 Apr	29 Apr	21 Apr		14 Apr		6 May	27 Apr		21 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	18 May	26 Apr	14 Apr		23 May		14 May				7 May	12 May
Semipalmated Plover	3 May	4 May	11 May		13 May		9 May	18 May	15 May	28 Apr	8 May	10 May
Killdeer	28 Feb	10 Mar	3 Mar		3 Mar	25 Mar	21 Mar	15 Mar			11 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	28 Mar	23 Mar	13 Mar		10 Apr	7 Apr	20 Apr	14 Apr	1 Apr		2 Apr	7 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	29 Mar	12 Apr	21 Apr		8 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	1 May	10 Apr	15 Mar	11 Apr	18 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	22 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr		26 Apr	6 May	4 May	25 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	15 Apr	23 Apr	22 Apr		29 Apr	8 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr
Sanderling					26 May						26 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	6 May	3 May			19 May		9 May	19 May	15 May	28 Apr	9 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	25 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr		26 Apr		9 May	12 May	28 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	4 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	30 Mar	12 Mar	29 Apr		10 Apr					31 Mar	3 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	28 Mar	24 Mar	29 Mar		29 Mar	2 Apr	3 Apr	15 Mar	29 Mar		27 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	13 Mar	11 Mar	7 Mar		25 Feb	20 Mar	23 Mar	14 Apr	23 Feb	3 Mar	12 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	31 Mar	2 Apr	7 Apr		7 Apr	10 Apr	9 May	29 Apr		13 May	17 Apr	22 Apr
Common Tern	8 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr		23 Apr	2 May	9 May		4 May	20 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	3 May	9 May	3 May		17 May	4 May	9 May	2 May		12 May	7 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	28 Apr	28 Mar	13 May		30 Apr		14 May	24 Apr	3 May	21 Apr	27 Apr	1 May

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2007 Landbirds												Average	21-Yr. Ave
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10			
Black-billed Cuckoo	9 May	9 May	13 May		10 May	10 May	14 May	10 May	19 May	18 Apr	9 May	12 May	
Common Nighthawk	11 May	8 May	11 May		19 May		18 May	19 May	22 May	29 Apr	13 May	12 May	
Chimney Swift	22 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr		22 Apr	3 May	17 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	2 May	29 Apr	4 May		1 May	10 May	2 May	1 May	29 Apr	16 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	23 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar		2 Apr	5 Apr	24 Mar	4 Apr			30 Mar	3 Apr	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	17 May	27 May	17 May		28 May	26 May	20 May	19 May	13 May	12 May	19 May	18 May	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9 May	11 May	6 May		12 May	19 May	1 May	30 Apr	14 May	20 Apr	6 May	9 May	
Alder Flycatcher	17 May	5 May	12 May		12 May	20 May	17 May	15 May	15 May	30 May	15 May	17 May	
Willow Flycatcher	9 May	11 May	16 May		14 May	20 May	19 May	12 May	12 May	11 May	13 May	16 May	
Least Flycatcher	27 Apr	4 May	24 Apr		1 May	4 May	7 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	
Eastern Phoebe	17 Mar	20 Mar	22 Mar		14 Mar	29 Mar	26 Mar	5 May	14 Mar	3 Mar	23 Mar	22 Mar	
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1 May	27 Apr	28 Apr		1 May	4 May	10 May	5 May	2 May	28 Apr	1 May	1 May	
Eastern Kingbird	27 Apr	29 Apr	23 Apr		1 May	4 May	5 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	17 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	
Purple Martin	3 Apr	23 Mar	21 Apr		21 Apr	22 Apr	10 May	19 May	25 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	17 Apr	
Tree Swallow	15 Mar	10 Mar	14 Mar		13 Mar	24 Mar	15 Mar	26 Feb	12 Mar	3 Mar	11 Mar	21 Mar	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	15 Apr	1 Apr	4 Apr		21 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	23 Apr	1 Apr	3 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	
Bank Swallow	25 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr		26 Apr	26 Apr	11 May	22 Apr	27 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	
Cliff Swallow	25 Apr	12 Apr	24 Apr		24 Apr	5 May	10 May	12 May	5 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	
Barn Swallow	15 May	1 Apr	2 Apr		1 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	
House Wren	26 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr		25 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5 Apr	8 Apr	28 Mar		8 Apr	3 Apr	23 Apr	3 Apr		13 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr		22 Apr		1 May	27 Apr	18 Apr	14 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	
Eastern Bluebird		3 Mar			12 Mar	2 Apr	20 Mar				17 Mar	9 Mar	
Veery	29 Apr	3 May	28 Apr		7 May	10 May	11 May	8 May	2 May	24 Apr	3 May	2 May	
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	7 May	7 May		11 May		15 May	12 May	5 May	2 May	8 May	8 May	
Hermit Thrush	27 Mar	31 Mar	31 Mar		29 Mar	6 Apr	7 Apr	10 May		25 Mar	5 Apr	7 Apr	
Wood Thrush	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr		2 May	6 May	10 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	
Gray Catbird	21 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr		2 May	9 May	1 May	26 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr	
Brown Thrasher	26 Mar	4 Apr	18 Apr		23 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	17 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	
Blue-headed Vireo	23 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr		23 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	
Yellow-throated Vireo	11 May	5 May	24 Apr		1 May	8 May	17 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	2 May	4 May	
Warbling Vireo	28 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr		28 Apr	4 May	23 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	
Red-eyed Vireo	3 May	5 May	30 Apr		7 May	10 May	9 May	10 May	2 May	19 Apr	3 May	4 May	
	Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region.												

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

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2007 Landbirds (cont'd)

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## Seasonality and Advance

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality vs 1987-2006	Advance (Days)
1	91	-1.43	-2.94
2	92	-2.17	-3.83
3	90	-2.32	-3.68
4	0	-	-
5	93	-0.93	-0.44
6	79	-3.06	5.42
7	91	-2.91	6.21
8	87	0.57	3.29
9	77	1.86	0.97
10	81	-0.83	-5.00

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

Possible number of species = 93.

Minus = this year earlier than the 20-year average for the Region under Seasonality or this Region's average earlier than the 10-region average for this year under Advance.



## REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

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March 2007 was colder than normal during the first twenty days but was milder during the rest of the month. The average temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 35.0° F, 0.7° above average. There was 2.61" of precipitation, 0.38" below average, along with 5.4" of snow, 7.0" less than average. The eastern basin of Lake Erie remained frozen throughout the month. It was the coldest April in ten years, with a winter-like cold stretch between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> resulting from a deep upper low set up over eastern North America. The average temperature was 42.5° F, 2.8° below average. Precipitation was 2.96", 0.08" below average, with 2.3" of snow at Buffalo, but there was heavy snowfall in the hills south of Buffalo. Spring growth was about a week behind schedule, and it took until the 29<sup>th</sup> for the eastern basin of Lake Erie, including harbors, to be ice free, about two weeks later than average. The average temperature in May was 59.2° F, 2.2° above normal. The precipitation was 0.87", 2.48" below normal, resulting in a remarkably dry month. Other than some chilly days around the third weekend in May, there was mostly seasonable weather throughout the month.

Many of the first waterfowl arrivals were during the second week of March, especially after a long-awaited warm front on the 13th. There was only a modest showing of Snow Geese this spring, with only three reports of 40 or more and no reports beyond March. There were two reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese**, including a group of up to five seen on multiple days in April, plus one report of four **Cackling Geese**. Both of these species are now annual in spring. There were two reports of Brant in May, which are reported less than annually in spring. There were three **Eurasian Wigeon** reports, making for the third consecutive spring with multiple sightings of this increasingly regular rarity. On 17 March, Dennis Russell was very surprised to find a **Ruddy Shelduck** in a seasonally flooded field in Clarence along with Canada Geese, Mallards, and American Wigeons. The bird could not be re-found, and, while the greatest likelihood is that it was an escaped exotic bird, it is interesting to note its occurrence with other migratory waterfowl during the primary waterfowl migration period.

Migrating Turkey Vultures are increasing in numbers with the best evidence provided by the numbers tallied at the Region's hawk watches, Hamburg and Ripley. There were several days in late March and early April with thousands counted, including 26 March, when approximately 2,500 vultures were sighted

at both hawk watches. Many of these birds were likely counted at both locations, as the watch sites are on the same flight path near the Lake Erie shoreline. One **Black Vulture** was observed at the Ripley watch on 8 May. The cold weather of early April slowed raptor migration down considerably and slightly delayed the arrival and peak of Broad-winged Hawks. The peak days for migrant Broad-wingeds were 23 April and 29 April this spring.

Bald Eagles returned to many of the now regular nesting locations, and a new nest was found along Tonawanda Creek in Genesee County. The new nest was visible from a bridge on a state highway, and the DEC and the DOT had to post signs to reduce cars from stopping once word of the nest spread in the local community. Peregrine Falcons nested in downtown Buffalo and in the gorge near Niagara Falls (Canadian side) again. For the third year in a row, Peregrines were observed in potential territorial behavior near the Buffalo Psychiatric Center and the west side of Buffalo. On 4 May, Alec Humann witnessed a mid-air prey exchange and subsequent copulation. However, nesting has not been documented. **Merlins** returned to nest on the west side of Buffalo for the third consecutive spring.

Besides delaying migration, the prolonged cold spell in early April was especially hard on several species. According to Paul Hess, the wildlife biologist at Iroquois NWR, a total of 233 dead Tree Swallows was found in nest boxes between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>. The swallows had gathered in the boxes for warmth. Even though it is a common species, it may take several years for the local population to rebuild its numbers. Several birders indicated that Eastern Phoebes were also adversely affected by the cold spell, as they were found seeking warmth next to houses and other structures, foraging just inches over available open water, and even found tame along roadsides. Jeff Reed indicated that phoebes were absent in southern Cattaraugus County following the cold spell, and he found none during the B.O.S. May Count there. With snow on the ground over much of the Region on the weekend of 7-8 April and the following Sunday, 15 April, there was some very interesting roadside birding and feeder activity. Robins, Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer, and sparrows, among other species, were found in large numbers along snow-covered roadsides. Some of Willie D'Anna's roadside totals from April 8 along the Lake Ontario Plain in Somerset and Yates included 345 Dark-eyed Juncos, 139 Wilson's Snipe, and six Vesper Sparrows. Fox Sparrows were found in much higher numbers than usual during the cold spell, including D'Anna's Regional record count of 31 in the towns of Porter and Wilson. Double-digit totals were made at multiple locations throughout the Region. Vesper Sparrows rarely visit feeders, so five of them at Terry Mosher's feeders in Pomfret were certainly a result of the April cold and snow. After the cold spell ended, the backlog of migrants started to come through. By month's end, migration seemed to be back on a normal schedule, and many new arrivals appeared during the last five days of the month.

It was a good spring for rare waders, and migrant **Sandhill Cranes** are being found with increased regularity. A **Cattle Egret** was present for several

days in North Harmony after it was initially found by Kirk Vanstrom on 8 May. Ron and Sue Hacker found a **Snowy Egret** along the Niagara River in Niagara Falls during the B.O.S. May Count on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Several observers saw the **Tricolored Heron** at Iroquois NWR that was initially found by Tom and Susan O'Donnell on 28 May. Jim Pawlicki spotted a small, long-legged, all dark heron flying northwest just before dusk on 14 April at Iroquois NWR. Pawlicki surmised that the bird was probably a Little Blue Heron and wondered if the Little Blue Heron found in the Toronto area less than a week later was the same bird. Two ibises were observed over multiple days in mid-May, with one at Iroquois NWR and one at Tiff Nature Preserve. Only one sighting was strong enough to identify and document as **Glossy Ibis**, although both birds were probably this species.

There was excellent shorebird habitat and concentrations at Ruddy Marsh at Tonawanda WMA and Kumph Marsh at nearby Iroquois NWR. Most shorebird records were from these two locations, as many birders checked the areas frequently. The first rarity at these spots was a **Marbled Godwit** found by Bill Watson at Ruddy Marsh on 5 May. The bird lingered for two more days and was seen by many. This is only the second spring record for the Region. On 27 May, Willie D'Anna found a **Stilt Sandpiper** at Kumph Marsh, only the fourth spring record for the Region. Also at Kumph Marsh, a pair of **Wilson's Phalaropes** was observed several times 20-28 May. Bill Watson and Peter Yoerg witnessed the pair copulating. No subsequent breeding behavior was seen and the birds were not seen beyond the 28<sup>th</sup>. Earlier in the season, Linda McElvany and Mike Zebchazy independently found an **American Golden-Plover** at Batavia WWTP in late April. While regular in late summer and fall, it is very rare in spring.

Passerine migration seemed to be fairly steady and on schedule in May. Warbler highlights included one **Kentucky Warbler**, one **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Allegany State Park where it has bred for the past few years. While they were certainly not numerous, it was encouraging to get more **Common Nighthawk** reports than the past few spring seasons.

There were several notable spring rarities this year. A **Western Meadowlark** was present for at least several weeks near one of the Ripley Hawk Watch stations. Many birders were able to see and hear it, and it was the first documented occurrence in the Region since 1992. Photographs of an adult male **Black-headed Grosbeak** at a feeder in Newfane circuitously and belatedly made their way to Jim Pawlicki. The bird was present 5-11 May, which was frustrating news for the many local birders that would have likely gone to see this handsome rarity if news of the sighting had traveled faster. If properly documented, this will be the second record for the Region. Another exciting feeder find was a **Lark Bunting** on 19 May in Blasdell. Tina Schulz did not recognize the black bird with white wings on the ground beneath her feeder. She identified the bird after reviewing a field guide and called her co-worker,



Danielle Pecoraro, at a Wild Birds Unlimited store, who came and verified the identification. This is only the third occurrence of Lark Bunting in the Region.

The B.O.S. April Count on 15 April tallied 141 species and was compiled by Mike Hamilton. There were eight record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Gadwall, Double-crested Cormorant, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Snipe, Little Gull, Fox Sparrow, and American Goldfinch. No record low counts were recorded, but this is misleading as there were few observers and much less territory covered in the earliest years of the count. While the count date was slightly later than usual because Easter fell on the second Sunday of April this year, there was unseasonably cold weather, strong winds, and snow and fog in many parts of the B.O.S. study area. All said, it made for a very unusual April Count this year.

The B.O.S. May Count on 20 May was conducted on a chilly day with much fog, mist, and light rain. A total of 210 species was observed, tied for third highest in count history. The count compiler was Bob DeLeon. Thirteen species were recorded at their highest total ever (since 1935): Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Great Egret, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Gray Catbird, and Hooded Warbler. One species, Golden-crowned Kinglet, was recorded at its lowest total (0) in count history.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Connie Adams, Tim Baird, H.M. Bateman, Doug Beattie, Jan Beglinger (JaB), Jim Berry, Chris Betrus, Elizabeth Brooks, Bruce Chilton, Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Elaine Dart, Len DeFrancisco, Brett Ewald, Kurt Fox, Mike & Sylvia Galas (M&SG), Ron & Sue Hacker, Doug Happ, Paul Hess - INWR, Linda Holmes, Jim Horn, Alec Humann, Karen & Jim Landau (K&JiL), Lynne Landon, Jerry Lazarczyk (JLa), Tom LeBlanc, Jeremy Linden (JLi), H. Link, David Mark, Linda McElvany, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Terry Mosher, Dave Neveu, Marilyn O'Connell, Susan & Tom O'Donnell, Jim Pawlicki, Danielle Pecoraro, Matthew Pestinger, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Dennis Russell, Richard Salembier, Gail Seamans, Tina Schulz, Debbie Sharon, Bob Spahn, Kirk Vanstrom, William Watson, Peter Yoerg, Mike Zebchazy.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count, 15 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count, 20 May; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE; BWWTTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant,

GENE; DH – Dunkirk Harbor; FM CSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FN SP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GH SP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LESP – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; MI – Motor I NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, GENE; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds Nature Sanctuary, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach Nature Preserve, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, GENE/NIAG; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 2 OOWMA 19 Mar (PY); 4,5 INWR 4,7 Apr (MG, GS; JP); now annual in spring.

**Snow Goose:** arr DH 6 Mar; max 70 Alfred ALLE 11 Mar (EB); 60 wh, 7 bl Yates ORLE & Somerset NIAG 18 Mar; 48 Alexander GENE 23 Mar; modest showing; no reports beyond Mar.

**CACKLING GOOSE:** 4 INWR 7 Apr (JP), only report, regular in spring at this location in recent years.

**Brant:** 28 Wilson NIAG 13 May (WD), resting flock observed on L Ontario far from shore; 3 NIAG BOSMC; only reports.

**Mute Swan:** reported only from now regular locations.

**Tundra Swan:** arr 8 INWR 10 Mar; 225 Hamburg HW 12 Mar; 108 Newstead ERIE 15 Mar; 185 TWMA 19 Mar (PY); max 600 Hartland NIAG 22 Mar (MP); last Hamburg HW 24 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** arr 10 Fredonia CHAU 14 Mar; max 65 Brant ERIE 21 Mar (DN).

**Gadwall:** 197 BOSAC, historical count maximum.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** OOWMA 19 Mar (PY); INWR 31 Mar (JP, JaB); Alexander GENE 17 Apr (ED, DB, JLa); third consecutive spring with multiple reports.

**Am. Wigeon:** arr 2 WTSP 10 Mar; max 780 OOWMA 14 Apr (JP).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr OOWMA 19 Mar.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 2 Pomfret CHAU 14 Mar; max 58 BWWTP 28 Mar; 46 INWR 23 Apr; TBNP 17 May.

**N. Pintail:** arr Buffalo ERIE 7 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 3 BeSP 10 Mar.

**Canvasback:** arr TWMA 13 Mar; max 9160 Grand I NR 15 Mar (JLa); last Buffalo Harbor ERIE 1 May.

**Redhead:** max 700 Grand I NR 15 Mar (JLa); arr 2 Tift NP 26 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr Belmont ALLE 13 Mar; 300 Grand I NR 15 Mar; 264 OOWMA 24 Mar; 5 BWWTP 27 May; last TWMA 30 May (WW).

**Greater Scaup:** last 14 BOSMC.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr 2 Fredonia CHAU 14 Mar; last BWWTP 27 May.

**Surf Scoter:** 18 DH 5,17 Mar (DN, TM); SPNS 6 Apr; 4 BOSAC; 2,3 BWWTP 25,30 Apr (MZ, BS); 3 Dayton CATT 28 Apr (JM), rare inland; last 2 FN SP 7 May.

**White-winged Scoter:** last 6 BOSMC.

**Black Scoter:** DH 2, 6, 31 Mar; 2 FN SP 21 Apr (LL); only reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 2 Allegheny Res CATT 24 Mar; BWWTP 28 Mar; Dayton CATT 31 Mar; last 4 BOSMC.

**Bufflehead:** 269 Dayton CATT 31 Mar (DN), good inland count; last 2 BOSMC.

**Com. Goldeneye:** arr TWMA 13 Mar; last Buffalo Harbor ERIE 1 May.

**Hooded Merganser:** arr 2 TWMA 13 Mar.

**Com. Merganser:** max 254 Sheridan CHAU 31 Mar; 123 BOSMC, historical count maximum; BWWTP 25 May, unusual location for date.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5000 Buffalo Harbor ERIE 21 Apr (RS), counts rarely made in Apr when abundant on L Erie.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr Pomfret CHAU 16 Mar (JL); 82 BWWTP 28 Mar; 62 INWR 23 Apr; max 111 BWWTP 5 May; 35 BWWTP 27 May, lingering.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr GH SP 11 Mar; Youngstown NIAG 18 Mar; 9 FM CSP 23 Mar (WD); last BOSMC.

**Com. Loon:** arr DH 22 Mar; 45 Hamburg HW 2 Apr, good flight.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr 3 INWR 24 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** arr Almond ALLE 10 Mar; max 41 DH 8 Apr.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr Tonawanda ERIE 3 Mar; DH 5,6 Mar; Alfred ALLE 7 Apr; 14 FMCSP 23 Mar; max 30 GHSP 31 Mar (WD); 1,1 INWR 7,20 Apr; 31 BOSAC; BWWTP 21 Apr; last 11 NF 13 May (WD), unusual count for location and time of year.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr INWR, 2 Gasport ORLE 31 Mar; 645 DH 8 Apr; 4054 BOSAC, yet another historical count maximum.

**Am. Bittern:** arr TWMA 1 Apr; Brown's Marsh ALLE 12 Apr; Pomfret CHAU 3 May (TM), only reports away from INWR complex.

**Least Bittern:** INWR 27, 29 May, only reports.

**Great Egret:** arr MI 30 Mar; Hanover CHAU 12 May; 45 + 29 n MI 14 May; Dunkirk CHAU 19 May; 22 TWMA 29 May.

**SNOWY EGRET:** NF 20,21 May (R&SH, JLa, WW), consistent with most spring sightings in late May.

**TRICOLORED HERON:** INWR 28-30 May (S&TO, mob), 7<sup>th</sup> Regional record.

**CATTLE EGRET:** N Harmony CHAU 8-12 May (KV), rare but almost annual in spring.

**Green Heron:** arr 2 BOSAC.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** DH 22 Mar; max 274 ad + 214 n MI 18 Apr.

**GLOSSY IBIS:** INWR 17 May (PH, JP), only sighting confirmed to species.

**PLEGADIS IBIS SP.:** Tift NP 19, 21 (DH; WD, BP); INWR 20 May; not observed well enough to confirm to species.

**BLACK VULTURE:** Ripley HW 8 May (LD), nearly annual in spring.

**Turkey Vulture:** arr 4 PG, Hamburg ERIE, Alexander GENE 3 Mar; max 2503 Hamburg HW, 2453 Ripley HW 26 Mar, big movement for one day.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr 2 Allegheny Res CATT 24 Mar; max 18 Hamburg HW 20 Apr; 4 nests INWR & vicinity.

**Bald Eagle:** too numerous to report all nesting locations; new nest found in Alexander GENE 23 Mar (DB, KF); 19 BOSAC; max 17 Ripley HW 29 Apr; 17 BOSMC.

**N. Goshawk:** arr Ripley HW 25 Mar; Lyndonville NIAG 21 Apr (WD); max 3

Hamburg HW 29 Apr (JiL); last Ripley HW 8 May (MG).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 5 Hamburg HW 12 Mar; max 78 Ripley HW 26 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Eden ERIE 16 Apr; max 4322 Ripley HW 23 Apr; 1130 Ripley HW 29 Apr; 776 Hamburg HW 29 Apr; 115 Hamburg HW 24 May, good late count.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** dark-morph (Western form) Hamburg HW 3 Apr (WD), rarely seen in Region.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 8 Lockport NIAG 15 Mar; max 30 Dayton CATT 31 Mar (DN).

**Golden Eagle:** arr Ripley HW 21 Mar; Hamburg HW 3 Apr (FR); Silver Creek CHAU 30 Apr (MO); Hamburg HW 8 May (BC).

**Merlin:** max 5 Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar, 2 continued at SUNY Buffalo thru 13 May; arr Niagara NIAG 7 Mar; DH 21 Mar (DN); Pomfret CHAU 6 Apr (TM); 5 BOSAC; 2 Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr (AH), returned to last year's nesting area; Pine Hill SF CATT 29 Apr; 3 BOSMC.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 ad + 4 yg Buffalo ERIE thru, from annual nest location downtown; arr Hamburg HW 13 Mar; Grand I NR 22 Mar; Tonawanda ERIE 4 Apr; Buffalo Psych Center ERIE 12 Apr, territorial behavior, 4 May (AH), pair display and copulating nearby, but no nesting found; MI 23 Apr; INWR 28 Apr, 6,17 May; NF 5-20 May, nest found on Canadian side near Falls; 9 BOSMC; last Hamburg HW 22 May.

**Virginia Rail:** arr SPNS 6 Apr (LH).

**Sora:** arr BOSAC.

**Com. Moorhen:** arr 2 INWR 7 Apr (MG, JLa), early; 4 BWWTP 9 May, one of very few breeding locations away from INWR.

**Am. Coot:** arr 5 TWMA 13 Mar.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr, max 20 Youngstown NIAG 14 Mar (LL); Wilson NIAG 14 Mar (BE); 2 Silver Creek CHAU 24 Mar (DN); 2 Ripley HW 25 Mar; 9 Hamburg HW 25 Mar; 4 BOSAC; Watts Flats WMA 5 May (JB); Tift NP 6 May (MM); 14 Hamburg HW 10 May (FR); INWR 12, 28 May; 2 BOSMC.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr INWR 18 May; Tift NP 24 May; max 9 INWR 30 May.

**AM. GOLDEN-PLOVER:** BWWTP 25 Apr (MZ!, LM); rarely reported in spring.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Clarence ERIE 3 May (M&SG); max 63 TWMA 18 May (WW); 40 INWR 25 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr INWR 28 Mar; max 60 BWWT 25 Apr.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr INWR 29 Mar; max 165 TWMA 5 May; last 2 INWR 30 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Albion ORLE 22 Apr; max 15 TWMA 6 May.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr BOSAC.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 2 Amity ALLE (HB, JH); 2 Colden ERIE 26 May (K&JL); Tillman WMA ERIE 27 May (WD, BP), only reports.

**MARbled GODWIT:** TWMA 5-7 May (WW, WD, M&SG), very rare, only 2<sup>nd</sup> spring record for Region.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 4 TWMA 6 May (M&SG; PY), slightly early; Hartland NIAG 7 May; max 65 TWMA 30 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr BWWT 25 Apr (MZ); max 200 INWR 12 May; 96 Yates ORLE 12 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 4 INWR 25 May (MM), only report.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 8 Kiantone CHAU 30 Mar (DN).

**Purple Sandpiper:** 2 max NF 20 Mar thru 20 May, on the late side; traditional location for spring reports.

**Dunlin:** arr BOSAC; 7 BWWT 25 Apr; max 43 TWMA 18 May.

**STILT SANDPIPER:** INWR 27-28 May (WD, BP), very rarely found in spring, only fourth spring record for Region.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 3 BOSMC; INWR 27 May, only reports.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr 2 Dayton CATT 28 Mar; 54 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 31 Mar; max 139 Wilson NIAG to Yates ORLE 8 Apr (WD, BP), weather fallout; 341 BOSAC, historical count maximum; INWR 30 May.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Pomfret CHAU 13 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1-2 INWR 20-28 May (PY, WD, WW, DM), pair observed copulating once.

**Little Gull:** max 19 Lewiston NR 17 Mar; 5 max Buffalo Harbor ERIE 4-28 Apr; 4 NF 9 Apr; BeSP 12 Apr; 22 BOSAC, historical count maximum; last 6 Lewiston NR 2 May (WD).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2 Riverwalk ALLE 23 Mar (JH), unusual location.

**Iceland Gull:** Porter NIAG 4, 22 Mar; max 2 DH 17 Mar – 10 May; 2 BeSP 24 Mar; 4 BOSAC; 2 Wilson NIAG 12 May; BOSMC; last 2 Olcott NIAG 22 May (BP,WD).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** BeSP 18 Mar; DH 31 Mar - 9 May; Barcelona CHAU 9 May; 3 BOSMC; last 3 Olcott NIAG, 1 Wilson NIAG 22 May (WD, BP).

**Glaucous Gull:** 2 Porter NIAG 4 Mar; DH 6 Mar, 29 Apr, 2 May; last 2 BOSMC.

**Caspian Tern:** arr 2 DH 31 Mar (DN), record early; max 131 DH 29 Apr.

**Com. Tern:** arr 2 Buffalo NIAG 8 Apr; 3 Lancaster ERIE 12 Apr (MM), rare inland; max 1000 Buffalo ERIE 6 May.

**Forster's Tern:** Grand I NR NIAG 23 Apr (DS), only report.

**Black Tern:** arr TWMA 3 May; 15 INWR 5 May; Buffalo NR 6 May (JP); max 21 TWMA 18 May.

#### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Bethany GENE 9 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr WTSP 17 May.

**Long-eared Owl:** max 3 GHSP 13-18 Mar; 2, 1 WTSP 22 Mar, 10 Apr; Williamsville ERIE 24 Apr (RS); only reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2, 4 Lockport NIAG 31 Mar, 10 Apr (JP), only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 3 Buffalo ERIE 11 May; Watts Flats WMA CHAU 16 May; 6 TWMA 17 May; Bennington WYOM 18 May; 8 WTSP 19 May; 6 BOSMC; Lancaster ERIE 29 May; Youngstown NIAG 30 May.

**Whip-poor-will:** Wilson NIAG 3 May (WD, BP), only report.

**Chimney Swift:** arr Hamburg HW 22 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr E Aurora ERIE 2 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Tift NP 23 Mar.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Youngstown NIAG 5 May; Dunkirk CHAU 8 May; 4 PG 9 May; 2 LESP 9 May; BeSP 9 May; 3 Hamburg ERIE 10 May; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 13,20 May; 5 max FNPS 18-31 May (LL).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr AISP 17 May (TB, TL); SPNS 22 May (LH), only reports.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Bethany GENE 9 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Sheridan CHAU 12 May; AISP 16 May; 2 AmSP 16,18 May; 2 BOSMC; Tillman WMA ERIE 28 May; only reports.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR, Tonawanda Ind Res 19 May; max 6 Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 26 May (MM); INWR 30 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr AISP 17 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr LESP 9 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr AmSP 27 Apr.

**E. Phoebe:** arr Pomfret CHAU 17 Mar; impacted by cold Apr weather, see *intro*.

**Gr. Crested Flycatcher:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 1 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Pomfret CHAU 27 Apr.

**N. Shrike:** last Somerset NIAG 8 Apr (BP, WD).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Wilson NIAG 11 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 2 AmSP 23 Apr.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr 2 AmSP 28 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr AISP 16 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr AmSP 3 May.

**Com. Raven:** Darien GENE 7 Mar, 2 Apr; Gerry CHAU 13 Apr; Ripley CHAU 2 May; Bennington WYOM 8, 30 May; Royalton NIAG 19 May; only reports outside ALLE, CATT.

**Purple Martin:** arr Grand I ERIE 3 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr 20 Royalton NIAG 15 Mar; devastated by prolonged cold spell in first half of Apr, see *intro*.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 2 BOSAC.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 3 BWWT 25 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr 2 BWWT 25 Apr; 30 nests FNSP 29 May, new location (LL).

**Barn Swallow:** arr 5 BOSAC.

**Carolina Wren:** 13 BOSAC and 23 BOSMC; slightly down from recent years.

**House Wren:** arr Tift NP, BeSP, AmSP 26 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr Tift NP 30 Mar.

**Marsh Wren:** arr INWR 28 Apr.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 Tift NP 26 Mar.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Grand I ERIE 5 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Sheridan CHAU 22 Apr.

**Veery:** arr Alexander GENE 29 Apr.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Arkwright CHAU 19 May; 6 BOSMC; 2 Wilson NIAG 22 May; only reports.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 5 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** GHSP 13 Mar; Pomfret CHAU 17 Mar; arr Alfred ALLE 27 Mar.

**Wood Thrush:** arr Wilson NIAG 28 Apr.

**Gray Catbird:** arr FNSP 21 Apr.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr Hamburg ERIE 26 Mar (FR); TBNP 27 Mar (JM); both slightly early.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 Hamburg HW 12 Mar; last TWMA 29 May (WD), on the late side.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr PG 29 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr ORLE BOSMC, only report.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** Red House CATT 17 May (TB, TL), only report.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 3 Alexander GENE 4 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr PG 30 Apr (JLi); 2 Wilson NIAG 4 May (BP); FNSP 18 May; only reports.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr AmSP 27 Apr.

**N. Parula:** arr Wilson NIAG 4 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr Alexander GENE 26 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Watts Flats WMA CHAU 5 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr multiple locations 5 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr LESP, PG 9 May; four other reports.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Tift NP 30 Apr.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 BuSP 4 Mar; arr SPNS 6 Apr; max 250 FNSP 6 May (LL).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 2 AmSP 25 Apr.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr AmSP 26 Apr (RS), early.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** AISP 13 May thru (JP, RS), observed in previous breeding area.

**Pine Warbler:** arr W Falls ERIE 31 Mar (CB); Bennington WYOM 5-9 Apr; 5 Sheridan CHAU 22 Apr; 5 Ripley CHAU 29 Apr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Tift NP 4 May; Pomfret CHAU 9 May; BeSP 10 May; AmSP 16 May; last NF 21 May; more migrants in non-breeding areas than usual; max 10 Yorkshire CATT 28 May (MM).

**Palm Warbler:** arr Alexander GENE 17 Apr; last 2 Wilson NIAG 22 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 2 Stiglmeir P ERIE 7 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr AISP, AmSP, Tift NP 10 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr TWMA 5 May; Pomfret CHAU 21 May, only location away from INWR and AISP areas.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 27 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr INWR, AISP, Watts Flats WMA CHAU 6 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** TWMA 12,18,19 May, has bred in this area in recent years.  
**Ovenbird:** arr Wilson NIAG 4 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr TWMA, Watts Flats WMA CHAU 5 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr AISP 25 Apr.  
**KENTUCKY WARBLER:** Tift NP 26 May (DH), nearly annual in spring.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr AmSP 16 May.  
**C. Yellowthroat:** arr BuSP 30 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Chestnut Ridge P ERIE 5 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr LESP 9 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr BeSP 13 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** FMCS 22 May (WD,BP), only spring report, increased reports in NIAG in recent years.

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Bethany GENE, BeSP 8 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr Amity ALLE, Tift NP 23 Mar.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Alfred ALLE 21 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Buffalo ERIE 26 Mar.  
**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** CHAU BOSMC; 2 Andover ALLE 30 May (EB); only reports.  
**Field Sparrow:** Wilson NIAG 10 Mar (RS); arr Wilson NIAG 30 Mar.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 2 Hamburg ERIE 2 Apr; 2,5,3 Pomfret CHAU 5,8,13 Apr (TM); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 7 Apr; 6 Somerset NIAG & Yates ORLE 8 Apr; 30 BOSAC; 4 Alma ALLE 28 Apr; Newfane NIAG 12 May; Wilson NIAG 22 May; 2 Alexander GENE 30 May; more reports than usual.  
**LARK BUNTING:** Blasdell ERIE 19 May (TS, DP), at feeder, third record for Region.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 7 Dunkirk Airport CHAU, 2 Belmont ALLE 31 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 19 BOSMC; 4 Tillman WMA ERIE 27 May; Yorkshire CATT 28 May (MM); only reports.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** Lancaster ERIE May (CA), traditional location.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 2 Clymer CHAU, Houghton ALLE 16 Mar; Pomfret CHAU 17 Mar; max 31 Porter & Wilson NIAG 7 Apr (WD), record count for Reg following snow event; 14 Wilson NIAG 8 Apr (WD), at one feeder; 16 BuSP 8 Apr (LC); 11 Tift NP 14 Apr (RS); 165 BOSAC, historical count maximum.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 4 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 30 Mar.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 Sheridan CHAU 29 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 30 May.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 345 Wilson NIAG to Yates ORLE 8 Apr (WD, BP), mostly on roadsides.  
**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco (*J. h. oregonus*):** Wilson NIAG 6, 9 Apr (WD), females rarely documented.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 2 Yates ORLE 17 Mar; 50 Oakfield GENE 7 Apr (S&TO, MG); 16 BOSAC; only reports.  
**Snow Bunting:** 2 Yates ORLE 17 Mar; only report.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Bethany GENE 24 Apr; Wilson NIAG 27 Apr.  
**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** Newfane NIAG 5-11 May (*vide* JP), only 2<sup>nd</sup> in Reg, see *intro*.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Colden ERIE 26 Apr (KL), early; Alma ALLE 30 Apr (HL).  
**Bobolink:** arr Olean CATT, Pomfret CHAU 4 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Wilson NIAG 10 Mar.  
**W. MEADOWLARK:** Ripley CHAU 22 Apr - 12 May (TB, WD, JP, mob), first documented report since 1992.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 3 Colden ERIE 16 Mar; max 24 Hartland NIAG 31 Mar; last 2 ALLE BOSMC.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Silver Creek CHAU 5 May; 2 LESP 9 May; PG 9 May; 2 WTSP 11 May; Porter NIAG 17 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Colden ERIE, Buffalo ERIE 30 Apr.  
**Purple Finch:** max 16 Pomfret CHAU 4 Mar; 334 BOSAC; 187 BOSMC; moderate numbers.  
**Pine Siskin:** 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 24 Apr, 11 May, only reports.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 4 ALLE BOSMC, only report.

## EXOTICS

**Chukar:** Hamburg ERIE 24-25 Mar, release or escape.

**Ruddy Shelduck:** Clarence ERIE 17 Mar (DR), observed in seasonally flooded fields with Mallards, Canada Geese, and Am. Wigeons.



## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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As is often the case, the spring season was one of contrast. The beginning of spring bird movements was actually a bit delayed; no major flights occurred until 12 March, when waves of birds were observed. There were many fluctuations in temperature and precipitation. March started things off with 21 days of cold, harsh weather. It warmed up considerably after that, and an average temperature of 35.3° F resulted, 1.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 0.04" below normal at 2.98". Snowfall was 2.6" above normal at 19.2". April started out much the same as the end of March with warm temperatures. That only lasted for a couple of days, as we then went into a deep freeze. Temperatures were significantly below average, and some heavy snowfall was recorded in the higher elevation parts of the Region. The last week and a half of the month saw above average temperatures and less precipitation. The average temperature was 44.5°, 0.8° above normal. The 3.64" of precipitation was 0.89" above normal. The 6.2" of snowfall was 1.1" above normal. That brought the season's total to 6", above normal at 100.7". Due to the roller coaster ride at this point in the season, vegetation was slightly behind its usual growth. May was just a nice month. There were a number of record high temperatures and scant precipitation. While this made it comfortable for birding, conditions didn't produce any major groundings, and birding was generally lackluster. The average temperature for the month was 59.5°, 2.5° above normal. Precipitation was lowest ever recorded for May at 0.24", 2.58" below normal.

This year we were once again fortunate to have a full time hawk watcher, Dave Tetlow, at Braddock Bay from 1 March to 15 May, with a few later dates. Dave not only counted hawks, but kept accurate records of all species. This was a plus for the Region. Mike Frail once again carried out the daytime owl roosting surveys on the west side of Braddock Bay in the Wildlife Management area and was responsible for the spring migration totals. William Symonds and

Robert Spahn were the principal observers at the Hamlin Beach lake watch and chronicled the major flights of water birds during the spring. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory under the leadership of Betsy Brooks conducted banding operations at the Kaiser/Manitou Beach Station and was a good monitor of passerine flights in the Region. On Easter Sunday, after heavy snowfall, Dave Tetlow surveyed the west lakeshore from Parma to Carlton. His diligent coverage of the roadways produced some startling totals of birds that were escaping the deep snows and foraging along the roadsides. Also noted were substantial road kills due to the location of the birds at road edges. These efforts added considerably to our knowledge of the species present and their abundance at that point in the season and to the data base for the season.

There were some good waterfowl observations. The usual scattered occurrences of Greater White-fronted Goose were reported, and there were very good concentrations of Snow Geese in the Savannah area. Ross's Goose has become an annual visitor now, and this trend continued with multiple reports. Cackling Goose sightings were good, owing primarily to increased scrutiny since it was given full species status. The fourth Regional record of Barnacle Goose (origin unknown) was a bird found by Gary Chapin and seen by multiple observers. Tundra Swans put on a good show, with 2500+ reported from Groveland on 24 - 25 March. The continued increase in Trumpeter Swan reports documents their success in this area due to various introduction programs, including breeding of this species in private collections. The pair along Atlantic Avenue in Wayne County was once again successful in hatching cygnets. Puddle ducks once again seemed to vacate early, with early concentrations at Braddock Bay and elsewhere dropping off rapidly. Am. Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal continued in their declines. Canvasback numbers were also down, with few good concentrations reported. The other divers were about average, with reports of some scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser lingering through most of May. There were some decent Bufflehead numbers reported from the Hamlin Beach lake watch in April. The Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze was observed into the season, and a female was also reported at Hamlin Beach. Loon numbers at the lake watch were down this year. Peak Red-necked Grebe numbers occurred in late March, earlier than many years. But good numbers continued through most of April. The two Great Cormorants spotted at Braddock Bay were a season's highlight. Wandering waders were few. A couple of Great Egrets and reports of Glossy Ibis from the Carncross Road area of the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex were about it. Even Black-crowned Night-Herons were few and far between. There were no Black Vulture sightings at the hawkwatch this year.

Numbers at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch were mostly average or below. Early east and northeast winds depressed the flights. The best day was 23 April, when maxima were recorded for a number of species. Eagle totals were good, but Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel were low. An Osprey nest on the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management area was the first in



this lakeshore area in birders' memories. A single Swainson's Hawk was observed by Dave Tetlow on 11 May. Reports of nesting Merlin in a downtown neighborhood were again received, and the downtown Peregrine Falcons were once again successful. Common Moorhen sightings continued their decline. Sandhill Cranes on the other hand, continued the trend of numerous sightings, and the pair in the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex again produced two colts

It wasn't much of a spring for shorebird reports. Am. Golden-Plover and a record early Wilson's Phalarope were the major highlights. Fields on Carncross Road and the airfield at Geneseo were the only locations with consistent reports. There were very few reported from the lake watch. Upland Sandpiper continued its decline. There isn't much to report about gulls and terns. Both groups were low this season. Little Gull, Iceland Gull, and Forster's Tern were among the few interesting sightings.

Both cuckoos were reported in good numbers. Migrating owl numbers, as represented by the counts in the Manitou Beach Road pines, were generally mediocre. There were also no N. Saw-whet Owl reports later in May from their traditional breeding sites in Bergen Swamp. But then, there were few (maybe only two) Big Day groups in the field this year stopping to search the area. Common Nighthawk numbers were again very low, as were Whip-poor-will numbers. Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their increase in reports on the Lake Ontario Plain. Reports from elsewhere were few.

It was an interesting season for the passerine migration. Alder Flycatcher and N. Rough-winged Swallow were reported at record early dates. Flycatchers in general were good, though only a single report of Olive-sided Flycatcher was received. White-eyed Vireo was missed for the season. Philadelphia Vireos were down. A magenta-wing-tagged Fish Crow observed in Greece for two days was the first of the tagged Ithaca birds to be observed wandering outside that Region. Fish Crow and Common Raven reports were up a bit. Numbers reported for both kinglets were down. The expected thrushes were all present but in lower than typical numbers. The Varied Thrush wintering in Penfield continued into this season. N. Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher numbers were good.

It was the usual mixed bag for warblers. On the plus side with decent to good numbers were Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackpoll, and American Redstart. On the negative side were Tennessee, Nashville, N. Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Bay-breasted. There were two reports of Worm-eating Warbler, but none for Kentucky or Connecticut warblers.

The Summer Tanager seen at the West Spit of Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow was a seasonal highlight. It was a mixed bag for sparrows. Fox Sparrow numbers were good and sightings continued into May. Clay-colored Sparrows continued the trend of increased numbers, mainly in locations where reported in previous, recent years. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrow reports continue few, with the Nations Road area the last stronghold for the latter. White-throated Sparrows numbers were down and peak counts occurred over a narrower date

range than typical. The wintering **Harris's Sparrow** in Irondequoit continued on into May and molted to nearly complete adult male plumage. A second immature male **Harris's Sparrow** was reported from Batavia in late April. It was on private property and only a very few birders were allowed to visit and verify the bird.

Some observers felt that Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were down. In contrast to that, there were good numbers of Indigo Buntings. Two Dickcissel reports on 8 May were noteworthy. The trend to decreasing numbers continued for Eastern Meadowlark. A rare male Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by several observers on two days and later a female was reported once, all near the Long Pond Firehouse in the Town of Greece. Brewer's Blackbird was reported in April from several spots in Hamlin, all in the general area with most of our records over the years. One of the reports was of a flock of 27 individuals. Orchard Orioles continue their increase, and Baltimore Oriole numbers were very good. A first spring male **Bullock's Oriole**, the third Regional record for the species, was seen in Webster by Robert Spahn.

Purple Finches were down. The only noteworthy finch report was of two Red Crossbills seen at Braddock Bay on 22 March.

March's species total was 136, slightly above the 10-year average; April's 184, seven species above the 10-year average; and May's 231, just slightly below the 10-year average. 252 species were recorded for the season, adding 124 species to the year's list for a 262 total, 13 species below last year but right at the 10-year average.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

b -- banded; BB -- Braddock Bay, MONR; CH -- Cobbs Hill, C Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, 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; I – T Irondequoit, 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; MU – T Murray, ORLE; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte, MONR; PE – T Perinton, MONR; PN – T Penfield, MONR; R – C Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; V – T Victor, MONR; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1 BB 10, 14 Mar (DT); 1 H 23 Mar (GC).  
**Snow Goose:** max 85,000 S 25 Mar (TL).  
**ROSS'S GOOSE:** 2 H 16 Mar (DT); 1 H 23 Mar (DT); 1 S 31 Mar (mob).  
**Cackling Goose:** max 14 BB 13 Mar (DT); total 46 Mar; 1 BB 3 Apr (DT); 2 G 23 Apr (DT).  
**BARNACLE GOOSE:** 1 H 22 Apr (GC, mob).  
**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 WAYN 1-31 May (mob); 17 total S sev loc May (mob); 1 DE 7 May (DS).  
**Tundra Swan:** max 2500+ Groveland 24, 25 Mar (JK); 4376 BB 13 Mar (DT); 413 BB 14 Mar (DT); last 12 GE 24 Apr (JK).  
**Gadwall:** last 2 S 25 May (LL).  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1m BB 13 Mar (DT, BM); 1m S 29 Mar (CW, TL, JG); 1m S 7-9 Apr (TJ, TL).  
**Am. Wigeon:** total 578 BB all Mar; max 800 S 7 Apr (TJ).  
**N. Shoveler:** arr 1,2 HB, BB (WS, DT) .

**N. Pintail:** max 775 BB 14 Mar (DT); total 1974 BB all Mar; last 2 S 13 May (PH).  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 435 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 2 S 19 May (TL, MA).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 500 S 7 Apr (TL); last 1 G 15 May (RS).  
**Greater Scaup:** last 4 BB 5 May (WS).  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 300 BB 9 Apr (DT); last 1 HB 23 May (WS).  
**Surf Scoter:** last 2 HB 29 May (RS).  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 1250 HB 12 Mar (WS).  
**Bufflehead:** max 300 HB 22 Apr (WS); last 1 HB 15 May (RS).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** last 1 HB 1 May (RS).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1m Point Breeze, ORLE 1-17 Mar; 1f HB 28 Mar (KG).  
**Ruddy Duck:** last 3 S 19 May (TL, MA).  
**Horned Grebe:** last 1 HB 27 May (AG).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 614 WL 23 Mar (RS, DD); last 1 HB 18 May (RS).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 200 G 20 May (CC).

**GREAT CORMORANT:** 2 ad BB 8 May (DT).

**Least Bittern:** arr 1 G 4 May (JG).

**Great Egret:** arr 1 ICW 31 Mar (HL, GL)

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 1 W 22 Apr (RS).

**GLOSSY IBIS:** 1 Carncross Rd (Savannah) 2, 7 May (CW, TL, JS).

**Turkey Vulture:** max 718 BB 8 May (DT).

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** max 21 BB 15 May (DT).

**Bald Eagle:** max 28 BB 8 May (DT).

**N. Harrier:** max 150 BB 12 Apr (DT).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 1519 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 176 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**N. Goshawk:** max 5 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr 1 BB 10 Mar (DT).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 2 BB 20 Apr (DT); max 12,976 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** 1 imm drk mph

BB 11 May (DT).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 drk mph G 8 May.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 33 BB 19 Apr (DT); last 1 BB 8 May (DT).

**Golden Eagle:** arr 1 BB 22 Mar (DT); max 25 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**Am. Kestrel:** max 111 BB 23 Apr (DT).

**Merlin:** max 10 BB 27 Apr (DT).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 3 BB 13 Mar (DT); total 7 BB all Apr; 2ad 4yg R all May (mob).

**Sandhill Crane:** total 18 BB 13-31 Mar (DT); 2 S all Apr (mob); total 13 BB 2-22 Apr (DT); 2 ad, 2 yg S all May (mob).

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 15 S 30 May (RS, KW, DD).

**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 1 BB 27 Apr (DT); 1 S 3-5 May (TJ, mob).

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 38 S 19 May (TL, MA).

**Killdeer:** max 204 BB 22 Mar (DT); total 574 all Mar BB.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 120 S 2 May (CW, TL).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 145 S 2 May (CW, TL).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** last 1 Byron 30 May (DD, RS, KW).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 16 DE 18 May (AGa).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 1 HB 22 Apr (WS).

**Whimbrel:** max 6 K 30 May (DD, RS, KW).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 2 GE 15 May (JK); max 4 HB 16 May (WS).

**Least Sandpiper:** max 130 GE 15 May (JK).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 20 S 5 May (KR), low max.

**Dunlin:** arr 2 GE 13 Apr (JK); max 160 S 19 May (TL, MA).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 PE 10 May (DS).

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 499 WL 8 Apr (DT).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr 1 fem S 26-30 Apr (FM), record early; 1 S 5 May (JS, mob); 2 S 13 May (PH).

**Little Gull:** 4 ad HB 11-27 Apr (RS, WS, JH); 1 2<sup>nd</sup> win DE 11 Apr (RS); 1 imm S 3 May (TJ).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 450 HB 23 Apr (RS).

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 10,000 OB 24 May (R&SS).

**Herring Gull:** max 300 OB 24 May (R&SS).

**Iceland Gull:** total 8 HB 3-30 Apr (WS, *et al*).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1 ad & 1 2<sup>nd</sup> win OB 24 May (R&SS).

**Glaucous Gull:** last 1 HB 30 Apr (RS, DD).

**Caspian Tern:** max 57 HB 25 Apr (RS).

**Com. Tern:** max 52 HB 23 Apr (RS).

**Forster's Tern:** arr 1 G 12 Apr (DT).

**Black Tern:** max 2 BB 15 May (mob).

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 1 ICW 8 May (KFr).

**Long-eared Owl:** total 11 BB all Mar (MF); total 17 BB all Apr (MF).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** total 24 BB all Mar (MF).

**Com. Nighthawk:** max 18 G 16 May (KG, KH).

**Whip-poor-will:** arr 3 M 23 Apr (DT); 1 BB 27 Apr (SD); 1 Groveland, LIVI 5 May (MW).

**Chimney Swift:** max 32 T York 22 Apr (JK).

**N. Flicker:** max 597 WL 8 Apr (DT).

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**E. Wood Pewee:** max 28 M 27 May (BBBO).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1b M 16 May (BBBO).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 5 Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN 20 May (R&SS).

## PHOTO GALLERY



Figure A. Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*). Top: Mill Creek, Kings Co., 8 Apr 2007, copyright Angus Wilson. Bottom: Marine Park, Kings Co., 9 Apr 2007, copyright Sean Sime.



Figure B. Neotropical migrants on the Long Island barrier beach. From top: Summer Tanager Robert Moses SP 16 Apr; Rose-breasted Grosbeak Jones Beach SP 18 Apr.





Figure C. Neotropical migrants on the Long Island barrier beach. From top:Scarlet Tanager Robert Moses SP 23 Apr; Blue Grosbeak Robert Moses SP 16 Apr.

**E. Phoebe:** max 72 WL 8 Apr (DT)  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr 1 W 6 May (JB, NP); 1 ICW 16 May (RS); 3b M 16 May (BBBO).  
**Fish Crow:** arr 1 PN 4-7 Apr (R&C Mc, CM); 1 w/magenta wing tag ICW 7-8 May (KFr, mob); 1 BB, M 8 May (KFr, DS).  
**Com. Raven:** 4 L 1 Mar (DD); 1 BB 12 Mar (DT); 1 BB 8 May (DT).  
**Horned Lark:** max 1240 BB 26 Mar (DT).  
**Barn Swallow:** max 85 BB 23 Apr (DT).  
**Sedge Wren:** arr 1 S 13-30 May (mob); 1 H 23 May (RS).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 53 WL 8 Apr (DT); 30 CH 8 Apr (PM).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 77b M 1 May (BBBO); last 1 G 23 May (CC).  
**E. Bluebird:** max 62 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr 1 CH 15 May (JG).  
**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** 1b M 24 May (BBBO); 1b M 31 May (BBBO).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max 29b M 24 May (BBBO).  
**Am. Robin:** max 6000+ WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**VARIED THRUSH:** 1m PN 1-8 Mar (RF).  
**N. Mockingbird:** max 19 G 6 May (JK).  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 BB 22 Mar (DT); max 548 WL 8 Apr (DT).

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 1b M 30 Apr (BBBO).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr 1 G, BB 9 May (mob).  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** 1 V 7 May (SD); 1 MU 27-29 May (mob).  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** 1 MU 29 May (KS); 1 MU 31 May (RC).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** last 1 sev loc 29 May (mob).  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** total 6 sev loc 8-22 May (mob).  
**Nashville Warbler:** max 11b M 8 May (BBBO).  
**N. Parula:** last 1 LW 28 May (R&SS).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** max 98b M 27 May (BBBO).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 30b M 15 May (BBBO).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 150 G 1 May (RS).  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr 1 ICW 8 May (RS); 1 G 15 May (KS).  
**Palm Warbler:** last 1 R 21 May (SG).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 37 b M 24 May (BBBO).  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 1 G 5 May (JK).  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1 CH 9-10 May (KFr, PM); 1 G 14 May (mob).  
**Ovenbird:** max 20 b M 10 May (BBBO).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 1 LW 26 Apr (DT).  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr 1 LW 26 Apr (DT).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 17 b M 23 May (BBBO).  
**Canada Warbler:** max 16 b M 27 May (BBBO).  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 MU 27, 29 May (AGu, KS); 1 MU 31 May (RC).

#### TANAGERS – WEAVERS

**SUMMER TANAGER:** 1ad m BB 9 May (DT).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 92 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 1 T Pittsford 27 Apr (MP).  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1-4 H 5-31 May (mob); 1 G 7-25 May (JK).  
**Field Sparrow:** arr 1 MP 29 Mar (PO).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** max 129 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 321 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 1 G 9 May (JK).  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr 1 G 9 May thru (JK).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 BB 12 Mar (DT); max 204 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 3 ICW 7 May (GL).  
**Song Sparrow:** max 1155 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1b 29 May 15 May (BBBO); (gambelii); last 1 b M 29 May (BBBO).  
**HARRIS'S SPARROW:** 1 imm 1 from winter thru 9 May (GL); 1 imm Batavia 21-24 Apr (DTh, DB, JL, KF), *intro*.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 3520 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 40 WL 8 Apr (DT).  
**Snow Bunting:** last 1 HB 14 Apr (WS).  
**Dickcissel:** 1 HB 8 May (RS); 1 HP 8 May (DT).  
**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1m G 7-8 May (GL); 1f G 11 May (AGa).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 885 WL 8 Apr (DT); last 6, 5 BB, PE 8 May (DT, AGa).  
**Brewer's Blackbird:** arr 2 m, 2 m & 1 fH (KG, BC); 18 m, 9 fH 11 Apr (DT, BC); 1 m H 11 Apr (DT); 1 m H 18 Apr (DD, RS).



**Orchard Oriole:** arr 1 G 8 May (JK); 1 b M  
8 May (BBBO).

**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE:** 1 1<sup>st</sup> sp m W 17-  
18 May (RS), 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional record.  
**Red Crossbill:** 2 BB 22 Mar (DT).



## REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES REGION

**Bill Ostrander**

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In Ithaca, the month of March was 2.4° F cooler than normal. The month's 3.51" of precipitation was 37% more than normal, and its 14.2" of snow was 18% more than normal. Snow covered the ground 1-13 and 16-22 March. April was 2.6° F cooler than normal. The 3.45" of precipitation was only 5% more than normal, but the 16.3" of snow was 340% more than normal. Snow only covered the ground 16-19 April. May was 0.5° F warmer than normal. The month's 0.93" of precipitation was only 29% of the normal amount. There was no snowfall.

While the world became more attuned to global climate change in the past year, migrating birds still have to contend with the daily fickleness of spring weather. In order to aid the understanding of the effect of this spring's weather on migrating birds, I am going to do a chronological analysis by dividing each of the spring's month's into early, middle, and late periods of ten days (eleven for late March; late May is omitted) and by referring to the species which appear annually in *The Kingbird's* spring arrival chart. To see when each of these species arrived, please refer to the chart of statewide spring arrival dates.

Early March began with 11" of snow on the ground and this gradually dwindled to 6" by 10 March. Trace amounts of snow and rain fell throughout the period. The first five days produced fairly normal temperatures, but the last five were much colder than normal, averaging about 10° F. The three duck species that are expected to arrive during early March, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, and Northern Pintail, all arrived early, averaging 4.67 days early. The two charadriids due then, Killdeer and American Woodcock, both arrived a little late, average 1.5 days. Snow Geese began to arrive. Observers reported the season's peak counts of Mallards, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup, and Common Goldeneyes. The counts for all five species were the highest in at least the last twelve years. Two Golden Eagles passed over Sapsucker Woods. Tim

Lenz reported a Thayer's Gull at Stewart Park on 10 March. Fox Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks also arrived in early March.

Mid-March temperatures were mostly above normal the first five days, reaching 64°F on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The last five days were well below normal. Twelve and a half inches of snow fell between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>. Only two species were due to arrive in mid-March. Tree Swallows arrived four days earlier than average, and Eastern Phoebes arrived three days later than average. Tundra Swan and American Wigeon counts peaked. American Pipits and Rusty Blackbirds arrived. Snow Buntings departed.

Late March temperatures were mostly within 5° F of normal, but temperatures dropped to -2° F on the 21<sup>st</sup> and rose to 63° F on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Total rainfall between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> was 0.8". No snow fell and the last of the snow cover melted on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first Osprey was only one day earlier than average. The first Savannah Sparrow was four days early. The first Greater Yellowlegs, however, beat its late March average arrival date by 16 days. This species' arrival dates vary a great deal and this early arrival was still not close to the Regional record. Red-necked Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, Sandhill Cranes, Bonaparte's Gulls, Winter Wrens, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Field Sparrows arrived. Counts of Snow and Canada geese, shovelers, pintails, and Lesser Scaup peaked. Four Northern Goshawks passed Mt. Pleasant, Dryden, in one day. The Pacific Loon, back at Sheldrake for the third consecutive winter, and the Eared Grebe, spending its ninth winter in Aurora Bay, made their last appearances of the season. Tim Lenz found two Greater White-fronted Geese on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The good weather and snowless landscape of late March continued through the first four days of April. Consequently, all seven of the species expected to arrive in early April arrived between three and seventeen days early. Temperatures became very cold 6-10 April, but there was no appreciable precipitation. Species which arrived in early April included Great Egrets, Broad-winged Hawks, Dunlin, and Forster's Tern. Red-breasted Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Northern Flicker numbers peaked. Chris Wood discovered a Little Gull in a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Myers Point.

The cold spell that began 6 April continued through mid-April. Sixteen inches of snow fell 17-18 April. The snow cover stayed until 22 April. While six species that were due to arrive in mid-April managed to arrive early, eleven species arrived late. Mark Chao's Palm Warbler at Sapsucker Woods on 6 April beat the Region's earliest Palm Warbler by one day and beat the average arrival date by 12 days. Two species which arrived in mid-April included Upland Sandpiper and Forster's Tern. Observers recorded peak counts for Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, and Wilson's Snipe. Jay McGowan found the only Black Vulture of the season in Dryden, and Stuart Krasnoff found the only Common Redpoll at Myer's Point. Short-eared Owls departed in mid-April.

Late April was warmer than normal with several rainy days. Migration seemed to get back on schedule, with 13 species arriving an average of four days early and nine species arriving an average of less than three days late. Two species arrived on their average arrival date. Other species which arrived in late April included Red-throated Loon, Blue-winged Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Ryan Douglas found a White-eyed Vireo in Sapsucker Woods which many observers were able to see. Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Palm Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow counts peaked. The last Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Common Goldeneyes, and American Tree Sparrows departed.

Early May began with one week of cooler than normal temperatures followed by three days of warmer than normal temperatures reaching into the 80s on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Ten species arrived earlier than their average arrival dates, nine arrived later, and two arrived on their average arrival dates. Species which arrived during early May included Prairie Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Orchard Oriole. Henk den Bakker located a Glossy Ibis in a flooded field in Dryden. David Nicosia reported a Clay-colored Sparrow in Ithaca. Early May high counts included Wilson's Warbler. The last Green-winged Teal, American Black Ducks, Northern Pintails, Red-breasted Mergansers, Rough-legged Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, and Great Black-backed Gulls departed.

Mid-May was cooler than normal except on the 16<sup>th</sup> when the temperature reached 85° F. More than one half inch of rain fell. Three species that were due to arrive in mid-May arrived two days early. Three species arrived late. One species arrived on its average arrival date. Three species were not reported at all. Species which arrived in mid-May included Yellow-bellied and Acadian flycatchers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow. The last Northern Shovelers, American Wigeons, Canvasbacks, Greater and Lesser scaup, Buffleheads, and Caspian Terns departed.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AuB – Aurora Bay CAYU; CLB – Cayuga L Basin; CLSP – Cayuga L SP; CU – Cornell University; CygL – Cayuga L; LPBP – Linsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve; LPSP – Long Pt SP; MNWR – Montezuma NWR; MtP – Mt Pleasant TOMP; MyPt – Myers Pt; RSGF – Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP; SaMu – Savannah Mucklands SENE; SapW -- Sapsucker Woods TOMP; SFDF -- Seneca Farm Days Fairgrounds SENE; StP -- Stewart Park TOMP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

**GOOSE:** 2 Springport 22 Mar (TL), only report.

**Snow Goose:** arr 150 CU 3 Mar; max 200,000 City Pier ONTA 21 Mar; last MNWR 27 Apr.

**Ross's Goose:** arr MtP 22 Mar; last SaMu 31 Mar.

**Cackling Goose:** arr & max 2 Dryden 12 Mar; last AuB 31 Mar.

**Canada Goose:** max 30,000 City Pier ONTA 23 Mar (CJ), high.

**Mute Swan:** max 3 MNWR 5 May; last MNWR 13 May.

**Tundra Swan:** max 1400 CLSP 18 Mar; last 3 MNWR 29 Apr.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 8 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; 2 MNWR 6 May.

**N. Shoveler:** max 40 MNWR 27 Mar; last MNWR 13 May.

**EURASIAN WIGEON:** SaMu 31 Mar (TJ).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 170 CLSP 18 Mar; last 2 MNWR 13 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 450 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 MNWR 6 May.

**Mallard:** max 300 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high.

**N. Pintail:** max 1,000 SaMu 24 Mar; last CLB 5 May.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 200 MNWR 15 Apr; last 3 MNWR 6 May.

**Canvasback:** max 8,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 MNWR 19 May.

**Redhead:** max 16,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 1500 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 2,000 CygL 3 Mar (TL), high; last 2 StP 16 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 1,000 CLSP 23 Mar; last MNWR 19 May.  
**Surf Scoter:** max 2 MyPt 22 Apr; last StP 30 Apr.  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 8 LPSP 3 Apr; last 2 MyPt 27 Apr.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 58 MyPt 15 Apr (TL), high; last MNWR 22 Apr.  
**Bufflehead:** max 120 MNWR 21 Apr; last 3 Ledyard 13 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 125 AuB 3 Mar; last MyPt 24 Apr.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 30 LPSP 3 Apr (TL), high; last 2 MyPt 10 May.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 300 MNWR 28 Apr (TJ), high.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Ledyard 31 Mar, low.  
**Red-throated Loon:** arr MNWR 22 Apr; Minier's Pd CHEM 25 Apr.  
**PACIFIC LOON:** arr CygL 18 Mar (TL); Sheldrake Bluffs SENE 24 Mar (CW).  
**Com. Loon:** max 32 MNWR 21 Apr; last MyPt 16 May.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 30 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 32 ONTA 14 Apr; last Prospect Hill 16 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 6 T Ovid P 23 Mar; max 35 MyPt 3 Apr; last 2 MyPt 29 Apr.  
**EARED GREBE:** AuB 3 Mar (TL); SENE 11 Mar (LL); last AuB 24 Mar (TL).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr 20 CU 28 Mar; max 100 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Great Egret:** arr MNWR 2 Apr; 2 MNWR 29 Apr (MA); last MNWR 19 May.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** George Road Flooded Field TOMP 3 May (HdB).  
**BLACK VULTURE:** Dryden 20 Apr (JMc), only report.

#### HAWKS- ALCIDS

**Bald Eagle:** max 12 MNWR 21 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 15 SapW 20 Apr (LSe), high.  
**N. Goshawk:** max 4 MtP 22 Mar (CW), high.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 2 SapW 10 Apr; max 35 TOMP 29 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 19 Caroline 3 Mar (SKE), high; last Big Flats 6 May GS, late.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr SapW 2 Mar (JGe), early; max 4 CU 12 Mar; last MNWR 29 Apr.  
**Merlin:** 2 City Cemetery TOMP 15 Apr-1 May.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** max 2 SapW 14 Apr; last Big Flats Trail CHEM 8 May (BO), late.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr 4 Dryden 31 Mar; 4 Tyre 15 Apr (DK); last 2 SFDF 27 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** CLB 5 May (LSt).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 23 SaMu East 22 Apr (TL), high; last Potter 24 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr SFDF 19 Apr; max 5 SFDF 29 Apr.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 11 Junius 29 Apr; last CLB 5 May.  
**Dunlin:** arr MyPt 2 Apr; max 12 MNWR 28 Apr.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** arr MNWR 26 Apr (MWe); MNWR 28 Apr (JSl).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 30 ONTA 15 Apr; last The Center at Horseheads CHEM 10 May.  
**LITTLE GULL:** MyPt 3 Apr (CW); StP 17 Apr (MCh).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr StP 27 Mar; max 65 MyPt 21 Apr; last 8 MyPt 13 May.  
**THAYER'S GULL:** StP 10 Mar (TL); RSGF 12 Mar (JGe).  
**Iceland Gull:** CLB 18 Mar.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 3 RSGF 11 Mar; last LPSP 31 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last LPSP 31 Mar.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 40 StP 11 Mar; last 2 MyPt 10 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 8 Montezuma Wetlands Complex 28 Apr; last 3 MNWR 16 May.  
**Com. Tern:** StP 12 Apr; last MyPt 15 Apr.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr StP 12 Apr; max & last 4 MyPt 27 Apr.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Rock Pigeon:** max 100 RSGF 10 Mar, low.  
**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 Elmira 4 Mar, low.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 3 Junius 2 Mar; last MtP 14 Apr.  
**N. Flicker:** max 17 Moses Mountain CAYU 10 Apr (CW), high.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Dryden 17 May (JF), early; max 2 Dryden 28 May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Fillmore Glen SP 18 May; Ford Hill TOMP 19 May.  
**N. Shrike:** Seneca Castle 2 Mar; last Middlesex 8 Apr.  
**WHITE-EYED VIREO:** SapW 24 Apr (RD); SapW 30 Apr (CW).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** max 10 TOMP 13 May.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Dryden 16 May; last Dryden 18 May.  
**Am. Crow:** max 1,000 Caroline 2 Mar (SKe), high.  
**Purple Martin:** max 20 MNWR 15 May (KR), high.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 10 CU 7 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 4 Caroline 28 Mar; max 5 SapW 14 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 40 SapW 28 Apr (CSFO), high; last Danby 20 May.  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr SapW 19 May; last LPBP 26 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max 4 Caroline 15 May; last McIlroy Preserve CAYU 26 May.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 15 RSGF 13 Mar; max 150 MyPt 17 Apr; last Montezuma Wetlands Complex 13 May.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Potter 28 Apr; max 6 Bare Hill YATE 13 May.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler (Hy):** Finger Lakes National Forest 19 May (GDcl), only report.  
**N. Parula:** max 2 Caroline 12 May; last SapW 20 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** max 2 Bare Hill YATE 13 May; last MNWR 19 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Memorial P CHEM 10 Apr; max 75 LPBP 29 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** max 10 TOMP 29 Apr (CSFO), high.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr & max 7 LPBP 5 May, late.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr SapW 6 Apr (MCh), early; max 15 StP 23 Apr; last SapW 14 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 5 SapW 11 May; last Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 20 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr StP 5 May; max 3 MNWR 15 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 8 LPBP 29 Apr (BWl), high.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr LPBP 11 May; LPBP 25 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 2 Caroline 22 Apr; max 3 Buttermilk Falls SP 28 Apr.  
**Mourning Warbler:** max 2 Hammond Hill State Forest 16 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** max 15 LPBP 14 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr CU 7 May; max 5 LPBP 25 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** max 3 SapW 10 May; last SapW 20 May.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** max 10 LPBP 29 Apr.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 25 Canisteo 5 Mar; last MNWR 22 Apr.  
**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** Ithaca 5-6 May (DNi).  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Dryden 26 Mar; max 17 Big Flats Trail CHEM 26 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Caroline 18 May, late; Danby 23 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 2 SapW 7 Mar; max 20 Danby 2 Apr; last 3 Caroline 22 Apr, early.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** SapW 10 May.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 50 SapW 28 Apr (DNi), high.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 15 ONTA 19 Mar; last 2 Canisteo 25 May.  
**Lapland Longspur:** max 3 ONTA 19 Mar; last 2 SaMu 24 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 200 SENE 10 Mar; last ONTA 19 Mar.  
**Bobolink:** max 10 TOMP 13 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 2 Lansing 10 Mar; max 15 Tompkins County Airport 1 Apr.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 Dryden 12 Mar; max 200 MNWR 27 Mar (CW), high; last StP 7 May.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr CU 9 May; max 2 MyPt 16 May.  
**Com. Redpoll:** MyPt 14 Apr (SKr), only report.

## REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

[Report not received]



## REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Bill Purcell**

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The first two months of the season were cooler and wetter than normal, but May warmed up and was very dry. The average temperature for March was 31.6° F, 2.0° below normal, with 4.16" of precipitation, 1.14" above normal, and 19.9" of snow. The April statistics were 43.7° F, 1.6° below normal, with 4.43" of precipitation, 1.04" above normal, and 10.7" of snow in Syracuse but considerably more to the north. In May the temperature averaged 58.5° F, 1.4° above normal, with only 0.86" of precipitation, 2.53" below normal. Ice out on Oneida Lake occurred 7-8 April.

Snow Goose numbers continue to increase, and observers noted large numbers across the Region. There were big flights over Derby Hill and Hastings on the same day; flocks in the thousands at Fair Haven, Skaneateles, Schroepfel, and Sylvan Beach several days later; and subsequently large numbers flying over Boonville and Old Forge. In the early 1990s it was found that Brant and White-winged Scoter migrated along Oneida Lake in May. This year an early morning count was conducted from mid April through May finding, among others, Surf Scoters, Red-necked Grebes, Horned Grebes, a single Black Scoter, and two unusual species, Am. White Pelican and Glossy Ibis.

Dabblers noted in good numbers were Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, while relatively few Gadwall and Blue-winged Teal were reported. The *Aythya* reports were much as usual, with good numbers of four species and only a few Canvasback. Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, and **Great Cormorant** were the uncommon finds for the season. Least Bittern was reported at only two sites. We had several Great Egrets and two Black-crowned Night-Herons but no unusual southern species.

The hawk season at Derby Hill was a disappointment, plagued by cool weather and north winds as the few days with south winds in March and April seemed to be accompanied by rain. After several attempts, Bald Eagles successfully hatched young in Onondaga County, and three Golden Eagles were reported away from Derby Hill. Peregrine Falcons again raised young in Syracuse and are thought to be nesting in Utica. Two Black Vultures and eight

Sandhill Cranes were seen at Derby Hill, on the low side for these species that are expanding their ranges.

Shorebird highlights included many Greater Yellowlegs along the Seneca River and a female Red-necked Phalarope photographed in Madison County, only the second spring record for the species. In addition to the waterfowl migrating along Oneida Lake, shorebirds in late May included Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin, Sanderling, and Whimbrel. After witnessing low gull numbers over most of the winter, a brief increase from about 16-22 March included a Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Laughing Gull was found at a landfill, and there were several Iceland and Glaucous Gulls into May. The three Little Gulls for the season equals the total spring records for the Region going back to 1953. There was also an excellent flight of Bonaparte's Gulls along Oneida Lake.

Owls for the season included a late Snowy Owl, several N. Saw-whet Owls on territory plus a juvenile, and only a few migrant Long-eared Owls. More frequent evening observation led to more Common Nighthawk reports. Red-headed Woodpecker seems to be making a slight recovery, too. Cuckoos were much in evidence although the forest tent caterpillar infestation may have lessened somewhat.

No large numbers of Chimney Swift or swallows were reported. Both Bank and Cliff Swallows were very scarce at breeding sites until 16 May. In most years there is a diurnal movement of Black-capped Chickadee and White-breasted Nuthatch past the Derby Hill north lookout, but that did not occur this season.

A low pressure system dominated from 4-8 April and brought 10-30" of snow to much of Oswego County. Early April migrants such as Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, and Vesper, Fox and Song sparrows were forced out to plowed roadsides to feed, and many Wilson's Snipe were found in seeps where the snow did not accumulate. Eastern Phoebes were perched in roads and were rarely encountered more than a few feet above ground. A Nor'easter from 15-18 April kept north winds blowing on the Region and slowed the arrival of all but the first few Chipping Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Eastern Towhees.

The cold and snowy April took its toll on some early returners. John Rogers reported 26 dead Eastern Bluebirds in boxes this year; he usually averages four or five per year. The cold snap did not seem to affect Tree Swallows very much, as they probably left nesting sites for open water where food was more dependable. A Loggerhead Shrike seen briefly at Derby Hill was the first reported since 2001.

May was more favorable for migration, with several warm fronts bringing waves of neotropical migrants to the area. Most reports came from the Lake Ontario shoreline. Good days included 8 May with 27 species of warblers at Nine Mile Point and 15 May with another wave of warblers plus a good flight of Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and Indigo Buntings over Derby Hill. Swainson's Thrush, Northern Parula, and Tennessee Warbler were among the



host of birds present from 17-19 May. Sightings of Orange-crowned Warbler and Cape May Warbler were more numerous than in recent years, Prairie Warbler was on territory at several locations, and a new site for Prothonotary Warbler was found on private land on the south shore of Oneida Lake. A Worm-eating Warbler was seen with a warbler wave in Oneida County.

Whether due to few birds or lack of interest, the sparrow numbers after the April snows were generally low. Clay-colored Sparrow was not reported this season. The peak flight for Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds was on 26 March, when tens of thousands streamed by Derby Hill during the first four hours of daylight. Orchard Orioles were on territory at several locations including southern Herkimer County. Red Crossbills continued in northern Herkimer and southern Madison Counties along with smaller numbers of White-winged Crossbill and Pine Siskin in Herkimer. There was only a single report of Evening Grosbeak.

For the season 246 species, plus one introduced species, were reported. Highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Black Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, Am. White Pelican, Great Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Whimbrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ginny Alano, Betty Armbruster, Faith Baker, Brenda Best, Sue Boettger, Joseph Brin, Tim Capone, Bernie Carr, Tom Carrolan, Gerald Case, Jared Caster, Dorothy Crumb, Greg Dashnau, Bob Donnelly, Tom Fernandez, Bob Fiske, Natalia Garcia, Bill Gruenbaum, Jody Hildreth, Larry Hogan, Gene Huggins, Doug Linstruth, Dawn Matzke, Martin Mau, Kevin McGann, Bob McGuire, David Nash, Jim Pawlicki, Matt Perry, Bill Purcell, Paul Richardson, Margaret Rusk, Tom Salo, Cheri Sassman, Mickey Scilingo, Tony Shrimpton, Gerald Smith, John Van Dort, Andrew Van Norstrand, David Wheeler, Matt Young, Mary Zarnoch-Riley.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Bvllc – 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; NMP – Nine Mile Point, Scriba and New Haven; OneiL -- Oneida Lake; OnonL -- Onondaga Lake; SCH – T Schroepel; SFNS -- Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SPd – Sandy Pond; SSSP -- Selkirk Shores State

Park; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; TRWMA -- Three Rivers WMA; VB – Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

**WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES**

**Snow Goose:** max 25,200 DH & 18,500 Hastings 23 Mar; widespread 3000 to 8000 across Region 24-29 Mar; lingerers - 2 WM 18 May; Skan L 25 May; Utica 30 May.  
**Brant:** arr OneiL 8 May; max 3314 OneiL 22 May.  
**Cackling Goose:** FH 16 Mar; DH 23 Mar.  
**Mute Swan:** max 3 FH 24 Mar.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** DH 2 Apr, with neckband.  
**Tundra Swan:** 18 Brewerton 3 Mar, wintered; max 45 OneiL 24 Mar.  
**Wood Duck:** max 150 SCH 26 Mar.  
**Gadwall:** max 5 OneiL 28 May.  
**EURASIAN WIGEON:** HIWMA 19 Apr (BM).  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 475 HIWMA 15 Apr; last 2 WM 21 May.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 32 SSSP 18 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 8 HIWMA 15 Apr; GSC and MW end of May.  
**N. Shoveler:** arr 4 Skan L 23 Mar; max 12 CM 2 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** max 250 SCH 26 Mar; 17 WM 5 May, late for numbers.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 100 SCH 26 Mar.  
**Canvasback:** max 3 FH 24 Mar; 2 other singles.  
**Redhead:** max 122 OneiL 17 Mar.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 340 OneiL 3 Apr.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 370 OneiL 24 Mar; 2 Skan L 30 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 600/day OneiL 19-28 Apr.  
**Surf Scoter:** 2 DH 14 Apr; max 34 OneiL 30 Apr, record spring count.  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 123 OneiL 7 May.

**Black Scoter:** OneiL 7 May.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 115 OneiL 3 May.  
**Bufflehead:** max 400 Constantia 29 Apr; Skan L 31 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 440 FH 24 Mar.  
**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE:** OneiL 8 Apr (DM ph).  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 27 SSSP 17 Mar.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 236 OnonL 7 Apr.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 117 OnonL 7 Apr.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 5 OneiL 2 May.  
**Red-throated Loon:** OneiL 1 May, only report.  
**Com. Loon:** max 73 OneiL 1 May.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 31 OneiL 5 May; GSC 19 May; Skan L 31 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr Phoenix 24 Mar; max 46 OnonL 12 Apr; 44 OneiL 5 May; last 3 OneiL 13 May.  
**AM. WHITE PELICAN:** 2 OneiL 15 May (BP).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 232 OneiL 24 Apr.  
**GREAT CORMORANT:** DH 27 Apr (JVD).  
**Am. Bittern:** max 7 WM 19 May.  
**Least Bittern:** SSSP 14 May; MW 27 May.  
**Great Blue Heron:** arr CM 23 Mar.  
**Great Egret:** Port Byron 15 Apr; Jordan 20 Apr; TRWMA 26 Apr; Albion 28 Apr; 5 CM 5 May.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** HIWMA 15 Apr; DH 25 Apr.  
**GLOSSY IBIS:** OneiL (BP) & Canastota (BB) 19 May.  
**Black Vulture:** DH 3&5 Apr.

**HAWKS - ALCIDS**

**Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals**

Species	Arrival	Max	Date	Total
Turkey Vulture	9 Mar	1014	28 Mar	8291
Osprey	26 Mar	54	29 Apr	365
Bald Eagle	11 Mar	19	11 May	244
No. Harrier	12 Mar	112	12 Apr	590

Sharp-sh. Hawk	13 Mar	318	27 Apr	2413
Cooper's Hawk	7 Mar	62	21 Mar	413
No. Goshawk	13 Mar	2	3 dates	16
Red-shld. Hawk	11 Mar	72	28 Mar	363
Broad-winged Hawk	19 Apr	2059	27 Apr	8349
Red-tailed Hawk	3 Mar	345	21 Apr	3366
Rough-iggd. Hawk	12 Mar	30	28 Mar	254
Golden Eagle	21 Mar	10	23 Apr	47
Am. Kestrel	13 Mar	51	22 Apr	325
Merlin	22 Mar	8	19 Apr	39
Peregrine Falcon	1 Apr	3	29 Apr, 15 May	9
<b>Total</b>				<b>25107</b>

**Bald Eagle:** 5 Big Moose 15 Mar; 2 y TRWMA hatched about 24 Apr.  
**N. Goshawk:** TRWMA 13 Mar; Palermo 17 Apr; Albion 17 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** DeRuyter 10 Mar; Big Moose 16 Mar; Hastings 6 May.  
**Merlin:** pair Beaver R 12 May.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Sauquoit Mar 15; 1-2 Utica thru; 3 fl Syracuse Apr.  
**Virginia Rail:** max 6 CM 19 May.  
**Sora:** 4 CM 19 May.  
**Com. Moorhen:** arr TRWMA 14 Apr.  
**Am. Coot:** max 11 FH 24 Mar.  
**Sandhill Crane:** total of 8 DH 3 Apr-2 May; 2 HVWMA 1 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 11 OneiL 26 May.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 12 WM 15 May.  
**Killdeer:** max 50+ DH 26 Mar.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 110 Seneca R floodlands 15 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 9 WM 4 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 7 WM 1 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 5 Sunset Bay 15 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 4 Fulton 27 Apr; DH 27 Apr.  
**Whimbrel:** max & only 11 OneiL 28 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 3 OneiL 23 May; max 13 OneiL 27 May.  
**Sanderling:** max 30 OneiL 28 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 138 OneiL 28 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 74 Skan 13 May.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Sunset Bay 19 May; SPd 30 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Lenox 10 Apr; Clay 18 May; Verona 19 May.

**Dunlin:** arr Lenox 4 Apr; max 81 OneiL 28 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 600+ OSWE 7-9 Apr, grounded by snowstorm.  
**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE:** Lenox 15 May (JC ph), second spring record.  
**LAUGHING GULL:** Madison County landfill 26 Apr (DH, BB).  
**Little Gull:** DH 8 Apr (BP, DW); OneiL 23 Apr; OneiL 5 May (BP).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 5 DH 6 Apr; max 447 OneiL 13 May; total 1007 for season.  
**Iceland Gull:** 4 Mar reports; OnonL 9 Apr; DH 20 May.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad Phoenix 19-20 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** 5 Mar reports; Sunset Bay 19-21 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** max 72 SPd 24 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr SSSP 16 May; max 7 SSSP 19 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** over 30 reports.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr SFNS 9 May; about 20 total.  
**Snowy Owl:** Brewerton 20 Apr, only report.  
**Long-eared Owl:** NMP 28, 31 Mar, 1 Apr.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Constantia 4 May; VB 11 May; juv Morgan Hill SF 22 May; calling Eaton Res after 15 May.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 4 WM 19 May; 3 Phoenix 20 May; 2 DH 22 May; Syr 29 May; 2 Utica 31 May.  
**Whip-poor-will:** Liverpool 9 May; max 8 Constantia 30 May.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Hamilton 22 Apr; Skan 8 May; 3 NMP after 14 May; DH 15 May; 2 SVB 19 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 6/day LOL in Apr.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Quiver Pd 26 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Clinton 28 May, only report.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** max 14 NMP 27 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** max 3 NMP 27 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Whiskey Hollow 11 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** max 7 WM 6 May.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** max 9 SVB 19 May.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** DH 27 Apr (TC, GS).

**N. Shrike:** Minetto 1 Mar; Erieville Mar 7; DH 3 Apr; Camillus 21 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Sunset Bay 17 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** max 57 HVWMA 22 May.

**Fish Crow:** 5 OnonL 12 Apr; Skan L 24 Apr.

**Com. Raven:** 2 DH 7 Mar; Salisbury 9 Mar; 8 North L 11 Mar; Rome 29 May.

**Horned Lark:** max 200 SCH 31 Mar.

**Tree Swallow:** max 1200 DH 26 Mar.

**Brown Creeper:** max 20/day LOL in Apr.

**Marsh Wren:** arr CM 1 May.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr DH 30 Mar.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 30 DH 28 Apr.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** singles NMP 23-28 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** max 12 NMP 17 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 33 Mexico 6 Apr, grounded by snow.

**Wood Thrush:** max 26 CM 19 Apr.

**Am. Robin:** 700+ OSWE 5-6 Apr, forced to roadsides by snow.

**Gray Catbird:** max 62 CM 19 Apr.

**N. Mockingbird:** 4 migrants LOL after 16 May.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr DH 23 Apr.

**Am. Pipit:** arr Bville 14 Mar; max 40 VB 3 May; 3 Beaver R 12 May, unusual site.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr NMP 8 May; Fulton & Scriba 15 May.

**"Brewster's" Warbler:** NMP 7 May; WM 18 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 20 WM 19 May; widespread 18-20 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** NMP 8 May; CM 14 May; 2 NMP 16 May; Amboy 18 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** max 7 NMP 15 May.

**N. Parula:** max 12 NMP 15-17 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 8 NMP 15 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max 12 NMP 17 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** max 6 NMP 8 May; about 16 total thru 19 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** max 12 NMP 16 May.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 5 HIWMA 31 Mar, wintered locally?; max 90 LOL 7 May.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Tully 14 May, 3 singing males total; NMP 15 May; HVWMA after 17 May; Amboy 18 May.

**Palm Warbler:** 5/day NMP 9-15 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 3 NMP 15, 22 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** max 15 LOL 19-27 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 2 WM 6 May; max 7 WM 19 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** max 5 NMP 15-17 May.

**Am. Redstart:** max 40 NMP 17 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr 3 WM 12 May; on territory Shackelton Pt 28 May.

**WORM-EATING WARBLER:**

Durhamville 15 May (BB).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr T Onondaga 14 Apr.

**Mourning Warbler:** migrants max 2/day LOL after 12 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr NMP 8 May; max 9 NMP 15 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** max 3-4/day late May.

**Canada Warbler:** max 5 NMP 19 May.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** max 25 DH 15 May.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 30 central OSWE 6 Apr.

**Field Sparrow:** arr TRWMA 2 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** 40/day OSWE 6-8 Apr, grounded by snow.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Hastings 12 May; max 8 Hastings 30 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr TRWMA 14 Mar; max 33 TRWMA 30 Mar; last Skan 1 May.

**Song Sparrow:** max 280 Mexico 6 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 2/day after 7 May.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 15 NMP 15 May.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 500+ central OSWE 6 Apr.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 2 VB 4 Mar; DeRuyter 10 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 50 VB 14 Mar; 9 DH 28 Mar, last 14 DH 3 Apr.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** max 15 NMP 15 May.  
**Indigo Bunting:** max 60 DH 15 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr W Winfield 3 Mar.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr DH 16 Mar; max 10 SCH 26 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 131 CM 2 Apr; last 5 Scriba 19 May.  
**Com. Grackle:** 9500 SVB 25 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** DH 8-9 May; NMP 19 May; 2 VB 21 May; Camillus 22 May; German Flatts 30 May.

**Baltimore Oriole:** max 300+ LOL 15 May.  
**Purple Finch:** 30 North L 11 Mar; migrants arr DH 25 Mar.  
**Red Crossbill:** max 40 North L 2 Apr; present thru Adks; 8 s. MADI 26 Apr, where present thru.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** max 5 North L 2 Apr; Moose L 11 Mar.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 35 Moose L 11 Mar.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** McKeever 22 May.

**Corrigenda:** Kingbird V. 56, no. 3 September 2006  
**Turkey Vulture:** in chart p. 260 total should be 11,365.  
**Osprey:** in chart p. 260 total should be 503.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** should be: max 2 DH 25 May, not Mar, p. 261



## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The three months that make up the spring reporting season were slightly cooler than normal. The mean temperature for March in Watertown was 30.0° F, which was 0.9° below normal; departures from normal for April and May were -0.5° and -0.1°, respectively. Mean precipitation for March (3.7") and April (4.0") was about 0.9" above normal for each month, but May was dry, as the 1.6" of rain Watertown received was 1.7" below average. The cooler temperatures early in the spring resulted in relatively high snowfall for the period, with 15" in March and 17" in April. 6-11 April was especially cool, with nights in the teens and twenties and light snowfall each day. The last snowfall of the season came on 16 April.

The cool, damp weather slowed migration and appeared to cause unusual high mortality among early-nesting insectivores. The mean arrival date for 80 species that I received good information for was 28 April, which is 3 days earlier than the historic mean, so at least some individuals of most species arrived at or before their normal arrival dates. Numbers of migrating birds were very low during much of April, however, and many species that typically arrive

early in the month remained scarce until the warm spell that began 19 April. The long string of cold nights that preceded this warm spell no doubt was responsible for numerous Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds found dead in nest boxes from starvation and hypothermia.

Waterfowl moved through the area in generally typical numbers with a few exceptions. As usual, Snow Geese were most prominent in western Jefferson County, with few reports from elsewhere in the Region. Nick Leone found several species of dabbling ducks, including Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, in good numbers in the Black River Valley, an area that is not well covered by birders. Nick also found two Barrow's Goldeneyes, one on Point Peninsula and one on the St. Lawrence River, which were the only rare waterfowl reported. Red-necked Grebes put in a good showing, including two birds at Upper and Lower Lakes on 22 May that MaryBeth Warburton and Joan Collins suspected to be a pair.

The highlight of the raptor migration was two Golden Eagles observed in St. Lawrence County during mid-April. Gerry Smith reported decent raptor movements in northern Jefferson County, including 12 Bald Eagles in a 3-day period between mid-April and mid-May. This area is worth monitoring because of the prospect for heavy wind power development. A pair of territorial Merlins was found in a residential neighborhood in Canton.

The same **Whooping Crane** from the eastern reintroduction program appeared in Lewis County for the third consecutive year. A radio signal from a transmitter attached to the crane placed it near Carthage on 3 April, but the bird did not stay in one place for very long, instead roaming around Lewis and eastern Jefferson County extensively, particularly favoring a remote area on the Tug Hill where it was still located at the end of May. Two Sandhill Cranes passed over Kelsey Creek on 28 March.

Ken Kogut and several DEC biologists observed four **Willetts** on a farm pond in Potsdam on 4-5 May. Willetts are rare in Region 6, and nearly all of the Region's sightings have been from Lake Ontario. I received reports of Upland Sandpiper from only one location, a pair observed by several observers on Cape Vincent. Common in the Region just 5-6 years ago, Upland Sandpipers now require some effort to locate. Two Iceland Gulls along the Lake Ontario shoreline and a Glaucous Gull on the St. Lawrence River were an improvement over the awful winter for gulls in Region 6.

The only Snowy Owl reported for the period was of a bird that showed up for four days in Clayton. This continued the pattern of Snowy Owl reports from the winter, when few owls were present and even fewer stayed in one place for any length of time. The unusually large number of Short-eared Owls that wintered in northern Jefferson County raised hopes that at least one or two pairs would remain in the area to nest, but no indications of breeding behavior were reported nor were any Short-eared Owls after April. The detection of more than 50 Whip-poor-wills on two 9-mile long survey routes in western Jefferson

County shows that Fort Drum is hardly the only location in the Region with a large Whip-poor-will population.

As mentioned previously, the passerine migration seemed to stall during April, and many early migrants passed through in very low numbers until late in the month. On 22 and 23 April a massive wave of new arrivals was evident throughout the Region, and after this date migration seemed to progress more steadily. Among the highlights of the spring migration was the early arrival of Sedge Wrens in Canton and Fort Drum, where few to none appear until the summer during many years. Orchard Orioles at two Lake Ontario locations add further evidence that this species now occurs regularly in the Region. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills and good numbers of Red Crossbills were reported from the northern Adirondacks throughout the period, although reports became rather infrequent during May as most birders focused their efforts on migrants elsewhere.

Excluding the Whooping Crane, I received reports of 206 species for the season. Other than the Willets and the introduced Whooping Crane, no true rarities were reported. Other highlights included good numbers of several southerly species that are scarce in Region 6, especially Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Northern Mockingbird, as well as the previously mentioned Orchard Oriole.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Badger, Jeff Bolsinger, Dick & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Joan Collins, Ken Kogut, Nick Leone, Jerry & Judi LeTendre, David Prosser, Gerry Smith, Eve Sweatman, Bob & June Walker, Tom & Eileen Wheeler.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BRV -- Black River Valley LEWI; CB -- Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CV -- Cape Vincent JEFF; FD -- Fort Drum Military Reservation; GPSP -- Grass Point SP JEFF; ICNC -- Indian Creek Nature Center, Canton STLA; KC -- Kelsey Creek Watertown JEFF; PtPen -- Pt Peninsula Lyme JEFF; PRWMA -- Perch River WMA Orleans JEFF; RMSP -- Robert Moses State Park Massena STLA; SLR -- Saint Lawrence River; ULLWMA -- Upper and Lower Lakes WMA Canton STLA; Snsh -- Snowshoe Pt Henderson JEFF.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 15,000 Ellisburg 28 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** max 38 PRWMA 17 May.

**Wood Duck:** arr CV 16 Mar.

**Gadwall:** max 14 ULLWMA 2 Apr.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 80 ULLWMA 7 Apr.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 40 RMSP 10 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr BRV 17 Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** arr PRWMA 10 Apr; max 22 BRV 17 Apr.

**N. Pintail:** max 493 BRV 17 Apr.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr Dekalb 29 Mar; max 967 BRV 17 Apr.

**Redhead:** max 20 CV 3 Apr.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 329 GPSP 19 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** max 3000 Eel Bay 9 Apr.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 6 CV 28 Mar; 6 ULLWMA 29 Mar.  
**Bufflehead:** last ULLWMA 4 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** last RMSP 5 May.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** f GPSP 24 Mar; m PtPen 8 Apr.  
**Hooded Merganser:** arr KC 16 Mar.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 500 SLR Hammond 9 Mar.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 127 CV 28 Mar.  
**Com. Loon:** arr CV 3 Apr.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Canton 1 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** 2 ULLWMA 21 Apr; 3 Morristown 22 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** Alexandria Bay 9 Mar; PtPen 8 Apr; ULLWMA 15 Apr; 2 BRV 17 Apr; 2 ULLWMA 22 May, late.  
**Am. Bittern:** arr ULLWMA 21 Apr.  
**Great Blue Heron:** arr CV 16 Mar.  
**Green Heron:** arr Louisville 6 May.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** PRWMA 21 May.  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr Alexandria Bay 9 Mar.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr ULLWMA 2 Apr.  
**Bald Eagle:** 12 migrating over Limerick in 3 days mid-Apr.  
**N. Goshawk:** FD 3, 9 Mar.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Wellesley I 28 Mar.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last FD 21 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** Canton 14 Apr; Gouverneur 19 Apr.  
**Merlin:** GPSP 27 Mar; nesting residential area Canton late May.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr ICNC 4 May.  
**Sora:** Red Lake JEFF 19 May.  
**Am. Coot:** arr CV 3 Apr.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 3 KC 28 Mar.  
**WHOOPIING CRANE:** same individual from Florida/Wisconsin reintroduction various locations LEWI and S JEFF for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year 3 Apr thru.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 2 ULLWMA 23 May.  
**Killdeer:** arr Brownville 25 Mar.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr CV 7 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BRV 17 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Canton 6 May.  
**WILLET:** 4 Potsdam 4-5 May, very rare away from L Ontario (KK).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Dekalb 8 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** pair Cape Vincent late May, only report.  
**Least Sandpiper:** 4 ULLWMA 25 May.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 7 ULLWMA 23 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr FD 2 Apr.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr KC 20 Mar.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** arr Canton 3 Mar.  
**Iceland Gull:** PtPen 8 Apr; CV 9 Apr.  
**Glaucous Gull:** SLR Louisville 21 Apr.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 25 PtPen 8 Apr.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr Sackett's Harbor 10 Apr.  
**Com. Tern:** arr ULLWMA 2 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr ULLWMA 4 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 10 May.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Potsdam 20 May; ULLWMA 25 May; FD 31 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** Clayton 8-12 Mar.  
**Short-eared Owl:** several reports from winter roost sites N JEFF Mar and early Apr; none after late Apr.  
**Whip-poor-will:** 20 on 9-mile survey route CB and 33 on Brownville route late May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Canton 3 May.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr FD 10 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** arr FD 1 Mar, early.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr FD 25 Apr.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Hounsfield 5 Apr.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** max 3 Massawepie Mire 19 May.  
**N. Flicker:** arr FD 2 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Colton 26 May.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Watertown 19 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 2 Massawepie Mire 26 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr ULLWMA 20 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr ULLWMA 20 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr ULLWMA 4 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr Canton 29 Mar.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr ICNC 4 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr Canton 4 May.  
**N. Shrike:** last FD 11 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Dekalb 8 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FD 25 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr ULLWMA 4 May.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Snsh 11 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Theresa 10 May.  
**Gray Jay:** max 3 Massawepie Mire 26 May.



**Horned Lark:** max 500 n JEFF 9 Mar.  
**Purple Martin:** arr Canton 22 Apr.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr GPSP 24 Mar; numerous reports of dead birds in nest boxes thru Apr.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Canton 2 May.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr Watertown 26 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr RMSP 5 May.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Dekalb 20 Apr.  
**Boreal Chickadee:** 2 Colton 6 May; Massawepie Mire 26 May.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** Canton 28 Mar.  
**Carolina Wren:** Morristown 22 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr KC 27 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr FD 3 Apr.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr Canton 20 May; FD 21 May.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr FD 2 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Watertown 3 Apr; probable nesting Massawepie Mire 26 May.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Dekalb 21 May; FD 23 and 24 May.  
**E. Bluebird:** arr FD 2 Apr; several reports of dead individuals in nest boxes during Apr.  
**Veery:** arr FD 10 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr FD 6 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Hermon 6 May.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr FD 9 May.  
**N. Mockingbird:** CV 25 Apr; PRWMA 24 May; pr FD 28 May; Brownville 31 May.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr FD 23 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr Massena 10 Mar; max 5 FD 8 May.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Potsdam 7 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr FD 10 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Snsh 30 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr Snsh 11 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Canton 4 May.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Dekalb 8 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr FD 10 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Potsdam 13 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 50 Snsh 30 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Snsh 30 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Snsh 11 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Jacques Cartier SP 22 Apr.

**Prairie Warbler:** 5 m Limerick Cedars 20 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** max 38 m on Massawepie Mire nesting grounds 26 Apr; 6 Snsh 30 Apr.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** PtPen 18 May, only report.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr FD 23 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Dekalb 8 May; 3 Theresa 28 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Potsdam 29 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Dekalb 8 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr FD 7 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Theresa 2 May.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr FD 22 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr FD 4 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Potsdam 17 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr PRGC 19 May.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr FD 9 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr Watertown 3 Apr.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last PRGC 21 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Canton 21 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Brownville 8 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr FD 2 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr FD 11 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr FD 7 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr FD 7 May; 3 Orleans 24 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr FD 3 Apr; max 22 FD 6 Apr.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr FD 14 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Colton 6 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr Wellesley Is. 9 Apr.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr ICNC 8 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Canton 6 May.  
**Lapland Longspur:** 5 n JEFF 9 Mar.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 765 CV 6 Mar.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Canton 5 May.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Watertown 8 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr Brownville 4 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr Gouverneur 13 Mar.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Orleans 14 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr PRGC 27 Mar.  
**Com. Grackle:** arr KC 12 Mar.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr Antwerp 16 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** Three Mile Point 12-18 May (B&JW); PtPen 18 May (J&JL).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Canton 5 May.

**Red Crossbill:** numerous reports Colton Mar and early Apr; pr with 2 y Low's Ridge STLA 12 May.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 4 Colton 11 Mar.  
**Pine Siskin:** numerous s STLA Mar and early Apr.



## REGION 7 - ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Early March was cold, beginning with a low of 0° F at Inlet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, then plunging to -43° at Saranac Lake on 6 March, -35° the following day, and -29° on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures then rebounded to a high of 60° at Inlet and Schroon Lake on 13 March, the thaw before the storm. The St. Patrick's Day storm dumped 13" of snow at Rouses Point and a foot over much of the Region. This was but a harbinger of what was to come. Following a pause of almost four weeks that saw temperatures in the 40s, the April Nor'easter of '07 struck. Snow began falling the morning of 15 April and continued for two days, burying Lake Placid and New Russia in a foot of snow. Nearly 4,000 residents were left without power, and shelters were opened in Crown Point, Minerva, and Schroon Lake. In yet another quick reversal, Plattsburgh thermometers rose from a high of 43° at storm's end on the 17<sup>th</sup> to a balmy 78° by 22 April. Late April was cloudy and rainy, early May sunny and cool. Warm weather then returned, with Schroon Lake 85° on 8 May and Ticonderoga and Westport reaching 84° the following day. The only significant rainfall of the month came on 15-16 May, grounding a major fallout of migrants at Crown Point, where 175 birds were banded on each of those days. The remainder of the month was sunny and warm, with only the isolated shower to forestall a summer drought. Lake Champlain stood at 95.96' at the start of the season, but melting snow and April showers pushed levels above the 100-foot flood stage for 18 days between 20 April to 7 May, reaching a high of 100.68' on 26 April, before dropping to 98.16' at season's end, as sun and wind evaporated the spring runoff.

Birders flocked to Ausable Point in hopes of seeing Clinton County's first **Tufted Duck**, present from 23-25 March. The only previous regional sightings were at Crown Point and Port Kent in the winter of 2002-03. Although few found this diving duck, all were treated to a remarkable experience. The bay north of the point was covered with rafts of waterfowl numbering in the

thousands during late March, with at least 27 species present, including **Eurasian Wigeon** and Barrow's Goldeneye.

The Chazy Riverlands were similarly rewarding from late April through May, with Brant, Great Egret, both Bald and Golden eagles, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Common Moorhen, American Coot, ten shorebird species (including Ruddy Turnstone on 28 May and White-rumped Sandpiper on 24 May), Little Gull, and three tern species among the highlights. The Golden Eagle was seen flying north on 18 May and landed briefly at the water's edge before continuing north; the white at the base of the tail and primaries marked it as an immature. By season's end, at least 500 northbound "peeps" were gathered on the mudflats.

When a connector road was built down the center of Cumberland Head, several areas of wetland were taken, but a mitigation area of similar size was carefully prepared as a replacement. Given the attendant difficulties of creating genuine wetlands, local birders were especially pleased to hear American Bittern and Sora calling from the new cattails this spring.

Crown Point State Historic Site has now been officially named a Bird Conservation Area by the State of New York, and four interpretive panels describing birdlife and bird-banding on the grounds have been unveiled. The banding station, operated by the Crown Point Banding Association through agreement with NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPR&HP), was opened for the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive season between 11-28 May. The 73 banded species broke the record of 70 set in the great fallout year of 1996, while Marsh Wren and Eastern Meadowlark brought the all-time list to 99 species banded since 1976. Warbler variety was superb, the 23 species (including **Blue-winged Warbler** and **Prairie Warbler**) breaking the old record of 21 warblers, set in '96 and tied last year. The 1,183 individuals rank third behind 1996 (1,706 birds) and 1997 (1,239 birds). The record number of nine Brown Thrashers, along with increased numbers of other birds of open thickets, suggest that the recent CPBA habitat improvement project is having a positive impact. The OPR&HP survey again found grassland birds in a recently-reclaimed field, and Ospreys again claimed the recently-cleared nesting platform on Bulwagga Bay. A proposal to thin invasive Common Buckthorn from thickets is now under consideration. Vermont Audubon completed a DVD on the Lake Champlain Birding Trail, with a major segment on Crown Point that aired on local television.

There were returns of 38 birds of 13 species banded at Crown Point in previous years, the oldest a Black-capped Chickadee and a Baltimore Oriole, each now at least seven years, 11 months old. A leucistic Yellow-rumped Warbler was banded 11 May. Species seen or heard, but not banded, include Bald and Golden eagles, Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Northern Mockingbird, and an adult male **Orchard Oriole** (with a female and immature male banded). After 32 years, a total of four Pileated Woodpecker, seven **Blue-winged Warbler**, nine **Prairie Warbler**, and

six **Orchard Oriole** have been banded at the Historic Site, among other highlights of the 14,625 birds banded since 1976.

Elsewhere, a **Black Vulture** was seen soaring over Ellenburg, Clinton County, on the evening of 17 May. Although the species is extending its range northward, so not entirely unexpected, the only previous Regional record was one found alive, but with an injured wing, near North Burke 10 November 1968, and housed through the winter (see *The Kingbird* 19:92-93, "Black Vulture in Northern Franklin County," by Harriet Delafield). Another southern bird moving northward is **Red-bellied Woodpecker**. Since the first Regional occurrence at Ticonderoga in 1984, penetration has largely followed the Champlain Valley, but interior sightings are now being added in the Central Adirondacks. This spring brought records from Seventh Lake and Moose River Plains in Hamilton County, as well as the Goodnow Flow in Essex County.

The web address is now <<http://www.adirondack.org/publications.php>> for *The Adirondack North Country Region Map and Scenic Byways & Birding Guide*. This superb reference locates and describes 72 birding sites around the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Champlain, Hudson River Corridor, and St. Lawrence River and Plains, as well as Lake George, Tug Hill, Eastern Lake Ontario, and the Mohawk Valley. We highly recommend this new resource to birders, and those wishing to place credit card orders may phone the Adirondack North Country Association at (518) 891-6200 during business hours. Although listed price for ANCA's Driving Tour Packet is \$4, the map with birding guide alone is available for a modest \$2 fee to cover postage & handling.

A total of 214 species was reported during Spring 2007, slightly fewer than last year's 216 and short of the record 219 species located in 1997.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMR -- Akwesasne Mohawk Reserve; AP -- Ausable Pt; BB -- Bloomingdale Bog; CH -- Cumberland Head; CP -- Crown Pt SHS; CR -- Chazy Rivers; FB -- Ferd's Bog; LP -- L Placid; NP -- Noblewood Pk; PS -- Paul Smiths; PtF -- Pt au Fer; PtR -- Pt au Roche; SB -- Sabattis Bog; SL -- Saranac L; TL -- Tupper L.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Brant:** arr CR 12 May (BK, CM); max 60 CH 22 May (BK).  
**Gadwall:** arr 4 AP 14 Mar; max 26 AP 26 Mar (DCR).  
**EURASIAN WIGEON:** AP 23 Mar (NO)-26 Mar (PG, BK).  
**Am. Wigeon:** arr AP 14 Mar (BK, CM); max 20 CR 14 Apr (DL).  
**N. Shoveler:** arr pr NP 26 Mar (EKT); pr AP 28 Mar (PG); max 6 pr Chapman Rd, Ft Covington 2 Apr (HW).  
**N. Pintail:** arr pr AP 14 Mar; max 300 CR 10 Apr (BK, CM).  
**Canvasback:** AP 22 Mar (NO)-27 Mar (JB, TM).  
**Redhead:** pr AP 14 Mar (BK)-3 pr 14 Apr (TM, SO); max 8 AP 19 Mar (BK, CM).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 140 AP 14 Mar (DCR); 75 L Abanakee 8 Apr ((MM), high HAMI).  
**TUFTED DUCK:** m AP 23 Mar (BK, CM!)-25 Mar (JC, RG, BK, WL, CM, DCR).  
**Surf Scoter:** CH 19 May (SJ, BK)-23 May (JM).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** 3 Essex 14 Apr (SO, TM).  
**Bufflehead:** 30 Little TL 3 May (MAM EKY), ties HAMI max.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 3000 AP 14 Mar (DCR).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** pr Willsboro Pt 11 Mar (RG); pr AP 13 Mar; m AP 14&16 Mar (BK, CM); pr AP 25 Mar (JL, CF, DCR, WR), a good showing.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 6 AP 14 Mar (DCR), early CLIN.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr 4 m AP 28 Apr (J&PT)-30 Apr (BK, CM), high CLIN.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 2 L Abanakee 21 Apr (M&WM), early HAMI; Taylor Pd 13 May (L&PO), uncommon inland.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr AP 22 Mar

(NO), early CLIN; NP 26 Mar (EKT), early ESSE.  
**Least Bittern:** PtF 10 May (BK), early CLIN.  
**Great Blue Heron:** ~20 nests Monty Bay 20 Apr (BK, CM), new heronry.  
**Great Egret:** arr Riley Brook 18 Apr; 2 CR 1 May (BK), only reports.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 7 Drum St, AMR 3 Apr (HW), early FRAN.  
**BLACK VULTURE:** flying NE Ellenburg 17 May (EDT), 1<sup>st</sup> CLIN, 2<sup>nd</sup> Region 7 record.  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr mouth Ausable R 10 Mar (J&PT); subsequent reports 20-31 Mar AMR, Jay, Keene, Rand Hill, Riverview, SL, Schuyler Falls, TL.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** on nest CP 26 Apr (TH).  
**Bald Eagle:** regular along Champlain, with inland reports from Inlet, Mt Hopkins, TL.  
**Golden Eagle:** SL 31 Mar (BM); imm Mt Hopkins 21 Apr (DD); imm Coon Mt 23 Apr (EKT); Essex 28 Apr (J&PT); ad CP 17 May (JP); imm CR 18 May (BK), encouraging.  
**Merlin:** numerous reports around Plattsburgh, plus Little TL, Osecatah L, PS, TL.  
**Gyr Falcon:** gray-phase ad Plattsburgh 8 Mar (BK), eating duck at mouth of Saranac R.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** color-banded f Elizabethtown eyrie [‘06 raven nest] Apr-May (EKT), one of 4 y Fairlee Cliff, central VT, 2002 (SF); others Coon Mt, CR, Whiteface Mt, Wickham Marsh.  
**Virginia Rail:** PtR 6 May (BK, CM); PtF 18 May (NO, MS), only reports.  
**Sora:** CH 19, 23 May (BK), new wetland mitigation area.  
**Com. Moorhen:** 2 PtR 6 May (CM); 2 CR 25 May (BK), good finds.  
**Am. Coot:** CR 31 May (BK), only report.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr CR 14 May (BK, CM); max 26 CR 29 May (BK).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 5 CR 9 May (BK, CM), early CLIN; max 61 CR 31 May (BK).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr CR 25 Apr (BK, CM).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 3 arr CR 25 Apr; max 15 CR 10 May (BK, CM).  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** max 25 CR 28 May (BK, CM), high CLIN.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 2 arr CR 9 May (BK, CM), early CLIN.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 5 CR 9 May; max 125+ CR 31 May (BK, CM).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr CR 24 May (BK, CM).  
**Dunlin:** arr CR 5 May; max 18 CR 28 May (BK, CM).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 9 CR 17 May; max 120+ CR 22 May, high CLIN (BK, CM).  
**Little Gull:** imm CR 30 May (BK), 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring record CLIN.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr CR 9 May (BK, CM); AP 17 May (GR); max 3 CR 24 May; pr copulating CR 28 May (CM).  
**Com. Tern:** arr CR 9 May (BK); max 31 CR 19 May (BK, CM).  
**Black Tern:** arr CR 9 May; max 2 CR 17 May (BK).

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr CP 14 May (GH).  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr CP 25 May (JP); TL late May (BC).  
**E. Screech-Owl:** calling Jay 14 Mar (L&PO), only report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr CP 18 May (TB); CP 22 May (JP); CP 27 May (GL); max 4 Gadway barrens 27 May (BK), no reports from cities & villages.  
**Whip-poor-will:** arr Ticonderoga 23 May (NC); CP 27 May (JP); max 3 Gadway barrens 27 May (BK).  
**Belted Kingfisher:** AP 3 Mar (TA), but present from 27 Feb; Ticonderoga 24 Mar (LC).  
**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER:** f Seventh L, Inlet feeder 4-13 Mar (SG, GL, SY, ph), 4<sup>th</sup> HAMI record; Goodnow Flow, Newcomb feeder Mar-Apr (AF), present since Feb; Willsboro Pt feeder 22-23 Apr (RL), pr in May; Campsite #38, Moose R Plains 12 May (WR, Jr.), 5<sup>th</sup> HAMI record.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr CH 24 Mar

(SJ, BK), early CLIN.

**Am. Three-toed Woodpecker:** f FB 23 May (GL), only report.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** Inlet yard with *Red-bellied Woodpecker* 13 Mar (GL); others Boreas R, Chubb R, Connery Pd, FB, PS, Raquette L, Sabattis Rd, Vanderwacker Mt.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Willow Flycatcher:** Keene 19 May (J&PT), early ESSE; Banker & Stetson Rds 19 May (BK), early CLIN.

**N. Shrike:** AP 17 Apr (DL, MAM), late CLIN; earlier reports AMR, AP, Boreas R, Inlet, Jay.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CH 17 May (CH), only report.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Jay 9 May (PO), only report.

**Gray Jay:** Boreas R 11-13 Mar (MAM, EKT), unexpected; BB, Bloomingdale feeder, FB, PS, usual sites.

**Com. Raven:** max 31 Mt Hopkins 21 Apr (DD), 17 at one time.

**Tree Swallow:** arr 2 Elizabethtown 15 Mar (J&PT); AP 26 Mar (PG, DCR); AMR 27 Mar (HW), early FRAN; 50 L George 2-4 Apr (NC); clouds of 50-200 CP 18-21 May (GH, JP).

**Boreal Chickadee:** BB, Boreas R, Connery Pd, FB, Giant Mt, Indian L, expected sites.

**Tufted Titmouse:** AP, CH, CP, Elizabethtown, Terry Mt, Ticonderoga, Witherbee, expected sites.

**Carolina Wren:** pr Ticonderoga 3-6 Apr (NC), overwintered; Plattsburgh 15 Apr (CM); Spitfire Dr, Plattsburgh 19 Apr (EF), good finds.

**Winter Wren:** arr singing m Witherbee 29 Mar (MA), early ESSE.

**Marsh Wren:** arr CP 14 May (J&SP), 1<sup>st</sup> banded in 32 yrs.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Keene 1 & 19 May (J&PT); CP 19 May (G&MC).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** max 5 Porter Mt 19-20 May (MDM).

**N. Mockingbird:** Plattsburgh 22 Apr (CH); m CP 11-18 May (GL, EDT), only reports.

**Brown Thrasher:** 9 banded CP 13-26 May, highest in 32 yrs & ascribed to habitat maintenance.

#### WARBLERS

**BLUE-WINGED WARBLER:** singing m CP 19 May (TB, G&MC, JP); m banded CP

24 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Hogansburg 9 May (HW), early FRAN; 9 banded CP 13-21 May.

**N. Parula:** Little TL 3 May (MAM, EKT), early HAMI.

**Cape May Warbler:** 18 banded CP 15-21 May.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 416 banded CP 11-21 May; leucistic m banded CP 11 May (WC, GL, JP), white on nape & wings [1 left, 2 right secondary coverts].

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** AP 23 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** m banded CP 16 May; f banded CP 25 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr "Yellow" Keene 7 Apr (KC, J&PT), early ESSE; 5 "Western" banded CP 12-18 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr NP 10 May (MAM), ties early ESSE; 3 banded CP 16-20 May; Connery Pd 17 May (BM); Witherbee 19 May (CW); Raquette L 22 May (GL), a good showing.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 18 banded CP 16-28 May, but no other reports.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr AP 30 Apr (BK, CM), early CLIN.

**N. Waterthrush:** Rock Pd outlet 4 May (MAM, EKT), ties early HAMI.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Jay 11 May (PO), early ESSE.

**Wilson's Warbler:** Keene 12-13 May (SO, YT); 4 banded CP 17-24 May; CH 19 May (NO); CH 23 May, the 12-day migratory window wider than the 3-day passage of 18-20 May 2006.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Terry Mt 28 Apr (*vide* CH); m banded CP 24 May, only reports.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 42 Inlet 8 Mar (GL), high HAMI.

**Chipping Sparrow:** SL 27 Mar (JH), early FRAN; Inlet 1 Apr (GL), early HAMI.

**Fox Sparrow:** Inlet 1 Apr (GL)-LP 19 Apr (LL); others Indian L, Keene, Plattsburgh, PS, Ticonderoga, Witherbee.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 5 banded CP 16-23 May.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Speculator 1 May (PK); Inlet 2 May (GL), both early HAMI; 3 banded CP 16-21 May; others CH, Elizabethtown, Keene, LP, PtF, Witherbee.

**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** Inlet feeder 3 Mar (GL).

**Snow Bunting:** max 400 CR 4 Mar (PG); four other reports CLIN & ESSE to 13 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 Essex 28 Apr (J&PT); Keene, Sagamore, Vanderwacker Mt. in May.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE:** subad m & f banded CP 12 May; ad m present CP 18 May (EDT).

**Purple Finch:** 50+ Blue Ridge 11 Mar (MAM, EKT); 50+ SB 21 Mar (GB, MY), but absent at lower elevations until Apr.

**Red Crossbill:** max ~40 SB 1 Mar (LM); numerous Adirondack reports to late Apr, but absent at lower elevations.

**White-winged Crossbill:** max ~20 SB 1 Mar (LM)-21 Mar (GB,MY), with many Adirondack reports to late May, but similarly absent elsewhere.

**Pine Siskin:** max ~ 30 SB 1-21 Mar (GB, LM, MY), but generally absent.

**Am. Goldfinch:** max 170 New Russia 16 Apr (EKT); 63 banded Elizabethtown 1 Apr-10 May (JP); 155 banded CP 12-27 May, the most abundant and widespread finch.

**Evening Grosbeak:** "hundreds" Newcomb 12 Mar (ER), but nowhere else abundant.

#### ADDENDUM:

**Wild Turkey:** 104 Aikens Rd, T Dickinson Feb 2007 (Mark A. Manske), feeding on silage Keith Proper farm, until flock was reduced by a N. Goshawk; new max FRAN & Region 7.



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

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Spring 2007 can be characterized as mostly cool and seasonably wet. March was slow to warm up, with 21 days exhibiting some form of rain, drizzle, or snow. The two-day snowstorm on 17-18 March dropped 13" on Albany International Airport, which remained on the ground in some areas until the end of the month. After the 20th, daily maximum temperatures climbed into the 50s and the month ended 3.5° cooler than average. April was also chilly, 2.3° below average, with a significant storm 15-16 April that brought snow, ice, and finally 2.26" of rain. The last frost occurred on 11 April. May ended 2.2° warmer than average, with moderate winds and a few rain showers.

Waterfowl migration occurred quickly in late March, with few surprises save the 200 Brant that touched down on the Hudson River near Coeymans, Albany County. A Barrow's Goldeneye appeared briefly in Stillwater in mid-March, and nine Common Loons on Saratoga Lake represent a maximum rarely seen in Region 8.

By far the most unusual species of the season was reported by Larry Federman and several other birders on an Audubon-sponsored bird walk at the Ramshorn-Livingston Sanctuary in Greene County. Two **Anhingas** soared on thermals high over the Hudson River. The troupe observed them for seven minutes until the birds soared out of view—appropriately—towards the South. From my brief search of records, the birds are a county first and possibly a first for Region 8.

Black Vultures continue to pad many Regional birders' checklists; seven appeared in four different counties this spring. Bonaparte's Gulls seemed scarce this season, but a Lesser Black-backed Gull lingering on the shores of Coeymans in late March was a nice find. Shorebird migration this spring was nothing to peep about.

Passerine migration occurred roughly on schedule, with large nocturnal movements on the calm nights of 24 April, 29 April, and 3 May. Regional birders sent in many reports from Saratoga, Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia counties completing a full list of warblers. Many seasonal firsts came in from the southern counties and particularly from Chad Witko in Claverack, Columbia County, who must have sat on his rooftop for most of the season logging a number of freshly-arrived neotropics as they fell from their night flights onto his checklist. Special thanks to Chad and the dozens of other birders who sent in their seasonal firsts to compilers such as the Hudson-Mohawk Birdline. These data, compiled over long periods of time, provide a valuable service to current and future ornithologists.



Allan and Phyllis Wirth of Taghkanic, Columbia County, photographed a crisp male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that visited their feeder in late March. Other Regional feeder watchers reported very large flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos this spring, particularly in suburban areas. Reports of flocks ranging from 40-90 came in from many counties. North county feeder watchers in Fulton, Washington, and Saratoga counties reported several Red Crossbills, while Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks remained scarce.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Pal Balcom, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, Bill Cook, Sue Edischer, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, Dave Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Honey Hollen, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Lucy Newman, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Penrick, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick, Marian Zimmerman.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AUS – T Austerlitz COLU; BCM – Black Creek Marsh ALBA; CHA – T Chatham COLU; CLA – T Claverack COLU; COX – T Coxsackie GREE; FtE – T Fort Edwards WASH; HR – Hudson Ri; LIV – T Livingston COLU; PET – T Petersburg RENS; PI – Papscanee Island RENS; VF – Vischer's Ferry SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 20 Easton WASH 14 Mar; 13 PI 15 Mar; 75 New Baltimore GREE 1 Apr; 6 PI 2 Apr; Sod Farm SARA 20 May.  
**Brant:** 200 Coeymans ALBA 27 May.  
**Wood Duck:** arr FtE 18 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr VF 1 Apr.  
**N. Shoveler:** 2 VF 1 Apr; 7 Tomhannock Res RENS 19 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** arr Albany 14 Mar.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 40 PI 3 Apr.  
**Canvasback:** Stockport COLU 23 Mar.  
**Redhead:** VF 1 Apr.  
**White-winged Scoter:** Germantown COLU 10 Apr; Round L SARA 19 May.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** Ballston L SARA 15 Apr.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Stillwater SARA 13 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Germantown COLU 11 Apr; Galway L SARA 14 Apr; 3 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr Halfmoon SARA 31 Mar.  
**Com. Loon:** 3 Collins Pk SCHE 2 Apr; central SARA 7 Apr; Ballston L 15 Apr; Collins L SCHE 19 Apr; max 9 Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr; Broadalbin FULT 28 May; Alcove Res ALBA 5 May; COX Res 6 May.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Albany 14 Mar.  
**Horned Grebe:** 2 VF 13 Mar; Round L SARA 24 Apr; Mayfield FULT 28 May; Alcove Res ALBA 6 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 Ballston L SARA 15 Apr; Round L SARA 24 Apr-21 May.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr COX boat launch GREE 25 Mar.

**ANHINGA:** 2 HR at Ramshorn-Livingston Preserve GREE 2 May, county record (LF, *et al*), report to NYSARC.

**Am. Bittern:** arr Meadowdale ALBA 20 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr BCM 29 Apr.

**Great Egret:** Gansevoort SARA 26 Mar; Wilton SARA 8 Apr.

**Green Heron:** arr LIV 27 Apr.

**Black Vulture:** 2 Coeymans ALBA 15 Mar; Troy RENS 29 Mar; Glens Falls WARR 2 Apr; Greenport COLU 26 Apr; L Taghkanic SP COLU 8 May; Rapp Rd ALBA 14 May.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr HR COLU 3 Apr.

**N. Harrier:** 10 Argyll WASH 12 Mar.

**N. Goshawk:** AUS 24 May.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** CHA 6 Mar; Ravena ALBA 25 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr AUS 22 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** COX flats 4 Mar; Easton WASH 18 Mar.

**Merlin:** PET 21 Mar; Saratoga Springs SARA 31 Mar.

**Peregrine Falcon:** nesting Dunn Memorial Bridge ALBA 4 Apr.

**Virginia Rail:** arr BCM 1 Apr; max 10 BCM 22 Apr.

**Sora:** arr Germantown COLU 23 Apr.

**Com. Moorhen:** arr LIV 27 Apr.

**Am. Coot:** arr VF 28 Apr.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Watervliet SARA 18 May.

**Killdeer:** arr Stillwater SARA 15 Mar.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr New Salem ALBA 29 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr AUS 25 Apr.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr PI 14 Apr.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr VF 1 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** Ames MONT 31 May, only report.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr Stanton Pd ALBA 19 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Ghent COLU 12 May.

**Dunlin:** PI 6 May; Wrights Loop SARA 20 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 30 Watervliet Res SARA 18 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr CLA 15 Mar; max 21 PI 14 Apr.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr CLA 14 Mar.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Saratoga L SARA 23 Apr.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** COX Boat Launch GREE 21 Mar.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** last Broadalbin FULT 28 Apr.

**Caspian Tern:** 2 HR Halfmoon SARA 29 Apr; Castleton RENS 22 May.

**Black Tern:** arr VF 2 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 10 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr PET 10 May.

**Short-eared Owl:** 6 Argyll WASH 12 Mar.

**Great Horned Owl:** Greenfield SARA 15 Apr, nesting in heron rookery.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** VF 31 Mar.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Cohoes ALBA 19 May.

**Whip-poor-will:** arr Coeymans ALBA 8 May.

**Chimney Swift:** arr CLA 29 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr CLA 1 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr PET 4 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Saratoga Springs SARA 19 May; Clermont COLU 19 May; Powell Sanctuary CHA 28 May.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Rotterdam SCHE 30 Apr.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Troy RENS 27 May; Meadowdale ALBA 29 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr VF 15 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr CHA 12 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr PET 30 Apr.

**E. Phoebe:** arr Gansevoort SARA 5 Mar.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 29 Apr.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Colonie ALBA 5 May.

**N. Shrike:** Easton WASH 18 Mar; Gansevoort SARA 27 Mar.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Saratoga Battlefield SARA 28 Apr.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr PET 24 Apr.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr VF 24 Apr.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr CLA 10 May.

**Purple Martin:** Saratoga L SARA 19 May.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr COX grasslands 23 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr Troy RENS 22 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr Gansevoort SARA 12 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr sod farm SARA 22 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr Troy RENS 24 Apr.

**Marsh Wren:** arr BCM 24 Apr.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Meadowdale ALBA 4 Apr; max 80 BCM 11 Apr, high count.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr BCM 3 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr VF 27 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr PET 8 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Mayfield FULT 28 Apr.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Clermont COLU 12 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr E Greenbush RENS 10 Mar.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr CLA 29 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr CLA 26 Apr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr BCM 19 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** 5 Wrights Loop Stillwater SARA 26 Mar; Greenport COLU 29 May.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr LIV 30 Apr.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Schodack I SP RENS 13 May.  
**"Brewster's" Warbler:** CHA 12 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Five Rivers Delmar ALBA 9 May; Ghent COLU 20 May; E Durham GREE 24 May, all reports.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr New Salem ALBA 29 Apr.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr VF 30 Apr.  
**N. Parula:** arr Broadalbin FULT 11 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Albany 29 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr BCM 5 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr VF 3 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr BCM 5 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr AUS 4 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr CLA 23 Mar.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CLA 23 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr VF 30 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr CLA 4 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr L Taghkanic SP 1 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Ghent COLU 25 Apr.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Wilton SARA 12 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CHA 12 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** Schodack I SP RENS 13 May; Powell Sanctuary CHA 26 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arrive Copake Rail Trail COLU 2 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr VF 3 May.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** Deer Mt GREE 13 May; Holt P ALBA 28 May.  
**Ovenbird:** arr L Taghkanic SP 1 May.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr BCM 29 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LIV 5 Apr.  
**Mourning Warbler:** VF 19 May; Palenville GREE 28 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Greenport COLU 7 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** New Salem ALBA 16 May; Holt P ALBA 27 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Saratoga National Park SARA 10 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr Feller Rd LIV 10 May; Canaan COLU 12 May; Palenville GREE 23 May.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr BCM 7 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr Olana SP COLU 22 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr AUS 30 Mar.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr LIV 11 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Saratoga National Cemetery SARA 22 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 4 Saratoga National Cemetery SARA 22 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr CHA 12 May; Sharon Springs SCHO 31 May; Ames MONT 31 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** 5 Goodrich Rd colony SCHO 31 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr New Salem ALBA 5 Mar.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr CHA 1 Mar.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** 75 Burnt Hills ALBA 15 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 10 Northumberland SARA 5 Mar.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr CLA 17 Apr.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Queensbury SARA 27 Apr.  
**Bobolink:** arr Taghkanic COLU 3 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Taghkanic COLU 21 Mar.  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Taghkanic COLU 19 Mar (A&PW).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 2 Stuyvesant COLU 19 Mar; VF 1 Apr; 12 PI 3 Apr; 10 BCM 3-19 Apr; max 50 Meadowdale ALBA 6 Apr.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr RENS tech park 1 May; Taghkanic COLU 7 May; BCM 9 May; Gallatin COLU 12 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Hillsdale COLU 4 May.  
**Purple Finch:** max 8 Stony Creek WARR 1 Mar.  
**Red Crossbill:** 6 Stony Creek WARR 1 Mar; 4 Bleeker FULT 30 Mar; 4 Edinburg SARA 14 Apr.

**Pine Siskin:** 4 Edinburg SARA 14 Apr.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** CHA 21 Mar; PET 11  
Apr; max 6 Edinburg SARA 2 May.

**EXOTICS**  
**Toulouse Goose:** Ghent COLU 12 May.

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## REGION 9 - HUDSON - DELAWARE

**Michael Bochnik**  
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The season's weather can be described as a roller coaster of extreme highs and lows, dryness and heavy rain. Although March came in with average rainfall and was only 1.2° cooler than normal, the second week saw extreme cold, with Poughkeepsie reaching lows in the single digits 6-9 March. Five days later the city warmed to 75°. This was quickly followed by another cold snap. The rest of March and the first half of April was very dry, with relative humidity levels reaching the teens. There was another cold snap 5-12 April, and this is probably the reason so few early migrants were seen relative to the same period in the past few years. Three days later brought a Nor'easter up the coast. Poughkeepsie saw 5" of rain in two days, New Rochelle saw 7.75", and much of lower Westchester County saw record floods. White Plains had 12.8" of rain for the month, nearly four times normal. April was the second wettest month on record – remarkable since the first half was so dry. The first week of May was cool and dry, retarding many migrants. Many people felt that migration was one to two weeks behind. May remained extremely dry, with only 1.37" of rain for Poughkeepsie compared with the normal 4.73". The season ended hot, reaching 90° degrees on the 25th and 31st.

Overall the migration season was disappointing. Migration seemed late, and observers reported that migrant numbers were way down. Fortunately many of the winter season's highlights lingered, and the season had a number of notable birds.

A **Trumpeter Swan** was reported by Bill Robinson on Shagbark Pond in Centerville in Town of Saugerties, Ulster County on the evening of 1 May. Steve Chorvas was able to confirm the identification. The swan had two yellow wing tags with the number 047. Two Tundra Swans were found 20 March on Oil City Road.

Two Cackling Geese were reported, one at Marshlands Conservancy on 13 March and the other on Missionland Road, Pine Island on 25 March.

John Haas noticed a fallout of waterfowl in Sullivan County while birding in a storm 12 April. Combined, Kiamesha and Yankee Lakes had nine Common Loons, three Red-necked Grebes, eight Horned Grebes, seven White winged Scoters, along with plenty of Bufflehead, Common Mergansers, and Ring-necked Ducks. Other Red-necked Grebes and White-winged Scoters were reported inland elsewhere after this storm.

The April Nor'easter brought in two Red-throated Loons to Rhinecliff on 17 April.

Doug and Mike Gochfeld reported a probable nesting Black Vulture in Westchester County near Crompond/Mohegan Lake in mid May.

The highlight of the migration was a subadult **Mississippi Kite** seen soaring over Doodletown Road in the early evening of 12 May. A group of birders participating in a weekend birdathon observed the bird for 2 -3 minutes circling overhead near the cemetery just above the pond.

The **Slaty-backed Gull**, which made sporadic appearances in Sullivan County at the Monticello landfill in February, was found 3 March at the flooded Apollo Plaza off Rte 17 by John Haas and Ken and Curt McDermott. This was the first time it was seen outside the landfill and the first at a publicly accessible location. The site also included one Lesser Black-backed, one Glaucous, and four Iceland gulls. The Slaty-backed remained for twenty minutes until all the gulls took flight and flew into the landfill. The next day many birders went to the Apollo Plaza to try for the Slaty-backed Gull, which failed to make an appearance. Then Renee Davis, who had left Apollo Plaza earlier in the morning to search for a Red-headed Woodpecker that has been reported over the years in New Paltz, called to report that she had found presumably the same Slaty-backed Gull in a corn field near New Paltz on Rte 299. A mass exodus of birders headed out and drove a little over 40 miles only to find that the gulls had lifted off ten minutes before they arrived, kettled over New Paltz, and soared off. Renee did manage a few photographs to confirm the ID as a Slaty-backed Gull, a first record for Ulster County. The gull reappeared for its last sightings on the 10 and 21 March.

A Little Gull was found at Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Westchester County on 18 April.

The Piermont Snowy Owl remained at the pier daily until 10 March. Possibly the same bird returned later in the month and was last seen 7 April.

The most peculiar sighting for the season goes to a Whip-poor-will found sleeping on a Volvo in a car dealership on 6 April in Poughkeepsie. Its photo made the local paper the next day.

A Bicknell's Thrush was heard singing at Marshlands Conservancy not far from a singing Gray-cheeked Thrush on 22 May, providing a nice comparison.

A first spring male **Blue Grosbeak** was discovered in Orange County 18 May by Ken McDermott. A NYSARC report was submitted. This will be the first documented record for Orange County.

The **Bullock's Oriole** in Phoenicia remained until at least 18 March.

Other notable species include: Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, "Lawrence's" Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, and Pine Siskin.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CPP -- Croton Point Park; EGR -- Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC -- Marshlands Conservancy; RNC -- Rye Nature Center; SGNWR -- Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Blue Chip Farm, Walkill 25-29 Mar (TB, GB, CG).

**Snow Goose:** scattered reports in March, April.

**Brant:** Fishkill 22 Mar; 110 EGR 26 Mar; 200 MC 12 May; 200 Nyack 21 May.

**Cackling Goose:** MC 13 Mar (TB); Missionland Road, Pine Island 25 Mar (KM).

**Trumpeter Swan:** Centerville, Town of Saugerties 1 May (BR, SC).

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Oil City Road 20 Mar (KM).

**Wood Duck:** 50 Bashakill 13 Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 12 May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** 8 Bashakill 12 Apr; 2 Tarrytown Lakes 13 Apr; 1 Piermont 28 Apr.

**Green-winged Teal:** 80 Pine Plains 31 Mar (RG); 46 Briscoe L 3 Apr.

**Redhead:** 2 Walden 19 May (KM), late.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 100 Clove Valley 24 Mar; 100 Yankee L 12 Apr; 100 Bashakill 12 Apr; 2 Bashakill 12, 15, 19 May;

Saugerties 12 May. **White-winged Scoter:** 3 Kiamesha L 12 April (JH); 4 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); Ashokan Res 12 May (SC, LA, JBo, JR).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 40 EGR 31 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** Somers 30 May.

**Com. Merganser:** 150 Yankee L 12 Apr.

**Red-throated Loon:** 2 Rhinecliff 17 Apr (RJ), after Nor'Easter; 7 EGR 19 Apr.

**Com. Loon:** 5 Kiamesha L 12 April (JH); 4 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); 8 EGR 26 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** Bashakill 25,26 Mar; 2 Six-and-a-half Station Rd, Goshen 25 Mar; Dennings Point 30 Mar, 3 Apr; 4 Kiamesha L 12 April; 4 Yankee L 12 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** Orange L, Newburgh 25 Mar (KM); 3 Yankee L 12 Apr (JH); 4 Yankee L 13-14 Apr (JH); 2 Swan L 13, 14 Apr (RD, VF, MC, JH); Kauneonga L 14 Apr (JH).  
**N. Gannet:** 4 EGR 18 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** Bashakill 12 May.  
**Great Egret:** Milon 8 Apr.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 2 Pine Island 26 Apr; 2 Humpo Marsh, New Paltz 12 May.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** first, Bashakill 30 Mar.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** subad Doodletown 12 May (JDi, JDo, CMcA, JK, AS ,DS, SS).  
**N. Harrier:** 6 SGNWR 11 Mar; Bashakill 19 May.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 74 Hook Mt 21 Apr.  
**N. Goshawk:** Ward Pound Ridge 20 Mar; Verbank 7 Apr; Roscoe 10 Apr; Val-Kill 22 Apr.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 36 Hook Mt 11 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** 384 Hook Mt 21 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** 3 SGNWR 11 Mar; Monticello 12 Mar.  
**Golden Eagle:** 2 Stissing Mt 8 Mar.  
**Am. Kestrel:** 77 Hook Mt 21 Apr; Millbrook 4 May.  
**Clapper Rail:** 1-2 MC 12, 15, 29 May.  
**Sora:** 4 MC May.  
**Com. Moorhen:** good numbers at Bashakill.  
**Sandhill Crane:** New Paltz 13 May (JC).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 4 MC 16, 17 May; 10 MC 21 May.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** 3 Missionland Road, Pine Island 26 Apr (KM).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 10 MC 15 May.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** 4 EGR 20 Mar, 22 May; 4 EGR 13 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** 9 MC 23, 30 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Sharon Springs 10 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** DUTCHESS 11 Apr, early  
**Willet:** 2 MC 12 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 3 Blue Chip Farm 12 May; 2 Blue Chip Farm 12 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 MC 22 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Kingston Point 12 May; MC 15, 16 May.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 15 EGR 26 Mar.  
**Dunlin:** 4 Rhinebeck 27 Apr; 7 Missionland Road, Pine Island 26 Apr.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 2 MC 4, 7 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** 51 Blue Chip Farm 29 Mar.  
**Laughing Gull:** arr EGR 26 Apr  
**LITTLE GULL:** 1 ad EGR 18 Apr (TB).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 12 Beacon 6 Apr; 220 EGR 15 Apr; 25 Newburgh 18 Apr; Bashakill 12, 21 Apr; Kiamesha L 14,28 Apr; 3 CPP 5 May; 2 Kingston Pt beach 12 May.  
**Iceland Gull:** 4 Monticello 3 Mar; Monticello 10, 12, 19 Mar; EGR 26 Apr (TB).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 3 Monticello 1, 3-12 Mar; 2 EGR 1 Apr (AG).  
**Glaucous Gull:** Monticello 21 Mar (JH, VF, RD); New Paltz 19 Apr (CG).  
**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** Monticello 3, 10, 21 Mar (JH, KM, CMcD, VF, RD); New Paltz 4 Mar (RD), 1<sup>st</sup> record for ULST, see *intro*.  
**Com. Tern:** 10 Rye 4 May; 60 EGR 30 May.  
**Forster's Tern:** 4 MC 30 Apr, 2 pairs courting.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** not many around compared with Yellow-billed.  
**Snowy Owl:** PP 1-10, 29, 30 March, 6, 7 Apr (DC, A&DW).  
**Long-eared Owl:** MC 18 Mar.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 2 SGNWR 11 Mar.  
**Whip-poor-will:** Poughkeepsie 6 Apr, see *intro*; few Bashakill 12 May.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Pawling 1-31 Mar; LaGrange 4 Mar; Blue Chip Farm 12 May.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Torne Road, West Point 13 May; Doodletown 17 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Torne Road, West Point 13 May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** Bashakill 12 May.  
**N. Shrike:** Ellenville 2 Mar (PM); Wappingers 24, 25, 31 Mar (TC, RW, B&AM).  
**Horned Lark:** 50 Union Vale 7 Mar.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 30 Cross River Res 28 Mar.  
**Marsh Wren:** MC 3, 4 May; 8 MC 29 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** singing MC 16 May (JBr); singing MC 21, 22 May (TB).  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** Doodletown 4 May (BL); singing MC 22 May (TB).  
**Gray-cheeked /Bicknell's Thrush:** Harriman SP 6 May; ULST 12 May; Bashakill 18 May.

#### WARBLERS

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Bashakill 12 May; 3 Linear Park 20 May.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** Mine Torne Road, West Point 10-14 May (KK, KM).  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Rye Nature Center 2 May (TB).  
**Cape May Warbler:** Bashakill 19 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** Rockland Lake SP 1, 2 May (CW, A&DW).  
**Kentucky Warbler:** MC 14,15 May (TB); Rye Nature Center 17 May (TB).  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr 12 May, early; MC 15, 22 May; 2 Bashakill 20 May; Rye Nature Center 21 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 28 Apr; Phillipstown May 6.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last 16 Apr.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr 17 Apr; 18 Peach Hill 28 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Bashakill 12, 28 Apr.  
**Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** MC 22 May; 3 MC 29 May.  
**Seaside Sparrow:** MC 17, 22 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** many reports after snowstorm 16 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Claryville 21 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 3 Sharon Station 18 Mar; Stormville 19 Apr; Rhinebeck 28 Apr; Hyde Park 29-30 Apr; Rye 3, 4 May; Iona I 19 May.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** lingered south longer than usual, still around on last week of Apr.  
**Lapland Longspur:** Missionland Road, Pine Island 20 Mar (KM).  
**Snow Bunting:** 25 Monticello 1 Mar; 5 Sharon Station 18 Mar (CV); Wurtsboro 12 May (SGr), late.  
**BLUE GROSBEAK:** 1st spring male Orange County 18 May (KM), 1st documented record for ORAN, report to NYSARC.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 22 Tamarack 10 Apr.  
**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE:** Phoenicia 1-18 March (DHe, m.o.b.).  
**Pine Siskin:** Greenfield Park 5 Mar; few Livingston Manor 5 Apr.

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## REGION 10-MARINE

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Despite near normal mean temperatures in March and April and a plethora of early arrival dates for migrants, spring seemed slow in coming. The raw, chilly weather and dearth of migrants early on is remarked upon repeatedly in our observers' reports, e.g. "Spring migration in Central Park was the worst in recent memory." One bonus was the delayed leaf-out, (compared to recent years, that is) allowing for easier viewing when the birds finally started to arrive in numbers.

March's mean temperature was 38.3°F, a slight 1.5° below normal, and precipitation totals were near normal at 4.68". With the help of a warming trend in the third week of April, which peaked out at 86° at Central Park on the 23rd, April's mean temperature warmed up to 47.4°, just about average. April was a wet month, thanks in part to a spring nor'easter, with 6.72" recorded in Islip, 2.59" above normal. Central Park's rainfall was even more impressive: their 13.05" total was 8.77" above average. May was 1.4° above normal, at 60.6°, and rainfall totals were 2.33" below average at 1.57".

The nor'easter of 15-16 April produced an impressive fallout of Neotropical landbirds on the outer coast as well as New York State's first ever April records of **Sooty Tern**. The species composition of these mid-April fallouts is so predictable that, following Ken Feustel's initial report of Indigo Buntings on the barrier beach on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, predictions of Blue and Rose-breasted grosbeaks and Summer and Scarlet tanagers were posted electronically, then duly realized, before day's end. Other species involved were Sora, both cuckoos, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. As is also typical during such events, landbird migrants typical of mid April, such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow Palm Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Slate-colored Junco, were almost completely absent from migration traps 16-18 April.

Overall, landbird migration was described as "very poor" on eastern Long Island, and observers in Central Park stated that "species highlights were few and overall population levels were at a low ebb." Among the few highlights was a large flight of seasonally typical migrants witnessed on 2 May following a strong front, when impressive numbers of White-throated and other sparrows

were observed along the outer coast and “spectacular” numbers of warblers just inland at sites such as Southard’s Pond in Babylon. High species totals, if not individual counts, were reported from many of the inland parks. Bucking the negative migratory trend, southeastern-breeding landbirds were well reported: many Acadian Flycatchers, three Yellow-throated Warblers, ten Cerulean Warblers, 12 Prothonotary Warblers, good numbers of Worm-eating and Hooded warblers, nine Kentucky Warblers, 15 Summer Tanagers, and 13 Blue Grosbeaks. For several of these species, readers are urged to stay tuned for interesting developments during the summer! Some of these positive numbers were influenced by the mid April nor’easter, but all these species were well reported much later also. For those who ponder the causes of such things (for proof that we do, see *Kingbird* 55: 213-227), this spring provided little support for the view that these species’ fortunes in our area are tied to “overshooting” via big migratory waves, although it did showcase a fine example of storm-mediated passive dispersal as a potent agent for some of these species. Mostly, however, it added upon the experiences of recent years in suggesting that many of these populations are genuinely expanding - irrespective of the day-to-day and week-to-week vagaries of spring weather, but perhaps in response to broader climatic trends.

As is often the case in this well-watched Region, many unusual species were found, even beyond those mentioned above. Deserving first mention are two stunning hold-overs from winter: Baldwin’s **Western Tanager** and Jones Beach’s **Smith’s Longspur**. Among scarce waterfowl were impressive tallies of Greater White-fronted Goose (4, including a very unusual pink-billed bird at Water Mill), “Richardson’s” Cackling Goose (4), Eurasian Wigeon (5), and “**Eurasian**” **Green-winged Teal (5)**. Vagrants included **White-faced Ibis**, **two Black Vultures** (which despite its impressive expansion in the lower Hudson River Valley is still very rare on LI), a nominate **Mew Gull**, **Slaty-backed Gull** (a potential first Long Island, pending review), **Bicknell’s Thrush**, and **Painted Bunting**. A *Passerina* bunting seen very briefly by SSM at Fire Island on 16 April showed bold wingbars recalling **Lazuli Bunting**, and probably descended at least in part from that species. A few photos were obtained before the bird vanished, and these may be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tixbirdz/>.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

1S – first summer plumage; 1W – first winter plumage; 2W – second winter plumage; 1Y – first year; 2Y – second year; APP – Alley Pond P; BLSP – Belmont L SP; BP – Breezy Pt; CCP – Cupsogue County P; CLP – Clove Lakes P, Staten I; CP – Central P; CRSPP – Connetquot R SP Preserve; DP – Democrat Pt; EH – East Hampton; EP – Eisenhower P; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field; FI – Fire Island; fos – first of season; FP – Forest Park; FT – Fort Tilden; GE – Grace Estate, EH; Grumman – former Grumman property, Calverton; HLSP Hempstead L SP; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBSP – Jones Beach SP; JBWE – Jones Beach SP West End; LI – Long Island; MB – Mecox Bay; MI – Moriches Inlet; MLP – Mt Loretto P, SI; MP – Montauk Pt; NWW – Northwest Woods, EH; OMNSA – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area; OP – Orient Pt; PB – Pike’s Beach, Westhampton; PL – Pt Lookout; PP – Prospect P; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet; SI – Staten Is; SPCP – Smith Pt County P; TRCP – Theodore Roosevelt County P, Montauk; VCP – Van Cortland P; VSSP – Valley Stream SP; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, SI.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** EP thru 1-3 Mar; BLSP 4-11 Mar (BB); Calverton 10 Mar (DH); Watermill 24 Mar (HM), pink bill noted – very unusual in Region, where almost all are orange-billed.

**Snow Goose:** 28 (3 blue) various sites e LI 8-18 Mar; max 5,000 Jam Bay 25 Mar (mob).

**“Richardson’s” Cackling Goose:** EP 3 Mar (AO, PJL, SSM!); Rt 114 EH 11 Mar (SA); 2 Further Lane EH 11 Mar (DF, mob, SSM ph).

**Mute Swan:** 100 MB 11 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** 2 e LI thru 10 Mar.  
**Wood Duck:** widely reported first week Mar; max 18 Long Pd, Sag Harbor 23 Mar (HM).  
**Gadwall:** max 198 Swan L, Patchogue 8 Mar (B. Young); 160 Tobay 1 Apr.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** m Cooper's Neck Pd 3 Mar (SA, GH); m CRSP 11 Mar (KT); m WPP thru 24 Mar; 2 m Tobay 25 Mar (DF).  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 1,000 Tobay 25 Mar.  
**Mallard:** 450 CP 11 Mar (BC).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** SUFF 3 Mar (KT); m Robert Moses Causeway 21 Mar; 3 Sagg 22 Mar (PSh); reported in better than usual numbers during Apr.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 300 Tobay 25 Mar.  
**N. Pintail:** max 150 Tobay 25 Mar.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 300 Tobay 25 Mar.  
**"EURASIAN" GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R10):** HLSP 3-4 Mar (BB), Speonk R 4 Mar (HM), trad site; Jam Bay 21 Mar (PSe); m Tobay 25 Mar; Sore Thumb 13 Apr (JF).  
**Canvasback:** max 190 Eastport Pd 3 Mar (SA, GH).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 152 Long Pd, Sag Harbor 23 Mar (HM).  
**Greater Scaup:** 500 Eastport Pd 3 Mar (SA, GH).  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 1700 Eastport Pd 3 Mar (SA, GH).  
**King Eider:** ad m Shinn 11 Mar (PJL, mob), seen intermittently thru 25 Mar.  
**Com. Eider:** 1800 MP early Mar (HM).  
**Harlequin Duck:** 7 (2m, 5f) MP 3 Mar (HM); 2 Springs, EH 4 Mar (AWi), increasing to 3 on 10 Mar (KRu), seen thru 5 May; f Accabonac 11 Mar; 2 MP 13 May (SSi, JDi); f MP 27 May (AWi).  
**Surf Scoter:** 3000 MP early Mar (HM).  
**White-winged Scoter:** 1200 MP early Mar (HM).  
**Bufflehead:** 100 MB 11 Mar.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 70 Sagg 11 Mar (PJL, SSM); 52 Hook Pd, EH 10 Mar (AWi).  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 1000 Eastport Pd 4 Mar (HM).  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** reported from VCP, MLP, Ridgewood Res.  
**RUFFED GROUSE (R10):** Flanders 20 May (J. Kuhlman); details desired as species has not been documented on LI in several years.

**Wild Turkey:** 35 Wading R 4 Mar (DH); SI 9 Apr (TF); 10 Napeague 3 Apr; 18 Hither Woods 11 Apr; 6 GE 26 May (PJL, SSM).  
**N. Bobwhite:** Bay Shore, calling from a backyard deck railing 21 Apr; Rt 51 Bikepath, and Napeague.  
**Red-throated Loon:** 90 RMSP 22 Apr during 1 hour seawatch (AG); CP Res late Apr, unus loc.  
**Com. Loon:** up to 5 CP Res late Apr, unus loc.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** Blydenburg County P, Hauppauge 8 Mar (K. Klecan), unus inland location; small numbers reported from trad sites such as FBF, Jones In, Shinn, & Culloden Pt.  
**N. Fulmar:** 32 mi s Shinn 27 May.  
**Cory's Shearwater:** arr 31 May DP (J&GF, JQ et al.).  
**Sooty Shearwater:** arr Shinn 19 May (AG et al); Shinn 20 May; 3 RMSP 25 May (KF); Jones In 25 May (BF); 5 RMSP, 10 CCP, 4 Shinn, Amagansett 26 May; 16 MP 27 May (AWi); Fire Is In 28 May (BBo); Shinn 1 Jun.  
**Manx Shearwater:** arr 19 May 2 CCP (PJL, SSM) & Shinn (AG et al.); PB 26 May (TWB, GB et al.).  
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** 50 seen 32 mi s Shinn 27 May.  
**Great Cormorant:** L Montauk In 13 May, last report.  
**Am. Bittern:** Dune Rd thru; migrants inc 3 MLP 22 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** Jam Bay 20 May (PJL), prob breeding site.  
**Great Egret:** Amagansett 3 Mar, prob migr.  
**Snowy Egret:** arr Shinnecock Bay 3 Apr (R. Koepfel).  
**Cattle Egret:** Tobay 14 Apr (KF); Ocean Parkway, JBSP 18 Apr (KF, mob); Shelter Is 25-26, 30 Apr (NH); MB 1 May (HM); 2 MLP 2 May; 2 Mecox Rd 4 May (JA); Brookhaven 25 May (J. Clement).  
**Green Heron:** arr Alcott's Pd, Quogue 14 Mar (R. Anderson).  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Dune Rd 22 Apr; HLSP 7 Apr (EC); 3 VSSP 24 Apr (BB), 2 pairs nesting here 12 May (JGI); Jam Bay 26 May.  
**Glossy Ibis:** arr Ponquogue Bridge 2 Apr (E. Marks).  
**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** ad JBSP 29 Apr (TWB, GB, et al.).

**BLACK VULTURE (R10):** Jam Bay 21 Mar (PSc); Rt 51 21 Mar (JP); Rocky Pt Pres 26 Apr (J&PHo).

**Turkey Vulture:** reports far too numerous to record here from throughout Reg and thru period.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Eastport 3 Mar (SA, GH), early.

**Bald Eagle:** widely reported.

**N. Goshawk:** imm Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 18 Mar (P JL, SSM).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** ad MLP 3 Mar (TF); imm Napeague 14 Apr (AWi); Montauk 5 May (K&BRu); 2 Camp Hero, Montauk 20 May (K&BRu).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** EH 20 Apr; CLP 12 May; Camp Hero, Montauk 20 May (K&BRu); only reports other than city parks, where migrs are more common.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** light morph Deep Hollow, Montauk 3 Mar; light morph Napeague 4 Mar, lingering from winter; Grumman 5 Apr (DH); Cutchogue 18 Apr (PG), late.

**Am. Kestrel:** 7 Grumman 5 Apr (DH).

**Sora:** singles Hampton Bays 14 Apr (fide HM; rehab) & PP 18 Apr (JASch); OMNSA 3 May (MF).

**Com. Moorhen:** CP 21 Apr (C. Bohorquez); River Rd Marsh, SI 12 May (HF, DG, DJ), only reports.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** Brooklyn 8 Apr (ABi); Sagg 27 Apr (HM).

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr JBSP, MB and Sagg 28 Apr.

**Piping Plover:** arr BP 12 Mar (TF).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Sagg 15 Mar (HM).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Cedar Beach Marina T Babylon 16 Apr (KF).

**Willet:** 1-2 *inornatus* PL thru 11 Mar at least; Dune Rd 11 Mar (AB), prob *inornatus*; *semipalmatus* arr 16 Apr.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr CP and Jam Bay 21 Apr.

**Upland Sandpiper:** RMSP 29-30 Mar (J&GF, JQ), early, unus loc; RMSP 30 May, unus loc.

**Whimbrel:** arr PB 18 Apr; several more reports e LI thru early May.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** about 2000 MI-Shinn 19-26 May (P JL, SSM).

**Red Knot:** max 300 JBWE 12 May.

**Sanderling:** 3300 MI-Shinn 19 May (P JL, SSM), poss spring state max.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr Georganica Pd 28 Apr (AWi); 807 MI-Shinn 19 May.

**Western Sandpiper:** PB 20 May (HM, BK, CG); v rare in spr, deserves documentation.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr JBWE 18 Apr (SS), early; 665 Sagg 11 May (HM), many.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 13 PB 19 May.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** JBWE 31 Mar (J&GF, JQ), early report; Jam Bay 21 Apr; OMNSA 2 May (MF).

**Purple Sandpiper:** last report 20 May.

**Dunlin:** 840 MI-Shinn 19 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 12 JBWE 18 Apr (SS).

**Wilson's Snipe:** JBSP 12 May (JG), late.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr CP and MLP 3 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 2 OMNSA 2 May (MF), one cont to 6 May.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** PB 27 May (SA).

**Laughing Gull:** arr Coney Is 24 Mar (RJ et al).

**Little Gull:** ad MB 18 Mar (AJL); ad MB 25 May (AB); 1W Brooklyn 16 Apr (ABi); 2 ads Rockaway Peninsula 21 Apr (AWi).

**Black-headed Gull:** ad Eastport Pd 3 Mar (SA, GH); ad Main Beach, EH 4 Mar (JDi et al); ad Sagg 9-13 Mar (HM); 1W MB 17 Mar (JSh); 1W Sagg 19 Mar (KF); MB 25 Mar (JG); ad Oak Beach flats 1-2 Apr (DF, mob).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 415 MB 28 Mar (HM).

**MEW GULL:** 2W *canus* Marine P & Gerritson Cr, KINGS 8-9 Apr (AWi!, mob).

**Iceland Gull:** 2 imm BP 4 Mar (JT); ad Shinn 19 Mar; 2Y Mecox 18 Apr (BA et al); JBWE 20 Apr (BF); 1S "Kumlien's" Rockaway Peninsula 21 Apr (AWi).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 15 widespread reports involving 18 inds 3 Mar-5 May, most ads.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** an ad found at MB 26 Apr and seen again there 28 Apr was apparently this species, but could not be relocated later (HM).

**Glaucous Gull:** 2Y PL 3 Mar (StS, PSH, JDi); 1Y Southold 3 Mar (BA) & 11, 26 Mar; 2W FT 31 Mar (KM).

**Gull-billed Tern:** arr MB 25 Apr (HM); Napeague 27 May, unus loc.

**Caspian Tern:** arr MB 13 Apr (VB); Jacob Riis P 16 Apr (TF); 10 MB 25 Apr (HM); intermittent reports of 1-2 birds reported from MB thru 19 May (HM, KG); Sagg 14 & 15 Apr; FT 16 Apr; Mill Pd, Watermill 17

Apr; Jam Bay 12 May (CF); HLSP 17 May (SS).

**Roseate Tern:** arr Shinn 13 May (SSi) & OP 13 May (SSM).

**Com. Tern:** arr 20 Apr Georgica Pd (HM), early; 800 Amagansett 19 May (AWi); 1500 MP 27 May (AWi), approx 1/3 banded indicating source may be Great Gull Is.

**Forster's Tern:** arr mid Apr.

**Least Tern:** several early storm-related records: SI 16 Apr (RV); Shelter Is 16 Apr (fide HM); 3 Georgica Pd 18 Apr (BA, JMcN).

**SOOTY TERN:** two singles Westhampton 16 Apr: one exhausted and taken in to rehab, where it later died, & another found dead (fide HM).

**Black Tern:** MB 12 May (W&GBe); 3 FI In 15 May (PJL); 2 PB 19 May (AG et al.); 4 Shinn 20 May (TWB, GB et al.); Shinn 27 May.

**Black Skimmer:** arr Shelter Is 1 May.

**Razorbill:** 5 MP 4 Mar (JDi et al); 3 Jones In 10 Mar (DG), only reports.

#### PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** HLSP 11 Apr (KF) and pr Shinn 11 May (JBJr, JBSr); expanding range to east.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** W Gilgo 18 Apr (KF; dead, early).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Riis P 16 Apr (TF); e LI 18 Apr (fide HM; rehab).

**Great Horned Owl:** nested again APP, 2 fledged (fide JL).

**Long-eared Owl:** HLSP 9 Apr (KF).

**Short-eared Owl:** MB 31 Mar (PJL, SSM), getting late.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 29 Apr Bridgehampton Golf Course (HM).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** arr Westhampton 28 Apr (HM); CP 3 May (AG).

**Whip-poor-will:** arr Westhampton 28 Apr (HM).

**Chimney Swift:** arr CP and RMSP 23 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr

Babylon 16 Apr (KF).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** upper Manhattan thru 24 Apr; NWW thru 24 Mar; RMSP 24 Apr; CP 21 May; Swan L, Calverton 24 & 26 May (JCSr).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** overwintering birds widely reported in Mar; scattered reports Apr, May; last report CP 10 May.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** CLP 12, 13 May (HF); CP 20, 21 May; Avalon Preserve, Stonybrook 29 May (PSc); FP 29 May.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** Gardiner P, Bay Shore 20 Apr (RGro), extremely early; next reports CP and VSSP 4 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** scattered reports 2 May thru.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** widely reported.

**Alder Flycatcher:** singing birds reported CP 30 May, (StS); FP 28 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Sands Pt 11 May (G&CQ).

**Least Flycatcher:** arr PP 28 Apr (RJ).

**E. Phoebe:** arr JBWE 3 Mar (CF) and PP 7 Mar (SWh), early.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Inwood Hill P 30 Apr (KA).

**E. Kingbird:** arr Montauk 17 Apr (VB).

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr CP 24 Apr.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CP 23 Apr; prob breeding in GE, again this year.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr CP and VSSP 21 Apr; last report Culloden Pt, Montauk 20 May.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr VSSP 24 Apr (BB); small numbers now breeding in CP (TF); max 10-12 breeding at VCP, high count for loc.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** CP 15 May, unus in spring.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr HLSP 19 Apr (JGi); early.

**Fish Crow:** 80 HLSP 4 Mar (BB).

**Purple Martin:** arr Jamesport 18 Apr (JBSr).

**Tree Swallow:** arr JBWE 3 Mar (CF).

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr CP 3 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr Long Pd, Sag Harbor 16 Apr (HM).

**Cliff Swallow:** arr HLSP 27 Apr (PJL, SSM).

**Barn Swallow:** arr 45 Sag Harbor 16 Apr (HM).

**House Wren:** arr CP and North Haven 23 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** widely if sparsely reported thru late Apr.

**Marsh Wren:** Big Reed Pd, Montauk 30 Mar (VB), prob overwintering; 3 arr Big Reed Pd, Montauk 21 Apr (VB, PR).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 100 HLSP 30 Mar (PJL, SSM), many for spring.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** HLSP 3 Mar (BB) and CP 4 Mar, prob from winter; prob arr CP 13 Mar.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr CP 14 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr CP 24 Apr, early.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr CP 2 May.  
**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** sev reports from CP, one of a calling bird 14 May (TF); very difficult to id without song.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr CP (mob) and CLP (HF) 2 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** early Mar reports prob of wintering inds; HLSP 19 Mar poss migr; many fos reports 25 Mar – mid Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr CP 22 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** Mar reports prob wintering inds; PP 14 Apr (RJ); winterer or migr?; CP 21 Apr noted as migr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** scattered Mar reports are prob of overwintering birds; 2 arr RMSP 17 Apr (KF).  
**Am. Pipit:** 6 Southold 5 May, latest.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** widely reported.

#### WARBLERS

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr CP 24 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** VSSP 5-9 May (BB, mob), rare on LI e of NYC parks; CP 10 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 1 May; well reported from NYC parks; a few further east.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** CP 22-27 Apr (mob), plus another present there 24 Apr.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr HLSP 26 Apr (JGi *et al*).  
**N. Parula:** arr Chatfield's Hole, EH 20 Apr; reported in very good numbers from CP.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr JBWE, Quogue WR & Shelter I 23 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Inwood Hill P 30 Apr (KA).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr CP and Inwood Hill P 30 Apr.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr CP 2 May; widely reported in good numbers.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr PP 26 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** spring arrivals reported around 23 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr CP 23 Apr.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr RMSP 28 Apr, early.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** PP 18 Apr-1 May (AxW); CP 23 Apr; Mashomack, Shelter Is 14 May (M. Laspia).  
**Pine Warbler:** arr CP 23 Mar; a few earlier reports represent overwintering birds.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr CP 24 Apr.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr High Rock P, SI 27 Mar (PhP).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr PP 6 May (TP); widely reported in good numbers mid-May, e.g. 15 CP 16 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CP 1 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** VCP 30 Apr; Westhampton 4 May (B. DePietro); Inwood Hill P 5 May (KA); 2 PP 9 May (M. Anderson); Long Pd, Sag Harbor 8 May (HM); SI 9 May (HF); Trout Pd, Noyac 10 May (mob); CP 15 May; Hunters Garden 13-19 May (mob).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr CP 21 Apr.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr JBWE 23 Apr.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** HLSP 22-24 Apr (mob); m PP 24 Apr (PD); APP 26 Apr-1 May (DK); PP 30 Apr-3 May (RJ); Peconic R, Calverton 2 May (BM); Noyac 10 & 14 May (MH); Inwood Hill P 13 May (KA); Jam Bay 15 May (KF); f Hunters Garden 20 May (AB); 2 Sag Harbor 25 May; and GE 26 May (PJJ, SSM).  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr CP 24 Apr, good numbers reported there.  
**Ovenbird:** arr CP 24 Apr.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr CP 21 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr VCP & CLP 27 Mar.  
**Kentucky Warbler:** 6 reports from CP 27 Apr-27 May (fide LS); APP 7 May; Trout Pd, Noyac 12 May (AB); PP 7-12 May, perhaps more than one ind.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr CP and Jam Bay 15 May; singles widely reported from well-birded parks thru.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr CP 24 Apr.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr CP 24 Apr; ind birds widely reported thru.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Inwood Hill P 2 May (KA).  
**Canada Warbler:** arr CP 2 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** PP 5 May; Rt 51 Bikepath 14 May thru, a second bird found 27 May (PJJ, SSM), poss breeding.

#### TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Summer Tanager:** two 16 Apr: f RMSP (KF, R&EW) & m FT (TF); f E Quogue 19 Apr (OB); m RMSP & m JBSP 21 Apr (TWB, GB); imm m Tobay 22 Apr (PJJ, SSM); imm m TRCP 5 May (VB, K&BRu); m FP 20 May; m VSSP 24 Apr (BB); m CP 24 Apr; HLSP 28 Apr (EC); f CP 30 Apr; f

PP 30 Apr; APP 4 May; m TRCP 5 May (VB, K&BRu).

**Scarlet Tanager:** singles 16 Apr Southampton (fide HM, rehab) & SI (RV); additional inds Tobay & JBWE 17 Apr, early and storm related.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** Baldwin thru Mar 30 (J. & M. Stahl, mob).

**E. Towhee:** singles CP and Jam Bay 14 Apr; many fos reports 21-25 Apr.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** Jam Bay 14 Apr, last.

**Chipping Sparrow:** singles Baldwin 25 Mar and CP 27 Mar; many fos reports 16-25 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Oakdale 8 Apr (JG); 7 other reports 21 Apr-5 May include singing birds at Gabreski Airport and Hither Hills.

**Savannah Sparrow:** reports from early Mar prob of wintering inds; report 27 Mar CP noted as migrs.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Zach's Bay 22 Apr (SW); CP 5 May (R. Cech), seldom seen migr; breeders on terr Rt 51 Bike Path and Grumman early May; 9+ Napeague grasslands 20 May (BH).

**Seaside Sparrow:** arr 11 May Gardiner P (RGro); Shinn & PB 20 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arrivals supplementing winterers reported CP 14 Mar.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** HLSP 1 Apr-11 Apr (BB, SSM!), extremely unusual date; probably wintered nearby; arr Montauk 20 Apr (VB).

**White-throated Sparrow:** impressive flight 2 May, includes estimated 1200 JBSP and 500 Ocean Pkwy (KF); 1200 RMSP (PJJ, SSM); nearly 500 SPCP (JHo).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** a few Mar reports prob represent wintering birds; arr CP 14 Apr; max 12 SPCP 2 May (JHo).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** arrivals supplementing winterers reported CP 14 Mar.

**SMITH'S LONGSPUR:** JBWE thru 18 Mar.

**Snow Bunting:** last report JBWE 25 Mar.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** one prior to storm PP 14 Apr (RJ); Brentwood 16 Apr (JG); Jam Bay 17 Apr; Springs 17 & 19 Apr (R. Grunewald); JBWE 18 Apr; Mecox feeder 19 Apr (M. Maran).

**Blue Grosbeak:** single m RMSP & PP 16 Apr; max 6 RMSP-JBWE 18 Apr, inc one f (SSM) - some of these birds lingered on the barrier beach into early May; others Orient 16 Apr, Nickerson Beach 22 Apr (BB), Shelter I 21 Apr (T & M Sarfati); m CP 3 May (JSu); imm m EH Airport 4 May (HM); m Rt 51 Bike Path 27 May, breeding loc.

**Indigo Bunting:** 12 m RMSP-Riis P 16 Apr; single site maxima 9 m RMSP 16 Apr (SSM) & 13 m JBSP 19 Apr (SSM, SJ, EM); GE 16 Apr (L. D'Andrea); add'l numerous and widespread reports unrelated to storm, thru.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** male Sagaponack 28 Apr (fide JA), found dead.

**Passerina sp.:** RMSP 16 Apr (SSM ph), possible Lazuli x Indigo Bunting hybrid; ph at <http://picasaweb.google.com/tixbirdz/>.

**Bobolink:** arr JBWE 2 May (KF).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** singles Narrow R Rd, Orient 21 Apr (JBSr, JBjr) & HLSP 28 Apr (EC), unus locs; 35 Shinn 11 Mar (TWB, GB).

**Orchard Oriole:** arr JBWE & CP 24 Apr.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Ridge 7 Apr (G. Drossel), poss wintering ind; singles RMSP, Jacob Riis P and Dune Rd 16 Apr (KF, TF; S&JBe), associated with storm (*intro*).

**Purple Finch:** small numbers reported from HLSP, CP, RMSP 31 Mar-30 Apr.

## EXOTICS

**South African Shelduck:** BLSP 4 Mar (BB), this pinioned bird has been present for many years.

**Ringed Turtle-Dove:** CP 6 Apr (TF et al).

**European Goldfinch:** banded bird visited Baldwin feeder during Apr (J&M Stahl ph).



## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties, where 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, where 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, where the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December



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