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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Montezuma NWR, Seneca, 22 May 2011, © Jay McGowan.

Back Cover – Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Gilgo, Suffolk, 29 May 2012, © Robert O. Paxton.

# COMPARISON OF TWO FIELD DATA COLLECTION METHODS IN RECORDING AVIAN BEHAVIOR

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**Abstract**—Animal behavior research relies on the accuracy, amount, and detail of data that can be collected while observing the animals in natural or experimental scenarios. This study provides a quantitative evaluation of a new electronic methodology in the study of animal behavior, as applied to field observations on birds. We compared quantitative data collected on wild birds via the digital application WhatISee to data collected via pen-and-paper, testing for differences in several behavioral variables. We predicted that, compared to the traditional pen-and-paper method, the digital method would allow focal birds to be followed for longer periods before disappearing out of sight and would capture larger numbers of rapid, short duration avian behaviors. We also tested the digital method's ability to detect inter-specific and inter-sexual differences in behavior. The results showed no significant differences between the data collection methods on the specific avian behaviors observed, suggesting that the digital application is equally effective for recording animal behavior in the field, compared to the traditional method. Critically, the data collected with the application were sensitive enough to detect species-specific differences in behavioral patterns among American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), as well as sex-specific differences in House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), satisfying an essential requirement for this new approach to studying and comparing multiple species in future research on avian behavior.

When performing any type of research, the method of data collection influences the outcome of obtaining, transferring, and storing accurate data (Martin and Bateson 2009). Two commonly used methods of data collection are writing down the data with pen(cil) on paper or by pressing keys on a handheld computer (Fletcher et al. 2003). Both methods offer benefits and drawbacks, and researchers must choose the method most appropriate for their study.

Using paper-and-pencil is a simple, cheap, and flexible way to record data (Martin and Bateson 2009). Having data readily visible on paper may offer researchers the advantage of viewing information at a glance and being able to notice or consider comments denoting additional details or correcting errors made during data collection. However, recording behavioral data with pencil- or

pen-and-paper could hinder an observation session if looking away while writing causes the researcher to miss a behavior and, perhaps more critically when studying wild animals, to lose sight of the subject individual.

Collecting data using a handheld recorder enables the researcher to enter information more quickly by pressing only a few keys on the device instead of writing down large amounts of different types of data (Bass et al. 2007; Martin and Bateson 2009). In addition, electronic recorders usually organize data in a manner that can be transferred directly to a computer spreadsheet, minimizing human error from transferring the data (Fletcher et al. 2003; Gravlee et al. 2006; Martin and Bateson 2009).

One disadvantage of electronic handheld recorders is that it is possible for users to make a mistake by accidentally pressing the wrong key (Koster 2006; Bass et al. 2007). In turn, if the data collected are not displayed immediately, it may then be difficult to annotate, edit, or correct the data once they have been entered (Ice 2004). Other limitations of using electronic data loggers are that they can be costly (Johannes et al. 2000; Gravlee 2002; Bass et al. 2007), may require many hours for users to familiarize themselves with the software (Gravlee et al. 2006), and usually require the batteries to be recharged periodically (Gravlee 2002; Ice 2004; Bass et al. 2007).

Handheld digital recorders have been used successfully to collect data for studies as diverse as human family research (Bass et al. 2007), education (Tallett et al. 2008), and medical care (Kho et al. 2006; Granholm et al. 2008), as well as on different aspects of animal behavior (Liebenberg et al. 1999; Pascoe et al. 2000). Previous studies examining both methods have found handheld electronic data loggers to be more accurate (Tapp et al. 2006; Ludwig and Goomas 2007) and to have less missing data (Vivoda and Eby 2006; Jaspan et al. 2007) than pen-and-paper methods. In addition, many users personally preferred using the electronic data loggers over paper (Fletcher et al. 2003; Jaspan et al. 2007).

In our study, we examined whether a new digital application for logging avian behavioral data performs at the same, a better, or a worse level at recording the same types of information in the field, using equivalent distances and observation times compared to the same types of observations recorded on paper. Our research comprises two Case Studies of wild bird behavior in the parks of New York City, USA. The first Case Study consists of two series of Observations. In Observation 1, two people simultaneously observed the same individual American Robins and recorded their behaviors, each researcher using a different data logging method, to allow comparisons of the different methods from the same subjects.

In Observation 2, we observed European Starlings and Common Grackles using the digital application and compared the durations of observations before the subject disappeared from sight (hereafter: observation duration) and these species' most common behaviors with those recorded by the digital application earlier for robins. This approach allowed us to determine if the digital method was sensitive to detect potentially biologically meaningful interspecific differences in behavior.

In Case Study 2 (hereafter: Observation 3), one person observed House Sparrows and alternated between the digital recording method and the paper method for different individuals, to compare quantitatively the data from the digital application to data from the paper method within the same species. These data also allowed for quantitative intraspecific comparisons to assess whether the digital method could detect biologically meaningful differences in behavior between the two sexes of a bird species (Nowicki and Searcy 2004).

This combination of personnel, temporal, and technical approaches allowed us to compare the two data recording methodologies across subject individuals of the same species and to assess the utility of the digital application in detecting species- and sex-specific differences in avian behavior. We specifically predicted that the electronic data logger would record longer observation durations than recording data on paper, because the digital application allows users to maintain a continuous visual contact with the subject bird without having to look away repeatedly to record data, as is necessary with the paper method. We also predicted that the digital application would be suitable to detect possible behavioral differences both within and between species.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

### *Study Sites and Species*

We observed wild, free ranging urban birds that were not banded or otherwise marked for individual identification. To avoid pseudoreplication, we walked between consecutive observation sessions at least 10 paces away from the site of the prior observation to reduce the likelihood of repeated observations of the same individuals.

We observed 74 American Robins, 15 in the grounds of the Bronx Zoo (New York, NY, USA, 40° 85' N, 73°87' W) and 59 in Central Park (New York, NY, USA, 40° 77' N, 73°97' W). We also observed 16 European Starlings, 1 at the Bronx Zoo and 15 in Central Park. In addition, we observed 15 Common Grackles, 1 at the Bronx Zoo and 14 at Central Park. Finally, we observed 80 House Sparrows, 32 in Central Park, 42 in McCarren Park, Brooklyn (40°72' N, 73°95' W), and 6 in St. Vartan Park, in Manhattan (40°74' N, 73°97' W). All of these species are found in urban areas and parks and forage on the ground for invertebrates (Cabe 1993; Peer and Bollinger 1997; Sallabanks and James 1999; Lowther and Cink 2006). Robins, starlings, and grackles also forage in trees for fruit (Cabe 1993; Peer and Bollinger 1997; Vanderhoff and Eason 2007).

### *Defining Behavioral Categories*

To identify and define the avian behaviors to include in the data recording sessions for Observations 1 and 2, the first author (CSH) observed unmarked robins, starlings, and grackles for a total of 2 hours and attempted to record on paper every behavior in which they engaged. These behaviors included walk; probe; eat; adjust feathers/preen; stationary, look ahead; stationary, look to the side; stationary, look around; fly; vocalize; tail flip; drink; approach conspecific;

respond to bird call; displaced by human; displace another bird; look at another bird; scratch; wing flap; displaced by bird; display feathers; bathe. We also included site categories for four different locations in order to describe where the bird was located during the observations (e.g., ground, tree, fence, other object). The following behaviors were not observed during any of the Observations and therefore were not analyzed: displaced by bird, wing flap, displace another bird, and approach conspecific.

A catalogue of species-typical behaviors and their definitions (Peters et al. 2005) was generated for Observation 3 by adapting that previously developed template to the House Sparrow. A simplified ethogram was then produced, with behavioral types including looking around; fly/jump; walk/hop; vocalize; and other.

### ***Data Collection***

The electronic data logger selected for this study was a recently developed application named “WhatISee” (© Timothy Heuser, 2009) (hereafter: app or application). At the time of this research (2009-2010), the application was available for both iPhones and iPod Touch devices (™ Apple Inc.) for commercially priced downloading through the iTunes internet store.

The “WhatISee” app is based on a customizable home screen which contains five rows and five columns of generically labeled touch fields, which can be renamed by the user and organized into an extensive ethogram for a single individual subject observed (Fig. 1) or into specific rows and columns of behaviors and subject identities (for multiple, identifiable individuals, or different species).

At the onset of an observation session, the location of the observation site (latitude and longitude) is automatically recorded. The application has a timer and alert intervals can be set by the user so that at each interval, the device would either produce a beeping noise or, for the iPhone, vibrate, or do both.

Once the user presses a field, which corresponds to a certain behavior, the time and the label information pertaining to that behavior is stored in a spreadsheet format within the application. During or after the observation session is complete the user can view and edit the data. Next, the user can send the data as a text file attachment to an e-mail account, either using data access through the cell phone service provider for the iPhone or through WiFi access points for both the iPhone and the iPod Touch.

*Digital Method:* For Observations 1 and 2, of robins, and of robins, starlings and grackles, respectively, we coded each of the 25 squares of the WhatISee app to correspond to one behavior. During Observation 3 of House Sparrows, the observer (always the second author SBW) used the modified ethogram and the same WhatISee app.



Figure 1. A generic representation of the default app screens. The e-mail address, file names, and behavioral and subject categories can all be edited to customize the recording session and data transmission.

*Paper Method:* For Observations 1 and 2, the pen-and-paper method of data collection was carried out by writing the names of the specific behaviors on a sheet of lined notebook paper, which was later transferred to a data sheet. The observer's name, species name, location of observation, observer distance from bird, date, and time were all noted. The starting location and initial behavior of the bird were also recorded. The data sheet contained blank lines corresponding to each of the 10 s instantaneous sample scans (see procedure) and we held a list of the behaviors on a separate sheet of paper for reference. For Observation 3, an ethogram was generated in the form of a checklist. Each row corresponded to a 30 s interval, and the behaviors were checked off with regard to whether they occurred during the preceding interval.

### ***Procedure***

For both Observations 1 and 2, we used instantaneous sampling (Engel 1996) at 10 s intervals between sample points. The sampling interval on 10 s was chosen in order to give us a more accurate measurement of behavioral bouts (Martin and Bateson 2009). Observations were terminated when the bird flew away or if the observer lost sight of the bird.

During Observation 1, two observers (CSH and a research assistant) worked together. Both watched the same individual robin while each observer used a different data logger to record the observations. After analyzing data from a preliminary set of observations of robins done by CSH, we had determined that the majority of observations lasted 90 s or less. Therefore, we only attempted to



observe the robins for 90 s during Observation 1. The observer using the app set the timer to vibrate at 10 s intervals. The observer recording on paper used a digital watch as a timer. The assignment of the recording method to each observer was done on a random basis.

During Observation 2, one observer (CSH) recorded the behaviors of several individual robins, starlings, and grackles with only the app. We used the same recording procedure and ethogram as in Observation 1. These sets of observations allowed us to ascertain whether the electronic data logger was sensitive enough to consistently record and assess possible differences in behavior between these three avian species. The birds' behaviors were recorded for up to 5 minutes in order to record a wide range of behaviors. We did not record the sex of robins, grackles, and starlings for Observations 1 and 2.

Observation 3 involved recording the behaviors of House Sparrows. The sex of subjects was determined based on plumage traits; male sparrows can be identified by a black patch on the throat, referred to as a "badge" (Moller 1988). The sex of subjects was recorded in order to assess the potential differences in behavior between the sexes associated with the approaching breeding season, such as greater rates of vocal displays by breeding males to initiate courtship (Nowicki and Searcy 2004). However, neither age nor breeding status was known for any of the subjects in any of the Observations.

Data were collected in Observation 3 by a single observer when a subject was visible and approachable up to four meters away. Behaviors were recorded using either of the two recording methods, described in detail above. The recording method was alternated evenly (e.g., every 5-10 observations) throughout the duration of the study to control for order effects and to generate a balanced data set. Subjects were continuously observed for up to 5 min, or until the subject was no longer in sight. We used one-zero sampling (Martin and Bateson 2009), in which relative frequencies of behavior are determined by calculating the proportion of 30 s scans in which the House Sparrows engaged in the behavior. The sampling method in Observation 3 differs from that used in Observations 1 and 2 because Observation 3 was initially part of a separate study.

### ***Statistical Analyses***

Observation 1. To determine if the observation durations of the robins differed significantly between observers, a paired t-test was performed on a subject basis. We also ran analyses of variance (ANOVA) with the difference in the data collected by the two observers as the dependent variable and with predictor variables of the observer (CSH or assistant) and method of data collection to test if there was an interaction between observer identity and the type of data recording methodology that the observer used.

Observation 2. We compared the sensitivity of the digital data collection method between the three most common behaviors of robins, starlings, and grackles to determine if there was a consistent difference between the species. We performed a Bonferroni correction by dividing our  $\alpha$ -level by our number of

comparisons (Curtin and Schulz 1998), which gave us a corrected  $\alpha$  level of 0.017. Statistical tests were two-tailed and performed using Statview 5.1.

Observation 3. The durations of behavioral observations were compared between the sexes and the recording methods using analysis of variance (ANOVA). Behavioral proportions were also calculated for comparisons between the recording methods, but this first required a statistical accounting for the potential non-independence of behavioral displays within subjects, such as correlated behavioral traits and rates, to satisfy the assumptions of independent tests. Therefore, a Principal Component Analysis (Jolliffe and Morgan 1992) was applied as a useful way to collapse co-varying data that have multiple predictors which are biological and statistically non-independent, using JMP Version 8.0.2.

## RESULTS

### Observation 1

We found a significant difference in the duration of time that each observer was able to observe American Robins ( $t_{21} = 3.83$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), with Observer 1 (CSH) recording longer durations (on average: 16.13%) than the assistant. In contrast, we found no significant difference in observation duration between the two methods of data collection, for a given observer (Observer 1,  $F_{1,20} = 3.06$ ,  $p = 0.10$ ; Observer 2,  $F_{1,20} = 1.68$ ,  $p = 0.21$ , Fig. 2). In addition, we found no interaction effect between the observer and the method used ( $F_{1,20} = 0.02$ ,  $p = 0.88$ ).

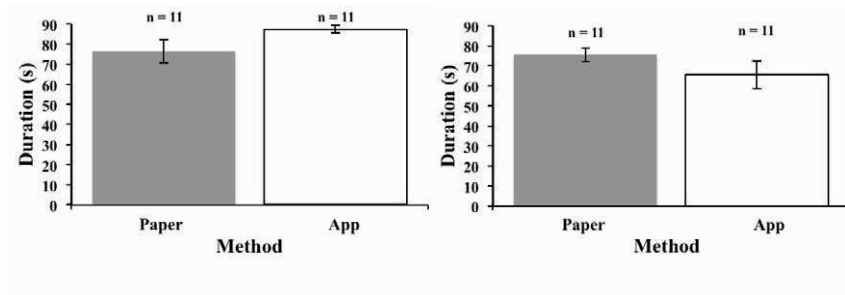


Figure 2. Comparison of observation durations of American Robins recorded on paper vs. digital application by Observer 1 (left) and Observer 2 (right). Means  $\pm$  S.E. are depicted.

### Observation 2

To determine whether recording with the app would allow the user to detect differences among American Robins, Common Grackles, and European Starlings, we compared their three most commonly recorded behaviors, “Stationary, Look Ahead,” “Probe,” and “Stationary, Look Around.” We found a significant main effect of species in the proportion of time observed as

“Stationary, Looking Ahead” ( $F_{2, 60} = 24.99, p < 0.01$ ). An unpaired t-test (corrected  $\alpha$  level: 0.017) revealed significant differences, where robins engaged in these behaviors more often than did grackles ( $t_{50} = 4.37, p < 0.01$ ) and starlings ( $t_{46} = 6.08, p < 0.01$ ; Fig. 3a), and a non-significant difference between grackles and starlings ( $t_{50} = 2.54, p = 0.02$ ). Finally, we found a significant main effect of species in the proportion of time performing the behavior “Stationary, Look Around” ( $F_{2, 60} = 10.23, p < 0.01$ ). An unpaired t-test showed that starlings performed the behavior more often than robins, ( $t_{46} = 5.09, p < 0.01$ ; Fig. 3b), but not significantly more often than grackles ( $t_{24} = 2.06, p = 0.05$ ). There was no significant difference between robins and grackles ( $t_{50} = 1.62, p = 0.11$ ). We found no significant difference in the frequency of the behavior “Probe” among the three bird species, ( $F_{2,60} = 1.01, p = 0.37$ ; Fig 3c).

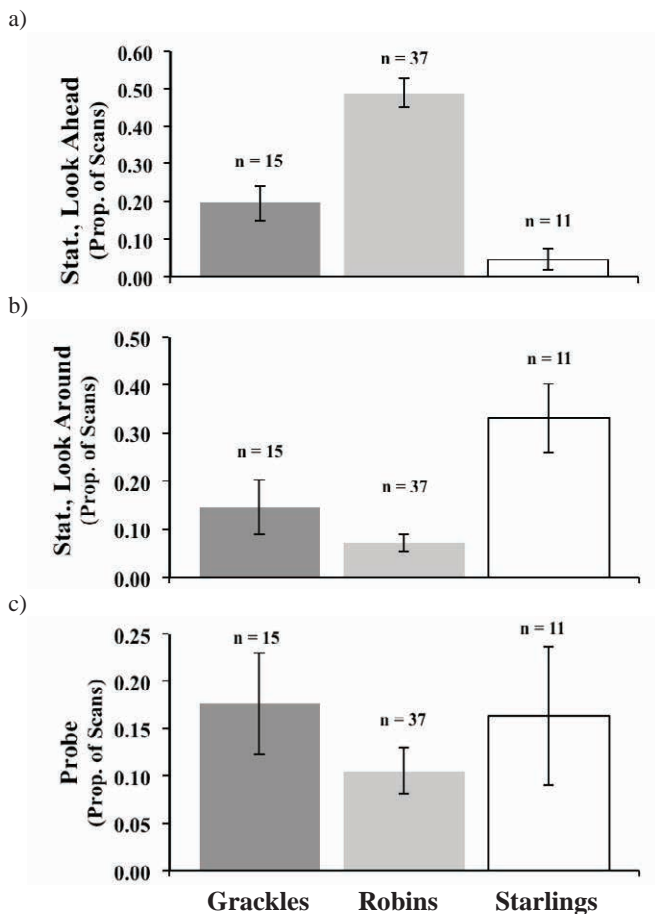


Figure 3. Interspecific comparisons of the proportions of time that three species were observed being stationary and looking ahead (a), stationary and looking around (b), and probing (c), as recorded via digital application. Means  $\pm$  S.E. are depicted.

### Observation 3

For House Sparrows, there were no significant effects of data collection method on the proportion of observations recorded for flying or jumping ( $F_{1, 78} = 1.08$ ,  $p = 0.30$ ), looking around ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.38$ ,  $p = 0.54$ ), walking or hopping ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.38$ ,  $p = 0.54$ ), or performing unique or rare behaviors ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.15$ ,  $p = 0.70$ ), and, thus, overall were no statistical differences between recording methods in recording short- (e.g., calls) or long-duration behaviors (e.g., flying) (data not shown). There was no significant effect of sex on the proportion of observations recorded for flying or jumping ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.14$ ,  $p = 0.71$ ), looking around ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.07$ ,  $p = 0.80$ ), walking or hopping ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.49$ ,  $p = 0.49$ ), or performing unique behaviors ( $F_{1, 78} = 3.33$ ,  $p = 0.07$ ) (data not shown). However, there was a significant effect of sex on the proportion of observations spent vocalizing ( $F_{1, 78} = 10.38$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ; Fig. 4).

One-way analysis of variance revealed that there was no significant effect of data collection on the duration of observations ( $F_{1, 78} = 2.10$ ,  $p = 0.15$ ). There was also no significant effect of sex on the duration of observations ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.02$ ,  $p = 0.90$ ) (data not shown). There was no significant effect of data collection on either PC1 ( $F_{1, 78} = 0.25$ ,  $p = 0.62$ ) or PC2 ( $F_{1, 78} = 3.03$ ,  $p = 0.09$ ). There was no significant effect of sex on PC1 ( $F_{1, 78} = 1.08$ ,  $p = 0.30$ ) but there was a significant effect of sex on PC2 ( $F_{1, 78} = 5.22$ ,  $p = 0.03$ ) (Fig. 5).

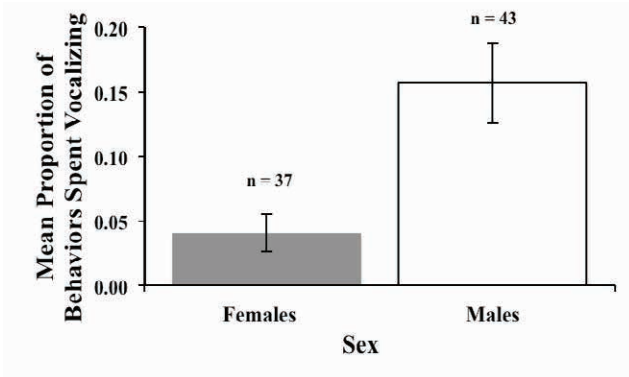


Figure 4. The mean proportions of observations during which male and female House Sparrows vocalized. Means  $\pm$  S.E. are depicted.

## DISCUSSION

We predicted that the digital recording device would record longer observation durations than recording data on paper. In addition, we set out to ascertain the feasibility and suitability of the digital application to detect species-specific behavioral differences. Contrary to our predictions, in both case studies

including Observations 1 and 3, the method of recording avian behaviors did not affect the observation duration. There was, however, a significant difference in observation duration between the two observers in Observation 1, independent of the data collection methods. The difference in observation times was most likely the result of differences in field experience with avian behaviors between the two observers; this conclusion could be tested further via comparisons using the same type of data collection method (either paper or digital) with simultaneous recording of the same study subjects.

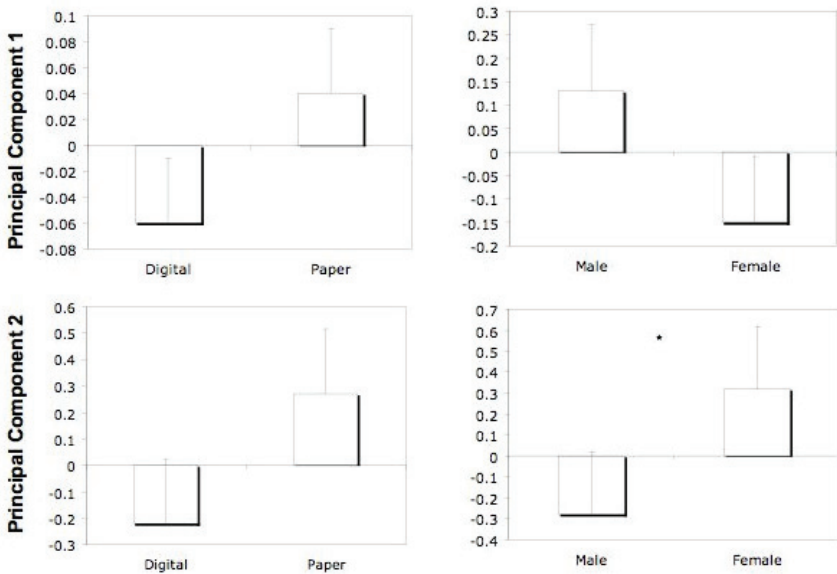


Figure 5. Comparisons of principal components describing House Sparrow behaviors in relation to recording method and sex. Means of the principal components values + S.E. are depicted. The only significant effect was for PC2 in relation to sex.

We found that the WhatISee application detected behavioral differences between the different avian species. The behaviors “Stationary, Look Ahead” were performed significantly more often by robins than by starlings or grackles. Similarly, starlings engaged in the behaviors “Stationary, Look Around” significantly more often than robins. Given that birds heavily rely on their vision to detect predators (Tisdale and Fernandez-Juricic 2009), our finding of more ‘watching’ type behaviors in robins and starlings as opposed to grackles could reflect increased vigilance due to higher predation risk because of these first two species’ relatively smaller sizes. In their study of the prey species of wintering Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) Roth II et al. (2006) found that these hawks mostly preyed upon medium-sized birds, such as robins and starlings, and only rarely preyed on grackles. The higher predation pressure of robins and

starlings compared to grackles may account for their increased vigilance behavior.

Additionally, our finding that starlings performed the behavior “Stationary, Look Around” statistically more often than did robins is consistent with the finding that the “head-up scan bout duration” of starlings was significantly higher than that of House Sparrows in trials examining vigilance behavior (Tisdale and Fernandez-Juricic 2009). Tisdale and Fernandez-Juricic proposed that the longer scanning duration of starlings compared to House Sparrows might be due to the larger size of the blind area in the starlings’ vision compared to that of the sparrows. The scanning behavior of starlings has also been shown to function as a method to assess other flock members (Fernandez-Juricic et al. 2005). That our findings are in accordance with the results of previous research suggests that the digital method of recording data is sensitive enough to detect small differences in the behaviors of different species.

The effect of sex on the proportion of time that House Sparrows spent vocalizing was consistent with the finding that males spend a great deal more time calling to females in the breeding season, a characteristic sex-specific courtship display in this species (Anderson 2006). Communication and sexual displays are therefore confirmed to play an important part of the behavioral repertoire in the House Sparrow using the data sets compiled in this study from the different data collection methods. Again, as predicted, the app-based data collection protocol was sensitive enough to detect these behaviorally salient differences, including sex-specific variation, among wild living birds.

However, our analyses also revealed no statistical differences in the quantitative patterns of the behavioral data collected with the paper vs. the digital recording methods. The results reported here thus do not support our prediction that the digital recording method is more suited for observational research when compared to the traditional paper recording method. It appears that both methods are equally useful in detecting biologically meaningful behavioral differences, such as dimorphic calling rates, and that observers can use either depending on their experiences and preferences. This is one of the first studies that attempted to investigate the usefulness of the WhatISee application, and furthermore, is one of the first to use the iPhone in behavioral research.

Regarding the practicality and the relative ease of use, the two recording methods both had advantages and weaknesses. On the one hand, the paper-and-pencil method was simple to create and edit. On the other hand, it was awkward when trying to hold the timer in addition to the paper-and-pencil. The application method provided a way to store data in a lightweight, compact device, and allowed us to record data with just one hand. Also, the e-mail function gave us a way to securely and remotely store all of the data on several computers and e-mail servers simultaneously.

However, the digital application also requires the user to spend some time familiarizing oneself with it before starting behavioral studies and specific observations. Also, the user can only label five rows and five columns of the application interface and it would be more efficient if users could label each of

the 25 keys instead (a modification that may be suitable for the larger screen of iPads: T. Heuser, pers. comm.). Moreover, it would be helpful if the application automatically recorded the time when the observation ended, as it is capable of recording the start time and the date. The paper-and-pencil method may be more useful in inclement weather than the digital method, given that the waterproof paper can be widely purchased to record notes made by carbon pencils (but not by regular-ink pens), whereas we did not have a waterproof case for the iPod/iPhone. Nonetheless, this was not directly tested because our behavioral observation protocol a priori called for a pause in the research during rain. Instead, we note that both materials can be stored in a water resistant case until the weather clears and the observations can be continued. Overall, the WhatISee application provided a lightweight, compact, and efficient way to record animal behavior, and we would recommend it for use in avian behavioral studies.

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## Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in Locust Grove, NY —A Birding Experience

On the evening of Sunday March 4, 2012, I was surfing “New York Birders”, our new Facebook page, when I saw a post by Benjamin Van Doren titled “*Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in Northern NY apparently... another one?!*” At that very moment my cell phone rang with an excited call from my friend Corey Finger. “You saw the report?” I asked. He said, “I’m going tomorrow!”

Over the next several hours, amidst a flurry of phone calls, e-mails and Facebook messages, we determined where the bird was, got permission to visit, and agreed on our plans. Corey, Isaac Grant and I would meet in Queens at 4:30 a.m., pick up Benjamin in Westchester, and make the five-hour, 285-mile drive to Locust Grove, on the Tug Hill Plateau in southern Lewis County.

During the ride my thoughts turned to this remarkable rarity. Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) is one of the coolest birds in North America. It and its congeners breed at higher elevation than any other bird in North America. My experience with the species consisted of a snow-bound afternoon watching a feeder in Georgetown, Colorado, and a chilly stop to see the birds on a barren windblown scree slope, 9950 feet in elevation at Tioga Pass in Yosemite National Park.

So just how bizarre is a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in New York? Well, the only other record came on December 22, 2011, by a lone birder hiking remote Black Dome Mountain in the Catskills. Records in eastern North America are extremely sparse. Winter 2011-2012 was somewhat of an “irruption” year, with 10 records east of the Rocky Mountains. The closest to New York was Rosspport, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Superior some 700 miles from Locust Grove!

Our day of marathon driving was memorable not only because we were successful in our twitch, but for the extraordinary hospitality of homeowner and host, Nancy Loomis. Nancy went to great lengths to make sure everyone had a pleasant experience. She directed parking, set out tape to guide people to the best viewing area, talked to her visitors, fielded phone calls, and made sure word got out to the birding lists each day. She even provided restroom facilities. Hundreds of birders fortunate enough to be able to make the trip have Nancy’s good will to thank.

Nancy gives the following account of her experience:

On Sunday morning, March 4, 2012 as I was doing my Project FeederWatch count, I noticed a bird on my deck that caught my eye. It was no other bird I had ever seen at my feeders or out birding. The gray crown, the pink on the wings, and the pink tinge on the body caught my attention. I started taking pictures and texting my sister Janet, who was at work. She suggested many birds it could be and I kept texting “NO”. She then suggested I put a picture on the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Facebook page. Within fifteen minutes it was identified as a Gray-Crowned Rosy-Finch. I looked it up on the Internet and couldn’t believe

just how far out of its territory it was! Washington State, Alaska and the Rocky Mountains; I was amazed! I let my sister know and we sent a few more pictures out on the Internet to make sure that it was a Rosy-Finch. Once birders found out, my sister was overwhelmed with many e-mails and I with cell phone calls. Everybody wanted to come see the bird and I turned no one down, knowing it was a life bird for most. Rosy, as we nicknamed him, ate from the deck, the birdbath feeder, and a hopper feeder. He never went to the tube feeders or the thistle feeder. He seemed to like the mixed seed the most. Rosy would show up around 6:30 every morning and be gone between 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon. He would eat for a while then fly off and come back in an hour or so. On Thursday March 8, 2012 he was seen early in the morning, then he was gone. It was the experience of a lifetime watching him for five days. I would like to thank everyone who came to see Rosy. Many birders drove many miles. 150 people signed my log and I know many more came that didn't sign. One man signed from Wyckoff, New Jersey via Scotland. Many people came from New York City. Unfortunately for some, Rosy didn't stay for the weekend. A couple even came from Fletcher, North Carolina on Saturday. The birders were all very respectful of our privacy and of the rules I put forth. I met a lot of amazing and interesting people through this experience, and will forever hold it close to my heart.

Because my own experience was so extraordinary, I decided to ask other birders to share theirs. Several did, and their accounts, copied below, make it clear that the human experience is an essential part of our wonderful pastime. Thank you, Nancy!

-- Seth Ausubel, 118-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375; with Nancy Loomis, 2788 State Route 12D, Locust Grove, NY 13309

## **Birders Share Their Experiences**

*Who needs Colorado? Colorado and a few other western states in winter are the most reliable places to see Rosy-Finches, typically at feeders. For a few days in March the trip was a lot shorter - about 300 miles each way from Long Island. Highway miles all the way, nice weather, gracious homeowner, cooperative bird. What more could you want? I suggested starting a log and Nancy did so right away, then went one better, allowing visitors to use the facilities in her barn/garage. Thanks again Nancy, it was a pleasure. And you have a great boss who sent you home to enjoy the bird and its human visitors.*  
David Klauber, North Massapequa, NY.

*After a long chase, with the constant, nagging uncertainty of a bird's presence, nothing is more satisfying than spectacular looks and a welcoming host. I thank Nancy for her graciousness in sharing this incredible find.*

Benjamin Van Doren, White Plains, NY.

*I can claim to have tried twice for this bird in NYS and achieved a double dip. Like a birding George Costanza, I fear someone might try to wrestle my binos away from me. I wonder where my feathered fatale will lead me next.*

Arie Gilbert, North Babylon, NY.

*This is not Locust Grove's first brush with ornithological fame. The ornithologist and author of **Birds of New Mexico**, Florence Augusta Merriam Bailey, was born there in 1863.*

Corey Finger, Forest Hills, NY, 10,000 Birds.

*I first heard about the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch Sunday night while driving home from Cape May. Stuck in traffic on the Garden State Parkway, I glanced at my phone and saw Benjamin Van Doren's post on the New York Birders Facebook page. Something about a Rosy-Finch appearing at someone's feeder. I put the phone down; this was very distracting news. Luckily, there was a rest stop just ahead. After pulling over I read the Facebook message, then checked my e-mail. There was a message on the CayugaBirds listserv from Janet Akin saying that her sister had a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch at her feeders on Tug Hill. Meanwhile birders on Facebook were talking about the bird, getting contact information, and making plans to drive to Lewis County the next morning. E-mails with additional information soon appeared on several listservs. Add to this the fact that Nancy Loomis identified the bird by sending her photographs to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Facebook page, and you have proof extraordinaire that the future of birding communication is in social media.*

Donna L. Schulman, Queens, NY.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Robert G. McKinney 1925-2011

Robert (Bob) G. McKinney, born on 27 July 1925, passed away peacefully at home on 26 October 2011.

Bob was a birder, hiker, and bird bander, and a fun-loving, caring person. He was a member and active participant in the Eastern Bird Banding Association, Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO), Burroughs Audubon Nature Club (BANC), Genesee Ornithological Society (GOS, a section of the Rochester Academy of Science), New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA), Rochester Birding Association (RBA), the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society (BSPS), and the Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC). In addition he pursued an interest in trains and railroad history and enjoyed attending classical music concerts.

Bob was not just a joiner of these organizations. He was a founding member and long-time treasurer of BBBO; recognizing his service, the newly renovated banding room there has been named the Robert G. McKinney Banding Laboratory. As an amateur botanist, he was active with the collections of the BANC. He joined the GOS in 1945 and, among his many roles with that organization, he served as president in 1976-77 and 1983. In 1965 his work was recognized when he was elected a Fellow of the Rochester Academy of Science. With the GOS's dissolution he became member of the RBA. He attended nearly all of the annual meetings of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, now NYSOA, beginning with the first in Rochester in 1948. With the BSPS, Bob was a long-time trustee and for many years was their chief negotiator for land acquisition for the preserve. Wearing his birder hat, he compiled a seasonal checklist for the preserve in 1956. He fell in love with the Adirondacks early on, and by the mid-1970s had climbed all 46 of its high peaks. With the GVHC he was active in trail maintenance and in hiking both in New York and on trips abroad.

Bob's path through outdoor interests moved opposite to many current birders', starting with an interest in butterflies introduced by an uncle who was chief entomologist at the Field Museum in Chicago. But birding became a major interest, and he traveled extensively by land and sea, visiting many countries and all continents except Australia. He found his 700<sup>th</sup> ABA lifer, a Northern Pygmy-Owl, in California in July 2008.

Schooled as a chemical engineer, he pursued a lifetime career in that field with the Eastman Kodak Company, retiring in the mid-1980s. With a scientific background, bird banding held a strong appeal for Bob. He received his first banding permit in 1950 and his permit to use mist nets on 6 February 1953. In 61 years of this pursuit he banded 122,597 birds of over 175 species. On crutches and slowed down by having to undergo dialysis treatment three times a week, Bob still continued to band at BBBO during the fall of 2011 with help from his favorite banding assistant, his wife Chita. His last banding session was on 24 September 2011 when he banded 52 birds and charmed 35 students

visiting from SUNY Geneseo. He was particularly pleased to band a 'lifer' Worm-eating Warbler, a very rare fall species locally, at BBBO in August 2011.

Bird banding was a way to observe birds closely and to assist in efforts to track them and determine migration patterns. Bob applied his scientific approach to this endeavor in organizing all his records and in publishing papers on both his studies and on banding technique, including a paper on the separation of *Empidonax* flycatchers.

Above all, Bob cared deeply for his wife, children, and his Church. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Chita, son David, and daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Tom Dirk.

Robert G. Spahn

### **ROBERT FORD SCHUMANN 1921-2011**

We first met at a secluded bird sanctuary tucked into a ravine in Binghamton, New York. John Fitzpatrick and I had been invited to join Bob Schumann for lunch and bird watching. Bob, a towering man of strong moral stature, had a fondness for birds, especially the White-breasted Nuthatch, namesake of his personal sanctuary, Nuthatch Hollow. Bob liked nuthatches because their nasal calls enabled him to quickly focus in on them with binoculars, but even more because they are inextricably linked to healthy ecosystems.

Bob's fondness for birds was but one of his many passions. He was fervently dedicated to family, democracy, art, science, libraries, public broadcasting, big-band jazz, environmental conservation, and personal friendships. For decades, he and his brother, Ford, led the Florence and John Schumann Foundation, named in honor of their parents. That foundation, now called the Schumann Media Center and under the leadership of Bill Moyers, has taken on some of the most urgent challenges of democracy. In addition, Bob tackled major environmental dilemmas as a board member of National Audubon, and at Wesleyan University, his alma mater, he funded the Robert F. Schumann Environmental Studies Program.

At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bob was a friend, a long-time Administrative Board member, and a champion for conservation. The Cornell Lab engaged Bob's affection, with birds and staff. He referred to the latter as "the gang." They all enjoyed Bob and Marilyn's participation at Administrative Board meetings, and many of them partnered with him in bird conservation endeavors. Bob's passion for bird conservation culminated in the creation of the Robert F. Schumann Faculty Fellowship, a new directorship for the lab's Conservation Science program.

At Bob's memorial service in December 2011, close lifelong friend Bill Moyers presented a thoughtful, heartfelt, and sometimes humorous remembrance of Bob's life. Bill remarked that, "He talked about his friends to me every chance he had. He valued what was close to him, and kept close to him

what he valued." When another long-time friend and Schumann Center board member, Bill McKibben, heard of Bob's death, he wrote, simply: "A life well-lived, which leaves behind uncountable good."

Bob's "uncountable good" lives on in Bob's family and the institutions he advocated for and supported. At the Cornell lab, Bob is honored in many ways: by his unending friendships, his passion for birds, and the conservation programs he championed. As a small but immensely significant tribute to Bob, we've linked his name to the diminutive little bird he so admired; we've dedicated the White-breasted Nuthatch account in *Birds of North America* in his honor.

Scott Sutcliffe  
December 2011



White-breasted Nuthatch, © Lloyd Spitalnik.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – Spring 2012

**Ken Feustel**

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The spring of 2012 was warmer than average, reflective of weather in the U.S. that saw the last twelve months ending in June as the warmest 12 consecutive months on record. In New York March was warm and dry, setting high temperature records throughout the State. April was cooler, only to be followed by above average temperatures again in May. Many regions reported the early departure of winter waterfowl, spring migrants arriving a few days to a few weeks earlier than average, and the abrupt decline in the number of migrants after mid-May. Following a poor season for winter finches, most Regions had few spring reports. Although some regions reported good spring flights of passerines, particularly in early May, there were few rarities compared to previous seasons.

### WATERFOWL TO WADERS

Waterfowl migration this spring was lackluster over much of the State, as many waterfowl had departed in February. Two separate Ross's Geese in Region 5 were good finds, and a Barnacle Goose in Region 9 lingered for four days. Seven reports of Greater White-fronted Geese were received from four Regions. Eurasian Wigeon were widespread this spring, with reports received from Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10. A female Hooded Merganser with five young in Region 9 was notable, although not entirely unexpected given its recent breeding expansion over much of the State. In Region 10 a female King Eider observed in Glen Cove on the north shore of Long Island was an unusual location, while single "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were reported from Regions 3 and 10.

A flyby Pacific Loon in Region 5 would be a first Regional record pending approval by NYSARC, while two **Western Grebe's** observed in January and February in Region 3 continued into March. Regions 1, 2, and 3 hosted Eared Grebes this spring. A total of five American White Pelicans were found in Regions 1, 2, and 5. Inland waders included Little Blue Heron in Regions 1, 8, and 9, and Cattle Egret in Region 1. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Region 8 was the only inland report. Single Glossy Ibis were observed in Regions 1, 3, and 4. The appearance of White-faced Ibis in Region 10 in spring is now an annual event; this spring two different individuals were reported. A **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Montauk Pt. in Region 10 was associated with an April storm. Sandhill Cranes were widespread in Region 1, while below average in Region 5. A total of six Sandhill Cranes were reported from Region 9 and two were reported from Region 8.



## RAPTORS

Black Vultures continued their expansion north, with a record high of 18 at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch in Region 2 and six at Derby Hill in Region 5. A tally of over 34,000 Broad-winged Hawks at Braddock Bay over three days in April was impressive, while the spring hawkwatch at Derby Hill was characterized as “.....one of the best since daily counts began in 1979”, with 18,000 raptors, mostly Broad-wings, counted from 1-4 May. Increased sightings of Mississippi Kite in New York State have delighted many birders, none more so than the pair in Region 9 at Sterling Forest that were observed constructing a nest, a possible first breeding record for Region 9 and Orange County. Additional sightings of Mississippi Kite included a total of four reports consisting of four individuals from Regions 2, 5, and 10. Swallow-tailed Kites were recorded in three Regions tallying four birds. Three Swainson’s Hawks were reported from Derby Hill in Region 5.

## SHOREBIRDS, TERNS AND GULLS

Shorebird migration was a mixed bag this season, with the dry weather creating poor conditions in Regions that rely on ephemeral pools and puddles for attracting shorebirds. Other neighboring Regions with a more permanent water sources did better. Any godwit observed in spring in New York is unusual, so observations of Hudsonian Godwit in Region 3 and Marbled Godwit in Region 6 were notable. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were recorded in Regions 1 and 5 and a total of four Wilson’s Phalaropes in Region 10 was a good spring number. A Long-billed Dowitcher in Region 1 on 24 March was only a third spring record while a single Black-necked Stilt in Region 10 was a one-day wonder.

Due largely to the efforts of Shai Mitra, Arctic Terns again were observed this spring at Cupsogue County Park in Region 10, with a high of four on 27 May. Despite many overwintering species leaving early, a number of gulls tarried. Late Glaucous Gulls were in Region 3 (25 April), Region 1 (18 May) and Region 10 (22 May). A late Black-headed Gull in Region 3 on 26 April was unusual and 1,500 Bonaparte’s Gulls in Region 10 on 17 April was surprising given their scarcity in the region this past winter. Single Little Gulls lingered in Regions 6, 7 and 9.

## DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

White-winged Dove has become almost annual somewhere in Region 10 in spring. This year the species was observed at Jones Beach State Park for the second consecutive year. Three Regional reports mentioned a lack of cuckoos this spring. In Region 10, the precipitous decline of Black-billed Cuckoo the last few years is such that some active field observers are now missing this species on their annual State list. A lack of tent caterpillars the last few years may be partially responsible for the species downstate decline. Following a good Snowy Owl winter, lingering Snowies included six in Region 1, two each in Regions 2

and 5 and one each in Regions 6, 7 and 10. A nesting Saw-whet Owl with four young was observed in Region 1. An owl monitoring program in Region 2 on the west side of Braddock Bay reported below average numbers of migrating Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls. Regions 1, 2 and 5 reported disappointing numbers of Common Nighthawks this spring. Red-headed Woodpecker made a good showing in Region 1, while a Three-toed Woodpecker in Region 5 was a nice discovery. Single Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from the Bronx and Staten Island in Region 10.

## CORVIDS

Common Ravens were much in evidence this spring in the southern portion of the State; Region 10 reported “widespread” sightings, in addition to the Region 9 coordinator commenting “Common Ravens are now breeding in the entire Region”. Region 4 had a nesting pair just outside of the City of Cortland. Region 2 reported a first confirmed “modern era” nesting of Common Raven; the species had bred historically. Multiple sightings of Ravens around two power plants were noted in Region 1.

## PASSERINES

Some Regions reported the passerine movement peaking in the first week of May. To use a phrase that is commonly associated with aging (sixty is the new fifty!), the last week in April is the new first week of May, at least in downstate Regions. Seventeen species of warblers were noted in Region 10 on 27 April. For birders conducting spring big days, setting a big day date for the second week of May now risks missing the bulk of migration. A coastal fallout of birds was noted on 22-23 April in Region 10 consisting of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Good movements of warblers were noted on 1-2 May in Regions 5, 9, and 10. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was observed briefly in Region 10, while a single Sedge Wren in Region 8 was unusual. The Rufous Hummingbird that had wintered at the American Museum of Natural History was last seen on 13 March. Bohemian Waxwings loitered into spring in Regions 2, 5, 6, and 7, with an outstanding high of 2,400 at Stony Point in Region 6.

Single Connecticut Warblers, a rare spring migrant, were noted in Regions 1 and 3. Yellow-throated Warblers were widespread in Region 10, with a pair, including a singing male, noted on 28 April and again in early May at Connetquot River State Park. If confirmed, this would be a first Region 10 breeding record. Prothonotary Warblers were noted in most Regions, and Kentucky Warbler was well-represented downstate, with three reports of four individuals from Region 9, and approximately eleven to thirteen reports (accounting for possible repeat observations) from Region 10. The mild winter and spring allowed for a few unusual species to successfully overwinter. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Region 10 that successfully wintered at a feeder lingered until 31 March. A Lark Sparrow at a feeder in Region 2 also stayed until March. A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco was on Staten Island in Region 10.

Seven Regions reported Clay-colored Sparrow this spring, with Region 2 tallying ten reports of fifteen individuals.

Rusty Blackbirds were noted in numbers in five Regions this spring, certainly a bit of good news for this declining icterid. The high count was over 1,700 birds in Region 2. Regions 2, 3 and 4 reported single Yellow-headed Blackbirds. Perhaps the most unusual bird this spring, at least in terms of timing, would be the **Bullock's Oriole** in Region 7 that visited a Saranac Lake feeder on 13 April for one day. Poor numbers of winter finches, particularly downstate, led to fewer species lingering into spring. Additionally, numbers of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting were generally low. As usual, some birds bucked the trend. One hundred fifty White-winged Crossbills in Region 1 on 15 May easily outnumbered the combined numbers reported from other Regions. Region 4 described Pine Siskin nesting as the best for central New York since 2004 as well as reporting small numbers of Red Crossbills with recently fledged juveniles. A Pine Grosbeak in Region 2 was the only spring report. The highlight of the finch reports was the **Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch** in Region 6. This individual, present from 4 March to 8 March at a feeder in Leyden, was a second New York State record, the first State observation being only a few months before.

## **BIRDERS, BIRDING RECORDS AND THE SUMMER OLYMPICS**

As this report is being written the Summer Olympics are in progress. What does this have to do with birding, you say? The answer is records. Whether they are world records, Olympic records, State records, or new records, we use records to tell us about where our hobby, sport, or profession has been, and where it is going. We tend to pay particular attention to long-standing records, whether it be Joe DiMaggio's fifty-six game hitting streak in baseball, or the legendary first New York State record (and lower 48 record) of Broad-billed Sandpiper in 1998 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Recently there was a newspaper article that discussed the increasing emphasis on the use of statistics in sports, and focused on a researcher who was busy looking at Olympic records, specifically swimming and track records. The researcher found that track records were broken infrequently, with some records being twenty or thirty years old. Swimming, on the other hand, often set new records (as anyone watching Olympic swimming events can attest). The researcher felt that because the ability to run was limited only by the need to buy running shoes (barefoot runners aside), the number of participants was large. The researcher described current track times as near the edge of human endurance. The cost of entry into swimming involves access to a pool, training facilities, and coaching, all of which limits the number of prospective swimmers. To put it in birding terms, if you were competing in the World Series of Birding your chances would be better drawing a team from a thousand birders than two hundred birders. Whether you agree or disagree with the researcher's conclusions, it is not hard to see that birding shares characteristics of both track and swimming. Young birders (teens and twenties for purposes of this discussion) have added an

astounding number of new records recently while increasing the number of birders in the field. Speaking just of Region 10, my home base, young birders have added NYS records of Gray Kingbird, Grace’s Warbler, Hermit Warbler, and “Yellow” Wagtail. Additionally, in large part due to the trend towards warmer weather, new arrival and departure records are being set annually for many species. Recently, birders doing big years in New York State have been exceeding the previous record high count, and it seems possible that last years NYS big year record will be topped this year. If many birding records are so short-lived, do we value them less?

## BIRD OF THE SEASON AWARD

Good birds observed this season included Western Grebe, Leach’s Storm-Petrel, Magnificent Frigatebird, White-faced Ibis, White-winged Dove, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bullock’s Oriole, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. My arbitrary criterion for the “Bird of The Season” award is a rare species seen by many observers. Clearly, the **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** in Region 6, seen by many birders, is the runaway winner for the Spring 2012 BOTS award. This bird had the added bonus of temporarily concentrating birders in Region 6, improving the coverage. Whether it is called the “Patagonia Picnic Table Effect” or by some other name, increasing the number of birders in a geographic area often leads to new records.

## SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2012

Region	Species Reported <sup>1</sup>	Seasonality <sup>2</sup> vs. 1987-12	Advance <sup>3</sup> (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	91	-5.55	-3.12	13
2	93	-5.77	-4.40	6
3	90	-5.40	-3.68	12
4	79	-2.14	5.23	4
5	93	-4.61	0.11	11
6	92	-6.99	3.77	18
7	87	-4.37	8.63	6
8	82	-5.66	0.54	8
9	80	-5.29	-2.93	10
10	87	-3.65	-4.14	14

<sup>1</sup>Maximum number of species = 93.

<sup>2</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s 26-year average.

<sup>3</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions.

Given difficulties in estimating arrivals of some species in some Regions, estimates of Seasonality and Advance should be interpreted with caution.

Spring Arrival Dates 2012 Waterbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	26-Yr. Ave
American Bittern	7 Apr	<b>20 Mar</b>	<b>21 Mar</b>	22 Apr	8 Apr	<b>19 Mar</b>	8 Apr	11 Apr	24 Mar	<b>1 Apr</b>	1 Apr	14 Apr
Green Heron	<b>8 Apr</b>	8 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	5 May	21 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	26 Feb	2 Mar	23 Feb	1 Mar	3 Mar	1 Mar	11 Mar	<b>1 Mar</b>			1 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	<b>28 Jan</b>	28 Feb	<b>23 Feb</b>		2 Mar	4 Mar	12 Apr	<b>22 Feb</b>		<b>4 Feb</b>	26 Feb	14 Mar
Northern Pintail	<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>3 Feb</b>			2 Mar	4 Mar	3 Mar	4 Mar			22 Feb	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	12 Mar	14 Mar	5 Mar	19 Mar	14 Apr	17 Mar	25 Apr	9 Apr	24 Mar	28 Mar	26 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	17 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	14 Mar	20 Mar	<b>29 Mar</b>	4 Apr	3 Apr	11 Mar	8 Mar	21 Mar	27 Mar
Virginia Rail	3 Apr	<b>21 Mar</b>	13 Apr	13 Apr	30 Mar	<b>31 Mar</b>	20 Apr	<b>21 Mar</b>	21 Mar	6 Apr	2 Apr	17 Apr
Sora	15 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	14 Apr		21 Apr	22 Apr	6 May	16 Apr	12 May	28 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr
Common Moorhen	<b>5 Apr</b>	<b>28 Mar</b>	25 Apr		18 Apr	18 Apr	28 May	25 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	5 May	26 Apr	18 May		23 May	27 May	25 May		22 May		16 May	14 May
Semipalmated Plover	12 May	3 May	<b>20 Apr</b>	14 May	19 May	24 May	21 May	15 May	9 May	25 Apr	10 May	10 May
Killdeer	1 Mar	27 Feb	22 Feb	2 Mar	24 Feb	7 Mar	20 Mar	1 Mar	29 Feb		1 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	<b>12 Mar</b>	31 Mar	13 Mar	<b>26 Mar</b>	17 Apr	22 Apr	20 Apr	4 May		<b>12 Mar</b>	3 Apr	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	18 Mar	31 Mar	6 Apr	28 Apr	16 Apr	2 May	5 May	18 Apr	14 Apr	23 Mar	12 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	15 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	23 Apr	14 Apr	4 May	30 May	4 May	16 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	15 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	<b>22 Apr</b>	3 May	22 Apr	25 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling		18 May	12 May		19 May						16 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	16 May	13 May	5 May	14 May	26 May	26 May	25 May	19 May	<b>12 Apr</b>	25 Apr	12 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	22 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr	4 May	7 May	13 May	10 May	15 May	12 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	3 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	9 Apr	31 Mar	7 Apr		13 Apr	18 Apr			21 Apr	28 Mar	9 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	11 Mar	7 Mar	14 Mar	1 Apr	18 Mar	<b>9 Mar</b>	8 Apr	4 Mar	13 Mar	7 Mar	15 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	4 Mar	1 Mar	27 Feb	13 Mar	<b>24 Feb</b>	12 Mar	19 Mar	29 Feb	14 Feb		3 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	7 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr		<b>31 Mar</b>	<b>31 Mar</b>	19 Apr		1 May	<b>6 Apr</b>	9 Apr	19 Apr
Common Tern	6 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	15 May	24 Apr	20 Apr	20 Apr		1 May	16 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	28 Apr	3 May	17 Apr	8 May	12 May	3 May		19 May		13 May	5 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	12 Apr	14 Apr	<b>15 Mar</b>	13 Apr	26 Apr	<b>1 Apr</b>	29 Apr	31 Mar	24 Mar	15 Apr	8 Apr	29 Apr

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2012 Landbirds												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	26-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	4 May	4 May	7 May	17 May	12 May	17 May			10 May	5 May	9 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	10 May	5 May	13 May		14 May	12 May		15 May	4 May	13 Apr	7 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	16 Apr	18 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	6 May	7 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	2 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	1 May	3 May	4 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	29 Apr	2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	28 Mar	14 Apr	18 Mar	5 Apr	18 Mar	<b>17 Mar</b>	24 Mar				26 Mar	2 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	20 May	13 May	13 May		30 May	13 May	13 May		11 May	3 May	14 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7 May	1 May	2 May	10 May	10 May	14 May	19 May	14 May	6 May	3 May	8 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	13 May	12 May	<b>3 May</b>	<b>7 May</b>	<b>5 May</b>	12 May	12 May		6 May	<b>5 May</b>	8 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	14 May	9 May	7 May	13 May	12 May	14 May	30 May	14 May	5 May	12 May	13 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	1 May	1 May	<b>20 Apr</b>	4 May	<b>15 Apr</b>	3 May	5 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	<b>12 Apr</b>	26 Apr	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	15 Mar	8 Mar	15 Mar	16 Mar	9 Mar	<b>14 Mar</b>	20 Mar	28 Feb	5 Mar	12 Mar	11 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1 May	1 May	1 May	4 May	30 Apr	1 May	5 May	2 May	25 Apr	15 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	29 Apr	25 Apr	22 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	2 May	7 May	23 Apr	22 Apr	8 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr
Purple Martin	8 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr		10 Apr	16 Apr		19 May	5 Apr	27 Mar	12 Apr	18 Apr
Tree Swallow	9 Mar	2 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	<b>3 Mar</b>	<b>15 Mar</b>	23 Mar	28 Feb	3 Mar		8 Mar	20 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	11 Apr	<b>12 Mar</b>	<b>25 Mar</b>	<b>26 Mar</b>	10 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	31 Mar	30 Mar	1 Apr	2 Apr	14 Apr
Bank Swallow	15 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	4 May	<b>18 Apr</b>	18 Apr	<b>9 Apr</b>	<b>5 Apr</b>	18 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	15 Apr	15 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	18 Apr	17 May	22 Apr	18 May	26 Apr	27 Apr
Barn Swallow	4 Apr	22 Mar	1 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr	12 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	6 Apr	30 Mar	<b>4 Mar</b>	31 Mar	10 Apr
House Wren	15 Apr	<b>9 Apr</b>	16 Apr	24 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	30 Apr	18 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4 Apr	1 Apr	25 Mar	9 Apr	<b>17 Mar</b>	15 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr		1 Apr	4 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	15 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	16 Apr	20 Apr	14 May	19 Apr		<b>30 Mar</b>	17 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		1 Mar			3 Mar	14 Mar	6 Mar				6 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	2 May	3 May	7 May	2 May	2 May	28 Apr	1 May	2 May
Swainson's Thrush	2 May	1 May	4 May		4 May	17 May	16 May	2 May	3 May	29 Apr	5 May	8 May
Hermit Thrush	12 Apr	14 Apr		14 Apr	31 Mar	16 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr		4 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	26 Apr	1 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	2 May	7 May	23 Apr	19 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	14 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr	23 Apr	17 Apr	2 May	4 May	18 Apr		14 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr
Brown Thrasher	14 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	14 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr		5 Apr	13 Apr	15 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	15 Apr	15 Apr	<b>8 Apr</b>	14 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	15 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 May	3 May	1 May	4 May	3 May	3 May	19 May	2 May	22 Apr	23 Apr	2 May	3 May
Warbling Vireo	27 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	26 Apr	2 May	20 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	6 May	26 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	<b>16 Apr</b>	24 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	3 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	7 May	5 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	13 Apr	30 Apr	3 May

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

Spring Arrival Dates 2012 Landbirds (cont'd)												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	26-Yr. Ave
Tennessee Warbler	28 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	17 May	4 May	12 May	6 May	<b>15 Apr</b>	4 May	26 Apr	2 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	<b>22 Apr</b>	21 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	<b>24 Apr</b>	3 May	1 May	<b>16 Apr</b>	<b>14 Apr</b>	23 Apr	28 Apr
Northern Parula	2 May	1 May	2 May	3 May	<b>25 Apr</b>	7 May	5 May	4 May	14 Apr	<b>4 Apr</b>	27 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	<b>20 Apr</b>	28 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	20 Apr	<b>19 Apr</b>	5 May	19 Apr	<b>29 Mar</b>	10 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2 May	1 May	<b>26 Apr</b>	1 May	1 May	1 May	5 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Magnolia Warbler	1 May	1 May	2 May	6 May	1 May	<b>4 May</b>	5 May	<b>23 Apr</b>	2 May	2 May	1 May	4 May
Cape May Warbler	1 May	3 May	3 May	5 May	1 May	9 May	12 May	3 May	6 May	21 Apr	3 May	7 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	1 May	1 May	1 May	28 Apr	1 May	1 May	5 May	5 May	26 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr
Black-thr Green Warbler	16 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	<b>11 Apr</b>	14 Apr	14 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	4 May	30 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	<b>24 Apr</b>	28 Apr	2 May
Pine Warbler	<b>19 Mar</b>	<b>27 Mar</b>	<b>14 Mar</b>	21 Apr	<b>22 Mar</b>	12 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	<b>17 Mar</b>	17 Mar	12 Mar	26 Mar	9 Apr
Palm Warbler	15 Apr	14 Apr	<b>24 Mar</b>	23 Apr	16 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	<b>24 Mar</b>	30 Mar	10 Apr	17 Apr
Bay-breasted Warbler	7 May	8 May	4 May	18 May	7 May	12 May	<b>6 May</b>	12 May	2 May	4 May	8 May	10 May
Blackpoll Warbler	3 May	10 May	3 May	15 May	10 May	14 May	5 May	<b>2 May</b>	5 May	29 Apr	6 May	12 May
Black-and-White Warbler	<b>19 Apr</b>	20 Apr	15 Apr	1 May	<b>18 Apr</b>	26 Apr	30 Apr	21 Apr	8 Apr	1 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr
American Redstart	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	2 May	3 May	3 May	7 May	3 May	25 Apr	24 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Ovenbird	25 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	1 May	2 May	4 May	2 May	19 Apr	15 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	<b>19 Apr</b>	22 Apr	20 Apr	1 May	20 Apr	<b>24 Apr</b>	29 Apr	4 May	14 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr
Mourning Warbler	6 May	4 May	<b>3 May</b>	10 May	3 May	18 May	20 May	28 May	<b>2 May</b>	10 May	10 May	14 May
Common Yellowthroat	15 Apr	<b>6 Apr</b>	26 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	5 May	29 Apr	<b>24 Mar</b>		21 Apr	29 Apr
Wilson's Warbler	6 May	4 May	4 May	6 May	5 May	12 May	14 May		<b>30 Apr</b>	4 May	6 May	11 May
Canada Warbler	2 May	7 May	3 May	4 May	6 May	7 May	12 May	6 May	2 May	2 May	5 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	2 May	1 May	1 May	2 May	3 May	4 May	13 May	2 May	26 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	4 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<b>24 Apr</b>	21 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	2 May	25 Apr	15 Apr	5 May	26 Apr	28 Apr
Indigo Bunting	4 May	<b>20 Apr</b>	2 May	12 May	4 May	<b>4 May</b>	6 May	5 May	15 Apr	23 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Eastern Towhee	<b>4 Mar</b>	16 Mar	15 Mar	21 Apr	17 Mar	<b>21 Mar</b>	<b>5 Apr</b>	26 Mar	<b>27 Mar</b>	1 Apr	24 Mar	9 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	<b>18 Mar</b>	22 Mar	11 Mar	20 Apr	<b>21 Mar</b>	13 Apr	<b>10 Mar</b>	22 Mar	8 Mar	28 Mar	23 Mar	4 Apr
Vesper Sparrow	31 Mar	4 Apr	24 Mar	23 Apr	<b>24 Mar</b>	3 Apr	14 Apr	5 Apr	7 Apr	4 Apr	4 Apr	11 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	29 Mar	21 Mar	18 Mar	21 Apr	22 Mar	3 Apr	19 Apr	14 Mar	4 Mar	1 Apr	27 Mar	7 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 May	1 May	4 May		1 May	<b>30 Apr</b>	4 May	8 May	3 May	18 Apr	1 May	4 May
White-crowned Sparrow	25 Apr	16 Apr	16 Apr	1 May	22 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	1 May		4 May	24 Apr	24 Apr
Bobolink	1 May	26 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	1 May	2 May	5 May	4 May	30 Apr	4 May	1 May	2 May
Baltimore Oriole	30 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	1 May	3 May	1 May	30 Apr	6 May	15 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Overall Average	15 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	23 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	15 Apr	14 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr
Dates in <b>bold</b> type are record early arrivals for the Region												

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

**Mike Morgante**

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March 2012 brought record warmth and a stretch of summer-like weather. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 47.4° F, a whopping 13.4° above normal and warmer than the mean temperature for April. A massive ridge of high pressure allowed an unseasonably warm air mass to move into western New York. Record high temperatures were recorded on seven days, including six in a row 17-22 March when temperatures were 30 to 35° above normal. Many trees and plants budded early. There was 1.86" of precipitation, 1.01" below average. Snowfall was only 1.5", 11.4" below average. Lake Erie water temperature set new daily record highs for the last 19 days of the month. April brought a return to normal weather and fluctuations between cooler and warmer periods. The mean temperature was 45.2°, 0.7° below average. Precipitation was 3.04", 0.03" above average; snowfall was 1.0", 2.6" below normal. There was more snow in the Southern Tier in late April. A warm front associated with strong southwesterly winds resulted in a large push of Broad-winged Hawks, other raptors, and Red Admiral butterflies on 16 April. May was very warm, the fifth driest May on record. The average temperature was 63.8°, 6.9° above normal. Above average temperatures were recorded on 27 days, and three record highs were reached on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall was only 0.90", 2.56" below normal. Collectively it was the warmest spring on record.

As would be expected, a record warm spring resulted in some earlier migrations and breeding attempts and made for an eventful spring season. The summer-like weather during the third week of March brought many short-distance migrants to the area about two weeks earlier than normal, including Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found by Richard Salembier at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on the record early date of 25 March. It was seen by many at this location through 3 April. Diving ducks departed the Great Lakes and Niagara River earlier than usual around this time. Shorebirds appeared earlier than usual, including early records of Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and the first ever March record of **Long-billed Dowitcher**. The dowitcher was at Kumpf Marsh at Iroquois NWR between 24 March and 7 April and represents only the third spring record for the Region, all in recent years.

The early warmth led to early breeding by some species. Connie Adams reported Mourning Dove chicks on 9 April, and Greg Coniglio had baby chickadees in a nest box on 19 April. On the other hand, the late April snow in the Southern Tier was the likely cause of some Bald Eagle nest failures according to Ken Roblee of NYSDEC. Otherwise it was a remarkable spring, with at least seven new eagle nests in the Region.



A strong push of songbirds, including numerous early arrivals, occurred 1-2 May following a cool period in late April. Raptor migration was also notable on 2 May and featured an **American Swallow-tailed Kite** over the Hamburg Hawkwatch, only the third record for the Region, with the first coming from Roger Tory Peterson and Clarence Beal in 1926. The dry conditions made for low water conditions around Iroquois NWR, Tonawanda WMA, and traditional shorebird spots in Niagara County. A large (for this Region) pulse of shorebird migration occurred in these areas 15-18 May. Shorebird migration picked up again late in May, but songbird and raptor migration largely dwindled earlier than usual.

Waterfowl migration started in winter for many species, but goose migration was still prevalent in March. Three reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose**, with a maximum of four, are about typical for recent years in March. **Cackling Geese** were widespread in low numbers. Tundra Swan migration was evident during the first two weeks of March. Trumpeter Swans are becoming more regular around Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Two were present at Windmill Marsh on Oak Orchard WMA throughout the spring, leading to speculation of a nesting attempt. Nesting has still not been confirmed in the Region.

There were at least two **Eurasian Wigeon** reports around Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Two **Harlequin Ducks** remained in the Niagara River, as viewed from Niagara Falls SP, through 22 April. Scoters were rather scarce this spring, with only one Black Scoter report, a few Surf Scoters, and lesser numbers of the most common White-winged. Red-necked Grebes peaked in mid-March, which is earlier than usual and likely a reflection of the warmer weather and lakes. An **Eared Grebe** was found on Lake Ontario in late April.

While still rare, there has been an uptick in **American White Pelican** reports in recent years. There were two sightings this spring, with one at Oak Orchard WMA on 28 March and another at Prendergast Point on Chautauqua Lake a few days later.

Great Egrets returned a little early to the Motor Island rookery and also nested for the second year on islands above Niagara Falls (in Ontario waters). Willie D'Anna found a **Cattle Egret** in Porter on 17 April, which was an early date for recent years. Late May brought two rare waders. Chris Hollister was surprised to find an adult **Little Blue Heron** near the University at Buffalo on 28 May. Celeste Morien found a **Glossy Ibis** at Oak Orchard WMA on 30 May. Several birders were able to see both birds after the initial sightings, but neither was found beyond the first day. For both species this was the first report in the Region since 2008.

**Black Vulture** continues around Lewiston, with three sightings of up to three birds between 31 March and 15 April. With the spate of sightings in this area over the past two years, local birders are on the lookout for evidence of breeding, which is usually not easy to determine with vultures. There were few reports of Rough-legged Hawks this spring, which followed a winter with few of them. There were six **Golden Eagle** reports in March and April.

**Sandhill Cranes** were more widespread than during any other spring. Virginia Rail and Common Gallinule were on the early side.

Besides the previously mentioned shorebirds, there were several other highlights. Joe Mitchell found a **Willet** at Batavia WWTP on 25 May. Dave Muller found a migrant **Upland Sandpiper** in Wilson to go with the regular breeders at Tillman Road WMA as the only reports. Kurt Fox had some high counts of Semipalmated Plovers and a record count of Least Sandpipers at Tonawanda WMA on 16 May. Semipalmated Sandpipers didn't show up in good numbers until late May. Up to seven **White-rumped Sandpipers** were found in late May at Tonawanda WMA. There were two reports of **Wilson's Phalaropes**.

Alec Humann found an adult **Black-headed Gull** in breeding plumage off Squaw Island at the relatively late date of 26 April. It was also found there several days later. It is possible that this was the same bird that wintered in this area. The only other notable gull was a **Laughing Gull** in with Ring-billed Gulls at Dunkirk Harbor on 9 May. Chuck Rosenburg found **six Snowy Owls** at the Niagara Falls airport during his annual winter owl field trip on 6 March. This was the highest count at one location since 1992. **Short-eared Owls** were sighted at mostly traditional locations, with owls remaining at Shelby and Alexander to late April and early May, respectively. NYSDEC staff discovered an adult **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and four downy young using a nest box at Watts Flats WMA on 30 April. **Common Nighthawks** made a very poor showing, with only five reports and a maximum of three. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports were more than usual and were highlighted by one that Bert Schweigert heard frequently calling in Great Valley 19-24 May. There are no known breeding locations in the Region. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from more locations than usual for recent years in May, with at least half of the reports likely migrants rather than breeders.

**Common Raven** had been absent from the more northern portions of the Region until several sightings in the last few years. There were some more signs of expansion this spring, as Common Ravens were sighted multiple times around the Huntley power plant in Tonawanda and one was seen at the Somerset power plant along Lake Ontario. Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter enjoyed **Lapland Longspurs** at a field in Wilson including an adult in breeding plumage up to 11 May. Warbler highlights not previously mentioned included two **Golden-winged Warbler** reports in early May. **Prothonotary Warblers** were found at the regular location at Tonawanda WMA as well as a migrant at Tiff Nature Preserve on 12 May found by Debbie Sharon. Linda Holmes had a **Connecticut Warbler** over several days in mid May at Majors Park in Aurora. Two **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at their usual Allegany SP location by mid-April.

**Clay-colored Sparrows** were identified in two locations, including a pair taking up residence in Portland. Up to 1,000 Rusty Blackbirds were estimated around Tonawanda WMA on 18 March, with some other good counts in the area through early April. **Orchard Orioles** are being found with a little more frequency in and beyond the Great Lakes plains. There were several **White-winged Crossbill** reports, with the obvious highlight being the estimated 150 that Jeff Reed found at Golden Hill State Forest in Cattaraugus County on 15

May. Reed felt that two groups came together to forage for a while and then all flew off to the southeast. Two **Common Redpoll** reports were consistent with a poor flight year. **Pine Siskins** were reported throughout the spring, and they were most widespread and numerous in the month of May as they returned north.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on 15 April, which was a little later than usual for the count due to Easter falling on the second Sunday of April this year. A warm front passed slowly the day before the count and temperatures reached 60° F. A record total of 158 species was tallied over the entire Region 1 and the portion of the B.O.S. Study Area in Ontario. There were 22 record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Wood Duck (545), Gadwall (205), Common Loon (531), Great Egret (92), Osprey (57), Common Gallinule (9), Sandhill Crane (4), Spotted Sandpiper (6), Lesser Yellowlegs (52), Dunlin (23), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Pileated Woodpecker (57), House Wren (3), Eastern Bluebird (320), Gray Catbird (16), Brown Thrasher (40), Pine Warbler (43), Yellow-rumped Warbler (241), Eastern Towhee (133), Field Sparrow (257), Savannah Sparrow (367), and Swamp Sparrow (329). Three first count records were made: Cackling Goose, Black Vulture, and Common Yellowthroat; and two second count records were Trumpeter Swan and Scarlet Tanager.

The B.O.S. May Count was held on 20 May on a day with record warmth and moderate wind. The total of 194 species was the lowest since 1991. There were nine record high counts: Mute Swan (33), Wood Duck (351), Pied-billed Grebe (72), Willow Flycatcher (107), Warbling Vireo (430), Gray Catbird (1,268), Northern Mockingbird (54), Prairie Warbler (20), and Blackpoll Warbler (205). Low counts were notable for Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Palm Warbler were very rare no-shows for the count. All of these are indicative of the earlier migration.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AlSP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 15 Apr; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 20 May; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE;

BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; LBSP – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; MI – Motor I NR, ERIE; NF – Niagara Falls, NIAG; NFSP – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; NR – Niagara R; OOWMA – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, ERIE; Tiftt NP – Tiftt Nature Preserve, ERIE; Tillman WMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

#### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** INWR 10 Mar (JM); Somerset NIAG 10 Mar (WD); max 4 Shelby ORLE 12(CM).

**Snow Goose:** 55 Shelby ORLE 2 Mar (CC); max 300 Yates ORLE 6 Mar (BP); 15 Lancaster ERIE 7 Mar; no Apr reports.

**Cackling Goose:** BWWTP 2 Mar; 3, 4, 5 INWR 2, 11, 17 Mar; 2 Hartland NIAG 7 Mar; 6, 7 OOWMA 7, 18 Mar; 5, 1 Somerset NIAG 7, 10 Mar; Alexander GENE 9 Mar; max 10 Oakfield GENE 9 Mar; 1 Oakfield GENE 17 Mar; last 3 BOSAC (WD), 1<sup>st</sup> for count; good showing.

**Mute Swan:** reported from seven locations along L Ontario; 33 BOSMC, record high for count.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 OOWMA 10 Mar, 17 May (WW, WD), possibly taken up residence at Windmill Marsh; 2 INWR 14 Mar (JM); BOSAC, 2<sup>nd</sup> record for count; CSWMA 28, 29 Apr (JM); 4, 2 Elba GENE, OOWMA 29, 30 Apr (KF, CM).

**Tundra Swan:** 217, 542 INWR 6, 10 Mar; 211 OOWMA 7 Mar; max 903 Shelby ORLE 11 Mar (CM); last Tiftt NP 6 May.

**Wood Duck:** record high counts on both BOSAC (545) and BOSMC (351).

**Gadwall:** max 100 INWR 17 Mar (KF); 37 NF 31 Mar; 30 INWR 5 Apr; 205 BOSAC, count record high; 2 Hartland NIAG 18 May; 4 BWWTP 25 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** arr INWR 15 Mar (CM); OOWMA 18, 20 Mar (PY, JM).

**Am. Wigeon:** 650, 600 INWR 15, 17 Mar; max 660 OOWMA 15 Mar (CM).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Bethany GENE 12 Mar (DB); max 12 INWR 14 May.

**N. Shoveler:** 115, max 121 INWR 17, 21 Mar; 79, 88 BWWTP 14, 28 Apr; INWR 28 May; TWMA 30 May.

**N. Pintail:** max 234, 123 BWWTP 2, 10 Mar (KF, WW); 152 INWR 10 Mar; 79 Elba GENE 29 Apr; INWR 17, 18 May.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 85, 82 Elba GENE 18 Mar, 29 Apr; 61, 73 INWR 21, 29 Mar; 2 OOWMA 28 May; 2 INWR 30 May.

**Canvasback:** arr 1, 5, 5 BWWTP 2, 16, 24 Mar; 1, 4 INWR 11, 17 Mar; NF 11 Apr; last 2 BOSAC.

**Redhead:** arr 6, 30 INWR 1, 11 Mar; 2 Wethersfield WYOM 9 Mar; 22, 16 BWWTP 12, 13 Mar; 12, 2 Dayton CATT 25 Mar, 8 Apr; 2 CSWMA 7 Apr; 2 TWMA 17 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 400 INWR 29 Mar; max 422 TWMA 31 Mar; 2 NF 18 May; last 2 INWR 27 May.

**Greater Scaup:** last 3 ChauL 12 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** 3, 157, 154 BWWTP 2 Mar, 14, 28 Apr; last BWWTP 25 May.

**Harlequin Duck:** 2 NFSP thru 22 Apr (WW, CM, PY), present through much of winter season at this location.

**Surf Scoter:** PB 2 Apr; 4 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; 2 BWWTP 14 Apr; Shadigee ORLE 29 Apr; only reports.

**White-winged Scoter:** 2 BWWTP 7 May (KF), uncommon inland; last 7 BOSMC.

**Black Scoter:** FNSP 20 Mar; only report.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 2 Oakfield GENE 11 Mar; 4 AISP 14 Mar; 5, 2 INWR 15 Mar, 7 Apr; max 900 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; last 8 BOSMC.

**Bufflehead:** 229, max 278 BWWTP 6, 14 Apr; last 2 BWWTP 11 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last 4 NF 18 May.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 260 Buffalo ERIE 6 Apr (WW).

**Com. Merganser:** 1 ad, 18 yg Hamburg ERIE 28 May (JM), good-sized brood.

**Ruddy Duck:** arr 2 INWR 10 Mar; 300, max 497, 424 BWWTP 29 Mar, 6, 14 Apr; 28 Tiftt NP 3 Apr; 40 INWR 12 Apr, 4 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 81 GHSP 18 Mar (WD); 74, 75 Shadigee ORLE 28, 29 Apr; SPNS 30 May – 3 Jun (MZ, mob).

**Com. Loon:** arr 2, 1 GHSP, Shadigee ORLE 25 Mar; 531 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high; max 209 Shadigee ORLE 28 Apr.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr INWR 10 Mar; 72 BOSMC 20 May, count record high.

**Horned Grebe:** arr INWR, Oakfield GENE; 52 GHSP 18 Mar; 14 S. Dayton CATT 25 Mar; BWWTP 16-17 May (KF); last 3 GHSP 26 May (MM).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 18 Somerset NIAG 7 Mar; 77 Wilson NIAG 16 Mar; 2 INWR 10 Mar; max 214 GHSP 18 Mar; Lewiston NIAG 1 Apr; 5 BOSAC; last Olcott NIAG 18 Apr.

**EARED GREBE (R1):** Shadigee ORLE 28 Apr (WD), spring reports less than annual.

**AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1):** OOWMA 28 Mar (CM!), third Mar record; Prendergast Pt ChauL 1 Apr (MK); both photographed.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** NF 11 Mar; arr 3 TWMA 18 Mar; Freedom ALLE 6 Apr; 2 Dayton CATT 7 Apr; 221 + 68 n BuSP 20 Apr; 501 LBSP, 700 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; more sightings inland than usual.

**Am. Bittern:** arr TWMA 7 Apr; Tift NP 25, 28 Apr; 2 INWR 29 Apr; GHSP 3 May (WD, BP, CM); 3 TWMA 16 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr Tift NP 5, 6 May; OOWMA 15 May; 4 INWR 24 May (CM).

**Great Blue Heron:** 87, 85 + 63 n MI 29 Mar, 6 Apr (WW).

**Great Egret:** arr BeSP 16 Mar (DS); 92 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high; Wellsville ALLE 19 Apr (EB); LBSP 28 Apr; 53 + 43 n MI 5 May (WW); 34 INWR 30 May.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON (R1):** Amherst ERIE 28 May (CHo! Mob), rare.

**Cattle Egret:** Porter NIAG 17 Apr (WD!), early, rare.

**Green Heron:** arr Tift NP 8 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** NF 4 Mar; Tift NP 17 Mar; possible arrivals but could have wintered.

**GLOSSY IBIS (R1):** OOWMA 30 May (CM!), rare.

**Black Vulture:** SPNS 7 Mar (LH); 3, 1, 1 Lewiston NIAG 31 Mar, 8 Apr, BOSAC (PC, CG, JFe, JBI); Ripley HW 16 Apr (CHA).

**Turkey Vulture:** 1382, max 1415 Hamburg HW 20 Mar, 2 Apr.

#### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr INWR 17 Mar (CM); Tift NP 21 Mar; 57 BOSAC 15 Apr, count Record high; max 74 Ripley HW, 37 Hamburg HW 2 May,

impressive day counts; continues to increase as breeder.

**AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Hamburg HW 2 May (SS!, JiL! BC! NYSARC), third record for Reg.

**Bald Eagle:** at least seven new loc for breeding attempts but high failure rate from the late April snow in Southern Tier (KR); 12, max 40 Ripley HW 26 Apr, 2 May.

**N. Harrier:** 5 Shelby GENE 6 Mar; 5 Alexander GENE 7 Mar; max 12, 10 Ripley HW 15, 16 Apr.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 127, max 182 Ripley HW 16 Apr, 2 May.

**N. Goshawk:** arr Buffalo ERIE 14 Mar; Hamburg HW 5 Apr; Ripley HW 8, 13 Apr; BOSAC; 2 Hanging Bog WMA ALLE 5 May (NM).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Alden ERIE 7 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 9 Mar; max 29 Ripley HW 14 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 2 Ripley HW 9 Apr; max 3210, 3162 Ripley HW 15 Apr; 2 May; 2000 LBSP 16 Apr (PY).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** low numbers at hawkwatches and elsewhere; last Ripley HW 30 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** arr INWR 11 Mar (WD); Middleport ORLE 14 Mar (BE); 2 LBSP 16 Apr; Ischua CATT 20 Apr (JR), photo; Ripley HW 26 Apr; Hamburg HW 29 Apr.

**Merlin:** reported from five loc away from hawk watches; 1-2 N Buffalo ERIE 24, 31 May (PY).

**Peregrine Falcon:** TWMA 28 Apr; Wilson NIAG 3 May; INWR 24 May; only reports away from nesting locations and hawk watches; becoming more regular.

**Virginia Rail:** arr INWR 3 Apr (CM!), slightly early; 2 WMA 7 Apr; 2 Aurora ERIE 30 Apr; Tillman WMA 3 May.

**Sora:** arr BOSAC; Tift NP, 2 INWR 16 Apr; Kiantone CHAU 22 Apr; Tillman WMA 6 May.

**Com. Gallinule:** arr INWR 5 Apr (CM!), early; 9 BOSAC 15 Apr, count record high.

**Am. Coot:** 237, max 267 INWR 29 Mar, 5 Apr (CM).

**Sandhill Crane:** arr 2 INWR 17 Mar; 2 Hamburg HW 23 Mar; 2 Watts Flats WMA CHAU 8 Apr, 6 May (JBe); Dayton CATT 8 Apr (JM); Kiantone CHAU 14 Apr (JBe); OOWMA 14 Apr; 4 BOSAC, count record high; 1, 1 Tift NP 16 Apr, 11 May (AH, LS); 2 LBSP 16 Apr; 4 Lockport NIAG 21 Apr (CA), returning to same field for at least second year; 2 TWMA 28 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 2, 9 May; 4 GHSP 3 May (CM); Grand Island ERIE 6 May; max 5 TWMA 28 May (PY).

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr DH 5 May (WW, JeL), only report.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG 12 May; 25 Hartland NIAG 15 May; max 94 TWMA Cinnamon Marsh, 59 TWMA Meadville Marsh 16 May (KF), high counts; 45 TWMA 27 May.

**Killdeer:** arr Shelby ORLE 1 Mar.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 6 BOSAC, count record high.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BOSAC; max 11 TWMA 15 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr INWR 12 Mar (CC), early; 55 INWR 5 Apr; max 146 TWMA 25 Apr (WW); 75 Elba GENE 29 Apr (KF); good showing.

**Willet:** BWWTP 25 May (JM, CM), only report.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr INWR 18 Mar (MM), early; 52 BOSAC, count record high; 25 Elba GENE 29 Apr; max 50 Hartland NIAG 10 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (DM); Tillman WMA 24 May (JM); only reports.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr INWR 16 May (KF); 2 BOSMC; 2 BWWTP 29 May (JM); only reports.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr TWMA 16 May; 87, 140 INWR 28, 31 May (CM).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr OOWMA 22 Apr (DG); 300, max 624 TWMA 15, 16 May (CM, WD; KF), record count.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr Hartland NIAG 18 May (WD); max 7, 6 TWMA 28, 30 May (PY, WD); only reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 2 INWR, 2 Gasport NIAG 9 Apr; max 11 TWMA 25 Apr; last 2 BOSMC.

**Dunlin:** arr 2 INWR 9 Apr (CM, CC), early; 23 BOSAC, count record high; max 52 TWMA 16 May (KF).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr Hartland NIAG 15 May (WD); 2, 8 TWMA 15, 17 May; max 10 OOWMA 17 May (MM); last OOWMA 30 May.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (R1):** INWR 24 Mar-7 Apr (CM!, WD!), only third spring record, exceptionally early.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr 2 Tillman WMA 11 Mar; max 15 INWR 1 Apr.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Alden 4 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr Hartland NIAG 18 May (MM); INWR 27 May (CM).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 2, 3 INWR 18, 24 Mar; 16 Oakfield GENE 25 Mar; 18 Lancaster ERIE 28 Mar; max 3051 FNPS 3 Apr (WD); 300 Buffalo NR 6 Apr (WW); 3 Ischua CATT 20 Apr (JR); 11 GHSP 26 May.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1):** Buffalo NR 26 Apr, 1 May (AH, PY), alt plumage.

**Little Gull:** 6, 7 Lewiston NR 11, 28 Mar; max 11 FNPS 1 Apr; 1, 1 Buffalo NR 1, 27 Apr.

**LAUGHING GULL (R1):** DH 9 May (VR), with Ring-billed.

**Iceland Gull:** 2 Wilson NIAG 24 Mar; LBSP 29 Apr; PB 3 May; 3 Wilson NIAG 4 May; last FMCSP 8 May (BP, CM).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** BWWTP 2 Mar (KF), unusual inland; Tonawanda NR 9 Mar; max 5 NFSP 25 Mar; DH 8 Apr; Hartland NIAG 22 Apr (WD, BP); 2 PB 25 Apr, 3 May; Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 4 May.

**Glaucous Gull:** Buffalo NR 4, 8 Mar; WoBSP 1 Apr; 4 BOSAC; 2, 2 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 4 May; last NF 18 May.

**Caspian Tern:** arr 2 Falconer CHAU, INWR 7 Apr; 115, max 131 PB 28, 29 Apr; 70 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; 67 DH 10 May.

**Black Tern:** arr 6 INWR 28 Apr; max 24 INWR 3 May (CM); 1, 1 BWWTP 17, 26 May; BeSP 22 May (DS).

**Com. Tern:** arr 3 Buffalo NR 6 Apr (WW); max 240 Buffalo NR 27 Apr; 65 FNPS 29 Apr.

**Forster's Tern:** arr PB 29 Apr (KF), only report.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Alfred ALLE 14 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Pomfret CHAU 4 May.

**E. Screech-Owl:** 12 BOSAC, count record high.

**Snowy Owl:** max 6, 4 NF Airport NIAG 4, 11 Mar (CR); Springville ERIE 15 Mar.

**Long-eared Owl:** no reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2, 3, 1 Shelby ORLE 2 Mar, 3 Apr, 29 Apr (CM); max 7, 4 Alexander GENE 10, 20 Mar (DB), 2 thru 28 Apr, last 5 May; 2 N Collins ERIE 10 Mar (AF); Lockport NIAG 15 Mar; 2 OOWMA 18 Mar.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** WTSP 12 Mar (BP); BOSAC; ad + 4 yg Watts Flats WMA CHAU 30 Apr (JW, AR), in nest box; only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Buffalo ERIE 10 May; 1, 1 N Buffalo ERIE 15, 19 May; max 3, 1 TWMA 16, 17 May; Clarence ERIE 17 May; Williamsville ERIE 26 May.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Waterport ORLE 2 May (TK); Great Valley CATT 19-24 May (BS); N Buffalo ERIE 24 May (PY).

**Chimney Swift:** arr 7 Buffalo ERIE 16 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Orchard Park ERIE, Alfred ALLE 2 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** LBSP Mar thru Apr; reported from 10 loc in May; good showing for recent years.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Buffalo ERIE 28 Mar.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 57 BOSAC, count record high.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr BOSMC, only report.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr FLC 7 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Wilson NIAG 9 May (BP); GHSP 19 May; Williamsville ERIE 22 May; Amherst ERIE 22 May; only reports.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr BOSMC; 3 other reports.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Stockton CHAU, OOWMA 13 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Tiftt NP, TWMA 14 May; 107 BOSMC, count record high.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr FLC 1 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr Alden ERIE 15 Mar (JM).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 3 Lancaster ERIE, FLC, Hamburg ERIE 1 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Jamestown CHAU 29 Apr.

**N. Shrike:** five rep Mar.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr FLC, Lancaster ERIE 2 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 10 BOSAC.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr Alexander GENE 27 Apr; 430 BOSMC, count record high.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Williamsville ERIE, Stockton CHAU 13 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Tiftt NP 3 May.

**Com. Raven:** Aurora ERIE 11 Mar; 1-2 Tonawanda NR 23 Mar – 9 May (WW, MG); Hamburg HW 9 Apr; Somerset NIAG 11 Apr (JFI); E Aurora ERIE 23 Apr; 2 Eagle WYOM 6 May; only reports outside ALLE, CATT, CHAU besides BOS counts; continues to increase.

**Purple Martin:** arr Eden ERIE 8 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr Amherst ERIE 9 Mar; max 500 INWR 3 Apr.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 3 NF 11 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 5 BOSAC.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr BOSAC.

**Barn Swallow:** arr TWMA 4 Apr.

**Brown Creeper:** max 19 FLC 25 Mar (RS), impressive count during heat wave.

**House Wren:** arr 3 BOSAC, count record high.

**Winter Wren:** arr FLC 19 Mar; Attica WYOM 20 Mar.

**Marsh Wren:** TWMA 18 Mar (HS); BuSP 12 Apr (JFe); 2 INWR 22 Apr; difficult to separate migrant from possible winterers this year.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Mar.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 AmSP 4 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr BOSAC.

**E. Bluebird:** 320 BOSAC, count record high

**Veery:** arr Tiftt NP, FLC 1 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Tonawanda ERIE 14 May; 4 other rep.

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

**Hermit Thrush:** arr DLSP 12 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr E Aurora ERIE 26 Apr.

**Gray Catbird:** Aurora ERIE 10 Mar; Tiftt NP 17 Mar; INWR 14, 28 Apr; 16 BOSAC, count record high; more in Mar and Apr than usual; 1268 BOSMC, count record high.

**N. Mockingbird:** increasing away from traditional lake plain areas; 54 BOSMC, count record high.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr 3 Tiftt NP, 2 BWWT, INWR 14 Apr; 40 BOSAC, count record high.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 Attica WYOM 17 Mar; 55, max 70 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr, 12 May; last TWMA 27 May.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 BOSAC; last Wilson NIAG 11 May (WD), breeding plumage male, late.

**Snow Bunting:** no reports.

**Ovenbird:** arr Tiftt NP 25 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr BOSAC; FLC 19 Apr (CC, JFe), rare in migration.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr Elma ERIE 19 Apr; FLC 20 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr AmSP 2 May (RS, JM); BeSP 3 May (DS); only reports.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Tiftt NP, FLC, Hamburg ERIE 1 May.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG, AmSP 1 May; INWR 14 May; Tonawanda Ind. Res GENE 17 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 19 Apr (BP, WD), early.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr TWMA 4-17 May (CM), regular breeding loc; Tiftt NP 12 May (DS).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG 28 Apr (BP).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr FLC 2 May; 2, 1 Wilson NIAG 3, 6 May; NFSP 3 May; FMCS 8 May; E Aurora ERIE 10 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr FLC 22 Apr (RS), early.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Aurora ERIE 16 – 19 May (LH), rare in spring.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr FMCS 6 May (WD), early.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** Sanborn NIAG BOSAC, early or wintered; 3 INWR 28 Apr.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr Busti CHAU 2 May.

**Am. Redstart:** arr FLC, 2 Bethany GENE, 2 Oakfield GENE 2 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr FLC 1 May; max 8 Wilson & Porter NIAG 13 May (WD, BP).  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 7 INWR 5 May; Lyndonville ORLE 16 May; Somerset NIAG 18 May; Alma ALLE 24 May; last 3 are only reports away from INWR & vicinity.  
**N. Parula:** arr 2 Bethany GENE, FLC 2 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Hamburg ERIE 1 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Wilson NIAG, Como Lake CP ERIE 7 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr AmSP 30 Apr.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr BuSP 20 Apr (WW).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 2 FLC, 2 AmSP, Tift NP 2 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr FLC 3 May; 205 BOSMC, count record high.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr 2 FLC, AmSP, Lancaster ERIE 1 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr BOSAC; last GHSP 19 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Mar (BM); 3 Wales ERIE 27 Mar; 43 BOSAC, count record high; still increasing throughout.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** GHSP 12 Mar; 3 INWR 18 Mar; Ward ALLE 20 Mar; 241 BOSAC, count record high; max 65 FLC 1 May.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** arr FLC 25 Mar-3 Apr (RS! Mob), very early; 2 AISP BOSAC (TB), regular loc; FLC 9 May (AH), uncertain if same bird as earlier.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Ashford CATT 5 May; 4 Eagle WYOM 6 May; BOSMC, count record high; max 7 Yorkshire CATT 28 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Amherst ERIE 16 Apr.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr AmSP 2 May (NY).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Tift NP 6 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** arr BOSMC, only report.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Aurora ERIE 4 Mar; Bethany GENE 10 Mar; 133 BOSAC, count record high.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last 4 BMAC 28 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr OOWMA 18 Mar (CC); Buffalo ERIE 19 Mar, earlier than usual.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** pr Portland CHAU 19 May thru (CHa); 2 LBSP 22 May (CM).

**Field Sparrow:** arr Alden ERIE 15 Mar; 257 BOSAC, count record high.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 2 Yates ORLE 31 Mar; 13 BOSAC; reported from six other loc.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Orchard Park ERIE 29 Mar; 367 BOSAC, count record high.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 2 Artpark SP NIAG 1-18 May; Carlton Hill MUA 17 May; 5 Royalton NIAG 21 May (CM); Newstead ERIE 24 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr 2 Tift NP, Porter NIAG 20 Mar; max 9 Tift NP 25 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tift NP 1 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** 2 Tillman WMA 14 Mar; 2 BWWT 17 Mar; INWR 17 Mar; either wintering or early spring arrivals; 329 BOSAC, count record high.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** last Tift NP 30 May.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** Bethany GENE 24 Mar; Yates ORLE 31 Mar; arr in numbers late Apr; vacated Reg by mid-May, earlier than usual.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr 2 Birdsall ALLE BOSAC (SP!), Reg record early & 2<sup>nd</sup> count record; next reports 2 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr male N Clymer CHAU 24 Apr (AB).  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Alden ERIE, FLC 4 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr 2 Yates ORLE, Lancaster ERIE 1 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr 4 Tillman WMA, INWR 11 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Aurora ERIE 2 Mar; 1000 TWMA 18 Mar (R&DD); 250 Alabama GENE 12 Mar; 400, 387 INWR 2, 5 Apr (CM); 140 BuSP 8 May; last BOSMC.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr N Buffalo 2 May; more reports than usual, increasing.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Portland CHAU 30 Apr.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** FLC 23 Mar (JFe, CC); 2 WTSP 8 Apr (WD, BP); 10 Wilson NIAG (WD) 1 May; max 150 Golden Hill SF CATT 15 May (JR), impressive count, ph; 15, 4 Wilson NIAG 13, 18 May (WD, MM).  
**Com. Redpoll:** Wilson NIAG 14 Mar; 40 GHSP 18 Mar (WD); only reports.  
**Pine Siskin:** small numbers in Mar, Apr; more birds and rep in May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 12 May.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** no reports.



## REGION 2 – GENESEE

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As usual, the weather played a significant role this spring. A winter of little snowfall and all three months averaging  $> 5^{\circ}$  F above normal was followed by the warmest March on record,  $3.5^{\circ}$  above the previous record set in 1945. The week of the 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> was especially warm with days in the 80s. Temperatures averaged  $47.3^{\circ}$ ,  $13.0^{\circ}$  above normal, with precipitation 1.28", 1.22" below normal and snowfall only 4.7", 11.6" below average. April returned to near normal, but this resulted in the first time on record with a year's April averaging colder than its March,  $45.8^{\circ}$ ,  $0.5^{\circ}$  below normal. Precipitation for April was 3.05", 0.32" above normal, but there was only one measurable snowfall of 2.8" on the 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. A single record low recorded on 29 April was the first local record low since July 2009! May jumped right back to warm and dry, especially the latter half. Temperatures averaged  $63.0^{\circ}$ ,  $6.0^{\circ}$  above normal, and precipitation 1.38" (1.03" of that in the first nine days), 1.49" below normal. This meteorological spring, these three months, was the warmest on record at  $52.1^{\circ}$ , topping the  $51.4^{\circ}$  in 1921. The source of the data helpfully added that an unusual spring like this occurs every 30-50 years and is not indicative of anything long term. However, such a spring is often followed by above average summer temperatures unless the spring has experienced substantial rainfall.

As might be expected, strange weather has its effects on birds and birding. All of the March arrival dates recorded were in the first quartile of their historical arrival date distributions, though only five were record early—Golden Eagle, Common Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, N. Rough-winged Swallow, and Pine Warbler. But there was no wholesale move to early arrival of normal April species; light level is still the major driver and local weather a short term modifier. Between the light winter and warm March, the trend to waterfowl arriving and passing on earlier was exaggerated; they were scarce by April and few lingered into May. Many of our more interesting Regional waterfowl records are now from the Northern Montezuma WMA (NMWMA, formerly noted as Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex) in southern Wayne County in the Town of Savannah rather than from Lake Ontario. With the cooler April, we still had six record early arrivals scattered across the checklist—Least Bittern (a tie), Sora, Warbling Vireo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole (a tie). But there were eight fewer warbler species seen in April compared with last year. However, even this may be misleading, as thirteen species, many of them warblers and flycatchers, arrived just one day later on 1 May. A passing front and burst of warmth on 15-16 April, after a couple of cold weeks, brought the biggest hawk surge of the spring plus a number of other interesting records. May brought arrivals back to dates mostly typical of recent years.

Moving to the checklist, we start with the waterfowl. Many of the peak counts and late records are from the NMWMA. However, this year our peak Regional Snow Goose counts were from further west, with even bigger counts more northwest yet into Region 1 near the south shore of Lake Ontario. Ross's Goose was reported twice, but there were no Greater White-fronted Goose reports from the Region. We had approximately 56 Cackling Geese reported at many sites across the Region in March, none afterward. No Brant were reported. Tundra Swan numbers were good this spring, and both Mute and Trumpeter Swans continue as breeders in similar numbers to recent years, though there have been no reports of the Trumpeter Swan pair on Atlantic Avenue where they have hatched young for several years. Puddle duck peak counts were generally unimpressive. Northern Shoveler present at the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) in Perinton into May and a lone Eurasian Wigeon in the NMWMA were highlights. Among the diving ducks, many of the peak counts came in the short 9-10 March period at either Conesus Lake or on Sodus Bay at Sodus Point. King Eiders lingered at both the mouth of the Genesee River and at the outlet of Sodus Bay. The Hamlin Beach lakewatch was only kept sporadically this spring, but even so passing numbers seemed low most of the time. The only peak numbers there for the season were for Red-breasted Merganser and the usual loons and grebes, and the maxima for all of these were low. An Eared Grebe present for a week was a highlight there. There were good Double-crested Cormorant counts in both April and May, and a lone **American White Pelican** was seen from the Frisbee Hill Road location of the Braddock Bay hawkwatch on 24 May.

Among the waders, there were several very early American Bittern reports in March and a record early Least Bittern in mid April. Great Egret also arrived early, and birds were still being seen past the end of the season in areas suggesting potential breeding. A **Snowy Egret** found in the HANA on 30 April stayed until 7 May to the delight of many. Black Vulture continues to increase its presence in the Region. A record high 18 were recorded at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch plus at least four others elsewhere in the Region. Turkey Vulture numbers, too, remained high, passing the hawkwatch. An unusual sighting accompanying a massive movement on 16 April was a nearly all white Turkey Vulture. Amazingly, a later posting to the geneseebirds list revealed that this bird had been seen very close to one hour earlier near Lakeside Beach SP 25 miles west of Braddock Bay—a chance for a measure of the rate of movement.

The official counter at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch was again Luke Tiller. There was no way to match last year's total, but it still was an exciting spring there. The warm March made for a good start, with 10,807 raptors tallied (though 8,638 of these were Turkey Vultures) and two Golden Eagles record early on 2 March. After an extended cool start to April, an approaching front on 15-16 April brought a huge movement of birds on the latter day. On that day **34,243 Broad-winged Hawks** were tallied, only three days after the first of the season had arrived. Many raptor species were counted at their peak counts for the season on that day. On the low side, very few Northern Goshawks and no Swainson's Hawk were noted for the season. But on 24 May an **adult**

**Mississippi Kite** passed and a new record high of 450 Bald Eagles was totaled for the season. The accompanying table summarizes the hawkwatch data using numbers from the [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org) website.

The Peregrine Falcons nesting in downtown Rochester again provided a wild show this spring. It ranged from injury and rehab and relocation of the old female to new birds arriving, battles between rival females ending with a fatality by collision with a car during one battle, and finally a bit later in the season a new pair in the nest box on eggs. The best way to review the whole story is to visit the [rfaalconcam.com](http://rfaalconcam.com) website and read the posts.

The marsh birds and relatives usually net few reports, but Common Gallinule in late March and Sora in early April were record early, tempered a bit by such designations being judgment calls for species that probably winter annually in small numbers. Sandhill Crane was also spotted at a record early date near the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC), and at least 63 more were totaled for the season. By season's end, the Carncross Road pair had two colts feeding with them, and other birds were also back in the Taylor Marsh area in the Town of Richmond, Ontario County; breeding is not yet confirmed there.

Shorebirds presented a disappointing picture for the Region. Only short distances east and west of us in the Montezuma NWR and the Iroquois/Oak Orchard/Tonawanda complex vicinities, some really special species and good high counts were reported. Yet in this Region habitat was poor except along the Lake Ontario shore, at HANA, and briefly at puddles in fields after scarce rains. Nearly all of the expected species were reported, but arrival dates were normal and counts were LOW. American Golden-Plover in mid April, two "Western" Willets at Sodus Point, a Sanderling (often missed in spring), and a Red-necked Phalarope at HANA were the only really special records. No Whimbrel or Wilson's Phalarope reports were received.

Gulls and terns joined the set of families with lackluster showings. There is again the effect of no consistent lakewatch, but beyond that there were few birds of interest. No Little Gull was reported and the only Black Terns, excepting two at Sodus Point one day, were in the sites in the NMWMA in the far southeast corner of the Region. Gull and tern highlights were an Iceland Gull to 1 May, Lesser Black-backed Gull each month (now expected), and a peak count of 185 Caspian Terns. For most of the season even Great Black-backed Gull was relatively scarce.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, we start with Eurasian Collared-Dove. After several years of regular sightings in the Hamlin/Parma area west of Rochester, and even some signs of likely breeding, the last report for this season was a single bird on 21 March. Another of the rarities picked out by Luke Tiller at the Braddock Bay hawkwatch was a passing **White-winged Dove** on 24 May, a third Regional record. After the big invasion this winter we were down to only two Snowy Owl reports this season, the last on 19 March. The passage of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls was again monitored with roost counts in the area now called "Owl Woods" along Manitou Beach Road on the west side of Braddock Bay. Searchers from Braddock Bay Raptor Research and others conducted daily searches on all but five days from 18 February to 6 May. GPS

coordinates were recorded for the positions of the roosting birds and a summary map and report will be produced by Jim Adams. Numbers this year were low, with only 10 Long-eared Owls and 16 Northern Saw-whets. [Data provided by Jim Adams.]

Common Nighthawk numbers were again low. Many of the reports were again by Kevin Griffith from the Long Pond area in Greece, with birds present there from 5 May to well into June but with a maximum of only 21 individuals on 10 May. Eastern Whip-poor-will was again found in the fields and brush near the main hawk banding blind west of Manitou Beach Road, with Dave Tetlow reporting the first two on 19 April and a maximum of nine on 4 May. Others were found in the same date range farther west along the Lake Ontario Parkway, with another good count of five at Hamlin Beach SP heard by Kurt Fox also on 4 May.

Moving to the passerines, the arrival dates for 63 species are listed in the Arrival Date Tables in this issue of the Kingbird. Of these, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole set or tied record early dates. Again, some of these carry the caveat that the species does overwinter at times, so the dates involve judgment calls based on numbers and locations. At the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's Kaiser Manitou banding station, the official season started off with a huge banding day on 14 April. Selected banding maxima and totals will be included in the data section.

Among the flycatchers, the total of at least five different Olive-sided Flycatcher reports was good for recent years. Most species arrived at relatively early dates and were reported or banded in average to a bit below numbers. As usual, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher peak was in June. This often occurs also for Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, though not this year, and good numbers for some of the warblers and vireos often also occur well into June. Only a lone White-eyed Vireo, seen by several in the Church Trail area in Greece, was reported. The last Northern Shrike report for the season was on 13 April.

A few of the passerines often stage very large movements along the Lake Ontario shore, and tallies are captured at the hawkwatch or by individuals elsewhere. This year the maxima for Blue Jay, American Crow, and even American Robin were low. Two other interesting observations from this part of the list are: the continued presence of Fish Crow along the Genesee River in the Charlotte area of Rochester and west into the nearby Town of Greece not far from the wintering site of the past two years (breeding confirmation is still awaited); and Common Raven observed and photographed by Brad Carlson and others through the point of fledging three young in Mendon Ponds Park—a first confirmed nesting in Monroe County in modern times (though it is virtually certain they bred historically well into the 1800s).

Continuing, swallows arrived on the early side, but there were no really big movements counted and reported. As we work through the passerines, my general impression was of good bursts of migrants in groups appropriate to various dates, but often with these very local. There were way too many times

with little song and the woods empty, or birds in one woodlot and the one next door or across the street quiet. Kinglets were all over on a few days, but their banding totals were not impressive. Most thrush numbers were low, especially Gray-cheeked, unless you hit just the right place at the right time. There was just one report of Bohemian Waxwing for the season, but it was a nice flock of 50 along the Wayne County shore of Lake Ontario on 17 March. The last of the relatively scarce winter-visitant field birds were Snow Bunting on 18 March and Lapland Longspur on 13 April.

The warbler list is good at 34 species reported. Of the regulars, only Kentucky, Yellow-throated, and Yellow-breasted Chat were missed locally this season. Among the species of special interest we had reports of 10 Golden-winged Warblers from 2-19 May; nine Orange-crowned Warblers from 3-23 May; a "Lawrence's" Warbler on 2 and 6 May and again in June in Oatka Creek Park; Prothonotary Warbler at four sites, including breeding again along Armitage Road on the Wayne/Seneca County border; three reports of Worm-eating Warbler; a lone report of Connecticut Warbler; and Cerulean Warbler well reported from known breeding sites. The species section below will include some examples of numbers for some other species in the form of banding totals and a few field counts.

Among the sparrows, the last American Tree Sparrow was reported from Braddock Bay on 3 May. There was a total of 15 Clay-colored Sparrows reported from 10 locations, a good showing for this Region. Again, no Henslow's Sparrow was reported. There was a big influx of migrants on 1 May that included at least 13 passerine arrivals and an impressive fallout of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows at local sites mainly near the lakeshore. Otherwise, sparrow counts and numbers banded for the season were relatively low. On the rarity end, the Lark Sparrow in the Town of Kendall, Orleans County, continued at a feeder until 5 March. There was one rarity among the blackbirds, a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Braddock Bay on 12 May. Beyond that, there were a few decent tallies of blackbirds mainly with the big migrant push on 15-16 April. With Rusty Blackbird being a species of concern, 1,740 on 12 April at the west spit of Braddock Bay is encouraging. Finally, reflecting the nearly total absence of winter finches this winter, spring brought only isolated sightings or brief pulses of finch migrants. Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak were reported, but only the redpolls and siskins in numbers greater than four.

For the season approximately 258 species were reported. Species totals for March and April were well above the 10-year averages, for May right on average. Year to date at the end of the season is also matching the 10-year average.

Pulling together quarterly reports such as this provides an opportunity to reflect upon the records gathering business. This season in this Region I downloaded just under 60,000 records from eBird; 1 record = 1 species on a list from one date and location. Some fraction of these are overlaps from several individuals separately reporting their own lists from a joint field trip, but that number is not a large percentage. In addition, there were nearly 400 posts to

geneseebirds ranging from reports of single birds to full lists of varying length (not including in this count posts that were common to eBird data) and a few other reports sent directly to me or through the RBA. Records entered into eBird are the easiest to scan through and assemble for a report like this. They still lack some for consistency in screening, and there are issues around definition of specific sites, especially for longer traveling counts reported as one “trip”. To me this still remains the tool of choice for generating an accessible database of records, and there exists now an increasingly useful suite of tools for analyzing and using this data. However, masses of numbers in themselves are not science and can in fact lead to a situation of chaos unless somehow analyzed and organized toward some end. See some interesting thoughts by Charlton Ogburn, Jr., “The Meaning of Birds,” *The Bird Watchers Anthology*, ed. Roger Tory Peterson, (Bonanza Books: New York, 1957), pp15-16. Lost in the simple entry of lists into databases are the comments and thoughts that often accompanied the personal exchange of records between observers and records committees or authors of seasonal summaries.

### Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

<b>Species</b>	<b>Arrival</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Max Date</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Black Vulture</b>	2 Mar	4	6 Apr	18
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	1 Mar	2076	28 Mar	20119
<b>Osprey</b>	22 Mar	54	3 May	234
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	1 Mar	60	4 May	<b>450</b>
<b>N. Harrier</b>	1 Mar	54	16 Apr	355
<b>Sharp-sh. Hawk</b>	7 Mar	1611	16 Apr	3382
<b>Cooper’s Hawk</b>	1 Mar	46	16 Apr	374
<b>N. Goshawk</b>	7 Mar	3	14 Apr	9
<b>Red-shld Hawk</b>	6 Mar	135	11 Mar	598
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	13 Apr	34243	16 Apr	51375
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	2 Mar	163	21 Mar	2249
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	2 Mar	12	16 Apr, 18 Mar	72
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<b>2 Mar</b>	11	16 Apr	43
<b>Am. Kestrel</b>	8 Mar	43	16 Apr	201
<b>Merlin</b>	7 Mar	4	15 Apr	30
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	11 Mar	5	4 May	20
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>	24 May	1	24 May	1
<b>Total including unidentified raptors:</b>				<b>79, 530</b>

### CONTRIBUTORS

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PHOTO GALLERY  
Spring 2012



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Leyden, *Lewis*, 5 Mar 12, © Corey Finger. This bird, NY's second documented record pending review by NYSARC, is discussed in this issue in an article on pp. 212-214, and in the *Highlights of the Season* and the Region 6 spring report.



This Indigo Bunting (top: Gilgo, *Suffolk*, 24 Apr 12, © Derek Rogers) and Blue Grosbeak (Gilgo, *Suffolk*, 26 Apr 12, © S. S. Mitra) were part of a small fallout of Neotropical migrants along the outer coast of Long Island during late April.



Lawrence's Warbler, Oatka Creek Park, *Monroe*, 6 May 12 © Jim Adams.





White-faced Ibis, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, *Queens*. 24 Apr 12, © Andrew Baksh. For reasons that remain unclear, this primarily western North American species has been occurring with remarkable frequency at east coast sites, such as Jamaica Bay.



White-faced Ibis, Scoy Pond, East Hampton, *Suffolk*, 13 May 12, © S. S. Mitra. Found at the other end of Long Island, less than 100 miles east of the Jamaica Bay bird, this bird represented a long-awaited first record for intensively birded Suffolk County.



First-summer Arctic Tern, ca. 78 miles SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, 26 May 12, © Angus Wilson. Although presumably regular in NYS' offshore waters, Arctic Terns have rarely been documented in this context.



Adult Arctic Terns, Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 28 May 12, © Michael McBrien. An unusual number of adult birds was observed this spring during late May.

Andy Garland, Jeff Gerbracht, Craig Gittleman, David Gordon, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, William Gruenbaum, Judy & Lew Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Robert Haggert, Helen & Chris Haller, Kim Hartquist, Wesley Hochachka, IBA Monitoring, Carolyn Jacobs, Ryan Kayhart, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Tom Klatzbach, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Tom MacDonald, Jim Maley, Cindy Marino, David Marsh, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Ferne Merrill, Jim & Martha Miller, Lynn & Glenn Miller, Randi Minetor, Frank Morehouse, Celeste Morien, Brian Morse, Jim Mott, Andy Musgrove, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Dave Nicosia, Dave Nutter, Sue O'Neill, Joseph Osiovitch, Joel Paige, Andrea Patterson, Tim Phillips, Norma Platt, Tom & Nancy Poeth, Jay Powell, Dave Prill, Bill Purcell, J. Rauch, RBA Field Trips, Dick & Dorothy Rosche, Michele Rosenbaum, Peggy Rowe, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jennifer Rycenga, Michael Scheibel, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattery, Judy Slein, Tom Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Maris Stager, Al & Di Stout, Kimberly Sucy, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Gerry Teal, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow (DT), Mike & Joann Tetlow, Dick & Mary Jane Thomas, Luke Tiller, Don & Donna Traver, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Ann Watson, Bridget Watts, John Waud, Dave Wheeler, Julie White, Kinsley Whittum, Brenda Williamson, Chris Wood, Jim Wood, George Yasenachak, Peter Yoerg, Martha Zettel. [In addition there were nearly 200 other contributors to eBird.]

## ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicates banded this season, usually at BBBO's Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; BB – Braddock Bay, MONR; BB-WS – West Spit of Braddock Bay; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; CH – Cobbs Hill, Rochester, MONR; CL – Conesus Lake, LIVI; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LSP – Letchworth SP; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, T of Savannah, WAYN; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; PB – Point Breeze, ORLE; R – City of Rochester, MONR; S – T Savannah, WAYN; SPT – Sodus Point, WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR; WL – West Lakeshore, MONR, ORLE.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 6,700 TCEA 8 Mar (MW); 500 Honeoye Falls 11 Mar (BCI); last 1 N Wolcott WAYN 3 May.  
**Ross's Goose:** arr Honeoye Falls 1 Mar (BCI); H 11 Mar (AGU).  
**Brant:** no reports.  
**Cackling Goose:** total approx 56 sev loc Mar, none after; max 10 BB 7 Mar (LT, mob).  
**Mute Swan:** breeding still out of control and excessive.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** mainly in the NMWMA, breeding typical of past several yrs; *intro*.  
**Tundra Swan:** max 361 BB 7 Mar (LT, *et al*), last White Brook Nature Center, Perinton 21 Apr.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1m MAC 7 Apr (MB), only report.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 537 Marten Tract, NMWMA 10 Mar (IBA).

**Am. Black Duck:** max 48 Marten Tract, NMWMA 12 Mar (IBA), very low.

**Mallard:** max 234 Marten Tract, NMWMA 3 Mar (IBA), very low.

**N. Shoveler:** last 1 HANA thru 23 May.

**N. Pintail:** max 475 NMWMA 10 Mar (IBA); last 3 Morgan Rd NMWMA 5 May.

**Canvasback:** max 180 SB 10 Mar; last 1 SB 23 Apr.

**Redhead:** max 7000 CL 9 Mar (MW); last 2 Buck Pond, T Greece 17 May (GL).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 2500 CL 9 Mar (MW); last 4 Conesus Inlet 10 May.

**Greater Scaup:** max 3000 SPt 10 Mar (MT); last 2 HB 16 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 350 SPt 10 Mar (MT).  
**King Eider:** 1 f Summerville Pier 2 Mar (BCI); 3 f SPt 10 Mar (MT); last 1 f SPt 23 Apr (W&MR).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 900 SPt 10 Mar (MT); last HB 28 May.  
**Bufflehead:** max 54 BB-WS 16 Apr; last 2 NMWMA 14 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** last 2 HB 15 May.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** no reports.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1127 HB 25 Apr, low.  
**Ruddy Duck:** 25 Buck Pond, T Greece (GL), good count; last LSP 20 May.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 15+ Nations Rd (MW), high count for recent years.  
**Red-throated Loon:** last 1 HB 23 May, low numbers this spring.  
**Com. Loon:** max 233 HB 20 Apr, low.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 57 HBSP 14 Apr, low; last 2 CL 8 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 39 HBSP 14 Apr, very low; last 1 HB 4 May.  
**EARED GREBE (R2):** 1 HB 8-15 May (AGU, BCI, DD).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 320 SPt 8 May, good count; max 467 HB 19 Apr (AGU).  
**AM WHITE PELICAN (R2):** 1 Frisbee Hill 24 May (LT, *et al*).  
**Am. Bittern:** arr Marten Tract, NMWMA 20 Mar (W&MR), very early; 1-3 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 23-30 Mar (W&MR), early.  
**Least Bittern:** arr BB-WS 20 Apr (DT), Reg record early.  
**Great Egret:** arr Brighton 26 Mar (RS), early; 1-8 HANA 20 Apr thru (mob), breeding nearby?  
**SNOWY EGRET (R2):** HANA 30 Apr-7 May (JPo, mob, ph).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 1 G 3 Apr (DT).  
**Black Vulture:** total 18 passing hawkwatch 2 Mar thru; 1 Webster 4 Mar (M&JT); 1 Irondequoit 8 Mar (M&JT); 1 Fairport 24 May (MT).  
**Turkey Vulture:** see hawkwatch table; mostly white individual from Lakeside Beach SP in Region 1 to BB in about 1 hr (25 miles) 16 Apr (PY, mob), *intro*.

#### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr BB 22 Mar (LT), early; 2 Parma 4 Apr thru, at nest on cell tower.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** 1 ad Frisbee Hill, G 28 May (LT, *et al*).

**Bald Eagle:** total 450 BB season (LT, *et al*), record high.  
**N. Goshawk:** only 7 rep all season away from Braddock Bay, low.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** pr on nest WAYN 9 Mar until hidden by leaves in May (J&MM), rare nest find for county.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 9 BB 13 Apr (LT, *et al*); max 34,243 BB 16 Apr, very high single day count.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last 10 BB 14 May; low number this spring.  
**Golden Eagle:** arr 2 BB 2 Mar (LT, *et al*), Reg record early; last 1 ad G 25 May (JSK), late.  
**Merlin:** return Geneseo 7 Apr Mar (JK), back in vicinity of last year's nesting; no continued reporting of nesting progress this spring from either Rochester or Geneseo.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** another year of strange events around nesting in downtown Rochester, see posts on the rfalconcam website.  
**Sora:** arr Marten Tract, NMWMA 7 Apr (DNI), Reg record early.  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr Sandhill Crane Unit, NMWMA 28 Mar (DD), Reg record early.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr MAC 2 Mar (MB), Reg record early; 2 ad & 2 colts Carncross Rd, S May (sev); 2 Taylor Marsh, T Richmond ONTA 5 Apr (LBr), likely breeding area; total 63+ reports for the season at several sites.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** HB 26 Apr (RS), early.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr 14 H 13 Apr (DT), early.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 1 ICW & Badgerow P 14 Apr (CBa), early.  
**"Western" Willet:** 2 SPt 8 May (DT, LL, sev), photos.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 1 HB 16 Apr (AGU, RS); few reports.  
**Whimbrel:** no reports.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1 SPt 23 May.  
**Sanderling:** arr 3 SPt 18 May (LL), only report, sometimes missed in spring.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 120 S 19 May (JMcG, LS), low max.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr K 13 May; no large counts this spring.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 1 Hemlock Lake 13 May (KC).  
**Dunlin:** arr HB 15 Apr (BCI, DD); max 70 HB 27 May (DT).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr HP 9 May (DT).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr BB 7 Mar; max 42 Nations Rd 2 May (MW).  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr T Ontario WAYN 1 Mar (CF).  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** no reports.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** HANA 8 May (JPo, sev), only report.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 1 Summerville pier 25 Mar, late.  
**Iceland Gull:** last 1 HB 1 May (AGu).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 3 rep each month, all singles.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last Broadway Rd T N Wolcott WAYN 21 Apr.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr 1-2 sev loc 8 Apr; max 185 SPT 5 May (KFo).  
**Black Tern:** arr 2 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 3 May; max 58 Van Dyne Spoor, NMWMA 18 May (BCI); 2 SPT 5 May (KFo), only Reg report away from NMWMA.  
**Com. Tern:** arr 2 BB 15 Apr.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr HB 26 Apr.

### PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** 1 Hamlin 21 Mar, only report.  
**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** 1 BB 24 May (LT), 3<sup>rd</sup> Reg record.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Scottsville 7 May.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 2 Caledonia 4 May (MW).  
**Snowy Owl:** 1 Kendall 11 Mar (TM); last Henrietta 19 Mar (M&JT, et al), only reports.  
**Long-eared Owl:** total 10 Manitou 18 Feb- 6 May, tallied by BBRR searchers & others and mapped by JAd, *intro*.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** total 16 Manitou 18 Feb- 6 May, tallied by BBRR searchers & other and mapped by JAd, *intro*.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr G 5 May; max 21 G 19 May (KG), low.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr 2 M 19 Apr (DT), main hawk blind area; max 9 M 4 May (DT); 5 HB 4 May (KFo).  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Geneseo 18 Apr (JK).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr South Conesus LIVI 2 May; arr HP 2 May (DT); total b 39 M 13-28 May (BBBO), low.

### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Burger P, Greece 13 May (LT, *et al*); 1b M 16 May (BBBO); HB 21 May (RSp); Spring Farm WAYN 22 May (CJ, *et al*); Cranberry Pond Trail, Greece 25 May (MT); good number of reports.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1b M 20 May; max b 11 M 21 May, the peak for the season, though 13 were banded on 2 Jun.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr LSP-East 12 May (KH).  
**“Traill's” Flycatcher:** arr 1b M 8 May; max b 35 M 21 May; total b 163 M 8 May-5 Jun.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr BB-WS 8 Mar (DT), early.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr 1 TCEA 25 Apr (MW), early.  
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**N. Shrike:** last BB 13 Apr (GL).  
**White-eyed Vireo:** Church Trail, Greece 21 May (RS, DSh, *et al*), only report.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr HB 15 Apr (DT), early.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr 2 HANA 20 Apr (JP), Reg record early.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Canadice 4 May (KK), early.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** total b 75 M 10 May-3 Jun.  
**Blue Jay:** max 1491 HB 9 May (AGu), low max.  
**Fish Crow:** 1- 3 sev loc thru, mainly in the Charlotte area of Rochester and in nearby Greece.  
**Com. Raven:** pr nesting MP 6 Mar thru (BCI, sev), 1st MONR nesting in modern times, fledged 3 yg, photos BCL, *intro*.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr HP 2 Mar (DT), early; max 329 M 15 Apr, low max.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 1 BB 12 Mar (MT, LT, DD), Reg record early; TCEA 29 Mar (MW), earliest other than this year's record.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr S 22 Mar (GY), early.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** total b 8 M 22 Mar – 20 May, very low.  
**Brown Creeper:** max b 36 14 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr South Conesus LIVI 9 Apr (KC), early.  
**Sedge Wren:** no reports.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 2 HB 14 Apr (JeB,CW).  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max b 164 M 14 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 M 1 Apr (CG); max b 73 M 22 Apr; total b 437 M 7 Apr-16 May; last 1b M 16 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr W 13 May; total b 27 M 19-29 May, very low.  
**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** total b 5 M 22-28 May, very low.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** max b 24 M 22 May; total b 108 M 8-31 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** total b 73 M 14 Apr - 14 May.  
**Am. Robin:** max 1340 BB-WS 8 Mar (DT).  
**Gray Catbird:** total b 232 M 4 May - 5 Jun.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 200 Leicester 24 Mar (MW); 140 H 16 May (DT), good number for date.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 50 Broadway Rd N Wolcott WAYN (W&MR), only report.

### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** last HB 13 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** last 1 BB – West Spit 28 Mar.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** Huckleberry Island, Greece 26 Apr (DT); 1b M 1 May (BBBO); ICW 1 May (GL).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LSP 29 Apr (KH), late 1<sup>st</sup> rep.

**N. Waterthrush:** 1b M 22 Apr; total b 62 M 22 Apr-28 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 8 rep of 10 ind sev loc 2-19 May.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Oatka Creek P 1 May (JAd).

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** Oatka Creek P 2, 6 May (JAd, ph), seen again in June.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2):** 1-3 Armitage Rd, S 5 thru (mob), same area where breeding last yr; Firehouse Woods, Greece 13 May (BB); HANA 14 May (JeB,CW); Van Dyne Spoor NMWMA 18 May (R&SSp).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Nations R, Geneseo 29 Apr (JK), early.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** total 9 rep sev loc 3-23 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** total b 73 M 1-28 May.

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1 M 25 May (DT), only rep.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Caledonia 4 May (MW); total b 75 M 18-30 May.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Mendon Ponds P 6 Apr (R&SS), Reg record early; total b 134 M 2-31 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr 8 LSP-East 3 May (AW).

**Am. Redstart:** total b 213 M 7 May-5 Jun.

**Cape May Warbler:** last M 25 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr South Conesus LIVI 2 May; found in expected sites.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max b 106 M 22 May; total b 466 M 1 May-5 Jun.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Rochester 28 Apr (PM), early.

**Yellow Warbler:** total b 166 M 2 May-5 Jun.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** total b 113 M 7-30 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** total b 124 M 16 May-4 Jun.

**“Western” Palm Warbler:** arr ICW 14 Apr (D&JC), early; total b 84 M 17 Apr-17 May.

**“Yellow” Palm Warbler:** no reports.

**Pine Warbler:** arr W 27 Mar (RS), Reg record early.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** total b 91 M 20 Apr-19 May, low.

**Prairie Warbler:** BB-WS 5 May (AM); Canadice Hill Rd ONTA 7 May (CJ); Firehouse Woods, Greece 17 May (JMo).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr BB-WS 16 Apr (DT), early.

**Canada Warbler:** total b 83 M 9 May-4 Jun.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** total b 135 M 9 May-5 Jun.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** no reports.

## TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last BB 3 May (LT).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr Rochester 25 Apr (JF), Reg record early; total 10 loc with 15 ind 25 Apr-25 May, good number for Reg.

**Field Sparrow:** arr Honeoye Falls 16 Mar (CG).

**LARK SPARROW:** K thru 5 Mar (DT), continuing from winter at feeder.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr NR, Geneseo 29 Apr (JK).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 W 15 Mar (D&DTr); last HP 28 May (DT).

**Lincoln’s Sparrow:** last 1b M 30 May (BBBO).

**White-throated Sparrow:** total b 119 M 1 May-3 Jun, low.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr CH 1 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr T N Wolcott 21 Apr (W&MR).

**Indigo Bunting:** arr t Leroy 20 Apr (MW), Reg record early.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 7300 BB-West Spit 11 Apr (DT), low max.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr 1 BB 8 Mar (DT, LT).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2):** 1m BB 12 May (LT).

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 1740 BB-West Spit 16 Apr (DT); last 4 H 26 May.

**Com. Grackle:** max 2250 Macedon (JP), low max.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr HANA 3 Mar.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Broadway Rd, N Wolcott WAYN 15 Apr (W&MR), ties Reg record early.

**Pine Grosbeak:** G 4 Mar (KG), only report.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 2 M 30 Apr (DT); 4 HB 8 Apr (AGu), only reports.

**Com. Redpoll:** max 40 H 5 Mar (DT); last Penfield 18 Apr.

**Pine Siskin:** max 56 HB 14 Apr (JeB, CW).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 4 Lyons 9 Mar (JS), only report other than Project Feederwatch summaries.

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## REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

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This spring brought very mild weather to the Region. Lingering winter snowfall was essentially nonexistent, and warm weather enabled trees to begin leafing out by late March. Most of March's temperatures ranged 30° F above average, but April brought more typical temperatures. In May, temperatures hovered 10-15° above average. Precipitation in March and April was roughly 20% less than average, but May yielded close to normal rainfall amounts.

Most migrant species arrived several days earlier than their average arrival dates. This is presumably due to mild weather conditions throughout the eastern United States. A cold spell at the end of April seemed to inhibit many late April arrivals, but warm temperatures and south winds during the first few days of May brought a wave of migrants to the Region. Many of the later-arriving warblers, including Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Mourning, arrived during early May, roughly two weeks before their average arrival dates. Alder, Willow, and Olive-sided Flycatchers also arrived 10-17 days earlier than average. Overall, May's migration activity seemed skewed toward early May. After a major migrant push during the first two weeks of May, activity quieted down, and lower migrant numbers were reported during the latter half of the month.

This spring's waterfowl migration brought the expected species mix to our Region. A **Eurasian Wigeon** was found on Montezuma's Wildlife Drive on 17 March, and a second was found at Howland Island on 28 March. Beginning on 4 May, a **Eurasian Wigeon** was noted at Tschache Pool. This bird continued through 13 May, constituting a fairly late record for this species. Though not "countable," a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** was found at the Cayuga Marina on 10 March.

The continuing, overwintering **Eared Grebe** was last seen in Aurora on 24 March, and Chris Wood photographed a very late **Horned Grebe** from Myers Point on 29 May. Most exciting on the grebe front, however, were the two **Western Grebes** that continued from January and February. These birds were frequently seen together and seemed to constitute a pair. If accepted, this will perhaps constitute the first record for the species in our Region. One other "Western" Grebe was sighted at Montezuma Wildlife Refuge in May 1969. However, Western and Clark's grebes were considered conspecific at the time, and the description given in the July 1969 issue of *The Kingbird* best fits Clark's Grebe.

On 17 April, Chris Wood briefly saw a **Little Blue Heron** at Sapsucker Woods. Though rare in the Region, this species has been regularly reported in the past few years. On 8 April, John and Sue Gregoire photographed a **Glossy Ibis** from Wyers Point in Seneca County. Though somewhat regular in the fall, *Plegadis* ibises are less expected as a spring report. On 23 March, Steve and Susan Fast reported a **Black Vulture** from Brooktondale.

This spring's shorebird migration yielded some interesting reports. A **Hudsonian Godwit** was present at Montezuma from 26 May-3 June. Though this species is somewhat regular in the fall, this bird constitutes one of a handful of spring records from our Region. Also rare in the spring, Steve Fast found a **Red-necked Phalarope** at a small pond in Caroline on 23 May. Though this bird only stayed for one day, it afforded excellent views for many observers.

Several overwintering gulls had notably late departure dates. A first year **Iceland Gull** was present at Stewart Park through 4 May, and an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Stewart Park through 5 May. Additionally, Chris Wood and Dave Nicosia found a first year **Glaucous Gull** at Montezuma's Towpath Rd. on 25 April.

This season brought several uncommon warbler species to our Region. Many observers saw a singing **Prothonotary Warbler** at Myers Point on 21 May. John Confer found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Goetchius Preserve on 13 May. This is an extremely good find for the spring, but as typical for the species, it was not resighted. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** pair put on a show at Renwick Woods beginning in early May. Drew Fulton first noted a singing male on 7 May, and a second bird was noted beginning on 25 May. These birds continued through June and presumably bred. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found at King Rd. in Seneca Falls on 19 May, where it seemed to be on territory and remained for the summer. Finally, Jessie Barry and Chris Wood noted a flyover **Yellow-headed Blackbird** in a large mixed blackbird flock at Hog Hole on 10 March.

In total, 252 species were reported this spring.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CLSP – Cayuga Lake SP, CAYU; DrLa – Dryden Lake; Goetchius – Goetchius Preserve, TOMP; Hog Hole – Hog Hole at Treman Marina, TOMP; Howland – Howland I, CAYU; MWR – Montezuma NWR (including the Wildlife Drive and immediate vicinity); MWC



– Montezuma Wetlands Complex; Myers – Myers Point, TOMP; Park Pres. – Roy H. Park Preserve, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; Shindagin – Shindagin Hollow, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 10,000 Lake Rd SENE 4 Mar; last MWR 29 May, sitting on nest mound with Canada Goose.

**Ross's Goose:** 2 MWC 4 Mar.

**Brant:** many reps 1 May, incl 300 MWR, max.

**Wood Duck:** max 219 MWR 13 Apr.

**Gadwall:** max 400 Cayuga Lock CAYU 11 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** MWR 17 Mar, Howland 28 Mar; MWR 4-13 May.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 1800 CLSP 10 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr DrLa 5 Mar, early; max 50 MWR 20 Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** max 500 MWR-TP 14 Apr.

**“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal:** 10 Mar Cayuga Marina.

**Canvasback:** last MWR 13 May.

**Greater Scaup:** last Cayuga Lock 21 May.

**Surf Scoter:** DrLa 31 Mar.

**White-winged Scoter:** last CLSP 12 Apr.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 300 Little Sodus Bay CAYU, high count.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last Lakefront P ONTA 24 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** last StP 4 May, late.

**Horned Grebe:** last Myers 29 May (CW), very late.

**Eared Grebe:** last Aurora 24 Mar, continuing overwintering bird.

**WESTERN GREBE:** 2 East Shore Park TOMP 2 Mar - Harris Park CAYU 17 Apr (mob), potential first Reg record.

**Am. Bittern:** arr Goetchius 21 Mar (CW), early.

**Least Bittern:** arr Sterling Nature Center CAYU 3 May (TR).

**Great Egret:** arr MWR 5 Apr.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON (R3):** SaW 17 Apr (CW).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** max 22 MWC 5 May.

**Glossy Ibis:** Wyers Pt SENE 8 Apr (John and Sue Gregorie).

**BLACK VULTURE (R3):** Brooktondale 23 Mar (SSF).

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Broad-winged Hawk:** max 42 SaW 2 May.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** last MWC 29 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** last Cornell Research Ponds 2 May.

**Black-bellied Plover:** max 20 MWC 29 May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr MWR 20 Apr; max 185 MWC 29 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr MWR 13 Apr.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 MWR 13 Mar, early.

**Upland Sandpiper:** max 8 Seneca Falls Fairgrounds 24 May.

**Whimbrel:** Aurora 27 May.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** MWC 26 May – 2 June, rare in spring.

**Red Knot:** MWC 21 May (BC).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 250 MWC 28 May.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** MWC 21-22 May, rare in spring.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr George Rd. TOMP 14 Mar; max 66 MWR 14 Apr.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr MWC 19 May; max 4 MWC 20-21 May (mob), uncommon in spring.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Caroline 23 May (StF, mob), rare in spring.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 150 Elm Beach Rd SENE 5 May.

**Iceland Gull:** last StP 29 Apr- 4 May (KR, JM), very late.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** last StP 5 May (CD), late adult.

**Glaucous Gull:** last MWC 25 Apr (DNi, CW), late.

**Black Tern:** arr Myers 17 Apr (CW, JG), very early.

**Forster's Tern:** 4 StP 1 May; 1 StP 2 May.

### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Long-eared Owl:** Park Pres. 21-23 Mar.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** Danby 4 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Fair Haven 18-23 May; Ford Hill TOMP 27 May.

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Ithaca 13 May, early.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Dryden 12 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Lansing 16 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr SaW 3 May, early.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Hector 7 May, early.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Shindagin 20 Apr, early.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr SaW 4 May.

**Winter Wren:** arr Brooktondale 8 Mar.

**Marsh Wren:** arr MWR 15 Mar, early.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr TOMP 12 Mar (GK).

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr SaW 4 May.

**Am. Pipit:** max 275 Lake Rd CAYU 15 Apr.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr SaW 2 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Burdett 3 May.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R3):** Myers 21 May (CW, mob).

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 8 Hawthorns 5 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Ithaca 2 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr Ithaca 20 Apr; max 30 Hawthorns 3 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Newfield 3 May.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R3):** Goetchius 13 May (JC), rare in spring.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SaW 4 May, early.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Shindagin 21 Apr.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Dryden 3 May, early.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Mackenzie Childs Bluffs 24 Mar (CW), early.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Dryden 14 Mar, early.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr SaW 24 Mar; max 95 Hawthorns 2 May.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3):**

StP 7-31 May (mob, found by Drew Fulton), singing male.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr SaW 4 May.

## TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Ithaca 20 Mar.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R3):** arr Seneca Falls 19 May (JM), territorial male.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Newman Golf Course TOMP 24 Mar; max 5 Freese Rd 3 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Slaterville 18 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Seneca Fairgrounds 15 Apr, early.

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr SaW 19 Mar.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 49 Sterling Nature Center CAYU 3 May, high count.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Mt Pleasant 2 Mar.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Hog Hole 10 Mar (CW, JB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 250 MWR 25 Mar.

**Red Crossbill:** Danby State Forest 25 Mar.

**White-winged Crossbill:** last 15 Summerhill 18 Mar.

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## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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After a winter that lacked nearly any winter weather, March came in as the warmest on record. Records were set every day from 17-23 March—this was the second longest stretch of record-breaking temps of all time, and the mean temperature for March was actually higher than April's. March was also the eighth driest on record. In April we experienced near normal temperatures, but the dry weather continued. May was well above average for temperature, with slightly above average precipitation. Conifers continued to hold seed, and therefore wild food availability was still high for seed-eating finches.

Since there was nearly no winter, waterfowl migration actually started before March began—Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Snow Geese were on the move in late February. There was a good fallout of late moving waterbirds on 1 April that included White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, and Red-necked Grebes. Whitney Pt. Reservoir continues to be a hotspot for migrating waterfowl. The spring hawk watches east of Otsego Lake yielded lower numbers, like last year, but this was again likely due to the strange, warm, snowless weather conditions. Returning breeding **Merlins** were again noted in

the cities and villages of Cortland, Binghamton, and Oneonta. Notable non-passerines for the period were **Black Vulture** in Otsego County and **Glossy Ibis** at Boland Pond in Broome County. During the first two weeks of May **Common Tern**, **Forster's Tern**, and **Black Tern** were observed in Broome County, River Rd. in Endwell being a good location for terns.

**Common Raven** continues to increase as a breeder throughout the area. A pair nested again this year at Lime Hollow Nature Center less than half a mile from the city limits of Cortland. Five young were seen. **Fish Crow** was again heard in March in Cortland, a new location for this species. **Swainson's Thrushes** were heard on nesting grounds in late May in the Pharsalia area. Other than in Delaware County along the edges of the Catskills, the Pharsalia area is the only place in Region 4 where Swainson's Thrush can be found nesting. Many typically more northern breeding warblers can also be heard regularly in the Pharsalia, along with Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Common Raven, both crossbills, Pine Siskin, and other northern specialties such as White-throated Sparrow.

An Eastern Whip-poor-will was reported on 20-21 May in Tioga County and a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on 21 April in Broome County. With the warm weather, this year's passerine migration started early, and thus it seemed stretched out. Notable passerines were **Cerulean Warblers** again observed on territory at the south end of Skaneateles Lake; a migratory overshoot of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at a feeder on 21 April; **Vesper Sparrow** at Murphy's Pits 23 April; and **Orchard Oriole** at Upper Lisle Park 19 May. The best find for the Region though was an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at West Corners Marsh. The bird was very cooperative staying from 26 April to 11 May.

It was a very sizable **Pine Siskin** nesting event year across the Region, the best breeding event for Central NY since 2004, owing much to the largest hemlock cone crop in more than 10 years. A few Common Redpolls were seen February-March, sometimes mixed in with siskin flocks. **White-winged Crossbills** were seen and heard in Pharsalia, as were **Type 1 Red Crossbills**. Type 1 with dependent juvenes were seen in March at Pharsalia.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** most thru area by Mar.

**Wood Duck:** a few overwintered River Rd and elsewhere; migrants arr BpD and Tioga Airport 1-2 Mar; max 22 Vestel 29 Mar.

**Gadwall:** few overwintered; arr BpD 1 Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** few overwintered; arr BpD 1 Mar; max 11 BpD 10 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck:** dozens of reports; numerous until early April; 1 into May BpD, does breeding occur there?

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Endwell 19 Mar; pair BpD into May.

**N. Shoveler:** arr BpD 1 Mar, might be birds that overwintered.

**N. Pintail:** 1 BpD 1 Mar; max 19 Bainbridge Pond 9 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr BpD 1 Mar, pr lingered to early May; max 12 UL 14 Apr; sev reports.

**Canvasback:** 2 WPR 1 Apr.

**Redhead:** 6 K-Mart BROO 2 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr BpD 1 Mar; max 15 Whitney Pt.; UL thru 19 May.

**Greater Scaup:** 14 WPR 1 Apr, only report.

**Lesser Scaup:** arr Whitney Pt 14 Mar; max 10 WPR 1 Apr; few reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 11 WPR 1 Apr; birds grounded throughout area 1 Apr.

**WHITE-WINGED-SCOTER (R4):** 2 reports CORT 1 Apr (mob), *intro*.

**Bufflehead:** sev reports; no big numbers.

**Com. Goldeneye:** few reports.

**Hooded Merganser:** many reports; breeding at many beaver ponds scattered thru Region; max 23 BROO 7 Apr.

**Com. Merganser:** max 28 Whitney Pt. 14 Mar; breeding along rivers and larger ponds/lakes.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 7 WPR 1 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** 1 Murphy's Pit 1 May, late, only report.

**Com. Loon:** 13 WPR 15 May.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** pr breeding BpD; dozens of reports.

**Horned Grebe:** arr TIOG 12 Mar; max 24 BROO 6 Apr.

**RED-NECKED GREBE (R4):** small fallout 1-2 Apr; 3 Dwyer Park CORT & Hillcrest Pits 1 Apr (mob, *intro*).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr BROO Mar 23; max 30 WPR 23Apr; sev May reports; breeding in area yet?

**Am. Bittern:** arr TIOG 22 Apr.

**Great Egret:** a few reports, unusual in Reg in Spring but becoming more common; arr BpD 7 Apr - mid May.

**Green Heron:** arr DELA 17 Apr.

**GLOSSY IBIS (R4):** BpD 16 Apr (GW).

**BLACK VULTURE (R4):** OTSE 21 Apr (LG).

### HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Murphy's Pits 14 Mar, early.

**Bald Eagle:** well established with nesting numbers stable or still increasing along SusqR, TioR, and other areas; 20+ at carcass survey sites.

**N. Harrier:** 15 reports; few breeders?  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** appears stable, but hard to find due to nesting in remote forested areas.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** becoming a common city/village nester.  
**N. Goshawk:** pr nesting Heiberg SUNY-ESF Forest CORT Apr; single calling bird North Rd Phar 24 Mar; 1 at a carcass survey site, unusual behavior species.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr BROO, OSTE, CORT, CHEN 10-20 Mar; sev pr throughout Reg; appears well established in state lands in sev counties.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr BROO 13 Apr; well established in many state forests throughout Reg.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** few reports including a few at carcass survey sites; last BROO 11 Apr; below ave yr.  
**Golden Eagle:** fewer migrating eagles at hawk watch sites east of Otsego Lake Mar; only 6 at carcass sites & likely migr not winter residents; well-established migr throughout Reg.  
**Am. Kestrel:** few wintering lingerers; influx of migr Mar; still fairly well established as a breeder despite lower wintering numbers.  
**Merlin:** usual prs Binghamton, Cortland, & Oneonta Apr; few others.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** breeding pr Binghamton Mar.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr BpD 13 Apr.  
**Sora:** no reports.  
**Am. Coot:** 4 loc, incl BpD & West Corners Marsh.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Murphy's 14 May; 4 rep.  
**Killdeer:** arr River Rd 2 Mar.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr River Rd 19 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Murphy's Pits 23 Apr; 20+ rep.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr River Rd 26 Mar; 30+ rep.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Murphy Pits 28 Apr; max 5 Upper Lisle 16 May; 18 rep.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr & max 14 Murphy's Pits 14 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr BROO 4 May; max 28 River Rd 16 May; sev other rep.  
**Dunlin:** arr BROO 14 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr CHEN 1 Apr; few reports.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr Richford 13 Mar.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr BROO 1 Apr; many rep  
**BLACK TERN (R4):** RivR 8 May (DW); 2 RivR11 May (GW).  
**COMMON TERN (R4):** Upper Lisle 15 May (MM), *intro*.  
**FORSTER'S TERN (R4):** River Rd Endwell 3 May (GW & DN), *intro*.

## PIGEONS – WOODPECKERS

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R4):** Round top Park 21 Apr (NM, MP).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr BROO 5 April.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr BROO 5 May; much lower numbers compared with recent big tent caterpillar outbreak years.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr BROO 17 May; much lower numbers compared with recent big tent caterpillar outbreak years.  
**EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL (R4):** TIOG 20-21 May (DA).  
**Chimney Swift:** BROO 21 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr BROO 4 May.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr BROO 10 May; incr rep after 20 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr DELA 7 May; incr rep after 15 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr UL 13 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr BROO 4 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr BROO 16 Mar.  
**Great-crested Flycatcher:** arr BROO 4 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr BROO 2 May; incr rep after 5 May.  
**N. Shrike:** 6 rep; last BROO 1 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr BROO 4 May; incr rep after 10 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Round Top Park BROO 14 Apr; incr rep after 1 May.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr BpD 2 May.  
Philadelphia Vireo: arr DELA 6 May, only report.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Parsons Rd 2 May.  
**FISH CROW (R4):** rep of breeding from Endwell, Bing, Owego, Vestal, & Union; continue Cort (MY).  
**Com. Raven:** numbers in high elevation locs throughout yr; nested again LHNC within half mile of city limits of Cortland; widespread and incr breeder & resident throughout; expanding into river valley at lower elevations.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr River Rd Endwell 26 Mar.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr BROO 10 Mar; "big numbers" after 1 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr BpD 28 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr BROO 28 Apr; nesting colony w a few nests Preble CORT June; ~3 nests Port Watson Bridge CORT June.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr BpD 7 Apr.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** incr nester along many river valleys at <1500'; expanding into areas up to 1800-2100'; less common CHEN & DELA.  
**Carolina Wren:** nesting along many of the major river valleys & smaller ravines <1300ft.;

less common CHEN & DELA.

**Marsh Wren:** arr BPD 13 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr CVSP 24 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr CHEN 24 Mar; fairly com state forests early Apr thru.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr CVSP1 9 Apr; many rep after mid Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr CVSP 15 Apr; local afterwards along larger low elevation river valleys.

**E. Bluebird:** sev rep Mar; increasingly common after March.

**Veery:** arr BPD 1 May; incr rep after 5 May.

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

**Hermit Thrush:** arr BROO 14 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr BROO 1 May; widespread 5 May thru.

**Gray Catbird:** arr TIOG 23 Apr.

**N. Mockingbird:** "few" overwintering birds Owego & Binghamton; at least 1 Cortland.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr BROO 20 Apr; incr rep late Apr.

**Am. Pipit:** 5 rep.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** few CORT early Mar; last mid Mar.

**Ovenbird:** arr BROO 1 May, increasing 2 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr OTSE 22 Apr; many rep Apr thru.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr BROO 1 May; 10 reports.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BROO 1 May; widespread, many reports.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr BROO 1 May; several rep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr BROO 17 May; 5 rep.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr OTSE 21 Apr; many rep after 1 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr W. Burlington 10 May; fairly widespread uncommon breeder in Region.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Aquaterra Park 29 Apr.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr BROO 4 May; scarce breeder Reg except CORT.

**Am. Redstart:** arr BROO 2 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr BROO 5 May; 4 rep.

**CERULEAN WARBLER (R4):** max 3 SkanL May (MY), on territories.

**N. Parula:** arr Nuthatch Hollow BROO 3 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Richford 6 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr BROO & TIOG 18 May; 5 rep.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Roundtop P 25 Apr; sev rep after 5 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr TIOG & BROO 1 May; sev rep after 1 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr BROO 1 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Murphy's Pits 15 May; 20+ rep.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Roundtop P 28 Apr.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Murphy's Pits 23 April; 10 rep.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Roundtop P 21 Apr; breeding locations continue to increase.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr BROO 21 Apr.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R4):** Vestal 21 APR (CM), at feeder.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Roundtop P 21 Apr; local, well-established breeder in southern tier.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Vestal 21 Apr.

**Canada Warbler:** arr BROO 4 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr CHEN 6 May, only report.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr OTSE 21 Apr; many rep 25 Apr thru.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last CORT early Apr; numbers down this winter after being way up last winter.

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Vestal 20 Apr.

**Field Sparrow:** arr Vestal 21 Apr; many rep 1 May thru.

**VESPER SPARRW (R4):** arr Murphy's Pits 23 Apr (DN).

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr TIOG 21 Apr.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Aquaterra Park 21 Mar; sev rep thru first half Apr.

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr DELA 21 Apr.

**White-throated Sparrow:** overwintered in small numbers at sev loc; nests at sev higher elevation areas CHEN, CORT, DELA.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr TIOG 1 May; last mid May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr BROO 2 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Richford 28 Apr; sev loc after 2 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr BROO 12 Apr; many after 15 May.

**Bobolink:** arr BROO 4 May; incr mid May thru.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr Upper Lisle P 23 Apr.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 2 rep.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** ad male West Corners Marsh Apr 26-11 May (SK).

Baltimore Oriole: arr BROO 3 May.

**ORCHARD ORIOLE (R4):** Upper Lisle Park 19 May (DN).

**Purple Finch:** few Mar; widespread breeding behavior May above 1000'.

**WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL (R4):** small flocks Pharsalia CHEN Mar-Apr (MY), some singing.

**RED CROSSBILL (R4):** small flocks of Type 1 CHEN Mar-May (MY); dependent Type 1 juv 24 Mar Pharsalia.

**Com. Redpoll:** scattered inds & a few very small flocks of 2-5.

**Pine Siskin:** large breeding event across most state forests coinciding with a great cone crop, particularly on hemlock; a few reports of dependent juv Apr-May.

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## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**Bill Purcell**

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In March the average temperature was 46.5°F, 12.3° above normal. There was 1.96" of precipitation for the month, 0.99" below normal, and 7.2" of snow. It was the warmest March on record, topping the old record by 3.9°. Trees were pushing out leaves by the end of the month, four weeks ahead of schedule. For April the temperature was 45.9°, 1.0° below normal, with 2.24" of precipitation, 0.95" below normal. The cooler April weather did deter leaf growth to some extent, but the weather also killed some flowers on trees and shrubs. The average temperature for May was 64.3, 6.7° above normal, and there was 3.15" of precipitation, 0.07" below normal. Oneida Lake had little ice by the beginning of the season, and Adirondacks lakes were mostly ice free by 24 March.

The largest numbers of Snow Geese went past Derby Hill on 2 March this year, at least a week earlier than the past two years and more than three weeks earlier than the average from 10 to 25 years ago. Most migrant Canada and Snow geese had moved through by 11 March. A Ross's Goose was a good find at a farm pond in southern Oneida County and another Ross's Goose was spotted flying by Derby Hill. Brant came through in expected numbers in May, and Cackling Goose was well represented this season. Tundra Swans lingered into mid-March, and a pair of Trumpeter Swans were nesting in a Volney wetland.

Most dabblers had little reason to linger and moved through quickly in March. Howland Island had good numbers of Northern Pintail and Ring-necked Duck. Eurasian Wigeon was found at four locations. Scaup staged in good numbers on Oneida Lake. Redhead, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, and Common Merganser had mostly departed by early March. The Oneida Lake watch at Phillips Point had mixed results, with good single-day flights of Long-tailed Duck, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and Red-necked Grebe, but overall lower than expected numbers of White-winged Scoter and Bonaparte's Gull. Two American White Pelicans on the eastern end of Oneida Lake in late May were here at the usual time for overshoots. Great Egret was scarce except at Utica Marsh, and two Black-crowned Night-Herons at a Volney marsh were possible breeders.

The hawk flight at Derby Hill was one of the best since daily counts began in 1979. April is typically the month with the highest counts, but cool weather over the last nine days of the month delayed migration. About 18,000 raptors, mostly Broad-winged Hawks, were counted over the first four days of May. **Swallow-tailed Kite** and **Mississippi Kite** were both seen in that early May period, although the latter species was not recorded as part of the official count. The Swallow-tailed Kite was only the second for the Region, the first coming in 1976. Three **Swainson's Hawks** and six Black Vultures were also seen. Northern Goshawk and Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low, but that might be attributed to the mild winter and birds remaining to our north. Continuing low numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks and American Kestrels are more of a concern, since many fewer of these species winter to our north. Finally, a Regional first record, pending NYSARC approval, was a **Pacific Loon** flying over Derby Hill on 6 May.

Sandhill Crane numbers at Derby Hill were lower than is now expected, while cranes were seen at two other sites. Large numbers of American Coot lingered into March, and Common Gallinule had returned by mid-April. Heavy rain on 29 May, as much as three to four inches in some areas but officially 0.47 inches in Syracuse, flooded a field in West Monroe attracting many Black-bellied Plovers, some peeps, and a Wilson's Phalarope. Shorebirds were occasionally found on the Oneida Lake islands south of Constantia, chief among them Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling. Whimbrel and Red Knot were missed this season. Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls were all encountered, and a **Laughing Gull** in mid-May came through at a typical date but Little Gull was missed this season.

Cuckoos were scarcer than in the recent past; tent caterpillar activity was low. Two Snowy Owls were at the Syracuse Airport into April. Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl were found at Derby Hill. There was one wintering Northern Saw-whet Owl at Beaver Lake and two were found on territory. There were many reports of Common Nighthawk, but in low numbers and few over cities where they formerly nested. Eastern Whip-poor-will returned to Three Rivers WMA this spring.

In the Stillwater Reservoir area Larry Hall had an **American Three-toed Woodpecker**, a species last reported there during the recent NYS Breeding Bird Atlas. There was also a Gray Jay, which is now less frequently reported than in the 1980s and 90s. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher found was on territory in the Adirondacks, and just a few migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported. Acadian Flycatcher returned in late May to its traditional Whiskey Hollow location, but there must be other locations for the species in the Region. Northern Shrike reports were on par. Small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were seen at Derby Hill in mid-March.

After the bountiful food crop of 2011, the Blue Jay migration was slow last fall and low numbers were seen along Lake Ontario this spring. There were also few Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatches moving along the lake shore. Many warblers arrivals occurred in late April, and the first big wave came on 1 May. Good movement continued through the first two weeks of May,



but we were clearly on the downside of migration by the third week of May. Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers were all well reported. Prothonotary Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler were seen at Derby Hill, and Prothonotary was on territory at Three Mile Bay WMA in West Monroe.

There were single Clay-colored Sparrow and Dickcissel this season. Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows are doing well at the former Dewitt landfill. There were low numbers of Fox Sparrows since they were not concentrated at feeding stations by bad weather. There were also few Lincoln Sparrow reports. Red Crossbill was not reported this season, while some White-winged Crossbills were found in the Adirondacks. There was a small return flight of Common Redpolls. Pine Siskins were widespread breeders but most departed by May. Wandering Evening Grosbeaks were seen at two feeders.

For the season, a total of 247 species plus a dowitcher sp. were reported, nearly six species above the past 10 year average. Highlights were Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Pacific Loon**, Am. White Pelican, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Wilson's Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Snowy Owl, Am. Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, Worm-eating Warbler, Dickcissel, White-winged Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

### DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max Date</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	22 Feb	2731	28 Mar	15032
<b>Osprey</b>	20 Mar	137	2 May	562
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	20 Feb	44	28 May	593
<b>N. Harrier</b>	21 Feb	33	2 May	366
<b>Sharp-sh. Hawk</b>	2 Mar	664	2 May	3834
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	2 Mar	43	17 Mar	362
<b>N. Goshawk</b>	2 Mar	2	21 May	17
<b>Red-sh. Hawk</b>	26 Feb	77	12 Mar	368
<b>Broad-wng. Hawk</b>	8 Apr	8447	3 May	25949
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	20 Feb	377	17 Mar	3439
<b>Rough-lgd. Hawk</b>	2 Mar	25	18 Mar	123
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	20 Feb	11	2 Mar	72
<b>Am. Kestrel</b>	27 Feb	20	15 Apr	201
<b>Merlin</b>	8 Mar	6	14 Apr	42
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	13 Mar	3	2 May	21
<b>Total, inc. unid.</b>				<b>51,259</b>

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CM – Clay Marsh; DH – Derby Hill; GSC – Great Swamp Conservancy, n. MADI; HI – Howland Island WMA; LOL – Lake Ontario Littoral; OnonL – Onondaga Lake; PPt – Phillips Point, Oneida Lake; SB – Sunset Bay Park, Scriba; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; Skan – Skaneateles; SL – T's Sullivan & Lenox mucklands; SPd – Sandy Pond; SVB – Sylvan and Verona Beach; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, T Van Buren; WM – West Monroe.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 92,300 DH 2 Mar.  
**Ross's Goose:** Oriskany Falls 8 Mar (Jba, MI, CW ph); DH 12 Mar (DW, KW).  
**Brant:** arr 18 PPt 26 Apr; max 3040 PPt 13 May.  
**Cackling Goose:** 9 individuals to last 2 Apr.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** pair nesting Volney.  
**Tundra Swan:** max 51 PPt 10 Mar.  
**Wood Duck:** max 37 Eaton 5 Apr.  
**Gadwall:** max 12 TR 12 Mar.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** TR 12-20 Mar; GSC 18 Mar; HI 28 Mar; CM 9 Apr.  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 58 TR 12 Mar.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 79 HI 3 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 4 per day.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 15 UM 3 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** max 1072 HI 3 Mar.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 93 WM 15 Apr.  
**Canvasback:** last DH 11 Mar.  
**Redhead:** max 7 Cazenovia L 27 Mar.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 510 HI 10 Mar.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 160 PPt 29 Mar.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 450 PPt 18 Mar.  
**scaup Sp:** max 2200 PPt 4 Apr.  
**Surf Scoter:** arr 3 PPt 4 Apr; max 6 PPt 17 Apr.  
**White-winged Scoter:** max 63 PPt 17 Apr.  
**Black Scoter:** PPt 19 May, only report.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 477 PPt 9 Apr.  
**Bufflehead:** max 165 PPt 22 Apr.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 56 PPt 10 Mar.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 30 Delta L 9 Mar.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 35 Oneida 9 Mar.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 170 DH 21 Apr.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 8 PPt 12 Apr.  
**Red-throated Loon:** 6 Apr sightings.  
**Com. Loon:** max 396 PPt & 134 Skan L 10 Apr.

**PACIFIC LOON:** DH 6 May (KW, NYSARC), first Reg record pending approval.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 8 Woodman Pd 11 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 129 PPt 12 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 181 PPt 12 Apr.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 270 PPt 26 Apr.  
**Am. White Pelican:** 2 SVB 22-23 May (mob).  
**Am. Bittern:** max 3 Marsh Mills 20 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** arr Dewitt 29 Apr; pair UM 11 May; Volney after 7 May.  
**Great Egret:** arr Camden 14 Apr; max 6 UM 17 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr Syr 19 Apr, early.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** OnonL 4-10 Apr; Volney, E Syr, & Cicero in May.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** DH 4 May, 2nd Reg record (KR, DW, BP, NYSARC).  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** DH 2 May (TC, BP, NYSARC).  
**Swainson's Hawk:** DH 2 Apr, 2 May, & 9 May.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** 2 ad dark birds DH 28 Mar.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last DH 22 May, late.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 4 Utica Apr & May.  
**Am. Coot:** 110 Skan 6 Mar; 3 UM 2 May; last CM 8 May.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 11 DH 11 Mar - 9 May; Schroepel 3 Apr; 2 Sauquoit 29 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 85 WM 31 May.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 2 WM 31 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** max 8 Mexico Pt 1 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 9 Scriba 9 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 8 SB 1 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 12 Volney 9 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr Fulton 22 Apr.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr & max 6 Oneil 15 May.  
**Sanderling:** 4 Oneil 19 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 110 SPd 30 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 77 Volney 13 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 3 Lysander 18 Apr.  
**Dunlin:** arr Fabius 6 May; max 28 OneiL 26 May.  
**dowitcher sp:** HI 3 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** max 9 Lysander 13 Apr.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** WM 31 May (BP, mob).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Skan 22 Mar; max 160 Skan 17 Apr.  
**Laughing Gull:** OnonL 19 May (TM).  
**Iceland Gull:** last SL 25 Apr.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** DH 10 Apr.  
**Glaucous Gull:** SL 16 Mar.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr LOL 31 Mar; max 130 SPd 23 May.  
**Black Tern:** arr Salmon R 12 May; max 8 Salmon R 15 May.  
**Com. Tern:** max 300 Constantia 26 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Camden 4 May, early; uncommon until 24 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** w Syr Airport into Apr; last 14 Apr.  
**Short-eared Owl:** DH 16 Mar.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** BLNC to 14 Mar; DH 26 Mar; North Bay 12 May; WH 19 May.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** 3 Mexico Pt 14 May; max 6 Camden 26 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Sullivan 20 Apr; SB 3 May; 1-2 TR after 8 May.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr LOL 9 May; max 2 per day LOL.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 12 Sunset Bay 15 Apr.  
**AM. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (R5):** Stillwater Road 26 Apr (LH!).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 Adk reports.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Sand L, n. HERK 26-28 May (ZW).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr TR 17 May; 3 rep.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr WH 26 May.  
**N. Shrike:** 7 Mar sites; last GLSP 8 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr LOL 13 May; Syr 14 May.  
**Gray Jay:** Stillwater 30 Apr (LH).  
**Blue Jay:** max 2600 DH 7 May.  
**Horned Lark:** max 12 VB 28 Mar.  
**Winter Wren:** arr WH 15 Mar.  
**E. Bluebird:** max 40 DH 16 Mar.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 4 rep.  
**Am. Robin:** max 3000 DH 16 Mar.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 100 VB 28 Mar.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** max 175 DH 11 Mar.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 620 DH 24 May.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 DH 24 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 1000 Waterville 3 Mar; last 4 DH 12 Mar.  
**WORM-EATING WARBLER (R5):** DH May 12 (KW).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Marcellus 17 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Fayetteville 2 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** DH May 12 (KW); WM after 19 May.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Camden 5-6 May; Cazenovia 9 May; DH May 12 (KW).  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr SFNS 3 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** max 10 SB 13 May; Sand L 27 May, possible breeding.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr HI 5 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** max 30 SB 13 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** max 100 Dewitt 6 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** max 40 DH 5 May.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 1200 LOL 9 May.  
**Prairie Warbler:** SFNS 5 May; 2 Tully 7 May (NG); SB 14 May; Clay 19 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last DH 18 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** GLSP 5 May (PR).  
**Field Sparrow:** arr 19 Mar.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** max 45 Dewitt 1 May.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Dewitt 20 Apr; max 7 Dewitt 1 May, 5 LOL migrants.  
**Fox Sparrow:** max 4 TR 31 Mar; last DH 20 Apr.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** max 1-2 per day to 19 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr 18 Mar.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 91 Durhamville 1 May.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 100 SB 8 May.  
**DICKCISSEL (R5):** Camillus 13-15 Mar (PR).  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr DH 7 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 700 DH 14 Apr; last Fulton 19 May.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr LOL 4 May; 2 SL, 1 SFNS, & 2 GLSP 5 May; Clay 19 May.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 12 DH 12 Mar; 30 Old Forge 23 May.  
**Com. Redpoll:** max 30 DH 15 Mar; last Syr 2 May.  
**Pine Siskin:** max 50 DH 16 Mar; low numbers thru May.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** Waterville 26 Mar; Skan after 18 May.

## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Most of spring was exceptionally warm and somewhat dry, with a cool spell in late March and early April. Watertown's mean March temperature of 43.5° F was an incredible 12.6° above normal, thanks in part to a warm spell 18-22 March during which temperatures exceeded 70° each day and reached 81° on 21 March. Temperatures moderated by the end of the month, and April was actually cooler than March, with a mean temperature of 42.8° that was 2.0° below normal. Warm weather returned in early May and continued through the end of the period, as May ended with a mean temperature 5.5° above normal. Precipitation was between 2.0" and 2.4" each month, ranging from 0.65" below normal in March to 1.3" below normal in May.

Migration was very active during March, with waterfowl arriving early and passing through unusually rapidly. The Snow Goose migration was heavy during the first two weeks of March and essentially over by the end of the late March warm spell, so that few Snow Geese were seen in April, the historically heaviest month of passage through Region 6. Seen during the peak of the goose migration were one **Ross's Goose** over Fort Drum on 12 March and single **Cackling Geese** on the St. Lawrence River on 10 March and over Fort Drum 12 March. The duck migration was similarly active in early March, with many species present in average to above average numbers. Unlike the goose migration, ducks continued into April in good numbers and included a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Wilson Hill WMA and a Harlequin Duck in Hammond.

March was an exciting month for passerines and other land birds. Individuals of several species arrived very early during the March warm spell, with the most surprising among them being three Eastern Whip-poor-wills on Fort Drum and a Pine Warbler in Hounsfield on 19 March. Another whip-poor-will was heard on Fort Drum on 20 March, otherwise neither of these species was detected again until their normal arrival times three to four weeks later. Other very early March arrivals included American Bittern, Osprey, Virginia Rail, and Eastern Towhee. Between 4 and 8 March a **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** made regular visits to Nancy Loomis's feeders in Leyden, giving scores of birders great looks at this mega-rarity. New York's first documented rosy-finch preceded this bird by just a few months, but was only observed on one day and could not be relocated, so the Leyden bird was the first opportunity most New York birders had to see this species in the State. On 17 March a gathering of at least **2,400** Bohemian Waxwings on Stony Point again attracted birders from around the state to Region 6, and apparently represents a record high count for New York.

Mostly cool weather and northerly winds in April resulted in a significant drop off in the number of birds passing through. Migration was slow for most of the month, but species continued to trickle in, many at early dates. A

brief warm spell 16-17 April brought the most significant migration of the month, including several new arrivals such as Blue-headed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, and Brown Thrasher.

Migration picked up again in May, with large waves of new arrivals on the second and third nights of the month and a massive influx of birds on the night of 12-13 May. Several observers reported seeing more Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers on 13 May than they had ever seen at once or even in a single year in Region 6. Also on 13 May a **Marbled Godwit** flew over the Partridge Run Golf Course in Canton and dropped into the Canton Sewage Ponds. Other noteworthy May sightings included a second summer **Little Gull** on the St. Lawrence River in Waddington on 25 May and a higher than usual six Orchard Orioles, with confirmed nesting in a new location.

A few other noteworthy observations include Sandhill Cranes at Lakeview WMA, where nesting has been suspected for several years, as well as three reports of apparently migrating cranes. The 18 species of shorebird reported is high for recent springs and included a few species that are often missed during spring, including White-rumped Sandpiper and Ruddy Turnstone. As has been typical in recent years, Upland Sandpipers were reported from just three locations; this was also the case with Sedge Wren and Henslow's Sparrow.

Overall, arrival dates averaged for all species were record early, even when extreme early individuals are excluded from the comparison. Arrival dates were obtained for 84 of the 93 species that are tracked annually for *The Kingbird* to determine long-term trends, with non-breeding shorebirds excluded from the comparison because of a lack of observations. The overall mean arrival date for these 84 species was 19 April, four days earlier than the previous record of 23 April set in 2009. Of these species, 71 arrived more than one day earlier than average, eight within one day of average, and just four were first detected more than one day later than average. Of this group of species 17 arrived at record early dates, compared to the 10-12 species that set or tied record early dates each of the past three years.

This spring's tally of 235 species is the highest total for any season since I began compiling reports in 2005. The presence of several rarities contributed to this total, but perhaps more importantly many birders visited the Region from other parts of the state, giving better than usual coverage. The clear highlight of the season was the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, and birding in March generally was quite good. A few species slipped through almost undetected, such as Swainson's Thrush, and Upland Sandpiper, and Henslow's Sparrow continue to hang by a thread in Region 6. But overall it was an excellent spring for birds.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart Island, T Massena, STLA; CB – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; CLBS – Cranberry Lake Biological Station, T Clifton, STLA; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; CWF – Canton Wastewater Facility, T Canton, STLA; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; LGI – Little Galloo I.; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course, T Canton, STLA; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt. Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; RWSP – Robert G. Wehle SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point, T Henderson, JEFF; TP – Tibbet's Pt., T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WI – Wellesley Island; WSF – Winona State Forest, T Lorraine, JEFF.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** heavy movement 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks Mar; singles FD 13-17 May & Ellisburg 20 May, late.

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R6):** FD 12 Mar (JB).

**Brant:** 500 Canton 13 May; 50 Rutland 17 May; 900 FD 17 May.

**Cackling Goose:** SLR Waddington 10 Mar (JB); FD 12 Mar (JB).

**Trumpeter Swan:** 2 pr PRWMA mid-Mar thru; 2 ULLWMA 18 Mar thru.

**Wood Duck:** arr CV 2 Mar.

**Gadwall:** max 40 LWMA 17 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** WHWMA 5-13 Apr (TS).

**Am. Wigeon:** 17 arr CV 8 Mar; max 185 PRWMA 31 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 70 ULLWMA 13 Apr.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr PRWMA 17 Mar.

**N. Shoveler:** arr PRWMA 16 Mar; max 11

PRWMA 31 Mar; 2 pr CWF 21 May thru.

**N. Pintail:** 74 arr CV 4 Mar; max 85 ULLWMA 13 Apr.

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 arr CV 4 Mar; max 91 WHWMA 27 Mar.

**Redhead:** max 52 TP 27 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 413 LWMA 17 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** max 80 PtPen 30 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 245 PRWMA 18 Apr.

**Harlequin Duck:** pr SLR Hammond 18 Apr (VPC).

**White-winged Scoter:** RWSP 17 & 25 Mar; 2 CV 27 Mar; max 56 scoters CLBS 18 May, most or all this sp.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 135 ED 20 May, high total for date.

**Bufflehead:** max 135 PRWMA 18 Apr; last CLBS 7 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last 2 CLBS 15 May.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 93 RWSP 25 Mar.

**Ruddy Duck:** PRWMA 28 Mar; ULLWMA 22 May.

**Spruce Grouse:** MM 30 Apr (JC), only report.

**Red-throated Loon:** ED 20 May (JB), rare in spring.

**Com. Loon:** arr WI 18 Mar.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr PRWMA 16 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** arr PtPen 16 Mar; max 25 SLR Ogdensburg 21 Apr; last 2 ED 20 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr RWSP 25 Mar; max 11 SLR Ogdensburg 21 Apr; last 2 CCSP 22 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr RWSP 25 Mar; 2155 nests LGI late May.

**Am. Bittern:** arr PRWMA 19 Mar, record early; calling in light snow ULLWMA 31 Mar.

**Least Bittern:** arr PRWMA 11 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** arr FD & LWMA 15 Mar.

**Great Egret:** Pamela 2 days mid-Apr; Hammond 27-30 Apr; SLR Waddington 25 May.

**Green Heron:** arr ED 5 May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr PRWMA 29 Apr; 29 Murphy Is. 6 May.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr PRWMA 29 Mar, record early.

**Bald Eagle:** continued widespread reports from all portions Region.

**N. Harrier:** 1-3/day FD early Mar increased to 4-8/day by late Mar.

**Cooper's Hawk:** pr at nest StPt 26 Apr.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr StPt 17 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr MM 13 Apr.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** pr at Canton nest 7 Mar, early.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 CV 2 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** W. Turin 9 Mar (BC, DD, GL); Lowville 10 Mar (JA, NL); FD 12 Mar (JB); StPt 17 Mar (JB); a good showing.  
**Am. Kestrel:** arr W. Constableville & Dekalb 9 Mar.  
**Merlin:** widespread nesting with 12+ pr reported.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** Long Sault Dam thru; Maple Ridge Wind Farm 25 May.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr PRWMA 31 Mar, record early.  
**Sora:** arr Canton 22 Apr.  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr PRWMA 18 Apr.  
**Am. Coot:** arr PRWMA 17 Mar; max 7 PRWMA 3 May.  
**Sandhill Crane:** prob nesting pr LWMA 27 Mar (JT, DW); 2 Adams 2 Apr (JB, MS), migrants; over Canton 12 May (JB); 2 Hammond 22 May (AC, RF).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 5 ED 27 May; 10 ULLWMA 29 May; only reports.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** 4 FD 24 May; 8 ED 26 May; only reports.  
**Killdeer:** widespread arr 7 Mar.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr SLR Waddington 22 Apr, record early.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr CV 4 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr WHWMA 22 Apr; max 5 CV 2 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 14 CV 2 May.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr FD 1 May; CV 4 & 5 May; Lyme 20 May.  
**MARbled GODWIT:** PRGC 12 May (JB), report to NYSARC.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** WHWMA 22 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 31 ED 26 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 10 CWF 13 May.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** ED 26 May, only report.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 2 PRWMA 18 Apr, only report.  
**Dunlin:** 3 ED 26 May; 2 CWF 31 May.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Dekalb 18 May; ED 24-27 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr LEWI 9 Mar, record early.  
**Am. Woodcock:** Dekalb 12 Mar.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr LWMA 27 Mar; max 50+ CB 31 Mar; last 3 SLR Waddington 25 May.  
**Little Gull:** 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle SLR Waddington 25 May.  
**Iceland Gull:** TP 4 Mar; 1<sup>st</sup> cycle SLR Waddington 22 Apr.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last BI 10 Mar.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr SBSP 31 Mar, record early.

**Black Tern:** arr PRWMA 3 May; 6 Wilson Bay marsh 6 May.  
**Com. Tern:** arr ULLWMA 20 Apr.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Cranberry L. 19 May; PRWMA 27 May & Murray I. 30 May, only other reports.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 17 May.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** Gouverneur 3 May; several Leyden Mar & Apr; only reports.  
**Snowy Owl:** last CV 11 Mar (GS).  
**Short-eared Owl:** FD 27 May (JB, NYYBC), only report.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr FD 12 May; 2 MM 18 May, only report away from FD.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** 3-5 calling FD 19 Mar (FO), record early; another FD 21 Mar; no more reports until late Apr.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Orleans 3 May.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Canton 3 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** FD 21 Mar.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr FD 7 May; migrants Lowville 9 May & Clayton 14 May.  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 3 loc Canton where scarce Apr.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr StPt 17 Mar, record early.  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 MM 11 & 30 Apr; LPD 19 May; only reports.  
**N. Flicker:** many overwintered; increasing by 17 Mar.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Cranberry Lake 13 May.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Carthage 14 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** MM 18 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Canton 12 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr FD 14 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr FD 3 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr CV 14 Mar.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr FD 1 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr FD & PRWMA 2 May.  
**N. Shrike:** last MM 11 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr FD 3 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FD 16 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr CV 26 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** ICNC 12 May; Canton 13 May; Piercefield 26 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr FD 7 May.  
**Gray Jay:** max 12 MM 12 Apr.  
**Horned Lark:** max 60 LEWI 10 Mar; singing Adams cornfield 17 Mar.  
**Purple Martin:** arr Canton 16 Apr.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr LWMA 15 Mar, record early.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr FD 18 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr Ogdensburg 4 May.  
**Cliff Swallow:** 20 arr BI 22 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Lyme 12 Apr.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** more than usual Canton thru.  
**Carolina Wren:** Copenhagen 26-27 May.  
**House Wren:** arr Clayton 18 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** 4 arr StPt 17 Mar.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr FD 10 May; Ashland Flats  
 WMA 20 May; 2 FD 22 May.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr PRWMA 1 Apr, record early.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr LWMA 20 Apr.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 46 StPt 15 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr StPt 15 Apr; last  
 CLBS 20 May.  
**E. Bluebird:** many overwintered obscuring arr  
 dates; earliest certain arr at FD nest box 14 Mar.  
**Veery:** arr FD 3 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** Cranberry L. 17 May, only  
 report.  
**Hermit Thrush:** widespread arr FD 16 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr FD 2 May.  
**Am. Robin:** max 1500+ StPt 17 Mar.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr PRWMA 2 May.  
**N. Mockingbird:** arr CV 2 May; BI 7 May;  
 Cranberry Lake 13 May; several FD late May;  
 more than usual.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr WI 16 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr FD 20 Mar; last 8 Massena 6  
 May.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** max 2400-2800 StPt 17-  
 21 Mar (JB, mob), record high; <100/day StPt  
 after 3 Apr where last 3 Apr.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1500 RWSP 17 Mar;  
 scarce away from StPt until mid-May.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** FD 14 Mar, only report.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 620 LEWI 10 Mar; last 17  
 Waddington 6 Apr.  
**Ovenbird:** arr CV 2 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** WSF 26 May;  
 Donnerville SF 28 May.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr FD 24 Apr, record early.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr FD & Theresa 3  
 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD 2 May.  
**"Lawrence's" Warbler:** singing m FD 22 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr FD 26 Apr.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Canton & CLBS 12  
 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr FD 24 Apr, record  
 early.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr MM 18 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr FD & Theresa 3 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 3 singing m Winona SF 20  
 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr 3 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr CV 9 May; max 15+  
 Canton 13 May, more than usual.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Dekalb 4 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr CLBS 7 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr CLBS 4 May, record  
 early.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 15+ arr Canton 12  
 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr CLBS L 4 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr CV 19 Apr, record early.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr FD 1 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CLBS 14 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr CV 1 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** "Yellow" arr MM breeding  
 grounds 12 Apr; "Western" arr FD 17 Apr, early.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Hounsfield 19 Mar, record  
 early; scarce until main wave arr 12 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 5-20+/day continued  
 from winter StPt thru Mar; max 100 StPt 15 Apr;  
 1<sup>st</sup> report away from L. Ontario 16 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr CB 6 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr FD 30  
 Apr.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr Cranberry Lake 7 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Canton 12 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr FD 21 Mar, record early.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Canton 13 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Canton 13 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr FD 7 May; migrant  
 CLBS 12 May; 3 Henderson 22 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr FD 21 Mar.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr FD 3 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr RWSP 3 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr FD 2 May;  
 Henderson 22 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr FD 25 Apr; 2  
 Hammond 22 May; PRWMA 26 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr FD 20 Mar.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr FD 12 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 10 MM 30 Apr, record  
 early.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr FD 19 Mar.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr FD 19 Mar.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr WHWMA 22  
 Apr.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** migrants arr StPt 21 Mar.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** widespread arr 4 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Canton & CV 2  
 May.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Lowville 4 May, record  
 early.  
**Bobolink:** 2 CV 2 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** 330 arr CV 3 Mar.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Lowville 10 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** 2 arr LWMA 17 Mar; 75+ FD  
 24 Apr; CLBS 16 May, local breeder?



**Com. Grackle:** arr CV 3 Mar.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr Potsdam 1 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** ad m FD 10 May (JB); singing m PRWMA 11 May (JB); RWSP 13 May (MS); building nest in Mannsville yard mid May (BP); Oswegatchie 28 May (JB); multiple reports from traditional PtPen nesting area late May; unprecedented numbers.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr FD 30 Apr.

**GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH:** at Leyden feeder 4-8 Mar, 2<sup>nd</sup> state record (NL, JA, mob, photos! reports to NYSARC).

**Purple Finch:** widely distributed thru.

**White-winged Crossbill:** max 68 MM 8 Apr; many reports Adirondacks & Tug Hill; scarce in lowland areas.

**Com. Redpoll:** 20 Norfolk 9 Mar, only report.

**Pine Siskin:** widespread with scattered nesting Adirondacks, Tug Hill & FD; modest numbers in lowlands mostly birds passing through.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 Antwerp 24 Mar, only report away from Adirondacks.

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## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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The spring of 2012 began and ended with record high temperatures that led to several record early arrivals among early migrants. Temperatures in March were 9-12° F above normal across the Region, making it the warmest March on record. It felt like summer in the Region on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> when temperatures reached 80° in Lake Placid and 82° in Peru, melting the little snow and ice we had in the Region. Portions of Lake Champlain remained open all winter, but the smaller lakes that froze over thawed far ahead of schedule and were wide open when trout season began for the first time in many years. Overall April had average temperatures, but they ranged widely from 87° degrees in Peru on the 17<sup>th</sup> to 23° degrees in Indian Lake on the 29<sup>th</sup>. A cold snap and 1-2" of snow reset the timing of spring back to normal on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, bringing a hard frost to plants and blooming fruit trees in the Region. In May temperatures returned to well above normal, ranging 6-7° above average in the Region and reaching as high as 89° in Peru on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation was at or slightly below average for the period across the Region.

A mild winter and record high temperatures caused waterfowl migration to begin about a week ahead of schedule, setting a number of early arrival records in the Region. In March Northern Pintail on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gadwall and Lesser Scaup on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and **Eurasian Wigeon** and Northern Shoveler on the 11<sup>th</sup> all set new early records for the season. A Killdeer in Long Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> was an early record for Hamilton County, and a Chipping Sparrow in Peru on the same date was an early record for Clinton County. Common Loons arrived on their breeding territories well ahead of schedule. By late March it looked like all our

migrants would be arriving early, but the snow and cold in April caused migration to return to a normal schedule. A few more migrants arrived early, including a Virginia Rail at the Chazy Riverlands on 20 April and a Bay-Breasted Warbler at Lake Alice on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but the majority of warblers and shorebirds arrived on schedule in May.

The rarest bird during the period was a **Bullock's Oriole** that made a brief visit to a birdfeeder in Saranac Lake on 13 April. The bird was seen and photographed by the residents but took off that same morning, before word got out to any of the local birders. Another rarity was a **Tufted Duck x scaup** hybrid that was seen on Lake Champlain on 21 April.

The Crown Point banding station opened for its 37<sup>th</sup> year a week earlier than usual in response to the trend of migration starting earlier in recent years and as usual had a handful of surprises. The highlight was a first ever sighting and banding of a female **Cerulean Warbler** at the station. Other species banded for the first time in the station's history included a Northern Rough-winged Swallow and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. A Clay-colored Sparrow and a Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted Flicker hybrid were also banded. A pair of Orchard Orioles was seen gathering nesting material near the station. The species is a rare breeder in the Region.

Overall spring migration was typical for the Region, with a good number of uncommon but expected species. A number of migrating raptors were observed from Coon Mountain on 17 March, including nine Red-shouldered Hawks, a Northern Goshawk, and a Golden Eagle. The Short-eared Owls that wintered along Clark Road in Essex were last seen on 19 March, but an observer searching for them on the 28<sup>th</sup> found a Long-eared Owl in the area instead, an excellent sighting. Shorebird migration at the Chazy Riverlands did not produce any rarities this season, but it did have high numbers of shorebirds in late May, including 36 Short-billed Dowitchers on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and 256 Black-bellied Plovers and 185 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Two Little Gulls were seen there on the 30<sup>th</sup> as well. Highlights of May's songbird migration include a Golden-winged Warbler in Port Kent on the 13<sup>th</sup>, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Ausable Point on the 14<sup>th</sup>, two Tennessee Warbler reports, and two Wilson's Warbler reports.

Boreal species reports in the Region were limited to our more common species, such as Gray Jays in many places, including Bloomingdale Bog, Ferd's Bog, and the Osgood River, and Boreal Chickadees in the high peaks and the Roosevelt Truck Trail. Olive-sided Flycatchers arrived at Paul Smith's on 13 May and were recorded from a handful of other locations. Rusty Blackbird migration was well documented by observers, but there was only one report of them on breeding territory, in Moose River Plains on 21 May.

Many finch species had a good number of reports through the period, including multiple reports of White-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins; in fact many Pine Siskins lingered in conifer forests of the Adirondacks for the breeding season, which only happens every few years. Red Crossbills were reported twice, and Common Redpolls had only one report.

A total of 197 species was reported for the period, much lower than the record of 219 species.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Point; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Point; CR – Chazy Riverlands; DC – Dickinson Center; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice; LL – Long Lake; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood Park; PS – Paul Smiths; PtF – Point Au Fer; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RTT – Roosevelt Truck Trail; SC – Scotion Creek; SSP – Shingle Shanty Preserve; SL – Saranac Lake; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper Lake.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** 300 TB 11 Apr (HK); 200 Peru 1 Mar (PJ); 300 BB 24 Mar (KH).

**Brant:** 30 SSP 13 May (JP); Ticonderoga 17 May (JS).

**Tundra Swan:** 3 AP thru 12 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** arr AP 11 Mar (JO); max 10 Baker Rd 22 Apr (AN).

**Gadwall:** arr 3 AP 6 Mar CLIN (DR), early; 2 Bombay 26 Mar (RS).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** drake AP 11 Mar CLIN (JO), early.

**Am. Wigeon:** AP 28 Apr (NO); max 4 AP 6 Mar (DR); 2 PtR 31 Mar (JH).

**Am. Black Duck:** max 10 AP 12 Apr (RS).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Piseco L 25 Apr (L&BH).

**N. Shoveler:** arr AP 11 Mar CLIN (JO), early; 2 AP 12 Mar (BM).

**N. Pintail:** arr AP 3 Mar, early CLIN (BS), 16 TB 6 Mar (HK).

**Green-winged Teal:** arr LA 12 Apr (DL); Bombay 19 Apr (RS).

**Redhead:** CR 10 Mar (JO).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 200 AP 12 Mar (BM).

**TUFTED DUCK x Scaup hybrid:** Kings Bay 21 Apr (MMe & DD).

**Lesser Scaup:** arr AP 6 Mar, early CLIN (DR).

**White-winged Scoter:** arr 3 CH 14 Apr CLIN, early; Kings Bay 21 Apr; PtR 2 May; 20 CP 17 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 18 TL 11 Apr.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 300 AP 6 Mar (DR).

**Hooded Merganser:** 4 AP 6 Mar (DR); 2 Inlet 31 Mar (GL).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 6 PtR 18 Apr (JO); 3 CH 24 Apr (BK).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 2 LA 12 Apr (DL); Piseco L 14 Apr (LH); CR 18 Apr (BK).

**Horned Grebe:** CH 19 Mar (BK); 7 AP 6 Mar (DR); 15 AP 12 Mar (BM).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 7 Sacandaga L 11 Apr; 2 LL 14 Apr (JC); 44 AP 18 Apr (JO), high count.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Hoisington Bk 13 Apr (DC).

**Am. Bittern:** arr SSP 8 Apr (JP); max 4 TL 18 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** arr 2 AP 17 Mar (DL).

**Great Egret:** AP 15 Apr-14 May; max 3 AP 1 May; LA 25 Apr; Bombay 19 Apr.

**Green Heron:** arr DC 21 Apr (AN); LA 6 May (JO); Altona 17 May (JS); SC 31 May (NO).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Chazy R 12 Apr (DL); AP 16 May; Bombay 18 May (RS); 2 IL 24 May (LM).

**Turkey Vulture:** arr Keeseville 18 Mar.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Inlet 4 Apr (GL).

**Bald Eagle:** max 3 CP 10 May (MM).

**N. Harrier:** Peru 3 Mar; CH 8 Mar; CR 10 Mar; LA 29 Apr; 2 CR 5 May.

**N. Goshawk:** SL 1 Apr (KW); Coon Mtn 17 Mar (WS).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** LL 10 Mar HAMI (JC), early; 9 Coon Mt 17 Mar (WS); BB 18 Mar (JD); 2 PS 18 Mar (BM).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr IL 16 Apr (LM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** CH 6 Marl CR 11 Mar (JO).

**GOLDEN EAGLE (R7):** SL 17 Mar (KW); Coon Mt 17 Mar (WS).

**Am. Kestrel:** arr AP 10 Mar (DL).

**Merlin:** LA 14 Apr (JO); CR 2 May; 2 CH 4 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** CP 10 May (MM); CR 30 May (JO).

**Virginia Rail:** LA 20 Apr CLIN (JO), early; 2 AP 6 May; Bombay 18 May; L Durant 20 May.

**Sora:** AP 6 May (BK, CM).

**Com. Gallinule:** CR 28-30 May (BK).

**Am. Coot:** CH 9 May (BK); SC 31 May (NO).

**Black-bellied Plover:** CR 25-31 May; max 256 CR 30 May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** CR 21-30 May; max 7 CR 21 May.

**Killdeer:** arr LL 10 Mar HAMI (JC), early.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr IL 6 May (LM).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** CR 30 May (JO).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** LA 20-29 Apr (JO).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** CR 5 May (BK).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** CR 25-31 May; max 185 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

**Least Sandpiper:** CR 10-30 May, max 32 on 25 May (BK, JO).

**Dunlin:** CR 27-30 May; max 9 CR 27 May (BK, JO).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** CR 27-30 May; max 36 CR 27 May (BK, JO).

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr SSP 8 Apr (JP).

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Willis L 19 Mar (KC).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 15 TB 12 May; 12 CH 13 May; NP 19 Apr.

**Little Gull:** CR 28 May; 2 CR 30 May (BK, JO).

**Caspian Tern:** arr 8 NP 19 Apr (DL); 5 AP 28 Apr; 2 PtR 2 May; 12 CR 12 May.

**Com. Tern:** arr LA 20 Apr (JO); max 8 CR 30 May.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** IL 24 May (LM).

**E. Screech-Owl:** 2 Pt Au Fer 19 May (JO).

**Great Horned Owl:** Blue Mt Rd 20 Apr (SO, AB).

**Snowy Owl:** Rouses Pt 31 Mar (SO, AB, BM, TM).

**Long-eared Owl:** Whallonsburgh 28 Mar (ET).

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 CR 10-11 Mar (JO); Clark Rd 19 Mar (ED).

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr SSP 5 May (JP); PtR 6 May (NO); Port Kent 13 May (DR).

**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 LA 6 May; max 16 Malone 6 May (JS); 4 SSP 12 May (JP).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr DC 4 May (AN).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Inlet 1 Mar thru (GL); Essex 3 Mar (ET); Newcomb 21 May (CD); SSP 5 May (JP).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Port Kent 24 Mar (DR).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** BB and FB 24 Mar; Inlet 31 Mar; RTT 7 Apr; 3 LL 19 Apr.

**N. Flicker:** arr 5 FB 24 Mar (JD).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr PS 13 May; Hurricane Mt 24 May; 2 SSP 26 May; 2 L Pleasant 27 May.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Pt R 19 May (JO).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr FB 22 May (JD).

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 2 IL 12 May (LM).

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr 3 LA 30 May (JO).

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Newcomb 5 May (SB).

**E. Phoebe:** arr CH 20 Mar (NO).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Pt Au Fer 5 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Bombay 7 May (RS).

**N. Shrike:** Carpenter's Flats 30 Mar; Bear Swamp Rd 31 Mar (DR).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Willsboro 4 May (LS); AP 19 May (DL).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr 2 LL 19 Apr (JC).

**Warbling Vireo:** arr 5 LA 6 May.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Altona 6 May (PG); SSP 13 May (JP).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Chazy 5 May.

**Gray Jay:** multiple reports from FB and SSP; max 9 SSP 13 May; 7 Osgood P 28 May (WS).

**Horned Lark:** CR 12 Mar.

**Tree Swallow:** arr WM 23 Mar (DR); max 140 L Colby 22 Apr (GD).

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** PtR 18 Apr; CH 7 May; 2 Bombay 18 May.

**Bank Swallow:** 2 AP 18 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** Montys Bay 18 Apr, early CLIN (JO); 18 Bombay 19 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr AP 7 Apr.

**Boreal Chickadee:** 2 Big Slide Mt 24 Mar; 2 BB 25 Mar; 3 RTT 7 Apr; max 6 SSP 13 May (JP).

**Tufted Titmouse:** 2 Newcomb 20 Apr; 2 Blue Mtn 26 Mar.

**Carolina Wren:** CH 1 Mar thru (NO); PtR 18 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr PtR 30 Apr (JH).

**Winter Wren:** arr Eagle Creek 18 Mar (GL).

**Marsh Wren:** arr Kings Bay 29 Apr (JO); max 30 SC 31 May (NO).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr 5 IL 16 Apr (LM).  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** AP 14 May (DL).  
**Veery:** arr PtF 7 May.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 3 Whiteface Mt 23 May (AC, RF).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Chubb R 16 May (MM).  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr LL 14 Apr (JC).  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Bombay 7 May.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr Malone 4 May (JS).  
**N. Mockingbird:** Valcour Is 11 Mar (JO); IL 13 May (LM).  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr LA and Bombay 20 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** 6 SSP 5 May (JP).  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 20 LL 7 Mar (JC); 35 SL 13 Mar (AB).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** arr 2 CP 10 May; max 125 IL 26 May (LM).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Ovenbird:** arr Platts 4 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Essex Co 21 Apr (MMe, CD).  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr LA 29 Apr CLIN (JO), early.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Port Kent 13 May (DR).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr LA 6 May; IL 19 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr DC 3 May (AN).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** Keene 5 May (MM).  
**Am. Redstart:** arr PtF 7 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr LA 12 May; 2 AP 13 May; 3 IL 13 May; max 5 LA 19 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** CP 8 May, banded.  
**N. Parula:** arr PS 5 May (CB).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Cedar R 5 May (CI).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr LA 6 May, early CLIN; 2 AP 13 May; 3 IL 13 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Belmont 30 Apr (NR).  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Belmont 5 May (NR).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Belmont 5 May (NR).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 2 PS 5 May (CB).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Newcomb 5 May (SB).  
**Palm Warbler:** arr 2 PtR 18 Apr (JO).  
**Pine Warbler:** arr NP 7 Apr (J&PT).  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr LA and Piseco L 14 Apr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr DC 1 May (AN).  
**Canada Warbler:** arr SSP 12 May (JP); max 3 Chubb R 16 May (MM).

**Wilson's Warbler:** AP 14 May (BK); PtR 24 May (JO).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** Saranac R 5 Apr (BF); Bombay 20 Apr thru; 2 PtR 30 Apr (JH).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Little Tupper L 28 Mar.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr AP 10 Mar, early CLIN (DR).  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** CP 4 May (GL); Gadway Barrens 24 May (KA, JS).  
**Field Sparrow:** arr PtR 14 Apr (JO); IL 16 Apr (LM).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** Arietta 14 Apr (LH); L Colby 25 Apr (AB); 2 CR 28 May (BK).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 2 Bombay 19 Apr (RS).  
**Fox Sparrow:** Willis L 19 Mar; Keene 6 Apr; Ingraham 14 Apr; IL 16 Apr; Platts 18 Apr; Rock L 24 Mar.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr Malone 9 Mar (JS).  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Platts 4 May (BK); 2 IL 6 May thru (LM); FB 22 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr 2 LA 12 Apr (DL).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr 5 BB 28 Mar (AD).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 Belmont 22 Apr; 6 IL 6 May; 6 Osgood R 10 May; 2 Newcomb 16 May.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr SSP 13 May (JP).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr 3 Inlet 2 May (GL).  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr IL 6 May (LM).  
**Bobolink:** arr CR 5 May (CM, BK); max 40 Bombay 18 May (RS).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr AP 6 Mar (DR).  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr LA 12 Apr (DL).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr BB 18 Mar; 2 Sacandaga L 11 Apr; 7 L Pleasant 12 Apr; PtR 18 Apr; 4 Bombay 25 Apr; 20 Platts 29 Apr; MRP 21 May.  
**Com. Grackle:** arr 2 IL 8 Mar (LM).  
**Orchard Oriole:** 2 CP 10 May (MM).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr LA 6 May.  
**BULLOCK'S ORIOLE:** SL 13 Apr (KW), brief visit to SL birdfeeder.  
**Red Crossbill:** FB 7 Mar; LL 28 Mar; 3 RTT 7 Apr (JC).  
**White-winged Crossbill:** 4 FB 7 Mar; 10 BB 25 Mar; 20 MRP 21 May; 6 SSP 26 May.  
**Com. Redpoll:** PS 7 Apr (L&ML).  
**Pine Siskin:** max 150 Newcomb 24 Mar, birds lingered thru period throughout conifer forests of the Region.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** PS 25 Mar; FB 27 Mar; 2 LL 4 Apr; DC 28 Apr; Willis L 26 May.

## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

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Spring 2012 began very warm and largely dry. March's average temperature was 10.9° F above average at Albany International Airport. March ended with 1.67 fewer inches of rain than average. At Albany, the last snowstorm of the season occurred on 1 March dropping over 4" of snow. Six days in March topped 70°, hastening an early bloom of fruit trees and early green up. April's temperature and precipitation averages approached normal, although the Region remained slightly drier than average. May ended 4.1° warmer than average, with two more inches of rain than average. The Region experienced more growing days than average this spring, with an early leaf out of spring ephemerals, shrubs, and trees.

Waterfowl migration appeared similar to previous springs, with two uncommon species, Greater White-fronted Goose and Cackling Goose. The single location maximum of 81 Common Loons on Glen Lake, Warren County, reported by Mona Bearor in mid-May, is unprecedented in the Region as far as I can tell from the records at my disposal.

Nancy Kern, who is one of those birders who finds interesting species just by travelling around and stopping here and there at unassuming places, was rewarded by spotting an immature **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**. John Hershey's quick eye and camera captured a **Little Blue Heron** on the edge of a grassy horse paddock on Riverview Road in the town of Clifton Park.

Dan Furbish reported the "blonde" morph of Short-eared Owl near Fitzpatrick Drive at the Fort Edwards grassland area, and the same area near Nature Conservancy property off of Blackhouse Road on May 27 hosted a **Sedge Wren** spotted by Scott Stoner and others from the Hudson Mohawk Bird Club. The group was enjoying watching harriers soaring over the fields until they spotted the wren in the nearby bushes.

The average 2012 arrival date for all species is among the earliest ever recorded. New early records were set for Virginia Rail (21 March), Lesser Yellowlegs (18 April), Tennessee Warbler (15 April), Black-throated Green Warbler (11 April), Pine Warbler (17 March), and Blackpoll Warbler (2 May). These early arrival dates are consistent with a host of early phenological events, from flowering dates, amphibian singing, fish spawning, and insect hatchings. As we, the birders of this section of New York, continue to accumulate evidence that both birdlife and other forms of wildlife are changing their seasonal patterns, we face one of the most fascinating questions that can be asked by modern ornithologists: How will birds adapt to this changing climate in the coming century and centuries to come?

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; BRH – Burnt-Rossman Hills SF, SCHO: BRU – T Brunswick, RENS; COH – T Cohoes, ALBA; FE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson River; LIV – T Livingston, COLU; NBA – T New Baltimore, GREE; PR – Partridge Run, ALBA; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (R8):** Ft Miller WASH 3 Mar (RR).

**Snow Goose:** max 200 BCM 11 Mar.

**CACKLING GOOSE:** Dale's Bridge Rd Germantown COLU 25 Apr (NK).

**Brant:** max 2000 New Baltimore GREE 15 May.

**Tundra Swan:** 5 at 4-mile Pt GREE 29 Apr (AIM).

**Wood Duck:** arr Neiber Swamp Livingston COLU 1 Mar.

**Gadwall:** max 12 Stanton Pd ALBA 18 Mar.

**Am. Wigeon:** max 7 BCM 17 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Niskayuna SCHE 9 Apr.

**N. Shoveler:** max 5 Niskayuna SCHE 4 Apr.

**N. Pintail:** max 50+ Vosburg Marsh GREE 4 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** max 25 Saratoga L SARA 4 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 231 Saratoga L SARA 15 May.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 57 Glen L WARR 15 May.

**Black Scoter:** 2 Saratoga L SARA 15 Apr.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2 Lock 7 SCHE 25 Mar.

**Bufflehead:** max 35 Saratoga L SARA 22 Apr.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 2 Galway L SARA 16 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 10 COX res 8 Mar.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** COX 12 Mar; Chatham 4 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** Germantown COLU 19 May.

**Com. Loon:** max 81 Glen L WARR 15 May (MB), Regional high count.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Snyder's L RENS 12 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** max 12 Saratoga L SARA 15 Apr.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 7 Saratoga L SARA 15 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Germantown COLU 8 Mar.

**Great Cormorant:** max 3 HR Germantown COLU 7 Mar.

**Am. Bittern:** arr WASH 11 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr SARA 25 Apr.

**Great Egret:** 2 Rotterdam ALBA 29 Mar-3 Apr; Ann Lee Pd ALBA 11 Apr; COX grasslands 11 Apr.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON (R8):** VF 9 May (mob).

**Green Heron:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 16 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Germantown COLU 22 Apr.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R8):** Ghent COLU 4 May (NK).

**Black Vulture:** max 15 Schenectady SCHE 18 Mar.

## HAWKS – ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr Balston Spa SARA 3 Apr.  
**N. Harrier:** max 7 COX flats 3 Mar.  
**N. Goshawk:** Livingston COLU 8 Apr; Five Rivers ALBA 9 May.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Catskill GREE 7 Mar; Saratoga SARA 12 Mar; Ballston Spa SARA 8 Apr; Five Rivers ALBA 4 May.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Livingston COLU 16 Mar.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last Guilderland ALBA 16 Apr.  
**Golden Eagle:** Partridge Run ALBA 4 Mar; Stuyvesant COLU 12 May.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr BCM 21 Mar, Reg record early.  
**Sora:** arr BCM 16 Apr.  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr SARA 25 Apr; BCM 19 May; 2 Dresden WASH 19 May.  
**Am. Coot:** 2 SARA 3 Apr; 2 Alcove Res ALBA 27 May.  
**SANDHILL CRANE (R8):** max 5 Ghent COLU 17 Mar (CW); Poestenkill Airport RENS 30 Apr (JD).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Schenectady SCHE 15 May.  
**Killdeer:** arr Livingston COLU 1 Mar.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr COX grasslands 22 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr WASH 4 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Chatham COLU 4 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr HR WASH 18 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Hudson COLU 4 Mar.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr Greenport COLU 28 Feb.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr HR SARA 25 Mar.  
**Black Tern:** arr Saratoga L SARA 19 May.

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** WASH 21 May; Ravena ALBA 30 May.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 2 COX flats 3 Mar; 6 FtE 15 Mar, "blonde" morph bird spotted there (DF).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Livingston COLU 15 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** max 4 Malta Tech Park SARA 10 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Albany 7 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Guilderland ALBA 30 Apr.  
**RED HEADED WOODPECKER (R8):** Niskayuna SCHE 16-23 May (ER).

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Century Run COLU 12 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Albany 24 Apr.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr SARA 23 Apr.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Galway SARA 2 May.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** Basic Creek ALBA 19 May; Glenville SCHE 22 May.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Albany 2 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 15 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr VF 26 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** WASH 21 May (KM).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 28 Apr.  
**Purple Martin:** Saratoga L SARA 19 May.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr E Greenbush RENS 31 Mar.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr Coeymans ALBA 18 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Ballston Spa SARA 17 May.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr WASH 6 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr Meadowdale Rd ALBA 18 Apr.  
**SEDGE WREN (R8):** FtE 27 May.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr SCHE 31 Mar.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Taghkanic COLU 14 Apr.  
**Blue Gray Gnatcatcher:** arr SCHE 19 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 2 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr SCHE 2 May.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr SCHE 23 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr VF 18 Apr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Livingston COLU 11 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 8 Poestenkill RENS 10 May.

## LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 SARA 30 Mar (KM).  
**Snow Bunting:** max 100 Colonie ALBA 1 Mar.  
**Ovenbird:** arr Hudson COLU 2 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Delmar ALBA 25 Mar.  
**N. Waterthrush:** WASH 4 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr WASH 18 Apr.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Providence SARA 21 Apr.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr SARA 15 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Albany 1 May.  
**Mourning Warbler:** L Desolation SARA 28 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr VF 2 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 2 Holt Preserve ALBA 11 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Schenectady SCHE 3 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr L Desolation SARA 3 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Schodack I RENS 5 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr Albany 4 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Schenectady SCHE 23 Apr.



**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Five Rivers ALBA 12 May; WASH 18 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr VF 2 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr VF 19 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Schenectady SCHE 2 May, Reg record early.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Schodack RENS 5 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 19 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Edinburg SARA 17 Mar, Reg record early.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** COX 5 Mar.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 1 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Schenectady SCHE 11 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 6 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Cobleskill SCHO 26 Mar.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Guilderland ALBA 22 Mar.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R8):** Five Rivers 2-11 May; Malta Tech P SARA 19 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Livingston COLU 8 Mar.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr SARA 5 Apr; Saratoga Airport SARA 19 May.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Saratoga Airport SARA 19 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** max 6 Catskill GREE 13 Mar.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Providence SARA 8 May.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr Papscanee RENS 1 May.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Albany 1 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Glenville SCHE 25 Apr.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Guilderland ALBA 5 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 4 May.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 43 BCM 11 Mar; max 140 VF 1 Apr.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Chatham COLU 4 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Saratoga SARA 15 Apr.  
**Red Crossbill:** Dresden WASH 9 Mar (DH).  
**Pine Siskin:** max 12 Dresden WASH 9 Mar; 2 Providence SARA 26 Mar.



## REGION 9—HUDSON – DELAWARE

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After the warmest winter on record, March came in as the hottest March on record. Poughkeepsie was 11.6° F above normal, and only 1.2" of precipitation fell in the month. On sixteen days the high was over 60°; nine day over 70°, with 19 & 22 March reaching 79°. The City had six consecutive days above 70° from 18-23 March; the period was nicknamed "Summer in March." April also averaged warmer and drier for the month, with Poughkeepsie reaching a summerlike high of 91° on 16 April. Many avian arrival dates were much earlier than average. May continued the trend with the month 6.1° warmer but with average rainfall. Summerlike highs of 80° or more were recorded on twelve days.

The weather caused many flowering plants to bloom early. The northern and higher elevations of the Region had a hard freeze, with temperatures below 28°, on the morning of 27 March. This caused widespread damage to those flowering plants.

Rob Stone found a **BARNACLE GOOSE** in New Hampton, Orange County on 1 March. The bird stayed in the area until the 4<sup>th</sup>. A Greater White-

fronted Goose was found in the same area on 3 & 4 March. Another Greater White-fronted Goose that wintered just south of the Region in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx moved just north into Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers on 30 March and was seen on and off into early May. A female Hooded Merganser with five young was discovered in northern Westchester County and reported on 7 May. This is only the second confirmed breeding in the county; the last was in 1966. There was a spectacular fallout of waterfowl on 1 April. Of particular note was a total of 13 Red-breasted Mergansers spread out over Sullivan County. Good numbers of White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-necked Grebe were also reported inland that day.

A Saw Mill River Audubon field trip to Sterling Forest on 26 May found a **MISSISSIPPI KITE** at the visitor's center. It was seen carrying a stick from tree to tree at the main parking lot. The following day birders realized that it was building a nest. On Monday a second bird was found, and the pair was observed mating. If the pair is successful, it will be Orange County's and the Region's first breeding record.

Ken McDermott and Danny Messina found a pair of Sandhill Cranes in Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR on the early date of 19 March. Four Sandhills were reported by Gabrielle Isenbrand flying north over Saugerties on 22 April.

A first winter **LITTLE GULL** was reported from Saugerties Lighthouse, Esopus Creek 26 April.

It looks like Common Ravens are now breeding in the entire Region. Andrew Block reported them from downtown New Rochelle. Breeding was later confirmed. Rich Guthrie reported a Common Raven possibly carrying food for young from a downtown White Plains parking lot on 13 March.

Rain and favorable winds brought a major fallout on 2 May. John Haas, Arlene Borko, Renee Davis, and Scott Baldinger tallied 95 species, with 24 warbler species, at the Bashakill. A very early male Mourning Warbler was the highlight. Rob Stone had an equally good day at Elk Brox Park, Port Jervis.

Jack Pisani reported on eBird a White-winged Crossbill in Pleasantville, Westchester County. A documentation photo sent in confirmed a young male White-winged Crossbill.

Other notable species include: Northern Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Common Redpoll.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CIES – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; CPP – Croton Pt P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; EBNP – Esopus Bend Nature Preserve; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; PP – Piermont Pier; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR; UCMC – Ulster County May Census.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Breezy Hill Rd, New Hampton 3,4 Mar (KM,RSt); Tibbetts Brook P, Yonkers 30, 31 Mar, 1,3,7 Apr, 3,4,5,8 May (ABa,API, MB,BV).

**Snow Goose:** 1000 Shawangunk Ridge 11 Mar; 550 Cooley Rd 15 Mar; 160 Swan L 15 Mar; 120 Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary 12 May.

**Brant:** 80 EGR 2 Mar; 2000 Kingston 12 May; 3800 MC 13 May; 3000 Saugerties 18 May.

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Pierce Rd, New Hampton 1-4 Mar (RSt,KM,DaM,CW).

**Mute Swan:** 200 Bashakill 10-12 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** Pierce Rd, New Hampton 2 Mar (KM,DaM,CW).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Tivoli Bays WMA 24 Mar; 4 Bashakill 14 Apr; 6 Bashakill 15 Apr; 4 EBNP 22, 24 Apr.

**N. Pintail:** good numbers during Mar in SULL and ORAN; max 159 Bashakill 6 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 75 Bashakill 29 Mar.

**Redhead:** 3 Chadwick L P 25 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 466 Yankee L 8 Mar.

**Greater Scaup:** 7000 EGR 2 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** 500 EGR 4 Mar.

**Surf Scoter:** 1-2 EGR 9, 24 Mar (TB).

**White-winged Scoter:** 53 EGR 26 Mar(TB); Saugerties 1 Apr (SRo); Kingston Point 1 Apr (SRo); 2 Esopus 1 Apr (MDe); 3 Kiamesha L 1 Apr (ScB, JHaa, ABor, LV); Wolf L 1 Apr (JHaa, ABor); 21 EGR 14 Apr, 2 Yankee L 6 May (JHaa); 17-20 Neversink Res 8,9 May (JHaa).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 16 Glasco SP, Saugerties 31 Mar; 6 Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties 31 Mar; 30 Neversink Res 31 Mar; 22 Kiamesha L 1 Apr; Yankee L 6 May; Neversink Res 8, 9 May.

**Bufflehead:** 156 Sullivan Co 1 Apr; 25 Kiamesha L 5 Apr.

**Com. Goldeneye:** 7 Yankee L 16 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** f with 5 yg Katonah 7 May; 2 Kingston Reservoir 12 May.

**Com. Merganser:** 102 Swan L 11 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Washington L, Newburgh 2 Mar; 2 Bashakill 2 Mar; 13 Sullivan Co 1 Apr; 2 PP 13 May.

**N. Bobwhite:** Greig Farm, Red Hook 18 Mar (PS).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** reports from SULL & DUTC; 1 rep ULST.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 56 EGR 1 Apr.

**Com. Loon:** 12 Neversink Res 8 May.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr 2 Bashakill 26 Mar; The Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 12 May.

**Horned Grebe:** 27 EGR 23 Mar; 15 Kiamesha L 31 Mar, 4 Swan L 1 Apr; 2 Ashokan Reservoir 12 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 4 EGR 17 Mar (TB); EGR 25,26 Mar, 1,12,13 Apr (TB, BV); 2 Glasco SP, Saugerties 31 Mar (PS); 2 Falling Waters Preserve, Saugerties 1 Apr (SRo); Esopus Meadows, Esopus 1 Apr (MDe); 3 Kiamesha L 1 Apr (ScB, JHaa, LV).

**N. Gannet:** 2-3 EGR 9,13,16,17,24,25,29 Mar; MC 23,24,29 Mar; 22 EGR 15 Apr.

**Am. Bittern:** 3 Tivoli Bays WMA 24 Mar; Woodbourne 1 Apr; 2 Bashakill 20 Apr; 4 Bashakill 12 May.

**Least Bittern:** Sleightsburg 7 May; Kingston Pt 12 May.

**Great Egret:** arr Pleasantville 21 Mar; Wurtsboro 1 Apr.

**Snowy Egret:** arr EGR, MC 24 Mar.

**Little Blue Heron:** Rosendale 30 Mar (AM); PUTN 21 Apr (ES).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 New Rochelle 19 May.

### HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Mississippi Kite:** Sterling Forest 26,27 May (AS,KM); 2 Sterling Forest 28-31 May (JC), first record ORAN.

**N. Harrier:** 8 SGNWR 11 Mar; 9 SGNWR 12 Mar.

**N. Goshawk:** Cooley Rd 5 Apr; 2 Bashakill 20 Apr; 2 Kingston 26 Apr; 1 Wurtsboro 6 May; Wittenberg 12 May.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Fallsburg 30 Mar; no reports from Hook Mt.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 3 SGNWR 11, 12 Mar.

**Golden Eagle:** imm Bashakill 26 Mar; Tivoli 26 Mar.

**Am. Kestrel:** 25 CPP 5 Apr (LL).

**Clapper Rail:** MC 29 Mar, 15, 25, 31 May.

**Sora:** 1-2 Bashakill 12, 17, 19 May; 6 at ½ Station Marsh 19 May; 2 New Paltz 26 May.

**Com. Gallinule:** Bashakill 25 Apr; New Paltz 11 May; The Great Vly, Saugerties 12 May; max 15 Bashakill 23 May (JH).

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 Liberty Marsh, Wallkill NWR 19 Mar (KM, DaM); 4 flying north, Saugerties 22 Apr (GI).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 2 PP 22 May; max 15 MC 26 May.

**Semipalmated Plover:** 39 MC 23 May.

**Am. Oystercatcher:** arr Rye 15 Mar; 5 EGR 17 Mar, 28 Apr; 6 Rye 13 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** max 7 Kingston Reservoir 1 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 6 MC 30 Mar.

**Willet:** MC 16, 19, 26 Apr; 3 MC 25 May (BV, TB).

**Upland Sandpiper:** CPP 13 Apr; 1-3 Blue Chip Farm 5-31 May.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 2 EGR 6 Apr; PP 24 May.

**Pectoral sandpiper:** Wallkill R NWR 21 Apr.

**Purple Sandpiper:** 5 EGR 31 Mar.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 17 SGNWR 22 May; 25 MC 23 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** 4 CPP 13 Mar.

**Am. Woodcock:** 9 CPP 13 Mar.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 4 Swan L 1 Apr; 27 EGR 13 Apr; Kingston Point 1 May; 6 Sleightsburg Spit 7 May; Ashokan Res 12 May; 15 PP 16 May.

**Little Gull:** 1st winter Saugerties Lighthouse, Esopus Creek 26 Apr (BR).

**Laughing Gull:** arr MC 22 May.

**Herring Gull:** leucistic ind Five I P, New Rochelle 5 Apr (BV).

**Iceland Gull:** Newburgh 27 Mar (CM).

**Caspian Tern:** Kingston Point 1, 7 May (FM, MDe, PS).

**Least Tern:** 1-3 MC 10, 15, 19, 25, 29 May.

**Forster's Tern:** 2 MC 30 Apr.

#### PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**Monk Parakeet:** New Rochelle 12, 19 May

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Val Kil 30 Apr.

**Short-eared Owl:** 1-2 SGNWR 11, 20 Mar; Parksville 24 Mar.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr 3 Wurtsboro 19 Apr; Woodstock 4 May; Onteora SP, Kingston 12 May; Mamaroneck 21 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1-6 Beaver Swamp, Weston Rd, Highland 18, 25 Mar-31 May.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Doodletown 11, 12, 26 May; CIES 12 May; Woodstock 13 May; Rockefeller SP 17 May.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Irvington Woods 6 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** RNC 10 May; Poughkeepsie 17 May; Stissing 19 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Hurley 9, 12 May; Wurtsboro 14, 15 May; 3 Sterling Forest 19 May; Pawling Nature Reserve 20, 27 May; 3 Clarence Fahnestock SP 30 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** 6 at ½ Station Marsh 6 May.

**N. Shrike:** Wallkill NWR 4 Mar (JS).

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr Clough Preserve, Patterson 26 Apr.

**Com. Raven:** carrying food White Plains 13 Mar (RG); nesting in New Rochelle, yg 12 May (ABI).

**Horned Lark:** 2 CPP 10 Mar; 21 Neversink Res 28 Mar.

**Purple Martin:** 5 New Paltz 5 Apr; 45 Thruway Toll Plaza, New Paltz 13 Apr; 10 Rosendale 2 May; 4 Pleasant Valley 25 Apr; 15 Jenkinstown Rd, New Paltz 4 May.

**Tree Swallow:** 25 CPP 8 Mar; 500 Saugerties 8 Mar; 100 CPP 13 Mar.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Saugerties 30 Mar.

**Bank Swallow:** 100 Mill Dam Rd, Stone Ridge 12 May; 100 Fishkill 12 May.

**Cliff Swallow:** 30 Livingston Manor late Apr-May.

**Winter Wren:** Sterling Forest 5 May.

**Marsh Wren:** Tivoli Bay 24 Mar; Bashakill 3 May; 3 MC 13, 23 May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 13 Mar Kingston.

**Veery:** arr RNC 2 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** MC 16, 19 May (TB).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** 7 near Slide Mt 13 May (TF).

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr RNC 3 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** 12 CPP 14 Apr.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr Bashakill 4 Apr, overwinters in southern Region 9.

**Am. Pipit:** few CPP 13, 17, Mar.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr Tallman SP 27 Apr; 10 Sterling Forest 5 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 3 Apr.

**N. Waterthrush:** RNC Apr 14; 12 Bashakill 2 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Poughkeepsie Cemetery 4 May; 5 Sterling Forest 5 May; Bashakill 4, 5, 6 May; Saugerties 12 May.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr CIES 21 Mar (APo); Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr (AA); 8 Bashakill 2 May.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** Bashakill 3 May (JHaa); Mine Rd 5 May (DK, DR).

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** Bashakill 2 May (JHaa, ABor, RD, ScB).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 15 Bashakill 2 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Linnear P 11 May (DD, DT); Sleightsburg Spit, Ulster 13 May (JY).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Bashakill 28 Apr (JHaa, ABor, ScB); Bashakill 28 Apr (StB).

**Nashville Warbler:** Wurtsboro 16 Apr; 6 Bashakill 2 May; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** male Linear P, Wurtsboro 2 May (JHaa, ABor, RD, ScB), very early; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 7 May; Rockefeller SP 8 May; EBNP 11, 12 May; Rye 23 May; Poughkeepsie 23 May; Sterling Forest 27 May.

**Kentucky Warbler:** Tibbetts Brook P, Yonkers 4 May; 2 Doodletown 9, 12 May; Mine Rd 11 May -thru.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** Saugerties 24 Mar; Clough Preserve, Patterson 26 Apr; 20 Bashakill 2 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** Doodletown 28 Apr; 14 Sterling Forest 5 May.

**Am. Redstart:** 15 Bashakill 2 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** Kingston 6 May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 9 May; 2 Tibbetts Brook P 12 May; 5 entrance to EBNP 12 May; other reports from 8-12 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Doodletown 21 Apr; 5 Doodletown 28 Apr; 10 Sterling Forest 5 May.

**N. Parula:** Slide Mt 14 Apr; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** 20 Bashakill 2 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 3 Elk Brox P 2 May; 2 RNC 7 May; New Paltz 8 May; 2 Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 9 May; West Park 11 May; 2 Rockefeller 12 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 6 Bashakill 2 May; 10 Elk Brox Park 2 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** CIES 29 Mar (APo);

Wurtsboro 17 Apr; 30 Bashakill 2 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 12 Bashakill 2 May; 15 Bashakill 2 May.

**Pine Warbler:** overwintered Lenoir Preserve 1-20 Mar; arr Westmoreland Sanctuary 17 Mar.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 100’s Bashakill 2 May.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Hastings-on-Hudson 8 Apr (AA), very early; 7 Sterling Forest 5 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 6 Bashakill 2 May; 15 Elk Brox P 2 May.

**Canada Warbler:** 3 Bashakill 2 May.

## TANAGERS - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr northern Region 9 on 27 Mar.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last Buttercup S 8 Apr.

**Field Sparrow:** MC 7, 17, 24 Mar; Bashakill 22 Mar.

**Vesper Sparrow:** Montgomery 7 Apr; 3 Saugerties 8 Apr; 2 CPP 14 Apr; Bashakill 15 Apr; Livingston Manor 15 Apr.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** few rep in Mar and many in May; Bashakill 1 May; 4 Millbrook 22 Kingston 4 May; 4 Woodstock 4 May; 3 Galeville Town Park 9 May; 2 Doodletown.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** few lingered in Rhinebeck till 8 May.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Storm King Art Center, Mountainville 29 Apr (DP).

**E. Meadowlark:** 2 Rockefeller SP 12 Mar; 12 SGNWR 31 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 100 Bashakill 29 Mar; 100 Bashakill 7 Apr.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Rockefeller SP 25 Apr.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 13 Cooley Bog 26 Mar; 14 Cooley Bog 1 Apr; Pleasantville 16, 17 May (JP).

**Com. Redpoll:** 2 Kingston 8 Apr (MDe); White Plains 18 Apr; Livingston Manor 26 Apr (KH).

**Pine Siskin:** 48 Monticello 5 Mar; 100 Cooley Bog 15 Mar; 4 Balsam Lake Mtn. summit, Hardenburgh 25 Mar; 40 Cooley Bog 26 Mar, 1 Apr; 18 Roscoe 5 Apr.

## EXOTICS – ESCAPES

**Egyptian Goose:** 2 Harbor Island P in Mamaroneck 20, 21 Mar (DB).



## REGION 10—MARINE

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The spring season was once again characterized by good showings of some typically southern species and early arrivals of some other species. But the overall timing of the migration, while still early relative to historical norms, seemed more usual than recent seasons. An exceptionally warm late winter and early spring contributed to a dramatically earlier leaf-out than historical norms. But cooler and damp conditions in May, including several warm fronts followed by southwest winds, made for some outstanding birding during the passerine migration. The mild winter probably contributed to a reduction in overall avian diversity relative to recent years, with only 285 species reported in the Region.

After the second warmest winter on record in our Region, the spring season continued very warm. The average temperature at Islip in March was 47.3° F, an astounding 8° above normal. It was even warmer in Central Park, 8.4° above normal. March was also extremely dry. Only 0.99" of rain fell at Islip, 3.45" below normal. April was warm and dry too, though not as extreme. Temperatures were 3.1° above normal at Islip, average 52.2°, and 1.8° above normal at Central Park, average 54.8°. Precipitation at Islip was 3.39", 0.95" below normal. Readings were similar at other stations. A storm on 22-23 April dumped 2-3" of rain around the Region. May was warm but wetter. The average temperature at Islip was 62.7°, 4.1° above normal. Central Park was 2.7° above normal, average 65.1°. Precipitation varied around the Region. For example 4.22" at Islip, 0.44" above normal; 5.38" at Central Park, 1.19" above normal; and 7.08" at JFK Airport, 3.14" above normal.

The mild conditions led to a dearth of typical rarities lingering from winter. The few still present included a **Greater White-fronted Goose** seen until 5 May at Van Cortland Park, Bronx; a female **King Eider** in Glen Cove, Nassau County through 3 March; a **Snowy Owl** at Hicks Island, Napeague, Suffolk County through 10 March; and several Red-headed Woodpeckers and Northern Shrikes. Red-necked Grebes were reported from Floyd Bennett Field through 31 March following a good winter showing there. In the "rarer still" department, a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** in Rockville Centre, Nassau County was last reported 4 March; a **White-winged Dove** visited a Staten Island feeder thru 21 May; and a **Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco** was seen at another Staten Island feeder through 5 March.

Several atypical species overwintering in our area were perhaps most interesting. A **Rufous Hummingbird**, the first of its species to survive the winter in New York State, was seen at the American Museum of Natural History through 13 March. A Semipalmated Plover was last reported at Jones Beach West End on 14 March. A Black-throated Blue Warbler wintered at a Napeague feeder through 31 March. A Common Yellowthroat was reported at Prospect Park on 2 March, and a Northern Parula found in late February at Silver Lake,

Staten Island was seen until 18 March, raising the possibility that these birds overwintered. A Dickcissel overwintered at the same Staten Island feeder that hosted the “Oregon” Junco. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Union Square Park, Manhattan was seen by many through 31 March. Other species overwintering included Blue-winged Teal, Great Egret, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Pine Warbler.

About 15 passerines and several other species arrived in our Region substantially earlier than historical norms. Many other species arrived around or after historical norms. A coastal land bird fallout was associated with the storm of 22-23 April. In particular, large numbers of Indigo Buntings were involved and several Blue Grosbeaks were the highlight. Many of these birds lingered for several days. City parks experienced several good migrant fallouts including 27 April, when 17 species of warblers were recorded in Central Park, and 23 May, with about 20 species of warblers. But the peak of migration throughout the Region occurred in early May. For example, 2 & 3 May brought 25 and 30 species of warblers to Central Park, respectively. Another coastal fallout on 2 May included 30 Indigo Buntings and 15 Eastern Kingbirds at Montauk Point. Migrants noted on Great Gull Island, Suffolk County 4-6 May included 76 passerine species and 17 warblers.

Does the strong showing of passerines typically of southerly distribution portend new or increased breeding in our area? For example, at least ten individual Prothonotary Warblers were recorded in the Region this spring, the last on 28 May; 15 Kentucky Warblers; 18 Summer Tanagers; and 14 Blue Grosbeaks. Ten Yellow-throated Warblers were recorded, including a pair observed in close interaction at Connetquot River State Park, one a singing male.

The scarcity of Bonaparte’s Gulls in the Region was once again notable. A report of 1,500 at Conference House Park, Staten Island on 17 April appears to indicate a localized flight, but otherwise reports were few. A few late stragglers were seen in May. Royal Terns were also scarce relative to recent years, with only three birds reported all season.

Reports of Northern Bobwhite were received from only one location this season, where Chukar has also been seen recently. This raises the question of provenance and of the potentially imminent extirpation of the species in our Region.

Sightings of Common Ravens were once again widespread throughout the Region, including a Central Park report. The curious exception was the lack of reports from the former stronghold in northern Nassau County. By season’s end it was clear that ravens had nested in at least two and probably three locations in Region 10. Nests were known in Hampton Bays, Suffolk County, and Co-op City, Bronx. At least one raven was observed repeatedly carrying food on several occasions in Richmond Hill and Forest Park, Queens. These locations are near the water tower in Kew Gardens where ravens nested in 2009-2011. However, a nest has not been found.

A pelagic trip to “The Dip”, approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Shinnecock Inlet, on 26 May recorded 54 **Leach’s Storm-Petrels**, 11 Cory’s

Shearwaters, **Arctic Tern**, and **Pomarine Jaeger**. Arctic Terns made a good late-season showing on the mud flats of Moriches Bay at Cupsogue County Park, Westhampton Dunes, Suffolk County. Four were seen on 27 May and several on other days through 31 May. Sooty Shearwaters were virtually omnipresent at traditionally favorable Long Island observation points from 15 May. A maximum of 81 was counted at Robert Moses State Park on 22 May.

The season featured some additional noteworthy rarities. A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was spotted by Peter Polshek at Montauk Point following the storm on 23 April. A **White-faced Ibis**, perhaps a returning bird, was present at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge from 22 April to 26 May and seen by many. Two each of **Swallow-tailed Kite** and **Mississippi Kite** were reported, the former at Prospect Park on 19 April and Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 27 May, and the latter at Bay Shore, Suffolk County on 10 May by Bobby Berlinger and Clove Lakes Park, Staten Island on 25 May by Howie Fischer and others. A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach State Park on 29 May. Another **White-winged Dove** was seen at Jones Beach West End on 13 May by Doug Futuyma, a virtual redux of last year's bird. **Pileated Woodpecker** was recorded in the Region for the second straight season: A female was seen at Buck's Hollow, Staten Island on 7 March and another bird was reported at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx on 5, 9, and 12 May. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was briefly at Gilgo Beach, Suffolk County on 29 May. A singing **Bicknell's Thrush** was seen well near The Water Hole at Forest Park on 16, 19, and 20 May by several observers.

Some miscellaneous notables include the following: Bald Eagle sightings were frequent, with about 40 individual birds reported through the season. There were at least 40 individual Turkey Vultures reported on Long Island, including nine at Calverton, Suffolk County on 30 April. While Yellow-billed Cuckoo was widely reported, Black-billed Cuckoo was exceptionally scarce. A White-winged Crossbill on 25 March at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, and a Pine Siskin, out of place at Gilgo Beach on 29 May, were interesting exceptions in a season otherwise almost devoid of irruptive finches.

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Lopes, Jean Loscalzo, Peter Martin, Eileen Mathers (EiM); Michael McBrien; Hugh McGuinness, Jack Meyer, Eric Miller, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, Andy Murphy, Mary Normandia, Joseph O'Sullivan, Robert Paxton (RPx), Tom Perlman, Peter Max Polshek, Peter Post, Robert Proniewicz, Anne Purcell, Joan Quinlan, Glenn Quinn, Peter Reisfeld, Ian Resnick, Jeff Ritter, Derek Rogers, Matthew Rymkeiwicz, Starr Saphir, Sy Schiff (SyS), Steve Schellenger (SSc), Eileen Schwinn, Peter Scully, Jr. (PS), Mike Shanley, John Shemilt, Lloyd Spitalnik, Tom St. Pierre, Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson, Ken Thompson, John Turner, Benjamin Van Doren, Richard Veit, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CB – Cedar Beach, Babylon, SUFF; CR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CCP – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; DOP – Drier-Offernam P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GBP – Goethal's Bridge Pd, RICH; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; MI – Moriches Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sagg – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** VCP thru 5 May (BVD, mob); Deep Hollow, Montauk thru 11 Mar (mob).

**Snow Goose:** Rita's Stables, Montauk 28 Apr (AnW), late.

**Wood Duck:** from winter

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Mass 8 Mar (JOS); Cooper's Neck Pd, Southampton, SUFF 15 Mar (RA, *et al*); Tottenville, RICH thru 26 Mar (fide SIW).

**Blue-winged Teal:** from winter; Canarsie Beach P, KING 28 Mar (DG), unusual location; 27 Northville, SUFF 28 Mar (MLL), large number; Deep Hollow 28 Apr (AnW), unusual location; 2 Rita's Stables 28 Apr (AnW), unusual location.

**“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** Smith Pd, Rockville Centre, NASS thru 4 Mar (SA, PA).

**American x Eurasian Green-Winged Teal:** GBP 16 Apr (RV).

**King Eider:** fem East I, Glen Cove, NASS thru 3 Mar (MN).

**Com. Eider:** max 175 Shinn 18 Mar (RA, *et al*); 40 MP 19 ay (HM, PMP, *et al*).

**Harlequin Duck:** Pt. Lookout, NASS thru 3 Apr incl: 5 on 6 Mar (AC); 2 drake, 2 fem 18 Mar (SyS); 1 on 3 Apr (SyS); 3 MP 28 Apr (AnW).

**Com. Merganser:** 9 SMSP 9 Mar (RA); 7 Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF 10 Mar (CS, *et al*); PP 14 Apr (RJ, HL); fem Stony Brook Mill Pd, SUFF 13 May (SBU, *et al*), noted as present for several months prior.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 1000 Jam Bay in March.

**N. Bobwhite:** at least 3 present Oregon Rd, Cutchogue, SUFF (RP, SSM, mob), provenance suspect, *intro*.

**Red-necked Grebe:** MP 1 Mar (PMP); 3 Coney I, KING 4 Mar (PD); 3 FBF 4 Mar (RBA); 1-2 FBF thru 31 Mar (mob); JBWE 6 Mar (AC); MB 18 Mar (AC); VCP 12-16 Apr (RBA).

**Cory's Shearwater:** 11 “The Dip” appx 50 mi SSE Shinn 26 May (AnW); 3 appx. 25 mi S MP 31 May (TJ).

**Great Shearwater:** RMSP 12 May (ABe, *et al*).

**Sooty Shearwater:** RMSP 15 May (PJL); 2 RMSP 16 May (JGI); 3 Sagg 18 May (AC); 4 RMSP 19 May (DR); 8 RMSP 20 May (MN, *et al*); 8 MB 19 May (HM, PMP, *et al*); max 81 RMSP 22 May (SSM, KF); 30 Westhampton Dunes, SUFF 22 May (DR, *et al*); 77 SPCP 22 May (MM); 2 RP 22 May (AB); 43 RMSP 23 May (SSM); 54 RMSP 29 May (RBA); 3 RMSP 27 May (SA); 13 RMSP 28 May (PJL); RMSP 30 May (SSM, JGI); RMSP 31 May (PP).  
**Manx Shearwater:** 2 MB 18 May (HM, PMP, *et al*); RMSP 28 May (PJL); RMSP 31 May (PP).  
**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** RMSP 26 May (RBA); CCP 26 May (RBA).  
**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** 54 "The Dip" appx 50 mi SSE Shinn 26 May (AnW)  
**N. Gannet:** 3200 12 Apr RMSP (RBA), large number.  
**Great Cormorant:** FBF 1 May (DG, *et al*), late.  
**MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD:** MP 23 Apr (PMP).  
**Am. Bittern:** sev reports Dune Rd, Hampton Bays, SUFF thru 9 Apr; Jam Bay 9 Apr (AC); CP 17 Apr (mob); Mt. Loretto State Forest, RICH 27 Apr (ACi).  
**Little Blue Heron:** Jam Bay 28 Mar (RF), early; CP 14 May (SS, *et al*), unusual location.  
**Tricolored Heron:** arr 26 Apr Jam Bay.  
**Cattle Egret:** JBWE 24 Apr (DK); Sound Av, Riverhead, SUFF 2-3 May (ES); Mecox Dairy, Bridgehampton, SUFF 4-19 May (BHo, mob); Argyle P, Bablyon, SUFF 17 May (KT).  
**Green Heron:** arr 16 Apr.  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** FBF 28 Mar (Maureen Matthews), early.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 3 Terrell R Co P, East Moriches, SUFF 17 Mar (CS, *et al*), early.  
**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** Jam Bay 22 Apr – 26 May (SSc, AB, MM, mob); Scoy Pd, Grace Estate, East Hampton 13-22 May (SSM, PJL, mob).  
**Black Vulture:** 2 MLUA 4 Mar (DE, *et al*); 2 Greenwood Cem, KING 8 Mar (PD); Blue Heron P, RICH 10 Mar (HF, *et al*); MLUA 11 Mar (SiW, *et al*); CR 13 Mar (ACi); 2 Bronx Zoo, BRON 14 Mar (Todd Olsen);  
**Turkey Vulture:** at least 15 LI reports involving at least 40 birds incl: 6 Edwards Av., Riverhead, SUFF thru; 5 Northville, SUFF 12 Mar (RA, *et al*); 6 Canarsie Beach P, KING 28 Mar (DG); 9 Calv 30 Apr (AM).

## HAWKS - ALCIDS

**Osprey:** arr 8 Mar.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** PP 19 Apr (Russ Alderson!); Jam Bay 27 May (Roy Woodford), ph.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Bay Shore, SUFF 10 May (BB); CLP 25 May (HF, J.Trezza).  
**Bald Eagle:** at least 35 reports involving appx. 40 birds.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Mt. Moses, RICH 4 Apr (AP).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** Stillwell Woods, NASS 17 Apr (RK, AL); 2 MP 7 May (HM, PMP, *et al*).  
**Virginia Rail:** CR 18 Apr (ACi).  
**Sora:** Dune Rd, Hampton Bays 28 Apr (MH).  
**Com. Gallinule:** River Rd, RICH 29 Apr (CB).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** JBWE thru 14 Mar (EE).  
**Piping Plover:** 18 JBWE 3 Apr (SyS), large number.  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** from winter.  
**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Zach's Bay, Jones Beach State P, NASS 29 May (fide BB).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 16 Apr, early.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** 4 Bridgehampton 28 Apr (AnW); 3 A.J. Hendrickson P, NASS 6 May (BB).  
**"Western" Willet:** ad FT 1 May (DG, *et al*).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** PP 25 Apr (AxW).  
**Whimbrel:** MB 23 May (AM); 2 PB 28 May (RBA).  
**Red Knot:** max 205 JBWE 23 May (RJK).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Jam Bay 25 Apr (AC), early.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 28 Apr.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 2 Jam Bay 27 May (SA, PA); 14 MB 27 May (AnW, PMP); 6 MB 30 May (KF, SF).  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** few; 3 GBP 28 Mar (RV), early; 2 GBP 16 Apr (RV).  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 19 JBWE 25 Mar (DR); 3 FT 1 May (DG, *et al*), late.  
**Am. Woodcock:** displaying, from winter.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** Jam Bay 3 May (AB); CR 21 May (ACi), ph; fem PB 26 May (TWB, GB); 2 m MB 27 May thru (Anya Auerbach, AnW, mob).  
**Black-legged Kittiwake:** ad MB 8 May (JD, AC), late, only report.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1500 CHP 17 Apr (RV), otherwise few; East Hampton 8 May (PMP); Mecox 8 May (JD, AC), late; CP 9 May (JD), unusual location.  
**Laughing Gull:** Coney I 11 Mar (RJ, *et al*), early; arr 8 Apr.  
**Iceland Gull:** 2 Gin Beach, Montauk, SUFF 1 Mar (PMP), ad & 3rd win; Bellport, SUFF 3 Mar (MC); Coney I Creek, KING 11 Mar (RJ, *et al*); Shinn thru 11 Mar; DOP 11 Mar (AxW); The "Mud Hole", appx 20 mi SSW BP (AG, *et al*);

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Accabonac Harbor, SUFF thru 16 Mar (AC); ad Northville thru 27 Mar (mob); imm Hampton Bays 31 Mar (MM); 1 win WPP 12 Apr (SIW, *et al*); HSP 24 Apr (SF); 1st sum Springs, SUFF 6 May (AnW).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad Napeague, SUFF thru 10 Mar (mob); ad FT thru 14 Mar (mob); ad Pt. Lookout 17 Mar (SW); 2 ad Sagg 18 Mar (AC); ad CSP 4 May (MM); RMSP, 3 CSP, JBWE 23 Apr (KF); HSP 23 Apr (SF); 2 MB 21 May (HM); 6 SPCP 22 May (MM); imm RMSP 22 May (SSM); 3rd sum JBWE 25 May (SA, CF).

**Glaucous Gull:** Bellport 3 Mar (MC); 2 Pt. Lookout 4 Mar (RBA), incl 1 ad; st sum Shinn 5 May (AnW), late; 1<sup>st</sup> sum SPCP 22 May thru (MM, RKa).

**Gull-billed Tern:** Gilgo, SUFF 25 Apr (JQ); 5 JBWE 5 May (RBA); 2 JBWE 8 May (JD, AC); PB 19 May (SSM, PJL); Jam Bay 26 May (MM, *et al*).

**Caspian Tern:** MB 21 Apr (AC); 2 MB 25 Apr (PMP); MB 28 Apr (AnW); MB 19 May (AC); Twin Causeway, Babylon, SUFF 22 May (SSM); 3 MB 27 May (AnW, PMP).

**Black Tern:** BP 13 May (CF); RMSP 15 May (PJL); DP 20 May (MN, SSM, PJL); CCP 24 May (Mike Scheibel); JBWE 25 May (SA, CF, DR); RMSP 26 May (RBA); DP 28 May (JGI).

**Roseate Tern:** arr 25 Apr MB; max 10 RMSP 15 May (PJL).

**Com. Tern:** arr 5 May.

**ARCTIC TERN:** 4 CCP 27 May (SSM); "The Dip" appx 50 mi SSE Shinn 26 May (AnW); 2 CCP 28 May (MM, SSM, *et al*); ad CCP 30 May (AC); ad CCP 31 May (AC, RA, SF).

**Forster's Tern:** arr 4 Apr.

**Royal Tern:** MB 24 Apr (PMP), early; RMSP 26 May (RBA); RMSP 30 May (SyS, JGi).

**Black Skimmer:** Gerritsen Creek, KING 15 Apr (SA, AG, mob); 2 MB 20 Apr (AnW), early; 225 JBWE 5 May (BB), large number.

**Pomarine Jaeger:** "The Dip" appx 50 mi SSE Shinn 26 May (AnW).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 4 RMSP 8 May (KF, JGI); 3 East Hampton 8 May (PMP); BP 13 May (CF); 4 RMSP 20 May (MN); RMSP 22 May (SSM); 2 RMSP 26 May (RBA); 2 RMSP 28 May (CCa); PB 28 May (SSM, *et al*), noted harassing terns over Mecox Bay.

**jaeger sp.:** The "Mud Hole", appx 20 mi SSW BP 11 Mar (AG, *et al*)

**Razorbill:** MP 1 Mar (PMP); 2 Jones Inlet, NASS 4 Mar (AB); Jones Inlet 6 Mar (AC).

## PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** Mt. Loretto, RICH thru 21 May (ACi); possibly joined by a second bird 4 Apr – 16 May, pending NYSARC review; JBWE 13 May (DF).

**Monk Parakeet:** Pt Lookout 3 Apr (SyS); CP 4 Apr (TF); unusual locations; 4 Babylon 12 Apr (KF).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** CP 16 Apr (TF), early; widespread arr 29 Apr.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** fewer than 10 reports.

**Barn Owl:** nested Jam Bay for 4<sup>th</sup> yr, 3 nestlings.

**Great Horned Owl:** nested FP; first time documented in appx 20 years; one nestling observed 5 May (EiM, SA, EM, *et al.*).

**Snowy Owl:** Hicks I, Napeague, SUFF thru 10 Mar.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Quogue 26 May thru (TWB, GB, ES)

**E. Whip-poor-will:** CR 28 Apr (ACi); CP 3 May (fide TF); unusual locations.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** PP 7 Apr (RBA); Tottenville, RICH 16 Apr (fide RV); early.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** American Museum of Natural History, NEWY thru 13 Mar.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** CP thru 29 Mar; Baiting Hollow, SUFF thru 4 Apr (mob); imm St. John Cemetery, QUEE 8 Mar – 6 Apr (DC, fide K. Mirth, C. Veltri), probably wintered; RMSP 15 Apr (JQ); Jam Bay 26 May (JGi, *et al*).

**PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):** fem Buck's Hollow, RICH 7 Mar (HF); NY Botanical Garden, BRON 5 May (DB, *et al*); same loc 9 May (PAB), 12 May (D. Becker).

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Matinecock, NASS 3 May (MN); Allison Pd P, RICH 4 May (MS); Jam Bay 5 May (TWB, GB, AGu); Sands Pt. Pres., NASS 5 May (GQ); CP 5 May (D. Kurz); JBSP 6 May (RJK); early; CLP 10 May (HF); HLSP 12 May (ABe, *et al*).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 17 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** APP 4 May (RJK), early; widespread arr 12 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Fuchs Pd, Northport, SUFF 23 May (BB0).

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr 12 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr 3 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr 12 Mar.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr 1 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr 28 Apr; 15 MP 2 May (PMP); 25 JBWE 5 May (BB); large numbers.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** Gilgo 29 May (RPx).

**N. Shrike:** FBF thru 11 Mar (mob); Wading River, SUFF thru 25 Mar (SA, MN, P.Priolo).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Quogue 31 Mar (MM), early.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr 16 Apr, early.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** North Fork Pres., Jamesport, SUFF 6 May (RA); PP 7 May (PD); PP 10 May (fide PD).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 2 JBWE 23 Apr (BB), early.

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** nested Hampton Bays, SUFF, Co-op City, BRON; probably bred vicinity of Kew Gardens/Richmond Hill, QUEE: Richmond Hill 23 Apr (JL), carrying food; FP ca. 16-21 May (JL), observed 3 times carrying food over 1 hour; other sightings widespread: CP 14 Mar (DA); N. Amityville, 15 Mar (PJ);

Argyle P, Babylon, SUFF 16 Mar (Tim Dunn); River Rd., RICH 21 Mar (EJ); Ft. Wadsworth, RICH 30 Mar (CB); Astoria, QUEE 8 Apr (AOC); Woodhaven, QUEE 8 Apr (EiM); CR 10 Apr (ACi); Southards Pd, Babylon, SUFF 14 Apr (Tim Dunn); Stillwell Woods 17 Apr (RK, AL); Blydenburgh County P, SUFF 19 Apr (PS); East Farm Pres., SUFF 12 May (SBu); 2 NY Botanical Garden 12 May (DB); Jam Bay 13 May (SA, EiM); Tottenville 18 May (ACi); Fresh Kills, RICH 30 May (GBo); *intro*.

**Purple Martin:** RMSP 25 May (SA, CF); FT 26 May (CF), migr.

**Tree Swallow:** from winter.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 1 Apr, early.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 5 Apr, early.

**House Wren:** arr 13 Apr.

**Marsh Wren:** arr 15 Apr, early.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Coney I Creek P 28 Mar (DG); CLP 29 Mar (GBo); widespread 30 Mar; early.

**Veery:** MNSA 14 Apr (MF), early; widespread 28 Apr.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** FP 19-20 May (TWB, GB, SA, *et al*); singing.

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** FP 16 May (CF!); possibly same bird FP 19-20 May (TWB, GB, SA, *et al*); singing.

**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** arr 10 May; about 10 reports.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr 29 Apr.

**Hermit Thrush:** 30 CLP 4 Apr (HF), large number; 2 Chatfield's Hole, East Hampton 18 May (HM, PMP, *et al*), singing males, late.

**Wood Thrush:** arr 29 Apr.

## LONGSPURS-WARBLERS

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 16 Apr, early.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 29 Mar; 5 CP 4 Apr (RBA), large number.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr 16 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Crocheron P, QUEE 30 Apr (EM); CP 1-2 May (mob).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Blydenburgh County P 21 Apr (GQ), early.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** CP 21 Apr (JD); Terrell River County P, SUFF 21 Apr (CS, *et al*); Bryant P, NEWY 23 Apr-10 May (MR, mob); Quogue 2 May (BHo); Upper Francis Pd, NASS 5-6 May (fide MN), ph; Green-wood Cemetery, KING 10 May (RJ); HLSP 10 May (RBA); Long Pd, Sag Harbor, SUFF 18 May (B. Kane, fide HM); Mt. Loretto State Forest 28 May (ACi), ph.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr 30 Apr.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** CP thru 16 Apr (mob); Babylon, SUFF 12 Apr (KF); 2 CP 18 Apr (Claude Bloch); CP 19 Apr (CC); Owls Head P, KING 29 Apr (AxW); FP 2 May (SA, CF, EiM), singing; Muttontown Pres., NASS 2 May (MN); St. George, RICH 4 May (IG).

**Mourning Warbler:** CLP 4 May (SSM), early; PP 10 May (fide PD); CP 10 May (RBA); FP 13 May (K. Mirth, *et al*); CLP 22 May (GBo); 2 CP 23 May (ABI, JDi); CP 24 May (CC).

**Kentucky Warbler:** A good showing: CP 27 Apr (AC, mob); Bryant P 3 May (MR); Riverside P, NEWY 3 May (TF); CP 4 May (TF); Willowbrook P, RICH 4 May (EJ); FT 5 May (RK); RMSP 5 May (RBA); CP 6 May (CC); CP 10 May (RBA); HLSP 12 May (DK); CLP 13-17 May (HF); PP 14 May (RJ, *et al*); CP 26 May (SS, *et al*); CP 28 May (SC).

**Com. Yellowthroat:** PP 2 Mar (R. Campos), possibly wintered.

**Hooded Warbler:** JBWE 18 Apr (KF); 2 CP 20 Apr; early; FP 24-25 May (PR, *et al*), late; at least 25 other reports.

**Cape May Warbler:** CP 21 Apr (JD, RF, *et al*), early.

**Cerulean Warbler:** PP 26 Apr (fide PD); Riverside P 4 May (TF); CP 4 May (TF); CP 5 May (SS); FP 6 May (SW, mob); FP 10 May (ABe, mob); CP 8 May (RBA).

**N. Parula:** Silver L, RICH thru 18 Mar (CB), possibly wintered.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr 2 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr 28 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr 27 Apr.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** PP 29 Apr (HL, RJ), early.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Napeague thru 31 Mar (fide HM), wintered at feeder.

**Palm Warbler:** arr 30 Mar.

**Pine Warbler:** a few wintered; migr arr 12 Mar, early.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** A good showing: APP 5-7 Apr (RJK, mob); Riverside P 14 May (TP, mob); PP 14 Apr (RJ, HL); CP 14-15 Apr (mob); APP 16-21 Apr (KF, SF); JBWE 18 Apr (SJ, *et al.*); CP 30 Apr (AC, mob); Ft. Tryon, NEWY 10 May (RBA); CRSP 21 Apr – thru (A. McIntyre, DR, KF, mob); 2 incl singing m CRSP 28 Apr (SSM, PJL); 2 observed in close interaction CRSP 2 May (CCa).

**Prairie Warbler:** CP 16 Apr (TF), early.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 4 May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Union Square P, NEWY thru 31 Mar (mob); HLSP thru 8 Apr (SSc, *et al.*); CHP 23 Mar (JS, TSP); CR 25 Mar – 3 Apr (ACi); DOP 14 Apr (AxW); CP 2 May (D. Kurz); JBWE 5 May (BB, BBo, *et al.*); RMSP 5 May (DR).

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 28 Mar, early; 80 CLP 4 Apr (HF), large number.

**Vesper Sparrow:** JBWE 4 Apr (MM); CP 4 Apr (TF); CLP 6 Apr (HF, MS); early.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** CP 3-6 May (SC); All Faiths Cemetery, Middle Village, QUEE 11 May (DC), ph; 26 Calv 25 May (SA, CF).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** arr 26 Apr

**Seaside Sparrow:** arr 29 Apr

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** PP 30 Apr (RJ); CP 1 May (CF); CP 6-7 May (CC); FP 11 May (SA, EiM); SMSP 11 May (JGI); Jam Bay 13 May (SA, EiM); Bryant P 12-14 May (GW, ABe, *et al.*);

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 4 May; 3 JBWE 5 May (BB).

### DARK-EYED "OREGON" JUNCO:

Tottenville thru 5 Mar (Lisa Manne, fide RV), ph.

**Summer Tanager:** 2 VSSP 28 Apr (JGI, GB, TWB, mob), fem & imm m; APP 1 May (JR, EM); fem JBWE 5 May (BB); ad m VSSP 6 May (BB); PP 7 May (fide PD); CP 7 May (fide P.Pollock); 2 PP 8 May (fide PD); CLP 10 May

(HF); CP 9 May (DF); FP 10 May (ABe, *et al.*); 2 CP 10 May (PR, RBA); APP 12 May (SA, IR, *et al.*); FP 12 May (TWB, mob); FP 17 May (PR); FP 19 May (TWB, GB).

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr 26 Apr.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 15 RMSP 5 May (KF, SF).

**Blue Grosbeak:** CP 21 Apr (JD, RF, *et al.*); All Faiths Cemetery 23 Apr (DC); JBSP 24 Apr (DK); AMA 24 Apr (fide HM); Gilgo 24 Apr-1 May (DR, mob); 2 CRSP 29 Apr, imm m & ad m; fem DOP 28 Apr AxW; fem MP 28 Apr (AnW); CP 1 May (TF); FBF 6 ay (SW); MP 7 May (PMP, HM, *et al.*); Stony Brook University, SUFF 8 May (SBu, *et al.*); CP 9 May; MLUA 16 May (EJ, *et al.*).

**Indigo Bunting:** numerous in migr fall out at barrier beaches: 13 MP 23 Apr; 11 JBWE 23 Apr (BB); 11 Gilgo 24 Apr (DR); 15 MP 28 Apr (AnW); max 30 MP 2 May (PMP).

**Dickcissel:** Tottenville thru 5 Mar (Lisa Manne, fide RV); ad m Maspeth, QUEE 25 Mar (Francis Koziol).

**Bobolink:** Upland Farm Pres, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 4 May (DR); 9 Edgemere, QUEE 18 May (CF), 5 m 4 fem; 4 Wainscott, SUFF 18 May (HM, PMP, *et al.*).

**Orchard Oriole:** arr 22 Apr; 10 RMSP 4 May (KF, SF).

**Baltimore Oriole:** 52 RMSP 4 May (KF, SF).

**Purple Finch:** only 2-3 reports.

**White-winged Crossbill:** Green-wood Cemetery 25 Mar (Orrin Tilevitz).

**Pine Siskin:** Gilgo 29 May (SSM, *et al.*).

### EXOTICS

**Mitred Parakeet:** pr at former nest site, Kew Gardens, QUEE 13 Mar-12 Apr, but did not nest there; 5-12 Hillcrest, QUEE 20-26 Mar (Jackie Forrester), early; 2 Bay Ridge, KING 29 Mar (Nina Shope), ph!, first record in KING.



## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

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

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia;  
NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19  
from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64  
from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21  
from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February

Deadline is 7 March

Spring Season: March, April, May

Deadline is 7 June

Summer Season: June, July, August

Deadline is 7 September

Fall Season: September, October, November

Deadline is 7 December

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Jeanne Skelly, Secretary for NYSARC  
420 Chili-Scottsville Rd., Churchville, NY 14428

**New York State Young Birders Club:**

Carena Pooth, Chair—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

**Publications:**

Timothy Baird, Chair—242 State St., Salamanca, NY 14779

**Publicity:**

Kathryn Schneider, Chair—16 Frisbee Ln., Stuyvesant, NY 12173

**Research:**

Victor Lamoureux, Chair—885 Bunn Hill Road, Vestal, NY 13850

**Waterfowl Count:**

Bryan L. Swift

NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754

**Web Site and Information Services:**

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

***Elected Committees***

**Nominating:**

Joan Collins (Chair), Robert Adamo, William Ostrander

**Auditing:**

John Cairns, Irving Cantor (Chair), Peter Capainolo

