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# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2012

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) reviewed 207 reports from 2012 involving 119 separate sightings and 10 reports from previous years involving 10 sightings. Reports were received from 31 of the 62 counties in New York State (NYS) as well as from the newly created pelagic region, which covers all of the New York State waters 3 miles from shore and beyond. A high percentage of reports came with helpful photographs, which definitely facilitates the review process and greatly enhances the value of the NYSARC archive. **The Committee reminds readers that reports submitted to eBird, the 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 107 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.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The current Committee extends a special thank you to recent voting members Tom Johnson and Jeff Bolsinger for their help in evaluating a number of 2012 reports that were selected for Accelerated Review. The Committee also wishes to thank new member Chris Wood for arranging and hosting the daylong NYSARC Annual Meeting held on 7 Dec 2013 at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca.

### 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: nysarc44@nybirds.org

## HIGHLIGHTS

Once again it is gratifying to see that 2012 provided yet another outstanding year of birding across New York State. Chief among the highlights were three additions to the NYS avifauna, **Fea's/Zino's Petrel** (*Pterodroma feae/madeira*), **Virginia's Warbler** (*Oreothlypis virginiae*) and **Grace's Warbler** (*Setophaga graciae*). Also noteworthy were three **Northern Lapwings** (*Vanellus vanellus*), part of an historic incursion into eastern North America, a second state record of **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch** (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*) and a fourth state record of **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*). Honorable mentions also go to four separate **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*) sightings and a **Ross's Gull** (*Rhodostethia rosea*) on Cayuga Lake. Including the additions mentioned above, the NYS Avian Checklist now stands at 485 species or unique species pairs.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The Committee welcomes two new members, Chris Wood and Doug Gochfeld, who replaced Tom Johnson and Jeff Bolsinger at the ends of their three-year terms. Chris and Doug are both well-known figures on the national and international birding stage through their work with eBird, as field observers and as guides for leading birding tour companies. Their deep knowledge of field identification and distribution along with an expansive network of personal connections with the birding community both far and wide will be an asset to the Committee.

## 2012 Reports Accepted

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

**2012-51-A/C** One, Spicer Bay, Clayton, **Jefferson**, 23-24 Jul (Brenda Best, Jeff Bolsinger, David Wheeler, ph B. Best, J. Bolsinger, D. Wheeler)

A single Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was found at Spicer Bay by Nancy Powers on 2 Jul and was first identified by Bill Monroe on 20 Jul. The bird fed

on cracked corn with Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) at the home of Richard and Nancy Powers. It was apparently last recorded by birders on 30 Jul (Kim Hartquist, eBird S11242154). What is presumed to be the same bird was subsequently shot by a hunter on nearby Grindstone Island during the first week of Nov (Dick Brouse, pers. comm. to Jeff Bolsinger). While records of extralimital waterfowl, and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in particular, are often clouded with uncertainty, the arrival of this bird coincides with that of individuals in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio and Kentucky, hinting at a dispersal from their normal range. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck is also known for acclimating to areas where food is plentiful, including around human habitation. While 100% certainty on origin is perhaps impossible, the Committee believed this bird most likely represented a natural vagrant and voted to accept it as such. This furnishes NY with its 7th accepted record, all of which have been since 2010.

#### **Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**

**2012-10-A/B** One, Holtsville & Riverhead, **Suffolk**, 27 Jan & 21-22 Feb (Derek Rogers, Peter Priolo, ph D. Rogers, P. Priolo)

**2012-48-A** One, Alley Restoration Area by the Cross Island Parkway, **Queens**, 25 Jan (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

Pink-footed Goose has become annual in the Northeast and nearly annual in NY. Since the first accepted record Nov-Dec 2007, the species has been found in NY every winter except 2010-2011. Both sightings the Committee reviewed were from the stronghold of occurrence, Long Island and the NYC area, and were well documented and accompanied by diagnostic photographs. Each record falls well within the established pattern of vagrancy, and no Committee member expressed concern over origin. These occurrences provide NYS with its 6th and 7th records.

#### **“Black” Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)**

**2012-3-A** One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 5 Jan (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

**2012-106-A** One, Marine Park, **Kings**, 10 Dec (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

Doug Gochfeld found and photographed single “Black” Brant at Floyd Bennett Field and the Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine Park. The sightings were separated by nearly 11 months, with no other reports, but it is tempting to conclude that this may be the same bird. Photographs do not reveal any clear-cut differences, and adult geese often return annually to the same locale. Flocks of Brant present an under-appreciated opportunity for discovery, and the Committee encourages observers to carefully check flocks for “Black” and other non-local forms of Brant. Detailed photographs would be particularly important in helping establish the identification of other taxa.

#### **Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**

**2012-11-A/B** One, Wawayanda, **Orange**, 2 & 4 Mar (Kenneth M. McDermott, Jim Schlickenrieder, ph John H. Haas, Curt McDermott, J. Schlickenrieder)

**2012-80-A/C** One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 25 Oct (Elliotte Rusty Harold, Christopher

Eliot, Andy Beiderman, ph C. Eliot, A. Beiderman)

**2012-95-A/C** One, Van Cortlandt Park, **Bronx**, 23, 25 Nov & 5 Jan 2013 (David Mako, Andrew Baksh, Jesse W. Jaycox, ph D. Mako, A. Baksh, J. Jaycox)

Barnacle Geese have become expected winter visitors to the Northeast and NYS, with many more records than Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). These individuals were well photographed, so there were no questions about identification. The bird in Prospect Park provided the most discussion concerning origin. The bird was first found on 24 Oct, a very early date for one in NY. This, plus its arrival in the largest population center in the U.S. and relatively tame demeanor, produced concern among some members. Dominic Sherony provided a comprehensive review of records for the Northeast to the Committee, showing the earliest arrival on 6 Oct from Maine and several records between 6 and 10 Oct. In light of this information, the Committee decided to accept this along with the other two records.

### **Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

**2012-99-A** One, Lake Ontario from Lake Rd, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 15 Oct (Willie D'Anna)

**2012-101-A/C** One, Black River Bay at Pillar Point, **Jefferson**, 4 Nov to 20 Dec (Bill Purcell, Nick Leone, Jeff Bolsinger)

**2012-102-A/B** One, Montauk Point, **Suffolk**, 26 Nov & 22 Dec (Angus Wilson, Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

Sightings of Pacific Loons in the Northeast have increased over the last decade, and the species is now nearly annual in NY, with most of the records from fall and winter. Three this fall represent the most documented in a single season in the state. Identification remains an issue, and separation from Common (*G. immer*) and Red-throated (*G. stellata*) Loons still presents a real challenge, but all three accepted records were nicely detailed and carefully eliminated similar species. Willie D'Anna found the Wilson bird on the relatively early date of 15 Oct, a flyby adult in breeding plumage. The previous earliest "arrival" accepted by NYSARC was 17 Oct in Rensselaer. The Jefferson bird was first noticed and tentatively identified on 4 Nov, but it wasn't until 12 Dec that decent enough views were obtained to confirm the identification. The loon remained until at least 20 Dec, seen only at great distance during most of that time. The three independent reports of this individual provided the first accepted record for that county. On 26 Nov Doug Gochfeld and Tom Johnson observed and photographed a Pacific Loon at Montauk Point, and Angus Wilson documented one there nearly a month later on 22 Dec, which we conservatively treat here as the same individual.

### **Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)**

**2012-7-A** One, Allen H. Treman State Marine Park, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 5 Feb (Robert LaCelle III, ph Joshua LaCelle)

**2012-113-A** Two, near Twin Oaks Campground, Cayuga Lake, **Cayuga**, 10 Feb (David Wheeler, ph D. Wheeler)

At least two Western Grebes were present on Cayuga Lake from 10 Jan-18 Apr,

ranging into Tompkins (10 Jan-6 Mar), Seneca (31 Mar-18 Apr) and Cayuga (8 Feb-17 Apr) Cos. Despite being seen by over 100 observers, only two documented records were received, both of which were accompanied by photos. The first individual was found and photographed by Chris Wood and Jessie Barry on 10 Jan at Myers Point, furnishing the first record for Tompkins Co. It was seen by dozens of observers over a period of a couple of hours before it drifted north and out of view. Subsequent efforts to find the bird failed, and it seemed it would not be seen again. Then a Western Grebe was found on 29 Jan at the south end of Cayuga Lake and was seen from several vantages intermittently through 6 Mar. On 8 Feb Tom Johnson and Jay McGowan found two Western Grebes at Twin Oaks Campground in Cayuga Co., which is near the north end of the lake. One individual had paler flanks and pale lores, which led some to question whether this could be a hybrid of Western and Clark's (*A. clarkii*) Grebes. The paler bird was heard calling on a later date, and all vocalizations were typical of Western Grebe. It is perhaps impossible to know the total number of birds involved in these reports, but it seems likely that "only" two individuals accounted for all the sightings. These were last seen by Dave Kennedy on 18 Apr from Cayuga Lake SP in Seneca Co.

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

**2012-31-A** Fifty-four, c.77 nmi SE of Shinnecock Inlet, **Pelagic**, 26 May (Angus Wilson, ph A. Wilson)

**2012-32-A** One, Main Beach, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Angus Wilson)

**2012-86-A/B** One, Fort Niagara SP, **Niagara**, 30 Oct (James Pawlicki, Joe Mitchell)

These three sightings are remarkable in terms of the differing locations and circumstances. Over the past several years, it has become clear that numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels occur over very deep water along the continental shelf-break and beyond during the summer months, especially towards the eastern boundary of the NYS waters. During a deep-sea fishing trip John Shemilt, Keegan Corcoran and Angus Wilson encountered multiple Leach's Storm-Petrels along the edge of a warm water (72-75°F) eddy that contained an interesting cool water (52-57°F) core. The majority of these birds were in areas where the depth exceeded 500 fathoms. Whether the presence of such numbers in eastern NYS shelf waters will be a sustained phenomenon is unclear, and continued documentation is encouraged. Based on dates and plumage assessments, these areas might provide foraging sites for birds from the large nesting colonies in Maine and Atlantic Canada. Observations from shore have always been extremely rare and are mostly in association with major storms. One well-described example seen from Main Beach, East Hampton, on 2 Jun was not storm-related. Perhaps the most unexpected record came during *Hurricane Sandy*, with one found off Fort Niagara SP by Jim Pawlicki and Joe Mitchell, who provided convincing documentation of plumage and flight style. As a note, large numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels were found on reservoirs and lakes throughout the path of *Hurricane Sandy* south of NY, and others were reported in NYS that have not yet been documented.



**Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)**

**2012-41-A/B** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 5 Jul (Arie Gilbert, Derek Rogers, ph A. Gilbert)

Demonstrating that mid-summer does indeed produce some great birding, Derek Rogers and Arie Gilbert saw, described, and photographed an adult Brown Booby briefly flying over the flats at Cupsogue CP in Westhampton Dunes. This is only the 3rd report of a Brown Booby submitted to NYSARC since 1990.

**American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)**

**2012-65-A/C** One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 14 & 16 Aug & 8 Oct (Anders Peltomaa, Joseph O'Sullivan, Andrew Baksh, ph A. Peltomaa, A. Baksh)

**2012-79-A** Two, Rye, **Westchester**, 8 Oct (Benjamin Van Doren, ph Orlando Hidalgo, B. Van Doren)

**2012-92-A** One, Sands Point Preserve, **Nassau**, 15 Nov (Stephane Perreault)

With burgeoning colonies expanding north and west of the Mississippi River, it is perhaps not surprising that American White Pelicans continue to appear in NY in small numbers. Exceptional, though, was one visiting the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge from 14 Aug to 11 Oct. The 2 photographed in Rye on 8 Oct were found by Margaret Collins the previous day and stayed in that area to 10 Oct. Another was found at Sands Point Preserve and well described by Stephane Perreault.

**Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)**

**2012-67-A/C** One, Buffalo Harbor, Buffalo, **Erie**, 27 Aug (Gerald S. Lazarczyk, James Pawlicki, Joe Mitchell, ph J. Pawlicki)

Rarely found in upstate NY, a single Brown Pelican was spotted 27 Aug in Buffalo Harbor. Seen by several birders, this immature bird was well documented, and Jim Pawlicki obtained a diagnostic photo.

**White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)**

**2012-21-A/B** One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 24 Apr & 5 May (Angus Wilson, Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

**2012-25-A/B** One, Scoy Pond, East Hampton, **Suffolk**, 13 May (Angus Wilson, Shaibal S. Mitra, ph A. Wilson, S. Mitra)

**2012-44-A/E** One, Modern Landfill Wetland Project, Lewiston, **Niagara**, 17-18 Jul (Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Kayo J. Roy, William Watson, Joe Mitchell, Willie D'Anna, ph K. Roy, J. Mitchell, W. D'Anna)

**2012-117-A** One, East Pond, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 30 Sep (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

Once a major rarity, White-faced Ibis is now virtually annual in NY, with Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge retaining the title as the premier location for the species. Two of the 2012 reports were from Jamaica Bay and, although not proven, likely pertain to separate individuals. The first was an adult in alternate plumage photographed on 24 Apr by Andrew Baksh and subsequently observed by many others, including Angus Wilson. This was followed in the fall by an adult in basic plumage also discovered by Baksh. Also in the spring, an adult in

alternate plumage was found and nicely photographed on a shallow freshwater pond near East Hampton, Suffolk Co., by Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay. Seemingly long overdue, this constituted a first county record and visited the pond on a daily basis until 28 May. Finally, there was one inland record from Niagara Co. in western NY. This individual was found by Willie D'Anna while driving home from work, but, with only an old pair of binoculars, he could not tell if it was a Glossy (*P. falcinellus*) or a White-faced Ibis when he first saw it. He continued home and returned later with Betsy Potter and better optics to identify and photograph Niagara Co.'s first White-faced Ibis. The bird was subsequently seen by many of western NY's most active birders that evening and the following day. Remarkably, this is the first report of White-faced Ibis in *Kingbird* Region 1 since 1844, when a specimen, now in the NYS Museum, was collected on the Niagara River at Grand Island in Erie Co. and provided the state's first record (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965).

### **Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)**

**2012-16-A** One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 19 Apr (Russ Alderson)

**2012-22-A/C** One, Derby Hill, **Oswego**, 4 May (Bill Purcell, Kyle Wright, David Wheeler, ph D. Wheeler)

**2012-30-A/C** One, Hamburg Hawk Watch, **Erie**, 2 May (Jim Landau, Sharon Sisti, Bruce Chilton)

**2012-42-A** One, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 27 May (Roy Woodford, ph R. Woodford)

In recent years, the number of reports of both Swallow-tailed and Mississippi (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) Kites from the Northeast has been steadily increasing, and 2012 was the biggest year yet for Swallow-tailed Kite in NYS. As usual, all four of these records occurred in the spring, and the sightings were scattered over the state, with two from the NYC Boroughs (separated by over a month) and singles from the Lake Erie and Lake Ontario shores. True to form, the initial observations were the only ones in all four instances, and Swallow-tailed Kite remains one of the single most difficult birds to chase in the state. There are now roughly 36 records for NYS, with the number of observers only marginally higher. The nicely photographed Jamaica Bay individual came to light when the observer was directed to eBird by friends from outside of NY and then was directed to NYSARC by the eBird regional reviewer – this is another in the growing list of examples of the interconnectedness of the birding community, shedding light on rare bird records that might otherwise remain unknown to the community at large.

### **Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**

**2012-28-A/B** One, Sterling Forest SP, **Orange**, 27 & 31 May (Kenneth M. McDermott, Barbara Butler, ph Curt McDermott, Jane Rossman, Deborah Tracy-Kral)

This bird was extremely well documented, with good descriptions and photos from multiple parties during its stay. Though not mentioned in the submitted reports, this adult was subsequently joined on 28 May by a second bird, and both stayed in the area to at least 24 Jun. Their attempted nesting, however, was

unsuccessful, perhaps due to disturbance, as the nest site they had selected was adjacent to a well-used parking lot, and the level of human activity may have been too much.

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)**

**2012-47-A** One, Derby Hill, **Oswego**, 18 Jun (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell, Tom Carrolan)  
Swainson's Hawk is now seen essentially annually in NYS, though there are astonishingly few records for downstate. This bird was an adult-like bird undergoing obvious molt, and so may have been a 2nd spring bird. It was nicely photographed flying by Derby Hill, which is where many of the Swainson's Hawk records in NY are from. NYSARC has reviewed over 40 records of Swainson's Hawk since 1979, of which over 30 have been accepted.

**Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)**

**2012-90-A** One, Robert Moses SP, Fire Island, **Suffolk**, 8 Nov (Robert O. Paxton, ph Tim Byrne)

**2012-91-A** Two, Deep Hollow Ranch, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 12 Nov (John Gluth, ph J. Gluth)

The end of 2012 saw the largest incursion of Northern Lapwings into eastern North America in modern memory. This was thought to be due in large part to interaction of *Hurricane* (or more precisely *Post-Tropical Cyclone*) *Sandy* with meteorological and climatological patterns associated with the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation. This brought about a phenomenon known as a Rex Block, which is when a large, mostly stationary high-pressure system sits poleward of a low-pressure system. In this particular case, the Rex Block was sitting in the North Atlantic close to Greenland and Iceland, supporting sustained winds from the east that stretched thousands of miles across the northern Atlantic Ocean. Interaction with *Sandy* amplified these winds, making them exceptionally strong, and accentuated what was already a potential "conveyor belt" for European strays in northeastern North America.

The first lapwing was found by park manager Tim Byrne in the median strip of the roadway at Robert Moses SP, and he had the presence of mind to photograph it. This was very fortunate because the park was still closed to the public due to the extensive hurricane damage, and the lapwing was not seen again. This exciting news and Byrne's images were relayed to the Committee by Bob Paxton. Birders frustrated by the apparent one-day wonder were much relieved when Jorn Ake found two Northern Lapwings in the fields of the Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk. These were far more cooperative, and scores of birders were able to observe and photograph them over a 5-day period (10-14 Nov), but, inexplicably, only a single report was submitted. In hindsight, it is not surprising that NYS's contribution to the 2012 North American Northern Lapwing influx came from Long Island. Of the 5 previously accepted records for NYS, 4 have occurred on Long Island, with 3 of these from the eastern half of Suffolk Co. In addition, there are pre-NYSARC records of specimens from Merrick, Nassau Co., in 1883 and Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., in late fall 1905,

with a sight record from near Montauk, Suffolk Co., 3-18 Dec 1966. Except for the 2012 Montauk pair, all other NYS records have been of single birds.

**Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)**

**2012-29-A** One, Jones Beach SP, **Nassau**, 29 May (Ed Becher)

The description of this individual in the Zach's Bay area of Jones Beach SP was sufficient to support the identification of this very distinctive and difficult to mistake species, now essentially annual downstate in the spring or summer. The bird was moving between the small pond on the golf course just west of Field 6 and the shore of Zach's Bay to the north.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)**

**2012-74-A/D** One, LaSalle Park, Webster, **Monroe**, 23 Sep (Drew Weber, Jeanne Skelly, Gary Chapin, Willie D'Anna, ph D. Weber, G. Chapin, W. D'Anna)

While scanning through a large flock of Pectoral Sandpipers (*C. melanotos*), Gary Chapin came across a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. He recognized it as such immediately and quickly got the word out to the birding community, which allowed many others to view this Asian-breeding shorebird before it disappeared overnight. This is the 4th accepted record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper for NYS, and, remarkably, this exact location previously hosted a juvenile Sharp-tailed in early Oct 2002, almost exactly a decade prior (see NYSARC 2002-38-A/E). The other two records (NYSARC 1981-12-A & 2008-43-A/E), as well as a non-accepted but possibly correct record (NYSARC 1983-16-A), were from the East Pond of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, and involved adults during Jul and early Aug. These two widely-separated locations hosting different age classes may reflect the apparent differential migration that this species shows in the fall, with the bulk of adults and juveniles taking distinctly separate southbound routes from each other, which includes the juveniles staging in large numbers in western Alaska after having crossed over from their breeding grounds in Asia.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

**2012-45-A** One, Cupsogue County Park & Pikes Beach, **Suffolk**, 14 & 16 Jun (Michael R. McBrien, ph M. McBrien)

Michael McBrien found this stunning alternate plumaged Curlew Sandpiper on the tidal flats at Cupsogue CP on 14 Jun; the following day it had moved slightly east to Pikes Beach, where it continued through 18 Jun. Sightings of Curlew Sandpiper, like those of Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), have declined over the last couple of decades in NYS (Wilson 2001). Up until the mid 1990s this species was seen on a quite regular basis in NYS, but since then there have been only very few records in the state, a truly dramatic decrease in occurrence.

**Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)**

**2012-36-A/C** One, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca**, 25 Jun (Bernie Carr, Jeanne Skelly, David Wheeler, ph Wade Rowley, Melissa Rowley, J. Skelly, D. Wheeler)

**2012-50-A** One, East Pond Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 1 Jul (Andrew Baksh,

ph A. Baksh)

**2012-112-A** One, East Pond Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 4 Jul (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

**2012-115-A** One, East Pond Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 15 Jul (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

**2012-116-A** One, East Pond Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, **Queens**, 2 Aug (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

Ruff used to be a regular visitor to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, but its frequency of occurrence in NY has dramatically declined over recent decades. In fact, before 2012, the only record from this millennium at the refuge was in 2006 (NYSARC 2006-77-A), so it was a refreshing change of pace that the summer of 2012 saw 4 different Ruffs appear on the East Pond through the shorebird season, and many people got to see at least one of these individuals over their stays. Unfortunately, the only observer to submit any reports to the Committee was Andrew Baksh, who also provided nice photos of each Ruff, the earliest two of which were males still sporting decent amounts of breeding plumage. The Montezuma bird, an adult male still retaining much of its black ruff, was first photographed and reported by Wade and Melissa Rowley on 24 Jun and was also enjoyed by many people the next day.

#### **Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)**

**2012-104-A** One, Long Point SP, **Cayuga**, 30 Oct (Christopher L. Wood, ph C. Wood)

With the approach of *Hurricane Sandy*, birders were anticipating the opportunity to see pelagic species near our coastal shoreline or even on inland lakes and reservoirs. Such a possibility brought Chris Wood to check Long Point State Park on Cayuga Lake. It was a very good move, as he found a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and an adult Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), two species that are exceptionally rare away from the coast and Great Lakes. However, the other bird that he found was not on anyone's radar as a possible storm vagrant. Wood noted a small gull with relatively long wings and tail, dusky underwings, and a broad white trailing edge to the wings, which he gradually realized had to be an adult Ross's Gull. The bird was distant, over a half-mile away, but in the ten minutes that he observed it, he also noted pale gray on the nape extending onto the sides of the breast and a dark area around the eye. These features all support the identification as this species, and some of them are certainly visible in the photos that Wood was able to obtain. Some have speculated that this gull was on the ocean off coastal New England and that it was blown inland by the very strong easterlies produced by the combination of a high-pressure system over Greenland and the approaching *Hurricane Sandy*. However, it seems more likely that it was migrating overland when it was grounded by the inclement weather (Brinkley 2013). The date is exceptionally early for this arctic vagrant, which historically has appeared later in fall or during the winter months. Remarkably, another adult Ross's Gull was seen only two days later on the Ontario side of the eastern end of Lake Erie. The possibility that these sightings involved the same individual cannot be ruled out.

**Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)**

**2012-78-A/B** One, Knox-Marsellus Marsh, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca, 7 & 8 Oct (William Watson, David Wheeler, ph D. Wheeler)

**2012-81-A/B** One, Derby Hill, Oswego, 21 Oct (Bill Purcell, David Wheeler, ph B. Purcell, Drew Weber)

**2012-100-A** One, Wilson, Niagara, 17 Aug (Willie D'Anna, ph W. D'Anna)

The fall of 2012 produced three records of Franklin's Gull in New York, all of which were non-coastal sightings. The bird at Derby Hill on Lake Ontario was in first basic plumage and was photographed as it flew past. The sighting at Montezuma NWR appeared to be an adult or at least a near-adult; this plumage has been observed much less frequently in NY. The bird on Lake Ontario in Wilson, Niagara Co., was still mostly in juvenal plumage. Juvenile Franklin's Gulls were formerly much more frequent in NY, with most sightings occurring on the Niagara River in Aug. An additional report in 2012 from the Niagara River was not submitted to NYSARC. In light of the near annual occurrence of this species on the Niagara River, the Committee decided at their 2013 annual meeting that they will no longer review reports of this species from that location; reports from anywhere else in NYS, including coastal regions, will continue to be reviewed.

**California Gull (*Larus californicus*)**

**2012-18-A** One, Devil's Hole SP, Niagara, 5 & 8 Feb (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

**2012-120-A** One, Devil's Hole SP, Niagara, 28 Dec (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

On the Niagara River, California Gull has been observed on a nearly annual basis since the very first sighting in 1992. Sightings in recent years have been more sporadic, with birders finding it more difficult to relocate birds that are reported. Whether this is due to the species feeding and/or roosting in areas that are not birded as heavily or spending less time in the area, or simply to fewer birds occurring on the Niagara River, is not yet known. The birds observed in 2012 were seen in the late winter of 2011-12 and in the early winter of 2012-13, and both were nicely photographed by the observer, Jim Pawlicki. The photos of the Dec individual are excellent and, as pointed out by Pawlicki in his report, strongly suggestive of the Great Plains race, *L. c. albertaensis*. This subspecies tends to show large mirrors on the outer two primaries, is slightly paler on the back and wings than the nominate race and thus closer in tone to the abundant Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) Gulls, and is slightly larger than the nominate race. The Committee appreciates and encourages thorough descriptions and high-quality photographs in attempting to assess the subspecies that may occur in NY, a task that we realize is not insignificant. Regarding the Feb sighting, Pawlicki noted ambiguous characters and wisely deferred from making a firm judgment as to subspecies.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)**

**2012-12-A** One, Devil's Hole SP, Niagara, 10 Feb (Brad Carlson, ph B. Carlson)

**2012-19-A** One, Devil's Hole SP, Niagara, 8 Feb (James Pawlicki, ph J. Pawlicki)

The two accepted records of Thayer's Gull in 2012 were observed at the same location and just two days apart. The bird seen on 10 Feb was in second basic plumage. This was an interesting gull, in that many of the features it showed were suggestive of first basic plumage. A subtle but very good character for distinguishing a large gull in juvenal or first basic plumage from one in "retarded" second basic plumage is the shape of the tips of the outer primaries. The rounded tips on this individual suggested second basic, in contrast to the pointed tips a first cycle gull would show. Although the pattern on the spread wing was not described in detail nor photographed, an excellent photo of the bird standing, along with details supplied in the written report, persuaded the Committee to unanimously accept the record after discussion. The report submitted for the Thayer's Gull seen on 8 Feb included good photos of the bird standing and showing the spread wing. It was accepted in the first round of review.

At the 2013 annual meeting, the Committee decided that they would no longer review this species when observed along the Niagara River. Thayer's Gull has been conclusively documented there on the basis of specimens collected from the 1940s through the 1960s. Although Thayer's Gull has been reported as a regular uncommon migrant and winter visitor to the river by several very experienced gull-watchers over the years, there have been relatively few documented reports from that location. The identification of Thayer's Gull in the east is a well-known and particularly thorny problem. In recent years, however, the Committee has received a few reports supplemented with excellent photographs from the Niagara River, in part thanks to the growing ubiquity of birders carrying cameras. These reports, combined with the attestations of many gull aficionados (also referred to as larophiles, after the genus name of many large gull species), have convinced the Committee that documentation from the Niagara River for Thayer's Gull is no longer necessary. That said, careful reports and photographs of birds anywhere else in NY are strongly encouraged.

### **Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)**

**2012-8-A** One, Hudson River waterfront, Beacon, **Dutchess**, 21 Jan (Curt McDermott, ph C. McDermott)

This report of a Slaty-backed Gull comes from the Hudson River in Dutchess Co. It was nicely documented with photos, which helped to rule out Lesser Black-backed (*L. fuscus*), Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) and Western (*L. occidentalis*) Gulls, along with various hybrid combinations that might resemble this species. A spread-winged shot shows the typical pattern of this species, including the subterminal white spots on the middle and outer primaries, the often mentioned but not entirely diagnostic "string-of-pearls" arrangement produced by the white primary tongues.

### **Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

**2012-40-A/B** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 16 Jun (Seth Ausubel, Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Ausubel, S. Mitra)

- 2012-52-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 27 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-53-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 27 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-54-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 27 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-55-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 28 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-56-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 28 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-57-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-58-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-59-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra)  
**2012-60-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 4 Jul (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-61-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 27 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-62-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-63-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)  
**2012-64-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 2 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

The late spring and early summer of 2012 provided another banner period for Arctic Tern sightings, with all of the accepted reports coming from the sand flats and inlet area of Cupsogue CP on the eastern side of Moriches Inlet on Long Island. The Committee received reports documenting 14 individuals. Several additional sightings, many photo-documented, were also reported to the listserves, submitted to eBird or to *The Kingbird* Regional Editors from visitors to Cupsogue, as well as from elsewhere on Long Island and offshore, but were not submitted to NYSARC. As in previous years, Shai Mitra has done yeoman's work in documenting this and other tern species at Cupsogue (Mitra 2009). These studies have demonstrated that few, if any, visiting Arctic Terns are of breeding age or, if adult, are not in full breeding condition. At the 2013 NYSARC Annual Meeting it was decided that, as this pattern was now sufficiently well established and seemingly continuing, the Committee would no longer review reports of Arctic Tern from Moriches Inlet and Cupsogue CP specifically. However, Arctic Terns from elsewhere in the state, including other areas of Long Island, will continue to be reviewed.

### **Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)**

**2012-38-A** One, Cupsogue County Park, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun (Eileen Schwinn, ph E. Schwinn)

**2012-46-A/F** One, Sandy Pond, **Oswego**, 25, 29-30 Jul, 6-7, 15, 21, 26 Aug (Bill Purcell, Kevin McGann, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Kim Hartquist, Dominic Sherony, David Wheeler, ph B. Purcell, K. McGann, K. Hartquist, D. Sherony, D. Wheeler)

**2012-49-A** One, Mecox Inlet, **Suffolk**, 9 Jun (Andrew Baksh, ph A. Baksh)

In recent years Sandwich Tern has been seen on Long Island almost annually, and this trend continued in 2012 with two reports from there, both accepted by NYSARC. Neither of these records was related to a tropical storm, which continues the modern trend and is unlike older historical records, which were virtually always associated with storms. The bird on 9 Jun on the Mecox flats, documented by Andrew Baksh, was an adult in alternate plumage, while the 29 Jun bird in Eileen Schwinn's photos was in basic plumage. Much more surprising was the Sandwich Tern from Sandy Pond on Lake Ontario, furnishing what appears to be the first inland record in NY. Discovered by Bill Purcell on



25 Jul, the tern stayed for a month to at least 26 Aug and was seen by many inland birders, who were happy to add this bird to their state lists without having to drive to Long Island. This bird was an adult that was molting out of alternate plumage when found. Due to the exceptional non-coastal location, some people wondered if this bird might pertain to the nominate European subspecies, which is very similar to the North American race, the latter sometimes referred to as Cabot's Tern to distinguish the two forms. Without high quality close-up photos or a specimen, it is probably not possible to make such a determination with the Sandy Pond tern, and there don't appear to be any particularly compelling features in the photos submitted to suggest that possibility. However, birders are referred to an enlightening online article by Greg Neise, which discusses the differences between the two subspecies and proposes that a recent well-photographed Sandwich Tern in Illinois actually pertains to the European subspecies: <http://www.nabirding.com/2011/09/25/sandwich-or-cabots/>

### **South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)**

**2012-43-A** One, 26 miles S of Shinnecock Inlet, **Pelagic**, 24 Jun (Charles A. Witek, III, ph C. Witek)

Charles Witek and two companions were shadowed by this hungry South Polar Skua as they fished in relatively shallow mid-shelf waters south of eastern Long Island. The bird accompanied them for close to six hours, perhaps the longest encounter on record with a free-ranging skua in NYS waters, allowing close study and photography. The bird paddled alongside their slick of fish oil and scraps, picking at choice morsels and coming closer to the boat when deliberately offered small chunks of mackerel. If it drifted too far behind, the bird would fly back to the boat, settle again and continue to dine. Photos showing the skua in profile and with wings raised were submitted along with a careful description that included comparisons to other offshore species, such as shearwaters and immature gulls. This individual was notable for the buffy, cold tones of the head and body feathering and overall worn but not ragged appearance, both consistent with an adult. The near absence of warm tones was contraindicative of Great Skua (*S. skua*) at any age (Newell et al. 2013). Such birds are regularly encountered in the western North Atlantic in May and Jun, reflecting the documented trans-equatorial migration of adults after breeding (Kopp et al. 2011).

### **Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

**2012-111-A** One, Derby Hill, **Oswego**, 21 Oct (David Wheeler, ph D. Wheeler, Drew Weber)

Long-tailed Jaeger is the rarest of the three jaegers in passage through NYS and also shows the narrowest date range. The juvenile documented in this report was exceptionally late but passed close enough to be adequately photographed. Interestingly, and perhaps symptomatic of its delayed migration, the jaeger lingered off Derby Hill for most of the morning and at one point was seen chasing a Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*)! Derby Hill is an excellent location to

view and photograph jaegers during their migration along the south shore of Lake Ontario, and NYSARC has accepted three prior Long-tailed Jaeger reports from this one site.

### **Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)**

**2012-2-A** Four, 4-6 miles S of Far Rockaway, **Pelagic**, 8 Jan (Paul A. Guris, ph P. Guris)

**2012-5-A** One, Massapequa, **Nassau**, 25 Jan (Adele Portanova, ph A. Portanova)

**2012-27-A** Eighty-six, c.14 miles SW of Jones Inlet, **Pelagic**, 28 Jan (Paul A. Guris, ph P. Guris)

Almost all NYS records for Common Murre are from Long Island or pelagic waters. This year continued the trend noted in our last report, with increased sightings of Common Murres in near shore waters. On 8 Jan, Marty Dellwo and Paul Guris, sailing out of Belmar, NJ, into NYS pelagic waters, came upon 4 Common Murres 4-6 miles south of Far Rockaway, NY. Three of these birds were in basic plumage, showing the white face with thin black eye stripe; the fourth bird was in a more advanced state of molt, but their photos left no doubt that Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*) was ruled out as a possibility. An unprecedented number of Common Murres in NYS pelagic waters was encountered by Paul Guris and participants aboard a See Life Paulagics trip on 28 Jan out of Freeport, Nassau Co. – the trip tallied 86 individuals, with photos of 33 of these submitted to the Committee. The birds were found in a 14-mile path in calm seas south and southwest of Jones Inlet. A far more surprising find was the Common Murre observed on 25 Jan by Adele and Peter Portanova as it swam about in the so-called Grand Canal behind their home in Massapequa, Long Island. Adele was able to walk along the dock, keeping up with the bird and taking close photos; the murre seemed unconcerned by her presence but was not seen subsequently.

### **Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)**

**2012-97-A** Two, Church Rd, Hilton, **Monroe**, 27 Nov (Brenda Best, ph B. Best)

This report provided a brief description and a photograph documenting the continuing presence of two Eurasian Collared-Doves on a farm along Church Road near Hilton. Beginning in 2002, this has been the only known regular site for the species in NYS, with as many as eight birds present in past years. Eurasian Collared-Doves colonized North America very quickly, having spread first from an introduced population in the Bahamas to nearby Florida and then expanding very rapidly across most of the continental U.S. and southwestern Canada (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999). Their failure to colonize the northeast corner of the continent, including NYS, remains an unexplained puzzle.

### **Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

**2012-72-A/D** One, private residence on Pendergast Rd, Town of Lysander, **Onondaga**, 18-19 Sep, 9 Nov, 6 Dec (Bill Purcell, Brenda Best, Robert P. Yunick, David Wheeler, ph B. Purcell, A. Gray, Robert J. Pantle, D. Wheeler)

**2012-87-A** One, private residence on Powell Rd, Interlaken, **Seneca**, 4 Nov (Robert P.

Yunick, ph Robert J. Pantle, Anne Cooke)

**2012-88-A/B** One, private residence on Hamlet Ct, Wappingers Falls, **Dutchess**, 9 & 12 Nov (Robert P. Yunick, Barbara Butler, ph Steve Golladay)

Overall the Committee received five separate reports of this species, an increase over the more usual one or two reports. The previous high for reports submitted to NYSARC for a single year was four in 1993, although three of these did not separate Rufous from Allen's (*S. sasin*) Hummingbird. The reports received by NYSARC show that birders are paying more attention to the subtle details needed to separate immature and female hummingbirds. Three of the submitted reports were accepted as Rufous Hummingbirds. The first was an adult male photographed feeding from flowers and at a feeder in Phoenix at the home of Anne Gray; this bird, first spotted by the homeowner and subsequently banded by Robert Yunick on 6 Dec, was present from 16 Sep to 26 Dec. The other two reports were also both banded by Robert Yunick and were accompanied by photographs and complete measurements. A hatch year female Rufous Hummingbird was banded at the home of Marty Schlabach and MaryJean Welser in Interlaken on 4 Nov. A few days later, Bill Lee assisted Robert in banding a second Rufous Hummingbird at the home of Angelo and Barbara Giaimo in Wappingers Falls on 9 Nov. Based on wing cord, tail length and width of certain rectrices, this bird was also identified as a hatch-year female Rufous, and it continued at that location through 5 Dec.

### **Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)**

**2012-105-A** One, Robert Moses SP, **Suffolk**, 22 Oct (Mary Normandia)

An October day with northwest winds can make for very exciting migration watching along the barrier beaches of Long Island. Such was the case on 22 Oct, with Eastern Phoebes (*S. phoebe*) being especially prominent. Watching from near the Fire Island Hawk Watch, Mary Normandia discovered a Say's Phoebe, which perched on the steps of the Fire Island Lighthouse. The combination of a pale throat, medium gray back, salmon color on the underwings and belly, and black tail was sufficient to rule out other confusion species. To date, NYSARC has accepted twelve reports of Say's Phoebe, with the majority from the eastern part of the state in fall or early winter.

### **Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)**

**2012-70-A/F** One, Lakeshore Rd, Town of Yates, **Orleans**, 10 Sep (Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Kayo J. Roy, Willie D'Anna, William Watson, James Pawlicki, David Wheeler, ph K. Roy, W. D'Anna, J. Pawlicki, D. Wheeler)

**2012-76-A/B** One, Van Dyne Spoor Rd, Town of Savannah, **Wayne**, 5 Oct (Drew Weber, David Wheeler, ph D. Weber, D. Wheeler)

The Committee has received five reports of Western Kingbird from upstate NY in the last three years, with two in 2010, one in 2011 and two in the fall of 2012. The first sighting involved a first-year Western Kingbird discovered by Brett Ewald on 10 Sep on Lakeshore Road in Yates. Although it only stayed for one day, many local observers were able to see it. The second bird was found on 5 Oct by Jim Tarolli along Van Dyne Spoor Road, also in western NY. Although

both birds were foraging on private property, they conveniently perched on power lines, allowing good views and photographs from observers situated on public roads.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**

**2012-69-A** One, Gilgo Beach, **Suffolk**, 29 May (Robert O. Paxton, ph Sarah Plimpton)

**2012-94-A/B** One, Sunken Meadow SP, **Suffolk**, 11 Nov (Jerry Platt, Beth Platt, ph J. Platt, B. Platt)

Both 2012 reports came from Long Island, one in the spring on the south shore and the other in the fall almost due north of the spring site but on the north shore. While having breakfast, Sarah Plimpton noticed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on a telephone wire about 30 feet beyond the sliding doors of her kitchen. She telephoned the exciting news to other local birders, but only her husband Bob Paxton was able to see the bird before it disappeared. Fortunately Plimpton was able to take several good photographs documenting the fleeting visitor. The second sighting was made on 11 Nov when Jerry and Beth Platt saw and photographed an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the beginning of a trailhead in Sunken Meadow SP. These sightings continue the trend of there being one or two sightings in NY per year and, unfortunately, the habit of these birds disappearing rather quickly after discovery.

**Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)**

**2012-33-A** One, North Hamlin Rd, Hamlin, **Monroe**, 13 Jun (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony)

Up until 1983, this attractive species was recorded annually in NY as a spring migrant along the shore of Lake Ontario, usually in Apr but sometimes as early as late Mar. As recently as 1981 it was also an annual breeder near Lake Shore Road in Kendall, as recorded in the 1980 Breeding Bird Atlas (Andrle and Carroll 1988). Since the mid 1980s this species has declined alarmingly throughout eastern North America and is now only found as a vagrant in NYS, with a preference for western and central NY. Dave Tetlow discovered this individual, documented by Dominic Sherony, along North Hamlin Rd west of the Hamlin-Parma Town Line Rd.

**Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)**

**2012-84-A/C** One, Woodlawn Beach SP, **Erie**, 1-2 Nov (William Watson, James Pawlicki, Joe Mitchell, ph J. Pawlicki, J. Mitchell)

**2012-107-A** Three, Lake Ontario shore, Lake Rd, Town of Wilson, **Niagara**, 26 Oct (Willie D'Anna)

**2012-108-A** One, Erie Basin Marina, Buffalo, **Erie**, 8 Nov (James Pawlicki)

As in a few years past, the fall of 2012 produced a significant flight of Cave Swallows in western NY, primarily through Buffalo and along the south shore of Lake Ontario. The three reports received all came from Region 1. Additional strong flights were reported at Hamlin Beach SP on 24, 25 and 26 Oct, but NYSARC reports were not submitted. The previous years with large fall incursions of Cave Swallows were in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008. There was

only one report to NYSARC in 2010 and none in 2006, 2009 or 2011. One difficulty with groups of Cave Swallows is that they are not always close enough for accurate identification, and a small number of other more common swallows can be mixed in with the Cave Swallows.

This year's first report of Cave Swallow came on 26 Oct when Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter saw a total of 11 swallows in four different groups from their lakeshore property in Wilson, but only three individuals were confidently identified as this species due to difficult viewing conditions. As is usually the case, these birds were seen flying west along the Lake Ontario shore. Although these were brief views, the identifications were based on the overall plumage, including a buffy throat, and one might presume that most or all of these were this species. On 1 Nov, one Cave Swallow was seen both perched and flying at Woodlawn Beach SP in Hamburg by five Buffalo birders. The description of the plumage clearly eliminated the more common Cliff Swallow (*P. pyrrhonota*), which is usually gone by that date. Jim Pawlicki was able to get a photo of this bird in the air and identified it as a hatch-year bird. In an additional report, it was most likely the same bird seen the following day by three more birders and photographed by Joe Mitchell. Finally, the last report occurred on 8 Nov when Jim Pawlicki noted a Cave Swallow at the Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo Harbor. This bird was identified by the underparts coloration, rusty-orange throat, tail features, and pale buffy-orange rump.

#### **Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)**

**2012-98-A/D** One, Sampson SP, **Seneca**, 9-11 Dec (William Watson, Robert Grosek, Brenda Best, Dominic Sherony, ph R. Grosek, Matt Voelker, D. Sherony)

For the second time in three years, a Townsend's Solitaire spent the winter in western NY, and three observers included photographs with their reports. It was first found in early Dec by a birder from Ithaca at Sampson SP on the west side of Seneca Lake in Romulus. With patience, many observers were subsequently able to locate the bird in the extensive wooded area it claimed as a territory, usually by listening for its call in the early morning. Typical of this species, it was feeding on berries. This bird remained well into Jan of 2013. In 2010, a Townsend's Solitaire wintered at a location in Point Peninsula, remaining into Feb 2011.

#### **Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*)**

**2012-89-A/B** One, Alley Pond Park, **Queens**, 9 & 11 Nov (John Gluth, Andrew Baksh, ph J. Gluth, A. Baksh)

Who could have predicted that 2012 would begin and (nearly) end with remarkable 1st state records of two southwestern warblers? Following the much-celebrated Grace's Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*) in Jan 2012 (NYSARC 2012-1-A/G below), Eric Miller discovered this Virginia's Warbler on 31 Oct in Alley Pond Park, Queens Co. The warbler proved frustratingly elusive over the next several days, despite being diligently sought after by many local birders, and it wasn't seen again until Eric relocated it on 5 Nov. Even then, there was a gap of

three days until it was located once again by Andrew Baksh on 9 Nov and the much-desired photographs finally obtained. For the next three weeks the warbler was glimpsed intermittently and sometimes photographed by many birders visiting from all over the region, with the last firm report on 30 Nov. A color photograph by Steve Walter, showing the gray back and wings lacking any hints of green, complete eye ring, and sulfur yellow undertail coverts, has been published (*The Kingbird* 63(1):45). Virginia's Warbler has long been predicted as a potential addition to the state avifauna and is not as unprecedented in the northeast as Grace's Warbler, with multiple records including recent sightings in Maine in Nov 2011 and Maryland in Jan-Mar 2012. Similarities in general appearance to other warblers, most notably the western *ridgwayi* subspecies of Nashville Warbler (*O. ruficapilla*), and perhaps its secretive behavior away from the breeding grounds, have frustrated several other potential sightings in the past, three of which have been submitted to NYSARC (1983-20-A, 2000-78-A and 2001-31-A/B). As such, the Alley Pond Park individual represents the 1st accepted record for NYS.

**“Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)**

**2012-9-A** One, Sunken Meadow SP, **Suffolk**, 11, 23, 24 Jan & 10 Feb (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

**2012-119-A** One, Onondaga Lake Creek Walk, **Onondaga**, 28 Nov (David Wheeler, ph Andrew VanNorstrand)

Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra found a female “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler at Sunken Meadow SP in Suffolk Co. on 11 Jan, and it evidently wintered at that location, with additional sightings at least through 26 Feb. Although no further reports were submitted to the Committee, the same or another female was found at this location in Dec 2012, and this bird again apparently over-wintered. Another “Audubon’s” was found at the Onondaga Lake Creek Walk by Andrew VanNorstrand on 28 Nov; although only one submission was received detailing this discovery, this bird was reported through 15 Dec. NYSARC has accepted four prior records, three from upstate NY and a fourth from Nassau Co. in 2009.

**Grace’s Warbler (*Setophaga graciae*)**

**2012-1-A/G** One, Point Lookout Town Park, **Nassau**, 1 & 4 Jan (Angus Wilson, Shawn Billerman, Doug Gochfeld, Richard Guthrie, Thomas W. Burke, Seth Ausubel, Douglas J. Futuyma, ph D. Gochfeld, R. Guthrie, Lloyd Spitalnik, David Speiser, S. Ausubel)

Few could have predicted this attractive denizen of southwestern pine forests would be a future addition to the NYS Checklist, especially from a coastal beach in the depths of winter. Working their territory on the 1 Jan Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count, Doug Gochfeld and Andrew Baksh noticed an intriguing warbler flitting through a stand of Japanese black pines near Point Lookout in Nassau Co. Initially expecting this to be one of the more likely possibilities for a wintering warbler, such as Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*), Gochfeld very quickly zeroed in on the correct identification, due in part to his

familiarity with the species from fieldwork in Arizona. Photographs were secured, and the thrilling news spread very rapidly. Soon dozens of birders were on site and successfully viewing the bird, the first ever recorded in northeastern North America and only the second east of the Mississippi River (one in Chicago, IL, on 8 Sep 2003). The Grace's Warbler was last noted on 4 Jan, with most of the few hundred birders visiting the site rewarded with very pleasing views of an exceptional 1st record for NYS.

#### **Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)**

**2012-4-A/B** One, West Yates Center Rd & County Line Rd, **Orleans/Niagara**, 21 Jan (Jeanne Skelly, Gary Chapin, ph J. Skelly, G. Chapin)

**2012-6-A** One, Lakeshore Road, **Orleans**, 30-31 Jan (Jeanne Skelly, ph J. Skelly)

Two Lark Sparrows were found in Jan 2012 in relatively close proximity in upstate NY. The first was spotted on 21 Jan by Jeanne Skelly and Gary Chapin along the border of Orleans and Niagara Cos., with the second being discovered by David Tetlow on 29 Jan at a feeder in eastern Orleans Co. Jeanne Skelly, who provided reports on both birds, felt they were different individuals, and this is supported by the submitted photographs. The West Yates Center Rd bird was seen only by the finders on the day of its discovery, whereas the second individual remained with a number of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) until 5 Mar. A handful of Lark Sparrows occur each fall on Long Island, but the species is distinctly less regular upstate; this pattern, however, may be changing, as the number accepted from upstate has increased in recent years, with nine since 2001 but only five from the three decades prior to that.

#### **Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)**

**2012-77-A** One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 6 Oct (Christopher Eliot, ph C. Eliot, Heydi Lopes)

Heydi Lopes and Rob Jett found this Le Conte's Sparrow in the coastal scrub at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. This is the 15th record accepted by NYSARC since 1991 but only the 6th since 1998. Nearly all records prior to 2000 were in upstate New York, and most of these were in Apr, May or Jun. After 1998, all accepted records are from *Kingbird* Regions 9 and 10, with five of these occurring in Oct along with one Jan record from Suffolk Co. (NYSARC 2011-1-A/B).

#### **Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*)**

**2012-82-A/E** One, private residence on Clark Rd, Canastota, **Madison**, 3-10 Nov (Ruth Kuryla, Bill Purcell, Kenneth M. McDermott, Brenda Best, David Wheeler, ph R. Kuryla, B. Best, D. Wheeler)

This first-winter Harris's Sparrow visited a feeder at the home of the finder, Ruth Kuryla, in Canastota for a week before meeting its demise in the claws of a neighbor's cat. During this time it was seen and photographed by a number of birders. Since 1978, NYSARC has accepted 18 records of Harris's Sparrow, an average of about one every other year. As with this Madison Co. record, the majority of prior records are from upstate NY, and most records are from late

fall to early spring.

**Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

**2012-96-A** One, private residence on Castle Point Rd, Athens, **Greene**, 30 Nov (Will Raup, ph W. Raup)

This nicely marked Western Tanager visited a feeder for a couple of days before it was brought to the attention of the local birding community and the identity confirmed on 29 Nov. It was seen and photographed by a number of birders before it was last noted on 6 Dec, but Will Raup submitted the only report to NYSARC.

**Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

**2012-110-A/B** One, Alley Pond Park, **Queens**, 25 Nov (Doug Gochfeld, Andrew Baksh, ph D. Gochfeld, A. Baksh)

The hordes of birders visiting Alley Pond Park in search of the long-staying but elusive Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*) also turned up a number of other unusual records, the next best being this female/immature Painted Bunting found by Alley Pond regular Eric Miller, who also had originally discovered the Virginia's Warbler. Unfortunately the Painted Bunting was less accommodating, being seen only on 25-26 Nov. This is the 17th Painted Bunting accepted by NYSARC since 1977. The prior records were evenly split between upstate and downstate Region 10, but this is only the 5th fall record.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)**

**2012-20-A/C** One, West Corners Marsh, Endicott, **Broome**, 26 Apr-7 May (Sara Kinch, J. Gary Kohlenberg, David Wheeler, ph Jerry Acton, G. Kohlenberg, D. Wheeler)

**2012-75-A/E** One, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Town of Savannah, **Wayne**, 30 Sep and 5, 8, 20 Oct (Drew Weber, William Watson, Dave Kiehm, Leona Lauster, David Wheeler, ph D. Weber, D. Kiehm, D. Wheeler)

**2012-103-A** One, Hog Hole, Ithaca, **Tompkins**, 10 Mar (Christopher L. Wood)

Since being added back to the statewide review list a decade ago after a substantial period with few reports, recent years have featured an increase in the number of sightings of this species from across the state. This year all reports received were from upstate, in Mar, Apr-May and Sep-Oct, and all featured adult males, which certainly stand out among the commoner icterids. The Endicott bird was singing in suitable habitat for about two weeks, and the Montezuma bird was seen and photographed by a number of observers during its lengthy stay. The Mar observation occurred during a good movement of northbound icterids. Prior to 2012, NYSARC had accepted 15 records since 2003.

**Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)**

**2012-15-A** One, private residence, Kiwassa Lake Outlet, Saranac Lake, **Franklin**, 13 Apr (Katie Woodruff, Myndy Woodruff, ph K. Woodruff)

While visiting their cottage southeast of Saranac Lake, the observers noticed a male Bullock's Oriole coming to their feeders and submitted the sighting to



eBird (checklist S10433418) that same day. The oriole remained throughout the afternoon but unfortunately didn't return the following day. A diagnostic photograph was submitted with their NYSARC report. This is only the 3rd Bullock's Oriole accepted by the Committee since 1977, with the other two (NYSARC 2007-11-A/C and 2009-8-A/C) also coming to feeders in winter.

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

**2012-13-A/J** One, private residence on Route 12D, Locust Grove, **Lewis**, 5-7 Mar (Benjamin Van Doren, Richard Guthrie, Gerald S. Lazarczyk, Seth Ausubel, Kenneth M. McDermott, Jeanne Skelly, Jim Schlickerieder, Larry Federman, Robert LaCelle III, David Wheeler, ph B. Van Doren, R. Guthrie, G. Lazarczyk, S. Ausubel, John H. Haas, J. Schlickerieder, L. Federman, D. Wheeler)

When NYS's first Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch (NYSARC 2011-119-A) made a one-day appearance high up in the Catskill Mountains in Dec 2011, many thought it would be a long time before there was another opportunity to see one in the state. Thus it came as a great surprise when on 4 Mar 2012 Nancy Loomis posted a photograph on the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Facebook page of an unfamiliar bird coming to her feeders in Locust Grove. The mystery visitor was quickly identified as a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. Nancy generously allowed visiting birders to watch her feeders, and many were lucky enough to see and photograph the Rosy-Finch, which remained until the morning of 8 Mar. See Ausubel 2012 for a fuller account, including two photographs by Corey Finger. Given the distance between the Catskills and this site, it seems unlikely that the same bird was involved in both occurrences, although this cannot be ruled out. Interestingly, the winter of 2011/2012 featured several Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches outside their normal range, including records from eastern Manitoba and Ontario and, perhaps oddest of all, an individual in Arkansas that was present for a few days in early May. The Lewis Co. bird is considered the 2nd accepted record for NYS.

## **2012 Reports Accepted in Revised Form**

### **Fea's/Zino's Petrel (*Pterodroma feae/madeira*)**

**2012-35-A** One, 7.3 nmi SE of Montauk Lighthouse (40.98683, -71.74178), **Pelagic**, 19 Jun (Anthony Collerton; ph A. Collerton)

Towards the end of a productive day of birding offshore, Anthony Collerton and charter skipper Captain Max Kramer encountered a school of Atlantic bluefin tuna feeding along a temperature break about 7.3 nautical miles (8.5 statute miles) southeast of the lighthouse at Montauk Point in Suffolk Co. As is often the case, the predatory fish were accompanied by pelagic birds, specifically Great Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*), Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) feasting on the bait being pushed to the surface. Whilst watching the action, Collerton noticed a smaller grayish seabird slip through the throng, passing close (40 feet) to the boat but not stopping. He immediately recognized it as a *Pterodroma* petrel and yelled

out “Fea’s Petrel, we gotta chase that bird.” In hot pursuit, Collerton succeeded in taking several photographs showing the bird from behind but tilted slightly to reveal the flanks and head. Four of these photographs were included in the report and two have been published previously (*The Kingbird* 62(4):325). Salient features clearly evident in the photographs included the solidly black bill, the pronounced brown “M” mark across the gray upper surface of the wings, the pale gray uppertail coverts and tail, the dark underwings, a partial collar, and a dark smudge over the eye contrasting with the paler throat and lores. The encounter, though, was unfortunately brief, which is not unusual for these generally boat-shy seabirds. The relative proximity of this sighting so close to shore is rather unexpected, but of course there are few rules when it comes to seabirds.

A handful of *Pterodroma* petrels nest in the North Atlantic, with several other species as either documented or anticipated vagrants from the southern hemisphere. Three regularly occurring species, Black-capped Petrel (*P. hasitata*), Bermuda Petrel (*P. cahow*) and Trindade/Herald Petrel (*P. arminjoniana*), could be readily excluded based on the dark underwing, pale tail and other features. The bird was submitted to the Committee as Fea’s Petrel (*P. feae*), the most numerous of a cluster of two, possibly three, closely related species nesting on remote islands in the eastern North Atlantic. One additional species, Soft-plumaged Petrel (*P. mollis*), which is abundant in the South Atlantic and more closely resembles the members of the *feae*-complex, could also be ruled out by the absence of a more complete collar and other features. Our knowledge of the field identification and systematics of the *feae*-complex is incomplete but is edging steadily forward (Robb et al. 2008; Shirihihi et al. 2010; Howell 2012; Flood et al. 2013). While unanimously endorsing the NY bird as belonging to the *feae*-complex, the Committee felt that the smaller and far less numerous Zino’s Petrel (*P. madeira*) could not be rigorously excluded based on the images submitted along with additional written details. A series of five criteria deemed essential for the field identification of Fea’s and Zino’s Petrels has been developed, although there is still disagreement about the stringency to which each of these must be held and the extent of variation within these species (Flood et al. 2013). Unfortunately, the photographs were not ideal for the full assessment of these criteria. For instance, the bill, which, compared to Zino’s, is only marginally heavier in the Fea’s Petrels originating from the Cape Verde Islands, was visible in only two of the four images and, in these, was presented at an oblique angle rather than fully side on. Likewise, the distribution and extent of the whitish under-wing coverts, another of the key criteria, could not be properly assessed in any of the images.

Most North American records of *feae*-complex petrels have come from the deep waters at the western edge of the Gulf Stream during the summer months (mid-May to mid-Sep), principally off North Carolina but also off Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Additionally, there are a few sightings in cooler waters as far north as Nova Scotia (Hooker and Baird 1997) and an even greater

number of sightings off Britain and Ireland (Flood et al. 2013), indicating a broader dispersal within the North Atlantic. The identification of these *feae*-complex petrels away from the breeding islands has caused vigorous debate in terms of whether or not these can be assigned to species. However, a number of individuals have now been sufficiently well photo-documented to furnish accepted at sea records of Fea's Petrel on both sides of the North Atlantic, and there is even a convincing Zino's Petrel from North Carolina (Howell 2012; Flood et al. 2013). Because of the severity of the identification challenge as well as the tremendous interest in the topic, this submission was extensively debated within the Committee. Some members supported identification to species, based mainly on the perceived heaviness of the bill, but others were inclined to take a more cautious stance, reflecting the limitations of the images. After multiple rounds of voting, the Committee agreed to accept this sighting as the 1st NYS record of Fea's/Zino's Petrel (*P. feae/madeira*) and to add it to the NYS Avian Checklist as such.

**Skua sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.)**

**2012-85-A** One, Cemetery of the Resurrection, **Richmond**, 30 Oct (Thomas St. Pierre, ph T. St. Pierre)

Although *Hurricane Sandy* brought fewer seabirds to coastal NY than some previous tropical depressions, there were a few noteworthy surprises. Thomas St. Pierre and Anthony Ciancimino were birding cemetery grounds near the coast on Staten Island when they noticed a skua that was flying overhead towards Raritan Bay. Not knowing for sure what the bird was exactly but realizing it was unusual, St. Pierre instinctively reached for his camera and obtained 14 images in rapid fire. Five of these were included in the report and clearly show a large skua coming towards and then past them. Although the images were slightly underexposed, the characteristic hulking profile, heavy hooked bill and prominent white wing flashes of a large skua were clearly evident. The bird was in active wing molt, having dropped the two innermost primaries (P1-P2) on both wings and had already replaced several in the middle (P3-P7), leaving the three outermost (P8-P10) obviously worn. The sighting was submitted as a South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*), but the Committee felt that confident identification to species was not possible. By late Oct both Great (*S. skua*) and South Polar Skuas could be present in the western North Atlantic, and either species might have been caught up in this massive storm system. Skua identification can be fraught with difficulty (Malling Olsen and Larsson 1997; Newell et al. 2013). Wing molt status may be useful, but it seems that the periods of molt for adult South Polar and Great Skuas overlap broadly with those of first- and second-cycle birds of the other species; thus an accurate assessment of age is essential but was not possible from the images obtained. As a result, the record was accepted as a Skua, species uncertain.

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

**2012-83-A** One, private residence, Henrietta, **Monroe**, 24 Oct (Jeanne Skelly, ph J.

Skelly)

This immature or female hummingbird appeared in the fall at a private residence in Henrietta and was observed and described on 24 Oct by Jeanne Skelly. The overall description indicated a *Selasphorus* hummingbird, and the photos, description of the throat and size eliminated Calliope (*Stellula calliope*) and Broad-tailed (*S. platycercus*). But the Committee did not feel that the assessments of the tail feathers were precise enough to separate Rufous (*S. rufus*), which the report was submitted as, from Allen's (*S. sasin*), despite the fact that the bird showed considerable rufous in the tail. Taking the more conservative stance, this sighting was thus accepted as a Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird (*S. rufus/sasin*).

### **Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)**

**2012-118-A** One, private residence on Gallagher Rd, Baldwinsville, **Onondaga**, 27 Nov-1 Dec (Gregory Butler, ph G. Butler)

This young male Summer Tanager, initially submitted as a Scarlet Tanager (*P. olivacea*), visited a feeder in Baldwinsville for 5 days in late Nov to 1 Dec. Good diagnostic photographs were submitted with the report. Summer Tanager is regular in spring downstate but is only an irregular visitor to upstate NY, occurring in both the spring and late fall, where it remains a review species. Since 1977 NYSARC has accepted 21 upstate records; of these, 6, all since 2000, are from the months of Nov and Dec.

## **2012 Reports No Position Taken**

### **Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)**

**2012-34-A** Two, 3rd Ave & 21st St, Watervliet, **Albany**, 17 Jun (Richard Guthrie, ph R. Guthrie)

**2012-93-A/B** Four, West Ridge Plaza, Rochester, **Monroe**, 22 Nov & 14 Dec (Gary Chapin, Dominic Sherony, ph G. Chapin, D. Sherony)

Since Monk Parakeet first appeared in the NYC area in 1971, their population has grown and spread to urban areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. NYSARC has reviewed two previous sightings, one from Orange Co. in 2003 that was accepted as a possible extension of the NYC population, and a second from Erie Co., also in 2003, involving two birds. The latter was treated as Origins Uncertain due to the distance from the eastern feral populations and lack of information on whether this species is capable of moving long distances unaided. There have been other very infrequent reports of individual birds of this species in western NY as far back as 1974, with no evidence of continued presence.

The Committee received two reports from 2012, each involving multiple birds. In Jun, a pair built a nest on an electrical transformer on a pole in Watervliet near Troy, but this was considered a hazard and was intentionally destroyed by the DEC. The nest was built and occupied by two birds and had two eggs. With his report, Richard Guthrie provided photographs of the nest and

two adult birds. Then, in the summer, local residents notified Mike Wasilco of the DEC about some free-ranging parakeets in Greece, Monroe Co., which he subsequently identified as Monk Parakeets. The flock originally contained five individuals, and these were viewed by many observers. Nests were built atop a cell phone tower, but the Committee is unaware of any confirmed eggs or presence of fledglings. At least two individuals continue there as of the time of this writing. It is difficult to know whether these sightings represent an extension of established populations elsewhere or are independently derived colonies from recently released cagebirds. The species is relatively common in captivity and escapes do occur. However, no leg bands were observed, but this is tempered by the fact that captive parrots are not necessarily banded. The fact that in both instances multiple individuals were present is more supportive of expansion from one of the feral populations. Given these ambiguities, the fact that Monk Parakeet is well established in NYS, albeit in specific areas, and the straightforward identification, the Committee decided to take no specific position regarding these two reports, but they are of course retained in the NYSARC Archive.

## 2011 Reports Accepted

### **Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*)**

**2011-152-A** One, Hamlin Beach SP, **Monroe**, 16 Oct (Christopher L. Wood, ph C. Wood)

This remarkable record is made even more exceptional due to the conditions of the sighting. During a lake watch that had already produced several hundred loons flying by, Chris Wood spotted a distant loon in flight above the horizon. Following the bird as it flew west, it finally dropped below the horizon, revealing the most critical field mark, the pale yellow bill. This allowed Wood to immediately identify it as an alternate plumaged Yellow-billed Loon. Other features that helped eliminate Common Loon (*G. immer*) once the bird landed were that the mostly yellow bill was held slightly above the horizontal, the upper-parts showed more extensive white, and the head was more blocky and flat-crowned. Compared to a nearby Common Loon, the Yellow-billed appeared to be slightly larger. Over the six minutes that the bird was in view on the lake, some photo/video documentation was attempted, though it was largely unsuccessful because of the extreme choppiness of the water and distance of the bird. For reasons that are not fully known, Yellow-billed Loon is extremely rare in the Northeast. This is the fourth record for NYS, with two prior records also being on or close to Lake Ontario, consistent with the idea that small numbers of this species may travel east rather than west from their high-arctic breeding grounds and enter the Great Lakes system.

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

**2011-147-A** Five, Veterans Memorial Pier to Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, **Kings**, 28 Aug (Doug Gochfeld, ph D. Gochfeld)

This belated report associated with the passage of *Tropical Storm Irene* included excellent photos of one individual taken when it came very close to the observers positioned on the bank of the Hudson River Estuary at Veterans Memorial Pier. The tally of 5 individuals was based on several encounters at multiple locations in New York Bay throughout the day.

**Sooty Tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*)**

**2011-149-A** One, Jones Beach SP, Nassau, 28 Aug (Shaibal S. Mitra)

Another belated report related to *Tropical Storm Irene*. This bird was spotted by Mike Cooper flying out of Jones Inlet a few hours after the passage of the storm and studied by multiple observers as it made its way back out to sea.

**Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)**

**2011-150-A** One, Lake Montauk Inlet, Suffolk, 29 Aug (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

A photo of this bird sitting with Common Terns at the Lake Montauk Inlet the day after the passage of *Tropical Storm Irene* was belatedly submitted, joining the 10 previously accepted sightings of this species that were related to that storm. Scattered reports from the same time period suggest that there may have been upwards of 30 or more Sandwich Terns observed in NY during and after the passage of the storm.

**South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)**

**2011-146-A** Two, Hook Pond, East Hampton, Suffolk, 28 Aug (Angus Wilson, ph A. Wilson)

After *Tropical Storm Irene* made landfall in the early hours of 28 Aug, strong winds and heavy rains continued to batter eastern Long Island throughout the day. With the ocean in full fury, Angus Wilson looked for birds on the eastern arm of Hook Pond in East Hampton, one of few places in the village that remained accessible. Finding shelter behind a hedgerow near the Maidstone Golf Club maintenance building, he was able to watch three Sooty Terns (*Onychoprion fuscatus*), at least seven Bridled Terns (*O. anaethetus*) and a handful of Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) swooping and hovering just yards away. Two Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) sat on a sodden putting green with a couple of Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) and other shorebirds. Suddenly two South Polar skuas, the subject of this submission, drifted out of the mist, coming low overhead along the same easterly track used minutes before by a Parasitic Jaeger (*S. parasiticus*). The two skuas stayed very close together, soaring in and out of view, and at one point dipped to just 20 feet above the observer's head. Despite being so close, these birds were difficult to photograph because of the very poor lighting and near-continuous rain, but the skuas made several passes, and a few usable images were obtained. These were included with the written report and show the slightly paler napes, the absence of pale flecks on the mantle and incomplete wing molt. One image included both birds. After less than ten minutes the skuas vanished into the mist but were quickly replaced by a 1st-summer Pomarine Jaeger (*S. pomarinus*), following

the same route as the other jaeger/skuas and settling on the choppy surface of the pond next to the Parasitic Jaeger. At least two other South Polar Skuas were found on this day, one of which was submitted to the Committee (NYSARC 2011-47-A).

### **Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)**

**2011-151-A** One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 16 Jul (Christopher L. Wood, ph Sam Barry)  
This near-adult Long-tailed Jaeger was seen by 5 observers from a boat on Lake Ontario. After a tantalizing initial sighting, they were able to get closer and definitively identify it to species. The jaeger was periodically harassed by Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) but came within 40 meters of the boat, which contained two extremely experienced birders and, luckily, at least one camera. Using just a wide-angle lens, identifiable photos were obtained. Together with an extremely detailed write-up, these made for a completely compelling report.

### **Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)**

**2011-1-B** One, Calverton Grasslands, **Suffolk**, 8 Jan (Thomas W. Burke, ph Gail Benson)  
The committee received an additional report, with photographs, from the original finders of a Le Conte's Sparrow present at the Calverton Grasslands on 8-9 Jan. See the discussion under submission NYSARC 2011-1-A in the 2011 Annual Report for further details.

## **2010 Reports Accepted**

### **American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)**

**2010-104-A** One, Setauket Harbor, **Suffolk**, 29 Dec (Peter Scully)  
This species is now considered a scarce migrant to upstate NY, especially in the spring, but remains significantly rarer in coastal areas. This individual was discovered by participants on the Smithtown Christmas Bird Count and correlates with a handful of late fall and winter sightings across the Northeast. Although spread over hundreds of miles, there is some evidence for the same birds giving rise to multiple observations.

### **Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

**2010-64-D** One, private residence on Rt 50, Town of Ballston, **Saratoga**, 24 Oct (Robert P. Yunick)  
The committee received an additional report of a Rufous Hummingbird that spent most of Oct 2010 at a feeder in Ballston Spa. In the new report certified hummingbird bander Robert Yunick described capturing the hummingbird and provided a series of measurements that support the identification as Rufous rather than Allen's (*S. sasin*) Hummingbird.

### **"Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*)**

**2010-105-A** One, private residence on Langley Rd, Amsterdam, **Montgomery**, 4 Oct (Robert P. Yunick)  
This "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow was trapped and banded. Details of

the bill color and face pattern, as well as the longer wing chord measurement, ruled out the regular *Z. l. leucophrys* subspecies. For reasons that are not entirely clear, this western subspecies is encountered far less frequently away from Long Island.

## 2012 Reports Not Accepted

### **Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)**

**2012-24-A** One, Derby Hill, Oswego, 6 May

Details on a Pacific Loon flying by Derby Hill were fairly brief and left several members of the Committee uncomfortable that neither Common (*G. immer*) nor Red-throated (*G. stellata*) Loon had been adequately eliminated. There was significant emphasis placed on behavior (head not held lower than body) and size (too large for Red-throated Loon). While flight style is an excellent way to find a potential candidate for Pacific Loon, several members felt there was too much emphasis on this and too little discussion of appearance. Other flight style characters were not mentioned, and the reliance on size also caused concern, since there is considerable overlap in length, wingspan and weight between Red-throated and Pacific Loons. Additional concerns stemmed from the Committee's uncertainty about how well the bird was seen, as distance and height were not mentioned. In the end, the Committee thought there was a reasonable chance that this could have been a Pacific Loon, but there were not enough details provided in the report to make it fully convincing.

### **Cape Verde Shearwater (*Calonectris edwardsii*)**

**2012-39-A/B** One, off Field 2, Robert Moses SP, Suffolk, 2 Jun

Passage of a coastal storm produced a very strong inshore movement of Sooty Shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) along with smaller numbers of several other seabirds, including (in descending order of abundance) Cory's Shearwater (*C. diomedea*), Great Shearwater (*P. gravis*) and Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*). Viewing conditions were less than ideal, with a heavy overcast, light drizzle and associated haze. During the watch an intriguing shearwater was spotted moving by from west to east, the prevailing direction of the day's flight. The observers estimated that at closest approach the bird was only 250-275 yards away and provided about a minute's worth of observation. It was described as being more similar to a Cory's Shearwater, but appearing distinctly dark-capped like a Great; its bill was slim and lacked the yellow base evident on many of the Cory's, this visible depending on their distance, as some were notably farther out. Seven observers were present but only two supplied reports. The photographs show a seabird, but it is difficult to identify it as a shearwater. A chief strength of these two reports is the caliber of the observers, each familiar with Cory's and Great Shearwaters, but unfortunately none of the observers had prior experience with Cape Verde Shearwater. Overall, the Committee felt that while this was a provocative sighting, the documentation fell short of what is required for a firm identification. The views were just too brief and distant to



support the unambiguous identification of this bird as a Cape Verde Shearwater, an exceptional rarity to North America (North Carolina and Maryland) and potential new addition to the NYS Checklist.

**Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**

**2012-23-A** One, Derby Hill, **Oswego**, 2 May

**2012-68-A** One, Hook Mountain, Clarkstown, **Rockland**, 30 Aug

Both of these reports were fairly detailed and came from experienced hawk watchers viewing from traditional vantage points. While the dates and circumstances seemed very plausible, and with several compelling details in favor of Mississippi Kite in both instances, several Committee members noticed some details that seemed to directly conflict with identification as this species. The difficult lighting encountered during the Hook Mt. sighting could have contributed to some of these issues relative to the description of the coloration and patterning of the bird.

**Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)**

**2012-71-A** One, Chestnut Ridge Hawk Watch, Bedford, **Westchester**, 11 Sep

This was a bird seen at a considerable distance (estimated at 3 miles), and the report lacked some details important to the identification, which hinged on the wings being held in a strong dihedral together with a couple of plumage details that are not on their own diagnostic of Swainson's Hawk. Thus it was felt that the bird was not seen well enough to firmly establish the identification of a species that remains very rare in the southern half of NYS.

**Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*)**

**2012-26-A** Two, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca**, 16 May

This report of two Wilson's Plovers in the far interior of NYS was reasonably detailed, but the observers did not realize the magnitude of the rarity either at the state level or for that location. The presence of two individuals would be exceptional even along the coast of Long Island. Unfortunately, there were no photographs to accompany this report, and the description of the birds lacked sufficient detail to substantiate a sighting of this caliber.

**Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)**

**2012-109-A** One, Partridge Run Golf Course, Canton, **St. Lawrence**, 13 May

This report came from a very experienced observer, but under very difficult circumstances. A loudly vocalizing large shorebird flew over and past the observer before dropping down into some sewage ponds that could not be accessed. Unfortunately, the bill shape was assessed only after the bird was already flying away. The observer readily acknowledged the bad viewing angle and the brevity of the sighting. For these reasons, the Committee did not feel that a firm identification could be established and conjectured that Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) remained as an alternative possibility.

**Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)**

**2012-66-A** One, Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, **Seneca**, 24 Aug

This shorebird was viewed by a single observer at the Knox Marcellus Marsh, and though extremely compelling in most respects, the Committee decided, in the 2nd round of voting, that the report was not quite substantial enough. Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper would be highly unusual at this date, and some on the Committee felt that Stilt Sandpiper (*C. himantopus*) was still a lingering possibility.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*)**

**2012-114-A** One, Madison County Landfill, **Madison**, 7 Dec

This sighting involved a gull in first-winter plumage, standing among several Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) Gulls at a landfill. The brief description was accompanied by two photos, which showed the bird in essentially the same pose but with different gulls around it available for comparison. The bird's relatively small size, rounded head, and small dark bill were apparent in the photos, as were the very dark tertials and folded primary tips. The bird's size and structure indicated to the observer that it must be a Thayer's Gull or Kumlien's Iceland Gull (*L. glaucoides kumlieni*) and that the very dark primary tips ruled out a nominate Iceland Gull (*L. g. glaucoides*). However, size variation among the large gull species is considerable, and several Committee members felt that a small Herring Gull was not ruled out. In the photos, the very dark primary tips showed none of the pale edgings that should be quite evident on a first cycle Thayer's Gull. This could have been due to the photos being underexposed, but, without a description of these feathers, the Committee could not know this. In addition, the bird had already molted out its juvenile scapulars and replaced them with first basic feathers. This would be very unusual for a Thayer's Gull at this early date, 7 Dec, as that species tends to retain many of its juvenile scapulars well into the winter. As a result of these considerations, the Committee decided that the record could not be fully supported by the documentation submitted.

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

**2012-73-A/B** One, private residence on E. 7th Street, Manhattan, **New York**, 16 Sep

Two reports of this bird at a feeder gave sufficient evidence that this was a hummingbird, and the overall color suggests that this was either an immature or a female, but none of the information provided could reliably assign this bird to a specific species. The observers did indicate that they thought this might be a Rufous Hummingbird, but the Committee was not able to substantiate that claim.

**Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)**

**2012-14-A** One, Wrights Landing, Oswego, **Oswego**, 18 Jan

Another report that quite possibly does refer to the species in question, though this was a very brief sighting. While the observer pointed out that it was not a

Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*), little detail was provided as to why it was not. The couple of field marks mentioned, including facial pattern, can be difficult to accurately assess on a moving bird over such a short duration, and some Peregrine Falcons can have exceptionally similar appearances to what was described. In the 2nd round of voting, the Committee decided that there was not enough in the report to substantiate the identification.

**Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)**

**2012-37-A** One, Sterling Forest SP, **Rockland**, 27 Jun

The Committee felt that the brevity of both the viewing time and description raised significant concerns about the identification of what is an exceptionally rare kingbird in the northeast. In particular, the details needed to separate Cassin's from the far more likely Western Kingbird (*T. verticalis*) were missing. The midsummer date would also be unusual for any of the yellow-bellied kingbirds.

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

Angus Wilson (Chair), Gary Chapin (Secretary), Thomas W. Burke, Willie D'Anna, Doug Gochfeld, Andrew Guthrie, Dominic F. Sherony, Christopher L. Wood and Jeanne Skelly (Past Secretary).

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## EMANUEL LEVINE, 1921-2014

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Emanuel Levine passed away on March 21, 2014, at the age of 92. A stalwart of Long Island birding for more than seven decades, Manny bridged generations of birders and connected us 21<sup>st</sup> Century birders to the famous but ever more remote names of the pre-War era. His impacts as mentor, editor, compiler, pioneer of world birding, and unforgettable personality will come easily to mind to all who knew him.

Born in 1921, he began birding at a very young age, accompanying such early figures of New York birding as Bernie Nathan in his early field trips. Manny served in the Second World War and survived a serious injury. He married Miriam Berkowitz in 1943 and fathered a daughter and two sons. Despite his injury, Manny was active in all facets of life, working as a fabric sales representative and freelance salesman until the age of 71. He kept meticulous bird notes from the post-war years, detailing frequent trips to Plumb Beach, Barren Island, Canarsie, Paerdegat Basin, Floyd Bennett Field, Jacob Riis Park, Breezy Point, Atlantic Beach, Jones Beach, and Oak Beach, as well as longer trips to Moriches Inlet and Montauk Point. His companions in those days included Ed Whelen, Gerry Soll, Bob Grant, and Arnie Weinberg.

It would not be possible to name all the people who birded with Manny over the years. A noteworthy dimension of his fieldwork involved pioneering trips overseas to countries well known now in today's information age, but little known to American birders when Manny and Mickey explored them, often with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Mudge, and Dick Soffer. His trips to South America (Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad) and Africa (Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya) paved the way for countless international birders.

Back home on Long Island, Manny settled into a routine that presaged the currently fashionable concept of patch birding, by assiduously covering the Jones Beach Strip and Hempstead Lake State Park, with such companions as Dick Sloss, Al Wollin, and Sy Schiff. Always tuned in to the scientific dimension of birding records, Manny logged countless days at the Fire Island Hawkwatch. He anchored the crew there on Tuesdays with Steve Dempsey, Walter Chaskell, and Patricia Lindsay for many years after his retirement.

Many Long Island birders can't think of the Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count without thinking of Manny Levine. From its beginnings in 1930 under Bob Arbib, through the mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> Century under Dick Sloss and Manny, this count has been one of the most productive in the state, and Manny was always a major part of the fun and excitement. Even in recent years, when

health problems finally prevented him from fully participating in the field work, Manny was still able to be part of the Baldwin team. Mickey's unstinting care created an environment that allowed us to carry on our traditions, including our pre-compilation count-downs over a late afternoon cocktail, prior to the compilation dinner at Otto's Seagrill in Freeport.

Manny played central roles in New York's ornithological organizations. He was Vice President of the Linnaean Society of New York from 1962-1963, President from 1963-1965, and was named a Fellow of the Society, the highest honor bestowed on members. He was Editor of the *Linnaean Newsletter* from 1959-1962 and was for many years the Linnaean Society's representative to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.

His work at the Federation, now known as the New York State Ornithological Association, was perhaps unmatched in depth and breadth. He was twice Editor of *The Kingbird*, the organization's quarterly journal: from the May 1975 through Summer 1985 issues (with John Farrand, Jr.), and from the March 1999 through June 2003 issues—a total of 64 issues. In between these stints, he conceived and edited the multi-authored update to our statewide bird book, *Bull's Birds of New York State*, published in 1998. For these and other accomplishments, Manny has been the only individual to be honored twice with the Federation's award for distinguished service, receiving what was then called the Certificate Award in 1985, and then the Gordon M. Meade Award in 2004.

Manny was an unforgettable figure; his knowledge, humor, and capacity for enjoyment have left a unique legacy in New York State ornithology.



Manny Levine, with Al Wollin (left) and Patricia Lindsay (right), August 2002.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON - SPRING 2014

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Spring 2014 began as a continuation of the cold, hard winter of 2013-14. Lower than average temperatures continued over much of the state during March, ice cover persisted longer than has been the norm in recent years, and Regions 1, 2, and 5 reported ongoing starvation of fish-eating waterfowl, attributed to ice cover. Many species were affected, especially Red-breasted Mergansers and scaup, but one well-watched Regional rarity also succumbed—a drake Harlequin Duck that had been frequenting the Oswego River in Region 5. Overall, the migration of waterfowl was delayed in much of the state, but when the birds arrived, there were widespread reports of arctic-nesting geese, as has been the trend in recent years. Greater White-fronted, Ross's and Cackling Geese were reported from multiple Regions and often in multi-individual contexts. Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese were noted in Region 10, as was a “Black” Brant in Region 9. Exceptional numbers of Red-necked Grebes were reported, and an article analyzing this event is in preparation.

Another reminder of winter was the continuing presence of very large numbers of Snowy Owls across the state, including reports from all nine of the Regions for which we have reports. As many as 12 were recorded at a single site in Region 1 in mid March, and at least 30 were found over 18 sites in Region 2. A bird persisted in the lowlands of Region 3 as late as 10 May, whereas one was noted in the far north of Region 6 as late as 25 May!

When spring arrived, however, it was welcomed in many places as a “normal” or “old-fashioned” spring, with the connotations that arrival dates were less strikingly early than they have been in many places in some recent years, and that the overall tempo and mode of migration was “better,” with large, diverse flights enjoyed by many observers across the state. The long-running hawkwatches at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill produced prodigious counts of many species, with Turkey Vulture in particular smashing previous records at Derby Hill. The daily max of 4,318 birds on 2 April exceeded the previous daily max by almost 1,600, and the season's total of 22,438 vastly surpassed the previous seasonal high, set just last year, of 15,894. These dynamics were thought to be due to both the severe winter in general, causing more vultures to winter south of the Great Lakes region, and to March's poor weather, piling up the vultures to the south until conditions improved. The summary tables for these counts are presented this year in this section, along with the arrival dates tables.

As usual, many Regionally notable species were recorded, such as Tufted Duck, Blue Grosbeak, and Brewer's Blackbird in Region 1; Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 2; Gyrfalcon, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Laughing Gull in Region 3; Swallow-tailed Kite, Henslow's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting in Region 5; Great Cormorant and Evening Grosbeak in Region 6; Tufted Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Orchard Oriole from Region 7; Sandhill Crane, Gyrfalcon, and Yellow-throated Warbler in Region 8; Mississippi Kite and Boat-tailed Grackle in Region 9; and White-faced Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Wilson's Plover in Region 10.

The most astonishing of the above-mentioned birds to me is probably the Black-legged Kittiwake inland in spring. Similarly, a Western Grebe in Region 1, just the second Regional record since 1958 and the first chaseable one in modern times, represents a very significant record. Region 10's Western x Eastern Kingbird hybrid provided a frenzy of excitement during the period, prior to critical examination of photos, when it was suspected as New York's second Cassin's Kingbird. But ultimately, consideration for Bird of the Season really falls to just one bird, the **Willow Ptarmigan** found at Point Peninsula by Eugene Nichols on 24 April. Jeff Bolsinger's rapid confirmation of the identification (Rock Ptarmigan lacks Willow's pattern of southward vagrancy and would be much more difficult to defend as naturally occurring) and timely reporting allowed hundreds of observers to see this amazing bird.

### SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2014

Region	Species Reported <sup>1</sup>	Seasonality <sup>2</sup> vs. 1987-13	Advance <sup>3</sup> (Days)	Record Early Spp.
1	92	-3.40	-4.26	7
2	93	-1.87	-3.35	3
3	90	0.11	-2.12	0
4	-	-	-	-
5	91	-1.91	-0.26	2
6	91	-2.88	3.76	3
7	86	-0.85	7.36	1
8	58	-3.53	-1.41	7
9	78	0.65	0.03	3
10	75	4.56	0.26	1

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

<sup>2</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region's 28-year average.

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

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



Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2014										Average	28-Yr. Ave
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10			
American Bittern	10 Apr	6 Apr	9 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	22 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr	12 Apr	12 Apr	14 Apr	
Green Heron	13 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	18 Apr	<b>21 Apr</b>	25 May	17 Apr	14 Apr	8 Apr	19 Apr	22 Apr	
Wood Duck	<b>19 Feb</b>	10 Mar	1 Mar	19 Mar	19 Mar	16 Mar				9 Mar	12 Mar	
Green-winged Teal	23 Feb	10 Mar	4 Mar	22 Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar				14 Mar	14 Mar	
Northern Pintail	11 Mar	20 Feb		22 Mar	4 Apr	1 Mar				12 Mar	7 Mar	
Blue-winged Teal	18 Mar	15 Mar	20 Mar	3 Apr	6 Apr	22 Apr		20 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	29 Mar	
Osprey	27 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	26 Mar	1 Apr	2 Apr	2 Apr	17 Mar	12 Mar	26 Mar	27 Mar	
Virginia Rail	12 Apr	16 Apr	23 Mar	11 Apr	26 Apr	3 May	8 Apr	5 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	
Sora	4 May	12 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	<b>12 Apr</b>	20 May	25 Apr	26 Apr	12 May	27 Apr	28 Apr	
Common Moorhen	6 Apr	13 Apr	19 Apr	16 Apr	25 Apr	7 May	7 May	28 Apr	9 May	24 Apr	26 Apr	
Black-bellied Plover	30 Apr	3 May	26 Apr	25 May	18 May	14 May		28 May		12 May	14 May	
Semipalmated Plover	6 May	10 May	10 May	5 May	10 May	12 May		15 May	2 May	8 May	10 May	
Killdeer	23 Feb	10 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	22 Feb	2 Apr				8 Mar	5 Mar	
Greater Yellowlegs	1 Apr	28 Mar	2 Apr	3 Apr	11 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	5 Apr		7 Apr	6 Apr	
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 Apr	1 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	12 May	6 Apr	11 Apr		12 Apr	17 Apr	
Solitary Sandpiper	19 Apr	18 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	8 May	10 May	26 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	
Spotted Sandpiper	13 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	22 Apr	29 Apr	26 Apr	21 Apr	12 Apr	23 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	
Sanderling	<b>14 Apr</b>	21 May		26 May	10 May					10 May	17 May	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9 May	14 May	16 May	16 May		12 May		6 May	2 May	10 May	13 May	
Least Sandpiper	30 Apr	20 Apr	2 May	24 Apr	10 May	12 May	<b>19 Apr</b>	2 May	22 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	
Pectoral Sandpiper	4 Apr	9 Apr	30 Mar	9 Apr	1 May		19 Apr	6 Apr	22 Mar	8 Apr	21 Apr	
Wilson's Snipe	23 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	21 Apr	3 Apr	2 Apr	3 Apr	1 May		4 Apr	23 Mar	
American Woodcock	14 Mar	22 Mar	3 Mar	7 Mar	26 Mar	26 Mar		9 Mar		15 Mar	11 Mar	
Caspian Tern	6 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	5 Apr	8 Apr	<b>14 Apr</b>	<b>3 Apr</b>	3 Apr	11 Apr	6 Apr	19 Apr	
Common Tern	<b>3 Apr</b>	<b>5 Apr</b>	5 Apr	5 Apr	27 Apr	12 May		7 May	30 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	
Black Tern	26 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	2 May	8 May		18 May	15 May	9 May	5 May	8 May	
Marsh Wren	22 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	9 May	28 Apr	25 May			3 May	2 May	29 Apr	

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region; data were not received from Region 4.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2014							Landbirds			
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	28-Yr. Ave
Black-billed Cuckoo	10 May	11 May	6 May	10 May	19 May	22 May		9 May	3 May	11 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	9 May	3 May	10 May	9 May	12 May	15 May		10 May	26 Apr	8 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	20 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr	5 May	8 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	11 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	3 May	5 May	5 May	4 May	7 May	8 May	3 May	27 Apr	23 Apr	2 May	2 May
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	24 Mar	16 Mar	29 Mar	4 May	7 Apr	12 Apr				4 Apr	2 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<b>8 May</b>	14 May	15 May	18 May		18 May		17 May	10 May	14 May	18 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	7 May	10 May	9 May	7 May	8 May	11 May		8 May	4 May	8 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	<b>10 May</b>	15 May	14 May	13 May	14 May	20 May		7 May	8 May	12 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	<b>9 May</b>	7 May	10 May	3 May	12 May			3 May	12 May	8 May	15 May
Least Flycatcher	1 May	3 May	27 Apr	1 May	3 May	2 May	8 May	28 Apr	2 May	1 May	1 May
Eastern Phoebe	24 Mar	28 Mar	22 Mar	8 Mar	2 Apr	2 Apr		15 Mar	12 Mar	21 Mar	21 Mar
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1-May	1 May	2 May	3 May	6 May	3 May	1 May	29 Apr	2 May	2 May	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	26 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	5 May	2 May	<b>5 Apr</b>	27 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr
Purple Martin	7 Apr	6 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	20 Apr			19 Apr	6 Apr	9 Apr	18 Apr
Tree Swallow	29 Mar	28 Mar	22 Mar	19 Mar	1 Apr	3 Apr		<b>23 Feb</b>	8 Mar	20 Mar	20 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	11 Apr	8 Apr	4 Apr	7 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr	<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>23 Mar</b>	5 Apr	14 Apr
Bank Swallow	18 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	11 May	27 Apr	21 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr
Cliff Swallow	19 Apr	13 Apr	1 May	13 Apr	19 Apr	9 May	30 Apr	9 Apr	2 May	22 Apr	27 Apr
Barn Swallow	9 Apr	4 Apr	4 Apr	3 Apr	11 Apr	15 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr	24 Mar	5 Apr	10 Apr
House Wren	16 Apr	17 Apr	14 Apr	14 Apr	18 Apr	3 May	19 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7 Apr	10 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	18 Apr		12 Apr	11 Apr	6 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr		17 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	13 Apr	20 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		14 Mar			7 Apr	8 Mar			3 Mar	15 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	3 May	25 Apr	2 May	4 May	7 May	8 May	2 May	3 May	1 May	2 May	2 May
Swainson's Thrush	6 May	27 Apr	7 May	9 May	10 May	12 May	9 May	9 May	2 May	6 May	8 May
Hermit Thrush	9 Apr	11 Apr	10 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr				9 Apr	7 Apr
Wood Thrush	27 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	5 May	7 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	12 Apr	1 May	1 May	13 Apr	8 May	3 May	1 May			27 Apr	24 Apr
Brown Thrasher	12 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr		15 Apr	17 Apr	2 Mar			6 Apr	15 Apr
Blue-headed Vireo	13 Apr	18 Apr	12 Apr	13 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	22 Apr	21 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	15 Apr	18 Apr
Yellow-throated Vireo	6 May	6 May	3 May	6 May	9 May		5 May	2 May	25 Apr	4 May	3 May
Warbling Vireo	25 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	4 May	1 May	27 Apr	26 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	4 May	6 May	3 May	<b>21 Apr</b>	10 May	11 May	4 May	22 Apr	1 May	2 May	3 May

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region; data were not received from Region 4.

Species	Spring Arrival Dates 2014								Landbirds (cont'd)			
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average	28-Yr. Ave	
Tennessee Warbler	7 May	7 May	3 May	9 May	11 May	16 May		4 May	4 May	7 May	8 May	
Nashville Warbler	25 Apr	1 May	22 Apr	27 Apr	6 May	4 May	3 May	25 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	
Northern Parula	28 Apr	7 May	6 May	4 May	8 May	8 May	<b>17 Apr</b>	25 Apr	7 May	2 May	2 May	
Yellow Warbler	<b>13 Apr</b>	21 Apr	16 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	8 May	21 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	23 Apr	26 Apr	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5 May	2 May	3 May	6 May	6 May	10 May	30 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	3 May	2 May	
Magnolia Warbler	1 May	8 May	6 May	3 May	10 May	10 May	3 May	2 May	2 May	5 May	4 May	
Cape May Warbler	3 May	8 May	4 May	6 May	9 May	9 May		9 May	3 May	6 May	7 May	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	2 May	3 May	1 May	1 May	8 May	4 May	3 May	25 Apr	2 May	2 May	30 Apr	
Black-thr Green Warbler	13 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	17 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr	
Blackburnian Warbler	1 May	27 Apr	2 May	7 May	9 May	8 May		25 Apr	2 May	2 May	2 May	
Pine Warbler	27 Mar	9 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr	<b>1 Apr</b>	2 Apr	28 Mar	2 Apr	3 Apr	9 Apr	
Palm Warbler	13 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	17 Apr	2 Apr	3 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	
Bay-breasted Warbler	8 May	9 May	8 May	9 May	11 May	12 May		8 May	8 May	9 May	10 May	
Blackpoll Warbler	8 May	11 May	9 May	11 May	13 May	15 May	12 May	6 May	7 May	10 May	12 May	
Black-and-White Warbler	13 Apr	<b>14 Apr</b>	27 Apr	22 Apr	3 May	29 Apr	29 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	
American Redstart	3 May	4 May	4 May	2 May	8 May	9 May	1 May	1 May	1 May	3 May	2 May	
Ovenbird	1 May	26 Apr	26 Apr	1 May	5 May	4 May	5 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	29 Apr	
Northern Waterthrush	24 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	26 Apr	30 Apr	3 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	26 Apr	
Mourning Warbler	9 May	10 May	8 May	10 May	15 May	9 May		14 May	10 May	10 May	14 May	
Common Yellowthroat	1 May	11 Apr	3 May	3 May	7 May	8 May	1 May	27 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	
Wilson's Warbler	4 May	6 May	8 May	9 May	18 May	12 May	<b>4 May</b>	2 May	3 May	7 May	11 May	
Canada Warbler	10 May	9 May	9 May	9 May	10 May	14 May		3 May	2 May	8 May	10 May	
Scarlet Tanager	6 May	7 May	7 May	5 May	8 May	8 May	4 May	2 May	1 May	5 May	4 May	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	29 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	29 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	3 May	23 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr	
Indigo Bunting	6 May	8 May	8 May	25 Apr	10 May	4 May		3 May	1 May	4 May	3 May	
Eastern Towhee	27 Mar	2 Apr	11 Apr	2 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	<b>14 Mar</b>			2 Apr	9 Apr	
Chipping Sparrow	5 Apr	6 Apr	4 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	5 Apr	2 Apr		28 Apr	7 Apr	4 Apr	
Vesper Sparrow	9 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	7 Apr	8 Apr	17 May	3 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	
Savannah Sparrow	5 Apr	6 Apr	2 Apr	<b>3 Mar</b>	4 Apr	14 Apr	<b>9 Mar</b>			28 Mar	7 Apr	
Lincoln's Sparrow	23 Mar	27 Apr	3 May	6 May	2 May	12 May		2 May	9 May	29 Apr	4 May	
White-crowned Sparrow	16 Apr	13 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	22 Apr		23 Mar		18 Apr	24 Apr	
Bobolink	1 May	3 May	26 Apr	1 May	7 May	11 May		2 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	
Baltimore Oriole	1 May	30 Apr	2 May	2 May	4 May	8 May		1 May		2 May	29 Apr	
Overall Average	17 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	

Dates in bold type are record early arrivals for the Region; data were not received from Region 4.

## BRADDOCK BAY HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	10 Apr	1	10 Apr	1
Turkey Vulture	10 Mar	5099	2 Apr	24578
Osprey	31 Mar	51	1 May	211
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	80	1 May	459
N. Harrier	10 Mar	76	1 May	523
Sharp-sh. Hawk	10 Mar	564	1 May	3883
Cooper's Hawk	11 Mar	20	1 May	306
N. Goshawk	19 Mar	8	2 Apr	15
Red-shld Hawk	11 Mar	161	2 Apr	406
Swainson's Hawk	9 Apr	1	9, 10 Apr	2
Broad-wngd Hawk	10 Apr	16588	1 May	30273
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mar	387	13 Apr	2724
Rough-legd Hawk	1 Mar	67	10 Apr	175
GoldenEagle	9 Mar	<b>10</b>	2 Apr, 1 May	<b>64</b>
Am. Kestrel	10 Mar	82	14 Apr	274
Merlin	14 Mar	4	10 Apr	32
Peregrine Falcon	10 Mar	2	4 dates	12
Gyrfalcon	2 Apr	1	2 Apr	1
<b>Total including unidentified raptors:</b>				<b>63,945</b>

## DERBY HILL HAWK MIGRATION TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	5 Apr	1	X	3
Turkey Vulture	28 Feb	<b>4318</b>	2 Apr	<b>22438</b>
Osprey	29 Mar	86	9 May	663
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE	14 May	1	14 May	1
Bald Eagle	7 Mar	<b>91</b>	9 May	<b>680</b>
No. Harrier	11 Mar	39	10 Apr	489
Sharp-sh. Hawk	19 Mar	605	10 Apr	4259
Cooper's Hawk	7 Mar	38	19 Mar	307
N. Goshawk	7 Mar	2	10 Apr	17
Red-sh. Hawk	11 Mar	110	1 Apr	482
Broad-wng. Hawk	10 Apr	4051	1 May	21799
Red-tailed Hawk	1 Mar	862	10 Apr	4509
Rough-lgd. Hawk	9 Mar	25	1 Apr	192
Golden Eagle	6 Mar	7	7, 19 Mar, 9 May	71
Am. Kestrel	10 Mar	96	14 Apr	465
Merlin	10 Mar	7	19 Mar, 14 Apr	69
Peregrine Falcon	10 Mar	4	9 May	18
<b>Total including unidentified raptors:</b>				<b>56,531</b>

## REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March 2014 was especially cold and snowy, continuing the trend from the winter months. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 26.7° F, 7.3° below normal; representing the eight coldest March on record. There was 2.55" of precipitation, 0.32" below average. Snowfall was 24.5", 11.6" above average. April brought a welcomed return to normalcy. The mean temperature was 45.8°, only 0.1° below average. Precipitation was 5.08", 2.07" above average; snowfall was 1.2", 1.5" below normal. A warm stretch from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> seemed to bring some early arrivals. Lake Erie slowly lost its ice cover through the month, and the ice out date of 3 May at Buffalo Harbor is the latest since 1996. May was pleasant and provided for excellent conditions for birds and birders alike. The average temperature was 57.7°, 0.8° above normal. Rainfall was 3.12", 0.34" below normal.

The waterfowl migration picked up in the latter half of March, later than in recent springs, no doubt due to the prolonged below average temperatures that carried over from the winter. Seven reports of **Greater White-fronted Geese** were above average, while Cackling Geese continue to be reported regularly, and larger (for this Region) flocks of Snow Geese are now becoming the norm in the northeastern corner of the Region in spring. A single **Ross's Goose** found with Canada Geese in Yates on 1 May was the Region's latest record by nine days and the season's only report.

With large amounts of ice remaining on the Niagara River and Great Lakes shores into March, several reports of diving ducks such as scaup, Bufflehead, Canvasback, and Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at small inland ponds, presumably escaping the ice and searching for additional sources of food. The massive mortality of diving ducks described in the winter report continued into March. A female **Tufted Duck**, found with scaup on the Niagara River in Buffalo by Pawlicki, was the Region's third record, all within the last two years, and was a different individual from the one seen earlier in January. There were low counts of dabblers in March, while high counts of late migrating waterfowl, such as Long-tailed Ducks were noted in May, presumably returning north after moving south in large numbers to escape the harsh winter. The only report of **Eurasian Wigeon** was from the Elba Mucklands on 6 April. Also notable were three reports of **King Eiders** on Lake Ontario, one from Golden Hill SP, and two at Point Breeze.

Red-necked Grebes were widely reported this spring. Counts on Lake Ontario were relatively high and comparable with recent springs. A late individual was noted at Niagara Falls on 24-25 May, the latter representing the latest Regional record at the time of observation. While counting waterbirds on Lake Ontario from Barker Bicentennial Park on 18 April, Willie D'Anna found a **Western Grebe** swimming offshore with Red-necked Grebes. This is the fifth Regional record and only the second since 1958 and therefore was also the first "chaseable" report in the Region in modern times.

Despite the late spring, Great Egrets arrived on the Niagara River at Motor Island in late March, and a count of 35 at the Tonawanda WMA in late May is likely a sign of increased breeding within the newly colonized Iroquois NWR complex. A fly-by **Cattle Egret** on 11 May and a **Tricolored Heron** from 24-30 May, both found by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter along the Lake Ontario shore in Wilson, were the two rarest waders seen this spring. The Tricolored Heron was the first Regional record since 2007 and only the second for Niagara County. It was usually observed foraging from boat docks or roosting in trees near the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek adjacent to Wilson-Tuscarora SP.

Away from the lower Niagara River where they are now year-round residents, **Black Vultures** continue their upward trend at hawkwatch sites and at other locations near the lakeshores. A season total of six was reported from the Ripley Hawkwatch, and in May single individuals were noted at the Hamburg Hawkwatch and at Point Gratiot. The four reported at a roadkill in the town of Wilson on the BOS May count were likely individuals wandering from the population in Lewiston.

On 24 April, Bill Watson conducted a thorough survey of the Osprey pairs nesting in the vicinity of the Allegheny Reservoir and tallied an impressive 23 adults and 13 nests. The large congregations of Bald Eagles along the Lake Erie shore in the vicinity of Point Gratiot and Dunkirk Harbor continued over from winter and swelled to a maximum of 42 tallied there on 5 March. Both of these large, charismatic raptors continue to increase as breeders within the Region. The five **Golden Eagles** tallied on the BOS April Count were noteworthy given that the only other reports this spring were from the Ripley Hawkwatch on 20 April and 6 May. Jeff Reed had a presumably nesting adult Northern Goshawk unceremoniously meet him along a trail at Golden Hill State Forest in Cattaraugus County. Reed indicated that the hawk "came at me out of a stand of larch like a B-52; it was a classic "NOGO" and definitely time to go!"

Compared with last spring, shorebird reports were spotty, and habitat was scarce and unreliable as it can often be during the spring months. Willie D'Anna was surprised to see a winter-plumaged **Sanderling** on the Wilson Pier at Lake Ontario on the record early date of 14 April. A group of six Black-bellied Plovers that included a record early **Willet** in a flooded field in the town of Wilson on 30 April was noteworthy. Other Willets were seen at the Batavia WWTP on 2 and 5 May. Two to three White-rumped Sandpipers were noted in the town of Wilson in late May, and **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen at the Elba

Mucklands and Tonawanda WMA on 3 and 20 May, respectively. There were no reports of Whimbrels.

An adult **Black-headed Gull** was found on the Niagara River in Tonawanda on 19 April and lingered with Bonaparte's Gulls until at least the 26<sup>th</sup>. Little Gulls arrived back on the lower Niagara River in Lewiston on the relatively late date of 22 March, and a maximum of 36 was seen there on 8 April. The adult **Thayer's Gull** photographed by Pawlicki on the rock shelf above Three Sisters Islands at Niagara Falls SP represents the latest confirmed record for the Region. **Glaucous Gulls** were more numerous than usual for spring. The 40 Common Terns that arrived on the Niagara River at Squaw Island on 3 April established a new record early arrival by one day. Two migrant Black Terns seen foraging with Common Terns at Fort Niagara SP on 19 and 24 May were noteworthy given the scarcity of the species away from the breeding colonies at the Iroquois NWR complex. The only **Forster's Tern** reported this spring was sighted during the BOS April Count.

**Snowy Owls** continued to be widely reported into March and trailed off in April following the large irruption that started back in November. Many continued to be seen in areas that held individuals through the winter, while others turned up in new locations as they headed back north for the summer. A single location high count of 11 and then 12 individuals was made at the Lewiston Reservoir on 15 and 17 March, respectively, all of which were seen sitting out on the expansive ice sheet at the east end of the reservoir. The last report was on 9 May.

Common Nighthawks were relatively scarce. At least two lingered in the City of Jamestown, where summer reports and presumed breeding has occurred in recent years. Three **Eastern Whip-poor-will** reports delighted some surprised birders.

The warm front during the second week of April may have been responsible for early arrivals of Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler on the BOS April Count, and a Hooded Warbler a few days later. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** sighted by Jim Berry and Don Watts in Jamestown on 23 March was either astonishingly early, or perhaps a bird that wintered more north than usual.

Songbird migrants were plentiful during the first three weeks of May, and birders lauded this wonderful time of year. Alec Humann applauded the "amazing spring migration" while Willie D'Anna indicated "this May has been the best ever for consistently high numbers of warblers" around his property along Lake Ontario in Wilson. Migrants were considered especially numerous and widespread on 7-8 May and 22 May.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** seen at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 8 May is the Region's earliest arrival by two days. The only report of **White-eyed Vireo** this spring was of a male banded at Allegany SP during the annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage festival.

**Yellow-throated Warblers** have become more regular in recent years. Yet, the five migrants sighted at four locations (Forest Lawn Cemetery, Amherst SP, a feeder in Silver Creek, and birds a month apart at Tiff Nature Preserve), their continued presence at the regular Allegany SP breeding location, and a late May sighting at a new potential breeding location, Hill Higher SF, made for an unprecedented spring occurrence. Other warbler highlights included a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Amherst SP, a **Connecticut Warbler** at Buckhorn Island SP, a **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Wilson-Tuscarora SP, and two sightings of **Prothonotary Warbler**, adding to its continued presence at the only known breeding location at Tonawanda WMA.

This spring had its share of songbird rarities. **Summer Tanagers** were photographed in Elma and Point Gratiot in May; this species is now nearly annual in May. Lee Ann Childs photographed a handsome male **Blue Grosbeak** at her feeder in Ellery on 7 May. Marilyn O'Connell was notified at her Wild Birds Unlimited store of an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** visiting a nearby backyard feeder in Blasdell on 24 April. Several birders were able to see this rarity before the day was over. Chris Gainey photographed a second Yellow-headed Blackbird at Iroquois NWR on 4 May. Willie D'Anna picked out a **Brewer's Blackbird** among other blackbirds in a pasture-like area during the BOS April Count. The bird's iridescence made the task a little easier and more enjoyable for viewing. Sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrow** at six locations provided more evidence of its continued increase as a spring migrant and breeder.

"Winter finch" sightings were scarce, consistent with the most recent fall and winter seasons. There were only a handful of Pine Siskin sightings. Fran Rew sighted a **White-winged Crossbill** on the BOS April Count for the lone report. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** in Allegany County on the BOS April Count were the only reported this season.

The BOS April Count was held on April 13. A strong warm front passed during count day in the morning with temperatures rising into the 70s on strong southwest winds. A total of 157 species was consistent with record high counts of 158 the previous two years. There were 14 record high counts since the 1935 inception including: Trumpeter Swan (5; all in Ontario), Green-winged Teal (663), Double-crested Cormorant (7,370), Great Egret (123), Osprey (81), Golden Eagle (5), Peregrine Falcon (8), Virginia Rail (7), Caspian Tern (202), Common Tern (355), Northern Flicker (1,576), Brown Creeper (237), Carolina Wren (75), and Hermit Thrush (128).

The May Count was conducted on 18 May on a cooler than average day. The following species recorded the highest count since 1968 when coverage became more uniform throughout the BOS Study Area: Long-tailed Duck (1794), Red-throated Loon (41), Common Loon (97), Great Blue Heron (146), Great Egret (146), Osprey (44), Bald Eagle (51), Peregrine Falcon (9), Caspian Tern (243), Eastern Bluebird (338), Gray Catbird (1428), Northern Parula (33), and Black Vulture (6).



It should be noted that the “Vega” Herring Gull observed last spring on 1 April 2013 by Pawlicki and Bill Watson was retracted by the observers as potentially referring to that subspecies. Further research by Pawlicki suggested that the bird was not a “Vega” Gull, and most closely resembled a “darker-mantled” Thayer’s Gull. Although very unusual, the literature suggests that darker-mantled Thayer’s Gulls, perhaps as a result of hybridization, do occur within the species’ core wintering range on the west coast. But as is often the case with many unusual vagrant gulls, the general consensus on the bird’s identification was that it best be left unidentified.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; AmSP – Amherst SP, ERIE; BeSP – Beaver I SP, ERIE; BMAC – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; BOSAC – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 13 April; BOSMC – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 18 May; BufH – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; BuSP – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; BWWTP – Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, GENE; ChauL – Chautauqua L, CHAU; CHMUA – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area WYOM; CSWMA – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; DH – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; FLC – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; FMCSP – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; FNSP – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; GHSP – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; Hamburg HW – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; INWR – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; JAS – Jamestown Audubon Sanctuary, 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; Tiff NP – Tiff Nature Preserve, ERIE; TillmanWMA – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; TWMA – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; UBNC – University at Buffalo North Campus ERIE; WFWMA – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; WoBSP – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; WTSP – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Gr. White-fronted Goose:** arr max 6 Basom GENE 22 Mar (CM, PY); 4 Alexander GENE 28 Mar (ED); 5 Somerset NIAG 29 Mar (WD); TWMA 31 Mar (CM); 2 Batavia GENE 2 Apr; Yates ORLE 2 Apr; INWR 6 Apr; good showing.

**Snow Goose:** 255 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; 200 BWWTP 23 Mar; max 350 Yates ORLE 28 Mar (WD); last BOSAC; flocks now becoming annual in spring.

**ROSS'S GOOSE:** Yates ORLE 1 May (WD!); first May record, latest by 9 days.

**Cackling Goose:** DH 1 Mar; max 14 Olcott NIAG 27 Mar; last Oakfield GENE 12 Apr; typical number of reports in Mar and Apr, but no large flocks of recent springs.

**Mute Swan:** 5 ChauL 10 Mar; JAS 4 Apr; 2 Cuba ALLE 19 Apr; UBNC 27 May; only reports away from L. Ontario shore.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Elba GENE 3, 5 May (CM, DB), only report.

**Tundra Swan:** 325 ChauL 14 Mar; max 490 CSWMA 28 Mar (WP); 364 INWR 31 Mar; 310 Elba GENE 6 Apr; last TBNP 18 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** Tonawanda ERIE 9 Mar; next arrival after reports 19, 22 Feb.

**Gadwall:** arr 2 BuSP 14 Mar; max 133, 58 TWMA, INWR 11 Apr; 56 BWWTP 5 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Elba GENE 6 Apr (KF), only report.

**Am. Wigeon:** 115 CSWMA 24 Mar; 125 ChauL 28 Mar; max 450 Elba GENE 6 Apr (KF); 179 TWMA 11 Apr.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 10 JAS 18 Mar; 164 BOSAC; 23 Clymer CHAU 27 Apr (KV); 9 BOSMC; continuing trend of low numbers and localized reports in spring.

**N. Shoveler:** arr DH 11 Mar; max 83 INWR 2 Apr; 32 BWWTP 3 May; Wilson NIAG 27 May.

**N. Pintail:** arr BuSP 11 Mar; 170 CSWMA 24 Mar; max 680, 140, 166 Elba GENE 6 Apr, 3, 4 May; 2 INWR 20, 28 May.

**Green-winged Teal:** 35 INWR 28 Mar; max 330, 200, 221 Elba GENE 6 Apr, 3, 4 May.

**Canvasback:** 142 DH 1 Mar; 1-3 AmSP 3-29 Mar; 37 Williamsville ERIE 25 Mar; max 210 BufH 9 Apr.

**Redhead:** 108 DH 1 Mar; 18, 80 ChauL 10, 28 Mar; max 180 INWR 10 Apr (GL); 2 NF 24 May; Kiantone CHAU 25 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** arr AmSP 11-18 Mar; 150 BWWTP 28 Mar; 450 ChauL CHAU 28 Mar;

221 INWR 2 Apr; 300, max 560 TWMA 2, 10 Apr (WW, GL); 100 TWMA 5 May.

**TUFTED DUCK:** fem Buffalo NR 6 Apr (JP!, ph, mob); third regional record, all within last two years, different individual from January.

**Greater Scaup:** max 1000 NF 8 Mar; last Tift NP 22 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** 14 Delaware P Buffalo ERIE 1 Mar; 1-3 AmSP 8-16 Mar; max 200, 125 BWWTP 19 Apr, 3 May; 2 Wilson NIAG 27, 28 May; INWR 28 May; Tift NP 29 May.

**King Eider:** GHSP 8 Mar (CW); PB 8, 14 Mar (CW, WD); only reports.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 DH 1 Mar; GHSP 28, 29 Mar; Buffalo NR 29 Mar; 3 BOSAC; max 23 Wilson NIAG 12 May; last AISP 14 May (TB), uncommon inland.

**White-winged Scoter:** 38 DH 1 Mar; 4, 5, 1 BWWTP 3 Mar, 5, 25-28 May, uncommon inland; Tift NP 16-21 Apr.

**Black Scoter:** DH 3, 7 Mar (JG, JP, SBA); FNSP 29 Mar (JRB); last Wilson NIAG 12 May (WD); only reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** arr 12 ChauL 25 Mar; 9 BWWTP 12 Apr; INWR 19 Apr; 1059 BOSAC; 1754 BOSMC; last 5 Wilson NIAG 28 May (WD).

**Bufflehead:** 6 AmSP 5 Mar; 150 NF 8 Mar; 117, max 213 BWWTP 12, 19 Apr (KF); 4 NF 24 May; last 2 AISP 31 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** max 650 NF 8 Mar (WW); 12 BWWTP 16 Mar; 11 Williamsville ERIE 25 Mar; last 6 BOSMC.

**Hooded Merganser:** 50 CSWMA 29 Mar; max 54, 34 Tift NP 6, 9 Apr.

**Com. Merganser:** 720 DH 1 Mar; 1230, max 1950 Tonawanda NR 6 Mar (WW).

**Red-br. Merganser:** 11 AmSP 5, 10 Mar; max 820 Tonawanda NR 17 Mar (WW); 3612 BOSAC; 743 BOSMC; 6 Wilson NIAG 28 May.

**Ruddy Duck:** 4 DH 1 Mar; arr 2 BWWTP 22 Mar; max 243 BWWTP 19 Apr (KF); 110, 28 BWWTP 3, 25 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** 2 BufH 1 Mar, apparent migrants; BuSP 5-11 Mar; 2 OOWMA 6 Apr, rare inland; 41 BOSMC; max 40, last 1 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr, 27 May (WD).

**Com. Loon:** arr Olcott NIAG 18 Mar; Wellsville ALLE 8 Apr; 90 BOSAC; 97 BOSMC.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr ChauL 15 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** arr 25 BuSP 11 Mar; 6 ChauL 15 Mar; 47, max 198 INWR 2, 11 Apr; 65

UBNC 22 Apr; 16, last 1 GHSP 3, 24 May (LF, WD, JP).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 10 ChauL 10 Mar; max 420, 420 Olcott NIAG 31 Mar, 6 Apr (WD); 6, 3 TWMA 6, 10 Apr; 7, 3 INWR 11 Apr, 2 May; NF 24, 25 May (JP!, JM), late

**WESTERN GREBE:** Barker NIAG 18 Apr (WD!, ph, mob); 5th regional record, only second since 1958.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Williamsville ERIE 5, 16 Mar; AmSP 10 Mar; 18 MI 27 Mar; max 1500 DH 19 Apr; 241 INWR 22 Apr; 766, 1067 MI 23 Apr, 4 May.

**Am. Bittern:** arr TWMA 10 Apr; Tift NP 18, 26 Apr; Tillman WMA 25 Apr; 2 Alexander GENE 26 Apr; Elba GENE 3 May; WFWMA 25 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr OOWMA 17 May; Tift NP 19 May; TWMA 23 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** 32, 86, 113, 106 MI 17, 27 Mar, 12 Apr; 20 May; max 245 INWR 23 May.

**Great Egret:** arr BeSP 28 Mar; AISP 29 Mar; 62, 70, max 121 MI 12, 23 Apr, 4 May (WW); 35 TWMA 23 May.

**TRICOLORED HERON:** Wilson NIAG 24-30 May (WD!, ph, mob); first regional record since 2007 and second for Niagara County.

**Cattle Egret:** Wilson NIAG 11 May (WD, BP), only report, fly-by.

**Green Heron:** arr 2 BOSAC.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Tonawanda NR 6 Mar; max 49 MI 12 Apr.

**Black Vulture:** 2 Lewiston NIAG 9 Mar (PY), regular location; season total 6 Ripley HW 19 Mar-9 May (GR); Hamburg HW 4 May (JL); PG 11 May (TiL, BW); 4 Wilson NIAG BOSMC (WD); continued increase in spring reports.

**Turkey Vulture:** 2962 Ripley HW, max 5437 Hamburg HW 1 Apr.

### HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr, max 23 ad + 13 n Allegheny Reservoir CATT 27 Mar, 24 Apr (JC, WW); 14, 11 Ripley HW 9, 13 Apr; widespread nesting along NR, INWR complex, and Allegheny Reservoir.

**Bald Eagle:** successful nesting again at Strawberry I NR; 44, 42, 38 DH 1, 5, 8 Mar, continued large concentrations from winter; 42 PG 5 Mar; max 46, 33 Ripley HW 3, 9 May (GR).

**N. Harrier:** max 18, 8 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 71, 78 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

**N. Goshawk:** arr Youngstown NIAG 19 Mar (BE); Hamburg HW 3, 6, 25 Apr (JL, AH, SBr); BOSAC; ad Golden Hill SF CATT 12 May (JRe).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Evans ERIE 1 Mar (WW, JP); arr Alden ERIE 11 Mar; max 104 Hamburg HW 31 Mar; 43 Ripley HW 1 Apr.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Hamburg HW 10 Apr; 1579 Hamburg HW; max 2572, 1725 Ripley HW 28 Apr, 1 May.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 99, 74 Ripley HW 1, 10 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 7 S Dayton CATT 1 Mar; max 10 INWR 7 Mar; 8 Hamburg HW 6 Apr; WTSP 13 May; last BOSMC.

**Golden Eagle:** 5 BOSAC; Ripley HW 20 Apr, 6 May (GR); only reports.

**Virginia Rail:** arr 2 BWWTP 12 Apr; WFWMA 5 May; Wilson NIAG 17 May; max 4 Tillman WMA 24 May.

**Sora:** arr TWMA 4 May.

**C. Gallinule:** arr Tift NP 6 Apr; WFWMA 20 Apr.

**Am. Coot:** arr TWMA 7 Mar; max 212, 200, 100 DH 1, 29 Mar, 19 Apr; 74 INWR 17 Apr.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr 5 Stockton CHAU 21 Mar; TWMA 22 Mar; 2 CHMUA 10 Apr; 2 N Harmony CHAU 17 Apr; Ripley CHAU 15 May; 2 WFWMA 22 May; 12 other reports.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr 6, 5, 1 Wilson NIAG 30 Apr, 16, 24 May; 4, 3 Yates ORLE 1, 17 May; 3, 5 Somerset NIAG 17, 23 May; 13, 2 N Harmony CHAU 24, 25 May; max 30 INWR 25 May (DS); good showing for spring.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 1, 17 N Harmony CHAU 6, 24 May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 16 May.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 2 BOSAC; max 51 BWWTP 13 May (KF).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr N Harmony CHAU 19 Apr; last Sheridan CHAU 31 May (GV), late.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 1, max 268 INWR 1, 17 Apr (LH, CM); arr 2 N Harmony CHAU 1 Apr; 99, 102 Elba GENE 3, 4 May.

**Willet:** Wilson NIAG 30 Apr (GT, WD!, ph), record early and first Apr record; BWWTP 2, 5 May (JM, DB); less than annual in spring.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 3 N Harmony CHAU 2 Apr (KV); 50 INWR 16 Apr; max 155, 163 Elba GENE 3, 4 May (GL, KF).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr N Java WYOM 17, 28 Apr, 6 May (TK, JRB, M&WZ); BOSMC; only reports.

**Whimbrel:** no reports.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr PB 10 May (AG); 3 BuFH 11 May; Wilson NIAG 19 May; 2 BeSP 21 May; only reports.

**Sanderling:** arr Wilson NIAG 14 Apr (WD!, ph), record early; only report.

**Dunlin:** arr 8 Hartland NIAG 1 May; max 40 Wilson NIAG 14 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Newstead ERIE 30 Apr; 75 N Harmony CHAU 11 May; max 100 Wilson NIAG 14 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr 2, 3 Wilson NIAG 20-23, 24 May (WD, SB, JP), only reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr Wilson NIAG, 22 Portland CHAU 4 Apr; last 2 Sheridan CHAU 24 May (GV).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 1, 14 N Harmony CHAU 9, 28 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 6 Sardinia ERIE 10 May (JWo); 2 Yates ORLE 17 May; 6 TWMA 20 May (GL); 1-2 Wilson NIAG 21-24 May (WD); 3 INWR 31 May (CG).

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Stockton CHAU 23 Mar; max 47 Sheridan CHAU 12 Apr.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr Forestville CHAU 14 Mar.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr Elba GENE 3 May (KF, CM); TWMA 20 May (CM, SBA); only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 100 DH 29 Mar; 40 AISP 2 Apr; 116 BWWTP 19 Apr; 1800 Buffalo NR 19 Apr; max 2500 DH 25 Apr; 85 FNSP 24, 25 May.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL (R1):** Tonawanda NR 19-26 Apr (JP, mob), alt ad.

**Little Gull:** arr 1, 18, max 36 Lewiston NR 22 Mar, 5, 8 Apr (LFrauen, WD, JP); 2, 2 Buffalo NR 7 Apr, 1 May; 2, 3 FNSP 24, 25 May.

**THAYER'S GULL:** ad NFSP 29 Apr (JP!, ph), record late.

**Iceland Gull:** max 11, 9, 2 DH 5 Mar, 19, 25 Apr (WP, TiL, WD); 2 BeSP 29 Mar; Grand I NR 23 Apr; Olcott NIAG 11 May; last NFSP 15 May.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 9 DH 1 Mar; 1, 1 ChauL 8, 31 Mar; 2 Carlton ORLE 2 Apr; 3 Portland CHAU 4 Apr; Tiftt NP 6 Apr; 8, 3 DH 19, 25 Apr; 1, 3 Olcott NIAG 11, 27 May; Wilson NIAG 27 May; 4 other reports; becoming more common and widespread in spring.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 30 Buffalo NR 1 Mar (JP, WW); 10-18 DH 1-5 Mar; 9 Hamburg HW 9 Mar; 6, 4 BeSP 27, 29 Mar; 3 DH 25 Apr; Buffalo NR 2, 4 May; last 2 DH 11 May; 11 other reports; larger numbers than usual for spring.

**Caspian Tern:** arr Tiftt NP 6 Apr; max 200 DH 26 Apr (TiL); 64 Wilson NIAG 15 May.

**Black Tern:** arr INWR 26 Apr; 18, 27 INWR 10, 28 May (CM); 2 FNSP 19, 24 May.

**Com. Tern:** arr 40 Squaw I NR 3 Apr (KR, SBr), 1 day record early; 3 BMAC 15 Apr, uncommon inland; 350 DH 11 May; max 975 BuFH 11 May (JP).

**Forster's Tern:** CHAU BOSAC, only report.

## PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Grand I ERIE 10 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr WFWMA 10 May.

**Snowy Owl:** BuFH 1 Mar; S Dayton CATT 10 Mar; 11, 12 Lewiston Res NIAG 15, 17 Mar (JP, WD), record high count for one location; 2 N Collins ERIE 18, 23 Mar; Yates ORLE, Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar; 9 other reports of 1-2 indivs 1-22 Apr; last Cambria NIAG 9 May; good showing after large winter irruption.

**Long-eared Owl:** WTSP 27 Mar (BP), only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 6 Cambria NIAG 1 Mar; 1, 2 Royalton NIAG 11, 22 Mar; BeSP 26 Mar; only reports.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Bond Lake CP NIAG 14 Mar (TK); 1, 1, 1 WTSP 18-27 Mar (BP); only reports.

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Wilson NIAG, 2 Jamestown CHAU 9 May, continued at Jamestown thru; Buffalo ERIE 10, 24 May; max 10 Stow CHAU 22 May (KV); 6 ChauL 23 May.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Tiftt NP 18 Apr (D&DS); Jamestown CHAU 2 May (JB); Wilson NIAG 3 May (WD, BP, SBA); only reports.

**Chimney Swift:** arr SPNS 20 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Shelby ORLE 3 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr 1, 3 Emery Park ERIE 18 Apr, 8 May; 3 PG 14 May; 1-2 Tiftt NP 8-30 May; 7 other reports of 1-2 indiv 8-26 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Fredonia CHAU 3, 26 Mar, poss wintering; arr Jamestown CHAU 24 Mar.

**Am. Kestrel:** max 29 Ripley HW 1 Apr (GR).

**Merlin:** now widespread in spring; FLC 4, 23 May, poss breeding location; ad + 1 yg Tonawanda ERIE 21 May (TK), new breeding location; Dunkirk CHAU 27 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** several hawk watch reports 15 Mar – 8 May; Hartland NIAG 18 Apr; N

Harmony CHAU 28 Apr, 12 May; WTSP 15 May; Dunkirk CHAU 30 May; 5 other reports near documented summering/breeding locations.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr FLC 8 May (JM!, RS!); record early; AISP 31 May (CM, TB); only reports.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr E Aurora ERIE 7 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr BeSP 17 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr INWR, Westfield CHAU 14 May; 7 Fredonia CHAU 22 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr WFWMA 10 May (SK); early.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr N Harmony CHAU 9 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Williamsville ERIE, PG 1 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr Olean CATT 24 Mar.

**Gr. Crested Flycatcher:** arr RTPI 1 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Holland ERIE 26 Apr.

**N. Shrike:** last BuSP 14 Apr (AH).

**shrike species:** Yates ORLE BOSAC (S&TO).

**White-eyed Vireo:** AISP 31 May (WD, CM, TB), only report.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Wilson NIAG 6 May.

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

**Warbling Vireo:** arr RTPI 25 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr BuSP 10 May; max 4 Tift NP (DS).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Royalton Ravine CP NIAG 4 May.

**Com. Raven:** Bethany WYOM 1-25 Mar; 2 Alden ERIE 5 Mar; PB 8 Mar; 2 Portland CHAU 9 Mar; 2 Somerset NIAG 21 Mar; Tonawanda ERIE 21, 30 Mar; Hamburg HW 21 Mar; Orchard Park ERIE 19 Apr; continued increase in reports region-wide.

**Purple Martin:** arr Hamburg HW 7 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** arr 4 AISP 29 Mar; max 1000 INWR 16 Apr (PH).

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Shadigee ORLE 11 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 4 INWR 18 Apr; max 100 WoBSP 25 May (WW).

**Cliff Swallow:** arr 3 Sheridan CHAU 19 Apr.

**Barn Swallow:** arr 4 UBNC 9 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr 2 RWNP 16 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr PG 26 Mar.

**Marsh Wren:** arr INWR 22 Apr.

**Carolina Wren:** 75 BOSAC, record high for this count.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 4 BOSAC.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr 2 Tift NP 29 Mar.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr FLC 7 Apr.

**Veery:** arr FLC, Buffalo ERIE 3 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Lancaster ERIE 14 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr RWNP 6 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr 3 Tift NP 9 Apr; Wilson NIAG 24 May, late migrant.

**Wood Thrush:** arr Alfred ALLE 27 Apr.

**Gray Catbird:** Tift NP 12, 30 Apr; 3 BOSAC; arrivals?

**N. Mockingbird:** widespread and seemingly increasing, but still uncommon away from lake shores.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr BWWTP, FLC 12 Apr.

**Am. Pipit:** arr 2 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar; last 35 BOSMC.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 3 Porter NIAG 6 Mar; 2 Carlton ORLE 31 Mar; 14 Knowlesville ORLE 1 Apr; last 6 Sherman CHAU 18 Apr.

**Snow Bunting:** max 450 Bethany GENE 14 Mar; last 2 BWWTP 2 Apr.

**Ovenbird:** arr Wilson NIAG 1 May.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** AmSP 12 May (PY, mob), rare.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Fredonia, N Harmony CHAU 12 Apr.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr Wilson NIAG 24 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr AmSP 8 May; E Amherst ERIE 10 May; Wilson NIAG 14 May; 3 BOSMC; Portland CHAU 16 May (CHA).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr BMAC, Tillman WMA 6 May.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** BOSMC, only report.

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** Ashford CATT 21 May (JRo), rare.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Portland CHAU BOSAC (CH!), early.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** ALLE BOSMC (RP!); Pomfret CHAU 21 May (GV); TWMA 23-29 May, regular breeding location.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr W Seneca ERIE 7 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr FLC 2 May; more reports than usual, similar to last year.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr AmSP 25 Apr.

**Connecticut Warbler:** BuSP BOSMC (CHo), only report, rare.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Fredonia CHAU, Mt Pleasant SF CHAU, Buffalo ERIE 9 May.

**C. Yellowthroat:** arr Portland CHAU 1 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr Tift NP 16 Apr (JF!), early.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr 4 INWR, JAS 3 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr PB, Westfield CHAU 3 Apr; max 9 Wilson NIAG 7 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 2 Tonawanda Ind Res 9 May, regular breeding area; Tift NP 22 May, less commonly found in migr.  
**N. Parula:** arr 2 Tift NP 28 Apr.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr PG 1 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr 4 FMCS 8 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr E Amherst ERIE, 2 PG 1 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr N Tonawanda NIAG BOSAC (R&SH), record early.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr WFWMA 5 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr AISP 8 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr FLC 2 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr BOSAC; last Olcott NIAG 23 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr S Valley SF CHAU 27 Mar.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** NFSP 6 Mar; 2 BuSP 7 Mar; arr Hamburg HW 1 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** arr AISP 19 Apr, 20, 30 May (TiL, MM, SS); FLC 24 Apr – 9 May (JF, mob); AmSP 26 Apr – 2 May (CHo, mob); 1, 1 Tift NP 26 Apr, 24 May (SBa, SC); Silver Creek CHAU 1 May (MO); Hill Higher SF CHAU 25 May (SK); excellent showing.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Ashford CATT 5 May; FLC 8 May, unusual in migr.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr BOSAC; Williamsville ERIE 14 Apr.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr Attica WYOM, Buffalo ERIE, 4 WFWMA 10 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Royalton NIAG 4 May.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** WTSP BOSMC (WD), only report.

#### TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Tift NP 27 Mar.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last BuSP 27 Apr.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Medina ORLE 5 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr Olcott NIAG 29 Apr (JWe); Blasdel ERIE 1 May (MO); Portland CHAU 1, 8, 25 May (CHa); FLC 2 May (JF); AmSP 12 May (WW); WTSP 15 May (WD, CM); excellent showing.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Portland CHAU 1 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Pomfret CHAU 9 Apr; Buffalo ERIE 11 Apr; 2 FLC 12 Apr; 8

BOSAC; 2 Elba GENE 3 May; 3 BOSMC; Wilson NIAG 20 May; Yates ORLE 23 May; 2 W Valley CATT 29 May (SBa).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 6 John White WMA GENE 5 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 3 Tillman WMA 17 May; 2 Artpark SP NIAG 22 May; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 26 May; CHMUA 27, 28 May.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr Olean CATT, Jamestown CHAU, S Wales ERIE 24 Mar; last SPNS 20 May (LH), late, injured.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Jamestown CHAU 23 Mar (JB, DW), first Mar record, either exceptionally early or wintered well north; Orchard Park ERIE 30 Apr, next earliest arrival.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr JAS 4 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 PB 8 Mar; 2 Wilson NIAG 16-30 Mar; 2 Bethany GENE 16 Apr; arr Tift NP 16 Apr.  
**SUMMER TANAGER:** Elma ERIE 6, 7 May (JS, ph.); PG 10 May (SBa, ph.), becoming nearly annual in spring.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr JAS 6 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr SPNS 29 Apr.  
**BLUE GROSBEAK:** Ellery 7 May (LC, ph.), at feeder, very rare.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr Olcott NIAG 6 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr 3 Jamestown Airport CHAU 1 May.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Portland CHAU 26 Mar.  
**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** Blasdel CHAU 24 Apr (MO, mob); INWR 4 May (CG, ph., HF); very rare to have multiple sightings in one season.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 6 Newstead ERIE 20 Mar; last 10 BOSMC.  
**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** Porter NIAG BOSAC (WD!), very rare.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr Portland CHAU 8 Mar, late arrival.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Wilson NIAG, Portland CHAU 3 May; 3 AISP 31 May (TB), increasing in this area.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Jamestown CHAU 1 May.  
**White-winged Crossbill:** BOSAC (FR), only report.  
**Pine Siskin:** 4 BOSAC; Belmont ALLE 21 Apr; 2 Porter NIAG 4 May; Wilson NIAG 9 May; only reports.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 ALLE BOSAC, only report.

## REGION 2—GENESEE

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Overall it was a cool, wet spring of '14, with the temperature average 1.4° F below normal and precipitation 1.28" above normal and snowfall 9" above normal. In more detail, March was cold and snowy, with the average temperature 27.7°, 6.6° below normal, and snowfall at 29.3", 13.0" above normal. A low of -9° on 6 March was the lowest ever officially recorded for March locally. The snowfall of 14.9" on the 12<sup>th</sup> was the heaviest single fall of the winter. Lake Ontario ice coverage was a bit above normal and extended farther west than typical. April brought a typical spring mix, with temperatures averaging 46.1°, 0.2° below normal, and precipitation 3.8", 1.12" above normal, and almost no snow at 0.3". Vegetation remained about a week delayed, contrasting strongly with springs recently past. Finally, May was a mild, quiet month, with the average temperature 59.8°, 2.8° above normal. Precipitation was 3.17", 0.30" above average, but 1.99" of that fell on just 15-16 May. The above average temperature was the first for a month since October 2013.

Early snow and cold left much of the Region's water frozen through March and into April and resulted in slow arrivals, though nearly all expected waterfowl were reported then and in each subsequent month of the season. By the end of April the rest of the waterbirds caught up with normal dates and just some shorebirds and a few flycatchers and warblers seemed late, but that was mainly compared with recent springs which were early. By the end of the season, the total species reported was well above the 10-year average and the only misses were Whimbrel, Sedge Wren, and Worm-eating Warbler, the latter two of these not quite annual. The windows of occurrence for many species seemed narrow this year and numbers of individuals relatively low. However, arrival dates were mainly in the first quartile of their distributions in the 1985 Monroe County Checklist, but with very few record-early relative to that and most of those with multiple earlier reports over the past 30 years. Over the season, about 13,703, 29,989, and 41,969 records were entered into the eBird database for the Region, with another 10-15% more reported through listservs or direct reports through other means.

Looking at major groups and families in more detail, we start with the waterfowl. In March, most of the ponds and bays and "inland" lakes in the Region were largely frozen, so most reports were from the south shore of Lake Ontario or at small areas that opened or remained open in other bodies of water. Most puddle duck numbers remained low, and we had continuing reports of Red-breasted Merganser and a few other diving duck species that feed in shallows or bays dying of starvation. The last half of the month brought good numbers and variety of geese and swans scattered across the Region, including

quite a few Greater White-fronted Geese, good numbers of Snow Goose, at least 3 Ross's Geese, many Cackling Geese, and some good Tundra Swan gatherings. In addition there was a regionally record early Eurasian Wigeon found by Steve Taylor on Braddock Bay on 21 March seen off and on to 1 April and continuing King Eiders from the high numbers in February. In April, numbers seemed low, but there were some decent peaks of puddle ducks, mainly in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County, and diving ducks near the Lake Ontario shore. Interestingly, Jessie Barry and Chris Wood visiting her parents on Edgemere Drive in Greece tallied high counts for many waterfowl on 11 April and added more plus some good passerine counts along the lakeshore on 13 April. Others west of there echoed or surpassed the numbers on those dates. How much are we missing without an organized lakewatch? In spite of the feel of early departure for most waterfowl, there were many late departure dates, with quite a few of the persistent birds seen in fields south of the eastern part of Carncross Road in the NMWMA which remained wet and good for waterfowl and shorebirds through the season.

Loons and grebes were slow in arriving and generally never reached their typical peaks. However, there were good counts including a record high 2,239 Horned Grebes off Edgemere Dr. and 678 farther west at Hamlin Beach SP on 11 April, a modest 150 Red-necked Grebes on 21 April, and Eared Grebes on 21 April at Hamlin Beach and 3 May at Braddock Bay. An interesting Red-necked Grebe was a late bird at the Carncross Road wetland from 25 May through end of season. Other rarer waterbirds included an American White Pelican found by Judy Slein at Irondequoit Bay Outlet on 11 April, Cattle Egret in the Town of Leroy found by Brian Morse on 21 May, and two reports of Glossy Ibis.

The weather made it a tough year at the hawkwatch; there were many long stretches with "wrong" winds. However, there were some decent days, some of these matching dates of planned raptor events. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary HMANA conference was here with the April hawk flights anticipated. Unfortunately, a large part of May was not conducive to hawk movements, though 1 May saw the biggest movement of the season, with 18,006 raptors counted and peak counts for the year for six species on that date. The only record highs for the season were the day counts of 10 Golden Eagles on 2 April and 1 May and 64 Golden Eagles for the season. Dark morph adult Swainson's Hawks on 9 and 10 April and a gray Gyrfalcon on 2 April were the major rarities. On the negative side were only one Black Vulture for the count and no kites. Away from the hawkwatch, there was one more Black Vulture nearby, but very few N. Goshawks were reported all season. See page 218 for summary table.

A King Rail found by Jessie Barry on 18 May in the Buck Pond marshes is a very good, occasional report in the Region, though it is expected that more are present and just very hard to locate. Sandhill Crane totals, both passing migrants and birds in the NMWMA, remain good. This year there were no reports from the East Lakeshore Marshes area and only one report from the area north of Honeoye Lake, both likely breeding areas.



**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**Spring 2014**



Considered the bird of the season by many, this Willow Ptarmigan was observed by hundreds at Point Peninsula, *Jefferson*. Photo © Mary Curtis, 27 Apr 2014.



Horned Grebe, Town of Colonie, *Albany*, 27 Apr 2014, © Scott Stoner.



Red-necked Grebe, Bablyon, *Suffolk*, 12 Mar 2014, © S. S. Mitra.



Wood Duck, Downing Park, Newburgh, *Orange*, 18 May 2014, © Scott Stoner.



American Oystercatcher, Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, 19 May 2014, © S. S. Mitra.



This Grace's Warbler was found at Point Lookout, *Nassau*, on 1 Jan 2012, during the Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count. Not only a first for New York State, it was also the first for the Northeast and just the second for eastern North America. See details concerning this and many other notable records reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee, pp 178-210. Photo © Lloyd Spitalnik.

Among the shorebirds, habitat in the Region was again poor near Lake Ontario, with mainly passing birds reported from there. But to the southeast, the fields along the east end of Carncross Road attracted some good species and numbers through April and May. March was slow, with only the usual Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock arriving at late average dates. April continued cool and arrivals slow, but we had two record early American Avocets passing Jessie Barry and Chris Wood off Edgemere Dr. on 11 April and a record early Wilson's Phalarope found by Chris Wood at Carncross Rd. on 19 April. In addition there was a scarce-in-spring American Golden Plover at Carncross Rd. on 27 April. May brought records for 21 species of shorebirds, most of these at the Carncross Rd. site, with another Am. Golden Plover, Red Knots, Sanderlings (often missed in spring), and Red-necked Phalarope among these. For most species, numbers were low, but there were good counts for Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, yellowlegs, Red Knot, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Sandpiper.

Along the lakeshore we had several reports of Little Gull; Laughing Gull on 3, 5, and 7 May first seen by Mike Tetlow at Ontario Beach and another seen by Andy Guthrie at Hamlin Beach on 31 May; and an adult Franklin's Gull seen by Brian Morse and Andy Guthrie at Braddock Bay on 26 May as rarities. There were also Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls in each month, a huge gathering of Ring-billed Gulls at Ontario Beach, all the regular terns arriving at relatively early dates in April; and a good count of 261 Caspian Terns at Sodus Pt. on 9 May.

Continuing through the non-passerines, both cuckoos arrived fairly early in May, but Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported only on 8-9 Mar at the usual Town of Hamlin site. The end of the Snowy Owl invasion extended through March and April. We had a near miss for May when a bird was seen on the potato shed north of Rt. 31 in the NMWMA only a hundred yards or so south into Region 3. Back near Braddock Bay, the spring owl searches in "Owl Woods" along Manitou Beach Road turned up 34 N. Saw-whet Owls and 24 Long-eared Owls between 12 March and 3 May. Interestingly, there was a 13 day gap in the second half of April followed by a small burst of birds on 2 and 3 May. Jim Adams has written a detailed summary for Braddock Bay Raptor Research. Also of interest, spring N. Saw-whet Owl banding at nearby Braddock Bay Bird Observatory netted a similar 26 birds.

Common Nighthawk and Eastern Whip-poor-will remain scarce but were found at typical April and May dates, and there were good counts of 87 and 83 nighthawks on 29 and 30 May by Andy Guthrie in Hamlin. Both Chimney Swift and Ruby-throated Hummingbird seemed fairly late and scarce to many, but a Chimney Swift arrival on 13 April was very early and the number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at BBBO was typical of recent years. Woodpeckers usually don't generate excitement, but 2,000 Northern Flickers seen by Luke Tiller, et al. passing Braddock Bay on 13 April was a record high count. Nearby on Edgemere Dr. Jessie Barry and Chris Wood tallied 608 on that

day. Counts for the three regular falcons at the lakewatch were low, but a gray Gyrfalcon seen by Luke Tiller on 2 April made up a bit for that. The usual Rochester Peregrine Falcons in a nest box were monitored, but there were no certain reports of nesting Merlin received.

The rest of the list, about half of the species, is passerines. Generally they showed much the same weather effects as those noted earlier for water birds. Early arrivals tended to slip a bit, so there were fewer April arrival dates. Yet relative to the 1985 arrival dates distributions, 73 species were in the first quartile or earlier, 31 in their interquartile ranges, and only five in their fourth quartile. Other than a couple of late month Eastern Kingbirds and the March-arriving Eastern Phoebes, there were no April flycatchers and only a few isolated vireos. There were no warblers reported in March and only 13 species of warblers arriving in April. Yet by the end of the season nearly all expected passerine species plus a few rarities were found. Many thought many species relatively scarce or spotty in migration. This was echoed by BBBO banding numbers, nearly a third lower than for last spring. But several species that seemed abundant to field birders also held up in banding numbers. Trying to pull too much from any data like banding numbers can be risky unless you really dig into extensive historical data with averages and some measure of variances.

Moving on to details, we find only two Olive-sided Flycatcher reports, one found in "Owl Woods" by Brad Carlson on 14 May and the other seen in the Town of Gates by Brian and Brooke Morse on 26 May. As usual, about 1/3 of the Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded were in the first few days of June beyond this season. Other flycatcher banding numbers compared well with recent years. Northern Shrike reports continued through 13 April. Among the vireos, a White-eyed Vireo was present from 6-9 May in the Firehouse Woods in Greece for many to see. Otherwise dates and numbers were typical for the other vireos other than Philadelphia, which was relatively scarce. Our peak spring counts for Blue Jay and American Crow were low, and Fish Crow was reported in small numbers only in the usual Charlotte area near the Genesee River mouth plus singles on Salmon Creek in Greece and at Sodus Point.

Next we find Black-capped Chickadee a good illustration of the numbers issues; only five were banded this spring at BBBO vs. 962 last year but only eight the year before. Yet out birding the woods, there was no evident shortage of resident chickadees. However, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Winter Wren all seemed scarce in passage, and even the kinglets did not peak to their usual large numbers. Veery, Gray-cheeked, and Swainson's Thrushes were banded in much reduced numbers, with only small evidence of the usual early June peak by the latter two species. Yet the rest of the thrushes and the mimic thrushes were present in typical to even high numbers.

Moving to the warblers, as noted earlier, all expected species except Worm-eating were reported. For at least brief periods, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Wilson's Warblers were present in high numbers. In contrast, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Bay-breasted,

Blackpoll, and Mourning Warblers were thought low. Rarer species or ones of special interest to others included: at least 10 Golden-winged Warblers, "Lawrence's" Warbler on 29 May, Prothonotary Warbler at four locations, 18 Orange-crowned Warblers from 4-19 May, two Connecticut Warblers, Kentucky Warbler on 10 May, Yellow-throated Warbler on 24 May in Greece (an addition to Kevin Griffith's yard list and water garden plantings), Prairie Warbler at five locations, and Yellow-breasted Chat found by Dominic Sherony at HANA on 11 May and another at the Church Trail in Greece on 18 May. Record details and other interesting numbers will be found in the species section of the report.

Among the sparrows, there was relatively little of special note. American Tree Sparrow was reported through 7 May; there were about seven Clay-colored Sparrows reported; Fox Sparrow was found 23 March to 10 May, with no large numbers reported; and peak counts for other migrant sparrows were low. Blackbird reports of special interest included: Yellow-headed Blackbird found in Penfield on 6 May by Andy Garland and many Rusty Blackbird reports from 19 March to 18 May, with the highest counts 600+ at Braddock Bay on 10 April, 963 and 387 past Edgemere Dr. in Greece on 13 April in two counting sessions, and 1000+ at Braddock Bay also on 13 April. Many thought Baltimore Oriole numbers very good in May, but Orchard Oriole harder to find than last year.

Winter finches were essentially non-existent. The only reports with locations and observer names were a lone Common Redpoll in Penfield on 1 May and Pine Siskins on 1 April and 8 May. A good-sounding Evening Grosbeak report had no contact information.

The monthly species counts were: March – 129, April – 198, and May – 244, with their respective prior 10-year averages 138.0, 192.6, and 230.9. The year-to-date count of 268 at season's end was high but well below the record 275 in 2006. The hawkwatch totals for Braddock Bay are presented with the Spring Highlights and Arrival Dates tables.

A bit more on the Arrival Date Table, since some would use it to assess climate change. The overall average over the 93 species in the table was the ninth earliest in the 28 years of our asking specifically for the data. Data before that has issues with both effort and the guidelines for *Kingbird* regional reports. For Region 2, there are only three at record early dates this spring. I can supply Excel files to those with a serious interest in study (with caveats required reading). For the past 28 years for Region 2, 24 of the averages over all 93 species are within 1 STD of the 28-year average and only two years fall outside 2 STD, one at each end – early and late.

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## 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 L, LIVI; ED – off Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; G – T Greece, MONR; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HANA – High Acres Nature Area, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; IB – Irondequoit Bay, MONR; IBO – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; 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; NMWMA (AR) – north side of Armitage Rd.; NMWMA (CR) – along Carncross Road east of Savannah-Spring Lake Rd.; 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:** 1-6 MP 15-18 Mar (CS, mob); 3 Caledonia 17 Mar (MW); max 7 MP 21 Mar (J&AH); Clyce WAYN 29 Mar (LL); NMWMA (CR) 30-31 May (JMcG, LS, mob).

**Snow Goose:** 9000 Lyons Flats 21 Mar (LL); max 10,000's Macedon area WAYN 23 (M&JT); 8500 Nations Rd IBA, North Avon 24 Mar (MW); 4000-10000 MP 25-31 Mar (JBal, JBo, J&AH); 8000-10000 Genesee Airfield LIVI 28 Mar (JK); 3000 NMWMA (AR) 1 Apr (W&MR); 1 NMWMA CR) 26-31 May (mob).

**Ross's Goose:** arr H 20-21 Mar (AGu); MP 26, 31 Mar (J&AH); HANA 27 Mar (JPo); 2 NMWMA (AR-N) 1 Apr (W&MR).

**Brant:** arr 65 Broadway Rd T Wolcott WAYN 21 May; last 2 Brown Rd T Wolcott WAYN 25 May.

**Cackling Goose:** total approx 53 many loc Mar; 12 at 8 loc thru 25 Apr; max 20+ Groveland Flats 19 Mar (JK); 18 MP 1Mar (BCI); last 1 South Caledonia LIVI 25 Apr (MW).

Canada Goose: max 40,000 BB 19 Mar (LT).

**Trumpeter Swan:** mainly in the NMWMA; fewer nest sites reported this year.

**Tundra Swan:** max 750 Groveland Flats 31 Mar (KC) & 4 Apr (D&DR); 423 BB 22 Mar (AGu); last 1 BB 24 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** arr BB 10 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1m BB 21 Mar – 1 Apr (ST, mob); NMWMA (sev units) 2-17 May (mob).

**Am. Wigeon:** max 225 MP 3 Apr.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 200 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 5 Mar.

**Mallard:** max 6500 Nations Rd IBA, North Avon 5 Mar (MW).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 4 IB 15 Mar.

**N. Shoveler:** arr 1 MP 11 Mar.

**N. Pintail:** max 250 BB 19 Mar & NMWMA (Savannah) 1 Apr, low.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr 2 BB 10 Mar; max 200 NMWMA CR) 13 Apr.

**Canvasback:** max 150 BB 2 Mar, low; last 1 BB 16 Apr, early last rep.

**Redhead:** max 151 BB 11 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 298 MP 3 Apr, low.

**Greater Scaup:** max 800 Rigney Bluff, Greece 1 Mar; last 3 BB 17 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 457 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW).

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** max 379 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW).

**King Eider:** 2-6 off Manitou Beach 1-27 Mar (mob); 1-2 Charlotte 7-9 Mar (sev); 1 off Lighthouse Rd, T Parma 8 Mar (CW); 3m & 2f off Irondequoit 11 Mar (LT, MT); 8-11 off Manitou Beach 1-6 Apr (mob).

**Surf Scoter:** last 2 HB 31 May (AGu).

**White-winged Scoter:** max 230 Pt Breeze 8 Mar, wintering flock around Regions 1-2 boundary most of winter.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 10137 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW), reg record high; 1465 HB 11 Apr (AGu); 800 Pt Breeze 9 May, late for the number.

**Buffhead:** max 644 IBO 11 Apr (CW); 224 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW); 240 BB 13 Apr (JeB, CW); last Webster 17 May.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last 2 off Brown Rd T Wolcott 2 May.

**HOODED MERGANSER x COMMON GOLDENEYE:** BB 21-23 Mar (AGu, sev).

**Com. Merganser:** max 250 IB 1 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1406 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW); 550 HB 11 Apr (AGu).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 27 NR 25 May (MW), high for recent years.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 47 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW), low; last 3 HB 31 May (AGu).

**Com. Loon:** max 143 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW), low.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr MP 22 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** max 2239 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW), Reg record high; 678 HB 11 Apr (AGu); last 2 BB 20 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 150 HB 21 Apr, low, late max; last 1 NMWMA (CR) 25 thru, late, unusual loc.

**EARED GREBE (R2):** HB 21 Apr (AGu, et al.); BB 3 May (DNu, mob).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr IB 27 Mar; max 688 HB 10 May (KF).

**AM WHITE PELICAN (R2):** 1 IBO 11 Apr (JSle).

**Am. Bittern:** arr BB 6 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr 2 Conesus Inlet WMA 6 May.

**Great Egret:** arr BB 2 Apr.

**Cattle Egret:** 1 T Leroy, MONR 21 May (BriM).

**Green Heron:** arr H 12 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr BB 24 Apr.

**Glossy Ibis:** NMWMA (CR) 3-7 May (JMcG, LS, mob); BB 17 May (LT, AGu, J&AH).

**Black Vulture:** arr BB 10 Apr (LT, et al.); 1 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW).

## HAWKS – LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr 1 OCP 28 Mar (JAd).  
**Bald Eagle:** 111+ rep 23+ loc Mar; 256+ rep many loc Apr; 211+ rep 25+ loc May.  
**N. Goshawk:** approx 11 rep away from BB.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 1 BB & Broadway Rd WAYN 10 Apr.  
**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** 1 drk ad BB 9 Apr (LT, et al.); 1 drk ad BB 10 Apr (LT, et al.).  
**Golden Eagle:** approx 6 rep away from BB 5-20 Apr.  
**KING RAIL:** Buck Pond Marshes, T Greece 18 May (JeB), *intro*.  
**Sandhill Crane:** arr 2 NMWMA (AR) 19 Mar (CL); arr 3 BB 19 Mar; totals: approx 37 sev loc Mar; 27 sev loc Apr; approx 16 sev loc May; 2 ad & 2 colts NMWMA (CR) 28 Apr thru; 2 T Richmond, ONTA 9 Apr (KK).  
**AM. AVOCET (R2):** 2 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW).  
**Black-bellied Plover:** arr NMWMA (CR) 3 May; max 45 NMWMA (CR) 26 May.  
**Am. Golden-Plover:** arr NMWMA (CR) 27 Apr (JoR, et al.); NMWMA (CR) 16-18 May JMcG, LS), rare in spring.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 75 NMWMA (CR) 17 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr H 18 Apr (AGu), early; last 3 Conesus L Inlet 30 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 250 NMWMA (CR) 24 Apr (DWh); 200 NMWMA (CR) 1 May (W&MR).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 100 NMWMA (CR) 3 May (JGK).  
**Greater/lesser Yellowlegs:** max 150 NMWMA (CR) 26 Apr (DNi).  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr 1 H 11 May.  
**Whimbrel:** no reports.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 16 May.  
**Red Knot:** arr off Manitou Beach 14 May (RS); max 25 NMWMA (CR) 30 May (JWi); last HB 31 May (AGu).  
**Sanderling:** arr Charlotte 21-23 May (R&SS); 2 NMWMA (CR) 27 May (W&MR), scarce in spring.  
**Dunlin:** arr 2 Salmon Crk, T Greece 16 Apr; max 700 NMWMA (CR) 27 May (sev), good count.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 3 Genesee Greenway 20 Apr (JK), early; max 200 NMWMA (CR) 25 May (JGK).  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1-2 NMWMA (CR) 26-28 May (mob).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 250 NMWMA (CR) 27 May (sev).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 2 H 10 May; max 24 NMWMA (CR) (BPu).  
**Short/Long-billed Dowitcher:** 4 NMWMA (CR) 2 Apr (DWh, ph).  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1 f NMWMA (CR) 19 Apr (CW), Reg record early.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** NMWMA (CR) 27-28 May (mob).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 346 ED 11 Apr (JeB, CW).  
**Little Gull:** arr HB 11 Apr (AGu); 1 IBO 11 Apr (CW); 3 ad Salmon Crk, T Greece 16 Apr (LT, mob).  
**LAUGHING GULL (R2):** 1 Charlotte & off Greece & passing Manitou 3, 5, 7 May (MT, JeB, EB), likely same bird; 1 HB 31 May (AGu).  
**FRANKLIN'S GULL (R2):** 1 ad BB 26 May (BriM, AGu).  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 25,000+ Ontario Beach, Charlotte 18 May (RS), very high count.  
**Iceland Gull:** 20 rep, 19 ind sev loc Mar; last 1 HB & SP 25 May.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** present all season; max 7 T Bergen 11 Mar & HB 28 May: approx 20 sev loc May.  
**Glaucous Gull:** 42 rep, 53 ind many loc Mar; max 25 IB 24 Mar (MT); last SP 23-25 May (DD, W&MR).  
**HERRING x GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 IB 8 Mar (CW).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 240 IB 8 Mar (CW); 50 Ontario Beach 30 May (RS), late for so many.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr 1 ED 6 Apr (CW); max 261 SP 9 May (LL).  
**Black Tern:** arr 3 NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) 26 Apr; 1 HANA 3 May (JaR), unusual location.  
**Com. Tern:** arr Cranberry Pond, T Greece & T Wolcott 5 Apr (CW & W&MR), early.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr IBO 11 Apr (J&AH), early.

## PIGEONS – PARROTS

**EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE:** 1 Hamlin (Greenwell farm) 8-9 Mar (CW, J&AH), only rep.  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr TCEA 9 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** approx 30 18 loc Mar; approx 18 rep, 12 ind thru Apr, *intro*.  
**Long-eared Owl:** total roost count 24 M (Owl Woods) 17 Mar - 3 May, *intro*.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 23 Sand & Taft Rd, T Bloomfield (M&JT).

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** total roost count 34 M (Owl Woods) 12 Mar - 3 May, *intro*; 26b M 11 Mar - 21 Apr (BBBO), *intro*.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr M (hawk blind) 3 May; max 87 & 83 H 29 & 30 May (AGu).  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr 1 M (Owl Woods) 14 Apr (DP, ph); singles M 4, 9, 13 May, scarce now.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr M 13 Apr (DT), early.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Fairport 5 May; total b 77 M 7-29 May (BBBO).  
**N. Flicker:** max 2000 BB-WS 13 Apr (LT, et al.), Reg record high; 608 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW).  
**Merlin:** 9 rep, 11 ind sev loc 7-31 Mar; total 17 incl hawkwatch Apr; total incl hawkwatch 14 sev loc 1-29 May; 2 Fairport 29-31 Mar, but not after; no reports of nesting in Reg.  
**GYRFALCON:** gray morph BB 2 Apr (LT).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** 9 re, 9 ind sev loc Mar; total 8 ind incl hawkwatch Apr; total 16 ind incl hawkwatch May; nesting in downtown Rochester back to normal, see posts rfalconcam website.  
**MONK PARAKEET:** no reports.

#### FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr M (Owl Woods) 14 May (BCI); T Gates 26 May (B&BM).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 1 & 4b sev loc 14 May; total b 28 M 14 May thru.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Perinton 15 May, late.  
**“Trail’s” Flycatcher:** arr 2b M 14 May; max b 16 M 27 May; total b 60 M 14 May thru.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr Durand-Eastman P 27 Apr (RBA/BOS Field Trip), early.  
**N. Shrike:** 27 rep, 21 Mar; last BB 13 Apr.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 Firehouse Woods, T Greece 6-9 May (PM, mob).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr M 18 Apr (BBBO), early.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr T Groveland 10 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** total b 26 M 14 May thru, low.  
**Blue Jay:** max 1000 BB-WS 10 May (CH), low max.  
**Fish Crow:** 1- 6 Charlotte area thru; 1 Salmon Crk, T Greece 20 Apr (J&AH); 1 SP 21 May (LL).  
**Purple Martin:** arr MAC 6 Apr (DT), early.  
**Tree Swallow:** max 3000 NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 26 Apr.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr 2 Sodus Bay 8 Apr (W&MR), early.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** total b 5 M Mar – May, big drop from last yr, *intro*.  
**Winter Wren:** arr 1 OCP 17 Mar; low this season.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr MP 12 Apr (J&AH); arr 1b M 12 Apr.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 40 M (Owl Woods) 11 Apr, low.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max b 58 M 9 May; total b 256 M 13 Apr-17 May; last 1 (Owl Woods) 26 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 2b M 14 May; total b 7 M 14-29 May, very low.  
**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell’s Thrush:** total b 2 M 27, 31 May, very low.  
**Swainson’s Thrush:** total b 40 M 6 May thru.  
**Am. Robin:** max 3500 BB 19 Mar (LT, et al.); 1467 & 681 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW), counts in two periods of day.  
**Gray Catbird:** total b 286 M 6 May thru.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr 1 Caledonia 18 Mar; max 120 H 7 Apr; last 6 Geneseo Airfield & HB 19 May.  
**Bohemian Waxwing:** 1 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW), only report.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 607 & 265 HB 26 May (RS & AGu).

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** max 80 H 7 Apr (AGu); last 2 H 14 Apr.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 700 Genesee Co. airport 6 Mar (BPu); 600 NR 4 Mar; (JK); last 4 HB 10 Apr.  
**Ovenbird:** arr NMWMA (CR) 26 Apr (DNI), early.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** no reports.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 1 Reynold’s Gully, T Canadice ONTA & E side Hemlock L 27 Apr (ST), late 1<sup>st</sup> rep.  
**N. Waterthrush:** total b 46 M 28 Apr-31 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Beech woods SP WAYN 10 May; approx 10 ind at 9 loc 10-20 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 1 MP 3 May.  
**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** MP 9 May (BCL); 1b M 12 May.  
**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** NR 29 May (DD, JK, GL).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr 1b M 14 Apr (BBBO), Reg record early.  
**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2):** arr 1 Groveland LIVI 20 Apr (SH), early; arr NMWMA (AR) 10 May thru (PH, mob); arr Conesus Inlet Swamp 10, 11 May (MW),

possibly different birds; MAC trail 10 May (PH).

**Tennessee Warbler:** total b 15 M 15-28 May, low.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Firehouse Woods, T Greece 4 May; total 18 sev loc 4-19 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** total b 45 M 2-29 May.

**Connecticut Warbler:** River Rd T Leicester 24 May (MW); M (Owl Woods) 27 May (DD).

**Mourning Warbler:** arr 1 sev loc 10 May; total b 14 M 10-31 May, low.

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 Cobbs Hill 10 May (MBe), only report.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye ONTA 11 Apr (DD), very early; total b 152 M 8-31 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr T Groveland LIVI 25 Apr (SH), early.

**Am. Redstart:** 38 HB-W 17 May (R&SS); max b 28 M 27 May; total b 210 M 7-31 May; abundant this spring.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor) 8 May; found in expected sites.

**Magnolia Warbler:** max b 113 M 14 May; total b 276 M 8-31 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr LSP 27 Apr (AC), early.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr H 21 Apr (RS), very early; max 52b M 12 May; total b 150 M 1-31 May; 897 eBird "records" in just May, abundant this spring.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** total b 75 M 8-31 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** total b 8 M 5-31 May, low; scarce this spring.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** total b 79 M 5-29 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr 1 Beatty Pt, Greece 13 Apr (J&AH), early; total b 164 M 1-18 May; max 150 HB 9 May (KF); last sev loc 23 May.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Hemlock L NW trail 9 Apr (CJ), early.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 1-2 HANA 11 Apr; max 125 HB 9 May (KF); 120 WP 3 May (AGa); total b 209 M 26 Apr-19 May, high.

**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2):** 1 Greece 24 May (KG), *intro*.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr MP 8 May (J&AH); 1 NR 10 May (PT); 1 HB 14 May (AGu); 3 Canadice

Hill Rd, ONTA 25 May (KK); Conesus Inlet Marsh 28 May (MW).

**Canada Warbler:** total b 49 M 12-29 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Conesus Inlet Marsh 6 May (MW), early; total b 140 M 9-31 May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 HANA 11 May (DS); Church Trail, T Greece 18 May (mob).

## TOWHEES – WEAVERS

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last BB 7 May (LT).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr BB 7 May (LT); total 6 sev expected loc 7 May thru; 1 OCP 18 May thru (JAd, ph), new loc.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 23 T Groveland LIVI 8 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 3 NR, Geneseo 8 May (JK).

**Fox Sparrow:** arr 1 Lyons WAYN 23 Mar (TB); last T Groveland LIVI 10 May (SH); no high counts reported.

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

**White-throated Sparrow:** total b 159 M 13 Apr-25 May, low.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** last H 27 May, often found into June.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr 1 f Greece 7 Apr (JF), very early, well described.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr 2 Burger P T Greece 19 Mar.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD:** T Penfield 6 Apr (AGa).

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr H 19 Mar; 600+ BB 10 Apr (LT, et al.); max 963 & 387 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW), two counting periods; 1000+ BB 13 Apr (LT, et al.); last 1 Beatty Pt T Greece 18 May.

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

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 531 ED 13 Apr (JeB, CW). **Orchard Oriole:** arr at 3 loc 8 May.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Irondequoit 30 Apr; good number this spring.

**Com. Redpoll:** 1 Penfield 1 May (JSlo), only rep.

**Pine Siskin:** Highland P, Rochester 1 Apr; Henrietta 8 May.



## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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This spring came on the tail of a long, cold winter. March was very wintery compared with recent trends, with two cold snaps yielding temperatures 20° F below average. As the spring progressed, the temperatures hovered closer to long-term averages, with April and May both following long-term averages fairly closely. Precipitation throughout the season was very close to expected levels, although March saw precipitation levels ~20% higher than average.

Despite the consistency with long-term averages, this spring was colder compared with the past few years, and leaf-out did not occur until mid-May. Most bird arrivals hovered around their average arrival dates, particularly for long-distance migrants. However, partial migrants and migrants to the southern United States, such as Killdeer, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, many sparrows, and blackbirds, all arrived many days later than typical. It is likely that cold weather pushed these birds farther south than usual, and that continued harsh conditions resulted in delayed returns to our Region.

This year's spring waterfowl migration brought the usual suspects to the Region. The goose movement of late March and early April brought large numbers of Snow Geese during the last week of March, along with the occasional **Ross's** and **Cackling Geese**. There were scattered reports of **Eurasian Wigeon** throughout the season, with the last seen at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 13 May. This year seemed particularly good for **scoters**, with high counts of all three species being reported. A diad of Black Scoters, the least common species during the spring season, apparently spent the winter on Keuka Lake in Steuben County, where they were last seen on 5 April.

**Snowy Egret** and **Cattle Egret**, both rare in our Region, were found on 18 May. The Cattle Egret was seen by Andy Guthrie at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and the Snowy Egret was found by Jeff Gerbracht at Myers Point. A **Glossy Ibis**, rare in spring, lingered for almost a month between 17 April and 14 May at Montezuma, where it apparently travelled between the Wildlife Drive and the Carncross Rd. area in Wayne County.

Although still rare in our Region, **Black Vultures** are gradually becoming more common, and Mike Burger spotted one in Freeville on 16 March.

The gull highlight of the spring was a first-summer **Black-legged Kittiwake** found by Bob McGuire at Myers Point on 16 May. This species is very rare in the Region at any time of year, and this record constitutes one of very few inland sightings for the Northeast in spring. The bird was photographed and was seen by many observers before its presumed departure on 18 May. Other gull highlights of the season include a **Laughing Gull** found by

Jay McGowan at Myers Point on 1 May, which was later seen at Stewart Park on the same day. There were also scattered reports of **Iceland** and **Glaucous Gulls** through the end of March.

The winter's remarkable **Snowy Owl** invasion left birds lingering well into spring. Snowy Owls were reported regularly throughout March, and one astonishingly late bird was seen at the Montezuma Mucklands on 10 May. However, the true showstopper of raptor sightings this spring was an immature gray morph **Gyr Falcon** found by Tim Lenz and Brad Walker in Fayette, Seneca County, on 15 March. Although photographs were acquired, subsequent seekers did not relocate the bird.

The passerine migration brought a few unusual species to the Region. There were scattered reports of **White-eyed Vireo**, including one individual that stuck around Sapsucker Woods from 17 April to 7 May. A **Bohemian Waxwing** showed up in downtown Ithaca on 11 April, where it was found by Matt Young as a lunch special at Taste of Thai Express. Many observers got to see the bird, but it was only present for one day. On a more southern note, two **Yellow-breasted Chats** appeared in Ithaca on 10 May: one at the Hawthorns Orchard and one on Ellis Hollow Creek Rd. Finally, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found by Brendan Fogarty on the Cornell Campus on 13 May. The bird was continually reported through the summer, and in late May it was photographed copulating with a Chipping Sparrow. The outcome of this potential breeding attempt is unknown.

In total, 248 species were reported this spring.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Cornell – Cornell University Campus, TOMP; Hawthorns – Hawthorns Orchard near Mitchell St, Ithaca, TOMP; Lind-Par – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, TOMP; MWR – Montezuma NWR (including the Wildlife Drive and immediate vicinity); MWC – Montezuma Wetlands Complex (including Mucklands, Knox-Marsellus Marsh, Mays Point Pool, etc); Myers – Myers Point, TOMP; SaW – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; StP – Stewart Park, TOMP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** max 3 Bonnie Banks Rd SENE 9 Mar.

**Snow Goose:** max 50,000 Lake St. SENE 29 Mar.

**Ross's Goose:** last MWC 3 Apr.

**Cackling Goose:** max 9 Lind-Par 22 Mar.

**Tundra Swan:** last MWC 27 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** max 126 MWC 29 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** last MWR 13 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 825 MWC 29 Mar.

**N. Pintail:** max 1400 MWC 29 Mar.

**Surf Scoter:** max 8 MacKenzie-Childs Bluffs TOMP 7 May, high count.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 34 Portland Point Rd TOMP 14 Mar; last Long Point SP CAYU 23 May.

**Black Scoter:** 2 Keuka Lake STEU 8 Mar-5 Apr.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 20 Seneca Lake SP SENE 22 Mar; last Taughannock SP TOMP 21 May, late.

**Bufflehead:** max 300 Burdett SCHU 11 Apr.

**Com. Goldeneye:** last Owasco Lake Inlet CAYU 22 May, late.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 190 StP 29 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** max 91 Keuka Lake STEU 2 Apr; last Salt Pt TOMP 19 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 375 Burdett SCHU 11 Apr, high count; last Myers 2 May.

**Snowy Egret:** Myers 18 May, only report.

**Cattle Egret:** MWC 18 May (AG), only report.

**Glossy Ibis:** MWR 17 Apr-14 May.

**Black Vulture:** Freeville TOMP 16 Mar (MiB), only report.

### HAWKS - LARIDS

**Rough-legged Hawk:** last MWR 2 May, late.

**Golden Eagle:** max 11 Cornell 7 Mar.

**Virginia Rail:** first Mark Twain SP CHEM 23 Mar (BO), very early.

**Am. Golden-Plover:** last MWC 5 May.

**Red Knot:** MWC 27 May, only report.

**Dunlin:** max 50 MWC 25 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** max 200 MWC 25 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 8 MWC 31 May, only report.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** MWR 19 May, only report.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** MWR 30 May; MWC 31 May, rare in spring.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** Myers 16-18 May (mob), very rare.

**Laughing Gull:** StP 1 May, only report.

**Iceland Gull:** max 3 East Shore Park TOMP 4 Mar.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 8 Myers 6 Apr; last Myers 18 May, late.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 3 East Shore Park TOMP 7 Mar.

**Forster's Tern:** first MWR 14 Apr; last Myers 30 May.

### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Snowy Owl:** last MWC 10 May, very late, lingering bird from winter invasion.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Thomas Rd. TOMP 8 Mar, only report.

**E. Whip-poor-will:** 2 Lansing TOMP 7 May; Cayuga Lake SP TOMP 11 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr MWC 10 May.

**GYRFALCON:** Fayette SENE 15 Mar (TL, BW).

### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Steuben STEU 15 May; Ithaca TOMP 18 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** max 4 Lansing TOMP 31 May.

**White-eyed Vireo:** SaW 17 Apr – 7 May; South Hill Recreation Way TOMP 4 May; Homestead Terrace TOMP 19 May.

**Fish Crow:** max 14 Ithaca TOMP 3 Apr.

**Horned Lark:** max 140 King Ferry CAYU 30 Mar.

**Gray Catbird:** Rock Cabin Rd. SCHU 1 Mar, rare overwintering bird.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** Ithaca TOMP 11 Apr (mob), rare.

### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** max 23 Monkey Run  
TOMP 23 Mar.

**Snow Bunting:** max 750 Genoa CAYU 2 Mar,  
high count.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Lind-Par 17 May; Old  
Lake Rd. YATE 20 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** first MWC 10 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** max 20 Hawthorns 19  
May.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Hawthorns 10 May  
(mob); Ellis Hollow Creek Rd. TOMP 10 May  
(mob).

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Cornell 13-31 May  
(mob), continued into summer.

**Vesper Sparrow:** max 9 Cornell 11 Apr.

**Song Sparrow:** max 72 Bluegrass Ln TOMP 6  
Apr.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Lansing TOMP 13 Mar,  
late arrival.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr Myers 11 Mar,  
late arrival.



## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

No report was received for Region 4 this season.



## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

### Matt Perry

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The Spring 2014 season continued where winter left off and on a decidedly cold note. In March the average temperature in Syracuse was 25.7° F, an amazing 8.5° cooler than normal. A high for the month of 52° occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup>, while a low of -8° was logged on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The rainfall total for March was 3.48", which is 0.5" above average. Snowfall in Syracuse was 21.7", with 12" falling during a single storm on 13 March. The highest wind recorded was 44 mph from the NW on 14 March. In April the average temperature in Syracuse was 46°, 0.9° cooler than normal. The rain total for that month was 4.64", 1.45" above average. Only about 0.5" of snow/ice fell for the month. Peak wind was from the southeast at 41 mph on 14 April. With an average temperature of 60.4°, May was close to 3° warmer than normal. A high temperature of 86° was recorded in Syracuse on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The total rainfall for May was 3.71", about 0.5" above average. The peak wind speed measured was from the south at 51 mph and occurred on 14 May.



The starvation event involving fish-eating waterfowl, discussed in the Winter 2013-14 Region 5 report, continued into March. There were a few reports of diving ducks behaving strangely and otherwise suffering the effects of starvation. One Red-breasted Merganser was seen with a crayfish—seemingly puzzled about how to eat it. During this period several Greater Scaup were brought to Jean and Leonard Soprano of Kindred Kingdoms wildlife rehabilitation in Pennellville. Reportedly it was mostly Red-breasted Mergansers and scaup that were affected, but one notable victim was a male **Harlequin Duck**. The bird had been observed by many as it swam in the Oswego River below the uppermost dam but was ultimately found dead on 9 March. Mary Magistro, the original finder, saw the duck floating by rocks on the east shore and enlisted the help of a nearby fisherman to retrieve it. Thanks to Magistro's quick action, the mounted specimen of the Harlequin Duck can now be viewed by the public at Rice Creek Field Station in Oswego. Open water spots in the Region, mainly Oswego Harbor, Oneida Lake at Brewerton, and several spots on Onondaga Lake, grew larger during the second half of March. Lake Ontario near-shore ice was controlled by wind direction, often iced-in early in the morning but mostly open after a day of south winds. Generally, ice was slow to depart the Region and impatient birders had to keep checking their favorite hotspots hoping to see staging areas develop. It seems that many of us have become spoiled by nearly two decades of having so much reliably ice-free water available in early spring. Lakes throughout the Region remained largely frozen until the first and second weeks of April, when a breakup was finally underway. In the Adirondacks, the breakup happened a little later in the month. Thankfully when the ice was gone there was still some waterfowl around to see, but high counts no doubt suffered from ducks over-flying the Region.

Derby Hill saw the Region's highest numbers of Snow Geese, though nothing approaching last year's count. Some were observed reversing course, having passed in the morning only to return later in the day upon finding snow-covered fields to our north. Snowfall in March kept most geese out of the usual staging area in fields around Pennellville. A respectable 83,600 flew over on the peak flight day of 29 March; compare this date with the big flight date in 2013, 12 March. The eastern part of the Region saw little movement of Snow Geese. Ross's Goose was reported in two locations, while there were at least 14 records of Cackling Goose. Dave Wheeler and Jim Tarolli found a **Greater White-fronted Goose** with a small group of Canada Geese while observing an excellent evening roost flight at Onondaga Lake on 22 March. Ben Griffith also saw one flying with Canadas in Fabius on 28 March. Trumpeter Swans were found in several areas and again returned to the marsh on CR-6 in Volney. Most Tundra Swan reports came from western Oneida Lake with a max number of 58 at Brewerton on 27 March.

Dabbling duck numbers were unremarkable this period, most probably due to our late ice-out dates, which may have been nearly concurrent with the melting of ice on some northern breeding grounds and led to the Region being

overflowed. Eurasian Wigeon was found at the CR-6 location by Wayne Fidler, and two were briefly seen together at Phillips Point on the northwestern shore of Oneida Lake on 16 April. On 6 April Bill Purcell counted an impressive 420 Northern Pintail flying over West Monroe. Diving duck high counts also were not exceptional. A respectable 62 Canvasbacks were on Oneida Lake in Brewerton on 18 March, as the open-water spot began to grow. All three scoter species were reported, but only White-winged Scoters in any number. The maximum count of 127 was found by Bill Purcell at the Phillips Point watch site. On 8 March, two female **Barrow's Goldeneye** were found by Dave Wheeler at Brewerton. The birds were separable from Common Goldeneye but easily missed due to distance, chop, diving, or other factors. At least one of the birds remained until 10 March.

There were only six reports of Red-throated Loon, all single birds. A high count of 63 Common Loons was recorded at Phillips Point on 5 May. Just the day before, Gary Lee noted the arrival of the first loon on its breeding grounds in the Adirondacks. On 21 May, Lee observed one sitting on a nest at Gray Lake. Pied-billed Grebe numbers were generally low and in some locations the species was missed altogether. Numbers of Horned and Red-necked Grebes were decent but not remarkable. More encouraging were the multiple and fairly widespread reports of American Bittern. Their inimitable calls were heard and even a few possibly mated pairs were seen in several area marshes, including where the species has not been known to breed in years. Single Least Bitterns were reported from Clay Marsh, Three Rivers WMA, and Verona. Interestingly, a cooperative Least Bittern called late in the season (on multiple nights) from the marsh at Derby Hill. Nesting? A new Great Blue Heron rookery with 10 active nests was found in the Tully area by Natalia Garcia. Three other previously known rookeries continue to be well populated—most notably the one at Sterling Nature Center, which this year featured a nesting Great Horned Owl among the breeding herons. This would seem to be a popular idea, since another Great Horned Owl also commandeered a heron nest in the rookery at the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota. It would seem that “Great” birds think alike. On 28 March, 83 Great Blues migrated over Derby Hill on strong southeast winds, an excellent number. Two **Snowy Egrets** accompanied two Great Egrets passing the Hill on 16 May.

Steve Kolbe returned for a second season as official Hawk Counter at Derby Hill, bringing his passion for counting every bird that went by between “morning flight”, hawk flight, and “evening flight”. The data was captured on hawk watch field sheets, but never entered into eBird due to a lengthy internet-connection outage at the cottage. A tremendous loss! Otherwise, the spring hawk flight produced good numbers of raptors and new season and single-day records for both Turkey Vulture and Bald Eagle. Once winter let go, vultures moved in big numbers producing 4318 birds at the South Lookout on 2 April for an epic flight besting the previous day-high by almost 1600 birds. 22,438 TVs for the season smashed the previous record of 15,894 set the previous year. The

increase is thought to have two causes: 1) lack of TV movement during horrendous March weather caused birds to “pile up” to our south, then flood the Ontario lakeshore at first opportunity; and 2) the overall harshness of the winter, starting at the end of November, allowed fewer TVs than usual to remain to our north. Three Black Vultures were also seen, typical now for Derby Hill. Derby's third-ever **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** passed low and slow on 14 May and was seen from the bluff as it made the turn to head north. It may not have gotten far though, with the species reported a few days later in the Finger Lakes area of Geneva NY. Same bird? We will never know, but hopefully this almost surreal species is on its way to becoming an expected visitor to the Great Lakes.

680 migrant Bald Eagles for the season is a new record for Derby Hill, with 9 May producing an incredible 91 birds alone. Many of these are presumed to be southern nesters of the current year, recently fledged and now wandering north. 71 Golden Eagles is well above average, with three 7-Golden days including 9 May, which is an extremely late date for such a count. Even ten years ago, May rarely produced more than one Golden for the entire month. Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawk numbers were again down. A big late-season flight of juvenile Broad-winged Hawks never materialized, and the peak flight of adults was on 1 May. Wheeler and Kolbe were afield this day and also observed this Broad-wing mega-flight from Fort Ontario in Oswego and at several vantage points in Fair Haven. If only more observers could have been in place to monitor this flight from different lakeshore locations. Officially, Bill Purcell logged 4051 Broad-wings at Derby but the lack of usual observers present always hurts when it coincides with a massive, overwhelming movement of birds at different heights, trajectories etc. Merlin counts continue to rise, and a pair was even thought to nest in the Selkirk Shores area. Birds were seen in May carrying prey, presumably to nestlings. The hawkwatch totals for Derby Hill are presented with the Spring Highlights and Arrival Dates tables, and full data are available on [Hawkcount.org](http://Hawkcount.org). Detailed analysis of species known or suspected to be in decline is beyond the scope of this report.

The authors are appalled that in this modern era some raptors are still shot. Jean Soprano reports two birds suffering from gunshot wounds were brought to her. A vulture which came in on 30 March had a black head and is not “too early” for a Black Vulture. Hit with buckshot, the bird took refuge in a barn where the property owner subsequently found it and brought in for rehabilitation. It was unable to recover and was euthanized on 11 April. A Short-eared Owl, also hit by buckshot, was found close to shore of the Salmon River in Pulaski on 10 April. The bird persisted for a while under treatment, but ultimately had to be euthanized on 30 May. It is a federal offense to kill these species and birders are encouraged to be alert and to report any suspected case to the appropriate authorities.

With the proliferation of Osprey, there may now be a housing crisis, or more appropriately, a platform crisis in the Region. According to some contributors, Osprey seen fighting over breeding territory is becoming more

frequent. One particularly feisty male had been fighting with six other Osprey near a Liverpool nest site. The bird was injured and brought for rehabilitation and subsequently released. Fifteen or so reports of Northern Goshawk is not too bad for our Region in modern times. All but two were presumed migrants and seen flying along the Lake Ontario shoreline. After a strong winter showing around open water, Bald Eagles staging/lingering included 28 tallied at Cross Lake by Judy Wright on 28 March and 23 at Onondaga Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of that same month.

A pair of Soras was reported at Woodman Pond near Hamilton in mid-May. Perhaps they remained to breed, which is noteworthy in a county with little marshland. Ten reports of Upland Sandpiper came mostly from usual spots: the airport in Fulton and northern Oneida County. In the latter region there may be a glimmer of hope for the species to be rebounding. Recent changes in agricultural practices in the area may be preserving more of this bird's breeding habitat. Hopefully more info will emerge for the summer report. Derby Hill also played host to an Uppie at the South Lookout, and a very late migrant passed the hill on 29 May. The Region has little proper shorebird habitat, and thus these were found in only modest numbers in the usual areas. Bill Purcell observed a flock of 71 **Whimbrel** from his Phillips Point watch site early in the morning of 21 May. Whimbrel and other shorebirds are thought to overnight on the smaller rocky islands on Oneida Lake, then take flight around sunrise traveling west and off the lake to points north. Many of these may pass the highly-productive Whimbrel watch site at Toronto (see OntarioBirds in late May for counts). Mid-morning on 26 May, Kevin McGann and Dave Wheeler watched a flock of 56 **Red Knot** on the far island visible from Constantia. The knots were then seen flying west where Purcell had just arrived to see them pass in a "V" formation. At least 400 Dunlin were also on the islands that day. No matter what way you look at it, it is a good number. On 19 April Jerry Case tallied 58 Wilson's Snipe in a wet agricultural field on Ditch Bank Road in the Canastota area. Snipe numbers had been building there for several days. American Woodcock populations around the Region seem relatively healthy these days and many observers reported seeing and/or hearing them. In Albion, Zachary Wakeman was out on snowshoes on the evening of 6 March when he noted two woodcocks performing flight displays with two feet of snow on the ground! The only shorebirds that passed Derby Hill in any number were Killdeer and Solitary Sandpiper. An American Golden Plover overwintered by Jean Soprano was released in the Montezuma area. Hopefully it was not the same one seen by Kolbe and Wheeler being chased for several minutes by a Peregrine Falcon. If so, it had not lost any of its evasive agility.

Generally, gull numbers were not exceptional and there were no great rarities confirmed this period. Birding in horrendous weather in mid-March, Wheeler found a medium-sized gull at the Syracuse Inner Harbor that had no markings on its plain yellow bill, and a seemingly dark eye in direct comparison to Ring-bills in a large flock hunkered down on the snow. The birds were tightly

packed against extreme cold, high wind, and blowing snow, but several digiscoped photos were intriguing if not conclusive for **Mew Gull**. Attempts to find the bird on better-weather days were not successful. Wheeler felt that without seeing the mantle color and other features under better conditions, an odd Ring-billed Gull couldn't be ruled out, and thus "invalidated" his own sighting in eBird. Iceland, Lesser-backed, and Glaucous Gulls all continued at expected locations, with a few singles of the former two species hanging around into late May. Andrea Burke carefully described a **Little Gull** on Oneida Lake on 22 March. Small, pale gulls should always be checked carefully since Ross's Gull is a possibility. Caspian Tern would seem to be increasing as a migrant in our Region. This is reflected both in high counts and in how widespread the sightings have become. Counts of over 100 birds are not impossible at Oswego in May. Since many continue into summer one could wonder if they are all non-breeding adults. Two early Forster's Terns were spotted by Steve Kolbe as they flew west off the bluff at Derby Hill on 5 April. For the next two days there was a single Forster's reported at Onondaga Lake.

Numbers of both cuckoo species were down this season, and many birders missed them entirely. Few people complained about outbreaks of Tent Caterpillars or Gypsy Moths, the latter species said to be suppressed by cold winters, and this is almost certainly a factor in cuckoo numbers. Interestingly, one of the most significant tallies of Black-billed Cuckoos for the season comes to us by way of the newly-installed Peregrine Falcon nest in downtown Utica. After their eggs began hatching on 18 May, the adult male falcon was seen bringing several Black-billed Cuckoos back to the nest. For these falcons, cuckoos were more common fare than Rock Pigeons! Where were they getting them? After the winter period's unprecedented abundance of Snowy Owls, it's no surprise that numbers remained through March and a few stayed even to the end of the period. The high agricultural land in Fairfield provided us with a maximum count of five on three different dates in March, and three were still being seen at the Syracuse Airport as late as 26 March. Singles were found in many other places around the Region. One unfortunate Snowy Owl was injured when it attempted to land on top of a building at the Griffiss Business Park in Rome and impaled its wing on a lightning rod. The distressed bird was noticed in a timely manner and a DEC Wildlife Biologist carried out a successful rescue. Fortunately the wing was not seriously damaged and after treatment the bird was released. Reports of single Long-eared Owls came from Three Rivers WMA, Camden, Verona, and Syracuse. The latter sighting involved a seriously injured bird that was brought in for rehabilitation but later euthanized. A hard-to-find but regular species on the Ontario lakeshore, Long-eared Owl was missed this year. Virtually no reports of Screech Owl except on Birdathon was surprising. Four reports of Northern Saw-whet Owl is not bad for the Region. Two singles were found in central Herkimer County, which could be considered an unusual location for this species.

Wayne Fidler kept vigil for Common Nighthawks at Derby Hill but the numbers were disappointing compared with last year. Spring 2013 may have been anomalous and this year “normal”, but it is unknown if weather factors or population regulate lakeshore counts, almost certainly both. At Three Rivers WMA Gregg Dashnau kept a running tally of the species. By the end of the period his count reached 93 birds, which he considered a conservative estimate and a decent number for an inland watch. Eastern Whip-poor-will continues to hold on at its traditional haunts; it was found at six locations this spring. Barbara and Larry Hall had a high count of five on 27 May in Salisbury, central Herkimer County. Whips arrive to our Region earlier than nighthawks so at that date they may be breeders.

Red-headed Woodpeckers are scarce in the Region but at least nine presumed-migrants passed Derby Hill. Several inland sites, including Lysander and Verona, had not seen the birds return by the end of the period. June arrival is not out of the question as the species has been known to sometimes show up mid-summer. On 13 April Steve Kolbe recorded a total of 1356 Northern Flickers flying over Derby Hill, while on 9 May Dave Wheeler photographed a bird whose entire outer wing, five primaries, had red shafts while its inner wing feathers had yellow shafts. Intergrade? Probably not. The overlap zone between these two forms of Flicker has been extensively studied and research has revealed that head pattern is most important in identifying intergrades: red mustache (males) on gray face with no red nape crescent on Red-shafted; black mustache (males) on brown face with red nape crescent on Yellow-shafted. Known intergrades show a mix of these characters. Blocks of differently-colored feathers result from the bird's diet while molting, with true intergrades showing uniform feather color somewhere between red and yellow. Most fly-by flickers can't be examined carefully but the increased use of DSLR cameras may eventually shed light on the status of intergrades in the eastern US.

Good news for our two larger falcons—reports of breeding Merlin in the Region continue to increase. At least four pairs were confirmed breeding this spring and there are other instances of probable breeding. For the second consecutive year, Mickey Scilingo was able to watch a nesting pair in a large White Pine across the street from his Constantia residence. Peregrine Falcon nests were occupied in Syracuse and Utica this period. In 2013, a nest box was installed on the 15<sup>th</sup> story ledge of the Adirondack Bank Building in downtown Utica. A new resident pair accepted the box and began making nest scrapes in it in March 2014. Ultimately three of four eggs hatched, much to the pleasure of all those that worked so hard to make the Utica nest site a reality. It was the first-ever record of the species successfully hatching young in that city, and the summer report will contain the latest news. Woodcock, along with cuckoo, is apparently a favorite menu item for Utica's Peregrine Falcons, as a few were seen being brought into the nest box and fed to the eyases.

Recognizing that their migration continues into June, there were few reports of Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Acadian Flycatcher

arrived on its breeding grounds at Whiskey Hollow on 13 May. Another Acadian was found on 29 May at Mexico Point by Wheeler and Kolbe. The bird was calling from an appropriately-dark hemlock woods, but may be a migrant that overshot its destination. Another found at Sterling Nature Center by the same duo is also a question mark. On 29 March, Chris Spagnoli thought at first he was listening to a first-of-season Tree Swallow, but pursued the sound and found a vocalizing Northern Shrike. Birders usually assume the species seldom sings/calls away from its northern breeding grounds, but during migration they occasionally make noise in the form of shrieks, whistles or trills. Fish Crows were found at long-standing haunts around Onondaga Lake, and a credible report came from southern Herkimer County. Sight-only identification of Fish Crow is difficult business requiring excellent looks or photographs. The two-note nasal “uh-uh” is distinctive but can sometimes be approximated by American Crows, especially young and especially in single-note call. Birders are cautioned to listen carefully and consider time of year. On 10 April in Marcellus, Sue March watched an American Crow swoop down like a raptor on a rabbit sitting in her yard. It came in with its feet extended, but then upon landing realized it lacked the appropriate equipment and proceeded to strike at the rabbit with its bill. The rabbit made a clean getaway, much to the crow’s regret.

Both Northern Rough-winged and Bank Swallow reports were low this period, but as previously discussed, counts from Derby Hill are not included. Cliff Swallows continue to nest under a few area bridges and buildings. Gregg Dashnau reported that following nest removal from one building in Clay, the birds started anew in a nearby strip mall. Only two or possibly three other colonies were reported as active this period. Winter Wren was missed this season at Derby Hill and seemed to be scarce generally, prompting the authors to ask “where were the Winter Wrens this spring?” Though some observers noted the usual migrants, Matt Perry at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Clinton believed that their resident population never showed up. In last summer’s Region 5 report, the authors wondered if significant flooding in the eastern part of the Region during June 2013 may have destroyed nests of Winter Wren breeding close to woodland streams and swamps. Even if the nests were flooded, adult birds should have escaped. Was the harsh winter throughout most of the eastern US a factor also? Scarce on the Ontario lakeshore, a Carolina Wren lingered a few days at Derby Hill starting on 7 April.

Mockingbirds seemed more common than usual, and a presumptive migrant passed Derby Hill on 13 May. A pair of American Pipits at Sunset Bay Park seemed very late on 27 May. Transient thrushes were more elusive than normal this spring. Birders don’t expect to find many Gray-cheeked Thrushes, but migrating Swainson’s Thrush are not usually as hard to come by. A late-May flight of Eastern Bluebirds was seen again at Derby Hill. Most appeared to be adults and Perry speculated that bluebirds ousted by House Sparrows or Tree Swallows from their boxes might eventually concentrate on the Ontario

lakeshore, as they did two months earlier in late March, on their way to look for other nesting sites. Bluebird flock photos taken by Wheeler in May but examined much after-the-fact showed a pale blue, gray-headed bluebird. Opinions were mixed among birders as to whether it could be a Mountain Bluebird or just another variation of Eastern.

Photographs of flying birds during “morning flight” at Derby Hill played a strong role this season. Kolbe, Wheeler, and Jim Tarolli manned the North Lookout early-mornings in May and took thousands of photos of actively-migrating passerines during the first three hours after sunrise. While some night-migrating songbirds land at first light, many turn east when encountering the Ontario lakeshore and continue flying. Overall, morning flights are dominated by a few species: Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, grackles, robins, and blackbirds, Scarlet Tanager, warblers, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Eastern Bluebird, plus smaller numbers of vireos, etc. Brown thrushes, wrens, and sparrows are seldom seen continuing into daylight. Careful observing turned up some unusual and unusually late birds. Two (male and female) Lapland Longspurs flew by Derby Hill on 9 May, nearly a month after the last sighting.

Peak counts of migrant warblers were quite low with a few exceptions. Louisiana Waterthrush, though still a dependable early-arriving species, continues to become scarcer even on its long established breeding grounds. Also of concern, only one of 17 reports of Golden-winged Warbler was away from the Lake Ontario shoreline, a good indication that all but one were north-bound migrants. Birders are encouraged to try to see/photograph any suspected Golden-wing Warblers, since all birds in the complex may seemingly sing any of the songs. A **“Lawrence’s” Warbler** was found in Fulton at the Great Bear Recreation Area. The rare hybrid was first seen on 12 May by Andrew VanNorstrand and remained through the end of the period for other birders to enjoy. Lawrence's has been at Great Bear before. Same bird? Three excellent warbler species were discovered on 10 May, much to the delight of the Onondaga Audubon Society's annual Birdfest attendees. Very rare on the Ontario lakeshore, an accommodating **Prothonotary Warbler** gave amazing life-looks on the bluff and in the flowering tree in front of the cottage. It remained conspicuous and easily-seen all day! Also found was a Prairie Warbler and a very cooperative Orange-crowned Warbler, always uncommon and inconspicuous. Prothonotary went unreported from the traditional spot at Toad Harbor. The area has a lot of habitat unreachable on foot, and lack of effort due to the Derby Hill bird may be another factor. High counts of 25 American Redstarts were tallied both at Oswego and Howland Island on 13 May and 17 May, respectively. Cerulean Warbler initially showed up at some former breeding locations like Whiskey Hollow and Verona Beach SP but seemed to move on rather than breed. On 9 May, Steve Kolbe photographed an ultra-rare-for-the-lakeshore **Cerulean** as it passed Derby Hill. Wheeler noted having never seen Cerulean or Prothonotary in 15 years birding Derby Hill. A maximum of five Bay-breasted Warblers on 14 May at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in



Kirkland is not so remarkable, but what is more interesting is how long the Bay-breasted and other warbler species lingered in one stand of mature and second-growth forest. Perry speculated that a significant outbreak of Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) caterpillars were responsible for keeping the birds in the same tract for around 2½ weeks. The small foliage-eating larvae were devoured by warblers, vireos, tanagers, and their allies. It was an all-you-can-eat buffet and some birds like the Bay-breasted just didn't want to leave it. A high count of 49 Yellow Warblers was found by Dave Nash at Clay Marsh on 17 May. Blackpoll numbers were low this period, with a maximum of only seven in Fulton on 21 May. Derby Hill saw a maximum number of 25 Palm Warblers on 10 May. Also at Derby, Kolbe counted 32 Pine Warblers on 13 April, definitely a good number for that species. Prairie Warblers, primarily singles, were reported from seven different locations. Wilson's Warbler was noticeably absent from some birders' species lists. Few reports came from Noyes Sanctuary this spring. Early in the season, many ticks were reported from the spot, and few birders seem to have ventured in.

There is more evidence that Clay-colored Sparrows may be trying Region 5 on for size. The species arrived on its new breeding grounds at Spring Farm Nature Preserve in Kirkland on 6 May and by the 12<sup>th</sup> males were vying for territory. Jerry Case turned up possible nesters at Green Lakes SP, a first there, and a report came from another possible location in Camden. Derby Hill enjoyed three different birds. Dave Wheeler listened at length to interesting song variations given by a Clay-colored Sparrow in the hedgerows. He reported that the vocalizations ranged from a high "Golden-winged Warbler" buzzy-type to low, almost "Rough-winged Swallow" flatulent-type, and a number of tones in between. Birders reported Grasshopper Sparrows at the DeWitt landfill and several other traditional locations. Marshall Iliff found a **Henslow's Sparrow** at the landfill spot on 10-11 May and substantiated the record with an audio recording. The habitat seems marginal at best for the bird as a breeder. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrow were not plentiful this period; mostly singles were seen. A White-crowned Sparrow continued from winter into March at the Dolgeville residence of Barbara and Larry Hall. The bird could fly, but the Hall's thought it had a wing injury.

Along with Swallow-tailed Kite as a strong candidate for bird-of-the-season, a male **PAINTED BUNTING** was found by Kellie Lukaczyk on 18 April at her feeders in the city of Oswego. Lukaczyk had just gotten back from a visit to Florida where she had seen a female of the species but missed the brightly-colored male. Certainly the last thing she expected to see upon her return home was a male Painted Bunting in all its spring glory at her own bird feeder! Lukaczyk immediately took many pictures and got the word out through eBird, but the bird did not remain for others to enjoy. A week or so later a male Painted Bunting was found north of Toronto at a feeder, and sometime after that one was reported from the Finger Lakes Region. Same bird? Congratulations to Kellie on a once-in-a-lifetime bird for NY. One might ask what a Painted

Bunting was doing in Oswego ten days before the first Indigo Buntings are expected to arrive, but movement of the two species is probably not related. In other great bunting news, a feeder-watcher in Clinton observed five male Indigo Buntings feeding together, an unusual sight.

Again this year, most Orchard Oriole sightings were in the western part of the Region. Derby Hill had an excellent 14 individuals (both sexes) with seven passing on 9 May. Is the species expanding its range farther north? Winter irruptive species, including Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Black-capped Chickadee, were practically nonexistent this season. This is an excellent illustration that seed crop availability, not severe winter weather, is what drives these irruptions. Even Blue Jay flights as seen at Derby Hill were much reduced. One Common Redpoll visited a birdfeeder in Dolgeville on 7 March, and there were reports of single Pine Siskins in Camden and Skaneateles. Purple Finch barely qualifies as a winter finch, and this season they too seemed to avoid most of the Region. Some were reported from the home of Linda Salter in the Southern Highlands, always a hotspot for species.

This season a total of 249 species and three hybrids was reported, which is five above the 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, **Harlequin Duck**, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, **Snowy Egret**, **Black Vulture**, **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**, Whimbrel, **Red Knot**, **Little Gull**, Forster's Tern, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, "Lawrence's" Warbler, **Prothonotary Warbler**, **Henslow's Sparrow**, and **PAINTED BUNTING**.

Spring 2014 produced 70,432 eBird records for Region 5, and these were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v4.02. Reports were contributed by 280 people.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; BLNC – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; Brew – Oneida L at Brewerton; Bville – Baldwinsville; BW – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; Cam – Camden, ONEI; Canas – Canastota; Caz – Cazenovia; CM – Clay Marsh, Clay; Const – Oneida L at Constantia; CS – Central Square; DB – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; DH – Derby Hill, T Mexico; Dolge – Dolgeville, HERK; Dville – Durhamville; Ff – Fairfield, HERK; FH – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and vicinity; Fville – Fayetteville; GB – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; HA – Hancock International Airport, Syracuse; Ham – Hamilton, MADI; Hast – Hast, OSWE; HF – Highland Forest, Tully; Port Byron; HV – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; LOL – Lake Ontario Lakeshore; LOnt – Lake Ontario; MCL – Madison County Landfill, T Lincoln; NHar – New Hartford; NS – Noyes Sanctuary; OF – Old Forge; OLC – Onondaga Lake Creekwalk, Syracuse; OneiL – Oneida L; OnonL – Onondaga L; OswH – Oswego Harbor; OswR – Oswego River, Oswego; PPT – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; Pville – Pennellville; SBP – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; Sfield – Sangerfield, ONEI; SFNS – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; SH – Southern Highlands of Onondaga & Madison Co.; Skan – Skaneateles; SNC – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; SP – Sandy Pd and vicinity; SSSP – Selkirk Shores SP; Syr – Syracuse; TR – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; UM – Utica Marsh; VBSP – Verona Beach SP and vicinity; WH – Whiskey Hollow, WM – West Monroe; WP – Woodman Pd, Ham. Wville – Waterville, s. ONEI; WW – West Winfield, s. HERK.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** OnonL 22 Mar (JT, DW); Fabius 28 Mar (BeG).

**Snow Goose:** arr 20 Mar; max 83600 DH 29 Mar (SK, BP); 3300 Skan 1 Apr; 8 Skan 22 May.

**Ross's Goose:** DH 29 Mar (BP, DW); 2 Cam 2 Apr (JaL, JhL); only reports.

**Brant:** arr PPT 13 May; max 1920 PPT 22 May; 1500 DH 26 May; last 45 Phoenix 30 May.

**Cackling Goose:** max 5 Utica 22 Mar (MI); 4 DH 1 Apr (SK); last GB 13 Apr (GD); 10 other singles.

**Canada Goose:** 2500 Little Falls 31 Mar; max 4700 DH 1 Apr; 2600 WM 3 Apr.

**Mute Swan:** 4 Brew 2 Mar; 9 OLC 4 Mar; max 34 FH 18 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 10 Brew 9 Mar (WF); 4 HI 9 Mar (TL); 3 TR 24 Apr, 1 May (GD).

**Tundra Swan:** max 58 Brew 27 Mar; last 9 PPT 9 Apr, 20 reports mostly from w. OneiL.

**Wood Duck:** 22 Utica 30 Mar; max 25 DH 1 Apr; 18 TR 3 Apr; 21 CM 17 May.

**Gadwall:** 15 OnonL 11 Apr; 11 Skan 13 Apr, high for loc; max 34 PPT 16 April; last DH 26 May.

**EURASIAN WIGEON (R5):** m. PPT 14–19 Apr (BP, mob, ph); 2 PPT 16 Apr (PB); m. Fulton 18-19 Apr (TW) & Volney 22 Apr–1 May (WF, mob), presumably same bird.

**Am. Wigeon:** 50 DH 2 Apr; 50 OneiL 11 Apr; max 63 Volney 16 Apr; last 4 Const 26 May.

**Am. Black Duck:** max 80 Brew 18 Mar; 64 OneiL 22 Mar; 50 DH 22 Mar, 2 Apr.

**Mallard:** max 200 Oswego 1 Mar, 200 Bville 6 Mar, 200 TR 31 Mar.

**Am. Black Duck X Mallard:** HI 28 Mar, only report.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr DB 3 Apr; max 10 Volney 26 Apr; relatively low numbers.  
**N. Shoveler:** first 4 OLC 8 Mar; max 20 GSC 17 Apr; 15 Canas 27 Apr; last 2 WW 7 May.  
**N. Pintail:** 125 Canas 6 Apr; max 420 WM 6 Apr; 400 Phoenix 9 Apr; last 6 Volney 7 May.  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr DH 22 Mar; max 190 WM 6, 9 Apr; 131 CM 6 Apr; last WP 9 May.  
**Canvasback:** 22 Brew 17 Mar; max 62 Brew 18 Mar; 7 Skan 1 Apr, high for loc; last OnonL 16 Apr.  
**Redhead:** max 330 OnonL 9 Mar; 275 Brew 18 Mar; 122 Bville 5 Mar; last 3 Skan 29 Apr.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 350 DH 2 Apr (WF); 340 SP 8 Apr; 225 PPT 16 Apr; last 3 WP 9 May.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 450 OswR 2 Mar; 130 SP 8 Apr; last 6 PPT 21 May.  
**Lesser Scaup:** 200 OswR 1 Mar; 200 OnonL 11 Apr; max 800 Const 24 Apr; last WP 21 May.  
**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** 500 OnonL 5 Apr; 400 OneiL 6 Apr; max 900 PPT 5 May.  
**HARLEQUIN DUCK (R5):** m. OswR 1-9 Mar (MM, mob, ph), died from starvation, *intro*.  
**Surf Scoter:** arr Brew 27 Mar (BB, MV); max 6 PPT 26 Apr (BP); all 6 reports from w. OneiL.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 85 OswH 2 Mar; max 127 PPT 13 May; last 2 Const 25 May.  
**Black Scoter:** Oswego 6 Mar (MaM); PPT 19 Apr (BP, KM).  
**scoter species:** 3 Skan 28 Apr.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 100 OswH 18 Mar; 65 PPT 15 Apr; 60 DH 26 Apr; last 2 PPT 26 May.  
**Bufflehead:** max 400 OneiL 11 Apr; 250 SP 11 Apr; 200 OnonL 11 Apr 200 Const 24 Apr.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 250 OswH 1 Mar; 250 OneiL 8 Mar; max 300 OneiL 22 Mar; last 2 GB 13 May.  
**BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (R5):** 2 f. Brew 8 Mar (DW!, mob, ph), one remained thru 10 Mar.  
**Hooded Merganser:** 30 OLC 11 Mar; max 76 Phoenix 22 Mar; 30 UM 32 Mar; 34 Volney 5 Apr.  
**Com. Merganser:** max 1180 OLC 4 Mar; 167 Bville 9 Mar; 150 Brew 19 Mar.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** 111 DH 5 Apr; 100 OneiL 11 Apr; 115 SBP 26 Apr; last DH 26 May.  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr 5 OneiL 11 Apr; max 17 BLNC 19 Apr; 3 Volney 13 May; last SBP 17 May.  
**N. Bobwhite:** Vernon 24 May, presumed release.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 DH 19 Mar at least

one thru; 2 TR 9 Apr; 2 GLSP 13 Apr.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 4 SH 12 Apr, 3 May, 4 Sfield 17 May; 3 SFNS 9, 23, 27 May; good numbers.  
**Wild Turkey:** 40 DH 8, 9 Mar; 41 Whitestown 9 Mar; 59 Elbridge 14 Mar; max 100 SH 19 Mar.  
**Red-throated Loon:** singles Skan, DH, OneiL, SBP; only six reports.  
**Com. Loon:** arr LOL 1 Apr; max 63 PPT 5 May; 38 SNC 13 Apr; Gray Lake, ADK 21 May, on nest.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr OLC 25 Mar; OF 2 Apr; max 8 Brew 6 Apr; 6 Volney 16 Apr; low numbers.  
**Horned Grebe:** 40 OnonL 11 Apr; 30 OneiL 11 Apr; 30 SNC 13 Apr; max 49 PPT 28 Apr; last PPT 17 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr Bville 6 Mar; 32 OnonL 11 Apr, 1 May; max 34 PPT 28 Apr; last 3 PPT 13 May.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** 500 OnonL 13 Apr; max 560 PPT 3 May.  
**Am. Bittern:** arr Phoenix 11 Apr; max 4 Phoenix 5 May; pairs WP, WM, Verona & CM; good showing.  
**Least Bittern:** arr TR 6 May (DA); Verona 8 May (BB); CM 8 May (DN); DH late-May holding territory.  
**Great Blue Heron:** 26 DH 22 Mar; max 83 DH 28 Mar; 20 Biddlecum 27 Apr, at rookery; Tully 8 May, rookery, 10 active nests; 23 SNC 13 May at rookery.  
**Great Egret:** arr CM 1 Apr; 2 Lee Center 25 Apr; 2 DH 10, 16 May; max 3 Volney 17 May; last Verona 28 May; low numbers.  
**SNOWY EGRET (R5):** 2 DH 16 May (SK!), with 2 Great Egret.  
**Green Heron:** arr Syr 18 Apr; 6 DeWitt 13 May; max 8 DH 21 May; 4 Verona 27 May.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Volney 27 Apr & 18 May; OLC 29 Apr; SBP 14 May.

#### HAWKS - LARIDS

**Black Vulture:** DH 5, 14, 27 Apr (SK, mob).  
**Turkey Vulture:** 1345 DH 1 Apr; 120 OswH 1 Apr; max 4318 DH 2 Apr; 254 SNC 13 Apr.  
**Osprey:** arr Fulton 26 Mar; 18 SNC 13 Apr; max 86 DH 9 May.  
**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** DH 14 May (SK, DW, NYSARC, ph), 3<sup>rd</sup> Reg record, *intro*.  
**N. Harrier:** max 39 DH 10 Apr; 23 SNC 13 Apr.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 40 SNC 13 Apr; max 605 DH 10 Apr; 5 SBP 9 May.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 38 DH 19 Mar; 35 SNC

13 Apr.

**N. Goshawk:** max 2 DH 10 Apr; mostly singles 7 Mar – 27 Apr, all but 2 of 15 reports from LOL.

**accipiter species:** max 20 SNC 13 Apr.

**Bald Eagle:** 23 OLC 11, 17 Mar; 38 Cross Lake 28 Mar, impressive number; Const 18 Apr, on nest; max 91 DH 9 May.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 110 DH 1 Apr; 7 Verona 1 May; a few singles in ONEI & HERK.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Verona 10 Apr; 13 SNC 13 Apr; 27 SBP 22 Apr; max 4051 DH 1 May.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 862 DH 13 Apr; 157 SNC 13 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 25 DH 1 Apr; last Cam 29 Apr; most records from OSWE.

**Golden Eagle:** max 7 DH 7, 19 Mar & 9 May, very high num for dates.

**Virginia Rail:** arr Volney & Dville 11 Apr; 2 Tully 19 Apr; max 3 Phoenix 27 Apr & CM 17 May; 2 DH 28 May.

**Sora:** arr TR & Phoenix 27 Apr; 2 WP 12 May; 2 CM 17 May; generally low numbers.

**Com. Gallinule:** arr 3 Volney 16 Apr; max 9 Volney 7 May; mostly singles and low numbers.

**Am. Coot:** 13 Bville 6 Mar; max 10 OnonL 17, 22 Mar.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr CM 21 Mar (DW, ph); max 5 DH 2, 3 Apr & 9 May; 3 CM 13 Apr; last DH 25 May.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr Const 25 May; max 35 Const 27 May; last 20 Const 30 May; all reports OneiL.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr HI 5 May; 4 DB 14, 16 May; max 7 Bville 16 May; 14 other sightings.

**Killdeer:** arr 5 DH 10 Mar; 10 Cicero 22 Mar; max 75 DH 1 Apr; 17 WM 3 Apr.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 22 Apr; 6 DB 17 May; 6 Fulton 21 May; max 8 OnonL 23 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Lysander 26 Apr; 3 Volney 7 May & Oriskany 7 May; 3 Little Falls 8 May; max 6 DH 9 May; 3 OnonL 18 May; last Minoa 27 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr TR 3 Apr; max 21 DB 4 May; 15 TR 4 May; 15 HI 5 May; last 2 Const 25 May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Fulton 11 Apr; max 6 Volney 4 May; 5 DB 4 May; 4 DH 10 May; last UM 28 May.

**Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs:** max 8 Volney 11 Apr; 7 Pville 11 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr Fulton 11 Apr (WF); 2

Fulton 28 Apr, 17 May; max 3 Deerfield 17 May (BB, MV); 10 reports from OSWE & n. ONEI.

**Whimbrel:** max 71 Ppt 21 May (BP!), only report.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr OnonL 17 May (DWe); max 12 Const 27 May (BP, DW); only reports.

**Red Knot:** max 56 Const 26 May (KM, DW, BP), only report.

**Sanderling:** Const 26 May, only report.

**Dunlin:** arr 3 OneiL 14 Apr; max 400 Const 26 May (KM); 130 Ppt 26 May; all sightings OneiL.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Kirkville 24 Apr; max 34 Pville 16 May; 25 OnonL 16 May; 8 DB 21 May.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr CS 9 Apr; 2 Chittenango 11 Apr; 2 Volney 11 Apr; max 5 Const 25 May; 8 reports.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr OnonL 16 May; 10 DB 25 May; max 50 Ppt 26 May; 40 Const 26 May; 15 reports.

**peep species:** max 500 Const 30 May (DW).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** max 3 OnonL 16 May, only report.

**Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher:** 2 Const 30 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr TR 21 Apr; 10 Volney 12 Apr; max 58 DB 19 Apr (GC!); 6 Litchfield 25 Apr.

**Am. Woodcock:** arr 2 Albion 7 Mar; 6 TR 20, 25 May; 6 DH 1 Apr; Rome 6 Apr, nest; max 11 TR 19 May.

**shorebird species:** max 30 DH 26 May.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 33 OswH 5 Apr; 141 Skan 12 Apr; max 157 Ppt 1 May.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 2500 DH 22 Mar; 2000 DB 14 Apr; 1300 FH 29 May.

**Herring Gull:** max 600 OnonL 8 Mar; 400 DH 22 Mar; 250 OswH 26, 27 May.

**Iceland Gull:** max 9 OnonL 8 Mar; 2 DH 22 Mar; 2 DB 26 Mar; last OswH 27 May; 20 reports.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Pville 7 Apr; max 4 DB 14 Apr; OnonL 24 Mar; last OswH 26 May.

**Glaucous Gull:** OnonL 8 Mar; OLC 18 Mar; OswH 18 Mar; DH 22 Mar; last OswH 12 Apr.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 33 Bville 5 Mar; max 80 OLC 9 Mar; 50 DH 22 Mar.

**larus species:** 30 Brew 30 Mar; max 330 Const 4 May.

**gull species:** max 200 OnonL 6 Apr; 70 Otisco Lake 16 Apr.

**Caspian Tern:** arr OnonL 5 Apr; 88 OneiL 4 May; 220 OswH 26 May; 145 FH 29 May;

good numbers.

**Black Tern:** arr PPt 2 May (BP); max 6 SSSP 17 May (CS); 5 OswH 24 May (AVN); 20 more reports.

**Com. Tern:** arr OswH 5 Apr; 32 PPt 2 May; max 60 Fulton 16 May; 35 OneiL 22 May.

**Forster's Tern:** max 2 DH 5 Apr (KB, MaM, BP), early; OnonL 6, 7 Apr (GD, DWe); only reports.

**Com./Forster's Tern:** Skan 11 Apr.  
**sterna species:** max 5 WP 4 May.

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Rock Pigeon:** 95 Madison 10 Mar; 90 Brew 21 Mar; max 100 Bville 31 Mar.

**Mourning Dove:** 42 Dolge 10 Mar; max 70 DH 1 Apr.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr SFNS 10 May; singles TR, DH, Hast, Dolge, Cam, GLSP; around 10 reports.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr GLSP 10 May; max 2 HI 20 May & SFNS 20, 22 May; low numbers.

**E. Screech-Owl:** SBP 17 May; Bville 17 May; only reports; why so few?

**Great Horned Owl:** SNC 13 Mar, breeding; 3 Canas 29 Mar–28 Apr, breeding; low numbers.

**Snowy Owl:** max 5 Ff 9, 24, 29 Mar (TSc, GL); Rome 10 Mar (JS), rehab, *intro*; 3 HA 26 Mar (CW, JBa); last Bville 26 May (JB, KM); many reports.

**Barred Owl:** 2 TR 20 Mar; max 3 WM 9 May & DH 27 May; 2 OF 27 May; around 100 reports.

**Long-eared Owl:** TR 9, 17 Mar (JB); Syr 29 Mar (JS) *intro*; Cam 6 May (JaL, JhL); Verona 17 May (BB, MV).

**Short-eared Owl:** Poland 1 Mar (HP); DH 7 Apr (DWe); max 2 Dville 9 Apr (BB); Pulaski 10 Apr (JS), *intro*.

**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Ff 18 Mar (EH); BLNC thru 29 Mar (GD, JB, mob); Verona 6 Apr (MV); Dolge 19 Apr (LH).

**Com. Nighthawk:** arr 2 SBP 9 May; max 28 DH 29 May; 23 TR 29 May (GD).

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Syr 21 Apr; 3 Cam 11, 26 May; max 5 Salisbury 27 May; 6 sites.

**Chimney Swift:** arr DH 21 Apr; max 49 Mexico 18 May; 31 Skan 23 May; 25 Dolge 27 May.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr SH 4 May; max 6 DH 9, 14 May; 5 Whitestown 24 May.

**Belted Kingfisher:** Bville 4 Mar, taken by Cooper's Hawk (JB); max 11 DH 13 Apr; 5 SNC 13 Apr.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** SH 9 Mar; arr 6

Apr; max 3 SNC 7 May; 3 SBP 8 May; 2 DH 11 May; one away from LOnt.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 8 GLSP 18 Apr; 6 TR 1 May; 6 SFNS 7, 9 May; 7 GB 11 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Little Falls 4 Mar; 7 DH 13 Apr; 8 VBSP 20 Apr; max 9 SFNS 9 May.

**Downy Woodpecker:** 7 Skan 2 Apr; 6 BLNC 19 Apr; 6 SFNS 7, 11, 13 May; max 11 CM 17 May.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 5 HI 6 May, 5 SFNS 18 May.

**N. Flicker:** 160 DH 11 Apr; max 1640 DH 13 Apr; 68 SNC 13 Apr.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 5 VBSP 20 Apr; 4 SBP 20 Apr; 4 DH 27 Apr.

**Am. Kestrel:** 48 DH 29 Apr; max 96 DH 14 Apr; 5 FH 1 May (DW).

**Merlin:** max 7 DH 19 Mar & 14 Apr; 2 Deerfield 24 Apr; 2 Const 4 May, breeding; 2 Verona 19 May, breeding; 2 OF 20 May; 2 DH late May, carrying prey, thought nesting SSSP.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 4 DH 9 May (SK); Breeding confirmed in Syr and Utica, 1<sup>st</sup> CO breeding record.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Cam 18 May; Sterling 21 May; only reports.

**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr WP 7 May; max 5 WH 15 May, WP 30 May, & Cam 31 May; 4 SFNS 26 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr DH & SBP 17 May; OnonL 21 May; Oswego 22 May; only reports.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr WH 13 May (DA), thru; Mexico 29 May (DW), poss breeder; only reports.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Bville 13 May; max 8 OF 27 May; 5 SFNS 27 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Pompey 3 May; max 11 CM 17 May; 5 UM 28 May; 8 NHar 29 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Skan 1 May; 7 Cam 5, 22 May; max 9 CM 9 May; 8 WP 12 May.

**E. Phoebe:** arr Clay 8 Mar; 6 TR 9 Apr; max 14 DH 13 Apr; 6 Clay 17 May.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr GB 3 May; 6 VBSP 10, 30 May; max 11 CM 17 May; 6 Ilion 26 May.

**E. Kingbird:** arr Bville 23 Apr; 6 BLNC 6 May; 7 TR 7 May; 8 SNC 7 May; max 15 DH 9 May.

**N. Shrike:** TR 8-25 Mar (GD) & 6 Apr; last Verona 8 Apr; around 15 individuals.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr 2 TR 6 May; 3 HI 10 May; max 4 WH 14 May; 3 BLNC 29 May; 3 VBSP 30 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Cam 21 Apr; 5 Cam 8 May; 5 HF 11 May; max 6 OF 17 May.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr OnonL 1 May; 8 TR 11, 15 May; max 10 Fville 12 May, 10 WP 27 May.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Cam 9 May; 2 ea DH, Cam, GLSP 10–13 May; last SH 27 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Fville 3 May; 27 Cam 22 May; max 30 Happy Valley 22 May; 25 OF 22 May.  
**Blue Jay:** 25 TR 8 Mar; 30 SBP 5 May; 25 SFNS 6 May; max 242 DH 10 May, very low num, *intro*; 25 SNC 13 May.  
**Am. Crow:** max 4871 GLSP 7 Mar (JC); 1660 DH 7 Mar (SK).  
**Fish Crow:** max 8 OnonL 22 Mar; most reports from OnonL; singles s. HERK, unusual loc.  
**Com. Raven:** 3 WM 3 Mar; 6 DH 18 Mar; pairs SFNS, VBSP, Manlius, Const, SBP; 5 OF 21 May.  
**Horned Lark:** 82 Pompey 2 Mar; 55 Manheim 2 Mar; max 90 Elbridge 14 Mar; 60 DH 1 Apr.  
**Purple Martin:** arr DH 5 Apr; 9 OneiL 14 May; max 12 DH 30 May & Const 30 May.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr Canas 19 Mar; 400 Fulton 16 Apr; max 500 Phoenix 19 Apr; 496 DH 1 May.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Bville 7 Apr; 8 Little Falls 19 Apr; max 12 OLC 1 May; low counts.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr DH 20 Apr; max 20 Syr 24 May; 14 Litchfield 28 May.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr DH 13 Apr; 10 Verona 28 Apr; 7 BLNC, TR 2–4 May; 12 Clay 19, 27 May, breeding.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Wville 3 Apr; 25 Volney 26 Apr; max 60 BLNC 2 May; 30 DH 23 May.  
**swallow species:** max 500 DH 25 Apr; 125 DeWitt 9 May.  
**Black-capped Chickadee:** 25 Ff 23 Mar; 25 SFNS 2 Mar, 19 Apr; max 29 Cam 1 May.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 6 Bville 3 Apr; 6 GLSP 3 May; max 8 SFNS 6, 8 May.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 5 SH 12 Apr; max 7 CM 13 Apr; 3 VBSP 20 Apr; 4 SSSP 11 May.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 6 Cam, Sterling, GLSP, SFNS 2 Mar – 10 May.  
**Brown Creeper:** max 5 GB 6 Apr; 4 BLNC 7 Apr; 5 NS 16 Apr; 4 Cam 1 May; very few on LOL.  
**Carolina Wren:** 2 Fville 2 Mar; 2 DeWitt 16 Apr; max 3 Minoa 25 Apr, 2 May; DH 7 Apr, rare at loc.  
**House Wren:** arr Camden 14 Apr; max 8 SFNS

17–24 May & Clay 17 May; 4 UM 17 May; 5 Caz 24 May.  
**Winter Wren:** WP 6 Mar; 2 GB 13 Apr; max 5 Cleveland 17 May; 2 WH 11–22 May; low numbers.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr DeWitt 9 May; 3 Pulaski 10 May; max 9 CM 17 May; 3 WP 19 May; 5 Verona 26 May; 3 TR 30 May.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr DH 12 Apr; 6 DeWitt 3 May; 7 TR 4 May; max 11 CM 17 May.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 10 BLNC 11 Apr; 8 Cam 11 Apr; 10 CM 13 Apr; max 20 NS 19 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Cam 11 Apr; 20 CM 27 Apr; max 25 NS & GB 3 May; 20 BLNC 2 May; last 17 May.  
**E. Bluebird:** 5 Clinton 7 Mar; 6 TR 27 Mar; max 35 DH 15 May; 5 Dolge 18–22 May; 5 SH 22 May.  
**Veery:** arr Cam 4 May; 7 Oswego 12 May; 6 TR 14 May; max 9 CM 17 May; 6 SFNS 23, 26 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr SBP 19 May; max 2 HI 20 May; Syr 21 May; only reports.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr SFNS 9 May; max 3 SBP 14, 17 May; 2 OF, Cam, BLNC 18–21 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr Brew 6 Apr; 7 CM 13 Apr; max 12 Cam 1 May; 10 TR 1 May; 7 SBP 1 May.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr OLC 1 May; 12 SFNS 14 May; max 20 CM 17 May; 11 Sfield 17 May; 10 Ham 17 May.  
**Am. Robin:** 100 TR 8 Mar; 200 DeWitt 14 Mar; 901 DH 18 Mar; 2500 DH 1 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** SFNS 1 Mar; arr DeWitt 13 Apr; max 20 WP 11 May & SBP 14 May; max 37 CM 17 May.  
**N. Mockingbird:** 3 DeWitt 1 Mar; max 4 Skan 8 Mar; 3 HA 22 Mar; 3 GLSP 13 Apr; DH 13 May, app migrant; most near Syr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Fville, SBP 13 Apr; max 5 GLSP 3 May & Solvay 5 May; 4 DH 10 May.  
**European Starling:** max est 2000 Ham 14 Mar, DH 1 Apr, & MCL 1 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** arr Cam 7 Apr; 30 Bville 22 Apr; max 45 DB 21 May; last 2 SBP 27 May.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** 46 Marcellus 4 Apr; 42 SNC 8 Mar; 50 TR 8 Mar; max 500 DH 1 Apr.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** 2 Elbridge 14 Mar (KB); 2 Dolge 19 Mar (BLH); last 2 DH 9 May (SK, JT, DW).  
**Snow Bunting:** 200 Otisco Lake 11 Mar; max

500 Pville 22 Mar; 105 Manheim 31 Mar; last 2 DH 7 Apr.

**Ovenbird:** arr TR 1 May; 13 Rome 9 May; max 29 GB 11 May; 18 Sfield 17 May; 16 OF 27 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Marcellus 14 Apr; 2 Canas 19 Apr; 2 Cam 1 May; 2 Poland 17 May; 2 Ilion 26 May; few reports.

**N. Waterthrush:** arr Fabius 26 Apr; 9 Cicero 4 May; 8 TR 8 May; max 16 BLNS 6 May; 7 Fville 12 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr DH 9 May; 6 or 7 individuals, all but one near LOL, some heard-only.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Ham 6 May; 6 SFNS 9 May & GB 11 May; 10 HI 20 May; max 13 Verona 24 May.

**“Brewster’s” Warbler:** arr VBSP 10 May; GB 12 May; TR 13, 15 May.

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** GB 12–30 May (JB, AV, mob), poss returning individual.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr DH 22 Apr; 5 Cam 9 May; max 8 Cleveland 15 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** DH 10 May (ph, mob), very rare at loc, only report.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Cam, DB, DH, GB 9 May; max 7 SBP 20 May; 4 WH 20 May; 4 Cam 21 May; last OF 27 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr SBP 9 May (BP); DH 10 May; Dville 12 May (BB); only reports.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr DH 27 Apr; max 10 TR 9 May; 9 CM 9 May; 6 DH 10 May; 5 SFNS 11 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Manlius 10 May; max 4 WH 20 May; 2 GB 13, 23 May.

**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Fville 3 May; max 20 GB 11 May; 34 CM 17 May; 18 Verona 25 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr SFNS 6 May; max 5 GB 11, 13 May; 4 GLSP 11 May; 4 SNC 13 May.

**Am. Redstart:** arr Fville 2 May; 18 DH 13 May; max 25 Oswego 13 May, HI 17 May, & CM 17 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr TR 6 May; max 4 DH 10 May; 3 SBP 12 May; 3 FH 17 May; around 25 reports.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr HI 6 May; 2 Mexico 11 May; max 11 HI 17 May; 2 Ppt 23 May.

**N. Parula:** arr Skan 4 May; 5 SFNS 9 May; max 6 Oswego 12 May; 3 OF 17 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr GLSP 3 May; 6 CM 9 May; 6 SFNS 9 May; max 7 Oswego 12 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SFNS 9 May; max 5 SFNS 14 May; 2 Fulton 16 May; 3 SBP 18 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Pompey, SFNS 7 May; max 10 DB 9 May (TS) & OF 27 May; 9 TR 9 May; 7 SH 19 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr Bville 1 May; 25 DH 10 May; 25 TR 11 May; max 49 CM 17 May; 25 HI 17 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr OnonL 6 May; 11 TR 9 May; max 12 VBSP 10 May; 11 Erieville 14 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Brookfield 11 May; max 7 Fulton 21 May; 4 SFNS 24 May; 3 NHar 29 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr WH 1 May; 7 HF 11 May; 6 HI 20 May; max 8 OF 27 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr WW, Wville 13 Apr; 18 SBP 9 May; 10 Mexico 12 May; max 25 DH 10 May.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Dolge 6 Apr; 5 Rome 9 May; max 32 DH 13 Apr (SK); 4 Pulaski 8 May.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 Hannibal 8 Mar; arr 7 Apr; 50 SBP 9 May; max 100 DH 10 May.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr DH 10 May; Cicero 14 May; 2 Tully 24 May; HV 17, 22 May; 3 other reports.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr SFNS 25 Apr; max 16 SFNS 9 May; 15 TR 9 May; 12 OF 27 May.

**Canada Warbler:** arr BLNC, CM 9 May; 4 Erieville 14 May; max 7 Cleveland 17 May; 2 Cam 10, 22 May.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** arr SFNS 9 May; 3 CM 12 May; max 6 DH 22 May; 2 Ham 20 May; poor numbers.

## TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr Bridgewater 2 Apr; 6 SBP 13 Apr; max 10 GLSP 22 Apr; 7 TR 14 May; 5 Elbridge 27 May.

**Am. Tree Sparrow:** 55 Dolge 10 Mar; 20 Fulton 5 Apr; max 75 Cleveland 7 Apr; last WW 3 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr SH 6 Apr; max 34 SBP 9 May.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr SFNS 6 May; max 3 SFNS 12 May (MP), 3 GLSP 15 May (GC); SBP 9 May; singles DH 12, 18 May (DW), *intro.*

**Field Sparrow:** arr Fulton 5 Apr; 6 SFNS 27 Apr; max 7 TR 8 May; 5 Ham 14 May.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr DH 7 Apr; max 6 SBP 13 Apr; 3 Canas 19 Apr; 2 Spafford 14 May; 2 WH 20 May.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr CM 3 Mar; 9 Tully 11 Apr; 6 Fulton 13 Apr; max 18 SBP 13 Apr.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Manheim 22 Apr;



max 4 Fville 11 May; 2 Pulaski 12 May; 2 Hast 22 May.

**HENSLow'S SPARROW (R5):** Fville 10, 11 May (MI), only report.

**Fox Sparrow:** 2 SH 9, 23 Mar; arr GLSP, SFNS, Skan, Syr 23 Mar; max 12 Cam 8 Apr; 8 CM 13 Apr; last Fville 3 May.

**Song Sparrow:** 35 Fulton 5 Apr; max 250 SBP 7 Apr; 80 SP 8 Apr; 39 CM 17 May.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr TR 6 May; max 5 DH 11 May; 2 Fville 12 May; last DH 25 May; few reports.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Dolge 9 Mar; 16 Tully 19 Apr; 10 Phoenix 3 May; max 44 CM 17 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** 15 SBP 26 Apr; 19 CM 27 Apr; max 100 Clinton 30 Apr; 13 Cam 3 May.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Dolge 1 Mar; arr Dolge 29 Apr; max 70 SBP 10 May; last DH 25 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 100 Cleveland 7 Apr; 60 SH 12 Apr; max 156 SBP 13 Apr; 67 Cam 17 Apr.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Pompey 5 May; max 15 DH 9 May; 8 SH 19 May; 7 SFNS 20, 22 May.

**N. Cardinal:** 13 GB 13 Apr; 19 GLSP 18 Apr; 15 Minoa 2 May; max 22 CM 17 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr TR 1 May; max 25 DH 9 May; 11 CM 17 May; SFNS 22 May, m. incubates.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr NHar 25 Apr, early; max 5 DH 9 May, Clinton 10 May, Clay 17 May & HI 31 May.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** m. Oswego 18 Apr at

feeder (KLI, ph, NYSARC), 3<sup>rd</sup> Reg rec, 1<sup>st</sup> male.

**Bobolink:** arr Verona 1 May; 200 DH 6 May; 20 Ham 13 May; 25 TR 15 May.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 3200 DH 25 Mar; 2000 Bville 31 Mar; max 15000 DH 1 Apr.

**E. Meadowlark:** arr DH 19 Mar; 35 Canas 2 Apr; max 41 DH 13 Apr; 6 Cam 8 May; 7 Fulton 13 May.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Canas 20 Mar; max 300 DH 13 Apr; 252 TR 5 May; 240 BLNC 6 May; last 17 May.

**Com. Grackle:** max 10000 DH 1 Apr; 3000 CM 1 Apr; 4362 TR 3 Apr; 4000 Fulton 5 Apr.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 500 DH 1 Apr; 44 Const 29 Apr; 30 Weaver Lake 29 Apr.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Wville 5 May; max 7 DH 9 May; 2 DB 9, 14 May; 2 Bville 17 May; 2 Augusta 26 May.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Dville 2 May; max 400 DH 9 May; 20 WP 9 May; 15 HI 17 May.

**blackbird species:** 2000 OnonL 30 Mar.

**Purple Finch:** 12 SH 9 Mar; 9 SH 28 Mar; max 33 DH 13 Apr; 13 Dolge 15 Apr.

**House Finch:** max 15 Ham 2 Mar; 8 DH 25 Mar; 6 OnonL 3 Apr; 6 Oswego 19 Apr.

**Com. Redpoll:** Dolge 7 Mar, only report.

**Pine Siskin:** Cam 7 Apr; Skan 13 Apr; only reports.

**Am. Goldfinch:** 60 BLNC 21 Mar; 52 WW 15 Apr; max 83 Dolge 7 May; 40 Fville 12 May.

**House Sparrow:** 25 Ham 1 Mar; max 45 Utica 12 Mar; 40 OnonL 3 Apr; 20 Syr 24 Apr.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The winter's brutal cold continued into the spring season, with temperatures dropping below zero every night during the first week of March, and Watertown seeing a mean temperature for the month that was 8.1° F below normal. April was warmer relative to historic norms than March and included a few pleasantly warm days, but the month's overall mean temperature was still 1.3° below average. May finally put an end to a long string of colder-than-normal months, with a mean temperature exactly 1° above normal. A strong southerly flow contributed to exceptionally warm conditions 8-9 and 12-15 May, when daily maximum temperatures ranged from 12° to 20° above normal. Precipitation in

March was within 0.1" of normal and included 31.5" of snow, but rainfall exceeded normal by more than one inch during both April and May.

Thanks to the prolonged winter, most ponds, lakes, and streams were iced over well into April, so that waterfowl and water bird habitat was hard to find in March. By early April a few ponds and streams had opened up, providing for large, very local concentrations of birds. For instance, the ponds at Lakeview WMA were loaded with ducks, grebes, and loons during the first week of April, including such species as Surf Scoter and Red-throated Loon that more commonly use Lake Ontario. However, well after most inland ponds had thawed, near-shore Lake Ontario had very little open water, as wind had pushed large quantities of ice into the east end of the lake, and this ice persisted through at least the third week of April.

Although the waterfowl migration seemed to start late, it was fairly impressive once it got going, with good numbers and diversity through the first half of April. Snow Goose illustrates how the timing of this year's waterfowl migration differed from recent years, as this species started moving through the Region about 12 days later than in 2013 and peaked on 29 March, the same date that marked the end of the Snow Goose flight last year. Unusual waterfowl included one Greater White-fronted Goose in a low-flying flock of Snow Geese passing over the St. Lawrence River in Ogdensburg on 6 April, and a Eurasian Wigeon Bill Purcell saw in a roadside puddle in extreme southern Jefferson County on 8 April.

The avian highlight of the spring was New York's first **Willow Ptarmigan**, found by Eugene Nichols on Point Peninsula on 24 April and seen by hundreds of observers over the next three days. By 28 April the ptarmigan had disappeared as far as birders knew, but it turned up again on private land nearby on 16 May and was observed by a few dozen observers until it was found dead on 23 May. The ptarmigan's carcass was collected and transported to the American Museum of Natural History, where it now resides. Jeff Groth, who skinned the ptarmigan at the museum, noted head trauma consistent with a window or car collision. The only other real rarity observed this spring was a **Great Cormorant** seen flying west past the Thousand Islands Bridge on 8 May.

Sandhill Cranes continue to be reported with increasing frequency, with many reports coming from Lakeview WMA and vicinity, where cranes have likely nested for six or seven years. Additional late May reports came from Fort Drum and Turin in the Black River Valley, the former seemingly still migrating, but the latter perhaps representing a new nesting location. Shorebirds were characteristically scarce, with the only real highlight being a Sanderling Tony Shrimpton saw at Black Pond WMA on 10 May. Although Sanderling are relatively common on the Jefferson County shoreline in fall, few are reported anywhere in Region 6 during the spring.

Large numbers of Snowy Owls continued well into the spring throughout lowland areas of Region 6 and didn't seem to start thinning out until early April. A few owls remained on their winter territories through April but by May were

hard to find. The latest migrating Snowy Owl report I received was of an individual in Canton on 25 May. The only Short-eared Owl reports of the spring were from Point Peninsula, where a few birders chasing the Willow Ptarmigan observed at least one individual.

Most observers felt that spring migration was very slow, with many species arriving late through at least the beginning of May. However, an analysis of arrival dates for 89 species summarized annually indicates an overall average arrival date three days earlier than normal, with Green Heron, Sora, and Blue-headed Vireo arriving at record early dates. My subjective impression was that for most of March and April migration was quite slow, with most species trickling into the Region in very small numbers within a few days of normal, but remaining scarce for quite some time, with most individuals seeming to arrive rather late. This arrival pattern changed during the warm spell that began 8 May, when impressive waves of neotropical migrants swarmed into northern New York, making for a one of the best weeks of spring birding in several years. It seemed like most species that typically arrive in May showed up all at once, with many of these arrivals coming in relatively early. Spring ended with another small burst of arrivals, with species such as Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Blackpoll and Wilson's Warblers making their last big push through the Region.

For the season I received reports of 227 species, fewer than were reported the previous three springs but well above the tallies amassed most years before eBird was in wide use. This year's tally would be much closer to last year's record-high spring total had any winter irruptives, other than Snowy Owl, been reported, but none were, including the usually reliable Bohemian Waxwing. There probably were some Red Crossbills and maybe Pine Siskins in the Adirondack or Tug Hill portions of Region 6 this spring, but I received virtually no reports from these Regions. Most birders would probably agree that this year's highlight was the Willow Ptarmigan, but the impressive movement of passerines during the second week of May was also a high point, especially given the sluggish nature of migration during the preceding two months.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; BI – Barnhart Is, T Massena, STLA; BPWMA – Black Pond WMA; BRV – Black River Valley; CB – Chaumont Barrens Preserve; CCSP – Coles Creek SP; CV – T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ED – El Dorado Shores Preserve, T Ellisburg, JEFF; FD – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; FL – Fisher’s Landing, T Orleans; ICNC – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; JCSP – Jacques Cartier SP; KC – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; KPSP – Kring Point SP; LC – Limerick Cedars Preserve; LPd – Leonard Pd trail, T Colton; LWMA – Lakeview WMA; MM – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; PRGC – Partridge Run Golf Course, T Canton, STLA; PRWMA – Perch River WMA JEFF; PtPen – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; SBSP – Southwick Beach SP; SLR – St. Lawrence River; StPt – Stony Point, T Henderson, JEFF; TMB – Three Mile Bay; TP – Tibbet’s Pt, T Cape Vincent, JEFF; ULLWMA – Upper & Lower Lakes WMA; WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; WHWMA – Wilson Hill WMA; WISP – Wellesley Island SP.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS – VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** SLR Ogdensburg 6 Apr (JB).  
**Snow Goose:** arr PRGC 22 Mar; 27,000 29 Mar; 15,000 FL 1 Apr; last flocks 13 Apr, but several reports 1-2 lingering to at least 7 May.  
**Brant:** arr 6 SLR Waddington 13 Apr (PH), early; 20 T Leray 20 May.  
**Mute Swan:** max 13 FL 23 Mar.  
**Trumpeter Swan:** no reports away from PRWMA & ULLWMA.  
**Wood Duck:** arr FD 19 Mar.  
**Gadwall:** arr W1 2 Apr; max 45 LWMA 11 Apr.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** m in roadside puddle T Ellisburg 8 Apr (BP).  
**Am. Wigeon:** max 90 LWMA 11 Apr.  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 75 WHWMA 11 Apr.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr AFWMA 6 Apr.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 33 BRV 11 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** arr FD & WISP 2 Apr; max 276 SLR Ogdensburg 4 Apr.  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr FD 27 Mar.  
**Canvasback:** 2-3/day LWMA 11-18 Apr.  
**Redhead:** max 115 FL 23 Mar; last 2 CV 2 May.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 990 LWMA 11 Apr.  
**Greater Scaup:** 590 JCSP 2 May, high for date.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 174 PRWMA 7 May.  
**Surf Scoter:** LWMA 18 Apr; 2 KPSP 2 May; only reports.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 3 BPWMA 18 May, only report.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** last TP 30 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 160 LWMA 11 Apr; 118 JCSP 2 May, high for date; last SLR Ogdensburg 11 May.  
**Com. Goldeneye:** 208 JCSP 2 May, very high for date; last 7 CCSP 4 May.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 41 T Lyme 6 Apr.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 301 TP 10 Apr.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 5 PRWMA 11 Apr.  
**WILLOW PTARMIGAN:** PtPen 24 Apr seen by hundreds thru 27 Apr; disappeared but relocated nearby on 16 May until found dead 23 May (EN, mob), first State record, photos!, reports to NYSARC.  
**Red-throated Loon:** LWMA 11 May; CCSP 12 Apr; only reports.  
**Com. Loon:** arr CCSP 6 Apr.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr FD 3 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr BRV & PRWMA 11 Apr; max & last 12 JCSP 2 May.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 3 arr BRV 11 Apr; max 8 ULLWMA 21 Apr; last ULLWMA 8 May.  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr SLR Ogdensburg 4 Apr.  
**GREAT CORMORANT (R6):** flying past Thousand Is. Bridge T Alexandria 8 May (RS, HZ).  
**Am. Bittern:** arr Potsdam 13 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** PRWMA 24 May.  
**Great Blue Heron:** arr KC 21 Mar.  
**Great Egret:** arr Massena 19 Apr.  
**Green Heron:** arr PRGC 21 Apr.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr Murphy 1 27 Apr.  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr FD 17 Mar.

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr LWMA 1 Apr.  
**N. Harrier:** scarce before 31 Mar.  
**N. Goshawk:** FD 5 May; ad f at nest near LPd 31 May.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr FD 6 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr T Canton 12 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** last T Leray 7 May.  
**Golden Eagle:** T Constableville 13 Apr; imm FD 17 Apr.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr PRWMA 26 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr ULLWMA 12 Apr, early.  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr PRWMA 25 Apr.  
**Am. Coot:** PRWMA 13 May.  
**Sandhill Crane:** sev reports LWMA where nests; 2 T Waddington 7 Apr; 2 presumed migrants FD 29 May; 3 T Turin 30 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** 3 PtPen 18 May, only report.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr T Dekalb 10 May; max 7 T Dekalb 22 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr PtPen 29 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Lowville 30 Apr.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr BRV 11 Apr; max 28 CV 24 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BRV 11 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** arr FD 1 May where at least 5 territories by 31 May; 3 T Rutland 17 May; Bedford Corners Road CV 25 May; only reports.  
**Sanderling:** BPWMA 10 May (AS), rare in spring.  
**Dunlin:** arr LWMA 18 May; max 20 SLR Massena 26 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr T Dekalb 10 May; max 58 T Dekalb 22 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** CV 1 May, only report.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr T Lowville 3 Apr.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr KC 26 Mar.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr LWMA 8 Apr; max 50 Pt. Salubrious 23 Apr.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** arr SLR Ogdensburg 4 Apr.  
**Iceland Gull:** 2 T Ellisburg 8 Mar; last T Ellisburg 18 Apr.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** ad BPWMA 18 Apr, only report.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr LWMA 8 Apr.  
**Black Tern:** arr PtPen & ULLWMA 8 May.  
**Com. Tern:** arr TMB & WHWMA 27 Apr.

## PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** CB & ED 24 May, only reports.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 19 May.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** PRGC 9 Apr; FD 14 May; only reports.

**Snowy Owl:** numerous reports Mar & early Apr; last Canton 25 May.  
**Short-eared Owl:** PtPen 25-27 Apr, only reports.  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Watertown 12 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Cedar L T Edwards 3 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr PtPen 28 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr T Stockholm 7 May.  
**Belted Kingfisher:** arr FD 2 Apr.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr dates uncertain FD because of presence of overwintering adults; actively nesting FD by 30 Apr.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr T Parishville 7 Apr.  
**N. Flicker:** several reports Mar likely overwintering birds; migr arr by 11 Apr.  
**Am. Kestrel:** at least 9 of 10 March reports probably winter survivors; migr arr T Dekalb & FD 3 Apr.  
**Merlin:** prob breeders Canton, CV, FD, Ogdensburg, PtPen, & Watertown.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** PtPen 8 & 9 May, only report away from BI nesting area.

## FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** FD 30 May, only report.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr T Leyden 8 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** migr FD 28 & 29 May, only reports.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr FD 14 May.  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Evans Mills 12 May.  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Cedar L T Edwards 3 May.  
**E. Phoebe:** arr FD 2 Apr.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Canton & FD 6 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr FD 5 May.  
**N. Shrike:** last FD 9 Apr.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr FD 15 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr CCSP 4 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr PRGC 10 May.  
**Fish Crow:** FD 9 Apr.  
**Horned Lark:** max 60 T Ellisburg 8 Mar.  
**Purple Martin:** arr ICNC 20 Apr.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr KC 1 Apr.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr LWMA 11 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr TMB 27 Apr.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr SLR Massena 19 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr BRV & LWMA 11 Apr.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** T Canton only site reported away from W JEFF.

**Carolina Wren:** no reports from Canton, where several continuously present two years thru Dec 2013.  
**House Wren:** arr KC 18 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr FD 11 Apr.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr AFWMA 18 May (NL); 2 FD 19 May (JB); 2 AFWMA 25 May (JB); T Dekalb 25 May (JB).  
**Marsh Wren:** arr PRWMA 28 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr PtPen 26 Apr.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr PRGC 12 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Canton 13 Apr; last FD 13 May.  
**E. Bluebird:** arr FD 7 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr FD 7 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** T Leyden 11 May; FD 29 May; only reports.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Mad River Club T Montague 10 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr SBSP 12 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr FD 5 May.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr FD 8 May.  
**N. Mockingbird:** PtPen 28 Apr.  
**Brown Thrasher:** T Brownville feeder 12 Mar, likely winter survivor; arr FD 15 Apr.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 39 FD 5 May; 4 other reports 4-15 May.  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 690 StPt 8 Mar.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Snow Bunting:** last SLR Ogdensburg 6 Apr.  
**Ovenbird:** arr FD 5 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Winona SF 18 May; "northern JEFF" 24 May; only reports.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr FD 30 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr ICNC 3 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr ICNC 11 May.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 2 FD 13 May (JB).  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr FD 6 May.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr FD 15 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr FD 7 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** 3 Winona SF 18 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr FD 8 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr ICNC 9 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr T Dekalb 10 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr T Croghan 8 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr T Rodman 10 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr ICNC 11 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr FD 9 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr WBSB 30 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr FD 6 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr T Croghan 13 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr CV & PRGC 8 May.  
**"Western" Palm Warbler:** arr T Theresa 21 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr T Canton 14 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr FD 15 Apr.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr LC 9 May; 4 CB 21 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr WBSB 30 Apr.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr BPWMA 10 May.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr LWMA 18 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr LC 11 Apr.  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** last FD 1 May.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr T Parishville 6 Apr.  
**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr CV & LC 9 May; 4 T Henderson 20 May; 6 CB 21 May; T Clayton 24 May.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr LC 11 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr LWMA 8 Apr.  
**Savannah Sparrow:** early migrant LB 4 Apr; widespread arr 20 Apr.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr FD 5 May.  
**Henslow's Sparrow:** arr FD 7 May; surveys of FD, PRWMA & several properties in NYSDEC land owner incentive program found only one male by end Jun.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr FD 7 Apr, where last 27 Apr.  
**Song Sparrow:** arr FD 19 Mar, but scarce until widespread arr 1-2 Apr.  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr MM 2 May.  
**Swamp Sparrow:** early migr 2 Apr; scarce until after 11 Apr.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** arr FD 12 Apr.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr PtPen 1 May.  
**Dark-eyed Junco:** largely absent outside Adirondacks by 4 May.  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr PRWMA 8 May.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr KC 29 Apr.  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr T Croghan 10 May.  
**Bobolink:** arr FD & PRWMA 7 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** scarce before 21 Mar.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr CV 30 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr FD 2 Apr; max 20 PRGC 19 Apr, low; last PRGC 8 May.  
**Com. Grackle:** scarce before 21 Mar.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** scarce before 28 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** T Martinsburg 9 May; 2 PtPen 17 May; only reports.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr KC 4 May.  
**Evening Grosbeak:** FD 15 Apr; T Martinsburg 8 May; only reports.

## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

**Michael B. Burgess**

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The spring of 2014 began with cooler than normal temperatures. March was the fifth coldest month on record in New York State (NY), and for the Region 7. Temperatures for March averaged 8.4° F below normal. Ellenburg Depot recorded the lowest temperature, -25°, across NY for the month of March. Precipitation was near normal, although there was a significant winter storm 12-13 March that dropped up to two feet of snow throughout the Region. April marked the sixth straight month of colder than normal temperatures across NY. Region 7 was on average 0.5-1 ° colder than normal. Temperatures ranged from a high of 57° in Peru to a low of 10° in Newcomb. Precipitation ranged from near normal in the Champlain Valley to 149% of normal in the St. Lawrence Valley. There was only one significant snow event, which resulted in the accumulation of several inches of snow across the Region. Melting snow and precipitation combined to create flooding across the Region during mid-April. May was the first warmer than normal month of the year for NY. Temperatures in the Region averaged 0.3-2.3° above normal. Region 7 had the highest and the lowest temperatures in NY for the month of May—92° in Massena and 25° in Indian Lake.

The average arrival date for Spring 2014 was 29 April. A Pine Warbler observed on 1 April was the only record early arrival for Spring 2014. A Caspian Tern, reported on 14 April matched its earliest recorded arrival, which was set in 2013. Numerous migrants arrived 2-4 weeks later than their respective earliest arrival date. The cool and wet spring may account for the delayed arrival of some migrants. Reports for the season do not indicate the occurrence of any major migrant fallouts.

This season marked the 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Crown Point Banding Station (CPBS) operated. It opened on 9 May and closed for the year on 25 May. Temperatures were more moderate than previous years and the CPBS was frost-free for the first time in 20 years. The station banded a total of 558 individual birds of 61 species. The first bird of the season was a Least Flycatcher, which is commonly recorded later in the season. The station banded 98 Gray Catbirds, which smashed the previous record of 66. The CPBS also banded five Veery, one more than the record of four set in 2013. Highlights included one **Blue-winged Warbler** and one **Mourning Warbler**, which are not commonly banded at the station.

Highlights from Region 7 included a **Ross's Goose** reported from Cumberland Head on 4 April, a **Tufted Duck** reported from the Essex Ferry on 1 March, a **Golden Eagle** reported from Ausable Chasm on 20 April, and a **Sandhill Crane** reported from Crown Point on 22 May. The Tufted Duck

continued at the Essex ferry dock through late March, and the last sighting was reported from Crown Point on 4 April. The Ross's Goose, Golden Eagle, and Sandhill Crane were reported from the Region once. Other notable sightings included a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported from the Plattsburgh Marina on 2 & 3 April, two **Barrow's Goldeneyes** reported from the Essex Ferry dock on 1 March, two **Blue-winged Warblers** and one **Golden-winged Warbler** reported from Webb Royce Swamp on 25 May, and an **Orchard Oriole** reported from the old Plattsburgh Air Force Base on 4 May. Shorebird species diversity and abundance from the Chazy Riverlands was less than in previous years, perhaps due to the lack of exposed mud resulting from high water late into the season. Shorebird highlights included 16 Short-billed Dowitchers and 50 Least Sandpipers.

Except for seven Red Crossbills reported from Minerva on 26 May, there was a dearth of lingering irruptive species. There were no reports of Common or Hoary Redpolls, White-winged Crossbills, Pine Siskins, Pine Grosbeaks, or Bohemian Waxwings. The lack of irruptive species was likely the result of the abundant supply of fruit and conifer seeds throughout boreal breeding ranges. The last Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Chazy Riverlands on 14 April, the last Northern Shrike was reported from Intervale Lowlands on 12 April, and Snow Buntings were last reported from Essex on 29 March.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AC – Ausable Chasm; AP – Ausable Pt; AM – Alderon Marsh; BT – Belmont; BB – Bloomingdale Bog; BM – Blue Mountain; CF – Carpenter Flats; CM – Coon Mountain; CH – Cumberland Head; CP – Crown Pt, CR – Chazy Riverlands; Cri – Chub River; Ellen – Ellenburg; ES – Essex; EF – Essex Ferry Dock, FB – Ferds Bog; HW – Homeport Way, IN – Indian L; IL – Intervale Lowlands; IR – Ironville; KE – Keene; LA – Lake Abanakee; LF – Lake Flower; LC – La Chute; LCl – Lake Clear; LA – Lake Alice WMA; LG – Lake George; LP – Lake Pleasant; LPl – Lake Placid; MM – Maple Meadows; MB – McKenzie Brook; MRP – Malone Recreation P; MN – Minerva; MC – Morningside Cemetery; MD – Mount Defiance; PB – Plattsburgh; PM – Plattsburgh Marina; PS – Paul Smiths; PtR – Point Au Roche SP; PH – Port Henry; SL – Saranac L; SS – Shingle Shanty Preserve, SM – Snowy Mountain; TI – Ticonderoga; TL – Tupper



L; WH – Wadhams; WS – Webb Royce Swamp, WP – Westport; WM – Whiteface Mountain; WB – Whallons Bay Rd.

### WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Snow Goose:** max 500 CH 3 Mar (BK); last CH 26 May (BK).  
**ROSS'S GOOSE:** CH 4 Apr (BK).  
**Canada Goose:** max 400 MRP 14 Apr (JS).  
**Wood Duck:** arr 2 LC 30 Mar (SR); max 32 CP 4 Apr (PJ).  
**Gadwall:** arr EF 21 Mar (LH); max 50 CR 22 Apr (BK).  
**Am. Wigeon:** arr & max 20 CH 3 Apr (AB).  
**Am. Black Duck:** max 100 CH 4 Apr (BK).  
**Am. Black Duck x Mallard:** arr & max 6 EF 1 Mar (SG).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 6 CR 22 Apr (BK); max 16 AM 26 Apr (JR).  
**N. Shoveler:** arr 3 PM 2 Apr (MB); max 25 CR 22 Apr (BK).  
**N. Pintail:** arr 4 EF 1 Mar (BR); max 20 CH 3 Apr (AB).  
**Green-winged Teal:** arr 2 EF 29 Mar (AB); max 150 CR 25 Apr (BK).  
**Redhead:** arr CP 7 Mar (SR).  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 100 EF 1 Mar (BR).  
**TUFTED DUCK:** EF 1 Mar (SG).  
**Greater Scaup:** max 275 EF 2 Mar (SG).  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 180 CP 27 Mar (SR).  
**White-winged Scoter:** EF 1 Mar (SG).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** EF 1 Mar (BD, SG).  
**Bufflehead:** max 59 LC 13 Apr (GC).  
**Com. Goldeneye:** max 300 CH 15 Mar (SB).  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** arr & max 2 EF 1 Mar (SG).  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 22 CH 3 Apr (BM).  
**Com. Merganser:** max 235 CP 3 Apr (SR).  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** arr EF 6 Mar (GC); max 11 EF 5 Apr (PJ).  
**Ruddy Duck:** arr & max WB 1 May (PJ).  
**Wild Turkey:** max 50 WB 29 Mar (LG).  
**Com. Loon:** max 3 LC 13 Apr (GC).  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr CH 2 Apr (BK).  
**Horned Grebe:** max 5 PtR 3 May (JH).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** arr CH 4 Mar (PO); max 5 PtR 3 May (JH).  
**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 400 CP 2 May (SR).  
**Am. Bittern:** arr CR 22 Apr (BK).  
**Great Blue Heron:** max 30 AM 6 Mar (ZA).  
**Great Egret:** max 6 AM 26 Apr (JR).  
**Green Heron:** SS 25 May (JP).  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** LC 27 Apr (GC, MC).  
**Turkey Vulture:** arr 6 ES 21 Mar (LH).

### HAWKS – LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr WB 2 Apr (PJ).  
**GOLDEN EAGLE (R7):** AC 20 Apr (MB).  
**Bald Eagle:** max 3 EF 3 Mar (JM).  
**N. Harrier:** max 3 WB 29 Mar (LW, AB, TR).  
**N. Goshawk:** BB 24 May (CF).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr PH 15 Mar (AB).  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr MC 14 Apr (JS).  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 5 WB 29 Mar (AB, LG, TR), last CR 14 Apr.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr PtR 3 May (JH).  
**Sora:** arr CR 20 May (BK, MB).  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr CR 7 May (BK, MB), ties Reg record early.  
**SANDHILL CRANE (R7):** arr BM 12 Apr (LC); CP 22 May (SR).  
**Semipalmated Plover:** arr 7 CR 12 May, max 12 CR 23 May (BK).  
**Killdeer:** arr WB 2 Apr (PJ).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr SB 26 Apr (SR).  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 3 HW 8-9 May (PJ).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 CR 26 Apr; max 10 CR 12 May (BK).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr & max 4 CR 12 May (BK).  
**Dunlin:** arr 2 CR 13 May; max 15 CR 23 May (BK).  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 6 CR 12 May; max 22 CR 20 May (BK).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 2 CR 12 May (BK).  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr & max 16 CR 24 May (BK).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr & max 4 WS 3 May (PJ).  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr MM 26 Mar (SR).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 19 CR 22 Apr (BK).  
**Herring Gull:** max 44 EF 21 Apr (AP).  
**Lesser Blacked-backed Gull:** PM 3 Apr (MB).  
**Glaucous Gull:** EF 21 Mar (LH).  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 6 PB 2 Apr (MB).  
**Caspian Tern:** arr & max 10 NP 14 Apr (PJ), ties Reg record early.  
**Com. Tern:** arr 2 CR 12 May (BK).

### PIGEONS - PARROTS

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr CP 22 May (SR).  
**E. Screech-Owl:** HW 28 May (PJ).  
**Snowy Owl:** EL 2 Mar (MD); MB 9 Mar (MD).

**Barred Owl:** max 3 PS (BS).  
**Short-eared Owl:** WB 1 May (J & PT)  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** PB 7 Apr (CM).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr CP 15 May (PJ).  
**Chimney Swift:** arr 5 May LF (BS).  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr MM 8 May (MM).  
**Belted Kingfisher:** arr MB 8 Apr (PJ).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** CP 11 Mar; 2 CP 8 May (SR).  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr CM 12 Apr (PJ).  
**Black-backed Woodpecker:** MN 1 Mar (BD).  
**N. Flicker:** arr 2 CP 9 Mar (SR).  
**Am. Kestrel:** arr WB 29 Mar (LG).  
**Merlin:** max 2 LCl 4 Apr (SM).  
**Peregrine Falcon:** CR 12 May (BK).

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr FB 18 May (GA).  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr LA 15 May (MB).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr BB 20 May (MS).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr 2 BB 20 May (MS).  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr LP 2 May (JM).  
**E. Phoebe:** arr PM 2 Apr (MB).  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr LP 3 May (JM).  
**E. Kingbird:** arr 2 CP 2 May (SR).  
**N. Shrike:** last IL 12 Apr (LM, AB).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr ES 22 Apr (PJ).  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr PH 1 May (SR).  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr LPI 11 May; max 12 CRI 25 May (GD).  
**Gray Jay:** max 11 BB 1 Mar (SG).  
**Horned Lark:** last IL 12 Apr (AB).  
**Tree Swallow:** arr PB 3 Apr (AB).  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr LC 13 Apr (GC).  
**Bank Swallow:** arr 3 WH 11 May (PJ).  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 4 CF 9 May (MB).  
**Barn Swallow:** arr SB 17 Apr (SR).  
**Boreal Chickadee:** max 6 BB 12 Apr (PH).  
**Tufted Titmouse:** max 5 MM 12 Mar (SR).  
**House Wren:** arr HW 3 May (PJ).  
**Winter Wren:** arr SL 8 Apr (AB).  
**Carolina Wren:** LC 13 Apr (GC, MC)  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 15 AP 15 Apr (MB).  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr BB 12 Apr (PH); max 12 CP 6 May (J&PT).  
**E. Bluebird:** max 6 LA 8 Mar (MM).  
**Veery:** arr CF 8 May (MB).  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** arr & max 9 WM 18 May (LM).  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr CP 14 May (SR).

**Hermit Thrush:** arr BB 19 Apr (ZA).  
**Wood Thrush:** arr MD 7 May (GC).  
**Gray Catbird:** arr IL 3 May (J & PT).  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr TL 17 Apr (DE).  
**N. Mockingbird:** PB May 4 (MB); CP 15 May (SR).  
**Am. Pipit:** arr & max 10 KE 8 May (J & PT).  
**Cedar Waxwing:** max 32 ES 1 Mar (SG).

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** arr CR 13 May (BK).  
**Snow Bunting:** last & max 30 WB 29 Mar (J & PT)..  
**Ovenbird:** arr WP 25 May (PJ).  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** MD 29 Apr (GC).  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr BB 12 May (GD).  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** WS 25 May (MM).  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** WS 25 May (MM).  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr CP 15 May (SR).  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr CP 4 May (SR).  
**Mourning Warbler:** 3 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr 5 CF 8 May (MB).  
**Am. Redstart:** arr 3 CP 9 May (PJ); max 16 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr CF 9 May (MB).  
**N. Parula:** arr CF 9 May (MB).  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr PB 10 May (MB); max 27 IL 23 May (JC, MBe).  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr SM 12 May (SB).  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr CF 9 May (MB).  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr HW 8 May (PJ).  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr BT 10 May (NR); max 11 IL 22 May (JC, MBe).  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr BB 15 May (RB).  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr TI 4 May (MC).  
**Palm Warbler:** arr SB 26 Apr (SR).  
**Pine Warbler:** arr TI 1 Apr (GC), Reg record early.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 2 SB 17 Apr (SR).  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr LG 14 May (GC).  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr TI 3 May (GC).  
**Canada Warbler:** arr CP 14 May (JA).  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 2 BM 12 May (SB).

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**E. Towhee:** arr 2 HW 12 Apr (PJ).  
**Am. Tree Sparrow:** max 10 WB 29 Mar (LG).  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr LC 5 Apr (SM).  
**Field Sparrow:** arr AC 8 Apr (MB).  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 3 WB 14 Apr (PJ).  
**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 3 WB 14 Apr (PJ).  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr PS 2 Apr (SM).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr HW 12 May (PJ).  
**Swamp Sparrow:** arr IN 13 Apr (MM).  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 45 PK 12 May (DR).  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr PtR 22 Apr (JH); max 15 PB 9 May (MB).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** arr 2 CP 8 May (SR).  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr TI 3 May (SR).  
**Indigo Bunting:** arr PK 12 May (DR).  
**Bobolink:** arr CP 11 May (SR); max 12 CR 12 May (BK).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** arr IR 3 Mar (SR).

**E. Meadowlark:** arr PB 5 Apr (MB).  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr WB 29 Mar (AB, TR); max 13 IL 11 Apr (AB, LM).  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr WB 29 Mar (AB, LG, TR).  
**Orchard Oriole:** PB 4 May (MB); max 3 CP 22 May (SR).  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr HW 8 May (PJ); max 20 CP 15 May (SR).  
**Purple Finch:** max 48 IL 20 Mar (LM).  
**Red Crossbill:** max 7 MN 26 May (SR).  
**Evening Grosbeak:** max 5 BT 26 Apr (NR).



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

**Will Yandik**

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Spring 2014 began colder than average and ended with temperatures and precipitation close to historic average. The last frost occurred on 7 May.

In the March report for the Alan Devoe bird club, Bill Cook chronicles the disappearing ducks of the mid-Hudson Valley. Once moderately abundant, birders struggle to find Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and all dabblers but Mallards. Ring-necked Ducks alone still seem to occur regularly in Region 8 during migration. What survival skills does this species have, he asks rhetorically.

Bob Yunick reported the rarity of the season, finding an immature white morph **Gyr Falcon** while raptor trapping with Alison Van Keuren at the Ft. Edward grasslands, Washington County. The bird was photographed by Gordie Ellmers and a NYSARC report has been submitted. The Eastern Kingbird found on 5 April by the Wirths is extremely early! In John Bull's *Birds of New York State* the record early date on Long Island is 18 April. They are not expected to arrive here until around 30 April or even early May.

Bill Cook also summarized a spring report of finches for Alan Devoe and found that, despite the seemingly wintery winter, this spring the only lingering finch was Pine Siskin in Taghkanic, Columbia County. According to eBird, several siskins lingered into March and April, found as far south as Mobile, Alabama, as late as 8 April. In contrast, only one Common Redpoll was reported to eBird in eastern New York (Dutchess County, Clinton Hollow, on 25 March).

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## 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:** 4 Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Mar; Ft Miller WASH 31 Mar.  
**Brant:** max 200 Ramshorn GREE 21 May.  
**Tundra Swan:** 2 Stillwater SARA 15-16 Mar; FtE 6 Apr.  
**Gadwall:** max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 1 Apr.  
**N. Shoveler:** max 6 VF 17 Apr.  
**N. Pintail:** max 3 Hoosic RENS 4 Mar.  
**Canvasback:** max 3 Crescent ALBA 13 Mar.  
**Redhead:** max 9 Crescent ALBA 3-7 Mar.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 10 Stillwater SARA 5 Mar.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 7 Stillwater 21 Mar.  
**Surf Scoter:** max 4 4-mile Pt GREE 26 Apr.  
**White-winged Scoter:** 3 Saratoga L SARA 27 Apr.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 40 VF dam 26 Apr.  
**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Stillwater SARA 1-11 Mar; Schuylerville RENS 4 Mar; FtE 3 Apr  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 5 Saratoga L SARA 20 Apr.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 2 Austerlitz COLU 5 Apr.  
**Red-throated Loon:** max 5 Lock 7 SCHE 5 Apr.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr FtE 14 Mar.  
**Horned Grebe:** arr COX boat launch 2 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 10 Saratoga L 27 Apr.  
**Great Cormorant:** Germantown COLU 27 Mar.  
**Am. Bittern:** arr Oppenheim FULT 19 Apr.  
**Great Egret:** max 2 Papscanee I Rens 3 Apr.  
**Snowy Egret:** Vosburgh Marsh GREE 26 Apr.  
**Green Heron:** arr VF 17 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Albany 21 Apr; Cohoes ALBA 25 Apr; 2 Cheviot COLU 8 May.

### HAWKS – LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr Hudson COLU 2 Apr.  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr Bog Meadow ALBA 19 Apr.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Hyuck Preserve ALBA 17 Apr.  
**Golden Eagle:** Stuyvesant COLU 23 Mar; Stanton Pd ALBA 29 Mar; Livingston COLU 3 Apr; FtE 3 Apr.  
**Virginia Rail:** arr Black Creek Marsh SARA 8 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr Oppenheim FULT 25 Apr.  
**Com. Gallinule:** VF 7 May.  
**Am. Coot:** arr VF 17 Apr.  
**SANDHILL CRANE (R8):** Kinderhook COLU 3 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Stillwater SARA 21 Apr.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Austerlitz COLU 10 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Papscanee I RENS 17 Apr.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Wright's Loop SARA 6 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 4 Ames MONT 25 Apr.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr Papscanee I RENS 19 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Ames MONT 19 Apr.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr VF 3 Apr; max 12 Wright's Loop SARA 19 Apr.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr Coeymans ALBA 19 Apr.

**Iceland Gull:** max 15 Crescent ALBA 27 Mar.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 Crescent ALBA 25 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** 3 Crescent ALBA 20 Mar.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr Niskayuna SCHE 3 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Black Tern:** arr VF 18 May.

#### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Gallatin COLU 21 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** FtE 25 Mar.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 2 COX grasslands 10 Mar; N Greenbush 19 Mar;  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Florida MONT 21 May.  
**Whip-poor-will:** max 3 Malta Tech Pk SARA 13 May; Stanton Pd ALBA 13 May.  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Stillwater SARA 8 Apr.  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Chatham COLU 3 May.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Hyuck Preserve ALBA 17 Apr.  
**GYRFALCON:** Durkeetown Rd FtE 6 Apr (RY, AVK, GE), white morph.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Stuyvesant COLU 8 May.  
**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Catskill GREE 1 May.  
**E. Kingbird:** arr Taghkanic COLU 5 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Greenport COLU 5 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Olana COLU 21 Apr.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr Schenectady SCHE 27 Apr.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Coeymans ALBA 4 May.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Collins L SCHE 7 Apr.  
**Bank Swallow:** arr Stockport COLU 27 Apr  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 30 Apr.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Meadowdale ALBA 7 Apr.  
**House Wren:** arr Germantown COLU 19 Apr.  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Albany 18 Apr.  
**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Albany 17 Apr.  
**Veery:** arr Albany 2 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Austerlitz COLU 9 May.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Livingston COLU 27 Apr.  
**Gray Catbird:** arr Rensselaer RENS 1 May.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr Altamont ALBA 2 Mar.  
**Am. Pipit:** max 10 Papscaene I RENS 19 Apr.

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** Northumberland SARA 22 Mar.

**Snow Bunting:** max 20 W Sand L RENS 2 Mar.  
**Ovenbird:** arr Germantown COLU 5 May.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr Deer Mt ALBA 4 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 6 Apr.  
**N. Waterthrush:** arr Bog Meadow SARA 27 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** Black Creek Marsh SARA 10 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Saratoga SARA 2 May.  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Copake COLU 29 Apr.  
**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8):** Drowned Lands Ancram COLU 5 May.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr Greenport COLU 3 May.  
**Com. Yellowthroat:** arr Cairo GREE 1 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** Wilton SARA 5 May.  
**Am. Redstart:** arr Livingston COLU 1 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** max 4 Schodack I RENS 9 May.  
**N. Parula:** arr Bethlehem ALBA 17 Apr, Reg record early.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Greenport COLU 3 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr VF 21 Apr.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 30 Apr.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Catskill GREE 12 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Albany 3 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr VF 17 Apr.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 2 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Selkirk ALBA 8 Mar.  
**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R8):** Normanskill ALBA 10 May.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 1 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Bog Meadow SARA 17 Apr.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 4 May, Reg record early.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Hoosic WASH 4 May.  
**E. Towhee:** arr Hoosick Falls WASH 14 Mar, Reg record early.  
**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Albany 2 Apr.  
**Field Sparrow:** arr Five Rivers ALBA 1 Apr.  
**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 3 Livingston COLU 3 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr COX grasslands Reg record early, Reg record early.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr E Greenbush RENS 23 Apr.  
**E. Meadowlark:** arr Stuyvesant COLU 11 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 4 Stuyvesant COLU 11 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Normanskill ALBA 4 May.



## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

**Michael Bochnik**

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The season started out cold with half the days in March being ten degrees cooler than normal. This left snow cover to continue into the third week of March; much different than the past few years, but closer to normal over the long run. Precipitation for the month was normal. Despite the cold start, three species set record arrival dates with Tree Swallows showing up in February, Northern Rough-winged Swallow on 29 March, and Chimney Swift on 7 April. April was dry until 3.5" fell in White Plains on 30 April. Temperatures were near normal. Many of the early warblers arrived between 25 and 27 April, which is near the average return time. Leaf out was late, occurring the second week in May, making for some great viewing opportunities. May was drier than normal with average temperatures. There were no unusually warm days this spring season. Overall the season had a good variety of birds, but, with one exception, no major rarities were found.

Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, and Tundra Swan were all reported, mainly in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County. These birds seem to be annual now. A **“Black” Brant** was photographed in the harbor off Marshlands Conservancy in Rye 14 and 15 May with about 30 Atlantic Brant. This may be the first report of this type in Westchester County. The Rye Eurasian Wigeon persisted into early April. Another bird was seen at the Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge on 6 April. All three scoter species were reported inland, a trend in the past few years. Even a Barrow’s Goldeneye was in the Hudson River for four days off George Greer Memorial Beach, Ulster County from 29 March to 1 April.

Lance Verderame viewed an incredible 25 Red-throated Loons on Kiamesha Lake on 15 April, put down by heavy rain and strong winds. Continuing this inland trend, both Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe were well reported. Two Cattle Egrets were found, one in Piermont and the other at Croton Point Park; both in May.

Not so surprising based on the last couple of years, a **Mississippi Kite** was briefly observed by Tom Burke, mainly as a silhouette as it glided over a hilltop opening at the Rye Nature Center on 21 May.

A King Rail was found at Liberty Marsh at the end of May, and good numbers of Common Gallinule returned to the Bashakill for, hopefully, a successful breeding season. Sandhill Cranes were found near Ulster Park, Saugerties Lighthouse, and Mohonk Preserve.

Once rare in Westchester County (nine reports pre-1990), Willet sightings continue to increase, mostly from the Long Island Sound shore. Shorebirds such as Killdeer and Greater Yellowlegs successfully overwintered in good numbers. American Woodcock arrived late, with the first report on 9 March.

A variety of gulls and terns were found this spring with many up the Hudson River. Bonaparte's Gulls, Caspian Terns, and Forster's Tern were reported in good numbers. More notable were a Lesser-Black-backed Gull in Kingston in April and a Black Tern in Pine Plains mid-May.

Winter's Snowy Owl and Red-headed Woodpecker invasions left birds lingering well into spring. The last owl report was 5 April in Warwick.

Passerine migration was basically on time with few surprises. The only southern overshoots consisted of two Prothonotary Warblers, one in Larchmont on 5 May and another at Dennings Point on 9 May, and a male Summer Tanager photographed at Lenoir Nature Preserve 13 April.

Westchester County's first **Boat-tailed Grackle** was found in 1994, but none were found again until 2007. Since then there have been nine more records before this spring and four this year, almost always at either Edith G. Read Sanctuary or Marshlands Conservancy, both in the Town of Rye. Next question is, will they breed in the marshes one day?

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

BDR – Black Dirt Region; CPP – Croton Point P; EGR – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary; MC – Marshlands Conservancy; RNC – Rye Nature Center; SGNWR – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR.

## WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** BDR 13, 16, 17 Mar (JH, MZ); 6 New Hampton 16 Mar (CM, MZ); 2 BDR 20, 21 Mar (JH, MZ).  
**Snow Goose:** 8000 BDR 20 Mar (JH).  
**Brant:** max 7250 flying north in groups in the evening Mt Vernon 25 May.  
**“BLACK” BRANT:** MC 14, 15 May (TB, BSh, ph).  
**Cackling Goose:** BDR 4, 6, 19, 21 Mar (JH, MZ); Walkkill NWR 15 Mar (RMA); Stone Ridge Pond 23-30 Mar (MD, JP, PS); 2 Bashakill 23 Mar (JH, LV, SB).  
**Tundra Swan:** 1-3 BDR 10, 18-27 Mar (JH); 6 Camel Farm 18 Mar.  
**Wood Duck:** 150 Walkkill NWR 27 Mar.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** Rye 1 Mar – 4 Apr (TB); Walkkill NWR 6 Apr (TB, GBe).  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr Newburgh 20 Mar.  
**N. Pintail:** max 120 Liberty Marsh 12 Apr.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 150 Liberty Marsh 27 Apr.  
**Redhead:** max 6 Rondout Res 1 Mar.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** 200 Lake Tappan 24 Mar; 345 Bashakill 3 Apr; North Tivoli Bay 27 May.  
**Surf Scoter:** Port Ewen 9 Apr (WT, JP, PS); 8 EGR 13 Apr; Saugerties 26 Apr (FM); 3 EGR 7 May.  
**White-winged Scoter:** Saugerties Lighthouse 22-23 Mar; EGR 30 Mar; MC 3 Apr; 7 EGR 25 Apr; 5 Saugerties 26 Apr (FM); 2 Ashokan Res 26 Apr; 5 EGR 7 May; 3 Port Jervis Res 17 May (KM).  
**Black Scoter:** 8 Pine Plains 16 May (JA, APo).  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 80 EGR 13 Apr.  
**Barrow’s Goldeneye:** George Greer Memorial Beach, Ulster 29 Mar – 1 Apr (MD, PS, JP, WT)  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** Bashakill 6, 8, 9 Apr.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant:** CPP 12-20 May (LT).  
**Red-throated Loon:** 11 EGR 14 Apr; 25 Kiamesha L 15 Apr (LV); 2 Neversink Res 30 Apr.  
**Com. Loon:** max 10 EGR 13 Apr.  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** arr Bashakill 4 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** Piermont Marsh 31 Mar; 43 Bashakill 2 Apr (JH); 24 Bashakill 5 Apr; 46 EGR 6 Apr; Nyack Beach 7 Apr; 2 CPP 3 May; 2 MC 11 May; Bashakill 22 May; North Tivoli Bay 27 May; Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies 28-29 May (CP, HT).  
**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 Rye 1 Mar; Rye 2 Mar; 4 Piermont Pier 10 Mar (EM); Kensico Res 11 Mar; Algonquin P 20-31 Mar; Dennings Point 1

May (AiL); Orange Lake 2 May (BN); EGR 6 May; 5 EGR 7 May; 2 EGR 10 May.  
**N. Gannet:** EGR 29 Mar 3, 7, 9, 13, 16 Apr; MC 3 Apr.  
**Great Cormorant:** EGR 6, 7 May, late.  
**Am. Bittern:** Kakiat P 12 Apr; EGR 25 Apr.  
**Least Bittern:** Cruger I 12 May; Tivoli Bay 12 May; 3 Bashakill 21 May; with nesting material Piermont Marsh 23, 25 May (KQ).  
**Great Egret:** arr EGR 12 Mar.  
**Snowy Egret:** arr Rye 2 Apr.  
**Cattle Egret:** Piermont 5 May; CPP 20, 22 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr Crestwood L Tuckahoe 14 Apr.  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** arr MC 8 May.  
**Glossy Ibis:** 3 Piermont Pier 7 Apr.

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**Osprey:** arr Mamaroneck Harbor 17 Mar.  
**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** RNC 21 May (TB), *intro*.  
**Bald Eagle:** max 30 CPP 1 Mar.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 13 Hook Mt 28 Apr.  
**N. Goshawk:** Forsyth Nature Center 20 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Patterson 27 Mar; 33 Mount Peter 13 Apr; 150 Hook Mt 28 Apr.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** new nest on building in downtown Yonkers 20 May.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** numerous reports from northern counties; max 6 SGNWR 8 Mar.  
**Golden Eagle:** Storm King Mt 1-10 Mar; Overlook Mt 11 Mar; Clinton Hollow 16, 19 Mar; Milan 24 Mar; Clinton Hollow 23 Apr.  
**King Rail:** Liberty Marsh 28 May (SA).  
**Virginia Rail:** arr Tivoli Bay 5 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr Bashakill 26 Apr; Great Swamp, Pawling 18 May.  
**Com. Gallinule:** arr Bashakill 28 Apr; 2 Pine Plains 16 May; 9 Bashakill 21 May.  
**Am. Coot:** Walkkill R NWR 7, 13 May; Mountain Lake P 11 May.  
**Sandhill Crane:** 2 Ulster Park 1-5, 9 Mar (SB, DK); 6 Saugerties Lighthouse Apr 1 (FMu); 3 Mohonk Preserve 25 Apr (BH).  
**Am. Oystercatcher:** 2 Rye 12 Mar; 5 Rye 23 Mar; 6 Rye 4 Apr; 2 EGR 15 Apr; MC 2 May; 2 EGR 6 May; 2 MC 8, 16 May; 5 MC 28 May.  
**Black-bellied Plover:** CPP 28 May.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** CPP 15 May.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr Ashokan Reservoir 12 Apr.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Amenia 5 Apr.  
**Willet:** 3 MC 17 Apr; 2 MC 18-29 Apr; EGR 28 May; 2 MC 30 May.



**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Bashakill 11 Apr.  
**Upland Sandpiper:** 2 SGNWR 3 May; 5 Blue Chip Farm 18 May; Orange County Airport 20, 26 May.  
**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 CPP 10 May; Piermont Pier 10 Mar; 3 MC 16 May.  
**Dunlin:** Piermont Pier 8 Apr; CPP 8, 10 May; 2 MC 14 May; 8 Kingston Pt 26 May.  
**Purple Sandpiper:** last 2 EGR 22 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr Poughkeepsie 2 May; 15 CPP 3 May; 119 CPP 10 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Camel Farm 6 Apr; Pine Island 4 May.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Bashakill 1 May.  
**Am. Woodcock:** arr late Bashakill 9 Mar.  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** 4 Bashakill 8 Apr; 6-11 Croton Bay 19 Apr-17 May; 13 Ashokan Res 26 Apr; 7 Piermont Pier 27 Apr; 21 Kingston Pt 27 Apr; 12 EGR 7 May; Piermont Marsh 23 May; Reese P 26 May.  
**Laughing Gull:** arr MC 2 May; CPP 10 May.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Kingston Pt 3, 6, 8, 13 Apr (WT, JP, PS, MD).  
**Least Tern:** 1-2 MC 13, 15, 19, 27-30 May.  
**Caspian Tern:** Glenmere Lake 3, 8 Apr; 2 Piermont Pier 8 Apr, ph; Kingston Pt 8 Apr, 6 May; 2 CPP 8 Apr; CPP 26 Apr; 2 Kingston Pt 28 Apr.  
**Black Tern:** Pine Plains 15 May (CV, DK, BM, JD, CP).  
**Forster's Tern:** arr 2 MC 14 Apr; Kingston Pt 26 Apr; 2 Piermont Marsh 23 May.

#### PIGEONS – PARROTS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 9 May.  
**Snowy Owl:** BDR 4-11 Mar; Kingston Pt 15 Mar; 4-5 BDR 16-21 Mar; BDR 22, 25 Mar; Red hook 25 Mar; Sanfordville Rd 5 Apr.  
**Short-eared Owl:** 12 SGNWR 9 Mar; last SGNWR 12 Apr.  
**N. Saw-whet Owl:** Piermont Marsh 31 Mar; Saugerties 30 May (RMi).  
**Com. Nighthawk:** arr Ulster, Wappinger 10 May; max 23 Bashakill 29 May.  
**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Wurtsboro 28 Apr; Stonykill 13 May; 6 Bashakill 17 May; 2 Dover Plains 23 May; 2 Milan 27 May  
**Chimney Swift:** 20 Rosendale 7 Apr; 7 Mt Kisco 14 Apr.  
**Red-headed Woodpecker:** CPP 1 Mar - 28 Apr; Staatsburgh 1 Mar - 4 May; 2-3 Weston Road Swamp 9 Mar, 11 Apr; Rockefeller SP Preserve 15 Mar; Rye 3, 4 Apr.  
**Merlin:** CPP 11-24 Mar; Millbrook 20 Mar; Bashakill 22 Mar.

**MONK PARAKEET:** 5 New Rochelle 26 Apr.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1-2 Doodletown 17-26 May; Sterling Forest 25 May; Hopland 25 May; North Mabbettsville 26 May.  
**E. Wood-Pewee:** arr Peach Hill 8 May.  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Peach Hill 17 May; Bashakill 16, 17, 23 May; Sterling F 17 May; RNC 23 May.  
**Acadian Flycatcher:** 2 Nuclear L 21 May; 3 Pawling NP 25 May; RNC 27 May.  
**Alder Flycatcher:** Kenneth Wilson SP 7 May; Tivoli Bay 16 May; Iona Island 23 May.  
**White-eyed Vireo:** arr 28 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** Ferncliff 14 May; Bashakill 25 May; Doodletown 30 May.  
**Horned Lark:** 100 BDR 19 Mar.  
**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Rockefeller SP 29 Mar (EE).  
**Cliff Swallow:** 40 Cross R. Res 25 May.  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** scarce, only 3 reports in March.  
**Marsh Wren:** Esopus Bend Nature Preserve 5 Apr; Kingston Pt 27, 28 Apr; 10 North Tivoli Bay 10 May; 15 Constitution Marsh 23 May; 3 MC 29 May.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Bashakill 13, 14 May; 2 RNC 21 May; MC 21, 22 May; RNC 22, 28, 29 May; Doodletown 24-17 May.  
**Bicknell's Thrush:** 8 Slide Mt 26 May.

#### LONGSPURS – WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** Warwick 7, 8, 18, 19 Mar; Goshen 2 Apr.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr 2 Mills-Norrie SP 27 Apr.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr MC 5 Apr.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr 9 May; 6 Sterling F SP 17 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 25 Apr.  
**“Lawrence’s Warbler”:** Buttercup S 11-30 May (CB, AP).  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** Sheldrake L, Larchmont 5 May (TG); Dennings Pt 9 May, ph (AiL).  
**Mourning Warbler:** Peach Hill Park, Poughkeepsie 14-17 May; Doodletown 17, 24, 25, 27 May; 2 Bashakill 20, 25 May; RNC 22 May; Buttercup 24-29 May; Sterling F 24 May; Fahnestock SP 29 May.  
**Kentucky Warbler:** 1-2 Doodletown 17-30 May; Larchmont Res 11 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr 2 May; max 20 Doodletown 19 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** good number of reports.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr 4 May; max 15  
Doodletown 19 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** well reported.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** max 20 Buttercup  
Farm 25 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr 2 Apr; sightings lasted to  
mid May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr Tarrytown L 28 Mar.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr 25 Apr.  
**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Doodletown 17 May;  
Sterling Forest 24, 25 May.

#### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Savannah Sparrow:** 20 CPP 5 May.  
**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr SGNWR 12 Apr;  
EGR 10 May; max 8 SGNWR 11 May; 3 CPP  
24 May; 2 Pine Plains 25 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** 12 Tallman Mt SP 17 Mar.  
**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 Kripplebush  
Creek 23 Mar; Dennings Pt 7 Apr; CPP 1, 12  
Apr; many reports in May; max 15 Bashakill 9  
May.  
**Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco:** f Stanfordville 1-  
10 Mar; 2 Apr (DK), continuing from last  
season.  
**Summer Tanager:** Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers  
13 Apr (MB), ph.  
**Bobolink:** arr 2 May.  
**Boat-tailed Grackle:** EGR 21 Apr (EE), video;  
EGR 6 May (TB, BSh); MC 4, 11 May (JM).  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr MC 28 Apr.  
**Pine Siskin:** 4 Ellenville 5 Mar.

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## REGION 10—MARINE

**Seth Ausubel**

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The weather pattern this spring produced good conditions for observing migrant land birds in the Region with southwest winds and nearby frontal boundaries occurring regularly. Temperatures were cool to late April, leading to foliage growth rates much closer to historical norms than the extremely advanced growth we have experienced in recent years. Migrant and breeding bird arrival dates were also closer to normal. The precipitation pattern was extreme in that almost half of the season's rainfall occurred on just two days. For example, 2.6" of rain fell at JFK Airport on 29 March and 4.68" fell there on 30 April, for a two-day total of 7.28". The total precipitation through the season at JFK was 14.84". The 30 April storm dropped over 6" of rain locally in western sections of our area but less east (for example 2.21" at Islip), where it was generally drier through the season. March was cold, concluding a harsh winter. The average temperature at JFK was 37.4° F, 4.2° below normal. March was also dry until the storm on the 29<sup>th</sup> dumped about half the month's precipitation. So overall monthly rainfall totals were near normal, for example 4.26" at JFK, 0.48" above normal. April was cool and generally drier than normal. For example, the average temperature at Central Park was 52.3°, 0.7° below normal, and precipitation there was 7.85". While this was 3.35" above normal, 5" fell on the 30<sup>th</sup>. May was warmer than normal. The average temperature at JFK (62.5°) was 1.9° above normal. May was dry across eastern sections, but near normal west.

For example precipitation at Islip was 2.66", 1.12" below normal, and 4.37" at Central Park, 0.18" above normal.

The harsh winter limited the rarities early in the season. Most of the notables were waterfowl, including two **Pink-footed Geese** around Riverhead, Suffolk County at the beginning of March, with at least one continuing until 19 March; a **Ross's Goose** in Riverhead 1-2 March; a **Barnacle Goose** in Sagaponack, Suffolk County on 1 March; and a "**Eurasian**" **Green-winged Teal** at Brookville Park, Queens on 1 March. Despite the scarcity of overwintering land birds, Central Park hosted a Pine Warbler and two Baltimore Orioles into April. March and April saw large numbers of Red-necked Grebes in our area, probably due to ice cover on the Great Lakes and other inland water bodies. There were over 40 reports involving about 90 birds. Many reports were from freshwater lakes and ponds. The last report was 29 April. Concluding the winter's great irruption of Snowy Owls, birds were present in our area until about 20 April, including a maximum of five at Jones Beach West End on 5 March. A Northern Shrike that wintered at Jones Beach West End was last reported 20 April.

The period 1-3 May, following the big rainfall, produced an extended migrant landbird fall-out in the Region. 26 species of warblers were seen in Central Park on 2 May. An interesting phenomenon observed during this period was a great deal of activity in the forest understory among bird species that usually favor the canopy. A likely explanation is that with the cool temperatures through the early spring, the canopy had very little foliage. Therefore the birds were forced to forage near the ground where slightly warmer temperatures led to more accelerated growth of the vegetation and a greater supply of insects.

A Turkey Vulture roost in Riverhead hosted up to 30 birds in March, a remarkable number for Long Island. However, the roost trees were removed by the landowner apparently to rid the nuisance caused by the birds. Thereafter only a few birds were seen in the area.

Common Ravens were reported nesting on a water tower in Uniondale, Nassau County, and a pair continued around the Frick Estate in Roslyn, Nassau County, where they have nested in the past. One was reported being chased by crows at the William Floyd Estate, Suffolk County, a first for this location. Ravens were also reported from Brookhaven National Laboratory, Suffolk County, where, we learn belatedly, a pair nested on a reactor stack in Spring 2013 and raised two young. Reports were lacking from Queens, perhaps due to observer complacency, but there was a report from Madison Square Park, smack in the heart of midtown Manhattan.

A pelagic trip to the continental shelf south of Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk County on 25 May produced a good assortment of sea birds including: 45 **Northern Fulmars**, 383 Sooty Shearwaters, two Manx Shearwaters, 937 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, one **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, six Red-necked Phalaropes, one **Red Phalarope**, three Pomarine Jaegers, and three **Atlantic Puffins**.

Yellow-throated Warblers again made a good showing in the Region. At least one was present from 22 May through the end of the month at Connetquot River SP, Suffolk County, where they bred last year.

An apparent **Western x Eastern Kingbird** hybrid was observed and photographed at Hallock SP Preserve in Northville, Suffolk County on 17 May. Initially suspected as a possible Cassin's, it was photographed and then carefully analyzed. A note on this intriguing occurrence is in preparation. The migration also produced several species that are rare in the spring in Region 10, including a Marbled Godwit at the Lido Preserve, Nassau County, on 1 May; a Stilt Sandpiper on 16-17 May at Captree SP, Suffolk County; Clay-colored Sparrows at Captree on 9 May and two at Central Park on 13 May; and a Lark Sparrow at Green-wood Cemetery, Brooklyn on 24 May. **Pileated Woodpeckers** are normally very rare in the Region, but several appeared this spring. Most unusual were birds seen at Oakland Lake, Queens on 4 May and at Valley Stream SP, Nassau County, on 5 May. **Common Gallinules**, now quite rare in the Region, were present at the River Road wetlands, Staten Island from 9 May. A maximum of two birds was reported.

The season produced quite a showing of kites. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was found dead in Quogue, Suffolk County on the remarkable date of 20 March. Two airborne Swallow-tailed Kites were also seen, one at Prospect Park, Brooklyn on 14 April and the other from the Southern State Parkway in Wantagh, Nassau County on the same day. The times of the sightings demonstrate that there were two birds. An immature **Mississippi Kite** was seen at Green-wood Cemetery, Brooklyn on 10-11 May. What was likely the same bird was seen at Forest Park, Queens on 11 May. Another bird was seen on 12 May at Montauk Point. A sub-adult was seen at Jamaica Bay on 17 May. Staten Island produced several Mississippi Kites. Two were seen at River Road on 17 May, and an adult was seen on 20 May at Wagner College. Both of the Brooklyn kites were found and photographed by the same observer. The author wishes he had that kind of luck.

There were a few additional rarities of note this season. A **White-faced Ibis** was seen at Captree 16 May through the season, and another was at Jamaica Bay on 28-29 May. A **Golden Eagle** was seen in East Quogue on 6 April. A **Wilson's Plover** was photographed in a remote area of Cupsogue CP, Suffolk County on 29 April by volunteers monitoring the Piping Plovers. It was spotted again on 6 and 10 May. **Black-necked Stilts** were at Prospect Park on 2 May and Goethal's Bridge Pond, Staten Island from 4-10 May. A female **Ruff** was at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn on 29 May. **Arctic Terns** made appearances on the mud flats at Cupsogue CP on 29 and 31 May. A **White-winged Dove** appeared at Montauk on 13 April.

A total of 306 species was reported in Region 10 this season. The eBird data base included just over 303,000 records.

Region 10 and the naturalists all over the world mourn the passing on 5 April of Peter Matthiesson, an eloquent voice from Long Island's East End.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMA – Amagansett, SUFF; APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; BPT – Breezy Pt, QUEE; BRY – Bryant P, NEWY; Calv – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), SUFF; CCP – Cupsgogue CP, SUFF; CHP – Conference House P, RICH; CP – Central Park, NEWY; CR – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; CRSP – Connetquot R SP, SUFF; CSP – Captree State Park, 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 Park, QUEE; FP – Forest Park, QUEE; FT – Fort Tilden, QUEE; GBP – Goethal’s Bridge Pd, RICH; GKP – Great Kills P, RICH; HHSP – Hither Hills SP, SUFF; HLSP – Hempstead L SP, NASS; HSP – Hecksher SP, SUFF; Jam Bay – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; JBSP – Jones Beach SP, NASS; JBWE – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; KP – Kissena Park, QUEE; Mass – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; MB – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; 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

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** 2 Riverhead, SUFF thru 2 Mar; Merrit's Pd and vicinity, Riverhead 7-19 Mar; probably same bird or birds (DR, RBA, mob).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 2 Daniel's Ln, Sagaponack, SUFF 1 Mar (SSM, P JL, CCo); Riverhead 2 Mar (AG, mob); 3 Further Ln, East Hampton, SUFF 8 Mar (SA, CF); 3 Hook Pd, East Hampton 8 Mar (SA, CF), same birds; Riverhead 8 Mar (DR, SA, CF); Arbutus L, RICH 15 Mar (SIW).

**Snow Goose:** max 2000 Jam Bay 19 Mar (RB).

**ROSS'S GOOSE (R10):** Riverhead 1-2 Mar (GQ, mob, ph SSM); Southold, SUFF 8 Mar (DR, JSe, SA, CF).

**Brant:** max 4500 Canarsie Pier, KING 12 Apr (DG).

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** Daniel's Ln 1 Mar (KF, mob).

**Cackling Goose:** 2 Riverhead 1-2 Mar, one continuing thru 4 Mar (mob).

**Brant x Cackling Goose:** Randall's I, NEWY thru 7 Mar (AA), ph.

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Hook Pd thru 14 Mar (mob); 2 Arbutus L 15 Mar (ACi, MK); 5 HLSP 21 Mar (Richard Haimes).

**Wood Duck:** max 46 Bronx Zoo, BRON 27 Mar (Todd Olsen); 32 PP 25 Mar, large number.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Mass thru 9 Mar (JGa); 3 m West Sayville Golf Course, SUFF thru 10 Mar (DR, RJK); St. John's Pd, Cold Spring Harbor, SUFF 11-28 Mar (RA, DR); 2 St. John's Pd 29 Mar – 8 Apr (DR, JGa); Brooklyn Army Terminal, KING 14-27 Mar (SB).

**Am. Wigeon x Eurasian Wigeon:** Coney I Cr, KING thru 22 Mar (KR, et al.).

**Blue-winged Teal:** 2 Ridgewood Reservoir, QUEE 26 Apr (SA, MN), unusual location; max 12 Timber Pt., SUFF 16 Apr (DR).

**“EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** Brookville P, QUEE 1 Mar (AB).

**“AM.” X “EURASIAN” GREEN-WINGED TEAL:** Sag 3 Mar (SA, CF); HLSP 2 Apr (KF, SF); SMSP 5 Apr (JGI).

**Canvasback:** max 70 Centerport Pd, SUFF 8 Mar (Mark Baran).

**Redhead:** Mill Neck Cr, Oyster Bay, NASS 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.), unusual loc; max 53 Baisley Pd P, QUEE 1 Mar (AB); 36 Baisley Pd P 9 Mar (SW), large numbers; 10 Ridgewood Reservoir 31 Mar – 2 Apr (*fide* PD), unusual loc.

**Greater Scaup:** max 12,500 Gravesend Bay, KING 6 Mar (SB), large number.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 150 Gilgo SUFF 15 Mar (DF).

**King Eider:** 2 Orient Pt., SUFF 1 Mar (JSe); fem Fire I Inlet, SUFF 5 Mar (SSM); fem Shinn 8 Mar (SA, CF); 2 fem Shinn 9 Mar (RBA).

**Com. Eider:** max 3200 MP 2 Mar (AnW); 310 Shinn 8 Mar (SA, CF); 110 Shinn 15 Mar (RA); 100 Shinn 26 Mar (RA); thereafter few.

**Harlequin Duck:** Jones Inlet/Pt. Lookout, NASS thru 4 May, incl; max 6 JBWE 6 Apr (Hank Bohne); 4 JBWE 4 May (Bill Belford).

**Surf Scoter:** max 8500 MP 2 Mar (AnW).

**Black Scoter:** max 9000 MP 2 Mar (AnW).

**scoter sp:** 5000 BPT 28 Mar (TF), large number.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2250 BPT 5 Mar (SB); 1500 RMSP 15 Mar (DF); 1500 RMSP 23 Mar (SSM); max 8000 BPT 28 Mar (TF), large number.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 2 Sands Pt Pres., NASS thru 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.); 2 L Montauk, SUFF thru 2 Mar (mob); m L Montauk thru 7 Mar (RBA, CCo).

**Com. Merganser:** max 31 Sag 1 Mar (CCo); 6 Mill Pd 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.), unusual loc; 30 HLSP 15 Mar (DF); 3 KP 24 Mar (CCo), unusual loc.

**Ruddy Duck:** 200-300 Jam Bay East Pd thru 31 Mar (RJK).

**N. Bobwhite:** SMSP 27 Apr (PR); 2 Greentree Estate, Manhasset, NASS 2 May (MN, RK), released.

**Com. Loon:** max 223 Shoreham, SUFF 18 Mar (RKA), large number.

**Red-necked Grebe:** over 40 reports involving appx. 90 birds incl: 4 Bar Beach, Port Washington, NASS 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.); 3 Sands Pt Pres 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.); Pryibil Beach, Glen Cove, NASS 2 Mar (MN, SA, RK, et al.); 2 Hook Pd 8-21 Mar (SA, CF, DF); CP 9 Mar (PP); 2 Argyle L, Babylon, SUFF 10-15 Mar (mob); CP 13 Mar – 2 Apr (PP, mob); Mass 16-21 Mar (RP); PP 18 Mar – 1 Apr (RB, mob); HLSP 27 Mar (SyS); Mill Cr. Rockville Centre, NASS thru 30 Mar (SW); 3 PP 1-5 Apr (PD, SS); 2 MNSA 2 Apr (RJK); 6 Oyster Bay 6 Apr (SW); max 9 FBF 7 Apr (DG); CP 6-10 Apr (*fide* TF, ABi); 2 PP 9 Apr (PD); Tappen Beach, Sea Cliff, NASS thru 12 Apr (AS); 2 MNSA 14 Apr (SyS); 2 CP 14 Apr (*fide* TF); 3 FBF 22 Apr (RBA); RP 29 Apr (DG, SB), last.

**Eared Grebe:** SPCP 28 Apr (JLe), ph.

**N Fulmar:** 45 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).

**Cory's Shearwater:** continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh); RMSP 28 May (SSM, DF); 2 RMSP 30 May (RBA).

**Great Shearwater:** 14 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).

**Sooty Shearwater:** RMSP 22 May (JGI); 2 RMSP 23 May (KF); 383 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh), large number; 11 RMSP 28 May (SSM, DF); Pikes Beach, Westhampton, SUFF 29 May (KF, SF); 5 RMSP 29 May (RJK); 20 RMSP 30 May (RBA); CCP 31 May (AB, GB, TWB).

**Manx Shearwater:** RP 29 Apr (DG, SB); RMSP 16 May (DR); Shinn 24 May (RBA); 2 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh); Shinn 31 May (TWB, GB).

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel:** RMSP 23 May (KF); 4 RMSP 30 May (RBA); 937 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh), large number; 35 Shinn 31 May (TWB, GB).

**LEACH'S STORM-PETREL:** continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).

**Am. Bittern:** Shu Swamp, Mill Neck, NASS 12 Apt (*fide* JGI); PP 28 Apr (RM); 414 E52 St., NEWY 9 May (AF); unusual locs.

**Least Bittern:** Plumb Beach, KING 17 May (RJ, HL, et al.); River Rd., RICH 19 May (SIW, et al).

**Snowy Egret:** Baisley Pd P 22 Mar (CF), early.

**Little Blue Heron:** arr sev loc 5 Apr.

**Tricolored Heron:** max 2 Jam Bay 10 May, few.

**Cattle Egret:** MLUA 2-3 May (*fide* RF).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** max 9 Cammans Pd P, Merrick, NASS 6 Apr (KFu), large number.

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** CSP 16 May thru (KF, SSM, DF, MMcB); Jam Bay 28-29 May (SS, AB).

**Black Vulture:** CR 22 Mar (DE); 2 CHP 5 Apr (SIW, et al.); 2 Brooklyn Botanical Garden, KING 5 Apr (*fide* PD); E 52 St, NEWY 6 Apr (*fide* TF); CP 7 Apr (*fide* TF); Shu Swamp 24 Apr (MN); Fresh Kills P, RICH 27 Apr (James O'Brien); CLP 2 May (HF); 5 Fresh Kills P 17 May (MSh); max 6 MLUA 19 May (SIW, et al).

**Turkey Vulture:** appx. 30 L.I. reps incl: 20 Ostrander Av & Corwin Rd, Riverhead 3 Mar (RA); 30 same loc 27 Mar (RA), at roost, *intro*; 21 Peconic R 15 Mar (MLL); 45 CP 5 Apr (TF); 2 Greentree Est. 2 May (MN, RK, et al.).

## HAWKS - LARIDS

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Quogue, SUFF 20 Mar (*fide* HM), found dead; PP 14 Apr (*fide* RB), ph Jennifer Kepler; Southern Pkwy., Wantagh, NASS 14 Apr (RP);

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** imm Green-wood Cem 10-11 May (RJ, ph Jennifer Kepler); FP 11 May (KM), poss same bird; MP 12 May (Jorn Ake); sub ad Jam Bay 17 May (17 May (DG, TWB, GB); 2 River Rd 17 May (ACi, MK); ad Wagner College, RICH 20 May (HF).

**Bald Eagle:** appx. 25 reps. incl: 2 ad & 2 HY HLSP Feb-Mar (RJK); 1 HY there thru 10 Apr (RJK); ad & 3 yr WPP/Lemon Cr, RICH 27 Apr (MSh).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** ad Todt Hill Rd, RICH 20 Mar (HF); PP 24 Mar (PD); MLUA 25 May (DE).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Green-wood Cem 14 Apr (DG); PP 27 Apr (*fide* PD); 4 Plum Island, SUFF 2 May (JSe, JL), unusual loc.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Riverhead 2-10 Mar (JSe, P Uburu); Meadowbrook Parkway-Hempstead Bay, Town of Hempstead, NASS 3 Mar (SSc); CR 9 Mar (ACi), dark phase.

**GOLDEN EAGLE (R10):** Route 27, East Quogue, SUFF 6 Apr (JSh).

**Clapper Rail:** PP 3-4 May (Dennis Hrehowsik, Kathy Toomey), ph, unusual in fresh water.

**Virginia Rail:** CP 3 Apr, released by rehabber (*fide* TF); Mt. Loretto SF, RICH 22 Apr (ACi); Calv 25 Apr (MC); 2 Fresh Kills P 17 May (MSh); 2 River Rd 17 May (SB, CB).

**Sora:** MLUA 12 May (MSh).

**Com. Gallinule:** present River Rd 9-28 May, max 2 (mob).

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** PP 2 May (KR); GBP 4-10 May (RV, et al).

**WILSON'S PLOVER:** CCP 29 Apr – 10 May (JLe, JL, et al), ph.

**Piping Plover:** arr 13 Mar; 14 JBWE 25 Mar (SyS); 15 JBWE 27 Mar (SA, MN, EM), migr, large numbers; max 26 JBSP 6 Apr (KFu).

**Killdeer:** 15 JBWE 27 Mar (SA, MN, EM), large number.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 16 Paul Stoutenburgh Pres, Southold, SUFF 4 May (JSe), large number.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 22 Beaver L, Mill Neck, NASS 10 Apr (MN), large number.

**Whimbrel:** Pt. Lookout 22 May (BF).

**Marbled Godwit:** Lido Pres., NASS 1 May (RP).

**Red Knot:** max 216 Big Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 6 May (CF).

**RUFF:** fem Plumb Beach 29 May (RM), ph.  
**Stilt Sandpiper:** CSP 16-17 May (SSM, DF, KF, MMcB), ph SSM; rare in spring.  
**Sanderling:** 1400 Nickerson Beach, NASS 11 May (BB).  
**Purple Sandpiper:** 5 NY Harbor at 75 St, KING 24 May (*fide* PD), ph, late.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** max 3 Moriches Bay and Inlet, SUFF 7 May (PJJ), few.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 3 GBP 22 Mar (CB); JBWE 30 Mar – 1 Apr (RP); JBWE 1 Apr (RJK); 7 SMSP 2 Apr (DR); 9 SMSP 3 Apr (*fide* DR); 20 SMSP 4 Apr (DR); 18 SMSP 5 Apr (JGI); 13 GBP 12 Apr (AP); max 24 SMSP 10 Apr (MM); 3 SMSP 2 May, last.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** Battery P, NEWY 10 May (RBA), ph; CCP 15-16 May (Justin LeClaire, et al.); 6 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).  
**RED PHALAROPE (R10):** continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 180 RMSP 31 Mar (SF); 75 Lemon Creek Pier, RICH 13 Apr (ACi), few.  
**Pomarine Jaeger:** 3 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).  
**Parasitic Jaeger:** RP 29 Apr (DG, SB); 2 RMSP 16 May (DR); SPCP 16 May (MSch); CSP 16 May (KF), unusual loc; 3 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh); RMSP 30 May (RBA); Shinn 31 May (TWP, GB).  
**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** Veteran's Memorial Pier, KING 5 Mar (SB), released in NJ (*fide* Michael Britt); RMSP 1 May (RBA), found grounded and brought for rehab.  
**Razorbill:** 12 MP 2 Mar (JDi, et al.); RMSP 18 Apr (RBA), late; 2 Shinn 19 Apr (RBA).  
**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 3 continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).  
**Black-headed Gull:** ad Sag thru 9 Mar (SA, CF, RBA).  
**Laughing Gull:** arr sev loc 8 Apr, scattered earlier rep.  
**Iceland Gull:** max 8 Shinn 2 Mar (SSM, PJJ), large number; Iron Pier, Northville, SUFF thru 12 Mar; ad Sag 9 Mar (RBA); Shinn 11 Mar (JHr); ad JBSP 15 Mar (DF); 2 imm Shinn 15 Mar (RBA); GKP 16 Mar (CB); CP 18 Mar (RBA), unusual loc; imm Shinn 21 Mar (DF); Tiana Beach, SUFF 21 Mar (DF); PP 25 Mar (PD); JBWE 30 Mar (RK); PP 8 Apr (RBA); imm Shoreham 11 Apr (RKA); Shoreham, SUFF 28 Mar (RKA); CP thru 19 Apr (mob); 1<sup>st</sup> cy FBF 30 Apr (SB); Orient Pt. 3 May (JSe), late.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1<sup>st</sup> win Hook Pd 1 Mar (SSM, PJJ); ad Westhampton 7-8 Mar (JHr); Coney I Cr 21 Mar (SS); 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Tiana Beach 21 Mar (MC); B84 St, Rockaway, QUEE 28 Mar (TF); 2 JBWE 30 Mar (RK); ad Arden Av, RICH thru 31 Mar; ad Green-wood Cem 14 Apr (DG), unusual loc; HSP 15-17 Apr Jon Stocker, mob; ad HSP 30 Apr (SSM); 2 FBF 30 Apr (DG); 3 RP 30 Apr (DG); 2 Big Egg Marsh, Broad Channel, QUEE 30 Apr (DG); Bay 8 St, KING 30 Apr (DG); max 7 JBWE 15 May (DR); 4 RMSP 16 May (DR); 3<sup>rd</sup> cy Pt. Lookout 22 May (BF); 2 RMSP 29 May (RJK), ad & imm.  
**Glaucous Gull:** Shinn thru 11 Mar; Coney I Cr 14-19 Apr (DG, SS); 2<sup>nd</sup> win MB 3 May (JSh); 2 DOP 3 May, (AxW), unusual loc; SPCP 19 May (RBA).  
**Gull-billed Tern:** 4 Nickerson Beach 7 May (PP); 5 Nickerson Beach 10 May (RBA); 3 JBWE 11-13 May (SW, KF, SF); 2 Nickerson Beach 20 May (MN, RK, SyS), copulating pair; Nickerson Beach 23 May (DF); 4 Nickerson Beach 25 May (BF).  
**Caspian Tern:** MB 11-14 Apr (RBA); 5 MB 19 Apr (RBA); 2 Georgica Pd, SUFF 19 Apr (RBA); 2 Sag 19 Apr (RBA); Sag 20 May (JGI); 2 WPP 26 Apr (SIW, DE);  
**Black Tern:** Nickerson Beach 9 May (PGi, SA); 3 RMSP 23 May (DF); 2 Nickerson Beach 23 May (DF); continental shelf off Shinn 25 May (AnW, JSh).  
**Roseate Tern:** arr sev loc 7 May; max 10 Cedar Beach CP, Southold, SUFF 22 May (JSe).  
**ARCTIC TERN:** 1<sup>st</sup> sum CCP 29 May (KF, SF); CCP 31 May (TWP, GB, AB).  
**Forster's Tern:** arr sev loc 12 Apr.  
**Royal Tern:** Moriches Bay and Inlet 26 May (SSM, PJJ).

## PIGEONS – PARROTS

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** Montauk 13 Sep (RBA).  
**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr sev loc 25 Apr.  
**Barn Owl:** nested Big John's Pd, Jam Bay for 6<sup>th</sup> year; nest box invaded by raccoons.  
**E. Screech-Owl:** up to 4 reported Mass, possibly released (*fide* RJK).  
**Snowy Owl:** BP thru 1 Mar; Douglaston Pier, QUEE thru 8 Mar (IR, SW); Hicks I, Napeague, SUFF thru 21 Mar (DF); Dune Rd, Hampton Bays, SUFF thru 29 Mar; GKP 29 Mar (RBA); 5 JBWE 5 Mar, 3 JBWE 11 Mar, 2 there thru 12 Apr (RBA); Shelter I, SUFF 11 Apr (OB);



Orient SP, SUFF thru 12 Apr (RBA); SPCP thru 20 Apr.

**Long-eared Owl:** 6 PBP 20 Mar (EM).

**Short-eared Owl:** FBF 1 Mar (RBA); Stehli Beach, Bayville, NASS 2 Mar (RK, MN, SA, et al.), unusual loc; max 4 Edgemere, QUEE 16 Mar (CCo).

**Com. Nighthawk:** Hauppague, SUFF 26 Apr (GQ), early.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Green-wood Cem 4 May (PD, et al.); CP 5 May (mob); PP 5 May (RJ), singing; CR 6 May (ACi).

**E. Whip-poor-will:** arr Brookhaven, SUFF 29 Apr (MSch).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** PP 5 Apr (*vide* PD); Marine Park, KING 12 Apr (M. Alomeri); PBP thru 13 Apr, ad & imm; Hauppague thru 20 Apr (GQ); KP thru 24 Apr (mob), late; FP 25 Apr (CCo); Green-wood Cem thru 26 Apr (RBA), late; Muttontown Pres, NASS thru 4 May (RK, MN, SA); JBSP 6 May (SJ, BB) KP 12 May (RBA); JBWE 13 May (RBA); CP 20 May (APe).

**PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):** North Mt. Loretto, RICH 2-13 Mar (ACi); VCP 12 Apr (NS, et al.); Schmul P, RICH 14 Apr (IG); m Oakland L, QUEE 4 May (Eugene Harris), ph; m VSSP 5 May (RP); VCP 12 Apr (NS).

**Am. Kestrel:** 13 FBF 24 Mar (SS); 20 Calv 6 Apr (DF); 36 FBF 7 Apr (DG), large number.

#### FLYCATCHERS - WAXWINGS

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr CP 10 May (APe, mob), few.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr CP 11 May (mob).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr sev loc 12 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** HISP 8 May (PPa), early; Willowbrook P, RICH 21 May (SSM); IHP 23 May (NS); Roslyn Cem., Greenvale, NASS 24 May (BB); CR 24 May (ACi, MK); PP 26 May (*vide* RJ); 2 IHP 26 May (JDi).

**WESTERN x EASTERN KINGBIRD:**

Hallock SP Pres., Northville, SUFF 17 May (MLL, Sally Newbert, Jean Bass), ph!

**N. Shrike:** JBWE thru 20 Apr.

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr sev loc 12 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 48 St and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, NEWY 15 May (AF), unusual loc; CP 20 May (TF).

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** pr nested Uniondale, NASS (*vide* JV); several Brookhaven National Laboratory, SUFF (*vide* EL); PBP 2 Mar (TF); 2 Frick Estate, Roslyn, NASS 5-19 Mar (PM); William Floyd Estate, SUFF 13 Mar (MLL); Bellmore, NASS 15 Mar

(PM); Frick Estate 17 Mar (MN); DOP 21 Mar (SS); Wagner College, RICH 31 Mar (HF); Snug Harbor, RICH 9 Apr (EJ); 2 Green-wood Cem 14 Apr (DG); St. George, RICH 15 Apr (EJ); Madison Square P, NEWY 3 May (GW), 2 Clifton, RICH 11 May (AP); IHP 18 May (NS); 2 Frick Estate 30 May (MN); *intro*.

**N. Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Yaphank, SUFF 23 Mar (MC), early.

**Barn Swallow:** arr Wantagh, NASS 24 Mar (PM), early.

**E. Bluebird:** CP 12 Apr (APe), unusual loc.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 2 Greentree Estate 2 May (MN, RK); VSSP 3 May (BB); FP 5 May (JT); Rocky Pt Pres 5 May (RA); CP 11 May (APe, mob); 2 CLP 12 May (HF); CHP 14 May (RV); 2 CP 13 May (D. Kurz); CP 15 May (PJ); Willowbrook P 12 May (SSM); 3 CLP 21 May (DE); Gardiner CP, SUFF 30 May (BB).

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH:** CP 21 May (D. Barrett), singing; IHP 23-25 May (NS, JDi).

**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush:** CP 13 May (GW); CHP 14 May (RV); CR 21 May (ACi); 2 CP 23 May (NS), singing; Riverside P, NEWY 23 May (RPx); 2 CP 27 May (PJ); IHP 28 May (NS); CP 28 May (JDi).

#### LONGSPURS - WARBLERS

**Lapland Longspur:** JBWE thru 19 Apr, max there 5 thru 23 Mar (KFu, SSc, JGa, mob).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr sev loc 16 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** PP 31 Mar (*vide* RB), first; Fuch's Pd, Northport, SUFF (PJL), rare in SUFF; FP 28 Apr-5 May (SA, CCo); CP 8 May (*vide* TF), late.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** fem private yard, KING (Paige Linden), only rep.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr sev loc 1 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Fuch's Pd 23-28 Apr (mob); PP 26-27 Apr (mob); Canarsie P, KING 1 May (SSM); CP 2 May (PP); Madison Square P 3 May (GW, mob); PP 5-6 May (*vide* PD, RB); CP 12 May (DH); PP 12 May (*vide* PD); Highbridge P, NEWY 19 May (SC).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Mill Pd, Bellmore, NASS 14 Apr (RP); CP 5-11 May (*vide* TF, mob).

**Mourning Warbler:** appx 30 reps thru, incl: arr FP 10 May (EM, *vide* CF), early; 3 CP 21 May, SC, mob); 3 PP 24 May (*vide* PD); 3 CLP 27 May (HF).

**Kentucky Warbler:** APP 2-3 May (CCo, JV, mob); Central Islip, SUFF 2 May (BB); CP 4 May (*vide* APe, TF); PP 5-7 May (*vide* PD, mob); FP 18 May (SA, CF).

**Hooded Warbler:** arr sev loc 25 Apr; appx 35 reps.

**Yerulean Warbler:** APP 3 May (RJK); HLSP 4 May (BA, BB); PP 5-7 May (KR, mob);

**N. Parula:** arr 2 Calv 7 Apr (JH), early.

**Pine Warbler:** CP thru 2 Apr (mob); arr 2 Apr.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** PP 13-14 Apr (*fide* RB, PD); Bailey's Arboretum, NASS 13 Apr (V. Tizio), ph; FP 23 Apr (CF); PP 26-28 Apr (mob); CP 28 Apr- 3 May (*fide* APe, mob);

HLSP 28 Apr (RJK); PP 2-4 May (RBA);

Cunningham P, QUEE 3 May (SW); CRSP 22

May – thru (DT, RJK), poss breeding for 2<sup>nd</sup> yr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr sev loc 16 Apr.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** CP 12 May (DH), only

report.

### TOWHEES - WEAVERS

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 28 Apr.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** CSP 9 May (SSM); 2

CP 13 May (*fide* PP); rare in spring.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 20 Apr Gabriske Airport, Westhampton, SUFF (JGI), where breeding.

**Lark Sparrow:** Green-wood Cem 24 May (RJ, HL, KR), rare in spring.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** IHP 10 May (NS, mob); JBWE 10 May (RP); migr; max 24 Calv 31 May (SF).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** IHP 3 May (NS), rare in spring, unusual loc.

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** arr 5 MNSA 30 Apr (MF).

**Seaside Sparrow:** arr sev loc 30 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 9 May; appx 15 reps.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 8 Reeves Av. Buffalo Farm, Riverhead, SUFF 3 Mar (CF), large number.

**Summer Tanager:** JBWE 1 May (RP); PP 2 May (*fide* PD); FP 4-5 May (D. Melore, AM, CCo); CP 5-6 May (*fide* TF); FP 8-10 May

(mob); CP 11 May (APe, mob); CP 18-21 May (*fide* TF); fem VSSP 18 May (BB); SMSP 20-21 May (SSM, PJJ); Willowbrook P 21 May (SSM); CR 24 May (ACi, MK); fewer than recent years.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** imm m CP 10 May (D. Kurz), NYSARC report desired.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Deer Park, SUFF 16-20 Apr (Edith Wilson); Canarsie P 1 May (SSM); MLUA 12 May (MSh); 6 Fresh Kills, RICH 19 May (Cliff Hagen), large number; 2 m, 1 fem CR ca. 7-21 May (ACi); fem PP 23 May (RBA); Fem Wagner College 24 May (HF); fem PP 24 May (*fide* PD).

**Bobolink:** arr Greentree Estate 2 May (MN, RK, et al), early.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1200 Reeves Av. Buffalo farm 2 Mar (APe, RF, et al.), large number.

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 48 APP 22 Mar (SP).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** max 400 Belt Pkwy., QUEE 4 Mar (SSM), large number.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr sev loc 1 May

**Baltimore Oriole:** 2 CP thru 17 Apr (*fide* TF).

**Purple Finch:** Shelter I 31 Mar – 16 Apr (OB), visiting feeder; Grymes Hill 23 Apr (HF); few.

**Pine Siskin:** 4 reports; max 8 CP 1 Mar (Gordon Fitch).

### EXOTICS

**European Goldfinch:** Moravian Cem, RICH 27 Mar (MK, ACi); Grymes Hill 10 Apr (HF); Shelter I 28 Apr (OB).

### ADDENDUM

**COMMON RAVEN (R10):** pr nested Brookhaven National Laboratory, SUFF May 2013, raised 2 young (*fide* EL).

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