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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Delmar, Albany Co., 30 May 2013 © Scott Stoner.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Queens Co., 26 May 2013, © Corey Finger.

TIMING OF THE SPRING PASSAGE OF DARK RED-TAILED HAWKS PAST DERBY HILL BIRD OBSERVATORY

By Kyle Wright

kwright@alumni.unity.edu

The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is one of the most frequently encountered *Buteos* across North America. In western states and provinces, the species is highly polymorphic, with many individuals showing varying degrees of melanism and erythrisms (Dickerman & Parkes 1987, Hull et al. 2010). Across the eastern states and provinces, the plumage of Red-tailed Hawks is typically far less variable, and it is generally agreed that the widespread eastern subspecies *B.j. borealis* (including the northernmost populations, sometimes treated as *B.j. abieticola*) does not exhibit dark forms (Dickerman & Parkes 1987, Wheeler 2003). Thus, dark individuals occasionally documented in the East have generally been interpreted as vagrants of the western subspecies *B.j. calurus*, though the possibility that dark individuals occur at low frequency in some portion of *B.j. borealis*' extensive range cannot be ruled out.

Independent of subspecific speculations, the timing of the movements of dark birds is an easily documentable phenomenon at any eastern hawkwatch recording large numbers of Red-tailed Hawks. Derby Hill Bird Observatory, a sanctuary owned and operated by the Onondaga Audubon Society, hosts such a hawkwatch every spring from late February through the end of May, the average Red-tailed Hawk count from 1979 to 2012 being just shy of 6,500 birds per season. Dark birds are of near-annual occurrence amidst those kinds of numbers.

Assuming eastern dark birds are vagrants from the west, one might expect their dates of passage to be clumped according to theories of differential migration of distinct populations (Smith et al. 2003, Hull et al. 2009). Especially if vagrants were originating from a particular western subpopulation and maintaining migration timing cues from their origin population, one would expect a pattern in which dark birds would pass eastern sites in a distinctive temporal window relative to the mean date of passage of the bulk of migrating Red-tailed Hawks. On the other hand, if these dark birds were not from a specific population, one would expect their dates of passage to be spread out across the entire season.

METHODS

Derby Hill Bird Observatory is located on the southeast corner of Lake Ontario (N 43° 31' 39", W 76° 14' 22") and is at just about the extreme eastern end of the diversion line created by the south shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario in spring migration. Standardized spring migratory raptor counts have been conducted annually at the site since 1979, with the count season typically starting in late February or early March and continuing through the end of May and making for an average of 517 hours of observations per season. Counts are conducted under a standardized protocol from one of two lookouts located just over 1 kilometer apart. It is generally left to the discretion of the individual counter as to what data are collected on the birds beyond species and number. Specific information on the dates of passage of dark Red-tailed Hawks were documented and available from the years 1994, 1995, 1999, 2001-2006, 2009, and 2012. The term "dark" is used herein to refer to both dark morph birds and the rufous or intermediate morph

birds as described by Wheeler (2003) where the majority of the underwing coverts were dark, obscuring the patagial marks and commas. Light morph birds with heavy orange wash to the underparts but retaining prominent patagial marks and commas (birds to whom the term rufous morph has been misapplied) were not included.

All statistics were performed with Microsoft Excel, with all calendar days being converted to Julian dates for ease of calculations. In an attempt to normalize the effects of weather on the timing of spring migration of Red-tailed Hawks past Derby Hill, mean dates of passage and standard deviations were calculated for all migrating Red-tailed Hawks for each year examined.

RESULTS

A total of 44 individual dark Red-tailed Hawks were observed in the eleven years examined. As many as 11 were observed in a single season (1995) while in two springs (2003 and 2006), only one dark bird was documented. The earliest dark Red-tailed was recorded on 13 March and the latest bird passed the site on 19 April, with the standard deviation for all 44 dark birds being 10.8 days.

Mean date of passage for all Red-tailed Hawks varied from 30 March in 1995 to 10 April in 1997. Standard deviations from the mean date of passage varied from 13.5 days in 2001 to 21.3 days in 2012, with an average standard deviation (amongst all 11 years) of 16.1 days.

Altogether, 20 dark individuals passed the site before the mean date of passage for all Red-tailed Hawks for their respective years, while 24 dark birds passed after their year's mean date for all Red-taileds. 34 of the 44 dark Red-tailed Hawks passed the site within (plus or minus) one standard deviation of the mean date of passage for all Red-tailed Hawks for their respective years. The remaining ten individuals passed the site between plus one and plus two standard deviations from the mean; no dark birds passed the site earlier than one standard deviation before their year's mean date of passage for all Red-tailed Hawks.

DISCUSSION

These data indicate little difference between a mean date of passage for all of Derby Hill's spring Red-tailed Hawk flight and the date of passage of dark birds. The standard deviation for the dark birds is slightly lighter than that for all Red-tailed Hawks, but this is perhaps to be expected given the discrepancy in sample sizes of 44 dark individuals versus tens of thousands of normal birds. It does not appear the dark birds were clumped in a specific temporal window relative to the movement of all Red-tailed Hawks past Derby Hill.

Although there were more dark birds moving after the mean date of passage than there were before, and the latest birds were, temporally, further from the mean date of passage than the earliest birds, two main realities of the northbound movements of Red-tailed Hawks past Derby Hill probably account for this discrepancy.

Dates of passage of all Red-tailed Hawks are not entirely normally distributed; in each year addressed, the right tail, after mean date of passage, was larger than the left. The standard deviations used herein are calculated assuming a normal distribution. Quartiles or other percentiles might seem a better way to deal with the real data. The nature of the flights however, having big pushes of hundreds and sometimes thousands of birds on a few select days throughout the season, dictate that the desired percentile would fall on those big days, not on an appropriate or more meaningful length of time from the

mean (or median) date of passage. In four of the eleven years, either the first or third quartile

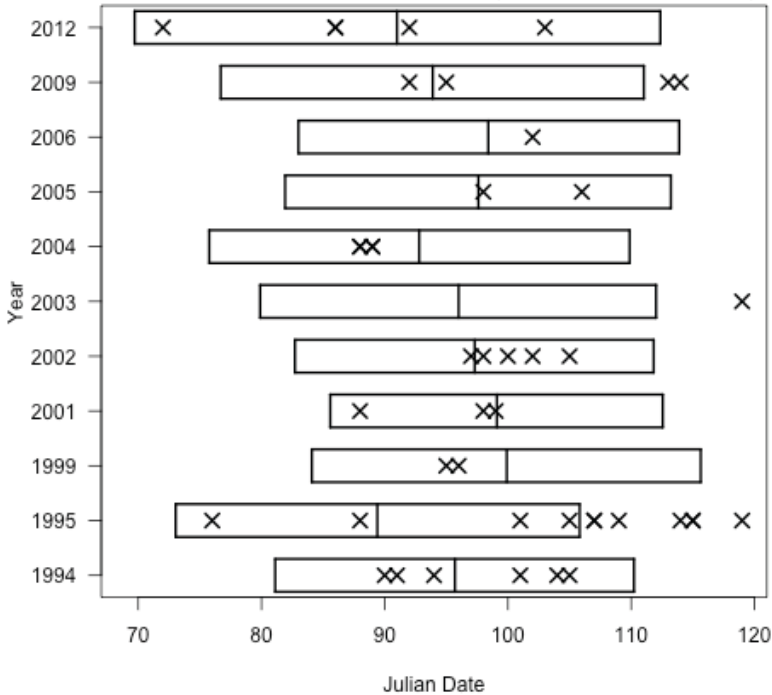


Figure 1: Timing of dark Red-tailed Hawks (Xs) relative to all Red-tailed Hawks passing Derby Hill Bird Observatory (mean date of passage plus and minus one standard deviation).

fell within five days of the median date of passage of all birds. In 2001, the first and third quartile were separated by only seven days, and the nature of March weather and therefore the March flight in 2004 made for the first quartile falling on 28 March while the second quartile fell on 29 March.

Secondarily, or perhaps helping to account for the non-normal distribution, is the fact that Red-tailed Hawks hatched the previous summer move north later than those birds that are over a year old. There are far fewer young birds than there are adults documented each spring at Derby Hill, so a bimodal distribution is not apparent or extractable from the raw numbers. In 2009 and 2012, however, data were collected on the age of the Red-tailed Hawks passing the site when the counter was not overwhelmed by volumes of birds. In 2009, 1,748 Red-tailed Hawks were identified as adult type birds (having undergone at least one (incomplete) prebasic molt) with a mean date of passage of 29 March while 232 individuals were identified as the young of the previous summer with their mean date of passage being 17 days later on 15 April. For 2012, 1,726 Red-tailed Hawks were identified as adult types, with a mean date of passage of 24 March, while 296 individuals were identified as the young of the previous summer, their mean date of passage being again exactly 17 days later on 10 April.

While age data were not collected on all of the dark Red-taileds included in this study, it can easily be speculated that most later individuals, perhaps a bulk of those

passing later than one standard deviation after the mean date of passage for the species, were young birds.

Speculations on ages aside, the data do not reveal any distinctive pattern or signal that directly support origins from specific (western) populations of Derby Hill's dark Red-tailed Hawks. In particular, the data are contrary to what one would expect if these dark birds were from a single subpopulation beginning their northbound migrations from western wintering areas (within the normal winter range of *B.j. calurus*). A less distinctive or strongly clumped signal could be attributed to dark birds occurring with varying frequencies through the west, not just in one or two specific subpopulations. Furthermore, there is an equally probable chance dark birds of western origins wintered broadly in the eastern United States (within the wintering range of *B.j. borealis*) with cues for northbound movement being distorted by any number of factors, which would accordingly further distort the signal in the data.

With all of these confounding variables, the timing of readily identifiable individuals cannot in and of itself confirm or rule out vagrant origin hypotheses. Further studies of dark Red-tailed Hawks in the East, preferably including the timing of their fall movements, and ideally based on band recoveries and/or stable isotope analysis of feathers would be greatly insightful. With available data, interpretation of the origins and destinations of dark Red-tailed Hawks in the east remains curious but largely speculative.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REPORT OF THE THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2011

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) reviewed 141 reports from 2011 involving 201 separate sightings and 12 reports from previous years involving 14 sightings. Under the Accelerated Review policy the Committee also chose to review 10 reports from 2012 concerning 3 potential first state records. Reports were received from 30 of the 62 counties in New York State, and a high percentage of reports came with helpful photographs. The Committee must remind readers that reports submitted to eBird, listserves, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even the *Kingbird* Regional Editors are generally not passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). When possible, the submission of multiple independent reports from co-observers is encouraged, as this provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can increase the likelihood of acceptance. ALL observers, not just the finder, are urged to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 103 people who contributed materials (written reports, photographs and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several *Kingbird* Regional Editors have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation. We wish to extend special thanks to Paul Baicich, Shai Mitra (*Kingbird* Editor), Mike Morgante (*Kingbird* Region 1 Editor), Jim Pawlicki, and Will Yandik for forwarding important documentation or providing valuable background research that aided the Committee in its work. The Committee also wishes to thank Peggy Snyder and Richard Guthrie for once again enabling the daylong NYSARC Annual Meeting held on 22 Sep 2012 at the Green County Accelerator in Coxsackie.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on report preparation and submission is provided on the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

Here, a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) is provided along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. Readers are reminded that, when possible, reports of potential new species are now reviewed ahead of the main body of reports so that a decision can be rendered and made public as soon as possible. This new Accelerated Review policy (NYSARC 2009, *The Kingbird* 59(3):235) benefits everyone but relies on timely receipt of the documentation. To ensure the continued success of this endeavor, the Committee encourages observers to provide materials, especially those concerning major rarities, as quickly and as thoroughly as possible. The Committee is grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for regularly updating and improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to five digital image files. Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email or regular mail to:

Gary Chapin
125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883
E-mail: nysarc3@nybirds.org

HIGHLIGHTS

Without doubt 2011 will go down as a banner year for New York State birding. Not only were a number of major rarities found and superbly documented, but *Tropical Storm Irene* brought a deluge of rarely seen seabirds under conditions that proved relatively benign for those observers who could get to a nearby coast. Coverage in terms of submitted reports was excellent but not complete, and a trickle of additional reports is expected. In reviewing 2011 sightings, the Committee voted to accept three new species to the New York State Checklist: **Trumpeter Swan** (*Cygnus buccinator*), **Gray-hooded Gull** (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*), and **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*). Other notables are the first photo-documented **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** (*Oceanodroma castro*) and, as a direct result of *TS Irene*, not one, but six **White-tailed Tropicbirds** (*Phaethon lepturus*). Additionally, the Committee accepted 2012 sightings of **Fea's/Zino's Petrel** (*Pterodroma feae/madeira*) and **Grace's Warbler** (*Setophaga graciae*) through Accelerated Review, both new for the state; these will be presented in the 2012 Annual Report. With these five additions from 2011 and 2012 the NYS Checklist now stands at **484** species or unique species pairs.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Few species have prompted more public discussion regarding NYS Checklist status than Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), and for several years now the Committee has been acutely aware of the uncomfortable disconnect between what people are seeing in the field and what the checklist says. The history behind this question is both interesting and complicated. There is slim evidence that Trumpeter Swans ever occurred as a significant natural population in NYS, even in pre-colonial times, but over the last 10-15 years birders have witnessed a steady self-colonization of wetlands in western, central and northern parts of NYS. Most, if not all, of the Trumpeter Swans occurring in the state originate directly or indirectly from a series of intensive reintroduction programs based in southern Ontario and a handful of mid-western states, supplemented by a few escapes/releases from private collections within NYS. Galvanized by careful documentation of Trumpeter Swans submitted each year by diligent field observers, especially of reports of marked birds whose origins could be traced, the Committee formulated a set of detailed guidelines for when this species, or for that matter any introduced species, might be safely considered to have established a sustainable population and warrant admission to the NYS Checklist. The situation has been assessed by NYSARC every year, and at the 2012 Annual Meeting Dominic Sherony presented the findings of the newly released US Fish and Wildlife Service survey of the North American Trumpeter Swan population together with correspondence with various organizations directly involved in the reintroductions. Based on this new and detailed information, the Committee agreed that the pre-determined benchmarks had finally been met and that the population wintering in NYS would likely continue for the foreseeable future without continued human assistance. The viability of the NYS nesting population, however, remains questionable and needs to be monitored closely. Henceforth Trumpeter Swan will be included on the New York Checklist, placed between Mute Swan (*C. olor*) and Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*). Reflecting the gradual progression towards this somewhat arbitrary point, no individual report could be singled out as the "first state record." Sightings from Downstate New York remain very rare and warrant NYSARC review.

The NYSARC Review List is evaluated every year, and changes are made to reflect current knowledge and documented shifts in the status of individual species. Formulation of the Review List is more about balancing the practical aspects of reporting and reviewing than a rigorous scientific assessment of abundance. Some species are included because they are considered challenging to identify in the field, an extrinsic factor that potentially masks the species' true abundance or frequency. A prime example of this category is Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). Formerly considered a major rarity even on the coast of eastern Long Island, careful studies of terns roosting on the tidal sand flats flanking the Moriches Inlet on Long Island have found the species to be a more frequent visitor than previously thought. This may reflect both a change in local abundance and better awareness of the field characteristics, especially of 1st and 2nd summer plumages, coupled with better means for photo-documentation. Based on these advances and a steady stream of acceptable reports, the Committee voted to remove Arctic Tern from the Review List for downstate NY, including pelagic waters where the species is likely to be a regular migrant, especially in spring. The Committee will continue to review any sightings from non-coastal areas.

There has been a strong impetus emanating from several quarters to modify the definition of NYS pelagic waters in order to extend the range to include the areas of deep water upwelling that are now the preferred destination of many offshore birding trips and to make the boundary lines with neighboring states easier to calculate. This subject was last visited in 1978 (DeBenedictis 1978). Prior to the 2012 Annual Meeting, Angus Wilson supplied the Committee with a detailed overview of the boundary situation coauthored with John Shemilt, a frequent visitor to NYS offshore waters. Using a series of custom-drawn maps, the document systematically compared current boundary definitions with various alternatives and also summarized the boundaries defined by other bird record committees and national organizations. After discussion, the Committee voted to (1) extend the offshore boundary from the 1000 fathom line to a linear distance of 200 nautical miles from land and (2) accept the nearest point of land (NPoL) method for calculating the boundary. This has a relatively minor impact on the existing boundary close to shore but widens the coverage far offshore. Importantly, this brings NYS in line with a number of other US states and the American Birding Association and exactly mirrors the boundaries used by eBird. In concert with this new definition, the Committee agreed to adopt a new "pelagic" zone or region beginning 3 miles from shore and extending to the 200 nautical mile mark. This zone will be treated in the Annual Report write ups as if it were a county and, in time, may be used to redefine the review status of problematic review species such as Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) and Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) that are relatively common offshore but only very rarely seen from land. A detailed explanation for the rationale and consequences of these changes will be published at a later date.

Last but most certainly not least, the Committee extends a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Jeanne Skelly for her years of invaluable service. After a long search Jeanne succeeded in finding a suitable replacement for herself in Gary Chapin, the new Secretary of NYSARC. Turning in her last spreadsheet, she is now able to enjoy more hours pursuing real birds in the field but keeps in regular contact to help with the archive, which she spent many tens of hours overhauling and cataloging. We welcome Gary, who successfully combined a very busy reporting year with moving to a new job and place of residence.

2011 Reports Accepted

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

2011-15-A/C Five, Wallkill River NWR, Pine Island, **Orange**, 23-26 Mar (Kenneth M. McDermott, Angus Wilson, Jim Schlickerrieder; ph Curt McDermott, Dave Baker, A. Wilson)

2011-42-A/D One, Conewango Swamp WMA, Randolph, **Cattaraugus**, 25-26 Aug (Dominic Sherony, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Kayo J. Roy, William W. Watson; ph D. Sherony)

2011-148-A One, Stow, **Chautauqua**, 19-25 Sept (Jim Berry; ph Brant Gamma)

Added to the NYS list in 2010, the Committee accepted three more reports for Black-bellied Whistling-Duck from 2011, the first being a flock of five discovered by Rob Stone at the Wallkill River NWR. The fact that these were a free flying group, lacked leg bands or other signs of captivity and remained for only a few days in a natural migratory corridor seemed fully consistent with wild birds. The next occurrence was of a single individual found by Matt King of the DEC during a duck banding session at Conewango Swamp WMA. Although not captured, it was seen over a period of several days and documented by a number of area birders. A month later a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was found by Brant Gamma consorting with Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) at the south end of Chautauqua Lake. This is 23 miles west of Conewango Swamp, suggesting the same individual was involved, but this could not be established.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2011-103-A One, Schutt Road, Middletown, **Orange**, 15 Nov (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Curt McDermott, Deborah Tracy-Kral)

Debbie Powell found this first example of a Pink-footed Goose away from the immediate southern coast of NY. Ken McDermott provided written details, supported by photographs taken by his son Curt McDermott and by Deborah Tracy-Kral. Other confusion species such as Taiga Bean-Goose (*A. fabalis*) and Tundra Bean-Goose (*A. serrirostris*) were firmly ruled out. The legs were not banded, a detail that the committee very much appreciates, this consistent with a genuine vagrant. There were a number of reports of Pink-footed Goose in eastern North America in the winter of 2011/12. The marked increase in sightings of both Pink-footed and Barnacle (*Branta leucopsis*) Geese support the notion that many refer to natural vagrants. Accordingly, the Committee has been more inclined to accept reports.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2011-8-A One, Glenwood Road, Pine Island, **Orange**, 4 Mar (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Curt McDermott)

This Barnacle Goose provides another example of a rarity found by the diligent goose watchers of Orange County. The date is consistent with the spring migration of geese in the east. Although coastal records are more frequent, there have been other March sightings of this species from inland NYS. Given the timing, location and absence of any signs of captivity, the Committee accepted the sighting as of a natural vagrant.

“Eurasian” Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca*)

2011-123-A Two males, Shorts Pond, Bridgehampton, **Suffolk**, 6 & 13 Mar (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

Two male “Eurasian” Green-winged Teal were found among a larger group of “American” Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*). Each showed the bold white horizontal scapular stripes on both sides of the body and lacked any visible hint of a vertical white breast bar on either side. Asymmetry in the plumage is often a tipoff to an intergrade between the Eurasian and American subspecies, and it’s important to study candidates from both sides. A photograph of one of these two birds was included.

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*)

2011-58-A One, Mecox Bay, Watermill, **Suffolk**, 28 Aug (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson, John Shemilt)

After an intense day of chasing storm birds, Angus Wilson and John Shemilt were hunkered down on each side of Mecox Inlet, scanning the stormy bay for any remaining seabirds. A group of roosting Bridled Terns (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) was nestled into the vegetation in front of Shemilt's vehicle, and a Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) was making repeated circuits of the confined bay, pausing at the now closed inlet before retreating back into its relative shelter. Suddenly Wilson noted a second shearwater-sized bird further back in the bay, which he recognized as a Black-capped Petrel. Via cell phone he was able to direct Shemilt onto it, and together they were able to secure photographs to document the sighting, ironically the first from coastal NYS. Alerted by phone, other birders arrived minutes later, just in time to see the bird before darkness fell. Among other features, the well-defined white collar separating the black cap from the dark mantle firmly excluded Bermuda Petrel (*P. cahow*). The photographs were also sufficient to identify this bird as a dark-morph, referring to the extent of the dark mask encompassing the eye. Observations from the Gulf Stream off North Carolina have recognized light, dark and more rarely occurring intermediate forms (Howell et al. 2008). These forms detected in the field are substantiated by review of museum specimens, which also reveal reproducible differences in size and mitochondrial DNA sequence consistent with reproductively isolated populations or taxa (Howell et al. 2008, Manley et al. 2013).

White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)

2011-43-A One, Fishtails of Block Canyon, **pelagic**, 19 Aug (John Shemilt; ph J. Shemilt)

2011-86-A One, Hudson Canyon, **pelagic**, 3 Sep (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

Two White-faced Storm-Petrels were seen and photographed by John Shemilt and companions whilst fishing over the continental shelf edge. The first was encountered in the upper reaches of Block Canyon, whereas the second was found at the Hudson Canyon, initially spotted by Keegan Corcoran. In both cases, the identification was straightforward and amply documented by photographs. This species is likely present in small numbers along the shelf break and outer canyons every summer but can be difficult to detect, shying away from boats and often remaining hidden among the wave troughs.

Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

2011-52-A Thirty, **pelagic**, 6 Aug (Lynne Hertzog; ph John Shemilt)

2011-64-A One, Jones Beach SP Field 10, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Ken Feustel; ph K. Feustel)

2011-76-A/B One, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma, Shaibal S. Mitra)

NYSARC accepted three reports of Leach's Storm-Petrel for 2011, one from an offshore excursion and two associated with *TS Irene*. Lynne Hertzog and three others came upon a flock of 30 Leach's Storm-Petrels while on John Shemilt's boat on 6 Aug south of the Shinnecock Inlet. Although little description was provided, Shemilt's excellent close photographs of a few birds in flight clearly eliminate other storm-petrels. Recent summers have witnessed a marked increase in sightings of this species from deeper waters off eastern Long Island. It is still difficult to say if this reflects a sustained distributional change or simply observer effort. The two accepted reports from *TS Irene* came from Jones Beach SP. Ken Feustel and two others observed and photographed a Leach's Storm-Petrel from Jones Beach Parking Field 10, while a mile or two further west Doug Futuyma, Shai Mitra and others studied a Leach's circling in the inner portion

of Jones Inlet. These birds were among several reported from shore that day, and the Committee hopes to receive additional reports in time.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)

2011-44-A One, possibly two, 75 nm SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, **pelagic**, 6 Aug (John Shemilt; ph J. Shemilt)

While chumming for pelagic birds some 75 nautical miles SSE of Shinnecock Inlet, John Shemilt and three companions noticed a different storm-petrel among the 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and 12 Leach's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) they had attracted. Wisely, Shemilt managed to secure some close photographs of the bird, allowing further study, and these firmly supported the identification. This is only the 2nd NYS record accepted by NYSARC (see NYSARC 1997-74-A) and the first to be photographed. Securing photographs is especially important because of the distinct possibility that the AOU and other bodies will split the North Atlantic populations into multiple species at some future date. The at-sea identification criteria are a work in progress but currently consider molt timing as a major indicator (see Bolton et al. 2008, Robb et al. 2008, Howell et al. 2010).

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*)

2011-54-A One, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Steve Walter; ph S. Walter)

2011-65-A One specimen, East Marion, **Suffolk**, 29 Aug (Paul Sweet)

2011-66-A One specimen, Beach 48th Street, Rockaway Beach, **Queens**, 29 Aug (Paul Sweet)

2011-69-A/B Two specimens, Presbyterian Hill Road, Stephentown and Township of Petersburg, **Rensselaer**, 29 Aug (Jesse W. Jaycox, Jeremy J. Kirchman; ph J. Jaycox, J. Kirchman)

2011-89-A One, Pier at west end of 24th Street, Manhattan, **New York**, 28 Aug (Sam Stuart; ph S. Stuart)

TS Irene will be known as the storm that brought White-tailed Tropicbird to NYS, doubling the tally of previous records, which were all hurricane related, with the last in 1954 (Askildsen 1998), in the space of two days. Sadly, two of the tropicbirds were found dead, the Rockaway Beach bird by Sergeant Marisa Miller of the Urban Park Rangers and the East Marion bird by Robert S. DeLuca. The Stephentown and Petersburg birds had travelled far up the Hudson River and were found alive and taken into care, but both died shortly thereafter; these two, both adult males, are now at the New York State Museum in Albany, the Stephentown bird a skin specimen number 11229 and the Petersburg bird a skeleton specimen number 11230. Fortunately, two additional birds were seen very much alive, and both were nicely photographed. All of the 2011 birds were adults.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

2011-104-A One, Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye, **Westchester**, 13 Nov (Benjamin Van Doren; ph B. Van Doren)

Although Brown Pelican is not a review species for coastal NYS, it is quite rare on Long Island Sound where this bird was found. Benjamin Van Doren observed this bird with finder Tom Burke and obtained a good photograph.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

2011-53-A One, Hudson River off South Bay, Hudson, **Columbia**, 28 Aug (Timothy O'Connor)

Timothy O'Connor provided a convincing description of a frigatebird passing overhead in the aftermath of *TS Irene*. Some committee members were concerned that other species such as Great Frigatebird (*F. minor*) could not be ruled out by the description. However, it was agreed that Magnificent Frigatebird was much more likely in these circumstances, the storm having tracked up through the Caribbean, where this species is very common.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

2011-37-A One adult, Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo, **Erie**, 26 Apr (Alec Humann)

Alec Humann provided a solid description of an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron seen at a nature preserve near Lake Erie in Buffalo. The species is relatively common in coastal NYS during the summer months, where it nests in a number of locations, and there has been a steady increase in the number of Upstate reports. Adults are quite distinctive, and area birders have become more adept at safely separating immatures from the much more common Black-crowned Night-Heron (*N. nycticorax*). After discussion, the Committee decided to remove Yellow-crowned from the Review List statewide.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2011-11-A One adult, Mt. Loretto Unique Area, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 25 Apr (Seth Wollney; ph S. Wollney)

2011-26-A/C One immature, Wallkill River NWR, Pine Island, **Orange**, 15-17 Jul & 10 Aug (Kenneth M. McDermott, Jim Schlickerrieder, Angus Wilson; ph John H. Haas)

2011-32-A One immature, Haven Road, Bashakill WMA, **Sullivan**, 28 Jul (John H. Haas; ph J. Haas)

2011-72-A/B One immature, Bridge Lane, Sagaponack, **Suffolk**, 2-3 Sep (Karen Rubinstein, Eileen Schwinn; ph E. Schwinn)

The summer of 2011 was a banner season for White Ibis in the northeast, with sightings spread across NYS and neighboring New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. NYSARC accepted four records, unusual for any year, although in 1977 eleven immature White Ibis were reported around the state. The striking adult on Staten Island found by Jeff Stetson in April is of particular interest. The reports from the Wallkill River and Bashakill may pertain to the same bird, as these locations are only about 15 miles apart. Based on the dates, that would mean that the bird first occurred at Wallkill, moved to Bashakill, and then eventually returned to Wallkill. However, without more concrete evidence this is purely speculation, and the Committee decided to treat the birds at each location separately. The Wallkill River ibis was first seen by Rob Stone, and Jim Ash found the Sagaponack bird.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2011-12-A/B One, High Acres Waste Management Area, Fairport, **Monroe**, 19-20 May (Jeanne Skelly, Brad Carlson; ph J. Skelly, B. Carlson)

Once very rare, this species is now found annually in coastal NY, principally at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; however, sightings from Upstate also seem to be slowly increasing. This adult was found at High Acres Nature Area in Monroe County by Bruce and Mary Ann Cady and seen by many during its five-day stay, mostly in the mornings. It frequented one particular pond among many and was not seen elsewhere. Jeanne Skelly and Brad Carlson provided excellent photographs showing the white feathering surrounding the pink facial skin and red eyes, typical of an adult in alternate plumage.

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

2011-34-A/C Four, over Route 394 near Chautauqua Golf Course, **Chautauqua**, 3 Aug (Gil Randell, Jann Randell, Ron Preston)

2011-100-A One, Hamlin Beach State Park, **Monroe**, 28 Oct (Brad Carlson; ph B. Carlson)

On 3 Aug, Gil and Jann Randell were driving along Route 394 when they noticed four large white birds circling overhead. Stopping to observe, they witnessed four Wood Storks circle and then fly over to a nearby wood. The storks landed in the treetops, alighting for 30 seconds or so, before taking flight again and disappearing to the southwest. At around the same time, Ron Preston saw what were presumably the same birds flying over the nearby State Fish Hatchery. It's remarkable, considering that this quartet was not seen anywhere else in the state, that they should be spotted

simultaneously by two independent sets of observers. The second accepted report was from Hamlin Beach SP in late October. Mike Tetlow spotted a single Wood Stork moving roughly parallel to and just inland from the Lake Ontario shoreline. Brad Carlson and Andy Guthrie were also able to see the bird, and Carlson took photos of it soaring over the beach area. Wood Stork remains a less than annual vagrant to NYS, but reports of small flocks such as those in Chautauqua County are not unprecedented, the maximum being a flock of 16 in Wayne County in Aug 2001 (NYSARC 2001-28-A/I).

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

2011-35-A One light morph, Beebe Road, Wilson, **Niagara**, 27 Apr (Willie D'Anna)

2011-38-A One light morph, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Mexico, **Oswego**, 22 Apr (Bill Purcell)

2011-39-A One, Derby Hill Bird Observatory, Mexico, **Oswego**, 22 May (Bill Purcell; ph Tom Carrolan)

2011-91-A/D One first year bird, Lake Ontario Parkway, **Monroe**, 1-2 Oct (William W. Watson, Jeanne Skelly, Dominic Sherony, Brad Carlson; ph J. Skelly, D. Sherony, B. Carlson)

One or two Swainson's Hawks are now annual during the peak of spring hawk migration along the south shore of Lake Ontario, with three documented sightings for 2011. Bill Purcell provided convincing details of two light-phase birds moving east past Derby Hill one month apart. The 22 May bird was photographed. Further west along the lake, Willie D'Anna found a light morph in a kettle of soaring Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) on 27 Apr. What ultimately happens to these eastward bound spring adults is unknown. Swainson's Hawks are rarer in fall, but when they occur, are more likely to linger. On 1 Oct Jessie Barry discovered a juvenile Swainson's Hawk on the shoulder of the Lake Ontario Parkway in Hamlin, just west of Rochester. After posting her sighting to the Internet birding lists, a number of people saw the bird and commented on its fearless approach to the road traffic, sometimes swooping between speeding vehicles. It continued in the same location until 5 Oct, when it was hit by a car and killed; a sad, yet seemingly inevitable outcome witnessed by Mike Zebeazy. The corpse was collected and deposited in the collection at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

"Western" Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis calurus*)

2011-36-A One adult, Gaines Basin Road, Gaines, **Orleans**, 2 Apr (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)

Dave Tetlow discovered this dark morph Red-tailed Hawk on 1 Apr near the Village of Albion in Orleans County. Willie D'Anna was able to find it the next day and obtained photographs as it perched in a tree. Although reports of dark Red-tailed Hawks in the east have always been attributed to the western subspecies, *B. j. calurus*, this is based on the belief that dark color morphs do not occur in the eastern breeding populations, and the validity of this assumption was questioned during the review of the Orleans bird. This was prompted in part by a proposal from Jean Iron that the poorly known boreal "Eastern" Red-tail subspecies *abieticolus* might include some dark morph individuals (Iron 2012). Unfortunately the literature on distribution of dark Red-tailed Hawks and validity of this subspecies is limited and confusing. First named by Todd in the 1950's as a subspecies occupying the immense spruce-fir belt of North America stretching from central Alaska to Nova Scotia, many authorities still do not recognize *abieticolus*. Museum collections are not as helpful because relatively few specimens of breeding birds have been collected from boreal woodlands within the proposed range of *abieticolus*. After reviewing the available information, the Committee decided to accept this record as a *calurus* based on current information, with the possibility of revisiting the identification in the future. The chief questions are whether "Eastern" Red-tailed Hawks, regardless of the *borealis/abieticolus* issue, ever exhibit similar dark-morphs, and if so, how frequently. The Committee welcomes thorough photo-documentation of all candidates, as this might well shed fresh light on an interesting problem.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

2011-93-A One, Caumsett SP, **Suffolk**, 5 Oct (Derek Rogers)

Derek Rogers, a Nature Conservancy preserve manager, flushed this Yellow Rail three times in a freshly mowed meadow in the early morning of 5 Oct at Caumsett SP on the north shore of Long Island. Each time, it flew a short distance just a few feet above the grass before dropping out of sight. Rogers had views of the back, tail and wings, including the obvious white secondaries, which are characteristic of this species. The principal confusion would be a young Sora (*Porzana carolina*), which does show some white along the trailing edge of the secondaries. However, the Committee appreciated this observer's prior experience rails and the extent of the white as noted in the carefully written report. Rough grassland seems to be the preferred habitat for this species during migration, rather than fresh or saltwater marshes.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2011-18-A/B Two, north end of Sebonac Inlet Road, Southampton, **Suffolk**, 29 May (Michael Higgiston, Eileen Schwinn; ph E. Schwinn)

2011-50-A One, Old GM plant, Sleepy Hollow, **Westchester**, 28 Aug (Jacob Drucker)

NYSARC received two reports of Black-necked Stilt for 2011. The first involved a pair seen by Eileen Schwinn and others at the mouth of a tidal channel on eastern Long Island. Somewhat typical of the species, they did not linger in that area very long. The majority of stilt records are from salt or brackish habitat on Long Island in spring through to July, and the lone individual found in Sleepy Hollow on 28 Aug, documented by Jacob Drucker, is a noteworthy exception.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)

2011-13-A/B One, Martin Road, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 20 May (Jeanne Skelly, Brad Carlson; ph J. Skelly, B. Carlson)

2011-45-A One, Ellisburg, **Jefferson**, 4 Jun (Jeff Bolsinger; ph Tony Shrimpton)

Inland sightings of Marbled Godwit seem to be holding steady if not increasing and in 2011 we received two reports, both from spring. Andy Guthrie found the first in a flooded field off Martin Road in Hamlin, Monroe County. The bird was seen later by Jeanne Skelly and Brad Carlson, who documented their sightings with reports and photographs. The second was found and photographed by Tony Shrimpton on 3 Jun in a flooded cornfield along Route 193 in the Town of Ellisburg, Jefferson County. The bird was seen over a two-day period and documented on 4 Jun by Jeff Bolsinger.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

2011-127-A One, juvenile plumage, Kumpf Marsh, Iroquois NWR, Alabama, **Genesee**, 14 Sep (Willie D'Anna)

This juvenile Western Sandpiper was found 13 Sep by Joe Mitchell and documented by Willie D'Anna the next day. Although still rare Upstate, there is a growing suspicion that they are annual, especially in fall migration, and just under recorded for various reasons. Until the status is better known, the committee encourages documentation of all Upstate sightings.

Gray-hooded Gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*)

2011-30-A/J One alternate plumage adult, Coney Island Beach, **Kings**, 24 Jul-3 Aug (Sara Burch, Jacob McCartney, Ed Coyle, Elliotte Rusty Harold, Jeff Hopkins, Angus Wilson, Thomas W. Burke, Mark S. Szantyr, Shawn Billerman, Steve Walter; ph S. Burch, E. Coyle, E. Harold, Richard B. Cech, M. Szantyr, S. Billerman, S. Walter)

This smart-looking gull was discovered on 24 Jul 2011 by Sara Burch and Jacob McCartney during a walk along the ocean boardwalk at Coney Island, Brooklyn. On the

basis of the red bill and legs and partial hood the observers concluded that this was likely a Black-headed Gull (*C. ridibundus*), a noteworthy species especially in mid-summer, and secured some photographs. These were shared with eBird reviewer Doug Gochfeld, who immediately re-identified the bird as a Gray-hooded Gull, a species not illustrated in any North American field guide. Hundreds of birders came from all over the country to view the gull during its 12-day stay, and the presence of this avian rarity, just steps from the famous Coney Island boardwalk and amusement park, attracted the attention of the news media including the *New York Times*. The Coney Island gull was beautifully documented in the form of nine detailed reports, the majority accompanied by convincing color photographs, some of quite remarkable quality.

In assessing the record, the Committee careful considered the possibility of an escape or some other mode of human-assistance but could not find any evidence for this. Gray-hooded Gulls are known to wander north along the coast of Brazil on a regular basis, where they come into contact with wintering Laughing Gulls (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Testifying to the natural affinity between these two species, there is a record of a vagrant Laughing Gull nesting with Gray-hooded Gull in Senegal on the west coast of Africa (Erard et al. 1984). The Coney Island bird spent much of its time with Laughing Gulls, and the idea that it followed their migration is compelling. Alternatively, the gull could have travelled to the Caribbean from the Pacific coast of South America via the Isthmus of Panama, where there have been multiple records. It is also possible the gull originated in West Africa and crossed the Atlantic to the Caribbean or northern coast of South America before moving northwards. By odd coincidence, this would mirror the proposed route for New York's first and only Western Reef-Heron (*Egretta gularis*) observed less than a mile away from the boardwalk in the Coney Island Creek (NYSARC 2007-34-A/K). A record of Gray-hooded Gull from the Lesser Antillean island of Barbados, a frequent landfall for Old-World vagrants, lends support to a trans-Atlantic route. The Brooklyn bird represents the first record for NYS and, because of the high level of documentation and national importance, was voted on during 2011 under the Accelerated Review policy. This represents only the 2nd record for the US and Canada, the previous record being a one-day bird photographed by a researcher near Apalachicola, Florida on 26 Dec 1998 (McNair 1999).

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2011-116-A One 1st winter, several locations along the Niagara River, Lewiston, **Niagara**, 11 & 26 Nov & 4 Dec (Brad Carlson; ph B. Carlson)

The occurrence of Franklin's Gull on the Niagara River peaked in the late 1960's and 70's but has fallen since then. Today, the species is less than annual, with most records coming from the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario and, especially, the Niagara River. Willie D'Anna discovered this 1st-winter Franklin's Gull on the Niagara River on 5 Nov at Artpark SP. The bird remained in the area for about a month. Brad Carlson, who provided the only report, observed the gull three times and included excellent photographs.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

2011-90-A/B One basic plumage adult, Wright Beach, Dunkirk Harbor, **Chautauqua**, 1 Oct (William W. Watson, James Pawlicki; ph J. Pawlicki)

2011-128-A/B One basic plumage adult, Niagara River, Lewiston, **Niagara**, 13, 20 & 26 Nov (Willie D'Anna, Joe Mitchell)

As with the Franklin's Gull discussed above, the Niagara River is the prime location for California Gull sightings, with one or two present each year in late fall and early winter. However, careful study of gulls at other locations has begun to produce more records. Jim Pawlicki found and photographed an adult at Wright Beach near Dunkirk Harbor on 1

Oct, and a handful of other birders were able to see it that day but not subsequently. This is the second earliest sighting for NYS, the earliest being 20 Sep 1997 near the Niagara River. Pawlicki noted, and it can be seen in his photographs, that the Dunkirk bird was still growing in its outer two primaries (P9 and P10). On the Niagara River an adult was spotted by Betsy Potter on 13 Nov below the falls at the power plants and documented by Willie D'Anna, and subsequently it was seen by Joe Mitchell above the falls roughly five miles upstream. Gulls are known to move between these two locations on a regular basis, and, since both descriptions of this bird were consistent, the Committee agreed to treat both as the same individual and as one record.

Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)

2011-117-A One basic plumage adult, Devil's Hole SP, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 16 Dec (James Pawlicki; ph J. Pawlicki)

2011-118-A One adult, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 10 Mar (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)

Thayer's Gull is an annual winter visitor in small numbers on the Niagara River. As has been noted many times in these Annual Reports, field identification is greatly complicated by the tremendous variation in Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) and the possibility of hybrids. These two reports were accompanied by photos of the gulls both perched and in flight and provided sufficient detail to rule out Iceland Gull based on accepted criteria. The bird at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn was found by Shane Blodgett and Doug Gochfeld and is an outstanding find because of the great rarity of Thayer's Gulls along the coast in southern NYS. Gulls on the Niagara River are often difficult to photograph because of the distances involved, but improved equipment and the ability to digiscope (that is, to take photos through a spotting scope) have ameliorated this deficiency somewhat. In the case of the Thayer's Gull at Devil's Hole SP, Jim Pawlicki was able to get good images by walking down to the bottom of the river gorge itself with the express purpose of photographing the gulls, a tactic with quite rewarding results.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

2011-3-A/B One basic plumage adult, Lewiston Power Reservoir, Lewiston, **Niagara**, 22 Feb (James Pawlicki, Gerald S. Lazarczyk)

2011-9-A One basic plumage adult, Randall Road, Wilson, **Niagara**, 22 Mar (James Pawlicki; ph J. Pawlicki)

2011-110-A One transitioning out of definitive basic plumage, Youngstown-Wilson Road, Porter, **Niagara**, 16 Mar (Willie D'Anna; ph W. D'Anna)

2011-113-A/C One basic plumage adult, Goat Island, Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 8 Dec (William W. Watson, James Pawlicki, Joe Mitchell; ph J. Pawlicki, J. Mitchell)

2011 marked an unprecedented year for sightings of Slaty-backed Gull with four reports, all of adults and all from Niagara County. The chief point of discussion was the number of individuals involved. Three of the sightings were from a month long interval from late winter to early spring (22 Feb - 22 Mar) and spread over three different sites: Lewiston Power Reservoir adjacent to the Niagara River, then about four miles east of the river in Porter, and lastly about nine miles east of the river in Wilson. Although it is possible, perhaps even likely as some believe, that this reflects one roving bird, the photographs and descriptions could not conclusively demonstrate this point, and the Committee agreed to maintain the three reports as separate.

Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)

2011-48-A Two, Hudson River flying south from Riverhead Park, **New York**, 28 Aug (Jacob Drucker)

2011-68-A One specimen, Camp Hero Bluffs, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 11 Sep (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

- 2011-78-A** One, Jones Inlet, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)
2011-87-A/B One, Jones Beach SP, Ocean Parkway, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Steven Schellenger, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Schellenger, S. Mitra)
2011-96-A Four adults, East River, between 51st and 42nd Street, Manhattan, **New York**, 28 Aug (Andrew Farnsworth)
2011-126-A One adult, one juvenile, South end of Gerritsen Ave., mouth of Shellbank Creek, **Kings**, 28 Aug (Douglas Gochfeld)

Tropical terns were a major feature of *TS Irene*, with sightings of this species as well as Bridled (*O. anaethetus*) and Sandwich (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) Terns from a number of different vantage points. Indeed these tallies are under-estimates, because additional credible sightings, often with photographs, have not been submitted yet. Separation of Sooty from Bridled Tern under storm conditions can be more challenging than the field guides would suggest, relying on subjective impressions of the shade of the dark upper parts and the relative “heaviness” of the birds. In addition to the live birds, a corpse, most certainly from *TS Irene*, was salvaged two weeks later by Angus Wilson from a walking trail above the bluffs at Camp Hero, which was closed to the public during and after the storm.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)

- 2011-55-A** Two, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Steve Walter; ph S. Walter)
2011-56-A/B One to Three, Jones Beach SP, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Steve Walter, Douglas J. Futuyma; ph S. Walter)
2011-67-A One specimen, Montauk Boat Basin, **Suffolk**, 4 Sep (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)
2011-80-A Three, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
2011-81-A Two, Reynolds Channel near Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)
2011-88-A One, Nickerson Beach, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 31 Aug (Seymour Schiff)
2011-102-A One, East River, between 51st and 42nd Street, Manhattan, **New York**, 28 Aug (Andrew Farnsworth)
2011-125-A One, Block Canyon, **pelagic**, 20 Aug (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)

Five of these reports pertained to birds seen on the day of *TS Irene*, while two others, one a freshly dead juvenile, were from a few days after. Again, many additional sightings were reported to the lists or entered into eBird but not submitted to NYSARC, giving a somewhat incomplete picture of this remarkable event. Bridled Terns frequent warm tropical waters and follow the Gulf Stream northwards in good numbers during the summer months. Pelagic excursions to the continental shelf edge and major canyons may encounter this species, especially when warm water eddies from the Gulf Stream spiral back and collide with the shelf, and the individual photographed by Doug Gochfeld during a pelagic trip to Block Canyon on 20 Aug provides a good example of this.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

- 2011-28-A/B** One 1st-summer, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun (Seth Ausubel, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Ausubel, Corey Finger, S. Mitra)
2011-29-A/B One 1st-summer, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun (Seth Ausubel, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Ausubel, Corey Finger, S. Mitra)
2011-33-A/B One 1st-summer, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 9 Jul (Jim Schlickenrieder; Shaibal S. Mitra; ph J. Schlickenrieder, S. Mitra)
2011-136-A One 1st-summer, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 15 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
2011-137-A One 1st-summer, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 3 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

Shai Mitra and others have firmly demonstrated that non-breeding Arctic Terns occur regularly around Long Island’s ocean inlets in late spring and early summer (Mitra 2009). The Committee appreciates the continued documentation of terns from this key location, receiving five reports from 2011, all of first-summer individuals. As discussed in the introduction, there is now a sufficient enough body of data to drop this species from the review list for coastal NYS, although the Committee will consider special cases at the

request of regional editors. All claims from Upstate, where the species is extremely rare, should still be submitted for review.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2011-21-A One adult, Mecox Bay Inlet, Watermill, **Suffolk**, 3 Jul (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

2011-51-A One, Riis Landing, Rockaway Peninsula, **Queens**, 28 Aug (Paul Sweet)

2011-57-A One, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 29 Aug (Steve Walter; ph S. Walter)

2011-59-A/B One, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun (Seth Ausubel, Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Ausubel, S. Mitra)

2011-70-A One, Hook Pond & Maidstone Golf Course, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 28 Aug (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

2011-82-A One adult, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)

2011-83-A One adult, Ocean Parkway opposite Tobay Beach, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)

2011-84-A One adult, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 29 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)

2011-85-A One, Hobart Beach, Eaton's Neck, **Suffolk**, 28 Aug (Brent E. Bomkamp)

2011-130-A One adult, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 28 Aug (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)

2011-139-A One, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 25 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2011-143-A One immature, Jones Inlet, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2011-144-A One adult, Jones Beach SP Field 10, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

2011-145-A One adult, Cupsogue CP, **Suffolk**, 3 Sep (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)

This was a banner year for Sandwich Terns, with 10 reports referring to birds associated with *TS Irene* scattered along the south shore of Long Island. Unverified reports suggest there were upwards of 30 birds, and hopefully additional documentation will be submitted to permanently document the event. It's possible that some of these individuals were present already and found because so many birders were out actively searching for storm birds. Found along the Atlantic coastline from the Carolinas southwards, Sandwich Terns are susceptible to displacement northward to NYS and beyond by tropical storms. For instance, on 27 Sep 1985 some 25 or more were found along the coast from the Fire Island Inlet to Montauk in the wake of Hurricane Gloria (Cooper 1998). The Committee also accepted reports of three pre-storm sightings from two traditional sites, the sand flats at Cupsogue CP and Mecox Bay, plus a third in early September, again from Cupsogue. The first Sandwich Tern of the 2011 season was found on 25 Jun at Cupsogue by Richard Kasken.

South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)

2011-22-A One, 86 miles SE of Shinnecock Inlet, **Pelagic**, 29 May (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

2011-46-A/B One, Field 2, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 11 Jul (Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Shaibal S. Mitra)

2011-47-A One, Jones Beach SP West End Field 2, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Brent E. Bomkamp; ph B. Bomkamp)

The July skua was studied during a productive seawatch from Robert Moses SP at the western end of Fire Island that featured a good number of Cory's Shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*) and Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*) as well as other seabirds. When Mitra and Bolsinger first spotted the bird, they thought they were watching a jaeger until realizing the much smaller "tern" it was harassing was actually a Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*). The Committee concurred that the descriptions were clearly of a subadult skua, rather than a Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*) or some other species, but some members were concerned that the viewing conditions were not ideal to unambiguously identify this as a South Polar Skua, considered the default in summer. The chief concern was that a similarly aged Great Skua (*S. skua*) would be extremely similar. Even though adult Great Skuas are generally on or close to their breeding grounds in Iceland and Northern Europe at that time, it is believed that subadults wander more widely and could occur off our coast. After circulating for three rounds of voting, a consensus to accept this as South Polar was reached based on likelihood and absence of

any details suggestive of Great rather than South Polar. Although a few skuas were photographed on the day of *TS Irene*, only one was submitted in time for review. Hopefully this omission will be rectified and details can be included in a future report.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)

2011-23-A One specimen, Morgan's Cove, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 26 Feb (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

2011-121-A One adult, Camp Hero SP, **Suffolk**, 30 Dec (Shawn Billerman)

In recent years there has been a distinct reversal in relative abundance between the two murre species, with Common Murre being found more often than Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*). Although 2011 saw a downtick in the number of reports submitted, it's likely the trend will continue. A partially eaten but still relatively fresh specimen was retrieved and photographed by Angus Wilson from a rocky beach near Montauk Point. Even with the bird in hand the jetblack plumage and relatively stubby bill gave the misleading impression of a Thick-billed; however, measurements by Jeremy Kirchman of the NYS Museum confirmed that it was in fact a Common Murre. The following winter, a live bird was observed from the bluffs at Camp Hero SP a short distant east of the previous location by Shawn Billerman and was thoroughly described.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

2011-111-A/F One first basic, mouth of Niagara River from Fort Niagara State Park, **Niagara**, 8 Nov-3 Dec (Willie D'Anna, James Pawlicki, Brad Carlson, Joshua Stiller, William W. Watson, Mike Morgante; ph W. D'Anna, B. Carlson, J. Stiller)

This is the fourth accepted record of Razorbill for Region 1 and, like the others, was found at the outflow of the Niagara River into Lake Ontario. The bird was discovered and identified by duck hunter Josh Stiller, who reported it to Connie Adams of the DEC. She then alerted the birding public. After being seen in the morning of 3 Dec, what was believed to be the carcass of the Razorbill, possibly the victim of duck hunters, was later reported floating past Fort Niagara by Nick Sly.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2011-4-A One, private residence, **Orleans** 27 Jan & 2 Feb (Brett M. Ewald; ph B. Ewald)

2011-108-A One, Powell Road, Interlaken, **Seneca**, 21 May (Marty Schlabach)

Both of these Eurasian Collared-Doves were photographed, and the possibility of Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*), a common cage bird, was safely ruled out. Both represent first county records, with Brett Ewald finding the Orleans County bird and Marty Schlabach finding the one in Seneca County. In sharp contrast to many other parts of the US where Eurasian Collared-Doves have become commonplace, in NYS the species barely maintains a toehold, with the only consistent population occurring in a small area near Hamlin in Monroe County. Sightings elsewhere have almost invariably involved single birds that did not linger. The Orleans County bird might have originated from the Hamlin population, which is only 15 miles to the east.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2011-16-A/B One, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 15 May (Douglas J. Futuyma, Andrew Baksh; ph A. Baksh)

This White-winged Dove was discovered by Doug Futuyma and Andrew Baksh while birding together at the western end of Jones Beach on Long Island. Baksh was able to take several close range photographs, and several other birders managed to see the bird later in the day, but not afterwards. Despite being restricted to the southern US and Caribbean region, this species has shown a clear propensity to wander, becoming close to annual in NYS.

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2011-109-A/C One, Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers, **Westchester**, 6 Nov-18 Dec (Gerry McGee, Michael Bochnik, Robert Yunick; ph G. McGee, M. Bochnik, Dana Fazino, Douglas Gochfeld)

2011-114-A/D One, West 81st Street, Manhattan, **New York**, 14 Dec-3 Jan 2012 (Jacob Drucker, Peter Scully, Angus Wilson, Shawn Billerman; ph J. Drucker, P. Scully, S. Billerman)

2011-131-A One adult female, Cove Hollow Farm, Georgica, **Suffolk**, 27 Nov (Angus Wilson; ph John Shemilt)

NYSARC accepted three records of Rufous Hummingbirds in 2011, each of which was carefully documented, allowing rigorous exclusion of other similar species. The bird at the Lenoir Nature Preserve, where Rufous Hummingbird has occurred late in the year on multiple occasions, was confirmed as an immature female after it was banded and measured by Bob Yunick. The Manhattan bird was seen by tens if not hundreds of birders and well photographed during its extended stay around the flowerbeds flanking the entrance to the Hayden Planetarium and also nearby within Central Park. Photographs showed the broad outermost tail feathers and a hint of emargination on rectrix 2 (R2), both helpful clues in ruling out Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*). Early public discussions also considered Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*S. platycercus*), a species not yet recorded but possible. However, the amount of rufous in the tail and other features pointed to Rufous. Lastly, an adult female visited sugarwater feeders maintained at a private residence near East Hampton and was spectacularly photographed by John Shemilt. One of his photos shows the diagnostic nipple-like shape of R2.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

2011-132-A One adult male, Piping Rock Club, Matinecock, **Nassau**, 31 Dec (Seth Ausubel; ph S. Ausubel)

Although common in suitable habit across much of the state, Pileated Woodpeckers are extremely rare on Long Island, presumably because this requires a lengthy crossing of both water and highly urban areas, both alien habitat to this denizen of mature woodlands. This male was found and photographed by birders searching for a Painted Bunting (NYSARC 2011-120). Prior recent sightings of Pileated Woodpecker on Long Island are from 1983 by birders working on the first NYS breeding bird atlas and another in 1981. Before these, Pileated Woodpeckers had not been recorded on Long Island since 1947 (Rising 1998).

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2011-94-A One, Caumsett SP, **Suffolk**, 4 Oct (Ken Feustel; ph K. Feustel)

2011-105-A One, Cocksackie Creek Grasslands, **Greene**, 19 Nov (Richard Guthrie; ph R. Guthrie)

The October Say's Phoebe was found by Annie McIntyre and identified by Sue Feustel at Caumsett SP on the north shore of Long Island where it fed on grasshoppers and an Orange Sulphur (*Colias eurytheme*) butterfly. Another was found about six weeks later at the Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Preserve in Greene County by Rich Guthrie, who was able to take a diagnostic photograph through his binoculars. These two birds follow the trend of the majority of Say's Phoebes, occurring in mid-to-late fall, typical as well of other vagrant western tyrant flycatchers.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

2011-41-A One, Fort Drum, **Jefferson**, 12 Jul (Gabriel Luongo; ph G. Luongo)

This Western Kingbird was described and photographed at Fort Drum by Gabriel Luongo. It perched atop a barbed wire fence alongside Vesper (*Pooecetes gramineus*) and Grasshopper (*Ammodramus savannarum*) Sparrows. This is the first July record for an inland region and was presumably a wandering adult rather than a juvenile.

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)

2011-98-A/B One, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 15 Oct (Richard Ettlenger, Michael R. McBrien; ph R. Ettlenger, M. McBrien)

Richard Ettlenger and Michael McBrien independently found and photographed a Gray Kingbird on 15 Oct near the Jones Beach West End Coast Guard Station. Ettlenger's sighting preceded McBrien's by a mere 30 minutes. One of Ettlenger's three photos shows a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) perched, while the other two show a white-bellied non-Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) in flight as viewed from behind. Since no description was provided, this might not have been enough to pass the record on its own, but McBrien's photos firmly establish the identification. Although the great majority of Gray Kingbird records north of Florida occur on or near the coast this had not been the case in New York. Prior to the Jones Beach bird, the last coastal record was in 1989, with four inland records in the interim.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

2011-99-A One, Captree SP, **Suffolk**, 22 Oct (Ken Thomson; ph K. Thomson)

This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed by a handful of lucky birders for a few hours on the morning of 22 Oct at Captree SP on Long Island, and Ken Thomson was able to provide a good photograph. Beginning in the late 1990's, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have occurred almost annually in NYS, although all too often they don't linger for very long.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

2011-63-A One, Croton-Harmon Train Station, Croton-on-Hudson, **Westchester**, 6 Sep (Benjamin Van Doren; ph B. Van Doren)

2011-71-A/B One, Theodore Roosevelt CP, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 17-18 Sep (Karen Rubinstein, Angus Wilson; ph Vicki Bustamante, A. Wilson)

2011-95-A One, Wallkill River NWR, Oil City Road, **Orange**, 7 Oct (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Curt McDermott, John H. Haas)

2011 was a good year for Northern Wheatear with three records, all from the southeastern portion of the state and all from late summer to early fall, as is typical. All three birds appeared to be in first-basic plumage and were consistent with the larger Greenland subspecies (*O. o. leucorhoa*), although field identification to subspecies is difficult due to variation in individual characters. The Westchester bird remained to 8 Sep, while the Suffolk individual was last seen on 20 Sep.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2011-133-A One immature female, Hulse Landing Road, Calverton, **Suffolk**, 9 Jan 2012 (Thomas Brodie Johnson; ph T. Johnson)

Lenore Swenson and Diana Teta found this immature female Mountain Bluebird in a large agricultural field near Calverton on 26 Dec. It was subsequently seen and photographed by many birders, often posing along a snow fence close to the road, but documented only by a single report from Tom Johnson. Three excellent in-flight photos support his submission. This is the first occurrence in NYS since 2005, with the bird continuing to at least 14 Jan 2012.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

2011-7-A One male, private residence, Wurtsboro, **Sullivan**, 3 Jan to 3 Mar, (John H. Haas; ph J. Haas)

One or two Varied Thrush reports are received annually. This adult male Varied Thrush was seen for a two-month period at a back yard feeder. The homeowner, who first spotted this handsome visitor from the forests of the Pacific Northwest on New Year's Day, preferred the news to be kept private but did allow a few visitors to observe and

document the bird. John Haas, who submitted the report and included excellent photos, indicated that the thrush would typically arrive with Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), perhaps making use of their keen alertness.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)

2011-106-A/B One, Central Park, **New York**, 23-24 Nov (Peter Scully, Jacob Drucker)

Peter Scully and Jacob Drucker provided convincing descriptions of a 1st-basic female Black-throated Gray Warbler in Manhattan's Central Park on 23 and 24 Nov. There are at least fifteen prior records of this western wood warbler for NYS.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2011-2-A One male, Deer Way & Big Reed Path, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 29 Jan (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

This male Western Tanager was first identified by Vicki Bustamante after she was contacted by a neighbor. She then immediately alerted birders, including Angus Wilson, who among others was able to photograph the bird as it visited various feeders. The tanager had been present for most of January before Bustamante was alerted.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

2011-62-A One, West Barrier Beach, Fair Haven, **Cayuga**, 11 Sep (Bill Purcell; ph B. Purcell)

2011-74-A One first winter, Indiana Road, Warwick, **Orange**, 15 Sep (Kenneth M. McDermott)

Two reports of Lark Sparrow from non-coastal NYS were accepted, both from mid-September. The first was found by Dave Wheeler at Fair Haven on 11 Sep and seen by several people, including Bill Purcell, who was able to photograph it. Lark Sparrows are scarce but regular migrants to the coast, especially in the fall, and are not reviewed by NYSARC.

Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

2011-1-A One, Calverton Enterprise Park, Calverton, **Suffolk**, 9 Jan (Angus Wilson; ph A. Wilson)

2011-92-A One, Greig Farms, Rockefeller Lane, Red Hook, **Dutchess**, 9 Oct (Peter Schoenberger; ph P. Schoenberger)

A specialist of wet northern prairies, Le Conte's Sparrow occurs as an occasional vagrant, with roughly equal numbers of sightings from spring-early summer and the fall, when they are on-route to coastal wintering sites in marshes and rice fields. Tom Burke and Gail Benson found the Long Island bird on 8 Jan in the overgrown and snow covered median between runways at the former Grumman Airfield near Riverhead, also known as EPCAL or the Calverton Enterprise Park. A number of birders were able to see it in the same area the next day, including Angus Wilson, who provided documentation for the archive. The species is usually very secretive and hard to find, but fortunately this bird would emerge to sun itself, making viewing possible without disturbing the fragile habitat. This is the first winter record, the previous latest date being from Sullivan County on 22 Oct 2006 (NYSARC 2006-41-A). More typical in terms of date was an immature found by Peter Schoenberger on 9 Oct in an agricultural field at the Greig Farms in Dutchess County. He quickly determined that it was an *Ammodramus* sparrow and obtained some excellent photographs. His initial impression was that it was a Le Conte's Sparrow, but he was unsure if Grasshopper Sparrow (*A. savannarum*) could be safely ruled out. Experienced birders quickly responded to an Internet posting confirming his identification.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)

2011-115-A One, private residence, Fairport, **Monroe**, 23 Nov (Brad Carlson; ph B. Carlson)
Mike Tetlow found this Harris's Sparrow on 23 Nov feeding below his tube feeders, coincident with the arrival of a group of Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), and it remained until 26 Nov. Brad Carlson provided photographs with his report. Carlson suggested that this was a lighter colored adult in basic plumage rather than an immature, which it resembled because of the black and white spotting on the head and irregular black spotting on the throat.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2011-120-A/B One, Piping Rock Club, Matinecock, **Nassau**, 19 & 31 Dec (Seth Ausubel, Shawn Billerman; ph S. Ausubel, S. Billerman)
Barbara Connolly found this female or possibly immature male Painted Bunting on 17 Dec during the Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count. It frequented the maintenance area of a private country club and golf course, and permission was granted for a few birders to visit and document the bird. The bunting stayed into Jan 2012.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

2011-134-A One immature, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 5 Oct (Shaibal S. Mitra)
2011-135-A One immature, Captree SP, **Suffolk**, 19 Oct (Shaibal S. Mitra; ph S. Mitra)
Shai Mitra documented two immature Yellow-headed Blackbirds, seen two weeks apart at two relatively close locations. The first was seen briefly on the ground but disappeared shortly thereafter. The second remained for longer and was photographed. A convincing case was made for these being two separate birds. Traditionally Yellow-headed Blackbird has been rare on the coast compared to inland regions, especially in western NYS, but for some reason this seems to have changed in recent years.

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)

2011-119-A One, near peak of Black Dome Mt., Windham, **Greene**, 22 Dec (David Rankin; ph D. Rankin)
Without doubt one of the most unexpected birds found during the 2011/12 winter was this Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch spotted by David Rankin on the Black Dome Mountain Trail at an altitude of approximately 3,800 feet, just shy of the top of Black Dome Mountain (3,980 ft. elevation). David was hiking the snowy trail with 3 companions when the bird caught their attention. He was able to walk directly under it as it perched in a dead Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) and noted its unmistakable brownish pink hue, gray and black crown, and bright pink of the belly and wings. Rankin took a number of documentation photographs that identify this individual as belonging to the nominate subspecies, *Leucosticte tephrocotis tephrocotis*, which occupies the more northern and eastern part of the range of this species. Although considered restricted to major mountain ranges, a compelling pattern of extralimital vagrancy has emerged over the years, with a number of records in the mid-west (Illinois, Michigan and Ohio) as well as Ontario and Quebec. There is even one from Gorham, Maine in the 1930's. Of more relevance to the NYS sighting, another extralimital Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was observed at Bear Island Lake, St. Louis Co., Minnesota on 27 Oct 2011, suggestive of a minor irruption. The Black Dome Mountain bird is considered the first state record, although there is also an unverified single observer sighting from the Rochester area on 30 Jan 1923 (Beardslee et al. 1965).

“Greater” Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*)

2011-122-A Two, private residence, Honeoye Falls, **Monroe**, 25 Feb to 15 Mar (Brad Carlson; ph B. Carlson)

“Greater” Redpolls are occasionally reported in redpoll flight years, but this northern subspecies of Common Redpoll is not well known among birders and rarely reported in NYS. In his thorough survey of specimens, John Bull listed only four specimens for NY, though he suggested that it could occur more frequently (Bull 1976). During the redpoll flight year of 2010-11, Brad Carlson identified two “Greater” Redpolls at his feeder, both present at the same time. They were identified on the basis of their larger size in direct comparison to the many Common Redpolls present, by their heavier flank streaking and by their much darker plumage overall. Three photos were submitted with his written account, and the committee felt that one photo showing both individuals feeding on the ground with Common Redpolls to be particularly compelling. As is usually the case when reviewing subspecies, this record sparked considerable discussion because of the reliance on subjective characters and because the extent of variation within the nominate subspecies of Common Redpoll is not well understood. In the end, the Committee voted to accept both individuals and encourage birders to be on the lookout for this form during future flight years, preferably with camera in hand.

2011 Reports Accepted in Revised Form

Oceanodroma sp.

2011-77-A One, Reynolds Channel, Point Lookout, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma)

2011-79-A/B One, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 28 Aug (Douglas J. Futuyma, Shaibal S. Mitra)

During the passage of *TS Irene*, most of the birders able to reach the south facing Atlantic shoreline of Long Island were met with high winds, dense salt spray and scouring sand and were forced to turn their gaze inland to the comparatively sheltered waters of the larger bays and inlets. These two sets of reports from the landward side of Jones Inlet came from experienced observers and described long-winged storm-petrels identified as Leach’s (*O. leucorhoa*) and Band-rumped (*O. castro*), respectively. After lengthy discussion and multiple votes, the Committee decided that while these birds clearly belonged to the genus *Oceanodroma*, neither could be confidently assigned to species. The Committee discussions centered mainly on the potential impact of the less-than-optimal viewing conditions on the assessment of subtle details needed for the identification, such as perception of the darkness of the plumage, tail shape, and flight style. The first report (2011-77-A) described a long-winged storm-petrel identified as a Leach’s Storm-Petrel that was seen flying along the relatively narrow Reynold’s Channel just west of where the Loop Parkway terminates on Long Beach Island. The Committee agreed that the description clearly ruled out Wilson’s Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), a familiar species noticeably absent among the seabirds displaced by the storm, and instead pointed toward one of the *Oceanodroma* species. Unfortunately the prominence and extent of the carpal bar on the upperwing and exact shape of the rump patch could not determined, and, as a consequence, identification as Leach’s hinged largely on the perception of tail shape, which appeared notched. This alone does not preclude Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, which at times can give this impression, and thus it seemed prudent to revise the identification to a generic level. The second pair of reports (2011-79-A/B) concerned three sightings of a long-winged storm-petrel identified as Band-rumped Storm-Petrel based in part on comparisons to a more clear cut Leach’s Storm-Petrel (NYSARC 2011-76-A/B). These observations were made from the eastern side of Jones Inlet, where the observers and a number of other birders found shelter behind a concession building adjacent to the Jones Beach Coast Guard base. Protected

from the wind and rain, this vantage gave a sweeping view of a semi-enclosed expanse of water separating the western end of Jones Beach Island from a row of smaller islands in the bay that carry the Loop Parkway. Two of the three encounters with what is thought to be the same bird were detailed in the two reports, with an earlier and slightly closer encounter described in report 2011-79-A only. Again it was difficult for the Committee to reach a consensus, with differing opinions as to whether the distance and viewing conditions allowed adequate assessment of the critical plumage details and whether differences in flight style could be similarly influenced by the unusual context. No photographs were obtained or even attempted, indicative of the considerable distances involved. To date, there are only two accepted records of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in NYS (NYSARC 1997-74-A and 2011-44-A), both from deep water beyond the continental shelf edge. The Committee acknowledged that this species would be a strong candidate for displacement by the storm, as demonstrated by a live Band-rumped Storm-Petrel found grounded on Nantucket the following day, but ultimately felt that the documentation of the NY bird just fell short of what was needed for acceptance as a 3rd state record.

Sooty/Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus/anaethetus*)

2011-49-A Two, Rye Beach CP, Rye, **Westchester**, 28 Aug (Benjamin Van Doren)

2011-129-A Two, Inner New York Harbor, **Richmond**, 29 Aug (Douglas Gochfeld)

Seen in the aftermath of *TS Irene*, the Committee agreed that these two sightings referred to *Onychoprion* terns but, because of the great distance involved, felt that they could not be confidently assigned to species. The sighting described in 2011-129-A was actually from the day after the storm under better conditions. Four observers were scanning the Narrows portion of New York Harbor from the Veteran's Memorial Pier in Brooklyn, when they spotted two birds, initially identified simply as "terns," flying at a great distance, most likely across the midway point and thus in Richmond County. Continued study convinced the observers that the birds were too dark to be *Sterna* terns, and Gochfeld, who submitted the report, noted that the mantle was paler than the upper wings and there was what appeared to be a break of white between the black cap and the mantle, suggesting Bridled Tern (*O. anaethetus*). He indicated that Sooty Tern (*O. fuscatus*) was easily ruled out by the lack of uniform black upperparts; however, the Committee was concerned that the distance was too great to make a firm assessment. Although a mantle that is paler than the upper wings can be a useful distinction between these two species, this is dependent on lighting and angle of observation and may not be reliable at great distance. The same can be said for the perception of a white collar separating the cap from the mantle. Given these and other concerns, the Committee voted on the second round to accept these as *Onychoprion* terns, species undetermined.

Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus/sasin*)

2011-107-A One, Mountainville, **Orange**, 17, 19 & 22 Oct (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Curt McDermott)

Although the likelihood that this was a Rufous Hummingbird (*S. rufus*) seems high, without measurements or a clear indication of the shape of rectrix two (R2), the Committee felt that Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*) could not be safely ruled out. Although Allen's has never been identified in NY, it has occurred in neighboring states and is thus a realistic possibility. At the homeowner's request the bird was not captured, precluding the opportunity for a definitive identification.

2011 Reports Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2011-97-A One, Fuller Street Park, Alexandria Bay, **Jefferson**, 31 Jul (Michele Neligan; ph M. Neligan)

Although regular vagrancy of this European goose into northeastern North America is becoming fairly well established, Barnacle Geese remain the bane of many records committees because of the difficulty in distinguishing genuine vagrants from occasional escapes and deliberate releases. This informative report concerned an unbanded Barnacle Goose that was observed in mid-summer and nicely illustrates the dilemma. Most of the geese that migrate to northeastern Canada and Greenland have left the state by that time, raising significant concerns about the provenance of this individual.

Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)

2011-19-A One, Schodack, **Rensselaer**, 5 Jun (Philip Levesque; ph P. Levesque)

Indian Peafowl (known colloquially as Peacocks) originate in Asia and are non-migratory. They are often kept as free-ranging ornamental game birds. No known feral populations exist in the northeast and, as such, the species is not recognized as part of the wild NYS avifauna. Nonetheless, documentation of sightings is useful in case they do become established.

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

2011-73-A One, Spuyten Duyvil at 225th Street, **Bronx**, 11 Sep (Philip Brickner; ph Alice Brickner)

On 11 Sep 2011 a striking and unfamiliar songbird was noticed as it perched on a metal strut visible from the apartment of Alice and Philip Brickner in the West Bronx, a short distance from the Hudson River. Unsure of what it was, they took some photographs through a window shortly before it disappeared, never to be seen again. The photographs clearly show a Great Kiskadee. In the Committee's discussions, no concerns about the identification were voiced, the photographs being sufficient to exclude similar species such as Lesser Kiskadee (*P. lictor*), Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) and Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*). The likelihood of vagrancy of Great Kiskadee to NYS was discussed at length, and although there is no direct evidence of ship assistance, the circumstantial evidence seems strong given the proximity of the bird to the busy international ports in New York Harbor. In fact the sighting did not come as a complete surprise because the same or another Great Kiskadee had been photographed just a few weeks earlier on the quay side next to the USS Intrepid Air Space Museum, a few miles downstream on the same bank of the Hudson River. Unfortunately, a report on this prior sighting was not submitted to NYSARC for review, despite attempts to secure one. Nonetheless it is tempting to think these sightings are related. Although Great Kiskadees are resident in southern Texas and found throughout much of Central America and parts of the Caribbean, they are not considered migratory, and there are few convincing cases of strays beyond their normal range. Great Kiskadees were deliberately introduced to Bermuda to control *Anolis* lizards that were introduced to control insects. They have become the most abundant terrestrial bird on the island, feasting on pretty much everything but the problematic lizards. Pertinent to this report, cruise ships that visit Bermuda on a weekly basis berth adjacent to the first kiskadee location, suggesting a relatively simple means for a bird to reach New York City from Bermuda. In the end the Committee voted to accept the identification but consider the origins uncertain, lacking firm proof of ship assistance. Therefore the species was not added to the NYS Checklist.

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*)

2011-20-A/F One adult, Great Kills Park, Staten Island, **Richmond**, 22-24 Jun (Angus Wilson, Andrew Block, Morgan Tingley, Michael Higgiston, Eileen Schwinn, Seymour Schiff; ph A. Wilson, M. Tingley, E. Schwinn, S. Schiff)

This handsome Eurasian crow frequented the fisherman's parking lot in Great Kills Park and the adjacent sandy beach, much to the great annoyance of the resident Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*). Great Kills Park is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area and faces the waters of the Outer New York Harbor. The crow, an adult, appeared to be in good condition and flew strongly, often disappearing for long periods. It did not associate with the local American (*C. brachyrhynchos*) and Fish (*C. ossifragus*) Crows. The legs were free of bands and the flight feathers were intact, although somewhat abraded. While tolerant of humans, the crow was not especially approachable, its behavior being typical of other crows. News of this bird began to circulate on 20 Jun when Seth Wollney sent photographs to Tom Burke seeking a second opinion on the identification. That same day, Mike Shanley photographed the bird and posted the news on the Internet. According to another local birder, park personnel had actually noticed the crow some days or even weeks prior to this but had not known what to make of it. Over the following days, many birders, possibly hundreds, came from all over the northeast, and some from even further, to see the crow, most being successful. As too often happens, the number of reports submitted to NYSARC was not representative of the number of observers.

The identification was well established from the documentation supplied and not questioned by any member of the Committee. Other two-toned corvids such as African Pied Crow (*C. albus*) and House Crow (*C. splendens*) were readily excluded. The former is common in captivity and often used as a prop in television advertisements and the like, whereas the latter shows a strong propensity for self-introduction, having spread from the Indian subcontinent into port cities in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Hooded Crows are resident and common throughout Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, and their range extends eastward to the Ukraine, Egypt and Iran. They also occur in Ireland, northwest Scotland and the Faeroes, which may be more relevant from a North American perspective. For many years Hooded Crow was considered conspecific with Carrion Crow (*C. corone*), which occupies the remainder of western Europe, with a broad hybridization zone along the boundary of the two populations; however, in 2002 the Taxonomic Sub-Committee of the British Ornithologists Union Records Committee split these two forms together with the Eastern Carrion Crow (*C. orientalis*) of central and eastern Asia into three separate species (Knox et al. 2002). Within Hooded Crow there are at least four subspecies, and these were considered to see if there might be clues to the origins of the Staten Island bird. The ashy (purple) cast to the body feathering seemed consistent with nominate *cornix* of northwestern and central Europe, but *sharpii* of Italy and the eastern Mediterranean through to the Caucasus could not be ruled out. It was concluded that firm determination of subspecies requires sexing and careful measurements.

Public discussion over the origins of the bird began almost immediately, spilling across a number of birding blogs and forums, including the American Birding Association blog 'Peeps,' which raised the question of whether this could be a new species for the ABA Checklist Area. Naturally this chatter increased the number of observers willing to travel to Great Kills to pay homage to the bird as it worked the tide line and the garbage cans. In the subsequent months the Committee received a number of requests as to whether the bird had been accepted or not. As a potential addition to the NYS Checklist with a high standard of documentation, the reports were placed before the voting members ahead of other 2011 reports under the Accelerated Review policy. There have been at least four previous occurrences in North America, none of which has been

accepted as a natural or even human-assisted vagrant. The first was at the Salton Sea in California (Jan 1973), the second in Chicago, Illinois (2000), the third at New Braunfels, Texas (2002), and the fourth in Whitecourt, Alberta (2006). None of these locations is on the immediate coast, and all seem unlikely for a bird of European origins. In contrast, the Staten Island bird was found feet from the Atlantic Ocean and, more compelling perhaps, a few miles from one of the busiest commercial ports in North America, especially in terms of trans-Atlantic cargo traffic. So the discussion quickly turned to whether this bird might have reached our shores aboard a ship, and, if so, would it have needed active assistance to survive the crossing. Hooded Crows are resident throughout much of their range; however, those from Scandinavia and Russia make seasonal movements over significant distances to escape periods of severe cold, moving, for example, to the Low Countries and across the North Sea to the British Isles. Under these circumstances birds might encounter large commercial shipping capable of a rapid trans-Atlantic crossing, the first stop being New York Harbor. The Committee considered this very carefully, noting that there is already precedent for Hooded Crows reaching Iceland on a regular basis (>80 sightings), the nearest breeding birds being on the Faeroe Islands about 300 miles away. The crossing to New York is ten times further than this but can be achieved in about a week by the faster vessels. Indeed, in Nov 1984 a flock of fifty-two Eurasian Jackdaws (*C. monedula*) were transported by a French merchant ship to Port Cartier, Quebec, having come aboard at sea off the coast of southern England (Yank et al. 1985). Careful research by Kevin McGowan (pers. com.) revealed a surprising pattern of Jackdaw sightings from various islands off the coast of the northern Atlantic states and provinces during the 1980's, with birds arriving under conditions suggestive of genuine vagrants. In considering the Hooded Crow, the Committee felt that although ship-assistance was plausible, the evidence was entirely circumstantial. Although Hooded Crows are not common in captivity, they do occur, as exemplified by the presumed escapees mentioned above and by breeders who advertise on the Internet. Considering the proximity of Great Kills to a huge metropolitan area, there was no way for the Committee to distinguish between escape and ship-assistance. After carefully reviewing these points and other information, the Committee reached a consensus, accepting the identification but ruling that the origins were unknown and possibly unnatural. As such, the species was not added to the New York State Checklist.

There are two interesting addenda to this story. Shortly before it's disappearance from Staten Island, the Hooded Crow was found entangled in discarded line and was freed by some birders visiting from Pennsylvania, who managed to salvage a few feathers that were shed as the bird struggled to free itself. If these feathers are still extant, it might be of interest to perform isotope analysis to determine where these feathers were grown. After disappearing from Great Kills, a Hooded Crow was discovered at the northern end of Long Beach Island, Ocean County, New Jersey, on 17 Jul 2011, remaining until 12 Aug. This is 54 miles due south of Great Kills. The timing and appearance were consistent with this being the same bird. Our colleagues on the New Jersey Bird Records Committee have voted on the record (NJBRC 2012-064) and similarly deemed the provenance "unknown" (Boyle et al. 2013).

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

2011-5-A One adult, private residence, **Orange**, 22 & 23 Feb (Kenneth M. McDermott; ph Maryangela Buskey)

The accompanying photographs confirm that this is an adult European Goldfinch, a species that was established as a feral population in the New York City area but which dwindled and disappeared in the late 1950's. Nonetheless, the Committee receives occasional reports and, since this is a common cage bird, takes the position that they are

most likely escapes. Although the species undergoes short-distance migrations in its native Western Europe, usually in response to cold weather, they seem an unlikely trans-Atlantic vagrant. Reports are useful, however, in case a feral population reestablishes itself, which would be very interesting to properly document.

2010 Reports Accepted

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2010-100-A One, Sheldrake Point SP, Ovid, **Seneca**, 7 Nov (J. Gary Kohlenberg)

Sightings of Pacific Loon in the northeast have steadily increased over the past decade or so, and examples have been found on Cayuga Lake in the four years preceding this one, suggestive of either a returning individual or a previously unrecognized migratory route from the Great Lakes. Gary Kohlenberg observed this bird feeding on the lake with some seventy Common Loons (*G. immer*), offering ideal comparisons. He included photocopies of his field notes with the report.

Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*)

2010-98-A One, **Pelagic**, 10 Sep (Nick Bonomo; ph Carlos Pedro)

While on an organized pelagic trip to Block Canyon, Nick Bonomo and others briefly encountered a Black-capped Petrel that passed by at some distance. In addition to its shape and high arcing flight, they were able to note the distinctive white rump and collar, which helped to rule out Bermuda Petrel (*P. cahow*), an even more exciting possibility in these waters. A blurry photo, supplied by Bonomo but taken by Carlos Pedro, supported the written description, showing the typical *Pterodroma* shape and prominent white uppertail coverts. Although the trip departed from Point Judith, RI and visited the eastern wall of the outer Block Canyon, the GPS coordinates for this sighting are just inside NYS pelagic waters.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

2010-103-A One, Jones Beach SP West End, **Nassau**, 2 May (Robert J. Berlinger)

Robert Berlinger and Bob Kurtz were birding together at Jones Beach when they received word that Joan Quinlan had found this White-winged Dove nearby. Although no photos were submitted, Berlinger's description was convincing and also indicated that the bird was in quite worn plumage. Although this might be attributed to a bird that had been in captivity, the coastal location and spring date seemed consistent for a natural vagrant.

Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

2010-102-A One, Jones Beach SP West End Field 2, **Nassau**, 24 Nov (Shawn Billerman)

Since the late 1990's, Cave Swallows have occurred in NYS almost every late fall and early winter, at times being seen in large numbers (see Tetlow 2011). With this pattern clearly established, the Committee no longer requests reports for fall sightings but will still review the much rarer spring sightings. This report from Shawn Billerman, received before the change in review status, documents a single Cave Swallow seen with Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*).

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis oregonus*)

2010-101-A One, private residence, Ellery, **Chautauqua**, 27 Dec – 28 Feb 2011 (LeAnn Childs; ph L. Childs)

Mike Morgante forwarded correspondence and photos of this "Oregon" Junco, which he received via Jim Pawlicki. In an email Pawlicki stated that LeAnn Childs first observed and photographed this bird at her feeding station on 27 Dec. LeAnn photographed it

several more times, up to and including 26 Feb 2011, and saw it one last time on 28 Feb. Pawlicki searched for the bird on 1 Mar but did not see it.

2009 Reports Accepted

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)

2009-98-A One immature, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Kings**, 13 Aug (Thomas B. Johnson)
Tom Johnson studied this subadult White-faced Ibis alongside some Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*). Although the bird flew before he could obtain photographs, he noted its dull pink irides, a reddish/pinkish wash to the tarsi, and dull pinkish-gray facial skin. Based on the absence of white feathers bordering the facial skin, Johnson suggested this might be a second year. With its extensive marshes and sizeable colonies of colonial waterbirds, Jamaica Bay remains the premier site in NYS for finding White-faced Ibis.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*)

2009-97-A/C One adult pre-basic molt, Hulbert Road, Wilson, **Niagara**, 15-16 Aug (James Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna, Paul F. Hess; ph W. D'Anna)
Checking a flooded field that had held a number of shorebirds in prior days, Jim Pawlicki found this adult Western Sandpiper alongside some Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) for comparison. The bird had begun pre-basic molt and was observed again the following day by Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna and Paul Hess. D'Anna's photograph shows a number of features that support the identification, including the long, slightly decurved bill and extensive rufous bases and black anchor-shaped tips of the retained alternate scapulars.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2009-96-A One first spring male, Golden Hill SP, Summerset, **Niagara**, 15 May (James Pawlicki)
While birding at Golden Hill SP as part of the Buffalo Ornithological Society (BOS) May Count, Jim Pawlicki came across this singing Summer Tanager. It was aged as a first spring male by virtue of the adult male-like head and breast and otherwise greenish plumage except for a few patches of red. A photograph of the bird, taken by Greg Coniglio on the same day, was published in the BOS newsletter (*The Prothonotary*, June 2009).

2009 Report Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

2009-95-A One, Calvert-Vaux Park, **Kings**, 6 May (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)
Doug Gochfeld's description and photographs establish this as a European Greenfinch, a species found primarily in Western Europe, ruling out similar species such as Oriental Greenfinch (*Chloris sinica*). Although there were no definitive signs of captive origins, the Committee felt this was more likely than true vagrancy. The species is not a long-distance migrant, and there is no precedent for vagrancy to North America. Furthermore, European Greenfinches are often offered for sale in the US and are relatively inexpensive. Recently numbers of free flying individuals have been found around the Great Lakes and are attributed to a Chicago dealer who released a number of them along with other European finches in the early 2000's. On balance, the Committee felt it more likely that the Brooklyn bird was released or had escaped from somewhere in the New York City metropolis than travelled from the mid-west. However, lacking firm evidence

for these and other scenarios, the Committee considered the origins as “unknown or unnatural.”

2008 Report Accepted

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2008-106-A One first spring male, Amherst SP, Williamsville, **Erie**, 27 May (James Pawlicki)
Jim Pawlicki and Richard Salembier found this first spring male Summer Tanager at Amherst SP in Erie County, a locally well-known urban migrant trap. It was mostly orange-red with rosy-red patches and orangey tones across the under-parts. There were three additional accepted reports of Summer Tanager from upstate NY in 2008, as well as more numerous sightings from Regions 9 and 10, where the species does not require NYSARC review.

2006 Report Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*)

2006-80-A One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, West Pond, **Kings/Queens**, 4 Jul (Douglas Gochfeld; ph D. Gochfeld)

Doug Gochfeld photographed this adult Whooper Swan that summered among the numerous Mute Swans (*Cygnus olor*) at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. For such a large bird it was surprisingly aloof at times, favoring a section of the East Pond that was difficult for birders to approach. The extent of yellow on the bill (roughly two-thirds of the bill) and very large size helped rule out Bewick’s Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), the Eurasian subspecies of Tundra Swan, which can also show extensive yellow skin but appears smaller alongside Mute Swan. Whooper Swans nest across the Eurasian arctic from Iceland and Northern Scotland to eastern Siberia and migrate over relatively large distances to wintering sites across Europe, Central Asia and the Far East. They are regular but rare in western Alaska, where they have nested and winter in small numbers. The species formerly nested in Greenland and still occurs as a scarce migrant. Sightings in the lower-48 are complicated by the likelihood of escapes, as this species is popular with collectors, and feral birds can survive in the wild for years (see McEneaney 2004). Indeed in the 1990’s there were several free flying individuals on eastern Long Island that may have also nested. Given the fact that this bird summered and concerns about escapes or deliberate releases, the Committee voted to accept this sighting as “origins unknown or unnatural.”

2011 Reports Not Accepted

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

2011-25-A One, Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie, **Dutchess**, 13 Jun

This report included a brief description of an unfamiliar duck seen on the Hudson River in early summer. Although the details were reminiscent of an adult male Common Eider, it was not clear this wasn’t a domestic duck of some kind.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2011-17-A One, Sterling Lake, Tuxedo, **Orange**, 19 Apr

The observer described a bird with a long neck, pointed bill and similar to a small goose in size. The plumage was described as black on top of the head and neck, white on the bottom of the head and neck with a gray body. While this is consistent with Western

Grebe, some important details were missing, including the sharpness of the transition from black to white and the bill color. Lacking this additional information, some Committee members felt the description could equally apply to a loon or cormorant.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

2011-10-A One, flying north along Taconic State Parkway, near **Dutchess/Columbia** border, 22 Apr

2011-101-A One, Niagara River near Strawberry Island, **Erie**, 9 Jul

Inland sightings of Brown Pelican are always noteworthy and subject to review by NYSARC. The April report concerned a bird thought to be this species, viewed by a driver on the Taconic State Parkway. Besides a huge wingspan, no other details were provided, leaving the Committee concerned about other more likely possibilities given these circumstances and time of year. The July report came from a marina on the Niagara River. Unfortunately, the observer did not describe the bird other than to say that it was large and unmistakable. Apparently others at the marina also saw the bird, lending credence to the identification, but without descriptive details or, at a minimum, an explanation of how other species were ruled out, the Committee was unable to accept the report.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2011-14-A Five, field on Westmore Lane, Cortland, **Cortland**, 11 May

This intriguing submission described five all white birds apparently feeding in a recently plowed grassland field. The observer noted black wingtips and long legs trailing behind when in flight. The birds also soared briefly. Unfortunately, the description was incomplete, omitting any mention of the highly distinctive shape and color of the bill and facial skin. There are relatively few spring reports of White Ibis, especially away from the coast. Given the incomplete description and unusual circumstances, the committee voted not to accept. It was noted that Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) could not be ruled out by the details provided.

California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)

2011-27-A One, Pleasure Drive, Flanders, **Suffolk**, 11 & 15 Jul

This report contained a minimal description, leaving the Committee unsure of what species was involved. California Condor seems highly unlikely, given that it is non-migratory and limited to a few areas in California and Arizona.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

2011-24-A One, Route 86, 20 miles NW of Corning, **Steuben**, 26 Jun

While driving along Interstate 86, the observer noticed a bird hovering close to the road. The underside was described as mostly white, with clear black blotches on the shoulders, but the observer was unable to stop and study the bird further. Having seen White-tailed Kite similarly hovering over the median of a highway in California, the observer tentatively identified it as such. Although an interesting report, the committee would need much more detail, with a thorough consideration of other possible species, or a photograph or specimen to accept such a major rarity. There is one prior NYS record of White-tailed Kite (NYSARC 1983-7-A, Hopewell Junction, **Dutchess**, 26-27 Apr 1983), as well as a record from Massachusetts (May 1910) and more recent records from Connecticut (Aug-Oct 2010) and New Jersey (Jun 1998 and Oct-Nov 2010).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2011-60-A One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 22 May

2011-75-A One breeding plumage adult, Mattituck Inlet, Mattituck, **Suffolk**, 28 Aug

The spring submission concerns a sighting by two birders conducting a seawatch at Robert Moses SP. There were many Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) moving past, and this bird was initially seen moving west to east, then west and then back east again. Features that drove the identification included a short bill, a thin dark line on the trailing edge of the wings, clean underwings, and a longer tail compared to Common Tern. Other useful details such as bill color, shape of the cap and age of the bird (adult vs. first-summer, etc.) were not described. Although careful observations by Shai Mitra and others have established a clear presence of this species along the ocean front of Long Island from late May to mid July, Arctic Terns pose a considerable identification challenge, even under ideal circumstances. Brief sightings of flying birds need to be evaluated with great caution, especially in the absence of confirmatory photographs. Given these concerns, including the gaps in the description, the committee voted against this record in the second round. The late summer sighting was from the day of *TS Irene*, which was as much notable for the species that were not widely affected as those that were. The bird described in the report was viewed on the ground but was flushed by a walker before the observer could obtain photographs. The observer emphasized several useful but subjective distinctions from Common Tern but did not indicate whether Commons were present for side-by-side comparison. After two rounds of review, the report was not accepted. In the wake of the storm many observers actively searched for Arctic Terns among the hundreds, if not thousands, of displaced terns but did not find any. That said, the Committee recognized that an Arctic Tern could still be present independent of the storm, but this report was not judged to be conclusive.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

2011-31-A One, private residence, Skaneateles, **Onondaga**, 26 Jul

This was a heard-only report by an observer familiar with the reasonably distinctive song of Eurasian Collared-Doves from time spent in other states. Although the description of the song was strongly suggestive, the fact it was only heard twice was problematic. Correctly, the observer did search for the bird but was unable to locate it.

Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

2011-6-A One, Alcove, **Albany**, 27 Feb

This bird was observed for about five minutes on a winter afternoon. The brief description noted a rounded head, pointed tail, absence of visible ear tufts, and brown and white barred plumage, all of which are suggestive of Hawk Owl but certainly not definitive. Unfortunately, the bird was not photographed and was not seen again.

Black-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

2011-40-A One, Doodletown Road, Stony Point, **Rockland**, 2 Jun

This report describes a bird that was seen for a few seconds as it flew across a hiking trail near the observers. Only a brief description was provided, noting that the upper surface of the bird seemed completely black and that the crown of the head was yellow. The rest of the plumage was not described. The observer stated that it flew like a woodpecker but did not actually describe the flight. The supporting discussion focused on eliminating Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), which would of course fly in a very different manner, and gave insufficient consideration to a juvenile Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), which can resemble the species claimed. Black-backed Woodpeckers are extremely rare away from boreal habitat associated with the

Adirondack Mountains and Tug Hill Plateau. Convincing sightings outside those areas are generally from the winter months.

“Greater” Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*)

2011-61-A One, Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 25 Feb

The winter of 2010/11 saw a sizeable incursion of Redpolls into NYS, offering the perfect opportunity for winter finch enthusiasts to search the flocks for Hoary Redpolls or the decidedly uncommon *rostrata* subspecies of Common Redpoll, which is also known as “Greater” Redpoll. These tend to be larger than Common Redpoll and more heavily streaked, presenting an overall darker appearance. In some individuals, the difference can be quite striking, but in others it can be much more subtle. Considerable variation in size and heaviness of the streaking in both subspecies significantly complicates the identification, and it is important to obtain a number of good photographs of any candidates, preferably in direct comparison to the more common form. This report describes a tantalizing sighting of a possible “Greater” Redpoll at a feeding station with 25-30 Common Redpolls. While the details seemed consistent with *rostrata*, these were very difficult to assess without supporting photographs, and, after two rounds of review, the committee ultimately voted not to accept the report.

“Hornemann’s” Hoary Redpoll (*Acanthis hornemanni hornemanni*)

2011-124-A Three, private residence, Honeoye Falls, **Monroe**, 22 Jan - 12 Mar

As with the “Greater” Common Redpoll discussed above, this report concerns the identification to subspecies rather than species, in this case, whether three Hoary Redpolls visiting feeders along with many Common Redpolls (*A. flammea*) belonged to the nominate form of Hoary Redpoll (“Hornemann’s” Redpoll), which is considered very rare south of Canada. Most Hoary Redpoll sightings in NYS are of the subspecies *exilipes*, and, in fact, there are no prior accepted records of “Hornemann’s” Redpoll (Brinkley 1998). A major strength of this report was the fact that it included a number of photographs. Although several members of the Committee found the details acceptable, others were concerned by the overlap in characters between the subspecies and the fact that there were apparently three different individuals of what is considered an extremely rare form. One committee member felt that the birds in these photos did not look large enough, and another felt that they seemed a little too streaky for this subspecies. The identification and taxonomic status of Hoary Redpoll subspecies is a work in progress, and the extent of variation in key characters such as size and paleness is not well known. Many out-of-range birds are probably best labeled as “showing characters consistent with Hornemann’s Redpoll.” Because of these ambiguities, the Committee was not able to reach a consensus after three rounds of discussion and voting. Regardless, the Committee is grateful to the observer for providing the detailed report and photographs, which can of course be revisited as our knowledge develops. For further discussion on this fascinating topic, see Brinkley et al. 2011.

2006 Report Not Accepted

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

2006-79-A One adult, Fountain Avenue Landfill, Brooklyn, **Kings**, 9 Nov

This submission was written several years after the sighting and unfortunately gave no indication that it was based on field notes or notes made shortly after the sighting. Other observers were present but did not provide their own reports. The brief description stated that the bird was feeding while “flutter flying” along the shoreline, a behavior that seemed distinctly uncharacteristic for this species. The report also indicated that the bird

was slightly oiled but did not describe the location of the soiled plumage further. On-shore sightings of Northern Fulmar are extremely unusual, and the Committee felt that, considering the odd circumstances, there just was not enough detail for acceptance.

Contributors: Robert A. Adamo, Seth Ausubel, Dave Baker, Andrew Baksh, Robert J. Berlingeri, Jim Berry, Shawn Billerman, Andrew Block, Michael Bochnik, Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Brent E. Bomkamp, Nick Bonomo, Alice Brickner, Philip Brickner, Sara Burch, Ken Burdick, Thomas W. Burke, Maryangela Buskey, Vicki Bustamante, Brad Carlson, Tom Carrolan, Martin Cassese Jr., Richard B. Cech, LeAnn Childs, Ed Coyle, Willie D’Anna, Christopher Diaz, Jacob Drucker, Richard Ettlinger, Brett M. Ewald, Andrew Farnsworth, Dana Fazino, Ken Feustel, Corey Finger, Douglas J. Futuyama, Brant Gamma, Douglas Gochfeld, Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Elliotte Rusty Harold, Ken Harris, Lynne Hertzog, Paul F. Hess, Michael Higgiston, Jeff Hopkins, Alec Humann, Jessie W. Jaycox, Thomas B. Johnson, Jeremy J. Kirchman, J. Gary Kohlenberg, William E. Krueger, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Philip Levesque, Gabriel Luongo, Michael R. McBrien, Jacob McCartney, Curt McDermott, Kenneth M. McDermott, Gerry McGee, Doug Miller, Joe Mitchell, Shaibal S. Mitra, Mike Morgante, Michele Neligan, Timothy O’Connor, James Pawlicki, Carlos Pedro, Ralph Petricone, Ron Preston, Bill Purcell, Gil Randell, Jann Randell, David Rankin, Derek Rogers, Kayo J. Roy, Karen Rubinstein, Steven Schellenger, Seymour Schiff, Marty Schlabach, Jim Schlickenrieder, Peter Schoenberger, Eileen Schwinn, Peter Scully, John Shemilt, Dominic Sherony, Tony Shrimpton, Bonnie Siciliano, Jeanne Skelly, Pamela Stark, Joshua Stiller, Sam Stuart, Paul Sweet, Mark S. Szantyr, Ken Thompson, Morgan Tingley, Deborah Tracy-Kral, Benjamin Van Doren, Steve Walter, William W. Watson, Angus Wilson, Seth Wollney, Ginnie Yerkovich, and Robert P. Yunick.

Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:

Angus Wilson (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger, Thomas W. Burke, Willie D’Anna, Andrew Guthrie, Thomas Brodie Johnson, Dominic F. Sherony and Jeanne Skelly (Past Secretary)

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2013

S. S. Mitra

Biology Department, College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314
shaibal.mitra@csi.cuny.edu

Bird occurrence in New York State was illustrated extravagantly this spring by a staggering volume of information, and all indications are that this weighty bounty (and burden) will continue to grow rapidly in the near future. Birders have never had more resources, nor more distractions, than they have at present, and I'd like to focus this season's Highlights piece on the benefits and costs of the information age, for birders interested in status and distribution.

The massive scale of contemporary bird reporting and the ease of searching files and databases digitally make it simple to find things that once required considerable forethought and diligence to detect. Yellow-throated Warbler's invasion of NYS is easy to discern in the reports below, from the Niagara Frontier, Genesee Region, Finger Lakes, Oneida Lake Basin, and coastal New York, but this kind of thing has always been fairly easy to track because the species is still perceived as scarce—and therefore desirable—enough that all observations are recorded, vetted, and highlighted. Similarly, the Omega blocking pattern of early May 2013, in which the weather inhibited migration to a remarkable degree, would have been noted in any era. Less straightforward, however, are phenomena such as irruptive movements of common species that are present throughout the state year-round—species that are often utterly ignored by list-conscious birders. Esoteric topics such as the northbound return flights of Hairy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Black-capped Chickadees following their occasional fall irruptions catch the attention of curious birders from time to time, but such things historically have been difficult to track unless individual workers made special efforts to publish and promote their findings. Today, the efforts of people like Steve Kolbe, Luke Tiller, and Dave Tetlow to count and document interesting seasonal movements at sites such as Derby Hill (Oneida) and Braddock Bay (Genesee) are easier than ever to find, connect, and analyze, owing to resources such as eBird.

But the information age poses pitfalls, too. Although eBird can be uniquely useful in studying the commonest species, in practice one of its most popular features is as a customized listing aid, by which individual consumers can track and chase the particular birds that interest them. This not only results in gross non-independence of the quantitative database (a topic deserving of more attention than can be afforded here), it even seems to be altering (eroding?) many birders' conception of what is interesting. Confronted with an enormous volume of data, there is a temptation to dice it in the simplest possible way, attending to perceived listing needs. To me, it seems as though this habit has perverse effects on people's valuation of birds, which in turn has real effects on patterns of effort, and ultimately on the quality of data. We have probably always tended to overvalue certain mundane species that, for various basically uninteresting reasons, wind up being "needed" at particular times and places, while at the same time undervaluing others because we happen to have had some luck with them lately. But these twin delusions are undoubtedly much more prevalent in the information age, where google-gadget flash mobs routinely ignite around each new potential year-bird, and where beginning birders languish with vagrant fatigue, having already seen three or four Curlew Sandpipers, but "why can't anyone find me a Whimbrel that will stay where I can see it?" In reflecting on this spring's reports, I've chosen to discuss just

two sets of related records because they illustrate particularly well some of these diverse impacts of the information age on our understanding, and on our perception, of bird occurrence.

Consider Oregon Juncos at two Genesee feeders, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at an Oneida feeder, and a Western Tanager at a feeder in the Niagara Frontier, all during March (the blackbird was confirmed to the birding community during April but had been present at the feeder for several weeks prior). These western North American species are rare vagrants in NYS that presumably arrived in the East during fall 2012 and wintered either near where they were detected in spring, or somewhere to the south, but in eastern North America. Now consider an Indigo Bunting at a feeder in the Niagara Frontier on 30 March and a Painted Bunting at a Long Island feeder on 4 April. These birds might have arrived on site through a mechanism similar to that ascribed to the western vagrants: selection of an unusual wintering site (in this case north rather than east of what is usual); but for these there is also the possibility that they arrived via a trans-Gulf of Mexico slingshot event, as observed from time to time (in spring 2005, for example).

Is there an objective means of distinguishing which mechanism was more likely? eBird yields powerful insights here, because a slingshot event ought to leave tell-tale traces over a large area during the dates in question. In particular, one would expect to see a pattern of late March-early April arrivals in the Southeast, whereas the wintering north hypothesis would be supported by a pattern of January-February records of longer duration across the same area. For both questions, eBird maps provide a remarkably simple and powerful tool. In these particular instances, the eBird data don't seem to settle the question decisively, but at the very least there doesn't seem to have been a major slingshot event immediately preceding the buntings' appearances in NYS, and there seem to have been surprisingly many (to me, anyway) examples of northerly wintering by both species. On the balance, I would tend to favor the idea that these birds attempted to winter farther north than usual. Whatever the case may be for these particular birds, I think it is very instructive to consider the possibility that "late-lingering" is often akin to vagrancy, and that vagrancy is often akin to choice of an unusual wintering site. Five more examples of passerine vagrants this spring are at least plausibly consistent with the view that the birds in question wintered in the East, perhaps even close to where they were ultimately detected: a Varied Thrush in R10 from 7 March to 5 April; Audubon's and Black-throated Gray Warblers in Regions 3 and 5, respectively, in mid April; a Say's Phoebe in R10 on 27 April; and a Smith's Longspur in R9 on 28 Apr.

Another set of species that figured prominently this spring involves the Arctic-breeding geese, whose change in status in NYS in recent decades offers another instructive example of the interaction between perception and reality in the interpretation of bird records. Even twenty years ago, Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Richardson's Geese were regarded as really rare; today they are almost taken for granted and have fallen from the purview of listers and vagrant sleuths to that of ornithological bean-counters, such as yours truly. Pink-footed Goose (R3, 5, & 9) has, in less than a decade, transformed from a "is it even in my field guide?" lifebird to a logistical challenge to the time and gasoline budgets of today's burgeoning masses of year-listers. In fact, this species' ascent has been so breathtakingly rapid as to eclipse the revolution in perceived status experienced by its Greenland-breeding cohort, Barnacle Goose. Whereas not a single record of the latter was accepted as naturally occurring between 1979 and 2005, it has yielded acceptable records, often in multiples, in every year since.

These shifts are largely attributable to biological reality: exploding breeding populations to the north and an increasingly suitable winter landscape here in NYS (both probably related to changes in climate) have yielded marked increases in occurrence; but these species' histories are also intertwined with our own intellectual history, and I find it

fascinating to tease apart the roles played by changes in taxonomy (affecting the perceived status of Richardson's), improvements in identification knowledge (affecting the perceived status of Ross's and Richardson's), and shifts in people's subjective attitudes toward certainty vs. probability (affecting the perceived status of Barnacle and Pink-footed). This spring's Regional Reports tell both the biological and the sociological stories quite compellingly, through the repeated notations of increasing abundance and earlier northbound passage of the common species, Snow and Canada Geese (thank you eBird!), and through the bold-faced entries for the chaseable objects of list lust named above. It really is extraordinary to contrast the matter of fact exposition of the Lower Hudson Valley's second Pink-footed Goose (which was actually regarded as an annoying inconvenience by some cynical Long Island year-listers) with the excitement, drama, and old-fashioned birding talent surrounding David Wheeler's discovery of Region 5's first record, and his companions' role in finding what was likely the same bird a week later in Region 3. This Pink-footed Goose, imbued with layers of biological and sociological meaning, is my choice for Bird of the Season.



SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2013

Region	Species Reported ¹	Seasonality ² vs. 1987-13	Advance ³ (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	92	-3.40	-4.02	10
2	92	-1.87	-3.46	6
3	93	-2.48	-3.76	4
4	84	-0.79	3.56	2
5	93	-1.91	-1.16	5
6	89	-3.45	4.20	6
7	84	0.22	9.36	3
8	85	-3.30	-0.13	2
9	82	-1.20	-1.95	2
10	79	0.65	-2.64	1

¹Maximum number of species = 93.

²Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region's 27-year average.

³Average 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 2013 Waterbirds												
Species	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R6	R9	R10	Avg	27-yr Avg
American Bittern	14 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr		18 Apr	14 Apr
Green Heron	14 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	2 May	2 May	17 Apr	18 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr
Wood Duck	1 Mar	5 Mar	10 Mar	23 Apr	3 Mar	4 Mar	30 Mar	5 Mar			14 Mar	12 Mar
Green-winged Teal	20 Feb	3 Mar	9 Mar		10 Mar	1 Apr	30 Mar	28 Feb			10 Mar	14 Mar
Northern Pintail	26 Feb	25 Feb	1 Mar	21 Feb	7 Mar	1 Mar	21 Mar	2 Mar			2 Mar	7 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	14 Mar	16 Mar	17 Mar	31 Mar	6 Apr	15 Apr	6 Apr	29 Mar	23 Mar	10 Mar	26 Mar	29 Mar
Osprey	27 Mar	31 Mar	24 Mar	24 Mar	17 Mar	3 Apr	1 Apr	28 Mar	14 Mar	8 Mar	23 Mar	27 Mar
Virginia Rail	6 Apr	25 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	30 Mar	28 Apr	27 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr
Sora	23 Apr	28 Apr	14 Apr	14 May	16 Apr	28 Apr	4 May	16 Apr	4 Apr		23 Apr	28 Apr
Common Moorhen	1 May	15 Apr	9 Apr	28 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	18 May	30 Apr		25 Apr	26 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	21 Apr	8 May	9 May	20 May	9 May		20 May		28 Apr		7 May	14 May
Semipalmated Plover	1 May	9 May	3 May	12 May	3 May	12 May	19 May	14 May		16 Apr	6 May	10 May
Killdeer	18 Feb	5 Mar	2 Mar	28 Feb	2 Mar	10 Mar	17 Mar	26 Feb			3 Mar	5 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	29 Mar	6 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr		12 Apr	29 Mar		6 Apr	6 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	3 Apr	4 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	8 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	13 Apr	5 Apr	3 Apr	9 Apr	17 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	14 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	27 Apr	19 Apr	2 May	5 May	8 Apr	15 Apr	24 Apr	20 Apr	26 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	14 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	18 Apr	1 May	10 May	23 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr
Sanderling	26 May		21 Apr		25 May						14 May	17 May
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9 May	17 May	10 May	15 May	13 May		20 May		18 May	3 May	13 May	13 May
Least Sandpiper	21 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	6 May	15 May	1 May	3 May	2 May	13 Apr	29 Apr	3 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	7 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr		9 Apr	8 Apr			15 Mar	14 Apr	4 Apr	21 Apr
Wilson's Snipe	30 Mar	15 Mar	10 Mar	1 Apr	20 Mar	30 Mar	3 May	9 Apr	8 Mar		27 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	10 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	12 Mar	9 Mar	17 Mar	2 Apr	27 Feb	26 Feb		10 Mar	11 Mar
Caspian Tern	4 Apr	31 Mar	3 Apr	10 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	7 Apr	19 Apr
Common Tern	6 Apr	7 Apr	10 Apr	14 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr		17 Apr	7 May	26 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr
Black Tern	19 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	16 May	9 May	4 May		18 May			4 May	8 May
Marsh Wren	25 Apr	14 Apr	26 Apr	6 May	1 May	2 May	27 Apr	16 Apr	29 Mar	12 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr

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

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2013						Landbirds						Avg	27-yr Avg
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R6	R9	R10				
Black-billed Cuckoo	10 May	10 May	16 May	20 May	18 May	11 May	30 May	16 May	10 May	10 May	15 May	11 May		
Common Nighthawk	17 May	15 May	14 May	25 May	19 May	14 May	28 May	21 May	10 May	11 May	17 May	12 May		
Chimney Swift	18 Apr	1 Apr	17 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	4 May	6 May	24 Apr	19 Apr	7 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr		
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	28 Apr	6 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	7 May	4 May	4 May	23 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Apr	25 Mar	31 Mar		23 Mar	9 May	7 Apr				5 Apr	2 Apr		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	15 May	18 May	22 May		18 May	4 May	18 May	15 May	10 May	11 May	14 May	18 May		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	9 May	10 May	10 May	10 May	6 May	16 May	19 May	10 May	25 Apr	10 May	9 May	9 May		
Alder Flycatcher	16 May	19 May	17 May	18 May	16 May	19 May	22 May	9 May	10 May	20 May	16 May	16 May		
Willow Flycatcher	14 May	12 May	15 May	16 May	15 May	17 May	28 May	6 May	10 May	11 May	14 May	15 May		
Least Flycatcher	28 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	2 May	28 Apr	2 May	4 May	7 May	1 May	26 Apr	30 Apr	1 May		
Eastern Phoebe	30 Mar	10 Mar	31 Mar	31 Mar	23 Mar	6 Apr	4 Apr	23 Feb	13 Mar	16 May	28 Mar	21 Mar		
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	2 May	8 May	3 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr		
Eastern Kingbird	23 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	30 Apr	18 Apr	2 May	1 May	9 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr		
Purple Martin	6 Apr	1 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr			13 Apr	2 Apr	9 Apr	18 Apr		
Tree Swallow	13 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	10 Mar	11 Mar	30 Mar	30 Mar	23 Feb	10 Mar	2 Mar	12 Mar	20 Mar		
N. Rough-winged Swallow	8 Apr	7 Apr	6 Apr	10 Apr	7 Apr	22 Apr	27 Apr	2 Apr	4 Apr	1 Apr	9 Apr	14 Apr		
Bank Swallow	18 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	27 Apr	15 Apr	26 Apr		30 Apr	20 Apr	6 Apr	18 Apr	24 Apr		
Cliff Swallow	18 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	8 May	19 Apr	13 Apr	2 May	3 May	18 Apr	6 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr		
Barn Swallow	6 Apr	5 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr	13 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	10 Apr		
House Wren	14 Apr	19 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	13 Apr	17 Apr		14 Apr	21 Apr		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7 Apr	13 Apr	8 Apr	7 Apr	19 Mar	7 Apr	17 Apr	9 Apr		26 Mar	5 Apr	6 Apr		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14 Apr	15 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	15 Apr	1 May		20 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	16 Apr	20 Apr		
Eastern Bluebird		11 Mar	2 Mar		15 Apr	4 Mar	1 Apr			3 Mar	16 Mar	9 Mar		
Veery	30 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	14 May	4 May	3 May	25 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		
Swainson's Thrush	6 May	24 Apr	11 May	19 May	11 May	13 May	22 May	24 Apr	10 May	10 May	9 May	8 May		
Hermit Thrush	23 Mar	24 Mar	3 Apr	14 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	5 Mar		9 Apr	31 Mar	7 Apr		
Wood Thrush	29 Apr	29 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	30 Apr	30 Apr	9 May	2 May	22 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr		
Gray Catbird	14 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	8 May	10 May	4 May	21 Apr	26 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr		
Brown Thrasher	8 Apr	16 Apr	7 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	8 Apr	13 Mar	10 Apr	15 Apr		
Blue-headed Vireo	16 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr		
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 May	5 May	25 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	4 May		4 May	1 May	24 Apr	30 Apr	3 May		
Warbling Vireo	26 Apr	30 Apr	14 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	4 May	25 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr		
Red-eyed Vireo	2 May	6 May	4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	5 May	5 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	3 May		

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

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2013					Landbirds—continued							Avg	27-yr Avg
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R6	R9	R10				
Tennessee Warbler	7 May	5 May	28 Apr	13 May	10 May	10 May	18 May	12 May	5 May	10 May	8 May	8 May		
Nashville Warbler	24 Apr	16 Apr	24 Apr	2 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr		
Northern Parula	26 Apr	7 Apr	29 Apr	5 May	29 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	2 May	21 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	2 May		
Yellow Warbler	20 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1 May	4 May	2 May	1 May	28 Apr	3 May	9 May	30 Apr	4 May	28 Apr	2 May	2 May		
Magnolia Warbler	2 May	4 May	2 May	4 May	7 May	4 May	8 May	6 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	4 May		
Cape May Warbler	27 Apr	4 May	28 Apr	12 May	4 May	16 May	23 May	11 May	12 May	27 Apr	7 May	7 May		
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	1 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr		
Black-thr Green Warbler	16 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	1 May	6 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	25 Apr		
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	3 May	6 May	4 May	3 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		
Pine Warbler	29 Mar	8 Apr	31 Mar	7 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr	31 Mar	26 Mar	5 Apr	9 Apr		
Palm Warbler	16 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	8 Apr	9 Apr		21 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr	8 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr		
Bay-breasted Warbler	4 May	10 May	13 May	16 May	10 May	19 May	16 May	15 May	10 May	10 May	12 May	10 May		
Blackpoll Warbler	20 Apr	12 May	13 May	12 May	16 May	17 May	19 May	3 May	8 May	25 Apr	8 May	12 May		
Black-and-White Warbler	11 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	30 Apr	19 Apr	10 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr		
American Redstart	3 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	3 May	9 May	6 May	19 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May		
Ovenbird	29 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	4 May	20 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr		
Northern Waterthrush	26 Apr	16 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	9 May	22 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr		
Mourning Warbler	15 May	10 May	4 May	18 May	9 May	13 May	14 May	27 May	16 May	13 May	13 May	14 May		
Common Yellowthroat	30 Apr	26 Apr	13 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	1 May	8 May	2 May	20 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr		
Wilson's Warbler	8 May	6 May	11 May	17 May	7 May	19 May	19 May	12 May	11 May	10 May	12 May	11 May		
Canada Warbler	12 May	5 May	7 May	12 May	14 May	16 May	19 May	12 May	9 May	10 May	11 May	10 May		
Scarlet Tanager	14 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	10 May	30 Apr	4 May	16 May	22 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	1 May	4 May		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	24 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	11 May	29 Apr	21 Apr	17 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr		
Indigo Bunting	30 Mar	30 Apr	3 May	6 May	5 May	18 May	27 May	2 May	30 Apr	17 Apr	1 May	3 May		
Eastern Towhee	31 Mar	12 Apr	7 Apr		7 Apr	10 Apr	21 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr		
Chipping Sparrow	6 Apr	24 Mar	1 Apr		7 Apr	14 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	25 Mar	26 Mar	3 Apr	4 Apr		
Vesper Sparrow	24 Mar	9 Apr	7 Apr	11 Apr	9 Apr	10 Apr	9 Apr	17 Apr	8 Apr	13 Apr	8 Apr	11 Apr		
Savannah Sparrow	30 Mar	14 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	3 Apr	15 Apr	14 Apr	1 Apr		10 Apr	7 Apr	7 Apr		
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 May	1 May	22 Apr	28 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	9 May		28 Apr	10 May	3 May	4 May		
White-crowned Sparrow	18 Apr	1 May	10 Apr	28 Apr	17 Apr	2 May	5 May	20 Apr		14 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr		
Bobolink	27 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr	26 Apr	4 May	15 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	9 May	30 Apr	2 May		
Baltimore Oriole	28 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	8 May	30 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr		
Overall Average	17 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr		

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

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

Mike Morgante

6405 Woodberry Court, East Amherst, NY 14051
morgm@roadrunner.com

James Pawlicki

70 Gaslight Trail, Williamsville, NY 14221
jmpawli10@gmail.com

March 2013 was uneventful, cool, and dry. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 32.9° F, 1.1° below normal. There was only 1.01" of precipitation, 1.86" below average, representing the second driest March on record. Snowfall was 9.8", 3.1" below average. Lake Erie remained frozen until early April. April brought unsettled weather and alternating cool and warm periods. The mean temperature was 46.3°, 0.4° above average. Precipitation was 3.92", 0.91" above average; snowfall was 0.3", 2.4" below normal. At least a trace of rain was recorded on 22 of the 30 days. Strong southerly winds ahead of a powerful storm system brought a record high of 82° on 18 April along with a boost of migrants in its wake. The month ended with a warm spell. May was warm with a series of thunderstorm events. The average temperature was 61.4°, 4.5° above normal. Rainfall was 3.57", 0.11" above normal and a few snow flurries occurred on 12-13 May. A warm stretch near mid-month seemed to accelerate songbird migration.

Keeping the trend with recent winters, waterfowl migration was evident nearing the latter half of February, but still peaked during the month of March. Three reports of **Greater White-fronted Goose** occurred in March, and several groups of Cackling Geese were reported throughout March and early April. Large flocks of Snow Geese stopped on the Lake Ontario Plain in Orleans County, with a max of 1,750 in Waterport on 22 March. Careful searching through the flocks turned up single **Ross's Geese** in Yates and Waterport on 21 and 22 March, respectively. Another Ross's Goose, found by visiting birder Ethan Gyllenhaal at Goat Island in Niagara Falls on 15 April, was unusual for both the location and its association with gulls. It remained cooperatively with a Ring-billed Gull flock in the fenced off area at Terrapin Point until the 19th. Tundra Swan migration peaked in mid-March, and high counts were tallied at Iroquois NWR and at the mucklands in Elba. **Trumpeter Swans** are now expected at a handful of locations throughout the Region; however, a single bird was sighted at a new location in Lewiston on two separate dates during the month of May.

In addition to reports from Tonawanda and Oak Orchard WMAs, **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported from the southern tier counties where much less frequent. Sightings were made at Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown and on private mining property in the town of Allegany. Blue-winged Teals were scarce and reports were made from only three widely scattered localities. A flock of 31
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was seen on the relatively early date of 14 March but was followed by few reports into April and May. Northern Pintails passed through in larger than normal numbers, with high counts of 2,750 at Elba on 11 March and 4,890 at Iroquois NWR on 14 March, the latter being a new Regional maximum. Interesting was a drake **hybrid Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp.** that Jim Pawlicki and Brendan Klick found and photographed with a small flock of Lesser Scaup at Barcelona Harbor on 29 April. This is the first Regional report of what is a probably an overlooked hybrid. A female **Harlequin Duck** was discovered on the upper Niagara River in Buffalo on 16 March, while the wintering female on the Allegany River in Salamanca was noted again from 23-29 March. Scoter reports were highlighted by three reports of Black Scoters, with a late sighting at Four Mile Creek SP on 20 May. A flock of 10 Surf Scoters was a nice find inland at Allegany SP on the relatively late date of 18 May.

The Horned Grebe migration peaked in mid-April, and a Region-wide “fallout” was noted on the B.O.S. April Count. A breeding-plumaged **Eared Grebe** found during the count on Lake Ontario in Yates provided the third consecutive spring record for the Region. Red-necked Grebes passed through in good numbers on Lake Ontario from late March thru mid-April.

During the B.O.S. May Count, Mike Galas found a pair of **American White Pelicans** in a gull and cormorant colony on the upper Niagara River just offshore Buckhorn Island SP. This was following a second-hand, unconfirmed report three days prior of two birds in flight over the east branch of the Niagara River.

Great Egrets arrived a little later than usual this year to the Motor Island colony and continued to nest in increasing numbers on islands above Niagara Falls in Ontario waters. Rare, but nearly annual in spring, two **Snowy Egrets** were found on 24 May by Paul Hess on the Niagara River offshore Beaver Island SP. Another rare wader was a **Glossy Ibis** found by Gale VerHague and seen by multiple observers at the Berry Road marsh in Pomfret from 6-13 May. Two were sighted at this location on 10 May and another or perhaps one of these two was observed in Jamestown on 12 May.

Along the lower Niagara River in Lewiston, **Black Vultures** continue to be year-round residents, and a new max of nine was noted on 20 March. Migrants were reported in Fredonia and at the Ripley Hawkwatch, where a new seasonal max of seven was recorded. It is likely a matter of time before nesting of this species is confirmed in the Lewiston area.

Sandhill Crane sightings were again widespread, with 14 reports and many of multiple individuals coming from eight widely scattered locations, including a max of six in Oakfield on 9 May. Common Gallinules were scarce this spring and late to arrive, with the first reports occurring in early May.

There were several shorebird highlights, many of which were due to low water levels at Iroquois NWR and unsettled weather during the peak migration period from late April thru May. Early shorebirds included a Black-bellied Plover at Iroquois on 21 April and a record-early **Whimbrel** at Buffalo Harbor on 9 May. On 13 April, Kurt Fox found a pair of **American Avocets** standing

with Ring-billed Gulls at Batavia WWTP, providing only the third spring and first April record for the Region. A molting male **Ruff** was found and photographed by Greg and Melissa Coniglio at Iroquois NWR on 18 April. The bird was initially thought to have been a one-day wonder until Greg Lawrence re-found it nearly a week later in the town of Shelby, approximately nine miles to the northeast. During this period it was seen by many and was later observed back at Iroquois through 30 April. This was the first spring and second overall record since 1997. Other notable shorebirds at Iroquois included two reports of single **American Golden-Plovers**, a high count of six **Stilt Sandpipers**, two Wilson's Phalaropes, Willet, and Whimbrel. The Stilt Sandpipers represented only the fourth spring record for the Region. While at Batavia WWTP in wet and windy conditions on 11 May, Jim Pawlicki came across several shorebirds that included a banded **Piping Plover** seen foraging on the gravel berms. The banding information was submitted to the USGS Bird Banding lab, and it was determined that the bird was hatched and banded in 2012 on the western shore of Lake Huron at Tawas Point SP, Michigan. This is the first Regional record of Piping Plover to occur away from the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shores and the first since 1998.

While at Dunkirk Harbor on 1 April, Pawlicki and Bill Watson observed a "darker-mantled" gull rafting on the water with several hundred Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. After extensive study Pawlicki identified the bird as the East Asian subspecies of Herring Gull, known as "**Vega**" **Herring Gull**. Several photos were taken and a detailed report was submitted to NYSARC. If accepted this would represent the first record of this subspecies for the state and one of a handful of records for eastern North America. Nearly annual in spring, an adult **Black-headed Gull** was sighted in early April with the large spring Bonaparte's Gull flocks on the upper Niagara River in Buffalo. The spring migration of Little Gulls on the Niagara River peaked in early to mid-April, with a high of 50 tallied at the "fly-past" into Lake Ontario on 12 April. Two adult **Laughing Gulls** were found on the Lake Erie shore on 9 May, the first at Dunkirk Harbor and the second a fly-by at Times Beach in Buffalo. Two record-early Black Terns arrived on the breeding grounds at Iroquois NWR on 19 April. Forster's Terns were more numerous than recent springs with eight reports.

The Common Raven pair at Tonawanda continued. A sighting in North Buffalo demonstrates the ever-increasing expansion of this species as it is no longer confined to only the higher elevations of the Region. **Fish Crows** continued in Buffalo during March as they departed their roost and foraged for gizzard shad carcasses along the shore of the Niagara River.

Passerine migration experienced some lulls and delays in early April and late April to early May, while seeming to surge to a peak on and around 18 May. There were several very early arrivals that turned up at feeders; however, only one, a record early **Blackpoll Warbler**, could be directly tied to weather systems. The Blackpoll Warbler showed up at a feeder in East Aurora on 20 April following very strong southwest winds in preceding days. The head scratching early arrivals began with a male **Indigo Bunting** photographed by Jacalyn Perry on 30 March (!) at her feeder in Lockport. Presumably the same

bird reappeared at the feeder on 19 April. A record early **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Bob LaPorta's suet feeder in Orchard Park on 11 April. Tom Murphy was delighted to host a male **Scarlet Tanager** at a suet feeder in his Hamburg yard from the early date of 14 April through the 26th. This marks the second consecutive year with an early Scarlet Tanager arriving several weeks before the next of its kind.

A **Western Tanager**, while a bonafide rarity, also fit with this pattern of early arriving passerines at feeders. Jim Berry alerted the birding community after John Ruska confirmed a Western Tanager making visits to a suet feeder in Irving on 22 April. Pauline Fox indicated that the bird had been coming to her feeder for several weeks prior. This is the first record for the Region. Many birders were able to enjoy this rarity through 26 April. To complete the trifecta of tanagers, Joe Mitchell found a **Summer Tanager** while leading a spring bird walk at Tift Nature Preserve on 5 May.

Other warbler highlights included a few more **Golden-winged Warbler** reports than in recent springs, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Evangola SP in addition to the regular Allegany SP location, a **Connecticut Warbler** in the D'Anna & Potter yard in Wilson, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** found by Doug Beattie at Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area.

Common Redpolls continued their abundance from winter in March and then declined by mid-April, with the last report coming 9 May. A **Hoary Redpoll** at Jim Berry's feeder in Jamestown is our latest on record for the Region. There were only two **White-winged Crossbill** reports, including a late May report of two at a feeder in Westfield. Pine Siskins were most numerous in May. **Evening Grosbeak** reports were scattered and not widespread but still a delight to see slightly increased reports.

The B.O.S. April Count was held on April 14. A warm front passed during count day but the high was only 46° F. A total of 158 species matched the record set last year. There were 21 record high counts since the 1935 inception including first count records for Fish Crow and Hoary Redpoll. Maxima included: Cackling Goose (5), Trumpeter Swan (3), Gadwall (205), Eurasian Wigeon (2), Northern Shoveler (359), Green-winged Teal (477), Red-throated Loon (159), Black Vulture (4), Bald Eagle (63), Sandhill Crane (8), Little Gull (55), Iceland Gull (7), Lesser Black-backed Gull (11), Glaucous Gull (15), Forster's Tern (3), Eastern Screech-Owl (13), Barn Swallow (254), Carolina Wren (51), Winter Wren (50).

The B.O.S. May Count was held on May 19. The full compilation was not available at the time of this writing.

CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy Andersen, Tim Baird, Sue Barth, Doug Beattie, Jim Berry, Corey Callaghan, Pat Coate, Melissa & Greg Coniglio, Willie D'Anna, Joel Darker, Brian Davis, Joe Fell, Larry Frauen, Kurt Fox, Pauline Fox, Mike Galas, David Gordon (DGo), Dennis Gralak (DGr), Andy Guthrie, Ethan Gyllenhaal, Doug Happ, Paul Hess (INWR) (PHI), Paul Hess (PHT), Kate Hentz, Linda Holmes, Alec Humann, Tom Kerr, Brendan Klick, Jim & Karen Landau, Bob LaPorta, Greg Lawrence, Twan Leenders, Tim McIntyre (TMc),

Tom Murphy (TMu), Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, James Pawlicki, Jacalyn Perry (JPe), Betsy Potter, Gil Randell, Jeff Reed (JRe), Chuck Rosenburg, Vicki Rothman, John Ruska (JRu), Richard Salembier (RSa), Leane Schultz, Bert Schweigert (BSc), Debbie Sharon (DSh), Andrew Stillman, Richard Sowinski (RSo), Bob Sundell (BSu), David and Debbie Suggs, Richard Thomas, Nancy Vigyikan, Gale VerHague, William Watson, John Welte, Peter Yoerg, Nick Ziemba.

ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 14 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 19 May; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn Island SP, ERIE; BWWTWP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; DLSP – Darien Lakes SP, GENE; EvSP – Evangola SP, ERIE; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FMCSPP – 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; LESP – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; 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; PG – Point Gratiot, CHAU; RTPi – Roger Tory Peterson Institute, CHAU; RWNP – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; Ripley HW – Ripley Hawk Watch, CHAU; SPNS – Sinking Ponds NS, ERIE; TBNP – Times Beach NP, ERIE; Tift NP – Tift Nature Preserve, ERIE; TillmanWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WHISTLING- DUCKS - VULTURES

Gr. White-fronted Goose: Waterport ORLE 21-23 Mar (WD, BP, CM); max 4 INWR 23 Mar (JW); Yates ORLE 24 Mar (WD, BP).
Snow Goose: 500, 700 Yates ORLE 16, 20 Mar; max 1200, 1750 Waterport ORLE 21, 22 Mar (WD, BP, CM), large spring flocks near L. Ontario shore in recent years; last 2 INWR 26 Apr (BK).
Ross's Goose: Yates ORLE 20 Mar (WD!, BP, VR); Waterport ORLE 21 Mar (WD!, BP), with Snow Goose flocks; NFSP 15-19 Apr (EG!, mob), unusual location and with Ring-billed Gulls.
Cackling Goose: several reports from multiple locations in Mar; max 30 Hartland NIAG 24 Mar (WD, BP); last 5 BOSAC.
Mute Swan: 2 INWR 24 Mar; 3-4, 1 Cassadaga L CHAU 9-17 Apr, 15-19 May; only reports away from L. Ontario shore.
Trumpeter Swan: Elba GENE 10 Mar (KF); E Shelby ORLE 26 Mar (JM); Lewiston NIAG 1, 17 May (WD, BP); Conewango Creek WMA CATT 9 May (BSc); INWR 23 May (DH, SB); increased reports.

Tundra Swan: max 696 Elba GENE, 450 INWR, 300 TWMA 10 Mar; 200 Batavia GENE 28 Mar; last TWMA 25, 26 Apr.
Wood Duck: arr 1 Mar BeSP; max 50, 46 INWR 4, 15 Apr (CM).
Gadwall: arr 2 ChauL 2 Mar; max 42 BeSP 7 Mar; 38 INWR 1 May; 12 BWWTWP 26 May.
Eurasian Wigeon: OOWMA 31 Mar (D&DS, BK); TWMA 6-15 Apr (WD, J&KL); Allegany CATT 6 Apr (JRe, PC); ChauL 14-16 Apr (BSu, JB, mob); rare in Southern Tier counties.
Am. Wigeon: 201 INWR 11 Mar; max 345 TWMA 24 Mar (WW); 173 INWR 4 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr, max 31 Pomfret CHAU 14 Mar (GV); 25 INWR 17 Apr; few reports away from these locations.
N. Shoveler: arr Wilson NIAG 10 Mar; max 179 INWR 15 Apr (CM); BWWTWP 30 May.
N. Pintail: 2750, 650 Elba GENE 10, 11 Mar (KF, DB); max 4825 INWR 16 Mar (WD, BP, CM), record count; AISP 31 May (CM), unusual for location for date.
Green-winged Teal: max 319, 365 INWR 4, 17 Apr (CM); 96 INWR 1 May; BWWTWP 25 May.

Canvasback: 520 BuFH 28 Mar; Tift NP 28 Apr; last AISP 9-31 May (TB, J&KL, RT), unusual location for date.

Redhead: arr 18 BWWT 12 Mar (CM); max 855 BuFH 28 Mar (JP); 4 Allegheny Res CATT 30 Mar; 25 ChauL 7 Apr; 14 TWMA 19 Mar; 2 BWWT 11 May.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1270 INWR 28 Mar (CM); 425, 250 ChauL 30 Mar, 6 Apr; 265 TWMA 6 Apr; 2 Allegany CATT 17 May; Tift NP 21 May.

Ring-necked Duck x Scaup sp.: Barcelona CHAU 29 Apr (JP!, BK, ph), first documentation of this hybrid for Region.

Gr. Scaup: max 2000 BuFH 10 Mar (MM); last BWWT 26 May (AG).

Lesser Scaup: 490 Tonawanda NR 5 Mar; max 600 BuFH 28 Mar (JP); 78 BWWT 21 Apr; last 2 BWWT 30 May (CM).

Harlequin Duck: fem Buffalo NR 16 Mar (PY); fem Salamanca CATT 23-29 Mar (TB!, BSc!), only 2nd inland record, presumably same bird from January in CATT.

Surf Scoter: 2 PB 9 Mar; 7 DH 23 Mar; 2 Olcott NIAG 6 Apr; 10 AISP 18 May (TB, ph), uncommon inland; last 10 Wilson NIAG 24 May (WD).

White-winged Scoter: max 1904 FNSP 20 Mar (JP, WW); last 10 Wilson NIAG 24 May.

Black Scoter: DH 4 Mar; BuFH 10, 28 Mar; Youngstown NIAG 20 Mar; 2 Wilson NIAG 6 Apr; last FMCSP 20 May (WD), May reports are rare.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 4 BWWT 12 Mar (CM); max 1252 lower NR 20 Mar (WW); 6 Allegheny Res CATT 30 Mar; 1216 FNSP 12 Apr; last 11 Wilson NIAG 24 May.

Bufflehead: max 80 NF 6 Mar; 16 ChauL 30 Mar; 77, 45 BWWT 21, 28 Apr; last 3 BOSMC.

Com. Goldeneye: max 1000 BuFH 10 Mar; last NIAG 25 Apr (CC, WD).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R1): PB 5 Mar (DB), continued from winter.

Hooded Merganser: arr 15 PB 9 Mar (KM, DB); max 260 BuFH 6 Apr (WW).

Red-br. Merganser: 55 ChauL 30 Mar; max 1400 DH 16 Apr (WW).

Ruddy Duck: arr 15 INWR 16 Mar; max 197 BWWT 21 Apr (DB); 16 BWWT 30 May (CM).

Red-throated Loon: difficult to determine spring arrivals with recent increases in winter reports on L Ontario; 2 PB 2 Mar; 32 Wilson NIAG 7 Mar; BuSP 13 Apr (DSh, AH); DH 16 Apr; last FMCSP 20 May (WD).

Com. Loon: arr Hamburg HW 17 Mar.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr INWR 11 Mar.

Horned Grebe: 40 PB 10 Mar; arr BWWT 12 Mar; 50 BWWT 13 Apr; max 76 ChauL 19 Apr (JB); last BWWT 28, 30 May (JM, CM).

Red-necked Grebe: 39, 69 Wilson NIAG 7, 26 Mar; max 73 Shadige ORLE 6 Apr; last 2 GHSP 25 Apr (WD).

EARED GREBE (R1): BOSAC Yates ORLE (JP!, BK, ph); rare in spring, third consecutive spring sighting on L. Ontario.

AM. WHITE PELICAN (R1): 2 BuSP BOSMC (MG!), in gull/cormorant colony and following report from same area few days prior.

Double-crested Cormorant: arr Tift NP 19 Mar; 138 DH 23 Mar; 432 NFSP 24 Apr (WW); 55 INWR 21 Apr; max 612 MI 17 May; 340 BuSP 20 May.

Am. Bittern: arr BOSAC; INWR 17, 30 Apr, 27 May; Tift NP 2 May.

Least Bittern: arr Tift NP 7 May; 2 TWMA 14 May; OOWMA 20 May; INWR 29 May.

Great Blue Heron: 61 Strawberry I NR 5 Mar; 157 + 91n MI 15 Apr; max 302 INWR 14 May (CM).

Great Egret: arr Wilson NIAG 31 Mar; DH 8 Apr; Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; 91 MI 21 Apr; 14 INWR 23 Apr; max 94 + 54n MI 3 May (WW).

Snowy Egret: 2 BeSP 24 May (PHT, MG, mob); nearly annual in spring.

Green Heron: arr BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 3 NFSP 6 Mar, likely recent arrivals; 2-6 DH 4-27 Mar; max 165 + 55 n NFSP 7 May (WW).

GLOSSY IBIS (R1): ad Pomfret CHAU 6-13 May (GV, WD!, WW!), two reported on 10 May; Jamestown CHAU 12 May; rare.

Black Vulture: Fredonia CHAU 5 Mar (NZ); max 9, 5 Lewiston NIAG 20 Mar, 25 Apr (JP, LF), regular in this area; Ripley HW 6 Apr (GR), record count of 7 for season.

Turkey Vulture: 1770 Hamburg HW, 1608 Ripley HW 29 Mar; max 1874 Ripley HW 15 Apr.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr OOWMA 27 Mar; max 23, 26 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr; continued increase in nests along NR and INWR complex.

Bald Eagle: new nesting location at Strawberry I NR; max 12, 17 Ripley HW 4, 30 Apr (GR).

N. Harrier: max 23, 26 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr (GR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 312, 217 Ripley HW 15, 18 Apr.

N. Goshawk: arr Ripley HW 17 Mar; 1, 3 Carlton ORLE 7, 18 Apr (BK, JP, WD); BOSAC; Ripley HW 23 Apr.

Red-shouldered Hawk: DLSP GENE 4 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 8 Mar; 120 Ripley HW 29 Mar; max 143 Hamburg HW 30 Mar; 79 Olcott NIAG 4 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr Hamburg HW, RTP1 9 Apr; max 1085, 1235 Ripley HW 18, 22 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 105, 102 Ripley HW 4, 15 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: Yates ORLE 2 Mar; 1-2 INWR 7-15 Mar, 7 Apr; Carlton ORLE 28 Apr, only reports away from HWs; last 3 BOSMC.

Golden Eagle: CSWMA 23 Mar (TB, BSc); 1, 1 Hamburg HW 21, 28 Apr (LC); only reports.

Virginia Rail: arr INWR 6 Apr; 2 Fredonia CHAU 18 Apr; 2 SPNS 19 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 27 Apr; max 4 Tift NP 5 May; RWNP 13 May.

Sora: arr Tift NP 23 Apr; BWWTP 25 Apr; Orchard Park ERIE 27 Apr; WFWMA, Tift NP 2 May.

Com. Gallinule: arr INWR, Pomfret CHAU 1 May, very late arrival.

Am. Coot: max 405 DH 27 Mar; 125 INWR 3 Apr; 90 ChauL 16 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: INWR 31 March; Olcott NIAG, 3 OOWMA 4 Apr; 2 TWMA, Jamestown CHAU 7 Apr; ChauL 8 Apr; 2 Carlton ORLE 18 Apr; 3, 2 INWR 25, 30 Apr; 2 WFWMA, Buffalo ERIE 2 May; 4 INWR 4 May; max 6 Oakfield GENE (JD) 9 May; 4 Hamburg HW 10 May.

Black-bellied Plover: arr INWR 21 Apr (JP!, WD! ph.), early; 2, 4 INWR 1, 10 May; 2 BWWTP 11 May; Somerset NIAG 12 May.

Am. Golden-Plover: 1, 1 INWR 21 Apr, 11 May (JP!), rare in spring.

Semipalmated Plover: arr INWR 1 May (NA); max 70, 100 INWR 23, 27 May.

PIPING PLOVER: BWWTP 11 May (JP!, mob, NYSARC), first in Reg since 1998, first inland report; *intro*.

AM. AVOCET (R1): 2 BWWTP 13 Apr (KF, WD!, mob); first Apr record.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 2 BOSAC.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BOSAC; last 2 Sherman CHAU 21 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 29 Mar (KF); max 265 INWR 1 May (CM); last INWR 28 May.

Willet: INWR 4 May (WD, BP, CM); Jamestown CHAU 14 May (JB); less than annual in spring.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr BWWTP 3 Apr; max 100 INWR 15 May (CM).

Upland Sandpiper: arr BOSAC; Sheldon WYOM 25-30 Apr, 6 May (TK); 1, 2 Clarence ERIE 28, 29 Apr (CH, WD, CM); 3 Cheekowaga ERIE 25 May (RT); greater number of reports than recent springs.

Whimbrel: arr BufH 9 May (WW!), record early; 18 Newstead ERIE 22 May (AS), brief stop at old quarry site; INWR 22 May (PHI, JM); BWWTP 23 May (JM).

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2, 6 BWWTP 11, 28 May (DB, JM); 3 Wilson NIAG 14 May (WD, BP); only reports.

Sanderling: arr INWR 26 May (JP, BK), only report.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 1, max 75 INWR 9, 26 May (WD, BP, AG).

Least Sandpiper: arr INWR 21 Apr (BP, CM); max 300 INWR 14 May (WD); 94, 30 Yates, BWWTP 12 May; 40 Jamestown CHAU 14 May.

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR 23 May (JP, WW), only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 9 INWR 7 Apr (BK); max 49 INWR 1 May (CM); last 10 INWR 10 May (DB).

Dunlin: arr 2 INWR 8 Apr (PY); max 350 INWR 26 May (JP, BK).

Stilt Sandpiper: 6 INWR 23 May (JP!, WW!), high count and fourth Reg spring report.

RUFF: INWR 18 Apr (M&GC, ph); Shelby ORLE 24 Apr (GL, WW!, WD!, NYSARC, mob); INWR 28, 30 Apr (WW!, MM!); same individual in all sightings; first spring report since 1997.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1, 3 INWR 14, 23 May (WD, JP); Newstead ERIE 23 May; 3 BufH 24 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Tillman WMA 30 Mar; max 14 INWR 15 Apr (CM).

Am. Woodcock: arr Grand I ERIE, AISP 10 Mar.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1, 1 INWR 14, 22-24 May (BP, WD, JM); only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: 1150 Lewiston NR 20 Mar; max 7905 FNSP (WD, CM); 3500 Upper NR 16 Apr; 70 INWR 19 Apr; 4 ChauL 16 May; 85 FNSP 31 May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1): Buffalo NR 12 Apr (JP), breeding plumage.

Little Gull: 10, 30 Lewiston NR 17 Mar, 6 Apr; max 50 FNSP (WD, BP, VR) 12 Apr, flypast into L. Ontario; FNSP 31 May; consistent with reports at this location in recent years.

LAUGHING GULL (R1): DH 9 May (JP!, WW!); TBNP 9 May (BK!, RSo); rare.

“VEGA” HERRING GULL: DH 1 Apr (JP!, WW!, ph, NYSARC), pending NYSARC first rec of ssp for State.

Iceland Gull: 12, 7 NF 20, 31 Mar; 6 DH 1 Apr; 6 BufH 20 Apr; Wilson NIAG 14 May; last BOSMC.

THAYER’S GULL: Tonawanda NR 28 Mar (JP, WW!, ph), second-winter.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 12 NF 20 Mar; max 16, 10 DH 23 Mar, 1 Apr (JP, WW); 4 BufH 20 Apr; Olcott NIAG 30 Apr; 5 DH 24 May; PB 25 May; increasing in spring.

Glaucous Gull: max 9, 8, 11 DH 23 Mar, 1, 3 Apr (JP, BK); 6 BufH 20 Apr; last 3 WoBSP 1, 2 May (JP, JM, WD).

Caspian Tern: arr 4 LESP 4 Apr, 32, 63 DH 13, 16 Apr; max 170 L. Erie shore Ripley to Hanover CHAU (JP, BK).

Black Tern: arr 2 INWR 19 Apr (WD!, CM), record early; 3 TWMA 28 Apr; 2, 3, 1 BWWTP 11, 12, 28 May; BeSP 14 May.

Com. Tern: arr Wilson NIAG 6 Apr (WD); 400 Buffalo NR 21 Apr; max 1803 BufH (JP, CC), following strong winds; 9 BWWTP 11 May.

Forster’s Tern: arr Buffalo NR 12 Apr (JP); 1, 1, 1, 1 Wilson NIAG 15, 25 Apr, 14, 22 May (WD, BP); 2 INWR 15 May (CM); 3 N Tonawanda NR 21 May (JP, WW); FNSP 31 May (JP, JM); good showing.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Alden ERIE 14 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Medina ORLE 10 May.

Snowy Owl: NF Airport NIAG 3 Mar (CR), only report.

Long-eared Owl: GHSP 9 Mar (BP, CM); WTSP 7 Apr (BP); 2 BOSAC; only reports.

Short-eared Owl: 3, 1 Wilson NIAG 3, 7 Mar; max 12 Shelby ORLE 4 Mar (RT); 2-3, 2 Bethany GENE 7-24 Mar, 4 Apr; Yates ORLE 30 Mar; last 2 BOSAC.

N. Saw-whet Owl: 2 Bond Lake CP NIAG 3 Mar (CR); FMCSF 27 Mar (BP); WTSP 31 Mar (BP); FLC 1 Apr (DGr, mob); 2, 1 WTSP 10, 12 Apr (BP, Rsa); BOSAC; only reports.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 2 Williamsville ERIE, WFWMA, 4 AISP 17 May (RS, JP, TL); max 9 Tonawanda Ind Res GENE 19 May; 2 WTSP 21 May; INWR 29 May; Marilla ERIE 30 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr RWNP 30 Apr (LS); FMCSF 16 May (WD, BP); only reports.

Chimney Swift: arr FLC 18 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Jamestown CHAU 28 Apr (TL); Forestville CHAU 29 Apr (GV); slightly early.

Red-headed Woodpecker: PG 26 Mar, prob wintering; Hunter’s Creek CP ERIE 4 Apr; 1-2 Emery P ERIE 30 Apr, 5, 8 May; INWR 4 May; 2,4 Como Lake CP ERIE, PG 8 May; TBNP 10 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 2 PG 1 Apr.
Am. Kestrel: max 134 Ripley HW 18 Apr (GR).

Merlin: continued increase in sightings; 2 + n Portville CATT 5 May (TB), new breeding loc.

Peregrine Falcon: OOWMA 18 Mar; Hamburg HW 22 Mar; 2, 2, 2 Ripley HW 23 Mar, 18, 23 Apr; DH 4 Apr; 7 other reports from known breeding locs.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Conewango CATT 15 May (TL); BeSP 16 May (DSh); 2 BOSMC.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr FLC 9 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr BOSMC; Bethany GENE 22 May; 2 Tift NP 29 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 4 BOSMC.

Alder Flycatcher: arr INWR 16 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr FLC 14 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Carroll CHAU 28 Apr,

E. Phoebe: arr Hamburg ERIE 30 Mar.

Gr. Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 INWR 1 May.

E. Kingbird: arr BMAC 23 Apr.

N. Shrike: 4 BOSAC; last INWR 15 Apr (CM); more Apr reports than usual.

White-eyed Vireo: GENE BOSMC, only report.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Bethany GENE 2 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr FLC 16 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr N Harmony CHAU 26 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP 10 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr NFSP 2 May.

FISH CROW (R1): 5 Buffalo NR 17 Mar (WD!), continued sightings from this location thru Mar.

Com. Raven: 1-2 Tonawanda NR thru, breeding activity observed; 2 N Buffalo ERIE 1 May (DGo), indicative of increasing reports in ERIE.

Purple Martin: arr DH 6 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr Lewiston NIAG 13 Mar; max 400 TWMA 6 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Tift NP 8 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr Fredonia CHAU 18 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr 3 FNSP 18 Apr.
Barn Swallow: arr TWMA 6 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 12 FLC 7 Apr (RSa).
House Wren: arr ALLE BOSAC.
Winter Wren: arr AmSP 26 Mar; max 10, 16 FLC 7, 9 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr INWR 25 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr BOSAC.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr 7 FLC 31 Mar.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 2 FLC 7 Apr.
Veery: arr INWR 30 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr BOSMC; 2 Tonawanda ERIE 29 May, flyovers; PG 31 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Alexander GENE 6 May.
Hermit Thrush: Orchard Park ERIE 23 Mar, wintered; arr? Busti CHAU 24 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE, Westfield CHAU 29 Apr.
Gray Catbird: 2 BOSAC, arrivals?
N. Mockingbird: continued, slow increase away from traditional lake plain areas.
Brown Thrasher: arr Tift NP 8 Apr.
Am. Pipit: arr Buffalo ERIE 10 Mar; last GHSP 22 May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 2 Carlton ORLE 2 Mar; TillmanWMA 17 Mar; 8 Shelby ORLE 23 Mar; max, last 27 Hartland NIAG 25 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 300 Barre ORLE 2 Mar; last Hamburg HW 30 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr PG 29 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 2 BOSAC.
N. Waterthrush: arr RWNP 26 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr FLC 3 May (RSa); 1, 1 AmSP 8, 11 May (TMc, RSa); WTSP 11 May (WD); Wilson NIAG 12 May (BP, WD); 3 BOSMC; more reports than recent springs.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr Jamestown CHAU 1 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: no reports.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: BMAC 11 May thru (TK), rare.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Orchard Park ERIE 11 Apr (BL! ph), record early, at suet feeder.
Prothonotary Warbler: not reported in May at traditional breeding areas at TWMA.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 7 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 27 Apr; a few more reports than usual.
Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP 24 Apr.
Connecticut Warbler: Wilson NIAG 21 May (WD, BP), only report.

Mourning Warbler: arr Lancaster ERIE 15 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Forestville CHAU 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr Middlebury WYOM, FLC 29 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr WTSP, Tift NP 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr AISP 27 Apr (BD).
Cerulean Warbler: arr WTSP 7 May; Wilson NIAG 15 May; less commonly found in migration.
N. Parula: arr Long Point SP CHAU 26 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr RWNP 2 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Tift NP 4 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr AmSP, TillmanWMA 30 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr ChauL 20 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Clay Pond WMA CHAU 1 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr E Aurora ERIE 20 Apr (NV, photo); earliest on record; Buffalo ERIE 8 May, next earliest arrival.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr INWR 1 May.
Palm Warbler: arr PG 16 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 21 May.
Pine Warbler: arr FLC 29 Mar.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: Bond L CP NIAG 7 Mar; INWR 24 Mar; arr 2 FLC 31 Mar.
Yellow-throated Warbler: arr EvSP 29 Apr-9 May (JM, mob); AISP BOSMC, traditional loc.
Prairie Warbler: arr FLC 3 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG, PG 16 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr 2 WFWMA 12 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Como Lake CP ERIE 8 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Middlebury WYOM 31 May (DB), only report.

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr Clymer CHAU 31 Mar.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last Marilla ERIE 8 May (LH).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Tift NP 16 Mar (JF), or wintered?; FLC 6 Apr, next arrival.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 Olcott NIAG 27 May (WD), apparent new breeding location.
Field Sparrow: arr Fredonia CHAU 6 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Busti CHAU 24 Mar; 2 Fredonia CHAU 25 Mar; 3 Hamburg HW 12 Apr; FLC 15, 21 Apr; Alfred ALLE 24 Apr; Shelby ORLE 26 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Zoar Valley MUA CATT 30 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TillmanWMA 5 May; Sheldon WYOM 6 May; 3 John White WMA GENE 29 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Portland CHAU 20 Mar; max 9 FLC 7 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr FMCS 1 May; last Tift NP 29 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr RWN 6 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: Wilson NIAG 30 May, on late side.
White-crowned Sparrow: Marilla ERIE 7, 9 Mar; max 18 Bethany GENE 16 Mar; arr Colden ERIE 18 Apr; last Portland CHAU 23 May.
Dark-eyed Junco (*J. h. oregonus*): Colden ERIE thru 9 Apr (J&KL), continued from winter; Tonawanda ERIE 5 Mar (WW); Wilson NIAG 8, 9 Apr (WD); good showing.
SUMMER TANAGER: Tift NP 5 May (JM!, mob), becoming near annual in spring.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Hamburg ERIE 14-26 Apr (TMu! ph), at feeder, very early; Tift NP 4 May, next arrival.
WESTERN TANAGER: Irving CHAU 22 – 26 Apr (PF, JRu, JB, mob!, NYSARC), apparently present several weeks earlier; first Regional record.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Irving CHAU 24 Apr.

Indigo Bunting: arr Lockport NIAG 30 Mar (JPe! photo), very early, also at same location 19 Apr; next earliest arrivals not until 11 May.
Bobolink: arr Strykersville WYOM 27 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr Yates ORLE, Fredonia CHAU 10 Mar; max 62 Olcott NIAG 9 Apr (WD), apparent migration fallout in one field.
Rusty Blackbird: arr TBNP 7 Mar; max 400 INWR 16 Apr (CM); last BOSMC.
Orchard Oriole: arr Portland CHAU 29 Apr (CH); continued increasing reports.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Wilson NIAG 28 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: BuSP 9 Mar (TK); Westfield CHAU 27 – 29 May (KH), at feeder; only reports.
Com. Redpoll: 130 Bethany GENE 3 Mar; 102 Shelby ORLE 24 Mar; max 140 Holland ERIE 10 Mar; 110 Olcott NIAG 31 Mar; well reported to mid-Apr; last E Amherst ERIE 9 May (MM).
HOARY REDPOLL: Jamestown CHAU 9-14 Apr (JB!), latest on record.
Pine Siskin: small numbers in Apr; more birds and reports in May; max 80 Wilson NIAG 26 May.
Evening Grosbeak: 12, 9 Ashville CHAU 3, 4 Mar; 35 BOSAC; Wilson NIAG 24 Apr; 5 Lockport NIAG 27 Apr; Carlton ORLE 10, 12 May; last Silver Creek CHAU 17 May; only reports.



REGION 2—GENESEE

Robert G. Spahn

716 High Tower Way, Webster, NY 14580
rspahn@prodigy.net

Spring is always an interesting season as we search for species not seen for months and many of these only transients. Weather is often a major factor and certainly was this year. We dealt with a late spring providing strong contrast with last year, and then a persistent omega block pattern with storms in the midsection of the country coming between us and our trans-gulf migrants except for brief breaks in the pattern.

March was cool, dry, and uneventful on the weather front. Temperatures averaged 33.5° F, 0.8° below normal, and precipitation totaled 0.85", 1.65" below normal. Snowfall at 11.9" was 4.4" below average. Precipitation fell on 14 days but exceeded 0.10" on only two days. With this lack of push, new arrivals only trickled in. Total species for the month remained above average, but new arrivals and year-to-date data were well below the 10-year averages. The first big push for the season was on the 31st.

April brought a near-normal month, with winter transitioning into spring. Temperatures averaged 46.6°, 0.3° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.71", just 0.02" below normal. Snowfall was just 2.3". The blocking systems resulted in bursts of migrants, sometimes in strange mixes when breaks occurred. May was a sunny, warm month with a few late season chilly, wet spells. Temperatures averaged 61.4°, 4.4° above normal, but with few extremes and only one day just hitting 90° and another just matching a 32° low. Rainfall at 3.96" was 1.09" above normal, but of that 1.68" fell on the 28th-29th. There were no major storms.

There were some interesting events and rarities this season, but no spectacular happenings to analyze, so this provides a good opportunity to look at some of the tools available to a Regional coordinator to study the season while wandering through the checklist.

Waterfowl are always an early component of the spring migration. In this Region a long-term lakewatch has become less useful as a tool without the dedicated observations of Bill Symonds; coverage is now less regular and of shorter daily duration. We continue to see the trends to earlier passage and to fewer birds spending long periods on our West Lakeshore fields. The Hamlin Beach State Park lakewatch is still covered, especially when movements are anticipated from weather patterns or history, but peak counts this season were low, especially for diving ducks, loons, and grebes. Often high counts were from the Finger Lakes and from the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). It is hard to separate no birds from no one looking.

Some of the more interesting observations start with the geese. We had only a single report of Greater White-fronted Goose at the west edge of the Region, but at least a dozen Ross's Geese, and over 40 Cackling Geese persisting into early April. It was another big spring for Snow Goose, with huge numbers at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Region 3 and many wandering north into Wayne County and beyond. On 11 March 100,000+ settled for a bit onto the Mucklands in southeast Wayne County. Over the next two weeks other large counts were noted farther north and west. With such numbers, individuals straggling into May were not a surprise. Our breeding swans, Mute and Trumpeter, persist but with fewer Trumpeter nest locations reported. Good Tundra Swan counts for the Region included 696 in the Elba mucklands and 261 at Braddock Bay on 10 March. Historically such counts typically occurred farther west and south of us.

Among the puddle ducks there were no really notable arrival or departure dates and few big counts. Most interesting are: a male Eurasian Wigeon at Braddock Bay from 1-9 April, a Gadwall x Mallard hybrid there 12-16 March, the Am. Black Duck peak for the season only 24 on 10 March, and 3000 N. Pintail on the NMWMA on 11 March. On 11 March there were much better counts of several waterfowl species on both sides of Rt. 31 just outside Region 2. Diving duck counts for birds passing or resting at the Hamlin Beach lakewatch were poor; only a couple of Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser counts even made the local noteworthy records. Many of the diving duck highlights were from elsewhere. After a weak winter showing, 520

Canvasback in the NMWMA was a good peak, as well as 3500 Redhead on Conesus Lake, 525 Ring-necked Duck at the Conesus Lake Inlet WMA, and 350 Common Goldeneye on Conesus Lake. Surprises included 458 Bufflehead and 385 Horned Grebe found by Kurt Fox on Silver Lake, Wyoming County, on 14 April, with Andy Guthrie counting 151 Bufflehead at Braddock Bay that day.

Loon and grebe counts usually peak in the last few days of March to the first two weeks of April. Counts were generally very low, with only a couple of Horned Grebe counts even reaching 100. Several **Western Grebe** reports were interesting for this Regional rarity. There were different individual birds seen near Irondequoit Bay Outlet from 9-21 March and at Sodus Bay from 16-18 March. There can only be speculation as to whether either of these could relate to a bird reported mid-January off Irondequoit Bay Outlet and a later individual seen off Greece a few miles west on 2 April by Jim Barry.

Among the waders, we had a number of interesting reports: a very early Least Bittern found on 28 April in the NMWMA; a record early Snowy Egret briefly visiting the High Acres Nature Area (HANA) on 14 April; a **Tricolored Heron** found on 5 May in the NMWMA by Jay McGowan and seen by many that day (and later off and on to at least 9 May in other areas of the Montezuma complex, mostly out of our Region); and two Glossy Ibis spotted by searchers for the Tricolored Heron on 5 May. Two American White Pelicans dropped into Braddock Bay on 19 May. But probably the biggest surprise of the season was an **adult Northern Gannet** seen and photographed by Andy Guthrie passing Hamlin Beach on 7 May and then likely the same bird dropping onto the water there off the lakewatch on 18 May, with Andy again the only one there. Northern Gannet has become fairly regular here in the fall, but this is the first spring record and adults are extremely rare here, this being only the second Regional record.

The Braddock Bay hawkwatch has a special place in our spring birding picture. The usual table with record data highlighted in boldface and with vultures and falcons still included in spite of recent taxonomic changes, can be found in the records section below. Once again Luke Tiller was the principal counter. Overall, March was SLOW, with the first good movement on the 31st bringing nearly 70% of the month's total Turkey Vultures and 10% more Red-shouldered Hawks. April was better, but the normal high counts for Broad-winged Hawks ended up a spread out trickle. For the first time the peak day count for Turkey Vulture, 6160, surpassed the peak day count for Broad-wings, 6123! Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle produced record seasonal totals, 28,301 and 648, respectively. The overall hawkwatch count ended above average at 75,519. There were two Swainson's Hawks on 16 April and 1 May and an interesting dark morph immature Red-tailed Hawk on 15 May. An interesting addition was over 80 Sandhill Cranes tallied passing this season. Black Vultures totaled 15 birds moving past the hawkwatch plus about five elsewhere in the Region. Other than the hawkwatch birds, other interesting raptors included: Osprey arrival again in March; about five other Northern Goshawk reports; the northern Wayne County Red-shouldered Hawks reported last year again on nest; a Rough-legged Hawk on 22 May; and Dave Tetlow's counts of 126 and 227

American Kestrels at the West Spit of Braddock Bay on 16 and 21 April. Both Merlin and Peregrine Falcon counts were typical of recent springs, and the nesting Rochester peregrines were back to a more normal family life.

As usual, the marsh birds were poorly reported. Sandhill Cranes numbers continued high, with at least 45 reported in addition to the Braddock Bay birds and the usual pair with two colts by season's end on Carncross Road in the NMWMA. Again, there are other likely breeding sites, but no definite breeding reports. Common Gallinule reports were all from Wayne County other than at HANA, which is very nearly into that county.

Shorebirds were relatively poor for both diversity and numbers in our Region, in contrast with some very good species and counts reported in Regions immediately to our east and west. Arrival dates were typical other than Solitary Sandpiper on 16 April at Braddock Bay and Least Sandpiper on 20 April, both early. Only Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock arrived in March. A maximum of 110+ Black-bellied Plovers is based on the assumption that a flock passing the Knox-Marcellus overlook in the Montezuma complex continued the half mile or so north into Region 2. Peaks of 45 Lesser Yellowlegs and 32 Least Sandpipers are very low. Only a couple of reports of Upland Sandpiper, a lone Whimbrel, a maximum of four Ruddy Turnstones, and a lone Wilson's Phalarope highlight a pathetic showing.

The gulls and terns did not do much to pick things up. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were again low, and there were no Little Gull reports. On the positive side, Andy Guthrie found an adult **California Gull** near his home in Hamlin on 12 April; there were at least 25 Lesser Black-backed Gull reports, with maxima of seven in March and five in May; Iceland and Glaucous Gulls continued to mid-April and mid-May, respectively; and Steve Taylor found a gull concentration at the south end of Irondequoit Bay with an adult Thayer's Gull and 150 Great Black-backed Gulls on 8 April. Terns arrived on the early side, with a Caspian Tern at Braddock Bay on 31 March, Common Tern on 7 April, Forster's Tern on 14 April, and Black Tern on 27 April. Eleven Forster's Terns on 16 April at Braddock Bay was a good count here, but Black Tern remains scarce, with most of our records now from the NMWMA.

Among the non-passerine landbirds, Eurasian Collared-Dove was spotted only occasionally at or near the usual Town of Hamlin site and cuckoos appeared at typical dates but remained low in numbers in keeping with the scarcity of their hairy caterpillar prey. Of special interest to many is the annual roosting of migrating Long-eared Owl and N. Saw-whet Owl in the "Owl Woods" area northwest of Manitou Beach Road. Over the season 73 Long-eared Owls were observed, a bit short of the 2002 record of 83, and 101 N. Saw-whet Owls were tallied, nearly double the previous spring high count. Peak counts were 19 and 12, respectively. Jim Adams has prepared an excellent summary. Common Nighthawk peaks of 61 in Greece and 63 in Hamlin in late May were encouraging for recent years, but sightings generally were from a limited number of sites near the Lake Ontario shore. E. Whip-poor-will is represented by only a few late April and May records. A Chimney Swift spotted by Dave Tetlow at Braddock Bay on 1 April was record early, but later there were

questions around low numbers. In early May notes appeared on the local listservs wondering about Ruby-throated Hummingbird; arrival on 6 May seemed late. However, that date is only a couple of days past average, and at the BBBO banding station a very good count of 86 was banded, more than double last year's number. Finally, woodpeckers don't typically provide much excitement, but many ask about Red-headed Woodpecker. There were many reports, but these were from a very few sites (five in eBird, though there are multiple locations in Hamlin Beach SP). Then we have Dave Tetlow's tally of 451 Northern Flickers passing the West Spit of Braddock Bay on 16 April and another 153 there on 21 April. This can serve as a reminder that big numbers can be counted if one studies historical records and weather maps and gets out on the right days.

The Monk Parakeet nest site we have been following was visited sporadically, and a single bird was reported at least a couple of times each month, though the nest seems diminished.

Passerines occupy the rest of the checklist and I often wander through the families noting interesting tidbits. This time, for a change, I will first note that lots of detail will be included in the records section below in checklist order. I'll then note a few rarities and special occurrences, followed by addressing this grouping through looking at some of the tools available to Regional Editors for trying to make some sense out of the season. For species with the arrival date being the only "notable" record and not unusual for date or location, the entry will be only in the arrival date table, an original intent of the table.

Sources and tools include eBird records, now nearly 90% of the individual records (though other sources provide interesting records not in that database for a variety of reasons); listservs (geneseebirds and, to a lesser extent locally, cayugabirds); BBBO banding records; special study summaries and data; lakewatch and other watch counts; the NYSOA arrival date tables; the 1985 Monroe County Checklist; Bob Marcotte's draft summary of local records; and published books and records archives useful for assessing historical perspective.

This season eBird received just over 60,000 Region 2 records, 38,800 of these for passerines. Dave Wheeler, the Region 5 co-editor, has produced a tool he named Swan Swan Hummingbird, which he is willing to use on the various Regions' data and which is very useful for pulling summary information from this data. Searching this database and the other sources, one can quickly spot some of the standout rarities. Among the passerines I would highlight are: White-eyed Vireo banded record early on 16 April and another sighted on 18 May; several Prothonotary Warblers; a Kentucky Warbler on 5-6 May; Yellow-throated Warbler in Rush from 21-23 April and another banded on 28 April; and Dark-eyed "Oregon" Juncos photographed at feeders in North Wolcott and the Town of Ontario in March. The Fish Crows along the Genesee River in the Charlotte area were reported there at times each month, and a few other reports were received from other sites, mostly nearby.

The rest, the bulk, of the passerine records of interest are related to arrivals, departures, and counts relative to historical expectations. This can start with

PHOTO GALLERY
Spring 2013



Summer Tanager, Tobay Beach, *Nassau*, 30 May 2013, © Mike Vedder.



“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler, Stewart Park, Ithaca, *Tompkins*, 18 Apr 2013, © Jay McGowan.



Smith’s Longspur, Shawangunks Grasslands NWR, *Ulster*, 30 Apr 2013, © Lloyd Spitalnik.



Ruffs, Great River, *Suffolk*, 24 Apr 2013, © S. S. Mitra.



Left: Cedar Waxwing, Queensbury, *Warren*, 24 Mar 2013, © Denise Hackert-Stoner.
Right: Bohemian Waxwing, Queensbury, *Warren*, 24 Mar 2013, © Scott Stoner.



Left: Say's Phoebe, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 27 Apr 2013, © Ryan J. Bass.
Right: American Avocet, Geneva, *Ontario*, 13 Apr 2013, © Jay McGowan.



Tricolored Heron, Savannah, *Wayne*, 5 May 2013, © Jay McGowan.



Pink-footed Goose, Montezuma NWR, *Seneca*, 26 Mar 2013, © Jay McGowan.



"Black" Brant, Great River, *Suffolk*, 25 Apr 2013, © Derek Rogers.

**Photos from the New York State Avian Records Committee's
Annual Report for 2011**



Furnishing a 1st record for New York State and 2nd record for the US and Canada, this adult Gray-hooded Gull, seen here with two Laughing Gulls, spent its summer 2011 vacation on the iconic beach and boardwalk at Coney Island, Brooklyn, *Kings*. Photograph © Mark S. Szantyr.



Discovered on 26 Dec 2011, this immature female Mountain Bluebird frequented a large field in Calverton, *Suffolk*, remaining into early Jan, 2012 to the delight of many local birders able to add it to their 2011 and 2012 year lists. Photograph © Tom B. Johnson.



This Great Kiskadee made a surprise appearance at the window of a Spuyten Duyvil, Bronx, apartment on 11 Sep 2011. Its provenance is unknown but a possibility is that it traveled aboard one of the cruise ships that regularly run between New York City and Bermuda, where the species is an abundant introduction. Photograph © Alice Brickner.



(Left) White-tailed Tropicbird was the signature species of Tropical Storm Irene, and this adult was propelled far up the Hudson River coming to ground in an exhausted and moribund state near Stephentown, Rensselaer, on 29 Aug 2011 Photograph © Bernice Gawron. (Right) A handful of lucky observers were on hand to witness this Wood Stork as it soared over Hamlin Beach SP, Monroe, 28 Oct 2011. Photograph © Brad Carlson.



Five Black-bellied Whistling Ducks flying over Oil City Road, Pine Island, *Orange*, on 26 May 2011. Part of broader influx into the northeast, these birds regularly flew back and forth across the NY-NJ state line. Photograph © Angus Wilson.



On 6 Aug 2011, this Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, the 1st photographed in NYS, briefly joined a mixed feeding flock of Wilson's and Leach's Storm-petrels off Long Island at a chum slick laid out on water 350 fathoms (2100 ft) deep. Photograph © John Shemilt.



Although of uncertain origin, this Hooded Crow caused continent-wide interest. Great Kills Park, Richmond, 24 Jun 2011. Photographs © Angus Wilson & © Morgan Tingley.



Arguably the most familiar raptor in North America, Red-tailed Hawk comprises several subspecies subdivided into three groups: Eastern (*borealis*), Western (*calurus*) and Harlan's (*harlani*), each of which shows considerable plumage variation. In the East, dark morphs are not known as breeding birds and rare examples in NYS are presumed to be vagrants of western origin, nominally *calurus*. This individual was found on Gaines Basin Road near Albion, *Orleans*, on 1-2 Apr 2011. Photographs © Willie D'Anna.



When first discovered on 8 Dec 2011, this adult Slaty-backed Gull was asleep on the rock shelf off Goat Island, *Niagara*, just above the Niagara Falls. After waking it tussled with neighboring Herring Gulls allowing the distinctive wing tip pattern to be studied before flying out towards the middle of the river. Photograph © James Pawlicki.

eBird and the output of Swan Swan Hummingbird, but then requires looking at the other sources or records and finally checking historical perspective.

For a general look, we can start with the Monroe County Checklist arrival date distributions. Here we have date distributions for all data up to 1984 plus marginal notes for interesting new data since then (clearly an update is needed). For this season we have 136 arrivals: 70 were in the first quartile, 30 in the interquartile range, and five in the fourth quartile of their 1985 distributions plus 18 record-early or ties and 13 not assessable due to too little data to have generated a distribution. However, of those 18 record-early relative to the old distributions, all but six have been recorded at earlier dates one or more times since. Since we started asking birders to specifically look for and report arrivals, nearly all years have showed a bias toward the early quartiles of their historical distributions, as expected. It is similar for departures, with most in the interquartile range or fourth quartile and this year with only one species tying a record late date in the 1985 booklet, but with one later date since 1984. The real record early birds this spring include White-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, and Northern Parula, all normally April arrivals. Other notable early arrivals included Eastern Phoebe, 10 warbler species, and Baltimore Oriole. There were no record late departures, but late departures of interest included numbers of Lapland Longspurs in the Carncross Road area of the NMWMA thru 11 May, a Pine Grosbeak on 20 May, and Common Redpoll to 16 May.

For those wishing to pursue the arrival date questions further, we can look at the Spring Arrival Date tables published in *The Kingbird* since 1987. This list of 93 species includes 62 passerines. We now have 27 years of data, so we can look at data for this 27th year vs. averages and standard deviations for the previous 26 years. One can spend hours looking at this data and making comparisons. But this must be done with care and thought. Generally there appears to be a shift to earlier arrivals, especially in very recent years. One is tempted to draw conclusions that may really not be well founded. A simple issue is separating such an apparent shift from the effects of increased reporting, especially with the advent of listservs and now the expanding use of eBird. Averaging over all 93 species, last year was the earliest ever, but this year jumped to four days later, and looking back, 1988 was among the earliest and 1989 the latest. Relative to the 26 year overall average and standard deviation, only 2012 was > 2 STD early and only 1989 and 1996 > 2 STD late; all the rest were close to the average. Looking more specifically to this year, we find only five species statistically significantly (> 2 STD) early: Chimney Swift, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. None were significantly late. Black-throated Blue Warbler is interesting because it was only about six days early, but it has the tightest distribution of all 93 species, with 1 STD only 2.37 days. In contrast, Northern Parula was 24 days early.

One can continue to search for information; maybe it's to beat this one table to death. Even if individual dates are not statistically significant, how about looking at patterns of early and late? Looking at average arrivals by parts of months, we find only the latter half of April with way more early than late

arrivals. Doing the same across families, we find the normally 1-10 May average flycatchers late, but the normally late April species and the later May Olive-sided early. The swallows were all early, thrushes were split, 17 of the 22 warblers in the table arrived early, and all the sparrows but Chipping were late.

The last part of the passerine records to look at is the assessment of numbers. This is always more difficult and somewhat subjective. Assessing record highs involves considering the level of aggregation of the count across both space and time. We have data from the sources noted and peak numbers from eBird through Swan Swan Hummingbird. Historical perspective is an issue and relies on experience and comparison with all the historical references—a time consuming prospect. Banding totals at BBBO provide an interesting starting place. The overall total banded was up nearly 20% from 2012, so I'll just note sizable (to me) changes with that in mind. Interesting changes include the following: 2013 vs. 2012 - Black-capped Chickadee, 962 vs. 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 115 vs. 281 (but stop and consider that this species peaks in early to mid April so the total depends on the official start date for banding relative to the peak date for the year); Tennessee Warbler, 34 vs. 77; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 50 vs. 113; Magnolia Warbler, 282 vs. 460; Blackpoll Warbler, 15 vs. 121; Am. Redstart, 267 vs. 205; Canada Warbler, 46 vs. 82; and White-throated Sparrow, 209 vs. 118. This might well be better done with a full summary table of banding data over the years normalized for effort.

Other interesting counts this spring include Dave Tetlow's totals of passing birds from the West Spit of Braddock Bay on 16 & 21 April, with 160 Black-capped Chickadees, 5,250 American Robins, 105,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 620 Rusty Blackbirds, 45,000 Common Grackles, and 730 Brown-headed Cowbirds on the 16th and 72 Purple Finches on the 21st. Later we have a maximum of 1,022 Blue Jays at the West Spit on 4 May, actually a low maximum; 2,129 Cedar Waxwings at Hamlin Beach on 30 May and 2,267 there the next day by Andy Guthrie; and 500+ Baltimore Orioles in one hour at the West Spit on 10 May, and 1,000+ Pine Siskins there on 19 May, both by Luke Tiller in moments spent away from the hawkwatch.

To accommodate the general interest in this winter's huge winter finch irruption, the bounce back through here began with a few Evening Grosbeaks in late April and continued with all the species except Hoary Redpoll through much of May, but generally in small numbers, mostly 1-2 at a time.

For the Region, species counts were a bit above the 10-year averages each month. Year-to-date totals ranged from low at the end of March to six species up after April, ending up at 259, three species below average, at the end of May.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Adams, Janet Akin, Richard Ashworth, BBBO (Elizabeth Brooks), Ted Barnett, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, John Bateman, Bob Beal, Doug Beatty, Steven Benedict & Linda Clark-Benedict, Lynn Bergmeyer, Barry Bermudez, Brenda Best, Jay Bigenwald, John Boettcher, Lynn Braband, George Briggs, Joe Brin, Michael Burdick, Bruce & Mary Ann Cady (BCd), Cory Callaghan, Doug Cameron (DCm), Carl Carbone, Brad Carlson (BCI), Donna Carter (DCr), Nancy Casper, Denis & Judy Caysinger, Gary Chapin, Jill Church,

Kelly Close, Richard Cohen, Seaghan Coleman, Greg Coniglio, Andrew Consler, Don Cowley, Kathleen Dalton, Steve Daniel, Doug Daniels, Willie D'Anna, Peter Debes, Rich DeCoster, Renee DePrato, Jon Dombrowski, Steve Donohue, Crystal Doyle, Eaton Birding Society, Cricket Fegan, Joe Fell, Sheila Ferrari, William Fidler, Daena Ford, Tony Ford, Kurt Fox, Kyle Gage, Andy Garland, Jeff Gerbracht, Chuck Gibson, David Gordon, Sheryl Gracewski, Jay Greenberg, Kevin Griffith & Colleen Dox-Griffith, Abby Grimaudo, Lucretia Grosshans, William Gruenbaum, Judy & Lew Gurley, Andrew Guthrie, Danny Guthrie, Scott Haber, Robert Hagggett, Helen & Chris Haller, Catherine Hamilton, Dave & Vanna Harding, Kim Hartquist, John Heyer, Wesley Hochachka, Doug Holland, Alec Humann, Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Laura Kammermeier, Ryan Kayhart, Steve Kelling, Tom Kerr, Jim Kimball, Kathy Kirsch, Mike Klimeczko, Chris Lajewski, J. Gary Kohlenberg, Edith Lank, Tom Lathrop, Leona Lauster, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tim Lenz, Joan & Vern Lindberg, Peggy Mabb, Cindy Marino, David Marsh, Pat Martin, Robert & Sandy Mauceli, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, Chita McKinney, Noah McNeill, Ferne Merrill, Jim Miles, Jim & Martha Miller, Lynn & Glenn Miller, Randi Minetor, Bud Morgan, Celeste Morien, Brian & Brooke Morse, Ann Nash, Tom Nash, Dave Nicosia, William Norton, Dave Nutter, Dave O'Dell, Sue O'Neill, Bill Ostrander, Joel Paige, Andrea Patterson, Teresa Pegan, Melissa Penta, Erma Perkins, Norma Platt, Betsy Potter, Jay Powell, Dave Prill, J. Pumilio, Bill Purcell, RBA Field Trips, RBA/BOS Field Trip, Carolyn Ragan, Michele Rosenbaum, Peggy Rowe, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Jesse Rubenstein, Jennifer Rycenga, Scott Salber, Robin & Jackie Salisbury, Livia Santana, Michael Scheibel, Shirley Shaw, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Joe Slattery, Judy Slein, Tom & Pat Smith, Robert & Susan Spahn, Dave Spier, Chris Stanger, Al & Di Stout, Kimberly Sucey, Jim Tarolli, Steve Taylor, Joyce Testa, David Tetlow (DT), Mike & Joann Tetlow, Dick & Mary Jane Thomas, Luke Tiller, Don & Donna Traver, Benjamin Van Doren, Alison Van Keuren, Chris Villone, Brad Walker, Mike Wasilco, Bill Watson, Bridget Watts, Drew Weber, Dave Wheeler, Julie White, Kinsley Whittum, Brenda Williamson, Fran Willis, Angus Wilson, Joe Wing, Chris Wood, Joe Woody, Martha Zettel. [In addition there were over 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; 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; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; LE – Lake Edwards, T of Perinton, MONR; LSP – Letchworth SP; M – Manitou Beach area, MONR; MAC – Montezuma Audubon Center, T of Savannah, WAYN; MP – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; NMWMA – Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area, T of Savannah, WAYN; NR – Nations Road, T Avon, LIVI; OCP – Oatka Creek P, MONR; SB – Sodus Bay, WAYN; SPt – Sodus Point, WAYN; TCEA – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; W – T of Webster, MONR.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: T Byron, GENE 11 Mar (JSk), only rep.
Snow Goose: max 100,000+ NMWMA (Rt 31) 11 Mar (RS); 20,000 NMWMA 9, 21 Mar (SK, SH, BW); 15,000 CL 9 Mar (MW); 6500 LE 21 Mar (JP, MT); last 1 T Ogden 20 May (JPo).
Ross's Goose: arr 4 G & BB 4 Mar (RS, DT, LT, KS); 2 T Galen, WAYN 18, 21 Mar (W&MR); W 9 Mar (JWi); 1, 3 LE JP, MT); 2 TCEA 11 Mar (MW).
Brant: no reports.
Cackling Goose: total approx 40 sev loc Mar, none after; max 14 BB 10 Mar (GL, *et al*); 12 H 11 Mar (AGu); last 3 TCEA 3-4 Apr (MW).
Mute Swan: breeding still out of control; max 117 BB 3 Mar.
Trumpeter Swan: mainly in the NMWMA; fewer nest sites reported this year.
Tundra Swan: max 696 Elba Mucklands 10 Mar (KF); 261 BB 10 Mar (GL); last 8 LIVI 15 Apr.
Wood Duck: arr 5 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 5 Mar.
Gadwall: last 1 MAC 29 May (CL).
Gadwall x Mallard hybrid: 1 BB 12-16 Mar (GL).
Eurasian Wigeon: 1m BB 1-9 Apr (LT, *et al*, mob), only report.
Am. Wigeon: max 500 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 17 Mar.
Am. Black Duck: max 24 BB 10 Mar, very low.
Blue-winged Teal: arr NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 16 Mar.
N. Shoveler: last HB 18 May.
N. Pintail: max 3000 NMWMA (Savannah) 10 Mar (W&MR); last NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 10 May.
Green-winged Teal: arr 3 BB 3 Mar.
Canvasback: max 520 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 5 Apr (W&MR); last 1-14 BB & SB 14 Apr, very early last rep.
Redhead: max 3500 CL 19 Mar (MW); last 3 MP 26 Apr, early dep.
Ring-necked Duck: max 525 CL inlet WMA 15 Mar (MW); last 4 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 12 May.
Lesser Scaup: last 4 BB-WS 24 May.
Surf Scoter: last 3 HB 8 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 410 HB 8 May, late, low max; last HB 30 May (AGu).
Bufflehead: max 458 Silver Lake, WYOM 14 Apr (KF); 151 BB 14 Apr (AGu).
Com. Goldeneye: max 350 CL 19 (MW); last 2 HB 23 May (AGu).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 800 BB HB 28 Apr, low.
Ruddy Duck: max 60 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 14 Apr (W&MR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 15 NR 7 May (MW), high.
Red-throated Loon: arr G (North Ave) 8 Mar; max 14 HB 14 Apr; last 3 HB 30 May (AGu), low numbers.
Com. Loon: max 78 HB 7 May, low, late for max.
Horned Grebe: max 385 Silver Lake, WYOM 14 Apr (KF); 101 G (North Ave) 8 Mar; last 2 HB 30 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 32 G (North Ave) 8 Mar, low.
WESTERN GREBE: off IB Outlet 9-21 Mar (JMiles, mob); SPT 16-18 Mar (DCr, mob); off Greece 2 Apr (JiB), *intro*.
NORTHERN GANNET (R2): 1 ad HB 5, 18 May (AGu, ph), 1st spring Reg record and 2nd ad Reg record, *intro*.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 138 IB-S 21 Apr, low.
AM. WHITE PELICAN (R2): 2 BB 19 May (LT, *et al*), same bino view as 2 Sandhill Cranes.
Am. Bittern: arr H 12 Apr (LT), recently dead.
Least Bittern: arr NMWMA (Marten Tract) 28 Apr, early.
Great Egret: arr 2 HANA & 1 IB-S 4 Apr.
SNOWY EGRET (R2): HANA 14 Apr (BCd, JPo), Reg record early.
TRICOLORED HERON: NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 5-9 May (JMcG, LS, mob), *intro*.
Green Heron: arr Victor 19 Apr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 2 IB-S 11 Apr; max 10 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 5 May.
Glossy Ibis: 2 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 5 May (sev).
Black Vulture: total 15 passing hawkwatch 10 Mar thru; T Huron, WAYN 21 Mar (W&MR); N Wolcott, WAYN 22 Mar (W&MR); Wolcott, WAYN (W&MR); 1 each BB & BB-WS 18 May (KH); BB 25 May (TP).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2 BB 31 Mar; arr 2 Broadway Rd WAYN 31 Mar.
Bald Eagle: 74+ rep 23+ loc Mar; 162 rep Apr; 377 BB + 50 other rep May.
N. Goshawk: 5 rep all season away from Braddock Bay, low.
Red-shouldered Hawk: pr on nest WAYN 25 Mar (J&MM), rare nest for county.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 5 BB 13 Apr (LT, *et al*); max 6123 BB 28 Apr, 1st time season's max < TUVU max.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1 lt imm BB 16 Apr (MT, LT); 1 lt ad BB 1 May (LT, *et al*).

Red-tailed Hawk: 1 drk imm G (Frisbee Hill) 15 May (LT, *et al*).

Rough-legged Hawk: last 1 Sodus Bay 22 May (W&MR).

Golden Eagle: arr 1 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 9 Mar (JMcG, *et al*); approx 11 rep away from BB.

Com. Gallinule: arr 1 HANA 15 Apr; all other eBird rep WAYN.

Sandhill Crane: arr 4 NMWMA (Muckrace Flats) 15 Mar (CL); max 10 BB 24 Mar (LT, *et al*); totals: approx 22 sev loc Mar; 48+ sev loc Apr; approx 17 sev loc May; 2 ad & 2 colts Carncross Rd, 7 May thru (mob); 3 T Richmond, ONTA 7 Apr, near suspected breeding area of sev yrs.

Black-bellied Plover: max 110+ NMWMA 27 May (M&JT).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr BB-WS 16 Apr (DT), early.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 NR 6 Apr (LBe), early; 1 T Clarkson, MONR 13 Apr (AGu, DGu), only reports.

Whimbrel: 1 HB 23 May (AGu), only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 Summerville Pier 17 May (J&VL, RS); max 4 SPT 22-25 May.

Sanderling: no reports.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 33 HB 23 May, low max.

Least Sandpiper: arr 1 BB & 2 H 20 Apr (KH, GL), early; max 32 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 11 May (JMcG, LS), low max.

Dunlin: arr BB & Parma 20 Apr.

Short-billed Dowitcher: no reports.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 f NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 4-6 May (LL, LC-B&SB, mob), only reports.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 102 HB 16 Apr, low max.

CALIFORNIA GULL: 1 ad H 12 Apr (AGu).

THAYER'S GULL: 1 ad IB-S 8 Mar (ST).

Iceland Gull: last 1 BB 17 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 4 rep sev loc 10-17 Mar; max 7 T Bergen, GENE 11 Mar (JL, DBE); 5 rep sev loc 5-24 Apr; total 9 sev loc May.

Glaucous Gull: H 15 May (AGu).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 150 IB-S 8 Mar (ST).

Caspian Tern: arr 1 BB 31 Mar (LT, CHam); max 200 IB outlet 26 Apr (BriM).

Black Tern: arr 3 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 27 Apr; 2 MP (Quaker Pond) 19 May (PM), unusual location.

Com. Tern: arr IB-S 7 Apr (JCh), early.

Forster's Tern: arr HB 14 Apr; max 11 BB 16 Apr (LT, *et al*).

PIGEONS – PARROTS

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: seen sporadically known site Hamlin thru, usually only single bird; rep submitted few.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr G 15 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 2 Caledonia 4 May (MW).

Long-eared Owl: total roost count 73 M (Owl Woods) 11 Mar - 2 May, 2nd highest spring count, *intro*.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total roost count 101 M (Owl Woods) 7 Feb - 4 May, double previous spring high, *intro*.

Com. Nighthawk: arr M (hawk blind) 10 May; 61 G 19 May (KG); max 63 H 29 May (AGu), good counts.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 3 M 30 Apr (RK); singles M & G 7-26 May, scarce now.

Chimney Swift: arr M 1 Apr (DT), Reg record early.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Honeoye Falls 6 May; total b 86 M 17-30 May (BBBO), low.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr HB 16 Apr; many rep, but only about 5 loc.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 26 ICW 7 Apr (KS).

N. Flicker: max 451 BB-WS 16 Apr (DT); 153 BB-WS 21 Apr (DT), good counts.

Am. Kestrel: 126 BB-WS 16 Apr (DT); 227 BB-WS 21 Apr (DT), good counts.

Merlin: 12 rep of 12 ind Mar; total 42 incl hawkwatch Apr; total incl hawkwatch 17 sev loc 1-29 May; no reports of nesting in Reg.

Peregrine Falcon: 10 rep of 11 ind Mar; total 24 ind incl hawkwatch Apr; total 18 ind incl hawkwatch May; nesting in downtown Rochester back to normal, see posts rfalconcam website.

MONK PARAKEET: 1-4 West Ridge Plaza site 5-10 Mar; 1-2 West Ridge Plaza 7, 17, 28 Apr; 1 West Ridge Plaza 19, 20 May.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr LSP 18 May (NM); H 30 May (AGu).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 1 OCP, GENE 15 May (JAd); max b 10 M 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 Huckleberry Swamp 26 May, late. "**Trail's**" **Flycatcher:** arr 4b M 19 May; max b 48 M 30 May; total b 131 M 8-31 May.

E. Phoebe: arr BB & M 10 Mar (JBo, RS), early.

Great Crested Flycatcher: HP 24 Apr (DT), early.

E. Kingbird: arr Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield, MONR 27 Apr (BWi), early.

N. Shrike: last Webster 9 Apr (BWi).

White-eyed Vireo: 1b M 16 Apr (BBBO), Reg record early; BB 18 May (LT).

Philadelphia Vireo: arr South Conesus 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: total b 62 M 15-31 May.

Blue Jay: max 1022 BB-WS 4 May (B&BM), low max.

Fish Crow: 1- 5 Charlotte area thru; 1 BB 14 Mar (LT); 2 G (Long Pond Firehouse) 4 May (SG); 1 N Wolcott, WAYN 22 May (W&MR). Purple Martin: arr M 1 Apr (DT), early.

Tree Swallow: arr sev loc 11 Mar; max 500 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 19 Apr, low max.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 1 ICW 7 Apr (JiB), early.

Black-capped Chickadee: total b 962 M 22 Mar – 6 Jun, big jump from last year's total 8; max 160 BB-WS 15 Apr (DT), near banding station where 55b that date.

Winter Wren: 1b w brood patch M 30 May (BBBO), no known breeding sites nearby.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr ICW 15 Apr (DD).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: "huge #" Cobbs Hill 8 Apr (JGr); max b 44 M 15 Apr; biggest numbers often before official banding station opening.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max b 49 M 19 Apr; total b 446 M 13 Apr-26 May; last 1b M 26 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr ICW 7 May (LBe, *et al*); total b 13 M 21-30 May, very low.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: total b 2 M 19, 29 May, very low.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Beechwoods SP 24 Apr (LL), early; max 15 ICW 19 May; total b 66 M 15-31 May.

Am. Robin: max 5250 BB-WS 16 Apr (DT).

Gray Catbird: total b 270 M 3-31 May.

Am. Pipit: arr 1 Charlotte Pier 10 Mar (JBo, RBA field trip); max 126 H 7 May; last 6 H 29 May.

Cedar Waxwing: 2129 HB 30 May (AGu); max 2267 HB 31 May (AGu).

LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: 1-19 NMWMA (sev) 5-11 May (JMcG, LS, mob); max 100 NMWMA (Carncross Rd) 8 May (WH), many for so late.

Snow Bunting: last 1 Broadway Rd, T Wolcott, WAYN 31 Mar.

Ovenbird: arr Cobbs Hill & ICW 28 Apr

(CMa, PM), early,

Worm-eating Warbler: G (Long Pond Firehouse) 19 Apr (AGa), only report.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 3 Canadice L area 28 Apr (ST), late 1st rep; Sodus (Alasa Farms), WAYN 9 May (JMiller), unusual location.

N. Waterthrush: 1 ICW 16 Apr (DP), early; total b 52 M 23 Apr-31 May; 1b w brood patch M 31 May, no known breeding location nearby.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr ICW 3 May; approx 13 ind at 9 loc 3-25 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1b M 1 May, early; total b 20 M 1-27 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr M & CL Inlet 19 Apr (PM, KC), early.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): arr 1 BB 1 May (DH); NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 9 May (CL), heard bird former loc; South Conesus 14 May (KC), well described; 1-2 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 16 May thru (CL, DO, mob), same area where breeding 2 prior yrs; ICW 18 May (GL).

Tennessee Warbler: total b 33 M 10-29 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr G 27 Apr (DT), early; total 13 sev loc 8-28 May.

Nashville Warbler: arr BB-WS 16 Apr (DT), Reg record early; total b 54 M 2-30 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr 1b M 10 May; total b 25 M 10-31 May.

Kentucky Warbler: 1 Sodus, WAYN 5-6 May (R&SS, W&MR), only report.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr MP P 26 Apr (MW), early; total b 173 M 5-31 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr ICW 4 May.

Am. Redstart: arr M 28 Apr (KGa, FW), early; 43 ICW 18 May (GL); 42, 46 HB-Yanty Creek 19, 20 May; max b 39 M 19 May; total b 261 M 7-29 May; abundant this spring.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Armitage Rd & Beechwoods SP 5 May; found in expected sites.

N. Parula: 1 ad m BB-WS 7 Apr (B&BM), Reg record early, well described.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 56 M 21 May; total b 280 M 5-30 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Highland P, Rochester 24 Apr (KH) & n Hemlock L 24 Apr (MW), very early.

Yellow Warbler: arr sev loc 22 Apr, very early; max 150 G (church trail to Beatty Pt) 17 May (PM); total b 118 M 1-31 May; 686 eBird records in just May, abundant this spring.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: total b 50 M 6-30 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: total b 10 M 21-30 May, low; scarce this spring.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr ICW 24 Apr (KS), very early; total b 63 M 3-30 May.

Palm Warbler: arr 6 ICW 16 Apr (DP) & 2 BB-WS 16 Apr (DT), early; total b 89 M 19

Apr-21 May; last G (Long Pond Firehouse) 22 May (PM).

Pine Warbler: arr Irondequoit 8 Apr (TF), early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr OCP 24 Mar (JAd), early; max 157 BB-WS 11 May (GL); total b 90 M 16 Apr-23 May.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: 1 ph Rush 21-23 Apr (EP); 1b M 28 Apr (BBBO).

Prairie Warbler: arr TCEA 29 Apr (MW), early; 1b M 1 May; 2 Canadice Hill Rd, ONTA 5 May (KK); River Rd, LIVI 8 May (MW); ICW 18 May (GL).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1b M 24 Apr (BBBO), early.

Canada Warbler: arr Beechwood SP 5 May (Eaton Birding Soc.), early; total b 44 M 15-31 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr M 6 May (DD), early; total b 125 M 8-31 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: 1b M 25 May; Broadway Rd, WAYN 30 May (SF).

TOWHEES – WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Honoeeye Falls 4 May (BCI).

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr 1, 2 H (Cook Rd) 11, 19 May (AGu); 1b M 30 May (BBBO); total approx 10 ind at 8 loc 11-30 May, good number for Reg.

Field Sparrow: arr HANA 24 Mar (BCad).

Vesper Sparrow: arr 3 G (Frisbee Hill) 9 Apr, late arr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 4 NR, Geneseo 30 Apr (MW).

Fox Sparrow: arr 1 Webster P 23 Mar (KH); last Beechwoods SP 5 May (Eaton Birding Soc.).

Lincoln's Sparrow: last 2b M 30 May (BBBO).

White-throated Sparrow: total b 208 M 13 Apr-30 May.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: 1 ph N Wolcott, WAYN 8 Mar (W&MR); 1 ph T Ontario, WAYN 13 Mar (JWi).

Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 MONR 30 Apr, early.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr N Wolcott, WAYN 25 Apr (W&MR).

Bobolink: arr BB 27 Apr (LT), early.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 105,000 BB – West Spit 16 Apr (DT).

E. Meadowlark: arr H 11 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 14 Mar; max 620 BB – West Spit 16 Apr (DT); last 1-24 G (Long Pond Firehouse) 15 May.

Com. Grackle: max 45,000 BB – West Spit 16 Apr (DT).

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 730 BB – West Spit 16 Apr (DT)

Orchard Oriole: arr BB 3 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Honoeeye Falls 23 Apr (BCI), early; max 500+ BB-WS 10 May (LT), 1 hr count.

Pine Grosbeak: 1 f Webster P 5 Mar; last 1 f G (Long Pond Firehouse) 20 May (KD), late; only reports.

Purple Finch: max 72 BB-WS 21 Apr.

Red Crossbill: 1 M 10 Mar; none Apr; G 17 May (KG); 2 HB 31 May (AGu).

White-winged Crossbill: 1 BB 20 Mar; none Apr; Webster 20-21 May (JBo, NP); HB 31 May (AGu).

Com. Redpoll: max 200 South Conesus 4 Mar (KC); last 1 N Wolcott, WAYN 1, 16 May (W&MR), ph.

Com. "Greater" Redpoll: 1 N Wolcott, WAYN 8 Mar (W&MR).

Hoary Redpoll: H (Sandy Creek boat launch) 6 Mar (RS), w large flock of Commons; N Wolcott 14, 18 Mar (W&MR), ph; last H 26 Mar (AGu).

Pine Siskin: max 1000+ BB-WS 19 May (LT); 196 eBird records in May.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 8 BB-WS 16 Mar (DT); HP 22 Mar (DT); Pittsford 26 Apr (SD); 1 M (BBBO) 27 Mar (mob); 2 Scottsville 28 Mar (*fide* JAd); 6 Manitou Beach Rd 6 May (RS, *et al*); 2 Irondequoit 7 May; 2 M 8 May; 2, 1 G (Long Pond Firehouse) 12, 17 May; 1 HB 6, 14, 20 May; last 1 BB 19 May.



Braddock Bay Hawkwatch Totals

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Max Date</u>	<u>Total</u>
Black Vulture	10 Mar	2	24 Apr, 26 Apr	15
Turkey Vulture	8 Mar	6160	7 Apr	28301
Osprey	31 Mar	44	19 Apr	387
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	75	23 May	648
N. Harrier	10 Mar	119	16 Apr	783
Sharp-sh. Hawk	8 Mar	1301	16 Apr	4917
Cooper's Hawk	10 Mar	139	7 Apr	585
N. Goshawk	11 Mar	3	16 Apr	18
Red-shld Hawk	10 Mar	419	31 Mar	777
Swainson's Hawk	16 Mar	1	16 Mar, 1 May	2
Broad-wngd Hawk	13 Apr	6123	28 Apr	34314
Red-tailed Hawk	10 Mar	681	7 Apr	3732
Rough-legd Hawk	10 Mar	81	7 Apr	191
GoldenEagle	12 Mar	5	16 Apr	25
Am. Kestrel	10 Mar	220	18 Apr	752
Merlin	11 Mar	6	16 Apr	42
Peregrine Falcon	26 Mar	9	1 May	30

Total including unidentified raptors: 75,519



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Jay McGowan

203 Tareyton Drive, Ithaca NY 14850
jwm57@cornell.edu

In March, the average temperature was a few degrees Fahrenheit below long-term averages with slightly more precipitation than normal. In April, temperatures and precipitation were very similar to long-term averages, although a few days produced higher temperatures than usual. May temperatures were slightly above average and with less precipitation than expected.

Although some early migrants in mid-April tantalized us with an early season, stalled fronts to our south brought a dramatic lull in migration activity, and the traditional burst of neotropical migrants at the end of April and first week of May never rose much above a trickle. The Hawthorn Orchard in Ithaca, while good for normal migrant warblers, hosted neither rarities nor the exceptional numbers that are often seen there. Many species arrived back on territory without being seen first as migrants. Still, despite the perceived late season for birders, most birds arrived quite close to their average arrival dates, with several a good deal earlier, but many in small numbers until later in the season.

Snow Geese passed through in large numbers as usual, with an estimated 150,000 in the northwest part of Cayuga Lake around 9 March. This flock included at least two Ross's Geese and a Eurasian Wigeon.

The 10th of March proved to be an amazing migration day, with thousands of geese, raptors, blackbirds, and many other birds seen overhead. Watching from Hammond Hill SF, Chris Wood had a flyby **Pine Grosbeak**. A Greater White-fronted Goose dropped into Stewart Park for the afternoon.

Possibly the most exciting bird of the season was a **Pink-footed Goose** that Steve Kolbe spotted flying into Knox-Marsellus Marsh at Montezuma on 26 March. This could well have been the same bird that was seen on 18-19 March north of Syracuse in Region 5. It was present throughout the day at Montezuma but not seen subsequently.

A breeding plumaged **Eared Grebe** was present at Stewart Park on 13-14 April, and another was found by Carolyn Jacobs at the north end of Canandaigua Lake on 14 April that stayed for several days. Chris Wood found a pair of late Red-necked Grebes at Myers Point on 16 May and a late Horned Grebe there on 30 May. Individuals of Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, and **Common Goldeneye** all lingered to the end of May and beyond.

The Ithaca area experienced a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** invasion in mid-March, with multiple birds of various ages seen at Stewart Park and the Cornell Compost, peaking at 17 birds at the compost on 15 March.

On 2 April, Ken Rosenberg spotted 16 **Bohemian Waxwings** at Sapsucker Woods. This turned out to be the front line of one of the largest Bohemian invasions in recent memory in Region 3, with a maximum of **150** present at one time at Sapsucker Woods and other flocks seen in Lansing and at Cornell over the course of almost two weeks.

Shorebirds were a highlight this season, with more diversity and higher numbers than often reported in the spring, perhaps simply due to more available habitat in the Montezuma NWR area. Good numbers of the expected species were seen on the Main Pool as well as at a relatively new area just to the west in Cayuga County known as Kipp Island, with birds often moving between the two areas throughout the day. An **American Golden-Plover** appeared at Kipp Island on 13 April, and a **Stilt Sandpiper** was found on 4 May. Stilt Sandpipers continued to be seen occasionally on the Main Pool through 25 May. Very high numbers, 1000+, of Dunlin were seen in both areas later in May, as well as 110 Black-bellied Plovers on 27 May, a maximum of 16 White-rumped Sandpipers, a **Baird's Sandpiper** on 18 May, and at least two Wilson's Phalaropes from about 18-27 May. Tim Lenz found a breeding plumaged male **Ruff** at Kipp Island on 10 May, and this bird was seen the same day on the Montezuma Wildlife Drive (as well as subsequently on Howland Island in Region 5.) Away from Montezuma, at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake, Jay McGowan found a very early **Sanderling** on 21 April, and Mark Chao had a **Whimbrel** drop in briefly on 24 May. A cooperative **American Avocet** found by James Norwalk spent two days along the shoreline at the Lakefront Park in Geneva on 13-14 April.

A **Tricolored Heron**, presumably the same individual found in Region 2 on 5 May, appeared near the Main Pool at Montezuma NWR on 7 May and stayed for several days. A **Glossy Ibis** appeared at Kipp Island on the same day as the Ruff, and likely the same bird was seen sporadically in the Montezuma area until the end of May. On 10 May, Tim Lenz spotted a subadult **Laughing**

Gull near Aurora, and the same bird was seen at Long Point SP on 17 May and then showed up briefly at Myers Point on 23 May. Also on 23 May, Kevin McGowan saw an immature **Northern Gannet** from a boat out on Cayuga Lake near Aurora, but this bird was not refound. On 22 May, Mark Chao observed a **Mississippi Kite**, extremely rare in Region 3, over Bostwick Road in Ithaca.

Just as in 2012, the 2013 spring season brought several uncommon warblers to our area. On 16 April, Chris Wood and Jessie Barry found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Monkey Run in the Town of Dryden. This bird quickly disappeared, but on 9 May another **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on the Newman Golf Course in Ithaca, in the same area where one or two tried to breed in 2012, and was seen until 22 May. Ben Barkley found another **Yellow-throated Warbler** on Cornell Campus on 14 May, and Jay McGowan and Livia Santana found one at Myers Point on 23 May, quite possibly the same one as at Newman, as this bird was not reported subsequently. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana also found a female “**Audubon’s**” **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Stewart Park on 18 April that stayed for at least a week. Scott Taylor found a cooperative Prothonotary Warbler at Sapsucker Woods on 6 May, and the Prothonotary Warblers returned to breed again at Armitage Road on the R3/R5 border, first reported on 18 May. On 3 May, Jay McGowan found a **Kentucky Warbler** at Sapsucker Woods, where a few people were lucky enough to see and hear it before it disappeared.

A total of 259 species were reported in Region 3 during the spring season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Paul Anderson, Nacho Areta, Bill Baker, Jackie Bakker, Ben Barkley, Jessie Barry, Brent Bomkamp, Joseph Brin, Mark Chao, Tilden Chao, Flavia Chaves, Nancy Chen, George Chiu, Alexandra Class, John Confer, Chris Dalton, France Dewaghe, Nancy Dickinson, Bill Evans, Steve & Susan Fast, Mary Margaret Ferraro, Brendan Fogarty, Benjamin Freeman, Jeff Gerbracht, Jane Graves, Stephanie Greenwood, Melissa Groo, Scott Haber, Meena Haribal, Wes Hochachka, Sara Jane Hymes, Nita Irby, Carolyn Jacobs, Tom Johnson, Steve Kelling, Dave Kennedy, Geo Kloppel, Gary Kohlenberg, Steve Kolbe, Stuart Krasnoff, Leona Lauster, Tim Lenz, Alberto Lopez Torres, Stewart Mandl, Nick Mason, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Bob McGuire, Mark Miller, Ann Mitchell, Graham Montgomery, Andrea Mott, David Nesbitt, Dave Nicosia, James Norwalk, Dave Nutter, Therese O’Connor, Bill Ostrander, Melissa Penta, Jay Powell, Mike Powers, Gabriel Rosa, Ken Rosenberg, Jesse Ross, Wade & Melissa Rowley, Reid Rumelt, Livia Santana, Mark Scheel, Tom Schulenberg, Luke Seitz, Eric Sibbald, Christopher Smith, Chris Spagnoli, Dave Spier, Larue St. Clair, Carl Steckler, Laura Stenzler, Joyce Stone, Scott Taylor, Chris Tessaglia-Hymes, Mike Tetlow, Benjamin Van Doren, Lee Ann van Leer, Brad Walker, Andrew Wiggins, David Weber, David Wheeler, Chris Wood, Suan Yong.

ABBREVIATIONS

Compost – Cornell Compost Facility, Stevenson Rd., TOMP; Cornell – Cornell Campus, TOMP; Kipp Island – Kipp Island Field unit of Montezuma NWR, CAYU; MNWR – Montezuma NWR (including the Wildlife Drive and immediate vicinity), SENE;

Mucklands – Savannah Mucklands, SENE/WAYN; Myers – Myers Point, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: 1 MNWR 26 Mar (SKo), first record for Region 3.
Greater White-fronted Goose: 3 Monkey Run TOMP 10 Mar (JB&CW), migrants; 1 StP 10 Mar (TL, BW).
Snow Goose: max 150,000 Lake Rd SENE 9 Mar; last MNWR 30 May.
Ross's Goose: arr Geneva 2 Mar (CW) & Deans Cove SENE 2 Mar (TL,BW,LSe); max 2 Lake Road SENE 9 Mar; last Caroline TOMP 24 Mar (SKe).
Brant: arr/max 300 MNWR 11 May (JM, LSa); last SaW 27 May (JM).
Cackling Goose: max 16 Cornell 10 Mar (LSe, BVD); last Mt. Pleasant TOMP 30Mar (GK).
Canada Goose: max 70,925 Cornell 10 Mar (LSe, BVD), amazing migration day.
 Gadwall: max 300 Harris Park CAYU 9 Mar.
Eurasian Wigeon: 1 Lake Road CAYU 8, 24 Mar; MNWR 13 Apr, 2 May.
Blue-winged Teal: arr MNWR 17 Mar; max 44 MNWR 16 Apr.
N. Shoveler: max 300 MNWR 26 Apr.
Canvasback: max 3000 Union Springs 24 Mar; last Harris Park CAYU 26 May, late.
Redhead: max 15000 Union Springs 24 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: last StP 31 May thru, summering male.
Greater Scaup: last MNWR 29 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: last StP 31May thru, summering pair.
Black Scoter: 1 StP 1 May (CW), late, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: max 27 Seneca L. SP; last Aurora 18 May.
Bufflehead: last Myers 26 May (JM, LSa), late.
Com. Goldeneye: last Canandaigua L. ONTA 17 May (CJ), very late, continuing summering male seen into July; next latest Treman Marine Park TOMP 14 Apr.
Ruddy Duck: last StP 31 May thru, late away from Montezuma where they breed in small numbers.
NORTHERN GANNET (R3): 1 imm Long Point SP 23 May (KM), 1st Reg spring record, seen from a boat offshore.
Red-throated Loon: last StP 26 Apr (JM, LSa), late.
Com. Loon: last StP 31 May thru, somewhat late.
Horned Grebe: last Myers 30 May (CW), late.
Red-necked Grebe: last Myers 16 May (CW, JM), late.

EARED GREBE (R3): 1 Canandaigua L 14-17 Apr (CJ); 1 StP 13-14 Apr (mob); usual overwintering bird in Aurora not seen after Jan.
Am. Bittern: arr MNWR 11 Apr.
Great Egret: arr Downtown Ithaca 8 Apr.
TRICOLORED HERON: 1 ad MNWR 7-10 May (mob), and possibly as late as 16 May (LL), presumably the same bird found by JM, LSa on at Van Dyne Spoor (R2) 5 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr SaW 8 Apr.
GLOSSY IBIS (R3): Kipp Island 10 May (TL), Seneca Meadows 19 May, MNWR 19, 24, 31 May thru, likely all the same bird, perhaps one of the ones seen first at Van Dyne Spoor 5 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Golden Eagle: max 8 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (JeB, CW), high.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: 1 Tutelo Park, Bostwick Rd Ithaca TOMP 22 May, extremely rare R3.
Rough-legged Hawk: last MNWR 11 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: 2 Trumansburg 10 Mar; 3 Dryden L TOMP 13 Apr (NI), scarce away from MNWR; many reports from MNWR thru.
Black-bellied Plover: arr MNWR 9 May; max 110 MNWR 27 May (MT), very high.
Am. Golden-Plover: 1 Kipp Island 13 Apr (TL, BW), rare but regular in spring.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Myers 3 May; max 223 MNWR 26 May.
AM. AVOCET (R3): 1 Lakefront Park, Geneva 13-14 Apr (JN).
Greater Yellowlegs: max 60 Kipp Island 13 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 40 Kipp Island 4 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Seneca Falls 13 Apr; max 5 Seneca Falls 21 Apr, 31 May.
WHIMBREL (R3): 1 Myers 24 May (MC, TC), migrating bird stopped briefly on spit.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr Myers & Canandaigua L 11 May; max 8 Myers, high for R3 especially away from MNWR.
Sanderling: Myers 21-22 Apr (JM, LSa), very early upstate.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 May; max 405 Kipp Island 27 May, high.
Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 649 MNWR.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MNWR 10 May (TL); max 16 Kipp Island (JM, LSa), high, especially for spring.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1 MNWR 18 May (DN), rare in spring.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Goetchius Preserve TOMP 7 Apr (JeB, CW); max 45 Kipp Island 13 Apr.

Dunlin: arr MNWR 7 Apr; max 1150 Kipp Island 26 May (JM, LSA), very high, especially for spring.

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 Kipp Island 4-5 May (TJ, CW) & 26 May (JM&LSA); 2 MNWR 10-25 May, intermittently; usually rare in spring.

RUFF: Kipp Island 10 May (TL), rufous & black male discovered here; Wildlife Drive MNWR 10 May (LL), same bird, subsequent days on Howland Island (R5).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 9 May; max 26 Kipp Island 26 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr Hanshaw Road TOMP 10 Mar; max 38 Hanshaw Road 14 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 MNWR 17 May; 2 MNWR 18 May; 1 Kipp Island 25 May; 1 MNWR 26-27 May, uncommon in spring.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr Harris Park CAYU 30 Mar; max 75 Myers 14 Apr.

LAUGHING GULL (R3): Aurora CAYU 10 May (TL), subadult; Long Point SP CAYU 17 May (CW), prob. same bird; Myers 23 May (mob), again apparently the same bird.

Iceland Gull: last Compost 21 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 17 Compost 15 Mar (JM), very high for R3; last Aurora 18 May (JM, LSA), late 2nd cycle.

Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull: Compost 15, 21 Mar (JM), apparently this cross.

Glaucous Gull: arr StP 10 Mar; last Aurora 6 Apr.

Black Tern: arr MNWR 28 Apr; max 37 MNWR 18 May

Com. Tern: arr StP 10 May; last Myers 30 May; max 24 Union Springs CAYU 25 May, high for this late, this group continued in the marina area at Union Springs for most of the spring.

Forster's Tern: arr Myers 12 Apr (BM); last Myers 29 May (JM, LSA).

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 12 Northeast Ithaca 21 May (KR), night migrants.

Long-eared Owl: Roy H. Park Preserve TOMP 26 Mar (CW).

Short-eared Owl: last Mucklands 23 Mar.

E. Whip-poor-will: 1 Danby 19 May (SM).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Shindagin Hollow TOMP 22 May; SaW 29 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Danby TOMP 19 May; last SaW 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Lansing 21 May (JM, LSA).

N. Shrike: last MNWR 31 Mar.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (R3): 1 MNWR 27 Apr (CS), singing bird.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Elmira & Ithaca 11 May; last Cornell Plantations 26 May.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: last Sampson SP thru 3 Mar (CW), found Dec 2012.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr SaW 20 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Owasco L & Ithaca 11 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr Northeast Ithaca 7 Apr (JM), slightly early.

Am. Pipit: last Kipp Island 18 May.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R3): arr 16 SaW 2 Apr (KR); max 150 SaW 8 Apr (KR); 120 Lansing 6 Apr (JM, LSA); 100 Cornell 10 Apr; last Lansing 14 Apr (TO); possibly all the same flock moving around the area.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 5 Lake Ridge Road CAYU 2 Mar; last MNWR 8 May, late.

Snow Bunting: max 875 Lake Road CAYU 2 Mar (CW); last Mucklands 23 Mar.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr West Danby TOMP 4 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R3): arr SaW 6 May (ST, mob), cooperative singing migrant; Armitage Rd. SENE/WAYN 18 May thru, breeding pr; 1 MNWR 30 May (JA), another nesting bird? at Tschache Pool.

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 Hawthorns 12 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Hawthorns 10 May (JM).

Mourning Warbler: arr Hammond Hill 4 May, early.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (R3): 1 SaW 3 May (JM), very rare in area, skulky singing migrant.

Hooded Warbler: arr MNWR 27 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr Ithaca 28 Apr (ALT), early; Hawthorns 28 Apr (mob); last Monkey Run TOMP 26 May (CW).

Cerulean Warbler: arr MNWR 4 May.

Palm Warbler: last Owasco L. 18 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Sampson SP 9 Mar, arr or overwinter?

"AUDUBON'S" YELLOW-RUMPED

WARBLER: StP 18 25 + Apr (JM, LSA), very rare in the State, cooperative, lingering bird.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R3): 1 Monkey Run 16 Apr (JeB, CW), singing male that quickly disappeared; 1 Newman Golf Course TOMP 9-22 May (mob); 1 Cornell 14 May (BB), prob a different bird than at

Newman; 1 Myers 23 May (JM, LSa), not seen concurrently with the Newman bird, possibly same.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Dryden L TOMP 24 Apr.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Mt. Pleasant & Northeast Ithaca 7 Apr; max 7 SaW 14 Apr (JM, LSa), high.

Fox Sparrow: arr Monkey Run 14 Mar; last Cornell 22 Apr.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SaW 22 Apr (CS), early; last SaW 18 May.

Swamp Sparrow: arr SaW 12 Mar.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Mucklands 9 Mar, early, possibly overwintering.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 8178 Compost (JeB, CW), migration day.

Rusty Blackbird: last StP 14 May; max 76 MNWR 25 Apr.

Com. Grackle: max 5150 Cornell 10 Mar.

PINE GROSBEEK (R3): 1 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (CW), flyby migrant.

White-winged Crossbill: last Aurora 24 Mar (JM).

Com. Redpoll: last Lansing 2 May (SH).

HOARY REDPOLL (R3): last Yellow Barn Rd. TOMP 30 Mar (KM), a few birds continuing from great redpoll winter.

Pine Siskin: max 100 Northeast Ithaca 13 May (BW) & 100 Cornell 15 May (RR); last SaW 30 May (TS).

Evening Grosbeak: max 24 Hammond Hill SF 10 Mar (CW); last Danby TOMP 10 May (BE).



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

David J. Nicosia

daven1024@yahoo.com

The meteorological spring season of March, April, and May 2013 was slightly colder than the 30-year normal period. March was the coldest month and averaged between 2 - 3°F below normal. April averaged about 1° below normal. May was warmer than normal, averaging about 2° above normal. Snow cover lasted until the middle to end of March in most areas, with the highest elevations in the Region seeing snow cover until the second week of April. The last significant snowstorm occurred on 18-19 March, with between 5 and 10 inches. The spring was drier the normal by a little over 1 inch.

The first major warm spell occurred 9-12 March, and with it a massive influx of geese. Canada and Snow geese came by the thousands across the Region with this mild spell. In addition, the first major influx of blackbirds including Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and, to a lesser extent, Brown-headed Cowbirds came on these dates. American Robins also made a decent push northward during this first spring mild spell. There was an epic fallout of waterfowl around 10 April, with scores of Long-tailed Ducks, Red-necked Grebes, Horned Grebes, both scaup, and Bonaparte's Gulls. Stormy weather knocked a lot of these northbound migrants out of the sky to area lakes, ponds, and rivers.

Of note this spring was a nice push of Vesper Sparrows in the middle of April.

Rusty Blackbirds also made a nice showing, with many reports right into early May. Most migratory species' arrival dates were close to normal. A couple

of exceptions were Osprey, with the first spring record on 24 March, and Louisiana Waterthrush, with the first spring record on 7 April.

Some notable species this spring: Great Egret in both Broome County at Boland Pond and Tioga County at the Brick Pond, Red-throated Loon reported on Whitney Point Lake, and a small flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls which dropped in on Whitney Point Lake as well.

CONTRIBUTORS

Dawn & Mike Ackley, Jerry Acton, Diane Apker, Lori Ballard, Catherine Barron, Julie Barton, Lauren Beck, Jessie Barry, Lois Bingley, Marty Borko, Jodi Brodsky, Kevin Browne, Andrea Burke, Lindsay Butkiewicz, Richard Cohen, Chari Campbell, George Chiu, Jack Crast, Gérard Cyr, Lawrence Dake, Prudence Danforth, Amy Davis, Cheryl Decker, Renee DePrato, Greg Delisle, Jacob Drucker, Christopher Eliot, Thomas Evans, Jessica Ewing, May Faulk, Suzanne Gaynor, Derek Green, Martha Gauthier, Jeff Gerbracht, Doug Gochfeld, Louise L. Gomez, Lisa Gorn, Kathleen Griswold, Donald Hall, Larry Hall, Linda Hall, Ann Marie Halstead, Joe Hart, Anthony Henehan, Stephen R Hill, Tim Hill, Annie Hood, James Hoteling, Kerry Hughes, Ingrid Husam, Mary Pat Hyland, Maggie Jewett, Seth Jones, M. Jordan, Sara Kinch, J Gary Kohlenberg, William Kuk, Andre LaClair, Victor Lamoureux, Lois Lindberg, Pat Lundrigan, Arlene Marks, Melissa Martin, Margaret B. Mathis, David McCart, Donna Merkel, Haig McNamee, Douglas Miller, Nancy Mills, Courtney Moore, Roy Moore, David Nicosia, Logan Osterhoudt, Ruth Pedersen, Melissa Penta, Pamela Peters, Mikenna Pozzi, Les Preston, Katharine Ray, Fred Reckner, Susan Rowland, Michael Russo, Thomas Salo, Jason Saturn, Damon Schneider, Robert Schwab, Cheryl Seacord, Mary Sloan, Rod Spangle, Leeann Stebbins, Lin Stephan, Barry Stevens, Marsha Stock, Bruce Townsend, Emily Underwood, Lance Verderame, Linda Vick, Brad Walker, Jason Wanaselja, Dan Watkins, Bruce Watson. Jonathan Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Colleen Wolpert, and Chris Wood.

ABBREVIATIONS

BPd – Boland Pd; BrPd – Brick Pond; CVSP – Chenango Valley SP; DP – Dorchester P; HP – Hillcrest Pits; JC – Johnson City; GP – Grippen P; UL – Upper Lisle CP; MP – Murphy’s Pits; RR – River Road, Endwell.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1475 Johnson City 10 March, last Endicott, NY 16 May.

Mute Swan: 1 Hillcrest Pits & BPD thru 25 May.

TRUMPETER SWAN: 1 CVSP 11 May; BPd thru 16 May, same bird?.

TUNDRA SWAN: 6 Upper Lisle County P 15 March.

Wood Duck: max 30 Grippen P 22 March.

Gadwall: max 22 Upper Lisle County P 14 April; last there 3 May.

Am. Wigeon: max 36 River Road Endwell 4 March; last UL 4 May.

Am. Black Duck: present thru, in higher than usual numbers.

Blue-winged Teal: arr BPd 31 March; max 6 BPd 13 April; dep 22 May Town of Maine, NY.
N. Shoveler: max 10 UL 14 April; dep UL 17 May.

N. Pintail: max 53 BPd 24 March, dep BPd 24 April.

Green-winged Teal: max 30 UL 4 April.

Canvasback: scarce; 1 f HP 3 -14 March.

Redhead: max 4 Lopke Gravel Pit 13 April; scarcer than normal.

Ring-necked Duck: max 60 MP 20 March; few thru.

Greater Scaup: max 20 MP 10 April (JoW, DN).

Lesser Scaup: max 30 Keibell Rd, Whitney Point 4 April (JoW).

Long-tailed Duck: max 45 Murphy's Pit 10 April (JoW, DN).
Bufflehead: max 100 MP 10 April (JoW, DN).
Com. Goldeneye: max 25 Harold Moore Park 14 March; dep 18 April.
Hooded Merganser: widespread thru.
Com. Merganser: common thru; max 101 Port Crane 13 March.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 12 DP 13 April (ChW).
Ruddy Duck: max 10 UL 14 April (MeP).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Greene 3 March; BPD 10 April; very scarce.
Ruffed Grouse: few rep.
Wild Turkey: widespread, fairly common.
Com. Loon: max 22 10 UL, few lingered from winter; at least 1 UL thru.
Red-throated Loon: 1 UL 10, 14 April (ChW, DN).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 River Rd Endwell 17 April; uncommon breeder.
Horned Grebe: max 58 DP 13 April; dep UL 16 May.
Red-necked Grebe: max 9 UL 14 April (MeP, RD, DN).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr HP 20 March; max 104 UL 14 April (DN).
Great Egret: max 4 BPD 10 April (MiJ)
Green Heron: arr BPD 28 April.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Waverly, NY 24 March.
Golden Eagle: max 3 JC 13 March; sev rep thru.
N. Harrier: few rep.
Cooper's Hawk: fairly common thru.
N. Goshawk: 1 JC 13 March; sev other rep thru; 1 nest confirmed Port Crane.
Bald Eagle: Fairly reg along rivers & lakes thru.
Red-shouldered Hawk: scarce or under reported.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Campville 13 April.
Rough-legged Hawk: dep UL 20 March.
Virginia Rail: arr BPD 9 April BPD.
Sora: arr 14 May BPD; scarce.
Com. Gallinule: 1 UL 28 April (JH).
Am. Coot: dep BPD late April; max 4 BPD 21 April.
Black-bellied Plover: 1 MP 20 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr RR 12 May; max 6 MP 20 May; dep end of May.
Killdeer: max 13 MP 3 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr RR 10 April; max 15 RR 25 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr RR 27 April; max 5 MP 20 May continue through.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr RR 10 April; max 7 UL 28 April; continued through.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Rte 79, Itaska, 13 April; scarce; dep RR 3 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr RR 15 May; max 16 RR 25 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr RR 3 May; max 20 RR 14 May; dep RR end of May.
Dunlin: arr RR 28 April; max 75 UL 24 May (MaI).
Wilson's Snipe: arr Kolb Rd Maine 1 April; max 12 Rte 79, Itaska 5 April; dep UL early May.
Am. Woodcock: arr 12 March.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr RR 1 April; max 88 RR 10 April (MiA, DaA); dep UL end of May.
Ring-billed Gull: max 115 JC Home Depot 9 March.
Herring Gull: few rep; max 20 UL 27 April.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: 16 UL 7 April (GW).
Caspian Tern: max 5 DP 13 April; arr 10 April, dep early May.
BLACK TERN (R4): RR 17 May, only rep.
Com. Tern: arr UL 14 April; max 2 UL 17 May.
Forster's Tern: 2 (1ad, 1imm) UL 17 April; few other rep. Apr.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

E. Screech-Owl: few rep.
Great Horned Owl: sev rep, widely distributed.
Barred Owl: few reports.
Com. Nighthawk: few NYSEG stadium late May thru.
Chimney Swift: arr Binghamton 19 April; max 300 MP 25 May (DW).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 30 April Nichols.
Belted Kingfisher: fairly widespread along river in low numbers.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 5 King Street Barker 16 May.
Am. Kestrel: fairly common throughout in open agricultural areas.
Merlin: scattered rep thru; likely breeding greater Binghamton.
Peregrine Falcon: Binghamton thru, expected.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

E. Wood-Pewee: arr UL 10 May.
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (R4): 1 Basset Rd Triangle 22 May (RD, DN).
Alder Flycatcher: arr UL 18 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr UL 16 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr UL 2 May.
E. Phoebe: arr Hancock & Oneonta area 31

March.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Round Top Park, Endicott 3 May. **E. Kingbird:** arr 30 April BPd, common breeder.

N. Shrike: dep UL late March.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Treadwell 28 April.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Wildwood Nature Reserve, Waverly 14 April.

Warbling Vireo: arr GP, Endicott 26 April.

Philadelphia Vireo: few rep BROO end of May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr sev loc 5-7 May.

Fish Crow: airly common along the Susquehanna River, Binghamton to Owego.

Com. Raven: widespread in low numbers.

Horned Lark: dep Edwards Hill Rd Barker early April.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Kmart Plaza, Binghamton 10 April.

Purple Martin: arr Apalachin 13 April; 1 flyover Round Top Park, Endicott 2 May (MeP, DN); max 12 Glen Mary Drive, Tioga Center, known breeding site.

Tree Swallow: arr MP 13 March; max 650 DP 14 April.

Bank Swallow: arr CVSP 27 April.

Barn Swallow: arr MP 1 April.

Cliff Swallow: arr Chenango Forks 8 May; max 25 CVSP 24 May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: few rep thru.

House Wren: arr GP, Endicott 22 April.

Winter Wren: few rep.

Marsh Wren: arr BPd 6 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr GP, Endicott 21 April.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: few rep.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Round Top Park, Endicott 7 April; dep BU Nature Preserve 17 May.

Veery: arr CVSP 25 April.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: few rep very end of May.

Swainson's Thrush: sev rep late May.

Hermit Thrush: arr Oneonta 14 April.

Wood Thrush: arr Endicott 2 May.

Gray Catbird: arr Vestal 27 April.

N. Mockingbird: widespread, low numbers.

Brown Thrasher: arr Vestal 13 April.

Am. Pipit: 1 UL 16 March; max 11 Kolb Rd Maine (JoW)

Cedar Waxwing: arr Vestal mid May; very common after.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Snow Bunting: several reported moderate to large flocks thru.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR (R4): 1 Smith Hill Road, Lisle 2 March (MeP, RD, DN).

Ovenbird: arr East Meridith 29 April.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1 Foley Road, Vestal 10 May (DW).

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Vestal 7 April.

N. Waterthrush: arr CVSP 19 April.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr T Union 3 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 20 April.

Tennessee Warbler: arr River Rd, Endwell 13 May; dep Triangle, NY end of May.

Nashville Warbler: arr King St Barker 3 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr King Street Barker 22 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr T Union 3 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr King Street Barker 16 May.

Am. Redstart: arr Tri-Cities Airport 27 April.

Cape May Warbler: few rep mid to late May.

N. Parula: arr CVSP 5 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 6 May; few breed in higher terrain.

Bay-breasted Warbler: scarce; 1 BU nature preserve 16 May; 1 Hancock 27 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 1 May. **Yellow Warbler:** arr Delhi 24 April.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Jones Park, Vestal 1 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Round Top Park, Endicott 12 May; rep thru end of May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Treadwell 29 April.

Palm Warbler: arr Bear Spring Mountain Game Area, Downsville 8 April; last Binghamton mid May.

Pine Warbler: arr Roundtop Park, Endicott 7 April.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: abundant spring migr.

Prairie Warbler: arr Dunham Hill Rd Town of Maine 30 April.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Round Top Park, Endicott 20 April.

Canada Warbler: arr BU Nature Preserve 12 May.

Wilson's Warbler: 1 Vestal 17 May (MeP); scarce or underreported spring migr.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Owego 14 May.

Chipping Sparrow: common by mid April.

Field Sparrow: arr HP 2 April.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Tri-cities Airport 11 April; sev more rep to early May; more common than usual this spring.

Savannah Sparrow: arr GP, Endicott 9 April.

The Kingbird 2013 September; 63 (3)

Fox Sparrow: fairly common migr mid to late March.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (R4): 1 Edwards Hill Rd Whitney Point 28 May (DW).

Swamp Sparrow: arr Waverly 9 April.

White-Throated Sparrow: most migr dep mid May.

White-Crowned Sparrow: arr Conklin 28 April; dep mid May Binghamton.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Vestal 10 May.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Conklin 28 April.

Indigo Bunting: arr Nichols 6 May.

Bobolink: arr Barton 24 April.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 BpD 6

April.

E. Meadowlark: fairly common by late March.

Rusty Blackbird: arr Victory Street, JC 9 March; max 25 HP 24 March; migr to mid May; good numbers.

Com. Grackle: max 2000 BpD 10 March.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (R4): 1 Endwell 5 May (MiJ); 1 Finch Hollow, Union 12 May (MiJ)

Baltimore Oriole: arr Owego 29 April.

Purple Finch: migr arr mid to late April.

Com. Redpoll: dep Laurens 15 April, end of major winter invasion.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 Richford thru 28 March (DM).

Pine Siskin: few thru Chenango Bridge thru.



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

Matt Perry

3787 Dawes Ave., Clinton, NY 13323
mperry63@roadrunner.com

David Wheeler

20 Waterbury Dr., North Syracuse, NY 13212
tigger64@aol.com

The first two months of the Spring 2013 period were cooler than normal. The average temperature in Syracuse for March was 33.6° F, 0.6° below normal. Snow and ice totaled 20.2" for the month, and the greatest 24-hour snowfall event occurred on 22-23 March when 6.6" fell. In the Adirondacks, Gary Lee reported that 10" of snow fell in Old Forge on 18 March. He further noted that the ice was mostly out of Limekiln Lake and 4th Lake by 21 March, which was approximately the same time the ice left Skaneateles Lake, 100 miles to the southwest. The ice was gone on Oneida Lake on 1 April, and by all appearances the stage was set for a good waterfowl migration. In April the average temperature was 46.1°, which was 0.8° cooler than normal. The rain total in Syracuse for April was 3.59", which was 0.40" above average. A single snow storm brought 10.5" on 2 April in Syracuse. May broke the period's moderate cooling trend and was warmer than usual. The average temperature was 60.4°, a 2.8° departure from the norm. Total rain fall in May was 3.91", which was 0.69" more than normal. Blocking patterns affected the Region in mid to late March and again between roughly 2-17 May; discussion of this Omega block later. These weather systems hampered bird migration and often left birders with little to aim their binoculars at during what would normally be peak flight days.

Snow Goose migration peaked in the second week of March, and large numbers were tallied over much of the Region. A conservative estimate of

110,000 passed over Derby Hill on 12 March, but in areas east of Syracuse the flight was much more modest. Despite the immense Snow Goose flight (one of Derby's most impressive spectacles), there were few reports of Ross's Goose and none were seen away from Derby Hill. Amazingly, Steve Kolbe, Derby Hill's official Hawk Counter, picked out one Ross's Goose as it flew across the face of the moon! The bird of the season came on 18 March when David Wheeler found a **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** in Pennellville with a small flock of Canada Geese. Wheeler was looking for the species, having just argued for its inevitability during a slow hawk flight, and said it was the first bird in that particular flock he put his binoculars on! This first-Regional and first-Upstate record was seen by many and successfully tracked as it moved from field to field with a small group of Canada Geese. Birders coordinated effectively in the field using the OneidaRBA text messaging system. Happily, the goose was relocated the next day, and even more birders got to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime find. Birding a week later with Wheeler, Jim Tarolli, and Joe Brin, Kolbe spotted a Pink-footed Goose at Knox-Marsellus Marsh in MNWR less than a mile from the Regional boundary. Same bird?

Diving ducks concentrated in open water at Brewerton, Oswego, Onondaga Lake, and Fair Haven, with good numbers present as the ice receded and flocks spread out. The female **Tufted Duck** at Oswego continued into March, while at Brewerton Bill Purcell found a Eurasian Wigeon on 12 March and Andrew Van Norstrand noted seven Cackling Geese on 13 March. Fair Haven's goldeneye flock contained a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** found by David Wheeler on 2 March but it was difficult to watch as it dove constantly with female Common Goldeneye. Wheeler noted that differences in bill color/pattern showed it was a different bird from that present on Oneida Lake during winter. Dabbling duck migration was very disappointing, and few species were seen anywhere in good numbers. Was the late-March blocking weather pattern to blame? Brant numbers were down this season, with relatively small flocks passing by the traditional concentration spots like Phillips Point on Oneida Lake and Derby Hill. Trumpeter Swans were found in several of the usual areas and once again appeared to be nesting at the County Route 6 wetland in Oswego County. Only several Great Egrets were found in the Region, none east of Oneida Lake, while at Onondaga Lake three overwintering Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen well into April. Jim D'Angelo counted 36 active Great Blue Heron nests at the rookery at Sterling Nature Center on 26 April. Dave Nash found the Region's only reported Least Bittern of the period at Clay Marsh.

2013 saw another decent hawk flight at Derby Hill, even in spite of significant blocking weather patterns that were keenly felt during peak migration periods. The first block came in the latter half of March and punished the site with persistent northwest winds that put a damper on raptor migration and often made for a bone-chilling vigil on the hilltop. Turkey Vultures set a new high, 15,894, but only slightly above the 2012 count which featured long periods of favorable weather. This seeming lack of weather-dependence may suggest that at this moment in time we have an accurate estimate of the total "supply" of the

species available to be counted on the Ontario lakeshore. Red-shouldered Hawks migrated in numbers close to their 10-year average, and American Kestrels at 675 enjoyed the best flight since 1995, easily surpassing both the 10-year (253) and historic (362) averages at the site, particularly encouraging news after last year's poor showing for these two species. A second blocking pattern set up through the first half of May and was responsible for providing sustained southeasterly winds. Counter-intuitively, these persistent winds from the "right" direction resulted in few concentrated flights coming over the hill. Despite these difficult periods, raptor totals were generally quite good, and average or above average numbers were achieved for most species. Record highs were also attained for Bald Eagle (638), and Merlin (102) as Hawk Counter Steve Kolbe logged a new record for count hours (739). A total of 60 Golden Eagles flew over Derby Hill, matching the 10-year average for the site. Kolbe noted a "disturbing" lack of juvenile Golden Eagles, which he speculated was due to "either a poor reproductive year or poor overwinter survival or both." Three Black Vultures were the only raptor rarity of the season, one of them "called ahead" by Kevin McGann as he watched it soar eastbound from Sunset Bay Park. A Greater White-fronted Goose was photographed flying by Derby Hill on 22 March.

As mentioned above, Merlins enjoyed a record flight at Derby Hill, but two pairs were also reported as probable breeders at new places in the Region. John Rogers found a pair nesting at Verona Beach State Park, while on 27 April Mickey Scilingo discovered a nest high in a White Pine across from his Constantia residence. Peregrine Falcon breeding was a failure in Syracuse and Utica. In Syracuse it is thought by some that the advancing age of the resident pair may be the reason for their apparent infertility. In Utica, due to the efforts of the Kirkland Bird Club, a new nest box was installed on the Adirondack Bank building in the downtown area, but the adult pair that had claimed the territory the previous fall didn't return to the vicinity to adopt the new box.

Sandhill Crane sightings were fairly widespread in the western half of the Region, with six flying over Derby Hill on 29 March and also on 22 May, showing the broad range of dates over which this gorgeous flyer may be encountered. Also at Derby, many early-morning hours rewarded Steve Kolbe with an excellent count of 41 Solitary Sandpipers on 15 May. Singles and small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported from usual places, with a maximum of three found in Verona on 28 April. Bill Purcell was fortunate to see a flock of 12 Whimbrel as they circled one of the small islands on Oneida Lake at Constantia before heading west. On the same day, Purcell also observed a flock of 26 breeding-plumaged Red Knots at Phillips Point, also on Oneida Lake. A very rare adult male **RUFF** in breeding plumage, presumably the same bird previously seen at Montezuma NWR, was rediscovered at Howland Island a few days later by visiting birder Darren Dowell and seen at close range by many between 12-15 May. Interestingly, Region 5 has a good history of Ruffs, with reports almost every year in the 1960s, including groups of 4-6 at Onondaga Lake in '64 & '65. Breeding males were found in spring of 1967 (black ruff, also at Howland Island) and 1978 (white ruff, Pennellville). Ruffs became scarce in

the 1970s and early '80s and very rare since. No dowitchers were reported this season, nor were any phalaropes, but a maximum of 24 Wilson's Snipe was found by Brenda Best in a Verona Wetland on 12 April. From mid-March through April American Woodcock flight displays were reported from many places around the Region. One female was found sitting on eggs at the base of a young Quaking Aspen tree in an early successional field at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland on 7 May.

The rarer gull species were missed this season, but a few Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls were encountered, mostly in the expected places. On 13 March, Gene Huggins found an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in a Tully field, a very unusual location. Lesser Black-backed Gull records in eBird outnumbered Iceland Gull by a 3-1 margin, supporting observed increases in the species overall. Average numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were counted this year, with a maximum of 272 tallied at Phillips Point on 16 April. Caspian Terns were widely reported and impressive numbers observed at Oswego Harbor. There were only a few reports of Black Terns. An infestation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars in some areas seemed to be setting the stage for a plentiful supply of cuckoos this season, but numbers of both species were disappointing at least through the end of May. Chris Tessaglia-Hymes ran night migration monitoring in Ithaca (Region 3) and was still finding substantial cuckoo movement in mid-June. Spring was disappointing for migrant owls, with only two Long-eared, no Snowy, and the only Short-eared Owl of the season spotted by Derek White after it was flushed by a Red-tailed Hawk at Green Lakes State Park on 25 March. A pair of Northern Saw-whet Owls reported at Beaver Lake Nature Center continued from the winter reporting period.

What may be the largest spring movement of Common Nighthawks ever recorded at Derby Hill took place in late May. On 22 May Steve Kolbe tallied 93 foraging on the wing and gradually moving east, and four days later Wayne Fidler counted an astounding 130 Nighthawks as they migrated along the shoreline. It is unclear whether observer effort, unusual weather conditions, breeding success in the previous season, or other factors were involved in this impressive flight. In spite of the count, the species remains generally scarce and absent from former breeding locations in the Region. A healthy maximum number of 44 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flew over Derby Hill on 19 May. Gary Lee reported that on 26 May, 32 hummingbirds were banded at the Stillwater Hotel in the town of Webb. Two of the captured birds had been banded at that same location the previous September. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found at 10 different locations during this reporting period, with six flying by Derby Hill from 4-31 May.

In addition to his duties as Hawk Counter, Steve Kolbe observed non-raptor migration tirelessly from dawn until dusk on most days throughout the period. Starting early in the morning, typically about 6 a.m., Steve also photographed fly-by birds on the wing thus enhancing real-time positive ID and counting of otherwise inconspicuous night-migrants as they continued into the next day. Steve also entered all the data into eBird, realizing this should be mandatory for counters. His tireless effort and dedication has not been seen

recently at Derby Hill and resulted in some excellent and accurate tallies of migrating non-raptors. Hopefully this emphasis on observing the whole spectrum of “visible bird migration” will continue for many years. In addition to the expected migrants, several species that many birders would not think of as migratory were seen passing Derby Hill. A total of 3,600 Black-capped Chickadees was counted from mid-April to early May, migrating by day in unique style from tree-to-tree along the lakeshore. Kolbe made special effort to carefully count them, providing an accurate benchmark for future comparison. These versatile foragers, when faced with insufficient winter food reserves, may be just as prone to irruption as waxwings or winter finches. Red-bellied Woodpeckers passing may also have been migrants or range-expansion pioneers. Possibly-migrant Hairy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches were also noted. This movement of species thought of as sedentary or permanent residents was a highlight of the period for observers. An amazing flight of 293 Eastern Kingbirds was counted on 15 May, migrating as singles and in small groups. Late May movement of Eastern Bluebirds past Derby begs one to ask where they are coming from and where are they going.

Weather in the first half of May was dominated by a stationary “Omega-block” that prevented the normal west-to-east parade of systems. Day after day of similar weather and southeasterly winds not only affected raptors but prevented obvious waves of passerine migration as well, with warblers especially hard hit. Birders on the Ontario lakeshore often saw fewer birds than those surveying inland local patches. Thrushes and flycatchers, especially Least Flycatcher, were seen in lower numbers than usual. In the Mohawk Valley, Matt Perry reported encountering less than five during the entire month of May. Blue-headed Vireo and most species of warbler seemed scarce, with only 2-3 “good days” in May, including Birdathon on 18 May when the blocking pattern finally broke down. Especially depressed were numbers of the normally common species like Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler. Few migrant Hermit Thrushes could be found, and uncommon species like Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were missed altogether by many birders. Thankfully, Acadian Flycatcher was found at its usual spot in Whiskey Hollow. Another in nearby Van Buren on 30 May was late enough to kindle hopes that this breeding anomaly may finally be expanding its Regional presence.

A “Lawrence’s” Warbler was found by Joe Brin at the Great Bear Recreation Area on 5 May. This attractive hybrid remained through the period and was observed by many appreciative birders. Drew and Justine Weber found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Three Rivers WMA on 28 April, but it did not remain. A female **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**, a first Regional record, was found by Barb Reuter at Sunset Bay Park on 17 April. This bird continued through the day and was seen and photographed by other lucky birders, although it too turned out to be a “one-day wonder.” Chris Wood contributed a **Yellow-breasted Chat** singing in the Red Creek area of northern Cayuga County on 25 May. The Omega block finally broke down just before Birdathon, and some good counts of relatively early migrants were had at Sunset Bay Park. Bernie Carr reported nine Cape May Warblers, a respectable number

in any year; 321 Yellow-rumped Warblers; and an amazing 29 Palm Warblers, an unprecedented count for so late in May. Prothonotary Warbler was not reported this season, either as a migrant or at the traditional Toad Harbor location.

As was the case with some other classes of migrants discussed in this report, many birders weren't sure if the warblers were being held back by the Omega block or if they had overflowed our Region and passed directly to their breeding grounds. Hope that birds were merely late was realized in only a modest sense. Others suggested the block was so disruptive that a more westerly flight path may have taken the bulk of migration away from the eastern Great Lakes. As often happens with extended bad weather, passage along a broad front with little concentration is also likely given the extended period of southeasterly winds. Unusually high trans-Gulf mortality may have also played a role.

Clay-colored Sparrow occurred in several areas including at a new suspected breeding site in the Town of Kirkland in Oneida County. Lincoln's Sparrow was decidedly uncommon this spring, and many missed the species altogether. Initially seen in the company of a large flock of mostly Common Grackles, an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** visited a feeding station in the town of Clinton from 14-22 March. An impressive 1800 Rusty Blackbirds counted passing on 29 April and 1200 Bobolinks on 15 May were great counts for Derby Hill. Seven Orchard Orioles were also noted for the season. Bohemian Waxwings continued to be encountered throughout March and sometimes in good numbers. This was particularly true in Oneida County, where on 13 March a maximum of 200 Bohemians was found feeding primarily on the berries of European Buckthorn. The buckthorns were one of the only trees that produced a decent amount of fruit last summer and managed to retain any through early spring. On 25 March, a large flock of Bohemians at Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary in Kirkland drew the attention of not only birders but of a Merlin that proceeded to chase the flock out of the vicinity.

Common Redpoll was the only winter finch that remained numerous throughout the Region during the first part of the season. Purple Finch numbers were low and there were few crossbill reports. There were about 10 reports of Hoary Redpoll, all but one of those coming from the Southern Highlands of Madison County. Pine Siskin sightings were relatively numerous and widespread, but most observers found low numbers and often single digits until May when flocks flew by Derby Hill. Evening Grosbeak numbers were low, with the high count of over 30 coming from the species' most reliable wintering grounds in the Southern Highlands. A few were seen and photographed at Derby Hill.

This season a total of 249 species was reported, which is five above the 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (first Regional record), White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Black Vulture, Whimbrel, **Red Knot**, **RUFF** (adult male in breeding plumage), Bohemian Waxwing, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**

WARBLER (first Regional record), **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Spring 2013 produced 67,792 eBird records in Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 244 people.

DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	26 Mar	1	X	3
Turkey Vulture	28 Feb	1998	7 Apr	15894
Osprey	29 Mar	63	3 May	713
Bald Eagle	26 Feb	46	22 May	638
No. Harrier	9 Mar	71	7 Apr	710
Sharp-sh. Hawk	10 Mar	666	15 Apr	4778
Cooper's Hawk	8 Mar	46	7 Apr	371
N. Goshawk	26 Feb	4	15,16,18 Apr	40
Red-sh. Hawk	28 Feb	173	31 Mar	527
Broad-wng. Hawk	13 Apr	2021	23 Apr	17118
Red-tailed Hawk	26 Feb	862	7 Apr	5096
Rough-lgd. Hawk	26 Feb	64	10 Mar	234
Golden Eagle	26 Feb	9	23 Apr	60
Am. Kestrel	9 Mar	137	18 Apr	675
Merlin	10 Mar	14	19 Apr	102
Peregrine Falcon	8 Mar	2	19,30 Apr, 2 May	17
Total, inc. unid.				47,094

CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Adams, Zachary Adams, Dennis Anderson, Betty Armbruster, Henrik Axelson, Faith Baker, Dave Baldrini, Alan Belford, Brenda Best (BB), Sue Boettcher, Brent Bomkamp (BBo), Joseph Brin (JB), Todd Brown, Ken & Rose Burdick (KRB), Andrea Burke, Lori Burritt, Joe Carey, Tom Carrolan, Bernie Carr (BC), Gerald Case (GC), David Cesari, Richard Cohen, Rosanne Costello, Jim D'Angelo, Willie D'Anna, Doug Daniels, Greg Dashnau (GD), Pete Davidson (PD), Rose DeNeve, Joe DeVito, Darren Dowell (DD), Bruce Dudek, Betsy Edinger, Wayne Fidler (WF), Matthew Furst, Anne Dillon Gray, Lewis Grove, Bill Gruenbaum, Steve Guy, Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Patricia Hetrick, Kirk Huffstater (KH), Gene Huggins, Stefan Karkuff (SKa), Carolyn Keefe, Ted Keyel (TK), Gary Kohlenberg, Steve Kolbe (SK), Joshua LaCelle (JaL), Josiah LaCelle (JhL), Robbie LaCelle (RL), Chris Lajewski, Sean Lanigan (SL), Gretchen Lasser, Greg Lawrence, Jerry Lazarczyk, Gary Lee (GL), Tim Lenz, Lewis Lolya, Mark Magistro, Maggie Mason, Anne Mayville (AM), Kevin McGann (KM), Jay McGowan (JM), Tom McKay, Steve Mooney, David Nash (DN), Michele Neligan, Mitch Nusbaum (MNu), Logan Osterhoudt, Kevin Pace, Matt Perry (MP), John Pipkin, Linda Potter, Bill Purcell (BP), Barb Reuter (BR), Jonathan Rice, Paul Richardson, John Rogers (JR), Ken Rosenberg, Margaret Rusk, Thomas Ryan, Linda Salter (LS), Livia Santana (LSa), Cheri Sassman, Kim Savides, Sean Scanlon, Mickey Scilingo (MS), Luke

Seitz, Shirley Shaw, Tony Shrimpton, Jessica Sielawa, Gerald Smith, Sheila Smith, Chris Spagnoli (CS), Robert Spahn, Maureen Staloff, James Swanson, Jim Tarolli (JT), Judy Thurber, Mindy Turner, John Van Dort, Fran Vanderveer, Andrew Van Norstrand (AVN), Matt Voelker (MV), Brad Walker, Drew Weber (DWe), Justine Weber (JWe), David Wheeler (DW), Brian White, Derek White (DeW), Andrea Wiggins (AW), Robert G. Williams III (RW), Chris Wood (CW), Judy Wright, Ken Zoller.

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNC – Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Brew – Oneida L at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; BW – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; DL – Delta L; DR – DeRuyter Res area; ECT – Erie Canal Trail; FA – Fulton (Oswego Co) Airport; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; Fville – Fayetteville; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; HF – Highland Forest, Tully; HI – Howland I WMA, Port Byron; HR – Hinckley Res; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; IH – Syracuse Inner Harbor; LH – Labrador Hollow, Fabius; LOL – Lake Ontario Lakeshore; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; MPSP – Mexico Pt SP; Noyes – Noyes Sanctuary, Scriba; NS – North Syracuse; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga L Creekwalk, Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OSP – Oneida Shores P, Cicero; OswH – Oswego Harbor; PPT – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; PSS – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; Pville – Pennellville; SBP – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; Sithe – Sithe Energy trails, Scriba; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; UM – Utica Marsh; VB – Van Buren; WH – Whiskey Hollow, Van Buren; Wpd – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Pville 18-19 Mar (DW!, mob, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.
Greater White-fronted Goose: DH 22 Mar (SK!, ph), only report.
Snow Goose: arr DH 7 Mar; max 110,000 DH 12 Mar.
Brant: arr Fville 1 May; max 770 PPT 17 May; last Const 28 May.
Cackling Goose: DH 9 & 17 Mar; max 7 Brew 13 Mar; last 19 Apr.
Canada Goose: max 7000 Pville 19 Mar; 5000 DH 10 & 23 Mar; rain in Apr destroys most nests at UM (MP).
Mute Swan: 5 OnonL 15 Mar; max 50 FH 6 Mar.
Trumpeter Swan: 2 Amboy 9-30 Apr; 2 CM 26 Apr-18 May (prob nesting); max 4 OnonL 25 Mar.
Tundra Swan: 43 DH 11 Mar, good num for DH; max 149 Brew 12 Mar; last 6 Apr.
Wood Duck: arr CM 3 Mar; max 55 UM 6 Apr.
Gadwall: max 25 Brew 12 & 16 Mar; 2 DH 29 May, late.

Eurasian Wigeon: male Brew 12-19 Mar (BP, mob, ph); PPT 20-21 Apr (BP).
Am. Wigeon: arr CM 3 Mar; 52 FH 11 Mar; max 100 Brew 12 Mar; last 26 May.
Am. Black Duck: max 53 OnonL 5 Mar.
Am. Black Duck X Mallard: DH 21 Mar, 12 Apr.
Blue-winged Teal: arr SSSP & UM 6 Apr; max 7 TR 16 Apr; relatively few reports.
N. Shoveler: arr OLC 7 Mar; max 12 UM 13, 20 Apr; last OneiL 16 May.
N. Pintail: arr Brew 7 Mar; max 410 Pville 13 Apr; last TR 2 May.
Green-winged Teal: arr 2 DH 10 Mar; max 400 Phoenix.
Canvasback: Brew 7 Mar; 9 Brew 17 Mar; max 10 FH 23 Mar; last 16 Apr.
Redhead: max 400 OnonL 13 Mar; last OLC 27 May.
Ring-necked Duck: arr Tully 11 Mar; max 700 Brew 16 Mar, good number; last 2 Amboy 19 May; less common east.
Redhead x Ring-necked Duck: OswH 2 Mar (JM, LSA, mob).
TUFTED DUCK: fem OswH thru 2, 3, 5, 17 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 350 OnonL 11 Apr; last Otisco 28 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 260 PPt 11 Apr; last OnonL 21 May.
Surf Scoter: 2 OswH 2 Mar; 2 PPt 14 Apr; max 4 PPt 26 Apr; last PPt 11 May.
White-winged Scoter: 100 OswH 5 Mar; max 150 FH 5 Mar; last PPt 26 May.
Black Scoter: arr & max 2 PPt 20 Apr; DH 8 May; last PPt 16 May; few reports.
Long-tailed Duck: max 228 PPt 14 Apr; last 2 DH 22 May; no huge flocks reported.
Bufflehead: max 114 Skan 14 Apr; last 2 Sterling 25 May.
Com. Goldeneye: max 400 Brew 12 Mar; last 7 PPt 25 May; ad male Skan 1 May thru.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: fem or imm male FH 2-5 Mar (DW!, mob).
Hooded Merganser: 56 OnonL 25 Mar; max 65 PSS 22 Mar.
Com. Merganser: 500 OnonL 12 Mar; 500 Brew 13 Mar; max 1000 FH 5 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: 131 OnonL 10 Apr (SKa); max 400 FH 11 Mar; last 5 DH 29 May.
Ruddy Duck: arr 3 FH 26 Mar; max 5 WP 14 Apr; last OneiL 31 May; poor numbers
N. Bobwhite: 6 GSC 10 Apr; 1 Bville 22 May; all presumed released.
Ring-necked Pheasant: only 17 reports, singles & pairs.
Ruffed Grouse: singles & pairs thru; max 3 LH & Black Crk.
Red-throated Loon: max 2 OnonL 12 Apr; only 5 reports; unusually scarce.
Com. Loon: first migrant DH 28 Mar; 41 Skan 25 Apr (KRB); max 137 PPt 25 Apr; widespread reports late-May.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 8 Amboy; singles thru.
Horned Grebe: arr Brew 12 Mar, few wintered; max 50 OnonL 13 Apr; last OnonL 21 May.
Red-necked Grebe: OswH 20 Mar; max 50 OnonL 12 Apr; last PPt 17 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 Bville.
Am. Bittern: arr Waterville 20 Apr; singles & pairs mid-Apr thru; few reports.
Least Bittern: CM 29 May (DN); only report.
Great Blue Heron: first migr DH 11 Mar; max 56 Pville 15 Apr; 48 DH 15 Apr, excellent migrant count.
Great Egret: 2 GSC 9 Apr; DH 12 & 18 Apr; 2 Bville 2 Apr; Lysander 12 May; SBP 28 May; max 4 HI 16 May; no reports from eastern part of Reg.
Green Heron: arr DH 19 Apr; max 19 DH 30 May, good count.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 3 imm OLC continue from winter, last reported 28 Apr; Volney 1 May; Bville 3 May.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Black Vulture: DH 26 Mar (BP); SBP (KM) & DH 30 Apr (SK, DW), same bird; DH 5 May (SK); only reports.
Turkey Vulture: GLSP 2 Mar; **max 1998** DH 7 Apr; record season count at DH.
Osprey: arr Brew 17 Mar (AM); arr DH 29 Mar; max 63 DH 3 May.
N. Harrier: DH 2 Mar; max 71 DH 7 Apr.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 666 DH 15 Apr.
Cooper's Hawk: max 46 DH 7 Apr.
N. Goshawk: 3 DH 10 Mar; max 4 DH 15, 16, 18 Apr; 7 reports away from DH.
Bald Eagle: 15 Cross Lake 8 Mar; max 46 DH 22 May; record season count at DH.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr DH 10 Mar; max 173 DH 31 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr DH 13 Apr; max 2021 DH 23 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 862 DH 7 Apr; leucistic DH 16 Apr (PD); 3 dark-morph birds DH 13 Apr, 21 Apr (SK).
Rough-legged Hawk: max 64 DH 10 Mar; no May reports.
Golden Eagle: arr 5 DH 10 Mar; Const 7 Apr (MS); Town of Western 7 Apr (SL, ph); last Camden 26 May (RL, JhL).
Virginia Rail: arr DeWitt 30 Mar (MS); max 5 Verona 22 Apr & West Monroe 18 May.
Sora: arr Verona 16 Apr; max 3 Verona 6 May.
Com. Gallinule: arr Volney 19 Apr; 5 BW 18 May; max 12 Volney 3 & 6 May.
Am. Coot: 45 OswH 29 Mar; max 50 Skan 2 Mar & OnonL 6 Mar.
Sandhill Crane: HI 19 Mar; Fulton 1 Apr; CM 3 Apr; 2 PPt 11 Apr; 3 BLNC 15 Apr; Central Sq 29 Apr; TR 26 Apr; max 6 DH 29 Mar & 22 May; 25 total pass DH from late Mar to late May.
Black-bellied Plover: DH 9 May; FH & OswH 18 May; only reports.
Semipalmated Plover: arr & max 3 Central Square 18 May; last FH 25 May; few reported.
Killdeer: arr Lysander 2 Mar; 53 DH 10 Mar; max 91 DH 7 Apr, good count.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Bville 18 Apr; max 10 SBP 21 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr DH 19 Apr; max 41 DH 15 May (SK), excellent count; last OnonL 29 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr DB 6 Apr; 10 HI 13 May; max 12 FA 10 Apr; last HI 20 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 FA 8 Apr; max 30 HI 13 May; last HI 20 May.

Upland Sandpiper: arr FA 16 Apr; 2 Manheim 2 May; max 3 Verona 28 Apr.
Whimbrel: 12 Const 24 May (BP), only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: 2 FH 20 May; 6 Const 30 May; only reports.
Red Knot: 26 in breeding plumage PPT 24 May (BP), only report.
Sanderling: 4 FH 25 May; max 8 FH 26 May; only reports.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 2 Cicero 13 May; 22 FH 25 May; max 36 Const 30 May; 15 Const 31 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Minoa 6 May; max 30 HI 18 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 FA 9 Apr; max 4 FA 10 Apr; last DH 15 May.
Dunlin: arr 5 FH 3 May; max 118 PPT 24 May; last 10 Const 30 May.
RUFF: ad male, black ruff, HI 12-14 May (DD, mob, ph, NYSARC), *intro*.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Pville 20 Mar; 20 FA 21 Apr; max 24 Verona 12 Apr.
Am. Woodcock: arr SFNS 9 Mar; max 6 TR 5 May; f on nest SFNS 7 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr DH 1 Apr; 107 Skan 14 Apr (KRB); 200 Biddlecum 16 Apr (KM); max 272 PPT 16 Apr; last Skan 28 May (KRB).
Ring-billed Gull: 2000 FH 5 Mar; 2000 OswH 5 Mar; max 10000 DH 21 Mar, going west, excellent count.
Herring Gull: 500 OnonL 3 Mar; max 700 MCL 23 Mar.
Iceland Gull: max 2 IH 3 Mar; last Amboy 6 Apr, unusual location.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Dolgeville 11 Mar & Tully 13 Mar, unusual locations; max 3 OnonL 13 Mar; last FH 26 May (BBo); reports outnumber Iceland Gull 3-to-1.
Glaucous Gull: few reports of single birds; last OswH 11 Apr.
Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid): OneiL at Schneible's 16 Mar (DW, ph).
Great Black-backed Gull: 50 OnonL 3 Mar; max 100 DH 21 Mar, good count.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 DH 2 Apr; 120 DH 12 May; max 200 OswH 18 May.
Com. Tern: arr OnonL 10 Apr; 30 OswH 18 May; max 200 Const 27 May.
Black Tern: arr 2 SSSP 9 May; max 4 SSSP 18 May; only 10 reports.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Mourning Dove: 22 CM 18 May; 54 Camden 15 Apr; max 65 DH 15 Apr.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr DH 10 May; max 3 HI 27 May; few reports.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CM 18 May; max 2 HI; few reports.

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E. Screech-Owl: Clinton 12 Mar; Pompey 5 Apr; max 2 SBP 2 Mar; few reports.
Great Horned Owl: singles and pairs but few reports.
Barred Owl: 2 Liverpool 5 Mar; 3 imm WH 30 May; max 10 Town of Constantia 18 May; widespread reports.
Long-eared Owl: Noyes 14 Apr; Camden 6 May (JhL, JaL); only reports.
Short-eared Owl: GLSP 25 Mar (DeW), only report.
N. Saw-whet Owl: BLNC 3-15 Mar; 2 BLNC 16-18 Mar; only reports.
Com. Nighthawk: arr DH 19 May; 47 Pulaski 20 May (KH); 8 Const 21 May; 93 DH 22 May (SK); max 130 DH 26 May (WF); record high counts at DH.
E. Whip-poor-will: arr TR 2 May; max 4 Camden 18 May & Salisbury 29 May.
Chimney Swift: arr 2 DH 18 Apr; 65 DH 15 May; max 90 Oswego River, Fulton 25 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr SBP 2 May; arr Adk 9 May; 32 banded Stillwater 26 May (GL); max 44 DH 19 May.
Belted Kingfisher: 6 DH 7 Apr; max 10 DH 7 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: scattered singles; 6 past DH between 4-31 May.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 20 birds past DH late Apr/early May, presumed migrants or range expansion (SK).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Otisco Lake 4 Mar, likely overwintered; first migr GLSP 23 Mar; 6 OF 18 May; max 7 CM 7 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: max 8 Syr 6 Apr.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 11 DH 18 Apr (SK), presumably migrants.
N. Flicker: 35 DH 15 Apr; max 100 DH 16 Apr; 61 DH 19 Apr; 72 DH 22 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 8 DH 26 Apr, presumably migrants.
Am. Kestrel: 12 FA 19 Apr; max 137 DH 18 Apr; 117 DH 19 Apr.
Merlin: DH 18 Mar; 2 nest Verona 24 Apr (JR); 2 nest Const 27 Apr (MS); max 14 DH 19 Apr; **102** DH season, new record.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Syr 13 Mar; 3 imm Utica thru (MP); 17 DH season.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: New Woodstock 18 May; HF 18 May; only reports.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr SBP 6 May; max 6 HI 27 May & 6 HF 27 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr FH 23 May; last DH 30 May; only 4 reports.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr WH 22 May; Van Buren 30 May, unusual loc; only reports.

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Alder Flycatcher: arr Verona 16 May; max 8 Tully 31 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr TR 15 May; max 5 DH 31 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr OnonL 28 Apr; 6 WP 10 May; max 8 Vienna 26 May; seemingly fewer than normal migrants in some areas.
E. Phoebe: arr Little Falls 23 Mar; DH 31 Mar, 6 DH 15 Apr & 1 May; max 7 SNC 14 Apr.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Kirkland 28 Apr; max 7 HI 27 May.
E. Kingbird: arr DH 18 Apr; max 293 DH 15 May (SK), migrating groups, excellent number.
N. Shrike: SH 2 Mar; DH 2 & 6 Mar; Williamstown 19 Mar; New Haven 29 Mar; GLSP 16 & 30 Mar; none after 30 Mar.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Const 27 Apr; 4 SBP 18 May; 4 SVB 27 May; max 6 HI 26 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Clinton 20 Apr; 4 OF 18 May; max 5 HV 4 May & Otto Mills Rd 26 May; lower numbers.
Warbling Vireo: arr TR 28 Apr; 14 CM 18 May; max 23 OnonL 21 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr SBP & Pville 22 May; FH 25 May; only reports.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr HI 6 May; max 25 HI 26 May.
Blue Jay: max 2550 DH 7 May; over 30,000 counted at DH last week in April thru end of May.
Am. Crow: max 5400 DH 10 Mar; over 13,000 counted migrating late Feb to Mid-Apr.
Fish Crow: max 14 OnonL 6 Mar (TK); scattered reports away from OnonL include NS, Bville, Little Falls, DH.
Com. Raven: max 7 Black Creek SF 18 Mar; 5 DH 20 Apr; 3 DH 19 May; 250 eBird records for season.
Horned Lark: max 140 DH 7 Mar; 97 DH 8 Apr & 78 DH 9 Apr, late; Bville 18 May.
Purple Martin: arr DH 13 Apr; 15 DH 10 May; max 30 Const 16 May.
Tree Swallow: arr DH 11 Mar; max 2000 DH 21 Apr.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr DH 7 Apr; max 20 DH 5 dates mid May.
Bank Swallow: arr Marcellus 15 Apr; max 60 DH 19 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr DH 19 Apr; 30 DH 10 May; max 40 Williamstown 20 May, building nests on barn (KB).
Barn Swallow: arr DH 1 Apr; max 150 DH 25 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: 1516 DH 22-24 Apr; max 660 DH 1 May (SK, BP); 3600 migrate tree-to-tree past DH mid-Apr thru early May; careful counts; *intro*.

Tufted Titmouse: max 10 Elbridge 25 Mar.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 6 OF 18 May & SBP 22 May.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 DH 15 Apr, some migrants?
Brown Creeper: max 9 Camden 13 Mar; lower than normal numbers on LOL.
Carolina Wren: max 3 Oswego 9, 23 May; widespread reports.
House Wren: arr DH 23 Apr; max 8 TR 4 May.
Winter Wren: arr Fulton 11 Mar; max 5 TR 8 Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr Fairfield 1 May; max 9 CM 18 May (DN); generally low numbers.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr DH 15 Apr; max 7 Oneida 30 Apr.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: first migr 24 Mar; 25 Syr 9 Apr; 33 Noyes 14 Apr; max 60 DL 14 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr HI 19 Mar, most arr early Apr; max 21 CM 21 Apr; 10 SBP 18 May, large num for date.
E. Bluebird: 13 Hannibal 2 Mar; 23 DH 15 Apr; 47 DH 19 May; max 49 DH 22 May, unusual num for date.
Veery: arr Oswego 29 Apr; max 8 SBP 18, 21 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Sithe 22, 24 May, only reports.
Swainson's Thrush: arr 3 SBP 11 May; max 8 SBP 18 May; 2 Big Moose 29 May; fairly uncommon.
Hermit Thrush: arr Camden 4 Apr; max 20 Noyes 15 Apr; generally low numbers of migrants.
Wood Thrush: arr TR 30 Apr; 12 Noyes 9 May; max 15 Kirkland 27 May, counted along 1 mile.
Am. Robin: 900 DH 11 Mar; 2440 DH 31 Mar; max 6500 DH 7 Apr; over 13000 migrate DH season (SK).
Gray Catbird: arr Cazenovia 23 Apr; max 35 Clay 18 May (DN).
N. Mockingbird: max 4 Syr 6, 28 Apr; DH 28 Apr, 3, 22, 28 May, fly-by, unusual at location.
Brown Thrasher: arr SBP & BLNC 17 Apr; max 10 GLSP 4 May.
Am. Pipit: 2 OLC 13 Mar; 24 DH 15 Apr; max 70 SP 16 May; last 2 DH 20 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: 75 DH 1 Mar; max 200 SFNS 13 Mar; last 39 Kirkville 20 Apr; flocks larger in east part of Reg.
Cedar Waxwing: 65 Camden 21 May; max 1650 DH 28 May; low numbers until late May.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Dolgeville 7 Mar (LH); MCL 23 Mar (DW, JT); only reports.

Snow Bunting: max 85 DH 10 Mar; 30 Waterville 11 Apr; last Cicero 15 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr Mexico 26 Apr; max 28 GBRA 5 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Marcellus 17 Apr; max 3 BLNC 29 Apr, unusual loc; less than 15 reported.

N. Waterthrush: arr 2 TR 19 Apr; max 8 TR 7 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr GBRA 5 May; SBP 10 May; six reports most from OSWE.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr SFNS 30 Apr; max 6 GBRA 8 May & 6 SFNS 18 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: SFNS 7 May; GBRA 11 – 12 May; Verona 29 May; only reports.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: GBRA 5 – 13 May (JB!, mob, ph).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Amboy 24 Apr, early; max 12 SBP 18 May (BC).

Prothonotary Warbler: no reports, did they return to W Monroe?

Tennessee Warbler: arr 10 May, widespread; max 6 SBP 11 May & DH 22 May; last DH 30 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: SBP 14 May (KM); W Monroe 16 May (AVN, DWe); SBP 22 May (AVN, KM, BP); only reports.

Nashville Warbler: arr Mexico 24 Apr; max 9 Rome Pitch Pine Bog 5 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr GBRA 9 May; max 5 HF 27 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr DH 27 Apr; 39 CM 18 May (DN); max 44 TR 18 May (AW).

Hooded Warbler: arr SFNS & Noyes 4 May; max 12 Michigan Woods, CAYU 15 May (RS); 6 BLNC 27 May; low numbers in some areas.

Am. Redstart: arr WH 28 Apr; 50 Oswego 20 May; max 67 HI 26 May (JM, LSa); good numbers.

Cape May Warbler: arr DH 4 May; max 9 SBP 18 May (BC); relatively good numbers.

Cerulean Warbler: arr HI & CM 4 May; max 14 HI 26 May (JM, LSa); low numbers away from HI.

N. Parula: arr Noyes 29 Apr; max 5 Ppt 16 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr Fville 7 May; max 8 SBP 17 May; unusually scarce.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SBP 10 May; max 5 SBP (BC); low numbers.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr SFNS & WH 3 May; max 12 SH 18 May; unusually scarce on LOL.

Yellow Warbler: arr Oswego 22 Apr; max 85 HI 26 May (JM, LSa).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Syr 28 Apr; next 10 May; max 12 Verona 22 May (BB).

Blackpoll Warbler: arr DH 16 May; max 16 SBP 18 May (BC).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr MPSP 27 Apr; max 12 OF 18 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Fville 9 April, early; max 29 SBP 18 May (BC), unusually high count for date; last DH 22 May.

Pine Warbler: arr Const 10 Apr; max 12 DH 29 Apr (SK); good numbers.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: first migr DH 12 Apr; max 780 DH 29 Apr (SK); 321 est SBP 18 May (BC); good numbers.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: TR 28 Apr (DWe!, JWe, ph).

Prairie Warbler: arr DH 3 May; GBRA 5 May (GD); DH 11 & 15 May (SK); max 2 Tully 27 May (AVN); 9 reports.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: fem SBP 17 Apr (BR, mob, ph, NYSARC), 1st Reg record.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Camden 27 Apr; max 9 OF 18 May; unusually low number of migrants.

Canada Warbler: arr Camden 14 May; max 5 SBP 18 May (BC); relatively low number of migrants.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr SFNS 7 May; max 2 SBP 22 May; last VB 29 May; few reports.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Victory 25 May (CW!).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr SFNS & Verona 7 Apr; max 12 GLSP 27 Apr (GC); good numbers.

Am. Tree Sparrow: max 41 Dolgeville 17 Mar; DH 29 Apr (SK, DW); last Noyes 4 May (TR).

Chipping Sparrow: arr Skan 7 Apr; max 30 Syr 1 May; 25 SBP 18 May.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr & max 2 GBRA 5 May (GD); SBP 14 May (BP); Oswego 18 May (BP); SFNS 28 May (MP), returns to probable breeding grounds.

Field Sparrow: arr Onondaga 1 Apr (BE), early; max 14 Skan Cons Area 30 Apr (KRB) & GLSP 4 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr & max 4 DB 9 Apr (BB, MV); 3 Mexico 11 Apr; 1 NS 10 Apr, unusual loc; migrants scarce.

Savannah Sparrow: arr Dolgeville 3 Apr; max 10 Fville 30 Apr & 10 Tully 31 May; numbers down in Reg.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TR 22 Apr; 2 SBP 27 Apr (KM, WF, scarce on LOL); singles & pairs usual locations.

Fox Sparrow: arr Pompey 16 Mar; max 12 Camden 9 Apr; last GBRA 25 Apr.
Song Sparrow: 38 CM 18 May; 41 Dolgeville 4 May; max 42 TR 18 May; none of the maxima on LOL.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr SBP 28 Apr; max 4 Noyes 17 May; scarcer than usual.
Swamp Sparrow: first migr Dolgeville 3 Apr; max 55 CM 18 May (DN).
White-throated Sparrow: 43 SNC 3 May; max 150 Mexico 4 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: SH 21 Mar & Bville 30 Mar, likely overwintered; first OF 2 May; max 15 Poland 14 May & SBP 18 May; last SH 29 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 300 Poland (BLH).
Scarlet Tanager: arr Skan 30 Apr; max 17 SBP 18 May (BC).
N. Cardinal: max 19 GLSP 26 Apr; 2 pairs breeding OF (GL).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr TR 27 Apr; max 58 DH 10 May (SK).
Indigo Bunting: arr GLSP 5 May; max 10 HI 26 May.
Bobolink: arr DH 26 Apr; max 1200 DH 15 May (SK), good number.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr widespread first days Mar & OF 10 Mar; 17820 DH 10 Mar; 20000 est CM 16 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr Pville 11 Mar; max 21 DH 31 Mar.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: ad male Clinton 14-22 May (MP!, ph, NYSARC).
Rusty Blackbird: arr BLNC 12 Mar; max 1800 DH 29 Apr (SK); last 3 DH 19 May.

Com. Grackle: arr widespread first days Mar; max 10000 est CM 16 Mar & 20 Mar, & 10000 DH 30 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 2500 DH 15 Apr (SK).
Orchard Oriole: arr Verona 4 May; max 3 DH 10 May; good season numbers DH, but absent east of Oneil.
Baltimore Oriole: arr CM 27 Apr; max 385 DH 10 May.
Purple Finch: few wintered in Reg; max 105 DH 29 Apr; 15 SH 5 May; singles, small numbers away from DH.
House Finch: 25 SH 1 Mar; max 27 DH 10 Mar; relatively low numbers.
Red Crossbill: small flock heard DH 8 Mar (SK); 5 HF 30 Mar (CS); only reports.
White-winged Crossbill: Waterville 19 Mar (RW); TR 28 Apr (DWe, JWe); DH 21 May (SK); only 3 reports.
Com. Redpoll: 870 DH 31 Mar; max 990 DH 7 Apr (SK); widespread; one leucistic SH 11 Apr (LS); last SH 26 Apr (LS).
Hoary Redpoll: max 4 SH 16 Mar (LS, AM); BLNC 22 Mar (JB); less than 10 total, most from SH.
Pine Siskin: max 555 DH 15 May (SK); 44 Syr 14 May; mostly small numbers away from DH.
Am. Goldfinch: max 800 DH 15 May; mostly small flocks observed.
Evening Grosbeak: 30 SH 14 Mar (LS); max 35 SH 24 Apr (AM); 15 DH 29 Apr & 3 May; 9 DH 15 May; 2 continue SH thru (LS), breeding?



REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

Jeffrey S. Bolsinger

98 State Street, Canton NY 13617
jsbolsinger@yahoo.com

Weather data for Watertown indicates a spring that was generally warm and somewhat drier than average. March and May were both relatively warm and dry, with mean monthly temperatures that were 1.7 ° F and 3.5° above normal, respectively. Precipitation for both months was about 1.4" below normal. April's

weather was more seasonable, with a mean temperature that was 1.3° below normal, and precipitation that was within 0.1" of normal. Some parts of the Region were wetter, especially portions of the St. Lawrence Valley, which received modestly more precipitation than average for the season.

Spring migration proceeded at a very slow pace with few large movements of birds, and migrant songbirds were often difficult to find. For most of the spring, migration consisted of the gradual accumulation of territorial birds in a given area, with very few observations of actively migrating individuals. Unlike most recent years, there was no really large wave of arrivals in late April or early May, and the species that usually make up these waves generally trickled in slowly. The only period when migrant passerines were reportedly common was between 17 and 24 May, when unusually large numbers of Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers and fewer individuals of other northern migrants passed through rapidly. Most of these species were scarce after 25 May, and Blackpoll Warblers seemed unusually scarce during the last week of the season.

In addition to being slow, many birders thought that migration was also late, but at least a few individuals of most species arrived earlier than their long-term average arrival dates, although later than in some recent years. Of the 93 species for which *Kingbird* Regional editors monitor arrival dates, I received reasonable dates for 89 species in 2013. Of these species, 22 arrived within one day of their average arrival date, 54 were more than one day early, and just 13 were more than one day late. The perception that migration was late mostly reflected the slow pace at which migration occurred, as many species remained scarce for a week or more after the first individuals showed up, and most birders probably did see their first individuals of many species relatively late. It is also worth noting that some of the documented arrival dates in the historic database seem implausibly late, and actual long-term arrival dates may be somewhat earlier than what has been documented for many species.

By the end of the season there was some discussion that bird numbers were unusually low generally, with some claiming huge declines from the previous year. Certainly some species seemed to be present in very low numbers, especially Baltimore Oriole, a species that was unusually scarce throughout the Region. Other species that I heard concerns about included Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, and Blackburnian Warbler, but in the areas that I spent much of my time these latter two species seemed more abundant than usual. In fact it seemed that many species were uncharacteristically scarce in some places but present in typical or high numbers elsewhere, and while overall bird populations may have been somewhat reduced in the Region, it seemed that patterns of bird abundance relative to past years was more complicated than some of the claims of widespread, catastrophic bird declines suggest.

Continuing the trend of recent years, geese passed through in large numbers during March, and goose migration was largely over by April. Very large, perhaps unprecedented, numbers of Snow Geese passed through Jefferson County during the second week of March, peaking on 13 March, as indicated by Dick Brouse's estimate of 100,000 to 200,000 Snow Geese that flew over his house during six hours of nearly constant passage. On 29 March a Ross's Goose

was picked out of a low-flying flock of Snow Geese over Canton, and there were three Cackling Goose reports, all from Jefferson County in March. Duck diversity was good and included species that are often missed in spring, such as Canvasback and Black Scoter, with the highlight being a **Eurasian Wigeon** Eugene Nichols found on Point Peninsula.

On 8 March Hans van der Zweep found a dead **Great Gray Owl** near Robert Moses State Park, perhaps the same individual that had been photographed in the park during January but then evaded detection by all birders seeking it. On 19 March staff of the park's nature center found a second Great Gray Owl, this one alive, but this owl was not seen again, and it is not known whether it was present through the winter or just passing through. Other owls of note included at least one Snowy Owl in Cape Vincent through late March, and a Northern Saw-whet Owl at Wilson Hill WMA on 4 March.

Extremely high water levels on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River resulted in the near total absence of any exposed shoreline, and shorebirds were virtually undetected in these areas. Excluding a handful of regularly observed species, the only migrant shorebirds reported were a single Pectoral Sandpiper in Canton on 8 April and a small flock of Dunlin at El Dorado on 24 May. Even for Region 6 this was a poor showing. Waders were better reported, with a **Glossy Ibis** briefly appearing on the Lake Ontario shore 14 May, and several Great Egrets in Jefferson County for much of April and May, suggesting the possibility of local nesting. Sandhill Cranes continue to increase, with adults returning to Lakeview WMA where nesting was finally confirmed last year, and additional adults in Hammond and Canton, where adults summered in 2012.

At least two and probably more Red-headed Woodpeckers successfully overwintered on Fort Drum, thanks to a very large acorn crop. These individuals had active nests by early May, at about the time when this species normally arrives in the spring, but arrival dates this year could not be determined because of the presence of these adults all spring. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported by several observers in St. Lawrence County in areas where they were previously unknown, and along with Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren seem to be increasing Regionally at an accelerating rate.

A **Lark Sparrow** photographed at Grass Lake on 21 May was the only passerine rarity reported, but as seems to occur frequently in Region 6, no birders were informed about the sighting until two months after the fact. Many of the Region's specialty birds, such as Sedge Wren, Golden-winged Warbler and Clay-colored and Henslow's Sparrows arrived relatively early, and the two Sedge Wrens that appeared on Fort Drum on 10 May were the earliest ever recorded at this site, and probably in Region 6.

Bohemian Waxwings and the entire suite of irruptive northeast finches were present at some point during the spring. A Pine Grosbeak at Perch River on 10 March was the last reported for the spring, and Bohemian Waxwings disappeared from the Region soon afterward. Nick Leone had both crossbills at his feeders in Cape Vincent in March, but otherwise the only crossbill reports were from the Adirondacks. Common Redpolls were generally scarce during March, with scattered concentrations at feeders, but were briefly common in

April as they migrated back north through the Region. One Hoary Redpoll at my feeders on 13 April was the only report of the spring. Purple Finches were virtually absent until mid-April, when they returned in numbers.

For the season I received reports of 236 species, which tops last year's record high spring tally by one. The relatively high number of species detected this spring has more to do with an increase in birding activity by a very few observers, along with good irruptive finch diversity, than with the overall quality of the migration, as virtually all observers agreed that migration was about as slow as they had ever seen it. In fact I heard many comments about migration being virtually undetectable for long stretches of time, so in one sense the entire season was something of a "lowlight", and highlights were hard to find. Still, a few rarities were observed, and nearly all of the Region's regularly occurring spring bird species were reported, so it could have been worse.

CONTRIBUTORS

Janet Akin, Jeff Bolsinger, Richard & Marion Brouse, Carol Cady, Tom Carrolan, Joan Collins, Julie Covey, Joel Danko; Chris Dobony, Vici Diehl, Willis Haller, Lee Harper, Steve Kelling, Nick Leone, Nancy Loomis, Brian Miller, Jeff Nadler, Eugene Nichols, Kevin Ohol, Eric Reubel, Mandi Roggie, Robert Scranton, Thomas Smith, Jim Tarolli, Hans van der Zweep, David Wheeler, Tom & Eileen Wheeler.

ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; BRV – Black River Valley; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; 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; FL – Fisher's Landing, T Orleans; GPSP – Grass Point SP; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; LB – Lisbon Town Beach; LPd – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; LPSP – Long Point SP; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; PilPt – Pillar Pt, T Brownville; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course, T Canton, STLA; PRWMA – Perch River WMA, JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; RMSP – Robert Moses SP; SB – Sherwin's Bay, T Brownville, JEFF; SLR – St. Lawrence Ri; SnPt – Snowshoe Pt, T Henderson; StPt – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; TP – Tibbet's Pt, T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley I SP.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Snow Goose: widespread arr 9-10 Mar, max 100,000+ over Watertown 13 Mar; scarce after 29 Mar although 3 SB 26-27 May.

ROSS'S GOOSE (R6): PRGC 29 Mar (JB).

Brant: arr FD 7 May; max 260 over PRWMA 17 May.

"Richardson's" Cackling Goose: PRWMA 10 Mar (JB); Adams 23 Mar (NL); 2 PtPen 30 Mar (SK).

Mute Swan: max 18 GPSP 10 Mar.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 pr PRWMA thru; 2 WISP 6 Mar; 2 ULLWMA 5 Apr thru.

Tundra Swan: arr LWMA 2 Mar; max 149 LWMA 10 Mar.

Wood Duck: arr WBSP 4 Mar.

Gadwall: arr LWMA 2 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: ad m PtPen 17-20 Mar (EN, JB).

Am. Wigeon: arr LWMA 2 Mar; max 21 BRV 15Apr.

Am. Black Duck: max 200 ULLWMA 14 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr & max 12 BRV 15 Apr.

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N. Shoveler: arr Pt. Salubrious 26 Mar; max 13 CWF 19 Apr.
N. Pintail: arr PilPt 1 Mar; max 100 Hounsfield 11 Mar.
Green-winged Teal: arr PRWMA 1 Apr; max 92 BRV 15 Apr.
Canvasback: FL 10 Mar; 4 LPSP 22 Mar; only reports.
Redhead: max 292 PilPt 4 Mar; last WHWMA 8 Apr.
Ring-necked Duck: max 272 ULLWMA 14 Apr.
Greater Scaup: 5000 scaup PtPen 22 Mar likely mostly Greater; last ULLWMA 28 Apr.
Lesser Scaup: max 38 FL 10 Mar; last PRWMA 17 May.
Surf Scoter: PilPt 4 Mar, only report.
White-winged Scoter: max 35 StPt 10 Mar.
Black Scoter: SLR Waddington 3 May, only report.
Long-tailed Duck: max 450 LPSP 30-31 Mar; last ED 24 May.
Bufflehead: last 6 SLR CV 17 May.
Com. Goldeneye: last WHWMA 26 Apr.
Hooded Merganser: small numbers L Ontario & SLR early Mar continued from winter; arr inland nesting sites 10 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 189 FL 16 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: 2 Brownville 24 Mar; Chaumont 24 Mar; LPSP 30 Mar; ULLWMA 8 Apr; PtPen 14 Apr; 2 CWF 23 May; good showing.
Spruce Grouse: 3 Jordan Pond area 1 Mar (KO).
Com. Loon: arr PilPt 1 Apr.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr CCSP 30 Mar; max 13 BRV 15 Apr.
Horned Grebe: arr Watertown 12 Apr; max 26 CCSP 27 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: arr CCSP 30 Mar; max 29 CCSP 27 Apr (JB), high.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr SLR Ogdensburg 22 Mar.
Am. Bittern: arr Dekalb 18 Apr.
Least Bittern: several reports PRWMA 26 May thru.
Great Blue Heron: arr FD 11 Mar; scarce before 9 Apr.
Great Egret: 1-2/day PRWMA 14 Apr thru; FD 23 Apr & 14 May; AFWMA 24 May; breeding JEFF?
Green Heron: arr PRGC 2 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: at Murphy Is colony by 27 Apr.
GLOSSY IBIS (R6): SB 14 May (WH).
Turkey Vulture: arr Morristown 10 Mar.

HAWKS—ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Brownville 3 Apr.
N. Harrier: virtually absent away from NW JEFF until late Mar.
N. Goshawk: Canton 7 Mar; FD 17 Apr.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr FD 12 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr FD 16 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: dark-morph ad PRWMA 20 May (NL); dark morph juv FD 23 May (JB).
Rough-legged Hawk: last BI 18 Apr.
Golden Eagle: W Leyden 10 Mar (NL); ad eating Snow Goose Leray 21 Mar (JB); PRWMA 30 Mar (SK).
Virginia Rail: arr ULLWMA 28 Apr.
Sora: arr ULLWMA 28 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: arr PRWMA 22 Apr; max 31 PRWMA 15 May.
Am. Coot: 2 PRWMA 22 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: CPSP 27 Mar; pr courting near location where 2 ad present prev summer Canton 12 May; PRWMA 17 May; multiple reports LWMA nesting location & Hammond where nesting suspected.
Semipalmated Plover: arr ULLWMA 12 May; max 19 ULLWMA 20 May.
Killdeer: arr PRWMA 10 Mar.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr ED 1 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr PRWMA 2 May; last FD 22 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr PtPen 14 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr PtPen 14 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr FD 26 Apr; CV 11 May; AFWMA 24 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr AFWMA 15 May; max 43 ULLWMA 19 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr PRGC 8 Apr.
Dunlin: 9 ED 24 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Chaumont 30 Mar.
Am. Woodcock: arr Canton 17 Mar.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Clayton 7 Apr; max 1000 TP 17 Apr.
Iceland Gull: LB 9 Mar; TP 15 Mar; BI 16 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: 2 ad SLR Ogdensburg 9 Mar; 7 BI 16 Mar; only reports.
Caspian Tern: arr Clayton 7 Apr.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
Com. Tern: arr SLR Ogdensburg 19 Apr.

PIGEONS—PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Canton 11 May; max 5 FD 30 May.
E. Screech-Owl: CV thru; none reported elsewhere.
Snowy Owl: CV 2-29 Mar.
GREAT GRAY OWL: carcass found RMSP 8 Mar about 1 mile from where owl photographed

in Jan (HVZ); near RMSP nature center 19 Mar (JD).

N. Saw-whet Owl: WHWMA 4 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr FD 14 May; larger movement 20-21 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr Brownville 23 Apr.

Chimney Swift: arr Canton 4 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr FD 7 May.

Belted Kingfisher: arr FD 29 Mar.

Red-headed Woodpecker: at least 3 ad successfully overwintered FD & on eggs by early May; migrant Canton 7 Apr; pr CV May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: several new locations STLA.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr FD 9 Apr.

Black-backed Woodpecker: near Indian L FD LEWI 7 May (JB), unusual location.

N. Flicker: arr FD 9 Apr.

American Kestrel: more than usual early Mar suggesting good winter survival; increasing by 3rd week Mar.

Merlin: at least 3 nests FD & many reports nesting in Adirondacks; other nests Canton, CV, Ogdensburg, Potsdam & Watertown.

Peregrine Falcon: AFWMA 22 Apr; only report away from BI nesting site.

FLYCATCHERS—WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr MM 4 May, record early (ER, JN); migrants FD 21 & 27 May.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr FD 16 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr LPd 18 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr ICNC 19 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr PRWMA 17 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr PRGC 2 May.

E. Phoebe: arr PtPen 6 Apr.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr PRGC 2 May.

E. Kingbird: arr FD 2 May.

N. Shrike: last FD 10 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Dekalb 4 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr FD 22 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr PRGC 2 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Cranberry Lake 17 May; StPt 19 & 22 May; New Bremen 30 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr FD 7 May.

Gray Jay: reports from MM, LPd, & Jordan L area.

Horned Lark: 14 Canton 12 May, flock unexpected this late.

Purple Martin: arr Canton 21 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr PRWMA 30 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr FD 22 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr FD 26 Apr.

Cliff Swallow: arr SLR Massena 13 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr SLR Massena 13 Apr.

Tufted Titmouse: increasing STLA.

Carolina Wren: at least terr 3 m terr Canton thru.

House Wren: arr Canton 28 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr FD 10 Apr.

Sedge Wren: arr FD 10 May, early; 2 AFWMA 20 May thru.

Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 2 May.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr & max 4 LWMA 1 May.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 27 Mar.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr CV 7 Apr; last obvious migrant 5 May; several reports MM & other Adirondack locations May likely breeding.

E. Bluebird: arr PilPt 4 Mar.

Veery: arr FD 1 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: night flight calls over Canton 31 May.

Swainson's Thrush: arr FD 13 May; several migrating over Canton 31 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr FD 10 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr FD 30 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr FD 8 May.

N. Mockingbird: PtPen 10 Mar prob overwintered; arr Lyme 8 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr CV 17 Apr.

Am. Pipit: arr Massena 31 Mar; last FD 17 May.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 350 Henderson 2 Mar; last 33 CV 19 Mar.

Cedar Waxwing: scarce before 21 May; heavy movement last week May.

LONGSPURS—WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: max 18 CV 2 Mar.

Snow Bunting: max 700 CV 2 Mar; last BI 13 Apr.

Ovenbird: arr FD 30 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr FD 26 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr FD 6 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 6 May.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: FD 14 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr ICNC 28 Apr.

Tennessee Warbler: arr CV 10 May; 10-25/day FD 20-23 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: near Indian Lake FD LEWI 7 May (JB).

Nashville Warbler: arr ULLWMA 28 Apr.

Mourning Warbler: arr MM 13 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr FD 1 May.

Hooded Warbler: max 6 Ellisburg 17 May.

Am. Redstart: arr ICNC 3 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr SnPt 16 May; FD 23 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Dekalb 4 May.

Northern Parula: arr Hitchen’s Pond 1 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr ICNC 4 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 3 SnPt 19 May; FD 22 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr FD 6 May.

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Yellow Warbler: arr FD 29 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Canton 3 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Ellisburg 17 May;
heavy movement FD 20-24 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr FD 30 Apr.
“Western” Palm Warbler: arr CCSP 20 Apr.
“Yellow” Palm Warbler: “many” on terr MM
17 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr FD 9 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr FD 9 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr FD 6 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr FD 1
May.
Canada Warbler: arr FD 16 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr SnPt 19 May.

TOWHEES—WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr FD 10 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last FD 30 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr ICNC 14 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 30 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Canton 10 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 10 Apr.
LARK SPARROW: Grass L T Alexandria 21
May (VD, photos!).
Savannah Sparrow: arr BRV 15 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 1 May.
Henslow’s Sparrow: arr FD 1 May where 5-6
terr m by end May; 2-3 singing m Tubelino Rd
Clayton 20-26 May only other location.
Fox Sparrow: arr FD 1 Apr; last FD 24 Apr.
Song Sparrow: KC 1 Mar probably
overwintered; arr PtPen 18 Mar.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr MM 26 Apr.

Swamp Sparrow: arr FD 9 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: scarce before 15
Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr PRGC 2 May;
last Leyden 20 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: migration primarily 9 Apr to
5 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Dekalb 4 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr ICNC 4 May.
Indigo Bunting: arr Theresa 18 May.
Bobolink: arr Canton 4 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr PtPen 2 Mar.
E. Meadowlark: arr Lyme 11 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr LPSP 31 Mar; max 235
ULLWMA 28 Apr; last obvious migrants FD 9
May; 2 Wanakena 17 May probably nesting.
Com. Grackle: arr Champion 6 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: ad m at traditional nesting
site PtPen 17 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr ICNC 4 May; only 2-
4/day late May in many areas where 10+/day
typical.
Pine Grosbeak: max 12 Ogdensburg 9 Mar;
last PRWMA 10 Mar.
Purple Finch: arr FD 14 Apr.
Red Crossbill: CV 4-14 Mar; 8+ LPd 18 May.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 CV 4-14 Mar.
Com. Redpoll: last BI 18 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: at Canton feeder 13 Apr (JB).
Pine Siskin: arr CV 6 Apr; max 25 FD 23 May.
Evening Grosbeak: PilPt 4 Mar; pr Barnes
Corners mid Apr thru; FD 30 Apr; other reports
from Adirondacks.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

Melanie McCormack

PO Box 366, Keene, NY 12942

Mruddyduck@aol.com

The spring of 2013 was a fairly typical spring for the Region, with fairly average temperatures and precipitation and few major weather events. March had average temperatures ranging from a high of 54° F in Lake Placid on the 11th to a low of -9° in Indian Lake on the 18th. Precipitation was below average, with only one significant snowfall on 20-21 March that brought 2-7" of snow to the Region. Monthly snowfall totals ranged from 7" in Peru to 15" in Tupper Lake. April temperatures were 1-3° below average and ranged from 75° in Peru on the *The Kingbird* 2013 September; 63 (3)

24th to 15° in Lake Placid on the 6th. Precipitation was average but fell mostly as rain, as there was only one significant accumulation of 1-2" of snow on 12-13 April. May brought rapid warmth to the Region, with temperatures averaging 2-3° above normal, reaching 91° in Peru on the last day of the month, and falling as low as 25° in Lake Placid on the 15th.

The lack of any extreme weather events seemed to result in a lack of any significant migratory events as well. Reports for the season don't reflect any major migrant fallouts, as was also noted by the Crown Point Banding Station this year. The banding station was in operation from 2-18 May and banded 332 individuals of 53 species. The highlights at the station were two Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Cape May Warbler, one Prairie Warbler, three Orchard Orioles, and a station record of 34 White-throated Sparrows. Prairie Warblers and Orchard Orioles are rarely reported from anywhere else in the Region but appear at Crown Point in most years. Master banders Gordon Howard and Gary Lee noted that the cool temperatures of April followed by the sudden burst of warmth in May resulted in a reduced food supply for migrating songbirds, as the worms that they rely on in the hawthorn thickets matured quickly when temperatures rose and weren't as available to birds as they would be in a typical spring.

With below average April temperatures there were not many new early date records, with the exception of a Black-and-white Warbler in Plattsburgh on 20 April and an Eastern Kingbird in Keene on 1 May. The most unexpected reports of migrant species in the Region were reports of pairs of **Sandhill Cranes** in Peru on 15 April and Paul Smiths on 12-13 April. A few uncommon warblers were sighted during migration including Wilson's Warblers at a number of locations and **Blue-winged Warblers** on 6 and 31 May in Westport. Shorebird migration reports were mostly from the Chazy Riverlands, where peak numbers occurred on 20 May, with 22 Least Sandpipers, 77 Dunlin, 10 Black-bellied Plovers, and 42 Short-billed Dowitchers. Another notable shorebird record was a report of six Lesser Yellowlegs at Alderon Marsh on 21 April.

The real highlights of the spring season were the winter visitors that lingered well into the season. A **Great-Gray Owl** was a bit of a celebrity while it was in Tupper Lake from 30 March-2 April, which, though difficult to spot, was still confirmed by a number of observers. Two Snowy Owls were reported from Cumberland Head on 18 March. Lake Champlain produced excellent sightings of gulls and waterfowl, including an **Iceland Gull** seen around Plattsburgh between 15 March and 7 April, a new late record. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen at Port Henry on 27 April. A **Barrow's Goldeneye** was seen on Lake Champlain on 4 March, and four individuals were seen on 10 March. A **Tufted Duck** was reported from Lake Champlain on 9-10 March along with a single Ruddy Duck. Snow Geese appeared in large numbers in mid-March, with a high count of 1,500 seen from Treadwell Bay on 14 March.

Large numbers of Common Redpolls also lingered into the spring, last reported from Intervale Lowlands on 24 April. **Hoary Redpoll** reports continued into April from Lake Placid, Cumberland Head, and Long Lake. Bohemian Waxwings were reported in mid-March, with a high count of 1,000 in Plattsburgh on the 13th. The last Rough-legged Hawk report came from

Plattsburgh on 14 April, and the last Northern Shrike was seen in the Intervale Lowlands on 30 March. Four Lapland Longspurs were reported from Chazy on 23 March, and Snow Buntings were last reported from Tupper Lake on 24 March.

Other notable sightings include two Least Bitterns and five Virginia Rails at Ausable Point on 30 May, a Sora from Lake Alice on 4-18 May, and Black-crowned Night-Herons from Four Brothers Islands on 16 May and Ausable Marsh on 30 May. Great Egrets were reported from Lake Abanakee on 13 April and Reagan Flats Road on 16 April. A Golden Eagle was seen from Carpenter's Flats on 17 May, and two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Lake Alice on 30 May are a notable find. Lastly, a **Gray Partridge** was seen in Plattsburgh on 22 April, the first sighting in five years.

The season total was 212 species, just shy of the record of 219 species and significantly higher than last year's total of 191.

CONTRIBUTORS

Zachary Adams, Patricia Aitken, Diedre Asbjorn, Seth Ausebel, Michelle Berrus (MBe), Michael Burgess (MB), Dick Crawford, Joan Collins, Gary Chapin, Bruce Dudek, Eric Damour, Jim De Waal Malefyt, Gordon Dimmig, Bob Ellsworth, Matthew Furst, Keitha Farney, Ellie George, Barbara and Larry Hall, Judith Heintz, Peter Jerdo, Catherine Klatt, Hal Klein, Bill Krueger, Dayne LaLonde, Gary Lee, Lewis Lolya, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Matthew Medler, Michael Moccio, Nancy Olsen, Jim Osborn, Paul Osenbaugh, John M.C. Peterson, Jonathan Rice, Dana Rohleder, Nancy Rogers, Robert Scranton, William Stahl, Jacob Straub, John & Pat Thaxton; Hans Van der Zweep, Angus Wilson.

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Ausable Pt; AM – Alderon Marsh; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt, CR – Chazy Riverlands; IL – Intervale Lowlands; LA – Lake Alice WMA, LP – Lake Placid; LL – Long L; MRP – Moose River Plains; NP – Noblewood P; PBurgh – Plattsburgh; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; RF – Reagan Flats Road, SB – Sabattis Bog; SC – Scotion Creek; SL – Saranac L; SPB – Spring Pond Bog; TB – Treadwell Bay; TL – Tupper L; WD – Wilcox Dock; WP – Westport.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 1500 TB 14-17 Mar (HK); 200 Malone 20 Mar (NR); 85 PS 20 Mar.

Brant: 13 PtR 18 May; 112 PtR 28 May (JO).

Cackling Goose: CRL 17 Apr (BK).

Tundra Swan: TB 17 Mar (HK).

Wood Duck: arr 6 AP 30 Mar (ED, MB); max 17 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

Gadwall: arr AP 23 Mar (MB); max 13 AP 30 Mar (ED).

Am. Wigeon: arr 31 Mar AP; max 20 AP 16 Apr (MB).

Am. Black Duck: max 56 LC 10 Mar (AW).

Blue-winged Teal: arr AP 6 Apr (MB); max 4 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

N. Shoveler: arr & max 12 AM 21 Apr (ZA).

N. Pintail: arr LC 22 Mar (MB); max 80 AM 30 Mar (ZA).

Green-winged Teal: arr AP 30 Mar (MB, ED); max 85 AM 21 Apr (ZA).

Canvasback: CP 21 Mar (EG).

Redhead: 5 CP 21 Mar (EG).

Ring-necked Duck: max 170 WP 9 Mar (AW).

TUFTED DUCK: LC 9-10 Mar (AW).

Greater Scaup: max 250 WP 9 Mar (AW).

Lesser Scaup: max 850 WP 9 Mar (AW).

White-winged Scoter: 19 PtR 18 May (JO).
Bufflehead: max 40 AP 8 Apr (MB).
Com. Goldeneye: max 450 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Barrow's Goldeneye: fem CH 4 Mar (BK); 4 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Hooded Merganser: max 23 AP 11 Mar (J&PT).
Com. Merganser: max 450 LC 10 Mar (AW).
Ruddy Duck: WP 9 Mar (AW).
Ring-necked Pheasant: 4 WP 11 Apr (PJ).
Gray Partridge: Pburgh 22 Apr (BE).
Com. Loon: max 5 Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Pied-billed Grebe: AP 8 Apr (MB); Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Horned Grebe: max 17 AP 8 Apr (MB).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr AP 29 Mar (WS).
Am. Bittern: arr 23 IL Apr (LM); max 8 AP 14 May (PJ).
Least Bittern: 2 AP 30 May (PJ).
Great Blue Heron: max 10 AP 4 May (DL).
Great Egret: L Abanakee 13 Apr (MiMo); 2 RF 16 Apr (HV, RS).
Green Heron: SC 31 May (NO).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 8 AM 27 Apr (ZA, LL, JR, MF); Four Bros Is 16 May (PJ); AP 30 May (PJ).
Turkey Vulture: arr Wadhams 17 Mar (J&PT).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 2 AP 1 Apr (NR).
Bald Eagle: max 8 LC 10 Mar (AW).
N. Harrier: max 5 AM 21 Apr (ZA).
N. Goshawk: arr PS 18 Apr (ZA).
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Lewis 27 Apr (B&LH); Coon Mt 3 May (PJ); LA 8 May (JO).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Belmont 21 Apr (NR).
Rough-legged Hawk: Pburgh 3 Mar (NO); IL 6 Apr (LM); Beekmantown 14 Apr (BK).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): Carpenter's Flats 17 May (DR).
Virginia Rail: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA); max 5 AP 30 May (PJ).
Sora: LA 4-18 May (JO).
Com. Gallinule: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA).
Am. Coot: max 4 AM 17 Apr (DL).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 2 Peru 15 Apr (WS); 2nd spring record; 2 PS 12-13 Apr (ZA,LL,MF,JR).
Black-bellied Plover: 10 CR 20 May (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: CR 19-20 May: max 8 CR 20 May (BK).
Killdeer: arr WP 17 Mar (J&PT).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr WP 10 May (PJ); max 4 IL 16 May (LM).

Solitary Sandpiper: arr IL 5-12 May (LM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 AM 21 Apr (ZA).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 4 CR 20 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: CR 11-20 May, max 22 CR 20 May (BK).
Dunlin: CR 11-20 May, max 77 CR 20 May (BK).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 42 CR 20 May (BK).
Wilson's Snipe: arr RF 3 May (RS).
Am. Woodcock: arr WP 2 Apr (PJ).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 7 Port Henry (PJ).
Iceland Gull: WD 15 Mar & 7 Apr, late rec CLIN; Saranac R 17 Mar (PO).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Port Henry 27 Apr (GC).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 NP 27 Apr (J&PT).
Caspian Tern: arr 9 NP 14 Apr (PJ); max 40 NP 27 Apr (J&PT), max rec ESSE.
Com. Tern: arr 6 CR 11 May (BK).

PIGEONS-PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: 2 LA 30 May (DL).
E. Screech-Owl: WP 20 Mar (PJ).
Great Horned Owl: IL 6 May (LM).
Snowy Owl: 2 CH 18 Mar (DC).
Barred Owl: max 3 Round L (BD).
GREAT-GRAY OWL: Tupper Lake area 30 Mar-2 Apr, mob.
Com. Nighthawk: 8 Ausable Chasm 28 May (MB).
Whip-poor-will: arr LA 4 May (JO); Ausable Chasm 4 May (MB); WP 11 May (PJ).
Chimney Swift: arr 6 May SL (ZA).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Bay Pond 4 May (LM).
Belted Kingfisher: max 3 AP 4 May (DL).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 Rouses Pt 16 Feb thru, poss breeding pair (WF); CH 16-24 May (NO); PtR 18 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr Port Kent 7 Apr (DR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: PS 20 Mar (ZA); max 5 BB 30 Mar (DA); SPB 24 May (PA&SA).
Am. Kestrel: arr 22 Mar WP (PJ).
Merlin: max 3 Rugar Woods (JS).
Peregrine Falcon: max 4 Pitchoff Mt 18 May (BD).

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr L Pleasant 18 May (JDW); IL 23 May (LM); SPB 24 May (PA&SA).
E. Wood-Pewee: arr AP 19 May (MB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr PS 22 May (BM).
Alder Flycatcher: arr WP 22 May (PJ).
Willow Flycatcher: arr PtR 28 May (JO); SC 31 May (NO).
Least Flycatcher: arr Little Tupper L 3 May (JC).
E. Phoebe: arr WP 4 Apr (PJ).
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Haystack Mt 8 May (PJ).
E. Kingbird: arr Keene 1 May (J&PT), early rec ESSE.
N. Shrike: IL 2-30 Mar (LM).
Yellow-throated Vireo: AP 14 & 30 May (PJ).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Pburgh 19 Apr (MB).
Warbling Vireo: arr LA 4 May (MB).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr PS 5 May.
Philadelphia Vireo: PS 18 May (BM).
Gray Jay: max 6 BB 23 May; 2 TL 24 Mar; 3 MRP 27 May (PA,SA).
Horned Lark: last 8 Chazy 22 Mar (MB).
Tree Swallow: arr AP 30 Mar (MB).
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr AM 27 Apr (ZA).
Cliff Swallow: arr 2 PtR 2 May (JH); 12 RF 3 May (RS); 2 L Colby 13 Mar (GD).
Barn Swallow: arr AP 19 Apr (MB).
Boreal Chickadee: max 6 BB 30 Mar (DA).
Tufted Titmouse: max 2 WP 13 Mar (PJ); IL 11 Apr (LM).
Carolina Wren: Port Henry 16 Apr (PJ); 2 PtR 24 Apr (JH); IL 11 Apr (LM).
House Wren: arr WP 2 May (PJ).
Winter Wren: arr SL 2 Apr (SF).
Marsh Wren: arr AP 27 Apr (J&PT); max 68 SC 31 May (NO).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Ausable Chasm 17 Apr (MB); max 15 AP 27 Apr (J&PT).
E. Bluebird: max 5 BB 28 May (SA,PA).
Veery: arr Belmont 14 May (NR); max 6 IL 23 May (LM).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr Piseco 26 May (MiMo).
Swainson's Thrush: arr Belmont 22 May (NR).
Hermit Thrush: arr PS 9 Apr (ZA).
Wood Thrush: arr Belmont 9 May (NR).
Gray Catbird: arr CP 12 May (PJ).
Brown Thrasher: arr AM 21 Apr (LL,MF).
Am. Pipit: CR 20 May (BK).
Bohemian Waxwing: 12 PS 6 Mar; max 1000 Pburgh 13 Mar (PO); 50 WP 19 Mar.
Cedar Waxwing: max 70 IL 30 May (LM).

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Ovenbird: arr Pburgh 1 May (MB).
N. Waterthrush: arr LA 28 Apr (JO), early rec CLIN.

Tennessee Warbler: arr PS 18 May (BM); Bellmont 28 May (NR).
Nashville Warbler: arr 4 IL 3 May (LM).
Com. Yellowthroat: arr WP 8 May (PJ).
Am. Redstart: arr Rugar Woods 1 May (MB).
Cape May Warbler: arr LP 23 May (SA); 2 IL 28 May (LM).
N. Parula: arr PS 30 Apr (MF,LL).
Magnolia Warbler: arr PS 8 May (BM); max 12 IL 23 May (LM).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr PS 16 May (BM); Bellmont 26 May (NR).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr PtR 4 May (JH).
Yellow Warbler: arr Pburgh 1 May (MBe).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Bellmont 9 May (NR); max 9 IL 23 May (LM).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr AP 19 May (MB).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Rugar Woods 30 Apr (MB).
Palm Warbler: arr BB 21 Apr (CK).
Pine Warbler: arr 2 WP 19 Apr (PJ).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Port Henry 16 Apr (PJ).
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Rugar Woods 1 May (MB).
Canada Warbler: arr Ferds Bog 19 May (SS).
Wilson's Warbler: arr 2 AP 19 May (MB); Ap 22 May (NO); IL 23 May (LM); PtR 28 May (JO).
Blue-winged Warbler: 9 May WP (BM); 31 May WP (J&PT).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

E. Towhee: arr 2 AM 21 Apr (ZA); 2 Chazy 12 May (MBe).
Am. Tree Sparrow: max 8 Ausable Chasm 9 Apr (MB); 8 L Clear 19 Apr (SM).
Chipping Sparrow: arr Rugar Woods 9 Apr (MB).
Field Sparrow: arr Ausable Chasm 9 Apr (MB); max 3 PtR 2 May (JH).
Savannah Sparrow: arr Indian L 14 Apr (MiMo).
Fox Sparrow: arr L Clear 2 Apr (SM); max 6 L Abanakee 13 Apr (MiMo).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Belmont 9 May (NR); 2 BB 10 May; Ferds Bog 19 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr PS 11 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: max 25 BB 11 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr PS 5 May (ZA); max 7 Belmont 17 May (MF).
Lapland Longspur: 7 Chazy 22 Mar (MB); 4 Chazy 23 Mar (BK).
Snow Bunting: 2 WP 20 Mar (PJ); max 350 Chazy 23 Mar (MB); 2 TL 24 Mar (MF).
Scarlet Tanager: arr LA 16 May (JH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Clarojast 11 May (JH).
Indigo Bunting: arr Belmont 27 May (NR).
Bobolink: arr CR 6 May (BK); max 17 LP 31 May (BM).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr 12 IL 10 Mar (LM).
E. Meadowlark: arr WP 8 Apr (PJ).
Rusty Blackbird: PtR 18 Apr (JH); max 60 RF 25 Apr (RS); 5 AP 29 Apr (KF); AP 30 Apr (MB).
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr 6 IL 28 Mar (LM).

Baltimore Oriole: arr Pburgh 8 May (MB).
Pine Grosbeak: 2 Pburgh 30 Mar (DA).
Purple Finch: max 11 Piseco L 24 May (LH).
White-winged Crossbill: 10 BB 10 Mar (AW).
Com. Redpoll: max 250 IL 7 Mar; last IL 24 Apr (LM).
HOARY REDPOLL: CH 20 Mar (BK); 3 LL 29 Mar (DA, JC); LP 12 Apr (LM).
Pine Siskin: max 35 CP 12 May (PJ).
Evening Grosbeak: 9 WP 19 Apr (PJ); PS 4 May (BM).



REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Will Yandik

269 Schneider Road, Hudson NY 12534
wyandik@hotmail.com

Spring 2013 began cooler than average with several small lingering snowstorms and ended mild and wet. March ended 1.2° F cooler than average, with 0.72 fewer inches of precipitation than average. Some of the most active snowstorms of the winter occurred in early March, although accumulations were few and widespread. April began with a few trace snow and ice storms and continued brisk, 1.9° degrees cooler than average. A blocking high settled over the Northeast in early May ushering in stable and sunny temperatures. Afterwards a stormier weather pattern brought in several inches of rain and some flooding to the Region. May ended 1.6° warmer than average, with 3 more inches of rain than average. The last frost in Albany occurred on 15 May.

Bob Yunick reported a disappointing winter and spring of roadside raptor banding. He reported scarce numbers of Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Rough-legged Hawks, which were reported in few numbers by others as well. A Golden Eagle in Hoosick on 2 March was the only unusual raptor of the season.

Spring migration occurred in dribbles due to a blocking high pressure system that lodged itself over the Northeast in early May. One could wander the area's forests in early May and struggle to find any neotropical migrants. On a typical year, spring migrants arrive first in the southern portion of the Region and move northward. This season, one was equally likely to find a first-of-the-season arrival in the foothills of the Adirondacks as the mid-Hudson Valley. Despite this weather pattern, 2013 migration continued a five-year trend of earlier-than-average arrivals for all combined species, including two new record early arrivals, Swainson's Thrush on 24 April and Scarlet Tanager on 22 April.

A few troupes of Sandhill Cranes were spotted staging in the Region this spring, and Kelly McKay found a **Wilson's Phalarope** in Schuylerville, Rensselaer County on 24 May.

Abundant numbers of Common Redpolls lingered at many of the feeders that were still stocked with seed by the loyal feeder watchers, and with some effort birders could catch one of the noisy flocks of Bohemian Waxwings that frequented the northern portion of the Region this season.

CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Abrahamsen, Alan Devoe Bird Club monthly sighting reports, Larry Alden, Dave Baim, Hope Batchellor, Mona Bearor, Mimi Brauch, Alvin Breisch, Owen Brown, Gerry Colburn, Frank Conley, Bill Cook, Larry Federman, Corey Finger, David Gibson, Elizabeth Grace, Jane Graves, Don Grescens, Bernie Grossman, Richard Guthrie, Ken Harper, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club's Birdline of Eastern New York, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Eric Krantz, Bill Lee, Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes, Dave Martin, Andrew Mason, Kelly McKay, Matt Medler, Steve Mesick, Roger Miller, Frank Murphy, Jeff Nadler, Gail & Rich Nord, Tom Palmer, Ellen Penrick, Barb Putnam, Bob Ramonowski, Will Raup, Larry Rowland, John Saville, Susan Scheck, Scott Stoner, Vin Sturn, Joan Suriano, Bill & Marion Ulmer, Alison Van Keuren, Brad Walker, Carol & Owen Whitby, Phil Whitney, T. Lloyd Williams, Allan & Phyllis Wirth, Chad Witko, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCM – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; FtE – T Fort Edwards, WASH; HR – Hudson River; VF – Vischer's Ferry, SARA.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Ft Miller

WASH 23 Mar.

Snow Goose: max 200 Five Rivers ALBA 30 Mar.

Brant: arr 165 Ramshorn-Livingston GREE 14 May.

CACKLING GOOSE (R8): Ft Miller WASH 24 Mar.

Tundra Swan: Mechanicville SARA 11 Apr.

Wood Duck: arr Easton WASH 5 Mar.

Gadwall: max 17 Stanton Pd ALBA 1 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 15 Halfmoon SARA 29 Mar.

N. Shoveler: max 7 Stony Creek SARA 22 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 45 Vosburgh Marsh 2 Mar.

Canvasback: 2 Saratoga L SARA 26 Mar.

Redhead: Stillwater SARA 3-23 Mar.

Greater Scaup: max 150 Saratoga L SARA 4 Apr.

Lesser Scaup: max 600 Saratoga L SARA 5 Apr.

White-winged Scoter: 3 Alcove Res ALBA 18 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 4 New Baltimore GREE 10 Apr.

Barrow's Goldeneye: Ft Miller WASH 23 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Cohoes ALBA 1-25 Mar; Vosburgh Marsh GREE 2 Mar

Ring-necked Pheasant: COX grasslands 13 Mar.

Com. Loon: max 9 Saratoga L SARA 13 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr Green I SARA 23 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr Latham ALBA 10 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: COX Boat Launch 27

Mar; Stockport COLU 14 Apr.

Great Cormorant: 3 Schodack RENS 3 Mar; 4 Embought Bay GREE 13 Mar.

Am. Bittern: arr Five Rivers ALBA 15 Apr.

Least Bittern: BCM 17 May.

Great Egret: max 4 Clifton Pk SARA 13 Apr.

Green Heron: arr Troy RENS 17 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: HR COLU 11 May.

Black Vulture: max 5 Hudson COLU 2 Mar.

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr Voorheesville ALBA 28 Mar.
N. Goshawk: max 2 Saratoga SARA 21 May.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Niskayuna SCHE 10 Apr.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Five Rivers ALBA 13 Apr.
Golden Eagle: Hoosick RENS 2 Mar.
Virginia Rail: arr Saratoga SARA 8 Apr.
Sora: arr Nutten Hook COLU 16 Apr.
Com. Gallinule: COX grasslands 18 May; BCM 18 May.
Am. Coot: arr VF 7 Apr.
SANDHILL CRANE (R8): 2 Halfmoon SARA 1-23 Mar, 4 Ancram COLU 4 Mar; Averill Pk RENS 4 Apr.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Cohoes ALBA 14 May.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr HR WASH 23 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr HR SARA 8 Apr.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Collins L SCHE 12 Apr.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr HR SARA 13 Apr.
Upland Sandpiper: Ames MONT 16 Apr.
Least Sandpiper: arr HR SARA 3 May.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr; max 55 HR WASH 11 Apr (KM).
WILSON'S PHALAROPE (R8): Schuylerville RENS 24 May (KM).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Saratoga L SARA 12 Apr.
Iceland Gull: Halfmoon SARA 1 Mar; 2 Crescent ALBA 5-21 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Lock 7 SCHE 2 Apr.
Glaucous Gull: Clifton Park SARA 11 Mar; Crescent SARA 20 Mar; Waterford SARA 21 Mar
Caspian Tern: Collins L SCHE 11-17 Apr.
Black Tern: arr Stanton Pd ALBA 18 May.
Com. Tern: 5 Coeymans ALBA 17 Apr; Saratoga L SARA 6 May.

PIGEONS – PARROTS

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Meadowdale ALBA 16 May.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Clifton P SARA 14 May.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 FTE 22 Mar.
Com. Nighthawk: arr Guilderland ALBA 21 May.
Whip-poor-will: max 2 Hillsdale COLU 3 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Albany 24 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Meadowdale ALBA 4 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Lock 7 SCHE 13 Apr.
Merlin: Wrights Loop SARA 23 Mar.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Daketown SARA 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Albany 22 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: Saratoga Springs SARA 23 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 7 May.
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Peebles 1 SARA 3 May.
E. Kingbird: arr HR WASH 9 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Greenport COLU 4 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr VF 14 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr Ghent COLU 25 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Ancram COLU 6 May; Saratoga Springs SARA 21 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr Five Rivers ALBA 5 May.
N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Lock 7 SCHE 2 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr Lock 7 SCHE 30 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: max 4 Chatham COLU 3 May.
Barn Swallow: arr VF 9 Apr.
House Wren: arr Ghent COLU 13Apr.
Marsh Wren: arr Nutten Hook COLU 16 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr HR WASH 20 Apr.
Veery: arr Schodack 1 RENS 4 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Thatcher Pk ALBA 24 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Chatham COLU 2 May.
Gray Catbird: arr Lock 7 SCHE 4 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr West Sand L RENS 14 Apr.
Am. Pipit: 2 Niskayuna SCHE 2 Apr; max 19 Saratoga SARA 19 Apr; 4 Pine Bush ALBA 12 May.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING (R8): 14 Hoosick RENS 2 Mar; max 100 Queensbury SARA 22 Mar.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Easton WASH 9 Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 100 Northumberland SARA 8 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr Schenectady SCHE 4 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: Albany 7 May; Ravena ALBA 13 Mar.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Five Rivers ALBA 13 Apr.
N. Waterthrush: arr Saratoga SARA 9 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 30 Apr.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 30 Apr.
Tennessee Warbler: arr VF 12 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Greenport 26 Apr.
Mourning Warbler: Petersburg RENS 27 May; Saratoga SARA 27 May.
Com. Yellowthroat: arr Rensselaer RENS 2 May.
Hooded Warbler: Normanskill ALBA 2 May.
Am. Redstart: arr HR WASH 6 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr VF 11 May.
Cerulean Warbler: Lions P SCHE 17 May; Schodack I RENS 18 May.
N. Parula: arr Ghent COLU 2 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Lock 7 SCHE 6 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Albany 15 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Austerlitz COLU 3 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Easton WASH 27 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr Saratoga SARA 3 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Austerlitz COLU 3 May.
Palm Warbler: arr Five Rivers ALBA 9 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr Selkirk ALBA 9 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Saratoga SARA 13 Mar.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R8): 2 Lions Pk SCHE 30 Apr (KM); Normanskill ALBA 2 May (mob).

Prairie Warbler: arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Schenectady SCHE 6 May.
Canada Warbler: arr Albany 12 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Albany 12 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr Lock 7 SCHE 22 Apr.
E. Towhee: arr Pine Bush ALBA 10 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Colonie ALBA 9 Apr.
Field Sparrow: arr Austerlitz COLU 12 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr COX grasslands 17 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr Livingston COLU 1 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: max 6 FtE 1 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Livingston COLU 29 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Livingston COLU 2 May.
Bobolink: arr FtE 29 Apr.
E. Meadowlark: arr FtE 7 Apr.
Rusty Blackbird: max 220 Saratoga SARA 27 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr Albany 2 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Bethlehem ALBA 30 Apr.
Pine Grosbeak: Queensbury WARR 22 Mar.
Red Crossbill: Schenectady SCHE 27 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: Bethlehem ALBA 9 Apr.
Com. Redpoll: max 50 West Sand L RENS 12 Mar.
Pine Siskin: last Kingsbury WASH 20 May.
Evening Grosbeak: Providence SARA 1 May; 2 Corinth SARA 1 May.



REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

Michael Bochnik

70 Hutchinson Boulevard, Mt Vernon, NY 10552

BochnikM@cs.com

The season started out with consistent average temperatures. There were no extremes, unlike last year's "summer in March." The northern part of the Region did have two significant snowfalls; Poughkeepsie had seven inches of snow on 8 March and five inches on 19 March. As expected the Region saw large numbers of birds at feeders on 19 March. The month came in a bit dry, with only 2.8" of precipitation, 0.8" below normal.

April was similar, notable for no hard freezes. The year did not have its first seventy-degree day till 10 April. Sullivan County also experienced a major fallout that morning. Thunderstorms moved in from the west overnight, dropping birds out of the sky. Lance Verderame and John Haas recorded 72 species. Highlights of that day included Tundra Swans, White-winged Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Horned Grebes, Red-necked Grebes, and Bonaparte's Gulls. The month was also very dry, with only 2.3" whereas the norm is 3.8".

May was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. A strong "blocking" Omega high pressure system set up over Greenland on 1 May, blocking the normal west-to-east progression of weather systems. Region 9 had beautiful weather, but few migrants. A storm then formed over the Southeast US when an extreme loop in the jet stream got cut off from the main flow on 4-5 May, forming a "cutoff low". This storm slowly drifted east over the Southeast U.S and then finally up to the Northeast, bringing four days of inclement weather and further retarding migration. Many birders commented that it was the worst migration ever. Even so the season did feature some great birds.

The **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** found in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County in late February was relocated during the first three days of March. John Haas found a **ROSS'S GOOSE** at the Camel Farm in the Black Dirt Region in a large flock of Snow Geese on 7 March; two days later it was found again along with three Tundra Swans. There were likely two different Ross's Geese that day, with a report of a first winter bird, then later an adult. Last winter's Larchmont Reservoir **BARNACLE GOOSE** was re-found on 10 and 24 March and had also temporarily relocated to nearby Reservoir Number 2 in Eastchester from 20-22 March.

Two Northern Bobwhite reports were received, from Sullivan and Dutchess Counties. The origins of these birds are unknown, but they are likely escapes or stocked.

A new breeding colony of Great Blue Herons in Bedford became well known after an article in the newspaper. Great Blue Heron is a rare breeder in Westchester; the only other known nesting was that of a single successful nest in Tarrytown in 2006. Apparently, this colony of twenty nests has been in existence for 2-3 years. Scott Baldinger and Lance Verderame found the first Yellow-crowned Night-Heron of the season at the Bashakill on 20 April. Not only is this an early date but an unusual location as well. It was only the third record for Sullivan County.

A **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was reported on the New York State Rare Bird Alert as flying over Hartsdale, Westchester County on the evening of 25 April. It is the fourth report for the county; but none have been accepted by NYSARC. There are two accepted NYSARC reports for Region 9, both from Rockland in 1985 and 2008. Thomas Millard also observed one in northern New Jersey on 26 May and eventually observed it just north of the state line at Liberty Marsh.

A King Rail, found on 19 May, could be seen and heard on West Camp Road, Great Vly Wildlife Management Area, in Malden, near Saugerties. This

cooperative bird continued into June. Sandhill Crane sightings continue to increase with reports from four counties.

Tom Burke and Gale Benson found a male **SMITH'S LONGSPUR** in breeding plumage at Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge on 28 April. The bird was watched running through clumps of grass and was flushed twice and rattled both times. It was recognizably photographed. The bird was then seen on and off by many observers over the next two days; better photos were later obtained. It is only the third record for the species in New York State.

Carol Weiss and five other birders were rewarded with the spectacle of a huge roost of blackbirds on 13 March at Tallman Marsh when a mixed flock of blackbirds flew over the ridge and down into the marsh in front of them. They could hear their wings swooshing as the birds passed overhead. Some flocks dropped directly into the reeds, while others spiraled around for a bit before choosing a spot. There were flocks of 50 to 100 and flocks of 100-300 birds. There was a single Peregrine Falcon flying through the flocks. When it was all over, they estimated 20,000-50,000 blackbirds. The lower number is reported in the species accounts. Later, about 9 p.m., the roost was so loud outside that all the neighbors were standing on their back porches wondering what was going on.

Jacqueline Bruskin had an unusual inland find, a Boat-tailed Grackle in Eastchester 13 April. It is only the sixth report from Westchester Count and the first away from Marshlands Conservancy in Rye, the site of all the other sightings.

Winter finches lasted into the first part of spring, with White-winged Crossbills lingering at Marshlands Conservancy to late April. Also notable was the wintering Hoary Redpoll at a feeder in Bashakill, staying until 6 March. Nearly absent in recent years, it was good to see some Evening Grosbeaks reported.

Another noteworthy aspect of the season was a collection of what can be called "late lingerers", birds that are usually gone in the southern part of the Region by 1 May. They included; Horned Grebe, American Coot, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, and Pine Siskin. The lack of good migration weather is probably to blame. Other notable species not noted above include Greater White-fronted Goose, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur, Prothonotary Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak.

CONTRIBUTORS

Christina Baal, Scott Baldinger, Fred Baumgarten, Alan & Doreen Beebe, Gale Benson, Andrew Block, Doug Bloom, Kelli Bochnik, Michael Bochnik, Arlene Borko, Jim Bourdon, Gene Brown, Tom Burke, Jacqueline Bruskin, Brad Carlson, Sean Camillieri, Anthony Campanini, Alex Cherviok, Steve Chorvas, Drew Ciganek, Judith Cinquina, Mary Collier, Eamon Corbett, Chris Cording, Renee Davis, Mark DeDea, Lisa Dellwo, Bruce Dudley, John & Abby Dux, Evan Edelbaum, Julie Elson, Debbie Fargione, Kathleen Farley, Debra Ferguson, Ken & Sue Feustel, Bill Fiero, Valerie Freer, John Gluth, Kenton Gomez, Ethan Goodman, Marge Gorton, Frank Guida, Tim Guida, John

Haas, Ken Harris, Tait Johansson, Peter Johnson, Michael Kalin, Deborah Kral, Aimee LaBarr, Justin Lawson, Ryan MacLean, Terryanne Maenza, Alan Mapes, Curt McDermott, Ken McDermott, Caroline McDonald, Ruth McKeon, Danny Messina, Thomas Millard, Frank Murphy, Jeff Nicol, Bruce Nott, Suzanne O'Rourke, Drew Panko, Vince Plogar, Carena Pooth, Adrienne Popko, Peter Post, Greg Prelich, Jim Previdi, Bill Purcell, Myles Robert, Charlie Roberto, Susan Rogers, Matthew Rymkiewicz, Steven Sachs, William Schlesinger, Peter Schoenberger, Elisa Shaw, Matthew Skillman, Anne Smith, Dave Spangenburg, Rob Stone, Anne Swaim, Steven Samuels, Bonnie Talluto, Ed Thomas, Wendy Tocci, Larry Trachtenberg, Emily Underwood, Benjamin Van Doren, Lance Verderame, Chet Vincent, Matthew Voelker, Carol Weiss, Angus Wilson, Paul Wolter, Jim Yates, Matthew Zeitler.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Pink-footed Goose: Black Dirt Region 1, 2, 3 Mar (JH, JL).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Black Dirt Region 3 Mar (JL); Rudd P, Millerton 20 Mar (CV).

Snow Goose: 2500 Wurtsboro 10 Mar.

ROSS'S GOOSE (r9): 1-2 Black Dirt Region 7, 9, 10 Mar (RS, JH, MZ).

Brant: 1300 Mount Vernon 15 May (KB).

BARNACLE GOOSE: Larchmont Res 10, 24 Mar (DBI, BV); Reservoir Number 2 Eastchester 20-22 Mar (ACa).

CAACKLING GOOSE (R9): Black Dirt Region 3, 4 Mar (AG, JH); Larchmont Res 24, 26, 27 Mar (BV).

Tundra Swan: 3 Black Dirt Region 3, 7, 10 Mar (JH); 2 Neversink Res 10 Apr (JH); Glenmere L 15 Apr (MZ).

Wood Duck: 115 Bashakill 23 Mar.

Am. Wigeon: Piermont Pier 20 May, late.

Ring-necked Duck: 600 Bashakill 26 Mar; Bontecou L 15 May, late.

White-winged Scoter: Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr; 9 Swan L 10 Apr; Sleightsburgh 1 May.

Long-tailed Duck: 3 Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr. 25 Neversink Res 10 Apr; 9 Swan L 10 Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Tivoli Bay 27, 29, 30 Apr; Wurtsboro 28 Apr.

Wild Turkey: 39 New Windsor 28 Mar.

N. Bobwhite: Wurtsboro 24 Apr (RD, SB); Buttercup Sanc 27 Apr (SR).

Red-throated Loon: Rhinecliff 17 Mar; 12 CPP 13 Apr.

Horned Grebe: 6 Yankee Lake 10 Apr; 18 Kiamesha Lake 10 Apr; 11 Kiamesha Lake 11 Apr; 15 Swan L 11 Apr; Ashokan Res 18 May, late.

Red-necked Grebe: EGR 14 Mar (AW); Lake Oniad, Myers Corner 18 Mar (DK); 3 Yankee Lake 10 Apr (JH); Bashakill 11 Apr (SB); 3 Morningside P 13 Apr (LV); CPP 13 Apr (CR, PP); Kingston Pt 20 Apr (MD).

N. Gannet: 2 MC 2 Apr; 32 MC 16 Apr.

Am. Bittern: Red Hook 26 Apr; 1-2 Tivoli Bay 23-27 Apr; Bashakill 3 May; Buttercup S 4 May; Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 5 May.

Least Bittern: Sleightsburg 20 Apr; Kingston Pt 11 May; Tivoli Bay 11 May; Great Vly WMA, Saugerties 20-31 May; 2 Piermont 27 May.

Great Blue Heron: 20 nests Bedford 6 May.

Great Egret: arr 25 Mar.

Snowy Egret: arr Piermont Pier 3 Apr.

Little Blue Heron: Piermont Pier 8 Apr.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr Bashakill 20 Apr (DM,SB,LV), unusual for SULL; Washington lake, New Windsor 29 May (BN), unusual for ORAN.

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: 15 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Hartsdale 25 Apr (NYRBA), 4th report for WEST, but no NYSARC accepted records; Liberty Marsh 26 May (TMi).

Bald Eagle: 10 Bashakill 2 Mar.

N. Goshawk: more reports than normal.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 14 Apr; 70 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: SGNWR 4, 5 Apr; Tivoli Bay 2, 7 May.

Golden Eagle: Storm King 2,3 Mar; Mashomack 11, 16 Mar; 3 Stissing L 29 Mar; Buttercup Preserve West 3 Apr.

King Rail: Great Vly, Saugerties 19-31 May, photo (KM, CuM, SB, JH, WT, DK).

Virginia Rail: 3 Bashakill 8 Apr.

Sora: Bashakill 4,10,20 May; Great Vly, Saugerties 28-31 May.

Com. Gallinule: Great Vly 30 Apr; 4 Bashakill 2 May; Harlem Valley Rail Trail 4 May; max 12 Bashakill 23,31 May.

Am. Coot: Larchmont Res 18 May (TG), late for WEST.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Franny Reese SP 20 Mar (MS); CPP 18 Apr, ph (JBo); 4 Poughquag 18 Apr; Saugerties 31 May (ABe&DBe, DFe, Sch, WT).

Black-bellied Plover: CPP 28 Apr.

Am. Oystercatcher: MC 24, 25 Mar; 1-5 MC 5, 6, 14, 15, 24, 30 Apr.

Willet: 2-3 Hen I, MC 24, 30 Apr (EE, ASw, BD).

Upland Sandpiper: arr Blue Chip Farm 18 Apr; 4 SGNWR 29 Apr; 2 Orange Co Airport 18 May; 5 Blue Chip Farm 19 May.

Ruddy Turnstone: Piermont Pier 15 May (GB).

White-rumped Sandpiper: 5-7 Wallkill NWR 22, 26 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 10 Black Dirt Region 15 Mar (JC); 16 Wallkill River NWR 22 Apr (JC).

Dunlin: 6 1/2 Station Rd. Sanctuary 20 Apr (BN).

Stilt Sandpiper: Wallkill NWR 22 May (RS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: few Piermont 27 May.

Wilson's Snipe: 5 Bashakill 8 Apr.

Wilson's Phalarope: Wallkill NWR 18 Apr (SB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 7 Yankee Lake 10 Apr; 54 Neversink Res 10 Apr; 19 CPP 14 Apr; 2 Sleightsburg 11 May; Piermont Pier 16 May.

Laughing Gull: CPP 13 Apr.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Larchmont 4 Mar (TG).

Least Tern: MC 11 May.

Caspian Tern: Kingston Point 13 Apr (FM); Kiamasha Lake 20 Apr (LV); Tivoli 17 May (AM, MK, JE), first confirmed record for DUTCH, 3 previous reports.

Forster's Tern: arr MC 30 Apr; 2 Piermont Pier 20 May.

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: decent numbers after 15 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: decent numbers after 10 May.

Barn Owl: Orange 22 Apr (DS).

Short-eared Owl: 6-8 SGNWR 2-30 Mar; CPP 7 Apr.

N Saw-whet Owl: Gardiner 28 Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: max 30 Brinckerhoff 20 May.

E. Whip-poor-will: arr 4 Pine Kill Rd, Wurtsboro 30 Apr; 3 Woodstock 11, 15 May; 2 Sterling Forest 17 May; Lake Welch 18 May.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 2-4 Weston Rd Swamp 3, 17 Mar, 2 Apr; Ellenville 5 Apr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mountain Lakes P 12 May, late for WEST (DP).

Am. Kestrel: 30 Hook Mt 10 Apr.

Monk Parakeet: 30 Aiello Park, New Rochelle.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cary IES 10 May; 1-2 Doodletown 16-19, 25-27 May; Sterling Forest 17 May; Rockefeller Preserve 27 May; Stewart State Forest 27 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Reese Sanc 12 May; Millbrook 17 May; Kakiat SP 19 May; Muscoot Farm 19 May; Forsyth Nature Center 22 May; Doodletown 29 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr 11 May.

N. Shrike: Strauss Marsh 3, 5 Mar (CV, AP, AL); Rockefeller Lane, Town of Red Hook 29 Mar (MD, SR).

White-eyed Vireo: arr 19 Apr Larchmont Res.

Philadelphia Vireo: no reports

Horned Lark: max 50 Perry Corners 22 Mar.

Marsh Wren: Bashakill 10 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: MC 17 May, late for WEST (FG, TB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Reese Sanc 12 May; Doodletown 13 May; Bashakill 21, 22 May.

Gray Catbird: arr 21 Apr, seems late or few overwintered.

Am. Pipit: 4 Red Hook 5 Apr; Morningside P 12 May; Apollo Plaza 21 May.

Cedar Waxwing: not common this spring.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: Turtle Bay Rd, New Hampton 3 Mar (AW).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: SGNWR 28-30 Apr (GBe, TB, mob), 3rd NYS record.

Worm-eating Warbler: arr Rockefeller 25 Apr.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 8 Apr

Golden-winged Warbler: Cantine's Island, Esopus Creek 21 Apr; 3 Sterling Forest 7 May; 6 Ironwood Rd, Streling Forest 12 May; Bashakill 13 May; 2 Mine R 26 Jun.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 24 Apr.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: Tivoli Bay 28-30 Apr, 1, 6, 24 May (ES).

Prothonotary Warbler: Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 10, 18 May (WS, LD, Dfa).

Mourning Warbler: Woodstock 16, 17, 29 May; Bashakill 17-18, 20-21 Sterling Forest 18, 19 May; Onteora Lake 18 May; Saugerties 20 May; Breakneck Ridge 20 May; Ferncliff Forest, Rhinebeck 22 May.

Kentucky Warbler: Rockefeller SP 10 May; Doodletown 12-14, 18, 19, 22 May;

Woodstock 20 May; Sterling Forest 26 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr 28 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: 2 L. Paradise 12 May; 2-3 Peach Hill 12-14 May; 2 Nuclear L 12, 15 May; 2 Kingston 14 May; Ferncliff Forest 15 May; Doodletown 17 May; Forsyth Nature Center 17 May; Sterling Forest 18 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr Doodletown Rd 29 Apr.

Bay-breasted Warbler: Mabbettville 12, 13 May; 2 Peach Hill 13, 14 May; Nuclear L 15 May; Ferncliff Forest 15 May; Lewisboro 16 May; Sterling Forest 17-18 May; Rockefeller SP 17-18 May; Bashakill 18 May.

Palm Warbler: 26 Rockefeller SP 9 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 64 Rockefeller SP 25 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr 21 Apr.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Doodletown 17 May.

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last Apr 21.

Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 CPP 8,9,17 Apr; Bashakill 11, 19, 21 Apr; Kingston Point 13, 20 Apr; Red Hook 14, 26 Apr; Millbrook 21 Apr; SGNWR 30 Apr..

Grasshopper Sparrow: 2-5 SGNWR 29 Apr, 18-31 May; 2 SGNWR 10, 11 May; 2 Red Hook 19,20 May; 3 CPP 21-31 May; Pine Plains 31 May.

Fox Sparrow: 12 Bashakill 14 Mar; last 22 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: scattered reports in Mar and Apr; good numbers in May; max 8 Millbrook 18 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: Muscoot Farm 6 May; Irvington 15 May.

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco: Stanford 18, 31 Mar (DK), ph.

Blue Grosbeak: MC 17 May (FG, TB).

Blackbird,sp: 20,000 Tallman Marsh 13 Mar (CW), *intro*.

E. Meadowlark: 4 SGNWR 4 Apr.

Rusty Blackbird: 155 Bashakill 25 Mar; 100 Great Vly 10 Apr.

Boat-tailed Grackle: Eastchester 13 April, unusual inland location (JBr); MC 26 Apr (NYRBA).

Orchard Oriole: arr 26 Apr.

White-winged Crossbill: 8-20 MC 20-30 Mar, 2, 14, 16, 26 Apr; 2 Larchmont 22 Mar; 22 Leatherstocking Trail, Larchmont 4 Apr.

Com. Redpoll: 315 Parksville 14 Mar; 32 Liberty 5 Apr; 4 Livingston Manor 30 Apr.

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 at feeder Bashakill 2, 6 Mar (SB, JH).

Pine Siskin: some numbers moved through mid-May.

Evening Grosbeak: MC 19 Mar; 4 Millbrook 6 Apr (AP); Millbrook 27 Apr(AP); 2 Peach Hill 14 May (ES).

EXOTICS

Egyptian Goose: pair Harrison 8 Apr (ET).

REGION 10—MARINE

Seth Ausubel

118-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375

sausubel@nyc.rr.com

A long stretch virtually devoid of migrants was perhaps the most memorable phenomenon of the spring season in Region 10. However, in most respects, the season was closer to normal than we have seen recently. 296 species were recorded in the Region.

Temperatures below normal lingered well into the spring season, a stark contrast to recent years. Though it seemed rather cold, temperatures were much closer to historical norms than we have seen recently. March average monthly temperatures ranged from 1.0° F below normal at Islip (38.3°), to 2.4° below normal at Central Park (40.1°). The average monthly temperatures were close to normal the remainder of the season, for example 49.7° at Islip, 0.6° above normal in April, and 59.1° there in May, 0.5° above normal. March and April were dry. Precipitation was 2.64" at Islip in March, 1.80" below normal, and 1.53" in April, 2.81" below normal. May precipitation at Islip was 3.05", 0.73" below normal. But 8.00" of rain fell in Central Park, 3.81" above normal. About 3.00" fell on 8 May. From late April until about 8 May, a weather pattern known as an Omega Block settled over northeastern North America. Persistent high pressure blocked the normal west to east flow of weather systems, resulting in persistent easterly winds and a lack of precipitation for most of this period. The impact on migration is discussed below.

Lingering winter rarities were highlighted by an adult gray-morph **Gyr Falcon** seen around the barrier island in the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, usually at Gilgo Beach, through 11 March. A **Ross's Goose** was at Aquebogue, Suffolk County through 6 March, and another was seen at Edgemere, Queens County on 4 April. At least two and possibly three drake **Tufted Ducks** were present early in the season. The last was seen at Upper Francis Pond, Mill Neck, Nassau County 13-17 March. A pelagic trip out of Freeport, Nassau County on 2 March recorded 36 **Common Murres** and not much else.

A good showing of Eurasian Wigeon continued into March. At least 11 birds were present in the Region, including a maximum of seven seen at the West Sayville Golf Club, Suffolk County on 2 March. The irruption of winter finches continued well into spring with the northbound migration. White-winged Crossbills and Common Redpolls were seen into April. Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were seen well into May, though there is apparently no documentation of nesting in the Region this year. A female **Evening Grosbeak** seen at Prospect Park on 25 April may have been the same bird that was there in early winter.

The overall timing of the passerine migration was much closer to normal than we have experienced in recent years. Small numbers of many neotropical and short-range migrants appeared in the last several days of April. Whereas numbers and diversity during the past several years' migration peaked during late April and early May, this year's peak was from 10-15 May. However, there was a pronounced interruption of migration observed from late April through 9 May as the Omega Block pattern settled in, followed by rain on 8 May. For example, on 4-5 May, the author spent many hours in typically good areas for migrants in Queens County, and tallied a total of five species of warblers for the two days! Birders' experiences were similar throughout the Region. The eBird records clearly bear this out: for some 20 species, there is a gap with no records between roughly 1 May and 10 May, when there were widespread arrivals of many species, often later than historical norms. The extreme impact of the

Omega Block pattern on observed migration is likely due both to the strength and precise location—to our northeast—of the blocking high pressure system. A likely scenario is that the persistent high pressure and east winds prevented many birds from moving north traversing our Region, or diverted them westward where winds were persistently more favorable. Reports from northerly breeding grounds during this period generally showed low numbers of breeding species arriving, in some cases before any had been reported in our Region. While many birders lamented the lack of migrants, at least the weather was crystal-clear and beautiful.

Our swallows, in particular, seem to have settled into a pattern of arrival earlier than historical norms. The data also indicate a pattern of late records in the fall for the same species recently.

Yellow-throated Warbler continues to increase in our area. At least 15 individuals were present in the Region this season, including several long-staying birds. Three birds at Connetquot River State Park, Suffolk County, including at least one singing male present through the end of the season, provided hope for breeding.

A recently completed salt marsh restoration project at Big Egg Marsh, Jamaica Bay, near Broad Channel, Queens County resulted in notable concentrations of migrant shorebirds. Seasonal maxima of Black-bellied Plover (650), Ruddy Turnstone (300), Red Knot (167), and Semipalmated Sandpiper (1500) were recorded there, along with large numbers of other shorebirds. An American Golden-Plover was present 21-29 May and a Western Sandpiper on 27 May, both rare in spring.

There were a few other notable rarities during the season. A frigatebird sp., most likely a **Magnificent Frigatebird**, was spotted soaring over the Long Island Expressway at Patchogue, Suffolk County, on 21 May by one fortunate observer who hopefully was not the driver. Two **Ruffs** were the season's most accessible rarities, seen by many at the Timber Point Golf Club, Great River, Suffolk County from 13 April to 7 May. A **King Rail** was also seen there from 21-25 May and photographed. A **Varied Thrush** was usually accommodating at Prospect Park from 7 March-5 April. A **Say's Phoebe** was there on 27 April. The season featured two **Swallow-tailed Kites** and one **Mississippi Kite**, all seen and then gone, as usual. A **White-faced Ibis** was seen at Jamaica Bay on 21 April. A **Golden Eagle** was seen at Central Park on 6 May. A **Pileated Woodpecker** showed up in northern Manhattan. A **Painted Bunting** was at a feeder in Ridge, Suffolk County on 4 April. And finally, the **Arctic Tern** show began at Cusogue County Park a bit earlier than usual on 20 May, with two adult birds.

The "Swan Swan Hummingbird" software, developed by David Wheeler of North Syracuse, NY, once again proved invaluable to facilitate the use of the eBird data base for this report. The data base included about 224,000 records for the spring season in Kingbird Region 10.

CONTRIBUTORS

Italics: Sent end-of-season report. Robert Adamo, Patricia Aitken, Deborah Allen, Seth Ausubel, Andrew Baksh, Catherine Barron, Rob Bate, Debbie Becker, Dick Belanger, Gail Benson, Bobby Berlinger, Orhan Birol, Ardith Bondi (ABi), Shane Blodgett, Brent Bomkamp (BBo), Thomas W. Burke, Ben Cacace, Chase Cammarota (CCa), Cesar Castillo (CCo), Anthony Ciancimino (ACi), Peter Colen, Chris Cooper, Mike Cooper, Joseph DiCostanzo (JDi), Peter Dorosh, Jacob Drucker, Dave Eib, Mike Farina, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken Feustel, Suzy Feustel, Corey Finger, Tom Fiore, Howie Fischer, Brendan Fogarty, Karen Fung (KFu), Doug Futuyama, John Gaglione (JGa), Arie Gilbert, Paul Gildersleeve (PGi), Joe Giunta (JGi), John Gluth (JGl), Doug Gochfeld, Isaac Grant, Paul Guris, Dan Heglund, Mike Higgiston, Joel Horman, Bruce Horwith, Marshall Iliff, Sam Jannazzo, Phil Jeffrey, Rob Jett, Ed Johnson, David Jordet, Richard Kaskan (RKA), Rich Kelly, Marie King, David Klauber, Norm Klein, Robert J. Kurtz, Mary Laura Lamont, Anthony J. Lauro, Al Lindberg, Patricia J. Lindsay, Heydi Lopes, Jean Loscalzo, Peter Martin, Eileen Mathers (EiM), Michael McBrien, Eric Miller, Karlo Mirth, Shaibal S. Mitra, Andy Murphy, Mary Normandia, Patrick Palladino (PPa); Anders Peltomaa (APe), Tom Perlman, Stephane Perrault, Peter Max Polshek, Tom Preston (TPr), Peter Priolo (PPr), Joan Quinlan, Kier Randall, Peter Reisfeld, Jeff Ritter, Derek Rogers, Mike Scheibel (MSch), Steve Schellenger (SSc), Sy Schiff (SyS), Donna Schulman, Eileen Schwinn, Peter Scully, Jr., John Sepenoski (JSe), Mike Shanley (MSh), Nadir Souirgi, David Speiser (DSp), Carl Starace, Jeff Stetson (JSt), Tom Stephenson, Gary Strauss, Ken Thompson, Richard Veit, Joe Viglietta, Steve Walter, David Wheeler, Gabriel Willow, Alex Wilson, Angus Wilson, Seth Ian Wollney, Chris Wood, Michael Yuan.

ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; BRY – Bryant P, NEWY; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), 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-Offerman P, a.k.a. Calvert-Vaux P, KING; DP – Democrat Pt, SUFF; FBF – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; FIHW – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; FMCP – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; FP – Forest P, 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 P, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; MLUA – Mt. Loretto Unique Area, RICH; MNSA – Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside, NASS; MP – Montauk Pt, SUFF; NYBG – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; PBP – Pelham Bay P, BRON; PP – Prospect P, KING; RMSP – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; RP – Riis P, QUEE; Sag – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; Shinn – Shinnecock Inlet, SUFF; SPCP – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; SMSP – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; TP – Timber Point Golf Club, Great River, SUFF; VCP – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; VSSP – Valley Stream SP, NASS; WPP – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

Greater White-fronted Goose: Aquebogue, SUFF 6 Mar (PPr).

Snow Goose: max 1500 Edgemere, QUEE 17 Mar (CF).

ROSS'S GOOSE (R10): Aquebogue thru 6 Mar (PPr, JSe, DR); Edgemere 5 Apr (CF).

“Black” Brant: HSP and TP 31 Mar - 25 Apr (SSM, PJJ, JGI, DR, KF).

Cackling Goose: Inwood Hill P, NEWY thru 27 Mar (JDi, RBA); 2 Avalon Gardens Pres, SUFF 16 Mar (Michael Mulqueen); 2 Randalls I, NEWY 24 Mar (AF, CW, MI); Riverhead 3 Mar (DR); Uplands Farm Pres, SUFF 11 Mar (DR).

Wood Duck: max 32 Bronx Zoo, BRON 22 Mar (Todd Olson).

Eurasian Wigeon: 7 West Sayville Golf Club, SUFF 2 Mar (MMcB), 4 m, 3 fem, at least 6 ft winter; 2 Mass thru 27 Mar (DK, SSc, mob); Mass thru 17 May (RBA), provenance in question; fem Marine Park, KING 10 Mar -15 Apr (PC), ph; Mill Pd, Bellmore, NASS 24 Mar (JGa).

Eurasian x Am. Wigeon: Mass thru 27 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 10 Mar; max 9 DOP 11 Apr (DG).

N. Shoveler: max 150 PP 6 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 8 Jam Bay 17 Mar (SA, HL).

Green-winged Teal: max 143 Terrell R CP, SUFF 17 Mar (MMcB); 127 Jam Bay 17 Mar (SA, HL), large number.

“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL

(R10): Smith Pd, Rockville Centre, NASS thru 16 Mar (SA, RK); 2 Terrell R CP 17 Mar (MMcB).

“Eurasian” x Am. Green-winged Teal: 2

Terrell R CP, SUFF 17 Mar (MMcB);

Blydenburgh CP, SUFF 3 Apr (PS).

Canvasback: max 400 Wolf Swamp Pres, SUFF 21 Mar (MSc), large number.

Redhead: max 68 L Capri, West Islip, SUFF 2 Mar (Paul Wolter); 10 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 17 Mar (CF), large number for loc.

TUFTED DUCK: Blydenburgh CP thru 8 Mar (PSc); Heckscher P, Huntington, SUFF thru 10 Apr (RBA); Upper Francis Pd, Mill Neck, NASS 13-17 Mar (MN, BR, SA).

Greater Scaup: max 15,000 Dead Horse Pt., KING (Keith Michael), large number.

King Eider: 2 Orient Pt, SUFF 13 Mar (JSe); Orient Pt. 15 Mar (MH).

Com. Eider: max 150 Montauk 3 Mar (SSM, PJJ), fewer than recent years.

Harlequin Duck: 2-8 present Pt. Lookout, NASS and vic. Magnolia Blvd., Long Beach, NASS thru 6 Apr; max 8 Pt. Lookout 19 Mar (SP); drake MP 6 Apr (PMP); fem Pt. Lookout 21 Apr (SW), last.

Surf Scoter: max 7000 Shinn 22 Apr (SSM, PJJ), large number.

Black Scoter: max 3500 Shinn 2 Mar (SSM, PJJ), large number.

Long-tailed Duck: max 3600 Coney I, KING 25 Mar (DG), large number.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 2 Lake Montauk, SUFF thru 3 Mar (BB, PJJ); m & f; fem Fire I Inlet, SUFF thru 4 Mar (RBA); fem Caumsett SP, SUFF 2 Mar (KF, SF); drake Sands Pt Pres, NASS 22 Mar (SP).

Hooded Merganser: m TP 20 May (MMcB), late.

Com. Merganser: max 33 Blydenburgh CP (John Brush, Jr.); 20 L Ronkonkoma, SUFF 5 Mar (PJJ); PP 7 Mar (GW); KP 13 Mar (CCo); 2 PP 16-22 Mar (PD); VCP 26 Mar (TF); WPP 2 Apr (MSh); CLP 10 Apr (SIW).

N. Bobwhite: 6 reps, all likely released; max 2.

Ring-necked Pheasant: up to 6 KP (CF, SA, EM); max 9 CR 6-13 May (ACI)

Wild Turkey: max 97 South Beach Psychiatric Center, RICH 24 Mar (CW, MI), large number.

Red-throated Loon: max 2383 East Hampton, SUFF 13 Apr (AnW), large number.

Com. Loon: max 735 East Hampton 13 Apr (AnW), large number.

Horned Grebe: PP 16 Mar (PD); HLSP 1 Apr (BB); unusual locs.

Red-necked Grebe: Captree SP, SUFF and RMSP thru (RBA), injured; Marine Park 16 Mar (fide HL); FBF 31 Mar - 3 Apr (HL, DG); 4 East Hampton 13 Apr (AnW).

Sooty Shearwater: 28 Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF 23 May (DR); 47 SPCP 24 May (DR); 14 RMSP 24 May (SSM, PJJ); 100 Pikes Beach, Westhampton Dunes, SUFF and CCP 25 May (TWB, GB); 8 SPCP 25 May (MMcB); 28 SPCP 26 May (RKA); 3 RMSP 31 May (MN).

Manx Shearwater: 3 Ama 3 May (AnW); 3 SPCP 24 May (DR); 2 Pikes Beach and CCP 25 May (TWB, GB).

Brown Pelican: 2 Nickerson Beach, NASS 30 Mar (ABI, PP); Shinn 27 May (JSh).

FRIGATEBIRD SP: Long Island Expwy, Patchogue, SUFF 21 May (JH).

Am. Bittern: 3 Gilgo, SUFF thru 1 Mar (mob); 2 Gilgo thru 10 Mar (mob); Shu Swamp, Mill Neck, NASS 30 Mar (JGI), unusual loc.

Least Bittern: Mariners Marsh P, RICH 10-11 May (CB, MK).
Snowy Egret: arr 27 Mar.
Little Blue Heron: nested CLP, unusual loc.
Tricolored Heron: Third House, Montauk, SUFF 23 Mar (JGi), unusual loc, early.
Cattle Egret: MNSA 31 May (MF).
Green Heron: arr 10 Apr.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: arr 27 Mar.
Glossy Ibis: arr 29 Mar.
WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 21 Apr (AB).
Black Vulture: 2 West Bronx, BRON 26 Mar (TF); Heckscher P, Huntington 4-11 Apr (Charleen Turner), ph, rare on L.I.; max 8 CR 31 Mar (ACi).
Turkey Vulture: now common on L.I.; max 12 Northville, SUFF 27 Apr (MLL).

HAWKS - ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 8 Mar.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: VCP 25 Apr (John Young, *fide* AB); KP 10 May (CCo), ph.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: Ama 20 May (JGi).
Bald Eagle: Montauk 1 Mar (ES, MH); 116 St., NEWY 3 Mar (James O'Brien); 2 GBP 11 Mar (SIW, MSh, *et al*); imm NYBG 16 Mar (DB); ad South Haven CP, SUFF 17 Mar (MMcB); imm MB 17 Mar (MMcB); ad Calv 30 Mar (ES); 1 yr Blydenburgh CP 3 Apr (PS); ad South Av., RICH 10 Apr (DE); 3 yr Wave Hill, BRON 14 Apr (GW); 3 Underhill Pres., Jericho, NASS 21 Apr (*fide* MN), 1 ad, 2 imm; 2 ad Sag 21 Apr (PMP); imm CP 22 Apr (NS); ad PP 22 Apr (*fide* PD); nr ad HLSP 24 Apr (RJK); PP 15 May (PD); ad South Haven CP 27 May (MMcB); pr nested vic Wertheim NWR, SUFF (*fide* McMcB).
N. Goshawk: imm JBWE thru 12 Mar (MY, Bob Washburn); Wantagh, NASS 5 Apr (BB).
Red-shouldered Hawk: about ten LI reps incl: ad APP 28 Mar (SP, RJK); William Floyd Estate, SUFF 5 Apr (MLL); Northville 30 Apr (MLL).
Broad-winged Hawk: 1-2 CR 26-30 May (ACi), carrying nesting material.
Rough-legged Hawk: MNSA 22 Mar (MF).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): CP 6 May (RBA).
KING RAIL: TP 20-25 May (MMcB), ph.
Virginia Rail: arr 6 Apr; PP 17 Apr (RBA); Gardiner CP, SUFF 16 May (JGi); 3 Wertheim NWR 27 May (MMcB); about ten other reports.
Sora: Jam Bay 21 Apr (AB); North Mt. Loretto SF, RICH 6-29 May (ACi).
Black-bellied Plover: max 650 Big Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 11 May (AB), *intro*.

Am. Golden-Plover: Big Egg Marsh, 21-29 May (Michael Lester, mob), ph.
Piping Plover: arr 24 Mar; 44 JBSP 16 Apr (CCa); 31 Pt. Lookout 7 Apr (RBA), large numbers.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr 10 Apr, early.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 24 Apr.
Willet: TP 13 Apr (SSM, MMcB), eastern race, early.
“Western” Willet: 3 Norman Levy Pres., NASS 14 Apr (PJJ, SSM).
Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 TP 13 Apr (MMcB), early.
Whimbrel: Big Egg Marsh 2 May (IG).
Ruddy Turnstone: 300 Big Egg Marsh, 24 May (CF), *intro*.
Red Knot: max 167 Big Egg Marsh 11 May (CF), *intro*.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 2500 Big Egg Marsh 29 May (SB), *intro*.
Western Sandpiper: Big Egg Marsh 27 May (RBA).
Least Sandpiper: arr 13 Apr.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 8 Big Egg Marsh 27 May (AB).
Pectoral Sandpiper: Deep Hollow, Montauk, SUFF 19 Mar (PMP), early; 3 GBP 15-19 Apr (CB, IG); TP 21 Apr (SW).
Purple Sandpiper: 8 Pt. Lookout 12 May (CF), late.
Dunlin: max 3000 JBWE 1-2 Mar (SA, RK, MN), large number; 1400 Big Egg Marsh 6 May (DG), *intro*.
RUFF: 2 TP 13 Apr - 7 May (MMcB, AB, JGi, mob).
Am. Woodcock: 1-2 BRY 30 Mar - 11 Apr (mob), unusual loc.
Red-necked Phalarope: Dune Rd., Hampton Bays, SUFF 21-24 Apr (DR, BH, mob); RMSP 26 May (RBA).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 100 WPP 14 Apr (MSh); 4 Patchogue 8 May (MMcB), unusual loc; TP 20 May (MMcB), unusual loc, late.
Black-headed Gull: imm Ditch Plains, Montauk, SUFF thru 3 Mar (RBA); ad L. Montauk, SUFF thru 3 Mar (RBA).
Iceland Gull: WPP 1 Mar (DJ); Iron Pier, Jamesport, SUFF thru 3 Mar (ES); 3 pelagic trip out of Freeport, NASS 2 Mar (AnW, *et al*); CP thru 2 Mar (RBA); Montauk Inlet 16 Mar (PPr); Coney I 16 Mar (HL); ad Montauk Inlet 23 Mar (JGi); Bellport, SUFF 27 Mar (J. Heidecker); Ama 4 May (RBA).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Inwood Hill P 5 Mar (JDi); 4 pelagic trip out of Freeport 2 Mar (AnW, *et al*); Lazy Pt, Napeague, SUFF thru 28

Mar (PPR); ad Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF 12 Apr (PMP); East Hampton 11 Apr (RBA); FBF 8 May (RBA); 8 RMSP 24 May (SSM, PJJ); 2 SPCP 25 May (MMcB).
Glaucous Gull: 1 cy Bellport Bay Yacht Club, Bellport, SUFF 16-17 Mar (MMcB); HLSP 24 Apr (RJK), late, unusual loc.
Least Tern: arr 30 Apr.
Gull-billed Tern: 3 Sag 14 Apr (PMP); 2 JBWE 26-28 Apr (KF, DK); Big Egg Marsh 10 May (CF).
Caspian Tern: MB 16 Apr (DR); 3 Sag 25 Apr (PMP); 2 MB 25 Apr (PMP); 2 Patchogue 8 May (MMcB).
Black Tern: Big Egg Marsh 11 May (AB); unusual loc.
Roseate Tern: arr 7 May.
Com. Tern: arr 26 Apr.
ARCTIC TERN: 2 ad CCP 20 May (SSM, *et al.*)
Forster's Tern: arr 13 Apr.
Black Skimmer: max 120 Plumb Beach, KING 12 May (John Rowden).
Parasitic Jaeger: Ama 28 Apr (AnW); RMSP 24 May (SSM, PJJ); Pikes Beach/CCP 25 May (TWB, GB); 8 RMSP 25 May (TWB, GB, *et al.*); RMSP 31 May (MN).
COM. MURRE: 36 pelagic trip out of Freeport 2 Mar (AnW, *et al.*)
Razorbill: 18 pelagic trip out of Freeport 2 Mar (AnW, *et al.*); MP 28 Mar (RB); MP 7 Apr (PMP); max 143 MP 12 Apr (PMP); 67 East Hampton 13 Apr (AnW); 99 East Hampton 16 Apr (PMP); 4 MP 21 Apr (PMP); 3 East Hampton 25 Apr (PMP).
“large Alcid” sp: 13 pelagic trip out of Freeport 2 Mar (AnW, *et al.*)

PIGEONS - PARROTS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr 10 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr 10 May, late; about 35 reports, more than recent years.
Barn Owl: present Jam Bay for 4th year until raccoons invaded nest box; last rep 2 Apr.
Great Horned Owl: Jam Bay 24 Mar (DF), unusual loc.
Snowy Owl: JBWE thru 1 Mar (*fide SA*).
Barred Owl: CP thru 14 Apr; BPB thru 9 Apr.
Long-eared Owl: Northville 7 Mar (MLL), found dead; MNSA 12-15 Mar (SyS, MF); FP 16-25 Mar (KM); VSSP 21 Apr (RJK, BB), found dead.
Short-eared Owl: 2 reports.
N. Saw-whet Owl: CP thru 9 Apr; APP thru 28 Mar (*fide MN, RJK*); APP 14 Apr (AB).

Com. Nighthawk: arr 11 May, late; PP 15 May (KR, mob); CP 16 May (JD, *et al.*); found roosting.
Chuck-will's-widow: Edgemere 4 May (MY, *et al.*); CP 16 May (DA), ph; Wagner College, RICH 17 May (HF).
E. Whip-poor-will: arr 26 Apr.
Chimney Swift: arr 7 Apr, early.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 25 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: JBSP 26-29 Apr (SJ, mob); Owl's Head P, KING 10 May (RBA); JBWE 14 May (KT); HLSP 16-20 May (PPa); Southold, SUFF 24 May (OB); CP 27 May (APE).
PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): Inwood Hill P 19-21 Apr (RBA, JDi).
GYRFALCON: barrier island, Town of Babylon, SUFF thru 11 Mar, from winter.
Peregrine Falcon: 6 MNSA 2 May (SSc), large number.

FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP 11-12 May (mob), first; about 30 reports.
E. Wood-Pewee: arr 10 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 20 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 10 May.
Alder Flycatcher: Mt. Loretto State Forest, RICH 20 May (ACi); Rocky Pt. Pres., SUFF 27 May (JGI); FBF 28 May (SB); Rocky Pt. Pres 29 May (RKA); several other reps.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 11 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr 26 Apr; widespread arrival 10 May, late.
E. Phoebe: arr 16 Mar.
SAY'S PHOEBE: PP 27 Apr (Bobbie Manion, MY, mob).
Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 25 Apr.
E. Kingbird: arr 21 Apr.
White-eyed Vireo: arr 18 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 24 Apr; PP 13 Apr (RBA), early.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr 10 Apr.
Warbling Vireo: arr 25 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Owls Head P, KING 15 May (Melissa Antinori), only report.
Red-eyed Vireo: CLP 2 Apr (DJ!), early; arr 28 Apr; widespread arrival 10 May, late.
COMMON RAVEN (R10): pr present vic. Green-wood Cemetery, KING thru; pr nested Hampton Bays, SUFF; HLSP 17 Mar (KF); 2 CR 21-26 Mar (ACi); 2 Shoreham, SUFF 21-29 Mar (MC, DH), grooming, noted fr winter; Hauppague, SUFF 22 Mar (MC); Kew Gardens, QUEE 6 Apr (SA); Theodore Roosevelt CP,

Montauk, SUFF 7 Apr (PMP); Hugenot, RICH 12 Apr (MSh); South Av., RICH 12 Apr (EJ); Wave Hill, BRON 14 Apr (GW); Lakeland CP, Islandia, SUFF 18 Apr (JGI); 2 Underhill Pres. 12 Apr (fide MN); 2 HLSP 25 Apr (RJK); FP 28 Apr (EiM); FP 11 May (EM); Hudson R at Christopher St., NEWY 23 May (Alex Krycek-Tyrell).

Purple Martin: arr 2 Apr; max 50 Wainscott, SUFF 5 May (AnW).

Tree Swallow: arr 2 Mar.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 1 Apr, early.

Bank Swallow: arr 6 Apr, early.

Cliff Swallow: arr 6 Apr, early.

Barn Swallow: arr 1 Apr.

House Wren: arr 14 Apr.

Marsh Wren: arr 12 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 26 Mar.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 9 Apr.

E. Bluebird: arr 3 Mar, early.

Veery: arr 25 Apr.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: CP 10 May (Patrick Baglee); 3 FP 12 May (SA, KM, TWB, mob); 2 CLP 16 May (HF); 2-3 FP 18 May (RJK); over 30 reports.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: Green-wood Cemetery 22 May (RJ), singing.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: BRY 26 May (GW, *et al*); CP 30 May (JR); Glen Cove 30 May (MN).

Swainson's Thrush: arr 10 May, late.

Wood Thrush: arr 28 Apr.

Gray Catbird: arr 26 Apr, late.

VARIED THRUSH: PP 7 Mar – 5 Apr (Mark Salvadalena, KR, mob).

Cedar Waxwing: abundant 15 May thru.

LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

Lapland Longspur: JBWE thru 31 Mar; 2 JBWE 6-8 Apr (SyS, SW, CCo).

Ovenbird: arr 25 Apr.

Worm-eating Warbler: PP 17-23 Apr (mob), early.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 5 Apr.

N. Waterthrush: arr 19 Apr.

Golden-winged Warbler: PP 10 May (MY, *et al*).

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 20 Apr.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: PP 25 Apr (TS, *et al*).

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 10 Apr.

Prothonotary Warbler: Cranberry Bog CP, SUFF 26 Apr (SW); fem type Muttontown Pres, NASS 2 May (PPa, RJK, mob); CLP 4-5 May (JSt, mob); PP 5 May (fide PD); CP 11-12 May

(GW, mob); PP 13 May (*fide* PD); Blue Heron P 31 May (RV, SIW, *et al*).

Tennessee Warbler: arr 10 May, late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: not reported.

Nashville Warbler: arr 25 Apr; widespread arrival 10 May, late.

Mourning Warbler: about 20 reports; Upper Francis Pd 13 May (DR); CP 15 May (*fide* APe); FP 16 May (CCo); Glen Cove 17 May (MN, SA); CLP 20 May (IG); FP 20 May (EM, CCo); Rocky Pt Pres 21 May (RKA); DOP 28 May (SB); PP 30 May (*fide* PD).

Kentucky Warbler: PP 28 Apr (mob); CLP 15 May (SIW, IG).

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 18 Apr.

Hooded Warbler: Oakland L, QUEE 18-20 Apr (EM, mob), early; arr 27 Apr.

Am. Redstart: arr 28 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr 27 Apr; widespread arrival 10 May.

Cerulean Warbler: Lois Lane, RICH 15 May (DE); CLP 16 May (HF).

N. Parula: arr 10 Apr, early.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 27 Apr; widespread arrival 9 May, late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 10 May, late.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 28 Apr;

widespread arrival 10 May, late.

Yellow Warbler: arr 13 Apr, early.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 28 Apr; widespread arrival 9 May, late.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 25 Apr, early; widespread arrival 9 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 21 Apr.

Palm Warbler: arr 8 Apr.

"Western" Palm Warbler: JBWE 11 May (BB!).

Pine Warbler: arr 26 Mar; FP 17 May (SA, EM, CF), singing m, late.

Yellow-throated Warbler: HLSP 8 Apr (SJ, JQ); 1-3 CRSP 13 Apr – 12 May (DR, mob); at least 1 singing m thru; APP 14-17 Apr (EM, *et al*); Glen Cove 15 Apr (fide MN); HLSP 18-26 Apr (SJ, mob); Mass 18 Apr (AM); Seatuck NWR, SUFF 20 Apr (RK); Inwood Hill P 27 Apr (NS); PP 28 Apr – 10 May (mob); CLP 30 Apr (IG); CLP 4 May (JSt, mob); Wertheim NWR 26 May (RKA); Caumsett SP 27 May (BF).

Prairie Warbler: arr 20 Apr.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 21 Apr.

Canada Warbler: arr 10 May, late.

Wilson's Warbler: arr 10 May.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Jam Bay 13 Apr (CF); Sands Pt Pres 26-31 May (SP, PPa).

TOWHEES - WEAVERS

Am. Tree Sparrow: last 21 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 26 Mar, early.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Plum I, SUFF 17 May (Jody Levin).
Vesper Sparrow: CLP 13 Apr (CB); CP 17 Apr (TP); KP 12 Apr (PR, JR); Camp Hero 25 Apr (PMP).
Grasshopper Sparrow: Captain's Cove, Glen Cove, NASS 17 Apr (PGi), ph, unusual loc.
Nelson's Sparrow: Plumb Beach, KING 27 May (HL).
Fox Sparrow: VSSP 10 May (BB), late.
Lincoln's Sparrow: APP 10 May (AB, JR); CLP 15 May (IG); Jam Bay 16 May (SW); CP 16 May (JD, *et al*); 2 Rocky Pt Pres 17 May (RKA); Glen Cove 17-18 May (MN, SA, BB); BRY 17 May; HLSP 17 May (SyS); FP 17 May (*fide* AB); 3 Wagner College, RICH 17 May (HF); 3 CP 18 May (PSc); BRY 24 May (GW, mob).
White-crowned Sparrow: 3 JBWE thru 30 Mar; 4 JBWE 14 Apr (Tim Dunn); 4 FBF 11 May (TP); 4 Jam Bay 11 May (KR); 6 CP 15 May (AF, mob); over 100 reports.
Snow Bunting: last 23 Mar.
Summer Tanager: fewer than recent years; FP 2 May (MMcB); CP 10 May (PJ); HLSP 15 May (SyS); FP 16 May (SW); Willowbrook P, RICH 29 May thru (SSM, mob).
Scarlet Tanager: arr 4 May, late.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 17 Apr, early.
Blue Grosbeak: Camp Hero 21 Apr (JGi); Mashomack Pres, Shelter I, SUFF 22 Apr (MSch); JBWE 22 Apr (RK); fem CR 26 May (ACi); Calv 27 May (RBA).
Indigo Bunting: arr 17 Apr; widespread arrival 10 May, late.
PAINTED BUNTING: Ridge, SUFF 4 Apr (*fide* Melissa Hahn).
Bobolink: max 9 Owls Head P 11 May (AxW).
E. Meadowlark: Green-wood Cemetery thru 17 Mar (mob).
Rusty Blackbird: CLP 15 May (CB), late.
Boat-tailed Grackle: 2 Bayside, QUEE 10 Apr (EM); 5 Napeague Harbor 28 Apr (AnW); unusual locs; max 106 MNSA 6 Mar (MF).
Orchard Oriole: arr 26 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 25 Apr.
Purple Finch: Hoyt Farm, Commack, SUFF 11-13 Apr (PR); Quogue, SUFF 13 Apr (ES); 4 CP 17 Apr (CC); CP 25 Apr (NS); 2 HLSP 25 Apr (RJK); 5 PP 28 Apr (SA, PA); max 8 Northport, SUFF 29 Apr (NK); JBSP 30 Apr (RJK); Wading R, SUFF 15 May (DR).

Red Crossbill: 6 JBWE 1 Mar (SA, RK); Longwood Estate, Middle Island, SUFF 29 Mar (MC); 14 Maple Swamp, Flanders, SUFF 15 Apr (CS); 33 Maple Swamp 5 May (DR), flocks of 2-14, Type 3 & 10; 2 Blydenburgh CP 20 May (PS); 12 David Sarnoff Pres, Flanders 26 May (RBA); 20 Calv 27 May (RBA), *intro*.
White-winged Crossbill: 25 Gilgo 1 Mar (SA, *et al*); JBWE 1 Mar (SA, RK); 75 JBWE 3 Mar (PD); Mass 8 Mar (RBA); PP 13 Mar - 22 Apr, incl: 5 PP 13 Mar (RBA); 10 PP 16 Mar (PD); 5 PP 24 Mar (SA, *et al*); 5 PP 1 Apr (PD); 7 PP 11 Apr (*fide* PD); 3 PP 22 Apr; 3 Bronx Zoo, BRON 10 Apr (RBA); *intro*.
Com. Redpoll: Ridge thru 18 Mar (JH); 7 GBP 11 Mar (SIW, MSh, *et al*); PP 13 - 26 Mar, incl: 3 PP 13 Mar (RBA); 2 PP 22-23 Mar (PD); PP 26 Mar; 33 Wading R 22 Mar (DR); 35 Calv 28 Mar (CS, *et al*); CR 31 Mar - 1 Apr (ACi); 2 CR 3 Apr (EJ); *intro*.
Pine Siskin: PP 7 - 6 Apr, incl: 9 PP 7 Mar (GW); 20 PP 10-13 Mar (SA, DR, DK); 12 PP 16 Mar (PD); 20 PP 18 Mar (EM, GS); 8 PP 24 Mar (SA, *et al*); PP 6 Apr; CP 10 Apr (NS); William Floyd Estate 11 May (MLL); 3 CP 14 May (DSp), gathering nesting material; *intro*.
EVENING GROSBEEK (R10): fem PP 25 Apr (PPa, mob); *intro*.

EXOTICS

Egyptian Goose: A.J. Hendrickson P, Valley Stream, NASS 19 Apr (BB).
Mitred Parakeet: 2 Broad Channel, QUEE 22 Mar (AB); several Hillcrest, QUEE 11 Apr (*fide* Jackie Forrestal).
European Goldfinch: about 20 reports.

Editor of *The Kingbird*

Shaibal S. Mitra
Biology Dept., College of Staten Island
2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314

Editor of *New York Birders*

Cyndy and Richard Tkachuck
1406 Clover Leaf Road, Locke, NY 13092

Appointed Committees

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Awards:

Gail Kirch—1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

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New York State Avian Records:

Angus Wilson, Chair

Send reports to:

Gary Chapin, Secretary for NYSARC
486 High St., Victor, NY 14564; nysarc3@nybirds.org

New York State Young Birders Club:

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Waterfowl Count:

Bill Ostrander—80 Westmont Ave., Elmira, NY 14901

Web Site and Information Services:

Carena Pooth—22 Brothers Rd., Poughquag, NY 12570

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