

The **KINGBIRD**



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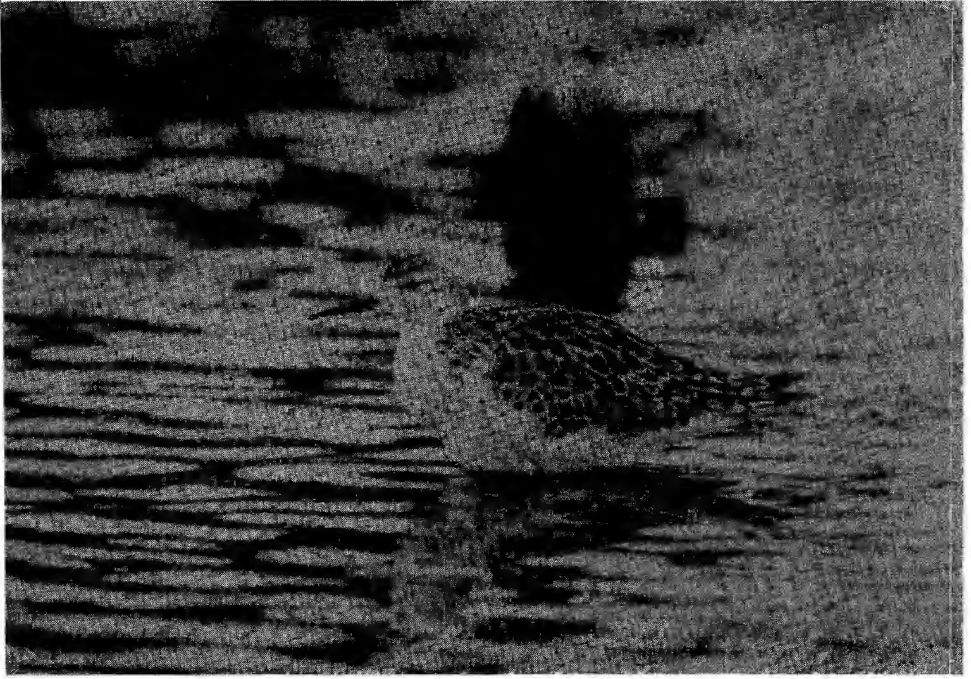
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Editor – Paul A. DeBenedictis

Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager– Constance N. Wilkins



*Figure 1. Ruff. Juvenile male, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge
28-29 Sep 1986* *photo by Robert Villani*

THE 1986 FALL SHOREBIRD SEASON AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

ARTHUR MORRIS

Thirty-three species of shorebirds, the lowest total since the inception of this survey in 1981, were noted at Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge during the 1986 fall migration. The refuge was visited 45 times between 24 June and 14 December. Every species present was censused at least once a week (Tables 1, 2). Visits averaged four to six hours. Virtually all visits overlapped the time of high tide when the greatest number of birds fly into the East Pond to rest, feed and preen. Although the refuge has been divided into seven survey areas, "A" to "G," (Morris 1986), only six areas were covered this year. Area "G" was not censused this year because the entry gate to the subway yard was kept locked all summer.

Because I was out of state from late June until 21 Aug, the help of numerous volunteers was enlisted to maintain continuity of this study. A detailed description of my censusing techniques was given to each volunteer to lessen observer bias. The bulk of the field work was done by Tom Hook and Kevin and Dale Karlson. Others who contributed data were Stephen B. Dempsey, Arthur Berland, Rob Villani, Steve Walters, R. J. Kurtz and Tony Leukering. I thank them all.

A substantial bloom of filamentous green algae was noted again at the East Pond. The 1986 "crop" was only fractionally comparable to the massive bloom of 1985. The East Pond is drawn down each year by National Park Service personnel as part of their Wildlife Management Policy. The outlet gate at the north end of the East Pond was opened on schedule in late June. The system is designed so that thousands of gallons of fresh water drain from the pond into the adjacent bay on each low tide. The flap-valve, which is designed to close at high tide to prevent a return flow of salt water, did not function this year (Clive Pinnock *pers. comm.*). As a result, water levels were far higher than normal in July and August. To lower the water level at all, refuge personnel had to open the outlet gate as the tide dropped, then return several hours later to close it and prevent the pond from refilling with salt water — a difficult, time-consuming job. Mid-summer rains, which were well above average, also contributed to the high water levels.

On my first visit to the pond on 22 Aug, I found the South Flats awash and the Raunt flooded. Because of the high water level I was quite surprised to note the presence of more than four thousand

shorebirds. Almost all of the birds were roosting on the submerged triangular flat which juts into the pond just north of the Raunt. I learned that this had been the preferred roost since July because the Raunt, usually the favored roost, was underwater. It was strange to see flocks of plovers, knots, dowitchers and peep roosting in an inch or two of water; these species usually prefer drier environs when resting or sleeping. In late August refuge personnel renewed their efforts to lower the water level so as to provide suitable habitat for southbound migrants later in the season. By early September several acres of flats were exposed, though the water level was still well above average. Autumn rains quickly refilled the pond so that very little habitat was available for late season migrants.

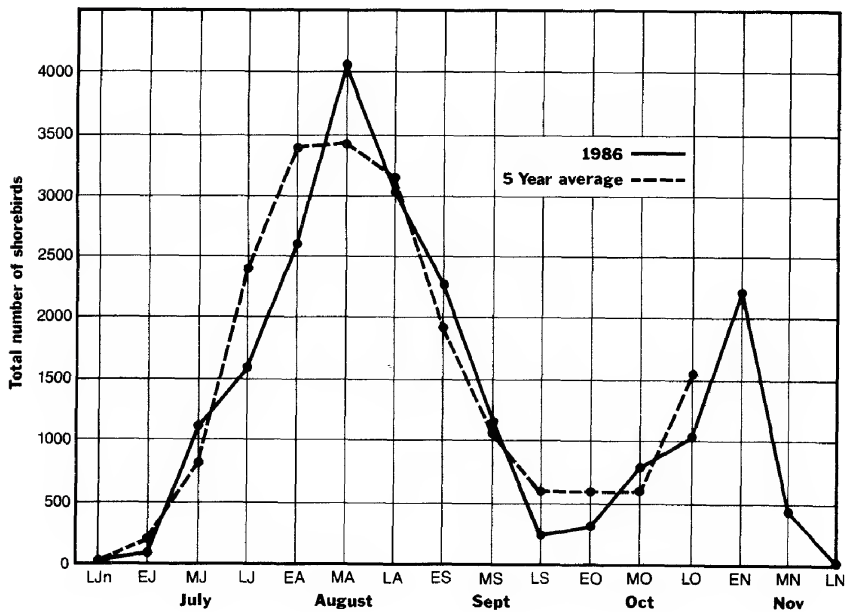


Figure 2. Comparison of 1986 shorebird migration to 1981-1985 average.

At the West Pond the outlet valve was stuck in the open position from mid-August until it was temporarily repaired in October. The unprecedented low water levels which resulted exposed numerous flats and bars — ideal shorebird habitat.

With unattractive conditions at the East Pond and favorable ones at the West Pond, far more birds than normal visited the West Pond, which often accounted for twenty-five to one hundred (in the late-season) percent of the daily totals. From 1981-84 no more than ten percent of the birds censused were present at the West Pond.

Species diversity (Table 3) was average through August, but six species were below normal from September on, due to the absence of many species which occurred regularly in prior years: Lesser Golden-Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit and Sanderling, among others.

Southbound adult migrants appeared in above average numbers but were several days to a week behind schedule on average (Fig. 2). Juveniles of most species arrived several days to several weeks late and in numbers far, far below normal. The most dramatic example was Black-bellied Plover; the first juvenile arrived almost a month late on 27 Sep and was one of only three juveniles noted by this observer for the entire season! Normally a few dozen to more than a hundred juvenile Black-bellied Plovers can be found at the Raunt after early September.

Typically in late August more than one third of the shorebirds are juveniles. This year they accounted for less than a tenth of the daily totals. Extremely low numbers of juveniles combined with a protracted adult migration saw adult migrants in September accounting for 50 to 80 percent of the daily totals, whereas 75% juveniles in mid-month and 90% juveniles in late September is the norm.

For most species the late, protracted adult migration combined with the very late arrival of very few juveniles suggests a rather poor breeding season in many sections of the Far North. Of the very common migrant species, the three which enjoyed an above average season with fair numbers of juveniles are the three southernmost breeders, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitcher, which all breed at least as far south as the northern halves of the "prairie provinces."

SELECTED SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Plover: a below average season with numbers severely reduced from late September on due to high levels and the virtual absence of juveniles.

Lesser Golden-Plover: this species was virtually absent from the refuge in 1986. Seven birds on only two dates were all that were noted. Their scarcity undoubtedly was due to unfavorable local conditions, as an estimated 1,500 were reported this fall on 14 Sep at sod farms between Cutchogue and Mattituck (Julius Hastings *vide* Jim Clinton) on eastern Long Island, where they are always far more numerous than at the refuge.

Semipalmated Plover: a below average season for our most abundant migrant plover.

Killdeer: a well below average season for this bird which occurs in our area both as a local breeder and a migrant; a few winter regularly.

American Oystercatcher: greater numbers of birds at the refuge in July, large flocks roosting near the Tern Nesting Area in mid- to late August and a good late season showing reflect continued explosive increases in both local and regional breeding populations. A new maximum of 140 was noted on 12 Aug (Max and Nellie Larsen.)

Greater Yellowlegs: a slightly above average season. In late October and early November most birds were found roosting on the West Pond with its low water levels rather than at their preferred roosts on the East Pond with its high water levels. This species usually roosts in flocks of 50 to 400 birds in an inch or two of water in an area sheltered by dense stands of phragmites.

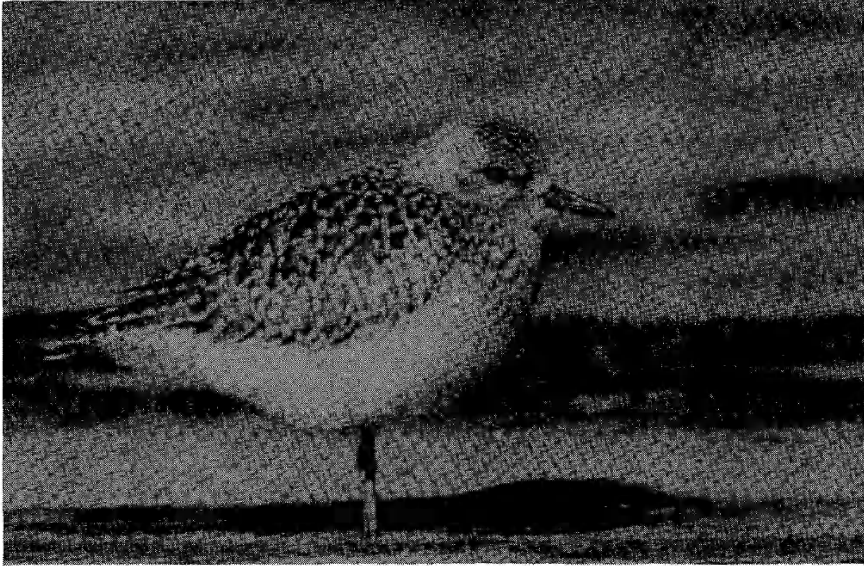
Lesser Yellowlegs: an above average season highlighted by a new maximum of 177 recorded on 8 Aug (Stephen B. Dempsey).

Solitary Sandpiper: the only bird noted was found 30 Aug, but others undoubtedly were present at various times on Big John's Pond which is located just west of the East Garden.

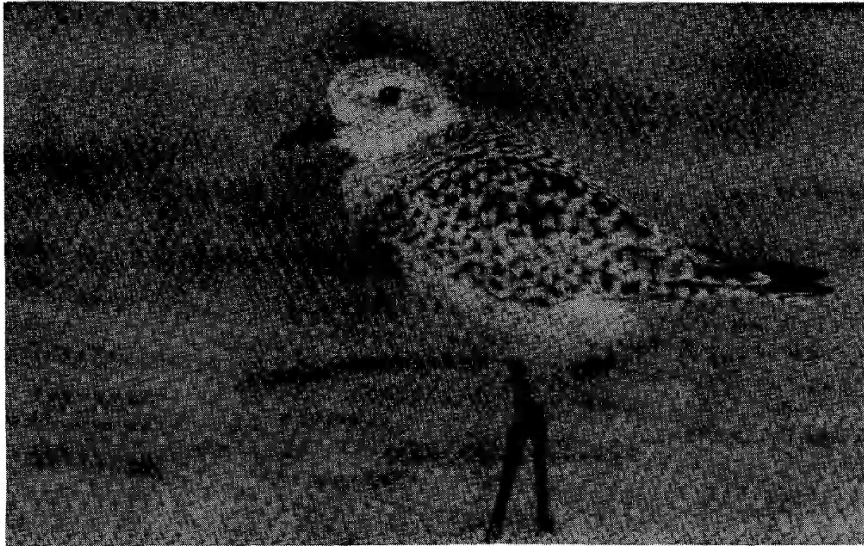
Willet: an above average season for this local breeder was evidenced by a new maximum of twenty birds on 12 Aug (Tom Hook) and nineteen, all in fresh juvenal plumage, seen by myself on the beach at the Tern Nesting Area on 28 Aug. Strangely, not a single Willet was seen after 20 Sep.

Spotted Sandpiper: a poor season for this local breeder although a new maximum of nine was noted 3 Aug (Kevin and Dale Karlson). The last was seen on 31 Aug; in most years they routinely are reported through early October.

Whimbrel: at least nine birds, usually fly-bys, on 6 dates was a good showing for this species.



*Figure 3. Black-bellied Plover. Juvenile, Zach's Bay, Long Island
photo by Arthur Morris*



*Figure 4. Black-bellied Plover. Basic plumage, Zach's Bay, Long Island
5 Oct 1986
photo by Arthur Morris*

Hudsonian Godwit: six to eight birds present in September and October was a good showing for this species. As many as ten thousand have been reported reliably at a staging area on the west James Bay coast in Ontario. This species is not seen commonly anywhere on fall migration until they reach the Argentine pampas. Shorebird biologist Brian Harrington wonders whether they fly the 6,500 miles nonstop (Harrington 1986).

Marbled Godwit: two or possibly three birds in the latter half of August were unusually early. None were reported thereafter, which also is unusual!

Ruddy Turnstone and Red Knot: average numbers of both species during their August "peaks" was somewhat surprising, especially for Ruddy Turnstone, in view of the high water levels which covered their preferred roosting habitat at the Raunt. However, both species were virtually absent during September and October when small numbers of Turnstones and flocks of 40-60 Knots have appeared regularly in prior years.

Sanderling: in the early 1980's flocks of one or two hundred birds could be found regularly from late July through mid-August roosting on the sandy-mud beach opposite North Island on the west shore of East Pond. This beach, which dried to a light grey as water levels dropped, offered perfect camouflage for the fading adult Sanderlings. Higher water levels in recent years have deposited a layer of silt upon which a carpet of grass grows, if the spit is exposed at all! Finding their former roost either underwater or "too green", this species has almost completely abandoned the East Pond. By 1986 a Sanderling was a rare sight at the East Pond.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: an above average adult migration was protracted with flocks of more than a thousand birds, mostly adults, persisting through early September. Juveniles in late August and September were counted in tens rather in the customary hundreds.

Western Sandpiper: aside from five adults noted on 27 July very few Westerns were noted at the refuge this year. This species breeds on the northern and western coasts of Alaska. A small portion of the population migrates southeastwards across North America to the east coast of the United States. They occur regularly as far north as Massachusetts, with increasing numbers as one moves southward. At Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, for example, the average maxima 1980-86 is 585 (Claudia P. Wilds), yet numbers have decreased steadily for the past three years just as they have at Jamaica Bay.

Least Sandpiper: flocks of 20-100 adults were found through mid-August in their usual haunts — grassy pools and wet areas set back from the pond's edge. Numbers thereafter were well down again due to low numbers of juveniles.



Figure 5. *White-rumped Sandpiper*. Worn, fading adult in preBasic molt, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
photo by Arthur Morris

White-rumped Sandpiper: a good showing of fading adults was highlighted by a new maximum of 67 on 6 Sep. Less than a handful of juveniles were noted, with the first arriving on the record late date of 12 October.

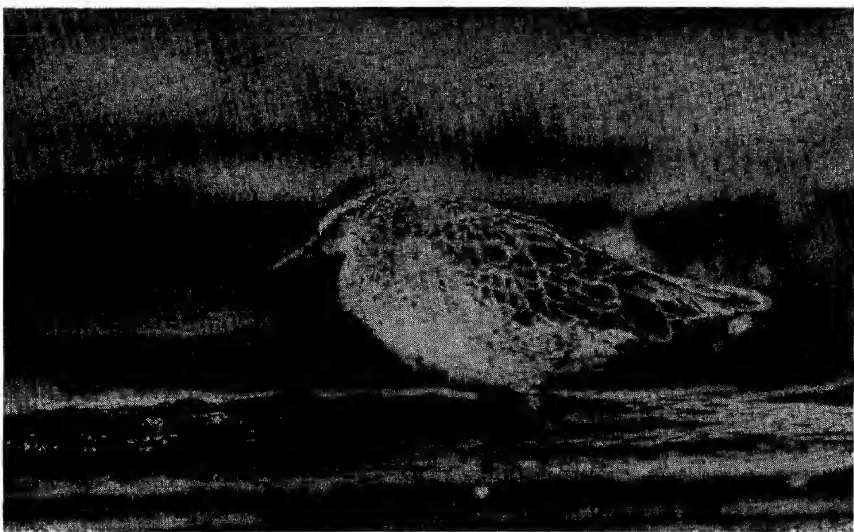
Baird's Sandpiper: two juveniles, including one exceptionally early on 8 Aug (Stephen B. Dempsey), was a good showing for this mid-continental migrant.

Pectoral and Stilt Sandpipers: a well below average season for both species with only a smattering of first year birds. Part of the Stilt Sandpiper population winters in North America along both coasts of Mexico. Consequently both adult and juveniles usually are seen molting into or in Basic plumage. Pectoral Sandpiper winters only in South America. Molting requires energy, so Pectoral Sandpipers defer molting until they reach their wintering grounds. These two species illustrate the general principle that shorebirds which winter in North America molt *en route* while those which winter in South America do not molt until they arrive there.

Dunlin: a slightly above average season.



*Figure 6. Short-billed Dowitcher. Juvenile, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge
photo by Arthur Morris*



*Figure 7. Short-billed Dowitcher. Basic plumage, Zach's Bay, Long Island
1 Sep 1986
photo by Arthur Morris*

Curlew Sandpiper: a disappointing year for this rare but regular migrant. The only bird noted was a worn, molting adult at the West Pond on 25 October (Starr Saphir).

Ruff: a juvenile male (Fig. 1), somewhat smaller but more stockily built than a Greater Yellowlegs, was present at the Raunt on 28 Sep. I now am sure that last year's juvenile, which was slightly smaller than a Lesser Yellowlegs, was a female.

Short-billed Dowitcher: an above average adult migration peaked in mid-August rather than the traditional late July. More adults than usual and fair numbers of first year birds were present through early September. Surprisingly, the first juvenile was noted right on schedule on 10 Aug (Drew Panko).

Long-billed Dowitcher: by far the worst season on record. This species, like Western Sandpiper, breeds in the northwestern Nearctic and has been declining at Jamaica Bay in recent years.

American Woodcock: an average season for this local breeder.

Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope: an average season for both species, which are found most often during the last few days of August and the first week of September.

This survey was done in cooperation with the International Shorebird Survey, Manomet, Massachusetts, and is dedicated to the memory of the late Tom Davis.

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35 Mimoso Lane, Staten Island, N.Y. 10312

APPENDIX - THE RAUNT

The remains of a ramshackle fishing community, the Raunt, inhabited by squatters as late as the early fifties, form several small islands just off the southeast shore of the East Pond. Two acres of debris — wooden pilings, boards and beams, gravel, bricks and concrete chunks, ceramic shards and milk and whiskey bottles, both shattered and intact — are all reminders of the lives of baymen past. Protected by a deep, mucky, channel, the Raunt provides a perfect roost for thousands of southbound migrants each "shorebird fall."

Table 1. Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1986

Species	June				July							Aug							
	24	26	28	29	1	6	9	11	13	17	20	26/27	30/31	3	5	8/9	12/13	16	22
Plover, Black-bellied											2	3	15	72	65	703	568	175	600
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated							8	8		93	224	204	360	389	198	480	771	405	850
Killdeer	3	3	5	12	6	8	9	8	3	12	21	12	4	3	7	5	3	2	2
American Oystercatcher	22		20	4		7			16	6	41	48	4	16	52	85	140	8	130
Yellowlegs, Greater	2		2		2	1	23	3	22	123	77	105	82	198	88	122	221	205	300
Lesser	7	6	7	16	2	5	18	11	67	41	72	132	14	167	26	177	43	93	30
Willet	3	1	6	6	4		4		1	1	12	7	5	15	2	20	6	2	
Sandpiper, Spotted		1		2			1		1	5	1	1	1	9	6	1	2	1	
Whimbrel									2				1	1			2	1	
Godwit, Hudsonian								1	1		2	2	2	4	5		3	1	2
Marbled																	1		2
Turnstone, Ruddy												4	27	66	17	39	80	153	50
Knot, Red											42	15	55	331	102	242	163	492	600
Sanderling									1			8		2	2	1			
Sandpiper, Semipalmated							1	21	41	662	588	505	438	743	809	519	1391	1505	1250
Western									2	2	5		1	1				1	
Sandpiper, Least				2			8	47	68	33	94	63	29	86	46	18	60	77	20
White-rumped												1	1	1		6	13	2	
Baird's																1			
Pectoral							2			1	1	1		1		4	3	2	1
Dunlin																	1		
Sandpiper, Curlew												4	4	4	3	2	5	9	6
Stilt																			6
Buff-breasted																			6
Dowitcher, Short-billed						15	118	102	154	1031	852	606	402	801	534	539	795	620	450
Long-billed										2				1	1	1			
Snipe, Common																			
Woodcock, American	1	1									4	1		1	1	1	1		
Phalarope, Wilson's											2			2		1	1		1
Northern																			
No. of Species	6	5	5	6	4	5	10	8	11	13	18	21	16	22	19	21	23	19	17
No. of Individuals	38	12	40	42	14	36	192	201	376	2012	2030	1733	1445	2901	1977	2953	4292	3755	4296
Areas covered, East Pond		B				B-D	A-D	B-D		A-D	A-D	A-D	B-D	A-D	A-D	A-D	A-D	A-D	B,C
West Pond	E,F	E,F	E,F	E,F	E,F	E	E	E,F	E,F		E,F	E,F		E	E	E	E	E	E

Table 1 (cont.) Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge Fall Shorebird Census 1986

Species	Aug		Sep				Oct						Nov				Dec		
	25	28	2	6	7	13	20	27	4	11	12	18	25	26	4	16	20	22	14
Plover, Black-bellied	250	382	466	296	80	503	221	36	3	39	10	84	35	4	36	6			
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated	250	165	204	98	40	2	2			14	3	1	7	4					
Killdeer	1		5	3	2	5			3	9	2	9	2	2	6				
American Oystercatcher	120	126	37	25	2	68	67	35		45	24		68			65		33	
Yellowlegs, Greater	120	402	332	208	30	141	55	18	64	27	2	131	168	263	214	4			
Lesser	20	62	25	67	10	48	26	23	43	8		7	2						
Willet	3	19	3	1		10	7												
Sandpiper, Spotted																			
Whimbrel	3	3		2															
Godwit, Hudsonian	1	3	1	2	5	5	6	4	8	5		6			1				
Marbled	2																		
Turnstone, Ruddy	10	51	17	15	2	16	1	5								3			
Knot, Red	20	412	28	18	4	44	3	2					1						2
Sanderling																1			
Sandpiper, Semipalmated	400	1363	1205	996	160	621	394	56	67	139	20	158	85	7	7				
Western			1			1		1											
Sandpiper, Least	30	23	16	24	10	13	17	2	2			1							
White-rumped	2	16	11	67	10	22	9	1	1	8	1	4	15	1	5			1	
Baird's	1	1	1	1	1														
Pectoral	1	2	2	1		1	2	2	4	2		1							
Dunlin				1			14	59	98	248	12	659	642	378	2023	887		55	42
Sandpiper, Curlew													1						
Still	3	6	1	13	6	5	5		11	7		1	1						
Buff-breasted																			
Dowitcher, Short-billed	200	316	241	199	40	51	8	17	3	1									
Long-billed		5								7		1			5				
Snipe, Common														1		1			
Woodcock, American		1						1											
Phalarope, Wilson's	1	1	1	1	1	2	1												
Northern			3	1															
No. of Species	20	20	20	21	17	18	17	15	12	14	8	13	12	8	9	6	0	3	2
No. of Individuals	1438	3359	2600	2039	409	1558	838	262	307	559	74	1063	1027	660	2300	964	0	89	44
Areas covered, East Pond	B,C	A-D	A-D	A-D	B,C	A-D	A-D	A-D	A-D	A-D		A-D	A-D		A-D	A-D	A-D		
West Pond	E	E	E			E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		E	E

Table 2. JBNWR Fall Shorebird Partial Census 1986

Species	Aug	Sep	Species	Aug	Sep
	30/31	28/29		30/31	28/29
Plover, Black-bellied	√	√	Sandpiper, Least	√	√
Lesser Golden-Semipalmated	1		White-rumped	√	√
Killdeer	√	1	Baird's	1	
American Oystercatcher	√	√	Pectoral	√	8
Yellowlegs, Greater	√	√	Dunlin		√
Lesser	√	√	Sandpiper, Stilt	√	2
Sandpiper, Solitary	1		Buff-breasted	1	
Willet	√		Ruff		1
Sandpiper, Spotted	1		Dowitcher, Short-billed	√	√
Whimbrel	3		Long-billed		1
Godwit, Hudsonian	√	7	Snipe, Common		
Turnstone, Ruddy	√	√	Woodcock, American	1	
Knot, Red	√	√	Phalarope, Wilson's	1	
Sanderling	1		Northern	3	
Sandpiper, Semipalmated		√	No. of Species	27	18
Western	1		Areas covered, East Pond	A-D	A-D
			West Pond	E	E

√ = observed but not counted

Table 3. Shorebird Diversity 1981-1986

	Late Jun & E. Jul	Late Jul	Early Aug	Late Aug	Early Sep	Late Sep	Early Oct	Late Oct & Nov
1981	14	25	25	26	26	27	23	21
1982	13	24	25	29	31	30	26	19
1983	12	27	24	26	31	28	22	22
1984	13	25	29	26	28	29	26	21
1985	15	24	25	29	27	30	22	20
1986	14	23	29	29	23	22	16	18
Average	13.5	24.7	26.2	27.5	27.7	27.7	22.5	20.2

American Woodcock is presumed to be present through early October whether observed in a given period or not.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGY FOR 1985

ALLEN H. BENTON, JOHN CONFER, VALERIE FREER,
STEPHEN W. EATON and KENNETH C. PARKES

The 1985 bibliography reflects a major procedural change which we believe will greatly improve its completeness and usefulness. In previous years, committee members have covered assigned journals and have included whatever papers outside their assigned journals might come to their attention. Every cited paper had been seen by at least one member of the committee. This year, the Chairman added to his duties examination of the Recent Literature supplements which are compiled by a committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. While it is not always possible to tell from a citation whether or not a paper includes references to New York, there are many cases where this is possible. Thus, this procedure improves our coverage of obscure journals and of those which carry only occasional ornithological papers and, hence, are less likely to be reviewed by our Committee. This use of secondary references has the disadvantage of increasing the possibility of erroneously including references that do not pertain to the ornithology of New York State, but we feel that this disadvantage is outweighed by the additional references which we otherwise would have missed. The committee urges anyone who finds a reference which we might miss, even if it comes from an earlier year and was omitted from an earlier bibliography, to supply that reference to a member of the committee. Next year's bibliography will cover 1986, and references should be submitted before 1 March 1988.

Omitted reference from 1983

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NOTE: The following articles were cited incorrectly in the 1984 bibliography. The correct citations are:

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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS
ANNUAL MEETING
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK
October 31 - November 2, 1986

The 39th annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, was called to order on Friday, October 31, 1986, at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga State Park by President Harriet Marsi at 3:00 P.M. Thirty-four member clubs answered to the roll call. Berna Weissman read the minutes of the 38th annual meeting, which were accepted and filed.

The President's report was given by Harriet Marsi; the report is filed with these minutes. Stan Lincoln read the treasurer's report, which was accepted and filed. The membership report was given by Myrna Hemmerick. She reported that the membership had dropped from 816 to 738, which could be due to the increase in dues. Those members may rejoin as they have in the past. There was some discussion regarding the need for better communication to Member Clubs about membership in the Federation of individual birders and its benefits. Emanuel Levine suggested that a representative of the Federation visit each club to talk about the Federation. It also was suggested that the Federation's name be changed to include "Birders and Bird Clubs." The auditing committee report by Irving Cantor was accepted and filed with these minutes.

The Federation's waterfowl census report was given by Walter Sabin. There was agreement by Walt and DEC that Brant, scaup, and goldeneye are decreasing in numbers.

Dick Sloss announced that Gregory P. Winter from the Alan Devoe Bird Club will be the recipient of the Lillian C. Stoner award this year. Laura and Neil Moon will receive the John J. Elliott award.

Ron Dodson, the Atlantic Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society, spoke. He was very excited about the direction that Peter Berle, the new director of Audubon, is taking - hiring more staff, being concerned with more state issues, and working more with local clubs. He talked about the education and research being done on colonial water birds, the forthcoming survey of Black Terns in upstate New York State, the increase of Bald Eagles, the network of cavity nest boxes for bluebirds which has now produced more than 4500 birds, and the New York Loon Conservation Program. About 100 volunteer or "loon rangers" will work at various points such as canoe rental places. A survey of loons in winter also will be on the agenda. More television programs are coming up and more educational programs for youth. Ron urged us to vote for the Environmental Quality Bond Act on Election Day. He also urged our help to establish and keep National Energy Efficiency Bills in place. He also emphasized the need to keep the Wild Bird Law in place. He discussed plans in Canada to divert rivers and other bodies of water flowing into James Bay, which will adversely affect shorebirds. The Audubon Society wants an environmental impact statement on this matter. More clearly defining the purpose of "Return a Gift to Wildlife" fund was another of his concerns.

Next Commissioner Henry Williams was invited to speak. Always enthusiastic, he suggested that a DEC report be given each year at the Federation's annual meeting. He described his efforts to focus attention on Proposition 1, the "Environmental Quality Bond Act," to clean up hazardous waste sites across the state, even through a bicycle trip across the state. We were urged to voice support for this very important issue. He talked about the issuance of special wildlife licenses for the removal of "nuisance" wildlife, rehabilitation, and similar activities. He views Breeding Bird Atlas as a valuable and significant document. He hopes to see more money going into the "Return a Gift to Wildlife" program. The Ridley Sea Turtle project research was mentioned. He is committed to the challenge of the Fish and Wildlife Resource management. In response to some questions, Commissioner Williams said that his committee used emergency powers to stop the use of diazinon on golf courses and sod farms. He hopes that with groups working together, the Essential Habitats Bill will become a reality in this session. The Forest Products Association is coming into agreement with other groups concerning this bill.

Bob Arbib volunteered to be on the Resolutions Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M. and was reconvened at 9:15 A.M. on Saturday, November 1.

Peg Gerson reported for the conservation committee. Peg stressed the fact that diazinon is listed under many other names on insecticides. There will be a push to pass the Essential Habitats Bill next year. The Wild Bird Bill is still intact although the pet industry is against it. Peg also urged a vote for the Environmental Quality Bond Act. Gordon Meade pointed out the value of Permanent Representatives conveying important messages like these to their clubs. Allan Klonick mentioned that conservation chairmen should do likewise. Harriet Marsi was commended for communicating well with member club Presidents. Charles Smith noted possible problems of spreading ourselves too thin by responding to all environmental issues. He suggested that we should be most concerned with problems that have a clear identity with birds, although it was brought out that birds and environmental issues are related in many indirect ways as well. We heard lots of suggestions and a good discussion for the Executive Committee to consider.

The New York State Avian Records Committee report was not given due to Bill Vaughan's absence because of illness.

Deputy Commissioner Ivan Vamos of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation was introduced. Mr. Vamos talked about the problems of preserving, managing, and interpreting areas such as Saratoga State Park, which is under the direction of Dr. Tom Cobb. Some state parks get thousands of visitors each year. As more parks are acquired by the state, there are more concerns. With less staff and minimum wage standards, help is harder to get. The state is forced to let other groups maintain some "areas." Mr. Vamos appreciates expertise from individuals regarding state park concerns. Input is strongly considered by the administrators of the park system.

The slate of officers for 1987 was accepted and elected.

Paul DeBenedictis discussed *The Kingbird*. He happily announced that Linda Armstrong has volunteered as Region 8 Editor. He still desperately needs editors for Regions 9 and 10. Paul has guidelines available for potential *Kingbird* Editors. He is collecting data on "arrival and departure" dates for birds to be announced in the next issue of *The Kingbird*.

Max Wheat discussed *New York Birders*, which is now printed six times per year. *New York Birders* is a very important communication to Federation members. Its purpose is inform members about the business of the Federation and about birding in New York State. Max is finding and using more good pieces from club newsletters. More publicity is needed regarding this publication. Club members are encouraged to write for their own newsletters as well as for *New York Birders*. He has a guideline available for the asking.

Dick Sloss presented the changes for the bylaws. Both he and Stan Lincoln answered questions about these amendments. There was much discussion regarding whether or not *ex officio* members should have the right to vote. An affirmative vote was taken that we amend the bylaws as recommended.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of the Federation, Gordon Meade would like photographs of past meetings.

Gordon reported that the Breeding Bird Atlas is nearing completion and suggested that individuals thank Commissioner Williams for DEC cooperation and contribution of funds and other essential help.

Charles Smith talked about Project Birdwatch. A participant's fee of \$7.00 is a possibility for the specialized form that will be needed to get the project started.

Irving Cantor and Richard Sloss were renominated for the 1987 Auditing Committee. It was moved and seconded that the present nominating committee serve another year.

Under other business, Harriet Marsi extended an invitation to clubs present to consider hosting the 1989 annual meeting. Bill Lee passed on the information regarding the modest rate the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club paid for liability insurance based on the average number of persons usually attending one event. Charles Smith read a draft of a letter addressed to Governor Mario Cuomo concerning the "Return a Gift to Wildlife" fund. The letter pointed out that only 8% of the money is being used for new projects, that money used to pay salaries is a misuse of the fund because the fund is not intended to subsidize core DEC ongoing activities. More money for these core activities needs to be allocated from state general purpose funds rather than depending on money from "Return a Gift to Wildlife." There was a consensus of support for concepts of the letter. A motion was made and seconded that we unanimously support Charlie in this effort.

President Harriet Marsi adjourned the meeting at about 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Schindler, Recording Secretary



Assembled here are all but three of the living Past Presidents of the Federation, all of whom are holding a sculpture made by Miriam ("Mickey") Levine. This token of appreciation was presented to each of the Past Presidents in attendance in recognition of their service to the Federation. From left to right are: Allan Klonick, Gordon Meade, Allen Benton, Winston Brockner, Robert Arbib, Kenneth Niven, Stephen Dempsey, Harriet Marsi, Morgan Jones and Charles Smith. Kneeling in front are Richard Sloss and Martin Borko. [Since this picture was taken, two Past Presidents have died: Kenneth Niven (November 17, 1986) and Robert Arbib (July 20, 1987)]

NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

First Banding of the Boreal Owl in New York State: The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) is considered a very rare visitant in New York State. Although Bull (1974) reported it as virtually unknown outside the Adirondack Region, Yunick (1979) demonstrated that there are more records in the state outside of the Adirondack Region. The New York State Avian Records Committee had verified 21 records up to 31 Dec 1984 (DeBenedictis *et al.* 1985). Three individuals found during the winter of 1978-79 is believed to represent a record maximum number in any season in the state (Yunick 1979). More recently, a bird (possibly 2) was found at Manitou, Monroe County, on 4-5 Mar and 15 Mar 1986 (Griffith 1986). This paper reports on the banding of a Boreal Owl at Nine Mile Point, Oswego County, New York.

Owls have been banded during spring migration at the Richard A. Noyes Sanctuary, Town of New Haven, Oswego County since 1981 (Slack *et al.*, *in press*). On 11 Apr 1987 at 2100 hrs (EST) a Boreal Owl was netted in a trail bordered by hemlock-hardwood forest and a stand of alder. The bird was weighed, measured, and banded and then released at 2150 hrs. Bull (1974) lists 18 March as the latest spring record. Thus, this record is apparently the latest spring record for the state.

The Boreal Owl had wing chord measurements of 183 mm (right) and 181 mm (left) compared to the range of 128.5-150 mm for 130 Northern Saw-whet Owls (*A. acadicus*) that have been banded at this location. The Boreal Owl weighed 174 g. Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at the site have weighed from 66-120 g (mean 91.8, n = 100). The bird also differed from Saw-whet Owls by having a yellowish bill, finely spotted head, numerous large white spots on the back, and a grayish to black border around the facial disc.

Based upon primary molt (P1-P10 Uniform) and the lack of any diagnostic fault bars in remiges or rectrices, the bird was aged as After-Hatching-Year. Based upon comparisons of wing chord and weight with data from other authors, this bird was a female. Earhart and Johnson (1970) reported wing chord ranges of 155-168 mm for males and 165-179 mm for females. Godfrey (1966) listed the wing of chord females as 164.8-179.9 mm. Weights of males ranged from 85-119 g, while females ranged from 121-160 g (Earhart and Johnson 1970). While this bird was larger than reported by these authors, Karalus (1974) reported female wing chords of 164.9-190.9 mm and weights of up to 235.2 g.

This bird is the first Boreal Owl banded in New York State (D. Bystrak, USFWS Bird Banding Laboratory, pers. comm.). The species has been banded once in Massachusetts and New Jersey, while 48 birds have been banded in Ontario, Canada, as of 1985. There are no banding records for Pennsylvania, Ohio, Vermont, or Connecticut.

Of the previous sight records from New York State, several have been from Oswego County (near Pulaski and Oswego). Monroe County, also along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, had five records between 1964 and 1979, as well as the two more recent birds noted previously. This indicates the species may be more common during winter and spring migration along the lakeshore than previously thought.

The owl banding station was being operated by the author, D. E. Emord, M. C. Lawler, M. C. Reilly, C. Williams, and R. N. Roberts. Others present were S. Kahl, D. O'Connell, P. Stockmyer, K. Stockmyer, D. Ellis, D. Gustafson, K. Curry, D. Curry, D. Heath, J. Heath, and K. Butler. I thank R. P. Yunick, P. DeBenedictis and C. B. Slack for comments on the draft of this paper and D. Coates for typing the manuscript.

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EDITORIAL

The Kingbird is the vehicle by which members of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs share their observations with ornithologists everywhere. These contributions to ornithology are not just the papers and field observations which appear in this journal. The Regional reports provide a summary of ornithological events in New York state based on observations of the members of the Federation and now extending over a thirty year period. This record would not exist without the hard work of the many Federation members who also have served as Regional Editors. The list of editors includes many distinguished New York ornithologists. Recent changes, and lapses, in Regional Editorships have made all of us especially aware of the significance the contribution of everyone who has served as or is now a Regional or Highlights Editor.

A compilation of the people who have served in this capacity reveals a short list of persons who each individually has contributed over 50 reports to *The Kingbird*: Leslie E. Bemont, F. G. Scheider, Sally F. Hoyt Spofford and Edward D. Treacy. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I have the honor to report that the Executive Committee of the Federation at its 18 July meeting has decided that, in recognition of these individuals' service, each shall be honored at the 1987 Annual Banquet of the Federation in September and awarded a copy of the New York Breeding Bird Atlas upon its publication. The 1988 Annual Meeting will include a special focus on *The Kingbird*, and will include an exhibit featuring the contribution of these individuals and their awards.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

In many respects the spring of 1987 bears enough resemblance to that of 1986 that I could simply refer you to last year's Highlights. Once again it generally was a warm and dry spring across the state, with Region 1 the warmest of all relative to historical records. Overall, there were many days pleasant for birding and good numbers of species to be found but also many reports of late arrivals and of very low numbers of individuals for many species. However, differences from last year in the local distribution of rainfall, temperatures, and passage of fronts produced different patterns of migration which are worth examining. Looking through the reports in more detail, we find that early migrants were felt to have arrived on time or early, that late April migrants were late, and that May migrants were average to late. In several Regions the foliage appeared about two weeks ahead of normal, further complicating observations of May arrivals. This spring we have arrival date tables which potentially offer a more quantitative approach to some of these observations. There are problems, typical of the onset of any "New Order," so this summary will follow its familiar tack before using this new tool.

Let us start with the many families of birds which we monitor in spring passage. Common Loon counts were good along Lake Ontario, even into mid-May, a bit of data for which one could build either a positive or negative case. There was little good news among the grebes, except for another good count of Red-necked Grebes in Region 2. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were good everywhere they were noted, especially inland. Over 160 nests were tallied on the Four Brothers Islands surveys in Region 7. Among the herons, the bitterns were still considered scarce, there were few reports of "southern" herons upstate, Cattle Egret was reported from four Regions, a Black-crowned Night-Heron was found in the southwestern Adirondacks in Region 5, but following last year's suggestion that it might bear more careful watching Green-backed Heron was mentioned in only one report. Waterfowl reports generally were negative. Tundra Swan was flagged as scarce in Regions 2 and 5 but a good count appears in Region 1. Another high peak count for Snow Goose was obtained in Region 3, but they were scarce in the neighboring Regions. Brant were reported only from Regions 2, 5, 8 and 9. Eurasian Wigeon were in Regions 2, 3, 5 and 10. Of the diving ducks, there were very low numbers for Redhead and both eiders tarried late off Long Island. High counts of 3,000 Black Scoters and over 10,000 White-winged Scoters from Region 10 may be

put in perspective by contrasting them with 18,000 Black Scoters on the same date in 1936 and a spring count of 180,000 White-winged Scoters in 1930.

Raptor reports are led by the record single day count of 41,184 on 27 Apr and the season's total exceeding 100,000 at Braddock Bay. Strangely these numbers were not strongly echoed at Derby Hill, though the peak counts of three species occurred there the following day. These numbers are not as unbelievable as some may think on first reading when you recall that in 1984 both of these hawk watches recorded over 40,000 hawks in the span from 26 to 30 Apr, with each station having a single day exceeding 20,000 hawks. It would be useful to see summary tables similar to that in Region 5 for more of the spring hawk watches. Counts which extend into mid-June also could be included, ignoring the seasonal overlap in this case. Other raptor reports of interest include a new hawk watch in the town of Ripley in Region 1; very high Turkey Vulture counts in Regions 1, 2 and 5; **BLACK VULTURE** in Regions 2 and 9; both **AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED** and **MISSISSIPPI KITE** in Region 2; a peak of 624 Red-shouldered Hawk in Region 2, higher than most recent year's totals; nearly 35,000 Broad-winged Hawk on the super day in Region 2; a light phase adult **SWAINSON'S HAWK** in both Regions 2 and 5 on 12 Apr - comparing arrivals, including times of passage, of individual rarities or of uniquely marked individuals might prove very informative for these spring watches; the failure of Bald Eagle nestings in Regions 1 and 2 but a new nest in Region 3, with more details to follow in next season's report, and nesting success again in Region 6; reduced numbers of reports of Peregrine Falcon; and a possible Eurasian Kestrel in Region 7.

Sandhill Cranes appeared in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, with ten birds and as many as three on a day in Region 2. These all were traveling east, in contrast to most years, when most are headed west. The number of Sandhill Cranes in New York was a surprise of interest to Richard Urbanek, a member of a group studying them in the East, particularly as they travel between Florida and Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This study group currently plans to investigate newly located or established breeding populations in lower Michigan and eastern Ontario, which are the most likely sources of our birds.

Shorebirds again suffered from lack of habitat away from the coast, but where habitat was available there were birds, *e.g.*, at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in Region 3 and at scattered sites in Regions 5, 8 and 9. Arthur Morris continues the spring shorebird survey at Jamaica Bay NWR in Region 10. Exceptional reports included only a record early Semipalmated Plover and a very high count of Short-billed

Dowitchers in Region 5. A pelagic trip off Long Island in late May recorded four species of *Stercorariinae* (try to guess what they were before paging ahead to check). With the exception of Laughing Gull in Region 1, a scarcity of Bonaparte's Gull, and late white-winged gulls in several Regions, gulls produced little comment. Terns were scarce inland everywhere. A record early Forster's Tern in Region 10 is noted as possibly having overwintered there or nearby.

Both cuckoos were very poorly reported this season. The owls provided some excitement with Snowy Owl appearing in six Regions as late as mid-April; Short-eared Owl in seven Regions, lingering late enough to suggest breeding; **BOREAL OWL** found in Region 2 and banded on a fairly late date in Region 5; and only a single Common Barn-Owl report for the state. There were no reports of good numbers of either of our commoner goatsuckers, but in Region 10 a Chuck-will's-widow and a Whip-poor-will were found roosting in the same tree only a few feet apart. Among the woodpeckers, Red-headed was flagged as scarce in several Regions, particularly toward the fringes of its current range, and Red-bellied was noted as locally increasing a bit, again at the edges of its expanding range.

Finally, in the large order *Passeriformes*, you will find notes of concern in several Regions for some of the swallows, most of the thrushes, particularly Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Hermit, for Brown Thrasher and for Loggerhead Shrike. There was only one report of Sedge Wren this season. White-eyed Vireo were in Regions 2 and 3, but none were reported downstate. Warblers as a group were felt to be scarce. The particular species flagged varied regionally, but included Golden-winged, Nashville (Eastern New York), Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian (E), Pine (E), Blackpoll, and Wilson's (E). A **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** was back at the former nesting site in Region 1; **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** stayed for two days in both Regions 1 and 10; and Worm-eating Warbler appeared in Regions 2, 9 and 10; Kentucky Warbler in Regions 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10; and Connecticut Warbler in Regions 2 and 10. The grassland sparrows as a group were scarce and White-crowned Sparrow apparently was found only over a very brief time span and in relatively low numbers this year. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was found in Region 2 and Brewer's Blackbird in Regions 2 and 9. A great return flight of Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak across the state was capped by record high counts of Common Redpoll in Region 2 in late May.

There are other interesting notes which didn't fit in the previous discussion. In the Region 10 report are a record early Sooty Shearwater; two Snowy Egrets on 2 Mar again highlight the problem of trying to separate record early arrivals from possibly overwintering birds; and a

dazed King Rail was found walking about in Manhattan and rescued. The Region 7 report summarizes a visit to Four Brothers Islands on the 100th anniversary of an early ornithological expedition to the islands. This visit is more completely summarized in a recent issue of the High Peaks Audubon newsletter. There were many reports of albino birds: N. Mockingbird in Region 3, two Com. Grackle in Region 6, a Yellow-rumped Warbler in Region 7, and an Evening Grosbeak in Region 8. A record early Lincoln's Sparrow and a record late Fox Sparrow both appeared in Region 5, with another very late Fox Sparrow also in Region 6.

I wonder if observers in other Regions see the apparent "split" migration of both Water Pipit and E. Bluebird which long-time birders in Region 2 have pointed out to me? Here, pipits arrive in late March, then surge again in May, while E. Bluebirds arrive in March, then pass through again in numbers at the very end of May. Where would these late bluebirds come from and be headed for so long after most local birds are nesting? [*Cedar Waxwing is another good candidate for similar investigations - The Editor.*]

Finally, high counts difficult to assess include 48 Yellow-throated Vireo in Region 9 and 43 Blue-winged Warbler, 49 Hooded Warbler, 22 Scarlet Tanager, and 56 Indigo Bunting, all in Region 2 on 23 May. All of these reports apparently represent breeding birds as well as migrants. All are large totals, though the vireo count is also a group census total, hard to compare with Bull's data where few full day counts or organized census totals are listed for breeding birds. We need more counts from individual efforts in addition to Breeding Bird Surveys which already are summarized in the summer records in some Regions. This season there were also a few summaries of banding efforts, which would provide better insight as to numbers if they are repeated at the same location over the years and normalized in terms of net hours.

With the inclusion of the arrival dates and seasonality tables this season, I can both illustrate some of the potential uses of quantitative data and problems with such data. The Editor and I solicit your comments and suggestions. The primary shortcoming for using this season's data to compare with the 25-year averages published in *The Kingbird* 37:18-22 is the absence of a measure of variability for the historical data. Hopefully this can be corrected by further analyzing the data already stored in the Editor's computer before next year's look at similar data. For this season, I have used a statistic available in the recently published "The Birds of Monroe County, New York: Annotated List" (*Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.* 16:1-64) in which arrival and departure date distributions are summarized for over 50 years of data. This checklist gives the interquartile dates for the frequency distribution of spring arrival dates. If we assume that arrival dates over the years

Spring Arrivals 1987

SUMMER, 1987

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

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

Bold Regional Record Early *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

Waterbird Arrivals 1987

Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	Average
American Bittern	19 Apr	10 Apr	29 Apr	9 May	19 Apr	19 Apr	28 Mar	9 May			21 Apr
Green-backed Heron	20 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	16 May	2 May	8 May	8 May	30 Apr	24 Apr		1 May
Wood Duck	8 Mar	7 Mar	13 Apr	6 Mar	18 Mar	22 Apr	29 Mar	21 Mar	1 Mar	7 Mar	19 Mar
Green-winged Teal	24 Feb	7 Mar	23 Mar	29 Mar	18 Mar	2 Apr	28 Mar	12 Apr	2 Apr		23 Mar
Northern Pintail	28 Feb	4 Mar	29 Mar		5 Mar	19 Mar	16 Feb	22 Mar			9 Mar
Blue-winged Teal	9 Mar	19 Mar	8 Apr		7 Mar	12 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	29 Mar
Osprey	5 Apr	26 Mar	1 Apr	30 Apr	29 Mar	23 Apr	4 Apr	1 Apr	5 Apr	7 Mar	3 Apr
Virginia Rail	10 Apr	28 Mar	21 Apr		28 Mar	10 Apr	10 May	20 Apr	26 Apr		15 Apr
Sora	25 Apr	11 Apr	2 May		2 May	7 May		1 May	26 Apr	9 May	29 Apr
Common Moorhen	2 May	1 Apr	9 Apr		26 Apr	7 May	16 May	3 May	9 May	2 May	28 Apr
Black-bellied Plover		25 Apr	16 May		12 May		1 Jun	14 May			13 May
Semipalmated Plover	17 May	29 Apr	3 May		7 Mar		16 May	14 May	17 May	23 Apr	30 Apr
Killdeer	28 Feb	6 Mar	2 Mar	6 Mar	7 Mar	19 Mar	7 Mar	13 Mar	2 Mar		6 Mar
Greater Yellowlegs	29 Mar	25 Mar	1 Apr	30 Apr	25 Mar	3 May	21 Apr	14 May	6 May	21 Mar	14 Apr
Lesser Yellowlegs	29 Mar	29 Mar	14 Apr	17 May	20 Apr	7 May	4 May	16 May	6 May		25 Apr
Solitary Sandpiper	23 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	2 May	23 Apr	3 May	10 May	3 May	6 May	23 Apr	28 Apr
Spotted Sandpiper	23 Apr	21 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	22 Apr	4 May	28 Apr	6 May	2 May	1 May	27 Apr
Sanderling											#DIV/0!
Semipalmated Sandpiper	17 May	3 May	28 Apr	31 May	20 May		10 May	14 May		19 Apr	10 May
Least Sandpiper	12 May	1 May	25 Apr	16 May	3 May		10 May	14 May	6 May	26 Apr	5 May
Pectoral Sandpiper	29 Mar	27 Mar	14 Apr		3 May						10 Apr
Common Snipe	12 Mar	25 Mar	4 Apr	27 Feb	24 Mar	28 Mar	27 Mar	25 Apr	24 Mar	7 Mar	23 Mar
American Woodcock	8 Mar	7 Mar	11 Mar	23 Mar	8 Mar	23 Mar	25 Feb	14 Mar	19 Mar	16 Feb	9 Mar
Caspian Tern	11 Apr	3 Apr	17 May		16 Apr					22 Apr	19 Apr
Common Tern	18 May	20 Apr	24 Apr		3 May	2 May	16 May			2 May	3 May
Black Tern	10 May	2 May	7 May		9 May	7 May	10 May				7 May
Marsh Wren	2 May	19 Apr	7 May		7 May		12 May			3 May	3 May

Bold Regional Record Early *Italics* Also isolated earlier report(s).

are Normally Distributed, then we can estimate a measure of the variability of these dates, the standard deviation s , which can be calculated as:

$$s = (0.5 \times \text{interquartile range})/0.675$$

From the Monroe County data, it appears that this value is higher for waterbirds than for most landbirds, and that the insectivores which arrive in May have the tightest range of all, many with s = about 3 days. However, for the sake of simplicity, I have assumed that there is a comparable value, s_W , for all waterbirds (after removing Marsh Wren) and that there is a different but again comparable value, s_L , for all landbirds. Given these assumptions, I obtain s_W 11.1 days and s_L 5.9 days. Next I assume that all Regions have the same s . Then the average arrival dates for each species over the 10 Regions should have a variance

$$s_r = s / \sqrt{10}.$$

For a difference between the 10 Region average for 1987 and the 25-year weighted average for any given species to be statistically significant, that difference should be at least $2s$, or at least 7 days for waterbirds and ± 4 days for landbirds. On this basis only about 19 of the 92 species tabulated apparently have significant deviations from the average. However, there are additional problems with the data which call into question some of these apparent differences. In some cases, a single extreme outlying date, some of which are in question as arrivals versus overwintering birds (e.g., Osprey, Semipalmated Plover, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and Bobolink - a situation which will always require judgment calls by the Regional Editors), biases this year's average. [*More stringent editing requirements hopefully will reduce this problem in the future - The Editor.*] For a few species only a few Regions reported dates this year and, combined with with a wide spread in the 25-year averages across the state, this year's average is biased relative to the historical average. In a few other cases the historical data are biased by the absence of equivalent values from all of the Regions, so that values for the current season with data from all ten Regions is not comparable to the weighted average in the table. All of this leaves us with ten species which deviate significantly from the long-term average: three early and seven late. Of these, Solitary Vireo is the most consistently early species and Green-backed Heron, Purple Martin, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Wood Thrush are the most consistently late.

We can also try to evaluate some of the observers' feelings about the season. As an example, the idea that late April migrants were late is noted specifically in Regions 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10. Comparing this season's dates with the 25-year averages in each Region for all land birds which had historical average arrival dates between April 21 and April 30, we

find that in three of these five Regions 75 to more than 90% of the arrival dates were late (as observers felt), while in the other Regions the split was even or that there actually were more early arrivals. The Regional Editors now can quantitatively test opinions such as this. However, as a cautionary note, in a case where a single bird is seen early by one reporter and the bulk of the individuals of that species arrive quite late, how should a Regional editor report the "feel" of the season versus the "data"? I'll let the readers search out additional patterns in the arrivals in individual Regions, remembering that 2s is 15 days for waterbirds and about 8 days for landbirds.

Region	Species Reported	Seasonality (days)	Advance (days)
Region 1	90	0.9	-3.3
Region 2	92	0.8	-5.3
Region 3	91	0.9	-0.5
Region 4	76	2.7	3.1
Region 5	92	-0.6	-2.0
Region 6	78	-0.2	6.3
Region 7	87	-5.5	3.1
Region 8	77	3.6	4.3
Region 9	78	5.6	1.2
Region 10	75	3.4	-5.3

Next, how do we make sense out of the measure of seasonality? Again using the measure of variance from Monroe County as representative, ignoring the lack of symmetry in the data, and using 84 as the average number of species per Region, we have:

$$s_{season} = \sqrt{(25 s_w^2 + 67 s_l^2)/92} \div \sqrt{84},$$

or 0.84. Hence, a seasonality of at least 1.7 days is required for statistical significance. Thus, Regions 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 show a significant seasonal shift, with the entire southeastern part of the state suggesting a late migration and only the north country early. Of course, one might observe that all four of the Regions which appear late have new Regional Editors after an interruption in reports, and we might ask these Editors, "Do you feel that your contributors were well enough organized that this season's dates are representative?" One also might note that for Regions 9 and 10, as well as 1, 2 and 3, previous editors followed an earlier Editorial guideline to include only "noteworthy" records in their reports, so that the nominal 25-year averages are often represented by

only 1-5 data points, many of which are anomalous (and usually early) thus biasing the historical table to appear early and making the current year look later than it should be. How important might these considerations have been? Only continued, consistent reporting will tell.

Finally, we can examine the overall seasonality for the whole state and obtain values of 0.84 days early for waterbirds and of 0.19 days early for landbirds. Using another variance calculation similar to those above (and taking quite a few liberties with the math), the overall migration was indistinguishable from the long-term average at the 95% confidence level. Would you or would you not like to see more attempts to analyze these data as appropriate, especially after obtaining better measures of the variance in these dates and omitting most of the technical descriptions of my procedures and the potential problems?

Now, let us shift back to the more familiar format and end with the season's rarities, a very good group indeed this spring. The best from each Region, omitting most of those mentioned earlier, were: Region 1 - N. Gannet, Varied Thrush, and Kentucky Warbler; Region 2 - "Arctic" Loon, Little Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, Fish Crow, and Brewer's Blackbird; Region 3 - Eurasian Wigeon and King Rail; Region 5 - Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, and Hoary Redpoll; Region 6 - Greater White-fronted Goose; Region 7 Orange-crowned Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow; Region 8 - Gyrfalcon, Western Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Raven, and Brewer's Blackbird; and Region 10 - King Rail, Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, Atlantic Puffin, and Connecticut Warbler. From this season's list, the bird(s) selected for the BOTS Award are the Swainson's Warblers in Regions 1 and 10, both tarrying for a second day to the delight of at least a few more observers than their discoverers. This was a difficult choice over the Eurasian Kestrel from Region 7 but that record's possibility as an escape from captivity, as suggested by the observers, swayed my choice.

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Standard abbreviations: county names are shortened to their first four letters; months are shortened to their first three letters; ad - adult; Alt - Alternate plumage; arr - arrival or first of season; I - Island; im - immature; *intro* - see introduction to report; j - juvenile; L - Lake; max - maximum; mob - multiple observers; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC - report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P - Park; Pd - Pond; ph - photographed; Pt - Point; Res - Reservoir; SP - State Park; spm - specimen; subad - subadult; T - Town of; Twn - township; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; y - young.

REGION 1 – NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

Terry Mosher, the Region's second poet laureate, called this migration the slowest in many a spring, with low numbers, poor variety and many species arriving late. He said, "Let's hope a good flight went 'over the top' and we'll catch it on the way back." *The Buffalo News* reported this as the warmest spring in 61 years and the second warmest on record. Has the greenhouse effect started?

March turned out to be the third sunniest on record with 65% of possible sunshine. Temperatures averaged almost five degrees above normal with very little precipitation between 5 and 24 Mar. The most disruptive storm of the winter in Buffalo came on the last day of March with 8 inches of snow. Terry Mosher reported 1500 American Robins, 150 Killdeer, 30 Northern Flickers and 35 Eastern Meadowlarks concentrated along roads after this storm and 21 species at his feeder near Fredonia. The ice opened at Amity Lake 27 Mar, five days early, and at Eaton's Pond in a more shaded spot, 30 Mar, four days early, just in time for our Hooded Merganser pair to begin nesting.

With warm weather continuing into April, the maple syrup season flowed to an early end, totaling 27 days over all, in New York State. It was the fourth warmest April in Buffalo weather history, averaging 4.5 above normal with a record 84 on 20 Apr. In 1986 Lake Erie's temperature was 37 at the end of the month; this year it was 41, further documenting the unusually warm winter and spring. The greening of the Region was reported to be two weeks early in Buffalo and ten days early at Amity Lake. There Vivian Pitzrick found 15 boxes with Eastern Bluebird eggs by 30 Apr; last year the same Bluebird Trail had only 7 boxes with eggs on the same date. Terry Mosher wrote that the only "fallout" of passerines came on 23 April when Joe Gula, Jr. found an Eastern Kingbird, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Pine Warbler, two Winter Wrens and several Hermit Thrushes at Pt Gratiot. Robert Sundell said that the late April flight of warblers in Chautauqua County, a major feature some years, was an almost complete washout this year.

Again the warm spell continued into May, which also averaged 4.5 above normal, the sixth warmest May on record. The average temperature was a balmy 60.5 with nine days of 80 temperatures and one of 90 at Buffalo. It was extremely dry across the Region with a total of 1.35 inches of rain at Buffalo and not much above 0.5 inch at Amity Lake. This fell in localized showers on only six days.

Don Tiller, the Refuge Manager at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, had some unfortunate news about the nesting pair of Bald Eagles. They began to be active about the nest in early March but in early April one adult disappeared. The lone adult then paired in mid April with a three year old bird, tagged at Alcove, New York. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation placed a dummy egg in the nest on 24 Apr and the older of the pair appeared to incubate for a period but, as interest in incubation seemed to be waning, an eaglet was placed in the nest on 13 May. The eagles failed to feed the young so it was removed. This year's nesting attempt ended in failure.

The variety and abundance of waterfowl during late March and April was disappointing. Was it due to the open winter and an early thaw, lack of major storms or are we seeing further loss of waterfowl populations? The near absence of Canvasback, Redhead, Oldsquaw and White-winged Scoter, as pointed out by Robert Sundell, migrating through the southern tier counties was cause for alarm.

Fran Rew, along with several volunteers are establishing a hawk watch station for the Hawk Migration Association of North America in the area of Forsythe Road in the Town of Ripley, Chautauqua County. This is south of Lake Erie along the Portage Escarpment just north of the Pennsylvania line. The count of 611 Turkey Vultures there on 10 Apr is one of the highest counts for the State. The Ripley station was manned from 1 Mar to mid-May and counted 43 Osprey, 5 Bald Eagle, 159 Northern Harrier, 1336 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 21 Cooper's Hawk, 108 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1386 Broad-winged Hawk, 1646 Red-tailed Hawk, 13 Rough-legged Hawk, 121 Kestrel, and 2 Merlin. As experience at this site increases the mystery of where all the hawks at Grimsby, Ontario, and Braddock's Bay are coming from may be solved. Their total count of 7860 hawks for the season is a good start to learning more about hawk migration across Region 1.

New patterns of migration and increased coverage of the Lake Erie shore of New York State are producing some interesting records such as Double-crested Cormorants in spring, Northern Gannets, Laughing Gulls and Sandhill Cranes.

Although the main migration of May was disappointing to almost distressful, there were some exciting moments. Peter A. Yoerg located a **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** in the Glen in Williamsville, where he observed it 7 May characteristically flipping leaves in the ground. He, along with several others, heard it sing and watched it feeding the next day but after that it was gone. It is the second Upstate record, the first mist-netted at the Burgeson Nature Sanctuary 13 May 1975 (*Kingbird* 25, 204-205). There are at least 7 records from Region 10 (*Kingbird* 30:134-137; 32:224).

The Gypsy Moth invasion of the souther tier counties has eased considerably and one wonders if perhaps the lush green foliage of the infected areas of the last few years may be attributed to the conversion of green leaves into caterpillar pellets, or is it due to all the sun and balmy temperatures?

Contributors: Allegany County Bird Club, Robert Andrle, Tim Baird, Lois Beck, Allen Benton, Betsy Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Lou and Doris Burton, Cattaraugus County Bird Club, Bruce Chilton, Don and Jane Clark, Dick Clements, William D'Anna, Steve Eaton, Donald Endres, Joe Gula Jr. and Sr., William Hiller, Jamestown Audubon Society, Lake Erie Bird Club, Terry and Judy Mosher, Vivian and Raymond Pitzrick, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Robert Sundell, Don Tiller, Joe Thill, Watson, Peter Yoerg.

Abbreviations: BWS - Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary; DH - Dunkirk Harbor; INWR - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; NF - Niagara Falls; PTwn - Pomfret Township, Chautauqua Co; TFNP - Tiff Farm Nature Preserve; TWMA- Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one grounded Allegany (Village) 10 Apr, released on nearby pond, last seen 12 Apr. Com. Loon: arr Celoron 8 Mar, very early; arr Amity L 4 Apr; max five 5 Apr. Pied-billed Grebe: arr Ripley Twn and Amity L 26 Mar,

but some winter. Horned Grebe: arr Amity L and INWR 26 Mar; max 85 Mayville; last Wilson 2 May. Red-necked Grebe: only report one Yates Twn, L Ontario, 22 Mar. N. Gannet: one Barcelona Harbor 7 Apr (WH, observer familiar with sea birds of Great Britain). Double-crested Cormorant: max 15 DH 30Apr; three Pinehurst 3 May. Am. Bittern: one Red House Twn, Catt, 24 Apr; one TFNP 26 Apr; two INWR 3 May; one Four Mile Creek SP, Niag, 16 May; one W Mud L, Villanova Twn, Chau, 21 May. Least Bittern: arr Tonawanda WMA 24 May; one INWR 25 May; one Oak Orchard WMA 31 May. Great Blue Heron: large heronry 25+ nests near Belmont and Vandalia, Catt, Apr and May. Great Egret: one NF 11 Apr; two near Fredonia 19 Apr; one DH 21 Apr; two BWS 13 May; one INWR 31 May. Cattle Egret: one Eden Twn 21 Apr. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr NF 8 Apr; max five TFNP 26 Apr. Tundra Swan, max 1000 over Chau L 7 Mar; smaller numbers northward in Region to 30 May. Snow Goose: arr INWR 7 Mar: one or two seen at 5 localities through Apr; last Somerset Twn, Niag, 26 Apr. Canada Goose: max 800+ over Amity L 23 Mar. Black Duck: max 11 INWR 7 Mar, becoming uncommon. N. Shoveler: arr four INWR 4 Mar. Gadwall: arr four DH 18 Mar. Am. Wigeon: arr Clarence Twn, Erie 4 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: arr 14 Celoron 7 Mar; max 20 Clarence Twn, Erie, 8 Mar. Lesser Scaup: arr two TFNP 21 Mar. Oldsquaw: arr Red House 24 Mar; ten Amity L, five Bear L, Chau, five Cassadaga L, Chau, one Darien L SP and one Allegany Twn, Catt, 26 Mar. Black Scoter: two NF 2 May. Surf Scoter: 12 NF and two Alfred 2 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr two INWR 15 Mar; intro. Osprey: widespread, nine reports Apr, four in May (BOS). Bald Eagle: arr INWR 11 Mar; at least three ad and two im INWR 13-30 Mar and up to four 3-26 Apr, singles through May; intro; two ad in aerial courtship BWS 20 Mar; ad, im Allegheny Res 24 and 28 Mar; singles over Forsythe Rd 11, 26 and 27 Apr. N. Harrier: eight reports throughout Region 6-29 Mar, three in Apr (BOS). Red-shouldered Hawk: max 52 Pinehurst 8 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: arr 12 over Forsythe Rd 14 Apr. Red-tailed Hawk: max 132 Hamburg 8 Mar. Rough-legged Hawk: max 21 Hamburg 8 Mar. Peregrine Falcon: one Hamburg 8 and 11 Mar; a banded bird Dunn Bldg, Buffalo, 17 and 30 May. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one over Ripley Twn, Chau, and two over Hamburg 11 Apr; one over Ripley 14 Apr. Black-bellied Plover: none. Semipalmated Plover: max 160 Tonawanda WMA 17 May; two TFNP and five Vandalia 19 May; four TFNP 25 May. Greater Yellowlegs: last PTwn 26 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 Smithville 26 Apr; last TFNP 25 May. Solitary Sandpiper: two PTwn 24 Apr; two Vandalia 3 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Chautauqua Twn 25 Apr; max six Wheatfield Twn, Niag, 2 May. Ruddy Turnstone: one La Salle P, Buffalo, 30 May. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr TFNP 23 May. Pectoral Sandpiper: max ten Eden Twn, Erie, 14 Apr. Purple Sandpiper: last four Goat I 15 May. Dunlin: arr Carlton 2 May; two Vandalia 20 May; one TFNP 25 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr over TFNP 9 May; max 160 Tonawanda WMA 17 May; 26 BWS 15 May. Com. Snipe: singles over Ripley Twn, Chau, and Wheatfield, Niag, 25 Mar; three Red House 12 Apr. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** female Vandalia 19 May (SE!). Laughing Gull: one DH 7,16, 24 Apr. Iceland Gull: one Adam Beck Hydro 15 Mar; one Buffalo Harbor 21 Mar. Glaucous Gull: max 11 Buffalo Harbor 21 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: one Riverside, Chau, 7 Apr, unusual away from Great Lakes. Caspian Tern: max eight DH 23 Apr. Forster's Tern: one BWS 15 May, rare in spring. Black Tern: one Tonawanda WMA 16 May; one Oak Orchard WMA 31 May; very scarce.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one INWR 10 May, early. Snowy Owl: one Jamestown 4 Mar, uncommon away from Great Lakes. Long-eared Owl: three Somerset Twn, Niag, 15, 22 Mar; one PTwn 12 Apr. Short-eared Owl: three Darien 6 Mar. Com. Nighthawk: one Jamestown and Olean 15 May, early; three Dunkirk 21 May. Whip-poor-will, arr PTwn 22 May, last heard 31 May. Chimney Swift, six over Ripley 23 Apr, early. Red-headed Woodpecker: arr TFNP 7 May; one Pt Gratiot 8 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one PTwn 21 May, early; one Ward Twn, Alle, 30 May. E. Wood-Pewee: one Pt Gratiot 14 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr Portland Twn, Chau, 17 May; one Villenova Twn, Chau, 23 May; six PTwn 28 May. Willow Flycatcher: arr INWR and TFNP 16 May; one Amity Twn, Alle, 26 May. Carolina Wren: one Eden 29 Mar; one Pt Gratiot 29 Apr; pair Vandalia entire period. Varied Thrush: one Old Glenwood Rd, Aurora Twn, Erie, 14-22 Mar (BC, mob). Water Pipit: arr six over Ripley 25 Mar; 20 PTwn 4 May. Loggerhead Shrike: none.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Philadelphia Vireo: arr three TFNP 19 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr two PTwn 5 May. Brewster's Warbler: one PTwn 24 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: only report one Pt Gratiot 10 May. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: one singing Science L, Allegany SP, 24 May (DC), fourth consecutive year. Pine Warbler: one TFNP 2 May; one Lewiston 16 May. Prairie Warbler: five-six Carroll Twn, Chau, 15 May; two Ward Twn, Alle, 16 & 30 May; three Amity Twn, Alle, 29 May. Cerulean Warbler: four South Valley, Catt, 15 May. Prothonotary Warbler: one TFNP 26 and 28 Apr. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**: *intro*. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Wales, Erie, 19 Apr. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: near Shongo 17 May (TB). Yellow-breasted Chat: one Amity Twn, Alle, 13 May; two PTwn 23-24 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Carroll Twn, Chau, 15 May; three-four PTwn 19 & 23 May; one INWR 24 May; one Amity Twn, Alle, 25 May; one Ward Twn, Alle, 31 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr PTwn 8 May; max five 19 May, still scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: reported five localities (BOS). Lapland Longspur: two Portland Twn and Chau Twn 1 Apr, late. Rusty Blackbird: arr Tonawanda Twn, Erie, 22 Mar; one INWR 3 May, late. Pine Siskin: one to eight Amity L 1-27 May, latest; five other reports (BOS). Evening Grosbeak: ten-125 Wales, Erie, 1-9 May, late.

Ten Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 – GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

A cursory glance at this report might suggest that the 1987 season left something to be desired. For certain, meteorological conditions placed restraints on the migration. But proper conditions did prevail in the long run and produced some good birding. Volume and intensity were lacking in some cases, but the species total was good and there were some definite highlights this season.

March set the tone for a much of the season. Slow moving, modified polar high pressure cells produced nearly two full weeks of light, northerly winds or winds that were so light that the lake breeze could dominate. Flight days which included bulk of the March migration were recorded 6-8 and 24-30 Mar. The 1.98 inches of precipitation for the month was only slightly below normal. This pattern of polar high pressure cells continued into April. The average temperature was 3.7 above normal at 49.7. Precipitation was 1.04 inches above normal with a total of 3.68 inches. The weather may have been responsible for the lateness of some

arrivals. Breaks in the passage of the frontal systems did create some good flight days. Of particular note was 27 Apr when a record 41,184 raptors passed the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Southerly winds picked up and negated any lake breeze. The breeze later shifted to southwest and improved the conditions. What had been a poor April due to weather conditions soon became a banner month. May started out as the essence of mediocrity. Temperatures generally were above normal and the rainfall was a paltry 1.19 inches, less than half of the normal total. The temperatures peaked at 94 on 30 May. The warm breezes brought some respectable flight days and some good species were recorded, including several over-shoots from the south.

The general quality of the migration was fair. Numbers were low for some species and generally were late. The total number of species was good. There were only a few good migration days and the bulk of the migrants passed on those few days. Loons were evident in good numbers on Lake Ontario late into the season. The highlight was an *arctica*-type loon in breeding plumage seen at close range from shore in the town of Greece by the Regional editor on 5 May. Whether it was an Arctic or a Pacific Loon was not established, but based on probability it most likely was the latter. Red-necked Grebes returned in numbers once again and peaked at over 400 individuals on 24 Mar. Herons and egrets were generally late and scarce, and no rarities were reported until late May. These included Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron and Glossy Ibis. Waterfowl were scarce for the most part. Tundra Swan was nearly nonexistent, as was Snow Goose. American Wigeon was extremely scarce. American Black Duck seemed to do only slightly better than in recent years. Increased boat and fishing activity along the lakeshore and in Braddock Bay seemed to scatter the concentrations of ducks that traditionally gather there in the spring.

Good hawk flight days were fewer in number than in recent years, but the total number of individuals for the season was staggering. The total by the end of May was over 100,000. The 27th of April turned out to be the best day of the season. Of the over 40,000 raptors counted that day, single day records were established for a number of species: 207 Cooper's Hawks, 4,375 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1163 Red-tailed Hawks and 34,818 Broad-winged Hawks. The record single day total for Osprey with a tally of 57 came May 22. On that same day a subadult **MISSISSIPPI KITE** accompanied some Broad-winged Hawks over the Hawk Watch for the third Regional record and on 30 May the first ever **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** was recorded at the Hawk Lookout. This brought the seasonal total of raptor species to 19, including a **BLACK VULTURE** and two **SWAINSON'S HAWKS**.

Once again **SANDHILL CRANE** put in a good showing. As many as ten individuals were observed. One variation from last year was their flight direction. This year they were observed moving predominantly east while last year west was the general pattern. Echoing recent years, the shorebird migration was poor. Species generally were late and numbers were low. Once again there was a lack of habitat due to high water levels on Lake Ontario and very few flooded fields nearby. Few unusual gulls were reported. There were a few Glaucous and Iceland Gulls left over from the winter season, and a Franklin's Gull seen along the west lakeshore on 22 May was the most unusual gull of the season. Terns can be summarized in a word - scarce.

Owls made quite a good showing this season. Snowy Owls were still present at the beginning of the season. A **BOREAL OWL** was found on 6 Mar along Curtis Road in Parma in a pine-spruce plantation by Martha Reinhardt and Nancy Boudrie for the seventh Monroe County record. The bird was very cooperative and seen by many birders. Most of the Monroe County records have come within a two week period from the end of February to the beginning of March. This also was a good spring for Saw-whet Owls. They were found in good numbers along Manitou Beach Road in Greece. Short-eared Owls were found in the Region throughout the spring season and were still present at the end of May. They were numerous during the winter season, and they have found suitable habitat. This may be the year that they stay in the Region and breed.

The passerine migration was uneventful. While there were a few rarities and the species total was respectable, once again numbers were low. The early development of foliage made some species difficult to see. Coupled with generally late arrivals, condition for viewing for passerines in trees and shrubs were somewhat less than desirable. A highlight was the appearance of two **FISH CROWS** at Braddock Bay. Clay Taylor and Dave Tetlow, both experienced with the species, heard them calling on 10 May and were able to make the identification. This is a species that we may be seeing and hearing more of in the not so distant future. Also on the positive side was the sighting of White-eyed Vireo, a regular but rare spring visitor to the Region. Two species found in good numbers were Prairie Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher. The former seemed to establish territories in the Region. Other unusual warbler reports included Worm-eating, Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers.

A number of species seemed to be low in numbers and infrequently sighted. Common Nighthawk appeared to be down after a couple of years of good numbers. Whip-poor-will was scarce once again and seems to have vacated a once traditional location. Sedge Wren did not return to last year's breeding location along the lakeshore and were unreported in migration. Gray-cheeked Thrush were very difficult to find and Swainson's Thrush seemed to be fewer in number. The Loggerhead Shrike population was once again nearly nonexistent. A single bird appeared to be setting up a territory at a former breeding location, but left after a brief attempt. Perhaps it was unable to attract a mate. Warblers that appeared to be low in numbers included Golden-winged, Black-and-white and Ovenbird, and overall warbler numbers were not good. Some sparrow species, notably White-throated, White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows, may have moved through the Region early or were just low in number.

The return flight of the irruptive winter species was mixed. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were well reported but crossbills were scarce. Of interest was Purple Finch. This seemed to be only a fair flight year, but Purple Finch seem to be established at breeding locations in good numbers, and some locations that seemed void of them in recent years have good numbers this year.

Contributors: Betty & Martin Baker, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Teresa Bowman, Elizabeth Brooks, Juleen Carter, Carolyn Cass, Belma Cerosaletti, Tooma & Lisa Clark, Paul Conklin, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Mary Ann DeSando, Jean & Bill Dingerson, Bob Dobson, Frank Dobson, Jeff Dodge, John Foster, Ralph & Mary Gerner, Kevin Griffith, William Gruenbaum, Harriet Hamilton, Sandra Hazen, Oivind Jensen, Herb

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Abbreviations: BB - Braddock Bay, CH - Cobb's Hill, ICW - Island Cottage Woods, LSP - Letchworth State Park and WL - West Lakeshore.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: max four WL 9 Apr. **PACIFIC LOON:** *intro*. Com. Loon: arr 30 BB 26 Mar. Pied-billed Grebe: arr BB 4 Mar. Horned Grebe: arr Greece 23 Mar. Red-necked Grebe: arr? WL 23 Mar, max 472 WL 24 Mar (JSk). Double-crested Cormorant: max 25-50 throughout May, varied numbers seen daily. Least Bittern: arr BB 16 May, late. Great Blue Heron: max 135 BB 9 Apr, peak flight. Snowy Egret: one BB 23-24 May. Cattle Egret: one Hamlin 4 May, only report. Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Greece 15 Apr, max 10 BB 27 Apr. Glossy Ibis: one BB 25-26 May. Mute Swan: two along lakeshore all Mar. Brant: arr 30 Manitou 21 May. N. Shoveler: arr one BB 7 Mar. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** two BB 1-2 Apr(FN), no details to editor yet. Am. Wigeon: arr two BB 7 Mar. Canvasback: max 4000 BB 15 Mar. Ruddy Duck: arr one BB 11 Mar, max six Greece 12 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 401 BB 27 Apr very high. **BLACK VULTURE:** one BB 26 Mar (FN, WS, CT), second year in a row. Turkey Vulture: one Wayne Co 6 Mar. **AM. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:** *intro*. **MISSISSIPPI KITE:** *intro*. Bald Eagle: at least ten individuals is good totals away from Hawk Lookout. N. Goshawk: max 11 BB 21 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: arr BB 6 Mar, max 624 BB 26 Mar. Broad-winged Hawk: arr BB 1 Apr; dark morph ad BB 28 Apr (CT, ROs), another 14 May (FN). **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** light morph ad BB 12 Apr (FN); light phase im BB 7 May (FN). Golden Eagle: two Webster 7 Mar (WL), one Greece 15 Apr (KG), three Webster 17 Apr (JC), one Webster 21 Apr (JC), one Webster 27 Apr (JC), one Greece 27 Apr (TP, TK), max at Hawk Lookout three Apr. Peregrine Falcon: max two BB 6 May. Sandhill Crane: at least nine individuals sighted during Apr and May. Lesser Golden-Plover: one BB 19 Apr, uncommon in spring. Upland Sandpiper: arr two Webster 25 Apr. Ruddy Turnstone: arr Irondequoit Bay 23 May. Dunlin: arr eight BB 8 Apr. Wilson's Phalarope: max three Perinton 19 May. Franklin's Gull: one WL 23 May (KG, CT, DT). Little Gull: one BB 1 Apr. Iceland Gull: 1st winter bird Greece 10 Mar; 2nd winter birds Irondequoit Bay and Greece 13 Mar; one BB 15 Apr. Glaucous Gull: 2nd winter bird Greece 12-21 Mar; 1st yr, 2nd yr, ad Greece 20 Mar; im BB 30 May. Forster's Tern: one Greece 16 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one LSP 23 May. Com. Barn-Owl: one BB 1 Apr (CT). Snowy Owl: singles Charlotte 1-4 Mar, Manitou 25-26 Mar, Hamlin 12 Apr. Short-eared Owl: two Parma all May, five Pt. Breeze all May, very late and frequenting the same location consistently. Boreal Owl: *intro*. N. Saw-whet: arr Manitou 6 Mar. Whip-poor-will: arr Manitou 9 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 14 Manitou 20 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr two Manitou 21 May. Acadian Flycatcher: arr one Manitou 22 May. Fish Crow: *intro*. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last of the season one Manitou 31 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr ICW 17 May. Loggerhead Shrike: singles Sodus Bay 14 Mar, WL 14 Mar, ICW 25 Mar, WL 26 Mar, Parma 28 Mar, Kendall 11-13 Apr, Pt Breeze 12-13 Apr, and BB 15 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: one singing ICW 11 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr CH 8 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Rochester 7 May, max 43 LSP 23 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr Manitou 11 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: singles ICW 11, 12 and 18 May and WL 23 May. Prairie Warbler: singles ICW 11 May and Mendon Ponds 20-22 May, six LSP 23, 29-31 May (two reported throughout). Cerulean Warbler: arr CH 11 May. Worm-eating Warbler: one Greece 24-25 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr five LSP 23 Apr. Kentucky Warbler: singles BB 22 May, ICW 23 May. Connecticut Warbler: singles Manitou 22 May, ICW 29 May. Hooded Warbler: arr ten LSP 20 May, max 49 LSP 23 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr Norway Road 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max 22 LSP 23 May. Indigo Bunting: max 56 LSP 23 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: last Manitou 20 Apr. Field Sparrow: arr WL 29 Mar. Savannah Sparrow: arr BB 29 Mar. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Nation's Road, Avon, 3 May. Henslow's Sparrow: arr Nation's Road 3 May. Fox Sparrow: arr ICW 20 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: last Manitou 30 May. E. Meadowlark: max 125 BB 30 Mar. Yellow-headed Blackbird: male BB 30 Mar. Brewer's Blackbird: male Manitou 10 Apr (FN). Orchard Oriole: arr ICW 19 May. Red Crossbill: singles Mendon Ponds 13 Mar, BB 24 Mar. White-winged Crossbill: two LSP 25 Apr. Common Redpoll: max 2680 BB 24 May, 2410 BB 25 May (FN). Pine Siskin: ten Manitou 27 May, one banded had a brood patch, nesting?

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612

REGION 3 – FINGER LAKES

C. K. MELIN

March was significantly warmer and sunnier than normal. There was about 1 inch of precipitation in the first days of March, followed by high pressure and record high temperatures from 5 to 8 Mar. On 9 Mar, a surge of cold arctic air plunged temperatures to their lowest levels of the month, but by 13 Mar temperatures were closer to normal. The weather continued to be mild, reaching daytime highs in the 60's and 70's, until 25 Mar when it rained again. By 29 Mar, afternoon highs were again in the upper 60's and 70's. A cold front on 31 Mar brought heavy precipitation and wind gusts of 35 to 50 mph. This storm was quickly followed by another on 2 Apr, which became stationary until 8 Apr. This stalled front brought up to 3 inches of rain and caused flooding in some areas. After the front passed, temperatures warmed up to the 60's and 70's. There was more rain on 12 Apr, followed by a warm and sunny period from 19 to 21 Apr, with temperatures in the upper 70's to 80's. Two successive cold fronts on 22-23 Apr brought more seasonal temperatures and frost to many locations. During the last five days of April there was only about 1 inch of precipitation. May was one of the ten driest since 1890! Temperatures were above normal for the third month in a row. During the month there were three cold fronts, with associated thunderstorms and up to a half inch of precipitation, on 10-11, 19-20 and 22-23 May.

During the last five days of the month it was hazy, hot and humid and several temperature records were broken. Ithaca set a new record of 90 on 30 May, and there were severe thunderstorms during this period, especially in Schuyler County where 12 trees were uprooted in the town of Odessa.

Birders were active during the season's warm and sunny weather. As a result, there were detailed reports of a wide variety of species. Several winter irruptive species were observed well into the spring season. A Snowy owl was at Seneca Lake State Park through the second week of March. Short-eared Owls, Rough-legged Hawks and Common Redpolls were observed regularly throughout the Region until mid-April.

There were numerous detailed reports from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge this season. A Cattle Egret was observed there 14 Apr. A pair of Osprey arrived in April, built a nest at Tshache Pool, and were incubating as of 31 May. Two adult Bald Eagles, which have been present at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge for most of the past year, were still present throughout the Spring season with no evidence of nesting. Double-crested Cormorants arrived in May and, although a maximum of 60 Cormorants were recorded, there is no evidence of nesting - yet! However, as of 31 May there were 114 active nests of Great Blue Heron. Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon and Ruddy Duck were recorded in April, although there were few other reports. The water level at May's Point Pool was low this spring, and many shorebird species were observed in late April and May. These included: Black-bellied and Lesser Golden-Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Dunlin, Wilson's Phalarope, and both Dowitcher species. There were also a variety of "peep" sandpipers including Western, White-rumped, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers.

Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes were present in small numbers all season. Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser were present on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, although few details are available.

There were many reports of almost all transient and summer resident warbler species. There were many reports even of uncommon warblers such as Prairie, Cerulean, Mourning, and Hooded. There were no reports of Worm-eating and Prothonotary Warblers. Two species - Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush - were underreported and may have been overlooked. Except for Grasshopper Sparrow, there were virtually no reports of "grassland" sparrow species, a group often overlooked.

Highlights for the Spring season include **RED-THROATED LOON**, **CATTLE EGRET**, several sightings of **EURASIAN WIGEON** and a **SANDHILL CRANE**. A singing male **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** was observed for over an hour 26 May at Arnot Forest. This bird is presumed to be a transient, as it was not observed the following week when a Summer Field Ornithology class, sponsored by the Laboratory of Ornithology, was held at this facility.

This season's report is the final one for two people who are no longer able to contribute regularly to the *Kingbird*. A special note of thanks to Polly Keating and Malcolm Lerch for their efforts over the years.

Contributors: J. Brubaker, Cayuga Bird Club, Chemung Valley Audubon Society, T. Culver, Eaton Birding Society, T. Gingrich, B. Hilfiker, D. Johnson, D. McLroy, Schuyler County Bird Club, B. Spahn, M. Welles.

Abbreviations: AF - Cornell University's Arnot Forest Teaching & Research Facility, CH - Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area, FB - Frenchman's Bluff Nature Conservancy Preserve, FLNF - Finger Lakes National Forest, HH - Hammond Hill State Forest, MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, SWS - Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, WGSP - Watkins Glen State Park.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: one Aurora 27 Mar. Great Egret: three singles, Elmira 23 Apr, MNWR 3 & 19 May. **CATTLE EGRET:** *intro*. Black-crowned Night Heron: sole report SWS 7 May. Tundra Swan: three Ithaca area reports without numbers, only reports. Snow Goose: reported on Cayuga & Seneca Lakes in Mar, max 12,000 MNWR 21 Apr. Brant: none. Canada Goose: max 55,000 MNWR. Wood Duck: max 630 MNWR. Green-winged Teal: max 70 MNWR. AM. Black Duck: max 520 MNWR. Mallard: max 2,000 MNWR. N. Pintail: max less than 20 but widespread. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** several sightings at both Aurora and Sheldrake 9 Mar, max two males and two females. Ring-necked Duck: widespread in Mar & Apr, max 50 MNWR 24 Mar. Hooded Merganser: several reports, max 30 MNWR Mar and Apr.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: widespread all season. Osprey: isolated record early report Ithaca 8 Mar; *intro*. Bald Eagle: *intro*. N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Cooper's Hawk: widespread all season. N. Goshawk: two reports from traditional nesting areas at Brooktondale & E Corning, no confirmed nesting. Red-shouldered Hawk: four reports in the Ithaca area in Apr & May, also two present AF and two HH in May. Broad-winged Hawk: five reports in Apr & May. Red-tailed Hawk: widespread all season, two at a traditional nest site near Elmira, nesting success unconfirmed. Merlin: one MNWR 29 Mar. Peregrine Falcon: im MNWR 22 Mar. Ruffed Grouse: widespread all season, several reports of drumming in Apr & May. Wild Turkey: reported at several locations, numbers increasing. **SANDHILL CRANE:** one MNWR 20 May seen by two Refuge employees. **KING RAIL:** one MNWR 23 May, responding to taped calls and observed clearly several times. Upland Sandpiper: four reports from Ithaca & Elmira 21 Apr-16 May. Bonaparte's Gull: very few reports. Iceland Gull: two reports, Aurora 8 & 30 Mar, Seneca Lake 11 & 12 Mar. Glaucous Gull: one Aurora 29 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: regularly reported in the Cayuga Lake and MNWR areas, but none elsewhere. Black Tern: sole report 17 May, no locality.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Yellow-billed Cuckoo: one sedentary bird at C. Melin's home throughout May, only report. Barn Owl: no reports. E. Screech-Owl: only one report. Great Horned Owl: widespread. Barred Owl: all reports Ithaca area. N. Saw-whet Owl: one CH 7 May. Whip-poor-will: AF 7 May, FB 16 May. Chimney Swift: about 150 Ithaca 23 Apr, using a public school chimney. Red-headed Woodpecker: four reports from Aurora, Esker Brook Trail MNWR, Jordan Swamp in May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: widespread. Bank Swallow: over 100 at traditional nesting site Watkins Glen 16 May. Fish Crow: present all season at Stewart Park, Ithaca. Com. Raven: one CH 17 May. Red-breasted Nuthatch: widespread. Carolina Wren: present at several locations in Ithaca, Watkins Glen, and Elmira. Winter Wren: six reports. Marsh Wren: four May reports. Eastern Bluebird: present all season, may be increasing. Gray Catbird: one Ithaca early Mar probably over-wintered nearby. N. Mockingbird: one "pure white" individual 17 May Slaterville Rd. Water Pipit: widespread after 28 Mar, max 30 Poplar Ridge Aurora. Loggerhead Shrike: one Mt Zoar 28 Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: one Hile School Rd, Freeville 9 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: isolated record early report Ithaca 20 Apr. Warbling Vireo: isolated record

early report Ithaca 19 Apr. Red-eyed Vireo: isolated record early report Ithaca 23 Apr. Bay-breasted Warbler: isolated record early report Seneca Falls 16 Apr (no details). Yellow-breasted Chat: one SWS 13 May, two FB 31 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Rose-breasted Grosbeak: plentiful, many reports. Orchard Oriole: singing male Aurora 16 May, nest-building in progress 22 May, female at nest 31 May (TC). Grasshopper Sparrow: a dozen singing males AF 27 May. Clay-colored Sparrow: *intro*. Red Crossbill: pair with nesting material plus another singing male FLNF 9 Mar and four WGSP 19 May. Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak: widespread all season.

84-A Turkey Hill Road, Ithaca, New York 14850

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

[The Region 4 spring report was delayed by a computer failure - The Editor.] (See page 173 for winter report)

REGION 5 – ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

GENE HUGGINS

Unseasonably cold weather this spring at the end of April and the beginning of May slowed the advance of northward migrants. There were only four reports of Black-billed Cuckoo and none of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Flycatchers and Swallows were generally low in numbers. Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow and Barn Swallow were the only swallows with counts of 100 or more. Thrushes, especially Swainson's, Hermit and Wood Thrush, were unusually scarce with maxima only up to ten. Only one Loggerhead Shrike was reported. The warbler flight produced low numbers for most species with the exception of Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Ovenbird. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin made a remarkable return flight, the largest since 1981. The raptor flight at Derby Hill brought record maximum numbers of Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and Golden Eagle. A light morph adult **SWAINSON'S HAWK** on 12 Apr was the eighth Regional record. Three Peregrine Falcons over Derby Hill between 29 Mar and 23 Apr were the season's total for this endangered bird. Two adult **SANDHILL CRANES** flew by Derby Hill on 16 Apr, appearing there for the third consecutive year. Owl banders at Noyes Sanctuary also had good results with the capture and release of the Region's fifth **BOREAL OWL** 11 Apr (see Field Notes). Twenty eight N. Saw-whet Owls were banded at the Sanctuary from 25 Mar to 26 Apr, and seven Long-eared Owls from 25 Mar to 1 May.

Double-crested Cormorant continued to show a steady population increase both on Lake Ontario and inland on Oneida Lake. Least Bittern, Great Egret, Cattle Egret made encouraging appearances along the shore of Lake Ontario from early to mid May. A Black-crowned Night-Heron in n. Herkimer Co. was the first there in recent memory.

Just two reports of Tundra Swan, singles only, and no observations of Mute Swans were not very heartening. A Greater White-fronted Goose and an Eurasian Wigeon were the only unusual birds amidst a generally poor waterfowl flight. Positives among waterfowl included substantial numbers of Brant over Oneida Lake, the ever present Canada Goose and over 300 Red-breasted Mergansers from Lake Ontario.

Shorebirds were more widespread this spring with Biddlecum, Sage Creek Marsh, Verona Beach and Clay Marsh sharing the spotlight. Equal numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers, 75 each showed up at Biddlecum and on the east shore of Oneida Lake. Sage Creek Marsh and Biddlecum produced a combined total of sixty Short-billed Dowitchers on the 15 May. Rarer species included a Wilson's Phalarope and a Forster's Tern.

An interesting feature of this spring was the early arrivals of Semipalmated Plover and Lincoln's Sparrow in the southern Adirondacks. The Semipalmated Plover was 60 days earlier than the previous date of 6 May, and Lincoln's Sparrow was 29 days earlier than the previous record of 30 Apr. Also noteworthy was the first Kentucky Warbler in two years. A Fox Sparrow was found in the driveway at the home of Elva Hawken, Erieville, s. Madison Co. on the unprecedented late date of 30 May. Only one Orchard Oriole was reported. **HOARY REDPOLL** continued to linger near feeders at three different locations, with the last on 7 Mar. A total of 232 species plus one morph and one hybrid were reported this season.

Contributors: Dorothy Crumb, Robert L. Evans, Phyllis Gates, Jim Graves, John Hanyak, Elva Hawken, Gene Huggins, Polly & Herb Keating, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Robert E. Long, Sheila Pebbles McCombie, Laura Meade, Belle Peebles, Robert L. Post, Bill Purcell, Elton Rising, Margaret S. Rusk, F.G. Scheider, Roy Slack, Gerald Smith, Judy Thurber, Elba Van Dresar.

Abbreviations: Adks - Adirondacks, Oneida and Herkimer Co.'s; CM - Clay Marsh; CV - Camillus Valley; DH - Derby Hill, Oswego Co.; FH - Fairhaven, Little Sodus Bay and vicinity; LOL - Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NPT - northern Pompey township; PSS - Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co.; SRF - Seneca River Flats; SSSP - Selkirk Shores State Park; StMC - St. Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: max 46/day LOL 2 May, last LOL 29 May. Pied-billed Grebe: max three/day Otisco L 12 Apr. Horned Grebe: max four/day Beaver L 12 Apr, last LOL 10 May. Red-necked Grebe: six Woodman's Pd 4 Apr was only report. Double-crested Cormorant: arr 5 Apr LOL, max 80 Toad Harbor 20 Apr indicative of continued increase. Am. Bittern: max four FH 16 May, twelve for the Region. Least Bittern: one SSSP 15 May, only report. Great Blue Heron: max 30 LOL 19 Apr. Great Egret: two FH 16-17 May; one Poolsbrook 18 May; one SSSP 8 May. Cattle Egret: two Snake Swamp 3 May (JG). Green-backed Heron: max 16 LOL 16 May. Black-crowned Night Heron: arr LOL 3 May, max 21 LOL 3-9 May; one Eagle Bay Adks 27 May unusual (GL). Tundra Swan: one LOL 19-26 Apr. Greater White-fronted Goose: ad *flavirostris* Biddlecum 19-22

Apr (B. Goettle, mob), fourteenth spring record. Snow Goose: arr SRF 12 Mar, max 140 PSS 26 Mar; four blue morph Port Byron 15 Mar (DWC). Brant: max 300 Toad Harbor 11 May, 130 CM 12 May. Canada Goose: max 9,500 SRF & LOL 22 Mar, last count above 100 on 2 May. Wood Duck: max 24 LOL 26 Apr. Green-winged Teal: max 180 SRF, LOL 19 Mar; last CM 15 May. Blue-winged Teal: max ten/day LOL 26 Apr. N. Shoveler: to four/day 26 Mar to 19 Apr. Gadwall: max eight PSS 26 Mar, very low. **EURASIAN WIGEON:** ad male PSS 28-30 Mar and possibly the same bird at Beaver L for part of the day on 28 Mar (mob), eighth Regional record. Am Wigeon: max 38 PSS 28 Mar, last LOL 19 Apr. Canvasback: max 121 Brewerton 27 Mar, last LOL 28 Mar. Redhead: max 13 Brewerton 1 Mar, last there 22 Mar. Ring-necked Duck: max 73 Brewerton 1 Mar, last Oswego H 21 Apr. Lesser Scaup: max nine Brewerton 27 Mar, last Oswego H 9 May. Oldsquaw: max 11 LOL 19 Apr, last LOL 7 May. White-winged Scoter: max six LOL 26 Apr, last LOL 10 May. Com. Goldeneye: max 190 Onon L, Brewerton 22 Mar, last there 7 May. Hooded Merganser: max 22 LOL 22 Mar, last Poolsbrook 16 May. Com. Merganser: max 220 Onon L 22 Mar, last there 27 Apr. Red-breasted Merganser: max 345 LOL 27 Apr, last LOL 29 May. Ruddy Duck: one to two/day Beaver L 29 Mar to 19 Apr, Oswego H 30 Apr.

Derby Hill Hawk Migration Totals - 1987

Species	Arrival	Max - Date	Last	90% Date Range*	Total
Turkey Vulture	13 Mar	361 - 11 Apr	27 May	25 Mar - 11 May	2624
Osprey	20 Mar	46 - 29 Apr	28 May	15 Apr - 26 May	358
Bald Eagle	6 Mar	4 - 15 Apr	28 May	22 Mar - 27 May	29
Northern Harrier	6 Mar	56 - 15 Apr	28 May	21 Mar - 21 May	643
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5 Mar	1166 - 29 Apr	28 May	11 Apr - 13 May	6361
Cooper's Hawk	22 Feb	69 - 26 Mar	23 May	19 Mar - 29 Apr	5465
Northern Goshawk	5 Mar	9 - 6 Mar	29 Apr	6 Mar - 28 Apr	89
Red-shouldered Hawk	6 Mar	263 - 26 Mar	27 Apr	14 Mar - 9 Apr	836
Broad-winged Hawk	15 Apr	7197 - 28 Apr	29 May	23 Apr - 27 May	17642
Red-tailed Hawk	22 Feb	867 - 15 Apr	28 May	12 Mar - 29 Apr	8576
Rough-legged Hawk	27 Feb	40 - 27 Mar	27 May	12 Mar - 29 Apr	347
Golden Eagle	12 Mar	3 - 11 May	**	12 Mar - 6 May	26
American Kestrel	15 Mar	53 - 15 Apr	22 May	24 Mar - 28 Apr	363
Merlin	29 Mar	3 - 23 Apr	13 May	29 Mar - 13 May	14
Grand total (including unidentified rarities)					38648

* Dates between which 90% of all birds passed Derby Hill.

** Four dates.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: See table for DH summary. Bald Eagle: pair over Duck L swamp 21 Mar only report away from DH. **SWAINSON'S HAWK:** *intro.* Peregrine Falcon: *intro.* Ruffed Grouse; continues scarce. Wild Turkey: max 21 Fabius 4 Mar, three Nick's L, Adks, 29 Apr. Virginia Rail: max three Utica Marsh 29 May. Sora Rail: max two Snake Swamp 2 May. Com. Moorhen: max three Pratt's Hollow 30 May. Am. Coot: three singles for the period, very low. **SANDHILL CRANE:** *intro.* Black-bellied Plover: one CM 12-13 May, only report. Semipalmated Plover: record early arr in a parking lot Big Moose L, Herk, 7 Mar (LM, ER); max seven Biddlecum 15 May, last 31 May. Killdeer: max 24 LOL 5 Apr. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Biddlecum 25 Mar, max 14 there 9 Apr, last Peat Swamp 20 May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 28 CM 10 May, last Biddlecum 21 May. Solitary Sandpiper: max seven/day Biddlecum 9 May, last Sage Creek 16 May. Spotted Sandpiper: max 33 CM, LOL 10 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr 25 Apr, max three W Monroe 25 Apr (BP). Ruddy Turnstone: one Verona Beach 18 May (DWC) only report. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 75 Verona & Sylvan Beach 18 May, last Biddlecum 21 May (DWC & K. Coyle). Pectoral

Sandpiper: max 25 Phoenix 16 Apr, last Biddlecum 25 Apr. Dunlin: arr PSS 30 Mar, max 5 Biddlecum 12 May, last Moss L, Adks, 31 May. Short-billed Dowitcher: spring record max 60 Biddlecum & Sage Creek Marsh 15 May (BF), last 23 May. Com. Snipe: max nine Biddlecum 3 May. Am. Woodcock: max eight Fulton 7 May. Wilson's Phalarope: one CM 20 May (JL) only report. Bonaparte's Gull: nine Oneida L 3 May (BF) only report. Ring-billed Gull: max 700 Oswe 26 Mar. Herring Gull: max 1800 Oswe 22 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: max 175 Oswe 1 Mar. Caspian Tern: max 30 DH 7 May. Com. Tern: max six Oneida L 3 May. **FORSTER'S TERN**: one off DH 16 Apr (JH, mob), third spring record. Black Tern: max 11 Toad H 11 May (MSR).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: *intro*. E. Screech Owl: one report, scarce. Long-eared Owl: *intro*. Short-eared Owl: one Dempster Beach Rd 18 Apr (FGS) only report. **BOREAL OWL**: *intro*. N. Saw-whet Owl: *intro*. Com. Nighthawk: singles only, very scarce. Whip-poor-will: arr 10 May, max seven Rome Sand Plains (MSR). Chimney Swift: max 20 Oswego 16 May. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max three/day. Red-headed Woodpecker: four reports, scarce. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max six LOL 12 Apr. N. Flicker: max 75 DH 16 Apr.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Quiver Pd Adks 23 May, only report. E. Wood Pewee: max five Toad H 24 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one to three/day, 22-29 May. Alder Flycatcher: max six Sandy Creek & NPT 19 & 23 May. Willow Flycatcher: max seven Utica Marsh 29 May. Least Flycatcher: max ten Madi 10 May. E. Phoebe: max ten LOL 12,19 Apr. Great Crested Flycatcher: max ten Sterling 16 May. E. Kingbird: max 15 LOL 23 May. Purple Martin: max 40 Toad H 13 May. Tree Swallow: max 500 LOL 3 May (JG). N. Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 LOL 23 Apr, 17 May. Bank Swallow: max 100 LOL 7 May. Cliff Swallow: max 12 LOL 7 May. Barn Swallow: max 100 LOL 7 May. Blue Jay: max 500 DH 10 May, nesting locally. Brown Creeper: max 12 LOL 18 Apr. Carolina Wren: six separate reports, possibly a small increase. House Wren: max 16 LOL 16 May. Winter Wren: migrants scarce 25 Mar to 29 May. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 121 LOL 11 Apr, last Brookfield 15 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 107 LOL 3 May, last StMC 12 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max nine LOL 7 May. Veery: max 15 LOL 16 May. Gray-cheeked Thrush: max two/day, very low numbers. Hermit Thrush: one to five/day, low. Wood Thrush: max ten StMC 12 May, low. Brown Thrasher: max five/day, poor numbers. Water Pipit: arr PSS 28 Mar, max 50 there on 5 Apr, last LOL 26 Apr. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Shore Oaks, T of New Haven, Oswe, 12 Apr.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: max five StMC 7 May. Yellow-throated Vireo: max 13 Sterling 16 May. Warbling Vireo: max ten LOL 31 May. Philadelphia Vireo: arr CM 13 May, only two other reports. Red-eyed Vireo: max 24 Sandy Creek 23 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr StMC 7 May. Golden-winged Warbler: arr LOL 10 May, max four/day, low. Brewster's Warbler: one CV 14 May, two NPT 15 May, one Pratt's Falls 29 May. Tennessee Warbler: max 20 Constantia 13 May. Orange-crowned Warbler: one LOL 7 May (FGS & mob) only report. Nashville Warbler: max 14 CM 8 May. N. Parula: last 24 May. Yellow Warbler: max 35 LOL 10 May. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max nine Sandy Creek 23 May. Magnolia Warbler: max five Brookfield 15 May. Cape May Warbler: last 14 May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: last 29 May. Black-throated Green Warbler: last 31 May. Blackburnian Warbler: last 31 May. Pine Warbler: max five LOL 2 May. Palm Warbler: max 21 LOL 7 May, last 10 May. Bay-breasted Warbler: last 23 May. Blackpoll Warbler: last 29 May. Cerulean Warbler: arr Toad H 3 May. Black-and-white Warbler: max four LOL 7 May. Am. Redstart: max 20 LOL 16 May. Ovenbird: max 45 Rome Sand Plains 31 May (MSR). N. Waterthrush: max four LOL 10 May. Louisiana Waterthrush: record early arr Gulf Rd., Pompey, 13 Apr (DWC). Kentucky Warbler: one Schiller Park, Syracuse, 17 May (JT). Mourning Warbler: max three Sandy Creek 23 May. Com. Yellowthroat: max 45 LOL 16 May, present Quiver Pd Adks 15 May. Hooded Warbler: arr CV 11 May (JH). Wilson's Warbler: migrants 11-20 May. Canada Warbler: max six Rome Sand Plains 31 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: arr StMC 14 May, one at CV 25 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max six Sandy Creek 23 May. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 15 Sterling 16 May. Indigo Bunting: max five Kasoag 30 May. Rufous-sided Towhee: max ten Sandy Creek 23 May. Am. Tree Sparrow: scarce, last LOL 18 Apr. Chipping Sparrow: max 43 LOL 3 May. Field Sparrow: arr Clay 5 Apr, max 11 LOL 3 May. Vesper Sparrow: max six T of Mexico 12 Apr (JH). Savannah Sparrow: max 11 LOL 19 Apr. Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Carpenter's Brook 14 May, one Poolsbrook, two near Gayville. Fox Sparrow: arr 25 Mar; *intro*. Song Sparrow: reported regularly after 19 Mar. Lincoln's Sparrow: record early arr Quiver Pd Adks 1 Apr (GL). Swamp Sparrow: arr DeWitt 27 Mar, max 39 Biddlecum 3 May. White-throated Sparrow: migrants 5 Apr to 11 May. White-crowned Sparrow: max 32 LOL 10 May, last CM 13 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 75 LOL 12 Apr. Snow Bunting: max 50, last 8 Mar. Bobolink: max 22 LOL 10 May. Red-winged Blackbird: max 9,000 DH 19 Mar. E. Meadowlark: arr LOL 14 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr 6 Mar, max 90 LOL 12 Apr, last CM 6 May. Com. Grackle: max 2,000 DH 19,22 Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 DH 16 Apr. Orchard Oriole: ad male T of Scriba P 10-11 May (FGS & JH). N. Oriole: max 25 LOL 11 May. Purple Finch: max 53 LOL 7 May. Red Crossbill: one at Leonardsville 3 Apr (D. Jones), one NPT 17 Apr (DWC). Com. Redpoll: max 100 LOL 22 Mar (FGS), last Verona Beach 18 May (DWC). **HOARY REDPOLL**: singles Holland Patent 1 Mar (EVanD), Ilion 4 Mar (R. Wightman), Camillus 7 Mar (JH). Pine Siskin: max 50 LOL 16 May (JG). Am. Goldfinch: max 65 CM, LOL 10 May. Evening Grosbeak: max 475 LOL 21 Apr, last over Oswego 28 May.

CORRIGENDA. Vol. 35:201; Purple Finch: record max (for State) 8000 DH should read 18 Apr, instead of 28 Mar.

1065 Westmoreland Avenue, Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL

Once again the spring migration period began with mild weather and early arrivals of short-distance migrants, only to be followed by a frosty May. This was one of the driest springs of the century. March both came in and went out like a lion, but mean temperatures for March were 4 above normal. Temperatures ranged from -5 on 11 Mar to 71 on 26 Mar. There were only 3 days with measurable precipitation, most of it falling on 2-3 Mar as snow. Region 6 escaped the ravages of the storm on 30-31 Mar. April temperatures were 5 above normal and precipitation about 1 inch below normal. Temperatures ranged from 17 on 1 Apr to 82 on 22 Apr. A storm brought strong winds and up to 6 inches of snow on 2-3 Apr and wet snow fell 28 Apr. May was one of the driest on record with rainfall 1-2 inches below normal. Mean temperatures ranges from 1 below normal in Canton to more than 2 above average in Watertown. Although trees and shrubs leafed out 1-2 weeks ahead of schedule, frequent frosts occurred through 19 May. As in April, there were many frontal systems bringing strong southerly air flow, especially 9-11 May. Arrival of long-distance migrants began in earnest on 8 May with Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Northern Oriole. Least and Great-crested Flycatchers, Wood Thrush, and those three dominant species of eastern deciduous forests, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird and Redstart arrived during the

ensuing five days. Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers brought up the rear on 20 May. My impression was that again this year these species were represented by very few individuals. It will be interesting to study the trends in such data bases as the Breeding Bird Survey.

Last sightings of winter visitors included Rough-legged Hawk on 9 Apr, Northern Shrike on 17 March, Com. Redpoll on 9 Apr and American Tree Sparrow on 28 March. We shall miss reports from Dave Gagne, who was at Wanakena Ranger School the past year. Walking three miles of trail on 3 May, he heard the following numbers of singing males: 59 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 24 Solitary Vireo and 105 Yellow-rumped Warbler.

"Good Birds" included Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Peregrine Falcon, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Cerulean Warbler. White-fronted Goose, Sandhill Crane and Loggerhead Shrike qualify as rarities. Blue-winged Teal, American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark were strong in numbers. Twenty species of warblers were reported. Not unexpectedly, there were no reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo or Golden-winged Warbler. A total of 155 species was reported, including 32 waterbirds and waders, 23 shore and marsh birds, 17 raptors and 95 passerines.

I am sorry to report the death of Everett Howard of Canton, to whom birding brought much pleasure during his retirement. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Mildred.

Contributors: Russell Brummer, Lee Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, David Gagne, John Green, Paul Kelly, Brian Watson, and Hollis White.

Abbreviations: BL - Black Lake, Towns of Morristown, Hammond, and Oswegatchie; LWMA - Lakeview WMA; MSD - Moses-Saunders Dam; ULL - Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; SLR - St. Lawrence River; WH - Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one to two pr ULL after 17 Apr. Horned Grebe: three courting LWMA 2 May (LBC); 5 ULL 12 Apr (RB), unusual here. Least Bittern: one Louisville 8 May (MB). Black-crowned Night Heron: four ULL 7 May. Snow Goose: several reports; arr 164 Wanakena (Town of Fine) and Canton 24 Mar; max 200 Henderson 5 Apr; one blue morph Henderson 25 and 30 Mar, another Lisbon 26 Apr. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**: one with 700 Canada Goose near Henderson in area of previous sightings 25 Mar (LBC). Am. Black Duck: max 400 Henderson 30 Mar. Ruddy Duck: 10 WHWMA 8 May. Hooded Merganser: two ULL 14 Mar, one Canton 9 May.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: three Black Lake, Oswegatchie 3 May; repeated sightings as usual at ULL and Morley area, Canton, but we have yet to confirm breeding. Bald Eagle: two Oak Pt 4 Mar, one MSD 16 Apr; Jeff nest again occupied. N. Harrier: nest with two eggs Canton 6 May. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three reports. Cooper's Hawk: five reported; "fewer than last year" (LBC). N. Goshawk: five reported including pair at nest in Stockholm 18 May. Red-shouldered Hawk: four Henderson 25 April only report. Broad-winged Hawk: arr Wanakena 16 Apr. Am. Kestrel: four to six per day in late April. Peregrine Falcon: one Morristown 17 Apr (PK). Bobwhite: one at close range 10 May BPW, undoubtedly a released bird. **SANDHILL CRANE**: unconfirmed sighting Cape Vincent 24 Apr by T. Aubertine (LBC). Greater Yellowlegs: four Lisbon 26 Apr. Lesser Yellowlegs: singles ULL 7 May, Lisbon 17 May. Solitary Sandpiper: arr Morristown 3 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Lisbon 23 Apr; pair Morristown 3 May, two BL 15 May. Caspian Tern: one MSD 8 May. Common Tern: max 40 SLR, Massena 22 May. Black Tern: 12 ULL 12 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Wanakena 17 May. Barred Owl: eight Wanakena 16 April. Com. Nighthawk: arr Massena 25 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: Henderson Mar-Apr still only report. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: abundant.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: E. Wood-Pewee: two Canton 23 May only report. E. Phoebe: up at last (LBC). Horned Lark: last Lisbon 23 Apr. Purple Martin: max 12 Louisville 12 May. Tufted Titmouse: pair Henderson only report. Winter Wren: arr one Wanakena 7 Apr, 15 singing males on 1/2 mi trail 25 Apr. E. Bluebird: pairs Brasher Falls, Louisville, Stockholm, BL; feeding young Pierrepont 11 May. Am. Robin: brood fledged Henderson 8 May. Water Pipit: arr three Fine 25 Mar, max 40 BL 4 May. Cedar Waxwing: 22 Henderson 3 May first since fall. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**: one Ogdensburg 26 Apr (PK).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one Louisville 23 May. Tennessee Warbler: arr five Wanakena 16 May. N. Parula: arr three Wanakena 11 May. Cape May Warbler: several Canton 12 May. Palm Warbler: one Louisville 11 May. Cerulean Warbler: one singing male Wanakena 11-15 May (DG), unusual locale. N. Waterthrush: two Stockholm 16 May ONLY report.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: none. Evening Grosbeak: max 150 Wanakena 21 Mar; increasing in Apr elsewhere. Field Sparrow: arr Henderson 8 Apr; good numbers in StLa, six ULL 31 Mar. Vesper Sparrow: several singing males at Pierrepont landfill after 21 Apr. Fox Sparrow: one Massena 22 May. Dark-eyed Junco: unusually high numbers in Apr. Snow Bunting: 300 Henderson 7 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: arr three Wanakena 25 Mar, at ULL 31 Mar. Com. Grackle: albinistic individuals Henderson and Gouverneur. Purple Finch: arr Henderson mid-Apr, numbers down; max 16 Louisville. Red Crossbill: max 20 Wanakena 29 Apr. White-winged Crossbill: one Wanakena 25 Mar. Pine Siskin: max 46 Massena 23 Mar.

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REGION 7 -- ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M.C. PETERSON

A century-old record was broken on the Four Brothers Islands, good variety (188 species) and numbers of birds were reported seasonally throughout the Region, and Project BirdWatch and the call for *The Kingbird* arrival dates may have served to reawaken some interest in field birding. If the hawkwatching was slow, warbler-watching was fast and furious at times. The weather was, as usual, somewhat erratic, but generally favorable for both birds and birders.

The season opened with rain on 1 Mar, snow on 2 Mar, sunshine on 3 Mar. The two feet of snow in the woods began to thaw with a warming trend 6 Mar, but cold returned on 11 Mar. Another warm spell arrived 22-23 Mar, and 25 Mar saw the ice out at Essex harbor and Lake Champlain at 95.76' with a temperature of 40F. The month closed with rains that pushed the Boquet River over its banks and Common Redpolls back into feeders.

Steady rains from 3-7 Apr were followed by warm, sunny days 9-14 Apr, with a resultant snow melt from the High Peaks that pushed L. Champlain to a high of 99.47' at mid-month. The rest of the month was generally lovely and dry. There were four days of coverage on Coot Hill hawkwatch between 16- 27 Apr, and the total of 133 migrant raptors of nine species was low. The best day was 26 Apr, when 59 hawks fought their way past on adverse northeasterly winds. At 2:20 p.m. DST that day, Elsbeth Johnson and Mike Peterson observed the passage of a medium- sized, long-tailed, tan falcon. The tail was barred like that of a female Am. Kestrel, but the ground color was an unusually light creamy tan shade, while the face showed only a thin, single black sideburn. The bird appeared in all respects to be a female Eurasian Kestrel, a species which has been seen in the past by Montreal hawkwatchers, apparently having escaped from the raptor center in that city. Details have been submitted to NYSARC.

May weather was generally good, although the thermometer dipped to 24F at Elizabethtown 4 May and Tupper Lake had an inch of rain 27 May. By the end of the month, L. Champlain had dropped to 96.24' and warmed to 48F, allowing easier landings at the Four Brothers Islands. Loggerhead Shrike searches in northern Franklin Co., led by Paul Novak, again discovered just two nesting pairs near Ft. Covington in early May. By the end of the period, one nest had failed, but happily newly fledged young from a third nest were found nearby. Near Hogansburg, Hollis White discovered a Northern Harrier nest with five young, a Short-eared Owl nest with five young, and two singing male **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** sharing the same overgrown pasture.

During the period 28 Mar to 5 May, a total of 134 birds of nine species were banded near Elizabethtown; most abundant were 52 Common Redpolls and 48 Dark-eyed Juncos. Bird-banding operations then moved to Crown Point peninsula 8-13 May, where 400 individuals of 34 species were netted and released, the second-best totals in 12 consecutive years. There were returns of a Blue Jay banded in 1981, a Black-capped Chickadee from in 1985, and a Field Sparrow from last year. The four new species banded (Hermit Thrush, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, Savannah Sparrow) brought the all-time list to 70 species. Eight warbler species were netted, including a record 262 Yellow-rumped and seven (Western) Palm Warblers. Present from 12-13 May was a leucistic Yellow-rumped with pure white body, wings, and tail, the usual yellow spots on rump and breast, a brown head, and pink legs. Finally, on 15 May a Least Sandpiper was banded from a flock of 15 at Westport beach. Many of the other spring shorebird records came from a small pond that was drained near L. Alice, Clinton Co., and checked by Mark Gretch.

The sixth annual census of Ring-billed Gulls on Island C of the Four Brothers was conducted on 19 May by a team from High Peaks Audubon and the Adirondack Ecological Center at Newcomb. A total of 15,184 active nests were counted, or just 151 (+1%) more than the first census found in 1982. By late May, Double-crested Cormorants had constructed 159 nests on Island A, plus a few more on Island B. Colonial waterbird studies at the islands are a "Return a Gift to Wildlife" project.

The Four Brothers Islands were first visited by ornithologists a century ago on

22-23 May 1887, when Alvah H. B. Jordan and Augustus G. Paine of Willsboro compiled a list of 29 species. On the same dates in 1987, a centennial visit by a six-person team from High Peaks Audubon recorded 39 species, as well as the carcass of a Snow Goose. The highlight was an **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** sharing a shrub with three Wilson's Warblers on the morning of 23 May, following the passage of a severe overnight storm. Most encouraging is the fact that at least 15 of the species that now breed on the islands were not present a century back.

Special thanks are extended to the 22 active observers (two in Clinton Co., ten in Essex, nine in Franklin, and one in Hamilton) who contributed spring arrival dates for *The Kingbird*. Only six species were missed: Sora, Sanderling, Pectoral Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo. New early arrival dates were set for ten species.

Contributors: Bartlett Bailey, Nick Bailey, Russell Bailey, Merry & Ron Baker, Dirck & Mary Benson, Robin Bouta, Kevin Boyle, Beverly Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Ann & Walter Chapman, Greenleaf T. Chase, Joan & Dewey Clark, Charlcie Delehanty, John E. Delehanty, Janet Dowd, Bob Duane, Katherine Eagleson, Gregory Furness, Bob Gillis, Mark Gretch, Robert Hagar, Anne Hungerford, Peter Hunn, Elsbeth Johnson, Ferdinand LaFrance, Bruce Landon, Gary Lee, Theodore Mack, Laura Meade, Shirley Meisburger, Paul Novak, John Peterson, William Peterson, Eva Reisinger, David Rutkowski, Andrew Saunders, Chris Spies, Gen Sutter, Karen Sylvester, Joyce Thomas, Jan Trzeciak, Joe VanRiet, Jackie & John Viestenz, Hollis White, Liz Williams, Christie & Larry Yox.

Abbreviations: CL - Chazy Landing; CPP - Crown Point peninsula; FBI - Four Brothers Islands.

LOONS- DUCKS: Com. Loon: arr Elk L 20 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: six migrants Coot Hill 26 Apr, two CPP 10 May; *intro*. Least Bittern: female flushed from nest L Alice 23 May. Great Blue Heron: King's Bay heronry totally abandoned (MG), 22 Fish Cr heronry 22 Apr (CD). Great Egret: arr St. Regis Reservation 24 Apr. Snowy Egret: arr L. Alice 23-24 May. Black-crowned Night-Heron: nesting FBI 16 May, also seen Little Chazy R 26 May, King's Bay WMA 29 May, L Alice WMA 31 May (MG). Snow Goose: migrants 24 Mar-12 Apr, max 100 Elizabethtown 29 Mar; *intro*. Canada Goose: arr Clin and Fran 28 Mar, high max 6,000 Clin cornfields 5 Apr, 13 yellow neck collars reported. Mallard: 100 males King's Bay WMA 29 May. N. Pintail: max 100 CL 5 Apr. N. Shoveler: male CL 5-11 Apr, uncommon. Gadwall: pair CL 24 Apr, uncommon, pair FBI 16 May first sighting since pair found dead there in Oct 1985. Am. Wigeon: arr pair Raquette R 28 Mar, max seven Clin 11 Apr. Canvasback: three CL 5 Apr, uncommon in spring. Ring-necked Duck: L Alice heavily clogged with vegetation and no evidence this species still nests there.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Coot Hill 16 Apr, max 13 there 21 Apr. Bald Eagle: ad Black Point Rd, n L George 2 Mar (JD,LM), Tupper L 18 Mar-27 May, two there 22 Mar (CD), feeding on dead deer on ice Bay Pd 26 Mar (BL), im and ad Mountain View dam 29 Mar- 21 Apr (AH, JT, m obs), adults frequenting Franklin Falls, im migrating n CPP 13 May (EJ, JP), but nesting not confirmed in recent years, in spite of increases. N. Harrier: max 3 Coot Hill 26 Apr. Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 9 Coot Hill 26 Apr. Cooper's Hawk: Coot Hill 21 Apr only report. N. Goshawk: max 2 Coot Hill 16 Apr. Red-shouldered Hawk: max 2 Ferd's Bog 2 May. Broad-winged Hawk: max 23 Coot Hill 26 Apr and 27 Apr (all adults). Red-tailed Hawk: max 7 Coot Hill 26 Apr and 27 Apr. **EURASIAN KESTREL**: *intro*. Gray Partridge: two Champlain 13 Apr only report. Spruce Grouse: female and two males Boreal Heritage Preserve, Fran, 12 Apr (RB), male same

area 25 Apr (RB,KE,EJ,JP) in final year of radio-tagging research. Wild Turkey: two **Tupper Lake** late winter where deer were being fed grain (BD). Semipalmated Plover: max 9 L Alice 16 May. Greater Yellowlegs: migrant over Newcomb 12 May (AS) unusual inland, max 8 Ingraham, Clin mid-May. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 20 CL early May. Solitary Sandpiper: max 5 CL 10 May. Spotted Sandpiper: max 3 CPP 11 May. Upland Sandpiper: arr Hogansburg 21 Apr, one behind Newcomb school 2 May (AS) unusual location, several other sightings n Clin and Fran. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 7 L Alice 25 May. **WESTERN SANDPIPER**: ad nonbreeding plumage Westport beach 15 May (EJ), first spring record. Least Sandpiper: max 35 L Alice 16 May. Ring-billed Gull: *intro*.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Short-eared Owl: arr Hogansburg 24 Apr, pair with displaying male 6 May (HW), *intro*. Whip-poor-will: arr CP10 May. Three-toed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 2-3 May only report. Black-backed Woodpecker: Ferd's Bog 2-3 May only report.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: FBI D 22 May (WP), unusual location. Horned Lark: Owls Head to 8 Mar. Gray Jay: ad Boreal Heritage Preserve 25 Apr, max 5 Ferd's Bog 2 May. Boreal Chickadee: reports from Elk L, Boreal Heritage Preserve, Ferd's Bog. Marsh Wren: max 30 territorial males Monty Bay to 31 May. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: CPP 11 and 13 May only reports. N. Mockingbird: CPP 10-13 May only sighting. Bohemian Waxwing: two Chazy, Clin, 5 Mar (MG), max 200 south of Ausable Point, Clin, 16 Mar (BB). N. Shrike: last Owls Head feeder 19 Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: *intro*.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Tennessee Warbler: banded CPP 12 May, max eight Cheever 24 May. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER**: *intro*. Nashville Warbler: 4 banded CPP 9-12 May. No. Parula: transients CPP 10-13 May. Yellow Warbler: 12 banded CPP 9-12 May. Cape May Warbler: 4 banded CPP 12-13 May. Yellow-rumped Warbler: singing males on territory Boreal Heritage Preserve 25 Apr, yet migrant waves did not reach CPP until 10-13 May (max 108 banded there 12 May); *intro*. Pine Warbler: max 6 males Brasher Forest, Fran, 21 Apr. (Western) Palm Warbler: *intro*. Bay-breasted Warbler: max 4 Tupper Lake 28 May. Blackpoll Warbler: max two Cheever 24 May and Tupper Lake 28 May. Black-and-white Warbler: banded CPP 12 May. Com. Yellowthroat: 4 banded CPP 12-13 May. Wilson's Warbler: *intro*. also Cheever 24 May, Elizabethtown 24 May, 28 May, Tupper Lake 28 May, for a total of seven birds at four sites, a good showing.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Am. Tree Sparrow: last Owls Head 13 Apr. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: *intro*. Savannah Sparrow: 3 FBI D 22 May unusual. Fox Sparrow: Tupper Lake 2 and 9 Apr only report. Song Sparrow: max 30+ Raquette Falls 28 Mar. White-throated Sparrow: max 11 Ferd's Bog 2 May. White-crowned Sparrow: many transients CPP 11-13 May. Dark-eyed Junco: max 31 banded Elizabethtown 12 Apr. Snow Bunting: max 100+ n Fran 6 Mar, last 5 Owls Head 7 Mar. Bobolink: male FBI D 23 May unusual. Red-winged Blackbird: arr Owls Head 6 Mar, max 75 Moriah Center 11 Mar. Rusty Blackbird: six arr Raquette R 28 Mar, max 85 Hogansburg 23 Apr (HW) high. Orchard Oriole: subad male CPP 12 May. N. Oriole: 7 banded Crown Point 11-13 May. Pine Grosbeak: last 15 Chazy 6 Mar. Purple Finch: arr Paradox 28 Mar; bird banded Elizabethtown 29 Apr 1982 returned Apr 1983 and 5 May 1987. House Finch: Essex and Schroon Lake only reported locations. Red Crossbill: reports from Elizabethtown, Owls Head, Paradox, Point au Fer from 2 Mar-14 Apr, including a family of three (one j) at Paradox 15 Mar. Com. Redpoll: max 100 Owls Head and Mountain View, 51 banded Elizabethtown 28 Mar, last Elizabethtown and Owls Head 12 Apr. Pine Siskin: many arriving into mid-May. Evening Grosbeak: max 55 Owls Head 8 Mar, six banded Elizabethtown 5 May. House Sparrow: nest building in Malone street lamp and barn 24 Mar.

Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

LINDA ARMSTRONG

Yes, early in the season birders in Region 8 were awakened by the sound of bird song. Male Red-wings found feeders and proclaimed their return. High overhead Canada Geese heralded the approach of breeding time. Grackles also appeared in yards, affording a sharp contrast to more delicate Chickadees and Titmice. With this fine start everyone hoped that the season would continue to produce numbers of every other species to sharpen both eyes and ears. However, most reporters complained about the lack of numbers and late arrivals.

Bad weather could not really be blamed for the unspectacular season. Even the reports of the local chapter of the American Meteorological Society lacked colorful descriptions of any memorable events. March was a dry month with less than normal snowfall. The existing snow cover melted off gradually and there were no late storms necessitating the shoveling of sections of lawns so that robins, woodcocks and other species would have places to forage. Temperatures were above normal for the month. April began with all the showers it's famous for - in fact, more showers than it's famous for. Ground thoroughly sodden, the second half of the month then was dryer and considerably warmer than normal. A bit of snow fell on 28 Apr, just enough to complain about. May was simply warm and dry with no massive fronts or storms. There were above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

Significantly for birders, the entire season was nice enough to be outdoors, picking up the first song, the first sighting. Unfortunately for birders, the first songs and the first sightings were few and far between. Dawn choruses were reported throughout the Region as poor to lacking. There were few noteworthy migration flights. Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were seen migrating on 26 and 30 Apr, Osprey on 30 Apr, and on 7 May Common Loons, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and a Merlin were sighted moving through the Region. Although birders usually speak most excitedly about warblers in the spring, this season seemed to provide more interest in other families. Flycatchers were reported in much greater numbers and from more locales than warblers. Least and Great-crested Flycatcher provided something flying to look at when our more colorful warblers seemed absent. With a near lack of warbler song the chattering of swallows was especially evident. A few birders reported mixed flocks of Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Bank, Cliff and Barn all feeding off the same insect hatch.

Waterfowl left without a great deal of notice; our wintering species gradually disappeared and only shorebirds afforded us some excitement. One spot, North Blenheim, reported numerous species in April and May, then a washed out dam in another spot also provided new habitat in May. The following species made use of the mud flats newly exposed in Basic Reservoir: Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Ruddy Turnstone, Solitary, Spotted, Semipalmated, Least and White-rumped Sandpiper, and Dunlin.

Contributors: Ken Able, Jon Boulette, Paul Connor, Bill Cook, D.M. Cooper, Donald Davis, Bill Gorman, Rebecca Holberton, William Johnson, Bill Lee, Alan Mapes, Laura Meade, Jon Powell, Barbara Putnam, Elton Rising, Alice Ross, Paul Rubin, Scott Terrill, Robert Yunick.

Abbreviations: CGCC-Columbia Green Community College.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-throated Loon: single report Saratoga L 16 May. Common Loon: six migrating on 7 May. Pied-billed Grebe: small numbers seen throughout the season. Double-crested Cormorant: flocks of 20-30 migrating along Hudson R late Apr, max 77 Linlithgo Station 23 May. Great Blue Heron: ten at nests Ft Edwards 11 Apr. Snowy Egret: only report Crescent 16 May. Mute Swan: one Schuylerville 8 Mar, one Ancram 21 Mar, 15 Embough Bay 23 May. Snow Goose: only reports 30-35 over Saratoga Springs 15 Mar, three large flocks ca. 300 each New Baltimore 29 Mar; underreported? Brant: flocks migrating 16 May. Canada Goose: earliest young reported Five Rivers 6 May. Wood Duck: numerous reports, many nesting pairs. Gadwall: seen each month of reporting period, with Pintails and Green-winged Teal Staats 1 22 Mar, Stockport 11 Apr, Basic Res 16 May. Am. Wigeon: four Bells Pd 25 March, one Cohoes 13 May, scarce. Canvasback: flock present Castleton throughout Mar. Redhead: male Castleton 8 Mar only report. Ring-necked Duck: seen throughout March. Greater Scaup: one seen with Lesser Scaup Schuylerville 21 Mar, then not reported again until one Basic Res 14 May. Oldsquaw: two Mohawk R 29 Mar, unusual. Com. Goldeneye: singles L George 13 Mar, Schuylerville 8 Mar, Bells Pd 26 Mar. Bufflehead: all reports in first half of Apr. Hooded Merganser: five different locations during Mar and Apr. Com. Merganser: widespread and numerous all season; ad with chicks Hague 30 May. Red-breasted Merganser: Catskill 18 Apr, Franklinton Fly 12 Apr, only reports. Ruddy Duck: pair Fish Creek 28 Mar, one Mohawk R 29 Mar, scarce.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: max 16 Clarksville 4 Mar. Osprey: arr 1 Apr then not reported until 16 May. Bald Eagle: numerous locations but most impressive was 3 ad and 3 im T of Hadley 7 Mar. N. Harrier: singles seen through Mar. N. Goshawk: reported each month, four Hague 24 Mar, one Berne 26 Apr, nesting pair Thacher P May. Red-shouldered Hawk: only report Embough Bay 14 May. Broad-winged Hawk: most reported 4-7 May. American Kestrel: widespread. Merlin: Hague 8 March, migrating E. Greenbush 7 May, only reports. Peregrine Falcon: seen Helderburg Escarpment and Albany in Mar. Wild Turkey: a flock both numbers and sexes max 24 East Greenbush observed daily. Killdeer: pairs on breeding territory beginning 13 Mar. Upland Sandpiper: two locations Mont and Schodack Center this season. Am. Woodcock: widespread, courtship flights beginning 14 Mar. Ring-billed Gull: max 100+ Castleton 6 Mar. Herring Gull: very few reports, two Catskill 21 Mar. Iceland Gull: only report Cohoes 15 May. Lesser Black-backed Gull: one Cohoes 13 May. Glaucous Gull: one Round L 26 Mar. Great Black-backed Gull: max 35 Hudson River-Catskill 18 Apr, most numerous gull Castleton 24 Apr.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: three reports of singles, Schodack Landing, Niskayuna and Five Rivers 14, 16 and 24 May. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: two reports, Clarksville and Five Rivers 22 and 24 May. Great Horned Owl: reported calling from many areas in Region. Snowy Owl: last Ft Edwards 22 Mar. Barred Owl: two reports, one Reist Sanctuary 25 Mar, one calling Hague 6 Apr. Short-eared Owl: only report Ft Edwards 16 April. N. Saw-whet Owl: one calling repeatedly Coxsackie 20 Mar, one East Bern 11 May, two calling Petersburg throughout May, more than usual. Whip-poor-will: only report Hague 9 May. Red-headed Woodpecker: two reports, W. Berne 15 May, Mont 23 May. Red-bellied Woodpecker: reported at three locations Greenport 26 Mar, Bell's Pond 23 Apr, Berne 8 May.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: few reported, one Olana 23 May, two Cherry Plain 31 May. Alder Flycatcher: numerous reports. Willow Flycatcher: a coincidence? - the same number of reports as the Alder. Least Flycatcher: most frequently reported of all flycatchers. Fish Crow: territorial behavior Niskayuna 20 March. Com. Raven: breeding pair in Thacher Park for the second year, treating birders s of the Adirondacks to that distinctive drawn out croak. Carolina Wren: only report Five Rivers 3 May. Winter Wren: three locations, Cole Hill 20 Apr, two Cherry Plain 25 Mar, singing male Jenny Lake 3 May. N. Shrike: three sightings Berne, Five Rivers, Gallupville in Mar.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: none. Solitary Vireo: arr four locales 25 Apr. Yellow-throated Vireo: two reports Black Creek Marsh 9 May, Mont 23 May. Warbling Vireo: most reported songster this spring. Blue-winged Warbler: frequently seen and heard. Golden-winged Warbler: two locations only, Five Rivers 7 May, Schenectady Museum Preserve 13 May. Tennessee Warbler: three reports all in the same part of the Region, Five Rivers, Schenectady, E. Berne. Nashville Warbler: two reports only, E. Greenbush and Five Rivers. N. Parula: none. Yellow Warbler: common throughout. Chestnut-sided Warbler: scarce, few reports. Magnolia Warbler: seen in Schenectady, Berne and Five Rivers last part of May. Cape May Warbler: seen in Lake George Village, Berne and Five Rivers beginning of May. Black-throated Blue Warbler: not reported from s part of Region, seen only in Hague. Black-throated Green Warbler: fairly common in May. Blackburnian Warbler: single report Warrensburg 16 May. Pine Warbler: missed in most normal locations, single report Warren City 12 Apr. Prairie Warbler: singing on breeding territory CGCC 11 May. Palm Warbler: two reports, Five Rivers and Black Creek Marsh, 7 and 9 May. Blackpoll Warbler: two reports of singles, Thatcher P 13 May, CGCC 23 May. Cerulean Warbler: single report Castleton 13 May. Black-and-white Warbler: numerous. Am. Redstart: numerous. Ovenbird: frequently heard. Louisiana Waterthrush: most visible at Five Rivers. Mourning warbler: Mont 23 May, L George Village 23 May, only reports. Wilson's Warbler: reported on widespread 24 and 25 May. Canada Warbler: three reports, Schenectady Museum Preserve, Vischer Ferry 13 and 23 May. Yellow-breasted Chat: single report Black Creek Marsh 16 May.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: typical numbers. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: typical numbers. Indigo Bunting: reported commonly. Rufous-sided Towhee: early arr Greenport 23 Mar, next 3 May. Chipping Sparrow: numerous. Field Sparrow: reported from only four locations, perhaps overlooked otherwise. Vesper Sparrow: scarce, two locations only, Schodack Center 20 May, Mont 23 May. Savannah Sparrow: four locations reported, Livingston, Mont, Black Creek Marsh, Knox. Grasshopper Sparrow: scarce, Saratoga Battlefield most dependable location, also Dormansville. Henslow's Sparrow: one location, Knox 13 May, habitat destruction continues to make this species difficult to find. Lincoln's Sparrow: all reports Vischer Ferry 16 and 23 May. White-throated Sparrow: late migrant Vischer Ferry 23 May, other reports prior to 1 May. Rusty Blackbird: two locations, Hague throughout April, Ann Lee Pd 24 April, absent from Black Creek Marsh where it has also been seen. Orchard Oriole: three locations, Vischer Ferry 8 May, Meadowdale 9 May, Five Rivers 9 May, more than usual. Red Crossbill: large flock 110+ Tomhannock Res. 19 Apr, last two Luther Forest 11 May. Com. Redpoll: large flocks, max 65, widespread to end of Mar. Pine Siskin: flocks reported to 20 Apr. Evening Grosbeak: one albino with flock Hague April, small numbers seen until 28 Apr.

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REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

HELEN C. MANSON

March brought near normal temperatures except for the weekend of 14-15 Mar, when temperatures soared to the 80's. The ice was out of the Hudson River by mid-month, out of the coves a week later and by the end of the month the ponds were free. The waterfowl count was below normal, with no large groups. Common Merganser was found in good numbers but Canvasback was down. Snow Geese were observed early in Sullivan County. Wintering hawks in Dutchess County added spice to winter birding. The gray **GYRFALCON** which first appeared at the Win Farm in Pine Plains on 10 Jan spent the next two months between that farm and the Mashomack Game Preserve until it was last seen 12 Mar. It was observed by many from all over the eastern part of the state as well as Connecticut and New Jersey. Many counted it as a life bird. The Win Farm and the Mashomack Game Preserve are in a broad flat plain just east of Stissing Mountain. There are vast fields, ponds and some wooded areas. During the winter several Rough-legged Hawks as well as Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks and a Golden Eagle were observed there.

April brought temperatures averaging between 30 and 40. April was a disappointing month. The foliage came early but not the migrants. The early spring migrants seemed to arrive about on time but those expected at the end of the month did not arrive until early May. Some of the Bluebirds in Dutchess County started nesting early and got caught in a damp, cold spell. Many of their young died in the nest boxes. However, they renested and are doing well.

May brought warmer days, heavy foliage but no warbler waves. Flycatchers, orioles, Indigo Bunting and some warblers were late. Pine Siskins stayed at feeders and Evening Grosbeaks paid a return visit and were here well into May. A **COMMON RAVEN** noted at Bashakill on 9 May and **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** turned up in both Dutchess and Orange counties. A seasonal mud puddle at the McEnroe Farm in Amenia produced some interesting shorebirds. This large shallow puddle is in a cornfield close to the road. It is there for only a few short weeks and not every year. This year, in addition to the phalarope, there were Short-billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated Plover, yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and various "peeps".

The conclusion seems to be that, with a few exceptions, it was a very poor spring migration.

Contributors: Fred and Wava Abbott, Barbara Butler, Florence Germond, Sibyll Gilbert, Jim & Mary Key, Helen Manson, Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, Steven Mierzykowski, Eleanor Pink, John Tramontano, Otis Waterman, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Marion VanWagner.

Abbreviations: BS - Bashakill Swamp; WMC-Waterman May Census 16 May.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: WMC, Lusk Res (SM), no large concentrations. Red-necked Grebe: one BS 4 Apr. Double-crested Cormorant: one Tamarack 20 May, unusual inland. Am. Bittern: at usual nesting areas (JT). Least Bittern: none in Dutc. Great Blue

Heron: seem low (EP), max 10 WMC. Mute Swan: continues to nest Dutc. Snow Goose: 50 Grahamsville 8 Mar. Brant: 3-5000 over Cornwall Bay 14 May (EAMBC). Wood Duck: three nesting pair Stissing; all of several hundred boxes in use BS; female with ten y Millbrook 21 May. Green-winged Teal: 45 at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr. Am. Black Duck: pair with five y (EP). N. Pintail: one Wassiac 20 Apr. Blue-winged Teal: two WMC. N. Shoveler: five at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr. Gadwall: two Wappingers L 2 Apr. Am. Wigeon: ten at 6 1/2 Mile Sanctuary 7 Apr; five Wappingers L 11-25 Mar. Canvasback: max 100-150 Esopus 21 Mar (MVW), no large rafts. Redhead: none. Ring-necked Duck: scattered few in Hudson R and inland. Greater Scaup: ten Esopus 14-20 Mar. Lesser Scaup: five Hudson R 14 Mar. Com. Goldeneye: good numbers Hudson R. Bufflehead: max 16 on 22 Mar; two Wappingers L 1 Apr. Com. Merganser: 75 Norrie Pt 18 Mar. Ruddy Duck: one Kiamesha L 5 Apr, six L Shelldrake 29 Apr, three Abel's Pd 16 Apr (BB).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: BLACK VULTURE: "pairs" over Mt Peter 26 Apr, Campbell Hall 28 Apr and Chester 16 May. Bald Eagle: im BS 16b May (EAMBC); ad Vandenberg Cove 4 Mar; one Esopus Light 14 Mar (OW). N. Harrier: several Dutc Mar and Apr, one WMC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: mostly at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: single Rhinebeck 10 Mar, Amenia 13 May. N. Goshawk: two Pond Gut 20 Apr (HM). Red-shouldered Hawk: singles Moonbeam Sanctuary 16 May (JT), Quaker Hill 16 Mar (SG). Broad-winged Hawk: 16 on 20 Apr (WBC), two WMC. Red-tailed Hawk: 43 WMC. Rough-legged Hawk: none. Am. Kestrel: well reported Dutc, local breeders but remain scarce throughout Region (JT). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** one transiting over Middletown 4 May (JT). **GYRFALCON:** *intro*. Ruffed Grouse: 12 WMC. Wild Turkey: continues to do well. Sora: one Millbrook School 26 Apr (JMK). Com. Moorhen: two Stissing 9 and 23 May. Semipalmated Plover: six Amenia 17-19 May. Greater Yellowlegs: four WMC. Lesser Yellowlegs: two WMC. Solitary Sandpiper: many Dutc in May. Spotted Sandpiper: arr late, 23 WMC. **W. SANDPIPER:** one Chester 16 May (JT), no details. Least Sandpiper: good numbers Dutc. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 11 Amenia 20 May. Am. Woodcock: very scarce (OW). **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** one Amenia 8-11 May, one Chester 11 May.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: four WMC. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: three WMC. Great Horned Owl: nesting near Pine Plains (MVW). Barred Owl: pair suspected nesting near Poughkeepsie. Long-eared Owl: on Quaker Hill 28 Mar (SG). Com. Nighthawk: good numbers over Dutc, 56 WMC. Whip-poor-will: singles Stissing Mt 6 and 31 May. Chimney Swift: late and half usual numbers (EP). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: numbers seemed low, four feeding May (FG). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to expand. Red-headed Woodpecker: remains scarce.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLING: Olive-sided Flycatcher: scarce (JT); one WMC. E. Wood-pewee: late, two Poughkeepsie 11 May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: none Dutc or Oran, most Sull breeding sites occupied by late May. Willow Flycatcher: arr late. Horned Lark: very local at sod farms and airports. N. Bank Swallow: large numbers T Washington dump (FG). Cliff Swallow: none Dutc. Barn Swallow: late but good numbers. Fish Crow: continues to expand away from Hudson R BS and Middletown (JT). **COM. RAVEN:** *intro*. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one Read Oaks Mill 15 Mar (JMK); also Pleasant Valley Apr and May (MVW). Brown Creeper: seems low, only four WMC. Carolina Wren: few along Hudson R, doing well Dutc. House Wren: late and nesting in bluebird boxes. Winter Wren: one Pond Gut 2 May no singing (HM). Marsh Wren: 18 WMC. Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce, last Ferncliff 8 May. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: fair numbers. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: most arr first week May. E. Bluebird: several new sites (JT); doing well Dutc. Veery: late, one Tyrell Rd 4 May (EP, MVW). Gray-cheeked Thrush: two Quaker Hill 11 and 25 May. Swainson's Thrush: few. Hermit Thrush: singing Pond Gut 2 May (HM). Wood Thrush: Brown Thrasher: late and not too plentiful. Cedar Waxwing: late but good numbers.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: none. Solitary Vireo: a few in usual nesting areas. Yellow-throated Vireo: 48 WMC. Philadelphia Vireo: two BS 16 May. Blue-winged Warbler: arr Wappingers 3 May. Brewster's Warbler: two WMC, several Oran. Golden-winged Warbler: one Ferncliff 6 May (WBC). Nashville Warbler: scarce and late. Magnolia Warbler: last 25 May (MVW). Blackburnian Warbler: scarce and late. Pine Warbler: two 20-21 Apr (JMK). Palm Warbler: Bay-breasted Warbler: one bathing in small stream 22 May (MVW, EP). Blackpoll Warbler: never very many. Cerulean Warbler: singles Ferncliff 6 May, Pawling 16 May. Worm-eating Warbler: arr 6 May, many areas Dutc. N. Water-thrush: Tamarack, Deep Hollow and Wassaic. Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 16 May Pond Gut on time. Kentucky Warbler: singing BS 16 May, Tamarack 18 May, nest building Pawling 16 May. Wilson's Warbler: nearly missed Dutc.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: late most areas. Am. Tree Sparrow: left feeders very early by mid Apr. Chipping Sparrow: arr very early 6 Apr (HM). Vesper Sparrow: very scarce. Savannah Sparrow: few. Grasshopper Sparrow: missed Dutc. Fox Sparrow: scarce. Lincoln's Sparrow: none. Swamp Sparrow: good numbers in most marshy areas. White-throated Sparrow: stayed through May Dutc. White-crowned Sparrow: very few. Bobolink: very plentiful. E. Meadowlark: good number open farm areas. Brewer's Blackbird: three males carefully studied Goshen 30 Mar (WFA). Orchard Oriole: local BS, Sod Farm (JT). Purple Finch: relatively few (JT), few at most feeders end of Apr, 30 or more (FG). Com. Redpoll: at most feeder during Mar. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

Moore's Mills, RD 4, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

REGION 10 – MARINE

TONY LEUKERING and JOHN WALSH

Spring 1987 started warmer (mean March temperatures 3.8 degrees above normal) and somewhat wetter (0.7" above normal) than average with a minor snowfall mid-month. The weather deteriorated in April with temperatures normal but precipitation 64% above average. This seemed to retard the movement of early spring migrants into our Region. The first migrant wave occurred on 30 Apr with seven species of warbler in Central Park. May was slightly warmer than average and very dry with only 1.45" of rain. This lack of precipitation may have been responsible for the early arrival of several normally late spring migrants, i.e., Cape May, Blackpoll, and Mourning Warblers. The "wave" aspect of migration was exhibited in a strong manner to Levine on 2-3 May. He reported "the western portion of the Jones Beach strip on 2 May was awash with flocks of White-throated Sparrows.... Each flock also showed a number of Chipping Sparrows in its midst. In addition to these, there were high numbers of Rufous-sided Towhees and Brown Thrashers scratching around in the brush. However, the weather did not hold for the night of 2 May, the wind turned cold and from the northeast and on 3 May... Jones Beach [was] devoid of the good numbers of dickey birds that were present the day before."

A Red-necked Grebe, extremely rare in Manhattan, was on the Central Park Reservoir 15-29 Mar, prompting speculation that it was the same individual recorded there in late April 1986. This was one of very few spring reports after an above average winter for the species in our Region. The report of three Am. Bitterns certainly constituted an amazing spectacle for Central Park 6 May. Green-winged Teal lingered this year; a male was on Goethal's Bridge Pond with a male Blue-winged Teal 31 May. Morris reports that "these two swam around in circles like a mated pair;" certainly an interesting behavior. As many as three male but no female Eurasian Wigeon were reported at the usual localities on western Long Island. We urge contributors to look carefully at female wigeons, particularly those consorting with male Eurasian Wigeon, since rufous morph female Eurasian Wigeon are distinguishable in the field. Additional reports could delineate more clearly the abundance and distribution of this Old World species in the Region.

The last N. Harrier reported away from known breeding sites was seen by Hook at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on 6 May. This bird probably was a migrant as N. Harriers which breed in the Region usually are on eggs by then. There were numerous reports of Peregrine Falcons, including the pair that wintered in midtown Manhattan. A report of a pair seen in late March at the Triborough Bridge may have involved these birds; however, no further activity was noted at the site.

A **KING RAIL** was found alive at 53rd Street and Third Avenue, Manhattan by Leukering 26 May. The bird evidently had hit a building and subsequently was turned over to a licensed rehabilitator. The Virginia Rail found 11 Apr at Acabonack was thought to have wintered there. Although the species is regularly seen in winter, it is not known conclusively whether it overwinters. A Com. Moorhen at Ridgewood Reservoir 2 May may have been the first of very few seen this spring.

Morris continued his spring shorebird survey for the fifth year at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. High counts of six of the seven most common species, in comparison to his four-year average highs, were notably low, the exception being Red Knot. In accord with these lower numbers he found only one Lesser Yellowlegs and no Pectoral Sandpipers all season. Two Basic plumaged dowitchers, thought to be Long-billed by gestalt, were reported at Montauk 4-5 Apr by McGuinness. The species is extremely rare as a spring migrant in the Region but these could have been wintering birds. Two other two Basic plumaged dowitchers, seen at Watermill 5 Apr, were thought by McGuinness to be Short-billed. The date, although early, falls within previously published dates for spring migrants (Bull 1964).

A pelagic trip, sponsored by the Okeanos Foundation on 28-29 May, recorded an extraordinary four species of *Stercorariinae*. In addition to the regularly occurring Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, participants enjoyed a **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** and a **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**. Several observers commented on the low numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls, yet the species lingered into late May, with the last reported being an immature at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on the 22nd. Three reports of Forster's Terns included an immature at Quantuck Creek, Quogue, on the exceptionally early date of 6 Mar. This may have been a wintering

bird, as the species has been found with increasing regularity during the winter months in coastal areas south of New York. An **ATLANTIC PUFFIN** was found dead on a southern Long Island beach in late May. Bull (1974) lists only eight records for the state, all but one on Long Island.

In addition to the aforementioned Am. Bitterns in Central Park, a female Chuck-will's-widow and a male Whip-poor-will were roosting approximately five feet apart, one above the other, in the same tree 6 May. Leukering managed to get both in the same binocular field (which was difficult at the requisite close range). It was a good spring in Central Park for Whip-poor-will with two other individuals reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers continue at a low population ebb with only four reports, including the first of the season in Pelham Bay Park in early April. Red-bellied Woodpeckers, however, continue their increase in the Region with individuals reported from many locations on the south shore of Long Island, where they have been rare historically, in May including *four* at Jones Beach on the seventh and Jamaica Bay's first ever on the 17th. The male present in Central Park last year was joined by a female during the Winter. They were observed excavating a nest hole this spring, thus providing the first nesting record for the park.

Fish Crows returned in March to Central Park, at which site they nested for the first time in 1986. All of the regularly occurring species of vireos and warblers had arrived by early May, including a Mourning Warbler on the very early date of 9 May at Greenwood Cemetery followed by one at Forest Park on 10 May. Two "Lawrence's" (one Staten Island on 3 May and one at Riverhead 8 May), four "Brewster's", and five Cerulean (all between 2-8 May) Warblers graced the Region. The migration of Pine Warblers through our Region usually starts in late March and peaks some time in April. Numbers of this species were very depressed this year. Possibility the mid-March snowfall was to blame. Mid-March should see Pine Warblers moving through the Middle Atlantic states as far north as central New Jersey. The precipitation dropped here 11-12 Mar was the tail end of a storm that lashed those states with up to a foot of snow. Birds that had been moving north on the warm air of early March had to retreat south or perish. Many of them undoubtedly perished.

The bird of the season was doubtless the first Regional "more than one day" **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** since the first state record in 1950. Burke *et al.* found it singing in Forest Park on 26 May and it was located by others the next day. The bird could only be found by tracking it while it sang. A waterthrush reported as a Northern on 12 Apr was probably a Louisiana. This species is by far more likely in April than Northern. It was a good season for Louisiana Waterthrush with the first an early bird on 3 Apr at Muttontown. Another was on Staten Island, where rare, 12 Apr; as many as eight were in Central Park during the season, including three there 14 May; and a couple were banded on Great Gull Island 16-17 May. A male **CONNECTICUT WARBLER**, almost unheard of here in spring, was seen and heard in full song by Adamo at Wading River 9 May, which is a record early date. The usual scattering of Yellow-breasted Chats included one each at Greenwood Cemetery and Prospect Park on 9 May.

A large influx of Indigo Buntings at Jones Beach on the fairly early date of 19 Apr brought with it a few male Blue Grosbeak. One was seen by Levine and

Richard Sloss on the 19th and one to three were reported there for the next few days. The continual increase in Boat-tailed Grackle numbers has apparently spawned a new breeding colony at Tobay. Brook Lauro reported their presence and possible breeding status in early May and a male was seen by birdathoners there 17 May.

Cardueline finches provided some excitement this spring for many birders. Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin moved through in March in good numbers after a very strong showing last Winter. Of even more interest was a Pine Siskin at Jones Beach on the very late date of 28 May. There is a strong possibility that this bird was moving north after having bred to the south or even at Jones Beach. In Leukering's experience in Cincinnati, Ohio, Pine Siskin occasionally stay to breed in early spring after strong winter flights and then disappear, presumably moving north, after mid-May. Evening Grosbeak were "in virtually every New York City park in late April to mid-May" and were even found on the American Museum of Natural History grounds on 7 May.

Again, we urge all those birding in Region 10 to send us seasonal reports. We especially appreciate reports of common species in low or high numbers, time spans and peaks of migration, and interesting behavioral observations. We would like to thank Susan Roney Drennan for reviewing a draft of this report.

Abbreviations: APP-Alley Pond Park; CP-Central Park; FP-Forest Park; GGI-Great Gull Island; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; JBch-Jones Beach; LI-Long Island; PP-Prospect Park; Pkwy - Parkway; Sl-Staten Island; WEJB-West End Jones Beach.

Contributors: Robert Adamo, Joseph DiCostanzo, Thomas Hook, Tony Leukering, Emanuel Levine, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society (R. Cioffi - field notes ed.), Hugh McGuinness, Arthur Morris, New York Rare Bird Alert (Thomas Burke - ed.), Queens Co. Bird Club (Lore Schore - field notes ed.), Ann Shaw, John Walsh, Alvin Wollin. Unless otherwise noted all records from Central Park are seen by mob.

LOONS-DUCKS: Red-necked Grebe: *intro*. Sooty Shearwater: one off JBch 9 May (J. Askildsen), possible record early date. Am. Bittern: *intro*. Great Egret: one CP late Apr (TL), unusual location. Snowy Egret: two Howard Beach 2 Mar (*fide* QCBC), possible record early date. Little Blue Heron: one JBWR 1 Apr (TH), very early. Tundra Swan: last five Mecox Bay 8 Mar (NYRBA). Green-winged Teal: *intro*. Blue-winged Teal: to at least 22 Mar Pond X, Lawrence (NYRBA). Eurasian Wigeon: *intro*. Redhead: four (m, 3f) JBWR 22 Mar (mob), unusual number for locale. Ring-necked Duck: seven JBWR 22 Mar (mob), very high for locale. Com. Eider: last Montauk 5 Apr (HM). King Eider: last Montauk 30 May (NYRBA), also late. Black Scoter: max 3000 Montauk 5 Apr (HM). White-winged Scoter: max 10,000+ Montauk 7 Mar & 4-5 Apr (HM).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: arr Montauk 7 Mar (NYRBA), early & unusual e LI. Bald Eagle: im Muttontown 9 Mar (*fide* LLAS), unusual LI; one JBWR 24 May (NYRBA), late & uncommon at locale. N. Harrier: *intro*. N. Goshawk: im JBWR 14 Mar (*fide* QCBC); im Muttontown 1 Apr (*fide* LLAS), only reports. Rough-legged Hawk: last Meadowbrook Pkwy, JBch 19 Apr (NYRBA). Peregrine Falcon: *intro*. KING RAIL: *intro*. Virginia Rail: *intro*. Com. Moorhen: *intro*. Black-bellied Plover: max 600 (31% below average max for four years ['82, '83, '85, '86]) JBWR 10 May (AM). Semipalmated Plover: one WEJB 15 Mar (NYRBA), may be record early; max 656 (down 31%) JBWR 2 May (AM). Piping Plover: one WEJB 7 Mar (TL, S. Drennan, P. Meyer), early. Am. Oystercatcher: arr Shinnecock 2 Mar (NYRBA); max 24 JBWR 23 Apr (AM). Upland Sandpiper: one Pelham Bay P 14 May (NYRBA), rare locale for date. Whimbrel: arr JBWR 26 Apr

Turnstone: max 217 (down 40%) JBWR 31 May (AM). Red Knot: max 350 (up 33%) JBWR 25 May (AM). Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1227 (down 61%) JBWR 31 May (AM). W. Sandpiper: one WEJB to 15 Mar (S. Walter). Least Sandpiper: max 38 (down 82%) JBWR 10 May (AM). White-rumped Sandpiper: arr one 11 May Great Kills P (AM). Dunlin: max 500 (down 27%) JBWR 10 May (TL, JW, TB, *vide* AM). Ruff: f Mecox Bay 17 May (TL, JD, AS). Short-billed Dowitcher: arr JBWR 2 May (AM): max 22 JBWR 25-31 May (AM). Long-billed Dowitcher: *intro*. Com. Snipe: max 17 Wainscott Pd 11 Apr. Pomarine Jaeger: *intro*. Parasitic Jaeger: *intro*. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER: *intro***. **SOUTH POLAR SKUA: *intro***. Laughing Gull: arr Flushing 3 Apr (IS). Little Gull: ad Jones Inlet 7-29 Mar & 14 Apr (mob), only report. Com. Black-headed Gull: im Jones Inlet 7-15 Mar (mob); one Patchogue 21 Mar (NYRBA), uncommon migrant. Bonaparte's Gull: *intro*. Iceland Gull: im JBWR 10 May (TL, TB, JW); two im SI 16 May (AM), late. Gull-billed Tern: one WEJB 2 & 9 May (EL); two JBWR 10 & 15 May (NYRBA); one in Cedar Beach tern colony 17 May (TL, JD, AS). Caspian Tern: two Mecox Bay 22 Apr (NYRBA), only report. Roseate Tern: arr WEJB 2 May (EL). Forster's Tern: *intro*. Least Tern: arr WEJB 2 May (EL). **ATLANTIC PUFFIN: *intro***.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Monk Parakeet: one JBch 23 Mar (*vide* QCBC), only report. *Amazona* sp.: one CP Mar-Apr (TL *et al.*), not a Red-crowned and an obvious escapee. Snowy Owl: two WEJB to 21 Mar (NYRBA). Long-eared Owl: one JBWR 17-23 Mar (TH), only report. Short-eared Owl: one JBch to 21 Apr (LS). Chuck-will's-widow: *intro*. Whip-poor-will: *intro*. Red-headed Woodpecker: *intro*. Red-bellied Woodpecker: *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Fish Crow: *intro*. E. Bluebird: one JBch 25 May (AW, EL), late & at unusual locale.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Philadelphia Vireo: one CP 7 May (J. Pitocchelli); one JBWR 17 May (G. Tudor), casual spring migrant. "Brewster's" Warbler: *intro*. "Lawrence's" Warbler: *intro*. Golden-winged Warbler: one PP 9 May (NYRBA); one CP 11 May (NYRBA), rare spring migrant. Yellow-throated Warbler: m CP 4 May (TL); one JBWR 28 May (TH); one Cross Bay Blvd. n of JBWR late May (NYRBA), rare. Cerulean Warbler: *intro*. Prothonotary Warbler: one High Rock P, SI 3 May; one APP 5-6 May; one JBWR 7 May; f JBWR 25-26 May; f CP 30 May (all NYRBA), rare spring migrant. Worm-eating Warbler: arr CP 30 Apr. **SWAINSON'S WARBLER: *intro***. Louisiana Waterthrush: *intro*. Kentucky Warbler: one FP 9 May (NYRBA); two FP 27 May (NYRBA), rare spring migrant. **CONNECTICUT WARBLER: *intro***. Mourning Warbler: *intro*. Hooded Warbler: arr APP 1 May (*vide* QCBC). Yellow-breasted Chat: *intro*.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Summer Tanager: six reports including one Shinnecock 18 Apr (NYRBA), uncommon spring migrant. Blue Grosbeak: *intro*. Indigo Bunting: *intro*. Seaside Sparrow: one banded GGI early May (H. Hays), unusual locale. Snow Bunting: last Glen Cove 6 May (*vide* LLAS). Bobolink: one banded GGI early May (H. Hays), unusual locale. Boat-tailed Grackle: *intro*. Orchard Oriole: im m APP 8 May (*vide* QCBC); im m CP 15 May, rare spring migrant. Red Crossbill: one e LI 6 Mar (HM), only report. Com. Redpoll: *intro*. Pine Siskin: *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: *intro*.

c/o *American Birds*, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022

[This report arrived too late to be included in the previous issue of *The Kingbird*.]

REGION 4 – SUSQUEHANNA

JAY G. LEHMAN

In contrast to the cold, snowy weather of late November, December was quite mild at Binghamton. The weatherman was right when he predicted a fifty-five percent chance that the entire Northeast would be warmer than normal. There were 25 days in December with a mean temperature above the norm and no white Christmas for the first time in four years! Only 5.2 inches of snow, low temperatures of 6 and 9 degrees, and mean temperatures well below the norm on 12 and 13 Dec, respectively, reminded us that winter would soon officially arrive. The 9.2 inches of snow in December was less than the November snowfall! This changed abruptly with 12.5 inches on 2 Jan! Regular snowfall continued through January; every storm seemed to hit us. By the end of the month 43.1 inches of snow had fallen at Binghamton, surpassing the previous January record of 41 inches in 1978. There was only one period of severe cold from 23 to 28 Jan during which the mean temperature was six to seventeen degrees below the norm, and lows reached -3 degrees.

Average to above average temperatures returned for the first half of February, but the snow continued with an accumulation of 7.2 inches by 13 Feb. An abrupt change occurred when a storm on 9 and 10 February finally missed us. There were twelve consecutive days of below normal mean temperatures and essentially no more snow. Record breaking low temperatures of -10 F and -7 degrees on 15 and 16 Feb, respectively, were recorded at Binghamton. The rest of the month was quite sunny with nearly normal temperatures. By the end of February, normally quite snowy, only 9.2 inches of snow had fallen. Our weatherman claimed that the winter so far was decent with above average temperatures except for only two periods of extreme cold. However, not every Regional resident, except for skiers, agreed with that assessment, because the 74 inches of snow was more than usual.

The diversity of waterfowl was lower than normal, probably due to the cold weather during the waterfowl count period in January and the early cold period in November which apparently pushed waterfowl south. The number of species was the lowest in nine seasons. Diving ducks, such as Bufflehead, Redhead, Canvasback, and scaup, normally reported about fifty percent of the time, were notably absent.

Over-wintering Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles were present in average numbers. The Cannonsville Reservoir and west branch of the Delaware River continue to be a good location for wintering Bald Eagles due to the concentrations of waterfowl, mostly Mallards and Black Ducks, on the open water. Accipiters again took advantage of the "grocery stores" provided by bird feeders. Mildred Clark reported a Mourning Dove killed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Delhi,

where the largest concentrations of Mourning Doves were reported for the period. One dedicated observer chased a Cooper's Hawk away from her Johnson City feeder twice on 17 Jan and once on 25 Jan because very few birds were present at the feeder during the once per week visits by the hawk during January. Many of us with feeders have observed this phenomenon, but perhaps we should consider the hawk's point of view. How would we feel if someone shut down our favorite neighborhood grocery store?! **GOLDEN EAGLE**, rare here in this season, was reported for the second consecutive winter. Is the eastern population of these eagles increasing or are observers spending more time in the field and/or becoming more skilled at finding them? The **PEREGRINE FALCON**, rare especially at this season in this Region, was observed for a considerable period of time near the observer's home and may have responded to the mild December by staying north. Mild weather and little snow cover, which created better mouse-hunting conditions, probably induced a **LONG-EARED OWL** to stay north long enough to be found by Christmas Bird Count counters. A short-lived invasion of Snowy Owl which started in November continued into the first few days of December and then stopped. Could this have been caused by the abrupt change from cold, snowy weather in November to milder conditions in December?

The relatively mild winter induced Northern Flicker and Brown-headed Cowbird to stay north in greater numbers. Northern Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, and Rufous-sided Towhee apparently lingered for the same reason. Other birds seemed to respond to the mild conditions. Joe Sedlacek observed Mourning Doves starting to *coo* on 12 Feb, while House Finches started to sing here in Norwich at my house on 7 Feb. Immediately thereafter the weather turned severely cold. I wonder if that cooled their ardor!?

There were only a few reports of birds taking advantage of natural food sources. In December Evening Grosbeaks fed on box alder seeds. According to Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds*, they are especially fond of box alder fruit, and plantings of this tree may have contributed to range expansion of these birds to the East. In Johnson City Marie Petuh observed Cedar Waxwings eating viburnum berries in mid-January. A **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** was observed by Chad Covey and Roger Daigle eating nannyberries in an area with a large concentration of berries. This is typical of this bird in its normal range. This solitaire came a long way but obviously not just to eat nannyberries! Fortunately, the birders did not have "a long way to tick a rarity"!

Southern birds expanding their range north - Northern Mockingbird, Carolina Wren, and Tufted Titmouse - are still doing well, especially in the Southern Tier. This mild winter will undoubtedly help to maintain their populations. **FISH CROW** at Vestal are apparently in some way connected with records of this species at that site in recent years. Red-bellied Woodpecker occurred at traditional locations in the Southern Tier and in northern Cortland County near suspected or known breeding sites.

There was a good winter finch invasion this year. Common Redpoll was quite common at feeders stocked with niger seed. These friendly denizens of the north are always great fun, especially during feeder restocking when early morning hunger further reduces their lack of fear of humans. Although Pine Grosbeak was scarce to nonexistent this season, the Red Crossbill more than filled that

void for me. On 7 February I saw five Red Crossbill feeding on Red Pine cones, calling, and singing along the Pharsalia Truck Trail near Preston. One male performed its aerial display with flight-singing, while another male and female were apparently paired. This is the same location where a pair were seen collecting nesting material in March 1985.

Several European Goldfinches were seen in Delaware County. These birds are apparently the residual from a misguided and illegal release in Delaware County of approximately twenty pairs in mid-July 1986.

The species list of 80 is the third lowest in nine years. Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Long-eared Owl, Northern Bobwhite, Fish Crow, Townsend's Solitaire, and European Goldfinch are rarities. Only a few Christmas Bird Count records were included in this report to fill voids in the species synopsis. In addition, December populations are not usually indicative of midwinter and Christmas Bird Counts are published elsewhere.

Observers: Les Bemont, Bruce Bozdos, Anna Casselberry, Mildred & Lynn Clark, Chad Covey, Carlton & Jeanette Davis, Anna & Marilyn Davis (MDv), Louise Dean, Mary Dobinsky, Sadie Dorber, B. Dubben, E. & P. Getkin, Claire Gotshall, Shirley Hartman, Gail Kirch, Ken Knapp, Margaret Layton, Jay Lelunan, Matt Leslie (MILS), Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Andrew Mason, Leona McDowell, Stella McPherson, Sandy Paston, Marie Petuh, Karen Phillips, Halliday Pierce, Martin Podskoch, R. & J. Saunders, Joe Sedlacek, Helen Snyder, Shane Stalter, Elizabeth Washburn, Kathryn Wilson, Don Windsor, Irene Wright.

Abbreviations: BCBC-Binghamton Christmas Bird Count 28 Dec; CCBC-Cortland Christmas Bird Count 20 Dec; CRes-Cannonsville Reservoir; FHNC-Finch Hollow Nature Center; hr-hour; JCY-Johnson City; mo-month; OPM-Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; OCBC-Oneonta Christmas Bird Count 20 Dec; SCBC-Sherburne Christmas Bird Count 20 Dec; TCBC-Tioga Christmas Bird Count 1 Jan; WFC-Waterfowl Count 14 to 18 Jan; VSPr-Valonia Springs.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: only one CCBC, fourth in nine years. Pied-billed Grebe: only one Binghamton 14 Jan (EW,ML). Red-necked Grebe: only one Binghamton 14 Jan (EW,ML). Great Blue Heron: few scattered singles, last Vestal 20 Jan (SP). Canada Goose: max 75 Sherburne 21 Dec (JL,CC); midwinter max 62 on WFC. Am. Black Duck: midwinter peak 45 on WFC. Mallard: max 75 Otse L 27 Dec (MD). Com. Goldeneye: only two on WFC. Hooded Merganser: max three CRes 14 Jan (HP). Com. Merganser: midwinter peak 42 on WFC, max 11 Oneonta to Unadilla 26 Feb (MD).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Bald Eagle: max six (3ad,3im) CRes 17 Jan (JL,DW,CC). N. Harrier: only two TCBC. Sharp-shinned Hawk: three to five scattered singles/mo at feeders. Cooper's Hawk: one to four scattered singles/mo at feeders. N. Goshawk: only one BCBC, unusual there. Red-tailed Hawk: mid winter lull five reports in Jan increasing to 13 in Feb. Rough-legged Hawk: increasing to ten reports for Feb, max 4 U Lisle 16 Feb (MP). **GOLDEN EAGLE**: two reports at Smithville Flats 30 Dec and CRes 5 Jan (SD,AC). Am. Kestrel: peak seven/317 party hr on five CBC's; midwinter low one to two/mo Jan-Feb. **PEREGRINE FALCON**: one Cortland 2 Jan (CW). Ruffed Grouse: max three Windsor 6 Dec (JS); only one Jan-Feb Tiog. Ring-necked Pheasant: peak five/three CBC's; only one f Homer 22 Feb (BB). Wild Turkey: peak frequent reports 25-40 Delhi Jan-Feb; max 50 Jefferson 6 Feb (MC). N. Bobwhite: three OCBC, only second report there since 1969. Killdeer: only one Franklin 20 Dec (SS). Com. Snipe: one Broome Community College 19 Jan (ML), unusual; arr one Milford 27 Feb (MD). Ring-billed

Gull: max 30 Otse L 6 Dec (MD); seven CRes 17 Jan (JL), unusual. Herring Gull: max 30 Otse L 6 Dec (MD); scattered singles S Tier Jan-Feb.

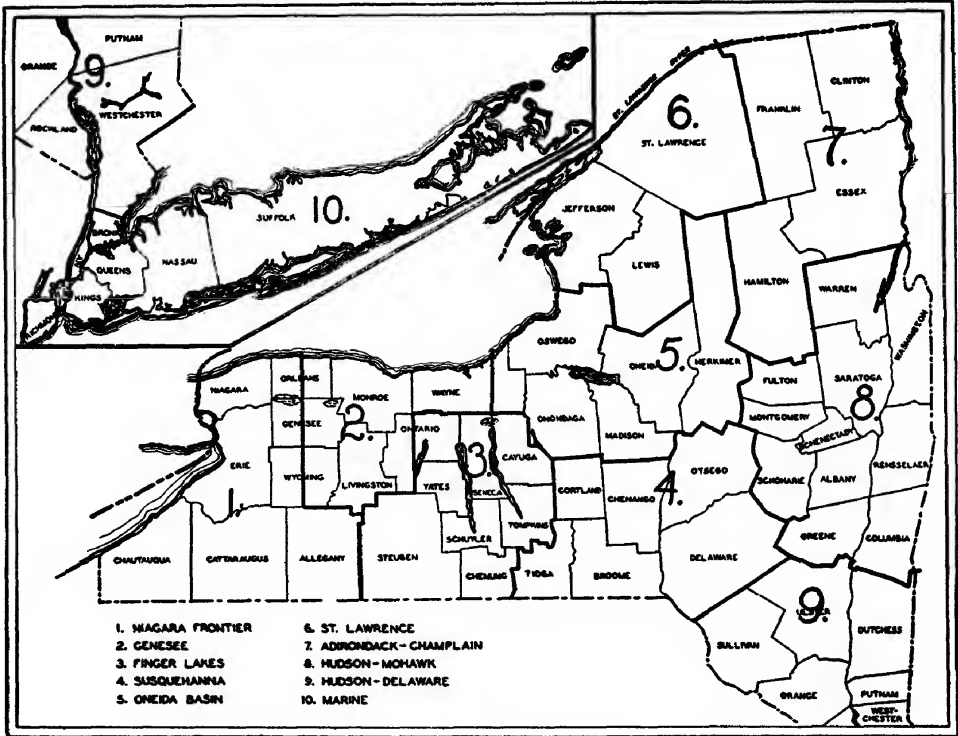
PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: many feeder reports; max 53 Delhi 8 Feb (MC). E. Screech Owl: max three/ten hr owling BCBC; only three other scattered singles. Great Horned Owl: max 19/ten hr owling BCBC; only five other scattered singles. Snowy Owl: arr one Delhi (MP) & a heavily barred im Sherburne (KP fide DW) 1 Dec, found dead along road am 2 Dec. Long-eared Owl: one BCBC, first in eight seasons. Belted Kingfisher: midwinter singles CRes 5 Jan & Hamden 9 Jan. Red-bellied Woodpecker: max five TCBC; singles Tiog all season, Oxford after 20 Jan, and E. Homer 2 Jan, only others. Downy Woodpecker: frequent, to six/day all season. Hairy Woodpecker: max seven VSpr 7 Dec (JS); midwinter peak five to seven singles or pairs/mo Jan-Feb. N. Flicker: max nine/three CBC's quite high; only one other Vestal 19 Feb (MP). Pileated Woodpecker: five scattered singles Dec decreasing to only singles/mo Jan-Feb, low.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Horned Lark: reported six sites Feb, high; max 50 Unadilla 26 Feb (MD). Blue Jay: midwinter peak 16 to 23/day 9 Jan to 15 Feb. Am. Crow: increasing from 20 to 50/report Dec to midwinter max 200/day Chenango Forks (MDv). **FISH CROW:** two BCBC (GK, HM), rare in winter. Black-capped Chickadee: max reports 20 to 30/day all season. Tufted Titmouse: max 58/five CBC's; one to two/day six sites all season, still increasing. Red-breasted Nuthatch: five to seven reports/mo all season; max four Pharsalia 8 Feb (JL). White-breasted Nuthatch: one to two/day widespread Jan-Feb; max five OPM 9 Feb (MD, KW). Brown Creeper: midwinter peak three to five reports/mo; max three Delhi 21 Feb (MC). Carolina Wren: singles three sites Jan one site Feb. Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 12 Windsor 6 Dec & 15 VSpr 7 Dec (JS). E. Bluebird: three TCBC 1 Jan, unusual; arr one m two f FHNC 3 Feb J Cty. **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE:** one SCBC (NYSARC). Am. Robin: singles OPM 1 Dec & SCBC, late; arr one 1 Feb & two 28 Feb Broome (DD). N. Mockingbird: max eight BCBC; singles four locations Jan-Feb, average. Brown Thrasher: one Sunrise Terrace 20 Jan (MLs), unusual. Cedar Waxwing: max 75 J Cty 18 Jan (MP). Northern Shrike: only reports two SCBC & one CCBC.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: N. Cardinal: max six pairs Norwich 25 Jan (JL). Rufous-sided Towhee: only one 3, 4, & 18 Feb FHNC, unusual. Am. Tree Sparrow: midwinter max 21 Jan 11, to 17/day Feb Delhi (MC). Field Sparrow: only singles BCBC & TCBC. Song Sparrow: only singles Norwich 10 Jan (JL), OPM 9 Jan (MD, KW), & Vestal Center 20 Feb (SD). White-throated Sparrow: max ten J Cty 4 Jan (MP); midwinter peak four to seven daily there Jan-Feb. White-crowned Sparrow: im SCBC only report. Dark-eyed Junco: midwinter max seven/day. Snow Bunting: max 30 Norwich 1 Feb (JL) & E Homer 31 Feb (KS). Red-winged Blackbird: daily Chenango Forks Dec, late; only singles CRes. 5 Jan & Tiog Feb. Brown-headed Cowbird: singles BCBC, Delhi 22 Dec (MC), & Tiog, late; max two Norwich 31 Jan (DW), unusual. N. Oriole: one Hobart feeder 24 Dec to 30 Jan (AM), unusual. Pine Grosbeak: several FHNC 25 Feb only report. Purple Finch: max three m Norwich 29 Jan (JL); one to two/report five sites Feb, above average. House Finch: max 175 J Cty 31 Jan (MP); midwinter max 100 there 14-28 Feb. Red Crossbill: max 20 OCBC; *intro*. Com. Redpoll: widespread reports of 20 to 100 Jan-Feb; max 200 Milford 11 Jan (IW). Pine Siskin: max 30 Oneonta 8 Jan (MD); decreasing to one to six/report Feb at six sites. Am. Goldfinch: regular reports of one to ten all season; max 14 Oneonta 3 & 20 Jan (MD). European Goldfinch: singles Delhi 23 Jan & 19 Feb and Hamden 9 Feb, *intro*. Evening Grosbeak: max 198 OPM 29 Dec (MD, KW); midwinter max 75 Norwich 1 & 21 Feb (JL), decreasing thereafter.

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REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. XXXVII No. 1, p. 9-10.

REPORTING DEADLINES

Winter Season: December, January, February
Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
Deadline is December 7

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