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# The KINGBIRD

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Back Cover – Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Lake Shore Marshes WMA, *Wayne*, 21 Apr 2023, © Wade & Melissa Rowley.

## VAGRANT HUMMINGBIRDS IN NEW YORK STATE: AN UPDATE

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I was motivated to write this article when Diane Day of Westbrookville, Sullivan County found an adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*) at her feeders on 22 July 2023. This was a long overdue first record for Sullivan County and we were excited that it had finally happened. This encounter was just the first of several vagrant hummingbirds in 2023. In the 14 years since my last article (Haas 2010), an update to an article that Shai Mitra and Michael Bochnik had written (Mitra and Bochnik 2002), there have been 68 records of hummingbirds that weren't Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*). Of these, 32 were positively identified as Rufous, with another 11 probable Rufous still in review. For another 13 individuals submitted as Rufous, Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*) could not be ruled out; these were accepted as Rufous/Allen's. Seven reports submitted as Rufous/Allen's have not been reviewed. It should be noted that most of the birds accepted as Rufous/Allen's were likely Rufous and not strongly suspected as Allen's. The remaining records involve the most unusual occurrences, including two long-anticipated firsts for the state.

I will highlight some of the significant records here. One notable record occurred when **three** *Selasphorus* hummingbirds frequented a feeder at a private residence in Aquebogue, Suffolk County beginning in November 2016, remaining throughout the winter, with at least two of them to 2 April 2017. In this very complex case, the New York State Avian Records Committee (NYSARC) solicited the help of expert Sheri Williamson, sending her a set of 64 checklists, many with photos of one or more of the birds. Her analysis concluded that three individuals were documented in these checklists, with only Sean Sime's 15 February 2017 checklist identifiable to species. As such, NYSARC accepted the bird in Sean's checklist as a Rufous Hummingbird and the remainder of the reports as Rufous/Allen's.

Another notable record was an immature **Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*) which made a single day's appearance at the home of Celeste Morien on 20 October 2017 in Orleans County. This represents the third verified record for New York State. New York's fourth record (and fifth individual) **Calliope Hummingbird** (*S. calliope*) was observed at a private residence in Water Mill, Suffolk County, November-December 2016, but seen by only a few. When an adult male **Calliope Hummingbird** turned up in November 2022 at the home of Darlene Massey in Eastport, Suffolk County, this very cooperative bird was seen by an abundance of observers during its two weeks stay. A very significant find this year (2023) was an immature **Allen's Hummingbird** frequenting *Salvia* plantings in Marybeth Zilnicki's yard in Riverhead, Suffolk County, from 21 October 2023. This will establish the first record of this species for New York State, pending approval by NYSARC. Finally, on 15 November 2023 Barbara

Davaros, Randall's Island Park Alliance horticulturist at the Urban Farm there, spotted a hummingbird coming to the flowers in the garden near the restrooms. She took some video and circulated it which ultimately led to it being identified as a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (*A. alexandri*)! This will also be the first New York State record for this species pending NYSARC approval. It continued through 17 December 2023.

So, what should we expect next? The very fact that we have had only one Allen's Hummingbird, and one Black-chinned Hummingbird in New York is surprising. With many records of both species in our neighboring states, it is quite likely we'll see more in the future. For the real optimists among us, we can't forget the exceptional records that have taken place nearby during this same period. Both Connecticut and Vermont have had Mexican Violetears (*Colibri thalassinus*) in the last few years, two of a dozen records now for the northeastern USA and eastern Canada. Then there's that real surprise, Pennsylvania's Bahama Woodstar (*Nesophlox evelynae*)! Further, though there have been no additional Broad-billed Hummingbirds (*Cyananthus latirostris*) in New York during this period, there have been several recent records in adjoining states. Keep watching those feeders and plantings!

The biggest issue with vagrant hummingbirds is confirming them to species. Measurements are often the only way to make a positive identification as immature and female birds are most frequently encountered. Having more hummingbird banders in New York State would certainly help the situation. That said, banding can be difficult for several reasons including distance from the bander, permission from property owners, brevity of hummingbirds' stays—and then there are hummingbirds that just defy capture. While banding is the best way to confirm a bird as to species, the tremendous number of birder/photographers with state-of-the-art equipment are doing a great job. Additionally, videography used in digiscoping has proved equally productive in confirming identification. A combination of these practices has gone far to confirm the birds to species in the cases of both the Allen's Hummingbird and the Black-chinned Hummingbird.

As late fall and early winter records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds have continued to increase in the Northeast, it is notable that no such increase has been observed for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. As has already been observed in the Southeast, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds are increasingly surviving through the winter in New York. The first was a Rufous Hummingbird that persisted through 12 March 2012 in Central Park, New York County. This was followed in 2016-2017 by the long-staying *Selasphorus* hummingbirds in Aquebogue, Suffolk County mentioned above, at least two of which remained through 2 April 2017; a Rufous inland at Carmel, Putnam County through 10 April 2023; and three birds still present on Long Island as this article goes to press on 27 March 2024: a Rufous at Springs, East Hampton, the Allen's at Riverhead, and a Rufous in Brooklyn, this one first detected in February of 2024.

Rufous Hummingbird is abundant, with an estimated population of 22 million individuals, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List (IUCN 2020), and it is by far the most frequently encountered non-breeding species in the state. Even so, its overall abundance is declining, evaluated as "Near Threatened" by IUCN, citing a "moderately rapid decline in population." The

Table 1. Vagrant Hummingbirds in New York State Fall 2010 through Spring 2024, reviewed by NYSARC unless otherwise noted.

Species	Location	County	Dates	Age/Sex	Citation
RUHU	Ballston Spa	Saratoga	10/05-11/02/2010	I/F	2010-64-A/C, D, KB 62-2, 64-3
RUHU	Hidden Ponds Trail	Suffolk	08/30-09/18/2011	A/F	2011-206e, in review
RU/AL	Cornwall	Orange	10/16-10/22/2011	I/F	2011-107-A, KB 62-1 <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Lenoir Nature Preserve	Westchester	11/06-12/18/2011	I/F	2011-109-A/C, KB 63-3
RUHU	Cove Hollow Farm	Suffolk	11/08/2011-02/01/2012	A/F	2011-131-A, KB 63-3
RUHU	Southampton	Suffolk	11/23-12/17/2011	U/U	2011-207e, in review
RUHU	T.R. Park/Central Park	New York	12/14/2011-03/12/2012	I/U	2011-114-A/D, KB 63-3
RUHU	Phoenix	Onondaga	09/16-12/26/2012	A/M	2012-72-A/D, KB 64-3
RUHU	Brooktondale	Tompkins	10/01-10/02/2012	I/M	2012-206e, in review
RUHU	Pleasant Plains	Richmond	10/03-10/06/2012	I/F	2012-205e, in review
RUHU	Interlaken	Seneca	10/14-11/06/2012	I/F	2021-87-A, KB 64-3
RU/AL	Henrietta	Monroe	10/24-11/11/2012	U/U	2012-83-A, KB 64-3 <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Wappingers Falls	Dutchess	11/09/-12/05/2012	I/F	2012-88-A/B, KB 64-3
RU/AL	Fort Tryon	New York	11/11/2012	I/M	eBird, not reviewed
RU/AL	Ellenville	Ulster	11/14/2012	I/U	2012-124-A, KB 67-4 <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Central Park	New York	11/14-11/21/2012	I/M	2012-204e, in review
RUHU	Watermill	Suffolk	11/29/2012-01/06/13	U/U	2012-121-A, KB 67-4
RU/AL	Charles Schurz Park	New York	12/20/2012	U/U	eBird, not reviewed
RU/AL	Colonie	Albany	09/18/2013	I/U	eBird, not reviewed
RUHU	Southold	Suffolk	10/04-12/28/2013	I/U	2013-69-A/B, KB 67-4
RUHU	Seneca Falls	Seneca	10/13-12/04/2013	A/F	2013-102e
RUHU	Bainbridge	Chenango	11/09-12/07/2013	I/F	2013-84-A, KB 67-4
RU/AL	Annadale	Richmond	11/09/2013-01/01/2014	I/U	2014-91e <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Smyrna	Chenango	09/25-10/01/2014	I/F	2014-38-A, KB 68-4
RUHU	Fort Jackson	St. Lawrence	07/22-23/2015	A/M	2015-42-A/B, KB 69-1

RU/AL	Poland	Chautauqua	10/14-18/2015	A/F	2015-148e <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Baiting Hollow	Suffolk	11/22/2015-01/16/2016	I/U	2015-149e, 2016-77e
RU/AL	Watermill	Suffolk	11/27/2015	I/U	eBird, not reviewed
RU/AL	E. A. Morton NWR	Suffolk	08/28-29/2016	A/M	2016-33-A, KB 70-3 <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Greece	Monroe	10/?-12/17/2016	I/F	2016-54-A, KB 70-3, 71-2
RUHU	Oceanside MNSA	Nassau	10/07/2016	I/U	2016-76e
RU/AL	Robert Moses SP	Nassau	10/23/2016	U/U	eBird, not reviewed
<b>CAHU</b>	Watermill	Suffolk	11/15-12/09/2016	I/M	2016-58-A, KB 70-3
RU/AL	Poland	Chautauqua	11/16/2016	A/U	eBird, not reviewed
RUHU	Aquebogue	Suffolk	11/25/2016-04/02/17	A/F	2016-78e <sup>2</sup>
RU/AL (2)	Aquebogue	Suffolk	11/25/2016-04/02/17	A/F	2016-78e <sup>1, 2</sup>
RUHU	Southards Pond	Suffolk	08/17-18/2017	A/M	2017-60-A, KB 73-3
<b>ANHU</b>	Medina	Orleans	10/20/2017	I/U	2017-48-A, KB 71-2
RUHU	Kinderhook/Rosendale	Columbia	11/08/2018~Jan 2019	I/F	2018-45-A, KB 72-2
RU/AL	Factory Brook	Cortland	09/17-10/23/2019	U/U	2019-70e <sup>1</sup>
RU/AL	Forestville	Chautauqua	10/06-10/20/2019	I/U	2019-69e <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	West Valley	Cattaraugus	11/07/2019	I/F	2019-68e
RU/AL	Babylon Village	Suffolk	11/11-11/20/2019	I/U	2019-38-A, KB 73-3 <sup>1</sup>
RUHU	Baldwinsville	Onondaga	10/14/2020-01/23/2021	I/F	2020-48A <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Kent	Putnam	10/10-12/17/2020	I/F	2020-47-A <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Glenwood	Erie	10/23/-11/04/2020	I/M	eBird, in review
RUHU	East Amherst	Erie	10/17-11/01/2020	A/F	2020-78e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Greenwood Lake	Orange	10/25-10/26/2020	A/M	2020 29-A/B <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Bayard Cutting Arbo.	Suffolk	10/31-11/25/2020	I/U	2020-79e <sup>3</sup>
RU/AL	East Hampton	Suffolk	12/03/2020-01/28/2021	I/F	2020-80e <sup>1, 3</sup>
RU/AL	Sodus	Wayne	12/16/2020	I/U	eBird, not reviewed
RUHU	East Quogue	Suffolk	08/05/2021	A/M	2021-21-A/B <sup>3</sup>

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Species	Location	County	Dates	Age/Sex	Citation
RUHU	Delmar	Albany	08/05/2022	A/M	2022-125e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Goshen	Orange	08/09-08/11/2022	I/U	2022-128e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Chenango Valley SP	Broome	08/19-08/31/2022	A/M	2022-126e <sup>3</sup>
<b>CAHU</b>	Eastport	Suffolk	11/06-11/23/2022	A/M	2022-22A <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Great Valley	Cattaraugus	11/18-12/14/2022	A/F	2022-127e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	East Hampton	Suffolk	12/10/2022-01/10/2023	U/F	2022-131e, in review
RU/AL	Babylon	Suffolk	11/21/2022	I/U	2022-291e <sup>1, 3</sup>
RUHU	Rocky Point	Suffolk	11/22-11/28/2022	I/M	2022-130e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Carmel	Putnam	12/01/2022-04/10/23	I/U	2022-129e <sup>3</sup>
RUHU	Westbrookville	Sullivan	07/22-07/24/2023	A/M	2023-20-A, in review
RUHU	West Saugerties	Ulster	07/24-07/27/2023	A/M	eBird, in review
<b>BCHU</b>	Randall's Island	New York	11/15-12/17/2023	I/U	2023-36-A/D, in review
<b>ALHU</b>	Riverhead	Suffolk	10/21/2023-3/27/2024+	I/F	2023-34-A/D, in review <sup>4</sup>
RUHU	Springs	Suffolk	12/16/2023-3/27/2024+	U/U	eBird, in review <sup>4</sup>
RUHU	Prospect Park	Kings	02/10-03/27/2024+	U/U	2024-5-A, in review <sup>4</sup>

ALHU – Allen’s Hummingbird; ANHU – Anna’s Hummingbird; BCHU – Black-chinned Hummingbird;  
 CAHU – Calliope Hummingbird; RUHU – Rufous Hummingbird; RU/AL – Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird.  
 A – adult; F – female; I – immature; M – male; U – undetermined.

Citation: NYSARC report#, when followed by an “e” indicates eBird report(s) reviewed; *The Kingbird* Volume-Issue (e.g., KB 62-2).

<sup>1</sup> report submitted as RUHU accepted as RU/AL.

<sup>2</sup> three birds present; see text.

<sup>3</sup> accepted by NYSARC; not yet published.

<sup>4</sup> still present 27 March 2024, as this article goes to press.



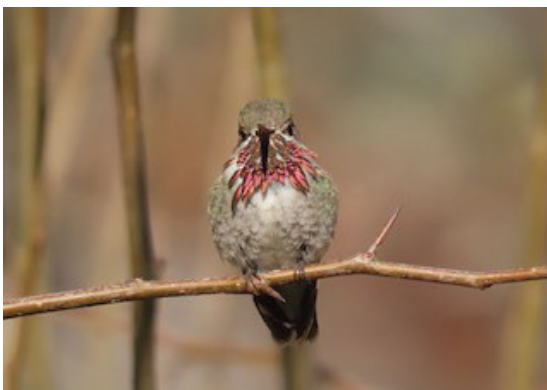
American Bird Conservancy attributes declining populations to habitat loss on breeding and wintering grounds, threats on migration such as feral cats and other predators, and window strikes. Thus, it is possible that the colonization of new wintering areas in the East, including even New York State, might be important for these birds. Let's hope that close tracking of the species and protection of its preferred habitats help them rebound, so that more and more of us can enjoy these spectacular little birds!

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Calliope Hummingbird, Eastport, Suffolk, 20 Nov 2022, © Cheryl Orłowski.  
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# **PATCH BIRDING SHAWANGUNK GRASSLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

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Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge in Ulster County is my favorite place to observe birds and photograph their beauty. This spectacular Refuge once was the Galeville Military Airport, a marshland that the U.S. Army filled in with soil and transformed into an air base after WWII. It was used as a training site for FBI agents, the U.S. Marshals Service, and military academy members. The airport was officially closed in 1994 and then taken over by the U.S. Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July 1999. USFWS covered the runways with a deep layer of soil, planted native warm season grasses and wildflowers, and established the site as a National Wildlife Refuge, thereby protecting its 597 acres to support grassland-dependent migratory birds and wintering raptors.

This refuge is among the diminishing number of sites in New York State large enough to support the entire assemblage of northeastern grassland birds. Audubon New York identifies it as one of more than 130 Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the state. Each recognized IBA meets at least one of three criteria: A place where birds congregate in large numbers at one time; a place for species that are at-risk; or a place that supports groups of birds representing certain habitats such as forests, wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands. Among the birds found in the Refuge's grassland habitat are species included on lists of endangered, threatened, priority, or special concern, such as Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Bobolink.

The Refuge's years as a military airport and transformation to a National Wildlife Refuge far precede my 2015 initial visit. It was love at first sight and I began showing up nearly every day to see what I might find. In 2017, a USFWS staff member invited me to become a volunteer at this special place. I am privileged to continue volunteering since that time.

The Shawangunk Grasslands is especially known for its wintering raptors, which include Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, and the star of the cold-weather months, those magnificent Short-eared Owls. There's often a young harrier sporting a lovely cinnamon-spice colored breast in the Grasslands during the summer but wintering harriers generally start arriving in September and October. I saw at least 11 harriers in the air all at once this winter of 2023-2024; others reported 20 or more harriers this past season. There are far fewer "roughies" wintering in the Refuge; I believe there were two this past season. The first one spotted was a gorgeous dark morph on 2 November. Reports of the Short-eared Owls' arrival typically range anywhere from the last couple of weeks in October to mid-November. This past winter, the first "shortie" was seen on 26 October with reports of at least 13-15 later in the season.

Along with the wintering raptors arrive many human visitors who observe and photograph them. To minimize disturbance to wildlife, from 1 December

through 31 March USFWS closes a significant portion of the approximately 3.6-mile trail system. Visitors may still safely and successfully observe and photograph the owls and other raptors from the abbreviated trails, observation platform and designated area around it, main parking area, and the beautiful gazebo. Benches along the trails and other areas of the Refuge provide pleasant resting spots. With so many folks visiting at this time of year and just 45 parking spots in the main parking area, when capacity has been reached USFWS may direct people to park in the lot at the entrance or a small overflow parking area opposite the pole barn. Once all spots are filled, visitors will then be redirected to the town park adjacent to the Refuge. The park has no access to the Grasslands in winter, but there's a good view of the Refuge from it and owls and harriers may be observed from there. It's also a great location to spot a Rough-legged Hawk.

There's no doubt that the Short-eared Owls are incredible to watch! But my favorite winter visitor is much smaller. I just love sparrows and watch and wait for American Tree Sparrows to arrive in November. They often can be found foraging on the trail close to the Refuge pond or nearby along the driveway. At this time of year, you may find a Winter Wren or Golden-crowned Kinglet in this spot, too. Warm weather months are a different story at the pond, of course, with Great Blue and Green Herons sometimes spotted hunting for frogs and other pond-dwellers, and the occasional Belted Kingfisher. It's a catch-and-release pond with largemouth bass and a variety of bluegills in it. I know of at least one instance where a fisherman looked down at some commotion near his feet and saw it was a Virginia Rail with her babies running helter-skelter. Mammals that have been seen near the pond include Red Fox, Gray Fox, Mink, Fisher, Raccoon, and White-tailed Deer; there are also Coyotes in the Refuge. Walking the pond trail in spring brings a good chance of Yellow Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Palm Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers (the Blue-wingeds breed in the Refuge and also may be found near the bee yard along the driveway), Red-eyed Vireos and less frequently, a Blue-headed Vireo. A bit past the pond is a great location to check for Swamp Sparrows.

But let's go back to winter. If you stop near the pond to look for the Tree Sparrows and then walk across the driveway to the nearby feeder station, you'll find numerous American Goldfinches, House Finches, Black-capped Chickadees, and Tufted Titmice. Downy, Red-bellied, and the occasional Hairy Woodpecker all frequent these feeders; in an irruption year this feeder station is a good spot for Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. There's a mealworm feeder here that attracts Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds. You'll also find quite a number of White-throated Sparrows. I observe a few of these sparrows in the wooded section of the Refuge year-round but they are very much in evidence in winter, singing their plaintive song and ground feeding on the seeds below the feeders.

On the subject of sparrows, some Savannah Sparrows overwinter in the Refuge. A great place to look for them during the cold weather is the brush pile at the feeder station adjacent to the observation platform.

Most years there's a male American Kestrel who chooses to overwinter in the Grasslands. This past season has been no exception, and this colorful little gentleman was frequently seen watching for prey from the driveway's crabapple trees, perched above the nearby Purple Martin house, or hovering above a field. Kestrel sightings begin to pick up with more arrivals in March and pairs soon

choose their own among the Refuge's five kestrel boxes. Each year it's hoped that all the boxes will be occupied and young produced.

Short-eared Owls depart the Refuge for their northward migration anywhere from the end of February to early April. I'm unsure whether the Short-ears seen toward the latter part of this timeframe are here throughout the winter or are passing through from another location. They're not the only owls in the Refuge, though, as there are Barred Owls in the woods along the driveway and adjoining the nearby horse farm. This past winter, Great Horned Owls were regularly heard and occasionally seen at day's end.

A word about an annual event that takes place after the Short-eared Owls have left: Each year, USFWS conducts a controlled burn on the grassy areas in the Refuge. The burn area may total around 200 acres and its objective is to ensure that the area continues to provide valuable foraging and nesting habitat. As explained to me when I first started visiting the Refuge, if there was no burn, then there would be no grassland; the open fields would revert to the woodland and other vegetation that one sees throughout the local area. The prescribed burn takes place between the time the Short-eared Owls have departed and Bobolinks arrive; it is a concerted effort among USFWS and various wildland firefighting agencies. The Refuge is closed to visitors during this burn, and the date it takes place depends on many factors, including wind speed and direction, relative humidity, and fuel moisture.

As early as February, Red-winged Blackbirds signal that Spring will soon be here by singing "Conk-a-lee!" Then in March, just around the time that the American Tree Sparrows start to head to their northern nesting grounds, Tree Swallows begin to arrive. They'll begin pairing up in April for nesting season.

Eastern Bluebirds are a favorite in the Refuge. Many overwinter and more will begin arriving in March and April. The Refuge has upwards of three dozen bluebird nest boxes, with many installed in pairs so that tree swallows may inhabit one and bluebirds the other. It doesn't always work out that way—and sometimes the boxes are inhabited by House Wrens—but it's wonderful that most boxes are successfully occupied.

At the beginning of April, USFWS reopens all the trails, permitting visitors to walk throughout the Refuge. Vegetation includes native warm-season grasses such as switchgrass, Indiangrass, little bluestem, and big bluestem. If your walk takes you near an area that was burned, you may be amazed to see how quickly these grasses regenerate; they will be peeping their heads above ground within just a few days. Wildflowers blooming at various times throughout the warm weather include Virginia Meadow Beauty, Ragged Robin, Blue Vervain, False Dragonhead, New England Aster, Canada Goldenrod, Black-eyed Susan, Ironweed, Penstemon, Musk Mallow, St. Johnswort, Creeping Thistle and Bull Thistle, and Common, Swamp, and Purple Milkweed. The milkweeds are particularly important as they are host plants for Monarch butterflies; of the three, Common Milkweed is especially abundant. The late-summer fields of goldenrod mixed with asters are stunningly beautiful, but penstemon may be my favorite of all. When it blooms throughout the Refuge in June, swaths of its white blossoms look like snow has fallen on the open fields, and its fragrance at the end of each day is heavenly. I often see hummingbirds visiting it along the driveway.

Among the insects you may find during the warm-weather months are butterflies and moths such the beautiful Monarch and lookalike Viceroy; Clouded and Orange Sulphurs; Eastern Tailed-Blue; Painted Lady; Red Admiral; Tiger, Black, Spicebush, and Giant Swallowtail; and Hummingbird and Snowberry Clearwing Moths. Ulster County Beekeepers Association maintains an apiary along the driveway. If your visit coincides with a day the beekeepers are tending the hives it is fascinating to watch. And there are many grasshoppers in the Refuge! Especially in August, you might see American Kestrels perch on the parking lot signage, swoop down to grab a grasshopper, and bring it back to the sign to devour it. If you have a bit of time to spend, you can watch them do this over and over again.

Late April and May bring the arrival of Purple Martins, Eastern Kingbirds, and Grasshopper Sparrows. The Refuge has a martin house near the entrance drive; last year this communal roost was especially well-attended by these gorgeous swallows. It's delightful to watch each parent bird perform aerial acrobatics to snap up insects from the air, zoom in to their respective nesting cavity to stuff the insect in a baby's wide-open mouth, and then fly right back out to do it all over again. Eastern Kingbirds often nest in the crabapples near the driveway; they perch on the signs along it and sally out to seize insects from the air to feed their young. Of all the birds throughout the entire year, though, the Grasshopper Sparrow is my favorite. Some may find them plain, but the longer one looks at them, the more beautiful their plumage appears. They're easiest to spot when they first arrive and the vegetation hasn't grown tall and dense. Males are then often seen atop grasses and small bushes, singing their buzzy song. I love watching them! It's a privilege to observe these special birds at length, and to see them forage and feed their young throughout the summer.

Early May brings Bobolinks, one of the gems of the Grasslands. Males arrive first, with buffy-colored females flying in a week or two later. Especially beautiful are the males that arrive in not-quite breeding plumage: They still have a bit of their tawny winter feathers showing and to me it looks like they're speckled with gold dust. It's fascinating to watch the Bobolinks, as the males sing their bubbly song and stake out their territories before the females arrive, and then court and chase the females before they settle down to nest in the grasses. In late summer as they prepare for migration, the males lose their breeding finery and molt into plumage similar to the females. It's wonderful to view them in their patchwork colors as the molt takes place.

Arriving in May is another of my tiny favorites, the Willow Flycatcher. They can be seen throwing back their heads as they sing "Fitz-bew!" and later in the season foraging to feed their babies. It's interesting to me that each season some of these flycatchers perch and sing from the exact same spot on the exact same branches as the year before.

Eastern Meadowlarks are a cherished sight and sound of the Grasslands. There are always at least a dozen or so that overwinter in the Refuge, but the majority of the meadowlarks are migration arrivals in April and May. They're easy to spot at that time even from the parking lot, which is, by the way, a portion of a runway remaining from the Refuge's previous military airport days. Meadowlarks often perch atop the gazebo, along the observation platform's

railing, or on one of the nearby fenceposts. In Spring, their flutelike song can be heard throughout the Refuge.

Any discussion of the Grasslands must include the rarities that sometimes appear. Quite notably, a Loggerhead Shrike was reported in winter 2022-23, and then reported again beginning in summer 2023, with reports continuing even as this goes to press in mid March 2024. In summer 2017, a Henslow's Sparrow delighted many visitors; twice as thrilling was a pair of Henslow's the following summer. They've not been reported since but each summer there's hope they'll visit again. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was seen last May; occasionally, a Dickcissel may be found in summer. In November 2022, I reported an Eastern Meadowlark in eBird and included its photos—and then the sharp-eyed expert reviewers contacted me to say it was instead a Western Meadowlark! I'm so grateful for their identification, especially as this was the first record for Ulster County and only the second for Region 9. Per eBird, 201 species have been reported in the Grasslands, so there are many I've not mentioned and one never knows what delightful surprises may be found in this remarkable Refuge. All the more reason to visit it every day!

When summer edges its way into August, many of the grassland birds are wonderful to observe in immature or non-breeding plumage, or gathering into flocks before heading out in migration. Before one knows it, it's September and October: Time again for another favorite, Lincoln's Sparrows, to stopover in the Refuge for a bit before heading further south. I spent this past October happily watching these beautiful sparrows. And then toward the end of the month, that very first Short-eared Owl of the season was spotted! With that, so began the shift into another season of watching for winter raptors.

If you choose to visit the Shawangunk Grasslands, please keep in mind it is open daily from sunrise to sunset; there's a public restroom but no potable water sources. One must beware of poison ivy, ticks, and other biting insects; stay on the maintained trails or observation platform and surrounding area; and observe wildlife from a safe and respectful distance. Binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras with long lenses allow you to observe wildlife closely without disturbing them. I'm at the Refuge most mornings; please feel free to stop and chat and let me know if I may be of any assistance. It would be my pleasure to point out some of the treasures found in the remarkable Shawangunk Grasslands.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2023

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The warm weather of winter continued into early spring, with most Regions reporting above average temperatures for March and April. May cooled off a bit, but by then many birders had already seen an exodus of wintering birds and a push of migrants into their areas.

Most Regions reported lower than normal numbers of waterfowl, especially of “rare” geese. The feeling was that many birds had already moved on by the

opening of the spring season. The only large flocks of Snow Geese reported were in the first half of March, with counts of 100,000 recorded in Region 3 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March. Greater White-fronted Geese were widespread, but some Regional editors commented on their low numbers. John Haas in Region 9 said “Uncommon geese were exactly that this spring”. No Brant were detected in the three westernmost Regions. Best among that group were the fourth Region 5 record for Pink-footed Goose, and the “Blue” Ross’s Goose found in the same Region a week later.

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Region 1 provided the earliest spring record there, when they were discovered on 17 April. Elsewhere, a Eurasian Green-winged Teal found in Region 6 was followed by a second report a few weeks later at a different location. A Mottled Duck returned to a pond on Long Island for its second season after providing a first state record in 2022. Tufted Ducks were recorded from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 7. No eiders were reported away from Region 10.

A White-winged Dove visited a yard in late May in Albany, Region 8—that same yard had a Red-headed Woodpecker earlier in the month! Both species of cuckoos were widely distributed across the state. Some observers noted decent counts of Yellow-billed, possible related to a continuing outbreak of Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*). Similarly, Common Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills were scattered across all Regions, with little hopeful signs here and there. Detection of loud night birds is probably enhanced during the years of the Breeding Bird Atlas. An example is the discovery of Whip-poor-will on Jones Beach in Region 10. Chuck-wills-Widow was found at several traditional Region 10 locations. No unusual hummingbirds were reported for the season, but a one-day max count of 60 Ruby-throateds at a banding station in Region 5 seems really impressive.

Both Sora and Virginia Rails seemed to be pretty well represented across the state, but the big “rail” showstopper turned up in Conewango Swamp in Region 1. On 11 May two birders heard a Yellow Rail calling! The next night other observers were able to obtain audio recordings. What a great find! Once again, Sandhill Cranes were found in every Region, including several flocks exceeding 30 birds.

With most Regions recording higher than average rainfall through March and April, there was widespread consensus that shorebird habitat, and shorebird numbers and diversity, were sub-par. The following, from the Region 7 editors, summed up the situation for many observers: “high spring water levels in Lake Champlain were likely the culprit of a slow shorebird season.” Among the few highlights were American Oystercatchers showing up in Region 9 along the Hudson River, and American Golden-Plovers in Regions 6 and 10. At this point, any Upland Sandpipers are going to be considered “good birds”, so having reports from six Regions almost seems hopeful. A scattering of the more coastal shorebirds inland included Ruddy Turnstones in six inland Regions, Black-bellied Plovers in eight, and Dunlin in seven. Regions 5 and 6 both recorded nesting Piping Plovers, with birds nesting again at the latter location. A Red-necked Phalarope in Region 8 was a nice find, and there was a scattering of onshore reports of this species in Region 10 as well.

A Parasitic Jaeger put in a rare spring appearance at Hamlin Beach in Region 2, and a one-day count of 11 was impressive even for a Region 10 sea watch. An

inland influx of Black-legged Kittiwakes across the eastern states did not skip New York. Seven Regions reported them, with some reports being of multiple birds. Derek Rogers reports there are no prior records of the species in Region 7, where six were documented. There were also widespread records of Little Gull through the spring, with seven non-coastal Regions recording them.

Nice as these gull records are, the spring gull season turned everything upside down with two wild sightings—two first state record gulls. The first was a bird found in the Bronx which checked all the boxes for Glaucous-winged Gull—not an entirely unexpected species, but more likely to follow the existing pattern of recent vagrants by showing up around the Great Lakes. Six weeks later we saw round two, as a first state record Heermann's Gull was observed at Sodus Point in Region 2. This is probably one of the birds that has been navigating its way up and down the east coast for the past couple of years. Both this and the Glaucous-winged Gull are records that just a few years ago would have been considered extraordinary, but given events of recent years it's almost a relief to get these two onto the state list!

A Least Tern found at Sandy Pond in Region 5 provided a first Regional record. Caspian Terns were early arrivals in several Regions, with birds found in late March in Regions 5, 7, and 9, with more in the first few days of April. Two Royal Terns on 13 May set a record early date for New York City.

Pacific Loon was recorded from Region 2. The Region 10 report includes interesting results from an offshore research vessel, which recorded some surprising species for the date of 10 May. No doubt the highlight was Black-capped Petrel, but the sense is that there's a lot to be learned about pelagic birding at that time of year.

Anhingas put on a show in many areas north of their normal range, and at least one bird visited several locations around New York City in April and May. This pales in comparison, though, to the flock of at least 22 birds that spent about a week in Region 5 at Rome. Will Anhinga beat Black-bellied Whistling-Duck to the state's breeding list? Crazy talk!

Three Regions reported American White Pelican, about normal for recent years, while an early Brown Pelican was found at Staten Island in Region 10. Every Region reported the secretive Least Bittern, perhaps another example of Breeding Bird Atlas efforts paying off.

Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from three Regions, and Mississippi Kites from two. Swainson's Hawks were recorded as migrants in Regions 2 and 5, while the wintering bird in Region 10 lingered long enough to make the spring list. Golden Eagles were recorded from every Region. It's pretty clear now that this is another raptor occurring in increasing numbers through this part of its range. American Goshawk numbers were up noticeably from the past few years, with records coming primarily from hawkwatches. A Gyrfalcon at Derby Hill in Region 5 was probably the best raptor report of the season.

The always impressive Scissor-tailed Flycatcher put on a show in three upstate Regions, with reports on 21 April in Regions 2 and 5, and then for a prolonged stay in Region 4. It's possible that the first two may have been the same bird. The locations are about 30 miles apart. Two Regions reported Loggerhead Shrike this spring; possibly three different birds were involved. With protection



and recovery projects ongoing to the north of us in Ontario, it would be great to see some signs of those efforts reflected in our area.

There were several high counts of Black-capped Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse. Derby Hill recorded a one day high of 275 of the former, while the BOS count in Region 1 tallied 334 Tufted Titmice during their April effort. There were several tallies of 500 to 1000 Horned Larks statewide, with 1000 reported in Washington County in Region 8. Other open country passerines were found in good numbers as well. Triple digit counts of Snow Buntings were recorded in several Regions, with a high count of 890 in Region 3. Counts of up to 55 Lapland Longspurs and 350 American Pipits in Region 2 are impressive tallies.

After a pretty lackluster winter, Bohemian Waxwings turned up in numbers in a few Regions, topping out at 330 birds near Pulaski in Region 5. Where were they coming from? Bohemian Waxwing is sometimes regarded as an honorary “winter finch”, but among the actual winter finches, it was nice to see the Region 4 and 5 reports of birds like Pine and Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finches still lingering in good numbers. Red Crossbills continued to nest on eastern Long Island in Region 10.

In the Region 5 report you’ll find a really interesting discussion of birds detected by Motus monitoring stations, including two different Bicknell’s Thrushes that had been tagged in the Dominican Republic. The entire Motus discussion is especially fascinating—it really seems as if we are on the cusp of a game-changing technology. While on the topic of technology in birding, it’s definitely worthwhile to check out the comments and frustrations expressed by Jeff Bolsinger in his Region 6 report regarding the possibility of being overconfident when using the Merlin app to identify difficult bird songs. Elsewhere, a Varied Thrush was a great yard bird for a homeowner in Penfield in Region 2.

This seems as good a place as any to mention a few of the many early arrival dates for migrants this spring. In Region 1, Baltimore Oriole arrived on 18 April, Region 2 recorded Cliff Swallow on 2 March, Cape May Warbler on 24 April in Region 5, and a Purple Martin in Region 10 on 18 February, which technically should have been part of the winter seasonal account! Many other species arrived earlier than long-time observers are used to, but as Jeff Bolsinger puts it in his Region 6 report, “many species arrived early compared to long-term averages, but at similar or only slightly earlier dates relative to most recent years.” It’s worth going through each of the Regional accounts just to see the effects of the early warm weather on our arriving migrants.

The always elusive Henslow’s Sparrow showed for many observers at locations in Regions 4 and 5 (one bird in each spot) and generated some interesting comments in the Region 5 report. Grasshopper Sparrows are still widespread, albeit in small and dwindling numbers. The Region 7 editors talk about some specific habitats that this species seems to rely upon for migration or perhaps for scouting potential breeding sites.

There were a number of still unmentioned rarities scattered across the state. A Connecticut Warbler in Region 2 was the only one found in the state, as was the Swainson’s Warbler on Long Island. A first Lark Bunting for Region 2 was photographed at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on 12 May; another provided a first spring record for Region 10 along Dune Road in Suffolk on 14 May. An adult

male Western Tanager in Rochester (Region 2) provided an excellent sixth Regional record. Painted Buntings are no longer the rarity that they once were in Region 10, but the one in Central Park still deserves mention! On nearby Randall’s Island, a transitioning-plumaged Smith’s Longspur provided a seventh state record, and it was followed a few weeks later by a spectacular adult male on Long Island.

This season there were many candidates for Bird of the Season; Smith’s Longspur, Lark Bunting, Yellow Rail are a few that come to mind. But, honestly, it would be hard to deny that the two first state record gulls, Heermann’s and Glaucous-winged, really have to get the nod. Both are stragglers from the west coast, neither entirely shocking based on recent records in surrounding states, and, I think, both deserving of sharing top spot for the Best of the Season.

So, as always, thanks for reading and good luck in your bird-finding endeavors.

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### SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2023

Region	Species Evaluated <sup>1</sup>	Reg. Avg. 2023	Region vs. NYS 2023 <sup>2</sup>	2023 vs. Avg. 1987-2022 <sup>3</sup>	Reg. Avg. 2023 vs. 2022 <sup>4</sup>	Record Early Spp.
1	92	15 Apr	-1.0	-4.7	0.9	4
2	92	15 Apr	-1.2	-4.0	-0.4	5
3	91	14 Apr	-2.4	-5.5	-0.5	4
4	89	18 Apr	1.7	-5.8	1.3	11
5	92	16 Apr	0.3	-4.7	-0.7	7
6	90	22 Apr	6.2	-4.9	0.7	6
7	88	25 Apr	8.9	-3.7	2.0	2
8	90	17 Apr	0.7	-6.2	-0.1	6
9	92	10 Apr	-6.3	-10.4	-1.2	10
10	84	11 Apr	-5.1	-7.6	-1.7	5
NYS	93	16 Apr	-	-5.8	-1.1	10

<sup>1</sup>Maximum number of species = 93; a species might not be evaluated in a Region if overwintering birds obscured the arrival of migrants, or if the species was not detected at all during the season. Omission of species can affect a Region’s overall average; for instance if one or two very early migrants were not evaluated, the Region’s average date would be biased upward.

<sup>2</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions, in 2023 (days).

<sup>3</sup>Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s average, 1987-2022 (days).

<sup>4</sup>Each Region’s average arrival date, averaged across species, is more sensitive to the omission of one or more species than is the statewide average for each species, averaged across Regions.

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Spring Arrival Dates 2023. Dates in <b>bold</b> font indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Reg. 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2022
Wood Duck	<b>29 Jan</b>	26 Feb	24 Feb	23 Feb	22 Feb	5 Mar	6 Mar	<b>12 Feb</b>	<b>27 Jan</b>		<b>18 Feb</b>	9 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	7 Mar	10 Mar	3 Mar	26 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar	21 Mar	<b>28 Feb</b>	18 Mar	15 Mar	27 Mar
Northern Pintail	10 Feb	10 Feb	<b>11 Feb</b>		15 Feb	<b>15 Feb</b>	1 Mar	6 Feb	<b>31 Jan</b>		12 Feb	4 Mar
Green-winged Teal	31 Jan	<b>10 Feb</b>	24 Feb	22 Feb	<b>15 Feb</b>	22 Mar	13 Mar	3 Mar	19 Feb		23 Feb	12 Mar
Black-billed Cuckoo	11 May	8 May	8 May	10 May	11 May	11 May	22 May	8 May	6 May	5 May	10 May	11 May
Common Nighthawk	12 May	9 May	14 May	19 May	13 May	18 May	16 May	13 May	8 May	1 May	12 May	12 May
Chimney Swift	15 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr	<b>5 Apr</b>	20 Apr	7 May	7 May	15 Apr	21 Apr	4 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	2 May	2 May	4 May	5 May	<b>21 Apr</b>	8 May	7 May	26 Apr	20 Apr	14 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Virginia Rail	28 Mar	10 Apr	28 Mar	7 Apr	1 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	26 Mar	20 Mar	4 Apr	3 Apr	14 Apr
Sora	2 Apr	12 Apr	4 Apr	23 Apr	12 Apr	24 Apr		15 Apr	<b>23 Mar</b>	19 Apr	11 Apr	27 Apr
Common Gallinule	8 Apr	15 Apr	9 Apr	19 Apr	11 Apr	22 Apr	18 May	21 Apr	<b>16 Apr</b>	3 May	20 Apr	25 Apr
Black-bellied Plover	13 May	1 May	19 Apr	<b>11 May</b>	8 May		14 May	21 May	16 Apr		5 May	14 May
Killdeer	12 Feb	1 Mar	<b>5 Feb</b>	<b>14 Feb</b>	19 Feb	17 Mar	17 Mar	<b>10 Feb</b>	<b>9 Feb</b>	<b>11 Feb</b>	19 Feb	3 Mar
Semipalmated Plover	11 May	13 Apr	9 May	7 May	8 May		11 May	5 May	3 May	28 Apr	3 May	8 May
Sanderling	16 May				21 May						18 May	15 May
Least Sandpiper	2 May	27 Apr	21 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	24 Apr	11 May	8 May	30 Apr	1 May	6 Apr	26 Apr	2 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	11 Apr	28 Mar	7 Apr	13 May	6 Apr	14 Apr		8 Apr	7 Apr	19 Mar	9 Apr	19 Apr
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15 May	11 May	10 May		7 May	<b>4 May</b>	12 May	13 May	11 May	1 May	9 May	13 May
American Woodcock	21 Feb	2 Mar	<b>5 Feb</b>	<b>15 Feb</b>	16 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar	2 Mar	14 Feb	2 Mar	1 Mar	9 Mar
Wilson's Snipe	9 Mar	6 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar	5 Mar	24 Mar	10 Apr	18 Mar	<b>18 Feb</b>	21 Mar	14 Mar	23 Mar
Spotted Sandpiper	15 Apr	9 May	15 Apr	13 Apr	4 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	19 Apr	18 Apr	22 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	19 Apr	6 Apr	16 Apr	<b>9 Apr</b>	22 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	12 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	<b>16 Apr</b>	25 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	30 Mar	22 Mar	5 Apr	21 Apr	2 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	<b>28 Mar</b>	28 Mar	18 Mar	4 Apr	16 Apr
Greater Yellowlegs	23 Mar	28 Mar	22 Mar	26 Mar	1 Apr	6 Apr	14 Apr	<b>31 Mar</b>	16 Mar		28 Mar	5 Apr
Caspian Tern	2 Apr	4 Apr	4 Apr	30 Apr	<b>27 Mar</b>	9 Apr	29 Mar	5 Apr	<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>5 Apr</b>	5 Apr	15 Apr
Black Tern	21 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	10 May	13 May	30 Apr		17 May	14 May	12 May	4 May	8 May
Common Tern	2 Apr	4 Apr	17 Apr	17 Apr	6 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	18 May	23 Apr	24 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr
American Bittern	6 Apr	8 Apr	24 Mar	11 Apr	1 Apr	12 Apr	12 Apr	1 Apr	31 Mar	31 Mar	4 Apr	12 Apr
Green Heron	16 Apr	16 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	13 Apr	7 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr
Osprey	21 Mar	22 Apr	19 Mar	26 Mar	22 Mar	28 Mar	26 Mar	22 Mar	17 Mar	5 Mar	24 Mar	26 Mar
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 Apr	3 Apr	31 Mar	26 Mar	18 Mar	28 Mar	2 Apr		12 Mar		26 Mar	1 Apr

Spring Arrival Dates 2023. Dates in <b>bold</b> font indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.													
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Reg. 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2022	
Great Crested Flycatcher	27 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	7 May	30 Apr	26 Apr	20 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	
Eastern Kingbird	26 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	7 May	24 Apr	8 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	19 May	14 May	16 May	23 May	20 May	8 May	12 May	12 May	9 May	7 May	14 May	17 May	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<b>5 May</b>	9 May	29 Apr	8 May	8 May	12 May	13 May	5 May	3 May	4 May	6 May	8 May	
Alder Flycatcher	11 May	11 May	12 May	12 May	11 May	13 May	13 May	9 May	3 May	13 May	10 May	15 May	
Willow Flycatcher	9 May	9 May	12 May	<b>7 May</b>	12 May	13 May	18 May	10 May	7 May	2 May	9 May	14 May	
Least Flycatcher	1 May	6 May	1 May	5 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	<b>27 Apr</b>	2 May	26 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	
Eastern Phoebe	18 Mar	22 Mar	5 Mar	23 Mar	10 Mar	25 Mar	23 Mar	18 Mar	15 Mar	4 Mar	16 Mar	20 Mar	
Yellow-throated Vireo	5 May	5 May	22 Apr	3 May	30 Apr	5 May	9 May	27 Apr	25 Apr	11 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	
Blue-headed Vireo	13 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	8 Apr	13 Apr	16 Apr	15 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	7 Apr	5 Apr	<b>10 Apr</b>	18 Apr	
Warbling Vireo	26 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	23 Apr	1 May	6 May	21 Apr	22 Apr	18 Apr	<b>24 Apr</b>	29 Apr	
Red-eyed Vireo	5 May	6 May	5 May	2 May	28 Apr	3 May	6 May	8 May	<b>7 Apr</b>	15 Apr	<b>29 Apr</b>	3 May	
Bank Swallow	<b>8 Apr</b>	12 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr	15 Apr	19 Apr	7 Apr	17 Apr	23 Apr	
Tree Swallow	21 Mar	18 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar	21 Mar	29 Mar	27 Mar	18 Mar	25 Feb	7 Mar	16 Mar	18 Mar	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	6 Apr	4 Apr	4 Apr	2 Apr	6 Apr	17 Apr	11 Apr	1 Apr	<b>19 Feb</b>	25 Mar	31 Mar	11 Apr	
Purple Martin	9 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	3 Apr	10 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	13 Apr	4 Apr	<b>18 Feb</b>	<b>6 Apr</b>	17 Apr	
Barn Swallow	28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar	2 Apr	28 Mar	6 Apr	15 Apr	30 Mar	3 Apr	25 Mar	1 Apr	8 Apr	
Cliff Swallow	21 Apr	<b>2 Mar</b>	23 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	2 May	10 May	4 May	9 Apr	<b>28 Mar</b>	16 Apr	25 Apr	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 Apr	6 Apr	2 Apr	<b>21 Feb</b>	3 Apr	6 Apr	11 Apr	20 Mar	9 Mar	4 Apr	27 Mar	5 Apr	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13 Apr	5 Apr	11 Apr	<b>11 Apr</b>	9 Apr	<b>11 Apr</b>	9 May	8 Apr	4 Apr	30 Mar	11 Apr	18 Apr	
House Wren	12 Apr	11 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	12 Apr	5 Apr	4 Apr	10 Apr	20 Apr	
Marsh Wren	21 Apr	15 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	<b>1 Apr</b>	12 Apr	20 Apr	22 Mar	24 Mar	13 Apr	8 Apr	25 Apr	
Gray Catbird	11 Apr	12 Apr	<b>19 Mar</b>	17 Apr	22 Apr	<b>21 Apr</b>	21 Apr	19 Apr	1 Apr	20 Apr	13 Apr	22 Apr	
Brown Thrasher	2 Apr	2 Apr	5 Apr	5 Apr	6 Apr	12 Apr	7 Apr	3 Apr	29 Mar	12 Mar	<b>2 Apr</b>	13 Apr	
Eastern Bluebird		5 Mar				22 Mar			1 Mar	18 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	
Veery	27 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	3 May	1 May	8 May	11 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	17 Apr	30 Apr	1 May	
Swainson's Thrush	5 May	7 May	7 May	6 May	6 May	13 May	10 May	7 May	5 May	24 Apr	6 May	7 May	
Hermit Thrush	24 Mar	2 Apr	5 Mar	10 Mar	3 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	4 Apr	1 Apr	22 Mar	27 Mar	5 Apr	
Wood Thrush	22 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	23 Apr	5 May	7 May	27 Apr	28 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	
Chipping Sparrow	22 Mar	22 Mar	26 Mar	24 Mar	1 Apr	6 Apr	24 Mar	5 Apr	25 Mar	25 Mar	27 Mar	2 Apr	
White-crowned Sparrow	<b>1 Apr</b>	22 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	2 May	1 May	4 May	9 Apr		21 Apr	23 Apr	

Spring Arrival Dates 2023. Dates in <b>bold font</b> indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Reg. 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2022
Vesper Sparrow	30 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar	31 Mar	3 Apr	5 Apr	5 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	19 Mar	31 Mar	9 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	1 Apr	28 Mar	17 Mar	1 Apr	29 Mar	5 Apr	8 Apr	7 Apr	1 Apr	1 Apr	31 Mar	5 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	3 May	23 Apr	26 Apr	14 May	28 Apr	6 May	6 May	6 May	16 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Eastern Towhee	30 Mar	22 Mar	20 Mar	31 Mar	27 Mar	8 Apr	8 Apr	5 Apr	4 Apr		31 Mar	7 Apr
Bobolink	4 May	2 May	2 May	1 May	1 May	6 May	4 May	1 May	2 May	6 May	2 May	1 May
Baltimore Oriole	18 Apr	23 Apr	16 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	5 May	7 May	22 Apr	21 Apr	19 Apr	<b>23 Apr</b>	28 Apr
Ovenbird	26 Apr	28 Apr	25 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	4 May	5 May	22 Apr	26 Apr	16 Apr	<b>26 Apr</b>	28 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	21 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	20 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	25 Apr
Black-and-white Warbler	21 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	<b>18 Apr</b>	23 Apr
Tennessee Warbler	7 May	4 May	6 May	9 May	6 May	7 May	11 May	6 May	3 May	30 Apr	5 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	23 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr	5 May	26 Apr	<b>13 Apr</b>	21 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	8 May	13 May	12 May	10 May	9 May	<b>12 May</b>	18 May	12 May	15 May	7 May	11 May	13 May
Common Yellowthroat	20 Apr	<b>23 Mar</b>	24 Apr	<b>16 Apr</b>	27 Apr	4 May	10 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	28 Apr
American Redstart	30 Apr	1 May	3 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Cape May Warbler	6 May	6 May	29 Apr	7 May	<b>24 Apr</b>	7 May	6 May	7 May	5 May	<b>13 Apr</b>	2 May	6 May
Northern Parula	21 Apr	6 May	5 May	29 Apr	6 May	7 May	5 May	22 Apr	22 Apr	6 Apr	27 Apr	30 Apr
Magnolia Warbler	4 May	6 May	2 May	7 May	6 May	10 May	7 May	25 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	3 May	3 May
Bay-breasted Warbler	5 May	6 May	8 May	10 May	7 May	12 May	7 May	9 May	7 May	4 May	7 May	10 May
Blackburnian Warbler	30 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	1 May	1 May	7 May	8 May	<b>26 Apr</b>	1 May	1 May	1 May	2 May
Yellow Warbler	20 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr	<b>23 Apr</b>	21 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	30 Apr	5 May	28 Apr	5 May	7 May	8 May	10 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	26 Apr	2 May	2 May
Blackpoll Warbler	9 May	<b>26 Apr</b>	11 May	11 May	6 May	11 May	12 May	12 May	6 May	29 Apr	7 May	11 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	29 Apr	6 May	2 May	<b>21 Apr</b>	28 Apr	7 May	4 May	25 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr
Palm Warbler	5 Apr	<b>5 Apr</b>	13 Apr	9 Apr	<b>7 Apr</b>	11 Apr	11 Apr	2 Apr	28 Mar	30 Mar	5 Apr	14 Apr
Pine Warbler	21 Mar	5 Apr	28 Mar	5 Apr	3 Apr	6 Apr	6 Apr	2 Apr	17 Mar	17 Mar	29 Mar	7 Apr
Black-thr. Green Warbler	21 Apr	22 Apr	21 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	<b>25 Apr</b>	3 May	21 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr
Canada Warbler	10 May	9 May	7 May	8 May	9 May	11 May	13 May	10 May	6 May	7 May	9 May	9 May
Wilson's Warbler	9 May	9 May	8 May	9 May	11 May	17 May	12 May	4 May	5 May	4 May	8 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	5 May	3 May	22 Apr	3 May	3 May	9 May	6 May	1 May	28 Apr	16 Apr	30 Apr	3 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	23 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	<b>20 Apr</b>	27 Apr	29 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	27 Apr
Indigo Bunting	6 May	5 May	5 May	5 May	26 Apr	7 May	12 May	22 Apr	22 Apr	13 Apr	28 Apr	2 May
Avg Arrival in Region	15 Apr	14 Apr	<b>13 Apr</b>	17 Apr	<b>16 Apr</b>	22 Apr	24 Apr	<b>15 Apr</b>	<b>9 Apr</b>	10 Apr	<b>16 Apr</b>	21 Apr

## REGIONAL REPORTS, SPRING 2023

Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird: eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD\_relMay-2023. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. May 2023.

### REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The spring of 2023 started off wetter than normal and finished drier, with mostly average temperatures for the season. March was slightly wetter than normal with average temperatures for the month. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 41.4° F (0.4° below normal), with 4.05" of precipitation (1.16" above average). A total of 10.0" of snow fell in March, which was 4.1" below normal. April was warm and dry during the first half of the month, shifting to cool and wet for the end. In the end, April's average temperature of 49.5° was 3.9° above average and the 4.6" of precipitation was 1.2" above average. May was full of sunshine and mild temperatures. The average temperature of 56.6° was 1.3° below normal and the 1.15" of precipitation was 2.25" below normal.

Following the early start to migration in a warm February, there was still a nice showing of waterfowl in March and April. Highlights included the Region's earliest spring record of **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** when Gale VerHague found two in Chautauqua County on 17 April. An overwintering **Tufted Duck** continued from November at Buffalo Harbor. Snow Geese flocks were more common than usual for Region 1 in March with three flocks numbering between 1,000-1,400 birds. Ross's Goose has become annual for the Region in spring and two were found in Niagara County on 19 March and another in Erie County on 24 March. Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from several locations in March and April with max counts of four individuals. Cackling Geese made a nice showing with a maximum count of 16 birds in Genesee County on 9 March. Migrating Tundra Swan flocks are always a treat to witness and a nice count of 230 and 110 came from Niagara County on 6 and 19 March, respectively. There were few diving duck counts that surpassed 1,000, but 1,100 Ring-necked Ducks and 2,100 Lesser Scaup tallied on Chautauqua Lake were nice inland counts on 17 April. A record number of Ring-necked Ducks was also tallied during the Buffalo Ornithological Society's (BOS) April Count, with a total of 3,697. There

were just a handful of Harlequin Duck reports in March, most of which came from Buffalo Harbor. There were no spring reports of Brant or King Eider.

There were just two spring reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will, both from Niagara County on 9 and 11 May. John Garrett and Sam Heinrich had a huge surprise on 6 May at Conewango Swamp WMA when they heard the unique “pebbles tapping together” display call of a **Yellow Rail!** They were able to get a recording to document their sighting, which was heard and recorded the following night by Joe Mitchell. This secretive species is rarely documented in the Region even though individuals likely pass through each spring and fall in migration. There were some nice counts of Sandhill Cranes, including an April Count maximum of 33 and a count 14 from Iroquois NWR on 26 May.

Notable shorebird sightings were lower than normal and with an absence of any Red Knot and Whimbrel reports. Highlights included two American Avocet sightings with two at Dunkirk Harbor on 17 April and seven at Chautauqua Lake on 22 April. There were just two Upland Sandpiper reports, the first on 4 May clearly a migrant while the other in Cattaraugus County on 12 May did not result in any follow up reports. A Purple Sandpiper that overwintered in Buffalo Harbor continued to 24 March. There was just one report of Short-billed Dowitcher (27 May) and one report of Long-billed Dowitcher, with 5-6 seen in Niagara County from 1-5 May. Other highlights included three separate sightings of Willets throughout the Region on 22 April and a single Wilson’s Phalarope report on 15 May.

Gulls made a nice showing in spring with some notable highlights, including the Region’s first May record of Black-legged Kittiwake, an adult found by Joel Strong on 14 May in Olcott. A nice count of 1,000 Bonaparte’s Gulls was tallied along the Niagara River on 2 April and Tim Lenz found a Black-headed Gull at Barcelona Harbor on Lake Erie on 9 April. There were multiple Little Gull reports as well as a handful of Laughing Gull reports. Iceland Gulls were well represented including a single “Thayer’s” individual on 19 April. Glaucous Gulls were tough to find this spring, following a winter season in which there were also fewer reports than usual. The first Black Terns were reported from Tonawanda WMA on 21 April and several Forster’s Terns were reported in April and May, including a nice count of four from Chautauqua Lake.

A nice count of 50 Red-throated Loons was made at Golden Hill State Park on 4 May and an impressive inland count of 271 Common Loons occurred on Chautauqua Lake on 22 April. Most locally breeding waders arrived by late March and April, and there were some other notable sightings, including a Cattle Egret at Iroquois NWR on 18 April and Matt Cohen found a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron associating in a Black-crowned Night-Heron rookery from 22-25 April at Niagara Falls SP in the Niagara River.

An impressive 10 Black Vultures were counted at Lewiston in late May as they headed to roost, a reliable location for this species. Additionally, a handful of migrating birds were reported throughout the Region, including a group of five in Somerset, Niagara County. The Hamburg Hawkwatch tallied high counts of 1,930, 1,075, and 1,032 Turkey Vultures in late March and early April. The Hawkwatch also reported two Golden Eagle sightings, on 16 and 26 March. Two other Golden Eagle reports were made elsewhere in the Region, including a rather late report on 21 May in Erie County. Maximum counts of 45 Sharp-shinned,

1,504 Broad-winged, and 24 Red-tailed Hawks were also made from the Hawkwatch. Maximum counts of eight Cooper's, 18 Red-shouldered, and 24 Red-tailed were made from an impromptu, roadside hawkwatch in Orleans County on 29 March. American Goshawk again went unreported as this species has been conspicuously absent in recent years.

There were few owl reports beyond the regular breeding species of Great Horned, Barred, and Eastern Screech. Peter Yoerg reported a Long-eared Owl from Buffalo on 15 and 16 March and a single report of Northern Saw-whet Owl came from Tiffit NP on 11 April. There were just two Short-eared Owl reports, one from Cattaraugus County on 12 March and two from Iroquois NWR on 16 and 21 March. There were no Snowy Owls reported, which followed a winter season with few reports.

Red-bellied Woodpecker has increased over the last few decades to the point where it is the most recorded woodpecker species on the BOS May Count. Downy Woodpecker maintains the top spot for woodpeckers on the BOS April Count, as there is a noticeable drop off from the April Count to the May Count since Downys are often quieter around their nests in May.

Passerine migration was considered generally good this spring, as birders are becoming more accustomed to "hit or miss" mornings based on the previous night's flight movements. There was a little lull in late April and early May, likely due to cool weather, which is noticeable in the arrival dates of some species.

A White-eyed Vireo found by Tim Lenz at Lake Erie State Park on 28-30 April was the only report for the season. Joe Mitchell was surprised to find a **Loggerhead Shrike** during the May Count in the Town of Dayton. Many birders made the trip to Cattaraugus County that day to see this rarity, and it was not found there in subsequent days. Eight days later, on 29 May, Gale VerHague found a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Dunkirk Airport, raising the question if this could be the same bird as the one seen in Dayton, or might there be increased migrational movement of shrikes this spring? There were also spring reports nearby at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania and in Region 2. The likelihood is that the few Loggerhead Shrike sightings we get are connected to the small Ontario population centered on the Carden Alvar, due north of Region 1.

Fish Crows remained at the Buffalo area winter roost into March, with a maximum of 16 identified on 19 March. Two documented by Katelyn Davis in Fredonia on 20 April were notable for both the unusual location and date. This species is a known breeder just east and just west in the Rochester and Niagara region of Ontario, respectively, but breeding evidence remains scarce for Region 1. Another was recorded calling at Golden Hill SP on 27 May, where there is recent precedent of some movements along Lake Ontario.

The only Sedge Wren reports came from Conewango Swamp WMA, where this species is regularly reported. There wasn't much presence of finch species this spring, with neither crossbill species reported, only three Common Redpoll reports, and few Pine Siskins around, with a maximum of only four siskins. Evening Grosbeaks were reported in double digits at several Southern Tier feeding stations into May, with a maximum count of 80 in Hume on 5 April, while others were reported in small numbers throughout the Region on their return north.



A handful of Lapland Longspur reports were made in low numbers, and Snow Buntings returned north in March, with the last reports coming on 19 March. Clay-colored Sparrow was found at three locations in addition to the now regular breeding spot at Krull County Park where three were singing on 13 May. Grasshopper Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow are present as breeders and can be found in regular locations or by spending enough time searching suitable habitat. Both species are less frequently found as migrants, and there were a few clear cases of migrants being seen this spring.

Some Baltimore Orioles are arriving earlier in April than previously. It wasn't that long ago that any oriole appearing before 25 April was considered 'early'. This year, the number of Baltimore Orioles appearing before 25 April is too many to include in the records compilation, with the first observed 18 April.

There were no big rarities among the warblers this spring. There were four Golden-winged Warbler sightings, as they have become a sort-of-rarity with their declining population. A Western Palm Warbler was notably early on 5 April, while the uncommon Eastern Palm Warbler was documented at three locations in April. Shelley Seidman found a Yellow-throated Warbler in Buffalo on 29 April, and Carol Hardenburg reported one at Chautauqua Institution on 5 May for the only reports of this uncommon migrant this spring.

The 88<sup>th</sup> annual BOS April Count was held on 2 April, the earliest date ever held due to avoidance of the Easter holiday weekend the following weekend. The day started out chilly with northerly winds, which then shifted to warmer, southerly winds to reach a high of 41°. This count, compiled by Joel Strong, includes both Region 1 and the adjacent area to the west in Ontario, Canada. A total of 222 birders on both sides of the border tallied 144 species and 96,898 birds. Record high counts were set for Greater White-fronted Goose (4), Trumpeter Swan (14), Northern Shoveler (373), Ring-necked Duck (3,697), Sandhill Crane (33), Bald Eagle (84), Merlin (13), Common Raven (69), and Tufted Titmouse (334). Record low counts were tallied for Purple Finch (27), Vesper Sparrow (1), and Savannah Sparrow (5).

The annual BOS May Count was held on 21 May on a mild day with favorable southwest winds and a high of 63°. This count was compiled by Robert L. DeLeon. Totals of 208 species and 76,587 birds were recorded. Record high counts (since 1965 when the counts received more geographic coverage) were set for: Double-crested Cormorant (6,727), Great Egret (250), Osprey (68), Sandhill Crane (22), Caspian Tern (515), Eastern Wood-Pewee (222), Acadian Flycatcher (18), Alder Flycatcher (72), Great Crested Flycatcher (307), Warbling Vireo (529), Common Raven (67), Carolina Wren (94), and American Redstart (471). Many of these species are part of increasing trends in recent years. Record low counts included Common Loon (only 1!), Black-throated Green Warbler (46), White-crowned Sparrow (8), and Common Grackle (1,639).

## CONTRIBUTORS

Wendy Akin, Sue Barth, Frederic Beaudry, Don Bemont, Chris Bertola, Gary Bletsch, Matt Bossert, Ian Campbell, Brad Carlson, Jess Clippinger, Matt Cohen, Dan Curr, J. Scott Cymerman, Willie D'Anna, Katelyn Davis, Dean DiTommaso, John Garrett, David Gordon, Andy Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Carol Hardenburg, Sam Heinrich, Bruce Hoover, *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

Alec Humann, Josh Ketry, Hans Kunze, Tim Lenz, J. Miller, Phil Mills, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, Terry Mosher, Rob Mrowka, Nicole Munkwitz, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Karl Schmidt, Shelley Seidman, Debbie Sharon, Joel Strong, David Suggs, Gale VerHague, Jim Wojewodzki, Peter Yoerg.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ACNC** – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 2 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 21 May; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CHMUA** – Carlton Hill Multiple Use Area, GENE/WYOM; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil’s Hole SP, NIAG; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara Ri; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Rd WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

**BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:** 2 Sheridan CHAU 17 Apr (GV ph!), earliest spring rec.  
**Snow Goose:** 300 Lyndonville ORLE 12 Mar; 110 Rushford ALLE 15 Mar; 200 INWR 16 Mar; 1000 N Collins ERIE 17 Mar (SB); 130 Pomfret CHAU 18 Mar; max 1400 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (JS); 1000 Shelby ORLE 20 Mar; 200 Dunkirk CHAU 20 Mar; last 4 BOSAC.  
**Ross’s Goose:** 2 Somerset NIAG 19 Mar (JS); Springville ERIE 24 Mar (SB); annual in spring.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Belfast ALLE 3 Mar (FB, NM); 2 Cuba ALLE 4 Mar (IC); max 4 Alabama GENE 6 Mar (BC); Yates ORLE 11 Mar (JS); max 4 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Mar (BC); last INWR 14 Apr.  
**Brant:** no reports.  
**Cackling Goose:** 8 TWMA 7 Mar; max 16 Oakfield GENE 9 Mar; 5 Caneadea ALLE 10 Mar; 9 Lyndonville ORLE 12 Mar; 5 Pomfret CHAU 19 Mar.  
**Canada Goose:** max 4000 INWR 6 Mar.  
**Mute Swan:** Barcelona CHAU 5 Mar; max 10 PB 6 Mar; 2 BeSP 9 Mar; Cassadaga L CHAU 4 Apr; ACNC 8 Apr; 9 WTSP 16 May.

**Trumpeter Swan:** Cassadaga L CHAU 12 Mar (TM), unusual loc; 6, 7 INWR 13 Mar, 27 May, regular breeding area; 14 BOSAC, a count maximum.  
**Tundra Swan:** 94 Oakfield GENE 2 Mar; max 230 TWMA 6 Mar; 91 Grove ALLE 12 Mar; 110 Porter NIAG 18 Mar; last BOSMC.  
**Wood Duck:** max 58 Cuba L ALLE 30 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 3 Lewiston NIAG, Tift NP 7 Mar; 20 CSWMA 1 Apr; 24 INWR 23 Apr.  
**Northern Shoveler:** 59 BWWTP 8 Apr; 373 BOSAC, a count maximum; max 120 INWR 13 Apr.  
**Gadwall:** 45, 54 Tift NP 18 Mar, 12 Apr; max 65 INWR 27 Apr.  
**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1, 2 INWR 6, 8 Apr (CM), males; annual in spring.  
**American Wigeon:** 60 WFWMA 8 Mar; max 200 INWR 14 Apr.  
**Mallard:** max 208 Pomfret CHAU 9 Mar.  
**American Black Duck:** max 35 CSWMA 11 Mar; 23 Grove ALLE 12 Mar.  
**Northern Pintail:** 70 Cuba L ALLE 9 Mar; 150 CSWMA 11 Mar; 100 INWR 20 Mar; 150 Yates ORLE 26 Mar; 120 TWMA 1 Apr; max 424 Elba GENE 2 Apr (CM).

**Green-winged Teal:** 45 CSWMA 11 Mar; max 74 Cuba ALLE 2 Apr; 45 Shelby ORLE 8 Apr.

**Canvasback:** max 190 DH 12 Mar; last Tift NP 27 Apr.

**Redhead:** max 600 Mayville ChauL 6 Mar (GB); INWR 7 May; BWWTP 31 May.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 300 INWR 20 Mar; 235 BWWTP 29 Mar; 3697 BOSAC, a count maximum; max 1100 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Apr; 600 Mayville ChauL 25 Apr; last 3 ChauL 25 May.

**TUFTED DUCK (R1):** BufH thru 3 Mar; continued from late Nov.

**Greater Scaup:** 200 FNSP 11 Mar; max 316 Lewiston Res NIAG 10 Apr; 2 NF 30 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** 45 Cuba L ALLE 22 Mar; 248 BWWTP 8 Apr; max 2100 Chautauqua ChauL 18 Apr (TL); DH 26 May.

**King Eider:** no reports.

**Harlequin Duck:** GHSP 5 Mar (DSu); BufH 6, 7, 22 Mar (PM, KR); only reports.

**Surf Scoter:** Barcelona CHAU 4 Mar; 2 FNSP 13 Mar; 2 BuSP 11 Apr; 2 N Collins ERIE 11 Apr; 2 Wilson NIAG 12 Apr; max 12, 3 Chautauqua ChauL 19. 26 Apr (TL); PB 2 May; Buffalo ERIE 5 May; Dayton CATT 7 May.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 220, 250 FNSP 1, 11 Mar; 4 Chautauqua ChauL 27 Apr; scarce on L Ont in May.

**Black Scoter:** BufH 6 Mar; FNSP 9 Mar; 2 Barcelona CHAU 18 Apr; only reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2000 BufH 1 Mar; 143 BuSP 28 Mar; last GHSP 29 May.

**Bufflehead:** 200 Tonawanda NR 4 Mar; 150 BWWTP 1 Apr; 150 Attica WYOM 14 Apr; max 275 Mayville ChauL 25 Apr.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 350 Buffalo NR 9 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 90 BeSP 5 Mar.

**Common Merganser:** max 1000 Buffalo NR 4 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 350 BeSP 1 Mar; max 1000, 650 Buffalo NR 4, 26 Mar; max 650 Barcelona CHAU 9 Apr; 430 Wilson NIAG 30 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** 110, 270, 180 BWWTP 29 Mar, 23 Apr, 2 May; max 700 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL); BeSP 29 May.

**Wild Turkey:** max 45 Stockton CHAU 13 Mar.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 3 Boutwell Hill SF CHAU 15 Apr; max Birdsall ALLE 21 May.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 2 TWMA 26 Mar.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 17 INWR 12 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** 23 Amherst ERIE 6 Apr; max 60 Mayville ChauL 7 Apr; last BufH 16 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** FNSP 12 Mar; Yates ORLE 12 Mar; max 30 GHSP, 11 Somerset NIAG 24 Mar (DSh); last Tift NP 21 Apr.

**Eared Grebe:** Barcelona CHAU thru 17 Mar, continued from Feb.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr AmSP 11 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr 2 NFC Orchard P ERIE 11 May.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr RWNP 12 May; 6 Buffalo ERIE 23 May; 5 Wellsville ALLE 26 May; max 19 W Seneca ERIE 29 May.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr Somerset NIAG 9 May; TWMA 11 May; only reports.

**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 Tonawanda ERIE 15 Apr.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Jamestown CHAU 2 May.

**Virginia Rail:** arr TRWMA, ACNC 28 Mar; Tift NP 30 Mar.

**Sora:** arr Cheney Rd Swamp CHAU 2 Apr (WA!), early.

**Common Gallinule:** BWWTP 8 Mar (HK), overwintered; arr INWR 8 Apr; max 20 INWR 13 May.

**American Coot:** max 100 INWR 25 Apr.

**YELLOW RAIL:** CSWMA 6-7 May (JG, SH), heard and recorded calling multiple times in suitable habitat.

**Sandhill Crane:** 10 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; 10 OOWMA 24 Mar; 33 BOSAC, a count record; 5 WFWMA 21 Apr; 12 Amity ALLE 30 Apr (NM); 22 BOSMC, a count record; max 14 INWR 26 May (DSh).

**American Avocet:** arr 2 DH 17 Apr (GV), 7 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL), becoming regular in spring.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr Evans ERIE 13 May; max 5 Wilson NIAG 24 May; 4 GHSP 27 May.

**Killdeer:** max 20 Buffalo ERIE 16 Apr.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr INWR, Yates ORLE, 5 Hartland NIAG 11 May; max 66 Hartland NIAG 22 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** GHSP 4 May (WD), flyover; Randolph CATT 12 May (JK); only reports.

**Whimbrel:** no reports.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr 1, 1 BufH 9, 22 May; Wilson NIAG 19 May; max 3 PB 27 May; Tonawanda ERIE 28 May.

**Red Knot:** no reports.

**Sanderling:** arr 3, 1 BufH 16, 25 May; only reports.

**Dunlin:** arr Newfane NIAG 11 Apr; max 12 Yates ORLE 20 May.

**Purple Sandpiper:** BufH 6, 24 Mar (PY, PM), continued from winter.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr Amherst ERIE 2 May; max 76 Hartland NIAG 19, 21 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 4 INWR 25 May (PY); only report.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 3 OOWMA 11 Apr; last INWR 13 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr INWR 15 May; max 43 Amherst ERIE 24 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr, max 20 Strawberry I NR 27 May (MB), only report.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 5-6 Hartland NIAG 1-5 May (WD, JS, mob), becoming annual in spring.

**American Woodcock:** many returned early Mar; first arrivals in Feb.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Porter NIAG 9 Mar; CSWMA 11 Mar; 22 Sheridan CHAU 13 Apr; max 39 Hartland NIAG 14 Apr (JS).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr AmSP 15 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr TiffT NP 19 Apr; max 16 Newfane NIAG 10 May (JS).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 7 INWR 30 Mar; max 75 Hartland NIAG 2 May; 51 Newfane NIAG 6 May.

**Willet:** arr 3 BuSP (AH), Chautauqua ChauL (TL), DH (JC) 22 Apr, clear movement on this day; only reports.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Rushford ALLE 23 Mar; 21 INWR 9 Apr; max 33, 50 Hartland NIAG 30 Apr, 2 May; 40 Forestville CHAU 3 May.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** arr Yates ORLE 12 May (JS), only report.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** ad Olcott NIAG 14 May (JS ph!), first May Reg record.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 500 Buffalo NR ERIE 26 Mar; max 1000 DHSP 2 Apr; 300 Barcelona CHAU 9 Apr.

**Black-headed Gull:** Barcelona CHAU 8 Apr (TL), good find.

**Little Gull:** Buffalo NR 5 Mar; max 3, 4 Lewiston NR 31 Mar, 2 Apr; Chautauqua ChauL 26 Apr (TL); Long Pt SP CHAU 7 May (TL).

**Laughing Gull:** BufH 16 May (PY); Somerset NIAG 21 May (WD, BP); PB 29 May (JS); good showing.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 2850 NIAG BOSAC.

**Herring Gull:** max 500 NFSP 14 Mar.

**Iceland Gull:** 7 NPP 5 Mar; max 5 NFSP 19 Mar; Conewango CATT 26 Mar (JoM), unusual loc; 2 Yates ORLE 4 Apr; last Olcott NIAG 14 May.

**Iceland "Thayer's" Gull:** Olcott NIAG 19 Apr (JS ph!), only report.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1, 2 Chautauqua ChauL 3 Mar, 27 Apr; Rushford ALLE 4 Mar; 1, 1 Dayton CATT 4 Mar, 3 Apr; max 4 NFSP 19 Mar; Barcelona CHAU 22 Apr; Wilson NIAG 24 May; PB 29 May.

**Glaucous Gull:** ChauL 9 Mar; Grand I NR ERIE 11 Mar; Barcelona CHAU 18 Mar; fewer reports this winter and early spring.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 20 WBSP 22 Mar.

**Caspian Tern:** arr GHSP BOSAC; 50 Barcelona CHAU 21 Apr; 83 Wilson NIAG 29 Apr; 515 BOSMC, a record count; max 170 BufH 26 May, at nesting colony.

**Black Tern:** arr TWMA 21 Apr; BufH 14 May; max 51, 39 INWR 13, 16 May.

**Common Tern:** arr 2 Evangola ERIE, 2 Lewiston NR BOSAC; 150 NFSP 25 Apr; max 350 Strawberry I NR 18 May.

**Common/Arctic Tern:** FNSP 21 May (DG), noticeably shorter legged than adjacent Commons; no further details.

**Forster's Tern:** Lewiston NR 7 Apr; INWR 21 Apr; 1, max 4 Chautauqua ChauL 21 Apr, 7 May (TL); Barcelona CHAU 22 Apr; BufH 3 May; Grand I NR 7 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** GHSP 26 Mar; 10 Wilson NIAG 10 Apr; Cassadaga L CHAU 24 Apr (GV), unusual loc; max 50, last 1 GHSP 4, 27 May.

**Common Loon:** 4 Buffalo ERIE 26 Mar; 4 Pomfret CHAU, 8 BeSP 31 Mar; max 271 Chautauqua ChauL 22 Apr (TL), impressive

count for location; 1 BOSMC, count minimum; indicative of less lake-watching on count day but also of earlier passage through Reg this year.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 775 Wilson NIAG 17 Apr; max 1000 Olcott NIAG 22 Apr; 6727 BOSMC, record for count.

**American Bittern:** arr Tiftt NP 6 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr Tiftt NP 27 Apr; max 3 INWR 26 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 125 Tonawanda NR ERIE 2 Apr.

**Great Egret:** arr 2, max 85 Motor 1 NR 20 Mar, 14 Apr; NFSP 22 Mar; 250 BOSMC, record for count.

**Cattle Egret:** INWR 18 Apr (DC), only report.

**Green Heron:** arr Boston ERIE 16 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr 2 NFSP 24 Mar; max 76 NFSP 23 Apr.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** NFSP 22-25 Apr (MC, mob), adult at Black-crowned Night-Heron breeding colony.

**Black Vulture:** 4 Lewiston NIAG 9 Mar; 5 Somerset NIAG 12 Mar (JS); TWMA 24 Mar (JW); 2 AmSP 29 Mar (PM); max 10 Artpark SP NIAG 26 May (MM).

**Turkey Vulture:** max 1930, 1075, 1032 Hamburg HW 26, 29 Mar, 3 Apr.

**Osprey:** arr Onoville CATT 21 Mar; AISP 22 Mar; 6 Hamburg HW 14 Apr; 68 BOSMC, record count; max 11 AISP 30 May.

**Golden Eagle:** Hamburg HW 16, 26 Mar (KR, SB); Ripley CHAU 16 Apr; Newstead ERIE 21 May (AG, RG ph!), on the late side.

**Northern Harrier:** max 3 at multiple locs and dates.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 45 Hamburg HW 16 Apr.

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 8 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar, migrants during raptor watch.

**American Goshawk:** no reports.

**Bald Eagle:** max 7 BeSP 4 Mar; 84 BOSAC, a count maximum; 6 Dunkirk CHAU 4 Apr; 6 Hamburg HW 21 Apr.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 11 Hamburg HW 21 Mar; max 18 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 1, max 1504 Hamburg HW 10, 21 Apr.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 24 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; max 24 Carlton ORLE 29 Mar.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 15 reports Mar 1-2 each; last Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr.

**Snowy Owl:** no reports.

**Long-eared Owl:** Buffalo ERIE 15, 16 Mar (PY); only reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** Conewango CATT 12 Mar (JK); 2 INWR 16, 21 Mar (DSh); only reports.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Tiftt NP 11 Apr (DD), only report.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** ACNC 29 Mar; max 7 PG 21 May.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 353 BOSAC; 369 BOSMC, most reported woodpecker species on May Count.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 8 Tiftt NP 6 Apr.

**Downy Woodpecker:** 418 BOSAC, most reported woodpecker species on April Count; 182 BOSMC.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 115 BOSAC; 103 BOSMC.

**Northern Flicker:** 206 BOSAC; 261 BOSMC.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 51 BOSAC; 43 BOSMC.

**American Kestrel:** max 12 Hamburg HW 21 Apr.

**Merlin:** 13 BOSAC, a count maximum.

**Peregrine Falcon:** nesting at regular locations.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr E Aurora ERIE 27 Apr; 307 BOSMC, a count record.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr Como L CP ERIE 26 Apr.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Allegany CATT 19 May; Buffalo ERIE 30 May; Ripley CHAU 31 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr Sherman CHAU 5 May; 222 BOSMC, a count record.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr BufH 18 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr AISP, Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU, Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 11 May; 18 BOSMC, a count record; max 4 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 26 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr AISP, FLC 11 May; 72 BOSMC, a count record.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Wethersfield WYOM 9 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr FLC 1 May.  
**Eastern Phoebe:** arr Hamburg ERIE 18 Mar.

**White-eyed Vireo:** arr LESP 28-30 Apr (TL), only report.  
**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr BeSP 5 May.  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Rushford ALLE 13 Apr.  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr TiffT NP 8 May.  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr BuSP 26 Apr; 529 BOSMC, a count record.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr GHSP 5 May.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Dayton CATT 21 May (JoM ph! mob); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 May (GV ph! mob); rare; *see intro*.  
**Northern Shrike:** eight Mar reports 1 each; last TWMA 29 Mar.

**Blue Jay:** max 320 Wilson NIAG 7 May.  
**American Crow:** max 500 Buffalo ERIE 16 Mar.  
**Fish Crow:** max 16 Buffalo ERIE 19 Mar; RWNP 27 Mar; 2 Fredonia CHAU 20 Apr (KD), new location; Buffalo ERIE 1, 9 May; GHSP 27 May.  
**Common Raven:** max 9 Conewango CATT 12 Mar; 69 BOSAC, a count record; 67 BOSMC, a count record; 6 Cambria NIAG 28 May, family group nesting in DOT garage.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 27 Sprague Brook CP ERIE 2 Apr.  
**Tufted Titmouse:** 334 BOSAC, a count maximum.

**Horned Lark:** 68 Shelby ORLE 12 Mar; max 110 Wilson NIAG 14 Mar; 75 Yates ORLE 15 Mar.

**Bank Swallow:** arr ACNC 8 Apr; max 100 Porter NIAG 10 May.  
**Tree Swallow:** arr Buffalo ERIE 21 Mar; 100 INWR 24 Mar; max 350 Dayton CATT 23 Apr.  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr multiple locs 6 Apr.  
**Purple Martin:** arr 2 TWMA 9 Apr; max 90 BeSP 27 May.  
**Barn Swallow:** arr TiffT NP 28 Mar; 140 LESP 28 Apr; max 350 BWWTP 2 May.  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 4 BufH 21 Apr; max 30 BufH 29 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr HBWMA 2 Apr; last Forestville CHAU 28 May.  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 30 Ayers Stevenson NP ERIE 5 Apr.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 70 Westfield CHAU 30 May.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 9 Ischua CATT 29 Apr.  
**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 9 RWNP multiple dates.

**Brown Creeper:** max 20 FLC 6 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 13 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr Hamburg ERIE, RWNP, BufH 12 Apr.  
**Winter Wren:** arr ACNC 9 May.  
**Sedge Wren:** arr 2, 1 CSWMA 12, 31 May (JoM); only reports.  
**Marsh Wren:** arr 3 TWMA 21 Apr.  
**Carolina Wren:** 67 BOSAC; 94 BOSMC, a count record.

**Gray Catbird:** Caneadea ALLE 3 Mar; TiffT NP 11 Mar; with more wintering it is challenge to determine first spring migrant.  
**Brown Thrasher:** arr 3 BOSAC.  
**Northern Mockingbird:** 24 BOSAC; 29 BOSMC.

**European Starling:** max 800 Somerset NIAG 20 Mar.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 12 Hamburg ERIE 6 Mar.  
**Veery:** arr Charlotte CHAU 27 Apr; PG 28 Apr.  
**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Ripley CHAU 10 May.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May; max 131 NFC Orchard P ERIE 19 May (CB).  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr N Harmony CHAU 24 Mar; max 12 FLC 15 Apr; max 12, 12 NFCs Orchard P ERIE 16, 28 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr Cherry Creek CHAU, Ripley CHAU 22 Apr.  
**American Robin:** max 100 Wales ERIE 24 Mar.

**American Pipit:** arr Newstead ERIE, N Harmony CHAU 11 Mar; 3 Dunkirk CHAU 13 Mar; max 100 Middlebury WYOM 28 Mar; 30 Marilla ERIE 29 Apr; last Wilson NIAG 22 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 16, 7, 20 Machias CATT 4 Mar, 5 Apr, 14 May (RM); 15, 14 Portville CATT 7 Mar, 7 Apr (JMi); 4 Houghton ALLE 16 Mar (IC); 2 Colden ERIE 24 Mar (JSC); max 80 Hume ALLE 5 Apr (HK); 10 Wilson NIAG 5 May.

**House Finch:** max 29 Amherst ERIE 8 Apr.

**Purple Finch:** 9 Rushford ALLE 12 Mar; 27 BOSAC, a count minimum; 21 Ashford CATT 18 Apr; max 24 Newfane NIAG 22 Apr.

**Common Redpoll:** 2 Porter NIAG 3 Mar; Lackawanna ERIE 11-16 Mar; INWR 15 Mar; only reports.

**Red Crossbill:** no reports.

**White-winged Crossbill:** no reports.

**Pine Siskin:** max 4 Wilson NIAG 1 Apr; few reports.

**American Goldfinch:** max 87 Shelby ORLE 24 Apr.

**Lapland Longspur:** Attica WYOM 2 Mar; 3 Shelby ORLE 13 Mar; max 5 Porter NIAG 14 Mar; max 5 Yates ORLE 19 Mar; last Sheridan CHAU 1 Apr.

**Snow Bunting:** max 100 Wales ERIE 6 Mar; max 100 Yates ORLE 11 Mar; last multiple locs 19 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr 1, 3 Tift NP 23 Apr, 6 May; 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 14 May; 3 TRWMA 29 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Hamburg ERIE 22 Mar.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr 1, 3 Krull CP 7, 13 May, regular breeding loc; Waterport NIAG 12 May (CM); Yates ORLE 13 May (DB); JWWMA 21 May (BH).

**Field Sparrow:** Hamburg ERIE 3 Mar; Tift NP 5 Mar; early arrivals?; Wellsville ALLE 21 Mar.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Holland ERIE 4 Mar; last Forestville CHAU 9 May.

**American Tree Sparrow:** last Alfred ALLE 5 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 80 Forestville CHAU 31 Mar.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 4 Porter NIAG 18 Mar; LESP 1 Apr; migrations peaks

around 2nd week of May; 8 BOSMC, a count minimum.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 200, 100 Tift NP 21 Apr, 6 May.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 1, max 4 Sheridan CHAU 30 Mar, 10 Apr; 2 BeSP, 2 Panama CHAU 8 Apr; 2 BuSP 26 Apr; five locs in May.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Lyndonville NIAG 24 Mar, overwintered; arr multiple locs 1 Apr; 5 BOSAC, a count minimum.

**Song Sparrow:** max 75 Tift NP 2 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 1, last 1 FLC 3, 26 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** 2 BWWTP 9 Mar; 2 Pomfret CHAU 15 Mar; 2 INWR 22 Mar; 2 Tift NP 28 Mar, all in locs of potential overwintering.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr Jamestown CHAU 30 Mar.

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

**Bobolink:** arr 7 Knox Farm SP ERIE, 3 Youngstown NIAG 4 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr Dunkirk Airport, Sheridan CHAU 1 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Orchard P ERIE 6 May.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Tift NP 18 Apr; Chautauqua CHAU 20 Apr; Amherst ERIE, Buffalo ERIE 21 Apr; many reports earlier than usual.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 350 BWWTP 2 May.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 100 Pomfret CHAU 4 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** 100 Buffalo ERIE 3 Apr; max 1600 INWR 9 Apr; 250 Middleport NIAG 13 Apr; 60 Gainesville WYOM 26 Apr; 65 Hartland NIAG 5 May; last INWR 24 May.

**Common Grackle:** max 200 Buffalo ERIE 22 Mar; 1639 BOSMC, a count minimum.

**Ovenbird:** arr Tift NP 26 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr AISP 7 Apr; max 4 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 14 Apr, max 4 Franklin Gulf CP ERIE 11 May.

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr ACNC 21 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr Porter NIAG 10 May; GHSP 11 May; AmSP 15 May; Olean CATT 17 May (JoM); Delevan CATT 30 May (VR).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr Frewsburg CHAU 1 May.

**“Lawrence’s” Warbler:** HBWMA 13, 21 May (IC, KS); Attica WYOM 15 May (BC); more reports than Brewster’s recently.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr multiple locs 21 Apr.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 2 TWMA 13 May, breeding area; FNSP 21 May (DG).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Jamestown CHAU, Orchard P ERIE 7 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr; FLC 9 May; Hamburg ERIE 17 May; Marilla ERIE 22 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr 2 BuSP 23 Apr.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Whitesville ALLE 8 May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr Tift NP 20 Apr.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr Jamestown CHAU 3 May.

**American Redstart:** arr ACNC 30 Apr; 471 BOSMC, a count record.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr multiple locs 6 May; max 8 GHSP 11 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr NFSP 7 May; max 8 INWR 18 May, breeding area.

**Northern Parula:** arr AISP 21 Apr.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr RWNP 4 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr ACNC 30 Apr.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr Conewango CATT 20 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Oakfield GENE 30 Apr.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr CHMUA 9 May; NFSP 11 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr NFSP 29 Apr.

**“Western” Palm Warbler:** arr Sheridan CHAU 5 Apr (GV), early; max 21 GHSP 11 May.

**“Eastern” Palm Warbler:** HBWMA 8 Apr (KS); LESP 13 Apr; Hamburg ERIE 20 Apr (SB), uncommon.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Orchard P ERIE 21 Mar; 6 Tift NP 15 Apr; max 7 ACNC 1 May.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr Tift NP 15 Mar; RWNP 22 Mar; 68 BWWT 23 Apr; max 86 NFC Orchard P ERIE 13 May.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** arr Buffalo ERIE 29 Apr, 4 May (SS); Chautauqua Institution CHAU 5 May (CH).

**Prairie Warbler:** arr, max 9 Yorkshire CATT 12 May, breeding area.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr 2 AISP, Tonawanda ERIE 21 Apr; 46 BOSMC, a count minimum.

**Canada Warbler:** arr Stockton CHAU 10 May.

**Wilson’s Warbler:** arr Independence ALLE 9 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 5 May.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 36 Stiglmeier P ERIE 25 Apr.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Hamburg ERIE, Caneadea ALLE 23 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr multiple locs 6 May.

## EXOTICS

**Whooper Swan:** Barcelona CHAU thru 26 Mar, continued from Feb.





## REGION 2—GENESEE

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The dynamic nature of a transitional month was on full display for March 2023. Although there were no temperature extremes during the month, the weather varied day to day, either with snow, wind, rain, or a mix of all three. Temperatures averaged 35.0° F, which was exactly average. The highest daily temperature was 59° on 22 March. The Rochester airport recorded 3.27" of liquid precipitation, about 0.75" above average. 17.9" of snow fell, 6.2" of that on 10 March. March was the first month to have above average monthly snowfall.

April 2023 could be bisected into two distinct segments. The first half of the month was pleasant, unseasonably warm, and dry. The second half of the month was cold, wet, and dismal. Temperatures averaged 50.2°, 3.4° above average, with five consecutive days in the second week of the month all between 75° and 84°. Precipitation totaled 3.34", 0.35" above average.

May 2023 started off cold and wet and ended hot and dry. Temperatures averaged 55.6°, 3.2° below normal. Below average temperatures outweighed above average temperatures by 18 to 8 days for the month, contributed to by a large storm system that stalled over the Great Lakes region. The hottest temperature for May was 85°, which occurred on the last day of the month. A late frost on 18 May brought a low of 32° to the Rochester airport, although temperatures dipped into the mid-20°s further south in the Region. Lakeshore orchards and Finger Lakes vineyards reported mild to severe crop loss as a result. Precipitation totaled 1.39", 1.47" below normal. The last two weeks of May were essentially without precipitation, but fears of drought did not set in unlike last year, as the soil was still in decent condition, aided by the above average precipitation from the preceding months. There were no thunderstorms recorded at the Rochester airport and no severe storm warnings in the greater region either for May. Winds were light and gentle for most of the month, with a northerly direction prevailing most days.

Among the waterfowl, spring 2023 proved interesting in that things moved in early, came through in good numbers, and moved out before birders had a chance to really appreciate them. A Ross's Goose was found at Shore Acres in Hilton by Brad Carlson on 9 March and observed by many Regional birders for two days. Greater White-fronted Goose appeared a little scarcer than previous springs, with the only representatives for Region 2 appearing as four individuals in Perry on 2 March, a single individual in Clyde on 5 March, one from Twin Cedars Environmental Area in Avon on 7 March, and two on Church Road in Hilton on 19 March. Canada Goose and Snow Goose migration peaked around 18-20 March. Brant was missed for the season.

Region 2 saw an early influx of puddle ducks in late February, aided by favorable conditions. These numbers continued to build throughout March. Significant numbers were limited to the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA). Disappointingly, large numbers of puddle ducks

did not accumulate on Braddock Bay, as they have in past years. Brad Carlson found a Eurasian Wigeon on the (somewhat consistent) ponds of the Conesus Inlet on 8 March. The same individual likely continued through at least 26 March. Two or three additional Eurasian Wigeon were observed by many in the NMWMA in March, where they are more expected. Puddle duck numbers seemed to dry up earlier than usual. Waterfowl as a whole felt lighter than normal in early April. Perhaps the unseasonable warmth played in a decision to keep moving north. The waterfowl deficit continued into May, with surprisingly low counts such as Mallard (38) and Wood Duck (34). Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal appeared scarcer than usual into May. Lingering numbers of diving ducks were even poorer in May. Nate Ukens found a **Tufted Duck** on the northeast corner of Irondequoit Bay on 9 March, which was reported through 6 April, the only diving duck of interest. Slightly more common on the Finger Lakes, Tufted Duck is very rare in Monroe County.

Red-necked Grebes peaked at 378 tallied past the Hamlin Beach SP Lakewatch on 9 April. Numbers of Sandhill Cranes continued to build throughout the month, with the highest count of 34 coming from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch by David Brown and Kim Steininger on 20 March. Jessie Barry, Chris Wood, and Brian Sullivan picked up on a **Pacific Loon** passing Edgemere Drive in Greece on 15 April. There were several counts of Common Loon above 100, decent for spring lakewatching.

One telltale, and welcome, sign of spring's arrival is increasing numbers Killdeer in the first half of March and American Woodcock in the second half of March. Small numbers of other shorebirds, such as Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and the yellowlegs, also started to make their way back into the Region by the end of March. Numbers of these early species continued to build at the usual places, such as the NMWMA, and the flooded fields around Geneseo throughout April.

Lake Ontario continued to rise throughout March and April, matching 2022 water levels exactly by the end of April, an unwelcome phenomenon, which contributed to a lack of shorebird habitat around Braddock Bay. Water levels drastically shot up the first two weeks of May, cresting at 247.41' on 13 May, about two feet above the height needed for exposed mudflats. The impoundments around Carncross Road in the NMWMA quickly became the Region's go-to shorebird spot for this season.

Observers at Braddock Bay's East Spit reported a flyby Semipalmated Plover on 13 April, one of the earliest Regional records. Chris Wood reported a flyover Upland Sandpiper over Owl Woods on 15 April. David Brown also reported a flyover of the same species from the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on 29 April. May saw an expected increase in shorebird diversity, with 19 species reported. Species of interest included an Upland Sandpiper in the Town of Hamlin on 8 May and another in Letchworth State Park on 14 May. Spring 2023 felt like a phalarope drought, with the Region's only report of a Wilson's Phalarope for spring migration from the flooded fields near Geneseo on 9 May. Region 2 missed Whimbrel for the season, very unusual, also Sanderling, although that miss is historically not as unusual.

The increasing numbers of Bonaparte's Gull is always a welcomed sign of spring in Rochester. This year, the migration of Bonaparte's Gull was obvious,

with a growth from high counts of 75 on 30 March (Braddock Bay) to 1,180 on 14 April (Beechwood State Park). Observers reported two separate Little Gulls on 1 April, with one from Hamlin Beach SP by Andy Guthrie and the other by Greg Lawrence on Irondequoit Bay. The largest *Larus* gull flocks continued to be on Irondequoit Bay throughout March into early April. Braddock Bay seemed devoid of large numbers of gulls at the same time. Glaucous Gull continued to be scarce, finishing the winter of 2022-2023 with only eight reports in March.

Jay McGowan found a **Heermann's Gull** at Sodus Point on 19 May, the first record of this species in New York. The Heermann's Gull was observed at dawn on 20 May at Sodus Point and then from Charlotte Pier in Rochester three hours later by Andy Guthrie and Jim Miles. Gulls continued exciting in May. A Franklin's Gull was seen by many observers at both Charlotte Pier and Braddock Bay from 20-22 May. A Laughing Gull moved back and forth along the Monroe County lakeshore from 21-26 May. Andy Guthrie had a very rare spring Parasitic Jaeger (third spring Regional record) from Hamlin Beach on 6 May. Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared to pop up everywhere in the northeast United States in higher-than-usual numbers in May. Our Region had two reports, the first by Chris Wood around Braddock Bay on 6 May and a second found by Jeanne Cimorelli at Sodus Point on 20-22 May, allowing many to see and photograph it.

Caspian Tern numbers seemed lower than in recent years, with single digit counts prevailing from the Braddock Bay area and only occasional outlier counts approaching or exceeding 100, e.g., max 196 Irondequoit Bay on 2 May. The first Black Tern arrived on 22 April, a bit early but not unexpected and likely aided by very strong southerly winds the night before.

David Brown was back for a fifth year as the Braddock Bay Hawk Counter. The count ran from 1 March to 31 May. David's dedication to not only documenting migrating raptors, but religiously documenting all species and all aspects of avian migration around Braddock Bay through his daily visits to various lakeshore hotspots is immensely appreciated by those with an interest in records.

David had a decent first month, finishing off with 9,128 total raptors. Turkey Vulture migration peaked in late March/early April. Turkey Vultures composed 86.9% of the 9,128 raptors counted. Days with thousands of Turkey Vultures passing the Hawk Watch is a relatively new phenomenon. The highlight for March was two **American Goshawks** observed on 26 March, the first for the count in three years. The count recorded 203 migrating Bald Eagles and 10 migrating Golden Eagles in March. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were poor for April, with 3,809 the highest on 21 April from the Hawk Watch platform. Mike Tetlow counted Broad-winged Hawks from Ridge Road in Greece, also on 21 April, and had over 4,700—a function of the lake breeze closer to the lakeshore. David picked out a **Swainson's Hawk** on 22 April, much to the delight of a platform full of birders. Two more **American Goshawks** passed the platform in April. However, despite the impressive April, the season went out with a whimper, as a long pattern of northerly winds combined with clear skies meant mostly poor or difficult conditions for hawk watching for the last few weeks. Despite this, David managed to finish the season with 50,395 raptors. Of note for May were 101 Bald Eagles tallied on 19 May. Triple digit Bald Eagle counts are another recent phenomenon—much welcomed.

Finishing out with the passerines, David Brown photographed an extremely early Cliff Swallow on 2 March from the Hawk Watch platform. On 2 March, the closest Cliff Swallow to the Braddock Bay bird (according to the eBird species map) was in Texas. A single overwintering Pine Grosbeak continued through at least 3 March at Webster Park. Wade and Melissa Rowley photographed a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at the Lake Shore Marshes WMA on 21 April. Unfortunately, the bird did not stick around for others to see it, despite effort from chasers. Vicki Rothman found a **Loggerhead Shrike** along the north end of Nations Road in Avon on 22 April. The shrike stayed for a few days. Andy Guthrie reported a Region 2 early Blackpoll Warbler from Braddock Bay's South Marina on 26 April. Perhaps the passerine of the month for April was a male **Western Tanager** that made an appearance at Joan Lindberg's house on 23-26 April. Joan graciously invited a handful of local birders into her backyard. Migrant warblers seemed to be less abundant and less diverse than in recent years following arrival at the end of April, surely a function of unpleasant weather to the south. The honorable mention for April was a **Variied Thrush** in the town of Penfield coming to a private residence on 5-6 April and seen by the homeowner and two local birders.

Neotropical passerine migration continued weakly for the first few days of May but picked up on 10 May. Passerines zipped through in full force over those next two weeks. However, several local birders expressed observations that migrants appeared to dry up faster than usual by the end of May, evident by breeders outnumbering migrants in that last week. Among the passerines of interest for May, Brad Carlson and Mike Gullo reported five chaseable Sedge Wrens from a field in the Lakeshore Marshes WMA south of Chimney Bluffs SP on 12 May. They stayed through at least the end of the month. A **Lark Sparrow** was noted moving along the Lakeshore on 7 May. Kim Steininger found the Region's first **Lark Bunting** at the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch on 12 May, which was seen by the Monroe crowd as well chasers from Buffalo to Ithaca. The Whiting Road Nature Preserve in Webster held anywhere from one to four Golden-winged Warblers, appearing to be on territory in successional dead ash plots. It will be interesting to see if territorial Golden-winged Warblers increase in Region 2 with the creation of more suitable habitat over the next few years with the death of the majority of the ash trees. Finally among the passerines, Mike Gullo found a Summer Tanager along Tunley Road near Sodus on 8 May, and George Ford found another Summer Tanager at Whiting Road Nature Preserve on 23 May. Overall, a thrilling April and May for passerines, with something new each day.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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There were 1,284 contributors to the eBird data for Spring 2023.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; **BB – ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB – OW** – Owl Woods off Manitou Beach Rd. to the W of BB, MONR; **BB – HW** – Hawk Watch located at BB P, MONR; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB – S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB – W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **JBPRA** – Jones Bridge and Perry Rds. Area, T Leicester, LIVI; **LSMWMA** – *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

Lake Shore Marshes WMA, WAYN; **LSP** – Letchworth SP, LIVI; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NFC** – nocturnal flight call; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MAC)** – Montezuma Audubon Center; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd. marshes; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices.

## BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
<b>Black Vulture</b>	4/16	1	4/16	1
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	3/5	4,605	4/6	27,895
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>				0
<b>Osprey</b>	3/28	10	5/1	99
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	3/20	2	Five dates	22
<b>No. Harrier</b>	3/8	36	4/11	473
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	3/16	311	4/22	2,433
<b>Cooper’s Hawk</b>	3/8	14	3/29	228
<b>American Goshawk</b>	3/26	2	3/26	7
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	2/15	101	5/19	955
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	3/5	55	3/20 & 3/24	390
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	4/11	3,809	4/21	15,802
<b>Swainson’s Hawk</b>	4/22	1	4/22	1
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	3/1	170	4/11	1,689
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	3/5	4	3/18	15
<b>Am. Kestrel</b>	3/16	57	4/11	324
<b>Merlin</b>	3/3	4	5/19	41
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	3/22	3	4/21	19
<b>Unidentified</b>				0
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	3/26	1	3/26	1
<b>Total incl unidentified</b>				<b>50,395</b>

**Snow Goose:** max 15000 Nations Rd. 4 Mar; last 2 T Hamlin 21 May (AGu).

**Ross’s Goose:** ad Shore Acres T Hamlin 9-10 Mar (JMi).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** max 4 T Perry 2 Mar (BraC); last 2 Church Rd. T Parma 19 Mar (RGB, !).

**Brant:** no reports.

**Cackling Goose:** max 17 Church Rd. T Parma 11 Mar (AGu).

**Canada Goose:** max 8000 Redman Rd. T Hamlin 1 Mar; 8000 Church Rd T Parma 11 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** max 135 ED 19 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 12 NWWMA (MR) 12 Mar & 1 Apr.

**Tundra Swan:** max 600 NMWMA (CR) 3 Mar (MRi).

**Wood Duck:** max 34 NMWMA (Deep Muck Marsh) 20 May.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr NMWMA (MAC) 10 Mar; max 10 Genesee Valley Greenway – Chandler Rd. 27 Apr.

**Northern Shoveler:** arr in Feb; max 150 NMWMA (CR) 8 Apr.

**Gadwall:** max 60 BB-HW 4 Mar (DBr); last 2 NMWMA (CR) 18 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** arr NMWMA (CR) 3 Mar (DDa, MRi); last CL 26 Mar (TBo).

**American Wigeon:** max 150 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Mar, low.

**Mallard:** max 300 NMWMA (CR) 3 Mar.

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**American Black Duck:** max 45 NMWMA (VDS) 5 Mar.

**Northern Pintail:** max 2,000 NWMA (VDS) 11 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 110 Genesee Airfield 3 April.

**Canvasback:** max 149 BB 4 Mar; last BB 2 May.

**Redhead:** max 2,000 CL 9 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 460 BB – Burger P 18 Mar; last BB 25 May.

**TUFTED DUCK: (R2)** ad m 9 Mar – 6 Apr IB (NU, mob).

**Greater Scaup:** max 340 Blind Sodus Bay 2 Mar. last BB 25 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 300 CL 4 Apr; last 2 BB 25 May.

**Surf Scoter:** max 16 HB 22 Apr (AGu); last 27 May HB (AGu, !, CW), late.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 185 SPT 13 Mar; last 3 HB 29 May.

**Black Scoter:** last BB – ES 15 Apr, only sreport for season!

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 910 HB 5 May (AGu); last 2 HB 30 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 200 CL 5 Apr; last HB 27 May (AGu, !, CW).

**Common Goldeneye:** max 150 IB 2 Mar; last 2 BB 25 May.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 67 Honeoye L 9 Mar.

**Common Merganser:** max 1,000 IB 4 Mar (KH).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 2,300 HB 5 May (AGu).

**Ruddy Duck:** max 130 Silver L 20 Apr (HK); last 2 ED 10 May (CW).

**Horned Grebe:** max 28 Honeoye L 4 Apr (BHov); last ED 9 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 378 HB 9 Apr 9 (AGu); last HB 5 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr NMWMA (AR) 24 Apr.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr NMWMA (VDS) 8 May.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr Cobbs Hill 9 May; max 57 BB 25 May.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr 3 BB – OW 21 Apr (CW, JeB); max 5 BB – OW 11 May; last HB 16 May.

**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 NMWMA – South Butler Unit 17 Apr; max 80 Rochester 17 May.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr T. Wolcott 2 May (W&MR).

**Virginia Rail:** arr HANA 10 Apr.

**Sora:** arr HANA 12 Apr.

**Common Gallinule:** arr 2 NMWMA (MR) 15 Apr; max 30 NMWMA (VDS) 21 May.

**American Coot:** max 100 BB 6 Apr.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 34 BB – HW 20 Mar.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr BB – ES 1 May; last 2 BB – WS 31 May.

**Killdeer:** arr IB 1 Mar; max 28 NMWMA (CR) 15 May, low.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr BB – ES 13 Apr (DBr, KSt) early; max 50 NMWMA (CR) 16 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr BB – OW 15 Apr (CW, JeB, BS); BB – HW 29 Apr; T Hamlin 8 May; LSP 14 May.

**Whimbrel:** no reports.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr IB 10 May; max 9 SPT 20 May.

**Red Knot:** arr 29 May OB & SPT.

**Sanderling:** no reports.

**Dunlin:** arr 3 NMWMA (CR) 10 Apr; max 200 NMWMA (CR) 16 May (CGu).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 Genesee Valley Greenway – Chandler Rd 27 Apr; max 300 NMWMA (CR) 16 May (CGu).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr NMWMA (CR) 3 May; max & last 5 NMWMA (CR) 16 May (CGu).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 3 Tunley Rd. T Sodus 28 Mar; max 15 NMWMA (CR) 16 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 4 NMWMA (CR) 11 May; arr 2 ED 11 May; max 200 SPT 24 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 5 NMWMA (CR) 3 May; last 3 NMWMA (specific loc unknown) 27 May.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** NMWMA (CR) 11 May (CGu), rarer in spring.

**American Woodcock:** arr Nunda-Dalton Rd. T Nunda 2 Mar (J&KG); max 9 BB – OW 23 Mar.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr HANA 6 Mar; max 24 JBPR 28 Apr.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr CL 9 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Genesee Valley Greenway – Chandler Rd. 6 Apr; max 18 ED 7 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Tunley Rd. T Sodus 22 Mar; max 200 NMWMA (CR) 8 May; last 2 Genesee Valley Greenway – Chandler Rd. 27 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr 2 Tunley Rd. T Sodus 28 Mar; max 150 NMWMA (CR) 7 Apr.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** Genesee St. T Genesee 9 May (JKI), only report.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** HB 6 May (AGu), very rare in spring.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** L Ontario 6 May (CW); last SPt 20-22 May (JCI, mob).  
**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 1,180 Beechwood SP 14 Apr (MGU).  
**Little Gull:** arr HB 4 Apr (AGu); arr IB 4 Apr (GL); last L Ontario 6 May (CW).  
**Laughing Gull:** ad OB & BB 21-26 May (NU, mob).  
**Franklin's Gull:** ad OB & BB 20-22 May (Dbr, KSt, mob).  
**HEERMANN'S GULL:** ad SPt 19-20 May (JMc, mob); OB 20 May (AGU, JMi) same bird moving west. **State First.**  
**Iceland Gull:** last HB 27 May (AGU), !, CW).  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 3 IB – S 12 Mar.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last Jacobs Rd T Hamlin 28 Apr (AGU).  
**Caspian Tern:** arr OB, HB, SPt 4 Apr; max 194 IB 2 May (GL), low numbers elsewhere.  
**Black Tern:** arr ED 22 Apr (CW); max 35 NMWMA (VDS) 11 May.  
**Common Tern:** arr IB 4 Apr; max 20 BB – WS 20 May.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr ED 16 Apr; last BB 22 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 33 ED 16 Apr (JeB, BS, CW).  
**PACIFIC LOON:** ED 15 Apr (JeB, BS, CW).  
**Common Loon:** max 144 HB 5 May (AGU).

**American White Pelican:** BB & Greece Ponds 19-24 May (Dbr, KSt, mob).

**American Bittern:** arr BB – HW 8 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr NMWMA (Deep Muck Marsh) 3 May.  
**Great Egret:** arr BB – HW 21 Mar; max 12 NMWMA (VDS) 7 May.  
**Green Heron:** arr Tinker Nature P & HANA 16 Apr.  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr BB – OW 16 Apr.

**Glossy Ibis:** arr 3 Hogan Pt Rd 23 May (PMar, mob).

**Black Vulture:** arr 3 LSMWMA 3 Apr (W&MR); BB – HW 16 Apr (Dbr, mob), only at HW.  
**Turkey Vulture:** max 4,607 BB – HW 6 Apr (Dbr).

**Osprey:** arr T Palmyra 22 Mar; max 24 LSMWMA 22 Apr (W&MR).

**Golden Eagle:** max 2 BB – HW five times Mar & Apr; last 5 May BB – HW.  
**Northern Harrier:** max 38 BB – HW 11 Apr.  
**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 311 BB – HW 22 Apr.  
**Cooper's Hawk:** max 19 LSMWMA 21 Apr.  
**American Goshawk:** 7 BB – HW Mar-May (Dbr, KSt, mob), first in three years!  
**Bald Eagle:** max 101 BB – HW 19 May (Dbr, KSt).  
**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr BB – HW 5 Mar; max 55 BB – HW 20 & 24 Mar.  
**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 15 BB – HW 11 Apr; max 4,732 W Ridge Rd T Spencerport 21 Apr (MT), low max.  
**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** BB – HW 22 Apr (Dbr, KSt, mob); ED 22 Apr (CW&JeB), two hours later, perhaps different bird.  
**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 170 BB – HW 11 Apr.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 5 LSMWMA 5 Apr; last Brown Rd T Wolcott 10 May.

**Short-eared Owl:** last BB 14 Apr (mob).  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** last 2 BB – OW 22 Apr.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr Clematis St. City of Rochester 26 Apr.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr sev locs 3 Apr.  
**Northern Flicker:** max 113 ED 16 Apr (CW, JeB).



**American Kestrel:** max 57 BB – HW 11 Apr.

**Merlin:** max 4 BB – HW 19 May.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 5 LSP 7 Mar.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr BB – OW 30 Apr.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr Hogan Pt Rd 29 Apr.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** LSMWMA 21 Apr (W&MR), 3rd Reg record.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr MP 14 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr sev lakeshore hotspots 9 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr 11 May NMWMA (CR).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr 13 May LSP.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Beechwood SP 11 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr sev lakeshore locs 9 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr sev lakeshore locs 6 May.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr Island Cottage Woods & LSMWMA 22 Mar.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CL & Canadice L 5 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr LSP 13 Apr.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr ED 10 May.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr Sandy Bottom P, T Honeoye 23 Apr (!), very early.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr LSMWMA 4 May; max 25 LSP 23 May, low.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** Nations Rd. 22-? Apr (at least a few days) (VR, mob).

**Northern Shrike:** last T Pittsford 24 Mar.

**Horned Lark:** max 280 BB – HW 5 Apr.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr IB – S 4 Apr; max 45 IB – S 2 May.

**Purple Martin:** arr 2 BB – HW 6 Apr; max 50 NMWMA (MAC) 24 May.

**Tree Swallow:** arr BB – HW 18 Mar; max 300 sev locs 20 Apr thru 3 May.

**Bank Swallow:** arr HB 12 Apr; max 300 Beechwood SP 19 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr BB – HW 29 Mar; max 300 CL 29 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr BB – HW 2 Mar, record early R2; max 12 Churchville P 12 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr LSMWMA 6 Apr (W&MR); max 222 BBBO 7 May.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 325 BB – WS 19 May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr BB – OW 5 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr Beechwood SP 11 Apr.

**Sedge Wren:** 5 Chimney Bluffs SP 12 May thru (BraC, MGu).

**Marsh Wren:** arr NMWMA (MR) 15 Apr.

**Gray Catbird:** arr Porter Rd. T Naples 12 Apr.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr T Pittsford 2 Apr.

**VARIED THRUSH:** Clebourne Dr Rochester 5-6 Apr (ASF), 13<sup>th</sup> Reg report.

**Veery:** arr LSP 29 Apr.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr Alder Beach T Parma 13 May; max 2 lakeshore hotspots 23-28 May, very low non-banding; total b 15 BBBO 19-30 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr lakeshore hotspots 7 May; total b 167 11-31 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr BB – OW 2 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr sev locs 28 Apr; max 12 BB – OW 12 May.

**American Robin:** max 2,000 BB – HW 3 Apr.

**American Pipit:** arr Burke Hill Rd. T Perry 2 Mar (BraC), slightly early; max 350 T Caledonia 29 Apr.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 22 Fawn Ridge T Bristol 13 Mar (RB1); last HB 20 May.

**Pine Grosbeak:** last Webster P 3 Mar.

**Purple Finch:** max 36 HB 12 May.

**Common Redpoll:** last T Webster 31 Mar.

**American Goldfinch:** max 508 ED 7 May.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 55 JBPR 12 Mar; last 2 ED 7 May.

**Snow Bunting:** max 500 T Savannah 10 Mar; last 16 Strouts Rd T Elba 19 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Rochester (NFC detection) 16 Apr (NU).

**LARK SPARROW:** ED 7 May (CW, JeB).

**LARK BUNTING:** BB – HW 12 May (DBr, KSt, mob), 1st Reg record!

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr 29 Mar.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr 3 Cook Rd. Quarry T Hamlin 9 May.

**Field Sparrow:** arr T Mendon 31 Mar.  
**Fox Sparrow:** arr BB – Burger P 18 Mar;  
last 2 Lakeview Community Church Trail T  
Greece 7 May.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 40  
NMWMA (VDS) 12 Mar; last NMWMA  
(CR) 11 May.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr mult loc 22  
Apr; max 24 Jacobs Rd. T Hamlin 1 Mar.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 78  
Rochester 21 Apr (NU).

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr LSMWMA 29 Mar;  
max 8 Moscow Rd. T Hamlin 6 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Rochester (NFC  
detection) 28 Mar (NU).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr DEP 23 Apr; max 9  
Firehouse Woods T Greece 20 May.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr LSMWMA 22 Mar.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** ad m Glenridge  
Lane & IB – W 22 April - 5 May (KM<sub>i</sub>,  
SuR, mob), same bird between feeders and  
singing in reeds on IB.

**Bobolink:** arr BB – HW 2 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr JBPR 13 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr Genesee Valley  
Greenway – Chandler Rd 28 Apr.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr T Webster 23 Apr.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 2,900 ED 16  
Apr.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 200 Old  
Duck Inn T Clyde 10 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 2 IB – S 11 Mar; max  
500 NMWMA (CR) 4 Apr; last BB – ES 23  
May.

**Common Grackle:** max 25,000 Old Duck  
Inn T Clyde 10 Mar.

**Ovenbird:** arr T Bristle & T Castile 29 Apr.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr 2 LSP 10 Apr.

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr 1 or 2  
lakeshore hotspots 22 April.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr BBBO 7  
May; max 4 Whiting Rd Nature Pres 20  
May.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr LSP 25 Apr.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Thousand  
Acre Swamp & Cobbs Hill 21 Apr.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr NMWMA  
(AR) 8 May; ad m Firehouse Woods 24-26  
May (RCL, mob).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Basil Marella P 4  
May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr Firehouse  
Woods 16 Apr.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr Sandy Bottom P, T  
Honeoye 19 Apr.

**Connecticut Warbler:** Whiting Rd Nature  
Pres 22 May (BeB), only report.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr DEP & LSP 13  
May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr Ellison P Mar  
23 (JMi, LaM), Reg record early.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr T Honeoye 7 May.

**American Redstart:** arr IB – S 1 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr sev lakeshore  
hotspots 6 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr NMWMA (CR) 6  
May; max 6 Oatka Fish & Game Club 24  
May.

**Northern Parula:** arr sev lakeshore  
hotspots 6 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr BB – ES 6 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Firehouse  
Woods 6 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr TCEA 30 Apr.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr sev locs 21 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr T Conesus 5  
May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr BB 26 Apr (AGu),  
Reg record early.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr sev  
lakeshore hotspots 6 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Cornwall Pres T  
Williamson 5 Apr (BraC), Reg record early.

**Pine Warbler:** arr sev lakeshore hotspots 5  
Apr.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr T Greece 4  
Apr; max 182 Firehouse Woods 7 May.

**Prairie Warbler:** ED 7 May (CW, JeB);  
max 2 Wetmore Rd T Springwater 28 May,  
only recent, regular Reg breeding site.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr  
Hemlock L 22 Apr.

**Canada Warbler:** arr LSP 9 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Oatka Creek P 9  
May.

**Summer Tanager:** Tunley Rd. T Sodus 8  
May (MGu); Whiting Rd Nature Pres 23  
May (GF).

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Lakeview Community  
Church Trail 3 May.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** ad m Highland  
Ave Rochester 23-26 Apr (JLi, mob), 6th  
Reg record.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr T Holley 29  
Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr King's Bend P T  
Pittsford 5 May.

## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

**Bill Ostrander**

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Spring 2023 was a little drier than normal. March and April were warmer than normal, but May was colder. At Ithaca, the average low temperature in March was 24° F, 2.2° above normal. The average high temperature was 41.5°, 0.7° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.44", 0.34" less than normal, but total snowfall was 14.5", 2.5" more than normal. The maximum snow depth was 8" on 15 March. Snow cover of one inch or more was present on 13 days during the month. Warm fronts moved through the Region on 11, 13, 16, 21, 27, and 30 March.

In April, the average low temperature was 35.5°, 2.6° above normal. The average high was 61°, 6.5° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.93", 0.47" less than normal. There was only a trace amount of snowfall, 2.8" less than normal. The trace accumulation was only present on 2 April. Warm fronts passed through on 1, 4, 10, 20, and 28 April.

The average low temperature in May was 38.5°, 5.5° below normal. The average high was 65.9°, 1.4° below normal. The overnight low on 18 May was 25° and 29° the following night. The late freeze affected trees with leaves budding at that time, especially the oaks, and those flowering, such as apples. Total precipitation was 2.44", 0.76" less than normal. Warm fronts passed through on 6, 11, 16, 19, 24, and 27 May.

Snow Goose migration in the Region peaked in the first five days of March and the last observed flock had departed by 25 March. Migrating Canada Geese peaked 5 March and moved on by 22 March. Observers only submitted three reports of Ross's Goose, all of single birds. Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese occurred in small numbers.

Tundra Swan numbers were already diminished from their peak as the season began. Reported counts were down to single digits by 22 Mar, although reports continued through 13 April. Trumpeter Swan continues to increase in the Region with a new spring high count.

The varied timing of migration by different waterfowl species is interesting. A summary of this year's timing follows. The maximum count for Mallard came in early March, for Wood Duck, American Black Duck, and Northern Pintail in mid-March, for Northern Shoveler and American Wigeon in early April, for Green-winged Teal in mid-April, and for Gadwall in early May. All the reports for Eurasian Wigeon came from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). There was also a Eurasian x American Wigeon hybrid on Canandaigua Lake in early March.

The maximum counts for Redhead and Common Merganser came in early March, for Greater Scaup in early to mid-March, for Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Common Goldeneye in mid-March, for Ring-necked Duck in late March, for Long-tailed Duck and Bufflehead in early April, for Red-breasted Merganser and Ruddy Duck in mid-April, and for White-winged Scoter

in late April. Rare diving ducks were a Canvasback x Redhead hybrid, Tufted Duck, Surf Scoter, and Black Scoter.

Horned Grebes peaked in late March and Pied-billed Grebes peaked in early April. Red-necked Grebe reports were scattered through April and May and geographically through the Region. The highest count came in mid-April. An Eared Grebe appeared at the north end of Seneca Lake at the beginning of March and stayed through the month.

There was a surprising number of species with high spring counts. Among them were Mourning Doves and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. The latter has been taking advantage of the Spongy Moth outbreak in recent years. While Common Nighthawks were scarce in the Region, the five reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will provide hope for the species' comeback in the Region.

Other high counts included migrating Sandhill Cranes in mid-March, Double-crested Cormorants in late April, and Great Blue Herons in mid-April, at Montezuma NWR's heronry at Tschache Pool. An American White Pelican was on Cayuga Lake in early May.

There were no high counts of shorebirds, gulls, or terns. The only Upland Sandpiper report was of a nocturnal migrant. A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Leet Road Pond and Fields in early May. Three Whimbrels were spotted flying over the north end of Seneca Lake in mid-May. The only Wilson's Phalarope was at Montezuma NWR in mid-May.

Little Gulls were at the southern end of Cayuga Lake and the northern quarter of Seneca Lake. Single Laughing Gulls were on Canandaigua Lake in mid-May and on Cayuga Lake in late May. A Glaucous Gull lingered on Canandaigua Lake until late May. There were good counts of Black and Common Terns. Forster's Terns were reported at four widely separated locations.

While many reports of Red-throated Loon were submitted to eBird, they probably represent just a few individuals. Most reports came from Cayuga Lake. Others came from Almond Lake, Seneca Lake, and Canandaigua Lake. A Cattle Egret was at Elmira in early May and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Groton Avenue Park and then at Genung Nature Preserve in Dryden late April through mid-May. A Glossy Ibis was at the Leet Road Pond and Fields in mid-April and at Montezuma NWR from mid-April through early May. Three Glossy Ibises were at Montezuma NWR in mid- to late May.

A high count of Turkey Vultures gathered in the Ithaca City Cemetery in late March. Broad-winged Hawks migrating within view of Mount Pleasant in mid-April produced a high number for that species. The maximum count for Red-tailed Hawks also came from Mount Pleasant, but that was low for a spring maximum. The only Northern Goshawk report came from Hammond Hill State Forest. Short-eared Owls at Ithaca Tompkins Airport produced a spring high count.

Three Red-headed Woodpeckers at Cayuga Lake State Park in mid-May constituted a spring high count for that species. The family of Peregrine Falcons at Taughannock Falls State Park tied the high count that last year's family set. A count of Acadian Flycatchers at Fillmore Glen State Park was high. The arrival of a Warbling Vireo at Hog Hole was early.

More high counts included Black-capped Chickadees at Treman State Marine Park, Tufted Titmice at Jennings Pond, Horned Larks in the Town of 310

Lansing, Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Ladoga Park, Brown Thrashers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve, and House Sparrows in the Town of Varick.

Winter finches were Evening Grosbeaks, single Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins. High counts of finches were Evening Grosbeaks in the Town of Van Etten, House Finches in the Town of Ovid, and Purple Finches at Mount Pleasant.

Among sparrows, there were high counts for American Tree Sparrow in the Town of Ulysses, Savannah Sparrows at Mount Pleasant, and Song Sparrows at Monkey Run. A Lark Sparrow was at Moakley House in mid-April. A Clay colored Sparrow was in the Town of Lodi and another was in the Finger Lakes National Forest in late May.

There were no high counts among the blackbirds. Eastern Meadowlark and Orchard Oriole had early arrivals. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was in the Town of Lansing in early March.

There were also no high counts among the warblers. Early arrivals were reported for Northern Waterthrush and Prothonotary Warbler. Worm-eating Warbler was reported at two locations. Golden-winged Warbler was reported at eight locations, though none of the reports came after mid-May, so probably no prospective breeders for the Region. Still, so many reports may bode well for the species elsewhere.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AF** – Arnot Forest, SCHU; **BL** – Beebe L, TOMP; **BDT** – Black Diamond Trail, TOMP; **BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CanL** – Canandaigua L; **CLPS** – Canandaigua L Pumping Station, ONTA; **CP** – City Pier, ONTA; **CU** – Cornell University; **CyGL** – Cayuga L; **CytL** – Cayuta L; **DRT** – Dryden Rail Trail TOMP; **DryL** – Dryden L, TOMP; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **ED** – Elmira Dam, CHEM; **GCC** – Geneva Country Club, SENE; **GLP** – Geneva Lakefront P, SENE; **HO** – Hawthorn Orchard, TOMP; **HP** – Harris P, CAYU; **HSRW** – Hile School Rd Wetland, TOMP; **ITA** – Ithaca Tompkins Airport, TOMP; **KCA** – Kashong Conservation Area, ONTA; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **LRPF** – Leet Road Pd & Fields, ONTA; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MtP** – Mount Pleasant, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca, TOMP; **QCM** – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; **RHPP** – Roy H P Pres, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SPNA** – Salt Pt Natural Area, TOMP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCam** – T Cameron, STEU; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TChe** – T Chemung, CHEM; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TLan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TSen** – T Seneca, ONTA; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **TUly** – T Ulysses, TOMP; **TVar** – T Varick, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

**Snow Goose:** max 100,000 Tyre Municipal Building SENE 2 Mar; 100,000 MNWR 5 Mar.

**Ross’s Goose:** TOv 5 Mar; CU 7 Mar; MNWR 17 Mar.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** max & last 5 MNWR 20 Mar.

**Cackling Goose:** max 10 CU 10 Mar; last MNWR 24 Mar.

**Canada Goose:** max 50,000 MNWR 5 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** max 10 HP 18 Mar; 10 TVar 18 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 40 MNWR 19 Mar (JBall!), high.

**Tundra Swan:** max 950 MNWR 8 Mar; last MNWR 8 Apr.

**Wood Duck:** max 70 QCM 11 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr GLP 3 Mar; max 100 MNWR 12 Apr.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 500 MNWR 2 Apr.

**Gadwall:** max 75 MNWR 3 May.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** arr MNWR 1 Apr, late; max 2 MNWR 8 Apr; 2 MNWR 6 May; 2 MNWR 31 May.

**American Wigeon:** max 130 MNWR 3 Apr.

**Eurasian x American Wigeon (hybrid):** CanL ONTA 2-6 Mar (mob,ph).

**Mallard:** max 300 T Phelps ONTA 3 Mar.

**American Black Duck:** max 65 QCM 11 Mar.

**Northern Pintail:** max 1000 MNWR 20 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 280 MNWR 17 Apr.

**Canvasback:** max 2000 HP 18 Mar; last MNWR 13 May.

**Redhead:** max 10,000 CylL SENE 5 Mar.

**Canvasback x Redhead (hybrid):** Aurora High Banks 8 Mar (JM, ph).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 300 Gang Mills Gravel Pd STEU 26 Mar.

**TUFTED DUCK (R3):** SenL SENE 1 Mar-1 Apr (mob, ph).

**Greater Scaup:** max 400 CylL SENE 5 Mar; 400 HP 12 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 2500 Aurora High Banks CAYU 11 Mar.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 GCC 29 Apr.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 27 GCC 29 Apr; last 2 GLP SENE 23 May.

**Black Scoter:** SPNA 13 May.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 48 CLPS 4 Apr.

**Bufflehead:** max 125 SLSP 6 Apr

**Common Goldeneye:** max 110 CylL SENE 12 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** 45 DryL 16 Mar.

**Common Merganser:** max 105 DryL 6 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 128 Milliken Station TOMP 20 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 160 MNWR 17-21 Apr.

**Wild Turkey:** max 40 Tuly 14 Mar.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 4 LPBP 13 May.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 4 T Enfield TOMP 27 Mar.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 20 MNWR 8 Apr.

**Horned Grebe:** max 39 SenL SENE 27 Mar; last MNWR 13 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr DryL 31 Mar, late; max 5 CLPS 18 Apr.

**Eared Grebe:** arr GLP 5 Mar; last SLSP 29 May (RSt!), late.

**Mourning Dove:** max 125 T Canandaigua ONTA 16 Mar (KGa, MGa!), high.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Finger Lakes Trail TOMP 7 May; max 6 LPBP 14 May (AnJ), high.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Etna Fringed Gentian Area TOMP 8 May; max 5 AF 14 May.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr TDry 14 May; max 7 T Hornellsville STEU 27 May.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** TDry 27 Apr (JeW!), early; TDan 9 May; TCar 11 May; T Springport CAYU 13 May; TDan 13 May.

**Chimney Swift:** arr CU 21 Apr; max 35 Gimme Coffee TOMP 13 May.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 3 Bishop Pres SENE 4 May; max 5 TCam 13-14 May.

**Virginia Rail:** arr Turtle Pd SCHU 28 Mar; max 6 CanL YATE 9 May.

**Sora:** arr MNWR 4 Apr; max 2 MNWR 3 May; 2 Hillview Rd Railroad Marsh 30 May.

**Common Gallinule:** arr MNWR 9 Apr; max 9 MNWR 14 May.

**American Coot:** max 300 CanL ONTA 8 Apr.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 24 TTyr 20 Mar (JBar, CW!), high.

**American Avocet:** 2 Seneca Yacht Club SENE 17 Apr (KGa, ph, MGU, ph, RSt).

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr MNWR 19 Apr; max 10 MNWR 27 May.

**Killdeer:** max 20 MR 4 Apr

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr LRPF 9 May; max 45 MNWR 23 May.

**Upland Sandpiper:** BL 19 May (BeH!), nocturnal.

**Whimbrel:** 3 SenL SENE 16 May (RSt!), early.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr MyPt 24 May; max 6 CP 30 May.  
**Dunlin:** arr TTyr 2 Apr; max 50 MNWR 11 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** arr 3 MNWR 21 Apr; max 350 MNWR 18 May.  
**White-rumped Sandpiper:** arr LRPf 21 Apr (BrCa, KGa, ph, MGa), early; max 2 MNWR 28 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** att TTyr 7 Apr; max 18 Savannah Mucklands SENE 8 Apr.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr 9 LRPf 10 May; max 200 CP 24 May.  
**Short-billed Dowitcher:** arr 4 MNWR 13 May; max 8 MNWR 26 May.  
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** LRPf 2-4 May.  
**American Woodcock:** max 10 ITA 17 Mar.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Ellis Hollow Creek House 11 Mar; max 26 MNWR 17 Apr.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr TDry 15 Apr; max 20 MNWR 13 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr T Farmington ONTA 16 Apr; max 11 MNWR 13 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 2 MNWR 5 Apr; max 50 MNWR 13-15 May.  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr TTyr 22 Mar; max 27 MNWR 12 May.  
**Wilson's Phalarope:** MNWR 13 May (mob, ph).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr TTyr 17 Mar; max 120 GLP 18 Apr.  
**Little Gull:** arr Treman State Marine P TOMP 21 Apr; max 2 TVar 29 Apr; 2 SLSP 1 May; last GCC 4 May.  
**Laughing Gull:** CP 18 May; MyPt 29 May.  
**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1052 ED 11 Mar.  
**Herring Gull:** max 1100 SRCP 15 Mar.  
**Iceland Gull:** max 2 SRCP 1-15 Mar; last TSen 30 Apr.  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 12 ED 14 Mar; last CP 9 May.  
**Glaucous Gull:** last CP 25 Apr.  
**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 100 SRCP 5 Mar.  
**Caspian Tern:** arr StP 4 Apr; max 68 MyPt 26 Apr;  
**Black Tern:** arr 2 MNWR 22 Apr; max 50 MNWR 5 May.  
**Common Tern:** arr 2 MyPt 17 Apr; max 50 Great Gully Brook Outlet CAYU 13 May.  
**Forster's Tern:** arr SPNA 14 Apr; max 2 SLSP 1 May; last HP 3 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** arr StP 26 Mar; max 2 GCC 2 May; last CLPS 22 May.

**Common Loon:** max 36 GCC 2 May.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1000 CygL SP 26 Apr (DKI), high.

**American White Pelican:** CygL 3-4 May.

**American Bittern:** arr GLP 24 Mar.

**Least Bittern:** arr MNWR 18 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 250 MNWR 12 Apr (LN!), high.

**Great Egret:** arr ED 26 Mar; max 10 MNWR 27 Apr.

**Cattle Egret:** Riverfront P CHEM 1-2 May.

**Green Heron:** arr SW 14 Apr; max 5 LPBP 9 May; 5 HSRW 15 May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr MNWR 6 Apr; max 3 MNWR 23 May.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Groton Avenue P TOMP 26 Apr-17 May (mob, ph); Genung Nature Pres TOMP 18 May (JM, rec, video).

**Glossy Ibis:** arr LRPf 17 Apr; max 3 MNWR 18 May.

**Black Vulture:** max 5 CU 29 Mar.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 132 Ithaca City Cemetery TOMP 28 Mar (PR!), high.

**Osprey:** arr T Waterloo SENE 19 Mar; max 12 MNWR 2 Apr.

**Golden Eagle:** arr TCar 3 Mar; max 3 BLNA 3 Mar; last T Catharine SCHU 10 Apr.

**Northern Harrier:** max 7 TTyr 7 Mar.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 9 MtP 15 Apr.

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 3 MR 12 Mar; 3 MtP 15 Apr.

**Northern Goshawk:** Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 1 Mar (EMi!).

**Bald Eagle:** 9 MNWR 2 Apr.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 3 T Jerusalem YATE 28 May.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr NEI 8 Apr; max 316 MtP 21 Apr (CTH!), high.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 14 MtP 15 Apr, low.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 2 ITA 7-9 Mar; 2 TFay SENE 8 Mar; 2 BLNA 10 Mar; last MNWR 19 Apr.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 4 T Potter YATE 29 May.

**Snowy Owl:** TVar 2 Mar; TFay 19 Mar.

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**Barred Owl:** max 3 TCar 20 Apr; 3 TChe 9 May; 3 DSF 13 May; 3 RHPP 13 May.  
**Short-eared Owl:** max 8 ITA 9 Mar (D. Slager!), high; last MNWR 8 Apr.

**Belted Kingfisher:** max 5 CanL YATE 9 May.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** arr Tlan 4 May; max 3 CygL SP 10-12 May (MMi, ph), high.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 11 TCar 21 Mar.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 18 MR 11 Apr.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 11 T Manchester ONTA 17 Apr.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 7 SW 12 Mar.

**Northern Flicker:** max 14 Camp Dittmer ONTA 7 Apr; 14 T Moravia CAYU 9 Apr.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 4 Jim Schug Trail TOMP 5 Mar; 4 SW 21 Apr; 4 Newman Arboretum TOMP 28 Apr.

**American Kestrel:** max 4 T Covert SENE 31 Mar; TDry 1 Apr.

**Merlin:** max 3 NEI 10 Apr; 3 Hog Hole TOMP 21 Apr.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 6 Taughannock Falls SP 7-25 May, (mob!), high.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr T Greenwood STEU 1 May; max 9 Montezuma Heritage P CAYU 21 May.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr HSRW 22 Apr; max 11 MNWR 23 May.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr TVE 16 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr TCam 29 Apr; max 10 Buttermilk Falls SP 27 May; 10 DSF 29 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr DSF 20 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Hi Tor WMA YATE 19 May; max 7 Fillmore Glen SP 29 May (GP, CTH, DTH!, rec), high.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr SSF 12 May; max 11 Jim Schug Trail TOMP 26 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Atwater Meadows P ONTA 12 May; max 10 MNWR 21 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr T Enfield TOMP 1 May; max 5 HO 8 May; 5 CytL Boat Launch SCHU 28 May.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr StP 5 Mar; max 10 HSRW 4 Apr.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 2 CytL SCHU 22 Apr; max 5 Skaneateles L CAYU 21 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr TVE 11 Apr; max 9 Gleason Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary STEU 12 May.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Fillmore Glen SP 12 May.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr Hog Hole TOMP 21 Apr (J. Garrett, ph), early; max 14 SPNA 23 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr T Ithaca TOMP 5 May; max 40 Steege Hill Nature Pres CHEM 13 May.

**Northern Shrike:** last TOv 21 Mar.

**Blue Jay:** max 60 Taughannock Falls SP 20 May.

**American Crow:** max 400 SRCP 15 Mar.

**Fish Crow:** max 25 Seneca Falls 9 Apr; 25 Geneva 19 Apr.

**Common Raven:** max 13 TCar 4 Mar; 13 TChe 25 Apr.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 110 Treman State Marine P TOMP 16 Apr (DN!), high.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 25 Jennings Pd TOMP 16 Apr (CCr), high.

**Horned Lark:** max 950 Tlan 11 Mar (CKJ, BM!), high.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 3 Geneva 17 Apr; max 40 Clute Memorial P SCHU 25 May.

**Tree Swallow:** arr MNWR 11 Mar; max 2500 MNWR 17 Apr.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr SW 4 Apr; max 70 Ladoga P TOMP 24 Apr (PR!), high.

**Purple Martin:** arr 4 MNWR 6 Apr; max 68 MNWR 24 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr Goose Watch Winery SENE 30 Mar; max 400 Long Pt SP 29 Apr; 400 MyPt 30 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr Ladoga P TOMP 23 Apr; max 70 Pine Street Bridge STEU 27 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr TSen 2 Apr; max 25 Camp Dittmer ONTA 27 Apr; 25 RHPP 6 May; last Kinsella P STEU 23 May.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 20 TChe 4 Apr.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** T Moravia CAYU 9 Apr (CW!).

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 T Ledyard  
CAYU 6 May.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 7 T Starkey  
YATE 22 Mar.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 10 NEI 12  
Mar.

**Brown Creeper:** max 11 SHSF 31 Mar.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr 2 SPNA 11  
Apr; max 9 SPNA 28 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr TDan 12 Apr; max 23  
TDan 6 May.

**Winter Wren:** max 5 MR 11 Apr; 5 SHSF  
16 Apr; 5 AF SCHU 22 Apr; 5 TCar 23  
Apr; 5 Robert Treman SP TOMP 29 May.

**Marsh Wren:** arr MNWR 10 Apr; max 20  
CanL. YATE 9 May.

**Carolina Wren:** max 10 BDT 28 May.

**Gray Catbird:** arr TULy 19 Mar; max 24  
MR 23 May.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr MR 5 Apr; max 8  
LPBP TOMP 12 May (SaH), high.

**Northern Mockingbird:** max 5 TOv 2 Apr;  
5 Sampson SP 8 Apr; Lansing Center Trail  
TOMP 12 Apr & 6 May.

**European Starling:** max 850 QCM 25  
May.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 10 TLAN 13 May.

**Veery:** arr Ridge Road Rail Trail TOMP 2  
May; max 12 SW 8 May; 12 MR 23 May.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** arr Canandaigua  
Vista Nature Pres ONTA 14 May; last  
Cayuga Nature Center TOMP 23 May.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr TCam 7 May; max  
12 BL 18 May, nocturnal.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr Bishop Pres SENE 5  
Mar; max 9 Hammond Hill State Forest  
TOMP 17 May.

**Wood Thrush:** arr SW 27 Apr; max 10 SW  
13 May.

**American Robin:** max 312 TVar 28 Mar.

**House Sparrow:** max 50 TVar 29 Apr  
(DW), high.

**American Pipit:** arr 3 MyPt 3 Mar; max  
160 LRPf 18 Apr; last LRPf 20 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 110 TVE 23 Mar  
& 15 Apr (JoCo, MPe!), high; last TVE 25  
May.

**House Finch:** max 46 TOv 11 Mar (RSt),  
high.

**Purple Finch:** max 46 MtP 7 May (Add,  
KR), high.

**Common Redpoll:** TCar 1-2 Mar; TLAN 19  
Mar.

**Pine Siskin:** max 8 T Elmira CHEM 6 Mar;  
last Ithaca 26 May.

**American Goldfinch:** max 55 Bath STEU  
27 Apr.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 14 Finger Lakes  
Regional Airport SENE 5 Mar; last 2  
Savannah Mucklands SENE 17 Apr.

**Snow Bunting:** max 890 TFay 13 Mar; last  
10 Ridge Rd Cornfield TOMP 19 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr TOv 2 May;  
max 2 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE  
6 May.

**LARK SPARROW:** Moakley House  
TOMP 14 Apr (HP, ph; mob).

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr SW 26 Mar; max  
25 BL TOMP 22 Apr, nocturnal.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1-2 T Lodi SENE  
18-29 May; Finger Lakes National Forest  
SENE 22 May.

**Field Sparrow:** arr TFay 21 Mar; max 16  
Durland Pres TOMP 15 Apr; 16 T Ledyard  
CAYU 6 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr MR 11 Mar; max 8 TVE  
5 Apr.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 70 TULy 12  
Mar (CKJ!), high; last TSen 26 Apr

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 75 TDan 4 Apr

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr T Canisteo  
STEU 16 Apr; max 37 DRT 10 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 65 DRT 10  
May.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr 2 BLNA 30 Mar; max  
7 TDry 4 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Reynolds State  
Game Farm 17 Mar; max 45 MtP 24 May  
(AE, MGi), high.

**Song Sparrow:** max 100 MR 4 Apr (AIF),  
high.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr HSRW 26 Apr;  
max 2 TOv 13 May; 2 MNWR 13 May; 2  
SW 15 May; last HO 23 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 55 QCM 9 May.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr TSen 20 Mar; max 27  
DSF 6 May.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Tlan 1 Mar (GB, JeCo, JM, ph).  
**Bobolink:** arr NEI 2 May; max 70 MtP 24 May.  
**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr T Phelps ONTA 3 Mar (RMa, ph), early; max 20 Brooktondale Fire Hall TOMP 19 Mar.  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Paines Creek Mouth CAYU 21 Apr (JM), early; max 4 SPNA 13 May.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr 2 T Ithaca TOMP 16 Apr; max 15 Ford Hill TOMP 23 May.  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 500,000 MNWR 5 Mar.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 100 Tlan 11-15 Mar.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** max 100 MNWR 27 Apr; last 2 TOv 14 May.  
**Common Grackle:** max 5000 T Seneca Falls SENE 5 Mar.

**Ovenbird:** arr T Baldwin CHEM 25 Apr; max 32 DSF 6 May; 32 Finger Lakes National Forest SENE 22 May.  
**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr LPBP 13 May; Newtown Battlefield SP 13 May.  
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Robert Treman SP TOMP 7 Apr; max 5 AF 13 May.  
**Northern Waterthrush:** arr Lighthouse Pt Natural Area TOMP 16 Apr (PR!), early; max 6 Dorothy McIlroy Bird Sanctuary CAYU 13 May.  
**Golden-winged Warbler:** TDry 7 May; CU 8 May; HO 8 May; KCA 11 May; SW 12 May; Tlan 13 May; Campbell Meadows TOMP 13 May; TCar 14 May.  
**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr TChe 25 Apr; max 8 LPBP 11 May; 8 T Jasper STEU 22 May.  
**“Brewster’s” Warbler (hybrid):** T Newfield TOMP 11 May (JDa, DM, RL!).  
**“Lawrence’s” Warbler (hybrid):** TDry 26 May (JM, ER, ph).  
**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr TDry 22 Apr; max 5 Catharine Valley Trail CHEM 6 May; T Erwin STEU 13 May.  
**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr SPNA 24 Apr (ER, ph, mob), early; max 2 MNWR 13-21 May.  
**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Catharine Valley Trail CHEM 6 May; max 19 Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum CHEM 13 May; last 2 Ontario Pathways ONTA 28 May; TVE 28 May; MNWR 28 May; East Corning 28 May; CU 28 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** arr LPBP 6 May; last DIL Woods TOMP 26 May (JM!), late.  
**Nashville Warbler:** arr KCA 24 Apr; max 5 T West Union STEU 10 May; 5 RHPP 10-13 May; 5 MtP 11 May; 5 Greensprings Natural Cemetery Pres TOMP 13 May.  
**Mourning Warbler:** arr SSF 12 May; max 3 SSF 13 May; 3 AF 28-29 May; 3 3 Edwards L Cliffs Pres TOMP 30 May.  
**Common Yellowthroat:** arr MyPt 24 Apr; max 30 BDT 28 May.  
**Hooded Warbler:** arr Ontario Pathways ONTA 4 May; max 6 LPBP 29 May.  
**American Redstart:** arr SW 3 May; max 15 DSF 13 May.  
**Cape May Warbler:** arr Gleason Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary STEU 29 Apr; max 6 MtP 16 May.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** arr MNWR 8 May; max 3 MNWR 12-22 May.  
**Northern Parula:** arr Palmer Woods TOMP 5 May; max 4 SHSF 12 May; last DSF 29 May.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** arr SHSF 2 May; max 15 RHPP 13 May.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Palmer Woods TOMP 8 May; max 4 KCA 16 May; 4 Morningstar Trail STEU 20 May; last TVE 28 May.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr SHSF 2 May; max 12 TVE 23 May.  
**Yellow Warbler:** arr Freeville Marshes TOMP 16 Apr; max 35 MNWR 8 May.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Salmon Creek Bird Sanctuary TOMP 28 Apr; max 21 AF 29 May.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr MtP 11 May; max 5 Kinsella P STEU 24 May; 5 TVE 26 May.  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr SHSF 2 May; max 15 SHSF 13 May.  
**Palm Warbler:** arr SW 13 Apr; max 10 StP 23 Apr; last Canandaigua Vista Nature Pres ONTA 23 May.  
**Pine Warbler:** arr 3 MR 28 Mar; max 6 MR 14 Apr.  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr HSRW 3 Apr; max 40 Indian Pines P YATE 2 May; 40 Atwater Meadows P ONTA 7 May.  
**Prairie Warbler:** arr T Niles CAYU 29 Apr; max 6 LPBP 28 May.  
**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr SW 21 Apr; max 15 DSF 6 May.  
**Canada Warbler:** arr MtP 7 May; max 9 AF 13-14 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr CU 8 May; last CU 25 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr CytL SCHU 22 Apr; max 14 MtP 7 May.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 30 Bath STEU 20 May; 30 BDT 28 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr T Catharine SCHU 22 Apr; max 18 AF 13 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr DRT 5 May; max 7 LPBP 22 May.



## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

**Jeremy Collison**

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Weather data obtained from the Binghamton Station showed a high of 58° F on 22 March and a low of 17° on 12 and 19 March. The average temperature for March was 33.2°, 0.9° above normal. March precipitation was 2.70", 0.35" below normal. Snowfall was 16.0" which was 0.4" below normal. Winter was warm for the Region (and the northeast as a whole), measuring 5.0° above normal for the fourth warmest on record for Binghamton NY, along with a snowfall deficit of 11 inches. March differed somewhat with slightly above average temperatures and several snowfall events, including a nor'easter on 14 and 15 March that brought 1-2 feet of snow in the eastern parts of the Region and lesser totals throughout. Snow was generally present on the ground during the first half of the month, while by the end of the month most areas were snow free.

April seemed to start uneventfully but will be remembered for striking heat. The high temperature for the month of April was 86° on 13 April and the low was 24° on 2 April. The average temperature for April was 50.9°, 6.3° above normal and marking the second warmest April ever for the Binghamton Area station. The average temperature was notably 11.4° above average for the period 1 to 15 April. Precipitation was 4.28", 0.65" above normal, although if it weren't for 2.18" on 30 April precipitation would have been below normal. Snowfall totaled 0.2" from 2 April, well below the average 3.8". The early heat accelerated the emergence of many plants and insects ahead of schedule, which appeared to lead to some early movement of migrants in and out of the Region.

For the month of May the high temperature was 85° on 29 May and the low was 28° on 18 May. The average temperature was 56.3°, 0.1° above normal, somewhat reflective of the overall cooler May the northeast experienced. The precipitation for May was 0.71", 3.07" below normal and ranked as the driest May on record for the Binghamton Area station, with much of the northeast also experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The dry weather was readily apparent, with the Susquehanna River gauge at Binghamton peaking for the spring at the beginning of the month at 13.9' (just below 14.0' flood stage) and steadily dropping down to 2.37' by 31 May. Snowfall was negligible during this month as is normally expected. A cold snap on the night of 18-19 May thankfully only lasted a single night, with temperatures rapidly rising during the day after. However, the warm temperatures in April led to early starts for many crops and plants and the cold snap caused significant damage across the northeast.

This Region tends to have generally sparse and uneven coverage, with many species having only single to a few reports. Some notable misses include Golden-winged Warbler, Iceland Gull, Semipalmated Sandpiper, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, and Acadian Flycatcher. The Region started out with a continuing **Barnacle Goose** in Sherburne (potentially the same one seen the previous year at about the same time) along with other uncommon species for the county. Finch irruption remained evident with many Evening Grosbeaks being hosted at various feeders and Purple Finches common. Rarities began to really show up by the end of April, with a fabulous **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Birdsong Meadows Farm which showed fabulously for over 130 birders! Spring flooding at Upper Lisle created open mudflats which brought in several species of shorebirds often missed in the Region including **Dunlin**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, and **Black-bellied Plover**. A **Cattle Egret** was a particularly rare find with the flats beginning to recede. A cooperative **American Avocet** at Dorchester Park and a **Wilson's Phalarope** in Deposit were the rarest shorebirds found in the Region in May. A flyover **Mississippi Kite** was seen briefly in Apalachin as was a one day wonder **Glossy Ibis** at North Spencer Marsh. Last year's **Kentucky Warbler** at Beaver Meadow SF returned to the same territory. And to end the season a **Henslow's Sparrow** was found in a field about to be mowed in Owego, with many other birders coming to see.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OtsL** –

Otsego L, OTSE; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

**Snow Goose:** Clarks Cors Rd CORT 3 Mar (ChWo); 1000 BMF 10 Mar (ATro); 60 BUNP 10 Mar (JC); 147 Norwich CHEN 21 Mar (JMCK); last 2 Rogers EEC 5 Apr (JE); many other scattered reports in Region.

**Ross's Goose:** flyover BMF 10 Mar (ATro).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Sherburne CHEN 26 Mar (MD).

**Brant:** DorP 11 May (GW), stayed until 13 May.

**BARNACLE GOOSE:** last Sherburne CHEN 3 Mar (many obs), continuing from 27 Feb (JC, MD) poss same indiv as 2022 bird.

**Cackling Goose:** 2 Sherburne CHEN 2 Mar (many obs), most observers reporting one; 3 flyover BMF 10 Mar (ATro); 2 StPd 8 Mar (ChWo); 17 StPd 9 Mar (JMCG); Newark Valley TIOG 10 Mar (JC); last CaHo 11 Mar (DG).

**Canada Goose:** 15000 BMF 10 Mar (ATro).

**Mute Swan:** 2 NSpM 7 May (JC).

**Trumpeter Swan:** individual seen at primarily BPd as well as nearby hotspots throughout season by many; 4 ULCP 26 Mar (DN and others); Tully L CORT 30 Apr (JMCG, JC).

**Tundra Swan:** 2 Sherburne CHEN 2 Mar (SH, TH), seen by many other birders until 4 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** high count 50 Nichols Boat Launch TIOG 26 Mar (DG); many reports throughout Region.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 3 ULCP 26 Mar (SD, DN); high count 10 UL Apr (DW); last Murphys Pits BROO 12 May (DN, DW).

**Northern Shoveler:** scattered reports throughout Region.

**Gadwall:** high count 15 OtsL 13 Apr (PF); reports from all counties except CORT.

**American Wigeon:** many reports throughout Region.

**Mallard:** high count 100 West Corners Marsh BROO 18 Mar (MJ); many reports throughout Region.

**American Black Duck:** high count 32 CannR 5 Mar (SD); many reports throughout Region.

**Northern Pintail:** high count 25 ULCP 3 Mar (SD); scattered reports throughout Region except no reports CORT.

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**Green-winged Teal:** high count 35 Sherburne CHEN 26 Mar (JC); 35 ULCP 31 Mar (DN); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Canvasback:** ULCP 2 Mar (SR); CannR 5 Mar (LV, SD); Sherburne CHEN 26 Mar (MD, JC), bird remained until 6 Apr.

**Redhead:** high count 21 ULCP 12 Mar & 19 Mar (DN & KW); scattered reports throughout Region except no reports TIOG.

**Ring-necked Duck:** high count 236 ULCP 22 Mar (DN); 221 CannR 26 Mar (LV); 230 CanL 6 Apr (PF); many reports throughout Region.

**Greater Scaup:** high count 30 PRes 26 Mar (LV); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Lesser Scaup:** high count 90 OtsL 14 Apr (PF); scattered reports all counties except DELA.

**Surf Scoter:** Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 23 Apr (JMCG, SBI, NS).

**Long-tailed Duck:** high count 28 WPres 26 Mar (DN); reports from BROO, CHEN, CORT, DELA.

**Bufflehead:** many reports throughout Region.

**Common Goldeneye:** high count 24 Downsville DELA 4 Mar (LV); 24 CanL 6 Apr (PF); scattered reports in all counties except CHEN.

**Hooded Merganser:** many reports throughout Region.

**Common Merganser:** many reports throughout Region, ~200 noted on WPres late Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** high count 71 WPres 26 Mar (DN); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Ruddy Duck:** 2 Sherburne CHEN 4 Apr & 6 Apr (R. Stoltzfus & MD); 8 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 17 Apr (JMCG); 2 Lake Front P OTSE 18 Apr (ML); ChenL 1 May & 3 May (MD); many reports ULCP Wpres, DorP.

**Wild Turkey:** high count 65 Sherburne CHEN 4 Mar (A. Spencer, JG); many reports throughout the Region.

**Ruffed Grouse:** scattered reports throughout the Region.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** reports from BROO, CORT, DELA, TIOG.

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**Pied-billed Grebe:** high count 8 ULCP 31 Mar (DN); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Horned Grebe:** high count 53 WPres 26 Mar (DN); scattered reports throughout Region; last 4 DorP 24 Apr (JC).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Plymouth Res CHEN 4 Apr (CM); 3 CannR 9 Apr (LV); OtsL 5 May (Anonymous).

**Rock Pigeon:** many reports throughout the Region.

**Mourning Dove:** many reports throughout the Region.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr 13 May several reports BROO & TIOG.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Westford OTSE 10 May (GC).

**Common Nighthawk:** arr 4 ULCP 19 May (SD); high count 19 Owego TIOG 24 May (KH); last Fly Creek OTSE 29 May (L. Johnson).

**Chimney Swift:** arr Oneonta OTSE 5 Apr (JBa); high count 30 Otsiningo P BROO 29 Ap (WK).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Apalachin TIOG 5 May (CoWo).

**Virginia Rail:** arr BPd 7 Apr (SD); reports from all six counties in Region.

**Sora:** arr BPd 23 Apr (JW); Sherburne CHEN 23 Apr (MD); NSpM 29 Apr (SCo).

**Common Gallinule:** arr Sherburne CHEN 19 Apr (MD), many reports from known breeding location; 2 BPd 25 Apr (SBo), many reports from known breeding location; Brick Pd Wetland TIOG 23 May (DG).

**American Coot:** high count 71 Lake Front P OTSE 21 Mar (SSu); 2 ULCP 19 Mar (JH, LHo); BPd 19 Apr (DW).

**Sandhill Crane:** arr Sherburne CHEN 10 Mar (MD); high count 14 North Norwich CHEN (JMcK); further reports from CHEN, TIOG, OTSE.

**AMERICAN AVOCET (R4):** DorP 17 Apr (DN), seen by many other birders during day.

**Black-bellied Plover:** ULCP 11 May (SBo), seen by several other birders during day.

**Killdeer:** many reports throughout Region, arrived 15 Feb.

**Semipalmated Plover:** NSpM 7 May (JC, SCo, JMcG); 11 Cornell Ln CORT 15 May (JMcG); 2 Deposit Farm Pd DELA 17 May (LV), one remaining 18 May; 3 Brookins Rd Smyrna CHEN 20 May & 23 May (KE, SH & JMcG); 1 Sherburne CHEN 23 May (JMcG); many reports BROO, ULCP, and Murphys Pits.

**Dunlin:** 2 ULCP 15 Apr (DN).

**Least Sandpiper:** arr ULCP 15 Apr (DN); high count 75 ULCP 13 May (DN); reports from all counties in Region except OTSE.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** ULCP 13 May (JH, LHo), many other birders observed during day.

**American Woodcock:** scattered reports throughout Region, arrived 16 Feb.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr 2 NSpM 18 Mar (SCo); high count 11 ULCP 31 Mar & 29 Apr (DN).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr ULCP 13 Apr (DN).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 2 NSpM 9 Apr (SCo); high count 25 Murphys Pits BROO 12 May (DN).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr ULCP 21 Apr (RA); high count 20 ULCP 8 May (DN).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Lounsberry TIOG 26 Mar (DG); high count 12 ULCP 17 May (A. Kresock).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE (R4):** Deposit Farm Pd DELA 21 May (LV).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** high count 75 WPres 17 Apr (DN); many reports scattered throughout Region.

**Ring-billed Gull:** high count 500 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 9 Mar (JW); many reports scattered throughout Region.

**Herring Gull:** high count 450 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 9 Mar (JW); many reports scattered throughout Region.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** high count 10 Preble Hill Rd 8 Apr (KT); reports from CORT, DELA, and BROO.

**Glaucous Gull:** StPd 8 Mar (ChWo).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** PRes 1 Apr (LV), several reports CORT.

**Caspian Tern:** 2 Dwyer Memorial P CORT 30 Apr (JMcG); ULCP 13 May (DN).

**Black Tern:** 2 ULCP 10 May (DN); ULCP 11 May (DW).

**Common Tern:** DorP 17 Apr (DN, GW, MD); 2 CannR 20 Apr (SCa); ULCP 8 May (SO, SK); ULCP 10 May (DN).

**Forster's Tern:** ULCP 13 May (JH, LHo).

**Red-throated Loon:** WPREs 21 Apr (DN); ULCP 29 Apr (DN).

**Common Loon:** arr WPREs 26 Mar (DN); high count 37 WPREs 26 Apr (DN); many reports scattered throughout Region

**Double-crested Cormorant:** high count 50 ULCP 13 Apr (DN); many reports scattered throughout Region.

**American Bittern:** arr NSpM 11 Apr (JMcG); reports from TIOG, CHEN, OTSE.

**Least Bittern:** ULCP 10 May (DN); Sherburne CHEN 17 May (MD).

**Great Blue Heron:** 22 CoPk 21 Mar (DMcC); many reports scattered throughout Region.

**Great Egret:** arr 2 Murphys Pits BROO 10 Apr (SO, SK); scattered reports in BROO, CHEN, TIOG.

**CATTLE EGRET (R4):** ULCP 6 May (DN), remained until 7 May seen by mob.

**Green Heron:** arr Fly Creek OTSE 15 Apr (J. Murray); high count 7 Brick Pd TIOG 20 May (DG).

**GLOSSY IBIS (R4):** NSpM 10 Apr (SCo).

**Black Vulture:** scattered reports in BROO, CORT, OTSE, TIOG.

**Turkey Vulture:** high count 72 Radcliffe Blvd Vestal BROO (JC); many reports throughout Region.

**Osprey:** arr Candor TIOG 26 Mar (Anonymous); many reports throughout Region.

**Golden Eagle:** 10 BMF 16 Mar (ATro), scattered reports from all six counties in Region, last Cincinnatus L CHEN 7 Apr (MD).

**Northern Harrier:** many reports throughout Region.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** many reports throughout Region.

**Cooper's Hawk:** many reports throughout Region.

**American Goshawk:** Richford TIOG 9 Mar (DMcC); Betty & Wilbur Davis SP OTSE 12 Mar (Anonymous).

**Bald Eagle:** high count 7 WPREs 26 Mar (JH, LHo); many reports throughout Region.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Apalachin TIOG 13 May (TRu, JRu).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** high count 7 BMF 16 Mar (ATro); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Sweet Hill Pd OTSE 7 Apr (ML); high count 24 LHNC 20 Apr (PH).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** many reports throughout Region.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** reports from BROO, TIOG, CHEN, OTSE; last Richford TIOG 24 Mar (PMcN).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** scattered reports throughout Region.

**Great Horned Owl:** scattered reports throughout Region, active nest known NSpM max 4 young 31 May (SCo).

**Barred Owl:** scattered reports throughout Region, active nest known at CVSP max 3 young 17 May (LHa).

**Short-eared Owl:** Arnold Rd, Lisle BROO 20 Mar (JC), reported secondhand by GW on local discussion group chat; Castle Hill Rd N CHEN 21 Mar (HH).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Roxbury DELA 22 Apr (LV).

**Belted Kingfisher:** many reports throughout Region.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Blakesley Rd Afton CHEN 7 May (RB); BMF 14 May (ATro); Frank Hafele Rd DELA 15 May & 18 May (PP, LV), bird reported as originally seen 11 May visiting feeder; Plainfield OTSE 22 May (JAS, TS); Stamford DELA 29 May (JRa).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** many reports throughout Region.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr CVSP 26 Mar (JH, LHo); high count 12 Green Flats Rd, Hancock DELA 15 Apr (LV).

**Downy Woodpecker:** many reports throughout Region.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** many reports throughout Region.

**Northern Flicker:** many reports throughout Region.



## PHOTO GALLERY Spring 2023



Highlights Editor's picks for Birds of the Season:  
Glaucous-winged Gull, Pelham Bay Park, *Bronx*, 31 Mar 2023, © Gary Chapin.  
Heermann's Gull, Sodus Point, *Wayne*, 19 May 2023, © Jay McGowan.



Top: Lark Bunting, Hot Dog Beach, Dune Road, *Suffolk*, 14 May 2023, © Sean Keenan.

Bottom: Smith's Longspur, Randall's Island, *New York*, 14 Apr 2023, © Andrew Farnsworth.



Top: Smith's Longspur, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 9 May 2023, © John Gluth.

Bottom: Lark Bunting, Braddock Bay Hawkwatch, *Monroe*, 12 May 2023, © David Brown.



Top: Allen's Hummingbird, Riverhead, *Suffolk*, 24 Oct, 2023, © Marybeth Zilnicki.  
Bottom left: Rufous Hummingbird, Upper Pine Kill, *Sullivan*, 23 Jul 2023, © John Haas.  
Bottom right: Black-chinned Hummingbird, Randall's Island, *New York*, 19 Nov 2023,  
© Ashley Pichon; See article pp. 270-275.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** many reports throughout Region.

**American Kestrel:** many reports throughout Region.

**Merlin:** scattered reports throughout Region.

**Peregrine Falcon:** reports from BROO, DELA, OTSE, TIOG.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr King St BROO 23 Apr (JW).

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr ULCP 24 Apr (SK); high count 13 BMF 7 May (ATro), morning flight; 13 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** BMF 28 Apr (ATro), seen by >130 birders until 10 May.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Hartwick SF OTSE 23 May (TB); Solon CORT 25 May (L. Crupe); Arctic-China SF DELA 28 May (LV).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr LHNC 8 May (DG).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 15 May (DG); reports from CORT, CHEN, DELA, TIOG.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Chlorinator Rd OTSE 12 May (ML); high count 9 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 29 May (DN).

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr NSpM 7 May (SCo); high count 10 ULCP 27 May (SD).

**Least Flycatcher:** arr 3 Roxbury DELA 5 May (P. Dunne).

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr CVSP 23 Mar (LHa).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Hartwick OTSE 3 May (ML).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr BMF 8 Apr (ATro).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Pitcher CHEN 8 May (RC); scattered reports in all counties except TIOG.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr ULCP 22 Apr (SD, DN); high count 24 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr CVSP 2 May (SBo); high count 51 Beaver Meadow SF 24 May (MD).

**Northern Shrike:** Fly Creek OTSE 7 Mar (DMi); ULCP 12 Mar (KW); Bainbridge CHEN 12 Mar (RB, TC); BMF 12 Mar (ATro).

**Blue Jay:** high count 66 NSpM 7 May (JC).

**American Crow:** many reports throughout Region.

**Fish Crow:** high count 10 multiple reports and dates; regular reports from BROO and TIOG, scattered reports from CHEN, DELA, OTSE.

**Common Raven:** high count 40 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 6 May (E. Miller).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** high count 50 WPREs 17 Apr (DN).

**Tufted Titmouse:** high count 15 King St BROO 13 Apr (DN); 15 CVSP 5 May (DN).

**Horned Lark:** high count 500 Edwards Hill Rd BROO 11 Mar (GW); scattered reports throughout Region.

**Bank Swallow:** arr 2 Sherburne CHEN 23 Apr (MD); high count 21 CVSP 7 May (LHa); scattered reports from throughout Region.

**Tree Swallow:** arr BPd 18 Mar (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr two locations BROO 2 Apr (DN, GW); high count 15 Sherburne CHEN 23 Apr (MD).

**Purple Martin:** arr Walton DELA 3 Apr (HS); reports from CORT and TIOG.

**Barn Swallow:** arr ULCP 2 Apr (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr PRes 20 Apr (SCa); reports from BROO, DELA, OTSE, TIOG.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** high count 16 King St BROO 21 Apr (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** high count 45 ULCP 8 Apr (DN).

**Cedar Waxwing:** arr Deans Pd CORT 2 Apr (ChWo); increased reports in May.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** high count 12 Hawkins Pd SF BROO 22 May (DN).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** many reports throughout Region.

**Brown Creeper:** high count 7 King St BROO 21 Apr (DN).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Chipmunk Bluff Camping BROO 11 Apr (LHa); high count 9 ULCP 8 May (DN).

**House Wren:** first spring Maine BROO 10 Apr (JW), bird arrived 14 Feb and same location as 2022 early arrival on 6 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** scattered reports throughout Region.

**Marsh Wren:** arr Bpd 10 Apr (SBo); high count 5 Sherburne CHEN 23 May (JMcG).

**Carolina Wren:** many reports throughout Region.

**Gray Catbird:** arr NSpM 17 Apr (SCo); high count 40 ULCP 15 & 19 Apr (DN).

**Brown Thrasher:** arr Binghamton BROO 5 Apr (WK); high count 10 Nichols TIOG 29 May (DG).

**Northern Mockingbird:** scattered reports from Region, no reports from OTSE.

**European Starling:** high count 4000 Sherburne CHEN 5 May (MD); many reports throughout Region.

**Eastern Bluebird:** present during winter, many reports throughout Region.

**Veery:** arr Unadilla OTSE 3 May (PJ); high count 14 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** StPd 22 May (DG); LHNC 23 May (DG); Wolfe P BROO 25 May (SD).

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr LHNC 6 May (DG).

**Hermit Thrush:** arr ULCP 10 Mar (DW).

**Wood Thrush:** arr Ellis L CORT 27 Apr (SBo); NSpM 27 Apr (SCo).

**American Robin:** high count 750 Nanticoke BROO 21 Mar (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**House Sparrow:** many reports throughout Region.

**American Pipit:** high count 51 Deposit Farm Pd DELA 12 May (LV), widely scattered reports from all six counties in Region.

**Evening Grosbeak:** high count 115 Plymouth Res CHEN 1 Mar (JMcG, RZ), irruption during winter evident; last Scott CORT 22 May (PH).

**House Finch:** high count 16 Scott CORT 11 Mar (PH).

**Purple Finch:** high count 45 ULCP 29 Apr (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**Red Crossbill:** Coventry SF CHEN 22 Mar (MD); 2 Pharsalia Woods SF CHEN 19 Apr (MD); South Hill SF OTSE 23 May (MDM); Richford TIOG 26 May (DMcC); 3 Arctic-China SF DELA 28 May (LV).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 5 Pharsalia Woods SF CHEN 16 Apr (DN)

**Pine Siskin:** high count 4 Scott CORT 1 May (PH); few scattered reports from all six counties in Region.

**American Goldfinch:** many reports throughout Region.

**Lapland Longspur:** Cornell Ln CORT 2 Apr (ChWo).

**Snow Bunting:** high count 57 Springfield OTSE 9 Mar (SSu); last Springfield OTSE 20 Mar (SSu).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** King Nature Pres TIOG 16 May (MH).

**Chipping Sparrow:** overwintering bird present in Vestal BROO; arr Walton DELA 24 Mar (HS); many reports throughout Region.

**Field Sparrow:** arr several reports DELA 2 Apr.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr many reports in Region 18 Mar; last Fly Creek OTSE 5 May (J. Murray).

**American Tree Sparrow:** last 2 Bloomville DELA 24 Apr (L. Lutz).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** high count 80 Oxford CHEN 7 Apr (MD).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr 2 Afton CHEN 27 Apr (KM).

**White-throated Sparrow:** high count 130 NSpM 7 May (JC).

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Coventry CHEN 31 Mar (MD); scattered reports from all counties except OTSE.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R4):** Long Creek Rd Owego TIOG 29 May (M. Schlabach), seen by mob.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr 2 NSpM 1 Apr (SCo); high count 25 Owego 31 May (BC, DD, KG).

**Song Sparrow:** high count 50 WPres 19 Mar (DN); 50 ULCP 1 Apr (DN).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Tinker Falls CORT 14 May (H. Collins); LHNC 17 May (PH); IBM Glen BROO 20 May (ASH); Edwards Hill Rd BROO 27 May (DW).

**Swamp Sparrow:** high count 28 Roxbury DELA 22 Apr (LV).

**Eastern Towhee:** arr Gilbertsville OTSE 31 Mar (L. Gorn).

**Bobolink:** arr BMF 1 May (C. Tessaglia-Hymes); high count 48 Castle Hill Rd N 30 May (HH).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr ULCP 4 Mar (DN).  
**Orchard Oriole:** arr Lockwood TIOG 6 May (I. Wells); reports from BROO, CORT, TIOG.  
**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Binghamton BROO 22 Apr (SBo); high count 15 ULCP 15 May (DN).  
**Red-winged Blackbird:** high count 750 ULCP 17 Mar (DN); many reports throughout Region.  
**Brown-headed Cowbird:** high count 75 BPd 21 Apr (SD); many reports throughout Region.  
**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Death Valley Rd BROO 4 Mar (JH); high count 15 LHNC 9 Mar (PH); last Meredith DELA 18 May (LP).  
**Common Grackle:** high count 1000 ULCP 17 Mar (DN); many reports throughout Region.

**Ovenbird:** arr Turkey Hill SF TIOG 27 Apr (DMcC); high count 62 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 24 May (DN).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Guilford CHEN 11 Apr (MD); high count 7 King Nature Pres TIOG 16 May (MH).

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr 2 Richfield Springs OTSE 27 Apr (TB); high count 5 Roxbury DELA 15 May (LV).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr ULCP 27 Apr (JH); high count 15 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Meredith DELA 21 Apr (EK); high count 6 ULCP 10 May (DN).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr Binghamton BROO 9 May (KS); high count 7 Beaver Meadow SF 20 May (KE, SH).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Pitcher CHEN 8 May (RC).

**Nashville Warbler:** arr Turkey Hill SF TIOG 27 Apr (DMcC); high counts 7 King St BROO 8 May (DN); 7 Richford TIOG 12 May (DMcC).

**Mourning Warbler:** arr ULCP 10 May (DN); high count 7 Sherburne CHEN 19 May (HH).

**KENTUCKY WARBLER (R4):** arr Beaver Meadow SF 20 May (KE, SH), returning bird from previous year to same territory.

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr Cooperstown OTSE 16 Apr (DD); high counts 40 ULCP 15 May & 19 May (DN).

**Hooded Warbler:** arr ULCP 12 May (DN); high count 6 High Vista Pres CORT 14 May (PH).

**American Redstart:** arr Itaska BROO 28 Apr (DN); high count 30 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Cape May Warbler:** arr Walton DELA 7 May (LV); high count 6 Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 15 May (JMcG).

**Cerulean Warbler:** 3 Long Eddy DELA 20 May (LV).

**Northern Parula:** arr ULCP 29 Apr (DN).

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr ULCP 7 May (DN, JH, JW); high count 25 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 29 May (DN).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Westford OTSE 10 May (GC); high count 7 Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 15 May (JMcG).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr BUNP 1 May (SD); high count 30 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 29 May (DN).

**Yellow Warbler:** arr multiple reports BROO, TIOG 21 Apr; high count 45 ULCP 10 May (DN).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Richfield Springs & Mount Upton OTSE 5 May (TB & MD); high count 45 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 29 May (DN).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr King St BROO 11 May (GW, DN); high counts 4 Binghamton BROO 22 May (KS); 4 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr King St BROO 21 Apr (DN); high count 13 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 28 May (DN).

**Palm Warbler:** arr Richford TIOG 9 Apr (DMcC); high count 3 King St BROO 6 May (DN).

**Pine Warbler:** arr Round Top P BROO 5 Apr (GW); high count 15 CVSP 14 Apr (DN).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr ULCP 7 Apr (DN); high count 25 WPres 17 Apr (DN).

**Prairie Warbler:** rr multiple reports BROO, TIOG 6 May; high count 5 Owego TIOG 24 May (MB).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Cooperstown OTSE 16 Apr (DD); high count 11 Pharsalia WMA CHEN 16 May (DN).

**Canada Warbler:** arr Hancock DELA 8 May (LV); high count 12 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 28 May (SBi, NS).

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 2 LHNC 9 May (DG); scattered reports BROO, CORT, OTSE, TIOG.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Unadilla OTSE 3 May (PJ); high count 11 Whaupanaucou SF CHEN 12 May (MD).

**Northern Cardinal:** many reports throughout Region.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Binghamton BROO 28 Apr (KW); high count 19 ULCP 23 May (DN).

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Apalachin TIOG 5 May (CoWo); high count 10 ULCP 23 May (DN).



## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Spring 2023 began with a fairly typical March, unusual words to write in recent editions of this report. The average maximum of 42.7 °F, was just that, average, with the minimum of 27.3° being 2.1° above. Only two days failed to crack the freezing mark, four fewer than usual, but 28 of 31 overnights were below 32°, four more than usual. At 3.3", rainfall was normal. Only 13.7" of snow fell, 6.1" less than expected. There was only one clear day with 12 others partly sunny. April weather returned quickly to the modern theme with a 63.9° average maximum being a whopping 7.5° above the typical value; the average minimum was 4.1° above at 40.3°. Precipitation was 1.2" above at 4.7" and there was no snow. Seventeen days were partly sunny or better and the month finished as second warmest and tenth wettest. May was dry but more average on temps, the average max of 70.5° only 1.3° higher than usual. Rain was only 1.3", much off the 3.4" typical of the month and sixth lowest. Only seven days were characterized as cloudy. The annual snow season officially finished at 65.6", third lowest and only half what might be expected.

After the waterfowl excitement of mid-February it was great to see a new batch of Snow Geese and decent flights in the third week of March. While at Derby Hill on the 21<sup>st</sup> Reuben Stoltzfus spotted a **Ross's Goose** traveling with them, Drew Weber adding one from a high observing point in Syracuse on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On 17 March while following up on a tip from Brandon Brogle about a large flock of Snows in a farm field along Route 31 near Port Byron, David Wheeler found a **'Blue' Ross's Goose**, writing in his field notes "Seemingly a perfect example of adult blue-morph Ross's Goose. Is more suggestive of Barnacle than blue Snow when seen with unaided eye or binoculars. Easily picked out from the few blues present due to differences in size, bill, and plumage". Cornell's *Birds of the World (BOW)* website contains a brief discussion of this very rare form, citing a 1970s-era survey of 38,825 Ross's Geese wintering in California's Central Valley that found only three blues. Both Snow and Ross's breed in the Arctic region of central Canada with a number of overlap zones where Lesser Snow and Ross's are known to hybridize fairly often. This along with the relative abundance of blue Snows (the dominant form in certain nesting areas) has led some



researchers to believe blue Ross's may all be of hybrid origin. It seems a shame that now 20 years into the evolution of eBird it fails to collect data on these readily-identifiable forms. Blue geese of any kind are entered with other Snow or Ross's in the database, as are hybrids, the blue records thus swamped by the white version and largely lost to obscurity.

This was not to be the only exciting goose of the season. While stalking flocks in the fields north of Port Byron, Wheeler found a **Pink-footed Goose** on 9 March close to the road among a modest group of Canadas. A first for the county and fourth for the Region, it remained long enough for other birders to arrive and have great looks. How times have changed: though the *National Geographic* guide contained it, at the time of writing the landmark original *Sibley Guide to Birds* (published in 2000) there were few records thought to be of wild origin and the species was not included by David Sibley. Fifteen years later it was regarded as a rare but accepted vagrant and Pink-footed Goose got its due when the much-anticipated second edition dropped in March 2014. The species nests in Iceland and eastern Greenland and migrates to northern Europe for the winter. Records in North America are most numerous in the northeast and typically November to March (before the species' usual spring migration commences) and thus possibly an example of 'mirror image' vagrancy as described in Howell, Lewington, and Russell's *Rare Birds of North America*. A few fields away from the Pink-footed Goose Wheeler found a **Barnacle x Cackling Goose** hybrid the next day. Like Pink-footed and Barnacle, records of these are most abundant in northeastern North America. Though strictly-speaking the parent species have no range overlap, hybrids are usually assumed to come from Greenland where, especially in the southern and western portions, stray Barnacle and Cackling may have few choices but each other.

Brant showed poorly with no flight seen at Derby Hill after a vigorous prior Spring. **Greater White-fronted Goose** made an appearance at Ditch Bank Road for Jody Enck and Phil McNeil on 21 March, while Brandon Brogle photographed one going by Derby Hill on 24 March in a string of Canada Geese. The species is inconspicuous under these conditions and rarely picked out. Gary Meyers added one from Oneida Lake on the 31<sup>st</sup> and Lonnie Mast reported (on behalf of the Madison County Amish community) a lingering bird near Peterboro on 3 May. In this era where rare geese are increasingly accepted as having wild origin, it is perhaps worth pointing out the vague possibility of Lesser White-fronted Goose, known to North America only through three records in the Pribilof and Aleutian islands of Alaska (prior records elsewhere have been considered escapes). Nonetheless it occupies a huge nesting range east-to-west in Russia (wrapping around the Arctic Circle through nearly 180 degrees of arc) and undergoes a fairly long migration, meaning it should be on birders' radar as a possible vagrant. If one is looking for it, identification (given decent looks) is straightforward either alone or if occurring with Greater.

After the excitement of mid-February and early dabblers, the proper Spring season was typical for ducks with no unusual species, counts, or dates reported. Onondaga Lake continues to be a hotspot for late-winter Redhead and Common Merganser, which linger into March. Numbers of Sandhill Crane continue to grow both as probable nesters and migrants heading out of the Region. Piping Plover returned on time to Sandy Pond for recovery-program coordinator Kennedy

Sullivan, while at Loop Road in Cayuga county 44 Semipalmated Plover was a good count for Gary Chapin on 14 May. Upland Sandpiper were again present as nesters in Deerfield with other reports of single birds in Verona, at the Syracuse Airport, and as a flyby at Derby Hill. Occasional checks of the formerly-reliable Oswego County Airport and adjacent landfill in Fulton failed to find them but much of the landfill is out of public sight. Hopefully they continue there somewhere or the spot will be found by new birds. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was found at Loop Road by Brad Carlson, Mike Gullo, and Ken Rosenberg on 12 May. The Region has little shorebird habitat away from Lake Ontario and consequently the species is rarer than either pelagic phalarope. No Whimbrel or Willet were reported, and only one Red Knot.

It was a more exciting season for gulls and terns, with a Little Gull found on 7 April by Bill Purcell while lakewatching from Phillips Point on Oneida Lake. At Derby Hill on the same day David Wheeler spotted a bright-white first-year Glaucous Gull at point-blank range off the bluff. Also at Derby, Judy Thurber had the good fortune to witness hundreds of Bonaparte's Gull arriving to greater Mexico Bay on 13 April under light-moderate WNW winds, quickly informing the South Lookout where the official count was commencing. Much rarer in Spring than Fall, Wheeler found an adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** off the bluff on 7 May. It remained in Mexico Bay all afternoon and was seen again on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Thurber found the (presumably) same bird at Sunset Bay Park on 11 May where it was seen several times before being relocated by Wheeler at Fair Haven on the 20<sup>th</sup> (presumably a new bird for the Onondaga Audubon Society's annual Birdathon) and Kennedy Sullivan on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Back at the Inner Harbor in Syracuse Drew Weber found a **Laughing Gull** on 25 May. Sandy Pond delivered another first-Regional-record late in the day on 28 May for Sullivan when she found a **Least Tern** standing on the beach. It remained long enough for Brandon Brogle to reach the spot and many photographs were taken. Given the appeal to Piping Plovers, Sullivan wondered if a Least Tern reaching the spot might linger in consideration of nesting. Alas, the bird was not present the following day but things could get interesting if a pair showed up. Black Tern was reported from expected locations while a Forster's found at Fair Haven by Wheeler and Sullivan lingered from 21-25 May.

On 22 April Matt Voelker found an amazing 22+ **Anhinga** along the canal in Rome for a first-Regional-record, NY maxima, and only state occurrence of more than one bird. Other observers thought there were as many as 25 visible during the first two days, but the flock began to spread out along the canal with numbers decreasing over the five days of reports. The true departure date is unknown as the birds may have left entirely or relocated elsewhere on the long canal system which contains many miles of overhanging branches and downed limbs sticking out of the water. Both males and females were present, which raises the question of a possible nesting attempt. The area is seldom birded and the visible stretch of canal paralleled by a half mile of road was unknown to most birders. One could wonder how long they had been present and whether even more had been there at some point in time. Amy Bowen found and photographed a **Western Cattle Egret** near Salisbury, Herkimer county, on 21 May. True to its name, it was with horses and cattle. Dennis Anderson found a **Glossy Ibis** in a wet farm field in Cicero on 24 April.

Brandon Brogle returned for his second season watching hawks at Derby Hill, with results and analysis presented in *The Rough-leg* newsletter/report published by Onondaga Audubon. Things got interesting quick when a gray **Gyr Falcon** was seen by Brogle and Martin Mau on 2 March, the first time the species has made the official count since 19 March 1980 when a white-morph passed during the 1-2 pm hour. A bird from 7 April 1963 preceded the start of organized counting, while a dark immature on 16 February 1994 was before the 1 March start of the official season. Counts of Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk were down substantially (hopefully) due to the mild winter and mid-February warmup. Indeed Rough-legged had its worst showing since counting began at the site in 1979. An early dark-morph **Swainson's Hawk** was spotted by Deborah Dohne on 5 April. The bird passed low and directly overhead for amazing good looks. Lonnie Mast reported a light morph on behalf of Devon Yoder on 13 April near Canastota, and also a **Swallow-tailed Kite** on 21 and 28 April from the same area on behalf of the Amish community there. Though a common sight at Brogle's Fall hawkwatch gig (Waggoner's Gap, PA), Black Vulture is still a rarity at Derby Hill, this season represented by only three birds traveling together on 24 March amidst an excellent flight of Red-shouldered Hawk. It was not an irruption year for Snowy Owl and none were seen this Spring.

Amidst a strong morning flight at Derby Hill on 21 April, Brogle and Wheeler (plus several out-of-town hawkwatchers) had the good fortune to see a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** land in the North Lookout maple. Another or the same bird had been photographed the same day 30 miles west of the site at the Broadway Road lakeshore observing spot in Wayne county. A week later one would start a two week stay in Candor, Tioga county. Same bird? There are three prior records for Region 5, all from Oswego County: Nine Mile Point, 28 May 1994; Sandy Creek 18 September to 3 November 1979; Scriba 12 October 1998. Acadian Flycatcher was again absent from the traditional spot at Whiskey Hollow but returned to the (becoming traditional) spots in Minetto, Hannibal, and at Sterling Nature Center. Matt Voelker found two at Verona Beach State Park on 23 May, seemingly a new location, while Tony Shrimpton recorded one calling from the woods on Sunset Bay Road on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Mickey Scilingo found one in the woods along Pine Grove Road at Selkirk Shores State Park, another apparently new location but perhaps only new to birders. Several other lakeshore spots with potential habitat and a history of the species include Mexico Point State Park and the (former) Sithe Energy trails on Riker's Beach Road. These were presumably not checked for singing birds late in May.

Probable nesting Yellow-bellied Flycatcher were reported in two northern Herkimer locations on 28 May, three singing south of Thendara found by Jonathan Kresge, and a pair near Big Moose Lake found by Michael DeWispelaere. The only Olive-sided Flycatcher found were at Oakwood Cemetery on 20 May and Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Northern Shrike were reported from three locations at the end of March. A reminder: beyond mid-March it is no longer safe to assume shrikes are Northern rather than Loggerhead so careful study is needed. Remaining colonies of nesting Loggerhead in Canada are often the subject of conservation efforts and thus many will have conspicuous color-coded leg bands, potentially helpful under less-than-ideal observing conditions. A brief historical perspective of the species is contained in the Summer 2022 edition of *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

this report. Derby Hill again enjoyed a substantial movement of migrant Black-capped Chickadee, with 275 estimated on 11 April and five other days over 100 in the month. These move tree-to-tree along the bluff all day long and are difficult to count/easy to miss while also watching hawks. Efforts by an observer focused on the task would likely produce many more and possibly a Boreal Chickadee. A few **Bohemian Waxwing** continued from Winter for Kevin Topping in Salisbury, reaching 50 birds on 5 March, while near Pulaski Matt Brown found an impressive flock that grew to 300+ birds over three days beginning on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. It had not been thought much of an irruption year for these so what is their story?

Always scarce in the Region, Sedge Wren was represented by 1-2 singing birds found near Verona Beach State Park by Dennis Anderson and Matt Voelker on 17 May. It is unknown whether these attracted mates but both held territory through the end of the period. There was no big irruption of winter finches and hence few Spring sightings of those specialties. In spite of this, Kevin Topping had 49 Evening Grosbeak in Salisbury on 19 March and 12 **Pine Grosbeak** (including several adult males) on 11 March. The annual super-flight of Purple Finch reached its peak at Derby Hill on 22 April with 350 birds estimated and probably lots more in reality. Only a few Common Redpoll were found and no big flocks. Pine Siskin did a little better with reports coming from expected locations.

The most interesting sparrow of the season was a **Henslow's** found on 11 April by Kevin McGann at Sunset Bay Park. Loyal readers of this report will recall a history of the species in Region 5 was presented in the Summer 2022 edition. Quoting therefrom and referring to a time 40-60 years ago when nesting colonies were 'common' and contained enough individuals for arrival to be conspicuous, "the species is a somewhat early arrival with the first birds sometimes known to the colonies of yore in mid-April and almost always by May". Though now very rare as a nester due to habitat loss etc., the timing of their movement has probably not changed much and is earlier than our other 'orange' sparrow of fields, Grasshopper, also very rare on the Ontario lakeshore during migration. It would be a good year for Vesper Sparrow at Derby Hill's South Lookout, where a seed spread in the parking area (maintained by hawkwatch stalwarts) attracted 8-9 birds on 6 and 11 April. One or more was noted most days observers were counting hawks from the spot between arrival on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 4 May. Bryan Rutledge found 12 Fox Sparrow at the small (but ideal) Hamlin Marsh trail on 9 April. Though it almost certainly nests somewhere in the Region every year, Clay-colored Sparrow is always scarce. This season it was found twice (predictably) on the Ontario lakeshore and (unpredictably) at an urban brownfield close to Erie Blvd in Syracuse where it held territory after being found by Matt Holquist on 18 May. Another Clay-colored was found on 15 May at the proposed Micron site in Clay.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found twice this season, neither being an adult male. Steve Schwab photographed one at his feeder in Elbridge on 17 March while David Wheeler did the same during the big 21 April morning flight at Derby Hill which also gave Scissor-tailed Fly. Orchard Oriole was missed at Derby but reported from expected locations. No truly impressive 'river-of-blackbirds' was noted going by the North Lookout, the biggest movements of Red-winged and

Common Grackle likely happening in February. A Rusty Blackbird flight was estimated at 1500 birds on 22 April.

Warbler migration, when seen through the numbers of eBird rather than at any particular site, unfolded much as it has in recent years and without any rarities. Golden-winged was reported from three typical locations, all apparently seen well enough to suppose purity, plus two birds (heard only) during a survey of the Micron site. Prothonotary returned to the flooded woods along the river on the west side of Howland Island, four individuals reported on 22 May by Michael Schummer. An impressive 40 Tennessee Warbler were estimated by Santos Rodriguez at Oakwood Cemetery on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Orange-crowned is always scarce and this Spring was reported only twice. Scott Peterson counted an excellent 12 Mourning Warbler and 24 Blackburnian from the dirt roads of Morgan Hill State Forest on 28 May. Wheeler, Brogle, and Sullivan came up with a surprising five Cerulean in a small area at Sterling Nature Center on the 30<sup>th</sup>, hopefully nesters. Prairie was found in six places plus the Micron site. Good morning flights at Derby yielded 400 Yellow-rumped Warbler on 21 April and 500+ mixed warbler species on 13 May.

Region 5 currently has five operating MOTUS stations located at Derby Hill, Three Rivers WMA, Rome WMA, Utica Zoo, and a site four miles south of Williamstown known as 'Fassler'. These register radio-tagged birds that fly through their 15-mile-diameter circle of detection. As might be expected in Spring, there were a number of interesting birds. Four different *Red Knot* were picked up, all tagged on 9 May near Charleston, SC. One flew by Derby on 16 May after passing northwest of Carlisle, PA earlier in the day, then on to Sudbury, Ontario and Moosonee, ON (at the south tip of Hudson Bay) on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 800 miles traveled in no more than two days. Fassler detected a different bird, also on the 16<sup>th</sup>, which had departed Charleston that day and checked in from several en-route receivers, a 750 mile one-day flight for the 'moon bird'. It was last heard from in Nova Scotia on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Derby registered a bird on 19 May while Rome added one on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This bird had left Charleston on 20 May and flew by many receivers on its trip north. A Semipalmated Sandpiper tagged on 19 May at Delaware Bay departed there on the 29<sup>th</sup> and was picked up by Rome the same day. A Northern Waterthrush tagged in Jamaica on 28 March left there on 29 April, arriving near Boca Raton, FL on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Columbia, SC on 6 May, and Derby and Three Rivers on 10 May. A Northern Saw-whet Owl tagged on 9 November in Ohio wintered there before embarking on 4 April and being heard by the Three Rivers station on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A Purple Finch tagged near Tadoussac, QC the previous September apparently wintered near Winston, MS and was picked up by Rome on 11 May. An Evening Grosbeak tagged near Pittsburgh, PA on 3 March was detected by Three Rivers on 12 May and subsequently heard from near Tadoussac on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Very rarely documented in the Region in spite of its relatively-close breeding areas in the Adirondacks, two different **Bicknell's Thrush** were picked up by the Rome receiver, both tagged on the wintering grounds in Dominican Republic in mid-January. One bird had checked in from the Tampa, FL area on 12 May before hitting Rome on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the other on 23 May was the bird's only detection during its northbound flight. A Blackpoll Warbler tagged on the wintering grounds in Colombia on 15 April was heard daily there until the 29<sup>th</sup> and presents an

interesting example of how difficult it can be to interpret MOTUS data. The tower at Rome registered this bird on 24 May, after which it hit four times near Fairbanks, AK between 23 June and 9 July, a bizarre and inefficient route if the data is to be believed. Unfortunately errors are known to creep in to MOTUS fairly often, particularly when two tags ping the receiving antenna at the same time. Is this one of those cases and if so which detections are to be ignored? The story ends (for now) where it began with the bird next heard from back near the tagging site in Colombia on 8 October.

This season a total of 258 species and eight hybrids were reported, which is six above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights included: Ross's Goose, **'Blue' Ross's Goose**, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Pink-footed Goose**, **Barnacle x Cackling Goose** hybrid, Eurasian Wigeon, Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid, Upland Sandpiper, **Wilson's Phalarope**, Red Knot, **Little Gull**, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **Laughing Gull**, **Least Tern**, Forster's Tern, **Anhinga**, **Western Cattle Egret**, **Glossy Ibis**, Black Vulture, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, **Swainson's Hawk**, **Gyrfalcon**, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, Sedge Wren, **Bohemian Waxwing**, **Bicknell's Thrush**, Evening Grosbeak, **Pine Grosbeak**, Red Crossbill, Lapland Longspur, Clay-colored Sparrow, **Henslow's Sparrow**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and Prothonotary Warbler. Expected species missed this Spring include only Whimbrel, White-rumped Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Snowy Owl, and Long-eared Owl, while those represented by only one sighting include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sedge Wren, and Prothonotary Warbler.

Spring 2023 produced 190,477 eBird records on 13,151 checklists for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v6.1. Reports were submitted by 922 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the Editor would like to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the Editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 500 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

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## DERBY HILL HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arr*	Max	Max Date	Total
<b>Black Vulture</b>	-	3	3/24	3
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	3/1	3790	3/29	23,087
<b>Osprey</b>	3/22	23	4/5	206
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	3/6	7	4/21	32
<b>No. Harrier</b>	3/3	38	4/5	329
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>	3/3	358	4/22	1873
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>	3/3	9	3/22, 4/10	144
<b>No. Goshawk</b>	3/28	2	4/3	8
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	3/3	62	5/19	618
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	3/3	78	3/24	382
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	4/10	6116	4/21	22,441
<b>Swainson's Hawk</b>	-	1	4/5	1
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>	3/1	110	3/24	1346
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	3/2	4	3/22	29
<b>Am. Kestrel</b>	3/7	118	4/5	264
<b>Merlin</b>	3/5	5	4/22	57
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	3/7	5	5/5	18
<b>Gyrfalcon</b>	-	1	3/2	1
<b>Unidentified</b>	-	-	-	27
<b>Total incl unidentified</b>				<b>50,869</b>

\*first migrants at the Hawkwatch

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ADK** – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox, MAD; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

**FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego R, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **Gerber** – Gerber Topsoil, T Cicero; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HM** – Hamlin Marsh, Clay; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **IH** – Inner Harbor, Syracuse; **Jville** – Jamesville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **L Ont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga Lake P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **PB** – Port Byron north of Rte 31, incl Maiden Ln & Towpath Rd fields; **Ppt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PV** – Pleasant Valley Pres, T Onondaga; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **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; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow, Memphis; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

**Snow Goose:** staging flocks typ locs early-mid Mar; max est 17025 DH 18 Mar mig flight; main movement approx 16-24 Mar but small nums linger thru.

**Ross's Goose:** DH 21 Mar (RSt, DWh, BBr); Syr 26 Mar (DWe); only reps.

**'BLUE' ROSS'S GOOSE (R5):** PB 17 Mar (DWh), 1<sup>st</sup> Reg rec, *intro*.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** DB 21 Mar (JEn, PMc); DH 24 Mar (BBr); OneiL 31 Mar (GMe); Peterboro 3 May (MCAC).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** PB 9 Mar (DWh, ph, mob), 1<sup>st</sup> county and 4<sup>th</sup> Reg rec, *intro*.

**Brant:** arr OnonL 28 Apr; max 94 Ppt 20 May; last DH 29 May; only 5 recs, poor counts, no mig flight DH.

**Cackling Goose:** singles rep 8 locs; max 2 DH 16 Mar.

**Barnacle x Cackling Goose (hybrid):** PB 10 Mar (DWh, ph), *intro*.

**Canada Goose:** staging flocks typ locs early Mar; max est 5680 DH 18 Mar mig flight; main movement approx 10-25 Mar but nums linger thru incl mobile young by early May.

**Snow x Canada Goose (hybrid):** Cazenovia 3 Mar (BCn).

**Mute Swan:** DH 22 Mar, 7 May, unusual loc; most reps OnonL, SP, & FH areas; max 41 FH 2 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 1-6 var expected locs; max 8 HI 4 May.

**Tundra Swan:** max 50 PB 9 Mar; last Verona 28 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** bulk arr early Mar; max 25 Ox Crk 9 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr DH 22 Mar; max 10 UM 1 Apr.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 35 PB 10 Mar.

**Gadwall:** max 40 OnonL 3 Mar.

**Eurasian Wigeon:** HI 3 Mar (DDa), cont from Feb.

**American Wigeon:** max 75 HI 3 Mar; last OswH 28 May.

**Mallard:** max 500 PB 9 May.

**Wood Duck x Mallard (hybrid):** Webster P Syr 19 Apr, likely resident, unusual.

**American Black Duck:** max 115 Ox Crk 31 Mar.

**Mallard x American Black Duck (hybrid):** few reps var locs.

**Northern Pintail:** max est 1400 PB 9 Mar; last SFNS 16 May.

**Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid):** Webster P Syr 19 Apr (ERe).

**Green-winged Teal:** max 153 LoopR 4 Apr.

**Canvasback:** max 50 OnonL 6 Mar (MMA), good num for spot; last SP 9 Apr.

**Redhead:** max est 1500 OnonL; last OnonL 14 Apr.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max est 300 SP 6 Apr; dep early-mid Apr but small num linger WP/var locs thru.

**Greater Scaup:** max 500 SP 24, 27 Mar; last OswH 25 May.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 600 OnonL 1 Mar; last 2 OnonL 24 May.

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** max est 1200 Ppt 8 Apr.

**Surf Scoter:** OnonL 1 Mar (DWWh); 5 Ppt 4 Apr (BPu); only reps.



**White-winged Scoter:** max 70 OswH 12 Mar; 16 Ppt 20 May, good num for date; last Ppt 24 May.

**Black Scoter:** 2 DC 5 Mar (GDa); OswH 20 Mar (Efr); only reps.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max est 500 OswH 9 Mar; last flocks mid May, small nums LOnt thru.

**Bufflehead:** max 148 Const 9 Apr; last flocks early May, last 2 Ppt 22 May.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 300 OnonL 1 Mar; last 2 SNC 21 Apr; 2 Big Moose 13 May (BKe), nesters.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 50 OnonL 15 Mar.

**Common Merganser:** max est 2-3000 OnonL 5 Mar.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 100 DH 2 May; last flocks mid May, small nums LOnt thru.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 21 OnonL 22 Apr; last flock 13 OneiL 5 May.

**Wild Turkey:** max 69 Fult 12 Mar.

**Ruffed Grouse:** small nums var locs.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** small nums var locs, most pres released by state.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 SSSP 26, 28 Mar.

**Horned Grebe:** max 24 OnonL 26 Mar, 21 Apr; last 3 OnonL 22 Apr.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr UM 27 Mar; max 2 WP 19 Apr & last 2 OnonL 29 Apr; singles sev locs but few reps and poor nums.

**Rock Pigeon:** flocks widespread.

**Mourning Dove:** widespread; max 42 Pulaski 3 Mar.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr SBP 13 May; max 3 HI 22 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Syr 11 May; max 2 TR 22 May.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr Elbridge & DC 13 May; max 21 WP 22 May.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr 3 Preston Hill 5 May; 1-2 exp locs May; max 4 Boonville 30 May (BPu), unexp loc.

**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 OakC 20 Apr; max 40 OLP 14 May.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr 2 Cazenovia 21 Apr, early; max 60 Stillwater

28 May (GLE), banding operation, else max 6 DH 20 May.

**Virginia Rail:** arr HM 1 Apr; max 7 Brew 13 May; 1-6 var exp locs/dates Apr/May.

**Sora:** arr Toad Harbor 12 Apr; max 4 Verona 11 May; 1-2 var exp locs.

**Common Gallinule:** arr HM 11 Apr; max 7 UM 7 May.

**American Coot:** 37 OnonL 26 Apr; max 47 Skan L 4 Mar; last flocks late-Apr, small nums thru poss nesters.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr 2 LoopR 9 Mar; 10 DH 29 Mar; 11 DH 10 Apr; max 17 Cazenovia 25 Mar; small groups var exp locs thru.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr SP 8 May; SP 9, 10, 22 May; FH 20 May & max 3 FH 25 May; only reps.

**Killdeer:** max 15 Osw Airport 23 Mar.

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr Gerber 8 May; max 44 LoopR 14 May; reps typ locs.

**Piping Plover:** arr 2 SP 21 Apr; max 6 SP 28 Apr, 2 May (KSU).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr DH 22 Apr; T Verona 22 May, unusual loc; 2 Deerfield 13, 23 May; Syr Airport 31 May; only reps.

**Whimbrel:** no reports.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** arr FH 13 May; max 2 FH 21 May; last FH 23 May.

**Red Knot:** FH 20 May (DW, ph); only rep.

**Sanderling:** arr 2 SP 21 May; 4 FH 23 May; only reps.

**Dunlin:** arr 8 SP 17 Apr; max 55 HI 9 May.

**Least Sandpiper:** arr 2 WMonroe 24 Apr; max 138 LoopR 14 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** no reports.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** arr 2 Osw Airport 6 Apr; max 10 DB 3 May; last Cicero 22 May.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr SHTF 7 May; max 75 FH 24 May.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** no reports.

**American Woodcock:** arr SNC 16 Mar; max 12 TR 9 May.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr 2 OLP 5 Mar; max 15 DB 19 Apr.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** LoopR 12 May (BCn, KRo, MGu), br female.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr 3 Gerber 4 Apr (ABu), very early, well-described; max 14 OLP 23 May.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr 4 DH 22 Apr; max 19 DB 15 Apr; last Forestport 28 May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr 2 Gerber 2 Apr; max 50 HI 9 May; last 3 SP 25 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr OLP 1 Apr; max 18 DB 5 May; last DB 27 May.

**Little Gull:** Ppt 7 Apr (BPu), ad; only rep.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** ad DH (DWh, ph, mob) 7, 9 May; SBP (JTh, mob) 11, 13 May; FH 20 May (DWh), 21 May (KSu); all reps pres same bird; very rare in spring.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr 4 OnonL 22 Mar; max est 300 DH 13 Apr (JTh), exc num, unusual loc; last FH 24 May.

**LAUGHING GULL (R5):** IH 25 May (DWe, ph, mob).

**Ring-billed Gull:** max est 1000 DB 18 Mar.

**Herring Gull:** max est 800 OnonL 1 Mar.

**Iceland Gull:** max 5 DB 5 Mar; last Osw Airport 6 Apr (GDa), unusual loc.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** max 2 OnonL 1 Mar & DB 18 Mar; imm SP 3 May; singles typ locs Mar.

**Glaucous Gull:** DB 5, 11 Mar; DH 7 Apr; only reps.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 80 OnonL 1 Mar.

**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid):** SSSP 16 Mar (MBr).

**LEAST TERN:** SP 28 May (KSu, BBr, PCo, ph), 1<sup>st</sup> Reg rec, *intro*.

**Caspian Tern:** arr SP 27 Mar, early; max 325 SP 23 Apr.

**Black Tern:** arr & max 6 HI 13 May; 3-5 HI 21, 22, 25 May; 2 SP 22 May; Ppt 24 May; only reps.

**Common Tern:** arr SP 6 Apr, early; max 54 Const 12 May.

**Forster's Tern:** FH 21-25 May (DWh, KSu, mob, ph); only rep.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 3 SP 5 Mar; FH 16 Mar; Fult 5 May; OnonL 7 May; last SBP 19 May; only reps, poor nums.

**Common Loon:** mig arr late-Mar; max 87 DH 18 Apr.

**ANHINGA:** 22-25 Rome 22-23 Apr (MVo, ph, mob); 8-9 Rome 24-25 Apr; 6 Rome 26 Apr; 1<sup>st</sup> Reg rec & State rec max; nums decrease over 5 days pres due to birds spreading out along canal, true departure unknown, *intro*.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** main mig mid-late Apr; max 300 var locs Apr; big

nums FH refer to nesting colony at Blind Sodus Bay, WAYN.

**American Bittern:** arr UM 1 Apr; max 5 DC 28 Apr; reps typ locs.

**Least Bittern:** arr Minetto 16 Apr, unusual loc; max 2 var locs/dates; reps 9 typ locs.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 25 Minetto 22 May; highest nums all at breeding sites.

**Great Egret:** arr 2 SNC 31 Mar; max 5 HI 22 May; 1-3 var locs.

**Green Heron:** arr Syr 13 Apr; max 5 var locs May.

**WESTERN CATTLE EGRET (R5):** Salisbury 21 May (ABo).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** WP 22 Apr (WKR), 21 May (GMe); only reps.

**GLOSSY IBIS (R5):** Cicero 24 Apr (DAn, mob).

**Black Vulture:** 1-4 known locs Jamesville, Oneida, Little Falls; 3 DH 24 Mar (BBr), remains scarce on Ont lakeshore.

**Turkey Vulture:** mig arr early-Mar; max 3790 DH 29 Mar.

**Osprey:** arr DH 22 Mar; max 23 DH 5 Apr, low.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Canastota 21, 28 Apr (LMa, MCAC); 8<sup>th</sup> Reg rec.

**Golden Eagle:** max 7 DH 21 Apr; singles 4 locs away from Ont lakeshore; last 2 DH 7 May.

**Northern Harrier:** max 38 DH 5 Apr.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 358 DH 22 Apr.

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 9 DH 22 Mar, 10 Apr.

**Northern Goshawk:** 8 for season DH, mostly Apr; other reps exp locs.

**Bald Eagle:** max 115 OnonL 1 Mar; 62 max DH 19 May.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr DH 3 Mar; max 78 DH 24 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr 7 DH 10 Apr; max 6116 DH 21 Apr.

**SWAINSON'S HAWK:** DH 5 Apr (DDo, ph, mob), dark morph; Canastota 13 Apr (DYo), light morph.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 110 DH 24 Mar.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 4 DH 22 Mar; last Osw 21 Apr.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** singles/pairs typical locs.

**Great Horned Owl:** widespread resident.

**Snowy Owl:** no reports.

**Barred Owl:** widespread resident.

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

**Short-eared Owl:** T Verona 2-11 Mar (KSm, MVo); OnonL 15, 16 Mar (SPe), 2 Apr (MJa); only reps.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 13 Apr via TR MOTUS; DH 15 Apr (BBr); only rep.

**Belted Kingfisher:** widespread; max 4 DH 3 Apr.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** reps from established locs.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Mar reps likely loc winterers; mig arr late Mar; max 6 OakC 12 Apr.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** no reps but presumed resident N HERK.

**Downy Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Northern Flicker:** small nums Mar, winterers; mig arr early-Apr; max 175 DH 10 Apr.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**American Kestrel:** max 118 DH 5 Apr.

**Merlin:** max 5 DH 22 Apr; mig singles typ locs & singles/pairs pres nesting.

**Peregrine Falcon:** mig singles noted sev locs; nesting pairs known locs; max 5 DH 5 May, exc num.

**GYRFALCON:** DH 2 Mar (BBr, MMA), gray morph, 5<sup>th</sup> rec for site, *intro*.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr OakC 29 Apr; max 15 HI 22 May.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr OF 24 Apr, early; max 14 Scriba 13 May.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER:** DH 21 Apr (BBr, DWh), 4<sup>th</sup> county & Reg rec, 2<sup>nd</sup> for spring, *intro*.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr OakC 20 May (DDo, SRO); SFNS 22 May (MPE); only reps.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr BW 8 May; max 20 HV 31 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr FH 13 May; 2 Big Moose 28 May (MDe) & max 3 Forestport 28 May (JKr), likely nesters; last Erieville 31 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** arr Minetto 16 May; 1-2 VBSP 23-24 May (MVo); Scriba 25 May (TSh), unusual loc; SSSP 28 May (MSc); singles/pairs est locs Hannibal, Minetto, & max 4 SNC 25 May; only reps and none from traditional WH loc.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr DeRuyter 11 May; max 10 SFNS 28 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr NSyr 12 May; max 20 DB 27 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr OLP 28 Apr; max 8 OLP 10 May.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr Bville 10 Mar; max 11 HM 11 May.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Gerber 30 Apr; max 5 WMonroe 23 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr HF 13 Apr; max 5 Earlville 6 May & WWinfield 10 May.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Syr 11 May; max 2 OakC 18 May.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr Osw & Rome 23 Apr, early; max 49 HI 22 May in long survey.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr TOnondaga 28 Apr; max 25 Otselic 22 May & HV 31 May; count strongly depends on distance covered.

**Northern Shrike:** Vernon 1 Mar; Hamilton 2 Mar; Pulaski 3-4 Mar; DH 5 Mar; Erieville 21, 24 Mar; Lysander 26 Mar; last Osw Airport 27 Mar; *intro*.

**Canada Jay:** no reps but presumed resident N HERK.

**Blue Jay:** max 2284 DH 19 May, mig flight.

**American Crow:** max est 1200 DH 3 Mar.

**Fish Crow:** max 13 IH 18 Apr; reps typ locs, reps continue to increase.

**Common Raven:** max 19 TR 8 Apr; widespread reps.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** widespread resident; max est 275 DH 11 Apr mig flight, 5 other days mid-late Apr over 100 est, *intro*.

**Boreal Chickadee:** no reps but presumed resident N HERK.

**Tufted Titmouse:** widespread resident except N HERK & N ONEI.

**Horned Lark:** max 180 Pompey Center 19 Mar.

**Bank Swallow:** arr DH 21 Apr; max 50 FH 19, 21 May.

**Tree Swallow:** arr DH & 3 other locs 21 Mar; 83 OnonL 25 Mar; max est 800 OnonL 3 May.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr OnonL 6 Apr, early; max var locs late-Apr to May.

**Purple Martin:** arr 4 DC 10 Apr; max 16 Const 11 May & Skan 16 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr OnonL 28 Mar; max 150 OnonL 30 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr DH 21 Apr; max 12 Verona 21 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr DH 3 Apr; max 24 SBP 8 May; last TFenner 29, 30 May, late, but nests N HERK.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 20 Webb/Gull L 8 Apr.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 120-max 330 Pulaski 2-4 Mar (MBr, mob); 8 Salisbury 4 Mar & 50 same loc 5 Mar & 6 same loc 12 Mar (KTo); only reps.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 42 DH 31 May, poor counts.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** small groups typ locs; max 12 SBP 13 May.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread resident.

**Brown Creeper:** main mig occurs early-mid Apr; max 12 Syr 6 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr DH 9 Apr; max 32 HI 22 May in long survey.

**House Wren:** arr Syr 13 Apr; max 12 BLNC 6 May & Poland 29 May.

**Winter Wren:** Mar birds early mig or local winterers; main arr late-Mar to early-Apr; max 8 Williamstown 30 May.

**Sedge Wren:** Durhamville 17-30 May (DAn, MVo); only rep.

**Marsh Wren:** arr HM 1 Apr; max 10 UM 15 May.

**Carolina Wren:** typ locs southern part of Reg, reps growing.

**Gray Catbird:** NSyr 5 Mar (RFi) & Syr 4 Apr (SDe) pres local winterers; mid Apr reps 3 locs poss early mig else arr Osw 22 Apr; max 25 OSP 14 May & RCFS 21 May but counts depend strongly on distance.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr SFNS 6 Apr; max 7 GLSP 16 May.

**Northern Mockingbird:** singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON; 5 OLP 28 Mar, interesting num for date; 2 Scriba 13 May, Pulaski 5 Mar, unusual locs.

**European Starling:** max est 2000 DB 17 Mar.

**Eastern Bluebird:** widespread; max 50 DH 5 Apr but low nums there late May.

**Veery:** arr WP 1 May; max 10 HV 22 May.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr 3 GB 14 May; max 4 RCFS 21 May; singles 4 other locs 16-21 May; last SBP 23 May; only reps.

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH (R5):** 20, 23 May Rome MOTUS receiver, different birds, both tagged in Dominican Republic.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Earlville 6 May; max 5 OakC 23 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** arr HM 3 Apr; max 5 SBP 15 Apr & Jville 24 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr PV 23 Apr, early; max 16 HI 22 May.

**American Robin:** max 480 DH 3 Mar; best nums Mar to early-Apr.

**House Sparrow:** flocks widespread resident.

**American Pipit:** arr 14 Osw Airport 27 Mar; max 23 Gerber 2 May & Mexico 16 May, also last.

**Evening Grosbeak:** nums typ locs incl 37 Sheds 13 Mar; max 49 Salisbury 19 Mar; last Hamilton 17 May but small num may nest in Reg somewhere.

**PINE GROSBEAK (R5):** 12 Salisbury 11 Mar (KTo, ph), incl sev ad m; only rep.

**House Finch:** widespread resident; max 15 OLP 26 Mar, 25 Apr.

**Purple Finch:** max est 350 DH 22 Apr (BBr, DWWh), morning flight; else max 12 WMonroe 29 Apr.

**Common Redpoll:** Waterville & 3 Rome 3 Mar; Dolge, DeRuyter, Cassville 23 Mar; 4-5 Pulaski 2-3 Mar; only reps, non-irruption year.

**Red Crossbill:** small nums 4 typ locs MH & ADK var dates; max 6 Woodford SF, 9 Apr.

**White-winged Crossbill:** no reps.

**Pine Siskin:** small flocks typ locs; max 30 Pulaski 22 Apr.

**American Goldfinch:** flocks common & widespread; max 125 DH 22 Apr.

**Lapland Longspur:** 3 Pulaski 5 Mar (mob); Fabius 17 Mar (ABu); Pompey Center 19 Mar (BRu); SHTF 30 Apr (WKr); only reps.  
**Snow Bunting:** max 249 TFenner MADI 18 Mar (BPu); last Salisbury 21 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr Dewitt 2 May; max 9 Camillus 29 May; scarce.

**Chipping Sparrow:** few reps to late Mar likely wintered; arr var locs 1 Apr; max 30 OakC 1 May.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr SBP 12 May (DWh); Clay (Micron site) 15 May; Osw 21 May (SBe, KHa); Syr 18 May (MHo, mob) thru, possibly 2 birds; only reps.

**Field Sparrow:** Skan 14 Mar at feeder, arr or winterer; arr TR 3 Apr; max 20 GLSP 9 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Mohawk 18 Mar; max 12 HM 9 Apr (BRu), exc num; last OLP 25 Apr.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 26 Const 19 Mar; last SFNS 4 May & Syr 13 May, late.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max est 125 Salisbury 7 Apr.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Mar to early-Apr reps cont winterers; mig arr late-Apr; max 20 SNC 11 May; last Clinton 28 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 75 OLP 26 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Mexico 3 Apr; max 9 DH 6 Apr & 8 DH 11 Apr, good nums; sev other reps but generally scarce.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** SBP 11 Apr (KMc), *intro & see Summer 2022 rep*; only rep.

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr Dolge 29 Mar; max 8 Hamilton 16 Apr.

**Song Sparrow:** main mig movement during Apr; max 100 OLP 25 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Osw 28 Apr; max 2 var locs var dates mid May; last 2 FH 23 May but nest N HERK; Big Moose 28 May (MDe), pres nester.

**Swamp Sparrow:** Lenox 11 Mar, pos local winterer; mig arr Salisbury 22 Mar; max 25 HM 28 Apr.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr Osw 27 Mar; max 21 GLSP 16 May, good num.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R5):** Elbridge 17 Mar (SSc, ph) at feeder; DH 21 Apr in morning flight (DWh, BB, ph); both birds fem or imm m.

**Bobolink:** arr DH 1 May; max 40 Verona 21 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr DH 10 Mar; max 12 Sterling 12 May.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr DB 5 May; 2 Scriba 13 May; max 4 DB 8, 27 May; reps exp locs.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Verona 21 Apr; max 70 DH 13 May, morning flight.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max est 7500 PB 18 Mar.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max est 750 LoopR 5 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Chittenango 15 Mar; max est 1540 DH 22 Apr, morning flight.

**Common Grackle:** max est 5000 PB 18 Mar.

**blackbird sp:** max 2000 DH 5, 15, 21 Apr, morning flights.

**Ovenbird:** arr Earlville 27 Apr; max 34 Otselic 22 May, count strongly depends on distance covered.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Ilion & Pratts Falls 12 Apr; Sandy Crk SF 12 May, unusual loc; max 4 Pixley Falls 22 May.

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr WP 21 Apr, early; max 7 VBSP 20 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr SBP 8 May (KHa); SBP 12-13 May (DWh); GLSP 12-14 May (DWe, DAN); 2 RCFS 9 May (DBe, JMa), '1 in-hand, banded'; 2 Clay (Micron site) 15 May, heard only; only reps.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 2 Verona 6 May; max 10 TR 21 May.

**"Brewster's Warbler" (hybrid):** SFNS 13 May.

**"Lawrence's Warbler" (hybrid):** GLSP 12-19 May; Red Crk 30 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Bville 22 Apr; max 7 RCFS 9 May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 4 HI 22 May (MSr), only rep.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr DC 6 May; max 40 OakC 23 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** VBSP 13 May (MMe); FH 20 May (DDo, DWh); only reps.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr DH 22 Apr; max 4 GLSP 12 May.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Hamilton 9 May; max 12 MH 28 May (SPe).

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr WMonroe 27 Apr; max 36 GLSP 13 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr BLNC 8 May; max 7 SNC 28 May.

**American Redstart:** arr BLNC 25 Apr; max 35 SNC, FH, OSP var dates 14-30 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr DH 24 Apr, early; max 16 SBP 13 May; last NSyr 28 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr Stacy Basin 23 Apr (BPu), early; 5 SNC 30 May; max 21 HI; other reps expected locs.

**Northern Parula:** arr 2 SBP 6 May; max 6 SBP 12 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr LH 6 May; max 8 MH 29 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr GLSP 7 May; max 8 OakC 20 May; last OakC 29 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Earlville 1 May; max 24 MH 28 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr WP 21 Apr; max 62 HI 8 May, count strongly depends on distance covered.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Const 7 May; max 14 Otselic 22 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr Hamilton 6 May; max 16 FH 21 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Osw 28 Apr; max 8 SFNS 7 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Syr 7 Apr; max 25 DH 23 Apr; last FH 21 May but likely nests N HERK.

**Pine Warbler:** arr 4 DH 3 Apr; max 7 Osw 24 Apr.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** arr 4 DH 3 Apr; max est 400 DH (BBr, DWh) 21 Apr, mig flight.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr New Woodstock 11 May (GMe); GLSP var dates 13 May thru (SRo, mob); Scriba 13 May (MSc, MMA); FH 23 May (DWh, DDo); Clay (Micron site) 23 May; Nelson 24 May (SFI); Cazenovia 28 May (BRi); only reps.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr WP 21 Apr; max 5 var locs 2-22 May.

**Canada Warbler:** arr New Woodstock 9 May; max 7 Forestport 28 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr 2 Dolge 11 May; max 4 OSP 14 May & FH 21 May; last Osw 31 May.

**warbler sp:** several good morning flights incl est 150 DH 21 Apr (BBr, DWh); est 500 DH 13 May (BBr, DWh).

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr Hamilton 3 May; max 9 GLSP 13 May.

**Northern Cardinal:** widespread resident.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr OakC 20 Apr, early; max 12 RCFS 21 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr DH 26 Apr; max 8 GLSP 20 May.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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March weather was mild and uneventful, with a mean temperature in Watertown of 31.0° F, just 0.4° below normal. Most of April was mild as well, but an extended warm spell mid-month during which the mercury reached as high as 80° on 16 and 17 April was largely responsible for a monthly mean that was 1.9° above normal. Cooler than average temperatures predominated in May, with the temperature dropping to 33° on four nights in late May, the last on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and the month's mean temperature was 3.4° below normal, although a late warm spell ended the month with a 79° day. Spring started wet, as the 3.8" of precipitation that fell in March was 1.1" above normal. April and May were drier, with 3.0" and 2.9" of rain respectively, deficits from normal of 0.6" and 0.8". Most of May was even drier than these statistics indicate given that 1.8" of rain, or 62% of the month's total, fell on 1 May.

Arrival dates were obtained for 90 of the 93 species that *Kingbird* Regional Editors use to calculate overall average migration dates each spring, the three missing species all shorebirds that are not reliably observed in Region 6 in spring. Of these 90 species, 52 arrived more than two days earlier than long-term arrival dates, 27 within two days of average, and just 11 more than two days late. Four species, Northern Pintail, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Gray Catbird, set record early arrival dates, and Black-throated Green Warbler tied the record early date set in 2022. As this latter record suggests, many species arrived early compared to long-term averages, but at similar or only slightly earlier dates relative to most recent years. The overall average arrival this spring was 22 April, one day later than 2022 and identical to 2021, but one day earlier than the most recent ten-year mean.

The Black River floodplains near Lowville is often among the best places in Region 6 to witness the waterfowl migration, but this area generally does not receive extensive coverage. An increase in effort here this spring, especially by Jeremy Collison and Gregg Dashnau, turned up some nice birds, including a Tundra Swan present most of April, a rarity in Lewis County. On 4 April the season's only Greater White-fronted Goose was here, as was a male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal**. Surprisingly a second Eurasian Green-winged Teal turned up in the town of Waddington on 28 April. Cackling Geese were noted in the Black River floodplains through most of the first half of April, with singles in three additional locations. The only Barrow's Goldeneye of the season was photographed at Tibbits Point on 12 March.

Of the eleven species mention above that arrived later than normal, four were shorebirds, including Killdeer and American Woodcock, somewhat of a surprise as both species often arrive very early during years when February warm fronts result in exceptionally early flights, as happened this year. Greater Yellowlegs and Lesser Yellowlegs, perhaps the most regularly observed of all of the Region's migrant shorebirds, were also among the season's late arrivals. By contrast, the season's only Semipalmated Sandpiper report was in the Black River floodplains at the record early date of 4 May. Shorebirds generally were scarce, especially along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River where water was high, but there were some big surprises, including a rare spring American Golden-Plover Jeremy Collison found in the Black River Valley on 17 April and that continued to at least 23 April, and a group of **24** Willets Raymond Spahn saw on the beach at Lakeview WMA on 26 May. Willet sightings are scarce and fleeting in Region 6, rarely involving more than a single individual. Less of a surprise but exciting nonetheless was a pair of nesting Piping Plover at Lakeview WMA, where nesting seems to be becoming annual.

Northern raptors, present in low numbers this winter, departed the Region relatively early. The last Rough-legged Hawk of the season was seen on 5 March and the last Snowy Owl on 7 March. The last Short-eared Owl of the season, presumably an overwintering bird but possibly a migrant, was in Clayton on 15 March. The immature Golden Eagle that overwintered between Canton and Potsdam was last seen 17 March. An immature Golden Eagle, presumably a migrant, was at Red Lake from 12 to 22 May. Northern Shrikes lingered longer, with the last observed in Potsdam on 8 April.

A handful of migrants were reported in larger than usual numbers. During most years at most one or two Red-headed Woodpeckers are reported away from the Fort Drum stronghold for this species, but this spring migrants were seen at Robert Wehle State Park, Grindstone Island, and in the towns of Clayton and Norwood. Unusually, both Northern Mockingbird and Orchard Oriole were reported from all three counties in Region 6, something I don't recall happening for either species since I have been Regional Editor. Reports for these species are well documented, but the 28 Philadelphia Vireos reported to eBird is several times more than average for spring, with many of these reports including no documentation other than the dreaded "Identified by Merlin". Clearly many birders still do not understand that while Merlin's ability to identify singing birds is impressive, it is not fool-proof, and it has particular difficulty birds that sound very similar, especially Red-eyed Vireo and Philadelphia Vireo.

There were few true rarities this season, the highlight among passerines a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** that Christina O'Riley saw at her bird feeder in Watertown briefly on 27 April. Fortunately, Christina was able to get some photos before the blackbird disappeared for good a few minutes after she first spotted it. The Boreal Chickadee at Grass Point State Park successfully made it through the winter and was last seen on 4 April, and seemed even more cooperative during March than it had been over the winter.

For the season I received reports of 237 species, six higher than the most recent ten-year average spring tally, but two lower than last spring's record high. Yellow-headed Blackbird was certainly the most unusual species reported, but as so often occurs for rarities in Region 6 was a single-observer report. The continuing highly cooperative Boreal Chickadee at Grass Point State Park seems to have been the bird that thrilled local and visiting birders the most. The return of Piping Plovers to Lakeview WMA, where this species appears on the way to becoming an established breeder, was another high point of the season.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AFWMA** – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart I, T Massena; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **BRV** – Black River Valley floodplains; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **GPSP** – Grass P SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **JEFF** – Jefferson Co; **Jrd** – Jericho Rd wetlands, T Hounsfield; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LEWI** – Lewis Co; **LPSp** – Long Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MI** – Murphy Islands, T Waddington; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard’s Landing Trail; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RS** – SUNY-ESF Ranger School; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence Co; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

**Snow Goose:** max 5000 T Watertown 20 Mar; scarce after 4 Apr incl ad with broken wing T Champion to 31 May.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** BRV 4 Apr (J. Collison, G. Dashnau, photos!).

**Brant:** 70 over Payne L 6 May & 150 over T Lorraine 15 May only reports.

**Cackling Goose:** T Canton 4 Mar (R. Gould); 4 reports of 1-2 BRV 4-17 Apr (J. Collison, E. Moser, I. Worrall); FD 6 Apr (JSB); T Rutland 17 Apr (J. Collison).

**Mute Swan:** max 78 WISP 18 Mar.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 14 Raquette R T Potsdam 12 Mar & ULLWMA 16 Apr; increasing.

**Tundra Swan:** max 22 LWMA 22 Mar; last BRV 4-25 Apr a scarce LEWI record.

**Wood Duck:** arr T Henderson 5 Mar.

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr LWMA 22 Mar.

**Northern Shoveler:** arr T Orleans 23 Mar; max 40 BRV 17 Apr.

**Gadwall:** max 14 T Dekalb flooded field 29 Mar.

**American Wigeon:** overwintering birds joined by migrants starting about 22 Mar; max 84 WHWMA 23 Apr.

**Mallard:** max 65 BRV 18 Apr.

**American Black Duck:** max 84 BRV 6 Apr.

**Northern Pintail:** arr Jrd 15 Feb; max 340 Tibbitts Creek T Lisbon 28 Mar.

**Green-winged Teal:** arr LWMA 22 Mar; max 490 BRV 18 Apr.

**EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (R6):** m BRV 4-18 Apr (G. Dashnau, J. Collison, JSB); m T Waddington 28 Apr (JSB).

**Canvasback:** LPSp 26 Mar; max 10 Chippewa Bay 9 Apr; only reports.

**Redhead:** max 80 CV 10 Mar.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 457 PRWMA 27 Apr.

**Greater Scaup:** max 1200 LPSp 26 Mar.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 68 BRB 7 Mar.

**Surf Scoter:** 2 WHWMA 23 Apr only report.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 300 HH 22 Mar.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 165 TP 14 Apr; last ED 19 May.

**Bufflehead:** max 198 JCSP 22 Apr; last Wellesley I 17 May.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 400 PtPen 12 Mar; last CCSP 28 Apr.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** m TP 12 Mar (M. Seidman) photos!; only report.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 24 Stony Creek T Henderson 6 Mar.

**Common Merganser:** max 116 RLT 3 Apr.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 54 TP 21 Apr.

**Ruddy Duck:** GPSP 25 Mar; 4 scattered singles between 25 Mar and 27 May.

**Spruce Grouse:** Hitchins Bog 10 May (P. Baker) only report.

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

**Horned Grebe:** arr PilPt 29 Mar; max 33 WHWMA 23 Apr; last 2 ULLWMA 6 May.

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr T Watertown 23 Mar; max 8 WHWMA 23 Apr; last 2 ULLWMA 2 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Grand Lakes Reserve 13 May.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FD 11 May.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr T Carthage 18 May.  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr T Hammond 23 Apr.

**Chimney Swift:** widespread arr 7 May.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** widespread arr 8 May.

**Virginia Rail:** arr ULLWMA 16 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr LWMA 24 Apr.  
**Common Gallinule:** arr CV 22 Apr.  
**American Coot:** multiple reports up to 5 PRWMA 24 Mar to 27 May; 1-2/day ULLWMA 6-14 Apr; T Watertown 26 Apr only other report.

**Sandhill Crane:** arr Pinckney SF 24 Mar; presumed pairs PRWMA, ULLWMA, Lisbon Swamp T Chipman, Newton Falls Reservoir; presumed migrants 2 T Dekalb 2 May, 3 T Canton 4 May, T Croghan 4 & 10 May.

**American Golden-Plover:** BRV 17-23 Apr (J. Collison, JSB, photos!) rare spring.

**Killdeer:** arr T Canton 17 Mar.

**Semipalmated Plover:** max 3 Red Lake 20-22 May; LWMA 23 May only other report.

**PIPING PLOVER (R6):** pair nesting LWMA 8 May thru (A. Kocek, mob).

**Upland Sandpiper:** arr FD 27 Apr; max 9 FD 25 May.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** LWMA 26 May

**Dunlin:** 2 SBSP 21 Apr

**Least Sandpiper:** arr & max 25 BRV 11 May.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** singles BRV 4 & 18 Apr; only reports.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 4 BRV 4 May only report.

**American Woodcock:** arr ULLWMA 22 Mar.

**Wilson's Snipe:** arr T Dekalb 24 Mar.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr T Clayton & T Watertown 30 Apr.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr BRV 23 Apr; max 5 BRV 11 May.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr BRV 28 Apr; max 35 BRV 11 May; last CWF 19 May.

**WILLET (R6):** 24 LWMA 26 May (R. Spahn).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 arr T Dekalb 6 Apr; max 12 BRV 18 Apr & 11 May.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** SLR T Ogdensburg 10 Mar early; main arr T Hounsfield 2 Apr; max 388 TP 14 Apr.

**Little Gull:** TP 14 Apr (S. Kelling) only report.

**Ring-billed Gull:** estimates of adults at MI colony increased from 19 on 11 Mar to 520 by 25 Mar, 950 by 13 Apr, and 1225 by 21 Apr.

**Herring Gull:** max 300 BI 12 Mar.

**Caspian Tern:** arr LWMA 9 Apr.

**Black Tern:** 2 arr ULLWMA 30 Apr (JSB) early.

**Common Tern:** arr ULLWMA 22 Apr.

**Common Loon:** arr T Croghan 5 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr Chaumont Bay & CCSP 25 Mar.

**American Bittern:** arr FD & PRWMA 12 Apr.

**Least Bittern:** arr ULLWMA 7 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** migrants becoming obvious by 22 Mar.

**Great Egret:** arr Alcoa Pds T Massena 3 Apr.

**Green Heron:** arr KC 16 Apr.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr MI 13 Apr.

**Osprey:** arr T Watertown 28 Mar.

**Golden Eagle:** overwintering imm Canton & Potsdam continued to 17 Mar; St. Lawrence University T Canton 11 Mar; imm Red L 12 to 22 May.

**Northern Goshawk:** LPSP 26 Mar (J. McKay); different loc FD 3 Apr & 2 May (JSB); T Piercefield 26 May (R. Buckert).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** widespread arr 21 Mar.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr New Breman 9 Apr (C. Lee) early; only report before widespread arr 15-16 Apr.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** last T Lisbon & T Osceola 5 Mar.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** T Canton 15 Apr only report.

**Snowy Owl:** Favret Rd CV 7 Mar only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 4 CV 4-5 Mar; last Woodard Rd T Clayton 15 Mar.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** RS 12 Apr; MM 8 May; Dead Creek T Piercefield 26 May; good showing.

**Belted Kingfisher:** arr T Brasher 21 Mar.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** at feeder Sam Adams Rd T Clayton 16-17 May (R. Booth); RWSP 18 May (R. Spahn); at T Norwood feeder 20 May (R. Gould); Grindstone I 30 May 9 (P MacLean); more reports than usual away from FD where arr 2 May.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr FD 28 Mar, early

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 MM 12 Apr & 28 May; Hitchins Bog 10 May; Dead Creek Flow 26 May; only reports.

**Northern Flicker:** arr obscured by overwintering birds; increasing by 7 Apr.

**American Kestrel:** arr obscured by overwintering birds; increasing by 22 Mar.

**Merlin:** 85+ reports from 50+ loc; continuing to increase.

**Peregrine Falcon:** RWSP 21 Mar; T Canton 18 May; 2 T Hammond 30 May; BRV 4 & 11 Apr; L Bonaparte 20 Apr; several reports from known nesting sites.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr StPt 28 Apr.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr T Alexandria 29 Apr.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr MM 8 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr Red L 12 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr High Falls Trail T Fine 13 May.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Beartown SF & FD 13 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Saddlemire Tral T Canton 13 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr T Lisbon 28 April.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr Munter Trail T Potsdam 25 Mar.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr T Antwerp 5 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr RS 16 Apr (J. Fogden) early.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr FD 13 May; 28 reports in eBird far more than usual but many presumed misidentifications *intro*.

**Warbling Vireo:** arr T Hermon 1 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr T Croghan 3 May.

**Northern Shrike:** last T Potsdam 8 Apr.

**Canada Jay:** max 3 High Falls Loop T Fine 29 May; additional reports MM, RS.

**Boreal Chickadee:** continuing GPSP to 4 Apr (mob); rare JEFF; only report.

**Horned Lark:** max 150 T Clayton 10 Apr.

**Bank Swallow:** arr PRWMA 27 Apr.

**Tree Swallow:** widespread arr 29 Mar.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr BRV & T Watertown 17 Apr.

**Purple Martin:** arr PRWMA 27 Apr.

**Barn Swallow:** arr PRWMA 6 Apr (B. Miller) early; main arr 15-16 Apr.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr SLR T Massena 2 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr T Croghan 6 Apr.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** arr LWMA 1 Apr.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** max 70 RRT 9 Mar; last 5 RLT 10 Apr.

**Cedar Waxwing:** scarce before mid-Apr where primarily STLA; widespread in small groups 15 Apr thru; max 21 RWSP 24 May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr BRV 11 Apr.

**House Wren:** arr T Watertown 14 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** arr RRT 22 Mar; RS & ICNC 29 Mar only other reports before main arr early Apr.

**Sedge Wren:** 2 Maple Ridge Rd T Dekalb 22-29 May (JSB, A. Belford, M. Bodine, B. Miner); Sykes Rd T Canton 29 May (JSB); only reports.

**Marsh Wren:** arr PRWMA 12 Apr (R. Brouse); only report before 24 Apr at same loc.

**Carolina Wren:** reports from 20 loc; most in any season since summer 2021.

**Gray Catbird:** early arr ULLWMA 21 Apr (B. Dixon), Emporium Easement T Colton 22 Apr (L. Desmond) & CV 25 Apr (R. Booth) only reports before main arr 1<sup>st</sup> week May.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr FD & T Brownville 12 Apr.

**Northern Mockingbird:** arr T Brownville 19 Apr; reports from 11 loc in all 3 counties more than usual.

**Eastern Bluebird:** overwintering birds obscure arr; increasing by 22 Mar.  
**Veery:** arr FD & LWMA 8 May.  
**Gray-checked Thrush:** FD 18 May (JSB) only report.  
**Swainson's Thrush:** arr FD 13 May.  
**Hermit Thrush:** arr T Brownville 5 Apr.  
**Wood Thrush:** arr FD & T Potsdam 5 May.

**American Pipit:** arr T Canton 27 Mar; max 36 FD 4 May; last FD 12 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 47 RS 13 Mar; widespread at feeders LEWI & STLA thru; scarcer JEFF.

**Pine Grosbeak:** max 18 Ames Rd T Potsdam; last 5 Munter Trail T Potsdam.

**Purple Finch:** scarce Mar; widespread small numbers 3 Apr thru; max 35 T Croghan 19 Apr.

**Common Redpoll:** max & last 70 FD 3 Apr.

**Red Crossbill:** 2 T Rodman 1 Mar; T Fine 19 Mar; T Theresa 27 Apr; 2 T Croghan 28 Apr; 2 Indian Pipe SF 2 May; only reports.

**Pine Siskin:** about 20 reports 1-3 each 14 Mar to 18 May.

**Lapland Longspur:** T Lowville 5 Mar.

**Snow Bunting:** max 200 T Lisbon 5 Mar; last 20 T Carthage 24 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** early arr FD 24 Apr; only report until main arr PtPen 4 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** 4 arr early PtPen 22 Mar (R. Brouse, R. Lewis); main arr RS & T Canton 6 Apr.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** arr FD 4 May.

**Field Sparrow:** arr FD & T Croghan 6 Apr.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr T Martinsburg 22 Mar; last RRT 2 May.

**American Tree Sparrow:** last T Gouverneur 1 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 165 CCSP 13 Apr.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr T Lowville 2 May; last T Henderson 30 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 49 FD 24 Apr.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr FD 5 Apr.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** no reports.

**Savannah Sparrow:** CV 12 Mar (J. McGowan, L. Santana) early arr or winter survivor; next T Brownsville 5 Apr.

**Song Sparrow:** rapid increase 19-22 Mar.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr MM 6 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr FD & T Croghan 6 Apr.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr T Dekalb & T Hammond 8 Apr.

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R6):** T Watertown feeder 27 Apr (C. O'Riley, photos!).

**Bobolink:** arr CV 6 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr CV 6 Mar.

**Orchard Oriole:** arr CV 9 May; 4 additional reports from W JEFF where well established; unusual loc: T Canton 14 May (S. Hooper); Iroquois Dam Horse Trails (20 May); T Martinsburg 21-29 May (I. Worrall).

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr PiPt 5 May.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** arr KC 19 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr RRT 24 Mar; possible High Falls Loop T Wanakena & Tug Hill WMA 18 May (breeding loc?).

**Ovenbird:** arr FD 4 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr Morgan Gulf T Turin 15 Apr; reports from 12 additional loc more than usual.

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr FD 24 Apr.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr FD 7 May.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr FD &

ULLWMA 7 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr FD & WHWMA 25 Apr.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr FD 7 May.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** AFWMA 13 May (R. McDonnell).

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

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Whetstone Gulf SP 12 May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr FD 4 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** 4 on terr T Ellisburg 13 May; arr T Diana 26 May (A.

Lewandowski) rare STLA.

**American Redstart:** arr RRT 30 Apr.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr ULLWMA 7 May.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr T Dekalb 11 May.

**Northern Parula:** arr CV 7 May.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr Janack's Landing trail T Fine 10 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr T Dekalb 12 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr T New Bremen & RS 7 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr WP 23 Apr.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr FD 8 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr T Theresa 11 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** widespread arr 7 May.

**Palm Warbler:** "Yellow" at ADK breeding sites by 11 Apr; widespread in lowlands 22 Apr incl 1<sup>st</sup> "Western".

**Pine Warbler:** arr T Croghan 6 Apr.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** early arr T Brasher 1 Apr; next T Watertown 8 Apr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr FD 8 May; MM 28 May (JSB) unusual loc.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr FD 25 Apr.

**Canada Warbler:** arr FD 11 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr FD 17 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** widespread arr 9 May.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr T Theresa 27 Apr.

**Indigo Bunting:** early arr T Potsdam 27 Apr; next T Ellisburg 7 May.

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## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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March provided a break from the exceptionally warm temperatures of January and February. For almost all of Essex and Hamilton Counties the temperatures deviated from the norm by less than a degree either way. For Clinton and Franklin Counties the temperatures were only 1-3° above normal. Once again, at these temperatures, the lake did not freeze over entirely. In northern Lake Champlain, the ice edge barely reached south to the Cumberland Head Ferry before it began its northward retreat in mid to late March. The lake was essentially ice free by the start of April. Precipitation (melted equivalent) was notably heavy in most of Hamilton County and the High Peaks Region with 4-5" being recorded along with several spots which exceeded 5". Clinton and Essex Counties tallied 2-3" everywhere except in an area astride their common border which got 3-4".

April was somewhat wetter, especially in Hamilton County which got 4-5" in the eastern portion and 5-6" in the west. The balance of Region 7 got 3-4" with scattered points which got only 2-3". The exception was northern Franklin County which got 4-5". April was another warmer than usual month. Almost the whole of Region 7 was 3-5° above average. The exceptions were the extreme south of Hamilton County and a large area centered around Lake Placid where the deviation from the norm was only plus 1-3°.

May reversed the warm trend. Almost all of Clinton, the northern third of Essex and the extreme south of Hamilton Counties averaged 3-5° colder than normal. The remainder of Region 7 was still 1-3° cooler than the norm. The High Peaks Region was the wettest, recording 3-5" of rain. The Champlain Valley and the southeast of Hamilton County were the driest with only 2-3" of precipitation. The remainder of the Region got 3-4".

By 1 April Lake Champlain was virtually ice free and the lake level stood at 96.2'. From there the level rose steadily in undulating waves with four local maxima on 4, 16, 19, and 27 April to an overall maximum of 99.2' on 5 May. Once again, the spring high for the lake was below the flood stage of 100'. From there the lake level dropped to 96.4' on 31 May. At these levels the mud flats at Laurin's Pool remained underwater resulting in yet another disappointing shorebird showing this spring.

Lake Champlain continues to be consistently excellent for finding Tufted Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye. Bulwagga Bay at the southern reaches of Lake Champlain hosted a drake **Tufted Duck**, and there were at least **five Barrow's Goldeneye** seen from various sections of the lake. The Region's fourth spring record of **Harlequin Duck** came from Port Kent on 9 March.

Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found this spring which was down from the previous two years and in direct correlation with an outbreak of spongy moths (*Lymantria dispar*). This species is otherwise scarce to rare, not just in spring but also during the summer season, often going completely undetected.

As noted in the weather summary, high spring water levels in Lake Champlain were likely the culprit of a slow shorebird season. 12 species of shorebirds were found in modest numbers. The highlight included three **Ruddy Turnstones** at the Hoisington Brook Outlet in Westport on 19 May. This represents only the third spring record of this species in Essex County, and the fifth spring record for Region 7.

The most noteworthy ornithological event of the season began on 3 May when several **Black-legged Kittiwakes** unexpectedly descended into the Region. A total of six individuals was documented. This included at least four individuals on Lake Clear and at least two individuals in Bulwagga Bay at the southern end of Lake Champlain. It's probable that these sightings from 3-9 May represented more than six individuals. Given the unusual scale of this event, and the remoteness of Adirondack lakes, it's conceivable that many kittiwakes went undetected. It's possible that a large-scale weather system on 2-3 May forced overland migrants into some of the remote landscapes of the Northeast. Other areas in which this event was observed include *Kingbird* Regions 9, 8, 5, 2 and 1. There are also inland records from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Montreal, Canada. There are no prior spring records of this species in Region 7.

Unlike kittiwakes, Bonaparte's Gulls are regular in spring, sometimes in very strong numbers. This is despite their recent, dramatic decline during the summer and fall season. On 8 May, a flock of 178 individuals at the Hoisington Brook Outlet in Westport hosted an adult **Little Gull** in nearly full breeding plumage. Other gull highlights include two **Iceland Gulls** and two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, both of which were found along the Plattsburgh waterfront.

An adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** represented the third spring record of the species in the Region. This bird was discovered on Sabattis Road in Hamilton County on 23 May. Interestingly, the two prior spring records of Red-headed Woodpecker both come from Hamilton County and in the same general vicinity.

**Grasshopper Sparrows** were limited to four detections this spring, two of which were found on 20 May at higher elevation than normal. This included a singing bird along Route 73 in Keene Valley in a small hayfield south of the

Marcy Field parking area and adjacent to the Ausable River. Given the lack of habitat requirements, this bird was clearly not on territory, however, it presents a good example of the importance of these smaller, yet functional open fields for migratory grassland bird species. Another individual was found further north along Styles Brook Road in Keene on a private farm with large, suitable habitat. Both of these “high elevation” Grasshopper Sparrows were detected during targeted grassland bird surveys by a UVM graduate student. Two additional Grasshopper Sparrows were found in more traditional locations on private lands along Christian Road in the Town of Essex, and along Dudley Road in Westport. The former individual took up a short-term residence in a large hayfield but as far as observers could discern, it did not remain on site. Despite these spring detections, breeding was never confirmed at either site during the following season.

## CONTRIBUTORS

*Italics:* Sent end-of-season report. William Adamczak, Ken Adams, Marcella Baiz, Peter Baker, Oron Bass, Amaya Bechler, Amy Bedard, Alan Belford, Brian Berg, Jeff Biby, Brian Bobowski, Mar Bodine, Charles Béland, Tim Blanshard, Virginia Brady, Benjamin Browand, Gary Chapin, Glen Chapman, Malinda Chapman, Keri Charles, Zac Cota, Gregg Dashnau, Charlotte Demers, Kevin Dernier, Ben Dixon, Harold Ellingsen, Douglas Fisher, Jacoba Freeman, Jared Ganeles, Andrew Garland, Ellie George, Bunny Goodwin, Gerry Gould, Kate Graham, Manon Guglia, Barbara Haag, Rich Hanlon, Mary Harcola, Judith Heintz, Hyla Howe, Suzy Johnson, Ellen Jones, Cindy Kindle, Bill Krueger, Marty Lawthers, Gary Lee, Patricia J. Lindsay, Nicolas Main, Christopher Malin, Larry Master, Brian McAllister, Darlene McNeil, Deb Miller, Raphaël Millot, Joel Milton, Betsy Miner, Shaibal S. Mitra, Michael Moccio, RoseErin Moylan, Dan Nickerson, Joseph Poliquin, Craig Provost, Hannah Pryor, Kevin Quirion-Poirier, Sylvie Robert, Mark Robinson, Stacy Robinson, Derek H. Rogers, Nancy Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Dana Rohleder, Jacqueline Roy, Peter Roy, Jennie Sausville, Robert Scranton, Janet Stein, *Jan Trzeciak*, Connor Vara, Eileen Wheeler, David Zmoda.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**AFR** – Altona Flat Rock, CLIN; **AMWMA** – Ausable Marsh WMA, CLIN; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog, FRAN; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach, ESSE; **BMRd** – Blue Mt Rd, FRAN; **BRRd** – Bull Rock Rd, ESSE; **CB** – Cole Bay, ESSE; **CH** – Cumberland Head, CLIN; **ChRd** – Christian Rd, ESSE; **CPSHS** – Crown Pt State Historic Site, ESSE; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd Wetlands, ESSE; **Ess** – Town of Essex, ESSE; **FCov** – Fort Covington, FRAN; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet, CLIN; **KBWMA** – Kings Bay WMA, CLIN; **KV** – Keene Valley, ESSE; **LAWMA** – Lake Alice WMA, CLIN; **LCI** – Lake Clear, FRAN; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ri Ticonderoga Marsh, ESSE; **LP** – Lake Placid, ESSE; **NP** – Noblewood P, ESSE; **OPRd** – Oregon Plains Rd, ESSE; **PA** – Piseco Airport, HAMI; **PaRd** – Pardy Rd, CLIN; **PBBM** – Plattsburgh Boat Basin and Marina, CLIN; **PD** – Port Douglas, ESSE; **PH** – Port Henry, ESSE; **PK** – Port Kent, CLIN; **PLk** – Piseco L, HAMI; **PS** – Paul Smiths, FRAN; **PSC** – Paul Smiths College, FRAN; **PtAR** – Point Au Roche SP, CLIN; **SabbB** – Sabbatis Bog, HAMI; **SCRd** – Sabbatis Circle Rd, HAMI; **SL** – Saranac L, FRAN; **SPT** – Stony Pt, CLIN; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Launch, ESSE; **Ti** – Ticonderoga, ESSE; **TL** – Tupper L, FRAN; **TRd** – Trimble Rd, ESSE; **WBRd** – Whallons Bay Rd, ESSE; **WD** – Wilcox Dock, CLIN; **Wil** – Willsboro, ESSE; **WiPt** –

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Willsboro Pt, ESSE; **WP** – Westport, ESSE; **WPBL** – Westport Boat Launch, ESSE; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp, ESSE.

**Co- CN, -DD, -FL** – Atlas breeding codes, see p. 379.

**Snow Goose:** max 1600 Burke, FRAN 28 Mar (R. Moylan); 2 Belmont Center, FRAN 13 May (NR), late.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** CPSHS 20-21 Mar (JP).

**Brant:** 100 Kings Bay CLIN 17 May (SiR); BBB 14 May (StR).

**Canada Goose:** max 2500 CPSHS 16 Mar (StR).

**TRUMPETER SWAN (R7):** 2 AMWMA 3-19 Mar (V. Brady, mob); 4 LAWMA 15 Apr - 15 May (mob).

**Tundra/Trumpeter Swan:** TL 2 Apr (mob).

**Wood Duck:** arr 7 LCTM 6 Mar, 16 here 29 Mar (EGe).

**Blue-winged Teal:** arr 2 AMWMA 23 Mar (DaR).

**Northern Shoveler:** max 10 AMWMA 28 Mar (M. Bodine).

**Gadwall:** arr 5 Ess 9 Mar (StR).

**American Wigeon:** arr Ti 12 Mar (GaCh).

**American Black Duck:** 156 PaRd 18 Mar (StR).

**Northern Pintail:** arr PH 1 Mar (StR); 194 PaRd 25 Mar (StR).

**Green-winged Teal:** arr AMWMA 13 Mar (CM).

**Canvasback:** 4 HBO 3 Mar (C. Provost).

**Redhead:** 22 AMWMA 25 Mar (StR).

**Ring-necked Duck:** 300 Spt 2 Apr (B. Berg).

**TUFTED DUCK (R7):** BBB 19 Mar - 3 Apr (mob), cont.

**Greater Scaup:** 1000 Spt 31 Mar (SiR).

**Lesser Scaup:** 145 CPSHS 18 Mar (J. Milton).

**scaup sp:** 800 Spt 29 Mar (SiR).

**Harlequin Duck:** PK 9 Mar (StR, ph).

**White-winged Scoter:** 3 LCI 3 May (AIB); 2 Speculator, HAMI 18 May (StR).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 3 AMWMA 29 Mar (B. Haag).

**Bufflehead:** 20 AMWMA 25 Apr (ZC).

**Common Goldeneye:** NP 27 May (SSM, P.JL), Co-FL.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** CB 9 Mar (StR); 2 CH 9 Mar (StR); 2 WPBL 12 Mar (StR), refund BBB on 19 Mar.

**Hooded Merganser:** ad and 9 chicks Dickinson Center FRAN 22 May, Co-FL.

**Common Merganser:** 1055 PH 27 Mar (StR).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 8 BBB 3 Apr (J. Ganeles).

**Ruddy Duck:** WPBL 17 Mar (AIB).

**Wild Turkey:** max 100 Gabriels, FRAN 5 Mar (BMi).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 4 AMWMA 13 and 20 May (m.ob).

**Horned Grebe:** 56 AMWMA 25 Mar (StR).

**Red-necked Grebe:** arr 3 HBO 10 Apr (StR); max 12 WiPt 18 Apr (DHR).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Ti 27 May (StR); CPt 27 May (StR); only 2 reps, *intro*.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr Ti 22 May (EGe); 1 CLIN, 4 ESSE.

**Common Nighthawk:** arr SCRd 16 May (GD).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr BRRd 5 May (GlCh, MCh).

**Chimney Swift:** arr 2 SL 7 May (BMc).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr BRRd 7 May (GlCh, MCh).

**Virginia Rail:** arr LAWMA 21 Apr (BK).

**Common Gallinule:** arr AMWMA 18 May (B. Dixon).

**American Coot:** AMWMA 22 May (CM).

**Sandhill Crane:** arr 3 FCov 25 Mar (J. Freeman); max 4 TL 26 Apr (GD), established breeding loc; 2 SL 8 Apr - 5 May (BMc), established breeding loc.

**Black-bellied Plover:** arr Chateaugay FRAN 14 May (J. Roy).

**Killdeer:** arr 6 Ess 17 Mar (EGe).

**Semipalmated Plover:** arr FCov 11 May (JSt); Moffitt Beach Rd FRAN 18 May (StR); Plattsburg City Beach CLIN 19 May (M. Guglia).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 3 HBO 19 May (DHR); scarce in spring, *intro*.



**Least Sandpiper:** arr LAWMA 8 May (KA).  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** arr FCov 12 May (E. Wheeler).  
**American Woodcock:** arr WiPt 23 Mar (DHR).  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr FCov 10 Apr (DN).  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr BBB 24 Apr (StR); NP 27 May (SSM, PJJ), Co-DD.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr Summer Brook FRAN 28 Apr (JSa).  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr PaRd 20 Apr (StR); max 24 FCov 13 May (JB).  
**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Lake Eaton HAMI 14 Apr (GD).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R7):** at least 2 BBB 3-9 May (StR); at least 4 LCI 3-13 May (AIB), *intro*.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** arr HBO 2 Apr (CV, BMc); max 178 HBO 8 May (StR), *intro*.  
**LITTLE GULL (R7):** HBO 8 Apr (StR), *intro*.

**Iceland Gull:** juv PBBM 9 Mar (StR); ad WD 16 Mar (StR).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 2 PBBM 9 Mar (StR).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 2 CPSHS 7 May (StR).

**Caspian Tern:** arr NP 27 Mar (DHR); max 52 BBB 24 Apr (StR).

**Common Tern:** arr HBO 24 Apr (DHR).

**Red-throated Loon:** 2 HBO 24 Apr (StR).

**Common Loon:** arr HBO 16 Mar (StR).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** arr 4 PH 27 Mar (StR).

**American Bittern:** arr SCRd 12 Apr (GD).

**Least Bittern:** AMWMA 30 May (KC).

**Great Blue Heron:** arr 2 Crown Pt ESSE 17 Mar (EIG).

**Great Egret:** 8 PaRd 12 Apr (A. Bedard, K. Quirion-Poirier).

**Green Heron:** arr LCTM 21 Apr (GICH, MCh).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr LAWMA 1 May (KA).

**Black Vulture:** 3 LCTM 6 Mar (EGe).

**Turkey Vulture:** 11 PH 16 May (C. Béland, K. Quirion-Poirier).

**Osprey:** arr Cumberland Head CLIN 26 Mar (S. Johnson).

**Golden Eagle:** Pyramid L ESSE 13 Mar (EGe); FRAN 19 Mar (RH); Cross Rd ESSE 30 Mar (StR).

**Northern Harrier:** widespread in appropriate habitat in FRAN, CLIN & ESSE.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** multiple reps in all counties.

**Cooper's Hawk:** multiple reps in all counties.

**Northern Goshawk:** PD 7 May (DaR).

**Bald Eagle:** max 7 TL 6 Apr (mob); 7 PLK 7 Apr (CK).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 12 combined reps from all 4 R7 counties.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr PH 14 Apr (StR).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** widespread, max 4 Bombay FRAN 27 May (R. Scranton).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Ess 4 Apr (DHR).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Wilmington, ESSE 19 Apr (D. Zmoda); Malone FRAN 31 May (O. Bass).

**Great Horned Owl:** Jay ESSE 6 Apr (DN).

**Barred Owl:** 2 The Gulf Unique Area CLIN 10 Mar (JSt).

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 Burke FRAN 23 Mar (R. Moylan).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** SabB 28 May.

**Belted Kingfisher:** arr LCTM 6 Mar (EGe).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R7):** SabB 19 May (GD).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 2 AMWMA 27 Mar (PJJ, SSM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** arr Wil 2 Apr (DHR).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 Madawaska Flow FRAN 27 May (CV).

**Northern Flicker:** 4 AMWMA 25 Apr (ZC).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 AMWMA 6 Apr (StR).

**American Kestrel:** 4 Vermontville FRAN 4 May (BMi, M. Bodine).

**Merlin:** well established, many throughout Region.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 3 CLIN; 4 ESSE; 3 FRAN.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr CPSHS 7 May BMc).

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr LAWMA 7 May (BK).  
**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Wells HAMI 12 May (PB).  
**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr AMWMA 13 May (M. Baiz).  
**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr Rice L Marsh 18 May (C. Demers).  
**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Ensign Pd ESSE 13 May (StR).  
**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Kings Bay CLIN 18 May (SiR).  
**Least Flycatcher:** arr Peru CLIN 27 Apr (KC).  
**Eastern Phoebe:** arr Lake Flower FRAN 23 Mar (NM).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr CPSHS 9 May (T. Blanshard).  
**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr PS 15 Apr (NM).  
**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr Newcomb ESSE 14 May (PB).  
**Warbling Vireo:** arr TFBL 6 May.  
**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Duane FRAN 6 May (G. Gould).

**Northern Shrike:** 2 ESSE; 2 FRAN.

**Canada Jay:** 4 SabB 27 May (mob).  
**Fish Crow:** max 6 Schroon L ESSE 4 May (W. Adamczak)  
**Common Raven:** max 8 BB 6 Mar (B. Bobowski).

**Boreal Chickadee:** 3 OPRd 3 Mar (K. Graham, M. Harcola).

**Horned Lark:** PA 11 Apr (GaCh).

**Bank Swallow:** arr PSC 30 Apr (NM).  
**Tree Swallow:** arr WiPt 27 Mar (DHR).  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Rouse's Pt CLIN 11 Apr (SiR).  
**Barn Swallow:** arr Crown Pt ESSE 15 Apr (StR).  
**Cliff Swallow:** arr 6 WP 10 May (StR); max 50 Champlain CLIN 21 May (R. Millot).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr PA 11 Apr (GaCh).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 6 LAWMA 20 Mar (A. Bedard).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 53 PtAR 6 Apr (StR).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 4 Sam Cook Rd FRAN 11 Mar (D. McNeil).

**Brown Creeper:** widespread, reps in all 4 counties.

**Blue Gray Gnatcatcher:** arr CPSHS 9 May (StR).

**House Wren:** arr Au Sable Forks ESSE 15 Apr.

**Winter Wren:** 6 Loon 19 Apr (DN).

**Marsh Wren:** arr 2 KBWMA 20 Apr (StR).

**Carolina Wren:** most reps in CLIN, ESSE & FRAN. 1 rep in HAMI.

**Gray Catbird:** arr Peru, CLIN 21 Apr (KC).

**Brown Thrasher:** arr FRAN 7 Apr (RH).

**Northern Mockingbird:** PBBM 25 Mar - 28 May.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 10 Champlain CLIN 13 May (D. Fisher).

**Veery:** arr PH 11 May (StR).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Henderson L ESSE 16 May (PB).

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr CPSHS 10 May (GL).

**Hermit Thrush:** arr Keene ESSE 9 Apr (B. Goodwin).

**Wood Thrush:** arr Arbutus Pd ESSE 7 May (PB).

**American Pipit:** arr Peru CLIN 6 Apr (KC).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 155 LP 15 Mar (E. Jones).

**Purple Finch:** max 35 Inlet HAMI 18 Apr (GL).

**Common Redpoll:** 12 St Regis Falls FRAN 7 Mar (NM); 2 Chateaugay FRAN 23 Apr (J. Roy).

**Red Crossbill:** 15 Madawaska FRAN 11 Mar.

**Pine Siskin:** 4 LP 25 May (LM).

**American Goldfinch:** 12 Rugar Woods CLIN 17 May (CM).

**Lapland Longspur:** TRd 13 Mar (StR).

**Snow Bunting:** 2 SL 29 Mar (JB).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** KV 20 May (H. Howe); Highlands Farm ESSE 20 May (H. Howe), scarce outside of valleys; Rolling

Hills Farm ESSE 25 May (H. Howe); ChRd 27 May (DHR).

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr AMWMA 24 Mar (CM); Altona Flat Rock CLIN 26 May (DHR), Co-CN).

**Field Sparrow:** arr 2 Plk 7 Apr (CK); max 9 AFR 26 May (DHR).

**Fox Sparrow:** first 2 Lake Flower FRAN 27 Mar (M. Lawthers); max 11 Lake Pleasant HAMI 12 Apr (GD).

**American Tree Sparrow:** 10 Burke FRAN 11 Mar (D. McNeil, S. Glover).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** arr PSC 1 May (K. Dernier); 12 here 12 May (NM).

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr WBRd 5 Apr (DHR).

**Savannah Sparrow:** arr TRd 8 Apr (StR).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr 2 VIC 6 May (BMc, CV).

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr AMWMA 6 Apr (StR).

**Eastern Towhee:** arr Lake Pleasant HAMI 8 Apr (CK).

**Bobolink:** arr Burke FRAN 4 May (NR, WR).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Ess 29 Mar (DHR).

**Orchard Oriole:** CPSHS 20 May (H. Pryor, A. Bechler).

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr LAWMA 7 May (BK).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 4 PtAR 7 May (KA).

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr 3 AMWMA 2 Apr (B. Berg, H. Ellingsen).

**Ovenbird:** arr Paradox ESSE 5 May (EGe).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr LCTM 21 Apr (GlCh, MCh).

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr Burns Rd HAMI 20 Apr (B. Miner).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr WRS 10 May (StR).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr WRS 11 May (M. Baiz).

**Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler:** WRS 10 May (StR); Wadhams ESSE 20-31 May (StR); Wil 24 May (DHR).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr Franklin Falls FRAN 21 Apr (D. Zmoda).

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr KBWMA 11 May (BK).

**Nashville Warbler:** arr Paradox ESSE 5 May (EGe).

**Mourning Warbler:** arr SabB 18 May (GD).

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr PA 10 May (GaCh).

**American Redstart:** arr LAWMA 7 May (BK).

**Cape May Warbler:** arr Putts Creek ESSE 6 May (StR).

**Northern Parula:** arr VIC 5 May (BMc).

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr LP 7 May (E. Jones).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Arbutus Pd ESSE 7 May (KC).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Split Rock Mt 8 May (PB).

**Yellow Warbler:** arr SL High School Pd 23 Apr (AlB), early.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Arbutus Pd ESSE 10 May (M. Bodine).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr 3 Pillsbury Mt 12 May (A. Garland).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr Old Piseco Rd HAMI 4 May (CK).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr Ti 3 May (GaCh).

**Canada Warbler:** arr 2 Santa Clara FRAN 13 May (BMc, JB, CV).

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Belmont Center FRAN 12 May (N. Rogers).

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr WiPt 6 May (DHR).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Ti ESSE 29 Apr (GlCh, MCh).

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Adirondack P ESSE 12 May (D. Miller).



## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

Tom Williams

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Temp	Albany			Glens Falls		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	36.8°	35.7°	+1.1°	32.6°	31.7°	+0.9°
Apr	52.6°	48.1°	+4.5°	48.8°	44.6°	+4.2°
May	58.8°	59.6°	-0.8°	54.4°	56.5°	-2.1°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	4.22"	3.09"	+1.13"	3.17"	2.79"	+0.38"
Apr	4.26"	3.11"	+1.15"	3.50"	3.10"	+0.40"
May	1.16"	3.41"	-2.25"	1.64"	3.35"	-1.71"

Temperatures were near normal in March and May in eastern upstate New York, while April was much warmer than normal. There were one-inch-plus surpluses of precipitation in March and April, and a significant deficit of more than fifty percent of normal rainfall in May.

As many as four **Greater White-fronted Geese** were observed in mid-March around Region 8, in Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties. A **Tundra Swan** was present for several days in a cornfield and pond along Rt. 30 north of Blenheim in Schoharie County, also in mid-March. Drew Hopkins found an apparent **Eurasian x American Wigeon** hybrid at Vosburgh Marsh WMA on 19 March.

Pat Dollard had a **White-winged Dove** at his Albany home on 24-26 May and was very generous in letting visitors attempt to view the bird from the comfort of his backyard and deck. This bird appeared in his yard less than two weeks after he photographed a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at his suet feeder.

Six reports of **Sandhill Crane** were noted this spring, with a flock of nine reported at Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area in Columbia County on 18 March topping the list.

**Upland Sandpiper** was observed again this May in a traditional breeding location at a horse farm near Ames, Montgomery County. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was photographed on 23 April at the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site in Montgomery County, where Schoharie Creek joins the Mohawk River. Gary Chapin detected a **Little Gull** flying north with a group of Bonaparte's Gulls at the north end of Lake George in Warren County, seen from Peggy's Point in Hague on 6 April. Mr. Chapin's lake watching continued to reap rewards on 3 May when he discovered seven **Black-legged Kittiwakes** flying southward along the narrower southern end of Lake Champlain. He viewed them from Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial Park in the Town of Wright. His was one of many inland sightings of the species during the first half of May, with some being noted as far west as Lake Erie, and even one report from Chicago on Lake Michigan.

An **American White Pelican** was a one-hour wonder along the Hudson River south of Albany on 31 May, first observed perched atop a boulder on the

western side of the river north of Coeymans Landing, then from Schodack Island State Park as it flew overhead traveling northeastward. A **Western Cattle Egret** was photographed foraging along the towpath at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve in Saratoga County on 18 May. Four **Glossy Ibis** were seen flying west up the Mohawk River from Vischer Ferry NHP on 18 April, while two others, presumably different birds, were photographed foraging in the wet fields along Staats Island Rd. in Schodack, Rensselaer County on 24 April. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen flying overhead, and video obtained of the bird, in Altamont, Albany County on 6 May. This was one of several reports of the species in New England and eastern New York during the first week of May.

There was one report of **Acadian Flycatcher** this spring in Region 8, from Lake Taghkanic State Park in Columbia County on 28 May. A single observation of **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported, also on 28 May, from Hunter Mountain in Greene County. **Clay-colored Sparrow** was noted in Fort Plain, Montgomery County; in Fort Ann, Washington County; and at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany County.

240 species were reported during the period.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**APBP** – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **B&BCMP** – Bob & Betty Cummings Memorial P, WASH; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **BSpa** – Ballston Spa, SARA; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **DLSCA** – Drowned Lands Swamp Conservation Area, COLU; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Fort Edward Grasslands, WASH; **PISP** – Peebles I SP, SARA; **RoundL** – Round L, SARA; **SchISP** – Schodack I SP, RENS; **SL** – Saratoga L, SARA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA.

**Snow Goose:** max 400 Kinderhook COLU  
10 Mar.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** max 4  
Schodack RENS 17 Mar.

**Brant:** max 100 SchISP 18 May.

**Cackling Goose:** singletons in mult loc.

**Canada Goose:** max 7000 Kinderhook  
COLU 18 Mar.

**Mute Swan:** max 6 Athens GREE 16 May.

**Tundra Swan:** Blenheim SCHO 22 Mar.

**Wood Duck:** max 45 DLSCA 18 Mar.  
**Blue-winged Teal:** max 7 RoundL 2 Apr.  
**Northern Shoveler:** max 25 RoundL 30 Mar; 25 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 14 Apr.  
**Gadwall:** max 40 Stanton Pd ALBA 9 Mar.  
**American Wigeon:** max 45 VFNHP 21 Mar.  
**Eurasian x American Wigeon:** Vosburgh Marsh WMA GREE 19 Mar.  
**Mallard:** max 113 Schodack RENS 5 Mar.  
**American Black Duck:** max 120 DLSCA 18 Mar.  
**Northern Pintail:** max 60 Vosburgh Marsh WMA GREE 11 Mar.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 176 M-H Bike-hike Trail, Shaker Creek Bridge ALBA 2 Apr.  
**Canvasback:** 8 Stockport COLU 3 Apr.  
**Redhead:** max 7 Fish Creek Marina SARA 1 Mar.  
**Ring-necked Duck:** max 300 BMB 8 Apr.  
**Greater Scaup:** max 40 SL 29 Mar.  
**Lesser Scaup:** max 400 SL 23 Mar.  
**Surf Scoter:** RoundL 23 Mar.  
**White-winged Scoter:** Cocksackie Res GREE 29 Mar; Cobleskill Res SCHO 4 May.  
**Long-tailed Duck:** max 13 Cocksackie Boat Launch GREE 28 Mar.  
**Bufflehead:** max 170 SL 5 Apr.  
**Common Goldeneye:** max 450 SL 21 Mar.  
**Hooded Merganser:** max 55 SL 23 Mar.  
**Common Merganser:** max 1200 RoundL 18 Mar.  
**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 7 SL 28 Mar.  
**Ruddy Duck:** max 31 Cocksackie Res GREE 23 Apr.  
  
**Wild Turkey:** max 77 Copake COLU 10 Mar.  
**Ruffed Grouse:** max 3 mult loc.  
  
**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 9 VFNHP 9 Apr.  
**Horned Grebe:** max 15 AR 4 Apr.  
**Red-necked Grebe:** max 13 Hague WARR 6 May.  
  
**Rock Pigeon:** max 250 Northumberland SARA 22 Mar.  
**WHITE-WINGED DOVE:** Albany ALBA 24-26 May (P. Dollard), *intro*, NYSARC.  
**Mourning Dove:** max 30 Normanskill Farm ALBA 27 May.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** arr Corinth SARA 4 May; max 5 DLSCA 27 May.  
**Black-billed Cuckoo:** arr FR 8 May; max 4 FR 15 May.  
  
**Common Nighthawk:** arr APBP 13 May; max 2 mult loc.  
**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** arr Coeymans Hollow ALBA 5 May, Hague WARR 5 May; max 4 Malta SARA 7 May.  
  
**Chimney Swift:** arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 15 Apr; max 70 PISP 25 May.  
  
**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** arr Middleburgh SCHO 26 Apr; max 4 mult loc.  
  
**Virginia Rail:** arr Voorheesville ALBA 26 Mar; max 7 Knox Wetland ALBA 25 Apr.  
**Sora:** arr DLSCA 15 Apr; max 4 DLSCA 25 Apr.  
**Common Gallinule:** arr Knox Wetland ALBA 21 Apr; max 3 Carlisle SCHO 21 May, Duanesburg SCHE 22 May.  
**American Coot:** max 2 mult loc.  
  
**Sandhill Crane:** max 9 DLSCA 18 Mar.  
  
**Black-bellied Plover:** max 6 CF 27 May.  
**Killdeer:** max 28 Selkirk ALBA 19 Mar.  
**Semipalmated Plover:** max 40 Wrights Loop SARA 17 May.  
  
**Upland Sandpiper:** max 2 Canajoharie MONT 24 May.  
**Least Sandpiper:** max 115 Niskayuna SCHE 17 May.  
**Pectoral Sandpiper:** max 4 CF 26 May.  
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** max 7 CF 26 May.  
**American Woodcock:** max 10 Cocksackie GREE 21 Mar; 10 Kinderhook COLU 4 Apr.  
**Wilson's Snipe:** arr Selkirk ALBA 18 Mar; max 30 Wrights Loop SARA 8 Apr.  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 23 Apr.  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** arr FR 13 Apr; max 40 Wrights Loop SARA 17 May.  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** arr FR 12 Apr; max 40 Wrights Loop SARA 17 May.  
**Lesser Yellowlegs:** arr Wrights Loop SARA 28 Mar; max 32 Schodack COLU 5 May.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** arr Wrights Loop SARA 31 Mar; max 70 Schodack COLU 5 May.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R8):** 7 B&BCMP 3 May.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 160 TR 5 Apr.

**Little Gull:** Peggy's Pt P WARR 6 Apr.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1300 RoundL 18 Mar.

**Herring Gull:** max 2000 Northumberland SARA 22 Mar.

**Iceland Gull:** max 4 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 8 Mar.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Cohoes-Crescent Rd ALBA 6 Mar; Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 22 Mar.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 2 Fultonville MONT 20 Mar; Cohoes-Crescent Rd ALBA 5-6 Mar.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 30 Cohoes-Crescent Rd ALBA 5 Mar.

**Caspian Tern:** max 9 B&BCMP 5 May.

**Black Tern:** 2 SL 17 May, only report.

**Common Tern:** SL 18 May; B&BCMP 21 May.

**Red-throated Loon:** SL 16 Apr, only report.

**Common Loon:** max 43 SL 5 Apr.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 1035 B&BCMP 5 May.

**American White Pelican:** Coeymans ALBA 31 May.

**American Bittern:** arr Athens GREE 1 Apr; max 3 BCM 8 Apr; 3 DLSCA 16 May.

**Least Bittern:** arr FR 26 Apr; max 2 VFNHP 15 May.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 43 TR 9 Apr.

**Great Egret:** arr Colonie ALBA 30 Mar; max 4 RoundL 6 May.

**Western Cattle Egret:** VFNHP 18 May, only report.

**Green Heron:** arr CL 14 Apr; max 6 Hollister L GREE 16 May.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** arr SchISP 26 Apr.

**Glossy Ibis:** 4 VFNHP 18 Apr; 2 Schodack RENS 24 Apr.

**Black Vulture:** max 17 Troy RENS 1 Mar; 17 Canajoharie MONT 1 Apr.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 45 Guilderland ALBA 2 Mar.

**Osprey:** arr Altamont ALBA 26 Mar; max 4 Bolton Landing WARR 6 Apr; 4 Clifton P SARA 10 Apr.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** Altamont ALBA 6 May (S. Sheridan), video, *intro*.

**Golden Eagle:** max 2 Mine Kill SP SCHO 18 Mar; last W Sand L RENS 31 Mar.

**Northern Harrier:** max 7 Sprakers MONT 3 Mar.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 4 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 21 Apr.

**Cooper's Hawk:** max 2 mult loc.

**Bald Eagle:** max 9 Germantown COLU 10 Apr.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 3 mult loc.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** arr Richmondville SCHO 8 Apr; max 7 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 21 Apr.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 8 mult loc.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 2 mult loc; last Canajoharie MONT 5 Apr.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 2 mult loc.

**Great Horned Owl:** max 3 Buskirk WASH 8 Mar.

**Barred Owl:** max 5 mult loc.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 5 FtEG 18 Mar; last 5 FtEG 18 Mar.

**Belted Kingfisher:** max 4 mult loc.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Catskill GREE 10 May; Albany ALBA 11 May, backyard feeder; APBP 30 May.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 10 Ballston P SARA 6 Apr.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 9 mult loc.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 14 Milton SARA 14 Apr.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 7 VFNHP 12 Apr.

**Northern Flicker:** max 15 Germantown COLU 8 Apr.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 5 SNHP 15 Apr.

**American Kestrel:** max 6 FtEG 15 Apr.

**Merlin:** max 2 mult loc.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 3 Amsterdam MONT 20 May.

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** arr Glenmont ALBA, Schenectady SCHE 30 Apr; max 9 PISP 31 May.

**Eastern Kingbird:** arr Cobleskill SCHO 24 Apr; max 12 Shushan WASH 28 May.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** arr Claverack COLU 12 May; Fawn L ALBA 20 May; Grafton RENS 20 May; Saratoga Springs SARA 21 May; Hague WARR 23 May.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** arr 2 BMB 5 May; max 9 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 28 May.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** arr PISP 18 May; max 2 Hillsdale COLU 26 May; 2 BSpa 30 May.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** L Taghkanic SP COLU 28 May, only report.

**Alder Flycatcher:** arr Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 9 May; max 9 Strawberry Fields NP MONT 27 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** arr Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch MONT 10 May; max 6 Halfmoon SARA 29 May.

**Least Flycatcher:** arr Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 2 May; max 11 Pittstown SF RENS 9 May.

**Eastern Phoebe:** arr 3 VFNHP 18 Mar; max 11 APBP 5 Apr; 11 BSpa 7 Apr.

**White-eyed Vireo:** PISP 8 May; Deer Mt Nature Trl ALBA 29 May.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** arr Fulton SCHO 27 Apr; max 6 mult loc.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** arr Shenantaha Crk P SARA 7 Apr; max 7 mult loc.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** arr VFNHP 21 May; Bolton Landing WARR 31 May, only reports.

**Warbling Vireo:** Lexington GREE 21 Apr; max 25 VFNHP 18 May.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** arr Saratoga Spa SP SARA 28 Apr, early; max 32 PISP 25 May.

**Northern Shrike:** VFNHP 1 Mar; last VFNHP 11 Mar.

**Blue Jay:** max 479 B&BCMP 7 May.

**American Crow:** max 444 Glenmont ALBA 9 Mar.

**Fish Crow:** max 60 Bolton Landing WARR 8 Apr; 60 Delmar ALBA 21 Apr.

**Common Raven:** max 15 Cambridge WASH 27 Mar.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 47 TR 8 Apr.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 31 BSpa 12 Apr.

**Horned Lark:** max 1000 Cambridge WASH 5 Mar.

**Bank Swallow:** arr DLSCA 15 Apr; max 90 Schaghticoke RENS 21 May.

**Tree Swallow:** arr Schaghticoke RENS; FtEG; Clemons Marsh WASH 18 Mar; max 1000 Schaghticoke RENS; SL 5 Apr.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 1 Apr; max 50 mult loc.

**Purple Martin:** arr Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 13 Apr; max 20 Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 7 May.

**Barn Swallow:** arr RoundL 30 Mar; max 50 Hague WARR 4 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr VFNHP 4 May; max 25 Ft Edward WASH 25 May.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** arr Stockport Flats COLU 20 Mar; max 62 BMB 27 Apr.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 72 BSpa 10 Apr.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** E Hoosick RENS 13 Mar, only report.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 43 RoundL 11 Apr.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 10 APBP 5 Apr; Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Apr.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 13 BSpa 12 Apr.

**Brown Creeper:** max 10 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 15 Apr.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** arr Knox Wetland ALBA 8 Apr; max 12 VFNHP 6 May.

**Carolina Wren:** max 7 mult loc.

**House Wren:** arr Albany Rural Cem ALBA 12 Apr; max 14 FR 10 May.

**Winter Wren:** max 8 Hauge WARR 8 Apr.

**Marsh Wren:** arr Halfmoon SARA 22 Mar; max 20 Stockport COLU 27 May.

**Gray Catbird:** max 33 VFNHP 14 May.

**Brown Thrasher:** arr Copake COLU 3 Apr; max 9 Easton WASH 28 May.

**Northern Mockingbird:** max 6 mult loc.

**European Starling:** max 400 mult loc.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 13 mult loc.



**Veery:** arr BMB 24 Apr; max 17 SchISP 14 May.

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Becker Hollow GREE 28 May, only report.

**Swainson's Thrush:** arr Olana SHS COLU; Albert Fam Comm Forest RENS 7 May.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 8 Dwaas Kill NP SARA 21 Apr.

**Wood Thrush:** arr SchISP 27 Apr; max 16 BSpa 20 May.

**American Robin:** max 600 TR 4 Apr.

**House Sparrow:** max 76 Delmar ALBA 22 May.

**American Pipit:** max 70 Schaghticoke RENS 13 May.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 70 Brant L WARR 26 Mar; 21 Johnstown FULT 5 May; 6 Bolton WARR 10 May; 4 Ft Ann WASH 11 May.

**House Finch:** max 24 E Hoosick RENS 4 Mar.

**Purple Finch:** max 19 Johnstown FULT 18 Apr.

**Red Crossbill:** max 14 APBP 6 Apr.

**Pine Siskin:** max 6 Dutchman's Landing GREE 10 Apr.

**American Goldfinch:** max 50 Schaghticoke RENS 2 May.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 10 Palatine MONT 2 Mar; last Northumberland SARA 8 Mar.

**Snow Bunting:** max 350 Schaghticoke RENS 4 Mar; last 12 Cambridge WASH 27 Mar.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** arr, max 4 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 6 May.

**Chipping Sparrow:** arr Stuyvesant COLU 2 Apr; max 28 TR 15 Apr.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** APBP 21 May; 2 Ft Plain MONT 27 May; Ft Ann WASH 23 May.

**Field Sparrow:** arr Germantown COLU 22 Mar; max 20 SNHP 15 Apr.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 19 Glen MONT 19 Mar; last Moreau L SP SARA 8 May.

**Fox Sparrow:** arr Johnsburg WARR 15 Mar; max 7 Elka P GREE 9 Apr; last Feura Bush ALBA 5 May.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 125 Corinth SARA 5 Apr.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 12 FR 11 May.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 110 Germantown COLU 6 May.

**Vesper Sparrow:** arr Athens GREE 4 Apr; max 4 Coxsackie GREE 6 Apr.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 13 B&BCMP 15 Apr.

**Song Sparrow:** max 70 Heldeberg-Hudson RT ALBA 6 Apr.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** arr Ghent COLU 7 May; last Normanskill Farm ALBA 21 May.

**Swamp Sparrow:** arr Vosburgh Swamp WMA 9 Mar, early; max 49 VFNHP 14 Apr.

**Eastern Towhee:** arr APBP 5 Apr; max 16 APBP 21 May.

**Bobolink:** arr Ancram COLU 1 May; max 50 FtEG 18 May.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** arr Coxsackie GREE 11 Mar; max 11 Canajoharie MONT 21 Mar.

**Baltimore Oriole:** arr Milton SARA 22 Apr; max 21 VFNHP 14 May.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 3000 Schaghticoke RENS 11 Mar.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 250 Cambridge WASH 27 Mar.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr Nassau RENS 1 Mar; 100 VFNHP 29 Mar; 80 BMB 20 Apr; 25 Papscaene I NP RENS 16 Apr; 17 Halfmoon SARA 31 Mar; 17 Buskirk WASH 18 Mar; 15 Amsterdam MONT 28 Apr; 15 Schoharie Crossing MONT 23 Apr; 13 BCM 10 Apr.

**Common Grackle:** max 3000 Kinderhook COLU 18 Mar.

**Ovenbird:** arr FR 22 Apr; max 22 John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA 13 May.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** arr Olana SHS COLU 5 May; max 4 Deer Mt NT ALBA 28 May.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** arr FR 6 Apr; max 5 mult loc.

**Northern Waterthrush:** arr VFNHP 21 Apr; max 10 VFNHP 16 May.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** arr B&BCMP 18 May; 2 Whitehall WASH 23 May; 2 Putnam WASH 29 May.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** arr 3 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 28 Apr; max 10 FR 21 May.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** arr VFNHP 21 Apr; max 10 SchISP 18 May.

**Tennessee Warbler:** arr BMB 6 May; max 15 SchISP 21 May.

**Nashville Warbler:** arr PISP 26 Apr; max 6 mult loc.

**Mourning Warbler:** arr Deer Mt Nature Trl ALBA 12 May; max 5 Hague WARR 30 May.

**Common Yellowthroat:** arr Ghent COLU 17 Apr; max 32 BSpa 20 May.

**Hooded Warbler:** arr Altamont ALBA 9 May; New Scotland ALBA 13 May; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 13 May; Cobleskill SCHO 19 May; Deer Mt Nature Trl ALBA 20 May; Max V Shaul SP SCHO 25 May; Greenwich WASH 28 May; L Taghkanic SP COLU 28 May.

**American Redstart:** arr Schaghticoke RENS 28 Apr; max 80 Papscaee INP RENS 12 May.

**Cape May Warbler:** arr Guilderland ALBA 7 May; max 3 mult loc.

**Cerulean Warbler:** arr SchISP 5 May; max 7 SchISP 21 May.

**Northern Parula:** arr VFNHP 22 Apr; max 6 mult loc.

**Magnolia Warbler:** arr VFNHP 25 Apr; max 9 Mountain Top Arboretum GREE 13 May.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** arr Albany ALBA 9 May; max 5 PISP 18 May.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** arr Johnstown FULT 26 Apr; max 20 Amy's P WARR 28 May.

**Yellow Warbler:** arr Regionwide 21 Apr; max 38 VFNHP 14 May.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** arr Schaghticoke RENS 28 Apr; max 16 Ancram COLU 15 May.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** arr PISP 12 May; max 6 SchISP 21 May.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** arr VFNHP 25 Apr; max 9 Johnsbury WARR 19 May.

**Palm Warbler:** arr Altamont ALBA 2 Apr; max 22 VFNHP 21 Apr.

**Pine Warbler:** arr Corinth SARA 2 Apr; max 17 Ushers Rd SF SARA 14 Apr.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 69 VFNHP 24 Apr.

**Prairie Warbler:** arr Livingston COLU 27 Apr; max 11 APBP 29 May.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** arr L George WARR 21 Apr; max 20 Becker Hollow GREE 28 May.

**Canada Warbler:** arr Altamont ALBA 11 May; max 6 Ravena ALBA 14 May.

**Wilson's Warbler:** arr Schaghticoke RENS 4 May; max 3 Coveville SARA 18 May.

**Scarlet Tanager:** arr APBP 1 May; max 10 APBP 10 May.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 22 Heldeberg-Hudson RT ALBA 10 Apr.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** arr Glen MONT 22 Apr; max 17 Boice Family P SARA 13 May.

**Indigo Bunting:** arr Glenville SCHE 22 Apr, early; max 6 mult loc.

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## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

**John H. Haas**

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March's weather showed a rapid turnaround from the previous months. Temperatures dropped and snowfall increased considerably. There was a low of 20° F on 1 March and a high of 64° on 22 March for an average of 39.2°, 1.6° above normal. There was a total of 3.39" of precipitation, most of it falling as snow, .3" above normal. April was warmer than normal with a low of 23° on 3 April and a high of 91° on 14 April for an average of 53°, 4° above normal. There was a total of 4.59" of precipitation, .97" above normal. This made for a hot, wet month. May was cooler, but very dry. There was a high of 86° on 12 May and a

low of 30° on 18 May for an average of 57.9°, 1.6° below normal. There was .97" of precipitation, 2.5" below normal.

Uncommon geese were exactly that this spring. A few Cackling Geese were noted, and a single Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Ulster County. Red headed ducks had an exceptional presence in the Region this spring. Canvasbacks and Redheads were reported in higher numbers throughout the Region. The ongoing duo of the Harlequin Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye continued along the Hudson River, seen in both Ulster and Dutchess Counties.

Orange County's pair of Sandhill Cranes nested once again in the Wallkill River NWR on the New Jersey side. Unfortunately, the nest failed due to the extensive flooding during the period. A second nesting also failed. A tantalizing visit by two Sandhill Cranes in the Hurleyville Swamp area of Sullivan County over the period of a week kept local birders guessing.

American Oystercatchers on the coast in Westchester County are expected; however, several showing up inland along the Hudson River at Piermont Pier and at Cross River Reservoir were most unexpected. On 20 April Jeanne Cimorelli was scanning shorebirds at the Camel Farm in Orange County when she happened upon a Wilson's Phalarope. The bird continued for several days, eventually joined by a second bird.

On 29 March Chris Chappell photographed three Caspian Terns flying along the Hudson River at Sand Dock Road Trail, Dutchess County. This was the first March record of that species in Region 9. The author found seven at the Bashakill State Wildlife Management Area on 30 April which was a record high for Sullivan County.

The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned on 9 April for a fifth year to VanBurenville Rd in Orange County but was not seen again after the first week.

The Evening Grosbeak flock continuing from the winter period on Woodard Road in Neversink, Sullivan County, reached a high of 65 birds and continued through 6 May.

On 15 May Larry Scacchetti had a Bicknell's Thrush visit in his yard. Rare away from its breeding grounds in the Region, it was a well-documented record for Rockland County.

On 7 April Joe Wallace was sifting through blackbirds at Croton Point Park when he came upon a female Yellow-headed Blackbird. Fortunately, though initially elusive, it continued the following day and was well documented by several observers.

A Boat-tailed Grackle was spotted at Marshlands Conservancy in Westchester County on 6-7 April, then again for a week in May, giving hope that the species might be becoming more regular in the Region.

On 16 May Andrew Vallely and Jeffrey Yang found a Prothonotary Warbler at Dennings Point SP in Dutchess County; unfortunately it did not linger. Another Prothonotary was found at the Bashakill State WMA on 29 May by Michael Bochnik. Somewhat more cooperative, the bird continued through 31 May and was seen or heard by many. On 31 May Aimee LaBarr heard a Kentucky Warbler singing at Clarence Fahnestock SP. Though tough to see, it was enjoyed by many.

On 28 May Louis DeMarco found a singing Blue Grosbeak in Harriman State Park. The bird was cooperative and observed over several days throughout the end of the period.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AR** – Ashokan Res, ULST; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Pres, WEST; **OL** – Orange L, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SDRT** – Sand Dock Rd Trail, DUTC; **SCCC** – Sullivan County Community College, SULL; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Rd, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

**Snow Goose:** max 59 OCBDR 1-9 Mar (LSer, mob); MP 28 Mar - 17 May (ZSW, mob).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Hurley ULST 20-21 Mar (MO, mob), *intro*.

**Brant:** 126 Dockside P PUTN 27 Apr (CR); 148 Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 27 Apr (B. Strobino); ws reps.

**Cackling Goose:** Sheldrake L WEST 4, 11 Mar (KMcG, LM); OCBDR 11 Mar (J. Schlickerieder), *intro*.

**Wood Duck:** max 120 BSWMA 1-31 Mar (JH, mob).

**Blue-winged Teal:** SHSRS 12-18 Mar (JD, mob); max 6 GV 31 Mar (PSch, mob); 2 BSWMA 23-25 Mar (JH, mob); max 6 Haverstraw Bay CP ROCK 29 Mar (AWel, mob); ws reps.

**Northern Shoveler:** 9 BSWMA 2-13 Mar (SG, mob); max 14 WRNWR 2-13 Mar (KMl, mob); 10 RLSP 2 Mar (JCo); max 10

Twin Lakes P WEST 2-12 Mar (FG, mob); ws reps.

**Gadwall:** max 18 Beaver Pd ORAN 1-15 Mar (DB, mob); ws reps.

**American Wigeon:** max 32 GV 1-15 Mar (mob); 26 RLSP 2 Mar (JCo); max 44 BSWMA 1-25 Mar (JH, mob); ws reps.

**Northern Pintail:** max 215 BSWMA 1-25 Mar (SG, mob); max 80 WRNWR 1-25 Mar (LScr, mob); 65 PP 2 Mar (AWei, mob); ws reps.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 150 WRNWR 1-31 Mar (JCim, mob); ws reps.

**Canvasback:** max 67 PP 1-24 Mar (AWei, mob); 36 GMP 2 Mar (RMi); max 57 The Landing Dobbs Ferry WEST 2-10 Mar (JAm); 22 TBWMA 5 Mar (KB); max 3 BSWMA 10-24 Mar (JH, mob).

**Redhead:** 2 BSWMA 2 Mar (MVD, KM); max 4 Drake L DUTC 2-7 Mar (mob); 8 Titicus Res WEST 15 Mar (SCam); max 10 GV 5-21 Mar (mob); Sunset L SULL 24-25 Mar (SG, mob).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 650 BSWMA 1-10 Mar (DB, mob); max 100 WL 1-7 Mar (KK); max 45 Chadwick L ORAN 5-9 Mar (JCim, mob); ws reps.

**Greater Scaup:** max 9 CPP 1-30 Mar (SCam, mob); max 42 EGR 8-18 Mar (MBo, mob); ws reps.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 65 Orange L ORAN 1 Mar-3 Apr (BN, mob); ws reps.

**Harlequin Duck:** George Freer Memorial P ULST 3 Mar-1 Apr (PSch, mob); Rhinecliff Landing P DUTC 13 Mar-2 Apr (KB, mob), *intro*.

**Surf Scoter:** max 2 EGR 4-31 Mar (GBen, mob); 4 AR 20 Apr (PSch, mob); Washington L ORAN 27 Apr (JCim).

**White-winged Scoter:** EGR 5-10 Mar (GL, mob); KL 28 Mar (JH, mob); OL 15 Apr (BN, mob); 9 AR 4 May (RMi); 2 Cornwall-on-Hudson ORAN 15 Apr (MZ); 2 Breakneck Ridge Train Stop DUTC 15 Apr (CP); max 8 EGR 8-13 May (GBen, TB).

**Black Scoter:** 4 Esopus Meadows Pres ULST 31 Mar (DT).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 Washington L 4 Mar (BN); 2 SDRT 13 Mar (CC); Wickham L 18 Mar (KK); ws reps.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 35 George M. Freer Memorial P ULST 1-30 Mar (RH, mob); max 75 River Rd ULST 1-30 Mar (RH, mob); max 44 RR 1-20 Mar (SG, mob); ws reps.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** George Freer Memorial P 1-21 Mar (mob), *intro*.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 54 Swan L SULL 5-26 Mar (SG, mob); ws reps.

**Common Merganser:** max 210 Beaver Dam L ORAN 11-26 Mar (JCim, mob); ws reps.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 38 EGR 29 Mar (GBen, mob), ws reps in low #s.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 100 Beaver Dam L 11-26 Mar (MZ, mob); ws reps.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 3 Kenneth Wilson Campground ULST 31 Mar - 20 Apr (LQ, mob); Hilltop Acres ULST 9 Apr (PD, RDe); Forestburgh SULL 13 Apr (NH); Livingston Manor SULL 16 Apr (LV); ws reps.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 2 WRNWR 1-31 Mar (LScr, mob); max 2 BSWMA 10-31 Mar (RDi, mob); max 2 RLSP 2-31 Mar (JCo, mob).

**Horned Grebe:** max 9 EGR 1-20 Mar (SR, mob); max 7 WL 18 Mar (KK); 22 OL 18 Mar (BN); 5 Swan L 19-20 Mar (RDa, JH); ws reps.

**Red-necked Grebe:** Washington L 15 Apr (BN, mob); Glenn I P WEST 10-14 May (SCam, mob).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** RSP 4 May (AS, mob); ws reps.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** CIOES 6 May (DVZ); 2 BSWMA 9 May (JH, SG), ws reps.

**Common Nighthawk:** arrGibson Hill Rd ORAN 8 May (JSh); ws reps.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Harriman SP ORAN 13 Apr (SMo); Huguenot ORAN 14 Apr (MVD); Lapla Rd ULST 15 Apr (AG).

**Chimney Swift:** 13 Lake Antrim ROCK 21 Apr (AWei); ws reps.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Unionville ORAN 20 Apr (LScr); 2 Ossining WEST 23 Apr (SK); Yankee L SULL 26 Apr (JH); ws reps.

**Clapper Rail:** max 3 MC 22 Mar-31 Mar (SR, mob).

**Virginia Rail:** SGNWR 20 Mar (KMB); GV 25 Mar (PSch); ws reps.

**Sora:** max 2 CIOES 19-22 Apr (CF, mob); SHSR 22-35 Apr (JCim, RDi); ws reps.

**Common Gallinule:** WRNWR 16 Apr (EM, mob); SHSR 16 Apr (JCim); ws reps.

**American Coot:** max 14 WRNWR 1-15 Mar (LScr, mob); max 39 RLSP 1-31 Mar (CW, mob); ws reps.

**Sandhill Crane:** 6 Sunset Trail DUTC 17 Mar (IP); max 6 OCBDR 20 Mar - 31 May (JCim, LScr, mob); max 2 Fallsburg SULL 10,16 May (SG, mob).

**American Oystercatcher:** 2 EGR 4-31 Mar (SCam, mob); 2 PP 17 Apr (AWei); Cross River Res WEST 22 Apr (TJ).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 4 Tibbett's Brook P WEST 16 Apr (SK); Cornwall Bay ORAN 30 Apr (BN); WRNWR 6-7 May (JCim, mob); 4 MC 9 May (GBen, TB); max 2 Croton WEST 19 May (AS); Dobbs Ferry Waterfront P WEST 17 May (KMo).

**Killdeer:** 12 AP 9 Mar (JH); ws reps.

**Semipalmated Plover:** MC 3 May (BC); 1-3 WRNWR 7-20 May (mob); max 5 CPP 11-16 May (SR, mob); ws reps.

**Dunlin:** Strever Farm DUTC 7 Apr (CP, mob); Camel Farm ORAN 23 Apr (BN, mob).

**Purple Sandpiper:** max 7 Rye Town P WEST 1 Mar-3 Apr (KMcG, mob); max 4 Glenn Island P 11-12 May (R. Maclean, R. Thomas).

**Least Sandpiper:** 2 CPP 1 May (SR, mob); max 10 MC 4-5 Apr (GBen, mob); ws reps.

**American Woodcock:** max 8 CPP 1 Mar-31 May (AS, mob); ws reps.

**Wilson's Snipe:** max 11 SCCC 31 Mar-3 Apr (JH, mob); ws reps.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** max 3 Strever Farm 5-7 Apr (CP, mob); ws reps.

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 WRNWR 28-29 Mar (LScr, mob); ws reps.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** max 2 Camel Farm 21-26 Apr (JCim, mob), *intro*.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Shadows Marina DUTC 5 May (DVZ).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 5 NW 26 Mar - 19 Apr (BN, mob); max 33 KP 30 Mar (DS, mob); ws reps.

**Laughing Gull:** max 13 MC 18 Apr-31 May (GBen, TB); PP 12, 19 May (DC).

**Iceland Gull:** George Freer Memorial P 12 Mar (DT, mob); Washington L 26-29 Mar (BN); Beacon Waterfront DUTC 1,3, 28 Mar (BN, SJ).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** River Rd Montgomery ORAN 5 Mar (JCim); Orange L 13 Mar (BN); Quassaic Creek ORAN 18 Mar (BN); Cornwall Bay 20-21 Mar (BN).

**Caspian Tern:** 3 SDRT 29 Mar (CCh); 2 TBWMA 2 Apr (KB); CPP 20 Apr (GBer, mob); 7 BSWMA 30 Apr (JH, mob); ws reps.

**Black Tern:** GV 14 May (RG, mob); Harlem Valley Rail Trail DUTC 20 May (CCh, mob); 2 BSWMA 31 May (GBen, TB).

**Common Tern:** 2 Cornwall Bay 23 Apr (BN); 2 Washington L 23 Apr (JCim, mob); Orange L 23 Apr (BN); 2 AR 23 Apr (PSch), 4 here 26 Apr; ws reps.

**Forster's Tern:** 5 MC 18 Apr (GBen, TB);

**Red-throated Loon:** max 3 EGR 1-21 Mar (SCam, mob); Dockside P 17 Mar (AS); 3 KL 25 Mar (JH, mob); max 2 AR 5 Apr -7 May (mob); SDRT 1 May (CCh).

**Common Loon:** Orange L 25 Mar-35 Apr (BN, mob); ws reps.

**Great Cormorant:** Quassaic Creek 2 Apr (BN, MZ).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 72 Dobbs Ferry Waterfront P 14 Apr (AL); ws reps.

**American Bittern:** GV 31 Mar (PSch); TBWMA 5 Apr (KB); Strever Farm 6-8 Apr (CP, mob); BSWMA 14 Apr (JCim); ws reps.

**Least Bittern:** Piermont Marsh ROCK 27 Apr, 13 May (LSca); II 16 Apr (AWel, SMi); Kingston Pt Rail Trail ULST 13 May (DS); BSWMA 13-19 May (JH, mob); GV 18 May (RMi).

**Great Egret:** 3 Deforest L ROCK 19 Mar (AWei); ws reps.

**Snowy Egret:** Five Islands P WEST 26 Mar (RW); 3 PP 1 May (KMo); Dobbs Ferry 1 May (JAm); ws reps.

**Little Blue Heron:** Five Islands P 16 Apr (LM); Coldspring Dockside P PUTN 29 Apr (SR, mob).

**Green Heron:** WFPF 13 Apr (CR); ws reps.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 5 Congers L Memorial P ROCK 31 Mar (BK); max 2

Quassaic Creek 1-3 Apr (BN, mob); max 3 EGR 2-4 Apr (GBen, mob).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Titus Mill Pd WEST 1-3 Apr (MB, mob); VanBurenville Rd ORAN 9-13 Apr (KK, JD, mob), *intro*.

**Glossy Ibis:** max 18 MC 6 Apr-9 May (GBen, TB, mob); WRNWR 9 Apr (SMi); Beaver Dam Pd 9 Apr (KMj); Tivoli Bays DUTC 3 May (IP); CPP 9 May (LT).

**Osprey:** 2 Kingston Pt ULST 24 Mar (DS, mob); ws reps.

**Golden Eagle:** 2 Ten Mile River Pres DUTC 5-12 Mar (DK, mob); Clove Rd DUTC 16 Mar (AMa); Warwick ORAN 22 Mar (SA).

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** Unionville ORAN 25 May (KVD, MVD); CPP 27 May (JW), *intro*.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** RSP 7 Apr (AS, mob); ws reps.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** OCBDR 1-11 Mar (LScr); SGNWR 17-23 Mar (SLW, mob).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 2 BSWMA 1 Mar-13 May (KMj, mob); Warwick 3 Mar (KK); CPP 4-5 Mar (AS, mob); Glynwood Farm PUTN 6 Mar (SMi); The Landing Dobbs Ferry 9-10 Mar (JAm).

**Great Horned Owl:** max 2 Stony Kill Farm EEC DUTC 3-21 Mar (CK, mob); max 3 MC 24 Mar- 4 Apr (KMCG, mob); ws reps.

**Barred Owl:** 3 Hurley Rail Trail ULST 16 Mar (DW, JS); max 2 Cranberry L Pres WEST 22 Mar- 6 Apr (GBen, mob); ws reps.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 6 SGNWR 1 Mar-8 Apr (KMCD, mob).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Mudder Kill Swamp DUTC 10-12 Mar (SJ, KB); RSP 4-19 May (SK, mob); Warwick Brook Rd ORAN 21-24 May (BK, mob); ws reps.

**Merlin:** BSWMA 23 Apr (JH, SG); ws reps.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Hawk's Nest ORAN 1 Mar - 1 May (P. Shreiner); ws reps.

**Monk Parakeet:** max 36 Titus Mill Pd 1 Mar-31 May (SR, mob).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Kakiat County P ROCK 24 Apr (AWel); ws reps.

**Eastern Kingbird:** WRNWR 8 Apr (LScr); ws reps.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Ulster P ULST 9 May (DW); BSWMA 10 May (SB); ws reps.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Warwick 5 May (RDi); ws reps.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** West Clove Mountain Rd DUTC 17 May (KF, CF).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** CPP 7 May (JW); ws reps.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Ashokan Quarry Trail ULST 5 May (SS); ws reps.

**Willow Flycatcher:** PHP 7 May (JAs); ws reps.

**Least Flycatcher:** THMUA 26 Apr (CP); ws reps.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Kakiat P 1 Mar (ML); ws reps.

**White-eyed Vireo:** Harrison WEST 19 Apr (SK); max 2 Georges Island P WEST 30 Apr-22 May (Gber, mob); 2 PHP 10-20 May (CP, mob); ws reps.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Gibson Hill 27-28 Apr (JS); ws reps.

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Lake Devenoge SULL 7 Apr (NH); ws reps.

**Warbling Vireo:** RSP 22 Apr (AS, MGr); ws reps.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** CPP 2 May (AS, mob); ws reps.

**Northern Shrike:** Glynwood Farm P 3-12 Mar (CR, mob).

**Horned Lark:** max 150 OCBDR 1-15 Mar (JCim, mob); 86 Greig Farm DUTC 1 Mar (KF, CF, mob); ws reps.

**Bank Swallow:** CIOES 19 Apr (KB); ws reps.

**Tree Swallow:** max 150 CPP 1-8 Mar (SCam, mob); 2 Orange L 2 Mar (BN); ws reps.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Twin Lakes P WEST 19 Mar (JAm); ws reps.

**Purple Martin:** max 4 CPP 4 Apr-31 May (SMo, mob); max 3 MP 18 Apr (SG, mob); ws reps.

**Barn Swallow:** 5 Orange L 3 Apr (BN); ws reps.

**Cliff Swallow:** 2 Cross River Res 19 Apr (SCam); ws reps.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** max3 RLSP 4-12 Apr (MGr); 4 BSWMA 10 Apr (DB); ws reps.

**House Wren:** Millbrook DUTC 4 Apr (JAs); Walden ORAN 9 Apr (BF); ws reps.

**Marsh Wren:** II 16 Apr (SMo, AWei); ws reps.

**Brown Thrasher:** Pucky Huddle Rd SULL 4 Apr (SG), CIOES 4-6 Apr (JAs, SCar); ws reps.

**Veery:** BSWMA 28 Apr (JH), ws reps.

**Gray-checked Thrush:** Esopus ULST 5 May (BS); Rye Nature Center WEST 7, 18 May (GBen, TB).

**Bicknell's Thrush:** Airmont ROCK 15 May (LSca, ML); max 4 Slide Mt ULST 28-31 May (BF, mob), *intro*.

**Swainson's Thrush:** MC 5 May (BC); ws reps.

**Wood Thrush:** BSWMA 28 Apr (SB); ws reps.

**American Pipit:** max 3 CPP 2 Mar-21 May (JW, mob); Lower Wisner Rd ORAN 12 Mar (KK); max 70 Sunflower Farm ORAN 23 Apr, 1 May (JCim, RDi); ws reps.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 65 Woodard Rd SULL 1 Mar-30 Apr (RDa, JH, mob); Peel Ln DUTC 1-13 Mar (LK, SI); 2 Blue Hill Rd SULL 12 Mar (PD), *intro*.

**Pine Siskin:** Maple Ridge ULST 3 Mar (AMe); 2 BSWMA 22-23 Apr (SB), ws in low numbers.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 3 OCBDR 10-13 Mar (LScr, mob); 2 CPP 7 Apr (JW, mob); 3 OCBDR 23 Apr (MZ, LScr).

**Snow Bunting:** max 50 O'Leary Farm DUTC 2-5 Mar (BM); 10 OCBDR 13 Mar (RDi, JCim); ws reps.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** max 4 SGNWR 11, 27 May (PSch, mob); 2 OCBDR 8 May (KK, LScr), max 4 Greig Farm 11-22 Jun (CP, mob); ws reps.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** CPP 9 May (KL, mob); Ulster P 14-18 May (DH, mob).

**Vesper Sparrow:** CPP 4-9 Apr (JW, mob); GV 5-8 Apr (PSch, mob); 2 WRNWR 7 Apr (RDi); SGNWR 13-15 May (RMi, mob).

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 3 SCCC 1 Apr (JH, mob); max 25 1-12 Apr (AMe, mob); ws reps.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Georges Island P 16 Apr (GBer); ws reps.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Legacy Ridge ORAN 6 May (BT).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** CPP 7-10 Apr (JW, mob), *intro*.

**Bobolink:** 2 OCBDR 2 May (LScr); 2 SGNWR 5 May (MBu); max 5 Lower Wisner Rd 2 May (KVD, mob); ws reps.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 12 SGNWR 4 Mar-20 Apr (SLW, mob); ws reps.

**Orchard Oriole:** RSP 22 Apr (MGo); ws reps.

**Baltimore Oriole:** North Highland P PUTN 21 Apr (CR); ws reps.

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 28 GV 3 Mar - 20 Apr (PSch, mob); max 10 WRNWR 16 Mar-10 Apr (LScr, mob); max 11 BSWMA 2 Mar-20 Apr (SB, mob); ws reps.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** MC 6-7 Apr, 9-16 May (KMcG, mob), *intro*.

**Ovenbird:** Angel Fly Pres WEST 26 Apr (BJ); ws reps.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Woodcrest Dr ULST 30 Apr (AS); ws reps.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Pine Bush ORAN 4 Apr (MBu, BF); 2 RSP 11 Apr (AS); ws reps.

**Northern Waterthrush:** Kensico WEST 21 Apr (CB); ws reps.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Woodbury ORAN 6 May (BT); 2 SSF 8-31 May (KK, mob).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** max 2 RSP 21 Apr (SR); ws reps.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** MC 9 Apr (BK); ws reps.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Dennings Pt SP DUTC 16 May (AV, JY); BSWMA 29-31 May (Mbo, MVD), *intro*.

**Tennessee Warbler:** Kakiat County P 3 May (ML); ws reps.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** NW 1-26 Mar-(BN, mob); PHP 30 Apr (CP).

**Nashville Warbler:** Country Club Apts. DUTC 13 Apr (CC); Ward Pound Ridge Reservation WEST 22 Apr (DM); ws reps.

**Mourning Warbler:** Minnewaska SP ULST 13 May (NM); ws reps.



**Kentucky Warbler:** Clarence Fahnestock SP PUTN 31 May (AL, mob), *intro*.  
**Common Yellowthroat:** Kakiat County P 16 Apr (ML); ws reps.  
**Hooded Warbler:** DR 1 May (ML); ws reps.  
**American Redstart:** CPP 24 Apr (JW, mob); ws reps.  
**Cape May Warbler:** PHP 8 May (KB); ws reps.  
**Cerulean Warbler:** DR 28 Apr (CL); ws reps.  
**Northern Parula:** Stony Kill Farm EEC 22 Apr (MS); ws reps.  
**Magnolia Warbler:** Riverfront P ORAN 30 Apr (SLW); ws reps.  
**Bay-breasted Warbler:** RSP 7 May (SCam, mob), ws reps.  
**Blackburnian Warbler:** RSP 1 May (AL); ws reps.  
**Yellow Warbler:** CPP 16 Apr (SL); ws reps.  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** Lafayetteville MUA DUTC 1 May (RMo); ws reps.  
**Blackpoll Warbler:** Cranberry L Pres 6 May (MB); ws reps.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Minnewaska SP 25 Apr (NM, mob); ws reps.  
**Palm Warbler:** max 22 BSWMA 4-30 Apr (SB, mob); ws reps.  
**Pine Warbler:** RSP 17-19 Mar (MGO, mob); Suffern ROCK 17 Mar (AWei); ws reps.  
**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Esopus 8 May (BS, mob).  
**Prairie Warbler:** SFSP 28 Apr (JCim); ws reps.  
**Canada Warbler:** Pruyn Sanctuary WEST 8 May (AS); ws reps.  
**Wilson's Warbler:** Cranberry L Pres 5 May (MGr); ws reps.

**Summer Tanager:** OINP 6 May (SL); DR 16 May (AH, AT).  
**Scarlet Tanager:** Mohonk Pres ULST 28 Apr (MO); ws reps.  
**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Salt Point DUTC 21 Apr (BM). ws reps.  
**Blue Grosbeak:** Harriman SP 28-31 May (LD, mob), *intro*.  
**Indigo Bunting:** Croton 22 Apr (VL); ws reps.

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## REGION 10—MARINE

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Temperatures in March were almost two degrees higher than average, but April nearly doubled that spread. May was just a little cooler than the trend. Despite March and May having slightly curtailed rainfall, someone forgot to turn off the April showers for Central Park, with 3.6 more inches of rain than average. Oddly, Islip saw a normal amount of water for that same period.

Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	44.6°	42.8°	+1.8°	41.8°	39.9°	+1.9°
Apr	57.6°	53.7°	+3.9°	53.3°	49.7°	+3.6°
May	62.7°	63.2°	-0.5°	59.2°	59.5°	-0.3°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	2.62"	3.94"	-1.32"	3.83"	4.51"	-0.68"
Apr	7.70"	4.09"	+3.61"	4.02"	4.06"	-0.04"
May	3.32"	4.29"	-0.97"	1.91"	3.28"	-0.96"

The season began with a number of rarities that had been reported consistently throughout the winter. Brooklyn provided a large fraction of the entertainment, with an **Eared Grebe** at Shirley Chisholm State Park, **Swainson's Hawk** at the Sim's Municipal Recycling in Sunset Park, and a **Western Meadowlark** at Bush Terminal Piers Park. The grebe continued into March and the other two disappeared in the first week of April. Around the same time but farther east, a **Summer Tanager** concluded its winter stay around a backyard in Islip. Lastly, a long-staying **Trumpeter Swan** was last seen at Fort Pond, Montauk on 5 March.

Migration was well underway at the beginning of the period. We saw three species beat their earliest recorded arrival dates. From least to most egregious, **Cliff Swallow** broke its arrival record by one day in late March, which was set in 1964. **Caspian Tern** arrived shortly after in April and also beat its record, set in 2012, by one day. However, these paled in comparison with **Purple Martin**, which beat its early arrival date of 2 March, 1979 by twelve whole days. Note that the Spring 2022 report claimed that last year's Purple Martin arrival of 19 March was the record breaker, but in fact the 1979 date was not known to the author at the time. An honorable mention is **Royal Tern**, which set its earliest arrival within New York City by a few days in mid-May. Although they can be recorded in the tristate region as early as April, they are sometimes entirely missed in this period. Of the 80+ species tracked for their arrival dates for *The Kingbird*, their average date can be used as a sort of index of migration trends. For 2023, the average arrival date across all species was 11 April, which is two days short of the earliest average ever.

There were many early season vagrants detected this year, perhaps more than usual, and one was even entirely unprecedented. Returning for its third act, the Amityville **Mottled Duck** was seen for a week starting in mid-March. It was first discovered a year prior, and also made a showing in the fall. **White-faced Ibis** was recorded at three south shore locations in three different counties, which may be a record. A subadult **Golden Eagle** was nicely documented along the Paumanok Trail in Calverton in April. A **Crested Caracara**, presumably the same bird last detected the first week of December 2022, was seen again on Gardiner's Island in early April. A **Painted Bunting** spent five days in Central Park in mid-April, and a **Western Tanager**, surely recently displaced from a nearby wintering area, spent most of a month in a residential part of Park Slope, Brooklyn starting in April. However, it was soon forgotten when an **Anhinga** was found in nearby Prospect Park in late April. The bird stayed on the Prospect Park lake over two weeks although it was not encountered for a two-day spell in the middle, and would occasionally be seen circling high over the park on thermals. Four days after it was seen powering off to the west, Staten Island had its first documented **Anhinga**, discovered as it departed Wolfe's Pond. In any other year, these sightings might be quickly interpreted as the same individual, however, it was a remarkable year for Anhinga movement. During this period, there were two other sight reports from northern New Jersey and two from central Connecticut. They have become regular as close as Baltimore, and a flock of over twenty birds took up residence near Rome, New York for a few days, and even showed some breeding behavior. We have seen a variety of tropical colonial waterbirds moving strongly north lately, and this seems to be the newest addition to the group.

There were two instances that are probably better examples of the One Bird Theory. The first was a **Swallow-tailed Kite**, seen departing Prospect Park and then picked up at Green-Wood Cemetery via an elegant handoff. Green-Wood got a **Sandhill Crane** in a similar fashion, a few hours after one was documented departing Jamaica Bay and heading toward the heart of the city. Other rarities detected before the wave of neotropical migrants hit included a **Swainson's Warbler** photographed in Northport, Suffolk County, and another **Swainson's Hawk** reported over Eltingville, Staten Island. **Black-necked Stilt** was recorded at two locations: the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area for a few days and a flyby at Breezy Point. The last two species seen during this window will be discussed in the last paragraph, as they are the most remarkable sightings of the season.

No pelagics were conducted during this period, but thankfully a NOAA research vessel looking for North Atlantic Right Whales had a very competent birder on board. The boat only passed briefly through extreme eastern Suffolk waters on 10 May, but it detected an incredible diversity and volume of birds. Lingering winter species included large groups of both **Red** and **Red-necked Phalaropes** (over 250 recorded on one checklist for the former species), **Dovekie** (130 on one list), **Razorbill**, **Atlantic Puffin** (17 on one list), **Black-legged Kittiwake**, and **Northern Fulmar** (100 on one list). Arriving species included **Parasitic Jaeger**, **Arctic Tern**, **Leach's** and **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, **Manx**, **Cory's**, **Great**, and **Sooty Shearwaters**, and a very early **Black-capped Petrel**. Considering the long list of pelagic vagrants that turn up off North Carolina in May, we need to be canvassing our own waters better during spring migration. Pelagic operators, take note!

Landbird migration went fairly smoothly without any crazy storms to confound the neotropical species. A few more rarities showed up in May which are more typical of other times of year, including a distant **yellow-bellied Tyrannus kingbird** and a **Marbled Godwit**, both at Plumb Beach in late May. Seabirding from land became interesting in the last few days of the month, even without exceptional weather. A maximum of 11 **Parasitic Jaegers** was a great count for May at Robert Moses, among other expected species. Less expected was an inshore incursion of **Red-necked Phalaropes**. They were recorded from Richmond, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk. Sightings were split between birds on the ocean, mostly from points east of Jones Beach, and birds on still water to the west, including Miller Field, Jamaica Bay, and Seaman's Neck Park.

In the last few days of May it is possible to get a hint of breeding activity for species, which is of extra interest during this penultimate year of the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas III. **Whip-poor-will** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** shared territories in the coastal scrub of Jones Beach State Park, where neither had previously been noted for this Atlas and many years before that as well. Groups of **Red Crossbill** were found at various points in the central Suffolk pine barren area and continued through the end of this period, with breeding likely happening across the area. Juveniles were encountered at Hubbard County Park in late May, which is not unusual timing for this unpredictable breeder. Otherwise all breeding highlights occurred during the summer period.

It was a great season for birding in terms of diversity, and there are still three species left to mention. **Lark Bunting** has a long track record as a fall vagrant on *The Kingbird* 2023 December; 73 (4)

Long Island, mostly during September, whereas the much smaller number of upstate records includes several from spring. The stunning, breeding-plumaged male found by Katie Kleinpeter and Sean Keenan on Dune Road on 14 May represents the first spring record for Long Island. The finders noted its behavior at Hot Dog Beach, “Associating & feeding with Brown-headed Cowbirds in the sandy lot around the split rail fences. The small flock would occasionally fly to the marsh on the north side of the road, disappearing for 5-10 minutes before returning.” To the delight of many birders, it continued there for several days. Even rarer in New York State, **Smith’s Longspur** falls into the category of relatively short-distance vagrant, although they are not commonly seen migrating even along their usual flyway. The first two times this species was recorded in New York, it was seen in fall and winter. Subsequently, it has been noted upstate in spring three times since 2013. On 14 April, a lucky observer encountered the sixth state record, a bird transitioning into breeding plumage on a ballfield at Randall’s Island. This constituted the very first record for New York City. It was seen by many for a few hours before it departed toward the Bronx. Remarkably, New York’s seventh **Smith’s Longspur** was discovered a few days later by someone visiting the Region at Robert Moses State Park on 9 May. This bird was in a more advanced state of breeding colors and was very striking. It was walking among dune grasses along the edge of the beach and continued to do this for the entire day, offering a welcome chance for birders to see this gorgeous individual. Back-to-back, decently cooperative Smith’s Longspurs would have easily taken the title of the seasonal highlight, but they actually had competition. On the last day of March, an upstate observer encountered an odd second-year gull in the Orchard Beach parking lot, in the Bronx. When photos were distributed, it was noted to be decently consistent with **Glaucous-winged Gull**, a first state record if accepted. This species has been detected around the Great Lakes with some regularity, so it was on the wishlist, but the obvious logic here would be for the first to appear upstate. I suppose it is a fair trade for Heermann’s Gull, which first appeared in the state on Lake Ontario, even though there is an individual (or maybe multiple) that sometimes commutes up the Atlantic coast in spring and has been seen from Florida to Massachusetts. Tune in next year to see if we finally snag one of those in Region 10.

300 species were recorded this period.

Region 10 lost two important figures in the birding community this spring. César Castillo passed away on 1 March, and Arie Gilbert on 17 March, both far too young. They will certainly be missed by all whose lives they touched.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **Bpt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **GwC** – Greenwood Cemetery, KING; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RanI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

**TRUMPETER SWAN:** Fort Pd Montauk SUFF thru 5 Mar (mob), cont from winter.  
**MOTTLED DUCK:** Amityville SUFF 15 Mar – 14 April (E. Mutchnick, mob), *intro*.  
**Canvasback:** max 216 Water Mill SUFF 11 Mar (AnW).

**Northern Bobwhite:** single report from NASS near introduction site.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** individuals from all counties except BRON.

**Red-necked Grebe:** PBP thru end of period (mob), unusual lingerer.  
**EARED GREBE (R10):** Shirley Chisholm P KING thru 19 Mar (mob), continuing from winter.

**Chuck-will’s-widow:** at normal breeding areas Fire I Natl Seashore, Quogue, Napeague, also Oakwood B marsh RICH 13 May (C. Hagen).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** normal migrants and breeders, but also 2 JBSP 22 May thru end of period (BFog, mob), *intro*.

**SANDHILL CRANE (R10):** JBWR 7 May (M. Zito, A. Becker), GwC 7 May (JMal, F. Wickman, S. Hildie), presumably same bird seen flying a few hours apart.

**BLACK-NECKED STILT:** Bpt 1 May (SSi, DGo), flyover; OMNSA 9-13 May (M. Farina, mob).

**American Golden-Plover:** Nickerson B NASS 21-22 Apr and 2 May (mob), 2 inds.

**Red Knot:** max 60 JBWR (S. Hildie).  
**Marbled Godwit:** PlumbB 27 May (A. Taboada and eBird user “Gab C”), rare in spring.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** in addition to pelagic sightings, many inshore: Seaman’s Neck P NASS (K. Long, mob); JBWR 9-23 May (T. Bonadonna, mob); MF 29 May (ACi, mob); JBSP 30 May (V. Glasser); Shinn 30 May (KJK, T. Mansfield); RMSP 31 May (R. Aracil), 31 Cupsogue B SUFF (P JL, SSM); *intro*.

**Red Phalarope:** max 250, multiple pelagic coordinates between 40.0197, -71.5362 and 40.1826, -71.2373 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters), NOAA vessel.

**Parasitic Jaeger:** arr pelagic coordinates 40.1135, -71.2485 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters); max 11 RMSP 31 May (JGL).

**Dovekie:** max 130, multiple pelagic coordinates between 40.0197, -71.5362 and 40.1826, -71.2373 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters), NOAA vessel.

**Razorbill:** dep Shinn 30 Mar (T. Moran).  
**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** max 17, multiple pelagic coordinates between 40.0197, -71.5362 and 40.1826, -71.2373 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters), NOAA vessel.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** pelagic coordinates 40.1135, -71.2485 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters), NOAA vessel.

**Black-headed Gull:** Setauket SUFF thru 7 Mar (mob); RanI thru 24 Mar (mob); Center Moriches neighborhood SUFF (G. Fisher, E. Schwinn); CP 10 Mar (D. Ringer); Coney I Ck P 11 Mar (MEP); Bellport SUFF 6-15 Apr (eBird user “Brian M”); River Rd marshes RICH 24 Apr (ACi).

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL:** PBP 31 Mar (G. Chapin), *intro*.

**Gull-billed Tern:** arr JBSP 16 Apr (A. Guthrie).

**Caspian Tern:** arr Flushing Meadows Corona P QUEE 5 Apr (C. Finger), *intro*.

**Arctic Tern:** 18 pelagic coordinates 40.1135, -71.2485 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters).

**Royal Tern:** arr 2 JBWR 13 May (A. Kramer), and FBF (mob), *intro*.

**Norther Fulmar:** max 100, multiple pelagic coordinates between 40.0197, -71.5362 and 40.1826, -71.2373 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters).

**BLACK-CAPPED PETREL:** multiple pelagic coordinates between 40.0197, -71.5362 and 40.1826, -71.2373 SUFF 10 May (L. Waters), early.

**Northern Gannet:** max 12,000 CHP 12 Mar (RVE).

**ANHINGA:** PP 25 Apr – 10 May (R. Osickova, mob); WPP 14 May (M. Shanley, A. Ferino), *intro*.

**Brown Pelican:** Old Orchard Light RICH 21-22 May (J. Smallwood, D. Barbato), early.

**Least Bittern:** arr City I BRON (D. Empfield); River Rd marshes RICH 26 Apr – 21 May (ACi, mob); Arshomomaque Pres SUFF 31 May (S. Biasetti).

**Cattle Egret:** Southards Pd P SUFF 15 Apr (SSM); Cem of Resurrection RICH 11-14 May (J. Fiorito, mob).

**WHITE-FACED IBIS:** JBWR 4 Apr (SSi, DGo); Timber Pt SUFF 18 May (JGI, mob); Lido B NASS 29 May thru end of period (K. Murphy, mob).

**Black Vulture:** many BRON, NEWY, RICH, several KING, QUEE, NASS, and SUFF.

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** PP and GwC 21 Apr (ebird user “Jeff G”, mob).

**Golden Eagle:** Jones P Calverton SUFF 10 Apr (L. Sherman, J. Eggers), ph.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE:** no reports.

**SWAINSON’S HAWK:** Sunset P KING thru 2 Apr (mob), overwintered; Eltingville RICH 14 Apr (C. Hagen).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** few; 2 in sep locs Northville SUFF monitored all winter

departed 2 and 3 Apr; Kips Bay NEWY 13 Apr (T. Nolan), unusual loc.

**Short-eared Owl:** Shirley Chisholm SP 16 Mar (JMal); 1 EPCAL SUFF thru 19 Mar (mob); Governor’s I NEWY 8 Apr (BBom).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** male, female Hubbard Creek CP SUFF, 16 May, on territory (MLL).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** several locations in RICH, also Shu Swamp Pres NASS 23-27 Mar (B. Garriel, “Cheryl D”); APP 16 Apr – 5 May (DFy, mob); IHP 21 Apr (eBird username “Birding Spouses”, D. Schenker); VCP thru 5 May (RAR); Forest P QUEE thru end 5 May (mob), overwinterer.

**CRESTED CARACARA:** Gardiner’s I SUFF presumably continuing from winter with a sighting in early April, exact date not recorded (fide A. Farnsworth).

**Yellow-bellied kingbird sp:** PlumbB 30 May (JMal), extremely distant.

**Purple Martin:** arr JBSP 18 Feb (M. Chitulescu), *intro*.

**Cliff Swallow:** arr GwC 28 Mar (L. Ewing), *intro*.

**BICKNELL’S THRUSH:** 2 or more PP 13-19 May (mob); RanI 13 May (DAR, mob); CP 14-22 May (mob).

**Evening Grosbeak:** St. George yard RICH 16 May (IGr); PP 19 Apr - 6 May (S. Hildie, mob); Coney I Ck P 17-23 May (S. Hildie, mob).

**Red Crossbill:** territorial birds in Pine Barrens, *intro*, otherwise 1 Lemon Ck Pier RICH 9 Mar (ACi).

**SMITH’S LONGSPUR:** RanI 14 Apr (M.B. Kooper, mob); RMSP 9 May (M. Talluto, mob), *intro*.

**Lark Sparrow:** PBP 19 Mar - 3 Apr (RAR, A. Bueno); E Elmhurst QUEE 5 May (J. Fucello); rare in spring.

**LARK BUNTING:** Hot Dog Beach, Dune Rd., SUFF 14-16 May (K. Kleinpeter, S. Keenan, mob), SY male in alt plumage; *intro*.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Northville SUFF 2 Apr (MLL) Mattituck SUFF thru 1 May

(mob), overwinterer; RMSP 12 May (P.JL, SSM); GwC 18 May (A. Panetta).  
**Nelson's Sparrow:** PlumbB 24 May (L. Ewing); Wethehim NWR SUFF 26 May (A. Perkins).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Mattituck SUFF 18 May (BBol); FBF 19 May (HLo); JBSP 22 May thru end of period (BFog), *intro*.

**WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** Bush Terminal Piers P KING thru 7 Apr (mob), overwintering.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** only 1, CP 12 May (mob).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** arr PP 18 Apr (F. Wickman).

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER:** Veteran's P Northport SUFF 25 Apr (F. Rodriguez).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** arr Bayard Cutting Arboretum SUFF 4 Apr (mob), returning breeder.

**Summer Tanager:** Islip yard SUFF thru 24 Mar (mob), overwinterer; many migrants.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** Park Slope KING 7 Apr - 3 May (mob), possibly seen a few days earlier as well.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** CP 18-23 Apr (B. Balliett, mob).

#### EXOTICS

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl:** CP, entire period (mob), "Flaco".

**European Goldfinch:** traditional areas in KING near PP only.



Black-necked Stilt, Breezy Point, *Queens*, 1 May 2023, © Doug Gochfeld.



## REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; **ad** – adult; **alt** – alternate plumage; **arr** – arrival or first of season; **BBS** – Breeding Bird Survey; **BOTS** – bird of the season; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **Co** – County; **I** – Island; **imm** – immature; **intro** – see introduction to report; **juv** – juvenile; **L** – Lake; **max** – maximum; **mob** – multiple observers; **Mt** – Mountain; **NYSDEC** – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; **NWR** – National Wildlife Refuge; **NYSARC** – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; **P** – park; **Pd** – Pond; **ph** – photographed; **Pres** – Preserve; **Pt** – Point; **Res** – Reservoir; **Ri** – River; **SP** – State Park; **spm** – specimen; **subad** – subadult; **T** – Town of; **thru** – throughout period; **Twn** – township; **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area; **y** – young.

## BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

**POSSIBLE:** H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

**PROBABLE:** S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

**CONFIRMED:** PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

## REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

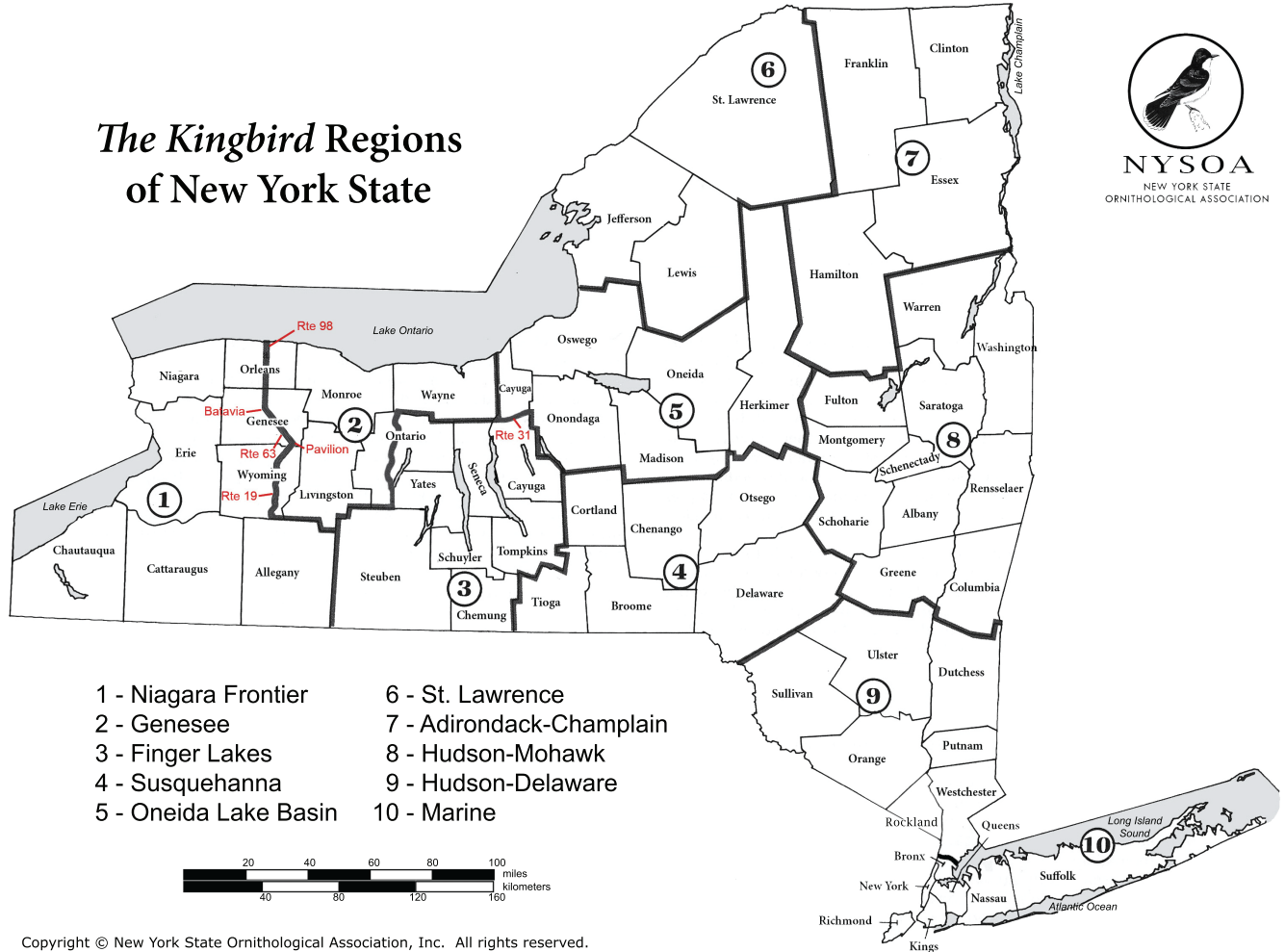
Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

# The Kingbird Regions of New York State



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